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**July 27, 2026**



**10th Middlesex District  
debate produces lively  
exchange**



**Does buying local  
reduce the risk of  
Cyclospora?**



**Waltham Library's  
bookmobile keeps rolling  
with more summer stops**



**Senior Center this week: A  
visit to Kimball Farm,  
“Grease” and iPhone tips**



# Does buying local reduce the risk of Cyclospora? Experts weigh in

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • HEALTH & LIFESTYLE • JULY 26, 2026



*Fresh produce at the Waltham Farmers' Market. Photo by The Waltham Times.*

As Cyclospora cases rise [nationally](#), some Waltham residents have become increasingly cautious about where their fruits and vegetables come from and whether local produce offers greater protection from contamination.

Massachusetts has been less affected than other states, with [18 officially reported cases](#) as of July 7. Still, the outbreak has raised questions about where the parasite comes from, which produce is more likely to be contaminated and whether buying locally makes a difference.

Interviews with public-health experts and professors suggest that local produce may offer some advantages, but geography does not guarantee safety. Water quality, sanitation and handling practices matter more.

# Cyclospora and the scope of the outbreak

Cyclospora is a parasite that infects the human small intestine and spreads when human waste contaminates food or water, according to Nicole Hill, a senior lecturer in natural and applied sciences at Bentley University.

Cyclospora commonly causes watery diarrhea, and laboratory testing is typically needed to confirm the infection, according to Tony Kiszewski, an associate professor of natural and applied sciences at Bentley University. He added that untreated diarrhea lasts about seven days on average, though the duration can vary.

Hill said contaminated irrigation water, fertilizer or water used to mix agricultural chemicals can all create risks.

Contamination may begin on a farm through irrigation water, but it can also spread during processing when produce is washed in shared water.

“Often in processing plants, what they do is they bring in all the lettuce and everything, and they put it in a big bin, and they wash it, and so it’s probably there where a lot of the contamination happens,” Kiszewski said.

Egg-like structures called Cyclospora oocysts can cling to folds or cut surfaces of produce. Unlike some bacteria, they are resistant to common chlorine-based sanitation systems, according to the experts interviewed.

Hill said the United States has recorded about 3,000 Cyclospora cases per year over the last decade. Reported cases this year appear to be at least three times higher, although greater public awareness and increased testing may also contribute to the rise in numbers. She added that no deaths have been reported.

Giovanni Widmer, a professor of infectious disease and global health at Tufts University’s Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, said people taking immunosuppressive medication and others at a greater risk of severe illness may want to pay particular attention to the origin of raw produce that cannot be peeled.

“Unless one is at particular risk, there is no reason to forgo your favorite salad dish,” Widmer said.

## Does buying local reduce the risk?

The current Cyclospora outbreak has been linked to iceberg lettuce supplied by Taylor Farms, possibly involving lettuce imported from Mexico, according to Hill. Cyclospora is not commonly found in the U.S. environment.

“Cyclospora is not common in the US environment and is more often found in tropical and subtropical areas; many cases of Cyclospora in the US are associated with international travel and exposure abroad,” Kayleigh Watson, an epidemiologist and shared services coordinator with the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative, said.

According to Kiszewski, there are also many safety regulations at U.S. farms, making local produce less likely to be contaminated.

“If you buy local, we have such strict regulations on septic tanks and exposure to sewage that it’s unlikely that it would happen from locally grown produce. You know, so that’s another thing people can do: just buy local,” Kiszewski said.

Other experts emphasized that local produce is not automatically safer and that water sources, sanitation and handling practices remain more important than geography alone.

Experts also recommend reaching out to local farms directly to find out about their growing, washing and handling practices.

## Outbreak concerns influence local shopping choices

Several Waltham residents said they had noticed increased demand for certain products, such as lettuce, at farmers markets.

“The farmer’s market was sold out of lettuce by 11 a.m.! I have never seen that happen before,” Cheryl Strelko Gradziel wrote.

In response to a post in a Waltham residents’ Facebook group, several commenters said they felt more confident buying produce from local farms and markets.

“[I] definitely feel more confident buying at local farms and farmers markets, which I am apt to do this time of the year. Also, I feel confident in buying from local companies like Little Leaf,” Elaine Coolbrith wrote.

Several commenters said they trusted produce from Little Leaf Farms.

“The social media for Little Leaf has been very helpful in explaining how they source their water for their plants, etc.,” Andrea Parent wrote.

Little Leaf Farms, a Massachusetts-based greenhouse lettuce producer, published [a statement](#) outlining its water-treatment and food-safety practices.

“We use rainwater that falls on our roof and is directed to lined basins as our primary source of irrigation water. We treat 100% of the water via ultraviolet (UV) sterilization prior to entering our greenhouses, which is a widespread and proven practice for sterilizing water, leaving zero chemical residue,” Little Leaf’s team wrote.

The company said it was not aware of any Cyclospora cases connected to its products, and that if contamination were detected, it would communicate with its customers and take immediate action.

## Hannaford's response

As many residents continue to buy their fruits and vegetables from large supermarkets, Hannaford said food safety, communication and transparency were priorities, as it monitored the outbreak.

The supermarket said it was not aware of any cases affecting its stores and had not removed any products from its shelves.

“Hannaford is committed to delivering fresh, quality food to our customers and ensuring the safety of the products we sell is our highest priority. We’re closely monitoring this situation in partnership with our suppliers and regulatory partners,” Zach Blanchard, external communications manager at Hannaford, told the Waltham Times. “As always, if we become aware of any food safety concern impacting our customers, we will take immediate action to remove impacted products from sale and notify customers as appropriate.”

## What consumers can do

When fresh produce gets contaminated, rinsing alone cannot reliably remove the parasite, as it sticks to the fruits and vegetables easily.

Watson recommended rinsing produce under clean running water, even if it is labeled as pre-washed, and discarding outer layers when possible. Additionally, cooked, frozen or dried food is not considered at risk in the same way as fresh, raw produce.

Experts said residents should not avoid fresh produce, but they should be cautious about where their fruits and vegetables were grown and wash them carefully at home.

# Senior Center this week: A visit to Kimball Farm, “Grease” and iPhone tips

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • JULY 26, 2026



*Courtesy image from Kimball Farm.*

Waltham’s Council on Aging is offering a unique opportunity for seniors to share meaningful conversations with students from Waltham High School this fall. “Sages and Seekers” is a seven-week program, meeting at the Senior Center for 90 minutes weekly on Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 4:30 p.m. It seeks to promote intergenerational understanding through group and one-on-one conversations. This program is for any adult 60 years of age and older who is available for the seven weeks of the program. If you are interested, please leave your contact information at the COA at 781-314-3499. A member of the planning team will contact you.

This week’s COA programming is listed below. The COA 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.

Wednesday, July 29, 10 a.m. iPhone travel tips for seniors. Join this class to learn clever iPhone tips, including using Apple Pay on the go, getting Uber rides, and locating your parked car, tour bus or meeting place. Free, but please register.

Thursday, July 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kimball Farm visit. Enjoy lunch on your own, the Country Store, Miniature Golf and a stroll, and don’t forget to sample the farm’s famous ice cream. The van will leave the Sacred Heart Church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return around 3 p.m. Please register at 781-314-3499. \$5.00 due at sign up.

Friday, July 31, 10 a.m. with subtitles; 1 p.m. without subtitles. Film screening of “Grease.” An iconic 1978 American musical romantic comedy starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Set in California in 1958, the story follows the lives of high school seniors navigating friendships, peer pressure and adolescent romance. Rated R/2 hours 20 minutes. \$0.50 donation. Please register.

In addition, 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.

Every Thursday: 9-10 a.m. Conversational Spanish. Free drop-in weekly classes to introduce the Spanish language in a conversational setting.

Here is the full schedule for this week:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>27.</b><br><u>9:00 Walking Group</u><br><u>Veterans Field</u><br>9:30 Poker<br>9:30 Exercise Class<br>10:00 Knitting<br><u>10:00 Board Meeting</u><br>10:45 Exercise Video<br>12:00 Zumba<br>1:00 Whist<br>1:00 Rummikub<br>1:30 Chair Volleyball<br><u>1:30 Hearing Clinic</u> | <b>28.</b><br>9:00 Crochet<br>9:00 Tai Chi - Adv.<br>9:30 Bridge Lesson<br>10:00 Tai Chi- Beg.<br><u>10:00 ESL</u><br>11:00 Mah Jong<br>11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba<br>11:30 Ukulele Group<br>1:00 Bridge Game<br>1:30 Chair Exercise<br><u>5:00 Country Line Dance</u> | <b>29.</b><br><u>9:00 Walking Group</u><br><u>Veterans Field</u><br>9:00 Blood Pressure<br>9:00 Quilting<br><u>9:00 TRIAD Services</u><br>9:30 Exercise Class<br><u>10:00 Podiatrist - Dr. Tuler</u><br><u>10:00 Veterans Services</u><br><u>10:00 I Phone Tips</u><br><u>10:30 Hora del Café</u><br>10:45 Exercise Video<br>11:00 Meditation<br><u>12:00 Lunch: Beef</u><br><u>Enchilada / Tomato</u><br><u>Pasta Salad w/ Chicken</u><br>1:00 Bingo<br>1:00 Hand & Foot Game | <b>30.</b><br><u>9:00 Walking Group</u><br><u>Veterans Field</u><br>9:00 Keep It Moving<br>9:00 Conv.Spanish<br>9:30 /10:45 Exercise Video<br><u>10:00 Kimball Farm</u><br>10:00 Conv. English<br>10:00 Painting<br>10:00 Mah Jong<br>10:15 Strength Class<br>11:00 Mah Jong<br>11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba<br>12:30 Cards - Spades<br>1:00 Cribbage/Canasta | <b>31.</b><br>9:00 Ceramics <i>No Teacher</i><br>9:30 Poker<br><u>10:00 Movie w/captions</u><br>12:30 Cards - Spades<br>1:00 Bridge: Instruction & Play<br><u>1:00 Movie: Grease</u> |
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## Author

### PRISCILLA ELLIOTT

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

# Blue Collar 101: Waltham museum panel makes the case for a railroad career

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • NEWS • JULY 26, 2026



*Charles River Museum's Director of Education Steve Guerriero moderates a panel of railroad professionals featuring dispatcher Sarah Gouthro, conductor Cole Czub, locomotive engineer Bill Keay, MBTA supervisor Adam Sisk and machinist Joseph Rumrey. Czub is pictured speaking. Photo by Gab De Jesus.*

Railroad professionals spoke with members of the public at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation about their work keeping the rail system running for the third session in the museum's [Blue Collar 101 series](#).

Sarah Gouthro joined the railroad industry after driving buses for six years. She said she saw more opportunities for growth in railroad work than bussing. She began in customer service where she learned the system to help her move into dispatching.

As a dispatcher, Gouthro said, she is responsible for the safe and efficient movement of freight and passenger trains.

She navigates the timing of train movements based on priorities. When a crew requests authority, the dispatcher either grants it or delays it.

About six years ago, when Gouthro had been a dispatcher for only a year, an MBTA commuter-rail train stopped near the Moody Street crossing and remained stretched across Elm Street, blocking traffic. Cole Czub was the conductor aboard the train.

Gouthro said a signal worker raised the gates to let cars pass, which triggered a red light that prompted the train to stop. She imposed a speed restriction and gave the crew permission to proceed but the train's Positive Train Control system treated the red signal as an absolute stop.

Eventually, the issue was resolved, and the train could proceed.

## Engineers are the “tip of the spear”

“Afterward, we had a conversation where I was like, ‘So sorry that happened,’” she said. “Six years later, here we are talking on panels.”

Gouthro and Czub later began dating and have been together ever since.

Czub said conductor ranks have grown rapidly since the COVID-19 pandemic, with union membership increasing from about 300 to 650 over the past three years as the railroad continues hiring. The conductor is responsible for the train and its passengers, while the engineer operates the locomotive. An assistant conductor also typically works aboard a passenger train.

The commuter rail's locomotives are diesel-electric: a diesel engine generates electricity, while traction motors on the axles power the train. The newest HSP46 locomotives are rated at 4,600 horsepower, with roughly 4,300 horsepower reaching the wheels.

Locomotive engineer Bill Keay said locomotive technology and railroad safety systems have grown increasingly complex. Engineers are at the “tip of the spear,” he said, because they operate the equipment and must troubleshoot problems when technology fails.

Machinist Joseph Rumrey, who also serves as a union leader for Local 318 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, works in the Diesel House at the MBTA's Boston Engine Terminal. Rumrey said machinists perform locomotive repairs, mechanical inspections and brake tests to ensure the equipment operates safely.

“Preventative maintenance is a major priority because some locomotives are nearly 50 years old and must be kept in service safely,” Rumrey said.

## Growing demand, a worthwhile career

Rumrey said the opening of the MBTA's South Coast Rail, which connects Fall River and New Bedford to Boston, contributed to mounting demands over the past 18 months, citing 26 daily runs and the need for about 70 locomotives. Preparing for the World Cup service added further

pressure. Although he acknowledged that rail systems in parts of Europe and Asia “blow ours away,” Rumrey said he was proud of the machinists and other railroad workers who prepared the equipment for the increased capacity.

Keolis Commuter Services operates and maintains the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Commuter Rail system under contract with the transit authority. Adam Sisk, an MBTA supervisor of locomotive reliability and performance, said he is part of an approximately 50-person team that monitors whether Keolis is meeting its contractual obligations and oversees day-to-day mechanical operations across the commuter-rail system.

“Everyone on [this] panel works for Keolis except me. I work for the MBTA,” he said. “We have inspectors and engineers who go out every day. Sometimes we start around 1 or 2 in the morning to make sure the startup work is being completed.”

After the panel was over, Gouthro expressed gratitude for all the people who attended. She hopes people see that working for the MBTA is a worthwhile career with good pay, good benefits, and a community-oriented environment.

“It gives them a broader understanding of who it is they are dealing with when they take the train,” Gouthro said.



## Author

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### CHARLIE JOHNSON

Charlie Johnson is a freelance reporter covering stories across the Greater Boston area. A graduate of Boston University’s journalism program, he wrote for The Daily Free Press in the Campus News and City News sections and reported for Brookline.News through BU’s pilot Newsroom program. Most recently, he covered local government, business, housing and community news for Fig City News in Newton.

# Classic Groove draws music lovers to the Common

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • AROUND TOWN • JULY 26, 2026



*Classic Groove guitarist Mark Michaels and drummer Dave Fuller. Photo by Tim Lok.*

Children on scooters, couples and longtime regulars filled Waltham Common last Tuesday evening for the latest installment of the city's outdoor concert series, drawing a cross-section of the community to the gazebo lawn.

Classic Groove headlined the show, and its rendition of Aretha Franklin's "Respect" drew a strong response from the audience.

"They don't make music like that anymore," said one couple in their 30s, who added they had attended previous concerts in the series and been impressed by the quality of the performers.

For a young family whose children arrived on scooters, the night offered a low-cost outing. "A fun night out for all of us," a parent said.

The audience included young and old. Several regulars danced on the patio in front of the gazebo while others settled onto the grass with lawn chairs and blankets under the Common's old shade trees, the sounds and lights of the city in the background.

Refreshments were available, including popcorn, pizza, hot dogs, cookies and soft drinks.

The concert series continues with the Black Velvet Band this Tuesday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. on the Waltham Common.

# The week ahead: Zoning board discusses Opportunities for Inclusion property

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 26, 2026



*Opportunities for Inclusion building at 15 Fiske Ave. Photo from Google Street Image.*

Local nonprofit Opportunities for Inclusion will come before the Waltham Zoning Board of Appeals this Tuesday to appeal a decision by the building department.

The nonprofit's buildings at 15-21 Fiske Ave. are nonconforming, with special variances for a back deck that extends into the zoning-mandated clear area at the back of the property. After the organization combined its two lots, the building department determined the new, combined lot still violated zoning regulations, and Opportunities for Inclusion is seeking to renew its variances.

Documents filed with the city two weeks ago indicate that the nonprofit doesn't plan to expand its headquarters beyond what is currently allowed by zoning regulations.

At the same July 28 meeting, taking place as usual at 7 p.m. at the Clark Government Center, the ZBA will rule on a petition from the owners of a River Street home asking to install an above-regulation-height detached garage in its backyard.

Otherwise, the week promises to be relatively slow for city government. Aside from the ZBA meeting, no other municipal bodies have filed notice for meetings.

# Ambulance, vehicle collision sends one to hospital

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 26, 2026



*An Armstrong ambulance was damaged in a collision with a motor vehicle on Saturday, July 25. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.*

Waltham police and firefighters responded to the intersection of Newton and Ash streets at about 4:03 p.m. Saturday after a crash involving an Armstrong Ambulance that was responding to an emergency call.

The ambulance crew reported the collision, prompting Waltham firefighters and additional emergency units to respond. Airbags deployed in the other vehicle.

One person was taken to a local hospital. Another person declined treatment at the scene.

Waltham police are investigating the cause of the crash.

# Public safety report: Truck strikes overhang at Shell station, driver cited for unlicensed operation

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 26, 2026



A collision between a box truck and a gas pump garnered police attention this week.

On July 17 at 6:28 p.m., police responded to reports of a motor vehicle accident at the Shell gas station at 65 Main St. Upon arrival, police discovered a box truck that had struck the overhang above the gas pumps.

The driver stated that he had misjudged the height of the truck and the height of the overhang, which caused the collision. While the driver was not cited for the collision, he was cited for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.



*The overhang at this Shell station was damaged by a box truck. Google Street Image.*

A summary of additional police and fire activity from July 16 through July 18 is as follows:

On July 16 at 7:08 p.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident at BJ's Wholesale Club on Seyon Street. The caller told police that someone had opened up a credit card in his name and made purchases at BJ's using his personal information. Police filed a police report and provided the man with information from the Federal Trade Commission regarding identity theft.

On July 16 at 10:10 p.m., fire crews responded to an apartment on Middlesex Road. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered a small pile of smoldering mulch outside. Crews wet down the area. There was no fire damage and the fire was contained to the area of mulch.

On July 17 at 3:28 p.m., police responded to reports of a larceny at Costco Wholesale on Second Avenue. A woman said that another customer at the store had taken her purse while she was distracted. Police are investigating.

On July 18 at 2:15 p.m., police responded to reports of a stolen vehicle located at the intersection of Smith Street and Trapelo Road. Police were able to locate the vehicle, and

found it wasn't actually stolen. Due to a clerical error by another police department, the vehicle wasn't marked as found after it had been recovered.

On July 18 at 6:20 p.m., police responded to reports of a suspicious incident at an apartment building on Walnut Street. According to a resident, there was a mysterious foul smell emanating from a hallway. Officers were able to locate vomit in the hallway that was confirmed to be the source of the smell.

On July 18 at 9:39 p.m., police responded to Gordon's Liquors on Main Street. An underaged person had attempted to use a fake ID and was caught by staff. The person began arguing with staff, asking for the ID back because he had paid a lot of money for it. After police were called, he left the store and was not present when police arrived.

*All information was obtained from spokespeople with the Waltham Police and Fire departments, the publicly available police blotter and police reports available at Waltham District Court.*



## Author

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### CYD ABNET

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

# State grant funds Charles River restoration work

BY CYD ABNET • ENVIRONMENT • JULY 23, 2026



*Beaver Brook North Reservation.*

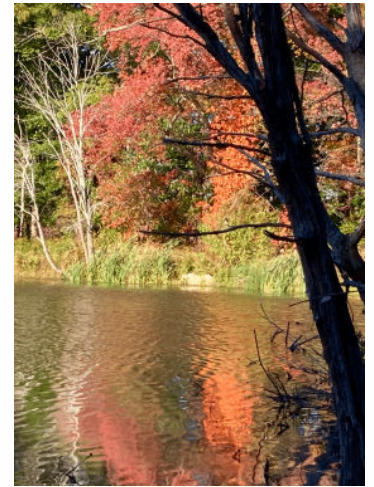
The state granted more than \$1 million to six river and wetland restoration groups, including one whose restoration work involves the Charles River.

The Metro Boston Partnership, a collaboration between the Charles River Watershed Association and the Neponset River Watershed Association, landed \$101,305 for its planned restoration and climate resilience work for the Charles and Neponset River watersheds.

The Charles and Neponset River watersheds span 428 square miles in Eastern Massachusetts.

“The watersheds are separate, but they directly abut each other and mix in the Boston Harbor,” said Amber Siegel, CRWA’s senior restoration manager. “Water is impartial to geographic and organization boundaries. All issues waterways are facing and their solutions flow together.”

The partnership plans to develop a strategic restoration plan for both watersheds by working with volunteers, nonprofits and municipalities. It will include elements from CRWA's current strategic restoration plan. Culvert replacements on Beaver Brook and Chester Brook in Waltham are expected to be included in the project, according to Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game spokesperson Julia E. Hopkins. Other components of the project include dam removals, a restoration of the Neponset salt marsh and wetland restoration in Mattapan.



Siegel said the restoration project seeks to reverse the damage sustained by the watershed as human development grew around it. "In the Metro Boston area over the last 400 years following colonization and industrialization, our waterways have been really severely altered," she said.

The partnership's plans, which include wetlands restoration, removal of nonfunctional dams and expanding culverts to handle water swells from greater storm events, are expected to improve water quality and the connectivity of the rivers, Siegel said. She explained that cleaner and more connected waterways reduce flood risk, allow for proper fish migration and protect existing infrastructure. Improved water quality should also help to prevent future algae blooms, making the water more habitable for aquatic life, too.

The Healey-Driscoll administration [announced the grants](#) earlier this month.

## Author

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# Lower permit cost, good relationship may have landed biergarten in Watertown instead of Waltham

BY ALLIE LADJEVA • BUSINESS • JULY 23, 2026



*A view of the biergarten tent and trucks at Gore Place. Patrons holding open containers of alcoholic beverages may not cross the rope to set foot on Waltham land. Photo by The Waltham Times.*

Mighty Squirrel Biergarten's location at Gore Place, an estate spanning Waltham and Watertown, raised an unusual licensing question: Which city should issue its permits?

Interviews with licensing officials from both municipalities and the Charles River Regional Chamber offer insights into how the permits work and why they were

ultimately issued through Watertown.

### **The one-day licensing permits**

Both cities conform to Massachusetts General Laws, including those governing the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. They also both offer one-day alcohol licenses for businesses that operate on specified days at a location without permanent alcohol licenses.

“So those would be the Paine Estate, the Gore Estate and the Lyman Estate, and then any other premises that might come through,” said Darlene Wansiewicz, administrative assistant for Waltham’s Licensing Department and Veterans’ Services.

Massachusetts limits the number of days for which one person may receive special one-day licenses during a calendar year, allowing for 30 per year. Mighty Squirrel uses multiple applicants to cover its biergarten’s operating schedule, according to Noelle Gilligan, Watertown’s city clerk.

Although both municipalities offer one-day licenses, their fees differ significantly. Waltham charges \$250 for a one-day alcohol license, while Watertown charges \$50.

### **Why the permits went through Watertown**

Because Gore Place straddles the municipal boundary, the biergarten’s operators had to decide which city to work with when obtaining its alcohol licenses. They chose Watertown.

“Because the Gore Estate is on both Watertown and Waltham property, the ABCC [Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission] allows either city to create the license for them. Because they are closer to the Watertown entrance, there is a Watertown address for that location. They chose to apply through us, and we have a really good relationship with them,” said Gilligan.

According to Wansiewicz, Mighty Squirrel never submitted an application to Waltham. She said that the company has a history of working with Watertown, which might have contributed to their choice to work with them.

“They’ve already dealt with Watertown prior to, with their little Arsenal beer garden at the Arsenal Mall, so they already know them, and that’s okay that they did that,” Wansiewicz said.

While Watertown issued the licenses, the municipal boundary still affects where customers may carry alcohol.

“Although our Waltham Police Department police liaison and, of course, our officers have been told that there is alcohol, they are not to leave that roped-around tented area. They cannot walk around with open containers because now they’re walking in Waltham,” Wansiewicz added.

## **The business perspective**

Greg Reibman, president and CEO of the Charles River Regional Chamber, said that the chamber was not involved in Mighty Squirrel’s decision. The Chamber represents businesses in Watertown, but not in Waltham, limiting his ability to compare the two municipalities directly.

Although the Chamber was not involved in the decision, Reibman said he had been told that Watertown was easy to work with. He added that the city has a reputation of supporting businesses.

“I was told that Watertown was much easier to work with, and that’s why [Mighty Squirrel] ultimately decided to set up in Watertown and not Waltham. And I can tell you that I know the people in Watertown are really fantastic in terms of how much they reach out and support businesses,” Reibman said. “But I don’t know what Waltham did or didn’t do.”

Reibman said that licensing costs, timelines and communication can also influence a business choice when it comes to obtaining a license. When one municipality gains a business over another, he added, the decision can affect both local tax revenue and the community’s reputation among business owners.

## **Author**

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### **ALLIE LADJEVA**

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

# Waltham High grad confirmed to be Framingham drowning victim

BY CYD ABNET • NEWS • JULY 23, 2026



The Middlesex District Attorney's Office has confirmed that [Waltham High School Class of 2026 graduate Adama Sow](#) is the same 18-year-old who died after being pulled from Foss Reservoir in Framingham on Monday.

Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa had sent an email to families on Tuesday sharing the news of Sow's death but did not mention that he was the teenager who had drowned.



*Adama Sow at the Waltham High School graduation on June 8, 2026. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.*

“Adama’s passing is heartbreaking, and we extend our sincerest condolences to his loved ones, friends, classmates, teachers and everyone whose life was touched by him,” Mendonsa wrote.

[Sow was pulled from the reservoir](#) around 12:15 p.m. on July 20 following a 911 call reporting a swimmer struggling in the water who eventually went underwater and could not be located. Sow was rushed to a local hospital, but efforts to save him were

unsuccessful. The area at the Foss Reservoir where Sow was found is a popular swimming spot, according to Framingham community members.

“This loss is deeply felt throughout our school community,” Mendonsa wrote in her email. “We encourage students, staff, and families to check in with one another over the coming days, to talk openly about their feelings, and to seek support if needed.”

Support for those affected by Sow’s death can be found via the Crisis Text Line, which offers free and confidential 24/7 mental health support. To access the line, text HOME to 741741. Additional help can be found via the Advocates Community Behavioral Health Center in Waltham, reachable at 508-661-2038.



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## Comments (1)

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J • JULY 25, 2026 AT 12:04 PM

Foss Reservoir in Framingham, Massachusetts, which is a 235-acre water body where swimming and boating are strictly prohibited. About Foss Reservoir Location: Situated between Route 9 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. Purpose: Acts as an emergency backup water supply for Boston and surrounding communities. Rules: Swimming, wading, and boating are completely banned, though shore access for authorized activities like fishing is allowed through specific gates.

**Reply**

# Waltham Library's bookmobile keeps rolling with more summer stops

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • JULY 23, 2026



WPL's Bookmobile.



You don't need to visit the library to check out a book this summer — the library is coming to you.

The Waltham Public Library bookmobile has been making the rounds at community events across the city, bringing books and library services directly to residents, with more stops scheduled.

Residents can check out and return books, sign up for library cards and speak with librarians for reading recommendations. Materials borrowed from the bookmobile can be returned there, at the WPL or at any Minuteman Library location.

The goal, library staff said, is to make services more accessible by meeting people where they are, whether at neighborhood stops or community events.

“The bookmobile will continue to pop up at Waltham events across the city through the end of August,” said Amber Harvey, reference department head at the Waltham Library.

Here’s the lineup for the next three weeks:

**Friday, July 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Summer Spike at Drake Playground – lunch, games, books and crafts. Organized by the Waltham Boys & Girls Club.

**Saturday, July 25, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Waltham Farmers’ Market — The Bookmobile will be parked at Government Center (119 School St.) across from the [market](#). Drop by to say “hi” and check out some books!

**Monday, July 27, 2-4 p.m.**

Lowell Field — The Bookmobile visits the spray park at Lowell Field (190 Grove St).

**Monday, Aug. 3, 2-4 p.m.**

Graverson Playground — The Bookmobile will be parked at Graverson Playground, 16 Pine Vale Road. Come create a library card, return or check out items and learn about library services.

**Tuesday, Aug. 4, 4:30 p.m.**

Mobile Outreach Market — The Bookmobile will be at the Waltham Fields Community Farm Mobile Outreach Market. The market is in the parking lot at First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St.

**Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Waltham Fields Community Farm — Visit the Bookmobile during CSA pickup hours on Wednesdays or while you shop at the farm stand. The address is 240 Beaver St.



*A look inside the WPL bookmobile.  
Photo by Steve Milmore.*

**Thursday, Aug. 6, 6-8 p.m.**

Mighty Squirrel Taproom & Kitchen — The Bookmobile is at Mighty Squirrel Taproom & Kitchen, 411 Waverly Oaks Road. Visit to relax and learn about library services.

**Monday, Aug. 10, 2-4 p.m.**

Prospect Hill Park — The Bookmobile will be at the spray park at Prospect Hill Park, 314 Totten Pond Road.

**Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

Waltham Fields Community Farm — Visit at 240 Beaver St. while you shop at the farm stand. You can obtain a library card, checkout or return items if needed.

**Thursday, Aug. 13, 5-8 p.m.**

Mighty Squirrel Biergarten at Gore Place — The Biergarten is located on the south lawn at 249 Waltham St. in Watertown. Entrance is free. Food and drinks are available for purchase.

Check out the online [Bookmobile calendar](#) for the full schedule.

## Author

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### STEVE MILMORE

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

# No timeline on Rail Trail bridge despite nearby road improvements

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 23, 2026



Although Waltham's section of the I-95 corridor will see significant road improvements in the next few years, the state doesn't currently have plans to create a dedicated cyclist and pedestrian crossing using the old railroad bridge.



*The Mass Central Rail Trail in Weston. Photo by The Waltham Times.*

Some cyclists [already use the abandoned rail bridge](#) as a convenient connection between the Waltham and Weston arms of the Mass Central Rail Trail, which are currently separated by the placement of the highway. Still, the bridge can be difficult to navigate; users have reported poison ivy growing near the track and a steep drop-off along part of it.

A DCR spokesperson said the bridge needs such extensive repairs that the agency has no plans to fix it. Instead, the department is relying on planned improvements to the official route for cyclists and pedestrians crossing the highway, via the Route 117/Main Street bridge.

From the Main Street bridge, travellers can currently turn left onto Jones Road to pick up the Rail Trail connection as it passes [near the commuter rail line](#). Once construction is finished on Green Street, trail users will instead be able to turn left onto its dedicated 10-foot-wide pedestrian and bike travel lane to reach the Weston arm of the trail.

At a [June presentation to the Traffic Commission](#), a representative from VHB, the civil engineering company designing the nearby [Green Street connector road project](#), explained that the new road was designed to accommodate a future signal at the former railroad bridge, because discussions with the DCR indicated the state did hope to redevelop the bridge eventually.

## Comments (1)

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COUNCILOR PAUL KATZ • JULY 24, 2026 AT 9:58 AM

More than two years ago, I wrote a resolution asking DCR to come before the City Council to discuss its plans for the abandoned railroad bridge and the future Mass Central Rail Trail crossing over I-95, particularly the new Green Street extension.

I raised a concern that the proposed Green Street extension would soon become a major piece of the area's transportation infrastructure. Rather than creating a future conflict between the trail and Green Street, I asked DCR to evaluate a grade-separated crossing—either a bridge over Green Street or an underpass beneath it.

DCR refused to attend the committee meeting. Instead, they responded that a grade-separated crossing would be “prohibitively expensive.” That's a vague response, especially given that similar rail trail bridges and grade-separated crossings have been constructed elsewhere in Massachusetts. We also still do not know whether DCR intends to rehabilitate the abandoned railroad bridge or make the Main Street/Jones Road route the permanent trail connection.

While I'm pleased that the Green Street project has been designed to accommodate a future signal at the railroad bridge should DCR move forward, the larger issue remains unchanged: there is still no definitive plan and no timeline from DCR. My greatest concern remains public safety. If the trail ultimately crosses at street level, cyclists and pedestrians will be required to navigate what will become a major highway interchange. That question should be answered before—not after—the trail connection is finalized. The matter remains before the City Council's Public Works/Public Safety Committee, and I intend to continue pressing DCR for answers so residents understand what the long-term plan is.

[Reply](#)

# Two more Waltham restaurants get green light for outdoor dining

BY STEVE MILMORE • GOVERNMENT • JULY 23, 2026



Two more Waltham restaurants were approved for outdoor dining on Moody Street at Wednesday's License Commission meeting. The City Council and Traffic Commission had pre-approved the applications and sent them to the License Commission for review.

The permits allow Guanachapi's (273 Moody St.) and Pho & Spice (475 Moody St.) to block off parking spaces in front of their shops for outdoor dining. The Building Department will give final approval once the barriers are installed and the parking space setup is in place. The outdoor dining season lasts from May 22 until Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.



*Pho & Spice, 475 Moody St. Google Street View.*

In other business the commission:

- Approved an application request for a change of manager from the Waltham Restaurant Group Inc. (d/b/a Tio Juan's Margaritas) at 211 Moody St. from Nicole Grasso to Susan Marie Jimenez.
- Approved a request for a one-day all-alcohol permit from David Crest representing Boston Commandery Masonic Lodge for an event at the Paine Estate, 100 Robert Treat Paine Drive, on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026, from 5 to 10 p.m., for approximately 85 people.

# Driver charged with OUI after colliding with parked car

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 23, 2026

A Waltham woman was arrested after allegedly striking a parked car while intoxicated and resisting arrest.

On July 20 at 12:46 a.m., police responded to reports of a car colliding with a parked vehicle on Middlesex Circle. The caller was working on his car outside when he saw a gray SUV attempting to turn off Middlesex Circle and onto the Mass Central Rail Trail. According to the police report, the caller said the car struck a sign on the trail and then reversed back onto Middlesex Circle before parking in a nearby parking lot. After being parked for a few minutes, the car reversed and hit a parked car.

Officers located the vehicle and spoke to the driver, identified as Ana L. Arteaga Castro, 37, of Waltham.

Arteaga Castro said she was not aware that she had struck a vehicle and denied consuming alcohol or being under the influence of any medications. Police reported they noticed that Arteaga Castro was slurring her words, had glassy and bloodshot eyes, and struggled to keep her balance while exiting her vehicle.

After being handcuffed, Arteaga Castro reportedly refused to walk to the police cruiser and began to scream and cry. Officers carried her to the cruiser and got her safely inside despite her attempts to brace herself and prevent the door from shutting.

Arteaga Castro on July 20 pleaded not guilty to charges of operating under the influence of liquor, miscellaneous municipal motor vehicle ordinance or bylaw violation and resisting arrest. Arteaga Castro was released on personal recognizance by Judge Ellen M. Caulo and will face a pretrial hearing on Sept. 3.

## Additional court activity



*Waltham District Court. Photo by Isabella Lapriore.*

Malachi Scott, 29, of Dorchester, pleaded guilty on July 15 to a charge of open and gross lewdness stemming from an [incident](#) that took place in January in Waltham. Scott will be on probation until July 2028.

Chris Blain, 19, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on July 17 to two charges of assault and battery on a family or household member. The charges stemmed from an incident that happened at a Waltham residence. Blain is being held on the basis of dangerousness at Middlesex County Jail by order of Judge Amanda Ward. He will face a jury trial on Nov. 12.

Moises Tax Tiu, 36, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on July 20 to a charge of assault and battery on a family or household member. The charges stem from an incident that happened at a Waltham residence. Tiu was released on personal recognizance by Caulo and will face a pretrial hearing on Aug. 19.

Alexander M. Bouchard, 32, of Waltham, pleaded not guilty on July 21 to two counts of strangulation or suffocation, two counts of assault and battery on a family or household member, one count of reckless endangerment of a child, two counts of destruction of property and one count of intimidating a witness, juror or police or court official. The charges stem from an incident that took place at a Waltham residence. It is unclear whether Bouchard is currently in jail based on the information provided by MassCourts. Bouchard will face a pretrial hearing on Sept. 11.

James Russell Goslin III, 55, of Mattapan, had a charge of threat to commit a crime dismissed on July 21. The second charge associated with the case, assault with a dangerous weapon, was continued without finding. The charges were in relation to an [incident](#) that took place in Waltham in March. Goslin will be on probation until January 2027.

*All information for this story was gathered from court proceedings and official court documents at Waltham District Court and case information from [masscourts.org](https://www.masscourts.org).*



## Author

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# Waltham robotics company Vicarious Surgical to close

BY STEVE MILMORE • BUSINESS • JULY 23, 2026



Vicarious Surgical, a Waltham-based robotic surgery company once touted as a rising force in medical technology, is shutting down.

The [company announced](#) at a July 21 shareholder meeting that it will wind down the business after efforts to secure additional financing failed.

Founded in 2014, Vicarious Surgical said it will cease operations in an orderly manner at its headquarters at 74 Fourth Ave. while working to preserve the value of its remaining assets for creditors and shareholders.

The move marks the end of a promising startup that had raised hundreds of millions of dollars and had the backing of some of the biggest names in technology, including Microsoft's Bill Gates and Salesforce founder Marc Benioff.

The company was developing a robot that would allow doctors to perform minimally invasive surgery through a single small incision while controlling robotic instruments from a console.

At its peak following its 2021 public listing, Vicarious Surgical employed more than 100 people. Multiple cost-cutting rounds reduced the company to just 26 employees before the decision to liquidate.

The closure marks the end of one of Greater Boston's more prominent medical technology startups and underscores the funding challenges many venture-backed companies face today.



*Vicarious Surgical's robot requires an incision smaller than a dime. Illustration courtesy of Vicarious Surgical*

## Author



### STEVE MILMORE

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

# 10th Middlesex District debate produces lively exchange

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • JULY 21, 2026



10th Middlesex District representative primary candidates Newton city councilor Alison Leary and incumbent Rep. John Lawn engaged in a lively debate Tuesday afternoon hosted by the Charles River Regional Chamber. The debate was moderated by CRRC's public policy and government affairs manager Max Woolf and covered a wide range of topics including affordability, environment, healthcare and housing.

The recording of the debate can be [viewed here](#).



*Alison Leary (left) and Rep. John Lawn (right).*

## Re-pedestrianization for Moody Street

The pedestrian-only plan for Moody Street that was in place in 2020 was struck down by the City Council once again this year. During the debate, both candidates were asked whether they supported the re-pedestrianization of Moody Street.

Leary said she supports making Moody Street pedestrian-only again, and was disappointed it was not revived this year. She said she enjoyed spending time on Moody Street after door-to-door canvassing in the area during her 2020 campaign.

Lawn said it was a question of balance, and that consideration needed to be taken so that both residents and businesses are happy.

"It's not one-size-fits-all for Moody Street," he said. "Outdoor dining needs to be limited to where it is appropriate."

Additionally, Lawn said he made sure money was given to Waltham in the state budget to revitalize Moody Street for pedestrians, and had been collaborating with the mayor and city councilors.

# Support for duplexes and zoning

Lawn said that he wants local governments to continue to have a say on zoning in their cities. He said he helped to pass the [“Yes in God’s Backyard” legislation](#), which prevents additional zoning requirements to allow multifamily housing on religious institutions’ land. He also said he feels single-family house zoning is appropriate for some areas and not appropriate for others. Lawn said allowing the construction of duplexes in single-family neighborhoods could affect neighborhood character.

Leary said the MBTA communities law has been successful, and that she had received an endorsement from [Abundant Housing Massachusetts](#). She said she is not concerned about duplexes changing neighborhood character and that they could be thoughtfully designed to fit the style of the neighborhood.

“Every community should have opportunities for multi-family housing and more diverse housing options,” Leary said.

## Efficiency and transparency on Beacon Hill

When asked whether he thought the State House has an efficiency or transparency problem, Lawn said no. He cited the fact that all hearings and votes are made public, and said that he is in support of the Expanding Public Records Law ballot question. Lawn said that bills take a long time to pass through the State House because it is very complex, but does not think there is an efficiency issue.

Leary stated that she thought there was an efficiency problem due to the high number of legislators and staff in comparison to the low number of state-wide bills that are passed.

“There’s a lot of complexity, but we should have the ability to get more done,” she said.

She also acknowledged the State House’s recent decision to make committee votes public, but said that wasn’t enough. She accused Lawn of not taking transparency seriously, citing a statistic from [Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker](#) that says that only 5% of bills passed through the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, which Lawn chairs, met Lawn’s own transparency requirements. Additionally, Leary said that Lawn has not filed the required [OCPF](#) paperwork for campaign finance transparency.

Lawn stated that he follows the laws and policies put forth by OCPF, and pointed out that Leary had made a charge to her campaign’s credit card that was not campaign related. Leary stated she had mistakenly used the wrong card and reimbursed her campaign immediately after realizing the error. After arguing back and forth about the specifics, Lawn asked Leary, “So mistakes are okay to make?”

“Some mistakes happen, but it happens to you a lot,” Leary said, referencing Lawn’s OCPF campaign finance audits.

## Endorsements and visibility

Lawn stated that four of Leary’s fellow city councilors have endorsed his campaign, as have several other state legislators associated with Newton. Leary said she wasn’t worried about that because she has

been working on getting endorsements from other organizations as well as connecting with voters.

“They want a representative who shows up, who talks to them, who responds to emails. The voters of the 10th Middlesex are my priority,” she said.

When asked whether he felt he was visible enough in his community, Lawn said that he doesn’t attend events “just for the sake of putting stuff on social media.” He also shared that his family responsibilities and building relationships with colleagues at the State House keep him busy. He said “all the neighborhood groups” associated with where Leary lives have endorsed his campaign.

Leary explained that because the neighborhood associations that Lawn was referencing didn’t share her values, they didn’t endorse her. She clarified that she remains on friendly terms with the groups and plans to continue working with them.

“They don’t want housing, they don’t want immigrants. Many of them are Republicans. They don’t share my values or my politics,” she said.

“You owe the people of Nonantum an apology,” Lawn said in response. “Those are the people she represents, and I don’t know how you’d represent an entire district if that’s what you’re saying.”

## Balancing environment and business



*A pair of wood ducks paddles on the Charles River below the Moody Street dam. Photo by Emily Szczypek.*

When asked how she planned to protect the environment as well as the business community, Leary said she didn’t see the two goals as being in conflict. She cited restoration and cleaning efforts for Boston Harbor and the Charles River as success stories that attracted businesses and residents to the area.

“People don’t want to live next to polluted rivers,” she said.

Leary also cited reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning away from natural gas as environmental priorities.

In response to the same question, Lawn acknowledged that it is a challenge to balance utility costs while reaching climate goals. He cited an upcoming bill that would address that issue. He also said that he has

been endorsed by the Environmental Council of Massachusetts.

## Cuts to Mass Save

Lawn said that he was in favor of making cuts to the [Mass Save program](#) because of its high cost. Leary said that she was not in favor of cuts because the program generates money for the state, helps keep the state on track for climate goals and helps to support low and middle income families with their utility bills. She said that the real issue was expensive gas development projects. Both candidates said they were in support of bills that would make polluters pay for their contributions to climate change.

## Medicare for all

Lawn said he supports national Medicare for all. He cited his work on a State House committee and his attendance at forums on the issue, and wants to conduct a study to see if a single-payer Medicare system was possible for Massachusetts. Leary agreed, saying she noticed that healthcare is a large portion of the City of Newton budget. She said she became involved in the Medicare for all movement because she feels health care costs could be reduced.

## Repealing marijuana legality

Lawn simply said “no” when asked if Massachusetts should repeal the legality of marijuana. Leary echoed his answer, stating she thinks regulations around the industry should actually be reduced.

“It’s been a godsend to a lot of communities who are getting essential taxes out of it, and a lot of jobs,” she said.

The debate concluded with closing statements from both candidates, with Lawn highlighting his continued commitment to making communities better and Leary promising to be accountable to voters instead of colleagues or lobbyists.

“I always like a lively conversation,” said Leary. “And we got one tonight.”

## Author

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### CYD ABNET

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# Meet the candidates event at Paine Estate on July 26

BY NEWSROOM • ELECTIONS • JULY 21, 2026



The Waltham Democratic City Committee will host its annual Meet the Candidates Forum on Sunday, July 26, at Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate, offering residents a chance to hear directly from Democratic Party candidates ahead of the fall elections.

The event, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Stonehurst, 100 Robert Treat Paine Drive, will focus on federal, state and county races appearing on Waltham ballots in September and November.

Candidates will deliver brief introductory remarks beginning at 11 a.m., followed by an informal networking session designed to give attendees the opportunity to speak one-on-one or in small groups with those seeking office.

Organizers said the format is intended to encourage more direct and candid conversations between voters and candidates about policy priorities, campaign issues and their vision for the community.

The forum is free and open to the public, and no registration is required.

The WDCC said the annual event aims to boost civic engagement and increase awareness of local and regional races.

Questions about the event can be directed to [WatchCityDems@gmail.com](mailto:WatchCityDems@gmail.com).

## Invited candidates

The WDDC has invited all Democratic candidates listed below. These contests will be decided in the state primary on Tuesday, Sept. 1. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3. An asterisk indicates the candidate has accepted the invitation as of today.

Waltham voters can cast ballots only in the races that cover their district. The city sits in the 5th Congressional District, the 3rd Governor's Council District and the 3rd Middlesex Senate District, and is split between the 9th and 10th Middlesex House districts.

### Federal offices

#### U.S. Senate

- Edward J. Markey — Incumbent U.S. senator seeking a third full term; first elected to the Senate in 2013 after decades in the U.S. House.
- Seth Moulton — Challenger; U.S. representative for the 6th Congressional District since 2015, running against Markey on a generational-change message.

## U.S. House, 5th Congressional District

- Katherine M. Clark\* — Incumbent U.S. representative and House minority whip in office since 2013, seeking reelection.
- Jonathan Paz\* — Challenger in the 5th District primary.
- Tarik Samman — Challenger in the 5th District primary.

## State offices

### Governor

- Maura Healey — Incumbent governor seeking a second term; elected in 2022.

### Lieutenant Governor

- Kimberley Driscoll — Incumbent lieutenant governor seeking a second term, running with Healey.

### Attorney General

- Andrea Joy Campbell — Incumbent attorney general seeking a second term; first elected in 2022.

### Secretary of State

- William Francis Galvin — Incumbent secretary of the commonwealth seeking a record ninth term; the longest-serving secretary in state history.

### Treasurer

- Deborah B. Goldberg — Incumbent treasurer and receiver-general seeking a fourth term; first elected in 2014.

### Auditor

- Diana DiZogio — Incumbent state auditor seeking a second term; first elected in 2022.

### Governor's Council, 3rd District

- Mara Dolan\* — Incumbent councilor first elected in 2024, seeking reelection.
- Margie Palladino\* — Challenger; executive director of the Mass Family Advocacy Coalition.

### State Senate, 3rd Middlesex District

- Michael J. Barrett\* — Incumbent state senator seeking reelection. Running unopposed.

### State House, 9th Middlesex District

- Thomas M. Stanley — Incumbent state representative seeking reelection. Running unopposed.

### State House, 10th Middlesex District

- John J. Lawn\* — Incumbent state representative seeking reelection.

- Alison Margaret Leary\* — Challenger; a Newton city councilor making her second run for the seat.

### Middlesex County Offices

District Attorney, Northern District

- Marian T. Ryan\* — Incumbent district attorney seeking a fourth term; has led the office since 2013.
- David Marc Solet\* — Challenger; a former assistant district attorney and 2025 Middlesex County Prosecutor of the Year who spent 24 years in the office.

Register of Probate

- Tara E. DeCristofaro — Incumbent register of the Middlesex Probate and Family Court seeking reelection. Running unopposed.

*Sources: Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, The Boston Globe, WBUR, GBH, The Associated Press, Ballotpedia and the League of Women Voters of Newton. Compiled by The Waltham Times.*



### Author



#### NEWSROOM

Waltham’s go-to news source, providing high-quality, unbiased, community-focused coverage to foster an informed and engaged community.

### Comments (2)



MARY P. • JULY 22, 2026 AT 11:49 AM

is there a similar plan for citizens to meet Republican candidates?

Reply



JUNE KINOSHITA • JULY 22, 2026 AT 1:20 PM

We have not heard from the local Republican party. We’d love to post a story about that as well if someone could send us the details. – WT

Reply

# League of Women Voters invites Waltham residents to submit questions to candidates

BY NEWSROOM • ELECTIONS • JULY 21, 2026



*Share your questions with LWVW by July 28.*

The League of Women Voters of Waltham and Newton are cosponsoring three candidate forums on August 3. The events will be prerecorded in Newton without a live audience. The link for each candidate forum will be shared for posting on the [LWVW website](#), WCAC and the Waltham Times.

The forums will take place at the following times:

3 p.m. (to be confirmed). Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan v. David Solet. As the chief prosecutor for Middlesex County, the DA represents the government in criminal cases by deciding whether to file charges, prosecuting people accused of crimes and working to ensure that justice is served. District attorneys also work with police during investigations, negotiate plea agreements and make sentencing recommendations to the court. Their duty is not simply to obtain convictions, but to seek fair and just outcomes based on the evidence.

5 p.m. Governor's Councillor District 3 Mara Dolan v. Margie Palladino. The Governor's Council reviews gubernatorial appointments to judgeships and other positions. It also considers pardons and commutations.

7 p.m.. 10th Middlesex District State Representative, John Lawn v. [Alison Leary](#). Represents the 10th Middlesex District (covering parts of Waltham, Newton and Watertown) in the Massachusetts state legislature, votes on state laws and the budget and helps constituents with state government issues.

Waltham residents can ask questions [using this survey](#) prepared by the LWV Waltham.

The deadline to submit questions is July 28.

# Here comes the strum. Watch City Ukers serenade the common

BY NEWSROOM • AROUND TOWN • JULY 21, 2026



A balmy breeze wafted across Waltham Common on Monday evening, carrying the thrum of plucked strings. This was not the sound of a guitar gently weeping but of an ensemble of ukulele enthusiasts, two dozen strong, strumming and singing for the sheer pleasure of making music together. Guided by notebook devices displaying lyrics and chords, the ukuleleists and one drummer (“our Ringo”) sang the masterpieces of the Fab Four with verve and in tune. Their playing drew a few curious onlookers and rewarded them with a delightful moment of musical magic. The Watch City Ukers plan to meet on the common again on August 17.

*Photos by The Waltham Times*



*Malissa Vieira and Marisa Cacciatore co-hosted the evening.*



*Two dozen players filled the bandstand on Waltham Common.*



*A player studies the score for the next song.*



*Jerry Dallal from Arlington.*

# Blaze and Smokey will provide a lifetime of warmth

BY THE CAT CONNECTION • COMMUNITY • JULY 21, 2026



Blaze and Smokey Bear are two beautiful 4-year-old gentlemen who met as kittens in a foster home and have shared every chapter of life since then.



*Blaze and Smokey Bear*

They were adopted into a loving home, but their family's young son developed severe allergies. Despite loving the cats dearly, they had no choice but to return them. It was a heartbreaking decision for everyone involved, and these boys have now lost their home through no fault of their own. They are understandably confused and a bit scared to embark on a new search for their forever home.

Blaze is the quieter one. He takes a little time to begin to trust you, but once he does, he'll gently lean into you until he's practically lying in your lap. He loves to cuddle and nap beside his people. He is a sweet, peaceful spirit and is so gentle that he won't even swat back when Smokey Bear gets a little sassy.

Smokey Bear is more outgoing. He enjoys meeting new people, loves having his face scratched and happily sleeps at your feet each night. He sometimes gets a little jealous when Blaze is getting extra attention and will let him know it's his turn — but their bond is unbreakable.

Blaze and Smokey Bear are looking for a family willing to give them a little patience in the beginning, and in return they will give you their unconditional love. They will flourish in a family with or without children. All they need is love!

If you are interested in adopting, please fill out our [online adoption application](#).

# Waltham home sales, July 13–17, 2026

BY NEWSROOM • HOME SALES • JULY 21, 2026



|                                                                                    | Sale Date | Address               | Sale Price  | BR/Baths | Size    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|---------|
|   | 7/13/2026 | 4 Lincoln Ter         | \$1,375,000 | 3/3      | 2884 sf |
|   | 7/15/2026 | 16 Winter St Unit 24A | \$346,000   | 2/1.5    | 1092 sf |
|   | 7/17/2026 | 14 Grant Pl Unit 1    | \$660,000   | 3/2.5    | 1063 sf |
|  | 7/17/2026 | 88 Temple Rd          | \$830,000   | 3/1.75   | 1906 sf |

# Events Calendar

July 26-August 22

For the latest and complete listings, see [WalthamTimes.org/events](http://WalthamTimes.org/events).

| M                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | T                                                                                    | W                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | T                                                                                                                                                                                                  | F                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | S                                                                                                                                   | S                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>26</b><br>11:00 am - 1:00 pm<br>Meet the Candidates Forum                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>27</b><br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Pre-sunset yoga fundraiser at Hardy Pond           | <b>28</b><br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)<br>6:30 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Concert on the Common: Black Velvet Band                                               | <b>29</b><br>6:30 pm - 9:00 pm<br>Tu B'Av: A celebration of love and community<br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Free outdoor Zumba class                                                                    | <b>30</b><br>8:00 am - 10:30 pm<br>Movies at the Mansion: 'Jurassic Park'<br>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm<br>Science Heroes: Digging it!   Héroes de la ciencia: ¡A excavar!<br>6:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br>Science Heroes: Digging it!   Héroes de la ciencia: ¡A excavar! | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>1</b><br>9:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Waltham Farmers' Market<br>10:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>Waltham YMCA Dash N Splash 5K<br>10:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>Cemetery tour with Waltham Historical Society |
| <b>2</b><br>9:00 am - 10:30 am<br>Coffee social at the Café<br>9:00 am - 10:30 am<br>Coffee social at the Café                                                                                                                            | <b>3</b><br>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Waltham City Council meeting                       | <b>4</b><br>11:00 am - 4:00 pm<br>Teen Graffiti Camp<br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)<br>6:30 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Concert on the Common: Watch City Cadillacs | <b>5</b><br>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm<br>Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting<br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Free outdoor Zumba class<br>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>Rock Band Camp annual concert                         | <b>6</b><br>11:00 am - 4:00 pm<br>Teen Graffiti Camp<br>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm<br>Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham                                                                                                                                            | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>8</b><br>9:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Waltham Farmers' Market<br>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm<br>Silk shading embroidery workshop<br>2:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>African food and cultural festival             |
| <b>9</b><br>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm<br>Second Sunday open house tours at the Golden Ball Tavern Museum<br>4:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Rock Voices Newton – Community rock choir summer concert<br>4:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>It's Possible Conference dinner | <b>10</b>                                                                            | <b>11</b><br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)<br>6:30 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Concert on the Common: Tom Bruhl Trio                                                  | <b>12</b><br>11:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>Stories for adults: 'Birthday celebrations with Grandma'<br>6:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br>Yoga at the Rose<br>6:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>School Committee meeting<br>+ 1 More | <b>13</b><br>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br>The Annual Corn Roast at Gore Place<br>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Conservation Commission meeting                                                                                                                            | <b>14</b><br>6:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>Teen library lock-in party<br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>The World of Robert Roberts tour at Gore Place | <b>15</b><br>9:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Waltham Farmers' Market                                                                                                                                |
| <b>16</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>17</b><br>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>Watch City Ukers Every Month at the Waltham Museum | <b>18</b><br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)<br>6:30 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Concert on the Common: Billy and the Jets                                              | <b>19</b><br>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm<br>Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting<br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Board of Health meeting                                                                               | <b>20</b><br>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm<br>Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>21</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>22</b><br>9:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Waltham Farmers' Market                                                                                                                                |



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The advertisement has a dark blue background with a large, faint clock face. In the top left is a small logo for 'The Waltham Times'. The main text in white reads: 'It takes many hands to deliver trusted local news. Won't you add yours?'. Below this is a photo of a fluffy, light-brown dog wearing a black baseball cap with 'Waltham Times' on it. The dog is holding a red, plush octopus in its mouth. To the right of the dog is a QR code. Below the QR code is an orange button that says 'GIVE TODAY'. In the bottom left is another QR code with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' below it. In the bottom right, on an orange background, is the text 'Get the latest Waltham news, FREE in your inbox'.

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