

## Gelinas, John

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**From:** Smith, Howard T.  
**Sent:** Monday, December 27, 2010 9:49 AM  
**To:** Gelinas, John  
**Subject:** Company Journal - Issue 57



## **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 #57*  
*January 2011*

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### **What's New**

**We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year!**

12 new FFOP's were appointed to the department on November 28, 2010. They are **Murphy Aquaro, Travis Barnes, John Bernard, Joseph Bokuniewicz, Phillip Chandler, Michael Donnelly, Tyler English, Candice Murphy, Robert Sullivan, Kevin Thompson, Keith Thorne-Bingham and Martin Townsend**. After a few weeks of departmental training, the new FFOP's started the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit Program on January 3, 2011.

Everyone knows that Taylor Square has the best firehouse kitchen in Cambridge, and that kitchen was the location for a cooking show that aired on the Cooking Channel in November. The department was approached by Cheryl Carlesimo of Stonehouse productions during the summer. The Brass Sisters live on Walden Street in Cambridge and have filmed one or two cooking shows in the past. Their idea for this show was for them to cook a "Holiday Meal" for their local firehouse. The filming took place over several days back in September. Congratulations to Deputy Chief Gerard Mahoney and the members of Taylor Square for portraying the department in a positive light!

Just a reminder that if you haven't bought your Fireman's Ball Tickets, please contact **FF Mickiewicz** at Ladder 1 (Group 3) or **FF Massiah** at Engine 5 (Group 1). 122<sup>nd</sup> Fireman's Ball is January 29, 2011 at the Royal Sonesta, Grand Ballroom. See you there!

### **All Companies Working**

**November 7, 2010 - Mutual Aid, Belmont 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm**, fire at 218 Beech Street. E-9, L-1, S-4 and D-2 responded to third alarm. E-5 covered at Leonard Street station. Fire companies advanced an 1-3/4 " hand line to third floor and threw a 24' ladder to alpha side window. Assisted Belmont fire companies in extinguishment and overhaul. D-2 assumed "interior" for duration of operation. DFC Sheehan was in charge

**November 7, 2010 – W/F, 117 Magazine Street** – Call for fire in a second floor bedroom. Response was E-6, E-2, E-1, L-3, L-1, R-1, S-2 and Division 1. E-6 on scene with fire showing floor # 2. S-4 dispatched @ 20:20 hrs. Companies advanced attack and back up lines to floors # 2 and # 3 Working fire ordered @ 2025 hrs. W/F transmitted by A/DFC Cunningham and W/F response was E-3, L-2 and D-2. E-3 and L-2 assigned as RIT companies. All occupants accounted for. No injuries were reported. Fire extinguished. Vented both floors. Roof skylight cleaned out for ventilation. Primary and secondary searches both negative. Fire area overhauled. Gas to all 3 units shut off. Electricity to fire unit shut off.

**November 15, 2010 – Mutual Aid, Medford 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm**, L-1, S-4 and D-2 responded to the second alarm fire and assisted in evacuating floors 8, 9 and 10 of the high rise fire building. E-4 covered Medford headquarters and responded to one box on George Street where they level one staged until dismissed. (Group 2 on duty)

**November 21, 2010 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, Cover assignment**, L-1 covered the Leonard Street station in Belmont while members of the Belmont Fire Department provided support at the funeral services of Spc. Jonathan Curtis, a 24 year old soldier who was killed in Afghanistan in November 2010

**November 27, 2010 – Mutual Aid, Somerville 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, Box 462** – 9 Arcadia Park. Fire on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor porches of 3 story wood frame structure. Engine 4 dropped a 4 inch supply line from a Cambridge hydrant on Somerville Ave. They, along with Squad 4, advanced a 2-1/2' line to the rear of the structure and then took a 1-3/4' line up the rear stairs to the third floor. Fire was contained to the front rooms on floor 2 and 3 as well as the exterior front and B-side wall. Checked for extension. Dismissed after the fire was out.

**November 28, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 47 Inman Street** – Box 42 transmitted for odor of smoke. Companies found a fire in a ground level wood rear porch. Small amount of damage to the floorboards, no further extension found. Cigarette butts were found in the area of origin. Group 3

**November 28, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 51 Porter Road.** Box 7 struck for a dryer fire. Smoke showing from basement on arrival. E4 brought a line to the basement, with S4, and extinguished fire in dryer. Clothes in dryer were on fire. E8 brought a line to floor 1, no fire beyond the dryer. R1 searched the building, all negative. L1 and L4 and Somerville E7 ventilated. L4 checked building with CGI for CO, all readings were negative. A/DFC M. Bruno in command.

**November 29, 2010 – Technical Rescue, MBTA Red line, Kendall Square Station** – Engine 2, Ladder 2, Squad 2, Rescue 1, Tactical Rescue and Division 1 were dispatched for a person struck by a train.

**December 5, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 1 Lancaster Street** – Box 691 was struck for a building fire. Companies found a ceiling fan fixture fire with extension in the ceiling and wall of a 3 story wood frame building. Engine 8, Engine 4, Engine 1, Ladder 4, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 worked the fire.

**December 11, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 56 Linnaean Street** – Box 654 was struck for a structure fire. Engine 8, Engine 1, Engine 4, Ladder 4, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, Squad 4, Division 2 responded. Companies found a gas grill on fire on an outside deck. The homeowner used a fire extinguisher to put fire out. Companies used water cans to finish wetting hot spots. Fire caused damage to a canoe and other nearby property.

**December 14, 2010 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, Cover assignment** - Ladder 1 provided station coverage in Brookline during their early morning 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire

**December 16, 2010 – Motor Vehicle Accident, 1899 Massachusetts Ave** – Engine 4 and Rescue were dispatched to a single car motor vehicle accident in Porter Square. On arrival, found single vehicle into traffic signal pole, significant front end damage and operator was unresponsive. Engine 4's crew removed man from vehicle and initiated C.P.R. until Professional Ambulance ALS and Rescue 1 arrived and took over control of the scene. The operator was successfully revived and transported.

**December 17, 2010 – Mutual Aid, Everett, Cover assignment** – Engine 5 covered Everett Central Station during their 3 alarm fire on Main Street.

**December 17, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 2 Newtowne Court** – Box 283 struck for a mattress fire in the building. On arrival companies found a small mattress fire with no extension.

**December 21, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 17 Brown Street** – Box 542 was struck for smoke in the building at 0243 hours. The Response was Engine 8, Engine 9, Engine 1, Ladder 4, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, Squad 4 and Division 2. Squad2 requested at 257 hrs. Companies found smoke coming from floor in front of the second floor fireplace. Further investigation revealed fire in the void between the Second floor floor and first floor ceiling. Companies extinguished the fire using hose lines and overhauled. No extension to third and fourth floors.

**December 21, 2010 – 1 Alarm, 10 Rogers Street** – Box 1569 transmitted for a dryer fire on floor 2. Ladder 2 found a sprinkler activation in unit 1002 that operated due to a dryer fire that was extinguished by the sprinkler. The system was shut down via a zone valve and companies checked for extension. Approximately nine lower units sustained water damage.

**December 24, 2010 – Rescue, 100 Cambridgeside Place** – Engine 3, Ladder 2, Rescue 1, Squad 2 and Division 1 had a female with her foot trapped in the escalator. The victim's foot was removed by cutting away part of the escalator structure and she was transported to the Massachusetts General Hospital.

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**Out and About**

**Retiree's Cookout** – Ken O'Connor (Ladder Co. 2 retired) wanted to share that there is a cookout scheduled at his house in Cape Coral, FL on Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 11:00 am. Retirees are invited. The address is 1424 SW 54<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33914

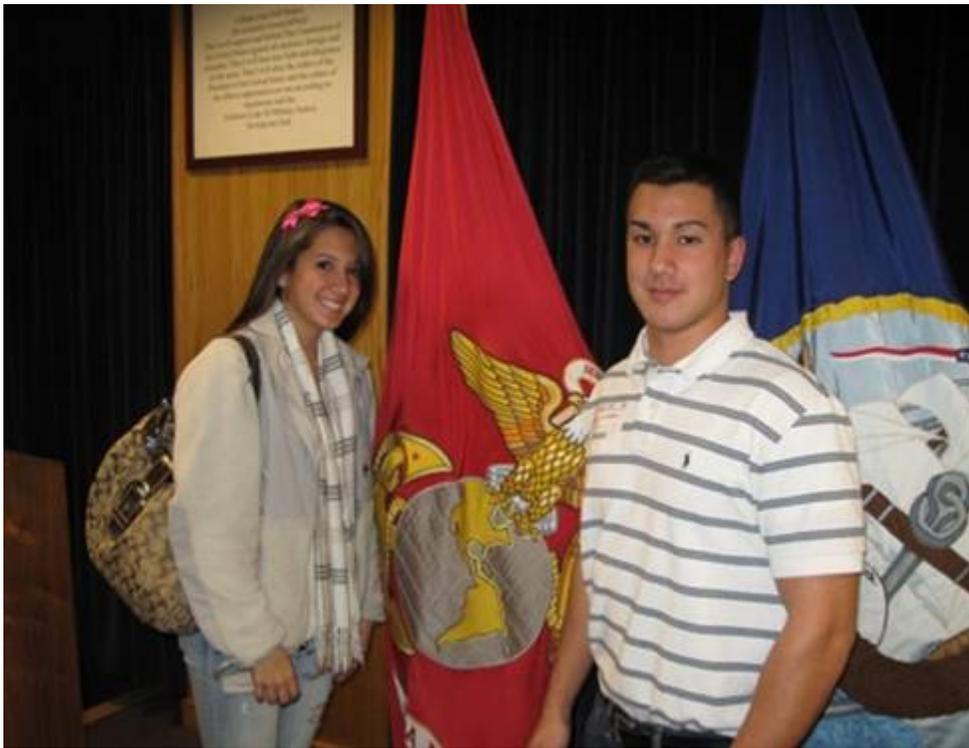
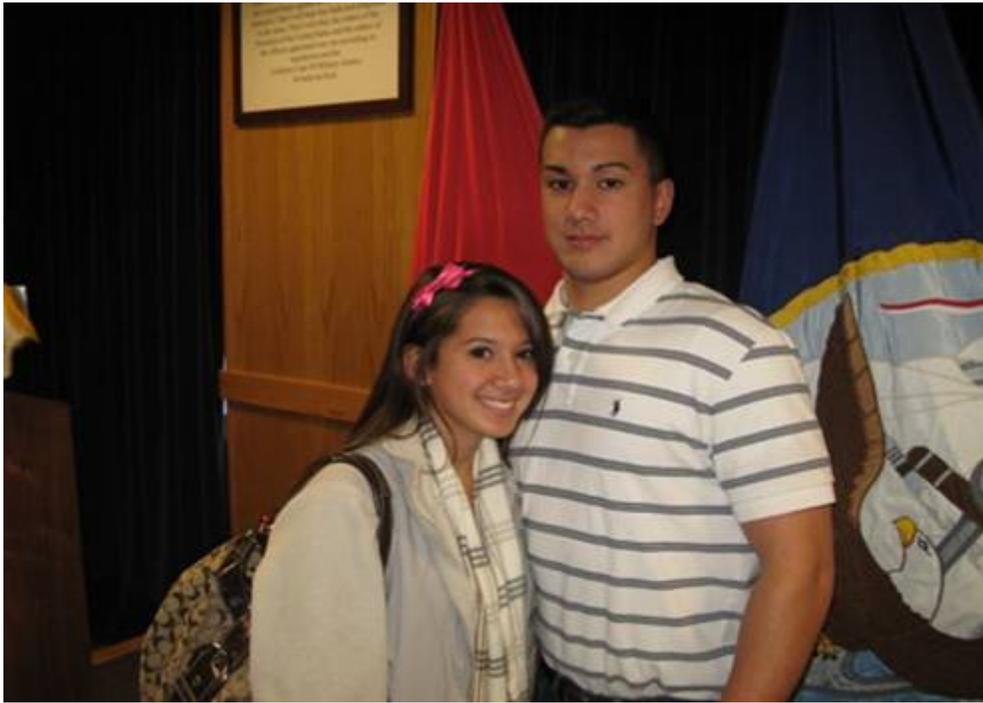
His Florida phone number is 239-549-4667

His cell phone is 339-222-2040

All CFD retirees are welcome. We hope to see photos from this gathering in an upcoming edition of the Company Journal!

Scott Babineau and family at USMC swearing in ceremony in Boston. Pictured L-R is daughter Stephanie, wife Letecia, son Scott and proud Dad **FF C. Babineau (Engine 4)**. Scott started boot camp December 6, 2010 at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Training in South Carolina. After boot camp he will attend the School Of Infantry in North Carolina followed by Virginia specialized infantry training with Marine Fast Company in Virginia





Photos courtesy of FF C. Babineau (Engine 4)

**FF Jack Rose (Ret.) and Lt. Bill Hugh (Ret.)**

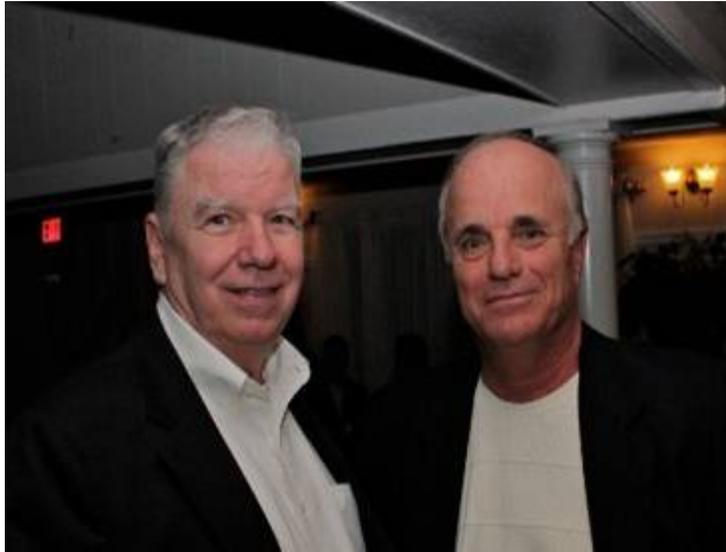


Photo by Lt. B. Hugh (Engine 5)

**Joe Scalesse (Ret.) and Lt. Bill Hugh (Ret.)**



Photo by Lt. B. Hugh (Engine 5)

**Truck Co. 2 assists at Danehy Park**



*Photos by FF. B Dusablon (L-2)*

**Mr. Paul Toner (President of the Massachusetts Transportation Authority) with President Obama and Secretary of the MTA. Mr. Toner is the cousin of Lt. Brian Albert (Engine 3) and Lt. Ken Albert (Engine 8)**



*Photo courtesy of Lt. Brian Albert (E-3)*

**Members take in a New England Patriots football game in Foxboro during late 2010.**  
L-R, Lt. Brandon Hugh (E-5), FF J. Bernardo (E-1), FF. A. Moustafa (E-5) and FF J. Pinto (E-3)



**Photo by Lt. B. Hugh (Engine 5)**

**Members of Engine 2 and Squad 2 (Group 1) assisted Deputy Chief Gerard Mahoney and the staff of the Draper Laboratory in Technology Square during the USMC Toys for Tots Drive in December 2010.**



L-R. Lt. Golden, Lt. Gomes, FF O'Neil, FF Gallant, FF M. Carrigan and FF Ortiz



Photos courtesy of DFC Gerard Mahoney

**From the Archives**

The following three photos are of a gasoline tanker rollover and fire that occurred in Kendall Square on May 7, 1977.





Photos from collection of **Lt. C.Towski (Fire Prevention)**

In the last Company Journal, there was a photo of a Cambridge Firefighter being cooled off by a hose stream. We received the following email from Gail Williams from the ECC:

*I believe the photo you have in the journal of the firefighter who is cooling off another is my late father Frank Bransfield. I'm not sure who he is cooling off, but I'm 99.9% sure that's my dad. He worked at E5 for years, so it makes sense that's him! Thanks for the memories! - Gail Williams, ECC*

Editors note: Thanks for sharing that information with us Gail! We also believe the fire was the Jordan Marsh Warehouse in East Cambridge in 1965.

***The following was reprinted from the Boston Post, August 15, 1939:***

### **Fireman lowered 45 feet to save Girl**

Lowered 45 feet from the West Boston Bridge in his heavy work clothes, a Cambridge fireman rescued an attractive young woman from drowning in the Charles River early today, after she had leaped from the railing into the dark waters to end her life.

Hundreds on the bridge and along the Boston and Cambridge banks of the river watched the thrilling rescue and cheered lustily as they watched the spotlighted figure of the fireman snatch the woman from a watery grave. It was the first time that such an ingenious method had been successfully utilized on the span.

The fireman and the girl were carefully maneuvered by holding the rope to an abutment, where Ladderman William Sullivan of Ladder 2, Cambridge, rested with her on the ledge.

After spotting the girl in the water, the fire alarm was sounded and Cambridge Ladder 2 under the direction of Captain William Jefferson responded. A terrific traffic snarl resulted on the bridge as it was necessary for the apparatus to proceed on the Somerville side of the span, against the one-way traffic.

As the spotlights were brought into play, Deputy Chief John Dardis had Ladderman Sullivan ready to be lowered. The fireman first placed the heavy safety belt around his waist and the rope was attached to the hook. Over the railing he was swung, wearing his heavy rubber coat and rubber boots and dangled in the air before the job of lowering him began.

Fireman James J. Fitzgerald was at the other end of the rope, paying it out slowly. When he reached the water, Sullivan signaled to be lowered further until only his head was above the surface. He quickly grabbed the woman and floundered about, still holding the life preserver and then Fitzgerald turned him toward the nearest abutment.

### **History and Tradition**

**Engine 8 1962 - Pirsch pumper with 1250 GPM pump and 200 gallon tank. In the background of both photos is the building of the Continental Can Company**



**Ladder 4 – 1959 Pirsch 100' Tiller Drawn aerial**



Above photos from collection of **FF H.Smith (Ladder 1)**

**Engine 2/Ladder 3 Life Net Drill Circa 1950  
Larry Morrissey (Uncle to DFC E. Morrissey is at 12 O'Clock**



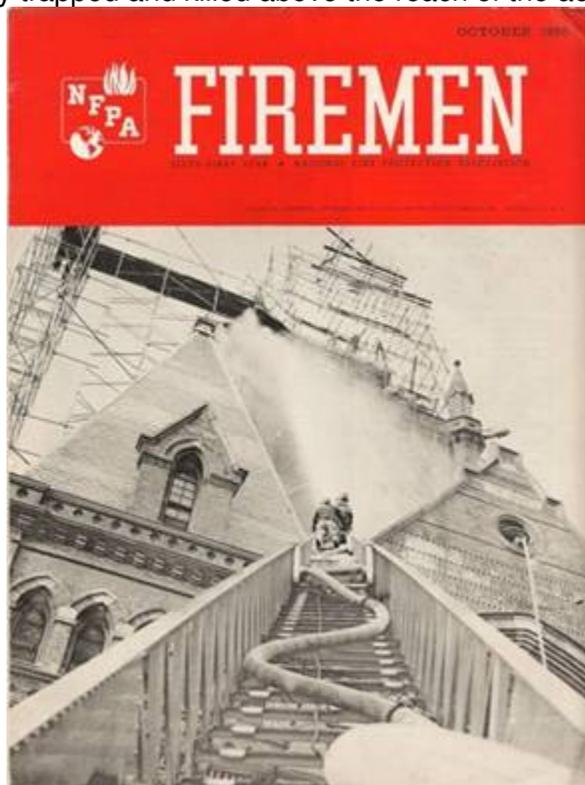
Photo submitted by **DFC E. Morrissey (Division 1)**

Daniel Reagan was an Acting Chief in Cambridge for at about two years in the early 1980s. His son, Dan Reagan Jr., was also a firefighter in Cambridge before transferring to the Cambridge Police Department where he is now a Police Lieutenant.



Photo by B. Currier Photography, Newburyport MA

NFPA Firemen Magazine, dated October 1956. On the cover shows Memorial Hall Fire where several Cambridge firefighters were nearly trapped and killed above the reach of the aerial ladders.



Collection of FF H.Smith

Not sure who these two firefighters are from Engine 2 exactly but they look like they are used to the New England weather!



Photo from Late Ed Fowler Collection (Cambridge FIU)

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### Through the Lantern Lens



**Through the Lantern Lens**

**by Mose Humphrey**

Former Boston Fire Commissioner Leo Stapleton has written a collection of books over the years. One of his books “Thirty Years on the Line” recounts many stories he recalled during his long career. Stapleton relates some stories about a Lieutenant he knew who represented a “typical Boston Jake.” This firefighter’s name was George J. Gottwald. He was an energetic firefighter who always wanted to be the best. He wanted his engine company to be the first in and the last out and the best engine company in Boston. One memory has his taking a line into the wrong building due to an onlooker telling them the wrong building was on fire! (*Just a note here to always verify where the alarm came from and always check the fire panel. Never rely solely on the word of civilians, private security or do-gooders*). They jumped from balcony to balcony with the hose just to ensure they got first water on the fire before the second due pumper could.

Another time, their line wouldn’t reach the third story or the seat of the fire. While watching the fire build from the bottom of the stairs, he told his men what to do and disappeared up the stairs. He then told his nozzle man to open up the pipe and aim it in his direction. At the top of the stairs was old George holding a 4x8 sheet of

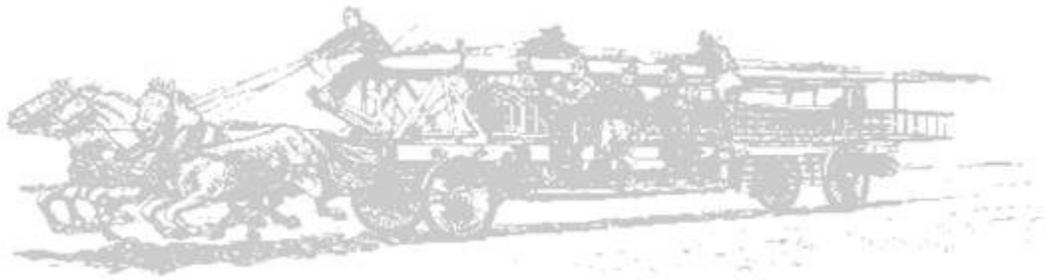
plywood. The stream bounced off the plywood and he re-directed it into the doorway knocking down the fire with the angled stream.

A modern day safety officer might promptly escort this Lieutenant off the fireground, but his antics were true. It seems as though we all have heard stories about people like this. Incidentally, at Memorial Hall in Boston Fire Headquarters, there is a list of all the Boston firefighters who were killed in the line of duty. As you circle the room, you notice two names on the list separated by 72 years.

Gottwald, George J. Lieutenant  
Appointed 3/24/1889 – Killed 2/5/1898

Gottwald, George J. - Lieutenant  
Appointed 1/21/1948 – Killed 3/3/1970

*As Stapleton put it. "Bet that other George was sumthin too..."*



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**Condolences to:**

Condolences to the family of **Police Captain Alfred F. Lange** (Cambridge Police Department retired)

Condolences to the family of **FF Dennis Maragioglio** of Ladder Company NO. 4 on the passing of his sister, Josephine N. (Maragioglio) Ferreira

Condolences to **FF Matt McDonald** of Engine Company 2 on the passing of his father, Richard L. McDonald. Richard was also the uncle of **FF Mike Dwyer** (Ladder 1)

Condolences to **FF Rob McCarthy** of Engine Company 8 on the passing of his grandfather, Charles E. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy was a fire alarm operator in Boston for 40 years, retiring in 1991 as the Assistant Superintendent of Boston Fire Alarm.

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**Stats and Fires**

**FY 2010/2011 RUN TOTALS**

	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	SBTTL	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	TOTAL
Engine 1	232	225	234	235	172		<b>1098</b>							<b>1098</b>
Engine 2	275	238	241	264	213		<b>1231</b>							<b>1231</b>
Engine 3	161	130	116	127	114		<b>648</b>							<b>648</b>
Engine 4	151	126	129	133	128		<b>667</b>							<b>667</b>
Engine 5	178	167	161	171	159		<b>836</b>							<b>836</b>
Engine 6	128	112	97	113	97		<b>547</b>							<b>547</b>
Engine 8	122	112	105	110	85		<b>534</b>							<b>534</b>
Engine 9	114	86	81	81	84		<b>446</b>							<b>446</b>
Truck 1	173	199	189	201	149		<b>911</b>							<b>911</b>
Truck 2	108	103	87	111	95		<b>504</b>							<b>504</b>
Truck 3	205	167	155	200	146		<b>873</b>							<b>873</b>
Truck 4	160	143	140	143	118		<b>704</b>							<b>704</b>
Rescue 1	169	205	190	199	205		<b>968</b>							<b>968</b>
Squad 2	247	239	249	263	254		<b>1252</b>							<b>1252</b>
Squad 4	236	184	182	161	151		<b>914</b>							<b>914</b>
Division 1	153	141	125	142	125		<b>686</b>							<b>686</b>
Division 2	122	126	132	135	105		<b>620</b>							<b>620</b>
HazMat 1	0	0	0	2	4		<b>6</b>							<b>6</b>
Special Units	26	24	9	37	17		<b>113</b>							<b>113</b>
Mutual Aid Units	7	30	10	10	20		<b>77</b>							<b>77</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2967</b>	<b>2757</b>	<b>2632</b>	<b>2838</b>	<b>2441</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13635</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13635</b>

## 2010/2011 Incident Totals

	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	SBTTL
Responses	2967	2757	2632	2838	2441		<b>13635</b>
Incidents	1311	1150	1155	1195	1025		<b>5836</b>
Division 1 incidents	734	644	647	657	574		<b>3256</b>
Division 2 incidents	577	506	508	538	451		<b>2580</b>
Building fires	8	8	4	6	9		<b>35</b>
Inside fires	48	50	69	73	81		<b>321</b>
All fires	64	62	77	79	89		<b>371</b>
EMS	545	524	554	534	503		<b>2660</b>
Elevator Rescue	12	9	11	8	10		<b>50</b>
Hazardous materials	14	16	22	20	18		<b>90</b>
CO emerg	4	2	4	13	6		<b>29</b>
Electrical hazards	47	31	43	30	23		<b>174</b>
Malicious false	29	15	17	27	11		<b>99</b>
Malfunction	145	119	114	122	89		<b>589</b>
Unintentional	162	154	120	151	96		<b>683</b>
Bomb threats	8	7	7	8	13		<b>43</b>
Bomb/expl removal	0	0	0	0	0		<b>0</b>
Structure collapse	2	0	0	0	0		<b>2</b>
Total Multiple Alarms	0	1	0	0	0		<b>1</b>
2nd Alarms							
3rd Alarms		1					<b>1</b>
4th Alarms							
5th Alarms							
Working Fires	0	1			2		<b>3</b>
HM Lev 1 "Working"							

## Congratulations

### General Order #28, Series of 2010

Re: Commendations for actions at Still Alarm, Incident # 10005612 for 1350 Massachusetts Ave. on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

On the recommendation of Division 2, Deputy Fire Chief John Cotter, the following members of **Engine 1, Group 1** are hereby commended: **Fire Lieutenant David J. House, Firefighter Vinroy L. Paul, Firefighter Joseph A. Hallissey and Firefighter Gary W. Plunkett.**

On Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 at about 0857 hours, Engine 1, while returning from a previous alarm and while stopped in the vicinity of 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, came upon the scene at Au Bon Pain where a male, apparently EDP of very large build, was attempting to wrestle the holstered gun from one of two MBTA Revenue Officers (Note that these MBTA Revenue Officers are not MBTA Transit Police Officers. They are uniformed, armed MBTA employees who go from station to station collecting cash from Charley Card machines and Charley Service Booths.)

The members of Engine 1 recognized a potentially life threatening situation involving an assault by a visibly unstable man on two MBTA Transit Officers. The man lunged for the weapon of one of the officers and a struggle ensued. The members of Engine 1 (Fire Lieutenant David J. House, Firefighter Vinroy L. Paul, Firefighter Joseph A. Hallissey and Firefighter Gary W. Plunkett) acted immediately, tackled and subdued the man before he could gain possession of the gun. Lt. House notified ECC for Cambridge Pd, HUPD and Transit PD support forthwith while they maintained control of the assailant. The assailant was ultimately transported by Professional Ambulance to a medical facility for evaluation.

The members of Engine 1 went above and beyond the call of duty to protect the lives of the two officers, as well as the lives of many citizens in Harvard Square at 0900 hours the day before Thanksgiving. Acting in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department, these members of Engine 1 are hereby commended for their selfless act of heroism at this incident.

L-R, Lt. D. House, FF G. Plunkett, FF V. Paul, FF J. Hallissey



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**Transfers and Assignments**

**General Order #25, Series of 2010**

Effective Sunday, November 28, 2010 at 0700 hours, the following are appointed Firefighters-on-Probation for the Cambridge Fire Department:

**Murphy M. Aquaro  
Travis L. Barnes  
John T. Bernard  
Joseph F. Bokuniewicz  
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**

They will report to the Training Division in East Cambridge at 0800 hours on Monday, November 29, 2010

**General Order #27, Series 2010**

The following F.F.O.P is has reached the status of "Firefighter", effective November 30, 2010 at 0700 hours:

**Jeffrey C. Keefe**

**General Order #26, Series 2010**

The following F.F.O.P.'s have reached the status of Firefighters, effective November 29, 2010 at 0700 hours:

**Darryn DeGrace  
Paul C. Enos  
Silvio S. Estrada  
Kenneth B. Flibotte  
Michael F. Lencki  
Jose T. Lora  
Robert P. McCarthy  
Peter M. Melo  
R. Nicholas Menard  
Ian S. Moynihan  
Gary W. Plunkett**

**Letters**

**The following letter was received in October 2010**

Attn: Chief Gerald Reardon  
Re: Robert Morrissey

*First, congrats on your Department's Class I rating. It is with the dedication of others like the referenced that made this possible years back.*

*In 1954, as an AF Control Tower Operator, I was being transferred from Andersen AFB, Guam to Otis AFB on Cape Cod. During my two years on Guam I met Mr. Morrissey. Though I then worked in the Control Center, he continued to work in the control tower there. He went stateside before I did but was to be home on leave when I was to go to Cape Cod and he invited me to come out early and visit him. I did just that...he put me up in downtown Cambridge FS (fire station)...complete with brass pole, checkerboard on a tree stump and a Dalmation to boot...a real Norman Rockwell picture! I stayed two nights and went on several middle of the night runs, holding tightly to the dog in flight thru those narrow streets of Cambridge.*

*It was no wonder that Robert always showed pride in the Company(s) of Cambridge for I recall that he had other members of his family who had been or were in the CFD. I remember his wall locker always displaying an 8"x10" photo of a new piece of equipment...while others had pin-up girls etc. I remember the last picture was of a new tanker.*

*I've not had any contact with Mr. Morrissey since that early spring of 1954. My wife and I will be on a Mayflower Company tour and will be spending one day at port in Boston, Thursday, October 14 on the "Poesia" of the MSC line while on the New England bus/ship tour. I would like to know if Mr. Morrissey is still with us and if so how I might contact him by phone or email.*

*If this is not possible, and I certainly realize you have far more important duties, I will still have my fond memories of my experience at the Cambridge FD those two nights in 1954 thanks to Robert Morrissey and his firefighter "family."*

Sincerely,  
Norm Eckstrom  
DeKalb, IL

**The following letter was received on November 16, 2010**

Chief Gerald Reardon  
Cambridge Fire Dept  
491 Broadway  
Cambridge MA 02138

*I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Cambridge Fire Department for the mutual aid assistance received on November 7, 2010 at our 3-alarm fire. On behalf of the Belmont Fire Department, the Town Officials and myself, we are very proud of the performance of your department.*

*Thank you for all the support you gave throughout this fire. Please extend to the Division Chief, and those members on Engine 9, Engine 5, Squad 2 and Ladder 1 who responded to 219 Beech Street that their help is greatly appreciated, and please offer our thanks for their assistance for a job well done. Without mutual aid assistance like that from your department, the outcome of the fire could have been worse.*

Sincerely,

David L. Frizzell  
Chief of Department

**The following letter was received on November 22, 2010**

Dear Lt. Pierce,

*I want to thank you for attending the Cambridge Auxiliary Police Dinner to honor and recognize the service of the Auxiliary Police Force. I sincerely appreciate your attendance and hope you enjoyed the evening. Events like this are an opportunity for city officials, police and fire department officials and elected officials to come together to show our gratitude to the many volunteers who make our city a better place to live and work.*

*I know it meant a great deal to the Auxiliary Officers that so many department heads and city staff attended and I am pleased you could be part of the event.*

Very truly yours,  
David P. Mayer  
Mayor of Cambridge

**The following letter was received on November 24, 2010**

Chief Gerald Reardon  
Cambridge Fire Dept  
491 Broadway  
Cambridge MA 02138

Dear Chief Reardon,

*Thank you for sending your ladder truck to cover our town on Sunday, November 21st during the memorial service for Specialist Jonathan Curtis. I appreciate the good working relationship my Department has with the Cambridge Fire Department. Your participation was very much appreciated.*

Sincerely,

David L. Frizzell  
Chief of Department

Note: Ladder 1, Group 1 was Captain Sean White, FF Ken Cunningham and FF Howie Smith

**The following letter was received on November 30, 2010**

Dear Deputy Chief Burns,

*The Haggerty School community would like to extend a huge thank you to the Cambridge Fire Department for approving the use of the mobile unit cart and assigning Lt. Mike Hughes to our first, all school Turkey Trot at Glacken Field.*

*Our school motto, "Everyone is Different, Everyone Belongs," emphasizes that we are an inclusive school no matter what challenges, mental or physical, our students may face. One of our second graders, has significant physical impairments and would not have been able to participate without the use of the mobile cart. Coupled with this, our retired physical education teacher, Ray McCann, returned to play the "surprise turkey" in this event. Ray also has his own physical challenges as he awaits knee and hip surgery later this winter. It would have been impossible for the second grader and Ray to "trot" the field, especially in full turkey costume, without the assistance of the mobile cart. Lt. Mike Hughes did an outstanding job maneuvering the cart making sure*

that the children were not in harms way, as they chased the turkey around the course! The enclosed photo truly expresses the joy experienced on this day.

This Turkey Trot was a community building event to bring together our families, students and staff, while participating in fun, physical activities. We truly appreciate that the Cambridge Fire Department could lend a hand and assist with such short notice. Thank you for making this event a very special day for your Haggerty School friends!

Sincerely,  
Kate Conway  
Principal

**The following letter was received on December 2, 2010 after a medical emergency on Haskell Street. Engine 4, Squad 4 and Professional Ambulance P-11 were on the call.**

Dear Chief Reardon,

A much deserved and mighty "THANK YOU" to you and the fire department personnel who responded to the emergency call at my residence early on Thanksgiving Day afternoon, November 25<sup>th</sup>, and their supervision of my being transported to Mount Auburn Hospital.

Individually and collectively, your staff created a victory for quiet competence which, in turn, created much confidence for me. Please share this expression of respect and thanks with each of the team involved.

My very best regards to you and to them.

Sincerely,  
David F. Noonan (Cambridge Engine 4 was Lt. Robert Bell, FF R. Clarke and FF E. Friel, Squad 4 was Capt. G. Carter and FF A. Mello with Professional P-11)

**The following letter was received on December 8, 2010**

On Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, I took a trip from Maine to Boston to Brigham and Women's Hospital. I missed my turn off Storrow Drive west, so I took a right and crossed over into Cambridge. I knew I had to get back over the Charles River, so I stopped a fire station on Broadway and asked for directions.

Tom Cahill proceeded to give me directions which still would have been a challenge to follow. As I was about to leave, tom offered for me to follow him over to Brigham Hospital, which I am so thankful for. We arrived with plenty of time to spare. Tom Cahill went above and beyond to help us out. Tom is a great example of the best you have to offer as a representative of your fire station and community.

May God bless all of you for what you do! Thanks again.

John Kerr Jr.

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## **Cambridge Fire Hockey Team**

### **January Schedule**

December 27, 2010

Cambridge Fire vs. Firecats 9:30 pm in Revere

January 3, 2011	Cambridge Fire vs. Medford Fire	9:30 pm in Malden
January 10, 2011	Cambridge Fire vs. The Hans	8:00 pm at Hockeytown in Saugus
January 17, 2011	Cambridge Fire vs. Firecats	9:30 pm in Malden
January 31, 2011	Cambridge Fire vs. Medford Fire	9:30 pm in Revere

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### **Safety**

The following slide found in the archives of the late Fire Inspector Ed Fowler (Cambridge Fire Dept.) shows an unknown Boston fire from the 1970's. What's the smoke telling you? Smoke can tell us a lot about what might be going inside the structure by four observations

- 1.) color
- 2.) density
- 3.) pressure
- 4.) volume

These jakes are doing the right thing by opening up to prevent a potential flashover and/or back-draft situation.



### **Did you know???**

Did you know that the American Elm is the Official State Tree of the Commonwealth? The American Elm played a large and symbolic role in the Revolutionary War. After the Stamp Act in 1765, the Sons of Liberty hanged several tax collectors from a large Elm tree in protest. From that day forward, the Elm became known as "the Liberty Tree." Even more importantly it was believed that General George Washington took command of the Continental Army beneath an American Elm on the Cambridge Common in 1775. A memorial stone marks the location where the historic event was alleged to have taken place, although the Cambridge Historical Society has never proven this longstanding belief. Whether it's true or not, it resulted in one of the many things that Cambridge is known for as well as a name for the Washington Elms Housing Complex located between Central And Kendall Sq; bordered by Harvard, Windsor, Washington, and Cardinal Medeiros Ave.

### **Quotes of the Day**

If you think you can do a thing or think you can't do a thing, you're right.  
-Henry Ford

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.  
-Henry Ford

## America's Heroes

### **Frank N. Mitchell – Medal of Honor**

**Rank & organization:** First Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps, Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division

**Place & date:** Near Hansan-ni, Korea 26 November 1950

**Citation reads:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as leader of a rifle platoon of Company A, in action against enemy aggressor forces.

Leading his platoon in point positions during a patrol by his company through a thickly wooded and snow-covered area in the vicinity of Hansan-ni, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mitchell acted immediately when the enemy suddenly opened fire at pointblank range, pinning down his forward elements and inflicting numerous casualties in his ranks. Boldly dashing to the front under blistering fire from automatic weapons and small arms, he seized an automatic rifle from one of the wounded men and effectively trained it against the attackers and, when his ammunition was expended, picked up and hurled grenades with deadly accuracy, at the same time directing and encouraging his men in driving the outnumbering enemy from his position.

Maneuvering to set up a defense when the enemy furiously counterattacked to the front and left flank, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mitchell, despite wounds sustained early in the action, reorganized his platoon under the devastating fire and spearheaded a fierce hand-to-hand struggle to repulse the onslaught.

Asking for volunteers to assist in searching for and evacuating the wounded, he personally led a party of litter bearers through the hostile lines in growing darkness and, although suffering intense pain from the multiple wounds, stormed ahead and waged a singlehanded battle against the enemy, successfully covering the withdrawal of his men before he was finally struck down by a burst of small-arms fire.

Stouthearted and indomitable in the face of tremendous odds, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mitchell, by his fortitude, great personal valor and extraordinary heroism, saved the lives of several marines and inflicted heavy casualties among the aggressors. His unyielding courage throughout reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

*Editors note: This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War that started on June 25, 1950. We must honor those brave men who endured the ordeals of war and the freezing temperatures of Korea, those who behaved so gallantly on the battlefields to which they were sent.*

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### Information

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

### 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