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September 14 & 21, 2026



The Explainer: Waltham's City Charter is nearly 40 years old. How could it change?



Yolanda Cellucci, whose glittery star shone far beyond Waltham, dies at 91



Bay Colony plans to move forward, but tentatively



Senior Center this week: Tech tutoring and New England Patriots' history

Bay Colony plans to move forward, but tentatively

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



Real estate company BXP Inc. is proposing to build a 283-unit apartment building at its Bay Colony property, the first phase of [a larger housing project](#).

At its meeting this week, the Traffic Commission approved a traffic study for the project so it can move on to the City Council – but expressed hesitation about long-term plans for the site.

This apartment building would sit on the footprint of the current, partially occupied commercial building at 1000 Winter St., on the western side of the Cambridge Reservoir, and BXP intends to build a fitness center beside it. Traffic engineer Matt Kealey told commissioners the building would come with 390 parking spaces, and at full occupancy, his team predicts the building won't create enough traffic to significantly delay travel at nearby intersections.



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

Director of Wires Tim Kelly said he'd like to see more analysis on how traffic from new residents could affect turns onto Winter Street just west of its exit from I-95. "Years ago, when Bay Colony was full, it was backed up at five at night," he said.

Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin echoed those concerns. He suggested that the city already had long-term plans to redesign Winter Street in its transportation masterplan, which could mitigate

any traffic issues the new development would bring.

The city maintains a traffic mitigation fund where large housing projects often contribute to offset their traffic impacts, which could be used to fund projects such as a Winter Street redesign. For its Bay Colony development, however, BXP doesn't plan to make any direct contributions to the fund.

Earlier this summer, the City Council agreed to rezone the Bay Colony, alongside another plot of BXP land at Jones Road and the former Polaroid campus, to allow their owners to build mixed housing and commercial developments. BXP agreed to create no more than 1,500 units across the two plots it owns, and to seek special permits for each phase of construction.

That decision was tied to the Green Street connector project, which BXP has committed to contributing around \$15 million to complete and for which it helped secure a matching \$15 million in state funding. BXP representative Chris Carr told commissioners that this project is intended to serve as a mitigation fund for any housing projects at the Bay Colony and Jones Road properties.

In its final rezoning language, the City Council recognized that the Green Street project was a significant contribution from BXP, but maintained that the city can require additional mitigation contributions if it finds them necessary.

Addressing public concern

Although BXP previously presented the City Council with a preliminary study of the traffic effects of all planned development at the site, that plan never made its way to the Traffic Commission. Multiple commissioners expressed discomfort around making a judgement on the project's traffic study without that long-term perspective.

The commission agreed to approve the plan so BXP could stay on track to present plans for the apartment building to the City Council in late October. However, it authorized Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin to send the Council a letter outlining concerns about Winter Street traffic and asked BXP to change how it presents future traffic studies. The commission wants future studies to account for all planned development at the site and show the cumulative traffic impact, not just a piecemeal representation for each individual special permit.

City Clerk Joseph Vizard said he'd heard a lot of concern about potential traffic issues from the new development, including from the neighboring town of Lincoln, which sent a letter expressing fears the project could overwhelm its road system.

"I've never seen significant traffic from any other [apartment buildings] I've permitted," Vizard said. Still, he argued, in such a large and high-profile case, the city and BXP have a duty to get out ahead of neighborhood concerns and address them as early as possible. "This isn't routine, what we're doing right now," he said.

Charles River Community Health launches \$5.2M expansion to meet high patient demand

BY SHERRY KEYLES • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



With nearly 10% of Waltham residents turning to [Charles River Community Health](#) for essential medical care, the health center is launching a major expansion at its Foundry Avenue location to meet the city's growing healthcare needs.

The project, expected to be completed by June 30, 2027, will increase the health center's space from 12,000 to 17,000 square feet, expanding capacity in all departments and adding vision care to the center's offerings.

"Waltham is actually our single largest concentration of patients across any town or city we serve," CRCH CEO Matthew Mullaney said. "In 2025 alone, we served 5,465 patients from Waltham's three zip codes, roughly 10% of the city."



CRCH CEO Matt Mullaney (right) with State Representative Thomas M. Stanley last year. Photo courtesy Matt Mullaney.

Construction is scheduled to begin in November or December. Affinia Therapeutics occupied the new space until a few weeks ago.

Mullaney said the build-out will not only introduce vision care but also add six medical exam rooms (a 30% increase), three behavioral health rooms (doubling current capacity), two dental operatories (a 40% increase) and a new nursing station.

“Our goal is to be one-stop shopping,” Mullaney said.

He estimates the new square footage will allow the health center to accommodate an additional 3,000 to 4,000 medical patients once fully operational. Currently, the center has wait lists in all departments and nonurgent appointment waits of over three weeks for established patients.

“We’re seeing some of our longest wait times for primary care right here in Waltham,” said Mullaney. “We have longer waiting lists for dental in Waltham. We have five dental operatories right now, and in Brighton we have 12.

“It turns out even though the health center was started here in the Allston/Brighton area, the center of gravity has really moved to Waltham,” Mullaney added.

The health center opened in Waltham in 2004 after Waltham Hospital closed, and moved to its current location at 43 Foundry Ave. in 2018.

The total cost for the Waltham expansion is estimated at \$5.2 million. To fund the work, the health center is mounting a fundraising campaign targeting at least \$3.5 million.

CRCH, which also operates a site in Brighton, is the only federally qualified health center serving Waltham, Watertown, Brighton and Allston. In its two locations, the health center cares for more than 14,000 individuals.

Serving medically underserved areas and populations, [FQHCs](#) are federally funded nonprofits statutorily required to provide primary care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

CRCH is also an active member of the Community Care Alliance, maintaining affiliations with Beth Israel Lahey Health (including Mount Auburn Hospital and BIDMC) and Boston Children’s Hospital to coordinate affordable specialty and acute care.

Preparing for Medicaid Changes

The expansion comes as community health centers across Massachusetts brace for changes to federal Medicaid policies that [could leave thousands of state residents](#) without insurance coverage on Jan. 1, 2027.

Mullaney said that while the expansion is not driven solely by the Medicaid changes, CRCH stands ready to help patients who currently have MassHealth coverage.

“We are opening this new space so we can better serve our community, from longtime residents to new arrivals, no matter what insurance they have or whether they need our help getting and keeping coverage as Medicaid policies shift in 2027,” he said. “We have a health benefit department and community health workers who are becoming more and more knowledgeable about some of the insurance changes.

“So the most important thing we’re doing is getting smart about what’s coming and how that’s going to work so that we could give people good advice,” Mullaney said. “Hopefully, make them feel more informed, calm and less worried about their insurance.”

Serving the Diverse Community

Mullaney said CRCH staff work directly with uninsured patients to help them enroll in coverage or access care.

“We’re actually one of the places in the commonwealth where you can have [Health Safety Net](#) and get care. You can’t just go anywhere with that type of insurance,” he said, adding that the center also sees patients with other types of insurance including Medicare and commercial plans.

CRHC’s demographic reflects Waltham’s diversity. Mullaney said most current patients are first-, second- and third-generation immigrants, with two-thirds identifying as Latino. Most patients receive healthcare services in languages other than English. According to [CRHC’s 2025 annual report](#), 98% of patients live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level of \$64,300/year for a family of four.

“In my opinion, we work really hard to be a welcoming place for people from all backgrounds,” Mullaney said when asked what sets CRHC apart from other community health centers. “It’s a place where people feel welcome and not judged.”

CRCH will discuss the expansion at its fall breakfast on Sept. 29 at Gore Place from 7:30 to 9 a.m. The guest speaker is Beth Israel Lahey Health Chief Community and Health Impact Officer Juan Fernando Lopera, who will talk about his experience as an immigrant, a patient and a health system leader.

Tickets are \$25, and you can register online through the [health center’s website](#).

City Council in brief: AI regulation, Hispanic Heritage Month and more

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



The City Council observes a moment of silence in memory of Yolanda Cellucci. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.

The City Council is beginning to consider how city government can use artificial intelligence.

Councilor-at-Large Carlos A. Vidal, Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci and Ward 4 Councilor John McLaughlin introduced a resolution at Monday's City Council meeting seeking to study how and where the city is encountering AI, what existing regulations protect residents' privacy and data security, and what actions other Massachusetts municipalities are taking.

"AI is already becoming part of the way government operates: sometimes through tools we deliberately choose to use, and sometimes simply because AI is increasingly being incorporated into software and development that municipalities already rely upon," Vidal said.

Vidal emphasized that he wasn't opposed to AI and didn't want to create panic, but said AI tools in government raise questions about security, accuracy and government accountability.

“AI is going to continue developing whether the municipal government discusses it or not. I think it is appropriate for us to begin that discussion now,” he added.

The council requested IT Director Donald Aucoin attend the Sept. 21 Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the resolution.

Honoring Waltham’s Hispanic and Latino population

Vidal also told councilors this is the 10th year Waltham has celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, which falls between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15.

Vidal said the city’s demographics over the past decade have changed significantly and today 16% of the city’s population and more than 47% of school enrollment identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Vidal said he wants to highlight the value Hispanic and Latino residents provide to their Waltham neighbors and how they are an important part of the community through their daily lives.

“Latinos share the same hopes and aspirations as our neighbors – to work hard, care for our families, build successful lives, and leave our communities a little better than when we found them,” he said. “We’re not separate from the Waltham community. We are part of the Waltham community.”

“Ultimately, Waltham is strongest when everyone who calls the city home has the opportunity to contribute to its success,” Vidal added.

Additionally, the City Council:

- Accepted a \$208,096 state grant for Waltham Council on Aging programs.
- Approved a secondhand dealers’ license for the expansion of More Than Words LLC, a Waltham-based used bookstore providing youth job training. More Than Words intends to sell other secondhand goods at its Waltham location, as it does in its other stores.
- Approved a transfer of \$98,672.05 from the city’s Stabilization Fund to filter stormwater runoff from the Embassy garage and parking lot before it runs into the Charles River.
- Celebrated a group of former McDevitt students for their state-recognized civics project on Waltham’s sidewalks.
- Considered an application [to convert Crescent Suites Hotel LLC](#) into an apartment building.
- Honored Yolanda Cellucci, a [Waltham community member and fashion icon](#) who died earlier this month, for her generosity and involvement with Waltham’s community.

- Referred to the Ordinances and Rules Committee a drive-thru ATM permit application for Service Credit Union, which provides banking services to military families and plans to [move into 995 Main St.](#) Referred a secondhand dealers' license application for bike and sports shop and service center Pedals & Power to the Licenses and Franchises Committee. The shop [opened last December](#), and its owner said the permit has been held up for months.
- Referred a series of other items to committee meetings next week:
 - an amendment to secondhand dealers' license regulations, a request to rename Waltham's former high school and a request for a long-term utilities work plan to the Licenses and Franchises Committee;
 - a concept plan for veterans' housing to the Committee of the Whole;
 - a private donation to the Fire Department and a \$173,714 state grant to the Finance Committee;
 - and a resolution to bring [MBTA communities zoning](#) in line with [housing affordability legislation](#) to the Ordinances and Rules Committee.
- Wished a happy Rosh Hashanah and a good new year to Waltham's Jewish community.



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.

City provides vague update on long-delayed Fernald conservation restriction

BY LEA ZAHARONI • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



Universal playground at 200 Trapelo Road was built and opened on the former Fernald state school site. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

The Conservation Commission finally received a response from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy regarding a long-overdue legal protection for the former Fernald state school site.

The response, sent Aug. 17 from McCarthy, states that the mayor's office and the city's Law Department are "diligently working on all the conservation restrictions" affecting the property and they will send to the commission once complete.

Once received, the commission will sign off on the filing and send it to the state for final approval.

A conservation restriction is legally required for the Fernald property because it was purchased from the state using Community Preservation Act funds. A restriction establishes rules for construction on a property and must be filed before any projects can begin. However, the city has yet to file a conservation restriction since purchasing the property 12 years ago, despite moving forward with [projects](#) on the property.

The Conservation Commission reported at its Sept. 10 meeting that it received McCarthy's statement, which came after a request sent by the commission on July 22 and again on Aug. 17

after receiving no response. The commission asked the city to provide a legal explanation on why it broke ground on projects at the Fernald without the conservation restriction in place.

The commission's initial letter asked the city to "provide the commission with documentation of the legal reasoning used by the City of Waltham to carry out work within the 200 Trapelo Road parcel without first placing a conservation restriction on the parcel."

McCarthy's response, however, only states that the filings are in progress and doesn't mention any legal justification for past construction.

The Conservation Commission did not discuss McCarthy's response at its meeting, and it remains unclear whether the commission will press further.



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.

Cobbler John Elhilow keeping shoes alive in Waltham for nearly 40 years

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • BUSINESS • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



John Elhilow at the front desk of Superior Shoe Repair in Waltham. Photo by Charlie Johnson.

Seventh-generation cobbler John Elhilow has spent nearly 40 years repairing worn shoes with the kindness and care that have defined his work at Superior Shoe Repair in Waltham and Holliston.

Growing up in Holliston, Elhilow learned the trade from his father. Between sports and other after-school activities in high school, he would spend time helping him at the shoe repair shop.

The Elhilow family's cobbler tradition began in the mountains of Jezzine, Lebanon, where the family operated its first shoe repair shop. Elhilow's great grandfather came to the United States in the late 1800s, first settling in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, before the family moved to Brooklyn, New York. They later operated cobbler shops in Brooklyn and Manhattan from 1915 to 1955.

The family tradition made its way to Massachusetts, where Elhilow's grandfather opened a shop in Framingham. In 1975, his father, also named John, opened his own shop in Holliston.

In the summer of 1989, he came to Waltham to visit The Chateau one night when he noticed a vacant shoe repair store for rent close by. By the end of the year, he had opened up shop. Today, he splits his time between the Waltham location and running his father's shop in Holliston.

Resoling

In the 1990s, business at Superior Shoe Repair moved quickly. Elhilow estimated the shop was repairing 10 to 20 pairs of shoes a day, compared to five to 12 pairs today.

“Everybody wanted everything fast, fast, fast,” Elhilow said.

Elhilow said cobblers constantly have to get creative because the ways shoes are made has changed throughout his career. As he spoke, he was fixing a customer’s boot with a rubber sole, like most made today. When he first opened Superior Shoe Repair, most of the shoes that came through the door had leather soles and heels.

“You just got to change with it,” Elhilow said. “Otherwise you won’t have much to do.”

Elhilow was also working on a custom-made shoe for a regular customer with a prosthetic leg. The specialized shoe, designed to accommodate the prosthetic, needed to be resoled. At his workbench, Elhilow smoothed the bottom of the shoe and added rubber for extra protection before preparing to glue on the new sole. He planned to preglue it and let it dry, hoping to have the repair finished by 4:30 p.m. for the repeat customer. Beyond shoes, he works on boots, zippers and other items that need mending.

‘The real mom and pop’

On Thursdays, Elhilow opens the Holliston shop from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., then hustles 19 miles northeast to open the Waltham from 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Customers filed in on this particular Thursday afternoon to drop off shoes for repair, while others were retrieving finished pairs.

Joe Cacciatore was picking up some dress shoes that he needed “a real good shine” for a wedding he was attending so he brought them to Elhilow. He has been coming to the shop to repair his shoes for about 20 years.

Matthew Moseman has lived around the corner from Superior Shoe Repair since moving to Waltham in 2020. After regularly passing the shop while walking his dog and hearing good things about Elhilow, he decided to give the local cobbler a try.

Moseman brought in a pair of leather cowboy boots he has owned since he was about 15 years old. Over the years, he has worn them to music festivals and other events that have taken their toll. Elhilow put new soles on the boots and rebuilt their interiors.

“When you have a shoe like that, nothing can ever really match it. Nothing quite like that old leather that you’ve been living in,” Moseman said. “And so it’s great to be able to bring it to a place like this and bring it back to life.”

Weston resident Lily Conway said she stumbled across Elhilow’s work and has been bringing her shoes to him ever since. Standing inside, she pointed around at the store.

“This is beautiful,” she said. “This is what you call the real mom and pop.”

These days, he has little regular help at either location. His three sons pitch when they can, but many of the longtime workers he once relied on have retired. Elhilow is now training a 25-year-old who is interested in learning the trade.

“It’s fun to work for somebody, but when you actually own the shop, you’re married to it,” Elhilow said. “It’s not like you get to go home when you want to go home. When the work is done, then you go home.”

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.

Comments (4)



DEB • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 9:11 PM

John takes such pride in his work and it shows in the way he has maintained and fixed my winter boots, cowgirl boots, clogs and various other shoes. He always has a friendly word and is extremely reliable. Waltham is so lucky to have John in our community!

[Reply](#)



BETH • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 9:06 PM

OMG. John has the best store and is wonderful figuring out shoe repair! He has saved us so many pairs of shoes from the time our kid was little. Great way to “shop” local and take care of the earth all in one!

[Reply](#)



JOAN • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 1:49 AM

Glad to see you’re still in business. You do FANTASTIC work!!!

[Reply](#)



JOHN PERKINS • SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 AT 10:59 AM

great guy to work with, always willing to explain things and he carries a good selection of shoe care products

[Reply](#)

Crescent Suites Hotel owner petitions to turn it into apartment building

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



The owner of the Crescent Suites Hotel is asking the city for permission to turn it into an apartment building, saying it's no longer economically or practically viable as a hotel.

A lawyer representing Dennis Dyer, who bought the 287 Crescent St. hotel in 2015, told trustees of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund on Sept. 8 the hotel is too small to hire an outside management company to run it and he personally can no longer keep up with the work it entails.

Dyer's lawyer appeared at Monday's City Council meeting seeking city approval to operate it as a rental property.

The hotel's special permit allows Dyer to rent 14 of the 30 units for long-term stays of 90 days or more on month-to-month leases. Dyer's lawyer told the City Council that the long-term rental rooms are currently at full occupancy but the rest of the hotel sees higher vacancy rates.

Dyer doesn't plan to do any additional construction on the building. All of the hotel's rooms are one-bedroom or studio setups with a kitchen and a bathroom. Two are accessible. The building has 48 parking spaces.

Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, who represents the neighborhood where the hotel is located, spoke supportively of the development, saying she hasn't received any neighborhood complaints about it.

"We're appreciative of [the project] bringing affordability to the community without a lot of ... construction," she said.

The council will discuss the hotel again at next week's Ordinances and Rules Committee, which will also consult with the city Law Department on how to apply the city's affordable housing ordinance to this case.

The Crescent Suites hotel was originally built by Michael Colomba, a local business owner who is in the process of getting a permit to build [another boutique hotel on Moody Street](#), this one combined with a restaurant and event hall.



Crescent Suites Hotel in Waltham. Courtesy photo.

Design Waltham's new police station and public works facility to save taxpayers' money

BY AMY GORTLER, KAM MAALI, JESSICA HELM, KAJ TELENAR & MELISSA KARAPANOS • IDEAS •
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



Lexington Police Station, an all-electric, net-zero police station built using Tecton Architects.

Waltham is preparing to spend tens of millions of dollars on a new police station and Department of Public Works facility. The police station alone is projected to cost about \$80 million.

With investments this large, we should look beyond construction costs and ask: What will these buildings cost taxpayers to operate for the next 30 or 40 years?

One of the best ways to control long-term costs is through energy efficiency and on-site power generation. That is why Waltham should build both facilities to be net zero — reducing net greenhouse gas emissions to zero.

We have a nearby example to learn from. Lexington recently built an all-electric, net-zero police station using Tecton Architects — the same firm designing Waltham's new police headquarters. Lexington incorporated high-efficiency systems, solar power and battery storage into its facility.

Lexington's experience also highlights an important financial benefit of battery storage.

Eversource charges commercial and municipal customers not only for the electricity they use, but also for peak demand, the highest 15-30 minute period of electricity use each month. Peak-demand charges account for approximately half of Lexington's electricity bill.

Solar panels can reduce the amount of electricity a building purchases, but they do not, on their own, reduce peak-demand charges. Battery storage can help. By pairing solar with battery storage, Lexington can substantially reduce its peak-demand charges.

There is another important financial benefit: Eversource's Connected Solutions program pays municipalities to discharge their batteries during periods of high electricity demand, such as hot summer days. Battery storage can therefore do double duty, reducing the city's electricity costs while also generating payments from the utility.

Lexington's experience illustrates the potential impact. The town estimates that its battery storage will generate approximately \$110,000 per year in net value, compared with about \$16,000 per year from solar alone, a difference that can significantly improve the financial return of a net zero design.

Waltham should take advantage of what Lexington has already learned.

Before finalizing the designs, the city should require a 30-year cost comparison between the current design and an all-electric net-zero design, including construction, electricity, peak-demand charges, maintenance, equipment replacement, solar savings and battery revenues.

The question shouldn't simply be, "How much more does net zero cost to build?"

It should be, "How much will it save Waltham taxpayers over the life of the buildings?"

These facilities will serve Waltham for decades. If solar and battery storage can substantially reduce operating costs, net zero isn't an expensive luxury. It's sound fiscal management.

Waltham taxpayers deserve buildings that don't just fit the budget today, but save money for decades to come.



Authors



AMY GORTLER

Amy Gortler is the coordinator of Mothers Out Front Waltham. She holds a degree in public administration from the University of Washington in Seattle.



KAM MAALI

Kambiz (Kam) Maali is a co-coordinator for 350 Mass Waltham Node. He holds a masters of social work from Boston University and works in the resident services department at Cambridge Housing

Historical Commission backs Community Day Center request for CPC restoration funding

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



The Historical Commission voted to write a letter supporting the use of Community Preservation Committee funds to help restore the building occupied by the Community Day Center of Waltham on Felton Street.



Community Day Center of Waltham.

CDCW director Chloe-Rose Crouch told the commission the program's current building at 20 Felton St. needs new siding and windows. Built in 1887, the building has historical significance to Waltham's meat industry.

Without CPC funds, Crouch said, the building may need vinyl siding and historically inaccurate windows because of budget constraints.

The commission voted to authorize Chair Mort Isaacson to write a letter to the CPC supporting the replacement of the building's siding and windows. The letter will also state that the Commission looks forward to consulting with the CDCW on the proper materials for the restoration.

Crouch still must appear before the CPC to formally ask for the funds, but wanted the Historical Commission's support before making the request.

In other business, the Commission voted to:

- Allow the demolition of two additions to the Clark Farmhouse at 399 Lexington St. The house is on Chapel Hill Chauncey Hall School's campus and is currently faculty housing. According to the school's chief financial officer, Gwen Pajasik, repairing the two additions would be costly on top of the interior and exterior preservation the school is planning. The Commission encouraged the school to save as much of the additions as possible.
- Allow demolition of the existing structure at 103-105 Central St. While the building was previously owned at one point by Robert Treat Paine, it was his only connection to the property. The Commission did not believe the building was historically significant. Two transit-oriented townhouses are planned for the lot.
- Place a demolition delay on the existing structure at 107-111 Central St., directly next to 103-105 Central St. The building was built in 1834 as a duplex and was owned by two families for more than 140 years, with half of it rented out. Ron Cincotta, who spoke on behalf of both Central Street projects at the meeting, said the demolition delay on 107-111 Central St. would also delay the project next door. Cincotta and the commission agreed to a site visit so commissioners can see the building's interior, which Cincotta said is beyond repair and may change the commission's mind about the demolition delay.
- Authorize Isaacson to sign off on a City Council special permit for the demolition of 51 Bacon St. The existing building will be replaced with a three-unit residence.
- Authorize Isaacson to sign off on a City Council special permit for the conversion of the gas station at 962 Main St. into a Seasons Corner Market. The gas pumps will remain, but the existing car service center will be removed.



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.

Patriots owner Robert K. Kraft announces \$10 million gift for Brandeis center for Jewish Life

BY NEWSROOM • EDUCATION • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



Brandeis University will build a new home for Jewish life on its campus with a \$10 million gift from New England Patriots owner Robert K. Kraft.

The Robert K. Kraft Family Center for Jewish Life and Leadership is expected to open in spring 2028 after renovations are complete, according to a statement from Brandeis. The new 28,000-square-foot facility will house Hillel, which supports Jewish student life and community on campus.

“Brandeis University’s longstanding commitment to excellence, belonging, and Jewish traditions and values has shaped generations of leaders,” said Kraft, chairman and CEO of The Kraft Group. “The Kraft family has always been proud to support Brandeis, and I am pleased to strengthen the work of the university and create a Hillel on campus to help educate and inspire students to carry forward the university’s mission.”



Rendering of the Robert K. Kraft Family Center for Jewish Life and Leadership.

The donation from the Kraft Family Foundation is the cornerstone of a \$25 million fundraising campaign for Brandeis Hillel that has raised more than \$21 million. Nine additional early leadership donors have contributed a combined \$9.5 million. Those donors include the Beker Foundation, the Meyer G. Koplow and Ellen Goodstein Koplow Foundation, trustees Dan Jick, Marty Kupferberg and Cindy Shapira, and Hillel at Brandeis Chair Jim Shane and his wife, Rosalie Ripaldi Shane, whose gift helped launch the project.

The center will include meeting spaces; a beit midrash, or house of study, designed for collaborative learning; and flexible event spaces for conferences and public programs. University officials said it will serve as a bridge between undergraduate and graduate Jewish leadership development and position Brandeis as a national and international gathering place for scholars, students and communal leaders. All students will be welcome at the center, the university said.

Kraft's gift extends a family relationship with Brandeis that spans three generations. Myra Kraft, Robert Kraft's late wife and a 1964 graduate, was a university trustee and received an honorary doctorate in 2012. Her father, Jacob Hiatt, a businessman and philanthropist, was also a trustee and received an honorary degree in 1977. The couple's son, Joshua Michael Kraft, a Boston civic and philanthropic leader, served as a trustee as well.

Earlier Kraft family gifts endowed the Myra and Robert Kraft Chair in Arab Politics, the Robert and Myra Kraft Professorship in Christian Studies and two scholarship funds. In 2019 Kraft won the Genesis Prize and used it to establish the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate, which works to combat antisemitism and other forms of prejudice.

"Robert Kraft and the Kraft family have a remarkable legacy at Brandeis," said Arthur Levine, president of Brandeis. "We are also deeply grateful to the alumni and friends whose generous support, vision and leadership are making this historic project a reality."

Students said a dedicated building would consolidate Jewish life that is now spread across campus.

"I'm so excited for the new Hillel building so that Jewish life can finally have an expansive hub on campus," said Ollie Small, a junior and student president of Hillel at Brandeis. "I love the magic of all of our Jewish spaces on campus, and it will be so fulfilling to have one central place where everyone can stop by, grab a nosh, and share our dreams for what our community will look like."

Rabbi Seth Winberg, Hillel's executive director, said the campaign reflects broader momentum. "The Jewish community is showing up for Brandeis right now, and it shows," he said.

Brandeis was founded in 1948 as a nonsectarian university rooted in Jewish values and open to all.



Author



NEWSROOM

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

Season opening for the Waltham Clothing Exchange

BY LINDA HAAS • AROUND TOWN • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026



Clothing Exchange co-director Susan Weddig (left) prepares to accept items for consignment from Patty Bakerian (right).

Author



LINDA HAAS

Linda Haas is a freelance photographer and teacher of photography. Her work has appeared in a variety of national and regional publications. Her clients have included numerous public and private institutions including universities, nonprofit organizations and companies. She has taught at universities, adult education programs and junior high school. She is currently an instructor at The Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester. Linda moved back to Waltham 5 years ago after having graduated from Brandeis University 43 years earlier.

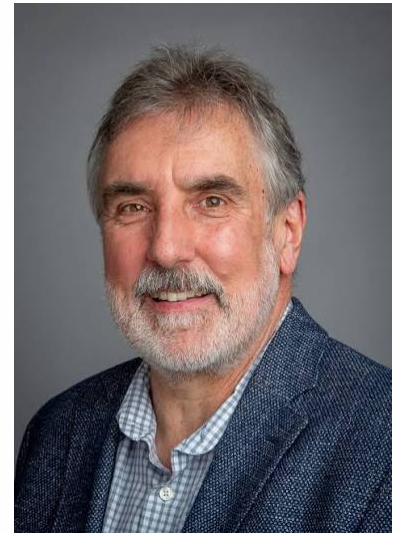
Senior Center this week: Tech tutoring and New England Patriots' history

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 20, 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 guidance on senior issues as well as rich programs for exercise, music, classes and socializing. Check out [the center's newsletter \(en Español\)](#) for a full listing. Call 781-314-3499 with questions and to register for programs.

Tech tutoring sessions begin this week, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. in Spanish, 1 p.m. in English. Sept. 23–Dec. 4. These sessions are for you if you have a laptop, tablet or smart phone. Learn how to set up e-mail, organize photos or files, navigate the Internet, organize your desktop or apps on your phone, set up contacts, modify security and privacy settings, fill out online forms, connect with family and friends, and more. Waltham Connections and Bentley University Service Learning Program offers tech assistance to members of the senior center in English or Español. Each session is 25 minutes. You can attend as many weeks as you would like, if space is available. Free. Register for appointment.



Bob Hyldburg, official New England Patriots historian. Courtesy photo.

New England Patriots History, Friday, Sept. 25, 1 p.m. Bob Hyldburg, official Patriots historian and author, will share a lively one-hour look at the team's history, from their AFL beginnings to becoming one of the NFL's most successful franchises. His presentation features memorable players, coaches, games, traditions, and behind-the-scenes stories, and plenty of time for questions and fan memories. Whether you followed the early AFL days, the Brady-Belichick era, or simply love Patriots football, join us for a fun trip down memory lane! Light refreshments will be served. Register. The cost is \$3 per person due at sign up.

Did you know?

The COA provides information on legal services, home care, assistance with nursing homes and assisted living facilities, financial assistance, housing options, mental health and substance abuse.

- Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels. Home-delivered meals are available Monday- Friday. Subsidized by Springwell or private pay.
- Senior parking permits are available for \$5 per year. Show your driver's license at the COA registration desk.
- Taxi vouchers are available for purchase, six books per month.
- Help with transportation. Medical appointment transportation is available in Waltham only. Grocery shopping routes are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, call for availability. Limited transportation to the Senior Center is available upon request with advance notice.

Planning ahead

Holy Guacamole! Friday, Oct. 2, 1 p.m. Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and enjoy lively Mexican music, a bilingual retelling of The Legend of the Corn, and a hands-on guacamole-making activity using fresh, traditional ingredients. It's a festive blend of culture, story, and flavor. Come hungry and leave happy! Registration begins Sept. 15. The cost is \$2 per person due at sign up.

The Boston Saxophone Quartet. Friday, Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m. The Boston Saxophone Quartet will bring their signature blend of rich harmonies, smooth jazz and timeless classics. The quartet features four talented saxophonists who play everything from lively swing tunes to tunes to beautiful melodic pieces. Free. Please register.

Multi-language programs

- **English as a second language classes. Tuesdays at 10 a.m.** 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.
- **Hora del Café. Wednesdays at 10:30–11:30 a.m.** Spanish-speaking coffee hour.
- **Ugandan Golden Seniors. Fridays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Lunch program.

Here is the full schedule for this week

The Explainer: Waltham's City Charter is nearly 40 years old. How could it change?

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



Waltham City Hall. Photo by The Waltham Times.

By CHARLIE JOHNSON

Waltham's City Charter is approaching 40 years in its current form, raising questions about how well it fits the city today as other Massachusetts communities revisit their local government structures.

A charter, which functions as the local constitution for a city or town, establishes local offices, power distribution and procedures. In effect, the charter determines who has the authority to act before any policy debate begins.

Diana Young, a retired lawyer and longtime Waltham resident, served on a League of Women Voters of Waltham committee that studied the city's charter and produced a report in 2020. Waltham's charter has not been comprehensively revised since 1986.

"It's a long time," Young said.

Waltham became a city in 1884. In 1918, the city adopted a [charter](#) that used a weaker-mayor, city-manager form of government. Five years later, in 1923, Waltham shifted to a stronger mayor system, placing more executive authority in the mayor's office.

On Nov. 4, 1986, Waltham voters approved the charter that still governs the city today. The most significant changes were extending the mayor's term from two to four years, requiring the mayor to prepare capital improvement plans every five years, and requiring vacancies on city boards and commissions to be filled more quickly. The revised charter had been developed over more than three years of hearings, meetings and revisions.

Routes to change

Waltham used the Home Rule process to adopt its current charter, with recommendations developed locally before the proposal moved through the state Legislature and then went before voters.

Massachusetts municipalities have two broad routes for revising a charter: Home Rule or a special act process. Under the Home Rule process, established in 1966, cities and towns can reshape their local government without first seeking approval from the Legislature. Proposed changes cannot conflict with the state Constitution or general laws. The Attorney General's Office reviews changes for consistency with state law.

The Home Rule process begins with a petition signed by at least 15% of the municipality's registered voters. Once enough signatures are certified, voters decide whether to create a charter commission. At the same election, voters choose nine residents to serve on the commission if the ballot question passes. The commission then studies the charter, holds public hearings and develops recommendations. Any proposed revision returns to voters for approval.

"The public starts it, and the public ends it if they approve it," Young said.

A special act, by contrast, is generally developed through local government before being submitted to the Legislature.

The special act route is more flexible. State law does not prescribe a specific method for drafting proposed charter changes before submitting them to the Legislature. Communities often appoint a local study committee, but the size, membership, scope and timeline of that committee can be determined locally. In a city, the City Council must approve submission of the proposed special act before it moves to the Legislature.

Nearby cities revisit long-standing charters

Recently, charter debates have ensued in nearby Massachusetts cities. In November 2025, Cambridge, Somerville and Medford all advanced major charter changes through special acts after years of local review.

Cambridge's new charter was the first substantial update since 1940. One of the most significant changes altered the mayor's role on the School Committee. The mayor remains a member, but the committee now elects its own chair rather than having the mayor serve automatically.

Like Waltham, Medford's previous charter dated back to 1986. The new charter also extended the mayor's term to four years and changed the City Council from seven at-large members to 11 members, with eight elected by ward and three at-large. Medford and Waltham share commonalities. The two are similar in population size and share some demographic and housing characteristics.

Some attempts to change have come up short. In 2017, Newton formed a commission to assess its charter, which was last changed in 1971. The commission proposed reducing Newton's 24-member City Council, the largest in the state, to 12 members, with one councilor representing each of the city's eight wards and four additional citywide seats. Newton voters rejected this proposal.

Unlike some municipal charters, Waltham's charter does not require periodic review. Staff at the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at UMass Boston, which advises cities and towns on charter changes, said they consistently recommend a regular review mechanism every 10 years.

For Waltham, residents and city officials must decide whether to reopen its nearly 40-year-old charter.

Comments (2)



KRYS • SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 AT 11:26 AM

A city charter change is essential. We must take many of the unilateral, arbitrary, and dictatorial powers away from the Mayor and put them back in the hands of the City Council, and thus the people of this great City. The people currently have very little recourse for overriding the Mayor's edicts. She has very low transparency, does not appropriately respond to emails or calls, and does not appropriately respond to FOIA requests with the requested information. She is beholden to old-timers and cronyism. Some people love her, but she has gone off the rails in the past 10 years. I have sent messages to many City Council members, and they have told me "there is nothing we can do", which is correct per the current charter. I have looked into it in detail. McCarthy needs to retire. I've seen this behavior in other "for life" mayors in other Commonwealth cities.

[Reply](#)



BILL HANLEY • SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 AT 8:16 AM

What is the problem this aims to solve? We shouldn't change the charter simply because it hasn't been changed in 40 years or because some neighboring towns did.

[Reply](#)

The Explainer: What is the PROTECT Act and how does it affect Waltham's schools?

Waltham just adopted a new state-mandated policy on immigration enforcement in schools. See what it requires, and why officials call it a welcome roadmap.

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



Massachusetts State House.

Since the 2023-24 school year, Waltham's English learner population has plummeted, in line with school districts across the state. Educators attribute this phenomenon to a surge in immigration enforcement. The PROTECT Act is Massachusetts' response to the surge.

Governor Maura Healey signed "An Act promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment" into law on Aug. 5, designating Massachusetts schools, courthouses, hospitals and other "sensitive locations" off-limits to warrantless civil immigration arrests. However, ICE can still make arrests if it has a warrant signed by a judge.

The act also bars new deputizations, called 287(g) agreements, between local police and ICE. The law leaves the current 287(g) agreement between ICE and the Massachusetts Department of Corrections intact. Critics said this provision is a weak point in the legislation.

The act didn't come out of nowhere. The day after his inauguration, President Donald Trump [rescinded](#) a 2011 federal policy that had kept immigration enforcement out of the places the PROTECT Act tries to defend. ICE activity has [skyrocketed](#) nationwide since the policy was revoked.

Massachusetts is not alone in pushing back with legislation. Other states including California, Maryland and New Jersey have enacted similar protections, and the Justice Department has [sued](#) a number of jurisdictions to block these policies.

This law comes at a precarious time for education in the state. K-12 enrollment fell by about [15,000](#) students this school year — its lowest level since the early 1990s — with English learners accounting for nearly half of that decline despite being a much smaller share of overall enrollment.

School leaders in Chelsea, Framingham and Lynn [reported](#) enrollment drops of hundreds of students, tying them directly to families keeping kids home out of fear of encountering immigration agents.

A roadmap welcomed in Waltham

As part of the law, every school district in the state had to adopt a written policy on interacting with civil law enforcement by Sept. 1 — just 11 days after the state released its [model policy](#) and guidance. The Massachusetts Association of School Committees called the timeline “somewhat impossible,” according to Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa.

On Sept. 2, Waltham drafted and implemented a policy heavily based on the state's model. However, the district chose to build its own plain-language “quick-guides” for families and staff. The staff version distills the policy down to three rules: stay calm, never approach or engage an officer first and never physically interfere with one, even if they're acting unlawfully.

A staff member who feels unsafe can hand the interaction to an administrator, triggering an escalation protocol which ultimately loops in Mendonsa's office. A separate family guide covers what the district will do and what a family can do if a relative is approached, or if they witness an encounter with ICE.

In the past, the district had its own policy in place for possible encounters with ICE.

The week ahead: City Council will reconvene on housing development, AI policy

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



This week, the City Council will hear a new affordable housing proposal introduced by Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy focused on housing for veterans.

That's just one of several topics introduced earlier this month that the council will take up during committee meetings on Monday. At its Committee of the Whole meeting, the full council will also discuss policies for [how city employees can use AI tools](#).

Below is a chronological rundown of other city meetings scheduled for the week of Sept. 21–25.

Meeting details

Click on a meeting's name to get more information about its purpose and agenda.

Monday, 7 p.m. — City Council committees

Location: Council Chambers and Hoover Committee Room at Waltham City Hall, 610 Main St.

The Licenses and Franchises Committee will meet to consider requests for secondhand store licenses, outline a request for long-term plans for utilities work around the city and consider [renaming the former high school at 617 Lexington St](#). The Finance Committee will consider a donation of workout equipment to the Fire Department and a grant for green energy projects in city buildings.

The Ordinances and Rules Committee will discuss special permits for a new drive-thru ATM and the conversion of [the Crescent Suites Hotel into housing](#). It will also consider an ordinance change to bring MBTA zoning overlay districts in line with recently passed [affordable housing reforms](#).

Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Community Preservation Commission

Location: Over [Zoom](#). (Passcode: Waltham)

Waltham's CPC implements the requirements of the state Community Preservation Act, including by reviewing applications to use CPA funding for historic, recreational or community housing construction, renovation or preservation projects. The board includes representatives of other administrative bodies from around the city.



Crescent Suites Hotel in Waltham. Courtesy photo.

This week, it will consider funding applications for exterior renovations at Gore Place and the Community Day Center, as well as a request for additional funding to [restore the steeple of the First Parish Church](#).

Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Ambulance Committee

Location: Council Chambers at Waltham City Hall, 610 Main St.

The Ambulance Committee will meet this week to discuss renewing the city's ambulance services contract.

Wednesday, 7 p.m. — License Commission

Location: Basement meeting room at the Clark Government Center, 119 School St.

The License Commission grants and reviews permits for serving food and alcohol for entertainment and for some types of gaming machines across the city.

Its agenda will be posted Monday on the [Licensing Department page](#) of the city's website.

Thursday, 7 p.m. — Conservation Commission

Location: Over Zoom. An agenda and link for the meeting will be provided on the [commission's page](#) on the city website at least 48 hours in advance.

The Conservation Commission reviews construction on or around wetlands and other environmentally protected areas in Waltham to ensure it complies with Department of Environmental Protection standards.

This week, among other topics of discussion, the commission will review a plan to demolish and reconstruct a building at 234 Calvary St.

Traffic Commission in brief: Traffic team pushes back on funding delays

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • NEWS • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



J. Michael Garvin, the city's traffic engineer, said funding delays are currently holding up traffic signal maintenance around Waltham.

At the Traffic Commission's meeting this week, he said the team regularly studies traffic signals and reports any maintenance needs to the commission. Garvin said the city completed most of the maintenance approved over the last three years — but he identified 14 cases where the city has blocked progress at the funding stage, sometimes requiring that the commission [complete other projects before proceeding](#).

Garvin showed videos of the signal timing and vehicle detection issues at some of these intersections. He emphasized that [as of the commission's June meeting](#), the city's traffic mitigation fund had the capacity to cover these projects.

"When people complain about traffic through the city, added delay at traffic signals is the main reason," Garvin said.

The commission voted to re-request funding for these signals.

Waiting for a car charger contract

The city also hasn't yet received a contract for ChargePoint, the company operating [its new electric vehicle chargers](#).

Garvin told commissioners the Wires Department has installed new ChargePoint chargers at public lots around the city.

Without the contract, however, the city isn't yet collecting any of the revenue from its electric car chargers. Furthermore, the company is charging the city a significant cloud subscription fee without a clearly defined purpose.

Garvin recommended the city turn off all chargers until finalizing a contract with ChargePoint.

The commission voted to keep chargers operational after assurance from Director of Wires Tim Kelly that his



EV charger. Canva stock image.

department was actively working with ChargePoint to get the contract.

The commission also approved two additional electric charging spots and reduced overtime fees for cars that remain at charging stations beyond the permitted two hours. The change followed technical issues with fees the commission [approved in February](#). It also approved a new contract with PayByPhone, the city's mobile parking payment service, which raised SMS costs for users by five cents per message.

Additionally, the Traffic Commission:

- Agreed to remove a disability-accessible parking space on Clinton Street.
- Approved an all-way stop on the South Side intersection of Adams and Walnut streets, and requested Garvin study the width of the parking lane on Adams Street to make sure it's large enough.
- Approved a new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon on Linden Street. It asked Garvin to study a possible RRFB on Beaver Street, between Waltham Fields Community Farm and the Girl Scout camp, and tabled a proposal to add one on Moody Street while waiting to hear updates [on the city's long-term plans for the street](#).
- Approved a stop sign on the Lakeview intersection between Mokema and Seminole avenues.
- Approved a traffic study for an apartment building at the reservoir-adjacent Bay Colony property.
- Approved free parking vouchers for participants in a November event held by Waltham Open Studios.
- Approved signal timings for [a redesign of the Gore Place intersection](#) between Main Street and Warren Street, Gore Street and Barbara Road.
- Approved stop signs to protect crosswalks in the city's Embassy Garage.
- Considered traffic improvements to the South Side's Pine Street. Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan requested protected left-turn phases for its intersections with Newton and Moody streets, and asked the city to install no-parking poles to prevent illegal parking where it would block driver sightlines. The commission requested Garvin study the two intersections further and asked him to look into alternatives to deter parking along the street.
- Heard an update on the MBTA's [ongoing bus map redesign](#). Garvin said he's written a letter to the state asking it to reconsider plans that would break up service to Market Basket and the Lakeview neighborhood and entirely remove service to some areas in North Waltham, Highlands, Cedarwood and the Bleachery.
- Heard an update on the redesign of the Beaver Street railroad crossing, whose final design is slated to come out this fall.
- Heard updates on projects the city completed over the summer, including:

- New signs advertising parking regulations
 - Improved traffic detection at three intersections and approved or added signage at four more
 - Repositioned pedestrian crossing buttons at the Charles River Greenway
 - A study of possible crosswalk locations near Whittemore Elementary, and
 - The removal of a disability-accessible parking space.
- Requested that Garvin study parking requirements on Grant Street, near the Main Street post office, at the request of a resident petition.
 - Requested that Garvin study traffic safety at the South Side's Wadsworth Street and Fuller Avenue, as well as the corner between Angleside and Charles River roads, near Brandeis's Charles River Apartments.
 - Updated the city's traffic regulations to include recent changes to signage and traffic patterns.



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.

Waltham Cares Dinner sets fundraising record for Chaplains on the Way

BY STEVE MILMORE • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 18, 2026



Chaplains on the Way held its second annual Waltham Cares Dinner Wednesday night at the American Legion Hall, raising more than \$40,000, a record, to support the organization's work helping people experiencing homelessness and hardship in the community.

Executive Director Mike Jones served as master of ceremonies for the event, which brought together community members, city councilors and supporters of Chaplains on the Way. Organizers said this year's dinner surpassed last year's fundraising total, setting a new record for the event, with some 140 people in attendance.



Event chair and state Rep. Tom Stanley speaks to dinner guests. Photo by Steve Milmore.

State Rep. Tom Stanley spoke about the importance of the community coming together during difficult times. He highlighted the role residents, businesses and organizations play in helping struggling neighbors and emphasized the importance of stepping up when people need support.

Money raised at the dinner funds Chaplains on the Way's core daily operations through the winter, when the organization's services are particularly important. The fundraiser gives the organization resources to continue providing assistance and outreach to people in need throughout the colder months.

Chaplains on the Way is open five mornings a week, filling the gap between overnight shelters closing and the Community Day Center in Waltham opening, giving guests a warm place to rest.

Donations help provide food, hygiene products, toiletries, clothing, sleeping bags and other supplies, as well as a hot breakfast prepared and served by volunteers. Chaplains also greet guests and help them navigate healthcare, housing and social services.

Louise Rachin, president of the board, credited the community for making this year's dinner a success and thanked supporters for coming together and opening their hearts — and their wallets — to support Chaplains on the Way.

Sponsors and volunteers

- **Platinum Sponsors:**
 - Susan & Paul Pintus

Waltham High Hall of Fame class celebrated at sold-out induction dinner

BY STEVE MILMORE • EDUCATION • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Decades of Waltham High athletic history came together under one roof on Sept. 18.

Former teammates reconnected at the Sons of Italy as families and friends gathered to recognize the newest members of the Waltham High School Athletic Hall of Fame and share stories from their playing days.

Seven former Waltham High athletes and the 1972 baseball team were inducted during the sold-out ceremony, hosted by former Waltham High Principal Greg DeMeo.



Coach John Bourque. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

The 2026 class includes twin brothers Steven and Don Hopkins, Jackie (Driscoll) Goodmurphy, Taylor Pinzone, Joseph Recine, D.J. Saulnier, John Bourque and the 1972 baseball team.

Memories from teammates and coaches

Former Waltham High varsity hockey coach John Maguire introduced the Hopkins brothers, recalling what they were like to coach.

“It was tough to tell the identical twins apart on the ice, but they had other things in common, too, like toughness, determination and a true love for the game,” Maguire said.

The brothers’ impact has continued well beyond their playing days. Maguire noted that the two have raised more than \$200,000 for cancer research over the past five years.

That theme of lasting relationships continued when Francois Joseph, president of Waltham Youth Football, introduced Bourque. The two spent years coaching together, and Joseph said Bourque’s contribution to Waltham football went beyond wins and losses.

“He’s a winner, and I was glad to have the chance to coach right beside him,” Joseph said. “But numbers don’t tell the whole story. The time and energy he spent to help build the youth football program is an example of that. I consider John family.”

Family also took center stage when Goodmurphy, who was unable to attend, submitted a video acceptance. Her mother, Janet, introduced her daughter in an emotional speech, remembering a three-sport athlete who constantly pushed herself to be better.

Longtime friend and coach Stacey Meehan introduced Pinzone and recalled a competitive streak that started at an early age. She recalled a paper Pinzone wrote in the sixth grade that declared she would someday “dunk a basketball.” “I’m not sure that’s happened yet,” Meehan said. “So now I expect she’ll go out and do it tomorrow.”

For members of the 1972 baseball team, the ceremony provided an opportunity to reconnect more than five decades after a season in which Waltham went 18-3, shared the Suburban League championship and reached the Division 1 state semifinals.

Chuck Nester introduced former teammate and pitching star Saulnier, and spoke of the confidence the team had whenever Saulnier took the mound. Saulnier later dedicated his individual Hall of Fame honor to his late wife, Christine.

Former Waltham High football standout Jeff Fuller offered another example of how statistics told only part of the story when he introduced Recine.

Recine was part of a talented 1991 team that included four players who went on to play Division I college football. Yet when it came time to choose a captain, Recine was the one his teammates selected.

“That’s who Joe was,” Fuller said. “He was the glue that kept that team together, and the result was an 11-0 record and a Super Bowl championship.”



Jeff Fuller with Joe Recine and his son Jake. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

The ceremony closed with the newest class taking its place in the Hall of Fame, adding seven athletes and one team to the history of Waltham High athletics.

Read more about the inductees and their accomplishments [here](#).



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.

Waltham-bound Stoke Therapeutics receives biosafety permit

BY STEVE MILMORE • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



[Stoke Therapeutics](#), a biotechnology company developing medicines for genetic diseases, received a permit to conduct recombinant DNA research in Waltham from the city's Biosafety Committee at its meeting on Sept. 15.

The company's technology is designed to help healthy copies of genes produce more of the proteins the body needs.

Currently based in Bedford, Stoke [announced plans in January to move its headquarters](#) to a 98,500-square-foot facility at 245 Fifth Ave. in Waltham later this year, doubling its size. Stoke has about 250 employees and will join Waltham's growing life sciences sector.

The permit allows Stoke to conduct laboratory research involving recombinant DNA, genetic material altered or combined in a laboratory. The work is subject to biosafety requirements and committee oversight.

The company's leading drug candidate, zorevunersen, is being developed to treat Dravet syndrome, a severe genetic form of epilepsy. Stoke is also developing treatments for other genetic disorders, including a condition causing progressive vision loss.



Stoke Therapeutics' soon-to-be Waltham headquarters at 245 Fifth Ave. Courtesy photo.



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.

‘Never Forget’: Waltham marks 25th anniversary of 9/11

BY STEVE MILMORE & LINDA HAAS • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



People gather at Waltham's Circle of Remembrance for the 9/11 commemoration on Sept. 11, 2026. Photo by The Waltham Times.

Waltham commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks with a morning remembrance on the Waltham Common, honoring those who lost their lives and the heroes who responded.

A crowd of more than 100 joined city leaders at the Circle of Remembrance at 610 Main St. to reaffirm a commitment to never forget the victims of the attacks.

Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, Fire Chief Randy Mullin, Fire Capt. John Bonadio, Police Chief Kevin O'Connell and Director of Veterans' Services John O'Connor were in attendance alongside local government officials. Members of the Waltham Police and Fire departments, EMTs and emergency dispatchers were also present.

Guest speaker Lt. Col. Philip Peck, a U.S. Army veteran and former Pentagon strategic intelligence analyst, spoke on his military career, which involved counterterrorism aspects of homeland security, and the need to carry forward the spirit of service and community

A revitalized Waltham Clothing Exchange opens its 70th season

BY BETTY BARRER • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Volunteers from Bentley University's coed fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. Photo by Betty Barrer.

For decades, the [Waltham Clothing Exchange](#) opened for new seasons in September and February.

However, its reopening this fall was not certain.

Long-time co-directors Joel and Susan Weddig worried they would have to shut down the Clothing Exchange — located at the rear of First Parish's iconic white church building at 50 Church S. — because of a lack of volunteers. Meanwhile, donated and consigned goods kept piling up, placing a burden on the retired couple, who longed for more free time.

But then several regular exchange shoppers started volunteering (some because of [coverage in The Waltham Times](#)). When Joel asked whether anyone could take on an even larger role, Waltham residents and regular shoppers Kerry Sainato and Ronnie Marczewski stepped up to join the Weddigs as co-directors.

‘Be kind, work hard, have fun’: Waltham High’s new principal sets the tone

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Starting this fall, Waltham High School will be led by a new face: William Conard, an educator and principal with 30 years of experience.

He is the fifth person to lead the high school since 2018. “It’s obviously a big school, very complex, a lot of different moving parts,” Conard said. “I think having experience in this role is going to be helpful, but also having that experience in very similar communities.”

Conard is no stranger to large, diverse schools. He spent a decade as principal of Randolph High School, one of the most diverse high schools in the state, from 2006 to 2011 and returning from 2018 to 2023. He also comes to Waltham with 10 years of experience as a middle school principal in Canton and New Bedford.



*William T. Conard.
Courtesy photo.*

He won’t be the only newcomer to the high school’s administrative team. Two new assistant principals are slated to join, bringing the total to six, under a plan championed by Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa.

That plan comes as a relief to Conard, who said the new positions will focus on classroom instruction and student achievement instead of discipline, which often crowds their workload. “I was absolutely thrilled to learn that [Mendonsa] had asked for those positions ... That’s going to be a huge, huge game changer for us,” he said.

The “right move” for English learners

In response to state guidance, the high school is also moving this fall to integrate sheltered English learners into mainstream classes with fluent speakers. In previous years,

those students spent most of the school day in separate classes — a dynamic Conard said other districts have done away with.

“I think the district has moved in the right direction. They’ve moved in the direction that a lot of other districts have already moved in,” he said.

Despite that trend, teachers have expressed concern about whether students with higher needs will be supported through the transition. Conard said that ample supports are already in place for teachers and students as the school navigates this change, such as a full-time English as a Second Language coach and many professional development opportunities.

He also said that professional development will help staff get on the same page, after teachers said they felt left out of the loop when the transition was announced.

“It’s going to take time. It’s going to take learning. We’re not going to get there overnight. But this is the right move,” he said.

Involving families in setting new schedule

Separately, Conard will take over as the chair of the committee in charge of revising the high school schedule. The effort to shift to a more academics-heavy schedule began last year but was paused after criticism from the public. At recent School Committee meetings, parents have called for a caregiver representative to be more involved in the revision process. Currently, the schedule committee does not include a parent perspective.

Conard said the district plans to share an updated schedule proposal with families this fall. “There is no perfect schedule,” he said. “We’ve got to try to find one that gets as many wins as possible.”

However, he said the main goal was to organize a schedule that would give students “significantly more time” in their core academic classes, and emphasized information sharing with families throughout the process.

A school culture that embraces all students

Only a few weeks into the job, Conard was candid that he still has a lot to learn about Waltham. But some things remain the same from school to school. He said that during the opening assembly for the year, he introduced students to three agreements that make for a prosperous school: be kind, work hard and have fun.

City prepares four affordable housing units for public lottery

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



Cardinal Cottage prior to its exterior renovation.

Four lucky households chosen by lottery may soon move into city-owned affordable housing.

Two of the units are three-bedroom single-family homes on Mount Walley Road, bordering the Jericho Hill farm formerly owned by the Arrigo family. The other two are apartments in Cardinal Cottage on the edge of the Fernald property.

The announcement came at this week's board of trustees meeting for the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Officials said the Purchasing Department is preparing an application package for prospective residents of the Mount Walley Road homes. The city recently [renamed them Mac's Place and Arrigo's Place](#).

Housing Director Colette Casey-Brenner said the buildings are move-in ready. The city wants to move forward quickly so tenants can pay to heat the building

over the winter, since it wants to avoid heating empty buildings.

While the city only purchased Mac's Place and Arrigo's Place, city officials have wanted to convert Cardinal Cottage into affordable housing [since 2017](#).

The city plans to open similar applications for the cottage's [two apartments](#). Casey-Brenner explained that because the Cardinal Cottage apartments have only two bedrooms each, unlike Mac's and Arrigo's three, the city will open applications separately later in the year to avoid confusion.

After the city screens applications for eligibility, it will select residents via blind lottery — the first housing lottery since the one for the Nahum Hardy Residences in 2012, said Casey-Brenner. She said the city will prioritize veteran applicants for both houses, and will accept applications for groups of three unrelated roommates or families of three to five people.

Additionally, at the meeting, trustees:

- Heard an update on renovations to [the former Elks lodge](#), which the city plans to run as a lodging house for women and families. Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy said city workers have rewired much of the building and made a preliminary estimate of how many housing units it can contain. She added that the city hired an architect to design an elevator system for the building and estimated that the MAHTF likely already has all the funding it needs to complete the project.
- Received an update on the city's Nahum Hardy Residences, which is currently at full occupancy, charging rents calculated to be affordable for households making 40–45% of the area median income. The city is currently repairing the building's elevator.
- Postponed a decision judgment on boutique hotel Dyer's Crescent Suites. The owner currently has permission to rent 14 of the building's 30 units for long-term stays, but wants to convert the entire building into apartments. He requested a determination from the MAHTF on how many units Waltham [would require to be priced affordably](#), since the hotel was created before Waltham's affordability statutes were enacted. Trustees asked him to return after proposing the project to the City Council and receiving a decision.

City will update Gore Place intersection for clarity, pedestrian safety

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • PUBLIC SAFETY • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



The intersection Main, Barbara, Warren and Gore streets. Google street image.

The Main Street intersection where a Shell station, John Brewer's Tavern and Gore Place meet is "one of the most confusing" in the city, according to City Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin. The city is finally going to do something about it – next spring.

Garvin told a neighborhood meeting last week that officials have been tasked with redesigning the intersection since 2020, and it's marked as one of the city's immediate traffic priorities.

Garvin unveiled plans for the new intersection at the meeting. Although the intersection's overall shape will remain largely the same, the city plans to reposition traffic lights and change the timing of the light cycle to clear up some congestion and make it clearer for drivers passing through the intersection when and where they're supposed to move.

It's also making improvements for pedestrians. The city will create a large raised traffic island at the mouth of Warren Street both to divide left- and right-turning traffic and create a safe place with a push button for pedestrians to stop. It also plans to add a pedestrian crossing light at the eastern end of the Main Street crosswalk.

Garvin said that the consulting design team modeled a host of more comprehensive redesigns but found the current layout was most efficient at getting traffic through the intersection. The Traffic Commission has already finalized this layout and plans to approve signal timing changes at its meeting on Sept. 17.

Residents can expect to see construction begin on the intersection by spring 2027 and finish within one construction season, Garvin estimated.

The meeting wasn't well attended, but residents and councilors in attendance seemed to approve of the changes. Still, some weren't entirely convinced the redesign went as far as it needed to.

Councilor-at-Large Tim King raised concerns about whether the intersection's signage and pavement markings, which won't change much in its new incarnation, will be sufficient to guide drivers.

"[The signs are] there now — and it's still a free-for-all," he said.



Author



ARTIE KRONENFELD

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

Comments (5)



MARC • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 AT 1:23 AM

Gore Place is a historic landmark in Waltham & this new crosswalk is an excellent idea.
Reply



BEN NUELMAN • SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 AT 10:00 AM

This is very encouraging news! I walk through this intersection regularly and have advocated for improvements over the years. As for low attendance at the community meeting, while the mayor had informed me (during a casual group gathering) to stay

Flock cameras covered with bags per order of the mayor

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • SEPTEMBER 11, 2026



Flock Safety cameras around Waltham have been covered with black plastic bags per order of Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy, according to Waltham Police Department public information officer Det. Cap. Timothy Maher. The first reports of cameras being covered came in on Tuesday.

McCarthy confirmed that she ordered the cameras to be covered in an interview with The Waltham Times on Friday, Sept. 11. She said she had sent a letter by Federal Express to Flock Safety asking for information but the letter was returned unopened. After seeing recent television interviews with Flock Safety CEO Garrett Langley, “I have no confidence about how the company is handling data,” McCarthy said.

Note: This story was originally published on Sept. 10, 2026. It was been updated on Sept. 11, 3:04 p.m., with additional information from the Times’ interview with McCarthy.



Flock camera covered in black plastic, corner of Moody and Charles streets, Sept. 9, 2026. Photo by The Waltham Times.



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.

Comments (5)



DAVE • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 11:13 PM

What are the other cameras i see on the traffic light poles?

[Reply](#)



NEIL • SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 AT 6:09 AM

Exactly the right call. Besides Joe who is snooping on his ex, there are some reason reason to be afraid (not concerned). Joe in TX or VA or MT can search your license plate... with no warrant or a reason. Also – the Flock company has v little controls itself. They have not shown any serious audits to show their own employees cannot use/misuse our data.

Good call mayor.

[Reply](#)



RODNEY MULLEN • SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 AT 9:15 AM

It is about time. Waltham residents clearly don't want this, and the opposition to the surveillance state and tech bro takeover unites those all over the political spectrum. The city's unwillingness to be transparent about absolutely any aspect of this deployment was a dismal failure, and I won't be surprised if it comes out that an officer was abusing the system. What else could possibly compel Mayor McCarthy to bag these?

Hopefully they are gone for good and not replaced with another (arguably worse) ALPR like Axon or Vigilant. It is time that the city councilors introduce a policy to prevent this from ever happening again. The fight is not over .

[Reply](#)



MARK HAYDEN • SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 AT 9:01 AM

Thank You Mayor,
It's the right thing to do.

[Reply](#)



SANDRA • SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 AT 8:28 AM

All flock cameras should be removed. This type of surveillance is how China watches and controls it's population.

[Reply](#)

Investigations may account for lag in public crime notifications

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



In the aftermath of a fatal altercation at Woodside's Service Station and a shooting on Main Street this summer, some Waltham residents questioned how quickly information about criminal activity was communicated to the public.

As reported in The Waltham Times, the incident at Woodside's Service Station took place May 27, and the victim, Nicholas Dagostino, died from his injuries two days later on May 29. The public wasn't notified of the fatality until June 8, 11 days after the fact, at a press conference hosted by Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and the Waltham Police Department.

Regarding a shooting on Main Street on Aug. 16, the WPD issued a press release that day stating that the incident did not appear to be random and there was no threat to the public. The next public communication about the incident came Aug. 29 when the Middlesex DA's Office stated in a press release that investigators determined the shooting was accidental and self-inflicted and that a suspect was under arrest.

According to the Waltham Police Department's official public information policy, the release of information may be limited when disclosure could interfere with or hamper an investigation. There is no specific deadline or required timeframe for publicly releasing information about criminal incidents.

Middlesex District Attorney's Office Chief of Administration Meghan Kelly said via email that "communication regarding calls for service are handled by the police department who manage public police logs." Waltham Police Department Public Information Officer Tim Maher said the department worked closely with the Middlesex DA's Office during both investigations.



Nicholas Dagostino died on May 29, 2026, following an altercation in Waltham. The public did not learn of his death until June 8.

Judge rules WCAC did due diligence in dispute over copyright; Channel 781 plans appeal

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026



WCAC van on the common.

The U.S. District Court will not require cable news station Waltham Community Access Corp. to pay citizen newsgroup Channel 781 News in [a lawsuit over fair use of city meeting recordings](#).

District court Judge Patti B. Saris recently ruled in the WCAC's favor, deciding that the organization believed in good faith that Channel 781 News violated fair use policy when it reported Channel 781 News' videos to YouTube for copyright infringement.

WCAC, which is primarily funded by Waltham's cable TV subscriptions, records and broadcasts Waltham government meetings and other locally produced content. It also posts its content, including the recordings of those meetings, [on its website](#). In 2023 [Channel 781 News](#), a coalition of Waltham residents attempting to broaden visibility of Waltham politics, posted clips from WCAC recordings of government meetings as part of YouTube talk shows and as standalone videos.

In the leadup to the 2023 municipal election, WCAC requested that Channel 781 News take down its videos that included clips from WCAC recordings. Channel 781 News posted content that expressed critical views on sitting Waltham officials, and WCAC's executive director Maria Sheehan stated on air that the network objected to the use of its content "to score political points under the veil of anonymity."

After a discussion with the channel on what constituted fair use, WCAC employees issued copyright takedown notices to YouTube on 15 clips that Channel 781 News used in its videos. Youtube took down the videos in question and temporarily removed Channel 781 News from the platform days before the mayoral primary.

Channel 781 News [sued WCAC in 2024](#), protesting that its videos were covered under fair use law and the latter's actions served to shut down its political speech rights.

In an Aug. 18 decision, Saris supported part of Channel 781 News' argument. She wrote that WCAC failed to consider important components of the fair use law: the fact that the YouTube clips were short, that the content was a factual recording and not a creative work, and that Channel 781 News did not make money off them.

Still, Saris wrote that wasn't sufficient to win the suit; Massachusetts law firmly requires evidence that WCAC was not acting in good faith. Saris determined WCAC employees conducted research and believed their copyright claim was genuinely justified. She added that Channel 781 News' arguments attempted to "smuggle" into the case a question of whether WCAC's decision was reasonable.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit digital rights organization that has been [assisting with Channel 781 News'](#) legal representation, disagrees.

"Our argument is about good faith," wrote EFF senior staff attorney Betty Gedlu. "A copyright holder should not be able to ... go through the motions of saying it considered fair use, and then claim a good-faith belief, particularly where the takedown process is being used to accomplish a purpose unrelated to protecting legitimate copyright interests, such as silencing a critic."

The EFF wrote that it plans to appeal the decision to the First Circuit Court of Appeals sometime next week. In a [public statement](#), it called Saris' decision "an alarmingly low bar for copyright holders seeking to remove someone else's speech from the internet."

Neither WCAC nor Channel 781 News responded to requests for comment.

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.

Music, memories fill Waltham Senior Center on 9/11

BY STEVE MILMORE • ARTS & CULTURE • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



A day of remembrance turned into a celebration of music and community when retired Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Daniel M. Clark brought his “Singing Trooper” performance to a packed Stanley Senior Center on Sept. 11.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Sgt. Clark became known as “The Singing Trooper” during his 20-year career with the Massachusetts State Police. He has performed at more than 2,500 federal, state, local and military events, including the Boston Marathon, Fenway Park and with the Boston Pops.

On Friday, Sgt. Clark turned a solemn 9/11 remembrance into a warm and celebratory event, opening with heartfelt service hymns in honor of those who served before taking the audience on a musical journey.

His repertoire ranged from emotional patriotic favorites such as “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” to Broadway show tunes, including “Hello, Dolly!” He also brought an Irish touch to the afternoon with a warm rendition of “Danny Boy.”

“I get great satisfaction from singing, whether it’s patriotic, Broadway, Irish tunes, whatever it is,” Clark added. “I consider it a privilege and an honor to perform, especially today on 9/11.”

The audience was with Sgt. Clark from the start.

“He has a great voice and gave a moving performance,” Waltham resident Janice Meehan said. “It was a great tribute, and the crowd certainly loved him.”

Sgt Clark didn’t stay behind the microphone, either. He moved through the audience and helped with the sing-alongs, giving a special tribute to seniors in attendance, including a happy birthday to Waltham resident Rosanne Cormier, who turns 102 next week.

For Clark, that interaction is what makes performing worthwhile.



Sgt. Clark sings happy birthday to Waltham senior Rosanne Cormier. Photo by Steve Milmore.

Waltham Cultural Council opens arts funding applications

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • ARTS & CULTURE • SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates its 41st season. Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra was one of the recipients of the WCC grant. Photos courtesy of Astrid Asmundsson/WPO.

Calling all artists and community leaders: As of Sept. 1, the Waltham Cultural Council has been accepting applications for arts and culture projects planned in Waltham for the upcoming year.

Last year, the WCC distributed over \$50,000 in grants to 51 projects including many large community events such as the Steampunk and Riverbeat festivals. This year, the WCC expects to distribute a total of \$33,100 in state arts and culture funding, plus an additional \$10,000 from the city.

Other grants last year were to groups such as Boston Jazz Voices and the Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra; and community projects ranging from a youth-created magazine about culture and heritage from African Cultural Services to an educational kids' program from the Waltham Land Trust on local New England snakes.

This year, according to the WCC’s website, the organization is prioritizing projects making art and culture accessible to the broader Waltham community “regardless of income or background.”

Interested community members can submit applications by Oct. 15 through [the portal on the MCC website](#).

The WCC is Waltham’s chapter of the [Massachusetts Cultural Council](#), a state initiative to fund local arts and culture programs. Municipal volunteer boards such as the WCC review funding applications from artists and organizations for local events, art projects and cultural initiatives.

Disclosure: The Waltham Times received WCC grants in 2025 and 2026 to fund its arts coverage.



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.

Waltham Housing Authority approves Fair Market Rents payment standards

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • DEVELOPMENT • SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



The Waltham Housing Authority approved new Section 8 payment standards after federal Fair Market Rents rose more modestly than in recent years, keeping its subsidy benchmark at 110% of those rents.

On Sept. 1, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released its fiscal year 2027 Fair Market Rents for the Boston-Quincy-Cambridge, Massachusetts-New Hampshire metropolitan area, which includes Waltham. Fair Market Rents are annual estimates of the cost of renting modestly priced housing in a given market.

Local housing authorities such as the WHA set the Housing Choice Voucher Program payment standards based on the federally established rent estimates.

For the year beginning Nov., 2025, WHA set its payment standards at 110% of Fair Market Rent. On Tuesday afternoon, the WHA voted to keep the payment standards at 110% for another year. Effective Nov. 1 through Oct. 31, 2027, the standards will be: \$2,684 for a studio, \$2,769 for a one-bedroom, \$3,308 for a two-bedroom, \$3,942 for a three-bedroom and \$4,348 for a four-bedroom. Across apartment types, WHA payment standards will increase by about 2.1% on average from the previous year.

WHA Executive Director John Gollinger said this year's FMR increase was minimal compared to harsher increases in recent years.

Still, Gollinger said rising subsidy costs can limit how many vouchers the authority supports. Even if the WHA is authorized to issue a certain number of vouchers, he said higher costs for each subsidized unit can eat away at the funding available to serve additional households.

"It's just a war of attrition," Gollinger told The Waltham Times.

Marguerite Avenue units stalemate continues

The future of two handicap-accessible homes on Marguerite Avenue remains unresolved as the WHA waits for the state Department of Mental Health to make a decision on the properties. The properties have been in limbo for nearly a year, since the housing authority's long-term agreement with the DMH expired in October 2025.

In the early 1990s, the state entered into a 30-year lease with the Waltham Housing Authority for two units in a single home on Marguerite Avenue, previously used by employees of Metropolitan State Hospital. Under the agreement, DMH leased the properties while the authority collected rent, which was minimal given its Section 8 status and therefore a fraction of the total rent.

Gollinger said the federal HOME program funded renovations to make the houses handicap-accessible. One home has four bedrooms, and the other has five, making them unusually valuable for large low-income families needing accessible housing. He said it is a valuable asset to the housing authority's mission.

Gollinger said one of the homes is vacant after the authority spent about a year evicting its former tenant, who left the property with significant damage, including broken windows and doors. The other home is occupied by a tenant. Gollinger said he is reluctant to spend an estimated \$20,000 to \$30,000 repairing the vacant property without knowing what will happen to it.

"I don't want to put the money into the house if we're not going to be controlling it," Gollinger said.

Gollinger said a follow-up meeting with the department was being discussed for the following week, though scheduling conflicts will likely require rescheduling.

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.

Waltham offers plentiful resources for neighbors in need

BY BETTY BARRER • COMMUNITY • SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



One of Waltham's strengths — often unseen — is the extraordinary breadth of help the community provides to neighbors in need.

Today, many Waltham residents feel the strain of rising costs or face personal challenges from illness, aging or being new in town.

From food pantries and community meals to social services, clothing closets, emergency shelter, addiction self-help groups, affordable housing assistance and household goods, a network of local organizations, congregations and volunteers works year-round to support the community.

The Waltham Times publishes this guide as a regular feature and updates it as programs, hours and eligibility requirements change. Our goal is to make it easier for residents — and the friends, family members and caseworkers helping them — to find the right resource quickly, without piecing information together from a dozen places.

We know this list is not complete. If you run a program, volunteer with one or simply know of a service we've missed, please tell us. Send additions, corrections and updates to info@walthamtimes.org, and we'll include them in the next edition. Community knowledge is what makes a guide like this useful, and we're grateful for yours.

Waltham resident reflects on appointment to Cannabis Control Commission by Gov. Healey

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • GOVERNMENT • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026



Anthony Wilson stands with Gov. Maura Healey following his appointment to the Cannabis Control Commission. Photo from the Massachusetts Office of the Governor.

Waltham resident Anthony Wilson is promising a solutions-based approach to regulating the cannabis industry in Massachusetts, three months into his new role as one of three commissioners appointed by Gov. Maura Healey to the Cannabis Control Commission.

In 2016, Wilson returned to his hometown of Springfield, after graduating from Suffolk University Law School. Around that time, an old friend approached him for legal help opening a cannabis dispensary, as Massachusetts voters considered legalizing recreational marijuana.

“At the time, I had not been following the ballot initiative so I thought this person was crazy,” Wilson said.

About eight months later, the initiative passed and recreational marijuana sales became legal.

Much of Wilson's work in Springfield's Law Department involved developing regulations for the cannabis industry. After working in the city clerk's office in Cambridge, he started a private law practice representing cannabis operators, from growers to dispensaries.

In April, Healey signed a sweeping cannabis law that reduced the commission from five members to three and gave the governor authority to appoint all three. In May, Healey appointed Wilson alongside Xiomara DeLobato and commission chair Christopher Harding.

An oversaturated market

In recent years, prices of cannabis products in Massachusetts have dropped significantly and dispensaries are popping up at a rapid rate.

In June, Wilson drafted a proposal to monitor licensed growth of marijuana by square footage, which he said could give the commission a way to limit overproduction.

Wilson said this proposal is moving through public comment and is scheduled to return to the commission for consideration in January. He said reducing the supply of licenses to grow is not likely to mitigate the oversaturation issue, and that a similar analytical approach should be applied to regulating business licenses to open dispensaries.

"Before we make huge market interventions, I think we should be systematic about the data that we look at," he said.

Recreational marijuana on the ballot

Question 8 on the November ballot would prohibit retail sales of recreational marijuana in Massachusetts. Wilson said he has faith that voters will keep it legal and that the gross revenue and tax revenue for the cannabis industry continue to increase year after year.

"People are talking about how the industry is struggling. It's really maturing," he said.

Wilson said the legal cannabis market puts an emphasis on testing the product to make sure it doesn't include harmful chemicals.

"One thing we can all agree on is whether it is legal or illegal, a lot of people are using cannabis in some form or another under either regime," he said. "Under the legal regime, it's safer for the users."

On Waltham's history being against weed

Historically, Waltham has been resistant to the sale of recreational marijuana. The city's first and only dispensary opened in May 2025, nearly a decade after legalization. Wilson, who moved to Waltham in 2019, said opposition to cannabis in many communities stems partly from longstanding stigma.

"We've known for years and years that alcohol destroys families, that alcohol destroys careers, that alcohol damages the body," he said. "If you're a senator or your lawyer is having a drink at lunch, you don't judge them, whereas if that same person has an edible, then they are wondering what kind of character they have."

Wilson said he is in good company with the other two commissioners who each bring different strengths to the commission.

"As with other commissions in the commonwealth, I hope you're not going to hear much from us other than when we're working on a policy," Wilson said. "It's meant to be a low-drama, high-proficiency agency, and you know we have enough politics in the world as it is."



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.

Waltham's good neighbors can step up for our unhoused

BY GUEST WRITER • LETTERS • SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

Dear Editor,

As a lifelong resident of Waltham and a leader in the city for over 25 years, I have seen members of the Waltham community step up and support each other time and time again. We're a city built on good neighbors who look out for one another.

Unfortunately, our unhoused community members are facing increasingly hard times. Every morning, they are stuck out on the streets, subject to the elements, without access to proper shelter and resources. Fortunately, our community is supported by Chaplains on the Way (COTW), who work to provide those experiencing homelessness with shelter, food, compassion, and assistance.

I'm excited to share that I've agreed to serve as Chairman for the 2nd Annual Chaplains on the Way – Waltham Cares Dinner to Benefit our Unhoused Neighbors. It's happening on Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 PM at the American Legion post 156, 215 Waverly Oaks Rd. This event provides an opportunity to come together and help those experiencing homelessness in Waltham. COTW has seen a 67% jump in people needing help, creating a greater need than ever for support from their programs.

A donation or ticket purchase for this event will directly provide a number of services, including warm shelter and a hot breakfast, professional chaplaincy and compassionate listening for all, and access to healthcare, housing, and life-changing resources like our local Waltham Police Homeless Outreach Team.

Both tables (\$500) and individual (\$50) tickets are available, as well as an option for donations only, for those unable to attend the event. Even if anyone cannot afford a ticket or donation, they are welcome to attend the dinner and show their support.

Tickets/donations can be made here:

https://donorbox.org/events/952213/steps/choose_tickets

No single one of us can fix this problem alone, but when Waltham pulls together, we can make sure everyone is treated with dignity. I trust that the Waltham community will do their part to support our unhoused neighbors and make this event a success. I am incredibly grateful to COTW and Waltham residents for everything they do to help those in need. I hope to see everyone on September 16th.

Sincerely,
Tom Stanley

Watch City Program gives Waltham kids a chance to compete

BY STEVE MILMORE • SPORTS & RECREATION • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Watch City's U14 football team. Courtesy photo.

In Waltham, football is about more than what happens between the lines. For a group of Waltham High School alumni, it's a way to give the next generation of athletes a chance to learn and compete, without worrying about whether their families can afford it.

That's the idea behind the [Watch City Program](#), a free youth sports initiative created by WHS graduates who wanted to give back to the community that helped shape them. The program brings young athletes together for clinics, camps and other activities, giving them a chance to get on the field or basketball court and learn from local coaches — at no cost.

Playing organized athletics today is expensive, regardless of the sport. Families are expected to pay for registration fees, equipment, training camps and more. [A Boston Globe survey](#) last month reported that about two-thirds of sports parents spend \$2,000 or less annually, while roughly 20% spend \$2,000-\$5,000 and about 10% spend more than \$5,000. These high out-of-pocket expenses are a significant barrier, particularly for lower-income families.

The Watch City Program wants to even the playing field.

Founded by Viondy Merisma, a former standout WHS offensive lineman and former Tennessee Titans practice squad player, and former Hawk running back and current Waltham police officer Jason Genece, the program first offered a free basketball clinic at the Waltham Boys & Girls Club in 2017. Since then, organizers have helped hundreds of Waltham kids learn and participate in youth sports.

Opening the gates to sports and beyond

The program's organizers are committed to making the Watch City Program welcoming and accessible to all the city's young athletes. Kids develop athletic skills and gain experience in a supportive environment without their families worrying about cost.

"Any funding comes out of the pockets of the alumni involved," Merisma said. "This is a program many of us could have used growing up, and we're happy to help. The real payoff is seeing kids from all backgrounds in the community get a chance to participate."

Working in partnership with [Waltham Youth Football](#), the Watch City Program provides a free, fun and supportive environment for children and teenagers to learn the game, build confidence and work with each other.

Students entering grades 1 through 12 are welcome. Participants work on skills such as footwork, speed, passing and catching, while also learning offensive and defensive fundamentals. The program provides about \$300 worth of football training to each participating athlete at no cost to families.

The Watch City Program also brings competitive youth football to Waltham's Leary every year. This spring, its 14-and-under team participated in the New England Youth Tackle Football league.

But football is only part of the experience.

"We emphasize the importance of teamwork and community alongside athletic development," Merisma said. "Our goal is to give the kids guidance and support as they go through school, sports and everyday life."

For some of the alumni who founded the program, the mission is personal. Opportunities like these were not available when they were students. Now, as successful adults who still call Waltham home, they're giving back to the community and helping provide today's young athletes with opportunities they missed out on themselves.

We are all ‘Breezers’ and we all deserve a voice here

BY BRAD ONKEN • IDEAS • SEPTEMBER 10, 2026



House of Glow spun the tunes at the Breezers Ball (March 2026). Photo by Joseph Sharkey.

Earlier this summer, I heard a fellow Waltham resident talk about what it’s like to attend local public meetings. She moved here a decade ago, loves the city and is deeply involved. Yet, she said that whenever someone stands at the microphone and begins testimony with “As a lifelong native,” her heart sinks. To her, it feels like an unspoken boundary — a signal that her newcomer insights carry less weight.

That really struck me. It’s a perfect example of how a phrase meant to express one thing can be received as another. When a resident says, “As a lifelong native,” they are expressing pride, historical memory and a commitment to Waltham. However, the exclusion felt by a newcomer, or “Breezer,” is also real. It made me wonder: How do we strike a balance between honoring lifelong roots while welcoming new perspectives?

I think the answer lies in our city’s history. From the beginning, Waltham’s success has relied on the energy and cooperation of people breezing in from somewhere

else.

Consider Christopher Gore, essentially one of our first venture capitalists, or Francis Cabot Lowell, who breezed in to revolutionize the textile industry. Our story also includes the French Canadians and rural families who arrived to work the river mills, as well as the waves of European immigrants in the late 1800s. Today, the people who choose to make Waltham home come from all over the world. Over the centuries, newcomers have transformed Waltham from a colonial farming community into an industrial powerhouse, and now into a global innovation center. If you go back far enough, every Walthamite shares Breezer roots.

This friction isn't unique to Waltham. Texas state Rep. James Talarico, who is running for the U.S. Senate, spoke to this exact idea in his nomination acceptance speech. Talarico proudly traced his own family roots back eight generations, but he didn't use that history to build a wall around who belongs. He argued that true Texas identity isn't about cowboy boots on your feet or how long your family has lived there — it's about having a welcoming state of mind.

Choosing a welcoming mindset reminds us that we are all caretakers of the same city. The generations before us built Waltham, knowing it would grow and evolve over time. Fostering that spirit requires respect for Waltham's deep history and an open mind about how our city can grow today.

It can begin with how we speak at the local microphone, which opens again when the City Council reconvenes on Sept. 14. When our public debates value constructive input, grounded realities and a genuine love for Waltham above all else — regardless of how deep your Waltham roots run — everybody wins.



Author



BRAD ONKEN

Brad Onken is a Waltham resident, former textbook publishing executive and U.S. history and government teacher who writes to encourage local discussion. His writing explores divergent viewpoints on city issues, aiming to spark thoughtful dialogue and help consider the consensus needed to move Waltham forward as an important hub in the MetroWest region. He serves on the board of Healthy Waltham.

Comments (3)



BRAD ONKEN • SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 AT 11:35 AM

I would like to offer a quick clarification: my intent was never to suggest that lifelong residents shouldn't proudly share their deep roots or say "as a lifelong resident"—as I said above, that historical memory is a vital part of Waltham's character.

My point is that everyone who cares about our city should feel welcomed at the microphone, regardless of how long they've lived here. When we value both deep roots and fresh perspectives, our whole community benefits.

I really appreciate everyone sharing their thoughts—it's great to see so many people who care deeply about Waltham.

[Reply](#)



CHRIS BUCKLEY • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 AT 6:26 PM

So because someone personally feels unwelcome at a meeting because a speaker references being a lifelong resident, we should now not mention it so we won't make them sad. Give me a break. I am a lifelong resident of Waltham. I am so terribly sorry for mentioning it.

[Reply](#)



EVELYN • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 AT 6:24 PM

As a lifelong Waltham resident, I have to say I find it pretty funny that simply stating that fact is now apparently something that should make someone's "heart sink."

Being a lifelong resident isn't an insult to newcomers, nor is it a claim that our opinions matter more. It's context, and yes, some of us have decades of firsthand experience watching this city change.

And if we're going to start calling people "Breezers," maybe we should acknowledge that being a Breezer isn't an insult either. What is a little insulting is suggesting that lifelong residents should feel awkward about taking pride in where they're from.

Waltham has room for both: people who have been here their entire lives and people who chose to make it their home. We don't need to pretend those experiences are identical in order to respect both.

Signed, a lifelong Waltham resident who apparently needs to apologize for the audacity of remembering things

Yolanda Cellucci, whose glittery star shone far beyond Waltham, dies at 91

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • OBITUARY • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026



Yolanda Cellucci, resplendent in ruffles, feathers and rhinestones, at her 90th birthday party. Courtesy of Waltham Lions Club.

Yolanda Cellucci, the fashion entrepreneur and philanthropist, died in her sleep at home on Monday, Sept. 7, her daughter Sondra Damirjian said. She was 91.

For decades, Cellucci's eponymous three-story bridal emporium presided over Waverly Oaks Road, its display windows filled with sumptuous satin gowns and enough rhinestones to blind the traffic passing by. After she closed the store in 2009, Yolanda continued to grace countless Waltham fundraisers and festivals. A long-time stalwart of the Waltham Lions Club, she worked the food truck, handing out hot dogs, an apron over her signature white outfits, platinum hair piled high, her wrists and neck encrusted with sparkling jewels.

Often seen in her prized white Excalibur with a vanity plate "YOLANDA", Cellucci built a fashion brand that turned Waltham into a go-to destination for generations of brides, beauty queens and fashionistas. Her woman-built, family-run enterprise became a pillar of Waltham's civic life.

All that glitters

Cellucci stumbled into her talent for design as a teenager. Unable to afford a prom dress, she crafted a gown with a silver sequined bodice and flowing skirt of tulle purchased for 10 cents a yard. Her efforts earned her the prom queen title as she outshone rivals in pricey store-bought dresses. "It taught me something that it wasn't the price; it was about the style," she recalled in a [2024 interview](#) with Boston Man magazine. "It was the glitter. I loved glitter from that day on."

Yolanda married Daniel Cellucci, a plumbing contractor, and during a period of financial stress, she experienced hair loss. Unhappy with the available wigs, she styled her own and launched a wig shop in 1968 in Belmont. As her business grew, her entrepreneurial gears started turning. She added dresses and a hair salon. Clients despondent over hair loss would come in and receive a total makeover.

The business moved to Waltham in 1973, where she perfected her talent for designing bridal gowns. She constantly sought to serve her customers, adding a fashion boutique, hair salon, spa, cafe and event center, making Yolanda's a wrap-around service for everything women needed for their special day.



During a 2024 television interview, Yolanda Cellucci reminisces over photos of the famous people she has met. Courtesy of NBC10.

Boston brides-to-be made pilgrimages to Yolanda's. Her admirers included celebrities such as Fran Drescher, Natalie Cole and Tip O'Neill. Her story was featured on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." At its peak, the business employed 60 workers.

Cellucci designed dresses for Waltham Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and her mother when McCarthy was first inaugurated in 2004. The dresses are on display in the Yolanda room of the [City Hall Museum](#) alongside several other Yolanda originals.

A second chapter second to none

Cellucci closed her flagship store in 2009, after 36 years. But she was hardly done. She kept an online store and hosted a show, "[Yolanda: Style & Glamour](#)," on WCAC. She served as a personal shopper for Neiman Marcus.

In 2018, the family suffered a tragic loss when Cellucci's daughter Linda Cole died from esophageal cancer. Together with Linda's son, Dimitri Petrosian, Cellucci founded the Our Girl Linda Foundation in honor of Cole and organized a fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital. The renowned hospital treats all patients regardless of ability to pay. She also somehow found time to write four children's books about "Lindy Lou," based on her late daughter.

Cellucci loved to give back. Her Sept. 19, 2024, birthday gala raised more than \$90,000 for five local charities: Friends of the Waltham Senior Citizens, Middlesex Human Services Agency, Our Girl Linda Foundation, Waltham Lions Club and Salvation Army. Cellucci also put in countless hours as a volunteer — always with impeccable hair and makeup, typically in white but sometimes sporting a bedazzled version of the event T-shirt. The Salvation Army presented her with the Al MacLeod Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2024.

“Yolanda was active in the Lions Club and was at our most recent events, notably our annual [backpack giveaway](#) at the Salvation Army last month,” said Bill Hanley, president of the club. “She will be missed.”

On Saturday Aug. 29, “Yolanda was at the Common Block Party working with the Lions,” McCarthy recalled. “I said to Yolanda that night, ‘Yolanda you are our Dolly!’ Her passing is a great loss for everyone, her family, her friends, her colleagues and the city of Waltham.”

“Family was everything to her”

Cellucci was born Yolanda M. DiDuca in Newton in 1935. Her family moved to Waltham, where she grew up. She married Daniel B. Cellucci in 1956. The couple settled in Waltham and spent 65 years together until his death from cancer in 2021. Their daughter Linda Cole Petrosian, a model, died in 2018.

Cellucci is survived by daughter Sondra Damirjian, owner of Sondra Celli designs in Waltham, grandchildren Milan George, Alec Petrosian and Dimitri Petrosian; and four adored great-grandchildren.

For all her worldly accomplishments, Cellucci cared most deeply about her family, said Damirjian. “She took care of everyone,” she said. “The freezer was filled with lasagnas. She was an unbelievable grandmother and great-grandmother. She would go sledding with them — in an all-white snowsuit.”

Her papers and gowns are in the [Peabody-Essex Museum](#). The [City Hall Museum](#) in Waltham displays three of her gowns along with the suits she designed for the mayoral inauguration.



Yolanda Cellucci helps distribute backpacks and school supplies at the Salvation Army's 2026 giveaway event. Photo courtesy of Waltham Lions Club.

Author



JUNE KINOSHITA

A Waltham resident since 2003, June has been a writer and editor for Scientific American, Science, The New York Times Magazine, among others. She co-founded the Alzheimer Research Forum and N-of-One. She recently retired from a 13-year career as a leader at the FSHD Society, a rare disease patient advocacy organization.

Remembering Mark Arvid Wuonola

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • SEPTEMBER 17, 2026



Join us in remembering Mark Arvid Wuonola

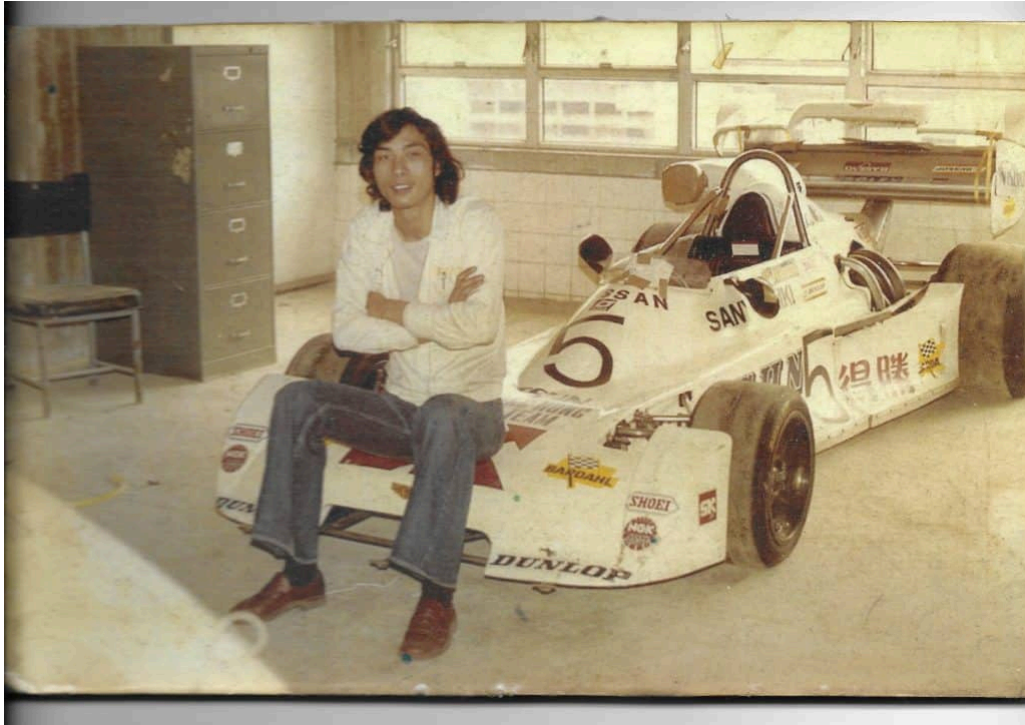
10/09/1947 to 09/10/2026

Waltham, Massachusetts

Mark A. Wuonola was a beloved father and grandfather. He leaves behind his two children, Mary and Philip, and two grandchildren, Oliver and Logan. He graduated from MIT and went on to get his PhD at Harvard. He worked in chemistry and was very passionate about it for many years. Mark had a love for trivia-esque facts and sharing them with friends and other loved ones. Mark loved talk radio, opera and reading. He will be missed by many.

Remembering Roman of Good Care Auto, one year later

BY NEWSROOM • TRIBUTE • SEPTEMBER 16, 2026



Join us in celebrating Roman Cheung

One year ago, Waltham lost Roman, the hardworking man behind Good Care Auto. He did more than repair cars—he built friendships, sang while he worked, and quietly helped anyone who needed him. To our family, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather whose ingenuity, kindness, and strength shaped our lives. One year later, we miss him deeply and remain grateful for the life he built, the people he helped, and the legacy of love he left behind.

Waltham home sales, Sept. 9–11, 2026

	Sale Date	Address	Sale Price	BR/Baths	Size	Type
	9/9/2026	172 River St Unit A-3	\$150,000	1/1	586 sf	condo
	9/9/2026	204 Clocktower Dr Unit 307	\$835,000	2/2	1465 sf	condo
	9/10/2026	16 Peirce St Unit 1	\$742,000	3/2.5	1833 sf	condo
	9/10/2026	542 Trapelo Rd	\$760,000	3/1	1862 sf	1-fam
	9/10/2026	7-9 Bolton St	\$700,000	7/1.5	2066 sf	1-fam
	9/11/2026	17 Dale Cir	\$750,000	3/1.5	1312 sf	1-fam
	9/11/2026	142 Calvary St	\$610,000	4/1.5	1923 sf	1-fam

Events Calendar

September 21-Octpber 17

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
20 Yom Kippur at Temple Beth Israel 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Lions Club annual car show 9:00 am - 10:30 am Café Meet and Mingle: Bi+ community edition 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Make a mosaic mirror or heart	21 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Teen watercolors 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council committee meetings 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Watch City Ukers Every Month at the Waltham Museum	22 The Cat Connecti... 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season 11:30 am - 9:00 pm Fundraisers for Waltham's environment at Not Your Average Joe's 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Walk along MCRT to lunch	23 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Super Smash Bros teen tournament 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm License Commission meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm The New Grown-ups Carriage House Concert	24 8:00 am - 9:30 am Waltham Partnership for Youth's annual meeting 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Book to the Future: Through the decades with DJ Matt Mello!	25 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Fall orchid sale	26 Sukkot at Temple ... 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season 9:00 am - 12:00 pm BrightBridge Credit Union Community Shred Day 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 59th Annual Barn Sale
27 Sukkot at Temple ... Ride & Stride for ... 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Fall orchid sale	28 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council meeting	29 7:30 am - 9:00 am Charles River Health's fall community breakfast 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season 11:30 am - 9:00 pm Fundraisers for Waltham's environment at Not Your Average Joe's	30 The Cat Connecti...	1 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Multi-chamber business expo 2026 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham	2	3 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market
4 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Lions Club annual car show	5 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Waltham City Council committee meetings 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Historical Commission meeting	6 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season 11:30 am - 9:00 pm Fundraisers for Waltham's environment at Not Your Average Joe's 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach	7 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Board of Survey and Planning meeting 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm School Committee meeting	8 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Board of Library Trustees meeting 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Conservation Commission meeting	9	10 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market
11 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Second Sunday open house tours at the Golden Ball Tavern Museum	12 10:00 am - 11:00 am Babywearing tour of Gore Place	13 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season 11:30 am - 9:00 pm Fundraisers for Waltham's environment at Not Your Average Joe's 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach	14 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Parks-Recreation Board meeting	15 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum 10:00 am - 11:00 am Traffic Commission meeting 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Reporting the Middle East after 9/11	16 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Make a mosaic frame or mosaic jewelry	17 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Waltham Farmers' Market 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 2026 REACH Fall Festival and 5K 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 16th Annual Farm Day

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

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



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