

## LOCAL

## City Notebook

### COUNCIL NEWS

Compiled by Daily News Tribune  
reporter Galen Moore

## A walk in the parking lot

Relations are quickly souring between city councilors and a north Waltham property owner. Gravestar and other owners of the Waltham Plaza shopping center, at the corner of Lexington Street and Trapelo Road, on Monday threatened to withdraw an offer to give the city a strip of their land bordering Lexington Street to facilitate traffic improvements.

Two nearby gas stations have agreed to give the city the land it needs from their properties.

"They're complaining the process has gone on too long," said Councilor Thomas J. Curtin. "This is the first time they've come to the licensing authority. They just got here."

Curtin and other councilors said the plaza owners reconfigured their parking lot without first seeking a required permit.

At the request of Councilor Sarafina "Sally" Collura, the Ordinances and Rules Committee will visit the site to look for solutions to perceived traffic problems in the reconfigured lot. "They're doing a great disservice to their customers," Collura said.

### Trapelo Road widening won't impede school

Pulte Homes, the Michigan-based developer of 268 condominiums on the former state-run Olympus Specialty Hospital site, is set to begin widening Trapelo Road in front of the property, to prepare for a left-turn lane heading into the residential complex.

City officials had asked the developer to hold off on work until the end of the school year, and on Monday night gave a green light. Transportation Director Franklin G. Ching said the road work will likely be done by the time school resumes in September.

Meanwhile, tree plantings are under way to screen the complex from neighbors. So far, the work is satisfactory to councilors concerned foliage recently cleared during construction would remain, said Curtin.

However, during Monday night's committee meetings, councilors also entered a closed-door executive session to discuss litigation involving Pulte Homes. No details concerning that litigation were available.

### Fast Times

It's official: Costello's Tavern, the former Main Street hangout, will become a Subway Sandwiches franchise. The City Council License and Franchise Committee approved a fast food license for the property Monday night.

Police officers, EMTs and firefighters will have to wait for a Dunkin' Donuts directly across the street from police and fire department headquarters, however. The proposed doughnut shop would go in a free-standing building in the middle of a strip mall parking lot on the west side of Lexington Street, which raised traffic concerns with councilors. The would-be franchisee has asked for an extension until November on a petition for a fast-food special permit.

### Light at the end of the tunnel

The City Council Long Term Debt Committee on Monday recommended approval for \$25,000 to design a traffic signal at Forest Street and Trapelo Road, where a parkway into conservation land on the former Metropolitan State Hospital will connect with the intersection.

Ching said he hopes the design work will be complete by the fall.

## Blind bocce player

By Kathy Uek  
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Like most good athletes, Natick residents Janet and Dominic Pecorari visualize each play on the bocce court as they plot their next shot.

But the outgoing, athletic Natick couple only "see" the court in their minds' eyes.

Janet is blind and her husband of 20 years is visually impaired, but that doesn't keep them off the courts. They play with their team and have pickup games when they can.

Janet helped her team capture second place at the Grand Lodge Tournament of Massachusetts in September, but she downplays her contribution.

"I consider it blind luck that we won," said a laughing Janet Pecorari, whose sense of humor is infectious.

"Her hearing is her sight," said Madeline Piccoli of Ashland, a member of the winning team.

When bocce begins, the couple roll with the punches.

Recently at a pickup game, when it was Janet's turn to throw her green bocce ball as close to the target as possible, she listened for direction.

"It (the pallino) is about 6 inches from the left board about halfway up," said her teammate Marguerite Sacchetti of Dover. "This is the board," as she tapped it with her bell and then she rang it several times above the pallino.

When it was Dominic's turn, he stepped beyond the legal red court line and walked closer to the ball to assess the situation. He threw his red bocce ball. Then, in fun, Nick, as everyone calls him, pretended to blow on his wife's bocce ball so he would be closer to the target than she.

For the next round, Nick affectionately said to his wife: "Come on little girl," as she took his arm and he led her to the other end of the court.

Both Janet and Nick know something about athleticism. Before losing her sight at 29 from diabetes, Janet enjoyed sports like baseball, Frisbee and shooting pool.

She says she inherited her hand-eye coordination from her



Janet Pecorari, right, a blind bocce player, takes teammate looks on. Pecorari has the position of marking ball, indicated to her by sounding a bell lies on the pitch.

father, the late Bill Miller, a pilot in Korea. "Now it's hard to hear, I guess," she said.

She also groomed horses at the Fairground Race Course in New Orleans and Louisiana Downs in Shreveport. After losing her sight, she went for job training at a rehabilitation center in Little Rock, Ark., where she met her husband. "Our senses of humor brought us together," said Janet, who was born in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Her husband, born prematurely, weighed 2 pounds 2 ounces and has been visually impaired since birth. He has run the New York City Marathon and has a black belt in karate.

Nick, a native of West Newton, previously worked in the laundry room at the Brighton Marine Health Center near St. Elizabeth's Hospital. He now works part time as a custodian at the Sons of Italy and also works with children at

the Carroll Center in Newton. He teaches techniques of

While they are training on working for transcription, to be a switchboard.

"Ideally, I'd switchboard," greeting people on the phones, boards are ele

She keeps books and stories and English. I liked one of about a horse bakes, plays cards herself a "buck

"I do anything I let me drive to," she said laugh

Tino Piccoli, one on the team sport six months ning tournament

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