

**News Articles FY 2017**

**July 1 – June 30**

# Firm to help city with CDBG application

By Jeff Malachowski  
Daily News Staff

MARLBOROUGH – The city has hired an outside consultant to help in its continuing bid to win Community Development Block Grant money.

City officials Thursday tapped Community Opportunities Group Inc. of Boston to serve as lead consultant for Marlborough's third straight attempt for the grant money. The city came up short this year and in 2016. In 2016, Marlborough teamed up with Hudson, but opted to go on

its own this year after changes to the program removed incentives for communities that apply together.

The firm has worked with communities seeking CDBG money for decades and has about a 90 percent success rate. Five of the six communities the company worked with last year received money, said Wayne Darragh, vice president.

"We have a very good track record in the Community Development Block Grant program," he said. "...I'm confident we can help you get funding."

Community Opportunities Group Inc. will attend upcoming public hearings and write and submit the grant request on behalf of the city. The firm will be paid a sum not to exceed \$7,500 for consulting services.

"We're very excited to move forward with them as our lead consultant," said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director.

The city will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the former senior center at 250 Main St. to allow residents

to share their thoughts on potential infrastructure, single-family rehab and public services projects that could occur if the city receives grant money. A second hearing will occur in January, however, a date has not been set.

Applications are due to the state Department of Housing and Community Development by March 2. Awards are typically announced in the summer.

The city last year requested \$800,000 – the highest amount

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## CDBG

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a community can seek – for a variety of projects, including reconstructing Sumner Street, creating two pocket parks in French Hill, rehabbing blighted housing and a

substance abuse prevention program that would target the dangers of abusing drugs and alcohol.

Bushman is working with Public Works officials to come up with potential projects. He anticipates receiving ideas from residents at the two hearings as well.

The block grant program,

enacted in 1974, provides money to communities to ensure decent affordable housing, services to the needy and to create jobs.

The city has received \$171,038 for housing rehab projects, \$633,082 for public facilities and \$95,880 for administrative needs through the program the

past decade, according to the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

Jeff Malachowski can be reached at 508-490-7466 or [jmalachowski@wickedlocal.com](mailto:jmalachowski@wickedlocal.com). Follow him on Twitter @JmalachowskiMW.

# Officials seek grant

Reconstructing  
Sumner Street  
is a priority

By Jeff Malachowski  
Staff Writer

MARLBOROUGH - The city is seeking Community Development Block Grant funds to reconstruct Sumner Street, create two pocket parks in French Hill and rehab blighted housing.

The Community Development Authority board, city officials and consultant Andrew Daniels, of MAP-PLAN Associates, outlined the application last week. The city also wants to use the money for substance abuse prevention.

Communities are eligible to apply for up to \$800,000.

Reconstructing Sumner Street in the city's French Hill neighborhood is a priority. The project will include overhauling the road, replacing sidewalks with granite curbing and upgrading sewer and drainage systems, said Tom DiPersio, city engineer.

"It's a project that's been on the books as being ready to go for some time," said DiPersio. "The infrastructure is failing."

DiPersio estimated the roadwork will cost about \$575,000. A combination of grant and city money will pay for the work, said DiPersio.

Block grant funding would be used to create two small pocket parks - or mini parks. A parking lot at the junction of Pleasant and Lincoln streets and an easement on South Street will be turned into sitting areas with new landscaping, benches and small play areas, said DiPersio.

"I want it to be a nice entryway to the Hill (French Hill)," said Mayor Arthur Vigeant.

The cost of the pocket

MARLBOROUGH ENTERPRISE

Friday, March 3, 2017

## GRANT

From Page A1

\$79,000, but will not include any playground equipment, the mayor said.

City officials plan to set aside \$400,000 for housing rehabilitation projects that will fix safety hazards, weatherize houses, clean up lead paint and emergency repairs in blight target areas, said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director.

The substance abuse program would target the opioid crisis, said Bushman.

"I know you will have a stronger application than last year," Daniels told board members.

Marlborough and Hudson filed a joint application in 2013 and 2016, but were unsuccessful. The city decided to apply on its own after the state opted to no longer provide incentives for communities to team up.

The deadline for the city to file its application is March 10. Bushman expects the application will be sent to the state March 8.

The block grant program, which was created in 1974, provides money to cities and towns to ensure decent affordable housing, services to the needy and to create jobs. The program has awarded a total of \$237 million to Massachusetts communities since 2007.

Marlborough has received \$171,038 for housing rehab projects, \$633,082 for public facilities and \$95,880 for administrative needs through the program the past decade, according to the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mayor and Habitat for Humanity partner to offer critical home repairs

MARLBOROUGH – Mayor Arthur G. Vigeant announced that the city of Marlborough and the Habitat for Humanity MetroWest Greater Worcester (Habitat MWGW) are moving forward with per-

forming critical home repairs on two homes in Marlborough in November. Vigeant met with Habitat officials over a year ago to see if their programs can help veterans, seniors and family homeown-

ers in need of critical repairs to their homes.

Marlborough's Critical Home Repair Program offers assistance to families in need of exterior home repairs to address critical health, life and safety issues. These are not grants but loans which must be repaid. As a member of the Home Depot Repair Corps and through their partnership with Thrivent Financial, Habitat MWGW provides a wide variety of repairs at a very affordable rate. Marlborough, through its Community Development Authority, has been working with Habitat to reach out to Marlborough's homeowners and to screen applicants.

"We thank the city of Marlborough and the Marlborough Community Development Authority for partnering with us to bring stability and



PHOTO/SUBMITTED  
Repairs under way at a local home.

safety to two local homes in need of repair in the French Hill area," said David Hamilton, manager of Habitat MWGW's Critical Home Repair program. "By joining forces we can maximize the funding we are able to invest

in critical home repairs." "We are excited to offer these small but crucial loans to Marlborough residents to fund critical repairs and improvements to their homes," Vigeant noted. "Even a minor project can go a long way to improving a resident's quality of life and I look forward to expanding this program in the future."

In one of the homes, Habitat MWGW will replace the heating system, and in the second home, a new wheelchair

MARLBOROUGH

# City's ModPHASE grant application rejected

## City will reapply next year for project funding

By Jeff Malachowski  
Daily News Staff

**MARLBOROUGH** — The city's bid for funding to upgrade the Bolton Street apartments through a new state grant program was rejected because the property is in good condition.

Marlborough was one of 22 communities to apply for the new Modernizing Public Housing and Supporting Elders (ModPHASE) initiative. The state Department of Housing and Community Development awarded \$17.8 million in grants to the Chelsea, Gloucester, Ipswich and Malden housing authorities to modernize senior public housing units to help elders age in place. The grants will pay for capital projects, such as bath and kitchen upgrades.

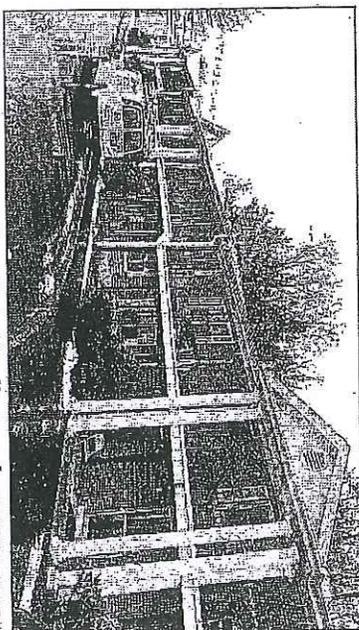
The state awarded grant money to housing developers that are in rough shape during the first round

of awards this year, said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director.

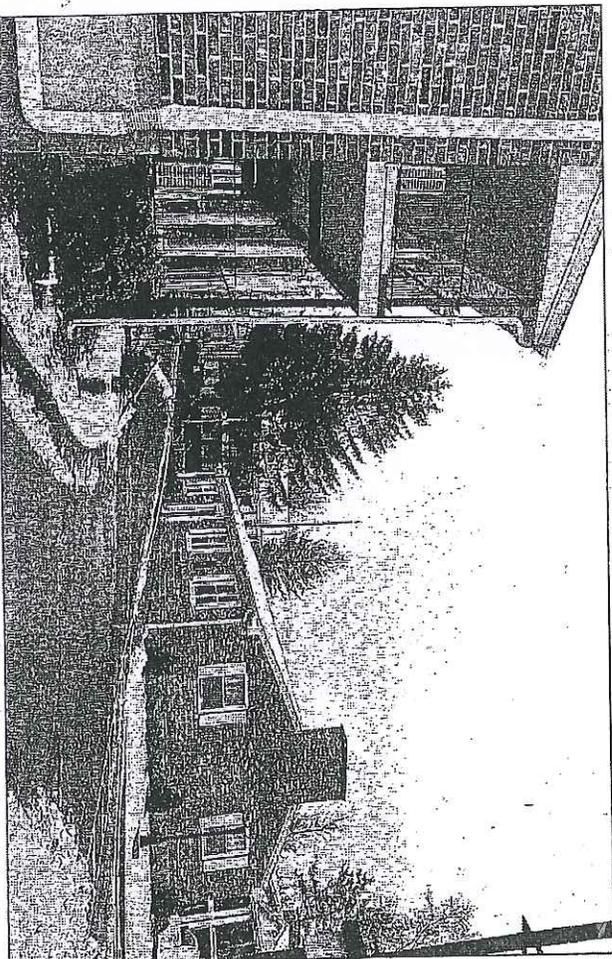
"We're disappointed," said Bushman. "There were other properties with more significant needs. The problem is the physical condition (of the Bolton Street apartments) is too good. That's a good reason to get rejected for funding."

The city invested about \$2 million into the Bolton Street apartment complex throughout the past few years to build a new parking lot, replace the roof and make electrical improvements. Construction crews are finishing up work on some balconies at the facility, said Bushman. The 60-unit complex is spread over eight two-story buildings with a community room featuring a kitchen and laundry services.

"It's one of the nicest public housing complexes



Bolton Street Apartments in Marlborough. PHOTOS BY KEN MCGAGH/ DAILY NEWS STAFF



The city's bid to upgrade the Bolton Street Apartments in Marlborough has been rejected.

in the Commonwealth," said Bushman. "It's a very beautiful looking property."

Development Authority planned to upgrade kitchens, exhaust fans and wiring at the 52-year-old complex. Other improvements would have included the

installation of grab bars in bathrooms, walk-in showers, adjustable shower heads, new door locks and windows. Many apartment features are aging and

need replacement, said Bushman.

Utility costs would have been cut with the removal of individual hot water tanks and converting to a tankless on demand water system for each unit, said Bushman.

The city plans to reapply for the grant program next year. DHCD plans to award a total of \$25 million for ModPHASE capital projects that begin construction in fiscal 2019, 2020 and 2021.

"Hopefully we move up," said Bushman.

The city will review the possibility of using capital improvement funds to replace the windows in the meantime, said Bushman.

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## Legal Notices

### CITY OF MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

#### **FY2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs**

The Marlborough Community Development Authority (MDCA) is applying for Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as administered by the MA Department of Housing & Community Development. To discuss the application, potential programs, and the public's comments, two public forums will be held on Tuesday, January 31st and Wednesday, February 15th at 6:30 pm at the auditorium on 250 Main Street, Marlborough. To download the Community Development Strategy and housing rehab pre-application, go to [http://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA\\_CommDvlpmt/index](http://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA_CommDvlpmt/index)

During its regular MDCA Board public meeting on Thursday, February 23rd at 8:45am at Marlborough City Hall - Memorial Hall at 140 Main Street, Marlborough, MA 01752, the MCDA Board will finalize the application for submittal on March 10th, 2017.

All of the meeting locations are handicapped accessible. For further information, contact the MDCA, 250 Main Street, Marlborough MA 01752 M-F from 8:00am until 4:30pm, 508-624-6908 ext. 40101 or at [dbushman@marlbrough-ma.gov](mailto:dbushman@marlbrough-ma.gov).

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# GRANT

From Page A1

The city requested \$800,000 - the highest amount a community can seek - for a variety of projects, including reconstructing Sumner Street, creating two pocket parks in French Hill, rehabbing blighted housing and a substance abuse prevention

program through the Boys and Girls Club that would target the dangers of abusing drugs and alcohol.

Officials have not determined which projects will be part of the city's upcoming application, said Bushman.

The Community Development Block Grant program, enacted in 1974, provides money to communities to ensure decent affordable housing, services to the needy and to create jobs.

Marlborough has received \$171,038 for housing rehab projects, \$633,082 for public facilities and \$95,880 for administrative needs through the program the past decade, according to the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

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# Consultant sought to secure funding

City aims for a Community Development Block Grant

By Jeff Malachowski

Staff Writer

MARLBOROUGH - City officials hope the third time will be the charm for the Community Development Block Grant.

The Community Development Authority plans to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding for the third straight year and is seeking a consultant to assist in the process. The authority recently submitted a request for proposals in national housing and development journals for a consultant and hopes to hire one as soon as possible, said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director.

"We're beginning the process," he said. "The first thing to do is to find an experienced consultant." The consultant will be tasked with reviewing the process, attend public hearings, write and submit the grant request for the city, said Bushman.

Applications are due to the state Department of Housing and Community Development by March 2.

Marlborough has come up short in its bid for block grant funding in the past two years. In 2016, the city filed a joint application with Hudson, but opted to apply on its own this year because changes to the program removed incentives for communities that apply together.

See GRANT, A2

**RELOCATION COORDINATOR**

The Marlborough Community Development Authority seeks to hire a P/T Temp Relocation Coordinator to plan and execute short and long term moves involving the relocation of public housing tenants in compliance with Federal and State Uniform Relocation Act laws and regulations and work with tenants to assist with housing options. Hrs 19/wk M-F Hrly rate \$18. No benefits. 12-18 Month Position. CORI, physical/drug testing required. For full job description or to apply please submit resume, cover letter and relocation training credentials to E.D. Douglas Bushman dbushman@marlborough-ma.gov or call 508-624-6908 ext. 40101 or mail 250 Main Street Marlborough, MA 01752. MCDA is a EOE

Sunday telegram  
& gazette

January 8, 2017

**Legal Notices**

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

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SENIOR PUBLIC HOUSING

# ModPHASE grant application rejected

Upgrades to kitchens, exhaust fans and wiring at Bolton Street complex on hold

By **Jeff Malachowski**  
Staff Writer

**MARLBOROUGH** - The city's bid for funding to upgrade the Bolton Street apartments through a new state grant program was rejected because the property is in good condition.

Marlborough was one of 22 communities to apply for

the new Modernizing Public Housing and Supporting Elders (ModPHASE) initiative. The state Department of Housing and Community Development awarded \$17.8 million in grants to the Chelsea, Gloucester, Ipswich and Malden housing authorities to modernize senior public housing units to help elders age in

place. The grants will pay for capital projects, such as bath and kitchen upgrades. The state awarded grant money to housing developments that are in rough shape during the first round of awards this year, said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director.

"We're disappointed," said Bushman. "There were other properties with more significant needs. The problem is the physical condition

(of the Bolton Street apartments) is too good. That's a good reason to get rejected for funding."

The city invested about \$2 million into the Bolton Street apartment complex throughout the past few years to build a new parking lot, replace the roof and make electrical improvements. Construction crews are finishing up work on some balconies at the facility, said Bushman. The 60-unit complex is spread

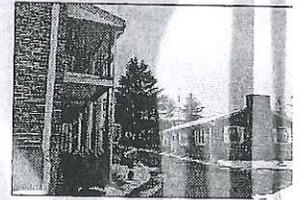
over eight two-story buildings with a community room featuring a kitchen and laundry services. "It's one of the nicest public housing complexes in the commonwealth," said Bushman. "It's a very beautiful looking property."

If the city had received money, the Community Development Authority planned to upgrade kitchens, exhaust fans and wiring

SEE GRANT, A2

## GRANT

From Page A1



The city's bid to upgrade the Bolton Street Apartments in Marlborough has been rejected. DAILY NEWS AND WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/KEN MCGAGH

wiring at the 52-year-old complex. Other improvements would have included the installation of grab bars in bathrooms, walk-in showers, adjustable shower heads, new door locks and windows. Many apartment features are aging and need replacement, said Bushman. Utility costs would have been cut with the removal of individual hot water tanks and converting to a tankless on demand water system for each unit, said Bushman.

The city plans to reapply for the grant program next year. DHCD plans to award a total of \$25 million for ModPHASE capital projects that begin construction in

fiscal 2019, 2020 and 2021. "Hopefully we move up," said Bushman.

The city will review the possibility of using capital improvement funds to replace the windows in the meantime, said Bushman. *Jeff Malachowski can be reached at 508-490-7466 or jmalachowski@wickedlocal.com. Follow him on Twitter @JmalachowskiMW.*

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enterprise  
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MARLBOROUGH: GRANTS

# City part ways with Hudson to go on its own

**By Jeff Malachowski**  
Daily News Staff

**MARLBOROUGH** - With the state no longer providing an incentive for municipalities to team up to apply for the Community Development Block Grant program, the local group that handles such grants voted Thursday to submit an application on its own.

The state Department of Housing and Community Development last week approved some changes to

its block grant program, including the elimination of regional bonus points for municipalities that submit a joint application and the community-wide needs score, said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director.

Marlborough and Hudson partnered in 2013 and 2016, but did not receive funding. The two communities planned to submit another joint application this year until the new regulations were released last week.

The driving force behind the city teaming with Hudson was due to Marlborough's low community-wide needs score. That low score was offset by the bonus points received for submitting a joint application, said Bushman.

"Now there is no longer that pressing need to team up with another community," he said. "We receive no extra credit for teaming with Hudson."

This year, communities that apply on their own are eligible to receive up to \$800,000, while municipalities that

team up are eligible to receive a total of \$1 million to be split among the towns, said Bushman.

"There's no rationale to team up," he said.

If grant funding was awarded last year, the city planned to reconstruct Summer Street, allow income-eligible families living in blight target areas to receive up to \$3,000 for housing rehab projects that would fix health and safety code violations and provide \$3,000 to \$5,000 in day

care vouchers for low- and moderate-income families. Bushman said the city is still seeking to hire a consultant to assist with the grant, but is unsure when that will happen. Applications are due to the state March 10, 2017.

Enacted in 1974, the Community Development Block Grant program provides money to cities and towns to ensure decent affordable housing, services to the needy and to create jobs. The program has awarded a total of \$237 million to

Massachusetts communities since 2007.

Since 2007, the city has been awarded \$171,038 for housing rehab projects, and \$633,082 for public facilities and \$95,880 for administrative needs, according to the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

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METROWEST DAILY NEWS

NOV. 4, 2016

# City hires grant consultant

Public hearings slated for Jan. 31, Feb. 15

By Jeff Malachowski  
Daily News Staff

MARLBOROUGH - City officials tapped Connecticut-based MAPPPLAN Associates to assist them in their bid for Community Development Block Grant money.

Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director, told Community Development Authority board members Thursday that MAPPPLAN, based in

New Haven, came "highly recommended."

MAPPPLAN has done consulting work in Massachusetts for decades and has extensive experience with the state Department of Housing and Community Development, which oversees the block grant program, said Andrew Daniels, MAPPPLAN president. MAPPPLAN will attend upcoming public hearings and write and submit the grant request, said Bushman.

Public hearings will be held Jan. 31 and Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the CDA offices

at 250 Main St. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts on potential public infrastructure, single-family rehab and public services projects that could occur if the city receives grant money.

Marlborough and Hudson partnered for a joint application in 2013 and 2016, but the city will apply on its own now that the state does not provide an incentive for joint applications. Communities that apply on their own are eligible to receive up to \$800,000, while municipalities that team up can

receive a total of \$1 million to be split among the towns, said Bushman.

The municipalities' applications were denied in 2013 and 2016. Marlborough last received block grant funding in 2011.

"It is highly competitive," said Daniels.

If grant funding had been awarded last year, the city planned to reconstruct Summer Street and allow income-eligible families living in blight target areas to receive up to \$3,000 for housing rehab projects that would fix health and safety code

violations. Grant money would have also been used to offer \$3,000 to \$5,000 in day care vouchers for low- and moderate-income families.

The CDA board is expected to determine the projects the city will seek funding for in the coming weeks. The grant application is due March 10.

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has awarded a total of \$237 million since 2007.

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METROWEST DAILY NEWS  
JANUARY 27, 2017

MARLBOROUGH

# City's ModPHASE grant application rejected

## City will reapply next year for project funding

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Daily News Staff

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The state awarded grant money to housing developments that are in rough shape during the first round of awards this year, said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director. "We're disappointed," said Bushman. "There were other properties with more significant needs. The problem is the physical condition (of the Bolton Street apartments) is too good. That's a good reason to get rejected for funding."

The city invested about \$2 million into the Bolton Street apartment complex throughout the past few years to build a new parking lot, replace the roof and make electrical improvements. Construction crews are finishing up work on some balconies at the facility, said Bushman. The 60-unit complex is spread over eight two-story buildings with a community room featuring a kitchen and laundry services.

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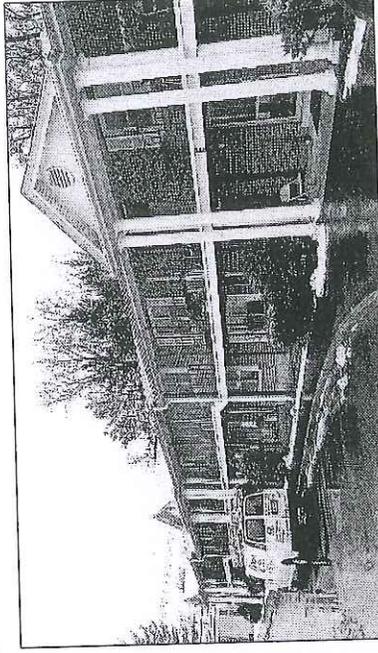
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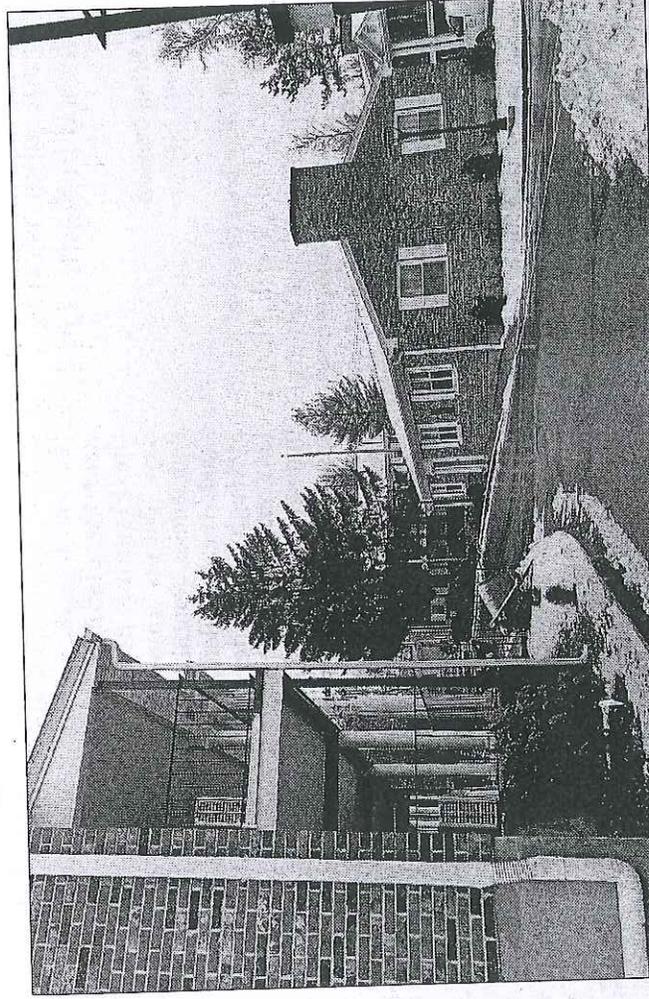
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**Bolton Street Apartments in Marlborough.** PHOTOS BY KEN MCGAGH/DAILY NEWS STAFF



**The city's bid to upgrade the Bolton Street Apartments in Marlborough has been rejected.**