



# HOUGHTY'S HEROES



*Bi-Monthly News from the Wayland Fire Department*

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**Assistant Chief Receives Credentials:** On December 20, 2017, Assistant Chief Neil McPherson was granted accreditation to the level of fire chief for demonstrating the required fire service experience, education, and certifications for such accreditation. The Massachusetts Fire Service Commission is a gubernatorial appointed board that has instituted this process of uniform credentialing. The program establishes requirements based on education, training, and experience in areas relevant to serving as fire chief. It provides benchmarks for training in fire and emergency service management so that chiefs are better prepared to serve their departments and their communities. The applicant's documentation is reviewed by a subcommittee of the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission to determine if the individual has attained a minimum level of credits in the areas of education, training, and experience.



Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Assistant Chief McPherson, Fire Commission Chair, Chief Alan Roy (Palmer Fire)

**New Hire:** The Department is happy to announce that we have selected Ryan Cheney as the next Firefighter for the town of Wayland. Ryan replaces Brain Burgett who retired back in November. Ryan lives with his wife in Holliston, and is certified Firefighter 1 and 2, as well as an Emergency Medical Technician. He has completed all of his training requirements and is now waiting to be tested by the Commonwealth for certification as a Paramedic. Ryan will begin his orientation on January 8<sup>th</sup> working two weeks of days before being assigned to a regular work shift. Ryan will be meeting the Board of Selectmen in January to be sworn in.

**Defibrillator at the Library:** Last, but not least... the Library is now the holder of a defibrillator. This is the last of the town owned buildings used by the general public to have one installed. Through the tremendous efforts of our Public Health Nurse, Ruth Mori, we have completed our goal of having public accessible defibrillators at all public buildings. A big THANK YOU and shout out to Ruth for her support in reaching this goal.



**CPR Classes:** Assistant Chief McPherson has taught several CPR classes to the DPW and library staff as well as many of our senior citizens. At the request of each of these groups, Neil has been able to teach six library staff, 29 DPW staff and nine senior citizens. It is great to see that people care enough to learn these basic skills that, in conjunction with the use of a defibrillator, could save a life. Wayland truly is a "Heart Safe Community."

**Not an Easy Commute:** It was a perfectly good day... weather wise..., however, the driver of this vehicle "feel back to sleep" while driving on Route 30 during the morning commute. The injuries were very minor, and the person self-extricated prior to Fire and EMS arrival. The good news is that it landed perfectly on the yellow line allowing traffic to pass by slowly. Maybe one more cup of coffee should have been in order!



**New CMR:** On January 1<sup>st</sup> the Commonwealth began using an updated Fire Prevention Regulation in combination with the National Fire Protection Association Fire Code. This updated code with several Massachusetts amendments is what the Fire Service in the Commonwealth uses to enforce codes and regulations with all things Fire Service related. The Chief, Assistant Chief, and Fire Inspector have all attended classes to bring us up to date on the code changes. We want to be proactive on any project being considered and encourage everyone to reach out to us before submitting plans. This ensures that all parties are aware of codes and regulations allowing for a smooth transition through the inspection and occupancy processes.

**Station 2 Septic:** There was great progress on the installation of a new septic system at Station 2 until the cold weather hit. The outdated cesspool that has been in operation since the building was built in 1953 is being replaced. Along with the new septic system, a tight tank will be installed to collect the water from the floor drains. It is hoped that both projects will be completed early this spring.

**Training is Complete:** The new ladder truck is in full service and is ready to serve the residents as needed. It is housed at Fire Station 1, and we welcome everyone to stop by and take a tour of the vehicle and see all of the tools it carries. Next up will be a new ambulance. It is scheduled for delivery in April and will be in service by late spring.



**Carbon Monoxide:** This is the time of the year when we receive the most calls and have the most concerns about residents becoming exposed to this potentially fatal gas. The gas itself is colorless, odorless, and tasteless and can only be detected with properly placed and working detectors and meters. It is a regulation in Massachusetts that every habitable level in every home is equipped with a working carbon monoxide detector. It is equally important that these detectors are replaced every ten years, and that they are tested on a regular basis. Some of the common causes of CO getting into homes are running vehicles in the garage or near open doors when warm them up, or having the vent pipes from the furnace and hot water heaters blocked by snow.

We would encourage anyone who has questions or concerns about carbon monoxide, especially if any detectors are sounding or activating, to call the fire department. We will come out to help you assess the levels in your home and check out any potential sources.

**Thanks:** We have a lot to be thankful for in 2017. I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for all the support given to us in 2017 and allowing us the resources for the tools and equipment to do our job with the highest quality and standards.