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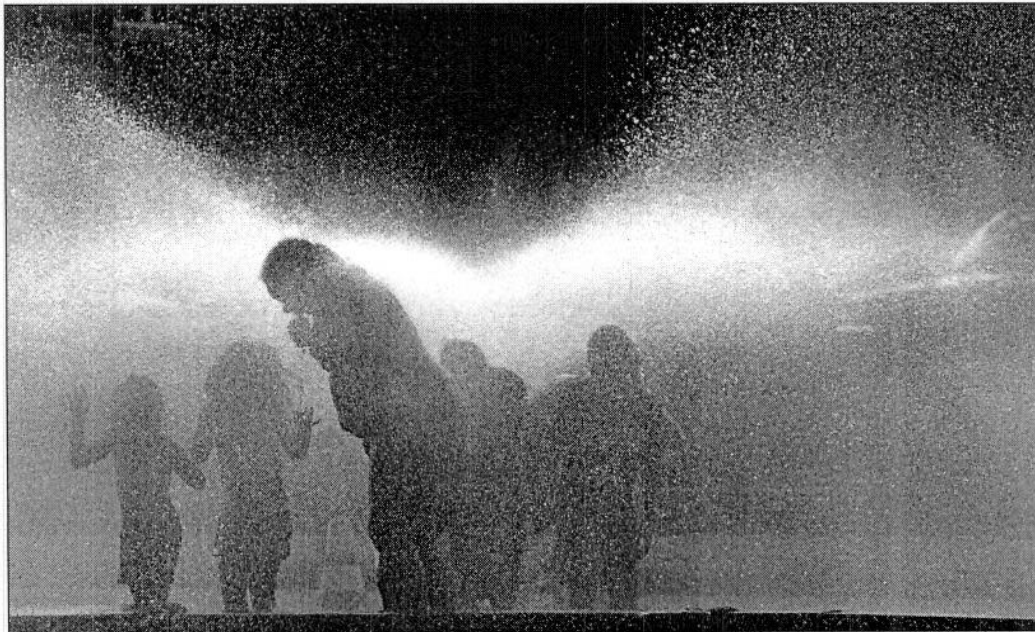
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Evening cooler

People cool off in the spray of an open hydrant on a hot evening Tuesday in Lawrence, Mass. Temperatures reached into the 90s there during the day.

Elise Amendola
Associated Press

State gives Bolton \$250K for lake cleanup

By Ed Jacovino
Journal Inquirer

Bolton is in line for a \$250,000 state grant to fund the five-year cleanup of Lower Bolton Lake.

The grant will pay for herbicide and algaecide treatments, water quality monitoring, and other monitoring of the water for toxins and algae cell counts. Lower Bolton Lake, which is in Bolton and includes part of Vernon, has been plagued for the last three summers by toxic algae blooms, a choking weed called southern naiad, and an invasive species called fan wart.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, a Democrat, was to have announced the funding today. It's part of the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, which is paid for by state borrowing.

Lawmakers who represent Bolton had pushed to get the money as soon as possible, but were unsuccessful in

a bid earlier this year to add the item to the State Bond Commission's agenda.

Sen. Stephen T. Cassano, D-Manchester, said he was glad the funding was released in the first round of STEAP grants, so treatment can start before the summer heat causes the problems to grow worse.

"It's an environmental issue," he said. "You can't swim. You can't row."

Cassano has met every other week with officials in Malloy's office and the state Office of Policy and Management, which oversees STEAP grants.

"I've been working with OPM to have this be one of the first releases because of the seriousness of the lake issue," he said.

Bolton has struggled to fix the problems with its own money, Cassano said. It spent more than \$80,000 on water treatments in the fiscal year that ended June 30 and this

year's budget includes \$28,000 for the lake. Town officials had been counting on the state grant.

A study released last year blamed winter "drawdowns" of the lake for the rapid growth of the algae and the naiad weeds. Water in the lake had been lowered for years by about 3 feet to protect docks and allow for repairs. But it was lowered by 6 to 10 feet in recent years, trapping nutrients and fueling the rapid algae and weed growth.

The algae turns the lake a blue-green color. The naiad weeds grow on the bottom and break off into floating "mats" on its surface, preventing swimming, rowing, and boating.

Other grants were to have been awarded today for projects in Granby, Marlborough, Columbia, Union, Chaplin, and eight other towns.

In Granby, \$500,000 will go toward the construction of a parking lot and rehabilitation of buildings at Holcomb Farm. That's where the

Granby Land Trust has its office. Town officials plan for "agricultural tourism" and hope to offer a barn as a venue for weddings and other events.

Marlborough will get \$500,000 to expand its public water system into the Marlborough Village Center. The water system now serves only a school, the Senior Center, and the library.



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Region's grid operator asks for power conservation

By The Associated Press

With electricity use approaching record levels, New England's power grid operator is asking customers to conserve electricity as a weeklong heat wave continues to bear down on much of the region.

Power is adequate, but supplies are likely to become tight, ISO-New England said.

New England's electricity use is forecast to reach near record-breaking levels this week as temperatures

stay stuck in the mid- to upper-90s. The heat wave isn't expected to break until Saturday.

The forecast for the greatest peak demand today and Thursday is 27,800 megawatts.

The record for electricity use was 28,130 megawatts on Aug. 2, 2006. One megawatt of electricity can power about 1,000 homes.

ISO-New England, based in Holyoke, said conserving electricity is a prudent, precautionary measure to help keep supply and demand

in balance.

It suggests customers reduce electricity, particularly between noon and 8 p.m.

Customers are advised to raise air conditioning thermostats by a few degrees if health permits to between 74 degrees and 78 degrees, turn off unneeded lights and appliances, unnecessary office equipment, shut off air conditioners when leaving home for extended periods of time, and put off using washing machines and dryers.

Flag protocol: Full staff

Only the president or a governor can authorize flying the national flag at half staff. Only a governor can authorize flying the state flag at half staff.