

Gardner News
January 12, 2009

Thank you to those who assisted the community in the ice storm

Dear Editor:

The Hubbardston Board of Selectmen would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to the individuals and entities that came forward to assist our community in the ice storm of Dec. 11, 2008.

The teamwork displayed by town departments led by Police Chief Dennis Perron, Acting Fire Chief Bob Hayes and Highway Superintendent Lyn Gauthier was exemplary. Emergency Manager Dennis O'Donnell and his wife, Judie's years of preparation and training served them well in manning the command center and shelter around the clock for the duration. EMT's and dispatchers were key to keeping everyone informed. Public safety officers and CERT volunteers called on the disabled and elderly to ensure their well

being, in addition to answering emergency calls. While we can't possibly name all the volunteers, you know who you are. We can't thank you enough for putting the town's needs ahead of your own personal and family needs.

Local businesses that came forward and deserve honorable mention include Leominster

Home Depot who came forward on their own, asking what was needed, donating supplies. Hubbardston House Manager Lisa Chavas and the Jacksons who opened their restaurant, B's Country Kitchen, for preparation of food and as respite for volunteer workers; Ron Burton who made his camp facility available as a shelter; Mr. Mike's for donating potable water; Country Hen, for eggs; Calico and Crème owners Elaine and Don

McKay for not only vast amounts of food donations, but their time and energy preparing and delivering two meals a day for upwards of 100 folks to the shelter for the duration. Bigelow Electric worked overtime attempting to keep our generators operational, which proved to be a challenge, local contractors for assisting in the clearing of debris: Chris Pirner, Richard Clapham, Mark MacAdams and Ed Zukowski, in addition to residents and family members who came out and worked to clear debris from their own roads to expedite the process.

This is what makes a town a community.

Many thanks to the National Guardsmen who came out and assisted storm recovery efforts, clearing brush alongside highway

crews. MEMA officials who provided support and equipment as needed, especially generators to keep our emergency shelter and command center operational, as two of the three emergency diesel generators (at the highway barn and command center) failed because of excessive age and wear.

And last, but not least, we can not say enough about National Grid and Verizon and the utility crews from companies all over the continent who worked into the night each day in an effort to restore electricity for residents in Hubbardston and neighboring communities, leaving their homes and families in support of our needs. Thank you, one and all.

*Hubbardston Board of Selectmen
Paul Hale, chair, Matt Castriotta
and Kristy Casey*