



# Wakefield Daily Item

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## Facing down the fear of public space violence

By GAIL LOWE

BILLERICA—A former Wakefield man who grew up on the West Side of town has launched a business intended to stem the tide of violence in schools and other public buildings.

Richard “Dick” Dellarciprete, graduate of Wakefield Memorial High School Class of 1973, said that his Safety in Seconds (SIS) products will end the fear of violence—whether in schools or other public buildings, including town halls, churches, medical offices, retail stores and other public places where people gather.

“We turn rooms, including classrooms and offices, into safe spaces by securing doors, windows and corridors,” said Dellarciprete, chief executive officer of SIS. “With our TeacherLock and Ballistic Barrier products installed, students and office



RICHARD DELLARCIPRETE

staff can go about their day in confidence, knowing that they will be safe if a violent intrud-

er intent on bodily harm enters their building.”

SIS products include bullet-re-

sistant shades, curtains and corridor dividers. Grants are available to offset costs of products

and installation.

According to statistics, since the April 20, 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado, more than 338,000 students have experienced gun violence at their schools. Over the past 10 years, there were at least 1,054 incidents of gunfire on school grounds, resulting in 346 deaths and 757 injuries nationally.

In addition, since 2009, there have been 299 mass shootings in the United States, resulting in 1,678 people shot and killed and 1,087 people shot and wounded. Of the mass shootings, 81 percent involved a handgun, 16 percent involved an assault weapon and 55 percent involved a high-capacity magazine.

In Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two adults lost

SECURITY Page 6

## Housing market cools here, across state

WAKEFIELD — Residential sales were off sharply in town last month, a sign that the market continues to cool, according to a new report from The Warren Group, a leading provider of real estate and transaction data.

Five single-family houses sold in Wakefield last month, down from eight sold in February 2022.

The median sale price of those five homes was \$560,000. The median of the price of the houses sold a year ago last month was \$565,000.

The numbers are down year-to-date as well. Through the first two months of 2023, 14 single-family homes have sold in Wakefield for a median price of

\$582,000. Through the same period in 2023, 20 single-families had been sold for a median price of \$643,000.

Across the state, according to The Warren Group, single-family home and condominium sales continued to decline in February as the median sale prices trended higher at a more moder-

ate pace.

Last month, there were 2,040 single-family home sales in Massachusetts, a 21.5 percent decrease from February 2022 when there were 2,600 transactions. Meanwhile, the median single-family sale price increased 6 percent on a year-over-year basis to \$498,369, up from \$470,000 in

February 2022 - a new all-time high for the month of February.

“Despite another record-setting month for the median single-family home price, the 6 percent gain we saw was a much more moderate gain compared to what we’ve seen over the last couple of years,” said Cassidy

SALES Page 6

## Town Administrator Steve Maio’s contract renewed

By MARK SARDELLA

WAKEFIELD — Stephen P. Maio will continue serving as Wakefield’s Town Administrator until at least 2026, after the Town Council voted last week to renew his contract for another three years.

Maio has held the position for 15 years, ever since he was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in May of 2008 after previous Town Administrator Thomas Butler retired.

The renewed contract provides cost of living increases

### Town Council notebook

consistent with town employee union agreements and outlines a performance management process.

Town Councilors offered high praise for Maio’s performance.

“You’ve led our town to extraordinary levels,” Town Council chair Mehreen Butt said. “Other towns follow our lead.”

Councilor Anne Danehy said that she was especially apprecia-

tive of Maio’s leadership during the COVID pandemic.

Town Councilor Edward Dombroski praised Maio’s management of the town’s finances, which has resulted in attaining a

TOWN COUNCIL Page 6

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## SECURITY continued from Page 1

their lives from gunfire on May 24, 2022, no one would have died if the school had been equipped with SIS products," noted Dellarciprete. "At the sound of the lockdown alert, all classroom doors would have been locked with the TeacherLock and the lowering of the Ballistic Barrier shades on every window."

SIS's Smart Protection Solutions rooms are secured within 10 and 17 seconds, Dellarciprete continued.

Upon receiving a lockdown alert, teachers lock doors through an activator and lower

levers on a Battenshield Barricade in only a few seconds. SIS's shelter in place occurs within 30 seconds or fewer once the alarm is sounded, allowing everyone in classrooms and offices to stay safe and remain calm, knowing that no harm can come to them.

TeacherLocks are activated by teachers while the Barricades can be locked by teachers or students of any age.

Dellarciprete said that only a few protection products on the market today are approved or certified by government agencies.

"SIS researched products offering only 'the best of the best,'" said Dellarciprete. All products are Underwriters Laboratory approved and Made in U.S.A.

Said former Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker on Aug. 25, 2022, "It is incumbent upon us to do all that we can to provide safe classrooms in schools for our children to learn, grow and succeed and for adults to feel comfortable in." Baker proposed spending nearly \$40 million to increase safety in schools across the Commonwealth.

Dellarciprete, whose broth-

er Arthur was a firefighter in Wakefield before his retirement in 2000, has worked in various fields, including arcades and restaurants.

When the high tech industry began to gain ground and Dellarciprete signed on with Wang as a customer service engineer, he was hooked.

"I represented the cutting edge of technology at the time and helped companies become household names," he said. "The most famous is TIVO."

As a former resident of Wakefield and a graduate of the town's

high school, Dellarciprete said he is "proud" to be able to contribute to the safety of schools and public buildings with his products.

"It is my hope that SIS will help end the fear of violence and provide a sense of security for those who use our products," he said.

For more information, contact Dellarciprete at 339-223-1111 or e-mail [Dick@saetyinseconds.com](mailto:Dick@saetyinseconds.com). Visit [www.safetyinseconds.com](http://www.safetyinseconds.com) to view products.

## SALES continued from Page 1

Norton, associate publisher and Media Relations director of The Warren Group. "A lack of inventory, higher interest rates, and economic uncertainties continue to be the biggest barriers to entry for prospective homebuyers. Speaking of the economy, the most recent bank failures may shake consumer confidence in the coming months, which could yield even further declines in transactions not associated with a lack of inventory."

Year-to-date, there have been 4,425 single-family home sales in

Massachusetts, a 27.8 percent decrease from the first two months of 2022. Meanwhile, the year-to-date median single family home price increased 2.9 percent on the same basis to \$499,000.

### Condominiums

There were 1,018 condominium sales in February 2023, compared to 1,366 in February 2022 - a 25.5 percent decrease. Meanwhile, the median sale price rose 4.5 percent on a year-over-year basis to \$460,000.

"Condo trends were in lock-step with single-family homes

in February," Norton continued. "Inventory is down, there aren't enough new listings to keep up with demand, and the median condo price continues to climb - just at a more modest pace."

Year-to-date, there have been 2,196 condo sales, a 26.8 percent decrease from the first two months of 2022 with a median sale price of \$469,950, a 6.8 percent increase on the same basis.

In Wakefield, eight condos sold last month, up two from February 2022. The median price of the condos sold here last month was \$470,500, a 10 percent decrease over the six condos sold in town in February of last year.

Through the first two months of 2023, 10 condos have sold in Wakefield for a median price of \$470,500. Through the same period last year, 14 condos had sold for a median price of \$496,000.

### Greater Boston single-family home and condo markets

There were 912 single-family home sales in the Greater Boston housing market in February 2023, which marked a 17.9 percent decrease from February 2022 when there were 1,111 transactions. Meanwhile, the median single-family sale price increased 1.6 percent on a year-over-year basis to \$625,000.

In February, there were 713

condo sales, down from 935 sales in February 2022, marking a 23.7 percent decrease on a year-over-year basis. Meanwhile, the median condo price declined 1.8 percent on the same basis to \$539,900, down from \$549,900 a year earlier.

"Greater Boston's condo and sales figures were in line with the state as a whole, but price increases were negligible," Norton said. "The flatness of the median price bodes well for the spring market, but the lack of inventory and dramatic drop in sales may outweigh that moderation."

## EDITORIAL continued from Page 4

tee for overseeing housing issues and the implementation of the Housing Production Plan, managing the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, defining policy issues that are in the public interest, potentially serving as the Town's development review committee, and also working with the Planning Board on establishing new zoning to promote affordable housing."

The local MAHT trustees would work with the Town Council to access new housing resources, such as the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HUD federal Program) and Community Development Block Grants Funds. The trust would also support zoning changes and work closely with Planning Board to prepare zoning amendments and establish working relationship with Planning Board and ZBA on developments that include affordable housing, providing technical assistance and fi-

nancial support and advocacy as appropriate. The local trustees would be the first point of contact for developers to obtain feedback on preliminary project plans for development that include affordable housing.

Last week's presentation also covered zoning and affordable housing production strategies that could be employed once the MAHT is in place. Many of the strategies come directly from the town's Housing Production Plan. Those strategies include pursuing opportunities for mixed use and transit-oriented development with Planning Board, working with the Town Council and Planning Board to make suitable public property available for affordable housing, and conducting feasibility study analyses of town owned parcels that may be suitable for some amount of affordable housing.

## TOWN COUNCIL continued from Page 1

AAA bond rating.

"You have saved the town millions of dollars," Dombroski said. "You bleed Wakefield, and it shows."

Town Councilor Robert Vincent, who along with Councilor Jonathan Chines worked on the contract, agreed.

"You have done a superb job," Vincent told Maio.

After the Town Council voted unanimously to renew his contract, Maio expressed his appreciation to the board.

"This is a real labor of love," he said. "I have a great team. They care about the town a lot. They want the town to be as good as it can be."

The Town Council last week approved Town Counsel Thomas Mullen's joint representation of Wakefield and Lynnfield with respect to an intermunicipal agreement whereby Wakefield would provide water to the Lynnfield Center Water District (LCWD). Mullen serves as Town Counsel for both towns.

Mullen said that he did not anticipate any conflict due to his joint representation of both communities. If a conflict

should emerge, Mullen pledged to immediately notify the Wakefield Town Council and the Lynnfield Select Board.

The project would be funded by the LCWD and would also provide enhancements to Wakefield's water distribution system, specifically in the areas of Bay Sate Road and Vernon Street, according to DPW Director Joseph Conway.

Also at last week's meeting, the Town Council approved two recommendations from the Traffic Advisory Committee. Police Lt. Joseph Anderson, who chairs the TAC, presented the recommendations.

First, the TAC recommended that a handicapped parking space be approved in the area of 26 Chestnut St. This parking space request was reviewed and approved by both the Wakefield Commission on Disability Issues and TAC, Anderson said.

He explained that there are currently no handicapped parking spaces on Chestnut Street and there is a need for a resident at that address to be able to access the front door from a shorter distance than off-street park-

ing provides.

Second, the TAC recommended that the current "No Parking" restriction in the area of 69 Foundry St. be modified. After recent development was built, Anderson explained, it is clear that the parking restriction needs to be extended 10 feet from the driveway in both directions to allow for better visibility when vehicles exit the property onto Foundry Street.

The Town Council approved both recommendations unanimously.

In other business last week, the Town Council:

— Approved a Class II (used car dealer) license renewal for BACPGROUP, LLC, located at 607 North Avenue.

— Approved a one-day Liquor License for Happy Hostess At Your Service for an event at the Library on April 29, 2023.

— Approved a request to accept and expend gifts to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$230 from various donors.

— Approved a request to accept and expend gifts to Beebe Library in the amount of \$370 from various donors.