

# THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**E**ric Rauschenbach has been named the Hazardville Fire Department's (HFD) Firefighter of the Year. A firefighter since 1983, Eric was voted for this special honor by his peers. The award, which was presented by Deputy Chief Mark Zarcaro at the annual banquet in April, is given to one member of the Department who is identified as a valuable asset to the Department, as well as a strong team player.



Eric conducts fire inspections and Fire Marshal work and also assists with the HFD's day-to-day operations and responsibilities. He is described as a "steady, hard-working guy" who is "always there."

## Visit Us **ONLINE**

Visit the Hazardville Fire Department online at [www.hazardvillefire.org](http://www.hazardvillefire.org) for information about our many programs and services, an up-to-date listing of events and

activities, seasonal fire safety and prevention tips, a complete roster of our members, a glimpse into the rich history of our Department, past issues of

*The Village Trumpet* and much more!



## Meet Our **CHIEF ENGINEER**

**A**t the age of 82, Dave Steele is the oldest member of the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD). He has been with the Department for 44 years and has no plans to retire. As Chief Engineer, Dave works to maintain apparatus and equipment, ensuring that everything functions properly.

According to Chief Jack Flanagan, Dave is a major asset to the HFD team.

"If you want something done the right way, call Dave," he says. "When the job is complete, it will be done right. He can fix anything you put in front of him."



Deputy Chief Mark Zarcaro describes Dave as a true friend to everyone in the Department. "He would go out of his way to help any one of us, without being asked," he says. Mark also reports

that Dave has a "fairly mischievous nature and likes a good practical joke."

## AN "EGGSCITING" DAY at Nathan Hale School

**T**hanks, in part, to assistance from the Hazardville Fire Department, students at Enfield's Nathan Hale School recently enjoyed a fun lesson in the power of teamwork and creativity in the scientific process. Students in grades one through six participated in an egg drop. The activity was initiated several years ago by 3rd-grade teacher Jan Ellis. This year, it was coordinated by several of the school's teachers and took place in May.

Each class in the school was divided into groups. Groups were then given an egg, and each group needed to provide a 12"x12" cardboard box. Students were told that their eggs would be dropped from approximately 60 feet in the air, and their mission was to find a way to protect it. They could use only five items, including the cardboard box. They were left to their own invention to determine what other



items would be most effective. The eggs were dropped from Hazardville Fire Department's aerial truck.

Even those groups whose eggs were broken enjoyed working together on this exciting project and learned a powerful lesson. Later, they also enjoyed seeing the Egg Drop on the news, thanks to WVIT-TV Channel 30's coverage of the event.

## HFD "Swings" INTO ACTION



**H**azardville Fire Department's (HFD) 16th Annual Golf Tournament took place Saturday, June 29, 2008, at Hampden Country Club in Hampden, MA. The event, organized by Lieutenant Alex Martin, raised more than \$1,000 for Shriners Hospitals for Children. In addition to 18-holes of golf, participants enjoyed a raffle and steak dinner.

Shown above during the Tournament are (standing, left to right) Rob Smith, Jamie Hurley, George Kozikowski, Ryan Cunningham, Alex Martin, Dave Praus and (kneeling) Mark Zarcaro.

## SMOKEHOUSE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL EVENTS

**S**everal years ago, thanks to a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Fire Administration, The Fire Departments of Enfield purchased a smoke trailer. The smoke trailer provides a hands-on educational approach to fire safety and disaster preparedness. This mobile training vehicle is used to educate children and seniors at schools, recreational centers, daycare and preschool programs, libraries, senior housing complexes, the Senior Center and at all

neighborhood parks. It is also available, by request, for local events. If you would like to feature the smoke trailer at an upcoming event, please call Chief Jack Flanagan, of the Hazard Fire Department, at (860) 749-8344.



## District MILL RATE Holds Steady

**D**uring the Hazardville Fire District's 2008 Annual Meeting on May 19, it was determined that the mill rate for the district will be held at the current rate of 1.75 in the coming year. The Fire Commissioners strongly opposed raising taxes during these difficult economic times.

Also during the meeting, Commissioner Richard Tkacz spoke on behalf of all the commissioners in thanking members of the Hazardville Fire Department for their ongoing dedication and commitment to protecting area residents.

## Congratulations ARE IN ORDER

*Seven members of the Hazardville Fire Department recently achieved new certifications, as listed below:*

### **Lieutenant Alex Martin**

Fire Officer 1  
Pump Operator  
Rescue Technician for Vehicles  
and Machinery

### **Firefighter Jeremy Simmons**

Paramedic Certification  
Fire Service Instructor 2

### **Firefighter Dan Kennedy**

Public Educator 1  
EMT Certification

### **Firefighter Brian Nasuta**

Firefighter 1 and 2  
EMT Certification

### **Firefighter Garrett Lizee**

Firefighter 1

### **Firefighter Eric Rauschenbach**

EMT Certification

### **Firefighter Pat Martin**

EMT Certification

## CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY

# *Class of 2008*



Again this spring, local residents had the opportunity to learn more about The Fire Departments of Enfield by participating in the Citizens Fire Academy. During a series of six weekly, 2 1/2-hour programs, participants learned about a variety of interesting topics, as follows:

- Fire Prevention – Extinguisher Training
- Special Operations – Haz Mat
- Vehicle Rescue – Extrication
- Burn Trailer – Live Burn
- Fire Ground Operations
- Smoke Trailer Thermal Imaging

In addition, participants had the opportunity to visit and meet the personnel at each of Enfield's six fire departments, including Enfield Station

One, Enfield Station Two, Thompsonville, North Thompsonville, Hazardville and Shaker Pines. The last session, held May 8, featured a graduation and celebratory barbecue.

This was only the second year that the Citizens Fire Academy was offered, but the goal is to make it an annual event. The program, which is geared for adults, is strictly educational; it is not intended to train participants to assist the fire department. The Academy is limited to 24 participants, and attendance at all six sessions is not required.

If you would like more information about the Citizens Fire Academy, please call Chief Jack Flanagan, of the Hazardville Fire Department, at (860) 749-8344.

## *On Board for a* **SECOND TERM**

Tom Kozikowski has been appointed as a commissioner of the Hazardville Fire District for a second term. The appointment was made during the district's annual meeting, which took place in May.

A life-long resident of Enfield's Hazardville section, Tom was a member of Hazardville Fire Department for seventeen years. During that time he served as treasurer,



2nd engineer and safety officer. He is a fire protection consultant for the Liberty Mutual Group and Wausau Insurance Company, in Boston, MA. In addition, Tom enjoys membership in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), NFPA Industrial, NFPA Building Fire Safety Systems and the National Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He has been a fire commissioner since 2004.

## CAN YOU FILL THESE BOOTS?



*Put Your  
Best Foot Forward...  
Become a  
Volunteer Firefighter!*

With 33.8 square miles and more than 45,000 residents to protect, The Fire Departments of Enfield, which includes the Hazardville Fire Department, is always in need of courageous men and women to serve as volunteer firefighters. We invite you to join forces with us for a life-changing experience — not only for you, but for the individuals and families whose lives you will touch along the way.

Volunteer firefighters are trained to work under the direction of company officers to perform rescue, fire extinguishment, ventilation, salvage, overhaul, extrication and medical-aid duties. Duties are outlined more specifically at [www.hazardvillefire.org](http://www.hazardvillefire.org).

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, please visit us online for more information and an application or call (860) 749-8344. Volunteers enjoy many rewards and incentives, the greatest of which is a sense of belonging to a brotherhood/sisterhood that is unlike anything you have ever known before.



# Are You **CAMPFIRE SAVVY?**

**S**ummer is here... a time for backyard gatherings, campouts and toasted marshmallows. Before you light that campfire, take the time to learn the local policy on open fires. While the Hazardville Fire Department does not require fire permits for campfires, it does require local residents to follow these guidelines, as issued by the North Central District Health Department:

- The fire must be kept small and located a safe distance away from buildings, trees or other combustible material.
- Only clean, natural wood can be burned. No trash, paper, leaves or other material can be burned.
- No fire shall be started when the fire danger is rated high, as determined

by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, or when the air pollution index is rated as unhealthful. Typically, no fire should be started on hot, humid, muggy nights or days.

- No fire shall be started when the wind speed is less than 5 mph or greater than 15 mph.
- No fire shall be started when the wind is directing the smoke towards a residential building.
- No fire shall be started when the wind is from the north or northwest.

Enjoy your campfires this summer, but remember: if your fire is deemed to be out of control or not safe for any reason, you may be asked to extinguish it.

**HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
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