



Proud member of the Waltham community since 1970.



NONPROFIT U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. #### City, MA EDDM

THE Waltham Times

GO-TO NEWS SOURCE: NONPROFIT • UNBIASED

• COMMUNITY-FOCUSED



VOL. 1 NO. 1

© The Waltham Times

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Waltham High School celebrates Class of 2026 with reflection, diversity and pride

Consulta el interior para ver fotos de la graduación.

By ALLIE LADJEVA • JUNE 8, 2026

Loud cheers and applause filled Kennedy Middle School's Field House on Sunday as 450 Waltham High School seniors walked into the space packed with families and friends. An overflow crowd watching a live stream cheered from their seats in Kennedy's auditorium.

The Class of 2026 was celebrated not only for graduating but also for the many paths and backgrounds represented among the students.

The ceremony highlighted the class's diversity and sense of community through multilingual welcomes, student speeches and celebrations of the students' achievements.

After students were seated, the master of ceremonies, Raffi Sarkissian, a 2026 graduate, opened the ceremony.

A group of students welcomed guests to the graduation ceremony



Photo by Ray Chow.

in 13 languages, including Spanish, French, Italian, Armenian, Punjabi and Turkish.

Seniors Chase Eaton and Erik Jensen played the national anthem on guitar.

Austin Chabot, vice president of scholarship for the National Honor Society, and Chloe Ho, vice president of service, led the opening remarks and explained the four types of regalia worn by graduates, which marked

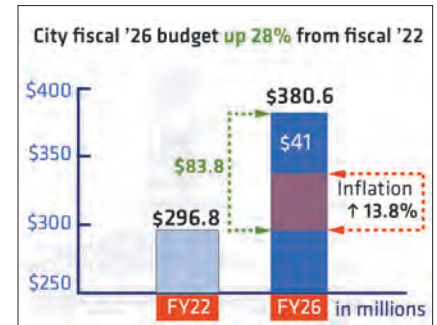
Please see GRADUATION, page 13

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

By WILLIAM HOLDER • MAY 31, 2026

With analysis by Lorraine Moon & infographics by Caroline Grossman

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



According to annual city budgets posted on Waltham's website, expenditures have grown from \$296.8 million to \$380.6 million from fiscal 2022 to fiscal 2026, a roughly 28% increase that outpaces overall U.S. inflation of about 13.8% in that period.

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

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

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

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

Please see BUDGET, page 22

As U.S. observes its 250th year, celebrate Waltham's own contributions through history

A first for The Waltham Times: Print edition delivered citywide

By JUNE KINOSHITA • JUNE 10, 2026

As we observe the 250th birthday of the United States, we are proud to make history of our own with the first-ever print edition of The Waltham Times, mailed to 28,000 residences and businesses across this city. We plan to publish a second print edition in December with a guide to winter holidays and news highlights of the year.

These printed editions are part of our mission to bring back trusted local news coverage for everyone. That means no paywall. No language barrier (we have a translation plug-in

on our website). And, we hope, soon no technology barrier, either. This printed newspaper is for readers who don't have computers or Wi-Fi – or who simply yearn to hold real paper in their hands, to enjoy reading over a cup of coffee.

We like to think The Waltham Times is part of our city's remarkable history as a crucible for innovation. Even before the city was founded, Native Americans in the region practiced crop rotation and controlled burns to improve agricultural productivity. The Haudenosaunee

Confederacy's Great Law of Peace "seems to be an innovative take on helping diverse tribes co-exist and avoid wars," according to the Waltham Historical Society. In Colonial times, the Gore Estate applied scientific principles to farming and

Please see INNOVATION, page 3

INSIDE THE WALTHAM TIMES

- Top stories Jan-June '26..... 2
- Top nature walks4
- Pools & spray parks5
- Guide to hikes/boating..... 6
- Outdoor dining faves & summer calendar7
- Health & lifestyle..... 9
- Artículos en español 10-11
- WHS & Valor High School graduations*
 - Congratulatory messages12
 - Graduation reports & photos..... pages 12-19
 - Sports highlights 14
 - Arts & academics.....16
 - Valor High School.....10 & 19
 - Community & Schools18-19
 - Government 21-22

*Look for the



Visit: WalthamTimes.org/newsletter/

"The Waltham Times is a regular dose of inspiring local stories & community-building events.

Reading the newsletter three times a week is *just what I need* when national news is bumming me out!"

- Sarah-Jane Caban

Top Stories

Waltham's most-read stories of 2026 (so far)

By JUNE KINOSHITA • JUNE 10, 2026

The news never stops in Waltham, and neither does The Waltham Times. We post around 50 stories a week at walthamtimes.org. We have reporters covering city government, including City Council, School Committee Board and Zoning Board of Appeals

meetings. In our quest to inform, surprise and delight readers, we also cover sports, school plays, art exhibits, concerts, museum talks, interesting people and more. Here are a dozen of the most-read stories of 2026. Sign up for our email newsletter so you won't miss a thing.



BY ISABELLA LAPRIORE • JAN. 4, 2026



Waltham family searching for answers after New Year's Eve ICE arrest

Waltham resident Edvin Alvarez, a 1997 Waltham High graduate, was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in front of Corado's Automotive at 103 Clematis Ave. on Dec. 31. Alvarez has owned a landscaping company in Waltham for 20 years and holds a federal Employment Authorization Document allowing him to work in the United States. He was working toward getting a permanent resident card and citizenship.



BY KENNY ARTIGUES • JAN. 22, 2026



The people of Waltham deserve safer streets

According to MassDOT's Interactive Crash Cluster Map, several intersections along the busiest parts of Main Street and Moody Street are in the top 5% statewide for accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians. For anyone who lives in the area, this likely won't be a surprise. The statistics confirm what can easily be experienced by trying to navigate the Main/Moody area on foot: It's often unpleasant and nerve-racking.

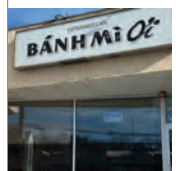


BY ISABELLA LAPRIORE & ARTIE KRONENFELD • JAN. 27, 2026



Federal data names Waltham Police Department as site of ICE arrests, police stress no department involvement with ICE detentions

The Deportation Data Project uses Freedom of Information Act requests to compile federal-level data about arrests, detentions and law enforcement detainees obtained from ICE. The DDP database records eight ICE arrests between January and October 2025 whose location is listed as the Waltham Police Department. "The Waltham Police Department does not get notified of ICE arrests. WPD does not have records or documentation of ICE arrests. Any information regarding ICE arrests needs to be directed to that agency," said a WPD spokesperson.

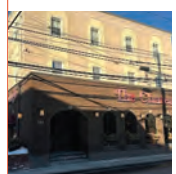


BY ELIZABETH MEHLER • FEB. 12, 2026



At Waltham's Banh Mi O'i, Vietnamese cuisine and inclusivity are on the menu

Tucked away on Lexington Street, across from Star Market, is Banh Mi O'i, a bright, modest cafe serving up tasty Vietnamese fare. Customers said they visit for that authentic flavor. Banh Mi O'i extends its welcome to everyone, including people with communication challenges. Because of its efforts in fostering an inclusive space, the restaurant was highlighted in a new short documentary, "We Need to Talk," which features five individuals who use an augmented alternative communication device.



BY HEDY YANG • FEB. 17, 2026



For nearly a century, the Chateau has been Waltham's family table

As one Waltham resident put it, if you grew up in Waltham, the Chateau's tomato sauce runs through your veins. Waltham's beloved Chateau restaurant has grown from a modest 1933 cafe into an 800-seat Italian institution, hosting family milestones, bereavement meals and business lunches. Its famed Scali bread and signature sauce have made it the city's de facto family table across generations, deeply woven into community life.



BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • FEB. 17, 2026



After 20 years, Waltham explores taking 67 Crescent St. lot by eminent domain

The City Council voted this week to use eminent domain to take a lot at 67 Crescent St. that has been drawing residents' attention for almost 20 years. The lot has been vacant since approximately 1975, according to Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan. The city attempted to buy it in 2008 and again in 2016, both times aiming to use the land for a South Side pocket park. City agents were not able to reach an agreement either time, and in both cases the funding approved for the purchase expired after a year. This time Logan and Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris have requested the council take a more definitive step: taking the land by eminent domain.



BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • FEB. 17, 2026



Neighbors invited to weigh in on new Winter Street neighborhood

The City Council is considering whether to allow new housing construction on three properties in western Waltham. The largest of these sits on Winter Street on a lot that owner BXP Inc. calls Bay Colony. BXP intends to build more than 1,000 units of housing as well as smaller commercial development on the 138-acre site, land currently occupied by vacant office buildings.



BY LEA ZAHARONI • FEB. 26, 2026



Residents demand explanation for mayor's new time limit for Waltham Common events

Since Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy imposed an administrative order limiting the length of Waltham Common events to four hours, residents and organizers have questioned the legitimacy of the new rule and whether the mayor's reasoning holds up. The mayor's Jan. 15 notice referenced "noise, neighborhood complaints, wear-and-tear, public safety concerns and the number of applicants asking to use the Common" as reasons to cut down the durations of events on the common. However, concerned citizens have investigated the specifics of these complaints and come up empty-handed.

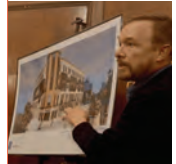


BY LEA ZAHARONI • MAR. 12, 2026



State's report card ranks Waltham High in bottom 10%

Waltham Public Schools fell short in student performance in a number of categories, despite scoring a three-year high on making progress toward improvements. That's the conclusion reached by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which is responsible for overseeing the education of children prekindergarten through grade 12 in Massachusetts.



BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • FEB. 17, 2026



City gets first look at proposed Moody Street hotel

Property owner Michael Colomba presented the City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee with a first look at the hotel he plans to build at 220 Moody St. His team presented renderings of how the hotel would look to passers-by. Colomba said he plans to pair the new hotel with a dinner cruise on the Charles River, which he's in the process of developing.



BY CYD ABNET • APR. 5, 2026



Historical hedge maze replica project a surprise to Waltham community

A replica of a hedge maze formerly located at Cornelia Warren's Cedar Hill property is set to be installed this April at 240 Beaver St. While there have been rumors and brief discussion of a potential maze in the past, the project has not been mentioned in any recent public meetings. According to Mayor Jeanette A. McCarthy, the maze project was discussed last year in a closed budget meeting with the Department of Public Works.



BY JUNE KINOSHITA • MAY 5, 2026



Mighty Squirrel to open biergarten at Gore Place

The biergarten will feature a rotating selection of Mighty Squirrel beers, along with hard seltzers, hard smoothies and nonalcoholic options. A food truck will serve a varied menu including lobster rolls, clam chowder, smash burgers, wings, birria poutine, harvest bowls, salads, tikka masala, saag paneer and desserts. The space will include both shaded seating under a large tent and open-air tables, with live music planned throughout the summer season.



The Waltham Times' mission is to be Waltham's go-to source for high-quality, unbiased, community-focused journalism. The

Waltham Times reports, investigates, entertains, inspires, and encourages debate about the topics that matter to our city, to foster an informed and engaged Waltham. We are a proud member of the Institute for



Nonprofit News.

OUR PEOPLE

The Waltham Times works thanks to the diligence and combined efforts of a few paid, part-time staff, freelance journalists, and dozens of professionals who volunteer their time. Key, regularly active members of the team are listed below.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- June Kinoshita chair, president
- Caroline Grossman vice chair
- Mary K. Pratt clerk
- Richard Brennan treasurer
- Betsey Dalbeck secretary
- Sarah-jane Caban
- Rob Kaulfuss
- Bob Perry
- Scott Ziegler

EDITORIAL TEAM

- June Kinoshita editorial director
- Mary K. Pratt editor
- Stephen Milmore* assistant editor
- Cyd Abnet* reporter
- Julie Cohen* reporter
- William Holder reporter
- Artie Kronenfeld* reporter
- Andrew Law reporter
- Greg Levinsky* reporter
- Liam O'Brien* reporter
- Lea Zaharoni* reporter
- Paige Eggebrecht proofreader
- Linda Herrera proofreader
- Haybi Garcia proofreader
- Laura Glazer copy chief
- Amanda McMahan copy editor
- Willard Osman copy editor
- Anita Suarez copy editor
- Ray Chow home sales
- Chris Daly copy editor & calendar
- Hannah LaFranzo milestones & weather
- Cameron Jamison calendar & production

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Ray Chow
- David Greenfield
- Linda Haas
- Joseph Sharkey*
- Emily Szczypek

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION

- Craig Allen
- Richard Brennan
- Keith DeStone
- Rob Kaulfuss

MARKETING & REVENUE

- Sarah-jane Caban marketing
- Caroline Grossman design
- Gunjan Gupta social media
- Nishant Kodan* media sales
- Linda Pinkow advisor
- Scott Ziegler advertising

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Colleen Brennan co-leader
- Hannah LaFranzo co-leader
- Betty Barrer
- Rachel Berger
- Claudia Clark
- Priscilla Elliott
- Deb Herman
- Dennis LaRosee
- Susan LaRosee
- Henry Mallett
- Jennifer Rose
- Allison Smuk
- Nadene Stein
- Genoveva Tavera
- Lecia Whitlock
- Shehreen Zakir

*paid team members

KEY PARTNERS



WalthamTimes.org

info@walthamtimes.org
walthamtimes.org/tips
P.O. Box 540109
Waltham, MA 02454
781-226-4358 (voicemail only)

250 Years of Innovation

From page 1

home design. And then there was, famously, the Boston Manufacturing Co., the world's first integrated spinning and weaving factory, powered by the Charles River.

Throughout its history, innovations have poured out of Waltham. Kerosene. The chalk crayon. The mass-produced Waltham Watch. Early automobiles and motorcycles. Power steering. Raytheon's improvements to the magnetron tube, which led to improved radar technology and the creation of microwave ovens. Advanced robots. New drug manufacturing based on mRNA and CRISPR. The list goes on.

Amid such technological wonders, a newspaper seems quaint. Indeed, technology has struck near-fatal blows to the news industry, robbing

it of local advertising and inundating the public with free information. But there's another type of innovation that's even more important – this is a social innovation, a redrafting of the social compact between news organizations and the public they serve.

THE FUTURE OF LOCAL NEWS RESTS WITH ALL OF US

The Waltham Times is part of a growing movement for community-driven local news, funded not by billionaires and private equity but by the community members we serve.

In the two years since The Waltham Times launched as an independent, nonprofit news source for our city, we have been amazed by the outpouring of interest and support we received. Dozens of people volun-



Photo by The Waltham Times



Photo by David Greenfield



Photo by Tod Machover



Adobe stock image



Photo courtesy of Waltham public schools

teered; you can see many of them listed on our masthead (p. 2). More than 3,500 have signed up to receive our newsletters, delivered three times a week to email inboxes with the latest Waltham news. Nearly 40,000 a month visit our website.

For this printed edition, nearly two dozen Waltham businesses and nonprofits stepped up to support The Times by buying ads. They were excited by the opportunity to spread their messages through the medium of paper, where thousands of city

residents will read them over the summer.

We thank every one of our readers, donors and advertisers for holding up their half of this new social compact. Our incredible team – your friends and neighbors who believe fervently in the importance of news to democracy and community – will continue to work day and night to honor the spirit of the 250th by innovating our way to a new era for local news. 📰



American Waltham watch movement and woman driver's watches circa 1904 and 1915, respectively, and railroad grade pocket watch circa 1900. Photo by Caroline Grossman.

Celebrating the First Print Edition of the Waltham Times!



Become a Member

Support our mission to save local history.

Volunteer

Make a difference in our community.

Donate

Help keep the past alive for future generations.



The Waltham Historical Society, Inc.

190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453 • walthamhistoricalsociety.org



Preserving Waltham's History Since 1913.



Sports & Recreation

A walk on the wild side: Waltham's top nature areas to explore

By MARY K. PRATT • JUNE 10, 2026

CITY HIKING TRAILS	
Prospect Hill Park	1
The Robert Treat Paine Estate/Stonehurst	2
Storer Conservation Land	
Chesterbrook Woods	
Beaver Brook Reservation	3
Beaver Brook North Reservation	4
Shady Pond Conservation Area	5
The Western Greenway	6





Photo by Cyd Abret



Photo by Caroline Grossman



Photo courtesy of Waltham Land Trust



Photo by The Waltham Times



Photo by Brian Cummings, courtesy of GoogleMaps



Photo by Te Liu, courtesy of GoogleMaps



Photo courtesy of Waltham Land Trust

Hiking trails and nature paths wind all through Waltham, giving residents easy and quick access to many miles-long treks through woodlands, fields and waterside landscapes. Each area has its own unique landscape and history, making them great escapes from Waltham's busy residential neighborhoods. Here are the must-know nature areas in Waltham:

1. Prospect Hill Park. This city-owned gem comprises 275 acres of wooded hiking trails, scenic vistas and picnic areas. Trails of varying difficulty wind around the parcel and up to the hilltop – the highest point in Waltham – where visitors can see the Boston skyline. Although trails are accessible from multiple points, the main entrance at 314 Totten Pond Road has parking.

2. The Robert Treat Paine Estate/Stonehurst, the Storer Conservation Land and Chesterbrook Woods. These three contiguous parcels


offer meandering trails through woodlands and spaces designed by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Parking and trailhead access is available at Stonehurst, 330 Beaver St., as well as at the former Waltham High School located along Jack's Way off 617 Lexington St.

3. Beaver Brook Reservation. The 59-acre Beaver Brook Reservation includes open fields, woodlands, ponds and a waterfall. The park is located at the intersection of Waverley Oaks Road, Mill Street and Trapelo Road, with portions in both Waltham and neighboring Belmont. Parking is located off Waverly Oaks Road.

4. Beaver Brook North Reservation. The state-owned 254-acre reservation falls in Waltham, Belmont and Lexington. It includes a 300-foot glacial drumlin known as Mackerel Hill, woodlands, meadows and wetlands. It has groomed trails, cinder paths and dirt roads. Parking is available in

Waltham at Elsie Turner Field, 421 Trapelo Road, and on Metropolitan Parkway, and in Belmont at Rock Meadow on Mill Street.

5. Shady Pond Conservation Area: This city-owned 34-acre property features meandering trails – including a portion of the Western Greenway – over easy terrain among woods, a pond and stream. Although there are no parking lots for this area, trails can be accessed from Trapelo Road near Gilman Road and at the end of Abbott Road.

6. The Western Greenway: This is an interconnected trail system running through Waltham, Lexington and Belmont. It features a 12-mile loop as well as the Seven Mile Trail. Its Waltham portion traverses trails in Stonehurst, Chesterbrook Woods, the Shady Pond Conservation Area and Beaver Brook North Reservation. It was founded with the help of the Waltham Land Trust. 

Caring for the Waltham Community Since 2004



-  Primary Care
-  Dental Care
-  Behavioral Health
-  Eye Care
-  Pharmacy

 **Charles River Community Health**
www.charlesriverhealth.org



¡Sí, hablamos español!

43 Foundry Ave
 Waltham, MA
 781.693.3800

Sports & Recreation

Cooling off in Waltham: Spray parks, pools set summer schedules

Daily hours begin June 8 for spray parks; Connors pool opens June 20

By JUNE KINOSHITA • JUNE 10, 2026

As temperatures climb and forecasts point to a hot summer, Waltham's spray parks and swimming pools are sure to be popular gathering spots for families seeking relief. Most of the city's spray parks will be open daily, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., starting June 8, weather permitting.

Spray parks are a favorite for good reason. Jets of water burst from the ground or shower down from fanciful sculptures, providing endless entertainment as well as a way to cool off in a safe, accessible environment.

Public pools offer a more traditional escape, with lap lanes and open swim hours. The Connors Memorial Pool at 330 River St. opens June 20 through August 16, from 11:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. daily, according to the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation website.

Residents must be members to use the swimming pools at the Waltham YMCA, Waltham Boys & Girls Club, Waltham Athletic Club and Waverley Oaks Athletic Club.

Rules for use of spray parks

- No running
- No standing on spray nozzles
- No sidewalk chalk
- No bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or Heelys
- No glass containers
- Children in diapers will not be allowed in the water play facility without a water-repellent swim diaper
- No pets allowed in the water play facility
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times



The Shimelas Family at the Connor Memorial Pool. Photo by Andy Greene

CITY SPRAY PARKS

1	Bobby Connors Playground	20 Sunnyside St.
2	Chesterbrook Housing	Brookway Court
3	Dana Court	Gardner Street
4	Drake Playground	3 Hazel St. (open at 3 p.m. on school days).
5	Fitch Spray Park	14 Ash St.
6	Graverson Playground	16 Pine Vale Road
7	Lazazero Playground	7 Shore Road
8	Lowell Field	190 Grove St.
9	McDonald Playground	8 Cutter St. (closed for maintenance as of June 4)
10	Msgr. McCabe / Warrendale Playground	90 Charlotte Road (closed as of June 4)
11	Nipper Maher Park	65 Dartmouth St.
12	Prospect Hill Park	314 Totten Pond Road
13	Thompson Playground	95 Charles St.
14	200 Trapelo Road Spray Park	200 Trapelo Road (spray park open 2-6 p.m.)

POOLS

1 Connors Memorial Swimming Pool
 330 River St.
 Free; public pool.
 June 20-Aug. 16
 11:15 a.m.-6:45 p.m. daily

2 Waltham Athletic Club
 Membership required
 249 Lexington St.
 781-899-5000
 walthamathletic.com

3 Waltham Boys & Girls Club
 Membership required
 29 Exchange St.
 781-893-6620
 edonovan@walthambgc.org
 walthambgc.org

4 Waverley Oaks Athletic Club
 Membership required
 425 Waverley Oaks Road, Suite 200
 781-512-7330
 waverleyoaks.com

5 YMCA
 725 Lexington St.
 781-894-5295
 WalthamY@ymcaboston.org
 ymcaboston.org/waltham



Visit

GORE PLACE



Historic Estate in Waltham & Watertown

Museum Tours • Farm & Grounds • Venue Rentals • Programs

goreplace.org

Sports & Recreation

10 ways to enjoy the Charles River this summer

By MARY K. PRATT • JUNE 10, 2026

The Charles River slices through Waltham, inviting residents to venture outside to explore and enjoy it. Here are 10 ways to have fun on and along the Charles this summer.

1



Waltham RiverBeat, set for Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., is a celebration of the city and the river, featuring multicultural music, food, activities and art on and along the river in the Moody Street area.



5



Dine along the water. Margaritas Mexican Restaurant and Brelundi both offer outdoor dining in the nice weather with river views.

6



Take a long walk. Pathways, including the RiverWalk, run alongside both banks of the river through much of the city.

7



Or bike along the river instead. The pathways are open to cyclists (and skaters) as well as pedestrians.

2



Waltham's annual Independence Day fireworks happen over the river by the Moody Street bridge but can easily be seen along the river all the way to Prospect Street. The fireworks are scheduled for Sunday, June 28, beginning at dusk with a rain date of Monday, June 29.

3



Get on the water itself. Launch your own boat, kayak, canoe or paddleboard at the Woerd Avenue boat launch or rent from Charles River Canoe & Kayak at the Moody Street dam.



8



Enjoy some quiet time at Landry Park just off Moody Street near the Francis Cabot Lowell Mill or at Fox Park off Charles River Road.



9



Explore the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation and learn how the Charles powered industry here in the city and made Waltham the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution.



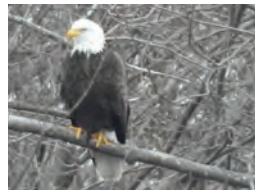
4



Try your hand at fishing. Popular spots include the Moody Street, Prospect Street and Elm Street bridges, as well as Purgatory Cove. On summer nights you'll find people on the bridges trying to catch various freshwater fish, including yellow perch, carp and striped bass. Remember, it's pretty much catch and release. (The state's online Freshwater Fish Consumption Advisory List offers detailed guidelines.)



10



Watch for bald eagles flying around and fishing in the Charles. After decades away, these magnificent creatures can be seen around Upper Charles River Reservation, near Purgatory Cove, Fox Island and Mount Feake Cemetery. Watch for swans, herons, ducks and geese, too.



CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM
of INDUSTRY & INNOVATION

154 Moody Street • Waltham
781-893-5410
CharlesRiverMuseum.org

Wed.-Fri. 10-3
Saturdays 10-2:30

Preserving America's
industrial heritage
and inspiring future
innovators.



Visit our Calendar for
all upcoming events and
programs

The Charles River Museum is now on:

Find expert insights, context, and more curated content by viewing our guide on Bloomberg Connects for free. Explore now.



Freedom 30 Home Loan Offer

As low as*

RATE

5.990%

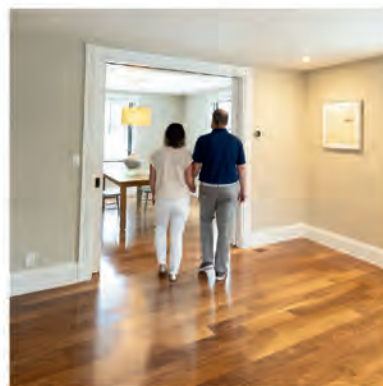
APR

6.004%



Details: watertownsavings.com/freedom30

Lock in your rate today.
Lower it later. No refi.



New Property Listings

As you're planning your open house visits, consider meeting with a Loan Officer from WSB to learn more about the homebuying process and what you'll need to make an offer when you're ready.

Get in Touch

617-928-2369 Cynthia Iskenderian, NMLS# 40742
617-928-2370 Julie Kermanidis, NMLS# 2373120

WSB Won't Sell Your Loan

With Watertown Savings Bank, you can benefit from:

- Flexible Lending Programs
- Personalized Service
- Quick In-House Decision Making

Watertown
— Savings Bank —

*Rates are subject to change without notice.

Deposits Insured in Full | Member FDIC | Member DIF



Health & Lifestyle

Free help to enroll in Medicare

Adapted by GENOVEVA TAVERA from story by BETTY BARRER & CAROL GREENFIELD • OCTOBER 4, 2025

Turning 65 is a big milestone in life. It also means it's time to sign up for Medicare, the government health insurance program for older adults and people with certain disabilities. We know this process can feel confusing, but you are not alone: in Waltham there is a free and confidential program called SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) that offers personalized counseling.

WHAT IS MEDICARE?

Medicare is a federal health program that helps cover:

- Part A: Hospital stays
- Part B: Doctor visits and outpatient care
- Part D: Prescription drugs

In addition, there are options such as Medicare Advantage (Part C) and supplemental insurance called Medigap.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

1. Contact Social Security when you turn 65 (or earlier if you qualify due to a disability).
2. Once enrolled in Medicare, a SHINE counselor can help you:
 - Compare health and drug plans
 - Understand your benefits
 - Save money if you qualify for programs like the Medicare Savings Plan through MassHealth

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REVIEW MY PLAN?

Every year, costs and coverage change. That's why, during Open Enrollment (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7), it is important to review your plan to make sure it is still the best fit for you.



Left to right: Shine volunteers Don Freedman, Charlie Strigler and Fred Keuthen. Photo by Betty Barrer.

FREE COUNSELING

SHINE counselors in Waltham:

- Are trained volunteers (over 50 hours of training)
- Provide free and confidential assistance
- Are available year-round for new users
- Available languages English, Spanish, and Portuguese

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

- Make an appointment after Tuesday, Sept. 7. Counseling appointments fill up early.
- Call the Waltham Council on Aging: ☎ 781-314-3499
- Leave your message with the receptionist, and a SHINE counselor will call you back. 📞

Waltham Public Library's mini library on wheels

Adapted from an article by STEVE MILMORE • MAY 3, 2026



The Waltham Public Library bookmobile staff

The Waltham Public Library's new bookmobile van brings library services directly to neighborhood stops and community events. Visitors can check out and return books, sign up for library cards and speak with librarians for reading recommendations.

The goal, library staff said, is to make services more accessible by meeting people where they are. Materials borrowed from the bookmobile can be returned there, at the WPL or at any Minuteman Library location.

"The bookmobile doesn't run on a specific schedule, but will pop up at Waltham events across the city. Its collection will shift depending on the event, such as children's books for family-focused programs," said Amber Harvey, head of the library's reference department.

Residents can visit the library to suggest future stops for the bookmobile and help name the new vehicle. 📞

Fresh produce, better health: Lessons of VegRx

Adapted from story by Bill Holder • JUNE 22, 2025

Access to fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables is essential for our community's health, especially when many of us are working hard to prevent diabetes, high blood pressure and other diet related illnesses. The VegRx study, a collaboration of Waltham Fields Community Farm, Charles River Community Health and Brandeis University researchers, showed how powerful it can be when families receive steady access to high quality produce along with support to cook it in ways that feel familiar and delicious.



Community Outreach Farmer Marie-ana packs boxes for VegRx. Photo courtesy of Waltham Fields Community Farms

ing vegetables more often, feeling more energetic, and noticing improvements in mood and overall well being.

Families built relationships with farmers, healthcare providers and neighbors in a welcoming environment where everyone's culture and food traditions were respected.

This year, families can continue those gains by shopping at the Waltham Farmers Market or the farm store at Waltham Fields Community Farm, where fresh, local produce is available throughout the growing season. They are approved HIP/SNAP vendors and accept MA farmers market and senior vouchers. WFCF's Mobile Outdoor Market will also operate from First Parish Waltham at 50 Church St. on Tuesdays, July 14-Oct. 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.



VegRx Participant Pick Your Own Visit. Photo courtesy of Waltham Fields Community Farms

Healthy Waltham offers fresh produce at their food pantry, including produce from WFCF during the harvest season.

These community resources keep the spirit of VegRx alive by making healthy food more accessible and welcoming to everyone. 📞

During the VegRx study, participants received weekly boxes of fresh vegetables and fruits over a 20 week growing season, plus recipes and cooking tips. This made it easier to prepare traditional dishes with more fresh ingredients and fewer processed foods, without stretching already tight budgets. Many participants reported eat-

Gene variant linked to depression offers new treatment options

Adapted from an article by LUCIENNE RONCO, PhD • AUGUST 17, 2025

Recent research suggests that certain variants of the MTHFR gene may influence the risk of depression. This gene helps the body produce key substances, such as serotonin and dopamine, that regulate mood. When its function is reduced, it may contribute to symptoms like anxiety, irritability or fatigue.

These variants are more common in some groups, including people with Indigenous American ancestry and certain European populations.

Although this form of depression does not always respond to traditional antidepressants, a genetic test can detect it.

In some cases, L-methylfolate supplements may help improve symptoms.

Experts recommend considering genetic factors as part of a more personalized approach to mental health care. 📞



Lucienne Ronco, PhD, is a scientist with decades of experience in translational science, drug discovery, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. Use the QR code to see her LinkedIn profile.

PHO & SPICE
Waltham Original
Vietnamese and Thai Cuisine

BRING IN THIS AD AND RECEIVE A **FREE GIFT** with purchase of an entrée!

Valid until 7/31/26 or while supplies last. Valid for dine in only.

FRESH INGREDIENTS • NO ADDED FLAVORS • MADE WITH CARE



Comunidad y Escuelas



This photo needs caption and credit

La Escuela Secundaria Waltham Valor celebra la graduación de la Clase de 2026

Por STEVE MILMORE, traducido por Perplexity, revisado por Linda Herrera • 31 DE MAYO DE 2026

Aplausos y vítores llenaron el auditorio en 617 Lexington St. el jueves 28 de Mayo, cuando la Escuela Secundaria Waltham Valor celebró la graduación de 26 estudiantes de último año.

La ceremonia estuvo dirigida por la directora interina Linda Flueckiger, con traducción al español a cargo de la consejera escolar Berta Padilla.

Flueckiger elogió a los graduados por superar desafíos personales y académicos para llegar al día de su graduación.

“Obtener su diploma de escuela secundaria no es un logro menor. Cada uno de ustedes ha enfrentado desafíos en el camino que en ocasiones pudieron haber hecho que su trayectoria pareciera incierta, y aun

así aquí están”, dijo Flueckiger. “Hoy es una celebración de todo su arduo trabajo”.

Ese mensaje de perseverancia continuó durante la velada, mientras la superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas de Waltham, Marisa Mendonsa, animó a los estudiantes a llevar las lecciones aprendidas en Valor a su vida adulta.

“Les animo a mantener esos valores fundamentales cerca de ustedes mientras crecen como adultos, inician sus carreras y se convierten en miembros fuertes de la comunidad”, dijo Mendonsa. “Creo que saben que las personas aquí en el escenario creyeron en ustedes desde el momento en que cruzaron las puertas”.

La alcaldesa Jeannette A. McCarthy

hizo eco de esos sentimientos, aplaudiendo a los graduados por su crecimiento académico y personal.

“Felicitaciones a todos los graduados de Valor High School presentes esta noche”, dijo McCarthy. “Estamos muy orgullosos de sus logros y determinación, y espero verlos nuevamente en la próxima etapa de su trayectoria educativa”.

PREMIOS VALOR

Un miembro clave del personal y varios estudiantes fueron reconocidos con premios que destacan el liderazgo, la creatividad y la dedicación a la comunidad escolar.

- **Sara Hamerla**, administradora del departamento multilingüe de las Escuelas Públicas de Waltham, recibió un reconocimiento por su

defensa y apoyo a los estudiantes multilingües.

- El Premio al Aprendizaje de por vida fue otorgado a **Baye Toure** por su curiosidad y motivación para seguir aprendiendo más allá del aula.
- **Zaida Lupita Flores del Cid** recibió el Premio Valor por liderar con el ejemplo e inspirar a sus compañeros a través de su perseverancia y liderazgo.
- **Jaden Lee Aponte** fue reconocido por su creatividad y espíritu escolar mediante su diseño de los “Valor Pins”(insignias de valor), que los estudiantes obtienen al completar módulos académicos.
- **Stiven Obel Corzo Arana** recibió reconocimiento por su carácter positivo y dedicación a la comunidad escolar.

Ahora en su segundo año, Valor High School ofrece una alternativa para los estudiantes cuyas responsabilidades fuera del aula requieren un enfoque más flexible de la educación. Muchos estudiantes equilibran trabajos, obligaciones familiares u otros desafíos mientras completan sus estudios.

A través de horarios personalizados y apoyo individualizado, la escuela busca ayudar a los estudiantes a obtener un diploma y prepararse para la universidad, las carreras profesionales y la vida después de la graduación.



Adobe stock image of DNA.

Variante genética vinculada a la depresión ofrece nuevas opciones de tratamiento

Adaptado de un artículo de LUCIENNE RONCO, PhD* • 7 DE JUNIO DE 2026

Investigaciones recientes sugieren que ciertas variantes del gen MTHFR pueden influir en el riesgo de depresión. Este gen ayuda al cuerpo a producir sustancias clave, como la serotonina y la dopamina, que regulan el estado de ánimo. Cuando su funcionamiento es reducido, puede contribuir a síntomas como ansiedad, irritabilidad o fatiga.

Estas variantes son más comunes en algunos grupos, incluidas personas con ascendencia indígena americana

y ciertos grupos europeos. Aunque esta forma de depresión no siempre responde a los antidepresivos tradicionales, una prueba genética puede detectarla.

En algunos casos, los suplementos de L-metilfolato pueden ayudar a mejorar los síntomas.

Los expertos recomiendan considerar factores genéticos como parte de un enfoque más personalizado de la salud mental.



*Lucienne Ronco, PhD, es una científica con décadas de experiencia en ciencia traslacional, descubrimiento de fármacos, biotecnología y farmacéutica. Consulta su perfil en LinkedIn para más información.

Biblioteca Pública de Waltham lanza una minibiblioteca sobre ruedas

Adaptado de un artículo por STEVE MILMORE, traducido por Perplexity, revisado por Linda Herrera • 3 DE MAYO DE 2026



La nueva furgoneta biblioteca móvil de la Biblioteca Pública de Waltham. Foto cortesía de la página de Facebook de la biblioteca.

La nueva furgoneta biblioteca móvil de la Biblioteca Pública de Waltham lleva los servicios bibliotecarios directamente a paradas en los vecindarios y a eventos comunitarios. Los visitantes pueden prestar y devolver libros, inscribirse para obtener tarjetas de la biblioteca y hablar con bibliotecarios para recibir recomendaciones de lectura.

El objetivo, dijeron los empleados de la biblioteca, es hacer que los servicios sean más accesibles al llegar directamente a las personas donde se encuentran. Los materiales prestados desde la biblioteca móvil pueden

devolverse allí mismo, en la WPL o en cualquier sucursal de la red Minuteman Library.

“La biblioteca móvil no opera con un horario fijo, pero aparecerá en eventos en Waltham por toda la ciudad. Su colección variará según el tipo de evento, como libros infantiles para programas enfocados en familias”, dijo Amber Harvey, jefa del departamento de referencia de la biblioteca.

Los residentes pueden visitar la biblioteca para sugerir futuras paradas de la biblioteca móvil y ayudar a ponerle nombre al nuevo vehículo.



Hats off to the class of 2026!

Raquel Sanon



Congratulations Raquell.

We couldn't be prouder of the incredible and amazing young lady you've become. Your achievements have filled our hearts with pride on reaching this milestone!

Love you always Mom, Dad, brother Jayden, and Luna.

Matthew Halloran



Congrats Matty!

You did it. After years of school, alarms, homework you barely did and pretending to listen in class, you've officially graduated and we couldn't be prouder. Go and celebrate while you can because the real world awaits you! And it's not always fun.

Love,
 Mom, Dad, Ryan and Teagan

Edward (Eddie) Quinn



Congratulations Eddie,

I could not ever imagine the day you would become the most selfless, kind, generous, great-hearted, giving, trust worthy, hard working, I could keep going. But I won't. #CLASSOF2026

I love you.

Mom
 XOXO

"To be great, is to be misunderstood." --Ralph Waldo Emerson

Tori Lombardo



Tori,

We are so proud of all your hard work and determination and can't wait to see what the future holds in store for you. Congratulations Class of 2026!

-Mom, Sam & Makayla

Celeste Fox



Celeste,

Congratulations on this major achievement in your life. We are so proud of all that you have accomplished and the person you have become. The future is bright and we can't wait to see what lies ahead! Go UMASS!!!!

Love Always,
 Mom, Dad and Gabrielle

Janna Sargavkian

Congratulations, Janna!

We are so proud of your hard work and accomplishments. As you graduate from high school, we celebrate all you have achieved and look forward to your exciting future at Elon and beyond! Always dream big and believe in yourself!

With lots of love and pride,
 Mom and Dad

Cody Caballero



Cody,

your kindness, humor, intelligence, and extraordinary musical talent inspire everyone around you. We are so proud of the remarkable person you've become. Congratulations on graduating and heading to UMass Amherst Commonwealth Honors College, your future is as bright as your heart.

We love you!

Haylee Tam

Congratulations to our beautiful Haylee, Class of 2026!

Your hard work, strength and dedication have made us incredibly proud. Watching you achieve this milestone has been a blessing. Keep believing in yourself, chasing your dreams and shining wherever life takes you.

We love you so much!

Brendan Losier



Brendan (Fridge),

You have made it!!! You are leaving behind a legacy and starting a new journey. We feel lucky to have you as our son. As you begin this new chapter, always remember where you came from and who is here cheering you on. Continue to stay true to who you are!

Love,
 Mom & Dad

Sierra Nicholas



Congratulations, Sierra!

Watching you grow into such a kind, compassionate, and determined young adult has been our greatest joy. Best wishes as you begin your Nursing studies at the University of Maine. We will miss you and will be cheering you on every step of the way.

Love,
 Mom, Dad & Caroline

Thayna Nunes DeAravio



Thayna,

God's greatest gift to me was choosing me to be your mother. You taught me love, strength, and how to be a better person every day. Watching you become the incredible young woman you are fills my heart with pride and gratitude. I love you forever. I'm so so proud of you!

Ethan Magezi

Congratulations Ethan!

It has been wonderful watching you grow into such a fine young man. You have a very bright future ahead of you.

Lots of love
 Aunt Margy"



Andrew, David, Emmett, James, & Matty,

We are so proud of you!
 Congratulations and Good Luck!



Community & Schools

Waltham High School celebrates Class of 2026 with reflection, diversity and pride

Continued from page 1

those who completed a career and technical education pathway, took three or more early college classes, earned the Seal of Biliteracy or graduated as members of the National Honor Society.

The address of welcome was delivered in both English and Spanish by Quinn Gavin, Anabel Rutledge and Luisana Guerrero Marquez, respectively.

The ceremony continued with Andrew George, treasurer of the Class of 2026, who introduced honored guests from the Waltham School Committee and the administration.

Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy greeted the graduating class. "Every once in a while, there is a class at Waltham High School that tugs at your heart. They make you laugh. They make you proud. And sometimes they drive you crazy. But looking out at you, Class of 2026, and having observed your perseverance, your talents, your achievements and your accomplishments at such a young age fills us all with pride," McCarthy said.

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa congratulated the students on all

their achievements and growth throughout their high school journey.

"The most successful people are not those who have all the answers. They are those who remain curious, embrace challenges and continue to grow throughout their lives," Mendonsa said.

Senior Rachel McIntyre, vice president of leadership for the National Honor Society, then presented the Class of 2026 gift for Waltham High School. The gift, a free library box located on Lexington Street near the entrance to Waltham High, was accepted by Principal in Residence John Barnes.

"Just as our teachers and staff have left a lasting impact on us, each book will contain a new lesson. This library grants anyone who takes a book the power to escape, the power to feel a sense of belonging and the power to see themselves in someone else's shoes," McIntyre said.

After accepting the gift, Barnes reminded students of the life skills they have learned and the life experiences they are about to gain.

"The people who succeed aren't the ones who never fail. They are the ones who keep getting back up. They are the ones who learn, adapt and keep moving when life doesn't go according to plan. And life will absolutely not go according to plan," Barnes said.

SUBSEQUENT SPEAKERS SHARED SIMILAR THOUGHTS.

School Committee Vice Chairperson Debra Coleman reminded students that although they followed different paths, each graduate's success was worth celebrating.

Shelby Hale Roper, assistant principal for the Class of 2026, walked the seniors through their high school years, reminding them of their growth and achievements, before telling them, "This day is all about you."

Aryan Rampal, vice president of character of the National Honor Society, and Thanthar San, the Class of 2026 secretary, gave the closing remarks.

San reminded her classmates of the power of the words "I wish."



Graduates Jake Villalta, Kaily Salazar, and Maria Recinos

Story continues on page 18.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Best wishes to the 2026 graduates and their families from Centre Street Food Pantry! For 15 years, Centre Street has provided the Waltham community with consistent access to fresh and healthy food.

www.centrestfoodpantry.org





Hawks soar: Senior class powers Waltham athletics

By LIAM O'BRIEN • JUNE 10, 2026



Team captain Aiden Metallides was a leader all season. Scafidi, he became considered the best catcher in the DCL by the end of his sophomore campaign. As a senior captain, Moynihan became one of the team's best hitters. Moynihan earned DCL All-Star honors as a junior and is expected to receive the nod again this spring.

It has been a memorable year for senior athletes across the Waltham High School sports program.

Read below to learn about some of the standouts from the Class of 2026



Emmett Moynihan

BASEBALL

The standout senior for the Hawks baseball team was **Emmett Moynihan**.

Moynihan was a four-year starter at catcher. Under head coach Larry



Aiden Metallides against Melrose. Photo by Jim Pier

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aiden Metallides was the leader of Hawks all season long, serving as the team captain. He is the third

student-athlete from the Metallides family to play for head coach Mike Wilder and will head to Fairfield University in the spring.



From left to right: Avery Leeman (captain), Quinn Gavin (captain), Sarah Valere, Madison O'Donnell, Katelyn Kern, Tessa Allia and Inez Schofield.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Quinn Gavin – Gavin was a captain and two-time DCL All-Star.

Avery Leeman – Leeman graduates with an impressive resume as a two-year captain and a two-time DCL All-League player. She set the school record for most 3-pointers made in a single game (eight) during her junior year.

Inez Schofield – Schofield transferred into WHS and joined the girls hoops team this past winter. She immediately became an impact player and a DCL All-Star.

Sarah Valere – Valere is set to continue playing basketball collegiately, representing the Hawks family at the next level at Western New England University in Springfield.

Madison O'Donnell, Tessa Allia and Katelyn Kern were also part of the senior cohort on the team.

"The class of 2026 is a truly special senior class for the Waltham Girls Basketball program," head coach Marc Lovett said. "Our seven seniors have made such a positive and lasting impact on their teammates, coaches and Waltham youth players."



Senior girls hockey players from left to right: From left to right: Juliana Fry, Rianne O'Connor, Brenna Roche, Miyana Bahl, Sophia LaFauci and Ava Anderson.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Ava Anderson – Anderson stood out as a three-year captain of the program and a true leader on and off the ice. Stepping into a forward role this season, Anderson eclipsed the 100-point mark for her career while notching 13 goals and assists apiece.

Miyana Bahl – Goaltender Bahl came into her own midway through the season with six shutouts, backstopping the Hawks to their first state tournament win since 2008.



©JOSEPH SHA

Sophia LaFauci

Sophia LaFauci – LaFauci was a top line forward who potted 13 goals and 16 assists. She reached the 100-point mark for her high school career in the tournament victory against Hingham.

Story continues on next page.

WAKU WAKU

ramen x sake

GREAT MOMENTS. COMFY BOWLS.

Modern ramen. Bold flavors. The perfect place to relax and enjoy.

BOLD FLAVOR
Big taste in every bite.

GOOD VIBES
Comfort food, good energy.

MADE FOR EVERYONE
A spot for friends, families, all of you.

15% OFF

YOUR NEXT BOWL!

USE CODE:
WAKUVIBES15

SCAN TO VIEW MENU!

WAKU WAKU
ramen x sake

WALTHAM, MA
Come hungry. Leave happy.

DINE-IN ONLY
Experience us in person. Reserve your table.



Waltham seniors cap standout careers across Hawks sports

Continued from previous page.



Sarah Valere



Hunter Fucci and the Waltham boys hockey team.

BOYS HOCKEY

Max Polipas – Dual County League/Merrimack Valley Conference All-Conference First Team. Polipas also was selected to play in the Massachusetts Senior All-Star Game.

Timmy O'Toole – League All-Star, also selected as the 10/24 Captains Club Male Leader of the Year.



Girls lacrosse team. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

GIRLS LACROSSE

The Hawks girls lacrosse team was spearheaded by captains **Ava Anderson** and **Quinn Gavin**. Anderson was a massive asset to WHS' offensive attack while Gavin played a large role in leading the program. Abby Morse and Emma Gaspar were also key contributors on the defensive unit as crucial cogs in the Hawks' zone defense.



Boys soccer team

BOYS SOCCER

Christian Vega Garcia – Vega Garcia will continue his soccer career at the University of Southern Maine

after earning Eastern Massachusetts All-Star honors. He finished first in assists in the DCL and third in goals scored.

Charlie Destin – The captain locked up a nod to the DCL All-Star team and will play at Westfield State University in the fall.

Andrew Samios – A captain and the goalkeeper of the team, Samios was also an All-Star.

Edwin Gudiel – The captain will join his teammate Destin on the Westfield State soccer team next year.

"The whole team was an extraordinary group of fabulous people," head coach Cristiano Casalini said.



From left to right: Luisana Guerrero, Maggie Ngo, Laura Shepard, Thanthar San and Elodie Evora.

BOYS TENNIS

James Agostino and Andrew Samios anchored the Hawks as the first doubles duo and proved to be the heart and soul of WHS boys tennis. Dylan Haley and Aryan Rampal served crucial roles as the glue guys on the team. David Maione was a source of passion for the group, battling all year at third singles. The senior roster:

Zion Aburaya

James Agostino, Captain

Dylan Haley, Captain

Matthew Halloran, Captain

Jacob Katz

David Maione, Captain

Aryan Rampal, Captain

Dominic Rodriguez

Diego Rodriguez Villasenor

Andrew Samios, Captain, DCL All-Star

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team qualified for the state tournament for the fourth consecutive year, finishing 28th in MIAA Division 1 this spring.

"The five graduating seniors were a huge part of the program's success," said head coach Marla Shepard. "All five seniors have helped create a positive and supportive culture within the program, and their leadership and dedication have been instrumental in the team's continued success."

Laura Shepard – A strong, consistent and aggressive player who loves to come to the net, Shepard served as a two-year captain and was an outstanding leader, mentoring younger players and motivating teammates to do their best.

Luisana Guerrero – As a senior captain, Guerrero helped build team enthusiasm and worked to instill a love of tennis in younger teammates. She has managed the team Instagram page since freshman year.

Thanthar San – San played No. 2 doubles as a junior and No. 1 doubles as a senior despite only picking up the sport sophomore year.

Maggie Ngo – Ngo also began her sophomore year and quickly developed into a varsity player by the start of her senior season, when she competed at No. 2 doubles.

Elodie Evora – Evora began playing tennis during her junior year and improved rapidly, earning a varsity spot as a senior at No. 2 doubles.



Discipline • Focus • Respect

For older teens & adults
(617) 943-6444 • boblynnkenpo.com

Waltham Inclusive Neighborhoods

is looking for engaged community members who want to create more **equitable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable** housing.

WIN hosts and attends monthly events

- Organizing meetings
- Public input sessions and hearings
- Community socials

Our Mission

- Make Waltham a more affordable city
- Save the environment by preserving green space and developing housing near transit
- Support a vision of Waltham true to its historic character, where people of all ages and income levels can live, work, and raise a family

We believe this vision can only be achieved by people engaging on the local level

- Speaking up at hearings
- Messaging elected officials
- Or even just learning more and following our newsletter

WalthamPolitics.com/win



From quiz bowl to show choir, WHS class of 2026 delivers a year to remember

By STEVE MILMORE • JUNE 10, 2026



District-wide art show at the Waltham Public Library.

DISTRICTWIDE ART SHOW AT THE WALTHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHS seniors had artwork featured in the citywide 2026 Districtwide Art Show, which showcased photography, paintings, drawings, sketches and other works from students across all Waltham schools. The exhibit filled three floors of the library and gave high school artists a public venue to display their work.



30TH ANNUAL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBIT

The 30th annual high school exhibit in Lexington at LexArt in March

showcased the creativity and innovation of area students and WHS high school art programs. This year's exhibit featured a diverse collection of WHS artwork from seniors including paintings, photography, mixed-media pieces and ceramics.



Show Choir's

EASTERN SHOW CHOIR FESTIVAL

Waltham's nationally recognized show choir program hosted the Eastern Show Choir Festival, one of the longest-running events of its kind in New England. Senior performers in Music Unlimited and Music Express took part in a major regional showcase that brought approximately 750 singers and dancers to Waltham High.



Show Choir's Hanz Louis

MUSIC UNLIMITED SPOTLIGHT PERFORMANCES

WHS's Music Unlimited ensemble continued to be one of the school's signature performing arts groups. The team was first runner-up in the Mixed Division Tier 1 at the Somerset Berkley New England Show Choir Classic 2026 in February. Judges awarded Music Unlimited a gold medal as well as best choreography, best band and the judges award for commitment to character. Waltham senior Hanz Louis was named best soloist, and he was also featured as a performer and emcee for the senior revue.

Story continues on next page.

sponsored content



BREWING MORE THAN BEER IN WALTHAM

Mighty Squirrel founders build a business centered on community

Few people move across the country to brew beer. Naveen Pawar and Henry Manice did, trading San Diego for Waltham in pursuit of a shared idea that started in a kitchen and grew into Mighty Squirrel Brewing Co.

On Waverly Oaks Road, their taproom hums with activity — runners gathering after a workout, coworkers opening laptops at long wooden tables, climbers visible through a glass wall scaling routes next door.

"That's my TV," Pawar said, nodding toward Central Rock Gym.

Since opening in December 2018, Mighty Squirrel has become more than Waltham's only production brewery. It has become a community anchor. While the company has expanded to Fen-

way and Watertown, Pawar and Manice say Waltham remains its foundation.

"A brewery is a spot for the community to get together," Pawar said. "What was most attractive was that people are living right there and there is a community here."

That sense of place drove their decision years earlier, after touring more than 30 sites around Greater Boston. Waltham stood out not just for location, but for neighborhood feel.

Inside, the space is intentionally built for connection — shared tables, open seating and shelves of board games. Outside groups have made it their own. Running clubs meet weekly. Business organizations host networking events. For many, it has become a regular gathering place.

"It's a privilege to have a business that gives us a platform to get involved," Manice said.

Even the beer reflects those ties. "Dear George" honors the first person to join their team and current VP of Operations who has helped build the company. Mango Lassi nods to Pawar's Indian roots and the unlikely path that led him from medical technology to brewing.

That path began as a side project between coworkers. It grew through contract brewing before choosing Waltham as the place to put down roots with their first brick and mortar.

Today, the Waltham location continues to evolve, recently adding a full-service kitchen, and they have added a 60,000 square foot summer and fall Biergarten with food on the grounds of Gore Place. But the goal remains the same.

For Pawar and Manice, success is measured not just in growth, but in the community that fills the space.



From quiz bowl to show choir, WHS class of 2026 delivers a year to remember

Continued from previous page.



©JOSEPH SHARKEY MEDIA



The WHS QUIZ BOWL team and coaches.

WHS QUIZ BOWL TEAM

The WHS Quiz Bowl team landed a spot on WGBH's "High School Quiz Show" and participated in the National Academic Quiz Tournaments' High School National Championship Tournament, one of the country's largest academic competitions, featuring 320 schools and 1,593 individual competitors from across the U.S.

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



The new WHS student-run cosmetology salon.

CAREER PATHWAYS: ARTS AND TECH

The new student-run cosmetology salon opened in 2026, which was a significant milestone for students pursuing careers in the beauty industry. Seniors in the cosmetology program got real-world experience working with public clients while earning hours toward state licensure. The automotive technology shop was busy as well. Students learned how to diagnose, repair and maintain automobiles while offering minor repairs to the public.



National Honor Society students from Waltham High School being recognized by the School Committee for their work leading recent high school tours.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Members of the National Honor Society at Waltham High School have logged more than 3,800 hours of community service this school year. With 150 students participating, the NHS has volunteered across the city, from helping at the Healthy Waltham Food Pantry and the Waltham Public Library to tutoring in elementary schools, assisting at local PTO meetings and helping to organize the Hawks for the Holidays annual gift drive for Waltham children.



Girls at the Senior Review

CLASS OF 2026 SENIOR REVIEW

WHS seniors took the stage in March for the annual Senior Revue titled "For Good" to a sellout crowd. It's a long-standing tradition that brings the graduating class together through music, dance, comedy and original student performances. The annual Senior Revue is one of Waltham High School's most anticipated traditions, giving seniors the chance to celebrate their final year while sharing their talents with the community.

The Class of 2026 embraced opportunities to learn, lead and excel during the school year. Their achievements serve as a testament to their hard work and commitment to making the most of their high school experience.



Waltham High School National Honor Society students. Courtesy of WHS.



CELEBRATE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CITY

FREE and open to the Public

Music! Marketplace! Artists! Food Garden!

JUNE 20, 2026 | 10AM - 5PM

Moody Street Bridge | Waltham, MA

WALTHAMRIVERBEAT.COM



Carefully Curated, Quality Crafted, Specialty Coffee, Roasted to Order in Downtown Waltham.



Del's Coffee Roasters was born from my love of coffee and a drive to discover, roast and enjoy the best cups the world has to offer. The soul of the company emerged in early 2020 while delivering freshly roasted beans door to door to friends, family, and my local community during the pandemic. I learned just how much the simple pleasure of coffee can bring comfort, connect people, and lift us when we need it most -

Coffee is love, and who can't use more of that?

Thanks for supporting my small business and my dream to spread a little love one fine brew at a time.

Order on-line for local pick-up, delivery or shipment.

Stop by Tuesday at 10am for our free tasting.

100 Felton Street - Suite 100 - Waltham, MA

www.delscoffee.com





Community & Schools

Former Waltham Hawk shares spotlight with Pat's QB Drake Maye

By STEVE MILMORE • JUNE 5, 2026



Pats Drake Maye with Waltham grand prize winner Luke France on set. Photo courtesy of Papa Gino's.

England through Labor Day. It promotes the launch of Papa Gino's new stuffed crust pizza.

France made Maye look good in our opinion, catching the pizza dough pass like a pro. Take note, A.J. Brown.

Born and raised in Waltham, France describes himself as a pizza lover and lifelong fan of the New England Patriots. He played football at Waltham

High School, where he was a lineman for the Hawks, and he served as an assistant coach for the team after graduation. He played tight end on the Salve Regina University football team in Newport, Rhode Island. For France, what started as a simple sweepstakes entry turned into a memorable experience with one of New England's biggest sports stars. Maye "was a very nice guy" at the shoot, France said. "I felt like I was talking to one of my friends by the end of it."

You may remember that former Hawk and Waltham resident Luke France was named the grand prize winner of Papa Gino's "Share a Slice with Drake Maye Sweepstakes" in March.

France was selected among thousands of online sweepstakes entries and won the opportunity to meet the Pats QB – and be in a commercial.

It's show time.

The "Luke France commercial with Drake Maye" (as we call it at the Times) is out and will run throughout New

Waltham High School celebrates Class of 2026 with reflection, diversity and pride

Continued from page 13



Graduate Alladi Ega and her family



Graduate Emily Yu and her father

"Today, we wish for the lives we are about to build. We wish for the chances we haven't taken yet. ... So, as we step into the next stage of our lives, let's continue to wish courageously, dream big and close the gap between the life you wish for and the life you are brave enough to create," she said.

The ceremony concluded with the awarding of diplomas. After the final diploma was given, caps flew in the air as families cheered loudly.

GRADUATES AND FAMILIES REFLECT ON THE MILESTONE

For the graduates, the ceremony marked both an ending and a beginning. When asked to describe the Class of 2026 with three words, Kira Cotugno described it as "chaotic, smart and creative." Elijah White-Rochelle used the words "chaotic, complex and diverse," adding that the first years were "more chaotic and loud" but brought the Class of 2026 closer together.

Parents described the graduation as emotional after watching their children grow throughout their journey at Waltham High.

"I think the diversity of the community here in Waltham is our greatest strength, and so having a diversity of experiences and backgrounds really makes for world citizens, and I am really excited to see what's next for my [child]," said parent Dave Raymond.

Some parents shared that, as the new high school building was introduced, students initially had some hesitation. However, they grew to like the new building.

"There were all kinds of drama with the new building; that was a big adventure. And they ended up with the new building being really nice," Margaret Zeitouny, a parent, said.

Zeitouny praised WHS's tech programs as exceptional, saying her graduating son, Ethan, is her second child to go through such programs. She added that Ethan has become certified to perform electrical work and is now ready to be an apprentice electrician.

Plenty of parents also celebrated what's ahead, sharing that their children plan to attend college in the fall, with some naming Bentley University, Regis College and Villanova University as their graduates' next educational stops.

Graduates are planning to pursue a wide range of career paths, including nursing, engineering and finance.

For some families, graduating from Waltham High School is a family legacy. Tim O'Toole, a parent, shared that his family members are all Waltham graduates, and his son is part of the Class of 2026.

"We love Waltham, and we are very proud of him," he said.

Siblings also celebrated their brothers' and sisters' success, expressing happiness and pride.

"I am really proud that [my brother] made it through high school, and he was really hardworking," Erica Lin, a sister, shared.

As the ceremony ended, graduates rushed to their families for photos, holding flowers and diplomas as they marked one of the biggest milestones of their lives.



Graduate Brian Crowley and his family



Sibling Erica Lin and family

Rotary Club of Waltham
Service Above Self

BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS
1st and 3rd Wednesdays
12:15 PM
Gore Place, Waltham, MA

The Waltham Rotary Club has proudly served for a century.
We promote service to others, support Waltham nonprofits, advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.
We are a non-political and non-religious organization open to all.
Please reach out to our President at: walthamrotarypresident@gmail.com



Graduate Leonardo Alves and his family



Graduate Dylan Haley and his family



Waltham Valor High School celebrates Class of 2026 graduation



By STEVE MILMORE • MAY 31, 2026



Members of Valor High School's 2026 graduating class. Courtesy of Valor High School.

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

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

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

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

That message of perseverance continued throughout the evening as Waltham Public Schools

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa encouraged students to carry the lessons they learned at Valor into adulthood.

"I encourage you to keep those core values close to you as you grow as adults, as you start your careers, and as you become strong community members," Mendonsa said.

"I think you know that the folks here on stage believed in you the moment you walked through the doors."

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

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

VALOR AWARDS

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

- Sara Hamerla, administrator of the multilingual department at Waltham Public Schools, received

an appreciation award for her advocacy and support of multilingual learners.

- The Life-Long Learner Award was presented to Baye Toure for his curiosity and drive to continue learning beyond the classroom.
- Zaida Lupita Flores del Cid received the Valor Award for leading by example and inspiring classmates through her perseverance and leadership.
- Jaden Lee Aponte was recognized for his creativity and school spirit through his design of Valor Pins, which students earn upon completing academic modules.
- Stiven Obel Corzo Arana received recognition for his positive character and dedication to the school community.

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

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

Coming to Waltham this Summer...



THE HEALTHY WALTHAM COMMUNITY MARKET!

There's still time to become a founding patron of this compassionate and dignified new approach to hunger relief in Waltham!



Email Theresa@healthy-waltham.org to support!

Government

Parks-Recreation Board appoints new inclusion recreation supervisor

By CYD ABNET • JUNE 7, 2026



Jaclyn Robinshaw, courtesy of LinkedIn

The Parks-Recreation Board voted to approve Waltham native Jaclyn Robinshaw as the department's new inclusion recreation supervisor.

Robinshaw was hired a year ago as a recreation supervisor. The new position allows her to specialize in making sure people of all ability levels are able to participate in Recreation Department programming. Robinshaw will be filling an absence left by Ben Kiwanuka's departure from the position.

"We appreciate you investing in Waltham, the place you grew up," board Chair Jerry Walker said of Robinshaw.

Robinshaw has previous experience in addressing intellectual and developmental needs in programming through a position at a Lexington middle school. Recreation Director Kim Hebert recommended Robinshaw for the position, saying she has taken initiative and shown great enthusiasm in her time at the department.

Hebert said Robinshaw will attend a variety of professional development programs to gather ideas for the position as well as learn from others in the field.

Robinshaw said she is excited about being able to utilize Waltham's universal inclusive playground space for programming and would like to have some half-day programs at the site this fall.

In other business, the board

- Announced that spray parks around the city will open sometime next week.
- Discussed a lack of enrollment in summer sports camp programs offered by the Recreation Department. Hebert said that in 2019 each session had 40 to 60 participants. In 2026 each session has only two to 12 participants. "That speaks volumes. I don't know what it says though," said board member Thomas Creonte of enrollment numbers. He later speculated that intense youth sports programming throughout the school year may mean kids want to engage in more general recreation during the summer.
- Shared that the department's personnel budget had not been approved by the mayor. Hebert will meet with the City Council's Finance Committee on Monday, June 15, to explain the Recreation Department's proposed budget, noting that a final decision on the budget will be made Friday, June 24.
- Announced that while parking reservations are no longer being taken for 200 Trapelo Road due to the 35-spot parking expansion, the city's website will be updated when there is no parking available. Additionally, an on-site sign will be posted to let patrons know they have to come back another time. 🚫



2025 opening of the inclusive playground at 200 Trapelo Road.



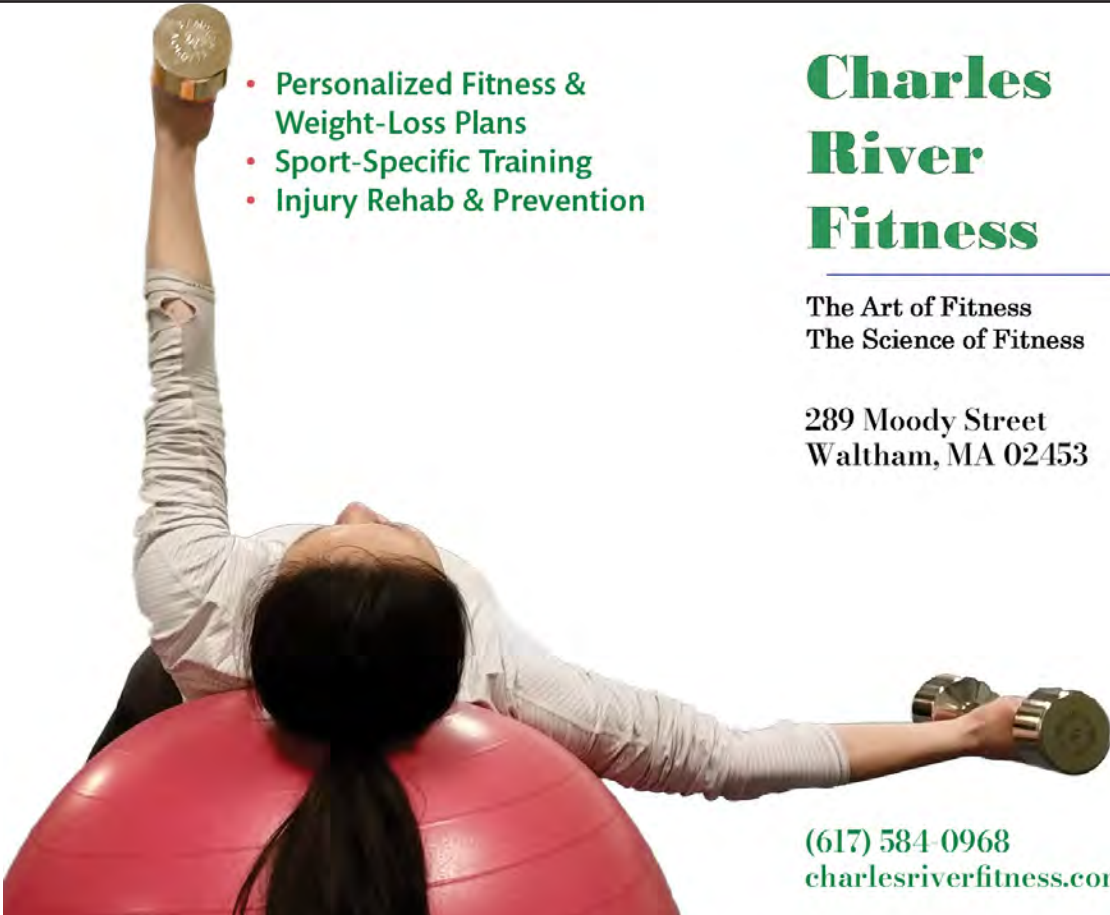
Opportunities for Inclusion Part of the Waltham Community for almost 70 years!

Providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1956



OPPORTUNITIES
for INCLUSION
Where Everybody is Somebody
Formerly GWArc
OppsforInclusion.org

56 Chestnut Street
Waltham, MA 02453
781-899-1344
admin@oppsforinclusion.org



- Personalized Fitness & Weight-Loss Plans
- Sport-Specific Training
- Injury Rehab & Prevention

Charles River Fitness

The Art of Fitness
The Science of Fitness

289 Moody Street
Waltham, MA 02453

(617) 584 0968
charlesriverfitness.com

Government

Overtime and details drive police to top of Waltham pay rankings

By STEVE MILMORE • JUNE 4, 2026



Police officers continue to dominate the list of highest-paid municipal employees across many Massachusetts cities, including Waltham, with overtime and paid detail assignments significantly increasing total earnings beyond base salaries.

According to the city's 2025 payroll records, seven of Waltham's top 10 earners were members of the Police Department. Police Chief Kevin O'Connell led the list at \$279,935, followed closely by Lt. Michael Moriarty at \$273,417.

Deputy Chief Fire Prevention Richard Grant and Fire Chief Andrew Mullin also ranked among the city's top earners.

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa was the highest-paid non-public safety employee at \$256,308. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's 2025 salary was \$174,892, which put her at No. 58.

The top 10 earners in total gross pay for 2025 among Waltham city employees:

1. Police Chief Kevin O'Connell – \$279,935
2. Police Lt. Michael Moriarty – \$273,417
3. Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa – \$256,308
4. Deputy Chief Fire Prevention Richard Grant – \$249,739
5. Police Officer Daniel MacDougall – \$248,583
6. Police Officer Gerard Corbett – \$247,262
7. Police Officer Jorge Orta – \$242,995
8. Police Captain Anthony Vazquez – \$242,106
9. Police Lieutenant Michael Piantodosi – \$235,418
10. Fire Chief Andrew Mullin – \$234,937

A similar trend appeared in Newton, where seven Police Department employees earned more than \$300,000 during 2025. The only nonpolice

employee in Newton's top 10 was the public school's superintendent, who earned \$307,536.

In Lowell, a city of more than 120,000 residents, police captains and lieutenants occupied many of the highest-paid positions as well. Police Captain Daniel T. Desmarais led the city payroll at \$308,101, while several other police officials also exceeded \$260,000 in total pay.

You can search Waltham's city employee database via [MassLive.com](https://www.masslive.com), which highlights payroll data.



CONNORS & CONNORS LLP
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 1971 – 2026

Real Estate ~ Land Use & Zoning ~ Estate Planning & Probate ~ Business & Corporate

We have been helping clients in Waltham for 55 years.
 Please let us know if we can help you.

689 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451 ~ (781) 894-6000
www.connorslaws.com



Temple Beth Israel
 Community | Tradition | Inclusion



SCAN TO LEARN
 MORE ABOUT OUR
 GROWING
 COMMUNITY &
 UPCOMING
 OPENHOUSE



**Building Joyous
 Jewish Life in
 Waltham
 for Over 100 Years**

25 Harvard St. Waltham
<https://tblwaltham.org>

CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY THANKS TO THE WALTHAM TIMES ON ITS FIRST PRINT EDITION!

A local newspaper is the heartbeat of a community. It provides trusted, on-the-ground reporting that keeps citizens informed about local issues, events, and decisions that other media venues often overlook. Our local newspaper builds community, connects us to our neighbors, fosters awareness and civic accountability, and encourages civic action for the common good.

**In short, it helps us build democracy from the bottom up!
May our Waltham Times continue to succeed and thrive!**

Tom Stanley continues to put Waltham first.

State Representative for the 9th Middlesex District (Waltham) for the past 25 years. Current House Chair of the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence. Past member of the Joint House & Senate Committee on Ways & Means. Served 24 years on Waltham City Council. Past Council President.

Achieved long overdue Reform of Senior Care Services. Advocated Medicaid coverage for patients with End Stage Renal Disease, stronger licensing requirements for home care agencies, and increasing access to affordable housing. Worked for a statewide ban on Cryptocurrency Kiosks to prevent scams and ensured Waltham can continue to use the beloved Veterans Memorial Skating Rink.

Demonstrates commitment to constituent services, communication via monthly e-newsletter and listening to resident concerns through door knocking and surveys. Responds to over 1,200 annual constituent requests for assistance and information.

Recognized by U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate, MA Legislature, and Waltham City Council for public service in state and local government. Recognized by numerous state and local health, human service, housing, and disability advocacy groups.

Past member of many Waltham civic and community service organizations. Bentley University, Suffolk University (MPA) and Mass Bay Community College



Rep. Tom Stanley's Annual Survey is coming to your door or email again this summer.

SPEAK UP! PARTICIPATE! BE HEARD!

Your input, opinions and concerns help Tom provide effective representation. Tom encourages you to participate in our Annual Survey when it arrives at your door or in your email to ensure you are included in a complete and updated understanding of our district's needs and concerns.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you need assistance or have any questions and/or concerns.

To Contact Tom:

REP. THOMAS M. STANLEY
9TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT WALTHAM
Chair – Joint Committee
on Aging and Independence
ROOM 167, MA STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2810
E-Mail:
Thomas.Stanley@mahouse.gov
tom@tomstanley.org



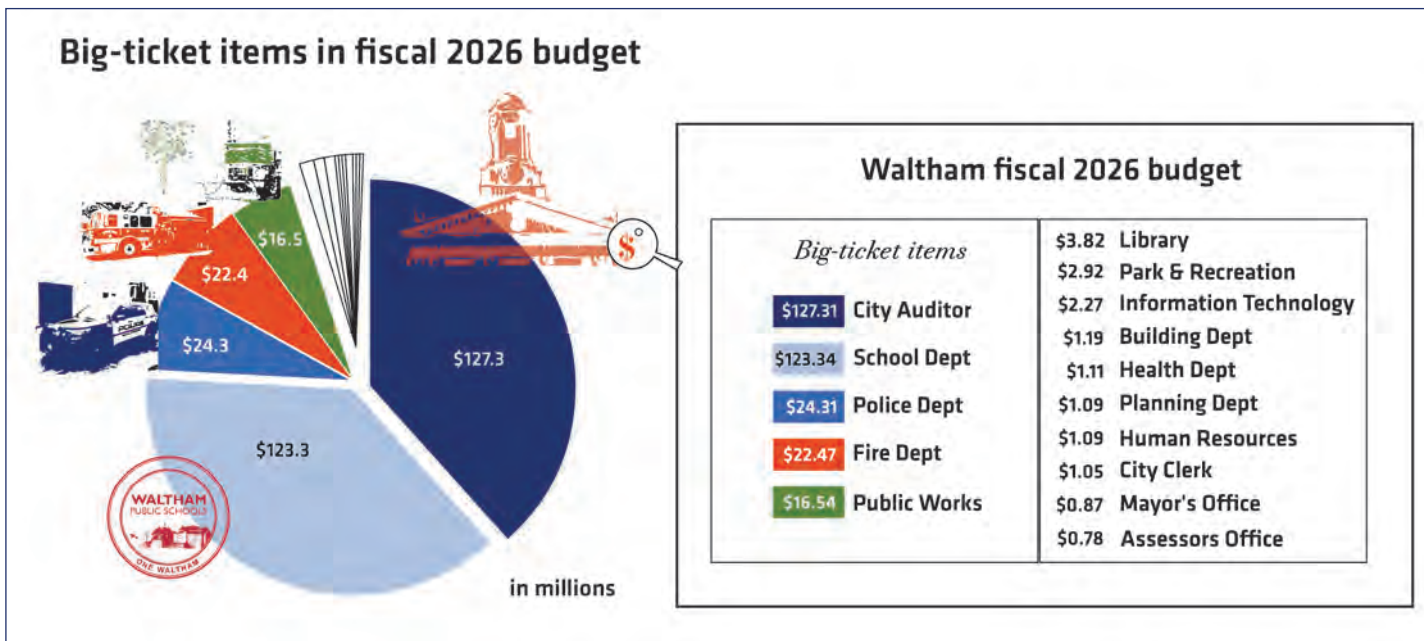
Follow Tom on: Social Media

Website: tomstanley.org
FaceBook: Tom Stanley
Insta: @reptomstanley
LinkedIn: Thomas M. Stanley
Bluesky: @reptomstanley

Paid for by the Stanley Committee

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

Continued from page 1



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

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

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

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

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

Waltham budgets conservatively, said Katz, asserting that city leaders work to spend money wisely. The city could raise taxes and stay within the con-

straints of Proposition 2½ but has chosen not to do so, he added.

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

"The mayor and council wish to keep residential taxes relatively low, and we manage our budget ac-

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

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

cordingly," he added. "While Waltham does retain some unused levy capacity, the city still faces legal limits on tax growth, and any decision to increase taxes beyond current policy choices is ultimately a policy and political decision."

WALTHAM'S BUDGETING PROCESS

The annual city budget originates with the mayor in consultation with city departments. Waltham has

a strong mayor form of government, meaning the mayor has primary authority over budget formation, and the role of the City Council is primarily review, oversight and approval.

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

The role of the City Council Finance Committee is "more about transparency than it is about number crunching," Katz said. Department heads meet with the Finance Committee in June over two days (not necessarily consecutive) in a series of public hearings where councilors review spending requests, ask questions about previous spending

and discuss priorities before forwarding recommendations to the full council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waltham's award-winning local news source offers advertisers unmatched visibility





DECEMBER PRINT ISSUE: EARLY BIRD DEADLINE OCT. 15
Reserve now to reach 27k households & businesses across Waltham!
To secure placement email or call:
advertise@walthamtimes.org | (781) 226-4358




Did you know?

Remember: Waltham 2026 celebrates

The drop-down menu at the bottom of your screen lets you read The Waltham Times in the language of your choice!



ACCEL Automotive Repair Specialists

97 Linden st. Waltham Ma.02452
Accelauto@aol.com
 781-894-0470
 Est 1995



Waltham Valor celebrates Class graduation
BY STEVE MILMC walthamtimes.org 'Y 31, 2025




WalthamTimes.org
LOCAL NEWS
For truth. For community. For democracy.



SUBSCRIBE (IT'S FREE!)

Welcome!



JOIN OUR TEAM



289 Moody Street
Waltham, MA
781-894-2127




- Quality Eyewear
- Routine Eye Exams
- Contact Lenses
- Myopia Management
- Dry Eye Treatment
- Pre and post op Cataract co-management
- Laser Vision Correction co-management

20% off



Bring this coupon in for 20% off eye glasses - *some exclusions may apply.