



July 7, 2026



'We feel at home': French national team reflects on Boston, Bentley experience during World Cup



Analysis: City reckons with increasing costs, development changes at budget hearings



Senior Center this week: Games galore and health checks



AbbVie volunteers transform Waltham Boys & Girls Club gathering space

Analysis: City reckons with increasing costs, development changes at budget hearings

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 5, 2026



The city needs to plan for possible population growth.

In step with [nationwide trends](#), Waltham faces [rising costs](#) over the next year. It's coming as the city sees big, expensive changes likely to come in the next decade in its residential-commercial mix.

Waltham's population is sure to grow, especially in the formerly commercial western edge of the city. In the past year, the city has approved [three new large housing developments](#) under [Massachusetts General Law 40B](#), collectively promising to produce around 1,000 new housing units, as well as [three large mixed-use residential districts](#) around the I-95 corridor that could add [an additional 1,850](#) units over the next decade.

As a part of these discussions, the city has been [trying to measure](#) what a population boom could mean to the city's infrastructure — but some departments expressed at their budget hearings there are still a lot of unknowns.

Superintendent of Schools Marisa Mendonsa told the council earlier this year that the school district [is equipped to handle an increased student population](#), but warned councilors she isn't sure when the city would need to build a new school, which would mean additional unforeseen budget increases. Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin similarly told councilors he expected to see changes in city traffic needs: "It's going to be an — upheaval might be the right word."

The Fire Department plans [to build a new station near I-95](#) to cover the growing population and included a new engine and company for the area in its budget this year — although by the time the budget got to the City Council, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy had cut those line items.

One of the factors driving proposals for new housing is to replace commercial properties in the city, which are seeing [worrying levels of vacancy](#). Although City Council has been exploring [ways to mitigate](#) this trend, City Assessor Frank Craig warned councilors that many companies have requested to lower the value of their land during tax assessments.

At June’s budget hearings, City Auditor Paul Centofanti told city councilors the city has a long-term plan and is still in a financially stable place, with a good credit rating and the largest cash reserves it’s ever had. Its commercial tax revenue is falling, but he sees some hopeful indicators that the city’s financial forecast will “slowly turn around.”

“We’re living on the high side, to be truthful, but we’ve been able to afford these projects on our existing levy,” Centofanti added. Still, he’s started to be concerned whether Waltham will need to [expand its tax levy](#) in the future.

In early June, McCarthy presented the council with a list of budgets for individual city departments. Over three meetings between June 9 and 22, the council’s Finance Committee held budget hearings to pick over budget minutiae and discuss departments’ needs, asks and plans for the 2027 fiscal year, which started July 1.

A few consistent themes emerged from these hearings: rising health and utilities costs, changes to Waltham’s residential and commercial neighborhoods, a search for skilled workers and opportunities to revisit some of the major stories from the past year’s council meetings.

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

Column2	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
City Auditor (Fixed/Dobl)	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
Building Department	3.74	1.03	1.10	1.18	1.19
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
Health Department	0.94	0.95	1.02	1.04	1.11
Human Resources	0.76	0.82	1.00	1.06	1.09
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
City Clerk	0.51	0.88	0.96	1.01	1.05
Planning Department	0.11	1.05	1.07	1.13	1.09

Top 15 largest department budgets in Waltham, 2022–2026. Image by The Waltham Times.

Increasing costs for utilities and insurance

Health insurance costs are [rising around the country](#). The largest increase in Waltham’s budget this year was from health insurance costs for its employees, which grew by \$8.9 million from last year’s budget.

Many departments, including the School, Building Maintenance and Traffic Engineering departments, also saw [rising costs in their utilities bills](#) over the past year. The City Clerk’s Office reported that the utilities costs to maintain the city’s Rosario “Russ” Malone Archives and Records Center nearly doubled between FY2025 and 2026. The Recreation Department expects increases in its water bill for spray parks, which has risen nearly \$90,000 since 2024.

A shortage of workers

The city’s emergency services have seen [significant retirements since the end of last year](#), with seven empty positions in the Fire Department’s roster and 12 new retirements in the Police Department. According to Police Chief Kevin O’Connell, the city hired many emergency services workers at the same time decades ago, many of whom are now retiring together.

O’Connell told councilors he’s having trouble finding replacement candidates as a result of a “decimated” civil service hiring list. He said he’s planning to hire from sources other than the police academy, such as other municipalities and university security departments. Similarly, Fire Chief Andrew Mullin said his department has recently hired new firefighters, but it’ll take a while for them to finish training.

The Buildings Department asked to reclassify one of its code enforcement positions, since there’s a statewide shortage of qualified applicants, and train a current inspector to fill the more specialized role.

In the School Department, Mendonsa emphasized that the city’s out-of-district special education costs are so high in part because there’s an overall shortage of teachers with “severe” special education licenses: “Folks are just not going into that field, unfortunately,” she said.

Many departments also reported changes to their administrative positions as some long-time staffers retired. Still, the Health Department was granted a new full-time administrator position — a position Health Director Michelle Feeley [has previously stated](#) could help the department manage citywide issues such as rats.

Council meeting throwbacks

Some of the City Council’s pet projects this year also came up in discussions of the city budget.

This spring, councilors [started making plans](#) for the city to hire a [new economic development manager](#) who could help attract businesses to the city, and asked the clerk’s office to put together a job description for the position. Committee members were surprised to see the budget accounted for someone already hired to the position. Planning Director Robert Waters says the department decided not to make an external posting because it had identified a promising internal candidate.

Some projects, such as [the Bluebikes bike-sharing project](#) and [modernized viewscreens in the City Council chambers](#), notably didn’t appear in the budget document. Others, such as the [ongoing library renovation](#) and discussions about whether the city may [lose its hockey rink](#) or [gain a new one](#), loomed large over individual departmental budgets as councilors probed for updates.

Some broader trends surrounding Waltham’s residents’ experiences also resurfaced yet again in the budget, as councilors discussed how the city clerk’s office could [increase voter turnout](#) in local elections and McCarthy requested to formalize [her benevolent fund](#), which is primarily earmarked for emergency housing assistance.

AbbVie volunteers transform Waltham Boys & Girls Club gathering space

BY NEWSROOM • BUSINESS • JULY 3, 2026



AbbVie volunteers and Waltham Boys & Girls Club staff cut the ribbon for the renovated space. Courtesy of AbbVie Foundation.

A newly renovated space at the Waltham Boys & Girls Club is set to welcome middle school students this summer following a volunteer-led transformation backed by the AbbVie Foundation and national nonprofit Heart of America.

About 40 AbbVie volunteers worked alongside club staff to refresh a high-use multipurpose room ahead of summer programming, creating what organizers describe as a more flexible and inviting environment for learning and social connection.

The project, completed as part of the AbbVie Foundation's global Week of Possibilities initiative, included new flooring, fresh paint and updated furnishings such as tables, sofas and collaborative seating. The effort also added storage systems and design upgrades, along with roughly 200 educational resource packs for students.

Club officials said the redesigned space will serve between 20 and 60 middle schoolers daily, supporting academic enrichment, esports programming and group activities throughout the summer and school year.

"This transformation couldn't come at a better time," said Erica Young, executive director of the Waltham Boys & Girls Club.

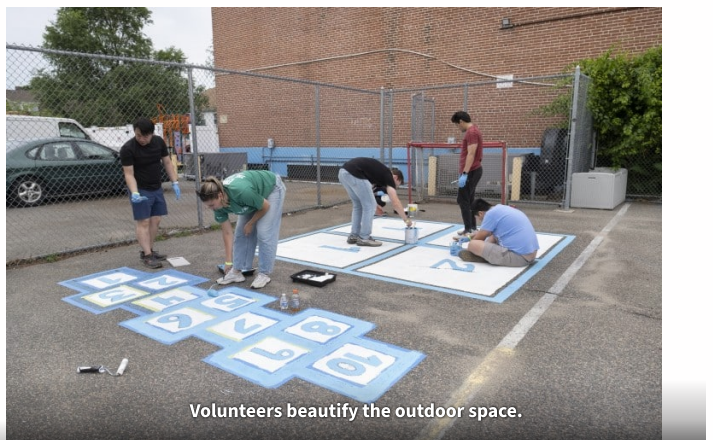
The effort builds on ongoing investment in Waltham by Heart of America and the AbbVie Foundation. Since 2025, the partnership has renovated two local spaces, reached more than 800 students and distributed books, school supplies and learning materials.

AbbVie, which recently acquired Waltham-based biotech firm Apogee Therapeutics, has expanded its local footprint while continuing to support community initiatives through its foundation.

Heart of America President and CEO Jill Hardy Heath said the goal is to ensure students have access to welcoming environments year-round.

“Learning doesn’t stop when the school year ends,” Heath said.

The Waltham Boys & Girls Club serves hundreds of youth annually through academic, athletic and enrichment programs.



Admiring the new mural.

‘We feel at home’: French national team reflects on Boston, Bentley experience during World Cup

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • SPORTS & RECREATION • JUNE 30, 2026



French national football team members get ready for work at The Four Seasons hotel in Boston. Courtesy French Football Federation.

While fans see the French national team for just 90 minutes on match day, most of the tournament unfolds behind the scenes.

Since the World Cup kicked off, the French national team has been staying in Boston and [using Bentley University as its training base](#). One of the main factors that drew the team to Greater Boston was the hospitality it experienced.

In an interview with the Waltham Times, Mohamed Sanhadji, the French Football Federation’s head of security and liaison officer, offered insight into the delegation’s experience in Greater Boston and its daily routine.

“We felt that Boston City, Massachusetts State, wanted the French national team,” Sanhadji said.

The French delegation chose Boston, where it is staying at the Four Seasons Hotel, while looking for a place that could feel like home during the tournament. It wanted good conditions, which it found at Bentley University.

“We can find equipment everywhere. We found [at Bentley] a sincere cooperation, a nice cooperation. All the responsible people of the University of Bentley wanted France, so for us, it was easy. They made things very easy for us,” Sanhadji said.

Sanhadji also shared the team’s admiration for the university since day one.

“We are their guests, but they gave us the keys. It’s why it’s like a union, a strong union, a positive union, one union,” Sanhadji said.

Sanhadji described the team’s daily routine in Boston. A typical day begins with breakfast, which runs until 9:30 a.m., after which players head to the gym and attend meetings.

Around 12:30 p.m., players have lunch, followed by a 30-minute nap. Then the team heads to training. After returning to the hotel, players do recovery work, including massages and stretching, as well as individual or group exercises.

The day ends with dinner around 8:30 p.m., followed by more recovery. Each player has their own room and devices to review past games or preview upcoming opponents.

“They have to always think football,” Sanhadji said.



The team relaxes over a meal at The Four Seasons. Kylian Mbappé is standing at the left. Courtesy of French Football Federation.

Although players have not had much time to explore the Boston area, members of the physical therapy, administration and logistics staff have visited sites such as Boston Common.

For Sanhadji, those moments reflect the team’s philosophy, which extends beyond football and centers on building community and relationships.

“Our philosophy is to share more than football. I mean, football is only 90 minutes a match, for a game. What we would like is to create together, to advance together, to build together bridges in a positive way

for us, for you, for everyone in the world. That's why we have chosen Boston and Bentley University," Sanhadji said.

Sanhadji said the delegation is grateful for the welcome it has received from Boston, Waltham and Bentley.

"It was an honor for us to reside in our hotel, like at home. The hotel, the governor, the mayor, the head of Bentley University—it was an honor for us to be with them, to receive them, to share with them," Sanhadji said.

Bentley expressed gratitude that the French national team chose the university as its training base. To make the team feel at home, university staff worked behind the scenes.

"Our entire campus came together for this—Athletics, Facilities, Police, IT, Communications—this touches everyone ... Our field crew worked seven days a week, overseeding, growing in the grass, cutting it to just under an inch and mowing the precise field pattern. France wanted the field to mimic the stadium in Foxboro and that's what our crew delivered," said Vaughn Williams, Bentley University athletic director.

The partnership went both ways, and Williams said the university was happy to work with the French national team.

"Now France is here and they're happy. They have been tremendous partners and we're thrilled to have delivered for them," Williams said.

For the French delegation, Bentley has become more than a training base—it has become a home away from home during the 2026 World Cup.



The French national team athletes and staff pose for an official photo. Courtesy of French Football Federation.

As America turns 250, Waltham can renew democracy at home

BY BRAD ONKEN • NEWS • JULY 2, 2026

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, many folks are speaking anxiously about where we are as a nation and as a city. People say the American Dream feels out of reach, and some say that of Waltham specifically. I wonder if that is true or is it that we have gradually lost touch with the everyday habits that keep democracy working? A recent [NBC News poll](#) highlights this anxiety: The vast majority of Americans believe we aren't taught enough about how our democracy functions.



Invite a neighbor to share coffee. Canva stock image.

To find our footing, we must look to our foundational principles. While our national identity values individual freedom, our greatest achievements have always relied on a deep commitment to the common good. We see this legacy in Waltham. As the birthplace of the American industrial revolution, our city is a vital hub because generations of neighbors invested in shared infrastructure — our roads, public schools, safety systems and parks.

Building a community requires active civic participation. When I taught U.S. history and government, I always reminded my students that the rules of our democratic republic provide the guardrails, while the voice of the people drives us forward. Today, as national partisan rifts grow, it is crucial that we don't let them cause a disconnect in our communities.

We can start right here by focusing on a few practical approaches in our local civic life:

- Choose compromise over comfort: Recognize that political solutions aren't set in stone. We build them through experimentation to find what's best for Waltham.
- See our rules as tools: Our city charter and ordinances aren't rigid obstacles, but adaptable frameworks for solving challenges.
- View neighbors as partners: Remember that our neighbors are co-creators in building Waltham, and genuine compromise is how we combine competing ideas to solve problems.

How do we put these ideals into practice on our 250th anniversary?

- Invite a neighbor with a different viewpoint to have coffee with you and find out what goals you share.
- Attend a city council hearing or watch a meeting on WCAC-TV.
- Review the Waltham City Charter online to learn about our city's government structure.
- Write a constructive comment or letter to the editor to the Waltham Times.

Our governing tone isn't set by elected officials. It is shaped at our own kitchen tables. When we show up, listen and act locally, we reinforce our civic foundation together. Active participation is how we reclaim the everyday habits of democracy and keep our community vibrant.



A cookout is a great occasion to get to know your neighbors. Canva stock image.

Citywide crime decreases, violent crime rate increases according to data

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 30, 2026



Waltham Police Department crime data collected by the FBI shows that the overall crime rate has not gone up over a 10-year period, but violent crime has increased.

The Waltham Police Department crime data shown in these graphs is sourced from the [FBI's Summary Reporting System](#). This system displays property crime and violent crime data collected through their Uniform Crime Reporting Program, which collects crime data from over 19,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States. The data spans from January 2015 to December 2025 and was pulled from the system in March 2026.

The FBI defines the crimes mapped on these graphs in their [Summary Reporting System User Manual](#). Crime definitions aren't standardized across law enforcement departments, so the FBI uses their own categories as well as a "hierarchy rule," counting only the most serious offense in a case as a data point.

Waltham Crime Trend, 2015-2025

Property and violent crime reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program by The Waltham Police Department

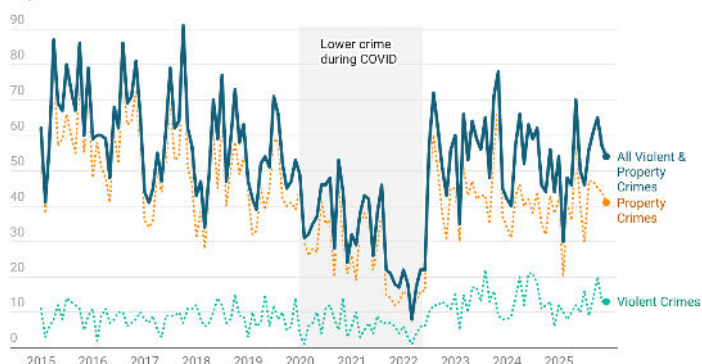


Chart: Branch Four Inc. • Source: FBI UCR Summary Reporting System • Created with Datavrapper

In this and the graphs below, the vertical axis represents the number of incidents. Overall trends show a significant dip in crime during the COVID-19 pandemic as compared to the years before and after. While crime rates have risen since the pandemic, the crime rate in 2025 is lower than it was in 2015.

Waltham Property Crime, 2015-2025

Property crime reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program by The Waltham Police Department

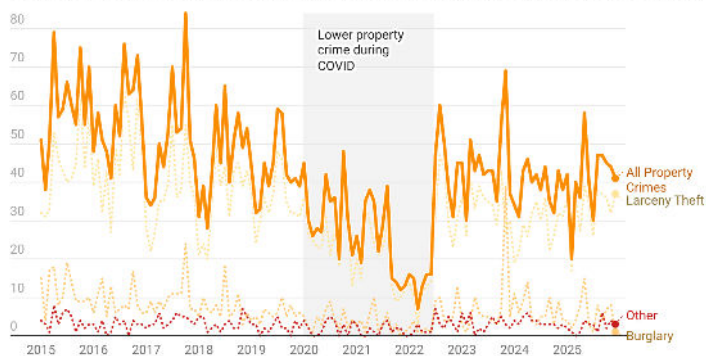


Chart: Branch Four Inc. • Source: FBI UCR Summary Reporting System • Created with Datawrapper

Property crime rates, which include burglaries, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft and arson, are near the same level they were in 2015. They are higher than they were during the COVID-19 pandemic, following the overall crime rate trend.

Waltham Violent Crime, 2015-2025

Violent crime reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program by The Waltham Police Department

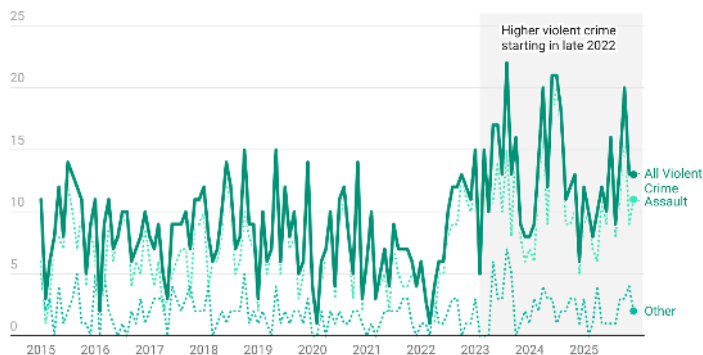


Chart: Branch Four Inc. • Source: FBI UCR Summary Reporting System • Created with Datawrapper

Violent crime rates, which include aggravated assault, robbery, rape and homicide, are happening at a higher rate than in 2015, with a notable increase starting in late 2022. While crime overall is decreasing, the severity of the crimes is increasing.

In a city budget hearing on June 16, Waltham Police Chief Kevin O’Connell said he believes the increased investment in mental health outreach via their mental health taskforce has helped drive crime rates down.

“There are a lot more ways of taking care of things than just arresting someone,” he said. “It makes a difference.”

The Waltham Police Department did not respond to a request for comment on the data presented in the article before the provided deadline.

Branch Four Inc. provided the data research and visualizations for the article.

Comments (3)



RICHARD ROSEL • JULY 3, 2026 AT 10:06 PM

If you got rid of the homeless shelter and soup kitchens your numbers would dramatically fall therefore increasing quality of life for the majority

Reply



HEATHER BACKMAN • JULY 1, 2026 AT 8:01 PM

These charts are hard to interpret appropriately without a label for the y (vertical) axis. What do those numbers represent? If violent crime has increased from an average of about 7 incidents per year to maybe 15 or 17 per year, that's still very little crime. If it's increased from, say, 7 incidents per year *per capita* to 15 or 17 per year *per capita*, that's a somewhat different picture.

Reply



JUNE KINOSHITA • JULY 2, 2026 AT 5:11 PM

The vertical axes represent the number of incidents. Thanks for pointing out the lack of clear labeling.

Reply

Inside Radio Uganda Boston ahead of its Summer Splash celebration

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • COMMUNITY • JULY 2, 2026



Geoffrey Nsereko at Radio Uganda's studio. Photo by Allie Ladjeva.

In a city shaped by communities from around the world, Radio Uganda Boston has become a home away from home for the Ugandan community.

Based in Waltham, Radio Uganda Boston was founded in 2009 as a way to connect Ugandans living away from home. What started out with texting community members about local programs later grew into an online radio station.

"Few homes had computers, but we tried it, and it worked," Geoffrey Nsereko, program director at Radio Uganda Boston, said.

Nsereko, one of the founders of Radio Uganda Boston, is known in the Ugandan community as "Simple."

"I connect the public to the radio, so I am the book in between the people, listeners, their problems or their views. I present them to the radio, and we see what we can do for our community," Nsereko said.

Radio Uganda Boston offers a variety of programs, including children's, women's and religious ones. The radio operates in two languages, English and Luganda. Even though there are live shows on specific days and times, the radio is always available for people.

"[Radio Uganda Boston] doesn't stop even if we are not there live. The music stays in the background. We also run adverts and commercials," Nsereko said.

According to Nsereko, there are about 20,000 Ugandans in New England. Although Radio Uganda Boston is based in Waltham, people from all around the world listen to it.

“Sometimes, we have political shows, and if you are in Uganda, you know how democracy is. Some programs are censored. When [Ugandans] come here, we don’t censor anybody. They can say whatever they say, whatever comes in their mind,” Nsereko said.

Even as the radio’s audience grew internationally, the station’s roots remained in Waltham. Nsereko said the radio had two offices globally before the COVID pandemic — in Uganda and in Waltham. However, there is only one office now, in Waltham.

“It started in Waltham. It’s here in Waltham, it will stay in Waltham. We love Waltham. Waltham has nurtured us,” Nsereko said.

Nsereko also expressed his gratitude to Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy for supporting the Ugandan community.

“We thank Mayor McCarthy. Oh, she has been there for us. She really cares for us, and she really makes sure that our community knows and gets first-class information,” Nsereko said.

To celebrate its anniversary, Radio Uganda Boston is hosting a Summer Splash celebration on Saturday, July 11. The event will take place on Waltham Common between 2 and 6 p.m.

Some of the planned activities include a children’s dance competition, a grandparents’ dance competition and a tug-of-war for the parents. Winners will receive gifts. There will also be food vendors and a bouncy castle for the kids.

The event is open to everyone, but alcohol is not allowed.

“We invite everyone. The event is open for everyone. As long as you don’t come to interrupt us, as long as you don’t bring alcohol on the ground. Don’t bring on alcohol because we have kids and we have to behave,” Nsereko said.

Comments (2)



SUSANNA FIORE • JULY 3, 2026 AT 2:00 PM

Thanks for the info. I googled the station and found it. Nice music!

Reply



ANDREW G GREENE • JULY 3, 2026 AT 8:19 AM

Nice article and something I was not aware of in Waltham. Would be a good idea to also include a link to the Radio Uganda Boston website (if there is one – not explicitly mentioned in the article, but implied) and the broadcast frequency – if traditional radio (again, not mentioned). It’s great to raise interest and awareness – and even better to act on it.

Reply

Local residents named to dean's list at Saint Anselm College

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • JUNE 30, 2026



Three Waltham residents landed on the dean's list at Saint Anselm College for the second semester of 2026. Brigid Kelly, a nursing major, Michael Nuzzi, a communications major, and Dylan Perry, a physics major, made the list of the New Hampshire college.

All earned a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.



Saint Anselm College, Alumni Hall.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st-century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, a highly successful nursing program, a legacy of community service and a commitment to the arts.

Longtime Waltham resident Edwin Alvarez marks six months in ICE detention

BY DAVID E. GUMPERT • PUBLIC SAFETY • JUNE 30, 2026



Waltham business owner Edwin Alvarez has spent six months in the custody of federal immigration authorities. He faces the possibility of being deported if his legal appeals are eventually rejected.

Alvarez is a graduate of Waltham High School and owner of a local landscaping business. He was seized in Waltham without warning last New Year's Eve by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Family members said at the time that Alvarez was in the United States legally with a federal Employment Authorization Document allowing him to work in the United States, and that he was working toward getting a permanent resident card and citizenship.



Edvin Alvarez via Facebook, Oct. 25, 2024.

Alvarez came to the United States 35 years ago from Guatemala and has owned a landscaping business for 20 years. His family has used a GoFundMe campaign to raise nearly \$25,000 of its goal of \$26,000 to pay his legal fees.

According to updates on the GoFundMe site, Alvarez's recent application for cancellation of his deportation proceedings via form 42B, which allows certain nonpermanent residents to avoid deportation and obtain a green card, was rejected because he hadn't proven his deportation would result in extreme hardship to his family.

He also has filed for a writ of habeas corpus seeking a legal justification for his detention.

Alvarez has been transferred among detention centers around the country; he is currently being held in Texas, his family said.

Comments (13)



STEPHANIE MARIENSA • JULY 2, 2026 AT 11:48 PM

It only takes another Laken Riley to happen on the Waltham rail trail and some of you people won't even bother to care. You'd all rather just praise the blue and purple hairs and have a trans day on the

common. Really a shame. Just know there's more American flags than there are rainbow flags in Waltham. Poor things.

Reply

 TONI ELKA • JULY 3, 2026 AT 12:41 PM

A lot of us fly the flag AND support trans rights. Just in case you didn't know that.

Reply

 MICHAEL WILSON • JULY 3, 2026 AT 3:29 PM

You want a rapist and murderer? Look no further than Donald Trump. He's the one you need to fear.

Reply

 TONI ELKA • JULY 1, 2026 AT 2:59 PM

This is so wrong, so inhumane, so cruel. Everyday, some shareholder is making money off of the detention of innocent people. The United States currently holds approximately 60,000 to 70,000 people in immigration detention centers nationwide. The most recent official and tracking data highlights the scale of the system:

Current Population: Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holds over 60,000 individuals on any given day, with recent peak counts reaching between 66,000 and 73,000 depending on enforcement activity.

Demographics: Over 70% of those detained have no criminal convictions.

Location: Facilities are heavily concentrated, with Texas currently holding the most ICE detainees.

Private prison operators make hundreds of millions in profit from immigration detention centers, bringing in billions in total revenue. The industry is dominated by two massive for-profit corporations, both of which have seen massive revenue surges due to government contracts – our tax dollars at work. The GEO Group: Earned record-breaking total revenues of \$2.6 billion, with net incomes reaching approximately \$295 million. Operating profits specifically from their Secure Services (detention) division range between 25% to 30%.

CoreCivic: Reported \$2.2 billion in total revenue. They average roughly \$165 per detainee per day across their facilities

Reply

 KAREN WALZ • JULY 1, 2026 AT 12:37 PM

This man is unjustly ripped away from his family, but as far as the government is concerned, there's no "extreme hardship." Really. There was a "promise" to deport "the worst of the worst." Mr. Alvarez obviously does not fit that description. I hope he gets home soon with great legal representation. These shameful episodes that ruin people's lives for no good reason need to end. The only way we can end them is to vote for people who have a more proportionate sense of fairness, justice, and compassion. Targeting people because of ethnicity and without legitimate cause is unjust and very anti-American. Immigration is what has made this country thrive, not the other way around.

Reply

 JACOB MULLIN • JULY 1, 2026 AT 10:26 AM

Pretty sure there is much more to this story than being said. I don't think Mr Alvarez has been the most perfect law abiding citizen over the years. Might be time to go home and learn to behave first.

Reply

 KAREN WALZ • JULY 1, 2026 AT 4:27 PM

And you have evidence of his so-called non-law-abiding behavior? Or are you simply engaging in leaping to conclusions with slander? It's for certain, and proved repeatedly, that ICE has leapt to conclusions to round up people to fill up private prisons.

Reply

 BARRY SWITZMORE • JULY 2, 2026 AT 10:14 AM

Here you go:

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/mexican-national-charged-illegal-reentry-and-interfering-federal-agent>

Reply

 ANNE SHAFFNER • JULY 3, 2026 AT 5:59 PM

This is not the same person. The Waltham resident is Edwin Alvarez from Guatemala.

Reply

 IAN SMITH • JULY 2, 2026 AT 1:30 PM

I specifically voted for this

Reply

 GEOFFREY MILLER • JULY 3, 2026 AT 6:46 PM

You are wrong. I have been a customer of Edwin for 15 years . I know his family. He has no criminal record.

Reply

 SUSANNA FIORE • JULY 1, 2026 AT 8:37 AM

Please tell us how we can donate to the family

Reply

 JUNE KINOSHITA • JULY 1, 2026 AT 12:20 PM

Here is the GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bring-edvin-alvarez-home-to-his-family>

Reply

Mike Hill earns top coaching honor after breakout season at Bentley

BY STEVE MILMORE • NEWS • JULY 2, 2026



Bentley University's Mike Hill was named the [East Region Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association](#) this week. He is the first East Region Coach of the Year in Bentley baseball history.

In just his fourth season as head coach, Hill guided the Falcons through a landmark 2026 campaign that included the program's first Northeast-10 Conference championship and its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II World Series.

Bentley entered the postseason as the No. 1 seed in the NCAA East Regional, where it defeated Goldey-Beacom College and Wilmington University, both of Delaware, to advance to the Super Regional.

Hosting the Super Regional in Waltham, Bentley won two of three games against No. 2 seed Molloy to secure its trip to Cary, N.C., and the Division II World Series.

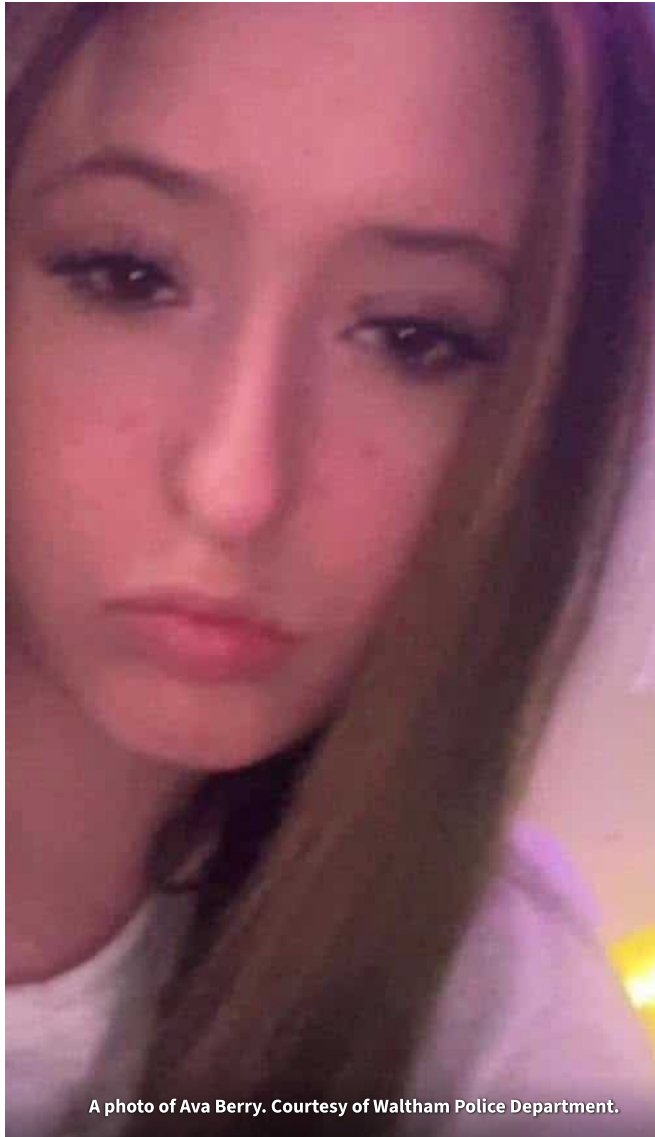
The Falcons finished the season 44–17, setting a new single-season program record for wins, surpassing the mark set in 2025. During the historic run, Bentley spent three weeks ranked in the national top 10 in the ABCA poll.



Bentley's Mike Hill named ABCA 2026 Coach of the Year. Photo courtesy of Bentley University.

Missing juvenile: Ava Berry

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 4, 2026



A photo of Ava Berry. Courtesy of Waltham Police Department.



Additional photos of Ava Berry. Courtesy of Facebook post by Adam DeFilippo.

UPDATE: The Waltham Police Department posted on its Facebook page on July 4 that Ava has been located and is safe.

The Waltham Police Department is asking residents to keep an eye out for missing juvenile Ava Berry, 15, of Waltham who has been missing since June 25.

Berry is described as a 5-foot-2-inch white female weighing about 100 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. She was last seen on June 25 at 9:30 p.m. in the Rumford Avenue area. Berry was wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt, navy-blue shorts and white shoes at the time she was missing.

“We are asking the public to share the post and contact police with any information that may assist in locating her. Multiple people have been interviewed, but those efforts have not yet resulted in information that allows us to locate her,” said Waltham police detective Patrick Dean in an email to The Waltham Times.

Anyone with information about Berry is encouraged to contact the Waltham Police Department at 781-314-3600.

Public safety report: Fire department extinguishes concealed fire on Brown Street

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 5, 2026



The Waltham Fire Department was able to extinguish a fire hidden in the ceiling of a four-family house on Brown Street this week.

On June 30 at 1:02 a.m., fire crews responded to reports of a fire at 16 Brown Street. Upon arrival, there was no visual sign of fire. After investigating, firefighters were able to locate the fire in the ceiling of a kitchen on the second floor. Crews shut off power and gas to the house to prevent the fire from spreading. Crews from Weston and Watertown assisted in the response as well. The fire was extinguished, and all residents were removed safely.



©JOSEPH SHARKEY MEDIA

Firefighter operating fire hydrant. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.



The building sustained significant water damage. The second floor unit where the fire began sustained fire damage. In total, 19 people were displaced as a result of the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Additional notable fire department activity from June 28 to June 30 is as follows:

On June 28 at 9:14 p.m., fire crews responded to reports of an animal problem at a residence on South Street. A bat had entered the house and residents needed assistance removing it. Using a net, crews were able to capture the bat and release it outside. The bat did not bite anyone.

On June 29 at 8:03 p.m., fire crews responded to reports of a vehicle fire at the intersection of Chestnut and Moody streets. The fire started in the car's engine and was extinguished by a nearby store owner by the time crews arrived. After firefighters checked to make sure the fire was completely extinguished, the vehicle was towed.

On June 30 at 2:23 a.m., fire crews responded to reports of smoke in a residence on School Street. After investigating, firefighters discovered that a power strip had failed, shorted out a lamp and tripped the circuit breaker. Firefighters removed the power strip and the lamp and used a thermal imager to confirm that the fire was completely extinguished.

This week's public safety report does not have information from the Waltham Police Department due to issues with the public police blotter's downloading process. Normal coverage of police activity will resume next week.

All information was obtained from a spokesperson with the Waltham Fire Department.

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Sci-Fi to sport: Inside the lightsaber combat academy LudoSport Boston

BY ALEC SCHOECK • SPORTS & RECREATION • JULY 2, 2026

At a Moody Street dance studio where ballroom music fills the air, a different kind of choreography is taking shape: lightsaber combat.

LudoSport Boston and its lightsaber warriors share the dance floor with couples practicing waltzes and foxtrots at the Super Shag Dance Studio at 406 Moody St.

During a recent evening session, while Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love" was playing, both types of students warmed up — an oddly fitting backdrop for a sport that blends athleticism, artistry and a love of "Star Wars."

LudoSport is an international combat sport founded in Italy in 2006 and now active in 14 countries. The sport uses illuminated, polycarbonate "lightsabers" and blends traditional fencing and martial arts with choreographed "Star Wars"-inspired movements. Practitioners compete in fencing-style duels under codified rules for scoring and safety.



***Students at LudoSports academy in Waltham.
Photo by Alec Schoeck.***

A real sport

Seven students trained under instructor Brendan, beginning with stretches and footwork drills that looped around cones in figure-eight patterns. With long sabers in hand, they practiced "derivata," a technique that shifts body position to open an opponent's guard and create new angles of attack, often flowing into strikes such as a backhand, or "rovescio." Invented in Italy, the sport uses Italian terminology.

LudoSport training is structured around seven progressive forms, each introducing new techniques and philosophies. Students begin at the Novizio (novice) level before advancing through Accademico, Knight and Master ranks. Over time, they move from the long saber to more complex weapons, including dual sabers and staff weapons. Competitions range from local matches to international championships.



Getting ready to spar. Photo by Alec Schoeck.

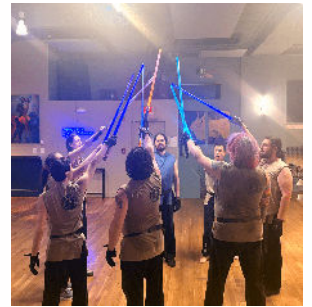
After drilling techniques, the class transitioned into sparring, with students facing off one-on-one. The session concluded with a demonstration from Brendan, who wielded a double-ended saber reminiscent of Darth Maul's weapon, before the group gathered in a closing circle, sabers raised and touching at the tips.

For many participants, the draw goes beyond fandom. Brendan said he initially came for “the shiny sticks,” adding, “It’s a good sport by itself — the fact that it’s based on ‘Star Wars’ is cool, though.”

From the dark side to the “pork side”

Students arrive with a range of backgrounds. Some, like Stefan and Erwin, have prior martial arts experience, while others are new to combat sports. Stefan said LudoSport offered a way to reconnect with his Italian heritage; he now teaches beginner classes on Sundays. Nora, who participates in live-action role-playing, said she was drawn by the system's use in LARP combat.

Others travel significant distances to train. Siblings David and Skye commute from Rhode Island and Beverly, respectively. Shared enthusiasm for “Star Wars” remains a common thread, with students readily debating favorite films and scenes.



LudoSport trainees raise their lightsabers. Photo by Alec Schoeck.

Jeremy Keller, founder of LudoSport Boston, began training in 2017 and is now the U.S. national champion. A certified instructor in multiple forms, he was among a small group selected by Italian masters to help launch a school in Japan.

“Community is the biggest part of LudoSport,” Keller said. “We joke that ‘Star Wars’ has the dark side and the light side — we have the ‘pork side.’ We enjoy eating dinner together as much as training.”

LudoSport Boston has about 20 active members and offers advanced classes Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and beginner sessions Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m. Participants are advised to wear gym-appropriate clothing and protective gloves; uniforms are required for long-term training.

As the class wrapped, the studio returned to its usual rhythm of dance and music. But for a few hours each week, the Moody Street space becomes something else entirely — a training ground where sport, fantasy and community intersect under the glow of imagined blades.

Senior Center this week: Games galore and health checks

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • JULY 5, 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 abundant programs for exercise, music, classes and socializing. Check out [the center's newsletter](#) for a full listing. Call 781-314-3499 with questions and to register for programs.

Daily programs include billiards and bocce games (drop-in).

Every Tuesday 9:30—11:30 a.m. Bridge lessons. \$10 per lesson. Bridge game at 1 p.m. All are welcome.

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. English as a second language classes given by an experienced ESL teacher. Improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills while learning practical English for everyday life. Free but please register.

Every Wednesday at 10:30–11:30 a.m. Hora del Café. Spanish-speaking coffee hour.

Thursday, July 9. Foot care with Dr. Helen Cho, DPM, a board-certified podiatric physician, surgeon and wound-care specialist. Dr. Cho will perform routine nail and callous care only at the COA. Cost is \$35.00 in cash. Please call the front desk to schedule your appointment.

Friday, July 10, 10 a.m. with subtitles; 1 p.m. no subtitles. Film screening of “Far and Away,” a 1992 Western romantic adventure drama film directed by Ron Howard, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. Set in the 1890s, the story follows Joseph Donnelly, a poor Irish tenant farmer, and Shannon Christie, his wealthy landlord's rebellious daughter. They form an unlikely alliance and flee Ireland together for America in pursuit of freedom and a shared dream of owning land. Rated R, run time is 2 hours 20 minutes. Donation of \$0.50. Please register.

Here is the full schedule for this week:

6. 9:00 Walking Group. Veterans Field 9:30 Poker 9:30 Exercise Class 10:00 Knitting 10:45 Exercise Video 12:00 Zumba- No Class 1:00 Whist 1:00 Rummikub 1:30 Chair Volleyball	7. 9:00 Crochet 9:00 Tai Chi - Adv. 9:30 Bridge Lesson 10:00 Tai Chi- Beg. 10:00 ESL 11:00 Grief Support Group- No Class 11:00 Mah Jong 11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba 11:30 Ukulele Group 1:00 Bridge Game 1:30 Chair Exercise 3:00 / 5:00 Quilt Guild-No Class 5:00 Country Line Dance- No Class	8. 9:00 Walking Group. Veterans Field 9:00 Blood Pressure 9:00 Quilting 9:30 Exercise Class 10:30 Hora del Café 10:45 Exercise Video 11:00 Meditation 12:00 Lunch: French Onion Cheeseburger / Breaded Chicken Sandwich 1:00 Bingo 1:00 Hand and Foot	9. 9:00 Walking Group Veterans Field 9:00 Keep It Moving 9:00 Conv.Spanish 9:30/10:45 Exercise Video 10:00 Conv. English 10:00 Painting 10:00 Mah Jong 10:00 Podiatrist Dr. Cho 10:15 Strength Class 11:00 Mah Jong 11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba 12:30 Cards - Spades 1:00 Cribbage/Canasta	10. 9:00 Ceramics No Teacher 9:30 Poker 10:00 Movie w/captions 12:30 Cards – Spades 1:00 Bridge: Instruction & Play 1:00 Movie: Far and Away
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Senior Center schedule for the week of July 6.

The Arc of Massachusetts appoints Monica Garlick as director of external affairs

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • JUNE 30, 2026

The Arc of Massachusetts has appointed Monica Garlick as its first director of external affairs, the Waltham-based organization announced Monday.

Garlick will oversee public-facing relationships with stakeholders and donors for the statewide advocacy organization, which supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism.

“We are thrilled to welcome Monica to The Arc at such a pivotal time for our advocacy and community initiatives,” CEO Maura Sullivan said in a statement. “In addition to her background in state policy and quality management, her authentic perspective as a sibling of an individual with IDD gives her an intuitive understanding of the families we serve.”

Garlick brings more than a decade of experience in public policy, health and community advocacy, along with leadership roles in quality management. Most recently, she served as vice president of quality management at Riverside Community Care, where she oversaw patient rights protections for 40,000 clients.

Her previous work in state government includes serving as research director for the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and as a research analyst for the Joint Committee on Public Health.

Garlick said her personal connection to disability advocacy has shaped her career.

“When I was 3 years old, my sister Beth was born with global developmental delay,” she said. “From my earliest years, I understood instinctively that inclusion is not a favor extended to those who are different — it is the foundation of a just community.”

Garlick holds a doctorate and a master’s degree in public policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a bachelor’s degree from Smith College. She has also served for eight years on the board of Newton Athletes Unlimited, a nonprofit that provides recreational programs for individuals with disabilities.

The Arc of Massachusetts is a statewide organization that provides advocacy, education and outreach to support individuals with disabilities and their families.



***Monica Garlick,
Director of
External Affairs,
Arc of
Massachusetts***

Think Mexican food doesn't pair with wine? Think again

BY LISA FRUITT AND GARY MARKOWITZ • FOOD • JULY 2, 2026



If you love Mexican food, you probably have a go-to beverage to complement the cuisine's bold and rich flavors. Tequila, of course, is a classic pairing. Same with mezcal. Beer too.

But wine? Absolutely! Mexico has been producing wine since the 1520s, when homesick conquistadors planted vineyards across Central and South America with cuttings from Spanish vines. If you haven't tried pairing a Mexican wine with your favorite taco de pescado or carne asada, you don't know what you're missing.

They're typically bold, fruit-forward and food-friendly, with enough acidity to complement your meal. Clearly when it comes to Mexican wine and food, if it grows together, it goes together.

We've long been acquainted with Mexican wines from the Valle de Guadalupe region in Baja California. But on a recent trip to Waltham's Painted Burro, we sampled several wines from the Querétaro region, located just north of Mexico City. With a terroir markedly different from Baja (lush, high altitude vs. rustic, desert) the Querétaro wines at Painted Burro offered their own unique flavor profiles.

Our two favorite wines were:

- Viña Doña Dolores Chardonnay (non-vintage). A dry chardonnay with a hint of apricot and grapefruit on the nose and lemon peel tartness on the palate. The wine's acidity paired perfectly with the spicy Gulf shrimp diablo tacos.
- Viña Doña Dolores Cuatro Regiones 2019 Red Blend (cabernet sauvignon, tempranillo, merlot, malbec, syrah and marselan). Dark garnet in the glass with lovely tobacco/black fruit notes on the nose and a perfect harmony of black cherry and baking spices fruits on the palate. This thoughtful red blend was a great match with the cilantro grilled chicken tacos.



One of our favorites: Viña Doña Dolores Cuatro Regiones 2019 red blend. Photo by Lisa Fruitt.



Patio at Painted Burro in Waltham. Courtesy photo.

Global Thrift Store celebrates 30 years on Moody Street

 walthamtimes.org/2026/06/30/global-thrift-store-celebrates-30-years-on-moody-street

Andrew Law

July 1, 2026

It's not hard to find longtime customers of Global Thrift Store, the Moody Street staple, which marks 30 years in business this July 1.

Starting about 15 years ago, Waltham's Emmett McCleary recalls scoring a \$1 record by iconic jazz musician John Coltrane, \$5 Levy's 501 jeans and his first Polaroid camera at Global Thrift.

For years, Chestnut Hill's Liz Jesionek has furnished her home with linens, dishes and knick-knacks from the store. Her haul last Friday: a high-end men's shirt, J.Crew flip-flops, two pairs of cool sunglasses and jewelry.

When you come into the store, "you're coming into a party," said Jesionek, referencing its bright art murals, upbeat music and steady flow of customers.



Artwork by employee Brenda Brizuela beautifies the store. Photo by Linda Haas.

Owner Cindy Pochesci has spent 30 years recreating thrift shopping as a fun and community-driven experience on Moody Street. To celebrate the July 1 anniversary, her team is planning "30

surprises” for customers throughout the month.

Pochesci has no shortage of stories over the last few decades. Highlights include the wife who donated her husband’s entire closet after finding out he was cheating, “pictures that we shouldn’t have gotten” amid larger donation bags and a customer who found her \$20 wedding dress at the shop.

“I’ve had people meet here and get married,” she added.

But her greatest pride is the store’s impact.

“She has done a lot for the community,” said Nancy Hanley, a longtime friend who now works at Global Thrift.

Social Media Manager Astrid Pozo added, “She’s an incredible store owner, woman and single mother. Being able to have all that on her shoulders and to just be successful, and the store is thriving.”



Owner of Global Thrift Cindy Pochesci. Photo by Linda Haas.

Origin story

Entrepreneurship runs in Pochesci's family: Her great-grandmother had a store in a trendy part of Philadelphia, and her dad owned a trailer and container company in New Jersey. But she didn't always plan to follow this path.

After earning a master's degree at Boston University, she worked as a rehab counselor for people with traumatic brain injury at Spaulding Rehabilitation. There she got to know Goodwill Industries, which funds rehab programs through its thrift stores. Eventually she decided to create her own shop at age 25.

With no business experience, she quit her job, got a loan from her dad and drove around looking for store locations using a gas station map book. "This was way before Waze," she said.

She chose Moody Street mainly because she could afford the rent. Pochesci said, "Cronin's was the department store on the corner that was condemned. Jordan's Furniture's very first store was across the street. There was a costume shop and some random restaurants, but it was dead down here."

She signed a five-year lease. When she told her landlord she was starting a thrift store, he replied, "I won't sue you if it doesn't work out."

She hired her first four employees from a nearby unemployment center and rented space at a condemned gas station where she parked a trailer to collect donations. To stock her shop, she bought items from stores going out of business, including all the hangers at Bradlees in Framingham (now Target) for \$800.

After her accountant insisted, "I need a name," for the business, she spotted a globe driving down Moody Street and decided to name the store Global Thrift. "It reflects that you can come here and there's so much," she said.

Pochesci slept on friends' couches until she could pay herself and rent her own apartment. She later moved to an apartment a few blocks from the store, and eventually expanded the shop by taking over space previously owned by Bernie & Phyl's.

The thrift store experience

From the start, Pochesci has modeled Global Thrift in the tradition of Goodwill, relying on community donations and offering most items for under \$10. Her team stocks a staggering 1,500 items a day, ensuring a fresh selection with every visit.

To keep prices low and inventory turnover high, items aren't individually priced. For example, it's \$8 for blouses and \$5 for T-shirts, and yellow-tagged items are just a couple of dollars more than the standard unit pricing. Pochesci loves when customers find deals, such as a jacket someone bought

that was later appraised for \$5,000. She welcomes everyone, including those who can't afford retail prices, resellers, bargain hunters and thrifting fans alike.

"You've got to come in and search, because I want to get this stuff out as fast as I can," said Pochesci.

Community support is central to Global Thrift's mission. Though Global Thrift is not a non-profit, it has donated proceeds to charities for families of missing children, the homeless and childrens' arts education programs through Rose Conservatory in Brockton.

From day one, Pochesci has provided \$25 vouchers to those in need, including guests at the [Community Day Center of Waltham](#). "This is the foundation of Global," she said.

She also offers free space for entrepreneurs to sell their goods, and supports local university students and artists.

"I started buying art to help artists because no one was really doing that after COVID," Pochesci said.

Global Thrift now features an impressive array of artwork in the store, and a vibrant mural by Hailey Bonia on the Moody Street storefront. "I grew up in an era where window displays were like works of art," Pochesci said. "I wanted to bring back the window display."

Her son Rocco, a recent Waltham High graduate, is a fan: "When you come down Moody, it's the first thing you see."

To reimagine the store for future generations, Pochesci has introduced new ideas, like holding monthly bin sales where customers can pay \$15 to fill a large bag with outfits. She estimates each bag can hold about \$200 of adult clothes or \$400 of kids' clothes.

She's also working with the team, including her social media manager Pozo, to reach more young people. On Instagram, Pozo often spotlights attention-grabbing outfits from the store, such as a brown and white polka dot dress that mirrored what Julia Roberts wore in the movie *Pretty Woman*.

Running Global Thrift hasn't always been easy. Recently, Pochesci was forced to reduce her floor space to curb utility costs, and like other independent stores, shoplifting poses a challenge since it's not feasible to use the security measures that are increasingly adopted at chain stores. She focuses on business sustainability so she can continue to benefit the local community, and because she knows how much her employees count on their paychecks.

‘My employees are like my family’

The store has between 15 to 20 employees at a given time. To Pochesci, “my employees are like my family ... I can’t do anything without them.”

“She has basically no turnover here,” said Hanley. “Her employees are awesome. Never in my life have I managed such a great group of people.”

Rocco has started working at the store part-time during the school year and full-time over the summer. But he’s been at the store since childhood, when he recalls playing with toys and a basketball hoop in the back.

“For me, this is like a home,” said Rocco. “It’s a second family.”



Shop owner Cindy Pochesci with her son Rocco. Photo by Linda Haas.

At first, his work responsibilities began in the back room, and he has increasingly taken on more customer-facing roles. This fall he’ll start classes at Bunker Hill Community College, helping build on what he’s learned at the store.

His mom and others see a bright future for Rocco. “He has the gift,” said Hanley.

“Expectations are high, but I like that,” said Rocco, stealing a glance at his mom, who’s smiling nearby. “If she can take it 30 years, I want to take it 60 years.”

With many independent stores struggling to survive, often without a next generation to take over, Global Thrift seeks to break the mold.

Longtime customer McCleary is rooting them on: “If Waltham is to be a place people can afford to live, a thrift store is essential. Waltham is definitely changing. I hope it does retain what I loved so much about it as a kid who didn’t have a ton of money to spend. I hope it remains available to people of all creeds and income brackets.”

For Pochesci, it all comes back to the local community: “I started here, I love this community ... I love unconditionally.”

Global Thrift Store, at 322 Moody St., is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Donations are accepted during store hours ([guidelines](#)). For updates, follow the store on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) or [TikTok](#).

Waltham's Maura Sullivan honored as Commonwealth Heroine

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • JULY 5, 2026



Maura Sullivan, a Waltham resident and CEO of The Arc of Massachusetts, has been named a [2026 Commonwealth Heroine](#) by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

Sullivan was nominated by state Rep. Thomas M. Stanley, who recognized her advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families. She was honored during the commission's annual Commonwealth Heroines Awards ceremony on June 24.

"Maura's long-time advocacy has helped so many individuals with disabilities, their families and their caregivers," Stanley said in a statement. "She is more than deserving of this recognition."

The Commonwealth Heroines program honors women across Massachusetts who make significant contributions to their communities, often without widespread public recognition.

Sullivan leads The Arc of Massachusetts, a statewide advocacy organization serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition to her professional role, she is the mother of three children, including two sons with autism, intellectual disabilities and complex medical needs — an experience that has informed her advocacy work.

According to Stanley, Sullivan has played a key role in advancing several pieces of legislation, including Nicky's Law, autism training requirements for police officers and the recently passed "Blue Envelope" bill, which aims to improve communication between law enforcement and individuals with autism during traffic stops.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women selects Commonwealth Heroines annually in partnership with state legislators, highlighting women who make a difference in their communities through leadership, service and advocacy.



Maura Sullivan, CEO of The Arc of Massachusetts, has been named a 2026 Commonwealth Heroine. Seen here with Rep. Tom Stanley. Courtesy photo.

Waltham's Revolutionary War monuments

BY GUEST WRITER • COMMUNITY • JULY 1, 2026



To the Editor,

With the 250th anniversary of American Independence quickly approaching, let us take time to remember the Waltham patriots who fought for our independence. Maybe you're a descendent, like I am, or maybe you just want to appreciate how their contributions changed not only the face of Waltham, but the entire trajectory of our nation.

Did you know Waltham has a Revolutionary War monument on the Common? It was erected in time for the Fourth of July celebration in 1930 by the *City of Waltham* and the *Dorothy Brewer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution*. It proudly displays the names of Waltham's 293 Revolutionary War Patriots. The monument reads "In grateful remembrance of Waltham men and men who served for Waltham in the Revolutionary War (1775-1783)." Our monument was recently restored and it's definitely worth swinging by to take a look. Many thanks to Mayor McCarthy, Councilor Joey LaCava and the Waltham City Council, and the Waltham Community Preservation Committee for their support with the restoration.

Waltham has two other Revolutionary War monuments. One is on the corner of Lexington and Lincoln Street. This dedication reads "In Grateful Memory of the Minute Men of Waltham – Who here assembled and marched to the Lexington Alarm. April 19, 1775." It was dedicated by the *Daughters of the American Revolution* and the *Waltham Historical Society* in 1930. Every Patriot's Day, the *Waltham Mass National Guard* veterans and the mayor place a wreath at this monument.

Waltham's third Revolutionary War monument can be found at the Grove Hill Cemetery. This monument was erected in 1954 and recognizes the Revolutionary War soldiers buried at Grove Hill. Would you like to learn more about our Revolutionary soldiers at Grove Hill? Join the *Waltham Historical Society* for The Grove Hill Cemetery Tour on August 1st, 2026.

So, on our nation's 250th birthday take time to reflect on where we have been, and all the opportunities we have to forge the next 250. Please keep in mind that we are now the stewards of these monuments and what they represent: to educate, to protect, and to always remember.

Happy Birthday America!
Jackie Beaudoin



Jackie Beaudoin and Mayor Jeannette McCarthy pose alongside the Revolutionary War monument on Waltham Common. Photo by Gerard Beaudoin III.



Monument to the Minute Men at Lexington and Lincoln streets. Photo taken on Patriot's Day, April 19, 2025. Photo by Gerard Beaudoin III.



Monument at Grove Hill Cemetery. Photo by Jackie Beaudoin.

Comments (3)

 ELLIE LYMAN • JULY 5, 2026 AT 12:40 PM

Jackie,

Thank you for your article and the photographs which accompanied it. Although I have lived in Waltham all my life, I had not known that Waltham had 293 Revolutionary patriots that responded to the Lexington alarm (or that you are descended from a revolutionary patriot).

Hope that this information is or will be available in the curriculum for Waltham students studying the American Revolution.

Ellie Lyman

Reply

 DAVID GATELY • JULY 3, 2026 AT 10:07 AM

Excellent informational article. Waltham has a great history, and we can almost learn something new each day. I'm sharing this story with my granddaughters. Thanks for writing it, Jackie!

David Gately

Reply

 DONNA LASWELL • JULY 3, 2026 AT 9:51 AM

Thank you Jackie! I hope all the kids in our schools are informed about and shown these important monuments!

Reply

Waltham home sales, June 22–29, 2026

BY NEWSROOM • HOME SALES • JUNE 30, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	6/22/2026	45 Piedmont Ave	\$670,000	2/1	1121 sf
	6/22/2026	87 Ash St Unit 2-2	\$575,000	2/1	955 sf
	6/23/2026	7 Pearl St	\$950,000	4/2	1849 sf
	6/23/2026	16 Winter St Unit 23C	\$432,000	2/1.75	1012 sf
	6/24/2026	49 Hollace St	\$735,000	3/2	1428 sf
	6/25/2026	231 Bishops Forest Dr Unit 231	\$826,500	2/3.5	2420 sf
	6/25/2026	66 Phillips Cir	\$985,000	3/1.5	1797 sf
	6/25/2026	132 Dale St	\$895,000	4/1.5	2384 sf

	6/26/2026	153 Bishops Forest Dr Unit 153 Bldg 37	\$1,050,000	2/3.5	2704 sf
	6/26/2026	43 Leonard St	\$908,900	3/2.5	1882 sf
	6/26/2026	217-219 Brown St	\$1,390,000	2/3	3933 sf
	6/29/2026	181 Robbins St Unit 4	\$582,500	2/1	890 sf
	6/29/2026	50 Stow St	\$925,000	3/1.5	1640 sf
	6/22/2026	1105 Lexington St Unit 2 Bldg 3	\$410,000	1/1	702 sf
	6/29/2026	210 Church St Unit 4	\$605,000	2/1.5	1532 sf

The week ahead: Community events calendar heats up as Waltham pivots to summer mode

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 5, 2026



As government meetings die down for the summer, community events are starting to fill up [Waltham's municipal calendar](#).

This month marks the start of two city-run summer event series: Concerts on the Common, which will be [on the Waltham Common this Tuesday](#), as well Movies at the Mansion, held [on Thursday at the Lyman estate](#).

Local nonprofit Opportunities for Inclusion will kick off July with one of its biggest events of the year: [A Special Day In Waltham](#), a sports day for residents with developmental disabilities, rescheduled for Saturday, July 11.

Some municipal bodies will also continue to meet over the summer. For the week of July 6–10, the School Committee is the only municipal body scheduled to meet.

School Committee

The Waltham School Committee, an elected six-member committee chaired by Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, makes policy and oversight decisions for the Waltham Public Schools.

The committee this week will discuss a district growth plan [requested by the City Council during budget discussions](#). It will consider curriculum requests from the district's History and Social Studies departments, pass a handbook for Valor High School students for the upcoming year and discuss a donation to the high school's quiz bowl team.

It may also revisit [the School Department budget](#), data on school enrollment and other topics that [have come up recently in committee](#).

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

Events Calendar

July 6-August 2

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

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
6	7 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: Soft Touch	8 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Teen tie dye party Fiesta de tie dye para adolescentes 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	9 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Live animal show Espectáculo de animales en vivo 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 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Summer Splash 2026	12 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Jane Austen garden party
13	14 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mercado de verduras Vegetable market 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: The Reminisants	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	16 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Fiber arts night 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	17 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Chamber pot and hygiene tour of the Gore Mansion	18 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Family concert with Jeff Jam Concierto familiar con Jeff Jam	19  10:00 am - 12:00 pm Volunteer day at Prospect Hill Park
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 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Let the games begin! 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: Classic Groove	22 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm License Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Mill Talk: Yankees, immigrants, and the path to political power—The mill towns of Dedham and Waltham	23 10:00 am - 11:30 am Housing: Know your rights 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Mini golf in the library Mini golf en la biblioteca 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Abigail Smith Adams: Love & Politics in the American Revolution + 1 More	24	25 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Weaving on a loom	26
27	28 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mercado de verduras Vegetable market 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: Black Velvet Band	29 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	30 8:00 am - 10:30 pm Movies at the Mansion: 'Jurassic Park' 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Science Heroes: Digging it! Héroes de la ciencia: ¡A excavar! 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Science Heroes: Digging it! Héroes de la ciencia: ¡A excavar!	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 is the 'The Waltham Times' logo. The main text reads 'It takes many hands to deliver trusted local news. Won't you add yours?'. A golden retriever dog is the central figure, wearing a black baseball cap with 'Waltham Times' on it and holding a red octopus toy. There are two QR codes: one in the top right with a 'GIVE TODAY' button below it, and one in the bottom left with a 'SUBSCRIBE' button below it. The bottom right text says 'Get the latest Waltham news, FREE in your inbox'.

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