




Metro

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Metro

Boston parking ban lifted, schools set to reopen

By [Andrew Ryan](#) | GLOBE STAFF FEBRUARY 13, 2013

 ARTICLE

 COMMENTS (2)

REPRINTS E-MAIL SHARE

Boston finally lurched toward normalcy Tuesday after a debilitating blizzard, ending a 102-hour-long parking ban on major streets and announcing that public schools would reopen for the first time since the storm struck.

Near springlike temperatures began melting snow mountains into lakes of slush. Waterlogged and - unshoveled sidewalks forced scores of pedestrians into plowed streets, where they walked on black asphalt with briefcases and grocery sacks, slowing traffic.

The end of the parking ban brought a glint of hope for frustrated drivers, who suddenly had thousands of open spaces. The city's 57,000 public school students were scheduled to return to classrooms Wednesday morning, to the relief of educators eager to return to lessons and parents who had simply lost patience. School officials warned, however, that buses may be late.

"We are ready, but we acknowledge there still are some challenges," said the school district's transportation director, Carl Allen. "Traffic might still be a bit slow. . . . Streets are narrowed in some places."

About a dozen of the most experienced drivers navigated school buses around snow-lined city streets to test out routes and identify potential problems.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who had apologized to residents whose streets remained impassible, said Tuesday that crews did "great work" through the night, when front-end loaders and dump trucks removed thousands of loads of snow clogging curbs and corners.

"We continue to widen roads, make our schools safe for students, and respond to residents' concerns about residential areas," Menino said in a statement.

It will take time to gauge the full impact of almost 25 inches of snow in a single storm.

Governor Deval Patrick said Tuesday that officials may know by the end of the week whether the state can apply for federal aid to offset damage across the state.

“We’re obviously very keen to get those numbers,” which will determine whether federal aid is possible, Patrick said.

The MBTA’s chief operating officer, Sean M. McCarthy, told the Globe he has no regrets about the T’s two-day shutdown during the blizzard. Closing the T allowed the system to get back up and running after the storm without having to repair buses and trains damaged by the storm, McCarthy said.

An estimate on how much the blizzard cost the MBTA will be available by the end of this week.

By Tuesday evening, six bus lines were still operating alternate snow routes, down from 42 on Monday morning.

Across Massachusetts, about 20,000 Massachusetts utility customers were still without power Tuesday evening, down from a peak of more than 420,000 in the storm’s immediate aftermath. National Grid had roughly 4,000 customers without electricity, down from 170,200. A spokeswoman said the utility still expected to restore power to nearly all remaining customers by midnight.

NStar had about 16,000 customers without power, down from 250,000. A spokesman said the utility expected to resolve all outages by Thursday.

During the parking ban, Boston issued nearly 6,900 citations and towed almost 650 vehicles to make way for plows. More than 500 property owners had been fined a total of at least \$25,650 by Tuesday morning for failing to adequately shovel their sidewalks or for throwing snow into the street.

The warm temperatures may have given people a false sense of the season. Another snowstorm may brush Boston Wednesday, but it appears the system will pass offshore and dust Eastern Massachusetts with 1 to 2 inches, according to the National Weather Service. Another coastal storm may arrive over the weekend, and unseasonably cold weather will mark the beginning of next week, the service said.

The weekend blizzard presented a unique challenge for the city, officials said, because the snow fell with such a fury as winds gusted near hurricane strength.

“This happened so fast. We were getting 2 to 3 inches of snow an hour,” said Boston’s director of



BILL GREENE/GLOBE STAFF

Boston firefighter recruits Tom Nee (left) and Pat McKenna shoveled out a hydrant on Columbus Avenue Tuesday. The city moved toward normalcy Tuesday, following the weekend snowstorm.

emergency management, Rene Fielding. “Crews were out there, but it was difficult to keep up.”

Over the past two nights, city crews attacked the snow with front-end loaders and dump trucks. Some teams focused on preparing the city’s 125 school buildings, removing massive snow berms from entryways and areas where students congregate. Others hit bus stops.

A second focus was clearing mounds of snow piled on curbs along Boston's 22 major arteries where parking had been banned. Overnight Monday, the workers cleared in-bound lanes. The plan overnight Tuesday was to dredge out-bound lanes.

The third focus was to hit side streets and other roads that had been impassable since the storm. When work started Monday night, crews had a list of 78 clogged streets. By dawn, the number was down to 20 streets, Fielding said.

As inspectors surveyed blocks during the day, the list of side streets that needed attention grew to roughly 50 as crews started work overnight Tuesday, said city spokeswoman Dot Joyce.

“The mayor’s office will conduct an after-action review, as they do with all major emergencies in the city, to find places for improvement,” Joyce said. “That will take time, and first we must finish the job before that begins.”

On snow-socked Oak Street in Chinatown, a plow finally scraped the pavement before dawn Tuesday, according to resident Daniel Blasi, 41. It was the first plow to hit the street since Friday at 3 p.m., he said.

“My street was cleared of snow at 4 a.m. this morning — better late than never,” Blasi wrote in an e-mail Tuesday, adding later, “It would have been more welcome if it had come earlier.”

Martin Finucane, Martine Powers, Travis Andersen, and Erin Ailworth of the Globe staff, and correspondent Matt Rocheleau contributed to this report. Andrew Ryan can be reached at acryan@globe.com.

REPRINTS E-MAIL SHARE

ARTICLE COMMENTS (2)

In this section: Metro

10-year-old girl hospitalized after Nashoba Valley snowtubing collision

A 10-year-old girl was taken to the hospital after colliding with another person while tubing at Nashoba

Valley Ski Area late this morning, the ski area's general manager said. The girl collided with the other person at the bottom of the Littleton tubing facility and momentarily lost consciousness, said Al Fletcher, Nashoba's general manager.

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STORY 1 OF 15

Ex-Chelsea housing chief admits guilt in hiding big salary

Michael E. McLaughlin could face little, if any, prison time under Tuesday's plea agreement with federal prosecutors.

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STORY 2 OF 15

Author Patricia Cornwell awarded \$50.9m in suit

The mystery writer won her lawsuit against her former financial company after a trial that peered deeply into her personal life.

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STORY 3 OF 15

O'Malley mentioned as contender for pope

A number of Italian Vatican-watchers have begun to speculate that Cardinal Sean O'Malley may be a potential candidate.

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STORY 4 OF 15

Rediscovering nature, one 'lost' plant species at a time

After a nine-year quest, a group of citizen scientists have documented finding 105 plant species that had purportedly disappeared in the Middlesex Fells.

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STORY 5 OF 15

John Connolly considers a run for Boston mayor

The three-term city councilor would be the first significant candidate to oppose Mayor Menino.

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STORY 6 OF 15

Ex-teacher testifies in Wayland murder trial

Nathaniel Fujita had visited the isolated area where his ex-girlfriend's body was found as part of a school project, according to testimony from his former teacher.

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STORY 7 OF 15

Remembering the blast that rattled Mass. in 1954

The meteor in Russia has sparked memories of a local sonic boom, apparently caused by two jets breaking the sound barrier.

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STORY 8 OF 15

Man who fled scene of Mattapan slaying arraigned

A 22-year-old man was ordered held on \$100,000 cash bail on gun charges after he was arrested fleeing an area near the scene of a weekend shooting.

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STORY 9 OF 15

Roxbury health center gets 2d chance

A task force is being assembled to help the Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center start over in the face of medical and financial woes and federal and state scrutiny.

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STORY 10 OF 15

Endangered whales seen off Nantucket

Mariners are being asked to slow down around Nantucket after eight endangered North Atlantic right whales were spotted near the island on Friday.

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STORY 11 OF 15

Feb. brings special deliveries for 2 zoos

Springtime at local zoos will not only bring blooming flowers, but also a bunch of bouncing baby animals, three of which were born this month.

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STORY 12 OF 15

Too much MCAS reliance, researchers say

More than 130 Massachusetts professors and researchers urged state education officials to stop relying on standardized test scores to judge school quality, teacher effectiveness, and eligibility for high school graduation.

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STORY 13 OF 15

R.I. board backs decision on paroling thrill killer

The Rhode Island Parole Board has affirmed its decision to parole a Woonsocket man who was in prison for 13 years for a 1999 thrill killing.

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STORY 14 OF 15

Workers rescued from basket crane by brother of one

Three cellphone company workers made it safely down from a 125-foot tower after two of them got trapped in a basket crane, and one of their brothers came to the rescue

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STORY 15 OF 15

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