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Field hockey shows its mettle

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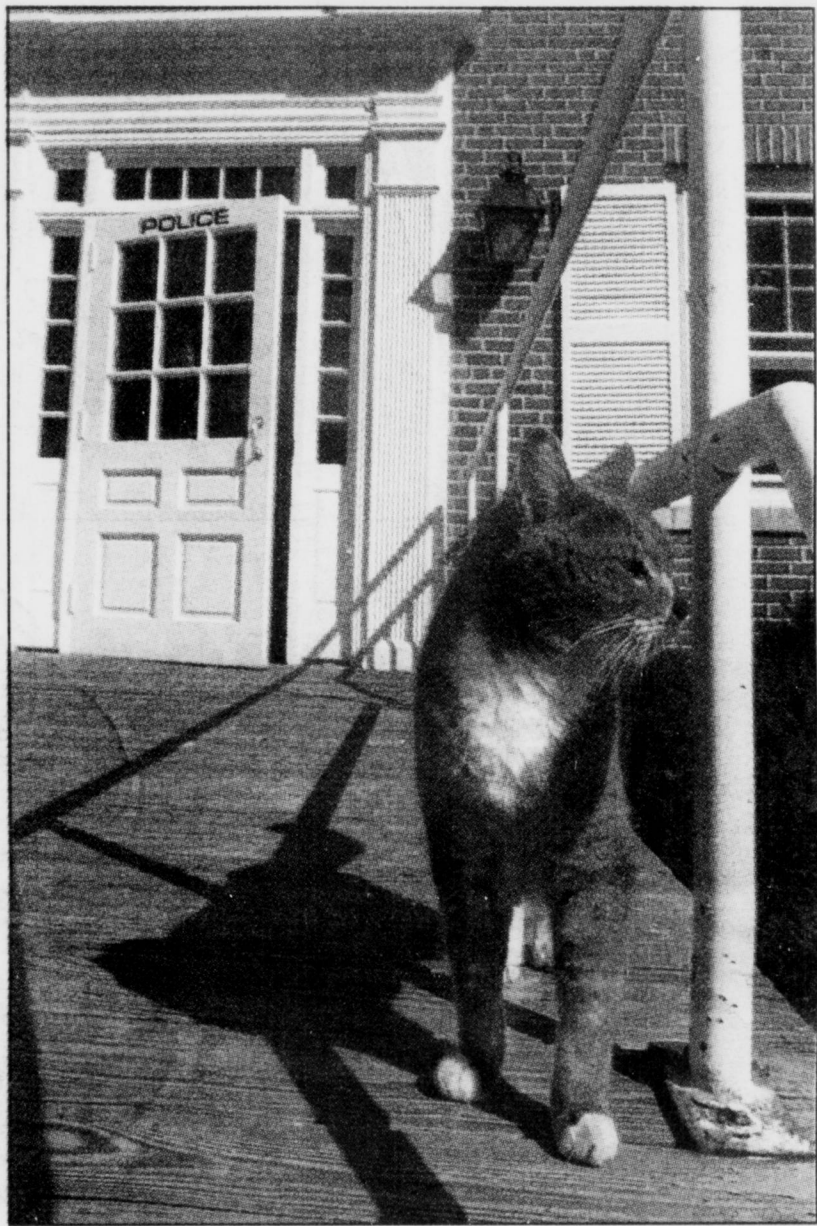


PHOTO BY ART ILLMAN

Gordy suns himself on a recent afternoon outside the Wayland Public Safety Building, one of the many local haunts he calls home.

Purrrrfect partners

Wayland's cat Gordon makes safety building, library his home

By Liza Roche
STAFF WRITER

Question: Which member of Wayland's finest rarely travels in a car and can be seen pawing around town on four legs?

Answer: Gordon, the sole member of the Wayland Police Department's Feline Unit.

Gordon, or "Gordie" as he is called by many in the town's Public Safety Building, has been a valued member of the police force for about the last 11 years, said Phyllis Matto, Police Chief Gerald Galvin's secretary.

Unlike other members of the department who gained entrance through the state's Civil Service exams, it was Gordie's sheer perseverance, or rather nuisance, that earned him the right to call police headquarters his home.

Gordie came to Wayland in the

mid-1980s by way of John Secor, whose family lives across the street from the station. Secor found the abandoned cat while at Boudoin College in Maine.

The cat was booted off campus by school officials, but Gordie has proven to have staying power in Wayland.

"He kept coming over. Finally we said, 'the heck with it!' He's a wanderer," said Matto.

The gray-brown cat was even decorated with a junior officer badge by the department in 1988.

Matto said Gordie is especially skilled in helping calm distressed individuals who come into the building.

"We've had people who come in here and are very tense," Matto said. "But he'll come up to them and they will become very content."

CAT, see page 22

Raytheon site to be renovated

By Liza Roche
STAFF WRITER

A new \$40 million office complex and residential area could be in store for the property formerly occupied by Raytheon Company.

Last week at a public meeting held by the town's CNA/Raytheon Committee, representatives from Cambridge-based Congress Group Ventures and Needham-based Levco Inc. presented their plans for transforming the 83 acres of land.

The property contains a large parking lot and a few well-built, but neglected buildings, said Chris Lane of Congress Group Ventures, the company planning to develop about 50 acres of the land for commercial use.

Raytheon vacated the property

'We're trying to turn this into a first-class office building. It would be the same use that Raytheon had in effect except the building needs renovation.'

Chris Lane
CONGRESS GROUP VENTURES

about one year ago.

Lane said demolition and renovation of part of the 435,000 square-foot main building has already begun.

When the commercial project is completed, Lane said the outcome will be a first-class 380,000 square foot office building that will most likely house one- to four tenants.

Construction will most likely begin in early 1998.

Lane said he doubted the site's employee population would equal that of when Raytheon occupied the space with an estimated 2,700 to 3,000 workers.

The main building and a smaller, 18,000 square foot building that faces Boston Post Road will be substantially renovated, Lane said.

In the main building, windows are currently being replaced. Before the building opens, the development company will install new electrical wiring, new plumbing and toilets and new elevators. An impressive lobby will also be built, Lane said.

PLAN, see page 3

Cellular towers may go in First Parish steeple

By Liza Roche
STAFF WRITER

Omnipoint Communications of Burlington may need some divine intervention in order to place an antenna in the steeple of First Parish.

The company, specializing in digital personal communications services called "PCS," approached the Zoning Board of Appeals Tuesday night requesting a use variance to allow their business to operate on the church's property, which sits in a residentially zoned neighborhood.

Ken Adam of Omnipoint said PCS has applications in voice, data and video transmission. In telephone use, it can act much like a cellular telephone, except the sound is more clear and the information more secure.

Zoning Board Chairman John Perten believes the company would also need a height variance for the project, which would place antennas in the 100-foot-high steeple.

According to town zoning by-laws,

no building is allowed to be higher than 35 feet. Yet religious structures are generally exempt from the height restrictions.

"It strikes me that what you're trying to do is a piggy back of the use that is already there," Perten said.

Adam told board members that by placing the antennas in the steeple, which is already a tower, it would eliminate the need to build a more obtrusive structure - something many residents find objectionable.

Minor changes would be made to the tower in order to accommodate the antennas, which Adam said would not be visible from the outside.

"Our goal has been to find the least obtrusive way to enter a community," he said. "We think that it is a creative and useful opportunity for the community."

Adams said along with the benefits Wayland may gain from the technology of PCS, First Parish members would also benefit financially from the installation.

CHURCH, see page 8



PHOTO BY ED HOPFMANN

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Kim Massotta, a waitress at Mel's Restaurant, serves up heaping plates of breakfast food on Columbus Day. Read more about this local culinary institution on page 16.