



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

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Acting Chief Gerard Mahoney

Issue # 82
Spring 2017



What's New

The new Engine 6 was delivered to the city the week before Christmas 2016. It is identical to the new Engine 3 that was placed in service a short time ago.



Photo courtesy of Pierce Manufacturing

Social Media

For those on social media and smartphones, Cambridge Fire has been on both Facebook and Twitter for over a year now. Follow and share please!



Follow us on Twitter @CambridgeMAFire



Follow us on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/CambridgeMAFire>
@CambridgeMAFire

All Companies Working

January 4, 2017 – Car Fire, White Street – companies dispatched to a car fire in the engine compartment in the parking lot of the Star Market shopping plaza. January 13, 2017 – Motor Vehicle Accident, Copley Street – car into a building

January 7, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, Porter Square MBTA, Box 7511 – Companies investigated and extinguished a fire in the tunnel between the Porter Square and Davis Square MBTA stations.

January 8, 2017 – Medical, 472 Mass. Ave – Engine 2 and Squad 2 responded to a stabbing that occurred in a restaurant late night. Patient was transported with stab wounds but non-life threatening injuries.

January 11, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 11 Green Street, Box 311 – Engine 6 used a dry chemical extinguisher to extinguish a fire in the kitchen on the 2nd floor of a multi-family residence.

January 13, 2017 – Rescue, car into building, 40 Copley Street – car accidentally backed into a residence. No injuries to driver, but substantial damage to residence.

January 22, 2017 – Haz mat, CO Incident, 106 Willow Street – Ladder 2 on scene, high levels of CO in a residence. Found malfunction heater units in building. Unknown if any residents were transported.

January 23, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, 3rd Alarm, Box 45, 608 Trapelo Road – Engine 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to Belmont on their 2nd alarm to the fire. Engine 9 and Ladder 1 responded on a cover assignment on the 2nd and were dispatched to the scene on the 3rd alarm.

January 23, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, W/F, 58 Otis Street, Box 32 – Engine 4 covered SFD Engine 6, and Ladder 3 covered SFD Ladder 3.

January 25, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 511, 124 Mt. Auburn Street – multiple calls for smoke in the building. Companies found an overheated fan motor.

January 27, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 3 Alarms, Box 471, 11 Appleton Street – Engine 4, Squad 4 and Division 1 responded to the fire on the 2nd. Ladder 1 and Engine 5 responded on the 3rd alarm for heavy fire on all floors of a 2.5 story residential. On arrival SFD had occupants jumping from 2nd floor windows. Minor injuries in this early morning fire.

January 29, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, W/F, 5 Middlesex Ave. – Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered in Teele Square.

January 29, 2017 – W/F, 109 Pine Street, Box 282 – Companies found a fire in the walls in the kitchen of a multi-family unit.

February 9, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 35 Lansdowne Street, Box 3312– fire in high voltage vault on 1st floor of a high rise. Due to blizzard conditions, Eversource had a 2-hour ETA

February 10, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, Haz Mat – Engine 9 covered in Watertown during an extended haz-mat incident they had going on.

February 10, 2017 – Medical, Spring Street – Ladder 2 assisted CPD with a well-being check and found a resident deceased.

February 11, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 9 Ware Street, Box 482 – A resident smoking in the bathroom dropped a cigarette on some towels that ignited a small fire in the bathroom

February 12, 2017 – Medical, 240 Albany Street – Engine 2 and Squad 2 responded for an unresponsive female. Patient was deceased.

February 26, 2017 – Mutual Aid Belmont, 3rd alarm, 52 Grove Street – Engine 1, Squad 2 and Division 2 responded on the Working Fire. Engine 9 and Ladder 1 responded on the second alarm. Engine 5 responded on the third alarm

February 27, 2017 – Working Fire, 32 Mill Street, Box 471 – Companies dispatched to a report of smoke coming from the building. Ladder 1 arrived and found fire showing from the roof of a Harvard dorm under renovation. Hot work on the exterior of the building conducted into spray insulation on the interior.



Photo credit FF E. Morrissey

Ladder 3 operates at Box 471 on February 27, 2017

March 2, 2017 – Mutual Aid, Everett, 2nd Alarm, Box 62, 110 Ferry Street – Engine 5 covered in Everett during their 2nd alarm fire.

March 4, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, Lechmere MBTA station, Box 1313 – Overheard trolley wires were sparking igniting trash and debris on and near the tracks. Companies waited for MBTA staff to disconnect power to the wires and extinguished the fire.

March 14, 2017 – Haz-Mat, 167 Harvard Street – Companies found high carbon monoxide levels in the home. A protective tarp hanging outside the home blocked exhaust vent for water heater. Tarp was cut and house vented.

March 13, 2017 – 1 Alarm Fire, 160 Cambridgepark Drive, Box 7782 – companies found a fire smoldering in a potted plant on a 4th floor balcony.

March 17, 2017 – Mutual Aid, 2nd Alarm, Watertown, 29 Merrifield Ave – Engine 9, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to Watertown mutual aid for the 2nd alarm fire. Squad 4 provided care to a firefighter who collapsed on scene and succumbed.

Line of Duty Death

On behalf of the Cambridge Fire Department, Acting Chief Gerard Mahoney and Local 30 – our condolences to the brothers and sisters of Watertown Fire Department on the loss of FF Toscano.



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Chief Gerald Reardon** on his retirement! Chief Reardon served the department for almost 40 years. His last day was March 4, 2017. A reception was held at Headquarters on March 2, 2017 where his family, co-workers and Chiefs from surrounding departments came to wish him well!



J Gelinas photo



CFD Archives

...and Congratulations to...

Members of the Cambridge Fire Department,

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed **Gerard Mahoney as the Acting Fire Chief** effective Sunday, March 5, 2017. Chief Mahoney first joined the Cambridge Fire Department in 1983 as a firefighter. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1989, Captain in 2001, Deputy Chief in 2008, and Chief of Operations/Assistant Chief in 2012. He is a third-generation Cambridge Public Safety employee.

Chief Mahoney has served as an Adjunct Faculty Member at Merrimack College and Bunker Hill Community College. He holds an Associate of Science in Fire Protection and Safety Technology, a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration.

Chief Mahoney's experience – which spans almost every job function within the Cambridge Fire Department – makes him extremely qualified for this appointment. I have great faith in and respect for the Chief Mahoney. Please join me in congratulating Gerry on his appointment as Acting Fire Chief.

Sincerely,
Louis DePasquale



J Gelinas photo

Acting Chief Gerard Mahoney is sworn in on Monday, March 6, 2017

129th Annual Cambridge Relief Assoc. Firemens Ball

The 129th Annual Cambridge Relief Assoc. Firemen's Ball was held on February 18, 2017 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. Thanks to the Relief Association Directors for their hard work in putting this event together as always. Retirees that were in attendance that were honored were **Fire Alarm Operator Steve Gegalis, Assistant Chief Jim Burns** and **Lt. Dan Lewicki, Ladder 2; Retired.**



H Smith photo



H Smith photo



H Smith photo

FF Fran Gallagher; Aide to Division 1 and wife enjoy the evening

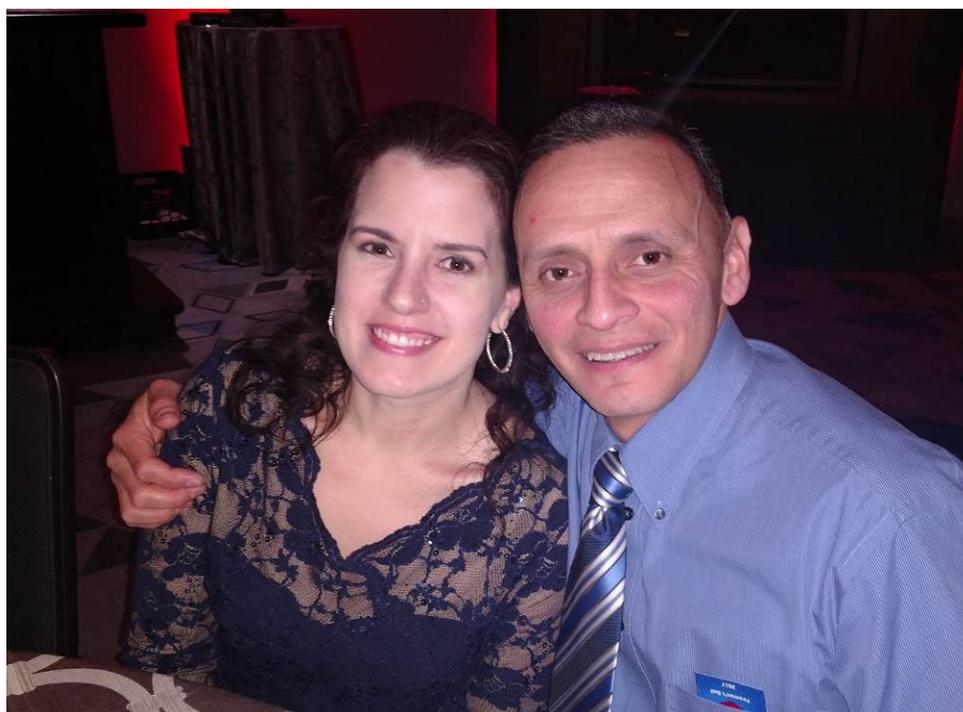


Photo H Smith

FF Silvio Estrada; Rescue 1 and his wife getting ready to hit the dance floor

View from the Royal Sonesta of the Boston skyline prior to the 125th Fireman's Ball



H. Smith photo

Cambridge Local 30 - Guns N Hoses

Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the MDA Guns N' Hoses Hockey Game this past Saturday and also to everyone who supported the event by purchasing raffle tickets! The Grand Prize raffle went to **FF Robert A. Walsh**. The event raised approximately **\$6,000** for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. It was a great game, a great turnout, and most importantly, it was for a great cause! CFD won 4-2. Photos of the game can be found on the Local 30 Facebook page. Special thanks to the families of our 3 VIP guests (Joe, Justin, and Paul) and to our MDA Staff Vanessa Malfitano and Molly McDermott. Thank you to Kathy Murphy and the BB&N Staff for their hospitality, my father **Bill Hugh, Stacia & Amy Joyce, Ameer & Nicole Moustafa**, Michelle Cataldo, **Kyle Schweinshaut**, Frank Connelly (ref), Rich & Rich Jr Gerokoulis (scorekeepers), and our sponsors: **Professional Ambulance**, The Galleria Mall, The Boston Bruins Foundation, and the IAFF.

We should all be proud that collectively as a Department, we have raised over \$100,000 in the past 5 years for such a great cause! I thank you all again for supporting these MDA events and I look forward to start preparing for any future events to come. However, I know you can only hear so much about hockey games, golf tournaments, raffle tickets, and boot drives before you get sick of me or block me out. Any suggestions for new events or fundraising would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you,
Lieutenant Brandon Hugh



Photo credit – Local 30

Metro Hockey Schedule

Please support the **Cambridge Fire Hockey Team** as they play in the **Metro Fire Hockey** Tournament. April 7th -15th at the Stoneham Ice Arena on Montvale Ave. Our schedule is as follows:

Saturday April 8th 10am - Cambridge Fire vs Malden Fire
Sunday April 9th 12pm - Lynn Fire vs Cambridge Fire
Wednesday April 12th 9pm - Arlington Fire vs Cambridge Fire

If we advance we will play Friday April 14th and then possibly Saturday April 15th.

Hero's Cup Tournament Runs April 21st-23rd at the New England Sports Center Marlborough Ma. Our Schedule is as follows.

Friday April 21st 440pm - Cambridge Fire @ Billerica Police (Rink 3)
Saturday April 22nd 820am - Westwood Fire @ Cambridge Fire (Rink 3)
Saturday April 22nd 450pm - Cambridge Fire @ Old Colony Police & Fire (Rink 1)

If we advance

Sunday April 23rd 1240pm at Rink 5 or 6
Sunday April 23rd 330pm at Rink 6.

As always we will keep everything up to date through Twitter @CambFireHockey, CFD Hockey FB Page, or CFDHockey.org. Stay tuned online for Full Schedule and updates as games are played/Divisions will be on CFDHockey.org

Just a reminder...



Out and About

Retired fire captain spends half-century documenting Cambridge's fire history

By Amy Saltzman
Cambridge Chronicle
asaltzman@wickedlocal.com
Thursday, January 12, 2017

Although he's been retired from the Cambridge Fire Department for over six years, former captain Steve Persson still keeps an office at the Engine 3 firehouse on Third Street.

He's best known as the city's fire historian and has been working daily since the age of 16, chronicling the department's evolution and the most notorious blazes.

At the age of 71, Persson's work ethic hasn't changed much. He still labors daily on this effort, despite retirement, and has accumulated 3,600 pages of history dating back to 1630 - the year Newtowne, Cambridge's first settlement, was founded.

"I work on it every day," Persson told the Chronicle. "I used to do it all on the typewriter, so everything I typed I had to retype into the computer."

Persson has written more than 1,000 pages just on the city's fire history from 1870 to 1899. Mainly because back then the fire department was a "big deal," Persson said. Local papers, like the Cambridge Chronicle, would write about firefighters going on vacation - where they went and how long they stayed. "It was crazy," Persson said with a laugh.

Within his work, Persson has an almost complete list of every firefighter in Cambridge since 1860 (the department was first established in 1832): where they were born, when they were appointed, when they retired and when they died.

He also has extensive notes on the firefighters plot in Cambridge Cemetery: when it was purchased and who is buried there.

It's an all-encompassing work, chronicling the department within a backdrop of an ever-changing city: from horses and stables to bikes and high-rises.

Every major fire since 1630 is documented, thanks in part to the library's extensive archive, which includes Chronicles dating back to the paper's inception in 1846.

"Right now, I'm working on 1899 and - talking about big fires - oh my God, this was a big fire, the [Chronicle] edition of July 22, 1899," said Persson, not quite finishing his thought.

Persson jumps from one subject to the next like an excited encyclopedia. There's no one who knows more about the city's fire history and no one who's more passionate, according to many who know him.

"People like Steve don't come along very often - once a generation, if that," said Charlie Sullivan, executive director of the Cambridge Historical Commission. "He is one of the great unrecognized authorities on Cambridge history."

Assistant Fire Chief Gerry Mahoney agrees, calling Persson's work an invaluable resource for the department.

"Stephen has been dedicated to the history of the fire service since he was a kid. It's truly a labor of love," said Mahoney, who was 13 years old when he first met Persson. "History is a very big part of the fire service, and there are a lot of things about this department in particular that are unique. I myself put a lot of value in it. It's an extremely proud history."

Persson's history

Persson was born in Mount Auburn Hospital and lived in Cambridge for most of his life, before moving to Medford when his mother passed away a few years ago. With a fascination starting early in his life for his hometown and everything fire-related, Persson joined the Cambridge Fire Department in his mid-20s. He worked for 39 years there, serving as a training officer for the last 19 years of his career.

He retired over six years ago, and when he's not working on fire history, he's spending time with his grandkids.



Photo by Wicked Local/Ann Ringwood

He has considered turning his 3,600 pages of work into a book, releasing it in sections, starting with the 1,000 pages between 1870 and 1899 and whittling them down.

"The whole idea is that you can go anywhere in this document. If you want to go back and see when the first motorized apparatus came along in Cambridge, you could do that. If you wanted to see big fires in the 70s, you could do that," he said.

As he gets older, he thinks about who will continue the work once he's gone. He's hoping someone in the department will pick up where he leaves off.

In his will, he has left all his work and fire photos to the Historical Commission.

"I know they'll take care of them," he said.

What started off as an effort to correct misinformation has led to lifelong work.

"The history of the department is always something that interested me," he said. "It's my passion. It's something I guess will live forever."



Photo by Wicked Local/Ann Ringwood

Job well done Captain Persson!

Quotes of the Day

“Man, unlike any other thing organic, or inorganic in the universe, grows beyond his work, walks up the stairs of his concepts, emerges ahead of his accomplishments.” **The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck**

“In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.” **General Dwight D. Eisenhower**

“You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things. Brave undisciplined men have no chance against the discipline and valor of other men.” **General George S. Patton Jr.**

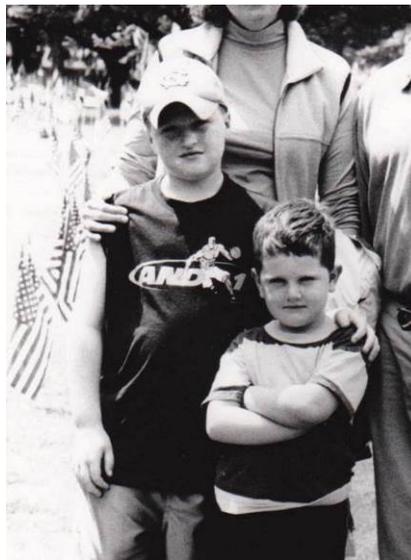
“The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today's work extremely well.” **Jeff Ribman**

The Cambridge Fire and Cambridge Police Honor Guards were on hand to provide the colors for a Boston Bruins Game on February 28, 2017.



Photo J Gelinis

Trivia



While searching through the archives, we came across this family photo from the **Lt. Ed Fowler** archives, circa 1990's. Can anyone identify the boy with the baseball hat? Answer at end of newsletter.

CFD Retirees

Here is what some of the younger members can look forward to! Beards, beverages and good times in Florida! Thanks to **Lt. Bill Wood, Ladder 1; Retired** for sending us this photo from January 2017



L-R, Lt. Billy Wood; Ladder 1; retired – FF Ed Friel; Engine 4 retired and FF Bobby O’Neil; Retired.



B. Hugh photo

2017 Florida Retiree Reunion

Back Row: L/R Harold Graff, Dick Teas, Morgan Sheaffer, Larry Buchanan, Dave Scholl, John Ruffing, Larry Hodgdon, and John Mester (FDNY); Front Row: L/R Ronnie Mattos, Dan Flaherty, Mike Papsadero, Bill Hugh, Tom Casey, and Ken O’Connor

Other retirees gathered for a photo after paying respects at the funeral for **Capt. Ted Bibeau, Ladder 4; Retired**



J Gelinas photo

L-R DFC J. Gelinas, R. Alford, J McNamara and B. Currier



Gelinas photo

Engine 1, Group 3 stopped by to visit with DFC Ralph Chapman on his 94th birthday in February 2017. His birthday was February 17. Ralph was appointed Captain of Engine 1 in 1967 and was later promoted to Deputy Chief and also Administrative Assistant to Chief of Department (which later became Chief of Operations) in 1973.

L-R, FF Matt McDonald (detailed from Rescue 1), FF Mike Franks, DFC Ralph Chapman;Retired and FF Jeremy Marrache.



J Gelinias photo

Comedian Lenny Clarke stopped by Headquarters to wish his childhood friends, **FF Jim Bergin and FF Dennis Maragiolo** well on their retirement in February

From the Archives

Dispatching in the Good Old Days – not so much! -By DFC Jack Gelinias: Retired

It doesn't seem that long ago, but fire dispatching has greatly changed over the years. In this 21st century, today most emergency calls are initiated by cell phone. The ECC (Emergency Communications Center) call-taker gathers the information from the caller(s) makes the entry into the CAD system via computer, and almost immediately the call is sent to the appropriate dispatcher's screen. Fire Department units are dispatched via Zetron from the fire houses, by radio on the air, by computer laptop in many units, and now by apparatus mounted Ipads via PublicEyes. The traditional bell system has also been maintained.

Up until the 70s, still alarms were transmitted by telephone, hence the name "still alarm" meaning that the bells were still. For any still, for example, EMS, car fire, rubbish fire, etc. the dispatched company/companies only was/were notified by telephone to respond. The fire alarm operator would manually ring the phone, sometimes with an extra-long ring if the call was for a fire, and when the "man on patrol" (no women on the job in those days) answered, always on the first ring, the fire alarm operator would announce something like, "TAKE THE APPARATUS TO RUFO ROAD FOR A CAR FULLY INVOLVED. LADDER 2 WILL BE COMING WITH YOU!" The man on patrol would then hit the still bell to turn out the company. The same still procedure was used for a double house or a triple house (HQ), but the fire alarm operator would specify which company or companies to turn out. He might say, "ENGINE ONLY," or "TRUCK ONLY," or "BOTH COMPANIES," or maybe, "EVERYBODY GOES."

For a box alarm, there was no alert tone or initial announcement. The box would tap out over the bell circuit and the members were expected to know to which boxes the company was assigned. Three rounds were tapped out and company members, knowing their boxes, would hit the floor to turn out. Only after the third round was tapped out, fire alarm would make the box announcement and give the location, for example, "FIRE ALARM BROADCASTING AN ALARM OF FIRE FROM BOX 236, BERKSHIRE AND YORK." FA would also give out any additional information at this time. Every apparatus floor, patrol desk, dormitory, and office had a list of the company's boxes posted on the wall. Remember that fire alarm did not announce the assignment. You were expected to know your first alarm boxes, as well as your multiple alarm boxes. If there were several incidents in progress, FA would call by telephone to tell the company to, "hold up on the box," or maybe, "take this box." In later years, an alert tone was sounded, the box was announced, and then the box would be transmitted two rounds on the circuit. You were still expected to know your company box responses.

In this era, every box in the city received 3 engines, 2 trucks, the rescue, and a chief. This full assignment was for everything, pulled boxes, street boxes, auxiliary boxes, and "struck for" boxes. It was not unusual for Ladder 1 or Rescue 1 to run "coast to coast" uptown and downtown responding to full boxes, many of them malicious false alarms in those days. Not that it happened frequently, but this writer can remember companies responding to boxes to which they were not assigned. That was better than missing a box. On one of those busy nights, the company might be told (by telephone) to hold up on the box and then immediately called back to take the box when FA started receiving multiple calls for a fire.

For a "struck for" box, the first-due engine and truck would be "stilled out" to the fire prior to the box being transmitted on the circuits. For example, FA would ring the telephone with that long ring, and tell the man on patrol something like, "BUILDING FIRE, xxx WINTER STREET, BOX TO FOLLOW!" The man on patrol of course would repeat the address and then turn out the company (ies). This gave the first-due engine and the first-due truck a head start on the box and ensured that they had the fire address prior to the radio announcement which was delayed until after the box was transmitted on the primary and secondary circuits. With usually only two fire alarm operators on duty, they could be very busy. Remember, with no computer, everything was written down on paper and looked up manually. Boxes were set up by hand and all dispatching was done manually. Picture a major event or fire, or simultaneous incidents in progress, with telephones ringing, companies calling via radio, and only two operators in the office to accomplish a multitude of tasks. For a multiple or major event, extra operators could be called in.

Mobile radio communication

One fact about apparatus mobile radios prior to the 70s, is that the old tube sets took a few minutes to warm up. There were no portable radios. This was a problem when a company, responding to an address not far from quarters, attempted to call in with an urgent message but the message did not get transmitted because the radio was not warmed up yet. Also before the advent of portable radios, when a company called "off" at the still or "off" at the box, they were really "off the air at the still" or "off the air at the box." With no portables, you might hear, "Engine 1's wagon to Engine 1's pump, fill the line."

Radio and telephone tests

Every morning at 0800 and every evening at 1800, a radio test was completed on all mobile radios, "Engine 1's pump, Engine 1's wagon, Engine 2's pump, Engine 2's wagon, Engine 3's pump, Engine 3's wagon, etc., etc., etc." In later years, the portable radios were tested too. Only the chiefs, aides, and officers carried portables in those days. The house phone was also tested once in the morning and once in the evening, with one long ring, and "telephone test."

Thank you to all the fire alarm operators and dispatchers of the previous era. Many have since passed away. They were very busy at times, kept things moving, and were a key to providing public fire protection to the city.

A fire alarm incident ticket from 0422 hours on 21 July 1977 is attached. This was a four alarm fire, Box 4-284 for 85 Bishop Allen Drive, a fire in a bowling alley. Joe Fresolo and John Brennan were the fire alarm operators on duty.

ORIGINAL FIRE ALARM INCIDENT TICKET

INCIDENT NO. 80543 CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ELECTRICAL DEPT. DATE & TIME
 CAMBRIDGE ELECTRICAL DEPT.
 FIRE ALARM REPORT JUL 21 04 22 '77

LOCATION 85 Bishop Allen Drive Bowling Alley

RECEIVED P.L. 2-1 W/W ALL OUT
 1215

NOTIFIED Prof Amb @ 0438 Code - 11

OPERATORS Fresolo, Brennan REMARKS
 Struck Box 284 for investigation
 Rpt. smoke from bow alley
 C-2 off @ 0424
 code 1 @ 0429
 E-1 Cover E-2 @ 0429
 working in Electric Light
 File @ 0432 @ 0450
 E-8 To The Fire @ 0520

APPARATUS ASSIGNED & IN SERVICE TIME									
E1	E2 H	E3	E4	E5	E6 H	E7	E8	E9	
0734	1232	0722	0808	0750	1003	0904	0651	0721	
A.T.	L2	L3 H	L4	RES.	C2	C3	F-1		
1046	0726	1113	0718	0740	1205	0655	0640	0811	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

C-3 LEFT The fire @ 0655
 E-4 To AT1 @ 0711 - 1047
 Fire Marshall @ 0736
 R-C-1 @ 0553
 4th Alarm Ass @ 0516



Photo provided

A photo of FAO Operators Ron Woodman and Mario Alliquo in the old fire alarm office at 489 Broadway.

Speaking of “Back in the day”, we hope **DFC Ralph Chapman; Retired** doesn’t mind us using his photo. This photo is of a young FF Ralph Chapman as Aide to **Deputy Chief Thomas F. O’Connor** back in the day.



R Chapman photo

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

After the recent Line of Duty Death in Watertown, how many members are aware of the line-of-duty deaths that occurred in Cambridge over the years? Sadly, the list is extensive. Over the course of the next few newsletters we will share this information on a quarterly basis. If anyone has any further information to add, we will gladly update the information. Some of these members are relatives of current firefighters on the job.

In Memoriam – Cambridge Line of Duty Deaths from **January - March**

Captain Charles A. Paine, Engine 2 - January 19, 1874 (or January 13, 1874) – of Union Steam Engine Co. 2 died in a fire at Ward's Carriage.

Lieutenant Exurie J. Ouimette, February 1, 1921 – no information available

Captain James H. Furfey, February 14, 1923 – Died while operating at Box 45.

Private William F. McGrath, killed February 20, 1930 at box 39, suffocated by gas in basement fire 343-347 Green Street, basement in block of stores.

Private William Foley, (Ladder 2) killed January 28, 1932 by falling plaster/ceiling collapse at 3rd alarm, Box 126, several others injured

Private George A. Regan, January 12, 1937 – died in the line of duty while operating at Box 71 for 2022 Mass. Ave.

Private William Davidson, Rescue 1, Age 53. Died while operating at General Alarm fire (3rd Alarm) Box 122, January 12, 1942. Fire location was 269-271 Cambridge Street

Deputy Chief Joseph H. Caldwell, died January 9, 1950 from injuries sustained on the job.

Captain John J. Drinan, Engine 3 - February 17, 1956 – Collapsed in quarters after responding to Box 194, which was a false alarm at 7:22 PM

Fire Chief Vincent P. Galvin, February 16, 1965 Died at city hall during budget hearing

Firefighter Richard E. Smith, Engine 2 - February 21, 1965, collapsed while fighting dump fire

Firefighter John A. Clark, Engine 6 - January 12, 1974, died while operating at Box 353, 2nd Alarm. Box 353 sounded 1:30 AM, 2nd alarm sounded 2:11AM

Firefighter Leonard F. Delaney, Ladder 4, March 23, 2007, from injuries sustained from the job

Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of
Firefighter Robert P. Elliott; Engine Company 9-Retired.

Funeral service was held on January 13, 2017 in Gilford, NH.

Firefighter Elliott was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of
Lt. William H. Fehlan; Engine Co. 9-Retired

Lt. Fehlan was appointed to the department on October 25, 1953. He retired on March 30, 1986.

He was a Veteran of the United States Navy, Korean Conflict.

Lt. Fehlan was 85 years of age.

Engine 9's on duty crew provided a fire department presence and funeral detail on the day of the funeral on February 9



Photo credit FF McEachern

L-R FF John McEachern, FFOP Zach Bennett, FF Gene Myrttil – Engine 9 duty crew providing a department presence at the funeral detail for Lt. Fehlan's at St. John's Church

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

Captain Theodore S. Bibeau; Ladder Company 4-Retired



Captain Bibeau was appointed January 16, 1966 and retired January 18, 1998
He was a Veteran of the United States Army; Korean Conflict
He was residing in Ormond Beach, FL
He was 80 years of age.

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

Firefighter Donald J. Burke; Ladder Company 2- Retired

Firefighter Burke was appointed to the department on January 9, 1966

He retired on June 5, 2001

He was a Veteran of the United States Army

Firefighter Burke was 80 years old.

Condolences to:

Deputy Chief Kenneth Jenness on the passing of his Mother-in-Law,
Mrs. Cora Anne Donovan in January 2017

Firefighter Ronald Mattos; Engine Co. 2-Retired and family on the passing of his Wife,
Mrs. Barbara Mattos in Florida in December.

Miss Helen Donovan Fire Headquarters Office-Retired and her family on the passing of her
Sister, Miss Anne M. Donovan

Firefighter Peter Mickiewicz; Ladder Co. 1 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Marion Mickiewicz

Firefighter Ramon Perez: Engine Co. 5, on the passing of his Nephew
Mr. Estarling I. Arias

Mr. Arias was also the Nephew of
Firefighter Roger Perez: Somerville Engine Co. 3

Firefighter Thomas C. Harris III: Engine Co. 1 on the passing of his Father-In-Law,
Mr. James P. McSherry

Condolences to the family and friends on the passing of
Mr. Michael Nicoloro
Deputy Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department-Retired
Mr. Nick as he was known to many was a valuable resource and friend to this department for
many years.

Stats and Fires

**Cambridge Fire
Annual Totals - Calendar Year 2016**

	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Bldg Fires</i>
Engine 1	2300	34
Engine 2	3427	32
Engine 3	1616	19
Engine 4	1511	17
Engine 5	1960	36
Engine 6	1460	27
Engine 8	1181	23
Engine 9	1084	17
Truck 1	2000	45
Truck 2	1265	25
Truck 3	2253	34
Truck 4	1494	32
Rescue 1	2359	49
Squad 2	3553	40
Squad 4	1877	41
Special/HQ Units	206	
HazMat 1	26	
Division 1	1819	42
Division 2	1254	37
Mutual Aid Units	249	
TOTAL	32894	

Incidents	14,463
Div 1 Incidents	8387
Div 2 Incidents	6076
Responses	32,894
EMS	6261
Building Fires	73
Inside Fires	899
All Fires	1066
HazMat	193
CO contamination	55

Working Fires	6
Total Multiples	2
2nd Alarm	1
10th Alarm	1

1/2/2017 22:00 jjg

FY 2016/2017 RUN TOTALS

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	SBTTL	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	TOTAL
Engine 1	168	175	226	214	194	197	1174	177	174		1525
Engine 2	321	329	284	296	266	246	1742	277	305		2324
Engine 3	152	131	129	150	124	135	821	132	114		1067
Engine 4	131	111	138	118	128	113	739	134	118		991
Engine 5	177	150	178	179	174	148	1006	164	141		1311
Engine 6	137	129	151	120	91	113	741	109	99		949
Engine 8	101	100	127	117	76	92	613	90	87		790
Engine 9	85	98	92	86	73	88	522	83	87		692
Truck 1	160	141	194	199	175	173	1042	151	167		1360
Truck 2	105	127	99	118	99	102	650	108	91		849
Truck 3	193	200	207	211	152	181	1144	183	205		1532
Truck 4	120	133	126	145	110	112	746	106	81		933
Rescue 1	167	162	219	208	205	201	1162	172	198		1532
Squad 2	317	317	319	298	312	274	1837	314	255		2406
Squad 4	149	155	181	176	134	140	935	176	153		1264
Division 1	158	163	189	192	113	130	945	141	142		1228
Division 2	102	87	129	127	96	106	647	83	95		825
HazMat 1	0	1	2	4	4	1	12	1	1		14
Spec & HQ Units	8	21	14	15	6	17	81	3	9		93
Mutual Aid Units	13	7	13	12	12	104	161	9	15		185
TOTALS	2764	2737	3017	2985	2544	2673	16720	2613	2537		21870

FY 2016/2017 Incident Totals											
	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	SBTTL	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	TOTAL
Responses	2764	2737	3017	2985	2544	2673	16720	2613	2537		21870
Incidents	1271	1216	1307	1273	1154	1123	7344	1163	1119		9626
Division 1 incidents	763	747	732	732	682	659	4315	693	649		5657
Division 2 incidents	508	469	575	541	472	464	3029	470	470		3969
Building fires	5	5	9	9	5	9	42	3	2		47
Inside fires	48	38	76	96	101	76	435	89	101		625
All fires	78	56	83	100	108	80	505	97	107		709
EMS	554	525	583	529	541	471	3203	557	515		4275
Elevator Rescue	29	23	17	14	14	17	114	13	114		241
Hazardous materials	10	6	18	29	20	21	104	11	11		126
CO emerg	2	7	6	6	7	6	34	4	6		44
Electrical hazards	38	27	40	33	22	25	185	36	34		255
Malicious false	14	20	15	20	20	10	99	10	14		123
Malfunction	144	117	134	102	88	90	675	78	81		834
Unintentional	117	152	137	145	99	128	778	118	123		1019
Bomb threats/susp	26	20	39	34	17	19	155	19	19		193
Bomb/expl removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Structure collapse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		1
Total Multiple Alarms						1	1				1
2nd Alarms							0				0
3rd Alarms							0				0
4th Alarms							0				0
5th Alarms							0				0
10th Alarms						1	1				1
Working Fires					1	1	2	1	1		4
HM Lev 1 "Working"							0				0

The Hero "Gene" – FF Kevin Lawson, Ladder 3, Group 4

FIRE FIGHTERS AND THE "HERO GENE"

Kevin Lawson Ladder Company 3 Group 4 - *(Editor note – Thanks to FF Lawson for sharing his knowledge. Kevin has a CDL license and drives for a trucking company when not working at CFD. Thank you for your contribution Kevin!)*

We have heard about it and almost all of us have experienced it, it's called "the Hero Gene". It's that part of our make up as fire fighters that make us perform at a heightened state. You felt it when you were a kid back on the block playing firefighter. You still feel it sometimes when you're out either with family or friends and a piece of apparatus goes by while responding.

The people you're with don't understand it, unless they have been there or are on the job. But you still get somewhat of a rush.

There is a specific part of the hero gene problem that I want to talk about. More importantly I want to make you aware about, and it is how we respond to emergency calls. In a previous article **Capt. Ikels; Engine Company 2**, stated that it is up to each individual to know their district, I would submit to you that not only do we need to know our districts we also need to understand our districts. Everything from our response at certain times to the traffic patterns to street closures. All of these vary from different times of the day to evening to overnight.

We have all responded to certain calls which we know are going to turn out to be nothing, until. Until that one time you hear the tones go off and it's "that address...Again" until you hear fire alarm say they are receiving calls, then the nothing call becomes a something call and the Hero Gene kicks in. Now you feel the rush of adrenaline your heart beats faster you need to get there to help. This to me is one of the most dangerous parts of our profession. What you need to understand is that you cannot help anyone if the apparatus is involved in an accident and you and your crew are hurt.

There are many things that go through our minds as we respond to a call, the driver or operator is thinking the best and fastest way to get to the call while also thinking about the best way to get into the call for a stick shot or the closest hydrant, the officer is thinking the best way to attack the fire. The fire fighters riding in back are thinking what tools they are going to need or which line they are going to use. As you can see there is a lot going on in the cab of the apparatus

We as firefighters and operators of emergency apparatus need to understand that while sirens and red flashing lights will somewhat clear the way for us, we need to use our head. You, as the operator, are responsible for that piece of apparatus as well as the lives of the crew on board. If you are responding and you run a red light and get t-boned by a cement mixer and kill some of your crew it's going to be on you. You will have a hard time finding anyone that is going to validate you running a red light.

This is not a piece on "How to Drive a Large truck". But rather a piece to help you understand that that large truck, at a higher than normal speed limit, can do an awful lot of damage if the operator is not using their head. There are many factors that go into driving these large pieces of apparatus. For one, you have engine companies that are carrying 500 gallons of water in a tank, that while baffled still have the ability to push the piece or change the center of gravity at a higher speed limit. Ladder trucks with the stick on the roof and the length of the truck also can have their center of gravity changed simply by the weight of it alone. Operators need to understand that these pieces of apparatus are larger than their cars and that there is lot more to them than simply starting and going.

Some of you subscribe to the Firefighters Close Call secret list, for you new guys I suggest that you do also. I get emails every day from them and 9 times out of 10 it's a story about an apparatus accident.

Our job, our calling is the need to help people who are having a bad day. We cannot help someone who is having a bad day, if we have an accident or cause bodily harm or property damage. Use your head, gain control of your hero gene don't let it control you. Remember the following

1. Safety is Paramount
2. Everyone wears their seat belts all the time.
3. Know your district
4. Be aware of changes in traffic patterns in your district
5. Everyone out of the vehicle when it is backing.
6. And above all, watch your speed!

Use your head, your crew and your family depend on it.

New Hires, Transfers, Promotions & Retirements

Date: February 21, 2017

General Order No. 01; Series of 2017

Effective Date: February 28, 2017

Subject: Retirement, Firefighter James E. Bergin

Effective February 28, 2017, at 1700 hours, Firefighter James E. Bergin retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter James Bergin was **appointed on February 17, 1974.**

- **February 17, 1974** **Engine Company No. 6**
- **March 13, 1977** **Rescue Company No. 1**
- **September 15, 1996** **Engine Company No. 4**
- **July 13, 2014** **Technical Services**

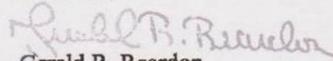
Firefighter Bergin has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Bergin much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Firefighter Bergin is the senior member of the department with over 43 years of service.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department



Photo – J Gelinias

Date: February 21, 2017

General Order No. 02; Series of 2017

Effective Date: February 28, 2017

Subject: Retirement, Firefighter Dennis J. Maragioglio

Effective February 28, 2017, at 1700 hours, Firefighter Dennis J. Maragioglio retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Dennis Maragioglio was appointed on June 21, 1987.

- August 9, 1987 Ladder Company No. 3
- August 18, 2002 Ladder Company No. 4
- December 30, 2012 Technical Services

Firefighter Maragioglio has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Maragioglio much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,


Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department



Photo J Gelinis

Date: February 21, 2017

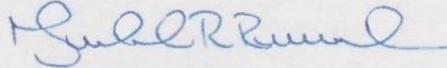
General Order No. 03; Series of 2017

Effective Date: February 26, 2017 at 0700 hours

Subject: Transfer

Firefighter William S. Dusablon from Ladder Co. 2 to Technical Services

Per order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Date: March 7, 2017

General Order No. 06; Series of 2017

Effective Date: March 5, 2017

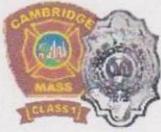
Subject: Acting Chief of Department

Effective March 5, 2017 Assistant Chief Gerard E. Mahoney was appointed as the Acting Chief of the Department.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.



Louis DePasquale
City Manager



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
491 BROADWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
www.cambridgefire.org
ISO CLASS 1 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Date: March 5, 2017

General Order No. 05; Series of 2017

Effective Date: March 4, 2017

Subject: Retirement, Fire Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Effective March 4, 2017, at 1700 hours, Fire Chief Gerald R. Reardon retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Fire Chief Gerald Reardon was **appointed on August 7, 1977.**

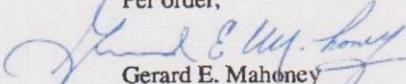
- **October 2, 1977** **Engine Company No. 9**
- **February 12, 1978** **Rescue Company No. 1**
- **April 27, 1980** **Engine Company No. 1**
- **November 16, 1980** **Aerial Tower No. 1**
- **January 1, 1984** **Acting Lieutenant, Engine Company No. 3**
- **March 4, 1984** **Promoted to Fire Lieutenant**
- **March 15, 1988** **Promoted to Fire Captain**
- **March 20, 1988** **Communications Officer**
- **August 4, 1992** **Promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, Technical Services**
- **March 20, 2000** **Acting Administrative Officer**
- **April 20, 2000** **Acting Chief of Department**
- **November 27, 2000** **Chief of Department**

Fire Chief Reardon has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Fire Chief Reardon much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,


Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: March 7, 2017

General Order No. 07; Series of 2017

Effective Date: March 7, 2017

Subject: Retirement, Firefighter Kyle B. Hood

Effective March 7, 2017 at 1700 hours, Firefighter Kyle B. Hood retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Kyle Hood was **appointed on January 21, 2007.**

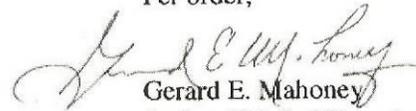
- **January 21, 2007** **Engine Company No. 1**
- **January 6, 2008** **Ladder Company No. 1**
- **December 30, 2012** **Ladder Company No. 3**
- **June 15, 2014** **Headquarters**

Firefighter Hood has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Hood much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,



Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department



CFD archives



Date: March 7, 2017

General Order No. 08; Series of 2017

Effective Date: March 13, 2017

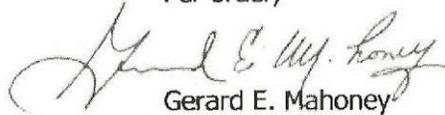
Subject: Status of "Firefighter"

The following Firefighters on Probation (F.F.O.P.) have reached the status of Firefighter, effective March 13, 2017 at 0700 hours:

**Joseph Andrade
Zachary J. Bennett
Michael J. Cahill
Clare Rose C. Collar
Gregory R. Gutoski
James B. Kennedy Jr.
Robert A. McVoy Jr.
Joseph M. Moore
Cameron R. Moyer**

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this order.

Per order,



Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Date: March 7, 2017

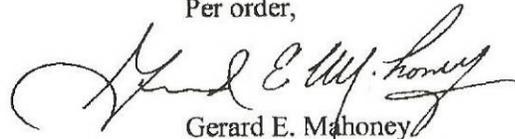
General Order No. 09; Series of 2017

Effective Date: March 12, 2017

Subject: Promotion

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas F. Cahill from Division 1 to Assistant Fire Chief

Per order,



Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Happy Birthday

Happy 185th Birthday to the Cambridge Fire Department

The Cambridge Fire Department was established on 17 March 1832 by an act of the State Legislature, which was signed by Governor Levi Lincoln, Chapter CXXXIX of the 1831/1832 session.

One excerpt from the act reads, "that the number of enginemen shall not exceed fifty to every hydraulic or suction engine, thirty-five to every common engine, five to every hose carriage, and twenty five hook and ladder men." The act also provides for a "Chief Engineer, and as many Engineers as the selectmen of said town shall appoint." (Note that Cambridge did not become a city until 1846.)

The Chief Engineer and Engineers were specifically given the, "powers and authority, relative to pulling down or demolishing any house or other building to prevent spreading of fires, and relative to all other matters and things affecting the extinguishment or prevention of fires, or the commanding assistance at them."

Prior to the 1832 act, CFD was made up of independent volunteer and privately funded industrial or college fire companies.

From extinguishing and preventing fires, the Cambridge Fire Department of the 21st century has evolved into an "All Hazards" fire department. In addition to the original 1832 duties of fire extinguishment and fire prevention, today's nationally rated ISO Class 1 Cambridge Fire Department is responsible for emergency medical and paramedic service; hazardous materials control; protection against radiation emergencies; technical rescue (which includes high-angle, trench, and structural collapse); extrication from vehicles and machinery; water and ice rescue; underwater search and rescue; marine firefighting; elevator rescue; subway and railroad emergencies; air sampling; and homeland security. These responsibilities are accomplished in cooperation with our fire department mutual aid partners, our partners in other City of Cambridge agencies, and our partners in other municipal, state, federal, and private agencies. In this 21st century, public safety depends on teamwork.

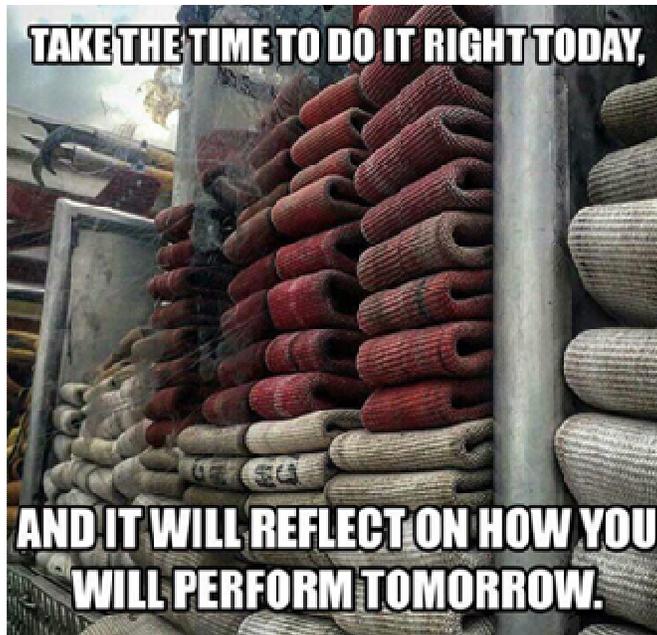
Thank you to all the men and women, past and present, who have made the Cambridge Fire Department what it is today! Happy 185th!



Photo J Gelinas

One of the early Cambridge fire stations still stands on Main Street near Windsor. Now privately owned, the lintels over the former doors still read "Union No. 2" and "Franklin H&L 1".

Side note: In that same legislative session of 1831/1832, an act was also passed, Chapter XLVII, separating the district of Maine from Massachusetts as a separate and independent district. Up until that time, Maine was part of Massachusetts. – Thanks to **Asst. Chief J. Gelinas: Retired** for the information.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the **Brockton Fire Department** for attaining an ISO Class I rating. This brings the number of departments in Massachusetts that are ISO Class I to five: **Cambridge, Boston, Brookline Newton, New Bedford and now Brockton**. According to the 2016 City report, only 62 of the 37,000 fire departments in the United States can claim this distinction! Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Deputy Chief Patrick McCabe** who retired from the Lowell Fire Department in January. His last shift was January 20, 2017. Deputy McCabe is also an instructor at the Mass. Fire Academy and may look familiar to some of us who trained there in the last 20 years.



Photo courtesy J. Gelinas

L-R, **Deputy Chief Dave Salvi; Retired – Somerville Fire, Deputy Chief Pat McCabe – Lowell Fire and Assistant Chief Jack Gelinas; Retired – Cambridge Fire.**

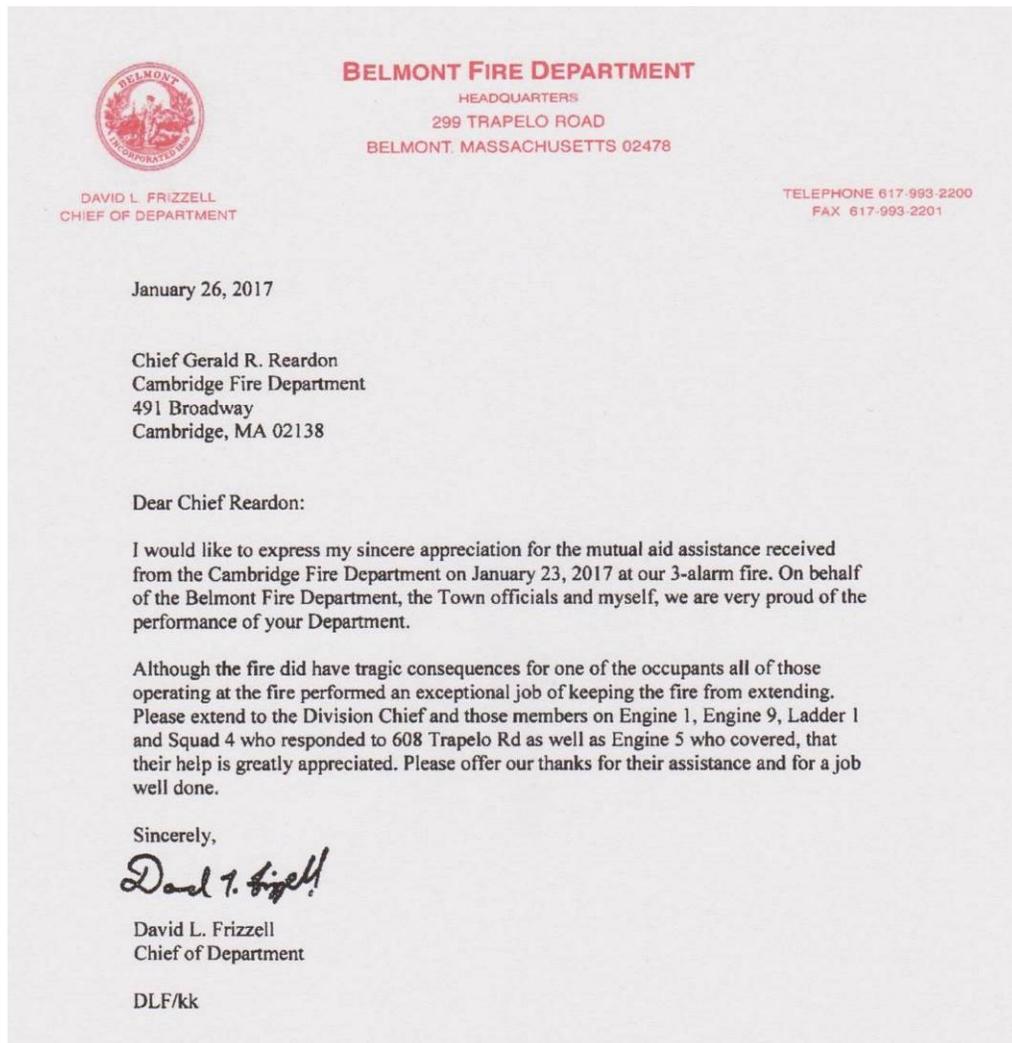
Letters

The following note was received in December 2016:

Merry Christmas to you and the Department. You certainly had your hands full this month with Box 236 at Berkshire St. I heard the radio transmissions from the internet and could realize that things were quickly under control with all hands deeply involved in getting it surrounded and extinguished in a timely manner. Great job by all hands. You have a great department and a very knowledgeable staff. Kudos to Cambridge Fire!! Tell Chief Reardon he was very through on the interviews.

Best regards
Deputy Chief Steve Barusso retired

The following letter was received on January 26, 2017:



Acting Chief Mahoney sent out the following note to department members on March 22, 2017:

All Members,

I want to extend my thanks to the many members of this department who took the time to attend the Wake and/or Funeral Services for Watertown Firefighter Joseph Toscano.

The Line-of-Duty Funeral Services are among the most time honored and important traditions of the fire service. The importance of showing respect and compassion for the families and co-workers of the fallen cannot be overstated.

Whether you participated in the Honor Guard, attended the Wake or stood in the cold sunshine earlier today, your presence was important to the family and friends of FF Toscano.

I also want to thank the members of the various companies who have covered in Watertown in the past few days, thus allowing the members of that department to grieve and to honor their fallen brother.

And finally a special thank you to mechanic Dan Lopez for getting the new bus in service and for shuttling members to Watertown today.

Thank you,

Gerard E. Mahoney
Acting Chief of Department

Did you know?



Courtesy of Hawkeye Newspaper February 2017

America's Heroes - M.J. Delehanty Medal, FDNY

File this under the "you never know what you will encounter in this job" category...



**Firefighter William R. Willets
Ladder Company 19
February 17, 2015, 1452 hours, Box 75-2726, Bronx**

On February 17, 2015, at 1452 hours, Ladder 19 was ordered to respond first-due to Box 2726, for a reported fire in an apartment on Webster Avenue. Lieutenant Daniel O'Keefe, Ladder 19's Officer, observed black smoke pushing from two rear windows on the 13th floor of the 21-story, fireproof, multiple dwelling and transmitted a 10-75. The Bronx Communications Office personnel advised Ladder 19 that an emotionally disturbed person might still be in the apartment and a possible hostage situation existed.

Lieutenant O'Keefe, along with FF's Scott Kratchel with the irons and William Willets with the extinguisher, used an elevator and ascended to the 11th floor. Members quickly climbed to the 13th floor and immediately observed about 10 NYPD officers with firearms drawn outside of an apartment, along with two other officers, in a physical altercation near the elevator lobby. The officers informed the members of Ladder 19 that there was an emotionally disturbed person in the fire apartment, holding his family hostage, possibly with a firearm.

FF Willets observed smoke pushing, under pressure, from around the door to the apartment as Ladder 19's chauffeur, FF Kevin Donovan, reported a victim, in peril, at a window at the far end of the apartment. Lieutenant O'Keefe ordered the adjoining apartment door forced as an area of refuge for Firefighters and police officers as the narrow hall way now was very crowded. Once the refuge area was established, the members forced the door to the apartment

Once entry was gained, an advanced fire condition was apparent. FF Willets, knowing innocent lives were at stake and the hose-line was delayed due to the normal first and second engine companies being out of service, donned his facepiece and entered the deteriorating conditions of the fire apartment without the protection of a hose-line. FF Willets searched about 20 feet into the apartment when he noticed fire now was extending into the apartment hallway.

FF Willets attempted to hold back the advancing fire, while waiting for Engine 46 members to charge their hose-line. Once Engine 46 had pushed the fire out of the hallway, FF Willets maneuvered past the nozzle team to continue the search of the ransacked apartment, knowing he could come upon an armed assailant. Searching in high heat with no visibility, FF Willets made quick progress down the long hallway to a closed bedroom door

Entering the bedroom, FF Willets heard moaning. Employing a right-handed search, FF Willets located the occupant, a woman, on the floor. She was semiconscious from the effects of the acrid smoke and fire conditions and also exhibited multiple slash and stab wounds

FF Willets informed Lieutenant O'Keefe that he had located a 10-45 and began removing her down the hallway, using Engine 46's hand-line and his own body as protection for the victim. He removed the victim to the elevator lobby of the public hallway, where he handed her off to Engine 82 members to provide lifesaving care FF Willets then proceeded back to the fire apartment to continue primary firefighting duties until the fire was placed under control

FF Willets faced dangers most firefighters never encounter. Not only was he met by a rapidly deteriorating fire condition with trapped occupants, FF Willets had effected the rescue while operating during known hostage situation with an armed assailant.

For his extraordinary effort, FF William R.Willets is presented with the M.J. Delehanty Medal to acknowledge his bravery.

From the Tailboard...

Recently the question was asked, what is that symbol on the cab on our fire apparatus?
To be exact, it's not just ours, but many in the fire service.



H. Smith photo

It is called a Fleur-de-lis. According to **retired Saugus Fire Chief Jim Blanchard**, "In French it means Flower of the Lily. Many paintings of Saints are depicted holding a Fleur-de-lis. It is to symbolize, Perfection, Light, and Life. The New Orleans Saints (football team) have it emblazoned on their football helmets, owing to Louisiana's, large French heritage."

We also heard from **Fire Captain Mark Roche, Newton FD** who added: "The "Fleur-de-lis is a symbol of strength. It was used by early soldiers during battles. Those of us in the fire service use it as both decorative and a symbol of strength as we are in constant war with fire and "battle the devil"! It is also a symbol of brotherhood and solidarity.

As for how it came to be used on apparatus - from what we can research, Ahrens-Fox started using the fleur-de-lis on fire engines in 1936, when the company was sold to the LeBlond family, whose family crest included a fleur-de-lis since that family were of French origin. Ahrens Fox stopped using it when the LeBlond family sold the company to Walter Walkenhorst in the 1950's. But the symbol had already taken hold in the fire apparatus industry and was used by others such as Mack and now Pierce among others.



H Smith photo

Trivia Answer

Although, he might be embarrassed – it is none other than **FF Patrick Sullivan; Engine 6**. We hope he realizes how lucky he is to be on the job while his Dad **FF William "Bumper" Sullivan** keeps tabs on him from Engine 9. In the photo is Mom, Jeanne; Dad Bumper, Patrick (with hat) and younger brother Sean. Also GET WELL WISHES to Bumper who had knee replacement surgery on March 10! Get Well!

Late Submission



H Smith photo

Just as the editor was wrapping up the newsletter, we found out that **Cambridge Police Detective Pauline Wells**, sister of **Captain Greg Carter; Squad 4; Retired** sang the National Anthem and a few additional songs at the Annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast in Boston on March 19, 2017. Nice job representing the police department and the city!

Social Media

For those on social media and smartphones, Cambridge Fire has been on both Facebook and Twitter for over a year now.



Follow us on Twitter @CambridgeMAFire



Follow us on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/CambridgeMAFire>
@CambridgeMAFire

Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal** to hsmith@cambridgefire.org or Hmaxims@gmail.com

E-mail list

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

Websites

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at www.Cambridgefire.org

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>

**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!**