Storm Riley left scars in its wake

By Pat Desmond
Times staff

Crews from the Department of Public Works continue to clean up the mess left by Storm Riley this week.

The March 2 nor’easter left hundreds without power in its aftermath. Coastal flooding closed roads and many homeowners were left with property damage due to the winds and rain.

Chase Berkeley, DPW director, said his crews will continue to drive through the town picking up tree branches left at the side of the road.

“We are not picking up yard waste,” Berkeley said. “But if residents put fallen limbs at the curb, we can chip the broken branches.”

DPW crews worked with crews from National Grid throughout the weekend handling downed wires and trees.

There were about 60 locations in town where DPW workers were called upon to help with trees or branches down in the public way. Most of those involved downed wires as well and so the work could progress only after the electric company was able to turn off power to the live wires, according to Berkeley.

Police Chief John King said the work could progress only after the electric company was able to turn off power to the live wires, according to Berkeley.

Volunteers aid Rosie’s Place

By Mary Ellen C. Welch
Times contributor

Rosie’s Place was the creation of Kip Tiernan, who came to Boston over 40 years ago and witnessed something which deeply disturbed her. She noticed that women donned men’s clothing to enter shelters for a cup of coffee or a meal.

A supermarket on Columbus Avenue had become vacant. Kip and a few volunteers opened Rosie’s Place, after much work, within that deserted building on Easter Sunday in 1974. It was the first shelter for women in the United States.

Women who come to Rosie’s Place today are met with courses and professionals to assist in any situation. Rosie’s will cook over 100,000 meals per year. This includes breakfasts, lunches, and dinners.

“How do you place a 30-year-old woman in a class when the very basics of education aren’t even there?” Isabelle asked. “It’s challenging.”

Isabelle, who has been on the board of directors for over 10 years, added teaching to her volunteer services along the way. She knows first hand how the reality of education enhances a person’s opportunities.

“This woman whom I tutored is now a certified nurse’s assistant and works in Quincy,” Isabelle said. “This is all thanks to Rosie’s Place. She gets food and clothing for her family so she can put her priorities where they need to be.”

“How far would you get in life without simply being able to speak and understand?” Isabelle said. “If you can’t do this, you’re at an enormous and devastating disadvantage. Communication is a huge need.”

Isabelle’s daughter, Amy Chapple, emulated her mother’s activities at Rosie’s and began volunteering when she was 12 years old. An after school program is a huge need.

Residents concerned about flight paths over town

By Lisa D. Connell
Times staff

It’s no secret that commercial airplane flights over Milton are on the rise and at least 35 people turned out to find out why and what they can do about it.

Cindy Christiansen, who represents Milton on the Massport Community Advisory Committee, gave detailed information about flight paths into and out of Logan International Airport to town officials and residents during the Feb. 28 meeting of the selectmen.

Each day, Milton hears the flight path of 171 jumbo airplanes arriving and departing Logan International Airport. Residents have become concerned about the flight paths and what can be done to reduce the noise.

Charles scores at All-State meet

By Jake Kerin
Times contributor

Superman doesn’t wear a blue suit with a red cape. Instead, every weekend he dons a Milton High School track suit and flies around the Reggie Lewis Track Center in Roxbury. His real name isn’t Clark Kent, it’s Smith Charles.

The junior added two more state titles to his resume, taking gold in the 55m dash and the long jump while also taking a bronze in the high jump at the All-State meet on Feb. 24.

To make things even more impressive, Milton finished second in the team standings with 26 points. Charles scored each and every one.

Charles qualified for the final of the 55 in 6.53, winning his heat by three hundredths of a second. However, Greater New Bedford’s Dejury Amado ran just a tad faster (6.523), nailing down the top seed in the final, but Charles was up for the challenge.

The Milton Village area was flooded by Storm Riley on Mar 2. Tree limbs were down everywhere.
Rosie’s Volunteers

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Amy continues her relationship with Rosie’s as a paralegal with Ropes & Gray, LLC in Boston. She is involved with the weekly debt clinic at Rosie’s, which is pro bono, providing guests with life-changing outcomes concerning credit ratings, collections, etc.

The on-site CORI clinic recently became a reality due to Amy’s contributions. Her competence in French is a tremendous asset to guests who speak it and makes variations of it a bit easier to interpret.

“One thing I think is amazing about Rosie’s is that it’s not a temporary fix,” Amy said. “It’s not just ‘Here’s a bed for the night. You can come back tomorrow.’ We’re here to improve your life. It’s teaching you skills. It’s helping you do things you wouldn’t be able to do on your own. We provide all these services and if you want help, we’re going to give you all the opportunities to do that for yourself and your children. It’s helping to prepare you for the rest of your life.”

Along with her assistance in the legal field, Amy started a GoFundMe drive last year, resulting in the purchase of 30 coats for guests.

It is important to know that Rosie’s Place doesn’t receive state or federal funding. It derives nothing from the United Way. Donors are the backbone and sole sustainers for everything.

Surely stress afflicts everybody in different ways: living on the street, weather, hunger, addictions, monetary problems, joblessness, lack of education.

This list is only partial but adding to daily misfortunes is a health hindrance.

Rosie’s Wellness Center grants access to immunizations, tests for blood pressure and blood sugar levels, evaluates for flu and cold sickness, and sets up chiropractic appointments and additional interventions. There are 6,000 guests who drop by yearly for these health screenings. Every category, group, program, and topic has a weightier description of its own. However, all the offerings compliment the incentive for the establishment of Rosie’s Place, which consisted of the values that Tiernan unflinchingly believed in and acted upon: dignity and respect.

Amy recounted how so many guests have problems which take extreme effort and a long time to resolve. Problems are not something which can be accomplished without spending months on issues. The final resolution for the client makes it all worthwhile.

One woman walked through the front door of Rosie’s to say how her life had changed because of Amy’s persistence. The former guest told Amy it was so happy!” Amy’s mother, of course, has been with Rosie’s Place longer and has watched multiple changes implemented, all of them positive. Still, Isabelle spoke about what is just as important as everything which has evolved at Rosie’s.

“You look at the world and you think, ‘Oh, there are so many problems. What possible difference can I make?’” Isabelle said. “What our founder, Kip Tier- nan, taught me is that everybody can make a difference. Every individual can change somebody’s life in some fashion and Rosie’s Place gives you that opportunity every day. The sources of satisfaction you get from that are enormous. Rosie’s Place is so well organized. The atmosphere is empowering. Everything is so beautifully put together. People are super respectful there. Everybody has dignity. We afford everyone the dignity that he or she deserves.”

This mother and daughter team has been so involved and provided so much good for all they have served that it prompted Sue Marsh, president of Rosie’s Place, to comment, “It really speaks to their family ethos: helping women and being involved. They’re not just thinking about things, but out doing things. They bring a lot of enthusiasm, love, and dedication to our programs and the women.”

For more information visit www.rosiesplace.org or call 617-442-9322.