

THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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WORKING HARD TO *Save Taxpayer Dollars*



In these challenging economic times, we are all concerned with cutting back expenses and trying to save money. This includes the three commissioners of the Hazardville Fire Department, who work together in overseeing operations of the Department and in ensuring the provision of high-quality fire services for our community. In recent months and years, the commissioners have taken a number of steps to help save taxpayer dollars that allowed taxes to remain the same. Their responses to the questions below identify some of their money-saving efforts and the results.

(i.e. auto, liability, and building and contents coverage). Although we have not yet signed the final paper work, we anticipate that it should save us approximately 25% over last year's pricing. Looking forward, we hope that this action will off-set the rise in other insurance coverages.

Another step that we took just this year was to reduce our fleet by one pumper vehicle, which should reduce our annual maintenance expenses by 25%. After much consideration, we determined that this vehicle was not needed thanks to the town-wide mutual aid policy. Through this policy, fire apparatus from other fire districts are called to assist when needed. The arrangement enables us to operate with less equipment at this time, while still maintaining the same high level of fire protection that residents of the Hazardville Fire District have come to know and trust.

We know that every dollar we can save increases the length of time that we can hold the District tax rate as low as possible. Protecting the community is our number one priority, but this is a close second! We're doing everything we can to reduce expenses, without sacrificing quality.

Q
Are you purchasing fuel from the Town of Enfield? If so, how does that save money?

A
Yes. The Town approached the District and asked if we were interested in purchasing fuel, gasoline and diesel from the Town storage tanks. These are located at the Town garage on Moody Road. For us, the decision was easy. By purchasing through the Town, we gained a more favorable price, as the Town bids out for fuel purchasing. This also allowed us to stop filing paperwork with the State of Connecticut and Federal tax departments in order to recoup the sales tax that we would pay to purchase these products at a fueling station.

Q
How much does it save?

A
Depending on when the contracts are signed by the Town, the savings can be significant. We are currently saving approximately \$50 per month on unleaded gasoline. Diesel expenses for the year are flat, but in the previous year, we saved approximately \$100 per month.

Q
Has any action been taken to reduce the station's energy usage?

A
It has! In 2006, we signed up for the Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) Program. It started with an energy audit of the station. The results of that showed that by re-lamping (installing new light fixtures), we could reduce our energy usage. On average, our energy use has decreased by 10% per month, which really adds up.

We have recently been exploring the possibility of using alternate energy suppliers, adding solar power to our station for producing electricity, and upgrading our aging heating system. We are always looking toward the future to see what potential savings may exist.

Q
Have any other cost-saving measures been taken?

A
Once again, we are always looking at our fixed costs. This year, we bid out the property and casualty business portions of our insurance programs

If you have any questions or comments about this article or would like more information, please feel free to call the Hazardville Fire Department at **(860) 749-8344**.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER



The Hazardville Fire Department is pleased to welcome **Justin Luhring** on board as a probationary member. He has been certified as a Firefighter 1 and is also certified in Hazardous Materials Operations.

Like all firefighters, Justin underwent extensive training requiring a great deal of commitment. From September 2008 through January 2009, he trained two days per week, as well as every other Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. He continues to be involved in practical training and inspections.

Justin's decision to become a firefighter rose out of a strong desire to give back to his community through civic service. He is employed in Hartford Hospital's Emergency Department, where he works with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) on a regular basis. Becoming a firefighter enables him to blend the worlds of medical and fire services together. His passion is fire rescue, particularly search and rescue and car extraction, because he finds the medical aspect of helping people very rewarding.

Justin was born and raised in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and relocated to Enfield in 1999. We're glad to have him as a member of our firefighting team!

Come On In TO THE HFD...

The Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) is open to the public. Local residents are encouraged to stop by for a visit or bring their children in for a tour of our facility. We'll be happy to see you! For more information, please call the HFD at **(860) 749-8344**.



Good Time for All AT ANNUAL BANQUET

More than 60 guests turned out to enjoy the Hazardville Fire Department's Annual Banquet on April 25 at Grassmere Country Club. Organizers **Tom and Sara Moriarity** did a great job in planning a fun and memorable evening of dinner and dancing.

During the course of the evening, **Lieutenant Jamie Hurley** received his pin for 10 years of service, while **Scott Tingley** was recognized as the 2008 Firefighter of the Year. Congratulations to both Jamie and Scott, and many thanks for their exceptional service and dedication to the Hazardville Fire Department!



Lieutenant Jamie Hurley



Scott Tingley

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, an overview of the rich history of our Department and much more!



Make it a Safe Summer!
BBQ SAFETY 101

Whether you prefer the convenience of propane or tradition of cooking over charcoal, there's nothing that says summer more than a BBQ. Before you fire up the grill, however, please bear in mind the following safety tips provided by the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org):

General Grill Safety

- Propane and charcoal grills are for outdoor use only. If used indoors or in enclosed spaces such as tents or garages, they pose a fire hazard and can expose occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Position the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area; declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.

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.

**CAN YOU
FILL THESE
BOOTS?**



*Put Your Best Foot
Forward...*



*Become a Volunteer
Firefighter!*

The Fire Departments of Enfield, which includes the Hazardville Fire Department, are always in need of courageous men and women to serve as volunteer firefighters. 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.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, please visit us online 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.



A *Great Day* ON THE GREEN

Twenty-five golfers enjoyed a day on the greens during Hazardville Fire Department's (HFD) Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 27, and additional guests joined in the fun at dinner. The event, which raised \$1,170, was held at Hampden Country Club in Hampden, MA.

In past years, the Golf Tournament has raised funds for local charities, such as the Shriners Hospitals for Children. This year, however, a portion of the proceeds will benefit Sam Smith, the brother of HFD member Peter Smith, who was partially paralyzed while at work on the family farm. Many thanks to everyone who turned out to show their support.

A good time was had by all, as shown in the photos to the right. Congratulations to the winning foursome, including HFD member **Pat Martin**, his brothers **Tom** and **Sean Martin**, and his father-in-law, **Mark Bacon**. We look forward to seeing all of the participants (and even more) at next year's tourney!



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