

## **Billerica Minuteman**

### **Construction begins on affordable housing complex in Billerica**

**By Nancy Taylor**

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Billerica, Mass. - Cardinal Sean O'Malley was in town for a groundbreaking ceremony for Rose Hill Manor, an affordable housing complex for seniors built on a 3.2 acre parcel formerly owned by the Saint Theresa Lisieux Parish.

The site for the complex is located behind the parish. The new development will be composed of 41 units of housing that will include a community room, kitchen facilities, and a live-in managerial unit.

"We have an obligation and responsibility to ensure that all of our neighbors in need have access to quality and affordable shelter and through developments like Rose Hill manor, we are fulfilling that mission," said O'Malley at the groundbreaking ceremony held on Wednesday, Oct. 20.

The reverend of St. Theresa's Parish, Eugene D. Tully, thanked the supporters of the project.

"Today is a good day for Saint Theresa of Lisieux Parish," said Tully of the groundbreaking, adding that there were times he was wary of the completion of the project, but said he never lost faith.

The Planning Board for Urban Affairs, a non-profit social justice ministry affiliated with the Archdiocese of Boston, was represented by the president of the organization, Lisa Alberghini, who worked closely with Tully and the town.

"We greatly enjoyed working with St. Theresa's in this collaborative effort between the Archdiocese, local, state and federal governments, that will help accomplish our shared objectives of caring for seniors in need," aid Alberghini.

The organization has developed more than 2,500 units of affordable and mixed income housing, providing homes for more than 10,000 people in Massachusetts. Along with the efforts of the POUA, the Rose Hill development was permitted under Chapter 40B, the state's affordable housing law. The development has received a \$5.5 million grant from the Federal HUD Section 202 program and over \$2.5 million from a variety of state sources and the town.

Richard Walega, region administrator for HUD, said, "We look forward to working with the POUA, the town of Billerica, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the completion of this important development."

Billerica's Town Manager John Curran joined the ceremony and said it made him proud to be part of a community to see so many people dedicate themselves for the purpose of bettering the lives of our seniors.

"You gave a lift, not a handout," Curran said.

At the conclusion on the ceremony the honored guests gathered in front of their shovels that were lined up and placed in a pile of dirt in front of a bulldozer. The construction of The Rose Hill Manor is expected to be completed in the fall of 2011. For details and information on Rose Hill Manor call 617-209-5229.