

THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Introducing THE VILLAGE TRUMPET



Welcome to the premier edition of *The Village Trumpet*, a publication from the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD).

This publication has been named for the speaking trumpet historically used for communication by fire officers. Such trumpets, which date back to as early as 1752, enabled officers to give command during a fire and to call cadence for hand pumpers. While early trumpets were made of painted tin, later brass trumpets became popular gifts for fire officers. The trumpet continued to serve as an important communication device for many years. It is now used as a symbol to indicate rank within fire departments.

We hope that our *Village Trumpet* will live up to its name by serving as an effective method of communicating with the entire community of Hazardville. In this newsletter, you will find tips pertaining to fire safety and prevention, information about programs and events sponsored by the Fire Departments of Enfield, profiles of our members and other exciting features. If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share, please feel free to call HFD at (860) 749-8344.

THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT...

at Your Service

The Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) has a very rich and unique history, full of innovation and achievement. Members of the Department take tremendous pride in our long tradition of service, as reflected in the design of our station patch and in our station itself.

While HFD was originally staffed solely by volunteers, we are now fortunate to have a limited paid staff during the week. Nevertheless, we

continue to rely heavily on the dedication and commitment of volunteers. Working together, our paid and volunteer firefighters are responsible for preserving life and property for the second largest fire district in Enfield.

In addition to providing fire protection and life-safety services, HFD acts as an important resource for those interested in learning more about personal and public safety. Whether you

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HFD THEN and NOW

The Hazardville Fire Department was established in 1893, at which time the population of Hazardville was approximately 1,500. The village was surrounded by shade tobacco plantations and featured numerous houses, barns and sheds, and business establishments. Fire was a major threat, yet the only protection was from bucket brigades formed to fight it. As the result of resident concerns, state legislature petitioned to create a fire district.

In the 115 years since that time, countless changes have taken place within HFD. Our current firehouse was constructed in 1957 and upgraded in 1992. Today, we are a sophisticated public safety rescue system dedicated to protecting the 4,900 citizens of Hazardville.



at Your Service

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are faced with a fire, trying to protect your home and family in the event of a hurricane, or simply enjoying an afternoon by the pool, knowledge and preparedness are the keys to safety and survival. To this end, we sponsor a variety of special programs and events to educate the public.

Our educational efforts are even extended to the very young. Our Fire Prevention and Education Program teaches children the basics of fire prevention and response and

encourages them to become safety-minded at an early age. It is our goal to inspire good habits that will protect these children today and serve them throughout their lives.

Today's modern fire service is presently undergoing a transitional process. In recent years, HFD has evolved into a highly sophisticated public safety rescue system aimed at saving lives and reducing the severity of injuries. The Department's vision for the future continues to guide us towards excellence. This is achieved through deliberate planning, adaptability and the courage to embrace challenges and opportunities.

MEET *the* COMMISSIONERS

Hazardville Fire Department enjoys the leadership of three skilled fire commissioners, who work together in overseeing operations of the Department and ensuring the provision of high-quality fire protection services for our community. Although fire commissioners are not generally required to have previously served as firefighters, all three of our commissioners were firefighters for ten years or more. This level of hands-on experience makes Hazardville unique among many other fire districts.

Below, for your information, is a brief introduction to our three fire commissioners:

PHILIP EDWARD THOMAS CHAIRMAN



Philip has served as fire commissioner since 2000 and is an honorary member of HFD. In his previous fire department experience, he served as a volunteer firefighter, highest-rank deputy chief, and fire marshal under the Commissioner of State Police from 1966 to 1991. He chartered the town's Fire Marshals Association and created school fire-prevention curriculum for grades K through 6. Philip is also chairman of the Board of Governors for

the Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield, MA, and is a past president of the Northeast Shrine Association.

TOM KOZIKOWSKI



Tom was as a member of HFD for seventeen years, during which time he served as treasurer, 2nd engineer and safety officer. He is a fire protection consultant for the Liberty Mutual Group, 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.

RICHARD TKACZ



As a life-long resident of Enfield, Rich served the community as a HFD firefighter for ten years. He has been a fire commissioner since 2005. Rich is the owner of Rich's Oil Service. He is also a member and past president of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Enfield Rotary, Board of Directors for Johnson Health Network and Board of Rockville Bank.

Our **VISION**, **MISSION** and **VALUES**

Members of the Hazardville Fire Department come from different walks of life, but we are united by a shared commitment to protecting our community. We also share the vision, mission and core values outlined below.

VISION

The Hazardville Fire Department is committed to providing a superior level of emergency service that continually improves the quality of life, health and safety of the people we serve — the citizens of Hazardville and the town of Enfield — when called on.

MISSION

We are committed to providing a superior emergency service organization, which continually improves the quality of service delivered to our customers, the citizens of Hazardville.

CORE VALUES

- EXCELLENCE** — Striving for constant improvement to better serve the community and each other.
- SAFETY** — The preservation of life remains the number one goal of the HFD, beginning with the responder and extending to the public.
- VALOR** — Courageously encountering adversity, accepting responsibility for one's actions, and providing respectful and professional conduct due the public and our members.
- INTEGRITY** — Always doing what is right, even when it's difficult or unpopular, so that what we do individually and as an organization will stand up to public scrutiny.
- DEDICATION** — Wholly committed to the mission and vision of our Department. The faithful observance of duty beckons us to fulfill our obligations professionally and honestly.

A Call to **ACTION**

Since its beginnings, Hazardville Fire Department has enjoyed the support of many courageous volunteer firefighters. These selfless men and women go above and beyond the call of duty to protect their fellow community members. In return for their heroic efforts and commitment, they enjoy many wonderful benefits, including the feeling of satisfaction that comes from helping others and a sense of belonging to a brotherhood/sisterhood that is like none other.

What follows is a profile on one volunteer who felt a calling to our Department many years ago and has answered that call time and time again.

MARK ZACCARO has been a firefighter in the Hazardville Fire Department since November 1977, at which time he was only 20 years old. He quickly proved his commitment and ability and became a highly valued member of the HFD team. Thirty years and two moves later, the Department and its members continue to hold a special place in Mark's heart, and the feeling is entirely mutual.



In 1988, Mark made the heart-wrenching decision to leave his post and relocate to Stafford. Five years later, a change in work found Mark back in Enfield during the day. His schedule was flexible enough to enable him to rejoin the Department and be

on-call during daytime hours. In 1997, he moved back to Enfield and officially resumed the role of firefighter.

Mark is fortunate to enjoy the support of his wife, who understands his passion for the Fire Department and the fact that it is "in his blood." Mark feels that the Department gives him a sense of belonging that you don't always get from your job. Most importantly, he takes great satisfaction in being able to help others. He enjoys the feeling of capability and says that being a firefighter simply "becomes who you are."

To date, the largest fire that Mark has been involved in was at the Brown Building in Thompsonville back in

1978. In addition to fighting fires, he coordinates training programs for volunteers. He explains that volunteers train three days a month, during which time they explore various topics and skills. Mark also oversees Squad 5, a program for junior firefighters age 14 to 18.

The need for volunteer firefighters, like Mark, is great. While HFD is charted to have 50 firefighters, it currently has only 35. "It's a numbers game," Mark says, "the more you have, the more that are available to respond to calls." He adds that HFD currently has five paid firefighters. Without volunteers, many more paid members would be needed, resulting in higher tax dollars.

The role of volunteer firefighter is open to men and women age 18 and older. Mark feels that the ideal age to become a volunteer is in the late teens or early twenties, when there are generally fewer attachments and obligations. It's a great opportunity to meet people, learn potential career skills, network and make a difference.

To learn more about volunteering within HFD, please call (860) 749-8344. More information, including a downloadable application, is also available online at www.hazardvillefire.org.

SQUAD 5 Provides FIRE TRAINING and MORE

Enfield teenagers age 14 to 18 with an interest in firefighting are encouraged to consider participating in Squad 5. This fire-training program engages students in hands-on activities aimed at teaching them the basic skills of firefighting. The only drills that students are restricted from participating in are "how to enter a burning building," "how to fight a car fire" and "how to climb a ladder to full height." Following high school graduation, Squad 5 students are eligible to become full members of their local fire

departments, with no restrictions.

Squad 5 is a great learning opportunity. Students gain valuable insight into what it means to be a member of a fire department and the responsibility associated with the job. The program also provides Enfield youth with a place to go and spend time with respected community leaders

There are currently eight teenagers involved in Squad 5, and the program is limited to ten participants. If you would like more information, please call (860) 749-8344.

Visit Us **ONLINE**

Visit the Hazardville Fire Department online at 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 and much more!



Make it a Safe Summer!

BBQ SAFETY 101



With summer upon us, many of you are breaking free from the confines of your kitchens and enjoying your favorite BBQ masterpieces. To ensure a safe season, bear in mind the following tips each and every time you ignite your grill:

- Keep it away from anything combustible. That includes your home, car, flowers, trees and shrubs, veggies, weeds, grass and anything else that could potentially burn.
- Regardless of whether you are using gas or charcoal, stay with the grill while it is lit.
- When using charcoal, NEVER start the fire with gasoline.
- Gas cylinders should be stored outside, away from any structure.

For additional tips or safety measures, please call the Hazardville Fire Department at (860) 749-8344. If you have an old propane cylinder that you need to dispose of, you can drop it off at the station Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

CRISIS PREVENTION OF ENFIELD

The Crisis Prevention Response of Enfield provides support and intervention, offers immediate and lasting hopeful solutions to help prevent suicides.

If a person is feeling depressed or hopeless, seek help by calling (860) 683-8069, Central Access & Crisis Triage at Community Health Resources or 211. Help is available 24/7.

HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
385 Hazard Avenue
Enfield, CT 06082

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