

# THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

WINTER 2007 / VOL. 1 ISSUE 2



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS from the Commissioners



The Commissioners of the Hazardville Fire District wish you a safe, happy, healthy holiday season and all the best in 2008. We are proud to play a role in helping to protect this community and look forward to our continued service in the year ahead.

Sincerely,  
Philip Edward Thomas  
Tom Kozikowski  
Richard Tkacz

## Congratulations ARE IN ORDER



The Hazardville Fire Department congratulates **Jeremy Simmons**, shown above, on recently achieving his paramedic certification. Jeremy has been a member of the Department since 2000 and also holds the ranks of Firefighter, Certified Fire Instructor II and Firefighter II.

## SALUTE

### TO A FINE FIREFIGHTER AND SOLDIER

*Hazardville Fire Department enjoys the support of many courageous men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect their fellow community members. In an effort to help familiarize you with our Department, we will periodically feature individual members in The Village Trumpet. What follows is a profile on one volunteer who felt a calling to our Department nearly five years ago and has since also felt a calling to help protect not just Hazardville, but our entire nation.*

**F**irefighter **Peter Smyth** first joined forces with the Hazardville Fire Department in July 2003. A little more than a year later, in October 2004, he enlisted in the United States



Army. He underwent basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and in March 2005, got stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington. Peter was assigned to 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, 2-23 IN. He graduated from the U.S. Army Sniper School in December 05.

moving shock force employed to reduce the enemy with speed and precision. He serves as a sniper team leader with the battalion's recon platoon, which is charged with neutralizing high-value, time-sensitive targets.

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Peter, who enjoyed 20 days of rest and relaxation at home during October, is expected to return to Fort Lewis in July 2008, before separating from the Army and returning to Connecticut in October 2008. He will be welcomed back with open arms by his wife, Ashley, whom he married in December 2005; his young son, who was born in November 2006; and, of course, his extended family here at the Hazardville Fire Department.

## KEEPING FIRE HYDRANTS VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE

**D**uring the winter months, snowstorms and the plowing of snow often make it very difficult for fire hydrants to be found quickly. Precious time is lost while firefighters work to locate and shovel out snow-covered hydrants.

You can help solve this problem by keeping the fire hydrant closest to your residence or

business free of snow. We need a three-foot clearance on all sides of the hydrant in order to ensure accessibility in time of need.

As you shovel out your nearby hydrant, be sure to keep safety in mind. Do not stand in the street, and be careful not to slip and fall into the roadway. Those who are homebound, disabled, elderly or unable to clear their

hydrants for any other reason are urged to call the Hazardville Fire Department. We will send someone out to do the job for you.

While snow is the primary concern during the winter, the overgrowth of grass and weeds can also make fire hydrants difficult to see and access at other times. Please be sure to keep this in mind year round.

## *A Reminder about Wintertime* **WARMTH AND SAFETY**

*The cold days of winter have finally arrived, bringing with them a host of special safety concerns and fire risks. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, the misuse of fireplaces, wood stoves, electric space heaters and kerosene heaters account for thousands of residential fires each year and are especially common in rural communities. By taking the precautionary measures briefly reviewed below, you can enjoy a warm, cozy and, most importantly, safe season.*

### **Wood Stoves**

Wood stoves provide a wonderful heating alternative, but only if selected, installed and maintained with care. For starters, select a model with solid construction, such as plate

steel or cast iron metal. Follow all installation and maintenance instructions. Burn only seasoned wood. Clean pipes and chimneys annually and check monthly for damage or obstructions. Keep combustible objects a minimum of three feet away.

### **Electric Space Heaters**

Use only space heaters that have the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) safety listing, feature a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if fallen over. Do not place damp clothes or any other objects on your heater. Keep combustibles at least three feet away. Always unplug when not in use.

### **Kerosene Heaters**

Use only UL-approved heaters. Never fill your heater with gasoline or camp stove fuel, as

these can flare-up easily. Use only K-1 kerosene, and be careful not to overfill. Use only in a well-ventilated room.

### **Fireplaces**

Due to the build-up of creosote, fireplace chimneys must be cleaned frequently. Chimneys should also be inspected for obstructions and/or cracks. Make sure the damper is open before starting a fire. Do not burn trash, paper or green wood, all of which can cause creosote buildup and are difficult to control. Use a heavy screen to stop rolling logs and catch flying sparks.

No matter what heating method you choose, a working smoke alarm is critically important and can greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. If you have not already done so, be sure to develop a home escape plan and practice it on a regular basis with your family. For more information about fire safety, please call the Hazardville Fire Department at **(860) 749-8344**.

**HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
385 Hazard Avenue  
Enfield, CT 06082

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