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**October 19, 2026**



**Former Brothers  
Marketplace space vacant  
after five years as Roche  
Bros. retains lease**



**Planning Department says  
it's killed Moody Street  
pedestrianization plan**



**Senior Center this week: About AI,  
financial exploitation, what's new in  
Medicare and movie of the month**



**The Waltham Public Library  
this week: Spooky Science**



# Senior Center this week: About AI, financial exploitation, what's new in Medicare and movie of the month

BY PRISCILLA ELLIOTT • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 18, 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.



The COA is launching a new monthly grief support group. This group will be led by Julie Norstrand, Ph.D., an eldercare consultant who has worked with older adults and family caregivers for many years. The first meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m. Free. Please register.

**Introduction to AI, Monday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.** Jerry Dallal provides a friendly introduction to AI for anyone who's curious but hasn't dipped a toe in yet. He will cover what AI actually is, talk about some common myths and fears, show how it's already part of daily life and offer some suggestions for exploring further on your own. No technical background needed. Bring a phone or tablet with Chat-GPT installed, if you'd like. Free. Please Register.

**Encore Casino trip, Tuesday, Oct. 20.** Try your luck with 2,800-plus slot machines. Enjoy 166 table games. It all adds up to an exciting, memorable experience. The tour operated by Bloom Tours includes free slot play and deluxe motorcoach transportation. Motorcoach will leave from the Sacred Heart Church parking lot at 9:15 a.m. The cost is \$39 per person, due upon registration. Casino Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Casino package is \$20. You must have a current Massachusetts drivers license to participate in the rewards program. Please register.

**"The Future is Peace: A Shared Journey Across the Holy Land," Zoom nonfiction book discussion, Tuesday Oct. 20, 11 a.m.** This book by Aziz Abu Sarah and Maoz Inon (2026) follows a Palestinian and Israeli who journey together across the Holy Land discovering shared humanity amid conflict. Through heartfelt encounters, they meet everyday people quietly building bridges of understanding. Free. Please register.

**Tech tutoring sessions continue this week, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m. in Spanish, 1 p.m. in English.** Held through Dec. 4. These sessions are for you if you have a laptop, tablet or smartphone. Learn how to set up email, 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 offer tech assistance to senior center members 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.

**Money Smart Elder Financial Exploitation, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 11 am.** This module provides general guidelines to help you identify fraud, scams and other types of financial exploitation and give tips to prevent it from happening. We also provide a list of resources. Free. Please register.

**What's new in Medicare for 2027, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 1 p.m.** Each year those on Medicare have the opportunity to review their Part D drug plans and their Medicare Advantage plans during the annual open enrollment period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. Each year these plans change and sometimes the Medicare rules change too. Hear about what's new for Medicare and Medicare plans in 2027 and how any changes may impact you. Free. Please register.

**October movie:** “Thelma,” Friday, Oct. 23, 10 a.m. with subtitles; 1 p.m. no subtitles. Thelma is a warm, light-hearted comedy-adventure that follows 93-year old Thelma Post, who becomes the unlikely heroine of her own crime-solving mission. After falling victim to a phone scam, Thelma refuses to sit quietly and accept the loss. Instead, she sets out on a quest to track down the scammer-using grit, charm and a surprising amount of bravery. Rated: PG-13, 1 hour, 37 minutes. \$0.50 optional donation. Please register.

## Did you know?

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

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

The Waltham Public Library’s Bookmobile returns to the Senior Center next Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. Make a library card, check out books or return books with no late fees. Large print options are available.

## Multi-language programs

- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. English as a second language classes given by an experienced ESL teacher. Improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills while learning practical English for everyday life. Free but please register.
- Wednesdays at 10:30–11:30 a.m. Hora del Café. Spanish-speaking coffee hour.
- Fridays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ugandan Golden Seniors lunch program.

## Here is the full schedule for this week

### Monday, Oct. 19

- 9 a.m. Walking Group
- 9:30 a.m. Poker
- 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
- 10 a.m. Council on Aging Board Meeting
- 10 a.m. Knitting
- 10:45 a.m. Exercise Video
- 11 a.m. AI Presentation
- Noon Zumba
- 1 p.m. Whist

- 1 p.m. Rummikub
- 1:30 p.m. Chair Volleyball

## **Tuesday, Oct. 20**

- 9 a.m. Crochet (no teacher)
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi (advanced)
- 9:30 a.m. Bridge Lesson
- 10 a.m. Tai Chi (beginner)
- 10 a.m. English as a Second Language
- 11 a.m. Book Club (Zoom)
- 11 a.m. Mah Jong
- 11:15 a.m. Tai-Yo-Ba
- 11:30 a.m. Cybersecurity and Affordable Connectivity
- 11:30 a.m. Ukulele Group
- 1 p.m. Bridge Game
- 1:30 p.m. Chair Exercise
- 3 p.m. Sages & Seekers
- 5 p.m. Country Line Dance

## **Wednesday, Oct. 21**

- 9 a.m. Walking Group
- 9 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
- 9 a.m. Quilting
- 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class
- 9:30 a.m. Tech Tutoring (Spanish)
- 10 a.m. Grief Support Group
- 10 a.m. Podiatrist, Dr. Tuler
- 10:30 a.m. Hora del Café
- 10:45 a.m. Exercise Video
- 11 a.m. Money Smart
- 11 a.m. Meditation
- Noon Lunch: beef enchilada stack or pasta salad with chicken
- 1 p.m. Changes in Medicare
- 1 p.m. Bingo
- 1 p.m. Hand and Foot
- 1 p.m. Tech Tutoring (English)

## Thursday, Oct. 22

- 9 a.m. Walking Group
- 9 a.m. Keep It Moving
- 9 a.m. Conversational Spanish
- 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Exercise Video
- 10 a.m. Conversational English
- 10 a.m. Painting
- 10 a.m. Mah Jong
- 10:15 a.m. Strength Class
- 11 a.m. Mah Jong
- 11:15 a.m. Tai-Yo-Ba
- 12:30 p.m. Spades
- 1 p.m. Cribbage and Canasta

## Friday, Oct. 23

- 9 a.m. Ceramics (no teacher)
- 9:30 a.m. Poker
- 10 a.m. Movie with captions
- 11 a.m. Ugandan Golden Seniors
- 12:30 p.m. Spades
- 1 p.m. Bridge
- 1 p.m. Movie: “Thelma”



## Author

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### PRISCILLA ELLIOTT

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

# The Waltham Public Library this week: Spooky Science

BY NEWSROOM • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 18, 2026



*Curated by Amber Harvey, reference librarian*

Drop in for some super fun, super cool and super spooky hands-on STEM activities. Recommended for ages 5 and up. (MakerSpace)

## Happening this week

### Kids

**Spooky Science**, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 4-5:30 p.m. Recommended for ages 5 and up. (MakerSpace)



### Teens

All events take place in the Teen Room unless otherwise noted.

**Real Talk: Personality**, Monday, Oct. 19, 6-8 p.m. Real Talk is a for-youth-by-youth forum for discussing issues of importance to today's teens. Dinner is provided. For teens and tweens in grades six through 12.

**Crafternoons: Nail Art**, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 4-5 p.m. Join us for hands-on creative fun this month. All supplies provided — just show up ready to create. For teens and tweens in grades 6-12.

**Board Game Night**, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6-8 p.m. We'll play classics like Clue, chess and Settlers of Catan while learning new Teen Room favorites like Squirmish and We Didn't Playtest This at All. For teens and tweens in grades 6-12.

**Wordy Wednesdays: Build Conflict**, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 4-5 p.m. Let's challenge ourselves to write a whole novel (or as much as we can) in just one month. We'll brainstorm ideas, outline our plots and share tips and tricks. For teens and tweens in grades 6-12.

**Movie Night**, Thursday, Oct. 22, 6-8 p.m. Watch a movie and enjoy snacks. For teens and tweens in grades 6-12.

**Teen Library Representatives**, Friday, Oct. 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Teens help design programs, volunteer at the library and serve as role models for kid and teen library patrons.

## Adults

**Queer Lit Book Group**, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7-8 p.m. This month, we'll be discussing "Her Body and Other Parties" by Carmen Maria Machado. (Trustees Room)

## Bookmobile

- **Graverson Playground**, Monday, Oct. 19, 2-4 p.m. The bookmobile visits Waltham parks every Monday through October. Come sign up for a library card, return or check out items, and learn about library services. (16 Pine Vale Road, Waltham)
- **Waltham Fields Community Farm**, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (240 Beaver St., Waltham)
- **Mighty Squirrel Biergarten at Gore Place**, Thursday, Oct. 22, 5-8 p.m. (411 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham)
- **Waltham Lions Club Halloween Parade**, Saturday, Oct. 24, 3-4:30 p.m.

## Planning ahead

**Our annual Halloween party** is Sunday, Oct. 25, from 1- 4 p.m., with two special performances by the Toe Jam Puppet Band at 2 and 3 p.m. We'll also trick-or-treat around the library. Plus, bookmobile, crafts and more fun. Costumes welcome but not required. This program is recommended for all ages.

Learn about "Outsiders in Horror" in fiction and film with Brandeis University assistant professor Brandon Callendar on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Lecture Hall)

## Did you know?

We've been traveling through past decades with our yearlong Book to the Future library challenge. Each month, participants watch, read or listen to something related to the decade for a chance to win a Starbucks gift card. During October, we're visiting the 2000s. There's still a chance to time travel with us — please visit our [website](#) for more information.

# Full schedule of events, Oct. 18-24

Access [our full program calendar](#).

## Monday, Oct. 19

Teens: 6-8 p.m. Real Talk: Personality

Adults: 9 a.m.- noon MassHire Career Help; 1-4 p.m. Youth Connections (ages 18-24)

Bookmobile: 2-4 p.m. Graverson Playground

## **Tuesday, Oct. 20**

Kids: 10:30-11 a.m. Te Cuento un Cuento; 6-6:30 p.m. Family Storytime

Teens: 4-5 p.m. Teen Crafternoons: Nail Art; 6-8 p.m. Board Game Night

Adults: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Agencia Alpha MA Health Help; 7-8 p.m. Queer Lit Book Group: “Her Body and Other Parties” by Carmen Maria Machado

## **Wednesday, Oct. 21**

Kids: 10:30-11 a.m. Toddler Time; 4-5:30 p.m. Spooky Science

Teens: 4-5 p.m. Wordy Wednesdays; 6-8 p.m. Teen Anime Club

Adults: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Youth Connections (ages 18-24)

Bookmobile: 2:30-4:30 p.m. Waltham Fields Community Farm

## **Thursday, Oct. 22**

Teens: 6-8 p.m. Movie Night

Bookmobile: 5-8 p.m. Mighty Squirrel Biergarten at Gore Place

## **Friday, Oct. 23**

Teens: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Teen Library Representatives

Kids: 10-10:30 a.m. Baby Story Time

Adults: noon-2 p.m. Waltham Room Open Hours

## **Saturday, Oct. 24**

Bookmobile: 3-4:30 p.m. Halloween Parade; 4:30-5:30 p.m. Trick-or-Treat on Moody Street

## **About the library**

The Waltham Public Library is located at 735 Main St. Reach us at 781-314-3425 or [waltham@minlib.net](mailto:waltham@minlib.net). Find us online at [walthampubliclibrary.org](http://walthampubliclibrary.org).

Library hours: Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

@walthamlibrary

@watchcityteens

@walthamlibkids

[facebook.com/walthamlibrary](https://facebook.com/walthamlibrary)



## **Author**

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### **NEWSROOM**

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

# Magnet fisherman pulls firearm out of Charles River for second time in two months

BY CYD ABNET • PUBLIC SAFETY • OCTOBER 18, 2026



*Prospect Street Bridge spanning the Charles River in Waltham. Wikimedia Commons.*

A magnet fisherman pulled a firearm out of the Charles River for the second time in two months at the same location.

On Oct. 12 at 12:22 p.m., Waltham police responded to the Prospect Street Bridge. A man who was magnet fishing pulled a firearm out of the Charles River. Magnet fishing is a hobby in which a large magnet is dragged along the bottom of a body of water to retrieve metal objects dumped there.

Because the firearm came from the Charles River, which is under state jurisdiction, the Massachusetts State Police were called to handle the situation. On Sept. 7, a [magnet fisher found a firearm](#) in the Charles River at the same location. It is not known whether the two incidents are connected.

A summary of additional police and fire activity from Oct. 9 to 12 is as follows:

On Oct. 9 at 1:53 a.m., police responded to the Embassy Suites Hotel on Winter Street. The caller reported hearing people arguing. When police arrived, the arguing had stopped.

On Oct. 9 at 11:23 a.m., police responded to a residence on Prospect Hill Road. A caller reported seeing a suspicious man walking in the area. Police could not locate the man but believe he may have been a landscaper working in the area.

On Oct. 9 at 6 p.m., police responded to the area outside a residence on Floyd Street. A man reported that his car had been stolen. Police determined he had forgotten where he parked.

On Oct. 10 at 10:10 a.m., fire crews responded to reports of a vehicle fire on Ravenswood Road. Upon arrival, they found no fire.

On Oct. 10 at 2:49 p.m., police responded to Second Avenue outside Costco Wholesale. A car had pulled out of the Costco Wholesale parking lot and struck a car traveling southbound on Second Avenue. Police towed the struck car from the area. There were no injuries.

On Oct. 11 at 7:24 p.m., police responded to a residence on Angleside Road. A caller reported an unknown male knocking on the door. Upon investigation, the man was knocking on the wrong door.

On Oct. 12 at 8:03 p.m., police responded to Lowell Field on Grove Street. A caller reported seeing someone riding an e-bike on the park's tennis court. The e-bike rider was gone by the time police got there.

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



## Author

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### CYD ABNET

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

# What AI is actually doing in Tod Machover's new work for the Boston Symphony

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • ARTS & CULTURE • OCTOBER 18, 2026



“AI Joins the Boston Symphony” sounds as if it came straight from a supermarket tabloid.

If you remember the Weekly World News, it belongs somewhere near “Bat Boy Found in West Virginia Cave!” Bat Boy first appeared on the tabloid’s cover in 1992: a frightening face, a spectacular claim and just enough scientific language to make fiction look momentarily like fact. Five years later, that manufactured monster became “Bat Boy: The Musical”. Material created to provoke fear was taken apart, reimagined and turned into art.

Something similar, and importantly different, is happening around [Tod Machover’s “already and not yet”](#), a new work commissioned by the BSO from Waltham-based composer Tod Machover.

Pairing “orchestra” with “artificial intelligence” leads people to assume AI composed the music and is performing work musicians would otherwise do. These concerns are not imaginary. Machover shares many of them. But that is not how he has designed this piece for human musicians and AI to perform in collaboration.



*Waltham-based composer Tod Machover. Photo by Andy Ryan.*

## The AI controversy contains more than one kind of AI

Machover does not defend the commercial uses of generative AI that have caused much of the anger in the music industry. He condemns them in very direct terms.

“The two things that people are mostly doing with AI in music, which I think are terrible, really bad things to do, honestly,” he told me, begin with systems that use enormous databases to produce music that sounds like existing work while differing just enough to be sold as something new.

He called the resulting flood “infinite music, which is just slightly variant or slightly parasitically living off of existing music.”

He was equally blunt about systems that turn a few verbal prompts into a completed song: “I also don’t believe that being creative means giving a few prompts and getting something sent back to you. That’s the opposite of creativity.”

That distinction matters because the phrase artificial intelligence now covers systems performing radically different functions. Some generate finished outputs from prompts. Some classify or predict. Some detect patterns in the material supplied to them. Some operate as responsive instruments. Some help people find relationships they might not otherwise perceive.

A debate treating all of these systems the same can create confusion and fail to distinguish between human creations and the role AI is actually playing.

I have often described artificial intelligence as human intelligence electrified and operating at scale. Machover’s composition gives that idea a literal form. The intelligence that matters begins with the composer and the musicians. The AI system listens for selected qualities in their playing, changes or connects what it hears, and returns the result to people who may respond again. The circuit contains a machine, but it is completed by human attention to the machine output and vice versa.

# What the system does

The artificial intelligence in “already and not yet” does not arrive with a finished composition and ask the Boston Symphony Orchestra to perform it. Machover wrote the music. The musicians create the live sound. The system analyzes features in that sound and works with the material as it is performed.

Machover described two capabilities that matter to the piece.

The first is variation. “They can take something you feed it and do something with that material,” he said.

The degree of transformation depends on the constraints. A system told to attend only to duration, loudness, or another limited feature can return something close to the original. Changing those constraints can produce a more complex transformation.

The second capability is connection. The system can make hybrids between sounds and find relationships among musicians who would ordinarily be heard as members of orchestral sections rather than as distinct individuals.

“The other thing these systems do pretty well is to make connections between things and to make hybrids and to say, a little bit of this and a little bit that,” Machover explained.

The point is not to surrender the composition to unrestricted machine generation.

“What you want to make is a system that is going to stay in the kind of boundaries that you want, but is going to do something lively and interesting and surprising in a nice way,” he said.

The system performs several roles during the piece. In some passages, Machover said, “the AI could be thought of like an accompanist.” It adds an aura or extension to what the musician plays.

In others, the performers are told to listen to the transformation and answer it. There are also call-and-response sections: the orchestra plays, the conductor stops and cues the AI, the system answers, and the orchestra responds to what it hears.

That feedback loop changes the next human decision. It is the difference between an output machine and a live relationship.

## The orchestra becomes a model of democracy

The technology is not an accessory added to the composition after the fact. Its ability to emphasize individuals, form unexpected connections and produce a collective sound serves the political structure of the piece.

Machover began thinking about the commission during a period when, he said, institutions and values he had long taken for granted appeared to be under direct threat.

The orchestra offered him a way to examine a society. A conventional orchestral score may place one hundred people onstage while asking entire sections to play one line together. Machover wondered what would happen if those one hundred musicians were first treated as individuals and then asked to form different kinds of groups.

“Maybe it’s a way of looking at where we are with democracy and where it might go,” he said.

The three movements enact that progression.

In “Smash Up”, louder instruments gradually prevent softer ones from being heard.

In “Wake Up”, each player receives a small solo. Individual voices emerge and pass melodies among themselves.

In “Stand Up”, musicians are asked to listen and negotiate new relationships, sometimes matching someone else, sometimes doing what no one else is doing.

Machover described the destination as a balance “where it’s not chaotic and not Fascistic, or they’re not all doing the same thing, and they’re not all going their own way.”

That may be the most precise statement of the democratic idea in the piece. Democracy is not represented by everyone playing the same notes. Nor is it represented by complete individual freedom without mutual obligation.

It exists in the difficult work between those extremes: remaining identifiable while listening, responding and building something with other people.

## The ethical concern is real

The distinction between this performance's system and commercial music generators should not be used to dismiss musicians' broader concerns. Machover shares many of them.

Performers, he said, "don't want anything they do to be put into a model and then come out on the other end used by somebody in some way they didn't intend."

He added, "I don't think any of us want data that we care about to be taken and reused in some way."

That is not technophobia. It is a question of authorship, consent and power. The mistake is not raising the concern. The mistake is assuming that every use of AI necessarily performs the same extraction.

This is not actually a single-species or single-technology issue. It is a governance issue.

Humans can appropriate another person's work, hide how it is being used and profit without meaningful consent. Automated systems can accelerate those practices and make them harder to see. The relevant questions are what enters a system, who authorized it, what the system is allowed to do and who remains accountable for the result.

## Creativity requires the ability to go deeper

Machover's objection to prompt-generated music is not a defense of artistic gatekeeping. He rejects the idea that meaningful creativity belongs only to a tiny number of elite artists. Much of his career has involved building instruments and interfaces that allow more people to make consequential musical choices.

But access to creativity is different from receiving a completed artifact after issuing a command.

"The tools should be clear and easy," he said, "but the process should allow you to go deep and go deep into what you care about and who you are and what it means to connect with somebody else."

That idea reaches beyond music.

Language is my instrument, and I have spent much of my career examining the parts of human communication that cannot be reduced neatly to math: the parts that are art, the parts that are squishy, the parts that bleed all over the pages.

As AI enters those spaces, humans and machines do not automatically share the same concepts, associations or ways of assigning meaning. We are beginning a cross-cultural exchange before we have fully developed the language needed to describe it.

Machover encounters the same problem in sound. A system can identify features without knowing what an instrument or note means. It can be instructed to make a sound sharper or more sparkling, yet still have no human understanding of beauty, smoothness or emotional significance.

Its value comes from the structure people build around that capability and the human interpretation that follows.

## The final test is still the music

Machover does not want the technology to become the reason the piece matters.

When the BSO approached him, he initially considered writing an entirely acoustic work.

“I’d love to write a piece that’s acoustic and just where people will listen to the music because at the end of the day, that’s what I really care about,” he recalled telling them.

Even after AI became integral to the composition, his standard remained the same.

“It’s not the point of the piece,” he said. “The point of the piece, at the end of the day, is like all pieces of music, the sound and the musical experience.”

The work is meant to move from crisis and silencing toward individual awakening and collective resolve.

One melody runs through all three movements. It is smashed in the first, fragmented in the second and placed near the center of the final movement. The piece builds toward something resembling a call to action but ends, Machover said, on “a bit of a question mark.”

“It didn’t feel authentic to say, ‘We’re here,’” he explained. “That’s why it’s ‘not yet’. We have to keep trying.”

The headline tells us AI has joined the Boston Symphony.

The more accurate story is that one hundred musicians, a composer and a set of carefully bounded computational processes are testing what happens when individual expression can be extended without being erased.

The difference is not semantic. It is the difference between using human expression as raw material to replace its makers and building a system that allows human expression to travel farther, encounter other expression and return changed.

## Additional information

The Boston Symphony Orchestra under conductor Kent Nagano will perform “already and not yet”, a world premiere by Tod Machover, at Symphony Hall in Boston. Performances on Thursday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 23, 1:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 24, 8:00 p.m. [Tickets and program details](#).

*Disclosure: Tod Machover is married to Waltham Times president & publisher June Kinoshita.*



## 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.

# Board of Survey and Planning oppose Felton Street rezoning

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 18, 2026



*Attorney Michael Connors speaks to the Board of Survey and Planning on Oct. 13, 2026. Photo by Artie Kronenfeld.*

The Board of Survey and Planning last week voted 4–2 to recommend the City Council deny [extending the Riverfront Overlay District over a Felton Street lot](#).

The property at 181–185 Felton St. is technically two lots, but the City has informally treated them as a single property since 1952. However, the two lots are zoned separately. The more southern part of the property is a commercial lot covered by the Riverfront Overlay District, and the northern section, which borders Noonan Street, is residential.

[Since June](#), the lot’s owners have asked the City Council to extend the overlay district over both parts of the lot. Currently, the owners use the property for a landscaping business. Still, they say that because the overlay district covers only part of their lot, they can’t feasibly apply for a special permit for the larger residential developments the overlay allows.

At the board’s Oct. 7 meeting, board members said they wanted to preserve the residential designation of the Noonan Street section of the lot. Extending the overlay would not override the lot’s residential zoning, but a City Council special permit would allow larger residential buildings or new commercial developments.

The project’s attorney, Michael Connors, said the owners don’t currently have specific plans for the property but hope to build something residential.

“My concern is [with] a big apartment building, because we’ve got plenty of those and more coming,” said board member M. Justin Barrett Jr. “I would be very much opposed to putting a huge apartment complex there ... I don’t think it’s the place to put it.”

Multiple board members also expressed concerns that extending the district would set a precedent for other lot owners who might also want to apply for the more permissive zoning options of the Riverside overlay.

“Everybody’s going to try to capitalize on taking that residential, and turning it into probably more residential, but at much larger uses than the [current residential district] allows,” said board member Brian Moroney. “Now everybody’s going to come in and try that trick at properties all over the place.”

Attorney Connors said the lot is unique and unlikely to set a general precedent, since it’s the only one in the neighborhood partially covered by the overlay district. However, he couldn’t guarantee whether other lot owners in the same situation could cite his case as precedent.

Moroney suggested the current lot owners petition the board to move the internal lot line and expand the buildable area covered by the overlay district without extending the district over the entire lot; he said he would be more likely to vote in favor of such a project.

In other business, the Board of Survey and Planning denied a lot division plan for 103 Clark Lane because the owner had not yet responded to comments from the Engineering Department and wasn’t present at the meeting to address board questions.



## Author

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### 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.

# Traffic Commission in brief: Long-term funding source for electric vehicle chargers unclear

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 18, 2026



City officials are considering replacing the city's electric car chargers in two years.

Waltham's Wires Department has been installing new ChargePoint electric vehicle chargers in public lots [since January](#). A federal grant directly supported the chargers by covering the cost of a three-year subscription to ChargePoint's service.



*EV charger. Canva stock image.*

In September, Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin said the city had no [formal contract](#) with ChargePoint. A contract is now in place. However, Garvin said at this week's Traffic Commission meeting that he's worried about the long-term revenue source for its subscription to ChargePoint's services.

Garvin projected the city would take in around \$46,000 in revenue from its EV chargers, not counting electricity costs. The subscription renewal cost will be around \$51,000.

Currently, parking at city chargers costs \$5 per hour plus a 25-cent service fee and sales tax. Garvin suggested the city would have to raise the base parking rate to \$9 per hour to cover electricity costs and raise the funds to renew its subscription.

Director of Wires Tim Kelly pushed back on raising parking costs, saying he's already received constituent complaints that the new EV charging costs are too high. He pointed out that, because of the federal grant, the city is collecting more revenue from its car chargers than under its previous model. "So we're ahead of the game, in my opinion," he added.

The commission decided to hold off on changing EV charger fees and to open bids for other EV charger companies closer to the 2028 renewal deadline. Garvin said he was "confident" that the city would be able to find EV charger vendors offering more cost-efficient plans.

## Projects with funding delays sent to the Wires Department

At Tuesday's meeting, Garvin again expressed frustration at blocked funding for traffic signalization projects.

Last month, the commission voted to authorize the Traffic Engineering Department to [pay for previously approved traffic signal improvements](#) using money from the city's traffic mitigation fund. Since then, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy indicated to Garvin she would not approve new mitigation funding until his department completed improvements to the Beaver Street railroad crossing and [the Main Street intersection at Gore Place](#).

Garvin prioritized fixing vehicle detection systems at five signals around the city. He asked the Wires Department to use \$125,000 from its operating budget to fix those signals as soon as possible.

Ward 1 Councilor Anthony LaFauci also came in this week to request traffic improvements to protect pedestrians at the Bacon Street intersection beside Leary Field. Garvin said the mayor had previously requested the Wires Department install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the intersection; Kelly said he hadn't been aware of the RRFB request and would move forward on it.

#### **Additionally, the Traffic Commission:**

- Approved the 15th annual Piggy's Road Race in November.
- Approved two disability-accessible parking spaces on Brigham and Elson roads.
- Asked Garvin to study whether the city should install RRFBs at the intersection of Moody and Spruce Streets and on South Street near Angleside Road
- Asked Garvin to study whether the city could paint stripes at the intersection of the South Side's Wadsworth and Fuller streets to prevent traffic blockages; whether it should install a crosswalk on Summit Street near the Route 556 bus stop and how it could slow traffic on Warren Street near Arrigo Farm.
- Decided to widen the parking lane on Adams Street; repaint lines and clear vegetation at the intersection of Charles River and Angleside roads to improve sight distance and remove a too-small parking space on Grant Street.
- Decided to widen the sidewalk in a portion of the South Side's Pine Street to discourage illegal parking.
- Examined a plan detailing the potential long-term traffic impacts of residential development at [the Bay Colony site](#). The site will be developed in phases, and the commission agreed to consider the project's cumulative traffic impacts and whether its owners should be required to pay into new traffic mitigation projects, over the course of its anticipated multi-phase 10-year buildout period.
- Heard updates on the Traffic Engineering Department's work over the past month to move the High Street Route 556 bus stop, put a stop sign in front of an Embassy Garage crosswalk and remove an unused disability-accessible parking space.
- Voted to fix vehicle detection systems and update signal timing and equipment at the intersection of Lexington Street, Lake Street and Bishop's Forest Drive.
- Voted to put in a warning sign at the intersection of Washington and Lowell Streets that Lowell Street traffic does not stop at the intersection. This came despite opposition from Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris, who argued the sign wouldn't prevent accidents. The city [plans to redesign that intersection](#) for clarity and safety.

# Runners and nonprofit out in force for REACH Fall Festival

BY RAY CHOW • NEWS • OCTOBER 18, 2026



REACH Beyond Domestic Violence held its 12th annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 17, on Waltham Common as part of its observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The free event featured live music, community performances and food stations, according to a press release. The Waltham Times served as a media sponsor of the event and rounded up 10 runners and walkers for the 5K race.

Enjoy our photo gallery by Ray Chow:



# ¡Estamos organizando un concurso de poesía en la escuela!

BY NEWSROOM • NEWS • OCTOBER 18, 2026



[\*Leer en inglés\*](#)

Estimados estudiantes de Waltham,

¿Están listos para alzar su voz, despertar su imaginación y dejar brillar su creatividad? ¡The Waltham Times se enorgullece de patrocinar nuestro primer concurso anual de poesía a nivel distrital! Los invitamos a tomar su pluma o abrir su computadora y expresarse a través del poder de la poesía. Ya sea que lleven años escribiendo poesía o que quieran probar algo completamente nuevo, queremos leer su trabajo. Cada historia, sentimiento y perspectiva es importante. ¡Estamos ansiosos por leer los increíbles poemas que crearán los estudiantes de Waltham!

## Aquí tienen su consigna poética:

Se acercan las festividades, una época en la que damos gracias. ¿Qué significa para ustedes la palabra «gratitud»? ¿Por quién o por qué sienten agradecimiento —¡io tal vez no!—? Escriban un poema para expresar lo que sienten y piensan sobre la idea de estar agradecidos. Sean sinceros; no hay respuestas incorrectas.

## ¿Quiénes pueden participar y cuándo?

El concurso está abierto a todos los estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Waltham (Waltham Public Schools) que cursen desde el 3.º hasta el 12.º grado.

Todos los poemas deben enviarse antes del viernes 6 de noviembre.

# ¿Cómo participar?

Pueden enviar su poema original de cualquiera de las siguientes tres maneras:

- Por correo electrónico: envíen su poema a [poetry@walthamtimes.org](mailto:poetry@walthamtimes.org)
- Utilicen nuestro [formulario en línea](#).
- Envíen su trabajo por correo postal a: The Waltham Times Poetry Contest, P.O. Box 540109, Waltham, MA 02454.

# ¿Qué deben incluir?

Para asegurar que su trabajo sea evaluado en la categoría correcta, por favor incluyan la siguiente información junto con su poema:

- Su nombre
- Su grado escolar
- Su escuela
- Su poema
- El nombre y el correo electrónico o número de teléfono de su padre, madre o tutor legal, junto con la siguiente declaración: «Doy permiso a The Waltham Times para publicar el poema de [SU NOMBRE]».

Los poemas pueden estar escritos a computadora (a través del formulario en línea o en un documento de Word) o a mano (pueden subir una foto o un escaneo).

# ¿Qué sucede después?

Los poemas serán evaluados por un jurado. Una selección de ellos se publicará en la edición impresa de diciembre de 2026 de The Waltham Times. Además, los trabajos ganadores y aquellos que reciban menciones honoríficas se publicarán en la edición digital de The Waltham Times.

# At the library, an evening of music that moved body and soul

BY TIMOTHY LOK • AROUND TOWN • OCTOBER 18, 2026



*Sol y Canto performed to an appreciative audience at the Waltham Public Library on Oct. 15. From left: Brian Amador, Rosi Amador and Queralt Geralt. Photo by Tim Lok.*

In the heart of the Waltham Public Library, the lecture hall was filled last Thursday, Oct. 15, with music that could make you dance and move your soul. Sol y Canto (meaning Sun and Song) shared a glimpse of their 42 years of experience in Latin music and the stories behind it. The evening ranged from a song inspired by a phrase from a late grandmother who needed nothing more than to be in your orbit — “En tu órbita” — to a cover of “Soy Pan, Soy Paz, Soy Más,” an Argentinian post-dictatorship peace anthem. Rosi Amador, Brian Amador and cellist Queralt Giralt engaged the audience in Latino language, culture and stories through their music.

Sol y Canto [will perform](#) a program called “STAND UP! RESIST! Songs of Defiance and Hope” at Belmont’s First Parish in Belmont on Saturday, Oct. 24.

# Local advocates rally against sale of Boston Dynamics' robot dogs to ICE

BY SAMANTHA MANDALA • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 17, 2026



*Protesters outside of Boston Dynamics' offices on Oct. 15. Photo by Joseph Sharkey.*

Local activist groups are protesting the sale of Boston Dynamics' robot dogs to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, demanding, among other things, that the Waltham-based company pull the software license that would allow ICE to operate the machines.

Don't Mourn Organize and De-ICE Action Network are spearheading two protests outside Boston Dynamics headquarters this month. One was held Oct. 15, with another planned for Oct. 20.

"It's just shocking that they would do something so likely to result in human rights violations," said Betsy Leondar-Wright, a member of both Don't Mourn Organize and De-ICE Action Network. "This just seems to go against everything that Boston Dynamics says that it stands for," she said.

In addition to revoking the software license, Don't Mourn Organize also wants the commonwealth of Massachusetts to rescind a \$25 million tax credit awarded to Boston Dynamics in June, according to a [petition](#) with signatures from more than a dozen local organizations. The tax credit is part of a \$100 million expansion of the Boston Dynamics manufacturing facility in Waltham, according to the company website.

"We cannot claim to protect our residents while at the same time we provide a subsidy to create weapons used against them," the petition reads.

These local activist groups are targeting any company doing business with ICE, but felt a special responsibility to protest Boston Dynamics because it was so close to home.

Elizabeth Hoffercker, founder of activist group Indivisible Waltham, said IW's goal in joining these protests is preventing businesses like Boston Dynamics from collaborating with or selling to ICE, and making it "as economically painful" as possible for them to continue doing so.

"A lot of corporations have been willing to sell out on community values to make a buck at participating in the infrastructure of dismantling democracy," Hoffercker said.

## A contentious contract

The contract for the robot dogs is between ICE and Connecticut company RADeCO, which modified Boston Dynamics' original machines, called SPOT dogs, to include a robotic arm, thermal camera and sensors for explosive materials. ICE spent about \$1.3 million on four such modified versions, called Cerberus, according to a [federal contract](#) document.

Although Boston Dynamics is not named as a contractor in the recent sale, the company has long partnered with RADeCO, especially for "government-related applications," according to a Boston Dynamics spokesperson. They added, however, that Boston Dynamics' ethics code applies to all sales of their products like SPOT, even when officially sold by RADeCO.

The company's robots are "legally prohibited from being weaponized or used for purposes of harm or intimidation," the spokesperson said. Boston Dynamics also published an [open letter](#) against the weaponization of general use robots like SPOT.

Boston Dynamics has [previously said](#) that if ICE misused the robots, it would void the warranty, terminate the license for the SPOT software, and take legal action. The company has also said that it has not recorded any instances of misuse in the time that it has contracted with law enforcement agencies.

RADeCO declined to comment.

## A different call to arms

So far, Cerberus has been used for tasks like "hazardous gas detection, unexploded ordnance inspection, suspicious package investigation, search and rescue, subterranean or confined space exploration and structural assessments following fires, disaster events and other hazards," according to the Boston Dynamics representative.

"Even if they're not like Boston Dynamics is saying, they're not going to physically attack humans, they can aid and abet the harm that ICE does. It just seems really, really outrageous," Leondar-Wright said.

Even if Boston Dynamics didn't directly sell the technology, "It's the duty of the researcher to promote the well-being and safety of the individual in the community," said Thomas Vaughn, a Northeastern engineering ethics professor, adding, "And non-maleficence is an obligation on the part of the researchers to avoid causing harm by their discoveries." Selling robots to ICE goes against that ethical principle, he said.

It's unclear how ICE plans to implement the robots in their operations, but the agency is known to rely on technology, from facial recognition to spyware, for its surveillance and enforcement efforts. Congressional funding in 2026 also allowed ICE to purchase a device meant to stop and capture a moving car, and battery powered electric shock gloves for agents to wear during arrests.

"I think it is a trend of dehumanizing conflict, kind of turning conflict into some kind of video game that I think makes it even easier to take life without thinking about it," Hoffecker said.

## Building momentum

This month's protests are not the first time the local groups have mobilized. Don't Mourn Organize and De-Ice Action Network held their first protest back in September at the Museum of Science, where a SPOT robot was on display. Protesters dressed up in dog outfits and held signs decrying the original sale.

De-Ice Action Network also has previous experience with protests — and with success. Its campaign against Citizens Bank saw dozens of rallies around the country and the bank ending its financial support of private prisons used by ICE to detain immigrants.

Hoffecker, who was part of the Citizens Bank Coalition, said IW and other local activists aim to bring awareness to such issues that people may not be aware of.

"Ultimately, if we're going to shift course, it's going to come down to just regular people in large enough numbers changing who gets elected and also changing ... the dynamics of all these businesses that are propping up the current system," she said.



## Author

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### SAMANTHA MANDALA

Samantha Mandala is a journalism student in her junior year at Boston University. She was previously the Campus News Editor for the Daily Free Press, and interned at Irish Film and Television UK in London this summer. She also photographs for local papers including Brookline.News and Your Arlington.

# School district ran \$864,000 over budget for fiscal 2026, city review finds

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • OCTOBER 17, 2026



Waltham Public Schools finished the 2026 fiscal year \$864,596 over budget, according to a report Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy presented to the School Committee at an Oct. 7 meeting, a sign of the financial pressures the Waltham school system is confronting.

The overspending was concentrated in operating expenses, which ran nearly \$3.3 million, or about 21% over their \$15.8 million budget. Under that umbrella, facilities costs came in at \$345,000 over, utilities \$1.5 million over, special education operating costs \$1 million over and student transportation \$673,000 over.

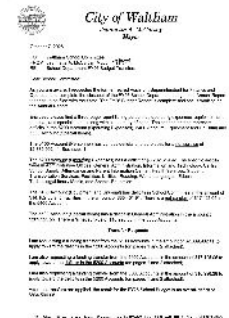
Across the state, school districts are seeing [fuel](#), [special ed](#) and [transportation](#) costs skyrocket. Waltham has already tried to grapple with these trends, allocating more money for these items in the [FY27 budget](#).

In her memo, McCarthy asked the committee to transfer nearly \$2.4 million in unspent personnel funds, along with small surpluses in two other accounts, to cover the deficits. The School Committee unanimously approved the request.

Even after those transfers, the district remains \$864,596 short. The memo does not say how that will be covered.

Most of the personnel surplus came from a \$3.3 million contingency fund that went entirely unspent. McCarthy said there is “usually a surplus in the [personnel] account with the school department.” Without the contingency, the district’s personnel lines ran about \$933,000 over budget, with costs led by Waltham High School, special education and the Dual Language School.

The school department did not seek additional money from the City Council before the fiscal year closed on June 30, McCarthy said at the meeting. In March, the assistant superintendent for finance Chad Mazza told the City Council that the district was actually [running under budget](#) at the midpoint of its fiscal year. According to multiple sources, Mazza has been on paid leave since the summer. The district has not said why. McCarthy and multiple School Committee members said they were “unable to comment” on Mazza’s status, and he did not respond to requests for comment, Superintendent Marisa Mendonsa could not be reached on the matter.



*First page of the mayor's letter to the School Committee.*

In Mazza's place, McCarthy's memo says she asked the "former retired Assistant Superintendent for Finance," an apparent reference to Mazza's predecessor, Leanne Wilcinski, to complete the state-required closeout. Wilcinski also served as acting superintendent during the fall of 2023, in her final months working for the district.

Following McCarthy's presentation, Mendonsa asked the committee to clarify its rules on whether the school department has the authority to move money between budget lines. "I just am seeking clarity, if something is within the same account [under the same line item] — does that need to come to this body?" she asked.

McCarthy replied that, in a break from past rules, such transfers do need to be approved by the School Committee..

Wilcinski's recommendations for how to cover the remaining \$864,596 balance, McCarthy said, will come after Wilcinski finishes the district's annual report.



## Author

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### 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.

# Despite mayor's comments, Planning Department says it's killed Moody Street pedestrianization plan

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 15, 2026



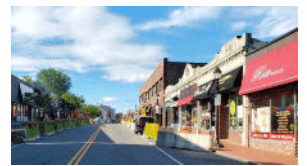
The Planning Department is no longer working on plans to adapt a pedestrian mall study of Moody Street, according to Planning Director Robert Waters.

Waters announced this at this week's traffic commission meeting — less than a month after Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy told The Waltham Times the department was working on a comprehensive plan for the street.

At the time, McCarthy emphasized that the plan will address design elements of the street as a whole, not just traffic. She said she has participated in site views with Planning Department members and expected the department to release a plan in the near future.

City officials, Moody Street business owners and residents have been wanting to improve Moody Street for years.

In 2023, Waltham commissioned a traffic study from Nitsch Engineering about the future of Moody Street. Nitsch came back with three potential options: two that involved making Moody Street a one-way road with significantly expanded pedestrian and bicycle pathways and one that closed the street to vehicle traffic entirely, making it accessible only to pedestrians. Nitsch recommended the city make Moody Street a one-way road with only northbound car traffic between High and Pine streets.



*Moody St. Photo from Nitsch Engineering.*



*Moody Street study cover image. Nitsch Engineering.*

The proposals faced mixed reactions. There's been a resident-led push to [pedestrianize Moody Street](#) for years, and the movement has [gained support](#) from some local restaurant owners — but other neighbors have expressed concerns about [traffic overflow onto nearby streets](#), and Moody Street store owners have said the change would [take away their street parking](#), making their businesses less accessible and cutting into their customer base.

In March 2025, the city's Traffic Commission filed away further discussions of the Nitsch study at Waters' request. Since then, the future of Moody Street [has been unclear](#). Ward 9 Councilor Robert G. Logan last year said that although plans were in the works to beautify and improve Moody Street, the pedestrianization study had become a “moot question.”



*Outdoor dining at Tempo.*

At [their September meeting](#), however, Traffic Commission members indicated that they thought the discussion was ongoing, pending updates from the Planning Department. Traffic Engineer J. Michael Garvin recommended that the commission temporarily shelf discussions about other traffic improvements on Moody Street until the Planning Department brought back updates on its long-term plans for the street. At the commission's October meeting, Waters confirmed that no new updates were coming from the Planning Department.

Previously, Waters told The Waltham Times the plan was simply tabled at the Traffic Commission. He confirmed after a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust meeting in September that the Planning Department has employed an intern to work on plans for the street over the past two summers. Waters declined to respond to an additional request for comment on the intern's work or the timeline of any future Moody Street plan.

Logan and Ward 8 Councilor Cathyann Harris have emphasized the pedestrian study is not the only way to improve the pedestrian experience on Moody Street. Harris has previously proposed sidewalk bump-outs at intersections to improve parking safety, as well as parklets and increased bike parking.

This week, the Traffic Commission also asked Garvin to move ahead with its previous requests and study the possibility of creating a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the intersection of Moody and Spruce streets.

Still, in light of the Planning Department's announcement, it's unclear at this point whether — or when — the city plans to further consider any other large-scale changes to Moody Street.



# Author

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## 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)

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SARAH-JANE CABAN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 2:35 PM

Thanks for investigating. I really hope some day we can find a compromise that makes Moody a true destination and pedestrian haven, while making reasonable accommodations for business owners and less mobile residents. There has to be a way! Let's think outside the box and do hard things!

[Reply](#)



DIANA YOUNG • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 12:59 PM

There's one immediate improvement that was supposed to be in the works. What happened to the plan to take the granite barriers around Moody Street trees and either push them down to sidewalk level or to remove them? They are a trip hazard and make it difficult for people with walkers or using wheelchairs to navigate the sidewalk. They also can interfere with opening car doors for cars parked on Moody Street. Let's get rid of these dangerous barriers!

[Reply](#)



BRAD ONKEN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 9:34 AM

This decision is a massive, missed opportunity for downtown Waltham. Killing the plan to complete a Moody Street pedestrian mall study stagnates the city's development yet again. We should be thinking about modernizing our community, not keeping things as they are. We really need a comprehensive master plan for the city, and a permanent, pedestrian-friendly Moody Street needs to be a central part of it if we want an energetic, modern downtown.

[Reply](#)



TIMOTHY RILEY • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 8:57 AM

Moody Street parking never belonged to these businesses though they may have misled themselves into believing that. How many of those business owners are even residents? It's time for new leadership in this city.

[Reply](#)



BRAD ONKEN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 9:34 AM

That is a really good question!

[Reply](#)

# Former Brothers Marketplace space vacant after five years as Roche Bros. retains lease

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 15, 2026



*Front of 1 Moody St., formerly occupied by Brothers Marketplace, at the intersection of Main and Moody Streets. Photo by Charlie Johnson.*

The former Brothers Marketplace space at The Merc at 1 Moody St. has remained vacant since Roche Bros. Supermarkets closed the store in 2021. Roche Bros. continues to hold the lease, but the future of the 12,000 square foot space is uncertain.

Brothers Marketplace, a grocery concept operated by Roche Bros. Supermarkets, opened in Waltham in 2018 on the ground floor of The Merc, a multifamily residential complex with retail space owned by Northland Investment Corp.

The Waltham store closed in May 2021. More than five years later, the space is still vacant.

A spokesperson for Northland Investment Corp. wrote in an email to the Waltham Times that Roche Bros. continues to hold the lease for the corner retail space. The Waltham Times reached out to Roche Bros. multiple times over the course of two months to confirm the company had retained the lease.

This week, a representative from Roche Bros. Supermarket confirmed the lease arrangement but declined to comment further on the property.

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy wrote in an email to the Waltham Times that a Trader Joe's or a Whole Foods with a takeout component would be a good fit for the vacant space. She wrote that Brothers Marketplace had been well-suited to the location and noted that more restaurants have opened near City Hall, particularly around the intersection of Main and Moody Streets.



*The sign on the front door of the market reads: "Today May 8th We are closing Our Doors Permanently Thank you for these Three wonderful years." Photo by Charlie Johnson.*

Other prospective tenants have expressed interest in the vacant space, but efforts to secure a lease have stalled.

Among those interested is the Charles River Food Co-op, which has been searching for a location for its proposed community-driven grocery store since the initiative began in 2022. The co-op aims to provide locally sourced products to residents of Waltham, Newton and Watertown.

Tim Snyder, clerk for the co-op's board of directors, said during its search the co-op identified the vacant space at 1 Moody St. as a potential location. Snyder, who previously shopped at Brothers Marketplace, recalled his experience at the store before it closed.

"It was a great operation," he said. "It just didn't have enough business and they launched around the same time as COVID-19 so it was an uphill climb for them."

Snyder said the former Brothers Marketplace space was the co-op's preferred location of the 40 properties organizers considered. He said given the complications of Roche Bros. existing lease, the possibility of securing the space in the near future appears unlikely.

Northland and Roche Bros. also did not provide the expected end date of the lease or how much the rent is for the property.

The future of the Waltham property is unclear. More than five years after the store closed, Brothers Marketplace colors remain on the awnings along with a sign on the front door announcing its closure.

## Comments (6)

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 NATHANIEL HORNBLOWER • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 7:45 PM

Likely a standard 10 year commercial lease.

IMO Northland wouldn't want someone to take the lease over because they got Roche Bros on the hook and its not adding any more wear and tear to the property.

I lived in the Merc for years, and Brothers was good, but expensive: even back then. I'd still go to Hannafords for regular groceries. There is no shortage of supermarkets in Waltham and they weren't incredibly different. Roche Bros banked on the built in customers (people who live there) but it wasn't enough to sustain it. The space needs to attract an outside audience. Like a Trader Joe's. And in true TJs fashion it has little parking. Perfect fit.

[Reply](#)

 BOB • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 7:31 PM

Brothers closed because Waltham couldn't control the homeless population. They were stealing and using the store as a public bathroom. It was disgusting. Let's be honest. We deserve better in Waltham then a

Common and moody st of homeless drug addicts

[Reply](#)

 SARAH JANE CABAN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 2:20 PM

Thanks for continuing to investigate. It's insane that this prime real estate is sitting vacant!

[Reply](#)

 SUSAN KNAPP • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 11:27 AM

Thank you for this article. I have been wondering for years why this property is still unused.

[Reply](#)

 JAMES • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 10:23 AM

Interesting story. Do you know when the lease expires?

[Reply](#)

 BRAD ONKEN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 9:26 AM

We may not know every detail behind the lease, but a vacant storefront is a lost opportunity for our downtown. If Roche Bros. isn't willing to pass the space along to the Charles River Food Co-Op, local supporters of the Co-Op in Waltham, Watertown, and Newton should think hard about where they shop for groceries.

[Reply](#)

# How Waltham first responders prepare for hazardous materials emergencies

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 15, 2026



Emergencies, almost by definition, don't happen often.

But when they do, Waltham's first responders want to be prepared. "If we're on the national news, we need to know what we're doing. It needs to be muscle memory," said Fire Chief Andrew Mullin.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee, which specifically deals with hazardous materials emergencies, holds an annual tabletop exercise as part of its state-mandated training. Agents from emergency services and other city departments gather in one room to collaborate on a plan to address a hypothetical emergency scenario.

The committee held its 2026 tabletop exercise this Tuesday, walking through a scenario modeled after [a 2018 incident at Brandeis](#) involving the discovery of sodium cyanide. Employees of the city's 911 center, Fire Department, Police Department, Armstrong Ambulance contractors and others, along with representatives from regional response initiatives and local businesses, sat around a table to work through a similar hypothetical emergency scenario at Waltham High School.



*LEPC meeting. Photo: Artie Kronenfeld.*

Participants spent much of the nearly two-hour session discussing who, where and when they'd need to call for backup and more information as they learned more about an unfolding situation. In an emergency, Waltham can draw on resources from nearby municipalities, but that requires collaboration, communication and timing — and dispatchers need to ensure they fill any service gaps.

*LEPC meeting. Photo: Artie Kronenfeld.*

This exercise showed how the details of an incident can significantly change responders' game plan. An Armstrong official remarked that the tabletop scenario was set during an off-peak hour, which would make it easier to get medical resources. However, it was set on a snowy day, and participants had difficulty securing a route for emergency vehicles.

Fire Lieutenant Jim Perry said the exercise familiarizes participants with emergency procedures and resources, tests how the city's first-response system holds up under strain, and identifies potential breaking points. Participants discussed how to troubleshoot parking for emergency vehicles, find safe places for students to wait during the investigation, address panicked parents' concerns to prevent an influx of traffic that could block backup vehicles and ambulances, and track the location of people transported for medical aid.

Another part of the exercise is to demystify each department's thought process and get responders acquainted with one another so they're not meeting for the first time in an emergency. Mullin said the city's efforts to encourage this kind of interdepartmental collaboration have been extremely successful over the past few years: "The relationship between the police and the fire department has never been as good as it is today," he said.

According to Perry, the LEPC's training program has grown significantly in the past two decades, after the department took it over from a single volunteer. Every spring, the committee meets to discuss updates to hazardous materials stored around the city. Every fall, it holds a tabletop exercise like this and encourages businesses and agencies that work with hazardous materials to attend.

Its scenarios are based on real-world events and local conditions in Waltham. In the past, these exercises have included scenarios related to hazardous materials used at Waltham companies and accidents on Waltham's roads or train lines.

Mullin told participants the Fire Department regularly runs exercises of this style and encouraged other departments to do the same throughout the year. "Something happens somewhere, and we see it on the news. And we talk about it, and we bring it back to Waltham, and say: Could this happen here? Where could it happen? What effects would happen?"



## Author

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### 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.

# Ballot question campaigns visit Waltham to make their cases

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • ELECTIONS • OCTOBER 15, 2026



When you receive your November ballot, you'll be greeted with a long list of ballot questions. A total of nine questions will be on the ballot this year — more than any election since 1994.

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 7, a handful of advocates from campaigns supporting and opposing these ballot measures gathered at the Arthur Clark Government Center to present their cases to Waltham voters.

The [open house style event](#), organized by the Waltham Democratic City Committee, drew around 50 attendees over the course of the evening.

Although the WDCC contacted advocacy groups registered for or active in campaigns on both sides of each ballot question, not every campaign attended.

For more on each ballot question — and to read arguments from campaigns who didn't attend Wednesday's event — you can check out the red voter information book mailed out by the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office, or read the information [on its website](#).

Here's what Wednesday's event attendees said.

## Question 1: Expanding public records to the legislature and governor's office

This question would allow people to make public records requests to access most documents from the state legislature and the governor's office, not including direct requests for assistance from constituents.



*Montell Khaldi of Abundant Housing Massachusetts. Photo by Jeff Seideman.*

John Griffin of Partners in Democracy MA Action, which is in favor of Question 1, argued that records from most other governmental bodies in the commonwealth, including municipalities, are classified as public. In fact, Massachusetts is one of only two states that don't apply public records law to the governor and legislature.

No one attended the event to speak against Question 1.

### **Question 2: Collective bargaining for public defenders**

This question would allow employees from the Committee for Public Counsel Services, which includes public defenders, to unionize and engage in collective bargaining with the state.

No one attended the event to speak in favor of or against Question 2.

### **Question 3: Top-two state primary elections**

This question would eliminate partisan primaries in state elections; instead, it would introduce a primary ballot that lists all potential candidates, and the two candidates with the most votes, regardless of political party, would advance to the general election.

Griffin said that Waltham, like most municipalities, sees a larger voter turnout for general elections than for primaries. In many majority Democrat areas of Massachusetts, Griffin said, the most contested elections voters see is often between candidates in the Democratic primary; this change could allow that competition to happen in the general election, where more people could weigh in on it.

No one attended the event to speak against Question 3.

### **Question 4: Election day registration**

This question would allow voters to register on the day of an election at any polling place by providing documentation of their place of residence. Voters who don't bring proof of residence would be able to cast a provisional ballot that would be counted if they are able to prove their residence within a set period of time.

Lydia Hurley from Common Cause Massachusetts said this change would make it easier for people to vote, especially during early fall primary elections, and therefore improve voter turnout. Hurley said it could build trust in elections. No one attended the event to speak against Question 4.

### **Question 5: Changes to state tax revenue cap**

This question would change the amount of tax money the state can collect. At the moment, Massachusetts has a cap on how much it can collect in taxes, increased every year by average wage growth. If the state hits its limit, it must send taxpayers a rebate.

This question would instead impose a cap based on the tax revenue the state collected the previous year, meaning if the state collected less than the maximum allowed amount, its revenue limit would go down the next year.

The question would also allow previously excluded revenue from the “millionaire’s tax” to count toward the state’s tax limit.

No one attended the event to speak in favor of Question 5.

Jonathan Cohn from Progressive Mass argued against Question 5, saying the question was designed to lower the state’s revenue cap. He said that in the long term, lower tax revenue would mean cuts to essential services, and this change would make it harder for the state to save and invest excess money during especially productive years that it could use to prepare for economic downturns.

#### **Question 6: Establishing a natural resource conservation fund**

This question would create a statewide fund for conserving open space, wildlife and natural resources, along with a board to oversee its spending. That fund would be taken from money set aside from sales taxes on recreational vehicles, golf courses and sporting goods, such as ski and tennis equipment.

Andrew Sharpe of the Authentic Caribbean Foundation argued that Question 6 would help ensure communities have access to the money they need to preserve their health and the health of their open space, by providing a new avenue of up to \$100,000,000 per year in funding through a mechanism similar to the Community Preservation Act. Sharpe added that the fund’s oversight board would draw on the expertise of existing well-established local advocacy groups.

No one attended the event to speak against Question 6.

#### **Question 7: Allowing single family homes on smaller lots**

This question would allow owners of residential lots as small as 5,000 square feet to build single-family housing on their land, so long as the lot is linked to public water and sewer services and conforms to other local zoning requirements.

Montell Khaldi of Abundant Housing Massachusetts argued that Question 7 was a step toward providing more housing to address the state’s shortage in a way that would preserve choice for landowners and avoid overtaxing dense neighborhoods; he predicted the proposal would have the biggest effect in less-dense areas farther away from Boston.

No one attended the event to speak against Question 7.

#### **Question 8: Banning adult recreational marijuana use**

This question would repeal laws allowing the legal sale of marijuana to adults and limit adults to possessing no more than one ounce of marijuana.

No one attended the event to speak in favor of Question 8.

A representative of campaign group No on 8 declined to comment at the event, but its campaign chair Ryan Dominguez later told the Waltham Times that existing recreational marijuana laws have allowed Massachusetts to crack down on illegal marijuana businesses and provide oversight and regulation of marijuana sales. He argued that delegating marijuana would cause job loss and decrease state tax revenue.

### Question 9: Upholding recent firearms regulations

Unlike the other eight ballot questions, Question 9 doesn't propose a new law; it's a referendum on whether to support an existing gun regulation law [passed in 2024](#).

The 2024 law contains a long list of provisions. Among other regulations, it bans modified or unregistered "ghost guns"; allows regulators to review prior gun license records and court-ordered mental health commitments before granting gun licenses; imposes additional licensing regulations on semiautomatic rifles and shotguns; allows teenagers to apply for a permit for self-defense sprays; allows the state to publish and study anonymized public data on gun ownership; and more. Voting 'yes' would support the 2024 law.

Ruth Zakarin of Yes on 9 argued that Massachusetts has one of the lowest records of gun violence in the country, and that's in part due to its strong gun laws. Zakarin said the 2024 regulations significantly overhauled Massachusetts' previous laws passed in 2014 and 2018 to account for new technology, including devices to turn semiautomatic weapons into machine guns.

Kerrie Ann Auclair of the Civil Rights Coalition argued against Question 9. She said the 2024 law overly penalized legal gun owners. Auclair said many changes to licensing regulations — including reclassifying semiautomatic shotguns and rifles, and requiring deescalation, live fire, injury and suicide prevention classes for license renewal — were overly burdensome to legal gun owners. She argued that "ghost gun" laws would penalize legal gun owners trying to make personal accessibility modifications to their guns.

## Comments (1)

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 TONI ELKA • OCTOBER 18, 2026 AT 9:43 AM

Thank you, Artie!

[Reply](#)

# Waltham High students and teachers offer state officials a blunt report card

BY LEA ZAHARONI • EDUCATION • OCTOBER 15, 2026



Photos by Linda Haas Photography.

As Massachusetts rethinks what it takes to earn a high school diploma, the state's top education officials visited Waltham High School on Oct. 13 to hear from the people most affected by the changes. Students and teachers told Commissioner Pedro Martinez and Education Secretary Stephen Zrike what's working — from career pathways to early college programming — and what isn't — from state testing to the strain on teachers' time.



Principal William (Bill) Conard w/ Dr. Robinson and Commissioner Pedro Martinez.  
Photo by Linda Haas.



WHS has plenty to show off. Its new nearly \$400 million campus, opened in 2024, is [one of the most expensive](#) public school projects in state history. District officials led a tour through several of the state-of-the-art career and technical education classrooms, which give students hands-on experience in such fields as culinary arts, nursing, carpentry and auto body work.



Students form meatballs.



Chef Putnam (C) conducts a lesson on baking focaccia.

Overall, the school offers 14 career pathways and nearly 30 Advanced Placement courses, made possible by more than 250 faculty and staff. It also added a third early-college partnership with Regis College this year, which, along with MassBay Community College and Framingham State University, allows high school students to earn college credits.

WHS's new principal William Conard led a presentation on the school's goals and asks from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Entering year three of a complicated [schedule-change process](#), Conard said the goal is for students to try a bit of everything: AP, CTE and early college courses. Though it might be technically impossible to fit all these demanding curricula into one schedule, "we want families to know it's possible ... to do some of everything," Conard said.

Martinez and Zrike were most interested, however, in hearing from teachers and students. During roundtables, the groups both praised the school and pointed out how it could improve.



Teacher and staff roundtable.



Some of the students participating in the student roundtable.

## Mixed messages on MCAS

A topic that came up with both teachers and students was the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, or MCAS — a standardized test that, starting with the class of 2025, is [no longer a requirement](#) for graduation. The [controversial](#) change resulted from a majority vote on a 2024 ballot question.

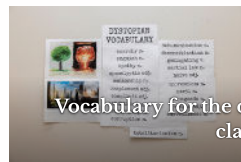
Since MCAS stopped being required for graduation, Martinez said many students don't take it seriously, and students said their teachers don't either. Yet MCAS scores still carry substantial weight in a school's accountability ranking. Teachers called this unjust.

Students told Martinez and Zrike that they often felt unprepared for the test, and that without any possible reward, they saw no reason to do well. Martinez pointed out that the [Adams Scholarship](#) to college is available for students who score well, but that it wasn't publicized enough — he himself had only found out about it earlier that week.

Martinez articulated concerns about the equity of MCAS by sharing a statistic: more than three-quarters of students who pass the test go on to finish college. He said this represents a gap in opportunity, since it implies the test is less a measure of talent than of access to strong preparation.



Dr. Robinson speaks w/ a student in an English class focusing on dystopian literature.



Vocabulary for the dystopian literature class.



Secy. Arike watches as students Riley Fournier (L) and Riley Chaisson (R) discuss a Math problem.

## A strong floor

Teachers discussed end-of-course assessments, which are the state's [proposed replacement](#) for MCAS. The assessments have been informally implemented in some districts, but are not an official requirement for graduation yet.

Martinez said the state hopes to offer course assessments in multiple languages, potentially making them more equitable. “For us, it’s more about comprehension than the actual language,” he said. [Last school year](#), nearly 17% of WHS students were recorded as English learners, and nearly 59% didn’t speak English as their first language.

Teachers also praised the course assessments for being shorter and more focused than MCAS, echoing student comments about MCAS being too long and having too many disparate parts. However, uncertainties remain among teachers about whether the tests will be entirely state-run, or created by teachers and audited by the state. Martinez didn’t answer directly, but said that “the goal is not uniformity,” but instead to “create a floor that’s really strong.”

State officials also asked students how to make school feel more applicable to postgrad careers. Students responded that with its extensive CTE offerings, WHS is already ahead. A certified nursing assistant pathway drew 50 applicants this year for only 15 spots, and every student landed a paid co-op at \$20 an hour.

There is still room for improvement. Teachers pointed out the state’s requirements for [Chapter 74 programs](#), like the one at WHS, can be overwhelming. They said juniors and seniors often drop out of their CTE commitments because it keeps them from other opportunities. Principal Conard said the system needs room for young people’s interests to change.

Martinez asked students to dissuade their peers of the common myth that vocational programs are only for people who don’t go to college. The commissioner also asked teachers what the state could do to make the teaching profession more sustainable. Answers ranged from mental health support for students to clearer grading expectations, but the request echoed the most was more prep time.

The visit ended without firm answers on course assessments, MCAS or Chapter 74 requirements. But state officials have a clearer picture of what students and teachers need as Massachusetts redefines what a high school diploma means.

## Comments (2)

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 SARAH JANE CABAN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 2:27 PM

Great story and excellent accompanying photos!

[Reply](#)

 BARBARA MORAN • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 1:15 PM

I was a teacher in the Washoe County School District in Reno, Nevada when MA Commissioner Pedro Martinez was Superintendent. The District fired him; he sued back and ended up with a \$500,000. settlement. Needless to say, he was highly unpopular among teachers and his tenure was embattled. How can he have only recently learned about the Adams Scholarship? I, for one, am not surprised.

[Reply](#)

# City Council in brief: Joint fast food outlet planned for Market Basket mall

BY ARTIE KRONENFELD • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 15, 2026



The City Council is moving ahead with approvals for chains Sweetgreen and Cava to move into a new Tower Road building at the Market Basket shopping center beside the [recently closed restaurant The Federal](#).

Since the building [went up this year](#), Sweetgreen and Cava [have stepped in](#) to propose leases that will split the floor plan of the building. Both chains offer variations on salads, grain bowls and wraps.

The council opened a public hearing for a fast food permit for Sweetgreen at its meeting this week. The company intends to build an outdoor dining patio, and, if approved, will begin work in 2027 to make a proposed opening date of July 4.

Cava has been working with the council's Ordinances and Rules Committee on a fast food permit [since August](#). This week, the council closed Cava's public hearing and voted to grant its permit.

## Additionally, the City Council:

- Approved business from [last week's committee meetings](#).
- Referred a series of requests from Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy to next week's committee meetings:
  - Two new appointments to the Council on Aging and a presentation on the joint fire and police headquarters update. (Committee of the Whole)
  - A request for a new truck for the Cemetery Department and a grant for road safety improvements. (Finance Committee)
  - A grant to install electric vehicle chargers in public lots and a request to take out a loan to redesign the Fire Department headquarters. (Long-Term Debt and Capital Planning Committee)
  - A proposal to raise the compensation for election workers, which the council preliminarily voted to approve so it could take its final vote on the subject in two weeks before November's election. Also, a discussion on possible easements for [a proposed Moody Street hotel](#) to build a cantilever over the Embassy parking lot. (Ordinances and Rules Committee)
- Referred a fortune teller's license renewal and an extended hours license to the Licenses and Franchises Committee.
- Honored Bill Creonte Sr., [a Waltham WWII veteran and long-time community member](#) who died earlier this week.

# How a technical glitch on an immigration court appeal for Gedion Masunsu set in motion his swift deportation to Uganda

BY DAVID E. GUMPERT • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 13, 2026



From Kampala, Uganda, Gedion Masunsu reports that he has been consumed in the 10 days since his deportation from the United States with trying to gain relief from a painful rotator-cuff tear he suffered while in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. “I’ve been trying to look for a hospital which will work on my shoulder, it’s really bothering me a lot,” he messaged a reporter Sunday.

As Masunsu struggles to stabilize his existence back in Uganda, his supporters are struggling to understand how his years-long campaign to gain political asylum in the U.S., followed by his 19 months in custody at a New Hampshire county jail that serves as an ICE facility, came to such a sudden end at the beginning of this month.

A seemingly minor glitch in filing an appeal with an Immigration Court on “Removal Proceedings” appears to have led to the unraveling of Masunsu’s long effort to forestall deportation to Uganda. His lawyer attempted to appeal a court decision in early 2026 that reversed his withholding of removal (the prohibition against deporting him), but encountered a problem. As the Immigration Court explained in a Sept. 15 decision, “The Immigration Judge’s decision was rendered on March 31, 2026. The appeal was accordingly due on or before April 30, 2026. The notice of appeal was submitted to the board on April 30, 2026, but it was rejected due to not being electronically filed as required.”

Masunsu’s lawyer, Thomas Stylianios, with offices in Lowell, attempted to explain that he had never before submitted a notice of appeal electronically; he then submitted the actual appeal on May 25. The Immigration Court judge, Hugh Mullane, rejected that as well, explaining, “The respondent’s motion to accept late appeal is premised on counsel’s claims that this was the first case where counsel was required to file electronically. Respondent, however, has not shown due diligence and extraordinary circumstances to warrant” an exemption from the rules. “The appeal is untimely and will be summarily dismissed.” So Masunsu’s written appeal was not reviewed by judges before being rejected.

When Masunsu learned of the late filing and the dismissal of his appeal in mid-September, he assumed his lawyer, Stylianios, wasn’t giving the case proper attention. His paralegal, Rosette Serwanga, sought out a new lawyer to take legal steps, such as seeking a writ of habeas corpus, to help head off deportation; he had 30 days under Immigration Court rules to file the appeal after the rejection of the appeal September 15. But Serwanga couldn’t immediately find a lawyer to take on the case, so at the end of September, she went to Sen. Edward Markey for help. An aide contacted ICE for an explanation as to why Masunsu was being held for 19 months without any charges; ICE acted, but not in the way the aide hoped. ICE began the deportation process before the day was out.

In an interview, Masunsu’s lawyer, Stylianios, said that when the rejection of the appeal came down Sept. 15 and he wasn’t engaged for a new appeal, he assumed he was off the case. “Every time an appeal ends, there is a review or change of representation,” he said.

He now feels Masunsu may have grounds for contesting the deportation based at least partly on the fact that ICE moved to deport Masunsu some days before the 30-day appeal period had run out. “They deported him while the appeal period was still open,” Stylianios said. Plus there may have been other legal issues that could have been challenged, such as the rejection of Stylianios’ appeal.



*Gedion Masunsu, age 42.*

In the meantime, Masunsu’s supporters are trying to raise money for his resettlement and possible legal appeals of his deportation. A cousin of Masunsu said relatives and friends, along with the Ugandan North American Seventh-day Adventist Church, have set up a GoFundMe page.

Another avenue of support could potentially come from Sen. Markey; an aide has been in touch with Masunsu’s paralegal, but Markey’s office didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Deportations have in a few cases been successfully challenged. Masunsu said “a friend of mine in jail was deported to Burundi from Strafford [the county jail where Masunsu was held]; then the judge ordered ICE to bring him back and I left him there.”

Masunsu’s fund-raising effort must compete with an ongoing disinformation effort from ICE, which maintains on one of its sites that Masunsu was arrested by ICE agents in March 2025 based on assault charges against him two months earlier. ICE has neglected to update its site to show that the assault charges against Masunsu were dismissed by a Massachusetts judge, leaving him with no criminal record. On social media, commenters continue to refer to Masunsu as a criminal who deserved deportation.



## Author

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### DAVID E. GUMPERT

Waltham resident David E. Gumpert is a business writer and co-author of a memoir with his aunt, “Inge: A Girl’s Journey Through Nazi Europe.” He is currently writing a book about his family’s businesses in Nazi Germany.

# Route 128 drivers have noticed: The Hobbs Brook Reservoir is down to 20%

BY JEFF SEIDEMAN • ENVIRONMENT • OCTOBER 13, 2026



*Hobbs Brook Reservoir's receding shoreline.*

If you've driven recently on Route 128/95, heading south between the Trapelo and Totten Pond Road exits, it would be nearly impossible not to notice that the Hobbs Brook Reservoir, which borders the road, is seriously depleted. Rocks are showing, the shoreline has receded by as much as 100 feet and geese are competing for a comfy resting place.

That's not Waltham's water. That's Cambridge's water. When full, the reservoir can contain 2.5 billion gallons of water and is 25 feet deep at its lowest point. But according to the Cambridge Water Department, the drought reduced it by about 80%, so it now holds about 500 million gallons.

The Hobbs Brook Reservoir has been low for the last year due to a regional drought. To conserve water, Cambridge issued a Level 2 (Significant Drought) alert in May, requiring limitations on water usage. It lowered that to a Level 1 (Mild Drought) alert on Sept. 22.

On Oct. 9, Massachusetts raised the alert back to Level 2 for all of northeast Massachusetts, including Waltham.

Waltham's water comes from the much larger Quabbin (412 billion gallons when full) and Wachusett (65 billion gallons when full) reservoirs, delivered through Massachusetts Water Resources Authority aqueducts.

When Cambridge's water leaves the Hobbs Brook Reservoir, it flows south about three miles to the Stony Brook Reservoir, also owned by Cambridge and also in Waltham. The reservoir is visible by northbound traffic on Rt. 128/95. It then flows through an aqueduct to the Fresh Pond Reservoir, which is Cambridge's main source of treated, drinkable water.

How did Cambridge get control of the Hobbs Brook Reservoir? It built it.

In the 1880s, Cambridge was growing and realized it needed a reliable source of drinking water. It looked west and saw Hobbs Brook in Waltham, Lincoln and Lexington. By putting a dam along what is now Winter Street, it could turn the brook and some farmland into the Hobbs Brook Reservoir.

Cambridge purchased the land in 1892, required the 43 farmers on the property to relocate, and completed construction of the reservoir in 1895. Unlike the well-known situation at the Quabbin Reservoir, there are no submerged towns or structures on the bottom of the Hobbs Brook Reservoir. Just rocks and mud.



## Author



### JEFF SEIDEMAN

Jeff Seideman has been a journalist and photographer for more than 50 years. He has worked on daily and weekly newspapers, wire services, and radio and television. He was head of product publicity for Polaroid’s technical and industrial products, and was a professor of communications at MassBay Community College.

## Comments (1)



PARKER HARRINGTON • OCTOBER 16, 2026 AT 12:22 PM

Thanks for writing this column, very interesting.  
Was just noticing the last few days how low it seemed and came upon this column doing a little research.  
I’m not from the immediate area but it’s always interesting when other municipalities own water supplies in other towns, I wasn’t aware of that here  
But like my hometown of Westwood, we don’t own Buckmaster

Reply

# Conservation Commission reviews restrictions, rules on Bay Colony project

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 13, 2026



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

The Waltham Conservation Commission reviewed its role in certifying nine drafted conservation restrictions, including some properties partly or fully outside its jurisdiction. It determined that the proposed 283-unit redevelopment at 1000 Winter St., part of the broader Bay Colony project, falls outside its jurisdiction.

The commission enforces the Massachusetts Wetlands Protections Act and other relevant wetland regulations. Its authority covers protected wetlands, waterways, floodplains and surrounding regulated areas, while conservation restrictions can protect other types of land as well.

The city recently presented nine draft conservation restrictions, five of which reportedly fall within the commission's jurisdiction.

The former Fernald State School property was cited as a prominent example of the city's unfinished conservation restriction process. The city purchased the property in 2014 using Community Preservation Act funds. In July, the commission approved a proposed golf course on part of the property, on the condition that the city explain why a conservation restriction was not in place before construction could proceed.

In August, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy wrote a [letter](#) responding to the commission's concerns. McCarthy said her office and the Law Department were working to complete the outstanding restrictions.

Members of the commission discussed the requirement for conservation restrictions on land purchased using Community Preservation Act funds. The process has remained unresolved for years. No independent restriction holder, who would be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the restrictions, has yet been identified.

"We've been pushing to get conservation restrictions. We have drafts in front of us now. So we've gotten a lot further than we ever have at this point," said Bill Doyle, chair of the committee.

The commission intends to revisit the topic at its meeting on Nov. 3.

## Bay Colony redevelopment

In August, the City Council voted to [override](#) McCarthy's veto of zoning overlay districts that would expand permitted uses in the Bay Colony District to accommodate residential development. Chris Carr, representing BXP, and Nick Scoli from VHB, the engineering firm, presented the proposal for one of the properties within the Bay Colony redevelopment at 1000 Winter St. at the meeting.

The proposal involves demolition of an approximately 280,000-square-foot vacant office building and construction of 283 multifamily apartment units. Carr said BXP will continue to coordinate with the Cambridge Water Department because of the nearby reservoir.

The commission reviewed the development prospectus and determined it was outside its jurisdictional areas.

The project still needs City Council approval, and additional neighborhood meetings will be planned to hear community feedback.



## Author

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### CHARLIE JOHNSON

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

# The Cat Connection mourns volunteer killed in Reading; son charged with murder

BY JUNE KINOSHITA • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 13, 2026



The Cat Connection, a volunteer-run cat rescue with [a long history in Waltham](#) and featured weekly in the Waltham Times, is mourning a longtime volunteer who authorities allege was shot to death by her son in Reading last week.

Andria Hanafin, 49, was found dead in the kitchen of her Center Avenue home early Thursday, Oct. 8. Her son, Ryan Hanafin, 22, was arrested in Vermont last Thursday. He has been charged with murder and gun offenses in Woburn District Court, [The Boston Globe reported](#).

“She put heart and soul into helping cats,” Karen Evans, the nonprofit’s vice president and adoption manager, told the Times. “She never said no if a cat, owner or foster needed help.” Evans struggled to speak at times. “It’s a huge, huge loss. We are devastated.”



*Andria Hanafin. Courtesy photo.*

The Cat Connection is an all-volunteer, no-kill nonprofit that rescues stray, abandoned, abused and injured cats and places them in adoptive homes. The group was founded 25 years ago by Waltham residents. The annual report lists the First Parish in Waltham’s Jones Partnership grant and the Waltham Chamber of Commerce among its supporters.

## “A cat whisperer”

Hanafin, a veterinary technician at a Dorchester clinic, fostered cats with complex medical needs and trust issues, according to Evans. Hanafin “was a cat whisperer,” she said. She was the volunteer the group called when nothing else worked, including for litters of newborn kittens needing round-the-clock bottle-feeding. “She could get any cat into a carrier” so they could be taken to a veterinarian.

“There is a horrible disease, FIP [feline infectious peritonitis]. There is a treatment, but it’s difficult to administer. Andria would patiently teach how to do it,” Evans recalled.

Hanafin was a mother of three. Police found 20 to 30 cats in the home, and animal control officers were called to care for them, the Globe reported.

According to a police report cited by the Globe, Ryan Hanafin had recently argued with his mother about the cats in the house. She told her husband, Matthew Hanafin, by phone Wednesday evening that she wanted their son to move out. Matthew Hanafin found her body when he got home from work around midnight.

“This is a loss to her community,” Evans said, choking back tears. “She had the most beautiful ear-to-ear smile.” It was too soon for the nonprofit to think about how to honor Hanafin’s memory, but “we will continue with our work — it’s continuing Andria’s mission.”

The town of Reading is [hosting a candlelight vigil](#) Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 6 p.m. at Memorial Park in Reading. “Even in the darkest moments, we stand together as a community,” the post said.



## Author

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### 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.

# Question 3 divides Democrats over proposed changes to state's primary system

BY CHARLIE JOHNSON • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 13, 2026



*Canva stock image.*

Question 3 on the ballot would replace separate party primaries with a single all-party primary, sending the top two vote-getters to the general election beginning in 2028. Supporters cite increased competition, while opponents warn of advantages for well-funded campaigns and favor ranked-choice voting.

Harvard University political scientist Danielle Allen developed the initiative with the Coalition for Healthy Democracy. California and Washington use comparable top-two systems, while Alaska uses a top-four primary with ranked-choice voting.

The system would apply to statewide offices, state legislative seats, congressional races, district offices such as district attorney and certain county positions. It would not apply to municipal offices.

Allen and state Sen. Lydia Edwards, who opposes the measure, debated the ballot initiative on GBH's Boston Public Radio on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Allen said an all-party primary would make incumbents more vulnerable by giving challengers a better chance to reach the general election. Due to the larger turnout for general elections, Allen said the electorate would be more diverse than those who voted in the primary.

Edwards said Question 3 could give candidates with significant financial backing an advantage in reaching the general election by making campaign resources more important to finishing in the top two.

The Boston Globe [reported](#) that individuals with ties to private equity firms, including Bain Capital and Berkshire Partners, have donated millions of dollars to support the ballot campaign.

After the program, Edwards told the Waltham Times that large amounts of money should not be necessary to advance ballot questions. She said the initiative process could be made more accessible by lowering the number of signatures required to qualify a measure for the ballot.

Edwards said she supports electoral reform but favors ranked-choice voting over Question 3. Ranked-choice voting allows voters to rank candidates by preference, with lower-performing candidates eliminated in rounds until one candidate receives a majority.

Edwards said ranked-choice voting can encourage candidates to campaign less negatively against others in their party.

“People get turned off by the nastiness,” Edwards said. “More of us running is a good thing.”

If Question 3 passes, the law would take effect Jan. 1, 2028.



## Author

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CHARLIE JOHNSON

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

## Comments (2)

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RICHARD WINGER • OCTOBER 14, 2026 AT 1:02 PM

Question Three doesn't reduce the petition barriers to get on the primary ballot, which is the biggest flaw in current Massachusetts election law. Massachusetts has the highest petition requirement for U.S. House candidates to get on a primary ballot of any state, 2,000 signatures. That is why Massachusetts is the only state in which most U.S. House general elections have only one candidate on the ballot. It is unheard of in the other New England states to have only one candidate for US House on the November ballot.

[Reply](#)



BUCK • OCTOBER 14, 2026 AT 10:56 AM

It doesn't pass the sniff test... Bain Capital and Berkshire Partners aren't putting that much money into a campaign cause it's better for me.

[Reply](#)

# Ask Teddy

BY TEDDY & CYD ABNET • COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 13, 2026



Meet Teddy, a goldendoodle, certified good boy and The Waltham Times' advice columnist. In "Dear Teddy," he'll take your questions about life, love, neighbors — and whether the mail carrier is really up to something. He holds no formal credentials, but what Teddy lacks in training he makes up for in empathy, snacks and a knack for knowing when you've had a hard day. Have a problem, a quandary or a gloomy Tuesday? Write to Teddy. He promises to answer with his whole heart. Send questions to [teddy@walthamtimes.org](mailto:teddy@walthamtimes.org). Teddy lives in Waltham with the Grossman-Greene family, usually looking out the front door, or near the treat jar.

Q: I am having a dispute with a neighbor over the strip of lawn along the street between our houses. He says I should mow it because three-quarters of it is in front of my house, but I think that we should alternate mowing. What is your take?

A: If you know one thing about me, it's that I love a good strip of grass. I consider myself a grass sommelier of sorts. I always take a few sniffs of each patch I come across to see if a furry friend has left me a peemail, assess the feel of it on my fur by going for a roll and take a little bit home to leave on the floor for my humans to enjoy later. I suggest you each tackle half the strip at the same time. That way, you can chat while you mow and share the joy of grass together. Better yet, lose the grass and plant a native pollinator garden instead. It's much better sniffing and attracts more birds and buzzing friends for me.

# Mayor requests collaboration over plans for new hockey rink

BY CYD ABNET • GOVERNMENT • OCTOBER 15, 2026



*Director Kim Hebert indicates possible sites for the hockey rink on a map of the Lawrence School property before Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy and the Recreation Board. Photo by Cyd Abnet.*

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy appeared before the Recreation Board on Sept.14 to ask the recreation director to collaborate with the City Council on a plan for a potential hockey rink.

Following recent discussions at City Council meetings about plans for the Lawrence School property on Trapelo Road, the mayor presented options for the board to consider. The city could use the property as open space or a hockey rink if the city loses access to Veterans Rink on Totten Pond Road.

The mayor presented two schematic plans, one with a larger main rink and one with a main rink and a small practice rink. She asked recreation director Kim Hebert to collaborate with the City Council to select a plan for a potential hockey rink on the property. The board voted to approve the collaboration.

In other business, the board:

- Held a moment of silence for board member Tom Creonte's father, William Creonte Sr., who recently passed away.
- Heard a presentation from the Waltham Youth Baseball and Waltham Youth Softball programs. Both programs reported successful seasons and collaborations with the high school varsity teams for their respective sports. The Waltham Youth Baseball program expects to raise fees by \$25 for all programs and is unsure whether its all-girls team will return next year. The all-girls team's return depends on whether a parent of a girl in the program is interested in coaching. The Waltham Youth Softball program highlighted how it strategically schedules games and practices around other youth sports events so that kids can participate in as many programs as they want.
- The council tabled discussion of a historical signage installation at Nipper Maher Park requested by Ward 7 Councilor Paul Katz, who was not at the meeting, until he could attend. The signage would highlight the historic bike-circuit ruins visible at the park.
- Discussed lighting for the baseball fields at Nipper Maher Park. A future community meeting will gather neighbors' input on the project.
- Announced that the Prospect Hill auto road will close at the end of October and public hockey and skating will start at Veteran's Rink in November.

# Bringing a new game to Waltham

BY GREG LEVINSKY • SPORTS & RECREATION • OCTOBER 15, 2026

Rarely, if ever, does a Waltham resident look at netball as a sport to play. Dorothy Nakato is looking to change that.

Nakato and her Elite Motion Netball Academy are hosting a fun, informational learn-to-play social event Nov. 1 from 2:30-5 p.m. at McDevitt Middle School. A \$5-per-player participation fee covers the cost to rent the gym.



“Netball is one of the games that can keep the community together,” said Nakato, 35. “I want our community to enjoy this new (to them) sport.”

[World Netball](#), the governing body for netball affiliated to the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations, defines it as a game pitting two teams of seven players that “strive to keep or gain possession of the ball” en route to scoring within a netted goal circle surrounding the basket. The team with the most goals wins the match, traditionally four 15-minute quarters. For a full list of rules, click [here](#).

While netball is a popular game elsewhere, it isn’t a big deal in this country. At least not yet.

More than 13 million people play netball worldwide, across 120 countries, according to World Netball. That number is just 400,000 in the U.S., according to Netball America.

A native of Uganda, Nakato started playing netball in middle school. She moved to Waltham four years ago and works as a paraprofessional in the Waltham Public Schools.

For comparison, the Sports & Fitness Industry Association calculated that more than 28.1 million Americans play basketball. American netball participation is less than 1.5% of that number. Clearly, netball’s footprint here appears miniscule. The sports look similar, with the net in netball appearing like a basketball hoop without a backboard.

“If you love basketball, you can love netball, too, because it almost has the same concept,” Nakato said.

Netball isn’t Nakato’s only athletic interest. She is also a youth official for lacrosse and field hockey, and helps run an athletic program in Uganda. Nakato also formerly coached the Waltham High School junior varsity girls lacrosse team.

The netball event is an introduction Nakato hopes turns into something more.

# Patrick Werner, 1950–2026

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • OCTOBER 15, 2026

Patrick Reemelin Werner, born on April Fool's Day 1950, continued a family tradition of arriving on an unusual day: his mother was born on New Years Day, and his older brother was a leap-year baby.

Although Pat grew up in an Air Force family, this career Air Force officer favored sailing the seas.

In his youth, he was a Boy Scout, graduated from Highland High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas before earning a degree in Electrical Engineering from University of California, Berkeley. While serving in the military he was awarded the first Master of Computer Engineering degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Pat was commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force in 1973 and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2001 at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts. During his decorated military career he served in Wonju, Korea. His retirement ceremony took place on the deck of the USS Constitution.

Pat enjoyed sailing and racing as a member of the Boston Yacht Club and manned the sails of boats heading out from Marblehead harbor. With his resourceful and charming personality, he spent years borrowing boats, crewing for others and helping keep other boatowners' vessels shipshape. As a professional captain he delivered boats throughout the Eastern Seaboard and the Caribbean.

He finally succumbed to the joys of boat ownership in 2016 and named his boat "Bums Away" after the B-24 his father flew in the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II.

During the sailing off-season, Pat worked as a professional volleyball referee, officiating at high school, state and national level tournaments.

Uncle Pat was dearly loved by his nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. His travels by air and sea took him around the world, and he delighted in sharing those adventures through thoughtful and generous gifts to his family and friends.

Patrick was preceded in death by his parents Crowell B and Mary Werner. He is survived by his brothers Michael Werner (JoKaren) of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Jeffrey Werner (Susan Lasko) of Santa Cruz, California.

He is also survived by his nieces, Wendy Jo Werner (Iftekar Ahmed) of Muscat, Oman; Pamela Werner-Salsbury (Lucas) of Fort Collins, Colorado, Dorothy Rose of Lebanon, Oregon, Katherine of Los Angeles, California, as well as his grandnieces and grandnephews Umreen, Omar, Bodhi, Indigo, and Marley Rae.

Pat will be remembered for his dedication to service, his love of the sea, his independent spirit, and the generosity and affection he shared with family and friends. He passed away unexpectedly in his longtime residence in Waltham, Massachusetts on October 1, 2026.

A ceremony of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Pat missed the chance to participate in second best day in a boat owner's life, the day the boat is sold. The first, of course, being the day the boat is bought.



*Patrick Reemelin Werner, April 1, 1950 – October 1, 2026*

# William M. Creonte, 97, Navy veteran who founded Creonte Tire and Auto

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • OCTOBER 16, 2026

William M. “Bill” Creonte, a Navy veteran who built a family tire business and spent nearly a century in the city he loved, died Saturday, Oct. 10. He was 97.

Born in Waltham on Nov. 25, 1928, the youngest of seven children of Italian immigrants Carmen and Christine (DeSisto) Creonte, he graduated from Waltham Vocational High School and served three years in the Navy aboard the aircraft carriers USS Leyte and USS Randolph.

He married his high school sweetheart, Eileen Poirier, on June 5, 1949. After her death, he made near-daily visits to her grave at Mount Feake Cemetery, stopping to talk or simply let her know he was thinking of her.

In 1949, Creonte bought his first Mack truck, a vehicle he still owned at the time of his death. In 1970, he established a truck tire service that grew into Creonte Tire and Auto Inc., a business his obituary said was built on honesty, integrity and fair dealing.

A longtime Waltham resident, he enjoyed card games, sports, meals with friends at the Chateau, summers at Lake Winnepesaukee and time in Vero Beach, Florida. He took particular delight in his 22 great-grandchildren, following their activities and accomplishments with genuine interest, his obituary said.

He is survived by his sons, William M. Creonte Jr. and his wife, Laurel, and Thomas Creonte and his wife, Bari, all of Waltham; his daughter, Karen Cameron of New Port Richey, Florida; 10 grandchildren; his 22 great-grandchildren; and his sisters-in-law, Carol Poirier of Newton and Nancy Dickie of Waltham. He was predeceased by his wife, Eileen, and his daughter, Christine Cavanaugh.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American SIDS Foundation.



*William M. Creonte,  
1928–2026*



GINA PARTAIN • OCTOBER 18, 2026 AT 7:36 PM

So sorry to hear of your loss. Sending our condolences to you family.

[Reply](#)

# Anna Marinaro, 1931–2026, loving mother and grandmother

BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • OCTOBER 13, 2026



Anna (Cianci) Marinaro, of Waltham, died Friday, Oct. 9, 2026 at her home following a period of declining health. She was 95.

Born on Aug. 6, 1931, in Castelgrande, Italy, Anna was the daughter of the late Vincent and Carmela (DeSantis) Cianci. In Aug. 1964, she and her husband Nicola made the journey to the U.S., settling in Waltham where they would spend the rest of their lives, raise their family, and build a close circle of friends rooted in Italian tradition and community.

Anna brought her skill as a seamstress and dressmaker to her new home. She worked for years creating and altering clothing, applying the same careful hand and quiet determination that defined so much of her life.



*Anna Marinaro, 1931–2026*

She leaves her devoted children, Anna McKeon (Brian) of Lexington, Carmela Haque (Rizwan) of Waltham, Silvana Pascucci (Christopher) of Oyster Bay, New York and Lisa Marie Smith (Mark Tripp) of Sudbury; her grandchildren, Amanda Choi (William), Alexandra Drumm (Brian), Nasira Ewing (John), Imran Haque (Lynn), Nadeem Haque (Peter Glennon), Olivia Pascucci-Ramirez (Edwin), Nicholas Pascucci, Isabella Crawford (John), Joseph Pascucci, Alexander Smith, Christian Smith and Benjamin Smith; her great-grandchildren, Felicity Choi, James and Lily Ewing, Everly, Adison and Isla Haque, Luca and Theo Ramirez and Christopher Crawford; her sisters and brother, Rose Magno, Lawrence Cianci (Maria) and Pierina DiPace, all of Waltham; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

She was the wife of the late Nicola Marinaro, and sister of the late Angelo Cianci.

Family and friends will honor and remember Anna's life by gathering for an evening wake in The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte. 20), Waltham on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and again at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning before leaving in procession to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 880 Trapelo Road, Waltham where her funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Waltham.

# Walter David French, 1948–2026

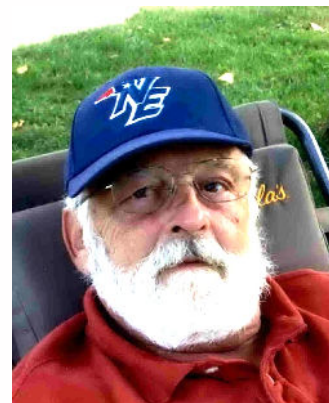
BY NEWSROOM • OBITUARY • OCTOBER 13, 2026



Walter David French, 78, of Payson, Utah passed away on September 28, 2026. He was born on Sept. 22, 1948, in Waltham to Robert and Adeline French. Wally married Linda Chamberlain on Dec. 17, 1966, in Waltham. They raised their family in Billerica. Following retirement they moved to Payson, UT. They enjoyed 60 years together.

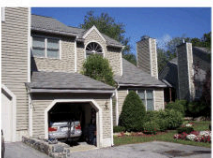
Wally attended Waltham High School. He worked at Longview Fibre Co. in Waltham as a general foreman for over 30 years.

Wally will be remembered for his kindness.



*Walter David French, 1948–2026*

# Waltham home sales, Oct. 5–9, 2026

|                                                                                     | Sale Date | Address                        | Sale Price  | BR/Baths | Size    | Type  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------|-------|
|    | 10/5/2026 | 501 Lexington St Unit 77       | \$505,000   | 1/1      | 993 sf  | condo |
|    | 10/5/2026 | 60 Worcester Ln                | \$932,000   | 3/1.5    | 1828 sf | 1-fam |
|    | 10/5/2026 | 38 Overlook Rd                 | \$925,000   | 4/1      | 1722 sf | 1-fam |
|    | 10/7/2026 | 31 Andrea Rd                   | \$625,000   | 2/1      | 1037 sf | 1-fam |
|   | 10/7/2026 | 95 Winthrop St                 | \$737,000   | 2/1.5    | 1482 sf | 1-fam |
|  | 10/7/2026 | 315 College Farm Rd Unit 6     | \$675,000   | 2/2      | 1062 sf | condo |
|  | 10/8/2026 | 58 Albemarle Rd                | \$790,000   | 3/1.5    | 1200 sf | 1-fam |
|  | 10/8/2026 | 120 Kington Rd                 | \$925,000   | 3/1.5    | 1113 sf | 1-fam |
|  | 10/9/2026 | 179 Bishops Forest Dr Unit 179 | \$1,200,000 | 3/3.5    | 2099 sf | condo |
|  | 10/5/2026 | 19 Weir Rd                     | \$875,000   | 3/1.5    | 1687 sf | 1-fam |

# Events Calendar

October 18-November 14

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

| S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | M                                                                                                                                                                             | T                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | W                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | T                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | F                                                                                            | S                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18</b><br>8:00 am - 12:00 pm<br>Opportunities for Inclusion's 54th Annual Harvest Breakfast<br>11:30 am - 1:00 pm<br>Free English as Second Language classes<br>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm<br>Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall fall open house               | <b>19</b><br>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Waltham City Council committee meetings<br>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>Watch City Ukers Boo-kulele at the Waltham Museum                          | <b>20</b><br>10:00 am - 4:30 pm<br>Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season<br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)                                                                                             | <b>21</b><br>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm<br>Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting<br>2:00 pm - 7:00 pm<br>FitzGerald Elementary Annual Blood Drive<br>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Board of Health meeting                                     | <b>22</b><br>10:00 am - 4:00 pm<br>Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum<br>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Conservation Commission meeting                                                                                 | <b>23</b><br>5:30 pm - 7:30 pm<br>Candy Donations For Trunk or Treat at MacArthur Elementary | <b>24</b><br>9:00 am - 1:00 pm<br>Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season<br>9:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Waltham Farmers' Market<br>1:00 pm - 4:30 pm<br>Make a mosaic mirror or heart           |
| <b>25</b><br>9:00 am - 10:30 am<br>Café Meet and Mingle: Bi+ community edition<br>11:30 am - 1:00 pm<br>Free English as Second Language classes<br>11:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Western Greenway 5K Trail Run/Walk and Kids' Monster Dash<br>+ 2 More | <b>26</b><br>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Waltham City Council meeting                                                                                                               | <b>27</b><br>10:00 am - 4:30 pm<br>Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season<br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)<br>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm<br>A shot at better health: Vaccines that benefit your heart and brain | <b>28</b><br>3:00 pm - 4:00 pm<br>Close Looking: Jenna Gribbon and the Erotics of Play<br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>License Commission meeting<br>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>New England Irish Harp Orchestra Carriage House Concert | <b>29</b><br>10:00 am - 4:00 pm<br>Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum<br>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Fall Fundraiser for Community Day Center of Waltham<br>8:00 pm - 9:30 pm<br>2nd Shift Concert: Jenny Owen Youngs | <b>30</b>                                                                                    | <b>31</b><br>9:30 am - 2:00 pm<br>Waltham Farmers' Market<br>11:00 am - 3:00 pm<br>Waltham Marketplace Day<br>11:30 am - 12:30 pm<br>Frankenstein: What does it mean to create?         |
| <b>1</b><br>11:30 am - 1:00 pm<br>Free English as Second Language classes<br>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm<br>Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall fall open house<br>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm<br>Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra November Concert                             | <b>2</b><br>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Waltham City Council committee meetings                                                                                                     | <b>3</b><br>10:00 am - 4:30 pm<br>Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season<br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)                                                                                              | <b>4</b><br>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm<br>Waltham Rotary Club lunch meeting<br>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm<br>Board of Survey and Planning meeting<br>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>School Committee meeting                                        | <b>5</b><br>10:00 am - 4:00 pm<br>Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum<br>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Conservation Commission meeting<br>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm<br>Minutemen Toastmasters of Waltham                        | <b>6</b>                                                                                     | <b>7</b><br>10:00 am - 3:30 pm<br>Girlstart's Girls in STEM Conference                                                                                                                  |
| <b>8</b><br>11:30 am - 1:00 pm<br>Free English as Second Language classes<br>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm<br>Second Sunday open house tours at the Golden Ball Tavern Museum                                                                              | <b>9</b><br>10:00 am - 11:00 am<br>Babywearing tour of Gore Place<br>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm<br>Historical Commission meeting<br>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Waltham City Council meeting | <b>10</b><br>10:00 am - 4:30 pm<br>Waltham Clothing Exchange fall season<br>4:30 pm - 6:00 pm<br>Waltham Fields Community Farm: Mobile Outreach Market (Mercado de Verduras)                                                                                             | <b>11</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>12</b><br>10:00 am - 4:00 pm<br>Thursday Tours of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum<br>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm<br>Board of Library Trustees meeting                                                                                | <b>13</b>                                                                                    | <b>14</b><br>1:00 pm - 4:30 pm<br>Make a mosaic mirror or heart<br>1:00 pm - 2:30 pm<br>'Making Time: Drawing Between Us'<br>2:00 pm - 4:30 pm<br>Make a mosaic frame or mosaic jewelry |



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

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