



July 13, 2026



Ugandan community gathers at Waltham Common to celebrate annual Summer Splash



MBTA explores moving a third commuter rail station to Waltham



Athletes of all abilities shine at Waltham's A Special Day event



Senior Center this week: Paint a scarf, hear a story and learn to live joyfully

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

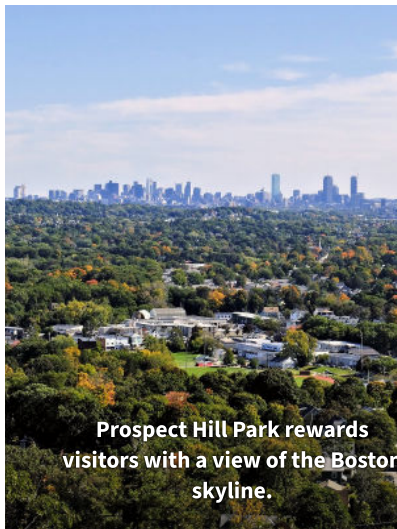
BY MARY PRATT • SPORTS & RECREATION • JULY 9, 2026



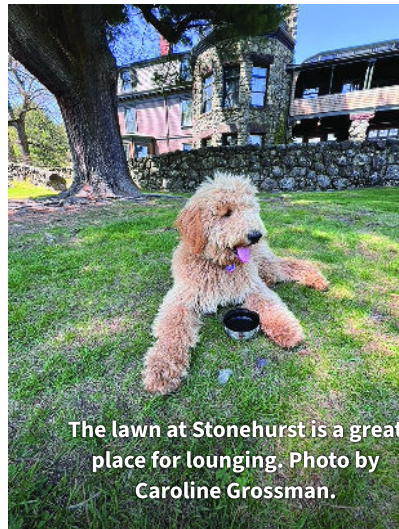
Locations of the nature areas described in this article. Map by Caroline Grossman.

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.



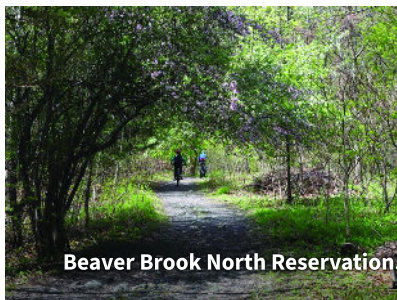
Prospect Hill Park rewards visitors with a view of the Boston skyline.



The lawn at Stonehurst is a great place for lounging. Photo by Caroline Grossman.



Beaver Brook.



Beaver Brook North Reservation.



A trail map of the Shady Pond Conservation Area.



Annual 5K run on the Western Greenway.

Author



MARY PRATT

Mary K. Pratt is an award-winning freelance journalist based in Waltham. She has covered various subjects ranging from community news to fashion to health and fitness, during her career. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including newspapers, magazines and trade journals. She currently focuses her coverage on business, management and information technology.

Comments (2)



E STROM • JULY 10, 2026 AT 11:19 AM

Excellent info, particularly for someone new to the area who likes to explore nature walks close to home.

[Reply](#)



RITA CRAMER • JULY 10, 2026 AT 8:26 AM

Please join the Waltham Land Trust at this year's Western Greenway 5k on October 25!

Athletes of all abilities shine at Waltham's A Special Day event

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • COMMUNITY • JULY 12, 2026



John Godrey, a Special Day athlete, poses with Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Athletes, families, volunteers and first responders gathered Saturday at Veterans Memorial Field for A Special Day in Waltham, a free community event celebrating inclusion and individuals with developmental disabilities.

The event featured a range of activities, including football, basketball, soccer and track and field, along with games, music and interactive stations designed to bring people of all abilities together. Participants ages 5 and older were invited to take part. They did not have to be Waltham residents to participate.

Organizers said the event aims to create a welcoming environment where participants can engage in recreational activities while building connections across the community.

A Special Day in Waltham is coordinated through a partnership among the city's Police Department, Fire Department, Recreation Department, Disability Services Committee and Opportunities for Inclusion, along with numerous community volunteers.

Waltham Police Capt. Jeff Rodley played a key role in organizing and supporting the event, which also featured appearances by local mascots, Waltham High School cheerleaders and public safety personnel who joined volunteers in encouraging athletes throughout the day.

Now in its third year, the event continues to grow as a celebration of inclusion, community and participation for all.



Author



JOSEPH SHARKEY

Joseph Sharkey is an independent news photographer based in Waltham. He grew up in the city and has had a strong interest in public safety and first responders. That passion led him to covering breaking news, focusing on incidents like fires, accidents and major public safety events. His work has been featured on WCVB, WHDH, NBC10 Boston and other local news outlets.

Former Brandeis basketball standout signs with Timberwolves for NBA Summer League

BY DERRICK TOUBA JR. • SPORTS & RECREATION • JULY 9, 2026



Standout player Toby Harris fires a three-pointer during a game for Brandeis. Photo by Lewis Glass/Sportspix.com

A Brandeis graduate is one step away from the NBA.

College basketball star Toby Harris spent four years at Brandeis University before playing his final collegiate season at Iona University in New Rochelle, N.Y. Less than a year removed from wearing a Judges uniform at Gosman Center, he's got a shot at making an NBA roster.

Harris signed last week to play for the Minnesota Timberwolves' 2026 NBA Summer League team after going undrafted in this year's college draft. Division III players rarely get a real look at the NBA, making Harris one of the few to bridge that gap, and giving Waltham a rare rooting interest in Las Vegas this month.

At Brandeis, Harris became the 36th player in program history to reach 1,000 career points and earned First Team All-UAA and Preseason All-American honors. He transferred to Iona for a final Division I season, where he shot 41.1% from three-point range on 6.8 attempts per game.

“The Timberwolves [offer] came out of nowhere actually,” Harris said. “I had worked out with Cleveland and then my agent called me after and said the Timberwolves called him and were interested. The draft was about four days later, and the day after the draft I got the call.”

“Toby’s an elite shooter at any level,” said Jean Bain, Brandeis head coach, who has worked with Harris since his freshman year. “The NBA values shooting, teams overseas value shooting, and I thought it was something that could help him achieve his goal of trying to make a team.”

Bain pointed to Harris’ shooting numbers as proof of his development: 48% from three as a junior at Brandeis, as high as 56% over an 18-game stretch that same season, and 41% this past year at Iona.

Bain said the improvement came down to hard work, not talent alone. Harris spent six to eight hours a day in the gym while excelling in the classroom, according to Bain, who called him a player who sacrificed a typical college social life to get better at his craft.

Harris arrived at Brandeis a 6-foot-7, 165-pound freshman still finding his footing. By his sophomore year, Bain said, “everything clicked.” Harris got bigger, got stronger and started playing year round.

“Brandeis definitely helped me become the player and person I am today,” Harris said. “Coach Bain and all the assistants I had always instilled belief in me. Coach Bain made sure to push me to my limits, which allowed me to steadily improve. Also, being D3 allows you to really build good habits because oftentimes you have to get in the gym on your own.”



Harris will play for the Minnesota Timberwolves’ 2026 NBA Summer League team. Photo by Lewis Glass/Sportspix.com

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Ore Odutayo, Harris' teammate at Iona and a Massachusetts basketball product who played his high school ball at Williston Northampton School, said the news hit him personally.

"My initial reaction was that I was really ecstatic for him," Odutayo said. "I've seen the hard work that he puts in, and where he comes from is a testament to the results."

"He has a lot to his game, but the main thing that obviously sticks out is his shooting," Odutayo said. "I feel like that will be the main part of his game that'll translate."

Undrafted players who sign onto Summer League rosters are typically looking to catch a team's eye to earn a training camp invite or a two-way contract. For Harris, this month in Las Vegas will be his first extended look against NBA-level competition.

The Timberwolves open Summer League play this week, with upcoming games against the New Orleans Pelicans, Denver Nuggets, Portland Trail Blazers and Indiana Pacers.

For Harris, though, the results on the court this month may not be the only measure of success.

"So for me, a successful summer league is the fact that I am here," Harris said. "It's another step in a journey that I want to continue, and one of the first steps was becoming a Brandeis Judge."



Author



DERRICK TOUBA JR.

Derrick Touba Jr. is a sports reporter, writer, and marketer with experience contributing to publications such as [CambridgeDay.com](https://www.cambridgeday.com) and the Rockland County Times.

Intern program gives teens opportunity to build skills, explore careers

BY NIC TSOLAS • EDUCATION • JULY 12, 2026



Just a week after completing her sophomore year at Waltham High School, 16-year-old Tara Teymourian walked into LexArt studio for the first day of work at her new job. After multiple interviews, paperwork and a period of nervous waiting, she had secured the position and was ready to start working.

The staff greeted her warmly, welcoming her into the paint-stained walls of the building that houses the Lexington art organization. The space was full of experience, color and life. It was almost intimidating how much there was to learn. But Tara didn't let that deter her. She instead stood confidently, with a grin; she was eager to take it all on.

Tara isn't the only Waltham High School student taking on a new position this summer. She is among 81 students participating in Waltham Partnership for Youth's internship program, now in its 10th year. The program has brought together 24 local employers, providing 51 unique job opportunities for high schoolers to explore.

Each job takes place within a setting that allows students to build important career-oriented skills and gain experience, as well as earn \$15 to \$20 an hour. Additionally, they are invited to attend weekly "career talks" that focus on other life skills, such as managing a bank account and online security.

Tara, a student with a passion for drawing, is delving deeper into her interests through her position at LexArt. She is helping run art classes and exhibitions within the building's nine studio spaces, along with marketing and administrative work. She will learn what it means to perform in a professional setting and test career interests, all while earning a wage of \$15 an hour.

"She's willing to try out anything, which is great," said Chase Jones, operations manager at LexArt. "[The intern program] helps us out because we always have something that we can't get to or we have to wait until the last minute, so [the intern is] a great addition to help us out for the summer."

Another intern, 17-year-old Nagaella Province, is working at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. She has taken classes at Waltham High relating to medical work, and now she is able to gain real-world experience.



A guest speaker from Lexington Savings Bank gives a career talk to Waltham Partnership for Youth interns. Photo by Nic Tsoulas.

Her role in the radiology department includes identifying patients, guiding them to their destinations (CT waiting room, nursing staff, scan rooms) and maneuvering them onto the tables.

“Currently we are in our training period, and in this we are building critical skills like collaboration and communication so we can go into our specific departments with confidence,” Nagaella explained.

Building confidence

Nagaella is not alone in building strengths. Last year’s Waltham Partnership for Youth internship program survey found that 87% of participating students felt more confident in their abilities by the end of the summer and 97% felt they had a better understanding of their personal strengths and skills.

On top of the work they’ve done connecting students with businesses in the Waltham area, the WPY team also hosts an internship of their own. The Teen Mental Health Alliance consists of 10 interns, meeting four times a week. The program allows students to work with mental health professionals in Waltham to develop a community project to aid mental health literacy in the city.

“High school students are at such a crucial point in your life where you’re gaining independence, and all of a sudden you have to figure out, ‘What do you want to do in life? What’s your job going to be? What are you good at?’” said Monica Manna, WPY’s mental health professional. “I honestly love working with high schoolers to just be able to be a listening ear but also to work alongside them as they develop all these skills, so that they know they’re not doing it alone.”

For their part, the interns acknowledge the life-changing experiences the program offers.

“I’m just so happy that such a program is able to benefit me, because I know so many people can’t get a job in a field that they like [at] such a young age,” Tara said. Indeed, last year 85% of parents reported that without WPY their children would not have found a professional summer job.

Employers also expressed gratitude for the program as it has allowed them to work with young members of the community, make long-lasting connections and get some extra help with their businesses over the summer.

“It’s great to have the opportunity to work with someone who’s local and wants to pursue the arts in the future,” Jones said. “And [WPY] having the budget to pay was a relief on us, because we don’t have that much money to spend.”

Mayor vetoes Bay Colony redevelopment zoning

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 7, 2026



A plan for a new commercial and residential mixed-use neighborhood near the Cambridge Reservoir is halted at Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's desk.

In June the City Council [amended the city's zoning code and ordinances](#) to create three residential and commercial zoning overlay districts, allowing corporations BXP Inc. and 1265 Main Street LLC to build housing on [formerly commercial and industrial Waltham properties](#).



The conceptual master plan for Bay Colony showing the number of housing units proposed for the phases of the project. Courtesy of BXP.

On July 1 McCarthy approved two of the three districts but vetoed the largest and most controversial one, a northeast Waltham parcel [casually referred to as the Bay Colony](#). The land, owned by BXP, currently houses office buildings, some vacant; it borders the residential Lincoln Woods neighborhood, whose residents [opposed the project at previous public hearings](#).

In an email statement, City Council President and Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan confirmed that BXP had been informed of the mayor's action but wrote that the council will have an opportunity to override her veto at its Aug. 3 special meeting.

Mayor's concerns

Along with the veto decision, McCarthy submitted a letter laying out her objections to the district.

In it, she argued that the three zoning districts, and especially the Bay Colony, would increase residential and commercial density allowances by substantial amounts. She said they would establish potentially dangerous zoning precedent by lowering parking requirements, discounting parking in lot coverage calculations and redefining building height based on the geography of the sites.

McCarthy added that the Bay Colony is situated beside a residential area and lacks the public transit and bike access of the other two sites that would justify increased density.

In previous sessions of the City Council's Ordinances and Rules Committee, councilors elected to govern residential construction at the sites [by way of non-zoning development agreements](#) that cap housing construction across the three districts at 2,000 units. They voted to allow for more permissive density requirements than would be necessary to build preliminary plans presented by BXP and 1265 Main Street because of future plans to subdivide the lots.

The mayor attached a May report from CommunityScale LLC, an organization hired by the City Council to analyze the impacts of the district. McCarthy wrote that the concerns noted by CommunityScale — including some ambiguities in definitions, questions about how to address the effects of underlying zoning and developments' combined effect on city infrastructure — were at best partially addressed.

The Ordinances and Rules Committee discussed the CommunityScale report [at a May meeting](#), where it decided to dismiss some recommendations and changed the zoning amendment to address others. Councilors decided to keep some changes fairly ambiguous to allow for future flexibility, emphasizing that they could impose more specific requirements when the companies applied for future special permits.

McCarthy argued that CommunityScale's concerns could not be addressed sufficiently during the special permit process. She said some of the development's impacts on city departments, such as Waltham Public Schools, would be impossible to address by special permit, saying Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa had amended [previous claims](#) and Waltham's elementary schools are now at capacity.

Logan wrote that he had been surprised to receive McCarthy's veto. "When [McCarthy] spoke at the neighborhood meeting earlier this year, she sounded very supportive of this project. ... She attended

[meetings] on at least a couple of occasions but never expressed these concerns.”

He emphasized that the City Council had fully vetted its proposed zoning amendments. He also stressed that the city had a safeguard against unwelcome development: Even after Waltham adopted the amendments, BXP would have to return to the City Council to obtain a special permit for any development under the new overlay district.

McCarthy’s veto comes at a time when the city is [concerned about rapid future residential growth](#). Last fall McCarthy similarly got involved in hearings to [build a Main Street residential development](#) under [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B](#) with a letter that outlined her concerns for how new residents in formerly commercial areas would impact the city’s infrastructure.

McCarthy declined to provide comment beyond her letter on the matter. BXP representatives did not respond to requests for comment by the time of publication.



Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

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

Comments (10)



BRAD ONKEN • JULY 8, 2026 AT 5:58 AM

It is highly concerning to see a single office block a year’s worth of intensive, public vetting by our full City Council. The Council represents every ward and neighborhood across Waltham; they are the elected body closest to the residents, and they spent months working through the technicalities, listening to public feedback, and collaborating with experts to find a compromise that protects our tax base while funding critical infrastructure.

While the Mayor raises technical points, the Council already factored those in by retaining ultimate control through the future special permit process. Overturning the collective work and consensus of the city’s entire legislative body feels like a massive step backward for local representative democracy. If the Mayor had these fundamental objections, why were they not presented during the months of open committee hearings instead of at the final hour via a unilateral stroke of a pen? The people deserve to hear all concerns during open public discussions so everyone can be a part of the decision-making process. Introducing these complex objections at this stage unfortunately creates an incredibly

compressed, mid-summer timeline that leaves very little room to thoroughly resolve these issues before the August 3rd vote. I hope the Council exercises its authority on August 3rd to uphold the collaborative work of our elected representatives.

Reply



JONATHAN STUDER • JULY 8, 2026 AT 10:44 AM

I couldn't agree more with you.

Reply



GARY MARKOWITZ • JULY 8, 2026 AT 12:52 PM

You make excellent points. but there are concerns that must be met with definitive answers. These concerns address infrastructure deficits in water, sewer, electricity capacity, transportation and city services. Some of these were vaguely addressed but other were left to 'we'll figure it out.' We need definitive answers on how these things will be solved and who'll pay for them. There's a known deficit in electricity capacity within many parts of Waltham; the Commonwealth's mandate for electrified buildings cannot be met with the existing infrastructure for existing buildings. With electricity prices already at record levels and spiraling higher, the Mayor was right to veto this project until such a time the answers to the deficits can be answered, quantified and assigned to the developer, not the ratepayers and taxpayers of Waltham.

Reply



TOM BENAVIDES • JULY 8, 2026 AT 5:35 PM

Gary, we know that this area has the infrastructure capacity to handle development because *it is already developed* with office and other commercial buildings, which have an electricity consumption rate comparable to apartments.

Additionally, BXP conducted a fiscal analysis which shows that Bay Colony redevelopment will generate tax revenues far in excess of the cost burden to city services, resulting in a \$2 million profit to the city which will *lower* taxes for existing residents.

Lastly, specifically in regard to sewage, Waltham already manages this on a project-by-project basis for new development. These developments will reduce the burden on the sewer system by removing 4 gallons of infiltration/inflow into the sewer system for every 1 gallon of sewage produced by the development.

This development will more than pay for itself, and the infrastructure exists to manage it. There is no merit behind the Mayor's veto; she's just ignoring the already established facts to block new housing.

source for energy usage:

<https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov/pdf/reference/US%20National%20Median%20Table.pdf>

source for fiscal analysis: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-sugig8BZNtsmvHXQ4EvlOpeWogm6eyP/view?usp=sharing>

source for sewer mitigation: <https://ecode360.com/26935454#26935454>

Reply



BOB • JULY 8, 2026 AT 9:30 PM

why isn't anyone talking about police and fire? that 2 million isn't even a drop in the bucket to build a new station and add the amount of firefighters needed to run it. how many police do you think that 2 million will fund. I have yet to see anything about emergency response times coming from the council. The mayor is absolutely right on this. I do agree she should have brought these concerns up right away. the city hired a company and the city council basically blew past it. Makes you wonder if anyone in the city council is on some payroll! how much is this going to cost the taxpayer in this city? The city is growing at a faster pace than it can keep up with. Hire a professional planning company to make a hundred year plan. do it the right way!

Reply



TOM BENAVIDES • JULY 9, 2026 AT 10:35 AM

Please read the fiscal impact study, this has already been accounted for. This development will contribute \$7 million a year in taxes. Once you factor in the costs to fund police, fire, schools, etc, this development will still have a net benefit of \$2 Million dollars, which means lower taxes for existing residents.



JONATHAN STUDER • JULY 9, 2026 AT 10:58 AM

Tom, what a fantastic and well researched comment! Thanks for the effort and the additional information you've provided.

Reply



BOB • JULY 12, 2026 AT 9:27 PM

How is this comment well researched? You do understand the city needs to build a new fire station. What's the cost of that? Two new trucks. What's the cost of that? Then staff and grow just the fire department. Not including that the schools are at max capacity. Where does that fit in? New teachers will have to be added. Not to mention the 5-10 new cops. That's new cruisers, more health insurance, ot to pay for. I don't really see how 7 million a year pays for all of that just by doing basic math. This will cost the city in the long run. Not even talking about all the other developments. Our services are already strained to the max. Thank you to the mayor for not just looking at today but looking in the future and what a burden this will add to our city and the services they provide



MARTHA O'BRIEN • JULY 12, 2026 AT 10:07 PM

How does \$7 million cover the cost of the fire department alone? It's not just buying additional trucks. You have to hire enough firefighters to staff them 24/7, pay salaries, benefits, overtime, and maintain the apparatus. Then there's the cost of operating the station itself...heat, electricity, water, maintenance, repairs, insurance, and all the day-

to-day expenses of keeping the building running. And this is after you break ground on site and before you even add police, schools, DPW, and other municipal services. Please continue on about how \$7 million covers all of that.



TIMOTHY RILEY • JULY 7, 2026 AT 10:26 PM

The mayor is putting the city council in a tough spot here. We need the tax revenue this redevelopment will raise – the alternative is raising taxes on residents.

(never mind that we need housing in this city as well!)

Just two days ago, this was published!

<https://walthamtimes.org/2026/07/05/analysis-city-reckons-with-increasing-costs-development-changes-at-budget-hearings/>

Reply

MBTA explores moving a third commuter rail station to Waltham

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 7, 2026



The MBTA is seeking funds to build the new station.

The proposed station would be built on Jones Road and would replace the Kendal Green commuter rail station in Weston, just west of the town's border with Waltham.

MBTA spokesperson Maya Bingaman in June confirmed that the agency approved a memorandum of understanding with real estate company BXP Inc., Waltham and Weston to collaboratively search for grants to pay for the project.



Jones Road BXP development zone. Google image.

The MBTA has not committed any of its own money for the project nor committed to constructing it.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy brought up construction of a new station at a November City Council meeting, saying it would require other planned improvements in the area to go forward, including [lengthening nearby Green Street into a full connector road](#) and upgrades to the Main Street bridge over I-95.

McCarthy expressed confidence that Waltham would get the new station, adding that the construction of a new Jones Road station would allow for more frequent commuter rail service between Waltham

and Boston.

BXP has referenced the proposed station in its [redevelopment proposals](#) to create mixed-used residential and commercial properties on [a nearby Jones Road lot](#). BXP Vice-President of Development Kier Evans referred to the station as a multimodal transit hub with ties to the nearby Mass Central Rail Trail, calling it “one of the most critical transportation improvements for this region.”

Bingaman, the MBTA spokesperson, said the agency is “generally supportive” of the project but noted it still requires a clear funding source and environmental permits.

Bingaman added that the Jones Road station itself wouldn’t affect the frequency of service along the Fitchburg line, but the MBTA’s general [Rail Modernization Plan](#) describes planned infrastructure improvements and vehicle upgrades that could together allow for more frequent commuter rail service.

Noa Machover receives Fulbright scholarship

BY NEWSROOM • AWARDS & PROMOTIONS • JULY 8, 2026



Join us in celebrating Noa Mori Machover

Noa Mori Machover of Waltham, Massachusetts, graduated in May, 2026, with a masters in the dual landscape architecture and fine arts program in the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. They have been offered a Fulbright to research and conduct an exhibition in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, studying the relational landscapes of platinum-group metals as they blur boundaries between formal and informal commodity supply chains.

Machover attended Fitzgerald Elementary School and McDevitt Middle School, and notably played Rizzo in “Grease.” They attended Cambridge School of Weston for high school, graduating in 2015. Machover gained early acceptance at M.I.T. and studied biomaterial engineering, co-authoring a paper, “Organic Primitives: Synthesis and Design of pH-Reactive Materials using Molecular I/O for Sensing, Actuation,

and Interaction.” They transferred to Brown University to pursue independent studies in biology, environmental studies, social justice and architecture/design.

During Machover’s senior year at Brown, they co-founded Primitives, a biotech based on their freshman research at M.I.T. and won an IndieBio “Golden Ticket” award that provided start-up funding, lab facilities in San Francisco, mentorship and a chance to pitch the company to investors. After graduating from Brown in 2019, Machover spent some months in the Bay Area to launch the company. But the siren call of Art proved stronger. In 2022, Machover moved to Philadelphia to pursue a dual masters degree in fine art and landscape architecture.

In May 2026, Machover’s “After Market” debuted in New York City. They will have a second New York City show in August 2026, and will travel to South Africa for an artist’s residency at the University of Johannesburg.

Peter J. Koutoujian receives honor from Spanish university

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 12, 2026



Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian (on second step, with medal pinned to lapel) and fellow award recipients stand alongside honor students outside a building on the campus of Spain's Universidad de Alcalá. Courtesy photo.

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian has received an international academic honor from Spain's Universidad de Alcalá, recognizing his work in public service and partnership-building.

The university awarded Koutoujian, a Waltham resident, its Honorary Silver Medal for the 2025-26 academic year, citing his 15 years of leadership in developing public-private partnerships through the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.

Koutoujian was honored alongside Ambassador Alfredo Martínez Serrano, Spain's envoy to Canada, and Belén Garijo, CEO of Sanofi Pharmaceuticals and a university alumna. Rector José Vicente Saz presented the award and praised Koutoujian's efforts to advance academic collaboration, mentorship and public service.

"It was a pleasure to honor Sheriff Koutoujian," Saz said, noting his work has had an impact "from Massachusetts to Madrid."

Founded in 1499, the Universidad de Alcalá serves about 30,000 students and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The institution is also known for awarding the Cervantes Prize, Spain's top literary honor.

Koutoujian accepted the medal during a formal ceremony and spoke at a university conference on leadership in public service, organized with the Franklin-UAH Institute.

"I am incredibly humbled to be presented with the prestigious Silver Honorary medal," Koutoujian said, calling public service "a calling" shaped by his career as a bar advocate, assistant district attorney, state legislator and sheriff.

Public health report: Health department focused on dumpster violations

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 7, 2026



Some of Waltham's businesses may need to keep an eye on their dumpsters.

Health inspectors spotlighted some kind of improper dumpster protocol, from broken equipment to missing plugs, in more than half of failed late-spring inspections at retail and restaurant locations around the city.

According to Health Department Inspector Ivan Colon, the Health Department slowed down during May and June because of a personnel shortage. Still, the department inspected a total of 53 restaurants, catering spots, gas stations and other retail establishments in Waltham during that period. All passed reinspection.



Improper dumpster protocols were found at many retail and restaurants. Canva stock image.

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

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

Health complaints

Additionally, the Health Department acted on nine housing complaints reported to the department by tenants between May 18 and June 25.

It has brought two of these complaints, one about rats and one about a sewage backup, to court; the other seven, which range from pests to sewage issues to broken appliances to insufficient means of

egress, remain open as of June 25.

Stores, restaurants and other businesses

Below is a summary of the violations at the 16 retail and restaurant locations where inspectors found violations between May 18 and June 25. Violations that inspectors designated as critical are marked with an asterisk.

Family Dollar, 309 Moody St., on May 18

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

- The store needed to clean out mold buildup from an egg fridge.
- The store needed to replace some broken tiles in the floor.

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

Yumcha, 901b Main St., on May 26

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

- The restaurant's floors required cleaning.
- An area on the back wall of the kitchen required cleaning.

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

CVS Pharmacy, 91 Linden St., on May 28

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

- The store needed to replace some water-stained tiles in the ceiling.
- The store's floors required vacuuming and washing.
- The store needed to clean out a buildup of food spills from a milk fridge.

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

Guatelinda Supermarket, 251 High St., on May 28

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

- The dumpster was not properly plugged.
- The store needed to remove expired foods from the shelves.

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

Walgreens, 15 Main St., on May 29

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

- The area around the dumpster required cleaning.

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

Veronica's, 1074 Main St., on June 1

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

- The store's floors required cleaning.
- The dumpster was not properly closed.
- There was a mattress improperly stored in the dumpster area.

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

Pro-Tech Towing & Recovery, 205 Willow St., on June 1

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

- The location was missing a retail license sign from the Health Department.

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

Latino's Market, 699 Main St., on June 2

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

- A dumpster the building's landlord was responsible for maintaining had rotted through.

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

Gordon's Fine Wines & Liquors, 894 Main St., on June 3

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

- The dumpster was not properly plugged.

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

Kung Fu Tea, 246 Moody St., on June 3

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

- The areas under some racks and a refrigerator in the kitchen required cleaning.

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

Extended Stay America Suites Grab and Go, 32 and 52 Fourth Ave., on June 9

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

- The dumpster was not properly closed.

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

Easy Convenience, Beer & Wine, 26 Elm St., on June 16

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

- The dumpster was not properly plugged.
- The rear storage room was not properly accessible.

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

Speedway, 66 Prospect St., on June 17

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

- The owners needed to exterminate rats around the dumpster. *
- The dumpster was not properly plugged. *
- The area around the dumpster required cleaning. *

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

Tikal Market, 35 Lexington St., on June 20

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

- The dumpster was not properly plugged. *
- The owners needed to exterminate rats at the back of the property. *

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

La Chapincita Market, 424 Moody St., on June 22

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

- The dumpster was not properly plugged.

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

Patel Brothers, 425 Moody St., on June 22

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

- Some produce shelves required cleaning. *
- The back door was not kept properly closed.

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

About Health Department inspections

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

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

Public safety report: Alleged mafia activity turns out to be misunderstanding

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 12, 2026



Police responded to reports of alleged mafia activity in the city this week, which ultimately turned out to be a misunderstanding.

On July 3 at 3:35 p.m., police responded to the Extra Space Storage location on Bear Hill Road. According to the police report, the caller stated that a woman had come into the front office of the Extra Space Storage and said, “The mafia came and stole my jewelry.” The woman was referencing missing jewelry from her storage unit.

The woman’s jewelry was eventually found inside her storage unit. According to the police report, the unit was very full, which made it hard to find the jewelry. After finding what she was looking for, the woman went on her way.

Additional police and fire activity from July 1 through July 6 is as follows:

On July 1 at 4:23 p.m., police responded to reports of shoplifting at [Mirachi Life](#) on Moody Street. A woman had attempted to take body spray and eyeshadow without paying. When she was confronted, she returned the body spray but left with the eyeshadow. Police were unable to find the suspect.

On July 2 at 10:30 p.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident on Hastings Street. A woman called stating that three people were smoking marijuana in a white SUV and making her family feel uncomfortable. Police were able to locate several white SUVs in the area but none had people smoking marijuana inside.

On July 3 at 1:42 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Main Street and Tower Road. A bus was flashing an emergency signal on its digital sign. After investigation, it was determined that there was no emergency and that the signal had been turned on accidentally.

On July 3 at 3:56 p.m., fire crews responded to the Glen Meadow Apartments on Lexington Street. A small area of mulch had spontaneously caught on fire. Firefighters were able to wet down the area and extinguish the fire.

On July 3 at 11:16 p.m., police responded to a residence on Dennison Street. The caller believed that she had heard someone in her basement. After investigating, police found that there was in fact a man in the basement. The caller's brother had forgotten to tell her that his friend was sleeping over in the basement.

On July 4 at 7:01 a.m., police received a call that was reported to be from the Banks School Condos on Main Street. According to the police report, the caller wasn't making much sense and was stating that someone had entered his apartment and moved his medication. Eventually officers were able to figure out that the man was calling from Pennsylvania and informed the Pennsylvania State Police about the incident.

On July 4 at 11:23 a.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident at Dunkin' Donuts on River Street. The caller told police that an employee at the Dunkin' Donuts had told him he smelled and tried to fight him. Police spoke to both the caller and the manager of the restaurant and were able to reach an agreement.

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

School district awarded \$60,000 state grant to expand civics education

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • JULY 9, 2026



Waltham Public Schools won a \$60,000 Civics Teaching and Learning Grant from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which will fund new civics programming over the next two years.

The award, announced just before the end of the school year, is part of a competitive grant program created to support the civics education requirements of the 2018 [“Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement”](#) and the state’s 2018 History and Social Science Framework.

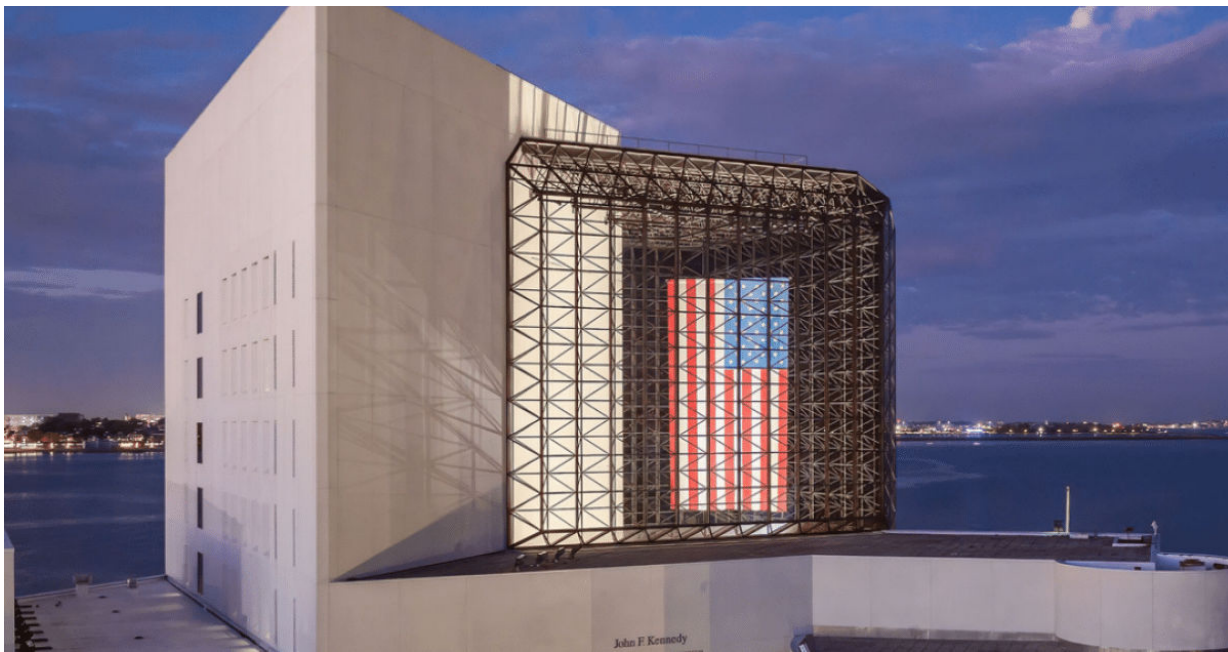
The grant is funded through the state’s Civics Education Trust Fund, from which roughly \$1 million will be distributed across districts during this year’s cycle. Awards range from \$30,000 to \$90,000 depending on student enrolment numbers.

“We’re excited to receive the Civics Teaching and Learning Grant,” said Derek Vandegrift, the district’s director of history and social studies. “There are great things happening in our secondary history and social studies classrooms — and this grant will help us to make things even better for our students.”

The award will allow 28 social studies teachers to take part in professional development centered on teaching information and media literacy in the digital age. That training will be aimed at helping students critically evaluate news, sources and online information they receive, and apply it to their civics education.

The grant will also fund updated resources and materials for teachers, which will align with the state’s standards.

Additionally, every incoming eighth-grader in Waltham will have the opportunity to visit either the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate or the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, both in Boston, at no cost to families.



The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library is one of the field trip options for incoming 8th graders. Courtesy photo.

The district will also be able to expand its partnership with mock trial programs to both McDevitt and Kennedy Middle School, broadening access to hands-on civic learning for students.

DESE notes on its website that it favors proposals that advance equity, build sustainable civics infrastructure and promote what it calls “civic deeper learning” — opportunities for students to practice civic skills and play out concepts in real-life situations.

The grant program gives priority to districts that haven’t previously received a grant, and to those with high populations of low-income students.

Waltham has received the first year of funding, and may apply for continuation in FY28 to build on initiatives it launches this year.

The grant builds on the state’s 2018 civics law, which introduced the [eighth grade](#) and high school civics project requirement. With a two-year implementation structure, it’s designed to fund the kind of sustained teacher training and curriculum work that one-time projects might not provide.

Senior Center this week: Paint a scarf, hear a story and learn to live joyfully

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • JULY 12, 2026



Karina Liendo (standing) presents her “Like Water for Chocolate” series last year. Courtesy photo.

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.

Tuesday, July 14, 1 p.m.. Scarf art with Karen. Bring your inner Picasso to life in this silk scarf painting workshop! Create a one-of-a-kind wearable work of art while learning simple techniques on silk. All supplies and instructions are provided. Just wear clothes to get messy in and come ready to play with color. Free but please register by calling 781-314-3499.

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

Wednesday, July 15, 11 a.m. My grandma’s legacy, with Karina Liendo. This is the beginning of Liendo’s “Like Water for Chocolate” saga, when you will learn how Abuela Angela meets the love of her life, conquers his heart with food and leaves a legacy to her oldest granddaughter. Free but please register by calling 781-314-3499.

Friday, July 17, 1-2 p.m. The art of living joyfully. A program that is as entertaining, funny and uplifting as it is educational. Robert Rivest shares light-hearted stories of what led him to develop The Rivest Method of Joyful Living. He includes an interactive segment on daily practices that can help us feel healthier, happier and more joyful in our senior years. Free but please register by calling 781-314-3499.

Here is the full schedule for the week of July 13:

13. <u>8:30 Castle Island</u> <u>9:00 Walking Group</u> <u>Veterans Field</u> 9:30 Poker 9:30 Exercise Class 10:00 Knitting 10:45 Exercise Video 12:00 Zumba 1:00 Whist 1:00 Rummikub 1:30 Chair Volleyball	14. 9:00 Crochet 9:00 Tai Chi - Advanced 9:30 Bridge Lesson 10:00 Tai Chi- Beginner <u>10:00 ESL</u> 11:00 Mah Jong 11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba - No Class 11:30 Ukulele Group 1:00 Bridge Game <u>1:00 Scarf Art</u> 1:30 Chair Exercise <u>5:00 Country Line Dance</u>	15. <u>9:00 Walking Group</u> <u>Veterans Field</u> 9:00 Blood Pressure 9:00 Quilting 9:30 Exercise Class <u>10:30 Hora del Café</u> 10:45 Exercise Video 11:00 Meditation <u>11:00 My Grandma's Legacy</u> <u>12:00 Lunch: Stuffed</u> <u>Shells w/Tomato Sauce /</u> <u>Egg Salad Sandwich</u> 1:00 Bingo 1:00 Hand & Foot Game	16. <u>9:00 Walking Group</u> <u>Veterans Field</u> 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 10:15 Strength Class - No Class 11:00 Mah Jong 11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba - No Class 12:30 Cards - Spades 1:00 Cribbage/Canasta	17. 9:00 Ceramics No Teacher 9:30 Poker 12:30 Cards - Spades 1:00 Bridge: Instruction & Play 1:00 The Art of Living Joyfully
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Sweet strategy: Peipei builds a cross-cultural bakery in Waltham

BY HEDY YANG • FOOD • JULY 9, 2026



When she arrived in the United States nearly two years ago, Pei Shengwei, or Peipei, recalled looking everywhere in the Boston area for a suitable bakery location. She eventually settled on a space in Waltham, taking over the mochi doughnut store Mister Monut at 873 Main St.



PeiPei bakery on Main Street. Photo by Hedy Yang.

While Peipei's Bakery is her first U.S.-based business, Peipei brings more than 10 years of experience operating two bakeries in central China. The story of Peipei's success in Waltham is one of navigating unfamiliar systems, becoming attuned to community preferences and leveraging savvy 21st-century marketing skills.

Peipei's businesses started as a home-baking hobby in her senior year of college, but they quickly expanded to become a thriving delivery operation. In her third year of operations, she opened her first bakery location in central China.

She left that behind, though, in 2024 when she moved to Massachusetts to join her husband, Jackie, who had left a year earlier to pursue a master's degree at Northeastern University. Despite the unfamiliarity of a new country, Peipei knew she wanted to continue being a bakery owner.



An array of baked treats on display. Photo by Hedy Yang.

Starting a business here in the United States had its challenges, she said.

“We don’t have a lot of friends here who are business owners, so we had to figure all that out for ourselves,” Peipei recalled, noting that former Mister Monut owner Tao Hsu helped her navigate the process.

One benefit of taking over Mister Monut was it eliminated the need for space renovations.

Adapting to customers

While Peipei has kept the Mister Monut moniker and its mochi donut offerings, she has also expanded the menu significantly to meet diverse tastes and consumer demands.

Peipei’s bakery specializes in low-sugar, Asian-inspired items. Its flagship products include mochi pudding — glutinous rice balls filled with flavored pudding — as well as Mandarin pretzels, flavored takes on a traditional German soft pretzel.

Peipei said it was critical to understand the palate of the local community to develop products that resonated with them. For instance, she noted that Waltham’s Hispanic community has embraced the spicy chicken and corn Mandarin pretzels because of their similarity to flavors and ingredients used in Hispanic cuisine.

Peipei also learned that her American customers have a much bigger sweet tooth than their Chinese counterparts.

Peipei is strategic about how she engages with different customer bases. She relies on usual channels such as a website and Instagram to reach local customers, while targeting Chinese consumers — particularly international students — with Chinese media platforms such as RedNote and WeChat.

As the business grows, Peipei is looking to expand upstream operations. She hopes to obtain a larger space to produce at scale and sell to local grocery stores, coffee shops and boba tea shops.



The view out the window of PeiPei. Photo by Hedy Yang.

Amid the rigor of running a business, Peipei said she values rest and stress management. Her activity of choice? Exploring local grocery stores, which offers both a relaxing activity and the chance to understand local tastes and dream up new recipes.

But perhaps the biggest thing that keeps her going is customer satisfaction. Peipei noted that American customers are much more willing to engage with and compliment the food. “Customer satisfaction is our main source of recharge,” she said.

The week ahead: Finalizing concepts for new police station

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 12, 2026



Waltham's Police and Fire Station Committee will meet this week to approve a final concept plan [to rebuild the city's police station](#).

If City Council approves funding for this concept plan, the designer will proceed with a formal design phase and shovels would likely hit the ground in early 2028.

City officials have been discussing plans for an update at 155 Lexington St. [since 2018](#).

There's still a long road ahead for the full redesign, which involves splitting the current Lexington Street public services hub. The Department of Public Works is on track to move to a new building on the former Fernald State School estate [by early 2029](#), and the Fire Department's headquarters will also get an update [in a later phase of construction](#).

The Police and Fire Station Committee will meet to have a final discussion and vote on the current concept plan this Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the City Hall basement conference room.

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled this week, July 13 through 17.

Historical Commission

The Waltham Historical Commission is a seven-member board charged with preserving and overseeing Waltham's historic buildings and properties.

This week the commission will discuss whether to delay the demolition of the Grey House at the Waltham Fields Community Farm site as well as a house at 32 Cherry St. It will review a development prospectus for a location of [the fast food chain Sweetgreen](#) at 70 Marketplace Drive. Additionally, it will hear updates on existing properties and hear about a new WFCF project for "corn lab rehabilitation."

It will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday over [Zoom](#).

Housing Authority

The Waltham Housing Authority works to provide affordable housing for Waltham residents who face barriers to housing.

At its monthly meeting this week, the commission will present its [2027 comprehensive annual plan](#). It will also receive results from its FY2025 audit and hear an update on administrative policies under the WHA's Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday at 4:30 p.m [over Zoom](#), using the password 135976, and in person at 110 Pond St.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

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

It will hear a request for an extension of time on a case it heard in 2022 and a new case from the owners of a private home on Kingston Road who plan to construct a second floor on their single-family house.

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

Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

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

Ugandan community gathers at Waltham Common to celebrate annual Summer Splash

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • ARTS & CULTURE • JULY 12, 2026



Leah Namugerwa, tabling for Divine Scents. Photo by Allie Ladjeva.

Music and laughter filled Waltham Common on Saturday as families gathered to celebrate Summer Splash, [Radio Uganda Boston's](#) annual celebration of Ugandan culture and community.

Summer Splash was created 15 years ago to bring people together while celebrating all the companies and organizations that Radio Uganda Boston works with.

The event welcomed members of the Ugandan community as well as visitors interested in learning about its culture and traditions.



Vendor tents filled Waltham Common for Summer Splash. Photo by Allie Ladjeva.

Thirty-five vendors were present at the event, too, selling handmade jewelry, clothing and candles. There were also homemade African dishes that visitors could enjoy. In addition, children could play in a colorful bouncy castle.

African music played over the speakers throughout the event as attendees danced.

Several nonprofit organizations hosted informational tables at Summer Splash. One of them was [Africano Waltham](#), a community-led organization supporting African immigrant families and youth.

“We help. We do dance. We make music at different colleges like Bentley. We do a variety of things. We like to perform at different places,” said Jonathan Balagadde, a volunteer at Africano Waltham.

Student volunteers from the organization were present to interview people and learn about their cultures and experiences.

“Summer Splash means when people come together — a group of the Ugandan community that is coming together to share culture and also to pursue people’s dreams,” said Geoffrey Junior, a volunteer at Africano Waltham.

“Summer Splash is a place where most of Ugandans can gather around, promote their own organizations and have a fun time doing so,” said Jeremiah Kikonyogo, another volunteer at Africano Waltham.

Women of Purpose International-Boston (WOPI-Boston) was also present at the celebration. The nonprofit is dedicated to empowering immigrant women and their families by connecting them to resources. WOPI-Boston sold menstrual products and clothing at the event, with all proceeds donated to women in need.

“Summer Splash means networking, bringing us together, and that is power,” Dorothy Ssebakka, founder and CEO at WOPI-Boston, said.

Kabaka Foundation Boston, a charitable foundation for the King of Buganda, also took part in Summer Splash. The organization supports people in Boston and Uganda with programs related to education, health and economic empowerment.



Representatives of Waltham-based nonprofit, Women of Purpose International. Photo by Allie Ladjeva.

Summer Splash meant different things to different people. For some, the event emphasized the sense of community and belonging. For others, it was an opportunity to learn and engage with the community.

“I see a lot of things around here that I am willing to learn,” Jason Senyonjo, a volunteer at Africano Waltham, said.

Geoffrey Nsereko, vice CEO and public relations director at Radio Uganda Boston, described Summer Splash as one of the Ugandan community’s largest annual events and said that people from all backgrounds are welcome.

“Summer Splash is when everybody comes out,” Nsereko said.

Waltham American Legion Band keeps the music playing

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • JULY 9, 2026



For nearly 80 years the American Legion Band has been a fixture in Waltham, performing at parades, concerts and veterans' events while welcoming generations of musicians into its ranks.

The band was officially founded in 1948 by Dorothy "Dot" Hill and her husband, Joseph Hill, the man for whom the legion post is named. Dorothy became the director of the band after her husband's death and served in that position until her retirement in 1996.

She started the band with a collection of high school students, and the band has greatly transformed over the years.

Judy Manning, board vice president and flutist, joined the band in 1992 as the first woman – and was outnumbered at the start. Now, the band has about a 50-50 split of men and women.

For Manning, the friendships formed through the band have been just as meaningful as the performances.

"I love the camaraderie in the band. I have a few friends that have been here for many years, and we've traveled all over the world — to Canada, Hawaii and Ireland," she said. "We've been a pretty active band."

A trip to Russia in 1990, in fact, made history. The American Legion Band was the first American band to ever play in Moscow's Red Square. The band performed "God Bless America" as part of the city's annual Victory Parade.

Today the band consists of about 40 members, both veterans and civilians, ranging in age from teens to 80s and hailing from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. There has been an international flavor as well over the years, with temporary members joining from as far away as Brazil, Israel and the United Kingdom.



Board vice president and flutist Judy Manning.
Courtesy photo.

The band is a community organization consisting of three entities, a concert band, a marching band and a trolley band. A variety of music is performed by the concert band, while military selections are the primary focus of the marching and trolley bands.

Membership is open to all ages, and there are no fees or auditions. You don't have to be affiliated or have served with any military branch or be a member of the American Legion to join the band.



***The Trolley band hits the road.
Courtesy photo***

Music Director John O'Toole, who started in 2010, conducts the concert band and provides the musical direction of all events and performances.

A Boston University music graduate, O'Toole also performs with the Wellesley Symphony Brass Quartet and the Lincoln-Sudbury Civic Orchestra.

"This is a wonderful group of people that share a love for music," O'Toole said. "The band has improved musically over the last few years as well. Everyone helps each other, and that cooperation makes a big difference."



***American Legion Music
Director John O'Toole.
Courtesy photo.***

The Legion Band remains busy throughout the year, performing in more than 25 parades and 10 concerts annually. Next up is the Clam Festival Parade in Yarmouth, Maine, on July 17 and a concert at the Scarborough Veterans' Home the following day.

As the band looks toward its next generation, Manning hopes more people will discover there's a place for them.

"We're always looking for new members to keep the band going," she said. "Either playing an instrument, carrying the flag or being part of the honor guard – there are plenty of ways to contribute."

For more information on the American Legion Band, visit the website at

<https://walthamlegionband.org>

Waltham Boys & Girls Club fires assistant executive director, reason confidential

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 12, 2026



The Waltham Boys & Girls Club fired assistant executive director Jason Smith for a confidential reason.

In an email sent to families on July 6, WBGC Executive Director Erica Young informed families that “Smith is no longer employed by the Waltham Boys & Girls Club.”

Young said the organization couldn’t share the reason for the staff change for confidentiality reasons. “The Club addresses employment matters thoughtfully, thoroughly, and in accordance with our policies and legal obligations,” she wrote in the email.

The organization received a complaint from a parent regarding Smith on June 5, which resulted in his being placed on administrative leave. Smith had worked at WBGC since 2021 as assistant executive director.

Leila Hooper, president of WBGC board of directors, in a separate communication to families, said the Waltham Police Department had opened an investigation as a result of the complaint, which did not result in any criminal findings.

WPD Detective Patrick Dean said he could not confirm or deny that an investigation took place. Dean, WPD’s public information officer, said the public would have been notified if an arrest had happened.

“If there was an investigation that was opened and closed and did not result in an arrest and there was no public urgency for it, we probably would not give that information out,” Dean said in a phone call with The Waltham Times.

WBGC is also conducting a third-party investigation into the incident that is ongoing.



Jason Smith in 2025. Photo by The Waltham Times.

A community member speaks out

While the exact details of the incident are unclear, community members are speaking out. A [Facebook post](#) from former WBGC employee and current Waltham District Court officer Mark Mitchell asked parents to talk to their children about their time at WBGC.

“Ask if anyone at the Club ever made them feel uncomfortable, crossed personal boundaries, or communicated with them in a way that didn’t seem appropriate,” Mitchell wrote. “Let them know they can tell you anything and that you will listen without judgment.”

Mitchell encouraged families to contact WPD with any relevant information.

Additionally, Mitchell said he believes staff members at WBGC care about the youth they serve. “Please don’t let the actions of one individual define the entire Waltham Boys & Girls Club, but let’s also make sure we never ignore concerns involving the safety and well-being of our children,” he said.

WCAC reported that Mitchell’s wife, Lisa Kolosiej, also a former WBGC employee, wrote a letter to the WBGC board that she shared with Waltham City Council. In that letter she expressed that although there were no formal criminal charges against Smith, that doesn’t mean there was no wrongdoing. Additionally, Kolosiej expressed wanting a meeting between families and WBGC employees, as well as changes within the club.

“We deserve to know what changes are being implemented to strengthen reporting procedures, protect children and employees who come forward with concerns and ensure accountability at every level of the organization,” she said.

Waltham police arrest man accused of running through yards, checking cars

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 12, 2026



Waltham Police arrest a man, seen sitting on the ground, for breaking and entering into a motor vehicle. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Waltham police responded to the Byron Road area at approximately 5:01 p.m. Sunday after receiving reports of a suspicious man walking through the neighborhood, cutting through residents' yards and looking into windows.

The suspect was described as a Hispanic man with a beard, wearing a blue hat, gray shirt and navy pants. Officers were advised the man left the Byron Road area on foot, heading onto Warren Street before turning onto Candace Avenue. A bicycle believed to be associated with the individual was reportedly left in a nearby yard.

A short time later, police responded to additional reports in the areas of Bruce Road, Candace Avenue, Warren Street and Fairfax Road, where residents reported someone running through backyards and looking into parked vehicles. During the search, officers located an individual matching the description in front of 79 Bruce Road and took the person into custody without incident.

No additional information has been released.

Brush fire extinguished at Prospect Hill

 walthamtimes.org/2026/07/07/brush-fire-extinguished-at-prospect-hill

Joseph Sharkey

July 8, 2026



The Waltham Fire Department responded to Prospect Hill Park for a reported brush fire at approximately 4 p.m. Monday.

Firefighters arrived and located a 30-by-30-foot area of burning brush, pine needles, trees and other vegetation near the Sunset Trail. Crews deployed hand lines and used the department's off-road utility vehicle to access the fire deep within the wooded area.

Firefighters remained on scene for an extended period extinguishing hot spots and conducting overhaul operations to ensure the fire was fully extinguished.

Woman pleads not guilty to charge of assault and battery after incident at Connors Memorial Pool

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 9, 2026



A woman has pleaded not guilty to a charge of assault and battery after an alleged altercation at Connors Memorial Pool.

On July 3 at 5:50 p.m., a State Police trooper responded to a call from the state-run pool at 330 River St. The trooper was joined by four Waltham officers. According to the police report, the manager of the pool had asked a group of four people to leave the pool for being disruptive. She told them they would not face a no trespassing order for the whole season but needed to leave for the remainder of the day.

A Waltham police officer helped translate the message to the group, who had limited English skills. The group eventually agreed to leave. While leaving, the group began to argue with the manager. According to the police report, a woman identified as Deysi Y. Barahona Alvarado, 44, of Orange, struck the manager several times while police were watching. She was arrested and transported to the Massachusetts State Police Boston Barracks to be booked.



Connors pool. Photo courtesy of City of Waltham.

Alvarado pleaded not guilty on July 6 to a charge of assault and battery in relation to the incident. Judge Ellen M. Caulo released Alvarado on personal recognizance. A pretrial hearing for the case will take place Aug. 24.

Additional court activity

Matthew Hoffsommer, 31, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on June 30 to a charge of assault and battery on a person over 60 or a disabled person. The charge is in relation to an event that took place in an apartment in Waltham. Hoffsommer was released on personal recognizance by Caulo and will face a motion hearing for his case on July 14.

Jonathan Quintanilla, 26, homeless, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on July 1 to a charge of trespassing. He was arrested on June 29 for the same charge. Both alleged trespassing incidents took place in Waltham. Quintanilla was released on personal recognizance by Caulo and will face pretrial hearings for both trespassing charges on Sept. 3.

Christopher Leaman, 32, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on July 2 to two counts of strangulation or suffocation, two counts of assault and battery on a family or household member, and one count of assault and battery with serious bodily injury. The charges are in relation to an alleged altercation between Leaman and a woman at a residence in Waltham. Leaman is being held on grounds of dangerousness at Middlesex Jail and will face a pretrial hearing on July 29 for his case.

Robert H. Jackson Jr., 34, homeless, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on July 3 to a charge of receiving a stolen motor vehicle subsequent offense. The charge is in relation to a moped that was stolen from a residence on Alder Street in late June. Jackson was released on personal recognizance by Caulo. A pretrial hearing for his case will take place Aug. 13.

Kathleen Fogg, 1949–2026, had a ‘ready smile and kind, affable nature’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • JULY 7, 2026



Kathleen M. (O’Connell) Fogg, of Waltham, died at home on Sunday, June 28, 2026 following a period of declining health. She was 76.

Kathy was born in Somerville on Oct. 26, 1949, a daughter of the late John and Joan (Tessier) O’Connell. Raised in Watertown, she was a graduate of Watertown High School.

Until her retirement she enjoyed a successful career as a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in Waltham. Before that she’d worked as a waitress at the Stockyard in Brighton and at Greg’s Restaurant in Watertown. Her ready smile and kind, affable nature earned many friends among customers and co-workers alike.

She moved to Waltham in 1984 following her marriage to Steve Fogg. The couple spent many happy vacations on the beaches of Aruba and Cape Cod.



Kathleen Fogg, 1949–2026

She leaves her husband, (Ret.) Waltham Police Officer Steven E. Fogg; her son, Christopher LaRose (Colleen Gardner) of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; her step-children, Lisa Sameski of Waltham, (Ret.) Waltham Police Officer Jeffrey Fogg (Jeannette) of Wayland and Waltham Police Sergeant Michael Fogg (Donna) of Waltham; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and their families.

Kathy was also the sister of the late Michael O’Connell.

Family and friends honored and remembered Kathy’s life by gathering for her wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Monday, July 6 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and again at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning before leaving in procession to Saint Jude Church, 147 Main Street, Waltham where her funeral mass was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.

Stewart Knowlton Gibson III, 1948–2026, was ‘pioneering in how he lived life with cerebral palsy’

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • JULY 7, 2026



Stewart Knowlton Gibson III—known affectionately as “Stew” and “Stewie”—passed away from pneumonia on June 4, 2026, at the Winchester Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Winchester, MA. He was 78.

Stewart was born in Boston on May 10, 1948, to Priscilla Alden Plumb Gibson and Stewart Knowlton Gibson, Jr. He was a 1968 graduate of the Charles River Academy in Cambridge, MA. From there, he attended the Automation Training School and the Electronic Computer Programming Institute, both in Boston. After a few stops along his career path, Stewie joined Whole Foods Market in 1995, where he quickly became a core team member until his retirement in 2014. Stewie lived in Waltham most of his life, moving to Wakefield in his later years. He truly enjoyed life at Brightview Senior Living in Wakefield, and had great fondness for the friends he made there.



Stewart Knowlton Gibson III, 1948–2026

Stewie, with the support of his parents, was pioneering in how he lived life with cerebral palsy, pursuing education, sports and a career. He grew up in the Piety Corner district of Waltham, which was a close-knit neighborhood full of activity, from ballgames to holiday caroling. Stewie was an active member of the Garden City Recreation Club out of Newton, MA, and in 1978 competed in the first National Cerebral Palsy Games held in Detroit, where he won 5 medals in 6 events consisting of discus, precision softball, 60-yard dash, bowling, and the shot put. He was a massive sports fan, knew all the stats, predicted results and held season tickets to the Celtics and the Red Sox. Stewie became a bit of an icon around Fenway, especially in Section 40. Ballpark staff, fellow season ticket holders and vendors greeted him with jovial warmth—and he loved passing that small celebrity status on to whichever niece or nephew he’d brought along, which started the moment they turned onto Yawkey Way. Growing up his home was full of music, which fostered an appreciation that he held throughout his life. He had an analytic mind, and was a force at strategy games such as bridge; he enjoyed games in general, especially cribbage and bingo with his friends. Stewie thrilled at being in on a joke or ruse, his big, brown eyes sparkling with warmth and humor. Stewie loved his family, especially enjoying holiday gatherings and celebrating his birthday.

Stewie is survived by his sister Lucinda (Cindy) and her husband Rodney Sargent; his brother-in-law Paul Somers; his nephews, Nathan Sargent, Matthew Somers and Jeffrey Somers; and his nieces, Jennifer (Somers) Moon and Elizabeth (Somers) Curran. He is also survived by several grand-nephews and grand-nieces: Sydney Moon, Adeline Moon, Riley Sargent, Samantha Curran, Caitlin Curran and Patrick Curran. He was preceded in death by his sister, Deborah “Debby” Somers and his parents.

Special thanks go out to the staff of Winchester Nursing and Rehab, for their kindness and caring toward the end of Stewie’s life, and to the staff and his friends at Brightview Senior Living of Wakefield, who made a difference in Stewie’s life every single day he was there and beyond.

Waltham home sales, June 30–July 2, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	6/30/2026	122 Milton St	\$800,000	3/1.5	2209 sf
	6/30/2026	14 Mt Walley Rd	\$700,000	3/1	972 sf
	6/30/2026	22 Grove St Unit 2	\$1,331,000	3/3.5	3012 sf
	6/30/2026	28 Blossom	\$970,000	3/2.5	2011 sf
	6/30/2026	1182 Main St	\$610,000	2/1	1765 sf
	6/30/2026	369 Bacon St	\$762,000	4/1.5	2533 sf

	6/30/2026	144 Alder St	\$755,000	3/1.5	1442 sf
	6/30/2026	81 Princeton Ave	\$740,000	3/1	1459 sf
	6/30/2026	10 Naviens Ln Unit 1	\$475,000	0/1	1008 sf
	6/30/2026	17 Washington Ave Unit 3	\$899,000	3/2	1858 sf
	7/1/2026	10 Washington Ave Unit 1	\$562,000	2/1	934 sf
	7/2/2026	55-57 Bedford St	\$950,000	2/2	2796 sf
	7/1/2026	91 Canterbury Rd	\$1,102,000	3/1.5	1558 sf

Events Calendar

July 13-August 9

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

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
13	14 10:00 am - 11:00 am Meeting with Officer Tracey, Waltham Police Department 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 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Stories for adults: 'My grandma's legacy' 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Board of Health meeting + 3 More	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 + 3 More	17 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Outdoor sports Kabbalat Shabbat 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	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 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Teen Super Smash tournament with One Up Games	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
3 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council meeting	4 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: Watch City Cadillacs	5 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free outdoor Zumba class	6 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	7	8 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market	9

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

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



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