

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Many staffing changes took place during the year reflecting members joining, leaving and being promoted. The Department welcomed the addition of Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Amiot, our second new hire to successfully complete the Massachusetts Fire Academy's (MFA) 12 week Recruit Training Program, graduating on March 30, 2007. While attending the Academy FF/Paramedic Amiot distinguished himself receiving a commendation for treating a injured recruit during a training evolution. FF/Paramedic Amiot's hiring completes the Department's State License process for our Advanced Life Support (ALS) effort. Two call members left the Department during the past year. Firefighter Peter Hildebrandt retired after 32 years of service for the community. Also Firefighter/Paramedic George Bent was appointed to the Norwood Fire Department as full time member. The Department wishes both well in their future endeavors and know they will be missed.

Organizationally, the Department continues a transitional process to meet administrative and management goals for enhancing service delivery to the community. Peter Petrushik was promoted to a newly created Captain's position, which is responsible for overall administration of budget, administrative matters and planning, as an adjunct to the Fire Chief. Also, Firefighter/Paramedic Russell Hall was promoted to a newly created position as Lieutenant/Director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Working as the Director of EMS, Lt. Hall is responsible for quality control and improvement of the ALS program. During the first two years ALS was provided to the community, 103 patients with severe and potentially life threatening medical conditions received pre-hospital in-the-field care resulting in positive patient outcomes. Finally Michael Findlen was promoted to Lieutenant for on-duty shift Group 2.

Call Firefighter Jamie Masterson completed his paramedic certification during the year providing the Department with the ability to rely upon our call staff for ALS support. Firefighter/Paramedic Richard Yunker completed the MFA's Advanced Fire

Investigator program and will assist with fire investigations, while Captain Petrushik, Lieutenants Hall and Mark Kantzer completed the MFA Advanced Firefighter Rescue program.

A total of 734 fire inspections were performed during the year by the on-duty staff. These inspections included 131 Permits issued for residential re-sale documenting operational smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; 97 commercial buildings; and 53 Permits for new fire alarms installed in buildings. The remaining inspections included Permits for LPG storage, new oil burner installations, oil tank removals/installations, performing fire drills, plan reviews for construction and tank/transfer truck inspections. All inspections conducted are mandated to be performed by the Fire Department as required by Massachusetts General Laws.

While work continues with the Director of Public Works, Building Commissioner and Town Officials to construct a new Public Safety Complex, the Department has moved meeting and ready room functions to a rental trailer located to the rear of the existing building, given the support of Town Boards. Again, we remain optimistic the coming year will yield a resolution for the relief of overcrowding, improvement for employee safety and enhancement for the delivery of service to the community through the construction of a new facility.

Given a beautiful day the Department's Annual Open House was well attended by the community. The Open House concluded with a rescue demonstration where firefighters used the JAWS-OF-LIFE to remove a patient from a simulated vehicle accident. Firefighters continued an annual Norfolk festivity donning Halloween costumes for the Lion's Club Haunted Train Ride, "scaring" young and old. The Department's tradition of serving the community was again evident as firefighters served up the annual Senior Dinner, featuring the magic of Magic Dave and music by Linda Bent, to delight of the near capacity crowd at the Federated Church. Finally, the Department ensured Santa arrived at the Town's Library during the annual Santa Parade. Firefighters also

continue to provide fire safety presentations to community groups and within the schools, along with conduct CPR and AED training.

The Department continues to be fortunate to receive wide spread support from the community supplementing the municipal budget. During the year CEI Boston donated funds for the installation of a push-bar and winch on the Department's new shift officer's vehicle. Also the annual fund raising letter defrayed the expenses associated with the Open House, Haunted Hay Ride and Senior Dinner, along with the Scholarship Program. Also grant assistance from the Executive Office of Public Safety funded new protective emergency footwear for all staff and supported Lt. Findlen's S.A.F.E. efforts in the schools and community.

Replacing a 1987 Chevrolet brush truck, the Department sought to acquire a vehicle which would address multiple needs. A 2007 Ford F550 was placed into service in April, purchased with Town funding, designed to be a multi-task unit. First the vehicle is used each day by the shift officer, but also carries water and hose for fire suppression, doubling as a brush truck and rescue vehicle carrying a portable JAWS-OF-LIFE hydraulic spreader/cutter along with emergency medical gear. Also, given Town Meeting approval, the Department awarded a bid to Greenwood Fire Apparatus for new engine, which will replace Engine 2, a 1991, Pierce, thereby meeting our goal of replacing front line fire apparatus within 20 years of manufacture. The new engine, expected to be placed into service in January, 2008, has been configured for fire suppression action along with carrying medical/hydraulic rescue equipment.

Statistically, the Department responded to 1,283 emergent incidents with calls for emergency medical assistance, such as difficulty breathing, cardiac conditions or trauma from accidents, representing more than 60% of this call volume. The year in review follows:

Major Fire/Incident Review – 2007

1-2 – Medflight landing zone established at Freeman/Centennial School for a patient with a head injury from a fall.

1-26 – 72 & 143 North Street – 2 simultaneous chimney fires, received mutual aid from Wrentham with a ladder truck for 143 North Street. Damage limited to the chimney at both addresses.

1-28 – 234 Main Street – porch fire caused by disposal of ashes. Fire confined to the porch.

2-5 – Mutual Aid to Millis, GAF Plant with Ladder 1. Ladder 1 crew assisted with overhaul.

2-5 – Mutual Aid to Millis, Birch Street, fully involved house fire. Engine 1 supplied water to the scene and Tank 1 shuttled water from a nearby hydrant. Ladder 1 was also used at the scene.

3-2 – Storm causing 11 incidents, 9 water emergencies, fire alarm activation and medical transport.

3-9 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, 3rd alarm fire, Clark Cutler Plant. Engine 1 crew worked to extinguish fire on the roof.

3-24 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, 2nd alarm fire, Hawthorne Village condominiums. Engine 1 crew assigned to adjoining condominium unit to remove smoke and check for fire extension.

3-30 – Dean Street, brush clearing machine destroyed by fire along the high tension lines, which also started a large inaccessible brush fire. Mutual aid provided by Millis and Medway to the scene. A Wrentham engine company covered Norfolk and responded with mutual aid from Walpole and Foxboro to two medical calls and established a landing zone for Medflight at the former Norfolk Airport, as Franklin/Millis provided mutual aid to transport a youth with a head injury.

4-1 – Mutual Aid to Norwood, Chapel Street. Norfolk Engine 1 originally called on a 2nd alarm to cover the Norwood station. While enroute, Norwood directed the company to Chapel Street for a fully involved building fire with exposure. Engine 1 confined the fire to the building of origin and was supported by engine companies from Wrentham and Foxboro. Norfolk's engine company received

a commendation from Norwood in the local paper for their work.

4-1 – Storm causing 9 incidents, including a tree through the roof of a Main Street group home, 5 calls for wires down, 2 water emergencies, and a fire alarm activation. Crews from Engine and Ladder 1 removed the tree from the group home and covered damaged roof.

4-19 – Mutual Aid to Millis, Stoney Brook condominiums, Engine and Ladder 1 responded and assisted at the scene.

4-22 – 11 Hunter Road, camping trailer fire, which was destroyed, with brush fire. Initially reported as a brush fire, the new Squad 1, placed into service earlier in the week, responded confining the fire's spread until the arrival of Engine 1.

5-2 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Aggregate Industries, fire involving an asphalt processing tank. Engine 1's crew advanced a hoseline to the fire and Tank 1 shuttled water to the scene, which lacked fire hydrant coverage.

5-12 – 6 Meadowbrook Way, 2nd alarm house fire. Engines 1 & 2 along with Ladder 1 confined the fire to the rear of the building, which resulted in moderate damage to the home. Norfolk was assisted at the scene by Franklin, Millis, Walpole and Wrentham. Franklin's Rescue transported a firefighter with minor injury to Caritas/Norwood Hospital. Foxboro's engine company covered Norfolk.

5-17 – 6 Keeney Pond, construction accident, worker fell into basement with paralysis. Engine and Ladder 1, supported by Squad 14, extricated the worker from the basement. Rescue 2 transported the worker to Rhode Island Hospital's Trauma Center.

5-17 – Mutual Aid to Walpole, Main & Winter Streets, gas main explosion and fire with multiple injuries. Rescue transported a burn patient to Caritas/Norwood Hospital, while Engine 1 crew assisted Walpole fire units.

5-27 – 6 Meadowbrook Way, 2nd alarm house fire, building destroyed. Using multiple hoselines from Engine 1 and Ladder

1's ladder pipe, supplied by Engine 2, this fire required the assistance from Franklin, Millis, Walpole and Wrentham. Foxboro's engine company covered Norfolk. Rescue 1 transported a firefighter with a minor injury to Caritas/Norwood Hospital.

5-30 – Mutual Aid to Millis, Chelsea Way, 2nd alarm house fire. Engine 1 crew worked the rear of the dwelling with a hoseline. A Walpole engine company covered Norfolk.

6-24 – Dunkin Donuts, Main Street, mulch fire entered the building through combustible siding. Engine and Ladder 1 crews confined the fire to the building's exterior.

7-7 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, North Street, Wrentham Developmental Center, fully involved storage building fire. Engine 1 crew provided water supply to Wrentham's ladder and engine as well as using its deck gun and hoselines for fire extinguishment.

7-8 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, North Street, Wrentham Developmental Center, fully involved barn fire. Engine 1 supplied water to the scene using a "portable pond" which was refilled by Tank 1 and multiple mutual aid tankers. Squad 14 also responded for firefighter rehab.

7-12 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Garfield Street, for a kitchen fire in a residence. Engine 1 crew assisted Franklin companies.

7-30 – Lincoln Road, Call & Wait, scrapped truck fire, with a minor burn injury. Engine 1 crew extinguished the fire and treated a worker for minor burns. Walpole dispatched a tanker as the area lacks fire hydrants.

8-10 – Mutual Aid to Millis, Walnut Hill Road, for an attic fire. Engine 1 crew assisted with multiple mutual aid companies on scene extinguishing the fire.

8-18 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Conlyn Street, house fire. Engine 1 crew assisted Franklin companies extinguish the fire.

8-31 – 93 Medway Street, fatal motor vehicle accident. Engine 2 crew performed a "rapid extrication" to render ALS to an unresponsive driver of a vehicle which struck a tree. Patient was transported to

Caritas/Norwood Hospital assisted by Wrentham Rescue 1.

9-14 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, King Philip High School, for a storage trailer fire. Engine 1 crew assisted with fire extinguishment.

9-15 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Kenneth Minor Drive, fire in a manufacturing facility. Engine 1 crew assisted with removing smoke from the building.

10-8 – Mutual Aid to Walpole, MCI-Cedar Junction, fire in a watch tower. Ladder 1 assisted Walpole extinguish an electrical fire.

10-15 – Bay State Corrections, gas leak within a housing unit. Engine and Ladder 1 were committed inside the secure area to clear gas. Mutual aid was provided by a Millis engine company standing by at the scene and a Wrentham engine company covering Norfolk.

10-18 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, El Contra Restaurant, kitchen fire. Engine 1 crew assisted Franklin's companies overhauling inside the restaurant.

11-19 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, 2nd alarm dwelling fire on Brandywyne Lane. Engine 1 crew stretched a hoseline over a ground ladder to assist extinguishing an attic fire with multiple mutual aid companies.

11-19 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Green Street, house fire. Engine 1 crew assisted by removing sections of the exterior wall to expose fire and venting the roof.

11-22 – Pine Street, motor vehicle accident with fire and driver trapped. Shift staff, under the direction Deputy Chief Stephen Wood, performed a "rapid extrication" of the driver and to extinguish a fire entering the passenger compartment. Rescue 1 transported the driver to Rhode Island Hospital's Trauma Center.

11-28 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Short Street, house fire. Engine 1 crew stood by as a firefighter rescue team while Franklin's companies extinguished the fire.

12-9 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Coronation Drive, house fire. Engine 1 crew stood by as firefighter rescue team as Franklin's companies extinguished the fire.

12-10 – North Street, horse rescue. Engine and Squad 1 crew used air bags, saws and lighting to free a downed horse assisted by police and the Animal Control Officer.

12-21 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Dedham Street, gas leak. Engine 1 crew monitored area with gas detection equipment.

12-27 – Union Street, cardiac arrest. Firefighter/Paramedics revived patient.

12-29 – Bush Pond, person fell through the ice. Firefighters using survival suits rescued women from ice covered waters.

Cooperative working relationships create a positive environment for community safety. Assistance provided by the Police Department and Communications Center staffs represents the cornerstone for cooperative community spirit. The Department wishes to thank all Town Agencies, Boards and Commissions with who work with constantly. Also we thank the Town's Electrical Inspector, Ron Bain, who responds to emergency scenes to protect firefighters and the community. Lastly we would like to thank the Department of Public Works staffs who maintain our apparatus and keep the roads cleared during storms. We reserve our most heartfelt thanks for the businesses and residents of Norfolk. Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully submitted,

Coleman C. Bushnell
Fire Chief

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

FIRE CHIEF

Coleman C. Bushnell, EMT, full time

DEPUTY CHIEF

Stephen A. Wood

CAPTAIN

Peter J. Petruchik, EMT, full time

LIEUTENANTS

David C. Holmes, EMT

John F. Kelley, EMT, full time

Mark R. Kantzer, EMT, full time

Michael P. Findlen, Paramedic, full time

Russell A. Hall, Paramedic, full time

FIREFIGHTERS

Mark Amiot, Paramedic, full time

Darren Bycoff, EMT

Richard F. Clancy Jr., Paramedic, full time

Nathan G. Fletcher, EMT

Mark W. Haigh, Paramedic, full time

Stephen R. Hamlin, EMT, full time

David W. Johnston

Douglas E. Johnston III, Paramedic, full time

James F. Leary

Jamie Masterson, Paramedic

David Russo, Jr., Paramedic, full time

Richard E. Yunker, Paramedic, full time

John C. Zajac, EMT