



**The Company Journal**  
**and "The Feederline"**

*Fire Department News*  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
*A Class 1 Fire Department*

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*From the desk of*  
*Chief Gerald R. Reardon*

*Issue #65*  
*Winter 2012*

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## What's New

**FFOPs** – The department has hired three new firefighters. Welcome to **Firefighters-on-probation Jonathan Blinn, Paul Burke and Gregory Kirylo**. They started in September and are currently attending the Massachusetts Fire Academy Recruit Program. They will graduate just before Christmas.



Photo by DFC J. Gelinias (COO-Retired)



**125<sup>th</sup> Cambridge Firemen's Relief Ball** - Save the date for the 125<sup>th</sup> Firefighters Ball. It will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2013. DFC Bokuniewicz promises a special evening, so make sure you are there.  
**New vehicles** – The department has taken delivery of a 2012 Ford F-550 with a utility body that will be used as the new Haz-Mat response vehicle.



Photo courtesy of Michael Boynton – [www.massfiretrucks.com](http://www.massfiretrucks.com)

The current Haz-mat vehicle will become the new Dive Rescue truck. The department will also be receiving a pickup truck in the near future (purchased with Homeland Security grant funds) that will be utilized to pull the new USAR trailer that is currently parked at Headquarters.

**Tropical Storm Sandy** – Hurricane Sandy weakened into a tropical storm with high winds and heavy rains before it headed up the east coast on and around October 29, 2012. Although New York and New Jersey were the hardest hit, Cambridge did not escape the path of destruction.



Photo by DFC Brian Gover (EPAC)



Photo by DFC Brian Gover (EPAC)

### **Larch Road**

**Operation Urban Shield** – Another Operation Urban Shield was held in the metro Boston area on November 3 and 4, 2012. The first training simulation involved many agencies that tested the training and readiness of local first responders in regards to law enforcement and structural collapse training back in 2010.

The more recent training exercise involved more than 600 first responders that responded to 12 simulated events all over the area including an active shooter in the Boston Copley Marriott Place, an explosive device in Chestnut Hill and a hazardous materials exposure in Cambridge. This training was funded by a \$1 million dollar grant through the Department of Homeland Security and was coordinated by the many public safety agencies in the area. Great job done by all!



**FF Matt McDonald (Rescue Co. 1)** monitors the Bowdoin MBTA station for simulated radioactivity during Operation Urban Shield in November 2012.

**Inman Square Firehouse Repairs** – Effective December 2, 2012, the Inman Square fire station will be temporarily closed for much needed renovations. The building will be closed and inaccessible during the construction. Work will be done on the stairways and bathrooms on the first and second floors.

While work is being done, Engine 5 will run out of the spare bay at Engine 3's quarters in east Cambridge and Division 1 will respond out of Headquarters.

### **All Companies Working**

**September 1, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 91, 45 Spinelli Place** – a fan in a bathroom burned out, caught fire, and was self extinguished upon arrival. The fan fell out of the suspended ceiling landing in the toilet. Companies opened up and checked for extension.

**September 2, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 297, 44 Union Street** – fire on second floor deck of a 3.5 story wood frame. The fire involved the deck and exterior railings. Engine 5 ran a 1-3/4 line to knock down the fire. Remaining companies opened up and checked for extension.

**September 3, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 91, Smith Place** – Companies found a fire on the outside of a structure involving the electrical service. A fire extinguisher was used to knock down the fire and interior checked for extension.

**September 3, 2012 – Haz Mat, Box 246, 77 Mass Ave, MIT** – Dispatched to a chemical spill. Talk with building personnel and MIT police. Two students dropped a bottle with 3 different chemicals in it. The chemicals were being moved for disposal. There were no medical complaints from the students. Companies made entry and used the meters to survey the area outside the lab. All readings were negative.

**September 3, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 7, 6 Porter Road-** A flower pot on roof caught fire and damaged the roof. Engine 4 extinguished the fire with a water can. Companies checked for extension. Civilian extinguished bulk of fire prior to CFD arrival.

**September 3, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, W/F Box 724, 29 Irvington Terrace** – Engine 9 and Ladder 1 Covered their Teele Square station in Somerville

**September 7, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 483, 16 Divinity Ave -** A lab centrifuge located inside room 203 short circuited and/or overheated, creating a heavy smoke condition on the second floor. Companies located the centrifuge, unplugged it and extinguished it. They used smoke ejectors to ventilate.

**September 8, 2012 – Motor Vehicle Accident, Rindge Ave @ Clifton Street** – An elderly male pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle and had severe head injuries. The patient was packaged and rapidly transported to a Boston area trauma center.

**September 8, 2012 - 1 Alarm Fire, Box 71, 1972 Mass. Ave** – An employee in the building noticed a new computer server that was installed recently was on fire. They put the fire out with an extinguisher. All power was shut off to unit. There was no extension and the smoke was ventilated.

**September 12, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire – Box 68, 27 Buena Vista Park -** Tenants were using a charcoal grill on the second floor porch and noticed smoke coming from the decking. Fire crews pulled decking and ceiling below and extinguished smoldering fire in wood structural members.

**September 18, 2012 – Gas leak, Box 753, Rindge Ave** – companies were dispatched to the area of Rindge Ave for the smell of gas. Engine 4 found a gas line that was struck by workers. Engine 4 stretched a line for vapor control and Division 1 filled the assignment. Area evacuated until the gas was shut off and surrounding buildings were checked.

**September 18, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, Box 687, 17 Madison Ave** – Engine 9 responded to Watertown

**September 25, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 332, 167 Pearl Street** – Engine 5 and Ladder 1 provided station coverage at Teele Square during Somerville's fire.

**September 28, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 482, 32 Quincy Street** – Fire alarm was receiving calls for a structure fire at the Fogg Art Museum (which is a Harvard building under construction, diagonally across from Fire Headquarters.) First due companies found a small fire caused by workers that caught some insulation on fire. Engine 1 stretched a line and extinguished the fire.

**October 3, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, Haz Mat, 22 Ripley Road** – Engine 9 covered in Belmont while they had a residential home with a gas leak.

**October 8, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 3211, 5 Foster Street** – Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered the Teele Square fire station during Somerville's fire. Engine 5 covered a medical emergency.

**October 11, 2012 – Gas Leak, Box 36, 195 Erie Street** – A construction crew dug up a 4" gas pipe. Companies used hose lines for vapor control and nearby buildings were checked and rechecked for after the gas was shut off.

**October 11, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 753, 336 Rindge Ave** – lint in a laundry dryer caught fire. A water can was used to extinguish the fire and area was overhauled with no extension.

**October 14, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 289, 49 Columbia Street** – Companies found a dumpster on fire next to a building. Engine 5 extinguished the fire and asked for the box. Other companies assisted by overhauling and checking nearby exposure building for fire.

**October 15, 2012 – Special Hazard, 955 Massachusetts Ave** – A window fell out of a sixth story of a building injuring one person. Tower Ladder 2 was special called to remove the rest of the window.

**October 16, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 196, 564 Cambridge Street** – Dryer fire on the ground floor of a 3 story wood frame building. Hose lines were stretched to floors, searches completed and building vented.

**October 18, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Boston Logan Airport** – Rescue Co. No. 1, the Tactical Rescue and Division 2 responded to assist Massport FD and Boston FD with a 2 alarm fire in a vacant hangar.

**October 18, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 4741, 100 Mount Auburn Street** – Employees of a local business extinguished a fire in a ceiling mounted electrical fixture using a fire extinguisher. Companies overhauled and investigated.

**October 24, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 2911, 1221 Cambridge Street** – Companies found a smoke condition and an operating sprinkler and ordered the box filled. Engine 3 used a hose line to extinguish a fire in the dumpster/compactor inside the ground floor. Exposures were checked, building was ventilated and the dumpster was removed to the outside to be overhauled.

**October 27, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Boston, Box 5138, 60 Quint Ave** – Engine 2 covered Engine 33's quarters on Boylston Street during Boston's 5+ alarm fire in a wood frame building.

**November 3, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Box 325, 82 Wheatland Street** – Engine 4 responded to Somerville on the line box. Ladder 1 and Engine 5 covered Teele Square during Somerville's Working Fire.

**November 10, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, 2 Alarm fire, Box 427, 81 Orchard Street** - Engine 9 covered Watertown Station during Watertown's 2 Alarm fire.

**November 13, 2012 – 2 Alarm Fire, Box 297, 294 Columbia Street** – A late night fire took the life of an occupant living on the third floor of a three story residential building.

**November 15 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 332, 35 Everett Avenue -** Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered the Teele Square station

**November 18, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 36, 16 Upton Street –** a chimney fire resulted in embers and small fires on the roof of a residential building. Ladder 3 used a ground ladder and chain to clean out the chimney. No extension within the building.

**November, 27, 2012 – Haz Mat, Memorial Drive at DeWolfe Street –** green substance in Charles River from storm drain

**November 29, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm Fire, 669 Washington Street –** Ladder 1 dispatched to cover on the second alarm fire. While enroute, requested to the scene for overhaul. Squad 2 and Division 1 also responded. The fire building was adjacent to Brookline fire station.

**November 29, 2012 – Power Failure -** A power outage in the city had fire companies and the police department running for approximately an hour.

### **Out and About**

**Retired Fire Alarm operator Frank Shay**, stopped in to visit Engine 5 on 13 Sep 2012. When he was working, Frank would commute by bicycle from his home on Amory Street to the old fire alarm office at 489 Broadway. At the age of 82, Frank has given up the bicycle. A veteran of the Korean War, he is still a faithful participant in all city veteran's activities.



Picture was taken by Tara Bithia

**L-R, Fire Lt. Miguel Torres (Engine Co. 5) and Frank Shay, Fire Alarm Operator – Retired**

**Visitors** – Another visitor to Engine 5 that day was **Jack Gelinas (Chief of Operations - Retired)** with grandson “Odie”. Perhaps another generation of Gelinas firefighters in the Cambridge Fire Department? Time will tell.



Photo courtesy of Acting Deputy Chief Sean White

From L to R: **Fire Lieutenant Miguel Torres, J. Gelinas, Odie, FF Andrew Carrigan, and FF John Hathaway**

**Lafayette Square addition** – **Captain Fred Ikels (Engine 2)** shared some photos of their updated station furniture. The kitchen table was refurbished by **Firefighter John Mulligan (Engine 2)**.





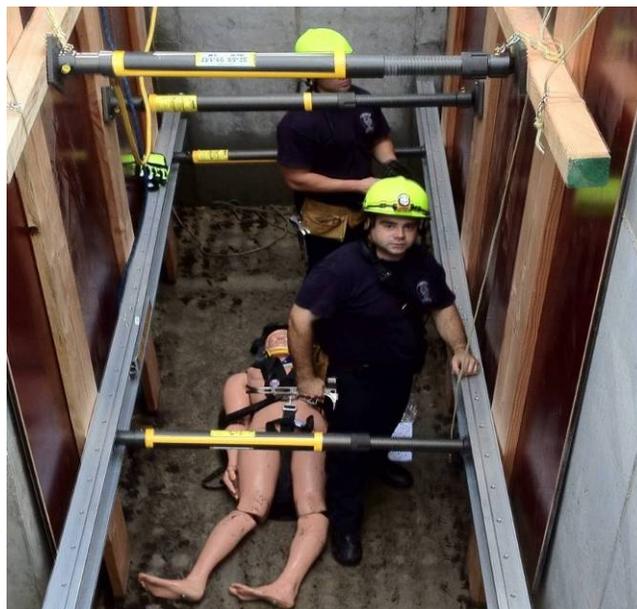
All photos provided by Captain Ikels.

Nice job to the crews of the Lafayette Square firehouse and FF Mulligan!

**Trench Training** – In early September, the Headquarters/Trench Rescue companies trained at Moon Island at the Boston Fire Academy with their trench training prop.



**.FF Daryn DeGrace (E-1), Capt White (R-1) & Lt. Lowe (E-1) at trench rescue training in Boston**



**Firefighter Jeff McGourty (rear) and Firefighter Michael Travers Jr., both of Rescue Co.1 prepare a mannequin for extrication from the trench prop.**

**Technical Rescue Training** – With all the construction in the city, companies have been training continuously to prepare for any possible emergencies that might arise at these sites. **Firefighter Nicole Signoretti (Rescue Co. 1, currently detailed to Training)** provided the following photos of a drill conducted by Group 4 at a Skanska construction site on October 26, 2012. The site was at the intersection of Osborn Street and State Street. Companies that trained included Rescue 1, Ladder 1, Engine 1 and Squad 2.

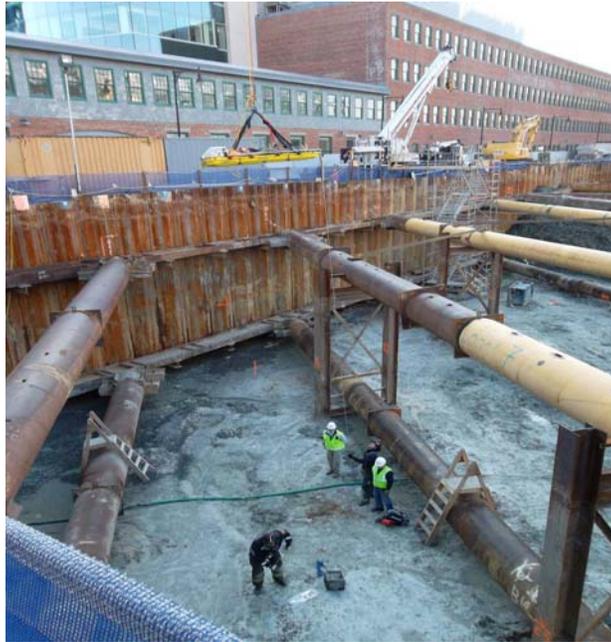


Photo by FF Nicole Signoretti (Rescue 1)

This photo shows the vastness of some of the “holes” that exist in the city.



Photo by FF Nicole Signoretti (Rescue 1)

Members of the Rescue prepare a “victim” for removal via stokes basket during the training evolution.

**Thank you!**

The Cambridge Fire Department would like to thank **Will Dering (Cambridge Fire Department Auxiliary)** and **10-75 Training LLC** for the outstanding forcible entry training conducted earlier this year. Each company and each group was rotated through Will's conventional forcible entry program using the Multi Force Forcible Entry Door. This is the same training prop officially used by the F.D.N.Y., D.C.F.D., U.S. Navy SEAL's and many others. This was some of the best forcible entry training we have seen in a long time and it was greatly appreciated by our members. We have certainly experienced a higher level of effectiveness in the field as a result.

The Cambridge Auxiliary is often a forgotten branch of the Cambridge Fire Department. In the next few issues, we will be introducing the members of the CAFD through member profiles.



Photo provided by Captain F. Ikels

**Firefighter Joe Fournier (Engine Co. 2) using CAFD Captain Deering's forcible entry prop. CAFD Captain Deering is on the right.**



**Cambridge Fire Department Hockey** – the remainder of the hockey schedule is as follows. Please support our members that represent us on the ice!

Jan 7th - The JHF @ Cambridge Fire - 1010pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

Jan 14th - Beer O'Clock @ Cambridge Fire - 1040pm Malden Forum

Jan 21st - Cambridge Fire @ Strewnshank - 900pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

Jan 28th - Cambridge Fire @ Shenanigans - 1040pm Malden Forum

Feb 4th - The JHF @ Cambridge Fire - 1010pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

Feb 18th - Medford Fire @ Cambridge Fire - 1010pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

Feb 25th - Beer O'Clock @ Cambridge Fire - 1010pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

March 4th - Kendall United @ Cambridge Fire 900pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

March 11th - Cambridge Fire @ Strewnshank - 930pm Kasabuski Rink Saugus

March 18th - Cambridge Fire @ Shenanigans - 910pm Hockeytown Saugus

March 25th - Shenanigans @ Cambridge Fire - 1010pm Veterans Memorial Rink Everett

### **Quotes of the Day**

One cannot think crooked and walk straight.

- Anonymous

Never discourage anyone...who continually makes progress, no matter how slow.

- Plato

### **Did you know?**

Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.

If you stretch a standard Slinky out flat it measures 87 feet long.

In comic strips, the person on the left always speaks first.

**From the Archives**



Photo courtesy of DFC Chapman

**William J. Cremins**, Chief of Department and **Ralph W. Chapman**, Deputy Fire Chief/Administrative Assistant to the Chief

The Administrative Assistant to the Chief position was implemented on 21 October 1973. At the same time, two other staff positions were established, **Ernest A. Gelinias**, Deputy Fire Chief/Property Officer and **Richard Cully**, Deputy Fire Chief/Water Supply and Public Relations. In the command structure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Class 1 Cambridge Fire Department, the Administrative Assistant to the Chief position has evolved into the position of Assistant Chief/Chief of Operations (C2). The Deputy Fire Chief/ Property Officer position has evolved into the Assistant Chief/Research and Technical Services (C3). A United States Army veteran of World War II, Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Chapman was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 1 August 1950 and retired on 27 February 1988.



**DFC Chapman and Tactical Aide FF Donald Warren**



**DFC Chapman and Firefighter Daniel Maloney, Ladder 3 (now Division 1)**



Other members seen in the photo include Ralph Chapman, Ed Fowler, Kevin Coleman, John Watson, Ted Bibeau, Bill Murray, Ed MacAskill, Fred Sage, Ed Morrissey Sr., Nick Iannaci, Fred Bokuniewicz, Barry Lynde, Lenny Delaney, Jack Crusco, John Ruffing, Larry Sheehan, Tom Connarton, and Don Warren. All are retired or deceased members. If anyone can identify other members in the photos, please send the information to the editor of ***The Company Journal***.

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey



Scene of Cambridge 3-Alarm Factory Fire—General view of fire that raced through a series of wooden buildings on Broadway, Cambridge, near Kendall square, causing damage that may reach \$100,000.

*(Published Dec. 28, 1948, Boston Traveler)*

# Sizzling Warehouse



(Traveler Staff Photo by Anthony Cabral)

**TWO-ALARM FIRE** at empty wooden warehouse at Cherry and School Sts., Cambridge, is battled by fire-

men. Flames were brought under control quickly but the damage was heavy. (See Story on Page 4)

**Signal 10-15**

**Special Signal 10-15** The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of

**Lt. Walter P. Long; Ladder Co. 4-Retired**

Lt. Long was appointed April 4, 1954 and retired on April 22, 1988

Funeral Services will be held in Arizona

Lt. Long was a veteran of The United States Coast Guard

He was 83 years of age.

**Special Signal 10-15** The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of

**Captain James V. Rafferty; Engine Co. 4-Retired**

Captain Rafferty was appointed January 2, 1955 and Retired February 29, 1984

He was a veteran of World War II; United States Coast Guard

He was the oldest living retiree of the department at 93 years of age.

**Condolences to:**

**Firefighter Kenneth Correia (Ladder Co. No. 2)** on the passing of his Father-In-Law,  
Edmund J. Gurskis on 16 September

**Firefighter Peter Mickiewicz (Ladder Co. 1)** on the passing of his Father-In-Law,  
Robert LeBlanc

**Lt. David Pierce (FIU) & FF Kenneth Souza (Rescue Co. 1)** on the passing of their  
Mother-in-Law, Mrs. Hannah Huliston

**Firefighter Hugh F. Devlin (Squad Co. 4)** on the passing of his mother,  
Mrs. Bridget S. Devlin

The family of **Donald W. Johnson**, Commander, United States Coast Guard Reserve  
(Ret.)

Cmdr. Donald Wright Johnson, USCG Reserve (Retd.), 87, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2012. His beloved wife of 44 years, Elizabeth M. "Bettye" (Tiernan) Johnson was at his side. Born in Cochranton on January 31, 1925, he was the son of the late Carl and Florence (Wright) Johnson. A resident of Bourne for 28 years, he wintered in Ellenton, FL for many years. He was educated in Natick and Cambridge and attended Boston University.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the United States Army, Army Air Corps, in the North African campaign, and later as a reservist with the U.S. Air Force. He transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as a lieutenant, later retiring as a Commander.

**Cmdr. Johnson started his career in fire prevention as a firefighter with the Cambridge Fire Department, leaving as a lieutenant.** As a resident of East Swanzey, NH, he served as the town's fire chief. He advanced his career as a fire protection engineer at Factory Insurance Associates and retired from Industrial Risk Insurers as a district supervising engineer.

Mr. Johnson was a member of the American Legion- Bourne chapter, past president of Reserve Officers 007 of Cape Cod, lifetime member of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and volunteer at Falmouth Hospital. He was a dog fancier and a member of the Companion Animal Program on Cape Cod and the MSPCA. A lover of the sea, he was past flotilla commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Braintree Yacht Club.

He was predeceased by his brother, Arthur Johnson, and sisters Ruth Blanchet and Marjorie Mutter.

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## **Public Relations**

*The following story was printed in the Improper Bostonian in November 2012. Great job by the members of the Lafayette Square firehouse for keeping the “public” in public relations and of course many thanks to the people who remember “us” when we could really use it!*

### **Many Thanks - For celebrity chef Tony Maws, holiday cheer means more than a fancy bird.**

By Jonathan Soroff

We all admire people who volunteer at soup kitchens and homeless shelters on Thanksgiving, the selfless souls who give back to their fellow man on a holiday that, after all, is about expressing gratitude. But most of us, of course, aren't like that. We want to be surrounded by family and friends, sitting in front of a spread befitting Augustus Gloop, watching a roaring fire and a TV big enough to show the hair follicles on the quarterback's throwing arm.

That's one of the qualities that makes Tony Maws, chef/owner of Craigie on Main, so unusual. True, he's a James Beard Award-winning chef. And, true, his restaurant is beautifully equipped for cooking for a large gathering. But not every chef thinks to serve, not only friends and family, but a crowd of large hungry men who're stuck at work on the holiday—men who fill the popular role of heroes.

For the past four years, Maws, his family, friends and staff have delivered a full Thanksgiving dinner, with all the trimmings, to the members of Engine Company Two at the Lafayette Square Fire House. “I don't know if we're a big small city or a small big town, but there's a sense of community in Cambridge,” says Maws. It's that sense of connectedness that gave root to this holiday tradition. Maws, a Newton native, trained as a chef under Chris Schlesinger at the East Coast Grill. In 2002, he opened his first restaurant, Craigie Street Bistro, just outside of Harvard Square. Housed in a cozy subterranean room in an upscale part of 02138, the place was instantly mobbed, despite the tucked-away location and paucity of public parking. By 2005, Maws had been anointed “One of America's 10 Best New Chefs” by Food and Wine magazine. By 2008 (when the same magazine elevated him to its “New Chefs Hall of Fame”), he'd outgrown the location. He found a larger space on Main Street in Central Square, a few hundred yards from the 1894 fire station on Mass. Ave.



Photo Credits: Heath Robbins; Katie Noble

“We’re traditionally closed on Thanksgiving,” says Maws, “and I host my own celebration in the restaurant because it’s bigger than my house. So I’m looking across the street, almost directly at the fire station.... They work their asses off, and they’re sitting in the firehouse on a day when most people are relaxing at home. I figured they could probably use a good, home cooked meal.”

So he called across the street and offered to bring them Thanksgiving dinner. He’s been doing it ever since.

“We walk it over to them, deliver it, and then go back to the restaurant. Some of the guys in the kitchen kick in. My wife takes a bunch of stuff over. They’ve got the football game on; we’ve got the football game on. I’m not looking for anything out of it. The high-five’s and the expressions on their faces are all we need.

Captain Frederick Ikels of the Cambridge Fire Department recalls the first time he got the call, asking if they could accept Maws’ generosity.

“I was a little taken aback by what a nice gesture it was. We accepted, because the guys on duty are away from their families, and it’s a fairly busy house. The guys were extremely happy. Craigie on Main is one of the best restaurants in the area, and for them to deliver a meal to our guys is awesome.”

Not that the arrangement isn't mutually beneficial.

"We've set off our alarms," Maws admits sheepishly. "It's a big open kitchen, so one too many steaks can set the smoke detectors off, and they've been over to make sure everything's OK." (Probably not a bad situation for a restaurant with a name that combines two streets that neither inter-sect nor, in fact, are anywhere near each other.)

Ikels echoes Maws' sentiments, saying, "Working in that neighborhood, we really get to know the business owners, but it's especially great to build that kind of relationship with them."



Photo Credits: Heath Robbins; Katie Noble

"It's nice to know they know we're here," jokes Maws, whose regard for firemen is genuine. "I understand their devotion. My cousin is a fireman in Brookline, and my friend is one in Somerville. My cousin always asks why I don't bring food to him."

As for the menu, Maws keeps it simple: turkey (which he brines), stuffing (which he never makes the same way twice), mashed potatoes (with more butter than most cardiologists would recommend), gravy, cranberry sauce, a roasted seasonal vegetable and "lots of pies."

"We'd bring 'em beer and wine, too," Maws adds, "but they can't drink on the job."

“I wish we could do something of equal value for them,” counters Ikels, although he points out: “People come by the fire house asking for restaurant recommendations all the time, and I can assure you, Craigie on Main is at the top of our list.”

When you sit down at the table this holiday, then, offer your own toast in appreciation of well-fed firefighters. Because, when the turkey’s carved and the wine’s been drained, there’s always a chance you forgot to turn off the oven.

### **Congratulations**

The **Firehouse Magazine** 2011 Annual Run Survey has been released and Cambridge fire units had very respectable showings.

#### **Lafayette Square Fire House**

A “tip of the helmet” to the members of the **Lafayette Square Fire House**, Engine 2, Truck 3, and Squad 2. The Lafayette Square station is the busiest fire station in **Boston Metro Fire** with 8485 runs.

The Huntington Avenue Fire House in Boston was listed as second busiest in the survey with 7126 runs.

For those who don’t remember, Metro Fire is made up of 36 professional fire departments including Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Braintree, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Chelsea, Dedham, Everett, Lexington, Lincoln, Lynn, Malden, Logan-Massport, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Needham, Newton, Quincy, Randolph, Reading, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston, Weymouth, Winchester, Winthrop, and Woburn.

Note: Although not listed in the survey, the Cambridge Headquarters Fire station would be second busiest with 7147 runs. Note also that the Headquarters fire companies are also the technical rescue companies. The technical rescue skills training (collapse, trench, confined space, high angle, hazmat, paramedic, etc.) causes these companies to be out of service for extended periods in all four groups for training.

#### **Division 1**

A “tip of the command vest” to the members of **Division 1**, based at the Inman Square Fire House. Cambridge Division 1 is the busiest suppression chief in **Massachusetts**. Division 1 responded to 1688 emergency incidents in 2011.

Fall River C2 was the second busiest chief in Massachusetts.

#### **Rescue 1**

A “twist of the carabiner” to the members of **Rescue Company No. 1**, based at Fire Headquarters. Rescue 1 is the busiest heavy rescue company in **New England**. Rescue 1 responded to 2436 emergency runs in 2011.

Manchester, NH Rescue 1 was the second busiest heavy rescue in New England.

*-Thanks to DFC J. Gelinas- Retired for the information*

**Stats and Fires**

FY 2012/2013 RUN TOTALS								
	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	SBTTL	TOTAL
Engine 1	185	176	229	245			835	835
Engine 2	273	259	249	274			1055	1055
Engine 3	134	120	117	148			519	519
Engine 4	102	124	128	133			487	487
Engine 5	165	131	168	158			622	622
Engine 6	107	120	122	110			459	459
Engine 8	98	99	112	115			424	424
Engine 9	70	83	78	104			335	335
Truck 1	133	159	200	202			694	694
Truck 2	84	74	82	109			349	349
Truck 3	162	196	184	169			711	711
Truck 4	118	130	143	156			547	547
Rescue 1	182	183	204	215			784	784
Squad 2	270	252	239	273			1034	1034
Squad 4	141	130	163	161			595	595
Division 1	133	124	133	144			534	534
Division 2	102	108	119	139			468	468
HazMat 1	4	0	3	0			7	7
Spec & HQ Units	19	24	9	21			73	73
Mutual Aid Units	21	19	7	7			54	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2503</b>	<b>2511</b>	<b>2689</b>	<b>2883</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10586</b>	<b>10586</b>



## **Appointments**

### **General Order No. 24 Series of 2012**

**Effective Sunday, September 16, 2012 at 0700 hours**, the following are appointed Firefighters-on-Probation for the Cambridge Fire Department:

**Jonathan M. Blinn  
Paul M. Burke Jr.  
Gregory W. Kirylo**

They will report to the Training Division in East Cambridge at 0800 hours on Monday, September 17, 2012.

## **Transfers**

### **General Order No. 25, Series of 2012**

**Effective Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 0600 hours:**

Deputy Fire Chief Stephen G. Leonard from EPAC to Division 2  
Deputy Fire Chief Brian J. Gover from Division 2 to EPAC

### **General Order No. 26, Series of 2012**

**Effective Sunday, September 23, 2012 at 0700 hours:**

Firefighter Jeffery P. Turner from Ladder Co. No. 1 to Ladder Co. No. 4  
Firefighter Philip J. Chandler from Ladder Co. No. 4 to Ladder Co. No. 1

## **Retirements**

### **General Order No. 27 Series of 2012**

**Effective September 27, 2012 at 1900 hours**, Lieutenant Matthew F. Brannelly retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Lieutenant Matthew Brannelly was appointed on June 27, 1993.

<b>September 12, 1993</b>	<b>Ladder Company No. 3</b>
<b>September 15, 1996</b>	<b>Rescue Company</b>
<b>October 30, 2005</b>	<b>Promoted to Fire Lieutenant, Detailed Pivot</b>
<b>November 6, 2005</b>	<b>Squad No. 4</b>
<b>January 14, 2007</b>	<b>Rescue Company</b>
<b>April 29, 2012</b>	<b>Headquarters</b>

Lieutenant Brannelly has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Lieutenant Brannelly much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Letters

**The following letter was received on August 27, 2012:**

# Caru Associates

Commercial Properties



Carl F. Barron  
Ruth L. Barron

August 27, 2012

Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council  
City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**RE: COURAGE OF OUR POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN**

I was thrilled to read about the personal courage of 6 members of the Cambridge Police Department, plus members of the Cambridge Fire Department (some of whom were briefly hospitalized) in a recent fire at a residential building. All the men involved were aware of the fact that they confronted personal risk to their own physical safety and even their lives, but, nevertheless, they rescued 3 people who otherwise might not have survived.

As a civilian of 73 years in business in Cambridge, I have developed a tremendous respect for all of the members of these 2 City departments and feel that they deserve an outstanding commendation and recognition by your august body.

I have held a great deal of high regard for members of those 2 departments for many years because of the personal danger and risk to their own safety and lives. The above episode exemplifies this, and I trust that they will be recognized, as is their proper due.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl F. Barron', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Carl F. Barron

CFB:ems

Cc: Commissioner Robert Haas  
Fire Chief Gerald Reardon ✓  
City Manager Robert Healy  
Scott Wachtler, Editor, Cambridge Chronicle  
Governor Deval Patrick

620 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139  
Phone (617) 234-0301, FAX (617) 547-6636, carlbarron@aol.com

**The following letter and commendation from the City Council was received on September 13, 2012:**



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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September 13, 2012

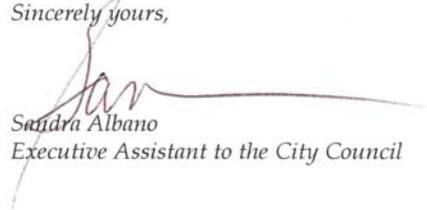
Chief Gerald Reardon  
Cambridge Fire Headquarters  
491 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Gerry:

Councillor Toomey has requested that I forward the enclosed resolution to you, which was adopted at the meeting of September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, extending the City Council's thanks to the Cambridge Fire Department for its quick response and service to the victims of the early morning fire on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and wishing a speedy recovery to the Fire Fighters injured in the fire.

Please accept my own personal appreciation, as well.

Sincerely yours,

  
Sandra Albano  
Executive Assistant to the City Council

Enclosure



# City of Cambridge

R-104.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
September 10, 2012

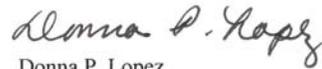
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY  
COUNCILLOR MAHER  
COUNCILLOR DECKER  
COUNCILLOR CHEUNG  
MAYOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR KELLEY  
COUNCILLOR REEVES  
VICE MAYOR SIMMONS  
COUNCILLOR VANBEUZEKOM

- WHEREAS: On August 23, 2012 an early morning fire ripped through a Cambridge triple-decker on Columbia streets; and
- WHEREAS: Thanks to the fast response of Cambridge Emergency Communications and the Cambridge Fire Department the fire was contained and all residents made it to safety; and
- WHEREAS: The fire impacted 12 people but thanks to the Red Cross all residents were given proper care during the tragedy; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record thanking the Cambridge Fire Department, Cambridge Emergency Communications, and the Red Cross for their quick response and service to the victims of the fire and wish a speedy recovery to the Fire Fighters that were injured in the fire; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Fire Department, Cambridge Emergency Communication, and the Red Cross on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 10, 2012.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- Donna P. Lopez, Interim City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

  
Donna P. Lopez  
Interim City Clerk



The following letter was received by the American Red Cross on September 17, 2012:



**American  
Red Cross**

Eastern Massachusetts Region  
Headquarters  
139 Main Street  
Cambridge, MA 02142-1530  
Tel (617) 274-5200  
Fax (617) 274-5250  
EasternMassRedCross.org

September 17, 2012

Chief Gerald Reardon  
Cambridge Fire Department  
491 Broadway St  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Re: August Incident(s)  
95 Columbia Street, Fire, 8/23/2012

Dear Chief Reardon:

On behalf of the American Red Cross of Eastern Massachusetts, I want to thank you for notifying us of the previous months' incident(s). Thanks to your timely notifications, during the month we were able to efficiently provide:

Financial assistance to 12 individuals  
Emergency lodging to 8 individuals

Disaster relief services provided by the American Red Cross can include temporary lodging, emergency financial assistance for food and clothing including seasonal clothing, personal comfort items and hygiene kits, mental health support, and resource referrals to other relief agencies - all based upon the needs of the affected residents.

Feel free to contact Luis Matnog, Assistant Director of Disaster Services at (617) 274-5282 to discuss our response in more detail. Thank you for being a valuable partner in the fulfillment of the American Red Cross Mission to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leighton Jones".

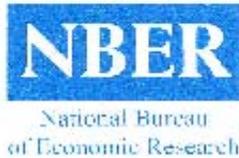
Leighton Jones  
Regional Director of Disaster Services

**Our Mission**

*The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.*



The following letter was received on November 2, 2012:



James M. Poterba  
President and CEO  
Poterba@nber.org

2 November 2012

Mr. Gerald Reardon, Chief Engineer  
City of Cambridge Fire Department  
491 Broadway  
Cambridge MA 02138

Dear Chief Reardon:

I am writing to thank the Cambridge Fire Department for its speedy and efficient response when an electrical fire broke out at 1050 Massachusetts Avenue last evening. A little after 8pm, our building's fire alarm sounded. Five units from the department responded: Engines 1 and 6, Ladders 1 and 3, and the Rescue Unit. I happened to be returning to my office after a dinner at just this time, and I had both the chilling experience of worrying that the building might be threatened, and the pleasant experience of watching your extraordinary fire-fighters in action. From the moment they arrived on the scene, your colleagues displayed remarkable discipline and professionalism, sending ladders to the roof, investigating the basement fire source, and connecting hoses to be ready for the worst. Fortunately, as a result of your department's rapid and effective deployment, the fire was contained in short order.

As the President of an organization that occupies three of the five floors in 1050 Massachusetts Avenue, I am writing on behalf of my entire staff to thank the wonderful members of your department for their superb response to this incident. We are all very grateful for the service of the Cambridge Fire Department. Thank you and all best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Poterba", is written over the typed name "James Poterba".

James Poterba

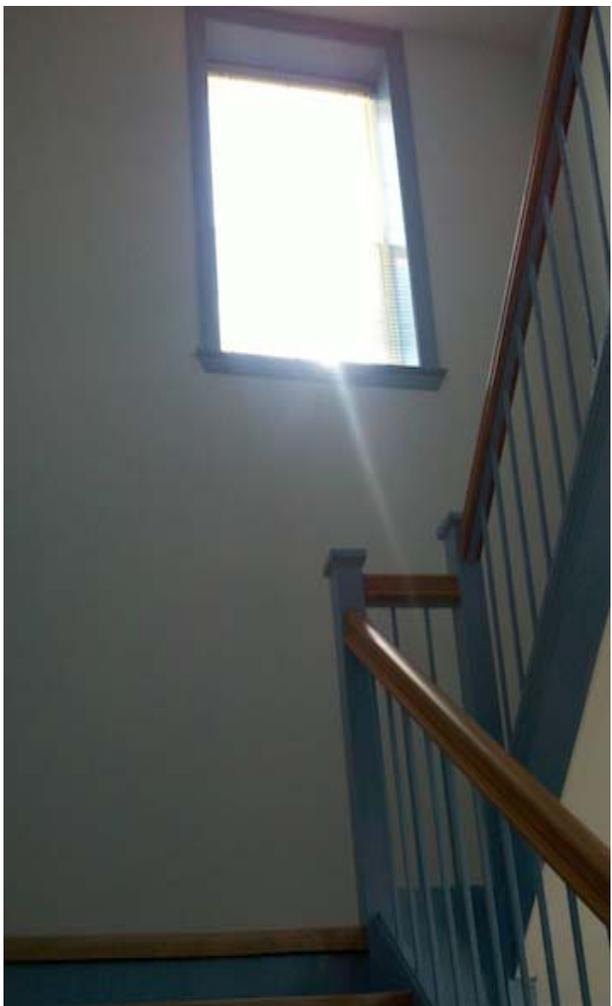
## **Safety**

*Note: The following was one of many training segments found at the website: [www.vententersearch.com](http://www.vententersearch.com). This one discusses how to read windows. Although every building is different, by looking at windows you can get a general idea of the layout inside. Nothing can prepare us any better than continued preplanning and building familiarization within our response districts.*

Sgt Ryan Blizek from Mechanicsville (MD) Station 2 sent in these pictures that are a good reminder of the importance of reading windows. Reading windows is an essential skill for everyone on the truck, particularly the outside team. Windows can tell us where we need to VES and where we don't. Windows can also show the inside team where the staircases are located in a multi story building. In this case however the off-set windows for the stair case are a little unusual. The first and second floors are what we'd expect to see when a building has a return style staircase. The mid-floor windows signify where the mid-landing or return of the staircase are located. This is important for everyone (truck, engine, etc.) operating in the building to know. The stairwells can always be used as an area of refuge, and most of the time, lead to an area of safe haven. However, what's going on the third floor?



In the photo below, you can see that the staircase (and return) are still present, but it leads to a pretty interesting drop. The drop from that third floor stairwell window down to the return is about ten feet. Not something you'd want to discover if that window was being used for entry (for what ever reason.) The moral of the story... know how to read windows, know what to expect, and sound the floor before entering any window.



Of Interest...

Engine Co. No. 4's old patch



Engine Co. No. 4's new patch



**The Porterhouse Steak** - Many firehouse chefs (and non-chefs) consider themselves connoisseurs of fine food. But how many of you know the story behind the Porterhouse Steak?

Porterhouse steak is the steak of choice for the steak enthusiast. Named after The Porter House Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where it was first served, it is a combination of the top loin and tip of the tenderloin, also known as filet mignon. The filet is deliciously tender and melts in your mouth when cooked medium rare. The top loin, which is also known as strip steak, is slightly firmer than the filet, however is still tender enough to cut with a butter knife.

Porter Square was named for the now-vanished Porter's Hotel, operated by Zachariah B. Porter, who also left his name to the hotel's specialty, the cut of steak known as porterhouse. The hotel was demolished in 1909. The square, formerly flanked by cattle yards that used the Porter rail head to transport their beef throughout the US, was an important center for commerce and light industry as early as the late 18th century. A tunnel for moving cattle to and from the railroad without interfering with street traffic, known as the Walden Street Cattle Pass, was built in 1857. The tunnel survives under the nearby Walden Street Bridge, and recently, in 2007-08, was preserved and restored.

**America's Heroes, Harry M. Archer Medal – FDNY**

**FIREFIGHTER PETER G. DEMONTREUX  
LADDER COMPANY 132**



*Appointed to the FDNY on January 27, 2002. Previously assigned to Engine 248. Brother, Lieutenant Louis Demontreux, is assigned to Engine 154. Recipient of the James Gordon Bennett Medal and the New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal, one Unit Citation, plus the Chief Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award from Fire Engineering Magazine, Daily News Hero of the Month and NY Rotary Club Service award. Holds a BS degree in Business Management from the College of Staten Island. Resides on Staten Island with his wife, Gina, and their children, Peter, Jr., Allison, Evelyn and Gwyneth.*

**August 30, 2010, 0427 hours, Box 22-0963, 175 Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn**

Generally, brownstones are considered to be well-constructed and capable of withstanding the ravages of fire. This is possible since they are made of brick and stone, giving them their strength, but brownstones also contain fire and heat as do non-fireproof buildings. These factors offer the occupants security, but also make it challenging for firefighters initiating searches and rescues.

As strong as the exterior of these buildings is, the interior is nearly all wood, with open stairs that allow fire to travel quickly. This is further complicated by the lack of fire escapes

(front and rear), since these are considered *private dwellings*. In reality, very few are private dwellings. The brownstone at 175 Putnam Avenue is a classic example--four stories, with

limited access to the upper floors and rear of the building.

When the phone alarm came in for this Box, it was followed with numerous reports of people trapped inside the building. Engine 235 arrived first and gave the 10-75. Ladder

132 arrived a minute later and members immediately covered their positions.

Ladder 132 is a unit that has responded to numerous brownstone fires and, normally, their skills and training would make this a routine job. However, this was not a routine job.

At the third-floor window was a trapped victim; 60-year old Henri Howell, who was in a very tenuous position with high heat and dense smoke pushing all around him. FF Peter

Demontreux, the outside vent Firefighter, climbed the aerial to the third floor and pulled Mr. Howell onto the aerial.

Once he had the victim safely on the aerial, Mr. Howell told his rescuer that his friend was still inside the burning apartment. Time was a critical factor; the inside team was still a floor below due to the amount of fire on the stairs and in the hall. FF Demontreux entered the third-floor window and began his search. Even with all the modern personal protective equipment (PPE), the heat and smoke drove FF Demontreux back to the window.

Meanwhile, FF Richard Myers, Rescue 2, had climbed the aerial and began venting the adjacent window to allow some of the blistering heat and dense smoke to escape. Without hesitation, FF Demontreux turned back into the apartment to continue his search. Crawling on his hands and knees, as quickly as possible, he was able to reach the rear room where he found the other victim, 51-year-old Clyde Mantany, who was at the window, trying to get some relief from the smoke and heat.

Knowing there was no fire escape and it would take time for a portable ladder to be brought to the rear or initiate a rope rescue from above, FF Demontreux determined the only way out was the window through which he came. Shielding Mr. Mantany as best he could, the Firefighter led him back through the searing heat to the front of the building. As they entered the front room, the heat ignited into flame and engulfed both men, setting their clothes on fire. FF Myers, still at the aerial, immediately transmitted a *mayday*.

FF Demontreux, now on fire, with survival instincts telling him to get out, decided not to leave Mr. Mantany behind. Through this fully involved room and at extreme personal risk, he pulled the burning victim toward the window.

FF Demontreux, while being burned from the flames all around him, exhibited courage and tenacity by assisting the victim out the window to FF Myers, who was on the aerial.

Once the victim cleared the window, FF Demontreux dove onto the aerial and both victim and rescuer were extinguished by members operating Engine 219's hand-line, which was positioned in front of the building.

Both victim and rescuer suffered extensive burns; Mr. Mantany received burns over 50 percent of his body, but is alive. Although it was destroyed, his protective gear saved FF Demontreux.

Words are inadequate to describe FF Peter G. Demontreux' heroic actions. He

put his life on the line for another human being. His courage and professionalism reinforce the traditions of the fire service and FDNY and always will be remembered by those who witnessed this act of bravery. For these reasons, he is honored with the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal.- *JTV (reprinted from the 2012 FDNY Medal Day Program)*

**From the Tailboard...**

The following photo was taken by Captain Mark Roche (Newton Fire Dept.) at a local donut chain restaurant in the metro Boston area. It just goes to show you what people think (or don't think) about how they are protected. The only way to combat this is proactive actions by your fire prevention division, preplanning, inspections and knowing your first due response district! Because if they will "hide" your master box, they will "hide" fire hydrants, fire department connections (FDC's) and anything else they can think of!



(Photo by Capt. Mark Roche, Newton Fire Dept)



Since this is the last newsletter before the end of the year, the staff of the Company Journal would like to wish each and everyone a Happy and Safe holiday season, no matter what holiday season you celebrate! And a healthy and prosperous New Year! See you in 2013!

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### **Information**

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal** to [hsmith@cambridgefire.org](mailto:hsmith@cambridgefire.org) or Hmaxims@aol.com

### **E-mail list**

If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the **Company Journal** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

### **Websites**

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at [www.Cambridgefire.org](http://www.Cambridgefire.org)

Check out Cambridge Firefighters Local 30's website at <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/>

Visit the Cambridge Retirement Board website at <http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>

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**REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED SERVICES  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.  
THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY, OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR FREEDOM.  
THANK OUR VETERANS!**

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**Brothers and Sisters,  
STAY BRAVE!  
STAY VIGILANT!  
STAY SAFE!**

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*-hts*