

# Elderly woman arraigned in fatal hit-and-run

## Photos



courtesy of WCVB-TV/TheBostonChannel.com

Jane Goodman, 72, of Dedham, is pictured here at her arraignment this morning in Dedham District Court on charges she left the scene of a fatal hit and run accident in Needham yesterday that killed 67-year-old Michael Dorfman of Framingham.

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Tatelman said.

Goodman's lawyer said his client has little prior history, noting a trespassing charge that was dismissed in 1999. He added Goodman, who has one child and had been married for about 30 years before a divorce 13 years ago, lives by herself and is a lifelong Dedham resident.

"It was an unfortunate incident," Goodman's lawyer said.

Goodman is due back in Dedham District Court for a pretrial conference on Dec. 27.

Calls to Goodman's Louder Street house today were not returned.

Acquaintances of Goodman's in Dedham today said they were shocked to hear about Wednesday's incident and described her as a respected and admired member of the community.

"The woman has been a friend to a lot of people in town," said Martin Hanley, organizer of the Dedham's annual James Joyce Ramble running race. "I cannot believe she would have left the scene of an accident. She is just a very nice person."

Hanley said Goodman was a dedicated runner and participated in numerous road races throughout the state, including the James Joyce Ramble. In this year's race, Goodman was the only woman over the age of 70 to finish the 10-kilometer race.

Hanley said Goodman could frequently be seen running in Dedham and Needham, picking up litter and pieces of garbage discarded along the roadway as a public service.

"Some people might call it eccentric, picking up litter, but she's stuck to her running long after most people her age have stopped," Hanley said.

**By Debra Filcman, Patrick Anderson and Steven Ryan  
Needham Times**

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DEDHAM — Dressed in a gray sleeveless sweater and wearing handcuffs around her wrists, 72-year-old Jane Goodman, of Dedham, was arraigned in Dedham District Court Nov. 28 to face charges in the hit-and-run death of a Framingham man in Needham Center.

Goodman, who looked disheveled in court, allegedly struck 67-year-old Michael Dorfman, of Framingham, as he was crossing Great Plain Avenue, at the intersection of Maple Street and Glendon Road.

She apparently slowed down but did not stop after striking the victim, Norfolk County Assistant District Attorney Lea Tatelman said. Goodman was charged with motor vehicle operation resulting in a homicide, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and negligent operation.

Bail was set at \$20,000 at Tatelman's request and on the condition that when released, she would not drive a vehicle in Massachusetts. Goodman posted bail later this morning.

She was arrested after eyewitnesses were able to identify her car, along with the license plate number, and Wellesley Police located the vehicle at Massachusetts Bay Community College, where Goodman, a longtime viola-player, went to rehearse with the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra.

"The officers went inside Mass. Bay Community College, where they observed the defendant in one of the auditorium rooms," Tatelman said. "When asked how it was going, she said, 'Not very well. Something big hit my car but I don't know what it was.'"

Goodman, who typically arrives at the college early to set up chairs, left without saying much, according to Orchestra President Leslie Holmes. Before leaving, she only told other members to let the conductor know she had been there, Holmes said.

Before finding the car, Wellesley Police received reports of a vehicle matching eyewitness descriptions driving erratically.

"She said [the damage] made it difficult for her to see and she was lucky to make it to the auditorium without anything else happening."

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Max Hobart, music director for the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra, said Goodman had done a lot for the orchestra.

“She is a wonderful lady who loves music and the orchestra,” Hobart said. “She has helped the orchestra a great deal over the years. This is a tragic accident.”

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