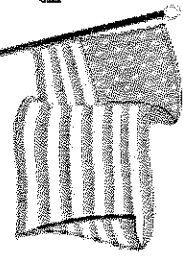


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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011

www.HomeNewsHere.com 36 PAGES

# Residency

## Wirement

### signs town manager change

**N. MILLER**  
and asked to have Town Counsel draw up a version that included the necessary legal jargon.

The bill proposes to alter section 7 of Wilmington's Town Charter to remove the residency requirement for the Town Manager during the term of office.

The bill, approved this past spring by Wilmington Town Meeting in a vote of 98 to 13, updates the current section of the law spelling out the qualifications and requirements for the Wilmington Board of Selectmen to consider when appointing a town manager.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

# Summer is at home

### ing 25 days returns to family

**V. MILLER**  
the MacGillivray's could not bring him home that night. It would be nearly a month before he finally returned, twenty pounds lighter.

The Crier ran an article two weeks ago chronicling their search for Strummer and their request that anyone who sees him report the sighting, but not approach the dog. Having exhibited anxious behavior in the past, the family was certain he would run away from anyone trying to entice him.

"Strangers helped bring him home. They saw the dog that day on vacation."

CONTINUED PAGE 2

# Chess Is Mandatory here

### ays welcome at AIM

**RAGUCCI**  
grew to almost 75 members. Some loved it so much that they came to take family members and stayed for a long time.

When Judy - who has been living at Sunny Acres in Chelmsford for almost two



Reading Light crews were on West Street Sunday afternoon repairing wires that were torn down by falling limbs from Hurricane Irene.

Stu Neilson photo

# Irene leaves mess in its wake

### Trees downed on wires and roads

**WILMINGTON** - While many residents spent Sunday inside playing board games, reading a book, or in the yard dealing with downed trees

and branches, Wilmington police, fire, and public works crews were all over town responding to the plethora of debris that Irene stirred up.

Tuesday, she was asked to say a few words to the group. She was greeted to applause and much admiration from the group for all that she has done to make their lives more enjoyable every Tuesday.

Members of AIM

Members of AIM

Members of AIM

Members of AIM

Members of AIM

Town officials met before the storm to coordinate the response. Administrators from the Police and Fire Departments met with the Town Manager, emergency management, the Health officer and the Department of Public Works. Reading Municipal Light Department assigned liaisons to each town in its service area (including Wilmington, Reading, North Reading, and Lynnfield) and the utility monitored service through the control room.

"Everybody was pretty busy because we had so many outages. As soon as one was fixed crews went to the next one," said Priscilla Gottwald, spokesperson for RMLD. Superintendent of Public Works Donald Grusseit told the Crier that Wilmington lost over 100 trees, some big and some small.

"That was the main impact. We had some rain, but it really didn't affect us that much, mostly localized ponding," said Grusseit. "It was pretty much 99 percent dealing with the downed trees and branches."

Deputy Police Chief Robert Richter told the Crier that no

CONTINUED PAGE 2

## Residency requirement

FROM PAGE 1

"I believe this is an important part of sound government policy that gives clarity to the Board of Selectmen when searching for a Town Manager," said State Representative Charles Murphy.

After Town Meeting passed the article, the current Town Manager, Michael Cairra, went with the rest of the legislative delegation to Beacon Hill and testified before the joint committee that heard the bill and ultimately recom-

mended its passage. The measure passed the House and the Senate and went back for an enactment vote where it passed again before going to the Governor's desk.

Now that Governor Patrick has lent his John Hancock to the bill, it now must pass a referendum vote at the ballot box. If the town supports the charter change, then it will be enacted.

Town Manager Michael Cairra is planning to retire in the latter half of 2012.

## Irene leaves mess

FROM PAGE 1

storm-related injuries were reported to the police department. He added that there were at least a dozen trees on wires throughout the town.

"It was very busy for the department," said Richter. "We put extra people on throughout the storm, added extra personnel to each of our three shifts."

"We were well prepared. The guys out there worked well with the Fire Department and DPW and handled all the issues that arose," praised Richter. "They all did a great job, including the DPW and Fire Department."

"I had them all together, I'm not surprised [at how well the coordinated effort worked]. We did a little bit of preparation and we stress around here the importance of working together," Town Manager Mike Cairra told the Crier.

"I want to make a point and compliment and commend the RMLD. I thought that they were incredibly responsive and efficient throughout the storm. They had dedicated somebody to work with Wilmington and that worked out great. That was a big part of the preparation," added Cairra, who drove the streets several times Sunday, calling in things as he saw them.

Police were all over town. George Hooper, the Superintendent of Public Buildings was in various school and town buildings. Cairra praised the effort from Deputy Fire Chief Corcoran, the Emergency Management Director.

"Riding the roads on Sunday, and then driving them early on Monday morning you would have thought that nothing had happened in Wilmington," said Cairra.

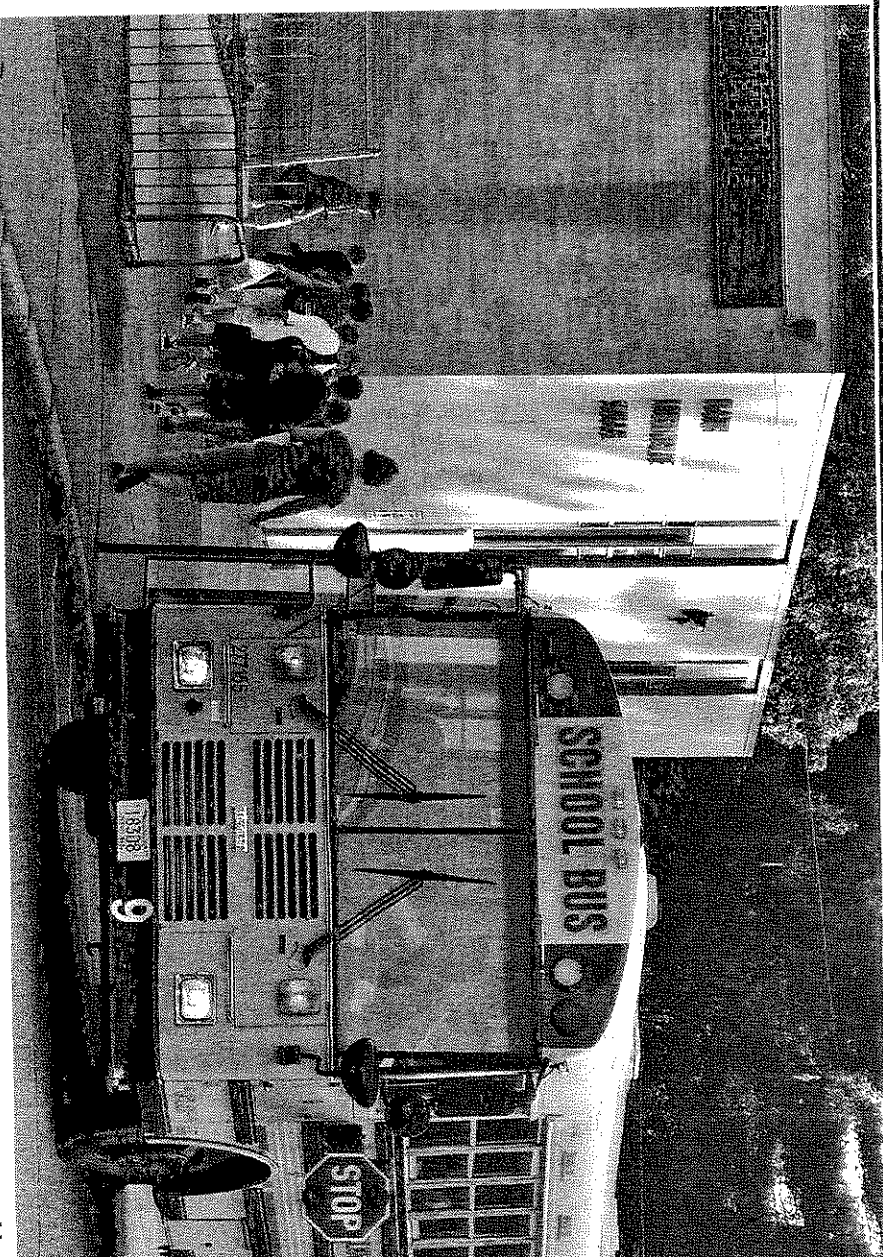
Power outages occurred on Aldrich Road, Butters Road, Elwood Road, Fairmeadow Road, Ferguson Road,

McDonald Road, Swain Road, Eames Street, Lowell Street, Woburn Street, Dadant Drive, Scarlirto Drive, Emerald Avenue, Phillips Avenue and Shawshien Avenue. Many outages were restored within several hours.

By Tuesday morning all customers in Wilmington had their power restored. Gottwald told the Crier that the specific number out outages in each town will not be tallied until later this week as the outages were widespread and as soon as one service was restored in one area, a new area was reported as down.

"Over the course of the storm, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and well into the night on Sunday, half of our feeders had been affected (14 out of 28)," said Gottwald in a statement. "At the height of the storm, an estimated 4,000 customers lost power in Reading, Wilmington, North Reading and Lynnfield. This number fluctuated as repairs were made and others occurred. Those areas where most customers were affected were given priority over the individual residences."

"When an area was determined to be a danger to the public, the runners stayed at the sites until the line crews could get to them. In addition, subcontracted electricians and three additional bucket trucks were called in to service secondary and individual service outages. Office personnel were called in to handle over 3,000 phone calls and engineers monitored the situation from the Control Center. Dispatchers worked with the police, fire and public works departments and were busy communicating with our field workers.



Well, it's official...summer is over. School buses were running, teachers were teaching, and students donned backpacks for the first day of school on Tuesday.

## Strummer is safe at home

FROM PAGE 1

they heard was missing. People actually stopped and cared enough to do that," Andrea MacGillivray, Strummer's owner, told the Crier. "I firmly believe that's how we got him home, because of all those people calling."

Early on the morning of Tuesday, August 23, Andrea received a call from a neighbor who saw Strummer out in the open, on their street. Having, at times, gone over a week without a sighting, the report was an auspicious beginning to the day.

Andrea received another call at 5:00 p.m. from a stranger who reported seeing the dog on Linda Road. At 7:00 p.m. they received a call that Strummer was on Marcia Road, then a little while later a stranger driving on Great Neck saw the sign and the dog at the same time.

"From 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. we kept getting calls from people we know, strangers and friends. They saw him out in the open and not hiding. Because of that I knew he was roaming the area," said Andrea. So she put food out on her front and back decks, opened the garage doors, and kept the windows open so she could hear the jingling of his dog tags if he got close.

She had no idea how close he might be so she watched the windows. At 10:45 p.m. she heard the tags and found him

coming into the yard. He ate the food off the deck then ran away, later coming back into the deck and moving to the driveway and into the garage.

Apprehensive of scaring off the pup, Andrea called her husband, Paul, to come home.

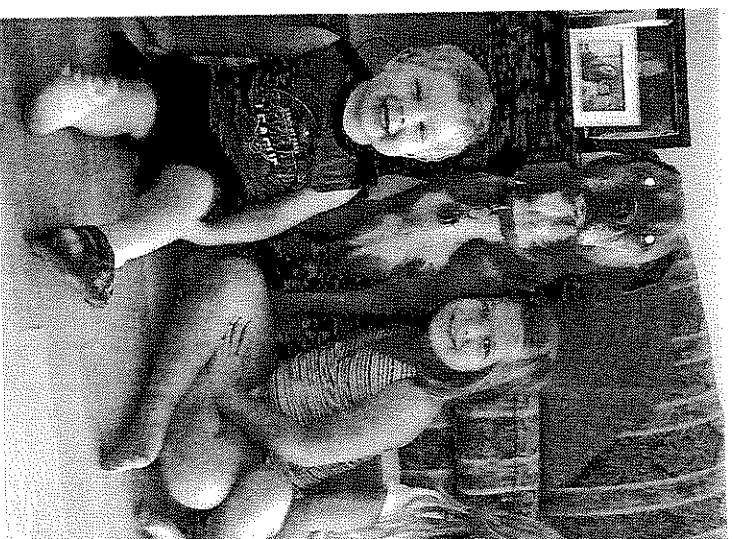
"He parked on the next street, walked slowly down the street and into the driveway. Paul saw Strummer in the garage, Strummer sniffed at him, and then just followed him into the house," said an amazed Andrea. "I don't know what triggered him to go or to come back."

After they brought him inside they took him to a veterinarian to determine the current state of his health. They learned he lost twenty pounds, but was otherwise all the same. Today they are giving him small meals as his stomach recovers from his travels. He visited the groomers the next day to make him look, and smell, a lot better.

"He already looks better and he acts like he never left," added Andrea. "There's nothing different about his behavior. He's all the same. He was always an anxious dog, still nothing different."

"We are as shocked as anyone. We never imagined he would come back like this," said Andrea. He's not going to go to anyone, he's not going to go into this trap, how are we ever going to get him back.

"He came back while the



The MacGillivray family is thrilled to have Strummer home, safe and sound.

kids were sleeping, so when they saw him the next day it was like Christmas morning, they were just so happy and surprised," said Andrea.

Having gone through the ordeal successfully, the Crier asked Andrea how she would advise other families going through the same thing.

"I think the most difficult part was having patience through all this. So many times we just wanted to round up 50 people and go through the woods and find him. The days felt so long. Keeping up with the routine of putting out food or leaving the garage

doors open, we started backing up. I never find his name. "Thank God people who call I wouldn't I garage doors out, and be through the word comes down word out," said are so grateful the community us. We just care one enough."

**Reside**