

those items, he said.  
Councilor Thomas M. Curtin highlighted an issue that may become a source

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# Union workers irate over Pulte's hirings

**LABORERS, From A1**  
tioned anything," Gowdy said. "We're not party to any of that conversation. It's really the permit itself that is the guiding document."

City councilors also cried foul earlier this year over trees bordering Trapelo Road, cut down at the site. Pulte maintained at the time it was only following project parameters set out in the special permit councilors had approved.

Work is continuing on three additional buildings at Wellington Crossing, even as some units are being sold. Gowdy said 40 units are now closed at the 268-unit complex, where condominiums range from \$330,000 to \$470,000.

Pavone estimated Pulte could have paid \$400,000 more to use a union excavating company that bid on the site, but Pulte chose the less-expensive contractor. The company chooses subcontractors based on merit and cost, Gowdy said.

"Union or not union is not a decision we make," he said. Currently, a union company is excavating a Pulte site in Stow.

Its choice of contractors in Waltham has gotten Pulte into the newspapers once. In June, the Boston Herald reported at least two undocumented workers were building houses at Wellington Crossing.

Those workers were employed by a subcontractor, in violation of its agreement with Pulte, Gowdy said. After learning the situation from the newspaper, the company compelled its subcontractor to remove any undocumented workers from the site.

Pavone called that "cheating," and said union bids will always be higher, as long as they have to compete against contractors who exploit undocumented laborers. Pulte's recent contributions are a "drop in the bucket," he said, compared to what the company saved by hiring such contractors.

"They don't care," Pavone said. "Pulte Homes. Forget about it. Shame on them."

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# Medicaid

## MEDICAID, From A1

Under the new law, all Medicaid patients must produce a birth certificate or a U.S. passport to be eligible for health insurance through Medicaid. In the past, no documentation was necessary, just a sworn declaration.

The legislation's sponsors, two Republican congressmen from Georgia, defended it as a measure to prevent illegal immigrants from receiving Medicaid benefits. The provision was passed by Congress as part of the Deficit Reduction Act and went into effect in July.

Illegal immigrants are not entitled to Medicaid benefits, with the exception of emergency health care, such as in cases of labor and delivery. Babies born in the United States to illegal immigrants often qualify for Medicaid because they are U.S. citizens and their families earn low incomes.

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