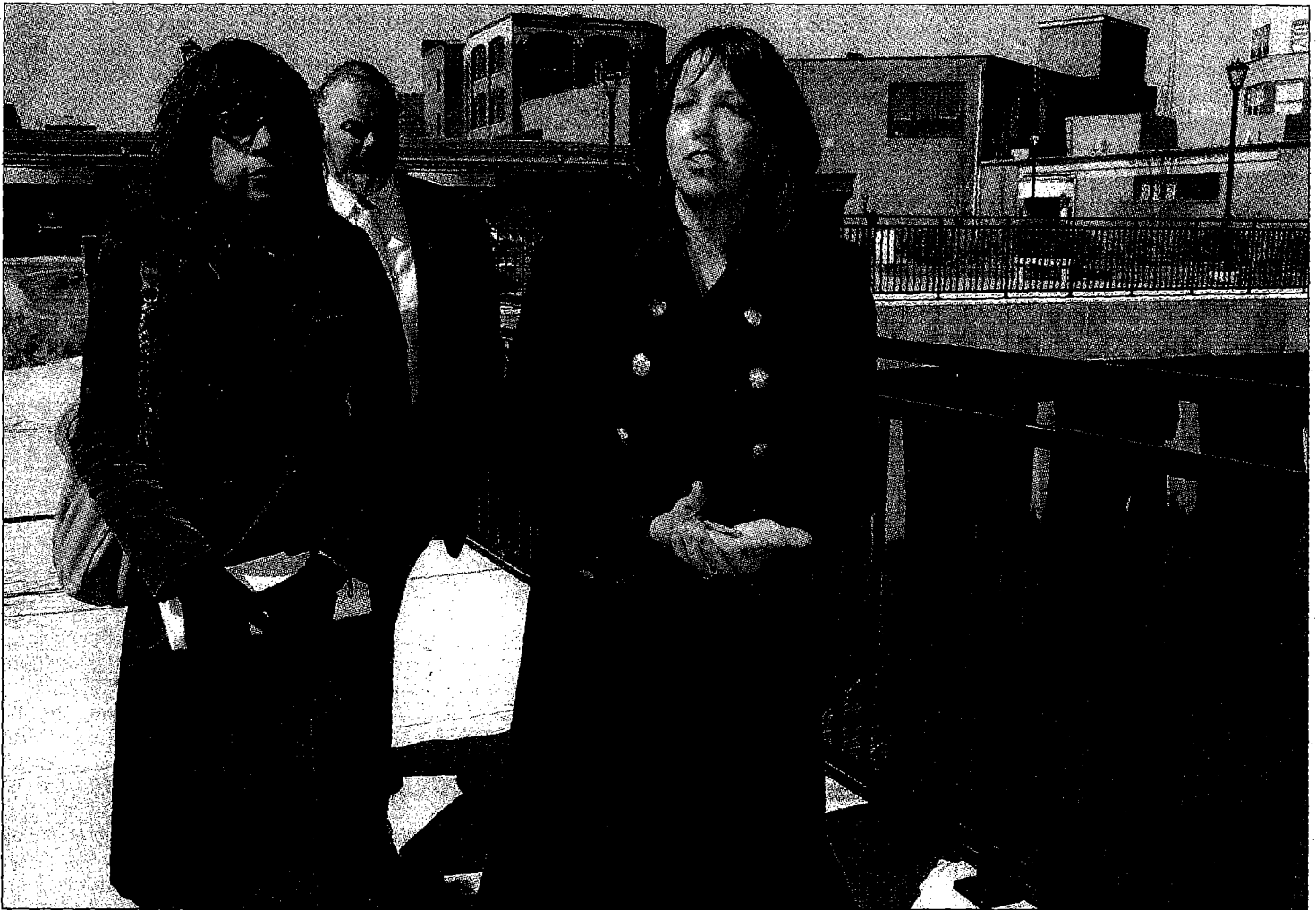


St. Joseph's housing project to start this summer



KEN YUSZKUS/Staff photos

Tina Brooks, left, undersecretary of the state Department of Housing and Community Development, and Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll walk along the Harborwalk after a ceremony outside St. Joseph Church in Salem yesterday to kick off an affordable-housing project at the site.

'We are neighborhood-building'

BY TOM DALTON
STAFF WRITER

SALEM — A cold wind blew over the crowd standing in the parking lot of the former St. Joseph Church to hear the formal announcement of state funding for this 51-apartment affordable-housing redevelopment set to begin later this year.

The strong wind not only chilled more than 50 onlookers yesterday morning, but repeatedly knocked over a sign listing all the government and financial partners behind this \$20 million development. The sign was blown over so many times one speaker joked

that it took similar bounce-back and resiliency to get this development off the ground.

"This certainly hasn't been an easy one," said Lucy Corchado, who was Ward 1 councilor when the Catholic church closed in 2004 and — seven years later — is president of The Point Neighborhood Association, which has lobbied for this housing development on the edge of the low-income, largely Latino neighborhood.

This project, a link between the downtown and The Point, has survived a failed and controversial attempt to locate a senior center



Please see **CHURCH**, Page 8

Brooks speaks in front of a drawing of the affordable-housing project.



KEN YUSZKUS/Staff photo

Tina Brooks, undersecretary of the state Department of Housing and Community Development, speaks during yesterday's ceremony outside St. Joseph Church to kick off an affordable-housing project at the site.

CHURCH: Project to start

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on the 2-acre site, a rezoning before the City Council and a lengthy court battle by a small group of landlords and neighbors.

"It's been a long, hard and often emotional journey," Corchado said.

Tina Brooks, undersecretary of the state Department of Housing and Community Development, made the trip to Salem to announce nearly \$6 million in state funding, including crucial low-income housing tax credits that allowed the developer to leverage millions more in private investment.

Mayor Kim Driscoll told Brooks that the state was investing "not just in a project, not just in a block, but in a neighborhood. We are neighborhood-building."

This project has one more hurdle to clear, a review by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which will determine

the development's impact on this historic church site and what, if any, mitigating measures are required. Those meetings are set to begin in a few weeks.

If all goes well, the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, the development wing of the Archdiocese of Boston, expects to begin construction in late summer.

In a first phase, it will raze the 61-year-old church and convent and construct a four-story building at the corner of Lafayette and Dow streets on the site of the current parking lot. In addition to apartments, the building will have retail and office space on the first floor.

All of the 51 apartments will be "affordable," officials said, with monthly rents ranging from \$815 to \$1,200 for a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom residences.

Plans for the rectory and school are not definite, but condominiums are a possibility, an official said.

HOWARD: Salem blocks acc

Continued from Page 1

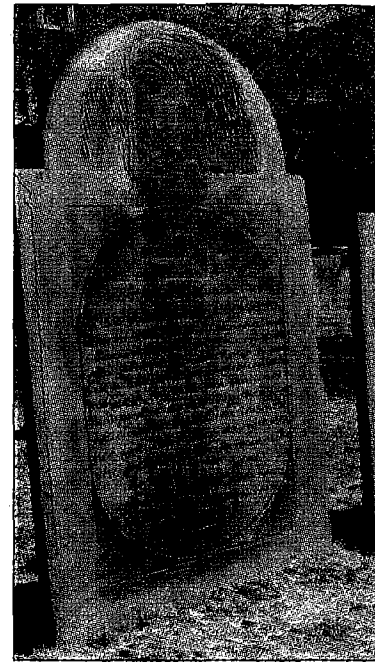
complaints about people living in the cemetery and its deteriorating state, the city undertook a massive cleanup last summer. At least two truckloads of beer cans, bottles, clothing, mattresses, blankets and paper were carted away, according to Frahm. Overgrown trees and bushes were pruned.

But the Howard Street gate was chained shortly after the cleanup, and, late this winter, a gate near the jail apartments was locked, as well. The moves were befuddling to neighbors because the cemetery can still be accessed through a hole in the fence or by climbing a hill where Howard and Bridge streets intersect.

"There was no hearing, there was no notice, there was no reason for them to lock these gates," said Peter Cristofono, who lives with Frahm on Howard Street. He believes it is a violation of a state law that requires publicly owned cemeteries to be open during daylight hours.

The city has always tried to limit the use of its historic cemeteries, Rennard said, because encouraging visitors can create more costs. Salem is about to spend \$10,000 to repair damaged gravestones, he said.

There are also public safety



Neighbors wanting access to the How

risks to worry about, he said. Because the old caskets are made of wood, they decompose and leave the surrounding land susceptible to a "cave-in."

"We have had cave-ins there," Rennard said.

The cemetery satisfies state law, he said, because it can be entered from Bridge Street.

Susan Moulton, a resident at the old Salem Jail, said the

FARRELL: New fire chief is

Continued from Page 1

said in a statement. Marquis declined to say who else applied; all are Danvers firefighters.

Farrell said he met with Marquis when he was first hired as a firefighter, and he recalled being asked what Marquis could expect of him in 10 years.

"I told him I'd be chief," Farrell said. "I'm a little behind schedule, but I never lost sight of the goal."

Growing up, Farrell was influenced by the 1970s TV show "Emergency," which chronicled a pair of Los Angeles County paramedics as they responded to calls.

Farrell's love of the Danvers Fire Department was sparked by his boyhood friendship with former fire Chief Leland Martin Jr. and former Deputy Chief Richard Wessell. Martin was chief from 1973 to 1991.

Farrell's mom, Shirley Farrell, worked for the town in various capacities, and Farrell spent a lot of time hanging out at the fire station. He remembers

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