



The Company Journal
and "The Feederline"

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue # 62
Spring 2012

Congratulations

Chief of Operations John J. Gelinas worked his last day with the department on December 8, 2011 and his final retirement date was January 6, 2012. The Company Journal has had many dedicated people contribute to its pages over the years and who have kept it running since it started back in June 1994 (then known as “*The Feederline*”, a newsletter of the Cambridge Local 30 union and over the years has morphed into a department-wide newsletter.) Chief of Operations Gelinas had maintained and issued the newsletter with a passion for many years.



Photo by DFC G. Mahoney

Standing L-R, Saugus Fire Chief James Blanchard, DFC Gerard Mahoney, COO Gelinas, DFC Burns, DFC Rossi,

Kneeling – Mike Mahoney (Fire Prevention – Retired) and Capt. Steve Persson – Training/Retired.

A retirement party was held in DFC Gelin's honor on February 25, 2012 at the VFW post where many of his family, friends and co-workers gathered to congratulate DFC Gelin's. The party was quickly sold out – a testament to his dedication and passion for the fire service and the impact that he has had on many as both a member of the Cambridge Fire Department and a long time employee at the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

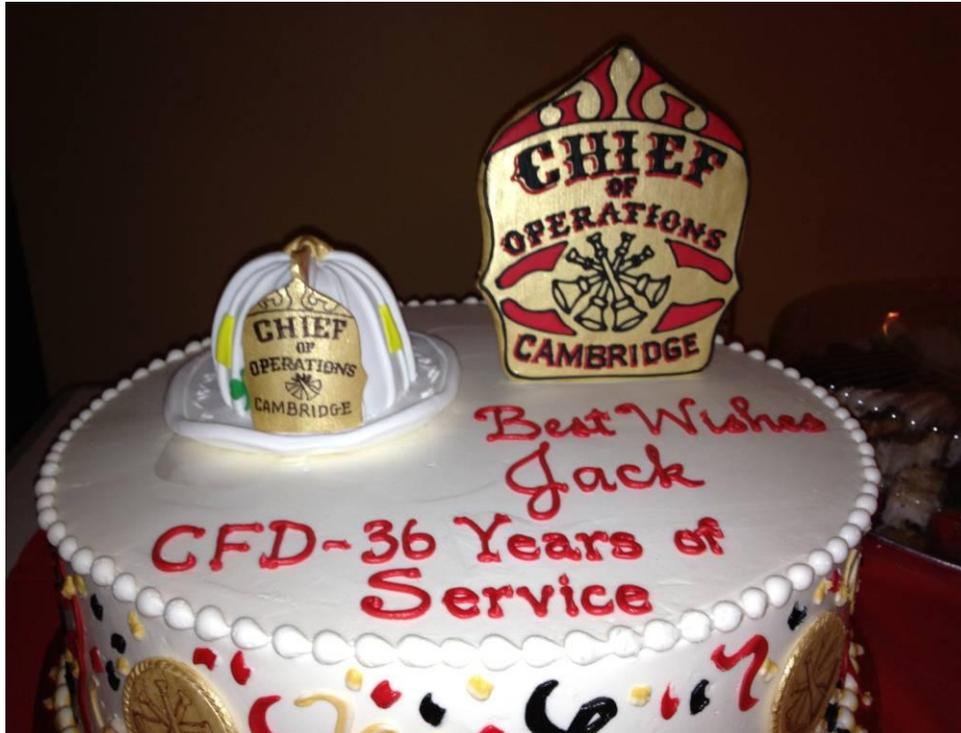


Photo by DFC Brian Gover

What's New

124th Firemen's Relief Association Ball – The 124th Annual Firemen's Relief Association Ball and Retirement Party was held on February 4, 2012 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

New firefighters – Interviews and background checks are underway for new firefighters. The department was looking to hire six new firefighters.



Job Well Done! - MDA Chairperson Lt. Brandon Hugh (Engine Co. No. 5) would like to congratulate and thank all of our members who volunteered their time during the "Fill the Boot" drives. He is very happy to announce that the department ranked in the **Top 5** for MDA Boston North, raising a grand total of \$12,458. This couldn't have been possible without all of you! As the spring season nears, Brandon hopes that you will all start thinking about volunteering your time as you all did last year!

New Vehicles – The department has taken ownership of several new vehicles, three 2011 Ford Expeditions and a 2011 Ford Econoline van that will be outfitted for Squad 4. Two of the Expeditions are lettered for Division 1 and Division 2, the other is for Chief Gerald Reardon (C-1). They will be placed into service when they are fully equipped with lights, radios and other safety equipment.

Guns N Hoses Hockey Tournament - stay tuned for further information on the upcoming "Guns & Hoses" MDA Charity Hockey Game between CAMBRIDGE FIRE VS. CAMBRIDGE POLICE on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 12 noon at the Simoni Ice Rink (Gore Street, Cambridge). There will be a \$5 General Admission fee plus a 50/50 chance during the game. We will also be raffling off a team autographed Bruins jersey, team autographed Bruins collectible stick, gift cards from local establishments, and more to come. All are welcome to join us after the game at our very own Joe Pinto's "Braza Bar & Grill" (158 School Street, Everett) for a buffet style lunch and announcement of raffle winners (*attendance not required to win*).

4th Annual Metro Fire Hockey Tournament - The Cambridge Fire Hockey team is also playing in the 4th Annual Metro Fire Hockey Tournament, April 6th-15th 2012. This is a great time and a fun opportunity for some good natured competition between departments. Go out and cheer on our fellow Cambridge players if you can! All games played at Stoneham Arena. Cambridge FD is playing in "Group C"

Friday April 6th

5PM Woburn vs Reading
6PM Winchester vs Burlington
7PM Melrose vs Malden
8PM Cambridge vs Watertown
9PM Belmont vs Wakefield

Saturday April 7th

4PM Somerville vs Brookline
5PM Boston vs Medford
6PM Everett/Revere vs Chelsea

Wednesday April 11th

5PM Woburn vs Burlington
6PM Winchester vs Reading
7PM Melrose vs Watertown
8PM Malden vs Cambridge
9PM Belmont vs Everett/Revere

Thursday April 12th

5PM Chelsea vs Wakefield
6PM Somerville vs Boston
7PM Brookline vs Medford
8PM Malden vs Watertown
9PM Cambridge vs Melrose

Friday April 13th

6PM Everett/Revere vs Wakefield
7PM Somerville vs Medford
8PM Brookline vs Boston
9PM Belmont vs Chelsea

Saturday April 14th

4PM Woburn vs Winchester
5PM Burlington vs Reading
6PM Quarter Final (Gm. 1) #3 vs #6
635PM Quarter Final (Gm. 2) #4vs #5
715PM Semi Final (Gm. 1) #1 vs Either #3 or #6
830PM Semi Final (Gm. 2) #2 vs Either #4 or #5

Saturday April 15th

3PM Group A Final
415PM Group B-D Final (Winner of Semi Final Games 1 & 2)

Quotes of the Day

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will.

-Vince Lombardi

Every human being is intended to have a character of his own; to be what no others are, and to do what no other can do.

-William Henry Channing

The less people speak of their greatness, the more we think of it.

-Lord Bacon

Our Veterans

Firefighter Jose Lora – We welcome back Firefighter Jose Lora from duty. In this photo by Captain Fred Ikels (Engine Co. 2), FF Lora is seen taking down his “Blue Star” that has been hanging at Lafayette Square since he deployed.



Photo by Captain Fred Ikels

Firefighter Chuck Donnelly - We were also glad to hear things are well from Firefighter Chuck Donnelly (Engine Co. No. 5) in a recent email to C.O.O. Gelinias

Hey Chief,

Everything is good over here. They are keeping us busy with missions. I just wanted to let you and all my Brothers and Sisters know I am doing well and soon I will have command of my own boat crew, a 3 man crew like our rigs, but different decisions to be made. I cannot really mention everything in one email for OPSEC reasons, but I'll send you updates as I can. Anyway, I attached a picture from the end of my last mission. Thanks for all the support

BM1 (SW) Chuck Donnelly A.K.A
FF Chuck Donnelly Jr



Photo provided

Congratulations

Congratulations to Firefighter Nicole Zedalis (Rescue Co. No. 1) and Fiancée John Signoretti on the birth of their baby Anna M. Signoretti on 15 December 2011. Anna was born at 5:36 am and weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces. Mom and baby were home in time to celebrate the holiday and are doing well!

Congratulations to Firefighter Kevin Thompson (Ladder Co. No. 3) and wife on the birth of their baby in mid-December!

Toys-For-Tots – The Cambridge Fire Department was the recipient of a Resolution from the Cambridge City Council on November 21, 2011:

Whereas: The Cambridge Fire Department is participating in the Toys For Tots program this year, as it has over the past several years; and

Whereas: The Toys For Tots program began in 1947 when a small group of Marine Reservists began collecting toys for needy children; and

Whereas: Since then, the Toys for Tots program has collected over four hundred million toys and put a smile on the faces of millions of children and joy in the hearts of struggling families during the holiday season; and

Whereas: The Cambridge Fire Department's participation in the Toys for Tots program is a logical extension of the department's mission which it executes every day with the utmost professionalism and dedication; and

Whereas: It is important for Cambridge residents to assist the Fire Department in this important undertaking by dropping off new unwrapped toys at any Fire Station in the city. Toys will be collected until Friday, December 2, 2011; now therefore be it

Resolved: That the City Council go on record expressing its gratitude to the Cambridge Fire Department for participating once again in the Toys for Tots program; and

Resolved: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Fire Department on behalf of the entire Council.

Fight for Air Climb – Four CFD members represented the department in the Fight for Air Stair Climb held by the American Lung Association at One Boston Place on February 4, 2012.

Firefighter Marc Tiede (Rescue 1, Group 3), Firefighter Jeff McGourty (Rescue 1, Group 4), Firefighter Matt Anello (Rescue 1, Group 3) and Firefighter John Magee (Engine 1, Group 3) participated in the event climbing the stairs in bunker gear and with SCBA packs.

All Companies Working

November 23, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 7, 1 Davenport Street, – a box alarm was transmitted for a dumpster fire next to a building. Lines were used from Engine 4 and Engine 1 on the fire. Ladder 4, Ladder 1, Squad 4, and Rescue 1 overhauled the contents.

November 29, 2011 – Longfellow Bridge, tractor trailer truck became wedged under the Longfellow bridge after failing to clear the height restrictions. The driver was transported to the hospital for minor injuries and the truck was removed from the area.

December 5, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Lynn, Western Ave. – Divers and support from Cambridge responded to a car into the Saugus River off the Western Ave. bridge on the Lynn/Saugus line. The occupant was already removed the vehicle, but the dive team members searched the vehicle for further occupants and assisted with removing the vehicle from the water.

December 14, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, Weeks Footbridge, Memorial Drive – Engine 1 and Ladder 1 were dispatched to the area of the Weeks Footbridge for an outside odor of smoke. On arrival, companies were directed to a tunnel under the bridge where workers had set a tarp on fire from hot work. Engine 1 stretched a line into the tunnel and extinguished the fire. The Rescue Company and both Division 1 & 2 responded due to the confined space.

December 18, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Cover Assignment, Somerville – Engine 4 covered Somerville headquarters and Ladder 1 covered Teele Square on Somerville's working fire at 108 West Quincy Street.

December 20, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 285, 314 Broadway – Companies were dispatched to a report of a fire on the outside of a building. On arrival, companies had found a neighbor extinguished a fire in a pile of wood that had extended to the outside of a building under renovation.

December 20, 2011 – Working Fire, Box 343, 565 Memorial Drive – Companies responded to a report of a fire on the roof. A firefighter on detail used a fire extinguisher as well as a standpipe hose to keep a fire in check until a response was sent. FF Donald Johnson (Engine Co. No. 8) received 2nd degree burns to the face while working the detail and attempting to extinguish the fire.

December 25, 2011 – Working Fire, Box 289, 166 Columbia Street – Companies arrived to find smoke showing from a dwelling in an early morning fire on Christmas day. Engine 2 reported a fire in a basement utility room. Lines were stretched into the basement, first floor and second floor. The Ladder companies performed ventilation while the Rescue Company and Squads performed searches. The fire did not extend above the basement and all occupants were evacuated safely.

December 27, 2011 – Pedestrian Accident, Vassar Street – A bicyclist was struck by a tractor trailer truck on the corner of Massachusetts Ave and Vassar Street. The patient was treated and transported to a Boston hospital where they were pronounced dead. The scene was turned over to the Cambridge Police Department.

December 30, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 46, 10 Centre Street – A roofing contractor accidentally ignited a bucket of roof tar on fire on the roof of a three story building undergoing rehab. The bucket was kicked off the roof into the backyard igniting a pile of debris and several small exposures. Engine 1 used a hose line to extinguish the fire.

January 2, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 864, 110 Larchwood Drive – A table lamp short circuited and resulted in a small fire on top of some furniture. One line was run and the fire was extinguished by the homeowner, with further overhaul and extinguishment by the Fire Department.

January 11, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 29, 361 Prospect Street – Companies responded to a fire in the ceiling. Companies found a fire in the ceiling on the 3rd floor of a 3 story building from an electrical fixture. Fire was extinguished using a hose line and extensive overhaul ensured there was not extension.

January 16, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Brookline 4th Alarm, Box 35, 1471 Beacon Street – Engine 2, Ladder 1, Squad 2, Division 2 responded to Brookline on their 3rd alarm fire. When the 4th alarm was struck, Engine 2 was dispatched from the cover assignment and directed to the scene. Ladder 1 was dispatched and ordered to throw 35' ladders to the Alpha side of the fire building. Engine 1 was special called with the Air Supply Unit to the scene.

January 19, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 1461, 40 Thorndike Street – Companies responded to a paid fire detail reporting the fire alarm sounding in the building with a report of smoke on the 18th floor. Companies investigated and found an inside trash fire that was extinguished.

January 30, 2012 – 2 Alarm Fire, Box 52, 8 Brewer Street – Companies were dispatched to report of building fire at 3-story, 6-family wood frame apartment building. First due companies encountered fire showing from the third floor on arrival. DFC Sheehan called for a working fire and established command. A second alarm was struck when the fire spread to the B side of the third floor. Three members of Ladder 4 were transported to the hospital after receiving an electrical shock while taking down a ground ladder and accidentally hitting the house service.

January 30, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 225, 347 Somerville Ave – Engine 9 and Ladder 1 covered Teele Square during this fire.

February 6, 2012 – Working Fire, Box 251, 1 Memorial Drive – Division 1 spotted black smoke and upon further investigation, requested a box for a fire on the roof. Companies found an HVAC unit on fire on the roof of a 17 story high rise building.



Photo by Mark Garfinkel, Boston Herald

February 6, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 2nd Alarm Fire, Box 324, 37 Jaques Street – Engine 5, Squad 2 and Division 1 responded to the scene on the 2nd Alarm and worked at the rear of the two buildings involved. Ladder 1 covered in Teele Square and Engine 4 covered Somerville Engine 7.

February 12, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 416, 22 Ellsworth Avenue – Companies responded to a fire in a 2 story home. An unattended candle in a bathroom started a fire that required an attack line to be stretched. Searches were completed along with ventilation from the ladder companies.

February 12, 2012 – Water Rescue, Charles River opposite 134 Memorial Drive – Companies assisted the Massachusetts State Police and the MIT Police with a suspected perpetrator of a B&E at the MIT campus. The suspect attempted to elude officers by jumping into the Charles River. The fire department boat was utilized.

February 12, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 4th Alarm, 160 Chestnut Hill Ave, Brighton – Engine 2 covered at Engine 33 during their 4th alarm fire.

February 16, 2012 - 1 Alarm Fire, Box 12, 225 Monsignor O'Brien Highway - Companies found a fire in machinery of a 4 story commercial building. A chute used to exhaust heat was filled with peanut shells that ignited at the Superior Nut Company.

February 17, 2012 - Mutual Aid, Working Fire, Box 74, 210 Clifton Street, Belmont - Engine 9 and Ladder 1 covered their Station 2 on Leonard Street during their fire.

February 18, 2012 - Mutual Aid, 3rd Alarm, Box 1631, 91-93 Orange Street, Waltham - Ladder 1 responded to cover Waltham Central Station on the second alarm. On the third alarm, Cambridge Squad 2, Ladder 1 and Division 2 were dispatched to the fire as the 2nd R.I.T Team. Cambridge Engine 9 responded to cover the Moody Street Station.

February 16, 2012 - 1 Alarm Fire, Box 95, 36-38 Lawn Street - February 16, 2012 - 1 Alarm Fire, Box 95, 36-38 Lawn Street - Companies found a mattress fire on the second floor of a 2-1/2 story residential building. Fire was caused by a curling iron left near a mattress.

February 20, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, 15 Lambert Street – Companies were dispatched to 15 Lambert Street for a dumpster fire next to the building. Division 1 used Engine 5 and Ladder 2 to overhaul and extinguish the fire in the dumpster. Being a high-rise, elderly housing complex – this incident had the potential to be worse.

February 21, 2012 – 1 Alarm fire, Box 347, 35 Brookline Street – A box was struck for smoke in the building. Initial investigations resulted in possible steam or burned food, but after a more thorough exam – it was discovered that a resident disposed of a cigarette down a light shaft and smoke was pushing up the light shaft. Lines were stretched and the fire was quickly doused.

February 21, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 435, 33 Putnam Ave – Companies were dispatched to a report of smoke in the apartment above a commercial occupancy. On location, found a smoke condition with a fire in the kitchen of the closed business. Companies stretched a line and extinguished the fire. (*This was the third “struck for” for a fire in about six hours for Group 1*)

Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 -The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter William A. Hunter** of Engine Company No. 7 - Retired. Firefighter Hunter was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 17 March 1968. His assignments were as follows:

17 March 1968	Engine Company No. 1
5 March 1972	Rescue Company No. 1
23 Dec 1986	Rescue Company No. 1/Fire Investigation Arson Unit
9 Aug 1987	Engine Company No. 1
13 May 1990	Engine Company No. 7
26 April 1992	Fire Headquarters

FF Hunter retired on 13 April 1993. He died on 17 Nov 2011. He was born on 10 June 1939.

Firefighter William A. Hunter was a veteran of the United States Army - Vietnam era.

Special Signal 10-15 - The Chief of Department regrets to announce the passing of **Deputy Fire Chief Edward J. Griffin – Retired. Deputy Chief Griffin** was appointed to the department on February 4, 1951 and retired on November 30, 1989. Deputy Chief Griffin passed away on February 20, 2012. He was also a World War II veteran serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Special Signal 10-15 – The Chief of Department regrets to announce the passing of **Firefighter Jay W. Milliken – Engine Co. 4 Retired.** Firefighter Milliken was the father of **Firefighter Steven M. Milliken (Ladder Co. 3)** Firefighter Milliken was appointed on August 5, 1962 and retired on December 23, 1992.

Transfers and Assignments

General Order # 28, Series of 2011 - Status of Firefighter

The following FFOP's have reaches the status of Firefighter effective as of November 28, 2011 at 0700 hours:

**John T. Bernard
Phillip J. Chandler
Michael L. Donnelly
Tyler D. English
Candice J. Murphy
Robert F. Sullivan
Kevin M. Thompson
Keith C. Thorne-Bingham
Martin J. Townsend**

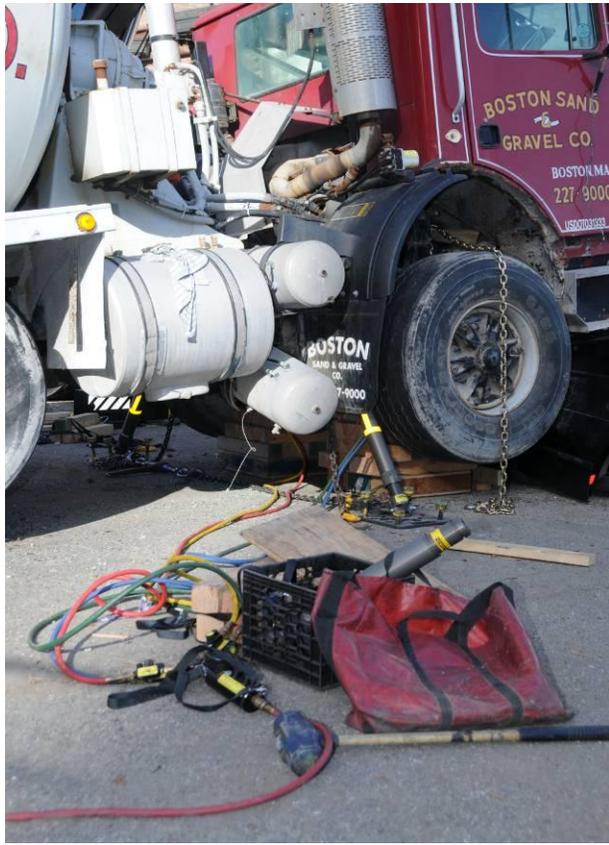
General Order # 4, Series of 2012 - Re: Termination

FF Kevin M. Pierre was terminated from the Cambridge Fire Department effective 1900 hours on January 26, 2012.

Out and About

USAR TRAINING - A multi-unit drill was held on November 29, 2011 in Somerville using some specialized extrication equipment. The drill simulated a cement truck versus car scenario and the equipment was used to lift the cement truck, before the car could be removed from underneath. Members from Cambridge, Somerville and Everett participated in the four day event which also included a "tool lab" to become familiar with some new types of tools available to rescuers today. (All photos courtesy of Jim Swanton, Somerville Fire Dept.)





Firefighters Cooking for a Cure – March 31, 2012, Danversport Yacht Club. Local firefighter/cooks/chefs prepare their special recipes that they serve to the guests. The cost per ticket is \$30.00/person and it is a buffet of all you can get to. There is a wide variety of foods. Included in the event are many raffles including restaurant gift cards to round trip tickets to Nantucket. All proceeds benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Fire Apparatus Parade and Muster – The Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association invites you to the 35th Anniversary Parade, Show and Flea market on Saturday, June 9, 2012

Massachusetts Antique Fire Apparatus Association, Inc.

A Chapter of SPAAMFAA[®]

Invites you to our

**35TH ANNIVERSARY
FIRE APPARATUS
PARADE, SHOW
& FIREMATIC FLEA MARKET**



IN MEMORY OF JOHN HARRISON

Saturday June 9th, 2012

10:00AM - 2:00PM

Flea Market Open 9:00AM – 2:00PM

**Show Site: Edgewater Office Park –
401 Edgewater Drive Wakefield, MA**

RTE 128 EXIT 42 SALEM ST TO AUDUBON RD

Parade starts at 10AM

from Lynnfield High School - Essex Street

In the interest of public safety and in accordance with the wishes of our hosts.

**NO DOGS, BIKES, ROLLERBLADES OR SKATEBOARDS
WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES**

For More Information Write

MAFAA, Inc. P. O. Box 3332 Peabody, MA 01961-3332

or Call Lynnfield Fire Department at 781-334-5152

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OWNERS/OPERATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTAINING, CLEANING UP & REMOVING
ANY FUEL/OIL LEAKS, SPILLS AND PRIMING FLUID DISCHARGES FROM THEIR APPARATUS

84HF3012

From the Archives

May 7, 1970 – 3rd Alarm fire – Lawrence Hall, Harvard University. During the fire, the front wall collapsed burying four members. Fire Chief William Cremins, Aide to the Chief Alexander Madden, Firefighter Timothy Foley and Firefighter John Toomey. All four members were rescued from the debris and transported to the hospital. The most severely injured was Firefighter Toomey with three fractured ribs and a broken leg. Deputy Chief Ralph Chapman ordered a second and third alarm.

Lawrence Hall was destroyed during the fire and never rebuilt. It was the original building where The Harvard Graduate School of Education had its beginnings in 1848.



FIREMAN FREED FROM FALLEN WRECKAGE DURING LAWRENCE HALL FIRE AT HARVARD.
(Dan Sheelán photo)

4 Firemen hurt near Harvard

★ HARVARD FIRE
Continued from Page 1

According to young people at the scene, the building was occupied by about 80 young men and women, many from out-of-state and others from local suburban communities. None were Harvard students.

At the height of the fire, there was a sudden roar and the front wall of the top floors crashed down, carrying with it chunks of concrete and large branches from an elm tree.

Cremins was standing beneath the front wall directing the firefighting with Madden. He was buried under the cascade of bricks, concrete and

tree branches. Foley and Toomey, working nearby, were also struck down.

Within 10 minutes, the firefighters were freed and removed to the hospital.

Some of the youths living in the building told State Fire Marshal Ralph Garrett that there had been a mattress fire on the third floor, that they were unable to douse the flames and that the fire spread to the walls and drapes.

Garrett, however, discounted the explanation. He said the fire had spread too rapidly. He said it appeared there had been an electrical malfunction.

A group of youths admitted that they had been

using several hotplates and electronic musical equipment and that there had been a number of "blown fuses."

Damage was estimated at \$75,000.

Marshal Garrett said he had assigned Lt. John M. Ambrogone to investigate.

The building was erected in 1848 to house the Lawrence Scientific School, founded a year earlier.

After the building was abandoned temporarily by Harvard, a "free university" was established there about three weeks ago.

A Cambridge city official said that a commune of about 20 "street people" occupied second floor rooms and that some of

the members attended impromptu classes.

In a statement issued today by Prof. Archibald Cox of the Harvard Law School, acting as a spokesman for the university, it was acknowledged that Harvard knew about the group.

"I have been aware of the unauthorized activities but had taken no action to remove any occupants by police force because of the danger of precipitating a violent reaction among student supporters of 'Free University activities.'"

Cox also stated that Harvard had not sanctioned any use of the building and that it was scheduled for demolition this Spring.

History and Tradition



Ed Fowler collection

L-R, "Lieutenant" J. Gelinas and FF Paul Monahan (Engine Co. 5 – Retired)



Ed Fowler collection

From L-R., FF, FF Kevin Coleman, CAPT J. Gelinas, FF Howie Conrad (now Aide to Division), FF Tom Levins (Retired) and FF Tom Carroll (Now Lieutenant on Ladder Co. 4).



Ed Fowler collection

Division 2 Aide, Ken Clark and Deputy Chief J. Gelinas

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

March 10, 1941, marks the 71st anniversary of a date in which Brockton firemen were battling a fierce blaze at the Strand Theater in Brockton, Massachusetts when the theater's snow-laden roof collapsed. Thirteen firemen were killed and twenty were injured. Hundreds of Sunday night movie-goers had left the theater a few hours before the fire started. The building was completely destroyed.

When opened, the Strand Theatre was considered a leader in modern fire safety. The stage area included a dry pipe sprinkler system termed "fireproof" and the surface exits were 20% more than state law requirements.

Located on an irregular lot, the Theatre measured 139 feet deep and 60 feet tall. The walls were made of brick and the roof was made up of wood boards on joists supported by unprotected steel trusses. The interior walls were metal lath and plaster as was the ceiling, which was suspended from the trusses. The balcony covered a large area above the auditorium and housed a manager's office, usher's room and rest rooms. The area under the auditorium was dead space with the exception of the west end of the basement where finished rooms contained the furnace, ventilation equipment and a janitor's room. The lobby was an open area with two open stairwells on each end providing access to the balcony. A long corridor connected the Theatre lobby to School Street.

In August, 1937, the Strand Theatre underwent extensive remodeling and improvements under new management. The building remained intact under the new management until the fire occurred in 1941.

March 10, 1941: The Strand Theatre Fire

In the heart of Brockton's business district, people usually flocked to the downtown area to shop or take in a show in what was a busy part of the city. Sunday, March 9, 1941, like all other Sundays, drew large crowds looking for the entertainment of a movie or vaudeville show. That evening the Strand showed the double feature, "Hoosier School Boy" starring Mickey Rooney, followed by "Secret Evidence," a crime drama.

Long after the curtain had closed and the crowds had filtered out, a custodian discovered a fire burning in the Theatre basement and instructed his helper to activate the fire alarm box located at Main and High Street. At 12:38 a.m., the fire department received Box 1311 and sent the first alarm apparatus to the scene. A second alarm followed shortly after the first, and finally a general alarm was sounded bringing all of Brockton's apparatus to the Strand Theatre.

When firefighters first arrived on the scene, the fire did not seem very serious. However, as time progressed, the fire gained headway. This became more apparent to those on the outside of the theatre than crews working inside.

Crews knocked down the fire in the basement with cellar pipes while flames raced through the vertical voids in the walls and ventilation ducts. Firefighters worked feverishly to extinguish hidden fire while crews opened walls and ceilings in the lobby and under the balcony. A number of men moved up to the balcony to attack the fire which had made its way to the auditorium ceiling just below the roof.

The first signs of visible outside fire erupted from the southwest corner of the building as outside crews played a large hose-line on the exposed flames. Firefighters on the balcony continued their efforts to expose the fire within the ceiling as hose streams were directed overhead from the auditorium floor.

Less than one hour later, the Strand Theatre Fire turned from a routine fire into one of the worst tragedies in Brockton and Massachusetts history when the west section of the roof collapsed, killing 13 firefighters and injuring 20 firefighters.



12 PERISH IN FIRE

Brockton **Enterprise.** LATEST
AND BROCKTON TIMES

HEROIC FIREMEN AMONG THOSE WHO DIED IN LINE OF DUTY AT BIG FIRE



One Man Dying and More Than Score Hurt When Trapped by Fellinging Roof in Belcony of Strand Theatre, School Street, Swept by Morning Fire—Squad A Nearly Wiped Out—Two Officers Among List of Victims.

Trapped by the sudden collapse of the Strand Theatre roof an hour after a second alarm had been sounded and apparently when the fire was well under control, early today, 12 local firemen, including a captain and lieutenant, were killed, and at least 30 other firemen were injured.

Scarcely was an alarm sounded as the Strand Theatre roof fell and men broke down and wept, became hysterical and had to be carried from the scene. Brave firemen, knowing their mates were trapped, were ordered away from the rubble because other walls were due to collapse. But they refused to keep away and they fought their way, only to be greeted by stark tragedy—before firemen helplessly pined, beyond aid. (Continued on Page Eight.)



These Dead Firemen Taken From This Spot

KNOWN DEAD
Capt. John F. Carroll, Lyman Street; Ladder 3.
Lieut. Raymond A. Mitchell, 7 Martin Street; Eng. 6.
William J. Murphy, 3 Kingston Avenue; Squad A.
Daniel C. O'Brien, 25 Division Street; Squad A.
Bartholomew E. Herlihy, 31 Ford Street; Ladder 1.
A. Matthew McGeary, 25 Mulberry Street; Ladder 1.
Henry E. Sullivan, 7 Mulberry Street; Engine 1.
George A. Collins, 19 Wilmington Street; Engine 1.
Frank P. Murphy, 221 Warren Avenue; Squad A.
Roy A. McKeraghan, 25 Green Place; Squad A.
Martin Lipper, 27 Forest Avenue; Engine 1.
Frederick F. Kelley, 27 Exchange Street; Engine 1.

Enterprise Man Aids in Rescue
Water Reporter on Duty at Police Station When Alarm Sounded—Tells of Rescue Efforts Colleague—Lives, Rescues People With Him, Trying to Release Him to Save Others.

Other items on Page 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Advertisements including:

- STENOGRAFIA** - 21
- 29¢** - Large advertisement for a product or service.
- HOME NATIONAL BANK OF BROCKTON** - 25 NORTH STREET

Uninjured firefighters worked tirelessly to save their fellow brothers despite the danger and fear of another collapse. Eventually, fire departments from neighboring towns relieved Brockton firefighters.

No definite cause for the fire was ever discovered. Initial reports of arson proved to be inconclusive. Further investigation revealed that the unprotected steel roof trusses played a major role in the collapse, more so than the relatively light snow load. The heat of the fire within the concealed space between the roof and the auditorium ceiling was believed to have distorted the steel trusses, causing them to buckle and separate with ease. Experts questioned the effectiveness of the construction and design used in the roof assembly. Some reports state that the weight of a previous snowfall may have added to the collapse. However, witness accounts and photographs indicate a minimal amount of snow. Killed in the fire was:

- * Captain John F. Carroll—Ladder Company 3
- * Lieutenant Raymond A. Mitchell—Engine Company 4
 - * Firefighter Roy A. McKeraghan—Squad A
 - * Firefighter Denis P. Murphy—Squad A
 - * Firefighter William J. Murphy—Squad A
 - * Firefighter Daniel C. O'Brien—Squad A
- * Firefighter George A. Collins—Engine Company 1
- * Firefighter Frederick F. Kelley—Engine Company 1
- * Firefighter Martin E. Lipper—Engine Company 1
- * Firefighter Henry E. Sullivan—Engine Company 1
- * Firefighter Bartholomew Herlihy—Ladder Company 1
- * Firefighter Matthew E. McGeary—Ladder Company 3
- * Firefighter John M. McNeill—Ladder Company 1



Information was used from www.commandsafety.com

Fireground Safety

The following is from **Firefighterclosecalls.com** and indicates yet another great use for a Thermal Imaging Camera – IF you remember to bring it!

August 15, 2011 Mike Gurr from Pompano Beach (FL) sent in these pictures that were passed on from the off-going crew. The photos were taken by M. Callahan on a typical power line down call. On arrival, the crew encountered a downed power line onto a chain link fence. The crew decided to use the TIC to determine what was going on with the fence. As you can see from below, the fence was approximately 300 degrees, and clearly shows up on the TIC. Even more interesting, the power line was actually found to be touching the fence approximately 200 yards away from where the picture was taken.

The TIC can be used in much more than fire situations and power line down calls are no exception. These situations can prove to be an excellent training opportunity for everyone on the crew. The interesting thing about this particular training opportunity is that an actual heat source is present.

Many times, firehouse TIC training does not involve any heat sources and simply involves finding another member in a darkened room. This is in fact training, but it may be teaching the TIC operator bad habits. In the darkened firehouse room (without fire-ground heat sources) the person shows up as the heat signature in the room, exactly the opposite of what it would appear in real fire-ground situations.

Everyone who has ever trained with a TIC should already know that, but unfortunately, that sometimes isn't passed on during training.

TIC's are an amazing tool, but it's important to remember, just that... It is only a tool.

It takes a skilled operator to use it effectively, and like most other tools, can actually be dangerous in the hands of an untrained operator. It is absolutely essential that we all know how to use a TIC, but it is even more essential that we never totally rely on a TIC.



Condolences to:

Fire Lieutenant Matthew Wood (Training Division) on the passing of his Father,
Richard W. Wood in November 2011

Deputy Chief Francis (Frank) Murphy III (Division 2) on the passing of his Father-in-Law,
Mr. Irwin Mittelman in December 2011

Firefighter Robert A. Walsh (Engine Co. No. 5) on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Marie V. Walsh in December 2011

Fire Lieutenant Jeffrey Ashe; Engine Co. 8-Retired on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Eleanor H. Ashe in January 2012

Firefighter Jeffrey C. Keefe; Ladder Co. 1 on the passing of his grandmother,
Elizabeth M. Keefe in January 2012

Firefighter George Cotter; Engine Co. 6 on the passing of his step-father
Charles Owen Anderson

Firefighter Francis Judd; Technical Services Division on the passing of his mother
Mrs. Margaret Judd in February 2012

Firefighter Peter Benevides (Engine Co. 1) on the passing of his father
Jorge Benevides in February 2012

Lieutenant Michael Francis (Engine Co. 1) on the passing of his mother
Kathryn A. Francis

Firefighter Steven M. Milliken on the passing of his father
Jay W. Milliken (Engine Co. 4 Retired)

Promotions

General Order No. 2, Series of 2012

Effective Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 0700 hours:

Deputy Fire Chief James F. Burns, Technical Services Division to Assistant Chief Designated as C-2. Responsible for administrative issues including but not limited to:

Oversight of:

Technical Services Division
Fire Prevention Division
Training Division
Fire Investigation Unit
Administrative Services

Deputy Fire Chief Gerard E. Mahoney, Emergency Planning and Coordination to Assistant Chief Designated as C-3. Responsible for administrative issues including but not limited to:

Oversight of:

Firefighting Division 1 and 2
EPAC Office
Personnel Matters
Emergency Management
Media relations/Public Information

Deputy Fire Chief Stephen G. Leonard, Division 2, Group 3 to Emergency Planning and Coordination Designated as K-2

Fire Captain Brian J. Gover, Engine Company No. 1 to Acting Deputy Fire Chief, Division 2, Group 3

General Order No. 6, Series of 2012

Effective Sunday, February 28, 2012 at 0700 hours:

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Brian J. Gover promoted to **Deputy Fire Chief, Division 2**

Retirements

General Order #27, Series of 2011

Retirement of Firefighter Richard C. Cully Jr.

Effective November 25, 2011 at 1700 hours

Effective November 15, 2011 at 1700 hours, **Firefighter Richard C. Cully Jr.** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Richard Cully was appointed on May 7, 1978.

July 2, 1978	Engine Co. No 8
August 16, 1981	Engine Co. No. 9
January 10, 1982	Engine. Co. No. 1

June 12, 1988 Engine Co. No. 7
July 1, 1993 Engine Co. No. 6

Firefighter Cully has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.
We wish Firefighter Cully much happiness and good health during his retirement

General Order #01, Series of 2012
Retirement of Assistant Chief/Chief of Operations John J. Gelinis
Effective January 6, 2012 at 1700 hours

Effective January 6, 2012 at 1700 Hours, Assistant **Chief/Chief of Operations John J. Gelinis** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Assistant Chief/Chief of Operations John Gelinis was appointed on August 24, 1975 and assigned to Engine Company No. 3

June 20, 1976	Engine Company No. 8
February 12, 1978	Aerial Tower No. 1
May 25, 1980	Acting Lieutenant, Engine Co. No. 1
July 6, 1980	Promoted to Lieutenant, Engine Co. No. 1
January 11, 1981	Engine Company No. 5
January 6, 1985	Promoted to Fire Captain, temp assigned to Engine Co. No. 5
May 5, 1985	Aerial Tower No. 1
May 17, 1987	Acting Deputy Fire Chief
June 7, 1987	Promoted to Deputy Fire Chief
January 11, 1991	Chief Inspector Fire Investigation Unit
April 9, 1995	Division 2
April 7, 1996	Division 1
August 23, 1998	Division 1
January 21, 2001	Assistant Chief/Chief of Operations
July 29, 2001	Division 1
August 1, 2004	Assistant Chief/Chief of Operations

Deputy Fire Chief Gelinis has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge. We wish Deputy Fire Chief Gelinis much happiness and good health in his retirement.

General Order #03, Series of 2012
Retirement of Captain Robert D. Blake
Effective January 13, 2012 at 1700 hours

Effective January 13, 2012 at 1700 hours, **Captain Robert D. Blake** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Captain Robert Blake was appointed on February 20, 1979.

April 15, 1979	Engine Company No. 1
April 27, 1980	Rescue Company
June 14, 1981	Engine Company No. 1
April 10, 1983	Fire Headquarters, Acting Lieutenant
June 5, 1983	Promoted to Fire Lieutenant
September 11, 1983	Engine Company No. 4
October 12, 1986	Acting Fire Captain, Engine Company No. 3
November 30, 1986	Promoted to Fire Captain
May 17, 1987	Engine Company No. 5

January 18, 1998
 March 27, 2011

Ladder Company No. 4
 Assigned to Fire Headquarters

Captain Blake has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.
 We wish Captain Blake much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Stats and Fires

2011/2012 Incident Totals

	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	SBTTL	Jan-12	Feb-12	TOTAL
Responses	2601	2764	2568	2930	2420	2416	15699	2438	2315	20452
Incidents	1073	1234	1128	1243	984	996	6658	993	935	8586
Division 1 incidents	579	703	632	696	561	558	3729	556	505	4790
Division 2 incidents	494	531	496	547	423	438	2929	437	430	3796
Building fires	12	8	3	5	4	7	39	10	11	60
Inside fires	35	54	52	79	80	78	378	83	82	543
All fires	53	69	64	84	83	82	435	86	84	605
EMS	469	517	497	550	451	456	2940	462	442	3844
Elevator Rescue	13	5	9	13	10	11	61	10	6	77
Hazardous materials	21	14	22	18	16	20	111	21	11	143
CO emerg	4	8	7	8	4	6	37	6	5	48
Electrical hazards	30	87	35	28	29	22	231	12	18	261
Malicious false	20	20	21	44	19	13	137	13	13	163
Malfunction	92	127	135	142	89	94	679	87	81	847
Unintentional	129	140	141	127	101	123	761	109	101	971
Bomb threats/susp	18	11	10	8	6	5	58	6	7	71
Bomb/expl removal	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Structure collapse	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2
Total Multiple Alarms		1					1	1		2
2nd Alarms		1					1	1		2
3rd Alarms							0			0
4th Alarms										
5th Alarms										
Working Fires	1				1	1	3		1	4
HM Lev 1 "Working"	1						1			1

2011/2012 Building Fires

	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	SBTTL	Jan-12	Feb-12	TOTAL
Engine 1	7	4	0	4	2	3	20	5		25
Engine 2	6	4	3	2	2	5	22	6		28
Engine 3	6	3	0	2	1	1	13	4		17
Engine 4	4	1	0	0	1	0	6	2		8
Engine 5	5	5	2	3	2	5	22	6		28
Engine 6	4	3	2	1	1	5	16	5		21
Engine 8	6	3	0	1	1	1	12	2		14
Engine 9	3	3	0	0	0	2	8	1		9
Truck 1	10	5	2	5	2	6	30	7		37
Truck 2	5	3	1	1	2	2	14	5		19
Truck 3	6	3	2	2	2	4	19	5		24
Truck 4	5	3	0	1	1	2	12	3		15
Rescue 1	11	5	2	2	3	5	28	7		35
Squad 2	8	2	2	3	2	6	23	3		26
Squad 4	6	4	0	2	3	4	19	6		25
Division 1	6	5	3	3	2	5	24	5		29
Division 2	8	4	0	2	1	3	18	5		23

Company Runs

FY 2011/2012 RUN TOTALS										
	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	SBTTL	Jan-12	Feb-12	TOTAL
Engine 1	184	212	221	198	180	187	1182	169		1351
Engine 2	280	295	268	310	237	205	1595	220		1815
Engine 3	127	137	125	146	101	132	768	110		878
Engine 4	109	121	102	132	112	125	701	104		805
Engine 5	154	173	158	181	153	153	972	163		1135
Engine 6	124	126	111	136	99	89	685	119		804
Engine 8	85	106	88	98	94	97	568	83		651
Engine 9	61	102	69	79	71	78	460	77		537
Truck 1	163	159	171	189	171	163	1016	159		1175
Truck 2	96	103	86	106	76	79	546	95		641
Truck 3	179	197	214	233	170	141	1134	181		1315
Truck 4	102	155	109	140	121	142	769	102		871
Rescue 1	200	188	184	201	202	185	1160	189		1349
Squad 2	292	276	253	294	236	207	1558	255		1813
Squad 4	150	149	143	174	145	179	940	150		1090
Division 1	142	132	141	161	125	101	802	132		934
Division 2	105	102	107	119	106	121	660	99		759
HazMat 1	5	1	3	2	1	2	14	5		19
Spec & HQ Units	28	23	12	25	12	17	117	9		126
Mutual Aid Units	15	7	3	6	8	13	52	17		69
TOTAL	2601	2764	2568	2930	2420	2416	15699	2438	0	18137

LODD's

December was a very rough month for Firefighters in Massachusetts losing four of our own! If there is a positive side, it is that the Cambridge Fire Department proudly represented the fire service with good showings at both the Worcester and Peabody funerals.

Worcester Firefighter Jon Davies - LODD

Peabody Firefighter John Rice - LODD

Methuen Firefighter Robert George – Active Duty Death

Medford Lieutenant Randall Rideout – Active Duty Death

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS



LAST ALARM



BROTHER JON DAVIES WORCESTER IAFF LOCAL 1009

WHEN I AM CALLED TO DUTY, GOD, WHEREVER FLAMES MAY RAGE; GIVE ME STRENGTH TO SAVE SOME LIFE, WHATEVER BE ITS AGE, HELP ME EMBRACE A LITTLE CHILD, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, OR SAVE AN OLDER PERSON FROM, THE HORROR OF THAT FATE. ENABLE ME TO BE ALERT AND HEAR THE WEAKEST SHOUT; AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY TO PUT THE FIRE OUT. I WANT TO FILL MY CALLING, AND GIVE THE BEST IN ME, TO GUARD MY EVERY NEIGHBOR AND PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY. AND IF ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL, I SHOULD LOSE MY LIFE, PLEASE BLESS WITH YOUR PROTECTING HAND, MY CHILDREN AND MY WIFE. - AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

Last Alarm



JAMES RICE
Firefighter

Professional Firefighters
of Peabody
I.A.F.F., Local 925

Date Appointed - March 4, 2001
Date of Birth - January 23, 1969
Date of Death - December 23, 2011

FIREMAN'S PRAYER

When I am called to duty, God . . . Wherever flames may rage . . . Give me strength to save some life . . . Whatever be its age . . . Help me embrace a little child . . . Before it is too late . . . Or save an older person from . . . The horror of that fate . . . Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout . . . And quickly and efficiently . . . To put the fire out . . . I want to fill my calling and . . . To give the best in me . . . To guard my every neighbor and . . . Protect his property . . . And if according to my fate . . . I am to lose my life . . . Please bless with your protecting hand . . . My children and my wife.

© GOU 109

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced there were 81 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2011. This represents an almost seven percent decrease from the 87 fatalities reported for 2010. The 81 fatalities occurred in 33 states, one U.S. territory, and one overseas U.S. military facility. Texas experienced the highest number of fatalities (seven). North Carolina experienced six firefighter deaths and was the only other state with five or more firefighter fatalities.

"In 2004 at the initial Life Safety Summit, a number of fire service leaders did not believe we would complete a calendar year with less than 100 firefighter on-duty deaths," U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Ernie Mitchell said. "We broke through that perceived barrier in 2009, 2010, and now in 2011! We salute and congratulate our fire service family and pledge to continue working closely with the entire fire service community and its partners to maintain and even accelerate this downward trend in on-duty firefighter deaths."

Heart attacks were responsible for the deaths of 48 firefighters (59%) in 2011, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (60%) in 2010. Ten on-duty firefighters died in association with wild-land fires, the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wild-land fires since 1996. Fifty-four percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Only three firefighters were killed in vehicle collisions. 2011 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2011. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July 2012.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the annual fatality reports from 1986 through 2010 and the Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990-2000, please visit the USFA website.

Letters

The following letter was received on October 27, 2011:

Dear Chief Reardon,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the mutual aid assistance received from the Cambridge Fire Department on October 26, 2011 at our 2-alarm fire. On behalf of the Belmont Fire Department, the Town officials and myself, we are very proud of the performance of your department.

Although the fire did have tragic consequences for one of the occupants all of those operating at the fire performed an exceptional job of keeping the fire from extending. Please extend to Division 2 and those members on Engine 9, Ladder 1 and Squad 4 who responded to 443 School Street that their help is greatly appreciated, and please offer our thanks for their assistance and for a job well done.

Sincerely,
David L. Frizzell
Chief of Department
Belmont Fire Department

266 Columbia Street Medical Call - The following note by Lt. Jeremy Walsh proves that teamwork and training of our public safety brothers and sisters pays off, especially when a life is saved! This occurred during CFD Inc# 4466.

Chief Reardon and Commissioner Haas,

On November 16th at 0520 hours, Cambridge Fire and Police units responded to 266 Columbia St for a reported unconscious 53 year old female with instructions from Fire Alarm to wait until police arrived first. On my arrival I made my way up to floor 2 where I found Cambridge Police Officer Carlos Aquino reporting the patient had agonal respirations and he was ventilating the patient with a bag valve mask. Engine 5 Lieutenant Brandon Hugh, who arrived prior to me, was checking for a pulse and reported to me that he could not find one and was starting CPR. Approximately 1-1/2 minutes later and before ALS could fully intervene that patient began to spontaneously breathe on her own and began to gag. Officer Aquino and Lt Hugh rolled her on to her side and ALS then took over care.

Over the course of the next few minutes there was EKG evidence that this patient had suffered a true cardiac event and further evidence of the same was confirmed by Doctors at the Mass General Hospital where we transported her. Also, over the next few minutes, the patient's level of consciousness greatly improved during transport and at the hospital she was conscious and answering questions appropriately and clearly.

I am writing this E-mail to let it be known that the combined actions of the Cambridge Fire Department, the Cambridge Police Department and Pro EMS, specifically those of Officer Aquino and Lt Hugh, were instrumental in saving the life of this woman. Patients like this one require immediate and specific care and it was provided to her this morning...without this care the outcome would have undoubtedly been different.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lieutenant Jeremy A Walsh, EMT-P

Cambridge Fire Department

Squad 2

The following letter was sent to Fire Lieutenant David Pierce on November 7, 2011:

Dear Lt. Pierce,

Thank you for the recent donation of razors and shaving items to the Salvation Army. Your gift will be used to help those in our men's recovery program and shelter. These practical items are greatly appreciated.

God bless you for thinking of others and for your giving.

Sincerely,
Captain Amanda LaMarr
Commanding Officer, Salvation Army

The following message was sent to DFC Gerard Mahoney following a Dive Rescue Incident in which the Cambridge Fire Dept. Dive Team assisted in Lynn, Mass. On December 4, 2011:

Gerry,

I was the IC this morning for a fatal crash which resulted in the vehicle being submerged in the Saugus River on the Lynn line. Prior to our arrival Saugus had requested the Cambridge Dive Team to the scene. Their response time and their actions on scene were outstanding! These men did the Cambridge Fire Department proud.

Please let the Chief of Department know that the Lynn Fire Department truly appreciates the efforts of these men.

Jack Barry (*Editor Note: District Chief from Lynn FD*)

A formal letter of Thanks was received from Lynn Fire Chief Dennis Carmody to Chief Reardon:

Dear Chief Reardon,

Thank you for the assistance your Dive Team provided to the Lynn Fire Department on the morning of December 5, 2011 at a fatal motor vehicle accident in the Saugus River. Their response time and actions on scene were outstanding. These men did the Cambridge Fire Department proud.

Please pass along my personal thank you to your Dive Team for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Carmody
Chief of Department

The dive team members who responded to this incident are Paul Morrison, Todd Koen, and Dave Puopolo and Fire Lt. Stephen Brown. DC Paul Sheehan, Ed Oliver, Phil Arsenault, Ken Flibotte, Dave Croak, Chris Haynes, and Matt McDonald also responded and assisted the dive operation. FF Paul Morrison performed a secondary search of the vehicle and rigged it for lifting with a tow company crane. Squad 2 brought Marine 2 to the scene, but it was not needed.

The following letter was sent to Chief Reardon by City Councilor Craig Kelley on October 24, 2011. The Incident was at Christ Church, Zero Garden Street, # 11004045 at 1022 hours on Sunday, 16 Oct 2011. Engine 8 and Squad 4 were assigned. Group 4 was on duty.

Dear Chief Reardon,

Thank you very much for the wonderful response actions of your staff on Sunday 13 October when an elderly woman fell ill at Christ Church, Cambridge where I am a parishioner. The Rector, the congregation and I were all impressed at how subtle and effective your responders were. The woman went to the hospital and the service went on with an extra hymn to fill the time the responders were there.

Please pass my thanks, as well as the thanks of Rector Joe Robinson and the entire congregation to your firefighters for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Craig Kelley

Responding members were: Engine Company NO. 8- FLT. Kenneth Hugh, FF Donald Johnson, FF Matthew Terenna and Squad NO. 4 - FLT. Michael Travers, FF Sean Williams

The following note was received on December 6, 2011:

To the members of the Cambridge Fire Department,

Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

The Hunter Family

The following note was received in January 2012:

Gerry,

Thanks for the honor and privilege to be able to serve the citizens of the City of Cambridge and the members of the Cambridge Fire Department for so many years.

I will always be grateful to have been able to be a part of the Class 1 Cambridge Fire Department management team.

The Cambridge Fire Department is nationally recognized and respected due to your leadership.

Thanks again,
Jack (Chief of Operations, J. Gelinias – Retired)

The following note was received in January 2012:

To the Cambridge Fire Department,

My family and I are so touched by all the love and support during such a difficult time. The presence of so many Cambridge Firefighters was so impressive and showed that Bill was part of a brotherhood/family and it wasn't just a job. So many of you went far and beyond anything we could have imagined. Especially with the bagpipes being played and having Ladder 3 lead the procession. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

With love,
The Lavin family

The following note was received in the Fall of 2011:

Dear Chief Reardon and members of the Cambridge Fire Department,

Thirty years ago on November 28, 1981, Lynn's (Mass.) Second Greatest Fire was one of the north shore's most memorable conflagrations that raged for 14 hours and ravaged the city's former industrial heartland.

Fueled by high winds and the oil-soaked timbers of once-proud industrial buildings, the task quickly became too much for Lynn's firefighters alone. The call for mutual aid went out to over 94 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, with more than 600 firefighters and 121 pieces of equipment arriving to help battle the blaze. Your city of Cambridge was one of those outstanding communities.

The Daily Item, Greater Lynn's local community newspaper, is reprinting the picture booklet, "A City In Flames," which was originally published shortly after those embers died under an early blanket of snow.

The original booklet featured pictures of the many firefighters and equipment that responded to help fight this historic fire, showing us all the true test of strength and courage.

"A City In Flames" is now available for 49.95, plus tax, shipping and handling, and can be purchased online at: www.Itemlive.com/CityInFlames starting Monday, November 21st. Ten percent of the receipts from the sales of the booklet are being donated to local firefighter safety programs in honor of all the firefighters and their departments who fought this fearsome blaze.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions regarding the ordering, please contact me at 781-593-770, ext. 1291.

Sincerely,
Valerie Collins
Fulfillment Coordinator, The Daily Item

Editor Note: Cambridge responded to the fire with an engine company on the original 10 alarm running MetroFire running card on the striking of the 10th alarm. In total, Cambridge sent five more engines and two ladder trucks to the fire on the General Alarm or "Special Call". Our response consisted of:

2:57 am – Engine 8 (on 10th alarm)
3:06 am – Engine 4, Engine 5, Ladder 2
3:20 am - Engine 7
3:38 am – Aerial Tower 1 (now Ladder 1)
3:43 am - Engine 9
5:07 am – Engine 1

Of Interest...

Harvard Tunnel System

Headquarters companies are aware of the many miles of underground tunnels that carry utilities throughout the Harvard University complex. Due to the extensiveness of the tunnels, it's impossible for us to become familiar with all of it, but we must use caution when operating in and around them.

Headquarters companies responded to the Weeks Footbridge on the morning of December 14, 2011 for an outside odor of smoke in the area. On arrival, personnel were directed down a small stairway at a hatch near the base of the footbridge. Workers were doing hot work and started a fire in a canvas tarp. Several water cans were put into action and a hose-line was stretched from Engine 1 to wet down the area. The tunnel system continues across the Charles River within the footbridge and underground into the Boston side of the river.

While arriving at the call, companies noticed a fleet of Boston fire apparatus parked on Storrow Drive and presumed it was part of the same call. However, it was noticeable that the strobes were going off in the building on the Boston side and they received calls for "smoke in the building." As it turns out, the smoke from the fire on the Cambridge side had entered the air management system and was moved into the air system in the building on the Boston side, so ultimately, their call was a result of the fire.

There is a similar hatchway on the Boston side of the river as well.



Photo by H. Smith

The hatch is located between the pillar and the chain link fence – just near the temporary staging.



Photo by H. Smith

Access is via about six metal rungs down to a small door. There were security features on all access areas (ie. Locks on the bulkhead, locks on the interior door and swipe card access to go further into the tunnel.

A 1993 article in The Harvard Crimson reported that there are three miles of tunnels that connect buildings in the Yard, the river buildings, the Science Center and the Business School. The tunnel system was started in 1914 and most of the system was built between 1927 and 1933. They contain three large steam pipes approximately 10 inches in diameter. If steam is flowing, the temperatures in the pipes can reach as high as 400 degrees resulting in dangerously high temperatures inside the tunnels themselves. The tunnels may also carry other hazards such as natural gas, electrical wiring, chilled water, fire alarm, telephone and cable wiring.

In addition to the utility tunnels, there are also food service tunnels that may run parallel to the steam tunnels. Both types of tunnels are off limits to students and unauthorized personnel. It has been recounted that Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara was escorted out a food service tunnel during a Vietnam War protest in the 1970's by Harvard Police Chief Robert Tonis. Tonis became very familiar with the tunnel system after taking over as Harvard University Police Chief after a previous experience. During the late 1930's as an FBI agent, he tailed a German spy from South Boston into Cambridge who disappeared into a Harvard river house and was never seen again. Tonis was sure that he used the tunnel system to elude the FBI agents.

During the 1960's, Alabama Governor George Wallace (who was pro-segregation) was also ushered safely out of Sanders Theater after a speech during the racially charged 1960's using the tunnel system.

Information for this story was taken from: "The Steam Tunnels, Harvard's Secret Underground Wonderland", The Harvard Crimson, By DOUGLAS M. PRAVDA, Saturday, December 04, 1993

America's Heroes

The James Gordon Bennet Medal is the highest honor one can receive in the FDNY. Firefighter Anthony Romano won the medal in 2009. The following is an account of his actions.

**FIREFIGHTER ANTHONY M. ROMANO
LADDER COMPANY 142
FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK**

In the early-morning hours of Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Ladder 142 and Engine 285 received a phone alarm that will not be forgotten for years to come. A fire was reported at 87-24 115th Street, Queens. Arriving at the reported address, members conducted their investigation and found that there was *nothing showing* at this building, but the Ladder 143 roof Firefighter reported seeing smoke from the rear of a private dwelling on the next street, 114th Street. Battalion Chief Patrick Ginty, Battalion 51, ordered Engine 285 to the building where they conducted an investigation and confirmed a working fire in a three-story, frame private dwelling. A 10-75 was given. The remaining companies responded to the new address, both on foot and apparatus. Due to the delay, the fire gained headway. Units now arriving encountered Collyers' mansion-type conditions, complicating operations. Quick entry into the building was prevented, again allowing the fire to grow in intensity. Additionally, the owner had packed all rooms with debris and sealed the rooms with plastic sheeting and cardboard over some of the windows. This combination nurtured the environment for a delayed alarm and flashover. Firefighter Anthony Romano, Ladder 142, was assigned the outside vent position. In keeping with procedures for private dwelling fires, he performed a perimeter survey for possible life hazards. While making his way to the rear, FF Romano heard a transmission over the handie-talkie: *Mayday! I'm burning up in the rear!* Knowing that the front of the fire building was covered by the inside team on the first floor and his LCC and the second-due LCC were on the second-floor front, the only area left uncovered was the second-floor rear.

FF Daniel Carson, Ladder 9, detailed to Ladder 142, was assigned the roof position and after verbally communicating with FF Romano, transported the 16-foot extension ladder to the rear. Both members raised the ladder to the exposure #3 setback roof, the only access to the only window on exposure #3. This setback had a pitch of 45 degrees with a span of six feet. The physical characteristics of the setback prevented placement of the ladder to the windowsill. With the exact location of the *mayday* still unknown and fire now involving the second floor, this window would be the only way in. As FF Carson butted the ladder, FF Romano ascended to vent, enter and search for the member in distress. From the ladder at the edge of the setback roof, FF Romano vented the window, preparing to enter by pulling himself up, using the full extension of his arm and a six foot hook. Subsequently, high heat and heavy, dense black smoke pushed out the rear window, indicating probable flashover. Simultaneously, while preparing his climb, FF Romano heard an additional transmission: *I'm burning up! I'm burning up!* FF Romano, applying situational awareness, determined that FF Robert Grover, Ladder 143, was probably in that second-floor rear area. Experiencing the worst of conditions for entry and feeling the intense heat of the fire, he donned his mask, pulled up his hood, hooked his six-foot hook onto the windowsill and pulled himself up the steep setback roof. At the window, he cleared the remaining glass and sash. Entering and searching were arduous, due to the incline of the roof, awkward footing, the escalating heat and smoke venting from the window and lack of an area of refuge. Hanging onto the windowsill, he entered the room head-first into the severe conditions, hooking the instep of his left boot onto the windowsill as his only lifeline and searching to the right. Not finding anyone, he let go of the security of the windowsill and turned to the left, continuing into the room. FF Romano immediately heard a noise that he determined

to be coming from FF Grover. Through near-zero visibility, FF Romano saw the reflective stripes of bunker gear and found FF Grover semi-conscious in the corner of the bedroom, near the exposure #3 and #4 walls. FF Romano reached out and grabbed the mask shoulder straps and dragged FF Grover back to the window. He then lifted the more than 200-lb. Firefighter up and over the sill. Conditions deteriorated toward flashover with fire venting overhead. In one swift motion, he held onto FF Grover and rolled out of the room through the window, out onto the setback roof. Together, they rolled down the steep setback roof, behind the ladder and fell to the ground.

Throughout the drop, FF Romano yelled through his face-piece, attempting to reassure FF Grover he would be safe, *I got you! I got you!* And, indeed, he did. Never letting go, the two landed in the rear yard. If not for the rapid and intelligent actions of FF Romano, FF Grover would have succumbed to his injuries, for 30 seconds later, heavy fire was venting through this only way out of exposure #3. Both men sustained injuries from this operation. FF Romano stayed with FF Grover until both were transported to the hospital. FF Romano was removed with initial reports of a broken jaw, leg and internal injuries and FF Grover with burns to his face and hands. FF Grover spent the next 21 days at Cornell Burn Center. Nothing is more important than saving a life. To save a Brother Firefighter is extraordinary. In honor of FF Anthony Romano's actions, he is presented with the James Gordon Bennet Medal.

Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the ***Company Journal***.

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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

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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!**



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