

Single copy for use in this building only



August 3, 2026



Democratic candidates' meet-and-greet highlights primary challenges



Waltham High's band camp teaches collaboration, confidence to young rockers



The week ahead: Will the Council override the Mayor's Bay Colony veto



Red, white and barbecue: Waltham seniors mark nation's 250th

Skateboarder injured in Main Street crash

BY JOSEPH SHARKEY • PUBLIC SAFETY • AUGUST 2, 2026



A skateboarder was taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after being struck by a vehicle Friday night, authorities said.

Waltham police, firefighters and Armstrong Ambulance personnel responded around 10 p.m. to the intersection of Main and Bacon streets for a report of a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian.

The driver remained at the scene. Traffic in the area was briefly affected while emergency crews treated the victim.

First responders found the skateboarder in the roadway with injuries, according to the police scanner. Firefighters and ambulance crews began treatment at the scene before transporting the person to the hospital.

Brandeis opens up to the public for a deep dive into 250 years of American Jewish history

BY LEA ZAHARONI • AROUND TOWN • JULY 28, 2026



Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island. Photo by Kenneth C. Zirkel. Creative Commons 4.0.

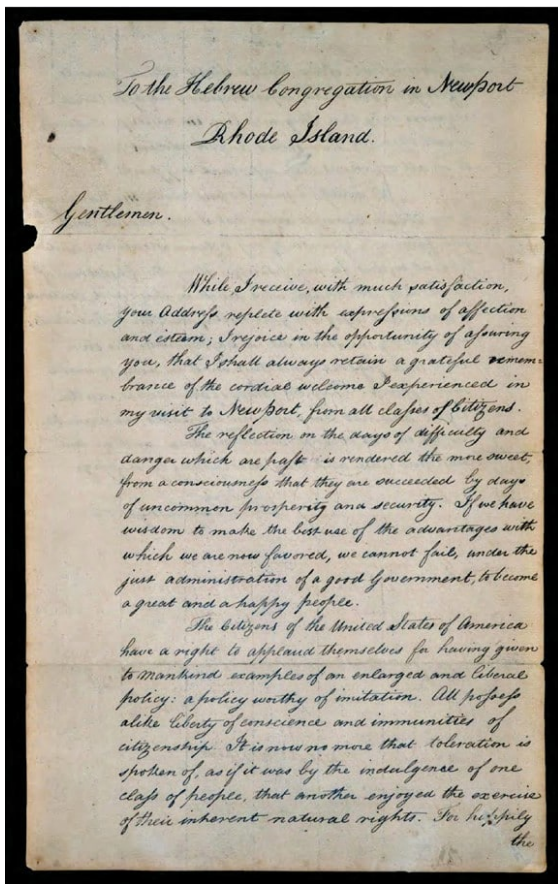
This fall, Brandeis University is turning a full-semester Jewish studies course into a public event.

[“America and its Jews at 250,”](#) a new course co-designed by Brandeis professors Flora Cassen and Dalia Wassner, will trace the history of Jewish life in America from the colonial era to the present. In a twist on the usual college format, members of the public will be able to join the classroom alongside enrolled students for the entire semester.

The course begins Aug. 26 and runs through early December, timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the United States. In a politically divided time, Cassen and Wassner decided to invite a more diverse set of perspectives into their class.

“Why not invite the public into our classroom?” Cassen said. The idea, she explained, grew partly out of a broader concern about public trust in higher education. “The way to gain that trust back isn’t to say trust us, it’s to say, join us.”

The new course is structured around 28 sessions and taught by 26 different visiting lecturers, including a mix of current Brandeis faculty and outside scholars. Topics move chronologically, from George Washington’s 1790 letter promising citizenship to Jews in Rhode Island, through Black-Jewish relations during the civil rights era and up to contemporary debates over U.S.-Israeli policy.



George Washington's letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island. This image is of an official retained copy written in the letter book of George Washington's secretary preserved by the Library of Congress Manuscript Division in Washington, D.C.

Despite the rotating cast of guest lecturers, Cassen and Wassner said they built in both a narrative throughline and standalone accessibility, so that someone who misses a week won't be lost. Members of the public are welcome to do the readings and attend but aren't required to complete any coursework.

Though their reserved classroom holds 50 people, the professors have saved half the seats for members of the public. Anyone can [register](#) to attend a given session in person, and each lecture will be edited and posted to YouTube for free viewing after class.

However, the in-person experience includes something the recordings don't: a live discussion section. Multiple cameras take high-quality video of each lecture, but they turn off for an open conversation on the day's topic between students, professors and guests.

There's no single registration deadline for the semester. Instead, members of the public can register session by session right up until the date of the class. Attendees can commit to one class at a time for \$18 each. Seats are limited, so the professors recommend early registration.

For remote participants who can't attend in person, the course also offers [six Zoom lectures and discussion sections](#) dispersed throughout the semester.

Cassen and Wassner said they hope the course draws not just Brandeis alumni and Jews but a broader audience, including people with no prior connection to Jewish studies. "We really are making a big effort to make it clear that this is a course for people of all backgrounds," Wassner said.

Cassen, who grew up in Belgium, said one goal of the course is to give people, Jewish or not, a fuller picture of the American Jewish community beyond topics that tend to dominate headlines. She pointed out that Jews were able to become American citizens before they could in Europe. "It's the place in the world where Jews have been citizens the longest," she said.

That lengthy history has allowed Jews to come to occupy a hybrid identity: “Jewish Americans, not just Jews in America,” Wassner said. The professors hope to explore the complexities of that unique identity this fall.

On what didn’t make the syllabus, Cassen and Wassner said the editing process was harder than expected. Topics like Jews in the U.S. military and Jewish contributions to the visual arts were cut for space. They said a sequel — “America and its Jews at 251” — might be in order.

Comments (3)



SUSAN SHULMAN POLIT • AUGUST 1, 2026 AT 11:23 AM

When does the course meet, how does someone sign up for either live or zoom sessions, what’s the cost?

[Reply](#)



JUNE KINOSHITA • AUGUST 1, 2026 AT 5:00 PM

Information about the course is posted here: https://brandeisuniversity.my.site.com/s/event-detail?language=en_US&eventId=a4xQK000000057Lp

[Reply](#)



MARC ZAUDERER • JULY 31, 2026 AT 10:29 AM

How do I access the YouTube videos to see the lectures after the fact?

[Reply](#)

Brandeis research center for disabled parents confronts closure after federal funding opportunity removed

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • EDUCATION • AUGUST 2, 2026



The National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities at Brandeis University faces closure due to a lack of needed funding.

For the past decade the center has conducted research, provided training and technical assistance, and analyzed policies affecting disabled parents nationwide. According to the center's analysis, an estimated 4.4 million disabled parents live in the United States.

"This is the only center which focuses on the needs, the experiences of disabled parents," said Monika Mitra, the center's principal investigator.

The closure could happen this September after an anticipated federal funding opportunity was removed before the center could apply.

On July 7 Mitra checked [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), a portal for finding and applying for U.S. federal grants, and learned that the anticipated five-year, \$5 million grant opportunity had been removed from the site. The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research within the Administration for Community Living in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers the grant.

Mitra said the center had been preparing for the opportunity since last September, when it first appeared on the portal's forecast of expected grants. The grant was expected to open for applications in February, but February passed without its release.

The grant supports a national center dedicated to research on disabled parents. Eligible institutions can compete for the award, and Brandeis has held the grant since establishing the center in 2016.

Unless it secures replacement funding, the center faces closure when its current grant expires on Aug. 31.

What's at stake

Nicole Lomerson, researcher and community liaison at the center, is also a parent who uses a wheelchair. She said the center's closure puts all the services the center provides to help struggling disabled parents in jeopardy.

"I'm a disabled parent who knows what it's like to have my ability to parent my child called into question by people with more power and authority than I have, and that was incredibly terrifying, and



The National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities is at the Heller School at Brandeis University, shown above. Photo by Charlie Johnson.

that made my career take a hard left turn towards this issue,” Lomerson said.

Each week Lomerson speaks with parents seeking help through the center’s technical assistance program. Their questions range from how to carry a baby while using a wheelchair to navigating child welfare cases in which a parent’s custody is threatened because of a disability.

Miriam Heyman, the center’s project manager, said its researchers analyze nationally representative data from sources such as the U.S. Census to identify the challenges that disabled parents face and gaps in available support. The center publishes this information on its [data dashboard](#).

Heyman recalled a mother who contacted the center as she was rapidly losing her vision. Once she could no longer drive, she had no way to take her daughter to school.

“If it was the child’s disability, then they would have had to provide a bus,” she said. “But because it was a parental disability, there was no mandate for that school to provide a bus, so they didn’t.”

After learning the center could close, staff held an emergency meeting with its advisory board of disabled parents.

Advisory board member Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, a mother of six, is on the autism spectrum and has rheumatoid arthritis, spinal stenosis, and other physical and cognitive disabilities.

“This center has made me so heard and seen,” Onaiwu said.

Onaiwu has directed multiple disabled individuals considering parenthood to the center’s resources. After reading its materials, watching webinars and learning about support services, she said they decided to become parents.

“You’ve dangled a carrot in front of them, and now if they can no longer access the support that they need, the answers that they need,” she said.

With a sense of resignation to the reality, she added, “It would have been better to just leave us at the vortex that we had before.”

Author



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.

Court Report: Judges dismiss, continue cases

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 30, 2026

Three felony cases were dismissed at Waltham District Court within the past week.

Estime Wesnoldjy, 27, of Waltham, had his case dismissed by Judge Amanda Ward on July 23 due to lack of prosecution. This means the Commonwealth was not prepared to prosecute the case and decided to dismiss it. Wesnoldjy was arraigned on a subsequent offense of assault and battery on a family or household member in February based on [an alleged event](#) that took place at a residence in Waltham.

Cole Stanley, 28, of Waltham, had his case dismissed for unknown reasons by Judge Ellen M. Caulo on July 28. Stanley was arraigned in January on charges of disorderly conduct and obstruction of justice stemming from [an alleged event](#) in the parking lot of Gordon's Liquors on Main Street.

Jiemeng Chu, 36, of Waltham, had his case dismissed by Caulo for lack of prosecution on July 28. Chu was arraigned in April on a charge of assault and battery on a family or household member. The charge stemmed from [an alleged incident](#) at a residence in Waltham.

Additional court activity



Waltham district court.

Kleyvin Ruano Lopez, 21, of Waltham, was found responsible on June 8 for having an unregistered motor vehicle as part of a 24D plea deal. A 24D plea allows probation and a controlled substance education program in lieu of jail time for substance-related offenses. Ruano Lopez admitted responsibility for having an unregistered motor vehicle while four other charges were continued without a finding.

When charges are continued without a finding, this means the Commonwealth does not have enough evidence to convict the accused of the charges and will dismiss the charges at the end of a determined probationary period if all terms of probation are followed. The charges were in relation to [an alleged incident](#) that took place in the McDevitt Middle School parking lot in March of this year. On July 29, Caulo decided that the case would be continued without a finding until June 8, 2027.

No new documents pertaining to cases in Waltham were available this week from the clerk's office at Waltham District Court.

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).

Frank's Barbershop to close after 76 years

BY LEA ZAHARONI • COMMUNITY • JULY 30, 2026



Frank's Barbershop in full operation c. 2019. Credit: [Christine Zhao](#)

Frank's Barbershop, a cash-only, walk-in shop at 623 Main St., will close Aug. 14 as longtime owner Christine Gilligan retires.

Gilligan has run the business for 15 years, though it's been in her family since 1990, when her father bought it from the original Frank — [Francis "Frank" Fichera](#). Fichera was a World War II veteran who operated the shop for more than 40 years, and asked Gilligan's father to keep his name attached after the sale.

Both Gilligan's father and husband asked whether she wanted to rename the business after buying it in 2011. She kept the original name. "It's been Frank's for 60, 70 years," she said. "I'm good. If it's not broken, don't fix it."

Gilligan never thought she would be a barber. But her first career as an office manager proved challenging to juggle as she raised three children alongside her firefighter husband. At 31, she joined the family business at her father's request.

It wasn't as simple as picking up a pair of clippers, though. Massachusetts requires 1,000 hours of barber school, a written exam and a practical state board exam. Gilligan also had to spend 18 months working under a master barber — luckily, her father was available.

Frank's has served generations of Waltham families, including groups of cousins, brothers-in-law and uncles. Gilligan says at one point she was cutting the hair of 16 members of the same family.



Caption: Christine Gilligan at Frank's

Though the shop closed temporarily during the pandemic, those customers faithfully returned despite a plethora of other options on Main Street. The reliable \$22 haircut and lack of complicated appointment system, as well as the comfort of the familiar, kept them coming back.

“It’s like a large extended family,” Gilligan said. “Somebody will come in and say, ‘Oh my god, how did you remember that?’”

After 30 years of barbering experience, Gilligan said her reason for retiring is tied to family changes. Her two daughters have recently married and are planning to start families, and she intends to help with childcare. All three of her children — a teacher and two nurses — have careers with employer benefits, which is something her line of work couldn't provide them.

Gilligan has also run the shop entirely by herself for six years, and the daily before-dawn commute from Lowell has begun to take a toll. On what she's most excited to do in retirement, she said, "Sleep."

It's important to Gilligan that the Frank's name is retired with her. "I really want the customers to know how thankful I am for them because they've been the backbone. I appreciate each and every one of them."

Frank's will be open until Friday, Aug. 14.

Author



LEA ZAHARONI

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

Comments (1)



TONY MANGINI • JULY 31, 2026 AT 10:18 AM

as a former long time and past customer of "frank's" barber shop, i had the pleasure of having frank fichera as my barber for about 30 years, and with christine's father and with her for many years. i was a devoted customer and enjoyed my realtions with all of the past owners. Good luck Christine in your retirement. Tony Mangini age 96

[Reply](#)

From the frontlines of cancer care: Mental health and navigating new treatments

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • HEALTH & LIFESTYLE • JULY 30, 2026



Like many other medical fields, oncology is constantly evolving. Cancer care providers have to keep up with emerging research, new treatment options and insights into how to deliver better care.

A group of nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants, pharmacists and other local providers from Greater Boston's hospital systems convened in Waltham this past March for a continuing education conference run by medical education company Horizon CME.

Together, providers discussed evolving research topics in oncology and learned ways to improve the experiences and outcomes of patients under their care.



Cancer care specialists attended Horizon CME's conference in Waltham. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

Pharmaceutical advancements

The medical tools physicians have at their disposal to treat cancer are constantly in flux. Dr. Khaldoun Almhanna of the Brown University Health Cancer Institute told his audience about treatments that use specific proteins to target malignant cancer cells, saying these more-targeted medications “have fundamentally transformed the treatment landscape” of gastrointestinal cancers. These classes of targeted therapies aren’t limited to gastrointestinal cancer, and came up in talks throughout the conference.

Early results from new potential therapies, however, are frequently nuanced. Dr. Jacob Zaemes of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, for example, discussed a type of radioligand therapy involving radioactive Lutetium 177, which physicians can use to target prostate cancer cells.

He presented complicated results from [a recent study on the therapy](#), which observed patients who had not yet undergone chemotherapy but were receiving an existing type of hormone treatment. Although the study set out to compare patients who switched to radioligand therapy and those who switched to another hormone treatment, many patients moved between the two groups during the study, trying new approaches as their condition progressed.

Overall, the specific use of radioligand therapy the study tested didn’t seem to cause a significant effect on patients’ overall survival rates — but it seemed to slow down the decline in quality of life that patients were experiencing.

Physicians can also have a hard time applying the results of clinical research to specific patients in the context of their individual care plan and medical history. Zaemes suggested that a machine learning model trained on data from clinical trials could serve as a tool for physicians to bridge that gap and make more specific predictions. In fact, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network has [begun to include information on AI diagnostic tools](#) in its guidelines.

Zaemes warned providers, however, that changes in how scientists running clinical trials collect and format their results could introduce error into the predictions of tools trained on older data.

Mental health

The stress and distress surrounding cancer treatment can itself play a huge role in patients’ well-being.

Dr. Kelly Irwin, a psychologist at MGH and an instructor at Harvard Medical School, said that although a quarter of people with cancer show significant symptoms of depression and anxiety, these shouldn’t be written off as normal side effects of cancer. Depression and anxiety can have significant effects on overall health, causing worse outcomes in cancer treatment. [One 2022 meta-analysis](#) suggested that patients with cancer may be twice as likely to die by suicide compared to the general population.

Irwin emphasized that mental healthcare should be a standard part of the cancer treatment process, and patients and providers need to be able to talk about it. This can be especially important, because diagnosing mental illness can be harder in cancer patients, whose treatments may themselves cause symptoms of depression such as mood changes and fatigue.

Cancer also makes it harder to treat depression and anxiety, because standard depression medications may interact with cancer drugs. Irwin suggested trying new medications slowly, targeting specific clusters of symptoms and choosing medication that minimizes side effects.

Irwin also emphasized that patients' mental health challenges often don't end with cancer treatment. Oncological advancements have meant that more and more people have been able to survive a cancer diagnosis: In 2022, the American Cancer Society reported that over the past three decades, cancer mortality rates had dropped by 34%. Many survivors of cancer, though, see their mental health plummet in the weeks immediately after finishing cancer treatments as they try to build back to full capacity and adapt to their pre-treatment routines.

Dan Glidden, a physician's assistant at Dana-Farber, advocated for treatment plans that integrate treatment to help improve patients' mental and physical well-being. Lifestyle changes such as exercise, nutrition, mindfulness, massage and acupuncture cannot substitute for clinical cancer care, but Glidden said these approaches can complement ongoing treatment, improving quality of life by tackling psychological symptoms and helping with pain management.

Glidden encouraged providers to connect patients with free resources tied to their hospitals and local community institutions, such as the YMCA's Livestrong program.

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.

Historical Society tour spotlights Revolutionary War patriots at Grove Hill Cemetery

BY RICHARD (DIC) DRIVER • COMMUNITY • AUGUST 2, 2026



Wayne McCarthy and Desiree Genthner leading the Waltham Historical Society tour highlighting the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers in The Grove Street Cemetery. Photo by Linda Haas.

On Saturday morning, 25 people gathered under a punishing summer sun to walk among the graves of men who marched at the birth of the nation during the Waltham Historical Society's second annual Grove Hill Cemetery tour. The 90-minute tour started on Aug. 1 at 10 a.m. and wound through the historic section of the burial ground on Grove Street. As temperatures climbed, organizers chose a route with maximized shade and offered water to participants.

The booklet distributed to attendees listed the names and biographies of each of the 49 patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War and are buried at Grove Hill. Participants also received a large map of the cemetery's historic area.

Wayne McCarthy, president of the Waltham Historical Society and a past Captain Commanding of the Lexington Minute Men, opened the morning by describing the research underway to document the events of April 19, 1775, and the role the Waltham Minute Men played that day and in the days that followed.

Desiree Genthner led the tour, stopping at the graves of Waltham men who fought and recounting their stories. She described the region's geography in 1775 and explained that news of the confrontations was received later that day, April 19.

Genthner also discussed the Waltham Minute Men's role in fortifying Dorchester Heights, a maneuver that forced the British withdrawal from Boston on March 17, 1776.

Stories were told about Abijah Child, Joseph Clark, Joel Harrington, Elisha Livermore, Josiah Mixer, Abraham Pierce, Peter Warren and Leonard Williams. The route also passed the grave of Nathaniel P. Banks, the Waltham-born Civil War general and Massachusetts governor who died in 1894.

The Historical Society created new grave markers to identify Waltham's patriots. The graves are often overlooked when military veterans' markers are placed, because the Minute Men served before the Continental Army was organized. The tour also covered a corner of the graveyard used for the burial of enslaved people. The tour booklet describes the history of slavery in the area during the Revolutionary War and in the subsequent years.

Participants enjoyed refreshments following the tour at a space dedicated to the Revolutionary War at the Malone Archives and Records Center. Liz Becker of the Daughters of the American Revolution explained the role of women during the Revolution.

The tour attendees praised the handouts for organization and detail.

A note on spelling: the tour booklet uses "Minute Men," reflecting 18th-century usage. The modern spelling is "Minutemen."



Author



RICHARD (DIC) DRIVER

Richard (Dic) Driver is a retired scientist who lives in the Hardy Pond area of Waltham. He is married to Linda Haas, a photographer for The Waltham Times, whom he often accompanies on photo shoots. His passions include science in all its forms, world travel with his wife Linda, reading (especially Scandinavian mysteries), the Welsh language of which he is a native speaker and his family and especially his grandchildren who bring him great joy. Far from being bored by retirement, he is a member of the Artisan's Asylum, a maker space in Allston, where he has taught robotics and is currently working on a series of affordable ultraviolet and infrared spectrometers for citizen science.

Irish tunes grace the common

BY SCOTT ZIEGLER • AROUND TOWN • JULY 28, 2026



The Black Velvet Band delighted the crowd on Waltham Common tonight with a set list of Irish themed songs. Enjoy additional photos below by Tim Lok.



Democratic candidates' meet-and-greet highlights primary challenges

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • ELECTIONS • JULY 28, 2026



With a number of Democratic incumbents running unopposed in the September primaries, Sunday's [candidates forum](#) at the Robert Treat Paine Estate featured the candidates in the remaining contested races going head-to-head.

Hosted by the Waltham Democratic City Committee, the candidates delivered their platforms to local voters and answered residents' questions.

Former prosecutor David Solet is challenging 13-year incumbent Marion Ryan for the Middlesex County district attorney seat. Solet, who used to work in Ryan's office, said he's unsatisfied with the current DA office's effectiveness on enforcing firearms laws, and wanted to challenge some state laws he says limit prosecutors.



Middlesex County District Attorney Marion Ryan spoke to Waltham residents. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Ryan, by contrast, talked about arrests by federal immigration enforcement [interrupting cases in local courts](#), and pointed to her experience as evidence that she can protect against further incursions from the federal government.

Waltham is represented by two districts in the state House of Representatives. Tom Stanley is running unopposed in the Ninth Middlesex district, but in the Tenth Middlesex district — covering part of the South Side and the Bleachery — incumbent John Lawn faces [a challenge](#) from [Newton City Councilor Alison Leary](#). Both spoke at the event; Leary talked about her record on environmental reforms and cost-of-living issues and Lawn emphasized a focus on local issues and collaboration.

The Middlesex seat on [the Governor's Council](#) — a state body that reviews and confirms judges and other positions appointed by the governor — is also facing a primary challenge. Trial attorney Margie Palladino said she's running to protest a recent confirmation by incumbent Mara Dolan [of a family court judge](#) who has faced criticism from domestic violence survivors over a controversial court-ordered parenting program. Dolan, who works as a public defender, argued that the allegations against the appointee in question were not credible and said she personally emphasizes trauma-informed work in her role on the council.



A standing room crowd listens to candidates. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Some of Waltham's federal representatives are up for election as well, with challenges both inside and outside the Democratic Party for seats in the House and the Senate.

Waltham is covered by the state's 5th Congressional District, where [House Minority Whip Katherine Clark](#) is [being challenged](#) by [Jonathan Paz](#), former Ward 9 City Councilor, and [Tarik Samman](#) of Cambridge. Paz and Clark both showed up to the event, although Clark left before making a public speech to avoid confrontation with protesters opposed to federal aid to Israel. Paz spoke about his background as an organizer on issues of social justice and talked about his work in the [immigration rights group Fuerza](#).

The gubernatorial race will still see primary contests, with two challengers from the Republican Party vying for a spot on November's ballot. Although only one Republican candidate for lieutenant governor will be on the primary ballot, a second candidate, Anne Brensley, is also conducting a write-in campaign for the nomination.

Katherine Clark leaves Democratic candidates' event after confrontation over military aid to Israel

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • ELECTIONS • JULY 28, 2026



A visit from House Minority Whip [Katherine Clark](#) to Stonehurst on Sunday was cut short after tense interactions with attendees protesting her position on U.S. military aid to Israel.

Clark was visiting Waltham for a candidate meet-and-greet event held by the Waltham Democratic City Committee, where candidates mingled with voters and then took the floor to present their cases to voters ahead of the upcoming Democratic primary.



U.S. representative and Democratic Whip Katherine Clark speaking at the inauguration of Waltham City Council members in January, 2026. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Clark appeared at the event alongside [challenger Jonathan Paz](#). According to event organizer Andrew Fintzel, soon after her arrival, Clark was approached by a handful of attendees attempting to engage her about aid to Israel.

Fintzel said Clark answered some of their questions and then attempted to disengage and talk to other constituents. These attendees followed her, recording the interaction on their phones and attempting to restart the same discussion until Clark retreated to a private part of the venue. Fintzel said some of the group again tried to follow her, at which point he informed them they were trespassing, asked them to leave and called for police backup.

Fintzel said he discussed the situation with Clark, who he said decided to leave in order to avoid “putting the volunteers in a difficult place” and further disrupting the event for other attendees.

Most attendees were at this point gathered in a separate room to hear from other primary candidates. When Fintzel announced that Clark would no longer be speaking at the event, Eli Gerzon interrupted his speech repeatedly to protest his description of the confrontation and Clark’s departure. After repeated back-and-forth, Gerzon was shouted down by other audience members who expressed that they wanted to hear from other candidates, and Fintzel brought Clark’s opponent, Paz, up to speak.

Outside this room, a police officer had approached other attendees involved in the confrontation, asking them again to leave. These attendees contended they had no further public remarks to make and wanted to remain at the event to listen

to other candidates' speeches. When more police officers arrived, they talked briefly with protesters and then withdrew. According to Fintzel, the officers determined that the protesters had broken no laws and were allowed to stay at the public event. Multiple protesters remained at the event without further public interruption.

Gerzon, who uses they/them pronouns, said they live in Arlington, which is part of Clark's district. They acknowledged that Clark this month [voted in favor of ending military aid to Israel](#) but said they wanted to ask Clark to support another bill to limit military support to Israel known as the [Block the Bombs Act](#).

Gerzon added that they also wanted Clark to publicly call Israel's actions a genocide, following a [September U.N. report](#) labeling Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip as genocide after observations since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israeli civilians.

Fintzel said Clark left to avoid further disruptions to the event. He said he was frustrated that the confrontation disrupted the event for other attendees and deprived them of a chance to speak with her.

He said an informed electorate is essential for democracy, noting that "responsible, respectful dialogue" helps inform the electorate. He said the protesters' behavior does not "reflect the spirit of responsible, respectful dialogue."

Clark's office did not respond to The Waltham Times' request for comment before the publication deadline.

Comments (11)



KEN • JULY 31, 2026 AT 6:01 PM

While I personally believe that Israel has committed serious war crimes in Gaza...the fact is that these protesters are cut from the exact same cloth as their counterparts in Somerville and all too many other places. Their real goal – as the leaders of the BDS movement openly acknowledge – is to dismantle the State of Israel- full stop. And if they are close cousins of "Somerville For Palestine" (as I assume they are) reporters should simply ask them : "Is your actual goal to delegitimize Israel's right to exist and... have you ever gone on record to criticize Hamas – including its massacre of 1,200 mostly unarmed Israeli civilians, its raping of countless women and taking 250 hostages"? Somerville for Palestine has very deliberately NOT criticized Hamas in any way. How about these so- called human rights advocates in Medford?

[Reply](#)



TODD • AUGUST 1, 2026 AT 10:49 PM

Have you criticized the IDF for literally training dogs to rape people? Look that up. That is a thing that has happened to people. It is well sourced. There is no "right to exist" for states, but if there were, the terrorist state of Israel would certainly not have it.

[Reply](#)



LINDEN JENKINS • JULY 31, 2026 AT 3:51 PM

I appreciate all our so-called elected officials being called out about how they have colluded in breaking U.S. law to send our tax dollars to the Zionist entity to continue and expand their genocide in Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Lebanon, Syria as well as Ukraine, Sudan and every other destabilized region globally while increasing fossil fuel emissions burning up the planet. These are all connected disasters and they should all be being disrupted. It's a tiny action compared to their complicity that empoverishes us at home.

[Reply](#)



NUALA • JULY 31, 2026 AT 1:40 PM

Thank you to Eli for confronting Clark. She didn't walk away to speak with other constituents; she walked away to avoid answering questions. Why does she take AIPAC money? Why won't she admit Israel is committing genocide? Why won't she support the Block the Bombs bill? Voters like me in CD5 are tired of our tax money funding genocide instead of food, housing, healthcare, and education at a time when many people in our district are suffering. Clark doesn't seem to be able to put her constituents first. Let's elect someone who will.

[Reply](#)



BEN SILVER • JULY 31, 2026 AT 9:14 AM

I support the right to protest and oppose the extent of Israel's aggression in Gaza (as I believe Ms. Clark does).

However, the protesters were wrong to –

- * Persist in and escalate their confrontation to the point of disabling the planned speaking program and denying Ms. Clark the opportunity to speak and denying us the opportunity to hear her.

- * Act in an intimidating and suppressive way, exemplifying the bullying and terroristic behavior that they supposedly oppose.

[Reply](#)



STEVE GOODWIN • JULY 29, 2026 AT 8:53 PM

I was at the Democrat sponsored “Meet the Candidates” forum at the Paine Estate and was verbally accosted by a group of anti – Katherine Clark protesters who called me a “defender of genocide” perhaps because I had been given, was wearing a Katherine Clark button. It's sad to see people trying to out-shout the Democratic candidates there who were trying to converse with people equally dedicated to free speech. Praise to the police and forum organizers for regaining order and allowing an open forum to continue as intended.

Steve G

[Reply](#)



JOHN PERKINS • JULY 29, 2026 AT 5:57 PM

thank you Eli Gerzon et al.

[Reply](#)



MARY P. • JULY 29, 2026 AT 12:29 PM

Is so sad that our fellow humans can't communicate appropriately and just listen to what it being said.

[Reply](#)



TONI ELKA • JULY 29, 2026 AT 10:20 AM

Thanks for the reporting.

Bullying a candidate is ineffective political action and Ms. Clark showed integrity and competence in stepping away. Her detractors employed a counter productive, polarizing, infantile tactic that never results in moving a cause forward.

Curious what Mr. Paz and his supporters think about how this impacted his campaign.

[Reply](#)



WALTHAM INFLUENCER • JULY 31, 2026 AT 12:19 PM

Asking your elected why they changed course on a issue affecting Massachusetts and the nation (our tax money goes to Israel in case you needed that spelled out) isn't synonymous with bullying. The vast majority of Democratic voters are sick of funding these wars.

[Reply](#)



JAMES • JULY 29, 2026 AT 9:40 AM

My comment is not about the political matter covered by the story – it is about the fact that there is even such a story. It is great to again see local news coverage of local events. I am also very glad to see that the news stories in the Waltham Times are current and fair, and that the Times is not afraid to cover stories that are important, even if they are controversial. Nice job!

[Reply](#)

Alison Leary issues apology for comments made during debate

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • JULY 30, 2026



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

Middlesex 10th District representative primary candidate Alison Leary has issued an apology for comments she made about Nonantum in last week's debate.

During a debate on July 22 between Leary and incumbent John Lawn, Lawn remarked that "all the neighborhood groups" associated with where Leary lives in Newton have endorsed his campaign.

In response, Leary explained that because the neighborhood associations that Lawn referenced 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 to her comments. "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."

Leary eventually issued an apology [via Facebook](#) on July 27, taking back her comments.

“I made a mistake at last week’s debate. I referred to some of my constituents — the people I’m asking to trust me with their vote — as anti-immigrant and anti-housing. That was wrong, disrespectful, and I own it fully,” Leary wrote in her statement.

She went on to say that the diversity of opinions that exist in Nonantum aren’t a drawback, but a strength.

“Reducing any of my neighbors to a label is exactly the kind of politics I’ve said I don’t want to practice. I failed that standard in last week’s forum, and I’m sorry,” Leary wrote.

Leary invited residents to reach her via email at alison@alisonleary.com to to discuss the issue further.

“I’d rather earn back trust through that conversation and not just through a statement,” she said. “I’ve pledged transparency and accountability in our government, and I want to live up to those values.”

Author



CYD ABNET

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

Main Street Moe's closes as owner cites falling sales

BY STEVE MILMORE • BUSINESS • JULY 28, 2026



Moe's Southwest Grill has closed its Waltham restaurant, leaving the city with one fewer fast-casual dining option. The restaurant, located at 831 Main St., has ceased operations after serving customers for more than a decade.

Moe's first opened in Waltham in 2012 as part of the national Tex-Mex chain's expansion into Massachusetts. Known for its made-to-order burritos, tacos and burrito bowls, the "fast casual" restaurant in Waltham was one of more than 500 Moe's locations operating across the U.S.

A sign on the front door last week said the restaurant was closed, but some speculated on [social media](#) that it might be for a short-term renovation or rebranding.

In an email to The Waltham Times on Tuesday, owner Steve Hixson said he reluctantly made the decision to permanently close his Waltham location.

"After 15 years and trying everything I could to remain open, I was just unable to make it work. Our sales were down 15% in 2025 from the previous year, and this year started off slowly with the bad weather we had in January and February. Despite being located in the busy city of Waltham with two colleges in town and many loyal customers, we just weren't doing the sales we needed to remain open," he said.

While Moe's has closed, Waltham residents still have several Mexican dining options to choose from in town. Local favorites include Taqueria El Amigo, known for its authentic street tacos and burritos; Taqueria Mexico, a longtime Charles Street staple; Amuleto Mexican Table on Moody Street; Margaritas Mexican Restaurant; and newer additions such as Monarca Taqueria.



Closed sign at Moe's last week. Photo by Steve Milmore.

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.

Comments (1)



JONATHAN HARRIMAN LHOTA • JULY 29, 2026 AT 1:52 PM

I wish they bring back Taco Bell! We had a location in Newtonville MA!

Reply

New study spotlights gains and gaps in how Waltham High serves immigrant English learners

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • AUGUST 2, 2026



A new study from Brown University's Annenberg Institute spotlights how Waltham High School serves its immigrant English-learner students.

The findings focus on “newcomers,” defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as English learners in their first year of schooling in the United States. The study tells a complex story of both the school district’s promise and its struggle to provide adequate access and equity for this population.

The report, [Land of Opportunity? Immigrant Newcomers in Massachusetts High Schools](#), published July 28, singled out Waltham High School’s Career and Technical Education program as a rare bright spot for access in the state.

In Waltham, about a quarter of high school newcomers participate in CTE, a percentage similar to that of non-newcomers. Ann Mantil, lead researcher on the study, said this level of access for a usually neglected population is very rare across her findings.

“It was actually really unusual to see that among the districts in our study,” she said of newcomer participation rates. In Lynn, for instance, which has a similar number of newcomers in its schools, almost none were enrolled in the high school’s CTE program.

Waltham’s CTE admissions process has no minimum English proficiency requirement and accepts application materials in languages other than English. Researchers found that this ease of entry was not the norm statewide and could correlate with high participation rates in Waltham.

However, the report also found that access alone doesn’t guarantee student success. In one cohort, researchers found that three-quarters of newcomers who entered Waltham’s CTE program had scored far below passing on the state [ACCESS English proficiency test](#) when they arrived in the district. Once enrolled in the CTE program, students spend up to half their day doing technical coursework. Researchers found that the rigorous schedule can preclude a newcomer from getting enough time in English-acquisition classes.

Statewide, the report finds that newcomers’ progress toward English proficiency is slow — and slowest for students who need it most. Just 6% of Massachusetts newcomers who arrived with low English skills were proficient by the time they graduated.



Report cover of “Land of Opportunity: Immigrant Newcomers in Massachusetts High Schools.”

Demanding frameworks, limited time

Teachers in the CTE program hold state endorsements to teach English learners, called [Sheltered English Immersion endorsements](#). However, researchers spoke with instructors who said this qualification is not sufficient.

As a Chapter 74 program that promises students a real-world trade credential by graduation, CTE coursework can be dense and demanding. One anonymous instructor told researchers they lean on Google Translate to teach newcomers in their class. Another unnamed instructor described a message they had received from administration, though it was unclear how high up: “The goal is not for these students [newcomers] to be certified, that we should soften our goals and they’re just here to get exposure.”

Assistant Superintendent Shannon Conley disputed the statement, saying it is not reflective of the current leadership’s vision. The study’s interviews were conducted in spring 2024. Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa did not begin her tenure until summer 2024, and Conley came on board in summer 2025.

Conley agreed that Google Translate is used in CTE classrooms as “an informal, immediate bridge for technical vocabulary,” while the district works on long-term training. While CTE instructors bring invaluable expertise from industries such as automotive tech, carpentry and culinary arts, Conley said that giving them more strategies to teach English learners is “an ongoing and dynamic priority.”

Conley said the district has allocated grant money to targeted English acquisition support for CTE students. “Regarding the instructional practices in CTE, the study highlights critical systemic needs that the district is actively working to support,” she said.

Mantil described a structural tension facing CTE programs statewide as they try to serve newcomers. The state frameworks for Chapter 74 are extremely demanding even for native English speakers, she said, and instructors report having little room to slow down. If students don’t pass final certification exams, the time spent in some fields is essentially wasted.

The report found that CTE teachers in Waltham think the solution is to give newcomers more time in high school to complete both technical coursework and English acquisition. One anonymous teacher was quoted as saying, “if there was one thing that we could get from the state to support these students, it would be two or three more years.”

The tension arises when the imperative to educate conflicts with students’ own priorities. Many newcomers observed in the study work full-time jobs outside of school, and support family members both in and outside the United States. Two or three more years of high school is often not attractive or feasible for a student with these circumstances.

Delayed arrivals bring more challenges

Another layer of difficulty in Waltham is the timing of newcomers’ arrivals. In the 2023-24 school year, less than 30% of newcomers enrolled in high school at the beginning of the year, compared to Woburn’s 70%. A quarter didn’t arrive until March. Coming late doesn’t mean students get more time to complete requirements; they’re held to the same standards as students arriving six months earlier.

“Missing so much of the school year may exacerbate feelings of disorientation among newly arrived immigrant teenagers who possess little prior knowledge of how American schooling works,” the report states.

The study attributes this to the newcomers’ region of origin. In Waltham, many newcomers are from Central America, where intense summer heat keeps travel across the border to a minimum. School calendars in this region are also different, with classes ending between October and December. Students might wrap up a school year in their home country, and come to an American school district only to find they’ve missed the whole first half of the curriculum.

A district and state, in flux

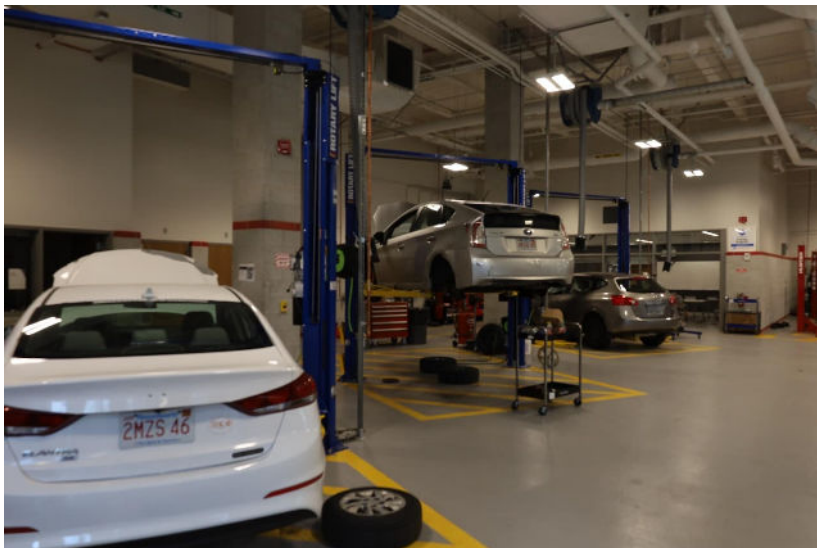
In the two years since the study’s data was collected, Waltham’s English learner population has plummeted. It’s a statewide phenomenon that is widely attributed to a surge in immigration enforcement.

Hard data on the most recent decline is not yet available, as enrollment numbers for this school year are expected to be released by DESE in the fall.

Mantil said that swings in enrollment — a sharp rise after the pandemic, and now a sharp decline — leave districts such as Waltham with a moving target and almost no time to adjust.

“How do we keep up when we can’t even predict what next month is going to bring, much less next year,” she said. Her hope is that districts facing similar phenomena start comparing notes.

“I hope districts are speaking with each other about this shared experience that they’re all going through,” she said. “We face the same obligation we’ve always had to meet those students where they’re at, to educate them, to help them be as successful as they can on their path to graduation.”



WHS autoshop. Photo by Bailey Scott.

Nonprofit Opportunities for Inclusion building disability-accessible group home

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • JULY 30, 2026



Opportunities for Inclusion, a local disability services organization, cleared a major hurdle with the Zoning Board of Appeals at the board's Tuesday meeting. The organization plans to combine its Fiske Avenue headquarters with an adjoining property and redesign the building into an accessible group home.

OFI received variances decades ago to build close to the rear lot line. OFI's attorney argued the case under the [Dover Amendment](#), a state law that lets education-related nonprofits bypass many local zoning rules.

Multiple neighbors, along with Ward 7 Councilor Paul S. Katz, attended the hearing to bring up concerns about specific design choices in the new building.

Board members said repeatedly that the Dover Amendment left them little authority over those choices. As the discussion grew heated, Chair John Sergi called a brief recess so neighbors and OFI representatives could talk privately.

Afterward, the attorney said OFI would keep working with immediate neighbors on some design elements, and the board voted unanimously to grant the variances.

Board pushes back on neighborhood objections

Katz summarized neighbors' concerns: an accessibility ramp positioned close to the rear lot line, insufficient turning space for wheelchair users, privacy screening for the backyard deck and the placement of a proposed dumpster. He asked the ZBA to delay the variances, giving OFI time to consult with abutters.

Katz said he supports OFI's work and appreciated its outreach so far. Although the nonprofit is not required to notify neighbors before building a group home, it had already met with them.

OFI's attorney said the design team found some changes requested by neighbors to be infeasible, but had made others, including adding a pergola to screen the back deck. He added that the building fully complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Several board members noted that OFI must meet additional safety requirements from the health and building departments, and that most of the neighbors' requests were beyond the board's authority.

As the meeting continued, some board members grew frustrated.

“This is a project that only has X amount of dollars to be built ... You’re asking them to spend X thousands to tens of thousands of dollars to make a different ramp design, and change this and change that,” said board member Matthew Deveau, who stated he wasn’t willing to delay the case. “Everybody is saying that they support what [OFI does], but they don’t want it in their backyard.”

Associate board member Sarah Hankins agreed, saying that OFI had already offered outreach beyond what the ZBA could require. “This is a nonprofit,” she said. “These guys can go through the Dover Amendment and not even spend a penny on this, and they’ve already had to spend money. You guys should be falling over yourselves grateful.”

River Street garage

The board also unanimously approved a request from River Street homeowners to build a detached garage larger and taller than its zoning district allows.

Bret Francis, the homeowners’ attorney, said that the district’s height limits on accessory buildings don’t allow a gabled-roof garage big enough for some modern cars. He said the applicants don’t plan to use the garage as an accessory dwelling unit, noting they could build a two-family home by right.

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.

O'Connor brings police, military experience to veterans' services role

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • AUGUST 2, 2026



After 23 years with the Waltham Police Department, John J. O'Connor III could have settled into retirement. Instead, the lifelong Waltham resident has taken on a new mission as the city's veterans' services director, helping former service members navigate benefits, access resources and avoid falling into crisis.

O'Connor, who was unanimously approved for the position in February by the City Council's Committee of the Whole, brings both military and public service experience to the role. He served six years as an infantryman in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, including two deployments, and continues to volunteer with the Wounded Warrior Project and other veterans organizations. He and his wife are raising two sons in Waltham.

As veterans' services director, O'Connor's primary responsibility is administering Chapter 115 benefits, a state-funded program that provides financial assistance to eligible low-income veterans and certain dependents for necessities such as housing, food, utilities, clothing, medical, behavioral health treatment and other essential living expenses. He also helps veterans connect with SNAP, WIC and other state and local assistance programs.

"Accessing those benefits and knowing how to navigate them is the difficult part," O'Connor said. "There's no way anyone can know everything – it's a huge bureaucracy."

His mandate, he said, is to identify every available resource to help veterans remain financially stable and connected with the services they need. "The goal is to help them keep their heads above water, and look for any and all alternatives that can meet their needs."

As Waltham's veteran population continues to age, O'Connor said he often works with adult children seeking assistance for aging parents. One of his priorities is encouraging veterans to enroll early in VA healthcare before they need it, making it easier to access services later in life.

He said his biggest accomplishment during his first six months on the job has been "meeting people where they're at."

"No veteran is the same," O'Connor said. "We have very high-functioning vets, like nuclear submarine officers, come in here and others who are really struggling. But the goal and the opportunity is the same: to improve their quality of life, regardless of their situation."

O'Connor said many veterans don't realize they may qualify for assistance or assume the process is too complicated to pursue. Part of his job, he said, is breaking down those barriers by answering questions,



O'Connor at the Waltham veterans' services office. Photo by Steve Milmore.

completing paperwork and connecting veterans with organizations best equipped to help. Even when his office can't provide a specific benefit, he said, he works to find someone who can.

Although administrative responsibilities have left less time for community outreach than he expected, O'Connor said building relationships also remains a top priority. He hopes to connect with veterans before they reach a crisis point and encourages anyone who may need assistance to contact the [Veterans' Services Office](#) by phone, email or in person.

"I've been in the job for six months, and my fellow veterans have helped me tremendously," he said. "Now it's my turn to help them."



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.

Red, white and barbecue: Waltham seniors mark nation's 250th

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • AROUND TOWN • JULY 28, 2026



Waltham seniors gathered Friday, July 24, for a summer cookout at the Center on Aging, where hot dogs, hamburgers and sausages came with a side of patriotic fanfare.

DJ Rich Profita spun festive tunes throughout the event, which carried a theme celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary. Red, white and blue decorations and flags filled the room.

Uncle Sam also made an appearance — Center on Aging director Pat O'Brien, sporting white whiskers and a top hat.



From left, Patrick O'Brien, Center on Aging Director and Uncle Sam look-alike, and Adeline Mega.



From left, Fay Chaisson, 73, and Roselyne Moreau, 73.



DJ Richard Profita.

From left, Gail Lavener, 73, and Ian Aitchison, 83.

Author

PRISCILLA ELLIOTT

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

Comments (1)

 SANDRA • JULY 29, 2026 AT 9:21 AM

Looks like a great time was had by all at the senior center. Hot dogs hamburgers and sausages. Sadly looks like no vegan options were given. Not everyone eats animals.

Reply

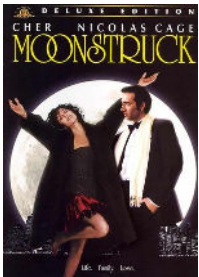
Senior Center this week: “Moonstruck” on Friday

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • AUGUST 3, 2026



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

A limited number of Farmer’s Market coupons worth \$25 are available to eligible seniors (based on income guidelines) on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the Waltham Council on Aging at 781-314-3499, Aug. 4-8 to request coupons.



Wednesday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m. iPhone travel tips for seniors. Want to make daily life easier with your iPhone?

Join this class to learn smart iPhone tips, including navigating and setting up important iPhone screens, switching between apps, scanning QR codes and extending battery life. Free, but please register.

Friday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m. with subtitles; 1 p.m. without subtitles. Film screening of “Moonstruck.” Cher and Nicolas Cage shine in this charming romantic comedy about love, family and fate in Brooklyn’s Italian-American community. Moonstruck is a beloved classic that celebrates the beautiful chaos of finding love when you least expect it. Rated PG/ 1 hour 42 minuts. \$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 Tuesday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ukulele group. Drop in. All are welcome, beginner or advanced.

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

Every Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ugandan Golden Seniors.

Here is the full schedule for this week:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3. 9:00 <u>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	4. 9:00 Crochet 9:00 Tai Chi - Adv. 9:30 Bridge Lesson 10:00 Tai Chi- Beg. 10:00 <u>ESL</u> 11:00 <u>Grief Support Group</u> <u>No Class</u> 11:00 Mah Jong 11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba 11:30 Ukulele Group 1:00 Bridge Game 1:30 Chair Exercise 5:00 <u>Country Line Dance</u>	5. 9:00 <u>Walking Group</u> <u>Veterans Field</u> 9:00 Blood Pressure 9:00 Quilting 9:30 Exercise Class 10:00 <u>iPhone Tips</u> 10:30 <u>Hora del Café</u> 10:45 Exercise Video 11:00 Meditation 12:00 <u>Lunch: Chicken</u> <u>Cordon Bleu / Tuna Salad</u> <u>Sandwich</u> 1:00 Bingo 1:00 Hand and Foot Game	6. 9:00 <u>Walking Group</u> <u>Veterans Field</u> 9:00 Keep It Moving- <u>No Class</u> 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 11:00 Mah Jong 11:15 Tai-Yo-Ba 12:05 <u>WooSox Game</u> 12:30 Cards - Spades 1:00 Cribbage/Canasta	7. 9:00 Ceramics <u>No Teacher</u> 9:30 Poker 10:00 <u>Movie w/captions</u> 11:00 <u>Ugandan Golden</u> <u>Seniors</u> 12:30 Cards - Spades 1:00 Bridge: <u>No Instructor</u> 1:00 <u>Movie: Moonstruck</u>

The week ahead: Will the Council override the Mayor's Bay Colony veto, and will non-union workers get a raise?

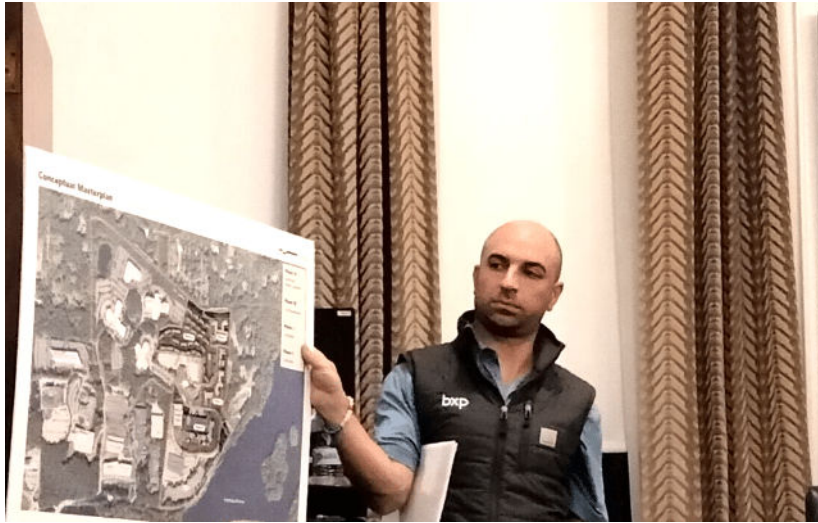
BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • NEWS • AUGUST 2, 2026



Monday's special City Council meeting promises to be jam-packed, with a pile of business stacking up since [its last meeting in June](#). The next meeting is scheduled for September. Notably, on the agenda is Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy's veto of a set of zoning changes [approved by the council in June](#) — changes allowing real estate firm BXP Inc. to build over 1,000 units of housing [at its Bay Colony property](#) on the western side of the Cambridge Reservoir.

Fearing the project will overtax traffic and the infrastructure, [immediate neighbors have pushed back on](#) the immense project. The Mayor opposes the changes because the new housing would be at the end of the parcel, close to an existing neighborhood, rather than in the middle of the parcel.

It has also, however, garnered support from affordable housing advocates in the city, who say it'll bring a much-needed infusion of housing to Waltham. Two other large projects are also in the works.



BXP's Bay Colony plan updated as of early April 2026.

City Council and committee meetings

In addition to the Bay Colony veto, councilors plan to return to a number of postponed topics from June's meeting, including a permit request to build [a boutique hotel](#) on an empty Moody Street lot; an update on [the Bluebikes bike-sharing program](#) the council [voted to approve last fall](#); plans to repave the [city's private ways](#); and Waltham's annual Kevin R. Ritcey Public Service award.

The council will also consider a special act to allow the city to provide healthcare to the Mayor — who currently does not receive health insurance from the city — and changes to city employees' pay under a

new bargaining agreement with the laborers' union, as well as proposed raises for non-union positions.

The council will hold public hearings on a street opening on Gale Street and a fast-food permit for [a Cava location in the Market Basket plaza](#). It will also hear a list of requests from the mayor, including for new equipment for the 911 and engineering department; funding for [municipal water and sewer projects](#); the appointment of Debra Catalanotti to the Waltham Council on Aging and Diane Lane to the Board of Cemetery Commissioners; a donation to the Fire Department and two requests to rename parts of the former high school at 617 Lexington St.

It will also discuss whether to use eminent domain laws to install traffic safety improvements at Pelham Road and plans to go into executive session to discuss the possible purchase of lots [at 600 Main St.](#) and [14-16 Spring St.](#) Additionally, it will hear details from the Mayor about the applications for [multiple new city-run affordable housing](#) properties.

The council's special Monday meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chambers.

Disability Services Commission

The Disability Services Commission is scheduled to meet on Friday morning at 8:30 a.m., over Zoom. To request further meeting information, participants can contact the DSC Chairperson, Mark Johnson, at markj@walhouse.org.

Purple Heart flag-raising

The city's Veterans Office is holding a ceremony this Friday to commemorate National Purple Heart Day.

Attendees will raise a flag at 10 a.m. outside City Hall to honor Waltham residents who have received the Purple Heart or died in combat while serving in the U.S. military.

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.

Two college-bound Waltham grads inspire new narrative for Latino students

BY DAVID E. GUMPERT • COMMUNITY • JULY 28, 2026

Can Waltham High School reverse the growing perception — prompted by a low state assessment ranking and cuts to its ESL program — that it is not doing an effective job preparing its Latino students to pursue a college-based career path?

If two recent Latino Waltham High School graduates, who also happen to be best friends, have anything to say about it, the school is already on its way to setting new standards and aspirations for Latino students.

The two — Linda Herrera and Haybi Garcia — leveraged Waltham High's ESL classes and college counseling programs to earn admission to Boston College, where they will begin this fall. They have also each staked out demanding part-time jobs and internships, and still find time to serve as mentors to other Waltham High School students and recent graduates.



Linda Herrera. Photo by David Gumpert.

Each took a precarious path to the United States before launching onto their fast-track college admission success. Herrera had just lost her mother and become an orphan in Colombia in 2021 when she decided to travel alone to the U.S. to join an older sister who lives in Waltham.

She entered WHS as a junior who needed help with her English. “When I first arrived at Waltham High School, I took a placement exam to assess my academic levels in each subject and determine my appropriate class placements. Based on the results, I started in ESL Level 2. The English knowledge I possessed at the time was what I had previously learned in high school back in Colombia,” she said.

“The ESL program was incredibly important to me. It helped me build confidence in my knowledge, taught me how to communicate effectively and pushed me out of my comfort zone. Even though our classes were comprised almost entirely of fellow Latino students, this environment actually gave us a safe space and more confidence to practice speaking with one another.” Noting that there have been cuts in the ESL program since she graduated from WHS, Herrera said, “I don’t know what I would do if I was there and there was no ESL.”

A grueling journey to Waltham

For Garcia, the transition to the United States was especially traumatic. Gang violence in Guatemala City made life increasingly difficult for all members of her family, including her father, who was a policeman. A gang leader had decided he wanted to marry Haybi when she was only 11.

Things got more challenging not long after when her family decided she should leave Guatemala, as she recalled in a speech last year accepting 2024 Youth of the Year honors from the Waltham Boys & Girls Club. She recalled the trip, and how she almost didn’t make it: “I was 12 years old in the summer of 2019, living in Guatemala, and was the caretaker for my younger siblings. I can clearly remember the call from my mother, who was living in the United States, telling me that I was to take the journey, to join her, with my two younger siblings, by myself. I felt lost and trapped between leaving my home, which was unsafe, and traveling somewhere new with so much uncertainty and responsibility,” Garcia said.



Haybi Garcia. Photo by David Gumpert.

“All I could think about was, ‘Why me?’ I had already endured so much adversity. The thought of ending my life seemed like the only solution. As my siblings slept, the silence around was a reminder of the weight of my decision. As I stared into the void, searching for a sign or the perfect moment to end my suffering, my sister’s voice unexpectedly pierced the

silence. She asked me to make her favorite sandwich for school the next day. At that moment, it hit me that the decision would destroy my siblings. They relied on me, and I couldn't bear the thought of causing them harm. So instead, I made a different choice — to take on the responsibility of bringing them to the U.S.," she said.

"A journey that was supposed to be seven days took us three long months, 90 grueling days and a total of 2,190 hours. Despite the hardships and challenges along the way, I knew deep down that it was worth it for their well being and their future. What I did not expect, however, was to begin building a future for myself."

Like Herrera, Garcia did much work in the high school's ESL program, which she says "was extremely helpful and important, even when some areas were repetitive and unnecessary."

The college search, finding the best fit

The two looked at a number of college options they learned about via the high school's college counseling program, including Brandeis, Emmanuel College, UMass Boston and Framingham State. While Herrera had had an internship at Brandeis while she was at WHS, Messina College, which is affiliated with Boston College, stood out to her as the best college option. "From the very beginning, I felt that Messina offered everything I was looking for as a first-generation student and an immigrant. I truly identified with their mission and vision" of educating immigrant students. It also helped on financial aid. My biggest challenge was financial and legal. When I was applying to colleges, I had not yet received my Social Security number, which made me ineligible for many state-level and institutional financial aid packages. Therefore, Messina became the best path forward...because of financial accessibility," Garcia said.

Garcia said she could have gone to Brandeis, Framingham State or Emmanuel College, "but I didn't feel like those were the best for me (compared to) Messina."

After two years at Messina to gain associate degrees, they each applied to Boston College and were admitted. This fall, Herrera will be working toward a degree in management and Garcia toward a degree in psychology. Herrera hopes to keep working part time at a Waltham flooring company where she has worked for the last year; before that, she had an internship at a Waltham wealth management company.

The two have also made themselves available to other Latino students struggling to succeed with a new language and culture. "I met many immigrant students with stories similar to mine" while at Waltham HS, Herrera said. She wanted them to "see through my experience that their education doesn't have to end with high school." Garcia built on her difficult journey to the United States to offer a creative writing course at the Waltham Boys & Girls Club, where she has worked part time as a counselor since high school.

Officials at Messina College could not be reached for input on their outreach efforts to attract Waltham High School graduates.

Comments (1)



PHIL MOSER • JULY 29, 2026 AT 5:14 PM

Thank you to the author for interviewing these students and sharing their incredible stories of overcoming adversity. Thank you to the two students for your courage in sharing your personal stories. The hardships you have overcome are hard to imagine, and I pray your hard work will be rewarded with happiness, security, and success for you and your family.

[Reply](#)

Waltham High's band camp teaches collaboration, confidence to young rockers

BY NIC TSOLAS • ARTS & CULTURE • JULY 28, 2026



Guitarists Dylan Haley and Austin Chabot focus intently on their parts. Photo by Nic Tsolas.

At Waltham High School this summer, rock magic is being made. The theater fills with passionate and lively sound while lights shimmer overhead. Vocalists Keylin Aguirre and Laylah Draper share a look of excitement as they raise their voices over the music. They shimmy with one another, sharing energy as they sing.

Meanwhile, drummer Celeste Fox keeps a steady beat, mentally preparing for her solo. She trusts in her abilities to carry the responsibility of guiding the band, her talent shining alongside the rest of the group. The guitarists follow her lead and blend their unique parts together to create a vivid melody.

These students are rehearsing for this year's annual rock band camp performance, taking place at the high school on Aug. 5th. They meet here multiple times a week to practice, sharing tips and perfecting their individual sounds.

Since the camp's establishment 22 years ago, students from ages 11 to 18 have worked hard to put on a brilliant show, forming bonds and building confidence in themselves along the way. The program allows students to learn and show off their musical talent in a unique way that sticks with them long after the camp's end.

The camp was established by Waltham music teachers Kevin Burke and Kevin Coyne when they discovered that their students wanted to perform music together, but didn't know how. Since then, students have said that they especially appreciate the collaborative approach of the camp, as it allows them to share their interests with others in a truly meaningful way. This year, 45 students have come together to put on a show.



“It almost feels like a sports team,” says Cody Caballero, who graduated from Waltham High this past year. “You just form these connections with people, you all have your own separate roles in the team so it’s like any team activity. It’s different than playing it alone in that you get to be with your friends and other musicians you admire, and make a really cool sound together that you wouldn’t get playing alone.” Caballero has been attending the program for 8 years, this year being his last.

Vocalists Laylah Draper, Brian Crowley and Keylin Aguirre jam out to the guitar, while Cody Caballero plays keyboard and Celeste Fox accompanies on drums. Photo by Nic Tsolas.

Vocalist Aguirre offers a similar sentiment, saying that it is “beautiful and very energizing feeling the music [with everyone else].”

Students also say that the program has allowed them to build confidence in their abilities, both on the stage and in life.

“I feel like starting out I was more of a pop-ish singer, like I didn’t have any texture to my voice,” Aguirre says. “But now I’ve learned how to add that, I can hit way higher notes in my belting range... I’m not scared to fully give my 100% on anything.”

Drummer Celeste Fox agrees, saying she used to “hide behind the drums.” Being on the stage in front of everyone forced her to play loud, and taught her that music is all about the support from your bandmates. The program has allowed her to build enough confidence to have her own solo segment, which you can hear for yourself during the show.

The camp directors deserve some credit for these transformations. Many campers praise them for the guidance they’ve offered over the years, and for pushing their students to step outside their comfort zones. Aguirre points out that they are especially good mentors due to their real-world experience in music. “You can look them up on spotify and you’ll actually find them,” she said.



Celeste Fox takes the stage for her drum solo. Tessa Allia keeps her company from the drum stage. Photo by Nic Tsolas.

These hard-working students will put on a full performance on Aug. 5th at the high school, starting at 7 pm, with tickets available at the door (\$15 for adults and \$10 for senior citizens and students). It will feature songs from a variety of genres, including pop, motown and rock. The proceeds are donated to the Walter Tokarczyk Scholarship fund, which is given annually to one Waltham senior pursuing a career in music.

“It’s wonderful, these kids really enjoy performing music so it’s a pleasure to work with them, and they work super hard,” says Burke. “I watch them, how they practice and how they work together, and it’s just a valuable experience as a teacher, to work with such motivated kids.”

Comments (1)



STEPHEN SARDELLI • JULY 30, 2026 AT 7:18 AM

I love Nic reporting, makes me feel like I have been part of the community of music. I loved the piece on the Ice Cream shop mmmm really made me feel like wanting Ice Cream from that place.
Good luck with your writing Nic , looking forward to reading your next story.

[Reply](#)

Waltham residents make a splash at YMCA 5K race

BY COLLEEN CROTTY BRENNAN • AROUND TOWN • AUGUST 2, 2026



Ready to run! Photo by Colleen Brennan.

The Waltham YMCA held its Dash N Splash 5K road race and outdoor pool swim on Saturday, Aug. 1, as part of the YMCA of Greater Boston 5K Race Series, a schedule of road races in the Boston area that encourage people to set fitness goals and experience the fun of competition.

The morning was warm and sunny as Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy welcomed everyone and acknowledged all the YMCA does for people of all ages. Lindsey Lerit, Waltham Y executive director, led a brief warm-up for the more than 100 runners poised at the starting line. People of all ages, including parents pushing strollers and a threesome with their dog in tow, made a fast start.

The 5K course led them down the Y's long driveway, turning right on Lexington Street and left on Lake Street. Runners looped around Pizzi Farms and back down Lake Street. The sun was strong and the temperature was rising as runners hit the final stretch up the Y's winding driveway that was described by Lerit as "Waltham's own Heartbreak Hill."

Cold bottles of water were quickly consumed along with healthy snacks. Then came the best part: a refreshing swim in the outdoor pool for runners!



COLLEEN CROTTY BRENNAN

Retired educator and Waltham resident since 2021, Colleen is happy to be part of a team bringing news and information to the people of Waltham to strengthen and enliven the civic and cultural life in our city.

Waltham teen heads to PGA Golf Management program — with a Big Brother in his corner

BY LIAM O'BRIEN • SPORTS & RECREATION • JULY 28, 2026



When Jake Alpert was connected with high school student Ryan Griffin-Goode via the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts Community Based Program three years ago, he figured he might be able to give some golf tips to his younger mentee.

Quite the contrary. Now headed to Coastal Carolina University's PGA Golf Management Program to pursue a career in the golf industry, Griffin-Goode has been the one coaching Alpert to build up his prowess on the course over what has blossomed into a tremendous friendship.



Pictured from left to right are Ryan Griffin-Goode, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts President & CEO Mark O'Donnell, and Jake Alpert. Photo courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts.

"Going into the program, I was thinking, 'Maybe I'll teach someone about golf,' and here I am learning," Alpert, a 26-year-old Wakefield resident, said. "Ryan is an incredible teacher and so patient. That is such a great skill to have when you want to be teaching other people. People definitely receive that style a whole lot better. He gets mad at me because I grip the club like a baseball bat. That's the one thing I don't listen to him about."

Alpert and Griffin-Goode, an 18-year-old Waltham resident and graduate of Xaverian Brothers High School, were matched up by BBBSEM in April 2023. Their shared love of golf provided an opportunity to learn from each other, but the resulting friendship has evolved into so much more.

"We are just brothers at the end of the day," Alpert said. "At first, we were feeling it out, getting to know each other, and now it is just a friendship. It's been great, I love hanging out with Ryan and it has been awesome to grow our relationship, get closer over the years."

"A ton in common"

Every BBBSEM match begins with a few interviews to identify each participant's interests and pair mentors and mentees with shared passions. From the jump, Alpert and Griffin-Goode had a ton in common. The two first met up for nine holes of golf at Pine Meadows Golf Club in Lexington that spring and got some ice cream after the round.

"I was like, 'This is me seven years ago,'" Alpert said. "Like it's exactly how I was. It was a great first day and I knew right then that we would get along."

It's hard to keep track of all the fun activities the two have shared since then.

“We’ve done Red Sox games, Celtics playoff watch parties, a concert, going out to eat,” Griffin-Goode said.

“He’s listing off all the big ticket items,” Alpert said. “It’s just been nice, especially as Ryan’s gotten older, just to hang out. We can just talk about anything, really. We both love Mexican food so we have been trying some local joints around the Boston area. I’m trying to get him more cultured in the older films, so we watched ‘Shawshank Redemption,’ my all-time favorite. Ryan has even visited Maine, where my mom lives, and we’ve played golf there. We’ve done a lot of cool things.”

The two were headed to the AMC Burlington Cinema 10 after our conversation to catch a screening of “The Odyssey”.

A new ambition

Alpert has been the perfect role model for Griffin-Goode over the years.

“Jake sharing his experiences with me and how he got through high school and college definitely gave me a new perspective on how I look at it,” Griffin-Goode said. “It’s great to have such a close bond and relationship with someone who has been through the same things, and that is the mentor part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts.”

Griffin-Goode is about to embark on a major life change in moving to Conway, S.C., and Alpert plans to be there every step of the way.

“We’re going to see each other less. But I don’t think we’re going to talk any less, and I’m going to visit him down there, get a round or two of golf in and hang out. When he’s back during Thanksgiving, winter break, and then during the summer, we’ll catch up then, too.”

Griffin-Goode, who tied the course record of 64 at Wayland Country Club before unofficially breaking the mark by scoring one shot better two weeks later, was a prolific golfer in high school, but decided to shift his focus to coaching.

“I originally wanted to get recruited and play golf in college,” Griffin-Goode said. “I had some decent scores, but not good enough to play at such a high level. In high school, I got my friend Danny into golf. He had never picked up a club before and I just taught him the ropes. That sparked me wanting to become a teaching professional. I enjoyed that so much, just seeing him turn into the golfer that he is today.”

While the work will be demanding, Griffin-Goode is enthusiastic about the friends and network connections that he is going to foster in college.

“We [the students] are all going to have similar interests and we’re all going to be together in a separate residence hall,” Griffin-Goode said. “With our tuition and dues, we get a course membership and we also have a class dedicated to managing a golf course and going through PGA of America.”

Griffin-Goode has clear ambitions for his professional future.

“I would love to be a club professional around Boston and then go down to Florida in the wintertime,” he said. “If not, playing local mini-tours and climbing my way up into the Korn Ferry tour, something like that.”

Thanks to a match made through BBBSEM, no matter where college or life takes him, Griffin-Goode knows he’ll always have Alpert in his corner.

Why vote for Margie Palladino for Governor's Council

BY GUEST WRITER • LETTERS • JULY 30, 2026



I recently attended to Waltham Democratic Town Committee candidate forum on Sunday, July 26th. Incumbent Mara Dolan spoke defending her vote in favor of a judge who believes in reunification therapy in problematic divorce cases, including domestic violence.

As a nominee, the now-judge, said in her confirmation hearing (March 18, 2026) that she asked women to change their 209A protective orders—that keep their ex safely away from them— so they could be in the same room to work out their problems. That's dangerous.

I hope you read this and think it sounds **ludicrous!!** Mara Dolan called domestic violence survivors “ludicrous” at the forum because we objected to the nominee and asked Dolan to vote no. She ignored us. Now this judge is on the bench until forced retirement at age 70.

Please vote for Margie Palladino for Governor's Council district 3. She will listen to you because your voice matters.

Mary Olberding
Hampshire Register of Deeds
Belchertown

Wildlife, history and herbal tea: Farm walk traces Cornelia Warren's legacy

BY EMILY SZCZYPEK • AROUND TOWN • JULY 30, 2026



Visitors walking on path.



Twenty-six people gathered at Waltham Fields Community Farm on July 23 for an evening of local history, birdwatching and farm-fresh refreshments at the farm's annual history walk and talk.

The evening opened with a talk by Dee Kricker on Cornelia Warren, the Waltham philanthropist whose 1921 will set the course for much of the land the group would be walking on. Warren, who inherited the 200-acre Cedar Hill estate from her father, paper manufacturer Samuel Dennis Warren, divided the property among the Girl Scouts, the Massachusetts Agricultural College — now UMass — and the city of Waltham, with the intent that it serve the public. The Beaver Street parcel she left for agricultural use has been farmed continuously since the mid-17th century and is home to Waltham Fields Community Farm, which began growing there in 1995.

Kricker was joined by Sonja Wadman, executive director of the Waltham Land Trust, and Stacey Daley of Waltham Fields Community Farm.

After the talk, the group walked the fields, where rows of produce and cut flowers shared the landscape with an unusually generous cast of wildlife. Attendees spotted a hummingbird, wild turkeys — including a hen with a chick — a blue heron, killdeer, a robin, chimney swifts, barn swallows, a goldfinch and house sparrows. A green heron flew overhead. Two bucks with large antlers, a doe, a groundhog and Eastern cottontail rabbits also made appearances.

Along the way, the group learned why some of the ground looked idle. Letting a field go fallow, farm staff explained, restores soil health, supports long-term productivity, disrupts pest cycles and improves the land's ability to hold water — a practice with as much to do with the next decade's harvest as this one's.

The walk ended in the shade with a question-and-answer session as the sun set, over teas brewed from herbs and flowers grown on the farm and an assortment of light snacks that tasted like they had not traveled far.



Author

EMILY SZCZYPEK

Szczypek got the interest in photography from her dad and in nature from her mom. She chronicles nature, family, events, sometimes meaningful sometimes random. She has lived in Waltham for 29 years. “I love visiting the countryside but love living right in the city,” she says. “I love having a choice where I can walk, bicycle or drive to the supermarket and other places if so desired.” She serves as a steward for the Waltham Land Trust.

Comments (1)



SYLVIA BRABER • AUGUST 2, 2026 AT 12:37 PM

Lifelong friend of Dee Kricker. Very proud of work she and all you are doing. So important to save the land. Wonderful photographs.

[Reply](#)

Youth Public Safety Academy wraps up third week

BY NEWSROOM • PUBLIC SAFETY • JULY 30, 2026

Waltham's Edmund "Teddy" Elliot was among more than 70 cadets who stepped into the shoes of public safety professionals as the Middlesex Sheriff's Office hosted the third week of its 2026 Youth Public Safety Academy.

The July 20-24 session drew youths from across Middlesex County, primarily Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Newton, Waltham and Watertown. Cadets took part in activities on law enforcement, fire safety and emergency preparedness, watched the sheriff's office K-9 unit at work and joined team-building exercises.

Guests included the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which taught cadets about insects and agriculture; the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, which discussed bicycle safety; and the Lowell Health Department, which covered summer safety and hydration.

"Every week, it's incredible to watch these young people step outside their comfort zones, support one another and discover all they are capable of," Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian said. "YPSA is about more than learning about public safety. It's about building confidence, developing leadership skills and creating memories."

Academy Director Meghan Lee credited counselors, staff and community partners. "Our staff and partners are the heart of this program," she said.

The week closed with a graduation ceremony attended by local officials, including Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and Waltham police Capt. Anthony Vasquez.

The academy offers five one-week sessions for county residents ages 8-12, with teens 13-15 serving as counselors-in-training. Information at middlesexsheriff.org.



Cadets from Belmont, Newton, Waltham and Watertown were joined by Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian, Special Sheriff Amoroso Cefalo, Governor's Councilor Mara Dolan, Belmont Police Chief Shane Smith, Waltham Police Capt. Anthony Vasquez, Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and Watertown Police Capt. Daniel Unsworth, among others. Edmund Elliot is in the first row, fourth from the left. Photo from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office.

Waltham home sales, July 21–24, 2026

BY NEWSROOM • HOME SALES • JULY 30, 2026



	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size
	7/20/2026	20 Elson Rd	\$747,000	3/1.5	1430 sf
	7/21/2026	134 Brown St Unit 1	\$900,000	3/1	1300 sf
	7/23/2026	293 Florence Rd	\$875,000	3/2	3226 sf
	7/23/2026	6 Cushing St Unit 1	\$685,000	3/1	1669 sf
	7/23/2026	22 Jacqueline Rd Unit 22-F	\$446,000	2/1	780 sf
	7/24/2026	24 Blossom St	\$1,050,000	3/2.5	2549 sf
	7/24/2026	55-57 Crescent St	\$1,800,000	4/3.75	4991 sf

Noa Machover receives Fulbright scholarship

BY NEWSROOM • AWARDS & PROMOTIONS • JULY 8, 2026



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.

Beloved Plympton art teacher remembered for creativity and warmth

BY LEA ZAHARONI • COMMUNITY • JULY 28, 2026



Wendy K. (Poulos) Fournier, a longtime art teacher at Plympton Elementary School, died July 21 at her family's home in West Harwich. She was 65.

A native of Needham who earned degrees at UMass Amherst and Framingham State, Fournier spent her career helping Plympton students express themselves through art. She was proud to help launch a city-wide exhibition at Waltham's public library featuring students' work from kindergarten through senior year.

Fournier was a lifelong dancer, performing and choreographing with studios including Body Language Dancers of Boston and Jeannette Neill Dance Studio. She was also a beloved choreographer for Dancing with the Waltham Stars, and served for years on the board of Boston Youth Moves.

Summers belonged to the cape, where Fournier was known fondly as the "Ambassador of Earle Road Beach." She was active at the Allen Harbor Yacht Club, following in the footsteps of her father, an early club member.

Family, friends and former students say her greatest joy was always home with her husband, two children, grandson, mother and brother.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or at [stjude.org](https://www.stjude.org).

Events Calendar

August 2-29

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

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2 9:00 am - 10:30 am Coffee social at the Café	3 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council meeting	4 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Teen Graffiti Camp 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras) 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 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Rock Band Camp annual concert	6 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Teen Graffiti Camp 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	7	8 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Explore Newton, make new friends—Dine Out Boston edition 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Silk shading embroidery workshop + 1 More
9 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Second Sunday open house tours at the Golden Ball Tavern Museum 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Rock Voices Newton – Community rock choir summer concert 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm It's Possible Conference dinner	10 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Historical Commission meeting	11 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras) 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: Tom Bruhl Trio	12 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Stories for adults: 'Birthday celebrations with Grandma' 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Yoga at the Rose 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm School Committee meeting + 1 More	13 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm The Annual Corn Roast at Gore Place 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting	14 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Teen library lock-in party 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm The World of Robert Roberts tour at Gore Place	15 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market
16	17 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Watch City Ukers: Groovy at the Gazebo	18 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras) 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: Billy and the Jets	19 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Board of Health meeting	20 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	21	22 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market
23	24	25 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras) 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Concert on the Common: American Legion Band	26 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm License Commission meeting	27 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Fighting for the American Dream: An evening with author and Waltham native Charles Whalen	28	29 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market

Printing generously donated by



713 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451

781-899-3180

Minuteman Press locations are full-service design, print and marketing centers serving the entire business community from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. Our customers are wide-ranging and include local organizations, government groups, non-profits, professional sports teams, businesses, entrepreneurs, consumers, and more. At Minuteman Press, we can produce anything you can put a name, image, or logo on!

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

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



P.O. Box 540109 | Waltham, MA 02454

WalthamTimes.org | info@walthamtimes.org