

# THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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*Make a Difference in 2011*

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

**A** new year is upon us – a time to look ahead to our future and consider changes to better ourselves, our families and our communities. If you are searching for an opportunity to make a difference, consider joining forces with the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD). Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a life-changing experience – not only for you, but for the individuals and families whose lives you will touch along the way.

HFD Chief Jack Flanagan stresses, “The HFD is in need of volunteer firefighters, and we need the community’s help to recruit them.” He adds that volunteers save taxpayer dollars by keeping paid staff to a minimum. “In these difficult financial times, volunteers are absolutely crucial.”

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. Some of the specific job functions and responsibilities include responding to emergency calls; gaining knowledge of

all tools and equipment in use by the fire department; becoming familiar with the streets and general conditions of the district; actively taking part in the general care and maintenance of the fire

**CAN YOU  
FILL THESE  
BOOTS?**



**BECOME A  
VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTER!**

station and its equipment; and participating in required training sessions. A more detailed listing of responsibilities and functions can be found on the HFD website.

While becoming a volunteer firefighter is a big commitment, the rewards are even bigger. Among those most frequently cited by other volunteers are the ongoing challenge and excitement of being part of a fire-fighting team; meeting new people who share a common interest; gaining new job skills; a general feeling of satisfaction from helping others; and the sense of belonging to a brotherhood/sisterhood that is unlike anything you’ve ever experienced before. Other incentives that are sometimes available to regular members include insurance and retirement benefits; up to \$1,000 tax allotment (Enfield residents only); opportunities to earn part-time pay; and educational reimbursement.

As you can see, the benefits of becoming a volunteer firefighter are abundant, and there’s no time like the present to start enjoying them. Make 2011 the year you make a difference for yourself and your community! To learn more or to download an application, visit the HFD’s website at [www.hazardvillefire.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.hazardvillefire.org/volunteer.htm), or give us a call at (860) 749-8344.

## NEW YEAR’S GREETINGS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

*The Commissioners of the Hazardville Fire District wish you a safe, happy, healthy 2011! We will remain committed, as always, to helping to protect this community and look forward to our continued service in the year ahead.*

*Sincerely,*

*Philip Edward Thomas, Tom Kozikowski and Richard Tkacz*

## A TOUGH DECISION FOR DEPUTY CHIEF ZARCARO



*Chief Jack Flanagan presents Mark Zarcaro (right) with a special plaque commemorating his years of service as firefighter and Deputy Chief at HFD.*

More than 33 years after first joining the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD), Mark Zarcaro has retired from his day-to-day duty as firefighter and Deputy Chief. The decision to do so was a difficult one for Mark, who says the Department is in his blood and been a significant part of his adult life. He looks forward to continuing his involvement in other capacities.

One of the motivating factors in Mark's decision was his desire to let younger members of the Department advance. He also feels that after so many years of juggling his family, the Fire Department, his own business, and other commitments, he would now like to enjoy greater flexibility in his life. "It's time to spend more time with my wife and kids before the kids are adults and move on," he says, adding that it would be very hard for him to give up the Fire Department completely.

Mark joined the HFD in 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. In 1988, Mark relocated to Stafford. Five years later, a change in work found him back in Enfield during the day. His schedule was flexible enough to enable him to rejoin the Department. In 1997, Mark moved back to Enfield and officially resumed the role of HFD firefighter. In the years hence, he has been an invaluable member of the firefighting team. He became Deputy Chief in January 2004 and has been instrumental in coordinating volunteer training and in overseeing Squad 5, a program for junior firefighters ages 14 to 18.

The members of HFD extend their heartfelt gratitude to Mark for his years of service as firefighter and Deputy Chief, but they are by no means ready to say good-bye! They hope that Mark will remain a part of their team, in some capacity, for years to come.

## HFD GOES SOLAR

The Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) is going solar... at least in part! Thanks to a program sponsored by Glastonbury-based DCS Energy, the Department, and three other Enfield firehouses, will begin utilizing free solar-electric panels to generate a portion of their own electricity as early as this month. The program was offered to qualifying towns and non-profit agencies. HFD Commissioner Tom Kozikowski, who learned of the program in September, oversaw the application process for the HFD. Since the Department is always exploring new ways of reducing costs and going green, he knew it would be a great fit.

While the nine-kilowatt system to be installed in the HFD will not provide all of the station's power, any savings in electric usage will be a benefit to taxpayers. The estimated annual savings is between \$1,200 and \$1,500 per building. To learn more about DCS Energy, visit the company's website at [www.dcsenergy.com/index.php](http://www.dcsenergy.com/index.php).



# CANDLE SAFETY 101:

## *Be Safe and Responsible!*

Nothing brightens a cold winter day like the warm glow of a candle burning. Unfortunately, if not used safely and watched carefully, that small flickering flame can quickly lead to loss and tragedy. Here in the United States, a home fire caused by candles is reported every 34 minutes. According to the United States Fire



Administration, more than 15,000 candle fires are reported annually. The vast majority are due to human error and negligence. The following guidelines for candle safety can help you prevent tragedy from striking your home:

- If possible, avoid using lighted candles.
- If you must use candles, place them in sturdy holders designed for candle use.
- Never place a burning candle on or near something that can catch fire.
- Trim candle wicks to ¼ inch before burning each time.
- Keep candles away from children and pets.
- Never burn a candle all the way down. Extinguish when the flame becomes too close to the holder or container.
- Extinguish candles after each use.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.

For more statistics about candle-related fires and information that can help you prevent a tragedy in your home, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter).

# A FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION

One of Enfield's most beloved holiday events, The Torch Light Parade, is also a cherished tradition of those affiliated with the Fire Departments of Enfield. The parade was initiated in 1990 by Windsor Locks Fire Chief Ken Jeffery, with the intent of it being hosted by a different Hartford County town each year. In 1991, however, the Fire Departments of Enfield thought it was such a great idea that they decided to host the parade on an annual basis. Four years later, in 1995, the Town of Enfield took on the responsibility of organizing the event.

More than a decade later, The Fire Departments of Enfield continue their involvement in the Torchlight Parade by adorning their trucks with lights and decorations. It's a process that takes hours of hard work and preparation, and which must be quickly undone as soon as the parade is over. Members of the various fire districts march in gear in front of or behind their trucks, and some even go the extra mile by decorating themselves with lights. Of course, in the spirit of any parade, there is candy to be passed to eager children along the way. The firefighters look forward to this great opportunity to interact with the public they serve.

As might be expected, there have been times when the firefighters have had to leave the parade in order to attend a fire. For the most part, however, the parade runs smoothly and offers a good time for all involved. Afterward, firefighters and their families gather together at one of the firehouses for refreshments and to bid one another a happy holiday season.

## INFORMATION AT *Your Fingertips*

In an effort to provide the most current information possible to the community we serve, the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) offers a comprehensive website featuring information about our many programs and services. Visit us online at [www.hazardvillefire.org](http://www.hazardvillefire.org), where you'll find an up-to-date listing of events and activities, seasonal fire safety and prevention tips, a complete roster of our members, photos and overviews of our sophisticated apparatus, a glimpse into the rich history of our Department and more!



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### *Firehouse Friends*

Several months ago, two young friends applied together to become part of the Hazardville Fire Department's (HFD) Squad 5, a program for junior firefighters ages 14 to 18. **Gabrielle Campanelli** and **Alicia Mollison**, both age 14, are now enjoying this wonderful experience with one another, and the HFD is enjoying the energy and enthusiasm they bring with them to the program.

Gabrielle is a 9th grade student at the Public Safety Academy in Enfield. She attends every other Squad 5 drill and meeting and hopes to one day become a Medical Response Technician (MRT). What Gabrielle enjoys most

about her experience with Squad 5 are the learning drills regarding extrication. She says that joining with her friend has been a good experience, because they can help each other. Gabrielle lives in Enfield, has a younger sister, and enjoys dance and soccer.

Alicia, a student at Fermi High School, agrees with her friend that learning about and seeing extrications is the best part of training. She can usually be found at the HFD once a week and looks forward to one day becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Alicia has four brothers and one sister and is a twin. She is involved in sports, especially softball and basketball.

The HFD is pleased to welcome these two young friends to Squad 5! If you would like to learn more about this program, please visit us online at [www.hazardvillefire.org](http://www.hazardvillefire.org).



*Friends Alicia Mollison (l) and Gabrielle Campanelli (r) are newcomers to Squad 5.*

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