



BOX 42 NEWSLETTER

"Serving the fire community since 1942"

March 2017 - (all images: click twice to enlarge)

MEETING INFORMATION

Normally meetings are held on Saturday late in the month at various fire stations.

The March meeting will be at 1000 hrs on Saturday, March 18th

at Sterling Heights Fire Headquarters
[41625 Ryan Road](http://www.sheriff.com/41625-Ryan-Road)

Michigan Fire Museum At Ypsilanti

The February Box 42 meeting took members to the Michigan Fire Museum in Ypsilanti, where they toured the displays and viewed an array of rigs from the museum's collection of over 70. Richard Story



Above: R&R Fire Truck Repair showed a Smeal 55' Snorkle to members.

Left: The museum displays some 30 pieces of apparatus at a time.

(photos by Mike Rosenblum)

arranged for a visit from Phil Wagner of R&R Fire Truck Repair, who brought by a Spartan-Smeal 55' Snorkle rig for examination. Thanks go to Nancy Lee who provided pastries for the group.

Our January 2016 issue had an article about the museum, and included a number of photos and a video.

To review that issue [\[click here\]](#).

CONTACT US You can contact Box 42 by US mail or email. Submissions are always welcome and highly encouraged.

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Ron Savage Remembered

We are saddened to learn of the February 25th passing of Ron Savage. Ron was an Emmy Award-winning reporter with WJBK-TV and a 25 year volunteer firefighter, currently with the Milford Fire Department. He collapsed with an apparent heart attack after an FD training session. Ron was planning to participate in the annual Climb For Air fundraiser at the Renaissance Center, and was

involved with several local charity and community organizations. On the day before his death he participated in the annual Salvation Army Bed and Breakfast Telethon. Ron held two citations with Milford FD, where he was a firefighter and EMT.



Below: One of several buildings of the Carnegie Apartments was fully involved.

Right: Resident Keith Paul Jr. was rescued.

(photos by Bill Grimshaw)



Southfield Apartment Complex Fire

A mid-day 2-alarm fire on February 3rd destroyed a section of the Carnegie Park Apartment Complex at 26601 W. Carnegie Park Dr. in Southfield. The fire, which brought firefighters from eight departments, consumed 16 units within the complex, although there were no serious injuries reported.

This WJBK report on the fire was anchored by Ron Savage, who died weeks later.

To see the WJBK clip [\[click here\]](#).



47 Years Ago This Month

Box 42 member Walt McCall wrote this *Windsor Star* story about the city's recognition of the retirement of DFD Chief Charles J. Quinlan in 1970. Chief Quinlan died in 1994 at the age of 88. His wife of 54 years, Lucy, died at the age of 102.



THANK YOU—Retiring Fire Chief Charles Quinlan of the Detroit Fire Department was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the citizens of Windsor. From left: Windsor Fire Chief Harold Coxon, Mayor Frank Wansbrough and Chief Quinlan.

A city says 'thank you'

By WALT McCALL
Windsor said "thanks" Tuesday to a good neighbor who is retiring.

He is Charles J. Quinlan, Executive Chief of the Detroit Fire Department who is hanging up his white helmet after 43 years on the fire lines. Chief Quinlan was honored at a luncheon hosted by Windsor Fire Chief Harold Coxon and Mayor Frank Wansbrough.

Guests at the luncheon, held at the Viscount Motor Hotel, included Deputy Fire Chief Jack Mallot of Windsor; Lester P. Emery, Executive Deputy Chief of the Detroit Fire Department, and Martin Barahl, chairman of the fire prevention committee of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

The Detroit and Windsor fire departments formed a strong bond of friendship out

of the ashes of the infamous Detroit riots during the summer of 1967.

Detroit's fire forces had been severely depleted and much of the city was in flames when the Detroit department sent out an urgent plea for help from its neighbors. Windsor responded with three pieces of equipment and more than 100 men who remained on riot duty for more than two days.

Windsor was simply repaying a debt to Detroit that had been outstanding for 117 years.

Aid from the Detroit department was credited with saving the small village of Windsor when our business section was wiped out by a major fire in 1849. Detroit sent two engines and some of its firemen across the choppy Detroit river on ferryboats,

turning the tide and saving our town.

Chief Quinlan was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation from the citizens of Windsor. It read, in part:

"Presented to Chief Quinlan by the citizens of Windsor for his dedication to mutual fire aid and assistance between the Detroit and Windsor fire departments . . . a demonstration of brotherhood at the international level."

March 25, 1970
The Windsor Star

Busy Weekend In Dearborn

Local photographer Ian Kushnir had an article last month in Fire Engineering, where he is a regular contributor. The article describes a busy weekend for the Dearborn Fire Department, where he is the official photographer. Ian, who is also a member of the Detroit Fire Department band, has been shooting fires in the Detroit area since 2005.

To see Ian's article [\[click here\]](#).

Russell Industrial Center Closed For Fire Violations

In the aftermath of a fire in California last year that killed 36 people, attention has turned to Detroit's Russell Industrial Center, a site used in a similar way to the site of the tragedy. The RIC, located at 1600 Clay, is a historic complex of seven buildings designed over 100 years ago by Albert Kahn, that encompasses over 2 million square feet. The site is a former manufacturing plant which produced auto bodies in the 1920s and airplane parts during WWII. Now it's home to 150+ vendors and artists, some of whom have been in place for decades.

WDIV did a piece publicizing the fire hazards of the complex, and recently the city has issued stop work orders and evicted the tenants until the complex is brought into compliance. Many tenants, caught in the middle, are now at odds with the city, apparently overlooking the reason for the actions.

To view WDIV's piece which brought the problem to light [\[click here\]](#).

Reader Comments

From DFD Dep. Comm. Dave Fornell
Thanks so much for letting me expound on the challenges and advancements of the Detroit Fire Department at today's Box 42 meeting. I'm kinda passionate about the department and our progress and appreciate the chance to present our progress to our members. One thing I forgot to clarify is that the squad purchase order has been issued to HME/Ahrens Fox, and they are in the process of dropping the HME from the name. This would make the Ahrens-Fox brand the manufacturer of the squads, and the first purchase of the named equipment in, heck, how many years. Once again, I'm proud and humbled to have been able to address the Box 42 group today. Thanks for all your help and support.

From Jim Leininger
Liked the DSR history - we are probably one of the few people who ever rode the DSR or a streetcar on Woodward and are still around. Detroit's answer to mass transit today is to put streetcars back on Woodward. Glad to see Comm. Fornell attending meetings - always read his articles in the fire apparatus magazine. Really enjoyed reading about "Chief 13"- remember him well - also had a problem communicating the first time I met him. Saw him at a lot of extra alarms.. Glad to see Bill Reardon again - it brought back the time I had them down to Wyandotte for the 4th of July parade with their open cab ALF - WAY BACK WHEN.

From Len Williams
Those old DSR busses brought back memories.

From Ted Main
Another fine job by the Editors of the Box 42 Newsletter. Bill Reardon's brother John was a member of Box 42 when Bob Wise and I joined

in 1967. John's love of the fire department resulted in him joining the DFD for a long career and former member Joe Provost married one of John and Bill's sisters.

From John Kaled
Great newsletter guys.

From Greg Pearn
Sorry to hear of my old friend passing. We were very close. As a corner bar member at Casey's as a clown and as a fund trustee ... we shared lots of interests. Including the internationally famous Geezers which ED sponsored for 20 years ... we got our start together as regulars at Porter street station with a lot of your members. Ha! Especially Main .. love you all. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the buffs that helped me do my job as an acting chief, batt. chief and deputy chief over the years. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Loved the photo of Issac and Main. Keep up the good work. ... Greg Pearn now retired 11 years after putting in 38. They're still paying me. I suspect for NOT coming in.

Coming events

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00
Presentation by Anthony Rzucidlo of the History of the Railroad at Ford's Rouge Plant
915 Brady St, Dearborn. For details [\[click here\]](#).

Saturday, March 18, 10:00
Box 42 meeting at Sterling Heights FD HQ.

Saturday, April 1, 9:00-3:00
Police-Fire Collectors' Show
876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights.
For further information [\[click here\]](#).

Reardon Brothers Team Up

We welcome two more Reardon brothers as new members to Box 42, accepted at the February meeting.

John A. Reardon, who was a member decades ago, re-established his membership status. He retired from DFD several years ago as a lieutenant, and has been an instructor at the Fire Training Institute at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.



John Reardon on Engine 12 in 1974



Rich Reardon

John brought along his brother Rich to the Ypsilanti meeting, and both join their brother Bill, who was accepted as a member in January. Their father, Jack, was a member in the 1970s, and passed away in 1974.

The Box 42 Newsletter welcomes all ideas for input and features and would be happy to hear from any interested persons who have job stories, historical information, newspaper clippings, photos, or other material that you would like to share with the Box 42 community. Please send all news and information to the address on the front page.

Editors: Bill and Mike Rosenblum

High-Rise Rescue By DFD

DFD got some good press following a high-rise rescue at 234 State Street on February 9th. The building is home to a number of seniors, some disabled, who live on upper floors. With no working elevator, firefighters brought a man down from the 15th floor during the fire. A followup report from WDIV indicated that the residents still had no working elevator four days later.

For WDIV's story on the fire [\[click here\]](#).

San Francisco Pull Boxes

Reader Wayne Isken pointed out this article from five years ago, showing how San Francisco and several other cities still make use of pull boxes on the street. For those interested, Facebook has a group called 'Gamewell Collectors' which hosts discussion and images about police and fire boxes and related items.

To read the article [\[click here\]](#).

Manhole Explosion on Washington Boulevard

While broadcasting a live segment for WDIV, Tim Pamplin caught an underground explosion just north of the former DFD headquarters at Washington Blvd. and Larned.

This clip shows a recap of what happened.

To view the clip [\[click here\]](#).

Smeal-Snorkle demonstration at Michigan Firehouse Museum (photo by Mike Rosenblum)



Detroit Apparatus Update

Member Dan Jasina sent images of three new Detroit engines, shown below. Engines 39, 40, and 48 are 2016 Spartan/Smeal rigs with 1500 gallons per minute pumps and 500 gallon tanks. **Right below:** Ladder 13 is back in service with a 2005 Pierce rear-mounted aerial. (photos by Dan Jasina)

