

LOCAL

Visit us online
metrowestdailynews.com

City gets \$800K for housing, roads

On third try, Marlborough awarded block grant

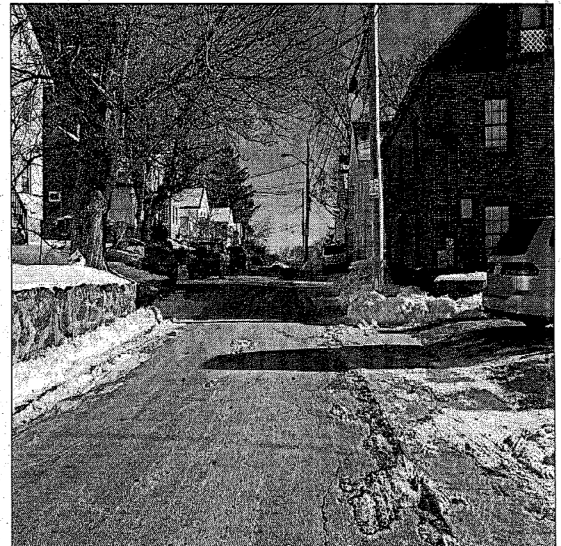
By Jeff Malachowski
Daily News Staff

MARLBOROUGH – The third time was the charm. The city was awarded \$800,000 – the highest amount communities can receive – in Community Development Block

Grant funding from the state this week. Marlborough's requests for block grant money were denied in 2017, 2016 and 2013. In 2013 and 2016, the city filed a joint application with Hudson. "We are absolutely excited," said Douglas Bushman, Housing Authority executive director. "We're pumped at the (Marlborough Community Development Authority)."

The grant requires work to be done in areas that have more than 51 percent of low- and moderate-income residents. About \$343,000 from the grant – and other city funds – will pay for the much-needed reconstruction of Devens and McEnelly streets. Both roads – located off Washington Street – will be

See GRANT, A7



McEnelly Street will be reconstructed after Marlborough received an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant. [DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO]

GRANT

From Page A6

repaved; sidewalks and drainage will be replaced; granite curbing will be added; and sidewalks compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act will be installed.

Pavement and sidewalk work was last done on the roads more than two decades ago.

Another \$306,000 from the grant will be used to provide loans to homeowners for housing rehab projects that will address safety hazards and allow for emergency repairs. Between six and eight homeowners will be able to upgrade their houses with the money.

"Last year, we had a small amount of funding for critical home repairs for Marlborough residents and veterans; now we will be able to expand the program to even more Marlborough homeowners," Mayor Arthur Vigeant said in a press release.

As the opioid epidemic continues to ravage the region, state and nation, Marlborough officials

will use \$49,000 to create an anti-opioid program called "Prevention Through Positive Youth Development." The program will be aimed at improving the decision-making and critical thinking skills of at-risk youths ages 10-17 to help them avoid drug and alcohol abuse.

The city also plans to hire a part-time rehab counselor for \$44,000 as part of the anti-opioid initiative.

The remaining CDBG money will be spent on administrative costs and needs.

In all, the state office of Housing and Community Development awarded \$32 million to 59 communities.

The Community Development Block Grant program – enacted 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 more than \$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 in the past decade.