

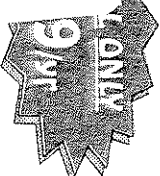
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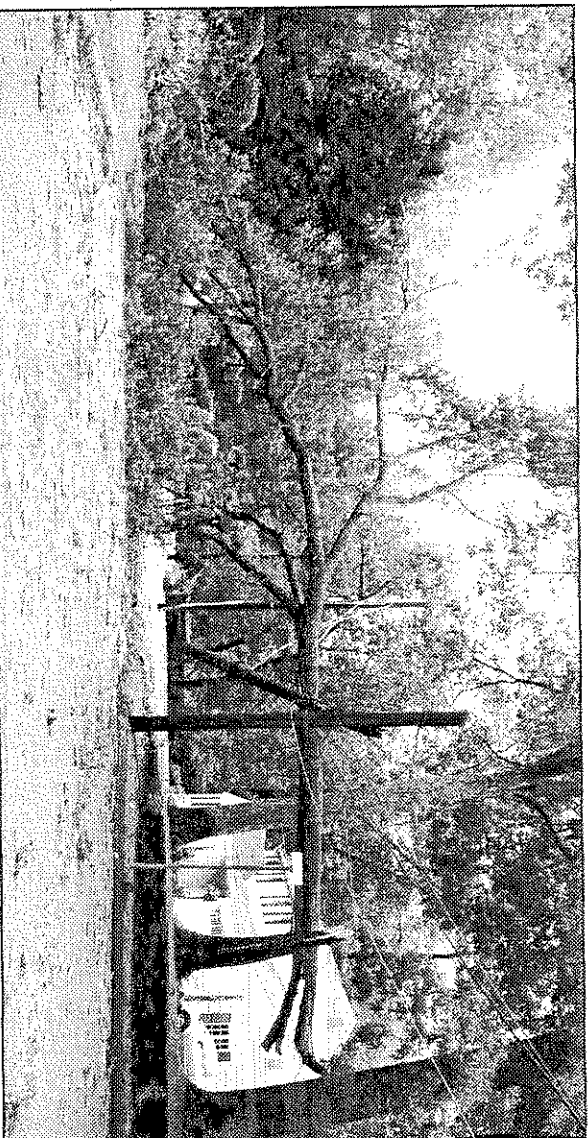
8/23/11

Lynnfield, Massachusetts, August 31

PRICE 50 CENTS

Town officials prepared for Category 1 hurricane

Irene deals only glancing blow to Lynnfield



BISHOPS LANE was blocked by a large tree which snapped off a utility pole during Tropical Storm Irene on Sunday. (Villager photo by Ryan Barchelder)

By Kathy Corrales

Hurricane Irene churned its way up the east coast and weakened into a tropical storm before crossing into New England over the weekend, dealing only a glancing blow to Lynnfield. However, if the storm had followed a more easterly track, the damage here could have been much worse.

Town officials began preparing for the storm on Thursday, at which time Irene was still

expected to be a Category 1 hurricane in eastern Massachusetts with the potential for delivering high winds and extremely heavy rain late Saturday through Sunday.

Planning involving Town Administrator Bill Gustus, the Board of Health, Police and Fire Departments and Public Works continued into the weekend and the town was ready to open emergency shelters at the Middle School and High School if

needed.

Public Works Director Dennis Roy said a person was manned at the schools and a school bus driver was on call to provide emergency transportation to residents. However, the storm did not cause the wind damage and flooding as first feared and the schools were closed at 2 p.m. on Sunday when it was apparent the storm was not going to worsen.

Ahead of the storm, the town used the new "Code Red" reverse 911 emergency notification system twice on Friday and Saturday, providing residents with hurricane preparedness advice and informing them of the availability of emergency shelter. A second alert was sent out Saturday to inform residents a State of Emergency had been declared by the Governor and by the town at 6 p.m. and a on-street parking ban would be implemented at 11 p.m. Roy said hopefully because a state of emergency was declared state-wide, the town will be able to recoup some of its labor costs.

Residents who have not signed up to receive the Code Red reverse 911 emergency notifications are urged to do so on Lynnfield's website. Emergency notifications and other information released by the Police Department can be received by phone or email by registering with "Nixel" on the Police Department's website.

With the potential for flooding rain, the DPW opened the Pillings Pond dam. Roy said Lynnfield received 2 1/2 inches of rain as a result of Irene but they were preparing for much more.

"You never know, if the winds had been high enough wave action could have been created on the pond. To be on the safe side we took a lot of precautions before the storm and it paid off," Roy commented. He said

▲ *Continued to page 5*

Tropical Storm Irene

▲ *Continued from page 1*

sandbags were put out and were also made available to residents.

Roy said the wind gusts in Lynnfield were at least 45 m.p.h. which caused a lot of trees, limbs and wires to fall. He said his crews worked throughout the storm until 8 p.m. on Sunday with a couple of employees called back in after midnight.

The Police Department hired one additional officer for both the day and evening shifts. Chief David Breen, who was also on duty during the storm, said the Police Department received 84 calls during 24 hours on Sunday, with about 40 percent of the calls storm-related.

He said when the front moved through on Sunday between noon and 3 p.m. it was really busy with calls coming in of trees, limbs and wires down in several locations.

"The DPW did an awesome job clearing the streets. They worked diligently throughout the day to open roads and make conditions safe for residents. This allowed my officers to respond quickly to other calls for service," Breen commented.

Roy agreed there was good communication between all of the departments throughout the storm. He thanked the Police for their assistance in blocking the roads while his crews did their work.

In addition to Fire Chief Thomas Bogart and Assistant Chief John Walsh who were on duty during the storm, ten firefighters were hired to work between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday. Firefighters also

used to pick up a lot of downed trees in the storm.

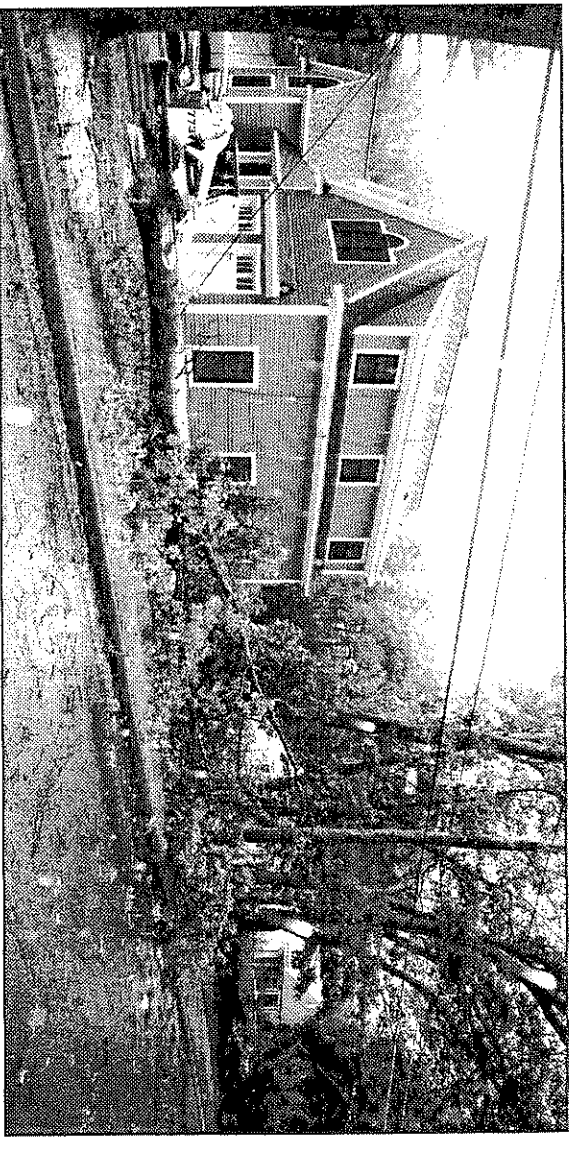
Reports of fallen trees began coming in at 8 a.m. Sunday. Trees, limbs wires were reported downed by the storm on Pine Hill Dr., Sylvan Circle, Fairview Rd., Forest Hill Ave., Wing Rd., Salem St., Russet Ln., Perry Ave., Glenn Dr., Townsend Rd., Fletcher Rd., Munroe St., Chatham Way, New Meadow Rd., Archer Ln., Fernway, Chestnut St., Grey Ln., Bishops Ln., Hutchins Circle, Lisb Way, Melody Ln., Main St., Locksley Rd. and Lowell St.

There were no wide spread power outages reported. Most outages resulted from individual house services being knocked out by limbs and trees. Peabody Light handled an outage in the Laurel Rd. and Sylvan Circle area on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Reading Light reported at the height of the storm an estimated 4,000 customers lost power in Reading, Wilmington, North Reading and Lynnfield. The areas in Lynnfield where most customers were affected were Pillings Pond and Wing Rd. Reading Light was restoring the last of its individual service drops in Lynnfield on Tuesday. On Sunday residents of Davenport Court reportedly lost power for about 12 hours from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Only one report was received of a tree on a house at 23 Hutchins Circle on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. No major damage was done and firefighters cleared from the location in a matter of minutes.

Roy said Monday his crews



POWER LINES, branches and trees made for a mess of storm debris on Wing Rd., Sunday, one of the areas of town which did lose power during Irene.

(Villager photo by Ryan Batchelder)

were continuing to clean up after the storm. He said no problems occurred in any of the schools or town buildings and they were preparing for the opening of school on Wednesday.

Recycling center opens

The town's recycling center located behind Town Hall opened Monday and will remain open to accept storm debris through Saturday, September 10. The area will be open Monday-Saturday (except Labor Day), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tree logs no larger than six inches will be accepted. Current

red-colored recycling stickers are required. Anyone wishing to purchase a recycling sticker may do so during Town Hall business hours at the Public Works office.

The last hurricane to hit Lynnfield was Hurricane Bob in

August, 1991. Several trees and power lines were uprooted by Bob which resulted in more property damage to cars and homes, especially in South Lynnfield. Prior to Bob, Hurricane Gloria came to town in September, 1985.

Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other. It's like feeding a dog on his own tail. It won't fatten the dog.

—Mark Twain