



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

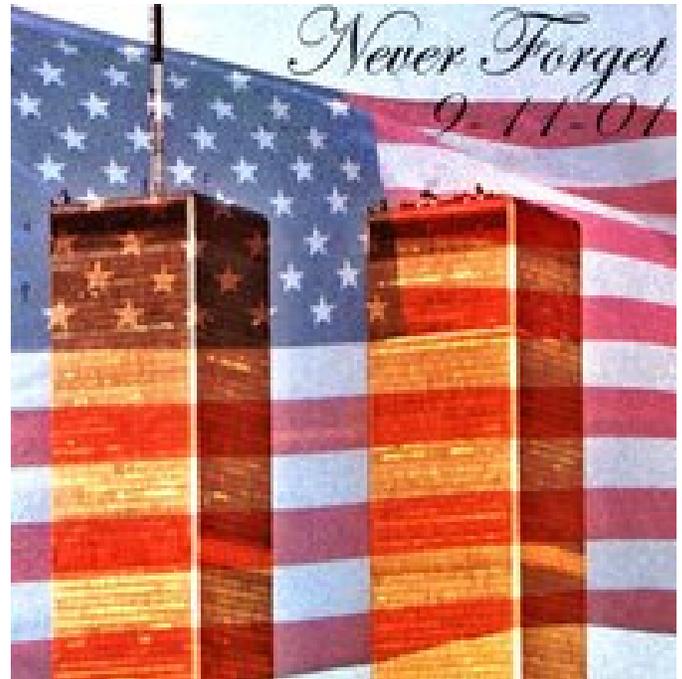
Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue #80
Fall 2016



September 11 Anniversary



September 11, 2016 marks the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the attempt to utilize American Airlines Flight 93 for the same purpose but was subsequently crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA.

The rallying cry then was “never forget.” It’s important to not only remember the 3,000 victims that died on that day alone, AND the Heroes that saved so many lives - but the thousands of first responders that continue to die from what is called 9/11 Disease; a myriad of cancer and respiratory ailments that plague them today. Many have already died as a result.

One thing to consider is that anyone under the age of 15, a high school sophomore now, was not even alive when the attacks occurred. It is a merely historical footnote, read about in books and online.

Some of the more notable statistics:

The initial numbers are indelible: 8:46 a.m. and 9:02 a.m. Time the burning towers stood: 56 minutes and 102 minutes. Time they took to fall: 12 seconds. From there, they ripple out.

Total number killed in attacks in New York: 2,753

Number of firefighters and paramedics killed: 343

Number of NYPD officers: 23

Number of Port Authority police officers: 37

Number of U.S. troops killed in Operation Enduring Freedom: 2,343

Number of nations whose citizens were killed in attacks: 115

Bodies found "intact": 291

Remains found: 21,906

Number of families who got no remains: 1,717

Number of people who lost a spouse or partner in the attacks: 1,609

Estimated number of children who lost a parent: 3,051

Percentage of Americans who knew someone hurt or killed in the attacks: 20

FDNY retirements, January–July 2001: 274

FDNY retirements, January–July 2002: 661

Number of firefighters on leave for respiratory problems by January 2002: 300

Number of FDNY vehicles destroyed: 98

Tons of debris removed from site: 1.8 million

Days fires continued to burn after the attack: 99

Updated September 2014, Source New York Magazine

Anyone who travels to New York City, should make it a point to visit the 9/11 Museum built on the site of where the Twin Towers stood and “Never Forget.”



What's New

Fire Apparatus

Engine Three. We have taken delivery on a Pierce Enforcer 1250 GPM pump with a dedicated 200 gallon foam tank. The four groups were each able to spend a day with the Pierce representative and they have been drilling and driving diligently in preparation for putting the piece in service. We hope to take delivery on an identical piece which will replace the current Engine Six sometime this fall.

Rescue One. We have taken delivery of a new non-transport, heavy Pierce Rescue. Some of the features of the new rig include the TAK-4 suspension system which combines independent rear suspension with a 100% mechanical rear steering system, a winch which can be deployed from the front, back or either side of the rig, an integral generator, hydraulic lines and electrical cords and an ALS compartment from which heated intravenous lines can be run.

Houses

A new boiler was installed at Engine Nine's quarters as well as a new fire alarm system. Headquarters is in the process of having a fire alarm system installed.

We have taken delivery of washing machines and dryers for Engines Three, Six and Nine. We have also taken delivery of an extractor which will be installed at the quarters of Engine Three and Ladder Two. All of the above will be placed in service as soon as plumbing, venting and electrical service to them is complete. This will complete the project of outfitting each station with a washer and dryer.

Engine Three and Engine Six's kitchen ranges have been recently replaced as has Engine Two's dishwasher. Plans are in motion to install an extractor at the quarters of Engine 8 and Ladder Four.

EnerGov

The Cambridge Fire Department will be the third city department behind Public Works and Inspectional Services to utilize EnerGov software for permits, inspections and code enforcement. Working alongside the city's Information Technology department, members of Fire Prevention, LEPC, Tech Services, Ms. Camara and Jack Gelinias have been meeting weekly, and in some cases daily, to develop the numerous forms for the many permits and inspections EnerGov will be used for, and the mechanism used to collect fees for these permits. Once up and running, EnerGov should simplify the process of permitting and inspecting for both the public and Fire Department members.

It is anticipated that the Suppression Division will begin training on the new software in late November into early December. The training will likely be two parts; familiarization with the iPad and familiarization with the EnerGov software. Prior to going live sometime in late January, all fire companies will be issued an iPad with the program loaded onto it. The iPad will be used to conduct State-mandated inspections, Smoke/ CO inspections, Neighborhood Walkthroughs, etc.

Health and Wellness

Action Wipes have been distributed to all companies. These large wipes are designed specifically to be used when exposed to carcinogenic byproducts of smoke and soot. Please refer to subject email for instructions on use. We will also be distributing conventional hand wipes for every day clean-up after incidents or anytime hands need to be sanitized as well as bug spray to prevent mosquito-borne disease.



Photo courtesy Lt. Chuck Lowe

New Engine 3 to be placed in service shortly



Photo Courtesy Pierce Manufacturing

New Rescue 1 to be placed in service shortly

Art Exhibit

The Cambridge Arts Council in conjunction with the Cambridge Fire Department is currently displaying an art exhibit celebrating the 184 years of service of the Cambridge Fire Department.

The exhibit is on display at Gallery 344 now through September 30, 2016. It is located on floor 2 of 344 Broadway, Cambridge.

Special thanks to **Retired Chief of Operations Jack Gelin** and **Retired Captain Stephen Persson** for their assistance with this project.



Photos courtesy of CFD

The Exhibit Opening Reception was held on Monday August 29, 2016.

All Companies Working

May 22, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, 2nd Alarm, 15 Howard St. - Engine 9 covered at Watertown Station 2.

May 27, 2016 – Electrical Injury – Companies responded for a person that received an electrical shock and transported due to the MOI. OSHA notified.

May 30, 2016 – Overdose – Engine 1 responded to a double heroin overdose in a nursing facility. Both patients were transported ALS by EMS with CFD medics aboard.

May 30, 2016 – Elevator Rescue, 100 Memorial Drive – Person trapped in an elevator due to power failure.

June 5, 2016 – Level 1 Hazmat, Charles River – a boat fuel tank leaked 50 gallons of fuel into the cabin area. Boat was tied off and kept secure until an environmental company could unload and clean it.

June 5, 2016 – MVA, Fresh Pond Parkway – a rollover accident on Fresh Pond Parkway

June 12, 2016 – 1 Alarm Fire, 173 Hampshire Street, Box 293 – Rubbish between two houses. Engine 5 had to stretch into the rear of the building. Careless disposal of smoking materials was the cause.

June 18, 2016 – 1 Alarm Fire, 388 Norfolk Street, Box 29 – dryer fire in the basement resulted in smoke condition through the structure. Engine 2 and Engine 5 stretched into the basement

June 19, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Saugus, Dive Incident – Marine 2, Engine 5, Rescue 1, Squad 4 and the Dive Rescue with divers from the city responded to Saugus for a water incident. They were cancelled enroute, as a 14 year old male was located and unable to be revived. A sad reminder on Father's Day that this isn't always an easy job.

June 20, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Chelsea, 4 Alarms, 57 Bellingham Street – Engine 5 covered at Chelsea HQ during Chelsea's fire in a 3 story wood-frame. They covered for approximately 7 hours.

June 20, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, 362 Lake St - Engine 1 and Squad 4 to the fire, Engine 9 originally to cover Belmont Engine 2. Engine 9 was then dispatched to the fire and became part of the RIT team. Engine 1 and Squad 4 operated in the interior.

June 21, 2016 – 2nd Alarm, 282 Mass Ave., Box 274 - Fire on the roof of a 4 story under construction

June 21, 2016 – Water Rescue, Charles River – From Boston Fire Alarm, person jumped from Longfellow Bridge. Water Rescue companies were dispatched and person was pulled from the water and transported to the Boston side of the river.

June 23, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, WF Box 377, 21 Nashua – Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered in Teele Square during their Working Fire.

June 23, 2016 – Vehicle accident, Hampshire Street – a bicyclist was struck by a motor vehicle at the intersection of Cambridge and Hampshire Streets. Engine 1 & 3 had just cleared another EMS call in the area and on-sited the second call. CFD worked the patient. Rescue 1 transported to a Level 1 trauma center with Pro. She later succumbed to her injuries.

June 24, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, Box 2553, 175-185 Freeman St - Ladder 1 covered during Brookline's Working Fire.

June 25, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Boston, Box 2756, 5th alarm, 23 Grantley Street – Engine 2 covered at Engine 33.

June 27, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Everett, Box 52, 3rd alarm, 126 Hancock Street – Engine 5 covered in Everett during their 3 alarm fire.

June 29, 2016 – Rescue, Kendall Square MBTA station – person fell in the pit, but self-extricated prior to fire department arrival.

July 2, 2016 – Water Rescue, Memorial Drive @ River Street – A water rescue was initiated for a person in the Charles River. Arriving companies found a deceased body close to the shoreline. Police took over custody of the scene.

July 4, 2016 – 1 Alarm Fire, 141 Spring Street, Box 143– fire on 3rd floor of a 3 story residential, a candle left burning in a potted plant extended to rear porch.

July 12, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, 2nd alarm, 286 Harvard Street – Ladder 1, Squad 2 and Division 2 responded to the fire. Squad 2 shut off utilities in basement. Ladder 1 had A/D corner covered but Boston and Brookline trucks already on roof-no penetration.

July 15, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 79 Thurston Street, Box 348 – Engine 5 and Ladder 1 responded to Somerville to cover on their Working Fire

July 16, 2016 – Motor Vehicle Crash, Memorial Drive @ Mt. Auburn St – single car motor vehicle crash into a tree. Bystanders had removed the victim through a window as the car was on fire.

July 16 – 1 Alarm Fire, 457 Mt Auburn St. Box 853 – construction dumpster on fire next to a building. 2 lines stretched, damage to exposure building. No extension.

July 17, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, 2nd alarm, 940 Belmont Street – Ladder 1 covered station on Main St. and Engine 9 covered on Mt Auburn St. during their fire in a 2 story wood frame building.

July 21, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 6th Alarm, Box 4165, 284 Bunker Hill Street – Engine 2 covered at Engine 33 on the 5th alarm during their fire in multiple 3 story buildings in Charlestown. Ladder 1 responded to cover Boston Ladder 15 on the 7th alarm. Engine 5 covered Boston Engine 32. While covering, Engine 5 was first due to a structure fire on Cook Street Court, Charlestown. E5 stretched 1-3/4 hose-line into building and wet down hot spots in wall extended from exterior fire. Boston L4 took and threw our 24 ft. ground ladder.



Photographer unknown

Cambridge Engine 5 was first due to the Working Fire on Cook Street in Boston while Boston Companies were on scene at their 6 alarm fire.

July 22, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 5th alarm, Box 6161, 103 Chelsea Street – Engine 2 and Ladder 1 covered at Engine 33 and Ladder 15 during their 5 alarm fire in East Boston.

July 23, 2016 – Suicide, Gilmore Bridge – witnesses stated a male jumped off the bridge onto the railroad tracks below. ALS confirmed that the victim was not viable.

July 26, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 4th Alarm, 87 Sawyer Street, Box 1873 – Ladder 1 and Engine 2 responded to cover in Boston. While enroute, Engine 2 was dispatched to a building fire at 7 Cummings Road initiating an additional response of Squad 2 and Division 1.

July 27, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, 3rd Alarm, 165 Winthrop Street -

July 29, 2016 – Water Rescue, Weeks Footbridge – Divers entered the river based on credible reports that a man jumped in the water. He was found and removed but succumbed. Less than two hours later, another water rescue was initiated but quickly cancelled as a male jumped and then swam to shore.

August 1, 2016 – 1 Alarm fire, Box 8, 249 Garden Street – a pile of clothes left next to an electric baseboard heater caught fire. The fire was quickly extinguished with no extension.

August 3, 2016, 1 Alarm fire, 50 Trowbridge Street, Box 493 – A pair of shoes on a fire escape were on fire. The occupant of the apartment was using spray paint in proximity to a recently used gas grill. The occupant was advised that the gas grill had to be removed at once.

August 9, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, Working Fire, 31 Orchard St, Box 215 – Engine 1, Squad 4 and Division 1 to fire, Engine 9 Ladder 1 to cover.

August 18, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 4 Alarm fire, Box 3735, 1044 River Street – Ladder 1 covered at Ladder 15 during this fire. Boston special called 3 more truck companies above the 4 alarms requiring an earlier coverage than the run cards indicate.

August 28, 2016 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, Boat fire – Engine 2's crew responded in Marine 1 to Watertown to assist with a boat fire in the Charles River.

E-911 Capabilities

I am proud to announce that Cambridge is the first city in Massachusetts and one of the first in the country to collaborate with a new emergency technology start-up company that will provide residents improved access to 9-1-1 and emergency services, as well as other features that will improve mobile security and family connectivity.

Haven is a mobile application developed by RapidSOS that allows users to call 911 more effectively. Calls from the Haven app are routed directly into the Cambridge Emergency Communications Center (ECC). As you likely know, without Haven, all wireless calls are first routed to Massachusetts State Police and then forwarded to the ECC. Rather than delivering basic cell tower information like a wireless 911 call, Haven sends more precise and comprehensive information to 911. With one touch, Haven places a 911 call and transmits vital information to the dispatcher, including the type of emergency, GPS location, relevant medical and demographic information. The app also makes it possible to send text messages to 911 and communicate when it's difficult or dangerous to speak. Through better data, Haven improves the situational awareness of call takers and dispatchers, so that they can make more informed dispatching decisions to send appropriate responders, providing more comprehensive information about the incident.

After a 911 alert is triggered, the app notifies emergency contacts so that they are informed of the emergency. Haven also includes access to RapidSOS' Family Connect feature. In addition to the emergency capabilities, Family Connect allows users to share their location with loved ones, see family members' real-time locations, and easily ask family and friends for help.

RapidSOS' Haven technology was developed over the last three years in close collaboration with the Cambridge Emergency Communications Department. I want to especially thank ECD Chief of Operations Paula Snow for her dedication and input into this project, as she has been instrumental in the development of this app and for Cambridge being at the forefront of this technology.

As part of the collaboration with the City, RapidSOS is making the app available for free to Cambridge employees. To sign up for a free 10-year subscription, visit www.rapidsos.com/referrals/cambridgema or visit www.RapidSOS.com and sign up by typing in this organization code: cambridgema. If this is of interest, you will need to type in your work or residential Cambridge zip code to redeem the offer. Then visit the App Store or Google Play to download the RapidSOS Haven app. If you have any questions related to Haven or RapidSOS, I have attached an internal FAQ document.

Thank you
Christina Giacobbe
Director of Emergency Communications and 911
City of Cambridge
125 Sixth Street, 5th floor

Cambridge Local 30

Local 30 is very happy to announce that the Local 30 golf outing raised just over \$11K for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The grand prize raffle winner went to a member of MIT Management Company.

Thank you to all who participated and also those who supported the event by sponsoring a hole or bought raffle tickets. Special thanks to volunteers **Bill Hugh, Steph Crayton, Connor Gover, Rick Feliciano**, and our MDA rep Vanessa Malfitano. I would also like to thank and recognize MIT, who put in a large amount of teams and also made a generous donation! Also, thank you to the Wayland Country Club for their gracious annual hospitality.

There are some collectible L30 gifts left if anyone is interested. They are \$5 each and will be available on a 1st come 1st serve basis. All proceeds will go towards the MDA. Between this event and our Guns N' Hoses hockey game, we have raised just about \$18K so far this year. Hopefully, we will be able to make our annual goal of \$20K after our "Fill The Boot" drive is completed soon.



Photo provided

MDA Chairperson Lt. Brandon Hugh; Engine 5 poses with the raffle items from the golf tournament

Members also attended the MDA Summer Camp at Poland Springs Campground in Maine. The money that Fire Departments raise each year helps in covering all expenses to send the kids to this camp for 1 week.



Canobie Lake Park Day

The Annual Canobie Lake Park Day was held on August 10, 2016. Unfortunately, we don't have any photos of the event to share, but we can bet that friends and family had a great time as usual. Hopefully, we can get an update and some photos for the next newsletter!

Please see the notice below from FF Blake Crist regarding the annual Canobie Lake Outing:

I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you to all those that attended, helped, donated, and even to those that supported but were unable to attend this year's Canobie Lake Outing. I would also like to thank **Lt. Drewicz** for his service/artwork for the t-shirts over the years. This year marked 20 years Lt. Drewicz has been doing the art work for our family outing. A special thank you to Local 30 and to the Cambridge Firefighters Federal Credit Union for their generous donations yet again this year.

Although this year's event weather was not pretty in the beginning we still had a great turn out with 91 people attending. After a couple hours of showers the clouds parted and the sun came out allowing for a wonderful time. Feedback from some of the goers stated that this was one of the best years ever because there were no lines and it was like having the park to themselves. Thanks to all of you for coming despite the challenging weather.

Next year's event will be here before we know it. However I am stepping down from heading up this event for personal reasons, but am hoping someone else will keep the tradition going. Whoever that person may be, I have everything you need and can assist you till you get underway. If interested please feel free to contact me.

Thanks again to all,
FF Blake Crist

Out and About

Surely, these two guys don't want any credit or attention – but thanks to a fellow co-worker, **Lt. Bob Golden; Rescue Co. 1 and FF Al Coipel; Rescue Co. 1** were caught doing a good deed and helping an injured runner across the street. This was during a "Run to Remember" a race from the Seaport District through Boston into Cambridge and back to the Seaport on May



Photo FF Pete Melo

Cambridge Engine 4 at a fire on Rush Street in Somerville. **Captain Robert Morrissey**, **Firefighter Margaret Carrigan** and **Firefighter Mark Massiah** (detailed from Engine 5).
Photo by Owen Carrigan.



Photo courtesy of Owen Carrigan

Photo below taken during a recent video shoot in front of Fire Headquarters in July. The video was being done as part of an active shooter training presentation.



Photo courtesy of Usope Civilus - Boston Police Photographer

Pictured are **L-R, Captain Jeremy Walsh**, **FF Dan Nugent** and **FF Jeremy Marrache**



Photo by Mose Humphrey

Freshly watered flowers in front of Engine 4; Squad 4 on a June evening

Photo Submissions

We had a lot of general photo submissions for this issue of the Company Journal which is GREAT! Please keep them coming! But we are also lacking photos from several popular CFD activities such as Firefighters Memorial Sunday, the Golf Tournament and Canobie Lake Park Day. We can't reiterate enough that there ARE people out there that read this newsletter that want to see what's going in the Cambridge Fire Department family. With the abundance of smart phones, tablets and technology, there should be no excuse for lack of photos. Please take a moment to submit them to FF Howie Smith at **Hsmith@cambridgefire.org**. Thank you!



Photo courtesy of Assistant Chief G. Mahoney

Ladder 4 flies the colors at Firefighters Memorial Sunday on June 12, 2016



Photo by H. Smith

Deputy Chief Frank Murphy (Retired) shares some stories with the on-duty crew at Engine 4 on a nice June evening – **Lt. Steve Landry and FFOP Joe Andrade**



Photo Deputy E. Morrissey

Group 1 at familiarization training at Massport in Boston in August 2016



Photo courtesy of Eric Fellows

Eric Fellows, a Townsend FD Fire Department member recently visited Cambridge for some apparatus photography. What he ended up with, in his own words: "A Pierce in a Pierce." His son, named Pierce, checking out the back of the new Engine 3.



Photographer unknown

Captain Bob Walsh, FF Joe Bokuniewicz, "Phil" (Boston Fire) and FF Gene Myrttil after the fire on Cook Street in Boston on July 21.



Photo by FF DiPace

FFOP Zach Bennett and Lt Jamie Ferreira pose after a fire on Main Street. It was FFOP Bennett's first fire.



Photo Jon Haile

Engine 1's crew and **Capt. Jeremy Walsh** at a recent Recruitment Day at CRLS.



Photo courtesy Capt Ikels

Mike Hanlon Ladder 3; Retired with Engine 2; Group 1 members, visiting his old station.



Lt. C. Lowe photo

Rescue 1 & Engine 1 conducted auto extrication training July 9, 2016. Shown are **FF Sean Williams & FF Jeff McGourty.**

Members of HQ Group 1 hiked to the top of Mt Washington July 30, 2016 via Jewel Trail.



Photo N. Signoretti



Photo N. Signoretti



Lt C. Lowe photo

FF John Bernard, L4 G4, tends to a puppy that was found tied to a fence on Church St on a 90 degree day. The owner of the 6 month old dog was located, in a nearby watering hole, using a phone number on the tag. Members explained the dangers of leaving an animal unattended in the sun on warm days.

FF Stephanie Crayton reads to a class of children at the Tobin School in July 2016



Photo provided

Bob Paige from Professional Ambulance shared a photo of a Decon drill held at the Mt. Auburn Hospital in mid-May. Shown participating are **FF Larry Pacios** and **FF Gary Nagle**.



The Kevin O'Boyle 5K Run/walk – was held on August 20, 2016 in memory of Army Veteran **FF Kevin O'Boyle** who passed away on August 22, 2013. Kevin enlisted in the U.S Army after high school and served two tours of duty in Afghanistan before he was honorably discharged in 2006. In 2006, he began his employment with the City of Salem's Fire Department for five years, and then transferred to the Cambridge Fire Department in June of 2013. He was a Firefighter assigned to Engine Co. No. 5. 100% of proceeds are allocated to the Wounded Warrior Project.



Photo from Kevin O'Boyle 5K Walk/Run website

Congratulations

After 33+ years of service to the Cambridge Fire Department,
Lt. Dan Lewicki, Engine Co. 9 retired on Monday June 27, 2016



Photo provided

Members gathered at Engine 9 on his last day to wish Danny well!



Photo H Smith

Congratulations also to **Lt. Billy Wood** on his retirement. His family held a private party at LaHacienda for family and co-workers in May.



Photo G. Mahoney

Lt. Billy Wood gets a retirement keepsake from **Capt. House** and **FF Todd Koen** at his retirement party.

Congratulations to **FF Jeff Keefe; Ladder 1** on his recent wedding in June 2016.



Photo courtesy AFC G. Mahoney

Cambridge Fire members at the Keefe/Schlotterbeck wedding in Chatham on June 25th.

Congratulations to newly promoted Deputy Chief of the Danvers Fire Department Robert Amerault. Deputy Amerault is the brother-in-law of **Asst. Chief Mahoney** and former co-worker of **FF Howie Smith**. Photo was taken at his badge pinning ceremony in August 2016.



Photo courtesy of Asst Chief Mahoney

Also congratulations to **Asst. Chief Mahoney** on being awarded the 2016 Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of The Year Award from the International Fire Buff Associates at the annual convention on August 20, 2016 in New Orleans, LA.

Fire Alarm Operator Steve Gagalis retired back in May. We know that being a very dedicated dispatcher at the ECC and his love for the job, retiring was not easy - probably why he snuck out quietly (and almost unnoticed). But we would like to recognize Steve for his successful career and wish him well on his retirement!

Trivia Question

Can any of our members identify this retired member? The photo was taken when he was a firefighter but he rose through the ranks (We can't say much more without giving it away.) The answer is at the end of the newsletter.



Photo provided

Mayor's Summer Youth Academy

The department hosted a Youth Academy for teens over the course of the summer. They got a taste of what the job was like and the training involved. Photos on the next page show them at their visit to the Mt. Auburn Hospital and their "graduation" at City Hall.



Photo provided



Photo provided

Badge Ceremony

The Department is holding a Badge Ceremony at the Main Library on Friday, September 9 for new firefighters and recently promoted officers. Hopefully we will have some photo of this proud event in the next edition.

Member Profile

FFOP/Paramedic Joe Andrade
Engine Co. No.



Photo courtesy J. Gelinas

How long have you been with the Cambridge Fire Dept?
Under six months

Did you work for another fire department before?

Yes, I was formally a member of the Arlington Fire Department prior to coming to Cambridge, I was there for about 4 years and had a lot fun and made some great friends.

What made you want to work in Cambridge?

I grew up in city and always dreamed of being a firefighter for the city. As kid, It was my dream to be a firefighter, so I pursued it.

What is your favorite part about working for CFD?

The members, it is a dynamic group of members, that all come from different backgrounds, and have different level of training and expertise. But when an incident occurs the team comes together and works out the incident no matter what the call

Three words to best describe you?

Hardworking, Dedicated, Driven

What is your proudest moment?

The day that I officially started with Cambridge Fire, it was a moment that I dreamed about and worked my entire life to achieve and it didn't seem real until I had the uniform on and walked through the door.

What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

Outside of the fire house, I enjoy being active, hiking, kayaking, boating and traveling. Oh and can't forget playing hockey.

What is the most important thing you have learned in the last five years?

In the last five years I have learned a lot, but the most important I think is to appreciate the small things in life.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

Still be working for Cambridge Fire, and just going along learning about this job more furthering my education (master's degree and specialized training) and enjoying my career.

What do you find the most challenging at CFD?

The size of the department is challenge, with this many guys it's hard to know/meet everyone. Also it's a completely different job from where I came from.

What advice would you give to other recent new hires?

I don't have a lot of experience, but I will share the knowledge that was given to by my mentor, the late Captain Jim Purcell of Hanover Fire.

1 - Keep you head up, eyes and ears open, mouth closed.

2 - Get involved with the department, someway go the extra mile join the Honor Guard or get involved with the union, you get back what you put in when it comes to this career.

Quotes of the Day

Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.

—John F Kennedy

Faith doesn't make things easy, it makes things possible. —unk

Rumors are carried by haters, spread by fools and accepted by idiots. -unk

A day of worry is more exhausting than a week of work.

- John Lubuck

From the Archives

A little throwback photo thanks to Lenny DiPietro:

*“Here is an old picture I found of me (yes, on the Fire Dept.) and **AJ (Alan Johnson)** when we were on the Aerial Tower together. I think it was 1980 or 81...5 Alarms at Brookline and Green Streets. This was the next day when we were overhauling and chasing hot spots. No turnout gear, of course...first thing LJ (my son) said to me!”*

Lenny started with CFD before moving on to the police department. He is now a Lieutenant with the Community Services Unit, and father of **FF L.J. DiPietro; Engine 6.**



Thanks for sharing Lenny! Maybe your actions will spur some of the other retirees to share their stories and photos!

Asst. Chief J. Gelinas; Retired shared this interesting journal entry from the horse drawn days in 1888:

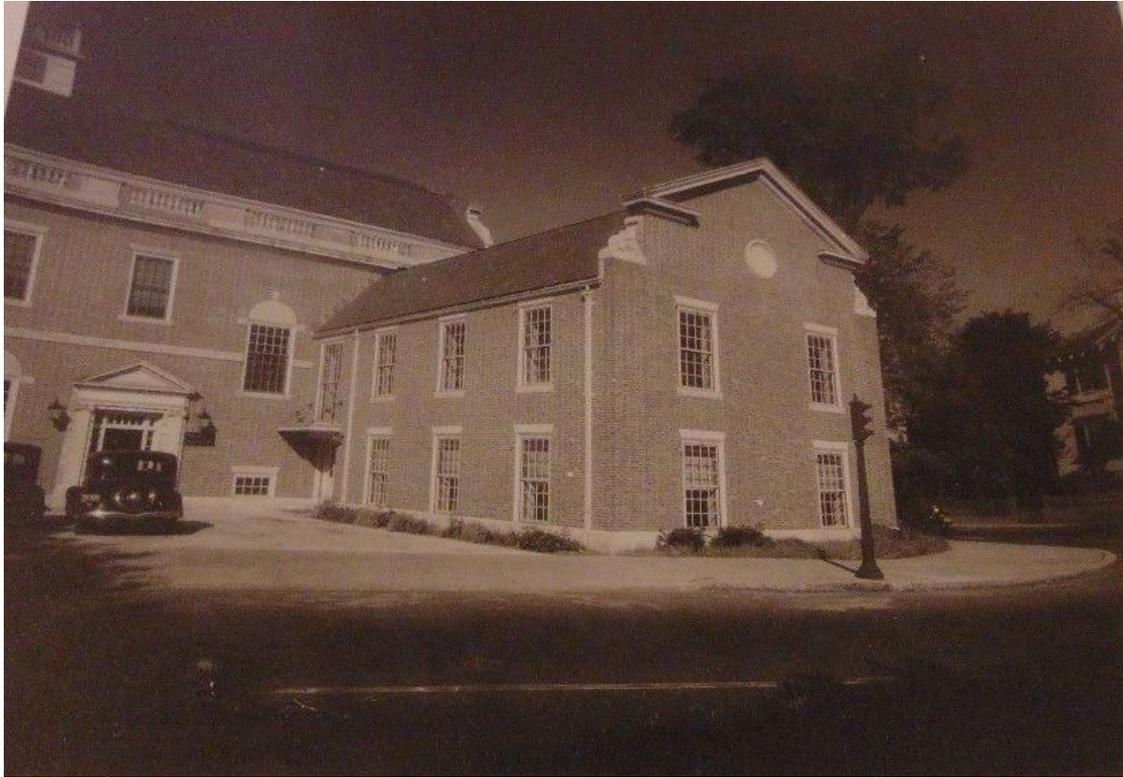
“On the sixth day of last June, one of the horses attached to Engine No. 1, while being driven to a fire, fell at the corner of Brattle and James streets and broke one of his hind legs. The horse had to be killed. The matter was fully investigated by the Board of Engineers, who found it was purely accidental and that no blame was attached to the driver.”

- *From the Report of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, Thomas J. Casey, 1888.*

Note: There were two building fires on 6 June 1888- Box 91 for 25 Cedar Street at 0820 hours and Box 6 for 11 Broadway at 1924 hours. The report does not specify to which fire Engine 1 was responding when the horse was killed.

From the collection of **FF Howie Smith** are these two Gamewell photos of the fire alarm system setup at 489 Broadway in 1934.





Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

(Editor Note: The following is a narrative taken from the most recent edition of “Growing up in North Cambridge, (Vol. 36, Summer 2016). It describes what life was like at the Cambridge Manual Training School (CMTS). Thanks to Editor Stephen Surette for sharing!

By Fred L. Pancoast '94 (1894)

Forty years after graduation I still have many fond recollections of the old fire drill. Possibly some may not be entirely accurate, so if flaws are detected in the narrative, “excuse it please.”

At the time I entered school in the fall of 1891 the firefighting apparatus consisted of Hose 2 which covered the inside equipment of small hose attached to stand pipes, and fire extinguishers; Hose 3 and Hose 4 which were the old style hand drawn hose carriages

equipped with regulation 2 1/2" hose, nozzles and play pipes such as are used by fire departments. Hose 2 was located in the Blacksmith shop and Hose 4 in the front hall. There was also the Ladder Company, which manned one extension and several single ladders, which I believe were kept on rollers under the north end of the Machine shop.

There was a very complete variety of regular fire department accessories such as shut-off nozzles, play pipes, Siamese connections, gate valves, life belts and a life net, and I nearly forgot the "Dummy."

In general the small boys were assigned to Hose 2 and the rest of us to the Other Hose companies.

Between '91 and '94 the fire department expanded considerably. The Annex was built and the basement devoted almost entirely to the fire apparatus. A small hand drawn Ladder truck, Hose 5, same type as 2, 3 and 4 but larger and with more hose capacity a hand Engine (or Tub) was acquired. Then came a real Ladder Truck so made that it could be drawn either by hand or horses; a hose wagon which was used only with horses, and to top it all off the Drill Tower.

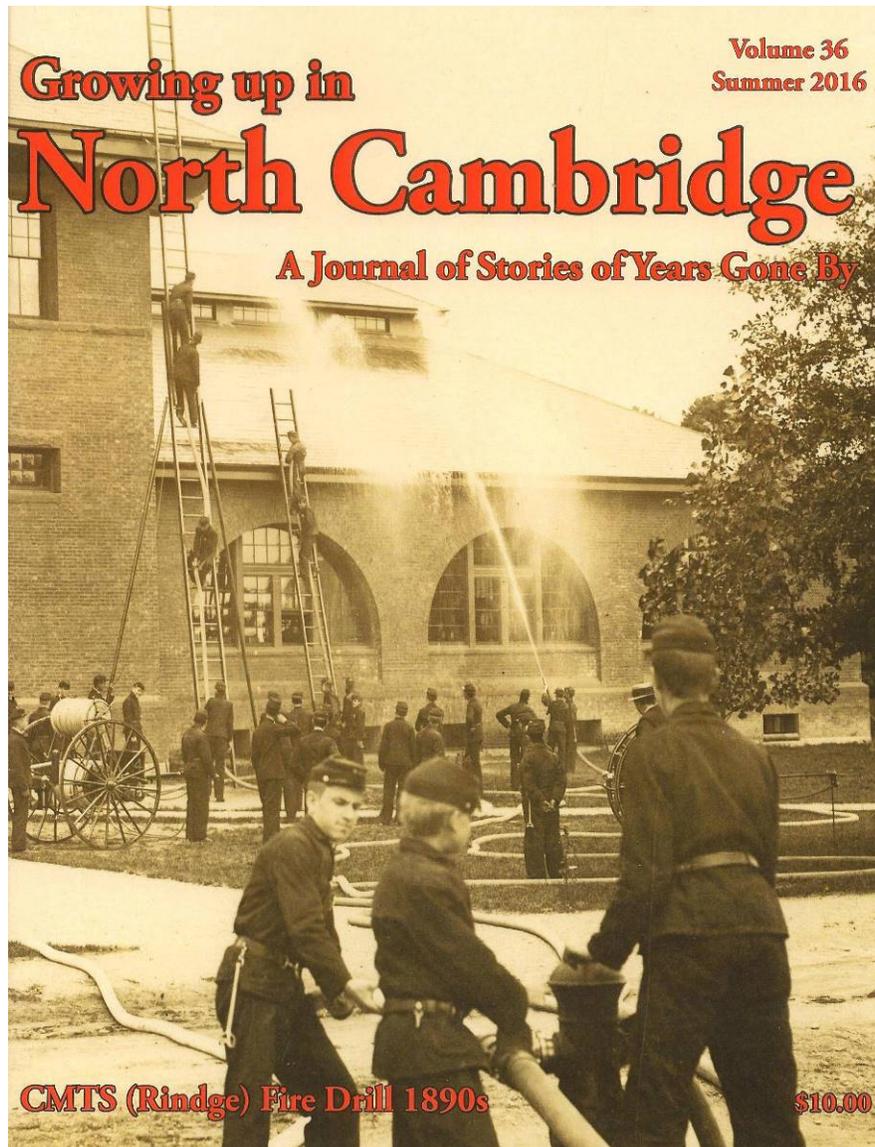
While we could not of course have the benefit of the years of actual firefighting that regular firemen have, we did receive the same complete instruction and training, which was received at their schools. While for regular duty the boys were assigned to companies according to size and strength, yet all were taught and given some experience on both hose and ladder work.

After a little training we could hook the hose around the hydrant while the carriage passed without stopping,—lay a line of hose without kinks,—raise and lower ladders,—ascend ladders, hook on with life belt, also hook nozzle on ladder rung and handle it with a powerful stream of water,—slide down a rope both with and without life belt,—jump into life net. In executing this last item we were instructed to land sitting down, but at first, as you may suppose, we landed anywhere from the heels to the back of the neck. And the aforesaid "Dummy,"—this was a canvas effigy of a man filled with sand and weighting about 100 lbs.—used to be thrown into the life net at times, and let me tell you we would rather catch a 200-lb. boy anytime than that 100 lb. dead weight "Dummy"

Oh! The smoke drills. For the best of these the smoke was created in the coal bin off the boiler room by means of a hand forge using damp paper, oily waste and sometimes a little soft coal just to make it tingle the nostrils. The boys crawled in through one window, groped their way through the smoke and went out the opposite window. There were always two boys (one of them an officer) detailed to operate the forge and guide any boy who could not easily find his way to the opposite window. They had of course been instructed to lie down with faces close to the floor if they felt the least bit groggy. That smoke may be irritating but not particularly dangerous is shown by the fact that the two smoke creators would remain in the bin throughout the drill, but most of the time their heads were below the smoke. They just reached up and worked the pump handle once in a while and watched the others go through, helping them if necessary.

On the alarm system, various parts of the buildings and the drill tower were denoted by different box numbers. Alarms were usually sounded at 2:30 P.M. (the school closing hour at that time) so as not to interfere with class work. Officers were instructed not to start their companies until they were sure they had counted the alarm correctly even though they might have to hold back until completion of the second round, The drill tower was box 16 and this was the one usually sounded for the reason that it was fitted for all kinds of firefighting work and we could throw water about without risk of damage to buildings. Sometimes, after a long string of box 16, some other alarm would be sounded and it must be admitted that occasionally one or more companies would be caught napping. I recall an occasion where one lone company landed at (we will call it) box 18. Mr. Ellis, much to the embarrassment of the captain persisted in asking if he was sure he was right. Naturally, the young fellow hated to claim that his was "the

only company in step,” but replied that he had counted the box twice and checked with this Lieutenant before starting. After “riding” the captain a bit more the Harry Ellis smile appeared and he informed the company that they had prepared for action at the correct location. What a relief! And did H.E. have fun with the others. Sad to relate this particular captain was not always right. He got his bumps along with the others.



Cover photo of most recent issue showing recruits drilling on fire equipment late 1800's

All this in the process of training. In due time kinks were ironed out and a very smooth working department developed. While Mr. Ellis got quite a “kick” out of catching some officer in a slip, yet he enjoyed it even more if, when he sprang a surprise alarm, every company landed where it belonged.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that we had military drill also, this in time developing to the point where we had a battalion of two companies. The Major of this battalion was Chief of

the Fire Department. One Captain had the Ladder Company, the other Hose 5, and Hose 2, 3, and 4 were commanded by Lieutenants. Other officers and non-coms were distributed among the fire companies.

All the boys served in the drills and each did his part, but perhaps I may be forgiven if I mention a few of the many names that come back to me. There was Bob Harlow, who had finished school before I entered, and was working in the office, assisting Mr. Ellis as a Drill Master; Tom Wiseman, Fred Smith and Fred Scotton who at different times accompanied the Ladder Company; George Wells, Jack Wood, Dave Dow, George (Paddy) Lyford who commanded hose companies; Smith and Scotton remained at school after graduation and became Drill Masters. In my own class there was Joe Eldridge, Captain of B Company in the military battalion, and Joe being the “husky gent” was assigned to command the Ladder Company, while your most humble servant acquired Hose 5.

One boy I want to mention particularly, and I’m sure without fear of criticism—the late Lieutenant William Spike (didn’t-know-it-was-loaded) Haverty of ’95. Was there ever a more inspiring sight than Spike riding the rocker arm on top of the old Hand Tub and hetting the last ounce of energy out of his crew on the pump bars? Never. If Spike could be here with the Tub and the same crew I would back them against the best motor pumper in the country.

The Fire Reserve must not be overlooked. This was the reason for the horse drawn apparatus. The force was made up of the officers of the school department and other firebugs selected from the different companies. It was their duty to “cover in” at any fire station in Cambridge designated by the Chief in the event of a general alarm. Needless to say the Reserve was commanded by Mr. Ellis. I remember covering the Inman Square station one night. How many boys were never fascinated by a fire station—and the brass poles? Mr. Ellis sent us to bed in due time, then when all was quiet sounded an inside alarm. All records must have been broken. We slid down the poles so close together it must have looked like one very tall man, but no time was lost getting aboard ready to leave for a fire. But no fire.

As a matter of fact we never did have to tackle a real fire, but then what fire would have dared to enter into competition with such a body of firefighting wizards?

One could run on almost indefinitely on the subject of the C.M.T.S. Fire Drill. The complete story would be a very long one, and it was all brought about by Harry Ellis. He conceived it, secured the apparatus and conducted and supervised the instruction and training. Some might feel that this would be a rather dangerous sort of training for boys of high school age. Not when properly supervised. The most serious accidents I can recall are that sometimes someone got quite wet, and I wouldn’t say that in every case this was an accident. How often do you hear of firemen being injured during training period? Never, if their instructors are qualified. Harry Ellis was everlastingly on the job. He was one of the coolest men I ever met (except at a football or baseball game), and an excellent executive and instructor. He seldom raised his voice (except at a game),—a nod from him or a few quiet words accomplished far more than all the shouting and wild waving of arms I have heard and seen since I left school.

He had a goal in view reaching beyond just the fire drill for the school, but was not permitted to remain with us to complete his work. We lost him, a comparatively young man, but he left with us the memory of a grand friend and a wonderful counselor.

[Fred L. Pancoast 1894, was an enthusiastic fire-drill fan. After graduation he joined the State Militia—which we now know as the National Guard—and served during the Spanish-American War. He is an expert mechanic, and has trained himself since leaving school to be a mechanical engineer. He taught machine shop practice for some years in the Springfield Technical High School, has been superintendent of several factories and is now with the Pneumatic Scale Corporation, manufacturers of packaging machinery.]

Condolences to:

Lt. Brian O'Regan; Engine Company 4 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Helen "Masterson" O'Regan

Mrs. O'Regan was the wife of Retired CPD Detective Michael O'Regan
Daughter of CFD Lieutenant Luke Masterson and
Niece of Retired Fire Chief Henry Kilfoyle

Firefighter Francis Judd; Technical Services Division-Retired on the passing of his
Brother, James L. Judd

Firefighter J. Ryan DeCoursey; Ladder Co. 4 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Eleanor DeCoursey

Firefighter Michael Coffman; Engine Co. 9 on the passing of his Mother-In-Law,
Mrs. Mary Chatha

Firefighter Edward Fales; Ladder Co. 1 on the passing of his Father,
Mr. Edward Fales

Firefighter Richard Rycroft; Ladder Co. 4, on the passing of his Father-In-Law
Mr. Paul J. Lyons

Firefighter Gary Nangle; Engine Company 8, on the passing of his Father,
Mr. Thomas B. Nangle

Condolences to the Friends and Family of Mrs. Kathryn L. Fowler, Widow of the **late Inspector Edward J. Fowler**. Mrs. Fowler passed away in mid-August in North Carolina.

Condolences to the friends and family of **FF Pete Kannler, Chelsea Fire Dept.**
Who suffered a Line-of-duty death from job related cancer in September 2016. Pete was also a
fire instructor at the Massachusetts Fire Academy. He was only 37 years old and leaves a wife
and young children behind.

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS



LAST ALARM



BROTHER PETE KANNLER
CHELSEA FIRE FIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 937

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

Stats and Fires

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

FY 2015/2016 RUN TOTALS														
	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	SBTTL	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	TOTAL
Engine 1	206	230	213	197	174	186	1206	188	175	189	171	203	200	2332
Engine 2	312	329	312	316	259	286	1814	242	289	266	246	326	316	3499
Engine 3	142	123	161	128	128	123	805	124	149	135	132	114	141	1600
Engine 4	133	129	128	137	127	119	773	135	152	119	129	109	128	1545
Engine 5	138	153	189	160	124	161	925	143	175	163	147	186	140	1879
Engine 6	112	137	128	118	98	95	688	131	120	120	100	129	119	1407
Engine 8	86	102	116	129	100	84	617	105	97	80	92	112	82	1185
Engine 9	77	87	89	101	99	78	531	96	98	90	80	111	87	1093
Truck 1	165	206	165	176	146	150	1008	166	182	158	137	153	162	1966
Truck 2	104	95	124	97	69	108	597	93	131	91	108	100	92	1212
Truck 3	195	199	192	182	175	201	1144	191	195	193	139	195	196	2253
Truck 4	106	141	133	145	130	122	777	145	159	114	112	122	96	1525
Rescue 1	208	202	212	214	202	214	1252	208	169	194	217	204	205	2449
Squad 2	281	325	329	310	256	281	1782	265	247	274	284	329	317	3498
Squad 4	157	151	144	172	147	142	913	142	161	164	138	180	157	1855
Division 1	158	135	164	160	130	157	904	153	166	141	138	136	140	1778
Division 2	121	124	128	115	115	84	687	104	108	103	100	101	91	1294
HazMat 1	3	3	6	4	1	1	18	3	1	2	4	2	2	32
Spec & HQ Units	25	21	14	24	23	8	115	22	18	31	13	17	24	240
Mutual Aid Units	16	21	16	12	19	6	90	8	17	11	17	16	19	178
TOTAL	2745	2913	2963	2897	2522	2606	16646	2664	2809	2638	2504	2845	2714	32820

FY 2015/2016 "Code 111" Building Fire TOTALS

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	SBTTL	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	TOTAL
Engine 1	1	3	7	3	3	1	18	5	2	4	2	0	1	32
Engine 2	2	4	2	4	4	1	17	4	4	1	3	2	3	34
Engine 3	0	3	1	5	3	0	12	3	3	0	1	1	2	22
Engine 4	0	1	3	0	1	1	6	0	2	1	1	0	1	11
Engine 5	2	4	1	4	3	1	15	4	4	4	3	2	3	35
Engine 6	2	4	2	5	2	1	16	2	3	3	2	1	2	29
Engine 8	1	2	6	0	2	1	12	3	0	2	2	1	1	21
Engine 9	1	2	4	3	2	0	12	4	1	1	2	0	1	21
Truck 1	3	3	7	4	3	1	21	5	3	5	3	0	2	39
Truck 2	0	4	1	4	3	1	13	4	3	1	2	1	3	27
Truck 3	2	4	2	5	4	1	18	4	4	2	3	3	2	36
Truck 4	1	1	7	2	2	1	14	4	1	4	3	1	1	28
Rescue 1	3	5	7	5	3	1	24	8	4	4	5	1	3	49
Squad 2	3	5	4	4	2	1	19	6	4	3	5	2	3	42
Squad 4	3	4	7	5	3	2	24	6	4	4	4	0	3	45
Division 1	2	5	3	6	3	1	20	4	5	3	3	3	3	41
Division 2	1	1	7	3	3	1	16	5	3	3	2	1	1	31

Cambridge Fire

FY 2015/2016 RUN TOTALS

	Total runs	Building Fires
Engine 1	2332	32
Engine 2	3499	34
Engine 3	1600	22
Engine 4	1545	11
Engine 5	1879	35
Engine 6	1407	29
Engine 8	1185	21
Engine 9	1093	21
Truck 1	1966	39
Truck 2	1212	27
Truck 3	2253	36
Truck 4	1525	28
Rescue 1	2449	49
Squad 2	3498	42
Squad 4	1855	45
Division 1	1778	41
Division 2	1294	31
Special Units	272	
Mutual Aid Units	178	
TOTAL RUNS	32820	

Incidents	14,494
Div 1 Incidents	8330
Div 2 Incidents	6164
Responses	32,820
EMS	6205
Bldg Fires	64
Inside Fires	875
All Fires	1043
HazMat	

Working Fires	6
2nd Alarms	3
3rd Alarms	0
4th Alarms	0
5th Alarms	0

New Hires, Transfers, Promotions & Retirements

Date: June 21, 2016

General Order No. 19; Series of 2016

Effective Date: June 26, 2016

Subject: Retirement; Lieutenant William A. Wood

Effective June 26, 2016 at 0700 hours, Lieutenant William A. Wood retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Lieutenant William Wood was **appointed on June 21, 1987**.

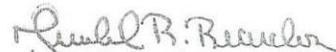
- August 9, 1987 Engine Company No. 4
- June 12, 1988 Aerial Tower No. 1
- December 31, 2000 Acting Fire Lieutenant/Pivot Officer
- February 12, 2001 Promoted to Fire Lieutenant
- November 24, 2002 Rescue Company
- January 14, 2007 Ladder Company No. 1

Lieutenant Wood has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Lieutenant Wood 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

Date: June 24, 2016

General Order No. 20; Series of 2016

Effective Date: June 30, 2016

Subject: Retirement; Daniel J. Lewicki

Effective June 30, 2016, at 0700 hours, Lieutenant Daniel J. Lewicki retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Lieutenant Daniel Lewicki was appointed on March 6, 1983.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| • April 17, 1983 | Aerial Tower No. 1 |
| • January 7, 1990 | Rescue Company No. 1 |
| • June 27, 1993 | Engine Company No. 3 |
| • September 12, 1993 | Ladder Company No. 2 |
| • May 9, 1999 | Engine Company No. 9 |
| • June 11, 2000 | Ladder Company No. 2 |
| • September 8, 2013 | Engine Company No. 2, Acting Lieutenant |
| • April 13, 2014 | Promoted to Fire Lieutenant |
| • May 4, 2014 | Engine Company No. 9 |

Lieutenant Lewicki has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

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

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

Date: June 24, 2016

General Order No. 21; Series of 2016

Effective Date: Sunday July 3, 2016 at 0700 hours

Subject: Promotions and Transfers

Firefighter Marvin E. Ramos from Engine Co. 5 to Ladder Co. 2 as Act. Lieutenant

Firefighter Ian S. Moynihan from Squad Co. 2 to Squad Co. 2 as Act. Lieutenant

Lt. Brian H. Casey from Squad Co. 2 to Engine Co. 9

Lt. Kenneth J. Albert from Ladder Co. 2 to Ladder Co. 1

Firefighter Peter Melo from Rescue Co. 1 to Squad Co. 2

Firefighter Bryan B. O'Neil from Engine Co. 1 to Rescue Co. 1

General Order No. 22; Series of 2016

Subject: Promotions

Effective Date: Sunday July 10, 2016

**Acting Fire Lieutenant Marvin E. Ramos to Fire Lieutenant
Acting Fire Lieutenant Ian S. Moynihan to Fire Lieutenant**

Letters

Thursday, June 09,

Subject: Re: Company Journal Newsletter Issue #79

Good morning Chief,

Thanks, always enjoy reading this!

It makes me realize just how much I enjoyed and miss the CFD! I am so proud to have been a member of the Cambridge Fire Dept.

Larry

(Editor Note: Captain Larry Brogan retired from Engine 4)

June 12, 2016:

To those who attended the Annual Memorial Sunday exercises this morning, thank you for taking the time to stand in remembrance of those who have gone before us.

A thank you to the Captains Committee, the Relief Association, Local 30 IAFF, the Firefighters Federal Credit Union, as well as Lt. Chris Melendy and others who made the event a success.

Thank you,

Assistant Chief Gerard E. Mahoney
Cambridge, MA Fire Department

June 23, 2016:



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142

June 23, 2016

Deputy Fire Chief Brian J. Gover
Cambridge Fire Department
100 Smith Place
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Deputy Gover,

The Traffic Safety Awareness Team would like to thank you and your team for participating in "Traffic Safety Awareness Day in Celebration of DOT's 50th Anniversary". Your demonstrations and presentations about rescuing people from a motor vehicle crash captivated all who attended. It allowed them to see how hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws of Life) are used to remove crash victims from a vehicle. Your demonstration provided the audience with a hands-on experience about the need to be vigilant when driving. Greg Winfree, U.S. DOT Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, was highly impressed with your staff's expertise and your willingness to come to the Volpe Center for this event.

Please thank your team members for the outstanding work they did. Your work makes a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Olive Lesueur".

Olive Lesueur
Safety & Health Program Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy LaFrenier".

Nancy LaFrenier
Safety Team

July 13, 2016



TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE/RESCUE
25 CENTRAL STREET
STONEHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
02180-1302

(781) 438-0127
FAX (781) 438-7066

July 13, 2016

Gerard E. Mahoney, Assistant Chief
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Chief Mahoney:

On behalf of all the members of the Stoneham Fire Department, thank you for reaching out and offering to cover the station with your ladder. It helped the group working to attending the wake.

Please extend our thanks to the members of your Fire Department who assisted us during this time of need.

It is assuring that we can rely on the members of Cambridge Fire for assistance.

Sincerely,



Matt Grafton, Chief

Of Interest...

In the last few weeks, there has been a question asked around the firehouse a few times and it's a valid question.

What are these bump-outs on either side of the overhead doors?



The exact name for them is a bollard, but quite simply they were installed just to protect the apparatus (which at the time were steam engines) from bumping into the very solid walls of the stations. The steamers and carriages had long wheel hubs (*see orange arrow in insert photo*) approximately 8" long. If the wooden wheel were allowed to brush against the brick wall while entering or exiting, it could do damage to the wheel rendering the apparatus unable to respond if the hub were damaged.

Today, they still serve a similar function in keeping modern apparatus from doing damage to the walls (where the opposite were true 100 years ago) by keeping the rubber wheels away from and damaging the brick walls. There are even modern, metal ones produced if the doors are wide enough to allow the apparatus to fit. Often, these have to be cut down for wider, modern apparatus to fit in our old stations.

Safety

Stairway safety - FDNY has an old adage that states "If you want to know how many people are on the stairs, count the number of steps and add one." Firefighters are action oriented and want to work at an incident. This usually results in a queue of firefighters lined up in stairways waiting for a task, which ends up being counterproductive.

In an emergency situation, stairways have multiple uses:

- Entry – hose line placement, survey of conditions
- Emergency egress (evacuations)
- Rescue
- Ventilation (as a result of design, ie scuttles/skylights)

There are many cautions (from all ranks, from Probie to IC) to think about when using stairways:

- Combustible stairways can burn away
- Narrow, winding stairs are easily congested
- Hose lines can present tripping hazards
- Debris and water runoff can cause unstable footing
- Supports and railings can be deteriorated
- Steps can be missing or deteriorated
- Firefighters congregate on landings, or steps creating weight load

Officers should be mindful of the above. Ensure the stairs are useable. Maintain personnel accountability. It is recommended to stage work crews on floors below the fire ready to go to work. Leave stairways open for emergency exits. Consider other ways to advance hose lines into the building such as alternative stairways, ground ladders or aerial ladders.

The above are points of interest from of an article entitled "Stairwell Management" written by Battalion Chief Kevin Blaine, FDNY - WNYF, 1st Edition, 2016

Emerald Society Medal – FDNY

**Emerald Society Medal
Firefighter Christopher M. Polesovsky
Ladder Company 116**

November 25, 2015, 1116 hours, Box 22-7467, Queens
Appointed to the FDNY on July 15, 2001. Member of the Steuben Association. Resides in
Whitestone, Queens



On November 25, 2015, Ladder 116 received a phone alarm, reporting fire on the second floor of a multiple dwelling. The company was on building inspection around the corner and quickly arrived on-scene. Members encountered heavy fire from two windows on the second floor; the fire rapidly was extending to the third floor. Numerous people frantically were descending the fire escapes and pointing to the apartment, stating that someone might be trapped within the apartment.

Lieutenant Michael DeCollibus told the ladder company chauffeur (LCC), FF Erich Gehm, to transmit the 10-75 signal over the Department radio for a fire on the second floor of a non-fireproof multiple dwelling. Due to Ladder 116's quick response, members would be operating without an engine for an extended period of time. With his forcible entry team, FF Daniel Lawlor with the can, and FF Christopher Polesovsky, Lieutenant DeCollibus then proceeded into the building. FF Polesovsky, assigned the forcible entry position, forced the lobby door open. They proceeded to the second floor where visibility became severely diminished, forcing the inside team to don their facepieces, as they searched for the apartment door. They quickly found the door to the fire apartment, which was left partially opened. Trying to gain entry, they found the door blocked. Checking for victims, the members discovered that debris blocked the door and Collyers' mansion-type conditions existed inside.

Lieutenant DeCollibus and FF Polesovsky were forced to use a reduced profile maneuver to enter the apartment. As they started clearing debris from behind the door to initiate a search, a report of a person trapped in the apartment was transmitted over the handie-talkie. A person was confirmed to be in the apartment by FF Christopher Kalin, assigned the outside vent position. He radioed to his Officer that he heard someone screaming in the apartment for help and the sound of her voice was diminishing with each second.

As FF Kalin was reporting to Lieutenant DeCollibus, F Neal Harris, the roof Firefighter, transmitted that two windows in the courtyard had failed and fire was issuing from them. FF Polesovsky began his search by crawling over even more clutter and aggressively pushed his way through adverse conditions toward the bedroom. The fire now had control of three rooms and the heat condition rapidly was increasing. It was proving to be an arduous task, crawling through large piles of debris, yet FF Polesovsky located the now-overcome victim, collapsed on the bedroom floor.

He transmitted a 10-45 signal over the handie-talkie. The Firefighter dragged the victim back over the debris, toward the apartment door. Hearing the transmission that fire was venting out two additional windows, FF Polesovsky knew there was little time left before the fire apartment was fully engulfed. FF Lawlor, who was positioned at the apartment door, assisted FF Polesovsky in removing the victim to the stairwell, as the hallway was outside of the IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health) area. Engine 260 members assumed care of the woman.

FF Polesovsky, physically exhausted, then made his way back into the fire apartment to continue his search and overhaul. FF Polesovsky showed great initiative and bravery, crawling through a super-heated, Collyers' mansion-type apartment (littered with debris) with zero visibility. Delay of water made for even more treacherous conditions. However, FF Polesovsky proved equal to the challenge, ultimately leading to the victim's life being saved. For his courageous actions, FF Christopher M. Polesovsky is awarded the Emerald Society Medal.

—RL

Trivia Answer

The firefighter in the photo is **Assistant Chief John O'Donoghue; Retired**. He was appointed on May 1, 1966. He retired in 2004. John was also actively involved at the Mass. Fire Academy as an instructor and was instrumental in writing our elevator laws as they pertain to the fire service. He was gracious enough to share some photos with us and we will be using them in this newsletter and future editions.

From the Tailboard...

With it being the anniversary of September 11th, we wanted to start and end the newsletter with something 9/11 related. One of the photos that **Asst. Chief John O'Donoghue** shared with us (mentioned earlier) was the remembrance ceremony held at HQ a year later on September 11, 2002.



J O'Donoghue photo

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!**