

## 1900



**Note:** The Annual Town Reports for 1900 through 1909 covered events during the years 1899 through 1908. This was adjusted by the Town starting in 1914 so the report year matches the year covered.

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### Annual Town Meeting March 26, 1900

Article 23.

At the request of Henry S. Perham, to see if the town will take measures to provide better protection against fires, appropriate money for the same, or act in relation thereto. (The results of this vote are reported in the 1901 Annual Report.)

#### Firewards

Daniel P. Byam  
 Frank C. Byam  
 Almon W. Holt  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 George M. Wright  
 George G. Stetson  
 John O'Connor  
 George C. Moore  
 Charles F. Scribner  
 Franklin Guyotte  
 Thomas Smith  
 William J. Quigley

#### Forest Firewards

William H. Shedd  
 George M. Wright  
 Warren Berry  
 James S. Wotton  
 George F. Snow  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 John Marinel, Jr.

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## 1901

### Annual Town Meeting March 26, 1900

Under Article 23.

At the request of Henry S. Perham, to see if the town will take measures to provide better protection against fires, appropriate money for the same, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, that the sum of \$500 be appropriated for the purchase of Johnson's or other similar pumps, and pails, and chemicals, if thought expedient, to be distributed as follows: One or more to be placed in each of the buildings belonging to the town, and at other places where needed, upon the payment of one dollar by the applicant. All pumps to be the property of the town and subject to the regulations of the fire wards; and that the purchase be referred to a committee of five to be appointed by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed as said committee Joseph E. Warren, Henry S. Perham, George F. Snow, Preston L. Piggott, Frank C. Byam.

#### Miscellaneous Expenses

##### FIRE APPARATUS:

Standard Extract Co., 24 extracts and charges \$324 00  
 National Mfg. Co., 50 Johnson pumps \$162.50  
 Bartlett & Dow, pails \$11.46  
 Total \$497.96

#### Firewards

Frank C. Byam  
 Warren Berry  
 Walter B. Emerson  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 George M. Wright  
 Ervin W. Sweetser  
 John O'Connor  
 George C. Moore  
 Charles F. Scribner

#### Forest Firewards

George M. Wright  
 Warren Berry  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 Frank C. Byam  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 George O. Spaulding  
 John Marinel, Jr.  
 Ervin W. Sweetser  
 Samuel Naylor

William J. Quigley  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 Charles Finnick, Jr.  
 Samuel Naylor

## 1902

### Annual Town Meeting March 25, 1901

Under Article 26.

At the request of Henry S. Perham and others, to see if the town will appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars to provide additional fire apparatus, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, to dismiss Article 26, relating to additional fire apparatus.

### Annual Report of the Firewards, 1901

Mar. 9. L. Schultz's ice house burned; amount of damage \$ 1,500.00.

Apr. 27. Silver & Gay Machine Shop burned; amount of damage \$16,000. 64 Men fought this fire:

George C. Moore	John O'Connor	George Stetson
Charles P: Holt	Clarence DeRoehn	Michael Kinch
Michael Shea	William J. Shea	Henry O. Miner
John Callahan	Edgar Dixon	William P. Dunigan
Frank McCluskey	Dennis McCluskey	James J. McCluskey
Michael J. Layden	Robert Moore	John H. Davis
George Lumbert	James Briggs	L. A. Mosier
Perley Constantino	John T. McMahan	Patrick T. McMahan
Michael J. Gallagher	Jeremiah O'Connor	William H. Corrigan
Charles F. Scribner	Fred Cully	Clifford A. Moore
Walter A. Leigh	Henry Leake	Stephen Ward
Fred Vinal	John E. Holmes	John E. Hogan
Owen F. McGrath	A. B. Magnant	John Larkin
Patrick Hoyt	Mark McGrath	Ed. Keyes
Patrick Raybald	John B. Morrill	Michael J. Walsh
A. Coburn	Frank Hall	Owen F. McNally
Philip A. McEnaney	N. F. Spaulding	Robert B. Scribner
Robert B. Polley	Carl Spaulding	Lester Hall
William J. Quigley	Fred Downs	Frank Foote
William Adams	Ed. Silver	Otis Wheeler
Arthur Wheeler	Archie L. Rogers	Frank Merrill
	Winifred Larkin	

GEO. C. MOORE, Fireward.





1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire from across Princeton Street  
(Chelmsford Public Library Collection)



1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire from across Foundry Street  
(Chelmsford Public Library Collection)





1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire from across Stony Brook  
(Chelmsford Public Library Collection)



1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire interior damage (Chelmsford Public Library Collection)

- Apr. 28. Forest fire on land of heirs of F. J. Adams & Abbott: Number of acres burned, 75; number of cords wood burned, 125; valued at \$1.75 per acre, \$218.15.
- Apr. 29. Fire on land of Louis Schultz and Albert Snow: Number of acres burned, 4.
- May 12. Fire on land of J. E. Warren and L. Spaulding. Damage to Mr. Warren \$10.00.
- May 25. Boston ice houses at North Chelmsford burned. Amount damage \$25,000.00.
- June 3. House on Boston road, owned by Co-operative Bank, Lowell. Damage \$500.00.
- June 4. Fire on land of G. M. Wright. Number of acres burned, 35; cords of wood burned, 35; valued at \$1.75 per cord, \$61.25.
- June 13. Fire on land of W. E. Potter, of Lowell & Abbott, heirs, (Boston). Number of acres burned, 100; damage, \$500.
- July 1. Fire off Princeton Street, on land of Percy Parker (Lowell).
- July 24. Cottage house and barn, corner Billerica and Wilson streets, Chelmsford Centre, burned: Loss on house, \$40.00; loss on barn, \$280.00.
- Sept. 20. Fire on land of heirs of Daniel Gage, near Baptist Pond.
- Oct. 20. Fire on land of D. C. Perham. Number of acres burned, 2 1/2. Amount of damage \$5.00.
- Oct. 24. Barn on road from Chelmsford to Lowell, owned by H. Lacombe. Loss on building, \$300.
- Oct. 30. Fire on Ingham place, on Lowell road. Number of acres burned, 1; some old timbers, loss, \$10.00.
- Dec. 2. Fire on land of A. B. Woodworth of Lowell. Number of acres burned, 10.
- Dec. 10. House owned by Geo. E. Spaulding burned; loss, \$375.00.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:

One pair blankets for fire truck	\$5.00
G. Thomas Parkhurst, printing	4.75
H. C. Greene, damage on wagon	12.25
Joseph Wilson, washing truck	.75
G. M. Wright, repairs on buggy at Dutton fire	2.00
O. Perham at Dutton fire	.65
G. M. Wright, reloading chemicals	.75
W. Randall, repairs on pumps	.75
Joseph Wilson, cleaning truck	1.50
Waldo Parkhurst, 2 barrels	1.00
S. Blaisdell, 5 barrel heads	2.50
G. M. Wright, work on barrels	3.00
G. M. Wright, care of truck	1.50
Melvin Walker, as fireward	2.00
As forest fireward	1.00
Warren Berry, as fireward	1.50
Services and expenses as secretary	5.00
Miscellaneous total	\$36.40
Expense of fighting fires	\$140.81

LOSSES:

Total acres burned over during the year	232
Estimated damage	\$586.25
250 cords wood burned	160.00
Loss on wood	280.00
Loss on buildings and contents	24,995.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary of Fireward.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

John P. Eaton  
 Melvin Walker  
 George M. Wright  
 Walter B. Emerson  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 John O'Connor (fireward only)  
 George C. Moore

Charles F. Scribner  
 William J. Quigley  
 John Marinel, Jr.  
 Warren Berry  
 Charles Finnick, Jr.  
 Abram A. Sherman  
 George O. Spaulding  
 Frank C. Byam

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## 1903

**Annual Town Meeting March 24, 1902**

## Article 20.

At the request of Henry S. Perham and others, to see if the town will appropriate a sum of money to provide additional facilities for the Firewards, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, that the sum of \$250 be raised and appropriated for the purpose of providing additional facilities for the firewards.

## Article 29.

At the request of Geo. C. Moore and others, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of extending water pipes in the North Village for better protection against fire. Beginning at the junction of Cottage Row and Princeton Street, so called, running northerly to a point at junction of Nashua. Dunstable and West Chelmsford Roads; beginning at the first named junction, running westerly along Washington Street as far as Canal Street, now called; beginning at a hydrant, at or near the office of Silver & Gay's Machine Shop, on Princeton Street, now called, running easterly along said street about nineteen hundred feet, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800 for the purpose of extending water pipes in the North Village, for better protection against fire.

**Annual Report of the Firewards, 1902**

Mar. 24. Fire at North Chelmsford on Gray farm. Number of acres burned, 3.

Mar. 26. Grass fire on Butterfield farm at North Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 3.

Mar. 27. Fire on land of A. B. Adams, F. Hutchinson, W. Hill. Amount of damage, \$25.00. Cause unknown.

April 4. Grass fire on land of Mr. Hutchinson. Number of acres burned, 3.

April 19. Fire on land of O. Simpson heirs; located on road from Dunstable to Groton. Number of acres burned, 1.

April 25. Fire on Sprout land, owned by James Carr, on Billerica Road. Number of acres burned, 5.

April 28. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams at North Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 30. Amount of damage, \$10.

April 29. Fire on land of Adams, Bowers, Sampson, Edwards, Simpson, DeCarterett, Blodgett, et al. Incendiary. Number of acres burned, 300. Damage, 100 cords of wood, \$200.00; 100 M. standing lumber, \$1000.00; 1000 cords of standing wood, \$1000.00; 25 M. oak plank, 25 M. pine plank \$1000.00.

April 29. Fire on land of Adams & Whitney. Number of acres burned, 25.

April 29. Fire on woodland on Concord road owned by Sweetser Heirs. Number of acres burned, 5. Damage \$10. Cause; sparks from mill.

May 5. Fire at East Chelmsford.

May 12. Fire on woodlot, owned by G. M. Wright.

May 15. Fire on Short Estate. Number of acres 1 burned, 4.

May 20. Fire on land of Proctor. Number of acres burned, 20 ; amount of damage, \$500.

May 24. Fire on John Ward Estate buildings. Damage: loss on contents, \$300 ; damage on buildings, \$1300. Cause, struck by lightning.

May 29. Fire on land of F. A. Hazen. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, spark from mill; damage, 50 cords of wood owned by G. M. Wright, \$100.

May 31. Fire on land of F. A. Hazen. Cause, spark from mill. Damage, 10 cords wood, \$20; to logs, \$15.

June 8. Fire at Mrs. Whittier's barn. Damage, loss on building, \$200; contents, \$25. Cause unknown.

June 9. Forest fire at West Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 6; owned by Proctor; damage, 50 cords of wood, \$100.

June 17. Forest fire at West Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 2; damage, slight.

June 28. Fire on land of F. A. Hazen. Number of acres burned, 6. Cause, spark from mill; damage, 75 cords of wood owned by G. M. Wright, \$200.

Oct. 25. Fire on land of F. L. Fletcher, Number acres burned, 2. Damage, \$15.00.

EXPENSES OF THE FIRE WARDS:

G. E. Martindale, ladder truck	\$ 41.00
Ervin Blaisdell, ladder truck	9.00
Ervin Blaisdell, barrel covers	4.00
Geo. M. Wright, irons for barrels	9.00
Warren Berry, painting truck	11.00
Warren Berry, pails for truck	13.50
H. B. Shattuck & Son, axe, bar and hook	3.60
Melvin Walker, water barrels	7.00
National Manufacturing Co., pumps, etc.	115.46

LOSSES:

417 acres of woodland burned, damage	\$560.00
150 M. lumber	2,015.00
1,310 cords wood	1,670.00
Loss on buildings	1,500.00
Loss on contents	325.00
Total amount damage	\$5,970 00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

George M. Wright	William J. Quigley
Melvin Walker	John Marinel, Jr.
Elmer E. Hildreth	Warren Berry
Walter B. Emerson	Charles Finnich, Jr.
Fred A. Hazen	Abram A. Sherman
John O'Connor (fireward only)	George O. Spaulding
George C. Moore	Frank C. Byam
Charles F. Scribner	Frank E. Bickford

**1904**

**Annual Report of the Firewards, 1903**

Mar. 18. Fire on land of Gray and Butterfield. Amount of damage, slight. Cause, sparks from engine.

Mar. 20. Fire on land of H. A. Miller and J. F. Parker Number of acres burned, 10. Amount of damage, \$10. Cause, burning brush.

April 19. Fire on land of M. McMahon. Number acres burned, 17. Amount of damage, \$250. Cause, sparks from engine.

April 21. Fire on land of A. B. Adams. Number acres burned, 4. Damage, slight.

April 23. Fire near Leach's Pond, North Chelmsford. Number acres burned, 20.

April 24. Fire on land of F. R. Rix and Mrs. Bunce. Number acres burned, 3J. Cause, sparks from engine.

April 25. Fire on land of F. A. Russell. Number acres burned, 1 1/2.

- April 24-25. Fire on land of Dr. Verge. Number acres burned 25.
- April 26. Fire on land of Jas. P. Dunnigan. Number acres burned, 8. Amount damage, \$100.
- April 26. Fire on land of F. Donegan and P. T. McMahon. Number acres burned, 6. Amount damage, \$50.
- April 29. Fire on land of P. Parker, M. Harrington, P. Hogan and E. Fallon. Number acres burned, 6. Amount of damage, \$100.
- April 29. Fire on land of J. A. Parkhurst. Number acres burned, 5.
- April 29. Fire on land of P. Parker. Number acres burned, 5. Amount damage, \$100.
- April 30, May 1. Fire on land of W. C. Edwards and 9 others. Reported by F. C. Scribner. Number acres burned, 2300. Amount of damage, \$5000.
- April 30, May 1. Fire on land of W. C. Edwards, P. Parker and others. Number acres burned, 150.
- April 29-30, May 1. Chelmsford Foundry Co.
- May 1. Fire on land of F. R. Rix. Number acres burned, 1. Amount damage, \$5. Cause, spark from engine.
- May 3. Fire on land of R. Penniman. Number acres burned, 3. Amount damage, \$15. Cause, spark from engine.
- May 8. Fire on land of C. E. A. Bartlett estate. Number acres burned, 1. Amount damage, \$5.
- May 9. Fire on land of Geo. C. Moore. Number acres burned, 2.
- May 10. Fire on land of Geo. C. Moore. Number acres burned, 3.
- May 16. Fire of Chemical building, West Chelmsford. Cause, incendiary.
- May 16. Fire on land of Dr. Virgin. Number acres burned, 5.
- May 18. Fire on land of J. P. Dunnigan. Number acres burned, 50. Cause, incendiary.
- May 22. Fire on land of Pratt Rendering Co. Number acres burned, 20. Amount damage, \$300. Cause, spark from engine.
- May 23. Fire on land of Dr. Virgin. Number acres burned, 5.
- May 24, 25, 26. Fire on land of T. Sheehan, J. Daley, Proctor and Parker. Number acres burned, 150. Cause, incendiary. Amount damage: sprout land, \$120; 40 cords wood, \$80.
- May 24, 25, 26, 27. Fire on land of P. Savage, O. Spaulding, J. Daly, E. Richardson and others. Number acres burned, 800, Amount damage, \$4000.
- May 25. Fire on land of D. Gage estate. Number acres burned, 10. Damage, wood burned, \$100.
- May 26. Fire on land of Mr. Leland. Number of acres burned, 2. Amount damage, \$5.
- June 3. Fire on land of C. Barron. Number acres burned, 5. Cause, spark from engine.
- July 4. Fire of house, barn and contents of Mrs. Minot Bean. Amount of damage, \$5000.
- July 4. Fire of Baptist Church (Centre), Amount damage, \$100. Cause, sparks from Bean fire.





Damage to the Central Baptist Church roof from a floating ember from a fire on Littleton Road on July 4, 1903  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

- Aug. 23. Fire on land of Oscar Spaulding.
- Sept. 13, 14. Fire on land of Richardson estate. Number acres burned, 15. Amount of damage, \$50.
- Sept. 19. Fire of house of Albert Snow. Amount of damage, \$800. Cause, defective chimney.
- Oct. 30. Fire of barn of Mrs. N. Hoyt. Amount damage, \$400.
- Nov. 1. Fire on land J. P. Riley, E. Reed and J. Parkhurst estate. Number acres burned, 5 1/2. Amount damage, \$15.
- Nov. 2. Fire of Win. Fay's barn. Amount damage, \$800. Cause, overturned lantern.
- Nov. 13. Slight fire on meadow of R. W. Dix.
- Dec. 18. Fire on grass land of D. E. Atwood. Cause, sparks from engine.

EXPENSES:

Total on account of Fire Wards	\$1,014.56
Wm. C. Edwards, lumber, etc., ladder house, West	13.17
Geo. H. Smith, painting ladder house, West	5.00
E. H. Blaisdell, repairs on fire truck, Centre	4.50

LOSSES:

Total number acres burned	3613
Total amount damage to woodland	\$10,225.00
Number cords wood burned	400
Loss on wood	1,130.00
Loss on buildings and contents	7,000.0
Total loss	\$18,355.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary Fire Wards.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

George M. Wright  
 Melvin Walker  
 Elmer E. Hildreth  
 Walter B. Emerson  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 John O'Connor (fireward only)  
 George C. Moore  
 Charles F. Scribner  
 William J. Quigley

John Marinel, Jr.  
 Warren Berry  
 Charles Finnick, Jr.  
 Abram A. Sherman  
 George O. Spaulding  
 Frank C. Byam  
 Frank E. Bickford  
 Fred M. Brown  
 Isaac H. Knight

**1905**

**Annual Report of the Fire Wards, 1904**

March 25. Grass fire on land of A. Woodworth.

March 31. Grass fire on land of Thos. Gray.

April 19. Fire on land of A. Woodworth. Number of acres burned, 8. Cause, sparks from engine.

April 23. Fire on land of Mr. Fletcher. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, set by boys.

April 24. Fire on land of N. B. Edwards, Jacob Drake heirs and others. Number of acres burned, 200.

May 5. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson. Number of acres burned, 1. Cause, sparks from engine.

May 6. Fire on land of Robarge and Riley. Number of acres burned, 3.

May 9. Barn and contents owned by Sweetser. Amount of damage, \$200.

May 23. Fire on land of A. Woodworth.

May 29. Fire on land of Mrs. Ella Jarvis. Number of acres burned, 15. Amount of damage, 25 cords of wood at \$2 per cord, \$50.00. Cause, sparks from portable mill.

June 10. Dwelling house owned by Geo. Gray. Amount of damage on buildings, \$1,200. Loss on furniture, \$600. Cause unknown.

July 9. Fire on land of W. C. Edwards. Number of acres burned, 2. Amount of damage, 8 cords of wood at \$2.50, \$20.00.

July 9. Brush fire near Hart Pond.

Oct. 17. Fire on land of W. S. Parker. Number of acres burned, 10.

Oct. 25. Fire on land of H. S. Perham and A. B. Adams. Number of acres burned, 20. Amount of damage, \$20.

Oct. 31. Fire on land of F. R. Rix. Number of acres burned, 4. Amount of damage, \$5. Cause, spark from engine.

Nov. 2. Fake alarm.

Nov. 4. House and barn owned by E. F. Dorr. Loss, \$3,000.

Nov. 7. Fire on N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Cause, sparks from engine.

Nov. 12. Fire on land of A. M. Warren, D. Gage estate, and Edward Spaulding. Number of acres burned, 100. Amount of damage, \$100.

Nov. 17. Fire on land of W. S. Parker. Number of acres burned, 10.

Jan. 30, 1905. Investigating fire.

EXPENSES:	
Total expense of Fire Dept	\$155.12
LOSSES:	
Total number of acres burned	425



Amount of damage to wood land	\$195.00
Number cords wood burned	33
Loss on wood	70.00
Loss on buildings and contents	4,800.00
Total loss	\$5,065 00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Melvin Walker  
Walter B. Emerson  
Fred A. Hazen  
Warren Berry  
Charles Finnick, Jr.  
Abram H. Sherman  
George O. Spaulding

Frank C. Byam  
Fred M. Brown  
Isaac Knight  
George C. Moore (fireward only)  
John O. Connor (fireward only)  
William J. Quigley (fireward only)  
John Marinell, Jr. (forest fireward only)  
Thomas Sheehan (forest fireward only)  
George M. Wright.

## 1906

**Annual Report of the Fire Wards, 1905**

- March 31. Fire on land of A. M. Warren. Number of acres burned, 10.
- April 1. Fire on land of Chas. Sweetser Estate. Number of acres burned, 5. Cause, garden fire.
- April 1. Fire reported by F. A. Hazen. Number of acres burned, 50. Caused by camp-fire.
- April 2. Fire on Boston road.
- April 3. Fire on land of J. A. Parkhurst, Henry Mason, H. A. Engsholm and G. C. Moore. Number of acres burned, 4. Amount of damage, lot of lumber, \$100.00. Cause, spark from B. & M. engine.
- April 4. Fire on land of J. M. Fletcher.
- April 5. Fire on land of Gray & Butterfield. Cause, spark from engine.
- April 7. Chimney fire at Chas. Sweetser's place.
- April 9. Fire on land of Wm. Manning. Number of acres burned, 15.
- April 9. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson.
- April 9. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson.
- April 10. Grass fire.
- April 10. Fire on land of Howard Adams. Cause, spark from engine. Amount burned, 1-2 acre.
- April 15. Fire on land of Harry B. Emerson estate. Amount burned, 1 acre. Damage, \$5.00.
- April 19. Fire on land of Mr. Coburn.
- April 19. Fire on land of D. Gage Est. Number of acres burned, 50.
- April 19. Fire reported by A. A. Sherman.
- April 19. Fire on land of George F. Leach. Number of acres burned, 15. Amount of damage, \$25 00.
- April 20. Fire on land of Harry B. Emerson Estate. Number of acres burned, 1.
- April 23. Fire on land of W C. Edwards, David Leduc and Robert Jeffroy. Number of acres burned, 10. Amount of damage, \$10.00.
- April 24. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams' heirs.

April 24. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams' heirs. Number of acres burned, 10. Amount of damage, \$60.00.

April 25. Fire on land of P. T. McMahon. Number of acres burned, 3. Amount of damage, \$5.00.

April 30. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams' heirs. Number of acres burned. 10. Amount of damage, \$10.00.

April 30. Fire on Groton road.

April 30. Fire on land of P. T. Mc- Mahon. Number of acres burned, 60. Amount of damage, \$70.00.

May 1. Fire on land of Dr. F. R. Rix.

May 1. Fire on land of DeCarterett and Blodgett heirs.

May 1. Fire on land of P. T. McMahon. Number of acres burned, 6. Damage, 4 cords wood, \$8.00. Cause, sparks from engine.

May 1. Fire on land of J. A. Parkhurst and W. C. Edwards. Number of acres burned, 3. Amount of damage \$10 00. Cause, spark from engine.

May 1. Fire on land of Parker, Potter, J. Bowers, Blodgett and DeCarterett. Number of acres burned, 12.

May 8. Fire on land of Mr. Woodworth.

May 8. Fire on land of Sweetser & Day. Number of acres burned, 1-2 acre. Cause, spark from engine.

May 10. Fire on land of Dr. Rix and Miss Bunce. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, spark from engine.

May 11. Fire on land of P. J. Riley. Number of acres burned, 50. Amount of damage, \$50.00.

May 23. Fire on land of C. Randall. Number of acres burned, 50. Amount of damage, \$50.00.

May 23. Fire on land of Mr. Randlett. Number of acres burned, 50.

May 24, 25, 26. Fire on land of Proctor Lumber Co. Number of acres burned, 125. Amount of damage, \$175.00.

May 25, 26, 27. Fire on land of Procter Lumber Co. Number of acres burned, 200. Amount of damage, 102 cords of wood at \$2.00, \$204.00.

May 26. Fire on land of Arthur Warren. Number of acres burned, 1.

May 28 and 29. Fire on land of D. Gage Estate, J. A. Bartlett and Geo. Spaulding. Number of acres burned, 100. Amount of damage, \$1,000.00.

May 30. House owned by Mr. Pasho. Amount of damage, \$2,500.

June 17. Fire on land of John McIntire. Number of acres burned, 5. Amount of damage, \$10. 00.

Oct. 16. Fire on land of F. A. Russell. Cause, set by boys.

Oct. 21. Fire on land of A. P. Adams. Number of acres burned, 1, Cause, set by boys.

Oct. 25. House and barn of A. M. Warren. Damage, \$6,000.00.

Nov. 8. House of A. B. Adams. Damage, \$800.00. Cause, defective chimney.

Nov. 23. House and barn of W. B. Emerson. Amount of damage, \$4,000.00.

Feb. 12, 1906. Ice house owned by John Marinell. Amount of damage, \$2,500.00.

EXPENSES:

Total expense of Fire Department	\$486.05
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LOSSES:

Total number of acres burned	852
Amount of damage to wood land	\$1480.00
Number of cords of wood burned	106
Loss on wood and lumber	312.00
Loss on buildings and content	158.00
Total loss	\$17,592.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Warren Berry  
Abram H. Sherman  
Frank C. Byam  
George O. Spaulding  
Ralph P. Adams  
Pliney C. Bliss  
Dennis J. Sheehan  
John P. Upton

**Firewards only**  
William J. Quigley  
John O'Connor.

*1907*

**Annual Town Meeting March 26, 1906**

Under Article 12.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars to be paid to the Firemen's Relief Association of Lowell in recognition of the services of the Lowell Fire Department in Chelmsford.

**Annual Report of the Fire Wards, 1906**

April 20. Fire on land of D. Samuel Virgin. Number of acres burned (Five) 5. Cause, unknown.

April 29. Fire on land of Boston Ice Co. Number of acres burned (Fifty) 50. Cause, unknown.

April 29. Fire on land of Boston Ice Co. Number of acres burned (Fifteen) 15. Amount of damage, \$15. Cause, unknown.

May 1. Fire on land of Whitman & Pratt. Number of acres burned (Twenty-five) 25.

May 1. Fire on land of T. P. Sheehan and A. M. Blaisdell. Number of acres burned (Twenty-five) 25. Damage, \$25.

May 14. Fire on land of Arthur Dutton, Geo. A. Byam and A. B. Adams. Number of acres burned (Twenty) 20. Amount damage, \$75.

May 18 and 19. Fire on land of W. B. Emerson. Number of acres burned (Twelve) 12. Amount damage, \$200.

May 2."). Fire on land of Geo. Smith. Number of acres burned (Seven) 7. Cause, spark from engine.

Sept. 14 and 15. Fire on land of A. L. Brooks. Cause, spark from engine.

Oct. 8. Barn of Geo. Parker burned. Loss, \$1,500.

EXPENSES:

Warren Berry, services	\$5.00
Station No. 1	24.90
Station No. 2	6.80
Station No. 3	20.40
Station No. 4	4.10
Station No. 5	23.75
Total expense of Fire Department	\$84.95

LOSSES:

Total number of acres burned	149
Amount damage to wood land	\$115.00
Loss on buildings	1,500.00
Total loss	\$1,615.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Warren Berry  
 Frank C. Byam  
 Pliney C. Bliss  
 Denis J. Sheehan  
 Fred L. Fletcher

James J. Hackett  
 James W. Stevens  
 John E. Hogan  
 William J. Quigley  
 John O'Connor  
 George O. Spaulding



Ticket for the First Annual Clam Bake of the North Chelmsford Fire Department in 1907  
 (Courtesy of Paul McGovern)

**1908**

**Annual Town Meeting March 25, 1907**

Under Article 23.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) to be paid to North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year. 132 voted in favor and 123 opposed.

**Special Town Meeting November 9, 1907**

Under Article 2.

It was voted that the Town borrow the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) on a promissory note for that amount, to be signed in its name and behalf by the Town Treasurer, payable in two installments of four hundred dollars each in one and two years from date thereof, with interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum, payable semiannually. Such note to be countersigned by the Selectmen, and the proceeds used to pay for the purchase of a fire wagon and equipment of same for the North Chelmsford Fire Dept. to be purchased by the Town for fire purposes, and that the ownership will be and remain in the name of the Town of Chelmsford. A standing vote was taken, and 110 voted in the affirmative and 29 in the negative. It was also voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay over this sum to John O'Connor, treasurer of the North Chelmsford Fire Commissioners.

**Special Report**

By vote of the Town for fire apparatus in North, village, \$800 was appropriated, and the following apparatus has been purchased :

1,000 ft. 2 1/2 inch hose, Uncle Sam brand, of Eureka Fire Hose Co.	\$550.00
1 hose wagon	200.00

4 Underwriters' chemicals and nozzles 50.00  
 Total: \$800.00

JOHN O'CONNOR,  
 Treasurer,  
 North Chelmsford Fire Commission

**Annual Report of Fire Wards, 1907**

- April 6. Fire on land of A. M. Blaisdell and P. McMahon. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, sparks from engine.
- April 7. Fire on land of C. W. Potter. Number of acres burned, 20. Damage, \$50.
- April 20. Fire on land of Oscar Spaulding. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, burning of brush by moth brigade.
- April 20. Fire on land of Percy Parker.
- April 21. Fire on land of Boston Ice Co, Number of acres burned, 15.
- April 21. Fire on land of M. Barron.
- April 22. Fire on land of Joseph Bowers. Number of acres burned, 75. Cause, incendiary.
- April 30. Fire on land of A. L. Brooks
- May 15. Fire near Rendering Works, North Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 25. Damage, \$50.
- May 29. Fire on land of William Proctor and Drake heirs. Number of acres burned, 40. Damage, \$100.
- June 11. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson. Number of acres burned, 1. Cause, sparks from engine.
- June 28. Fighting fire.
- August 10. Fire on Proctor wood lot.
- Sept. 7. Fire on land of M. Roake. Number of acres burned, 2.
- Nov. 4. Fire on land of N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Number of acres burned, 1. Cause, spark from engine.
- Nov. 18. Fire on land of H. C. Sweetser. Number of acres burned, 2.
- Jan. 18, 1908. Fire on land of D. E. Atwood Number of acres burned, 5. Cause, sparks from engine.

EXPENSES:

Total expense of Fire Department \$169.00

LOSSES:

Total number of acres burned 190  
 Total amount damage as reported \$200.00

WARREN BERRY,  
 Secretary.

**Appraisal of Chelmsford Centre Fire Apparatus, February 29, 1908**

1 Hook and ladder truck	\$300.00
1 30-foot extension ladder	20.00
1 24-foot ladder	3.00
1 20-foot ladder	2.00
1 12-foot ladder	1.00
30-foot ladder	3.00
1 Pole for truck	6.00
1 Wagon jack	1.00
1 Protective wagon	165.00
2 13-foot extension ladders	10.00
6 Hand chemicals	75.00
2 Dozen galvanized pails	4.80

6 Round pointed shovels	2.50
2 Dozen Johnson's pumps	36.00
3 Dozen water cans	3.50
2 Crowbars	1.50
2 Axes	2.00
1 Dozen leather buckets	2.40
2 50-foot ropes	3.00
3 Horse blankets	10.00
2 Lanterns	.30
1 Wire hose basket	3.00
1 Deming force pump	5.00
100 Feet 1-inch rubber hose	15.00
30 Feet 2-inch rubber hose	5.00

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Charles D. Worden  
 Fred Chandler  
 John O'Connor  
 James J. Hackett  
 Warren Berry  
 Frank C. Byam

Ralph P. Adams  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Arthur C. Barton  
 George O. Spaulding  
 James W. Stevens  
 John P. Upton

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## 1909

**Annual Town Meeting March 23, 1908**

Under Article 10.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.) for the purchase of fire apparatus for the use of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department, the money to be expended under the direction of a committee of three, consisting of Walter Perham, Herbert C. Sweetser and Herbert E. Ellis.

Under Article 20.

Voted that the Town borrow the sum of fifteen hundred dollars on one promissory note for that amount, to be signed in its name and behalf by the Town Treasurer, payable in three installments of five hundred dollars each in one, two and three years from date thereof, with interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum payable semi-annually. Such notes to be countersigned by the Selectmen and the proceeds used for the erection of a firehouse, so called, at North Chelmsford, same to be the property of the Town, the money to be used under the direction of the Fire Commissioners of the North Village. 252 votes in favor and none opposed.

It was also voted that none of this money be available until a suitable lease or title to land upon which to place the building had been secured by the Town. The vote was 116 in favor and 95 opposed.

Under Article 22.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500. ) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

**Special Town Meeting, May 16, 1908**

Under Article 2.

It was voted that all action under this Article be by ballot and the check list used. It was then moved: " That the fire-house, so called, to be built pursuant to a previous vote of the Town under the direction of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Chelmsford Fire District, be located upon a strip of land at North Chelmsford having a frontage of thirty-one feet on Washington Street and running back the whole depth of the lot recently conveyed to the Town by Frederick G. Salmon, and being the most westerly portion thereof, and that the said Fire District shall have, until otherwise voted by the Town, the use and occupancy of said strip of land for the necessary, proper and convenient purpose of a fire department. The Board of Selectmen are hereby authorized to determine the exact limits of the division line between said strip of land and the remaining portion of said Salmon lot, and to have the same marked, if they deem it advisable, by suitable bounds. " Remarks in opposition to the measure were heard from Royal S. Ripley of the North village and Herbert E. Ellis, a member of the School Committee.

Upon a motion to proceed to ballot, ballots were distributed upon which the following question was printed: " Shall the Town of Chelmsford locate a fire-house on the schoolhouse grounds in North Chelmsford, as provided in Article 2 of the Warrant of May 16, 1908 ? " There were " Yes " and " No " ballots, and the vote resulted in the defeat of the measure. 57 voted in the affirmative and 95 in the negative.

**Special Town Meeting, December 7, 1908**

## Under Article 2.

A motion to lay the Article on the table until the regular annual Town meeting was defeated by a tie vote. It was then voted that the Town borrow the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400.) on a promissory note for that amount, payable in two annual payments of \$200 each, to be signed in its name and behalf by the Town Treasurer, with interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. Such note to be countersigned by the Selectmen, and the proceeds used to pay for the Miner land, in Mount Pleasant Street, North Chelmsford, said lot of land containing 6,187 square feet of land, and being lot number two as surveyed by Smith & Brooks, Dec. 20, 1905. Said lot to be used as a site for the erection of the new fire-house. Also voted that the Selectmen be authorized to purchase the lot.

**Property Appraisal of Fire Department (Centre)**

Fire engine and hose	700.00
Hose wagon	165.00
Fire truck	300.00
10 hand chemicals	125.00
600 ft. hose	329.00
2 harnesses	70.00
15 pails	3.75
6 shovels	3.00
2 axes	1.50
8 Johnson hand pumps	12.00
50 canisters	2.50
6 lanterns	6.00
4 blankets	12.00
1/2 dozen coats, pairs boots and hats, each	35.00
carboy acid	5.00
1 stove	14.00
1 clock	3.75
4 tables	6.00
1 chain fall	8.50
1 pair pulley blocks	2.75
3 brooms	1.00
4 window screens	1.40
1 duster	.35
1 snow shovel	.25
1 dust pan	.15
1 coal hod	.35
2 harness hangers, etc	9.00
Curtains and fixtures	7.50
Total:	\$1,824.75

**Property Appraisal of North Chelmsford Fire Department**

1000 ft. 2 1/2 in. hose	550.00
1 wagon	200.00
1 hose reel	30.00
Underwriters chemicals	43.00
2 steel bars	1.68
1 doz. Tabor spanners	1.68
150 ft. 3/4 in. rope	3.70
Firehouse lot	400.00
Total:	\$1,230.06

Report of the Forest Warden

Owing to the unusually dry weather prevailing during the greater part of the year, the number of forest and grass fires was unusually large. A number might have been avoided by the exercise of ordinary caution.

Permits have been granted as required by law, on application to the Forest Wardens, to set fires for the purpose of clearing land. Several persons in disregard of this law have set brush fires and left them without proper care. The result has been that these fires have escaped from their control and have caused quite an expense to subdue, besides the damage to adjoining property.

A number of fires were clearly of incendiary origin. Several have been caused by sparks from engines on the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R.

During the fall when the very dry conditions prevailed and the chestnut pickers were out in great numbers, causing damage to trees and danger from fire, the Forest Wardens kept as close watch as possible and probably prevented a number of fires.

Brush fires are a source of very great expense to the Town, and every precaution should be taken to guard against them. We therefore recommend the adoption by the Town of Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Chap. 209 of the Acts of 1908, entitled: An act to provide for the protection of forest or sprout land from fire.

March 27, 1907. Eight acres of wood land burned. Damage \$50. Property owned by Charles Sweetser Estate, Albert Snow and Louis Snow. Caused by a fire left unnoticed.

March 23, 1908 . Two acres of grass land. Damage slight. Land owned by James P. Emerson. Caused by sparks from engine.

April 6, 1908. Small barn containing cow and hay. Property of Thomas Stuart. Fire started by six year old boy.

April 6, 1908. A false alarm at Golden Cove.

April 9, 1908. Two acres burned. No damage. Owner not known, cause not known.

April 16, 1908. Ten acres burned. Slight damage. Owned by A. B. Adams Estate. Cause not known.

April 17, 1908. False alarm on Lowell road, the fire was over the line.

April 17, 1908. Over one hundred acres of young growth oak owned by J. E. Warren, Fiske Estate, John McDonough and H. Riley. Cause unknown

April 18, 1908. Ten acres burned. Owned by Leslie Franklin. Caused by unwatched fire burning over pasture land.

May 1, 1908. Fifteen acres burned. Damage slight. Owned by Whitman and Pratt.

April 12, 1908. Five acres burned. Slight damage. Land the property of Mr. Swan.

April 21, 1908. Two acres burned. Slight damage. Estate of John Byam. Caused by sparks from engine.

April 30, 1908. Two acres burned. Slight damage. Property of James Stearns. Cause unknown.

May 6, 1908. Ten acres burned. Damage \$100. Property of Peter Riley of Lowell. Cause of fire not known.

May 6, 1908. Twenty-three acres of brush land. Burned at request of Charles W. Tucker under the direction of the Forest Warden, R. P. Adams.

May 8, 1908. Chimney fire at Mrs. M. Hatch's residence. Very little damage. Property of Mrs. Hatch. Caused by overheated stove.

May 8, 1908. Fire in wood lot. Owner not known.

May 11, 1988. Five acres burned. Damage slight. Property owned by Geo. Coburn of Lowell. Caused by sparks from engine.

May, 14, 1908. Chimney fire in dwelling house. Owned by E. C. Perham. Damage to household goods about \$25.

July 12, 1908. Four acres burned, \$100. damage. Peat meadow owned by Wm. Noel. Caused by brush fire unwatched. The fire assuming a dangerous nature, the Centre Fire Department was called.

July 12, 1908. Two acres burned. Property of Mr. Barron. Fire started by boys.

July 15, 1908. Same place as on 12th. caused by boys.

July 16, 1908. Six acres of pasture land. Property of James P. Emerson and George Coburn. Slight damage. Caused by sparks from engine.



July 17, 1908. Two acres of peat swamp land. Damage slight. Owned by George Coburn. Caused by sparks from engine.

August 2, 1908. One acre burned. Slight damage. Owner not known. Fire caused by berry pickers.

Sept. 4, 1908. One acre swamp land. Slight damage. Property of A. Pasche. Caused by dropping match in hay by unknown party.

Sept. 17, 1908. Two acres wood land. Slight damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of James P. Emerson.

September 18, 1908. One acre, shrub land. Slightly damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

Sept 27, 1908. Two acres wood land. Property of Fred A. Hazen.

September 28, 1908. Two acres of wood land. Owner unknown. Damage \$200.

September 30, 1908. One quarter acre of shrub land and Peat meadow. No damage. Cause by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 6, 1908. One acre of shrub land. Slight damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 6, 1908. Two acres of wood land. Damage \$100. Caused by unknown person dropping lighted match.

October 10, 1908. Three acres of meadow land. No damage. Caused by fishermen. Property of Mrs. M. Farlan.

October 22, 1908. Seven acres scrub land on Steadman St. Slight damage. Cause not known.

October 16, 1908. Three acres woodland. Owner unknown. Damage about \$75. Cause unknown.

October 17, 1908. One acre wood land. Slight damage. Cause not known. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 18, 1908. Ten acres wood land. Property of J. P. Emerson and Dutton Estate.

October 19, 1908. One acre grass and scrubland. No damage. Cause not known. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 24, 1908. Fire on Chestnut Hill near house of J. C. Sheehan. Started October 18, and was not considered safe until October 22, it being necessary to watch it continually. Damage was quite heavy and extended over several estates.

October 18, 1908. Hill.

November 1, 1908. Golden Cove section. No damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

November 7, 1908. Twenty-five acres. Slight damage. Property of Manning and Lampson.

September 25, 1908. Fire on hand of E. Paignon.

September 28, 1908. Same place as on the 25th.

October 17, 1908. Fire on Noel and Johnson's land.

October 18, 1908. Fire on Johnson's land.

October 17, 1908. Fire on side of road next to land of Mr. Farrell.

November 7, 1908. Twenty acres grass land and wood lot. Property of Thompson and Manning. Cause not known.

December 3, 1908. Tool house of Boston Ice Co. Spontaneous combustion. House and contents valued \$500.

January 8, 1909. Fire in house occupied by Michael M. Kennedy. Damage \$500. Cause unknown. Property of L. J. Hauver.

January 19, 1909. Fire in mill of Geo. C. Moore. Fire started in picker house and the entire mill was destroyed.

Total Expenses: \$588.20

RALPH P. ADAMS, Forest Warden.

FRED CHANDLER, Secretary.

#### **Report of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department**

We respectfully submit the first annual report of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department for the year ending Feb. 28, 1909.

Organization — Chief , Ralph P. Adams; 1st Lieutenant,. Arthur E. Barton; 2nd Lieutenant, Charles D. Worden; Clerk and Treasurer, Fred Chandler; Steward, Fred LaVigne.



Ralph P. Adams, son of storekeeper Eben T. Adams, and Chief of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department in 1909  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The apparatus now in use consists of one Howe Combination Engine, one Hook and Ladder Truck, and one Combination Hose Wagon, with 800 feet of C. C. C. 2 inch hose made by the C. Callahan Hose Co.

The Combination Hose Wagon is so arranged that the hose can be raised by falls from the wagon in a few seconds,, thereby making a wagon suitable for brush fire work. The expense of this feature as well as furniture and fittings for the firehouse has been borne by the boys of the department.

We wish to thank Mr. George M. Wright for the harness hangers and other work he has done for us free of charge.

During the year the department was called to four fires in dwellings or other buildings:

1. April 6. Barn of Thomas Sheehan, total loss.
2. May 8. Chimney fire at Mrs. Hatches, no damage.
3. May 14. Chimney fire at E. C. Perham's cottage, slight damage.
4. January 8. House fire at L. J. Hauver's house occupied by Michael McNulty, damage about \$500.

The fire alarm arrangements at present are: the bell on the Unitarian Church for the house fires. The whistle on the Chelmsford Spring Co's factory is used by permission of Mr. C. G. Armstrong for brush fires.

Practice by squads and as a department working together, has helped to make the discipline and efficiency of the department fairly satisfactory.

The greater part of our work has been fighting wood and grass land fires.

The officers have investigated the water supply in the village and have learned the best means of using this supply in case of fire. We invite the citizens of Chelmsford to visit our fire station, and we will be pleased to explain our methods and apparatus to all.

RALPH P. ADAMS, Chief.  
FRED CHANDLER, Secretary.

#### **Engineers of Firewards at Centre**

Ralph P. Adams  
Arthur E. Barton  
Fred M. Chandler  
Charles D. Worden  
John H. Wilson  
Daniel E. Haley  
Arnold C. Perham  
F. W. Santamour  
Victor L. Parkhurst  
R. W. Emerson  
Benjamin Cole  
Curtis A. Aiken

#### **Chelmsford Centre Fire Department**

Ralph P. Adams (Chief)  
Arthur E. Barton (1st Lieutenant)  
Charles D. Worden (2nd Lieutenant)  
Fred Chandler (Clerk and Treasurer)  
Fred LaVigne (Steward)

#### **Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Warren Berry  
Dennis J. Sheehan  
James W. Stevens  
John O'Connor  
Isaac Knight  
Frank C. Byam  
Fred L. Fletcher  
John E. Hogan  
John Marinel, Jr.  
Fred M. Chandler  
Ralph P. Adams  
James J. Hackett  
William J. Quigley  
George O. Spaulding  
Arthur W. Barton

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1900



**Note:** The Annual Town Reports for 1900 through 1909 covered events during the years 1899 through 1908. This was adjusted by the Town starting in 1914 so the report year matches the year covered.

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### Annual Town Meeting March 26, 1900

Article 23.

At the request of Henry S. Perham, to see if the town will take measures to provide better protection against fires, appropriate money for the same, or act in relation thereto. (The results of this vote are reported in the 1901 Annual Report.)

#### Firewards

Daniel P. Byam  
 Frank C. Byam  
 Almon W. Holt  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 George M. Wright  
 George G. Stetson  
 John O'Connor  
 George C. Moore  
 Charles F. Scribner  
 Franklin Guyotte  
 Thomas Smith  
 William J. Quigley

#### Forest Firewards

William H. Shedd  
 George M. Wright  
 Warren Berry  
 James S. Wotton  
 George F. Snow  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 John Marinel, Jr.

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## 1901

### Annual Town Meeting March 26, 1900

Under Article 23.

At the request of Henry S. Perham, to see if the town will take measures to provide better protection against fires, appropriate money for the same, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, that the sum of \$500 be appropriated for the purchase of Johnson's or other similar pumps, and pails, and chemicals, if thought expedient, to be distributed as follows: One or more to be placed in each of the buildings belonging to the town, and at other places where needed, upon the payment of one dollar by the applicant. All pumps to be the property of the town and subject to the regulations of the fire wards; and that the purchase be referred to a committee of five to be appointed by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed as said committee Joseph E. Warren, Henry S. Perham, George F. Snow, Preston L. Piggott, Frank C. Byam.

#### Miscellaneous Expenses

##### FIRE APPARATUS:

Standard Extract Co., 24 extracts and charges \$324 00  
 National Mfg. Co., 50 Johnson pumps \$162.50  
 Bartlett & Dow, pails \$11.46  
 Total \$497.96

#### Firewards

Frank C. Byam  
 Warren Berry  
 Walter B. Emerson  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 George M. Wright  
 Ervin W. Sweetser  
 John O'Connor  
 George C. Moore  
 Charles F. Scribner

#### Forest Firewards

George M. Wright  
 Warren Berry  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 Frank C. Byam  
 E. Hamlin Russell  
 George O. Spaulding  
 John Marinel, Jr.  
 Ervin W. Sweetser  
 Samuel Naylor

William J. Quigley  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 Charles Finnick, Jr.  
 Samuel Naylor

## 1902

### Annual Town Meeting March 25, 1901

Under Article 26.

At the request of Henry S. Perham and others, to see if the town will appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars to provide additional fire apparatus, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, to dismiss Article 26, relating to additional fire apparatus.

### Annual Report of the Firewards, 1901

Mar. 9. L. Schultz's ice house burned; amount of damage \$ 1,500.00.

Apr. 27. Silver & Gay Machine Shop burned; amount of damage \$16,000. 64 Men fought this fire:

George C. Moore	John O'Connor	George Stetson
Charles P: Holt	Clarence DeRoehn	Michael Kinch
Michael Shea	William J. Shea	Henry O. Miner
John Callahan	Edgar Dixon	William P. Dunigan
Frank McCluskey	Dennis McCluskey	James J. McCluskey
Michael J. Layden	Robert Moore	John H. Davis
George Lumbert	James Briggs	L. A. Mosier
Perley Constantino	John T. McMahan	Patrick T. McMahan
Michael J. Gallagher	Jeremiah O'Connor	William H. Corrigan
Charles F. Scribner	Fred Cully	Clifford A. Moore
Walter A. Leigh	Henry Leake	Stephen Ward
Fred Vinal	John E. Holmes	John E. Hogan
Owen F. McGrath	A. B. Magnant	John Larkin
Patrick Hoyt	Mark McGrath	Ed. Keyes
Patrick Raybald	John B. Morrill	Michael J. Walsh
A. Coburn	Frank Hall	Owen F. McNally
Philip A. McEnaney	N. F. Spaulding	Robert B. Scribner
Robert B. Polley	Carl Spaulding	Lester Hall
William J. Quigley	Fred Downs	Frank Foote
William Adams	Ed. Silver	Otis Wheeler
Arthur Wheeler	Archie L. Rogers	Frank Merrill
	Winifred Larkin	

GEO. C. MOORE, Fireward.





1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire from across Princeton Street  
(Chelmsford Public Library Collection)



1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire from across Foundry Street  
(Chelmsford Public Library Collection)





1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire from across Stony Brook  
(Chelmsford Public Library Collection)



1901 Silver & Gay Machine Shop Fire interior damage (Chelmsford Public Library Collection)

- Apr. 28. Forest fire on land of heirs of F. J. Adams & Abbott: Number of acres burned, 75; number of cords wood burned, 125; valued at \$1.75 per acre, \$218.15.
- Apr. 29. Fire on land of Louis Schultz and Albert Snow: Number of acres burned, 4.
- May 12. Fire on land of J. E. Warren and L. Spaulding. Damage to Mr. Warren \$10.00.
- May 25. Boston ice houses at North Chelmsford burned. Amount damage \$25,000.00.
- June 3. House on Boston road, owned by Co-operative Bank, Lowell. Damage \$500.00.
- June 4. Fire on land of G. M. Wright. Number of acres burned, 35; cords of wood burned, 35; valued at \$1.75 per cord, \$61.25.
- June 13. Fire on land of W. E. Potter, of Lowell & Abbott, heirs, (Boston). Number of acres burned, 100; damage, \$500.
- July 1. Fire off Princeton Street, on land of Percy Parker (Lowell).
- July 24. Cottage house and barn, corner Billerica and Wilson streets, Chelmsford Centre, burned: Loss on house, \$40.00; loss on barn, \$280.00.
- Sept. 20. Fire on land of heirs of Daniel Gage, near Baptist Pond.
- Oct. 20. Fire on land of D. C. Perham. Number of acres burned, 2 1/2. Amount of damage \$5.00.
- Oct. 24. Barn on road from Chelmsford to Lowell, owned by H. Lacombe. Loss on building, \$300.
- Oct. 30. Fire on Ingham place, on Lowell road. Number of acres burned, 1; some old timbers, loss, \$10.00.
- Dec. 2. Fire on land of A. B. Woodworth of Lowell. Number of acres burned, 10.
- Dec. 10. House owned by Geo. E. Spaulding burned; loss, \$375.00.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:

One pair blankets for fire truck	\$5.00
G. Thomas Parkhurst, printing	4.75
H. C. Greene, damage on wagon	12.25
Joseph Wilson, washing truck	.75
G. M. Wright, repairs on buggy at Dutton fire	2.00
O. Perham at Dutton fire	.65
G. M. Wright, reloading chemicals	.75
W. Randall, repairs on pumps	.75
Joseph Wilson, cleaning truck	1.50
Waldo Parkhurst, 2 barrels	1.00
S. Blaisdell, 5 barrel heads	2.50
G. M. Wright, work on barrels	3.00
G. M. Wright, care of truck	1.50
Melvin Walker, as fireward	2.00
As forest fireward	1.00
Warren Berry, as fireward	1.50
Services and expenses as secretary	5.00
Miscellaneous total	\$36.40
Expense of fighting fires	\$140.81

LOSSES:

Total acres burned over during the year	232
Estimated damage	\$586.25
250 cords wood burned	160.00
Loss on wood	280.00
Loss on buildings and contents	24,995.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary of Fireward.



**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

John P. Eaton  
 Melvin Walker  
 George M. Wright  
 Walter B. Emerson  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 John O'Connor (fireward only)  
 George C. Moore

Charles F. Scribner  
 William J. Quigley  
 John Marinell, Jr.  
 Warren Berry  
 Charles Finnick, Jr.  
 Abram A. Sherman  
 George O. Spaulding  
 Frank C. Byam

**1903****Annual Town Meeting March 24, 1902**

## Article 20.

At the request of Henry S. Perham and others, to see if the town will appropriate a sum of money to provide additional facilities for the Firewards, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, that the sum of \$250 be raised and appropriated for the purpose of providing additional facilities for the firewards.

## Article 29.

At the request of Geo. C. Moore and others, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of extending water pipes in the North Village for better protection against fire. Beginning at the junction of Cottage Row and Princeton Street, so called, running northerly to a point at junction of Nashua. Dunstable and West Chelmsford Roads; beginning at the first named junction, running westerly along Washington Street as far as Canal Street, now called; beginning at a hydrant, at or near the office of Silver & Gay's Machine Shop, on Princeton Street, now called, running easterly along said street about nineteen hundred feet, or act in relation thereto:

Voted, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$800 for the purpose of extending water pipes in the North Village, for better protection against fire.

**Annual Report of the Firewards, 1902**

Mar. 24. Fire at North Chelmsford on Gray farm. Number of acres burned, 3.

Mar. 26. Grass fire on Butterfield farm at North Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 3.

Mar. 27. Fire on land of A. B. Adams, F. Hutchinson, W. Hill. Amount of damage, \$25.00. Cause unknown.

April 4. Grass fire on land of Mr. Hutchinson. Number of acres burned, 3.

April 19. Fire on land of O. Simpson heirs; located on road from Dunstable to Groton. Number of acres burned, 1.

April 25. Fire on Sprout land, owned by James Carr, on Billerica Road. Number of acres burned, 5.

April 28. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams at North Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 30. Amount of damage, \$10.

April 29. Fire on land of Adams, Bowers, Sampson, Edwards, Simpson, DeCarterett, Blodgett, et al. Incendiary. Number of acres burned, 300. Damage, 100 cords of wood, \$200.00; 100 M. standing lumber, \$1000.00; 1000 cords of standing wood, \$1000.00; 25 M. oak plank, 25 M. pine plank \$1000.00.

April 29. Fire on land of Adams & Whitney. Number of acres burned, 25.

April 29. Fire on woodland on Concord road owned by Sweetser Heirs. Number of acres burned, 5. Damage \$10. Cause; sparks from mill.

May 5. Fire at East Chelmsford.

May 12. Fire on woodlot, owned by G. M. Wright.

May 15. Fire on Short Estate. Number of acres 1 burned, 4.

May 20. Fire on land of Proctor. Number of acres burned, 20 ; amount of damage, \$500.

May 24. Fire on John Ward Estate buildings. Damage: loss on contents, \$300 ; damage on buildings, \$1300. Cause, struck by lightning.

May 29. Fire on land of F. A. Hazen. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, spark from mill; damage, 50 cords of wood owned by G. M. Wright, \$100.

May 31. Fire on land of F. A. Hazen. Cause, spark from mill. Damage, 10 cords wood, \$20; to logs, \$15.

June 8. Fire at Mrs. Whittier's barn. Damage, loss on building, \$200; contents, \$25. Cause unknown.

June 9. Forest fire at West Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 6; owned by Proctor; damage, 50 cords of wood, \$100.

June 17. Forest fire at West Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 2; damage, slight.

June 28. Fire on land of F. A. Hazen. Number of acres burned, 6. Cause, spark from mill; damage, 75 cords of wood owned by G. M. Wright, \$200.

Oct. 25. Fire on land of F. L. Fletcher, Number acres burned, 2. Damage, \$15.00.

EXPENSES OF THE FIRE WARDS:

G. E. Martindale, ladder truck	\$ 41.00
Ervin Blaisdell, ladder truck	9.00
Ervin Blaisdell, barrel covers	4.00
Geo. M. Wright, irons for barrels	9.00
Warren Berry, painting truck	11.00
Warren Berry, pails for truck	13.50
H. B. Shattuck & Son, axe, bar and hook	3.60
Melvin Walker, water barrels	7.00
National Manufacturing Co., pumps, etc.	115.46

LOSSES:

417 acres of woodland burned, damage	\$560.00
150 M. lumber	2,015.00
1,310 cords wood	1,670.00
Loss on buildings	1,500.00
Loss on contents	325.00
Total amount damage	\$5,970 00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

George M. Wright	William J. Quigley
Melvin Walker	John Marinel, Jr.
Elmer E. Hildreth	Warren Berry
Walter B. Emerson	Charles Finnich, Jr.
Fred A. Hazen	Abram A. Sherman
John O'Connor (fireward only)	George O. Spaulding
George C. Moore	Frank C. Byam
Charles F. Scribner	Frank E. Bickford

**1904**

**Annual Report of the Firewards, 1903**

Mar. 18. Fire on land of Gray and Butterfield. Amount of damage, slight. Cause, sparks from engine.

Mar. 20. Fire on land of H. A. Miller and J. F. Parker Number of acres burned, 10. Amount of damage, \$10. Cause, burning brush.

April 19. Fire on land of M. McMahon. Number acres burned, 17. Amount of damage, \$250. Cause, sparks from engine.

April 21. Fire on land of A. B. Adams. Number acres burned, 4. Damage, slight.

April 23. Fire near Leach's Pond, North Chelmsford. Number acres burned, 20.

April 24. Fire on land of F. R. Rix and Mrs. Bunce. Number acres burned, 3J. Cause, sparks from engine.

April 25. Fire on land of F. A. Russell. Number acres burned, 1 1/2.

- April 24-25. Fire on land of Dr. Verge. Number acres burned 25.
- April 26. Fire on land of Jas. P. Dunnigan. Number acres burned, 8. Amount damage, \$100.
- April 26. Fire on land of F. Donegan and P. T. McMahon. Number acres burned, 6. Amount damage, \$50.
- April 29. Fire on land of P. Parker, M. Harrington, P. Hogan and E. Fallon. Number acres burned, 6. Amount of damage, \$100.
- April 29. Fire on land of J. A. Parkhurst. Number acres burned, 5.
- April 29. Fire on land of P. Parker. Number acres burned, 5. Amount damage, \$100.
- April 30, May 1. Fire on land of W. C. Edwards and 9 others. Reported by F. C. Scribner. Number acres burned, 2300. Amount of damage, \$5000.
- April 30, May 1. Fire on land of W. C. Edwards, P. Parker and others. Number acres burned, 150.
- April 29-30, May 1. Chelmsford Foundry Co.
- May 1. Fire on land of F. R. Rix. Number acres burned, 1. Amount damage, \$5. Cause, spark from engine.
- May 3. Fire on land of R. Penniman. Number acres burned, 3. Amount damage, \$15. Cause, spark from engine.
- May 8. Fire on land of C. E. A. Bartlett estate. Number acres burned, 1. Amount damage, \$5.
- May 9. Fire on land of Geo. C. Moore. Number acres burned, 2.
- May 10. Fire on land of Geo. C. Moore. Number acres burned, 3.
- May 16. Fire of Chemical building, West Chelmsford. Cause, incendiary.
- May 16. Fire on land of Dr. Virgin. Number acres burned, 5.
- May 18. Fire on land of J. P. Dunnigan. Number acres burned, 50. Cause, incendiary.
- May 22. Fire on land of Pratt Rendering Co. Number acres burned, 20. Amount damage, \$300. Cause, spark from engine.
- May 23. Fire on land of Dr. Virgin. Number acres burned, 5.
- May 24, 25, 26. Fire on land of T. Sheehan, J. Daley, Proctor and Parker. Number acres burned, 150. Cause, incendiary. Amount damage: sprout land, \$120; 40 cords wood, \$80.
- May 24, 25, 26, 27. Fire on land of P. Savage, O. Spaulding, J. Daly, E. Richardson and others. Number acres burned, 800, Amount damage, \$4000.
- May 25. Fire on land of D. Gage estate. Number acres burned, 10. Damage, wood burned, \$100.
- May 26. Fire on land of Mr. Leland. Number of acres burned, 2. Amount damage, \$5.
- June 3. Fire on land of C. Barron. Number acres burned, 5. Cause, spark from engine.
- July 4. Fire of house, barn and contents of Mrs. Minot Bean. Amount of damage, \$5000.
- July 4. Fire of Baptist Church (Centre), Amount damage, \$100. Cause, sparks from Bean fire.



Damage to the Central Baptist Church roof from a floating ember from a fire on Littleton Road on July 4, 1903  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

- Aug. 23. Fire on land of Oscar Spaulding.
- Sept. 13, 14. Fire on land of Richardson estate. Number acres burned, 15. Amount of damage, \$50.
- Sept. 19. Fire of house of Albert Snow. Amount of damage, \$800. Cause, defective chimney.
- Oct. 30. Fire of barn of Mrs. N. Hoyt. Amount damage, \$400.
- Nov. 1. Fire on land J. P. Riley, E. Reed and J. Parkhurst estate. Number acres burned, 5 1/2. Amount damage, \$15.
- Nov. 2. Fire of Win. Fay's barn. Amount damage, \$800. Cause, overturned lantern.
- Nov. 13. Slight fire on meadow of R. W. Dix.
- Dec. 18. Fire on grass land of D. E. Atwood. Cause, sparks from engine.

EXPENSES:

Total on account of Fire Wards	\$1,014.56
Wm. C. Edwards, lumber, etc., ladder house, West	13.17
Geo. H. Smith, painting ladder house, West	5.00
E. H. Blaisdell, repairs on fire truck, Centre	4.50

LOSSES:

Total number acres burned	3613
Total amount damage to woodland	\$10,225.00
Number cords wood burned	400
Loss on wood	1,130.00
Loss on buildings and contents	7,000.0
Total loss	\$18,355.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary Fire Wards.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

George M. Wright  
 Melvin Walker  
 Elmer E. Hildreth  
 Walter B. Emerson  
 Fred A. Hazen  
 John O'Connor (fireward only)  
 George C. Moore  
 Charles F. Scribner  
 William J. Quigley

John Marinel, Jr.  
 Warren Berry  
 Charles Finnick, Jr.  
 Abram A. Sherman  
 George O. Spaulding  
 Frank C. Byam  
 Frank E. Bickford  
 Fred M. Brown  
 Isaac H. Knight

**1905**

**Annual Report of the Fire Wards, 1904**

March 25. Grass fire on land of A. Woodworth.

March 31. Grass fire on land of Thos. Gray.

April 19. Fire on land of A. Woodworth. Number of acres burned, 8. Cause, sparks from engine.

April 23. Fire on land of Mr. Fletcher. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, set by boys.

April 24. Fire on land of N. B. Edwards, Jacob Drake heirs and others. Number of acres burned, 200.

May 5. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson. Number of acres burned, 1. Cause, sparks from engine.

May 6. Fire on land of Robarge and Riley. Number of acres burned, 3.

May 9. Barn and contents owned by Sweetser. Amount of damage, \$200.

May 23. Fire on land of A. Woodworth.

May 29. Fire on land of Mrs. Ella Jarvis. Number of acres burned, 15. Amount of damage, 25 cords of wood at \$2 per cord, \$50.00. Cause, sparks from portable mill.

June 10. Dwelling house owned by Geo. Gray. Amount of damage on buildings, \$1,200. Loss on furniture, \$600. Cause unknown.

July 9. Fire on land of W. C. Edwards. Number of acres burned, 2. Amount of damage, 8 cords of wood at \$2.50, \$20.00.

July 9. Brush fire near Hart Pond.

Oct. 17. Fire on land of W. S. Parker. Number of acres burned, 10.

Oct. 25. Fire on land of H. S. Perham and A. B. Adams. Number of acres burned, 20. Amount of damage, \$20.

Oct. 31. Fire on land of F. R. Rix. Number of acres burned, 4. Amount of damage, \$5. Cause, spark from engine.

Nov. 2. Fake alarm.

Nov. 4. House and barn owned by E. F. Dorr. Loss, \$3,000.

Nov. 7. Fire on N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Cause, sparks from engine.

Nov. 12. Fire on land of A. M. Warren, D. Gage estate, and Edward Spaulding. Number of acres burned, 100. Amount of damage, \$100.

Nov. 17. Fire on land of W. S. Parker. Number of acres burned, 10.

Jan. 30, 1905. Investigating fire.

EXPENSES:	
Total expense of Fire Dept	\$155.12
LOSSES:	
Total number of acres burned	425

Amount of damage to wood land	\$195.00
Number cords wood burned	33
Loss on wood	70.00
Loss on buildings and contents	4,800.00
Total loss	\$5,065 00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Melvin Walker  
Walter B. Emerson  
Fred A. Hazen  
Warren Berry  
Charles Finnick, Jr.  
Abram H. Sherman  
George O. Spaulding

Frank C. Byam  
Fred M. Brown  
Isaac Knight  
George C. Moore (fireward only)  
John O. Connor (fireward only)  
William J. Quigley (fireward only)  
John Marinel, Jr. (forest fireward only)  
Thomas Sheehan (forest fireward only)  
George M. Wright.

## 1906

**Annual Report of the Fire Wards, 1905**

- March 31. Fire on land of A. M. Warren. Number of acres burned, 10.
- April 1. Fire on land of Chas. Sweetser Estate. Number of acres burned, 5. Cause, garden fire.
- April 1. Fire reported by F. A. Hazen. Number of acres burned, 50. Caused by camp-fire.
- April 2. Fire on Boston road.
- April 3. Fire on land of J. A. Parkhurst, Henry Mason, H. A. Engsholm and G. C. Moore. Number of acres burned, 4. Amount of damage, lot of lumber, \$100.00. Cause, spark from B. & M. engine.
- April 4. Fire on land of J. M. Fletcher.
- April 5. Fire on land of Gray & Butterfield. Cause, spark from engine.
- April 7. Chimney fire at Chas. Sweetser's place.
- April 9. Fire on land of Wm. Manning. Number of acres burned, 15.
- April 9. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson.
- April 9. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson.
- April 10. Grass fire.
- April 10. Fire on land of Howard Adams. Cause, spark from engine. Amount burned, 1-2 acre.
- April 15. Fire on land of Harry B. Emerson estate. Amount burned, 1 acre. Damage, \$5.00.
- April 19. Fire on land of Mr. Coburn.
- April 19. Fire on land of D. Gage Est. Number of acres burned, 50.
- April 19. Fire reported by A. A. Sherman.
- April 19. Fire on land of George F. Leach. Number of acres burned, 15. Amount of damage, \$25 00.
- April 20. Fire on land of Harry B. Emerson Estate. Number of acres burned, 1.
- April 23. Fire on land of W C. Edwards, David Leduc and Robert Jeffroy. Number of acres burned, 10. Amount of damage, \$10.00.
- April 24. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams' heirs.

April 24. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams' heirs. Number of acres burned, 10. Amount of damage, \$60.00.

April 25. Fire on land of P. T. McMahon. Number of acres burned, 3. Amount of damage, \$5.00.

April 30. Fire on land of C. W. S. Adams' heirs. Number of acres burned. 10. Amount of damage, \$10.00.

April 30. Fire on Groton road.

April 30. Fire on land of P. T. Mc- Mahon. Number of acres burned, 60. Amount of damage, \$70.00.

May 1. Fire on land of Dr. F. R. Rix.

May 1. Fire on land of DeCarterett and Blodgett heirs.

May 1. Fire on land of P. T. McMahon. Number of acres burned, 6. Damage, 4 cords wood, \$8.00. Cause, sparks from engine.

May 1. Fire on land of J. A. Parkhurst and W. C. Edwards. Number of acres burned, 3. Amount of damage \$10 00. Cause, spark from engine.

May 1. Fire on land of Parker, Potter, J. Bowers, Blodgett and DeCarterett. Number of acres burned, 12.

May 8. Fire on land of Mr. Woodworth.

May 8. Fire on land of Sweetser & Day. Number of acres burned, 1-2 acre. Cause, spark from engine.

May 10. Fire on land of Dr. Rix and Miss Bunce. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, spark from engine.

May 11. Fire on land of P. J. Riley. Number of acres burned, 50. Amount of damage, \$50.00.

May 23. Fire on land of C. Randall. Number of acres burned, 50. Amount of damage, \$50.00.

May 23. Fire on land of Mr. Randlett. Number of acres burned, 50.

May 24, 25, 26. Fire on land of Proctor Lumber Co. Number of acres burned, 125. Amount of damage, \$175.00.

May 25, 26, 27. Fire on land of Procter Lumber Co. Number of acres burned, 200. Amount of damage, 102 cords of wood at \$2.00, \$204.00.

May 26. Fire on land of Arthur Warren. Number of acres burned, 1.

May 28 and 29. Fire on land of D. Gage Estate, J. A. Bartlett and Geo. Spaulding. Number of acres burned, 100. Amount of damage, \$1,000.00.

May 30. House owned by Mr. Pasho. Amount of damage, \$2,500.

June 17. Fire on land of John McIntire. Number of acres burned, 5. Amount of damage, \$10. 00.

Oct. 16. Fire on land of F. A. Russell. Cause, set by boys.

Oct. 21. Fire on land of A. P. Adams. Number of acres burned, 1, Cause, set by boys.

Oct. 25. House and barn of A. M. Warren. Damage, \$6,000.00.

Nov. 8. House of A. B. Adams. Damage, \$800.00. Cause, defective chimney.

Nov. 23. House and barn of W. B. Emerson. Amount of damage, \$4,000.00.

Feb. 12, 1906. Ice house owned by John Marinell. Amount of damage, \$2,500.00.

EXPENSES:

Total expense of Fire Department	\$486.05
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LOSSES:

Total number of acres burned	852
Amount of damage to wood land	\$1480.00
Number of cords of wood burned	106
Loss on wood and lumber	312.00
Loss on buildings and content	158.00
Total loss	\$17,592.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Warren Berry  
Abram H. Sherman  
Frank C. Byam  
George O. Spaulding  
Ralph P. Adams  
Pliney C. Bliss  
Dennis J. Sheehan  
John P. Upton

**Firewards only**  
William J. Quigley  
John O'Connor.

*1907*

**Annual Town Meeting March 26, 1906**

Under Article 12.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars to be paid to the Firemen's Relief Association of Lowell in recognition of the services of the Lowell Fire Department in Chelmsford.

**Annual Report of the Fire Wards, 1906**

April 20. Fire on land of D. Samuel Virgin. Number of acres burned (Five) 5. Cause, unknown.

April 29. Fire on land of Boston Ice Co. Number of acres burned (Fifty) 50. Cause, unknown.

April 29. Fire on land of Boston Ice Co. Number of acres burned (Fifteen) 15. Amount of damage, \$15. Cause, unknown.

May 1. Fire on land of Whitman & Pratt. Number of acres burned (Twenty-five) 25.

May 1. Fire on land of T. P. Sheehan and A. M. Blaisdell. Number of acres burned (Twenty-five) 25. Damage, \$25.

May 14. Fire on land of Arthur Dutton, Geo. A. Byam and A. B. Adams. Number of acres burned (Twenty) 20. Amount damage, \$75.

May 18 and 19. Fire on land of W. B. Emerson. Number of acres burned (Twelve) 12. Amount damage, \$200.

May 2."). Fire on land of Geo. Smith. Number of acres burned (Seven) 7. Cause, spark from engine.

Sept. 14 and 15. Fire on land of A. L. Brooks. Cause, spark from engine.

Oct. 8. Barn of Geo. Parker burned. Loss, \$1,500.

EXPENSES:

Warren Berry, services	\$5.00
Station No. 1	24.90
Station No. 2	6.80
Station No. 3	20.40
Station No. 4	4.10
Station No. 5	23.75
Total expense of Fire Department	\$84.95

LOSSES:

Total number of acres burned	149
Amount damage to wood land	\$115.00
Loss on buildings	1,500.00
Total loss	\$1,615.00

WARREN BERRY,  
Secretary.



**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Warren Berry  
 Frank C. Byam  
 Pliney C. Bliss  
 Denis J. Sheehan  
 Fred L. Fletcher

James J. Hackett  
 James W. Stevens  
 John E. Hogan  
 William J. Quigley  
 John O'Connor  
 George O. Spaulding



Ticket for the First Annual Clam Bake of the North Chelmsford Fire Department in 1907  
 (Courtesy of Paul McGovern)

**1908**

**Annual Town Meeting March 25, 1907**

Under Article 23.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) to be paid to North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year. 132 voted in favor and 123 opposed.

**Special Town Meeting November 9, 1907**

Under Article 2.

It was voted that the Town borrow the sum of eight hundred dollars (\$800) on a promissory note for that amount, to be signed in its name and behalf by the Town Treasurer, payable in two installments of four hundred dollars each in one and two years from date thereof, with interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum, payable semiannually. Such note to be countersigned by the Selectmen, and the proceeds used to pay for the purchase of a fire wagon and equipment of same for the North Chelmsford Fire Dept. to be purchased by the Town for fire purposes, and that the ownership will be and remain in the name of the Town of Chelmsford. A standing vote was taken, and 110 voted in the affirmative and 29 in the negative. It was also voted to authorize the Town Treasurer to pay over this sum to John O'Connor, treasurer of the North Chelmsford Fire Commissioners.

**Special Report**

By vote of the Town for fire apparatus in North, village, \$800 was appropriated, and the following apparatus has been purchased :

1,000 ft. 2 1/2 inch hose, Uncle Sam brand, of Eureka Fire Hose Co.	\$550.00
1 hose wagon	200.00

4 Underwriters' chemicals and nozzles 50.00  
 Total: \$800.00

JOHN O'CONNOR,  
 Treasurer,  
 North Chelmsford Fire Commission

**Annual Report of Fire Wards, 1907**

- April 6. Fire on land of A. M. Blaisdell and P. McMahon. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, sparks from engine.
- April 7. Fire on land of C. W. Potter. Number of acres burned, 20. Damage, \$50.
- April 20. Fire on land of Oscar Spaulding. Number of acres burned, 2. Cause, burning of brush by moth brigade.
- April 20. Fire on land of Percy Parker.
- April 21. Fire on land of Boston Ice Co, Number of acres burned, 15.
- April 21. Fire on land of M. Barron.
- April 22. Fire on land of Joseph Bowers. Number of acres burned, 75. Cause, incendiary.
- April 30. Fire on land of A. L. Brooks
- May 15. Fire near Rendering Works, North Chelmsford. Number of acres burned, 25. Damage, \$50.
- May 29. Fire on land of William Proctor and Drake heirs. Number of acres burned, 40. Damage, \$100.
- June 11. Fire on land of J. P. Emerson. Number of acres burned, 1. Cause, sparks from engine.
- June 28. Fighting fire.
- August 10. Fire on Proctor wood lot.
- Sept. 7. Fire on land of M. Roake. Number of acres burned, 2.
- Nov. 4. Fire on land of N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Number of acres burned, 1. Cause, spark from engine.
- Nov. 18. Fire on land of H. C. Sweetser. Number of acres burned, 2.
- Jan. 18, 1908. Fire on land of D. E. Atwood Number of acres burned, 5. Cause, sparks from engine.

EXPENSES:

Total expense of Fire Department \$169.00

LOSSES:

Total number of acres burned 190  
 Total amount damage as reported \$200.00

WARREN BERRY,  
 Secretary.

**Appraisal of Chelmsford Centre Fire Apparatus, February 29, 1908**

1 Hook and ladder truck	\$300.00
1 30-foot extension ladder	20.00
1 24-foot ladder	3.00
1 20-foot ladder	2.00
1 12-foot ladder	1.00
30-foot ladder	3.00
1 Pole for truck	6.00
1 Wagon jack	1.00
1 Protective wagon	165.00
2 13-foot extension ladders	10.00
6 Hand chemicals	75.00
2 Dozen galvanized pails	4.80

6 Round pointed shovels	2.50
2 Dozen Johnson's pumps	36.00
3 Dozen water cans	3.50
2 Crowbars	1.50
2 Axes	2.00
1 Dozen leather buckets	2.40
2 50-foot ropes	3.00
3 Horse blankets	10.00
2 Lanterns	.30
1 Wire hose basket	3.00
1 Deming force pump	5.00
100 Feet 1-inch rubber hose	15.00
30 Feet 2-inch rubber hose	5.00

**Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Charles D. Worden  
 Fred Chandler  
 John O'Connor  
 James J. Hackett  
 Warren Berry  
 Frank C. Byam

Ralph P. Adams  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Arthur C. Barton  
 George O. Spaulding  
 James W. Stevens  
 John P. Upton

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## 1909

**Annual Town Meeting March 23, 1908**

Under Article 10.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of twelve hundred dollars (\$1200.) for the purchase of fire apparatus for the use of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department, the money to be expended under the direction of a committee of three, consisting of Walter Perham, Herbert C. Sweetser and Herbert E. Ellis.

Under Article 20.

Voted that the Town borrow the sum of fifteen hundred dollars on one promissory note for that amount, to be signed in its name and behalf by the Town Treasurer, payable in three installments of five hundred dollars each in one, two and three years from date thereof, with interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum payable semi-annually. Such notes to be countersigned by the Selectmen and the proceeds used for the erection of a firehouse, so called, at North Chelmsford, same to be the property of the Town, the money to be used under the direction of the Fire Commissioners of the North Village. 252 votes in favor and none opposed.

It was also voted that none of this money be available until a suitable lease or title to land upon which to place the building had been secured by the Town. The vote was 116 in favor and 95 opposed.

Under Article 22.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500. ) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

**Special Town Meeting, May 16, 1908**

Under Article 2.

It was voted that all action under this Article be by ballot and the check list used. It was then moved: " That the fire-house, so called, to be built pursuant to a previous vote of the Town under the direction of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the North Chelmsford Fire District, be located upon a strip of land at North Chelmsford having a frontage of thirty-one feet on Washington Street and running back the whole depth of the lot recently conveyed to the Town by Frederick G. Salmon, and being the most westerly portion thereof, and that the said Fire District shall have, until otherwise voted by the Town, the use and occupancy of said strip of land for the necessary, proper and convenient purpose of a fire department. The Board of Selectmen are hereby authorized to determine the exact limits of the division line between said strip of land and the remaining portion of said Salmon lot, and to have the same marked, if they deem it advisable, by suitable bounds. " Remarks in opposition to the measure were heard from Royal S. Ripley of the North village and Herbert E. Ellis, a member of the School Committee.

Upon a motion to proceed to ballot, ballots were distributed upon which the following question was printed: " Shall the Town of Chelmsford locate a fire-house on the schoolhouse grounds in North Chelmsford, as provided in Article 2 of the Warrant of May 16, 1908 ? " There were " Yes " and " No " ballots, and the vote resulted in the defeat of the measure. 57 voted in the affirmative and 95 in the negative.

**Special Town Meeting, December 7, 1908**

Under Article 2.

A motion to lay the Article on the table until the regular annual Town meeting was defeated by a tie vote. It was then voted that the Town borrow the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400.) on a promissory note for that amount, payable in two annual payments of \$200 each, to be signed in its name and behalf by the Town Treasurer, with interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. Such note to be countersigned by the Selectmen, and the proceeds used to pay for the Miner land, in Mount Pleasant Street, North Chelmsford, said lot of land containing 6,187 square feet of land, and being lot number two as surveyed by Smith & Brooks, Dec. 20, 1905. Said lot to be used as a site for the erection of the new fire-house. Also voted that the Selectmen be authorized to purchase the lot.

#### Property Appraisal of Fire Department (Centre)

Fire engine and hose	700.00
Hose wagon	165.00
Fire truck	300.00
10 hand chemicals	125.00
600 ft. hose	329.00
2 harnesses	70.00
15 pails	3.75
6 shovels	3.00
2 axes	1.50
8 Johnson hand pumps	12.00
50 canisters	2.50
6 lanterns	6.00
4 blankets	12.00
1/2 dozen coats, pairs boots and hats, each	35.00
carboy acid	5.00
1 stove	14.00
1 clock	3.75
4 tables	6.00
1 chain fall	8.50
1 pair pulley blocks	2.75
3 brooms	1.00
4 window screens	1.40
1 duster	.35
1 snow shovel	.25
1 dust pan	.15
1 coal hod	.35
2 harness hangers, etc	9.00
Curtains and fixtures	7.50
Total:	\$1,824.75

#### Property Appraisal of North Chelmsford Fire Department

1000 ft. 2 1/2 in. hose	550.00
1 wagon	200.00
1 hose reel	30.00
Underwriters chemicals	43.00
2 steel bars	1.68
1 doz. Tabor spanners	1.68
150 ft. 3/4 in. rope	3.70
Firehouse lot	400.00
Total:	\$1,230.06

Report of the Forest Warden

Owing to the unusually dry weather prevailing during the greater part of the year, the number of forest and grass fires was unusually large. A number might have been avoided by the exercise of ordinary caution.

Permits have been granted as required by law, on application to the Forest Wardens, to set fires for the purpose of clearing land. Several persons in disregard of this law have set brush fires and left them without proper care. The result has been that these fires have escaped from their control and have caused quite an expense to subdue, besides the damage to adjoining property.

A number of fires were clearly of incendiary origin. Several have been caused by sparks from engines on the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R.

During the fall when the very dry conditions prevailed and the chestnut pickers were out in great numbers, causing damage to trees and danger from fire, the Forest Wardens kept as close watch as possible and probably prevented a number of fires.

Brush fires are a source of very great expense to the Town, and every precaution should be taken to guard against them. We therefore recommend the adoption by the Town of Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Chap. 209 of the Acts of 1908, entitled: An act to provide for the protection of forest or sprout land from fire.

March 27, 1907. Eight acres of wood land burned. Damage \$50. Property owned by Charles Sweetser Estate, Albert Snow and Louis Snow. Caused by a fire left unnoticed.

March 23, 1908 . Two acres of grass land. Damage slight. Land owned by James P. Emerson. Caused by sparks from engine.

April 6, 1908. Small barn containing cow and hay. Property of Thomas Stuart. Fire started by six year old boy.

April 6, 1908. A false alarm at Golden Cove.

April 9, 1908. Two acres burned. No damage. Owner not known, cause not known.

April 16, 1908. Ten acres burned. Slight damage. Owned by A. B. Adams Estate. Cause not known.

April 17, 1908. False alarm on Lowell road, the fire was over the line.

April 17, 1908. Over one hundred acres of young growth oak owned by J. E. Warren, Fiske Estate, John McDonough and H. Riley. Cause unknown

April 18, 1908. Ten acres burned. Owned by Leslie Franklin. Caused by unwatched fire burning over pasture land.

May 1, 1908. Fifteen acres burned. Damage slight. Owned by Whitman and Pratt.

April 12, 1908. Five acres burned. Slight damage. Land the property of Mr. Swan.

April 21, 1908. Two acres burned. Slight damage. Estate of John Byam. Caused by sparks from engine.

April 30, 1908. Two acres burned. Slight damage. Property of James Stearns. Cause unknown.

May 6, 1908. Ten acres burned. Damage \$100. Property of Peter Riley of Lowell. Cause of fire not known.

May 6, 1908. Twenty-three acres of brush land. Burned at request of Charles W. Tucker under the direction of the Forest Warden, R. P. Adams.

May 8, 1908. Chimney fire at Mrs. M. Hatch's residence. Very little damage. Property of Mrs. Hatch. Caused by overheated stove.

May 8, 1908. Fire in wood lot. Owner not known.

May 11, 1908. Five acres burned. Damage slight. Property owned by Geo. Coburn of Lowell. Caused by sparks from engine.

May, 14, 1908. Chimney fire in dwelling house. Owned by E. C. Perham. Damage to household goods about \$25.

July 12, 1908. Four acres burned, \$100. damage. Peat meadow owned by Wm. Noel. Caused by brush fire unwatched. The fire assuming a dangerous nature, the Centre Fire Department was called.

July 12, 1908. Two acres burned. Property of Mr. Barron. Fire started by boys.

July 15, 1908. Same place as on 12th. caused by boys.

July 16, 1908. Six acres of pasture land. Property of James P. Emerson and George Coburn. Slight damage. Caused by sparks from engine.

July 17, 1908. Two acres of peat swamp land. Damage slight. Owned by George Coburn. Caused by sparks from engine.

August 2, 1908. One acre burned. Slight damage. Owner not known. Fire caused by berry pickers.

Sept. 4, 1908. One acre swamp land. Slight damage. Property of A. Pasche. Caused by dropping match in hay by unknown party.

Sept. 17, 1908. Two acres wood land. Slight damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of James P. Emerson.

September 18, 1908. One acre, shrub land. Slightly damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

Sept 27, 1908. Two acres wood land. Property of Fred A. Hazen.

September 28, 1908. Two acres of wood land. Owner unknown. Damage \$200.

September 30, 1908. One quarter acre of shrub land and Peat meadow. No damage. Cause by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 6, 1908. One acre of shrub land. Slight damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 6, 1908. Two acres of wood land. Damage \$100. Caused by unknown person dropping lighted match.

October 10, 1908. Three acres of meadow land. No damage. Caused by fishermen. Property of Mrs. M. Farlan.

October 22, 1908. Seven acres scrub land on Steadman St. Slight damage. Cause not known.

October 16, 1908. Three acres woodland. Owner unknown. Damage about \$75. Cause unknown.

October 17, 1908. One acre wood land. Slight damage. Cause not known. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 18, 1908. Ten acres wood land. Property of J. P. Emerson and Dutton Estate.

October 19, 1908. One acre grass and scrubland. No damage. Cause not known. Property of J. P. Emerson.

October 24, 1908. Fire on Chestnut Hill near house of J. C. Sheehan. Started October 18, and was not considered safe until October 22, it being necessary to watch it continually. Damage was quite heavy and extended over several estates.

October 18, 1908. Hill.

November 1, 1908. Golden Cove section. No damage. Caused by sparks from engine. Property of J. P. Emerson.

November 7, 1908. Twenty-five acres. Slight damage. Property of Manning and Lampson.

September 25, 1908. Fire on hand of E. Paignon.

September 28, 1908. Same place as on the 25th.

October 17, 1908. Fire on Noel and Johnson's land.

October 18, 1908. Fire on Johnson's land.

October 17, 1908. Fire on side of road next to land of Mr. Farrell.

November 7, 1908. Twenty acres grass land and wood lot. Property of Thompson and Manning. Cause not known.

December 3, 1908. Tool house of Boston Ice Co. Spontaneous combustion. House and contents valued \$500.

January 8, 1909. Fire in house occupied by Michael M. Kennedy. Damage \$500. Cause unknown. Property of L. J. Hauver.

January 19, 1909. Fire in mill of Geo. C. Moore. Fire started in picker house and the entire mill was destroyed.

Total Expenses: \$588.20

RALPH P. ADAMS, Forest Warden.

FRED CHANDLER, Secretary.

#### **Report of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department**

We respectfully submit the first annual report of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department for the year ending Feb. 28, 1909.



Organization — Chief , Ralph P. Adams; 1st Lieutenant,. Arthur E. Barton; 2nd Lieutenant, Charles D. Worden; Clerk and Treasurer, Fred Chandler; Steward, Fred LaVigne.



Ralph P. Adams, son of storekeeper Eben T. Adams, and Chief of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department in 1909  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The apparatus now in use consists of one Howe Combination Engine, one Hook and Ladder Truck, and one Combination Hose Wagon, with 800 feet of C. C. C. 2 inch hose made by the C. Callahan Hose Co.

The Combination Hose Wagon is so arranged that the hose can be raised by falls from the wagon in a few seconds,, thereby making a wagon suitable for brush fire work. The expense of this feature as well as furniture and fittings for the firehouse has been borne by the boys of the department.

We wish to thank Mr. George M. Wright for the harness hangers and other work he has done for us free of charge.

During the year the department was called to four fires in dwellings or other buildings:

1. April 6. Barn of Thomas Sheehan, total loss.
2. May 8. Chimney fire at Mrs. Hatches, no damage.
3. May 14. Chimney fire at E. C. Perham's cottage, slight damage.
4. January 8. House fire at L. J. Hauver's house occupied by Michael McNulty, damage about \$500.

The fire alarm arrangements at present are: the bell on the Unitarian Church for the house fires. The whistle on the Chelmsford Spring Co's factory is used by permission of Mr. C. G. Armstrong for brush fires.

Practice by squads and as a department working together, has helped to make the discipline and efficiency of the department fairly satisfactory.

The greater part of our work has been fighting wood and grass land fires.

The officers have investigated the water supply in the village and have learned the best means of using this supply in case of fire. We invite the citizens of Chelmsford to visit our fire station, and we will be pleased to explain our methods and apparatus to all.

RALPH P. ADAMS, Chief.  
FRED CHANDLER, Secretary.

#### **Engineers of Firewards at Centre**

Ralph P. Adams  
Arthur E. Barton  
Fred M. Chandler  
Charles D. Worden  
John H. Wilson  
Daniel E. Haley  
Arnold C. Perham  
F. W. Santamour  
Victor L. Parkhurst  
R. W. Emerson  
Benjamin Cole  
Curtis A. Aiken

#### **Chelmsford Centre Fire Department**

Ralph P. Adams (Chief)  
Arthur E. Barton (1st Lieutenant)  
Charles D. Worden (2nd Lieutenant)  
Fred Chandler (Clerk and Treasurer)  
Fred LaVigne (Steward)

#### **Firewards and Forest Firewards**

Warren Berry  
Dennis J. Sheehan  
James W. Stevens  
John O'Connor  
Isaac Knight  
Frank C. Byam  
Fred L. Fletcher  
John E. Hogan  
John Marinel, Jr.  
Fred M. Chandler  
Ralph P. Adams  
James J. Hackett  
William J. Quigley  
George O. Spaulding  
Arthur W. Barton

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1910



**Note:** The Annual Town Reports for 1910 through 1913 covered events during the years 1909 through 1912. This was adjusted by the Town starting in 1914 so the report year matches the year covered.

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### Annual Town Meeting March 22, 1909

Under Article 4.

To hear reports of the Town Officers and Committees, Rev. Wilson Waters reported for the Trustees of Adams Library concerning the work of finishing the curbing of the library lot. He said the work was not yet completed and it was voted to give the Trustees further time and to continue the appropriation to carry on the work. Voted to give the Fire Commissioners of the North Village further time in which to build a fire house and that the appropriation be continued. H. E. Ellis for the School Committee, reported that the result of the Committee's investigations for providing more playgrounds would be outlined under an Article contained in the Warrant of this meeting. After the correction of several typographical errors, it was voted to accept the remainder of the Town Report as printed.

## *History from*

[1900-1909](#)

[1920-1929](#)

Under Article 13.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year. 81 voted in favor and 49 opposed.

[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

Under Article 17.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.) to be paid to the Firemen's Relief Association of Lowell, in recognition of the services of the Lowell Fire Department in Chelmsford.

[1950-1959](#)

[1960-1969](#)

### Report of the Forest Warden

During the past year my deputies and I have been called to about thirty-five fires. The damage that could be estimated amounted to about fifteen hundred dollars, with a large damage to sprout land which could not be estimated.

[1970-1979](#)

[1980-1989](#)

We have had to call the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department several times and have found it prompt and efficient. My deputies have been very faithful in their work, although handicapped by a lack of apparatus to work with.

[1990-1999](#)

[2000-2009](#)

State Forester F. W. Rane has requested that all towns appropriate money to buy apparatus for use of the Forest Wardens. I have reported all fires to the State Forester and in November, 1909, attended a meeting of Forest Wardens at Boston, where I learned a great deal about what was being done in other towns.

[2010-2014](#)

[2015-201x](#)

Following is a list of fires:

DATE	WARDEN	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
Mar. 27	A. E. Barton	R. P. Dutton			Brush Fire	\$3.20
Apr. 2	A. E. Barton	Mr. Downs				.30
5	A. E. Barton	Mrs. Wood			Boys	2.00
11	A. E. Barton	J. Loiselle	3	\$15.00		6.20
13	J. Marinel	G. C. Moore	25		Railroad	2.40
18	F. Fletcher	G. C. Moore			Railroad	4.10
22	W. Hannaford	J. P. Emerson		50.00		2.70
25	F. Fletcher	F. Dutton	40	100.00	Smoking	7.80
May 2	A. E. Barton	O. Spaulding	25		Smoking	21.65
8	W. Hannaford	J. Loiselle	3	6.00		1.65
12	A. E. Barton	M. Bachelder		10.00		1.10
13	E. R. Parker	G. Penniman	2			.40
15	J. Marinel	Mary Ready	2		Smoking	3.40
16	J. Marinel	C. W. Adams	2		Smoking	2.90
25	J. Marinel	J. P. Dunigan	10		Railroad	3.20
26	J. Marinel	C. M. Potter	30	1,000.00	Smoking	10.10
30	W. Parlee	Coburn Estate	12			21.60
June 2	J. Marinel	J. J. Shaw	3		Smoking	5.40
3	J. Marinel	T. Lahey	30	200.00	Smoking	8.20
July 9	A. E. Barton	R. P. Perham and J. R. Parkhurst	6		Boys	49.35
10	A. E. Barton	M. Roache			Smoking	.60
Aug. 31	F. Fletcher	A. Gaudette	15	\$25.00	Smoking	\$2.00
31	F. Fletcher	W. E. Potter	20		Smoking	2.50
31	Geo. Spaulding	Boston Ice Co.			Railroad	2.20
Sept. 1	Geo. Spaulding	Adams Estate				.60
3	J. Marinel	Dr. Virgin	50		Camp Fire	5.10
3	F. Fletcher	Adams Estate	3			4.40
4	J. Marinel	C. M. Potter	50		Camp Fire	28.80
4	F. Fletcher		15			2.50
6	Geo. Spaulding	C. Adams				4.15
6	J. Marinel	C. J. Willsted	1	25.00	Incendiary	2.90
Oct. 19	A. E. Barton	P. P. Perham	1		Boys	1.00
Nov. 19	A. E. Barton	B. Scannell			Railroad	2.10
Dec. 24	A. E. Barton	W. Manning	10		Boys	5.20

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Respectfully,

A. E. BARTON,

Forest Warden.

## 1911

### Annual Town Meeting March 28, 1910

Under Article 15.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 21.

It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$120) for the service of a janitor at the North and Centre fire-houses.

### Special Town Meeting May 28, 1910

Under Article 8.

It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250) for the purpose of purchasing a fire extinguisher and other apparatus for the use of the Town.

### Report of the Forest Warden



During the past year my deputies and I have been called to about thirty-seven fires. The damage that could be estimated amounted to about two thousand dollars.

We have found our new Chemical Extinguishers very useful and effective.

I have reported all fires to the State Forester and submit to you the following list :

DATE	WARDEN	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
Mar. 21	A. C. Perham	D. E. Atwood	3	Slight	Grass fire	\$ .95
22	Wm. Parlee	Hill	2	Slight	Match	2.80
25	John Marinel	A. B. Woodworth	75	\$200.00	Spark from engine	27.80
25	Fred Fletcher	S. Virgin	2	25.00	Smoking	15.50
25	A. C. Perham	J. P. Emerson	2	10.00	Spark from engine	1.60
29	A. C. Perham	Loiselle	6	Slight	Burning brush	4.05
Apr. 1	Geo. Spaulding	G. C. Moore	1	\$10.00	Spark from engine	2.00
4	A. E. Barton	J. P. Emerson		None	Not known	1.90
11	Fred Fletcher	D. M. Pratt	25	\$100.00	Burning brush	10.00
16	A. C. Perham	Sweetser Estate	¼	None	Smoking	3.45
16	E. R. Parker	J. Sweetser		None	Not known	.70
May 6	A. C. Perham	Sweetser Estate	¼	None	Smoking	3.10
6	A. Dutton	Carrie Dutton	1	\$ 10.00	Burning brush	.70
7	A. C. Perham	Gage Estate	60	250.00	Not known	21.55
7	J. Marinel	Adams Estate	100	1000.00	Burning brush	73.50
8	Geo. Spaulding	G. F. Snow	4	300.00	Smoking	23.80
11	A. E. Barton	J. Wood	10	Slight	Brush fire	14.30
13	A. Dutton	M. C. Wilson	1	\$10.00	Spark from engine	1.40
16	E. R. Parker	Fiske Estate	¼	None	Spark from engine	.20
June 27	A. C. Perham	Sweetser	10	Slight	Not known	4.30
July 4	E. R. Parker	Winning	½	\$ 6.00	Firecrackers	3.40
6	J. Marinel	P. Parker	1	10.00	Smoking	3.40

DATE	WARDEN	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
July 7	J. Marinel	Adams Estate		None	Smoking	\$1.50
8	E. R. Parker	Winning	¼	None	Not known	1.80
8	A. C. Perham					2.50
11	E. R. Parker	D. Byam	⅛	None	Spark from engine	.60
19	A. C. Perham	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R.		None	Spark from engine	.50
23	J. Marinel	Adams Estate	1	\$5.00	Smoking	2.80
Oct. 2	A. C. Perham	W. Manning	3	Slight	Smoking	4.55
4	F. L. Fletcher	Conant	⅛	Slight	Smoking	1.75
6	A. C. Perham	A. B. Adams Estate	1	Slight	Spark from engine	.75
12	A. C. Perham					1.80
24	A. E. Barton			None	Boys	.50
Nov. 16	A. E. Barton	Cogger		None	Burning brush	2.00
19	A. C. Perham	G. Day	¼	Slight	Spark from engine	1.00
20	G. Byam	J. P. Emerson	1½	None	Smoking	1.00
Jan. 11	A. E. Barton	C. Parkhurst	5	Slight	Smoking	8.60

Respectfully,

A. E. BARTON, Forest Warden.

## 1912

### Annual Town Meeting March 27, 1911

Under Article 9.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 15.

Voted that a committee of three be appointed to investigate and report at the next Annual Town Meeting in regard to the best means of providing better fire protection in that part of the Town known as Chelmsford Centre. Arthur M. Warren, George M. Wright and Edwin R. Clark were chosen to serve as the committee.

Under Article 22.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120.00) for the service of a janitor at the North and Centre Fire Houses.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

Since my appointment as Forest Warden early in November 1911 four small fires have been reported to me as follows:

- Oct. 14, one acre owned by S. McFarlin, caused by hunters, damage \$10.00, cost \$1.70 ; reported by A. C Perham.
- Oct. 28, three acres owned by E. J. Perham, caused by smokers, damage \$20.00, reported by M. A. Bean, cost \$7.00.
- Nov. 23, several small fires caused by engine sparks on land of F. Fiske and others, damage slight, cost \$3.75, reported by A. E. Dutton.
- July 23, one half acre owned by C. A. Dutton, caused by smokers, damage \$3.00, cost \$1.10; reported by A. E. Dutton.

I feel that we are fortunate in having a Massachusetts forest fire lookout station located in our town, all fires will be reported as soon as observed to the nearest Deputy Warden, who in most cases will be able to reach the fire before it has assumed very large proportions thereby being able to extinguish the same with but little help, thus lessening the damage as well as the expense to the Town.





The experimental State Fire Tower on Robins Hill 1911-1918 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Your attention is called to a change in the law regarding fires in the open air, permits now being required from March 1 to December 1, as set forth by Acts of 1908, chapter 209, section 1, as amended by chapter 244 Acts of 1911. Violation of the above Act is punishable by a fine of \$100 or thirty days imprisonment or both.

More woodland owners should practice improvement, thinning of their woodlands, a few already doing so. Farmers will find this the most profitable way to cut their year's supply of wood. The State Forester stands ready at all times to examine and advise you as to the proper management of your woodlands with no expense to you except his car fare. If interested consult your Forest Warden.

The chestnut bark disease has not yet reached this town, the nearest infected points being Bedford and Harvard. This disease is spreading very fast and it is stated by good authority that practically all of the chestnut in Massachusetts is almost certain to die within comparatively few years unless some unforeseen condition comes to the rescue. All cases of this disease should be reported to the Forest Warden.

**Forest Fire Warden**

Arthur E. Barton (Resigned)  
 Arnold C. Perham (Appointed)

**Deputy Wardens**

Arnold C. Perham  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Geo. O. Spalding  
 J. Marinel  
 J. R. Hackett  
 R. E. Davis  
 G. Garland Byam  
 Wm. M. Parlee  
 A. E. Dutton  
 M. A. Bean

**Fire Wards**

Arthur House  
 Arthur E. Barton  
 Arnold C. Perham

**Property in Charge of Forest Warden**

30 chemical extinguishers, \$7.50 a piece.	\$225 00
30 boxes, each containing six charges for extinguishers.....	10 00
25 shovels, 75c apiece.....	18 75
10 badges.....	5 00
Chemicals to value of.....	9 00
20 old Johnson pumps.....	7 25
	\$275 00

**1913**



As the newly appointed Forest Fire Warden in 1912 Arnold C. Perham used this modified Ford Model T Roadster to transport equipment to fires (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Annual Town Meeting March 25, 1912**

Under Article 4.

Voted to accept the Town Report as printed after some typographical errors had been called to the attention of the meeting. ... The committee appointed at the last Annual Town Meeting in regards to the best means of providing better fire protection in that part of the Town known as Chelmsford Centre, made two recommendations, one to be known as the report of the majority, and the other to be known as the report of the minority of the Committee which was as follows: That the matter be laid on the table for one year. That the present committee be retained for that period with the added power to place an article in a warrant calling for the creation of a fire district and the issuance of town water bonds to cover the cost of constructing a complete water plant for same capable of furnishing an abundant supply of water for fire and domestic purposes.

Under Article 9.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 25.

Voted to appropriate from money already in the treasury, the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) for the services of a janitor at the North and Centre fire houses.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 18, 1912**

Under Article 3.

Voted that the Town appropriate the sum of fifty dollars from money now in the treasury for the purpose of caring for the Town property at the Chelmsford Centre Fire House.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

There has been a great reduction in the cost of fighting forest fires during the past year largely through the efforts of the fire observer on Robins Hill: the expense for the past year having been 60 percent less than the previous year.

Thirty-six forest fires have been extinguished, also we have rendered what help we could at about a dozen building and chimney fires where' in most cases the deputy wardens were the only ones present with fire-fighting apparatus. It would seem to be advisable for the town to purchase some fire extinguishers to be placed in the smaller villages in the town with a view to protecting buildings, for practically the only protection these villages now have is the equipment of the deputy forest wardens which is located with a view to protecting forest areas rather than buildings.

The eleven deputy wardens scattered through out are becoming more familiar with their work and I wish to thank them as well as the other town's people for their hearty cooperation during the past year.

About 300 permits were issued between March 1 and December 1 which is the time when permits are required for setting fires in the open air. All fires have been reported to the State Forester upon the blank provided for the purpose.



DATE	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
Mar. 26	B. Leach . . . . .	4	\$25.00	Smoking . . . . .	\$3.70
April 1	A. Button . . . . .		35.00	.....	.....
7	Simpson etal. . . . .	10	50.00	Smoking . . . . .	15.40
9	W. Heaney . . . . .	1/4	slight	Smoking . . . . .	.35
12	A. Olson . . . . .	1/4	10.00	Boy . . . . .	2.00
25	Green . . . . .	6	30.00	Rubbish fire . .	15.55
25	H. Smith . . . . .	1	slight	Smoking . . . . .	1.65
25	Chelmsford Spring Co. .	1/4	5.00	R. R. Engine .	.70
26	Hunt Est . . . . .	1/4	5.00	Steam roller . .	2.40
29	J. Loisel . . . . .	2	10.00	House fire . . . . .	.....
May 1	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-16	none	R. R. Engine .	1.20
4	Dr. Virgin . . . . .	4	50.00	Smoking . . . . .	16.60
19	Bailey . . . . .		none	Smoking . . . . .	.20
June 15	Hemreich . . . . .	3	5.00	.....	4.70
20	J. P. Emerson . . . . .	1/4	slight	R. R. Engine .	3.20
25	P. Parker . . . . .	3 1/4	25.00	Smoking . . . . .	40.36
29	Dutton Bros. . . . .	1-16	2.00	Steam roller . .	.80
July 1	Adams Estate . . . . .	2	5.00	Boys . . . . .	4.13
1	J. Fay . . . . .	1-80	slight	R. R. Engine .	.....
3	C. Adams . . . . .	1	10.00	Fire crackers .	1.70
4	J. M. G. Parker, heirs . .	1	10.00	Picnic party . .	23.35
5	E. A. Bartlett . . . . .	1	5.00	.....	7.00
8	F. C. Byam . . . . .	1/4	2.00	R. R. Engine .	1.67
10	J. P. Emerson . . . . .	1-40	1.00	R. R. Engine .	1.97
14	Wm. Proctor . . . . .	1/4	10.00	Smoking . . . . .	1.50
18	A. M. Warren . . . . .	1-30	10.00	Smoking . . . . .	2.60
24	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-80	none	R. R. Engine .	.50
28	J. B. Noel . . . . .	1-10	1.00	R. R. Engine .	1.90
28	M. Kolas . . . . .	none	none	Rubbish fire .	1.00
28	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-80	slight	R. R. Engine .	1.40
Sept. 26	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-100	1.00	R. R. Engine .	1.00
Oct. 10	B. Leach . . . . .	2	5.00	Boys . . . . .	1.05
15	Baron Heirs . . . . .	1	10.00	Smoking . . . . .	1.80
18	Adams . . . . .	1-100	none	Smoking . . . . .	none
Nov. 5	A. B. Woodworth . . . . .	2	10.00	R. R. Engine .	.70
5	W. P. Proctor . . . . .	1/4	2.00	Smoking . . . . .	.70
Dec. 21	P. Parker . . . . .	5	slight	Smoking . . . . .	2.60

Forest Fires reported in 1912 (1913 Annual Town Report)



Another view of the modified Ford Model T Roadster used in 1912 by Arnold C. Perham to transport equipment to fires (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Forest Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham**Fire Wards**Arthur House  
Ralph P. Adams  
Arnold C. Perham**Deputy Fire Ward**

William H. Shedd

**Deputy Wardens**John Marinel  
Fred L. Fletcher  
George Spalding  
Ralph P. Adams  
W. S. Holder  
James J. Hackett  
J. F. Parker  
Sidney Dupee  
W. H. Shedd  
George Byam  
Minot A. Bean  
Charles F. Devine**Paid for fighting fires in 1912:**V. L. Parkhurst, et al, fire warden .... 278.75  
A. C. Perham, et al, fire warden .... 120.87  
James Hackett, et al, fire warden .... 32.00  
John Marinel, Jr., et al, fire warden .... 25.30  
W. H. Shedd, et al, fire warden .... 19.10  
Fred L. Fletcher, et al, fire warden .... 14.90  
George O. Spaulding, labor at fire .... 11.50  
Ralph P. Adams, labor at fire .... 8.90  
W. S. Holder, labor at fire .... 6.28  
C. F. Devine, labor at fire .... 3.70  
J. F. Parker, labor at fire .... 3.20  
Sidney Dupee, labor at fire .... 2.75  
D. F. Small, labor at fire .... 1.90  
E. G. Byam, labor at fire .... 1.75  
M. A. Bean, labor at fire .... 1.65

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**1914****Annual Town Meeting March 23, 1914**

Under Article 8.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 12.

Voted that the Town rescind so much of the vote passed under Article 9 at the special Town meeting of Sept. 29, 1913, as authorized the borrowing of the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the purchase of fire house equipment for the Chelmsford Fire Department, and that the said sum of fifteen hundred dollars be raised and appropriated to be used for the same purposes and upon the same terms and conditions as are set forth at length in said vote of Sept. 29.

Under Article 32.

Voted that the Town appropriate from money already in the Treasury the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) for protection against fire in the East Village, said amount to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen.

Under Article 34.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100) for janitor service at the fire houses at the Centre and North Villages.

**Special Town Meeting May 4, 1914**

Under Article 7.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred dollars for fire hose and equipment, the same to be located in that part of Chelmsford known as the Westlands.

Under Article 8.

Relative to the appropriation of the sum of seven hundred dollars (\$700) to purchase and install a Fire Signal Apparatus at the Centre Village, the matter was referred to the next annual Town Meeting.

**Report of Selectmen**

The Centre Town Hall needs shingling badly, and the old school house in South Chelmsford, in which the fire apparatus is kept should be painted.



South Chelmsford Fire Station on the right was a former school house with a door added to accommodate fire apparatus  
Note: Auto Truck No. 5 in the foreground was not purchased until 1921  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



**Appraisal Centre Fire Apparatus**

1 combination, chemical and hand fire engine	\$ 400 00
1 hose and protective wagon	150 00
1 hook and ladder wagon with ladders	150 00
10 chemical extinguishers	60 00
650 ft. old fire hose, 2 in	100 00
1 lot chemicals	10 00
2 single harnesses	60 00
5 sets rubber suits	20 00
4 fire axes	2 00
4 crow bars	4 00
7 shovels	4 50
6 forks	2 00
9 pails	3 00
15 cans	2 00
1 50-foot extension ladder	35 00
1 30-foot extension ladder	8 00
1 35-foot extension ladder	9 00
1 30-foot extension ladder	8 00
1 25-foot extension ladder	5 00
3 ropes and tackles	4 00
7 pike hooks and poles	5 00
3 horse blankets	9 00
10 lanterns	3 00
Hose nozzles (old)	4 00
1 hose rack	\$ 4 00
1 lot brooms and sundries	5 00
1 hose rack drier	8 00
2 pails	50
1 wagon jack	1 00
1 hydrant gate	5 00
1 push wheel cart	5 00
1 cabinet	5 00
1500-ft. 2½ in. fire hose (new)	950 00
2 hand hose reels	150 00
5 Boston play pipes	75 00
3 hydrant gates	35 00
1 Siamese connection	8 00
5 Callahan nozzles	70 00
1 reducing connection	1 50
2 doz. ladder straps	10 00
1 doz. belts	10 00
	<u>\$2,400 50</u>

**North Fire Apparatus**

1000-ft. 2½ in. hose	\$ 400 00
1 wagon	150 00
1 hose reel	30 00
4 underwriter's chemicals	35 00
1 steel box and axe	1 75
1 doz. Taber spanners	1 50
150 ft. ¾ in. rope	3 75
2 nozzles	35 00
1-40-foot extension ladder	35 00
Boiler and fixtures	225 00
	<u>\$ 917 00</u>

**South Fire Apparatus**

1 wagon	\$ 100 00
19 pails	5 00
1 rope	4 00
5 ladders	15 00
3 hooks	75
6 shovels	4 00
1 axe and bar	1 00
1 horse blanket	3 00
2 lanterns	50
6 chemical extinguishers	42-00
	<u>\$ 175 25</u>

**Westlands Fire Apparatus**

1 hose reel equipment	\$ 75 00
500 ft. 2½ in. hose	300 00
1 Boston play pipe	15 00
1 Callahan nozzle	15 00
6 chemicals	40 00
1 hydrant gate	9 00
	<u>\$ 454 00</u>

**East Chelmsford Fire Apparatus**

Wagon and chemicals	\$ 200 00
	<u>\$200 00</u>

EMILE E. PAIGNON,  
 PLINY C. BLISS,  
 Appraisers.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

During the past season the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished 110 forest and grass fires, the greater portion of which were reported to us by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robins Hill. Fifty-nine of these fires were caused by locomotive sparks, 47 from various causes such as careless smoking, hunters, boys, etc., and the other 5 were auto and chimney fires at which the Deputy Wardens have rendered valuable assistance. With few exceptions the forest fires have been confined to very small areas, although in some cases such as bog fires, constant watch has been necessary to prevent them breaking out anew. It has cost \$312.16 to extinguish the forest fires and the Town has received \$194.18 from parties responsible for fires, thus leaving a net expense to the Town of \$117.98. Over 300 permits to set fires in the open air have been issued during the past season.

Your attention is called to the new forest taxation law, its purpose being to increase the area of woodlands and prolong the life of trees. This act does not exempt timberland from paying its fair proportion of taxes but defers these taxes until the timber is cut at which time these accumulated taxes are taken in the form of a percentage of the stumpage value. This law is optional with the owner. If he desires its benefits he must apply to have his land registered by the Town Clerk. Registered land is not subject to ordinary taxation but is subject to three new taxes which do not amount to as much as the old tax. They are called the Forest Land Tax, Forest Commutation Tax, and Forest Product Tax. All registered land must pay the Forest Land Tax which is usually not assessed over eight or ten dollars an acre. The Commutation Tax is paid only on lots having wood large enough to cut when registered. The Forest Product Tax is paid when the wood or timber is cut and is a percentage of the stumpage value, from one to six per cent depending upon different conditions, such as length of time registered, etc.

There is also a new law Chapter 101, Acts of 1914, relative to disposal of slash or brush, following wood or lumber operations, a complete copy of which is printed below.

**Law relating to Disposal of Slash or Brush following Wood or Lumber Operations:**

1914, 101, Sect. 1. Every owner, tenant or occupant of land, and every owner of stumpage, who cuts or permits the cutting of wood or timber on woodland owned or occupied by him or on which he has acquired stumpage by purchase or otherwise, and which borders upon the woodland of another or upon a highway or railroad location, shall clear the land of the slash and brush wood then and there resulting from such cutting for such distance, not exceeding forty feet, from the woodland of such other person, highway or railroad location as the local forest warden shall determine, and within such time and in such manner as he shall determine.

Sect. 2. Any person who cuts or causes to be cut trees or brushes or undergrowth within the limits of any highway or public road shall dispose of the slash and brush wood then and there resulting from such cutting within such time and in such manner as the forest warden of the city or town wherein such cutting is done shall determine.

Sect. 3. Whoever neglects to comply with the directions of the forest warden with regard to the disposal of slash and brush, as provided in sections one and two of this act may be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars.

Sect. 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of January in the year nineteen hundred and fifteen.

**Forest Fire Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Deputy Fire Warden**  
Walter S. Holder

## *1915*

**Annual Town Meeting February 1, 1915**

Under Article 8.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 12.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.) for the purchase of fire hose and equipment for the North Chelmsford Fire Department.

Under Article 13.

Relative to a Fire Alarm Signal System for the Center Village, the Article was dismissed.

Under Article 16.

Voted that the Board of Selectmen be authorized at their discretion to let from time to time for social purposes the upper room of the fire-house at North Chelmsford to such persons and upon such terms as they may think advisable, the net rents to be paid over by the Selectmen to the Town Treasurer.

**Forest Warden's Report**

During the year 1915 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished 108 forest and grass fires, the greater portion of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robin Hill. Fifty-four of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the other fifty-four were caused by sparks from burning buildings, careless smoking, hunters, boys and by unknown causes.

Sixty-two forest fires or an average of two fires every day, occurred in March - the month of high winds, which is a very unusual occurrence. The records show that only eight forest fires have taken place in the month of March during the past eight years.

The deputy wardens have also rendered assistance at eight auto and chimney fires.

The expense of maintaining this department, including all supplies, extinguishing all forest and grass fires, as well as the expense incurred at the auto and house fires, has been \$539.65. The sum of \$145.36 has been paid or is due the town by parties responsible for fires thus leaving the net expense \$394.29.

About 325 permits have been issued to set fires in the open air between March 1 and December 1. Persons cutting wood, lumber or brush will find it much easier to comply with the law relative to the disposal of slash or brush during such cutting than to be required to dispose of it after cutting is completed. This law is printed in full in last year's town report.

**Report of the Board of Chelmsford Centre Fire Engineers**

The Fire Company was reorganized at the first meeting, April, 1915. The Company was made up of 15 active men, to receive \$5. a year for practice, and 10 call men, making a Company of 25 men, all being paid for the time they served at fires. The 15 active men included the fire engineers, and they held their practice every two weeks when the weather was favorable, with better results than previous years.

The Company has responded to 22 alarms from March 9 to November 22, 1915; 10 bell alarms and 12 telephone calls. There were numerous chimney fires caused by unclean chimneys, which the owners should look after.

The cost of fighting fires from March 9 to November 22, 1915 was \$233, of which \$17.60 was paid by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company.

The Department is handicapped by having no alarm system, which it needs very much. Also in some cases it is hard work to find horses in town to draw the apparatus to fires. This causes delay and in a great many cases results in the loss of buildings. If the Department could have an automobile combination truck, which could be got up by the Department at a small cost, the outside surrounding districts would have far better fire protection.

The fire engineers made a general inspection of all public buildings of the town and made recommendations to the selectmen and school board of advisable changes for better fire protection.

The following fires have occurred :

- March 9. Chimney fire at W. S. Lupien's.
- March 15. Chimney fire at Harry Adams'.
- March 16. Barn burned at Fred Hazen's.
- March 28. House fires at William Hardy's and Hildreth's.
- March 30. William Roper house (2 alarm fire).
- March 31. J. P. Emerson's house, Fletcher St.
- April 3. Chimney fire at Joe Trembly's.
- April 3. Chimney fire at Leonard Spaulding's.
- April 10. Chimney fire at Mr. Barton's.
- April 11. Fire at Mrs. A. H. Smith's, High St., caused by sparks from railroad.
- June 2J. House and barn at A. H. Park's, South Chelmsford.
- June 2J. Fire at Sadie Redman's, South Chelmsford.
- July. New York, New Haven & Hartford, passenger car.
- Sept. 9. Chimney fire at Mr. Fisher's.
- Sept. II. Chimney fire at Trembly's.
- Sept. 12. Auto fire at Littleton St.
- Nov. 22. Chimney fire at J. P. Emerson's house, Fletcher St.

This report does not cover the fires which occurred in the North Chelmsford water district.

#### **Forest Fire Warden**

Arnold C. Perham

#### **Deputy Fire Warden**

Walter S. Holder

#### **Fire Engineers**

Arthur W. House

Hubert H. Richardson

Arnold C. Perham

#### **Paid for fighting fires in 1915:**

Arnold C. Perham and 154 others, fire .... 246.69

Fred L. Fletcher and 33 others, fire .... 52.22

John Marinell, Jr., and 47 others, fire .... 35.18

W. S. Holder and 23 others, fire .... 24.05

George O. Spaulding and 11 others, fire .... 23.85

William Parlee and 11 others, fire .... 20.16

Sidney Dupee and 22 others, fire .... 13.60

Howard Swift and 9 others, fire .... 18.82

H. C. Shedd and 6 others, fire .... 7.20

James Hackett and 7 others, fire .... 6.45

J. F. Parker and 8 others, fire .... 8.30

Ralph Adams and 1 other, fire .... 4.46

William Johnson, fire .... 1.83

A. W. House .... 1.50

## *1916*

#### **Annual Town Meeting February 7, 1916**

Under Article 8.

Relating to raising and appropriating money to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service, the article was dismissed.

Under Article 13.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for protection against fire in the West Village and other parts of the Town. The money to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

During the year 1916 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished thirty-five forest and grass fires the greater portion of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robin Hill. Ten of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by careless smoking, boys, hunters, etc.

A meeting was held in the town hall last March at which forest fires and forestry matters in general were discussed. It was called by the Forest Warden and attended by a State Deputy Fire Warden, Deputy Forest Wardens, Tree Warden and woodland owners.

According to forestry experts now working in this state a considerable value can be added to your woodlot by an intelligent handling of the growth therein. The following suggestions may help you bring this about.

Keep the area fully stocked. Cut out as fast as practical the poorer species such as red maple, grey birch, pine oak, and pitch pine and encourage the reproduction of better species as white pine, red oak, chestnut, ash and hard maple. So far as practical keep the stand uniform in size. Cut out the trees with large spreading crowns, such trees occupy sufficient space for several trees of better form. Cut out all mature and degenerating, trees or crooked or otherwise defective trees.

When the stand is so dense as to check the growth by crowding, thin lightly and often rather than heavy at long intervals. Do not thin so heavy that the crown will not close again in a year or so. So far as possible keep the forest floor shaded at all times. Guard against even the lightest ground at all times especially during dry seasons. Try to produce saw logs, telephone poles, railroad ties and fence posts etc. Cordwood as a rule is the most unprofitable disposition.

#### **Report of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Engineers**

In pursuance of our duties as Fire Engineers of the Town of Chelmsford, striving for better protection of lives and property against unnecessary and careless fires, we have made our second annual inspection of public buildings. We find the conditions in the buildings under your care to be fairly good.

The following recommendations and advisable changes are deemed by us to be necessary and we trust that you will endeavor to execute them:

- At the North Town Hall we found all the chemical extinguishers frozen solid; the janitor should be instructed that it is a part of his duties to prevent a recurrence.
- At the Centre Town Hall there should be another fire extinguisher.
- At the Town Farm house all unused and unneeded gas fixtures should be removed.
- If necessary to store ashes in the basement they should be enclosed by non-combustible material.
- There should be two more fire extinguishers at the Town Farm.
- Both Town Halls should have a galvanized iron barrel for storing all necessary light kindling material.

**Forest Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Deputy Fire Wardens**  
Walter S. Holder  
George O. Spalding

**Fire Engineers**  
Arnold C. Perham  
Arthur W. House

## *1917*

#### **Annual Town Meeting February 5, 1917**

Under Article 8.

Relating to raising and appropriating money to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service, the article was dismissed.

Under Article 22.

Relative to the purchase of motor fire apparatus and equipment, it was voted that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator and to report at the next Town Meeting. The Moderator appointed to serve on this committee: Arnold C. Perham, Patrick S. Ward and Wilbur E. Lapham.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 31, 1917**

Under Article 11.

Relative to the appropriation of money for the purchase of motor fire apparatus, the matter was recommitted to the existing committee to be reported at the next Annual Town Meeting. It was suggested that the committee be increased to five members and C. Frank Butterfield and Frederick A. Snow were appointed from the floor.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

During the year 1917 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished 46 forest and grass fires, the majority of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robins Hill. Twenty of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by careless smoking, hunters, boys, careless brush burning, etc.

The State Forester has recently purchased the summit of Robins Hill in the name of the Commonwealth which is fortunate indeed for Chelmsford, if sufficient money is raised to erect the proposed 75 foot observatory. The Towns in this vicinity are asked to raise and appropriate money sufficient to erect said tower. This town is asked for \$300 as its share and I sincerely hope that the voters will see fit to vote this amount. The present tower was the first one erected in the state and was sort of an experiment to see if the erection of permanent towers was advisable. The value of such towers was soon evident and the state, with the help of adjoining towns, has established thirty such stations.

Since its erection the present tower has saved this town hundred of dollars annually in cost of extinguishing fires and damages that might have resulted therefrom. After a tower is erected the State pays all bills for maintaining the same. The proposed new tower will cost about \$2,000 and will be of steel construction with a stair-way leading to the room at the top.

**Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

The Fire Engineers wish to submit the following report:

The Centre Fire Dept. has responded to eighteen alarms during the past year, all but two were chimney fires. We wish to call the attention of the residents of the town to see that their chimneys are clean and in good order as there will be a lot of wood burned, a large share of it being green. All fires in the town should be reported to the engineers so they can report to the State Police in accordance with the state fire laws.

No person shall keep store, manufacture or sell explosives in a building or other structure without obtaining a license from the Selectmen and a permit from the Chief of the State Police or the Fire Engineers of the town.

**Paid for fighting fires in 1917:**

	Arnold C. Perham, fire engineer and 39 others ....	103.53
	H. W. Sweetser, fire engineer and 21 others ....	60.10
	J. D. Ryan, fire engineer and 23 others ....	80.90
	John Marinel, Jr., fire engineer and 23 others ....	30.56
	A. W. House, fire engineer and 12 others ....	13.57
	Walter Merrill, fire engineer and 7 others ....	11.45
	Sidney Dupee, fire engineer and 9 others ....	12.85
	Fred Merrill, fire engineer and 8 others ....	9.50
	James P. Dunnigan, fire engineer and 5 others ....	5.60
	Fred L. Fletcher, fire engineer and 8 others ....	5.90
	George Shepherd, fire engineer ....	6.00
	H. C. Shedd, fire engineer and 5 others ....	3.80
	W. Parlee, fire engineer and 1 other ....	6.30
	Ralph Adams, fire engineer and 5 others ....	2.70
	W. Santamour, fire engineer ....	1.00

**Forest Fire Warden**

Arnold C. Perham

**Fire Engineers**

Arthur W. House

Arnold C. Perham

Clarence G. Nickles

## 1918

**Annual Town Meeting February 4, 1918**

Under Article 9.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) to be expended by the State Forester to help defray the expense of erecting a forest fire observatory on Robin Hill in this town.

Under Article 10.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 18.

Relative to the appropriation of money for motor fire apparatus for the Center Village, the article was dismissed.

Under Article 19.

Relative to the appropriation of money for the purchase of motor fire apparatus for the North Village, the article was dismissed.

**Report of Forest Warden**

During the year 1918 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished seventy-six forest and grass fires, the majority of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robins Hill. Thirty of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by careless smoking, boys, hunters, careless brush burning, etc. Five chimney fires and one auto fire were extinguished by the Deputy Wardens and valuable assistance was rendered at three building fires. Several extensive forest fires occurred last spring, due largely to the heavy growth of grass the previous year and the prevailing high winds. On May 8th, several large fires broke out in various parts of the town, one of which, the largest in town for several years, destroyed considerable cord wood and standing timber. This fire had to be guarded for three days until rain came.

The expense of maintaining this department during 1918, including all supplies and repairs, extinguishing forest and grass fires, as well as the expense incurred at chimney, auto and house fires, was \$688.54, a sum somewhat larger than the average of recent years. The sum of \$106.68 has been paid or is due the town by parties responsible for fires, thus leaving the net expense \$581.86. The property of the Town in charge of the Forest Warden is the same as last year, except for the loss of one fire extinguisher and box of extra charges, which were consumed in a building fire. About 400 permits to set fires in the open air were issued between March 1 and December 1, 1918.

The new forest fire observatory erected on Robins Hill during the past summer is the highest and best of any within the Commonwealth. It is 70 feet high, 40 feet higher than the old tower which it replaces. It is 27 feet by 27 feet at the base and the four uprights are securely fastened to cement piers. The total weight of the structure is estimated at 12 tons and the location is on a 50 by 50 foot plot of land owned by the state at the summit of the hill with a right of way thereto.

Most of the towns in northern Middlesex benefitted by the tower contributed to the cost of erection. Chelmsford bore the largest share, \$300, and the balance was paid by the state. The glass enclosed observation room on the new tower is ten by ten feet, and is in charge of Observer C. E. Blood, who will welcome all visitors who care to climb the winding stairs during the coming season. Because of conditions pertaining to the war, visitors were not allowed to visit the tower last season. The raising of money for lookout purposes on Robins Hill is not without precedent, for the Town raised and appropriated money to build a lookout house there in 1673, to discover and warn the people of approaching danger, probably from Indians. This new land mark on Robins Hill which replaces the older ones such as the lone pine tree, summit house, etc., is shown in the accompanying illustration.





The Robins Hill Fire Tower 1918-1938 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

The Fire Engineers wish to submit the following report: The Town has been very lucky in regard to fires the past year. The Center department had but three calls as a department but there were quite a number of chimney fires. We would like to call the attention of automobile owners as to housing their autos in barns, used as stables, or where hay is stored.

#### Forest Fire Warden

Arnold C. Perham

#### Fire Engineers

Arthur W. House, Chairman

Arnold C. Perham

#### Paid for fighting fires in 1918:

A. C. Perham and 154 others .... 341.59  
 J. D. Ryan and 28 others .... 104.45  
 H. W. Sweetser and 21 others .... 95.19  
 F. L. Fletcher and 13 others .... 45.00  
 H. M. Sturtevant and 39 others .... 67.36  
 W. H. Merrill and 24 others .... 36.60  
 A. W. House and 27 others .... 34.95  
 S. Dupee and 11 others .... 25.52  
 F. W. Merrill and 19 others .... 25.00  
 V. L. Parkhurst and 7 others .... 21.20  
 E. G. Fay .... 25.20  
 H. C. Merrill .... 14.05  
 James J. Hackett and 14 others .... 8.42  
 H. C. Shedd and 7 others .... 7.15  
 Geo. C. Spaulding and 1 other .... 7.26  
 Win. Parlee and 5 others .... 9.50  
 R. P. Adams and 2 others .... 3.30  
 L. Gaudette .... 2.00  
 D. Frank Small and 2 others .... 1.85

## 1919

### Annual Town Meeting February 3, 1919

Under Article 8.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

### Report of Forest Warden

During the year 1919, the Forest Warden and his deputies have extinguished sixty-seven forest and grass fires, the majority of which were reported by the State Observer on Robins Hill. Sixteen of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by boys, hunters, careless smokers, etc. Five chimney fires were extinguished by the Deputy Wardens and they also rendered assistance at three building fires. The largest fire of the season was on August 5th, at the Carlisle town line. Considerable cord wood was destroyed and this fire had to be guarded for several days or until the next rain came.

The expense of maintaining this department during 1919, including all repairs and supplies, extinguishing forest and grass fires as well as the expense incurred at the house and chimney fires was \$552.14 which is \$136.40 less than last year. The sum of \$36.62 is now due the Town by parties responsible for fires, thus leaving the net expense \$515.52. The property of the Town in charge of the Forest Warden has recently been inspected and we find there is some need of repairs and some new tools will have to be purchased the coming year. The fire extinguishers which are scattered throughout the Town are for the use of any resident if occasion requires.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

During the year 1919 the Centre Fire Department answered four bell alarms, three of which were for house fires and one for a grass fire, also two fires on dumps and surrounding woods and a large number of chimney fires. Some of these chimneys were in bad shape and we notified the owners and saw to it that they were repaired. We would like to call the attention of the people to the fact, that defective chimneys and the accumulation of rubbish cause about nine-tenths of the fires.

There was a great deal of confusion in regard to notifying the department in case of fire, so we had a notice put in the morning Courier-Citizen, telling what to do in case of fire. Below is a copy of the notice:

In case of fire, call by telephone the following, plainly giving name, location, whether grass or house fire:

#### Night

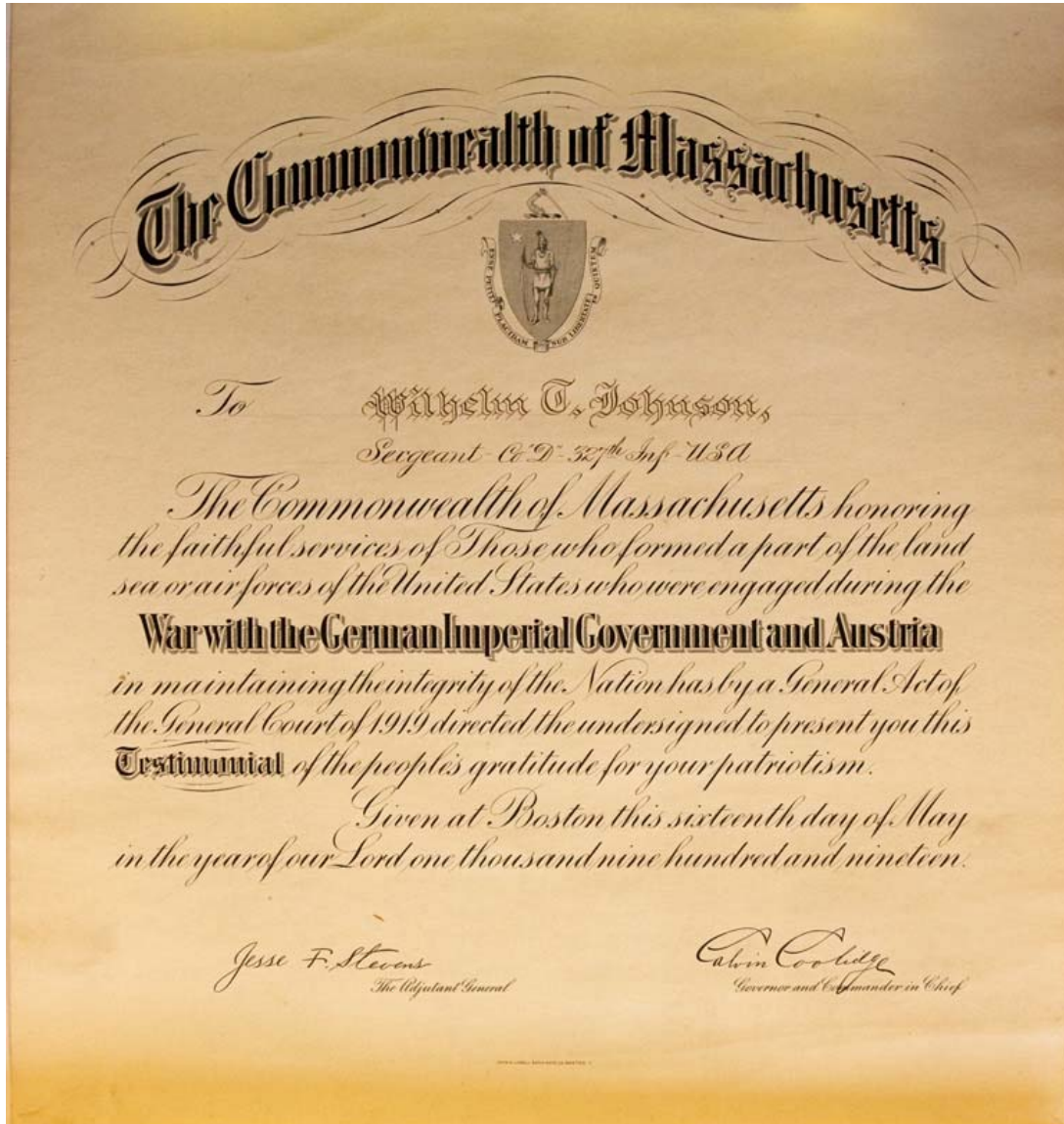
- C. O. Rollins—Tel. 5204-W
- V. L. Parkhurst—Tel. 4026-R

**Daytime**

- C. O. Rollins—Tel. 5204-W
- Chelmsford Garage—Tel. 5690
- Falls' Drug Store—Tel. 8703-R
- S. W. Parkhurst—Tel. 8703-M

**Forest Fire Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Fire Engineers**  
Walter Fletcher  
Edgar G. Fay  
Wilhelm Johnson



Testimonial for Sergeant Willhelm T. Johnson dated May 16, 1919 and signed by Governor and Commander in Chief Calvin Coolidge (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
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Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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# 1920



## Report of Board of Fire Engineers

Gentlemen: During the year of 1920 the Centre Fire Department has answered six bell alarms, five of which were for buildings and one for a brush fire. The Department also answered six telephone alarms, all chimney fires, except one, which was a building.

The Department has done very good work considering the equipment with which they have to work. We have no doubt that if given proper equipment, we would have a very efficient department.

We again caution the people to give their chimneys a little attention and avoid fires which are liable to cause considerable property loss.

In case of fire call by telephone the following, plainly giving name, location, whether grass or house fire:

### Night

C. O. Robbins—Tel. 5204-W  
Walter Fletcher—Tel. 4028-Y

### Daytime

C. O. Robbins—Tel. 5204-W  
Chelmsford Garage—Tel. 5690  
Falls Drug Store—Tel. 8703-R  
S. W. Parkhurst—Tel. 8703-M

## Report of the Forest Warden

During the year, 1920, there were fifty-five forest and grass fires in town, of which twenty-five were railroad fires and the remainder started from various causes. The Deputy Wardens have also assisted at several chimney, building and auto fires.

The expense of extinguishing the fires together with the cost of supplies, etc., has been \$418.06 of which \$82.98 has been paid or is due the town by parties responsible for the fires.

About four hundred fifty permits were issued for fires between March 1st and December 1st.

Don't forget the Slash Law which requires you to clear the slash forty feet away from your neighbors lot or the highway.

**Chief**  
W. S. Fletcher

**Captain**  
W. T. Johnson

**Lieutenant**  
G. H. Morton

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
W. S. Fletcher  
W. T. Johnson  
G. H. Morton

**Forest Warden**  
A. C. Perham

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# 1921

## Annual Town Meeting February 14, 1921

Under Articles 8 and 9.

The first relative to raising and appropriating a sum of money for motor fire apparatus for North Village and the second relative to a fire house at West Chelmsford, it was voted that a Committee consisting of Joseph D. Ryan, William T. Picken, Loren J. Ellinwood, Charles Finnick, Wilhelm Johnson, Arnold C. Perham, and Emile E. Paignon be chosen to thoroughly investigate the whole matter of fire protection and report with recommendations and estimated cost at a special meeting of the Town to be held not later than June 4, 1921.

Under Article 10.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$600.00 to be expended by the Selectmen for the purpose of supplying the Chelmsford Fire Department with additional fire equipment.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 27, 1921**

Under Article 16.

The Committee on Fire Protection reported. The report was tabled pending action on Article 17. The report was later taken from the table, accepted and a vote of thanks extended to the Committee.

Under Article 17.

Voted that the Town authorize and direct a Special Committee consisting of Joseph D. Ryan, William T. Picken, Loren J. Ellinwood, Charles Finnick, Wilhelm Johnson, Arnold C. Perham and Emile E. Paignon to procure additional motor fire apparatus and equipment at a cost not to exceed in all the sum of \$15,000.00, and that the Town raise and appropriate therefor the sum of \$1,600.00 and borrow the balance at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually, and issue therefor five promissory notes, each for the principal sum of one-fifth of the total amount borrowed, payable at the expiration of one, two, three, four and five years from the date thereof, such note or notes, to be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by a majority of the Board of Selectmen. Upon this motion 180 voted in favor and none against.

Under Article 18.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 for the purpose of installing a suitable fire alarm at Chelmsford Center and said sum to be expended by a committee of three appointed by the Finance Committee. The Committee appointed Walter Fletcher, Wilhelm Johnson and Raymond C. Haseltine.

Under Article 19.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$2,000.00 to meet the expense of maintaining the Fire Department for the current year.

Under Article 20.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$400.00 for the purpose of making necessary repairs and improvements to the several fire houses of the Town.

#### **Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

In the month of June, 1921, your Board of Selectmen, acting under the authority granted you by the statutes of the Commonwealth, appointed this your first Board of Fire Engineers, consisting of three members.

This Board of Engineers, after taking their oath of office, organized by appointing Arnold C. Perham as chief of the department. Loren J. Ellinwood as first assistant engineer and John E. Hogan as second assistant engineer. John E. Hogan was appointed as clerk of the board.

This Board of Fire Engineers is the administrative authority of the fire department, and has general supervision and expenditure of the appropriations made for the fire department.

At the time it came into authority, there was no general system of fire department organization in effect in town. We have formulated and put in practice a plan as the foundation for the present and future orderly and efficient conduct of the department.

We have divided the town area into five districts, with one piece of motorized equipment located in each district. This arrangement provides each district with equipment and an organized and trained force to suppress a fire in its incipency, or to check a fire until additional aid can arrive from other districts, each or all of which is always subject to call if needed by any district threatened by fire.

The motorized equipment furnished by the town was recommended by an Investigating Committee, appointed by vote of the regular town meeting in February, 1921, and bought for the town by a Purchasing Committee, appointed by the vote of the town at a special town meeting held in May, 1921.

District No. 1 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 1, and is equipped with a double tank combination chemical and hose car motorized.





1921 American LaFrance Motor Fire Truck No. 1, Chelmsford Center  
(1922 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

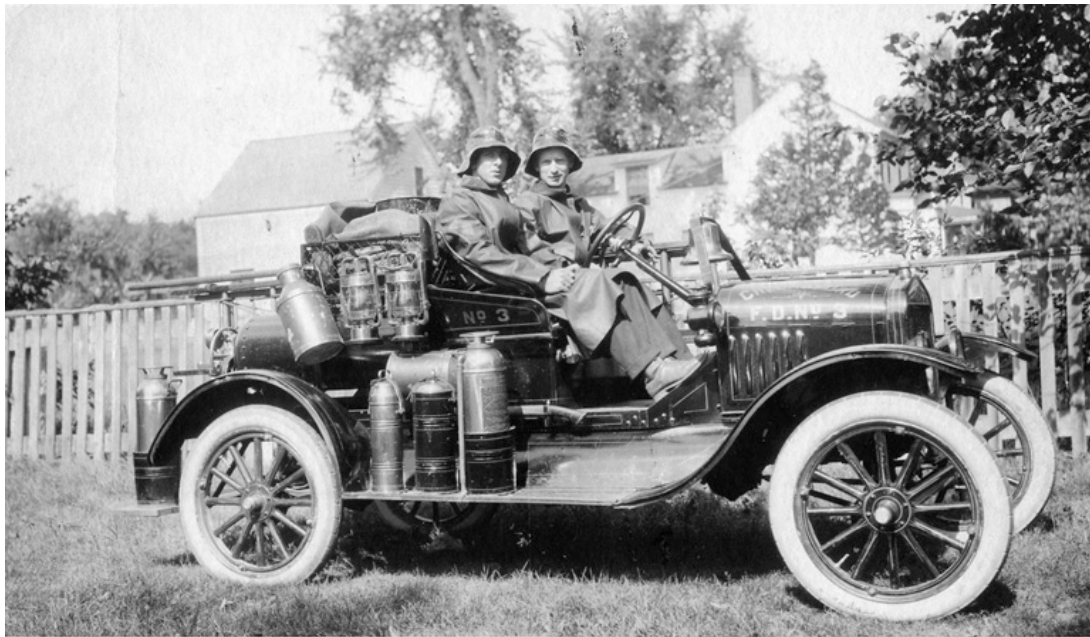
District No. 2 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 2, and is equipped with a triple combination (pump, hose, chemical) car motorized.



1921 Brockway Motor Fire Truck No. 2, the first at Mount Pleasant Street firehouse in North Chelmsford  
District chief Joseph Ryan at the wheel (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

District No. 3 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 3 and slight changes, and is equipped with a double tank chemical car motorized.





1921 Ford Auto Fire Truck No. 3, first in West Chelmsford  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

District No. 4 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 4, and is equipped with a double tank chemical car motorized.



1921 Ford Model T Chemical Wagon No. 4, first in East Chelmsford  
District Chief Henry G. Quinn driving with George McNulty riding the rear step  
(1922 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

District No. 5 comprises all the territory of Chelmsford bounded as follows: Beginning at an iron pin set in rock at top of Robin Hill, thence in a straight line to Chelmsford-Westford road stone at Chamberlin's Corner Road, near Ward's Corner, thence along Chelmsford-Westford town line to Carlisle line, thence along Carlisle line to Chelmsford-Carlisle road stone on Carlisle Road, thence in a straight line to point of beginning. This district is equipped with a double tank chemical car motorized.



1921 Ford Auto Fire Truck No. 5, first in South Chelmsford  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The equipment of Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 5 is each housed in property owned by the town. The equipment of Districts No. 3 and No. 4 is each housed in rented property.

Districts No. 1 and No. 2 each have a permanent man who cares for the equipment and property a certain number of hours each day and is subject to call and service if emergency arises during 24 hours of the day, for each of the seven days per week.

A local fire fighting organization has been established in each district, each with its proper officers and regular and call men trained by practice to its duties. Each local organization is part of the component whole - the Chelmsford Fire Department - and is subject to the statutes of the Commonwealth and the printed rules and regulations established by this board of engineers.

Read the 1921 [Rules and Regulatons of the Chelmsford Fire Department](#) (a searchable PDF document)

The district chiefs of each company are appointed annually by the Board of Engineers on or before May 15, to hold office until the following May 1, or until their successors are appointed, unless sooner removed by said Board of Engineers.

The district chiefs appointed by us during our term of office to date, are:

- District No. 1, Walter S. Fletcher, Chelmsford Centre.
- District No. 2, Joseph D. Ryan, North Chelmsford.
- District No. 3, Elmer Trull, West Chelmsford.
- District No. 4, Henry Quinn, East Chelmsford.
- District No. 5, William E. Belleville, South Chelmsford.

At present our plan for emergency fire alarms comprises the use of church bells at the Centre, North and South villages. West Chelmsford and East Chelmsford companies have, by public subscription, raised funds and installed an electric siren fire alarm in each respective village. We hope to see a system of electric fire alarm gradually and prudently established throughout the town.

The establishment of this equipped and organized department should place the property of our citizens in a higher insurance classification, which will mean lower insurance rates and save the tax payers more than the cost of the equipment and the maintenance of the department.

The buildings owned by the town where the fire equipment is housed will require some slight necessary repairs. Some time in the future the need of improved buildings for the department equipment and organizations will require attention.

Since our appointment to this board the department has been called to fifteen fires, classified as follows: Six automobile fires in the streets and highways, seven building fires, one bridge fire, one lumber pile fire. The total loss by these fires was about \$7,740.00. The value of property endangered was about \$38,775.00.

Emergency instruction cards giving instructions what to do and how to notify their company in event of fires in District No. 3 have been printed and distributed to each family by the West Chelmsford organization of that district. We hope to

have similar instruction cards printed and distributed in each of the other districts, advising their inhabitants what to do and how to get prompt assistance from their respective companies in event of need.

While this department is to a certain extent subject to the statutes of the Commonwealth it is essentially a volunteer department, and some of its reliability and service depends upon the business management by a Board of Engineers. Much also depends upon the loyalty and service of the citizen members of the several companies constituting the department. Service and sacrifice are elements of the highest type of citizenship.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

In the past year, the expense of extinguishing forest fires has been somewhat greater than in other years, owing to the fact that there were 118 fires, as compared to only 55 for the year 1920. There were 20 fires caused by sparks from locomotives, which were extinguished by the forest warden or his deputies, for which the Railroads will reimburse the town about \$30.00.

Of the appropriations of \$500 and \$250, there is a balance which reverts to the town of \$131.06, which compares favorably with other years and makes the average cost per fire \$5.23 for 1921, against \$7.60 for 1920.

The law in regard to permits is, that a permit to start a fire in the open air is required after the first day of MARCH and from then until the first day of December.

The slash law now in effect requires that all slash resulting from cutting shall be removed at least 40 feet back from edge of cutting and forty feet back from edge of any road or highway.

**Chief**

Arnold C. Perham

**First Assistant Engineer**

Lorin J. Ellinwood

**Second Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

John E. Hogan

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Walter S. Fletcher

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Elmer Trull

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 William E. Belleville

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Loren J. Ellinwood

John E. Hogan

**Forest Warden**

Herbert. M. Sturtevant

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**1922**

**Annual Town Meeting February 13, 1922**

Under Article 20.

Voted that the Town borrow the sum of \$2850 with which to purchase a site, on the Frank Loucraft lot, so-called, situated on Gorham Street, East Chelmsford, for and build a fire station at East Chelmsford, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually, and issue therefor five promissory notes, each for the principal sum of one-fifth of the total amount borrowed, payable at the expiration of one, two, three, four and five years from the date thereof; such note or notes to be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by a majority of the Board of Selectmen. 112 voted Yes and one voted No. Building committee chosen were, Henry F. Devine, A. Samuel Gustafson, George A. McNulty, K. Wilson Dix, Birger Peterson, Joseph H. Scoble and Henry G. Quinn.





1922 East Chelmsford Fire Station on Gorham Street (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Under Article 22.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 for the purchase of fire hose, the same to be expended under the general direction of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 23, voted that the Board of Fire Engineers be and they hereby are authorized and empowered to sell at public auction or private sale, as they may think advisable, the following property belonging to the Town, viz. : Two hose reels, one harness, two wagons, and a small building located near North Chelmsford Town Hall.



Old hand tub pumper storage shed on right side of North Town Hall (Chelmsford Public Library Collection)

Under Article 24.

Voted that the Board of Fire Engineers be and they hereby are authorized and empowered to use and store the fire apparatus and other property in their charge from time to time in such part or parts of the Town as they may think advisable.

**Special Town Meeting May 18, 1922**

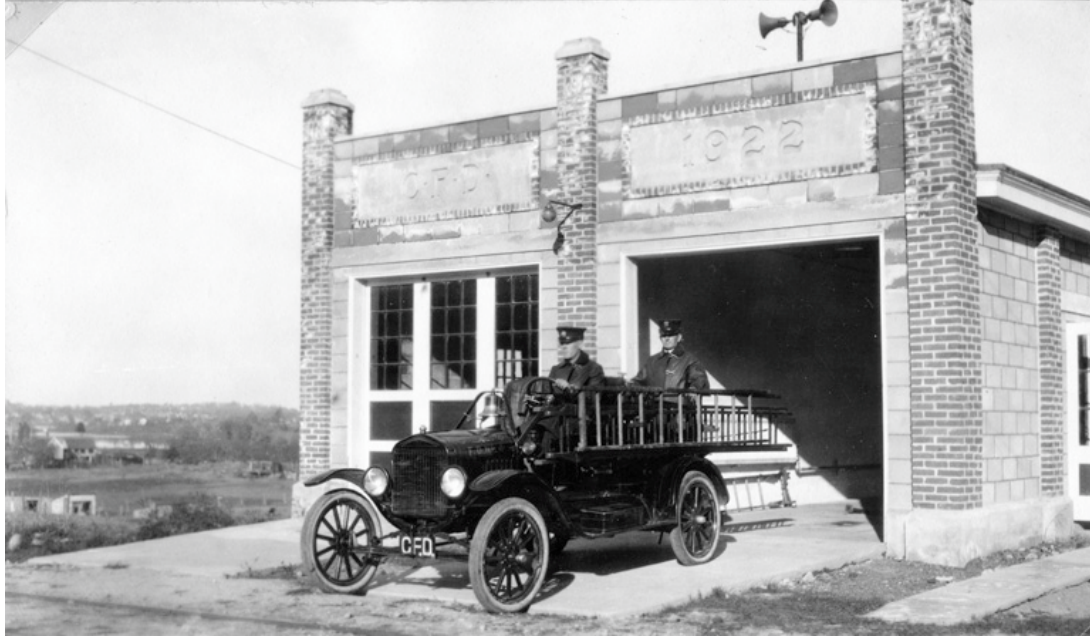
Under Article 3.

Voted to raise and appropriate from money in the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of \$36.83 with which to pay outstanding bills of the Fire Department for the year ending Dec. 31, 1921.

#### **Special Town Meeting July 27, 1922**

Under Article 8.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 with which to equip the new fire house now under construction at East Chelmsford.



1922 East Fire Station and Auto Truck No. 4 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

Last year, the Board of Engineers divided the territory of the Town into five districts and placed the motorized apparatus furnished by the Town, one piece of apparatus in each district. This arrangement has been continued this year. The location and description of each piece of apparatus was explained in our annual report of 1921. This arrangement provides each district with motorized equipment and an organized company to suppress a fire in its early stage, or to check a fire until additional aid can arrive from other districts each or all of which is always subject to call if needed by any district threatened by fire. Each company is organized with proper officers and each company has its own social organization and is provided with an apartment for its social activities.

Emergency cards giving instruction what to do to notify each local company in case of fire have been printed and distributed in each district to each and every family.

During the year the Board has purchased 1300 ft. of new standard size fire hose to replace the hose inherited from a previous organization which hose had become useless because of age and service.

For the better protection, care and economy of handling the costly apparatus in District No. 1, the apparatus in that district has been removed from the old fire house in the rear of the Town Hall and is now stationed in the new, modern Chelmsford garage at the Centre Village.





1922 American LaFrance Engine 1 at Chelmsford Square Garage in Central Square  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The nucleus of a Gamewell system of fire alarm with its striking hammer attached to the bell of the Unitarian Church in the Centre village has been installed in that District by a special committee appointed at Town Meeting in 1922. We hope to see this system gradually and economically extended.

Vice-President Calvin Coolidge, while Governor of this Commonwealth, said, "Work worth while comes from the soul of the people." The loyalty, courage and service of the members of the Chelmsford Fire Department fighting fires during the past year are a splendid vindication of that principle. We give them deserved praise. The campaign against fire is a never ending fight and calls for as careful preparation as for the suppression of an enemy of civilization. The protection must come not merely from better fire departments and building laws, but from educating every family and every member of every family to recognize causes of danger, and to practice habits of consideration and carefulness. If this could be done, fire would almost cease to be a public peril.

With this need in mind we have been seeking wisdom from sources of wider experience than ours. As there is not space in this report to furnish you the valuable information that we have secured, we earnestly advise each family in Chelmsford to send 10 cents to Frederic J. Haskins, Director of the U. S. Information Bureau, Washington, D. C., and procure a publication entitled, "Safeguarding the Home Against Fire." We also earnestly advise every farmer in Chelmsford to send to same address and procure Bulletin No. 904, entitled, "Fire Protection on the Farm." A study of the publications issued by our Government at Washington is an education both to the adult and the child and should serve to make better citizenship and prevent much loss of property by fires.

The owners of property located away from water pressure service, and the farmer, can help this department to protect their property in time of fire on said property, by excavating a good size pocket in the brook near their buildings, thus making a reservoir of water accessible to our pumping apparatus so we can have a supply of water to force a stream on fire endangered property. When such reservoir is completed, each owner should notify the Board of Fire Engineers of its exact location.

For months we have been working to get lower fire insurance rates for the property owners of Chelmsford because of the Town having installed motorized fire fighting apparatus. The result is lower fire insurance rates now in effect as follows :

- Property insured in the water districts of Chelmsford Centre and North Chelmsford is now in class C (raised from class D) giving lower rates.
- Property located within one mile of the fire stations of East Chelmsford, South Chelmsford and West Chelmsford is now insured in class E (raised from class F) giving lower rates.

The best test of a system is what it accomplishes. The Chelmsford Fire Department has saved more taxable property from destruction by fire during the year than the cost of all the apparatus. Have faith in your Fire Department. It is saving you fire insurance money each year now, and with its motorized apparatus and organization is protecting your property from the fire hazard.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

Gentlemen : The season of 1922 was the worst on record for forest fires in the Town as well as in the State, owing to the extremely high winds. That we had no serious fires was very fortunate. This was due in several instances to the

assistance rendered by the new fire apparatus. I wish to thank the fire department for the help given to the Forest Warden and I hope, and recommend, that the two departments may be merged and brought under one head.

The balance of the appropriation, after the fire season, has been spent for supplies and repairs for next season.

Owing to other business I regret to say that I will be unable to continue as Forest Warden for the Town but will gladly render what assistance I can, in the future.

**Chief**

Arnold C. Perham

**First Assistant Engineer**

Lorin J. Ellinwood

**Second Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

John E. Hogan

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Archibald Cooke

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 William E. Belleville

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Loren J. Ellinwood

John E. Hogan

**Forest Warden**

Herbert M. Sturtevant

## 1923



1923 July 4th Parade with the 1921 American LaFrance Engine 1 passing in front of the First Parish Church  
District No. 1 Chief Wilhelm T. Johnson in the truck with Ray Sargent behind the wheel  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting February 12, 1923

Under Article 8.

Voted to appropriate from money already in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$78.55 with which to reimburse the North Chelmsford Fire District for accidental damage to a hydrant on or about September 19, 1922, at North Chelmsford by an automobile driven by a Special Officer of the Town while in the performance of his official duties.

Under Article 21.

Voted that the Town accept the provisions of Section G Chapter 148 of the General Laws relating to fire prevention.

### Special Town Meeting April 30, 1923

Article 3, at the request of the Westlands Improvement Association, to see if the Town will authorize the use of a portion of the Westlands School property adjacent to the land known as the Curtin Place on the Dalton Road as a site

for the Fire House now located on Chelmsford Street near the "Subway," so-called; or act in relation thereto. It was voted to dismiss this Article.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

This, our report for the year 1923, is a plain tale of what we have been doing to guide your Fire Department into durable and permanent service for the fire protection of the town. It also contains information and instruction that should aid this department to function effectively and prudently.

The same district locations of the five pieces of motorized apparatus have been continued as in previous years because that arrangement gave the most prompt and effective service to each district in time of fire peril. The district companies have held practice drills at intervals during the summer months, that each fireman may know his duty to perform when required to meet conditions of an actual fire. This practice experience has produced prompt, intelligent action in time of real need—it helped to avoid confusion.

In pursuance of our duties as Fire Engineers of the Town, we have made a general inspection of the public schools and town halls, and have submitted our recommendations to the proper officials for what we consider protective action regarding those Town properties.

The hose house at the Westlands has been removed to a new location and some repairs made to it.

Necessary repairs have been made to the fire station at South Chelmsford.

The new fire station at East Chelmsford has not been turned over to the authority of this Board, but we have made arrangements with the Building Committee so that the new building is now used by the local company for housing of the chemical truck of that district.



1922 East Fire Station Ford Model T Chemical Wagon No. 4, District Chief Henry G. Quinn driving  
George McNulty riding the rear step (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

We have purchased 500 feet of new standard fire hose to replace hose that, because of long life and use, has become unfit for dependable fire service.

The lower insurance rates procured last year for the property owners continue in force.

While we realize that it is the duty of the Fire Department to suppress and extinguish all fires, we also realize that it is the duty of this Board to urge that precautions be taken to avoid fires, that our citizens should avoid causes of danger by removing dangerous conditions. Fewer fires would occur if the people were more careful with matches, lighted cigarettes, kerosene, and unclean chimneys. Experience should teach us Caution, Prudence, Prevention.

In a majority of fires a quick response with chemicals plays a more important role than water streams which sometimes entail much damage from water alone. Your firemen are instructed in working to keep down the water damage, but they cannot do this unless they get the alarm in time to use chemicals, otherwise the use of water will become necessary. An improved fire alarm system through the town is a needed addition for dependable quick response by the department.



Our State Laws require every proprietor who stores or sells gasoline, or conducts a public garage, to obtain a license from the Board of Selectmen and a permit from the Fire Department chief. Storage or sale of fireworks, firecrackers and torpedoes, requires a permit from the fire chief. Your attention is called to the State Law governing the keeping, storage and use of oil in buildings in connection with light fuel oil heating apparatus. A permit from the fire chief is required for all installations having a storage capacity over twenty gallons of oil, and no light fuel oil burner shall be used unless it has been approved by the State fire marshal. Permits are also required from the fire chief for the removal of storage tanks which have been used for gasoline.

Careful consideration should be given the Centre and North villages regarding new fire stations and their locations. The locations should be decided first, then, when building costs permit, the new houses should have serious consideration. We suggest that a small committee be carefully chosen to investigate conditions and report to the Town at a later Town meeting.

The only costly fire that we had to lose was the Boston ice houses at Crystal Lake, North Chelmsford. The ice houses were a total loss. The conditions were such that all the fire apparatus in Massachusetts could not have saved the burning buildings. We only saved the large barn and contents.



Boston Ice Company ice houses at Crystal Lake (Chelmsford Public Library Collection)

### Report of the Forest Warden

During the past year the work of the Forest Warden Dept. and the Fire Dept. has been combined as much as possible. The district fire chiefs were each appointed deputy forest wardens in their districts, with authority to issue fire permits and have charge of all forest fires. They were instructed to co-operate with the fire observer on Robin Hill and to extinguish the brush and grass fires in their districts with as little expense as possible. Most fires were handled by a few men rather than by the whole fire company and the fire trucks were not used except when the fire was of a threatening character.

Four deputy forest wardens other than the district fire chiefs were appointed as follows: Donald Adams, Fred L. Fletcher, Walter Merrill and Fred Merrill, and did good co-operative work in their different localities.

About 350 permits were issued for fires in the open air. Several fire calls were received where persons were found to be burning brush without the necessary permit and in each case the parties paid the expense of extinguishing the fire rather than go to court. Permits are required from March 1 to December 1.

There were 74 fires during the year, of which 37 were grass fires and 37 were brush and woodland fires. Twenty-seven of the fires were caused by the railroad locomotives.

An inspection of all the property of the department was made late in December. It seems quite probable that an auto truck would be advisable in the near future for this department.

**Chief**  
Arnold C. Perham

**District Chiefs**  
No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

**Forest Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Lorin J. Ellinwood

**Assistant Engineer**

John E. Hogan

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Archibald Cooke

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Loren J. Ellinwood

John E. Hogan

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

Donald Adams

Fred L. Fletcher

Walter Merrill

Fred Merrill

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## 1924

**Annual Town Meeting February 11, 1924**

Under Article 1.

To hear reports of Officers and Committees: For the East Chelmsford Fire House Building committee Henry Devine reported that all moneys had been spent and that the building was completed, the report was accepted.

Under Article 35.

Voted that the sum of two thousand (\$2000.00) dollars be raised and appropriated for the purpose of installing and improving the fire alarm system and equipment of the Town said sum to be expended by a committee of three appointed by the moderator. Arnold Perham, Loren Ellinwood and John J. Hogan were appointed as a committee.

Under Article 36.

Voted that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator to investigate and report at the next Town meeting relative to the purchase of land for fire house sites. Perley W. Kimball, David Billson and M. Edward Riney were appointed as a committee.

**Special Town Meeting May 19, 1924**

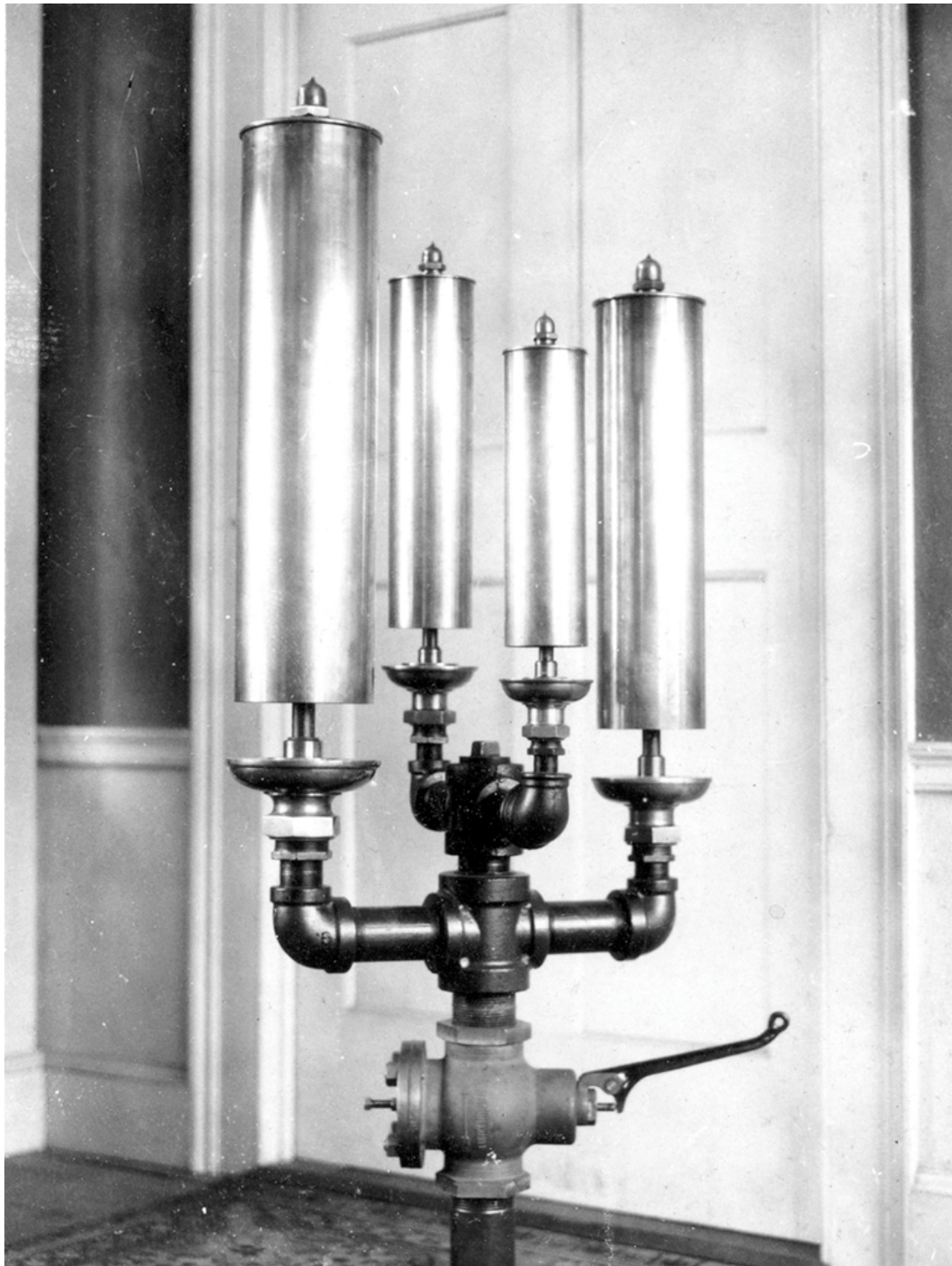
Under Article 1.

Voted that the Fire Engineers be and they are hereby authorized to sell either at public auction or by advertised bids, the old Fire Wagon now kept at South Chelmsford.

Under Article 11.

Voted to accept as a gift from the Village Improvement Association of the Centre Village the Fire Whistle and equipment already installed in the Centre Town Hall.





The fire whistle donated by the Village Improvement Association for Town Hall  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The original plan of four years ago, of locating one motorized fire truck in each of the five villages of our town has been justified by results because in the event of fire menace in any village the local truck is there to furnish immediate service and its presence has saved much property by quickly attacking fires in their early stages. Again, if any of these fire trucks should be removed from any village, up would go the insurance rates of that locality to their former level before your department was installed there.

The five pieces of motorized apparatus are in splendid mechanical condition - ready at all times for immediate and strenuous service. The several companies of the department have held practice drills at intervals during the year, that each man may understand his duties and acquire skill and speed in his effective performance in time of actual fires.

The lower insurance rates procured by the installation of your fire department for the property owners continues in force, and yet lower rate may be obtained later by improved fire station buildings, fire alarm extensions and service. Plans for the improvement of the fire alarm conditions and service have been placed in operation.

Last year (1923) the Village Improvement Society of Chelmsford Center installed in the town hall of that district a powerful whistle with electric motor, air compressor and two air tanks for the fire service, and presented the same to the Town. A splendid example of what united effort can generously accomplish for the public service.



The 1923 air tanks for the Town Hall fire whistle (2009 photo by Fred Merriam)

This year, at the last Annual Town Meeting, \$2000.00 was appropriated for the installation of a fire alarm system. With this money your Board of Fire Engineers has purchased and installed in the Center and in the North villages the basis of a Gamewell Fire Alarm System as described herein.

For the Center village this Board has purchased and installed a Motor Generator Set, a two circuit switch board, a transmitter, an iron battery rack with 30 cell battery, one outside street fire alarm box, which with the air compressor, air tanks and whistle equipment given the town last year by the local village improvement society provides this district with the basis of a modern fire alarm system.

For the North village this Board has purchased and installed a Motor Generator Set, a two circuit switch board, a transmitter, an iron battery rack with 30 cell battery, a whistle machine, and one outside street fire alarm box. In this district the Silesia Mills of the United States Worsted Co. furnish the steam power and the whistle for the fire alarms during all of the 24 hours of every day of the year at no expense to the town, which is another splendid act of generous public service.

In addition to these public spirited acts the Middlesex County Training School, Geo. C. Moore Wool Scouring Co., Proctor Lumber Co., Southwell Wool Combing Co. of the North district have each furnished an outside street fire alarm box and the funds to wire and install the same. These boxes are now being installed and connected with the North circuit and will soon be available to the fire service of that district for public needs. The men of the fire service of this district are now installing these boxes and doing the necessary wiring at no expense to the town.

The final purchase and installation of this basic alarm system for the North district was made possible only because the members of the North Chelmsford Fire Company made a present of \$500.00 to this Board, giving this sum from their Company Treasury. Another example of generous public spirit in your fire department. We used this money in the North district alarm system.

This installation of fire alarm system is a definite advance for the protection of life and property from fires in Chelmsford - it produces a quicker and more dependable arrival of motorized apparatus in these districts - it strengthens the position for more favorable insurance rates later - it should attract private, commercial and industrial investment to Chelmsford. This fire alarm equipment of both the Center and the North districts should be economically, gradually,

annually, extended by additional boxes in the streets, eventually becoming an effective, modern system without sudden large expense to the taxpayers.

The Ladder House in the West village which was built in 1886 was ordered removed by the owners of the land on which it was located, and it has been taken away and rebuilt on the property of Mr. L. J. Ellinwood at the West fire station.

This Board has purchased 400 feet of new 2 1/2 inch fire hose to improve our fire fighting strength and to replace old hose worn by service.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

The Forest Warden and Fire Departments have continued the same co-operative plan as last year. The District Fire Chiefs were appointed Deputy Forest Wardens in their districts, with authority to issue fire permits and have charge of the forest and grass fires. Most fires were handled by a few men, rather than by the whole fire company, and the fire trucks were not used unless conditions seemed to require them. Four deputy Forest wardens, other than the district Fire chiefs were appointed, namely: Allan Adams, Fred L. Fletcher, Walter Merrill and Fred Merrill. All have done good work.

About 400 permits for fires in the open were issued between March 1st and December 1st. The deputy wardens have responded to 129 fires during the year, a much larger number than usual. The prompt response to the fire calls, which usually come from the Fire Observer on Robin's Hill, when the fire first starts, have kept the fires very small and loss from same has not exceeded \$250.00. Fifty-two fires were caused by engine sparks and the others by the carelessness of boys, berry pickers and smokers, with a few exceptions from fireworks and bonfires. Sixty-seven were grass fires, and 62 bonfires or brush and woodland fires All fires have been reported to the State Fire Warden and notices have been posted as required by law. Fires were located as follows: Fire District No. 1, 67; No. 2, 18; No. 3, 2; No. 4, 10; No. 5, 32.

<p><b>Chief</b> Arnold C. Perham</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer and Clerk</b> Lorin J. Ellinwood</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer</b> John E. Hogan</p>	<p><b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Archibald Cooke No. 4 Henry G. Quinn No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee</p> <p><b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Arnold C. Perham Loren J. Ellinwood John E. Hogan</p>	<p><b>Forest Warden</b> Arnold C. Perham</p> <p><b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Allan Adams Fred L. Fletcher Walter Merrill Fred Merrill</p>
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## 1925



Read Hall was the administration building for the Middlesex Training School complex on Princeton Street.  
It was restored after this circa 1925 fire (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting February 9, 1925

Under Article 17.

To hear the report and act on the same of the Committee appointed under Article 36 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the year 1924 for the purpose of investigating and to report their recommendations as to the purchase of land for additional fire house sites. This Committee reported as follows: This Committee visited the different Villages of the Town and found South Chelmsford and East Chelmsford satisfactory as far as fire house sites are concerned, West Chelmsford should have a suitable one when a suitable location can be found, this department now houses the apparatus in a private building which is satisfactory for the present. It seemed to the Committee that the North Village and the Centre Village are in need of immediate attention, the present fire house in the North Village is not located near enough to the center of the village for efficient results from a department made up of volunteers, nor its location satisfactory for quick action in protecting the village, we therefore recommend the purchase of a new site nearer the square.

The apparatus at the Centre Village is now housed in a public garage which is very satisfactory, but may not be available much longer, we were unable to secure a suitable site in the Centre Village and recommend that since the new grammar school is to be built that the present building be used as a fire house. There is an article in the Warrant relative to this which will come up later, this report was presented by Perley W. Kimball for the Committee who consist of Perley W. Kimball, M. Edward Riney and David Billson. The report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

Under Article 18.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2200.00 with which to purchase land owned by Walter Marinel on Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford to be used for a fire house site. A hand vote was taken and 102 voted in the affirmative and 100 voted in the negative.

Under Article 19.

Voted that a Committee consisting of Arnold C. Perham, John E. Hogan and Loren J. Ellinwood be and hereby are appointed to purchase the land under the vote taken under Article 18 of this meeting.

Under Article 36.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1000.00 for the purpose of improving the Fire Alarm System and extending the same.

Under Article 37.

Voted that the Town purchase an additional Chemical Truck for the Fire Dept. to be located at East Chelmsford and authorize the Board of Fire Engineers to turn in the present Chemical Truck belonging to the Town now located there, as part payment for such new truck, and that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$3250.00 with which to pay the balance of the purchase price.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 5, 1925**

Under Article 1.

On a motion made by John C. Monahan, that this article be left with the Board of Fire Engineers to report on at the next Annual Town Meeting, an amendment was made to the motion that the Engineers also study and report the needs of South Chelmsford and West Chelmsford Fire Departments, the amendment was carried and it was so voted.

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The Fire Alarm System in the Town has been greatly improved in the last year. In the Centre and Westland the necessary wiring has been completed for the future installation of more street alarm boxes. At the corner of Billerica and Wilson streets there has been a master box installed. In the West Village the men of the fire service are now installing a box (to be located in the square) and doing the necessary wiring to connect with the North Village system.

A new siren was purchased for District No. 4. This and one taken from the local fire house were installed at the school house.

In the East Village a Federal-Knight double tank chemical car was purchased, later a tank was taken from the Ford chemical car and installed on the new truck, making a three-tank chemical car, thus giving much better fire protection for District No. 4. The Board thinks that careful consideration should be given the Centre and West Villages regarding new fire house sites.



This is the 1925 Federal Knight double tank chemical car purchased for East Chelmsford Gilbert H. Perham is seen here circa 1935 after the truck had been transferred to the Forest Warden's department and modified with a portable pump behind the drivers seat and large hose reel.  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

Permits for fires in the open air are required between March 1st and Dec. 1st, and may be obtained from the District Chiefs in the various fire districts with the exception of District No. 1, where they must be obtained from Allan Adams. About 600 permits have been issued during the past year.

There have been 125 fires during the past year, located as follows: District No. 1, 65; No. 2, 16; No. 3, 1; No. 4, 19; No. 5, 24. The fires in Districts No. 1 and No. 5 have been caused largely by engine sparks, while the majority of the rest have been caused by careless smokers and by children.



There were several serious fires in the Ledge Hill section at North Chelmsford which caused an unusual expense to the Town. It will be necessary this year to replace a part of the forestry equipment. Several of the extinguishers are useless through hard usage and others are in such a condition that they are unsafe to use.

**Chief**

Arnold C. Perham

**Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Archibald Cooke

**Assistant Engineer**

David Billson

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Archibald Cooke

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Archibald Cooke

David Billson

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Allan Adams

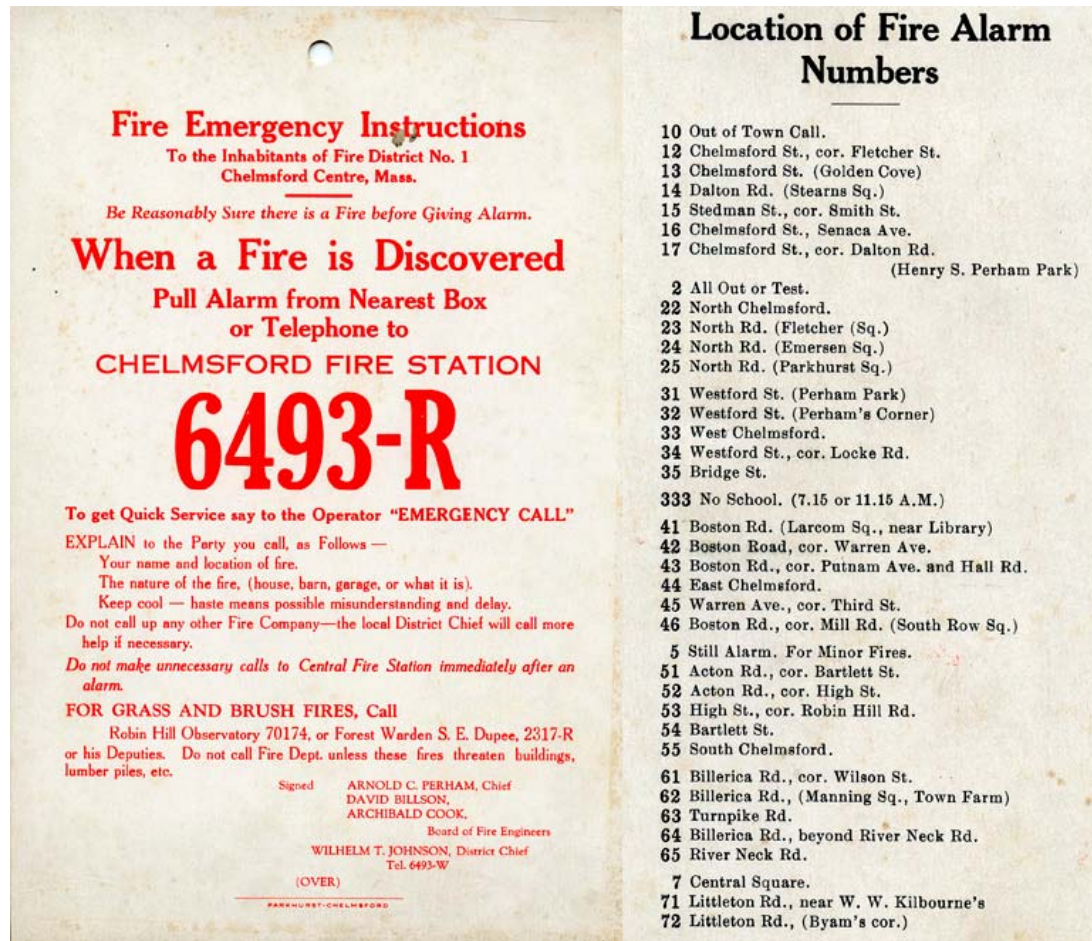
Ray Sargent

Fred L. Fletcher

Walter Merrill

Fred Merrill

**1926**



The Board of Fire Engineers published a Fire Emergency Instruction card to be used when a fire is discovered (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Annual Town Meeting February 8, 1926**

Under Article 21.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum \$1,000.00 for the purpose of improving and extending the Fire Alarm System, the money to be expended under the direction of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 22.

It was voted to appoint a Committee to investigate and report at the next annual Town Meeting as to the advisability of

obtaining a fire house site at the West Village, the Committee to be appointed by the Moderator, the Moderator appointed as this Committee David Billson, Elmer Trull and Edwin Stearns.

Under Article 23.

The Committee appointed at the Special Town Meeting May 5, 1925 to investigate the need of better fire protection in the Centre, South and West Villages, particularly with reference to the pumper report as follows:

- In the Centre we recommend that a site be secured at once for the erection in the near future of a fire house large enough to properly accommodate the necessary fire apparatus, the fire alarm system and supplies.
- We recommend the gradual extension of the fire alarm system by the addition of a number of fire alarm boxes annually and also the installation of at least one auxiliary alarm box in the high school and the new grade school for better protection of lives and property.
- We recommend the immediate purchase of a new motor pumper, or triple combination as it is called of not less than 500 gallons capacity rather than to install a pump of the present double combination which is over four years old and was not built to accommodate a pump. To install such a pump would cost three fifths the price of a new one and when complete would be of small capacity and questionable durability.
- A pumper located at the Centre would afford protection to much property outside of the hydrant area but near available water ways, this applies to the South Village to a great extent. Water can be pumped from Baptist Pond and the outlet brook River Meadow Brook and Beaver Brook there are 134 houses and 64 Barns besides many other buildings such as garages, hen houses, ice and greenhouses all within 1500 feet of the named water ways. The above property with contents has an estimated market or insurance value of about one half million dollars and is one quarter million dollars which of course does not include the exempt property such as furniture, hay and farm implements etc. or land.
- It was suggested to the Committee that a dry hydrant could be located in the square at the South Village and connected with the pond therefore we caused a survey to be made which showed the square to be 11 feet higher than the surface of the pond. We wish to extend our thanks to J. C. and W. T. Monahan, C. E., who made this survey for us without remuneration. There are many other places from which water could be pumped such as the Concord River, the Lowell hydrants at the Town Line on Gorham Street and Carlisle Street, numerous wells, cisterns and small brooks that contain water six months in a year.
- We find that the West Village can be effectively covered by the pumper at the North Village except where the distance of the fire from Stony Brook was too far to be reached by a small pump it would then be necessary to call for a larger one if we had it at the Centre. We suggest that a Committee be appointed to investigate relative to the need of a fire house site in the West Village.
- We especially recommend that property owners in sections not having an adequate water supply available for use by a pumper take steps where possible to provide a water hole or basin near their buildings. This could well be done by groups of owners of little expense to each.

ARNOLD C. PERHAM  
ARCHIBALD COOKE  
DAVID BILLSON  
Committee.

It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$7500.00 for the purchase of a triple combination motor pumper for the use of the Fire Department. The purchasing committee to be the Board of Fire Engineers, Arnold Perham, David Billson and Archibald Cooke.





1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine No. 1 at Chelmsford Centre  
 Driver Wilhelm Johnson, passenger Edward Dryden; standing: unknown, Leslie Reid, Gilbert Perham  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Under Article 24.

In regards to the selling of one piece of motor fire apparatus belonging to the Fire Department it was voted to dismiss this article.

#### Special Town Meeting June 9, 1926

UNDER ARTICLE 2.

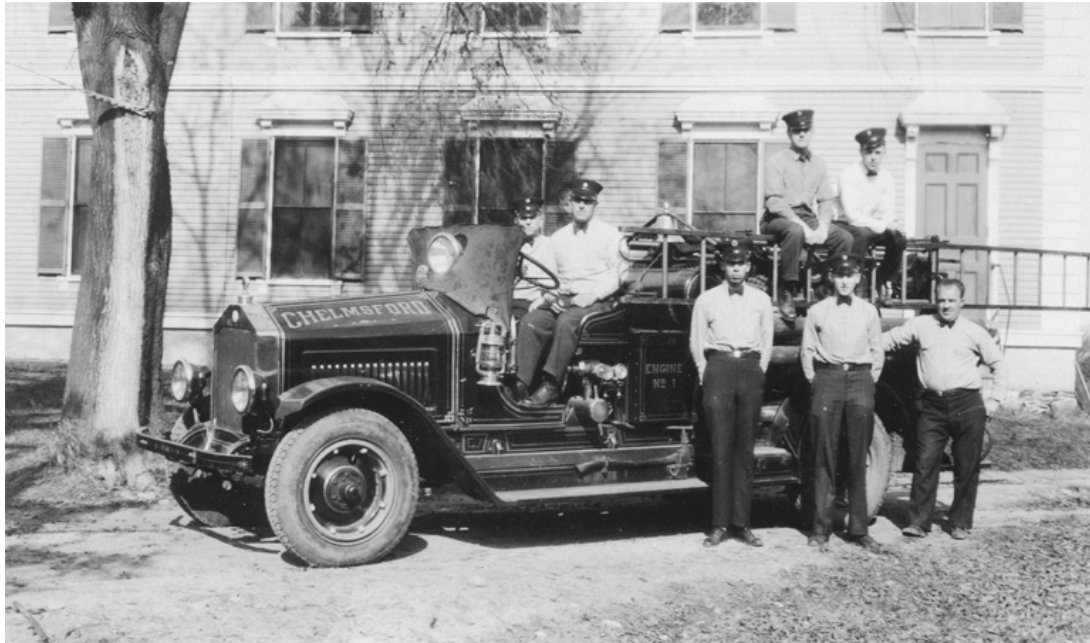
Voted to appropriate from money already in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of seventy-five dollars for the purpose of reimbursing Walter N. Marinel for 1925 taxes on land conveyed to the Town as a site for a fire house at No. Chelmsford.

UNDER ARTICLE 12.

Voted to appoint a committee of three, namely, Harry L. Shedd, Edward J. Robbins, and Bayard C. Dean to procure plans and specifications for a Fire House at No. Chelmsford and report at the next annual town meeting and that the sum of \$60.00 be appropriated from money already in the hands of the Treasurer for this purpose.

#### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

This year at the last Annual Town Meeting \$7,500.00 was appropriated for the purpose of purchasing one piece of Motor Fire Apparatus with this money your Board of Fire Engineers have purchased and installed in the Center Village a Maxim 500 gallon pumper which we think will be of great benefit for the protection of life and property and in the near future will help to reduce the fire insurance rates of the property owners in the Center Village.



1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine No. 1 at Chelmsford Centre  
 Driver Wilhelm Johnson, passenger Edward Dryden; standing: Gilbert Perham, Leslie Reid, and Winslow George  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The Alarm System of the Town has been greatly improved in the last year, for the Center Village and the Westlands two new alarms have been purchased and installed. The wiring on Dalton Road has been changed from temporary to stationary poles which will greatly improve the alarm system.

In the North Village two new Alarm Boxes have been purchased, one to be installed on the corner of the West Chelmsford and Groton Roads, and one to be installed on the corner of Dartmouth and Middlesex Streets, this work will be done in the course of a few weeks.

The Board of Selectmen and the School Committee have installed three auxiliary boxes one in the Town Hall and one in each of the Princeton Street School.

In the West Village there has been installed a whole new Gamewell System composed of the following, indicator, control box, battery rack, nine batteries, about two miles of wire and five outside alarm boxes, which were installed in the following places, corner of School and Main Streets, one in front of the home of Frank Edwards on Main Street, one on Jordan Street, one in front of the George E. Quessey School, and one on the corner of Graniteville and School Streets, this system was made possible partly by public subscription of the Village.

During the year your department has responded to 64 calls for building and automobile fires within the Town limits, and 8 calls from adjoining towns, and 50 grass and brush fires within the town to assist the Forest Warden Department.

Both the Center and North Companies were sent to the Pollard fire in Lowell upon call of the Fire Chief for help.

The attention of all persons is called to the law forbidding vehicles being driven over fire hose and the parking or driving automobiles where they will hinder the firemen or the apparatus in reaching and extinguishing fires.

Careful consideration should be given the Center and North Villages regarding new fire stations.

- On February 11, 1924 a committee of three was appointed to investigate and report at the following town meeting relative to the purchase of a fire house site in the Center Village, the recommendation of the committee was that the Old Grammar School be used as a fire station, we the Board of Fire Engineers recommend that the money be raised or appropriated for this purpose.
- Last year in the North Village the Town purchased a fire house site located in Vinal Square, this year the Board recommends that a new station be erected on this site, the present fire house is not located near enough to the center of the village for efficient results or response to fires.

The State law requires that all threads, hose couplings and connections be standardized, this we have done according to law.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

In September the resignation of Allan Adams as Deputy Warden was accepted with regret as he has given very efficient service.

There have been 120 fires during the year, some of which due to, the very dry season, had been very difficult to extinguish. Permits for fires in the open air are required by state law between March 1st and Dec. 1st. Permits may be obtained in the various precincts as follows: Prec. 1, Ray E. Sargent; Prec. 2, Joseph Ryan; Prec. 3, Archie Cook; Prec. 4, Otto Grantz; Prec. 5, Sidney Dupee and Prec. 6, Robert Henderson.

<p><b>Chief</b> Arnold C. Perham</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer and Clerk</b> Archibald Cooke</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer</b> David Billson</p>	<p><b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Anthony B. Anderson No. 4 Otto Grantz No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee</p> <p><b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Arnold C. Perham Archibald Cooke David Billson</p>	<p><b>Forest Warden</b> Sidney E. Dupee</p> <p><b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Allan Adams Raymond Sargent Fred L. Fletcher Walter Merrill Fred Merrill</p>
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*1927*

**Annual Town Meeting February 14, 1927**

Under Article 34.

It was voted to accept the following report and place the same on file, as follows: At a Special Meeting held on Wednesday Evening, June 9th, 1926, under Article 12, a committee of three were appointed namely, Harry L. Shedd, Edward J. Robbins and Bayard C. Dean to procure plans and specifications for a fire house at North Chelmsford and report at the next Annual Town Meeting, your committee respectfully submits the following report: Your committee met at North Chelmsford on June 14, 1926, and organized as follows, Harry L. Shedd, chairman and Bayard C. Dean secretary. A tour of inspection of fire houses was made by the full committee and in addition to the committee Chief Ryan of North Chelmsford department. Several fire houses were viewed. Your committee decided that a fire house in Billerica Centre came the nearest to fulfilling the requirements at North Chelmsford. Several architects were invited to submit plans and specifications, but only one responded, Mr. Albert MacNaughton of Arlington, who furnished plans and specifications for the Billerica fire house. Your committee received bids from six different contractors. The bids ranged from \$24,875.00 for two story and \$21,400.00 for one story, without heat, to \$13,900.00 two story \$11,600.00 one story complete. You will note in Article No. 34 that an appropriation of \$19,000.00 is asked for. This was necessary because we did not have any official bids to go by, all we had was an estimate. Your committee recommended that an appropriation of \$15,000.00 if it is decided to build the two story house and \$12,500.00 if the one story house. The committee will leave plans and specifications in the hands of the Moderator so that any citizen who wishes may view them.

Signed,  
HARRY L. SHEDD,

EDWARD J. ROBBINS,  
BAYARD C. DEAN,  
Committee.

On a motion made by Mr. Shedd to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12, 500.00 for the purpose of building a new fire house at North Chelmsford the motion was defeated.

Under Article 35.

In regards to the appointment of a committee to build a fire station at North Chelmsford this Article became automatically dismissed.

Under Article 36.

In regards to remodeling the old grammar school on the North Road at the Centre for fire house purposes it was voted to dismiss this Article.

#### **Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

Your attention is called to the law requiring persons storing explosives (which includes gasoline) to obtain a permit from the Chief of the Department, after obtaining a license from the Selectmen

Careful consideration should be given the Center and North Villages regarding new fire stations, we recommend that suitable fire houses be constructed.

The alarm system has been greatly improved this year. In the Center Village alarm wire has been installed on Acton, High and Bartlett Sts. And we have installed three new alarm boxes, one at the corner of High and Acton Sts. one on Bartlett St. near corner of High St. and one at Fletcher Square. And one box in the Westlands at the junction of Chelmsford St. and Dalton Rd.

In the North Village we have re-placed about one mile of wire, and installed two new alarm boxes, one at the corner of Middlesex and Dartmouth Sts. and one at the corner of West Chelmsford and Groton Roads. In the West Village the battery system has been changed which will greatly improve the alarm system in that part of the Town.

We have made a change in the location of the apparatus at the North Village, it now being located at the garage of the District Chief in Vinal Square, (Percy Robinson) by so doing better service has resulted as well as a saving in maintenance costs.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

There have been 131 grass and brush fires in the town during the past year. The most serious fire occurred at North Chelmsford on April 16 and 17, when a large area was burned over.

<b>Chief</b> Arnold C. Perham	<b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Percy T. Robinson No. 3 Anthony B. Anderson No. 4 Otto Grantz No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee	<b>Forest Warden</b> Sidney E. Dupee
<b>First Assistant Engineer and Clerk</b> Archibald Cooke	<b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Arnold C. Perham Archibald Cooke Samuel S. Kershaw	<b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Raymond Sargent Charles House Walter Merrill Fred Merrill
<b>Second Assistant Engineer</b> Samuel S. Kershaw		

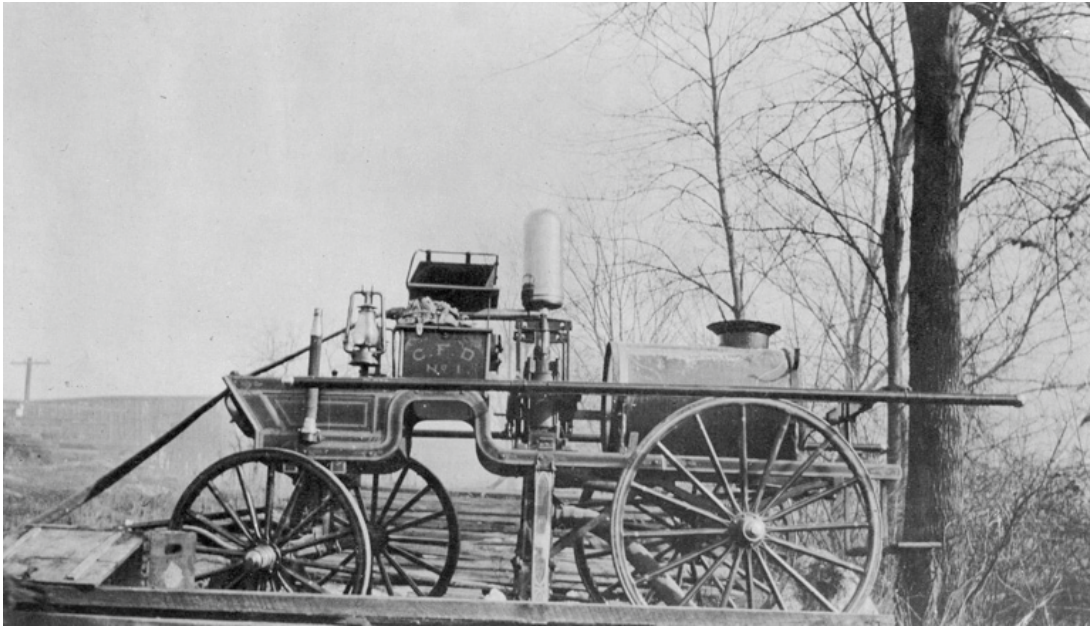
## *1928*

#### **Annual Town Meeting February 13, 1928**

Under Article 22.

On a motion made by Arnold C. Perham and amended by Representative Edward J Robbins, it was voted to dispose of the Howe Fire Engine to the Boy Scouts of Chelmsford by sale for fifty cents, and the use of same to be under the directions of the various troop masters in Town.





Howe Hand Tub Fire Engine No. 1, sold to the Boy Scouts of Chelmsford in 1928 for 50 cents  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### **Special Town Meeting June 6, 1928**

Under Article 10.

On a motion made by Selectmen George Rigby, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) for the purpose of purchasing fire hose for the Fire Department.

### **Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

During the year the Fire Department experienced a serious loss in the retirement from active service of its former chief, Arnold C. Perham. Mr. Perham has been associated with the department for over twenty years. The last seven of which he filled the position of Chief, and it has been largely due to his conscientious effort that the department has been brought to its present state of efficiency.

At the present time we have five organized volunteer departments with seven pieces of motorized apparatus, five major pieces, and an auxiliary truck, a forestry truck equipped with a twenty-five gallon chemical tank and ten two and one-half gallon extinguishers.

There is a total enrollment of 125 men, regular and call in the various departments. Each department is equipped with a fire alarm system, three of which register box numbers. We contemplate doing considerable work on the truck at North Chelmsford. We have had an expert from the American-LaFrance Co. make a thorough inspection of the pump and he has advised us that for a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars it can be put in perfect condition. We feel in the interest of economy that this should be done as the truck will be capable of several years more of efficient service.

Last year the Town appropriated the sum of One Thousand Dollars for the purchase of fire hose. There is still a considerable quantity of questionable strength and we are asking for sufficient funds to replace any remaining old hose which may prove unserviceable.

The question of insuring the men of the different fire departments has been previously mentioned and has received the hearty approval of the Finance Committee. This year we are asking for One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars to meet that item.

Under the present severe business depression it does not seem to be the proper time to launch out into any extensive improvements. At the same time we must not lose sight of the urgent need of permanent firehouses in the Center and North Villages.

### **Forest Warden's Report**

A noticeable feature this year has been the marked decrease in railroad fires, only 5 having been reported in the town during the year. The principle cause of fires this year have been careless smokers. In District 4 the fires have been largely of incendiary origin.

The Forestry truck has been overhauled and painted and the equipment inspected and repaired.

**Chief**

Archibald Cooke

**First Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Second Assistant Engineer**

Willis L. MacComb

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Percy T. Robinson

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Fred Baldwin

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Archibald Cooke

Sidney E. Dupee

Willis L. MacComb

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Charles A. House

Allan Adams

Ray E. Sargent

Walter Merrill

Fred Merrill

Robert Henderson

## 1929

**Annual Town Meeting February 11, 1929**

Under Article 24.

On a motion made by Archibald Cooke, it was voted to raise and appropriate for the purpose of indemnifying Edward Dryden for injuries received and loss of service received at the Wilson Fire on July 8, 1928, the sum of \$82.50.

Under Article 25.

On a motion made by Sidney E. Dupee, it was voted; To raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 for the purchasing of three fire alarm boxes from the Gamewell Fire Alarm Co. which are already installed at North Chelmsford. This sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Fire Engineers.

Under Article 26.

In regards to the grading the grounds at the East Chelmsford Fire House, it was voted to dismiss this article.

**Special Town Meeting March 20, 1929**

Under Article 4.

In regards to appropriating \$250.00 or some other sum for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the fire truck No. 4, on a motion made by J. C. Monahan, it was voted; To dismiss this article.

Under Article 5.

On a motion made by Sidney Dupee, it was voted; That the Moderator appoint a committee of five to investigate the advisability of purchasing a certain tract of land with the buildings thereon, from Loren J. Ellinwood, on the northerly side of Main Street in that part of Chelmsford called West Chelmsford, for the purpose of establishing a fire house, said committee to make its report at the next annual town meeting, the Moderator appointed the following committee, Archibald Cooke, Sidney Dupee, Willis MacComb, Herbert C. Sweetser and Roger W. Boyd. Mr. Sweetser declined to serve and the Moderator named James A. Grant in Mr. Sweetser's place.

**Special Town Meeting August 7, 1929**

Under Article 6.

A motion to dismiss this article was made by Robert W. Barris, under Mr. Barris motion it was voted not to dismiss this article. On a motion made by George Rigby it was voted; to sell the land with the buildings thereon situated on the Southerly side of Mt. Pleasant Street in that part of Chelmsford called North Chelmsford, formerly used to house fire apparatus, that said property shall be sold at public auction and by a duly licensed auctioneer. That the Board of Selectmen shall be authorized and empowered to execute and deliver in behalf of he Town a good and sufficient deed (Quitclaim) and that the sum of \$50.00 be appropriated to defray the expense of this sale.

**Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

We have adopted a policy of insuring the men while on actual fire duty and going to and returning from a fire, the insurance is with the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association, an organization sponsored by the Commonwealth, which pays \$2500 in case of death and proportionately for minor injuries, the cost is \$1.00 a year per man and we feel that the slight expense is more than justified by the possible benefit which may be derived and the protection afforded the Town.

We have had the American LaFrance pumper at the North Village painted and the pump reconditioned, taut we have been advised that it is rapidly approaching the limit of usefulness as a piece of major apparatus and we wish to call the attention of the voters to the fact that it will be necessary o replace it with a new pump in another year at the latest.

After much negotiation the Gamewell Fire Alarm Co. of Boston has released their claim on the Fire Alarm System at the North Village, so that now the Town has a clear title to the property.

A new alarm system has been installed at East Village which is giving very satisfactory results.

The firehouse at the Center has been painted and the roof re-shingled. The house at the South Village is in good condition, but extensive repairs will have to be made on the roof of the building at the East Village during the coming year.

We are asking for a special appropriation for fire hose this year, the appropriation made last year for this purpose was not sufficient to replace the amount broken and allowed nothing for building up a reserve to be used in an emergency, in many places outside the hydrant district it is necessary to pump for very long distances and old hose cannot stand the increased pressure. A sufficient supply of hose is about the most vital thing in maintaining an effective fire department and we feel that the need for this appropriation cannot be stressed too strongly.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

When we consider the exceptionally dry season we must consider the town very fortunate that no large fires have occurred. The good work of Observer C. R. Blood in locating and reporting fires has done much toward keeping down the fire damage. The better understanding and observance of the permit law has also been an important factor in achieving this limit.

#### **Chief**

Archibald Cooke

#### **First Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Sidney E. Dupee

#### **Second Assistant Engineer**

Willis L. MacComb

#### **District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Percy T. Robinson

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

#### **Board of Fire Engineers**

Archibald Cooke

Sidney E. Dupee

Willis L. MacComb

#### **Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

#### **Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Charles A. House

Allan Adams

Ray E. Sargent

Fred W. Merrill

Walter Merrill

Robert Henderson

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1930



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### Annual Town Meeting February 10, 1930

Under Article 18.

On a motion made by Sidney E. Dupee, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the purpose of purchasing fire hose for the Fire Department, this money to be spent under the supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 30.

Mr. Willis MacComb reported for the committee to investigate the subject matter of this article as follows: The committee appointed to investigate the advisability of purchasing Historical Hall for fire house purposes submit the following report: After considering the Fire Department needs at West Chelmsford and after making a thorough inspection of the building, we recommend that the Town purchase from Loren J. Ellinwood for the sum of \$2000.00 Historical Hall in West Chelmsford with land and contents for Fire Department purposes.

ARCHIBALD COOKE,  
SIDNEY E. DUPEE,  
J. A. GRANT,  
ROGER W. BOYD,  
WILLIS L. MacCOMB.

On a motion made by Willis L. MacComb, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars for the purpose of purchasing from Loren J. Ellinwood a tract of land containing about 5300 square feet of land more or less, with the buildings thereon, and the contents therein situated on the westerly side of Main Street in that part of Chelmsford called West Chelmsford, the said property to be used as a fire station. The transaction to be under the supervision of the Board of Engineers who shall have power and authority to accept a good and sufficient deed from the owner in behalf of the Town of Chelmsford.



Store of Marcus H. Winship, father-in-law of Loren J. Ellinwood, and later Historical Hall in West Chelmsford located at the corner of Joy and Main streets (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

### Special Town Meeting September 2, 1930

Under Article 1.

On a motion made by Archie Cooke, it was voted to transfer from the account entitled "Fund for the purchase of a highway truck" to the account entitled "Fund for the fire alarm system," six hundred dollars.

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers



The Center Fire House has been sheaved with plaster board; the Maxim truck was sent away to be repaired and the pump brought up to pumping capacity.

In the North Village a new Alarm System has been installed.

In the West Village the men of the Department have remodeled their Fire House and made it a credit to the Town. The firemen are worthy of a lot of credit for the amount of work which they have accomplished in the last few months.



West Chelmsford Fire Station, formerly Store then Historical Hall, at the corner of Joy and Main streets (1955 Newsweekly Tercentenary Edition)

The roof on the East Village Fire House has been repaired.

We have had a new siren installed in the South Village which will greatly improve the service in that part of the Town.

In the Westlands a new Gamewell Alarm Box has been installed and we feel that one or two more boxes would be a great benefit to that part of the Village.

The Board recommends that a new pumping engine be purchased of at least 500 gallon capacity this coming year for the North Village.

#### **Report of Forest Warden**

There have been 179 forest and grass fires reported in Town during the past year. In the majority of cases they have been extinguished before gaining much headway, thanks to the good work of Observer Blood in quickly locating and reporting them. The principal cause of fires has been careless smokers. Railroad fires have been the lowest for years, only six having been reported.

The most serious fires occurred at North Chelmsford in May where much property on the Dunstable Road was endangered and help was called from Westford and Lowell. Many serious fires would be prevented if the owners of land would burn the grass along the highways in the early spring.

There have been two changes in the State fire laws which are of interest to the Town. Permits are now required throughout the year except when the ground is covered with snow. The second law requires the towns to maintain a fire patrol on the highways during such periods of drought as the State Forester considers a fire hazard.

It will be necessary to replace the Forestry truck this year. The present truck is 10 years old and is so badly worn as to be unfit for forest fire work.

**Chief**

Archibald Cooke

**First Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

John W. Dixon

**Second Assistant Engineer**

Harry L. Shedd

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Percy T. Robinson

(May 1-Nov. 30)

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

(Dec. 1)

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Archibald Cooke

John W. Dixon

Harry L. Shedd

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Charles A. House

Allan Adams

Raymond E. Sargent

Fred W. Merrill

Walter H. Merrill

Robert Henderson

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## 1931

**Annual Town Meeting February 9, 1931**

Under Article 25.

On a motion made by Archibald Cooke it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five Hundred Dollars (7500.00) for the purpose of purchasing a triple combination fire pumper for the use of the fire department in the North Village, this money to be expended under the supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 40.

On a motion made by Archibald Cooke it was voted that the town vote to amend its by-laws by adding the following section. Section 13. "The Board of Fire Engineers may furnish on such occasions and to such extent as they deem advisable, the assistance of the Chelmsford fire department to another city, town, or fire district in extinguishing fire therein."

Under Article 43.

On a motion made by B. F. McGovern it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30.00 for the purpose of purchasing a fire alarm tapper for the Police Department.

**Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

The Department has been greatly strengthened by the addition of a new pumper located at the North village, the pumper formerly at the latter place being transferred to the West Village.



Engine 2, a 1921 Brockway 250 g.p.m. Pumper, was fitted with pneumatic tires and re-designated as Engine 3 at West as seen above, when a new Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper was purchased as Engine 2 for North Chelmsford in 1931  
Note the chain drive in front of the rear wheel (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The light Ford Chemical Truck has been stationed at the South Village while the heavy Brockway hose truck has been brought to the Centre where, with its reserve supply of hose, it can be quickly dispatched to any part of the town as needed.

The large portable chemical tank has been demounted from its wheels and installed on the truck at the East Village adding greatly to the efficiency of this truck.

The Board feels with this arrangement of equipment the Department is better able to cope with any ordinary situation that may arise within the town.

During the late summer several pumping tests were held, among the most noteworthy being:

1. At West Chelmsford with two pumpers taking water out of the Stony Brook at the railroad crossing.
2. At the Groton Road with three pumpers taking water out of Crystal Lake.
3. At South Chelmsford with three pumpers taking water out of Hart Pond.

These tests proved that property located as far away as a mile from the source of water supply could be adequately protected. The tests were attended by officials from neighboring departments including Lowell, who were most generous in their praise of these worthwhile efforts. We would take this opportunity of publicly thanking Chief Joseph D. Ryan, of District No. 2, by whose skillful planning these tests were made possible and to also include the other District Chiefs and the men who served under them and by their earnest enthusiasm made them a success.

There is still a considerable amount of farm property located where there is an inadequate supply of water and where the large pumpers cannot be made available. If a portable pump could be purchased and mounted on a light truck with a supply of 1-inch or 1 1/4-inch hose, and utilizing adjacent wells or small brooks, much of this class of property would receive better protection than it is now possible to give. We strongly recommend this addition to our present equipment at the earliest moment financial arrangements will permit.

#### **Forest Warden - no report**

##### **Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

##### **Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

##### **District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

##### **Forest Warden**

Raymond E. Sargent



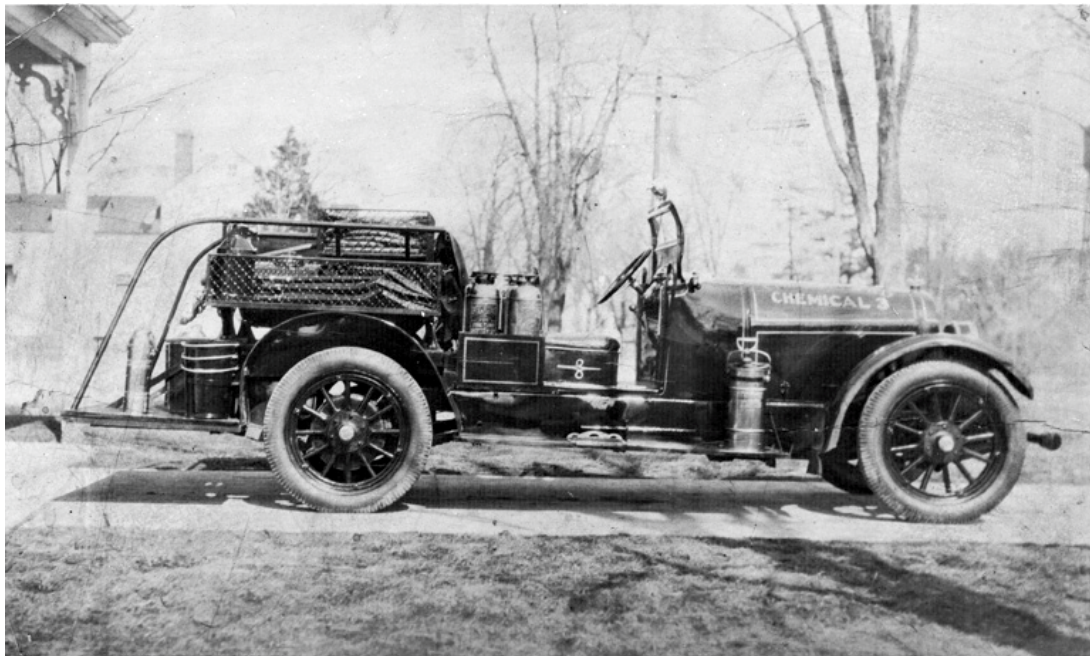
**Assistant Chief**  
John W. Dixon

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Archibald Cooke  
John M. Kemp  
John W. Dixon

## 1932

### Report of Fire Engineers

One of the outstanding achievements of the year was the building and equipping of a completely furnished chemical truck by the members of the West Chelmsford Company under the direction of Chief Norman Edwards and Captain Elmer Trull. This piece of apparatus which possesses many new and novel features, was viewed by a number of fire chiefs and insurance men who pronounced it a finished product, one of the chiefs from Lowell stating that in his opinion a similar truck would cost at least \$3000 if bought in the open market. It was presented to the town without cost and up to date has over 100 hours of service to its credit.



Chandler automobile converted to Chemical Truck 3 by the men of West Chelmsford and presented to the town in 1932  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Telephones have been installed with men detailed in watches to answer any call day or night so that any citizen possessing a telephone is a potential fire alarm station. This means of giving a quick alarm together with the prompt response of the Department has resulted in a number of instances in preventing a serious fire loss.

Through the co-operation of District Chief Quinn, a quantity of filling was secured and the grounds around the fire house at East Chelmsford graded without cost to the town.

We would reiterate the need of a portable pump mounted on a light truck for use in sections where the water supply is inadequate for the large pumps. We have felt that the town's finances under present conditions do not warrant our asking for it at the moment but when the depression passes, we hope to obtain authority for the purchase of this much-needed apparatus at the earliest moment possible.

### Report of Forest Warden

The principle cause of most fires has been from careless smokers. The throwing of lighted smoking material from automobiles is our worst hazard at this time. There is a law now in force which prohibits the throwing of lighted smoking material from any vehicle on a public or private way.

The most serious fire this year was in April on the land of The Crystal Lake Realty Corp., where more than 100 acres were burned. This fire started from the roadside, and but for the splendid work of the Chelmsford Fire Department, many buildings would have been destroyed.



At this time I wish to thank the citizens of Chelmsford for their co-operation with the forest warden in taking care of their fires in the open air.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Raymond McMasters

Allan Adams

Jessie B. Gill

Charles A. House

Walter H. Merrill

Fred W. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Robert Henderson

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## 1933

**Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

Norman Edwards of District No. 3 was obliged to resign as of October 1 by reason of his moving out of town and the Board appointed Elmer Trull as District Chief in his place. We believe that Mr. Edwards' separation from the service is a distinct loss both to the town and the Department. Mr. Trull has been connected with the Department since its inception and his long and faithful service gives evidence that he will make an exceptionally efficient executive.

In order to afford the South Village adequate protection, it will be necessary to at once replace worn out apparatus and equipment with new. The present facilities have been repeatedly repaired but now it is imperative for the safety of the persons and property of our citizens as well as in the interests of economy that we secure new apparatus.

Three fires of major proportions in Lowell received substantial help from our Department which was gratefully acknowledged by the Mayor and City Council. In the serious fire at the Marist Brothers' School at Tyngsboro, the prompt and efficient response of the Company at the North Village was undoubtedly the means of preventing the total destruction of that building.

We regret to note the passing of Observer Blood who has been of inestimable help to this Department and whose place it will be difficult to fill.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

The equipment of this department at the beginning of 1933 was in a very poor condition. Many hand extinguishers were entirely worn out and had to be replaced; others were reconditioned and tested before they were fit for service.

During my inspection of extinguishers in outside districts, some sixty in number, I found many that had not been tested for four years, and were beyond all usefulness. These had to be replaced either by new or reconditioned ones; making an added expense to the town.

At the close of the past year all hand equipment was in excellent condition, but we are badly in need of a new truck and a portable fire pump. Our truck is badly worn and out of date. In order to give the best possible service we should have a better truck equipped with a portable pump for use in outside districts. This pump would also be valuable for building fires where the water supply is limited and large pumping engines are useless.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Raymond McMasters

Allan H. Adams

Walter H. Merrill

Fred W. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Jessie B. Gill

Theodore W. Emerson

Robert Henderson

## 1934

### Annual Town Meeting February 12, 1934

Under Article 18:

On a motion made by John C. Monahan, in regard to the purchase of an automobile for the Forest Fire Department, it was voted that this matter be laid over until the next Annual Town Meeting.

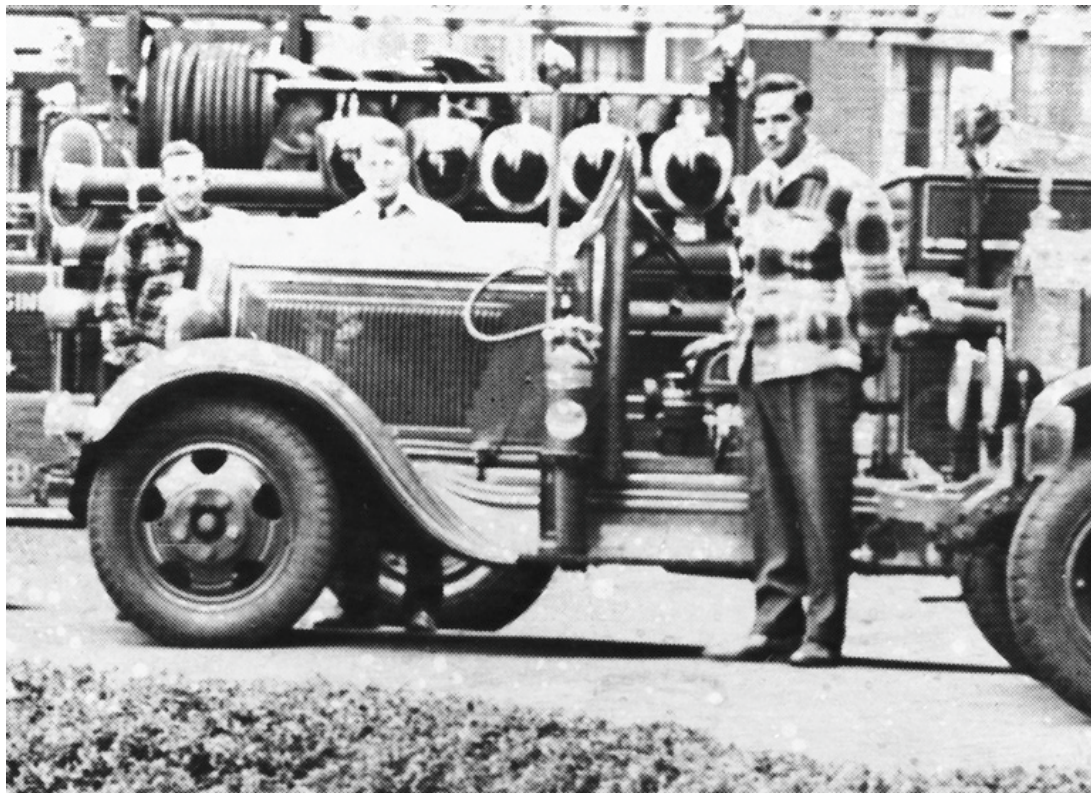
Under Article 38:

On a motion made by Harry L. Shedd, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Hundred Dollars for the purpose of purchasing an automobile truck and the equipment incident thereto for use in the Fire Department.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

Elmer Trull, Chief of District No. 3, resigned as of January 1, 1935, and the Board appointed in his place Walter Edwards. We regret to record this change, because Mr. Trull has been connected with the Department since its inception, and his zealous and faithful service has been of inestimable value to the town. Mr. Edwards, a brother of a former Chief, is fitted both by experience and ability to ably discharge the duties of his office, and will, we believe, make a splendid administrative officer.

We have installed at South Chelmsford a new pumping engine which will adequately take care of this part of the town for some time to come. One of the features of this truck is the booster tank, which runs the entire length of the body, contains 250 gallons of water ready for instant use, and which can be played on a fire for 45 minutes without being renewed. This pumper has been characterized as one of the best of its kind in the state.



The 1934 Dodge Maxim Pumper Engine 5 as seen at a Fire Prevention Week display in 1952  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The old wooden floor in the fire house at South Chelmsford has been taken up and a permanent floor of concrete laid down.

With the generous assistance of the E. R. A. five water holes have been established at strategic position, and others are in contemplation. These reservoirs have at least a minimum capacity of 10,000 gallons even in the - dry season.

The East Chelmsford Water District is now nearing completion, and in order that the citizens of this community may have the full value of this work and obtain the lower rate of insurance it will be necessary for the town to install a 500-gallon pumper and 1000 feet of 2 1/2" double jacket hose.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

It is the wish of the State Forestry Department to have the Forest Warden or one of his deputies patrol the highways during the season when most forest fires occur ; this would enable the Forest Warden to prosecute violators and also extinguish many fires before they have burned over a large area, thereby lowering the cost to the town. Much credit is due State Observer Claude Welch for the very helpful assistance he has given at all times. His alertness in locating fires in the town has saved us a great deal.

The equipment of this department is in very good condition at the present time, with the exception of the truck which is entirely worn out and must be replaced if we are to continue our work with the same efficiency.

<b>Chief</b> Harry L. Shedd	<b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Elmer Trull No. 4 Henry G. Quinn No. 5 Arthur W. House	<b>Forest Fire Warden</b> Gilbert Perham
<b>Assistant Chief and Clerk</b> John M. Kemp	<b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Harry L. Shedd John M. Kemp John W. Dixon	<b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Wallace A. Greig Adam C. Zabierek Walter H. Merrill Fred W. Merrill Fred L. Fletcher Robert Henderson

## *1935*

#### **Annual Town Meeting March 11, 1935**

Under Article 19 On a motion made by Harry Shedd it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 00 for the purpose of purchasing a 500-gallon pumper, together with equipment and 1,000 feet of 2 1/2" hose for the Fire Department; on a motion made by Joseph D. Ryan it was voted that this money be expended by the Board of Fire Engineers.

#### **Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

We regret to record this change as Arthur W. House had been a member of the Department for many years, but we believe that Charles House, his son, will bring good results to this District by reason of his ability and experience, and expect good results from his administration of the company in this section of the town.

We have effected extensive repairs to the pumper stationed at West Chelmsford so that it is now almost as good as new.

In accordance with the mandate of the Town Meeting a new 500-gallon Pumper, equipped with 1,000 feet 2 1/2" double jacket hose, has been installed at the Centre. This piece of apparatus is modern in every respect, and at its tests exceeded the requirements of the underwriters. The pumper at the Centre was taken to East Chelmsford, and the truck stationed there turned over to the Forest Warden, so that the town now has one of the best equipped departments in the State for towns of similar size. This has resulted in lower insurance rates in East Chelmsford.





The 1935 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper Engine 1 is seen here as Antique Engine 4 in the 2010 July 4 Parade in Chelmsford Center  
 Its delivery to the Centre Fire Station as Engine 1 in 1935 started a rotation:  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. pumper, was re-designated as Engine 4 and transferred to East Chelmsford  
 The previous Engine 4, a 1921 Federal Knight 250 g.p.m. pumper was transferred to the Forest Fire Warden  
 (2010 photo by Fred Merriam)



The 1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper Engine No. 1, shown here pumping water from a lake  
 It became Engine 4 at East Chelmsford when the 1935 Maxim 500 arrived at the Centre  
 The people were not identified (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of Forest Warden

During the past year we were called to extinguish one hundred and thirty-five (135) forest and grass fires. About twelve hundred (1200) acres of land were burned over; most of this was scrub and grass land of no value. No buildings were damaged by these fires, although several were in direct danger at the time of our arrival.

On April 28, 1935, we were called to a fire on Ledge Road in what is known as Tar Paper Village. This fire started in the Town of Westford, burning some twenty (20) acres before crossing the line into Chelmsford. With a strong northwest wind and underbrush as dry as tinder this proved to be the most dangerous fire of the year. Several times it



was thought to be under control, but broke out again fanned by a strong wind and continued to Swain and Groton Roads, where, with the assistance of the Fire Department, we were able, to extinguish it without any loss of property. Seven hundred (700) acres were burned over by this fire, most of which was covered by scrub oak and a few small pine of no value. Lack of water made it necessary to pump from Crystal Lake to protect buildings situated on Groton and Swain Roads.

The cause of most fires was unknown, but many were thought to have been caused by careless persons throwing smoking material from automobiles. Several young culprits were apprehended for starting fires, but due to their tender age no court action was taken. It was deemed advisable to let their parents punish them. One case, after investigation, was turned over to the State Warden for disposition.

The equipment of this department is in good condition at the present time, and unless some unforeseen emergency occurs should be sufficient for several years. The Federal Knight truck, which was turned over to this department by the Fire Department, has proven very satisfactory and has paid for itself many times in service rendered.



The 1925 Federal Knight double tank chemical car transferred to the Forest Fire Warden's department in 1935  
 Gil Perham is standing at the rear and Deputy Forest Warden Herb Sturtevant is at the wheel circa 1936  
 Note the portable pump tucked in the space behind the front seat (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Chief**  
 Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**  
 John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**  
 John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**  
 No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson  
 No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan  
 No. 3 Walter Edwards  
 No. 4 Henry G. Quinn  
 No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
 Harry L. Shedd  
 John M. Kemp  
 John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**  
 Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**  
 the five District Chiefs and:  
 Wallace A. Greig  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Fred W. Merrill  
 Walter H. Merrill  
 Adam Zabierek  
 Ernest C. Soulis  
 Robert Henderson

## 1936

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers

The Equipment has been kept in excellent condition and no major replacements or renewals have been needed this year.

Some repairs are necessary at the Fire Stations located at the East and South villages and arrangements are under way to have these accomplished through the agency of the W. P. A. the cost of material being paid for out of our current appropriation.

### Report of Forest Warden

Two tracts of valuable white pine were slightly damaged by fires, but our timely arrival prevented a greater loss. One roof fire was caused by sparks from a brush fire, but the damage was very small.

Most fires were of incendiary origin. People in general are very careful of permit fires, and few got beyond their control. Several small boys were apprehended for starting fires, but no court action was taken, due to their age. It was deemed advisable to use other methods of punishment.

All equipment, both in the care of deputies and in wooded areas outside the water districts, was carefully tested and necessary repairs made. The equipment at the present time is in good condition.

<p><b>Chief</b> Harry L. Shedd</p> <p><b>Assistant Chief and Clerk</b> John M. Kemp</p> <p><b>Assistant Chief</b> John W. Dixon</p>	<p><b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Walter Edwards No. 4 Henry G. Quinn No. 5 Charles House</p> <p><b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Harry L. Shedd John M. Kemp John W. Dixon</p>	<p><b>Forest Fire Warden</b> Gilbert H. Perham</p> <p><b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Herbert M. Sturtevant Herbert A. Sturtevant Adam Zabierek Wallace A. Greig Walter H. Merrill Fred W. Merrill Fred L. Fletcher Ernest C. Soulis Robert Henderson</p>
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## 1937

### Special Town Meeting October 7, 1937

Under article 4:

Regard the sum of \$500.00 for the purpose of installing a fire alarm system and tapper system at the Center Village on a motion made by Harry Shedd this motion was lost, and on a motion made by James A. Grant, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the purpose of re-installing the present fire alarm system.

Under article 5:

Regard to the selling of tanks, motors, whistle, etc., a part of the present fire alarm system at the centre village, it was voted to dismiss this article.

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers

The fire Houses at the East and South villages have had extensive needed repairs with the aid of W. P. A. labor and are in splendid condition. Water has been put in at the South Village and the Fire House now is equipped with running water.

In the collapse of a sand bank off the Mill Road in which three men were trapped the men of the Centre Company rendered valiant service.

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers

Two small building were burned by fires caused from sparks from incinerators. Several fires were of incendiary origin; others were caused by abandoned camp fires and careless discarded cigarettes.

Next year (1938) it will be necessary to have a permit to burn rubbish and debris in an incinerator. Each incinerator will be inspected by the Forest Warden before a permit is issued.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Walter Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Charles House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Herbert M. Sturtevant

Walter H. Merrill

Fred W. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Spencer W. Chamberlain

Adam C. Zabierek

Ernest C. Soulis (resigned)

Mark Norton (to fill vacancy)

Robert Henderson

---

## 1938

**Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

With the several minor changes the personnel have remained the same, thus giving us a well trained and loyal group, ready at all times to efficiently cope with any emergency that may arise. This was well proven during the hurricane last September, when, with fire alarm system gone and all telephones out of connection, our force by their untiring vigilance rendered a most valiant service to the town.

**Report of Forest Warden**

Several persons were warned against burning without a permit but no court action was taken as there were no second offenders. One person was required to pay the cost of extinguishing a fire as he had been warned about burning without a permit on previous occasions. Most citizens have cooperated with this department in observing the permit law and other laws pertaining to forest fire prevention.

The hurricane of September 21st left this Town with the most serious fire hazard that it has experienced in history. About two million (2,000,000) feet of pine timber were swept to the ground in this Town. This timber blocked all fire roads and lanes, cutting off any possible approach to extinguish a fire. Acres of ground were completely covered by pine timber and brush. The most serious fire hazard in the Town being on the shores of Heart Pond among the summer camps.



The 1938 Hurricane destroyed the 1918 Fire Tower on Robins Hill. This temporary tower was constructed until a new tower the same height as the older one could be built. Lester Ball is the observer (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Through the cooperation of the United States Forest Service, W. P. A. and other government agencies much of this fire hazard has been removed but many roads are still blocked and many acres of slash remain. We have cooperated with the United States Forest Service in locating fire roads and lanes where apparatus may find passage to combat any fire which may occur. I have personally supervised the removal and burning of slash for the W. P. A. where the hazard was greatest in order that the work could be carried on without delay.

This department is badly in need of a portable pump to meet the remaining fire hazard as it will be impossible to remove all slash and timber before the fire season begins. Hand equipment is useless in fighting forest fires where there is any amount of slash or pine tops. A portable pump would greatly reduce the labor costs to the Town, as fewer men would be required to extinguish fires. The State Division of Forestry recommended that all towns be equipped with a portable fire pump.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Walter Edwards

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:



**Assistant Chief**  
John W. Dixon

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn  
No. 5 Charles House

Herbert M. Sturtevant  
Walter H. Merrill  
Fred W. Merrill  
Fred L. Fletcher  
Spencer W. Chamberlain  
Adam C. Zabierek  
Mark Norton (resigned)  
George A. Parkhurst  
Robert Henderson

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Harry L. Shedd  
John M. Kemp  
John W. Dixon

## 1939

### Annual Town Meeting March 20, 1939

Under Article 27:

On a motion made by Gilbert Perham it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1200 for the purpose of purchasing a pump and hose to be used by the Forest Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen.

### Report of the W.P.A. for 1939

Beginning with January 1, 1939 the greatest number of the men were employed on the fire hazard project; which consisted of opening up fire lanes and roads that were blocked up by trees felled by the hurricane, that occurred on Sept. 21, 1938. Cutting up trees and burning slash in the residential areas to eliminate fire hazards to buildings. Cutting and removing trees that had fallen on dwellings. Cutting up fallen trees and burning brush on each side of roads. The total number of miles of roads cleared of wood and slash burned was 58, and the approximate number of acres of wood lots cleared and burned was 750.

The greatest number of men that were carried on the W.P.A. at any one time during the year 1939 was 171 and with the exception of about 40 men, the remaining 131 were on the Fire Hazard Project from January 1, 1939 to May 23, 1939, the date that the project was closed. This project entailed a great amount of work as it necessitated mailing out easements; granting permission to enter their property to do the required work.

### Board of Fire Engineers Report

We have purchased gas masks of the best grade obtainable as a needed measure of safety and protection to the men.

Thirty-three firemen from various sections of the Town have taken the course in first aid sponsored by the Lowell Chapter of the American Red Cross. They are now trained to render valuable assistance in an emergency.

New Tires have been placed on all the apparatus where needed and as far as possible. The fire alarm system has been inspected and kept in good working order, while four new boxes have been added in needed locations. Fire cards have been printed and distributed throughout the Town.

### Report of Forest Warden

About two hundred and fifty (250) acres of land were burned over; about half of this being forest lands that were swept by the hurricane of last year; the remainder being scrub and grass land of no merchantable value.

The problem of enforcing the permit law is increasing every year and requires a great deal of work on the part of this department. It is the desire of this department to have every citizen cooperate in enforcing the permit law.

During January and February I personally assisted the United States Forest Service in planning the removal of the many fire hazard areas left by the hurricane of September 21, 1938. Although all areas were not cleaned of brush and timber much was accomplished through the efforts of the Forest Service and W.P.A.

At the last annual meeting we received an appropriation for a portable pump, booster tank and hose to be used in extinguishing forest fires. This new equipment has proven its value and without it we would have had many more serious fires.

The Federal-Knight truck which has been in service fourteen years should be replaced, as it has reached the stage where it is impossible to keep it in satisfactory working condition.



Gilbert H. Perham in the 1925 Federal Knight Forest Service Truck circa 1935 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Walter Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Charles House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Herbert M. Sturtevant

Walter H. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Spencer W. Chamberlain

George A. Parkhurst

Lester W. Ball (Observer at fire tower)

Robert Henderson

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1940

### Fire Engineers' Report

These men have now served a period of years, and together with their ability have gained experience which makes them valuable servants of the town. There have been few changes in the roster, so that the organization of the Department is a smooth working machine with a personnel of loyal and efficient men, devoted to their work.

We have made repairs to the equipment whenever needed so that all the apparatus is in first-class condition and one of the oldest pumpers in a test far exceeded the requirements of the Board of Fire Underwriters. The Fire Alarm system has been thoroughly overhauled and the sending mechanism at both the North and Centre stations has been renewed and brought up to date. With the system of Telephones and extensions in each fire station, it makes every householder with a telephone a potential fire alarm box. As some one is delegated to answer the phones day or night, the Department is better equipped than ever to render a prompt response to every alarm. Several new boxes have been installed, and cards giving the box numbers and locations have been distributed in every district.

We have endeavored in every way to promulgate preventive measures, and this work is reflected in the fire losses being greatly reduced. The Department has answered 74 alarms of fire and responded to calls in neighboring towns with whom we have maintained friendly relations for mutual assistance.

We have rendered every assistance possible to the Fire Warden, and have helped to extinguish a number of grass and brush fires.

We have received hearty cooperation when needed from the other town departments, and especially the Police Department, which assistance we gratefully acknowledge.

### Forest Warden's Report

With the exception of February and December every month during 1940 had its regular quota of grass and wood fires, totaling 124 actual fires and over 20 investigations of calls made from the Tower. Over 60 of these fires were extinguished by your Forest Warden without any additional help.



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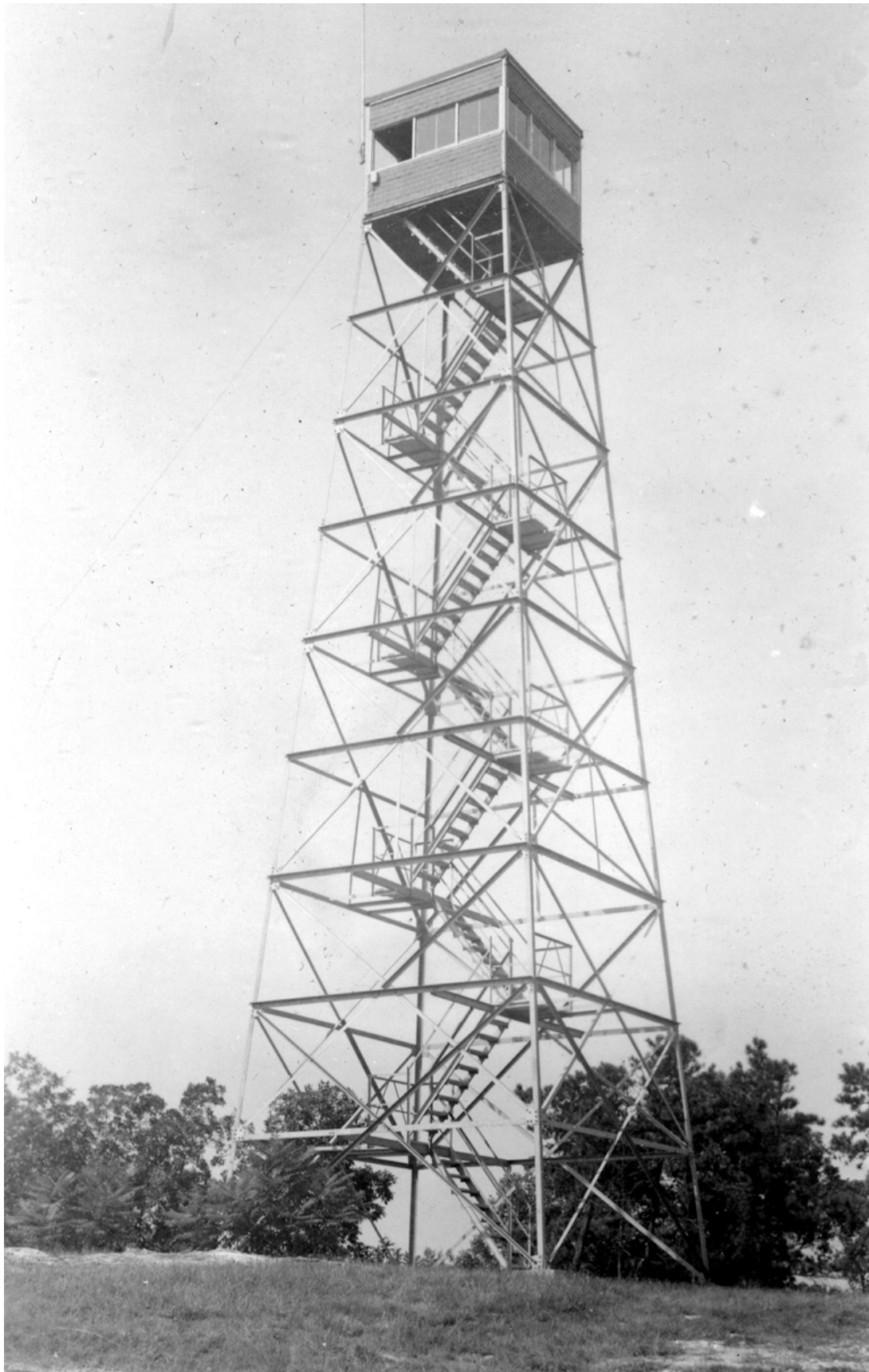
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Robins Hill Fire Tower reconstructed after the 1938 Hurricane (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Fires - The main causes of fires are three, viz.- carelessness, incinerators, and incendiarism.



Carelessness - Carelessness includes tossing cigarette and cigar butts etc from vehicles on our highways, placing incinerators (so called) in or near highly inflammable material, such as dry grass, brush piles or rubbish

Incinerators - These devices of many and varied types are the direct cause of many of our fires, and within the past few years several buildings have been damaged or destroyed by fires from this source. All types of incinerators, including open air fireplaces, must, in order to be used without obtaining a permit, be covered with a heavy wire screen of not greater than one quarter inch mesh, while in use. Wide mesh wire baskets are not permissible and require a permit. Many fires could be avoided in the course of a year if these devices were not used on windy days.

Incendiarism - Conclusive evidence has been obtained in regard to this class of fires, of which there are many in the town during the past year. Further details will probably be available in the near future.

Assistance at fires - Material assistance was rendered by the several fire departments in each of the different districts at various times. The state units also gave valuable aid at other times which is duly appreciated. The most threatening fire of the year occurred in October and except for the timely and efficient assistance rendered by Chief E. W. Bartlett and one of his trucks from Billerica we would undoubtedly have had the most serious as well as most costly fire of the year.

Care in regard to fires in 1941 - During the ensuing year the cooperation of every citizen is needed in order to keep fires at a minimum. The new rearmament program will and already is making an extreme shortage of help needed at fires. Several of our most experienced Tower operators including our own local operator, as well as local Deputy Wardens are now on this new work and will not be available this year.

Equipment - As is generally known our present forest truck owing to its extreme age and hard usage is in poor mechanical condition. It is not rugged enough to handle any more load which is needed in water capacity. The portable pump and engine purchased two years ago has been reconditioned this winter and is now in first class condition. Parts and labor for this work taken from money left from last years appropriation.

Appropriation Balance - There is a balance of appropriation returned to the town of \$27.44 and there was also returned to the town \$26.75 collected from various persons having illegal or unattended fires.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 W. T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Jos. D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Charles House

**Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John W. Dixon

John M. Kemp

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

## 1941

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1941

Under Article 10.

In regard to the purchase of equipment to improve the fire protection at the High School, on a motion made by Leslie Adams it was voted to dismiss this article.

### Special Town Meeting June 2, 1941

Under Article 3.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the use of the Forest Fire Department.

### Special Town Meeting December 12, 1941

Under Article 7.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) and to transfer from the account entitled "Retaining Wall Along Beaver Brook" the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) for the purpose of reimbursing Edwin Davis for his legal liability, while in the pursuance of his duties as a fireman, on a judgment procured against him in a Court of Law.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The roster has remained practically unchanged thus insuring Town of a department manned by a group of loyal and efficient firemen.

The equipment and the fire alarm by constant supervision have been kept in first class condition and ready for instant response whenever the demand is made for their use.

The department has responded to 86 alarms of fire in Town and a number of calls out of Town.

In the latter part of April when serious forest fires raged in our neighboring Towns we had at one time four companies hard at work. We received at the time from the State Fire Marshall, the Commissioner of Conservation and the Selectmen of the Towns, the highest praise for the services rendered.

We have rendered every assistance possible to the Forest Fire Warden, and have extinguished a number of grass and brush fires.

We are planning for and hope to have in operation some day a tower for the drying of hose which will add greatly to the life of the fire hose.

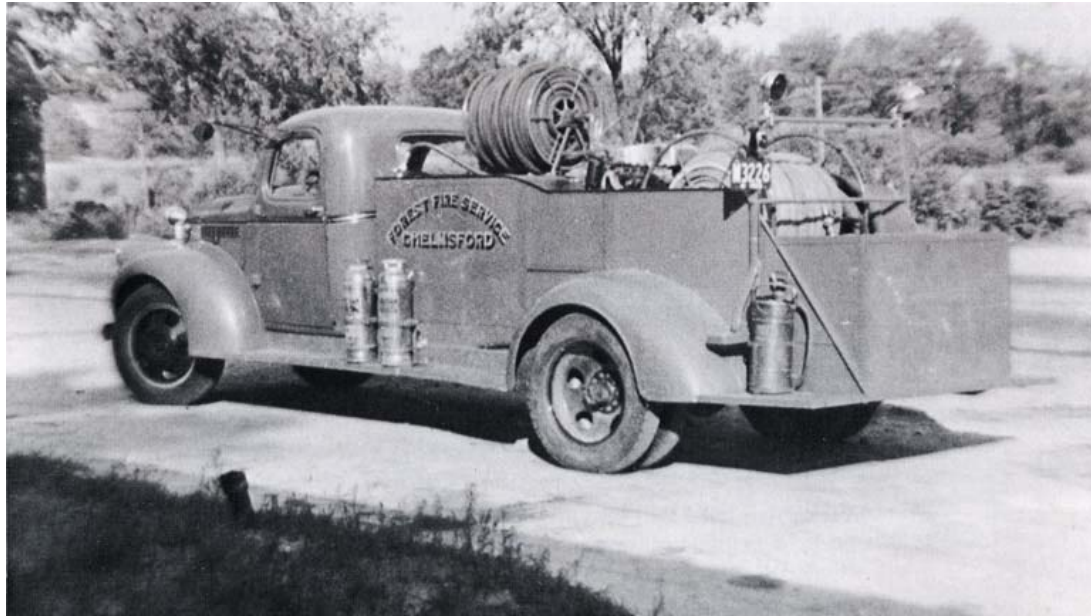
We regret having to record the resignation of Harry L. Shedd the Chairman of the Board and Chief of the Department for many years. During this time he has diligently and devotedly given his time and labor and due to his rare judgment and foresight has been responsible for the highly efficient condition of the Department at the present time. His loss will be keenly felt by his associates and the Town officers as well as all the men of the Department and in his administration he has set up a standard that has brought credit to the Town and honor to himself.

### Forest Warden's Report

The year just passed produced the most unusual and dangerous fire conditions in our wooded areas, being very dry as well as very windy throughout, from the day of the first fire on March 6th until the last on December 23rd. Of the 173 fires occurring during the year, all with the exception of a very few, were extinguished before covering any large acreage or causing much damage.

Chelmsford is very fortunate in having an observation tower located in the Town, by means of which fires are discovered and accurately located at their start.

The new truck purchased last year and put into operation in the summer, is an improvement over the old, being of greater water capacity as well as greater power, and works very nicely.



1941 Chevrolet Forest Fire Service Truck (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

As expected, a shortage of labor for handling fires developed early in the year, making necessary many calls for units of the Fire Dept. in order to obtain help enough to prevent fires from getting beyond control. For this year the outlook seems to be much worse in regard to help, because the men who were formally available, are for the most part, either in the Army or on defense work, including many former Deputy Wardens.

Two changes in the Fire Laws go into effect this year, first the fire permit law has been changed so that permits for fires will not be issued during the months of April and May. Second, a new law requiring patrols be established in the town on days of extreme fire danger goes into effect this year.

**Chief**  
Harry L. Shedd

**District Chiefs**  
Dist. 1 W. T. Johnson

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief**  
John W. Dixon

Dist. 2 Jos. D. Ryan  
Dist. 3 Walter Edwards  
Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn  
Dist. 5 Charles House

John W. Dixon  
John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**  
John M. Kemp

**Forest Warden**  
H. M. Sturtevant

## 1942

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

This year has been filled with many and unusual problems which have been the common lot of all connected with government. The Board have had their share and have tried to solve them for the best interests of the town and for the safety of the citizens and their property.

One of our chief problems has been the numerous changes in personnel all of whom have been trained men and their loss has been keenly felt. Among these were our chief at South Chelmsford, Charles House and the Captain at the Centre, Allan Kidder. Both these men have served the Department faithfully over a long period of time.

However this is our contribution to the defense of our Country and we are proud of our boys who have joined the armed forces to fight for freedom and righteousness. Their places have been filled with others whose zeal and earnestness promises that our efficiency will not be impaired.

We have cooperated with the Defense Committee in organizing a group of auxiliary firemen who will serve us well when the emergency comes.

The fuel oil situation with its rationing has necessitated the inspection of equipment and storage facilities in over 700 homes, the issuing of permits and the collection of \$364.50 in fees which sum has been turned over to the Town Treasurer.

In spite of priorities and difficulties in obtaining supplies and replacements we have succeeded in anticipating our needs so that apparatus, equipment and quarters are all in first class condition and ready to meet the test when the call may come.

We have maintained friendly relations with the Departments of surrounding cities and towns and they stand ready to furnish us with help whenever called. We in turn have rendered them service on several occasions including the City of Lowell, whose aid is and has been a most valuable asset.

We have worked closely with our Forest Fire Warden whose excellent work has coped with many brush fires and prevented extensive damage from this source.

### Forest Warden's Report

I shall devote the main part of my report this year to the immediate needs of this department, rather than the usual summary of last years activities.

I am introducing an article in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant this year to purchase a new pump and other necessary fittings, together with 500 feet of new 1 1/2 inch hose, which will cost approximately \$900.00 to be installed and become an integral part of the new truck purchased in 1941.

The main reasons for this are to make the truck one that can be quickly and easily put into operation by one man and to obtain a greater volume of water at higher pressure than is now possible. By this means the Town also obtains an extra piece of apparatus comparable to the large pumpers which will be available, in case of emergency anywhere in Town, should the main apparatus be in use.

In regard to the customary appropriation of \$900.00 for the operation and maintenance of the department; it is evident on analyzing the situation that it is and has been for several years an insufficient sum, owing to the fact that the fixed charges are now much greater than in previous years. Formerly of the \$900.00 appropriated about \$100.00 was in fixed charges, and now nearly \$600.00 is in form of fixed expense, due to increase in Forest Warden salary - cost of telephones - insurance; this leaves \$300.00 to attend all other, which includes, gasoline, oil, repairs, soda, acid and many other small items as well as including labor at fires.

Many times during any year, box alarms, are sent in, calling out the Fire Dept. for grass and woods fires and the cost of this is borne by this department. These alarms average between \$4 and \$5 per call, which will be greater this year owing to increased pay granted recently.

The amount asked for this year does not completely meet the needs of the department; The small equipment such as pump cans, extinguishers (chemical) brooms, etc, of which none have been purchased for many years, and that left of the old lot is in poor condition.

Briefly, in regard to last years fire season. The weather conditions were nearly more normal than for some years previously, rain occurring frequently, which cut the number of fires to 112. Forty of these were extinguished without any help by your Forest Warden and 10 others with one man. Thirty-seven were box alarms in various sections of the Town, of the remainder extra help up to 10 men was required.

This information is given in advance of the Town Meeting, in order that the Citizens of the Town may determine, whether or not, to increase the efficiency of the department. I sincerely hope that the Citizens of the Town will take favorable action on this article, at the annual meeting next March.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Charles House

(Enlisted in the military)

**Board of Fire Engineers**

John W. Dixon

John M. Kemp

Edward Hoyt

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

## 1943

### Annual Town Meeting March 8, 1943

Under Article 12:

On a motion made by Herbert M. Sturtevant, it was noted: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$900.00 for the purpose of purchasing new equipment for the Forest fire Department. The same to be expended under the direction of the Forest Warden.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The roster of the Department has been depleted this past year due to the drafting of the men for the Armed Services, there being at the present time eight regular men in the Service, two of whom are overseas. The men of the Department and the Board Join in wishing these men a safe return.

The equipment of the Department and the signal system have been kept in first class condition despite the extra demands made upon them by the test blackouts and air raids, as conducted during the past year. There is still a great amount of fire equipment that is not available due to restricted manufacture and general war conditions. The Board is pleased to announce, however, the purchase of a portable generator lighting outfit consisting of two 500-watt floodlights, a 250-watt spot light cable, fittings, etc. We believe this will fill a much needed want of the Department by supplying sufficient light at night fires or for any other emergency that may require its services.

We have rendered all assistance possible to the Forest Fire Warden, who has been seriously handicapped in the performance of his duties by the shortage of available man power.

The Department has responded to a total of 89 alarms during the year which are classified as follows: building fires-31; chimney fires-25; brush-12; automobile-7; oil burners-4; false alarms-4; electric light poles-2; tar kettle-1; out-of-town-1; drowning-1; and rescue of dog from well-1.

The Board has cooperated to its fullest extent with the committee named by the Board of Selectmen at the request of the Massachusetts Emergency Public Works Commission regarding post war planning for the Town of Chelmsford.

We regret having to record the resignation of John M. Kemp, Assistant Chief and Clerk for many years. During this time he has served the Town faithfully and his well-kept records are a credit to the Town and an honor to him.

We extend to the Police Department our appreciation for their assistance in summoning additional men and apparatus when needed by means of their two-way radio. Our appreciation is extended to all others who have assisted the Department in the performance of its duties.

### Forest Warden's Report

Although the fire season this year did not start until March 22, a large number of fires in grass and woodlands have occurred (176 to date with some reports outstanding), making a close approach to the peak year of 1939 when about 200 fires were extinguished.



As usual the spring months accounted for the larger proportion, owing to the extremely dry and windy conditions; another dry and windy period was experienced from July 1-20 when a number of bad fires were started, but the most unusual condition of the year is at the present writing.

A number of fires have started this month of December (38 calls to date) and dangerous fire hazards still exist. As many as four fires have been extinguished on some of these calls.

Attention is called to the extreme hazard in the coming spring months, owing to several unusual factors, such as the abnormal growth of last season and many acres of uncut hay, which will provide highly inflammable fuel at that time.

The lack of firemen is another factor to reckon with. The Forest Department is without any help most of the time, and the regular company's department has lost many trained firemen to the Draft and defense work. Therefore, it is very important to use great care when starting any fire anywhere outside and never to do so when there is any wind.

Anyone starting a fire, whether with or without a permit, whether in an incinerator, fireplace, or other device, is entirely responsible both for the cost of extinguishing such fire, if allowed to get beyond control, and any and all damage resulting there-from.

All fires in the open are banned by State law during the months of April and May. No permits may be issued and no fire can be legally kindled in this period.

Excellent cooperation and assistance has been rendered by both the Police and Fire companies of different districts of the Town this year. The Police radio has been especially useful in relaying information at the scene of several fires.

Considerable delay in obtaining delivery of the new Centrifugal pump, hose and other equipment, authorized at the last annual Town Meeting, was due partly to having to wait for priority ratings from Washington, and waiting our turn at the factory. However, the pump was finally received late in July, installed and put into service by September 1. In operation this pump exceeds any claims made as to its efficiency and is an excellent addition to the forest fire equipment. This makes a valuable addition to the Town Fire Department, as it will now be available for emergency apparatus at any fire.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief**

Theodore W. Reed

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Sidney Dupee

(Acting Chief)

**Board of Fire Engineers**

John W. Dixon

Theodore W. Reed

Edward Hoyt

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

**1944**

**Annual Town Meeting March 13, 1944**

Under Article 7:

On a motion made by John Dixon to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Hundred Dollars for the purpose of procuring plans and specifications for two proposed fire stations, one in the Centre and one in North Chelmsford, and that the procurement of said plans and specifications be under the direction, authority and supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers, this motion was defeated.

**Special Request by the Board of Fire Engineers**

Your Board of Fire Engineers consider the following paragraphs as important as anything printed in this Report and we ask you to please read them carefully.

A study of our Fire Department, and comparison with others in towns of like size, shows that our fire protection is inadequate. Changes in equipment and personnel are needed. They cannot be made all at once, but a start should be made this year, and continued until complete. To consider the problem intelligently certain basic facts must be understood. Briefly they are:

- Geographical set-up - 22.5 square miles to cover, divided into 5 villages. Each has its own signal system, men and truck to handle building fires. A separate unit, under the Forest Warden, handles brush fires for the whole town. It has no signal system other than the telephone.
- Water Supply - Adequate. Most but not all sections covered.
- Personnel - Inadequate. Only two permanent men. No 24 hour coverage. Can't control volunteers who average only 39 cents a week.

- Quarters - Inadequate and inefficient. Can't house men for 24 hour coverage. Rapid depreciation of equipment such as hose because of improper drying facilities. Rents paid are dead loss to town, almost \$800.00 a year. No central control.

We recommend the following changes listed in the order of their importance:

1. Two new fire houses, one in the North Village and one in the Center, with these as a start come:
  - Centralization of all equipment in modern plants with facilities for proper care, plus housing of personnel, plus room for expansion.
  - A large enough force of permanent men to insure 24 hour coverage by trained men.
  - A centralized signal system with one phone to a central dispatcher (now 5) for all calls, plus more alarm boxes as time goes on.
2. Extension of water to all sections within reason.
3. Replacement of obsolete trucks and home made equipment on a gradual basis.

Capital expenditures for buildings and heavy equipment can be handled on a long term basis without causing undue hardship. We have no desire to increase tax rates.

Our present set-up will remain inefficient and inadequate unless you the property owners and voters of the town are willing to cooperate with us your appointed engineers. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism, but offer the thought that we three men, having made a lengthy study of our department, and having compared it with others, as a group are bound to have more intimate knowledge of its needs than anyone else. That is what we are appointed for. We accept the responsibility however only so long as you the property owners and voters back us up.

A central control and signal system, in proper quarters, with a small well trained permanent force of men to steer our loyal volunteers, and man the trucks 24 hrs. a day is the answer to proper fire protection in Chelmsford. It also is probably the only thing that will allow us to continue the low rates of fire insurance we now enjoy. Which is better, higher insurance rates with the protection we now have, or the same or lower rates and a little higher tax but much better protection? The final cost is the same. It is for you to decide.

We have had inserted in the warrant a request for a sum of money to pay for plans for new fire houses, from which we can secure estimates to submit to you at a later date. This request should be granted.

### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The call for additional manpower for the armed services still continues to make itself felt in the department there being at the present time fourteen members of the Chelmsford Fire Department in the service of their country.

We regret having to record this year the deaths of two members of the department, Silas Gauthier of the North Company and Eugene Crockett of the East Company. These men have served the Town faithfully and our sympathy is extended to their families at this time.

The past year saw the Town once again being visited by a hurricane. The response of the men and auxiliary firemen to the emergency is to be commended, all of whom responded and remained on duty until morning without compensation. The alarm system was damaged considerably by falling trees and branches necessitating the replacing of many of the alarm wires both in North and Center.

The department has responded to a total of 61 alarms during the year which are classified as follows:- Building fires—25; Chimney fires—12; False alarm—6; Oil burners—5; Dumpfires—4; Brush fires—3 Automobile—3; Electric light wires—1; Accidental death—1; Drowning—1

The response to these alarms by districts was as follows

- District No 1 (Center) 36
- District No 2 (North) 17
- District No 3 (West) 4
- District No 4 (East) 5
- District No 5 (South) 3

Included in the response to alarms by districts are four calls for aid to their districts as follows:

- District No One - 1
- District No Two - 2
- District No Four - 1

### **Forest Warden's Report**

The year of 1944 was practically a continuous fire season with the exception of February when only one call for fire was registered. Of the 130 calls sent in the rest of the year, it was necessary to call assistance only 6 times, which proves that the Forest Truck with the new pump can control the greater number of fires with the minimum of help as indicated in my report of 1942.

In every instance when it was necessary to call for additional help, simultaneous fires occurred, which always creates a condition of confusion, which allows one or more fires to gain too much start to be handled by one or two men.

All through the summer dry season large fires occurred in adjacent towns, and the fact that Chelmsford was spared any major fires, is due in part, I am sure, to the excellent cooperation of the Citizens, by burning only when proper conditions exist.

In return for granting me an increase in salary at the last annual Town Meeting I have removed the charges formerly made for storage and maintenance of the apparatus and equipment.

<b>Chief</b> John W. Dixon	<b>District Chiefs</b> Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan Dist. 3 Walter Edwards Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn Dist. 5 Sidney Dupee (Acting Chief)	<b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> John W. Dixon Theodore W. Reed Edward Hoyt
<b>Assistant Chief</b> Theodore W. Reed		<b>Forest Warden</b> H. M. Sturtevant
<b>Assistant Chief and Clerk</b> Edward Hoyt		

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## 1945

### Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1945

UNDER ARTICLE 11.

On a motion made by John Dixon, it was voted to authorize the Moderator to appoint a committee of four persons to work with the Board of Fire Engineers for the purpose of obtaining complete plans, specifications, and costs of erecting two new fire stations, one in the Center and one in North Chelmsford; and raise and appropriate the sum of \$1400.00 to be expended by this Committee to procure said plans, specifications and costs, said Committee to make a full and complete report at a special Town Meeting to be called for that purpose. The Moderator appointed, John J. Monahan; William T. Picken; Harold A. Fraser and Theodore W. Emerson.

### Special Town Meeting December 4, 1945

UNDER ARTICLE 2.

On a motion made by John Dixon it was voted that the Town authorize a Board of Fire Engineers to accept in lieu of complete plans, specifications, and cost of erecting two new fire stations, which is contained under Article 11 in the Warrant of the last annual Town Meeting held on March 12, 1945, such plan as in the judgment of the Fire Engineers seems suitable to make a report at the next annual Town Meeting.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The roster of the Department has been strengthened by the return of several veterans from the armed services and the men of the Department and the Board welcome these men home again with their sincere thanks for a job well done.

The purchase of new equipment is still a problem. The return to prewar production of fire equipment has not been as rapid as was hoped for, however, a new alarm box was purchased and installed near the Highland Avenue School in the North District.

We regret having to announce the resignation of District Chief Wilhelm T. Johnson who for thirty two years has been a member of the Department. During this term of service he has served as District Chief for twenty-five years. This is indeed a record of civic duty that will be difficult to equal and the Board at this time wishes to thank Mr. Johnson for his faithful attendance and interest in his duties.

### Forest Warden's Report

The forest fire conditions prevailing during 1945 were less hazardous than in any previous year for some time, with the exception of the early part through April 20th during this period several fires were extinguished in various sections of the town, that could easily have developed into extensive and expensive events.

Of 107 calls for the apparatus for the year only 45 of these required extra help, the others being handled by your Warden.

Owing to the large numbers of incendiary fire in the Town in 1945 I think it advisable to include in this report a section of the Fire Laws, not generally known, which reads as follows:

Forest Trespass and Damage, etc.

G. L. o. 266-5. Setting Fire to Woodpile, etc. Whoever willfully and maliciously burns or otherwise destroys or injures a pile or parcel of wood, boards, timber or other lumber, or any fence, bars or gate, or a stack of grain, hay or other vegetable product, or any vegetable product severed from the soil and not stacked or any standing tree, grain, grass or other standing product of the soil, or the soil itself, of another, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars and imprisonment in jail for not more than one year.

At such times when necessary I have received excellent and prompt cooperation from all the various units of the Fire Department and the Police Department, also a few individuals who are always ready and able, day or night to assist in emergency, namely: Mr. Walter Edwards, Dist. Chief of West Chelmsford; Mr. Edward Hoyt, Asst. Engr. of Fire Dept and Dep. Warden George A. Parkhurst of the Centre.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**Assistant Chief**

Theodore W. Reed

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Sidney Dupee

(Acting Chief)

**Board of Fire Engineers**

John W. Dixon

Edward Hoyt

Theodore W. Reed

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

**1946**



Donkey Ball tournament fundraiser for the Fireman's Relief Fund circa 1946 held in back of the Billerica Road High School and McFarlin Junior High School (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Special Town Meeting September 9, 1946**

UNDER ARTICLE 1.

On a motion made by William T. Picken, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of constructing and equipping two fire houses, one in the Centre of the Town and one in North Chelmsford, Mr. Charles P. Wright moved that this article and motion be dismissed and a hand vote was taken. 202 voted to dismiss the article and 96 voted not to dismiss the article. The article was dismissed and Mr. John J. Buchanan moved that the report of the Committee appointed for the purpose of bringing in plans and report in regard to fire houses be accepted and that the Committee be discharged with a vote of thanks for the work performed.

**Board of Fire Engineers' Report**



In order that the townspeople may be better informed as to the age and type of fire equipment operating under the Board of Fire Engineers we submit the following information:

District	Make	Type	Capacity	Age
West	Brockway	Pumper	250 g.p.m.	26 years
West	Chandler	Brush fire		25 years
Center	Brockway	Hose wagon		23 years
East	Maxim	Pumper	500 g.p.m.	21 years
North	Maxim	Pumper	500 g.p.m.	15 years
South	Maxim	Pumper	250 g.p.m.	12 years
Center	Maxim	Pumper	500 g.p.m.	11 years

It would seem from a study of the above information that the time is coming, if not already here, when some money must be spent on new equipment. Such expenditures have a direct bearing on the tax rate and especially so if they are large in any one year. It is certainly much easier to set aside a nominal sum of money each year than to have to appropriate large amounts in any one year. This brings about the suggestion that a sinking fund be established in this town for the sole purpose of purchasing new equipment at definite times and the Board of Engineers recommends that some such procedure be adopted.

The Board of Engineers at this time regrets having to record the resignation of Theodore W. Reed. During his term of office he has served faithfully and has been at all times conscientious in the discharge of his duties as a member of the Board.

**Forest Warden's Report**

During 1946, 152 calls for fire were answered by the Forest Warden and 40 other fires were extinguished by various units of the Fire Department, making a total of nearly 200 fires altogether, which amounts to more than the usual average.

On account of a certain few mercenary minded persons in the town, it was necessary to maintain night patrols for one week in the Spring and again in the Fall. In spite of this added expense of the department about \$25 was returned to the Town.

This being my last report as Forest Warden I wish to thank those persons and Officials for services rendered at critical times. Last year and every previous year disastrous fires have been averted by the narrowest of margins in many instances.

I am retiring as Forest Warden with considerable satisfaction in knowing that during my eleven years connection with the Department no major fire has occurred.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**Assistant Chief**

Theodore W. Reed

**District Chiefs**

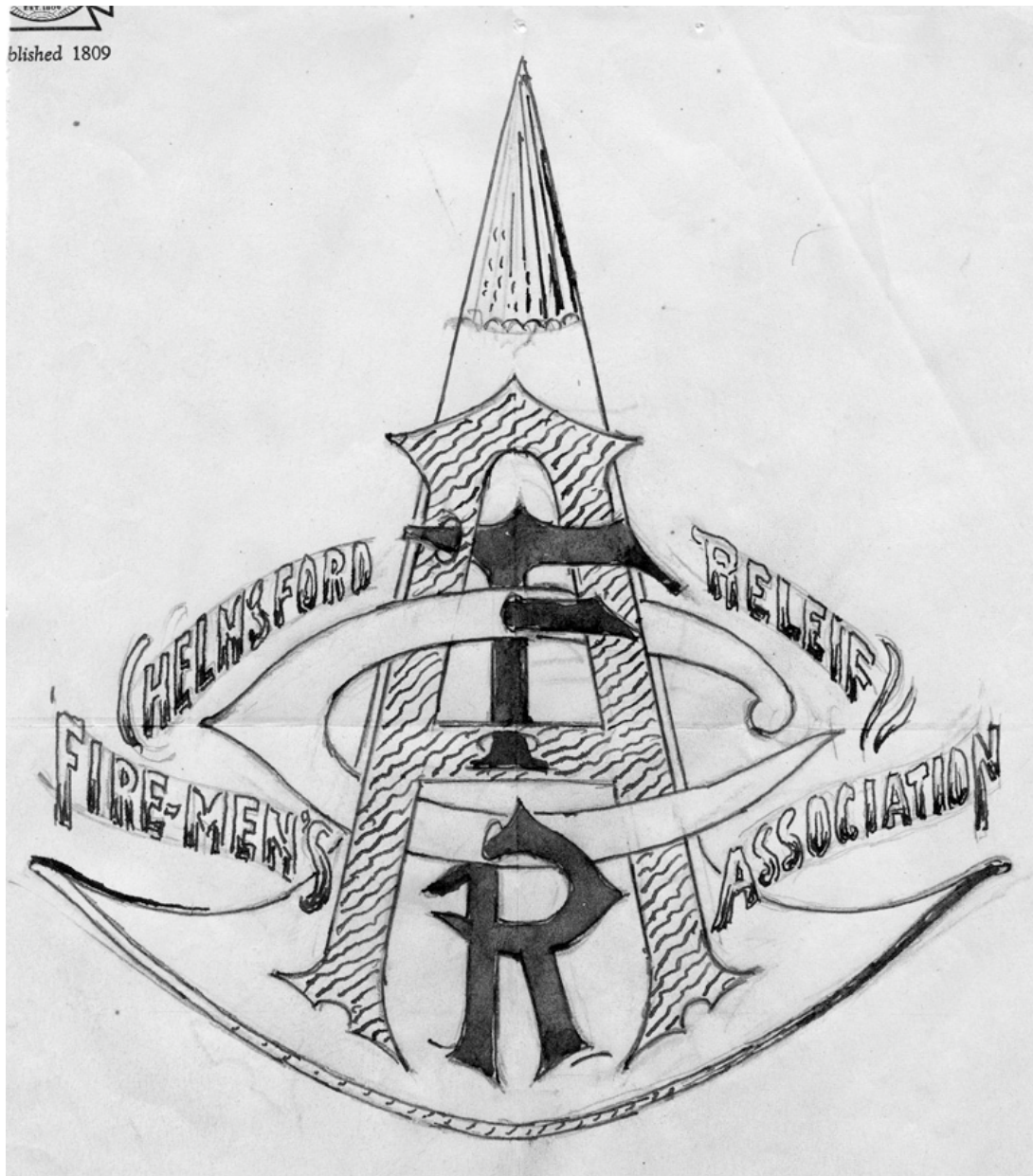
- Dist. 1 Allan Kidder
- Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan
- Dist. 3 Sidney Dupee
- Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn
- Dist. 5 Walter Edwards

**Board of Fire Engineers**

- John W. Dixon
- Edward Hoyt
- Theodore W. Reed

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant



Hand drawn Logo concept for the Chelmsford Firemen's Relief Association (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1947

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1947

#### UNDER ARTICLE 12.

On a motion made by John Dixon to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-five Hundred (\$6500) Dollars for the purchasing of a fire truck for the Fire Department a hand vote was taken. 214 voted NO. 145 Voted YES.

### Special Town Meeting June 30, 1947

#### UNDER ARTICLE 10.

After lengthy arguments both pro and con, a motion to dismiss this article by Mr. Fraser of the Finance Committee was lost, a motion made by Mr. Dixon of the Fire Engineers was lost. On a motion made by Alvin Snell, it was voted: To appropriate and transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Account the sum of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new motorized fire truck to be housed in the fire station at West Chelmsford.

### Special Town Meeting September 29, 1947

UNDER ARTICLE SEVEN: On motion made to accept Sections 42, 43 and 44 of Chapter 48 of the General Laws on a hand vote taken, 56 voted in the affirmative and 93 voted in the negative, the motion lost and the article dismissed. This article referred to the appointment of a Chief for the Fire Department.

### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The Board of Fire Engineers as now organized was appointed in October and consequently had control of the fire department only during the final three months of the year. During this time, the Board has delved deeply into ways and means of improving the department as a whole—primarily as regards centralization. At present, there are five distinct companies, each operating under a district chief. Each has its own telephone line, its own truck and equipment, such as it is. An alarm can be sounded in the Center, or any other district, without any other company being aware of the fact that there is a fire in the town or that the company of that particular district is out fighting a fire.

As the first step to overcome this unsatisfactory condition, we have conferred with the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company concerning a centralized telephone hook-up with a switchboard, connecting all companies. If funds are voted for this improvement, all fire calls will be made by calling one number; all fire calls will be handled through one central point; this central point will be aware of any fire in town and, through this central station, extra companies may be sent to the fire and other district chiefs may be made aware of the fire, so that at least one additional company may be held in readiness to "cover in" for the district where the fire is, should another alarm of fire be sounded.

As a temporary measure, to tide us over until this or a similar system can be installed, we have instructed all district chiefs to immediately call for assistance at any fire of any size, believing it to be far better to have too many companies at a fire than to have not enough.

We have purchased some much-needed equipment with the funds available this year, and hope to bring the equipment of each company up to a satisfactory level in 1948. We also are planning to spruce up the various fire stations owned by the town by painting the interiors and doors.

The Board decided not to ask for any new fire apparatus in 1948, but believed that, starting in 1949, replacement of present equipment will have to get under way. Most of the equipment is from 12 to 21 years old, and even though these trucks are not in daily use, they are far from satisfactory in view of the steady growth of the town and the increasing demands upon them.

We are asking in 1948 for funds to establish a call company in Precinct 6, the Westlands. This section is third largest in the town but it is without a fire company and must depend upon the Center. At present, if the Center company is at a fire and an alarm comes from the Westlands, help must be called from one of the more distant stations. If this appropriation is approved, arrangements will be made to have the spare truck at the Center respond, in such a case, and the Westlands company could man the truck and take over the task of fighting the fire. This situation might not arise once in a year—but it might arise often and could result in serious loss unless some provision such as this were made.

Centralization of the fire alarm systems is being studied at present, but it is impossible, in the short time this Board has been in existence, to secure all necessary data.

The Board reports with regret the retirement of Joseph G. Ryan as district chief in the North section after many years of faithful and conscientious service for the best interests of the town and the fire department. Succeeding him as district chief is Chandler Robinson, a member of the North company for several years.

### **Forest Warden's Report**

During the year 1947 there were 165 calls for Forest or grass fires. There were 1104 permits issued during the year but many of the calls were for fires started without any permit.

The Town received a refund in the amount of \$46.90 from the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad for a fire caused by a train - one of the worst fires in the spring.

The regular firemen responding to Forest Fire calls were paid at the same rate per hour as paid by the regular Fire Dept. —all others were paid \$.75 per hour instead of the usual \$.50.

During the year there were many fires of suspicious origin. Two offenders were apprehended and under questioning, admitted setting the fires. After being properly reprimanded were turned over to the custody of their parents.

In 1947 there were only two real bad fire conditions: April and October. The latter was the most hazardous time in years and during that time there was a constant patrol as well as extra help on duty during the day for a period of about ten days. The fine cooperation between the Board of Fire Engineers and the Forest Warden was shown during this time when the South Chelmsford Fire Truck was made available to the Forestry Department.

#### **Chief**

Walter Edwards

#### **Board of Fire Engineers**

Walter Edwards  
Gilbert Perham  
Samuel Parks  
Ralph Knight

#### **Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

**Assistant Chief**  
Gilbert Perham

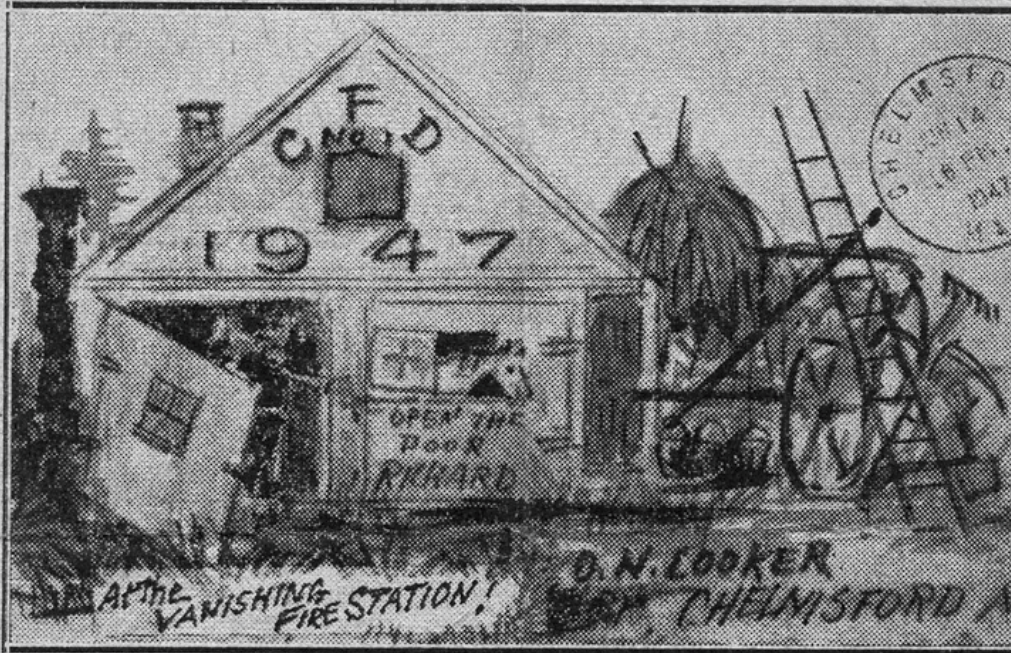
George Nold  
William Colmer  
C. D. Harrington

**Clerk**  
C. D. Harrington



Chelmsford Newsweek — Friday, June 27, 1947

## Six Verses To The Select'



(This cartoon was made by one of the old-timers of the town of Chelmsford and it was his conception of the Fire Department as it looked in his youth. He also wrote the verse which corresponds somewhatly to the drawing above in trying to show the movement of the times in Chelmsford):

“Backward, turn backward, Oh time in your flight.  
 Give us a hand-tub to fires fight!  
 From some old barnyard a crow-bait nag,  
 That like hell’s blazes the hand-tub will drag!  
 We have turned backward, with a loud squeak,  
 To the old fire-station, ten times as antique.  
 Cost quite a few smackers, to make it fit,  
 Even for O. F.’s to sit, smoke, and spit!  
 God! How it lacks the Old Fire Lads brave,  
 We can’t dig them up from ye “Fore Father’s” grave!  
 Compare us with other towns, that’s enough said,  
 F. D. in Chelmsford, By God, it looks dead.

Old-timer's conception of the Fire Department as it looked in his youth (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## *1948*

### **Special Town Meeting July 26, 1948**

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2.

It was voted to dismiss this article in regard to the purchase of a new Forest Fire Truck.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 8.

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 for the Fire Department for the purpose of paying labor incurred at Fires.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 13.

On a motion made by Chief of Police Ralph J. Hulslander to allow the Town to purchase uniforms for the Police and Firemen under Section 6-B of Chapter 40 of the General Laws - this motion was defeated and the article dismissed.

### **Special Town Meeting October 22, 1948**

#### UNDER ARTICLE 5.

On a motion made by Allan Kidder, it was voted to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency account the sum of \$325.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new portable pump for the Forest Fire Department.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 5.

On a motion made by Allan Kidder, it was voted to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency account the sum of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new pump for the Forest Fire Department.

### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

During the year just ended, the town has been fortunate in that it has suffered no severe losses by fire, and we must attribute this, in part at least, to the exercise of greater care by the residents of this community.

The fire department now numbers seven permanent employees working 48 hours a week, supplemented by volunteer companies in each of the Center, North, East, West and South districts. The Westlands now has a skeleton force of five volunteers to provide additional man-power in the event of a fire in that heavily-built residential section, but it is dependent upon the Center for fire apparatus.

Among the improvements accomplished during the year was the installation of a central telephone switchboard, which replaced the individually-listed telephones in the various districts and which provided for a central control of firefighting activities. At the same time, it gave the town residents only one telephone number to remember in the event of an emergency.

The alarm whistle at the Center was improved by the installation of a modern air compressor. Fire apparatus has been repaired and kept in as good condition as possible. However, with the exception of Engine 3, in West Chelmsford, which was delivered early this year, all of the apparatus is old, and some is antiquated. The town cannot much longer defer the replacement of the present apparatus at the Center and North stations, using these two trucks to replace those in the East and South stations. The truck in East has outlived its usefulness and repair charges are mounting annually.

The Center, Westlands and North sections have far outgrown the existing fire alarm circuits and steps will have to be taken during 1949 to extend and enlarge the circuits; to install at least 10 new fire alarm boxes and, if housing development continues at the present rate, much more elaborate systems will have to be installed to provide adequate protection. The engineers are planning to gradually bring the various alarm systems into one unit to increase protection of property in all sections.

The major extensions in the various water districts this year have increased the protection greatly, for the districts have co-operated by placing hydrants along all new mains.

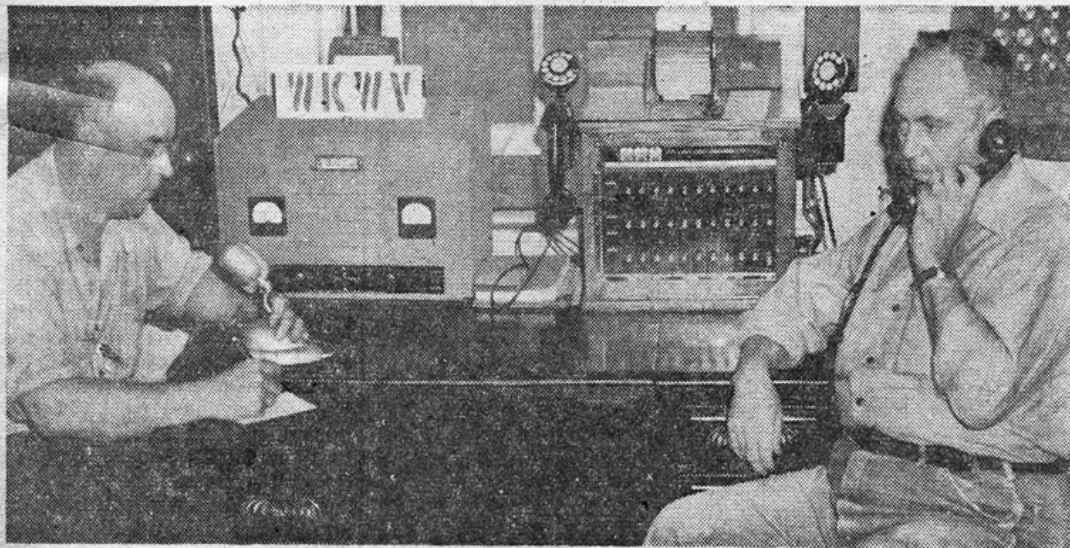
Further improvements in the department are being planned, but many of these cannot be completed until the town can see its way clear to provide moderately-priced and efficiently planned fire stations in the Center and North districts to house the type of apparatus and equipment needed to combat fires in these days when highly-inflammable oils and gasses are being generally used in dwellings for heating and cooking.

### **Forest Warden's Report**

The year 1948 turned out to be a very mild year in regard to forest and grass fires. The department answered 164 calls - one less than the previous year. There were 1624 permits issued for fires in the open; this being a greater number than the year previous. It is the wish of the Forest Warden that more people would become familiar with the laws governing fires in the open, for it is necessary to receive a permit for any fire in the open unless the ground is completely covered with snow.

A radio was voted for the department at the annual town meeting and this piece of equipment has helped to control fire loss and was instrumental in the department being able to refund a balance in the "Labor at Fires" appropriation.





**CHELMSFORD FIRE SWITCHBOARD**—District Chief Allan Kidder, left, is shown at the forest fire patrol radio while fireman Clarence Dane is receiving the first call over the newly installed fire department switchboard at the Center fire station.

Lowell Sun article July 15, 1948 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

On September 29, 1948, the pump used on the Forest Fire Truck became useless and had to be replaced. The portable pump, out of order for sometime, was also replaced at this time.



Forest Warden Allan Kidder (left) and District State Warden Arthur Halenborg inspect a new portable pump mounted on the rear of the 1941 Chevrolet Forest Fire Service Truck (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The department's equipment, excluding the truck, is in very good condition. There is more one and one-eighth Forestry hose needed as well as Booster hose. These items are being included in the 1949 budget.

It was necessary to call on the Fire Department for help this past year, but in return the services of the Forest Fire Truck and equipment are made available to the Fire Department at all times.

**Chief Engineer**  
Walter W. Edwards

**Deputy**  
Gilbert H. Perham

**Clerk**  
Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Walter W. Edwards  
Gilbert H. Perham  
Charles. D. Harrington  
Samuel A. Parks  
Ralph A. Knight  
George W. Nold  
William L. Colmer

**Forest Warden**  
Allan Kidder

## 1949

### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 1949

#### UNDER ARTICLE 21:

It was voted that the Moderator appoint a Committee of persons consisting of two taxpayers, two members of the Fire



Engineers and One Finance Committee Member, a Committee to study the needs and the advisability of purchasing a new fire truck to be housed at North Chelmsford and to bring in the cost of such apparatus and make complete report at the next annual town meeting. The Moderator appointed as this Committee. Harry Shedd, John Dusseault, Walter Edwards, Gilbert Perham and Arthur Nystrom.

**UNDER ARTICLE 23:**

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,680.00 for the purpose of purchasing gas masks for the Fire Department under Chapter 337 of the Acts of 1948.

**Special Town Meeting June 13, 1949**

**UNDER ARTICLE 4:**

On a motion made by Carl A. E. Peterson it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 111A of the General Laws as amended by the Acts of 1949, regarding the payment of vacation pay to the firemen and policemen employed by the Town.

**Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The year has been one of steady progress, thanks to the cooperation of the town government and the voters who approved our appropriation last March.

During the year, we have been able to make many major improvements to our buildings, including new boilers at both the East and South Chelmsford stations, to reroof the South station and repair the roof of the Center station, along with other repairs of minor nature.

We also have been able to do a great deal of work on the fire alarm systems in the North and Center areas, to improve the whistle in the Center and to provide fire alarm boxes for several schools which were without this protection.

Another improvement was the addition of 40-foot plus ladders for both the Center and North fire trucks. This is a major safety measure as it provides a means for the rescue of persons who might become trapped in any of the larger buildings in town. It is, of course, a poor substitute for a ladder truck or aerial ladder, but we realize that the cost of purchasing and operating either a ladder truck or aerial would too great for the town at present.



1949 Triple extension ladder demonstration at Town Hall, Lowell District Chief John F. Thomas and Chief Engineer Walter Edwards next to the ladder (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

For 1950 we are asking additional funds for fire alarm improvements, with the purpose in view of establishing' a moderate system that will provide full protection.

We also are asking again for funds to purchase a new piece of fire apparatus - a fire truck built for fire-fighting purposes and designed to last at least 20 years under the type of service it would provide in a town this size.

We sincerely hope that money will be appropriated this year for this purpose. Our present apparatus is getting old - in fact, some of it is too old for economical maintenance - and our repair bills are mounting and will continue to mount until the old apparatus is retired.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

With all the extreme hazardous conditions this area experienced in the year, 1949, our town was very fortunate in keeping the loss by fire at a minimum.

The Department answered 183 calls for Forest or Grass fires, an increase of 19 calls over the previous year. Of these fires, only one reached a size of major proportion, it being off Graniteville Road in West Chelmsford. This fire was definitely set. It was started deep in the woods and was so located that until it had gained much headway could not be spotted by either the Robin Hill Observer or by the land owner. There was a brisk wind the day it started. Added to that, the town's only Forest Fire Truck was out of order due to a breakdown the day before. Therefore we were depending on State aid at that time and also the use of Engine 3 of the Fire Dept.

In the past year 1870 permits for fires in the open were issued an increase of 246 permits over the previous year. It might be well to state at this time that a recent change in the General Laws now states that a permit must be secured from the Forest Fire Warden before any fire may be lighted in the open at any time.

A great deal of assistance was received by your town from the State Dept. of Conservation in the past year. It being in the form of a manned piece of Forest Fire Apparatus whenever our needs required.

The equipment on our truck was greatly improved by the addition of an extra booster reel and hose. Old hose needs replacing this year, along with other equipment that has worn beyond repair. Frequently breakdowns occurred in the Forest Fire Truck last year and more are contemplated this year.

**Chief Engineer**

Walter W. Edwards

**Deputy**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Clerk**

Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Walter W. Edwards

Gilbert H. Perham

Charles. D. Harrington

Samuel A. Parks

Ralph A. Knight

George W. Nold

William L. Colmer

**Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1950

### Annual Town Meeting March 13, 1950

UNDER ARTICLE 26.

On a motion made by Arthur Nystrom, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new piece of fire apparatus, the said purchase to be made by the Board of Fire Engineers and that the said purchase be financed in the following manner:

"Four thousand dollars to be raised by taxation in the year 1950 and the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen or a majority thereof be and hereby is authorized and empowered to borrow the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars at a rate of interest not to exceed 1% per annum, payable semi-annually and to issue notes of the Town of Chelmsford therefor in accordance with Chapter 44 of the General Laws so that the whole loan shall be paid in not more than five years from the date of issue of the first note, and further that the Board of Fire Engineers be and are hereby authorized to either retain or dispose of the present Town owned fire truck now located in the Fire House at East Chelmsford in any way that the said Fire Engineers deem best for the interest of the Town of Chelmsford." Three Hundred fifteen (315) voted in the affirmative and Two (2) voted in the negative.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The year saw many accomplishments and long strides being taken towards the eventual establishment of a closely coordinated department under a central head and with fire alarm systems being developed with the aim of tying all together in the near future.

During the year we completed repairs to the Center and North fire alarm systems and, because of the national emergency, put all remaining money into new wire in order to have supplies to carry on this work while the emergency exists. The near-hurricane ate into our funds considerably, for both the Center and North systems were quite badly damaged by the wind and falling tree limbs. We also completed renovation of the Center fire alarm whistle which now is working as it was originally intended to.

We also made many repairs to the buildings - repaired and repainted the West house, put a new floor in the Center house when termites riddled the old foundation, and made other general repairs.



Old Center Fire Station behind Town Hall in 1950, class of instruction with Lowell District Captain John Thomas  
From left to right: Foster Braga, ?, Don Smith, Bill Thayer, Billy Ayotte, Allan Kidder, George Waite, Ernest Byam, Walter Edwards, John Thomas (Lowell), ?, ?, Clarence Dane, ?, Johnny Hallberg, ?, Forest Philbrook, Jake Smith, Louie Bennett  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



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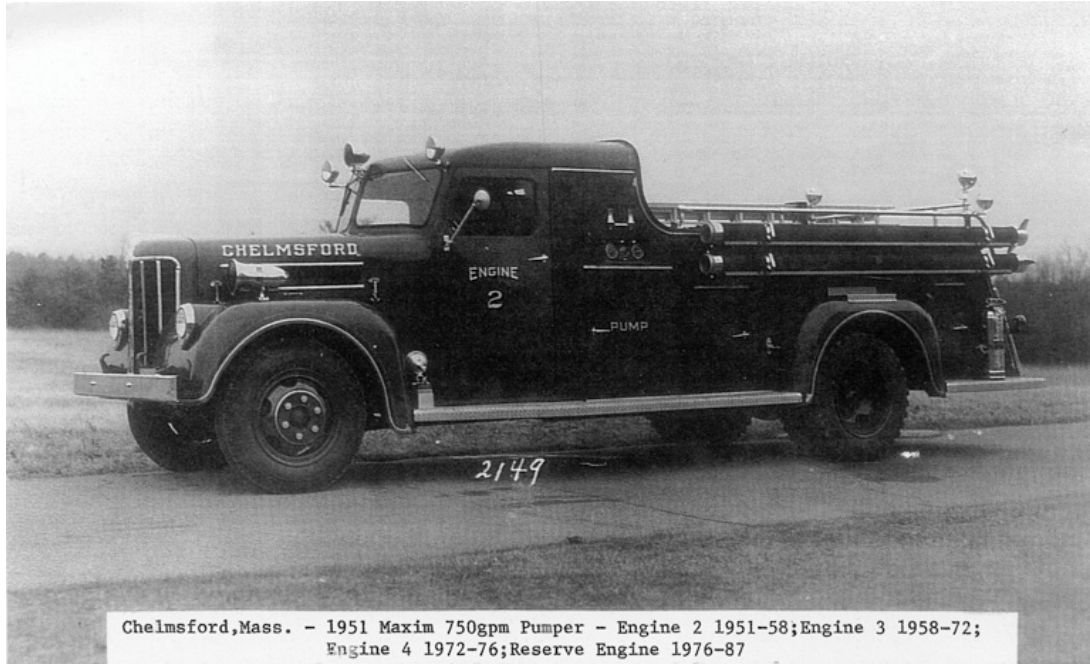
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The year also saw the town authorize a new fire truck for North, which was delivered on Jan. 6, 1951, and now is in service. This filled a long-felt want and gives us one heavy duty engine of modern manufacture.



Chelmsford, Mass. - 1951 Maxim 750gpm Pumper - Engine 2 1951-58; Engine 3 1958-72; Engine 4 1972-76; Reserve Engine 1976-87

Delivery of this 1951 Maxim closed cab 750 g.p.m. triple combination Pumper, Engine 2 started a rotation: The previous Engine 2, a 1931 Maxim Pumper, was re-designated Engine 4 and transferred to East Chelmsford  
The previous Engine 4, a 1926 Maxim Pumper, was re-designated as Reserve  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

With the co-operation of the townspeople, we plan many more developments this year of 1951, including a new fire station for the Center, the appointment of a full-time chief and the tying in of two thirds of the fire alarm systems, leaving the remaining third for the following year. We also plan to complete repairs and repaint the South fire station.

There may be questions raised as to the necessity for spending money on the outlying stations, but we believe that they are even more important today, in view of the national emergency, than ever before and we plan to maintain them to the best that our funds will permit.

#### Forest Warden's Report

The past year has shown a decrease in the forest fire loss for the town. There were no fires that reached the proportion of being classed a major fire. Though the records show twelve less fires than the previous year, we experienced some of the worst fire hazard days in the history of the town and state.

On the morning of May 7th, which was the worst fire hazard day of the year; your forest warden was alerted by the State Department of Conservation, through the medium of our short wave radio. As a result personnel were stationed with all apparatus in our town.

Six fires were extinguished without undue damage in our town as well as rendering aid to our neighboring towns of Westford, Tyngsboro and Billerica.

The building of new homes in areas heretofore uninhabited has added new hazards to the forest fire service. Statistics show the major cause of woodland and grass fires to be the disregard of proper burning ethics.

#### Board of Fire Engineers

Allan Kidder  
Gilbert H. Perham  
Charles. D. Harrington  
Samuel A. Parks  
William L. Colmer

#### Forest Warden

Allan Kidder

**1951**

Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1951

Under Article 34:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 for the purpose of purchasing a three-quarter ton pickup truck for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers.

#### Special Town Meeting October 22, 1951

Under Article 3:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$265.65 from the account known as "Purchase of a three-quarter ton pickup truck" and to transfer the sum of \$123.41 from the account known as "Repairing and Repainting of former Engine 2 prior to its usage as Engine 4 at East Chelmsford", and to transfer the sum of \$36.00 from the account known as "Purchase of a new Fire Truck", all accounts of the Fire Department, the total of these sums, \$425.06, to be transferred to the account known as "Labor at Fires" of the Fire Dept.

Under Article 4:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$45.00 from the account known as "Purchase of a new Fire Truck" to the account known as "Rental of North Section Quarters" of the Fire Department.

#### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

During 1951, the fire alarm systems of North Chelmsford and West Chelmsford were linked, and an extension was made from the Center station to the East station to permit sounding of alarms in East from the Center, where the telephone switchboard is located.

In 1952, we are hoping to tie in the South alarm siren with the Center in the same manner as East now is tied in, and this will complete the long line extensions until such time as a central fire alarm system is installed. All of these lines will serve as part of a central system at that time.

Through the co-operation of the Civil Defense organization, a combination fire alarm-air raid warning whistle was installed in North Chelmsford, giving that section an adequate, modern audible alarm system.

During 1951 we also inaugurated an emergency service, utilizing a three-quarter ton pickup truck for which money was voted at the annual town meeting. This truck is equipped with radio, with firefighting and with emergency equipment and already has proven its value on many occasions. It gives the department an all-round emergency outfit which can be used at highway accidents, drownings or other non-fire emergencies without cutting down the fire-protection service in any of the five districts.



1951 Studebaker Pickup Truck - Emergency No. 7 beside the old fire house located in back of Center Town Hall  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Also during 1951, the old Engine 4 at East Chelmsford was retired to reserve duty and was replaced with the former Engine 2 from North Chelmsford, after the latter had been repaired, repainted and modernized as much as possible. The reserve truck has been used on several occasions for non-fire work, such as pumping out Middlesex street in the area where lack of drainage resulted in minor floods after each heavy rain or thaw.

Great progress also has been made in welding the five districts into one unit with all working together for the common end — a better protection set-up for the entire town.

The town experienced two serious fires during 1951 — the Emerson barn fire and the Spurr home fire. At both of these fires the volunteer members of the department spent long hours with their companies and won the plaudits of spectators for their effective firefighting work. The members of the Board of Fire Engineers join in praising these men who give

up their time, their sleep and sometimes their days work, in order to help the handful of regular firemen in the protection of lives and property in town.



September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire putting out the embers (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



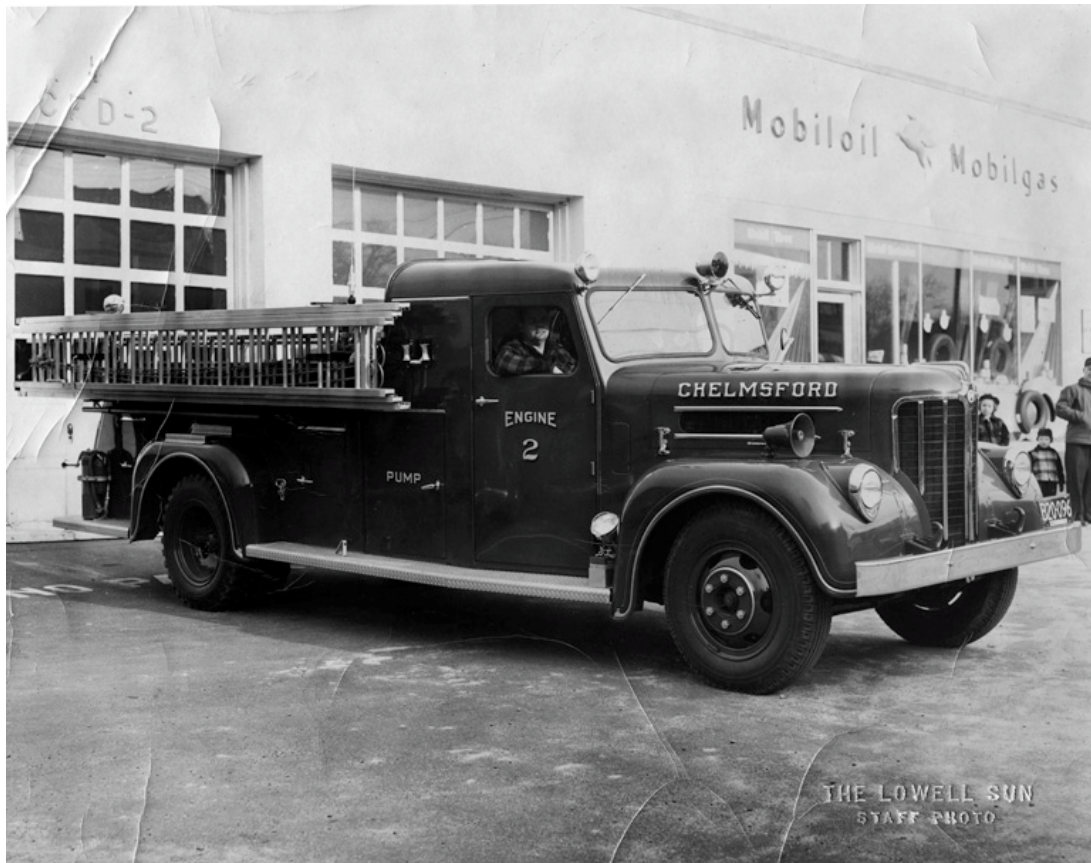


September 1951 Emerson rubble cleanup behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Fires at the two town dumps continued in 1951 to be a source of great expense to the department, and the Engineers ask that steps be taken this year to properly police these dumps, to provide hydrant service at the North dump and other measures be taken to reduce the drain on fire department finances now caused by dump and dump originated fires.

Under the mutual aid system, the Chelmsford fire department sent help to several towns in 1951 and called for and received help from Lowell, Tewksbury and Concord when it was needed.

Our big aim in 1952 is the construction of a simple fire station in the Center, to replace the antiquated, too small and poorly located shed now in use. As soon as the school department turns the Princeton street school buildings back to the town, we hope to secure one to be remodeled into a fire station for North Chelmsford, to provide town-owned housing for the apparatus there in place of the present rented housing.



The 1951 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 2, was housed in this rented garage in Vinal Square (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The grass and brush fire record for 1951 in our town is an enviable one. There were one hundred and twenty-three calls for the services of your Forest Warden against one hundred and seventy-one the previous year. I think this can be accounted for by the fact more people are becoming familiar with the laws regarding the securing of a permit before starting a fire in the open.

The only major fire we experienced occurred on May 2nd in the Groton Road section. The source of the fire was the public dump off Swain Road. Many homes were endangered and all fire fighting resources of this town as well as aid from Lowell, Tewksbury and Concord were brought into play before the fire was brought under control.

Over two thousand permits for fires in the open were issued fey the Forest Warden. In closing I will remind our citizens that the law states: "That a permit shall be received at all times from the Forest Warden before any fire is started in the out-of-doors."

**Chief Engineer**

Allan Kidder

**Assistant Chief Engineer**

William L. Colmer

**Clerk**

Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Allan Kidder

William L. Colmer

Gilbert H. Perham

Leo A. Williams

Charles. D. Harrington

**Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

**1952**

**Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1952**

Under Article 19:

In regard to the purchase of uniforms for Police and Firemen, it was voted to dismiss this article.

**Special Town Meeting July 21, 1952**

**UNDER ARTICLE 2.**

On a motion made by Allan Kidder, it was voted to instruct the Moderator to appoint a Committee to investigate the advisability of the use of the Princeton Street School Buildings for Fire Department purposes or other Town purposes. The Committee shall consist of a representative of the Fire Department, a representative of the Health Department and three other members. Said Committee to make a report at the next Annual Meeting.

**UNDER ARTICLE 4.**

On a motion made by Gilbert Perham, it was voted to accept the report of the Committee on Chelmsford Center Fire House Building, the report was read and is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

**UNDER ARTICLE 5.**

On a motion made by Arnold C. Perham, it was voted that the sum of \$80,000.00 be raised and appropriated for the purpose of drawing plans, supervising, constructing, and originally equipping a fire station in Chelmsford Center, on land now owned by the Town and located on the easterly side of North Road and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$20,000.00 be appropriated from available funds in the Treasury and that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen, be and hereby is authorized to borrow the sum of \$60,000.00 and to issue notes of the Town, therefor payable in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44 of the General Laws so that the whole loan shall be paid in not more than 20 years from the date of issue of the first note. 106 voted in the affirmative and no one voted in the negative.

**UNDER ARTICLE 6.**

On a motion made by Gilbert H. Perham (half brother of Arnold C. Perham), it was voted to appoint a Chelmsford Center Fire Station Building Committee to consist of the Board of Fire Engineers and Ulysses J. Lupien, George W. Marinel, and Arnold C. Perham, who are hereby authorized and empowered in behalf of the Town to proceed with the construction of a Fire House on land now located on the easterly side of the North Road now owned by the Town. Said Committee is authorized to procure plans, specifications, award contracts for construction, purchase equipment and furnishings and to do all things necessary to build, equip and furnish a Fire House on the aforesaid land.



1952 Emerson barns and the basement level of the Center Fire Station  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





1952 Installing steel for the the Center Fire Station engine bays and second floor  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





1952 Masons building the first floor of the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Masons building the second floor of the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Roofing materials for the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

Due to the co-operation of the townspeople in voting funds, the department was able to tie in the South district with the Center fire alarm system, and to repair and rebuild old Engine 4 for use as a reserve truck. At South Chelmsford station, toilet accommodations were provided for the first time.

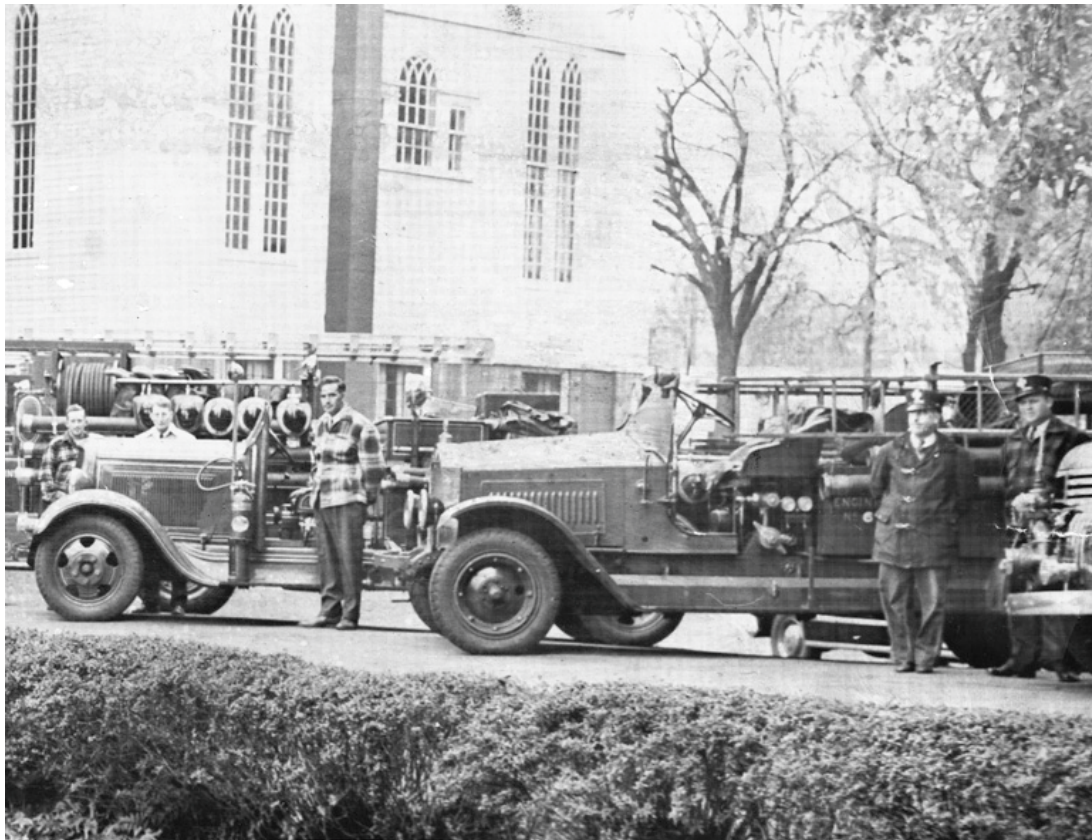
A considerable amount of new equipment for the men was purchased during the past year and this will be continued until the supply is adequate for the entire force.

During 1952 the members of the North company staged a drive for funds and purchased a resuscitator which now is available for use wherever needed, and the members of the East company repainted the interior of their station.





1952 Fire Prevention Week with Apparatus lined up on the Common next to the First Parish Church, from left to right:  
 (1). 1951 Studebaker pickup, Emergency 7 (2). 1935 Maxim Pumper, Engine 1 (3). 1951 Maxim Pumper, Engine 2  
 (4). 1947 Studebaker Pumper, Engine 3 (5). 1931 Maxim Pumper, Engine 4  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Fire Prevention Week with Apparatus lined up (continuation of above photo) from left to right:  
 (6). 1934 Dodge Maxim Pumper, Engine 5 (7). 1926 Maxim Pumper, Engine 6 (8). 1941 Chevrolet, Forestry 8  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Forest Warden's Report**

The Forest Fire record for the year ending, Dec. 31, 1952 shows an increase over the previous year.

The request for permits for fires in the open was greater than the previous year. This was due somewhat to the system the State Dept. of Conservation has initiated in establishing a so-called, burning index, which guides persons in knowing when it is safe to burn in the open.

Considerable forestry hose became unfit for use during the year, due to age and normal wear.

The need for a tank truck for this department became more apparent this season.

**Chief Engineer**

Allan Kidder

**Assistant Chief Engineer**

William L. Colmer

**Clerk**

Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Allan Kidder

William L. Colmer

Gilbert H. Perham

Leo A. Williams

Charles. D. Harrington

**Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

## 1953

### Annual Town Meeting March 9, 1953

Under Article 18:

On a motion made by Carl A. E. Peterson, it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 6B of Chapter 40 of the General Laws entitled, "6B - Uniforms for Police and Firemen."

Under Article 31:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,850.00 to defray the cost of the construction of retaining walls, fencing, grading and landscaping land at the new Center Fire Station.



1953 Finishing the side of the Center Fire Station before grading (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





1953 Installing the chain link fence beside the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1953 Finishing the chain link fence beside the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1953 Grading the apron in front of Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The past year has brought about some changes that the Board of Fire Engineers feel are for the best interest of the service and will eventually bring about a better understanding by all concerned. The duties of Deputy to the Chief Engineer, formerly held by a Callman, were changed and assigned to a permanent fire-fighter. The duties of District Chief of the North company were also changed from a Callman to a permanent firefighter, as has been the case in the Center for some time.

Engine One was completely refinished the past year, bringing all our apparatus now to a very presentable appearance.

The West and South stations were painted one coat on the outside. A radiator was installed in the South station to insure against freezing the plumbing that had been installed the previous year. This radiator, plus other material needed for other stations, were removed from the Old Princeton Street School by authority of the Board of Selectmen.

The alarm system in North and West was repaired and modernized to some extent but a great deal more is necessary.

Apparatus in the Center was moved into the new station on August 1, 1953 and affords service to the whole department that the Town never had before.



Moved on August 1, 1953, from left to right: 1951 Studebaker Emergency 7, 1941 Chevrolet Forestry 8, 1935 Maxim Pumper Engine 1, 1926 Maxim Pumper Engine 6 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The Board of Fire Engineers gave considerable thought to the 1954 Budget and feel this Department can continue to render the type of service the Town is entitled to under the Board's budget recommendations. The Board decided against any further extensions of the fire alarm system, until what we have now, is modernized and put in a condition we can depend upon at all times.

The Board feels it is time steps were taken to have Town-owned quarters in North Chelmsford, and have requested the Selectmen to insert an Article in the Annual Warrant asking for a committee and funds to secure plans and specifications for a fire station for that section of the Town.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

More calls were answered the past year than in any one year for the past three. The records for the Year 1953 show 174 calls answered. In some cases, these calls were responded to by companies of the Fire Department. The policy of the Forest Warden is that under certain circumstances governed by weather conditions, the amount of property exposed in the fire area, and distance traveled it is in the best interest of good fire protection to have the nearest available apparatus respond on the initial call. This is to be followed by the Forest Department's truck which has equipment most adapted for grass and brush fires.

Requests for permits for fires in the out-of-doors, (which are necessary under State regulation) have increased this past year. More people have become familiar with the so-called "burning index", as used by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation in its effort to reduce forest fires. As a result fewer requests for permits have been received when the index reading is thirty-five or higher.

#### **Chairman**

Allan Kidder

#### **Clerk**

Richard D. Carr

#### **Board of Fire Engineers**

Allan Kidder

Leo A. Williams

Vinson C. Reid

Harry L. Shedd, Jr.

Richard D. Carr

#### **Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

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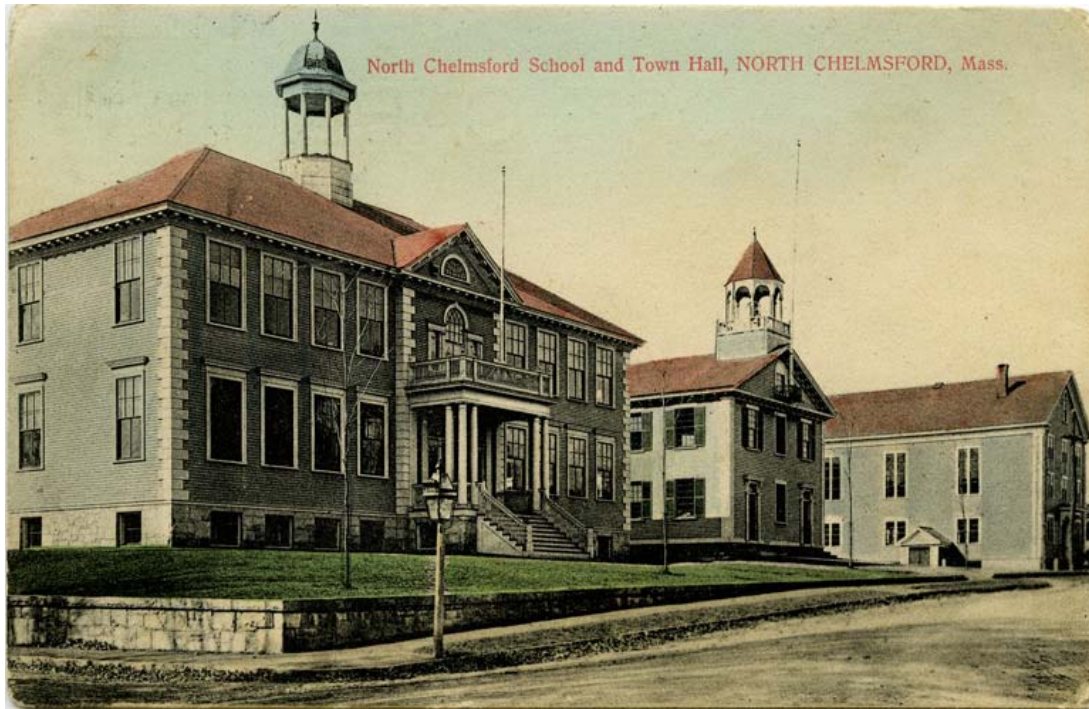
## *1954*

#### **Annual Town Meeting March 8, 1954**

UNDER ARTICLE 28:

On a motion made by Harry L. Shedd, it was voted to appoint a Committee including the present Fire Engineers, namely: Harry L. Shedd, Jr. Allan Kidder, Vinson C. Reid Bernard F. McGovern, Leo A. Williams, John J. Dunigan, Richard B. Carr, and Roger Welch with powers to engage an architect to formulate plans and specifications for a Fire Station to be located on land now owned by the Town, known as the Princeton Street School Site at the intersection of Washington Street and Princeton Street, said Committee to report at the next Annual or Special Town Meeting.





Princeton Street School, North Chelmsford High School and North Town Hall  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### UNDER ARTICLE 103:

On a motion made by Warren C. Lahue, it was voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 48, Sections 42, 43, and 44 of the General Laws relative to the appointment of a Fire Chief, and repeal all other previously accepted sections of Chapter 48 in conflict herewith.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

The year 1954 has brought about a great transition in the Fire Department. At the Annual Town Meeting it was voted to change the form of administration of the Fire Department from a Board of Fire Engineers to that of a full time chief. On June 1st, I (Allan Kidder) was appointed Temporary Acting Fire Chief and on September 15, 1954 was appointed Fire Chief.

This report will cover the activities of both the Fire Department and the Forest Warden as the two departments are now under one head and operate under a single budget.

Very little progress could be made for the present due to the budget being set up for the old form of organization. Plans have been formulated for the reorganization of the department to bring it up to a modern status.

A survey was requested by the Board of Selectmen of the New England Rating Bureau Association, in regard to our department's rating by their body, who are the ones to set the standard of our department as well as establishing insurance rates from same. Their survey was conducted and the report forwarded to our Board of Selectmen.

I feel that this report and recommendations are what was needed by our taxpayers for them to be guided in building and maintaining the type of fire protection the taxpayers expect and demand. With this report in mind, I have evaluated their recommendations and therefore, use the same as a basis of my request of the 1955 budget.

I personally witnessed the testing of our pumping engines, the results of which are: the Town of Chelmsford have, of five engines tested, only one that could pass the test and meet the requirements which were not twenty years old or older. Three other pieces of apparatus owned by the Town were not of the required type so, therefore, could not meet the requirements likewise.

Progress has been made toward replacing our obsolete outside fire alarm circuits.

#### **Report of Civilian Defense**

Our emergency power plants were put to use by the Fire Department to save thousands of dollars in foods that would have otherwise spoiled. The portable light plants were used in the flooded area of Central Square and elsewhere. The teletype service gave the police and fire departments constant information regarding the progress of the storm. Radio communications were maintained throughout the emergency.



We have asked for a somewhat larger budget this year than last. We feel that this is necessary to complete an effective program. The budget calls for \$5300.00 but \$2105.00 will be returned to E and D Fund from the Federal and State Matching Fund. The largest item is for \$2160.00 for four mobile radios for the Fire Department. This will complete communication to all sections of the town in an emergency. We understand, this may be the last year to receive matching funds from the State, on communication equipment.

**Chairman, Board of Fire Engineers  
/ Fire Chief**  
Allan Kidder

**Clerk, Board of Fire Engineers**  
Richard D. Carr

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Allan Kidder  
Leo A. Williams  
Vinson C. Reid  
Harry L. Shedd, Jr.  
Richard D. Carr

## 1955



Testing a fog stream system, designed to quench a fire using less water, during a Fire Department drill in 1955  
Fog nozzles are still in use by the Chelmsford Fire Department depending on required reach and water supply  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 15, and 21, 1955

#### UNDER ARTICLE 15:

On a motion made by the North Chelmsford Firehouse Building Committee composed of Richard B. Carr, John J. Dunigan, Roger P. Welch, Harry L. Shedd, Jr., Allan Kidder, and Bernard F. McGovern, it was voted that for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a Fire Station at North Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town of Chelmsford that the town appropriate and transfer and borrow the following sums:

\$33,250.00 to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, so-called, and that \$1,150.00 be transferred from an appropriation made under Article 29 of the Annual Town Meeting held on March 8, 1954, and that \$3,600.00 be raised by tax levy and that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow the sum of \$10,000.00 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and to issue notes payable \$1,000.00 each year from the date of the first note for 10 years. Making a total of \$48,000.00. All of the said money to be used for the purpose aforesaid.

This vote was unanimous.

**UNDER ARTICLE 16:**

On a motion made by Bernard F. McGovern, it was voted that a North Chelmsford Fire House Building Committee be appointed composed of Bernard F. McGovern, Harry L. Shedd, Richard Carr, Allan Kidder, John J. Dunigan, Vinson C. Reid and Roger P. Welch and that the said committee be authorized to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project.

**UNDER ARTICLE 36:**

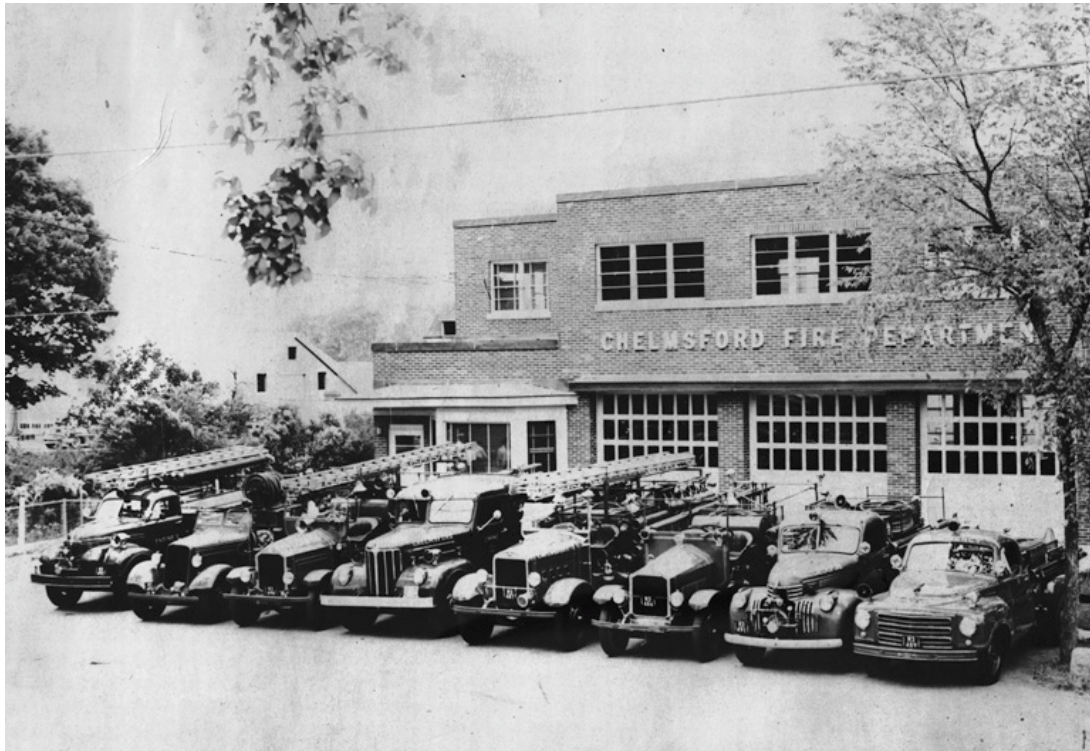
On a motion made by Joe Lukas, it was voted to accept the following By-Law: The Chief of the Fire Department shall include in his annual report, and cause to be published in the Town annual report, the following information: Amount of explosives, of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford. It was unanimously voted.

**Report of the Fire Department**

It is with pleasure that I submit my report of the activities of your fire department at the completion of the first year it has functioned under the system of the administration of a Fire Chief.

A program was inaugurated in the Fire Department, this year for training the personnel, both permanent and call men, that has proven to be of tremendous value. Drill periods were held every week under a schedule that enabled all firefighters to attend every two weeks. The instruction received was of the latest and of the most up-to-date methods employed by leading firefighting forces.

A maintenance system was started in the department in the past year; whereby, all our minor repairs, testing and recording is being carried out by a department mechanic. All apparatus and equipment in all stations are checked every other day and the department mechanic is available at all times.



Left to right: 1947 Studebaker Pumper Engine 3, 1934 Dodge Maxim Pumper Engine 5, 1931 Maxim Pumper Engine 4, 1951 Maxim Pumper Engine 2, 1935 Maxim Pumper Engine 1, 1926 Maxim Pumper Engine 6, 1941 Chevrolet Engine 8, 1951 Studebaker Pickup Emergency 7 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Inspection of oil burning equipment, bottled gas installations and all other items that come under the control of the fire department are now being carried out in a most efficient manner.

Improved record facilities have been instituted and a more closely knitted fire fighting and fire prevention organization is now in operation.

Constant attendance at the telephone switchboard, radio transmitter and fire alarm headquarters by a permanent member of the department has been inaugurated since June 1st of 1955.

(Chief Kidder published a 24 page booklet with all the location codes to be broadcast on the air horns at Town Hall and the fire stations to alert the Call Firemen in the event of a fire. Read the [Fire Alarm Directory](#) as searchable PDF document.)

Another step in centralizing our fire alarm system by tying the West Chelmsford alarm circuit into the alarm headquarters at 7 North Road has been started, but not completed at this date.

For the most part, all the foregoing improvements in the structure and operation of the Fire Department have been made possible by the four additional men that were authorized at the annual town meeting in March of 1955.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 46,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 51,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 4,500 lbs.

In the past year, through the splendid cooperation of the Police Department and the Office of State Fire Marshal, much has been accomplished in the way of fire prevention and the proper disposition of cases of fires of suspicious origin that have occurred in Chelmsford. Court action where necessary has been ably carried out by the Chief of Police.

#### **Fire Chief**

Allan Kidder

#### **Captain**

Raymond J. McGlinchey  
Clarence H. Dane  
Ernest G. Byam

#### **Lieutenant**

Robert C. Spaulding  
Charles E. Jangraw

#### **Permanent Firefighters**

J. Ira Spaulding  
Morton A. Pickard  
Edward G. Quinn  
William H. Thayer  
Farley H. Kemp  
Frederick H. Reid

#### **Engine 1**

Ray H. Pickard  
Wallace A. Greig  
H. Edward Hoyt  
Charles G. Fuller  
George A. Parkhurst  
Bradford O. Emerson  
Walter R. Hedlund  
Donald P. Gray

#### **Engine 2**

Donald E. Smith  
George R. Dixon  
William F. Dutton  
James O. Robinson  
Edward J. McGovern  
Francis G. Miskell  
Warren B. Wetmore  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Ralph R. Abbott  
Fred E. Grant

#### **Engine 3**

Capt. Asa Robey  
Lt. Norman Bickford  
John A. Breen  
Herbert Hodgson  
Eugene W. Pudsey  
Charles A. Miller  
George Baxendale  
Arthur Caster  
Arthur E. Cutter

#### **Engine 4**

Capt. Roland E. Marr  
Lt. H. Christianson  
Foster Braga  
Thomas S. Shedd  
William H. Shedd  
John J. McNulty  
Arthur Blomgren  
Anthony C. Ferreira  
Anthony L. Sousa

#### **Engine 5**

Capt. George Waite  
Melmon J. Smith  
Royce M. Parker  
John D. Hallberg  
Forrest L. Philbrook  
Roger T. Calder  
Harold F. Boisvert  
Edward Giers

#### **Westlands Company**

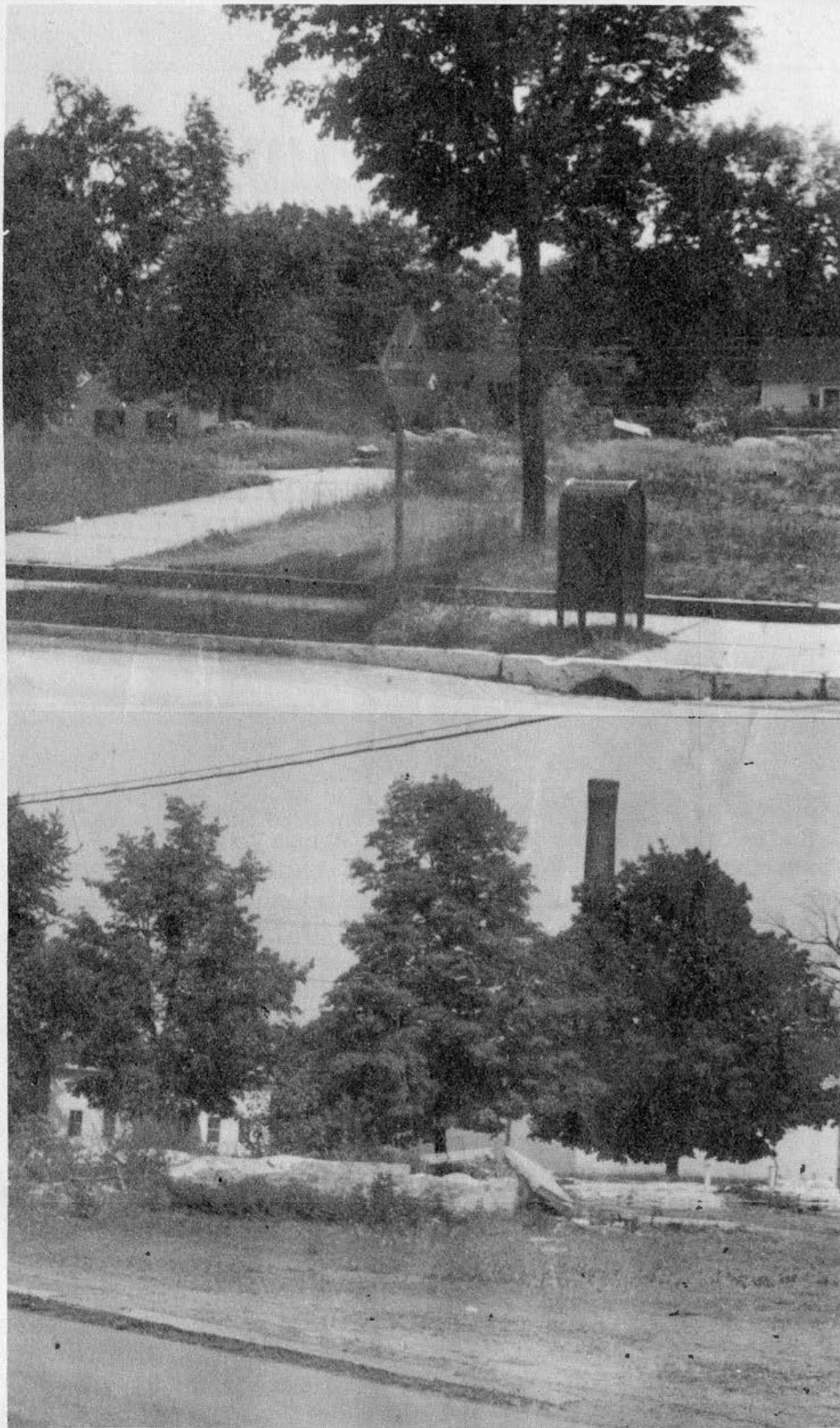
Arthur L. Bennett  
Lionel D. Marchand  
Raymond O. Marchand  
Neil W. Mooers  
Leon M. Pigeon

## *1956*

#### **Annual Town Meeting**

UNDER ARTICLE 40. On a motion made by Bernard F. McGovern, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand, (\$25,000.00) Dollars to be added to money previously appropriated for the purpose of building, equipping and furnishing, including architectural fees, a fire station in North Chelmsford.







Site of the old Princeton Street school located in the North section which will be used for a new fire station with work commencing on Monday. Above picture taken from Princeton St. while below is from Washington St.

From July 5, 1956 Newsweekly Article on North Fire Station contract award  
(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

UNDER ARTICLE 59. It was voted to dismiss this article regarding a committee studying the advisability of taking land on North Road between the Fire Station and Town Hall.

### Report of the Fire Department

The increase in the number of new homes, and the fact that we can expect a great deal of future development in Chelmsford, together with the increase in Automobile fires and accidents, has shown very clearly this past year that we definitely need both new equipment, and more men to provide the Town with adequate fire protection.

However, as I feel that it is out of the question to request both new equipment and more men at this time, and as the more important of the two right now is for the Town to purchase a minimum of two new 750 G. P. M. Pumpers, I have recommended again this year, as I have for the past three years, that an Article be inserted in the Annual Town Warrant for the purchase of these trucks.

I cannot stress too strongly the need of both of these Pumpers at this time, rather than purchasing just one of them. One truck will replace a pumper which is now 26 years old, and broken down to the extent that both the Board of Selectmen and I agree that it would be a waste of money to repair such an old truck, plus the fact that we would have no assurance that we could depend on this truck to continue in service. The other truck which we would replace is an even older one, 31 years old, which we certainly cannot depend upon, and which is no longer suitable for modern day fire protection.

With two new Pumpers in service, we will then have a dependable truck in each section of the Town, although even then we will not be up to the recommendations of the New England Fire Insurance Rating Association, as printed in their report of August 11, 1954 at the completion of their survey, which was requested by the Board of Selectmen.

With the purchase of only one new Pumper, we would have to use an obsolete and undependable truck (31 years old) in some section of the Town, and I feel that all sections are entitled to equal protection. Each taxpayer has the right to the same amount of protection for his home and family as any other.

The past year, as in other years, has shown a great increase in the number of calls answered by your Fire Department, and with the additional duties assumed by the firefighters besides actual firefighting such as a Fire Station and Apparatus maintenance, Alarm maintenance, oil burner inspections, office work, drills, fire prevention, and so on, your Fire Department is now having trouble keeping up with the demands for its service, and it is certain that the demands will continue to increase in the future.

On or about August 15, 1956, I attended a meeting of the Board of Selectmen together with two members of the Finance Committee. At that meeting it was unanimously agreed that no money should be spent on the apparatus that was out of service because of a major breakdown. I informed the Selectmen that a piece of apparatus could be borrowed, at no cost to the Town, for a reasonable length of time, and it was accepted.

Realizing that something concrete had to be inaugurated in regard to purchasing new equipment, I offered a plan to all present. It being a fact that for many years taxpayers have not been called upon to make any effort to carry their share of the burden to purchase fire apparatus, I recommended the following:

That a sum of money be borrowed immediately to cover the cost of apparatus broken down, plus apparatus which is of an age and condition that it cannot be depended upon. This sum to be paid off in equal payments over a period of five years. That also at the same time a fund be started, (known as Apparatus Depreciation Account), into which a given amount shall be placed each year, through taxation.

This plan would accomplish three things; first, it would furnish the Town at once, with the apparatus that is so greatly needed, and I believe, carry us for the next five years in a safe condition. Second, at the end of the five year period, when our apparatus debt would have been paid off, we would have a fund available to start a replacement program of apparatus, which will then be at best twenty-seven years old. Finally, the plan would accomplish the important fact of all taxpayers, every year, carrying the burden equally for proper fire protection.

At a subsequent date I was requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen and members of the Finance Committee, and two evenings were required to accomplish all that was desired. I was finally asked to pass judgment as to how few pieces of apparatus I felt we could buy at this time, and still be assured of proper fire protection. My answer was as follows: If we only have one fire at a time, we would dispatch two companies to each building fire, as is recommended by all standards, are able to be returned from a call and made ready before we have another call, then the least number of pieces of apparatus we should purchase at once would be two 750 G. P. M. pumpers. That, of course, would be eliminating one piece of apparatus, (a forest fire truck), from my original plan. If that course were to be followed, money would have to be made available to recondition our present forest fire truck.

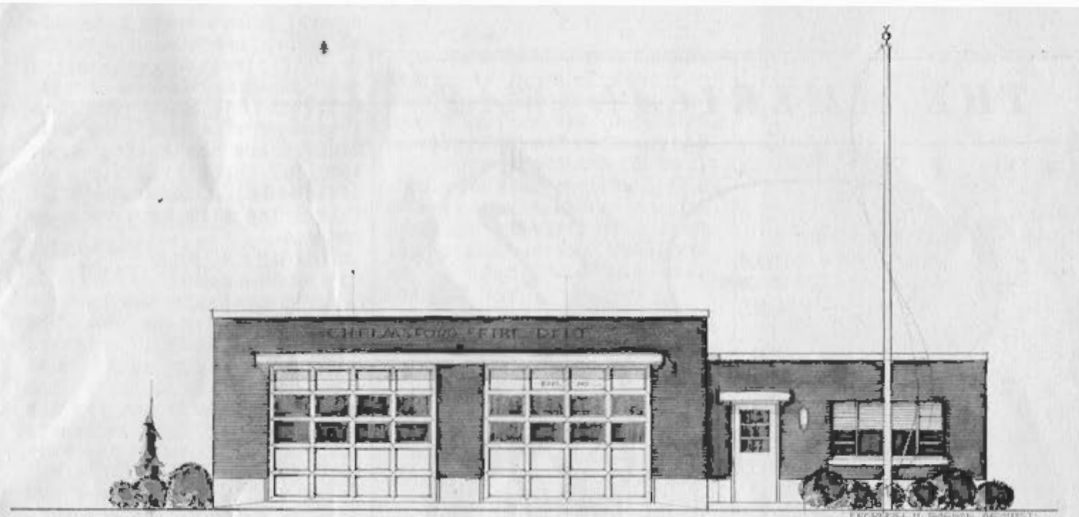
In conclusion I feel that to furnish fire protection to all sections of the Town equally, it is imperative that the taxpayers purchase at least two pumpers at once. I shall also be more than pleased to discuss the Fire Department problem with any taxpayer, should more facts be desired.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 41,850 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 47,350; Magazine No. 3, 4,400 lbs.

#### **Report of the North Chelmsford Firehouse Building Committee**

The North Chelmsford Firehouse Committee, Bernard F. McGovern, Chairman; Roger P. Welch, Secretary; Richard B. Carr, John J. Dunigan. Fire Chief Allan Kidder, Vinson C. Reid and Harry L. Shedd. Jr. submits a report of progress as follows:

Construction of the new fire station at North Chelmsford was begun in August of 1956. A considerable delay was encountered when it was necessary to call for bids on three different occasions in order to come within the funds appropriated by the voters at the Town Meeting. On the third call for bids, the lowest bid submitted was still some \$3,000. 00 over the amount appropriated; but, by re-advertising for new bids on electrical, roofing, landscaping and hot topping bids, the committee finally was able to award the contract to W. W. Granger Co.



Sketch of the new north fire station which will be constructed at the site of the old Princeton Street schools.

# CHELMSFORD Newsweekly

VOL. XIV NO. 33 CHELMSFORD, MASS. JULY 5, 1956 PRICE 5 CENTS

## North Fire Station Contract Awarded; Start Work Monday

### Selectman McAndrews Questions Fire Chief At Selectmens Meeting

The highlight of the last Selectmens meeting held on Friday night June 29th was the questioning of Fire Chief Allan Kidder by Selectman Robert F. McAndrew. Chief Kidder appeared before the board on the request of Selectman McAndrew. The Chief answered several questions regarding the new North fire house as proposed and upon conclusion of these questions Selectman McAndrews asked for an executive session. He explained that he would like to ask a few personal questions but that he would never insult the Chief. Selectman Edgar P. George explained that he felt that where the board had been elected by the people that there should be no secret sessions. Chairman Daniel J. Hart explained that although he had attended executive sessions on

work on the new long-awaited North Fire Station is expected to start Monday morning with the arrival of a bull-dozer to begin this project. The site of the North Chelmsford Fire Station is the former location of the Princeton St. School. The contract was signed Monday night with the W. W. Granger Company of Shrewsbury to the amount of \$63,540.

The apparatus room capacity of this building will be: one ladder truck or four pumpers similar to the one now in use

### Local Fire Cause Under Investigation

Fire Chief Alan Kidder and Inspector James W. Midgeley have requested investigation of the fire which caused considerable damage at the Cummings property on Princeton Street, North Chelmsford, Monday morning.

Lieutenant Detective Daniel Shinkus is conducting the investigation.

at North Chelmsford; two doors in the front with one in the rear so that the returning apparatus enters in the rear and by so doing does not have to back in off busy Princeton Street.

There will be a watch room for fire alarm, radio, telephone and etc., with ample vision for the personnel on duty being in command of parking conditions.

There will be also an alarm room for the fire alarm batteries and other alarm apparatus; a storage room for supplies, hose and other equipment; an area for the personnel to prepare their meals, and instruction periods; a basement for the boiler, fire whistle, tanks-compressor and emergency lighting equipment.

The members of this building include the following:

Bernard McGovern, chairman; Roger Welch, clerk; and also, Richard Carr, John Dunigan, Vincent Reid, Harry Shedd, and Chief Alan Kidder.



(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

The building was substantially completed and occupied on December 30, 1956, Because of contingent expenses incurred in the installation for footings and drainage, it was impossible to furnish the building in the manner the committee had planned. The Firemen's Relief Association from North Chelmsford has supplied some of the furnishings and equipment needed and the Committee wishes to express its thanks for their help. While the station is not completely furnished, the quarters are quite comfortable.

Grading and seeding of the entire lot has been contracted for, work to begin as soon as the weather permits this coming spring.

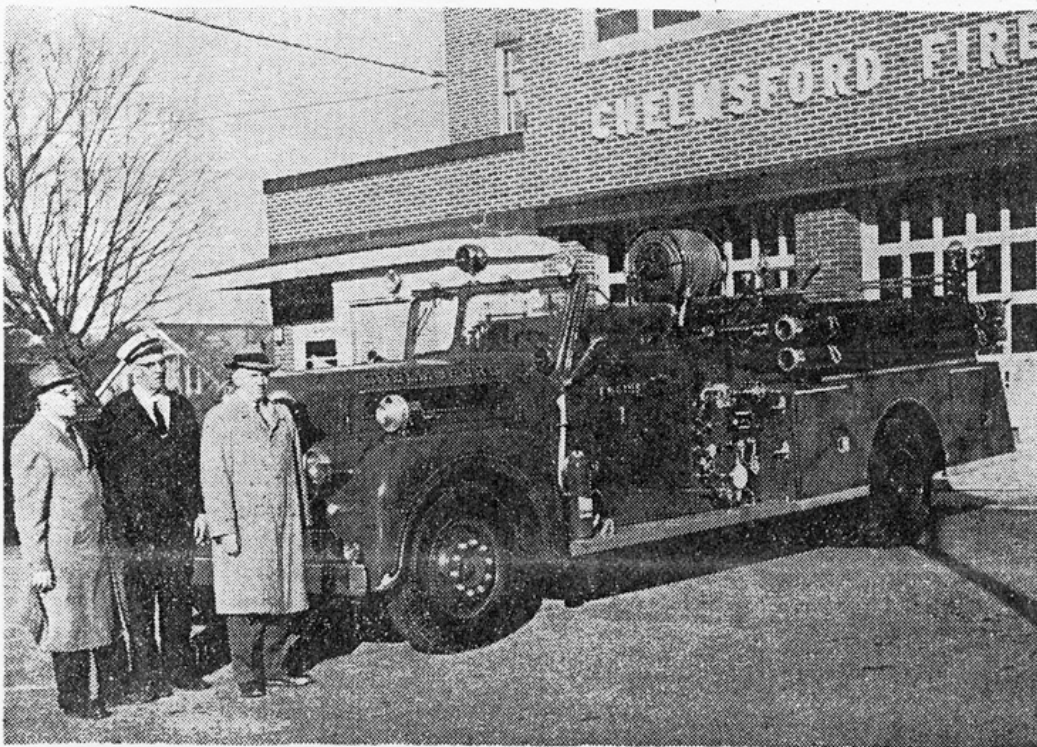
**Fire Chief**  
Allan Kidder

## 1957

### Annual Town Meeting March 4 and 11, 1957

#### UNDER ARTICLE 23.

On motion of Robert F. McAndrew to raise and appropriate Twenty-Two Thousand (\$22,000.00) Dollars to purchase a Fire Truck for the Fire Department to be purchased under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



### New Chelmsford Equipment

The new 750 gallon pumper, Chelmsford's most modern piece of fire equipment, was delivered to the Central fire station Friday by the Maxim company, which built it at a cost of more than \$19,000. The new appara-

tus has a 500-gallon water tank and carries 1500 feet of hose. Shown in front of the pumper, left to right, are Leighton Maxim, the builder; Fire Chief Allan Kidder, and Selectman Daniel Hart.

(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### UNDER ARTICLE 24.

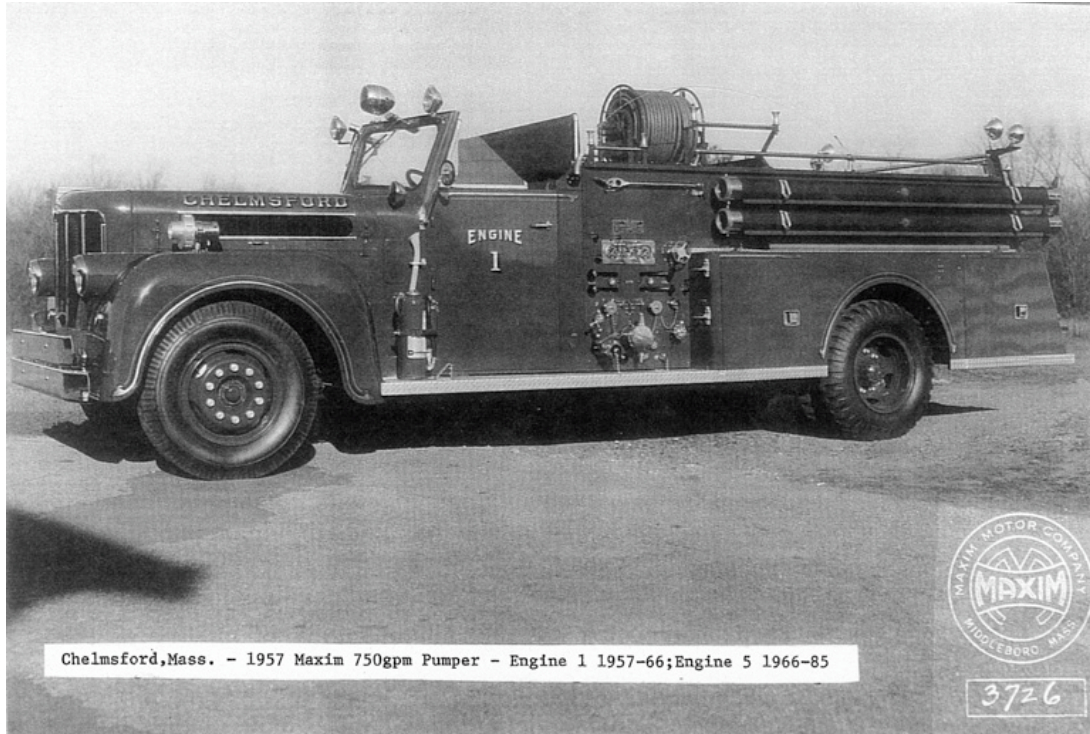
On motion of Robert F. McAndrew it was voted to authorize the Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of the Fire Truck now being used by the Fire Department.



### Report of the Fire Department

Upon comparing the records of the department over the past four years, they reveal a steady increase of service calls requested of, and furnished by the Fire Department. In some types of services the number of requests have more than doubled. The only decrease is in the number of dump fires, which has dropped sharply, and that reflects a credit to Mr. Isadore Needham the caretaker of the Town Dump, for the manner in which he has carried out his duties.

The addition of a new pumper was made to the department in November as authorized by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in March. Additional apparatus is needed as has been proven in the past, and will be requested for the voters' consideration at our next Annual Town Meeting.



Chelmsford, Mass. - 1957 Maxim 750gpm Pumper - Engine 1 1957-66; Engine 5 1966-85

Delivery of this 1957 Maxim semi-cab 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 1, to the Center station started a rotation:  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1935 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 4 and transferred to East  
 The previous Engine 4, a 1931 Maxim Pumper, was taken out of service  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

There have been other developments of vital interest that directly affect proper fire protection in Chelmsford, one in particular that I feel should be brought to the taxpayers attention, is manpower. Over the years Chelmsford has depended upon call firefighters for manpower in fighting fires. A call firefighter is a person who gives of his time, over and above his regular pursuit of livelihood, for the good of his community and neighbor, for which he receives a token compensation.

The call firefighter spends much of his leisure time training and becoming proficient with the apparatus and equipment he is called upon to use. Firefighting methods, as everything else, are constantly changing and being improved upon, making it possible for the department and its personnel to do a better job. Whenever possible the Chief of the Fire Department must appoint as call firefighters, men who shall be available to the department at all times, or at least have a balanced roster whereby fifty percent of his manpower will be on call at all times. This can be possible only if industry allows its personnel to leave their regular job to answer an alarm of fire. With the changing times, that situation has changed also.

In one fire company alone in Chelmsford last year, at least fifty percent of the company worked in an industry that issued an order forbidding their personnel leaving to respond to an alarm of fire. Similar conditions exist throughout the Town, seriously impairing our manpower problem. At one particular fire in 1957 at least twenty men were needed because of the nature of the fire. In three fire companies of our total of five, with a roster of ten men to each company, only three men were available to fight fire.

This leads to but one conclusion, the urgent need for more permanent firefighters, not only to have while on their regular tour of duty, but to be available for emergencies while on their off duty time. At present the department has eleven (11) permanent firefighters. A survey conducted in 1954 by the New England Fire Insurance Rating Association, at the request of the Board of Selectmen, reports that a minimum of forty-two (42) permanent firefighters shall be provided to insure a working force.

1957 was a particularly hazardous year for forest fires and during the period of May 1-12, a state of emergency was declared. During this period, the State of Massachusetts will reimburse the cities and towns for any expense incurred in fighting forest fires. I have submitted a bill to the State in the amount of \$655.30 which will help to offset the labor expense paid out in fighting brush fires which occurred during the time the emergency was declared.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 55,400 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 58,200 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 3,600 lbs.

#### **Report of the North Chelmsford Fire House Building Committee**

The North Chelmsford Firehouse has been occupied by the Fire Department since December 10, 1956. Grading, painting and minor construction work on the building was completed early in 1957. Open house was held in October of 1957 and the building is completely finished.

The Building Committee of Bernard F. McGovern, Chairman; Roger P. Welch, Secretary; Richard B. Carr; John J. Dunigan, Fire Chief Allan Kidder; Vinson C. Reid and Harry L. Shedd, Jr. wish to express their appreciation to all who helped bring this project to a successful completion.



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WILLIMANSETT, MASS.

# 1957 FIREMAN'S BALL

sponsored by the

Box 7 Associates

for the benefit of the

## RESCUE TRUCK FUND

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

"BUD" WILKINS' ORCHESTRA



**FIRE CHIEF ALLAN KIDDER**

## OUR GOAL



Shown here is a rescue truck. Once the Box 7 Associates complete their present drive for funds, a similar vehicle will be provided the Town of Chelmsford for use in all types of emergencies.

## WHY CHELMSFORD NEEDS A RESCUE TRUCK

Engine 7 which is currently serving as a multi-purpose vehicle is overloaded, lacking in space for equipment which the Town owns but is in shelf storage. Because this piece of equipment is used for various purposes it could be possible that this apparatus would be delayed in getting to an emergency which very well could be a case of life or death.

Apparatus now being used to carry the limited amount of rescue equipment the Town now owns cannot give all-weather protection to this expensive equipment.

No piece of fire apparatus in Town is equipped with a winch which is a must nowadays in removing persons from automobile wrecks.

A rescue truck would not put a pumper out of service as it now does as in the case of auto accidents. Where two pieces of fire apparatus now respond to auto accidents an adequate rescue truck could serve the purpose alone.

Compliments of . . .

**SKIP'S**

"Good Luck On Your

Rescue Truck Drive"

Peter - Steve - Fred

1957 Fireman's Ball Box 7 Associates Fund Raiser Souvenir Program (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Fire Chief**  
Alan Kidder

## 1958

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1958

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2.

Mr. Goldman moved that the Town vote to amend Section 19, paragraph III subtitled "Hours of Work Shall Be As Follows", by striking out the language in paragraph III and inserting "For those occupying positions designated 'Public Safety Occupations' and within the Fire Department, forty-eight (48) hours per week; Police Department, an average of forty-four (44) hours per week, scheduled in such a manner as the head of such department may deem advisable."

It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 3.

Mr. Goldman moved that the Town vote to amend Section 19, paragraph IV subtitled, "Hours of Work shall be as follows;" to read as follows: "Overtime work for those beyond these hours may be compensated for by time off, except 'Mechanical and Construction Operation' hourly rates which shall be paid at the standard rate of pay for the job times one and one-half, and except the full time employees of the Fire Department who may be summoned and kept on duty because of a serious fire, and except for the Police Department who shall be paid the regular hourly rate for overtime effective July 1, 1958."

It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 48.

Mr. Bradford O. Emerson moved that the Town vote to accept an Emergency Rescue Truck, to be used by the Fire Department, from the Box 7 Associates. It was so voted. Moderator DeSaulnier extended the appreciation of the Town to the Box 7 Associates.





1958 Rescue Truck provided by the Box 7 Associates. From left to right: Bill Edge, Louie Bennett, Brad Emerson and Selectmen Edgar P. George, Raymond J. Greenwood, Robert F. McAndrew  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### UNDER ARTICLE 60.

Mr. Allan Kidder moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) for the purchase of a Fire Truck for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen.

It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 61.

Mr. Allan Kidder moved that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell, by good and sufficient Bill of Sale, an old Fire Truck now being used by the Fire Department.

It was so voted.

#### **Special Town Meeting June 23, 1958**

UNDER ARTICLE 6. Hans H. Schliebus moved that this article regarding transfer of balance of account entitled "Purchase of Fire Truck" in the amount of Twelve Hundred Ten and 58/100 Dollars (\$1,210.58) to the account in the Fire Department budget known as "Building Repairs and Maintenance" be dismissed. A hand vote was taken 33 voted in the affirmative 101 voted in the negative The motion failed. A motion on the original article carried.

#### **FIRE CHIEF ALLAN KIDDER**

Allan Kidder, Chief of the Fire Department, died on November 4, 1958. Chief Kidder was first appointed a call firefighter in 1931. After serving his country in World War II, he returned to the Fire Department in 1946 as a regular firefighter. He rose rapidly in rank until in 1954 he was appointed as Chelmsford's first fulltime Fire Chief. His untimely passing put an end to a career dedicated to the Fire Service, a career in which he earned the respect of his fellow-workers and of the Townspeople.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

During this year the Town, and in particular the Fire Department, suffered a great loss in the passing of our Chief, Allan Kidder. His life was dedicated to the Fire Service, and the work that he accomplished will always be a tribute to his memory.

Our records show that there is a steady increase in the number of calls requested of the Fire Department. This year there was a drop in the number of grass and brush fires due to the wet Spring and Fall, and the number of dump fires was held to a minimum because of the excellent condition in which the Town Dump is kept, and burning controlled.

During this past year a new pumper was delivered to the Town, and is in service at the North Fire Station. The addition of this truck gives adequate pumper protection for some time to come.



Chelmsford, Mass. - 1958 Maxim 750gpm Pumper - Engine 2 1958-72; Engine 3 1972-81

Delivery of this 1958 Maxim semi-cab 750 g.p.m. triple combination Pumper, Engine 2, started a rotation:  
 The previous Engine 2, a 1951 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 3 and transferred to West  
 The previous Engine 3, a 1947 Studebaker 500 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 5 and transferred to South  
 The previous Engine 5, a 1934 Pumper, was taken out of service (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Also, this past year has seen the fulfillment of our drive to secure a Rescue Truck, at no cost to the Town. This truck with the equipment cost over Twelve Thousand Dollars, and of this amount the firefighters themselves donated over Five Thousand Dollars from their Relief Fund.



1958 Rescue Truck parked by Chelmsford Common (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

At the West and South Stations modern overhead doors have been installed, and the grounds have been leveled and graded, with new driveways put in.

A considerable amount of work has been done at the Center Station. The upstairs section which was left unfinished when the building was built, has now been completed, and painted. All of the woodwork on the outside of the building was given a coat of paint, and we are now in the process of painting the downstairs section. All of this work has been done by the firefighters themselves on their regular tour of duty.

The immediate problem facing the Fire Department continues to be the need for additional manpower. There is only one man on duty at the North Station on each shift at present. This is a dangerous situation, and in order to correct it I am requesting permission from the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in March to appoint three additional men. These three men will be assigned to the North Station and we will then have two men on each shift to answer any call for assistance.

Additional equipment needed is both a ladder truck and a brush truck, but to keep expenditures as low as possible I am requesting that only the brush truck be purchased this year. Our present truck is eighteen years old, and because it gets more use than all other trucks combined, it is just about worn out.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 7, 55,445 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 56,400 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 3,500 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

## *1959*

### **Annual Town Meeting March 9, 1959**

Under Article 14:

Mr. Robert F. McAndrew moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,400.00 to purchase a new piece of fire apparatus, said apparatus to be of the type commonly used for brush and grass fires, purchase to be made by the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



### Report of the Fire Department

An increase in the demands on the Fire Department was maintained again this past year. We responded to a total of 415 calls which is a great jump over preceding years, and for the most part is the result of the rapid growth of the Town.

A new 4-wheel drive brush truck was delivered to the Town, making it possible to move one of our other brush trucks to the North Station. This will save our pumper from answering brush fire calls, and keep it in readiness for building fires.



This 1959 Ford 4-wheel drive Brush Fire Fighting Truck, Engine 9, was assigned to Chelmsford Center. In turn, the old brush truck, a 1941 Chevrolet, was transferred to North Chelmsford as Engine 7 (1959 Annual Town Report)

A considerable amount of repair work has been done on all five stations during 1959, most of which has been done by the regular firefighters while on their regular tour of duty.

There were 85 permits for Oil and L.P. Gas installations or alterations, and 15 permits for blasting issued. Periodic inspections were made in schools and convalescent homes to eliminate fire hazards.

One new circuit was added to the fire alarm system to enable us to include the new High School on a separate circuit rather than to overload any of the present circuits. Two fire alarm boxes were also added to this circuit.

Maintenance work on the fire alarm system consisted mainly of general and emergency repairs and pole changeovers. Most of the emergency repairs were made necessary by the new road construction which is going on in Chelmsford.

The department believes that in order to maintain a high level of fire protection the following recommendations should be carried out.

1. Adopt a plan whereby an amount, shall be appropriated each year, and placed in a fund, for the future replacement of fire apparatus
2. Replace the Studebaker pickup truck
3. Purchase a 75' aerial ladder truck

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 48,450 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 40,150 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 5,800 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam



Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1960



### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 1960

#### UNDER ARTICLE 50:

Mr. Robert F. McAndrew moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of establishing a Stabilization Fund under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, for use in the purchasing of Fire Department Automotive equipment. It was so voted unanimously.

#### Report of the Fire Department

The past year has been an extremely busy one for the Fire Department. With building and road construction continuing at full speed, we have had a great many new problems and responsibilities added to the ones which we customarily have and expect.

We responded to 388 calls this past year, and of this number, 45 were building fires, 110 were for brush or grass fires, and there were 43 calls for the resuscitators. The more homes we have, the more potential calls we can expect, and the new highways (Route 495) will bring more automobile fires and accidents.

No fire apparatus was purchased this past year, but a plan was adopted at the Town Meeting whereby a Stabilization Fund for the future replacement or purchase of fire apparatus was started, and it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars to establish this fund.

The firefighters on their regular tour of duty took care of all the maintenance work necessary at all five fire stations. A great deal of work had to be done on our alarm system due to the new highway construction, and this was all completed just before the construction stopped for the winter. The entire cost of this work will be borne by the State, and the Town will be reimbursed for all bills incurred. All fire alarm boxes were painted and tested to be sure they were in working order.

In order to maintain our fire protection at its present level, the following recommendations should be carried out this year:

1. The amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$7,500.) Dollars should be added to the Stabilization Fund which was started last year, for the replacement or purchase of fire department automotive equipment.
2. Replace the Studebaker pickup truck.
3. Purchase a 75' aerial ladder truck.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 48,000 lbs; Magazine No. 2, 46,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 2,300 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

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*1961*

1961, Don Gray trying out new emergency breathing apparatus with Chief Ernest Byam  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Annual Town Meeting March 13, 1961**

##### **UNDER ARTICLE 16:**

Mr. Raymond J. Greenwood moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund established under the provisions of Section 5B, Chapter 40 of the General Laws, and by vote under Article 50 of the Annual Town Meeting of March 21, 1960, for the purchase of Fire Department automotive equipment, the sum of \$2,575.00 for the purchase of a Station Wagon type of vehicle for the Fire Department; said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was voted unanimously.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

This past year has been the most disastrous in the history of the Town as far as fire loss and major fires is concerned. We had four General Alarm fires during the year as follows: Godin's Store, Frontier Research, Molders Foundry and the DeAmicis Apartment Building.

All of these fires were of major proportion and the loss on each one was extremely heavy, but the courage and training of all firefighters both Permanent and Volunteer enables us to control these fires before they could spread to adjoining property, and I as Chief take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all connected with the Department for their fine cooperation during the past year.

A new Station Wagon to be used as a Chief's Car was delivered to us and the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars was added to the Stabilization Fund.



Ernest G. Byam with new 1961 Chevy Station Wagon (1961 Annual Town Report)

A considerable amount of repair and maintenance work on all Five Stations as well as on the Fire Apparatus was accomplished this year, most of which was done by the regular firefighters on their tour of duty.

A great deal of work had to be done on our alarm system again this year because of continued highway construction, and this took a great amount of time for the men on duty to accomplish. During the year the State reimbursed the Town the sum of \$2,135.25 for labor and bills incurred because of this road-building interfering with our Alarm System.

Again this year I have requested and earnestly urge the purchase of a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck. Space does not permit me to list all the advantages of this type of equipment, but I would like to point out that with the rapid growth of the Town, and with new Churches, Industrial Buildings, and Apartment Houses being built we need this truck not only for the fire fighting advantages it offers, but for the life saving features which we should no longer take a chance on doing without.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 44,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 42,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 1,100 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam





1961, Don Gray holding mask with Allen Mello in the 1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. pumper, Engine 1, near Central Baptist Church (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1962

### Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1962

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2:

Mr. John Kenney moved that the Town vote to amend the Personnel Wage and Salary Administration By-Law in Section 19 subtitled, "Hours of Work Shall Be As Follows", by striking out the language in paragraph III and inserting "For those occupying positions designated 'Public Safety Occupations' and within the Fire Department, forty-four (44) hours per week; Police Department, an average of forty (40) hours per week, scheduled in such a manner as the Head of such department may deem advisable." It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16:

Mr. Ernest Byam moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund established under the provisions of Section 5B, Chapter 40, of the General Laws and by vote under Article 50 of the Annual Town Meeting of March 21, 1960, the sum of \$17,000, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,482.94 for the purchase of a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck type of vehicle for the Fire Department, equipped as specified by the Fire Chief, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

### Special Town Meeting April 23, 1962

#### UNDER ARTICLE 4:

Mr. Ernest G. Byam moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund, the sum of \$39,487.94 for the purchase of a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck type of vehicle for the Fire Department, equipped as specified by the Fire Chief, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. This was voted unanimously.

### Report of the Fire Department

As the Town continues to grow, the demands on this department continue to become heavier, and more varied in nature. We are now called upon for services which formerly only a city department could supply. Fire prevention and inspections take more of our time each year, and together with the complaints which we must answer has developed into a major part of our work.

We continue to use our manpower to good advantage by maintaining all our equipment and our five stations, and also by doing our own clerical work, and extending and repairing our fire alarm system.

During 1962, a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck was delivered to us, and put into service immediately, thus bringing to a successful conclusion our efforts to secure this piece of equipment.



1962 Maxim S model 75 foot Aerial Ladder Truck, Ladder 1 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Recommendations for the future include a new pick-up truck to replace our old one which is 12 years old, and which I will request this year, and another permanently manned Fire Station which will be requested in the near future.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine #1, 54,000 lbs., Magazine #2, 55,000 lbs., Magazine #3, 5,300 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

## *1963*

### **Annual Town Meeting March 11, 1963**

UNDER ARTICLE 76:

Mr. Edward Marshall moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$18,158.10 now in the Fire Department Stabilization Fund established at the annual town meeting in 1960, to the General Stabilization Fund established at the annual town meeting held in 1952. It was voted unanimously.

### **Report of the Town Forest Committee**

The Thanksgiving Ground Forest continues to get increased usage by young and old including Boy and Girl Scouts and Brownies. Hence, the bulk of your committee's efforts were in this forest. The thinning of young pines to prevent large areas being taken over by impenetrable stands of pine was continued, trails were improved, and, because of a forest fire, the trail from the water hole just south of the Great Rocks to the south end of Russell Mill Pond is being widened so that fire trucks will be able to reach the pond near the Carlisle line.



In 1962 we had a small fire near the pond. This year - in early October - we had a much larger and far more serious fire that started just south of the Great Rocks and swept rapidly south and east. Only the fast and effective work of the Fire Department kept the flames from sweeping through a very substantial part of the forest's forty-six acres. As it was, all but the very largest pines were destroyed on approximately six acres inside the forest and another six immediately to the south on land belonging to Edward B. Russell.

### Report of the Fire Department

The past year has been an extremely busy one for this Department. We responded to a total of 732 requests for assistance during 1963 which was an increase of 179 over the previous year. A number of these calls were caused by the severe drought during the summer and fall. The situation during September and October was explosive and we were very fortunate not to have had more serious fires.

The people of Chelmsford were aware of this danger and are to be commended for their carefulness during the dry spell. The most serious fire at this time occurred at the Thanksgiving Ground Forest, where over 15 acres burned over, and was only then brought under control after hours of hard and dangerous work by your firefighters. This fire was not declared out for eight days, and had to be watched continually.

The Town Dump was another source of danger at this time, and only through the cooperation of Superintendent Fred Greenwood of the Highway Department and of Isadore Needham, the caretaker of the dump, were we able to prevent a very serious fire, and I take this opportunity to thank them both.

Two other very serious emergencies that occurred the past year was the Boston and Maine train wreck and the fire at the Grossman Lumber Company, both of which could have been much more serious and could have caused a much bigger loss than they did.

Note: The Grossman Lumber Company had purchased the Proctor Lumber Company business on Middlesex Street the same month this train wreck occurred.



Boston and Maine Train Wreck behind Grossman's Lumber March 22, 1963 (Photo by John A. Goodwin)



Boston and Maine Train Wreck behind Grossman's Lumber March 22, 1963 (Photo by John A. Goodwin)



Boston and Maine Train Wreck behind Grossman's Lumber March 22, 1963 (Photo by John A. Goodwin)

Continued attention has been given to the work of fire prevention, it being one of the essential parts of our work. During the year, working in conjunction with the State and Town Building Inspector, inspections were made in all schools, churches and public buildings. Every three months throughout the year all convalescent and nursing homes were inspected to eliminate fire hazards.

Maintenance work on the fire alarm system consisted of general and emergency repairs, and pole changeovers. Approximately three miles of new wire was strung from the Center Station to the North Station, in order to tie the North circuit into the Center, and to enable us to sound the North whistle from the Center Station. This work was all done by the firefighters while on duty, in order to save the cost of letting the work out.



The firefighters on their regular tour of duty took care of all the maintenance work necessary at all five fire stations, and most of the apparatus repairs.

For this year I recommend that the Town vote to replace our pick-up truck which is now 13 years old, and for the immediate future I recommend that a permanently manned station should be considered so that we could have this ready by the end of 1966 at the latest.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine #1, 21,500 lbs., Magazine #2, 22,570 lbs., Magazine #3, 2,500 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

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## *1964*

### **Annual Town Meeting March 9, 1964**

#### UNDER ARTICLE 18:

Mr. Ernest Byam moves that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand four hundred ninety nine dollars (\$3,499.00) for the purpose of purchasing a 3/4 ton pick-up truck, for the Fire Department; said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 19:

Mr. Ernest Byam moves that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell, by good and sufficient bill of sale, the 1951 Studebaker pickup now being used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

### **Report of the Fire Department**

Building fire losses were low this year, and proves that Chelmsford people take pride in their homes, and try to keep them safe from fire.

Our thirteen year old pick-up truck was replaced with a new one and is much better suited to our needs. It is fitted up to be used as a fire alarm service truck, and also can be used to great advantage on brush and grass fires.

During this year we in the Fire Department and the townspeople suffered a great loss in the passing of our Deputy Chief. Raymond J. McGlinchey. The fact that his life was dedicated to the fire service will always be a tribute to his memory.

This year went into the record books as one of the driest in history, and the woodlands were extremely dangerous. Fires burned for days underground, and we had to keep a continual watch on all burned areas to be sure they did not get out of control from these underground fires.

Nursing Homes, schools and public buildings are continually inspected, and recommendations for safety are made to officials in charge.

Because of the necessity for lines of higher voltage, the electric utility company is continually putting in taller poles and this keeps us busy changing our fire alarm wires over to the new poles. We placed 5 new fire alarm boxes in service this year, and all boxes were painted and tested to be sure they were in working order.

For 1965 the department recommends that land be purchased for a new station, and a committee be appointed to draw up plans to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting in 1966.

In order to keep our equipment up to standard we should trade in the station wagon in 1965 while the turn in value is at its peak, and in 1966 we should replace two old 500 G.P.M. Pumpers, which are obsolete, with one 1000 G.P.M. new Pumping Engine.

### **In Memoriam**

Raymond J. McGlinchey, Deputy Chief of the Fire Department, died on November 8, 1964, in the performance of his duty. Deputy Chief McGlinchey served his country in the United States Marines in World War II, and when he was discharged from the Service in 1945 he was appointed as a regular firefighter. He rose in rank until in 1963 he was appointed Deputy Fire Chief.

Ernest G. Byam, Chief of the Fire Department, died on January 31, 1965. Chief Byam was first appointed a call firefighter in October, 1931. He was appointed a permanent fireman September 23, 1954, moving up through the ranks to become Chief on November 10, 1958. He was widely known and admired not only in Chelmsford but throughout the Middlesex County area and in state fire-fighting circles.

**Chelmsford Fire Chief**

**KILLED ON WAY TO FIRE**

CHELMSFORD — Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam met almost instant death yesterday morning when, while responding to an alarm for fire, the department station wagon was involved in a collision at Boston road and Warren avenue and then crashed head-on into a large tree.

Deputy Chief Fred Reid, who was following the chief's car in the Rescue truck, was one of the first at the scene and radioed for police and the ambulance.

Chief Byam was taken on a stretcher in the Rescue truck, with a police cruiser providing escort and Lowell police clearing the way through city intersections, to Lowell General hos-

pital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

THE CHIEF had directed the department in fighting a \$60,000 fire Saturday night at the B & B Construction company's storage barns, and had been called out again at 12:35 Sunday morning when a car caught fire in a garage attached to the Albert Fontaine house at 28 Algonquin drive. He was responding to an alarm for a fire at the Corfield home at 196 Boston road at 8:50 a. m. yesterday when the fatal accident occurred.

Police Sgt. Raymond Harmon, who with Chief Ralph J. Hulslander and a squad of policemen responded on the emergency

call put in by Deputy Chief Reid, reported that the other car involved in the crash was being operated by Robert E. Webb of S. Chatham road who was on his way home from the 8:15 mass at St. Mary's church. Inspector George Romian of the Motor Registry department assisted in the investigation.

Webb told police that he heard no siren, and that he put on his blinker light for a left turn and was just starting to turn from Boston road to Warren avenue when he felt a bump.

The chief's car swerved after the collision and went across Warren avenue to hit a large tree head-on.

Engine 1 proceeded to the Corfield home and made short work of the fire there.

CHIEF BYAM was the second permanent chief of the department, succeeding Allan Kidder when the latter died in November of 1958. He resided at 8 Perham street.

Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey dropped dead while fighting a brush fire last November and Reid was promoted from captain to succeed him.

CHIEF BYAM was born May 9, 1911. He was appointed a call man in the then volunteer department in October of 1931, and was promoted to lieutenant and

then to captain in the volunteer ranks.

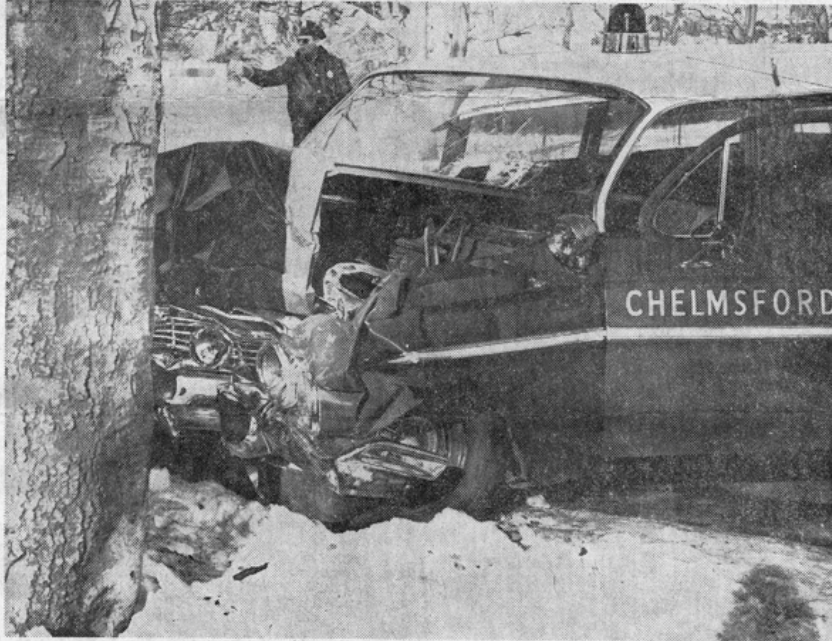
He was appointed a permanent fireman Sept. 23, 1954, captain April 1, 1955, acting deputy chief May 1, 1957, acting chief Nov. 4, 1958 and chief on Nov. 10, 1958.

During his term of office he continued the work started by Chief Kidder in setting up the present mutual aid system, increasing the permanent force and the equipment of the department, his latest acquisition having been an aerial ladder truck.

He was widely known not only in Chelmsford but throughout the Middlesex area and in state fire-fighting circles.

He is survived by his wife Luella G. (Adams) Byam; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Gravlin of West Acton; two sons, Arthur W. Byam and Bruce E. Byam, both of Chelmsford; 10 grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Ethel Harris of Winthrop; two brothers, Almon G. Byam and Rodney F. Byam, both of Melrose. He was born in Chelmsford, the son of the late G. Garland Byam, and Ethel (Lane) Byam Harris, who survives him, and had been a lifelong resident of that town.

He was a member and a deacon of the Central Baptist church of Chelmsford; was a member of William North lodge A.F.&A.M.; the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs association and the New England Fire Chiefs association, was treasurer of the Chelmsford Firefighters and Associates, Inc., and was a member and past master of Chelmsford Grange, 244. He was also on the board of directors of the Chelmsford Little League.



**Chelmsford Fire Chief Dies In Crash**

Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam of the Chelmsford fire department was fatally injured yesterday morning when his car struck a large tree at Boston road and Warren

avenue following a minor collision, as he was responding to a fire alarm. The chief's wrecked car is shown in this photo taken by Sun photographer W. Leonard Irvin.

Lowell Sun article, January 1, 1965 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

**1965**

**Annual Town Meeting March 8, 1965**

**UNDER ARTICLE 17:**

Regarding the New Fire House in South Chelmsford (on the easterly side of Park Road), Mr. Howard E. Humphrey moved that the Article be dismissed. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 18:**

Regarding committee for the New Fire house in South Chelmsford, Mr. Charles Egerton moved that this article be dismissed. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 70:**

Mr. Howard E. Humphrey moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund the sum of \$2,374.00 for the purchase of a station wagon type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

UNDER ARTICLE 71:

Mr. Howard E. Humphrey moved that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the station wagon type of vehicle which has been used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.





## Chelmsford Man Fire Spotter

Hollis Wilkins, insert, climbs the steps to the top of this fire tower on Robin's hill every day where he keeps a weather eye on the countryside. He is happy

when it rains because he knows the danger caused by lack of adequate rain. It is his job to spot woods fires and quickly report them.

# Isolated in a 65 Ft. Fire Tower But No Time to Become Lonely

By James Goldsmith

CHELMSFORD—When most people think of fires and the men who fight them they don't realize one of the tasks involved in firefighting is reporting them so the firefighters can get to the scene quickly.

This is especially important in the lives of men like Hollis Wilkins who man the 51 towers throughout the state where wood fires are spotted and reported. This veteran observer, who has been on this job for 11 years, daily climbs the 65 foot tower atop Robin's Hill. When asked if his job wasn't pretty lonely, Mr. Wilkins replied, "With two radios squawking all day long, a phone ringing and visitors, the work is anything but lonely."

On a clear day this observer can see 20-25 miles without any trouble as landmarks like the Prudential tower and the "Seven Hills of Rome" (Lowell) look like small toys on the horizon. "Where there is smoke there is fire but not always danger," says Mr. Wilkins. You see, there are plenty of "regular smokes" which would cause an inexperienced observer to reach for the phone or two way radio. However, men like Wilkins know where the dumps are and each one is listed and posted on the wall of his penthouse observatory.

"ROBIN'S HILL IS located in district six, one of the two districts in Middlesex county, and is regarded as a key tower by District Warden Arthur Hallenborg of Billerica.

Besides the state and county two way radio sets and a telephone, Mr. Wilkins uses a circular map that is divided into 360 degrees. You are probably wondering just how Wilkins gives explicit location information to enable firefighters to get to the exact scene of a woods fire. The observer sees the smoke, places a straight edge along the degree line and notifies the dispatcher who supplies the second reading; thus, where the two lines cross is the fire location.

Without the aid of the observer, the map, and communication between the observer, the dispatcher and the fire departments, a small woods fire would soon get out of hand and with conditions as bad as they are this spring it could spell disaster. This marks the second year at Chelmsford for this man who started working for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forests and Parks, in 1951. During daylight saving time Mr. Wilkins makes the

He started working for the state at the natural resources building in Stow as a fire truck operator. Since then he worked as a radio operator and dispatcher and filled in as an observer when a regular was on vacation. Each of the 13 fire districts has a district warden and patrolman as well as stations where firefighting equipment is kept. One of the state's firetrucks is kept at the Billerica station and the other is kept at Willard Brook state park, Ashby, for Middlesex county. One of Mr. Wilkins' jobs is to relay weather information between the fire headquarters station in Stow and the weather station at Ashby. The amount of rainfall, condition of vegetation and the readings of the wet and dry bulb thermometers are given each day. In addition, every day at 5 p. m. is fire roundup time as information concerning the acreage and class of fires for the day is reported; class A, fires of one-quarter of an acre or less, through class D. Every class "C" fire, or a fire which is larger, has to be assigned a number, have the acreage and exact location recorded for the permanent records.

**THIS OBSERVER**, who is a native of Chelmsford, also works with observers who are on the job at towers in Andover, Groton, Waltham, Harvard and Jeremy Hill, Pelham, N. H. Oftentimes a ridge will obstruct the vision of one observer but a man in another tower will get a clear view of the surrounding towns from his vantage point. During an emergency, men and equipment will be used from agencies like the division of fisheries and game, civil defense, and the bureau of insect pest control. Trucks that would normally be used for spraying or hauling trout to the streams and ponds are quickly pressed into service for fighting fires.

While it doesn't get lonely for Mr. Wilkins it certainly does get scary up there; especially when the wind begins to howl and the tower moves a little. It really is a breathtaking experience to look at the Greater-Lowell area from such a height and the scenery is beautiful at this time of year. In his opinion, fall is loveliest of all as the shades of red, and yellow mixed with the evergreens provide a natural setting of beauty.

During the off season, Wilkins goes to work at the Lowell-Dracut state forest for about five months. If the job in Chelmsford doesn't get lonely, one can easily tell why — this man loves the out-of-doors and is at home keeping his



long climb at 10 a. m. and doesn't leave the job until 6 p. m. daily watch.

Lowell Sun article May 26, 1965 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

### Special Town Meeting October 4, 1965

#### UNDER ARTICLE 8:

Chief Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Account the sum of One Thousand One Hundred (\$1,100.00) Dollars, said sum to be used by the Selectmen to acquire by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise in fee simple, a certain parcel of land situated of but not adjacent to Acton Road, supposed to belong to Royal Gardner, said premises to be used as and for the site of a proposed new Fire Station and to be added to contiguous premises now belonging to the Town situated on said Acton Road, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 14 and/or Chapter 79 of the General Laws, both as most recently amended. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 9:

Chief Frederick Reid moved that in the event of an affirmative vote under Article 8 that the Town vote to appoint a committee; said committee is to be named by the Board of Selectmen consisting of five members one of whom shall be the Fire Chief, for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a firehouse on the said described premises. Said committee to report back to the next Annual Town Meeting and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500.00) Dollars for the use of said committee. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

This past year has been the most disastrous in the history of our town as far as fire loss and major fires are concerned and with the accidental death of our Chief, Ernest G. Byam, responding to a fire. The town and in particular the Fire Department suffered a great loss. His life was dedicated to the fire service and the work that he accomplished will always be a tribute to his memory.

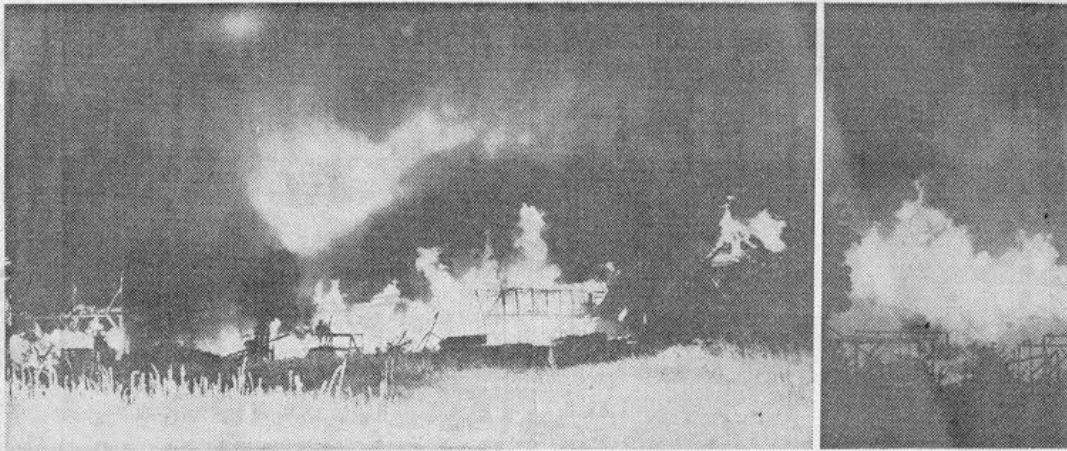


Fire on Princeton Street in 1965 in which a baby perished, Chief Reid is in the white coat at left  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



Aftermath of a fire in an unoccupied home on Mill Road in 1965,  
two youths were apprehended when they returned to the scene (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





### Flames Level Five-Acre Lumbe

The three pictures above show the complete destruction caused by a fire, believed to have been set, which levelled the Grossman lumber yard on Middlesex street,

North Chelmsford, early today. In all, six buildings occupying the lot between Middlesex street and the B&M tracks were levelled and their contents of lumber and

# \$250,000 FIRE IN



## THE LOWELL

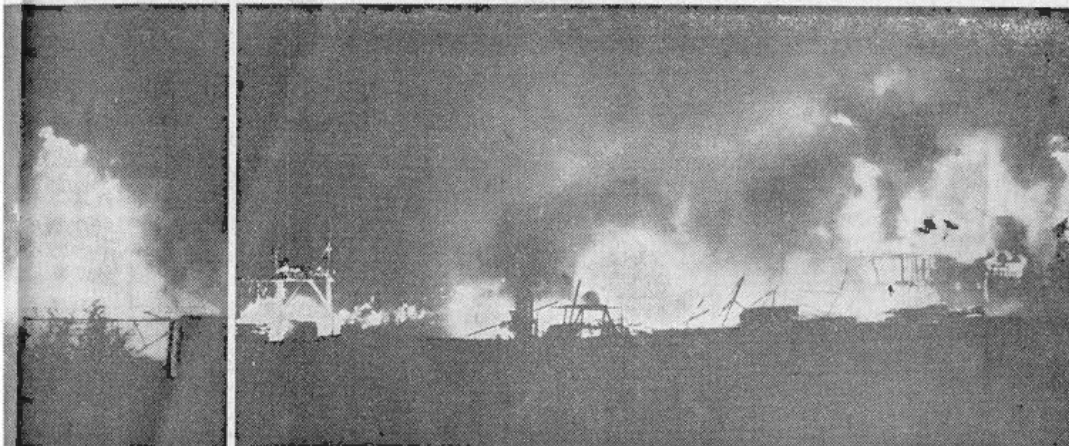
Lowell, Mass. • THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1965 • 44

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89th Year Serving Historic Middlesex County

Cloudy

SEE PAGE 3



### r Store and Yard in Chelmsford

building supplies were destroyed, causing loss which may exceed \$250,000. Firemen from Lowell, Nashua and six towns sent assistance to the Chelmsford depart-

ment to help keep the fire in the lumber yard and protect the residential area surrounding it from damage. Photos by Sun Photographer Lennie Irvin.

# LOWELL MCGODD

# CHELMSFORD

## SUN

Pages, 10 Cents

City ★ ★  
EDITION

## Grossman Lumber Yard Razed—Firebug Suspected

CHELMSFORD—Flames, apparently set by the same firebugs who have been active in Lowell for weeks and who had kept Lowell firemen busy last night, swept through the five-acre lumber yard of the Grossman company on Middlesex street, North Chelmsford, early today, levelling six buildings and destroying their contents of lumber and building supplies.

Fire Chief Frederick Reid this morning estimated the loss at about a quarter of a million dollars, but no official figures can be reached until a complete check of the inventory of the lumber yard is completed by the Grossman officials.

Flames, visible for 15 miles or more, drew hundreds of motorists to the scene from as far away as Bedford, Burlington, Nashua and Lawrence and local police, assisted by some from other communities, established fire lines well back from the flaming lumber yard so that the work of the firemen would not be slowed by spectators.

Sparks and pieces of blazing wood and paper were carried by the wind onto the new St. John's church, across the street, and for a distance of several hundred feet into a thickly settled residential district. Several minor fires were set by these embers but were extinguished by the home owners, many of whom had garden hoses in operation wetting down the roofs of their homes.

**THE LUMBER** yard is located on a large lot between the B. & M. tracks and Middlesex street. Three of the storage buildings, several being at least 100 feet in length, apparently were torched at the rear, near the tracks, for the engineer of a southbound freight saw all three afire and stopped at the Lowell switching tower to sound the first alarm at 12:01 a.m.

The wind, blowing from the tracks toward Middlesex street when the fire first was discovered, caused the flames to spread quickly, the length of the structures, and when Chief Reid arrived he sounded a general alarm, putting the mutual aid plan into action, and then called for additional assistance.

In all, apparatus from Billerica, Westford, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Nashua, N. H. and Lowell responded, sending pumpers and ladder companies, and more apparatus was held in readiness in the city and town stations should the fire jump Middlesex street and get into the residential section.

Firemen encircled the blazing structures with high pressure lines, with efforts being

concentrated at the Vinal square end of the area where residences abutted the lumber yard.

**THE ONLY STRUCTURE** of the Grossman yard which escaped destruction was the office building, at the northwest corner of the lot, and this was saved when firemen concentrated a number of hose streams on it and backed this up with a deluge directed into the blazing lumber yard area to provide a solid water curtain.

Chief Walter J. Kane brought Lowell Engines 2 and 8 and Ladder 2 to the scene, while Billerica sent two engine companies, Westford sent the same, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable and Tewksbury, one engine company each, and Nashua a ladder company.

**FIREMEN REMAINED** on the scene all night dousing the smouldering remains of the lumber yard.

Chief Reid said this morning that he has called in the state fire marshal to assist in the investigation. The fires, he said, were started in the same pattern as many of Lowell's, along the dark railroad tracks and by torching exteriors of the buildings.

Grossman officials at the Braintree headquarters this forenoon said the loss might exceed \$250,000.

No injuries were reported to Chief Reid and no damage to fire trucks, although several of them were pumping so close to the blazing buildings that they and their crews had to be kept covered with a spray of water.

## Three Suspicious Fires In City Last Night

**LOWELL** — Lowell had three fires of its own to handle last night before it was called upon by Chelmsford to provide help at the Grossman Lumber yard fire, and all will be investigated as circumstances pointed to more activity by the firebug or

three-decker at 109 Hale street. This was quickly extinguished.

The second came at 10:28 when the Max Levine garage at 270 Tanner street was almost completely destroyed and two trucks were heavily damaged.

Firemen still were at work at



<p>firebugs who already have caused heavy damage to local structures.</p> <p>The first call came at 8:35 p.m., from Box 34 at Hale and Howard streets. The blaze was centered in a third floor rear stairway of an unoccupied</p>	<p>the above fires when Box 420 called apparatus to the Curran and Morton warehouse at 1100 Gorham street, opposite Manchester street. Here firemen had to battle a smoke blaze which swept through the basement and spread to the first floor before being extinguished.</p>
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1965 Article in the September 30 Lowell Sun about the fire at Grossman's Lumber on Middlesex Street  
(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

This year we have modernized the fire alarm system by installing transistor units, doing away with the old type storage batteries and rectifiers; by adding 18 new street boxes and approximately 5 miles of new fire alarm wire. The Quessy School, McFarlin School addition and the new Junior High School were connected into the fire alarm system. All routine wire and maintenance work was done by the firefighters.

For 1966, the Department recommends that a new station be built on land purchased at the Special Town Meeting in October, 1965 and a 1000 G.P.M. pumper be purchased for the Central Station with the 750 G.P.M. pumper there now, going to the new proposed station in South.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

## 1966

### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 1966

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization account the sum of Twenty-one Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-four (\$21364.00) Dollars and to raise and appropriate Six Thousand Ninety-nine (\$6,099.00) Dollars for the purchase of a pumping engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted. Yes 298, No 20.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 34.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to transfer from Excess and Deficiency account the sum of Seventy-five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station at South Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 35.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to appoint a South Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee and to authorize it to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto, and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 36.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the present South Chelmsford Fire Station located on Acton Road and to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred (\$800.00) Dollars for the removal of said building. It was so voted.

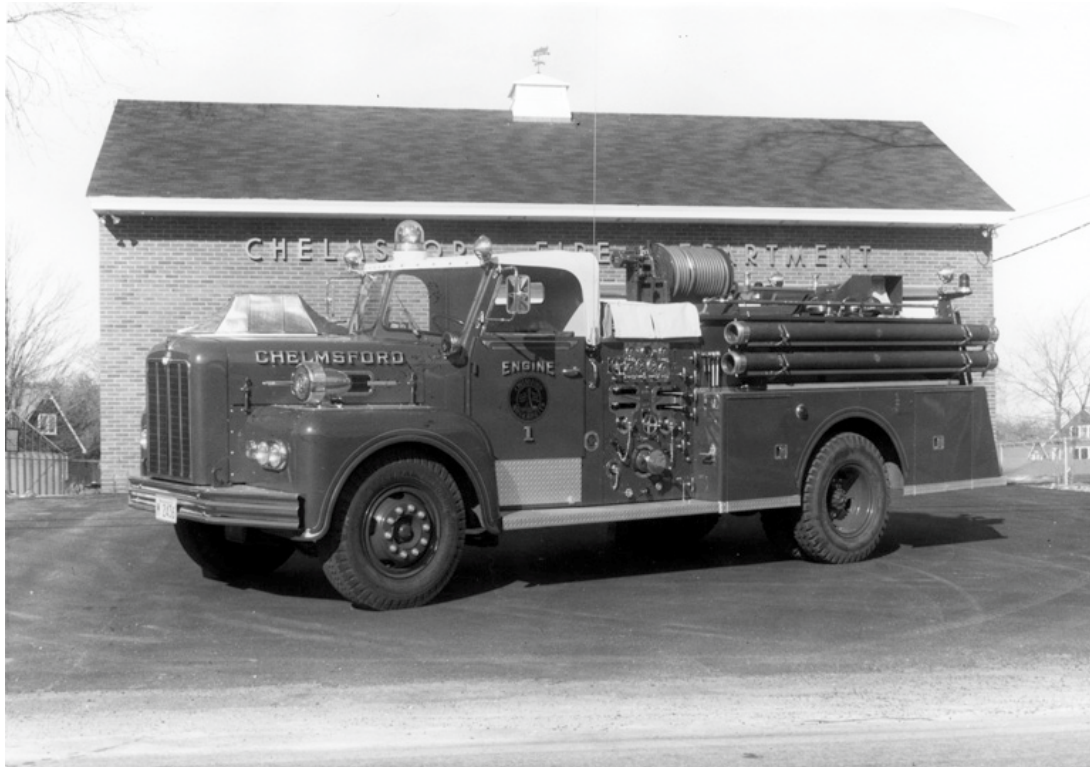


Old South Chelmsford Fire Station on Acton Road before demolition in 1966  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

The past year has been one of the most successful years in our Fire Department history with fire loss at a minimum, no loss of life or personal injury and with the ending of the drought our woods fires were way down from other years.

The people of Chelmsford with their good foresight in accepting the Boards' recommendation at the last annual town meeting, enabled us to add seven new men to man the new fire station in the South section of town which will be occupied in January of 1967. The new 1000 G.P.M. pumper authorized at the 1966 town meeting will also be delivered in January, thereby making it unnecessary for us to ask for any additional equipment for the coming year.



New South Chelmsford Fire Station, seen here behind the fire truck, opened in January 1967  
 This 1966 Maxim S model semi-cab 1000 g.p.m. triple combination Pumper, Engine 1, was delivered to Center  
 A rotation of apparatus followed:  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 5 and transferred to South  
 The previous Engine 5, a 1947 Studebaker 500 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 7 and transferred to North  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Based on a previous study of the department it was advised that the position of fire lieutenant be abolished and two additional captains be appointed. This was submitted in our budget for 1966 and with the concurrence of the Board of Selectmen I made two appointments for the positions at the first of the year.

The firefighters on their regular tour of duty painted the North and East fire stations as well as making repairs and continued maintenance of all our stations.

Our fire alarm crew installed more than five miles of fire alarm wire and added over twenty fire alarm boxes to the system; all but five of which were paid for by the home developers and installed to Fire Department specifications, with savings to the town of thousands of dollars.

Quarterly inspections of all schools, convalescent and nursing homes were made and all necessary reports filed. Fire prevention will be our major goal in 1967 with plans to inspect all mercantile, industrial, church, garage and service station buildings with recommendations and suggestions being made to the owners and/or occupants. These inspections will be made by an engine company on duty which will be in radio contact with headquarters and in service at all times.

The department believes that in order to maintain a high level of fire protection, a plan whereby an amount is appropriated each year and placed in a fund for the future replacement of fire apparatus should be adopted.

**Fire Chief**  
 Frederic H. Reid

## 1967

### Special Town Meeting June 3, 1967

UNDER ARTICLE 1.

Chief Frederick H. Reid moved the Town vote to transfer from the "constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station at South Chelmsford" account, the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500.00) Dollars to the Fire Department Building Repairs and Maintenance account for the purpose of repairing the heating system at the North Fire Station. It was voted unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Station Building Committee**

The Fire Station Building Committee, Raymond J. Greenwood, Chairman; Ralph E. House, Gerald R. Wallace, Howard J. Hall, Jr., and Fire Chief Frederick H. Reid submits a report of progress as follows:

Construction of the new Fire Station at South Chelmsford was begun in July of 1966. The building was substantially completed and occupied in January, 1967. The remaining work in no way hindered the operation of the Fire Department. It consisted mostly of grading, seeding, and covers for the heating elements. This work was completed by May of 1967, with the building then being accepted by the Committee.



The South Chelmsford Fire Station was opened in January 1967  
(1995 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The furnishings in the office of this station were donated by the Ernest G. Byam Memorial Fund in memory of the late Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam. The Committee wishes to express its thanks at this time to the Memorial Fund Committee and all town officials and residents for their cooperation while this project was in progress.

**Report of the Fire Department**

The past year has been one of the most successful years in our Fire Department history with fire loss at a minimum, no loss of life or personal injury, and our woods fires were a great deal lower than other years. The town dump was a source of danger this year, as usual, and only through the cooperation of Superintendent Fred Greenwood of the Highway Department and of Isadore Needham, the caretaker of the dump, were we able to prevent more serious fires, and I take this opportunity to thank them both.

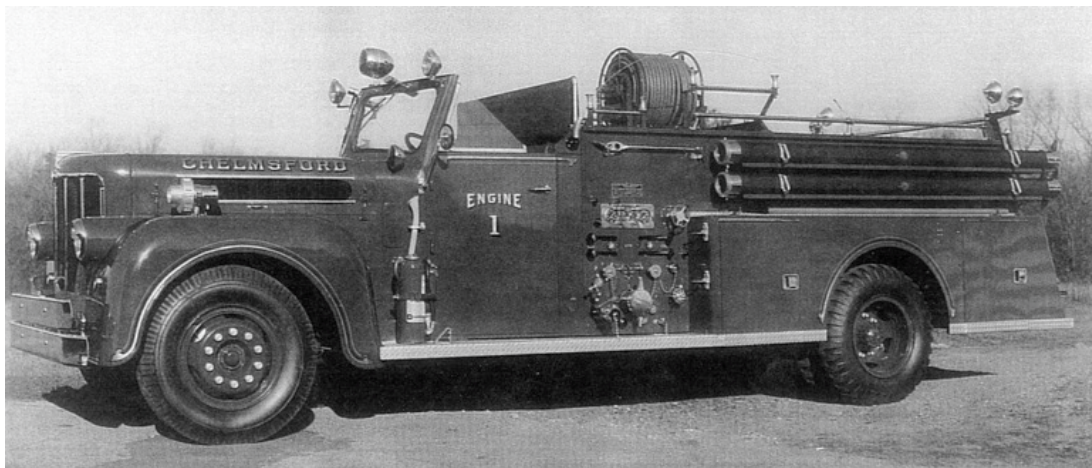




Firefighters Richard O'Neil and Arthur Anderson are putting out a fire c1967  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Because of the necessity for lines of higher voltage, the electric light company is continually putting in taller poles, and this keeps us busy changing our fire alarm wires over to the new poles. We placed 15 new fire alarm boxes in service this year.

We have been in our new Fire Station in the south section of town for almost a year now and we have been able to operate in a much more efficient manner than we were able to in the past, with permanent firefighters now stationed there around the clock. The new 1000 G.P.M. pumper was delivered in January and is in service at the Center Station with the 750 G.P.M. pumper that was there going to the new South Station.



1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper moved to the South Chelmsford Fire Station as Engine 5  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

In order to keep our equipment up to standard, we should trade in the station wagon in 1968, while the turn-in value is at its peak.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

**Privates**  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Robert K. Adams  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett

Jack D. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
Joseph F. Lynch

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Charles E. Jangraw

Francis J. Conlin

Thomas J. Curran

James T. Cutter

Bertrand E. Dixon

Donald A. Drew

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Robert R. Gagnon

Charles Galloway, Jr.

Edward J. McGovern

Harvey M. Miller

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

James M. Spinney

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Alvin F. Wetmore

**1968****Annual Town Meeting March 11, 1968**

UNDER ARTICLE 23. Mr. S. Anthony DiCiero moved that the Town vote to amend the Personnel Wage and Salary Classification and Compensation Plan by adding thereto the following:

Section 25. Compensation for Academic Achievement.

- a. Any full time, permanent member of the Police Department who has earned and received an Associate of Science certificate in law enforcement from an accredited college or university shall be paid Two Hundred (\$200) Dollars additional salary per year in his grade.
- b. Any full time, permanent member of the Fire Department who has earned and received an Associate of Science Certificate in Fire Science from an accredited college or university shall be paid Two Hundred (\$200) Dollars additional salary per year in his grade.
- c. Any full time, permanent member of the Police Department who has earned and received a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement from an accredited college shall receive Four Hundred (\$400) Dollars additional salary per year in his grade. In the event, however, that the said member is already receiving additional compensation by virtue of having obtained as Associate of Science certificate, then he shall be entitled only to an additional Two Hundred (\$200) Dollars, so that his total additional salary shall not be in excess of Four Hundred (\$400) Dollars per year.
- d. No member of the Police or Fire Department shall be entitled to any of the above additional salary without the prior approval of the Personnel Board.

It was so voted, unanimously.

UNDER ARTICLE 36.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred and Four (\$1,704) Dollars for the purchase of a 1968 DeLuxe four-door sedan type of vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. This motion failed.

UNDER ARTICLE 37.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient Bill of Sale the station wagon type of vehicle which has been used by the Fire Department. This Article was dismissed.



Chelmsford Fire Department float in the 1968 July 4 Parade, third prize winner  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Report of the Fire Department**

The Town of Chelmsford continues to build at a rapid rate, and this in turn causes an increase in requests for assistance from the Fire Department. Upon comparing the records for the past ten years, they reveal that the number of calls requested of and responded to by your Fire Department have increased from 286 in 1958 to 854 in 1968.

For 1969, the Department recommends that a committee consisting of five members be appointed for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a Fire Station in the west section of town. Also to replace a 1941 brush truck now in use at the North Station and a 1965 station wagon now being used by the Chief.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Charles E. Jangraw

**Captains**

Edward G. Quinn  
Robert C. Spaulding  
Allen C. Mello  
William H. Thayer

**Privates**

Thomas P. Miskell  
Robert K. Adams  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Francis J. Conlin  
Thomas J. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
Bertrand E. Dixon  
Donald A. Drew  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

Jack D. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Edward J. McGovern  
Harvey M. Miller  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
James M. Spinney  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore

**1969**

**Town Election March 3, 1969**



**Question:**

Shall the Town of Chelmsford accept the provisions of Section 58D of the Chapter 48 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended, as it applies to the permanent members of the uniformed fire fighting force of the Town of Chelmsford?

A fair and concise summary appears below:

Acceptance of the provisions of Section 58D would establish a forty-two (42) hour work week for permanent members of the uniformed fire fighting force of the Town of Chelmsford,

Results at the March 3 Town Election: Yes 1666, No 1274, Blanks 151



Chelmsford Fire Department Engine 4 in the 1969 July 4 Parade (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1969****UNDER ARTICLE 37.**

Mr. Gerald Lannan moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectman to appoint a committee consisting of five (5) members, one of whom shall be the Fire Chief, for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a firehouse in the West section of Town, said committee to report back to next annual town meeting and to transfer the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500) Dollars for use of the said committee. It was so voted.

Members appointed to this committee by the Board of Selectmen were: Fredrick H. Reid, Ralph E. House, Edward Hoyt, Eugene Gilet, and Peter R. Vennard.

**Adjourned Town Meeting March 24, 1969****UNDER ARTICLE 38.**

Mr. William Harvey moved that the Town vote to transfer from Stabilization Funds the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty-seven and 19/100 (\$2,337.19) Dollars for the purchase of a 1969 DeLuxe four door Sedan type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 39.**

Mr. Howard Humphrey moved that, in the event of an affirmative vote under the preceding Article, the Town authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the station wagon type vehicle which has been used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.



**UNDER ARTICLE 40.**

Mr. Gerald Lannan moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund (Equipment) the sum of Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Five (\$11,785.) Dollars for the purchase of a new piece of fire apparatus, said apparatus to be of the type commonly used for brush and grass fires, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 41.**

Mr. William Harvey moved that in the event of an affirmative vote under the preceding article, the Town authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the 1941 Chevrolet Brush Truck which has been used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

**Report of the Board of Selectmen**

The need for Labor Negotiations has been an important part of the business of this board during 1969. We have engaged the services of a Labor Relations Advisor, Mr. S. Anthony DiCiero, who has assisted us in many ways, and we are most grateful for his help. Meetings have been conducted with Negotiating Teams for both the Highway and Fire Department Employees and we have already reached a final agreement, acceptable to all parties,, for the Highway Employees. Negotiations are continuing with the Fire Department Employees.

**Report of the Fire Department**

With this fall being one of the wettest in history, the woodland fires were at a new low. Overall we responded to 33 more calls than in 1968 for a new record of 887 calls in one year.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention has this year enlarged its scope of operations. During Fire Prevention Week in October, a program in fire prevention was held for the women of the town. This included films on fire safety in the home and instruction in the proper use of fire extinguishers. This class was well received by all those who attended and we intend to conduct similar programs in the future.

Through the cooperation of the school department, fire safety films have been presented over closed circuit television to students in ail of our schools. These projects were in addition to inspecting all nursing homes and school buildings for fire safety every three months, plus a continuing program of inspection for all restaurants, mercantile outlets and manufacturing operations throughout the own. Fire safety films are available for showing to organizations in the town. Those interested in such a program are invited to make inquiry to the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

A new sedan was delivered in May and a new brush truck authorized at the 1969 Town Meeting will be delivered in the Spring of 1970, thereby making it unnecessary for us to ask for any additional equipment for the coming year.

Four new men were added to the department in 1969 giving us five men in the Center Station with two men in the North and two men in the South Stations around the clock.

It is our hope that the recommendations of a committee appointed for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a fire station in the west section of town be accepted, enabling us to operate in a much more efficient manner than we have been able to in the past.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn, Temp.

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding

William H. Thayer

Allen C. Mello

Charles S. Galloway, Jr., Temp.

**Privates**

Thomas P. Miskell

Robert K. Adams

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

Francis J. Conlin

Thomas J. Curran

James T. Cutter

Bertrand E. Dixon

Donald A. Drew

Philip Dube

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Robert R. Gagnon

Terrence A. Goode

Jack D. Hadley

William Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes

Joseph F. Lynch

Emil A. Magiera

Leo Martin

Edward J. McGovern

Harvey M. Miller

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

Ronald J. Sawicki

James M. Spinney

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Alvin F. Wetmore

## 1970



[Home](#)

### History from

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[1910-1919](#)

[1920-1929](#)

[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

[1950-1959](#)

[1960-1969](#)

[1980-1989](#)

[1990-1999](#)

[2000-2009](#)

[2010-2014](#)

[2015-201x](#)



Delivery of this 1970 Ford/Farrar Forest Fire Truck in the spring to Chelmsford Center as Engine 6 started a rotation:  
 The previous brush fire truck, 1959 Ford Engine 9 at the Center, was transferred to South Chelmsford  
 The donated 1958 Chevrolet rescue truck, Rescue 1, was taken out of service  
 (1983 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### Town Election March 2, 1970

##### QUESTION #2:

Shall the Town of Chelmsford accept the provisions of Section 111D of Chapter 41 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.) of Massachusetts, as amended as it applies to the permanent or regular members of the Police Department and the Fire Forces of the Town of Chelmsford?

##### A Fair and Concise Summary Appears Below:

Acceptance of the provisions of Section 111D of Chapter 41 would grant to regular and permanent members of the Police Department and Fire Forces of the Town of Chelmsford a three (3) week vacation after five (5) years of service and a four (4) week vacation after ten (10) or more years of service.

Results: Yes 3,463; No 2,408; Blanks 373

#### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 24, 1970

##### UNDER ARTICLE 30.

Mr. Howard Humphrey moved the Town appropriate and transfer from surplus funds \$90,000.00 for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station at West Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town. It was so voted.

##### UNDER ARTICLE 31.

Mr. Howard Humphrey moved the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a West Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee and authorize it to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project. It was so voted.

(Appointed to the committee were: Frederick H. Reid, Ralph E. House, Edward Hoyt, Eugene E. Gilet, and Peter R. Vennard)

**UNDER ARTICLE 32.**

Mr. Gerald Lannan moved the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Fire Equipment Fund \$6,150.00 for the purchase of a new Motor for a 1958 Maxim Fire Engine for the Fire Department, such purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



1958 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 2 in North Chelmsford, due for engine replacement in 1970  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Special Town Meeting June 8, 1970****UNDER ARTICLE 3.**

Mr. Paul Murphy moved that the Town vote to designate and dedicate for recreational purposes that the parcel of land owned by the Town and known as the Robert's land at Old Westford, which parcel had been originally purchased by the Town for school purposes and excepting from recreational purposes that portion of the property which is to be utilized for fire station purposes. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 5.**

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to transfer from the excess and deficiency fund the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars to the regular fireman account said sum to be utilized for the employment of additional fire department personnel. It was so voted, unanimously.





December 5, 1970 Walter Lewis barn fire on Robin Hill Road  
Westford Firefighter Richard T. St. Onge died of a heart attack  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





December 5, 1970 Walter Lewis barn fire on Robin Hill Road, the house was saved by the firefighters  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

# Fireman dies battling Chelmsford dairy fire

By JOHN O'KEEFE  
**CHELMSFORD** — Two huge barns were completely gutted and a Westford fireman died Saturday evening as a spectacular blaze devastated Sunny Meadows Farm in Chelmsford.

Dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital was Richard T. St. Onge, 29, of 51 Boston Rd., Westford, who suffered a heart attack while working hoses at the fire scene, witnesses said. Flames from the two-story hay filled barn

were visible at a distance of four miles. Firemen from Chelmsford and Westford, backed up by units from Billerica and Lowell, battled the blaze and kept it from destroying other buildings on the Robin Hill Rd., farm of Walter Lewis.

Lewis, owner of Sunny Meadow Farm, was a thousand miles away when the fire broke out, wending his way toward Houston, Texas, where he was to attend an American Farm Bureau Federation meeting there.

No estimate of the loss was available, but it was believed replacement of the building and equipment might be in the vicinity of \$100,000. The buildings were among the largest in the area.

First to discover the flames was Danny Lewis, 7, who was watching TV with some friends in the house. He raced out to the family dairy products store in an adjacent building and told his mother, Glenda Lewis, Mr. Lewis' daughter-in-law. She quickly summoned the Chelmsford Fire Department.

Fifteen fire trucks from four communities responded to the alarm. More than 40 men under the direction of Chelmsford Fire Chief Frederick Reid brought the blaze under control after a two-hour battle. The flames were visible for miles and police details responded to handle the traffic.

Morris Thibeault of Manahan St., Chelmsford, and his brother Norman were working outside the barn unloading a bulldozer shortly after 4:30 p.m. "We just looked up and saw the flames," he said.

With another farm worker, Bruce Taylor of Westford, the Thibeaults led some 85 cows into the safety of a nearby field, where they watched unconcernedly.

"THE COWS couldn't see the fire," Thibeault said. "The cows were scared and ran back into the barn."

Also rescued, Thibeault said, was a calf which was on the ground floor, but several calves and two sheep perished as the flames swept the second story of the barn.

Leonard Dube of Nashua and Bob Wagner of Garrison Rd., Chelmsford, were milking cows when the Thibeaults burst in shouting "Let the cows out, the barn is on fire!" "I couldn't believe it at first," said Dube, "but it didn't take long to convince me."

**COMPLETELY LEVELED** by the blaze was a complex of barn buildings approximately 170 feet long and 90 feet wide. The old section, a red two-level structure, housed two dozen animals and a large quantity of hay. The newer part of the barn, a long one-story building, contained "about 60 tieups for the cows," workmen said.

Saved by the action of firefighters was a huge tarpaulin-covered pile of winter feed, estimated by one of the farm workers at "over 100 tons."

**THE FIRE'S** progress was halted in a shed connecting the barns to the house. Some furniture was moved out of the Lewis home as the flames broke out, but most of it was restored shortly after 6 p.m. Slight smoke damage was reported in the house.

Mrs. Walter Lewis, distraught at the scope of the disaster during her husband's absence, struggled manfully with her problems while firemen extinguished the last of the flames.

There was uncertainty about insurance coverage. The cows would need milking in the morning. The thermometer said 30, and a heavy snow warning was predicted.

It's not easy to find a home for 85 cows on short notice.

Hope that the livestock would be moved to Bates farm in Carlisle was reportedly ruled out by a number of boats stored there. If nothing could be found, Mrs. Lewis said, Ralph House (a Chelmsford building contractor) had offered to build a temporary shelter.

Friends and neighbors would be there early the next morning. Morris Thibeault said, "enough to milk all those cows by hand, if necessary."



Sun color photo by Pigeon

## Chelmsford fire at its height

Flames completely destroyed two huge barns and half a dozen livestock Saturday night at Sunny Meadows Farm in Chelms-

ford while owner Walter Lewis was in a plane en route to Texas. The Lewis home was saved by firefighters' action, but a

Westford fireman died of a heart attack suffered at the scene. Preliminary damage estimates run close to \$100,000.

## Terrific blast rips N.J. oil refinery—score or more injured

By JOSEPH DI LEO

**LINDEN, N.J. (AP)** — A massive explosion ripped through an oil refinery near the New Jersey Turnpike Saturday night, hurling a ball of flame more than 1,000 feet in the air and shaking homes up to 40 miles away.

A number of injuries were reported in the

A fire department spokesman said the fire which followed the blast was confined to the catalytic plant, a gigantic steel superstructure used in refining oil.

He said there appeared no immediate danger of flames spreading to the scores of oil

storage tanks in the North Jersey mesadowland area where several refineries are clustered along the Arthur Kill, the narrow body of water between New Jersey and Staten Island, N.Y.

It would take hours to control the blaze, he said.

## Race trouble in Cairo, Ill.

1970 Walter Lewis barn fire on Robin Hill Road described in the December 6 Lowell Sunday Sun (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

### Report of the Fire Department

Quarterly inspections required by statutes in nursing homes were conducted and the necessary reports filed. Public and private school fire drills and inspections required by law were conducted; mercantile, industrial, church, garage and service station buildings were inspected for hazards and reports filed. Appropriate recommendations were given to owners and/or occupants. The 1970 inspection program was, in fact, the most aggressive conducted by the department in its history. A single piece of radio-equipped apparatus was assigned with a full complement of fire fighters to undertake "in service" inspections. In the event of a fire call, the men and equipment are able to respond immediately and without delay. In this way more efficient and effective use of personnel and apparatus is achieved.



For 1971 the department recommends that a new 1000 G.P.M. pumper be purchased, replacing a 1935 pumper now in service. There are five pumping engines in the department. Our plans are to replace one pumper every five years so that we will always have modern equipment without putting a burden on the tax rate.

### Report of the Board of Selectmen

Labor negotiations with unions which represent the Fire Department and Highway Department employees commenced once again, during the latter part of 1970, so that new contracts can be agreed upon, and the results presented to the voters at the coming annual town meeting. Our Labor Relations Advisor, Mr. S. Anthony DiCiero, has assisted the board in many ways during these negotiations and we are most grateful for his help.



1971 Signing of the Union Contract. From left to right: Chief Frederick Reid, Alvin Wetmore, Selectman E.J. Doody, Capt. Allen Mello, James Cutter, Ronald Sawicki (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Station Building Committee

Eugene Gilet, Chairman, Edward Hoyt, Secretary, Frederick H. Reid, Fire Chief, Peter Vennard, Ralph House

At the annual town meeting of March 1969, a committee was appointed to select a site, prepare plans and specifications for a new fire station to be located in West Chelmsford.

The site selected was one located at the corner of Westford Street and Old Westford Road, said land being owned by the town of Chelmsford. Some delay in obtaining plans and specifications occurred due to the refusal of the State Board of Health to approve the original site as selected. A new site on the same property with the approval of the Board of Selectmen was selected.

Articles for the annual town meeting in March 1970 were prepared and costs submitted to the Finance Committee for their approval. Bids from three general contractors were received September 24, 1970, and the contract was awarded to the low bidder one week later.

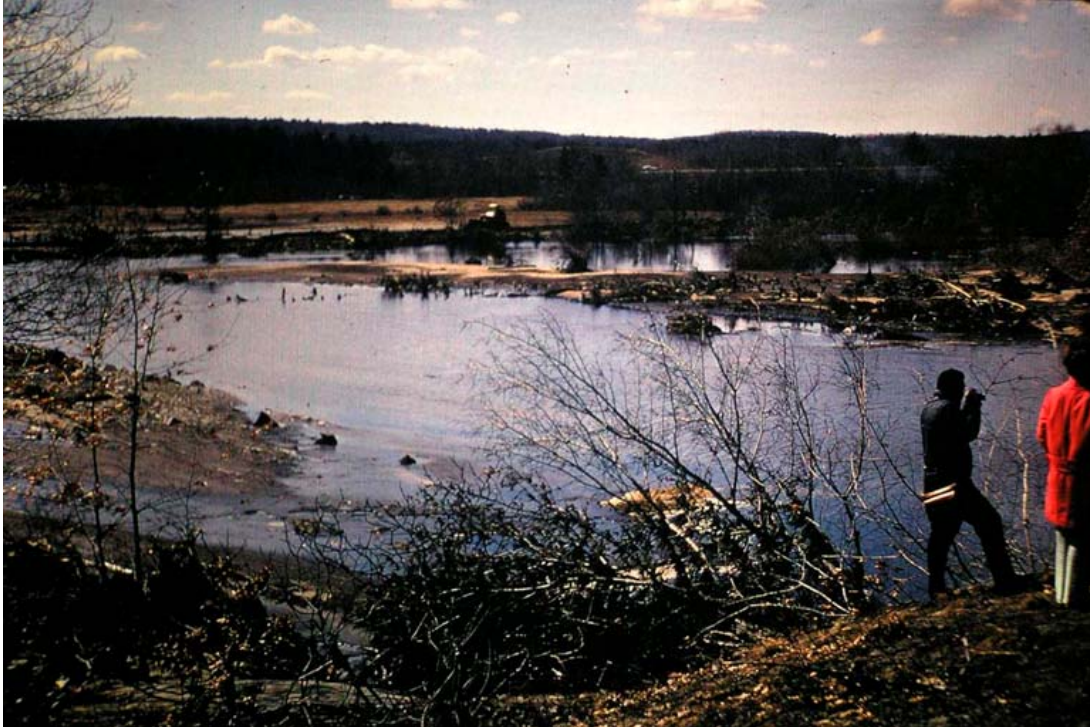
Progress from then on was very good — the building being roofed in and heat on before the first snowfall. At this present rate of progress we expect that the building can be occupied by the beginning of February, 1971.

### Report of the Civil Defense Commission

During April, Crystal Lake burst its dam due to the rains and melting snow. The culverts which allowed the water from Stony Brook to go under the railroad tracks in West Chelmsford, became clogged with old railroad ties and debris from the adjacent banks diverting practically all the water to flow along the dyke into Crystal Lake. As a result, the overflows

caused the dam (which was mostly fine sand) to be washed away, flooding the lower part of the area on Richardson Road and Princeton Blvd. The damage which occurred was quite extensive to some of the business establishments and residents in the area.

The Police and the Auxiliary Police along with the Fire Department did an outstanding job of traffic and warning patrol. The Red Cross, under the supervision of Walter Hedlund, set up a first aid center and provided food for the workers. The town was fortunate that the dam burst in mid-afternoon and no one was injured. Had it happened during the night, the damage and injuries would have been much more extensive.



Crystal Lake Dam break April 4, 1970, Route 3 in the right background (Photo by John A. Goodwin)



Crystal Lake Dam break April 4, 1970, Stony Brook Railroad track washout and Route 3 overpass (Photo by John A. Goodwin)





Crystal Lake Dam break April 4, 1970, destruction of the Stony Brook Railroad bed below the dam (Photo by John A. Goodwin)

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding  
 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

**Privates**

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
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 Terrence A. Goode  
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 James M. Spinney  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis

**1971**

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 22, 1971**

UNDER ARTICLE 33.

Mr. Fred Reid moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$47,200.00 for the purchase of a Pumping Engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted,

UNDER ARTICLE 64.

Regarding funds for manning the East Chelmsford Fire Station on a permanent basis, Mr. Timothy O'Connor moved for dismissal. It was so voted.

UNDER ARTICLE 6.

Mr. Gerald J. Lannan moved that the town vote to transfer from surplus funds the sum of \$300 to procure appraisals for

the purchase of land for the use of a fire station in East Chelmsford, such appraisals to be obtained by the Fire Station Site Committee. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

In 1971 the Fire Department inspected one hundred and eighty-six mercantile and commercial establishments for the purpose of making recommendations for fire safety and prevention. One hundred and thirty-two re-inspections were made to protect the safety of the general public and assure compliance with state statutes. The cooperation of our local business community has been outstanding and the department is appreciative of their help and understanding. In addition, every three months the department has inspected all schools, theaters and nursing homes. During the summer fire safety programs were held for the staffs of all four nursing homes in the town.

During fire prevention week the department conducted an all day fire safety program for several hundred boy scouts and their parents. The use of the building and grounds of the South Chelmsford Rod and Gun Club were made available for this program, through the courtesy of the members of that organization.

In the morning, classes were held inside for groups of scouts. Subjects discussed were: the various types of fire extinguishers and their proper use, danger of false fire alarms and how to develop an emergency evacuation plan for the home. Two timely fire prevention films were also shown during the morning program. The aid and cooperation of the scouts was sought in the fire department's continuous campaign to prevent fires.



Robert Bennett supervises hands-on practice with a fire extinguisher during an all day fire safety program  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The afternoon program included an outside demonstration of the fire extinguishers on test fires. The boys were given an opportunity to use the various types of extinguishers on a real fire. A team of fire fighters demonstrated rescue techniques by using the aerial ladder and strokes stretcher to remove a simulated victim from the roof of a building. As a finale to the day's program, a small building was set on fire. On signal, the fire companies responded and extinguished the fire as they would at an actual fire. This day long program was well received and was given extensive coverage by the local newspaper and a Boston television station.

During the year several hundred youngsters have been given conducted tours of the various fire stations and have been supplied with fire prevention literature. Your fire department in cooperation with the fire department of Billerica and Dracut has established a library of fire safety films. These films are available to any group or organization and a program may be arranged by calling or writing the fire prevention bureau.

As a result of a complete ban on outside burning, the number of brush fires have been reduced from 257 calls in 1969 to 95 calls in 1971; although we did respond to several dump fires totaling several hundred man-hours and millions of gallons of water prior to the use of the Lowell incinerator.

In February we opened the new West Chelmsford Fire Station. This now gives us four permanently manned stations which enable us to provide better fire protection throughout the town.



West Chelmsford Fire Station, located on the edge of Roberts Field, opened in February 1971  
(1995 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

A new 1000 G.P.M. pumper will be delivered in the spring as part of our continuing rotation plan whereby we purchase a new pumper every five years.

For 1972, the department recommends that we replace a 1964 pick-up truck now in use at the Center Fire Station with a new 3/4 ton pick-up. This vehicle is used for transporting equipment to the various stations, picking up hose after fires and plowing all fire stations.

#### **The East Chelmsford fire Station Site Committee**

In April of 1971 a committee was appointed by the Selectmen to select a site for a fire station in East Chelmsford to provide that section of town with equal fire protection with other parts of town.

The members of the committee are:

Timothy F. O'Connor, Chairman  
 Myles I. Beers, Clerk  
 Thomas E. Firth, Jr.  
 John E. Hibbard  
 Edward G. Quinn, Deputy Fire Chief  
 Frederick H. Reid, Fire Chief  
 William E. Spence  
 Francis J. Bindas

The committee began holding meetings early in May and continued through October with the final selection of a site on Carlisle Road in East Chelmsford.



# Fire rips Chelmsford farm store

By JEFF NORTHRUP  
Sun Staff Reporter 2-6-71  
CHELMSFORD—A two-alarm fire, apparently fed by a major gas leak under the road, last night totally destroyed the Lupien Farms storage and retail distribution center on Old Westford Road.

No official cause has yet been determined but Albert J. Lupien, 2 Sycamore St., Chelmsford, the owner of the farm, said William Roper, an employe who lives nearby, smelled gas, investigated and saw "the road on fire."  
Even after firefighters had quenched the smoky blaze, gas bubbled to the surface in several areas along Old Westford Road.  
Fire Chief Frederick Reid said last night he

and Det.-Lt. David Murphy of the State Fire Marshall's office will investigate the cause of the fire today.  
One police officer, however, told The Sun that the first call to the scene at about 6:15 p.m. was to investigate a gas leak reported in the area.  
Shortly thereafter, the fire was reported.

A gas heating unit inside the building was partially melted by the blaze. Chief Reid would make no preliminary statement on the cause of the blaze but Lupien said he believes gas seeping from an underground leak might have been ignited by the pilot of the gas heater.



MOPPING UP OPERATIONS

... took much of the night at Lupien Farms fire

SUN photo by Irvin

LUPIEN SAID he has "no idea" of the value of the property. However, he said, some 10,000 bushels of apples were stored in a refrigerated area in the cellar and large quantities of eggs and other farm produce were in the building along with apple grading machines and refrigeration units.

Lupien, 61, has been operating the farm since he was 24.  
He said last night "everything's gone. It's all junk, now." The building, he said, is insured, but he was skeptical whether he would rebuild and start again.

A house across the street from the farm was filled with gas, Reid said, but no one was in the house. "We put smoke ejectors in the window to evacuate the gas."

Lowell Gas Co. crews were on the scene shortly after the fire was reported to isolate the area and then check each house nearby.

FIRE CREWS remained on the scene much of the night to make sure the gas leak caused no further danger.

Tight security at the scene was imposed by Chelmsford police to make sure no unnecessary persons entered the fire area.

Mutual aid from Lowell, an engine and ladder, and Billerica, an engine, was called in to cover Chelmsford fire stations.

Ironically, the new fire station on Westford Road—barely 100 yards from the fire scene—opened only this week.

1971 Article in the February 6 Lowell Sun, Lupien Farm Stand fire (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding  
William H. Thayer  
Allen C. Mello  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

**Privates**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Michael A. Blazonis  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
Francis J. Conlin  
Thomas J. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
John P. DePalma  
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
Ronald L. Johnson  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil A. Magiera  
Leo Martin  
Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Edward J. McGovern  
Harvey M. Miller  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
James M. Spinney  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander (Prov.)  
Dennis Vargeletis

## 1972

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 21, 1972**

**UNDER ARTICLE 24.**

Mr. Gerald J. Lannan moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,988.00 for the purpose of purchasing a 3/4 ton 4-wheel drive pick-up truck with snow plow for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize said Board to transfer by good and sufficient Bill of Sale the 1964 Chevrolet 3/4 ton pick-up truck with plow now being used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

**Special Town Meeting April 18, 1972**



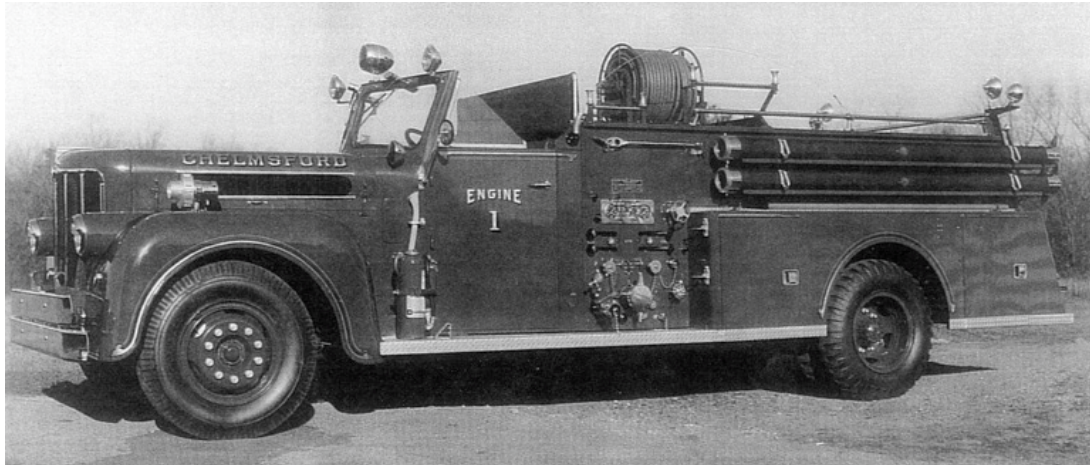
**UNDER ARTICLE 52.**

Pertaining to the acquisition of land for a site for a new fire station on Carlisle Street. The vote was: YES 33, NO 85. Motion defeated.

As a result ARTICLE 53 to raise money to be used for procuring plans and specifications for a proposed new fire house in East Chelmsford and ARTICLE 54 to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint an "East Chelmsford Fire House Building Committee" to proceed with the procurement of plans, legal and technical advice, specifications and costs for the construction of a proposed new fire house in East Chelmsford were both withdrawn.

**Special Town Meeting April 18, 1972****UNDER ARTICLE 1.**

Mr. Gerald J. Lannan moved that the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$6,000.00 for the purchase of a new motor for a 1957 Maxim Fire Engine for the Fire Department, such purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 5 in South Chelmsford (originally Engine 1 at the Center), due for engine replacement in 1972 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Report of the Fire Department**

Although the actual number of alarms have been reduced from previous years, we did have several multi-alarm fires resulting in large fire losses. Two of which were at the Middlesex Training School. Both were set. In each case all persons involved were apprehended and convicted.

A stepped-up fire prevention program was inaugurated in the department during the past year, with Captain Robert Spaulding being assigned to this program. The 1971 fire prevention car has been replaced by a 1972 model through the continuing courtesy of Bournival Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc.

All fire fighters participate in the in-service inspections of commercial and industrial buildings. Any violation of law or unusual conditions are referred to the fire prevention bureau. These in-service inspections have been well received by the business community. A study is being made of the advisability of adopting a fire prevention code for the town.

In compliance with state law, all churches having kindergartens who do not have the required fire detection and alarm systems were notified and are complying.

In addition, a new pick-up service truck has been added replacing one that was several years old. This vehicle is used to transport hose and to perform the many service duties required by the department. It is furnished with complete snow plowing equipment which is used to keep the five fire stations clear of snow and ice.

The department rescue truck which was originally presented to the town as a gift has been retired after many years of excellent service.

The newest brush fire truck has been converted by the men of the department to a rescue vehicle. This was made possible by the drop in the number of brush fires due to the ban on outside burning.



The 1970 Ford/Farrar Forest Fire Truck on the left, was converted to a rescue truck by the men of the department. This 1983 photo with firefighters Richard Grennon and Frances Conlon shows a generator working atop the truck (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Training of personnel continues to be a prime consideration of the fire department, continuous throughout the year, consisting of both outdoor drills and indoor classroom instruction. The members of the department have received basic and refresher courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation under the sponsorship of the heart association. Special classes have been held on the handling of all types of gas fires.

The department has made another advance in the past year consistent with modern fire fighting practices. This is the introduction of pre-fire planning. Under this system a diagrammed written plan is devised for coping with a fire in schools, nursing homes, shopping centers, etc. Each man is provided with his own copy of the plan, and in addition each engine company carries a copy with them. The plans are reviewed frequently and operational drills are held at the various sites.

For 1973, the department recommends that a 1969 4-door sedan now being used by the fire department be replaced with a 1973 4-door sedan.

The department is also recommending through articles in the Annual Town Warrant, the purchase of land and funds for preliminary plans for a fire station in East Chelmsford.

#### **Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

#### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

#### **Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding

William H. Thayer

Allen C. Mello

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

James M. Spinney

#### **Privates**

Robert K. Adams

Walter F. Adley, Jr.

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

Michael A. Blazonis

William V. Cady, Jr.

Francis J. Conlin

Thomas J. Curran

James T. Cutter

John P. DePalma

Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.

Donald A. Drew

Philip Dube

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Robert R. Gagnon

Terrence A. Goode

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes

Ronald L. Johnson

Joseph F. Lynch

Emil A. Magiera

Leo A. Martin

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.

Edward J. McGovern

Harvey M. Miller

Thomas P. Miskell

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

Ronald J. Sawicki

James A. Sousa

Joseph E. Staveley

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1973

### Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1973

#### UNDER ARTICLE 13.

Mr. Frederick H. Reid moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire in fee simple by purchase, by eminent domain or otherwise, as the site for a proposed new fire station the following described land which is bounded as follows: Beginning at a point on the northerly side of Riverneck Road, the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Stephen H. and Louise M. Farley: thence westerly two hundred fifty (250) feet: thence northerly about four hundred (400) feet to Black Brook Channel: thence easterly two hundred fifty (250) feet to corner of land now or formerly of Helen Lemire: thence running southerly approximately four hundred fifty (450) feet to the point of beginning. Said land being part of Lot #405 now or formerly owned by Franklin N. Prescott, Plan Book 35, Plan 28: and that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to defray all necessary costs, fees, and expenses in connection with the acquisition of said land and for paying any damages which may be awarded as the result of any such taking, said purchase to be made only if said land passes state sanitary requirements. A motion to amend to delete the words "eminent domain" from the above motion was defeated. The vote on the main motion was unanimous.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 14.

Mr. Frederick H. Reid moved that in the event of an affirmative vote under the preceding article, that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee consisting of not more than five (5) members for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a fire-house on the said described premises, and to transfer from the West Chelmsford Fire Station Building funds the sum of \$2,500.00 for the use of said committee. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 15.

Mr. Thomas F. Markham, Jr. moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,849.00 for the purchase of a 1973 four-door sedan type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the said Board of Selectmen: and to authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the 1969 four-door sedan type vehicle now being used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 14, 1973

#### UNDER ARTICLE 78.

Mr. Thomas F. Markham, Jr. moved that the Town vote to grant longevity benefits to all permanent employees of the Police Department and Fire Department in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. Upon completion of five years of employment said employee shall receive a three per cent (3%) increase.
- b. Upon completion of ten years of employment said employee shall receive a six per cent (6%) increase.
- c. Upon completion of fifteen years of employment said employee shall receive a nine per cent (9%) increase.
- d. Upon completion of twenty years of employment said employee shall receive a twelve per cent (12%) increase.

A discussion took place. Mr. Gerald Lannan of the Board of Selectmen stated that the Selectmen are unanimously in favor of this article. Mr. Richard McDermott of the Finance Committee spoke in opposition to it, but stated he wished to go on record that the Finance Committee considers the firefighters and policemen first class citizens. A motion was made to stop debate. Motion carried, unanimously. A vote was taken on the main motion. It was so voted. The voice vote was questioned. A hand count was taken: YES 271, NO 147. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

On March 23, 1973 the town was notified of a change in the insurance rating schedule. Specifically rated buildings were changed from 5th class to 4th class. This would include mercantile and industrial properties. Dwellings were changed from Grade "C" to "B". This has resulted in savings to both business enterprises and private homeowners. This change in rating resulted from a survey of the fire defenses of Chelmsford conducted by the Insurance Service Organization. We feel this change was brought about primarily through the efforts of the fire department in effecting modern training methods and especially its system of pre-fire planning of major buildings and complexes throughout the town.

Undoubtedly the energy crisis will play a major part in the fire service. We are beginning to feel the affect. Several fires have occurred due to the reactivating of fireplaces after several years of idleness. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of having old fire places checked by a competent person.



A major concern to the fire department involves the transport, handling and storage of gasoline. Gas should be transported in approved safety cans and never stored in any building or part of any building being used for habitation. However, gasoline may be used, kept, or stored in any building not used for habitation nor frequented by the public, without a permit, provided the total quantity shall not exceed seven gallons and provided the gasoline is stored in one or more metal or plastic containers which have been approved by the marshal. Such containers shall be kept away from all heating devices and shall not be opened in any area where there is an open flame or an electric or mechanical device that might cause a spark. If a container is used in an enclosed area, such area shall be suitably ventilated. Precaution should also be used with portable electrical heaters. All electric heaters should be kept away from flammable materials.

The 1972 fire prevention car has been replaced by a 1973 model through the continuing courtesy of Bournival-Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc.



Deputy Chief Edward G. Quinn with the 1973 Plymouth Fury four-door sedan that replaced the 1972 sedan  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

The 1969 Ford 4-door sedan used by the Fire Chief has been replaced by a 1973 Chevrolet.





Chief Reid with the 1973 Chevrolet four-door sedan that replaced a 1969 Ford (1973 Annual Town Report)

I am recommending, and have made provisions in my budget for 1974, the up-dating of our rescue equipment as we are responding to an increasing number of accidents on Route #495 and Route #3.

**The East Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee**

Walter R. Hedlund, Chairman, Frederick H. Reid, George R. Dixon, Edward G. Quinn, Edward Hoyt

The above committee held its first regular meeting immediately following the acquisition of the land for the station on December 17th. At this meeting the possibility of incorporating a civilian defense Emergency Operating Center in the plans for the building were discussed. The committee instructed the Chairman to ask the Assistant Director of Civil Defense of Sector 1 to be present at our next regular meeting to advise us of the requirements for such an operating center.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

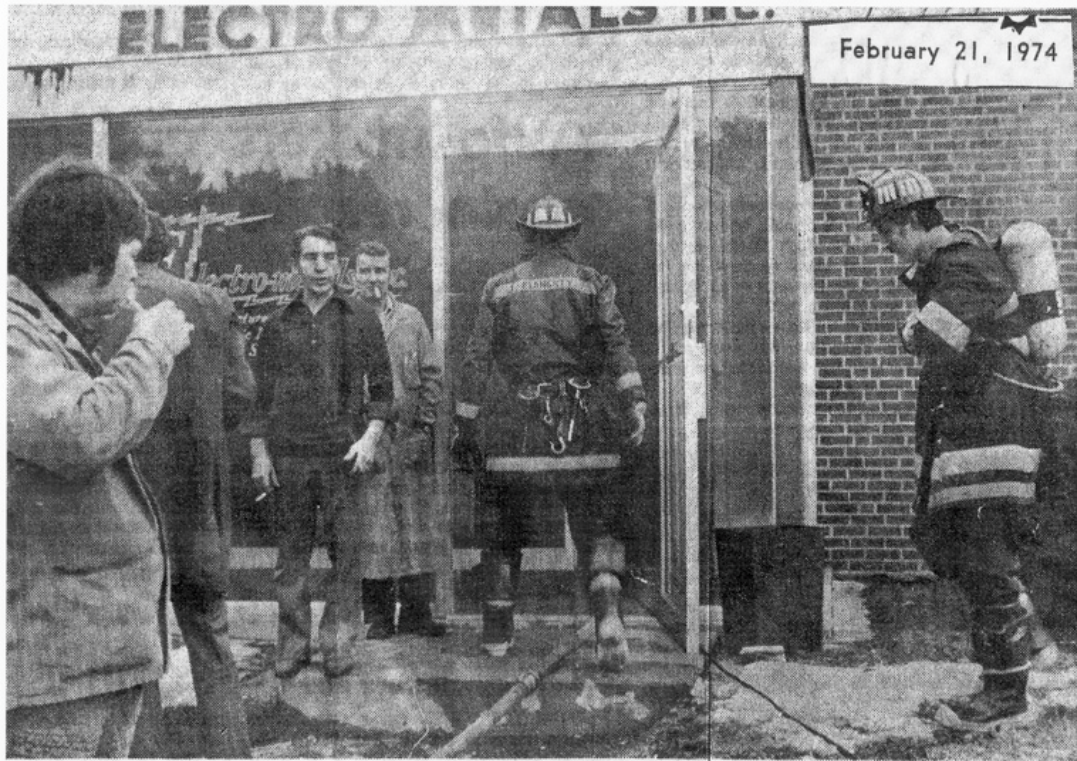
Robert C. Spaulding  
 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney

**Privates**

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 Michael A. Blazonis  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
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 Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
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 Emil A. Magiera  
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 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Edward J. McGovern  
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 Ronald J. Sawicki  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Dennis Vargeletis

1974



**Industrial plant hit by fire**

Chelmsford firefighters enter the Electro Parts Inc. building on Billerica Road yesterday. A fire broke out in the building around 5 p.m. and quickly spread. All firefighters were unharmed. The fire destroyed a sanding machine which collects metal dust. The machine which was destroyed was valued at \$10,000. The fire official reported that the machine was destroyed.

(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Report of the Fire Department**

Again this year the Fire Department hit a record high in responses but the actual loss by fire was the lowest it has been in the past decade. The increase was mainly caused by legislation allowing open burning for the period of March 15 - April 15. Our most serious fires this year have resulted from improper installation and use of wood-burning stoves and of neglected fireplaces

An "Act to Insure High Quality Emergency Medical Care Through Regulation" adopted by the Department of Public Health in accordance with provisions of Chapter 948 of the Acts of 1973 are now being incorporated within the department as several members of the department are presently taking the Emergency Medical Trainee course at two Lowell hospitals. Two fire fighters, Donald Weber and Joseph Staveley, have already successfully completed the course. They have passed the national exams and have been awarded their certificate as emergency medical technicians.

Due to the economy, the Bournival-Chrysler Co., Inc. was unable to continue to provide us with a courtesy car for use in fire prevention. However, we were most fortunate to obtain a 1974 sedan through the courtesy of Hallissey Chevrolet, Inc. thus enabling us to continue our fire prevention program.

For 1975 the Department recommends that a new 1000 G.P.M. pumper be purchased. There are five pumping engines in the department. In continuing our rotation plan of replacing one pumper every five years, we will always have modern equipment without putting a burden on the tax rate.

It is our hope that articles submitted for appropriation for the construction of a fire station on land purchased for that purpose on Riverneck Road in the East section of town be acted upon favorably at the annual town meeting.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**  
Edward G. Quinn

**Privates**  
Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Michael A. Blazonis

Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
Ronald L. Johnson  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil A. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding  
 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney

William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Edward J. McGovern  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Ronald J. Sawicki  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1975

**Annual Town Meeting May 5, 1975****UNDER ARTICLE 27.**

Selectman Arnold J. Lovering moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,437 and transfer the sum of \$53,263 from the Stabilization Fund for the purchase of a 1,000 Gallon Pumping Engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee supports this article. A 2/3 vote required for the transfer. It was so voted, unanimously.

**UNDER ARTICLE 28.**

Selectman Arnold J. Lovering moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$275,000 for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station on Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town. A discussion about the need for a fire station followed with Fire Chief Frederick Reid answering specific questions. The Selectmen and Finance Committee favored this article. It was so voted, by voice.

**UNDER ARTICLE 29.**

Selectman Arnold J. Lovering moved in the event of an affirmative vote on the preceding Article, I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint an East Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee consisting of five (5) members and authorize it to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto, said contracts to be signed by the Board of Selectmen, and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project. It was so voted, by voice.

**Report of the Fire Department**

This year for the first time the Fire Department responses exceeded 1000 calls with increase mainly in automobile accidents, motor vehicle fires and malicious false alarms which in itself showed an increase of 87%. Of major concern to the Fire Department is the number of motor vehicles being stolen and burned in the Town of Chelmsford with approximately fifty cases of arson involving motor vehicles this year alone.

On December 29. the contract was signed for the new Fire Station on Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford. Funds were appropriated at the annual town meeting. Construction should begin sometime in January with a completion date set for August.

A new 1000 gallon per minute pumper authorized last year is on order and scheduled for delivery in the summer of 1976.





Delivery of this 1976 Mack CF 1,000 g.p.m. Pumper with 500 gal. tank to the Center as Engine 1 started this rotation:  
 (This photo shows the pumper after modifications in 1988 that added a four-door forward cab)  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1972 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 2 and transferred to North  
 The previous Engine 2, a 1966 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 4 and transferred to East  
 The previous Engine 4, a 1951 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was placed in Reserve and remained in East Chelmsford  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

This year the Fire Department is requesting funds in the budget for eight additional men for the new fire station.

#### East Chelmsford fire Station Building Committee

Walter Hedlund, Chairman, Frederick Reid, Fire Chief, Edward Quinn, Deputy Fire Chief, George Dixon, Edward Hoyt, Secretary

The above committee met in February 1975 and voted to insert in the annual Town Warrant an article requesting that the sum of \$275,000 be appropriated for the construction of this station. Following approval of this article at Town meeting the architect made structural changes in the design of the station to bring the cost more in line with the sum of money that was appropriated.

Complete working plans and specifications were prepared for bidding and on November 18th bids for sub-contract work were received and opened at the architect's office. Sealed bids for the general contract were received and opened at the architects office November 25th. A total of fifteen bids were received with costs ranging from a low of \$244,397 to a high of \$304,622. The successful bidder was the Petruccelli Construction Co. of Lynn, Mass.

At a meeting with the Board of Selectmen on December 29th contract documents were signed by the Selectmen, with Committee and the contractor. The projected completion date is expected to be early fall of 1976.

#### Fire Chief

Frederic H. Reid

#### Deputy Fire Chief

Edward G. Quinn

#### Captains

Robert C. Spaulding  
 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney

#### Clerk

Mary Ann Koulas

#### Privates

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 Michael A. Blazonis  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
 Ronald L. Johnson  
 Joseph F. Lynch  
 Emil A. Magiera  
 Leo A. Martin  
 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Edward J. McGovern  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid



Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Ronald J. Sawicki  
James A. Sousa  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

## 1976

### Report of the Fire Department

With the opening of a new fire station in the east section, the fire department has completed its expansion program which began in 1952. Construction of stations were made at five year intervals (North, South, West) and each station is permanently manned with modern equipment. We feel that the manpower level now obtained shall remain the same for several years to come. We plan to continue our present policy of purchasing a fire engine every five years. Money is set aside each year for this purpose.

The Town of Chelmsford, through a survey conducted by the Insurance Service Office of Massachusetts, has a Grade "B" rating. This rating is as high as any town in the Commonwealth.

This year the fire department has requested that the ladder truck be repowered with a new diesel engine as this will add 15 years or more to the life of this vehicle.



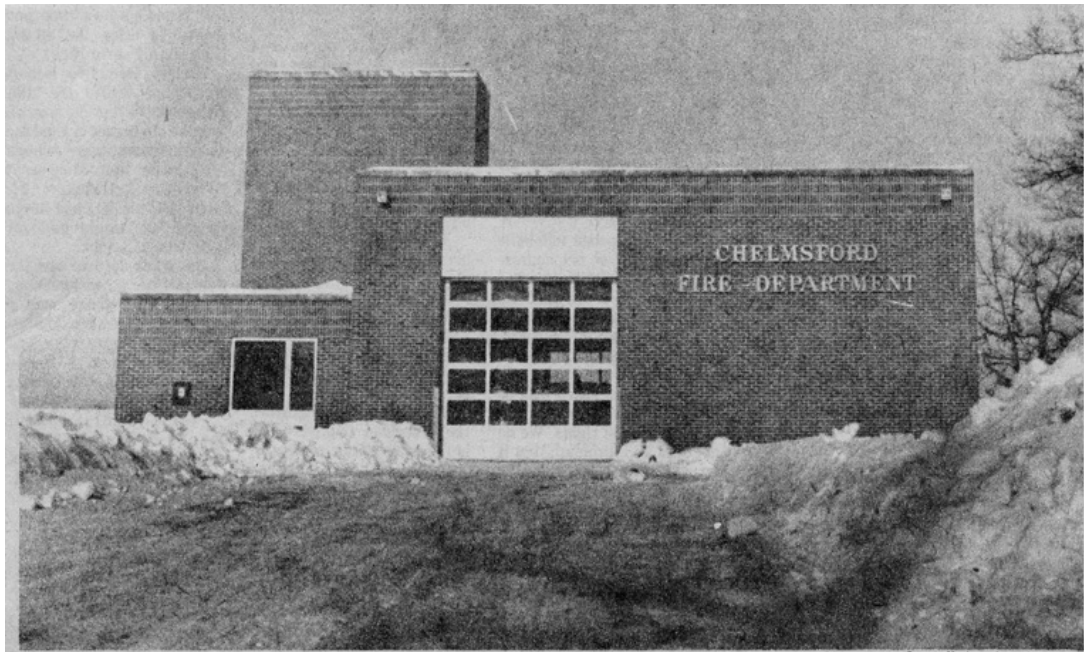
The 1963 Ladder Truck ready for a new deisel engine in 1976 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### East Chelmsford fire Station Building Committee

Walter Hedlund, Chairman, Frederick Reid, Fire Chief, Edward Quinn, Deputy Fire Chief, George Dixon, Edward Hoyt, Secretary

The above committee and the Board of Selectmen met December 29, 1975, and signed a contract for the construction of this station. It was expected at the time that the building would be completed by the fall of 1976. Unavoidable delays in the delivery of some of the special equipment needed in the repair area of the building held up construction of the rest of the building beyond the expected date of completion.

The station was finally occupied and manned as of January 12, 1977. The long continued spell of cold weather in the fall and the snows which followed prevented the application of the final top coating of the driveway and area surrounding the building. As this is a part of the contract which can not be completed until warmer weather, formal acceptance of the station will be delayed until then.



Sun staff photo by Mike Pigeon

**New station**

Chelmsford Fire Department equipment and personnel have now moved into their new location on

Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford. The \$275,000 construction project approved by townspeople in 1975 is

complete, with the exception of some outside work that must await spring. 1-20-77

(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding  
(Retired 7/8/76)

William H. Thayer  
Allen C. Mello  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
James M. Spinney

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Privates**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Michael A. Blazonis  
(Resigned)

William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
Francis J. Conlin  
James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
Thomas J. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
John P. DePalma  
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes

William H. Jamer  
Peter G. Johnson  
Ronald L. Johnson  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil A. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Edward J. McGovern  
(Retired 10/30/76)  
Michael McTeague  
Harvey M. Miller  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Charles A. Schramm  
James A. Sousa  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

**1977**

Special Town Meeting May 12, 1977

**UNDER ARTICLE 8.**

Selectman Philip L. Currier moves to see if the Town will vote to amend its action taken under Article 78 of the Annual Town Meeting May 14, 1973 as follows:

To grant longevity benefits to all permanent employees who are members of the respective collective bargaining units of the Police Department and Fire Department in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. Upon completion of five years of employment, said employee shall receive a three percent (3%) increase.
- b. Upon completion of ten years employment, said employee shall receive a six percent (6%) increase.
- c. Upon completion of fifteen years of employment, said employee shall receive a nine percent (9%) increase.
- d. Upon completion of twenty years of employment, said employee shall receive a twelve percent (12%) increase.

This amendment shall not apply to persons employed by the Town on the effective date of this amendment in a position that would entitle that person to longevity benefits under Article 78 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 14, 1973. Selectman Currier explains the article. The Finance Committee is in favor of the article. Motion Carried

**Report of the Fire Department**

The surprise snow storm in May caused considerable problems for the fire service by "knocking out" all fire alarm circuits and downing several miles of fire alarm wire. It was also necessary to provide fire companies at the burning site on Crooked Spring Road every day for a two month period.



Surprise snow storm on May 10, 1977 snapped limbs and brought down wires (Photo by Fred Merriam)

There has been a 90% drop in arson involving automobiles from 1976-1977.

The Fire Department recommends before installing a wood burning stove that you contact the fire department and obtain a pamphlet, free of charge, pertaining to their installation.

With the funds appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting, we have repowered the Ladder Truck with a new diesel engine, giving it a 15 year life expectancy. This year we are requesting a new car the present one being a 1973.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

William H. Thayer (Ret. 6/30/77)  
Allen C. Mello

**Fire Fighters**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
James Boormeester  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
Francis J. Conlin

Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
William H. Jamer  
Peter G. Johnson  
Ronald L. Johnson  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil A. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Ronald J. Sawicki

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
Thomas J. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Michael McTeague  
Harvey M. Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Charles A. Schramm  
James A. Sousa  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1978

### Report of the Fire Department

The "Great Blizzard of 1978" caused some anxious moments for the Fire Department as many streets were impassable. However, with the doubling of manpower in all stations we did not incur any serious incidents.

Two major fires in December, 1978, the State Line Lumber Co. and The Fiske House show the greatest loss in the departments history.





CMFD-THE OFFICE AND THE LARGE STORAGE SHED, filled with bundles of shingles and lumber of many kinds, burned for hours after the fire was discovered on Friday night, Dec. 22, at the State Line Lumber Co., Cushing Place, Central Square. Here firefighters are working near the storage section of the 160 foot building, piled high with building materials. (Photo by Tec Art Photography)

**Weekly**  
Price 20¢

**CHELMSFORD**

**Lumber Yard Fire Under Investigation**

**riticizes Operation**

Tyngsboro schools are again participating. Basically," she stated, "I feel the program has an overall worthwhile purpose but the manner in which it is implemented

Continued On Page 5

**Babson's Business Forecast For 1979**

By Babson's Reports Inc.,

CMFD-Fire said to be of suspicious origin swept the State Line Lumber Co. on Cushing Place near Central Square Friday night (Dec. 22), causing an estimated "over \$100,000" damage to the 160-foot building housing the office and a large storage area.

The first alarm was sounded at 9:46 p.m., Fire Chief Fred Reid said, followed quickly by two more alarms at 9:47 and 9:48. When the first fire equipment arrived on the scene the building was fully involved, Chief Reid said. In addition to the Chelmsford department,

firefighters from Lowell and Billerica aided at the scene, and firefighters from Westford covered the North station and others from Lowell covered the Central station during the fire which was brought under control at 10:45 p.m. Men from the local department remained at the scene through the night and well into the next day as the fire was burning until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Firefighter Michael McTeague of Chelmsford received emergency treatment at Lowell General Hospital for smoke inhalation and then released. Because of the extremely difficult conditions under which the fire was being fought--difficult walking because of the ice underfoot, freezing of the water as it left the hoses, etc.--several other firefighters received minor bruises and cuts.

Because the fire had spread so rapidly and because of other factors, the State Fire Marshal's office was called in to investigate the cause of the blaze which has not yet been determined. Chief Reid said that another fire in the area, adjacent to the lumber yard had been discovered and quickly extinguished by his department several weeks ago.

The spectacular blaze drew onlookers from a wide distance and

cycle is already considerably longer than the average life span of this nation's expansion phases. This does not automatically--and of itself--mean that a trend reversal is imminent, but a cyclical upturn which has lasted 44 months is obviously vulnerable. After careful consideration of all relevant factors, the staff of Babson's Reports predicts that the American economy will slip into a recession in 1979. Until early fall, it

appeared that enough business vitality existed to sustain the economic upslant through the better part of 1979, or at least to avert a recessionary setback in the course of the year.

The situation was changed, however, when the Administration and the Federal Reserve took radical measures to dampen the forces of inflation and to arrest the weakness of the dollar. The chief

onlookers from a wide distance and for a time traffic was re-routed around Central Square where fire hose had been laid. The location of the building in the center of the yard and the absence of any strong wind blowing toward Central Square itself as well as the work of the firefighters, prevented spread of the flames along the main street bordering the square.

The State Line Lumber Company fire December 22, 1978  
 Newsweekly article dated December 28, 1978 (Regina Linsley Collection)

# Chelmsford's historic Fiske House hit by fire

12/30/78

By JOAN OLECK  
 Sun Staff  
 CHELMSFORD — The Fiske House, a prominent restaurant and Chelmsford's leading historic landmark, sustained severe damage to its roof and interior last night as a

fire of suspicious origin roared out of control for almost two hours just before the dinner rush.  
 Some 25 employees of the restaurant and five guests escaped unharmed.  
 But waiters and cooks made repeated forays

back into the burning building to rescue such priceless antiques as a "shadow box" mirror once owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson and a table England's Queen Victoria once presented to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

As the billowing flames settled down into smoldering embers, representatives from the state fire marshal's office gingerly picked their way among the delicate roof rafters in search of clues to the fire's origin.



FLAMES RIP THROUGH ROOF OF HISTORIC FISKE HOUSE  
 ...during two-alarm blaze in Chelmsford last night

A CARBON TEST on the scorched walls of the upper story close to the western chimney was conducted to ascertain the nature of a what officials termed a possible "accelerant."

Chelmsford's own chief arson inspector, Police Sergeant Armand Caron, confirmed the possibility of arson.

"One part really burned. It doesn't look right. Something was used to help it along. We suspect arson."

It could be weeks before the fire marshal's office determines the cause of the fire and engineers determine whether the 180-year-old landmark — one of the few in Greater Lowell belonging to the National Register of Historic Places — can be rebuilt.

BUT CHELMSFORD residents won't soon forget the funnel of smoke, colored orange by flame, that drew hundreds of onlookers and 12 pieces of fire apparatus — seven from Chelmsford and five from other communities.

Chelmsford had five pumpers, a ladder and the rescue truck at the scene, while Billerica sent two ladder trucks and one pumper and Lowell sent a pumper and a ladder truck.

Dracut and Carlisle also assisted by sending extra air bottles used by firefighters who needed breathing apparatus because of the heavy smoke.

The first indication of the blaze came at about 5:15, according to members of the Fiske House staff. While setting up for dinner at about staff members smelled smoke.

"The whole building started filling up with smoke," Head Chef Thomas King said. "We had thought it was just the fireplace."

REALIZING THE intensity of the smoke, waiters on the second floor opened a door which led to the unoccupied "VIP" diningroom on the third floor and an attic space above that.

Headwaiter James Healy ran upstairs to the third floor but could go no further. "I couldn't breathe," he said. "It was that bad."

RETREATING TO the ground floor, restaurant staffers calmly ordered an evacuation. "Everyone responded fabulously," Healy said, expressing relief that the blaze occurred early in the evening, ahead of the usual Saturday night crowd.

Some 110 people had reservations for dinner last night, according to Healy, and the restaurant's six dining rooms had been booked to capacity for New Years Eve for three

The Fiske House fire December 30, 1978, Lowell Sun news article (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





The Fiske House fire December 30, 1978 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

This year the Fire Department recommends that we replace a 1972 Pick-up and a 1973 Sedan.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Ronald J. Sawicki

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 James Boermeester  
 William M. Burke, Jr.  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Michael F. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 William Dalton  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
 William H. Jamer  
 Peter G. Johnson  
 Ronald L. Johnson  
 Raymond R. Kydd  
 Joseph F. Lynch  
 Emil A. Magiera  
 Leo A. Martin  
 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas D. Miskell  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 Edward J. Nolet  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Michael D. Ridlon  
 Charles A. Schramm  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis

## 1979

### Special Town Meeting February 1, 1979

#### UNDER ARTICLE 6:

Selectman Murphy moved, that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer by a good and sufficient bill of sale, title to one (1) 1972 Chevrolet pickup truck with snow plow being used by the Fire Department. Selectman Murphy explained the reasoning for this article. The Chelmsford Lodge of Elks had raised money for the Jaws of Life Machine. Because of this the Town didn't need to buy the machine itself, as a result the Town would be able to purchase the pickup truck if so voted. The Finance Committee recommends passage. Motion Carried.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 7, 1979

#### Under Article 1:

Paul C. Hart moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for the purchase of a 1979 or 1980 four-door sedan type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize said Board to transfer by good and sufficient bill of sale (1) 1973 Chevrolet four-door sedan type vehicle now being used by the Fire Department. Motion Carried, unanimously.



1979 Ford LTD Fire Department sedan (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 21, 1979

#### Under Article 40:

Paul C. Hart, moved that the Town vote to accept Chapter 41 Section 100B of the Massachusetts General Laws: Indemnification of Retired Police Officers and Firefighters for certain hospital, etc. expenses. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Motion Carried, unanimously.

#### Under Article 41:

Chief Reid of the Fire Department, moved that the Town vote to accept Chapter 148 Section 26C of the Massachusetts General Laws: Smoke and Heat Detectors for Dwellings Not Otherwise Regulated. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Chief Reid explained the purpose of this article. Motion Carried, unanimously.

### Report of the Fire Department

The major problem facing the fire service today is the energy crisis. The cost of heating five stations and supplying fuel for fourteen pieces of equipment is a drain on the budget. Also, the improper installation of wood burning stoves and the illegal and improper storage of gasoline cause the most serious problems that we are faced with at this time.

This year the Fire Department recommends that we replace a 1957 pumper.



**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Allen C. Mello (Retired)  
 Thomas P. Miskell (Acting)  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Ronald J. Sawicki

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 William M. Burke, Jr.  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Michael F. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 William Dalton  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 James Boermeester  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
 William H. Jamer  
 Peter G. Johnson  
 Ronald L. Johnson  
 Raymond R. Kydd  
 Joseph F. Lynch  
 Emil A. Magiera  
 Leo A. Martin  
 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas D. Miskell  
 Edward J. Nolet  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Michael D. Ridlon  
 Charles A. Schramm  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Brian J. Stanton (Provisional)  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1980

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 1, 1980

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16:

Selectman Paul C. Hart moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$107,071.00 for the purchase of a new 1,000 gallon pumping engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. Motion Carried, unanimously.



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Delivery of this 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. Pumper with 500 gal. tank to the Center as Engine 1 started a rotation:  
 Previous Engine 1, a 1976 Mack 1000g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 2 and transferred to North  
 Previous Engine 2, a 1972 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 3 and transferred to West  
 Previous Engine 3, a 1958 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Reserve and transferred to South  
 Firefighters Richard Grennon and Frances Conlon are seen in the upper 1983 photo  
 The lower framed photo of the 1981 Mack was taken by a friend of Chief Curran in Lynn, MA  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### Report of the Fire Department

The major problem facing the Fire Department continues to be the energy crisis. Our records show a 31% increase in building fires, all of which were caused by burning wood.



The call for Medical Assistance has increased over 32% as more people are becoming aware of our service and ability in this field.

The Fire Department feels that 1981 could be a "trying" year with the implementation of Prop. 2 1/2. We hope that we will be able to continue the basic needs for the townspeople. With a new pumper engine to be delivered in the spring of "81" it will not be necessary to purchase any new equipment in the next fiscal year.

#### **Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

#### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

#### **Captains**

Thomas P. Miskell

(Acting)

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

James M. Spinney

Ronald O. Wikander

(Resigned)

Ronald J. Sawicki

James A. Sousa

#### **Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

#### **Mechanic**

Jack Smith

#### **Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams

Walter F. Adley, Jr.

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

James Boermeester

William M. Burke, Jr.

William V. Cady, Jr.

Francis J. Conlin

James P. Curran

Michael F. Curran

Thomas J. Curran

William F. Curran

James T. Cutter

William Dalton

John P. DePalma

Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.

Donald A. Drew

Philip Dube

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Ernest J. Frobese

Robert R. Gagnon

David Gelineau

Terrence A. Goode

Richard L. Grenon

Jack D. Hadley

William H. Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes

William H. Jamer

Peter C. Johnson

Ronald L. Johnson

(Retired 5/19/80)

Dennis Keohane

(Provisional)

Raymond R. Kydd

Joseph F. Lynch

Emil P. Magiera

Leo A. Martin

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.

Michael McTeague

Harvey M. Miller

Richard Miller

Thomas D. Miskell

Edward J. Nolet

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

Daniel T. Reid

Michael D. Ridlon

Charles A. Schramm

Joseph J. Spinazola

Brian J. Stanton

(Provisional)

Joseph E. Staveley

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Alvin F. Wetmore

Dennis Vargeletis

## *1981*

#### **Report of the Board of Selectmen**

The month of February brought the spectacular North School fire. This fire, of suspicious origin, destroyed about 80 percent of the North School: only 6 classrooms and the Gym were left standing. The final insurance settlement on the fire was in excess of 1.7 million dollars. Also during February and March the paring of Town budgets continued to bring them in line with the mandates of Prop. 2 1/2.



# Chelmsford elementary school destroyed by fire

North School Fire February 27, 1981 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## Annual Town Meeting June 1, 1981

UNDER ARTICLE 47 Selectman Paul C. Hart moved that the Town vote to rescind the acceptance of the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42, or corresponding provisions of earlier laws, as accepted at the Annual Town Meeting 1954 establishing a fire department to be under the control of an officer to be known as the chief of the department, and to further vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42A, establishing a fire department under the direction of the Selectmen.

Selectman Ready spoke in favor of the article. The Finance Committee was against the article. A discussion followed. The Moderator made a point of order concerning reconsideration of an article. According to Article 35 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 28, 1980, once an article is voted, it may be brought back up on the Town Meeting floor for reconsideration more than once any time during the night of the meeting in question. A voice vote was taken on the article, Motion defeated.

## Report of the School Committee

The Chelmsford School Department experienced many changes during 1981. The loss of the North School by a devastating fire has surely left a void in this community. This resulted in all the staff and students of the North School being re-assigned to the Harrington School. Both populations had to share facilities, materials and equipment for the remainder of the 1980-81 school year, and the Harrington School operated A.M. and P.M. sessions.

## Report of the Fire Department

Fiscal "82" has been a very trying year for the Fire Department. We suffered one of our greatest losses in the history of the Town with the loss of the North School. Proposition 2 1/2 has given us some anxious moments, but with the cooperation of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and voters at the Town Meeting we were able to cope with such without loss of manpower.

I would, at this time, like to thank the voters of the Town of Chelmsford for the tremendous support given the department in retaining its "Strong Chief" as chief administrator. The department has been operating successfully under this system since 1954.

We are proud that 40% of the department have achieved some degree of college credits with 10% of the department already having received Associates Degrees in Fire Science, Law Enforcement and Business Management. Education continues to play a major part in today's fire service.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

**Firefighters**  
Robert K. Adams

Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn  
(Retired 2/10/81)  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
(Acting)

**Captains**

James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
James A. Sousa  
Thomas J. Curran  
(Acting)

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

Walter F. Adley, Jr.	William H. Jamer
Arthur G. Anderson	Peter C. Johnson
Robert A. Bennett	Dennis Keohane
James Boermeester	Raymond R. Kydd
William M. Burke, Jr.	Joseph F. Lynch
William V. Cady, Jr.	Emil P. Magiera
Francis J. Conlin	Leo A. Martin
James P. Curran	Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.
Michael F. Curran	Michael McTeague
William F. Curran	Harvey M. Miller
James T. Cutter	Richard Miller
William Dalton	Thomas D. Miskell
John P. DePalma	Edward J. Nolet
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.	Richard P. O'Neil
Donald A. Drew	Harold J. Pierce, Jr.
Philip Dube	Daniel T. Reid
Charles Ferreira	Michael D. Ridlon
(Retired 2/7/81)	Charles A. Schramm
James P. Flaherty	Joseph J. Spinazola
Ernest J. Frobese	Brian J. Stanton
Robert R. Gagnon	Joseph E. Staveley
David Gelineau	(Resigned 5/13/81)
Terrence A. Goode	Gerald D. Tonks
Richard L. Grenon	Donald A. Weber
Jack D. Hadley	Peter T. Wetherbee
William H. Hadley	Alvin F. Wetmore
Paul D. Hayes	Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1982

**Annual Town Meeting April 26, 1982**

UNDER ARTICLE 17 Selectman Ready, moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$10,490 for the purchase of equipment for the Fire Department, such purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen, as follows:

- a. Six (6) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- b. One Thousand (1000) feet of 2 1/2 inch hose
- c. One Portable Radio

The Finance Committee recommended the article, Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "83" brought two serious fires to Chelmsford. There were heavy losses involving the Racquet Club and Comet Plastic Products. However, building fires have shown a sharp decrease in Chelmsford as well as surrounding areas and we feel a great deal of this is do to the Smoke Detector Laws.

During 1982 James A. Sousa was promoted to the permanent position of Deputy Fire Chief having topped a Civil Service examination.

In staying with our Capital Outlay Plan, we are not requesting fire apparatus for 1983.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Thomas J. Curran

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
James Boermeester  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
(Temporary)

William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Michael McTeague  
Richard Miller



**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

James P. Curran  
 Michael F. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 William Dalton  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 James J. Durkin  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley

Thomas D. Miskell  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 (Retired 7/31/82)  
 Edward J. Nolet  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Michael D. Ridlon  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Brian J. Stanton  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis



Fire Prevention Week in 1982, demonstration for schoolchildren of the aerial ladder on the 1962 Maxim (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**1983**

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 9, 1983**

UNDER ARTICLE 18.

Selectman Claude Harvey moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$28,000.00 for the purpose of completing the following repairs and replacements to Fire Department buildings and equipment, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen:

1. Roof repairs - Central Fire Station
2. Replacement of fire alarm recorder with a digitized alarm box recorder
3. Repair the body of Engine 3.

The Finance Committee recommended the article, motion carried, unanimously.

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 23, 1983**

UNDER ARTICLE 45.

Frederick H. Reid, Fire Chief, moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws,

Chapter 148, Section 26G, an act further regulating the installation of automatic sprinkler systems. The Finance Committee recommends the article. Motion carried.

**UNDER ARTICLE 46.**

Deputy Chief James Sousa, of the Fire Department moved to have this article withdrawn. Presently there is new legislation with better wording, and the Fire Department would rather wait and adopt that particular law if passed. The Finance Committee supported this motion. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "83" was a "banner year" for the Fire Department in regard to fire losses which were at a minimum as compared to other years. We feel this was due to our Fire Prevention Program, In-Service Inspections and Smoke Detectors.

This year in keeping with our Capital Outlay Program, we are requesting a new 1000 GPM pumper to replace a 1957 Maxim. We are also requesting repair on the roofs at the south and north fire stations and requesting funds to implement phase two in updating the fire alarm equipment.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	Robert K. Adams	Jack D. Hadley
	Walter F. Adley, Jr.	William H. Hadley
	Arthur G. Anderson	Paul D. Hayes
	Robert A. Bennett	Paul D. Henderson
	James Boermeester	Robert L. Hughes
	William M. Burke, Jr.	William H. Jamer
	William V. Cady, Jr.	Peter C. Johnson
	David C. Campbell	Dennis Keohane
	William Campbell	Raymond R. Kydd
	John L. Carroll	Joseph F. Lynch
	David P. Clancy	Emil P. Magiera
	Francis J. Conlin	Leo A. Martin
	Francis Mark Conlin	Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.
	James P. Curran	(Resigned 6/15/83)
	Michael F. Curran	Michael McTeague
	William F. Curran	Richard Miller
	James T. Cutter	Thomas D. Miskell
	William Dalton	Edward J. Nolet
	John P. DePalma	Richard P. O'Neil
	Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.	Harold J. Pierce, Jr.
	(Retired 7/16/83)	Daniel T. Reid
	Bruce R. Donovan	James F. Reid
	Donald A. Drew	Michael D. Ridlon
	Philip Dube	Joseph J. Spinazola
	James J. Durkin	Brian J. Stanton
	(Resigned 9/10/83)	Gerald D. Tonks
	James P. Flaherty	John D. Ubele
	Ernest J. Frobese	Donald A. Weber
	Robert R. Gagnon	Peter T. Wetherbee
	David Gelineau	Alvin F. Wetmore
	Terrence A. Goode	Dennis Vargeletis
	Richard L. Grenon	

**Fire Chief**  
Frederick H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**  
James A. Sousa

**Captains**  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Thomas J. Curran

**Clerk**  
Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**  
George Fetzner

## 1984

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 7, 1984**

**UNDER ARTICLE 18.**

Selectman Bonita Towle moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$34,325.00 for the purpose of completing the following repairs and replacements to Fire Department Buildings and equipment, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen:

1. Roof Repairs - North Fire Station
2. Roof Repairs - South Fire Station
3. A 12 circuit entrance cabinet with accessories to receive fire alarms

The Finance Committee supports the article. Deputy Chief James Sousa explained the article. A voice vote was taken, motion carried, unanimously.

**UNDER ARTICLE 22.**

Chief Reid of the Fire Department moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund \$125,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new 1,000 G.P.M. Pumping Engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made in accordance with Chapter 48, Section 42 of the General Laws.

The Finance Committee recommends the article. Motion carried.



This FMC Pumper body on a 1984 Mack Chassis was not actually delivered to the East Station until 1987 FMC took over Mack's in-process contracts circa 1985 and the Mack cab and chassis was stored in the Center Fire Station FMC completed the pumper body in Michigan and firefighters drove the cab to the factory so the body could be installed FMC stands for Food Manufacturing Company, and their own Fire Apparatus division shut down in 1990 This truck was purchased as Engine 4 and re-designated Engine 7 when replaced by a Smeal/International Pumper in 2007, (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

The Moderator proceeded on with the next two articles, James Harrington, Town Counsel made a point of order. Due to article 22 being a transfer from the Stabilization Fund the vote needed to a 2/3's or unanimous vote. The Moderator then asked the Town Meeting Body to vote on article 22 again. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

New roofs have been installed on the south and north fire stations. Funds for this project were appropriated at the last annual town meeting.

We are requesting a new pick-up truck with a new plow and a new radio this year. This will replace our present one.

**Fire Chief**

Frederick H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Thomas J. Curran

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

George Fetzer

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
James Boermeester  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
David P. Clancy  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter

Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
(Retired)  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil



William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
(Resigned)  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
(Retired)  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
Gerald D. Tonks  
John D. Ubele  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
(Retired)  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## *1985*

### **Report of the Board of Selectmen**

October, 1985:

A spectacular 4-alarm fire in a warehouse at 100 Wotton Lane, North Chelmsford caused injuries to 4 firefighters and damage to the three firms using the facilities for storage.

10-22-1985

# 4 firemen hurt battling textile warehouse blaze

By RAYMOND HOWELL  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — Two workers using a torch to repair a sprinkler system started a three-alarm fire yesterday that destroyed a North

textiles and injured four Chelmsford firefighters.

The 3 p.m. blaze at the Nonwovens Inc. warehouse at 100 Wotton Street gave off thick black smoke that could be seen for at least 20 miles and created a major traffic snarl in

Vinal Square.

Firefighters from four communities battled the fire for two-and-a-half hours before bringing it under control.

The fire leveled half of the 20,000-square-foot warehouse and gutted

the other half, but firefighters prevented it from spreading to Nonwovens' main structure, a brick mill building located about 20 feet behind the warehouse.

Heat from the fire was so intense that it curled sheet metal sides of the wood frame warehouse like paper, forced firefighters to hose down their trucks continuously and drove back spectators.

Three Chelmsford firefighters

were still hospitalized this morning. Firefighter Richard O'Neil, who was admitted to St. John's Hospital complaining of chest pains, was in satisfactory condition today, said a hospital spokeswoman. His condition had been listed as critical this morning.

Firefighters Michael Ridlon, who sustained a knee injury when struck by a smoldering ball of material inside the warehouse, and William Dalton, who suffered from smoke inhalation, were listed in stable condition at Lowell General Hospital, a spokesman said.

Capt. Ronald Sawicki was treated and released at Lowell General last night for a knee injury, according to Chelmsford fire officials.

The warehouse and mill building are located at the end of Wotton Street in a complex formerly known as the Southwell Mills. The warehouse contained mostly baled textiles and rags from three companies who lease space for Nonwovens.

Chelmsford fire officials were still trying to determine the dollar amount of the damage this morning.

"I would say it's a considerable amount," Chelmsford Fire Chief Fred Reid said the fire was started by two workers using an acetylene torch to repair the building's sprinkler system.

"It started from the repair," he said.

The owner of Nonwovens, Clifford Dallmeyer of Chelmsford, said it was true that two of his employees were trying to repair a leak in a five-inch line in the sprinkler system.

The fire department shut off water to half of the warehouse at 8:30 a.m. so the repairs could be made, he said.

But Dallmeyer, who was at home at the time the fire started, said he didn't know if his two workers had caused the blaze.

Firefighters concentrated their hoses on the rear of the warehouse and continuously watered down the main building, preventing the fire from leaping the 20-foot-wide alley.

Several firefighters worked from a crouch in the alley, amid smoke and falling ashes.

"We concentrated all our efforts on keeping it out of the main building," said Reid. "The warehouse was going too much. I couldn't do anything about that."



Firefighters concentrate efforts on rear of Non-wovens Inc. warehouse (Sun photo by Michael Pigeon)

Fire at Non-wovens, Inc. at 100 Wotton Street October 22, 1985 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 6, 1985

UNDER ARTICLE 10.

Capital Budget approved for the Fire Department:

Ladder Truck \$210,000

Service Truck 4 wheel drive pickup \$15,609

## Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 13, 1985

UNDER ARTICLE 28.

Town Counsel James Harrington, moved to amend section F as recommended and voted unanimously, by the Planning Board, with the following wording: Adequate access to each structure for fire emergency and service equipment is provided. This shall mean that access shall be provided to all sides of the structure for emergency vehicles and fire lanes, as recommended by the Fire Department. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion carried, unanimously.

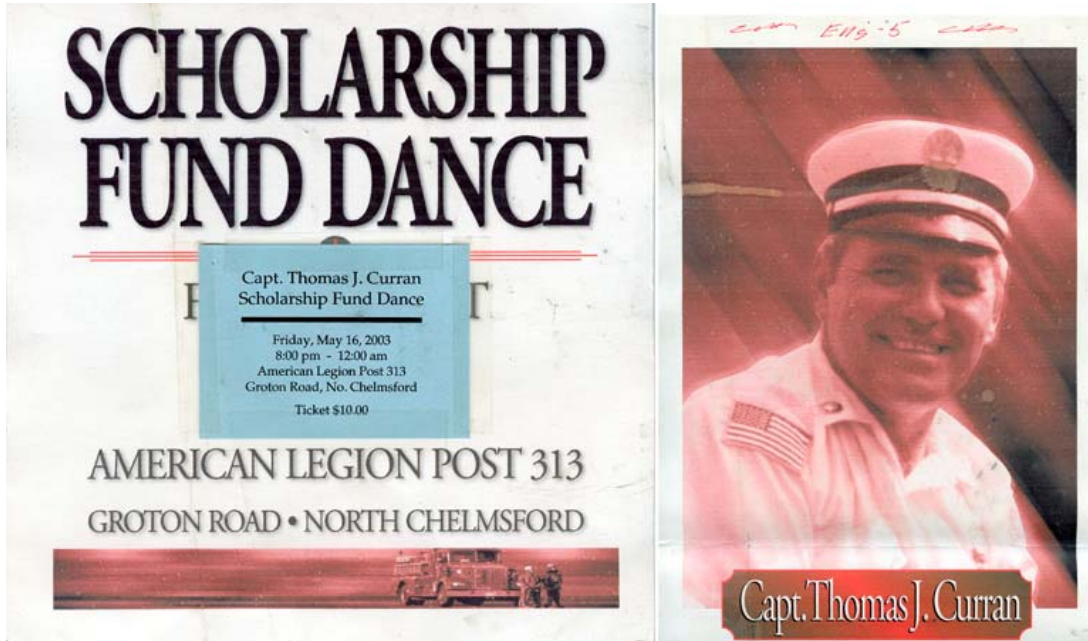
Chairman of the Planning Board. John McCarthy read the Board's recommendation: The Planning Board held a public



hearing on April 3, 1985, and voted unanimously to approve this article which includes the amendment to section F. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

The Fire Department was deeply saddened by the untimely death of Captain Thomas Curran. Tom was an outstanding and dedicated officer who loved the fire department. We miss him.



A Scholarship Fund Dance was held in memory of Thomas J. Curran in 2003 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The department received a new 110 ft. Aerial ladder and a new 4-Wheel Drive Pick-up Truck. Both were authorized at the Annual Town Meeting.





1985 Pirsch cab-forward 100 foot Ladder Truck, Ladder 1, replaced the 1962 Maxim 75 foot Ladder Truck  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Due to the tremendous industrial growth we are requesting four additional men for Engine 4 in east, and also one additional man to be assigned to Fire Prevention in order to comply with the new EPA Regulations and on hazardous materials-hazardous waste and for the other regulations which have been passed by State and Federal Agencies.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	Robert K. Adams (Retired)	William H. Hadley (Acting Capt.)
	Walter F. Adley, Jr.	Paul D. Hayes
	Arthur G. Anderson	Paul D. Henderson
<b>Fire Chief</b>	Robert A. Bennett	Robert L. Hughes
Frederick H. Reid	William M. Burke, Jr.	William H. Jamer
	William V. Cady, Jr.	Peter C. Johnson
<b>Deputy Fire Chief</b>	David C. Campbell	Dennis Keohane
James A. Sousa	William Campbell	William Keohane
	John L. Carroll	Raymond R. Kydd
<b>Captains</b>	Patrick Carroll	Emil P. Magiera
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.	Anthony Cincevich	Leo A. Martin
Charles A. Schramm	David P. Clancy	Michael McTeague
James M. Spinney	Francis J. Conlin	Richard Miller
Ronald J. Sawicki	Francis M. Conlin	Thomas D. Miskell
Thomas J. Curran (Deceased 4/3/85)	James P. Curran	Edward J. Nolet
James Boormeester (12/5/85)	Michael F. Curran	Richard P. O'Neil
	William F. Curran	Harold J. Pierce, Jr.
	James T. Cutter	Daniel T. Reid
	William Dalton	James F. Reid
<b>Clerk</b>	John P. DePalma	John Reid
Mary Ann Koulas	Bruce R. Donovan	Michael D. Ridlon
	Donald A. Drew	Joseph J. Spinazola
<b>Mechanic</b>	Christopher Finnigan	Brian J. Stanton
George Fetzer	James P. Flaherty	Gerald D. Tonks
	Ernest J. Frobose	John D. Ubele
	David Gelineau	Dennis Vargeletis
	Terrence A. Goode	Donald A. Weber
	Richard L. Grenon	Peter T. Wetherbee
	Jack D. Hadley	

## 1986

### Special Town Meeting January 27, 1986

UNDER ARTICLE 10.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Dennis Ready, moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of one hundred forty-eight thousand six hundred sixty-one dollars (\$148,661.00) to the appropriate salary line items to fund approved wage and salary increases and expense allocations in the following departmental accounts:

Line Item 32 Fire Department Salary Account: \$147,111.00

Line Item 33 Fire Department Expense Account: \$1,550.0

Selectman Ready spoke in favor of the article, stating that the Fire Department and the Board of Selectmen had negotiated in good faith, and felt that it was a fair contract. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Elizabeth Marshall, said that the Finance Committee was against the requested increase and gave a presentation explaining why. Harold Pierce President of the Firefighters Union, spoke in favor of the article. A lengthy discussion took place. George Gordon moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked if there was a need for further debate? Hearing none, he proceeded to ask for a vote on the article. Edward Hilliard moved to have the vote taken by silent ballot. The Moderator explained the procedure that would take place in order to have a vote taken by silent ballot. He asked for a voice vote on the motion for a silent ballot, motion defeated. He then asked for a voice vote on the main motion, motion defeated.

William Dalton questioned the voice vote. The Moderator asked for the tellers to come forward and conduct a hand count. A 2/3's vote is required. Yes 195 No 236, the motion was defeated.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 5, 1986

## UNDER ARTICLE 13.

Capital Budget approved for the Fire Department:

Rescue truck \$80,000

Auto, generator for station #01 \$20,000

Portable foam \$7,000

Hazardous waste materials equipment and training \$20,000



1986 Ford F700 chassis with a Marion body, Fire/Rescue Truck (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## UNDER ARTICLE 28.

Selectman, John P. Emerson Jr., moved that the Town vote to amend the General By-Laws Article VI Police Regulations, Section 19 Prohibition on leaving Motor Vehicles in Certain Private Ways, by deleting paragraph #2 in its entirety, and substituting the following in its place:

(In addition) Acting Fire Chief, James Sousa, moved to amend the article by deleting the words, "Board of Selectmen" and replace them with the words "Chief of the Fire Department", through out the article. The Finance recommended the amendment. The Board of Selectmen were in favor. James Sousa explained the reason for his motion to the Town Meeting body. A discussion took place. William Dalton moved the question, the Moderator asked for any need for further discussion. Hearing none he asked for a voice vote on the motion to amend, motion carried. He then asked for a voice vote on the main motion, as amended, motion carried, unanimously. The article reads as follows:

2. It shall be unlawful to obstruct or park a motor vehicle in any fire lane, such fire lane to be designated by the Chief of the Fire Department and shall be posted as such. Said fire lane to be NOT LESS THAN eighteen (18) Feet Wide for all buildings in any shopping center, bowling alley, theatre, nursing home, office building, or other public building. The establishment of fire lanes as set forth above shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief of the Fire Department and shall run from the wall of the building or any overhang of the building or any sidewalk adjacent thereto. Any fire lane in excess of eighteen (18) feet wide shall have the approval of the property owner or person in control of such property;

(a) The Chief of the Fire Department shall notify all record owners of the designation of Fire lanes.

#### Adjourned Special Town Meeting May 19, 1986

UNDER ARTICLE 37 Selectman John P. Emerson Jr. moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) and/or for the purpose of completing Architectural Design and securing all necessary plans and specification for the construction and/or reconstruction of the front portion of the fire station located on North Road, along with the performance all said all construction and/or reconstruction in conformity with said plans, all said contracts to be made under the supervision of the Chief of the Fire Department.

Acting Chief James Sousa stated that according to his information from former Fire Chief Reid, the Fire Department did not submit this article. Therefore he did not have any information concerning it. Richard Lahue stated that the Fire Department had purchased a new fire truck and when found that it would not fit in the station, a notch was formed in

order for the truck to fit. The Fire Station falls within the Historic District, and the Board did not give any permission for any reconstruction to the station. He asked the Town Meeting Body to dismiss the article by voting to defeat it.

William Dalton moved to amend the article: to use the sum of \$35,000.00 to reconstruct the upper portion of the center fire house. He said that more office space and a ladies room was needed, and that this is where the monies should be applied to. Town Counsel was asked if this motion was considered out of order. Town Counsel replied no because the warrant says with reconstruction as does the motion to amend. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the motion to amend. Motion defeated. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the main motion, motion defeated.

#### **Special Town Meeting September 25, 1986**

##### UNDER ARTICLE 15.

Selectman John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to engage engineers, appraisers, attorneys, architects, and other necessary consultants for the purpose of preparing and designing all documents required to design and construct repairs to the Center Fire Station for the Town of Chelmsford, and further I move that the town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute all necessary and proper contracts and agreements thereto, and further I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) to defray all necessary costs, fees, and expenses.

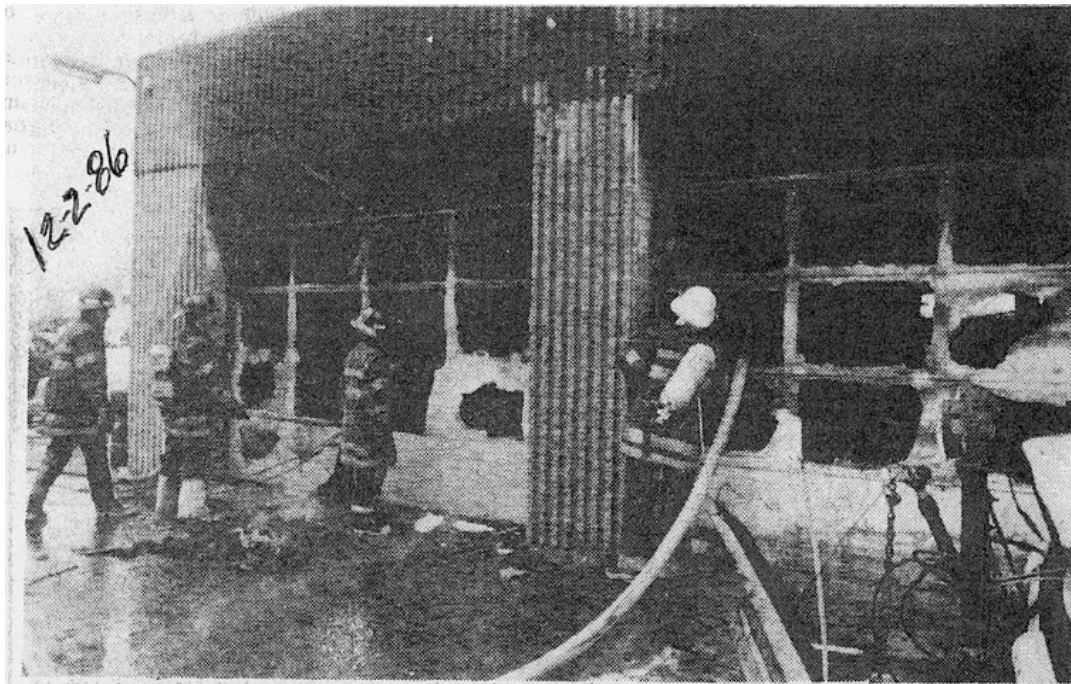
A discussion took place. Harry Pierce moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion carried, unanimously. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article, motion carried, unanimously.

##### UNDER ARTICLE 18.

Selectman John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to rescind the acceptance of the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42, or corresponding provisions of earlier laws, as accepted at the Annual Town Meeting in 1954 establishing a fire department to be under the control of officer to be known as the chief of the department, and I move that the town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42A, establishing a fire department under the direction of the Selectman.

The Finance Committee was against the article. Selectman Ready spoke in favor of the article. Edward Quinn, former Deputy Chief, spoke against the article. He explained that the department's budget is controlled through the bid process, or union contract, which is done through the Board of Selectmen. He explained that a weak chief is subject to political pressures, and could in fact be fired at any point in time. Under the strong chief before the chief could be fired, he/she would be required to have a hearing, and told the reason for the firing. That way there is a little protection for the chief and avoids political pressure. Selectman Towle spoke in favor. Harold Pierce, stated that he has been a firefighter for twenty-five years with the Town, spoke against the article. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion defeated.





Chelmsford firefighters peer into fire-damaged maintenance garage.

(Sun photo by Michael Pigeon)

## Swimming pool company garage, trucks damaged by 2-alarm fire

CHELMSFORD — A lit light-bulb smashing into a puddle of gasoline triggered a two-alarm fire early today that destroyed a maintenance garage and two trucks at Aquatech Pools off Rte. 110.

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Charles Galloway said two workers inside the garage — in a hurry to clean up spilled gasoline on the floor — accidentally tripped on and pulled down a droplight from a truck and into the flammable liquid.

The light crashed into the puddle and exploded the gasoline, Galloway said.

"It was an honest mistake," Galloway said. "They were very fortunate to get out of there without getting injured."

Aquatech vice-president Pe-

ter White said the garage was destroyed by the 6:45 a.m. blaze.

Traffic on Rte. 495, about 50 yards from the pool company, was slowed as motorists watched the fire.

Water streaming from the garage turned to ice as temperatures were well below freezing, causing some firefighters to lose their footing as they battled the fire.

All available Chelmsford firefighters were sent to the scene, and Billerica and Lowell firefighters and equipment manned the vacant Chelmsford stations.

Several drums of oil kept inside the garage for maintenance purposes caused the fire to spread, a company official said.

"We went to two alarms because we needed more men here

at the scene," said fire Capt. James Boormeester. "When we arrived, there was heavy smoke and flames showing."

Boormeester said the doors to the garage were locked so firefighters had to smash through bay doors.

Bob Elfman, a supervisor at Aquatech, said the two workers were in the midst of repairing one of the two trucks when the accident occurred.

Elfman said he was at another building when alerted about the fire.

He called the fire department and then ran to the garage where he encountered flames "shooting into the sky."

The company, located on Kidder Road, manufactures swimming pools and spas.

Accidental fire in December 1986 at the Aquatech Pool Company on Kidder Road off Route 110  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Department

On May 1, 1986 Chief Frederick H. Reid retired. Chief Reid served on the department for 31 years; twenty-one as chief. He was a dedicated leader who always had service to his community as his top priority.

This has been a difficult year because several members of the department have served in temporary positions. All members of the department "rose to the occasion" and dispatched their duties in a commendable manner.

Due to ongoing growth in our community, and changes in regulations and laws, the Fire Department is in need of expanded staff and changes in our organizational structure.



Bids for the new Fire Department rescue truck and for the generator system for the Central Station have been received and implemented through Capital Planning.

**Fire Chief**

Frederick H. Reid  
(Retired 5/1/86)  
Robert L. Hughes  
(January 1987)

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
James Boermeester

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

George Fetzner

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Patrick Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David P. Clancy  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis M. Conlin  
James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew  
Christopher Finnigan  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon

Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
Gerald D. Tonks  
John D. Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee



William Campbell, John Carroll, Jim Reid and Mike Ridlon at Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**1987**

Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 4, 1987

**UNDER ARTICLE 13.**

Capital Budget approved for the Fire Department:

New Car for Chief \$13,000  
 Mini-Pumper/Brusher Truck \$95,000  
 Engine 02 - Retrofit \$60,000  
 Engine 04 & 05 Improvements \$170,000  
 Engine 02 floor rehab work \$100,000  
 Engine 01 office rehab work \$22,000  
 2,000 ft. large diameter hose \$40,000  
 Ladder work (new specs) \$10,000



Delivery of this 1987 Chevrolet mini-Pumper to South Chelmsford as Engine 5 started an apparatus rotation:  
 The previous Engine 5, a 1966 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper was re-designated as Reserve and remained at South  
 The previous Reserve Engine(s), a 1957 Reserve and a 1958 spare parts Maxim Pumper, were discarded  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Special Town Meeting November 30, 1987****UNDER ARTICLE 4.**

Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee, James Doukzewicz, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$64,800.00) from the unexpended proceeds of the amount authorized by Article 10 of the Annual Town Meeting of 1985 and the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$1,882.39) from the unexpended proceeds of the amount authorized by Article 43 of the Annual Town Meeting of 1984, for the following purposes:

1. Purchase of a New Fire Alarm Truck \$35,000.00
2. Allocate additional funds for the construction of access road from upper level parking area at the Town Office Building \$31,682.39

James Doukzewicz explained the article. The money can only be used for whatever is stated in the article. Plus only the amount of money stated is the only amount allowed. Bids were done in order to arrive at the exact amount listed. The Finance Committee supported the article. The Board of Selectmen also supported the article. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "87" proved to be a very progressive year in the fire service and we are happy to say fire loss was low. Due to the cooperation of the officers, firefighters and office staff, I feel that in my first year as Chief of the Department we have made great strides.



With today's demanding conditions, there is a need for upgrading in areas such as fire stations and fire equipment. The fire stations are in the process of being upgraded to coincide with an energy audit done by Massachusetts Electric. Through our capital planning program we have received and put in-service a "state of the art" rescue truck and new mini pumper which is being housed at Engine 5 in South.



1987 Chevrolet Fire/Rescue mini-Pumper Engine 5 at South Chelmsford Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The town voted a new fire alarm truck at the special town meeting last year. This will go into service this year. This will be a great help in meeting the demands of the fire alarm system throughout the town.



## Firefighter hits a snag on way home from work

**CHELMSFORD** - Chelmsford Firefighter Peter Weatherbee got hung up on the way home from work late yesterday afternoon - literally.

After Weatherbee finished repairing fire alarm boxes on Route 129 at about 4:35, he started driving down the busy road toward Alpha Road in the fire alarm maintenance truck but forgot its 25-foot ladder was still up in the air.

About a quarter-mile down

driving fast, the six-wheel truck could have turned over backwards.

Weatherbee was uninjured. Neither the truck or the telephone wires were damaged.

Removing the truck was a difficult task.

Crews had hoped one tow-truck and a flat-bed would be enough. But after the tow-truck relieved pressure from the front end of the fire department truck and the flat-bed began towing it

**Fire truck ladder snags telephone lines**  
(Sun photo by Robert Whitaker)

The old Fire Alarm Maintenance Truck, a former Telephone Company ladder truck, was in the news on September 30, 1987 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Although fire loss is on the down grade because of fire prevention, sprinklers and smoke detectors, today's hazardous liabilities are on the up-swing.

We lost three firefighters in "87". The untimely death of firefighter Harold J. Pierce, Jr., saddened the department. Captain Ronald J. Sawicki retired through disability and firefighter Donald Weber retired through superannuation. Due to this change four new men were appointed to the department, namely, Firefighters Kevin Clarke, Robert Villare, Arthur Rivard, Leslie Merrill and Jesse Foster.

**Fire Chief**

Frederick H. Reid  
(Retired 5/1/86)  
Robert L. Hughes  
(January 1987)

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
(Retired 4/1/87)  
James Boormeester  
Michael F. Curran

**Fire Prevention Captain**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David P. Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
James P. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew

Paul D. Henderson  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
(Deceased 2/13/87)  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard



**Clerical**  
 Mary Ann Koulas  
 Martha Desaulnier

**Mechanic**  
 George Fetzer  
 Anthony Vaccaro

James P. Flaherty  
 Jesse Foster  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 David Hadley  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Brian J. Stanton  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 John D. Ubele  
 Dennis Vargeletis  
 Robert Villare  
 Donald A. Weber  
 (Retired 4/26/87)  
 Peter T. Wetherbee



**Alarm Fire**—Chelmsford firefighters spray water onto the rear of a home (left) at 91 Locke Road early last Thursday morning. In photo at smoke creates an eerie haze around the

house, as a Chelmsford firefighter prepares to enter the building with a hoseline. (photos by John Walker)

## Two-alarm fire destroys home

A fast-moving, two-alarm fire destroyed the home of Chelmsford gas inspector early Thursday morning.

According to Chelmsford fire Robert Hughes, the fire was believed to have started in the laundry room at the rear of the 91 Locke Road home, owned by Neal and Margaret Stanley. The fire was reported to officials at 1:40 a.m.

When firefighters from Engine 1, stationed less than a mile down Locke Road, arrived minutes later, the rear of the two-story structure was involved in flames.

The Stanley's were awakened by their dog, "Lady", who was barking loudly downstairs in the smoke-filled house.

Hughes said that two firefighters, William Dalton and Mike McTeague, sustained injuries while fighting the fire. Dalton, who suffered an ankle injury, was treated and released from Lowell General Hospital. McTeague was released from Joseph's Hospital in Lowell for treatment for smoke inhalation.

Firefighting efforts were hampered by temperatures in the single digits, deep snow, and heavy smoke.

"The strong wind and the construction of the house caused the fire to get out of hand," Hughes said. "It has been going pretty well before we got the call."

Chelmsford firefighters were assisted at the fire scene by the Billerica engine company. An engine and ladder truck from Lowell, as well as an additional engine from Billerica covered the Chelmsford stations during the fire.

Hughes said an investigation into the cause of the fire would be continuing.



February 1987 fire at 91 Locke Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



## 1988

### Annual Town Meeting April 25, 1988

#### UNDER ARTICLE 13.

Capital projects approved for the Fire Department:

Replace mobile radios \$10,000.00

Replace service truck \$20,000.00

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16.

Under the Fire Department Robert Hughes, Fire Chief, moved to amend the budget's total figure to read \$2,635,777.00, by adding \$180,000.00 to line item #63 Salary. This is the amount needed in order to keep six men who are slated to be cut as of July 1st. Chief Hughes explained that the need is there and these men shouldn't be cut. It would not be for the best interest of the Town. Public safety should be a priority and not cut back. Henry Sullivan spoke in favor of the motion to amend. He stated that as a retired state trooper he saw many examples of firemen's duties other than fires. They are always at accidents with the jaws of life trying to rescue people from vehicles, before or during a fire. Any type of emergency calls pertaining to health a fireman could be present with oxygen, or performing CPR before an ambulance arrives. Anytime a human life is involved a price shouldn't be put on the value. William Dalton of the local Fireman Union spoke in favor. He explained that the department is already below the required recommended amount of personnel to have on hand to maintain equipment/shifts. The budget is already down to the minimum before any of these cuts are performed. He asked for support of the amendment. The Finance Committee spoke against the motion to amend. If this motion passes the Town would be faced with an unbalanced budget. Selectman Henrick Johnson spoke against the motion, unfortunately the Selectmen had no choice but to recommend the cut. A lengthy discussion took place. Michael Anthony moved to amend the amendment. After viewing the motion the Moderator declared the motion out of order. More discussion took place. Barry Balan moved the question. Voice vote taken, motion carried unanimously. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the motion to amend the Fire Department budget by increasing it \$180,000.00. This vote left the chair in doubt, the Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried.



This 1976 Mack, originally Engine 1 and re-assigned as Engine 2 in 1981, was rebuilt by the Ranger Co. in 1988 as seen here with the four-door "Ranger" cab and red/white paint scheme  
The firefighters are Peter Johnson, Bill Curran and Donald Drew (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Department

We have worked hard this past year complying with new rules and regulations, modernizing the stations with what funds we had to work with. All five (5) stations have been painted in and out and all the lighting has been changed to energy efficient lights. We have put in service a new fire alarm truck to take care of the elaborate fire alarm system that this day and age demands.

We have purchased a small amount of hazmat equipment and put it in service. Our equipment is a small beginning but we are hoping eventually this will be implemented on a regional basis because of the cost of compliance.

We had a few changes this year within our department. Firefighter Gerald Tonks, a member of the department since 1966 retired through superannuation. Mary Ann Koulas, our department assistant also retired after 20 years service with the Fire Department. Robert Villare, a firefighter transferred to the Police Department. James Durkin and John Robinson were appointed as permanent firefighters.

**Fire Chief**

Robert L. Hughes

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

Charles A. Schramm

James M. Spinney

James Boermeester

Michael F. Curran

**Senior Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

(Retired)

Martha Desaulnier

**Junior Clerk**

Barbara O'Leary

**Mechanic**

Anthony Vaccaro

James Keeley

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

William M. Burke, Jr.

William V. Cady, Jr.

David C. Campbell

William Campbell

John L. Carroll

Anthony Cincevich

David P. Clancy

Kevin Clarke

Francis J. Conlin

Francis Mark Conlin

James P. Curran

William F. Curran

James T. Cutter

William Dalton

John P. DePalma

Bruce R. Donovan

Donald A. Drew

James Durkin

James P. Flaherty

Jesse Foster

Ernest J. Frobese

David Gelineau

Terrence A. Goode

Richard L. Grenon

David Hadley

Jack D. Hadley

William H. Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson

William H. Jamer

Peter C. Johnson

Dennis Keohane

William Keohane

Raymond R. Kydd

Emil P. Magiera

Leo A. Martin

Michael McTeague

Leslie Merrill

Richard Miller

Thomas D. Miskell

Edward J. Nolet

Richard P. O'Neil

Daniel T. Reid

James F. Reid

John Reid

Michael D. Ridlon

Arthur Rivard

John Robinson

Joseph J. Spinazola

Brian J. Stanton

Gerald D. Tonks

(Retired)

John D. Ubele

Dennis Vargeletis

Robert Villare

(to Police Department)

Peter T. Wetherbee



SUN / DICK HUNT

### Time for the heavy hose

Firefighters work to unroll heavy hose from the back of an engine as a Chelmsford lighting company is consumed by fire. Mutual aid from Lowell and surrounding towns was called in as

the Chelmsford Fire Department fought to contain the blaze, which broke out around 9:30 a.m.

## Two-alarm blaze destroys Chelmsford lighting store

By MARCIA PECK  
Sun Staff

**CHELMSFORD** - A two-alarm fire destroyed a Chelmsford Street lighting store today, injuring an employee and leaving only a shell of the building behind.

The blaze, which destroyed the Electric Candle Lighting Center at 60 Chelmsford St., was detected at about 9:30 a.m., but apparently had been smoldering for some time, officials said.

Firefighters from three departments blasted the 20-foot flames with streams of water, but an hour later most of the

was treated and released at St. John's Hospital. Mercer's hair was reportedly burned as he was running downstairs to escape the flames.

Owners George and Delores Feeney, of Chelmsford, were on the second floor of the building with Mercer when they noticed flames, apparently coming from a crawl space above the second floor.

### RELATED PHOTO, PAGE 9

Dagmar Galvin, another store employee, was in the first-floor showroom when the Feeneys ran downstairs and

fire, everyone get out," she said.

"This is just such a shock," Mrs. Feeney whispered, as she and her husband watched in disbelief. "But we're all out and we're safe - that's all that matters."

Fire Chief Robert Hughes had glanced out the window of the fire station seconds before the alarm came in.

"As soon as I looked out the window, I saw the flames coming out of the rafters of the roof," Hughes said.

As he opened his mouth to alert the firefighters, the alarm bell rang through the station.

Hughes said the battle to





March 22, 1988 fire that destroyed the Chelmsford Electric Candle Lighting Center on Chelmsford Street  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1989

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting April 24 and May 1, 1989

#### UNDER ARTICLE 10.

Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee James Doukaszewicz, and Selectman Henrick Johnson moved that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$1,546,823. for the following capital projects (including):

New pumping engine \$195,000.00

Improvements to station 03 building \$10,000.00

The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article, motion carried, unanimously.



1989 Emergency-One/Hush 1250 g.p.m. Pumper with 750 gallon tank, Engine 1, had its engine behind the rear wheels and was known as the "Hush" due to its quite ride (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Special Town Meeting October 12, 1989**

UNDER ARTICLE 1 Selectman Towle moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash in the treasury the sum of \$250,000 to Line Item 59 Fire Department Salary.

Selectman Johnson explained that this was the ratification of the Fire Department's union contract. After many months of arbitration, both sides felt that it was in the best interest of the town to ratify the contract and avoid any additional months of further arbitration. He explained the language of the contract the first year is a 5% raise broken down 3% the first 6 months and 2% the next six months. The second year is 2% the first 6 months and 3% the second six months. The third year is a 4% raise.

# Still no progress on firefighters' contract

By IAN FISHER  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — In the six months since the firefighters' contract expired, union members and selectmen have communicated through pickets, petitions and hours of failed mediation.

## CHELMSFORD

But the longest contract negotiation in recent memory has been marked mostly by silence.

On the issues, selectmen and the 61-member Professional Firefighters of Chelmsford Local 1839 are not much closer now than when negotia-

Please see **CONTRACT/18**

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Capt. Mike Curran, second from left, and firefighters Bill Dalton, Mike Ridlon, Ray Kydd, Kevin Clarke and Jim Reid discuss labor problems

SUN / BOB WHITAKER

## LOCAL

# Still no progress on contract...

**CONTRACT/**From Page 15

tions started in October 1987.

And both sides say the failure to come to an agreement isn't good for the department or the town. Because of this, they say they are anxious to settle, although neither selectmen nor firefighters show much willingness to give in.

"It hurts morale" for firefighters to be without a contract, conceded Bonita Towle, the selectmen's representative to the union. "If I were working at a place that had a union and I didn't have a contract, I would be bothered by that. It takes away your security."

Union President William Dalton agrees. Firefighters, he said, "feel slighted. They feel they provide the services the townspeople ask them to provide and (they) expect to be compensated."

For at least the next few weeks, contract talks will go nowhere. That's because both sides are waiting for a Department of Revenue audit that will show whether the town has enough money to pay for the firefighters' requested 5 percent raise.

Ironically, it's not the amount of the actual raise firefighters and selectmen disagree on.

At issue is whether the firefighters, like the police union, should negotiate on other benefits, such as vacation time, holiday pay and carriers for medical insurance.

From the town's perspective, Chelmsford cannot afford to pay firefighters a straight 5 percent raise without getting some concessions in benefits.

Executive Secretary Bernard Lynch said that, with the town facing a nearly \$1 mil-

as the police did last year.

"We've offered them a fair contract," said selectmen Chairman Dennis Ready. "If the police did it, it should be fair that the firefighters do it, too."

"From what I hear, it's tough on some of the guys over there, knowing that they don't have a contract," Lynch said. "But these are tough times. Difficult times require difficult decisions and difficult decisions don't come easily."

But firefighters interviewed say they are disturbed that as living costs rise and they take on additional duties, selectmen are not willing to treat them like other town employees, who have received raises.

Ray Kydd, 42, who has been on the force for 13 years, said the lack of a contract makes him feel "like a second-class citizen. Everybody else in town has a contract but us. How would you feel?"

"We're not being dealt with fairly. Why can't we get a 57.5-cent an hour raise?" asked Capt. Michael Curran, 40, a 13-year veteran of the force. "We don't have outrageous demands."

Dalton also said he does not understand how the town can say it doesn't have the money.

He points to a free cash figure of \$1,154,000, and said that selectmen have spent \$53,489 in legal fees during the past 18 months on all labor issues.

Before the town hired labor counsel from Mirick, O'Connell, Demallie and Lougee of Worcester, Dalton said legal fees to settle the fire contract were only \$500.

"What has the town got for the \$54,000?" Dalton asked. "Do you think that's a wise use

the labor counsel doesn't handle only firefighters' contracts. They also deal with all other town unions, negotiate police contracts and handle a number of labor issues.

"We're not interested in using labor counsel as a hired gun. He's there to protect us," he said. "We don't just use him to pay him big bucks and bang the union around."

Lynch added that selectmen won't dip immediately into free cash for two reasons: the fund is intended for this year's unexpected expenditures and it is going to be applied to next year's expected debt.

"It's not free cash in that we have no purpose for it," said Lynch, adding that some of the money will have to pay for an additional \$400,000 in insurance costs.

"If we were in better financial shape we could pass it back in reduced taxes or expanded services. But that is not the case. The case is we need that money to maintain the services we have now."

Although they may never agree on the town's real fiscal condition or whether they should give up benefits, representatives from both sides say the state audit will weigh heavily upon a settlement.

If the audit shows the town can afford the raise, a number of selectmen have said they will vote for it. And if it shows the town can't, Dalton said the union will drop the issue.

"Whatever the audit shows, fine, we'll live by it," Towle said. "It's embarrassing that we haven't settled the contract in so long."

## Flynn to lead



lion deficit for the next fiscal year, the firefighters have to pay for part of their raise, just of the taxpayers' money? That's half our raise." But Lynch fired back that

Lowell Sun Article, January 13, 1989 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

The Finance Committee supported the article. The Moderator asked for any discussion. James Doukaszewicz asked if the figure shown was the full amount of the contract or is this the amount after the deductions? Town Manager, Bernard Lynch said it was the full amount of the contract. Harry Foster precinct 2, asked for the actual breakdown of the figures. Town Manager Bernard Lynch explained \$130,000 of the figure is the amount needed for the retro-active pay for the last fiscal year that there was a contract. The remaining \$120,000 is for the end of this fiscal year of June 30th. A question was raised on where the funding was going to come from for this article and the next article? Mr. Lynch explained that there is \$996,000 in free cash already raised, the money will come from there. For the future years the money will have to be raised and appropriated. The Moderator asked for a voice vote. George Merrill precinct 2 asked for a point of order. He wanted all votes taken on warrant articles to be by roll call, due to people being in the hall are not all voting representatives. The Moderator explained that when a voice vote is taken he will determine if a hand count is needed. The body also has the privilege of questioning his judgment as long as seven other members question his call. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article. Motion carried unanimously.



1989 Chevrolet Service Truck S-1 approved in 1988 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Department

During Fiscal 1989, Captain Charles Galloway a 24 year veteran of the Fire Department was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations and Firefighter Michael Burke a 13 year veteran was promoted to Captain assigned to Fire Prevention under the direction of Deputy Chief James Sousa. Fire preventions continued expansion is a necessity in this day and age. Some of our top priorities are upgrading SARA III, in-service inspections and training. This was a small part of implementing a professional study that was requested by the officials of the Town of Chelmsford.

Despite the fact that when times get severe this departments services increase, our aim is to continue to protect the life and property of the townspeople as well as we can under the budget restraints that we are facing. Because of our fire station locations, our response time and fire loss was again kept at a minimum while medical calls and all other responses increased over last year.



Kevin Clarke, William Curran and Captain Charles Schramm on the antique 1935 Maxim 500 Engine 4 Pumper in December 1989 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Fire Chief**

Robert L. Hughes

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Deputy Chief of Operations**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

**Captains**

Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
James Boormeester  
Michael F. Curran  
William M. Burke, Jr.

**Senior Clerk**

Martha Desaulnier

**Junior Clerk**

Anna Griffin

**Mechanic**

Anthony Vaccaro  
James Keeley

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David P. Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
James P. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew  
James Durkin  
James P. Flaherty  
Jesse Foster  
Ernest J. Frobese  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
David Hadley  
Jack D. Hadley

William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Henry Houle  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard  
John Robinson  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
John D. Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis  
Peter T. Wetherbee



Left to right: 1986 Ford Rescue Truck, 1985 Pirsch Cab-Forward Ladder Truck, 1989 E-One Hush Pumper  
(circa 1989 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society**

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## 1990

### Special Town Meeting April 23

UNDER ARTICLE 6.

William Dalton moved that the Town vote to approve the filing of a petition in the General Court for an act relative to Reduction in Ranks for certain Public Employees in the Town of Chelmsford, said act to be filed in the following form: AN ACT RELATIVE TO REDUCTION IN RANK FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section I: Notwithstanding the provisions of section thirty- three of the General Laws or the first sentence of section thirty-nine of Chapter thirty-one of the General Laws or of any other general or special law or rule to the contrary, if permanent employees of the fire force of the Town of Chelmsford serving in any position in a title above the lowest title on such force are to be separated from such positions because of lack of money or the abolition of such positions, they shall be separated from such positions according to their seniority in such title after permanent promotion in such force and shall be reinstated to such positions held by them according to such seniority; provided, however, that this section shall apply only to reductions in force resulting in demotions from titles above the lowest title on such force and shall not affect the seniority of any employee in service for any other purpose, including but not limited to, the separation of permanent employee from service on such force.

Section II. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The Finance Committee did not recommend this article. They believe it is a negotiated item. Selectmen Ready said that the majority of the Board of Selectmen supported the article. They would like to see it in place, they agree that it is only fair that seniority be done within the job grade. They feel that it is good for the union and good for the town. James Sousa who is one of the Deputy Chiefs confirmed that was said and asked for support. Town Manager Bernard Lynch stated that he agreed with the labor counsel's opinion. He feels that it is a collective bargaining issue. He feels that it will effect all members of the force, personnel and union members and that it could cause a violation of the contract. A discussion took place. Questions were asked if this was ever discussed during negotiations. Only the years of total service on the force would be determine for layoff were discussed. The issue of years in grade wasn't discussed as a factor. Samuel Poulten supported the article. He felt if there was a legal problem then let the House and Senate determine it. William Dalton said that all fifty-seven members of the Fire Department signed the petition and supported the article. More discussion took place.

Selectman Emerson moved the question. The Moderator asked if there was a need for further debate hearing none he asked for a voice vote on the motion, which left the chair in doubt. He asked for a show of hands, motion carried.



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This 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, originally Engine 1, was reassigned to West Chelmsford as Engine 3 in 1990  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Fire Chief's Report

The Fire Department has continued to perform with the utmost professionalism during very severe budget times and cuts. We were reduced by four (4) men in 1990 cutting back the north station to only two men on duty at one time.

False alarms were cut substantially by implementation of a fine system to enhance repair of the many fire alarm and sprinkler systems we have now intact. The scope of this program seems to be doing the job it was intended to do.

#### Chief

Hughes, Robert L.

#### Deputies

Galloway, Charles  
Sousa, James

#### Captains

Boermeester, J.  
Burke, W. Michael  
Curran, Michael F.  
Schramm, Charles  
Spinney, James

#### Senior Clerk

Desaulnier, Martha A.

#### Junior Clerk

Griffin, Anna

#### Mechanics

Keeley, James  
Vaccaro, Anthony

#### Firefighters

Adley, Walter  
Anderson, Arthur  
Bennett, Robert  
Cady, William  
Campbell, David  
Campbell, Wm.  
Carroll, John  
Cincevich, A.  
Clancy, David  
Clarke, Kevin  
Conlin, F.J.  
Conlin, Mark  
Curran, James  
Curran, William  
Cutter, James  
Dalton, William  
DePalma, John  
Donovan, Bruce  
Drew, Donald  
Durkin, James  
Flaherty, James  
Foster, Jesse  
Frobese, Ernest  
Goode, Terrance  
Grenon, Richard

Hadley, David  
Hadley, William  
Hayes, Paul  
Henderson, Paul  
Jamer, William  
Johnson, Peter  
Keohane, Dennis  
Keohane, William  
Kydd, Raymond  
Magiera, Emil  
Martin, Leo  
McTeague, Mike  
Merrill, Leslie  
Miller, Richard  
Nolet, Edward  
O'Neil, Richard  
Reid, Daniel  
Reid, James  
Reid, John  
Ridlon, Michael  
Rivard, Arthur  
Spinazzola, Joseph  
Stanton, Brian  
Ubele, John D.  
Vargeletis, Dennis

## 1991

### Annual Town Meeting April 30

#### UNDER ARTICLE 8.

Selectman Dennis J. Ready moved that the sum of \$307,000.00 be raised and appropriated contingent on the passage of referendum question paragraph (g) of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 21 (c) said sum to be added to the sum appropriated to Line Item #8 Public Safety Salary under Article 8 of the 1991 Annual Town Meeting for the Fire Department Salary Account.

Town Manager explained that this was to keep the staff at the current level of services. If the question did not pass on the ballot then eight firefighters would be laid off and services cut. He felt the voters should decide the issue. A number of questions were asked concerning the staff and actual cuts to be made. Chief Robert Hughes explained that the eight men would be laid off and that the West Fire Station would be closed. This station could be covered by the other surrounding stations, however the response time would be increased from the present two minutes to at least five minutes or more. The Finance Committee said that they had planned to propose a similar 3% reduced figure like in the Police Department, however, they felt that the same result would happen and will not amend the article, but the Committee is in favor of this being an override question. The Board of Selectmen are in favor of this article, it is an attempt to maintain level of services. Brad Emerson moved the question. The Moderator attempted an unanimous show of hands, the tellers came forward and conducted a hand count. Results: Yes 124 No 3 (85 is 2/3's) the motion carried to stop debate. The Moderator then asked for a show of hands on the article. Motion carried.

### Annual Town Meeting May 1

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2.

Selectman Dennis Ready moved that the Moderator be allowed to waive the reading of this article. The Moderator asked for a vote by a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The article was the adoption of state statutes as fire rules and regulations. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee were in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article by way of a show of hands, motion carried.

### Fire Chief's Report

The economy again in Fiscal 1991 has taken its toll on the Fire Department and public safety in general. As of June 30th the Fire Department, because of budget restraints and a defeated override attempt, had to lay off an additional six (6) members. This shortage of personnel forced the closing of our West Chelmsford Fire Station. The total members laid off now stands at ten (10). This has greatly hampered our response time and our mission to protect the life and property of the people town wide.

We have had two retirements this fiscal year. Jack Hadley, a thirty-two (32) year veteran has retired and David Gelineau, a member for fourteen (14) years has retired on a job related disability. I would like to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the town.

<b>Chief</b>	<b>Firefighters</b>	Hadley, Jack
Hughes, Robert L.	Adley, Walter	Hadley, William
	Anderson, Arthur	Hayes, Paul D.
<b>Deputies</b>	Bennett, Robert	Henderson, Paul
Galloway, Charles	Cady, William	Jamer, William
Sousa, James	Campbell, David	Johnson, Peter
	Campbell, William	Keohane, Dennis
<b>Captains</b>	Carroll, John	Keohane, William
Boermeester, J.	Cincevich, Anthony	Kydd, Raymond
Burke, W. Michael	Clancy, David	Magiera, Emil
Curran, Michael F.	Clarke, Kevin	Martin, Leo
Schramm, Charles	Conlin, Francis J.	McTeague, Michael
Spinney, James	Conlin, F. Mark	Merrill, Leslie
	Curran, James	Miller, Richard
<b>Principal Clerk</b>	Curran, William	Nolet, Edward
Desaulnier, Martha A.	Cutter, James	O'Neil, Richard
	Dalton, William F.	Reid, Daniel
<b>Junior Clerk</b>	DePalma, John	Reid, James
Griffin, Anna	Donovan, Bruce	Reid, John
	Drew, Donald	Ridlon, Michael
<b>Mechanics</b>	Durkin, James	Rivard, Arthur
Keeley, James	Flaherty, James	Robinson, John
Vaccaro, Anthony	Foster, Jesse	Spinazzola, Joseph
	Frobese, Ernest	Stanton, Brian
	Gelineau, David	Ubele, John D.
	Goode, Terrance	



Grenon, Richard  
Hadley, David

Vargeletis, Dennis  
Wetherbee, Peter

## 1992



1992 Chelmsford Fire Department Softball Team posing by the Engine 1 Hush Pumper  
Front row L-R: Rich Miller, John Robinson, Jim Boermeester, Jack Carroll, John Reid, Dan Ubele, Bill Keohane  
Back row L-R: Michael McTeague, Dan Reid, Bill Curran, Bill Jamer, Don Drew, Les Merrill, Hank Houle, Walter Adley  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Special Town Meeting October 29

#### UNDER ARTICLE 11.

Selectman Jeffrey Brem moved to waive the reading of this article. James Sousa, Deputy Fire Chief, came forward and explained that the wording of this article was exactly from the State's Fire Preventions Regulations. Which is law. If any attempt is made to amend or change it then it will run the possibility of not being accepted. The Moderator asked for vote to waive the reading by a show of hands on the motion. Motion carried.

James Sousa then explained the purpose of the article. By having the Town accept the present State's Regulations, as a by-law this would enable the actual enforcement of the law at a local level. A discussion took place. Questions were asked concerning Section 14 Fire Permits. Bernard Ready moved to delete Section 14 Fire Permits in its entirety. He felt that this may be too restrictive, he questioned who was to decide what was considered a hazard and issue fines. Deputy Sousa explained that good sense would be used in making any type of determination. He explained that there certainly are instances where he has answered a complaint made by a resident about a neighbor's pile of brush, and did indeed find a hazard. Or he has gone to a company's site and found potential problems. This section was definitely needed and urged that it not be deleted. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee did not recommend the motion to delete Section 14. The Board of Selectmen were not in favor of the motion. The Moderator asked for a vote by a show of hands, motion defeated. More discussion took place. Jeffrey Brem moved to amend Section 14 Fire Permits, by deleting 2) Violations in its entirety and replace it with:

a) Any person who violates this Section will be warned by a written notice by the Fire Chief or his Representative. A second violation within any twelve months period shall be punishable by a fine of no more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation on the motion to amend. The Committee had no recommendation. The Board of Selectmen recommended the motion. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, motion carried. He then asked for a vote by way of a show of hands on the main motion as amended, motion carried.

**UNDER ARTICLE 18.**

Thomas Moran moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amount of \$120,000.00 from line item 16, snow and ice for the purpose of reopening the West Fire Station effective December 1, 1992.

The Finance Committee was not in favor of using the money from the snow and ice account. This money is raised each year for the purpose of maintaining the entire Town. The amount is based on the dollar amount voted the previous year. The majority of the Board of Selectmen were against the article. A number of Representatives spoke in favor of the article. James Sousa said the the Town should get the most service for the money spent. He felt that this would buy a lot of service for a much needed situation. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands on the article. Motion defeated. A hand count was requested. The tellers came forward and conducted a hand count. The result was Yes 43 No 54, the motion was defeated.

**Fire Chief's Report**

We were saddened by the job related deaths of two firefighters in 1992. Firefighter Francis "Bud" Conlin, a thirty-two year veteran and Firefighter David Gelineau, a fifteen year veteran passed away and will be sadly missed by brother firefighters, family and friends. Firefighter James Cutter retired after 27 years of service to the Town of Chelmsford.

The Fire Department was able to hire back all of the laid off personnel. This was accomplished through a union contract allowing different manning policies and replacing retirees.

<b>Fire Chief</b>	<b>Firefighters</b>	
Robert L. Hughes	Walter F. Adley	Paul D. Henderson
	Robert Bennett	Henry A. Houle
	William F. Cady	William Jamer
	David Campbell	Peter Johnson
<b>Deputy Chiefs</b>	William Campbell	Dennis Keohane
James A. Sousa	John Carroll	William P. Keohane
Charles S. Galloway	Anthony Cincevich	Raymond Kydd
	David Clancy	Emil Magiera
<b>Captains</b>	Kevin Clarke	Leo Martin
James M. Spinney	Mark F. Conlin	Michael McTeague
Charles A. Schramm	James F. Curran	Leslie Merrill
James P. Boormeester	William Curran	Richard Miller
Michael F. Curran	William Dalton	Edward Nolet
Wm. Michael Burke	John DePalma	Richard P. O'Neil
	Bruce Donovan	Daniel T. Reid
<b>Principal Clerk</b>	Donald Drew	James F. Reid
Martha A. DeSaulnier	James Durkin	John E. Reid
	James Flaherty	Michael D. Ridlon
<b>Senior Clerk</b>	Jesse Foster	Arthur Rivard
Patricia Britton	Ernest Frobese	John Robinson
	Terrance Goode	Joseph Spinazola
<b>Mechanics</b>	Richard Grenon	Brian Stanton
James Keeley	David Hadley	John D. Ubele
Anthony Vaccaro	William Hadley	Dennis Vargeletis
	Paul D. Hayes	Peter T. Wetherbee

## 1993



1993 West Marine rescue zodiac boat and trailer, with Nissan outboard motor, based at Center Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

### Report of the Board of Selectmen

As the year progressed, the Early Retirement program created a multitude of vacancies in both the Police and Fire Departments., including their Chiefs. This led to a reorganization of these Departments into a new Public Safety Consolidated Department.

### Town Manager's Report

In 1993 the Town implemented an early retirement program which attracted nearly forty long time employees. We have appreciated their efforts over the years. We utilized the opportunity of these retirements to eliminate positions, restructure and bring on less expensive employees. The area experiencing the greatest impact of early retirements was public safety in which we lost both Chiefs, two Deputy Chiefs, two of our three Police Captains, and seven firefighters. These retirements have allowed us to proceed with implementing a Public Safety consolidation that will improve services through increased cooperation and provide cost savings that should exceed \$250,000 per year. While controversial in its acceptance, I am confident that this new structure will serve the long term interests of the Town.

### Fire Chief's Report

One that must be viewed as bittersweet is the retirement of Chief Robert L. Hughes, Deputy Charles S. Galloway and Firefighters Robert A. Bennett, Paul D. Henderson, Peter T. Wetherbee, Richard P. O'Neil, James P. Flaherty, Terrace A. Goode and Richard L. Grennon. We view this change with joy because they have received the recognition and rewards due them for their service to our community, yet we are saddened to lose the skills that they brought to our organization each day. We will deeply miss their friendship and brotherhood.

We celebrate our eight new Firefighters: Donald E. Peterson, Gary Ryan, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Donoghue, George E. Ryan, Jr., Kevin M. Sheehy, Martin Boermeester, Jr., Leo F. Manley and our eight new dispatchers David DeFreitas, Richard Demers, William Vaughan, Richard Marchand, Michael Cassella, Edward Overn, James P. Flaherty, Terrace A. Goode and welcome them to a rewarding career.

Engine 3 in West Chelmsford was opened without increasing our budget. I am proud of the cooperation and effort that our Officers and Firefighters put forth to bring about the necessary changes in our procedures to make this happen.





West Chelmsford Fire Station in February 1995 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

I invite you to join us and our new Chief John E. Parow in reorganizing and improving our organization to best provide the services that you want, need and should have.

**Fire Chief**

Acting Chief James A. Sousa

**Deputy Chief**

Acting Deputy, Wm Michael Burke

**Captains**

James M. Spinney  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael F. Curran  
David W. Hadley

**Principal Clerk**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Senior Clerk**

Patricia A. Britton

**Mechanic**

James Keeley

**Civilian Dispatchers**

David DeFreitas  
Michael Cassella  
Richard Demers  
Edward Overn  
William Vaughan  
James P. Flaherty  
Richard Marchand  
Terrance A. Goode

**Firefighters**

Martin Boormeester  
William F. Cady  
David Campbell  
William Campbell  
John Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Mark F. Conlin  
James F. Curran  
William Curran  
William Dalton  
John Depalma  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Donald Drew  
James J. Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Ernest Frobese  
William Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Henry A. Houle  
William Jamer  
Peter Johnson

Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil Magiera  
Leo F. Manley  
Leo Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Edward J. Nolet  
Kevin O'Brien  
Donald E. Peterson  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John E. Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George E. Ryan  
Kevin M. Sheehy  
Joseph Spinazola  
Brian Stanton  
J. Daniel Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis

## 1994



1994 Collectible Fire Engine card by the Virginia Hobby Supply Company  
The subject of this card is the 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. pumper, Engine 3, at West Chelmsford  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Town Manager's Report

Public safety again occupied a great deal of attention during the year with Armand Caron appointed as Police Chief and Jack Parow appointed as Fire Chief. Both of these individuals have brought new energy and enthusiasm to their respective departments. The Fire Department has proposed in-house ambulance service as an expansion of its emergency medical services. This proposal is being studied and reviewed by a citizen committee with a recommendation expected in early 1995.

### Fire Chief's Report

A complete overhaul of the emergency medical first response system took place during 1994. Twenty-four (24) firefighters were trained to the emergency medical technician level and all first response vehicles were outfitted with new medical equipment to reflect this upgrade in emergency medical care. Fire apparatus is now dispatched to all medical calls from the nearest station. With this new emergency response system, we are able to provide the towns people with an E.M.T. level of service in under two (2) minutes. This response system is second to none.

Five (5) semi-automated heart defibrillators were purchased for the department through the fund raising efforts of the Emblem Club and the Firefighters Union Local 1839. All fire department members were trained in the use of this life saving machine and one unit was placed on each of the five engine companies. This will provide for equal distribution throughout the town.

Deputy Chief Sousa instituted a new firefighter training program in an effort to train all department firefighters to the National Standard of Firefighter I and II.

Budget restraints forced the alternating closures of Engine 3 (Old Westford Road) and Engine 4 (Riverneck Road) thirty (30) times in the last six (6) months of 1994. In addition, the Center Fire Station was forced to reduce staffing levels from one (1) captain and five (5) firefighters down to one (1) captain and two (2) firefighters in order to stay within the FY95 budget.

#### Fire Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa

#### Captains

James M. Spinney  
Wm Michael Burke  
James P. Boormeester  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael F. Curran

#### Principal Clerk

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Senior Clerk

Patricia A. Britton

#### Firefighters

Walter F. Adley  
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William V. Cady  
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William Campbell  
John Carroll  
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David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Mark F. Conlin  
James F. Curran  
William Curran  
William Dalton  
John Depalma  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Donald Drew  
James J. Durkin

#### Dennis Keohane

William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil Magiera  
Leo F. Manley  
Leo Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Edward J. Nolet  
Kevin O'Brien  
Donald E. Peterson  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John E. Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan

**Mechanic**

James Keeley

**Civilian Dispatchers**

David DeFreitas  
 Michael Cassella  
 Richard Demers  
 Terrance A. Goode  
 William Vaughan  
 Will Amundson  
 Timothy Goode

Jesse Foster  
 Ernest Frobese  
 David Hadley  
 William Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes  
 Henry A. Houle  
 William Jamer  
 Peter Johnson

George E. Ryan  
 Kevin M. Sheehy  
 Joseph Spinazola  
 Brian Stanton  
 J. Daniel Ubele  
 Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1995

**Report of the Board of Selectmen**

Discussions were held at many meetings with the Ambulance Study Committee and the Fire Chief and in June the Board voted to accept the recommendation that the Town stay with a private ambulance service at this time.

**Special Town Meeting May 4****UNDER ARTICLE 1.**

Selectman Robert P. Joyce, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B for consideration to be determined, all right, title and interest, if any held by the Town in a certain parcel of land on Main Street, shown as Lot 33 on Assessor's Map 194, containing 4850 square feet more or less and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North district Registry of Deeds in book 787, Page 328.

The Town Manager Bernard Lynch explained that this was the old fire station building located on Main Street in West Chelmsford. The minimal bid would be \$18,000. Jeff Stallard questioned if provisions would be made to provide storage for the groups who use the facility now. The Town Manager said provisions would be made. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen were in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.



Privately owned former West Chelmsford Fire Station at Main and Joy streets (2005 photo by Fred Merriam)



## Fire Chief's Report

The Town of Chelmsford went on line, in June, with the Enhanced 911 (E-911) emergency calling system. This system has allowed for all residents of Chelmsford to utilize a three digit number for all public safety emergencies. Fire and Police dispatch were also consolidated this year in conjunction with E-911, relocating fire dispatch to the police station located at 230 North Road.

Improvements in the emergency medical capabilities of the department continued in 1995. Twenty (20) additional firefighters were trained to the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) level bringing the total number of EMTs to forty-four (44).

# First female firefighter on the job

By Sharon Flaherty Weitz  
Staff Writer

Cynthia Leczynski is blazing a new trail in Chelmsford, but she would rather be seen as just one of the guys.

Leczynski made local history Monday when she became the first female firefighter in Chelmsford, a position for which she has been training for seven years.

"I have held tight to my beliefs that I worked hard for the position and that I deserve it," Leczynski said during a break in her training Tuesday morning. "Now I want to direct my energies to learning the job. Being a firefighter will be a physical challenge, an emotional challenge and an intellectual challenge. There is so much I can learn here and that really appeals to me."

The 32-year-old Leczynski, a Chelmsford resident for 20 years, said she decided she wanted to be a firefighter when she was pregnant with her third child. At that time she took the Civil Service exam and scored 100 percent, topping the list. She later passed the medical, physical and the strength and agility tests.

Then the waiting began, as did her personal training. Leczynski has been lifting weights for years. Her husband fashioned a 125-pound dummy so she could practice running up and down stairs carrying the weight of a would-be victim. She practiced the hose line extension several times a week and recently became a certified emergency medical technician, earning a solid "A" grade in the course she attended along with 19 Chelmsford firefighters.

In addition to being Chelmsford's first female firefighter, she is also the first mother hired and, at 5 feet 1 inch and 114 pounds, the smallest firefighter in the department. Leczynski and her husband Glenn have three children — Andrea, 12; Michelle, 10 and Keith, 7.

"My children are very proud of me and very pleased that I was hired," Leczynski said. "They know how hard I worked to reach this goal and this proves to them that hard work and perseverance can pay off."

Being a firefighter is Leczynski's first full-time position in 12 years. She attended the former University of Lowell for one year, then married and began her family. Over the past 12 years, she worked a number of part-time jobs to help pay the bills.

"My husband has been wonderful about supporting me in this endeavor," Leczynski said. "He has been my personal trainer. At the fire academy a lot of women have trouble with the strength and agility test, but it was not a problem for me. Also, being home with my children gave me the time I needed to work out and train for the job I wanted."

Two years ago, Fire Chief Jack Parow hired the first female firefighter in East Bridgewater when he was chief of that department and said it was a simple matter to implement a dress code and first-come first-served policy in the bathrooms and showers.

"This doesn't require a lot of changes for us," Parow said. "We didn't have any nude posters in the bunk rooms or Playboy magazines in the bathrooms, which you will find in some fire departments. I haven't received any negative feedback from the men. I've been through this before and it went very smoothly. I think hiring Cindy will work out well for the department. Having a woman on the force will bring us a different perspective and a little diversity."

Town Manager Bernard Lynch said it was time Chelmsford hired a female firefighter. "This is long overdue and I'm very pleased we have been able to break the barrier. I'm confident Cindy will be a good addition to the force. She seems

very pleased to have the job and I think she will fit in well with the other firefighters."

The only point of contention in Leczynski's hiring is that a town-recommended psychologist did not endorse her being appointed to the force. Leczynski appealed that decision with Civil Service, but seven men were hired in the interim. Several hearings were held before the Civil Service Board of Appeals, but an agreement was reached before a judgment was handed down. The firefighters' union is now negotiating a new labor contract with the town, which will include who has seniority, Leczynski or the seven men hired after she was passed over.

"I got what I wanted and what I feel I deserve, which is the position," Leczynski said. "I'm not going to worry about anything else. I would like to thank the residents and some of the firefighters who went out of their way to contact me and lend me their support at that time. It was nice to know I had that support."

Departmental training will continue for 4 to 6 weeks, after which Leczynski will be assigned to unit 2 at the Center Fire Station, working the standard two 10-hour days and two 14-hour nights followed by four days off.

After learning the department lingo and settling in, Leczynski eventually hopes to take some fire science courses and one day become a paramedic.

"I love to work hard physically and intellectually," she said. "I'm going to be able to do that here. I'm looking forward to learning a lot over the next 20 to 30 years."

Chelmsford Independent article April 13, 1995 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

James M. Spinney

James P. Boormeester

W. Michael Burke

Charles A. Schramm

Michael F. Curran

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Senior Clerk**

Patricia A. Britton

**Mechanic**

James Keeley

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley

Martin Boormeester

William V. Cady

David Campbell

William Campbell

John Carroll

Anthony Cincevich

David Clancy

Kevin Clarke

Mark F. Conlin

James F. Curran

William Curran

William Dalton

John Depalma

Michael Donoghue

Bruce Donovan

Donald A. Drew

James J. Durkin

Jesse Foster

David Hadley

William Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Henry A. Houle

William Jamer

Peter Johnson

Dennis Keohane

William Keohane

Raymond R. Kydd

Cynthia Leczynski

Emil Magiera

Leo F. Manley

Leo Martin

Michael McTeague

Leslie Merrill

Richard Miller

Edward J. Nolet

Kevin O'Brien

Donald E. Peterson

Daniel T. Reid

James F. Reid

John E. Reid

Michael Ridlon

Arthur Rivard

John Robinson

Gary Ryan

George E. Ryan

Kevin M. Sheehy

Joseph Spinazola

Brian Stanton

J. Daniel Ubele

Dennis Vargeletis



*1996*



This is the 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 3, as it looked circa 1996 with new graphics and light bar  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Annual Town Meeting April 29**

Under Article 6.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,285,000.00 for the following capital projects including:

Fire Department Pumping Engine \$230,000.00

Fire Department Staff Vehicle \$21,000.00



**Fire Chief's Report**

The year 1996 was an extremely busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. Emergency responses increased by 699 calls or 20%. The occurrence of structure fires increased by 14 responses, a 26% increase, and included one civilian fire death. Emergency medical aid calls increased again this past year by 164 responses or 17%. The largest increase in emergency responses was in the area of service calls. Calls in this area increased by 488 calls or 47%. This increase seems to follow a nationwide demand, by the citizenry, for the fire department to provide more or additional services such as pumping flooded basements, responding to electrical problems, heating appliances problems, etc.

Captain Michael Curran was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in October and has been assigned the responsibility for day-to-day shift operations. Fire fighter/EMT Walter Adley was also promoted in October to the rank of Captain and has been assigned to the Fire Prevention Office.

The Fire Prevention Office was reorganized towards the end of 1996 because of an increase in number of fire prevention inspectors from 1 to 2. Deputy Chief James Sousa was reassigned to Fire Prevention to manage the office and coordinate the in-service inspections program.

Firefighter Bill Cady was assigned as the departments first Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Officer. This program was funded through a state grant and allowed for the S.A.F.E. Officer to spend his working hours educating our school children and the elderly about fire safety. This program was a great success.

The departments emergency medical response program continued to develop this year with the purchase of new and more technically advanced medical equipment supported by a high level of in-service medical training. Sixteen (16) department members received heart saver certificates signifying a life that they helped save through either C.P.R. or early defibrillation.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	Martin Boormeester*	William Keohane*
	William V. Cady	Raymond R. Kydd
	David Campbell	Cynthia Leczynski*
	William Campbell	Emil Magiera
	John Carroll*	Leo F. Manley*
	Anthony Cincevich*	Leo Martin
	David Clancy*	Michael McTeague*
	Kevin Clarke*	Leslie Merrill*
	Mark F. Conlin*	Richard Miller*
	James F. Curran*	Edward J. Nolet*
	William Curran*	Kevin O'Brien*
	William Dalton	Donald E. Peterson*
	John Depalma*	Daniel T. Reid
	Michael Donoghue*	James F. Reid
	Bruce Donovan*	John E. Reid*
	Donald A. Drew*	Michael Ridlon*
	James J. Durkin*	Arthur Rivard*
	Jesse Foster*	John Robinson*
	David Hadley*	Gary Ryan*
	William Hadley*	George E. Ryan*
	Paul D. Hayes	Kevin M. Sheehy*
	Henry A. Houle*	Joseph Spinazola
	William Jamer	Brian Stanton*
	Peter Johnson*	J. Daniel Ubele*
	Dennis Keohane	Dennis Vargeletis

**Fire Chief**  
John E. Parow\*

**Deputy Chief**  
James A. Sousa\*  
Michael F. Curran\*

**Captains**  
James M. Spinney  
James P. Boormeester\*  
W. Michael Burke  
Charles A. Schramm\*  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.

**Department Assistant**  
Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanic**  
James Keeley

\* Denotes EMT

**1997**

**Fire Chief's Report**

A part-time secretary has been added to the Fire Prevention staff which has allowed us to post walk in hours between 8 A.M. and 1 P.M., and enabled the inspectors to spend more time out of the office conducting code enforcement inspections. Additionally, we developed a program to utilize the on duty personal to conduct in-service inspections, greatly increasing our inspection abilities.

The departments Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program continues to be a great success in making our children both fire safe and fire conscious. Credit for the success of this program revolves around a grant from the State, a cooperative effort between this department and the school department and our S.A.F.E. instructors, Firefighter William Cady, Firefighter Jesse Foster and Firefighter Leo Manley.

Diesel exhaust ventilation systems have now been installed in the five (5) stations. This will help provide the firefighters with a clean atmosphere in which to work. A new roof and heating system was installed at the East Fire Station. Engine 2 and Engine 4 have been refurbished over the past year in an effort to extend their longevity.

Three firefighters retired this past year, Firefighter Dennis Vargeletis, Firefighter Emil Magiera and Firefighter Martin Boormeester, after many years of dedicated service. Firefighter Dan Funaro, Firefighter Marc Pare, and Firefighter Dan Reid, Jr. were hired to replace the recent retirees and started work in October of this year

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
<b>Chief</b>	Boormeester, Martin *	Keohane, William
John E Parow	Cady, William V.	Kydd, Raymond
	Campbell, David	Leczynski, Cynthia
<b>Deputy Chief</b>	Campbell, William	Magiera, Emil *
James A. Sousa	Carroll, Jack	Manley, Leo
Michael F. Curran	Cincevich, Anthony	Martin, Leo
	Clancy, David	McTeague, Michael
<b>Captains</b>	Clarke, Kevin	Merrill, Leslie
Walter F. Adley	Conlin, Mark	Miller, Richard
James P. Boormeester	Curran, James	Nolet, Edward
Michael Burke	Curran, William	O'Brien, Kevin
Charles A. Schramm	Dalton, William	Pare, Marc
James M. Spinney	Depalma, John	Peterson, Donald
	Donoghue, Michael	Reid, Daniel
<b>Mechanic</b>	Donovan, Bruce	Reid, Daniel, Jr.
James Keeley	Drew, Donald	Reid, James
	Durkin, James	Reid, John
<b>Department Assistant</b>	Foster, Jesse	Ridlon, Michael
Martha A. DeSaulnier	Funaro, Daniel	Rivard, Rick
	Hadley, David	Ryan, Gary
<b>Clerk</b>	Hadley, William	Ryan, George
Margaret Borghetti	Hayes, Douglas	Sheehy, Kevin
	Houle, Henry	Spinazola, Joseph
* Retired in 1997	Jamer, William	Stanton, Brian
	Johnson, Peter	Ubele, Daniel
	Keohane, Dennis	Vargeletis, Dennis *

## 1998



The former Engine 6, a 1970 Ford/Farrar Forest Fire Truck, is seen here outfitted as Specialty Unit 6 at an event at McCarthy School in 1998 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Special Town Meeting April 27

#### UNDER ARTICLE 3.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal year 1998 Operating Budget as voted under article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 28, 1997 as amended by the vote passed under Article 7 of the Annual Town Meeting held on October 20, 1997 by making the following changes:

- Increase Line Item #5 Public Safety Personnel, by \$480,000 to \$6,601,379
- Increase Line Item #6 Public Safety Expenses, by \$13,000 to \$625,569.

And that the Town transfer and appropriate \$445,495. from Available Funds and \$47,505 from Free Cash to defray such changes.

The Town Manager explained the article. The increase in Public Safety was a result of the negotiated contract settlement of the Fire Contract. The personnel had been without a contract for four years. Also the settlement of the Superior Officers contract of the Police Department. They had been working since last June without a contract. The increase in the Public Safety Expense was due to a new epoxy floor being needed at the Center Fire Station. He asked the Body to support the article. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator as for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

UNDER ARTICLE 7. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350,000 for the capital budget including the following projects for the Fire Department:

Pick-up Truck/Plow \$25,000.00  
 Station Roof Repair \$15,000.00  
 Engine Refurbishment \$40,000.00  
 Police/Fire Department Rescue Boat/Trailer \$20,000.00

The Town Manager explained the article. A discussion followed. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. Barry Balan moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, by the Moderator recognizing the 2/3 's rule. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. The motion carried, by the Moderator recognizing the 2/3 's rule.

### Fire Chief's Report

Four firefighters retired during this past year: Emil Magiera, Paul D. Hayes, Joseph Spinazola and Peter Johnson. Three new firefighters were hired on July 1st to replace three of the retired firefighters noted above: Daniel Manley, John Kivlan and William Bacon. We wish them well in their new career.

The Department instituted an Accountability and Incident Command System (ICS). The I.C.S. allows for the management of personnel, equipment and communications throughout emergency operations. The Accountability System enables the fire incident commander to account for all Fire/Rescue personnel at an emergency scene. Both these systems will enhance the safety of emergency personnel operating at an incident and also make operations more efficient.

We also changed our radio frequency to a private channel. In the past we have been operating on a shared channel with 16 other communities. Radio traffic on the shared became too busy to monitor and to obtain air time during emergencies. The new channel has proven to be much more effective.

<b>Fire Chief</b> John E. Parow	<b>Firefighters</b> William V. Cady William Bacon David Campbell William Campbell Jack Carroll Anthony Cincevich David Clancy Kevin Clarke F. Mark Conlin James Curran William Curran William Dalton John DePalma Michael Donoghue Bruce Donovan Donald A. Drew James J. Durkin Jesse Foster	John P. Kivlan Raymond R. Kydd Cynthia Leczynski Emil Magiera * Daniel Manley Leo Manley Leo Martin Michael McTeague Leslie Merrill Richard Miller Edward J. Nolet Kevin O'Brien Marc Pare Donald Peterson Daniel T. Reid, Sr. Daniel T. Reid, Jr. James F. Reid John E. Reid Michael Ridlon
<b>Deputy Chief</b> James A. Sousa Michael F. Curran		
<b>Captains</b> James M. Spinney Charles A. Schramm James P Boermeester W. Michael Burke Walter F. Adley, Jr.		
<b>Department Assistant</b> Martha A. DeSaulnier		
<b>Mechanic</b> James Keeley		



\* Retired

Daniel Funaro  
 David Hadley  
 William Hadley  
 Paul D Hayes \*  
 Henry A. Houle  
 William Jamer  
 Peter Johnson\*  
 Dennis Keohane  
 William Keohane

Rick Rivard  
 John Robinson  
 Gary Ryan  
 George Ryan  
 Kevin M. Sheehy  
 Joseph Spinazola \*  
 Brian J. Stanton  
 Daniel Ubele

## 1999

### Special Town Meeting April 26

UNDER ARTICLE 9.

Town Manager Bernard F. Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,005,200 for the following capital projects including:

- Fire Department North Station Roof \$15,000
- Fire Department Quint (ladder truck/pump Engine) \$500,000

The Town Manager explained ... The Fire Department needs a new truck, the present one is twenty-five years old. ... The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for the need for further discussion. Hearing none he asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.



2001 Central States Quint Ladder Truck/Pumper on HME Chassis, Engine 1, behind East Chelmsford Fire Station.  
 The siren-horns are built into the front bumper to protect the firefighters' hearing while on the road  
 (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)

UNDER ARTICLE 37.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 42, Fire Prevention, of the bylaws as follows: To add the following wording to § 42-3F: "Street numbers may be attached to a curbside delivery mailbox, provided that the mailbox is located adjacent to the delivery driveway that accesses the property. The numbers shall be three inches high on both sides of the mailbox"; ...

... The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked if there was any need for discussion? Hearing none, he asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

### Fire Chief's Report

Three firefighters retired this past year. William Hadley, Leo Martin and Michael McTeague. These men brought a great amount of experience and expertise to the job each and every day, which will be missed. I would like to wish them a successful and long retirement.

Four new firefighters were hired on the 19th of July. William Amundson, Christopher Brothers, Jeffrey Cancelli and Daniel Corey. They replaced the three firefighters listed above plus one firefighter that retired the end of last year. I wish them well in their new careers.

Firefighter Daniel Manley was the first Chelmsford firefighter to attend and graduate from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recruit training program. This intense eleven week training program greatly enhances the skills of the firefighter and provides the department with highly trained individuals. We will continue to take advantage of this training and do anticipate sending four to six firefighters through the recruit training program in the upcoming year.

Job related training continues to be a priority for this department. Water and ice rescue, explosive devices, driving and operating of fire apparatus, and violence in our schools have been focused on in great detail this past year. The department has also addressed the increasing demands of Emergency medical aid by continuing to provide a quality in-house emergency medical service training program and by capitalizing on new techniques and protocols.

A new pumping engine was put into service this year. Engine 2, which will operate out of the North Fire Station, was purchased from New England Fire Apparatus. Purchasing a pumping engine of this type requires many hours of research and planning. The credit for this hard work goes to the truck committee that volunteered their time and energy. Many thanks go out to this committee made up of Deputy Michael Curran, James Keeley the Mechanic for the Fire Department, along with Firefighters John DePalma, Bill Jamer and William Hadley.



This Smeal Pumper on a Freightliner Chassis was put into service as Engine 2 at North Chelmsford Fire Station in 1999  
It was re-designated as Engine 5 in 2009 when a new pumper was delivered to North as Engine 2  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

The fire service in Massachusetts was turned upside down when it was faced with the tragic fire in the City of Worcester on December 3rd. Because of the magnitude of this incident, fire departments from across the Commonwealth were called upon for assistance. Chelmsford Fire Department played a major role during this incident by providing command staff to the city, critical incident stress debriefing team members, engine companies to cover the City and additional firefighters to dig through the rubble in search of six missing Worcester firefighters. The citizens in Chelmsford can be proud of how this department, supported by town management, was able to offer their assistance and professional expertise to a City in desperate need of help.



Worcester Warehouse Fire December 12, 1999 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**FIRE CHIEF**

John E. Parow

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**CAPTAINS**

James M. Spinney  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael Burke

**DEPT. ASSISTANT**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**MECHANIC**

James Keeley

\* Retired in 1999

**FIREFIGHTERS**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
Christopher Brothers  
William Cady  
David Campbell  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
James Curran  
William Curran  
William Dalton  
John DePalma  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Donald Drew  
James Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
David Hadley  
William Hadley \*  
Henry Houle  
William Jamer

Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Ray Kydd  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leo Martin \*  
Michael McTeague \*  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Edward Nolet  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Daniel Reid, Sr.  
Daniel Reid, Jr.  
James Reid  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Rick Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Daniel Ubele



YR	A	B	O	MA	I	S	FA	M	TOTAL
90	80	58	119	8	645	63	142	648	1763
91	70	57	153	18	706	1128	76	771	2979
92	63	39	99	19	755	983	76	821	2855
93	59	29	103	29	758	1193	128	885	3184
94	88	46	100	11	842	1142	70	1127	3426
95	100	52	114	28	852	953	4	1445	3548
96	67	66	74	14	973	1441	3	1609	4247
97	56	36	97	17	808	1406	0	1724	4144
98	50	53	113	15	780	1399	2	1841	4253
99	47	40	127	23	842	1361	0	1975	4415

YR = YEAR  
 A = AUTO FIRE  
 B = BUILDING FIRE  
 O = OUTSIDE FIRE  
 MA = MUTUAL AID  
 I = INVESTIGATION  
 S = SERVICE  
 FA = FALSE ALARM  
 M = MEDICAL AID

1990-1999 Annual Fire Department Call Volume (1999 Annual Town Report)

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 2000



### Annual Town Meeting April 27

Under Article 10.

Selectman Philip M. Eliopoulos moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$875,000 for capital projects including: Refurbish Rescue Truck 1 \$60,000. Motion carried, unanimously.

### Fire Chief's Report

The department's policy of sending all newly hired firefighters to the Massachusetts Fire Academy Recruit Training Program was very evident this year. Six (6) firefighters graduated from the eleven (11) week program. Firefighter Jeff Cancellata graduated number one in his class. In addition, three (3) firefighters attended training and became State certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson headed the Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program this year. He was assisted by Firefighters Michael Donoghue, John Kivlan and Will Amundson. Over 1,500 preschool, kindergarten and first graders were taught the importance of fire safety. Additionally, Firefighter Peterson organized the 7th Annual Fire Prevention Open House, in October, with over 500 residents in attendance.

During the year two department members retired, Captain James Spinney, a 34 year veteran and Firefighter John DePalma, a 30 year veteran. Three firefighters were also hired to fill open vacancies, Firefighter Brian Daly, Thomas Brothers and Robert Gardner. I wish the retirees well on their retirement and welcome the new firefighters on board with the hopes of a long and safe career.

The tragic Worcester warehouse fire that killed six (6) Worcester firefighters brought to light the importance of new technology and the ability to rescue lost or trapped firefighters at a fire scene. This past year the local Lions Club along with the firefighter Union, Local 1839, purchased a Thermal Imaging camera for the department to aid in search and rescue efforts. The Town matched this donation, giving the department two Thermal Imaging cameras. This new technology will greatly enhance our ability to rescue civilians and firefighters alike.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	William Amundson	David Hadley
	William Bacon	Henry Houle
	Christopher Brothers	William Jamer
	Thomas Brothers	Dennis Keohane
	William Cady	William Keohane
	David Campbell	John Kivlan
	William Campbell	Raymond Kydd
	Jeff Cancellata	Cynthia Leczynski
	Jack Carroll	Daniel Manley
	Anthony Cincevich	Leo Manley
	David Clancy	Leslie Merrill
	Kevin Clarke	Edward Nolet
	F. Mark Conlin	Kevin O'Brien
	Daniel Corey	Marc Pare
	James Curran	Donnie Peterson
	William Curran	Daniel Reid, Sr.
	William Dalton	Daniel Reid, Jr.
	Brian Daly	James Reid
	John DePalma *	John Reid
	Michael Donoghue	Michael Ridlon
	Bruce Donovan	Rick Rivard
	Donald A. Drew	John Robinson
	James Durkin	Gary Ryan
	Jesse Foster	George Ryan
	Daniel Funaro	Kevin Sheehy
	Robert Gardner	Brian Stanton
	Daniel Ubele	

**Chief**  
John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**  
James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**  
James M. Spinney \*  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael Burke  
Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley

**Department Assistant**  
Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**  
James Keeley

\* retired in 2000

[Home](#)

## History from

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[1910-1919](#)

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[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

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[1970-1979](#)

[1980-1989](#)

[1990-1999](#)

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## 2001

### Fire Chief's Report

During the year, three (3) department members retired, Captain Charles A. Schramm, William V. Cady, and Donald A. Drew. Firefighter Daniel Reid, Jr. resigned and took a position as a patrol officer for the Chelmsford Police Department.

Firefighter Rick Rivard was promoted to the rank of Captain to replace retiring Captain Schramm. Robert Tello, Timothy Shanahan and Keith Lindsay were hired as firefighters to fill the vacancies created by the retirements. I would like to wish those that have retired a long and healthy retirement and the newly hired firefighters a long and safe career.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson headed the Student Awareness Fire Education program (S.A.F.E.) again this year. He was assisted by Firefighters Michael Donoghue and John Kivlan. Over 1500 elementary and middle school students were instructed in the importance of fire safety. Firefighter Peterson also organized the departments 8th Annual Fire Prevention Open House, in October, with over 500 residents in attendance.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, tore at the hearts of every member of this department. On September 12th nine department members headed to Ground Zero and volunteered their assistance to FDNY. In the next three weeks, three additional department members would also be asked for their assistance, two as members of the Critical Incident Stress Team and one to work at the Command Post. Their efforts and bravery are to be commended. My personal thanks to Deputy Curran, Captain Boormeester, Retired Captain Schramm, Firefighters William Amundson, James Durkin, Henry Houle, John P. Kivlan, Marc Pare, Donnie Peterson, Gary Ryan and George Ryan.

Firefighter Marc Pare received the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Medal of Valor for bravery from Acting Governor Jane Swift for his heroic acts during an ice rescue while off duty in Maine. Marc put his life in great danger when he rescued a snowmobile driver who had fallen through the ice. Without any rescue equipment and the ice breaking beneath him, Marc was able to pull this man from the freezing waters to safety. Without his efforts this young man would have surely perished. Congratulations Marc!

	<b>Firefighters</b>	David Hadley
	William Amundson	Henry Houle
	William Bacon	William Jamer
	Christopher Brothers	Dennis Keohane
	Thomas Brothers	William Keohane
	William Cady *	John Kivlan
	David Campbell	Raymond Kydd
	William Campbell	Cynthia Leczynski
	Jeff Cancellia	Keith Lindsay
	Jack Carroll	Daniel Manley
	Anthony Cincevich	Leo Manley
	David Clancy	Leslie Merrill
	Kevin Clarke	Edward Nolet
	F. Mark Conlin	Kevin O'Brien
	Daniel Corey	Marc Pare
	James Curran	Donnie Peterson
	William Curran	Daniel Reid, Sr.
	William Dalton	Daniel Reid, Jr. **
	Brian Daly	James Reid
	Michael Donoghue	John Reid
	Bruce Donovan	Michael Ridlon
	Donald A. Drew *	Rick Rivard
	James Durkin	John Robinson
	Jesse Foster	Gary Ryan
	Daniel Funaro	George Ryan
	Robert Gardner	Timothy Shanahan
	Daniel Ubele	Kevin Sheehy
		Brian Stanton
		Robert Tello

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa

Michael F. Curran

#### Captains

Charles A. Schramm \*

Michael Burke

Richard Miller

James P. Boormeester

Walter F. Adley

#### Department Assistant

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Mechanics

James Keeley

\* retired in 2001

\*\* transfered to  
Police Department



## 2002-2003



2002 Ford F-350 Brush/Service Truck, S3, based at Center Fire Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

### **Town Manager's Report**

This Annual Report covers the period of January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 as we move from a calendar year to fiscal year reporting cycle. The reason for this change is to have consistency in all of our planning and reporting documents including our budget, audit, and reports to the state and federal government. This consistency will be increasingly important as new government accounting standards are introduced over the next few years.



1985 FMC Pumper on a 1984 Mack chassis, Engine, 4 on display at Center Fire Station July 3, 2003  
(Photo by Fred Merriam)

### Fire Chief's Report

This proved to be another very busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. Total emergency calls for the year were 4,571. Medical emergency calls accounted for over half the calls at 2,318. Actual fire calls were down over this period, however, we had some of the largest building fires in the department history including a six (6) alarm fire at the Carriage House Apartments and a four (4) alarm fire at Laughton's Nursery.

Over the past year the department suffered two great losses. The retirement of eleven (11) firefighters with a combined career experience of over 285 years and a reduction in manpower to the department of seven firefighter positions. In addition to the above, one firefighter was activated by the military and has yet to be released for return to work.

The eleven (11) firefighters that retired were: Captain Walter Adley, Captain Michael Burke, Firefighter David Campbell, Firefighter James Curran, Firefighter William Curran, Firefighter William Dalton, Firefighter William Jamer, Firefighter Ray Kydd, Firefighter Edward Nolet, Firefighter Daniel Reid, Firefighter James Reid, we wish them a long and enjoyable retirement. Firefighter Robert Tello was activated by the Air Force and we hope for his safe return.

Out of the eleven retirements we were able to hire four new recruits. They are Michael Chiasson, Casey Phelan, Michael Maher and Michael Nelson. All four have graduated from the 11 week Massachusetts Fire Academy Recruit Training class and hopefully will enjoy a long and fulfilling career with the department.

The new Quint "firefighting" apparatus was put into service this past year and will offer the department greater versatility at all emergency scenes. In addition, initial plans are underway to replace the fifty year old Center Fire Station and consolidate three of the five current stations into one station to improve efficiency and effectiveness.



2001 Central States Quint Firefighting Apparatus on HME Chassis, Engine 1, in the parade on July 4, 2003 (photo by Fred Merriam)

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

Michael Burke \*  
Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley \*

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James Keeley

\* retired in 2002

\*\* activated by the Air Force

**Firefighters**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
Christopher Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
David Campbell \*  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
Michael Chiasson  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
James Curran \*  
William Curran \*  
William Dalton \*  
Brian Daly  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
James Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
Daniel Ubele  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle

William Jamer \*  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Raymond Kydd \*  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Michael Nelson  
Edward Nolet \*  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Daniel Reid, Sr. \*  
James Reid \*  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Rick Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Robert Tello \*\*





2003 Ford former Police Department cruiser reassigned to the Fire Department at East Chelmsford  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

## 2004

### Fire Chief's Report

Fiscal year 2004 proved to be a very busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. Total emergency calls for the year were 4,278. Medical emergency calls accounted for over half the calls at 2,324. Actual fire calls were down over this period, however, the fires we did have seemed larger in nature and required more mutual aid request from surrounding communities than in recent years. The concern of terrorism has forced the department to prepare itself as the first line of defense against incidents of this type. Specialized equipment has been purchased and put into service. In addition, anti-terrorism training has been conducted for all department members and a terrorism annex has been added to the Town's Emergency Contingency Plan.

The Department applied for and receive two federal grants during this fiscal year. One was used to improve the physical fitness and health of all fire fighters on the job and the other grant is being used to replace an antiquated radio system. Additionally, the department receive one grant from the state for the purchase of anti-terrorism equipment. These grants will go a long way in improving the many services the department provides to the Town of Chelmsford during these difficult fiscal times.

The new Quint "firefighting" apparatus was put into service this past year and will offer the department greater versatility at all emergency scenes. In addition, plans are underway to replace the fifty two year old Center Fire Station that is showing its age. Structural problems have been identified in the apparatus floor and the concrete basement walls causing concern. We are currently looking at various locations for a new Center Station and examining the possible consolidation of one or more of the four sub-stations in an effort to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Three Fire Fighters, Anthony Cincevich, Dave Clancy and Dennis Keohane retired during the past year, additionally, Brian Daley and Robert Tello resigned their positions for other employment. Five new Fire Fighters, Edward Boisseau, Michael Ducharme, Danial Koutsoufis, David Lefebvre and William. Schellbach were hired to replace those that left. We wish them all well on their new endeavors.

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### Firefighters

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell

William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher

**Captains**

Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James Keeley

\* retired in 2004

\*\* resigned for other employment

Jeff Cancelli  
Jack Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich \*  
Michael Chiasson  
David Clancy \*  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Brian Daly \*\*  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
James Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
Daniel Ubele  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
Dennis Keohane \*

Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Rick Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
William. Schellbach  
Brian Stanton  
Robert Tello \*\*

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## 2005



1935 Maxim antique Engine 4 Pumper in the 2005 July 4 Parade (Photo by Don Miffitt)

**Fire Chief's Report**

The Department applied for and received three State grants during this fiscal year. One was used to improve the communication system for the Chelmsford Emergency Management Agency and another was used to purchase an emergency rescue boat and equipment to improve the Department's confined space and trench rescue capabilities. Additionally, the Department received a grant from the State to conduct require emergency preparedness training for all necessary Town employees. At this point in time this training is ongoing. These grants will go a long way in improving the many services the department and its workers provide to the Town of Chelmsford during these difficult fiscal times.





2005 Rescue-One Fire Rescue boat with Mercury outboard based at the North Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

A new Command vehicle was put into service this past year and will offer the Department greater coordination at all emergency scenes. This new unit will operate out of the Center Fire Station and offer command and control support, communication capabilities and improve overall emergency scene safety.



2005 Ford Explorer command support vehicle S-1 used at Center Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

Structural problems were identified with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station over the past few years. During the last few months work has been completed to stabilize it. Although the floor has been stabilized this is only a temporary fix buying us two to three years. Within this time period we must come up with and institute a permanent solution. Currently, we are exploring various options to replace or completely rebuild the out dated and aging station.



Two new fire fighters, Jason Moody and Michael Brothers, were hired this year to fill to the two remaining vacancies created from retirements during the last fiscal year. I would like to wish them well on their new careers.

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

**Firefighters**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis

Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young



2001 Quint Engine 1 in the 2005 July 4 Parade (photo by Don Miffitt)

**2006**

**Fire Chief's Report**

The department was honored this year when six of its members were recognized by Governor Romney for their heroic actions at the annual Fire Fighter of the Year award held at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Captain Durkin, Fire Fighters Don Peterson, Gary Ryan, Bill Bennett and Mike Young were recognized as "Fire Fighter of the Year" for their life saving actions and rescue of a trapped victim in a burning vehicle. Fire Fighter John Kivlan was awarded an individual award for fire "Fighter of the Year" for his rescue of a 96 year old women trapped in an apartment fire. Their dedication and commitment to the citizens of Chelmsford is quite apparent and transcends throughout the department. I thank them for their actions and congratulate them on the recognition.

A new trench rescue trailer was put into service this past year and will offer the department greater ability to rescue those involved in a trench collapse. Trench collapses in the Town are a daily possibility with the ongoing sewer project. Department members designed and built most of the equipment needed for the trailer, reducing the overall cost of the project. A special thanks goes out to each of them.

Structural problems have been identified with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station over the past few years. Last year work was completed to stabilize it. Although the floor has been stabilized this is only a temporary fix buying us two to three years. Options need to be explored to replace or completely rebuild the out dated and aging station. Because of fiscal problem this project has been put on the back burner but, will need to be revisited in the coming year.



Center Fire Station floor bracing under the engine bays (Photo by Fred Merriam)

Over the past few years the fire department staffing has been reduced by four fire fighters and one secretarial position. Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town budget the cut backs make it very difficult for the department to meet its mission of protecting life and property. It is our hope that when the financial picture brightens, these positions will be restored.

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

James P. Boormeester  
Richard Miller  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Firefighters**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellla  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme

Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan



**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

Jesse Foster  
 Daniel Funaro  
 Robert Gardner  
 David Hadley  
 Henry Houle  
 William Keohane  
 John Kivlan

George Ryan  
 William Schellbach  
 Timothy Shanahan  
 Kevin Sheehy  
 Brian Stanton  
 Daniel Ubele  
 Michael Young

**2007**

1967 Maxim Reserve Engine and retired 1959 Ford F-600 Brush Truck Engine 7 in the 2007 July 4 Parade  
 (Photo by Don Miffitt)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Medical emergency calls also continued to grow and now accounted for more than half of our calls. We responded to an all time high of 2,506 calls for medical assistants this past year. Based on the fact that emergency medical care has become such a large part of the department's responsibility the Chelmsford Fire Department applied for and received a license from the state to operate a "Class 5" ambulance. This license greatly enhances the ability of the department to provide a higher level of medical care and transport patients to the hospital in the case of an extreme emergency. In addition, the department took the lead in writing the "Emergency Medical Service Zone Plan" for the Town of Chelmsford. This plan outlines how emergency medical care will be delivered within the Town and sets the standard of care town residents will receive. Firefighter John Robinson spent hundreds of hours putting this plan together and he is to be commended for his effort.

The concern of terrorism has forced the department to prepare itself as the first line of defense against incidents of this type. Specialized equipment has been purchased and put into service. In addition, mandatory National Incident Management System (NIMS) training has been conducted for all department members and we now meet or exceed the national standard in this area.

The Department applied for and received two State grants during this fiscal year. One was to continue our Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) program. This program allows us to send trained fire department personnel into the schools and educate our students on fire safety and the ill effects of smoking. The department also received a grant from the State for firefighting equipment. The department will purchase a new thermal imaging camera and a rapid intervention breathing air kit with the money from that grant. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our state legislators for their help in providing this funding.

Two seasoned veterans with over 60 years of combined experience retired during this past year. The department wishes Captain Rich Miller and Firefighter Mike Ridlon a long and enjoyable retirement. These vacancies were filled by hiring



two town residents Firefighter/EMTs Ryan Houle and Josh Abbott. Firefighter Gary Ryan was promoted to Captain. We wish them all well in their new positions. In addition, Firefighter Mike Young was activated by the military and is serving our country in Iraq. His deployment is expected to last for fifteen months. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Structural problems have been identified with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station. Thirteen large support columns have been built in the basement to support and stabilize the floor. Although the floor has been stabilized the engineer has told us that this is only a temporary fix and will buy us a little time until we can build a new station. A building committee has been established to look into the feasibility of building and locating a new Center Fire Station. Their recommendations are expected to be presented at the 2007 October Town Meeting.

Because of budget problems within the Town the Fire Department has been forced to cut four firefighter positions and a clerk in recent years. Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town budget the cut backs are making it very difficult for the department to provide the services the citizens of the town have grown accustomed to expect. It is paramount that when the financial picture brightens or alternative funding sources are identified that these positions are restored.



2007 Smeal Pumper and Rescue Truck on International Chassis, Engine 4, at East Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### Captains

James P. Boormeester  
Richard Miller  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue  
Gary Ryan

#### Department Assistant

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Mechanics

James F. Keeley, Sr.

#### Firefighters

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle

Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton

Ryan Houle  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan

Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young

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## 2008

### **Town Manager's Report**

During the past fiscal year, Town officials examined ways to raise additional revenue and to more efficiently provide services. A considerable amount of time was expended on analyzing whether the Fire Department should provide ambulance services. After receiving a favorable proposal from the Town Manager and holding a public hearing prior to the 2007 Fall Annual Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen created an ad-hoc ambulance study committee. After a few months of study, the committee voted not to support the Fire Department-based financial model. Heeding this recommendation, an RFP was issued for the provision of ambulance services from private vendors. After a review of the three proposals, the Town has entered into a three-year contract with Trinity EMS. The Town will receive \$60,000/year during each year of the contract as compensation for the dispatch operations provided by the Town to support ambulance operations.

Faced with these challenges, a budget plan was presented to Town Meeting that did not rely on one-time revenues or otherwise avoid the fiscal realities. Capital investment has remained level-funded; the School Department has consolidated the students from the Westlands Schools into the Town's four other elementary schools, restructured its lunch program, imposed a transportation fee, and raised fees for extracurricular activities; the South Chelmsford Fire Station has closed as a result of the elimination of four firefighter positions; and other personnel cuts have been made at the Police Department, Department of Public Works, the Town Manager's Office, and other town departments. The challenges for the upcoming fiscal year are expected to be even greater. However, we will continue our efforts to persevere and prosper.

### **Fall Town Meeting October 15, 18 and 22, 2007**

#### ARTICLE 11.

I move that the Town transfer from the Stabilization Fund \$85,000 for the purpose of funding feasibility studies for the planning and construction of a new Fire Department Headquarters and for the planning and construction of a new Department of Public Works Facility with a recycling center. SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager

Two-Thirds Vote required.

It was so voted

### **Spring Town Meeting April 28 and May 1, 2008**

#### ARTICLE 8.

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,560,553 for capital projects including:

Fire Staff Vehicle Replacement \$35,000

Engine 3 Replacement \$310,000

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Capital Planning Committee.

Two-Thirds Vote required.

It was so voted





2008 Ford F-350 Truck Rescue-2 based at Center Fire Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)



2008 Smeal Pumper and Rescue Truck on International Chassis, Engine 3, visiting at Center Fire Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Repeat of 2007.

**Chief**  
John E. Parow

**Firefighters**  
Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett

John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay



**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

James P. Boormeester  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue  
Gary Ryan

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane

Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young

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## 2009



This 2009 Smeal Pumper and Rescue Truck on International Chassis, Engine 2, was delivered to North Fire Station. The previous Engine 2, a 1999 Smeal Pumper on a Freightliner chassis, was re-designated as Engine 5 and transferred to South (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

**Board of Selectmen Report**

After nearly 2 years of effort and study, the Fire/ DPW study committee presented their recommendations to replace the aging Center Fire Station and relocate and consolidate DPW facilities, currently housed principally at Richardson Road with several satellite locations. The Fire DPW Feasibility Study Committee was formed after Town Meeting voted to fund a study to address facility needs of these departments. As a result of their work, and Town Meeting votes at the August 2009 special town meeting, the residents had the opportunity at a special election on October 6th to consider two ballot questions to authorize borrowing, as debt exemptions, to fund a new \$12 million Center Fire Station building at Wilson Street, and \$13 million to consolidate DPW operations into one location at an existing building on Alpha Road. Neither ballot question was passed by the voters. Although the Board was split on the support of both of these facilities, more affordable alternatives to address these critical facility needs are now being considered.

### Town Manager's Report

A special town meeting was held on March 9, 2009 to balance the Town budget. General Government operations were reduced by \$500,000 and the School Department's budget was reduced by \$600,000. Personnel reductions took place in the Assessors', Tax Collector's and Town Clerk offices; police and fire positions were eliminated, along with reductions in overtime expenditures, thereby resulting in fewer police officers on patrol and the closing of one of the five fire stations; library positions, materials, and hours of operation were curtailed.

#### Fall Town Meeting October 20, 2008

##### ARTICLE 16.

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation entitled, "An Act Relative to the Minimum Years-of-Service Required to be Eligible for Civil Service Promotions to the Position of Fire Captain in the Town of Chelmsford," as printed in the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager

Majority Vote

Motion carried unanimously by show of hands

#### Spring Town Meeting April 27, 2009

##### ARTICLE 7:

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,568,500 for the following capital projects including:

Fire Staff Vehicle (1997) Replacement \$36,000

Fire Alarm Truck (1988) Replacement \$65,000

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Capital Planning Committee.

Two-Thirds Vote required.

Motion carried unanimously by show of hands



2009 Ford F-450 Fire Alarm service truck with Terex bucket based at North Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

### Fire Chief's Report

Fiscal year 2009 was a very difficult year for the Chelmsford Fire Department due to the continued poor financial situation of the Town and the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, we were forced to close the South Fire Station (Engine 5) for the entire fiscal year and the station will continue to be closed during FY 10. The decision to close this one station on a permanent basis was based on call volume, accessibility and continuity of services. Staffing levels remain at very low level with a minimum level of one Captain and eight firefighters per shift (as compared to a minimum staffing level

for the department in 1990 of one Captain and fourteen firefighters). The outlook for fiscal 2010 is not any better and we anticipate further cutbacks during the years when all the final numbers are in for the Town and from the State.



South Chelmsford Fire Station closed since 2009 (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)

The Department applied for and received a federal grant this year to illuminate the rear of all Engines, the Quint and Rescue Truck with reflective stripping and amber arrow lights. This new illumination system (and NFPA standard) will help to reduce the chance of rear end collisions while we provide emergency service on the highways. In addition, the department received a state grant to purchase reflective vest for all firefighters while operating on a roadway as required under a new Federal ANSI Standard. Hopefully, this will create a safer working environment on the highways as traffic related accidents are the third leading cause of firefighter deaths nationwide.

Brian Stanton, a seasoned firefighter, retired during this past year with over 28 years of service to the Town. The department wishes him a long and enjoyable retirement. Dave LeFebvre transferred to the Westford Fire Department after working in Chelmsford for three years. Unfortunately, we were unable to fill either of these positions because of the looming budget crisis.

We continue to experience major structural problems with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station. Although the floor has been stabilized with 13 wooden pillars, the fix only serves as a temporary repair and buys us a little time. The Fire/DPW Building Committee has concluded their two year study and determined that a new Center Fire Station should be built and located at the corner of Chelmsford and Wilson Street. I urge the town residents to support the funding of this proposal.





Chief Parow talks with Peggy Dunn about the temporary Center Fire Station repairs at August 12, 2009 open house  
(photo by Fred Merriam)

Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town budget, the cut backs over this year (compounded by those in the past few years) have made it very difficult for the fire department to meet its mission of protecting life and property. The reduction in man power and the closing of a fire station has created an increased risk to the residents of Chelmsford and the firefighters alike. During this year we have seen response times increase and manpower shortages while operating at emergency scenes. It is our hope that when the financial picture brightens, these positions will be restored and all five fire stations will again be open.

#### **Chief**

John E. Parow

#### **Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### **Captains**

James P. Boormeester  
James J. Durkin  
Michael R. Donoghue  
Rick Rivard  
Gary Ryan

#### **Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### **Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

\* retired

\*\* transferred to Westford F.D.

#### **Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll \*  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane

John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre \*\*  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton \*  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young

**CALL HISTORY**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
BUILDING FIRES	40	56	37	36	45	59	71	44	53	39
OUTSIDE FIRES	85	82	97	121	131	66	77	80	118	81
AUTO FIRES	18	21	22	23	29	41	38	31	36	37
MUTUAL AID	29	12	18	23	16	23	18	12	24	22
INVESTIGATION	847	929	917	887	885	809	853	855	1087	903
SERVICE	1708	1287	1219	1246	1310	955	1135	1231	1434	1364
FALSE ALARM	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
MEDICAL AID	2868	2814	2771	2523	2506	2324	2420	2318	2246	2134
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5595</b>	<b>5203</b>	<b>5083</b>	<b>4679</b>	<b>4717</b>	<b>4112</b>	<b>4426</b>	<b>4416</b>	<b>4793</b>	<b>4423</b>

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Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 2010



### Special Town Meeting August 17, 2009

ARTICLE 5: Town Manager Paul E. Cohen moves that \$12,000,000 be appropriated to fund the design and construction of a new town center fire station headquarters facility on a portion of the 8.69 acre parcel of Town-owned land located at the corner of Wilson Street and Chelmsford Street identified as Lot 5 on Assessors' Map 73, Block 289, including related survey, legal, and other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow \$12,000,000 under Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority, that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project, provided that the amount of the authorized borrowing shall be reduced by the amount of such aid received prior to the issuance of bonds or notes under this vote; and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager 2/3rd Vote Required. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by recognizing the 2/3rd vote bylaw.



2009 Center Fire Station plan for the intersection of Wilson and Chelmsford streets  
(Town of Chelmsford presentation sketch)

### Special Town Election October 6, 2009

Question 2.

To build a new center fire station on Town land at the corner of Wilson and Chelmsford streets and close the present Fire Station located on North Rd. The result was 6555 registered voters turned out. Yes 2750, No 3791, Blanks 14. Question failed.

### Annual Town Meeting April 26, 2010

ARTICLE 7:

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,522,000 for the following capital projects (including):

Fire Engine 5 Refurbish (1999 Freightliner) \$60,000

SUBMITTED BY:

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## History from

[1900-1909](#)

[1910-1919](#)

[1920-1929](#)

[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

[1950-1959](#)

[1960-1969](#)

[1970-1979](#)

[1980-1989](#)

[1990-1999](#)

[2000-2009](#)

[2015-201x](#)



Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Capital Planning Committee.  
2/3rd Vote. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands.



1999 Smeal Pumper/Rescue Truck on a Freightliner chassis purchased as Engine 2 for North and re-designated as Engine 5 for South Chelmsford in 2009, then refurbished in 2010 while the South Fire Station was closed (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

#### Fire Chief's Report

Through the Town's Capital Plan the department received a new pumping engine and a new rescue truck this year. The much needed new apparatus replaces two vehicles that were each 23 years old. We applied for and received a federal grant to install a new, state of the art, breathing air cascade system in the new rescue truck allowing us to fill self contained breathing apparatus at the scene of a fire. In addition, the department received a state grant to hire three new firefighters. This is only a one year grant, but has assisted us in regaining some of the manpower we have lost over the last few years. Hopefully, the economic condition of the town will improve over the coming year and enable us to keep these firefighters working when the grant runs out in March, 2011.



2009 Smeal Pumper on International chassis, Engine 2, at North Chelmsford Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)



2009 International Emergency Medical Services truck, Rescue 1, at Chelmsford Center Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

Deputy Chief Jim Sousa and Captain Jim Boormeester retired during the past year taking with them 71 years of combined experience. The department wishes both of them a long and enjoyable retirement. We are forever grateful for their service, dedication and contributions to the Town and the department. The three new firefighters hired, Garrett Walsh, Evan Boudreau and Chhunly Prak are all military veterans and we thank them for their service and wish them well in their new careers.





Tribute to Jim Sousa for 38 years of service (2010 photo by Fred Merriam)

We continue to experience major structural problems with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station. Although the floor has been stabilized with 13 wooden pillars, the fix only serves as a temporary repair and buys us a little time. An extensive study has been completed outlining the need for a new center station and location. The Town will need to keep this as a top priority and find a solution in the very near future.

Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town's budget, the cut backs in manning and the permanent closing of Engine 5 has made it very difficult for us to meet our mission of protecting life and property. This reduction in resources has created an increased risk to both the residents of Chelmsford and the firefighters. During this year we have seen the calls for service increase, response times increase and manpower shortages at emergency scenes. It is our hope that when the financial picture brightens, previous manning will be restored and all five fire stations will once again be opened.

Lastly, this will be my seventeenth and final annual report as I plan on retiring in October of this year. I have enjoyed my sixteen plus years as Chief of Department and would like to thank all members of the department, my staff, the Town Manager, the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town for their support over this time.

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

Michael F. Curran  
 Michael Donoghue  
 James A. Sousa\*\*

**Captains**

James Boormeester\*\*  
 James J. Durkin  
 Rick Rivard  
 Gary Ryan  
 Dan Funaro  
 Henry Houle

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
 William Amundson  
 William Bacon  
 William Bennett  
 Edward Boisseau  
 Even Boudreau  
 Christopher Brothers  
 Michael Brothers  
 Thomas Brothers  
 William Campbell  
 Jeffrey Cancellia  
 Michael Chiasson  
 Kevin Clarke  
 F. Mark Conlin  
 Daniel Corey  
 Bruce Donovan  
 Michael Ducharme  
 Jesse Foster  
 Robert Gardner

Dan Koutsoufis  
 Cynthia Leczynski  
 Keith Lindsay  
 Michael Maher  
 Daniel Manley  
 Leo Manley  
 Leslie Merrill  
 Jason Moody  
 Michael Nelson  
 Kevin O'Brien  
 Marc Pare  
 Donnie Peterson  
 Casey Phelan  
 Chhunly Prak  
 John Reid  
 John Robinson  
 George Ryan  
 William Schellback  
 Timothy Shanahan  
 Kevin Sheehy



**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

\*\* retired in 2010

David Hadley  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane  
John KivlanDaniel Ubele  
Michael Young  
Garrett Walsh

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**2011****Spring Annual Town Meeting April 25, 2011**

## ARTICLE 8.

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,605,000 for the following capital projects (including):

Service Truck Replacement (1999) \$50,000

East Fire Station Hose Tower \$56,000

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands



East Chelmsford fire Station hose drying tower (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)



East Chelmsford fire Station hose drying tower (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)

**ARTICLE 9.**

I move that the Town appropriate \$50,000 for the purchase of a replacement “Jaws of Life” hydraulic vehicle extraction emergency rescue tools for the Fire Department; ...

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands

**ARTICLE 10.**

No action. This article was in regards to the funding of a new fire station at Chelmsford St and Wilson St. The exempt question failed at the Annual Town Election of April 5th.

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager

**ARTICLE 13.**

I move that the Town transfer \$53,822 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to fund the first year of an employee contract agreement between the Town and IAFF Local 1839 Firefighters that begins in Fiscal Year 2011, and that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,843 to fund the first year of employee contract agreements that begin on July 1, 2011 (Fiscal Year 2012) between the Town and its collective bargaining units as follows:

AFSCME Facilities \$8,331

CFT Library \$14,512

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands.

**Report of the Conservation Commission**

The Commission extends its gratitude to the Chelmsford Fire Department, Carlisle Fire Department, and the Massachusetts Forest Fire Control for their swift response to a small ground fire within the Cranberry Bog Reservation.

**Report of the Fire Department**

This fiscal year has been another busy year for the fire department. Calls for service have increased from 5595 in fiscal year 2010 to 5977 in fiscal year 2011 for an increase of 382 calls. Structure fire calls are down from last year but total calls continue to increase. Medical calls, which include vehicle accidents, continue to increase. This year the calls for medical assistance increased by more than 600.

Thanks to Chelmsford businesses and grants our firefighters provide educational information from escape plans from your house, testing your smoke alarms, why not to play with fire, what to do when a fire happens in your house and what to do if someone in your house doesn't feel well. We also hold a mock accident which we have towards the end of the school year for Chelmsford high school. This event shows the truth as to what happens when speeding or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We have been thinking of having another one of these events at the beginning of the school year as a lot of students have just received licenses and with all the school activities a lot of the students drive themselves or friends to these activities.

Chelmsford Fire Department provides multitude of services for the residents of Chelmsford. We provide a program called SAFE for all the students/children in Chelmsford:

Grade K - 12	1156 students
Private daycare	272 students
Health fairs and community events	410 students

This year the fire department has received a grant to replace fire fighters structural fire fighting gear to replace worn out gear. This \$73,000 grant will allow the fire department to provide modern and much safer gear to it's fire fighters. In this years Town's Capital budget plan we will be replacing our 13 year old service truck with more than 100,000 miles that plows the 5 stations and is used by the mechanic to maintain the department vehicles.

We continue to experience major structural problems with Fire Headquarters. The Permanent Building Committee and the Fire Chief will continue to look at possible solutions to the problem. The building will continue to be inspected every six months to insure that the floor will support the apparatus.

Due to past fiscal restraints Engine 5 on Acton Road continues to be closed. We will ask for the fall town meeting to provide funding to reopen that station late fall or early winter. While this station is closed, the response times to emergencies in Engine 5's area are much longer for the other stations to respond to. In addition with this station closed the fire department has 2 less fire fighters on duty to respond to larger incidents through out the town.

We have had some changes in the fire department this year. Chief John Parow retired this year after more than 37 years in the fire service and as Chelmsford Fire Chief for the last 17 years. We thank him for his leadership and dedicated service and for all that he has done to provide the town with the best possible emergency services. The Fire Department assistant, Martha DeSaulnier and Department Mechanic Jim Keeley also retired this year and thank them for their service. We wish all of them well in their retirement.

**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue  
Gary Ryan

**Captains**

James Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Dan Funaro  
Henry Houle  
Fran Conlin (*acting Captain*)

**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin

**Retired in 2011**

Chief John Parow  
Martha DeSaulnier (Dept. Assistant)  
James Keeley (Dept. Mechanic)

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Jeffrey Cancellla  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
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Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William Schellback  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young  
Garrett Walsh

**2012**

**Town Manager's Report**

At the Spring Annual Town Meeting voters appropriated \$7.8M to fund a new Fire Department headquarters. After years of consideration and repeated failed attempts at alternate locations, the new center fire station will be constructed adjacent to the Town Offices on Billerica Road. The savings achieved by the from the health insurance plan reforms enable the debt service for the new fire station to be funded within the property tax limitations of Proposition 2 ½. The Town was also able to take advantage of an historically low interest rate of 2.32% to finance the project

**Town Election April 3, 2012**

Question 1 (Advisory):

Shall the Town of Chelmsford pay the debt service for a new center fire Station adjacent to the Town Offices from the



existing property tax levy? {This fire station would not be financed by a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion}.  
With 6007 votes cast the result was: Yes 2,468, No 2,162, Blanks 1,377.

### Spring Annual Town Meeting April 30, 2012

#### ARTICLE 9.

Town Manager Paul E. Cohen, moves that the Town appropriate \$2,926,331 for the following capital projects (including):

Digital Radio Upgrade \$112,000

Finance Committee voted to support Article 9

Board of Selectmen voted to support Article 9

Mr. Roland Van Liew, Precinct 6, moved to amend Article 9. The motion to amend fails.

The main motion under Article 9 carried by 2/3 vote.

Moved to table Article 10 until Thursday, May 3, 2012.

Motion to table Article 10 until Thursday, May 3, 2012 failed.

#### ARTICLE 10.

Town Manager Paul E. Cohen, moves that \$7,800,000 be appropriated to fund the design and construction of a new town center fire station headquarters facility adjacent to the Town Offices on a portion of the 8.69 acre parcel of Town-owned land located at 50 Billerica Road identified as Lot 5 on Assessors' Map 73, Block 289, including related survey, legal, and other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow \$7,800,000 under Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

Finance Committee voted to recommend Article 10.

Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article 10.

Article 10 generated a lengthy discussion and debate. Abutters came forward to speak against the Article. Peggy Dunn moved the question. Mr. Latina had a point of order regarding the motion. He stated that there were people queued up. Mr. Moderator did indicate that moving the question is a privileged motion and allowed debate to go on. Following more discussion, Peggy Dunn once again, moved the question. Tellers were called by the Moderation. The motion to move question was defeated. Additional statements were read by the abutters. Ms. Patricia Dzuris moved the question. The motion to move the question passed. The body was now ready to vote. Article 10 carried.

Roll call vote was called.

The Roll Call indicated the following: 110 yes, 41 no, 1 abstention.

Motion under Article 10 carried by 2/3 vote.



View of new five-bay Center Fire Station connected to the right side of the Town Offices on Billerica Road  
(Rendering courtesy of the Town of Chelmsford)

### Fire Chief's Report

Fiscal year 2012 has been a very busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. In October, 2011 with the help of Town Manager Paul Cohen and the selectmen we were able to re-open Engine 5 in South Chelmsford. The fire fighters who work in the station have done a tremendous job of painting and cleaning up the station. Thank you!



South Chelmsford Fire Station re-opened in October 2011 (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

This past spring the town voters approved the new station that will be located on Billerica Road next to the Town Hall. We are in the process of going forward with plans and site testing. The new station will be more suitable to hold the equipment that we need that is presently being housed in the outlying stations or outside. We still have the engineers come to inspect the current station every six (6) months and hope that the new building will be ready before the engineers tell us to leave.



View of new Center Fire Station from Billerica Road showing five apparatus bays in former parking area  
(Rendering courtesy of the Town of Chelmsford)





View of new Center Fire Station from Chelmsford Street side showing new parking area for Town Offices  
(Rendering courtesy of the Town of Chelmsford)

Through the Town's Capital Budget we replaced the mechanics truck with a new Ford F350 pickup. This truck is fitted with most of the tools that would be needed to fix any of the trucks at the stations. For larger projects he will still need to bring the apparatus to the mechanics bay in East Chelmsford. Frank, our mechanic also responds to fire calls. Although he does not gear up and go into the building, Frank is an essential part of the department. He needs to be on hand to fix equipment and exchange the air tanks the fire fighters use during an incident.



2011 Ford F-350 Mechanic's Truck S2, based at East Fire Station, visiting Center Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

Chelmsford Fire Department was able to hire six (6) new fire fighters and all have graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow, MA. Welcome to Michelle Sacco, David Maher, Jason Turner, Edward Casey, Patrick Daley and Gregory Segnini.

We also share some sad news. Retired fire fighters Dennis Keohane and Raymond Kydd passed away this past year. Dennis was a member of the Chelmsford Fire Department for 23 years retiring in 2003. Raymond Kydd was on the job 28 years retiring in 2002.

We had one fire fighter retire after 29 years on the job, Francis Conlin. We wish him the best of luck!



**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue

Gary Ryan

Training Captain, Marc Pare

Fire Prevention Captain Kevin O'Brien

**Captains**

James Durkin

Rick Rivard

Dan Funaro

Henry Houle

Daniel Manley

**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

Retired in Fiscal 2012 - Francis Conlin

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott

William Amundson

William Bacon

William Bennett

Edward Boisseau

Evan Boudreau

Christopher Brothers

Michael Brothers

Thomas Brothers

Jeffrey Cancelli

Edward Casey

Michael Chiasson

Kevin Clarke

Daniel Corey

Patrick Daley

Bruce Donovan

Michael Ducharme

Jesse Foster

Robert Gardner

David Hadley

Ryan Houle

William Keohane

John Kivlan

Dan Koutsoufis

Cynthia Leczynski

Keith Lindsay

David Maher

Michael Maher

Leo Manely

Leslie Merrill

Jason Moody

Michael Nelson

Donnie Peterson

Casey Phelan

Chhunly Prak

John Reid

John Robinson

George Ryan

Michelle Sacco

Gregory Segnini

William Schellback

Timothy Shanahan

Kevin Sheehy

Jason Turner

Daniel Ubele

Garrett Walsh

Michael Young

*2013*



Jan. 5, 2013 fatal fire at the Woodcrest Condominiums, 181 Littleton Road  
(Photo by Rick Nohl)



2013 July 4 Parade, 1935 Maxim Antique Engine 4 (photo by Don Miffitt)



2013 July 4 Parade, 1967 Maxim-S Reserve Engine (photo by Don Miffitt)





2013 July 4 Parade, 1959 Ford Brush Truck Antique Engine 7 (photo by Don Miffitt)



2013 July 4 Parade, Engine 2 from the North Chelmsford Fire Station (photo by Don Miffitt)

### Fire Chief's Report

We have 5 stations in the Town of Chelmsford, 4 staffed with 2 firefighters with the Center station staffed with the Unit Captain and 4 firefighters. The new station being built on Billerica Road has begun. The construction is going along on a timely basis and the town expects an October 2014 completion. We would like to thank all the employees at Town Hall; I know the construction has been a disruption for the entire building.

Our S.A.F.E coordinator FF Josh Abbott has applying for grants through the state and has been approved. Every year our firefighters join with the area schools, daycares, preschools and now with one of the new grants the seniors in town



to help learn fire safety, prepare for emergency situations. The S.A.F.E. crew will travel to the schools in town with books, Pluggy the talking fire hydrant and a "burn house". The kids really like Pluggy and the burn house is something the kids can interact with showing some dangers that could be in the house for example too many extension cords in one outlet or a pan on the stove.

We had two (2) retirements from the department this year, Captain James Durkin and Captain Rick Rivard. James Durkin retired after 30 years and Rick Rivard retired after 25 years. We wish them both the best of luck!



Engines 4, 3, 5, and 2 at Center Fire Station on August 21, 2013 (photo by Fred Merriam)



Read Hall, the administration building of the Middlesex Training School and now owned by U-Mass Lowell (photo by Fred Merriam)

On July 28, 2013, 10:30 pm, dispatch received a call from a resident on Augusta Way reporting they could smell smoke in the area. Engine 2 (North Chelmsford) arrived to Augusta Way to find that one of the vacant buildings belonging to

the University of Massachusetts Lowell fully engulfed. The fire went to 3 alarms within minutes as 4 other vacant buildings close by and a community of over 55 housing behind the burning building was in jeopardy with embers falling close by. The fire was contained to the one building. Lowell, Billerica, Tyngsboro, Westford and Tewksbury released from site at 1:30pm the following day. Chelmsford Fire Department remained on scene for several days watching for hot spots.



Apparatus at Center Fire Station in August, 2013:  
 2005 Command Vehicle S-1, 2001 Ladder/Rescue Truck E-1, 2008 Rescue Vehicle R-2  
 Donnie Peterson in front of dispatch window (photo by Fred Merriam)



New Firefighters for 2013: Scott Gallant, Don Kohl, and Nick Hamilton in training at the East Fire Station  
 The 1989 E-One Hush Pumper, Engine 6, is in the background  
 (photo by Fred Merriam)

**Firefighters**  
 Joshua Abbott

William Keohane  
 John Kivlan



**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue, Operations  
Gary Ryan, Fire Prevention

**Fire Captains**

Henry Houle, Unit 1  
Daniel Manley, Unit 2  
Bruce Donovan, Unit 3  
Daniel Funaro, Unit 4  
Marc Pare' Training Captain  
Kevin O'Brien, Fire Prevention

**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

**Retired in Fiscal 2013**

Captain James Durkin  
Captain Rick Rivard

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Eric Byam  
Jeffrey Cancelli  
Edward Casey  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Patrick Daley  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
Scott Gallant  
David Hadley  
Nicholas Hamilton  
David Houle  
Ryan Houle

Donald Kohl  
Daniel Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay  
David Maher  
Michael Maher  
Leo Manely  
Andrew Micu  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
Michelle Sacco  
William Schellback  
Gregory Segnini  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Gregory Sparks  
Jason Turner  
Joshua Turner  
Daniel Ubele  
Garrett Walsh  
Michael Young

**2014**



Chelmsford Firefighters visit to Shriners Hospital in Boston, January 2014, from left to right: Capt. Dan Funaro, Firefighters Tim Shanahan, Mike Chiasson, David Maher, Don Peterson, David Houle, Greg Segnini and Mike Brothers (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Captain Pare, training officer for the department has been busy these past few months with the new and updating training classes in water rescue, roof collapses, MIIA driving simulator, oil fires, Narcan program for the department and a fairly new to the town are the solar panels. With the schools, town offices, businesses and residents opting for solar power the department needs to learn how to handle fire emergencies when they occur.

Our mock car accident once again showed the tragic results of drinking, texting and driving. The department holds this event the first week of June in the front parking lot of the Chelmsford High School. Juniors and seniors attend with some of their classmates playing the rolls of the victims. It is a very moving lesson and this department along with the Chelmsford Police, Trinity and Christopher's Towing are glad to sponsor because if it saves one life it is worth it.

**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett

John Kivlan

Donald Kohl  
Daniel Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay



**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue, Operations  
Gary Ryan, Fire Prevention

**Fire Captains**

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Daniel Manley, Unit 2  
Bruce Donovan, Unit 3  
Daniel Funaro, Unit 4  
Kevin O'Brien, Fire Prevention  
Marc Pare' Training Captain

**Clerical**

Anna Griffin (Department Assistant)  
Kristen Benjamin (Fire Prevention)

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Eric Byam  
Jeffrey Cancellia  
Edward Casey  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Patrick Daley  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
Scott Gallant  
David Hadley  
Nicholas Hamilton  
David Houle  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane

David Maher  
Michael Maher  
Leo Manely  
Andrew Micu  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
Michelle Sacco  
William Schellback  
Gregory Segnini  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Gregory Sparks  
Jason Turner  
Joshua Turner  
Daniel Ubele  
Garrett Walsh  
Michael Young



Chief Curran visiting the fire station construction site at 50 Billerica Road on May 5, 2014  
(photo by Fred Merriam)

PUBLIC SAFETY

# 'We Will Never Forget'

9/11 Memorial dedicated at new fire station

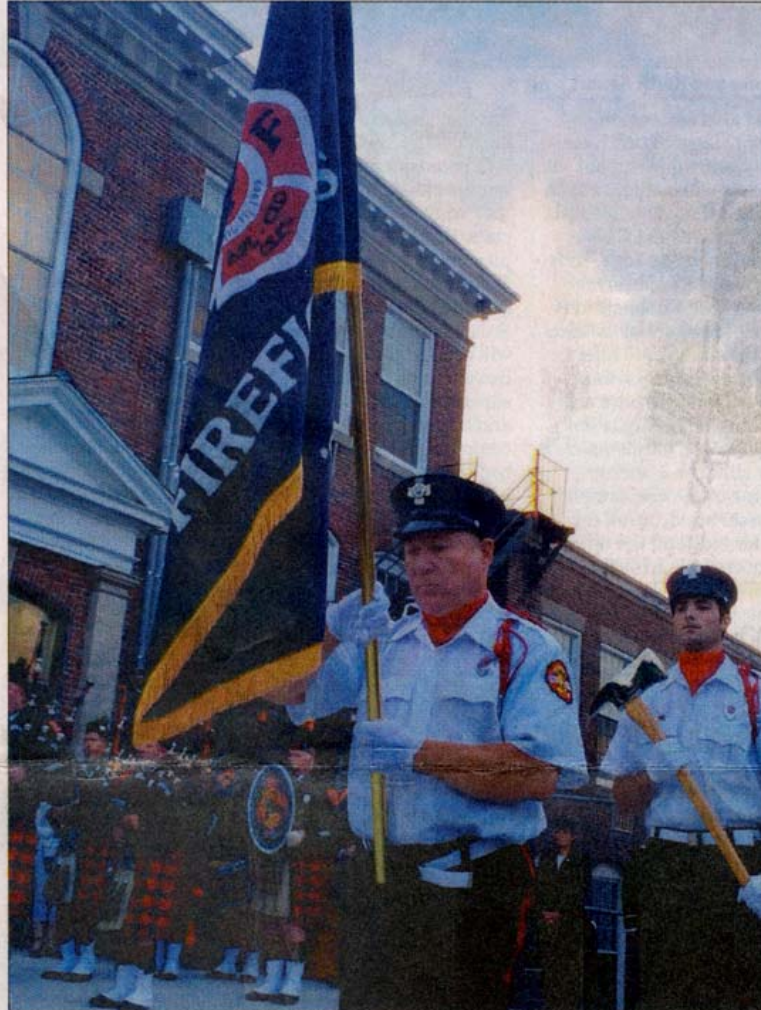
By Molly Loughman  
mloughman@wickedlocal.com

It has been a slow, but steady, rise from the ashes after the devastating acts of terrorism that brought America to its knees on Sept. 11, 2001.

Chelmsford and other communities across the country refuse to forget the evil acts that unfolded on that sunny late summer day 13 years ago, when 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners headed westward. Orchestrated by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the attacks on America that day took the lives of 2,977 people in New York City, Washington, D.C. and outside of Shanksville, Penn., making it the worst act of terrorism in U.S. history.

Chelmsford firefighter Donnie Peterson was one of the Chelmsford firefighters who aided in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center in NYC and has since made it his personal mission to erect a 9/11 memorial in town.

"I am truly honored to be a part of a team that worked so hard to make this all happen," said Peterson, a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, which was formed to help plan, raise funds and construct a memorial in front of the new fire station headquarters next to Town Offices at 50 Billerica Road, where a dedication ceremony drew in over 100 folks last Thursday, the 13th anniversary of the attacks.



The Chelmsford Fire Department Honor Guard marches in to the 9/11 Memorial dedication ceremony last Thursday. WICKED LOCAL PHOTOS / MOLLY LOUGHMAN

Peterson opened the dedication by explaining how much community support means to every firefighter, police officer, EMS worker, dispatcher, victims and their families. He thanked area citizens, businesses and employees for their monetary donations, supplies, use of equipment and time spent at the memorial site.

"It is because of you this memorial went from a dream to a place where



SEE MEMORIAL, A7 The memorial stone.

(Chelmsford Independent September 18, 2014, Page A1)



Thursday, September 18, 2014

CHELMSFORD INDEPENDENT

## MEMORIAL

From Page A1

all Chelmsford residents can come and reflect on this day," he said. "This day changed all of our lives in one way or another and it is a day all Americans will never forget.... Keep in your mind and in your prayers all those who lost their lives and their families."

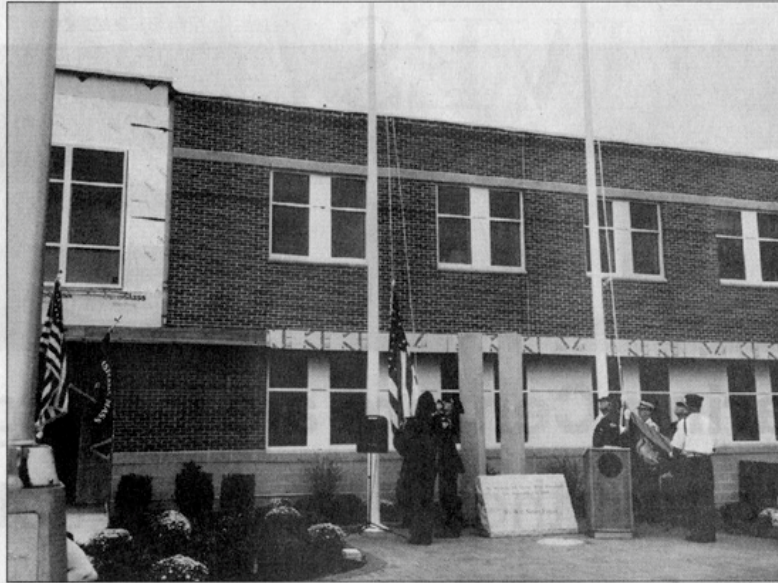
The two 9-foot-tall granite columns symbolize the twin towers of the World Trade Center. They are located next to a granite marker that states, "In memory of those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001. We will never forget."

Two flagpoles, one flying the U.S. flag and the other the Firefighting flag, are posted at the memorial site.

Among the plants and flowers surrounding the memorial and brick walkways are two granite benches, with one reading, "In memorial of Andrew Curry Green" and the other, "In memory of David Bernard," to honor two Chelmsford men killed in the attacks. The 9/11 Memorial Committee continues to collect donations. Extra money will be used to maintain the memorial over time.

### Home of the brave

Marching the 9/11 Memorial Dedication ceremony to an opening was the Westford Firefighters



Raising flags in front of the soon-to-be-completed center fire station. WICKED LOCAL

PHOTOS / MOLLY LOUGHMAN

Pipes and Drums, accompanied by the Chelmsford Firefighter Honor Guard and the Chelmsford Police Honor Guard. Chelmsford's Sam Poulten played "Taps" with the same bugle he used to play it at the WTC during recovery operations. Natalie Mariel sang the national anthem.

The first guest speaker was the sister of the late Andrew Curry Green's wife Shannon Curry Hartman, Kelley Alley. Alley read aloud a message from Shannon, which expressed her gratitude for the memorial in honor of her late husband, whose remains

have yet to be returned after his plane was flown into the north tower.

"That's a primary reason why it's so meaningful that people in Chelmsford have decided to construct a space in remembrance here, the town where Andrew grew up and where we first met. I appreciate this very thoughtful gesture and look forward to visiting the memorial when I'm next in town," said Alley on behalf of Shannon.

Pastor Steve Burkett spoke to how the horrific day called for the help of various fire departments

across the country, including Chelmsford. Burkett praised Peterson, who had it long in his mind and heart to realize a 9/11 memorial. Burkett led a prayer before Town Manager Paul Cohen addressed the crowd.

"It is appropriate that this memorial is located at the center of our municipal operations, in front of a fire headquarters building that will be staffed around the clock each and every day. This will continually remind us not only of the victims from 13 year ago, but also the ongoing threat to our nation's security

(Chelmsford Independent September 18, 2014, Page A7)





**The memorial represents the twin towers of the World Trade Center.**

that unfortunately remains today," said Cohen.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Pat Wojtas, who was a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, called the collaboration wonderful. Wojtas said she is sure people will frequent the memorial site to reflect on the national tragedy and pass on the piece of history onto the future.

State Rep. Tom Golden, D-Lowell, also spoke.

"Every person in this

country and every person in this Commonwealth as well as this wonderful community of Chelmsford, we all believe, as do our heroes, fire, police and EMS, that evil will never ever prevail," said Golden, whose speech was followed by the signing of "God Bless America" by Chelmsford High School alumni Jacy Dawn. The Westford Firefighters Pipes and Drums made a melodic exit through a parted crowd of commending locals.

(Chelmsford Independent September 18, 2014, Page A7)



911 Memorial (9/12/2014 photos by Fred Merriam)



DEDICATION

# 'A team effort'



Co-Chair of the Building Committee Pat Maloney (left) and Fire Chief Michael Curran cut the ceremonial ribbon at the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13, 2014. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS / DAVID GORDON



Bruce Byam, who is the son of former fire chief Ernest Byam, takes a moment during a speech he delivered at the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station, Dec. 13, 2014. The new station is named after Chief Byam, who died in the line of duty in 1965.

## Event honors new fire station

By Margaret Smith  
msmith@wickedlocal.com

It was a time to look to the future, remember the past and most of all, to celebrate, as residents, fire and other public safety personnel, town officials and lawmakers gathered on the chilly Saturday afternoon, to dedicate the new center fire station.

The station's formal name is the Chief Ernest Byam Memorial Fire Headquarters, in tribute to one of two fire personnel who died in the line of duty and whose memory is also honored with plaques at the station.

The ceremony included the Westford Firefighters Fife And Drums, playing bagpipe music, and culminated with the cutting of a "do not cross" yellow tape.

Town Manager Paul Cohen

### Photo gallery

chelmsford.wickedlocal.com

expressed gratitude to many, including Fire Chief Michael Curran, whom he said "delayed his retirement by three years" to help see the project through to its conclusion.

Cohen noted a host of people and groups contributed to moving the center fire station from idea to reality, a notion that Curran echoed.

"This has been a true team effort, and that includes the neighbors, who put up with a whole year of construction," Curran said.

Both Cohen and Curran offered thanks to the fire station neighbors, for their patience and understanding during construction.

SEE DEDICATION, A7

### SELECTMEN

## Board backs demo plan

By Joy N. Wieder  
chelmsford@wickedlocal.com

Selectmen voted Dec. 15 to direct Town Manager Paul Cohen to proceed with plans for demolishing the former Center Fire Station, with Selectmen Bob Joyce and Janet Askenburg casting dissenting votes.

Selectman Matt Hanson asked about a potential time frame, and Cohen said he will advertise, and anticipates awarding a bid by Jan. 26 with demolition taking place in February.

"It will not take long to take

SEE DEMO, A3

(Chelmsford Independent December 18, 2014, Page A1)



Thursday, December 18, 2014

CHELMSFORD

## DEDICATION

From Page A1

### 'A proud day'

Permanent Building Committee Chairman Patrick Maloney acknowledged many efforts, including those of the design and engineering team, and of project manager Kevin Heffernan, of Weymouth-based Vertex Construction, project contractor.

Maloney noted that Heffernan is a Billerica resident, and joked, "We might just convert him to Chelmsford."

Although he added humorously that his own

task is nearly done, Maloney said, "To see the fruits of our labors - it's a special, special thing."

Maloney concluded, "This is one of Chelmsford's proudest days. Enjoy it."

The new 15,500-square-foot station, the central headquarters of the fire department, is located at 50 Billerica Road and cost \$7.9 million. Construction began in 2013.

The new center fire station connects to town offices, where it has 3,500 square feet of space for its fire prevention office and training room.

The new fire station headquarters surrounds a public 9/11 memorial stationed

under an American flag and fire department flag.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the fire station glass entrance has a call box to dispatch, along with a camera and intercom to fire personnel.

The facility replaces the former center fire station, at 7 North Road, which will be demolished, following a vote at special Town Meeting in November.

Visitors were invited to tour the facility and check out a new ladder truck and fire engine.

Selectmen Chairman Pat Wojtas said wryly that the former center fire station was built the year she was born. Wojtas also thanked



Jack Fortnat picks up some food after the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station, on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13, 2014. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/

(Chelmsford Independent December 18, 2014, Page A7)

the neighbors for their understanding during the construction.

Wojtas said thanked the Billerica Road neighbors. "They made sure the facility fits in with the neighborhood."

Wojtas invited everyone present to inspect the new fire station to the fullest. "Stick your nose in the corners. Kick the tires if you want."

**Honoring the fallen**

Amid the celebrations came a moment of remembrance, and the removing of black veils from two plaques, each one honoring fire department personnel who died in the line of duty.

One plaque honors Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey, who died Nov. 8, 1964, while extinguishing a brush fire.

The other honors Chief Ernest Byam, who died Jan. 31, 1965, extinguishing a building fire.

Byam's family gathered around the plaque, while Byam's son, Bruce Byam, 69, expressed his family's gratitude in an emotional statement, calling the plaque dedication "an honor," and adding, "We are totally overwhelmed to receive it."

He said, "That fateful day nearly 50 years ago changed my family, but his spirit carries on in each of us."

To his son, Erik Byam, also a Chelmsford firefighter, he said, "We could not be more proud of you."

**Showing support**

Among those who attended was Chelmsford police patrol officer William Carlo and his family. As he held his 1-year-old daughter, Sophie, in his arms, Carlo said, "We came to show the firefighters our support."

Carlo added, "It's good for them to finally be getting this updated facility. They've been working with this outdated place. It needed to get caught up with the times."



John McKenzie, of Charleston NC, checks out the fire trucks after the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station, on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13, 2014.

(Chelmsford Independent December 18, 2014, Page A7)





The new Engine 1 is a 2014 Smeal/Spartan Sirius II MFD. The cab & chassis is built by Spartan with the remainder of the body compartments and pump module built by Smeal. The end result is a Smeal class A Pumper with a 1500 gpm pump and a 750 gallon water tank. In addition it carries three ladders: 24' extension, 14' roof, and a 10' for use in attics.





The Ladder 1 truck is a 2013 Smeal/Spartan Sirius Custom EMFD flat roof cab. The cab & chassis were built by Spartan and the remainder of the body compartments and ladder built by Smeal. The end result is a Smeal Ladder truck, sometimes referred to as a Tower. This truck has a 100' steel ladder with a platform at the end. It has a 2000 gpm waterous pump and a 300 gallon tank.



Chelmsford Firefighter Erik Byam, grandson, and Bruce Byam, son of the late Chief Ernest G. Byam, hold the dedication plaque



Pat Maloney and Chief Michael Curran cut the ceremonial ribbon with the old Engine 1 Quint ladder/pumper in the background (12/13/2014 photos above by Fred Merriam)

**CALL HISTORY**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
BUILDING FIRES	40	28	25	23	24
MEDICAL AID	2868	2868	2976	3049	3654
AUTO FIRES	18	15	15	11	12
OUTSIDE FIRES	85	84	17	2	54

MUTUAL AID	29	27	19	28	24
INVESTIGATION	847	612	337	349	580
OTHER CALLS	2592	3199	3189	3323	2765
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6479</b>	<b>6833</b>	<b>6578</b>	<b>6785</b>	<b>7113</b>

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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2015



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[1970-1979](#)

[1980-1989](#)

[1990-1999](#)

[2000-2009](#)

[2010-2014](#)

Annual Town Report Cover, 2015  
(Photo by Fred Merriam with Andy Micu running the Ladder)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Michael Curran retired after 39 years serving on the department starting his career as firefighter in 1976 and made his way through the ranks as Captain in 1987, Deputy Chief in 1996 and Chief 2010. Captain Bruce Donovan

retired after 32 years serving on the department. Captain Donovan started his career as a firefighter in 1984 and was made Captain in 2012. Thank you both for your dedication and years of service and we wish you all the best!

Chelmsford Fire Department was very fortunate this past year. In December, 2014 we finally moved into our new building. This had been a long process with location and design of the new building. The vote was passed for the Billerica Road location and work began. This 15,500 sq. ft. building has 3 double sleeping quarters, 1 single sleeping quarter, showers to accommodate both male and female firefighters. The new station can now house Service 3, Rescue 1, Rescue 2, Engine 1, Tower/Ladder, gator, generators, light tower and rescue boat. The new building was dedicated to Chief Ernest Byam who was killed in the line of duty in 1965. The training room at the station has been dedicated to Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey who died in the line of duty in 1964.

Our new trucks have been in service now with driver training done. The Tower/Ladder is a 2013 Smeal/ Spartan Sirius Custom EMFD flat roof cab. This truck has a 100' steel ladder with a platform, 300 gallon tank with a 2000 gallon-per-minute pump. The new E1 is a 2014 Smeal/Spartan Sirius Class A pumper with a 750 gallon tank and a 1500 gallon-per-minute pump.



NEW FIRE CHIEF



Selectmen confirmed the appointment of Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan as the new fire chief at the board's June 1 meeting. From left are Ryan, with current Fire Chief Michael Curran, center, and Police Chief James Spinney. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BETSY LEVINSON.

# 'A tremendous job'

## Ryan takes post

By Betsy Levinson and Margaret Smith

chelmsford@wickedlocal.com/ msmith@wickedlocal.com

Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan will take reins as the new fire chief, following a unanimous vote June 1 by the Board of Selectmen to confirm his appointment by Town Manager Paul Cohen.

Ryan steps into the boots of Fire Chief Michael Curran, who delayed his retirement to see the new central

## First reported online

chelmsford.wickedlocal.com

fire station through to its completion. Curran is set to retire June 30. Ryan said he had "progressed through the firefighting ranks for the last 21 years" in his letter of interest in the top job.

Curran praised his second-in-command and successor. "He's done a tremendous job," said Curran. "He is very dedicated, very passionate about the job."

Ryan is a Chelmsford resident with a Bachelor of Science in

criminal justice from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and a Master of Business Administration from Western New England College in Springfield. He also has an Associate of Fire Science degree from Middlesex Community College.

Professionally, Ryan started with the Chelmsford Fire Department as a firefighter/emergency medical technician in December 1993, rising to captain in September 2006.

In 2005, Ryan was named Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year, according to his resume.

SEE CHIEF, A7

Chelmsford Independent June 4, 2015, Page A1



## CHIEF

From Page A1

Ryan became fire prevention captain in May 2010, and deputy fire chief the following October.

According to his resume, as deputy he managed and administered all operations within the Fire Prevention Office; served as liaison between the Fire Department and other town agencies; responded to and resolved citizen inquiries; and assumed command and directed activities as necessary in the absence of the fire chief.

"As a deputy chief, I have developed the necessary knowledge and skills in planning, organizing, and decision-making," Ryan wrote to Human Resources Director Jeanne Parziale. "I possess the education and professional experience that are required for me to successfully manage and lead this department," Ryan added.

Parziale said six candidates responded to the job posting, all from within the department.

"We did not go outside the town for applicants," said Parziale.

After interviewing with Cohen, each of the candidates sat before an "assessment panel" from the Massachusetts Municipal Association Consulting Group. Parziale said the panel was made up of active and retired fire and police officers and human resources professionals.

"I'm pleased to appoint Gary Ryan to be chief as of July 1," said Cohen.

He said he knew of Curran's interest in retiring, and felt he had "adequate planning time" to find



The Board of Selectmen at its June 1 meeting confirmed the appointment of Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan as the new fire chief. Ryan, center, is pictured with his wife, Terri, and son, Brady, 17. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BETSY LEVINSON

a new chief. Cohen said Police Chief James Spinney echoed high marks for Ryan.

"Chelmsford had more than one capable applicant," said Cohen. "Gary stood out in this process. He has served the town for 21 years. I am confident he will be successful as chief."

Ryan said it was an "honor to serve under Chief Curran."

"He was a mentor to me and I wish him well," said Ryan. "I look forward to continuing and improving the fire safety in the community we serve."

### Search process

Cohen said the fire chief position is a non-civil service appointment.

In seeking a new fire chief, Cohen said he limited the applicant pool to the Chelmsford Fire Department's two deputy fire chiefs, and six captains. The two deputy chiefs applied

along with four of the six captains, Cohen said.

Parziale and Cohen interviewed all six applicants.

Cohen said three of the six applicants advanced to an assessment center. Parziale and Cohen observed the assessment center.

"I then had separate discussions with outgoing Fire Chief Michael Curran, Police Chief James Spinney, and Human Resources Director Jeanne Parziale," Cohen said. Cohen added, "Following the completion of these activities, I selected Deputy Fire Chief Gary Ryan."

Cohen said, "Fortunately, the Chelmsford Fire Department has more than one individual who is capable of serving as fire chief. However, one must be selected."

Cohen said, "Gary Ryan has done what it takes to be fire chief. He has served in the Chelmsford Fire Department for over 21

years, including the last 4 four and a half years as a deputy fire chief. He has completed the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer certification program."

In evaluating Ryan, Cohen said, "I have observed Gary Ryan in his professional capacity in the Fire Prevention Office, most recently his contributions to the new Chelmsford Fire Department building project."

As fire chief, Ryan starts at a base salary of \$110,552. Ryan also qualifies for 6 percent longevity compensation, or \$6,633, an educational incentive of 12.5 percent, or \$13,819 for his master's degree and an EMT certification of 6 percent, \$6,633.

These sums bring Ryan's total annual compensation to \$137,637.

Plans are in the works to celebrate Curran's retirement.



Ceremony at the Memorial September 11, 2015 (courtesy of the Chelmsford Police Department)

**Chief**

Gary Ryan

**Deputy Chief**

Michael Donoghue

**Training Captain**

Marc Pare

**Unit Captains**

Henry Houle, Unit 1  
 Daniel Manley, Unit 2  
 Kevin O'Brien, Unit 3  
 Daniel Funaro, Unit 4

**Fire Prevention Captains**

John Kivlan  
 Daniel Koutsoufis

**Clerical**

Anna Griffin (Department Assistant)  
 Jo-Ellen Carkin (Fire Prevention)

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 Jeffrey Cancellla  
 Edward Casey  
 Michael Chiasson  
 Kevin Clarke  
 Daniel Corey  
 Patrick Daley  
 Michael Ducharme  
 Jesse Foster  
 Robert Gardner  
 Scott Gallant  
 David Hadley  
 Nicholas Hamilton  
 David Houle  
 Ryan Houle

William Keohane  
 Donald Kohl  
 Keith Lindsay  
 David Maher  
 Michael Maher  
 Leo Manely  
 Andrew Micu  
 Jason Moody  
 Michael Nelson  
 Donnie Peterson  
 Casey Phelan  
 Chhunly Prak  
 John Reid  
 Michelle Sacco  
 William Schellback  
 Gregory Segnini  
 Timothy Shanahan  
 Kevin Sheehy  
 Gregory Sparks  
 Jason Turner  
 Joshua Turner  
 Daniel Ubele  
 Garrett Walsh  
 Michael Young



# 2016

SEPT. 11



Chelmsford firefighters Bill Bennett, Michelle Sacco and Donnie Peterson carefully remove the piece of metal from Ground Zero they brought to the fire headquarters March 30. It is going to be added to the 9/11 Memorial. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ANN RINGWOOD

## *To honor those lost*

Town  
receives  
Ground  
Zero beam

By Mark Schulert  
chelmsford@wickedlocal.com

**T**he Chelmsford Fire Department got a piece of the World Trade Center this week to incorporate into its Sept. 11 memorial at the fire station.

A team of firefighters went to New York to accept a 30-pound beam from the site devastated by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, arriving back at the fire station about 3 p.m. March 30. The arrival was marked by a short ceremony attended by the public and firefighters.

SEE BEAM, A2

Chelmsford Independent April 7, 2016, Page A1



# BEAM

From Page A1

The acquisition was the result of a four-year effort by the Chelmsford 9/11 Memorial Committee.

Committee member Pat Wojtas described the long process working through local representatives to get the piece. U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas and U.S. senators, along with selectmen, wrote in support of the effort.

Fire Chief Gary Ryan said the 911 Committee is working on a way to plan a way to display the artifact appropriately.

Adding impetus to the cause was the creation of the new Sept. 11 memorial in front of the new fire station.

It was dedicated on Sept. 11, 2014, to honor those who were killed, including Chelmsford residents Andrew Green and David Bernard – along with emergency responders and all who perished in the attacks.

The town learned two weeks ago that its request had been granted.

Many Chelmsford firefighters were among the volunteers who went to New York to assist in the cleanup efforts after the attacks, traveling to the site on their own time at their own expense.

"We were at a firefighter weekend golfing up in Maine," Capt. Henry Houle said.

Houle added, "We saw it on the news. We just left there, came home and got in the trucks and went down there. There were nine of us. We got there nine o'clock the next morning and there was no command presence."

Houle said, "There was no one to report to. So what we did, we pulled up in a truck. They said 'You're going in,' and they gave us like -- we filled the bed with water for the workers that were there. We drove in and we just had our gear on and we just gave out water and then we went right to the pile. It was devastating. It looked like the end of the world. We just went in and started digging



Chelmsford firefighters Michelle Sacco, Donnie Peterson and Bill Bennett place the American flag and a piece of metal from Ground Zero on a table to display after it was brought to Chelmsford March 30. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD



A piece of metal from Ground Zero is brought up Billerica Road to Chelmsford Fire Headquarters March 30.



Rich Regan, of Chelmsford, waits for the procession bringing the piece of metal from Ground Zero to fire headquarters March 30.

looking for bodies."

Houle said he remembers the dust, and how the whole city was covered in dust for miles around, and how even a day later, the ruins were still covered in a cloud of dust so thick it affected visibility.

"We had gloves but no

respirator," he said. "I think the third or fourth day they got the masks."

Houle said just a few days working the pile affected his health.

"I have asthma," he said.

Chief Ryan was in the first group that went in.

Former Chief Mike

**ONLINE ONLY:** For a photo gallery of the ceremony, visit [chelmsford.wickedlocal.com](http://chelmsford.wickedlocal.com).

Curran was among the other early responders, leaving on Thursday, Sept. 13, and staying a week.

Chelmsford resident Sam Poulton was in the Army Reserve and went to New York on Columbus Day weekend. He had his coronet with him, so when they found human remains he played "Taps." He brought his instrument with him to the Chelmsford ceremony to again play "Taps" for those who died at the World Trade Center.

Those in the first group to go were hesitant to discuss what they saw.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson said, "I really don't like to talk about it. Honest I don't. Just, it's done. It's in the past. I really don't like to talk about it. This is hard enough doing stuff like this. We do it to honor the guys who have died."

Houle said he was uncomfortable with the ceremony.

"I didn't want to go out there because I don't like this at all," he said. "I feel insignificant."

He said the person to talk to would be Capt. James Durkin, now retired.

"Captain Durkin, he stayed like about a week," Houle said.

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## CALL HISTORY

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2015</b>
BUILDING FIRES	34
MEDICAL AID	3768
AUTO FIRES	19
OUTSIDE FIRES	48
MUTUAL AID	50
INVESTIGATION	773
OTHER CALLS	3207
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7899</b>

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1910

**Note:** The Annual Town Reports for 1910 through 1913 covered events during the years 1909 through 1912. This was adjusted by the Town starting in 1914 so the report year matches the year covered.

### Annual Town Meeting March 22, 1909

Under Article 4.

To hear reports of the Town Officers and Committees, Rev. Wilson Waters reported for the Trustees of Adams Library concerning the work of finishing the curbing of the library lot. He said the work was not yet completed and it was voted to give the Trustees further time and to continue the appropriation to carry on the work. Voted to give the Fire Commissioners of the North Village further time in which to build a fire house and that the appropriation be continued. H. E. Ellis for the School Committee, reported that the result of the Committee's investigations for providing more playgrounds would be outlined under an Article contained in the Warrant of this meeting. After the correction of several typographical errors, it was voted to accept the remainder of the Town Report as printed.

Under Article 13.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year. 81 voted in favor and 49 opposed.

Under Article 17.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.) to be paid to the Firemen's Relief Association of Lowell, in recognition of the services of the Lowell Fire Department in Chelmsford.

### Report of the Forest Warden

During the past year my deputies and I have been called to about thirty-five fires. The damage that could be estimated amounted to about fifteen hundred dollars, with a large damage to sprout land which could not be estimated.

We have had to call the Chelmsford Centre Fire Department several times and have found it prompt and efficient. My deputies have been very faithful in their work, although handicapped by a lack of apparatus to work with.

State Forester F. W. Rane has requested that all towns appropriate money to buy apparatus for use of the Forest Wardens. I have reported all fires to the State Forester and in November, 1909, attended a meeting of Forest Wardens at Boston, where I learned a great deal about what was being done in other towns.

Following is a list of fires:



[Home](#)

## History from

[1900-1909](#)

[1920-1929](#)

[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

[1950-1959](#)

[1960-1969](#)

[1970-1979](#)

[1980-1989](#)

[1990-1999](#)

[2000-2009](#)

[2010-2014](#)

[2015-201x](#)



DATE	WARDEN	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
Mar. 27	A. E. Barton	R. P. Dutton			Brush Fire	\$3.20
Apr. 2	A. E. Barton	Mr. Downs				.30
5	A. E. Barton	Mrs. Wood			Boys	2.00
11	A. E. Barton	J. Loiselle	3	\$15.00		6.20
13	J. Marinel	G. C. Moore	25		Railroad	2.40
18	F. Fletcher	G. C. Moore			Railroad	4.10
22	W. Hannaford	J. P. Emerson		50.00		2.70
25	F. Fletcher	F. Dutton	40	100.00	Smoking	7.80
May 2	A. E. Barton	O. Spaulding	25		Smoking	21.65
8	W. Hannaford	J. Loiselle	3	6.00		1.65
12	A. E. Barton	M. Bachelder		10.00		1.10
13	E. R. Parker	G. Penniman	2			.40
15	J. Marinel	Mary Ready	2		Smoking	3.40
16	J. Marinel	C. W. Adams	2		Smoking	2.90
25	J. Marinel	J. P. Dunigan	10		Railroad	3.20
26	J. Marinel	C. M. Potter	30	1,000.00	Smoking	10.10
30	W. Parlee	Coburn Estate	12			21.60
June 2	J. Marinel	J. J. Shaw	3		Smoking	5.40
3	J. Marinel	T. Lahey	30	200.00	Smoking	8.20
July 9	A. E. Barton	R. P. Perham and J. R. Parkhurst	6		Boys	49.35
10	A. E. Barton	M. Roache			Smoking	.60
Aug. 31	F. Fletcher	A. Gaudette	15	\$25.00	Smoking	\$2.00
31	F. Fletcher	W. E. Potter	20		Smoking	2.50
31	Geo. Spaulding	Boston Ice Co.			Railroad	2.20
Sept. 1	Geo. Spaulding	Adams Estate				.60
3	J. Marinel	Dr. Virgin	50		Camp Fire	5.10
3	F. Fletcher	Adams Estate	3			4.40
4	J. Marinel	C. M. Potter	50		Camp Fire	28.80
4	F. Fletcher		15			2.50
6	Geo. Spaulding	C. Adams				4.15
6	J. Marinel	C. J. Willsted	1	25.00	Incendiary	2.90
Oct. 19	A. E. Barton	P. P. Perham	1		Boys	1.00
Nov. 19	A. E. Barton	B. Scannell			Railroad	2.10
Dec. 24	A. E. Barton	W. Manning	10		Boys	5.20

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Respectfully,

A. E. BARTON,

Forest Warden.

## 1911

### Annual Town Meeting March 28, 1910

Under Article 15.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 21.

It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$120) for the service of a janitor at the North and Centre fire-houses.

### Special Town Meeting May 28, 1910

Under Article 8.

It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250) for the purpose of purchasing a fire extinguisher and other apparatus for the use of the Town.

### Report of the Forest Warden

During the past year my deputies and I have been called to about thirty-seven fires. The damage that could be estimated amounted to about two thousand dollars.

We have found our new Chemical Extinguishers very useful and effective.

I have reported all fires to the State Forester and submit to you the following list :

DATE	WARDEN	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
Mar. 21	A. C. Perham	D. E. Atwood	3	Slight	Grass fire	\$ .95
22	Wm. Parlee	Hill	2	Slight	Match	2.80
25	John Marinel	A. B. Woodworth	75	\$200.00	Spark from engine	27.80
25	Fred Fletcher	S. Virgin	2	25.00	Smoking	15.50
25	A. C. Perham	J. P. Emerson	2	10.00	Spark from engine	1.60
29	A. C. Perham	Loiselle	6	Slight	Burning brush	4.05
Apr. 1	Geo. Spaulding	G. C. Moore	1	\$10.00	Spark from engine	2.00
4	A. E. Barton	J. P. Emerson		None	Not known	1.90
11	Fred Fletcher	D. M. Pratt	25	\$100.00	Burning brush	10.00
16	A. C. Perham	Sweetser Estate	¼	None	Smoking	3.45
16	E. R. Parker	J. Sweetser		None	Not known	.70
May 6	A. C. Perham	Sweetser Estate	¼	None	Smoking	3.10
6	A. Dutton	Carrie Dutton	1	\$ 10.00	Burning brush	.70
7	A. C. Perham	Gage Estate	60	250.00	Not known	21.55
7	J. Marinel	Adams Estate	100	1000.00	Burning brush	73.50
8	Geo. Spaulding	G. F. Snow	4	300.00	Smoking	23.80
11	A. E. Barton	J. Wood	10	Slight	Brush fire	14.30
13	A. Dutton	M. C. Wilson	1	\$10.00	Spark from engine	1.40
16	E. R. Parker	Fiske Estate	¼	None	Spark from engine	.20
June 27	A. C. Perham	Sweetser	10	Slight	Not known	4.30
July 4	E. R. Parker	Winning	½	\$ 6.00	Firecrackers	3.40
6	J. Marinel	P. Parker	1	10.00	Smoking	3.40

DATE	WARDEN	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
July 7	J. Marinel	Adams Estate		None	Smoking	\$1.50
8	E. R. Parker	Winning	¼	None	Not known	1.80
8	A. C. Perham					2.50
11	E. R. Parker	D. Byam	⅛	None	Spark from engine	.60
19	A. C. Perham	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R.		None	Spark from engine	.50
23	J. Marinel	Adams Estate	1	\$5.00	Smoking	2.80
Oct. 2	A. C. Perham	W. Manning	3	Slight	Smoking	4.55
4	F. L. Fletcher	Conant	⅛	Slight	Smoking	1.75
6	A. C. Perham	A. B. Adams Estate	1	Slight	Spark from engine	.75
12	A. C. Perham					1.80
24	A. E. Barton			None	Boys	.50
Nov. 16	A. E. Barton	Cogger		None	Burning brush	2.00
19	A. C. Perham	G. Day	¼	Slight	Spark from engine	1.00
20	G. Byam	J. P. Emerson	1½	None	Smoking	1.00
Jan. 11	A. E. Barton	C. Parkhurst	5	Slight	Smoking	8.60

Respectfully,

A. E. BARTON, Forest Warden.

## 1912

### Annual Town Meeting March 27, 1911

Under Article 9.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 15.

Voted that a committee of three be appointed to investigate and report at the next Annual Town Meeting in regard to the best means of providing better fire protection in that part of the Town known as Chelmsford Centre. Arthur M. Warren, George M. Wright and Edwin R. Clark were chosen to serve as the committee.

Under Article 22.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120.00) for the service of a janitor at the North and Centre Fire Houses.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

Since my appointment as Forest Warden early in November 1911 four small fires have been reported to me as follows:

- Oct. 14, one acre owned by S. McFarlin, caused by hunters, damage \$10.00, cost \$1.70 ; reported by A. C Perham.
- Oct. 28, three acres owned by E. J. Perham, caused by smokers, damage \$20.00, reported by M. A. Bean, cost \$7.00.
- Nov. 23, several small fires caused by engine sparks on land of F. Fiske and others, damage slight, cost \$3.75, reported by A. E. Dutton.
- July 23, one half acre owned by C. A. Dutton, caused by smokers, damage \$3.00, cost \$1.10; reported by A. E. Dutton.

I feel that we are fortunate in having a Massachusetts forest fire lookout station located in our town, all fires will be reported as soon as observed to the nearest Deputy Warden, who in most cases will be able to reach the fire before it has assumed very large proportions thereby being able to extinguish the same with but little help, thus lessening the damage as well as the expense to the Town.





The experimental State Fire Tower on Robins Hill 1911-1918 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Your attention is called to a change in the law regarding fires in the open air, permits now being required from March 1 to December 1, as set forth by Acts of 1908, chapter 209, section 1, as amended by chapter 244 Acts of 1911. Violation of the above Act is punishable by a fine of \$100 or thirty days imprisonment or both.

More woodland owners should practice improvement, thinning of their woodlands, a few already doing so. Farmers will find this the most profitable way to cut their year's supply of wood. The State Forester stands ready at all times to examine and advise you as to the proper management of your woodlands with no expense to you except his car fare. If interested consult your Forest Warden.

The chestnut bark disease has not yet reached this town, the nearest infected points being Bedford and Harvard. This disease is spreading very fast and it is stated by good authority that practically all of the chestnut in Massachusetts is almost certain to die within comparatively few years unless some unforeseen condition comes to the rescue. All cases of this disease should be reported to the Forest Warden.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Forest Fire Warden</b><br/>                 Arthur E. Barton (Resigned)<br/>                 Arnold C. Perham (Appointed)</p> | <p><b>Deputy Wardens</b><br/>                 Arnold C. Perham<br/>                 Fred L. Fletcher<br/>                 Geo. O. Spalding<br/>                 J. Marinel<br/>                 J. R. Hackett<br/>                 R. E. Davis<br/>                 G. Garland Byam<br/>                 Wm. M. Parlee<br/>                 A. E. Dutton<br/>                 M. A. Bean</p> | <p><b>Fire Wards</b><br/>                 Arthur House<br/>                 Arthur E. Barton<br/>                 Arnold C. Perham</p> |
|---|--|--|

Property in Charge of Forest Warden	
30 chemical extinguishers, \$7.50 a piece.	\$225 00
30 boxes, each containing six charges for extinguishers.....	10 00
25 shovels, 75c apiece.....	18 75
10 badges.....	5 00
Chemicals to value of.....	9 00
20 old Johnson pumps.....	7 25
	\$275 00

## 1913



As the newly appointed Forest Fire Warden in 1912 Arnold C. Perham used this modified Ford Model T Roadster to transport equipment to fires (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Annual Town Meeting March 25, 1912**

Under Article 4.

Voted to accept the Town Report as printed after some typographical errors had been called to the attention of the meeting. ... The committee appointed at the last Annual Town Meeting in regards to the best means of providing better fire protection in that part of the Town known as Chelmsford Centre, made two recommendations, one to be known as the report of the majority, and the other to be known as the report of the minority of the Committee which was as follows: That the matter be laid on the table for one year. That the present committee be retained for that period with the added power to place an article in a warrant calling for the creation of a fire district and the issuance of town water bonds to cover the cost of constructing a complete water plant for same capable of furnishing an abundant supply of water for fire and domestic purposes.

Under Article 9.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 25.

Voted to appropriate from money already in the treasury, the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) for the services of a janitor at the North and Centre fire houses.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 18, 1912**

Under Article 3.

Voted that the Town appropriate the sum of fifty dollars from money now in the treasury for the purpose of caring for the Town property at the Chelmsford Centre Fire House.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

There has been a great reduction in the cost of fighting forest fires during the past year largely through the efforts of the fire observer on Robins Hill: the expense for the past year having been 60 percent less than the previous year.

Thirty-six forest fires have been extinguished, also we have rendered what help we could at about a dozen building and chimney fires where' in most cases the deputy wardens were the only ones present with fire-fighting apparatus. It would seem to be advisable for the town to purchase some fire extinguishers to be placed in the smaller villages in the town with a view to protecting buildings, for practically the only protection these villages now have is the equipment of the deputy forest wardens which is located with a view to protecting forest areas rather than buildings.

The eleven deputy wardens scattered through out are becoming more familiar with their work and I wish to thank them as well as the other town's people for their hearty cooperation during the past year.

About 300 permits were issued between March 1 and December 1 which is the time when permits are required for setting fires in the open air. All fires have been reported to the State Forester upon the blank provided for the purpose.



DATE	LAND OWNED BY	No. ACRES	DAMAGE	CAUSE	COST
Mar. 26	B. Leach . . . . .	4	\$25.00	Smoking . . . . .	\$3.70
April 1	A. Button . . . . .		35.00	.....	.....
7	Simpson etal. . . . .	10	50.00	Smoking . . . . .	15.40
9	W. Heaney . . . . .	¼	slight	Smoking . . . . .	.35
12	A. Olson . . . . .	¼	10.00	Boy . . . . .	2.00
25	Green . . . . .	6	30.00	Rubbish fire . .	15.55
25	H. Smith . . . . .	1	slight	Smoking . . . . .	1.65
25	Chelmsford Spring Co. .	¼	5.00	R. R. Engine .	.70
26	Hunt Est . . . . .	¼	5.00	Steam roller . .	2.40
29	J. Loisel . . . . .	2	10.00	House fire . . . . .	.....
May 1	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-16	none	R. R. Engine .	1.20
4	Dr. Virgin . . . . .	4	50.00	Smoking . . . . .	16.60
19	Bailey . . . . .		none	Smoking . . . . .	.20
June 15	Hemreich . . . . .	3	5.00	.....	4.70
20	J. P. Emerson . . . . .	¼	slight	R. R. Engine .	3.20
25	P. Parker . . . . .	3¼	25.00	Smoking . . . . .	40.36
29	Dutton Bros. . . . .	1-16	2.00	Steam roller . .	.80
July 1	Adams Estate . . . . .	2	5.00	Boys . . . . .	4.13
1	J. Fay . . . . .	1-80	slight	R. R. Engine .	.....
3	C. Adams . . . . .	1	10.00	Fire crackers .	1.70
4	J. M. G. Parker, heirs . .	1	10.00	Picnic party . .	23.35
5	E. A. Bartlett . . . . .	1	5.00	.....	7.00
8	F. C. Byam . . . . .	¼	2.00	R. R. Engine .	1.67
10	J. P. Emerson . . . . .	1-40	1.00	R. R. Engine .	1.97
14	Wm. Proctor . . . . .	¼	10.00	Smoking . . . . .	1.50
18	A. M. Warren . . . . .	1-30	10.00	Smoking . . . . .	2.60
24	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-80	none	R. R. Engine .	.50
28	J. B. Noel . . . . .	1-10	1.00	R. R. Engine .	1.90
28	M. Kolas . . . . .	none	none	Rubbish fire .	1.00
28	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-80	slight	R. R. Engine .	1.40
Sept. 26	N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. .	1-100	1.00	R. R. Engine .	1.00
Oct. 10	B. Leach . . . . .	2	5.00	Boys . . . . .	1.05
15	Baron Heirs . . . . .	1	10.00	Smoking . . . . .	1.80
18	Adams . . . . .	1-100	none	Smoking . . . . .	none
Nov. 5	A. B. Woodworth . . . . .	2	10.00	R. R. Engine .	.70
5	W. P. Proctor . . . . .	¼	2.00	Smoking . . . . .	.70
Dec. 21	P. Parker . . . . .	5	slight	Smoking . . . . .	2.60

Forest Fires reported in 1912 (1913 Annual Town Report)



Another view of the modified Ford Model T Roadster used in 1912 by Arnold C. Perham to transport equipment to fires (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Forest Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham**Fire Wards**Arthur House  
Ralph P. Adams  
Arnold C. Perham**Deputy Fire Ward**

William H. Shedd

**Deputy Wardens**John Marinel  
Fred L. Fletcher  
George Spalding  
Ralph P. Adams  
W. S. Holder  
James J. Hackett  
J. F. Parker  
Sidney Dupee  
W. H. Shedd  
George Byam  
Minot A. Bean  
Charles F. Devine**Paid for fighting fires in 1912:**V. L. Parkhurst, et al, fire warden .... 278.75  
A. C. Perham, et al, fire warden .... 120.87  
James Hackett, et al, fire warden .... 32.00  
John Marinel, Jr., et al, fire warden .... 25.30  
W. H. Shedd, et al, fire warden .... 19.10  
Fred L. Fletcher, et al, fire warden .... 14.90  
George O. Spaulding, labor at fire .... 11.50  
Ralph P. Adams, labor at fire .... 8.90  
W. S. Holder, labor at fire .... 6.28  
C. F. Devine, labor at fire .... 3.70  
J. F. Parker, labor at fire .... 3.20  
Sidney Dupee, labor at fire .... 2.75  
D. F. Small, labor at fire .... 1.90  
E. G. Byam, labor at fire .... 1.75  
M. A. Bean, labor at fire .... 1.65

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## 1914

**Annual Town Meeting March 23, 1914**

Under Article 8.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to be paid to the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 12.

Voted that the Town rescind so much of the vote passed under Article 9 at the special Town meeting of Sept. 29, 1913, as authorized the borrowing of the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the purchase of fire house equipment for the Chelmsford Fire Department, and that the said sum of fifteen hundred dollars be raised and appropriated to be used for the same purposes and upon the same terms and conditions as are set forth at length in said vote of Sept. 29.

Under Article 32.

Voted that the Town appropriate from money already in the Treasury the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) for protection against fire in the East Village, said amount to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen.

Under Article 34.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100) for janitor service at the fire houses at the Centre and North Villages.

**Special Town Meeting May 4, 1914**

Under Article 7.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred dollars for fire hose and equipment, the same to be located in that part of Chelmsford known as the Westlands.

Under Article 8.

Relative to the appropriation of the sum of seven hundred dollars (\$700) to purchase and install a Fire Signal Apparatus at the Centre Village, the matter was referred to the next annual Town Meeting.

**Report of Selectmen**

The Centre Town Hall needs shingling badly, and the old school house in South Chelmsford, in which the fire apparatus is kept should be painted.



South Chelmsford Fire Station on the right was a former school house with a door added to accommodate fire apparatus  
Note: Auto Truck No. 5 in the foreground was not purchased until 1921  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



**Appraisal Centre Fire Apparatus**

1 combination, chemical and hand fire engine .....	\$ 400 00
1 hose and protective wagon .....	150 00
1 hook and ladder wagon with ladders ..	150 00
10 chemical extinguishers .....	60 00
650 ft. old fire hose, 2 in .....	100 00
1 lot chemicals .....	10 00
2 single harnesses .....	60 00
5 sets rubber suits .....	20 00
4 fire axes .....	2 00
4 crow bars .....	4 00
7 shovels .....	4 50
6 forks .....	2 00
9 pails .....	3 00
15 cans .....	2 00
1 50-foot extension ladder .....	35 00
1 30-foot extension ladder .....	8 00
1 35-foot extension ladder .....	9 00
1 30-foot extension ladder .....	8 00
1 25-foot extension ladder .....	5 00
3 ropes and tackles .....	4 00
7 pike hooks and poles .....	5 00
3 horse blankets .....	9 00
10 lanterns .....	3 00
Hose nozzles (old) .....	4 00
1 hose rack .....	\$ 4 00
1 lot brooms and sundries .....	5 00
1 hose rack drier .....	8 00
2 pails .....	50
1 wagon jack .....	1 00
1 hydrant gate .....	5 00
1 push wheel cart .....	5 00
1 cabinet .....	5 00
1500-ft. 2½ in. fire hose (new) .....	950 00
2 hand hose reels .....	150 00
5 Boston play pipes .....	75 00
3 hydrant gates .....	35 00
1 Siamese connection .....	8 00
5 Callahan nozzles .....	70 00
1 reducing connection .....	1 50
2 doz. ladder straps .....	10 00
1 doz. belts .....	10 00
	<u>\$2,400 50</u>

**North Fire Apparatus**

1000-ft. 2½ in. hose .....	\$ 400 00
1 wagon .....	150 00
1 hose reel .....	30 00
4 underwriter's chemicals .....	35 00
1 steel box and axe .....	1 75
1 doz. Taber spanners .....	1 50
150 ft. ¾ in. rope .....	3 75
2 nozzles .....	35 00
1-40-foot extension ladder .....	35 00
Boiler and fixtures .....	225 00
	<u>\$ 917 00</u>

**South Fire Apparatus**

1 wagon .....	\$ 100 00
19 pails .....	5 00
1 rope .....	4 00
5 ladders .....	15 00
3 hooks .....	75
6 shovels .....	4 00
1 axe and bar .....	1 00
1 horse blanket .....	3 00
2 lanterns .....	50
6 chemical extinguishers .....	42-00
	<u>\$ 175 25</u>

**Westlands Fire Apparatus**

1 hose reel equipment .....	\$ 75 00
500 ft. 2½ in. hose .....	300 00
1 Boston play pipe .....	15 00
1 Callahan nozzle .....	15 00
6 chemicals .....	40 00
1 hydrant gate .....	9 00
	<u>\$ 454 00</u>

**East Chelmsford Fire Apparatus**

Wagon and chemicals .....	\$ 200 00
	<u>\$200 00</u>

EMILE E. PAIGNON,  
 PLINY C. BLISS,  
 Appraisers.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

During the past season the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished 110 forest and grass fires, the greater portion of which were reported to us by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robins Hill. Fifty-nine of these fires were caused by locomotive sparks, 47 from various causes such as careless smoking, hunters, boys, etc., and the other 5 were auto and chimney fires at which the Deputy Wardens have rendered valuable assistance. With few exceptions the forest fires have been confined to very small areas, although in some cases such as bog fires, constant watch has been necessary to prevent them breaking out anew. It has cost \$312.16 to extinguish the forest fires and the Town has received \$194.18 from parties responsible for fires, thus leaving a net expense to the Town of \$117.98. Over 300 permits to set fires in the open air have been issued during the past season.

Your attention is called to the new forest taxation law, its purpose being to increase the area of woodlands and prolong the life of trees. This act does not exempt timberland from paying its fair proportion of taxes but defers these taxes until the timber is cut at which time these accumulated taxes are taken in the form of a percentage of the stumpage value. This law is optional with the owner. If he desires its benefits he must apply to have his land registered by the Town Clerk. Registered land is not subject to ordinary taxation but is subject to three new taxes which do not amount to as much as the old tax. They are called the Forest Land Tax, Forest Commutation Tax, and Forest Product Tax. All registered land must pay the Forest Land Tax which is usually not assessed over eight or ten dollars an acre. The Commutation Tax is paid only on lots having wood large enough to cut when registered. The Forest Product Tax is paid when the wood or timber is cut and is a percentage of the stumpage value, from one to six per cent depending upon different conditions, such as length of time registered, etc.

There is also a new law Chapter 101, Acts of 1914, relative to disposal of slash or brush, following wood or lumber operations, a complete copy of which is printed below.

**Law relating to Disposal of Slash or Brush following Wood or Lumber Operations:**

1914, 101, Sect. 1. Every owner, tenant or occupant of land, and every owner of stumpage, who cuts or permits the cutting of wood or timber on woodland owned or occupied by him or on which he has acquired stumpage by purchase or otherwise, and which borders upon the woodland of another or upon a highway or railroad location, shall clear the land of the slash and brush wood then and there resulting from such cutting for such distance, not exceeding forty feet, from the woodland of such other person, highway or railroad location as the local forest warden shall determine, and within such time and in such manner as he shall determine.

Sect. 2. Any person who cuts or causes to be cut trees or brushes or undergrowth within the limits of any highway or public road shall dispose of the slash and brush wood then and there resulting from such cutting within such time and in such manner as the forest warden of the city or town wherein such cutting is done shall determine.

Sect. 3. Whoever neglects to comply with the directions of the forest warden with regard to the disposal of slash and brush, as provided in sections one and two of this act may be punished by a fine of not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars.

Sect. 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of January in the year nineteen hundred and fifteen.

**Forest Fire Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Deputy Fire Warden**  
Walter S. Holder

## *1915*

**Annual Town Meeting February 1, 1915**

Under Article 8.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 12.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.) for the purchase of fire hose and equipment for the North Chelmsford Fire Department.

Under Article 13.

Relative to a Fire Alarm Signal System for the Center Village, the Article was dismissed.

Under Article 16.

Voted that the Board of Selectmen be authorized at their discretion to let from time to time for social purposes the upper room of the fire-house at North Chelmsford to such persons and upon such terms as they may think advisable, the net rents to be paid over by the Selectmen to the Town Treasurer.

**Forest Warden's Report**

During the year 1915 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished 108 forest and grass fires, the greater portion of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robin Hill. Fifty-four of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the other fifty-four were caused by sparks from burning buildings, careless smoking, hunters, boys and by unknown causes.

Sixty-two forest fires or an average of two fires every day, occurred in March - the month of high winds, which is a very unusual occurrence. The records show that only eight forest fires have taken place in the month of March during the past eight years.

The deputy wardens have also rendered assistance at eight auto and chimney fires.

The expense of maintaining this department, including all supplies, extinguishing all forest and grass fires, as well as the expense incurred at the auto and house fires, has been \$539.65. The sum of \$145.36 has been paid or is due the town by parties responsible for fires thus leaving the net expense \$394.29.

About 325 permits have been issued to set fires in the open air between March 1 and December 1. Persons cutting wood, lumber or brush will find it much easier to comply with the law relative to the disposal of slash or brush during such cutting than to be required to dispose of it after cutting is completed. This law is printed in full in last year's town report.

**Report of the Board of Chelmsford Centre Fire Engineers**

The Fire Company was reorganized at the first meeting, April, 1915. The Company was made up of 15 active men, to receive \$5. a year for practice, and 10 call men, making a Company of 25 men, all being paid for the time they served at fires. The 15 active men included the fire engineers, and they held their practice every two weeks when the weather was favorable, with better results than previous years.

The Company has responded to 22 alarms from March 9 to November 22, 1915; 10 bell alarms and 12 telephone calls. There were numerous chimney fires caused by unclean chimneys, which the owners should look after.

The cost of fighting fires from March 9 to November 22, 1915 was \$233, of which \$17.60 was paid by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company.

The Department is handicapped by having no alarm system, which it needs very much. Also in some cases it is hard work to find horses in town to draw the apparatus to fires. This causes delay and in a great many cases results in the loss of buildings. If the Department could have an automobile combination truck, which could be got up by the Department at a small cost, the outside surrounding districts would have far better fire protection.

The fire engineers made a general inspection of all public buildings of the town and made recommendations to the selectmen and school board of advisable changes for better fire protection.

The following fires have occurred :

- March 9. Chimney fire at W. S. Lupien's.
- March 15. Chimney fire at Harry Adams'.
- March 16. Barn burned at Fred Hazen's.
- March 28. House fires at William Hardy's and Hildreth's.
- March 30. William Roper house (2 alarm fire).
- March 31. J. P. Emerson's house, Fletcher St.
- April 3. Chimney fire at Joe Trembly's.
- April 3. Chimney fire at Leonard Spaulding's.
- April 10. Chimney fire at Mr. Barton's.
- April 11. Fire at Mrs. A. H. Smith's, High St., caused by sparks from railroad.
- June 2J. House and barn at A. H. Park's, South Chelmsford.
- June 2J. Fire at Sadie Redman's, South Chelmsford.
- July. New York, New Haven & Hartford, passenger car.
- Sept. 9. Chimney fire at Mr. Fisher's.
- Sept. II. Chimney fire at Trembly's.
- Sept. 12. Auto fire at Littleton St.
- Nov. 22. Chimney fire at J. P. Emerson's house, Fletcher St.

This report does not cover the fires which occurred in the North Chelmsford water district.

**Forest Fire Warden**

Arnold C. Perham

**Deputy Fire Warden**

Walter S. Holder

**Fire Engineers**

Arthur W. House

Hubert H. Richardson

Arnold C. Perham

**Paid for fighting fires in 1915:**

Arnold C. Perham and 154 others, fire .... 246.69

Fred L. Fletcher and 33 others, fire .... 52.22

John Marinell, Jr., and 47 others, fire .... 35.18

W. S. Holder and 23 others, fire .... 24.05

George O. Spaulding and 11 others, fire .... 23.85

William Parlee and 11 others, fire .... 20.16

Sidney Dupee and 22 others, fire .... 13.60

Howard Swift and 9 others, fire .... 18.82

H. C. Shedd and 6 others, fire .... 7.20

James Hackett and 7 others, fire .... 6.45

J. F. Parker and 8 others, fire .... 8.30

Ralph Adams and 1 other, fire .... 4.46

William Johnson, fire .... 1.83

A. W. House .... 1.50

## 1916

**Annual Town Meeting February 7, 1916**

Under Article 8.

Relating to raising and appropriating money to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service, the article was dismissed.



Under Article 13.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for protection against fire in the West Village and other parts of the Town. The money to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

During the year 1916 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished thirty-five forest and grass fires the greater portion of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robin Hill. Ten of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by careless smoking, boys, hunters, etc.

A meeting was held in the town hall last March at which forest fires and forestry matters in general were discussed. It was called by the Forest Warden and attended by a State Deputy Fire Warden, Deputy Forest Wardens, Tree Warden and woodland owners.

According to forestry experts now working in this state a considerable value can be added to your woodlot by an intelligent handling of the growth therein. The following suggestions may help you bring this about.

Keep the area fully stocked. Cut out as fast as practical the poorer species such as red maple, grey birch, pine oak, and pitch pine and encourage the reproduction of better species as white pine, red oak, chestnut, ash and hard maple. So far as practical keep the stand uniform in size. Cut out the trees with large spreading crowns, such trees occupy sufficient space for several trees of better form. Cut out all mature and degenerating, trees or crooked or otherwise defective trees.

When the stand is so dense as to check the growth by crowding, thin lightly and often rather than heavy at long intervals. Do not thin so heavy that the crown will not close again in a year or so. So far as possible keep the forest floor shaded at all times. Guard against even the lightest ground at all times especially during dry seasons. Try to produce saw logs, telephone poles, railroad ties and fence posts etc. Cordwood as a rule is the most unprofitable disposition.

#### **Report of the Chelmsford Centre Fire Engineers**

In pursuance of our duties as Fire Engineers of the Town of Chelmsford, striving for better protection of lives and property against unnecessary and careless fires, we have made our second annual inspection of public buildings. We find the conditions in the buildings under your care to be fairly good.

The following recommendations and advisable changes are deemed by us to be necessary and we trust that you will endeavor to execute them:

- At the North Town Hall we found all the chemical extinguishers frozen solid; the janitor should be instructed that it is a part of his duties to prevent a recurrence.
- At the Centre Town Hall there should be another fire extinguisher.
- At the Town Farm house all unused and unneeded gas fixtures should be removed.
- If necessary to store ashes in the basement they should be enclosed by non-combustible material.
- There should be two more fire extinguishers at the Town Farm.
- Both Town Halls should have a galvanized iron barrel for storing all necessary light kindling material.

**Forest Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Deputy Fire Wardens**  
Walter S. Holder  
George O. Spalding

**Fire Engineers**  
Arnold C. Perham  
Arthur W. House

## *1917*

#### **Annual Town Meeting February 5, 1917**

Under Article 8.

Relating to raising and appropriating money to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service, the article was dismissed.

Under Article 22.

Relative to the purchase of motor fire apparatus and equipment, it was voted that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator and to report at the next Town Meeting. The Moderator appointed to serve on this committee: Arnold C. Perham, Patrick S. Ward and Wilbur E. Lapham.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 31, 1917**

Under Article 11.

Relative to the appropriation of money for the purchase of motor fire apparatus, the matter was recommitted to the existing committee to be reported at the next Annual Town Meeting. It was suggested that the committee be increased to five members and C. Frank Butterfield and Frederick A. Snow were appointed from the floor.

### Report of the Forest Warden

During the year 1917 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished 46 forest and grass fires, the majority of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robins Hill. Twenty of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by careless smoking, hunters, boys, careless brush burning, etc.

The State Forester has recently purchased the summit of Robins Hill in the name of the Commonwealth which is fortunate indeed for Chelmsford, if sufficient money is raised to erect the proposed 75 foot observatory. The Towns in this vicinity are asked to raise and appropriate money sufficient to erect said tower. This town is asked for \$300 as its share and I sincerely hope that the voters will see fit to vote this amount. The present tower was the first one erected in the state and was sort of an experiment to see if the erection of permanent towers was advisable. The value of such towers was soon evident and the state, with the help of adjoining towns, has established thirty such stations.

Since its erection the present tower has saved this town hundred of dollars annually in cost of extinguishing fires and damages that might have resulted therefrom. After a tower is erected the State pays all bills for maintaining the same. The proposed new tower will cost about \$2,000 and will be of steel construction with a stair-way leading to the room at the top.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

The Fire Engineers wish to submit the following report:

The Centre Fire Dept. has responded to eighteen alarms during the past year, all but two were chimney fires. We wish to call the attention of the residents of the town to see that their chimneys are clean and in good order as there will be a lot of wood burned, a large share of it being green. All fires in the town should be reported to the engineers so they can report to the State Police in accordance with the state fire laws.

No person shall keep store, manufacture or sell explosives in a building or other structure without obtaining a license from the Selectmen and a permit from the Chief of the State Police or the Fire Engineers of the town.

#### Paid for fighting fires in 1917:

	Arnold C. Perham, fire engineer and 39 others ....	103.53
	H. W. Sweetser, fire engineer and 21 others ....	60.10
	J. D. Ryan, fire engineer and 23 others ....	80.90
	John Marinel, Jr., fire engineer and 23 others ....	30.56
	A. W. House, fire engineer and 12 others ....	13.57
	Walter Merrill, fire engineer and 7 others ....	11.45
	Sidney Dupee, fire engineer and 9 others ....	12.85
	Fred Merrill, fire engineer and 8 others ....	9.50
	James P. Dunnigan, fire engineer and 5 others ....	5.60
	Fred L. Fletcher, fire engineer and 8 others ....	5.90
	George Shepherd, fire engineer ....	6.00
	H. C. Shedd, fire engineer and 5 others ....	3.80
	W. Parlee, fire engineer and 1 other ....	6.30
	Ralph Adams, fire engineer and 5 others ....	2.70
	W. Santamour, fire engineer ....	1.00

#### Forest Fire Warden

Arnold C. Perham

#### Fire Engineers

Arthur W. House

Arnold C. Perham

Clarence G. Nickles

## 1918

### Annual Town Meeting February 4, 1918

Under Article 9.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) to be expended by the State Forester to help defray the expense of erecting a forest fire observatory on Robin Hill in this town.

Under Article 10.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

Under Article 18.

Relative to the appropriation of money for motor fire apparatus for the Center Village, the article was dismissed.

Under Article 19.

Relative to the appropriation of money for the purchase of motor fire apparatus for the North Village, the article was dismissed.

### Report of Forest Warden

During the year 1918 the Forest Warden and Deputy Forest Wardens have extinguished seventy-six forest and grass fires, the majority of which were reported by the State Forest Fire Observer on Robins Hill. Thirty of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by careless smoking, boys, hunters, careless brush burning, etc. Five chimney fires and one auto fire were extinguished by the Deputy Wardens and valuable assistance was rendered at three building fires. Several extensive forest fires occurred last spring, due largely to the heavy growth of grass the previous year and the prevailing high winds. On May 8th, several large fires broke out in various parts of the town, one of which, the largest in town for several years, destroyed considerable cord wood and standing timber. This fire had to be guarded for three days until rain came.

The expense of maintaining this department during 1918, including all supplies and repairs, extinguishing forest and grass fires, as well as the expense incurred at chimney, auto and house fires, was \$688.54, a sum somewhat larger than the average of recent years. The sum of \$106.68 has been paid or is due the town by parties responsible for fires, thus leaving the net expense \$581.86. The property of the Town in charge of the Forest Warden is the same as last year, except for the loss of one fire extinguisher and box of extra charges, which were consumed in a building fire. About 400 permits to set fires in the open air were issued between March 1 and December 1, 1918.

The new forest fire observatory erected on Robins Hill during the past summer is the highest and best of any within the Commonwealth. It is 70 feet high, 40 feet higher than the old tower which it replaces. It is 27 feet by 27 feet at the base and the four uprights are securely fastened to cement piers. The total weight of the structure is estimated at 12 tons and the location is on a 50 by 50 foot plot of land owned by the state at the summit of the hill with a right of way thereto.

Most of the towns in northern Middlesex benefitted by the tower contributed to the cost of erection. Chelmsford bore the largest share, \$300, and the balance was paid by the state. The glass enclosed observation room on the new tower is ten by ten feet, and is in charge of Observer C. E. Blood, who will welcome all visitors who care to climb the winding stairs during the coming season. Because of conditions pertaining to the war, visitors were not allowed to visit the tower last season. The raising of money for lookout purposes on Robins Hill is not without precedent, for the Town raised and appropriated money to build a lookout house there in 1673, to discover and warn the people of approaching danger, probably from Indians. This new land mark on Robins Hill which replaces the older ones such as the lone pine tree, summit house, etc., is shown in the accompanying illustration.





The Robins Hill Fire Tower 1918-1938 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

The Fire Engineers wish to submit the following report: The Town has been very lucky in regard to fires the past year. The Center department had but three calls as a department but there were quite a number of chimney fires. We would like to call the attention of automobile owners as to housing their autos in barns, used as stables, or where hay is stored.

#### Forest Fire Warden

Arnold C. Perham

#### Fire Engineers

Arthur W. House, Chairman

Arnold C. Perham

#### Paid for fighting fires in 1918:

A. C. Perham and 154 others .... 341.59  
 J. D. Ryan and 28 others .... 104.45  
 H. W. Sweetser and 21 others .... 95.19  
 F. L. Fletcher and 13 others .... 45.00  
 H. M. Sturtevant and 39 others .... 67.36  
 W. H. Merrill and 24 others .... 36.60  
 A. W. House and 27 others .... 34.95  
 S. Dupee and 11 others .... 25.52  
 F. W. Merrill and 19 others .... 25.00  
 V. L. Parkhurst and 7 others .... 21.20  
 E. G. Fay .... 25.20  
 H. C. Merrill .... 14.05  
 James J. Hackett and 14 others .... 8.42  
 H. C. Shedd and 7 others .... 7.15  
 Geo. C. Spaulding and 1 other .... 7.26  
 Win. Parlee and 5 others .... 9.50  
 R. P. Adams and 2 others .... 3.30  
 L. Gaudette .... 2.00  
 D. Frank Small and 2 others .... 1.85

## 1919

### Annual Town Meeting February 3, 1919

Under Article 8.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) to be paid the North Chelmsford Fire District for hydrant service for the current year.

### Report of Forest Warden

During the year 1919, the Forest Warden and his deputies have extinguished sixty-seven forest and grass fires, the majority of which were reported by the State Observer on Robins Hill. Sixteen of these fires were caused by railroad locomotive sparks and the others by boys, hunters, careless smokers, etc. Five chimney fires were extinguished by the Deputy Wardens and they also rendered assistance at three building fires. The largest fire of the season was on August 5th, at the Carlisle town line. Considerable cord wood was destroyed and this fire had to be guarded for several days or until the next rain came.

The expense of maintaining this department during 1919, including all repairs and supplies, extinguishing forest and grass fires as well as the expense incurred at the house and chimney fires was \$552.14 which is \$136.40 less than last year. The sum of \$36.62 is now due the Town by parties responsible for fires, thus leaving the net expense \$515.52. The property of the Town in charge of the Forest Warden has recently been inspected and we find there is some need of repairs and some new tools will have to be purchased the coming year. The fire extinguishers which are scattered throughout the Town are for the use of any resident if occasion requires.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

During the year 1919 the Centre Fire Department answered four bell alarms, three of which were for house fires and one for a grass fire, also two fires on dumps and surrounding woods and a large number of chimney fires. Some of these chimneys were in bad shape and we notified the owners and saw to it that they were repaired. We would like to call the attention of the people to the fact, that defective chimneys and the accumulation of rubbish cause about nine-tenths of the fires.

There was a great deal of confusion in regard to notifying the department in case of fire, so we had a notice put in the morning Courier-Citizen, telling what to do in case of fire. Below is a copy of the notice:

In case of fire, call by telephone the following, plainly giving name, location, whether grass or house fire:

#### Night

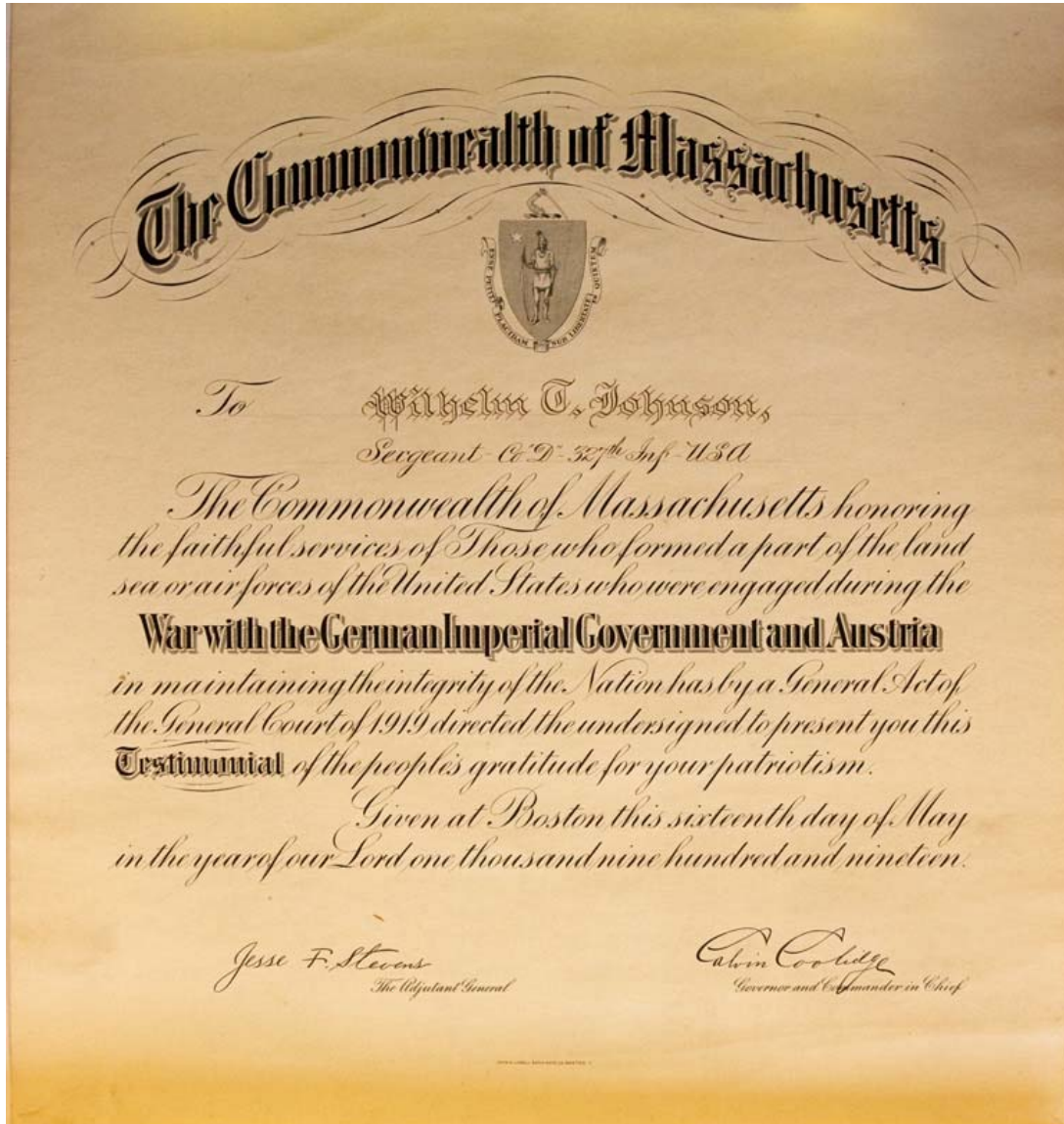
- C. O. Rollins—Tel. 5204-W
- V. L. Parkhurst—Tel. 4026-R

**Daytime**

- C. O. Rollins—Tel. 5204-W
- Chelmsford Garage—Tel. 5690
- Falls' Drug Store—Tel. 8703-R
- S. W. Parkhurst—Tel. 8703-M

**Forest Fire Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham

**Fire Engineers**  
Walter Fletcher  
Edgar G. Fay  
Wilhelm Johnson



Testimonial for Sergeant Wilhelm T. Johnson dated May 16, 1919 and signed by Governor and Commander in Chief Calvin Coolidge  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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# 1920



## Report of Board of Fire Engineers

Gentlemen: During the year of 1920 the Centre Fire Department has answered six bell alarms, five of which were for buildings and one for a brush fire. The Department also answered six telephone alarms, all chimney fires, except one, which was a building.

The Department has done very good work considering the equipment with which they have to work. We have no doubt that if given proper equipment, we would have a very efficient department.

We again caution the people to give their chimneys a little attention and avoid fires which are liable to cause considerable property loss.

In case of fire call by telephone the following, plainly giving name, location, whether grass or house fire:

### Night

C. O. Robbins—Tel. 5204-W  
Walter Fletcher—Tel. 4028-Y

### Daytime

C. O. Robbins—Tel. 5204-W  
Chelmsford Garage—Tel. 5690  
Falls Drug Store—Tel. 8703-R  
S. W. Parkhurst—Tel. 8703-M

## Report of the Forest Warden

During the year, 1920, there were fifty-five forest and grass fires in town, of which twenty-five were railroad fires and the remainder started from various causes. The Deputy Wardens have also assisted at several chimney, building and auto fires.

The expense of extinguishing the fires together with the cost of supplies, etc., has been \$418.06 of which \$82.98 has been paid or is due the town by parties responsible for the fires.

About four hundred fifty permits were issued for fires between March 1st and December 1st.

Don't forget the Slash Law which requires you to clear the slash forty feet away from your neighbors lot or the highway.

**Chief**  
W. S. Fletcher

**Captain**  
W. T. Johnson

**Lieutenant**  
G. H. Morton

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
W. S. Fletcher  
W. T. Johnson  
G. H. Morton

**Forest Warden**  
A. C. Perham

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# 1921

## Annual Town Meeting February 14, 1921

Under Articles 8 and 9.

The first relative to raising and appropriating a sum of money for motor fire apparatus for North Village and the second relative to a fire house at West Chelmsford, it was voted that a Committee consisting of Joseph D. Ryan, William T. Picken, Loren J. Ellinwood, Charles Finnick, Wilhelm Johnson, Arnold C. Perham, and Emile E. Paignon be chosen to thoroughly investigate the whole matter of fire protection and report with recommendations and estimated cost at a special meeting of the Town to be held not later than June 4, 1921.

Under Article 10.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$600.00 to be expended by the Selectmen for the purpose of supplying the Chelmsford Fire Department with additional fire equipment.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 27, 1921**

Under Article 16.

The Committee on Fire Protection reported. The report was tabled pending action on Article 17. The report was later taken from the table, accepted and a vote of thanks extended to the Committee.

Under Article 17.

Voted that the Town authorize and direct a Special Committee consisting of Joseph D. Ryan, William T. Picken, Loren J. Ellinwood, Charles Finnick, Wilhelm Johnson, Arnold C. Perham and Emile E. Paignon to procure additional motor fire apparatus and equipment at a cost not to exceed in all the sum of \$15,000.00, and that the Town raise and appropriate therefor the sum of \$1,600.00 and borrow the balance at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually, and issue therefor five promissory notes, each for the principal sum of one-fifth of the total amount borrowed, payable at the expiration of one, two, three, four and five years from the date thereof, such note or notes, to be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by a majority of the Board of Selectmen. Upon this motion 180 voted in favor and none against.

Under Article 18.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 for the purpose of installing a suitable fire alarm at Chelmsford Center and said sum to be expended by a committee of three appointed by the Finance Committee. The Committee appointed Walter Fletcher, Wilhelm Johnson and Raymond C. Haseltine.

Under Article 19.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$2,000.00 to meet the expense of maintaining the Fire Department for the current year.

Under Article 20.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$400.00 for the purpose of making necessary repairs and improvements to the several fire houses of the Town.

#### **Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

In the month of June, 1921, your Board of Selectmen, acting under the authority granted you by the statutes of the Commonwealth, appointed this your first Board of Fire Engineers, consisting of three members.

This Board of Engineers, after taking their oath of office, organized by appointing Arnold C. Perham as chief of the department. Loren J. Ellinwood as first assistant engineer and John E. Hogan as second assistant engineer. John E. Hogan was appointed as clerk of the board.

This Board of Fire Engineers is the administrative authority of the fire department, and has general supervision and expenditure of the appropriations made for the fire department.

At the time it came into authority, there was no general system of fire department organization in effect in town. We have formulated and put in practice a plan as the foundation for the present and future orderly and efficient conduct of the department.

We have divided the town area into five districts, with one piece of motorized equipment located in each district. This arrangement provides each district with equipment and an organized and trained force to suppress a fire in its incipency, or to check a fire until additional aid can arrive from other districts, each or all of which is always subject to call if needed by any district threatened by fire.

The motorized equipment furnished by the town was recommended by an Investigating Committee, appointed by vote of the regular town meeting in February, 1921, and bought for the town by a Purchasing Committee, appointed by the vote of the town at a special town meeting held in May, 1921.

District No. 1 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 1, and is equipped with a double tank combination chemical and hose car motorized.



1921 American LaFrance Motor Fire Truck No. 1, Chelmsford Center  
(1922 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

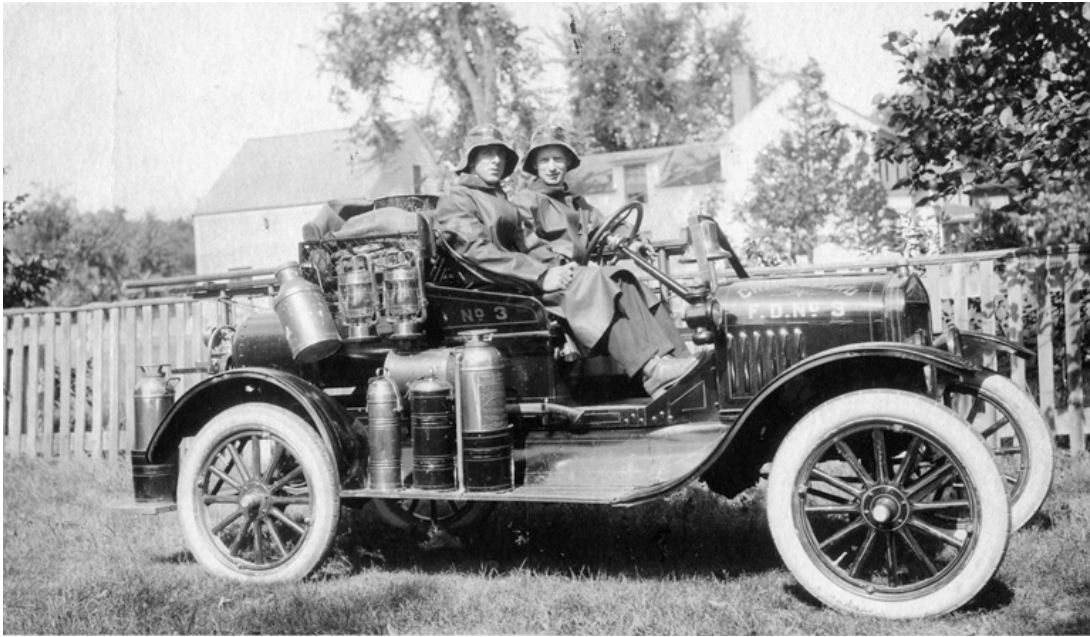
District No. 2 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 2, and is equipped with a triple combination (pump, hose, chemical) car motorized.



1921 Brockway Motor Fire Truck No. 2, the first at Mount Pleasant Street firehouse in North Chelmsford  
District chief Joseph Ryan at the wheel (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

District No. 3 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 3 and slight changes, and is equipped with a double tank chemical car motorized.





1921 Ford Auto Fire Truck No. 3, first in West Chelmsford  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

District No. 4 comprises territory known as Precinct No. 4, and is equipped with a double tank chemical car motorized.



1921 Ford Model T Chemical Wagon No. 4, first in East Chelmsford  
District Chief Henry G. Quinn driving with George McNulty riding the rear step  
(1922 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

District No. 5 comprises all the territory of Chelmsford bounded as follows: Beginning at an iron pin set in rock at top of Robin Hill, thence in a straight line to Chelmsford-Westford road stone at Chamberlin's Corner Road, near Ward's Corner, thence along Chelmsford-Westford town line to Carlisle line, thence along Carlisle line to Chelmsford-Carlisle road stone on Carlisle Road, thence in a straight line to point of beginning. This district is equipped with a double tank chemical car motorized.



1921 Ford Auto Fire Truck No. 5, first in South Chelmsford  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The equipment of Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 5 is each housed in property owned by the town. The equipment of Districts No. 3 and No. 4 is each housed in rented property.

Districts No. 1 and No. 2 each have a permanent man who cares for the equipment and property a certain number of hours each day and is subject to call and service if emergency arises during 24 hours of the day, for each of the seven days per week.

A local fire fighting organization has been established in each district, each with its proper officers and regular and call men trained by practice to its duties. Each local organization is part of the component whole - the Chelmsford Fire Department - and is subject to the statutes of the Commonwealth and the printed rules and regulations established by this board of engineers.

Read the 1921 [Rules and Regulations of the Chelmsford Fire Department](#) (a searchable PDF document)

The district chiefs of each company are appointed annually by the Board of Engineers on or before May 15, to hold office until the following May 1, or until their successors are appointed, unless sooner removed by said Board of Engineers.

The district chiefs appointed by us during our term of office to date, are:

- District No. 1, Walter S. Fletcher, Chelmsford Centre.
- District No. 2, Joseph D. Ryan, North Chelmsford.
- District No. 3, Elmer Trull, West Chelmsford.
- District No. 4, Henry Quinn, East Chelmsford.
- District No. 5, William E. Belleville, South Chelmsford.

At present our plan for emergency fire alarms comprises the use of church bells at the Centre, North and South villages. West Chelmsford and East Chelmsford companies have, by public subscription, raised funds and installed an electric siren fire alarm in each respective village. We hope to see a system of electric fire alarm gradually and prudently established throughout the town.

The establishment of this equipped and organized department should place the property of our citizens in a higher insurance classification, which will mean lower insurance rates and save the tax payers more than the cost of the equipment and the maintenance of the department.

The buildings owned by the town where the fire equipment is housed will require some slight necessary repairs. Some time in the future the need of improved buildings for the department equipment and organizations will require attention.

Since our appointment to this board the department has been called to fifteen fires, classified as follows: Six automobile fires in the streets and highways, seven building fires, one bridge fire, one lumber pile fire. The total loss by these fires was about \$7,740.00. The value of property endangered was about \$38,775.00.

Emergency instruction cards giving instructions what to do and how to notify their company in event of fires in District No. 3 have been printed and distributed to each family by the West Chelmsford organization of that district. We hope to

have similar instruction cards printed and distributed in each of the other districts, advising their inhabitants what to do and how to get prompt assistance from their respective companies in event of need.

While this department is to a certain extent subject to the statutes of the Commonwealth it is essentially a volunteer department, and some of its reliability and service depends upon the business management by a Board of Engineers. Much also depends upon the loyalty and service of the citizen members of the several companies constituting the department. Service and sacrifice are elements of the highest type of citizenship.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

In the past year, the expense of extinguishing forest fires has been somewhat greater than in other years, owing to the fact that there were 118 fires, as compared to only 55 for the year 1920. There were 20 fires caused by sparks from locomotives, which were extinguished by the forest warden or his deputies, for which the Railroads will reimburse the town about \$30.00.

Of the appropriations of \$500 and \$250, there is a balance which reverts to the town of \$131.06, which compares favorably with other years and makes the average cost per fire \$5.23 for 1921, against \$7.60 for 1920.

The law in regard to permits is, that a permit to start a fire in the open air is required after the first day of MARCH and from then until the first day of December.

The slash law now in effect requires that all slash resulting from cutting shall be removed at least 40 feet back from edge of cutting and forty feet back from edge of any road or highway.

**Chief**

Arnold C. Perham

**First Assistant Engineer**

Lorin J. Ellinwood

**Second Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

John E. Hogan

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Walter S. Fletcher

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Elmer Trull

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 William E. Belleville

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Loren J. Ellinwood

John E. Hogan

**Forest Warden**

Herbert. M. Sturtevant

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**1922**

**Annual Town Meeting February 13, 1922**

Under Article 20.

Voted that the Town borrow the sum of \$2850 with which to purchase a site, on the Frank Loucraft lot, so-called, situated on Gorham Street, East Chelmsford, for and build a fire station at East Chelmsford, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually, and issue therefor five promissory notes, each for the principal sum of one-fifth of the total amount borrowed, payable at the expiration of one, two, three, four and five years from the date thereof; such note or notes to be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by a majority of the Board of Selectmen. 112 voted Yes and one voted No. Building committee chosen were, Henry F. Devine, A. Samuel Gustafson, George A. McNulty, K. Wilson Dix, Birger Peterson, Joseph H. Scoble and Henry G. Quinn.





1922 East Chelmsford Fire Station on Gorham Street (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Under Article 22.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$600 for the purchase of fire hose, the same to be expended under the general direction of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 23, voted that the Board of Fire Engineers be and they hereby are authorized and empowered to sell at public auction or private sale, as they may think advisable, the following property belonging to the Town, viz. : Two hose reels, one harness, two wagons, and a small building located near North Chelmsford Town Hall.



Old hand tub pumper storage shed on right side of North Town Hall (Chelmsford Public Library Collection)

Under Article 24.

Voted that the Board of Fire Engineers be and they hereby are authorized and empowered to use and store the fire apparatus and other property in their charge from time to time in such part or parts of the Town as they may think advisable.

**Special Town Meeting May 18, 1922**

Under Article 3.

Voted to raise and appropriate from money in the hands of the Treasurer, the sum of \$36.83 with which to pay outstanding bills of the Fire Department for the year ending Dec. 31, 1921.

#### **Special Town Meeting July 27, 1922**

Under Article 8.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 with which to equip the new fire house now under construction at East Chelmsford.



1922 East Fire Station and Auto Truck No. 4 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

Last year, the Board of Engineers divided the territory of the Town into five districts and placed the motorized apparatus furnished by the Town, one piece of apparatus in each district. This arrangement has been continued this year. The location and description of each piece of apparatus was explained in our annual report of 1921. This arrangement provides each district with motorized equipment and an organized company to suppress a fire in its early stage, or to check a fire until additional aid can arrive from other districts each or all of which is always subject to call if needed by any district threatened by fire. Each company is organized with proper officers and each company has its own social organization and is provided with an apartment for its social activities.

Emergency cards giving instruction what to do to notify each local company in case of fire have been printed and distributed in each district to each and every family.

During the year the Board has purchased 1300 ft. of new standard size fire hose to replace the hose inherited from a previous organization which hose had become useless because of age and service.

For the better protection, care and economy of handling the costly apparatus in District No. 1, the apparatus in that district has been removed from the old fire house in the rear of the Town Hall and is now stationed in the new, modern Chelmsford garage at the Centre Village.





1922 American LaFrance Engine 1 at Chelmsford Square Garage in Central Square  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The nucleus of a Gamewell system of fire alarm with its striking hammer attached to the bell of the Unitarian Church in the Centre village has been installed in that District by a special committee appointed at Town Meeting in 1922. We hope to see this system gradually and economically extended.

Vice-President Calvin Coolidge, while Governor of this Commonwealth, said, "Work worth while comes from the soul of the people." The loyalty, courage and service of the members of the Chelmsford Fire Department fighting fires during the past year are a splendid vindication of that principle. We give them deserved praise. The campaign against fire is a never ending fight and calls for as careful preparation as for the suppression of an enemy of civilization. The protection must come not merely from better fire departments and building laws, but from educating every family and every member of every family to recognize causes of danger, and to practice habits of consideration and carefulness. If this could be done, fire would almost cease to be a public peril.

With this need in mind we have been seeking wisdom from sources of wider experience than ours. As there is not space in this report to furnish you the valuable information that we have secured, we earnestly advise each family in Chelmsford to send 10 cents to Frederic J. Haskins, Director of the U. S. Information Bureau, Washington, D. C., and procure a publication entitled, "Safeguarding the Home Against Fire." We also earnestly advise every farmer in Chelmsford to send to same address and procure Bulletin No. 904, entitled, "Fire Protection on the Farm." A study of the publications issued by our Government at Washington is an education both to the adult and the child and should serve to make better citizenship and prevent much loss of property by fires.

The owners of property located away from water pressure service, and the farmer, can help this department to protect their property in time of fire on said property, by excavating a good size pocket in the brook near their buildings, thus making a reservoir of water accessible to our pumping apparatus so we can have a supply of water to force a stream on fire endangered property. When such reservoir is completed, each owner should notify the Board of Fire Engineers of its exact location.

For months we have been working to get lower fire insurance rates for the property owners of Chelmsford because of the Town having installed motorized fire fighting apparatus. The result is lower fire insurance rates now in effect as follows :

- Property insured in the water districts of Chelmsford Centre and North Chelmsford is now in class C (raised from class D) giving lower rates.
- Property located within one mile of the fire stations of East Chelmsford, South Chelmsford and West Chelmsford is now insured in class E (raised from class F) giving lower rates.

The best test of a system is what it accomplishes. The Chelmsford Fire Department has saved more taxable property from destruction by fire during the year than the cost of all the apparatus. Have faith in your Fire Department. It is saving you fire insurance money each year now, and with its motorized apparatus and organization is protecting your property from the fire hazard.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

Gentlemen : The season of 1922 was the worst on record for forest fires in the Town as well as in the State, owing to the extremely high winds. That we had no serious fires was very fortunate. This was due in several instances to the



assistance rendered by the new fire apparatus. I wish to thank the fire department for the help given to the Forest Warden and I hope, and recommend, that the two departments may be merged and brought under one head.

The balance of the appropriation, after the fire season, has been spent for supplies and repairs for next season.

Owing to other business I regret to say that I will be unable to continue as Forest Warden for the Town but will gladly render what assistance I can. in the future.

**Chief**

Arnold C. Perham

**First Assistant Engineer**

Lorin J. Ellinwood

**Second Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

John E. Hogan

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Archibald Cooke

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 William E. Belleville

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Loren J. Ellinwood

John E. Hogan

**Forest Warden**

Herbert M. Sturtevant

## 1923



1923 July 4th Parade with the 1921 American LaFrance Engine 1 passing in front of the First Parish Church  
District No. 1 Chief Wilhelm T. Johnson in the truck with Ray Sargent behind the wheel  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting February 12, 1923

Under Article 8.

Voted to appropriate from money already in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$78.55 with which to reimburse the North Chelmsford Fire District for accidental damage to a hydrant on or about September 19, 1922. at North Chelmsford by an automobile driven by a Special Officer of the Town while in the performance of his official duties.

Under Article 21.

Voted that the Town accept the provisions of Section G Chapter 148 of the General Laws relating to fire prevention.

### Special Town Meeting April 30, 1923

Article 3, at the request of the Westlands Improvement Association, to see if the Town will authorize the use of a portion of the Westlands School property adjacent to the land known as the Curtin Place on the Dalton Road as a site

for the Fire House now located on Chelmsford Street near the "Subway," so-called; or act in relation thereto. It was voted to dismiss this Article.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

This, our report for the year 1923, is a plain tale of what we have been doing to guide your Fire Department into durable and permanent service for the fire protection of the town. It also contains information and instruction that should aid this department to function effectively and prudently.

The same district locations of the five pieces of motorized apparatus have been continued as in previous years because that arrangement gave the most prompt and effective service to each district in time of fire peril. The district companies have held practice drills at intervals during the summer months, that each fireman may know his duty to perform when required to meet conditions of an actual fire. This practice experience has produced prompt, intelligent action in time of real need—it helped to avoid confusion.

In pursuance of our duties as Fire Engineers of the Town, we have made a general inspection of the public schools and town halls, and have submitted our recommendations to the proper officials for what we consider protective action regarding those Town properties.

The hose house at the Westlands has been removed to a new location and some repairs made to it.

Necessary repairs have been made to the fire station at South Chelmsford.

The new fire station at East Chelmsford has not been turned over to the authority of this Board, but we have made arrangements with the Building Committee so that the new building is now used by the local company for housing of the chemical truck of that district.



1922 East Fire Station Ford Model T Chemical Wagon No. 4, District Chief Henry G. Quinn driving  
George McNulty riding the rear step (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

We have purchased 500 feet of new standard fire hose to replace hose that, because of long life and use, has become unfit for dependable fire service.

The lower insurance rates procured last year for the property owners continue in force.

While we realize that it is the duty of the Fire Department to suppress and extinguish all fires, we also realize that it is the duty of this Board to urge that precautions be taken to avoid fires, that our citizens should avoid causes of danger by removing dangerous conditions. Fewer fires would occur if the people were more careful with matches, lighted cigarettes, kerosene, and unclean chimneys. Experience should teach us Caution, Prudence, Prevention.

In a majority of fires a quick response with chemicals plays a more important role than water streams which sometimes entail much damage from water alone. Your firemen are instructed in working to keep down the water damage, but they cannot do this unless they get the alarm in time to use chemicals, otherwise the use of water will become necessary. An improved fire alarm system through the town is a needed addition for dependable quick response by the department.

Our State Laws require every proprietor who stores or sells gasoline, or conducts a public garage, to obtain a license from the Board of Selectmen and a permit from the Fire Department chief. Storage or sale of fireworks, firecrackers and torpedoes, requires a permit from the fire chief. Your attention is called to the State Law governing the keeping, storage and use of oil in buildings in connection with light fuel oil heating apparatus. A permit from the fire chief is required for all installations having a storage capacity over twenty gallons of oil, and no light fuel oil burner shall be used unless it has been approved by the State fire marshal. Permits are also required from the fire chief for the removal of storage tanks which have been used for gasoline.

Careful consideration should be given the Centre and North villages regarding new fire stations and their locations. The locations should be decided first, then, when building costs permit, the new houses should have serious consideration. We suggest that a small committee be carefully chosen to investigate conditions and report to the Town at a later Town meeting.

The only costly fire that we had to lose was the Boston ice houses at Crystal Lake, North Chelmsford. The ice houses were a total loss. The conditions were such that all the fire apparatus in Massachusetts could not have saved the burning buildings. We only saved the large barn and contents.



Boston Ice Company ice houses at Crystal Lake (Chelmsford Public Library Collection)

### Report of the Forest Warden

During the past year the work of the Forest Warden Dept. and the Fire Dept. has been combined as much as possible. The district fire chiefs were each appointed deputy forest wardens in their districts, with authority to issue fire permits and have charge of all forest fires. They were instructed to co-operate with the fire observer on Robin Hill and to extinguish the brush and grass fires in their districts with as little expense as possible. Most fires were handled by a few men rather than by the whole fire company and the fire trucks were not used except when the fire was of a threatening character.

Four deputy forest wardens other than the district fire chiefs were appointed as follows: Donald Adams, Fred L. Fletcher, Walter Merrill and Fred Merrill, and did good co-operative work in their different localities.

About 350 permits were issued for fires in the open air. Several fire calls were received where persons were found to be burning brush without the necessary permit and in each case the parties paid the expense of extinguishing the fire rather than go to court. Permits are required from March 1 to December 1.

There were 74 fires during the year, of which 37 were grass fires and 37 were brush and woodland fires. Twenty-seven of the fires were caused by the railroad locomotives.

An inspection of all the property of the department was made late in December. It seems quite probable that an auto truck would be advisable in the near future for this department.

**Chief**  
Arnold C. Perham

**District Chiefs**  
No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

**Forest Warden**  
Arnold C. Perham



**Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Lorin J. Ellinwood

**Assistant Engineer**

John E. Hogan

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Archibald Cooke

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Arnold C. Perham

Loren J. Ellinwood

John E. Hogan

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

Donald Adams

Fred L. Fletcher

Walter Merrill

Fred Merrill

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## 1924

**Annual Town Meeting February 11, 1924**

Under Article 1.

To hear reports of Officers and Committees: For the East Chelmsford Fire House Building committee Henry Devine reported that all moneys had been spent and that the building was completed, the report was accepted.

Under Article 35.

Voted that the sum of two thousand (\$2000.00) dollars be raised and appropriated for the purpose of installing and improving the fire alarm system and equipment of the Town said sum to be expended by a committee of three appointed by the moderator. Arnold Perham, Loren Ellinwood and John J. Hogan were appointed as a committee.

Under Article 36.

Voted that a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator to investigate and report at the next Town meeting relative to the purchase of land for fire house sites. Perley W. Kimball, David Billson and M. Edward Riney were appointed as a committee.

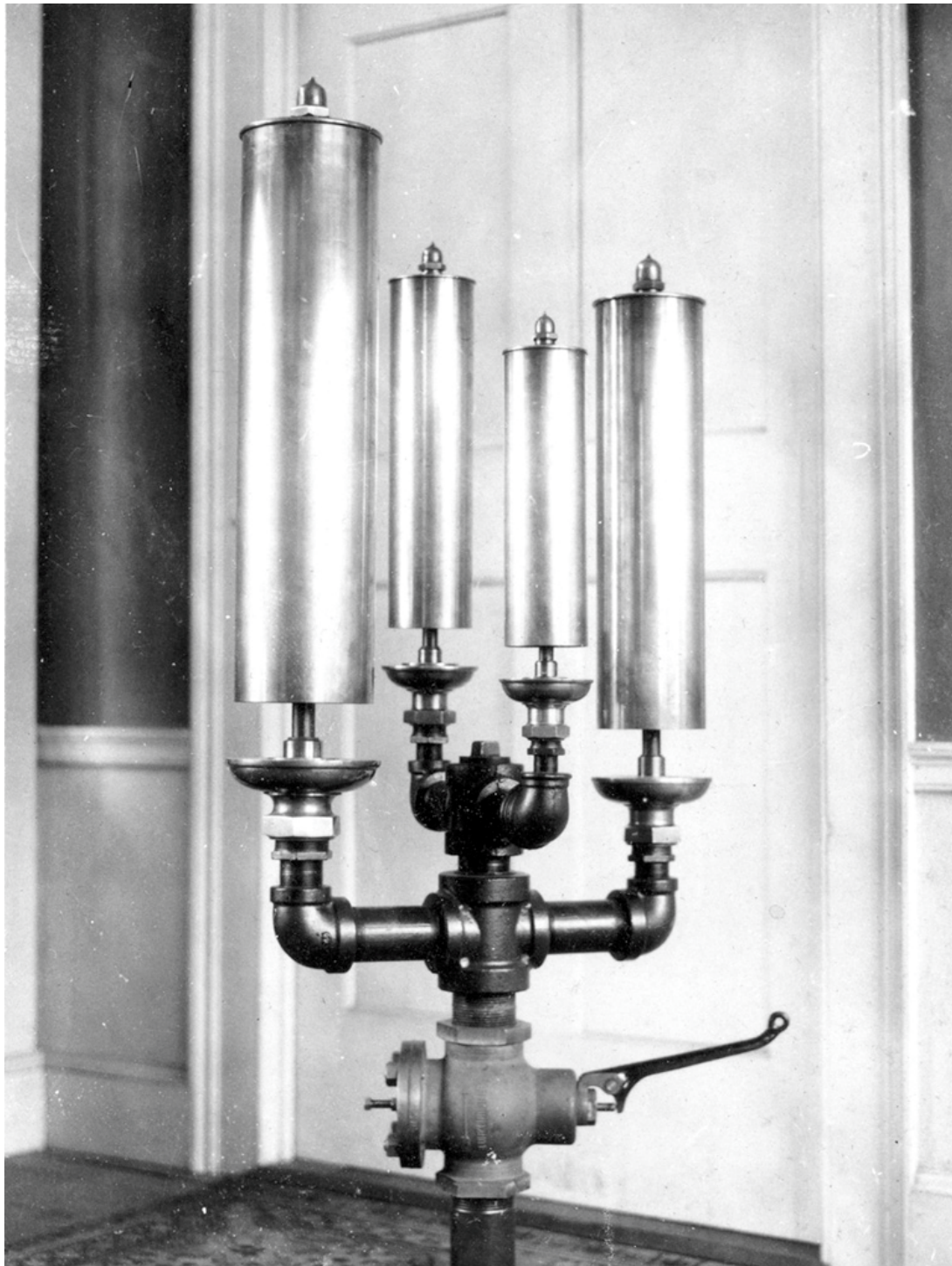
**Special Town Meeting May 19, 1924**

Under Article 1.

Voted that the Fire Engineers be and they are hereby authorized to sell either at public auction or by advertised bids, the old Fire Wagon now kept at South Chelmsford.

Under Article 11.

Voted to accept as a gift from the Village Improvement Association of the Centre Village the Fire Whistle and equipment already installed in the Centre Town Hall.



The fire whistle donated by the Village Improvement Association for Town Hall  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The original plan of four years ago, of locating one motorized fire truck in each of the five villages of our town has been justified by results because in the event of fire menace in any village the local truck is there to furnish immediate service and its presence has saved much property by quickly attacking fires in their early stages. Again, if any of these fire trucks should be removed from any village, up would go the insurance rates of that locality to their former level before your department was installed there.

The five pieces of motorized apparatus are in splendid mechanical condition - ready at all times for immediate and strenuous service. The several companies of the department have held practice drills at intervals during the year, that each man may understand his duties and acquire skill and speed in his effective performance in time of actual fires.

The lower insurance rates procured by the installation of your fire department for the property owners continues in force, and yet lower rate may be obtained later by improved fire station buildings, fire alarm extensions and service. Plans for the improvement of the fire alarm conditions and service have been placed in operation.

Last year (1923) the Village Improvement Society of Chelmsford Center installed in the town hall of that district a powerful whistle with electric motor, air compressor and two air tanks for the fire service, and presented the same to the Town. A splendid example of what united effort can generously accomplish for the public service.



The 1923 air tanks for the Town Hall fire whistle (2009 photo by Fred Merriam)

This year, at the last Annual Town Meeting, \$2000.00 was appropriated for the installation of a fire alarm system. With this money your Board of Fire Engineers has purchased and installed in the Center and in the North villages the basis of a Gamewell Fire Alarm System as described herein.

For the Center village this Board has purchased and installed a Motor Generator Set, a two circuit switch board, a transmitter, an iron battery rack with 30 cell battery, one outside street fire alarm box, which with the air compressor, air tanks and whistle equipment given the town last year by the local village improvement society provides this district with the basis of a modern fire alarm system.

For the North village this Board has purchased and installed a Motor Generator Set, a two circuit switch board, a transmitter, an iron battery rack with 30 cell battery, a whistle machine, and one outside street fire alarm box. In this district the Silesia Mills of the United States Worsted Co. furnish the steam power and the whistle for the fire alarms during all of the 24 hours of every day of the year at no expense to the town, which is another splendid act of generous public service.

In addition to these public spirited acts the Middlesex County Training School, Geo. C. Moore Wool Scouring Co., Proctor Lumber Co., Southwell Wool Combing Co. of the North district have each furnished an outside street fire alarm box and the funds to wire and install the same. These boxes are now being installed and connected with the North circuit and will soon be available to the fire service of that district for public needs. The men of the fire service of this district are now installing these boxes and doing the necessary wiring at no expense to the town.

The final purchase and installation of this basic alarm system for the North district was made possible only because the members of the North Chelmsford Fire Company made a present of \$500.00 to this Board, giving this sum from their Company Treasury. Another example of generous public spirit in your fire department. We used this money in the North district alarm system.

This installation of fire alarm system is a definite advance for the protection of life and property from fires in Chelmsford - it produces a quicker and more dependable arrival of motorized apparatus in these districts - it strengthens the position for more favorable insurance rates later - it should attract private, commercial and industrial investment to Chelmsford. This fire alarm equipment of both the Center and the North districts should be economically, gradually,



annually, extended by additional boxes in the streets, eventually becoming an effective, modern system without sudden large expense to the taxpayers.

The Ladder House in the West village which was built in 1886 was ordered removed by the owners of the land on which it was located, and it has been taken away and rebuilt on the property of Mr. L. J. Ellinwood at the West fire station.

This Board has purchased 400 feet of new 2 1/2 inch fire hose to improve our fire fighting strength and to replace old hose worn by service.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

The Forest Warden and Fire Departments have continued the same co-operative plan as last year. The District Fire Chiefs were appointed Deputy Forest Wardens in their districts, with authority to issue fire permits and have charge of the forest and grass fires. Most fires were handled by a few men, rather than by the whole fire company, and the fire trucks were not used unless conditions seemed to require them. Four deputy Forest wardens, other than the district Fire chiefs were appointed, namely: Allan Adams, Fred L. Fletcher, Walter Merrill and Fred Merrill. All have done good work.

About 400 permits for fires in the open were issued between March 1st and December 1st. The deputy wardens have responded to 129 fires during the year, a much larger number than usual. The prompt response to the fire calls, which usually come from the Fire Observer on Robin's Hill, when the fire first starts, have kept the fires very small and loss from same has not exceeded \$250.00. Fifty-two fires were caused by engine sparks and the others by the carelessness of boys, berry pickers and smokers, with a few exceptions from fireworks and bonfires. Sixty-seven were grass fires, and 62 bonfires or brush and woodland fires All fires have been reported to the State Fire Warden and notices have been posted as required by law. Fires were located as follows: Fire District No. 1, 67; No. 2, 18; No. 3, 2; No. 4, 10; No. 5, 32.

<p><b>Chief</b> Arnold C. Perham</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer and Clerk</b> Lorin J. Ellinwood</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer</b> John E. Hogan</p>	<p><b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Archibald Cooke No. 4 Henry G. Quinn No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee</p> <p><b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Arnold C. Perham Loren J. Ellinwood John E. Hogan</p>	<p><b>Forest Warden</b> Arnold C. Perham</p> <p><b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Allan Adams Fred L. Fletcher Walter Merrill Fred Merrill</p>
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## 1925



Read Hall was the administration building for the Middlesex Training School complex on Princeton Street. It was restored after this circa 1925 fire (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting February 9, 1925

Under Article 17.

To hear the report and act on the same of the Committee appointed under Article 36 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the year 1924 for the purpose of investigating and to report their recommendations as to the purchase of land for additional fire house sites. This Committee reported as follows: This Committee visited the different Villages of the Town and found South Chelmsford and East Chelmsford satisfactory as far as fire house sites are concerned, West Chelmsford should have a suitable one when a suitable location can be found, this department now houses the apparatus in a private building which is satisfactory for the present. It seemed to the Committee that the North Village and the Centre Village are in need of immediate attention, the present fire house in the North Village is not located near enough to the center of the village for efficient results from a department made up of volunteers, nor its location satisfactory for quick action in protecting the village, we therefore recommend the purchase of a new site nearer the square.

The apparatus at the Centre Village is now housed in a public garage which is very satisfactory, but may not be available much longer, we were unable to secure a suitable site in the Centre Village and recommend that since the new grammar school is to be built that the present building be used as a fire house. There is an article in the Warrant relative to this which will come up later, this report was presented by Perley W. Kimball for the Committee who consist of Perley W. Kimball, M. Edward Riney and David Billson. The report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

Under Article 18.

Voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2200.00 with which to purchase land owned by Walter Marinel on Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford to be used for a fire house site. A hand vote was taken and 102 voted in the affirmative and 100 voted in the negative.

Under Article 19.

Voted that a Committee consisting of Arnold C. Perham, John E. Hogan and Loren J. Ellinwood be and hereby are appointed to purchase the land under the vote taken under Article 18 of this meeting.

Under Article 36.

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1000.00 for the purpose of improving the Fire Alarm System and extending the same.

Under Article 37.

Voted that the Town purchase an additional Chemical Truck for the Fire Dept. to be located at East Chelmsford and authorize the Board of Fire Engineers to turn in the present Chemical Truck belonging to the Town now located there, as part payment for such new truck, and that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$3250.00 with which to pay the balance of the purchase price.

#### **Special Town Meeting May 5, 1925**

Under Article 1.

On a motion made by John C. Monahan, that this article be left with the Board of Fire Engineers to report on at the next Annual Town Meeting, an amendment was made to the motion that the Engineers also study and report the needs of South Chelmsford and West Chelmsford Fire Departments, the amendment was carried and it was so voted.

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The Fire Alarm System in the Town has been greatly improved in the last year. In the Centre and Westland the necessary wiring has been completed for the future installation of more street alarm boxes. At the corner of Billerica and Wilson streets there has been a master box installed. In the West Village the men of the fire service are now installing a box (to be located in the square) and doing the necessary wiring to connect with the North Village system.

A new siren was purchased for District No. 4. This and one taken from the local fire house were installed at the school house.

In the East Village a Federal-Knight double tank chemical car was purchased, later a tank was taken from the Ford chemical car and installed on the new truck, making a three-tank chemical car, thus giving much better fire protection for District No. 4. The Board thinks that careful consideration should be given the Centre and West Villages regarding new fire house sites.



This is the 1925 Federal Knight double tank chemical car purchased for East Chelmsford Gilbert H. Perham is seen here circa 1935 after the truck had been transferred to the Forest Warden's department and modified with a portable pump behind the drivers seat and large hose reel.  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

Permits for fires in the open air are required between March 1st and Dec. 1st, and may be obtained from the District Chiefs in the various fire districts with the exception of District No. 1, where they must be obtained from Allan Adams. About 600 permits have been issued during the past year.

There have been 125 fires during the past year, located as follows: District No. 1, 65; No. 2, 16; No. 3, 1; No. 4, 19; No. 5, 24. The fires in Districts No. 1 and No. 5 have been caused largely by engine sparks, while the majority of the rest have been caused by careless smokers and by children.





obtaining a fire house site at the West Village, the Committee to be appointed by the Moderator, the Moderator appointed as this Committee David Billson, Elmer Trull and Edwin Stearns.

Under Article 23.

The Committee appointed at the Special Town Meeting May 5, 1925 to investigate the need of better fire protection in the Centre, South and West Villages, particularly with reference to the pumper report as follows:

- In the Centre we recommend that a site be secured at once for the erection in the near future of a fire house large enough to properly accommodate the necessary fire apparatus, the fire alarm system and supplies.
- We recommend the gradual extension of the fire alarm system by the addition of a number of fire alarm boxes annually and also the installation of at least one auxiliary alarm box in the high school and the new grade school for better protection of lives and property.
- We recommend the immediate purchase of a new motor pumper, or triple combination as it is called of not less than 500 gallons capacity rather than to install a pump of the present double combination which is over four years old and was not built to accommodate a pump. To install such a pump would cost three fifths the price of a new one and when complete would be of small capacity and questionable durability.
- A pumper located at the Centre would afford protection to much property outside of the hydrant area but near available water ways, this applies to the South Village to a great extent. Water can be pumped from Baptist Pond and the outlet brook River Meadow Brook and Beaver Brook there are 134 houses and 64 Barns besides many other buildings such as garages, hen houses, ice and greenhouses all within 1500 feet of the named water ways. The above property with contents has an estimated market or insurance value of about one half million dollars and is one quarter million dollars which of course does not include the exempt property such as furniture, hay and farm implements etc. or land.
- It was suggested to the Committee that a dry hydrant could be located in the square at the South Village and connected with the pond therefore we caused a survey to be made which showed the square to be 11 feet higher than the surface of the pond. We wish to extend our thanks to J. C. and W. T. Monahan, C. E., who made this survey for us without remuneration. There are many other places from which water could be pumped such as the Concord River, the Lowell hydrants at the Town Line on Gorham Street and Carlisle Street, numerous wells, cisterns and small brooks that contain water six months in a year.
- We find that the West Village can be effectively covered by the pumper at the North Village except where the distance of the fire from Stony Brook was too far to be reached by a small pump it would then be necessary to call for a larger one if we had it at the Centre. We suggest that a Committee be appointed to investigate relative to the need of a fire house site in the West Village.
- We especially recommend that property owners in sections not having an adequate water supply available for use by a pumper take steps where possible to provide a water hole or basin near their buildings. This could well be done by groups of owners of little expense to each.

ARNOLD C. PERHAM  
ARCHIBALD COOKE  
DAVID BILLSON  
Committee.

It was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$7500.00 for the purchase of a triple combination motor pumper for the use of the Fire Department. The purchasing committee to be the Board of Fire Engineers, Arnold Perham, David Billson and Archibald Cooke.





1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine No. 1 at Chelmsford Centre  
 Driver Wilhelm Johnson, passenger Edward Dryden; standing: unknown, Leslie Reid, Gilbert Perham  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Under Article 24.

In regards to the selling of one piece of motor fire apparatus belonging to the Fire Department it was voted to dismiss this article.

#### Special Town Meeting June 9, 1926

UNDER ARTICLE 2.

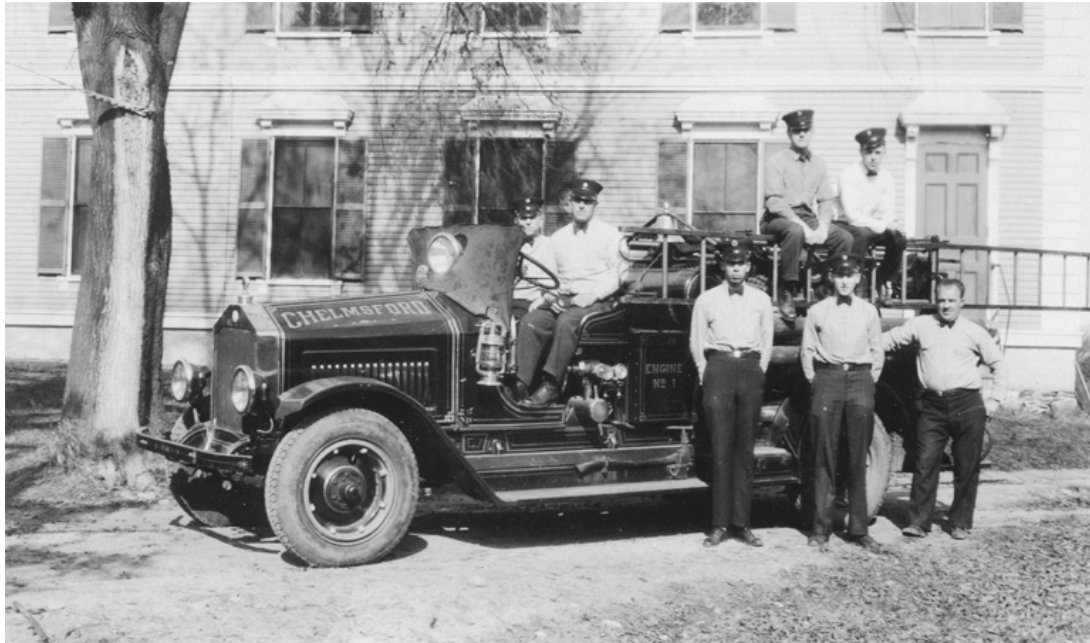
Voted to appropriate from money already in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of seventy-five dollars for the purpose of reimbursing Walter N. Marinel for 1925 taxes on land conveyed to the Town as a site for a fire house at No. Chelmsford.

UNDER ARTICLE 12.

Voted to appoint a committee of three, namely, Harry L. Shedd, Edward J. Robbins, and Bayard C. Dean to procure plans and specifications for a Fire House at No. Chelmsford and report at the next annual town meeting and that the sum of \$60.00 be appropriated from money already in the hands of the Treasurer for this purpose.

#### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

This year at the last Annual Town Meeting \$7,500.00 was appropriated for the purpose of purchasing one piece of Motor Fire Apparatus with this money your Board of Fire Engineers have purchased and installed in the Center Village a Maxim 500 gallon pumper which we think will be of great benefit for the protection of life and property and in the near future will help to reduce the fire insurance rates of the property owners in the Center Village.



1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine No. 1 at Chelmsford Centre  
 Driver Wilhelm Johnson, passenger Edward Dryden; standing: Gilbert Perham, Leslie Reid, and Winslow George  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The Alarm System of the Town has been greatly improved in the last year, for the Center Village and the Westlands two new alarms have been purchased and installed. The wiring on Dalton Road has been changed from temporary to stationary poles which will greatly improve the alarm system.

In the North Village two new Alarm Boxes have been purchased, one to be installed on the corner of the West Chelmsford and Groton Roads, and one to be installed on the corner of Dartmouth and Middlesex Streets, this work will be done in the course of a few weeks.

The Board of Selectmen and the School Committee have installed three auxiliary boxes one in the Town Hall and one in each of the Princeton Street School.

In the West Village there has been installed a whole new Gamewell System composed of the following, indicator, control box, battery rack, nine batteries, about two miles of wire and five outside alarm boxes, which were installed in the following places, corner of School and Main Streets, one in front of the home of Frank Edwards on Main Street, one on Jordan Street, one in front of the George E. Quessey School, and one on the corner of Graniteville and School Streets, this system was made possible partly by public subscription of the Village.



During the year your department has responded to 64 calls for building and automobile fires within the Town limits, and 8 calls from adjoining towns, and 50 grass and brush fires within the town to assist the Forest Warden Department.

Both the Center and North Companies were sent to the Pollard fire in Lowell upon call of the Fire Chief for help.

The attention of all persons is called to the law forbidding vehicles being driven over fire hose and the parking or driving automobiles where they will hinder the firemen or the apparatus in reaching and extinguishing fires.

Careful consideration should be given the Center and North Villages regarding new fire stations.

- On February 11, 1924 a committee of three was appointed to investigate and report at the following town meeting relative to the purchase of a fire house site in the Center Village, the recommendation of the committee was that the Old Grammar School be used as a fire station, we the Board of Fire Engineers recommend that the money be raised or appropriated for this purpose.
- Last year in the North Village the Town purchased a fire house site located in Vinal Square, this year the Board recommends that a new station be erected on this site, the present fire house is not located near enough to the center of the village for efficient results or response to fires.

The State law requires that all threads, hose couplings and connections be standardized, this we have done according to law.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

In September the resignation of Allan Adams as Deputy Warden was accepted with regret as he has given very efficient service.

There have been 120 fires during the year, some of which due to, the very dry season, had been very difficult to extinguish. Permits for fires in the open air are required by state law between March 1st and Dec. 1st. Permits may be obtained in the various precincts as follows: Prec. 1, Ray E. Sargent; Prec. 2, Joseph Ryan; Prec. 3, Archie Cook; Prec. 4, Otto Grantz; Prec. 5, Sidney Dupee and Prec. 6, Robert Henderson.

<p><b>Chief</b> Arnold C. Perham</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer and Clerk</b> Archibald Cooke</p> <p><b>Assistant Engineer</b> David Billson</p>	<p><b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Anthony B. Anderson No. 4 Otto Grantz No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee</p> <p><b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Arnold C. Perham Archibald Cooke David Billson</p>	<p><b>Forest Warden</b> Sidney E. Dupee</p> <p><b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Allan Adams Raymond Sargent Fred L. Fletcher Walter Merrill Fred Merrill</p>
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*1927*

**Annual Town Meeting February 14, 1927**

Under Article 34.

It was voted to accept the following report and place the same on file, as follows: At a Special Meeting held on Wednesday Evening, June 9th, 1926, under Article 12, a committee of three were appointed namely, Harry L. Shedd, Edward J. Robbins and Bayard C. Dean to procure plans and specifications for a fire house at North Chelmsford and report at the next Annual Town Meeting, your committee respectfully submits the following report: Your committee met at North Chelmsford on June 14, 1926, and organized as follows, Harry L. Shedd, chairman and Bayard C. Dean secretary. A tour of inspection of fire houses was made by the full committee and in addition to the committee Chief Ryan of North Chelmsford department. Several fire houses were viewed. Your committee decided that a fire house in Billerica Centre came the nearest to fulfilling the requirements at North Chelmsford. Several architects were invited to submit plans and specifications, but only one responded, Mr. Albert MacNaughton of Arlington, who furnished plans and specifications for the Billerica fire house. Your committee received bids from six different contractors. The bids ranged from \$24,875.00 for two story and \$21,400.00 for one story, without heat, to \$13,900.00 two story \$11,600.00 one story complete. You will note in Article No. 34 that an appropriation of \$19,000.00 is asked for. This was necessary because we did not have any official bids to go by, all we had was an estimate. Your committee recommended that an appropriation of \$15,000.00 if it is decided to build the two story house and \$12,500.00 if the one story house. The committee will leave plans and specifications in the hands of the Moderator so that any citizen who wishes may view them.

Signed,  
HARRY L. SHEDD,

EDWARD J. ROBBINS,  
BAYARD C. DEAN,  
Committee.

On a motion made by Mr. Shedd to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12, 500.00 for the purpose of building a new fire house at North Chelmsford the motion was defeated.

Under Article 35.

In regards to the appointment of a committee to build a fire station at North Chelmsford this Article became automatically dismissed.

Under Article 36.

In regards to remodeling the old grammar school on the North Road at the Centre for fire house purposes it was voted to dismiss this Article.

#### **Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

Your attention is called to the law requiring persons storing explosives (which includes gasoline) to obtain a permit from the Chief of the Department, after obtaining a license from the Selectmen

Careful consideration should be given the Center and North Villages regarding new fire stations, we recommend that suitable fire houses be constructed.

The alarm system has been greatly improved this year. In the Center Village alarm wire has been installed on Acton, High and Bartlett Sts. And we have installed three new alarm boxes, one at the corner of High and Acton Sts. one on Bartlett St. near corner of High St. and one at Fletcher Square. And one box in the Westlands at the junction of Chelmsford St. and Dalton Rd.

In the North Village we have re-placed about one mile of wire, and installed two new alarm boxes, one at the corner of Middlesex and Dartmouth Sts. and one at the corner of West Chelmsford and Groton Roads. In the West Village the battery system has been changed which will greatly improve the alarm system in that part of the Town.

We have made a change in the location of the apparatus at the North Village, it now being located at the garage of the District Chief in Vinal Square, (Percy Robinson) by so doing better service has resulted as well as a saving in maintenance costs.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

There have been 131 grass and brush fires in the town during the past year. The most serious fire occurred at North Chelmsford on April 16 and 17, when a large area was burned over.

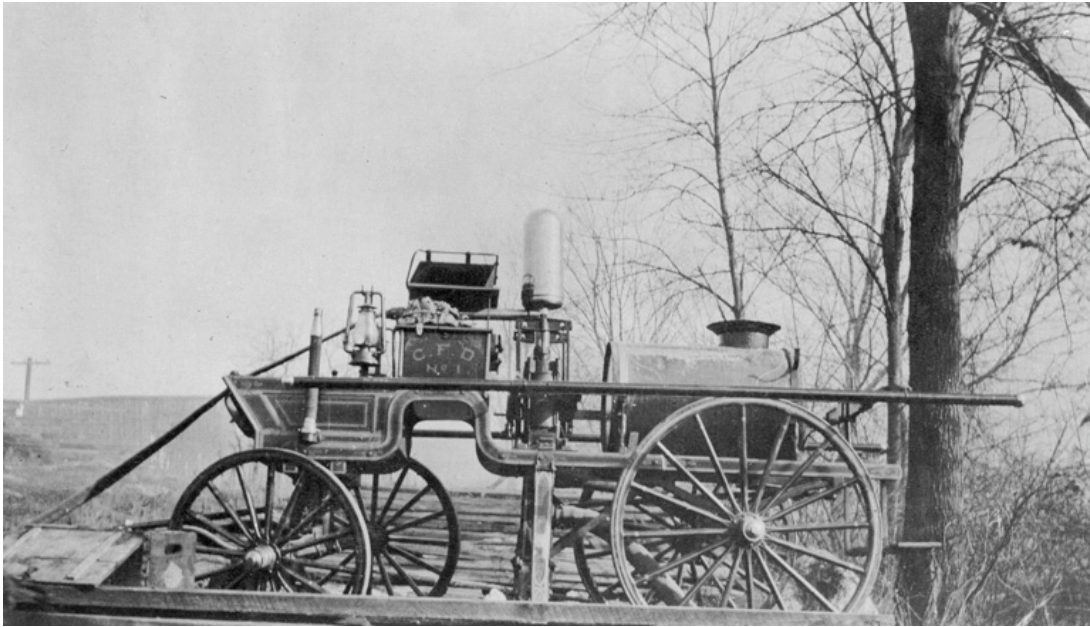
<b>Chief</b> Arnold C. Perham	<b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Percy T. Robinson No. 3 Anthony B. Anderson No. 4 Otto Grantz No. 5 Sidney E. Dupee	<b>Forest Warden</b> Sidney E. Dupee
<b>First Assistant Engineer and Clerk</b> Archibald Cooke	<b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Arnold C. Perham Archibald Cooke Samuel S. Kershaw	<b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Raymond Sargent Charles House Walter Merrill Fred Merrill
<b>Second Assistant Engineer</b> Samuel S. Kershaw		

## *1928*

#### **Annual Town Meeting February 13, 1928**

Under Article 22.

On a motion made by Arnold C. Perham and amended by Representative Edward J Robbins, it was voted to dispose of the Howe Fire Engine to the Boy Scouts of Chelmsford by sale for fifty cents, and the use of same to be under the directions of the various troop masters in Town.



Howe Hand Tub Fire Engine No. 1, sold to the Boy Scouts of Chelmsford in 1928 for 50 cents  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### **Special Town Meeting June 6, 1928**

Under Article 10.

On a motion made by Selectmen George Rigby, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000) for the purpose of purchasing fire hose for the Fire Department.

### **Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

During the year the Fire Department experienced a serious loss in the retirement from active service of its former chief, Arnold C. Perham. Mr. Perham has been associated with the department for over twenty years. The last seven of which he filled the position of Chief, and it has been largely due to his conscientious effort that the department has been brought to its present state of efficiency.

At the present time we have five organized volunteer departments with seven pieces of motorized apparatus, five major pieces, and an auxiliary truck, a forestry truck equipped with a twenty-five gallon chemical tank and ten two and one-half gallon extinguishers.

There is a total enrollment of 125 men, regular and call in the various departments. Each department is equipped with a fire alarm system, three of which register box numbers. We contemplate doing considerable work on the truck at North Chelmsford. We have had an expert from the American-LaFrance Co. make a thorough inspection of the pump and he has advised us that for a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars it can be put in perfect condition. We feel in the interest of economy that this should be done as the truck will be capable of several years more of efficient service.

Last year the Town appropriated the sum of One Thousand Dollars for the purchase of fire hose. There is still a considerable quantity of questionable strength and we are asking for sufficient funds to replace any remaining old hose which may prove unserviceable.

The question of insuring the men of the different fire departments has been previously mentioned and has received the hearty approval of the Finance Committee. This year we are asking for One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars to meet that item.

Under the present severe business depression it does not seem to be the proper time to launch out into any extensive improvements. At the same time we must not lose sight of the urgent need of permanent firehouses in the Center and North Villages.

### **Forest Warden's Report**

A noticeable feature this year has been the marked decrease in railroad fires, only 5 having been reported in the town during the year. The principle cause of fires this year have been careless smokers. In District 4 the fires have been largely of incendiary origin.

The Forestry truck has been overhauled and painted and the equipment inspected and repaired.



**Chief**

Archibald Cooke

**First Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Second Assistant Engineer**

Willis L. MacComb

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Percy T. Robinson

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Fred Baldwin

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Archibald Cooke

Sidney E. Dupee

Willis L. MacComb

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Charles A. House

Allan Adams

Ray E. Sargent

Walter Merrill

Fred Merrill

Robert Henderson

## 1929

**Annual Town Meeting February 11, 1929**

Under Article 24.

On a motion made by Archibald Cooke, it was voted to raise and appropriate for the purpose of indemnifying Edward Dryden for injuries received and loss of service received at the Wilson Fire on July 8, 1928, the sum of \$82.50.

Under Article 25.

On a motion made by Sidney E. Dupee, it was voted; To raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 for the purchasing of three fire alarm boxes from the Gamewell Fire Alarm Co. which are already installed at North Chelmsford. This sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Fire Engineers.

Under Article 26.

In regards to the grading the grounds at the East Chelmsford Fire House, it was voted to dismiss this article.

**Special Town Meeting March 20, 1929**

Under Article 4.

In regards to appropriating \$250.00 or some other sum for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the fire truck No. 4, on a motion made by J. C. Monahan, it was voted; To dismiss this article.

Under Article 5.

On a motion made by Sidney Dupee, it was voted; That the Moderator appoint a committee of five to investigate the advisability of purchasing a certain tract of land with the buildings thereon, from Loren J. Ellinwood, on the northerly side of Main Street in that part of Chelmsford called West Chelmsford, for the purpose of establishing a fire house, said committee to make its report at the next annual town meeting, the Moderator appointed the following committee, Archibald Cooke, Sidney Dupee, Willis MacComb, Herbert C. Sweetser and Roger W. Boyd. Mr. Sweetser declined to serve and the Moderator named James A. Grant in Mr. Sweetser's place.

**Special Town Meeting August 7, 1929**

Under Article 6.

A motion to dismiss this article was made by Robert W. Barris, under Mr. Barris motion it was voted not to dismiss this article. On a motion made by George Rigby it was voted; to sell the land with the buildings thereon situated on the Southerly side of Mt. Pleasant Street in that part of Chelmsford called North Chelmsford, formerly used to house fire apparatus, that said property shall be sold at public auction and by a duly licensed auctioneer. That the Board of Selectmen shall be authorized and empowered to execute and deliver in behalf of he Town a good and sufficient deed (Quitclaim) and that the sum of \$50.00 be appropriated to defray the expense of this sale.

**Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

We have adopted a policy of insuring the men while on actual fire duty and going to and returning from a fire, the insurance is with the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association, an organization sponsored by the Commonwealth, which pays \$2500 in case of death and proportionately for minor injuries, the cost is \$1.00 a year per man and we feel that the slight expense is more than justified by the possible benefit which may be derived and the protection afforded the Town.

We have had the American LaFrance pumper at the North Village painted and the pump reconditioned, taut we have been advised that it is rapidly approaching the limit of usefulness as a piece of major apparatus and we wish to call the attention of the voters to the fact that it will be necessary o replace it with a new pump in another year at the latest.

After much negotiation the Gamewell Fire Alarm Co. of Boston has released their claim on the Fire Alarm System at the North Village, so that now the Town has a clear title to the property.

A new alarm system has been installed at East Village which is giving very satisfactory results.

The firehouse at the Center has been painted and the roof re-shingled. The house at the South Village is in good condition, but extensive repairs will have to be made on the roof of the building at the East Village during the coming year.

We are asking for a special appropriation for fire hose this year, the appropriation made last year for this purpose was not sufficient to replace the amount broken and allowed nothing for building up a reserve to be used in an emergency, in many places outside the hydrant district it is necessary to pump for very long distances and old hose cannot stand the increased pressure. A sufficient supply of hose is about the most vital thing in maintaining an effective fire department and we feel that the need for this appropriation cannot be stressed too strongly.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

When we consider the exceptionally dry season we must consider the town very fortunate that no large fires have occurred. The good work of Observer C. R. Blood in locating and reporting fires has done much toward keeping down the fire damage. The better understanding and observance of the permit law has also been an important factor in achieving this limit.

#### **Chief**

Archibald Cooke

#### **First Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

Sidney E. Dupee

#### **Second Assistant Engineer**

Willis L. MacComb

#### **District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Percy T. Robinson

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

#### **Board of Fire Engineers**

Archibald Cooke

Sidney E. Dupee

Willis L. MacComb

#### **Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

#### **Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Charles A. House

Allan Adams

Ray E. Sargent

Fred W. Merrill

Walter Merrill

Robert Henderson

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Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1930



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### Annual Town Meeting February 10, 1930

Under Article 18.

On a motion made by Sidney E. Dupee, it was voted to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the purpose of purchasing fire hose for the Fire Department, this money to be spent under the supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 30.

Mr. Willis MacComb reported for the committee to investigate the subject matter of this article as follows: The committee appointed to investigate the advisability of purchasing Historical Hall for fire house purposes submit the following report: After considering the Fire Department needs at West Chelmsford and after making a thorough inspection of the building, we recommend that the Town purchase from Loren J. Ellinwood for the sum of \$2000.00 Historical Hall in West Chelmsford with land and contents for Fire Department purposes.

ARCHIBALD COOKE,  
SIDNEY E. DUPEE,  
J. A. GRANT,  
ROGER W. BOYD,  
WILLIS L. MacCOMB.

On a motion made by Willis L. MacComb, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars for the purpose of purchasing from Loren J. Ellinwood a tract of land containing about 5300 square feet of land more or less, with the buildings thereon, and the contents therein situated on the westerly side of Main Street in that part of Chelmsford called West Chelmsford, the said property to be used as a fire station. The transaction to be under the supervision of the Board of Engineers who shall have power and authority to accept a good and sufficient deed from the owner in behalf of the Town of Chelmsford.



Store of Marcus H. Winship, father-in-law of Loren J. Ellinwood, and later Historical Hall in West Chelmsford located at the corner of Joy and Main streets (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

### Special Town Meeting September 2, 1930

Under Article 1.

On a motion made by Archie Cooke, it was voted to transfer from the account entitled "Fund for the purchase of a highway truck" to the account entitled "Fund for the fire alarm system," six hundred dollars.

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers



The Center Fire House has been sheaved with plaster board; the Maxim truck was sent away to be repaired and the pump brought up to pumping capacity.

In the North Village a new Alarm System has been installed.

In the West Village the men of the Department have remodeled their Fire House and made it a credit to the Town. The firemen are worthy of a lot of credit for the amount of work which they have accomplished in the last few months.



West Chelmsford Fire Station, formerly Store then Historical Hall, at the corner of Joy and Main streets (1955 Newsweekly Tercentenary Edition)

The roof on the East Village Fire House has been repaired.

We have had a new siren installed in the South Village which will greatly improve the service in that part of the Town.

In the Westlands a new Gamewell Alarm Box has been installed and we feel that one or two more boxes would be a great benefit to that part of the Village.

The Board recommends that a new pumping engine be purchased of at least 500 gallon capacity this coming year for the North Village.

#### **Report of Forest Warden**

There have been 179 forest and grass fires reported in Town during the past year. In the majority of cases they have been extinguished before gaining much headway, thanks to the good work of Observer Blood in quickly locating and reporting them. The principal cause of fires has been careless smokers. Railroad fires have been the lowest for years, only six having been reported.

The most serious fires occurred at North Chelmsford in May where much property on the Dunstable Road was endangered and help was called from Westford and Lowell. Many serious fires would be prevented if the owners of land would burn the grass along the highways in the early spring.

There have been two changes in the State fire laws which are of interest to the Town. Permits are now required throughout the year except when the ground is covered with snow. The second law requires the towns to maintain a fire patrol on the highways during such periods of drought as the State Forester considers a fire hazard.

It will be necessary to replace the Forestry truck this year. The present truck is 10 years old and is so badly worn as to be unfit for forest fire work.

**Chief**

Archibald Cooke

**First Assistant Engineer and Clerk**

John W. Dixon

**Second Assistant Engineer**

Harry L. Shedd

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Percy T. Robinson

(May 1-Nov. 30)

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

(Dec. 1)

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Archibald Cooke

John W. Dixon

Harry L. Shedd

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Charles A. House

Allan Adams

Raymond E. Sargent

Fred W. Merrill

Walter H. Merrill

Robert Henderson

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## *1931*

**Annual Town Meeting February 9, 1931**

Under Article 25.

On a motion made by Archibald Cooke it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-five Hundred Dollars (7500.00) for the purpose of purchasing a triple combination fire pumper for the use of the fire department in the North Village, this money to be expended under the supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers.

Under Article 40.

On a motion made by Archibald Cooke it was voted that the town vote to amend its by-laws by adding the following section. Section 13. "The Board of Fire Engineers may furnish on such occasions and to such extent as they deem advisable, the assistance of the Chelmsford fire department to another city, town, or fire district in extinguishing fire therein."

Under Article 43.

On a motion made by B. F. McGovern it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30.00 for the purpose of purchasing a fire alarm tapper for the Police Department.

**Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

The Department has been greatly strengthened by the addition of a new pumper located at the North village, the pumper formerly at the latter place being transferred to the West Village.



Engine 2, a 1921 Brockway 250 g.p.m. Pumper, was fitted with pneumatic tires and re-designated as Engine 3 at West as seen above, when a new Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper was purchased as Engine 2 for North Chelmsford in 1931  
Note the chain drive in front of the rear wheel (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The light Ford Chemical Truck has been stationed at the South Village while the heavy Brockway hose truck has been brought to the Centre where, with its reserve supply of hose, it can be quickly dispatched to any part of the town as needed.

The large portable chemical tank has been demounted from its wheels and installed on the truck at the East Village adding greatly to the efficiency of this truck.

The Board feels with this arrangement of equipment the Department is better able to cope with any ordinary situation that may arise within the town.

During the late summer several pumping tests were held, among the most noteworthy being:

1. At West Chelmsford with two pumpers taking water out of the Stony Brook at the railroad crossing.
2. At the Groton Road with three pumpers taking water out of Crystal Lake.
3. At South Chelmsford with three pumpers taking water out of Hart Pond.

These tests proved that property located as far away as a mile from the source of water supply could be adequately protected. The tests were attended by officials from neighboring departments including Lowell, who were most generous in their praise of these worthwhile efforts. We would take this opportunity of publicly thanking Chief Joseph D. Ryan, of District No. 2, by whose skillful planning these tests were made possible and to also include the other District Chiefs and the men who served under them and by their earnest enthusiasm made them a success.

There is still a considerable amount of farm property located where there is an inadequate supply of water and where the large pumpers cannot be made available. If a portable pump could be purchased and mounted on a light truck with a supply of 1-inch or 1 1/4-inch hose, and utilizing adjacent wells or small brooks, much of this class of property would receive better protection than it is now possible to give. We strongly recommend this addition to our present equipment at the earliest moment financial arrangements will permit.

#### **Forest Warden - no report**

##### **Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

##### **Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

##### **District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

##### **Forest Warden**

Raymond E. Sargent



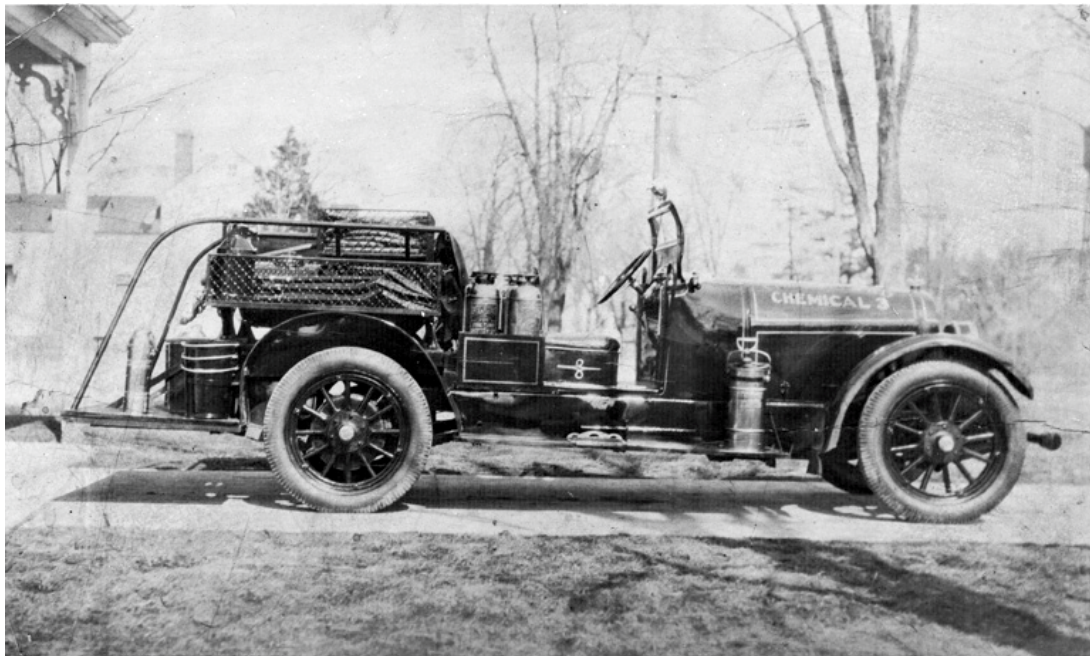
**Assistant Chief**  
John W. Dixon

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Archibald Cooke  
John M. Kemp  
John W. Dixon

## 1932

### Report of Fire Engineers

One of the outstanding achievements of the year was the building and equipping of a completely furnished chemical truck by the members of the West Chelmsford Company under the direction of Chief Norman Edwards and Captain Elmer Trull. This piece of apparatus which possesses many new and novel features, was viewed by a number of fire chiefs and insurance men who pronounced it a finished product, one of the chiefs from Lowell stating that in his opinion a similar truck would cost at least \$3000 if bought in the open market. It was presented to the town without cost and up to date has over 100 hours of service to its credit.



Chandler automobile converted to Chemical Truck 3 by the men of West Chelmsford and presented to the town in 1932  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Telephones have been installed with men detailed in watches to answer any call day or night so that any citizen possessing a telephone is a potential fire alarm station. This means of giving a quick alarm together with the prompt response of the Department has resulted in a number of instances in preventing a serious fire loss.

Through the co-operation of District Chief Quinn, a quantity of filling was secured and the grounds around the fire house at East Chelmsford graded without cost to the town.

We would reiterate the need of a portable pump mounted on a light truck for use in sections where the water supply is inadequate for the large pumps. We have felt that the town's finances under present conditions do not warrant our asking for it at the moment but when the depression passes, we hope to obtain authority for the purchase of this much-needed apparatus at the earliest moment possible.

### Report of Forest Warden

The principle cause of most fires has been from careless smokers. The throwing of lighted smoking material from automobiles is our worst hazard at this time. There is a law now in force which prohibits the throwing of lighted smoking material from any vehicle on a public or private way.

The most serious fire this year was in April on the land of The Crystal Lake Realty Corp., where more than 100 acres were burned. This fire started from the roadside, and but for the splendid work of the Chelmsford Fire Department, many buildings would have been destroyed.

At this time I wish to thank the citizens of Chelmsford for their co-operation with the forest warden in taking care of their fires in the open air.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Warden**

Sidney E. Dupee

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Raymond McMasters

Allan Adams

Jessie B. Gill

Charles A. House

Walter H. Merrill

Fred W. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Robert Henderson

**1933**

**Report of the Board of Fire Engineers**

Norman Edwards of District No. 3 was obliged to resign as of October 1 by reason of his moving out of town and the Board appointed Elmer Trull as District Chief in his place. We believe that Mr. Edwards' separation from the service is a distinct loss both to the town and the Department. Mr. Trull has been connected with the Department since its inception and his long and faithful service gives evidence that he will make an exceptionally efficient executive.

In order to afford the South Village adequate protection, it will be necessary to at once replace worn out apparatus and equipment with new. The present facilities have been repeatedly repaired but now it is imperative for the safety of the persons and property of our citizens as well as in the interests of economy that we secure new apparatus.

Three fires of major proportions in Lowell received substantial help from our Department which was gratefully acknowledged by the Mayor and City Council. In the serious fire at the Marist Brothers' School at Tyngsboro, the prompt and efficient response of the Company at the North Village was undoubtedly the means of preventing the total destruction of that building.

We regret to note the passing of Observer Blood who has been of inestimable help to this Department and whose place it will be difficult to fill.

**Report of the Forest Warden**

The equipment of this department at the beginning of 1933 was in a very poor condition. Many hand extinguishers were entirely worn out and had to be replaced; others were reconditioned and tested before they were fit for service.

During my inspection of extinguishers in outside districts, some sixty in number, I found many that had not been tested for four years, and were beyond all usefulness. These had to be replaced either by new or reconditioned ones; making an added expense to the town.

At the close of the past year all hand equipment was in excellent condition, but we are badly in need of a new truck and a portable fire pump. Our truck is badly worn and out of date. In order to give the best possible service we should have a better truck equipped with a portable pump for use in outside districts. This pump would also be valuable for building fires where the water supply is limited and large pumping engines are useless.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Norman Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Raymond McMasters

Allan H. Adams

Walter H. Merrill

Fred W. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Jessie B. Gill

Theodore W. Emerson

Robert Henderson

## 1934

### Annual Town Meeting February 12, 1934

Under Article 18:

On a motion made by John C. Monahan, in regard to the purchase of an automobile for the Forest Fire Department, it was voted that this matter be laid over until the next Annual Town Meeting.

Under Article 38:

On a motion made by Harry L. Shedd, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Hundred Dollars for the purpose of purchasing an automobile truck and the equipment incident thereto for use in the Fire Department.

### Report of the Board of Fire Engineers

Elmer Trull, Chief of District No. 3, resigned as of January 1, 1935, and the Board appointed in his place Walter Edwards. We regret to record this change, because Mr. Trull has been connected with the Department since its inception, and his zealous and faithful service has been of inestimable value to the town. Mr. Edwards, a brother of a former Chief, is fitted both by experience and ability to ably discharge the duties of his office, and will, we believe, make a splendid administrative officer.

We have installed at South Chelmsford a new pumping engine which will adequately take care of this part of the town for some time to come. One of the features of this truck is the booster tank, which runs the entire length of the body, contains 250 gallons of water ready for instant use, and which can be played on a fire for 45 minutes without being renewed. This pumper has been characterized as one of the best of its kind in the state.



The 1934 Dodge Maxim Pumper Engine 5 as seen at a Fire Prevention Week display in 1952  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The old wooden floor in the fire house at South Chelmsford has been taken up and a permanent floor of concrete laid down.

With the generous assistance of the E. R. A. five water holes have been established at strategic position, and others are in contemplation. These reservoirs have at least a minimum capacity of 10,000 gallons even in the - dry season.



The East Chelmsford Water District is now nearing completion, and in order that the citizens of this community may have the full value of this work and obtain the lower rate of insurance it will be necessary for the town to install a 500-gallon pumper and 1000 feet of 2 1/2" double jacket hose.

#### **Report of the Forest Warden**

It is the wish of the State Forestry Department to have the Forest Warden or one of his deputies patrol the highways during the season when most forest fires occur ; this would enable the Forest Warden to prosecute violators and also extinguish many fires before they have burned over a large area, thereby lowering the cost to the town. Much credit is due State Observer Claude Welch for the very helpful assistance he has given at all times. His alertness in locating fires in the town has saved us a great deal.

The equipment of this department is in very good condition at the present time, with the exception of the truck which is entirely worn out and must be replaced if we are to continue our work with the same efficiency.

<b>Chief</b> Harry L. Shedd	<b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Elmer Trull No. 4 Henry G. Quinn No. 5 Arthur W. House	<b>Forest Fire Warden</b> Gilbert Perham
<b>Assistant Chief and Clerk</b> John M. Kemp	<b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Harry L. Shedd John M. Kemp John W. Dixon	<b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Wallace A. Greig Adam C. Zabierek Walter H. Merrill Fred W. Merrill Fred L. Fletcher Robert Henderson

## *1935*

#### **Annual Town Meeting March 11, 1935**

Under Article 19 On a motion made by Harry Shedd it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 00 for the purpose of purchasing a 500-gallon pumper, together with equipment and 1,000 feet of 2 1/2" hose for the Fire Department; on a motion made by Joseph D. Ryan it was voted that this money be expended by the Board of Fire Engineers.

#### **Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

We regret to record this change as Arthur W. House had been a member of the Department for many years, but we believe that Charles House, his son, will bring good results to this District by reason of his ability and experience, and expect good results from his administration of the company in this section of the town.

We have effected extensive repairs to the pumper stationed at West Chelmsford so that it is now almost as good as new.

In accordance with the mandate of the Town Meeting a new 500-gallon Pumper, equipped with 1,000 feet 2 1/2" double jacket hose, has been installed at the Centre. This piece of apparatus is modern in every respect, and at its tests exceeded the requirements of the underwriters. The pumper at the Centre was taken to East Chelmsford, and the truck stationed there turned over to the Forest Warden, so that the town now has one of the best equipped departments in the State for towns of similar size. This has resulted in lower insurance rates in East Chelmsford.



The 1935 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper Engine 1 is seen here as Antique Engine 4 in the 2010 July 4 Parade in Chelmsford Center  
 Its delivery to the Centre Fire Station as Engine 1 in 1935 started a rotation:  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. pumper, was re-designated as Engine 4 and transferred to East Chelmsford  
 The previous Engine 4, a 1921 Federal Knight 250 g.p.m. pumper was transferred to the Forest Fire Warden  
 (2010 photo by Fred Merriam)



The 1926 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper Engine No. 1, shown here pumping water from a lake  
 It became Engine 4 at East Chelmsford when the 1935 Maxim 500 arrived at the Centre  
 The people were not identified (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of Forest Warden

During the past year we were called to extinguish one hundred and thirty-five (135) forest and grass fires. About twelve hundred (1200) acres of land were burned over; most of this was scrub and grass land of no value. No buildings were damaged by these fires, although several were in direct danger at the time of our arrival.

On April 28, 1935, we were called to a fire on Ledge Road in what is known as Tar Paper Village. This fire started in the Town of Westford, burning some twenty (20) acres before crossing the line into Chelmsford. With a strong northwest wind and underbrush as dry as tinder this proved to be the most dangerous fire of the year. Several times it

was thought to be under control, but broke out again fanned by a strong wind and continued to Swain and Groton Roads, where, with the assistance of the Fire Department, we were able, to extinguish it without any loss of property. Seven hundred (700) acres were burned over by this fire, most of which was covered by scrub oak and a few small pine of no value. Lack of water made it necessary to pump from Crystal Lake to protect buildings situated on Groton and Swain Roads.

The cause of most fires was unknown, but many were thought to have been caused by careless persons throwing smoking material from automobiles. Several young culprits were apprehended for starting fires, but due to their tender age no court action was taken. It was deemed advisable to let their parents punish them. One case, after investigation, was turned over to the State Warden for disposition.

The equipment of this department is in good condition at the present time, and unless some unforeseen emergency occurs should be sufficient for several years. The Federal Knight truck, which was turned over to this department by the Fire Department, has proven very satisfactory and has paid for itself many times in service rendered.



The 1925 Federal Knight double tank chemical car transferred to the Forest Fire Warden's department in 1935  
 Gil Perham is standing at the rear and Deputy Forest Warden Herb Sturtevant is at the wheel circa 1936  
 Note the portable pump tucked in the space behind the front seat (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Chief**  
 Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**  
 John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**  
 John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**  
 No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson  
 No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan  
 No. 3 Walter Edwards  
 No. 4 Henry G. Quinn  
 No. 5 Arthur W. House

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
 Harry L. Shedd  
 John M. Kemp  
 John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**  
 Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**  
 the five District Chiefs and:  
 Wallace A. Greig  
 Fred L. Fletcher  
 Fred W. Merrill  
 Walter H. Merrill  
 Adam Zabierek  
 Ernest C. Soulis  
 Robert Henderson



## 1936

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers

The Equipment has been kept in excellent condition and no major replacements or renewals have been needed this year.

Some repairs are necessary at the Fire Stations located at the East and South villages and arrangements are under way to have these accomplished through the agency of the W. P. A. the cost of material being paid for out of our current appropriation.

### Report of Forest Warden

Two tracts of valuable white pine were slightly damaged by fires, but our timely arrival prevented a greater loss. One roof fire was caused by sparks from a brush fire, but the damage was very small.

Most fires were of incendiary origin. People in general are very careful of permit fires, and few got beyond their control. Several small boys were apprehended for starting fires, but no court action was taken, due to their age. It was deemed advisable to use other methods of punishment.

All equipment, both in the care of deputies and in wooded areas outside the water districts, was carefully tested and necessary repairs made. The equipment at the present time is in good condition.

<p><b>Chief</b> Harry L. Shedd</p> <p><b>Assistant Chief and Clerk</b> John M. Kemp</p> <p><b>Assistant Chief</b> John W. Dixon</p>	<p><b>District Chiefs</b> No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan No. 3 Walter Edwards No. 4 Henry G. Quinn No. 5 Charles House</p> <p><b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> Harry L. Shedd John M. Kemp John W. Dixon</p>	<p><b>Forest Fire Warden</b> Gilbert H. Perham</p> <p><b>Deputy Forest Wardens</b> the five District Chiefs and: Herbert M. Sturtevant Herbert A. Sturtevant Adam Zabierek Wallace A. Greig Walter H. Merrill Fred W. Merrill Fred L. Fletcher Ernest C. Soulis Robert Henderson</p>
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## 1937

### Special Town Meeting October 7, 1937

Under article 4:

Regard the sum of \$500.00 for the purpose of installing a fire alarm system and tapper system at the Center Village on a motion made by Harry Shedd this motion was lost, and on a motion made by James A. Grant, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the purpose of re-installing the present fire alarm system.

Under article 5:

Regard to the selling of tanks, motors, whistle, etc., a part of the present fire alarm system at the centre village, it was voted to dismiss this article.

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers

The fire Houses at the East and South villages have had extensive needed repairs with the aid of W. P. A. labor and are in splendid condition. Water has been put in at the South Village and the Fire House now is equipped with running water.

In the collapse of a sand bank off the Mill Road in which three men were trapped the men of the Centre Company rendered valiant service.

### Report of Board of Fire Engineers

Two small building were burned by fires caused from sparks from incinerators. Several fires were of incendiary origin; others were caused by abandoned camp fires and careless discarded cigarettes.

Next year (1938) it will be necessary to have a permit to burn rubbish and debris in an incinerator. Each incinerator will be inspected by the Forest Warden before a permit is issued.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Walter Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Charles House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Herbert M. Sturtevant

Walter H. Merrill

Fred W. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Spencer W. Chamberlain

Adam C. Zabierek

Ernest C. Soulis (resigned)

Mark Norton (to fill vacancy)

Robert Henderson

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## 1938

**Report of Board of Fire Engineers**

With the several minor changes the personnel have remained the same, thus giving us a well trained and loyal group, ready at all times to efficiently cope with any emergency that may arise. This was well proven during the hurricane last September, when, with fire alarm system gone and all telephones out of connection, our force by their untiring vigilance rendered a most valiant service to the town.

**Report of Forest Warden**

Several persons were warned against burning without a permit but no court action was taken as there were no second offenders. One person was required to pay the cost of extinguishing a fire as he had been warned about burning without a permit on previous occasions. Most citizens have cooperated with this department in observing the permit law and other laws pertaining to forest fire prevention.

The hurricane of September 21st left this Town with the most serious fire hazard that it has experienced in history. About two million (2,000,000) feet of pine timber were swept to the ground in this Town. This timber blocked all fire roads and lanes, cutting off any possible approach to extinguish a fire. Acres of ground were completely covered by pine timber and brush. The most serious fire hazard in the Town being on the shores of Heart Pond among the summer camps.



The 1938 Hurricane destroyed the 1918 Fire Tower on Robins Hill. This temporary tower was constructed until a new tower the same height as the older one could be built. Lester Ball is the observer (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Through the cooperation of the United States Forest Service, W. P. A. and other government agencies much of this fire hazard has been removed but many roads are still blocked and many acres of slash remain. We have cooperated with the United States Forest Service in locating fire roads and lanes where apparatus may find passage to combat any fire which may occur. I have personally supervised the removal and burning of slash for the W. P. A. where the hazard was greatest in order that the work could be carried on without delay.

This department is badly in need of a portable pump to meet the remaining fire hazard as it will be impossible to remove all slash and timber before the fire season begins. Hand equipment is useless in fighting forest fires where there is any amount of slash or pine tops. A portable pump would greatly reduce the labor costs to the Town, as fewer men would be required to extinguish fires. The State Division of Forestry recommended that all towns be equipped with a portable fire pump.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Walter Edwards

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:



**Assistant Chief**  
John W. Dixon

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn  
No. 5 Charles House

Herbert M. Sturtevant  
Walter H. Merrill  
Fred W. Merrill  
Fred L. Fletcher  
Spencer W. Chamberlain  
Adam C. Zabierek  
Mark Norton (resigned)  
George A. Parkhurst  
Robert Henderson

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Harry L. Shedd  
John M. Kemp  
John W. Dixon

## 1939

### Annual Town Meeting March 20, 1939

Under Article 27:

On a motion made by Gilbert Perham it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1200 for the purpose of purchasing a pump and hose to be used by the Forest Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen.

### Report of the W.P.A. for 1939

Beginning with January 1, 1939 the greatest number of the men were employed on the fire hazard project; which consisted of opening up fire lanes and roads that were blocked up by trees felled by the hurricane, that occurred on Sept. 21, 1938. Cutting up trees and burning slash in the residential areas to eliminate fire hazards to buildings. Cutting and removing trees that had fallen on dwellings. Cutting up fallen trees and burning brush on each side of roads. The total number of miles of roads cleared of wood and slash burned was 58, and the approximate number of acres of wood lots cleared and burned was 750.

The greatest number of men that were carried on the W.P.A. at any one time during the year 1939 was 171 and with the exception of about 40 men, the remaining 131 were on the Fire Hazard Project from January 1, 1939 to May 23, 1939, the date that the project was closed. This project entailed a great amount of work as it necessitated mailing out easements; granting permission to enter their property to do the required work.

### Board of Fire Engineers Report

We have purchased gas masks of the best grade obtainable as a needed measure of safety and protection to the men.

Thirty-three firemen from various sections of the Town have taken the course in first aid sponsored by the Lowell Chapter of the American Red Cross. They are now trained to render valuable assistance in an emergency.

New Tires have been placed on all the apparatus where needed and as far as possible. The fire alarm system has been inspected and kept in good working order, while four new boxes have been added in needed locations. Fire cards have been printed and distributed throughout the Town.

### Report of Forest Warden

About two hundred and fifty (250) acres of land were burned over; about half of this being forest lands that were swept by the hurricane of last year; the remainder being scrub and grass land of no merchantable value.

The problem of enforcing the permit law is increasing every year and requires a great deal of work on the part of this department. It is the desire of this department to have every citizen cooperate in enforcing the permit law.

During January and February I personally assisted the United States Forest Service in planning the removal of the many fire hazard areas left by the hurricane of September 21, 1938. Although all areas were not cleaned of brush and timber much was accomplished through the efforts of the Forest Service and W.P.A.

At the last annual meeting we received an appropriation for a portable pump, booster tank and hose to be used in extinguishing forest fires. This new equipment has proven its value and without it we would have had many more serious fires.

The Federal-Knight truck which has been in service fourteen years should be replaced, as it has reached the stage where it is impossible to keep it in satisfactory working condition.



Gilbert H. Perham in the 1925 Federal Knight Forest Service Truck circa 1935 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**District Chiefs**

No. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

No. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

No. 3 Walter Edwards

No. 4 Henry G. Quinn

No. 5 Charles House

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John M. Kemp

John W. Dixon

**Forest Fire Warden**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Deputy Forest Wardens**

the five District Chiefs and:

Herbert M. Sturtevant

Walter H. Merrill

Fred L. Fletcher

Spencer W. Chamberlain

George A. Parkhurst

Lester W. Ball (Observer at fire tower)

Robert Henderson

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1940

### Fire Engineers' Report

These men have now served a period of years, and together with their ability have gained experience which makes them valuable servants of the town. There have been few changes in the roster, so that the organization of the Department is a smooth working machine with a personnel of loyal and efficient men, devoted to their work.

We have made repairs to the equipment whenever needed so that all the apparatus is in first-class condition and one of the oldest pumpers in a test far exceeded the requirements of the Board of Fire Underwriters. The Fire Alarm system has been thoroughly overhauled and the sending mechanism at both the North and Centre stations has been renewed and brought up to date. With the system of Telephones and extensions in each fire station, it makes every householder with a telephone a potential fire alarm box. As some one is delegated to answer the phones day or night, the Department is better equipped than ever to render a prompt response to every alarm. Several new boxes have been installed, and cards giving the box numbers and locations have been distributed in every district.

We have endeavored in every way to promulgate preventive measures, and this work is reflected in the fire losses being greatly reduced. The Department has answered 74 alarms of fire and responded to calls in neighboring towns with whom we have maintained friendly relations for mutual assistance.

We have rendered every assistance possible to the Fire Warden, and have helped to extinguish a number of grass and brush fires.

We have received hearty cooperation when needed from the other town departments, and especially the Police Department, which assistance we gratefully acknowledge.

### Forest Warden's Report

With the exception of February and December every month during 1940 had its regular quota of grass and wood fires, totaling 124 actual fires and over 20 investigations of calls made from the Tower. Over 60 of these fires were extinguished by your Forest Warden without any additional help.



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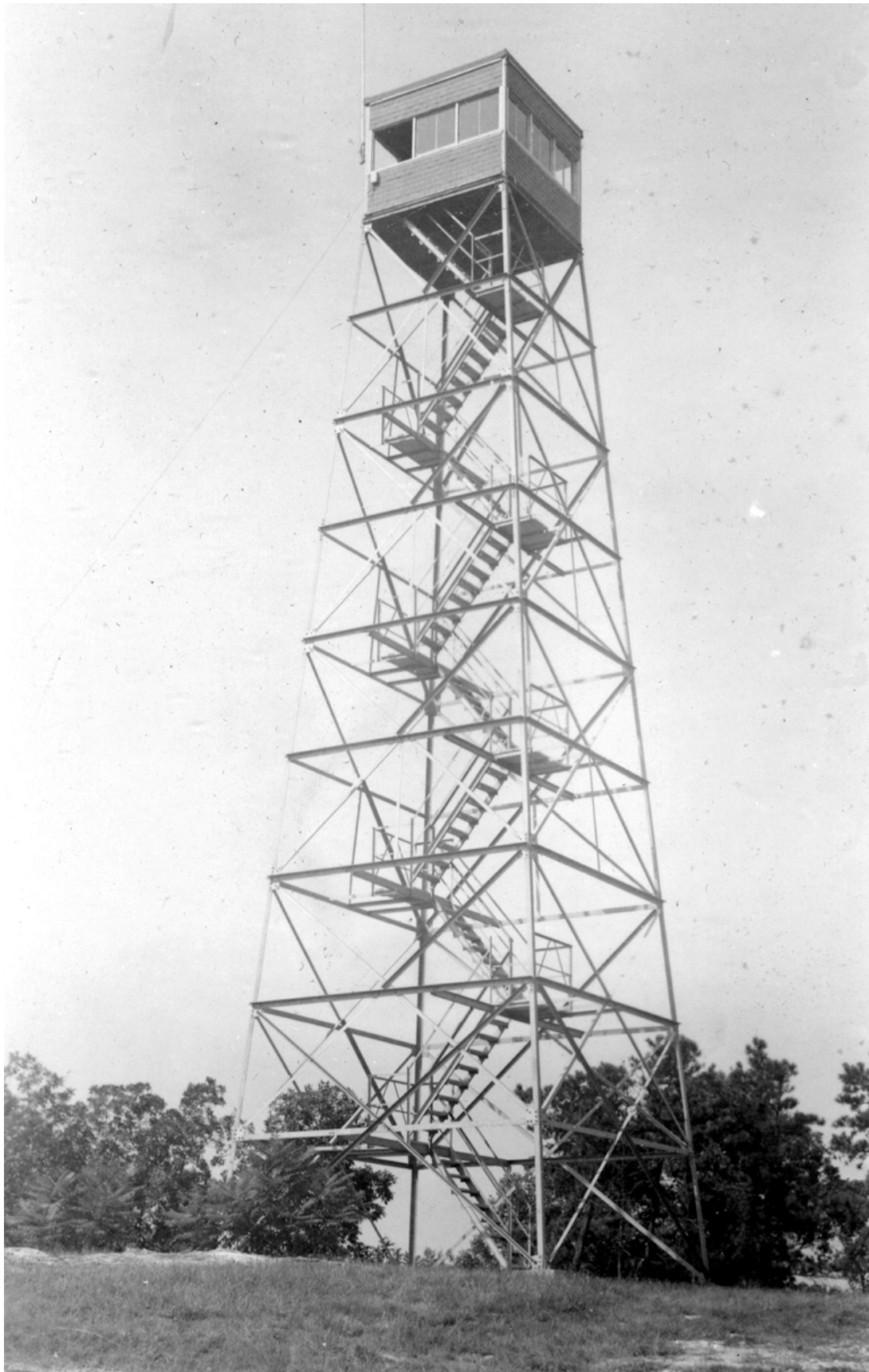
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Robins Hill Fire Tower reconstructed after the 1938 Hurricane (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

Fires - The main causes of fires are three, viz.- carelessness, incinerators, and incendiarism.

Carelessness - Carelessness includes tossing cigarette and cigar butts etc from vehicles on our highways, placing incinerators (so called) in or near highly inflammable material, such as dry grass, brush piles or rubbish

Incinerators - These devices of many and varied types are the direct cause of many of our fires, and within the past few years several buildings have been damaged or destroyed by fires from this source. All types of incinerators, including open air fireplaces, must, in order to be used without obtaining a permit, be covered with a heavy wire screen of not greater than one quarter inch mesh, while in use. Wide mesh wire baskets are not permissible and require a permit. Many fires could be avoided in the course of a year if these devices were not used on windy days.

Incendiarism - Conclusive evidence has been obtained in regard to this class of fires, of which there are many in the town during the past year. Further details will probably be available in the near future.

Assistance at fires - Material assistance was rendered by the several fire departments in each of the different districts at various times. The state units also gave valuable aid at other times which is duly appreciated. The most threatening fire of the year occurred in October and except for the timely and efficient assistance rendered by Chief E. W. Bartlett and one of his trucks from Billerica we would undoubtedly have had the most serious as well as most costly fire of the year.

Care in regard to fires in 1941 - During the ensuing year the cooperation of every citizen is needed in order to keep fires at a minimum. The new rearmament program will and already is making an extreme shortage of help needed at fires. Several of our most experienced Tower operators including our own local operator, as well as local Deputy Wardens are now on this new work and will not be available this year.

Equipment - As is generally known our present forest truck owing to its extreme age and hard usage is in poor mechanical condition. It is not rugged enough to handle any more load which is needed in water capacity. The portable pump and engine purchased two years ago has been reconditioned this winter and is now in first class condition. Parts and labor for this work taken from money left from last years appropriation.

Appropriation Balance - There is a balance of appropriation returned to the town of \$27.44 and there was also returned to the town \$26.75 collected from various persons having illegal or unattended fires.

**Chief**

Harry L. Shedd

**Assistant Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

John M. Kemp

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 W. T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Jos. D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Charles House

**Fire Engineers**

Harry L. Shedd

John W. Dixon

John M. Kemp

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

## 1941

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1941

Under Article 10.

In regard to the purchase of equipment to improve the fire protection at the High School, on a motion made by Leslie Adams it was voted to dismiss this article.

### Special Town Meeting June 2, 1941

Under Article 3.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300.00 for the use of the Forest Fire Department.

### Special Town Meeting December 12, 1941

Under Article 7.

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) and to transfer from the account entitled "Retaining Wall Along Beaver Brook" the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) for the purpose of reimbursing Edwin Davis for his legal liability, while in the pursuance of his duties as a fireman, on a judgment procured against him in a Court of Law.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The roster has remained practically unchanged thus insuring Town of a department manned by a group of loyal and efficient firemen.

The equipment and the fire alarm by constant supervision have been kept in first class condition and ready for instant response whenever the demand is made for their use.

The department has responded to 86 alarms of fire in Town and a number of calls out of Town.

In the latter part of April when serious forest fires raged in our neighboring Towns we had at one time four companies hard at work. We received at the time from the State Fire Marshall, the Commissioner of Conservation and the Selectmen of the Towns, the highest praise for the services rendered.

We have rendered every assistance possible to the Forest Fire Warden, and have extinguished a number of grass and brush fires.

We are planning for and hope to have in operation some day a tower for the drying of hose which will add greatly to the life of the fire hose.

We regret having to record the resignation of Harry L. Shedd the Chairman of the Board and Chief of the Department for many years. During this time he has diligently and devotedly given his time and labor and due to his rare judgment and foresight has been responsible for the highly efficient condition of the Department at the present time. His loss will be keenly felt by his associates and the Town officers as well as all the men of the Department and in his administration he has set up a standard that has brought credit to the Town and honor to himself.

### Forest Warden's Report

The year just passed produced the most unusual and dangerous fire conditions in our wooded areas, being very dry as well as very windy throughout, from the day of the first fire on March 6th until the last on December 23rd. Of the 173 fires occurring during the year, all with the exception of a very few, were extinguished before covering any large acreage or causing much damage.

Chelmsford is very fortunate in having an observation tower located in the Town, by means of which fires are discovered and accurately located at their start.

The new truck purchased last year and put into operation in the summer, is an improvement over the old, being of greater water capacity as well as greater power, and works very nicely.



1941 Chevrolet Forest Fire Service Truck (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

As expected, a shortage of labor for handling fires developed early in the year, making necessary many calls for units of the Fire Dept. in order to obtain help enough to prevent fires from getting beyond control. For this year the outlook seems to be much worse in regard to help, because the men who were formally available, are for the most part, either in the Army or on defense work, including many former Deputy Wardens.

Two changes in the Fire Laws go into effect this year, first the fire permit law has been changed so that permits for fires will not be issued during the months of April and May. Second, a new law requiring patrols be established in the town on days of extreme fire danger goes into effect this year.

**Chief**  
Harry L. Shedd

**District Chiefs**  
Dist. 1 W. T. Johnson

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Harry L. Shedd



**Assistant Chief**  
John W. Dixon

Dist. 2 Jos. D. Ryan  
Dist. 3 Walter Edwards  
Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn  
Dist. 5 Charles House

John W. Dixon  
John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**  
John M. Kemp

**Forest Warden**  
H. M. Sturtevant

## 1942

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

This year has been filled with many and unusual problems which have been the common lot of all connected with government. The Board have had their share and have tried to solve them for the best interests of the town and for the safety of the citizens and their property.

One of our chief problems has been the numerous changes in personnel all of whom have been trained men and their loss has been keenly felt. Among these were our chief at South Chelmsford, Charles House and the Captain at the Centre, Allan Kidder. Both these men have served the Department faithfully over a long period of time.

However this is our contribution to the defense of our Country and we are proud of our boys who have joined the armed forces to fight for freedom and righteousness. Their places have been filled with others whose zeal and earnestness promises that our efficiency will not be impaired.

We have cooperated with the Defense Committee in organizing a group of auxiliary firemen who will serve us well when the emergency comes.

The fuel oil situation with its rationing has necessitated the inspection of equipment and storage facilities in over 700 homes, the issuing of permits and the collection of \$364.50 in fees which sum has been turned over to the Town Treasurer.

In spite of priorities and difficulties in obtaining supplies and replacements we have succeeded in anticipating our needs so that apparatus, equipment and quarters are all in first class condition and ready to meet the test when the call may come.

We have maintained friendly relations with the Departments of surrounding cities and towns and they stand ready to furnish us with help whenever called. We in turn have rendered them service on several occasions including the City of Lowell, whose aid is and has been a most valuable asset.

We have worked closely with our Forest Fire Warden whose excellent work has coped with many brush fires and prevented extensive damage from this source.

### Forest Warden's Report

I shall devote the main part of my report this year to the immediate needs of this department, rather than the usual summary of last years activities.

I am introducing an article in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant this year to purchase a new pump and other necessary fittings, together with 500 feet of new 1 1/2 inch hose, which will cost approximately \$900.00 to be installed and become an integral part of the new truck purchased in 1941.

The main reasons for this are to make the truck one that can be quickly and easily put into operation by one man and to obtain a greater volume of water at higher pressure than is now possible. By this means the Town also obtains an extra piece of apparatus comparable to the large pumpers which will be available, in case of emergency anywhere in Town, should the main apparatus be in use.

In regard to the customary appropriation of \$900.00 for the operation and maintenance of the department; it is evident on analyzing the situation that it is and has been for several years an insufficient sum, owing to the fact that the fixed charges are now much greater than in previous years. Formerly of the \$900.00 appropriated about \$100.00 was in fixed charges, and now nearly \$600.00 is in form of fixed expense, due to increase in Forest Warden salary - cost of telephones - insurance; this leaves \$300.00 to attend all other, which includes, gasoline, oil, repairs, soda, acid and many other small items as well as including labor at fires.

Many times during any year, box alarms, are sent in, calling out the Fire Dept. for grass and woods fires and the cost of this is borne by this department. These alarms average between \$4 and \$5 per call, which will be greater this year owing to increased pay granted recently.

The amount asked for this year does not completely meet the needs of the department; The small equipment such as pump cans, extinguishers (chemical) brooms, etc, of which none have been purchased for many years, and that left of the old lot is in poor condition.

Briefly, in regard to last years fire season. The weather conditions were nearly more normal than for some years previously, rain occurring frequently, which cut the number of fires to 112. Forty of these were extinguished without any help by your Forest Warden and 10 others with one man. Thirty-seven were box alarms in various sections of the Town, of the remainder extra help up to 10 men was required.

This information is given in advance of the Town Meeting, in order that the Citizens of the Town may determine, whether or not, to increase the efficiency of the department. I sincerely hope that the Citizens of the Town will take favorable action on this article, at the annual meeting next March.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief**

John M. Kemp

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Charles House

(Enlisted in the military)

**Board of Fire Engineers**

John W. Dixon

John M. Kemp

Edward Hoyt

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

## 1943

### Annual Town Meeting March 8, 1943

Under Article 12:

On a motion made by Herbert M. Sturtevant, it was noted: To raise and appropriate the sum of \$900.00 for the purpose of purchasing new equipment for the Forest fire Department. The same to be expended under the direction of the Forest Warden.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The roster of the Department has been depleted this past year due to the drafting of the men for the Armed Services, there being at the present time eight regular men in the Service, two of whom are overseas. The men of the Department and the Board Join in wishing these men a safe return.

The equipment of the Department and the signal system have been kept in first class condition despite the extra demands made upon them by the test blackouts and air raids, as conducted during the past year. There is still a great amount of fire equipment that is not available due to restricted manufacture and general war conditions. The Board is pleased to announce, however, the purchase of a portable generator lighting outfit consisting of two 500-watt floodlights, a 250-watt spot light cable, fittings, etc. We believe this will fill a much needed want of the Department by supplying sufficient light at night fires or for any other emergency that may require its services.

We have rendered all assistance possible to the Forest Fire Warden, who has been seriously handicapped in the performance of his duties by the shortage of available man power.

The Department has responded to a total of 89 alarms during the year which are classified as follows: building fires-31; chimney fires-25; brush-12; automobile-7; oil burners-4; false alarms-4; electric light poles-2; tar kettle-1; out-of-town-1; drowning-1; and rescue of dog from well-1.

The Board has cooperated to its fullest extent with the committee named by the Board of Selectmen at the request of the Massachusetts Emergency Public Works Commission regarding post war planning for the Town of Chelmsford.

We regret having to record the resignation of John M. Kemp, Assistant Chief and Clerk for many years. During this time he has served the Town faithfully and his well-kept records are a credit to the Town and an honor to him.

We extend to the Police Department our appreciation for their assistance in summoning additional men and apparatus when needed by means of their two-way radio. Our appreciation is extended to all others who have assisted the Department in the performance of its duties.

### Forest Warden's Report

Although the fire season this year did not start until March 22, a large number of fires in grass and woodlands have occurred (176 to date with some reports outstanding), making a close approach to the peak year of 1939 when about 200 fires were extinguished.

As usual the spring months accounted for the larger proportion, owing to the extremely dry and windy conditions; another dry and windy period was experienced from July 1-20 when a number of bad fires were started, but the most unusual condition of the year is at the present writing.

A number of fires have started this month of December (38 calls to date) and dangerous fire hazards still exist. As many as four fires have been extinguished on some of these calls.

Attention is called to the extreme hazard in the coming spring months, owing to several unusual factors, such as the abnormal growth of last season and many acres of uncut hay, which will provide highly inflammable fuel at that time.

The lack of firemen is another factor to reckon with. The Forest Department is without any help most of the time, and the regular company's department has lost many trained firemen to the Draft and defense work. Therefore, it is very important to use great care when starting any fire anywhere outside and never to do so when there is any wind.

Anyone starting a fire, whether with or without a permit, whether in an incinerator, fireplace, or other device, is entirely responsible both for the cost of extinguishing such fire, if allowed to get beyond control, and any and all damage resulting there-from.

All fires in the open are banned by State law during the months of April and May. No permits may be issued and no fire can be legally kindled in this period.

Excellent cooperation and assistance has been rendered by both the Police and Fire companies of different districts of the Town this year. The Police radio has been especially useful in relaying information at the scene of several fires.

Considerable delay in obtaining delivery of the new Centrifugal pump, hose and other equipment, authorized at the last annual Town Meeting, was due partly to having to wait for priority ratings from Washington, and waiting our turn at the factory. However, the pump was finally received late in July, installed and put into service by September 1. In operation this pump exceeds any claims made as to its efficiency and is an excellent addition to the forest fire equipment. This makes a valuable addition to the Town Fire Department, as it will now be available for emergency apparatus at any fire.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief**

Theodore W. Reed

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Sidney Dupee

(Acting Chief)

**Board of Fire Engineers**

John W. Dixon

Theodore W. Reed

Edward Hoyt

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

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## 1944

### Annual Town Meeting March 13, 1944

Under Article 7:

On a motion made by John Dixon to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Hundred Dollars for the purpose of procuring plans and specifications for two proposed fire stations, one in the Centre and one in North Chelmsford, and that the procurement of said plans and specifications be under the direction, authority and supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers, this motion was defeated.

### Special Request by the Board of Fire Engineers

Your Board of Fire Engineers consider the following paragraphs as important as anything printed in this Report and we ask you to please read them carefully.

A study of our Fire Department, and comparison with others in towns of like size, shows that our fire protection is inadequate. Changes in equipment and personnel are needed. They cannot be made all at once, but a start should be made this year, and continued until complete. To consider the problem intelligently certain basic facts must be understood. Briefly they are:

- Geographical set-up - 22.5 square miles to cover, divided into 5 villages. Each has its own signal system, men and truck to handle building fires. A separate unit, under the Forest Warden, handles brush fires for the whole town. It has no signal system other than the telephone.
- Water Supply - Adequate. Most but not all sections covered.
- Personnel - Inadequate. Only two permanent men. No 24 hour coverage. Can't control volunteers who average only 39 cents a week.



- Quarters - Inadequate and inefficient. Can't house men for 24 hour coverage. Rapid depreciation of equipment such as hose because of improper drying facilities. Rents paid are dead loss to town, almost \$800.00 a year. No central control.

We recommend the following changes listed in the order of their importance:

1. Two new fire houses, one in the North Village and one in the Center, with these as a start come:
  - Centralization of all equipment in modern plants with facilities for proper care, plus housing of personnel, plus room for expansion.
  - A large enough force of permanent men to insure 24 hour coverage by trained men.
  - A centralized signal system with one phone to a central dispatcher (now 5) for all calls, plus more alarm boxes as time goes on.
2. Extension of water to all sections within reason.
3. Replacement of obsolete trucks and home made equipment on a gradual basis.

Capital expenditures for buildings and heavy equipment can be handled on a long term basis without causing undue hardship. We have no desire to increase tax rates.

Our present set-up will remain inefficient and inadequate unless you the property owners and voters of the town are willing to cooperate with us your appointed engineers. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism, but offer the thought that we three men, having made a lengthy study of our department, and having compared it with others, as a group are bound to have more intimate knowledge of its needs than anyone else. That is what we are appointed for. We accept the responsibility however only so long as you the property owners and voters back us up.

A central control and signal system, in proper quarters, with a small well trained permanent force of men to steer our loyal volunteers, and man the trucks 24 hrs. a day is the answer to proper fire protection in Chelmsford. It also is probably the only thing that will allow us to continue the low rates of fire insurance we now enjoy. Which is better, higher insurance rates with the protection we now have, or the same or lower rates and a little higher tax but much better protection? The final cost is the same. It is for you to decide.

We have had inserted in the warrant a request for a sum of money to pay for plans for new fire houses, from which we can secure estimates to submit to you at a later date. This request should be granted.

### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The call for additional manpower for the armed services still continues to make itself felt in the department there being at the present time fourteen members of the Chelmsford Fire Department in the service of their country.

We regret having to record this year the deaths of two members of the department, Silas Gauthier of the North Company and Eugene Crockett of the East Company. These men have served the Town faithfully and our sympathy is extended to their families at this time.

The past year saw the Town once again being visited by a hurricane. The response of the men and auxiliary firemen to the emergency is to be commended, all of whom responded and remained on duty until morning without compensation. The alarm system was damaged considerably by falling trees and branches necessitating the replacing of many of the alarm wires both in North and Center.

The department has responded to a total of 61 alarms during the year which are classified as follows:- Building fires—25; Chimney fires—12; False alarm—6; Oil burners—5; Dumpsfires—4; Brush fires—3 Automobile—3; Electric light wires—1; Accidental death—1; Drowning—1

The response to these alarms by districts was as follows

- District No 1 (Center) 36
- District No 2 (North) 17
- District No 3 (West) 4
- District No 4 (East) 5
- District No 5 (South) 3

Included in the response to alarms by districts are four calls for aid to their districts as follows:

- District No One - 1
- District No Two - 2
- District No Four - 1

### **Forest Warden's Report**

The year of 1944 was practically a continuous fire season with the exception of February when only one call for fire was registered. Of the 130 calls sent in the rest of the year, it was necessary to call assistance only 6 times, which proves that the Forest Truck with the new pump can control the greater number of fires with the minimum of help as indicated in my report of 1942.

In every instance when it was necessary to call for additional help, simultaneous fires occurred, which always creates a condition of confusion, which allows one or more fires to gain too much start to be handled by one or two men.

All through the summer dry season large fires occurred in adjacent towns, and the fact that Chelmsford was spared any major fires, is due in part, I am sure, to the excellent cooperation of the Citizens, by burning only when proper conditions exist.

In return for granting me an increase in salary at the last annual Town Meeting I have removed the charges formerly made for storage and maintenance of the apparatus and equipment.

<b>Chief</b> John W. Dixon	<b>District Chiefs</b> Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan Dist. 3 Walter Edwards Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn Dist. 5 Sidney Dupee (Acting Chief)	<b>Board of Fire Engineers</b> John W. Dixon Theodore W. Reed Edward Hoyt
<b>Assistant Chief</b> Theodore W. Reed		<b>Forest Warden</b> H. M. Sturtevant
<b>Assistant Chief and Clerk</b> Edward Hoyt		

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## 1945

### Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1945

UNDER ARTICLE 11.

On a motion made by John Dixon, it was voted to authorize the Moderator to appoint a committee of four persons to work with the Board of Fire Engineers for the purpose of obtaining complete plans, specifications, and costs of erecting two new fire stations, one in the Center and one in North Chelmsford; and raise and appropriate the sum of \$1400.00 to be expended by this Committee to procure said plans, specifications and costs, said Committee to make a full and complete report at a special Town Meeting to be called for that purpose. The Moderator appointed, John J. Monahan; William T. Picken; Harold A. Fraser and Theodore W. Emerson.

### Special Town Meeting December 4, 1945

UNDER ARTICLE 2.

On a motion made by John Dixon it was voted that the Town authorize a Board of Fire Engineers to accept in lieu of complete plans, specifications, and cost of erecting two new fire stations, which is contained under Article 11 in the Warrant of the last annual Town Meeting held on March 12, 1945, such plan as in the judgment of the Fire Engineers seems suitable to make a report at the next annual Town Meeting.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The roster of the Department has been strengthened by the return of several veterans from the armed services and the men of the Department and the Board welcome these men home again with their sincere thanks for a job well done.

The purchase of new equipment is still a problem. The return to prewar production of fire equipment has not been as rapid as was hoped for, however, a new alarm box was purchased and installed near the Highland Avenue School in the North District.

We regret having to announce the resignation of District Chief Wilhelm T. Johnson who for thirty two years has been a member of the Department. During this term of service he has served as District Chief for twenty-five years. This is indeed a record of civic duty that will be difficult to equal and the Board at this time wishes to thank Mr. Johnson for his faithful attendance and interest in his duties.

### Forest Warden's Report

The forest fire conditions prevailing during 1945 were less hazardous than in any previous year for some time, with the exception of the early part through April 20th during this period several fires were extinguished in various sections of the town, that could easily have developed into extensive and expensive events.

Of 107 calls for the apparatus for the year only 45 of these required extra help, the others being handled by your Warden.

Owing to the large numbers of incendiary fire in the Town in 1945 I think it advisable to include in this report a section of the Fire Laws, not generally known, which reads as follows:

Forest Trespass and Damage, etc.

G. L. o. 266-5. Setting Fire to Woodpile, etc. Whoever willfully and maliciously burns or otherwise destroys or injures a pile or parcel of wood, boards, timber or other lumber, or any fence, bars or gate, or a stack of grain, hay or other vegetable product, or any vegetable product severed from the soil and not stacked or any standing tree, grain, grass or other standing product of the soil, or the soil itself, of another, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars and imprisonment in jail for not more than one year.

At such times when necessary I have received excellent and prompt cooperation from all the various units of the Fire Department and the Police Department, also a few individuals who are always ready and able, day or night to assist in emergency, namely: Mr. Walter Edwards, Dist. Chief of West Chelmsford; Mr. Edward Hoyt, Asst. Engr. of Fire Dept and Dep. Warden George A. Parkhurst of the Centre.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**Assistant Chief**

Theodore W. Reed

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Wilhelm T. Johnson

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Walter Edwards

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Sidney Dupee

(Acting Chief)

**Board of Fire Engineers**

John W. Dixon

Edward Hoyt

Theodore W. Reed

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant

**1946**



Donkey Ball tournament fundraiser for the Fireman's Relief Fund circa 1946 held in back of the Billerica Road High School and McFarlin Junior High School (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Special Town Meeting September 9, 1946**

UNDER ARTICLE 1.

On a motion made by William T. Picken, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 for the purpose of constructing and equipping two fire houses, one in the Centre of the Town and one in North Chelmsford, Mr. Charles P. Wright moved that this article and motion be dismissed and a hand vote was taken. 202 voted to dismiss the article and 96 voted not to dismiss the article. The article was dismissed and Mr. John J. Buchanan moved that the report of the Committee appointed for the purpose of bringing in plans and report in regard to fire houses be accepted and that the Committee be discharged with a vote of thanks for the work performed.

**Board of Fire Engineers' Report**



In order that the townspeople may be better informed as to the age and type of fire equipment operating under the Board of Fire Engineers we submit the following information:

District	Make	Type	Capacity	Age
West	Brockway	Pumper	250 g.p.m.	26 years
West	Chandler	Brush fire		25 years
Center	Brockway	Hose wagon		23 years
East	Maxim	Pumper	500 g.p.m.	21 years
North	Maxim	Pumper	500 g.p.m.	15 years
South	Maxim	Pumper	250 g.p.m.	12 years
Center	Maxim	Pumper	500 g.p.m.	11 years

It would seem from a study of the above information that the time is coming, if not already here, when some money must be spent on new equipment. Such expenditures have a direct bearing on the tax rate and especially so if they are large in any one year. It is certainly much easier to set aside a nominal sum of money each year than to have to appropriate large amounts in any one year. This brings about the suggestion that a sinking fund be established in this town for the sole purpose of purchasing new equipment at definite times and the Board of Engineers recommends that some such procedure be adopted.

The Board of Engineers at this time regrets having to record the resignation of Theodore W. Reed. During his term of office he has served faithfully and has been at all times conscientious in the discharge of his duties as a member of the Board.

**Forest Warden's Report**

During 1946, 152 calls for fire were answered by the Forest Warden and 40 other fires were extinguished by various units of the Fire Department, making a total of nearly 200 fires altogether, which amounts to more than the usual average.

On account of a certain few mercenary minded persons in the town, it was necessary to maintain night patrols for one week in the Spring and again in the Fall. In spite of this added expense of the department about \$25 was returned to the Town.

This being my last report as Forest Warden I wish to thank those persons and Officials for services rendered at critical times. Last year and every previous year disastrous fires have been averted by the narrowest of margins in many instances.

I am retiring as Forest Warden with considerable satisfaction in knowing that during my eleven years connection with the Department no major fire has occurred.

**Chief**

John W. Dixon

**Assistant Chief and Clerk**

Edward Hoyt

**Assistant Chief**

Theodore W. Reed

**District Chiefs**

Dist. 1 Allan Kidder

Dist. 2 Joseph D. Ryan

Dist. 3 Sidney Dupee

Dist. 4 Henry G. Quinn

Dist. 5 Walter Edwards

**Board of Fire Engineers**

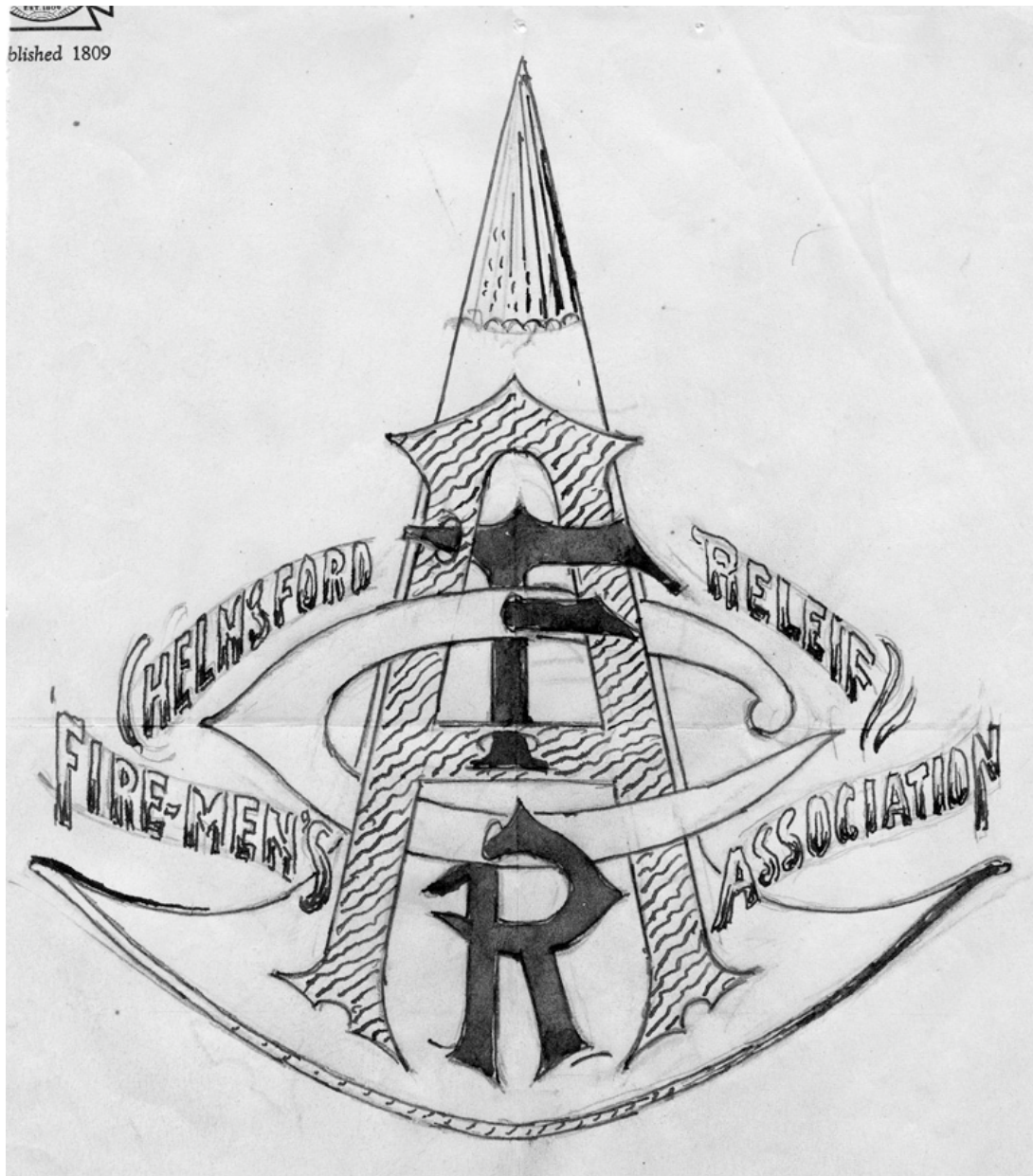
John W. Dixon

Edward Hoyt

Theodore W. Reed

**Forest Warden**

H. M. Sturtevant



Hand drawn Logo concept for the Chelmsford Firemen's Relief Association (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1947

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1947

#### UNDER ARTICLE 12.

On a motion made by John Dixon to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-five Hundred (\$6500) Dollars for the purchasing of a fire truck for the Fire Department a hand vote was taken. 214 voted NO. 145 Voted YES.

### Special Town Meeting June 30, 1947

#### UNDER ARTICLE 10.

After lengthy arguments both pro and con, a motion to dismiss this article by Mr. Fraser of the Finance Committee was lost, a motion made by Mr. Dixon of the Fire Engineers was lost. On a motion made by Alvin Snell, it was voted: To appropriate and transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Account the sum of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new motorized fire truck to be housed in the fire station at West Chelmsford.

### Special Town Meeting September 29, 1947

UNDER ARTICLE SEVEN: On motion made to accept Sections 42, 43 and 44 of Chapter 48 of the General Laws on a hand vote taken, 56 voted in the affirmative and 93 voted in the negative, the motion lost and the article dismissed. This article referred to the appointment of a Chief for the Fire Department.

### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The Board of Fire Engineers as now organized was appointed in October and consequently had control of the fire department only during the final three months of the year. During this time, the Board has delved deeply into ways and means of improving the department as a whole—primarily as regards centralization. At present, there are five distinct companies, each operating under a district chief. Each has its own telephone line, its own truck and equipment, such as it is. An alarm can be sounded in the Center, or any other district, without any other company being aware of the fact that there is a fire in the town or that the company of that particular district is out fighting a fire.

As the first step to overcome this unsatisfactory condition, we have conferred with the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company concerning a centralized telephone hook-up with a switchboard, connecting all companies. If funds are voted for this improvement, all fire calls will be made by calling one number; all fire calls will be handled through one central point; this central point will be aware of any fire in town and, through this central station, extra companies may be sent to the fire and other district chiefs may be made aware of the fire, so that at least one additional company may be held in readiness to "cover in" for the district where the fire is, should another alarm of fire be sounded.

As a temporary measure, to tide us over until this or a similar system can be installed, we have instructed all district chiefs to immediately call for assistance at any fire of any size, believing it to be far better to have too many companies at a fire than to have not enough.

We have purchased some much-needed equipment with the funds available this year, and hope to bring the equipment of each company up to a satisfactory level in 1948. We also are planning to spruce up the various fire stations owned by the town by painting the interiors and doors.

The Board decided not to ask for any new fire apparatus in 1948, but believed that, starting in 1949, replacement of present equipment will have to get under way. Most of the equipment is from 12 to 21 years old, and even though these trucks are not in daily use, they are far from satisfactory in view of the steady growth of the town and the increasing demands upon them.

We are asking in 1948 for funds to establish a call company in Precinct 6, the Westlands. This section is third largest in the town but it is without a fire company and must depend upon the Center. At present, if the Center company is at a fire and an alarm comes from the Westlands, help must be called from one of the more distant stations. If this appropriation is approved, arrangements will be made to have the spare truck at the Center respond, in such a case, and the Westlands company could man the truck and take over the task of fighting the fire. This situation might not arise once in a year—but it might arise often and could result in serious loss unless some provision such as this were made.

Centralization of the fire alarm systems is being studied at present, but it is impossible, in the short time this Board has been in existence, to secure all necessary data.

The Board reports with regret the retirement of Joseph G. Ryan as district chief in the North section after many years of faithful and conscientious service for the best interests of the town and the fire department. Succeeding him as district chief is Chandler Robinson, a member of the North company for several years.

### **Forest Warden's Report**

During the year 1947 there were 165 calls for Forest or grass fires. There were 1104 permits issued during the year but many of the calls were for fires started without any permit.

The Town received a refund in the amount of \$46.90 from the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad for a fire caused by a train - one of the worst fires in the spring.

The regular firemen responding to Forest Fire calls were paid at the same rate per hour as paid by the regular Fire Dept. —all others were paid \$.75 per hour instead of the usual \$.50.

During the year there were many fires of suspicious origin. Two offenders were apprehended and under questioning, admitted setting the fires. After being properly reprimanded were turned over to the custody of their parents.

In 1947 there were only two real bad fire conditions: April and October. The latter was the most hazardous time in years and during that time there was a constant patrol as well as extra help on duty during the day for a period of about ten days. The fine cooperation between the Board of Fire Engineers and the Forest Warden was shown during this time when the South Chelmsford Fire Truck was made available to the Forestry Department.

#### **Chief**

Walter Edwards

#### **Board of Fire Engineers**

Walter Edwards  
Gilbert Perham  
Samuel Parks  
Ralph Knight

#### **Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder



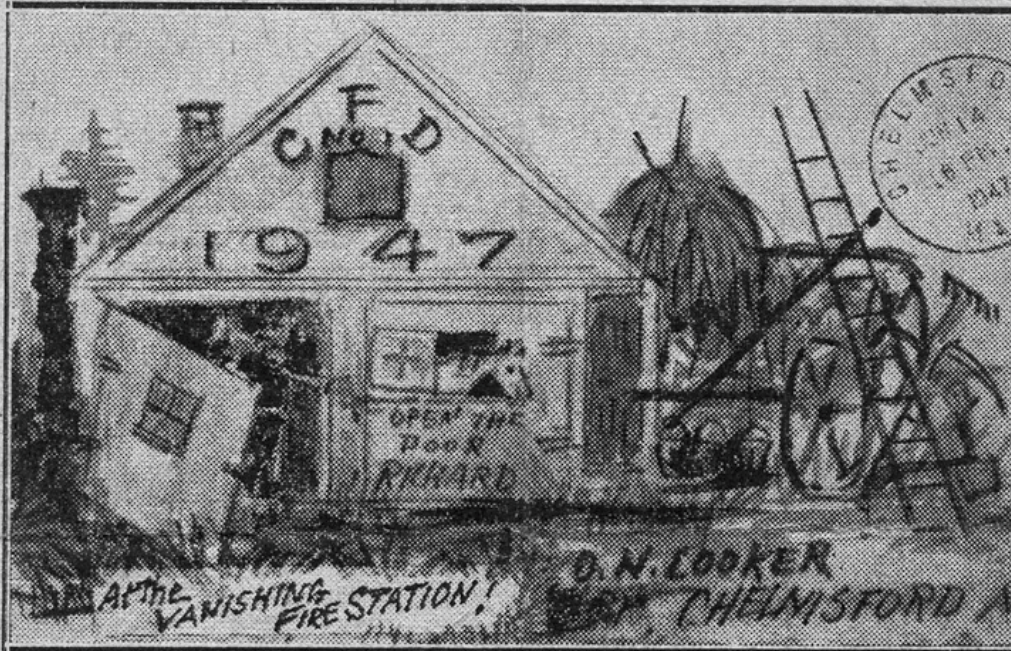
**Assistant Chief**  
Gilbert Perham

George Nold  
William Colmer  
C. D. Harrington

**Clerk**  
C. D. Harrington

Chelmsford Newsweeklv —Friday, June 27, 1947

## Six Verses To The Select'



(This cartoon was made by one of the old-timers of the town of Chelmsford and it was his conception of the Fire Department as it looked in his youth. He also wrote the verse which corresponds somewhatly to the drawing above in trying to show the movement of the times in Chelmsford):

“Backward, turn backward, Oh time in your flight.  
 Give us a hand-tub to fires fight!  
 From some old barnyard a crow-bait nag,  
 That like hell’s blazes the hand-tub will drag!  
 We have turned backward, with a loud squeak,  
 To the old fire-station, ten times as antique.  
 Cost quite a few smackers, to make it fit,  
 Even for O. F.’s to sit, smoke, and spit!  
 God! How it lacks the Old Fire Lads brave,  
 We can’t dig them up from ye “Fore Father’s” grave!  
 Compare us with other towns, that’s enough said,  
 F. D. in Chelmsford, By God, it looks dead.

Old-timer's conception of the Fire Department as it looked in his youth (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



## 1948

### Special Town Meeting July 26, 1948

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2.

It was voted to dismiss this article in regard to the purchase of a new Forest Fire Truck.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 8.

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 for the Fire Department for the purpose of paying labor incurred at Fires.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 13.

On a motion made by Chief of Police Ralph J. Hulslander to allow the Town to purchase uniforms for the Police and Firemen under Section 6-B of Chapter 40 of the General Laws - this motion was defeated and the article dismissed.

### Special Town Meeting October 22, 1948

#### UNDER ARTICLE 5.

On a motion made by Allan Kidder, it was voted to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency account the sum of \$325.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new portable pump for the Forest Fire Department.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 5.

On a motion made by Allan Kidder, it was voted to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency account the sum of \$1,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new pump for the Forest Fire Department.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

During the year just ended, the town has been fortunate in that it has suffered no severe losses by fire, and we must attribute this, in part at least, to the exercise of greater care by the residents of this community.

The fire department now numbers seven permanent employees working 48 hours a week, supplemented by volunteer companies in each of the Center, North, East, West and South districts. The Westlands now has a skeleton force of five volunteers to provide additional man-power in the event of a fire in that heavily-built residential section, but it is dependent upon the Center for fire apparatus.

Among the improvements accomplished during the year was the installation of a central telephone switchboard, which replaced the individually-listed telephones in the various districts and which provided for a central control of firefighting activities. At the same time, it gave the town residents only one telephone number to remember in the event of an emergency.

The alarm whistle at the Center was improved by the installation of a modern air compressor. Fire apparatus has been repaired and kept in as good condition as possible. However, with the exception of Engine 3, in West Chelmsford, which was delivered early this year, all of the apparatus is old, and some is antiquated. The town cannot much longer defer the replacement of the present apparatus at the Center and North stations, using these two trucks to replace those in the East and South stations. The truck in East has outlived its usefulness and repair charges are mounting annually.

The Center, Westlands and North sections have far outgrown the existing fire alarm circuits and steps will have to be taken during 1949 to extend and enlarge the circuits; to install at least 10 new fire alarm boxes and, if housing development continues at the present rate, much more elaborate systems will have to be installed to provide adequate protection. The engineers are planning to gradually bring the various alarm systems into one unit to increase protection of property in all sections.

The major extensions in the various water districts this year have increased the protection greatly, for the districts have co-operated by placing hydrants along all new mains.

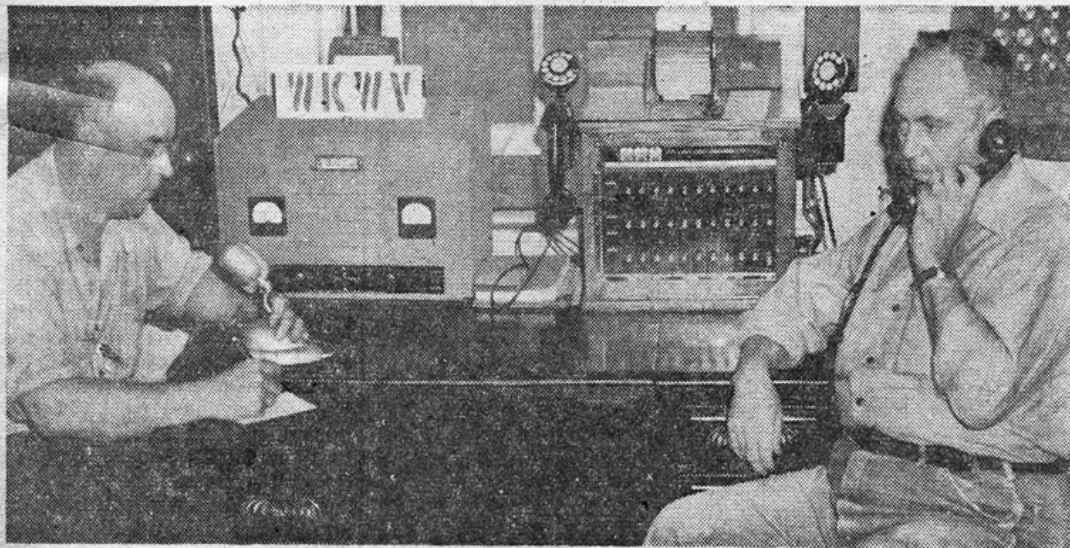
Further improvements in the department are being planned, but many of these cannot be completed until the town can see its way clear to provide moderately-priced and efficiently planned fire stations in the Center and North districts to house the type of apparatus and equipment needed to combat fires in these days when highly-inflammable oils and gasses are being generally used in dwellings for heating and cooking.

### Forest Warden's Report

The year 1948 turned out to be a very mild year in regard to forest and grass fires. The department answered 164 calls - one less than the previous year. There were 1624 permits issued for fires in the open; this being a greater number than the year previous. It is the wish of the Forest Warden that more people would become familiar with the laws governing fires in the open, for it is necessary to receive a permit for any fire in the open unless the ground is completely covered with snow.

A radio was voted for the department at the annual town meeting and this piece of equipment has helped to control fire loss and was instrumental in the department being able to refund a balance in the "Labor at Fires" appropriation.





**CHELMSFORD FIRE SWITCHBOARD**—District Chief Allan Kidder, left, is shown at the forest fire patrol radio while fireman Clarence Dane is receiving the first call over the newly installed fire department switchboard at the Center fire station.

Lowell Sun article July 15, 1948 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

On September 29, 1948, the pump used on the Forest Fire Truck became useless and had to be replaced. The portable pump, out of order for sometime, was also replaced at this time.



Forest Warden Allan Kidder (left) and District State Warden Arthur Halenborg inspect a new portable pump mounted on the rear of the 1941 Chevrolet Forest Fire Service Truck (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The department's equipment, excluding the truck, is in very good condition. There is more one and one-eighth Forestry hose needed as well as Booster hose. These items are being included in the 1949 budget.

It was necessary to call on the Fire Department for help this past year, but in return the services of the Forest Fire Truck and equipment are made available to the Fire Department at all times.

**Chief Engineer**  
Walter W. Edwards

**Deputy**  
Gilbert H. Perham

**Clerk**  
Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Walter W. Edwards  
Gilbert H. Perham  
Charles. D. Harrington  
Samuel A. Parks  
Ralph A. Knight  
George W. Nold  
William L. Colmer

**Forest Warden**  
Allan Kidder

## 1949

### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 1949

#### UNDER ARTICLE 21:

It was voted that the Moderator appoint a Committee of persons consisting of two taxpayers, two members of the Fire

Engineers and One Finance Committee Member, a Committee to study the needs and the advisability of purchasing a new fire truck to be housed at North Chelmsford and to bring in the cost of such apparatus and make complete report at the next annual town meeting. The Moderator appointed as this Committee. Harry Shedd, John Dusseault, Walter Edwards, Gilbert Perham and Arthur Nystrom.

**UNDER ARTICLE 23:**

It was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,680.00 for the purpose of purchasing gas masks for the Fire Department under Chapter 337 of the Acts of 1948.

**Special Town Meeting June 13, 1949**

**UNDER ARTICLE 4:**

On a motion made by Carl A. E. Peterson it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 111A of the General Laws as amended by the Acts of 1949, regarding the payment of vacation pay to the firemen and policemen employed by the Town.

**Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

The year has been one of steady progress, thanks to the cooperation of the town government and the voters who approved our appropriation last March.

During the year, we have been able to make many major improvements to our buildings, including new boilers at both the East and South Chelmsford stations, to reroof the South station and repair the roof of the Center station, along with other repairs of minor nature.

We also have been able to do a great deal of work on the fire alarm systems in the North and Center areas, to improve the whistle in the Center and to provide fire alarm boxes for several schools which were without this protection.

Another improvement was the addition of 40-foot plus ladders for both the Center and North fire trucks. This is a major safety measure as it provides a means for the rescue of persons who might become trapped in any of the larger buildings in town. It is, of course, a poor substitute for a ladder truck or aerial ladder, but we realize that the cost of purchasing and operating either a ladder truck or aerial would too great for the town at present.





1949 Triple extension ladder demonstration at Town Hall, Lowell District Chief John F. Thomas and Chief Engineer Walter Edwards next to the ladder (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

For 1950 we are asking additional funds for fire alarm improvements, with the purpose in view of establishing' a moderate system that will provide full protection.

We also are asking again for funds to purchase a new piece of fire apparatus - a fire truck built for fire-fighting purposes and designed to last at least 20 years under the type of service it would provide in a town this size.

We sincerely hope that money will be appropriated this year for this purpose. Our present apparatus is getting old - in fact, some of it is too old for economical maintenance - and our repair bills are mounting and will continue to mount until the old apparatus is retired.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

With all the extreme hazardous conditions this area experienced in the year, 1949, our town was very fortunate in keeping the loss by fire at a minimum.

The Department answered 183 calls for Forest or Grass fires, an increase of 19 calls over the previous year. Of these fires, only one reached a size of major proportion, it being off Graniteville Road in West Chelmsford. This fire was definitely set. It was started deep in the woods and was so located that until it had gained much headway could not be spotted by either the Robin Hill Observer or by the land owner. There was a brisk wind the day it started. Added to that, the town's only Forest Fire Truck was out of order due to a breakdown the day before. Therefore we were depending on State aid at that time and also the use of Engine 3 of the Fire Dept.

In the past year 1870 permits for fires in the open were issued an increase of 246 permits over the previous year. It might be well to state at this time that a recent change in the General Laws now states that a permit must be secured from the Forest Fire Warden before any fire may be lighted in the open at any time.

A great deal of assistance was received by your town from the State Dept. of Conservation in the past year. It being in the form of a manned piece of Forest Fire Apparatus whenever our needs required.

The equipment on our truck was greatly improved by the addition of an extra booster reel and hose. Old hose needs replacing this year, along with other equipment that has worn beyond repair. Frequently breakdowns occurred in the Forest Fire Truck last year and more are contemplated this year.

**Chief Engineer**

Walter W. Edwards

**Deputy**

Gilbert H. Perham

**Clerk**

Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Walter W. Edwards

Gilbert H. Perham

Charles. D. Harrington

Samuel A. Parks

Ralph A. Knight

George W. Nold

William L. Colmer

**Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1950



### Annual Town Meeting March 13, 1950

UNDER ARTICLE 26.

On a motion made by Arthur Nystrom, it was voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new piece of fire apparatus, the said purchase to be made by the Board of Fire Engineers and that the said purchase be financed in the following manner:

"Four thousand dollars to be raised by taxation in the year 1950 and the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen or a majority thereof be and hereby is authorized and empowered to borrow the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars at a rate of interest not to exceed 1% per annum, payable semi-annually and to issue notes of the Town of Chelmsford therefor in accordance with Chapter 44 of the General Laws so that the whole loan shall be paid in not more than five years from the date of issue of the first note, and further that the Board of Fire Engineers be and are hereby authorized to either retain or dispose of the present Town owned fire truck now located in the Fire House at East Chelmsford in any way that the said Fire Engineers deem best for the interest of the Town of Chelmsford." Three Hundred fifteen (315) voted in the affirmative and Two (2) voted in the negative.

### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The year saw many accomplishments and long strides being taken towards the eventual establishment of a closely coordinated department under a central head and with fire alarm systems being developed with the aim of tying all together in the near future.

During the year we completed repairs to the Center and North fire alarm systems and, because of the national emergency, put all remaining money into new wire in order to have supplies to carry on this work while the emergency exists. The near-hurricane ate into our funds considerably, for both the Center and North systems were quite badly damaged by the wind and falling tree limbs. We also completed renovation of the Center fire alarm whistle which now is working as it was originally intended to.

We also made many repairs to the buildings - repaired and repainted the West house, put a new floor in the Center house when termites riddled the old foundation, and made other general repairs.



Old Center Fire Station behind Town Hall in 1950, class of instruction with Lowell District Captain John Thomas  
 From left to right: Foster Braga, ?, Don Smith, Bill Thayer, Billy Ayotte, Allan Kidder, George Waite, Ernest Byam, Walter Edwards, John Thomas (Lowell), ?, ?, Clarence Dane, ?, Johnny Hallberg, ?, Forest Philbrook, Jake Smith, Louie Bennett  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

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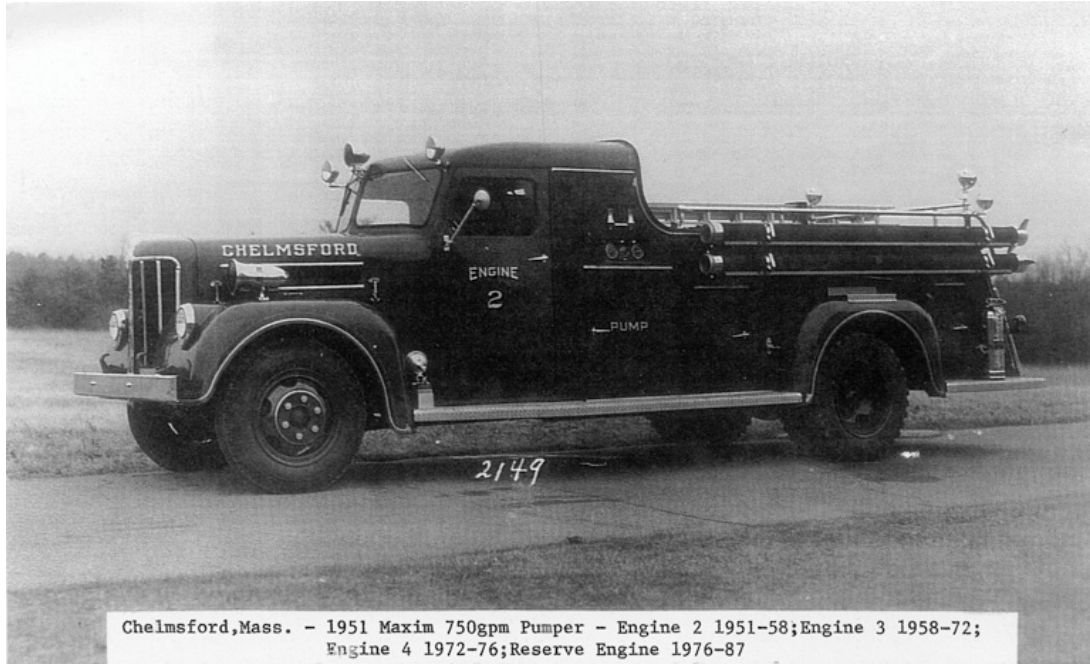
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The year also saw the town authorize a new fire truck for North, which was delivered on Jan. 6, 1951, and now is in service. This filled a long-felt want and gives us one heavy duty engine of modern manufacture.



Chelmsford, Mass. - 1951 Maxim 750gpm Pumper - Engine 2 1951-58; Engine 3 1958-72; Engine 4 1972-76; Reserve Engine 1976-87

Delivery of this 1951 Maxim closed cab 750 g.p.m. triple combination Pumper, Engine 2 started a rotation: The previous Engine 2, a 1931 Maxim Pumper, was re-designated Engine 4 and transferred to East Chelmsford  
The previous Engine 4, a 1926 Maxim Pumper, was re-designated as Reserve  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

With the co-operation of the townspeople, we plan many more developments this year of 1951, including a new fire station for the Center, the appointment of a full-time chief and the tying in of two thirds of the fire alarm systems, leaving the remaining third for the following year. We also plan to complete repairs and repaint the South fire station.

There may be questions raised as to the necessity for spending money on the outlying stations, but we believe that they are even more important today, in view of the national emergency, than ever before and we plan to maintain them to the best that our funds will permit.

#### Forest Warden's Report

The past year has shown a decrease in the forest fire loss for the town. There were no fires that reached the proportion of being classed a major fire. Though the records show twelve less fires than the previous year, we experienced some of the worst fire hazard days in the history of the town and state.

On the morning of May 7th, which was the worst fire hazard day of the year; your forest warden was alerted by the State Department of Conservation, through the medium of our short wave radio. As a result personnel were stationed with all apparatus in our town.

Six fires were extinguished without undue damage in our town as well as rendering aid to our neighboring towns of Westford, Tyngsboro and Billerica.

The building of new homes in areas heretofore uninhabited has added new hazards to the forest fire service. Statistics show the major cause of woodland and grass fires to be the disregard of proper burning ethics.

#### Board of Fire Engineers

Allan Kidder  
Gilbert H. Perham  
Charles. D. Harrington  
Samuel A. Parks  
William L. Colmer

#### Forest Warden

Allan Kidder

## 1951

Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1951

Under Article 34:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,800.00 for the purpose of purchasing a three-quarter ton pickup truck for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Fire Engineers.

#### Special Town Meeting October 22, 1951

Under Article 3:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$265.65 from the account known as "Purchase of a three-quarter ton pickup truck" and to transfer the sum of \$123.41 from the account known as "Repairing and Repainting of former Engine 2 prior to its usage as Engine 4 at East Chelmsford", and to transfer the sum of \$36.00 from the account known as "Purchase of a new Fire Truck", all accounts of the Fire Department, the total of these sums, \$425.06, to be transferred to the account known as "Labor at Fires" of the Fire Dept.

Under Article 4:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to transfer the sum of \$45.00 from the account known as "Purchase of a new Fire Truck" to the account known as "Rental of North Section Quarters" of the Fire Department.

#### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

During 1951, the fire alarm systems of North Chelmsford and West Chelmsford were linked, and an extension was made from the Center station to the East station to permit sounding of alarms in East from the Center, where the telephone switchboard is located.

In 1952, we are hoping to tie in the South alarm siren with the Center in the same manner as East now is tied in, and this will complete the long line extensions until such time as a central fire alarm system is installed. All of these lines will serve as part of a central system at that time.

Through the co-operation of the Civil Defense organization, a combination fire alarm-air raid warning whistle was installed in North Chelmsford, giving that section an adequate, modern audible alarm system.

During 1951 we also inaugurated an emergency service, utilizing a three-quarter ton pickup truck for which money was voted at the annual town meeting. This truck is equipped with radio, with firefighting and with emergency equipment and already has proven its value on many occasions. It gives the department an all-round emergency outfit which can be used at highway accidents, drownings or other non-fire emergencies without cutting down the fire-protection service in any of the five districts.



1951 Studebaker Pickup Truck - Emergency No. 7 beside the old fire house located in back of Center Town Hall  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Also during 1951, the old Engine 4 at East Chelmsford was retired to reserve duty and was replaced with the former Engine 2 from North Chelmsford, after the latter had been repaired, repainted and modernized as much as possible. The reserve truck has been used on several occasions for non-fire work, such as pumping out Middlesex street in the area where lack of drainage resulted in minor floods after each heavy rain or thaw.

Great progress also has been made in welding the five districts into one unit with all working together for the common end — a better protection set-up for the entire town.

The town experienced two serious fires during 1951 — the Emerson barn fire and the Spurr home fire. At both of these fires the volunteer members of the department spent long hours with their companies and won the plaudits of spectators for their effective firefighting work. The members of the Board of Fire Engineers join in praising these men who give

up their time, their sleep and sometimes their days work, in order to help the handful of regular firemen in the protection of lives and property in town.



September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



September 9, 1951 Emerson barn fire putting out the embers (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



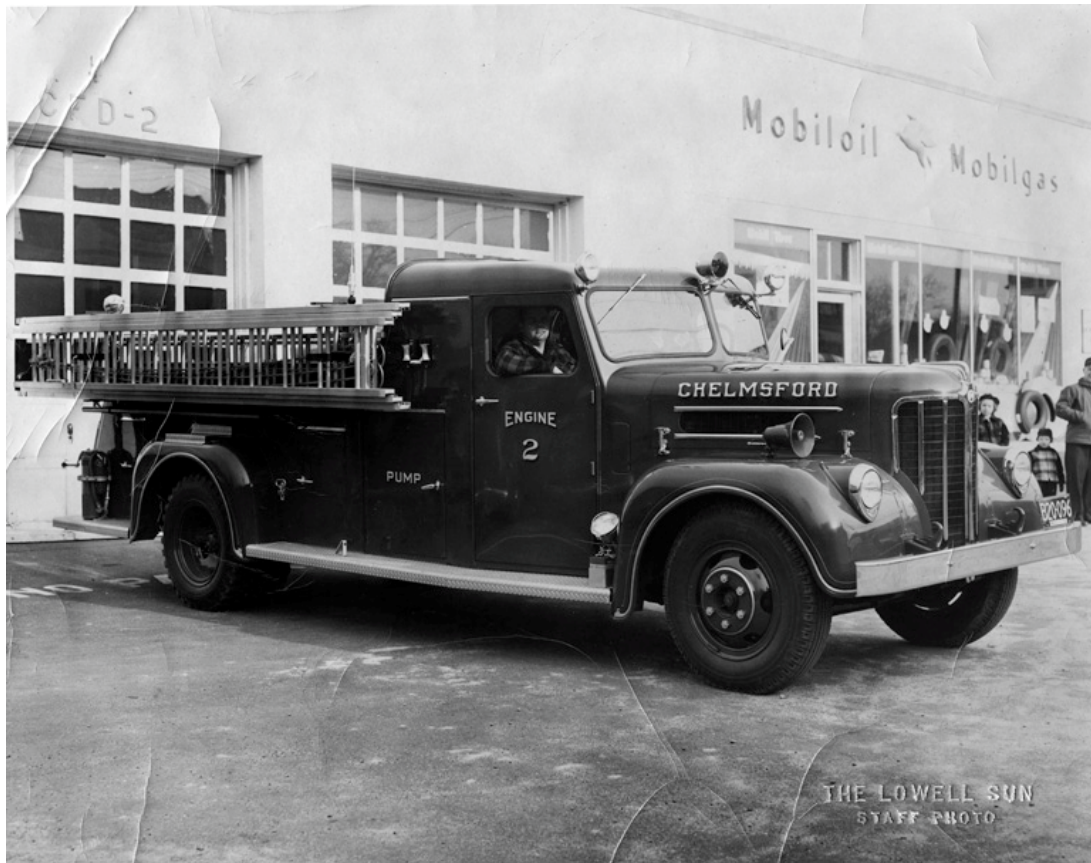
September 1951 Emerson rubble cleanup behind 11 North Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Fires at the two town dumps continued in 1951 to be a source of great expense to the department, and the Engineers ask that steps be taken this year to properly police these dumps, to provide hydrant service at the North dump and other measures be taken to reduce the drain on fire department finances now caused by dump and dump originated fires.

Under the mutual aid system, the Chelmsford fire department sent help to several towns in 1951 and called for and received help from Lowell, Tewksbury and Concord when it was needed.

Our big aim in 1952 is the construction of a simple fire station in the Center, to replace the antiquated, too small and poorly located shed now in use. As soon as the school department turns the Princeton street school buildings back to the town, we hope to secure one to be remodeled into a fire station for North Chelmsford, to provide town-owned housing for the apparatus there in place of the present rented housing.





The 1951 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 2, was housed in this rented garage in Vinal Square (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The grass and brush fire record for 1951 in our town is an enviable one. There were one hundred and twenty-three calls for the services of your Forest Warden against one hundred and seventy-one the previous year. I think this can be accounted for by the fact more people are becoming familiar with the laws regarding the securing of a permit before starting a fire in the open.

The only major fire we experienced occurred on May 2nd in the Groton Road section. The source of the fire was the public dump off Swain Road. Many homes were endangered and all fire fighting resources of this town as well as aid from Lowell, Tewksbury and Concord were brought into play before the fire was brought under control.

Over two thousand permits for fires in the open were issued fey the Forest Warden. In closing I will remind our citizens that the law states: "That a permit shall be received at all times from the Forest Warden before any fire is started in the out-of-doors."

**Chief Engineer**

Allan Kidder

**Assistant Chief Engineer**

William L. Colmer

**Clerk**

Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Allan Kidder

William L. Colmer

Gilbert H. Perham

Leo A. Williams

Charles. D. Harrington

**Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

**1952**

**Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1952**

Under Article 19:

In regard to the purchase of uniforms for Police and Firemen, it was voted to dismiss this article.

**Special Town Meeting July 21, 1952**



**UNDER ARTICLE 2.**

On a motion made by Allan Kidder, it was voted to instruct the Moderator to appoint a Committee to investigate the advisability of the use of the Princeton Street School Buildings for Fire Department purposes or other Town purposes. The Committee shall consist of a representative of the Fire Department, a representative of the Health Department and three other members. Said Committee to make a report at the next Annual Meeting.

**UNDER ARTICLE 4.**

On a motion made by Gilbert Perham, it was voted to accept the report of the Committee on Chelmsford Center Fire House Building, the report was read and is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

**UNDER ARTICLE 5.**

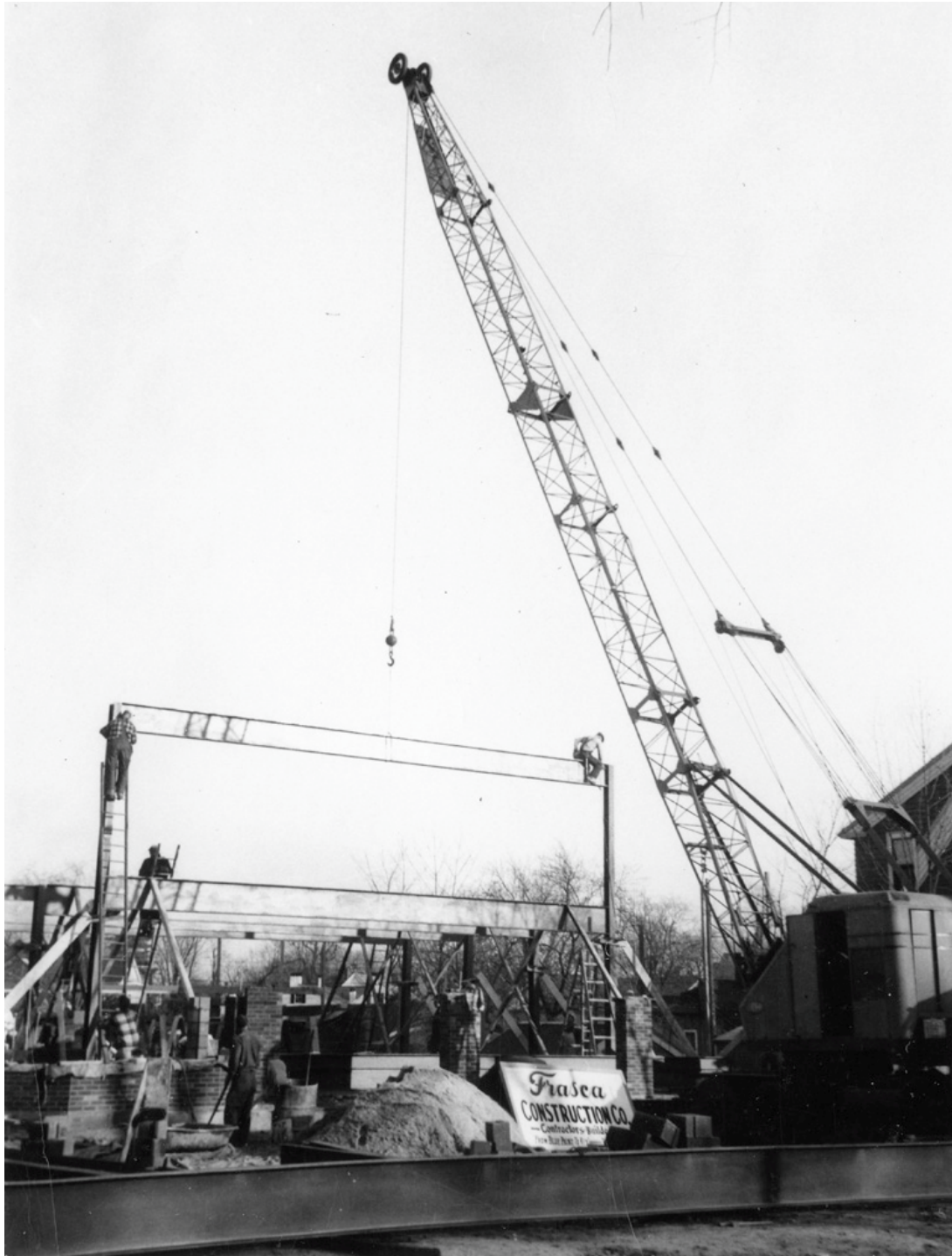
On a motion made by Arnold C. Perham, it was voted that the sum of \$80,000.00 be raised and appropriated for the purpose of drawing plans, supervising, constructing, and originally equipping a fire station in Chelmsford Center, on land now owned by the Town and located on the easterly side of North Road and that to meet said appropriation the sum of \$20,000.00 be appropriated from available funds in the Treasury and that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen, be and hereby is authorized to borrow the sum of \$60,000.00 and to issue notes of the Town, therefor payable in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44 of the General Laws so that the whole loan shall be paid in not more than 20 years from the date of issue of the first note. 106 voted in the affirmative and no one voted in the negative.

**UNDER ARTICLE 6.**

On a motion made by Gilbert H. Perham (half brother of Arnold C. Perham), it was voted to appoint a Chelmsford Center Fire Station Building Committee to consist of the Board of Fire Engineers and Ulysses J. Lupien, George W. Marinel, and Arnold C. Perham, who are hereby authorized and empowered in behalf of the Town to proceed with the construction of a Fire House on land now located on the easterly side of the North Road now owned by the Town. Said Committee is authorized to procure plans, specifications, award contracts for construction, purchase equipment and furnishings and to do all things necessary to build, equip and furnish a Fire House on the aforesaid land.



1952 Emerson barns and the basement level of the Center Fire Station  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Installing steel for the the Center Fire Station engine bays and second floor  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Masons building the first floor of the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Masons building the second floor of the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





1952 Roofing materials for the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Board of Fire Engineers' Report**

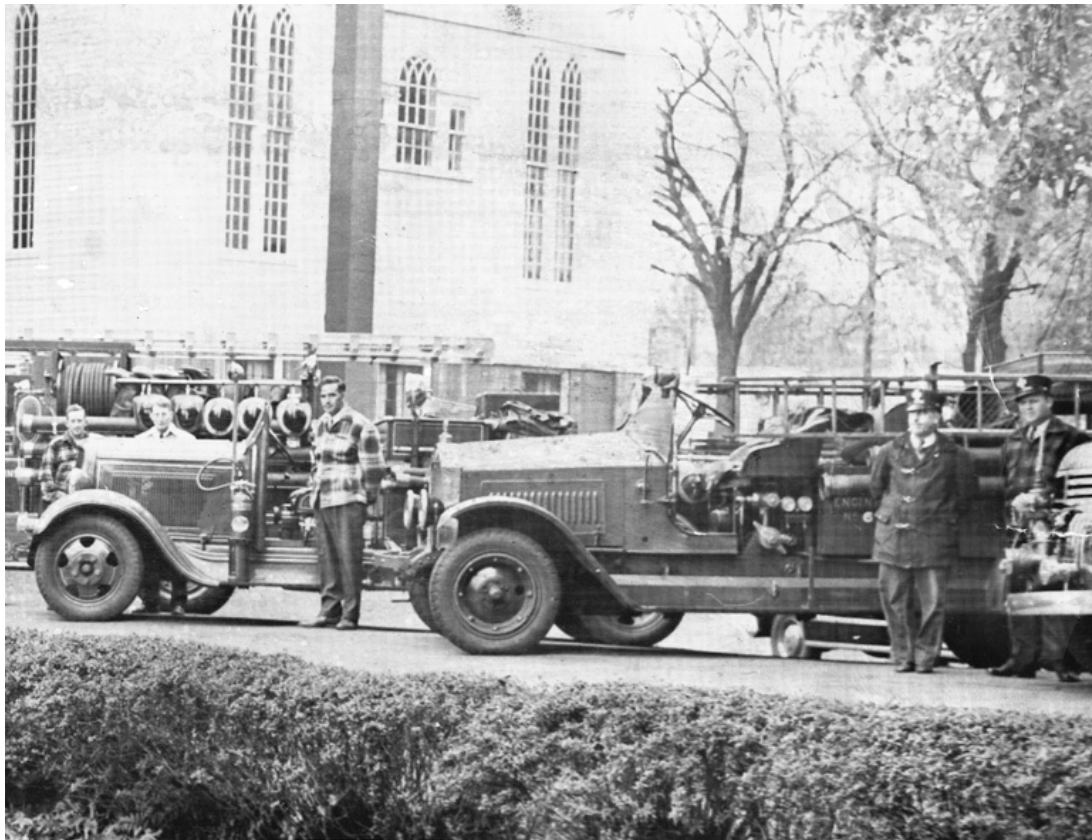
Due to the co-operation of the townspeople in voting funds, the department was able to tie in the South district with the Center fire alarm system, and to repair and rebuild old Engine 4 for use as a reserve truck. At South Chelmsford station, toilet accommodations were provided for the first time.

A considerable amount of new equipment for the men was purchased during the past year and this will be continued until the supply is adequate for the entire force.

During 1952 the members of the North company staged a drive for funds and purchased a resuscitator which now is available for use wherever needed, and the members of the East company repainted the interior of their station.



1952 Fire Prevention Week with Apparatus lined up on the Common next to the First Parish Church, from left to right:  
 (1). 1951 Studebaker pickup, Emergency 7 (2). 1935 Maxim Pumper, Engine 1 (3). 1951 Maxim Pumper, Engine 2  
 (4). 1947 Studebaker Pumper, Engine 3 (5). 1931 Maxim Pumper, Engine 4  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1952 Fire Prevention Week with Apparatus lined up (continuation of above photo) from left to right:  
 (6). 1934 Dodge Maxim Pumper, Engine 5 (7). 1926 Maxim Pumper, Engine 6 (8). 1941 Chevrolet, Forestry 8  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Forest Warden's Report**



The Forest Fire record for the year ending, Dec. 31, 1952 shows an increase over the previous year.

The request for permits for fires in the open was greater than the previous year. This was due somewhat to the system the State Dept. of Conservation has initiated in establishing a so-called, burning index, which guides persons in knowing when it is safe to burn in the open.

Considerable forestry hose became unfit for use during the year, due to age and normal wear.

The need for a tank truck for this department became more apparent this season.

**Chief Engineer**

Allan Kidder

**Assistant Chief Engineer**

William L. Colmer

**Clerk**

Charles. D. Harrington

**Board of Fire Engineers**

Allan Kidder

William L. Colmer

Gilbert H. Perham

Leo A. Williams

Charles. D. Harrington

**Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

## 1953

### Annual Town Meeting March 9, 1953

Under Article 18:

On a motion made by Carl A. E. Peterson, it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 6B of Chapter 40 of the General Laws entitled, "6B - Uniforms for Police and Firemen."

Under Article 31:

On a motion made by Charles D. Harrington, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,850.00 to defray the cost of the construction of retaining walls, fencing, grading and landscaping land at the new Center Fire Station.

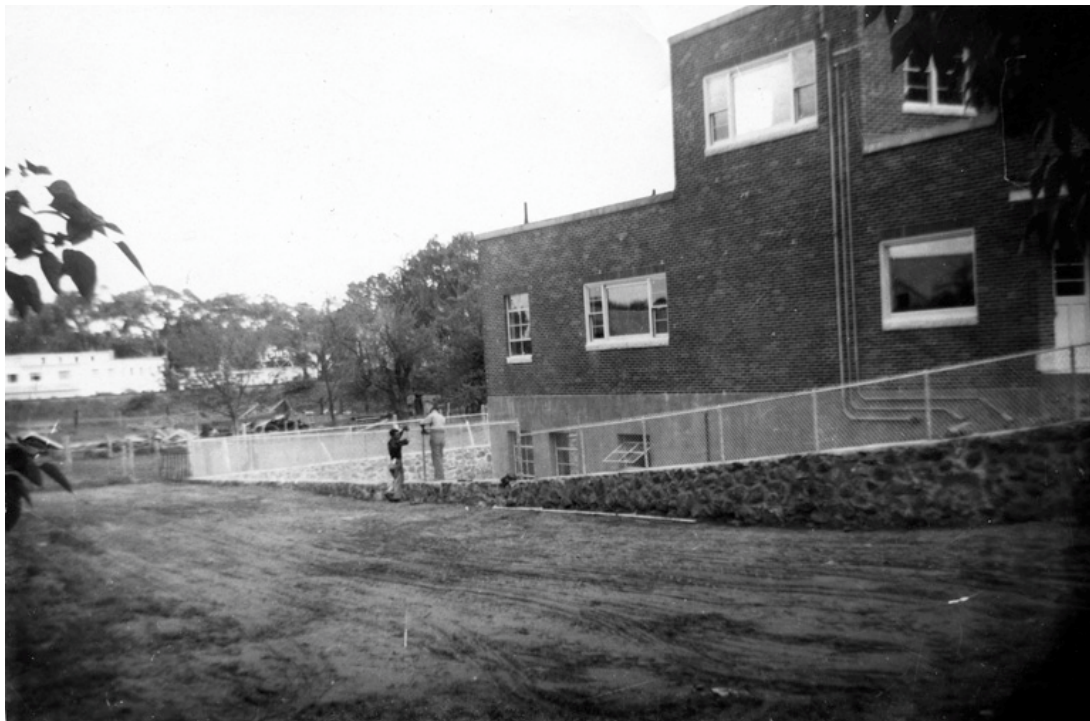


1953 Finishing the side of the Center Fire Station before grading (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





1953 Installing the chain link fence beside the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1953 Finishing the chain link fence beside the Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



1953 Grading the apron in front of Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### Board of Fire Engineers' Report

The past year has brought about some changes that the Board of Fire Engineers feel are for the best interest of the service and will eventually bring about a better understanding by all concerned. The duties of Deputy to the Chief Engineer, formerly held by a Callman, were changed and assigned to a permanent fire-fighter. The duties of District Chief of the North company were also changed from a Callman to a permanent firefighter, as has been the case in the Center for some time.

Engine One was completely refinished the past year, bringing all our apparatus now to a very presentable appearance.

The West and South stations were painted one coat on the outside. A radiator was installed in the South station to insure against freezing the plumbing that had been installed the previous year. This radiator, plus other material needed for other stations, were removed from the Old Princeton Street School by authority of the Board of Selectmen.

The alarm system in North and West was repaired and modernized to some extent but a great deal more is necessary.

Apparatus in the Center was moved into the new station on August 1, 1953 and affords service to the whole department that the Town never had before.



Moved on August 1, 1953, from left to right: 1951 Studebaker Emergency 7, 1941 Chevrolet Forestry 8, 1935 Maxim Pumper Engine 1, 1926 Maxim Pumper Engine 6 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The Board of Fire Engineers gave considerable thought to the 1954 Budget and feel this Department can continue to render the type of service the Town is entitled to under the Board's budget recommendations. The Board decided against any further extensions of the fire alarm system, until what we have now, is modernized and put in a condition we can depend upon at all times.

The Board feels it is time steps were taken to have Town-owned quarters in North Chelmsford, and have requested the Selectmen to insert an Article in the Annual Warrant asking for a committee and funds to secure plans and specifications for a fire station for that section of the Town.

#### **Forest Warden's Report**

More calls were answered the past year than in any one year for the past three. The records for the Year 1953 show 174 calls answered. In some cases, these calls were responded to by companies of the Fire Department. The policy of the Forest Warden is that under certain circumstances governed by weather conditions, the amount of property exposed in the fire area, and distance traveled it is in the best interest of good fire protection to have the nearest available apparatus respond on the initial call. This is to be followed by the Forest Department's truck which has equipment most adapted for grass and brush fires.

Requests for permits for fires in the out-of-doors, (which are necessary under State regulation) have increased this past year. More people have become familiar with the so-called "burning index", as used by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation in its effort to reduce forest fires. As a result fewer requests for permits have been received when the index reading is thirty-five or higher.

#### **Chairman**

Allan Kidder

#### **Clerk**

Richard D. Carr

#### **Board of Fire Engineers**

Allan Kidder

Leo A. Williams

Vinson C. Reid

Harry L. Shedd, Jr.

Richard D. Carr

#### **Forest Warden**

Allan Kidder

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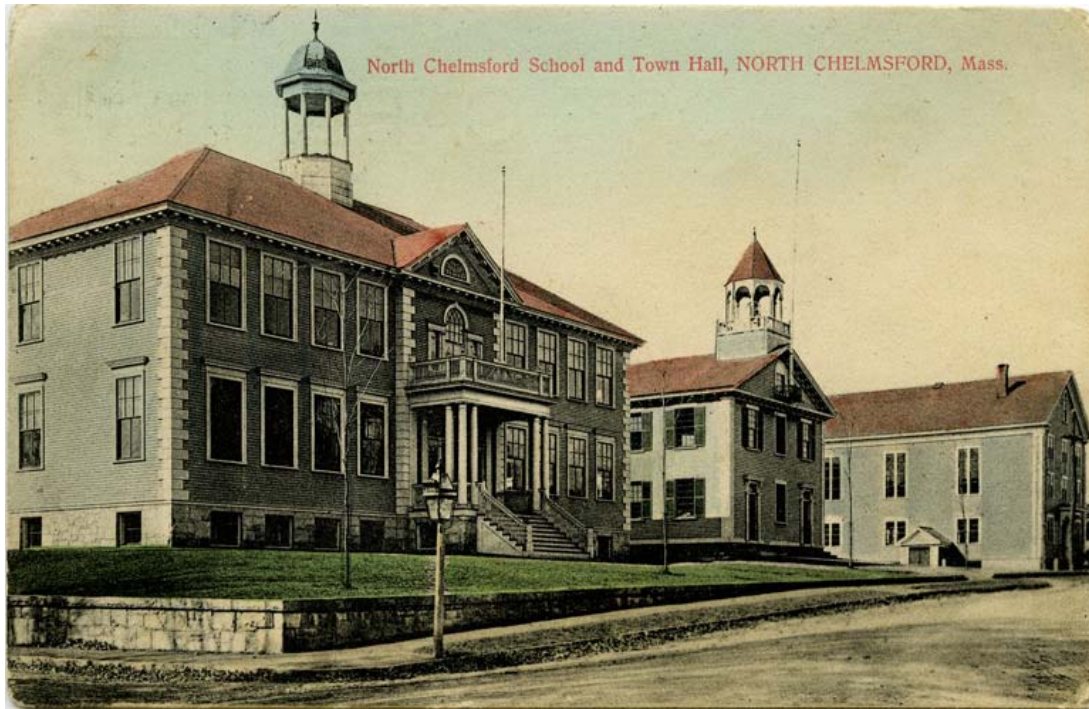
## *1954*

#### **Annual Town Meeting March 8, 1954**

UNDER ARTICLE 28:

On a motion made by Harry L. Shedd, it was voted to appoint a Committee including the present Fire Engineers, namely: Harry L. Shedd, Jr. Allan Kidder, Vinson C. Reid Bernard F. McGovern, Leo A. Williams, John J. Dunigan, Richard B. Carr, and Roger Welch with powers to engage an architect to formulate plans and specifications for a Fire Station to be located on land now owned by the Town, known as the Princeton Street School Site at the intersection of Washington Street and Princeton Street, said Committee to report at the next Annual or Special Town Meeting.





Princeton Street School, North Chelmsford High School and North Town Hall  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### UNDER ARTICLE 103:

On a motion made by Warren C. Lahue, it was voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 48, Sections 42, 43, and 44 of the General Laws relative to the appointment of a Fire Chief, and repeal all other previously accepted sections of Chapter 48 in conflict herewith.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

The year 1954 has brought about a great transition in the Fire Department. At the Annual Town Meeting it was voted to change the form of administration of the Fire Department from a Board of Fire Engineers to that of a full time chief. On June 1st, I (Allan Kidder) was appointed Temporary Acting Fire Chief and on September 15, 1954 was appointed Fire Chief.

This report will cover the activities of both the Fire Department and the Forest Warden as the two departments are now under one head and operate under a single budget.

Very little progress could be made for the present due to the budget being set up for the old form of organization. Plans have been formulated for the reorganization of the department to bring it up to a modern status.

A survey was requested by the Board of Selectmen of the New England Rating Bureau Association, in regard to our department's rating by their body, who are the ones to set the standard of our department as well as establishing insurance rates from same. Their survey was conducted and the report forwarded to our Board of Selectmen.

I feel that this report and recommendations are what was needed by our taxpayers for them to be guided in building and maintaining the type of fire protection the taxpayers expect and demand. With this report in mind, I have evaluated their recommendations and therefore, use the same as a basis of my request of the 1955 budget.

I personally witnessed the testing of our pumping engines, the results of which are: the Town of Chelmsford have, of five engines tested, only one that could pass the test and meet the requirements which were not twenty years old or older. Three other pieces of apparatus owned by the Town were not of the required type so, therefore, could not meet the requirements likewise.

Progress has been made toward replacing our obsolete outside fire alarm circuits.

#### **Report of Civilian Defense**

Our emergency power plants were put to use by the Fire Department to save thousands of dollars in foods that would have otherwise spoiled. The portable light plants were used in the flooded area of Central Square and elsewhere. The teletype service gave the police and fire departments constant information regarding the progress of the storm. Radio communications were maintained throughout the emergency.

We have asked for a somewhat larger budget this year than last. We feel that this is necessary to complete an effective program. The budget calls for \$5300.00 but \$2105.00 will be returned to E and D Fund from the Federal and State Matching Fund. The largest item is for \$2160.00 for four mobile radios for the Fire Department. This will complete communication to all sections of the town in an emergency. We understand, this may be the last year to receive matching funds from the State, on communication equipment.

**Chairman, Board of Fire Engineers  
/ Fire Chief**  
Allan Kidder

**Clerk, Board of Fire Engineers**  
Richard D. Carr

**Board of Fire Engineers**  
Allan Kidder  
Leo A. Williams  
Vinson C. Reid  
Harry L. Shedd, Jr.  
Richard D. Carr

## 1955



Testing a fog stream system, designed to quench a fire using less water, during a Fire Department drill in 1955  
Fog nozzles are still in use by the Chelmsford Fire Department depending on required reach and water supply  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 15, and 21, 1955

#### UNDER ARTICLE 15:

On a motion made by the North Chelmsford Firehouse Building Committee composed of Richard B. Carr, John J. Dunigan, Roger P. Welch, Harry L. Shedd, Jr., Allan Kidder, and Bernard F. McGovern, it was voted that for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a Fire Station at North Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town of Chelmsford that the town appropriate and transfer and borrow the following sums:

\$33,250.00 to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund, so-called, and that \$1,150.00 be transferred from an appropriation made under Article 29 of the Annual Town Meeting held on March 8, 1954, and that \$3,600.00 be raised by tax levy and that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow the sum of \$10,000.00 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and to issue notes payable \$1,000.00 each year from the date of the first note for 10 years. Making a total of \$48,000.00. All of the said money to be used for the purpose aforesaid.

This vote was unanimous.



**UNDER ARTICLE 16:**

On a motion made by Bernard F. McGovern, it was voted that a North Chelmsford Fire House Building Committee be appointed composed of Bernard F. McGovern, Harry L. Shedd, Richard Carr, Allan Kidder, John J. Dunigan, Vinson C. Reid and Roger P. Welch and that the said committee be authorized to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project.

**UNDER ARTICLE 36:**

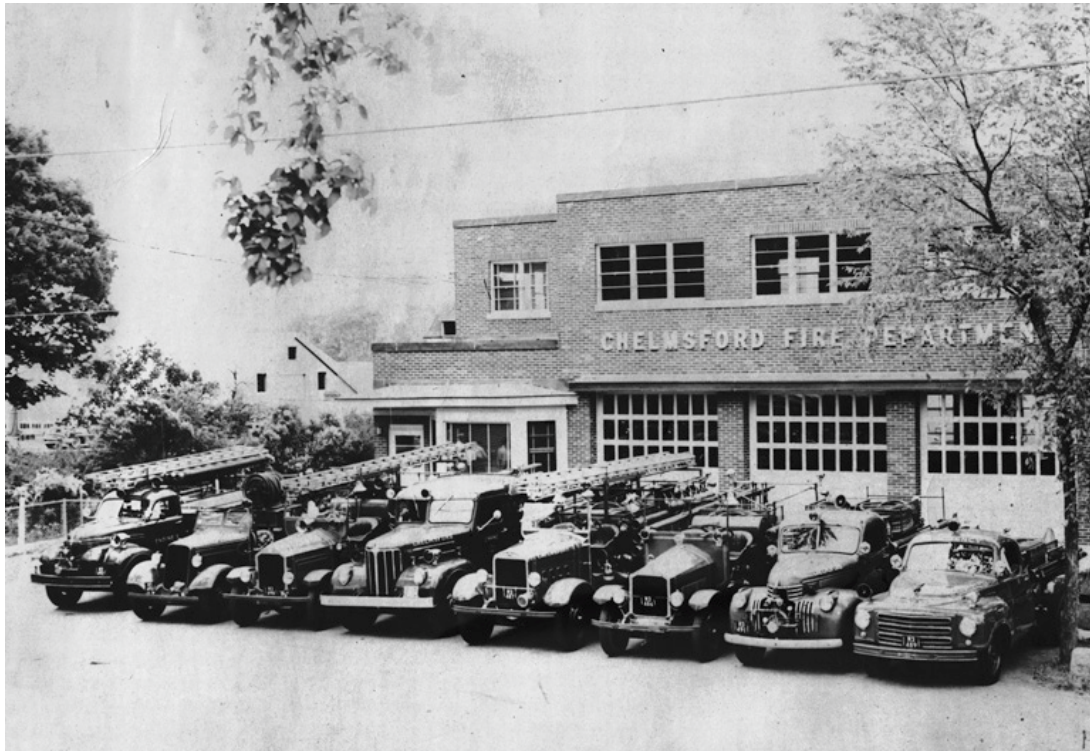
On a motion made by Joe Lukas, it was voted to accept the following By-Law: The Chief of the Fire Department shall include in his annual report, and cause to be published in the Town annual report, the following information: Amount of explosives, of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford. It was unanimously voted.

**Report of the Fire Department**

It is with pleasure that I submit my report of the activities of your fire department at the completion of the first year it has functioned under the system of the administration of a Fire Chief.

A program was inaugurated in the Fire Department, this year for training the personnel, both permanent and call men, that has proven to be of tremendous value. Drill periods were held every week under a schedule that enabled all firefighters to attend every two weeks. The instruction received was of the latest and of the most up-to-date methods employed by leading firefighting forces.

A maintenance system was started in the department in the past year; whereby, all our minor repairs, testing and recording is being carried out by a department mechanic. All apparatus and equipment in all stations are checked every other day and the department mechanic is available at all times.



Left to right: 1947 Studebaker Pumper Engine 3, 1934 Dodge Maxim Pumper Engine 5, 1931 Maxim Pumper Engine 4, 1951 Maxim Pumper Engine 2, 1935 Maxim Pumper Engine 1, 1926 Maxim Pumper Engine 6, 1941 Chevrolet Engine 8, 1951 Studebaker Pickup Emergency 7 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Inspection of oil burning equipment, bottled gas installations and all other items that come under the control of the fire department are now being carried out in a most efficient manner.

Improved record facilities have been instituted and a more closely knitted fire fighting and fire prevention organization is now in operation.

Constant attendance at the telephone switchboard, radio transmitter and fire alarm headquarters by a permanent member of the department has been inaugurated since June 1st of 1955.

(Chief Kidder published a 24 page booklet with all the location codes to be broadcast on the air horns at Town Hall and the fire stations to alert the Call Firemen in the event of a fire. Read the [Fire Alarm Directory](#) as searchable PDF document.)



Another step in centralizing our fire alarm system by tying the West Chelmsford alarm circuit into the alarm headquarters at 7 North Road has been started, but not completed at this date.

For the most part, all the foregoing improvements in the structure and operation of the Fire Department have been made possible by the four additional men that were authorized at the annual town meeting in March of 1955.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 46,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 51,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 4,500 lbs.

In the past year, through the splendid cooperation of the Police Department and the Office of State Fire Marshal, much has been accomplished in the way of fire prevention and the proper disposition of cases of fires of suspicious origin that have occurred in Chelmsford. Court action where necessary has been ably carried out by the Chief of Police.

#### **Fire Chief**

Allan Kidder

#### **Captain**

Raymond J. McGlinchey  
Clarence H. Dane  
Ernest G. Byam

#### **Lieutenant**

Robert C. Spaulding  
Charles E. Jangraw

#### **Permanent Firefighters**

J. Ira Spaulding  
Morton A. Pickard  
Edward G. Quinn  
William H. Thayer  
Farley H. Kemp  
Frederick H. Reid

#### **Engine 1**

Ray H. Pickard  
Wallace A. Greig  
H. Edward Hoyt  
Charles G. Fuller  
George A. Parkhurst  
Bradford O. Emerson  
Walter R. Hedlund  
Donald P. Gray

#### **Engine 2**

Donald E. Smith  
George R. Dixon  
William F. Dutton  
James O. Robinson  
Edward J. McGovern  
Francis G. Miskell  
Warren B. Wetmore  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Ralph R. Abbott  
Fred E. Grant

#### **Engine 3**

Capt. Asa Robey  
Lt. Norman Bickford  
John A. Breen  
Herbert Hodgson  
Eugene W. Pudsey  
Charles A. Miller  
George Baxendale  
Arthur Caster  
Arthur E. Cutter

#### **Engine 4**

Capt. Roland E. Marr  
Lt. H. Christianson  
Foster Braga  
Thomas S. Shedd  
William H. Shedd  
John J. McNulty  
Arthur Blomgren  
Anthony C. Ferreira  
Anthony L. Sousa

#### **Engine 5**

Capt. George Waite  
Melmon J. Smith  
Royce M. Parker  
John D. Hallberg  
Forrest L. Philbrook  
Roger T. Calder  
Harold F. Boisvert  
Edward Giers

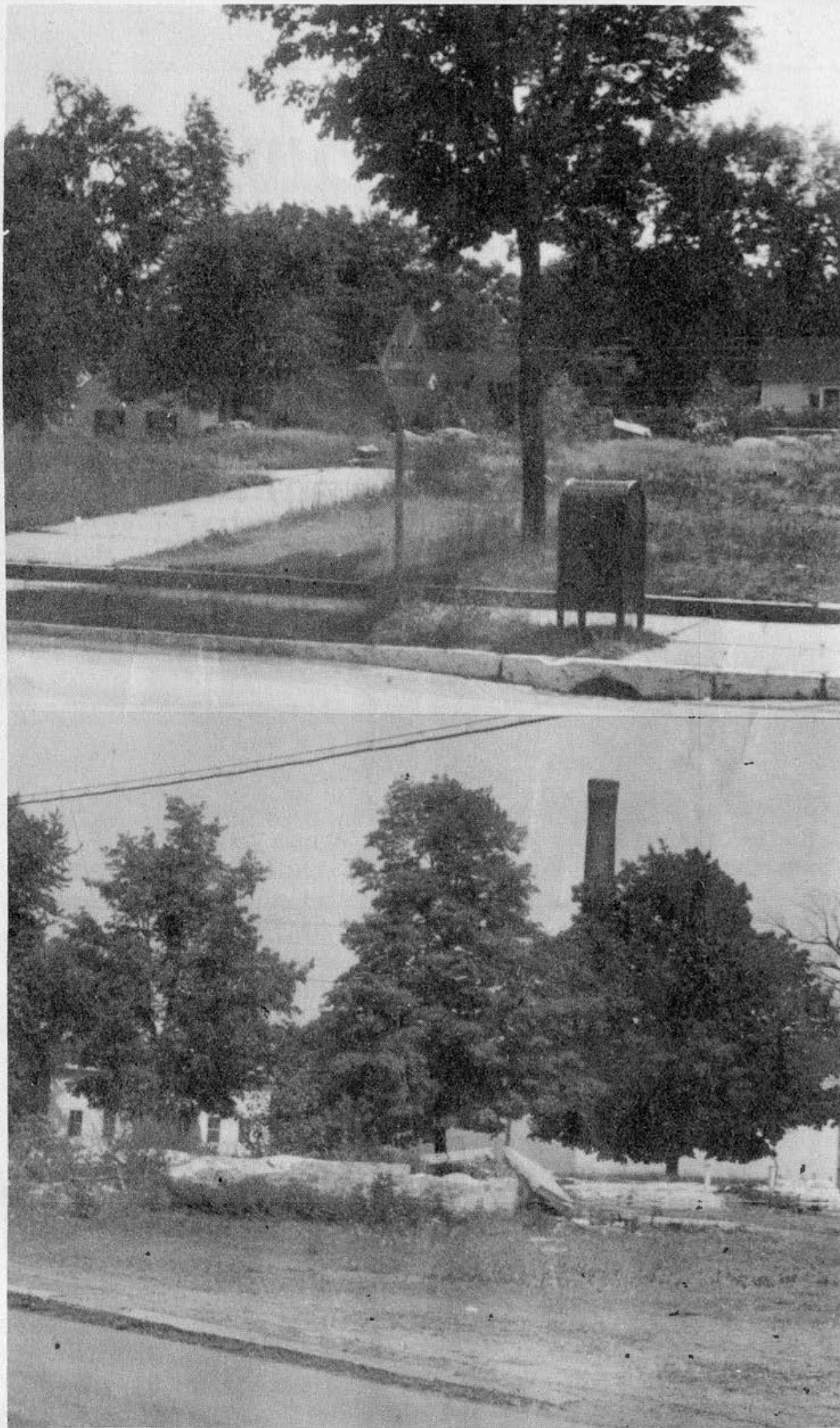
#### **Westlands Company**

Arthur L. Bennett  
Lionel D. Marchand  
Raymond O. Marchand  
Neil W. Mooers  
Leon M. Pigeon

## *1956*

#### **Annual Town Meeting**

UNDER ARTICLE 40. On a motion made by Bernard F. McGovern, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand, (\$25,000.00) Dollars to be added to money previously appropriated for the purpose of building, equipping and furnishing, including architectural fees, a fire station in North Chelmsford.



Site of the old Princeton Street school located in the North section which will be used for a new fire station with work commencing on Monday. Above picture taken from Princeton St. while below is from Washington St.

From July 5, 1956 Newsweekly Article on North Fire Station contract award  
(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

UNDER ARTICLE 59. It was voted to dismiss this article regarding a committee studying the advisability of taking land on North Road between the Fire Station and Town Hall.

### Report of the Fire Department

The increase in the number of new homes, and the fact that we can expect a great deal of future development in Chelmsford, together with the increase in Automobile fires and accidents, has shown very clearly this past year that we definitely need both new equipment, and more men to provide the Town with adequate fire protection.

However, as I feel that it is out of the question to request both new equipment and more men at this time, and as the more important of the two right now is for the Town to purchase a minimum of two new 750 G. P. M. Pumpers, I have recommended again this year, as I have for the past three years, that an Article be inserted in the Annual Town Warrant for the purchase of these trucks.

I cannot stress too strongly the need of both of these Pumpers at this time, rather than purchasing just one of them. One truck will replace a pumper which is now 26 years old, and broken down to the extent that both the Board of Selectmen and I agree that it would be a waste of money to repair such an old truck, plus the fact that we would have no assurance that we could depend on this truck to continue in service. The other truck which we would replace is an even older one, 31 years old, which we certainly cannot depend upon, and which is no longer suitable for modern day fire protection.

With two new Pumpers in service, we will then have a dependable truck in each section of the Town, although even then we will not be up to the recommendations of the New England Fire Insurance Rating Association, as printed in their report of August 11, 1954 at the completion of their survey, which was requested by the Board of Selectmen.

With the purchase of only one new Pumper, we would have to use an obsolete and undependable truck (31 years old) in some section of the Town, and I feel that all sections are entitled to equal protection. Each taxpayer has the right to the same amount of protection for his home and family as any other.

The past year, as in other years, has shown a great increase in the number of calls answered by your Fire Department, and with the additional duties assumed by the firefighters besides actual firefighting such as a Fire Station and Apparatus maintenance, Alarm maintenance, oil burner inspections, office work, drills, fire prevention, and so on, your Fire Department is now having trouble keeping up with the demands for its service, and it is certain that the demands will continue to increase in the future.

On or about August 15, 1956, I attended a meeting of the Board of Selectmen together with two members of the Finance Committee. At that meeting it was unanimously agreed that no money should be spent on the apparatus that was out of service because of a major breakdown. I informed the Selectmen that a piece of apparatus could be borrowed, at no cost to the Town, for a reasonable length of time, and it was accepted.

Realizing that something concrete had to be inaugurated in regard to purchasing new equipment, I offered a plan to all present. It being a fact that for many years taxpayers have not been called upon to make any effort to carry their share of the burden to purchase fire apparatus, I recommended the following:

That a sum of money be borrowed immediately to cover the cost of apparatus broken down, plus apparatus which is of an age and condition that it cannot be depended upon. This sum to be paid off in equal payments over a period of five years. That also at the same time a fund be started, (known as Apparatus Depreciation Account), into which a given amount shall be placed each year, through taxation.

This plan would accomplish three things; first, it would furnish the Town at once, with the apparatus that is so greatly needed, and I believe, carry us for the next five years in a safe condition. Second, at the end of the five year period, when our apparatus debt would have been paid off, we would have a fund available to start a replacement program of apparatus, which will then be at best twenty-seven years old. Finally, the plan would accomplish the important fact of all taxpayers, every year, carrying the burden equally for proper fire protection.

At a subsequent date I was requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen and members of the Finance Committee, and two evenings were required to accomplish all that was desired. I was finally asked to pass judgment as to how few pieces of apparatus I felt we could buy at this time, and still be assured of proper fire protection. My answer was as follows: If we only have one fire at a time, we would dispatch two companies to each building fire, as is recommended by all standards, are able to be returned from a call and made ready before we have another call, then the least number of pieces of apparatus we should purchase at once would be two 750 G. P. M. pumpers. That, of course, would be eliminating one piece of apparatus, (a forest fire truck), from my original plan. If that course were to be followed, money would have to be made available to recondition our present forest fire truck.



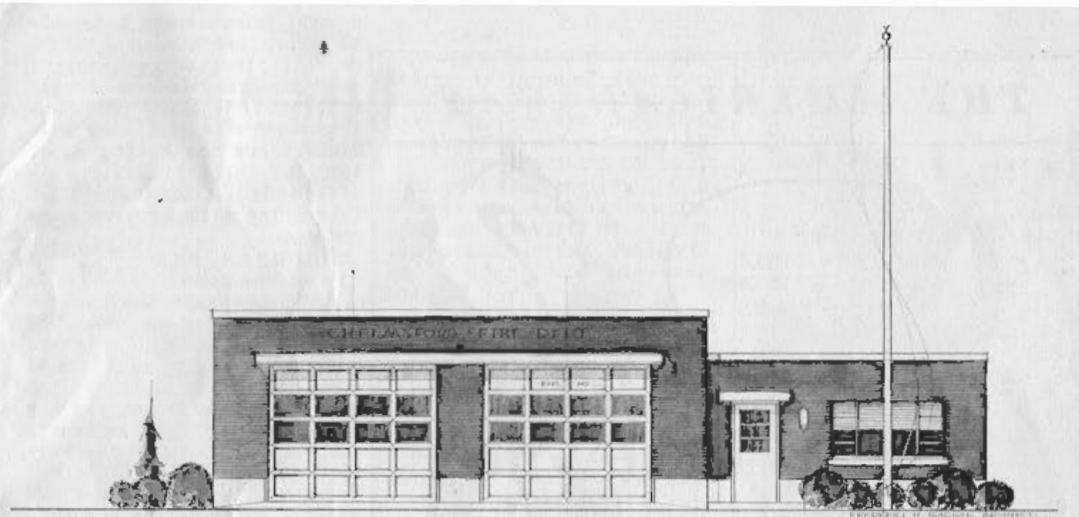
In conclusion I feel that to furnish fire protection to all sections of the Town equally, it is imperative that the taxpayers purchase at least two pumpers at once. I shall also be more than pleased to discuss the Fire Department problem with any taxpayer, should more facts be desired.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 41,850 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 47,350; Magazine No. 3, 4,400 lbs.

#### **Report of the North Chelmsford Firehouse Building Committee**

The North Chelmsford Firehouse Committee, Bernard F. McGovern, Chairman; Roger P. Welch, Secretary; Richard B. Carr, John J. Dunigan. Fire Chief Allan Kidder, Vinson C. Reid and Harry L. Shedd. Jr. submits a report of progress as follows:

Construction of the new fire station at North Chelmsford was begun in August of 1956. A considerable delay was encountered when it was necessary to call for bids on three different occasions in order to come within the funds appropriated by the voters at the Town Meeting. On the third call for bids, the lowest bid submitted was still some \$3,000. 00 over the amount appropriated; but, by re-advertising for new bids on electrical, roofing, landscaping and hot topping bids, the committee finally was able to award the contract to W. W. Granger Co.



Sketch of the new north fire station which will be constructed at the site of the old Princeton Street schools.

# CHELMSFORD Newsweekly

VOL. XIV NO. 33 CHELMSFORD, MASS. JULY 5, 1956 PRICE 5 CENTS

## North Fire Station Contract Awarded; Start Work Monday

### Selectman McAndrews Questions Fire Chief At Selectmens Meeting

The highlight of the last Selectmens meeting held on Friday night June 29th was the questioning of Fire Chief Allan Kidder by Selectman Robert F. McAndrew. Chief Kidder appeared before the board on the request of Selectman McAndrew. The Chief answered several questions regarding the new North fire house as proposed and upon conclusion of these questions Selectman McAndrews asked for an executive session. He explained that he would like to ask a few personal questions but that he would never insult the Chief. Selectman Edgar P. George explained that he felt that where the board had been elected by the people that there should be no secret sessions. Chairman Daniel J. Hart explained that although he had attended executive sessions on

work on the new long-awaited North Fire Station is expected to start Monday morning with the arrival of a bull-dozer to begin this project. The site of the North Chelmsford Fire Station is the former location of the Princeton St. School. The contract was signed Monday night with the W. W. Granger Company of Shrewsbury to the amount of \$63,540.

The apparatus room capacity of this building will be: one ladder truck or four pumpers similar to the one now in use

### Local Fire Cause Under Investigation

Fire Chief Alan Kidder and Inspector James W. Midgeley have requested investigation of the fire which caused considerable damage at the Cummings property on Princeton Street, North Chelmsford, Monday morning.

Lieutenant Detective Daniel Shinkus is conducting the investigation.

at North Chelmsford; two doors in the front with one in the rear so that the returning apparatus enters in the rear and by so doing does not have to back in off busy Princeton Street.

There will be a watch room for fire alarm, radio, telephone and etc., with ample vision for the personnel on duty being in command of parking conditions.

There will be also an alarm room for the fire alarm batteries and other alarm apparatus; a storage room for supplies, hose and other equipment; an area for the personnel to prepare their meals, and instruction periods; a basement for the boiler, fire whistle, tanks-compressor and emergency lighting equipment.

The members of this building include the following:

Bernard McGovern, chairman; Roger Welch, clerk; and also, Richard Carr, John Dunigan, Vincent Reid, Harry Shedd, and Chief Alan Kidder.

(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

The building was substantially completed and occupied on December 30, 1956, Because of contingent expenses incurred in the installation for footings and drainage, it was impossible to furnish the building in the manner the committee had planned. The Firemen's Relief Association from North Chelmsford has supplied some of the furnishings and equipment needed and the Committee wishes to express its thanks for their help. While the station is not completely furnished, the quarters are quite comfortable.

Grading and seeding of the entire lot has been contracted for, work to begin as soon as the weather permits this coming spring.

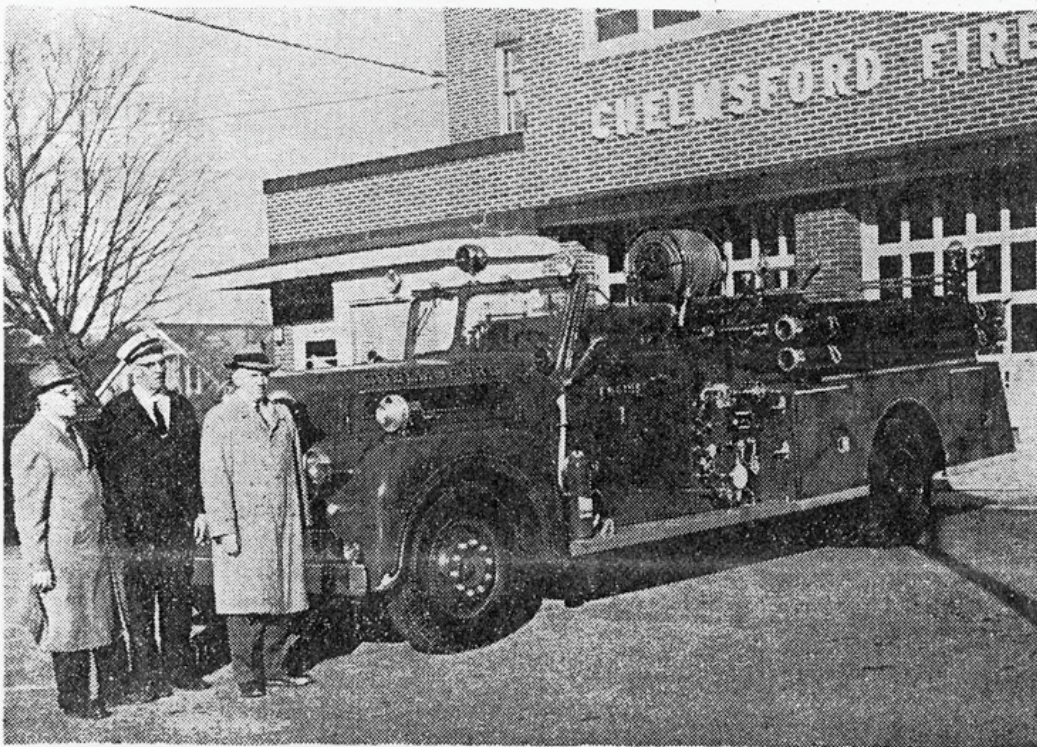
**Fire Chief**  
Allan Kidder

## 1957

### Annual Town Meeting March 4 and 11, 1957

#### UNDER ARTICLE 23.

On motion of Robert F. McAndrew to raise and appropriate Twenty-Two Thousand (\$22,000.00) Dollars to purchase a Fire Truck for the Fire Department to be purchased under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



### New Chelmsford Equipment

The new 750 gallon pumper, Chelmsford's most modern piece of fire equipment, was delivered to the Central fire station Friday by the Maxim company, which built it at a cost of more than \$19,000. The new appara-

tus has a 500-gallon water tank and carries 1500 feet of hose. Shown in front of the pumper, left to right, are Leighton Maxim, the builder; Fire Chief Allan Kidder, and Selectman Daniel Hart.

(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### UNDER ARTICLE 24.

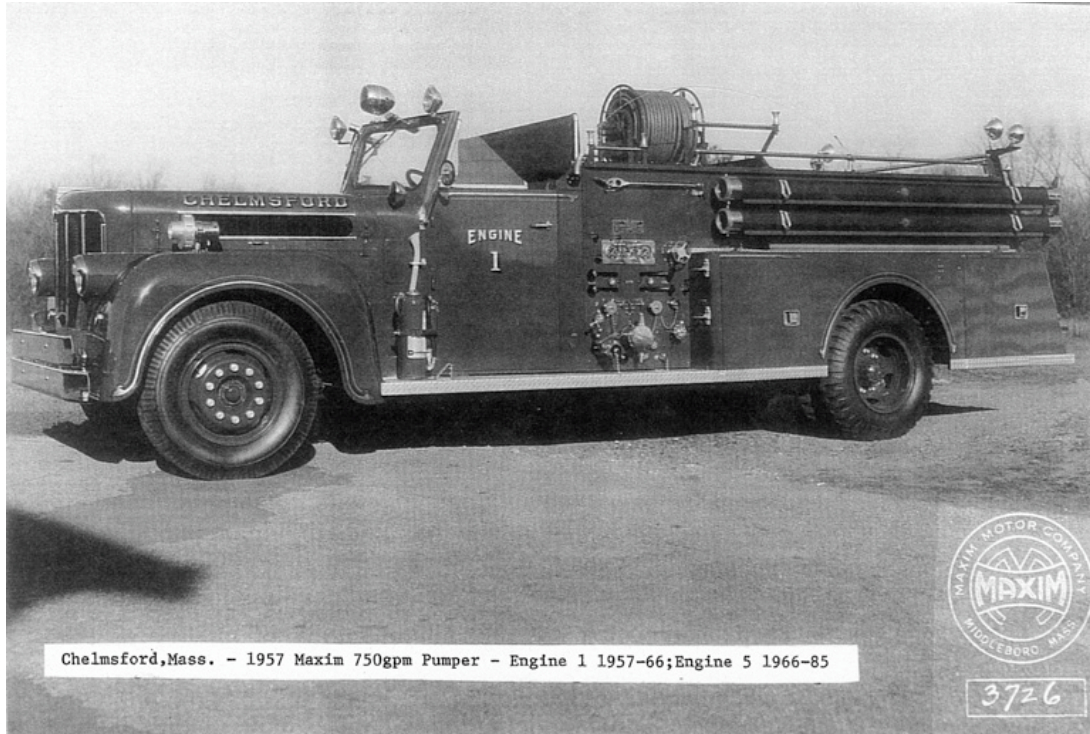
On motion of Robert F. McAndrew it was voted to authorize the Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of the Fire Truck now being used by the Fire Department.



### Report of the Fire Department

Upon comparing the records of the department over the past four years, they reveal a steady increase of service calls requested of, and furnished by the Fire Department. In some types of services the number of requests have more than doubled. The only decrease is in the number of dump fires, which has dropped sharply, and that reflects a credit to Mr. Isadore Needham the caretaker of the Town Dump, for the manner in which he has carried out his duties.

The addition of a new pumper was made to the department in November as authorized by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in March. Additional apparatus is needed as has been proven in the past, and will be requested for the voters' consideration at our next Annual Town Meeting.



Chelmsford, Mass. - 1957 Maxim 750gpm Pumper - Engine 1 1957-66; Engine 5 1966-85

Delivery of this 1957 Maxim semi-cab 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 1, to the Center station started a rotation:  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1935 Maxim 500 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 4 and transferred to East  
 The previous Engine 4, a 1931 Maxim Pumper, was taken out of service  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

There have been other developments of vital interest that directly affect proper fire protection in Chelmsford, one in particular that I feel should be brought to the taxpayers attention, is manpower. Over the years Chelmsford has depended upon call firefighters for manpower in fighting fires. A call firefighter is a person who gives of his time, over and above his regular pursuit of livelihood, for the good of his community and neighbor, for which he receives a token compensation.

The call firefighter spends much of his leisure time training and becoming proficient with the apparatus and equipment he is called upon to use. Firefighting methods, as everything else, are constantly changing and being improved upon, making it possible for the department and its personnel to do a better job. Whenever possible the Chief of the Fire Department must appoint as call firefighters, men who shall be available to the department at all times, or at least have a balanced roster whereby fifty percent of his manpower will be on call at all times. This can be possible only if industry allows its personnel to leave their regular job to answer an alarm of fire. With the changing times, that situation has changed also.

In one fire company alone in Chelmsford last year, at least fifty percent of the company worked in an industry that issued an order forbidding their personnel leaving to respond to an alarm of fire. Similar conditions exist throughout the Town, seriously impairing our manpower problem. At one particular fire in 1957 at least twenty men were needed because of the nature of the fire. In three fire companies of our total of five, with a roster of ten men to each company, only three men were available to fight fire.

This leads to but one conclusion, the urgent need for more permanent firefighters, not only to have while on their regular tour of duty, but to be available for emergencies while on their off duty time. At present the department has eleven (11) permanent firefighters. A survey conducted in 1954 by the New England Fire Insurance Rating Association, at the request of the Board of Selectmen, reports that a minimum of forty-two (42) permanent firefighters shall be provided to insure a working force.

1957 was a particularly hazardous year for forest fires and during the period of May 1-12, a state of emergency was declared. During this period, the State of Massachusetts will reimburse the cities and towns for any expense incurred in fighting forest fires. I have submitted a bill to the State in the amount of \$655.30 which will help to offset the labor expense paid out in fighting brush fires which occurred during the time the emergency was declared.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 55,400 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 58,200 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 3,600 lbs.

#### **Report of the North Chelmsford Fire House Building Committee**

The North Chelmsford Firehouse has been occupied by the Fire Department since December 10, 1956. Grading, painting and minor construction work on the building was completed early in 1957. Open house was held in October of 1957 and the building is completely finished.

The Building Committee of Bernard F. McGovern, Chairman; Roger P. Welch, Secretary; Richard B. Carr; John J. Dunigan, Fire Chief Allan Kidder; Vinson C. Reid and Harry L. Shedd, Jr. wish to express their appreciation to all who helped bring this project to a successful completion.



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HAMPDEN-HARVARD BREWERIES, INC.  
WILLIMANSETT, MASS.

# 1957 FIREMAN'S BALL

sponsored by the

Box 7 Associates

for the benefit of the

## RESCUE TRUCK FUND

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

"BUD" WILKINS' ORCHESTRA



**FIRE CHIEF ALLAN KIDDER**

## OUR GOAL



Shown here is a rescue truck. Once the Box 7 Associates complete their present drive for funds, a similar vehicle will be provided the Town of Chelmsford for use in all types of emergencies.



## WHY CHELMSFORD NEEDS A RESCUE TRUCK

Engine 7 which is currently serving as a multi-purpose vehicle is overloaded, lacking in space for equipment which the Town owns but is in shelf storage. Because this piece of equipment is used for various purposes it could be possible that this apparatus would be delayed in getting to an emergency which very well could be a case of life or death.

Apparatus now being used to carry the limited amount of rescue equipment the Town now owns cannot give all-weather protection to this expensive equipment.

No piece of fire apparatus in Town is equipped with a winch which is a must nowadays in removing persons from automobile wrecks.

A rescue truck would not put a pumper out of service as it now does as in the case of auto accidents. Where two pieces of fire apparatus now respond to auto accidents an adequate rescue truck could serve the purpose alone.

Compliments of . . .

**SKIP'S**

**"Good Luck On Your**

**Rescue Truck Drive"**

**Peter - Steve - Fred**

1957 Fireman's Ball Box 7 Associates Fund Raiser Souvenir Program (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

**Fire Chief**  
Alan Kidder

## 1958

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1958

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2.

Mr. Goldman moved that the Town vote to amend Section 19, paragraph III subtitled "Hours of Work Shall Be As Follows", by striking out the language in paragraph III and inserting "For those occupying positions designated 'Public Safety Occupations' and within the Fire Department, forty-eight (48) hours per week; Police Department, an average of forty-four (44) hours per week, scheduled in such a manner as the head of such department may deem advisable."

It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 3.

Mr. Goldman moved that the Town vote to amend Section 19, paragraph IV subtitled, "Hours of Work shall be as follows;" to read as follows: "Overtime work for those beyond these hours may be compensated for by time off, except 'Mechanical and Construction Operation' hourly rates which shall be paid at the standard rate of pay for the job times one and one-half, and except the full time employees of the Fire Department who may be summoned and kept on duty because of a serious fire, and except for the Police Department who shall be paid the regular hourly rate for overtime effective July 1, 1958."

It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 48.

Mr. Bradford O. Emerson moved that the Town vote to accept an Emergency Rescue Truck, to be used by the Fire Department, from the Box 7 Associates. It was so voted. Moderator DeSaulnier extended the appreciation of the Town to the Box 7 Associates.



1958 Rescue Truck provided by the Box 7 Associates. From left to right: Bill Edge, Louie Bennett, Brad Emerson and Selectmen Edgar P. George, Raymond J. Greenwood, Robert F. McAndrew  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### UNDER ARTICLE 60.

Mr. Allan Kidder moved that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) for the purchase of a Fire Truck for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen.

It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 61.

Mr. Allan Kidder moved that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell, by good and sufficient Bill of Sale, an old Fire Truck now being used by the Fire Department.

It was so voted.

#### **Special Town Meeting June 23, 1958**

UNDER ARTICLE 6. Hans H. Schliebus moved that this article regarding transfer of balance of account entitled "Purchase of Fire Truck" in the amount of Twelve Hundred Ten and 58/100 Dollars (\$1,210.58) to the account in the Fire Department budget known as "Building Repairs and Maintenance" be dismissed. A hand vote was taken 33 voted in the affirmative 101 voted in the negative The motion failed. A motion on the original article carried.

#### **FIRE CHIEF ALLAN KIDDER**

Allan Kidder, Chief of the Fire Department, died on November 4, 1958. Chief Kidder was first appointed a call firefighter in 1931. After serving his country in World War II, he returned to the Fire Department in 1946 as a regular firefighter. He rose rapidly in rank until in 1954 he was appointed as Chelmsford's first fulltime Fire Chief. His untimely passing put an end to a career dedicated to the Fire Service, a career in which he earned the respect of his fellow-workers and of the Townspeople.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

During this year the Town, and in particular the Fire Department, suffered a great loss in the passing of our Chief, Allan Kidder. His life was dedicated to the Fire Service, and the work that he accomplished will always be a tribute to his memory.

Our records show that there is a steady increase in the number of calls requested of the Fire Department. This year there was a drop in the number of grass and brush fires due to the wet Spring and Fall, and the number of dump fires was held to a minimum because of the excellent condition in which the Town Dump is kept, and burning controlled.

During this past year a new pumper was delivered to the Town, and is in service at the North Fire Station. The addition of this truck gives adequate pumper protection for some time to come.



Chelmsford, Mass. - 1958 Maxim 750gpm Pumper - Engine 2 1958-72; Engine 3 1972-81

Delivery of this 1958 Maxim semi-cab 750 g.p.m. triple combination Pumper, Engine 2, started a rotation:  
 The previous Engine 2, a 1951 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 3 and transferred to West  
 The previous Engine 3, a 1947 Studebaker 500 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 5 and transferred to South  
 The previous Engine 5, a 1934 Pumper, was taken out of service (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Also, this past year has seen the fulfillment of our drive to secure a Rescue Truck, at no cost to the Town. This truck with the equipment cost over Twelve Thousand Dollars, and of this amount the firefighters themselves donated over Five Thousand Dollars from their Relief Fund.





1958 Rescue Truck parked by Chelmsford Common (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

At the West and South Stations modern overhead doors have been installed, and the grounds have been leveled and graded, with new driveways put in.

A considerable amount of work has been done at the Center Station. The upstairs section which was left unfinished when the building was built, has now been completed, and painted. All of the woodwork on the outside of the building was given a coat of paint, and we are now in the process of painting the downstairs section. All of this work has been done by the firefighters themselves on their regular tour of duty.

The immediate problem facing the Fire Department continues to be the need for additional manpower. There is only one man on duty at the North Station on each shift at present. This is a dangerous situation, and in order to correct it I am requesting permission from the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in March to appoint three additional men. These three men will be assigned to the North Station and we will then have two men on each shift to answer any call for assistance.

Additional equipment needed is both a ladder truck and a brush truck, but to keep expenditures as low as possible I am requesting that only the brush truck be purchased this year. Our present truck is eighteen years old, and because it gets more use than all other trucks combined, it is just about worn out.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes, stored in magazines in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 7, 55,445 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 56,400 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 3,500 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

## *1959*

### **Annual Town Meeting March 9, 1959**

Under Article 14:

Mr. Robert F. McAndrew moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,400.00 to purchase a new piece of fire apparatus, said apparatus to be of the type commonly used for brush and grass fires, purchase to be made by the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

An increase in the demands on the Fire Department was maintained again this past year. We responded to a total of 415 calls which is a great jump over preceding years, and for the most part is the result of the rapid growth of the Town.

A new 4-wheel drive brush truck was delivered to the Town, making it possible to move one of our other brush trucks to the North Station. This will save our pumper from answering brush fire calls, and keep it in readiness for building fires.



This 1959 Ford 4-wheel drive Brush Fire Fighting Truck, Engine 9, was assigned to Chelmsford Center. In turn, the old brush truck, a 1941 Chevrolet, was transferred to North Chelmsford as Engine 7 (1959 Annual Town Report)

A considerable amount of repair work has been done on all five stations during 1959, most of which has been done by the regular firefighters while on their regular tour of duty.

There were 85 permits for Oil and L.P. Gas installations or alterations, and 15 permits for blasting issued. Periodic inspections were made in schools and convalescent homes to eliminate fire hazards.

One new circuit was added to the fire alarm system to enable us to include the new High School on a separate circuit rather than to overload any of the present circuits. Two fire alarm boxes were also added to this circuit.

Maintenance work on the fire alarm system consisted mainly of general and emergency repairs and pole changeovers. Most of the emergency repairs were made necessary by the new road construction which is going on in Chelmsford.

The department believes that in order to maintain a high level of fire protection the following recommendations should be carried out.

1. Adopt a plan whereby an amount, shall be appropriated each year, and placed in a fund, for the future replacement of fire apparatus
2. Replace the Studebaker pickup truck
3. Purchase a 75' aerial ladder truck

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 48,450 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 40,150 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 5,800 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1960



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### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 1960

UNDER ARTICLE 50:

Mr. Robert F. McAndrew moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of establishing a Stabilization Fund under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, for use in the purchasing of Fire Department Automotive equipment. It was so voted unanimously.

### Report of the Fire Department

The past year has been an extremely busy one for the Fire Department. With building and road construction continuing at full speed, we have had a great many new problems and responsibilities added to the ones which we customarily have and expect.

We responded to 388 calls this past year, and of this number, 45 were building fires, 110 were for brush or grass fires, and there were 43 calls for the resuscitators. The more homes we have, the more potential calls we can expect, and the new highways (Route 495) will bring more automobile fires and accidents.

No fire apparatus was purchased this past year, but a plan was adopted at the Town Meeting whereby a Stabilization Fund for the future replacement or purchase of fire apparatus was started, and it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars to establish this fund.

The firefighters on their regular tour of duty took care of all the maintenance work necessary at all five fire stations. A great deal of work had to be done on our alarm system due to the new highway construction, and this was all completed just before the construction stopped for the winter. The entire cost of this work will be borne by the State, and the Town will be reimbursed for all bills incurred. All fire alarm boxes were painted and tested to be sure they were in working order.

In order to maintain our fire protection at its present level, the following recommendations should be carried out this year:

1. The amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$7,500.) Dollars should be added to the Stabilization Fund which was started last year, for the replacement or purchase of fire department automotive equipment.
2. Replace the Studebaker pickup truck.
3. Purchase a 75' aerial ladder truck.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 48,000 lbs; Magazine No. 2, 46,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 2,300 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

*1961*

1961, Don Gray trying out new emergency breathing apparatus with Chief Ernest Byam  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Annual Town Meeting March 13, 1961**

##### UNDER ARTICLE 16:

Mr. Raymond J. Greenwood moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund established under the provisions of Section 5B, Chapter 40 of the General Laws, and by vote under Article 50 of the Annual Town Meeting of March 21, 1960, for the purchase of Fire Department automotive equipment, the sum of \$2,575.00 for the purchase of a Station Wagon type of vehicle for the Fire Department; said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was voted unanimously.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

This past year has been the most disastrous in the history of the Town as far as fire loss and major fires is concerned. We had four General Alarm fires during the year as follows: Godin's Store, Frontier Research, Molders Foundry and the DeAmicis Apartment Building.

All of these fires were of major proportion and the loss on each one was extremely heavy, but the courage and training of all firefighters both Permanent and Volunteer enables us to control these fires before they could spread to adjoining property, and I as Chief take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all connected with the Department for their fine cooperation during the past year.

A new Station Wagon to be used as a Chief's Car was delivered to us and the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars was added to the Stabilization Fund.



Ernest G. Byam with new 1961 Chevy Station Wagon (1961 Annual Town Report)

A considerable amount of repair and maintenance work on all Five Stations as well as on the Fire Apparatus was accomplished this year, most of which was done by the regular firefighters on their tour of duty.

A great deal of work had to be done on our alarm system again this year because of continued highway construction, and this took a great amount of time for the men on duty to accomplish. During the year the State reimbursed the Town the sum of \$2,135.25 for labor and bills incurred because of this road-building interfering with our Alarm System.

Again this year I have requested and earnestly urge the purchase of a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck. Space does not permit me to list all the advantages of this type of equipment, but I would like to point out that with the rapid growth of the Town, and with new Churches, Industrial Buildings, and Apartment Houses being built we need this truck not only for the fire fighting advantages it offers, but for the life saving features which we should no longer take a chance on doing without.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine No. 1, 44,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 2, 42,000 lbs.; Magazine No. 3, 1,100 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam





1961, Don Gray holding mask with Allen Mello in the 1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. pumper, Engine 1, near Central Baptist Church (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1962

### Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1962

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2:

Mr. John Kenney moved that the Town vote to amend the Personnel Wage and Salary Administration By-Law in Section 19 subtitled, "Hours of Work Shall Be As Follows", by striking out the language in paragraph III and inserting "For those occupying positions designated 'Public Safety Occupations' and within the Fire Department, forty-four (44) hours per week; Police Department, an average of forty (40) hours per week, scheduled in such a manner as the Head of such department may deem advisable." It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16:

Mr. Ernest Byam moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund established under the provisions of Section 5B, Chapter 40, of the General Laws and by vote under Article 50 of the Annual Town Meeting of March 21, 1960, the sum of \$17,000, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,482.94 for the purchase of a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck type of vehicle for the Fire Department, equipped as specified by the Fire Chief, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

### Special Town Meeting April 23, 1962

#### UNDER ARTICLE 4:

Mr. Ernest G. Byam moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund, the sum of \$39,487.94 for the purchase of a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck type of vehicle for the Fire Department, equipped as specified by the Fire Chief, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. This was voted unanimously.

### Report of the Fire Department

As the Town continues to grow, the demands on this department continue to become heavier, and more varied in nature. We are now called upon for services which formerly only a city department could supply. Fire prevention and inspections take more of our time each year, and together with the complaints which we must answer has developed into a major part of our work.

We continue to use our manpower to good advantage by maintaining all our equipment and our five stations, and also by doing our own clerical work, and extending and repairing our fire alarm system.

During 1962, a 75' Aerial Ladder Truck was delivered to us, and put into service immediately, thus bringing to a successful conclusion our efforts to secure this piece of equipment.



1962 Maxim S model 75 foot Aerial Ladder Truck, Ladder 1 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Recommendations for the future include a new pick-up truck to replace our old one which is 12 years old, and which I will request this year, and another permanently manned Fire Station which will be requested in the near future.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine #1, 54,000 lbs., Magazine #2, 55,000 lbs., Magazine #3, 5,300 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

## *1963*

### **Annual Town Meeting March 11, 1963**

UNDER ARTICLE 76:

Mr. Edward Marshall moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$18,158.10 now in the Fire Department Stabilization Fund established at the annual town meeting in 1960, to the General Stabilization Fund established at the annual town meeting held in 1952. It was voted unanimously.

### **Report of the Town Forest Committee**

The Thanksgiving Ground Forest continues to get increased usage by young and old including Boy and Girl Scouts and Brownies. Hence, the bulk of your committee's efforts were in this forest. The thinning of young pines to prevent large areas being taken over by impenetrable stands of pine was continued, trails were improved, and, because of a forest fire, the trail from the water hole just south of the Great Rocks to the south end of Russell Mill Pond is being widened so that fire trucks will be able to reach the pond near the Carlisle line.



In 1962 we had a small fire near the pond. This year - in early October - we had a much larger and far more serious fire that started just south of the Great Rocks and swept rapidly south and east. Only the fast and effective work of the Fire Department kept the flames from sweeping through a very substantial part of the forest's forty-six acres. As it was, all but the very largest pines were destroyed on approximately six acres inside the forest and another six immediately to the south on land belonging to Edward B. Russell.

### Report of the Fire Department

The past year has been an extremely busy one for this Department. We responded to a total of 732 requests for assistance during 1963 which was an increase of 179 over the previous year. A number of these calls were caused by the severe drought during the summer and fall. The situation during September and October was explosive and we were very fortunate not to have had more serious fires.

The people of Chelmsford were aware of this danger and are to be commended for their carefulness during the dry spell. The most serious fire at this time occurred at the Thanksgiving Ground Forest, where over 15 acres burned over, and was only then brought under control after hours of hard and dangerous work by your firefighters. This fire was not declared out for eight days, and had to be watched continually.

The Town Dump was another source of danger at this time, and only through the cooperation of Superintendent Fred Greenwood of the Highway Department and of Isadore Needham, the caretaker of the dump, were we able to prevent a very serious fire, and I take this opportunity to thank them both.

Two other very serious emergencies that occurred the past year was the Boston and Maine train wreck and the fire at the Grossman Lumber Company, both of which could have been much more serious and could have caused a much bigger loss than they did.

Note: The Grossman Lumber Company had purchased the Proctor Lumber Company business on Middlesex Street the same month this train wreck occurred.



Boston and Maine Train Wreck behind Grossman's Lumber March 22, 1963 (Photo by John A. Goodwin)





Boston and Maine Train Wreck behind Grossman's Lumber March 22, 1963 (Photo by John A. Goodwin)



Boston and Maine Train Wreck behind Grossman's Lumber March 22, 1963 (Photo by John A. Goodwin)

Continued attention has been given to the work of fire prevention, it being one of the essential parts of our work. During the year, working in conjunction with the State and Town Building Inspector, inspections were made in all schools, churches and public buildings. Every three months throughout the year all convalescent and nursing homes were inspected to eliminate fire hazards.

Maintenance work on the fire alarm system consisted of general and emergency repairs, and pole changeovers. Approximately three miles of new wire was strung from the Center Station to the North Station, in order to tie the North circuit into the Center, and to enable us to sound the North whistle from the Center Station. This work was all done by the firefighters while on duty, in order to save the cost of letting the work out.

The firefighters on their regular tour of duty took care of all the maintenance work necessary at all five fire stations, and most of the apparatus repairs.

For this year I recommend that the Town vote to replace our pick-up truck which is now 13 years old, and for the immediate future I recommend that a permanently manned station should be considered so that we could have this ready by the end of 1966 at the latest.

The following amounts of explosives of all classes stored in the Town of Chelmsford are: Magazine #1, 21,500 lbs., Magazine #2, 22,570 lbs., Magazine #3, 2,500 lbs.

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

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## *1964*

### **Annual Town Meeting March 9, 1964**

#### UNDER ARTICLE 18:

Mr. Ernest Byam moves that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three thousand four hundred ninety nine dollars (\$3,499.00) for the purpose of purchasing a 3/4 ton pick-up truck, for the Fire Department; said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 19:

Mr. Ernest Byam moves that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell, by good and sufficient bill of sale, the 1951 Studebaker pickup now being used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

### **Report of the Fire Department**

Building fire losses were low this year, and proves that Chelmsford people take pride in their homes, and try to keep them safe from fire.

Our thirteen year old pick-up truck was replaced with a new one and is much better suited to our needs. It is fitted up to be used as a fire alarm service truck, and also can be used to great advantage on brush and grass fires.

During this year we in the Fire Department and the townspeople suffered a great loss in the passing of our Deputy Chief. Raymond J. McGlinchey. The fact that his life was dedicated to the fire service will always be a tribute to his memory.

This year went into the record books as one of the driest in history, and the woodlands were extremely dangerous. Fires burned for days underground, and we had to keep a continual watch on all burned areas to be sure they did not get out of control from these underground fires.

Nursing Homes, schools and public buildings are continually inspected, and recommendations for safety are made to officials in charge.

Because of the necessity for lines of higher voltage, the electric utility company is continually putting in taller poles and this keeps us busy changing our fire alarm wires over to the new poles. We placed 5 new fire alarm boxes in service this year, and all boxes were painted and tested to be sure they were in working order.

For 1965 the department recommends that land be purchased for a new station, and a committee be appointed to draw up plans to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting in 1966.

In order to keep our equipment up to standard we should trade in the station wagon in 1965 while the turn in value is at its peak, and in 1966 we should replace two old 500 G.P.M. Pumpers, which are obsolete, with one 1000 G.P.M. new Pumping Engine.

### **In Memoriam**

Raymond J. McGlinchey, Deputy Chief of the Fire Department, died on November 8, 1964, in the performance of his duty. Deputy Chief McGlinchey served his country in the United States Marines in World War II, and when he was discharged from the Service in 1945 he was appointed as a regular firefighter. He rose in rank until in 1963 he was appointed Deputy Fire Chief.

Ernest G. Byam, Chief of the Fire Department, died on January 31, 1965. Chief Byam was first appointed a call firefighter in October, 1931. He was appointed a permanent fireman September 23, 1954, moving up through the ranks to become Chief on November 10, 1958. He was widely known and admired not only in Chelmsford but throughout the Middlesex County area and in state fire-fighting circles.



**Chelmsford Fire Chief**

**KILLED ON WAY TO FIRE**

CHELMSFORD — Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam met almost instant death yesterday morning when, while responding to an alarm for fire, the department station wagon was involved in a collision at Boston road and Warren avenue and then crashed head-on into a large tree.

Deputy Chief Fred Reid, who was following the chief's car in the Rescue truck, was one of the first at the scene and radioed for police and the ambulance.

Chief Byam was taken on a stretcher in the Rescue truck, with a police cruiser providing escort and Lowell police clearing the way through city intersections, to Lowell General hos-

pital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

THE CHIEF had directed the department in fighting a \$60,000 fire Saturday night at the B & B Construction company's storage barns, and had been called out again at 12:35 Sunday morning when a car caught fire in a garage attached to the Albert Fontaine house at 28 Algonquin drive. He was responding to an alarm for a fire at the Corfield home at 196 Boston road at 8:50 a. m. yesterday when the fatal accident occurred.

Police Sgt. Raymond Harmon, who with Chief Ralph J. Hulslander and a squad of policemen responded on the emergency

call put in by Deputy Chief Reid, reported that the other car involved in the crash was being operated by Robert E. Webb of S. Chatham road who was on his way home from the 8:15 mass at St. Mary's church. Inspector George Romian of the Motor Registry department assisted in the investigation.

Webb told police that he heard no siren, and that he put on his blinker light for a left turn and was just starting to turn from Boston road to Warren avenue when he felt a bump.

The chief's car swerved after the collision and went across Warren avenue to hit a large tree head-on.

Engine 1 proceeded to the Corfield home and made short work of the fire there.

CHIEF BYAM was the second permanent chief of the department, succeeding Allan Kidder when the latter died in November of 1958. He resided at 8 Perham street.

Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey dropped dead while fighting a brush fire last November and Reid was promoted from captain to succeed him.

CHIEF BYAM was born May 9, 1911. He was appointed a call man in the then volunteer department in October of 1931, and was promoted to lieutenant and

then to captain in the volunteer ranks.

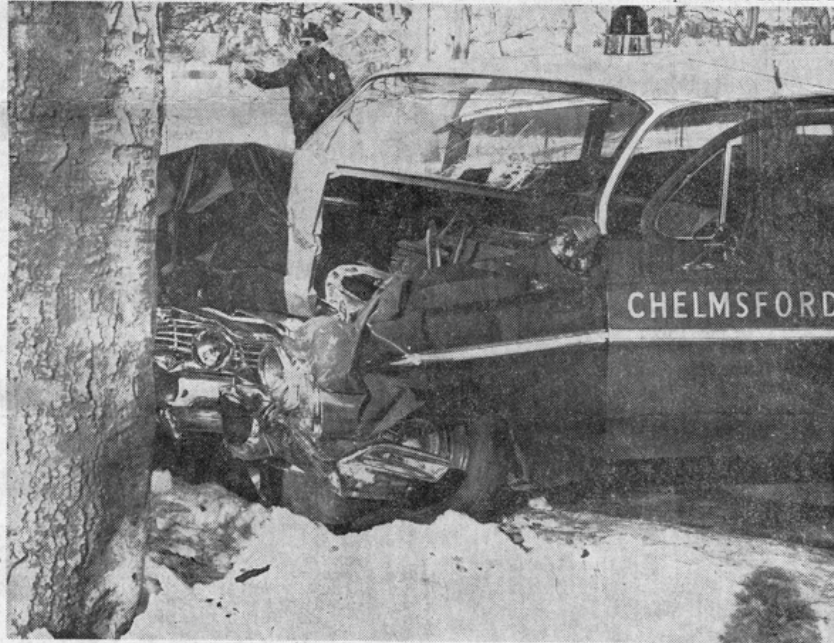
He was appointed a permanent fireman Sept. 23, 1954, captain April 1, 1955, acting deputy chief May 1, 1957, acting chief Nov. 4, 1958 and chief on Nov. 10, 1958.

During his term of office he continued the work started by Chief Kidder in setting up the present mutual aid system, increasing the permanent force and the equipment of the department, his latest acquisition having been an aerial ladder truck.

He was widely known not only in Chelmsford but throughout the Middlesex area and in state fire-fighting circles.

He is survived by his wife Luella G. (Adams) Byam; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Gravlin of West Acton; two sons, Arthur W. Byam and Bruce E. Byam, both of Chelmsford; 10 grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Ethel Harris of Winthrop; two brothers, Almon G. Byam and Rodney F. Byam, both of Melrose. He was born in Chelmsford, the son of the late G. Garland Byam, and Ethel (Lane) Byam Harris, who survives him, and had been a lifelong resident of that town.

He was a member and a deacon of the Central Baptist church of Chelmsford; was a member of William North lodge A.F.&A.M.; the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs association and the New England Fire Chiefs association, was treasurer of the Chelmsford Firefighters and Associates, Inc., and was a member and past master of Chelmsford Grange, 244. He was also on the board of directors of the Chelmsford Little League.



**Chelmsford Fire Chief Dies In Crash**

Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam of the Chelmsford fire department was fatally injured yesterday morning when his car struck a large tree at Boston road and Warren

avenue following a minor collision, as he was responding to a fire alarm. The chief's wrecked car is shown in this photo taken by Sun photographer W. Leonard Irvin.

Lowell Sun article, January 1, 1965 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**  
Ernest G. Byam

**1965**

**Annual Town Meeting March 8, 1965**

**UNDER ARTICLE 17:**

Regarding the New Fire House in South Chelmsford (on the easterly side of Park Road), Mr. Howard E. Humphrey moved that the Article be dismissed. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 18:**

Regarding committee for the New Fire house in South Chelmsford, Mr. Charles Egerton moved that this article be dismissed. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 70:**

Mr. Howard E. Humphrey moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund the sum of \$2,374.00 for the purchase of a station wagon type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



UNDER ARTICLE 71:

Mr. Howard E. Humphrey moved that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the station wagon type of vehicle which has been used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.



## Chelmsford Man Fire Spotter

Hollis Wilkins, insert, climbs the steps to the top of this fire tower on Robin's hill every day where he keeps a weather eye on the countryside. He is happy

when it rains because he knows the danger caused by lack of adequate rain. It is his job to spot woods fires and quickly report them.

# Isolated in a 65 Ft. Fire Tower But No Time to Become Lonely

By James Goldsmith

CHELMSFORD—When most people think of fires and the men who fight them they don't realize one of the tasks involved in firefighting is reporting them so the firefighters can get to the scene quickly.

This is especially important in the lives of men like Hollis Wilkins who man the 51 towers throughout the state where wood fires are spotted and reported. This veteran observer, who has been on this job for 11 years, daily climbs the 65 foot tower atop Robin's Hill. When asked if his job wasn't pretty lonely, Mr. Wilkins replied, "With two radios squawking all day long, a phone ringing and visitors, the work is anything but lonely."

On a clear day this observer can see 20-25 miles without any trouble as landmarks like the Prudential tower and the "Seven Hills of Rome" (Lowell) look like small toys on the horizon. "Where there is smoke there is fire but not always danger," says Mr. Wilkins. You see, there are plenty of "regular smokes" which would cause an inexperienced observer to reach for the phone or two way radio. However, men like Wilkins know where the dumps are and each one is listed and posted on the wall of his penthouse observatory.

"ROBIN'S HILL IS located in district six, one of the two districts in Middlesex county, and is regarded as a key tower by District Warden Arthur Hallenborg of Billerica.

Besides the state and county two way radio sets and a telephone, Mr. Wilkins uses a circular map that is divided into 360 degrees. You are probably wondering just how Wilkins gives explicit location information to enable firefighters to get to the exact scene of a woods fire. The observer sees the smoke, places a straight edge along the degree line and notifies the dispatcher who supplies the second reading; thus, where the two lines cross is the fire location.

Without the aid of the observer, the map, and communication between the observer, the dispatcher and the fire departments, a small woods fire would soon get out of hand and with conditions as bad as they are this spring it could spell disaster. This marks the second year at Chelmsford for this man who started working for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forests and Parks, in 1951. During daylight saving time Mr. Wilkins makes the

He started working for the state at the natural resources building in Stow as a fire truck operator. Since then he worked as a radio operator and dispatcher and filled in as an observer when a regular was on vacation. Each of the 13 fire districts has a district warden and patrolman as well as stations where firefighting equipment is kept. One of the state's firetrucks is kept at the Billerica station and the other is kept at Willard Brook state park, Ashby, for Middlesex county. One of Mr. Wilkins' jobs is to relay weather information between the fire headquarters station in Stow and the weather station at Ashby. The amount of rainfall, condition of vegetation and the readings of the wet and dry bulb thermometers are given each day. In addition, every day at 5 p. m. is fire roundup time as information concerning the acreage and class of fires for the day is reported; class A, fires of one-quarter of an acre or less, through class D. Every class "C" fire, or a fire which is larger, has to be assigned a number, have the acreage and exact location recorded for the permanent records.

**THIS OBSERVER**, who is a native of Chelmsford, also works with observers who are on the job at towers in Andover, Groton, Waltham, Harvard and Jeremy Hill, Pelham, N. H. Oftentimes a ridge will obstruct the vision of one observer but a man in another tower will get a clear view of the surrounding towns from his vantage point. During an emergency, men and equipment will be used from agencies like the division of fisheries and game, civil defense, and the bureau of insect pest control. Trucks that would normally be used for spraying or hauling trout to the streams and ponds are quickly pressed into service for fighting fires.

While it doesn't get lonely for Mr. Wilkins it certainly does get scary up there; especially when the wind begins to howl and the tower moves a little. It really is a breathtaking experience to look at the Greater-Lowell area from such a height and the scenery is beautiful at this time of year. In his opinion, fall is loveliest of all as the shades of red, and yellow mixed with the evergreens provide a natural setting of beauty.

During the off season, Wilkins goes to work at the Lowell-Dracut state forest for about five months. If the job in Chelmsford doesn't get lonely, one can easily tell why — this man loves the out-of-doors and is at home keeping his

long climb at 10 a. m. and doesn't leave the job until 6 p. m. daily watch.

Lowell Sun article May 26, 1965 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

### Special Town Meeting October 4, 1965

#### UNDER ARTICLE 8:

Chief Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Account the sum of One Thousand One Hundred (\$1,100.00) Dollars, said sum to be used by the Selectmen to acquire by purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise in fee simple, a certain parcel of land situated of but not adjacent to Acton Road, supposed to belong to Royal Gardner, said premises to be used as and for the site of a proposed new Fire Station and to be added to contiguous premises now belonging to the Town situated on said Acton Road, in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 14 and/or Chapter 79 of the General Laws, both as most recently amended. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 9:

Chief Frederick Reid moved that in the event of an affirmative vote under Article 8 that the Town vote to appoint a committee; said committee is to be named by the Board of Selectmen consisting of five members one of whom shall be the Fire Chief, for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a firehouse on the said described premises. Said committee to report back to the next Annual Town Meeting and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500.00) Dollars for the use of said committee. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

This past year has been the most disastrous in the history of our town as far as fire loss and major fires are concerned and with the accidental death of our Chief, Ernest G. Byam, responding to a fire. The town and in particular the Fire Department suffered a great loss. His life was dedicated to the fire service and the work that he accomplished will always be a tribute to his memory.

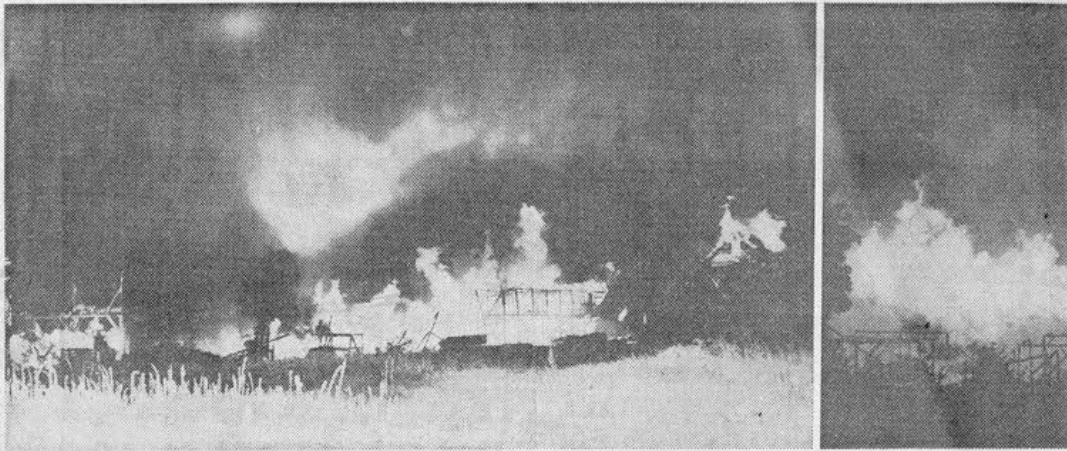


Fire on Princeton Street in 1965 in which a baby perished, Chief Reid is in the white coat at left  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





Aftermath of a fire in an unoccupied home on Mill Road in 1965,  
two youths were apprehended when they returned to the scene (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



### Flames Level Five-Acre Lumbe

The three pictures above show the complete destruction caused by a fire, believed to have been set, which levelled the Grossman lumber yard on Middlesex street,

North Chelmsford, early today. In all, six buildings occupying the lot between Middlesex street and the B&M tracks were levelled and their contents of lumber and

# \$250,000 FIRE IN



## THE LOWELL

Lowell, Mass. • THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1965 • 44

© By Lowell Sun Publishing Company 1965

89th Year Serving Historic Middlesex County

Cloudy

SEE PAGE 3



### r Store and Yard in Chelmsford

building supplies were destroyed, causing loss which may exceed \$250,000. Firemen from Lowell, Nashua and six towns sent assistance to the Chelmsford depart-

ment to help keep the fire in the lumber yard and protect the residential area surrounding it from damage. Photos by Sun Photographer Lennie Irvin.

# LOWELL MCGODD

# CHELMSFORD

## SUN

Pages, 10 Cents

City ★ ★  
EDITION

## Grossman Lumber Yard Razed—Firebug Suspected

CHELMSFORD—Flames, apparently set by the same firebugs who have been active in Lowell for weeks and who had kept Lowell firemen busy last night, swept through the five-acre lumber yard of the Grossman company on Middlesex street, North Chelmsford, early today, levelling six buildings and destroying their contents of lumber and building supplies.

Fire Chief Frederick Reid this morning estimated the loss at about a quarter of a million dollars, but no official figures can be reached until a complete check of the inventory of the lumber yard is completed by the Grossman officials.

Flames, visible for 15 miles or more, drew hundreds of motorists to the scene from as far away as Bedford, Burlington, Nashua and Lawrence and local police, assisted by some from other communities, established fire lines well back from the flaming lumber yard so that the work of the firemen would not be slowed by spectators.

Sparks and pieces of blazing wood and paper were carried by the wind onto the new St. John's church, across the street, and for a distance of several hundred feet into a thickly settled residential district. Several minor fires were set by these embers but were extinguished by the home owners, many of whom had garden hoses in operation wetting down the roofs of their homes.

**THE LUMBER** yard is located on a large lot between the B. & M. tracks and Middlesex street. Three of the storage buildings, several being at least 100 feet in length, apparently were torched at the rear, near the tracks, for the engineer of a southbound freight saw all three afire and stopped at the Lowell switching tower to sound the first alarm at 12:01 a.m.

The wind, blowing from the tracks toward Middlesex street when the fire first was discovered, caused the flames to spread quickly, the length of the structures, and when Chief Reid arrived he sounded a general alarm, putting the mutual aid plan into action, and then called for additional assistance.

In all, apparatus from Billerica, Westford, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Nashua, N. H. and Lowell responded, sending pumpers and ladder companies, and more apparatus was held in readiness in the city and town stations should the fire jump Middlesex street and get into the residential section.

Firemen encircled the blazing structures with high pressure lines, with efforts being

concentrated at the Vinal square end of the area where residences abutted the lumber yard.

**THE ONLY STRUCTURE** of the Grossman yard which escaped destruction was the office building, at the northwest corner of the lot, and this was saved when firemen concentrated a number of hose streams on it and backed this up with a deluge directed into the blazing lumber yard area to provide a solid water curtain.

Chief Walter J. Kane brought Lowell Engines 2 and 8 and Ladder 2 to the scene, while Billerica sent two engine companies, Westford sent the same, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable and Tewksbury, one engine company each, and Nashua a ladder company.

**FIREMEN REMAINED** on the scene all night dousing the smouldering remains of the lumber yard.

Chief Reid said this morning that he has called in the state fire marshal to assist in the investigation. The fires, he said, were started in the same pattern as many of Lowell's, along the dark railroad tracks and by torching exteriors of the buildings.

Grossman officials at the Braintree headquarters this forenoon said the loss might exceed \$250,000.

No injuries were reported to Chief Reid and no damage to fire trucks, although several of them were pumping so close to the blazing buildings that they and their crews had to be kept covered with a spray of water.

## Three Suspicious Fires In City Last Night

**LOWELL** — Lowell had three fires of its own to handle last night before it was called upon by Chelmsford to provide help at the Grossman Lumber yard fire, and all will be investigated as circumstances pointed to more activity by the firebug or

three-decker at 109 Hale street. This was quickly extinguished.

The second came at 10:28 when the Max Levine garage at 270 Tanner street was almost completely destroyed and two trucks were heavily damaged.

Firemen still were at work at



firebugs who already have caused heavy damage to local structures. The first call came at 8:35 p.m., from Box 34 at Hale and Howard streets. The blaze was centered in a third floor rear stairway of an unoccupied structure. The fire department called apparatus when Box 420 and Morton warehouse at 1100 Gorham street, opposite Manchester street. Here firemen had to battle a smoke blaze which swept through the basement and spread to the first floor before being extinguished.

1965 Article in the September 30 Lowell Sun about the fire at Grossman's Lumber on Middlesex Street  
(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

This year we have modernized the fire alarm system by installing transistor units, doing away with the old type storage batteries and rectifiers; by adding 18 new street boxes and approximately 5 miles of new fire alarm wire. The Quessy School, McFarlin School addition and the new Junior High School were connected into the fire alarm system. All routine wire and maintenance work was done by the firefighters.

For 1966, the Department recommends that a new station be built on land purchased at the Special Town Meeting in October, 1965 and a 1000 G.P.M. pumper be purchased for the Central Station with the 750 G.P.M. pumper there now, going to the new proposed station in South.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

## 1966

### Annual Town Meeting March 14, 1966

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization account the sum of Twenty-one Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-four (\$21364.00) Dollars and to raise and appropriate Six Thousand Ninety-nine (\$6,099.00) Dollars for the purchase of a pumping engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted. Yes 298, No 20.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 34.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to transfer from Excess and Deficiency account the sum of Seventy-five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station at South Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 35.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to appoint a South Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee and to authorize it to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto, and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 36.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of the present South Chelmsford Fire Station located on Acton Road and to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred (\$800.00) Dollars for the removal of said building. It was so voted.

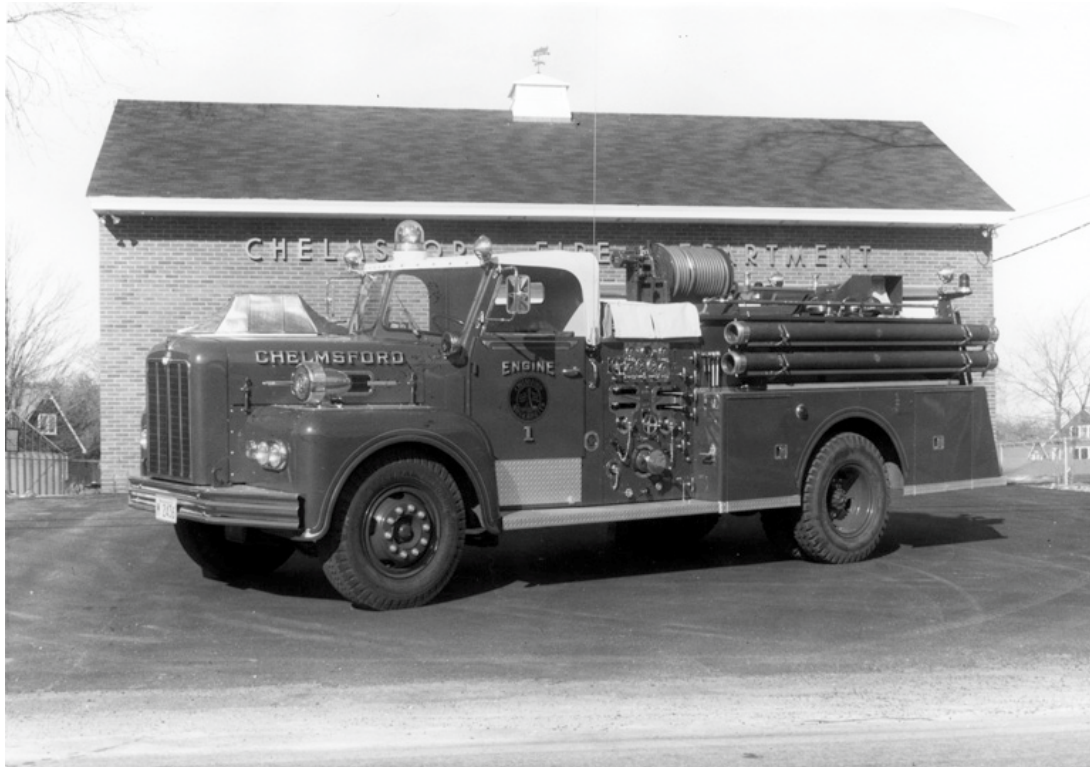


Old South Chelmsford Fire Station on Acton Road before demolition in 1966  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

The past year has been one of the most successful years in our Fire Department history with fire loss at a minimum, no loss of life or personal injury and with the ending of the drought our woods fires were way down from other years.

The people of Chelmsford with their good foresight in accepting the Boards' recommendation at the last annual town meeting, enabled us to add seven new men to man the new fire station in the South section of town which will be occupied in January of 1967. The new 1000 G.P.M. pumper authorized at the 1966 town meeting will also be delivered in January, thereby making it unnecessary for us to ask for any additional equipment for the coming year.



New South Chelmsford Fire Station, seen here behind the fire truck, opened in January 1967  
 This 1966 Maxim S model semi-cab 1000 g.p.m. triple combination Pumper , Engine 1, was delivered to Center  
 A rotation of apparatus followed:  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 5 and transferred to South  
 The previous Engine 5, a 1947 Studebaker 500 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated Engine 7 and transferred to North  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Based on a previous study of the department it was advised that the position of fire lieutenant be abolished and two additional captains be appointed. This was submitted in our budget for 1966 and with the concurrence of the Board of Selectmen I made two appointments for the positions at the first of the year.

The firefighters on their regular tour of duty painted the North and East fire stations as well as making repairs and continued maintenance of all our stations.

Our fire alarm crew installed more than five miles of fire alarm wire and added over twenty fire alarm boxes to the system; all but five of which were paid for by the home developers and installed to Fire Department specifications, with savings to the town of thousands of dollars.

Quarterly inspections of all schools, convalescent and nursing homes were made and all necessary reports filed. Fire prevention will be our major goal in 1967 with plans to inspect all mercantile, industrial, church, garage and service station buildings with recommendations and suggestions being made to the owners and/or occupants. These inspections will be made by an engine company on duty which will be in radio contact with headquarters and in service at all times.

The department believes that in order to maintain a high level of fire protection, a plan whereby an amount is appropriated each year and placed in a fund for the future replacement of fire apparatus should be adopted.

**Fire Chief**  
 Frederic H. Reid

## 1967

### Special Town Meeting June 3, 1967

UNDER ARTICLE 1.

Chief Frederick H. Reid moved the Town vote to transfer from the "constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station at South Chelmsford" account, the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500.00) Dollars to the Fire Department Building Repairs and Maintenance account for the purpose of repairing the heating system at the North Fire Station. It was voted unanimously.



**Report of the Fire Station Building Committee**

The Fire Station Building Committee, Raymond J. Greenwood, Chairman; Ralph E. House, Gerald R. Wallace, Howard J. Hall, Jr., and Fire Chief Frederick H. Reid submits a report of progress as follows:

Construction of the new Fire Station at South Chelmsford was begun in July of 1966. The building was substantially completed and occupied in January, 1967. The remaining work in no way hindered the operation of the Fire Department. It consisted mostly of grading, seeding, and covers for the heating elements. This work was completed by May of 1967, with the building then being accepted by the Committee.



The South Chelmsford Fire Station was opened in January 1967  
(1995 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The furnishings in the office of this station were donated by the Ernest G. Byam Memorial Fund in memory of the late Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam. The Committee wishes to express its thanks at this time to the Memorial Fund Committee and all town officials and residents for their cooperation while this project was in progress.

**Report of the Fire Department**

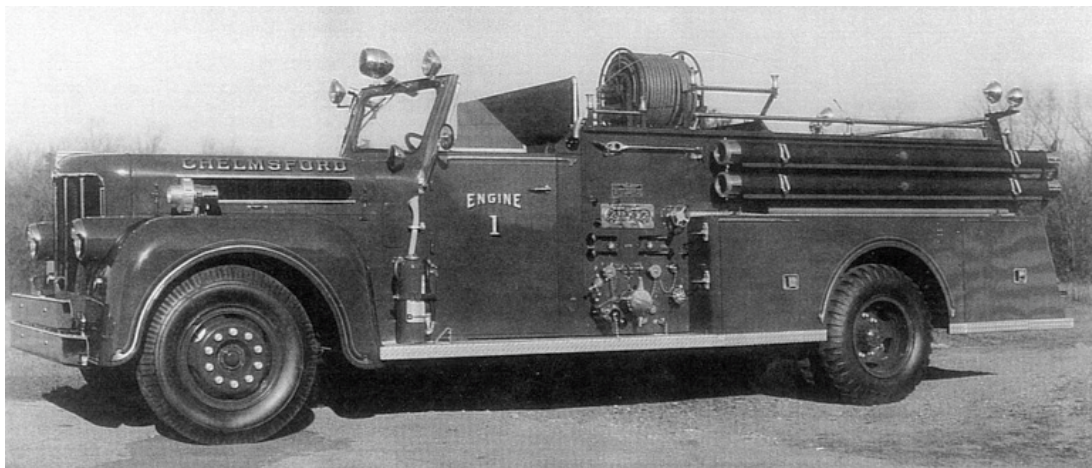
The past year has been one of the most successful years in our Fire Department history with fire loss at a minimum, no loss of life or personal injury, and our woods fires were a great deal lower than other years. The town dump was a source of danger this year, as usual, and only through the cooperation of Superintendent Fred Greenwood of the Highway Department and of Isadore Needham, the caretaker of the dump, were we able to prevent more serious fires, and I take this opportunity to thank them both.



Firefighters Richard O'Neil and Arthur Anderson are putting out a fire c1967  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Because of the necessity for lines of higher voltage, the electric light company is continually putting in taller poles, and this keeps us busy changing our fire alarm wires over to the new poles. We placed 15 new fire alarm boxes in service this year.

We have been in our new Fire Station in the south section of town for almost a year now and we have been able to operate in a much more efficient manner than we were able to in the past, with permanent firefighters now stationed there around the clock. The new 1000 G.P.M. pumper was delivered in January and is in service at the Center Station with the 750 G.P.M. pumper that was there going to the new South Station.



1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper moved to the South Chelmsford Fire Station as Engine 5  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

In order to keep our equipment up to standard, we should trade in the station wagon in 1968, while the turn-in value is at its peak.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

**Privates**  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Robert K. Adams  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett

Jack D. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
Joseph F. Lynch

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Charles E. Jangraw

Francis J. Conlin

Thomas J. Curran

James T. Cutter

Bertrand E. Dixon

Donald A. Drew

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Robert R. Gagnon

Charles Galloway, Jr.

Edward J. McGovern

Harvey M. Miller

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

James M. Spinney

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Alvin F. Wetmore

**1968****Annual Town Meeting March 11, 1968**

UNDER ARTICLE 23. Mr. S. Anthony DiCiero moved that the Town vote to amend the Personnel Wage and Salary Classification and Compensation Plan by adding thereto the following:

Section 25. Compensation for Academic Achievement.

- a. Any full time, permanent member of the Police Department who has earned and received an Associate of Science certificate in law enforcement from an accredited college or university shall be paid Two Hundred (\$200) Dollars additional salary per year in his grade.
- b. Any full time, permanent member of the Fire Department who has earned and received an Associate of Science Certificate in Fire Science from an accredited college or university shall be paid Two Hundred (\$200) Dollars additional salary per year in his grade.
- c. Any full time, permanent member of the Police Department who has earned and received a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement from an accredited college shall receive Four Hundred (\$400) Dollars additional salary per year in his grade. In the event, however, that the said member is already receiving additional compensation by virtue of having obtained as Associate of Science certificate, then he shall be entitled only to an additional Two Hundred (\$200) Dollars, so that his total additional salary shall not be in excess of Four Hundred (\$400) Dollars per year.
- d. No member of the Police or Fire Department shall be entitled to any of the above additional salary without the prior approval of the Personnel Board.

It was so voted, unanimously.

UNDER ARTICLE 36.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred and Four (\$1,704) Dollars for the purchase of a 1968 DeLuxe four-door sedan type of vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. This motion failed.

UNDER ARTICLE 37.

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient Bill of Sale the station wagon type of vehicle which has been used by the Fire Department. This Article was dismissed.





Chelmsford Fire Department float in the 1968 July 4 Parade, third prize winner  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Report of the Fire Department**

The Town of Chelmsford continues to build at a rapid rate, and this in turn causes an increase in requests for assistance from the Fire Department. Upon comparing the records for the past ten years, they reveal that the number of calls requested of and responded to by your Fire Department have increased from 286 in 1958 to 854 in 1968.

For 1969, the Department recommends that a committee consisting of five members be appointed for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a Fire Station in the west section of town. Also to replace a 1941 brush truck now in use at the North Station and a 1965 station wagon now being used by the Chief.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Charles E. Jangraw

**Captains**

Edward G. Quinn  
Robert C. Spaulding  
Allen C. Mello  
William H. Thayer

**Privates**

Thomas P. Miskell  
Robert K. Adams  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Francis J. Conlin  
Thomas J. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
Bertrand E. Dixon  
Donald A. Drew  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

Jack D. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Edward J. McGovern  
Harvey M. Miller  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
James M. Spinney  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore

**1969**

**Town Election March 3, 1969**

**Question:**

Shall the Town of Chelmsford accept the provisions of Section 58D of the Chapter 48 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended, as it applies to the permanent members of the uniformed fire fighting force of the Town of Chelmsford?

A fair and concise summary appears below:

Acceptance of the provisions of Section 58D would establish a forty-two (42) hour work week for permanent members of the uniformed fire fighting force of the Town of Chelmsford,

Results at the March 3 Town Election: Yes 1666, No 1274, Blanks 151



Chelmsford Fire Department Engine 4 in the 1969 July 4 Parade (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Annual Town Meeting March 10, 1969

#### UNDER ARTICLE 37.

Mr. Gerald Lannan moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectman to appoint a committee consisting of five (5) members, one of whom shall be the Fire Chief, for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a firehouse in the West section of Town, said committee to report back to next annual town meeting and to transfer the sum of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500) Dollars for use of the said committee. It was so voted.

Members appointed to this committee by the Board of Selectmen were: Fredrick H. Reid, Ralph E. House, Edward Hoyt, Eugene Gilet, and Peter R. Vennard.

### Adjourned Town Meeting March 24, 1969

#### UNDER ARTICLE 38.

Mr. William Harvey moved that the Town vote to transfer from Stabilization Funds the sum of Two Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty-seven and 19/100 (\$2,337.19) Dollars for the purchase of a 1969 DeLuxe four door Sedan type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 39.

Mr. Howard Humphrey moved that, in the event of an affirmative vote under the preceding Article, the Town authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the station wagon type vehicle which has been used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 40.**

Mr. Gerald Lannan moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund (Equipment) the sum of Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Five (\$11,785.) Dollars for the purchase of a new piece of fire apparatus, said apparatus to be of the type commonly used for brush and grass fires, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 41.**

Mr. William Harvey moved that in the event of an affirmative vote under the preceding article, the Town authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the 1941 Chevrolet Brush Truck which has been used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

**Report of the Board of Selectmen**

The need for Labor Negotiations has been an important part of the business of this board during 1969. We have engaged the services of a Labor Relations Advisor, Mr. S. Anthony DiCiero, who has assisted us in many ways, and we are most grateful for his help. Meetings have been conducted with Negotiating Teams for both the Highway and Fire Department Employees and we have already reached a final agreement, acceptable to all parties,, for the Highway Employees. Negotiations are continuing with the Fire Department Employees.

**Report of the Fire Department**

With this fall being one of the wettest in history, the woodland fires were at a new low. Overall we responded to 33 more calls than in 1968 for a new record of 887 calls in one year.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention has this year enlarged its scope of operations. During Fire Prevention Week in October, a program in fire prevention was held for the women of the town. This included films on fire safety in the home and instruction in the proper use of fire extinguishers. This class was well received by all those who attended and we intend to conduct similar programs in the future.

Through the cooperation of the school department, fire safety films have been presented over closed circuit television to students in ail of our schools. These projects were in addition to inspecting all nursing homes and school buildings for fire safety every three months, plus a continuing program of inspection for all restaurants, mercantile outlets and manufacturing operations throughout the own. Fire safety films are available for showing to organizations in the town. Those interested in such a program are invited to make inquiry to the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

A new sedan was delivered in May and a new brush truck authorized at the 1969 Town Meeting will be delivered in the Spring of 1970, thereby making it unnecessary for us to ask for any additional equipment for the coming year.

Four new men were added to the department in 1969 giving us five men in the Center Station with two men in the North and two men in the South Stations around the clock.

It is our hope that the recommendations of a committee appointed for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a fire station in the west section of town be accepted, enabling us to operate in a much more efficient manner than we have been able to in the past.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn, Temp.

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding

William H. Thayer

Allen C. Mello

Charles S. Galloway, Jr., Temp.

**Privates**

Thomas P. Miskell

Robert K. Adams

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

Francis J. Conlin

Thomas J. Curran

James T. Cutter

Bertrand E. Dixon

Donald A. Drew

Philip Dube

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Robert R. Gagnon

Terrence A. Goode

Jack D. Hadley

William Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes

Joseph F. Lynch

Emil A. Magiera

Leo Martin

Edward J. McGovern

Harvey M. Miller

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

Ronald J. Sawicki

James M. Spinney

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Alvin F. Wetmore

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Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 1970



Delivery of this 1970 Ford/Farrar Forest Fire Truck in the spring to Chelmsford Center as Engine 6 started a rotation:  
 The previous brush fire truck, 1959 Ford Engine 9 at the Center, was transferred to South Chelmsford  
 The donated 1958 Chevrolet rescue truck, Rescue 1, was taken out of service  
 (1983 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



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#### Town Election March 2, 1970

##### QUESTION #2:

Shall the Town of Chelmsford accept the provisions of Section 111D of Chapter 41 of the General Laws (Ter. Ed.) of Massachusetts, as amended as it applies to the permanent or regular members of the Police Department and the Fire Forces of the Town of Chelmsford?

##### A Fair and Concise Summary Appears Below:

Acceptance of the provisions of Section 111D of Chapter 41 would grant to regular and permanent members of the Police Department and Fire Forces of the Town of Chelmsford a three (3) week vacation after five (5) years of service and a four (4) week vacation after ten (10) or more years of service.

Results: Yes 3,463; No 2,408; Blanks 373

#### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 24, 1970

##### UNDER ARTICLE 30.

Mr. Howard Humphrey moved the Town appropriate and transfer from surplus funds \$90,000.00 for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station at West Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town. It was so voted.

##### UNDER ARTICLE 31.

Mr. Howard Humphrey moved the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a West Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee and authorize it to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project. It was so voted.

(Appointed to the committee were: Frederick H. Reid, Ralph E. House, Edward Hoyt, Eugene E. Gilet, and Peter R. Vennard)

**UNDER ARTICLE 32.**

Mr. Gerald Lannan moved the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Fire Equipment Fund \$6,150.00 for the purchase of a new Motor for a 1958 Maxim Fire Engine for the Fire Department, such purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



1958 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 2 in North Chelmsford, due for engine replacement in 1970  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Special Town Meeting June 8, 1970****UNDER ARTICLE 3.**

Mr. Paul Murphy moved that the Town vote to designate and dedicate for recreational purposes that the parcel of land owned by the Town and known as the Robert's land at Old Westford, which parcel had been originally purchased by the Town for school purposes and excepting from recreational purposes that portion of the property which is to be utilized for fire station purposes. It was so voted.

**UNDER ARTICLE 5.**

Mr. Frederick Reid moved that the Town vote to transfer from the excess and deficiency fund the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars to the regular fireman account said sum to be utilized for the employment of additional fire department personnel. It was so voted, unanimously.





December 5, 1970 Walter Lewis barn fire on Robin Hill Road  
Westford Firefighter Richard T. St. Onge died of a heart attack  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)





December 5, 1970 Walter Lewis barn fire on Robin Hill Road, the house was saved by the firefighters  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

# Fireman dies battling Chelmsford dairy fire

By JOHN O'KEEFE  
**CHELMSFORD** — Two huge barns were completely gutted and a Westford fireman died Saturday evening as a spectacular blaze devastated Sunny Meadows Farm in Chelmsford.

Dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital was Richard T. St. Onge, 29, of 51 Boston Rd., Westford, who suffered a heart attack while working hoses at the fire scene, witnesses said. Flames from the two-story hay filled barn

were visible at a distance of four miles. Firemen from Chelmsford and Westford, backed up by units from Billerica and Lowell, battled the blaze and kept it from destroying other buildings on the Robin Hill Rd., farm of Walter Lewis.

Lewis, owner of Sunny Meadow Farm, was a thousand miles away when the fire broke out, wending his way toward Houston, Texas, where he was to attend an American Farm Bureau Federation meeting there.

No estimate of the loss was available, but it was believed replacement of the building and equipment might be in the vicinity of \$100,000. The buildings were among the largest in the area.

First to discover the flames was Danny Lewis, 7, who was watching TV with some friends in the house. He raced out to the family dairy products store in an adjacent building and told his mother, Glenda Lewis, Mr. Lewis' daughter-in-law. She quickly summoned the Chelmsford Fire Department.

Fifteen fire trucks from four communities responded to the alarm. More than 40 men under the direction of Chelmsford Fire Chief Frederick Reid brought the blaze under control after a two-hour battle. The flames were visible for miles and police details responded to handle the traffic.

Morris Thibeault of Manahan St., Chelmsford, and his brother Norman were working outside the barn unloading a bulldozer shortly after 4:30 p.m. "We just looked up and saw the flames," he said.

With another farm worker, Bruce Taylor of Westford, the Thibeaults led some 85 cows into the safety of a nearby field, where they watched unconcernedly.

"THE COWS couldn't see the fire," Thibeault said. "The cows were scared and ran back into the barn."

Also rescued, Thibeault said, was a calf which was on the ground floor, but several calves and two sheep perished as the flames swept the second story of the barn.

Leonard Dube of Nashua and Bob Wagner of Garrison Rd., Chelmsford, were milking cows when the Thibeaults burst in shouting "Let the cows out, the barn is on fire!"

"I couldn't believe it at first," said Dube, "but it didn't take long to convince me."

**COMPLETELY LEVELED** by the blaze was a complex of barn buildings approximately 170 feet long and 90 feet wide. The old section, a red two-level structure, housed two dozen animals and a large quantity of hay. The newer part of the barn, a long one-story building, contained "about 60 tieups for the cows," workmen said.

Saved by the action of firefighters was a huge tarpaulin-covered pile of winter feed, estimated by one of the farm workers at "over 100 tons."

**THE FIRE'S** progress was halted in a shed connecting the barns to the house. Some furniture was moved out of the Lewis home as the flames broke out, but most of it was restored shortly after 6 p.m. Slight smoke damage was reported in the house.

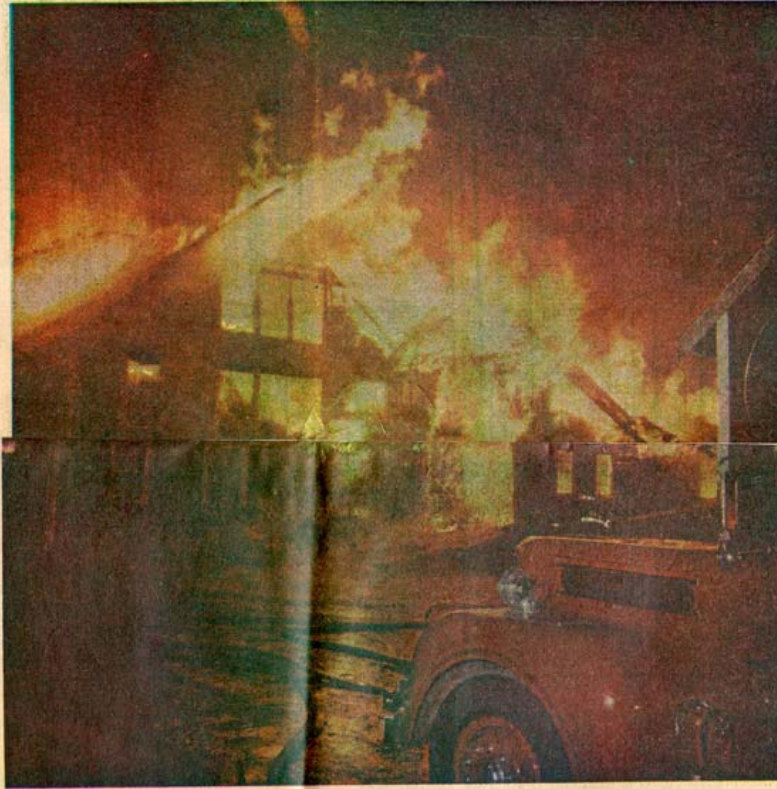
Mrs. Walter Lewis, distraught at the scope of the disaster during her husband's absence, struggled manfully with her problems while firemen extinguished the last of the flames.

There was uncertainty about insurance coverage. The cows would need milking in the morning. The thermometer said 30, and a heavy snow warning was predicted.

It's not easy to find a home for 85 cows on short notice.

Hope that the livestock would be moved to Bates farm in Carlisle was reportedly ruled out by a number of boats stored there. If nothing could be found, Mrs. Lewis said, Ralph House (a Chelmsford building contractor) had offered to build a temporary shelter.

Friends and neighbors would be there early the next morning. Morris Thibeault said, "enough to milk all those cows by hand, if necessary."



Sun color photo by Pigeon

## Chelmsford fire at its height

Flames completely destroyed two huge barns and half a dozen livestock Saturday night at Sunny Meadows Farm in Chelms-

ford while owner Walter Lewis was in a plane en route to Texas. The Lewis home was saved by firefighters' action, but a

Westford fireman died of a heart attack suffered at the scene. Preliminary damage estimates run close to \$100,000.

## Terrific blast rips N.J. oil refinery—score or more injured

By JOSEPH DI LEO

**LINDEN, N.J. (AP)** — A massive explosion ripped through an oil refinery near the New Jersey Turnpike Saturday night, hurling a ball of flame more than 1,000 feet in the air and shaking homes up to 40 miles away.

A number of injuries were reported in the

A fire department spokesman said the fire which followed the blast was confined to the catalytic plant, a gigantic steel superstructure used in refining oil.

He said there appeared no immediate danger of flames spreading to the scores of oil

storage tanks in the North Jersey meadowland area where several refineries are clustered along the Arthur Kill, the narrow body of water between New Jersey and Staten Island, N.Y.

It would take hours to control the blaze, he said.

## Race trouble in Cairo, Ill.

1970 Walter Lewis barn fire on Robin Hill Road described in the December 6 Lowell Sunday Sun (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

### Report of the Fire Department

Quarterly inspections required by statutes in nursing homes were conducted and the necessary reports filed. Public and private school fire drills and inspections required by law were conducted; mercantile, industrial, church, garage and service station buildings were inspected for hazards and reports filed. Appropriate recommendations were given to owners and/or occupants. The 1970 inspection program was, in fact, the most aggressive conducted by the department in its history. A single piece of radio-equipped apparatus was assigned with a full complement of fire fighters to undertake "in service" inspections. In the event of a fire call, the men and equipment are able to respond immediately and without delay. In this way more efficient and effective use of personnel and apparatus is achieved.



For 1971 the department recommends that a new 1000 G.P.M. pumper be purchased, replacing a 1935 pumper now in service. There are five pumping engines in the department. Our plans are to replace one pumper every five years so that we will always have modern equipment without putting a burden on the tax rate.

### Report of the Board of Selectmen

Labor negotiations with unions which represent the Fire Department and Highway Department employees commenced once again, during the latter part of 1970, so that new contracts can be agreed upon, and the results presented to the voters at the coming annual town meeting. Our Labor Relations Advisor, Mr. S. Anthony DiCiero, has assisted the board in many ways during these negotiations and we are most grateful for his help.



1971 Signing of the Union Contract. From left to right: Chief Frederick Reid, Alvin Wetmore, Selectman E.J. Doody, Capt. Allen Mello, James Cutter, Ronald Sawicki (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Station Building Committee

Eugene Gilet, Chairman, Edward Hoyt, Secretary, Frederick H. Reid, Fire Chief, Peter Vennard, Ralph House

At the annual town meeting of March 1969, a committee was appointed to select a site, prepare plans and specifications for a new fire station to be located in West Chelmsford.

The site selected was one located at the corner of Westford Street and Old Westford Road, said land being owned by the town of Chelmsford. Some delay in obtaining plans and specifications occurred due to the refusal of the State Board of Health to approve the original site as selected. A new site on the same property with the approval of the Board of Selectmen was selected.

Articles for the annual town meeting in March 1970 were prepared and costs submitted to the Finance Committee for their approval. Bids from three general contractors were received September 24, 1970, and the contract was awarded to the low bidder one week later.

Progress from then on was very good — the building being roofed in and heat on before the first snowfall. At this present rate of progress we expect that the building can be occupied by the beginning of February, 1971.

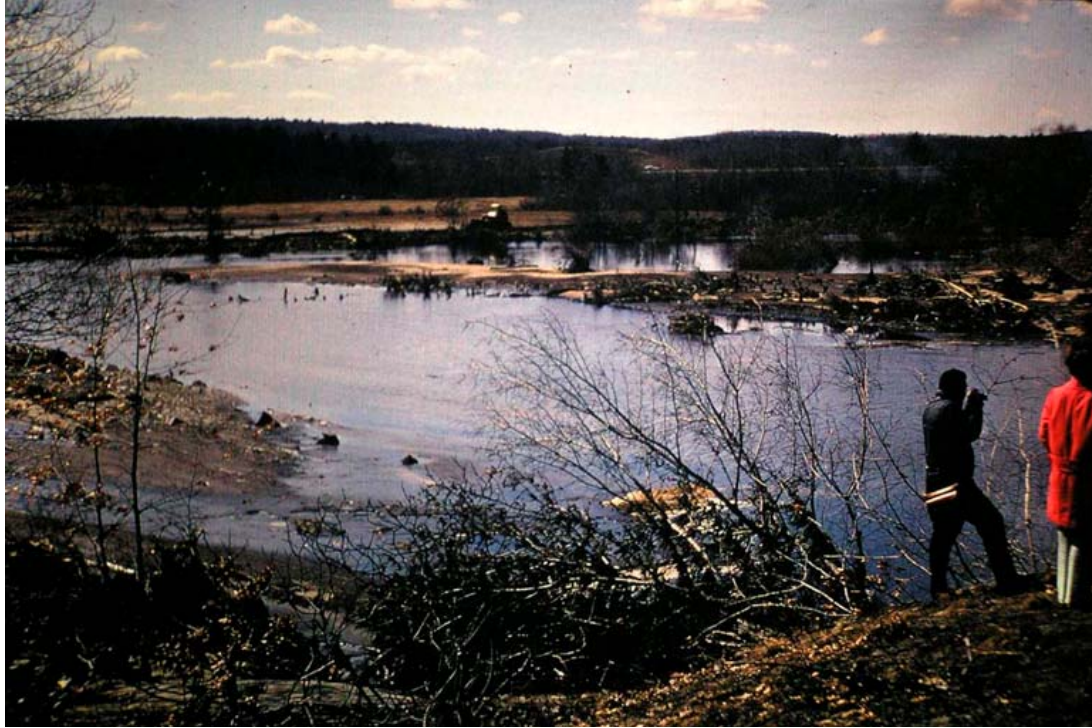
### Report of the Civil Defense Commission

During April, Crystal Lake burst its dam due to the rains and melting snow. The culverts which allowed the water from Stony Brook to go under the railroad tracks in West Chelmsford, became clogged with old railroad ties and debris from the adjacent banks diverting practically all the water to flow along the dyke into Crystal Lake. As a result, the overflows



caused the dam (which was mostly fine sand) to be washed away, flooding the lower part of the area on Richardson Road and Princeton Blvd. The damage which occurred was quite extensive to some of the business establishments and residents in the area.

The Police and the Auxiliary Police along with the Fire Department did an outstanding job of traffic and warning patrol. The Red Cross, under the supervision of Walter Hedlund, set up a first aid center and provided food for the workers. The town was fortunate that the dam burst in mid-afternoon and no one was injured. Had it happened during the night, the damage and injuries would have been much more extensive.



Crystal Lake Dam break April 4, 1970, Route 3 in the right background (Photo by John A. Goodwin)



Crystal Lake Dam break April 4, 1970, Stony Brook Railroad track washout and Route 3 overpass (Photo by John A. Goodwin)



Crystal Lake Dam break April 4, 1970, destruction of the Stony Brook Railroad bed below the dam (Photo by John A. Goodwin)

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

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 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

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 Joseph E. Staveley  
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 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis

**1971**

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 22, 1971**

UNDER ARTICLE 33.

Mr. Fred Reid moved the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$47,200.00 for the purchase of a Pumping Engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted,

UNDER ARTICLE 64.

Regarding funds for manning the East Chelmsford Fire Station on a permanent basis, Mr. Timothy O'Connor moved for dismissal. It was so voted.

UNDER ARTICLE 6.

Mr. Gerald J. Lannan moved that the town vote to transfer from surplus funds the sum of \$300 to procure appraisals for



the purchase of land for the use of a fire station in East Chelmsford, such appraisals to be obtained by the Fire Station Site Committee. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

In 1971 the Fire Department inspected one hundred and eighty-six mercantile and commercial establishments for the purpose of making recommendations for fire safety and prevention. One hundred and thirty-two re-inspections were made to protect the safety of the general public and assure compliance with state statutes. The cooperation of our local business community has been outstanding and the department is appreciative of their help and understanding. In addition, every three months the department has inspected all schools, theaters and nursing homes. During the summer fire safety programs were held for the staffs of all four nursing homes in the town.

During fire prevention week the department conducted an all day fire safety program for several hundred boy scouts and their parents. The use of the building and grounds of the South Chelmsford Rod and Gun Club were made available for this program, through the courtesy of the members of that organization.

In the morning, classes were held inside for groups of scouts. Subjects discussed were: the various types of fire extinguishers and their proper use, danger of false fire alarms and how to develop an emergency evacuation plan for the home. Two timely fire prevention films were also shown during the morning program. The aid and cooperation of the scouts was sought in the fire department's continuous campaign to prevent fires.



Robert Bennett supervises hands-on practice with a fire extinguisher during an all day fire safety program  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The afternoon program included an outside demonstration of the fire extinguishers on test fires. The boys were given an opportunity to use the various types of extinguishers on a real fire. A team of fire fighters demonstrated rescue techniques by using the aerial ladder and strokes stretcher to remove a simulated victim from the roof of a building. As a finale to the day's program, a small building was set on fire. On signal, the fire companies responded and extinguished the fire as they would at an actual fire. This day long program was well received and was given extensive coverage by the local newspaper and a Boston television station.

During the year several hundred youngsters have been given conducted tours of the various fire stations and have been supplied with fire prevention literature. Your fire department in cooperation with the fire department of Billerica and Dracut has established a library of fire safety films. These films are available to any group or organization and a program may be arranged by calling or writing the fire prevention bureau.

As a result of a complete ban on outside burning, the number of brush fires have been reduced from 257 calls in 1969 to 95 calls in 1971; although we did respond to several dump fires totaling several hundred man-hours and millions of gallons of water prior to the use of the Lowell incinerator.

In February we opened the new West Chelmsford Fire Station. This now gives us four permanently manned stations which enable us to provide better fire protection throughout the town.





West Chelmsford Fire Station, located on the edge of Roberts Field, opened in February 1971  
(1995 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

A new 1000 G.P.M. pumper will be delivered in the spring as part of our continuing rotation plan whereby we purchase a new pumper every five years.

For 1972, the department recommends that we replace a 1964 pick-up truck now in use at the Center Fire Station with a new 3/4 ton pick-up. This vehicle is used for transporting equipment to the various stations, picking up hose after fires and plowing all fire stations.

#### **The East Chelmsford fire Station Site Committee**

In April of 1971 a committee was appointed by the Selectmen to select a site for a fire station in East Chelmsford to provide that section of town with equal fire protection with other parts of town.

The members of the committee are:

Timothy F. O'Connor, Chairman  
Myles I. Beers, Clerk  
Thomas E. Firth, Jr.  
John E. Hibbard  
Edward G. Quinn, Deputy Fire Chief  
Frederick H. Reid, Fire Chief  
William E. Spence  
Francis J. Bindas

The committee began holding meetings early in May and continued through October with the final selection of a site on Carlisle Road in East Chelmsford.

# Fire rips Chelmsford farm store

By JEFF NORTHRUP  
Sun Staff Reporter  
CHELMSFORD—A two-alarm fire, apparently fed by a major gas leak under the road, last night totally destroyed the Lupien Farms storage and retail distribution center on Old Westford Road.

but Albert J. Lupien, 2 Sycamore St., Chelmsford, the owner of the farm, said William Roper, an employe who lives nearby, smelled gas, investigated and saw "the road on fire."  
Even after firefighters had quenched the smoky blaze, gas bubbled to the surface in several areas along Old Westford Road.  
Fire Chief Frederick Reid said last night he

and Det.-Lt. David Murphy of the State Fire Marshall's office will investigate the cause of the fire today.  
One police officer, however, told The Sun that the first call to the scene at about 6:15 p.m. was to investigate a gas leak reported in the area.  
Shortly thereafter, the fire was reported.

A gas heating unit inside the building was partially melted by the blaze. Chief Reid would make no preliminary statement on the cause of the blaze but Lupien said he believes gas seeping from an underground leak might have been ignited by the pilot of the gas heater.



MOPPING UP OPERATIONS

... took much of the night at Lupien Farms fire

SUN photo by Irvin

LUPIEN SAID he has "no idea" of the value of the property. However, he said, some 10,000 bushels of apples were stored in a refrigerated area in the cellar and large quantities of eggs and other farm produce were in the building along with apple grading machines and refrigeration units.

Lupien, 61, has been operating the farm since he was 24.

He said last night "everything's gone. It's all junk, now." The building, he said, is insured, but he was skeptical whether he would rebuild and start again.

A house across the street from the farm was filled with gas, Reid said, but no one was in the house. "We put smoke ejectors in the window to evacuate the gas."

Lowell Gas Co. crews were on the scene shortly after the fire was reported to isolate the area and then check each house nearby.

FIRE CREWS remained on the scene much of the night to make sure the gas leak caused no further danger.

Tight security at the scene was imposed by Chelmsford police to make sure no unnecessary persons entered the fire area.

Mutual aid from Lowell, an engine and ladder, and Billerica, an engine, was called in to cover Chelmsford fire stations.

Ironically, the new fire station on Westford Road—barely 100 yards from the fire scene—opened only this week.

1971 Article in the February 6 Lowell Sun, Lupien Farm Stand fire (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

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William H. Thayer  
Allen C. Mello  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

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James M. Spinney  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander (Prov.)  
Dennis Vargeletis

## 1972

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting March 21, 1972**

**UNDER ARTICLE 24.**

Mr. Gerald J. Lannan moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,988.00 for the purpose of purchasing a 3/4 ton 4-wheel drive pick-up truck with snow plow for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize said Board to transfer by good and sufficient Bill of Sale the 1964 Chevrolet 3/4 ton pick-up truck with plow now being used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

**Special Town Meeting April 18, 1972**

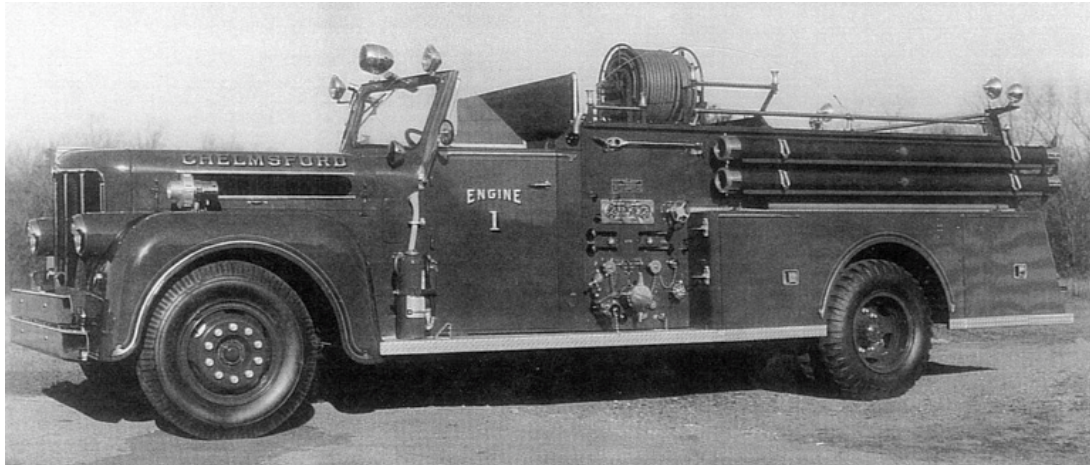
**UNDER ARTICLE 52.**

Pertaining to the acquisition of land for a site for a new fire station on Carlisle Street. The vote was: YES 33, NO 85. Motion defeated.

As a result ARTICLE 53 to raise money to be used for procuring plans and specifications for a proposed new fire house in East Chelmsford and ARTICLE 54 to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint an "East Chelmsford Fire House Building Committee" to proceed with the procurement of plans, legal and technical advice, specifications and costs for the construction of a proposed new fire house in East Chelmsford were both withdrawn.

**Special Town Meeting April 18, 1972****UNDER ARTICLE 1.**

Mr. Gerald J. Lannan moved that the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$6,000.00 for the purchase of a new motor for a 1957 Maxim Fire Engine for the Fire Department, such purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. It was so voted.



1957 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 5 in South Chelmsford (originally Engine 1 at the Center), due for engine replacement in 1972 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Report of the Fire Department**

Although the actual number of alarms have been reduced from previous years, we did have several multi-alarm fires resulting in large fire losses. Two of which were at the Middlesex Training School. Both were set. In each case all persons involved were apprehended and convicted.

A stepped-up fire prevention program was inaugurated in the department during the past year, with Captain Robert Spaulding being assigned to this program. The 1971 fire prevention car has been replaced by a 1972 model through the continuing courtesy of Bournival Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc.

All fire fighters participate in the in-service inspections of commercial and industrial buildings. Any violation of law or unusual conditions are referred to the fire prevention bureau. These in-service inspections have been well received by the business community. A study is being made of the advisability of adopting a fire prevention code for the town.

In compliance with state law, all churches having kindergartens who do not have the required fire detection and alarm systems were notified and are complying.

In addition, a new pick-up service truck has been added replacing one that was several years old. This vehicle is used to transport hose and to perform the many service duties required by the department. It is furnished with complete snow plowing equipment which is used to keep the five fire stations clear of snow and ice.

The department rescue truck which was originally presented to the town as a gift has been retired after many years of excellent service.

The newest brush fire truck has been converted by the men of the department to a rescue vehicle. This was made possible by the drop in the number of brush fires due to the ban on outside burning.





The 1970 Ford/Farrar Forest Fire Truck on the left, was converted to a rescue truck by the men of the department. This 1983 photo with firefighters Richard Grennon and Frances Conlon shows a generator working atop the truck (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Training of personnel continues to be a prime consideration of the fire department, continuous throughout the year, consisting of both outdoor drills and indoor classroom instruction. The members of the department have received basic and refresher courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation under the sponsorship of the heart association. Special classes have been held on the handling of all types of gas fires.

The department has made another advance in the past year consistent with modern fire fighting practices. This is the introduction of pre-fire planning. Under this system a diagrammed written plan is devised for coping with a fire in schools, nursing homes, shopping centers, etc. Each man is provided with his own copy of the plan, and in addition each engine company carries a copy with them. The plans are reviewed frequently and operational drills are held at the various sites.

For 1973, the department recommends that a 1969 4-door sedan now being used by the fire department be replaced with a 1973 4-door sedan.

The department is also recommending through articles in the Annual Town Warrant, the purchase of land and funds for preliminary plans for a fire station in East Chelmsford.

#### **Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

#### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

#### **Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding

William H. Thayer

Allen C. Mello

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

James M. Spinney

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Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1973

### Annual Town Meeting March 12, 1973

#### UNDER ARTICLE 13.

Mr. Frederick H. Reid moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire in fee simple by purchase, by eminent domain or otherwise, as the site for a proposed new fire station the following described land which is bounded as follows: Beginning at a point on the northerly side of Riverneck Road, the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Stephen H. and Louise M. Farley: thence westerly two hundred fifty (250) feet: thence northerly about four hundred (400) feet to Black Brook Channel: thence easterly two hundred fifty (250) feet to corner of land now or formerly of Helen Lemire: thence running southerly approximately four hundred fifty (450) feet to the point of beginning. Said land being part of Lot #405 now or formerly owned by Franklin N. Prescott, Plan Book 35, Plan 28: and that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to defray all necessary costs, fees, and expenses in connection with the acquisition of said land and for paying any damages which may be awarded as the result of any such taking, said purchase to be made only if said land passes state sanitary requirements. A motion to amend to delete the words "eminent domain" from the above motion was defeated. The vote on the main motion was unanimous.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 14.

Mr. Frederick H. Reid moved that in the event of an affirmative vote under the preceding article, that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee consisting of not more than five (5) members for the purpose of proceeding with the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of a fire-house on the said described premises, and to transfer from the West Chelmsford Fire Station Building funds the sum of \$2,500.00 for the use of said committee. It was so voted.

#### UNDER ARTICLE 15.

Mr. Thomas F. Markham, Jr. moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$2,849.00 for the purchase of a 1973 four-door sedan type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the said Board of Selectmen: and to authorize the Selectmen to sell by good and sufficient bill of sale the 1969 four-door sedan type vehicle now being used by the Fire Department. It was so voted.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 14, 1973

#### UNDER ARTICLE 78.

Mr. Thomas F. Markham, Jr. moved that the Town vote to grant longevity benefits to all permanent employees of the Police Department and Fire Department in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. Upon completion of five years of employment said employee shall receive a three per cent (3%) increase.
- b. Upon completion of ten years of employment said employee shall receive a six per cent (6%) increase.
- c. Upon completion of fifteen years of employment said employee shall receive a nine per cent (9%) increase.
- d. Upon completion of twenty years of employment said employee shall receive a twelve per cent (12%) increase.

A discussion took place. Mr. Gerald Lannan of the Board of Selectmen stated that the Selectmen are unanimously in favor of this article. Mr. Richard McDermott of the Finance Committee spoke in opposition to it, but stated he wished to go on record that the Finance Committee considers the firefighters and policemen first class citizens. A motion was made to stop debate. Motion carried, unanimously. A vote was taken on the main motion. It was so voted. The voice vote was questioned. A hand count was taken: YES 271, NO 147. It was so voted.

### Report of the Fire Department

On March 23, 1973 the town was notified of a change in the insurance rating schedule. Specifically rated buildings were changed from 5th class to 4th class. This would include mercantile and industrial properties. Dwellings were changed from Grade "C" to "B". This has resulted in savings to both business enterprises and private homeowners. This change in rating resulted from a survey of the fire defenses of Chelmsford conducted by the Insurance Service Organization. We feel this change was brought about primarily through the efforts of the fire department in effecting modern training methods and especially its system of pre-fire planning of major buildings and complexes throughout the town.

Undoubtedly the energy crisis will play a major part in the fire service. We are beginning to feel the affect. Several fires have occurred due to the reactivating of fireplaces after several years of idleness. We cannot stress too strongly the importance of having old fire places checked by a competent person.

A major concern to the fire department involves the transport, handling and storage of gasoline. Gas should be transported in approved safety cans and never stored in any building or part of any building being used for habitation. However, gasoline may be used, kept, or stored in any building not used for habitation nor frequented by the public, without a permit, provided the total quantity shall not exceed seven gallons and provided the gasoline is stored in one or more metal or plastic containers which have been approved by the marshal. Such containers shall be kept away from all heating devices and shall not be opened in any area where there is an open flame or an electric or mechanical device that might cause a spark. If a container is used in an enclosed area, such area shall be suitably ventilated. Precaution should also be used with portable electrical heaters. All electric heaters should be kept away from flammable materials.

The 1972 fire prevention car has been replaced by a 1973 model through the continuing courtesy of Bournival-Chrysler-Plymouth, Inc.



Deputy Chief Edward G. Quinn with the 1973 Plymouth Fury four-door sedan that replaced the 1972 sedan  
(Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

The 1969 Ford 4-door sedan used by the Fire Chief has been replaced by a 1973 Chevrolet.





Chief Reid with the 1973 Chevrolet four-door sedan that replaced a 1969 Ford (1973 Annual Town Report)

I am recommending, and have made provisions in my budget for 1974, the up-dating of our rescue equipment as we are responding to an increasing number of accidents on Route #495 and Route #3.

#### **The East Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee**

Walter R. Hedlund, Chairman, Frederick H. Reid, George R. Dixon, Edward G. Quinn, Edward Hoyt

The above committee held its first regular meeting immediately following the acquisition of the land for the station on December 17th. At this meeting the possibility of incorporating a civilian defense Emergency Operating Center in the plans for the building were discussed. The committee instructed the Chairman to ask the Assistant Director of Civil Defense of Sector 1 to be present at our next regular meeting to advise us of the requirements for such an operating center.

#### **Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

#### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

#### **Captains**

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William H. Thayer  
Allen C. Mello  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
James M. Spinney

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Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

1974



### Report of the Fire Department

Again this year the Fire Department hit a record high in responses but the actual loss by fire was the lowest it has been in the past decade. The increase was mainly caused by legislation allowing open burning for the period of March 15 - April 15. Our most serious fires this year have resulted from improper installation and use of wood-burning stoves and of neglected fireplaces

An "Act to Insure High Quality Emergency Medical Care Through Regulation" adopted by the Department of Public Health in accordance with provisions of Chapter 948 of the Acts of 1973 are now being incorporated within the department as several members of the department are presently taking the Emergency Medical Trainee course at two Lowell hospitals. Two fire fighters, Donald Weber and Joseph Staveley, have already successfully completed the course. They have passed the national exams and have been awarded their certificate as emergency medical technicians.

Due to the economy, the Bournival-Chrysler Co., Inc. was unable to continue to provide us with a courtesy car for use in fire prevention. However, we were most fortunate to obtain a 1974 sedan through the courtesy of Hallissey Chevrolet, Inc. thus enabling us to continue our fire prevention program.

For 1975 the Department recommends that a new 1000 G.P.M. pumper be purchased. There are five pumping engines in the department. In continuing our rotation plan of replacing one pumper every five years, we will always have modern equipment without putting a burden on the tax rate.

It is our hope that articles submitted for appropriation for the construction of a fire station on land purchased for that purpose on Riverneck Road in the East section of town be acted upon favorably at the annual town meeting.

#### Fire Chief

Frederic H. Reid

#### Deputy Fire Chief

Edward G. Quinn

#### Privates

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Michael A. Blazonis

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes  
Ronald L. Johnson  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil A. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding  
 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney

William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Edward J. McGovern  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Ronald J. Sawicki  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1975

**Annual Town Meeting May 5, 1975****UNDER ARTICLE 27.**

Selectman Arnold J. Lovering moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,437 and transfer the sum of \$53,263 from the Stabilization Fund for the purchase of a 1,000 Gallon Pumping Engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee supports this article. A 2/3 vote required for the transfer. It was so voted, unanimously.

**UNDER ARTICLE 28.**

Selectman Arnold J. Lovering moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$275,000 for the purpose of constructing and originally equipping and furnishing a fire station on Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford on land now owned by the Town. A discussion about the need for a fire station followed with Fire Chief Frederick Reid answering specific questions. The Selectmen and Finance Committee favored this article. It was so voted, by voice.

**UNDER ARTICLE 29.**

Selectman Arnold J. Lovering moved in the event of an affirmative vote on the preceding Article, I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint an East Chelmsford Fire Station Building Committee consisting of five (5) members and authorize it to proceed with the construction of said project and to enter into all necessary and proper contracts and agreements in respect thereto, said contracts to be signed by the Board of Selectmen, and to do all other acts necessary for constructing said project. It was so voted, by voice.

**Report of the Fire Department**

This year for the first time the Fire Department responses exceeded 1000 calls with increase mainly in automobile accidents, motor vehicle fires and malicious false alarms which in itself showed an increase of 87%. Of major concern to the Fire Department is the number of motor vehicles being stolen and burned in the Town of Chelmsford with approximately fifty cases of arson involving motor vehicles this year alone.

On December 29. the contract was signed for the new Fire Station on Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford. Funds were appropriated at the annual town meeting. Construction should begin sometime in January with a completion date set for August.

A new 1000 gallon per minute pumper authorized last year is on order and scheduled for delivery in the summer of 1976.





Delivery of this 1976 Mack CF 1,000 g.p.m. Pumper with 500 gal. tank to the Center as Engine 1 started this rotation:  
 (This photo shows the pumper after modifications in 1988 that added a four-door forward cab)  
 The previous Engine 1, a 1972 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 2 and transferred to North  
 The previous Engine 2, a 1966 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 4 and transferred to East  
 The previous Engine 4, a 1951 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was placed in Reserve and remained in East Chelmsford  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

This year the Fire Department is requesting funds in the budget for eight additional men for the new fire station.

#### East Chelmsford fire Station Building Committee

Walter Hedlund, Chairman, Frederick Reid, Fire Chief, Edward Quinn, Deputy Fire Chief, George Dixon, Edward Hoyt, Secretary

The above committee met in February 1975 and voted to insert in the annual Town Warrant an article requesting that the sum of \$275,000 be appropriated for the construction of this station. Following approval of this article at Town meeting the architect made structural changes in the design of the station to bring the cost more in line with the sum of money that was appropriated.

Complete working plans and specifications were prepared for bidding and on November 18th bids for sub-contract work were received and opened at the architect's office. Sealed bids for the general contract were received and opened at the architects office November 25th. A total of fifteen bids were received with costs ranging from a low of \$244,397 to a high of \$304,622. The successful bidder was the Petruccelli Construction Co. of Lynn, Mass.

At a meeting with the Board of Selectmen on December 29th contract documents were signed by the Selectmen, with Committee and the contractor. The projected completion date is expected to be early fall of 1976.

#### Fire Chief

Frederic H. Reid

#### Deputy Fire Chief

Edward G. Quinn

#### Captains

Robert C. Spaulding  
 William H. Thayer  
 Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney

#### Clerk

Mary Ann Koulas

#### Privates

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 Michael A. Blazonis  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
 Ronald L. Johnson  
 Joseph F. Lynch  
 Emil A. Magiera  
 Leo A. Martin  
 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Edward J. McGovern  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid

Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Ronald J. Sawicki  
James A. Sousa  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

## 1976

### Report of the Fire Department

With the opening of a new fire station in the east section, the fire department has completed its expansion program which began in 1952. Construction of stations were made at five year intervals (North, South, West) and each station is permanently manned with modern equipment. We feel that the manpower level now obtained shall remain the same for several years to come. We plan to continue our present policy of purchasing a fire engine every five years. Money is set aside each year for this purpose.

The Town of Chelmsford, through a survey conducted by the Insurance Service Office of Massachusetts, has a Grade "B" rating. This rating is as high as any town in the Commonwealth.

This year the fire department has requested that the ladder truck be repowered with a new diesel engine as this will add 15 years or more to the life of this vehicle.



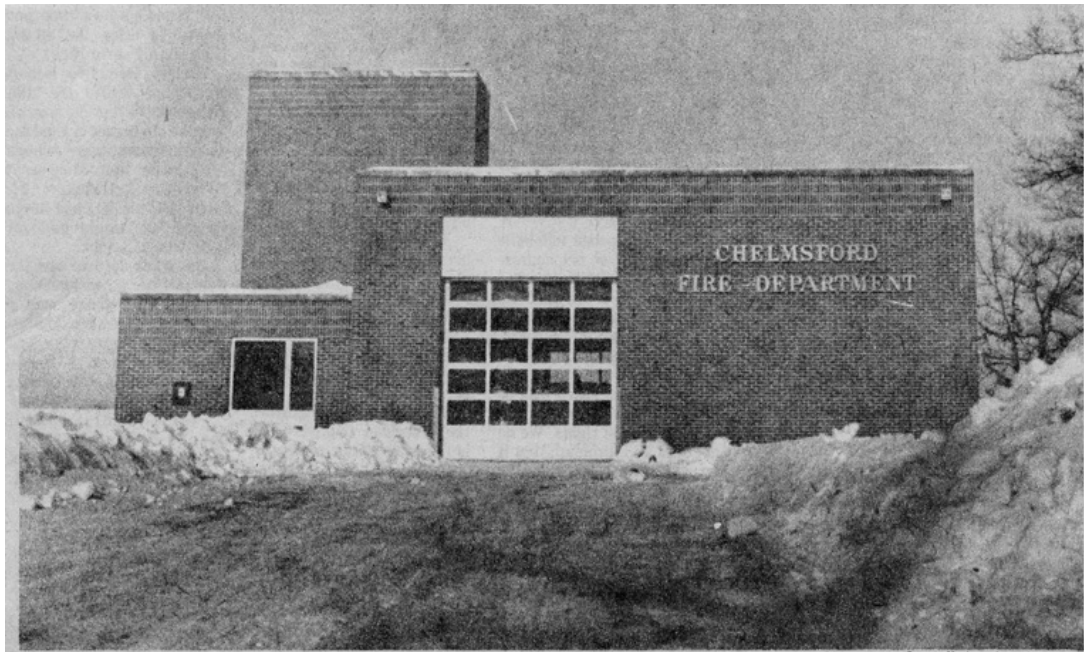
The 1963 Ladder Truck ready for a new deisel engine in 1976 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### East Chelmsford fire Station Building Committee

Walter Hedlund, Chairman, Frederick Reid, Fire Chief, Edward Quinn, Deputy Fire Chief, George Dixon, Edward Hoyt, Secretary

The above committee and the Board of Selectmen met December 29, 1975, and signed a contract for the construction of this station. It was expected at the time that the building would be completed by the fall of 1976. Unavoidable delays in the delivery of some of the special equipment needed in the repair area of the building held up construction of the rest of the building beyond the expected date of completion.

The station was finally occupied and manned as of January 12, 1977. The long continued spell of cold weather in the fall and the snows which followed prevented the application of the final top coating of the driveway and area surrounding the building. As this is a part of the contract which can not be completed until warmer weather, formal acceptance of the station will be delayed until then.



Sun staff photo by Mike Pigeon

**New station**

Chelmsford Fire Department equipment and personnel have now moved into their new location on

Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford. The \$275,000 construction project approved by townspeople in 1975 is

complete, with the exception of some outside work that must await spring. 1-20-77

(Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Robert C. Spaulding  
(Retired 7/8/76)

William H. Thayer  
Allen C. Mello  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
James M. Spinney

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Privates**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
Michael A. Blazonis  
(Resigned)  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
Francis J. Conlin  
James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
Thomas J. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
John P. DePalma  
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes

William H. Jamer  
Peter G. Johnson  
Ronald L. Johnson  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil A. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Edward J. McGovern  
(Retired 10/30/76)  
Michael McTeague  
Harvey M. Miller  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Charles A. Schramm  
James A. Sousa  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Dennis Vargeletis

**1977**

Special Town Meeting May 12, 1977



**UNDER ARTICLE 8.**

Selectman Philip L. Currier moves to see if the Town will vote to amend its action taken under Article 78 of the Annual Town Meeting May 14, 1973 as follows:

To grant longevity benefits to all permanent employees who are members of the respective collective bargaining units of the Police Department and Fire Department in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. Upon completion of five years of employment, said employee shall receive a three percent (3%) increase.
- b. Upon completion of ten years employment, said employee shall receive a six percent (6%) increase.
- c. Upon completion of fifteen years of employment, said employee shall receive a nine percent (9%) increase.
- d. Upon completion of twenty years of employment, said employee shall receive a twelve percent (12%) increase.

This amendment shall not apply to persons employed by the Town on the effective date of this amendment in a position that would entitle that person to longevity benefits under Article 78 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 14, 1973. Selectman Currier explains the article. The Finance Committee is in favor of the article. Motion Carried

**Report of the Fire Department**

The surprise snow storm in May caused considerable problems for the fire service by "knocking out" all fire alarm circuits and downing several miles of fire alarm wire. It was also necessary to provide fire companies at the burning site on Crooked Spring Road every day for a two month period.



Surprise snow storm on May 10, 1977 snapped limbs and brought down wires (Photo by Fred Merriam)

There has been a 90% drop in arson involving automobiles from 1976-1977.

The Fire Department recommends before installing a wood burning stove that you contact the fire department and obtain a pamphlet, free of charge, pertaining to their installation.

With the funds appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting, we have repowered the Ladder Truck with a new diesel engine, giving it a 15 year life expectancy. This year we are requesting a new car the present one being a 1973.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

William H. Thayer (Ret. 6/30/77)

Allen C. Mello

**Fire Fighters**

Robert K. Adams

Walter F. Adley, Jr.

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

James Boormeester

William M. Burke, Jr.

William V. Cady, Jr.

Francis J. Conlin

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes

William H. Jamer

Peter G. Johnson

Ronald L. Johnson

Raymond R. Kydd

Joseph F. Lynch

Emil A. Magiera

Leo A. Martin

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald O. Wikander  
Ronald J. Sawicki

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
Thomas J. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
Charles Ferreira  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Michael McTeague  
Harvey M. Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Thomas P. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Charles A. Schramm  
James A. Sousa  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Joseph E. Staveley  
Gerald D. Tonks  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1978

### Report of the Fire Department

The "Great Blizzard of 1978" caused some anxious moments for the Fire Department as many streets were impassable. However, with the doubling of manpower in all stations we did not incur any serious incidents.

Two major fires in December, 1978, the State Line Lumber Co. and The Fiske House show the greatest loss in the departments history.



CMFD-THE OFFICE AND THE LARGE STORAGE SHED, filled with bundles of shingles and lumber of many kinds, burned for hours after the fire was discovered on Friday night, Dec. 22, at the State Line Lumber Co., Cushing Place, Central Square. Here firefighters are working near the storage section of the 160 foot building, piled high with building materials. (Photo by Tec Art Photography)

ro  
**ekly**  
 Price 20¢

**CHELMSFORD**

**Lumber Yard Fire Under Investigation**

**riticizes Operation**

Tyngsboro schools are again participating. Basically," she stated, "I feel the program has an overall worthwhile purpose but the manner in which it is implemented

Continued On Page 5

**Babson's Business Forecast For 1979**

By Babson's Reports Inc.,

CMFD-Fire said to be of suspicious origin swept the State Line Lumber Co. on Cushing Place near Central Square Friday night (Dec. 22), causing an estimated "over \$100,000" damage to the 160-foot building housing the office and a large storage area.

The first alarm was sounded at 9:46 p.m., Fire Chief Fred Reid said, followed quickly by two more alarms at 9:47 and 9:48. When the first fire equipment arrived on the scene the building was fully involved, Chief Reid said. In addition o the Chelmsford department,

firefighters from Lowell and Billerica aided at the scene, and firefighters from Westford covered the North station and others from Lowell covered the Central station during the fire which was brought under control at 10:45 p.m. Men from the local department remained at the scene through the night and well into the next day as the fire was burning until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Firefighter Michael McTeague of Chelmsford received emergency treatment at Lowell General Hospital for smoke inhalation and then released. Because of the extremely difficult conditions under which the fire was being fought--difficult walking because of the ice underfoot, freezing of the water as it left the hoses, etc.--several other firefighters received minor bruises and cuts.

Because the fire had spread so rapidly and because of other factors, the State Fire Marshal's office was called in to investigate the cause of the blaze which has not yet been determined. Chief Reid said that another fire in the area, adjacent to the lumber yard had been discovered and quickly extinguished by his department several weeks ago.

The spectacular blaze drew onlookers from a wide distance and

cycle is already considerably longer than the average life span of this nation's expansion phases. This does not automatically--and of itself--mean that a trend reversal is imminent, but a cyclical upturn which has lasted 44 months is obviously vulnerable. After careful consideration of all relevant factors, the staff of Babson's Reports predicts that the American economy will slip into a recession in 1979. Until early fall, it



appeared that enough business vitality existed to sustain the economic upslant through the better part of 1979, or at least to avert a recessionary setback in the course of the year.

The situation was changed, however, when the Administration and the Federal Reserve took radical measures to dampen the forces of inflation and to arrest the weakness of the dollar. The chief

smokers from a wide distance and for a time traffic was re-routed around Central Square where fire hose had been laid. The location of the building in the center of the yard and the absence of any strong wind blowing toward Central Square itself as well as the work of the firefighters, prevented spread of the flames along the main street bordering the square.

The State Line Lumber Company fire December 22, 1978  
 Newsweekly article dated December 28, 1978 (Regina Linsley Collection)

# Chelmsford's historic Fiske House hit by fire

12/30/78

By JOAN OLECK  
 Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — The Fiske House, a prominent restaurant and Chelmsford's leading historic landmark, sustained severe damage to its roof and interior last night as a

fire of suspicious origin roared out of control for almost two hours just before the dinner rush.

Some 25 employees of the restaurant and five guests escaped unharmed. But waiters and cooks made repeated forays

back into the burning building to rescue such priceless antiques as a "shadow box" mirror once owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson and a table England's Queen Victoria once presented to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

As the billowing flames settled down into smoldering embers, representatives from the state fire marshal's office gingerly picked their way among the delicate roof rafters in search of clues to the fire's origin.

A CARBON TEST on the scorched walls of the upper story close to the western chimney was conducted to ascertain the nature of a what officials termed a possible "accelerant." Chelmsford's own chief arson inspector, Police Sergeant Armand Caron, confirmed the possibility of arson.

"One part really burned. It doesn't look right. Something was used to help it along. We suspect arson."

It could be weeks before the fire marshal's office determines the cause of the fire and engineers determine whether the 180-year-old landmark — one of the few in Greater Lowell belonging to the National Register of Historic Places — can be rebuilt.

BUT CHELMSFORD residents won't soon forget the funnel of smoke, colored orange by flame, that drew hundreds of onlookers and 12 pieces of fire apparatus — seven from Chelmsford and five from other communities.

Chelmsford had five pumpers, a ladder and the rescue truck at the scene, while Billerica sent two ladder trucks and one pumper and Lowell sent a pumper and a ladder truck.

Dracut and Carlisle also assisted by sending extra air bottles used by firefighters who needed breathing apparatus because of the heavy smoke.

The first indication of the blaze came at about 5:15, according to members of the Fiske House staff. While setting up for dinner at about staff members smelled smoke.

"The whole building started filling up with smoke," Head Chef Thomas King said. "We had thought it was just the fireplace."

REALIZING THE intensity of the smoke, waiters on the second floor opened a door which led to the unoccupied "VIP" diningroom on the third floor and an attic space above that.

Headwaiter James Healy ran upstairs to the third floor but could go no further. "I couldn't breathe," he said. "It was that bad."

RETREATING TO the ground floor, restaurant staffers calmly ordered an evacuation. "Everyone responded fabulously," Healy said, expressing relief that the blaze occurred early in the evening, ahead of the usual Saturday night crowd.

Some 110 people had reservations for dinner last night, according to Healy, and the restaurant's six dining rooms had been booked to capacity for New Years Eve for three



FLAMES RIP THROUGH ROOF OF HISTORIC FISKE HOUSE  
 ...during two-alarm blaze in Chelmsford last night

Sun Staff photo by David Brown

The Fiske House fire December 30, 1978, Lowell Sun news article (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



The Fiske House fire December 30, 1978 (Chelmsford Historical Society Collection)

This year the Fire Department recommends that we replace a 1972 Pick-up and a 1973 Sedan.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Allen C. Mello  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Ronald J. Sawicki

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 James Boermeester  
 William M. Burke, Jr.  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Michael F. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 William Dalton  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
 William H. Jamer  
 Peter G. Johnson  
 Ronald L. Johnson  
 Raymond R. Kydd  
 Joseph F. Lynch  
 Emil A. Magiera  
 Leo A. Martin  
 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas D. Miskell  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 Edward J. Nolet  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Michael D. Ridlon  
 Charles A. Schramm  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis



## 1979

### Special Town Meeting February 1, 1979

#### UNDER ARTICLE 6:

Selectman Murphy moved, that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer by a good and sufficient bill of sale, title to one (1) 1972 Chevrolet pickup truck with snow plow being used by the Fire Department. Selectman Murphy explained the reasoning for this article. The Chelmsford Lodge of Elks had raised money for the Jaws of Life Machine. Because of this the Town didn't need to buy the machine itself, as a result the Town would be able to purchase the pickup truck if so voted. The Finance Committee recommends passage. Motion Carried.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 7, 1979

#### Under Article 1:

Paul C. Hart moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for the purchase of a 1979 or 1980 four-door sedan type vehicle for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize said Board to transfer by good and sufficient bill of sale (1) 1973 Chevrolet four-door sedan type vehicle now being used by the Fire Department. Motion Carried, unanimously.



1979 Ford LTD Fire Department sedan (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 21, 1979

#### Under Article 40:

Paul C. Hart, moved that the Town vote to accept Chapter 41 Section 100B of the Massachusetts General Laws: Indemnification of Retired Police Officers and Firefighters for certain hospital, etc. expenses. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Motion Carried, unanimously.

#### Under Article 41:

Chief Reid of the Fire Department, moved that the Town vote to accept Chapter 148 Section 26C of the Massachusetts General Laws: Smoke and Heat Detectors for Dwellings Not Otherwise Regulated. The Finance Committee recommends this article. Chief Reid explained the purpose of this article. Motion Carried, unanimously.

### Report of the Fire Department

The major problem facing the fire service today is the energy crisis. The cost of heating five stations and supplying fuel for fourteen pieces of equipment is a drain on the budget. Also, the improper installation of wood burning stoves and the illegal and improper storage of gasoline cause the most serious problems that we are faced with at this time.

This year the Fire Department recommends that we replace a 1957 pumper.



**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

**Captains**

Allen C. Mello (Retired)  
 Thomas P. Miskell (Acting)  
 Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
 James M. Spinney  
 Ronald O. Wikander  
 Ronald J. Sawicki

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
 Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
 Arthur G. Anderson  
 Robert A. Bennett  
 William M. Burke, Jr.  
 William V. Cady, Jr.  
 Francis J. Conlin  
 James P. Curran  
 Michael F. Curran  
 Thomas J. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 William Dalton  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 James Boermeester  
 Philip Dube  
 Charles Ferreira  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley  
 William H. Hadley  
 Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson  
 Robert L. Hughes  
 William H. Jamer  
 Peter G. Johnson  
 Ronald L. Johnson  
 Raymond R. Kydd  
 Joseph F. Lynch  
 Emil A. Magiera  
 Leo A. Martin  
 Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
 Michael McTeague  
 Harvey M. Miller  
 Thomas D. Miskell  
 Edward J. Nolet  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Michael D. Ridlon  
 Charles A. Schramm  
 James A. Sousa  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Brian J. Stanton (Provisional)  
 Joseph E. Staveley  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

[Top](#)

## 1980

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 1, 1980

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16:

Selectman Paul C. Hart moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$107,071.00 for the purchase of a new 1,000 gallon pumping engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. Motion Carried, unanimously.



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[2010-2014](#)

[2015-201x](#)



Delivery of this 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. Pumper with 500 gal. tank to the Center as Engine 1 started a rotation:  
 Previous Engine 1, a 1976 Mack 1000g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 2 and transferred to North  
 Previous Engine 2, a 1972 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Engine 3 and transferred to West  
 Previous Engine 3, a 1958 Maxim 750 g.p.m. Pumper, was re-designated as Reserve and transferred to South  
 Firefighters Richard Grennon and Frances Conlon are seen in the upper 1983 photo  
 The lower framed photo of the 1981 Mack was taken by a friend of Chief Curran in Lynn, MA  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### Report of the Fire Department

The major problem facing the Fire Department continues to be the energy crisis. Our records show a 31% increase in building fires, all of which were caused by burning wood.



The call for Medical Assistance has increased over 32% as more people are becoming aware of our service and ability in this field.

The Fire Department feels that 1981 could be a "trying" year with the implementation of Prop. 2 1/2. We hope that we will be able to continue the basic needs for the townspeople. With a new pumper engine to be delivered in the spring of "81" it will not be necessary to purchase any new equipment in the next fiscal year.

#### **Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

#### **Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn

#### **Captains**

Thomas P. Miskell

(Acting)

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

James M. Spinney

Ronald O. Wikander

(Resigned)

Ronald J. Sawicki

James A. Sousa

#### **Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

#### **Mechanic**

Jack Smith

#### **Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams

Walter F. Adley, Jr.

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

James Boermeeester

William M. Burke, Jr.

William V. Cady, Jr.

Francis J. Conlin

James P. Curran

Michael F. Curran

Thomas J. Curran

William F. Curran

James T. Cutter

William Dalton

John P. DePalma

Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.

Donald A. Drew

Philip Dube

Charles Ferreira

James P. Flaherty

Ernest J. Frobese

Robert R. Gagnon

David Gelineau

Terrence A. Goode

Richard L. Grenon

Jack D. Hadley

William H. Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson

Robert L. Hughes

William H. Jamer

Peter C. Johnson

Ronald L. Johnson

(Retired 5/19/80)

Dennis Keohane

(Provisional)

Raymond R. Kydd

Joseph F. Lynch

Emil P. Magiera

Leo A. Martin

Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.

Michael McTeague

Harvey M. Miller

Richard Miller

Thomas D. Miskell

Edward J. Nolet

Richard P. O'Neil

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.

Daniel T. Reid

Michael D. Ridlon

Charles A. Schramm

Joseph J. Spinazola

Brian J. Stanton

(Provisional)

Joseph E. Staveley

Gerald D. Tonks

Donald A. Weber

Peter T. Wetherbee

Alvin F. Wetmore

Dennis Vargeletis

## *1981*

#### **Report of the Board of Selectmen**

The month of February brought the spectacular North School fire. This fire, of suspicious origin, destroyed about 80 percent of the North School: only 6 classrooms and the Gym were left standing. The final insurance settlement on the fire was in excess of 1.7 million dollars. Also during February and March the paring of Town budgets continued to bring them in line with the mandates of Prop. 2 1/2.



North School Fire February 27, 1981 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Annual Town Meeting June 1, 1981**

UNDER ARTICLE 47 Selectman Paul C. Hart moved that the Town vote to rescind the acceptance of the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42, or corresponding provisions of earlier laws, as accepted at the Annual Town Meeting 1954 establishing a fire department to be under the control of an officer to be known as the chief of the department, and to further vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42A, establishing a fire department under the direction of the Selectmen.

Selectman Ready spoke in favor of the article. The Finance Committee was against the article. A discussion followed. The Moderator made a point of order concerning reconsideration of an article. According to Article 35 of the Annual Town Meeting of April 28, 1980, once an article is voted, it may be brought back up on the Town Meeting floor for reconsideration more than once any time during the night of the meeting in question. A voice vote was taken on the article, Motion defeated.

#### **Report of the School Committee**

The Chelmsford School Department experienced many changes during 1981. The loss of the North School by a devastating fire has surely left a void in this community. This resulted in all the staff and students of the North School being re-assigned to the Harrington School. Both populations had to share facilities, materials and equipment for the remainder of the 1980-81 school year, and the Harrington School operated A.M. and P.M. sessions.

#### **Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "82" has been a very trying year for the Fire Department. We suffered one of our greatest losses in the history of the Town with the loss of the North School. Proposition 2 1/2 has given us some anxious moments, but with the cooperation of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and voters at the Town Meeting we were able to cope with such without loss of manpower.

I would, at this time, like to thank the voters of the Town of Chelmsford for the tremendous support given the department in retaining its "Strong Chief" as chief administrator. The department has been operating successfully under this system since 1954.

We are proud that 40% of the department have achieved some degree of college credits with 10% of the department already having received Associates Degrees in Fire Science, Law Enforcement and Business Management. Education continues to play a major part in today's fire service.

**Fire Chief**  
Frederic H. Reid

**Firefighters**  
Robert K. Adams

Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes

**Deputy Fire Chief**

Edward G. Quinn  
(Retired 2/10/81)  
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
(Acting)

**Captains**

James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
James A. Sousa  
Thomas J. Curran  
(Acting)

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

Walter F. Adley, Jr.	William H. Jamer
Arthur G. Anderson	Peter C. Johnson
Robert A. Bennett	Dennis Keohane
James Boermeester	Raymond R. Kydd
William M. Burke, Jr.	Joseph F. Lynch
William V. Cady, Jr.	Emil P. Magiera
Francis J. Conlin	Leo A. Martin
James P. Curran	Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.
Michael F. Curran	Michael McTeague
William F. Curran	Harvey M. Miller
James T. Cutter	Richard Miller
William Dalton	Thomas D. Miskell
John P. DePalma	Edward J. Nolet
Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.	Richard P. O'Neil
Donald A. Drew	Harold J. Pierce, Jr.
Philip Dube	Daniel T. Reid
Charles Ferreira	Michael D. Ridlon
(Retired 2/7/81)	Charles A. Schramm
James P. Flaherty	Joseph J. Spinazola
Ernest J. Frobese	Brian J. Stanton
Robert R. Gagnon	Joseph E. Staveley
David Gelineau	(Resigned 5/13/81)
Terrence A. Goode	Gerald D. Tonks
Richard L. Grenon	Donald A. Weber
Jack D. Hadley	Peter T. Wetherbee
William H. Hadley	Alvin F. Wetmore
Paul D. Hayes	Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1982

**Annual Town Meeting April 26, 1982**

UNDER ARTICLE 17 Selectman Ready, moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$10,490 for the purchase of equipment for the Fire Department, such purchase to be made under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen, as follows:

- a. Six (6) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- b. One Thousand (1000) feet of 2 1/2 inch hose
- c. One Portable Radio

The Finance Committee recommended the article, Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "83" brought two serious fires to Chelmsford. There were heavy losses involving the Racquet Club and Comet Plastic Products. However, building fires have shown a sharp decrease in Chelmsford as well as surrounding areas and we feel a great deal of this is do to the Smoke Detector Laws.

During 1982 James A. Sousa was promoted to the permanent position of Deputy Fire Chief having topped a Civil Service examination.

In staying with our Capital Outlay Plan, we are not requesting fire apparatus for 1983.

**Fire Chief**

Frederic H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Thomas J. Curran

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
James Boermeester  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
(Temporary)

William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.  
Michael McTeague  
Richard Miller



**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

Jack Smith

James P. Curran  
 Michael F. Curran  
 William F. Curran  
 James T. Cutter  
 William Dalton  
 John P. DePalma  
 Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Donald A. Drew  
 Philip Dube  
 James J. Durkin  
 James P. Flaherty  
 Ernest J. Frobese  
 Robert R. Gagnon  
 David Gelineau  
 Terrence A. Goode  
 Richard L. Grenon  
 Jack D. Hadley

Thomas D. Miskell  
 Thomas P. Miskell  
 (Retired 7/31/82)  
 Edward J. Nolet  
 Richard P. O'Neil  
 Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
 Daniel T. Reid  
 Michael D. Ridlon  
 Joseph J. Spinazola  
 Brian J. Stanton  
 Gerald D. Tonks  
 Donald A. Weber  
 Peter T. Wetherbee  
 Alvin F. Wetmore  
 Dennis Vargeletis



Fire Prevention Week in 1982, demonstration for schoolchildren of the aerial ladder on the 1962 Maxim  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1983

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 9, 1983

#### UNDER ARTICLE 18.

Selectman Claude Harvey moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$28,000.00 for the purpose of completing the following repairs and replacements to Fire Department buildings and equipment, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen:

1. Roof repairs - Central Fire Station
2. Replacement of fire alarm recorder with a digitized alarm box recorder
3. Repair the body of Engine 3.

The Finance Committee recommended the article, motion carried, unanimously.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 23, 1983

#### UNDER ARTICLE 45.

Frederick H. Reid, Fire Chief, moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws,

Chapter 148, Section 26G, an act further regulating the installation of automatic sprinkler systems. The Finance Committee recommends the article. Motion carried.

**UNDER ARTICLE 46.**

Deputy Chief James Sousa, of the Fire Department moved to have this article withdrawn. Presently there is new legislation with better wording, and the Fire Department would rather wait and adopt that particular law if passed. The Finance Committee supported this motion. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "83" was a "banner year" for the Fire Department in regard to fire losses which were at a minimum as compared to other years. We feel this was due to our Fire Prevention Program, In-Service Inspections and Smoke Detectors.

This year in keeping with our Capital Outlay Program, we are requesting a new 1000 GPM pumper to replace a 1957 Maxim. We are also requesting repair on the roofs at the south and north fire stations and requesting funds to implement phase two in updating the fire alarm equipment.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	Robert K. Adams	Jack D. Hadley
	Walter F. Adley, Jr.	William H. Hadley
	Arthur G. Anderson	Paul D. Hayes
	Robert A. Bennett	Paul D. Henderson
	James Boormeester	Robert L. Hughes
	William M. Burke, Jr.	William H. Jamer
	William V. Cady, Jr.	Peter C. Johnson
	David C. Campbell	Dennis Keohane
	William Campbell	Raymond R. Kydd
	John L. Carroll	Joseph F. Lynch
	David P. Clancy	Emil P. Magiera
	Francis J. Conlin	Leo A. Martin
	Francis Mark Conlin	Wallace V. Maybury, Jr.
	James P. Curran	(Resigned 6/15/83)
	Michael F. Curran	Michael McTeague
	William F. Curran	Richard Miller
	James T. Cutter	Thomas D. Miskell
	William Dalton	Edward J. Nolet
	John P. DePalma	Richard P. O'Neil
	Bertrand E. Dixon, Jr.	Harold J. Pierce, Jr.
	(Retired 7/16/83)	Daniel T. Reid
	Bruce R. Donovan	James F. Reid
	Donald A. Drew	Michael D. Ridlon
	Philip Dube	Joseph J. Spinazola
	James J. Durkin	Brian J. Stanton
	(Resigned 9/10/83)	Gerald D. Tonks
	James P. Flaherty	John D. Ubele
	Ernest J. Frobese	Donald A. Weber
	Robert R. Gagnon	Peter T. Wetherbee
	David Gelineau	Alvin F. Wetmore
	Terrence A. Goode	Dennis Vargeletis
	Richard L. Grenon	
<b>Fire Chief</b>		
Frederick H. Reid		
<b>Deputy Fire Chief</b>		
James A. Sousa		
<b>Captains</b>		
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.		
Charles A. Schramm		
James M. Spinney		
Ronald J. Sawicki		
Thomas J. Curran		
<b>Clerk</b>		
Mary Ann Koulas		
<b>Mechanic</b>		
George Fetzner		

## 1984

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 7, 1984**

**UNDER ARTICLE 18.**

Selectman Bonita Towle moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$34,325.00 for the purpose of completing the following repairs and replacements to Fire Department Buildings and equipment, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen:

1. Roof Repairs - North Fire Station
2. Roof Repairs - South Fire Station
3. A 12 circuit entrance cabinet with accessories to receive fire alarms

The Finance Committee supports the article. Deputy Chief James Sousa explained the article. A voice vote was taken, motion carried, unanimously.

**UNDER ARTICLE 22.**

Chief Reid of the Fire Department moved that the Town vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund \$125,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new 1,000 G.P.M. Pumping Engine for the Fire Department, said purchase to be made in accordance with Chapter 48, Section 42 of the General Laws.

The Finance Committee recommends the article. Motion carried.



This FMC Pumper body on a 1984 Mack Chassis was not actually delivered to the East Station until 1987 FMC took over Mack's in-process contracts circa 1985 and the Mack cab and chassis was stored in the Center Fire Station FMC completed the pumper body in Michigan and firefighters drove the cab to the factory so the body could be installed FMC stands for Food Manufacturing Company, and their own Fire Apparatus division shut down in 1990 This truck was purchased as Engine 4 and re-designated Engine 7 when replaced by a Smeal/International Pumper in 2007, (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

The Moderator proceeded on with the next two articles, James Harrington, Town Counsel made a point of order. Due to article 22 being a transfer from the Stabilization Fund the vote needed to a 2/3's or unanimous vote. The Moderator then asked the Town Meeting Body to vote on article 22 again. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

New roofs have been installed on the south and north fire stations. Funds for this project were appropriated at the last annual town meeting.

We are requesting a new pick-up truck with a new plow and a new radio this year. This will replace our present one.

**Fire Chief**

Frederick H. Reid

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
Thomas J. Curran

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

George Fetzer

**Firefighters**

Robert K. Adams  
Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
James Boermeester  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
David P. Clancy  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter

Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Robert L. Hughes  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Joseph F. Lynch  
(Retired)  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil



William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew  
Philip Dube  
(Resigned)  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
Robert R. Gagnon  
(Retired)  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon

Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
Gerald D. Tonks  
John D. Ubele  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee  
Alvin F. Wetmore  
(Retired)  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## *1985*

### **Report of the Board of Selectmen**

October, 1985:

A spectacular 4-alarm fire in a warehouse at 100 Wotton Lane, North Chelmsford caused injuries to 4 firefighters and damage to the three firms using the facilities for storage.

10-22-1985

# 4 firemen hurt battling textile warehouse blaze

By RAYMOND HOWELL  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — Two workers using a torch to repair a sprinkler system started a three-alarm fire yesterday that destroyed a North

textiles and injured four Chelmsford firefighters.

The 3 p.m. blaze at the Nonwovens Inc. warehouse at 100 Wotton Street gave off thick black smoke that could be seen for at least 20 miles and created a major traffic snarl in

Vinal Square.

Firefighters from four communities battled the fire for two-and-a-half hours before bringing it under control.

The fire leveled half of the 20,000-square-foot warehouse and gutted

the other half, but firefighters prevented it from spreading to Nonwovens' main structure, a brick mill building located about 20 feet behind the warehouse.

Heat from the fire was so intense that it curled sheet metal sides of the wood frame warehouse like paper, forced firefighters to hose down their trucks continuously and drove back spectators.

Three Chelmsford firefighters

were still hospitalized this morning.

Firefighter Richard O'Neil, who was admitted to St. John's Hospital complaining of chest pains, was in satisfactory condition today, said a hospital spokeswoman. His condition had been listed as critical this morning.

Firefighters Michael Ridlon, who sustained a knee injury when struck by a smoldering ball of material inside the warehouse, and William Dalton, who suffered from smoke inhalation, were listed in stable condition at Lowell General Hospital, a spokesman said.

Capt. Ronald Sawicki was treated and released at Lowell General last night for a knee injury, according to Chelmsford fire officials.

The warehouse and mill building are located at the end of Wotton Street in a complex formerly known as the Southwell Mills. The warehouse contained mostly baled textiles and rags from three companies who lease space for Nonwovens.

Chelmsford fire officials were still trying to determine the dollar amount of the damage this morning.

"I would say it's a considerable amount," Chelmsford Fire Chief Fred Reid said the fire was started by two workers using an acetylene torch to repair the building's sprinkler system.

"It started from the repair," he said.

The owner of Nonwovens, Clifford Dallmeyer of Chelmsford, said it was true that two of his employees were trying to repair a leak in a five-inch line in the sprinkler system.

The fire department shut off water to half of the warehouse at 8:30 a.m. so the repairs could be made, he said.

But Dallmeyer, who was at home at the time the fire started, said he didn't know if his two workers had caused the blaze.

Firefighters concentrated their hoses on the rear of the warehouse and continuously watered down the main building, preventing the fire from leaping the 20-foot-wide alley.

Several firefighters worked from a crouch in the alley, amid smoke and falling ashes.

"We concentrated all our efforts on keeping it out of the main building," said Reid. "The warehouse was going too much. I couldn't do anything about that."



Firefighters concentrate efforts on rear of Non-wovens Inc. warehouse (Sun photo by Michael Pigeon)

Fire at Non-wovens, Inc. at 100 Wotton Street October 22, 1985 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 6, 1985

UNDER ARTICLE 10.

Capital Budget approved for the Fire Department:

Ladder Truck \$210,000

Service Truck 4 wheel drive pickup \$15,609

## Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 13, 1985

UNDER ARTICLE 28.

Town Counsel James Harrington, moved to amend section F as recommended and voted unanimously, by the Planning Board, with the following wording: Adequate access to each structure for fire emergency and service equipment is provided. This shall mean that access shall be provided to all sides of the structure for emergency vehicles and fire lanes, as recommended by the Fire Department. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion carried, unanimously.

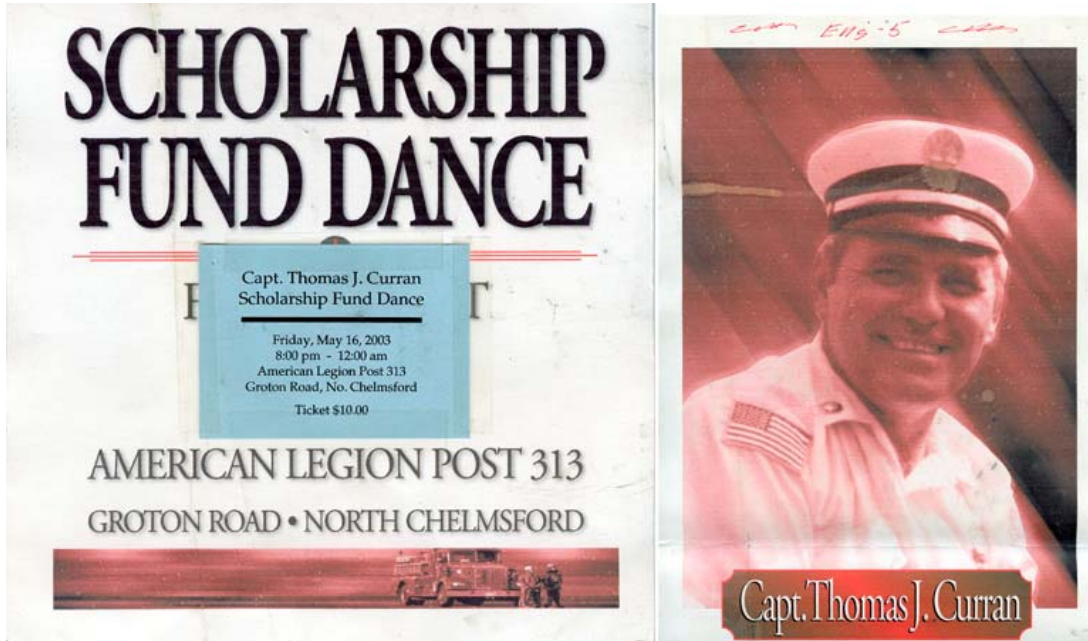
Chairman of the Planning Board. John McCarthy read the Board's recommendation: The Planning Board held a public



hearing on April 3, 1985, and voted unanimously to approve this article which includes the amendment to section F. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

The Fire Department was deeply saddened by the untimely death of Captain Thomas Curran. Tom was an outstanding and dedicated officer who loved the fire department. We miss him.



A Scholarship Fund Dance was held in memory of Thomas J. Curran in 2003 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The department received a new 110 ft. Aerial ladder and a new 4-Wheel Drive Pick-up Truck. Both were authorized at the Annual Town Meeting.





1985 Pirsch cab-forward 100 foot Ladder Truck, Ladder 1, replaced the 1962 Maxim 75 foot Ladder Truck  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Due to the tremendous industrial growth we are requesting four additional men for Engine 4 in east, and also one additional man to be assigned to Fire Prevention in order to comply with the new EPA Regulations and on hazardous materials-hazardous waste and for the other regulations which have been passed by State and Federal Agencies.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	Robert K. Adams (Retired)	William H. Hadley (Acting Capt.)
	Walter F. Adley, Jr.	Paul D. Hayes
	Arthur G. Anderson	Paul D. Henderson
<b>Fire Chief</b>	Robert A. Bennett	Robert L. Hughes
Frederick H. Reid	William M. Burke, Jr.	William H. Jamer
	William V. Cady, Jr.	Peter C. Johnson
<b>Deputy Fire Chief</b>	David C. Campbell	Dennis Keohane
James A. Sousa	William Campbell	William Keohane
	John L. Carroll	Raymond R. Kydd
<b>Captains</b>	Patrick Carroll	Emil P. Magiera
Charles S. Galloway, Jr.	Anthony Cincevich	Leo A. Martin
Charles A. Schramm	David P. Clancy	Michael McTeague
James M. Spinney	Francis J. Conlin	Richard Miller
Ronald J. Sawicki	Francis M. Conlin	Thomas D. Miskell
Thomas J. Curran (Deceased 4/3/85)	James P. Curran	Edward J. Nolet
James Boormeester (12/5/85)	Michael F. Curran	Richard P. O'Neil
	William F. Curran	Harold J. Pierce, Jr.
	James T. Cutter	Daniel T. Reid
	William Dalton	James F. Reid
<b>Clerk</b>	John P. DePalma	John Reid
Mary Ann Koulas	Bruce R. Donovan	Michael D. Ridlon
	Donald A. Drew	Joseph J. Spinazola
<b>Mechanic</b>	Christopher Finnigan	Brian J. Stanton
George Fetzer	James P. Flaherty	Gerald D. Tonks
	Ernest J. Frobese	John D. Ubele
	David Gelineau	Dennis Vargeletis
	Terrence A. Goode	Donald A. Weber
	Richard L. Grenon	Peter T. Wetherbee
	Jack D. Hadley	

## 1986

### Special Town Meeting January 27, 1986

UNDER ARTICLE 10.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Dennis Ready, moved that the Town vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of one hundred forty-eight thousand six hundred sixty-one dollars (\$148,661.00) to the appropriate salary line items to fund approved wage and salary increases and expense allocations in the following departmental accounts:

Line Item 32 Fire Department Salary Account: \$147,111.00

Line Item 33 Fire Department Expense Account: \$1,550.0

Selectman Ready spoke in favor of the article, stating that the Fire Department and the Board of Selectmen had negotiated in good faith, and felt that it was a fair contract. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Elizabeth Marshall, said that the Finance Committee was against the requested increase and gave a presentation explaining why. Harold Pierce President of the Firefighters Union, spoke in favor of the article. A lengthy discussion took place. George Gordon moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked if there was a need for further debate? Hearing none, he proceeded to ask for a vote on the article. Edward Hilliard moved to have the vote taken by silent ballot. The Moderator explained the procedure that would take place in order to have a vote taken by silent ballot. He asked for a voice vote on the motion for a silent ballot, motion defeated. He then asked for a voice vote on the main motion, motion defeated.

William Dalton questioned the voice vote. The Moderator asked for the tellers to come forward and conduct a hand count. A 2/3's vote is required. Yes 195 No 236, the motion was defeated.

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 5, 1986

## UNDER ARTICLE 13.

Capital Budget approved for the Fire Department:

Rescue truck \$80,000

Auto, generator for station #01 \$20,000

Portable foam \$7,000

Hazardous waste materials equipment and training \$20,000



1986 Ford F700 chassis with a Marion body, Fire/Rescue Truck (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## UNDER ARTICLE 28.

Selectman, John P. Emerson Jr., moved that the Town vote to amend the General By-Laws Article VI Police Regulations, Section 19 Prohibition on leaving Motor Vehicles in Certain Private Ways, by deleting paragraph #2 in its entirety, and substituting the following in its place:

(In addition) Acting Fire Chief, James Sousa, moved to amend the article by deleting the words, "Board of Selectmen" and replace them with the words "Chief of the Fire Department", through out the article. The Finance recommended the amendment. The Board of Selectmen were in favor. James Sousa explained the reason for his motion to the Town Meeting body. A discussion took place. William Dalton moved the question, the Moderator asked for any need for further discussion. Hearing none he asked for a voice vote on the motion to amend, motion carried. He then asked for a voice vote on the main motion, as amended, motion carried, unanimously. The article reads as follows:

2. It shall be unlawful to obstruct or park a motor vehicle in any fire lane, such fire lane to be designated by the Chief of the Fire Department and shall be posted as such. Said fire lane to be NOT LESS THAN eighteen (18) Feet Wide for all buildings in any shopping center, bowling alley, theatre, nursing home, office building, or other public building. The establishment of fire lanes as set forth above shall be at the sole discretion of the Chief of the Fire Department and shall run from the wall of the building or any overhang of the building or any sidewalk adjacent thereto. Any fire lane in excess of eighteen (18) feet wide shall have the approval of the property owner or person in control of such property;

(a) The Chief of the Fire Department shall notify all record owners of the designation of Fire lanes.

#### Adjourned Special Town Meeting May 19, 1986

UNDER ARTICLE 37 Selectman John P. Emerson Jr. moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) and/or for the purpose of completing Architectural Design and securing all necessary plans and specification for the construction and/or reconstruction of the front portion of the fire station located on North Road, along with the performance all said all construction and/or reconstruction in conformity with said plans, all said contracts to be made under the supervision of the Chief of the Fire Department.

Acting Chief James Sousa stated that according to his information from former Fire Chief Reid, the Fire Department did not submit this article. Therefore he did not have any information concerning it. Richard Lahue stated that the Fire Department had purchased a new fire truck and when found that it would not fit in the station, a notch was formed in

order for the truck to fit. The Fire Station falls within the Historic District, and the Board did not give any permission for any reconstruction to the station. He asked the Town Meeting Body to dismiss the article by voting to defeat it.

William Dalton moved to amend the article: to use the sum of \$35,000.00 to reconstruct the upper portion of the center fire house. He said that more office space and a ladies room was needed, and that this is where the monies should be applied to. Town Counsel was asked if this motion was considered out of order. Town Counsel replied no because the warrant says with reconstruction as does the motion to amend. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the motion to amend. Motion defeated. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the main motion, motion defeated.

#### **Special Town Meeting September 25, 1986**

##### UNDER ARTICLE 15.

Selectman John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to engage engineers, appraisers, attorneys, architects, and other necessary consultants for the purpose of preparing and designing all documents required to design and construct repairs to the Center Fire Station for the Town of Chelmsford, and further I move that the town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute all necessary and proper contracts and agreements thereto, and further I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) to defray all necessary costs, fees, and expenses.

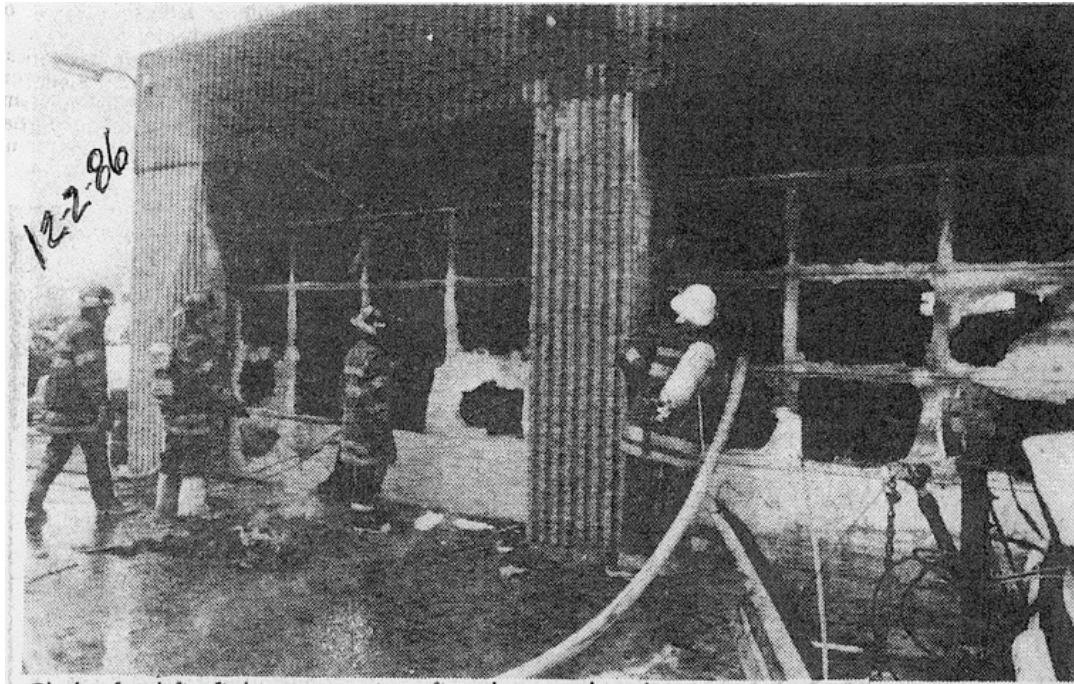
A discussion took place. Harry Pierce moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion carried, unanimously. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article, motion carried, unanimously.

##### UNDER ARTICLE 18.

Selectman John Emerson, moved that the Town vote to rescind the acceptance of the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42, or corresponding provisions of earlier laws, as accepted at the Annual Town Meeting in 1954 establishing a fire department to be under the control of officer to be known as the chief of the department, and I move that the town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 48, Section 42A, establishing a fire department under the direction of the Selectman.

The Finance Committee was against the article. Selectman Ready spoke in favor of the article. Edward Quinn, former Deputy Chief, spoke against the article. He explained that the department's budget is controlled through the bid process, or union contract, which is done through the Board of Selectmen. He explained that a weak chief is subject to political pressures, and could in fact be fired at any point in time. Under the strong chief before the chief could be fired, he/she would be required to have a hearing, and told the reason for the firing. That way there is a little protection for the chief and avoids political pressure. Selectman Towle spoke in favor. Harold Pierce, stated that he has been a firefighter for twenty-five years with the Town, spoke against the article. The Moderator asked for a voice vote, motion defeated.





Chelmsford firefighters peer into fire-damaged maintenance garage.

(Sun photo by Michael Pigeon)

## Swimming pool company garage, trucks damaged by 2-alarm fire

CHELMSFORD — A lit light-bulb smashing into a puddle of gasoline triggered a two-alarm fire early today that destroyed a maintenance garage and two trucks at Aquatech Pools off Rte. 110.

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Charles Galloway said two workers inside the garage — in a hurry to clean up spilled gasoline on the floor — accidentally tripped on and pulled down a droplight from a truck and into the flammable liquid.

The light crashed into the puddle and exploded the gasoline, Galloway said.

"It was an honest mistake," Galloway said. "They were very fortunate to get out of there without getting injured."

Aquatech vice-president Pe-

ter White said the garage was destroyed by the 6:45 a.m. blaze.

Traffic on Rte. 495, about 50 yards from the pool company, was slowed as motorists watched the fire.

Water streaming from the garage turned to ice as temperatures were well below freezing, causing some firefighters to lose their footing as they battled the fire.

All available Chelmsford firefighters were sent to the scene, and Billerica and Lowell firefighters and equipment manned the vacant Chelmsford stations.

Several drums of oil kept inside the garage for maintenance purposes caused the fire to spread, a company official said.

"We went to two alarms because we needed more men here

at the scene," said fire Capt. James Boormeester. "When we arrived, there was heavy smoke and flames showing."

Boormeester said the doors to the garage were locked so firefighters had to smash through bay doors.

Bob Elfman, a supervisor at Aquatech, said the two workers were in the midst of repairing one of the two trucks when the accident occurred.

Elfman said he was at another building when alerted about the fire.

He called the fire department and then ran to the garage where he encountered flames "shooting into the sky."

The company, located on Kidder Road, manufactures swimming pools and spas.

Accidental fire in December 1986 at the Aquatech Pool Company on Kidder Road off Route 110  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Department

On May 1, 1986 Chief Frederick H. Reid retired. Chief Reid served on the department for 31 years; twenty-one as chief. He was a dedicated leader who always had service to his community as his top priority.

This has been a difficult year because several members of the department have served in temporary positions. All members of the department "rose to the occasion" and dispatched their duties in a commendable manner.

Due to ongoing growth in our community, and changes in regulations and laws, the Fire Department is in need of expanded staff and changes in our organizational structure.



Bids for the new Fire Department rescue truck and for the generator system for the Central Station have been received and implemented through Capital Planning.

**Fire Chief**

Frederick H. Reid  
(Retired 5/1/86)  
Robert L. Hughes  
(January 1987)

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.  
Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
James Boermeester

**Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

**Mechanic**

George Fetzer

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Patrick Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David P. Clancy  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis M. Conlin  
James P. Curran  
Michael F. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew  
Christopher Finnigan  
James P. Flaherty  
Ernest J. Frobese  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon

Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
Gerald D. Tonks  
John D. Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis  
Donald A. Weber  
Peter T. Wetherbee



William Campbell, John Carroll, Jim Reid and Mike Ridlon at Center Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**1987**

**Adjourned Annual Town Meeting May 4, 1987**

**UNDER ARTICLE 13.**

Capital Budget approved for the Fire Department:

New Car for Chief \$13,000  
 Mini-Pumper/Brusher Truck \$95,000  
 Engine 02 - Retrofit \$60,000  
 Engine 04 & 05 Improvements \$170,000  
 Engine 02 floor rehab work \$100,000  
 Engine 01 office rehab work \$22,000  
 2,000 ft. large diameter hose \$40,000  
 Ladder work (new specs) \$10,000



Delivery of this 1987 Chevrolet mini-Pumper to South Chelmsford as Engine 5 started an apparatus rotation:  
 The previous Engine 5, a 1966 Maxim 1000 g.p.m. Pumper was re-designated as Reserve and remained at South  
 The previous Reserve Engine(s), a 1957 Reserve and a 1958 spare parts Maxim Pumper, were discarded  
 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Special Town Meeting November 30, 1987****UNDER ARTICLE 4.**

Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee, James Doukzewicz, moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$64,800.00) from the unexpended proceeds of the amount authorized by Article 10 of the Annual Town Meeting of 1985 and the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents (\$1,882.39) from the unexpended proceeds of the amount authorized by Article 43 of the Annual Town Meeting of 1984, for the following purposes:

1. Purchase of a New Fire Alarm Truck \$35,000.00
2. Allocate additional funds for the construction of access road from upper level parking area at the Town Office Building \$31,682.39

James Doukzewicz explained the article. The money can only be used for whatever is stated in the article. Plus only the amount of money stated is the only amount allowed. Bids were done in order to arrive at the exact amount listed. The Finance Committee supported the article. The Board of Selectmen also supported the article. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Report of the Fire Department**

Fiscal "87" proved to be a very progressive year in the fire service and we are happy to say fire loss was low. Due to the cooperation of the officers, firefighters and office staff, I feel that in my first year as Chief of the Department we have made great strides.



With today's demanding conditions, there is a need for upgrading in areas such as fire stations and fire equipment. The fire stations are in the process of being upgraded to coincide with an energy audit done by Massachusetts Electric. Through our capital planning program we have received and put in-service a "state of the art" rescue truck and new mini pumper which is being housed at Engine 5 in South.



1987 Chevrolet Fire/Rescue mini-Pumper Engine 5 at South Chelmsford Fire Station (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

The town voted a new fire alarm truck at the special town meeting last year. This will go into service this year. This will be a great help in meeting the demands of the fire alarm system throughout the town.



## Firefighter hits a snag on way home from work

**CHELMSFORD** - Chelmsford Firefighter Peter Weatherbee got hung up on the way home from work late yesterday afternoon - literally.

After Weatherbee finished repairing fire alarm boxes on Route 129 at about 4:35, he started driving down the busy road toward Alpha Road in the fire alarm maintenance truck but forgot its 25-foot ladder was still up in the air.

About a quarter-mile down

driving fast, the six-wheel truck could have turned over backwards.

Weatherbee was uninjured. Neither the truck or the telephone wires were damaged.

Removing the truck was a difficult task.

Crews had hoped one tow-truck and a flat-bed would be enough. But after the tow-truck relieved pressure from the front end of the fire department truck and the flat-bed began towing it

**Fire truck ladder snags telephone lines**  
(Sun photo by Robert Whitaker)

The old Fire Alarm Maintenance Truck, a former Telephone Company ladder truck, was in the news on September 30, 1987 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

Although fire loss is on the down grade because of fire prevention, sprinklers and smoke detectors, today's hazardous liabilities are on the up-swing.

We lost three firefighters in "87". The untimely death of firefighter Harold J. Pierce, Jr., saddened the department. Captain Ronald J. Sawicki retired through disability and firefighter Donald Weber retired through superannuation. Due to this change four new men were appointed to the department, namely, Firefighters Kevin Clarke, Robert Villare, Arthur Rivard, Leslie Merrill and Jesse Foster.

### Fire Chief

Frederick H. Reid  
(Retired 5/1/86)  
Robert L. Hughes  
(January 1987)

### Deputy Fire Chief

James A. Sousa

### Captains

Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
Ronald J. Sawicki  
(Retired 4/1/87)  
James Boormeester  
Michael F. Curran

### Fire Prevention Captain

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

### Firefighters

Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
William M. Burke, Jr.  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David P. Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
James P. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew

Paul D. Henderson  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Harold J. Pierce, Jr.  
(Deceased 2/13/87)  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard



**Clerical**

Mary Ann Koulas  
Martha Desaulnier

**Mechanic**

George Fetzner  
Anthony Vaccaro

James P. Flaherty  
Jesse Foster  
Ernest J. Frobese  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
David Hadley  
Jack D. Hadley  
William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes

Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
Gerald D. Tonks  
John D. Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis  
Robert Villare  
Donald A. Weber  
(Retired 4/26/87)  
Peter T. Wetherbee



**Alarm Fire**—Chelmsford firefighters spray water onto the rear of a home (left) at 91 Locke Road early last Thursday morning. In photo at smoke creates an eerie haze around the

house, as a Chelmsford firefighter prepares to enter the building with a hoseline. (photos by John Walker)

**Two-alarm fire destroys home**

A fast-moving, two-alarm fire destroyed the home of Chelmsford gas inspector early Thursday morning.

According to Chelmsford fire Robert Hughes, the fire was believed to have started in the laundry room at the rear of the 91 Locke Road home, owned by Neal and Margaret Stanley. The fire was reported to officials at 1:40 a.m.

When firefighters from Engine 1, stationed less than a mile down Locke Road, arrived minutes later, the rear of the two-story structure was involved in flames.

The Stanley's were awakened by their dog, "Lady", who was barking loudly downstairs in the smoke-filled house.

Hughes said that two firefighters, William Dalton and Mike McTeague, sustained injuries while fighting the fire. Dalton, who suffered an ankle injury, was treated and released from Lowell General Hospital. McTeague was released from Joseph's Hospital in Lowell for treatment for smoke inhalation.

Firefighting efforts were hampered by temperatures in the single digits, deep snow, and heavy smoke.

"The strong wind and the construction of the house caused the fire to get out of hand," Hughes said. "It has been going pretty well before we got the call."

Chelmsford firefighters were assisted at the fire scene by the Billerica engine company. An engine and ladder truck from Lowell, as well as an additional engine from Billerica covered the Chelmsford stations during the fire.

Hughes said an investigation into the cause of the fire would be continuing.



February 1987 fire at 91 Locke Road (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)



## 1988

### Annual Town Meeting April 25, 1988

#### UNDER ARTICLE 13.

Capital projects approved for the Fire Department:

Replace mobile radios \$10,000.00

Replace service truck \$20,000.00

#### UNDER ARTICLE 16.

Under the Fire Department Robert Hughes, Fire Chief, moved to amend the budget's total figure to read \$2,635,777.00, by adding \$180,000.00 to line item #63 Salary. This is the amount needed in order to keep six men who are slated to be cut as of July 1st. Chief Hughes explained that the need is there and these men shouldn't be cut. It would not be for the best interest of the Town. Public safety should be a priority and not cut back. Henry Sullivan spoke in favor of the motion to amend. He stated that as a retired state trooper he saw many examples of firemen's duties other than fires. They are always at accidents with the jaws of life trying to rescue people from vehicles, before or during a fire. Any type of emergency calls pertaining to health a fireman could be present with oxygen, or performing CPR before an ambulance arrives. Anytime a human life is involved a price shouldn't be put on the value. William Dalton of the local Fireman Union spoke in favor. He explained that the department is already below the required recommended amount of personnel to have on hand to maintain equipment/shifts. The budget is already down to the minimum before any of these cuts are performed. He asked for support of the amendment. The Finance Committee spoke against the motion to amend. If this motion passes the Town would be faced with an unbalanced budget. Selectman Henrick Johnson spoke against the motion, unfortunately the Selectmen had no choice but to recommend the cut. A lengthy discussion took place. Michael Anthony moved to amend the amendment. After viewing the motion the Moderator declared the motion out of order. More discussion took place. Barry Balan moved the question. Voice vote taken, motion carried unanimously. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the motion to amend the Fire Department budget by increasing it \$180,000.00. This vote left the chair in doubt, the Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried.



This 1976 Mack, originally Engine 1 and re-assigned as Engine 2 in 1981, was rebuilt by the Ranger Co. in 1988 as seen here with the four-door "Ranger" cab and red/white paint scheme  
The firefighters are Peter Johnson, Bill Curran and Donald Drew (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Department

We have worked hard this past year complying with new rules and regulations, modernizing the stations with what funds we had to work with. All five (5) stations have been painted in and out and all the lighting has been changed to energy efficient lights. We have put in service a new fire alarm truck to take care of the elaborate fire alarm system that this day and age demands.

We have purchased a small amount of hazmat equipment and put it in service. Our equipment is a small beginning but we are hoping eventually this will be implemented on a regional basis because of the cost of compliance.

We had a few changes this year within our department. Firefighter Gerald Tonks, a member of the department since 1966 retired through superannuation. Mary Ann Koulas, our department assistant also retired after 20 years service with the Fire Department. Robert Villare, a firefighter transferred to the Police Department. James Durkin and John Robinson were appointed as permanent firefighters.

**Fire Chief**

Robert L. Hughes

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

Charles A. Schramm

James M. Spinney

James Boermeester

Michael F. Curran

**Senior Clerk**

Mary Ann Koulas

(Retired)

Martha Desaulnier

**Junior Clerk**

Barbara O'Leary

**Mechanic**

Anthony Vaccaro

James Keeley

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.

Arthur G. Anderson

Robert A. Bennett

William M. Burke, Jr.

William V. Cady, Jr.

David C. Campbell

William Campbell

John L. Carroll

Anthony Cincevich

David P. Clancy

Kevin Clarke

Francis J. Conlin

Francis Mark Conlin

James P. Curran

William F. Curran

James T. Cutter

William Dalton

John P. DePalma

Bruce R. Donovan

Donald A. Drew

James Durkin

James P. Flaherty

Jesse Foster

Ernest J. Frobese

David Gelineau

Terrence A. Goode

Richard L. Grenon

David Hadley

Jack D. Hadley

William H. Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Paul D. Henderson

William H. Jamer

Peter C. Johnson

Dennis Keohane

William Keohane

Raymond R. Kydd

Emil P. Magiera

Leo A. Martin

Michael McTeague

Leslie Merrill

Richard Miller

Thomas D. Miskell

Edward J. Nolet

Richard P. O'Neil

Daniel T. Reid

James F. Reid

John Reid

Michael D. Ridlon

Arthur Rivard

John Robinson

Joseph J. Spinazola

Brian J. Stanton

Gerald D. Tonks

(Retired)

John D. Ubele

Dennis Vargeletis

Robert Villare

(to Police Department)

Peter T. Wetherbee

25 Cents

TUESDAY, MARCH 22,

3/22/88



SUN / DICK HUNT

### Time for the heavy hose

Firefighters work to unroll heavy hose from the back of an engine as a Chelmsford lighting company is consumed by fire. Mutual aid from Lowell and surrounding towns was called in as

the Chelmsford Fire Department fought to contain the blaze, which broke out around 9:30 a.m.

# Two-alarm blaze destroys Chelmsford lighting store

By MARCIA PECK  
Sun Staff

**CHELMSFORD** - A two-alarm fire destroyed a Chelmsford Street lighting store today, injuring an employee and leaving only a shell of the building behind.

The blaze, which destroyed the Electric Candle Lighting Center at 60 Chelmsford St., was detected at about 9:30 a.m., but apparently had been smoldering for some time, officials said.

Firefighters from three departments blasted the 20-foot flames with streams of water, but an hour later most of the

was treated and released at St. John's Hospital. Mercer's hair was reportedly burned as he was running downstairs to escape the flames.

Owners George and Delores Feeney, of Chelmsford, were on the second floor of the building with Mercer when they noticed flames, apparently coming from a crawl space above the second floor.

### RELATED PHOTO, PAGE 9

Dagmar Galvin, another store employee, was in the first-floor showroom when the Feeneys ran downstairs and

fire, everyone get out," she said.

"This is just such a shock," Mrs. Feeney whispered, as she and her husband watched in disbelief. "But we're all out and we're safe - that's all that matters."

Fire Chief Robert Hughes had glanced out the window of the fire station seconds before the alarm came in.

"As soon as I looked out the window, I saw the flames coming out of the rafters of the roof," Hughes said.

As he opened his mouth to alert the firefighters, the alarm bell rang through the station.

Hughes said the battle to





March 22, 1988 fire that destroyed the Chelmsford Electric Candle Lighting Center on Chelmsford Street  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

## 1989

### Adjourned Annual Town Meeting April 24 and May 1, 1989

#### UNDER ARTICLE 10.

Chairman of the Capital Planning Committee James Doukaszewicz, and Selectman Henrick Johnson moved that the Town vote to borrow the sum of \$1,546,823. for the following capital projects (including):

New pumping engine \$195,000.00

Improvements to station 03 building \$10,000.00

The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article, motion carried, unanimously.



1989 Emergency-One/Hush 1250 g.p.m. Pumper with 750 gallon tank, Engine 1, had its engine behind the rear wheels and was known as the "Hush" due to its quite ride (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Special Town Meeting October 12, 1989**

UNDER ARTICLE 1 Selectman Towle moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash in the treasury the sum of \$250,000 to Line Item 59 Fire Department Salary.

Selectman Johnson explained that this was the ratification of the Fire Department's union contract. After many months of arbitration, both sides felt that it was in the best interest of the town to ratify the contract and avoid any additional months of further arbitration. He explained the language of the contract the first year is a 5% raise broken down 3% the first 6 months and 2% the next six months. The second year is 2% the first 6 months and 3% the second six months. The third year is a 4% raise.

# Still no progress on firefighters' contract

By IAN FISHER  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD - In the six months since the firefighters' contract expired, union members and selectmen have communicated through pickets, petitions and hours of failed mediation.

## CHELMSFORD

But the longest contract negotiation in recent memory has been marked mostly by silence.

On the issues, selectmen and the 61-member Professional Firefighters of Chelmsford Local 1839 are not much closer now than when negotia-

Please see **CONTRACT/18**

PAGE 18



Capt. Mike Curran, second from left, and firefighters Bill Dalton, Mike Ridlon, Ray Kydd, Kevin Clarke and Jim Reid discuss labor problems

SUN / BOB WHITAKER

## LOCAL

# Still no progress on contract...

**CONTRACT/**From Page 15

tions started in October 1987.

And both sides say the failure to come to an agreement isn't good for the department or the town. Because of this, they say they are anxious to settle, although neither selectmen nor firefighters show much willingness to give in.

"It hurts morale" for firefighters to be without a contract, conceded Bonita Towle, the selectmen's representative to the union. "If I were working at a place that had a union and I didn't have a contract, I would be bothered by that. It takes away your security."

Union President William Dalton agrees. Firefighters, he said, "feel slighted. They feel they provide the services the townspeople ask them to provide and (they) expect to be compensated."

For at least the next few weeks, contract talks will go nowhere. That's because both sides are waiting for a Department of Revenue audit that will show whether the town has enough money to pay for the firefighters' requested 5 percent raise.

Ironically, it's not the amount of the actual raise firefighters and selectmen disagree on.

At issue is whether the firefighters, like the police union, should negotiate on other benefits, such as vacation time, holiday pay and carriers for medical insurance.

From the town's perspective, Chelmsford cannot afford to pay firefighters a straight 5 percent raise without getting some concessions in benefits.

Executive Secretary Bernard Lynch said that, with the town facing a nearly \$1 mil-

as the police did last year.

"We've offered them a fair contract," said selectmen Chairman Dennis Ready. "If the police did it, it should be fair that the firefighters do it, too."

"From what I hear, it's tough on some of the guys over there, knowing that they don't have a contract," Lynch said. "But these are tough times. Difficult times require difficult decisions and difficult decisions don't come easily."

But firefighters interviewed say they are disturbed that as living costs rise and they take on additional duties, selectmen are not willing to treat them like other town employees, who have received raises.

Ray Kydd, 42, who has been on the force for 13 years, said the lack of a contract makes him feel "like a second-class citizen. Everybody else in town has a contract but us. How would you feel?"

"We're not being dealt with fairly. Why can't we get a 57.5-cent an hour raise?" asked Capt. Michael Curran, 40, a 13-year veteran of the force. "We don't have outrageous demands."

Dalton also said he does not understand how the town can say it doesn't have the money.

He points to a free cash figure of \$1,154,000, and said that selectmen have spent \$53,489 in legal fees during the past 18 months on all labor issues.

Before the town hired labor counsel from Mirick, O'Connell, Demallie and Lougee of Worcester, Dalton said legal fees to settle the fire contract were only \$500.

"What has the town got for the \$54,000?" Dalton asked. "Do you think that's a wise use

the labor counsel doesn't handle only firefighters' contracts. They also deal with all other town unions, negotiate police contracts and handle a number of labor issues.

"We're not interested in using labor counsel as a hired gun. He's there to protect us," he said. "We don't just use him to pay him big bucks and bang the union around."

Lynch added that selectmen won't dip immediately into free cash for two reasons: the fund is intended for this year's unexpected expenditures and it is going to be applied to next year's expected debt.

"It's not free cash in that we have no purpose for it," said Lynch, adding that some of the money will have to pay for an additional \$400,000 in insurance costs.

"If we were in better financial shape we could pass it back in reduced taxes or expanded services. But that is not the case. The case is we need that money to maintain the services we have now."

Although they may never agree on the town's real fiscal condition or whether they should give up benefits, representatives from both sides say the state audit will weigh heavily upon a settlement.

If the audit shows the town can afford the raise, a number of selectmen have said they will vote for it. And if it shows the town can't, Dalton said the union will drop the issue.

"Whatever the audit shows, fine, we'll live by it," Towle said. "It's embarrassing that we haven't settled the contract in so long."

## Flynn to lead



lion deficit for the next fiscal year, the firefighters have to pay for part of their raise, just of the taxpayers' money? That's half our raise." But Lynch fired back that PLTNN/From his me... cipa

Lowell Sun Article, January 13, 1989 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

The Finance Committee supported the article. The Moderator asked for any discussion. James Doukaszewicz asked if the figure shown was the full amount of the contract or is this the amount after the deductions? Town Manager, Bernard Lynch said it was the full amount of the contract. Harry Foster precinct 2, asked for the actual breakdown of the figures. Town Manager Bernard Lynch explained \$130,000 of the figure is the amount needed for the retro-active pay for the last fiscal year that there was a contract. The remaining \$120,000 is for the end of this fiscal year of June 30th. A question was raised on where the funding was going to come from for this article and the next article? Mr. Lynch explained that there is \$996,000 in free cash already raised, the money will come from there. For the future years the money will have to be raised and appropriated. The Moderator asked for a voice vote. George Merrill precinct 2 asked for a point of order. He wanted all votes taken on warrant articles to be by roll call, due to people being in the hall are not all voting representatives. The Moderator explained that when a voice vote is taken he will determine if a hand count is needed. The body also has the privilege of questioning his judgment as long as seven other members question his call. The Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article. Motion carried unanimously.



1989 Chevrolet Service Truck S-1 approved in 1988 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Report of the Fire Department

During Fiscal 1989, Captain Charles Galloway a 24 year veteran of the Fire Department was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations and Firefighter Michael Burke a 13 year veteran was promoted to Captain assigned to Fire Prevention under the direction of Deputy Chief James Sousa. Fire preventions continued expansion is a necessity in this day and age. Some of our top priorities are upgrading SARA III, in-service inspections and training. This was a small part of implementing a professional study that was requested by the officials of the Town of Chelmsford.

Despite the fact that when times get severe this departments services increase, our aim is to continue to protect the life and property of the townspeople as well as we can under the budget restraints that we are facing. Because of our fire station locations, our response time and fire loss was again kept at a minimum while medical calls and all other responses increased over last year.



Kevin Clarke, William Curran and Captain Charles Schramm on the antique 1935 Maxim 500 Engine 4 Pumper in December 1989 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Fire Chief**

Robert L. Hughes

**Deputy Fire Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Deputy Chief of Operations**

Charles S. Galloway, Jr.

**Captains**

Charles A. Schramm  
James M. Spinney  
James Boormeester  
Michael F. Curran  
William M. Burke, Jr.

**Senior Clerk**

Martha Desaulnier

**Junior Clerk**

Anna Griffin

**Mechanic**

Anthony Vaccaro  
James Keeley

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley, Jr.  
Arthur G. Anderson  
Robert A. Bennett  
William V. Cady, Jr.  
David C. Campbell  
William Campbell  
John L. Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David P. Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Francis J. Conlin  
Francis Mark Conlin  
James P. Curran  
William F. Curran  
James T. Cutter  
William Dalton  
John P. DePalma  
Bruce R. Donovan  
Donald A. Drew  
James Durkin  
James P. Flaherty  
Jesse Foster  
Ernest J. Frobese  
David Gelineau  
Terrence A. Goode  
Richard L. Grenon  
David Hadley  
Jack D. Hadley

William H. Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Paul D. Henderson  
Henry Houle  
William H. Jamer  
Peter C. Johnson  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil P. Magiera  
Leo A. Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Thomas D. Miskell  
Edward J. Nolet  
Richard P. O'Neil  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John Reid  
Michael D. Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard  
John Robinson  
Joseph J. Spinazola  
Brian J. Stanton  
John D. Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis  
Peter T. Wetherbee



Left to right: 1986 Ford Rescue Truck, 1985 Pirsch Cab-Forward Ladder Truck, 1989 E-One Hush Pumper  
(circa 1989 photo, Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society**

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## 1990

### Special Town Meeting April 23

UNDER ARTICLE 6.

William Dalton moved that the Town vote to approve the filing of a petition in the General Court for an act relative to Reduction in Ranks for certain Public Employees in the Town of Chelmsford, said act to be filed in the following form: AN ACT RELATIVE TO REDUCTION IN RANK FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section I: Notwithstanding the provisions of section thirty- three of the General Laws or the first sentence of section thirty-nine of Chapter thirty-one of the General Laws or of any other general or special law or rule to the contrary, if permanent employees of the fire force of the Town of Chelmsford serving in any position in a title above the lowest title on such force are to be separated from such positions because of lack of money or the abolition of such positions, they shall be separated from such positions according to their seniority in such title after permanent promotion in such force and shall be reinstated to such positions held by them according to such seniority; provided, however, that this section shall apply only to reductions in force resulting in demotions from titles above the lowest title on such force and shall not affect the seniority of any employee in service for any other purpose, including but not limited to, the separation of permanent employee from service on such force.

Section II. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

The Finance Committee did not recommend this article. They believe it is a negotiated item. Selectmen Ready said that the majority of the Board of Selectmen supported the article. They would like to see it in place, they agree that it is only fair that seniority be done within the job grade. They feel that it is good for the union and good for the town. James Sousa who is one of the Deputy Chiefs confirmed that was said and asked for support. Town Manager Bernard Lynch stated that he agreed with the labor counsel's opinion. He feels that it is a collective bargaining issue. He feels that it will effect all members of the force, personnel and union members and that it could cause a violation of the contract. A discussion took place. Questions were asked if this was ever discussed during negotiations. Only the years of total service on the force would be determine for layoff were discussed. The issue of years in grade wasn't discussed as a factor. Samuel Poulten supported the article. He felt if there was a legal problem then let the House and Senate determine it. William Dalton said that all fifty-seven members of the Fire Department signed the petition and supported the article. More discussion took place.

Selectman Emerson moved the question. The Moderator asked if there was a need for further debate hearing none he asked for a voice vote on the motion, which left the chair in doubt. He asked for a show of hands, motion carried.



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This 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, originally Engine 1, was reassigned to West Chelmsford as Engine 3 in 1990  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Fire Chief's Report**

The Fire Department has continued to perform with the utmost professionalism during very severe budget times and cuts. We were reduced by four (4) men in 1990 cutting back the north station to only two men on duty at one time.

False alarms were cut substantially by implementation of a fine system to enhance repair of the many fire alarm and sprinkler systems we have now intact. The scope of this program seems to be doing the job it was intended to do.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
<b>Chief</b>	Adley, Walter	Hadley, David
Hughes, Robert L.	Anderson, Arthur	Hadley, William
	Bennett, Robert	Hayes, Paul
<b>Deputies</b>	Cady, William	Henderson, Paul
Galloway, Charles	Campbell, David	Jamer, William
Sousa, James	Campbell, Wm.	Johnson, Peter
	Carroll, John	Keohane, Dennis
<b>Captains</b>	Cincevich, A.	Keohane, William
Boermeester, J.	Clancy, David	Kydd, Raymond
Burke, W. Michael	Clarke, Kevin	Magiera, Emil
Curran, Michael F.	Conlin, F.J.	Martin, Leo
Schramm, Charles	Conlin, Mark	McTeague, Mike
Spinney, James	Curran, James	Merrill, Leslie
	Curran, William	Miller, Richard
<b>Senior Clerk</b>	Cutter, James	Nolet, Edward
Desaulnier, Martha A.	Dalton, William	O'Neil, Richard
	DePalma, John	Reid, Daniel
<b>Junior Clerk</b>	Donovan, Bruce	Reid, James
Griffin, Anna	Drew, Donald	Reid, John
	Durkin, James	Ridlon, Michael
<b>Mechanics</b>	Flaherty, James	Rivard, Arthur
Keeley, James	Foster, Jesse	Spinazzola, Joseph
Vaccaro, Anthony	Frobese, Ernest	Stanton, Brian
	Goode, Terrance	Ubele, John D.
	Grenon, Richard	Vargeletis, Dennis

## 1991

### Annual Town Meeting April 30

#### UNDER ARTICLE 8.

Selectman Dennis J. Ready moved that the sum of \$307,000.00 be raised and appropriated contingent on the passage of referendum question paragraph (g) of M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 21 (c) said sum to be added to the sum appropriated to Line Item #8 Public Safety Salary under Article 8 of the 1991 Annual Town Meeting for the Fire Department Salary Account.

Town Manager explained that this was to keep the staff at the current level of services. If the question did not pass on the ballot then eight firefighters would be laid off and services cut. He felt the voters should decide the issue. A number of questions were asked concerning the staff and actual cuts to be made. Chief Robert Hughes explained that the eight men would be laid off and that the West Fire Station would be closed. This station could be covered by the other surrounding stations, however the response time would be increased from the present two minutes to at least five minutes or more. The Finance Committee said that they had planned to propose a similar 3% reduced figure like in the Police Department, however, they felt that the same result would happen and will not amend the article, but the Committee is in favor of this being an override question. The Board of Selectmen are in favor of this article, it is an attempt to maintain level of services. Brad Emerson moved the question. The Moderator attempted an unanimous show of hands, the tellers came forward and conducted a hand count. Results: Yes 124 No 3 (85 is 2/3's) the motion carried to stop debate. The Moderator then asked for a show of hands on the article. Motion carried.

### Annual Town Meeting May 1

#### UNDER ARTICLE 2.

Selectman Dennis Ready moved that the Moderator be allowed to waive the reading of this article. The Moderator asked for a vote by a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously. The article was the adoption of state statutes as fire rules and regulations. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee were in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a vote on the article by way of a show of hands, motion carried.

### Fire Chief's Report

The economy again in Fiscal 1991 has taken its toll on the Fire Department and public safety in general. As of June 30th the Fire Department, because of budget restraints and a defeated override attempt, had to lay off an additional six (6) members. This shortage of personnel forced the closing of our West Chelmsford Fire Station. The total members laid off now stands at ten (10). This has greatly hampered our response time and our mission to protect the life and property of the people town wide.

We have had two retirements this fiscal year. Jack Hadley, a thirty-two (32) year veteran has retired and David Gelineau, a member for fourteen (14) years has retired on a job related disability. I would like to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the town.

<b>Chief</b>	<b>Firefighters</b>	
Hughes, Robert L.	Adley, Walter	Hadley, Jack
	Anderson, Arthur	Hadley, William
<b>Deputies</b>	Bennett, Robert	Hayes, Paul D.
Galloway, Charles	Cady, William	Henderson, Paul
Sousa, James	Campbell, David	Jamer, William
	Campbell, William	Johnson, Peter
<b>Captains</b>	Carroll, John	Keohane, Dennis
Boermeester, J.	Cincevich, Anthony	Keohane, William
Burke, W. Michael	Clancy, David	Kydd, Raymond
Curran, Michael F.	Clarke, Kevin	Magiera, Emil
Schramm, Charles	Conlin, Francis J.	Martin, Leo
Spinney, James	Conlin, F. Mark	McTeague, Michael
	Curran, James	Merrill, Leslie
<b>Principal Clerk</b>	Curran, William	Miller, Richard
Desaulnier, Martha A.	Cutter, James	Nolet, Edward
	Dalton, William F.	O'Neil, Richard
<b>Junior Clerk</b>	DePalma, John	Reid, Daniel
Griffin, Anna	Donovan, Bruce	Reid, James
	Drew, Donald	Reid, John
<b>Mechanics</b>	Durkin, James	Ridlon, Michael
Keeley, James	Flaherty, James	Rivard, Arthur
Vaccaro, Anthony	Foster, Jesse	Robinson, John
	Frobese, Ernest	Spinazzola, Joseph
	Gelineau, David	Stanton, Brian
	Goode, Terrance	Ubele, John D.



Grenon, Richard  
Hadley, David

Vargeletis, Dennis  
Wetherbee, Peter

## 1992



1992 Chelmsford Fire Department Softball Team posing by the Engine 1 Hush Pumper  
Front row L-R: Rich Miller, John Robinson, Jim Boormeester, Jack Carroll, John Reid, Dan Ubele, Bill Keohane  
Back row L-R: Michael McTeague, Dan Reid, Bill Curran, Bill Jamer, Don Drew, Les Merrill, Hank Houle, Walter Adley  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Special Town Meeting October 29

#### UNDER ARTICLE 11.

Selectman Jeffrey Brem moved to waive the reading of this article. James Sousa, Deputy Fire Chief, came forward and explained that the wording of this article was exactly from the State's Fire Preventions Regulations. Which is law. If any attempt is made to amend or change it then it will run the possibility of not being accepted. The Moderator asked for vote to waive the reading by a show of hands on the motion. Motion carried.

James Sousa then explained the purpose of the article. By having the Town accept the present State's Regulations, as a by-law this would enable the actual enforcement of the law at a local level. A discussion took place. Questions were asked concerning Section 14 Fire Permits. Bernard Ready moved to delete Section 14 Fire Permits in its entirety. He felt that this may be too restrictive, he questioned who was to decide what was considered a hazard and issue fines. Deputy Sousa explained that good sense would be used in making any type of determination. He explained that there certainly are instances where he has answered a complaint made by a resident about a neighbor's pile of brush, and did indeed find a hazard. Or he has gone to a company's site and found potential problems. This section was definitely needed and urged that it not be deleted. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee did not recommend the motion to delete Section 14. The Board of Selectmen were not in favor of the motion. The Moderator asked for a vote by a show of hands, motion defeated. More discussion took place. Jeffrey Brem moved to amend Section 14 Fire Permits, by deleting 2) Violations in its entirety and replace it with:

a) Any person who violates this Section will be warned by a written notice by the Fire Chief or his Representative. A second violation within any twelve months period shall be punishable by a fine of no more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation on the motion to amend. The Committee had no recommendation. The Board of Selectmen recommended the motion. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, motion carried. He then asked for a vote by way of a show of hands on the main motion as amended, motion carried.

**UNDER ARTICLE 18.**

Thomas Moran moved that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the amount of \$120,000.00 from line item 16, snow and ice for the purpose of reopening the West Fire Station effective December 1, 1992.

The Finance Committee was not in favor of using the money from the snow and ice account. This money is raised each year for the purpose of maintaining the entire Town. The amount is based on the dollar amount voted the previous year. The majority of the Board of Selectmen were against the article. A number of Representatives spoke in favor of the article. James Sousa said the the Town should get the most service for the money spent. He felt that this would buy a lot of service for a much needed situation. The Moderator asked for a vote by way of a show of hands on the article. Motion defeated. A hand count was requested. The tellers came forward and conducted a hand count. The result was Yes 43 No 54, the motion was defeated.

**Fire Chief's Report**

We were saddened by the job related deaths of two firefighters in 1992. Firefighter Francis "Bud" Conlin, a thirty-two year veteran and Firefighter David Gelineau, a fifteen year veteran passed away and will be sadly missed by brother firefighters, family and friends. Firefighter James Cutter retired after 27 years of service to the Town of Chelmsford.

The Fire Department was able to hire back all of the laid off personnel. This was accomplished through a union contract allowing different manning policies and replacing retirees.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
<b>Fire Chief</b>	Walter F. Adley	Paul D. Henderson
Robert L. Hughes	Robert Bennett	Henry A. Houle
	William F. Cady	William Jamer
<b>Deputy Chiefs</b>	David Campbell	Peter Johnson
James A. Sousa	William Campbell	Dennis Keohane
Charles S. Galloway	John Carroll	William P. Keohane
	Anthony Cincevich	Raymond Kydd
<b>Captains</b>	David Clancy	Emil Magiera
James M. Spinney	Kevin Clarke	Leo Martin
Charles A. Schramm	Mark F. Conlin	Michael McTeague
James P. Boormeester	James F. Curran	Leslie Merrill
Michael F. Curran	William Curran	Richard Miller
Wm. Michael Burke	William Dalton	Edward Nolet
	John DePalma	Richard P. O'Neil
<b>Principal Clerk</b>	Bruce Donovan	Daniel T. Reid
Martha A. DeSaulnier	Donald Drew	James F. Reid
	James Durkin	John E. Reid
<b>Senior Clerk</b>	James Flaherty	Michael D. Ridlon
Patricia Britton	Jesse Foster	Arthur Rivard
	Ernest Frobese	John Robinson
<b>Mechanics</b>	Terrance Goode	Joseph Spinazola
James Keeley	Richard Grenon	Brian Stanton
Anthony Vaccaro	David Hadley	John D. Ubele
	William Hadley	Dennis Vargeletis
	Paul D. Hayes	Peter T. Wetherbee

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## 1993



1993 West Marine rescue zodiac boat and trailer, with Nissan outboard motor, based at Center Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

### Report of the Board of Selectmen

As the year progressed, the Early Retirement program created a multitude of vacancies in both the Police and Fire Departments., including their Chiefs. This led to a reorganization of these Departments into a new Public Safety Consolidated Department.

### Town Manager's Report

In 1993 the Town implemented an early retirement program which attracted nearly forty long time employees. We have appreciated their efforts over the years. We utilized the opportunity of these retirements to eliminate positions, restructure and bring on less expensive employees. The area experiencing the greatest impact of early retirements was public safety in which we lost both Chiefs, two Deputy Chiefs, two of our three Police Captains, and seven firefighters. These retirements have allowed us to proceed with implementing a Public Safety consolidation that will improve services through increased cooperation and provide cost savings that should exceed \$250,000 per year. While controversial in its acceptance, I am confident that this new structure will serve the long term interests of the Town.

### Fire Chief's Report

One that must be viewed as bittersweet is the retirement of Chief Robert L. Hughes, Deputy Charles S. Galloway and Firefighters Robert A. Bennett, Paul D. Henderson, Peter T. Wetherbee, Richard P. O'Neil, James P. Flaherty, Terrace A. Goode and Richard L. Grennon. We view this change with joy because they have received the recognition and rewards due them for their service to our community, yet we are saddened to lose the skills that they brought to our organization each day. We will deeply miss their friendship and brotherhood.

We celebrate our eight new Firefighters: Donald E. Peterson, Gary Ryan, Kevin O'Brien, Michael Donoghue, George E. Ryan, Jr., Kevin M. Sheehy, Martin Boermeester, Jr., Leo F. Manley and our eight new dispatchers David DeFreitas, Richard Demers, William Vaughan, Richard Marchand, Michael Cassella, Edward Overn, James P. Flaherty, Terrace A. Goode and welcome them to a rewarding career.

Engine 3 in West Chelmsford was opened without increasing our budget. I am proud of the cooperation and effort that our Officers and Firefighters put forth to bring about the necessary changes in our procedures to make this happen.





West Chelmsford Fire Station in February 1995 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

I invite you to join us and our new Chief John E. Parow in reorganizing and improving our organization to best provide the services that you want, need and should have.

**Fire Chief**

Acting Chief James A. Sousa

**Deputy Chief**

Acting Deputy, Wm Michael Burke

**Captains**

James M. Spinney  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael F. Curran  
David W. Hadley

**Principal Clerk**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Senior Clerk**

Patricia A. Britton

**Mechanic**

James Keeley

**Civilian Dispatchers**

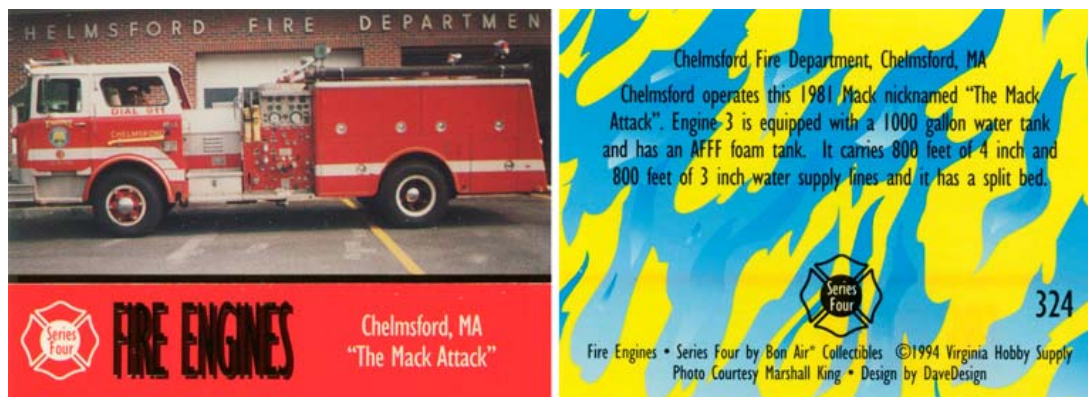
David DeFreitas  
Michael Cassella  
Richard Demers  
Edward Overn  
William Vaughan  
James P. Flaherty  
Richard Marchand  
Terrance A. Goode

**Firefighters**

Martin Boormeester  
William F. Cady  
David Campbell  
William Campbell  
John Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Mark F. Conlin  
James F. Curran  
William Curran  
William Dalton  
John Depalma  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Donald Drew  
James J. Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Ernest Frobese  
William Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Henry A. Houle  
William Jamer  
Peter Johnson

Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil Magiera  
Leo F. Manley  
Leo Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Edward J. Nolet  
Kevin O'Brien  
Donald E. Peterson  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John E. Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George E. Ryan  
Kevin M. Sheehy  
Joseph Spinazola  
Brian Stanton  
J. Daniel Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis

## 1994



1994 Collectible Fire Engine card by the Virginia Hobby Supply Company  
The subject of this card is the 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. pumper, Engine 3, at West Chelmsford  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Town Manager's Report

Public safety again occupied a great deal of attention during the year with Armand Caron appointed as Police Chief and Jack Parow appointed as Fire Chief. Both of these individuals have brought new energy and enthusiasm to their respective departments. The Fire Department has proposed in-house ambulance service as an expansion of its emergency medical services. This proposal is being studied and reviewed by a citizen committee with a recommendation expected in early 1995.

### Fire Chief's Report

A complete overhaul of the emergency medical first response system took place during 1994. Twenty-four (24) firefighters were trained to the emergency medical technician level and all first response vehicles were outfitted with new medical equipment to reflect this upgrade in emergency medical care. Fire apparatus is now dispatched to all medical calls from the nearest station. With this new emergency response system, we are able to provide the towns people with an E.M.T. level of service in under two (2) minutes. This response system is second to none.

Five (5) semi-automated heart defibrillators were purchased for the department through the fund raising efforts of the Emblem Club and the Firefighters Union Local 1839. All fire department members were trained in the use of this life saving machine and one unit was placed on each of the five engine companies. This will provide for equal distribution throughout the town.

Deputy Chief Sousa instituted a new firefighter training program in an effort to train all department firefighters to the National Standard of Firefighter I and II.

Budget restraints forced the alternating closures of Engine 3 (Old Westford Road) and Engine 4 (Riverneck Road) thirty (30) times in the last six (6) months of 1994. In addition, the Center Fire Station was forced to reduce staffing levels from one (1) captain and five (5) firefighters down to one (1) captain and two (2) firefighters in order to stay within the FY95 budget.

#### Fire Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa

#### Captains

James M. Spinney  
Wm Michael Burke  
James P. Boormeester  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael F. Curran

#### Principal Clerk

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Senior Clerk

Patricia A. Britton

#### Firefighters

Walter F. Adley  
Martin Boormeester  
William V. Cady  
David Campbell  
William Campbell  
John Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Mark F. Conlin  
James F. Curran  
William Curran  
William Dalton  
John Depalma  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Donald Drew  
James J. Durkin

#### Dennis Keohane

William Keohane  
Raymond R. Kydd  
Emil Magiera  
Leo F. Manley  
Leo Martin  
Michael McTeague  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Edward J. Nolet  
Kevin O'Brien  
Donald E. Peterson  
Daniel T. Reid  
James F. Reid  
John E. Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Arthur Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan

**Mechanic**  
James Keeley

**Civilian Dispatchers**  
David DeFreitas  
Michael Cassella  
Richard Demers  
Terrance A. Goode  
William Vaughan  
Will Amundson  
Timothy Goode

Jesse Foster  
Ernest Frobese  
David Hadley  
William Hadley  
Paul D. Hayes  
Henry A. Houle  
William Jamer  
Peter Johnson

George E. Ryan  
Kevin M. Sheehy  
Joseph Spinazola  
Brian Stanton  
J. Daniel Ubele  
Dennis Vargeletis

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## 1995

### Report of the Board of Selectmen

Discussions were held at many meetings with the Ambulance Study Committee and the Fire Chief and in June the Board voted to accept the recommendation that the Town stay with a private ambulance service at this time.

### Special Town Meeting May 4

UNDER ARTICLE 1.

Selectman Robert P. Joyce, moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B for consideration to be determined, all right, title and interest, if any held by the Town in a certain parcel of land on Main Street, shown as Lot 33 on Assessor's Map 194, containing 4850 square feet more or less and more fully described in a deed recorded in the Middlesex North district Registry of Deeds in book 787, Page 328.

The Town Manager Bernard Lynch explained that this was the old fire station building located on Main Street in West Chelmsford. The minimal bid would be \$18,000. Jeff Stallard questioned if provisions would be made to provide storage for the groups who use the facility now. The Town Manager said provisions would be made. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen were in favor of the article. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.



Privately owned former West Chelmsford Fire Station at Main and Joy streets (2005 photo by Fred Merriam)



## Fire Chief's Report

The Town of Chelmsford went on line, in June, with the Enhanced 911 (E-911) emergency calling system. This system has allowed for all residents of Chelmsford to utilize a three digit number for all public safety emergencies. Fire and Police dispatch were also consolidated this year in conjunction with E-911, relocating fire dispatch to the police station located at 230 North Road.

Improvements in the emergency medical capabilities of the department continued in 1995. Twenty (20) additional firefighters were trained to the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) level bringing the total number of EMTs to forty-four (44).

# First female firefighter on the job

By Sharon Flaherty Weitz  
Staff Writer

Cynthia Leczynski is blazing a new trail in Chelmsford, but she would rather be seen as just one of the guys.

Leczynski made local history Monday when she became the first female firefighter in Chelmsford, a position for which she has been training for seven years.

"I have held tight to my beliefs that I worked hard for the position and that I deserve it," Leczynski said during a break in her training Tuesday morning. "Now I want to direct my energies to learning the job. Being a firefighter will be a physical challenge, an emotional challenge and an intellectual challenge. There is so much I can learn here and that really appeals to me."

The 32-year-old Leczynski, a Chelmsford resident for 20 years, said she decided she wanted to be a firefighter when she was pregnant with her third child. At that time she took the Civil Service exam and scored 100 percent, topping the list. She later passed the medical, physical and the strength and agility tests.

Then the waiting began, as did her personal training. Leczynski has been lifting weights for years. Her husband fashioned a 125-pound dummy so she could practice running up and down stairs carrying the weight of a would-be victim. She practiced the hose line extension several times a week and recently became a certified emergency medical technician, earning a solid "A" grade in the course she attended along with 19 Chelmsford firefighters.

In addition to being Chelmsford's first female firefighter, she is also the first mother hired and, at 5 feet 1 inch and 114 pounds, the smallest firefighter in the department. Leczynski and her husband Glenn have three children — Andrea, 12; Michelle, 10 and Keith, 7.

"My children are very proud of me and very pleased that I was hired," Leczynski said. "They know how hard I worked to reach this goal and this proves to them that hard work and perseverance can pay off."

Being a firefighter is Leczynski's first full-time position in 12 years. She attended the former University of Lowell for one year, then married and began her family. Over the past 12 years, she worked a number of part-time jobs to help pay the bills.

"My husband has been wonderful about supporting me in this endeavor," Leczynski said. "He has been my personal trainer. At the fire academy a lot of women have trouble with the strength and agility test, but it was not a problem for me. Also, being home with my children gave me the time I needed to work out and train for the job I wanted."

Two years ago, Fire Chief Jack Parow hired the first female firefighter in East Bridgewater when he was chief of that department and said it was a simple matter to implement a dress code and first-come first-served policy in the bathrooms and showers.

"This doesn't require a lot of changes for us," Parow said. "We didn't have any nude posters in the bunk rooms or Playboy magazines in the bathrooms, which you will find in some fire departments. I haven't received any negative feedback from the men. I've been through this before and it went very smoothly. I think hiring Cindy will work out well for the department. Having a woman on the force will bring us a different perspective and a little diversity."

Town Manager Bernard Lynch said it was time Chelmsford hired a female firefighter. "This is long overdue and I'm very pleased we have been able to break the barrier. I'm confident Cindy will be a good addition to the force. She seems

very pleased to have the job and I think she will fit in well with the other firefighters."

The only point of contention in Leczynski's hiring is that a town-recommended psychologist did not endorse her being appointed to the force. Leczynski appealed that decision with Civil Service, but seven men were hired in the interim. Several hearings were held before the Civil Service Board of Appeals, but an agreement was reached before a judgment was handed down. The firefighters' union is now negotiating a new labor contract with the town, which will include who has seniority, Leczynski or the seven men hired after she was passed over.

"I got what I wanted and what I feel I deserve, which is the position," Leczynski said. "I'm not going to worry about anything else. I would like to thank the residents and some of the firefighters who went out of their way to contact me and lend me their support at that time. It was nice to know I had that support."

Departmental training will continue for 4 to 6 weeks, after which Leczynski will be assigned to unit 2 at the Center Fire Station, working the standard two 10-hour days and two 14-hour nights followed by four days off.

After learning the department lingo and settling in, Leczynski eventually hopes to take some fire science courses and one day become a paramedic.

"I love to work hard physically and intellectually," she said. "I'm going to be able to do that here. I'm looking forward to learning a lot over the next 20 to 30 years."

Chelmsford Independent article April 13, 1995 (Chelmsford Historical Commission Archive)

**Fire Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa

**Captains**

James M. Spinney

James P. Boormeester

W. Michael Burke

Charles A. Schramm

Michael F. Curran

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Senior Clerk**

Patricia A. Britton

**Mechanic**

James Keeley

**Firefighters**

Walter F. Adley

Martin Boormeester

William V. Cady

David Campbell

William Campbell

John Carroll

Anthony Cincevich

David Clancy

Kevin Clarke

Mark F. Conlin

James F. Curran

William Curran

William Dalton

John Depalma

Michael Donoghue

Bruce Donovan

Donald A. Drew

James J. Durkin

Jesse Foster

David Hadley

William Hadley

Paul D. Hayes

Henry A. Houle

William Jamer

Peter Johnson

Dennis Keohane

William Keohane

Raymond R. Kydd

Cynthia Leczynski

Emil Magiera

Leo F. Manley

Leo Martin

Michael McTeague

Leslie Merrill

Richard Miller

Edward J. Nolet

Kevin O'Brien

Donald E. Peterson

Daniel T. Reid

James F. Reid

John E. Reid

Michael Ridlon

Arthur Rivard

John Robinson

Gary Ryan

George E. Ryan

Kevin M. Sheehy

Joseph Spinazola

Brian Stanton

J. Daniel Ubele

Dennis Vargeletis



*1996*



This is the 1981 Mack CF 1000 g.p.m. Pumper, Engine 3, as it looked circa 1996 with new graphics and light bar  
(Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

#### **Annual Town Meeting April 29**

Under Article 6.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,285,000.00 for the following capital projects including:

Fire Department Pumping Engine \$230,000.00

Fire Department Staff Vehicle \$21,000.00



### Fire Chief's Report

The year 1996 was an extremely busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. Emergency responses increased by 699 calls or 20%. The occurrence of structure fires increased by 14 responses, a 26% increase, and included one civilian fire death. Emergency medical aid calls increased again this past year by 164 responses or 17%. The largest increase in emergency responses was in the area of service calls. Calls in this area increased by 488 calls or 47%. This increase seems to follow a nationwide demand, by the citizenry, for the fire department to provide more or additional services such as pumping flooded basements, responding to electrical problems, heating appliances problems, etc.

Captain Michael Curran was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief in October and has been assigned the responsibility for day-to-day shift operations. Fire fighter/EMT Walter Adley was also promoted in October to the rank of Captain and has been assigned to the Fire Prevention Office.

The Fire Prevention Office was reorganized towards the end of 1996 because of an increase in number of fire prevention inspectors from 1 to 2. Deputy Chief James Sousa was reassigned to Fire Prevention to manage the office and coordinate the in-service inspections program.

Firefighter Bill Cady was assigned as the departments first Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Officer. This program was funded through a state grant and allowed for the S.A.F.E. Officer to spend his working hours educating our school children and the elderly about fire safety. This program was a great success.

The departments emergency medical response program continued to develop this year with the purchase of new and more technically advanced medical equipment supported by a high level of in-service medical training. Sixteen (16) department members received heart saver certificates signifying a life that they helped save through either C.P.R. or early defibrillation.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	Martin Boormeester*	William Keohane*
	William V. Cady	Raymond R. Kydd
	David Campbell	Cynthia Leczynski*
	William Campbell	Emil Magiera
	John Carroll*	Leo F. Manley*
	Anthony Cincevich*	Leo Martin
	David Clancy*	Michael McTeague*
	Kevin Clarke*	Leslie Merrill*
	Mark F. Conlin*	Richard Miller*
	James F. Curran*	Edward J. Nolet*
	William Curran*	Kevin O'Brien*
	William Dalton	Donald E. Peterson*
	John Depalma*	Daniel T. Reid
	Michael Donoghue*	James F. Reid
	Bruce Donovan*	John E. Reid*
	Donald A. Drew*	Michael Ridlon*
	James J. Durkin*	Arthur Rivard*
	Jesse Foster*	John Robinson*
	David Hadley*	Gary Ryan*
	William Hadley*	George E. Ryan*
	Paul D. Hayes	Kevin M. Sheehy*
	Henry A. Houle*	Joseph Spinazola
	William Jamer	Brian Stanton*
	Peter Johnson*	J. Daniel Ubele*
	Dennis Keohane	Dennis Vargeletis
<b>Fire Chief</b>		
John E. Parow*		
<b>Deputy Chief</b>		
James A. Sousa*		
Michael F. Curran*		
<b>Captains</b>		
James M. Spinney		
James P. Boormeester*		
W. Michael Burke		
Charles A. Schramm*		
Walter F. Adley, Jr.		
<b>Department Assistant</b>		
Martha A. DeSaulnier		
<b>Mechanic</b>		
James Keeley		
* Denotes EMT		

## 1997

### Fire Chief's Report

A part-time secretary has been added to the Fire Prevention staff which has allowed us to post walk in hours between 8 A.M. and 1 P.M., and enabled the inspectors to spend more time out of the office conducting code enforcement inspections. Additionally, we developed a program to utilize the on duty personal to conduct in-service inspections, greatly increasing our inspection abilities.

The departments Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program continues to be a great success in making our children both fire safe and fire conscious. Credit for the success of this program revolves around a grant from the State, a cooperative effort between this department and the school department and our S.A.F.E. instructors, Firefighter William Cady, Firefighter Jesse Foster and Firefighter Leo Manley.

Diesel exhaust ventilation systems have now been installed in the five (5) stations. This will help provide the firefighters with a clean atmosphere in which to work. A new roof and heating system was installed at the East Fire Station. Engine 2 and Engine 4 have been refurbished over the past year in an effort to extend their longevity.

Three firefighters retired this past year, Firefighter Dennis Vargeletis, Firefighter Emil Magiera and Firefighter Martin Boormeester, after many years of dedicated service. Firefighter Dan Funaro, Firefighter Marc Pare, and Firefighter Dan Reid, Jr. were hired to replace the recent retirees and started work in October of this year

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
<b>Chief</b>	Boormeester, Martin *	Keohane, William
John E Parow	Cady, William V.	Kydd, Raymond
	Campbell, David	Leczynski, Cynthia
<b>Deputy Chief</b>	Campbell, William	Magiera, Emil *
James A. Sousa	Carroll, Jack	Manley, Leo
Michael F. Curran	Cincevich, Anthony	Martin, Leo
	Clancy, David	McTeague, Michael
<b>Captains</b>	Clarke, Kevin	Merrill, Leslie
Walter F. Adley	Conlin, Mark	Miller, Richard
James P. Boormeester	Curran, James	Nolet, Edward
Michael Burke	Curran, William	O'Brien, Kevin
Charles A. Schramm	Dalton, William	Pare, Marc
James M. Spinney	Depalma, John	Peterson, Donald
	Donoghue, Michael	Reid, Daniel
<b>Mechanic</b>	Donovan, Bruce	Reid, Daniel, Jr.
James Keeley	Drew, Donald	Reid, James
	Durkin, James	Reid, John
<b>Department Assistant</b>	Foster, Jesse	Ridlon, Michael
Martha A. DeSaulnier	Funaro, Daniel	Rivard, Rick
	Hadley, David	Ryan, Gary
<b>Clerk</b>	Hadley, William	Ryan, George
Margaret Borghetti	Hayes, Douglas	Sheehy, Kevin
	Houle, Henry	Spinazola, Joseph
* Retired in 1997	Jamer, William	Stanton, Brian
	Johnson, Peter	Ubele, Daniel
	Keohane, Dennis	Vargeletis, Dennis *

## 1998



The former Engine 6, a 1970 Ford/Farrar Forest Fire Truck, is seen here outfitted as Specialty Unit 6 at an event at McCarthy School in 1998 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

### Special Town Meeting April 27

#### UNDER ARTICLE 3.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal year 1998 Operating Budget as voted under article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 28, 1997 as amended by the vote passed under Article 7 of the Annual Town Meeting held on October 20, 1997 by making the following changes:

- Increase Line Item #5 Public Safety Personnel, by \$480,000 to \$6,601,379
- Increase Line Item #6 Public Safety Expenses, by \$13,000 to \$625,569.

And that the Town transfer and appropriate \$445,495. from Available Funds and \$47,505 from Free Cash to defray such changes.

The Town Manager explained the article. The increase in Public Safety was a result of the negotiated contract settlement of the Fire Contract. The personnel had been without a contract for four years. Also the settlement of the Superior Officers contract of the Police Department. They had been working since last June without a contract. The increase in the Public Safety Expense was due to a new epoxy floor being needed at the Center Fire Station. He asked the Body to support the article. The Moderator asked for the Finance Committee's recommendation. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator as for a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

UNDER ARTICLE 7. Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,350,000 for the capital budget including the following projects for the Fire Department:

Pick-up Truck/Plow \$25,000.00  
 Station Roof Repair \$15,000.00  
 Engine Refurbishment \$40,000.00  
 Police/Fire Department Rescue Boat/Trailer \$20,000.00

The Town Manager explained the article. A discussion followed. The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. Barry Balan moved the question to stop debate. The Moderator asked for a show of hands, motion carried, by the Moderator recognizing the 2/3 's rule. The Moderator asked for a show of hands on the article. The motion carried, by the Moderator recognizing the 2/3 's rule.

### Fire Chief's Report

Four firefighters retired during this past year: Emil Magiera, Paul D. Hayes, Joseph Spinazola and Peter Johnson. Three new firefighters were hired on July 1st to replace three of the retired firefighters noted above: Daniel Manley, John Kivlan and William Bacon. We wish them well in their new career.

The Department instituted an Accountability and Incident Command System (ICS). The I.C.S. allows for the management of personnel, equipment and communications throughout emergency operations. The Accountability System enables the fire incident commander to account for all Fire/Rescue personnel at an emergency scene. Both these systems will enhance the safety of emergency personnel operating at an incident and also make operations more efficient.

We also changed our radio frequency to a private channel. In the past we have been operating on a shared channel with 16 other communities. Radio traffic on the shared became too busy to monitor and to obtain air time during emergencies. The new channel has proven to be much more effective.

<b>Fire Chief</b> John E. Parow	<b>Firefighters</b> William V. Cady William Bacon David Campbell William Campbell Jack Carroll Anthony Cincevich David Clancy Kevin Clarke F. Mark Conlin James Curran William Curran William Dalton John DePalma Michael Donoghue Bruce Donovan Donald A. Drew James J. Durkin Jesse Foster	John P. Kivlan Raymond R. Kydd Cynthia Leczynski Emil Magiera * Daniel Manley Leo Manley Leo Martin Michael McTeague Leslie Merrill Richard Miller Edward J. Nolet Kevin O'Brien Marc Pare Donald Peterson Daniel T. Reid, Sr. Daniel T. Reid, Jr. James F. Reid John E. Reid Michael Ridlon
<b>Deputy Chief</b> James A. Sousa Michael F. Curran		
<b>Captains</b> James M. Spinney Charles A. Schramm James P. Boormeester W. Michael Burke Walter F. Adley, Jr.		
<b>Department Assistant</b> Martha A. DeSaulnier		
<b>Mechanic</b> James Keeley		



\* Retired

Daniel Funaro  
 David Hadley  
 William Hadley  
 Paul D Hayes \*  
 Henry A. Houle  
 William Jamer  
 Peter Johnson\*  
 Dennis Keohane  
 William Keohane

Rick Rivard  
 John Robinson  
 Gary Ryan  
 George Ryan  
 Kevin M. Sheehy  
 Joseph Spinazola \*  
 Brian J. Stanton  
 Daniel Ubele

## 1999

### Special Town Meeting April 26

UNDER ARTICLE 9.

Town Manager Bernard F. Lynch moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,005,200 for the following capital projects including:

- Fire Department North Station Roof \$15,000
- Fire Department Quint (ladder truck/pump Engine) \$500,000

The Town Manager explained ... The Fire Department needs a new truck, the present one is twenty-five years old. ... The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked for the need for further discussion. Hearing none he asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.



2001 Central States Quint Ladder Truck/Pumper on HME Chassis, Engine 1, behind East Chelmsford Fire Station.  
 The siren-horns are built into the front bumper to protect the firefighters' hearing while on the road  
 (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)

UNDER ARTICLE 37.

Town Manager Bernard Lynch moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 42, Fire Prevention, of the bylaws as follows: To add the following wording to § 42-3F: "Street numbers may be attached to a curbside delivery mailbox, provided that the mailbox is located adjacent to the delivery driveway that accesses the property. The numbers shall be three inches high on both sides of the mailbox"; ...

... The Finance Committee recommended the article. The Board of Selectmen recommended the article. The Moderator asked if there was any need for discussion? Hearing none, he asked for a vote by way of a show of hands, motion carried, unanimously.

### Fire Chief's Report

Three firefighters retired this past year. William Hadley, Leo Martin and Michael McTeague. These men brought a great amount of experience and expertise to the job each and every day, which will be missed. I would like to wish them a successful and long retirement.

Four new firefighters were hired on the 19th of July. William Amundson, Christopher Brothers, Jeffrey Cancelli and Daniel Corey. They replaced the three firefighters listed above plus one firefighter that retired the end of last year. I wish them well in their new careers.

Firefighter Daniel Manley was the first Chelmsford firefighter to attend and graduate from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recruit training program. This intense eleven week training program greatly enhances the skills of the firefighter and provides the department with highly trained individuals. We will continue to take advantage of this training and do anticipate sending four to six firefighters through the recruit training program in the upcoming year.

Job related training continues to be a priority for this department. Water and ice rescue, explosive devices, driving and operating of fire apparatus, and violence in our schools have been focused on in great detail this past year. The department has also addressed the increasing demands of Emergency medical aid by continuing to provide a quality in-house emergency medical service training program and by capitalizing on new techniques and protocols.

A new pumping engine was put into service this year. Engine 2, which will operate out of the North Fire Station, was purchased from New England Fire Apparatus. Purchasing a pumping engine of this type requires many hours of research and planning. The credit for this hard work goes to the truck committee that volunteered their time and energy. Many thanks go out to this committee made up of Deputy Michael Curran, James Keeley the Mechanic for the Fire Department, along with Firefighters John DePalma, Bill Jamer and William Hadley.



This Smeal Pumper on a Freightliner Chassis was put into service as Engine 2 at North Chelmsford Fire Station in 1999  
It was re-designated as Engine 5 in 2009 when a new pumper was delivered to North as Engine 2  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

The fire service in Massachusetts was turned upside down when it was faced with the tragic fire in the City of Worcester on December 3rd. Because of the magnitude of this incident, fire departments from across the Commonwealth were called upon for assistance. Chelmsford Fire Department played a major role during this incident by providing command staff to the city, critical incident stress debriefing team members, engine companies to cover the City and additional firefighters to dig through the rubble in search of six missing Worcester firefighters. The citizens in Chelmsford can be proud of how this department, supported by town management, was able to offer their assistance and professional expertise to a City in desperate need of help.



Worcester Warehouse Fire December 12, 1999 (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**FIRE CHIEF**

John E. Parow

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**CAPTAINS**

James M. Spinney  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael Burke

**DEPT. ASSISTANT**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**MECHANIC**

James Keeley

\* Retired in 1999

**FIREFIGHTERS**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
Christopher Brothers  
William Cady  
David Campbell  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
James Curran  
William Curran  
William Dalton  
John DePalma  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Donald Drew  
James Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
David Hadley  
William Hadley \*  
Henry Houle  
William Jamer

Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Ray Kydd  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leo Martin \*  
Michael McTeague \*  
Leslie Merrill  
Richard Miller  
Edward Nolet  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Daniel Reid, Sr.  
Daniel Reid, Jr.  
James Reid  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Rick Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Daniel Ubele



YR	A	B	O	MA	I	S	FA	M	TOTAL
90	80	58	119	8	645	63	142	648	1763
91	70	57	153	18	706	1128	76	771	2979
92	63	39	99	19	755	983	76	821	2855
93	59	29	103	29	758	1193	128	885	3184
94	88	46	100	11	842	1142	70	1127	3426
95	100	52	114	28	852	953	4	1445	3548
96	67	66	74	14	973	1441	3	1609	4247
97	56	36	97	17	808	1406	0	1724	4144
98	50	53	113	15	780	1399	2	1841	4253
99	47	40	127	23	842	1361	0	1975	4415

YR = YEAR  
 A = AUTO FIRE  
 B = BUILDING FIRE  
 O = OUTSIDE FIRE  
 MA = MUTUAL AID  
 I = INVESTIGATION  
 S = SERVICE  
 FA = FALSE ALARM  
 M = MEDICAL AID

1990-1999 Annual Fire Department Call Volume (1999 Annual Town Report)

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 2000



### Annual Town Meeting April 27

Under Article 10.

Selectman Philip M. Eliopoulos moved that the Town appropriate the sum of \$875,000 for capital projects including: Refurbish Rescue Truck 1 \$60,000. Motion carried, unanimously.

### Fire Chief's Report

The department's policy of sending all newly hired firefighters to the Massachusetts Fire Academy Recruit Training Program was very evident this year. Six (6) firefighters graduated from the eleven (11) week program. Firefighter Jeff Cancellata graduated number one in his class. In addition, three (3) firefighters attended training and became State certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson headed the Student Awareness Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program this year. He was assisted by Firefighters Michael Donoghue, John Kivlan and Will Amundson. Over 1,500 preschool, kindergarten and first graders were taught the importance of fire safety. Additionally, Firefighter Peterson organized the 7th Annual Fire Prevention Open House, in October, with over 500 residents in attendance.

During the year two department members retired, Captain James Spinney, a 34 year veteran and Firefighter John DePalma, a 30 year veteran. Three firefighters were also hired to fill open vacancies, Firefighter Brian Daly, Thomas Brothers and Robert Gardner. I wish the retirees well on their retirement and welcome the new firefighters on board with the hopes of a long and safe career.

The tragic Worcester warehouse fire that killed six (6) Worcester firefighters brought to light the importance of new technology and the ability to rescue lost or trapped firefighters at a fire scene. This past year the local Lions Club along with the firefighter Union, Local 1839, purchased a Thermal Imaging camera for the department to aid in search and rescue efforts. The Town matched this donation, giving the department two Thermal Imaging cameras. This new technology will greatly enhance our ability to rescue civilians and firefighters alike.

	<b>Firefighters</b>	
	William Amundson	David Hadley
	William Bacon	Henry Houle
	Christopher Brothers	William Jamer
	Thomas Brothers	Dennis Keohane
	William Cady	William Keohane
	David Campbell	John Kivlan
	William Campbell	Raymond Kydd
	Jeff Cancellata	Cynthia Leczynski
	Jack Carroll	Daniel Manley
	Anthony Cincevich	Leo Manley
	David Clancy	Leslie Merrill
	Kevin Clarke	Edward Nolet
	F. Mark Conlin	Kevin O'Brien
	Daniel Corey	Marc Pare
	James Curran	Donnie Peterson
	William Curran	Daniel Reid, Sr.
	William Dalton	Daniel Reid, Jr.
	Brian Daly	James Reid
	John DePalma *	John Reid
	Michael Donoghue	Michael Ridlon
	Bruce Donovan	Rick Rivard
	Donald A. Drew	John Robinson
	James Durkin	Gary Ryan
	Jesse Foster	George Ryan
	Daniel Funaro	Kevin Sheehy
	Robert Gardner	Brian Stanton
	Daniel Ubele	

**Chief**  
John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**  
James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**  
James M. Spinney \*  
Charles A. Schramm  
Michael Burke  
Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley

**Department Assistant**  
Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**  
James Keeley

\* retired in 2000

[Home](#)

### History from

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[1920-1929](#)

[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

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## 2001

### Fire Chief's Report

During the year, three (3) department members retired, Captain Charles A. Schramm, William V. Cady, and Donald A. Drew. Firefighter Daniel Reid, Jr. resigned and took a position as a patrol officer for the Chelmsford Police Department.

Firefighter Rick Rivard was promoted to the rank of Captain to replace retiring Captain Schramm. Robert Tello, Timothy Shanahan and Keith Lindsay were hired as firefighters to fill the vacancies created by the retirements. I would like to wish those that have retired a long and healthy retirement and the newly hired firefighters a long and safe career.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson headed the Student Awareness Fire Education program (S.A.F.E.) again this year. He was assisted by Firefighters Michael Donoghue and John Kivlan. Over 1500 elementary and middle school students were instructed in the importance of fire safety. Firefighter Peterson also organized the departments 8th Annual Fire Prevention Open House, in October, with over 500 residents in attendance.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, tore at the hearts of every member of this department. On September 12th nine department members headed to Ground Zero and volunteered their assistance to FDNY. In the next three weeks, three additional department members would also be asked for their assistance, two as members of the Critical Incident Stress Team and one to work at the Command Post. Their efforts and bravery are to be commended. My personal thanks to Deputy Curran, Captain Boormeester, Retired Captain Schramm, Firefighters William Amundson, James Durkin, Henry Houle, John P. Kivlan, Marc Pare, Donnie Peterson, Gary Ryan and George Ryan.

Firefighter Marc Pare received the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Medal of Valor for bravery from Acting Governor Jane Swift for his heroic acts during an ice rescue while off duty in Maine. Marc put his life in great danger when he rescued a snowmobile driver who had fallen through the ice. Without any rescue equipment and the ice breaking beneath him, Marc was able to pull this man from the freezing waters to safety. Without his efforts this young man would have surely perished. Congratulations Marc!

	<b>Firefighters</b>	David Hadley
	William Amundson	Henry Houle
	William Bacon	William Jamer
	Christopher Brothers	Dennis Keohane
	Thomas Brothers	William Keohane
	William Cady *	John Kivlan
	David Campbell	Raymond Kydd
	William Campbell	Cynthia Leczynski
	Jeff Cancellia	Keith Lindsay
	Jack Carroll	Daniel Manley
	Anthony Cincevich	Leo Manley
	David Clancy	Leslie Merrill
	Kevin Clarke	Edward Nolet
	F. Mark Conlin	Kevin O'Brien
	Daniel Corey	Marc Pare
	James Curran	Donnie Peterson
	William Curran	Daniel Reid, Sr.
	William Dalton	Daniel Reid, Jr. **
	Brian Daly	James Reid
	Michael Donoghue	John Reid
	Bruce Donovan	Michael Ridlon
	Donald A. Drew *	Rick Rivard
	James Durkin	John Robinson
	Jesse Foster	Gary Ryan
	Daniel Funaro	George Ryan
	Robert Gardner	Timothy Shanahan
	Daniel Ubele	Kevin Sheehy
		Brian Stanton
		Robert Tello

\* retired in 2001

\*\* transfered to  
Police Department

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### Captains

Charles A. Schramm \*  
Michael Burke  
Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley

#### Department Assistant

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Mechanics

James Keeley



## 2002-2003



2002 Ford F-350 Brush/Service Truck, S3, based at Center Fire Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

### **Town Manager's Report**

This Annual Report covers the period of January 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 as we move from a calendar year to fiscal year reporting cycle. The reason for this change is to have consistency in all of our planning and reporting documents including our budget, audit, and reports to the state and federal government. This consistency will be increasingly important as new government accounting standards are introduced over the next few years.



1985 FMC Pumper on a 1984 Mack chassis, Engine, 4 on display at Center Fire Station July 3, 2003  
(Photo by Fred Merriam)

### Fire Chief's Report

This proved to be another very busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. Total emergency calls for the year were 4,571. Medical emergency calls accounted for over half the calls at 2,318. Actual fire calls were down over this period, however, we had some of the largest building fires in the department history including a six (6) alarm fire at the Carriage House Apartments and a four (4) alarm fire at Laughton's Nursery.

Over the past year the department suffered two great losses. The retirement of eleven (11) firefighters with a combined career experience of over 285 years and a reduction in manpower to the department of seven firefighter positions. In addition to the above, one firefighter was activated by the military and has yet to be released for return to work.

The eleven (11) firefighters that retired were: Captain Walter Adley, Captain Michael Burke, Firefighter David Campbell, Firefighter James Curran, Firefighter William Curran, Firefighter William Dalton, Firefighter William Jamer, Firefighter Ray Kydd, Firefighter Edward Nolet, Firefighter Daniel Reid, Firefighter James Reid, we wish them a long and enjoyable retirement. Firefighter Robert Tello was activated by the Air Force and we hope for his safe return.

Out of the eleven retirements we were able to hire four new recruits. They are Michael Chiasson, Casey Phelan, Michael Maher and Michael Nelson. All four have graduated from the 11 week Massachusetts Fire Academy Recruit Training class and hopefully will enjoy a long and fulfilling career with the department.

The new Quint "firefighting" apparatus was put into service this past year and will offer the department greater versatility at all emergency scenes. In addition, initial plans are underway to replace the fifty year old Center Fire Station and consolidate three of the five current stations into one station to improve efficiency and effectiveness.



2001 Central States Quint Firefighting Apparatus on HME Chassis, Engine 1, in the parade on July 4, 2003  
(photo by Fred Merriam)

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

Michael Burke \*  
Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
Walter F. Adley \*

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James Keeley

\* retired in 2002

\*\* activated by the Air Force

**Firefighters**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
Christopher Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
David Campbell \*  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich  
Michael Chiasson  
David Clancy  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
James Curran \*  
William Curran \*  
William Dalton \*  
Brian Daly  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
James Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
Daniel Ubele  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle

William Jamer \*  
Dennis Keohane  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Raymond Kydd \*  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Michael Nelson  
Edward Nolet \*  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Daniel Reid, Sr. \*  
James Reid \*  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Rick Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Robert Tello \*\*





2003 Ford former Police Department cruiser reassigned to the Fire Department at East Chelmsford  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

## 2004

### Fire Chief's Report

Fiscal year 2004 proved to be a very busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. Total emergency calls for the year were 4,278. Medical emergency calls accounted for over half the calls at 2,324. Actual fire calls were down over this period, however, the fires we did have seemed larger in nature and required more mutual aid request from surrounding communities than in recent years. The concern of terrorism has forced the department to prepare itself as the first line of defense against incidents of this type. Specialized equipment has been purchased and put into service. In addition, anti-terrorism training has been conducted for all department members and a terrorism annex has been added to the Town's Emergency Contingency Plan.

The Department applied for and receive two federal grants during this fiscal year. One was used to improve the physical fitness and health of all fire fighters on the job and the other grant is being used to replace an antiquated radio system. Additionally, the department receive one grant from the state for the purchase of anti-terrorism equipment. These grants will go a long way in improving the many services the department provides to the Town of Chelmsford during these difficult fiscal times.

The new Quint "firefighting" apparatus was put into service this past year and will offer the department greater versatility at all emergency scenes. In addition, plans are underway to replace the fifty two year old Center Fire Station that is showing its age. Structural problems have been identified in the apparatus floor and the concrete basement walls causing concern. We are currently looking at various locations for a new Center Station and examining the possible consolidation of one or more of the four sub-stations in an effort to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Three Fire Fighters, Anthony Cincevich, Dave Clancy and Dennis Keohane retired during the past year, additionally, Brian Daley and Robert Tello resigned their positions for other employment. Five new Fire Fighters, Edward Boisseau, Michael Ducharme, Danial Koutsoufis, David Lefebvre and William. Schellbach were hired to replace those that left. We wish them all well on their new endeavors.

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### Firefighters

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell

William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher

**Captains**

Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James Keeley

\* retired in 2004

\*\* resigned for other employment

Jeff Cancelli  
Jack Carroll  
Anthony Cincevich \*  
Michael Chiasson  
David Clancy \*  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Brian Daly \*\*  
Michael Donoghue  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
James Durkin  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
Daniel Ubele  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
Dennis Keohane \*

Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
Rick Rivard  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
William. Schellbach  
Brian Stanton  
Robert Tello \*\*

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## 2005



1935 Maxim antique Engine 4 Pumper in the 2005 July 4 Parade (Photo by Don Miffitt)

**Fire Chief's Report**

The Department applied for and received three State grants during this fiscal year. One was used to improve the communication system for the Chelmsford Emergency Management Agency and another was used to purchase an emergency rescue boat and equipment to improve the Department's confined space and trench rescue capabilities. Additionally, the Department received a grant from the State to conduct require emergency preparedness training for all necessary Town employees. At this point in time this training is ongoing. These grants will go a long way in improving the many services the department and its workers provide to the Town of Chelmsford during these difficult fiscal times.





2005 Rescue-One Fire Rescue boat with Mercury outboard based at the North Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

A new Command vehicle was put into service this past year and will offer the Department greater coordination at all emergency scenes. This new unit will operate out of the Center Fire Station and offer command and control support, communication capabilities and improve overall emergency scene safety.



2005 Ford Explorer command support vehicle S-1 used at Center Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

Structural problems were identified with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station over the past few years. During the last few months work has been completed to stabilize it. Although the floor has been stabilized this is only a temporary fix buying us two to three years. Within this time period we must come up with and institute a permanent solution. Currently, we are exploring various options to replace or completely rebuild the out dated and aging station.



Two new fire fighters, Jason Moody and Michael Brothers, were hired this year to fill to the two remaining vacancies created from retirements during the last fiscal year. I would like to wish them well on their new careers.

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

Richard Miller  
James P. Boormeester  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

**Firefighters**

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis

Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young



2001 Quint Engine 1 in the 2005 July 4 Parade (photo by Don Miffitt)

**2006**

**Fire Chief's Report**

The department was honored this year when six of its members were recognized by Governor Romney for their heroic actions at the annual Fire Fighter of the Year award held at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Captain Durkin, Fire Fighters Don Peterson, Gary Ryan, Bill Bennett and Mike Young were recognized as "Fire Fighter of the Year" for their life saving actions and rescue of a trapped victim in a burning vehicle. Fire Fighter John Kivlan was awarded an individual award for fire "Fighter of the Year" for his rescue of a 96 year old women trapped in an apartment fire. Their dedication and commitment to the citizens of Chelmsford is quite apparent and transcends throughout the department. I thank them for their actions and congratulate them on the recognition.

A new trench rescue trailer was put into service this past year and will offer the department greater ability to rescue those involved in a trench collapse. Trench collapses in the Town are a daily possibility with the ongoing sewer project. Department members designed and built most of the equipment needed for the trailer, reducing the overall cost of the project. A special thanks goes out to each of them.

Structural problems have been identified with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station over the past few years. Last year work was completed to stabilize it. Although the floor has been stabilized this is only a temporary fix buying us two to three years. Options need to be explored to replace or completely rebuild the out dated and aging station. Because of fiscal problem this project has been put on the back burner but, will need to be revisited in the coming year.



Center Fire Station floor bracing under the engine bays (Photo by Fred Merriam)

Over the past few years the fire department staffing has been reduced by four fire fighters and one secretarial position. Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town budget the cut backs make it very difficult for the department to meet its mission of protecting life and property. It is our hope that when the financial picture brightens, these positions will be restored.

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### Captains

James P. Boormeester  
Richard Miller  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue

#### Department Assistant

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Firefighters

William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme

Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
Gary Ryan



**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

Jesse Foster  
 Daniel Funaro  
 Robert Gardner  
 David Hadley  
 Henry Houle  
 William Keohane  
 John Kivlan

George Ryan  
 William Schellbach  
 Timothy Shanahan  
 Kevin Sheehy  
 Brian Stanton  
 Daniel Ubele  
 Michael Young

**2007**

1967 Maxim Reserve Engine and retired 1959 Ford F-600 Brush Truck Engine 7 in the 2007 July 4 Parade  
 (Photo by Don Miffitt)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Medical emergency calls also continued to grow and now accounted for more than half of our calls. We responded to an all time high of 2,506 calls for medical assistants this past year. Based on the fact that emergency medical care has become such a large part of the department's responsibility the Chelmsford Fire Department applied for and received a license from the state to operate a "Class 5" ambulance. This license greatly enhances the ability of the department to provide a higher level of medical care and transport patients to the hospital in the case of an extreme emergency. In addition, the department took the lead in writing the "Emergency Medical Service Zone Plan" for the Town of Chelmsford. This plan outlines how emergency medical care will be delivered within the Town and sets the standard of care town residents will receive. Firefighter John Robinson spent hundreds of hours putting this plan together and he is to be commended for his effort.

The concern of terrorism has forced the department to prepare itself as the first line of defense against incidents of this type. Specialized equipment has been purchased and put into service. In addition, mandatory National Incident Management System (NIMS) training has been conducted for all department members and we now meet or exceed the national standard in this area.

The Department applied for and received two State grants during this fiscal year. One was to continue our Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) program. This program allows us to send trained fire department personnel into the schools and educate our students on fire safety and the ill effects of smoking. The department also received a grant from the State for firefighting equipment. The department will purchase a new thermal imaging camera and a rapid intervention breathing air kit with the money from that grant. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our state legislators for their help in providing this funding.

Two seasoned veterans with over 60 years of combined experience retired during this past year. The department wishes Captain Rich Miller and Firefighter Mike Ridlon a long and enjoyable retirement. These vacancies were filled by hiring



two town residents Firefighter/EMTs Ryan Houle and Josh Abbott. Firefighter Gary Ryan was promoted to Captain. We wish them all well in their new positions. In addition, Firefighter Mike Young was activated by the military and is serving our country in Iraq. His deployment is expected to last for fifteen months. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Structural problems have been identified with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station. Thirteen large support columns have been built in the basement to support and stabilize the floor. Although the floor has been stabilized the engineer has told us that this is only a temporary fix and will buy us a little time until we can build a new station. A building committee has been established to look into the feasibility of building and locating a new Center Fire Station. Their recommendations are expected to be presented at the 2007 October Town Meeting.

Because of budget problems within the Town the Fire Department has been forced to cut four firefighter positions and a clerk in recent years. Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town budget the cut backs are making it very difficult for the department to provide the services the citizens of the town have grown accustomed to expect. It is paramount that when the financial picture brightens or alternative funding sources are identified that these positions are restored.



2007 Smeal Pumper and Rescue Truck on International Chassis, Engine 4, at East Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

#### Chief

John E. Parow

#### Deputy Chief

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### Captains

James P. Boormeester  
Richard Miller  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue  
Gary Ryan

#### Department Assistant

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### Mechanics

James F. Keeley, Sr.

#### Firefighters

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle

Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton

Ryan Houle  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan

Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young

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## 2008

### **Town Manager's Report**

During the past fiscal year, Town officials examined ways to raise additional revenue and to more efficiently provide services. A considerable amount of time was expended on analyzing whether the Fire Department should provide ambulance services. After receiving a favorable proposal from the Town Manager and holding a public hearing prior to the 2007 Fall Annual Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen created an ad-hoc ambulance study committee. After a few months of study, the committee voted not to support the Fire Department-based financial model. Heeding this recommendation, an RFP was issued for the provision of ambulance services from private vendors. After a review of the three proposals, the Town has entered into a three-year contract with Trinity EMS. The Town will receive \$60,000/year during each year of the contract as compensation for the dispatch operations provided by the Town to support ambulance operations.

Faced with these challenges, a budget plan was presented to Town Meeting that did not rely on one-time revenues or otherwise avoid the fiscal realities. Capital investment has remained level-funded; the School Department has consolidated the students from the Westlands Schools into the Town's four other elementary schools, restructured its lunch program, imposed a transportation fee, and raised fees for extracurricular activities; the South Chelmsford Fire Station has closed as a result of the elimination of four firefighter positions; and other personnel cuts have been made at the Police Department, Department of Public Works, the Town Manager's Office, and other town departments. The challenges for the upcoming fiscal year are expected to be even greater. However, we will continue our efforts to persevere and prosper.

### **Fall Town Meeting October 15, 18 and 22, 2007**

#### ARTICLE 11.

I move that the Town transfer from the Stabilization Fund \$85,000 for the purpose of funding feasibility studies for the planning and construction of a new Fire Department Headquarters and for the planning and construction of a new Department of Public Works Facility with a recycling center. SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager

Two-Thirds Vote required.

It was so voted

### **Spring Town Meeting April 28 and May 1, 2008**

#### ARTICLE 8.

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,560,553 for capital projects including:

Fire Staff Vehicle Replacement \$35,000

Engine 3 Replacement \$310,000

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Capital Planning Committee.

Two-Thirds Vote required.

It was so voted





2008 Ford F-350 Truck Rescue-2 based at Center Fire Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)



2008 Smeal Pumper and Rescue Truck on International Chassis, Engine 3, visiting at Center Fire Station (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Repeat of 2007.

**Chief**  
John E. Parow

**Firefighters**  
Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett

John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre  
Keith Lindsay



**Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

**Captains**

James P. Boormeester  
James J. Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Michael R. Donoghue  
Gary Ryan

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane

Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
Michael Ridlon  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young

## 2009



This 2009 Smeal Pumper and Rescue Truck on International Chassis, Engine 2, was delivered to North Fire Station. The previous Engine 2, a 1999 Smeal Pumper on a Freightliner chassis, was re-designated as Engine 5 and transferred to South (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

**Board of Selectmen Report**

After nearly 2 years of effort and study, the Fire/ DPW study committee presented their recommendations to replace the aging Center Fire Station and relocate and consolidate DPW facilities, currently housed principally at Richardson Road with several satellite locations. The Fire DPW Feasibility Study Committee was formed after Town Meeting voted to fund a study to address facility needs of these departments. As a result of their work, and Town Meeting votes at the August 2009 special town meeting, the residents had the opportunity at a special election on October 6th to consider two ballot questions to authorize borrowing, as debt exemptions, to fund a new \$12 million Center Fire Station building at Wilson Street, and \$13 million to consolidate DPW operations into one location at an existing building on Alpha Road. Neither ballot question was passed by the voters. Although the Board was split on the support of both of these facilities, more affordable alternatives to address these critical facility needs are now being considered.

### Town Manager's Report

A special town meeting was held on March 9, 2009 to balance the Town budget. General Government operations were reduced by \$500,000 and the School Department's budget was reduced by \$600,000. Personnel reductions took place in the Assessors', Tax Collector's and Town Clerk offices; police and fire positions were eliminated, along with reductions in overtime expenditures, thereby resulting in fewer police officers on patrol and the closing of one of the five fire stations; library positions, materials, and hours of operation were curtailed.

#### Fall Town Meeting October 20, 2008

##### ARTICLE 16.

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation entitled, "An Act Relative to the Minimum Years-of-Service Required to be Eligible for Civil Service Promotions to the Position of Fire Captain in the Town of Chelmsford," as printed in the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager

Majority Vote

Motion carried unanimously by show of hands

#### Spring Town Meeting April 27, 2009

##### ARTICLE 7:

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,568,500 for the following capital projects including:

Fire Staff Vehicle (1997) Replacement \$36,000

Fire Alarm Truck (1988) Replacement \$65,000

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Capital Planning Committee.

Two-Thirds Vote required.

Motion carried unanimously by show of hands



2009 Ford F-450 Fire Alarm service truck with Terex bucket based at North Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

### Fire Chief's Report

Fiscal year 2009 was a very difficult year for the Chelmsford Fire Department due to the continued poor financial situation of the Town and the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, we were forced to close the South Fire Station (Engine 5) for the entire fiscal year and the station will continue to be closed during FY 10. The decision to close this one station on a permanent basis was based on call volume, accessibility and continuity of services. Staffing levels remain at very low level with a minimum level of one Captain and eight firefighters per shift (as compared to a minimum staffing level

for the department in 1990 of one Captain and fourteen firefighters). The outlook for fiscal 2010 is not any better and we anticipate further cutbacks during the years when all the final numbers are in for the Town and from the State.



South Chelmsford Fire Station closed since 2009 (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)

The Department applied for and received a federal grant this year to illuminate the rear of all Engines, the Quint and Rescue Truck with reflective stripping and amber arrow lights. This new illumination system (and NFPA standard) will help to reduce the chance of rear end collisions while we provide emergency service on the highways. In addition, the department received a state grant to purchase reflective vest for all firefighters while operating on a roadway as required under a new Federal ANSI Standard. Hopefully, this will create a safer working environment on the highways as traffic related accidents are the third leading cause of firefighter deaths nationwide.

Brian Stanton, a seasoned firefighter, retired during this past year with over 28 years of service to the Town. The department wishes him a long and enjoyable retirement. Dave LeFebvre transferred to the Westford Fire Department after working in Chelmsford for three years. Unfortunately, we were unable to fill either of these positions because of the looming budget crisis.

We continue to experience major structural problems with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station. Although the floor has been stabilized with 13 wooden pillars, the fix only serves as a temporary repair and buys us a little time. The Fire/DPW Building Committee has concluded their two year study and determined that a new Center Fire Station should be built and located at the corner of Chelmsford and Wilson Street. I urge the town residents to support the funding of this proposal.





Chief Parow talks with Peggy Dunn about the temporary Center Fire Station repairs at August 12, 2009 open house  
(photo by Fred Merriam)

Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town budget, the cut backs over this year (compounded by those in the past few years) have made it very difficult for the fire department to meet its mission of protecting life and property. The reduction in man power and the closing of a fire station has created an increased risk to the residents of Chelmsford and the firefighters alike. During this year we have seen response times increase and manpower shortages while operating at emergency scenes. It is our hope that when the financial picture brightens, these positions will be restored and all five fire stations will again be open.

#### **Chief**

John E. Parow

#### **Deputy Chief**

James A. Sousa  
Michael F. Curran

#### **Captains**

James P. Boormeester  
James J. Durkin  
Michael R. Donoghue  
Rick Rivard  
Gary Ryan

#### **Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

#### **Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

\* retired

\*\* transferred to Westford F.D.

#### **Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
William Campbell  
Jeff Cancellia  
Jack Carroll \*  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
F. Mark Conlin  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Daniel Funaro  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Henry Houle  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane

John Kivlan  
Danial Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
David Lefebvre \*\*  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manley  
Leo Manley  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
John Reid  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William. Schellbach  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Brian Stanton \*  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young

**CALL HISTORY**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
BUILDING FIRES	40	56	37	36	45	59	71	44	53	39
OUTSIDE FIRES	85	82	97	121	131	66	77	80	118	81
AUTO FIRES	18	21	22	23	29	41	38	31	36	37
MUTUAL AID	29	12	18	23	16	23	18	12	24	22
INVESTIGATION	847	929	917	887	885	809	853	855	1087	903
SERVICE	1708	1287	1219	1246	1310	955	1135	1231	1434	1364
FALSE ALARM	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
MEDICAL AID	2868	2814	2771	2523	2506	2324	2420	2318	2246	2134
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5595</b>	<b>5203</b>	<b>5083</b>	<b>4679</b>	<b>4717</b>	<b>4112</b>	<b>4426</b>	<b>4416</b>	<b>4793</b>	<b>4423</b>

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Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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## 2010



### Special Town Meeting August 17, 2009

ARTICLE 5: Town Manager Paul E. Cohen moves that \$12,000,000 be appropriated to fund the design and construction of a new town center fire station headquarters facility on a portion of the 8.69 acre parcel of Town-owned land located at the corner of Wilson Street and Chelmsford Street identified as Lot 5 on Assessors' Map 73, Block 289, including related survey, legal, and other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow \$12,000,000 under Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority, that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project, provided that the amount of the authorized borrowing shall be reduced by the amount of such aid received prior to the issuance of bonds or notes under this vote; and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager 2/3rd Vote Required. The Moderator declared that the motion carried by recognizing the 2/3rd vote bylaw.



2009 Center Fire Station plan for the intersection of Wilson and Chelmsford streets  
(Town of Chelmsford presentation sketch)

### Special Town Election October 6, 2009

Question 2.

To build a new center fire station on Town land at the corner of Wilson and Chelmsford streets and close the present Fire Station located on North Rd. The result was 6555 registered voters turned out. Yes 2750, No 3791, Blanks 14. Question failed.

### Annual Town Meeting April 26, 2010

ARTICLE 7:

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,522,000 for the following capital projects (including):

Fire Engine 5 Refurbish (1999 Freightliner) \$60,000

SUBMITTED BY:

[Home](#)

## History from

[1900-1909](#)

[1910-1919](#)

[1920-1929](#)

[1930-1939](#)

[1940-1949](#)

[1950-1959](#)

[1960-1969](#)

[1970-1979](#)

[1980-1989](#)

[1990-1999](#)

[2000-2009](#)

[2015-201x](#)



Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Capital Planning Committee.  
2/3rd Vote. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands.



1999 Smeal Pumper/Rescue Truck on a Freightliner chassis purchased as Engine 2 for North and re-designated as Engine 5 for South Chelmsford in 2009, then refurbished in 2010 while the South Fire Station was closed (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

#### Fire Chief's Report

Through the Town's Capital Plan the department received a new pumping engine and a new rescue truck this year. The much needed new apparatus replaces two vehicles that were each 23 years old. We applied for and received a federal grant to install a new, state of the art, breathing air cascade system in the new rescue truck allowing us to fill self contained breathing apparatus at the scene of a fire. In addition, the department received a state grant to hire three new firefighters. This is only a one year grant, but has assisted us in regaining some of the manpower we have lost over the last few years. Hopefully, the economic condition of the town will improve over the coming year and enable us to keep these firefighters working when the grant runs out in March, 2011.



2009 Smeal Pumper on International chassis, Engine 2, at North Chelmsford Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)



2009 International Emergency Medical Services truck, Rescue 1, at Chelmsford Center Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

Deputy Chief Jim Sousa and Captain Jim Boormeester retired during the past year taking with them 71 years of combined experience. The department wishes both of them a long and enjoyable retirement. We are forever grateful for their service, dedication and contributions to the Town and the department. The three new firefighters hired, Garrett Walsh, Evan Boudreau and Chhunly Prak are all military veterans and we thank them for their service and wish them well in their new careers.





Tribute to Jim Sousa for 38 years of service (2010 photo by Fred Merriam)

We continue to experience major structural problems with the apparatus floor at the Center Fire Station. Although the floor has been stabilized with 13 wooden pillars, the fix only serves as a temporary repair and buys us a little time. An extensive study has been completed outlining the need for a new center station and location. The Town will need to keep this as a top priority and find a solution in the very near future.

Although we do understand the fiscal restraints associated with the town's budget, the cut backs in manning and the permanent closing of Engine 5 has made it very difficult for us to meet our mission of protecting life and property. This reduction in resources has created an increased risk to both the residents of Chelmsford and the firefighters. During this year we have seen the calls for service increase, response times increase and manpower shortages at emergency scenes. It is our hope that when the financial picture brightens, previous manning will be restored and all five fire stations will once again be opened.

Lastly, this will be my seventeenth and final annual report as I plan on retiring in October of this year. I have enjoyed my sixteen plus years as Chief of Department and would like to thank all members of the department, my staff, the Town Manager, the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town for their support over this time.

**Chief**

John E. Parow

**Deputy Chief**

Michael F. Curran  
 Michael Donoghue  
 James A. Sousa\*\*

**Captains**

James Boormeester\*\*  
 James J. Durkin  
 Rick Rivard  
 Gary Ryan  
 Dan Funaro  
 Henry Houle

**Department Assistant**

Martha A. DeSaulnier

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
 William Amundson  
 William Bacon  
 William Bennett  
 Edward Boisseau  
 Even Boudreau  
 Christopher Brothers  
 Michael Brothers  
 Thomas Brothers  
 William Campbell  
 Jeffrey Cancellia  
 Michael Chiasson  
 Kevin Clarke  
 F. Mark Conlin  
 Daniel Corey  
 Bruce Donovan  
 Michael Ducharme  
 Jesse Foster  
 Robert Gardner

Dan Koutsoufis  
 Cynthia Leczynski  
 Keith Lindsay  
 Michael Maher  
 Daniel Manley  
 Leo Manley  
 Leslie Merrill  
 Jason Moody  
 Michael Nelson  
 Kevin O'Brien  
 Marc Pare  
 Donnie Peterson  
 Casey Phelan  
 Chhunly Prak  
 John Reid  
 John Robinson  
 George Ryan  
 William Schellback  
 Timothy Shanahan  
 Kevin Sheehy



**Mechanics**

James F. Keeley, Sr.

\*\* retired in 2010

David Hadley  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane  
John KivlanDaniel Ubele  
Michael Young  
Garrett Walsh

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**2011****Spring Annual Town Meeting April 25, 2011**

## ARTICLE 8.

I move that the Town appropriate \$2,605,000 for the following capital projects (including):

Service Truck Replacement (1999) \$50,000

East Fire Station Hose Tower \$56,000

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands



East Chelmsford fire Station hose drying tower (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)



East Chelmsford fire Station hose drying tower (2011 photo by Fred Merriam)

**ARTICLE 9.**

I move that the Town appropriate \$50,000 for the purchase of a replacement “Jaws of Life” hydraulic vehicle extraction emergency rescue tools for the Fire Department; ...

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands

**ARTICLE 10.**

No action. This article was in regards to the funding of a new fire station at Chelmsford St and Wilson St. The exempt question failed at the Annual Town Election of April 5th.

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager

**ARTICLE 13.**

I move that the Town transfer \$53,822 from the Finance Committee Reserve Fund to fund the first year of an employee contract agreement between the Town and IAFF Local 1839 Firefighters that begins in Fiscal Year 2011, and that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,843 to fund the first year of employee contract agreements that begin on July 1, 2011 (Fiscal Year 2012) between the Town and its collective bargaining units as follows:

AFSCME Facilities \$8,331

CFT Library \$14,512

SUBMITTED BY: Town Manager. Motion carried unanimously by show of hands.

**Report of the Conservation Commission**

The Commission extends its gratitude to the Chelmsford Fire Department, Carlisle Fire Department, and the Massachusetts Forest Fire Control for their swift response to a small ground fire within the Cranberry Bog Reservation.

**Report of the Fire Department**

This fiscal year has been another busy year for the fire department. Calls for service have increased from 5595 in fiscal year 2010 to 5977 in fiscal year 2011 for an increase of 382 calls. Structure fire calls are down from last year but total calls continue to increase. Medical calls, which include vehicle accidents, continue to increase. This year the calls for medical assistance increased by more than 600.

Thanks to Chelmsford businesses and grants our firefighters provide educational information from escape plans from your house, testing your smoke alarms, why not to play with fire, what to do when a fire happens in your house and what to do if someone in your house doesn't feel well. We also hold a mock accident which we have towards the end of the school year for Chelmsford high school. This event shows the truth as to what happens when speeding or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We have been thinking of having another one of these events at the beginning of the school year as a lot of students have just received licenses and with all the school activities a lot of the students drive themselves or friends to these activities.

Chelmsford Fire Department provides multitude of services for the residents of Chelmsford. We provide a program called SAFE for all the students/children in Chelmsford:

Grade K - 12	1156 students
Private daycare	272 students
Health fairs and community events	410 students

This year the fire department has received a grant to replace fire fighters structural fire fighting gear to replace worn out gear. This \$73,000 grant will allow the fire department to provide modern and much safer gear to it's fire fighters. In this years Town's Capital budget plan we will be replacing our 13 year old service truck with more than 100,000 miles that plows the 5 stations and is used by the mechanic to maintain the department vehicles.

We continue to experience major structural problems with Fire Headquarters. The Permanent Building Committee and the Fire Chief will continue to look at possible solutions to the problem. The building will continue to be inspected every six months to insure that the floor will support the apparatus.

Due to past fiscal restraints Engine 5 on Acton Road continues to be closed. We will ask for the fall town meeting to provide funding to reopen that station late fall or early winter. While this station is closed, the response times to emergencies in Engine 5's area are much longer for the other stations to respond to. In addition with this station closed the fire department has 2 less fire fighters on duty to respond to larger incidents through out the town.

We have had some changes in the fire department this year. Chief John Parow retired this year after more than 37 years in the fire service and as Chelmsford Fire Chief for the last 17 years. We thank him for his leadership and dedicated service and for all that he has done to provide the town with the best possible emergency services. The Fire Department assistant, Martha DeSaulnier and Department Mechanic Jim Keeley also retired this year and thank them for their service. We wish all of them well in their retirement.

**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue  
Gary Ryan

**Captains**

James Durkin  
Rick Rivard  
Dan Funaro  
Henry Houle  
Fran Conlin (*acting Captain*)

**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin

**Retired in 2011**

Chief John Parow  
Martha DeSaulnier (Dept. Assistant)  
James Keeley (Dept. Mechanic)

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Jeffrey Cancellla  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Bruce Donovan  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
David Hadley  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane  
John Kivlan  
Dan Koutsoufis

Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay  
Michael Maher  
Daniel Manely  
Leo Manely  
Leslie Merrill  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Kevin O'Brien  
Marc Pare  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
John Robinson  
George Ryan  
William Schellback  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Daniel Ubele  
Michael Young  
Garrett Walsh

**2012**

**Town Manager's Report**

At the Spring Annual Town Meeting voters appropriated \$7.8M to fund a new Fire Department headquarters. After years of consideration and repeated failed attempts at alternate locations, the new center fire station will be constructed adjacent to the Town Offices on Billerica Road. The savings achieved by the from the health insurance plan reforms enable the debt service for the new fire station to be funded within the property tax limitations of Proposition 2 ½. The Town was also able to take advantage of an historically low interest rate of 2.32% to finance the project

**Town Election April 3, 2012**

Question 1 (Advisory):

Shall the Town of Chelmsford pay the debt service for a new center fire Station adjacent to the Town Offices from the



existing property tax levy? {This fire station would not be financed by a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion}.  
With 6007 votes cast the result was: Yes 2,468, No 2,162, Blanks 1,377.

### Spring Annual Town Meeting April 30, 2012

#### ARTICLE 9.

Town Manager Paul E. Cohen, moves that the Town appropriate \$2,926,331 for the following capital projects (including):

Digital Radio Upgrade \$112,000

Finance Committee voted to support Article 9

Board of Selectmen voted to support Article 9

Mr. Roland Van Liew, Precinct 6, moved to amend Article 9. The motion to amend fails.

The main motion under Article 9 carried by 2/3 vote.

Moved to table Article 10 until Thursday, May 3, 2012.

Motion to table Article 10 until Thursday, May 3, 2012 failed.

#### ARTICLE 10.

Town Manager Paul E. Cohen, moves that \$7,800,000 be appropriated to fund the design and construction of a new town center fire station headquarters facility adjacent to the Town Offices on a portion of the 8.69 acre parcel of Town-owned land located at 50 Billerica Road identified as Lot 5 on Assessors' Map 73, Block 289, including related survey, legal, and other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen be authorized to borrow \$7,800,000 under Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen be authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

Finance Committee voted to recommend Article 10.

Board of Selectmen voted to recommend Article 10.

Article 10 generated a lengthy discussion and debate. Abutters came forward to speak against the Article. Peggy Dunn moved the question. Mr. Latina had a point of order regarding the motion. He stated that there were people queued up. Mr. Moderator did indicate that moving the question is a privileged motion and allowed debate to go on. Following more discussion, Peggy Dunn once again, moved the question. Tellers were called by the Moderation. The motion to move question was defeated. Additional statements were read by the abutters. Ms. Patricia Dzuris moved the question. The motion to move the question passed. The body was now ready to vote. Article 10 carried.

Roll call vote was called.

The Roll Call indicated the following: 110 yes, 41 no, 1 abstention.

Motion under Article 10 carried by 2/3 vote.



View of new five-bay Center Fire Station connected to the right side of the Town Offices on Billerica Road  
(Rendering courtesy of the Town of Chelmsford)

### Fire Chief's Report

Fiscal year 2012 has been a very busy year for the Chelmsford Fire Department. In October, 2011 with the help of Town Manager Paul Cohen and the selectmen we were able to re-open Engine 5 in South Chelmsford. The fire fighters who work in the station have done a tremendous job of painting and cleaning up the station. Thank you!



South Chelmsford Fire Station re-opened in October 2011 (2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

This past spring the town voters approved the new station that will be located on Billerica Road next to the Town Hall. We are in the process of going forward with plans and site testing. The new station will be more suitable to hold the equipment that we need that is presently being housed in the outlying stations or outside. We still have the engineers come to inspect the current station every six (6) months and hope that the new building will be ready before the engineers tell us to leave.



View of new Center Fire Station from Billerica Road showing five apparatus bays in former parking area  
(Rendering courtesy of the Town of Chelmsford)





View of new Center Fire Station from Chelmsford Street side showing new parking area for Town Offices  
(Rendering courtesy of the Town of Chelmsford)

Through the Town's Capital Budget we replaced the mechanics truck with a new Ford F350 pickup. This truck is fitted with most of the tools that would be needed to fix any of the trucks at the stations. For larger projects he will still need to bring the apparatus to the mechanics bay in East Chelmsford. Frank, our mechanic also responds to fire calls. Although he does not gear up and go into the building, Frank is an essential part of the department. He needs to be on hand to fix equipment and exchange the air tanks the fire fighters use during an incident.



2011 Ford F-350 Mechanic's Truck S2, based at East Fire Station, visiting Center Fire Station  
(2013 photo by Fred Merriam)

Chelmsford Fire Department was able to hire six (6) new fire fighters and all have graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow, MA. Welcome to Michelle Sacco, David Maher, Jason Turner, Edward Casey, Patrick Daley and Gregory Segnini.

We also share some sad news. Retired fire fighters Dennis Keohane and Raymond Kydd passed away this past year. Dennis was a member of the Chelmsford Fire Department for 23 years retiring in 2003. Raymond Kydd was on the job 28 years retiring in 2002.

We had one fire fighter retire after 29 years on the job, Francis Conlin. We wish him the best of luck!



**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue

Gary Ryan

Training Captain, Marc Pare

Fire Prevention Captain Kevin O'Brien

**Captains**

James Durkin

Rick Rivard

Dan Funaro

Henry Houle

Daniel Manley

**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

Retired in Fiscal 2012 - Francis Conlin

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott

William Amundson

William Bacon

William Bennett

Edward Boisseau

Evan Boudreau

Christopher Brothers

Michael Brothers

Thomas Brothers

Jeffrey Cancelli

Edward Casey

Michael Chiasson

Kevin Clarke

Daniel Corey

Patrick Daley

Bruce Donovan

Michael Ducharme

Jesse Foster

Robert Gardner

David Hadley

Ryan Houle

William Keohane

John Kivlan

Dan Koutsoufis

Cynthia Leczynski

Keith Lindsay

David Maher

Michael Maher

Leo Manely

Leslie Merrill

Jason Moody

Michael Nelson

Donnie Peterson

Casey Phelan

Chhunly Prak

John Reid

John Robinson

George Ryan

Michelle Sacco

Gregory Segnini

William Schellback

Timothy Shanahan

Kevin Sheehy

Jason Turner

Daniel Ubele

Garrett Walsh

Michael Young

*2013*

Jan. 5, 2013 fatal fire at the Woodcrest Condominiums, 181 Littleton Road  
(Photo by Rick Nohl)



2013 July 4 Parade, 1935 Maxim Antique Engine 4 (photo by Don Miffitt)



2013 July 4 Parade, 1967 Maxim-S Reserve Engine (photo by Don Miffitt)





2013 July 4 Parade, 1959 Ford Brush Truck Antiquity Engine 7 (photo by Don Miffitt)



2013 July 4 Parade, Engine 2 from the North Chelmsford Fire Station (photo by Don Miffitt)

### Fire Chief's Report

We have 5 stations in the Town of Chelmsford, 4 staffed with 2 firefighters with the Center station staffed with the Unit Captain and 4 firefighters. The new station being built on Billerica Road has begun. The construction is going along on a timely basis and the town expects an October 2014 completion. We would like to thank all the employees at Town Hall; I know the construction has been a disruption for the entire building.

Our S.A.F.E coordinator FF Josh Abbott has applying for grants through the state and has been approved. Every year our firefighters join with the area schools, daycares, preschools and now with one of the new grants the seniors in town



to help learn fire safety, prepare for emergency situations. The S.A.F.E. crew will travel to the schools in town with books, Pluggy the talking fire hydrant and a "burn house". The kids really like Pluggy and the burn house is something the kids can interact with showing some dangers that could be in the house for example too many extension cords in one outlet or a pan on the stove.

We had two (2) retirements from the department this year, Captain James Durkin and Captain Rick Rivard. James Durkin retired after 30 years and Rick Rivard retired after 25 years. We wish them both the best of luck!



Engines 4, 3, 5, and 2 at Center Fire Station on August 21, 2013 (photo by Fred Merriam)



Read Hall, the administration building of the Middlesex Training School and now owned by U-Mass Lowell (photo by Fred Merriam)

On July 28, 2013, 10:30 pm, dispatch received a call from a resident on Augusta Way reporting they could smell smoke in the area. Engine 2 (North Chelmsford) arrived to Augusta Way to find that one of the vacant buildings belonging to

the University of Massachusetts Lowell fully engulfed. The fire went to 3 alarms within minutes as 4 other vacant buildings close by and a community of over 55 housing behind the burning building was in jeopardy with embers falling close by. The fire was contained to the one building. Lowell, Billerica, Tyngsboro, Westford and Tewksbury released from site at 1:30pm the following day. Chelmsford Fire Department remained on scene for several days watching for hot spots.



Apparatus at Center Fire Station in August, 2013:  
 2005 Command Vehicle S-1, 2001 Ladder/Rescue Truck E-1, 2008 Rescue Vehicle R-2  
 Donnie Peterson in front of dispatch window (photo by Fred Merriam)



New Firefighters for 2013: Scott Gallant, Don Kohl, and Nick Hamilton in training at the East Fire Station  
 The 1989 E-One Hush Pumper, Engine 6, is in the background  
 (photo by Fred Merriam)

**Firefighters**  
 Joshua Abbott

William Keohane  
 John Kivlan



**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Deputy Chiefs**Michael Donoghue, Operations  
Gary Ryan, Fire Prevention**Fire Captains**Henry Houle, Unit 1  
Daniel Manley, Unit 2  
Bruce Donovan, Unit 3  
Daniel Funaro, Unit 4  
Marc Pare' Training Captain  
Kevin O'Brien, Fire Prevention**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

**Retired in Fiscal 2013**Captain James Durkin  
Captain Rick RivardWilliam Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Eric Byam  
Jeffrey Cancelli  
Edward Casey  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Patrick Daley  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
Scott Gallant  
David Hadley  
Nicholas Hamilton  
David Houle  
Ryan HouleDonald Kohl  
Daniel Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay  
David Maher  
Michael Maher  
Leo Manely  
Andrew Micu  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
Michelle Sacco  
William Schellback  
Gregory Segnini  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Gregory Sparks  
Jason Turner  
Joshua Turner  
Daniel Ubele  
Garrett Walsh  
Michael Young**2014**

Chelmsford Firefighters visit to Shriners Hospital in Boston, January 2014, from left to right: Capt. Dan Funaro, Firefighters Tim Shanahan, Mike Chiasson, David Maher, Don Peterson, David Houle, Greg Segnini and Mike Brothers (Chelmsford Fire Department Collection)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Captain Pare, training officer for the department has been busy these past few months with the new and updating training classes in water rescue, roof collapses, MIA driving simulator, oil fires, Narcan program for the department and a fairly new to the town are the solar panels. With the schools, town offices, businesses and residents opting for solar power the department needs to learn how to handle fire emergencies when they occur.

Our mock car accident once again showed the tragic results of drinking, texting and driving. The department holds this event the first week of June in the front parking lot of the Chelmsford High School. Juniors and seniors attend with some of their classmates playing the rolls of the victims. It is a very moving lesson and this department along with the Chelmsford Police, Trinity and Christopher's Towing are glad to sponsor because if it saves one life it is worth it.

**Chief**

Michael F. Curran

**Firefighters**Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William BennettJohn Kivlan  
Donald Kohl  
Daniel Koutsoufis  
Cynthia Leczynski  
Keith Lindsay



**Deputy Chiefs**

Michael Donoghue, Operations  
Gary Ryan, Fire Prevention

**Fire Captains**

Henry Houle, Unit 1  
Daniel Manley, Unit 2  
Bruce Donovan, Unit 3  
Daniel Funaro, Unit 4  
Kevin O'Brien, Fire Prevention  
Marc Pare' Training Captain

**Clerical**

Anna Griffin (Department Assistant)  
Kristen Benjamin (Fire Prevention)

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Eric Byam  
Jeffrey Cancellia  
Edward Casey  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Patrick Daley  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
Scott Gallant  
David Hadley  
Nicholas Hamilton  
David Houle  
Ryan Houle  
William Keohane

David Maher  
Michael Maher  
Leo Manely  
Andrew Micu  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
Michelle Sacco  
William Schellback  
Gregory Segnini  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Gregory Sparks  
Jason Turner  
Joshua Turner  
Daniel Ubele  
Garrett Walsh  
Michael Young



Chief Curran visiting the fire station construction site at 50 Billerica Road on May 5, 2014  
(photo by Fred Merriam)

PUBLIC SAFETY

# 'We Will Never Forget'

9/11 Memorial dedicated at new fire station

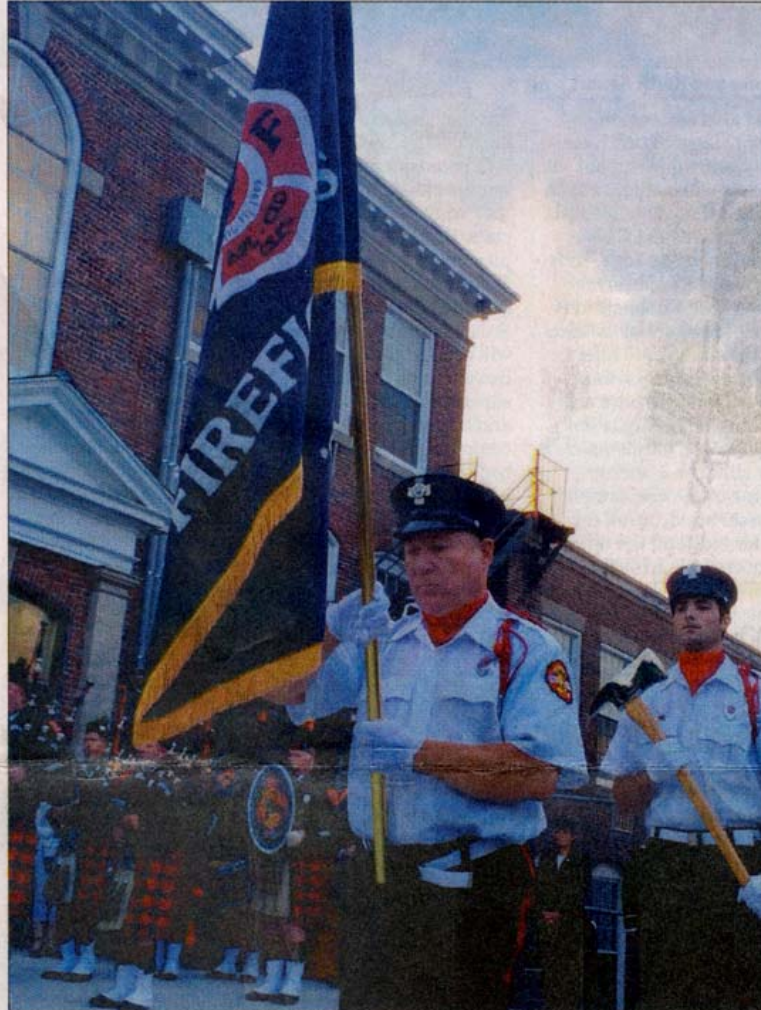
By Molly Loughman  
mloughman@wickedlocal.com

It has been a slow, but steady, rise from the ashes after the devastating acts of terrorism that brought America to its knees on Sept. 11, 2001.

Chelmsford and other communities across the country refuse to forget the evil acts that unfolded on that sunny late summer day 13 years ago, when 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners headed westward. Orchestrated by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the attacks on America that day took the lives of 2,977 people in New York City, Washington, D.C. and outside of Shanksville, Penn., making it the worst act of terrorism in U.S. history.

Chelmsford firefighter Donnie Peterson was one of the Chelmsford firefighters who aided in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center in NYC and has since made it his personal mission to erect a 9/11 memorial in town.

"I am truly honored to be a part of a team that worked so hard to make this all happen," said Peterson, a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, which was formed to help plan, raise funds and construct a memorial in front of the new fire station headquarters next to Town Offices at 50 Billerica Road, where a dedication ceremony drew in over 100 folks last Thursday, the 13th anniversary of the attacks.



The Chelmsford Fire Department Honor Guard marches in to the 9/11 Memorial dedication ceremony last Thursday. WICKED LOCAL PHOTOS / MOLLY LOUGHMAN

Peterson opened the dedication by explaining how much community support means to every firefighter, police officer, EMS worker, dispatcher, victims and their families. He thanked area citizens, businesses and employees for their monetary donations, supplies, use of equipment and time spent at the memorial site.

"It is because of you this memorial went from a dream to a place where



SEE MEMORIAL, A7 The memorial stone.

(Chelmsford Independent September 18, 2014, Page A1)



Thursday, September 18, 2014

CHELMSFORD INDEPENDENT

## MEMORIAL

From Page A1

all Chelmsford residents can come and reflect on this day," he said. "This day changed all of our lives in one way or another and it is a day all Americans will never forget.... Keep in your mind and in your prayers all those who lost their lives and their families."

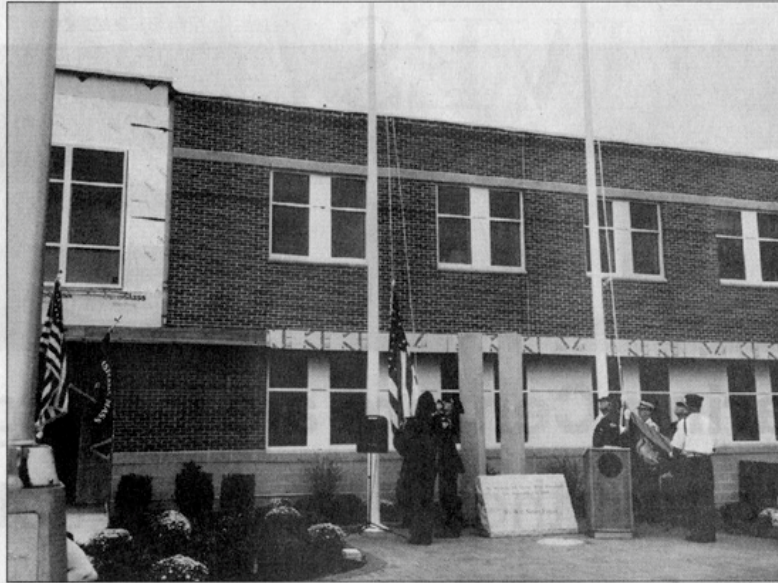
The two 9-foot-tall granite columns symbolize the twin towers of the World Trade Center. They are located next to a granite marker that states, "In memory of those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001. We will never forget."

Two flagpoles, one flying the U.S. flag and the other the Firefighting flag, are posted at the memorial site.

Among the plants and flowers surrounding the memorial and brick walkways are two granite benches, with one reading, "In memorial of Andrew Curry Green" and the other, "In memory of David Bernard," to honor two Chelmsford men killed in the attacks. The 9/11 Memorial Committee continues to collect donations. Extra money will be used to maintain the memorial over time.

### Home of the brave

Marching the 9/11 Memorial Dedication ceremony to an opening was the Westford Firefighters



Raising flags in front of the soon-to-be-completed center fire station. WICKED LOCAL

PHOTOS / MOLLY LOUGHMAN

Pipes and Drums, accompanied by the Chelmsford Firefighter Honor Guard and the Chelmsford Police Honor Guard. Chelmsford's Sam Poulten played "Taps" with the same bugle he used to play it at the WTC during recovery operations. Natalie Mariel sang the national anthem.

The first guest speaker was the sister of the late Andrew Curry Green's wife Shannon Curry Hartman, Kelley Alley. Alley read aloud a message from Shannon, which expressed her gratitude for the memorial in honor of her late husband, whose remains

have yet to be returned after his plane was flown into the north tower.

"That's a primary reason why it's so meaningful that people in Chelmsford have decided to construct a space in remembrance here, the town where Andrew grew up and where we first met. I appreciate this very thoughtful gesture and look forward to visiting the memorial when I'm next in town," said Alley on behalf of Shannon.

Pastor Steve Burkett spoke to how the horrific day called for the help of various fire departments

across the country, including Chelmsford. Burkett praised Peterson, who had it long in his mind and heart to realize a 9/11 memorial. Burkett led a prayer before Town Manager Paul Cohen addressed the crowd.

"It is appropriate that this memorial is located at the center of our municipal operations, in front of a fire headquarters building that will be staffed around the clock each and every day. This will continually remind us not only of the victims from 13 year ago, but also the ongoing threat to our nation's security

(Chelmsford Independent September 18, 2014, Page A7)





**The memorial represents the twin towers of the World Trade Center.**

that unfortunately remains today," said Cohen.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Pat Wojtas, who was a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, called the collaboration wonderful. Wojtas said she is sure people will frequent the memorial site to reflect on the national tragedy and pass on the piece of history onto the future.

State Rep. Tom Golden, D-Lowell, also spoke.

"Every person in this

country and every person in this Commonwealth as well as this wonderful community of Chelmsford, we all believe, as do our heroes, fire, police and EMS, that evil will never ever prevail," said Golden, whose speech was followed by the signing of "God Bless America" by Chelmsford High School alumni Jacy Dawn. The Westford Firefighters Pipes and Drums made a melodic exit through a parted crowd of commending locals.

(Chelmsford Independent September 18, 2014, Page A7)



911 Memorial (9/12/2014 photos by Fred Merriam)



DEDICATION

# 'A team effort'



Co-Chair of the Building Committee Pat Maloney (left) and Fire Chief Michael Curran cut the ceremonial ribbon at the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13, 2014. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS / DAVID GORDON



Bruce Byam, who is the son of former fire chief Ernest Byam, takes a moment during a speech he delivered at the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station, Dec. 13, 2014. The new station is named after Chief Byam, who died in the line of duty in 1965.

## Event honors new fire station

By Margaret Smith  
msmith@wickedlocal.com

It was a time to look to the future, remember the past and most of all, to celebrate, as residents, fire and other public safety personnel, town officials and lawmakers gathered on the chilly Saturday afternoon, to dedicate the new center fire station.

The station's formal name is the Chief Ernest Byam Memorial Fire Headquarters, in tribute to one of two fire personnel who died in the line of duty and whose memory is also honored with plaques at the station.

The ceremony included the Westford Firefighters Fife And Drums, playing bagpipe music, and culminated with the cutting of a "do not cross" yellow tape.

Town Manager Paul Cohen

### Photo gallery

chelmsford.wickedlocal.com

expressed gratitude to many, including Fire Chief Michael Curran, whom he said "delayed his retirement by three years" to help see the project through to its conclusion.

Cohen noted a host of people and groups contributed to moving the center fire station from idea to reality, a notion that Curran echoed.

"This has been a true team effort, and that includes the neighbors, who put up with a whole year of construction," Curran said.

Both Cohen and Curran offered thanks to the fire station neighbors, for their patience and understanding during construction.

SEE DEDICATION, A7

### SELECTMEN

## Board backs demo plan

By Joy N. Wieder  
chelmsford@wickedlocal.com

Selectmen voted Dec. 15 to direct Town Manager Paul Cohen to proceed with plans for demolishing the former Center Fire Station, with Selectmen Bob Joyce and Janet Askenburg casting dissenting votes.

Selectman Matt Hanson asked about a potential time frame, and Cohen said he will advertise, and anticipates awarding a bid by Jan. 26 with demolition taking place in February.

"It will not take long to take

SEE DEMO, A3

(Chelmsford Independent December 18, 2014, Page A1)



Thursday, December 18, 2014

CHELMSFORD

## DEDICATION

From Page A1

### 'A proud day'

Permanent Building Committee Chairman Patrick Maloney acknowledged many efforts, including those of the design and engineering team, and of project manager Kevin Heffernan, of Weymouth-based Vertex Construction, project contractor.

Maloney noted that Heffernan is a Billerica resident, and joked, "We might just convert him to Chelmsford."

Although he added humorously that his own

task is nearly done, Maloney said, "To see the fruits of our labors – it's a special, special thing."

Maloney concluded, "This is one of Chelmsford's proudest days. Enjoy it."

The new 15,500-square-foot station, the central headquarters of the fire department, is located at 50 Billerica Road and cost \$7.9 million. Construction began in 2013.

The new center fire station connects to town offices, where it has 3,500 square feet of space for its fire prevention office and training room.

The new fire station headquarters surrounds a public 9/11 memorial stationed

under an American flag and fire department flag.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the fire station glass entrance has a call box to dispatch, along with a camera and intercom to fire personnel.

The facility replaces the former center fire station, at 7 North Road, which will be demolished, following a vote at special Town Meeting in November.

Visitors were invited to tour the facility and check out a new ladder truck and fire engine.

Selectmen Chairman Pat Wojtas said wryly that the former center fire station was built the year she was born. Wojtas also thanked



Jack Fortnat picks up some food after the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station, on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13, 2014. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/

(Chelmsford Independent December 18, 2014, Page A7)

the neighbors for their understanding during the construction.

Wojtas said thanked the Billerica Road neighbors. "They made sure the facility fits in with the neighborhood."

Wojtas invited everyone present to inspect the new fire station to the fullest. "Stick your nose in the corners. Kick the tires if you want."

**Honoring the fallen**

Amid the celebrations came a moment of remembrance, and the removing of black veils from two plaques, each one honoring fire department personnel who died in the line of duty.

One plaque honors Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey, who died Nov. 8, 1964, while extinguishing a brush fire.

The other honors Chief Ernest Byam, who died Jan. 31, 1965, extinguishing a building fire.

Byam's family gathered around the plaque, while Byam's son, Bruce Byam, 69, expressed his family's gratitude in an emotional statement, calling the plaque dedication "an honor," and adding, "We are totally overwhelmed to receive it."

He said, "That fateful day nearly 50 years ago changed my family, but his spirit carries on in each of us."

To his son, Erik Byam, also a Chelmsford firefighter, he said, "We could not be more proud of you."

**Showing support**

Among those who attended was Chelmsford police patrol officer William Carlo and his family. As he held his 1-year-old daughter, Sophie, in his arms, Carlo said, "We came to show the firefighters our support."

Carlo added, "It's good for them to finally be getting this updated facility. They've been working with this outdated place. It needed to get caught up with the times."



John McKenzie, of Charleston NC, checks out the fire trucks after the official opening ceremony of the new Central Fire Station, on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 13, 2014.

(Chelmsford Independent December 18, 2014, Page A7)





The new Engine 1 is a 2014 Smeal/Spartan Sirius II MFD. The cab & chassis is built by Spartan with the remainder of the body compartments and pump module built by Smeal. The end result is a Smeal class A Pumper with a 1500 gpm pump and a 750 gallon water tank. In addition it carries three ladders: 24' extension, 14' roof, and a 10' for use in attics.





The Ladder 1 truck is a 2013 Smeal/Spartan Sirius Custom EMFD flat roof cab. The cab & chassis were built by Spartan and the remainder of the body compartments and ladder built by Smeal. The end result is a Smeal Ladder truck, sometimes referred to as a Tower. This truck has a 100' steel ladder with a platform at the end. It has a 2000 gpm waterous pump and a 300 gallon tank.



Chelmsford Firefighter Erik Byam, grandson, and Bruce Byam, son of the late Chief Ernest G. Byam, hold the dedication plaque



Pat Maloney and Chief Michael Curran cut the ceremonial ribbon with the old Engine 1 Quint ladder/pumper in the background (12/13/2014 photos above by Fred Merriam)

**CALL HISTORY**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
BUILDING FIRES	40	28	25	23	24
MEDICAL AID	2868	2868	2976	3049	3654
AUTO FIRES	18	15	15	11	12
OUTSIDE FIRES	85	84	17	2	54

MUTUAL AID	29	27	19	28	24
INVESTIGATION	847	612	337	349	580
OTHER CALLS	2592	3199	3189	3323	2765
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6479</b>	<b>6833</b>	<b>6578</b>	<b>6785</b>	<b>7113</b>

Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
 Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
 Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
 Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society

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2015



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Annual Town Report Cover, 2015  
(Photo by Fred Mezian with Andy Mieu running the Ladder)

**Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Michael Curran retired after 39 years serving on the department starting his career as firefighter in 1976 and made his way through the ranks as Captain in 1987, Deputy Chief in 1996 and Chief 2010. Captain Bruce Donovan retired after 32 years serving on the department. Captain Donovan started his career as a firefighter in 1984 and was made Captain in 2012. Thank you both for your dedication and years of service and we wish you all the best!

Chelmsford Fire Department was very fortunate this past year. In December, 2014 we finally moved into our new building. This had been a long process with location and design of the new building. The vote was passed for the Billerica Road location and work began. This 15,500 sq. ft. building has 3 double sleeping quarters, 1 single sleeping quarter, showers to accommodate both male and female firefighters. The new station can now house Service 3, Rescue 1, Rescue 2, Engine 1, Tower/Ladder, gator, generators, light tower and rescue boat. The new building was dedicated to Chief Ernest Byam who was killed in the line of duty in 1965. The training room at the station has been dedicated to Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey who died in the line of duty in 1964.

Our new trucks have been in service now with driver training done. The Tower/Ladder is a 2013 Smeal/ Spartan Sirius Custom EMFD flat roof cab. This truck has a 100' steel ladder with a platform, 300 gallon tank with a 2000 gallon-per-minute pump. The new E1 is a 2014 Smeal/Spartan Sirius Class A pumper with a 750 gallon tank and a 1500 gallon-per-minute pump.



## NEW FIRE CHIEF



Selectmen confirmed the appointment of Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan as the new fire chief at the board's June 1 meeting. From left are Ryan, with current Fire Chief Michael Curran, center, and Police Chief James Spinney. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BETSY LEVINSON.

# 'A tremendous job'

## Ryan takes post

By Betsy Levinson and Margaret Smith

chelmsford@wickedlocal.com/ msmith@wickedlocal.com

Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan will take reins as the new fire chief, following a unanimous vote June 1 by the Board of Selectmen to confirm his appointment by Town Manager Paul Cohen.

Ryan steps into the boots of Fire Chief Michael Curran, who delayed his retirement to see the new central

## First reported online

chelmsford.wickedlocal.com

fire station through to its completion. Curran is set to retire June 30. Ryan said he had "progressed through the firefighting ranks for the last 21 years" in his letter of interest in the top job.

Curran praised his second-in-command and successor.

"He's done a tremendous job," said Curran. "He is very dedicated, very passionate about the job."

Ryan is a Chelmsford resident with a Bachelor of Science in

criminal justice from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and a Master of Business Administration from Western New England College in Springfield. He also has an Associate of Fire Science degree from Middlesex Community College.

Professionally, Ryan started with the Chelmsford Fire Department as a firefighter/emergency medical technician in December 1993, rising to captain in September 2006.

In 2005, Ryan was named Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year, according to his resume.

SEE CHIEF, A7

Chelmsford Independent June 4, 2015, Page A1



## CHIEF

From Page A1

Ryan became fire prevention captain in May 2010, and deputy fire chief the following October.

According to his resume, as deputy he managed and administered all operations within the Fire Prevention Office; served as liaison between the Fire Department and other town agencies; responded to and resolved citizen inquiries; and assumed command and directed activities as necessary in the absence of the fire chief.

"As a deputy chief, I have developed the necessary knowledge and skills in planning, organizing, and decision-making," Ryan wrote to Human Resources Director Jeanne Parziale. "I possess the education and professional experience that are required for me to successfully manage and lead this department," Ryan added.

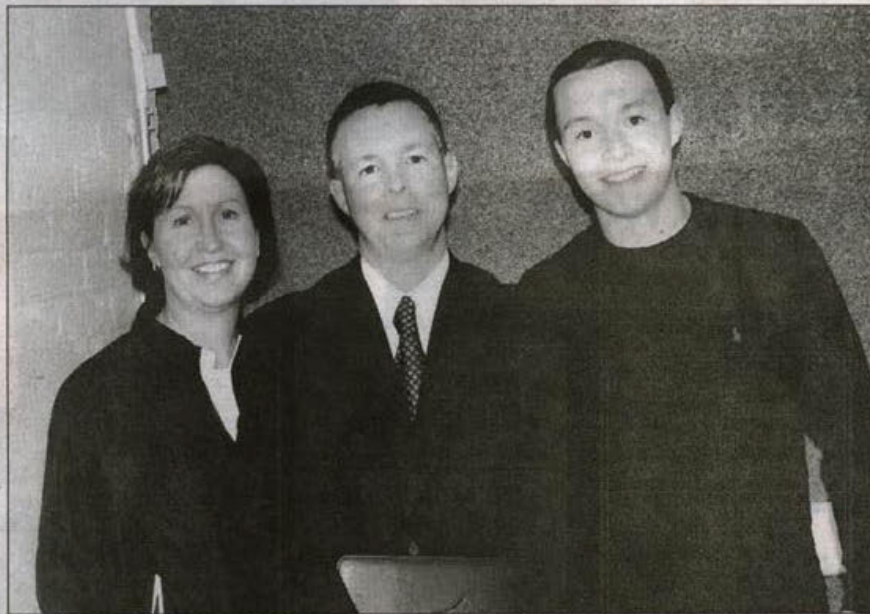
Parziale said six candidates responded to the job posting, all from within the department.

"We did not go outside the town for applicants," said Parziale.

After interviewing with Cohen, each of the candidates sat before an "assessment panel" from the Massachusetts Municipal Association Consulting Group. Parziale said the panel was made up of active and retired fire and police officers and human resources professionals.

"I'm pleased to appoint Gary Ryan to be chief as of July 1," said Cohen.

He said he knew of Curran's interest in retiring, and felt he had "adequate planning time" to find



The Board of Selectmen at its June 1 meeting confirmed the appointment of Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan as the new fire chief. Ryan, center, is pictured with his wife, Terri, and son, Brady, 17. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BETSY LEVINSON

a new chief. Cohen said Police Chief James Spinney echoed high marks for Ryan.

"Chelmsford had more than one capable applicant," said Cohen. "Gary stood out in this process. He has served the town for 21 years. I am confident he will be successful as chief."

Ryan said it was an "honor to serve under Chief Curran."

"He was a mentor to me and I wish him well," said Ryan. "I look forward to continuing and improving the fire safety in the community we serve."

### Search process

Cohen said the fire chief position is a non-civil service appointment.

In seeking a new fire chief, Cohen said he limited the applicant pool to the Chelmsford Fire Department's two deputy fire chiefs, and six captains. The two deputy chiefs applied

along with four of the six captains, Cohen said.

Parziale and Cohen interviewed all six applicants.

Cohen said three of the six applicants advanced to an assessment center. Parziale and Cohen observed the assessment center.

"I then had separate discussions with outgoing Fire Chief Michael Curran, Police Chief James Spinney, and Human Resources Director Jeanne Parziale," Cohen said. Cohen added, "Following the completion of these activities, I selected Deputy Fire Chief Gary Ryan."

Cohen said, "Fortunately, the Chelmsford Fire Department has more than one individual who is capable of serving as fire chief. However, one must be selected."

Cohen said, "Gary Ryan has done what it takes to be fire chief. He has served in the Chelmsford Fire Department for over 21

years, including the last four and a half years as a deputy fire chief. He has completed the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer certification program."

In evaluating Ryan, Cohen said, "I have observed Gary Ryan in his professional capacity in the Fire Prevention Office, most recently his contributions to the new Chelmsford Fire Department building project."

As fire chief, Ryan starts at a base salary of \$110,552. Ryan also qualifies for 6 percent longevity compensation, or \$6,633, an educational incentive of 12.5 percent, or \$13,819 for his master's degree and an EMT certification of 6 percent, \$6,633.

These sums bring Ryan's total annual compensation to \$137,637.

Plans are in the works to celebrate Curran's retirement.

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Ceremony at the Memorial September 11, 2015 (courtesy of the Chelmsford Police Department)

**Chief**

Gary Ryan

**Deputy Chief**

Michael Donoghue

**Training Captain**

Marc Pare

**Unit Captains**

Henry Houle, Unit 1  
Daniel Manley, Unit 2  
Kevin O'Brien, Unit 3  
Daniel Funaro, Unit 4

**Fire Prevention Captains**

John Kivlan  
Daniel Koutsoufis

**Clerical**

Anna Griffin (Department Assistant)  
Jo-Ellen Carkin (Fire Prevention)

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

**Firefighters**

Joshua Abbott  
William Amundson  
William Bacon  
William Bennett  
Edward Boisseau  
Evan Boudreau  
Christopher Brothers  
Michael Brothers  
Thomas Brothers  
Eric Byam  
Jeffrey Cancelli  
Edward Casey  
Michael Chiasson  
Kevin Clarke  
Daniel Corey  
Patrick Daley  
Michael Ducharme  
Jesse Foster  
Robert Gardner  
Scott Gallant  
David Hadley  
Nicholas Hamilton  
David Houle  
Ryan Houle

**William Keohane**

Donald Kohl  
Keith Lindsay  
David Maher  
Michael Maher  
Leo Manely  
Andrew Micu  
Jason Moody  
Michael Nelson  
Donnie Peterson  
Casey Phelan  
Chhunly Prak  
John Reid  
Michelle Sacco  
William Schellback  
Gregory Segnini  
Timothy Shanahan  
Kevin Sheehy  
Gregory Sparks  
Jason Turner  
Joshua Turner  
Daniel Ubele  
Garrett Walsh  
Michael Young

**2016**

**Fire Chief's Report**



In 2010, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) began a multiyear study of nearly 30,000 firefighters to better understand the potential link between firefighting and cancer. This study, which was completed in late 2015, provided evidence that firefighters are at increased risk of certain types of cancer as a result of occupational exposure. New building materials and furnishings contain synthetic properties that release lethal toxins when burned, exposing firefighters to carcinogens. The Chelmsford Fire Department has raised awareness to this serious life safety issue and continually seek ways to limit exposures during fire ground operations. We are appreciative of the town's commitment to providing our firefighters with new turnout gear that will enable them to perform at the highest level, while protecting their long term health and safety. We will continue our efforts to educate and provide safe work practices for our members.

Scott Gallant resigned from the department to join the Massachusetts State Police. The department and the town lost a very special person, Walter Hedlund. Walther was a volunteer firefighter after his return from WWII for several years. When the department went full-time, Walter became the Emergency Management Director for 40 years but he was always helping every department out with any issues.

Our staff increased by 4 this year as we welcome Robert Albon, Gary Baker, Timothy McNiff and Patrick McGarry. All have completed the Massachusetts Fire Academy and are assigned to units.

SEPT. 11



Chelmsford firefighters Bill Bennett, Michelle Sacco and Donnie Peterson carefully remove the piece of metal from Ground Zero they brought to the fire headquarters March 30. It is going to be added to the 9/11 Memorial. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ANN RINGWOOD

# To honor those lost

Town  
receives  
Ground  
Zero beam

By Mark Schulert  
chelmsford@wickedlocal.com

The Chelmsford Fire Department got a piece of the World Trade Center this week to incorporate into its Sept. 11 memorial at the fire station.

A team of firefighters went to New York to accept a 30-pound beam from the site devastated by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, arriving back at the fire station about 3 p.m. March 30. The arrival was marked by a short ceremony attended by the public and firefighters.

SEE BEAM, A2

Chelmsford Independent April 7, 2016, Page A1



## BEAM

From Page A1

The acquisition was the result of a four-year effort by the Chelmsford 9/11 Memorial Committee.

Committee member Pat Wojtas described the long process working through local representatives to get the piece. U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas and U.S. senators, along with selectmen, wrote in support of the effort.

Fire Chief Gary Ryan said the 911 Committee is working on a way to plan a way to display the artifact appropriately.

Adding impetus to the cause was the creation of the new Sept. 11 memorial in front of the new fire station.

It was dedicated on Sept. 11, 2014, to honor those who were killed, including Chelmsford residents Andrew Green and David Bernard -- along with emergency responders and all who perished in the attacks.

The town learned two weeks ago that its request had been granted.

Many Chelmsford firefighters were among the volunteers who went to New York to assist in the cleanup efforts after the attacks, traveling to the site on their own time at their own expense.

"We were at a firefighter weekend golfing up in Maine," Capt. Henry Houle said.

Houle added, "We saw it on the news. We just left there, came home and got in the trucks and went down there. There were nine of us. We got there nine o'clock the next morning and there was no command presence."

Houle said, "There was no one to report to. So what we did, we pulled up in a truck. They said 'You're going in,' and they gave us like -- we filled the bed with water for the workers that were there. We drove in and we just had our gear on and we just gave out water and then we went right to the pile. It was devastating. It looked like the end of the world. We just went in and started digging



Chelmsford firefighters Michelle Sacco, Donnie Peterson and Bill Bennett place the American flag and a piece of metal from Ground Zero on a table to display after it was brought to Chelmsford March 30. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD



A piece of metal from Ground Zero is brought up Bilerica Road to Chelmsford Fire Headquarters March 30.



Rich Regan, of Chelmsford, waits for the procession bringing the piece of metal from Ground Zero to fire headquarters March 30.

looking for bodies."

Houle said he remembers the dust, and how the whole city was covered in dust for miles around, and how even a day later, the ruins were still covered in a cloud of dust so thick it affected visibility.

"We had gloves but no

respirator," he said. "I think the third or fourth day they got the masks."

Houle said just a few days working the pile affected his health.

"I have asthma," he said.

Chief Ryan was in the first group that went in.

Former Chief Mike

**ONLINE ONLY:** For a photo gallery of the ceremony, visit [chelmsford.wickedlocal.com](http://chelmsford.wickedlocal.com).

Curran was among the other early responders, leaving on Thursday, Sept. 13, and staying a week.

Chelmsford resident Sam Poulton was in the Army Reserve and went to New York on Columbus Day weekend. He had his coronet with him, so when they found human remains he played "Taps." He brought his instrument with him to the Chelmsford ceremony to again play "Taps" for those who died at the World Trade Center.

Those in the first group to go were hesitant to discuss what they saw.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson said, "I really don't like to talk about it. Honest I don't. Just, it's done. It's in the past. I really don't like to talk about it. This is hard enough doing stuff like this. We do it to honor the guys who have died."

Houle said he was uncomfortable with the ceremony.

"I didn't want to go out there because I don't like this at all," he said. "I feel insignificant."

He said the person to talk to would be Capt. James Durkin, now retired.

"Captain Durkin, he stayed like about a week," Houle said.



SEPT. 11 CEREMONY



A piece of beam from the World Trade Center is unveiled during a Sept. 11 memorial ceremony, held Sept. 11, outside the Chelmsford Fire Department Headquarters. Chelmsford Fire Chief Gary Ryan, on the left, is joined by Fire Capt. Hank Houle, who went to Ground Zero to work, Chelmsford Board of Selectmen Chairman George Dixon and Nancy Bernard, of Chelmsford, whose husband David was injured in the attacks and died exactly three months later. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD

# ‘In the blink of an eye’

Remembrance cast in stone, steel

By Margaret Smith  
msmith@wickedlocal.com

The morning came in with heavy clouds and damp air, and a chilled September wind, as a gathering grew at the central fire headquarters on Sunday morning.

It was a time to remember how a global act of terror -- the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks -- reached into the heart of one community, claiming two residents -- Andrew Curry Green, and David Bernard -- among the nearly 3,000 who died that day or later from injuries sustained that day.



Former Chelmsford Firefighter Mike McTeague says a prayer at Chelmsford's 9/11 Memorial before the start of the ceremony which unveiled a piece of beam from the World Trade Center, Sept. 11.

went to the scenes of devastation, including the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, struck by two of the four jet airliners hijacked that morning.

Amid the prayer given by fire chaplain, Pastor Steve Burkett, and remembrance for a day that

**First reported online**

[chelmsford.wickedlocal.com](http://chelmsford.wickedlocal.com)

**Video and photo gallery**



It was a time to give thanks to the many responders, including a deployment from Chelmsford, who

and remembrances for a day that occurred 15 years ago, it was also

gallery

chelmsford.wickedlocal.com

SEE 9/11, A9

Chelmsford Independent September 15, 2016, Page A1

Thursday, September 15, 2016

CHELMSFORD INDEPENDENT

A9

LOCAL NOTES

Safe Watch program available

The Chelmsford Police Department is working to identify those individuals and their caretakers in order to respond to crisis situations in a knowledgeable manner so that the proper steps are taken to ensure the safety of

the individual and those around. Whether the person wanders, becomes separated from a caretaker, or poses a danger, the Chelmsford Police Department is committed to using the proper techniques to ensure a positive outcome. Family members, caretakers, and friends

are encouraged to make use of this program by completing a form and meeting with Officer Jennifer Bellissimo to discuss the specifics of the form so that the most accurate information is available. This is a free, voluntary, and confidential program that is designed to better equip emergency

personnel when responding to a crisis situation. The information is not for general release. Forms are available in the lobby of the Chelmsford Police Department and on the Chelmsford Police website. For general questions or concern, please contact Officer Jennifer Bellissimo at

978-256-2521 ext. 148 or jbellissimo@townof-chelmsford.us.

that is intended for the Chelmsford Water District should not be placed in the town mailbox at Town Hall. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please call the Chelmsford Water District at 978-256-2381. Water payments or mail

Water district news

The Chelmsford Water District, located at 20 Watershed Lane, runs and is managed independent of the town of Chelmsford. Water payments or mail

9/11

From Page A1

a time to reveal something new at the town's Sept. 11 memorial.

Cast in a granite pillar, with a commemorative plaque, a beam of steel from the World Trade Center wreckage now also marks the place where so many come to remember, grieve and reflect.

The steel beam memorial is the culmination of five years of efforts by the 9/11 Memorial Committee, in conjunction with the New York and New Jersey Port Authority. It joins the other symbols, including granite benches dedicated to each of Chelmsford's lost residents. The memorial was first dedicated Sept. 11, 2014.

Loss, grief, gratitude

Among those speaking at the dedication, and one of those who unveiled the memorial, was Nancy Bernard, David Bernard's wife.

David Bernard, 57, was working for the Internal Revenue Service, and had gone to New York to attend a meeting. Hit by debris when the first jet plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center, his rescuers, who remain unknown, got him to a hospital from where he was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital.

He died, as his wife, Nancy observed, "Three months to do the day," on Dec. 11.

Speaking at the ceremony, she said, "On behalf of the Bernard family I would just like to say a few words...as residents of Chelmsford for past 43 years and bringing up three children, this 9/11 memorial is very special to all of us."

She said, "It is hard to believe it has been 15 years. In the blink of an eye, I can be back on that day, and yet at times it feels like forever, or even never. Time is an observed phenomenon, it has also been called an illusion, a dimension, a smooth, flowing continuum."

For anyone old enough to remember Sept. 11, 2001, she said, "I am sure you will always remember where you were, and what you were doing. That day will certainly remain with us forever. It changed the world we live in today."

She recalled that her husband was on his way to the meeting in Tower 5, when the first jet struck. "He did not die that day, but he died because of that day."

A months-long search for his rescuers proved unsuccessful, but she said she feels that it was likely an emergency responder, from a fire department. "I would have loved to have met and thanked those people, because it gave us a



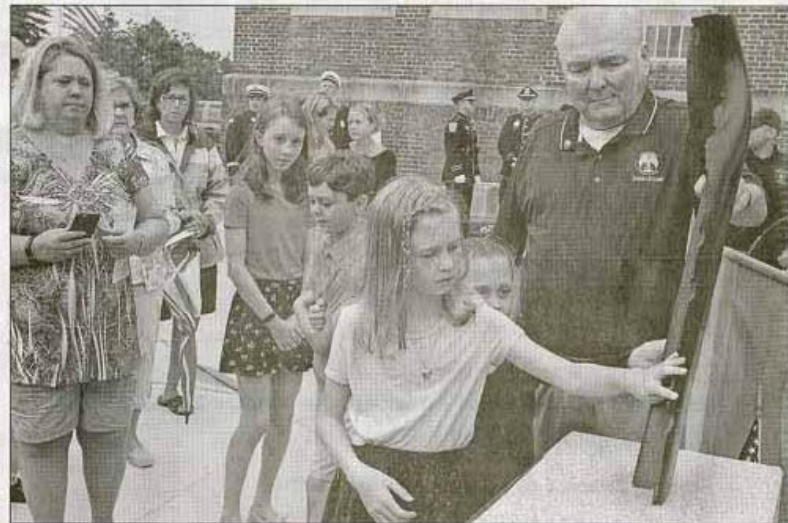
Police and fire personnel salute as the flags are raised and the National Anthem is sung during the Sept. 11 ceremony, held Sunday morning, Sept. 11. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD

to a call "sort of brought back the day...continual flow of terror alarms going off on that day..."

Cohen too noted that passing of time. "With it being 15 years since that horrific morning, it means that today, we have students enrolled in Chelmsford Public Schools and other schools in our region, as well as young adults who have recently graduated college and are beginning professional lives in our society, who have no direct such experience with this moment in our nation's history."

Cohen added, "I wonder what the children, grandparents and adults and many others who were aboard the ill-fated flights, or who perished in the towers struck in New York City, or the Pentagon building, would want today's children and adults to know about 9/11, and to reflect upon today."

Perhaps, Cohen said, "It's the same information we have in Chelmsford, and would want the children and young adults to be aware of. The victims of this tragedy were our fellow citizens -- firefighters, police officers, office workers, young adults, professionals, children, and people of all races, cultures and religious beliefs. The victims were not soldiers or otherwise engaged in a military conflict. It was a day of business, going about daily activities in their lives, going on a vacation trip, on a flight, or going to an office building, or going to work in Washington in a Pentagon building." With terrorism still a presence, Cohen expressed



Coming over to touch the piece of beam from the World Trade Center are Chelmsford Selectman Bob Joyce and 11-year-old Ella Bernard, of Middleton. Her grandfather, David Bernard, of Chelmsford, was injured in New York on 9/11 and died three months later. She was inspecting the memorial at the Sept. 11 ceremony held at the fire headquarters.



A crowd listens to the National Anthem during the town's Sept. 11 ceremony, held Sept. 11, at the fire headquarters.

Advertisement for home improvement services with the text "DON'T MISS OUR FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT SE" and an image of a house.



chance to say goodbye—something most who lost loved ones never had a chance to do.”  
 As David Dubinsky played a mournful “TAPS,” a sound carried by a strong breeze, Nancy Bernard joined Fire Chief Gary Ryan, Fire Capt. Hank Houle and Selectmen Chairman George Dixon lifted a black cloth to unveil the memorial—a single piece of steel, bent but standing tall, in a pillar of granite.

Flowers sit on the benches, for David Bernard and Andrew Curry Green, Chelmsford’s two victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. A memorial ceremony was held Sept. 11, to unveil the addition of a piece of beam from the World Trade Center to Chelmsford’s Sept. 11 memorial.



**‘Story of resilience’**

Fire Chief Gary Ryan, who also praised Peterson and the committee for their efforts to make the steel beam memorial a reality, said it should stand as “a daily reminder to take nothing for granted and count your blessings.”

Ryan noted, “No memorial, no ceremony, no words will ever fill the void left in the hearts of so many. By coming together, to mark this 15th anniversary, there is something to be gained by acknowledging our blessings.”

Ryan said, “We are provided with a small measure of comfort, knowing that what the heart once owned and had,

it shall never lose. The past 15 years tells a story of resilience, as the American spirit is defined by our ability to move forward, rebuild and summon the courage to lift ourselves up and carry on.”

Among those who attended the ceremony was Annmarie Pine and her son, Ethan, 14, who recently started his career at Nashoba Valley Technical High School.

Pine said her older son,

Aubrey, 23, who is in the Navy, is stationed aboard the U.S.S. Austin, one of the ships commissioned after the Sept. 11 attacks, with steel from Ground Zero incorporated into its body.

Pine said joining the Navy became a dream and a mission for her son since the age of 12. She recalled, “After all that happened on 9/11, by the grace of God, he wanted to be on that ship.”

**Coming Next Week**

Looking to make updates to your home this fall? Keep an eye on our **Fall Home Improvement** in-j series for the latest information home improvement tips, interior design ideas, exterior repairs and more.

**WICKED LOCAL**

Chelmsford Independent September 15, 2016, Page A9

**Chief**

Gary Ryan

**Deputy Chief**

Michael Donoghue

**Training Captain**

Marc Pare

**Unit Captains**

- Henry Houle, Unit 1
- Daniel Manley, Unit 2
- Kevin O’Brien, Unit 3
- Daniel Funaro, Unit 4

**Fire Prevention Captains**

- John Kivlan
- Daniel Koutsoufis

**Mechanic**

Frank Fader

**Department Assistant**

Anna Griffin (Department Assistant)

**Fire Prevention**

Jo-Ellen Carkin (Fire Prevention)

**Firefighters**

- Joshua Abbott
- Robert Albon
- William Amundson
- William Bacon
- Gary Baker
- William Bennett
- Edward Boisseau
- Evan Boudreau
- Christopher Brothers
- Michael Brothers
- Thomas Brothers
- Eric Byam
- Jeffrey Cancelli
- Edward Casey
- Michael Chiasson
- Kevin Clarke
- Daniel Corey
- Patrick Daley
- Michael Ducharme
- Jesse Foster
- Robert Gardner
- David Hadley
- Nicholas Hamilton
- David Houle
- Ryan Houle
- William Keohane

**Donald Kohl**

- Keith Lindsay
- David Maher
- Michael Maher
- Leo Manely
- Patrick McGarry
- Timothy McNiff
- Andrew Micu
- Jason Moody
- Michael Nelson
- Donnie Peterson
- Casey Phelan
- Chhunly Prak
- John Reid
- John Robinson
- George Ryan
- Michelle Sacco
- William Schellback
- Gregory Segnini
- Timothy Shanahan
- Kevin Sheehy
- Gregory Sparks
- Jason Turner
- Joshua Turner
- Daniel Ubele
- Garrett Walsh
- Michael Young

**CALL HISTORY**

YEAR	2015	2016
BUILDING FIRES	34	29
MEDICAL AID	3768	3990
AUTO FIRES	19	10
OUTSIDE FIRES	48	73
MUTUAL AID	50	46
INVESTIGATION	773	1122
OTHER CALLS	3207	2101
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7899</b>	<b>7371</b>

**Chelmsford Fire Department History pages designed and produced by Fred Merriam  
Town of Chelmsford Annual Reports scanned courtesy of the Chelmsford Public Library  
Historical records and photos courtesy of Firefighters Bill Bennett and Donnie Peterson  
Additional records and photos courtesy of the Chelmsford Historical Society**

[Top](#)

# Location of Fire Alarm Numbers

## Fire Emergency Instructions

To the Inhabitants of Fire District No. 1  
Chelmsford Centre, Mass.

*Be Reasonably Sure there is a Fire before Giving Alarm.*

## When a Fire is Discovered

Pull Alarm from Nearest Box  
or Telephone to

CHELMSFORD FIRE STATION

# 6493-R

To get Quick Service say to the Operator "EMERGENCY CALL"

EXPLAIN to the Party you call, as Follows —

Your name and location of fire.

The nature of the fire, (house, barn, garage, or what it is).

Keep cool — haste means possible misunderstanding and delay.

Do not call up any other Fire Company—the local District Chief will call more help if necessary.

*Do not make unnecessary calls to Central Fire Station immediately after an alarm.*

FOR GRASS AND BRUSH FIRES, Call

Robin Hill Observatory 70174, or Forest Warden S. E. Dupee, 2317-R or his Deputies. Do not call Fire Dept. unless these fires threaten buildings, lumber piles, etc.

Signed      ARNOLD C. PERHAM, Chief  
                 DAVID BILLSON,  
                 ARCHIBALD COOK,  
                 Board of Fire Engineers

WILHELM T. JOHNSON, District Chief  
Tel. 6493-W

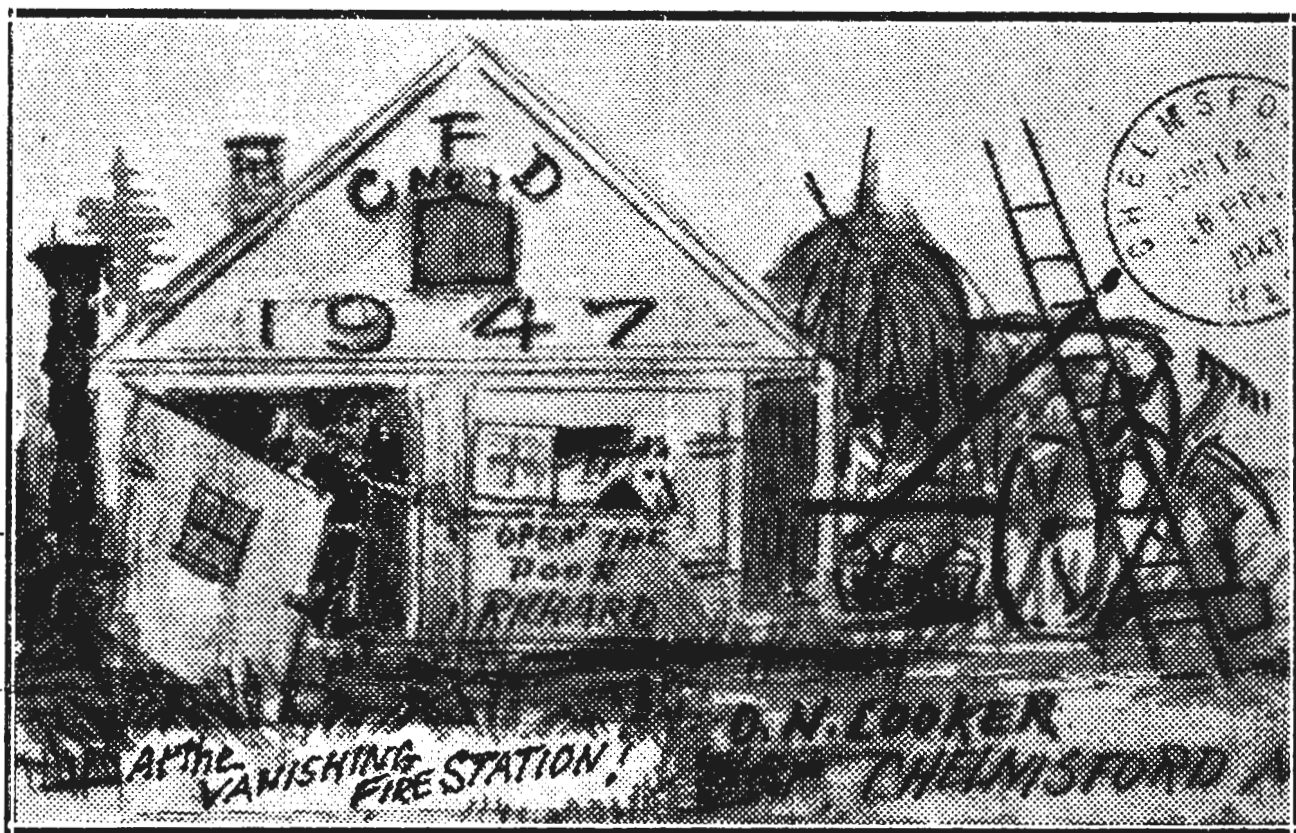
(OVER)

PARKHURST-CHELMSFORD

- 10 Out of Town Call.
- 12 Chelmsford St., cor. Fletcher St.
- 13 Chelmsford St. (Golden Cove)
- 14 Dalton Rd. (Stearns Sq.)
- 15 Stedman St., cor. Smith St.
- 16 Chelmsford St., Senaca Ave.
- 17 Chelmsford St., cor. Dalton Rd.  
(Henry S. Perham Park)
- 2 All Out or Test.
- 22 North Chelmsford.
- 23 North Rd. (Fletcher (Sq.))
- 24 North Rd. (Emersen Sq.)
- 25 North Rd. (Parkhurst Sq.)
- 31 Westford St. (Perham Park)
- 32 Westford St. (Perham's Corner)
- 33 West Chelmsford.
- 34 Westford St., cor. Locke Rd.
- 35 Bridge St.
- 333 No School. (7.15 or 11.15 A.M.)
- 41 Boston Rd. (Larcom Sq., near Library)
- 42 Boston Road, cor. Warren Ave.
- 43 Boston Rd., cor. Putnam Ave. and Hall Rd.
- 44 East Chelmsford.
- 45 Warren Ave., cor. Third St.
- 46 Boston Rd., cor. Mill Rd. (South Row Sq.)
- 5 Still Alarm. For Minor Fires.
- 51 Acton Rd., cor. Bartlett St.
- 52 Acton Rd., cor. High St.
- 53 High St., cor. Robin Hill Rd.
- 54 Bartlett St.
- 55 South Chelmsford.
- 61 Billerica Rd., cor. Wilson St.
- 62 Billerica Rd., (Manning Sq., Town Farm)
- 63 Turnpike Rd.
- 64 Billerica Rd., beyond River Neck Rd.
- 65 River Neck Rd.
- 7 Central Square.
- 71 Littleton Rd., near W. W. Kilbourne's
- 72 Littleton Rd., (Byam's cor.)

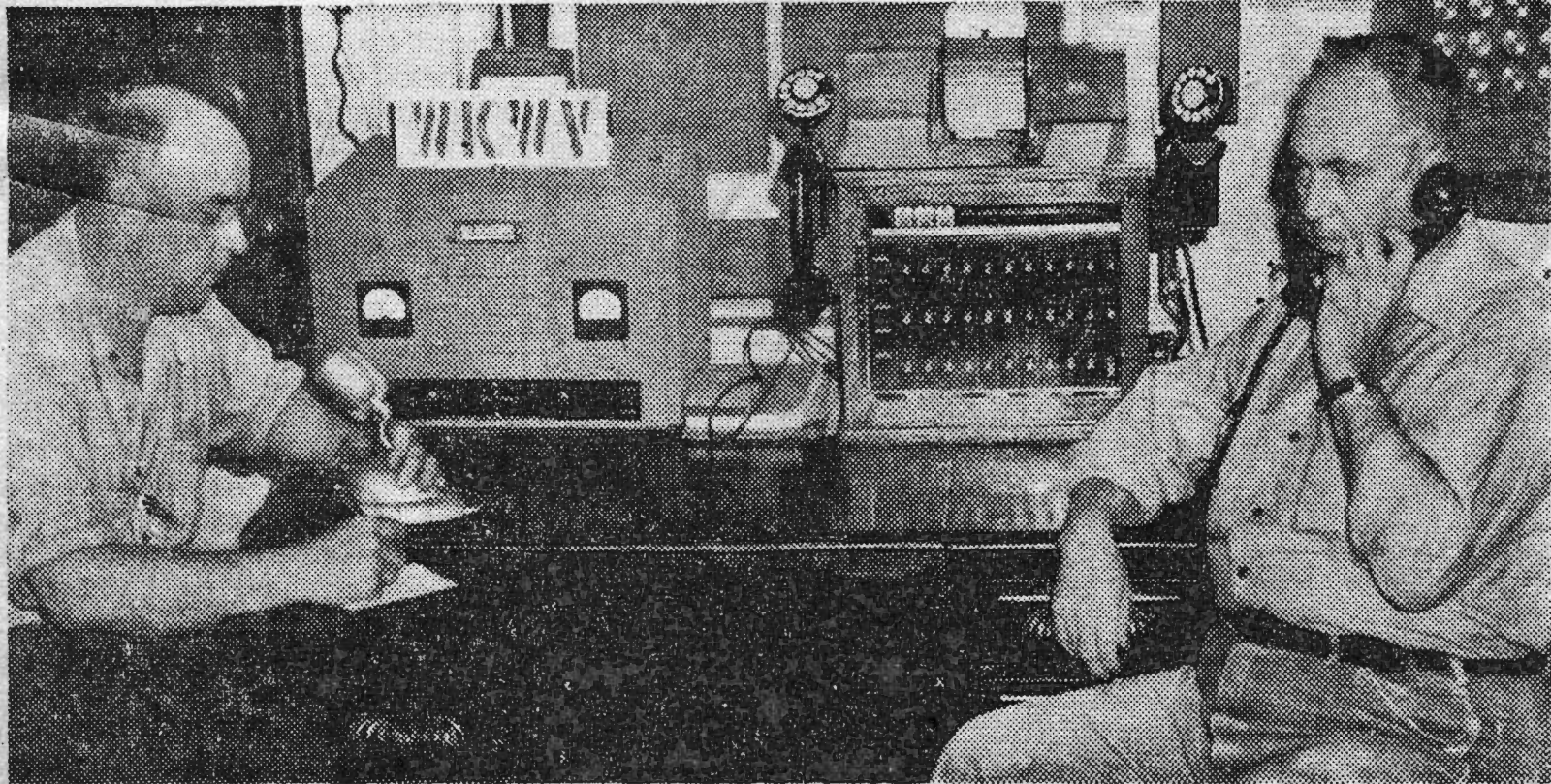


## Six Verses To The Select'

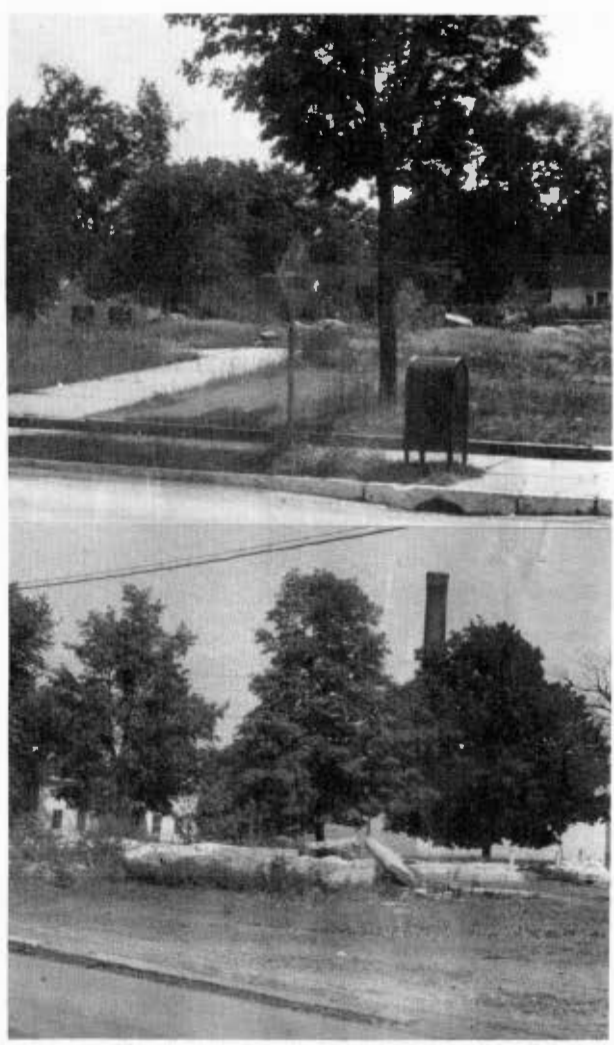


(This cartoon was made by one of the old-timers of the town of Chelmsford and it was his conception of the Fire Department as it looked in his youth. He also wrote the verse which corresponds somewhatly to the drawing above in trying to show the movement of the times in Chelmsford):

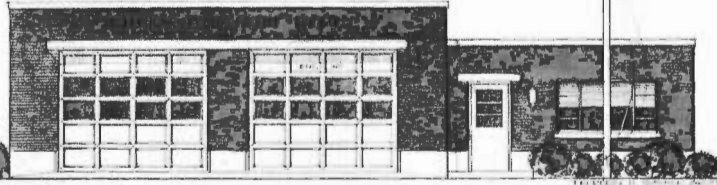
“Backward, turn backward, Oh time in your flight.  
Give us a hand-tub to fires fight!  
From some old barnyard a crow-bait nag,  
That like hell’s blazes the hand-tub will drag!  
We have turned backward, with a loud squeak,  
To the old fire-station, ten times as antique.  
Cost quite a few smackers, to make it fit,  
Even for O. F.’s to sit, smoke, and spit!  
God! How it lacks the Old Fire Lads brave,  
We can’t dig them up from ye “Fore Father’s” grave!  
Compare us with other towns, that’s enough said,  
F. D. in Chelmsford, By God, it looks dead.



**CHELMSFORD FIRE SWITCHBOARD**—District Chief Allan Kidder, left, is shown at the forest fire patrol radio while fireman Clarence Dane is receiving the first call over the newly installed fire department switchboard at the Center fire station.



Site of the old Princeton Street school located in the North section which will be used for a new fire station with work commencing on Monday. Above picture taken from Princeton St. while below is from Washington St.



Sketch of the new North fire station which will be constructed at the site of the old Princeton Street schools.

# CHELMSFORD Newsweekly

VOL. XIV NO. 33 CHELMSFORD, MASS. JULY 5, 1956 PRICE 5 CENTS

## North Fire Station Contract Awarded; Start Work Monday

### Selectman McAndrews Questions Fire Chief At Selectmens Meeting

The highlight of the last Selectmens meeting held on Friday night June 29th was the questioning of Fire Chief Allan Kidder by Selectman Robert F. McAndrew. Chief Kidder appeared before the board on the request of Selectman McAndrew. The Chief answered several questions regarding the new North fire house as proposed and upon conclusion of these questions Selectman McAndrews asked for an executive session. He explained that he would like to ask a few personal questions but that he would never insult the Chief. Selectman Edgar P. George explained that he felt that where the board had been elected by the people that there should be no secret sessions. Chairman Daniel J. Hart explained that although he had attended executive sessions on the school Committee he did not believe in that type of meeting and the meeting continued. Selectman McAndrews then asked on what basis the Chief made his appointments. Chief Kidder explained that all decisions relative to the department were made on the basis of what the Chief felt were in the best interest of the town and the department. The Selectman then asked how the latest appointment to the department could be that beneficial. The Chief stated that he would have to go back further than the latest appointment to explain how this came about. Chief Kidder explained how the maintenance man for the department had resigned and after a thorough search

Work on the new long-awaited North fire station is expected to start Monday morning with the arrival of a bull-dozer to begin this project. The site of the North Chelmsford Fire Station is the former location of the Princeton St. School. The contract was signed Monday night with the W. W. Granger Company of Shrewsbury to the amount of \$63,540. The apparatus room capacity of this building will be: one ladder truck or four pumpers similar to the one now in use

### Local Fire Cause Under Investigation

Fire Chief Alan Kidder and Inspector James W. Midgeley have requested investigation of the fire which caused considerable damage at the Cummings property on Princeton Street, North Chelmsford, Monday morning. Lieutenant Detective Daniel Shinkus is conducting the investigation.

### Board Of Appeals Makes Decision On Two Applications

The Board of Appeals conducted a Public Hearing at the Town Hall Monday evening, June 25th, on the application of Arlene C. Carrick, for permission to build a dwelling with two apartments for use by herself and her sister, on brick Kiln Road and undeveloped section of Marshall Ave., East Chelmsford, on a lot containing 15,060 sq. ft., in violation with the Town Zoning Laws, due to area being located in a single residential zone and due to insufficient lot area per proposed zoning by-law. The Majority of the board

at North Chelmsford; two doors in the front with one in the rear so that the returning apparatus enters in the rear and by so doing does not have to back in off busy Princeton Street.

There will be a watch room for fire alarm, radio, telephone and etc., with ample provision for the personnel on duty being in command of parking conditions.

There will be also an alarm room for the fire alarm batteries and other alarm apparatus; a storage room for supplies, hose and other equipment; an area for the personnel to prepare their meals, and instruction periods; a basement for the boiler, fire whistle, tanks-compressor and emergency lighting equipment. The members of this building include the following: Bernard McGovern, chairman; Roger Welch, clerk; and also, Richard Carr, John Dunigan, Vincent Reid, Harry Shedd, and Chief Alan Kidder.

### Kiselo Club Holds Final Session Of Season

The Kiselo Club of the Central Congregational Church held its final meeting of the season recently at the home of Mrs. Richard Peterson in South Chelmsford. The annual cook-out was largely attended by both members and guests and a very delightful evening was enjoyed through the efforts of the gracious hostess and her assistant, Mrs. Thelma Kendall. Miss Sally Hemenway conducted a short business meeting following the social hours at which time Mrs. Thelma Kendall was presented a small gift from the club. Mrs. Kendall is

to assume a new position in the fall and will be leaving for a new community. Mrs. Helen perø a former member of the group, was present to renew friendships. Coffee and dessert then brought the evening to a close.

**Roy T. Johnson**  
INSURANCE  
Life - Medical - Fire  
Glenview 4-2546

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- MARCHANT'S MARKET
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- Half Gallon Homogenized 43¢

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## New Chelmsford Equipment

The new 750 gallon pumper, Chelmsford's most modern piece of fire equipment, was delivered to the Central fire station Friday by the Maxim company, which built it at a cost of more than \$19,000. The new appara-

tus has a 500-gallon water tank and carries 1500 feet of hose. Shown in front of the pumper, left to right, are Leighton Maxim, the builder; Fire Chief Allan Kidder, and Selectman Daniel Hart.

## Chelmsford Fire Chief

# KILLED ON WAY TO FIRE

CHELMSFORD — Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam met almost instant death yesterday morning when, while responding to an alarm for fire, the department station wagon was involved in a collision at Boston road and Warren avenue and then crashed head-on into a large tree.

Deputy Chief Fred Reid, who was following the chief's car in the Rescue truck, was one of the first at the scene and radioed for police and the ambulance.

Chief Byam was taken on a stretcher in the Rescue truck, with a police cruiser providing escort and Lowell police clearing the way through city intersections, to Lowell General hos-

pital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

THE CHIEF had directed the department in fighting a \$60,000 fire Saturday night at the B & B Construction company's storage barns, and had been called out again at 12:35 Sunday morning when a car caught fire in a garage attached to the Albert Fontaine house at 28 Algonquin drive. He was responding to an alarm for a fire at the Corfield home at 196 Boston road at 8:50 a. m. yesterday when the fatal accident occurred.

Police Sgt. Raymond Harmon, who with Chief Ralph J. Hulslander and a squad of policemen responded on the emergency

call put in by Deputy Chief Reid, reported that the other car involved in the crash was being operated by Robert E. Webb of S. Chatham road who was on his way home from the 8:15 mass at St. Mary's church. Inspector George Romian of the Motor Registry department assisted in the investigation.

Webb told police that he heard no siren, and that he put on his blinker light for a left turn and was just starting to turn from Boston road to Warren avenue when he felt a bump.

The chief's car swerved after the collision and went across Warren avenue to hit a large tree head-on.

Engine 1 proceeded to the Corfield home and made short work of the fire there.

CHIEF BYAM was the second permanent chief of the department, succeeding Allan Kidder when the latter died in November of 1958. He resided at 8 Perham street.

Deputy Chief Raymond McGlinchey dropped dead while fighting a brush fire last November and Reid was promoted from captain to succeed him.

CHIEF BYAM was born May 9, 1911. He was appointed a call man in the then volunteer department in October of 1931, and was promoted to lieutenant and

then to captain in the volunteer ranks.

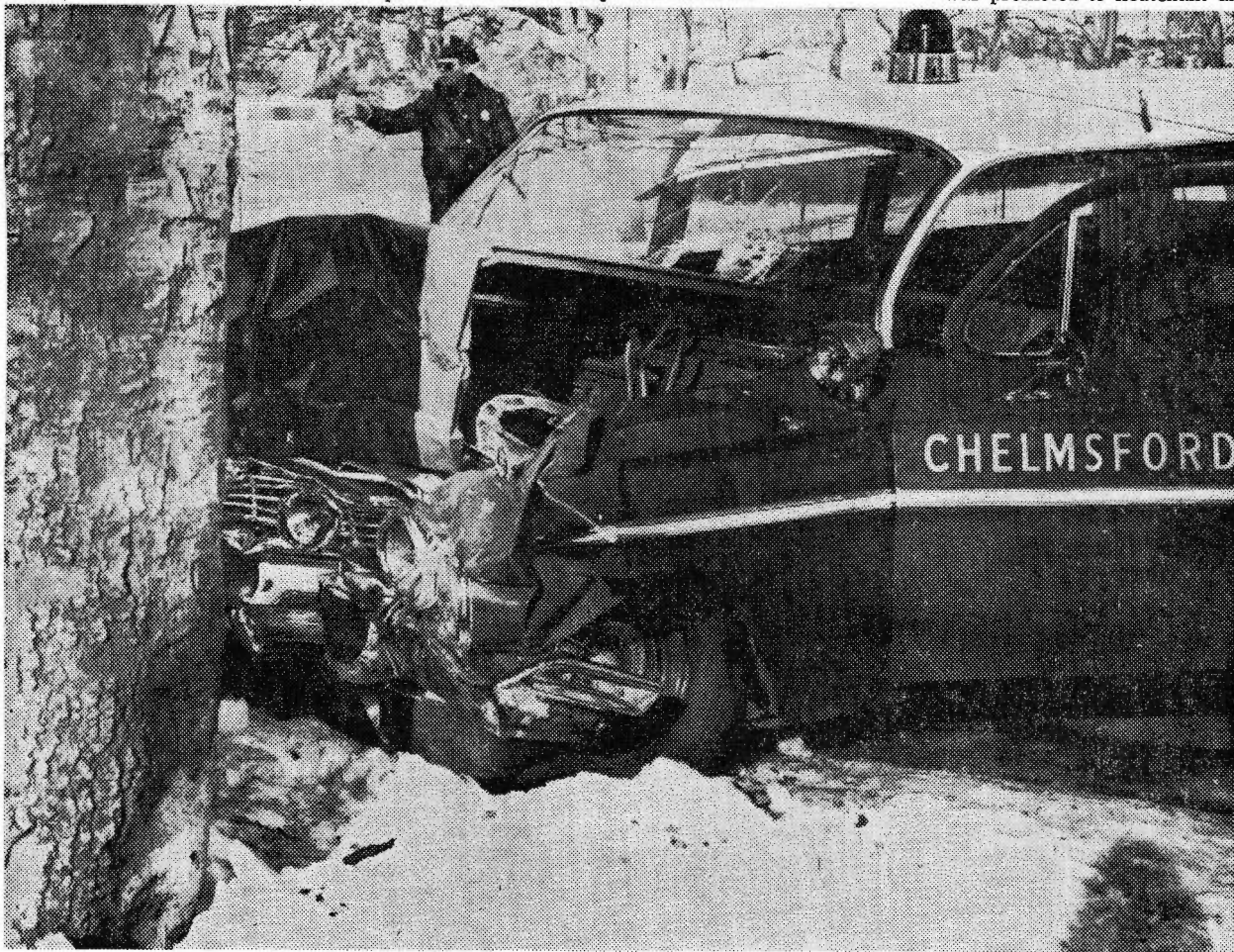
He was appointed a permanent fireman Sept. 23, 1954, captain April 1, 1955, acting deputy chief May 1, 1957, acting chief Nov. 4, 1958 and chief on Nov. 10, 1958.

During his term of office he continued the work started by Chief Kidder in setting up the present mutual aid system, increasing the permanent force and the equipment of the department, his latest acquisition having been an aerial ladder truck.

He was widely known not only in Chelmsford but throughout the Middlesex area and in state fire-fighting circles.

He is survived by his wife Luella G. (Adams) Byam; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Gravin of West Acton; two sons, Arthur W. Byam and Bruce E. Byam, both of Chelmsford; 10 grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Ethel Harris of Winthrop; two brothers, Almon G. Byam and Rodney F. Byam, both of Melrose. He was born in Chelmsford, the son of the late G. Garland Byam, and Ethel (Lane) Byam Harris, who survives him, and had been a lifelong resident of that town.

He was a member and a deacon of the Central Baptist church of Chelmsford; was a member of William North lodge A.F.&A.M.; the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs association and the New England Fire Chiefs association, was treasurer of the Chelmsford Firefighters and Associates, Inc., and was a member and past master of Chelmsford Grange, 244. He was also on the board of directors of the Chelmsford Little League.

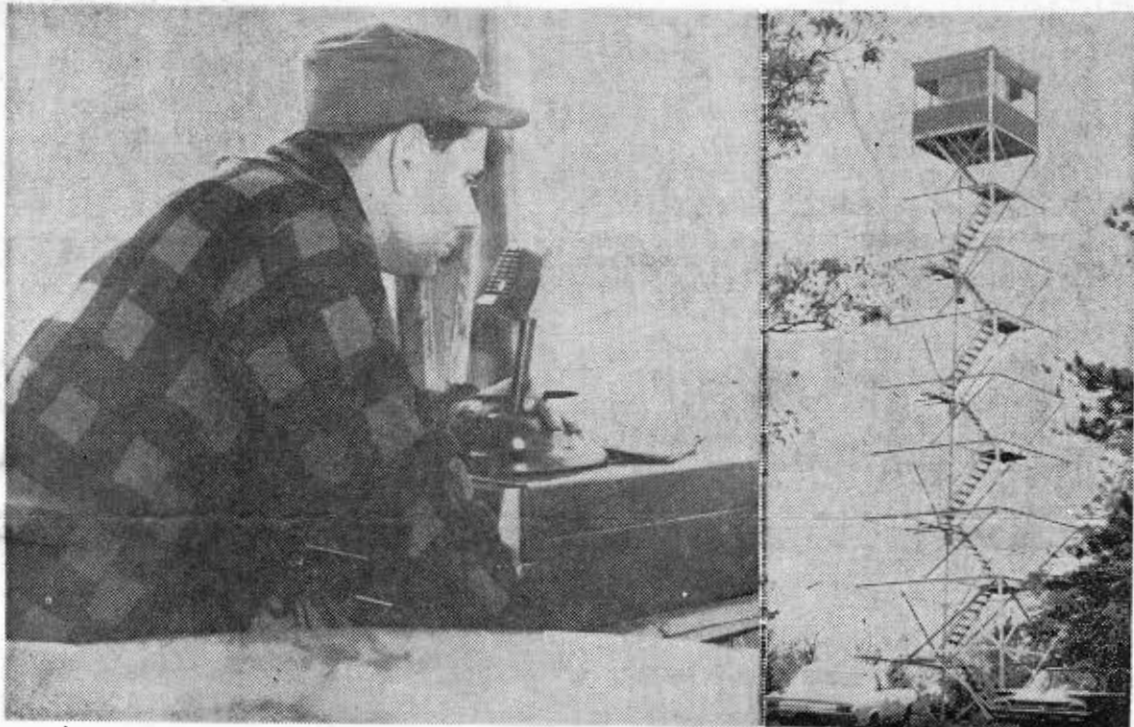


## Chelmsford Fire Chief Dies In Crash

Fire Chief Ernest G. Byam of the Chelmsford fire department was fatally injured yesterday morning when his car struck a large tree at Boston road and Warren

avenue following a minor collision, as he was responding to a fire alarm. The chief's wrecked car is shown in this photo taken by Sun photographer W. Leonard Irvin.





## Chelmsford Man Fire Spotter

Hollis Wilkins, inset, climbs the steps to the top of this fire tower on Robin's hill every day where he keeps a weather eye on the countryside. He is happy

when it rains because he knows the danger caused by lack of adequate rain. It is his job to spot woods fires and quickly report them.

# Isolated in a 65 Ft. Fire Tower But No Time to Become Lonely

By James Goldsmith

CHELMSFORD—When most people think of fires and the men who fight them they don't realize one of the tasks involved in firefighting is reporting them so the firefighters can get to the scene quickly.

This is especially important in the lives of men like Hollis Wilkins who man the 51 towers throughout the state where wood fires are spotted and reported. This veteran observer, who has been on this job for 11 years, daily climbs the 65 foot tower atop Robin's Hill. When asked if his job wasn't pretty lonely, Mr. Wilkins replied, "With two radios squawking all day long, a phone ringing and visitors, the work is anything but lonely."

On a clear day this observer can see 20-25 miles without any trouble as landmarks like the Prudential tower and the "Seven Hills of Rome" (Lowell) look like small toys on the horizon. "Where there is smoke there is fire but not always danger," says Mr. Wilkins. You see, there are plenty of "regular smokes" which would cause an inexperienced observer to reach for the phone or two way radio. However, men like Wilkins know where the dumps are and each one is listed and posted on the wall of his penthouse observatory.

"ROBIN'S HILL IS located in district six, one of the two districts in Middlesex county, and is regarded as a key tower by District Warden and County Highway Engineer of Billerica.

Besides the state and county two way radio system, a telephone, Mr. Wilkins uses a circular map that is divided into 360 degrees. You are probably wondering just how Wilkins gives explicit location information to enable firefighters to get to the exact scene of a woods fire. The observer sees the smoke, places a straight edge along the degree line and notifies the dispatcher who supplies the second reading; thus, where the two lines cross is the fire location.

Without the aid of the observer, the map, and communication between the observer, the dispatcher and the fire departments, a small woods fire would soon get out of hand and with conditions as bad as they are this spring it could spell disaster. This marks the second year at Chelmsford for this man who started working for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forests and Parks, in 1951. During daylight saving time Mr. Wilkins makes the long climb at 10 a. m. and doesn't leave the job until 6 p. m.

He started working for the state at the natural resources building in Stow as a fire truck operator. Since then he worked as a radio operator and dispatcher and filled in as an observer when a regular was on vacation. Each of the 13 fire districts has a district warden and patrolman as well as stations where firefighting equipment is kept. One of the state's firetrucks is kept at the Billerica station and the other is kept at Willard Brook state park, Ashby, for Middlesex county. One of Mr. Wilkins' jobs is to relay weather information between the fire headquarters in Stow and the weather station at Ashby. The amount of rainfall, condition of vegetation and the readings of the wet and dry bulb thermometers are given each day. In addition, every day at 5 p. m. is fire roundup time as information concerning the acreage and class of fires for the day is reported; class A, fires of one-quarter of an acre or less, through class D. Every class "C" fire, or a fire which is larger, has to be assigned a number, have the acreage and exact location recorded for the permanent records.

THIS OBSERVER, who is a native of Chelmsford, also works with observers who are on the job at towers in Andover, Groton, Waltham, Harvard and Jeremy Hill, Pelham, N. H. Oftentimes a ridge will obstruct the vision of one observer but a man in another tower will get a clear view of the surrounding towns from his vantage point. During an emergency, men and equipment will be used from agencies like the division of fisheries and game, civil defense, and the bureau of insect pest control. Trucks that would normally be used for spraying or hauling trout to the streams and ponds are quickly pressed into service for fighting fires.

While it doesn't get lonely for Mr. Wilkins it certainly does get scary up there; especially when the wind begins to howl and the tower moves a little. It really is a breathtaking experience to look at the Greater-Lowell area from such a height and the scenery is beautiful at this time of year. In his opinion, fall is loveliest of all as the shades of red, and yellow mixed with the evergreens provide a natural setting of beauty.

During the off season, Wilkins goes to work at the Lowell-Dracford state forest for about five months. If the job in Chelmsford doesn't get lonely, one can easily tell why — this man loves the out-of-doors and is at home keeping his daily watch.





### Flames Level Five-Acre Lumber

The three pictures above show the complete destruction caused by a fire, believed to have been set, which levelled the Grossman lumber yard on Middlesex street,

North Chelmsford, early today, in all, six buildings occupying the lot between Middlesex street and the B&M tracks were levelled and their contents of lumber and

# \$250,000 FIRE IN



## THE LOWELL

Lowell, Mass. • THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1965 • 44

© By Lowell Sun Publishing Company 1965

89th Year Serving Historic Middlesex County

Cloudy

SEE PAGE 3



### Store and Yard in Chelmsford

Building supplies were destroyed, causing loss which may exceed \$250,000. Firemen from Lowell, Nashua and six towns sent assistance to the Chelmsford depart-

ment to help keep the fire in the lumber yard and protect the residential area surrounding it from damage. Photos by Sun Photographer Lennie Irvin.

# CHELMSFORD

## Grossman Lumber Yard Razed—Firebug Suspected

CHELMSFORD—Flames, apparently set by the same firebugs who have been active in Lowell for weeks and who had kept Lowell firemen busy last night, swept through the five-acre lumber yard of the Grossman company on Middlesex street, North Chelmsford, early today, levelling six buildings and destroying their contents of lumber and building supplies.

Fire Chief Frederick Reid this morning estimated the loss at about a quarter of a million dollars, but no official figures can be reached until a complete check of the inventory of the lumber yard is completed by the Grossman officials.

Flames, visible for 15 miles or more, drew hundreds of motorists to the scene from as far away as Bedford, Burlington, Nashua and Lawrence and local police, assisted by some from other communities, established fire lines well back from the flaming lumber yard so that the work of the firemen would not be slowed by spectators.

Sparks and pieces of blazing wood and paper were carried by the wind onto the new St. John's church, across the street, and for a distance of several hundred feet into a thickly settled residential district. Several minor fires were set by these embers but were extinguished by the home owners, many of whom had garden hoses in operation wetting down the roofs of their homes.

**THE LUMBER** yard is located on a large lot between the B. & M. tracks and Middlesex street. Three of the storage buildings, several being at least 100 feet in length, apparently were torched at the rear, near the tracks, for the engineer of a southbound freight saw all three afire and stopped at the Lowell switching tower to sound the first alarm at 12:01 a.m.

The wind, blowing from the tracks toward Middlesex street when the fire first was discovered, caused the flames to spread quickly, the length of the structures, and when Chief Reid arrived he sounded a general alarm, putting the mutual aid plan into action, and then called for additional assistance.

In all, apparatus from Billerica, Westford, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Nashua, N. H. and Lowell responded, sending pumpers and ladder companies, and more apparatus was held in readiness in the city and town stations should the fire jump Middlesex street and get into the residential section.

Firemen encircled the blazing structures with high pressure lines, with efforts being

concentrated at the Vinal square end of the area where residences abutted the lumber yard.

**THE ONLY** structure of the Grossman yard which escaped destruction was the office building, at the northwest corner of the lot, and this was saved when firemen concentrated a number of hose streams on it and backed this up with a deluge directed into the blazing lumber yard area to provide a solid water curtain.

Chief Walter J. Kane brought Lowell Engines 2 and 8 and Ladder 2 to the scene, while Billerica sent two engine companies, Westford sent the same, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable and Tewksbury, one engine company each, and Nashua a ladder company.

**FIREMEN** REMAINED on the scene all night dousing the smouldering remains of the lumber yard.

Chief Reid said this morning that he has called in the state fire marshal to assist in the investigation. The fires, he said, were started in the same pattern as many of Lowell's, along the dark railroad tracks and by torching exteriors of the buildings.

Grossman officials at the Braintree headquarters this forenoon said the loss might exceed \$250,000.

No injuries were reported to Chief Reid and no damage to fire trucks, although several of them were pumping so close to the blazing buildings that they and their crews had to be kept covered with a spray of water.

## Three Suspicious Fires In City Last Night

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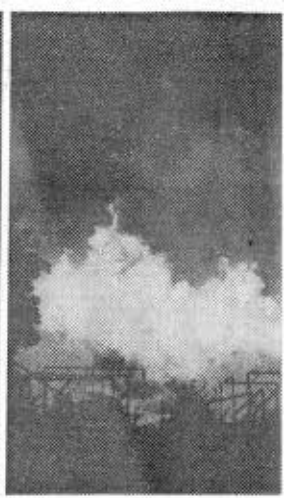
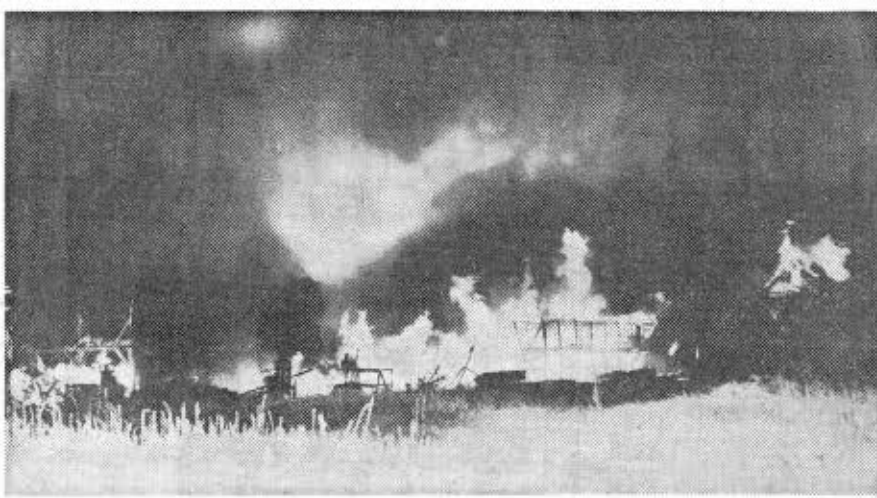
The first call came at 8:35 p.m., from Box 34 at Hale and Howard streets. The blaze was centered in a third floor rear stairway of an unoccupied

three-decker at 109 Hale street. This was quickly extinguished.

The second came at 10:29 when the Max Levine garage at 270 Tanner street was almost completely destroyed and two trucks were heavily damaged.

Firemen still were at work at the above fires when Box 436 called apparatus to the Curran and Morton warehouse at 1109 Gorham street, opposite Manchester street. Here firemen had to battle a smoke blaze which swept through the basement and spread to the first floor before being extinguished.

**SUN**  
Pages, 10 Cents  
**City** ★ ★  
EDITION



## Flames Level Five-Acre Lumbe

The three pictures above show the complete destruction caused by a fire, believed to have been set, which levelled the Grossman lumber yard on Middlesex street,

North Chelmsford, early today. In all, six buildings occupying the lot between Middlesex street and the B&M tracks were levelled and their contents of lumber and

# \$250,000 FIRE IN



## THE LOWELL

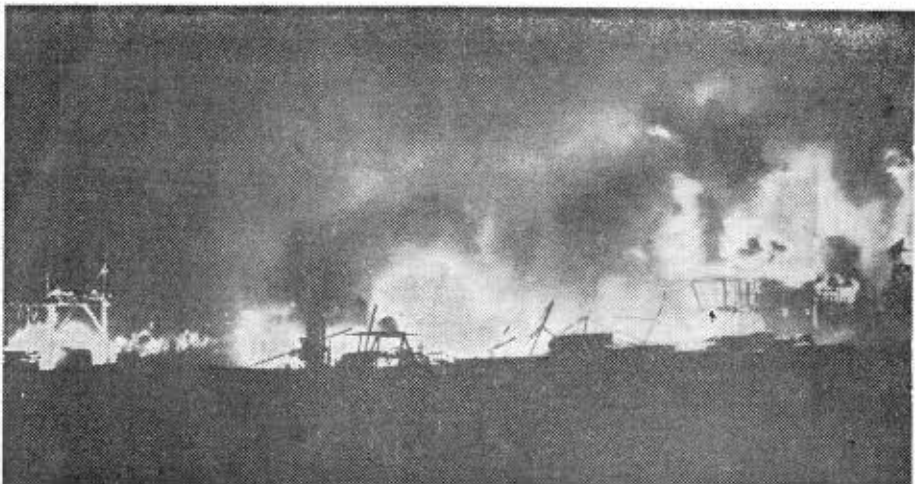
Lowell, Mass. • THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1965 • 44

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89th Year Serving Historic Middlesex County

Cloudy

SEE PAGE 3



## Store and Yard in Chelmsford

building supplies were destroyed, causing loss which may exceed \$250,000. Firemen from Lowell, Nashua and six towns sent assistance to the Chelmsford depart-

ment to help keep the fire in the lumber yard and protect the residential area surrounding it from damage. Photos by Sun Photographer Lennie Irvin.

# CHELMSFORD

# SUN

Pages, 10 Cents

## City ★ ★

EDITION

# Grossman Lumber Yard Razed—Firebug Suspected

CHELMSFORD—Flames, apparently set by the same firebugs who have been active in Lowell for weeks and who had kept Lowell firemen busy last night, swept through the five-acre lumber yard of the Grossman company on Middlesex street, North Chelmsford, early today, levelling six buildings and destroying their contents of lumber and building supplies.

Fire Chief Frederick Reid this morning estimated the loss at about a quarter of a million dollars, but no official figures can be reached until a complete check of the inventory of the lumber yard is completed by the Grossman officials.

Flames, visible for 15 miles or more, drew hundreds of motorists to the scene from as far away as Bedford, Burlington, Nashua and Lawrence and local police, assisted by some from other communities, established fire lines well back from the flaming lumber yard so that the work of the firemen would not be slowed by spectators.

Sparks and pieces of blazing wood and paper were carried by the wind onto the new St. John's church, across the street, and for a distance of several hundred feet into a thickly settled residential district. Several minor fires were set by these embers but were extinguished by the home owners, many of whom had garden hoses in operation wetting down the roofs of their homes.

**THE LUMBER** yard is located on a large lot between the B. & M. tracks and Middlesex street. Three of the storage buildings, several being at least 100 feet in length, apparently were torched at the rear, near the tracks, for the engineer of a southbound freight saw all three afire and stopped at the Lowell switching tower to sound the first alarm at 12:01 a.m.

The wind, blowing from the tracks toward Middlesex street when the fire first was discovered, caused the flames to spread quickly, the length of the structures, and when Chief Reid arrived he sounded a general alarm, putting the mutual aid plan into action, and then called for additional assistance.

In all, apparatus from Billerica, Westford, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Nashua, N. H. and Lowell responded, sending pumpers and ladder companies, and more apparatus was held in readiness in the city and town stations should the fire jump Middlesex street and get into the residential section.

Firemen encircled the blazing structures with high pressure lines, with efforts being

concentrated at the Vinal square end of the area where residences abutted the lumber yard.

**THE ONLY STRUCTURE** of the Grossman yard which escaped destruction was the office building, at the northwest corner of the lot, and this was saved when firemen concentrated a number of hose streams on it and backed this up with a deluge directed into the blazing lumber yard area to provide a solid water curtain.

Chief Walter J. Kane brought Lowell Engines 2 and 8 and Ladder 2 to the scene, while Billerica sent two engine companies, Westford sent the same, Tyngsboro, Dracut, Dunstable and Tewksbury, one engine company each, and Nashua a ladder company.

**FIREMEN REMAINED** on the scene all night dousing the smouldering remains of the lumber yard.

Chief Reid said this morning that he has called in the state fire marshal to assist in the investigation. The fires, he said, were started in the same pattern as many of Lowell's, along the dark railroad tracks and by torching exteriors of the buildings.

Grossman officials at the Braintree headquarters this forenoon said the loss might exceed \$250,000.

No injuries were reported to Chief Reid and no damage to fire trucks, although several of them were pumping so close to the blazing buildings that they and their crews had to be kept covered with a spray of water.

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The first call came at 8:35 p.m., from Box 34 at Hale and Howard streets. The blaze was centered in a third floor rear stairway of an unoccupied

three-decker at 109 Hale street. This was quickly extinguished.

The second came at 10:23 when the Max Levine garage at 270 Tanner street was almost completely destroyed and two trucks were heavily damaged.

Firemen still were at work at the above fires when Box 426 called apparatus to the Curran and Morton warehouse at 1100 Gorham street, opposite Manchester street. Here firemen had to battle a smoke blaze which swept through the basement and spread to the first floor before being extinguished.



# Fireman dies battling Chelmsford dairy fire

By JOHN O'KEEFE

CHELMSFORD — Two huge barns were completely gutted and a Westford fireman died Saturday evening as a spectacular blaze devastated Sunny Meadows Farm in Chelmsford.

Dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital was Richard T. St. Onge, 29, of 51 Boston Rd., Westford, who suffered a heart attack while working hoses at the fire scene, witnesses said.

Flames from the two-story hay filled barn

were visible at a distance of four miles. Firemen from Chelmsford and Westford, backed up by units from Billerica and Lowell, battled the blaze and kept it from destroying other buildings on the Robin Hill Rd., farm of Walter Lewis.

Lewis, owner of Sunny Meadow Farm, was a thousand miles away when the fire broke out, winging his way toward Houston, Texas, where he was to attend an American Farm Bureau Federation meeting there.

No estimate of the loss was available, but it was believed replacement of the building and equipment might be in the vicinity of \$100,000. The buildings were among the largest in the area.

First to discover the flames was Danny Lewis, 7, who was watching TV with some friends in the house. He raced out to the family dairy products store in an adjacent building and told his mother, Glenda Lewis, Mr. Lewis' daughter-in-law. She quickly summoned the Chelmsford Fire Department.

Fifteen fire trucks from four communities responded to the alarm. More than 40 men under the direction of Chelmsford Fire Chief Frederick Reid brought the blaze under control after a two-hour battle. The flames were visible for miles and police details responded to handle the traffic.

Morris Thibeault of Manahan St., Chelmsford, and his brother Norman were working outside the barn unloading a bulldozer shortly after 4:30 p.m. "We just looked up and saw the flames," he said.

With another farm worker, Bruce Taylor of Westford, the Thibeaults led some 85 cows into the safety of a nearby field, where they watched unconcernedly.

"THE COWS couldn't see the fire," Morris said. "The cows were scared is run back into the barn."

Also rescued, Thibeault said, was a calf which was on the ground floor, but several calves and two sheep perished as the flames swept the second story of the barn.

Leonard Dube of Nashua and Bob Wagner of Garrison Rd., Chelmsford, were milking cows when the Thibeaults burst in shouting "Let the cows out, the barn is on fire!"

"I couldn't believe it at first," said Dube, "but it didn't take long to convince me."

COMPLETELY LEVELED by the blaze was a complex of barn buildings approximately 170 feet long and 90 feet wide. The old section, a red two-level structure, housed two dozen animals and a large quantity of hay. The newer part of the barn, a long one-story building, contained "about 60 tieups for the cows," workmen said.

Saved by the action of firefighters was a huge tarpaulin-covered pile of winter feed, estimated by one of the farm workers at "over 100 tons."

THE FIRE'S progress was halted in a shed connecting the barns to the house. Some furniture was moved out of the Lewis home as the flames broke out, but most of it was restored shortly after 6 p.m. Slight smoke damage was reported in the house.

Mrs. Walter Lewis, distraught at the scope of the disaster during her husband's absence, struggled manfully with her problems while firemen extinguished the last of the flames.

There was uncertainty about insurance coverage. The cows would need milking in the morning. The thermometer said 30, and a heavy snow warning was predicted.

It's not easy to find a home for 85 cows on short notice.

Hope that the livestock would be moved to Bates farm in Carlisle was reportedly ruled out by a number of boats stored there. If nothing could be found, Mrs. Lewis said, Ralph House (a Chelmsford building contractor) had offered to build a temporary shelter.

Friends and neighbors would be there early the next morning, Morris Thibeault said, "enough to milk all those cows by hand, if necessary."



Sun color photo by Pigeon

## Chelmsford fire at its height

Flames completely destroyed two huge barns and half a dozen livestock Saturday night at Sunny Meadows Farm in Chelms-

ford while owner Walter Lewis was in a plane en route to Texas. The Lewis home was saved by firefighters' action, but a

Westford fireman died of a heart attack suffered at the scene. Preliminary damage estimates run close to \$100,000.

# Terrific blast rips N.J. oil refinery—score or more injured

By JOSEPH DI LEO

LINDEN, N.J. (AP) — A massive explosion ripped through an oil refinery near the New Jersey Turnpike Saturday night, hurling a ball of flame more than 1,000 feet in the air and shaking homes up to 40 miles away.

A number of injuries were reported in the

A fire department spokesman said the fire which followed the blast was confined to the catalyst plant, a gigantic steel superstructure used in refining oil.

He said there appeared no immediate danger of flames spreading to the scores of oil

storage tanks in the North Jersey meadowland area where several refineries are clustered along the Arthur Kill, the narrow body of water between New Jersey and Staten Island, N.Y.

It would take hours to control the blaze, he said.

## Race trouble in Cairo, Ill.

# Fire rips Chelmsford farm store

By JEFF NORTHRUP  
Sun Staff Reporter

2-6-71

CHELMSFORD—A two-alarm fire, apparently fed by a major gas leak under the road, last night totally destroyed the Lupien Farms storage and retail distribution center on Old Westford Road.

No official cause has yet been determined

but Albert J. Lupien, 2 Sycamore St., Chelmsford, the owner of the farm, said William Roper, an employe who lives nearby, smelled gas, investigated and saw "the road on fire."

Even after firefighters had quenched the smoky blaze, gas bubbled to the surface in several areas along Old Westford Road.

Fire Chief Frederick Reid said last night he

and Det.-Lt. David Murphy of the State Fire Marshall's office will investigate the cause of the fire today.

One police officer, however, told The Sun that the first call to the scene at about 6:15 p.m. was to investigate a gas leak reported in the area.

Shortly thereafter, the fire was reported.

A gas heating unit inside the building was partially melted by the blaze. Chief Reid would make no preliminary statement on the cause of the blaze but Lupien said he believes gas seeping from an underground leak might have been ignited by the pilot of the gas heater.

LUPIEN SAID he has "no idea" of the value of the property. However, he said, some 10,000 bushels of apples were stored in a refrigerated area in the cellar and large quantities of eggs and other farm produce were in the building along with apple grading machines and refrigeration units.

Lupien, 61, has been operating the farm since he was 24.

He said last night "everything's gone. It's all junk, now." The building, he said, is insured, but he was skeptical whether he would rebuild and start again.

A house across the street from the farm was filled with gas, Reid said, but no one was in the house. "We put smoke ejectors in the window to evacuate the gas."

Lowell Gas Co. crews were on the scene shortly after the fire was reported to isolate the area and then check each house nearby.

FIRE CREWS remained on the scene much of the night to make sure the gas leak caused no further danger.

Tight security at the scene was imposed by Chelmsford police to make sure no unnecessary persons entered the fire area.

Mutual aid from Lowell, an engine and ladder, and Billerica, an engine, was called in to cover Chelmsford fire stations.

Ironically, the new fire station on Westford Road—barely 100 yards from the fire scene—opened only this week.



SUN photo by Irvin

## MOPPING UP OPERATIONS

... took much of the night at Lupien Farms fire



## Industrial plant hit by fire

SUN Staff Photo by E

ford firefighters enter the Electro Inc. building on Billerica Road yes-

sanding machine which collects metal dust around 5 p.m. and quickly spread, Al

damages, a fire official reported that machine which was destroyed was val





Sun staff photo by Mike Pigeon

## **New station**

**Chelmsford Fire Department equipment and personnel have now moved into their new location on**

**Riverneck Road in East Chelmsford. The \$275,000 construction project approved by townspeople in 1975 is**

**complete, with the exception of some outside work that must await spring.**

1-20-77

# Chelmsford's historic Fiske House hit by fire

12/30/78

By JOAN OLECK  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — The Fiske House, a prominent restaurant and Chelmsford's leading historic landmark, sustained severe damage to its roof and interior last night as a

fire of suspicious origin roared out of control for almost two hours just before the dinner rush.

Some 25 employees of the restaurant and five guests escaped unharmed.

But waiters and cooks made repeated forays

back into the burning building to rescue such priceless antiques as a "shadow box" mirror once owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson and a table England's Queen Victoria once presented to Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

As the billowing flames settled down into smoldering embers, representatives from the state fire marshal's office gingerly picked their way among the delicate roof rafters in search of clues to the fire's origin.

A CARBON TEST on the scorched walls of the upper story close to the western chimney was conducted to ascertain the nature of a what officials termed a possible "accelerant."

Chelmsford's own chief arson inspector, Police Sergeant Armand Caron, confirmed the possibility of arson.

"One part really burned. It doesn't look right. Something was used to help it along. We suspect arson."

It could be weeks before the fire marshal's office determines the cause of the fire and engineers determine whether the 180-year-old landmark — one of the few in Greater Lowell belonging to the National Register of Historic Places — can be rebuilt.

BUT CHELMSFORD residents won't soon forget the funnel of smoke, colored orange by flame, that drew hundreds of onlookers and 12 pieces of fire apparatus — seven from Chelmsford and five from other communities.

Chelmsford had five pumpers, a ladder and the rescue truck at the scene, while Billerica sent two ladder trucks and one pumper and Lowell sent a pumper and a ladder truck.

Dracut and Carlisle also assisted by sending extra air bottles used by firefighters who needed breathing apparatus because of the heavy smoke.

The first indication of the blaze came at about 5:15, according to members of the Fiske House staff. While setting up for dinner at about staff members smelled smoke.

"The whole building started filling up with smoke," Head Chef Thomas King said. "We had thought it was just the fireplace."

REALIZING THE intensity of the smoke, waiters on the second floor opened a door which led to the unoccupied "VIP" diningroom on the third floor and an attic space above that.

Headwaiter James Healy ran upstairs to the third floor but could go no further. "I couldn't breathe," he said. "It was that bad."

RETREATING TO the ground floor, restaurant staffers calmly ordered an evacuation. "Everyone responded fabulously," Healy said, expressing relief that the blaze occurred early in the evening, ahead of the usual Saturday night crowd.

Some 110 people had reservations for dinner last night, according to Healy, and the restaurant's six dining rooms had been booked to capacity for New Years Eve for three



FLAMES RIP THROUGH ROOF OF HISTORIC FISKE HOUSE  
...during two-alarm blaze in Chelmsford last night

Sun Staff photo by David Brown

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Page 15



**CMFD-THE OFFICE AND THE LARGE STORAGE SHED, filled with bundles of shingles and lumber of many kinds, burned for hours after the fire was discovered on Friday night, Dec. 22, at the State Line Lumber Co., Cushing Place, Central Square. Here firefighters are working near the storage section of the 160 foot building, piled high with building materials. (Photo by Tec Art Photography)**

**Tyngsboro**  
**Weekly**  
December 28, 1978 Price 20¢

**CHELMSFORD**

**Lumber Yard Fire Under Investigation**

**nt Criticizes  
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Tyngsboro schools are again participating. Basically," she stated, "I feel the program has an overall worthwhile purpose but the manner in which it is implemented

Continued On Page 5

**Babson's Business Forecast For 1979**

By Babson's Reports Inc., Welleslev Hills, Mass., December

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cycle is already considerably longer than the average life span of this nation's expansion phases. This does not automatically--and of itself--mean that a trend reversal is imminent, but a cyclical upturn which has lasted 44 months is obviously vulnerable. After careful consideration of all relevant factors, the staff of Babson's Reports predicts that the American economy will slip into a recession in 1979. Until early fall, it appeared that enough business vitality existed to sustain the economic upslant through the better part of 1979, or at least to avert a recessionary setback in the course of the year.

The situation was changed, however, when the Administration and the Federal Reserve took radical measures to dampen the forces of inflation and to arrest the weakness of the dollar. The chief

firefighters from Lowell and Billerica aided at the scene, and firefighters from Westford covered the North station and others from Lowell covered the Central station during the fire which was brought under control at 10:45 p.m. Men from the local department remained at the scene through the night and well into the next day as the fire was burning until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Firefighter Michael McTeague of Chelmsford received emergency treatment at Lowell General Hospital for smoke inhalation and then released. Because of the extremely difficult conditions under which the fire was being fought--difficult walking because of the ice underfoot, freezing of the water as it left the hoses, etc.--several other firefighters received minor bruises and cuts.

Because the fire had spread so rapidly and because of other factors, the State Fire Marshal's office was called in to investigate the cause of the blaze which has not yet been determined. Chief Reid said that another fire in the area, adjacent to the lumber yard had been discovered and quickly extinguished by his department several weeks ago.

The spectacular blaze drew onlookers from a wide distance and for a time traffic was re-routed around Central Square where fire hose had been laid. The location of the building in the center of the yard and the absence of any strong wind blowing toward Central Square itself as well as the work of the firefighters, prevented spread of the flames along the main street bordering the square.



10-22-1985

# 4 firemen hurt battling textile warehouse blaze

By RAYMOND HOWELL  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD - Two workers using a torch to repair a sprinkler system started a three-alarm fire yesterday that destroyed a North

textiles and injured four Chelmsford firefighters.

The 3 p.m. blaze at the Nonwovens Inc. warehouse at 100 Wotton Street gave off thick black smoke that could be seen for at least 20 miles and created a major traffic snarl in

Vinal Square.

Firefighters from four communities battled the fire for two-and-a-half hours before bringing it under control.

The fire leveled half of the 20,000-square-foot warehouse and gutted

the other half, but firefighters prevented it from spreading to Nonwovens' main structure, a brick mill building located about 20 feet behind the warehouse.

Heat from the fire was so intense that it curled sheet metal sides of the wood frame warehouse like paper, forced firefighters to hose down their trucks continuously and drove back spectators.

Three Chelmsford firefighters

were still hospitalized this morning. Firefighter Richard O'Neil, who was admitted to St. John's Hospital complaining of chest pains, was in satisfactory condition today, said a hospital spokeswoman. His condition had been listed as critical this morning.

Firefighters Michael Ridlon, who sustained a knee injury when struck by a smoldering bail of material inside the warehouse, and William Dalton, who suffered from smoke inhalation, were listed in stable condition at Lowell General Hospital, a spokesman said.

Capt. Ronald Sawicki was treated and released at Lowell General last night for a knee injury, according to Chelmsford fire officials.

The warehouse and mill building are located at the end of Wotton Street in a complex formerly known as the Southwell Mills. The warehouse contained mostly baled textiles and rags from three companies who lease space for Nonwovens.

Chelmsford fire officials were still trying to determine the dollar amount of the damage this morning.

"I would say it's a considerable amount," Chelmsford Fire Chief Fred Reid said the fire was started by two workers using an acetylene torch to repair the building's sprinkler system.

"It started from the repair," he said.

The owner of Nonwovens, Clifford Dallmeyer of Chelmsford, said it was true that two of his employees were trying to repair a leak in a five-inch line in the sprinkler system.

The fire department shut off water to half of the warehouse at 8:30 a.m. so the repairs could be made, he said.

But Dallmeyer, who was at home at the time the fire started, said he didn't know if his two workers had caused the blaze.

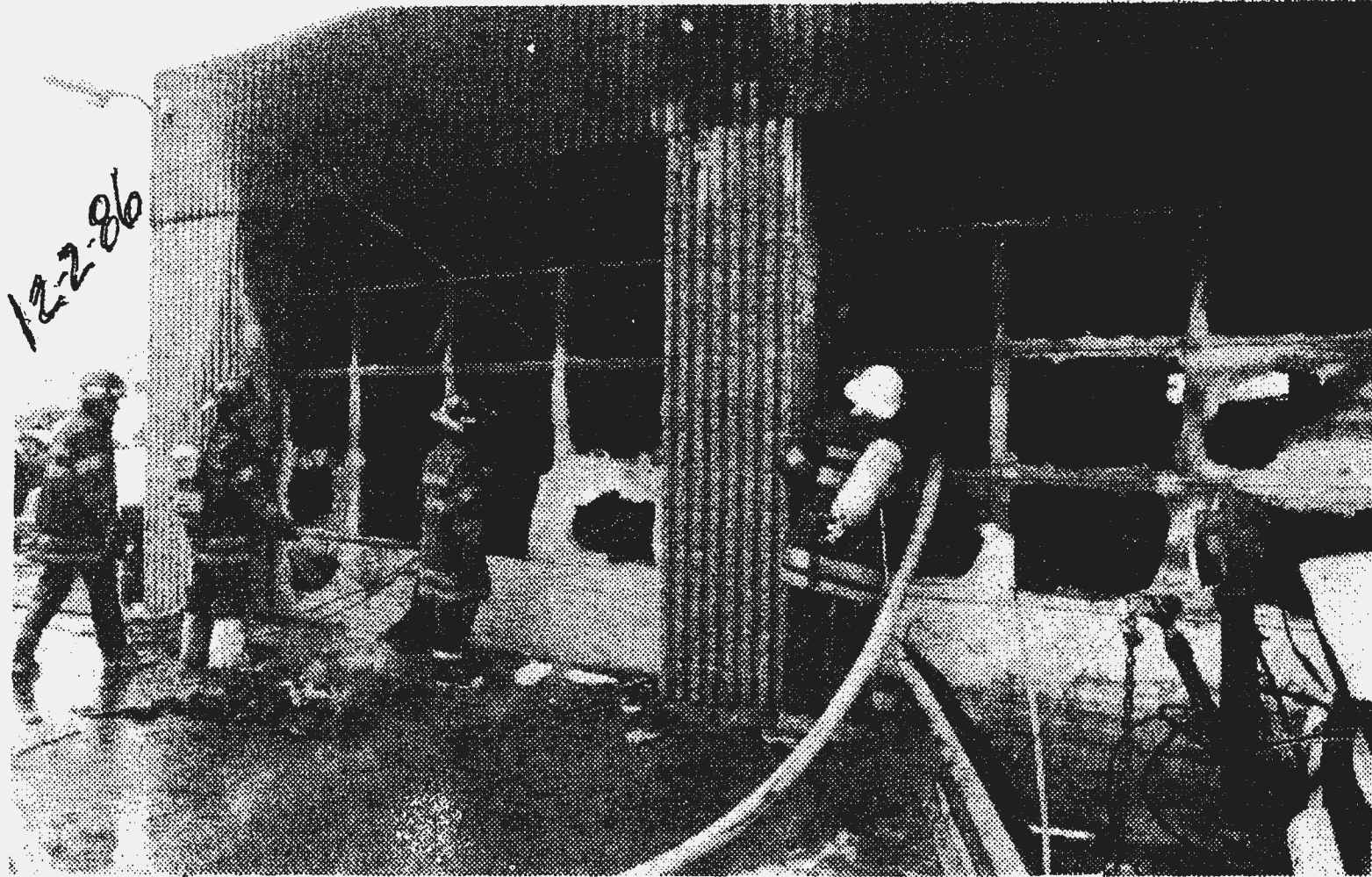
Firefighters concentrated their hoses on the rear of the warehouse and continuously watered down the main building, preventing the fire from leaping the 20-foot-wide alley.

Several firefighters worked from a crouch in the alley, amid smoke and falling ashes.

"We concentrated all our efforts on keeping it out of the main building," said Reid. "The warehouse was going too much. I couldn't do anything about that."



Firefighters concentrate efforts on rear of Non-wovens Inc. warehouse (Sun photo by Michael Pigeon)



Chelmsford firefighters peer into fire-damaged maintenance garage.

(Sun photo by Michael Pigeon)

## Swimming pool company garage, trucks damaged by 2-alarm fire

CHELMSFORD — A lit light-bulb smashing into a puddle of gasoline triggered a two-alarm fire early today that destroyed a maintenance garage and two trucks at Aquatech Pools off Rte. 110.

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Charles Galloway said two workers inside the garage — in a hurry to clean up spilled gasoline on the floor — accidentally tripped on and pulled down a droplight from a truck and into the flammable liquid.

The light crashed into the puddle and exploded the gasoline, Galloway said.

“It was an honest mistake,” Galloway said. “They were very fortunate to get out of there without getting injured.”

Aquatech vice-president Pe-

ter White said the garage was destroyed by the 6:45 a.m. blaze.

Traffic on Rte. 495, about 50 yards from the pool company, was slowed as motorists watched the fire.

Water streaming from the garage turned to ice as temperatures were well below freezing, causing some firefighters to lose their footing as they battled the fire.

All available Chelmsford firefighters were sent to the scene, and Billerica and Lowell firefighters and equipment manned the vacant Chelmsford stations.

Several drums of oil kept inside the garage for maintenance purposes caused the fire to spread, a company official said.

“We went to two alarms because we needed more men here

at the scene,” said fire Capt. James Boermeester. “When we arrived, there was heavy smoke and flames showing.”

Boermeester said the doors to the garage were locked so firefighters had to smash through bay doors.

Bob Elfman, a supervisor at Aquatech, said the two workers were in the midst of repairing one of the two trucks when the accident occurred.

Elfman said he was at another building when alerted about the fire.

He called the fire department and then ran to the garage where he encountered flames “shooting into the sky.”

The company, located on Kidder Road, manufactures swimming pools and spas.

9-30-87

# Firefighter hits a snag on way home from work

**CHELMSFORD** - Chelmsford Firefighter Peter Weatherbee got hung up on the way home from work late yesterday afternoon - literally.

After Weatherbee finished repairing fire alarm boxes on Route 129 at about 4:35, he started driving down the busy road toward Alpha Road in the fire alarm maintenance truck but forget its 25-foot ladder was still up in the air.

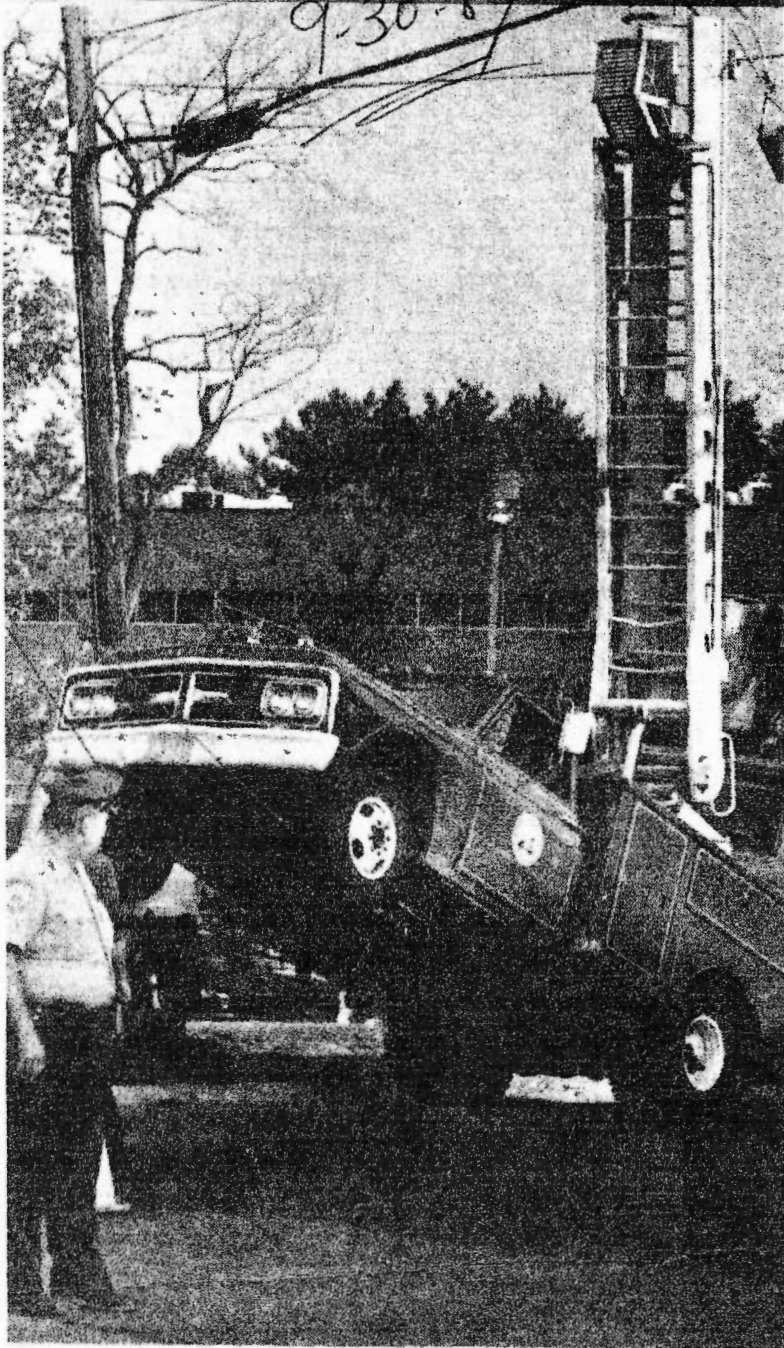
About a quarter-mile down

driving fast, the six-wheel truck could have turned over backwards.

Weatherbee was uninjured. Neither the truck or the telephone wires were damaged.

Removing the truck was a difficult task.

Crews had hoped one tow-truck and a flat-bed would be enough. But after the tow-truck relieved pressure from the front end of the fire department truck and the flat-bed began towing it



**Fire truck ladder snags telephone lines**

(Sun photo by Robert Whitaker)



3/22/88



SUN / DICK HUNT

## Time for the heavy hose

Firefighters work to unroll heavy hose from the back of an engine as a Chelmsford lighting company is consumed by fire. Mutual aid from Lowell and surrounding towns was called in as

the Chelmsford Fire Department fought to contain the blaze, which broke out around 9:30 a.m.

# Two-alarm blaze destroys Chelmsford lighting store

By MARCIA PECK  
Sun Staff

**CHELMSFORD** — A two-alarm fire destroyed a Chelmsford Street lighting store today, injuring an employee and leaving only a shell of the building behind.

The blaze, which destroyed the Electric Candle Lighting Center at 60 Chelmsford St., was detected at about 9:30 a.m., but apparently had been smoldering for some time, officials said.

Firefighters from three departments blasted the 20-foot flames with streams of water, but an hour later most of the

was treated and released at St. John's Hospital. Mercer's hair was reportedly burned as he was running downstairs to escape the flames.

Owners George and Delores Feeney, of Chelmsford, were on the second floor of the building with Mercer when they noticed flames, apparently coming from a crawl space above the second floor.

### RELATED PHOTO, PAGE 9

Dagmar Galvin, another store employee, was in the first-floor showroom when the Feeneys ran downstairs and

fire, everyone get out," she said.

"This is just such a shock," Mrs. Feeney whispered, as she and her husband watched in disbelief. "But we're all out and we're safe — that's all that matters."

Fire Chief Robert Hughes had glanced out the window of the fire station seconds before the alarm came in.

"As soon as I looked out the window, I saw the flames coming out of the rafters of the roof," Hughes said.

As he opened his mouth to alert the firefighters, the alarm bell rang through the station.

Hughes said the battle to

# Still no progress on firefighters' contract

By IAN FISHER  
Sun Staff

1-13-89

**CHELMSFORD** - In the six months since the firefighters' contract expired, union members and selectmen have communicated through pickets, petitions and hours of failed mediation.

## CHELMSFORD

But the longest contract negotiation in recent memory has been marked mostly by silence.

On the issues, selectmen and the 61-member Professional Firefighters of Chelmsford Local 1839 are not much closer now than when negotia-

Please see **CONTRACT/18**

**PAGE 18**



Capt. Mike Curran, second from left, and firefighters Bill Dalton, Mike Ridlon, Ray Kydd, Kevin Clarke and Jim Reid discuss labor problems

SUN / BOB WHITAKER

**The Local**

# Still no progress on contract...

**CONTRACT/From Page 15**

tions started in October 1987.

And both sides say the failure to come to an agreement isn't good for the department or the town. Because of this, they say they are anxious to settle, although neither selectmen nor firefighters show much willingness to give in.

"It hurts morale" for firefighters to be without a contract, conceded Bonita Towle, the selectmen's representative to the union. "If I were working at a place that had a union and I didn't have a contract, I would be bothered by that. It takes away your security."

Union President William Dalton agrees. Firefighters, he said, "feel slighted. They feel they provide the services the townspeople ask them to provide and (they) expect to be compensated."

For at least the next few weeks, contract talks will go nowhere. That's because both sides are waiting for a Department of Revenue audit that will show whether the town has enough money to pay for the firefighters' requested 5 percent raise.

Ironically, it's not the amount of the actual raise firefighters and selectmen disagree on.

At issue is whether the firefighters, like the police union, should negotiate on other benefits, such as vacation time, holiday pay and carriers for medical insurance.

From the town's perspective, Chelmsford cannot afford to pay firefighters a straight 5 percent raise without getting some concessions in benefits.

Executive Secretary Bernard Lynch said that, with the town facing a nearly \$1 million deficit for the next fiscal year, the firefighters have to pay for part of their raise, just

as the police did last year.

"We've offered them a fair contract," said selectmen Chairman Dennis Ready. "If the police did it, it should be fair that the firefighters do it, too."

"From what I hear, it's tough on some of the guys over there, knowing that they don't have a contract," Lynch said. "But these are tough times. Difficult times require difficult decisions and difficult decisions don't come easily."

But firefighters interviewed say they are disturbed that as living costs rise and they take on additional duties, selectmen are not willing to treat them like other town employees, who have received raises.

Ray Kydd, 42, who has been on the force for 13 years, said the lack of a contract makes him feel "like a second-class citizen. Everybody else in town has a contract but us. How would you feel?"

"We're not being dealt with fairly. Why can't we get a 57.5-cent an hour raise?" asked Capt. Michael Curran, 40, a 13-year veteran of the force. "We don't have outrageous demands."

Dalton also said he does not understand how the town can say it doesn't have the money.

He points to a free cash figures of \$1,154,000, and said that selectmen have spent \$53,489 in legal fees during the past 18 months on all labor issues.

Before the town hired labor counsel from Mirick, O'Connell, Demallie and Lougee of Worcester, Dalton said legal fees to settle the fire contract were only \$500.

"What has the town got for the \$54,000?" Dalton asked. "Do you think that's a wise use of the taxpayers' money? That's half our raise."

But Lynch fired back that

the labor counsel doesn't handle only firefighters' contracts. They also deal with all other town unions, negotiate police contracts and handle a number of labor issues.

"We're not interested in using labor counsel as a hired gun. He's there to protect us," he said. "We don't just use him to pay him big bucks and bang the union around."

Lynch added that selectmen won't dip immediately into free cash for two reasons: the fund is intended for this year's unexpected expenditures and it is going to be applied to next year's expected debt.

"It's not free cash in that we have no purpose for it," said Lynch, adding that some of the money will have to pay for an additional \$400,000 in insurance costs.

"If we were in better financial shape we could pass it back in reduced taxes or expanded services. But that is not the case. The case is we need that money to maintain the services we have now."

Although they may never agree on the town's real fiscal condition or whether they should give up benefits, representatives from both sides say the state audit will weigh heavily upon a settlement.

If the audit shows the town can afford the raise, a number of selectmen have said they will vote for it. And if it shows the town can't, Dalton said the union will drop the issue.

"Whatever the audit shows, fine, we'll live by it," Towle said. "It's embarrassing that we haven't settled the contract in so long."

## Flynn to lead

**FLYNN/From**

his me-  
ette 13

# First female firefighter on the job

By Sharon Flaherty Weitz  
Staff Writer

Cynthia Leczynski is blazing a new trail in Chelmsford, but she would rather be seen as just one of the guys.

Leczynski made local history Monday when she became the first female firefighter in Chelmsford, a position for which she has been training for seven years.

"I have held tight to my beliefs that I worked hard for the position and that I deserve it," Leczynski said during a break in her training Tuesday morning. "Now I want to direct my energies to learning the job. Being a firefighter will be a physical challenge, an emotional challenge and an intellectual challenge. There is so much I can learn here and that really appeals to me."

The 32-year-old Leczynski, a Chelmsford resident for 20 years, said she decided she wanted to be a firefighter when she was pregnant with her third child. At that time she took the Civil Service exam and scored 100 percent, topping the list. She later passed the medical, physical and the strength and agility tests.

Then the waiting began, as did her personal training. Leczynski has been lifting weights for years. Her husband fashioned a 125-pound dummy so she could practice running up and down stairs carrying the weight of a would-be victim. She practiced the hose line extension several times a week and recently became a certified emergency medical technician, earning a solid "A" grade in the course she attended along with 19 Chelmsford firefighters.

In addition to being Chelmsford's first female firefighter, she is also the first mother hired and, at 5 feet 1 inch and 114 pounds, the smallest firefighter in the department. Leczynski and her husband Glenn have three children — Andrea, 12; Michelle, 10 and Keith, 7.

"My children are very proud of me and very pleased that I was hired," Leczynski said. "They know how hard I worked to reach this goal and this proves to them that hard work and perseverance can pay off."

Being a firefighter is Leczynski's first full-time position in 12 years. She attended the former University of Lowell for one year, then married and began her family. Over the past 12 years, she worked a number of part-time jobs to help pay the bills.

"My husband has been wonderful about supporting me in this endeavor," Leczynski said. "He has been my personal trainer. At the fire academy a lot of women have trouble with the strength and agility test, but it was not a problem for me. Also, being home with my children gave me the time I needed to work out and train for the job I wanted."

Two years ago, Fire Chief Jack Parow hired the first female firefighter in East Bridgewater when he was chief of that department and said it was a simple matter to implement a dress code and first-come first-served policy in the bathrooms and showers.

"This doesn't require a lot of changes for us," Parow said. "We didn't have any nude posters in the bunk rooms or Playboy magazines in the bathrooms, which you will find in some fire departments. I haven't received any negative feedback from the men. I've been through this before and it went very smoothly. I think hiring Cindy will work out well for the department. Having a woman on the force will bring us a different perspective and a little diversity."

Town Manager Bernard Lynch said it was time Chelmsford hired a female firefighter. "This is long overdue and I'm very pleased we have been able to break the barrier. I'm confident Cindy will be a good addition to the force. She seems

very pleased to have the job and I think she will fit in well with the other firefighters."

The only point of contention in Leczynski's hiring is that a town-recommended psychologist did not endorse her being appointed to the force. Leczynski appealed that decision with Civil Service, but seven men were hired in the interim. Several hearings were held before the Civil Service Board of Appeals, but an agreement was reached before a judgment was handed down. The firefighters' union is now negotiating a new labor contract with the town, which will include who has seniority, Leczynski or the seven men hired after she was passed over.

"I got what I wanted and what I feel I deserve, which is the position," Leczynski said. "I'm not going to worry about anything else. I would like to thank the residents and some of the firefighters who went out of their way to contact me and lend me their support at that time. It was nice to know I had that support."

Departmental training will continue for 4 to 6 weeks, after which Leczynski will be assigned to unit 2 at the Center Fire Station, working the standard two 10-hour days and two 14-hour nights followed by four days off.

After learning the department lingo and settling in, Leczynski eventually hopes to take some fire science courses and one day become a paramedic.

"I love to work hard physically and intellectually," she said. "I'm going to be able to do that here. I'm looking forward to learning a lot over the next 20 to 30 years."

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# SCHOLARSHIP FUND DANCE

Capt. Thomas J. Curran  
Scholarship Fund Dance

Friday, May 16, 2003  
8:00 pm - 12:00 am  
American Legion Post 313  
Groton Road, No. Chelmsford  
Ticket \$10.00

AMERICAN LEGION POST 313

GROTON ROAD • NORTH CHELMSFORD



*EM Eng-5*



Capt. Thomas J. Curran



# 'We Will Never Forget'

9/11 Memorial  
dedicated at new  
fire station

By Molly Loughman  
mloughman@wickedlocal.com

It has been a slow, but steady, rise from the ashes after the devastating acts of terrorism that brought America to its knees on Sept. 11, 2001.

Chelmsford and other communities across the country refuse to forget the evil acts that unfolded on that sunny late summer day 13 years ago, when 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners headed westward. Orchestrated by al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, the attacks on America that day took the lives of 2,977 people in New York City, Washington, D.C. and outside of Shanksville, Penn., making it the worst act of terrorism in U.S. history.

Chelmsford firefighter Donnie Peterson was one of the Chelmsford firefighters who aided in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center in NYC and has since made it his personal mission to erect a 9/11 memorial in town.

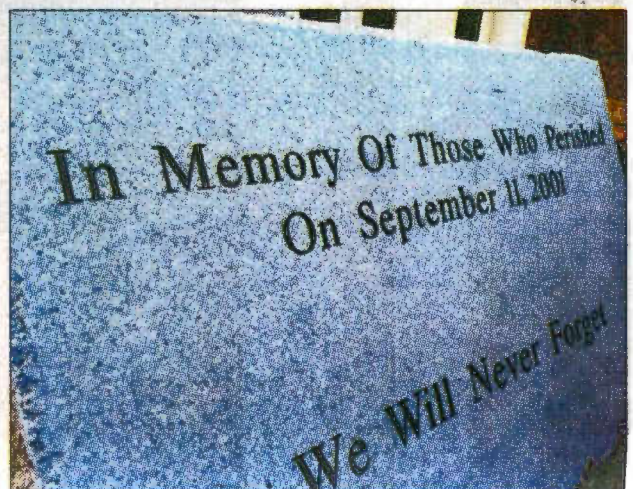
"I am truly honored to be a part of a team that worked so hard to make this all happen," said Peterson, a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, which was formed to help plan, raise funds and construct a memorial in front of the new fire station headquarters next to Town Offices at 50 Billerica Road, where a dedication ceremony drew in over 100 folks last Thursday, the 13th anniversary of the attacks.



The Chelmsford Fire Department Honor Guard marches in to the 9/11 Memorial dedication ceremony last Thursday. WICKED LOCAL PHOTOS / MOLLY LOUGHMAN

Peterson opened the dedication by explaining how much community support means to every firefighter, police officer, EMS worker, dispatcher, victims and their families. He thanked area citizens, businesses and employees for their monetary donations, supplies, use of equipment and time spent at the memorial site.

"It is because of you this memorial went from a dream to a place where



SEE MEMORIAL, A7

The memorial stone.



# MEMORIAL

From Page A1

all Chelmsford residents can come and reflect on this day," he said. "This day changed all of our lives in one way or another and it is a day all Americans will never forget.... Keep in your mind and in your prayers all those who lost their lives and their families."

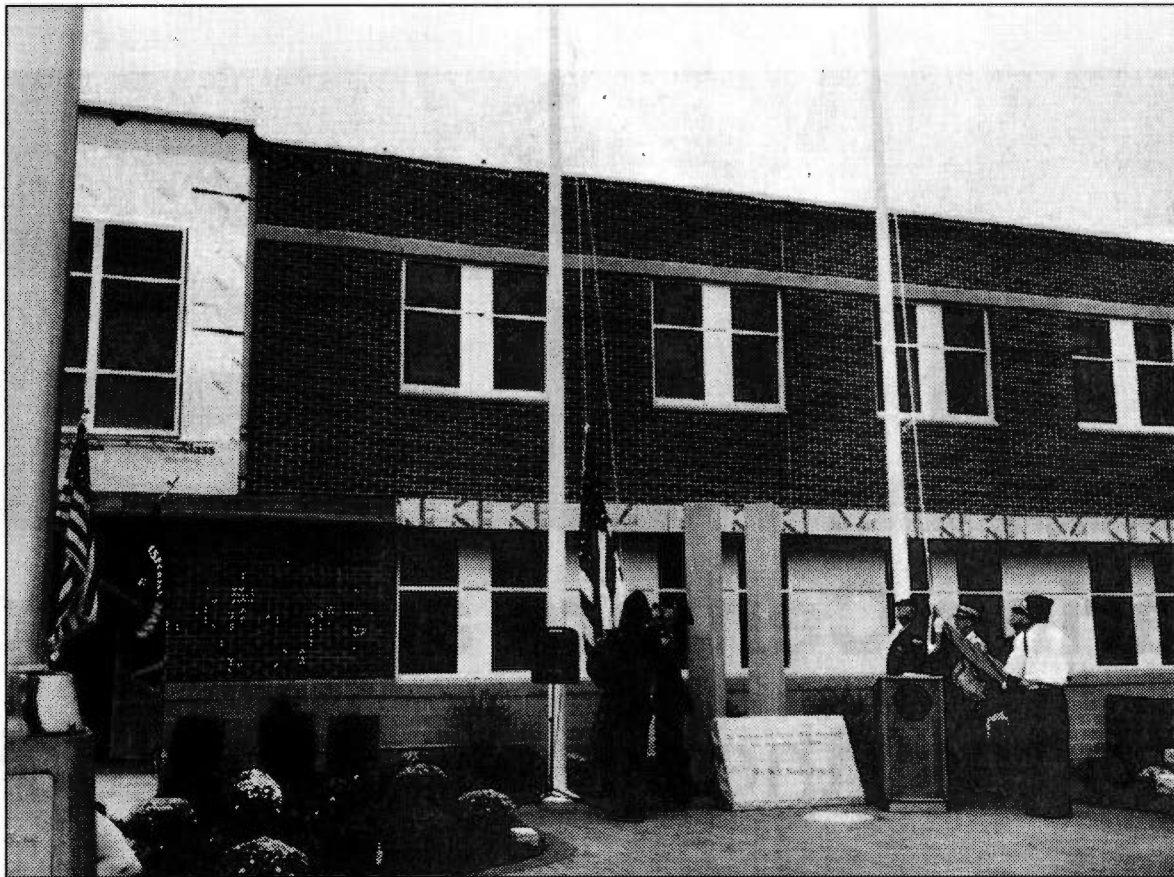
The two 9-foot-tall granite columns symbolize the twin towers of the World Trade Center. They are located next to a granite marker that states, "In memory of those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001. We will never forget."

Two flagpoles, one flying the U.S. flag and the other the Firefighting flag, are posted at the memorial site.

Among the plants and flowers surrounding the memorial and brick walkways are two granite benches, with one reading, "In memorial of Andrew Curry Green" and the other, "In memory of David Bernard," to honor two Chelmsford men killed in the attacks. The 9/11 Memorial Committee continues to collect donations. Extra money will be used to maintain the memorial over time.

## Home of the brave

Marching the 9/11 Memorial Dedication ceremony to an opening was the Westford Firefighters



Raising flags in front of the soon-to-be-completed center fire station. WICKED LOCAL PHOTOS / MOLLY LOUGHMAN

Pipes and Drums, accompanied by the Chelmsford Firefighter Honor Guard and the Chelmsford Police Honor Guard. Chelmsford's Sam Poulten played "Taps" with the same bugle he used to play it at the WTC during recovery operations. Natalie Mariel sang the national anthem.

The first guest speaker was the sister of the late Andrew Curry Green's wife Shannon Curry Hartman, Kelley Alley. Alley read aloud a message from Shannon, which expressed her gratitude for the memorial in honor of her late husband, whose remains

have yet to be returned after his plane was flown into the north tower.

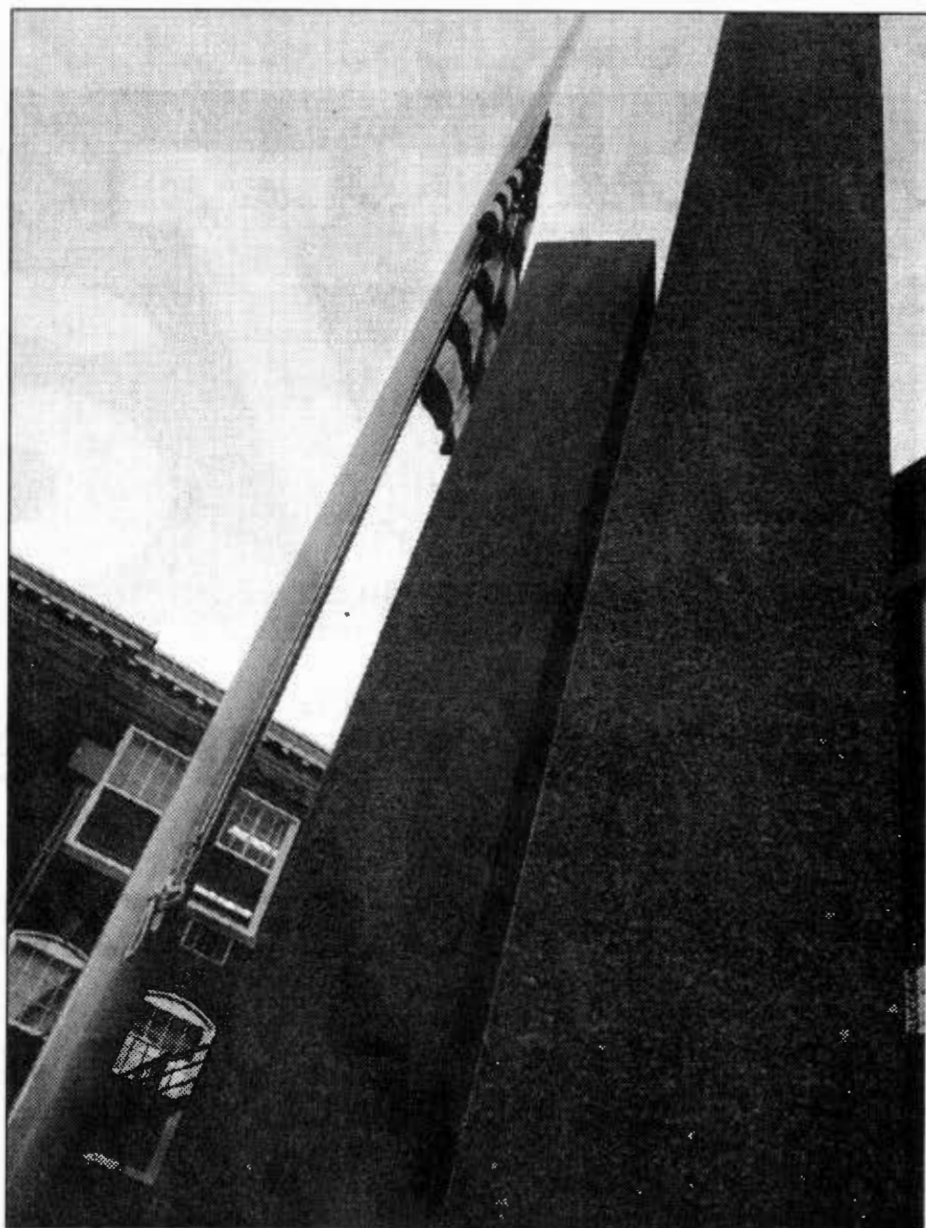
"That's a primary reason why it's so meaningful that people in Chelmsford have decided to construct a space in remembrance here, the town where Andrew grew up and where we first met. I appreciate this very thoughtful gesture and look forward to visiting the memorial when I'm next in town," said Alley on behalf of Shannon.

Pastor Steve Burkett spoke to how the horrific day called for the help of various fire departments

across the country, including Chelmsford. Burkett praised Peterson, who had it long in his mind and heart to realize a 9/11 memorial. Burkett led a prayer before Town Manager Paul Cohen addressed the crowd.

"It is appropriate that this memorial is located at the center of our municipal operations, in front of a fire headquarters building that will be staffed around the clock each and every day. This will continually remind us not only of the victims from 13 year ago, but also the ongoing threat to our nation's security





**The memorial represents the twin towers of the World Trade Center.**

that unfortunately remains today," said Cohen.

Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Pat Wojtas, who was a member of the 9/11 Memorial Committee, called the collaboration wonderful. Wojtas said she is sure people will frequent the memorial site to reflect on the national tragedy and pass on the piece of history onto the future.

State Rep. Tom Golden, D-Lowell, also spoke.

"Every person in this

country and every person in this Commonwealth as well as this wonderful community of Chelmsford, we all believe, as do our heroes, fire, police and EMS, that evil will never ever prevail," said Golden, whose speech was followed by the signing of "God Bless America" by Chelmsford High School alumni Jacy Dawn. The Westford Firefighters Pipes and Drums made a melodic exit through a parted crowd of commending locals.





Selectmen confirmed the appointment of Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan as the new fire chief at the board's June 1 meeting. From left are Ryan, with current Fire Chief Michael Curran, center, and Police Chief James Spinney. WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BETSY LEVINSON.

# 'A tremendous job'

## Ryan takes post

By Betsy Levinson and Margaret Smith

chelmsford@wickedlocal.com/ msmith@wickedlocal.com

Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan will take reins as the new fire chief, following a unanimous vote June 1 by the Board of Selectmen to confirm his appointment by Town Manager Paul Cohen.

Ryan steps into the boots of Fire Chief Michael Curran, who delayed his retirement to see the new central

## First reported online

chelmsford.wickedlocal.com

fire station through to its completion. Curran is set to retire June 30. Ryan said he had "progressed through the firefighting ranks for the last 21 years" in his letter of interest in the top job.

Curran praised his second-in-command and successor.

"He's done a tremendous job," said Curran. "He is very dedicated, very passionate about the job."

Ryan is a Chelmsford resident with a Bachelor of Science in

criminal justice from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and a Master of Business Administration from Western New England College in Springfield. He also has an Associate of Fire Science degree from Middlesex Community College.

Professionally, Ryan started with the Chelmsford Fire Department as a firefighter/emergency medical technician in December 1993, rising to captain in September 2006.

In 2005, Ryan was named Massachusetts Firefighter of the Year, according to his resume.



Ryan became fire prevention captain in May 2010, and deputy fire chief the following October.

According to his resume, as deputy he managed and administered all operations within the Fire Prevention Office; served as liaison between the Fire Department and other town agencies; responded to and resolved citizen inquiries; and assumed command and directed activities as necessary in the absence of the fire chief.

"As a deputy chief, I have developed the necessary knowledge and skills in planning, organizing, and decision-making," Ryan wrote to Human Resources Director Jeanne Parziale. "I possess the education and professional experience that are required for me to successfully manage and lead this department," Ryan added,

Parziale said six candidates responded to the job posting, all from within the department.

"We did not go outside the town for applicants," said Parziale.

After interviewing with Cohen, each of the candidates sat before an "assessment panel" from the Massachusetts Municipal Association Consulting Group. Parziale said the panel was made up of active and retired fire and police officers and human resources professionals.

"I'm pleased to appoint Gary Ryan to be chief as of July 1," said Cohen.

He said he knew of Curran's interest in retiring, and felt he had "adequate planning time" to find



**The Board of Selectmen at its June 1 meeting confirmed the appointment of Fire Deputy Chief Gary Ryan as the new fire chief. Ryan, center, is pictured with his wife, Terri, and son, Brady, 17.** WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY BETSY LEVINSON

a new chief, Cohen said Police Chief James Spiney echoed high marks for Ryan.

"Chelmsford had more than one capable applicant," said Cohen. "Gary stood out in this process. He has served the town for 21 years. I am confident he will be successful as chief."

Ryan said it was an "honor to serve under Chief Curran."

"He was a mentor to me and I wish him well," said Ryan. "I look forward to continuing and improving the fire safety in the community we serve."

### Search process

Cohen said the fire chief position is a non-civil service appointment.

In seeking a new fire chief, Cohen said he limited the applicant pool to the Chelmsford Fire Department's two deputy fire chiefs, and six captains. The two deputy chiefs applied

along with four of the six captains, Cohen said.

Parziale and Cohen interviewed all six applicants.

Cohen said three of the six applicants advanced to an assessment center. Parziale and Cohen observed the assessment center.

"I then had separate discussions with outgoing Fire Chief Michael Curran, Police Chief James Spiney, and Human Resources Director Jeanne Parziale," Cohen said. Cohen added, "Following the completion of these activities, I selected Deputy Fire Chief Gary Ryan."

Cohen said, "Fortunately, the Chelmsford Fire Department has more than one individual who is capable of serving as fire chief. However, one must be selected."

Cohen said, "Gary Ryan has done what it takes to be fire chief. He has served in the Chelmsford Fire Department for over 21

years, including the last 4 four and a half years as a deputy fire chief. He has completed the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer certification program."

In evaluating Ryan, Cohen said, "I have observed Gary Ryan in his professional capacity in the Fire Prevention Office, most recently his contributions to the new Chelmsford Fire Department building project."

As fire chief, Ryan starts at a base salary of \$110,552. Ryan also qualifies for 6 percent longevity compensation, or \$6,633, an educational incentive of 12.5 percent, or \$13,819 for his master's degree and an EMT certification of 6 percent, \$6,633.

These sums bring Ryan's total annual compensation to \$137,637.

Plans are in the works to celebrate Curran's retirement.





Chelmsford firefighters Bill Bennett, Michelle Sacco and Donnie Peterson carefully remove the piece of metal from Ground Zero they brought to the fire headquarters March 30. It is going to be added to the 9/11 Memorial. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO/ANN RINGWOOD

# *To honor those lost*

Town  
receives  
Ground  
Zero beam

By Mark Schulert  
chelmsford@wickedlocal.com

**T**he Chelmsford Fire Department got a piece of the World Trade Center this week to incorporate into its Sept. 11 memorial at the fire station.

A team of firefighters went to New York to accept a 30-pound beam from the site devastated by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, arriving back at the fire station about 3 p.m. March 30. The arrival was marked by a short ceremony attended by the public and firefighters.

SEE BEAM, A2



The acquisition was the result of a four-year effort by the Chelmsford 9/11 Memorial Committee.

Committee member Pat Wojtas described the long process working through local representatives to get the piece. U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas and U.S. senators, along with selectmen, wrote in support of the effort.

Fire Chief Gary Ryan said the 911 Committee is working on a way to plan a way to display the artifact appropriately.

Adding impetus to the cause was the creation of the new Sept. 11 memorial in front of the new fire station.

It was dedicated on Sept. 11, 2014, to honor those who were killed, including Chelmsford residents Andrew Green and David Bernard — along with emergency responders and all who perished in the attacks.

The town learned two weeks ago that its request had been granted.

Many Chelmsford firefighters were among the volunteers who went to New York to assist in the cleanup efforts after the attacks, traveling to the site on their own time at their own expense.

"We were at a firefighter weekend golfing up in Maine," Capt. Henry Houle said.

Houle added, "We saw it on the news. We just left there, came home and got in the trucks and went down there. There were nine of us. We got there nine o'clock the next morning and there was no command presence."

Houle said, "There was no one to report to. So what we did, we pulled up in a truck. They said 'You're going in,' and they gave us like — we filled the bed with water for the workers that were there. We drove in and we just had our gear on and we just gave out water and then we went right to the pile. It was devastating. It looked like the end of the world. We just went in and started digging



**Chelmsford firefighters Michelle Sacco, Donnie Peterson and Bill Bennett place the American flag and a piece of metal from Ground Zero on a table to display after it was brought to Chelmsford March 30.** WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD



**A piece of metal from Ground Zero is brought up Billerica Road to Chelmsford Fire Headquarters March 30.**



**Rich Regan, of Chelmsford, waits for the procession bringing the piece of metal from Ground Zero to fire headquarters March 30.**

looking for bodies."

Houle said he remembers the dust, and how the whole city was covered in dust for miles around, and how even a day later, the ruins were still covered in a cloud of dust so thick it affected visibility.

"We had gloves but no

respirator," he said. "I think the third or fourth day they got the masks."

Houle said just a few days working the pile affected his health.

"I have asthma," he said.

Chief Ryan was in the first group that went in.

Former Chief Mike

**ONLINE ONLY:** For a photo gallery of the ceremony, visit [chelmsford.wickedlocal.com](http://chelmsford.wickedlocal.com).

Curran was among the other early responders, leaving on Thursday, Sept. 13, and staying a week.

Chelmsford resident Sam Poulton was in the Army Reserve and went to New York on Columbus Day weekend. He had his coronet with him, so when they found human remains he played "Taps." He brought his instrument with him to the Chelmsford ceremony to again play "Taps" for those who died at the World Trade Center.

Those in the first group to go were hesitant to discuss what they saw.

Firefighter Donnie Peterson said, "I really don't like to talk about it. Honest I don't. Just, it's done. It's in the past. I really don't like to talk about it. This is hard enough doing stuff like this. We do it to honor the guys who have died."

Houle said he was uncomfortable with the ceremony.

"I didn't want to go out there because I don't like this at all," he said. "I feel insignificant."

He said the person to talk to would be Capt. James Durkin, now retired.

"Captain Durkin, he stayed like about a week," Houle said.



## SEPT. 11 CEREMONY



A piece of beam from the World Trade Center is unveiled during a Sept. 11 memorial ceremony, held Sept. 11, outside the Chelmsford Fire Department Headquarters. Chelmsford Fire Chief Gary Ryan, on the left, is joined by Fire Capt. Hank Houle, who went to Ground Zero to work, Chelmsford Board of Selectmen Chairman George Dixon and Nancy Bernard, of Chelmsford, whose husband David was injured in the attacks and died exactly three months later. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD

# 'In the blink of an eye'

Remembrance cast in stone, steel

By Margaret Smith  
msmith@wickedlocal.com

The morning came in with heavy clouds and damp air, and a chilled September wind, as a gathering grew at the central fire headquarters on Sunday morning.

It was a time to remember how a global act of terror -- the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks -- reached into the heart of one community, claiming two residents -- Andrew Curry Green, and David Bernard -- among the nearly 3,000 who died that day or later from injuries sustained that day.

It was a time to give thanks to the many responders, including a deployment from Chelmsford, who



Former Chelmsford Firefighter Mike McTeague says a prayer at Chelmsford's 9/11 Memorial before the start of the ceremony which unveiled a piece of beam from the World Trade Center, Sept. 11.

went to the scenes of devastation, including the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, struck by two of the four jet airliners hijacked that morning.

Amid the prayer given by fire chaplain, Pastor Steve Burkett, and remembrances for a day that occurred 15 years ago, it was also

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**Video and photo  
gallery**

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**LOCAL NOTES**

**Safe Watch program available**

The Chelmsford Police Department is working to identify those individuals and their caretakers in order to respond to crisis situations in a knowledgeable manner so that the proper steps are taken to ensure the safety of

the individual and those around. Whether the person wanders, becomes separated from a caretaker, or poses a danger, the Chelmsford Police Department is committed to using the proper techniques to ensure a positive outcome.

Family members, caretakers, and friends

are encouraged to make use of this program by completing the form and meeting with Officer Jennifer Bellissimo to discuss the specifics of the form so that the most accurate information is available. This is a free, voluntary, and confidential program that is designed to better equip emergency

personnel when responding to a crisis situation. The information is not for general release.

Forms are available in the lobby of the Chelmsford Police Department and on the Chelmsford Police website. For general questions or concern, please contact Officer Jennifer Bellissimo at

978-256-2521 ext. 148 or jbellissimo@townof-chelmsford.us.

**Water district news**

The Chelmsford Water District, located at 20 Watershed Lane, runs and is managed independently of the town of Chelmsford. Water payments or mail that is intended for the Chelmsford Water District should not be placed in the town mailbox at Town Hall. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please call the Chelmsford Water District at 978-256-2381.

**9/11**

From Page A1

a time to reveal something new at the town's Sept. 11 memorial.

Cast in a granite pillar, with a commemorative plaque, a beam of steel from the World Trade Center wreckage now also marks the place where so many came to remember, grieve and reflect.

The steel beam memorial is the culmination of five years of efforts by the 9/11 Memorial Committee, in conjunction with the New York and New Jersey Port Authority. It joins the other symbols, including granite benches dedicated to each of Chelmsford's lost residents. The memorial was first dedicated Sept. 11, 2014.

**Loss, grief, gratitude**

Among those speaking at the dedication, and one of those who unveiled the memorial, was Nancy Bernard, David Bernard's wife.

David Bernard, 57, was working for the Internal Revenue Service, and had gone to New York to attend a meeting. His job duties when the first jet plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center, his rescuers, who remain unknown, got him to a hospital from where he was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital.

He died, as his wife, Nancy observed, "Three months to do the day," on Dec. 11.

Speaking at the ceremony, she said, "On behalf of the Bernard family I would just like to say a few words, as residents of Chelmsford for past 43 years and bringing up these children, this 9/11 memorial is very special to all of us."

She said, "It is hard to believe it has been 15 years. In the blink of an eye, I can be back on that day, and yet at times it feels like forever, or even never. Time is an observed phenomenon, it has also been called an illusion, a dimension, a smooth, flowing continuum."

For anyone old enough to remember Sept. 11, 2001, she said, "I am sure you will always remember where you were, and what you were doing. That day will certainly remain with us forever. It changed the world we live in today."

She recalled that her husband was on his way to the meeting in Tower 5, when the first jet struck. "He did not die that day, but he died because of that day."

A months-long search for his rescuers proved unsuccessful, but she said she feels that it was likely an emergency responder, from a fire department. "I would have loved to have met and thanked those people, because it gave us a chance to say goodbye — something most who lost loved ones never had a chance to do."

As David Dubinsky played a mournful "TAPS," a sound carried by a strong breeze, Nancy Bernard joined Fire Chief Gary Ryan Fire Capt. Hank He and Selectman Chairman George Dixon lifted a black cloth to unveil the memorial — a single piece of steel, bent but standing tall, in a pillar of granite.

**An ordinary day**

Also speaking that morning was Town Manager Paul Cohen, who thanked the memorial committee, in particular firefighter Donnie Peterson, who Cohen said was at the ceremony in New York City. Cohen said the memorial adds to "this place of respect and remembrance for those who are no longer with us, and those who are with us and who suffered the effects on that date."

Cohen noted that just before the ceremony started, the back-up sound and siren of an emergency vehicle answering



Police and fire personnel salute as the flags are raised and the National Anthem is sung during the Sept. 11 ceremony, held Sunday morning, Sept. 11. WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN KINGWOOD

to call "sort of brought back the day...continual flow of terror alarms going off on that day..."

Cohen too noted that passing of time. "With it being 15 years since that horrific morning, it means that today, we have students enrolled in Chelmsford Public Schools and other schools in our region, as well as young adults who have recently graduated college and are beginning professional lives in our society, who have no direct such experience with this moment in our nation's history."

Cohen added, "I wonder what the children, grand-children and adults and many others who were aboard the ill-fated flights, or who perished in the towers struck in New York City, or the Pentagon building, would want today's children and adults to know about 9/11, and to reflect upon today."

Perhaps, Cohen said, "It's the same information we would have in Chelmsford, and we would want the children and young adults to be aware of. The victims of this tragedy were our fellow citizens — firefighters, police officers, office workers, young adults, professionals, children, and people of all races, cultures and religious beliefs. The victims were not soldiers or otherwise engaged in a military conflict. It was a day of business, going about daily activities in their lives, going on a vacation trip, on a flight, or going to an office building, or going to work in Washington in a Pentagon building."

With terrorism still a presence, Cohen expressed a hope that "finally, because the 9/11 tragedy touched all aspects of our society, that we should continue to be a society that welcomes, values and supports people of all races, cultures, religions and other human characteristics and beliefs. That is what makes our American society special."

**'Story of resilience'**

Fire Chief Gary Ryan, who also praised Peterson and the committee for their efforts to make the steel beam memorial a reality, said it should stand as "a daily reminder to take nothing for granted and count your blessings."

Ryan noted, "No memorial, no ceremony, no words will ever fill the void left in the hearts of so many. By coming together, to mark this 15th anniversary, there is something to be gained by acknowledging our blessings."

Ryan said, "We are provided with a small measure of comfort, knowing that what the heart once owned and had,



Coming over to touch the piece of beam from the World Trade Center are Chelmsford Selectman Bob Joyce and 11-year-old Ella Bernard, of Middleton. Her grandfather, David Bernard, of Chelmsford, was injured in New York on 9/11 and died three months later. She was inspecting the memorial at the Sept. 11 ceremony held at the fire headquarters.



A crowd listens to the National Anthem during the town's Sept. 11 ceremony, held Sept. 11, at the fire headquarters.



Flowers sit on the benches, for David Bernard and Andrew Curry Green, Chelmsford's two victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. A memorial ceremony was held Sept. 11, to unveil the addition of a piece of beam from the World Trade Center to Chelmsford's Sept. 11 memorial.

it shall never lose. The past 15 years tell a story of resilience, as the American spirit is defined by our ability to move forward, rebuild and summon the courage to lift ourselves up and carry on."

Among those who attended the ceremony was Annmarie Pine and her son, Ethan, 14, who recently started his career at Nashoba Valley Technical High School.

Pine said her older son,

Aubrey, 23, who is in the Navy is stationed aboard the U.S.S. Austin, one of the ships sustained after the Sept. 11 attacks, with steel from Ground Zero incorporated into its body.

Pine said joining the Navy became a dream and a mission for her son since the age of 12. She recalled, "After all that happened on 9/11, by the grace of God, he wanted to be on that ship."

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