

Newton firefighters battle blaze in Bridge Street home

By Jeff Gilbride
DAILY NEWS STAFF

NEWTON - Firefighters yesterday knocked down a fire at a Bridge Street home.

The blaze started in the basement of a two-story wood-frame home at 102 Bridge St. between Chandler Street and Silver Lake Avenue. The cause has yet to be determined.

Deputy Chief Paul Chagnon said the fire did not appear to be suspicious and an investigation into its cause continues.

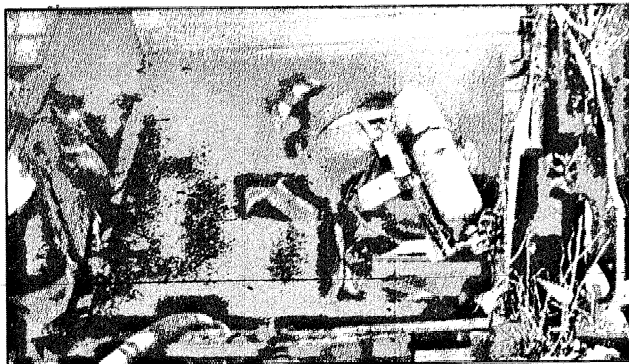
The house belongs to a local contractor, Guido Cairra, who

said he has lived there since 1959. No one was home at the time of the noontime fire.

"My wife calls me. My wife is screaming 'the house is on fire, the house is on fire,'" Cairra said.

According to Chagnon, firefighters arrived shortly after the blaze began.

"It was a one-alarm fire with all companies working. The response time was less than two minutes," he said. "I believe the homeowner called it in ... firefighters were on scene for about an hour and a half."



TOP PHOTO BY MIKE BLANCHARD ABOVE PHOTO BY PETER ...

Top, firefighters respond to a house fire at 102 Bridge St. yesterday. Above, a Newton firefighter enters the basement.

Oliver Turay, in Lexington,

Pulte, city reach affordable agreement

By Nicole Haley
DAILY NEWS STAFF

WALTHAM - The developers of a 268-unit condominium complex will pay \$600,000 into the Waltham Affordable Housing Trust Fund, lower prices on some of their units, and upgrade affordable apartments, as part of a legal agreement reached with the city.

The deal, announced this week, ends a four-month standoff between the city and Minnesota-based Pulte Homes on special permit conditions for the Trapelo Road development known as Wellington Crossings.

Developer will pay \$600K into housing fund, makes upgrades in 268-unit complex

Since January, the Building Department has held back occupancy permits for the project after the city filed a civil suit in Middlesex Superior Court alleging violations of the developer's special permit agreement, which allowed them to build about twice as large a development as the city's zoning guidelines permit. The city began turning over the occupancy permits Friday after both parties signed the agreement.

"We're pleased that we were able to resolve our differences with the city and happy to allow our homeowners to close and move into their new homes," said Reid Blute, vice president of land for Pulte Homes.

The battle originated from a special permit issued to the previous developers, JPI. In exchange for the permit, JPI agreed to several conditions the council imposed. Pulte Homes took over the project in 2005.

Under the special permit, the developers are required to set aside 10 percent, or 27 of the total 268 units, as affordable. They must also reserve 118 of the units for people 55 and older, with 12 of the 27 affordable units guaranteed for elderly persons.

The court found Pulte in violation of the special permit agreement because the affordable units were "sub par" to the quality of the market-rate units including "countertops, cabinets, flooring, fixtures, faucets, etc." The square footage of the PULTE HOMES, Page A9

Cen bre

Program treat lav

By J

WALTHAM - Keeping a family in trouble is a lending their That's the Diversion mental health with local police lawbreaker



Lessons from the Second-graders get a sneak peek

By Matt Perkins
DAILY NEWS STAFF

WALTHAM - With a quick flick of her wrist, Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy tapped her wooden gavel down upon the desk.

"The School Committee will

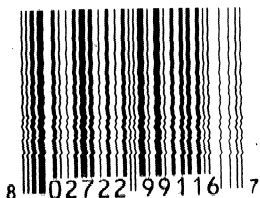
come to order loudly yesterday.

But she wasn't School Committee hearing the attention of second-graders, who during a visit to they also engaged in a hearing in the chambers.

"I felt excited to see her," said Colleen Melcher, who was going up to

Stanley Elementary School students ask Mayor Jeannette McCarthy questions yesterday at City Hall.

PHOTO BY MARK ...



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