

COMPLETE
BACK TO
SCHOOL
INFORMATION
Inside this issue

NORTH Reading

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North Reading, Massachusetts, September 1, 2011

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Students return to school Sept. 7

Kindergarten, preschool start Sept. 9

By Bob Turosz
All good summers must come to an end, and for local school children final closure will come on Wednesday, Sept. 7, the first day of school for all students in grades 1-12. Preschool and kindergarten students and their parents are granted a short reprieve, with orientation sessions on Sept. 7 and 8.

Preschool and kindergarten classes will begin on Friday, Sept. 9.

There are nine new teachers in the school district this year, a far cry from the days when 30+ new faculty made their appearance every year.

Eight of those new teachers will be at the Middle School: Kara Buckley in grade 6 science, Gayle DaMore in Health Education, Erin Ficciello in grade 6 special education, Timothy Lane in Phys Ed/Health, Kayla Latham in grade 6 social studies, Claire Melville in Spanish/French, Charles Osgood in grade 7 math/science and Scott Petri-Wasser in grade 7 English.

Also joining the faculty will be Rachel Garreff, as a long-term substitute school psychologist at the Hood School.

The highest profile new teacher on the block will be Middle School Principal Catherine O'Connell, who will be taking

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SHATTERED REMAINS of a maple tree lie next to the road at 203 Park St. after Tropical Storm Irene passed through on Sunday. North Reading and other towns in this area escaped the worst of the storm's damage. (Transcript photos by Bob Turosz)

Irene dealt town a glancing blow

By Bob Turosz
North Reading escaped the brunt of Tropical Storm Irene on Sunday as the one-time hurricane had lost much of its power by the time it churned into New England, but still packed heavy wind and rain as it approached the North Shore.

Beginning with heavy rain on Saturday and wind gusts over 40 mph on Sunday, Irene left behind many toppled trees or tree limbs and numerous power outages here. But it could have been much worse if the storm had followed a more easterly track.

The police and fire departments each responded to about 50 storm related calls on Sunday beginning at 2:20 a.m.

Trees were reported down all over town, some having fallen into streets. The list included Mill St., Haverhill St., Main St. (across four lanes at the Andover line), Chester Rd., Anthony Rd., Park St. near the High School, Central St. at Ipswich River Park, Main St. at the former Stop & Shop, Ridgeway Rd., North St., Tower Hill Rd., two other locations on Central St., Chester St. and Castle Rd.

Trees were also reported falling onto houses at 5 Flash Rd., 43 Burroughs Rd., 75 Park St., a trailer at 103 Main St. and at 14 Lee Rd. where a tree was reported breaking through the roof of a house, into the bedroom. No one was injured.

A pole fell onto a house at 1



TROPICAL STORM IRENE brought down this 107 foot tall pine tree in the back yard of Brianna and Matthew Guidebeck, 21 Redmond Ave. around 2 p.m. on Sunday. The massive tree missed their house but brushed the family swing set on its way down.

Railroad Ave at 8:35 a.m. Sunday and there were numerous reports of wires down, arcing wires and transformer explosions. At the height of the storm police said the wait time for RMLD response was two hours.

The storm also knocked out traffic signals during the storm at various times at North and Main Sts., Main St. at Walgreens and Main St. at WalMart. Police had to direct traffic until repairs were made by the Mass. Highway Department.

4,000 RMLD customers lost power

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Irene debris accepted at DPW

Residents can bring brush, branches, clippings or other debris left behind as a result of Tropical Storm Irene to the compost area at the DPW where the town will accept it without charge.

This should be done during on Saturdays during regular recycling hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Town to commemorate tenth anniversary of 9/11 terror attacks

Sunday, Sept. 11 at Ipswich River Park

By Bob Turosz
North Reading will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that changed this country forever and killed 3,000 innocent victims on Sunday, Sept. 11, from 12 noon to 7 p.m. at Ipswich River Park.

In the event of rain, the commemoration will be held Sunday, Sept. 18. The event is hosted by the North Reading Veterans Department, Veterans Committee and Parks and Recreation Department.

The event will begin promptly at 12 noon, so those wishing to

attend should make every effort to be there before 12 and to wear an article of red clothing for the occasion. Feel free to bring a blanket or a chair.

The purpose of the day is to honor the memory of the citizens and first responders who died in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon in Washington as well as those aboard United Flight 93 that crashed in a Pennsylvania field as passengers stormed the cockpit to wrest control from hijackers.

The program will begin with welcoming remarks from Susan Magner, the town's Veterans Director, followed by the presentation of colors by the Marine Corps Color Guard from the 25th Marine Regiment at Fort Devens.

Boy Scout Troop 750 will conduct the Pledge of Allegiance and the North Reading Minutemen will fire a musket volley.

Rev. Rachel Fisher, pastor of the Aldersgate United Methodist

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Goodnight, Irene

▲ *Continued from page 2*

Elder Services Mary Premny, plus Theo Kulipolis, the town's Director of Emergency Management.

"Not everybody was in the room all the time, but we met together three separate times during the course of the day. We talked about how things are going, whether we needed to increase staffing in any particular area. We met at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

"The 4 p.m. meeting was the last, when it was decided to shut down the center and each department went back to running on its own," Balukonis said.

Overnight, there were two additional people in the Fire Department (for a total of six) and two extra officers in the police department as well. There were no major problems with town buildings and Martins Pond was below flood stage during the whole event, he said.

"We were ready for the worst and we're fortunate it didn't come to pass. It was a good opportunity to make sure everything was in place."

Balukonis held a department head meeting yesterday (Wednesday) to critique their responses to Irene and see where improvements might be made...for the next time.

First day of school

▲ *Continued from page 1*

over from former principal John Faucher, who retired this year.

O'Connell is a North Reading resident with two children in the school system. She comes to town having served as assistant principal of the Parker Middle School in Reading and is eagerly awaiting the first day of school.

"An empty school is too quiet," O'Connell told the *Transcript* in an interview two weeks ago. Silence won't be a problem at NRMS on Sept. 7 and for the rest of the school year.

Four early release days are built into the school calendar this year to give the faculty opportunity for professional collaboration and there are early release days for parent conferences. With the usual five "snow days" built into the calendar, the tentative final day of school would be June 22.

The Hood and Little Schools are the "early" schools, with classes running from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The Batchelder is the "late" school, with classes running from 8:55 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

School hours at the High and Middle Schools are the same as last year: 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at NRHS and 7:55 a.m. to 2:21 p.m. at the Middle School.

At the high school, Sept. 7 will be a "Green Day" and students should report to their Block A class. Middle School students will receive another copy of their schedules in their home rooms on the first day.

Parents are reminded the North Reading Public Schools have a bus user fee of \$250 for the year, with a family maximum of \$450. (\$300 a year with a family maximum of \$500 if you haven't already paid). K-6 students who

live more than 2 miles from school are bused free of charge.

A rundown of school busing FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) precedes the list of bus routes in today's edition and Superintendent Kathleen Willis's "Back to School Message," full

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of more information about the coming school year, can be found on page 4.
Today's *Transcript* includes the 2011 school bus schedules, school calendar, lunch menus and other pertinent information, including a class photo of the new teachers.

North Reading Transcript, September 1, 2011

Early classified deadline

The Transcript office at 7 Bow St. will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day. As a result the deadline for classified advertising will be

Friday, Sept. 2 at 1 p.m. The news and display advertising deadline will be 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Happy Labor Day

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DEEVING GRAVITY. This broken tree limb on Redmond Ave. appears to be suspended in mid-air, a souvenir left behind by Tropical Storm Irene, which raked the town on Sunday. (Transcript photo by Bob Turosz)

Goodnight,

Irene

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Local officials began preparing for a Category 1 hurricane on Thursday (the strength Irene was originally predicted to be when it hit eastern Massachusetts) and the Reading Municipal Light Department brought in additional

personnel and equipment to deal with expected outages.

RMLD Community Relations Manager Priscilla Gotwald said the power outages were widespread in the light department's member communities of Reading, North Reading, Wilmington and Lynnfield. As soon as service was restored in one area, another was reported in a new area.

TOWN OF NORTH READING



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Selectmen shall be considering for sale the following parcels of town owned land on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 14 of the Town Hall, 235 North St., North Reading, MA. Any parties interested in the potential sale and subsequent private ownership of these parcels should plan on attending.

MAPPARCEL	SQUARE FOOTAGE	LOCATION
09/21	7,279 s.f.	3 Phillis Terrace
37/10	10,000 s.f.	0 Cedar Street
43/53	27,409 s.f.	4 Juniper Road
08/191	3,200 s.f.	9 Audubon Road
08/193	1,500 s.f.	5 Audubon Road
08/194	1,000 s.f.	89 Burroughs Road
08/197	3,200 s.f.	14 Audubon Road
08/204	1,600 s.f.	21 Parkview Terrace
08/230	1,600 s.f.	1 Edgewood Terrace
09/103	2,173 s.f.	9 Ralunda Terrace
12/149	1,500 s.f.	322 Main Street
12/150	1,500 s.f.	318 Main Street
12/151	1,500 s.f.	316 Main Street
12/152	3,000 s.f.	304 Main Street
14/140	1,500 s.f.	206 Main Street
17/01	3,963 s.f.	8 Acres Boulevard
25/98	1,250 s.f.	180 Main Street
26/97	500 s.f.	182 Main Street

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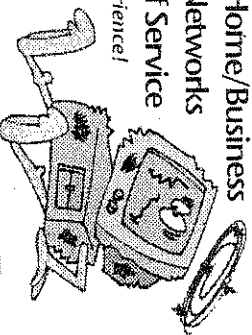
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Over the course of the storm, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and well into the night on Sunday, half the RMLD feeder lines (14 out of 28) had been affected.

At the height of the storm, she said, an estimated 4,000 customers lost power in the RMLD service area. "This number fluctuated as repairs were made and others occurred. Those areas where most customers were affected were given priority over individual residences," she said.

RMLD had four line crews, four tree crews and five runners from their management team who fielded calls, analyzed damage and stayed at the sites until line crews could get to them, she said.

In addition, subcontracted electricians and three additional bucket trucks were called in to service secondary and individual outages. Office personnel were called in to handle over 3,000 phone calls and engineers monitored the situation from the control center.

As of 8:50 on Monday morning there were still 500 customers in the RMLD service area without power. All outages were due to downed trees or tree limbs that brought power lines down.

Areas in North Reading where many customers lost power were the areas of Main St., Oakdale Rd., Park St. and Elm St. By 8:55 a.m. on Tuesday, all individual services were restored. Town began to prepare on Thursday

The town began preparing for Irene long before it made landfall in the United States.

Department of Public Works Director Dick Carnevale said the DPW held a staff meeting on Thursday to decide what they would need for power in the event of outages. Superintendent of town buildings John Welsh secured a temporary generator in case power was lost at town hall, because a loss of power causes the phone services to go out.

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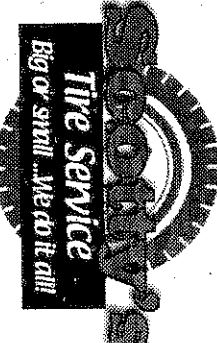
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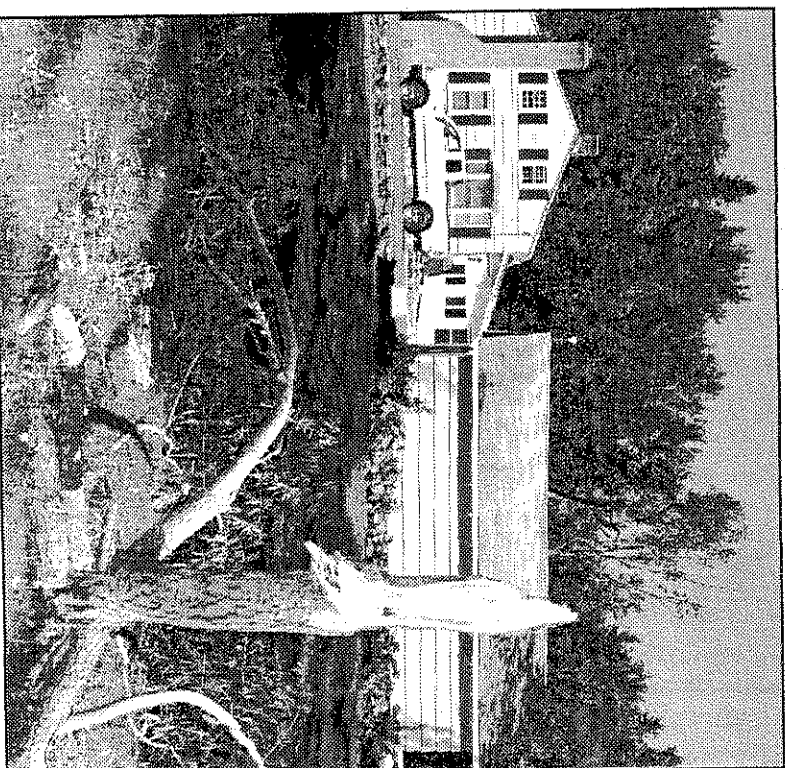
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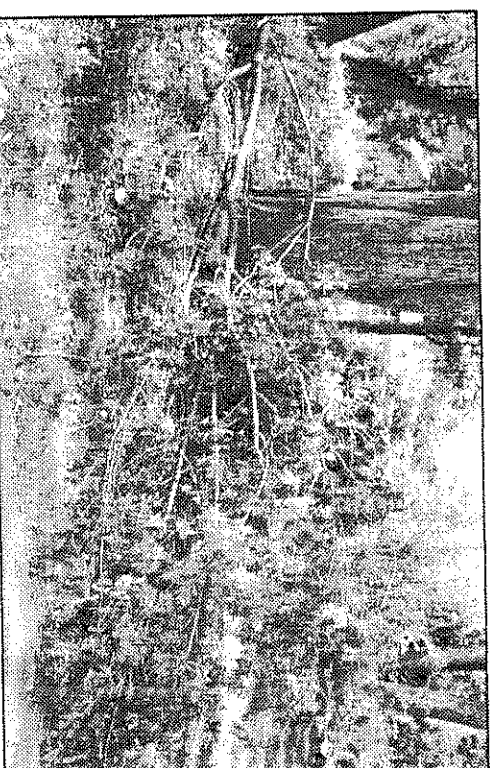
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IRENE WAS HERE. This young tree was snapped in half on Sunday by Tropical Storm Irene's wind gusts, which reached 60 miles per hour. (Transcript photo by Bob Turosz)



THIS FALLEN TREE on Flint St. is one of many left behind by Tropical Storm Irene. (Transcript photo by Bob Turosz)

The meeting also clarified everyone's role in the event of an emergency and telephone contacts were exchanged because cell phones often don't work in emergencies, Carnevale said.

Town Administrator Greg Balukonis held a similar meeting with department heads on Friday.

"We were prepared," said Carnevale. "We were ready. We anticipated more trees down. The last I heard as of 4 p.m. on Sunday, less than 30 homes in North Reading still didn't have power. The number of trees down of significance was in the range of two dozen, but we didn't have any damage to town facilities or flooding.

"It was anti-climactic, to be honest with you. We were ready for the big one but it was nice it didn't happen.

"Drive through the center of town today (Monday) and you'd never know something happened. We dodged a bullet. I've been through this several times and the staff here has been through it before also, so we knew what we had to do. The staff here is very well trained."

Carnevale said "the next big project" being looked into is a Reverse 911 system that would allow the town to notify residents in cases of emergency like Irene. Balukonis has charged Carnevale and IT manager Gene Tworek to look into options to restore that service.

Carnevale praised the cooperation between town departments in North Reading.

"I've never worked in a place where everybody just rolls up their sleeves and gets the job done. Cooperation between the schools and the DPW and the police and fire is very professional. It's refreshing."

Emergency center operated on Sunday

T.A. Balukonis said the town declared a local emergency at 8:30 a.m. (Gov. Deval Patrick had already declared a statewide emergency) and staffing was increased in the police and fire departments.

In the fire department, there was a maximum staffing of 20 during the day. The police department had upwards of 16 on duty in response to the number of calls.

Most of the calls received were related to trees down and power out in different locations around town. The Fire Department also had three emergency medical service calls during the storm.

There were 10 employees on duty in the DPW. The emergency management center in the Henry Purnell meeting room of the Police Station was opened at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday and closed at 4:15 p.m.

Present in the emergency center were Balukonis, Carnevale, Police Chief Ed Nolan, Fire Chief Bill Warnock, Superintendent of town buildings John Welsh, Supervisor of School Buildings and Grounds Wayne Hardacker, Police Sgt. Michael Murphy and Director of