

Flood from page 4

Early Sunday morning, a sinkhole opens near the Barkowski house and all the water that had been causing problems on Maple Street rapidly drains into the sinkhole (and presumably from there into Highland Lake). With that pathway opened, there are no further problems with flooding in that location.

7:30 AM – With the situation stable for the moment, Andover EOC closes.

9:30 AM – Two families evacuate from their house on Bay Road. One stays at the Highland Lake Inn, and one goes to friends in Concord. Proctor volunteered to put them up in dorm rooms, and a resident on Route 4 called to offer a spare bedroom.

The water level in Highland Lake is the highest anyone has ever seen and continuing to rise. With the rain still falling, concern grows that the lake could overtop the dam, which might lead to a breach. As a precaution, empty sandbags are ordered from state EOC – a total of about 6,500 over the course of the flooding – and the Andover EOC is reopened at the East Andover Fire Department.

When the sandbags arrive, Proctor students play a vital role in filling them and placing many of them around homes on Highland Lake.

1 PM – The call goes out for a boat to evacuate residents of Bridge Road. Everyone on Bridge Road is notified that they may be cut off for days, but most opt to stay. Fire fighters from the Franklin and Tilton-Northfield Water Rescue Teams ferry one resident across the floodwaters. He stays at Proctor until he makes other arrangements.

3 PM – A sinkhole opens in the Highland Lake dam – a very serious situation, as it could lead to dam failure. Filled sandbags are on hand and emergency teams immediately stabilize the sinkhole with them. Franklin EOC is alerted to the situation and a DES dam inspector is called.

The dam inspector arrives within an hour and while making his inspection

witnesses a second sinkhole open. He briefs EOC personnel on how to spot problems that could indicate the dam is in danger of failing. Firefighters monitor water levels on both sides of the dam hourly, around the clock.

Other Sunday Activity

In other activity throughout the day on Sunday, every residence around High-



Volunteers sandbagging at Highland Lake Dam. Photo: Dennis Fenton

land Lake is checked by Dennis Fenton and Andover police officers. One house on Box Shop Point, near the Town Beach on Highland Lake, is sandbagged. Two houses on West Shore Drive are sandbagged, but it is too late for a third. One house on Fifth Lane on the east side of Highland Lake is sandbagged.

On Route 4 just east of Andover village, water starts going across the road. By mid-afternoon it is getting deep, so EOC calls DOT. Several cars are stranded trying to cross the high water before DOT arrives to close the road.

By mid-morning on Monday, Road Agent John Thompson is ordered home to sleep after 48 hours on the job with only an hour or so of intervening sleep.

By Wednesday morning the water level at the Highland Lake dam has dropped about 10" and the rains have substantially ended. Hourly monitoring continues until 3 PM when monitoring ends and the EOC is shut down.

Overall, Andover fared much better than many other communities, thanks in part to the quirks of geography, topology, and meteorology, but especially thanks to many long hours of difficult, uncomfortable work by a lot of dedicated safety personnel and compassionate friends and neighbors.

As always on Mother's Day, we all had a lot to be thankful for.

Driver Shares Her Tale Of Loss And Recovery

By Annmarie Timmins
Concord Monitor staff

Condensed from the *Concord Monitor*

Two years ago, Marie Brasier killed her boyfriend in a car crash in Boscawen while chasing friends at 105 mph. She wasn't drunk or high on drugs. The crash not only killed Nicholas Meier of Andover, it hospitalized Brasier and severed her relationship with Meier's family.

Until yesterday [May 11].

With Meier's cousin at her side and his parents and other family in the

audience, Brasier of Hopkinton told Merrimack Valley High School students how her decision to speed hurt so many people. The talk was part of Brasier's court-ordered sentence. In addition to serving nine months in prison, Brasier must share her story at 24 high schools.

[The] visit was Brasier's first, and it was unusual for a few reasons. Chelsae Meier, a senior at Merrimack Valley and Nicholas Meier's cousin, organized the presentation as part of her senior See Brasier on page 6

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If you are suffering from joint pain, call the LRGHealthcare Joint Institute at 527-2898 for more information today.



Free Joint Pain Program
Tuesday, June 27th
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
TRIP Center, Franklin

Learn more about the causes of joint pain, exercises that may help reduce pain, and the latest treatment options available.

Call 527-2898 to register today!

Members of LRGHealthcare's Orthopedic Nursing Team: front: Martha Harris, RN, 19 years; Jack O'Hara, RN, 15 years. back: Jane Pillsbury, RN, 34 years; Jen Darbin, RN, 9 years; Jane Middleton, RN, 32 years; Bo Fontaine, RN, 44 years.



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