

# THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUMMER 2011 / VOL. 5 ISSUE 1



## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...

### *Firefighters Participate in Ongoing Training*

In an effort to ensure safety and preparedness, members of the Hazardville Fire Department firefighting team participate in training sessions at least four times per year. Recently, they underwent a confidence course pertaining to the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

During this training, each firefighter had to complete a series of stations while breathing air from a pack and trying to make the air last as long as possible. Station tasks included a ladder climb, hitting a tire with a sledge hammer moving the tire a short distance, climbing through a confined space tunnel, and dragging a 150 pound mannequin approximately 50 feet. In yet another station, the firefighters had to

advance a charged 1¾-inch hose line for a distance of approximately 50 feet, then open the nozzle and knock over three cones approximately 50 feet in front of them. The firefighters were challenged with completing the series of stations as many times as possible before their low-air alarms sounded. The air bottles are intended to last 30 minutes.

In addition to intense quarterly training sessions such as this, additional SCBA training is offered throughout the year. In one routine drill, the firefighters are timed and must put on their SCBA in one minute or less. Each and every training session helps to strengthen the firefighters' capabilities and better prepare them for the next call.



## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The Annual Meeting of the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) took place on Monday evening, May 16. In one order of business, **Tom Kozikowski** was re-elected for another term as secretary/treasurer of the HFD Commissioners.

A lifelong resident of the Hazardville community, Tom was as a member of the HFD for 17 years, during which time he served as Department treasurer, 2nd engineer and safety officer. He has been a commissioner since 2004. Tom is a fire protection consultant for Liberty Mutual/Wausau Insurance Company. He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), NFPA Industrial, NFPA Building Fire Safety Systems and the National Society of Fire Protection Engineers.

Also at the Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the mill rate for the Hazardville Fire Department will remain the same for the upcoming year. This is thanks, in large part, to the HFD commissioners, who diligently work to save taxpayer dollars without sacrificing quality or safety.

"It is our fiscal responsibility to keep the mill rate at 1.75, which is a 0% tax increase during these economic times," commented Commissioner Rich Tkacz. "Community residents can rest assured, however, that we will continue to provide superior fire service to the Hazardville Fire District."



Training sessions such as these help the HFD firefighters learn to conserve air while completing a variety of difficult tasks.

**SPOTLIGHT ON...**  
*Brandon Shenas*



The HFD welcomes Brandon Shenas on board as a probationary member.

The Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) has gained a valuable new asset in recent months. Brandon, a probationary member who has served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, joined the force earlier this spring and has just a few short months left in his training before he becomes an official firefighter.

Brandon says that he was inspired to get involved with the HFD because he enjoys the sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that comes with helping others. He also enjoys the rush of adrenalin he gets when called to respond to a fire.

No stranger to Enfield, Brandon grew up in the Presidential section of town and attended Enrico Fermi High School. As of this printing, he was completing his first semester at Asnuntuck Community College, where he is working toward a career in the field of medicine.

Brandon, who is enjoying life in the Hazardville community, has one child. He enjoys working out and is currently training for a competition.

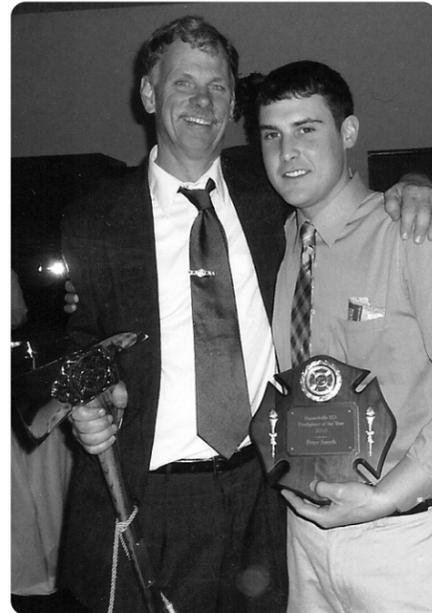
**AN EVENING WITH  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

More than 100 guests came out to enjoy a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing at the Hazardville Fire Department's (HFD) recent Annual Banquet. **Tom** and **Sara Moriarity** did a terrific job in organizing the event, which was held in March at Grassmere Country Club.

During the course of the evening, **Tom Moriarity** was recognized for 40 years of dedicated service to the Department. During Tom's tenure, he held the positions of lieutenant, captain, assistant chief, deputy chief and firefighter. In addition, he has served on the Ways & Means Committee, been honored as Fireman of the Year, been awarded Medical of Valor, and won several internal company competitions.

**Peter Smyth**, a member of the Department since 2003, received the Firefighter of the Year award. He is an exemplary member of the HFD's firefighting team.

Members of the HFD extend their sincerest congratulations and gratitude for the hard work and dedication



(Left to right) Tom Moriarity and Peter Smyth were honored during the HFD's recent Annual Banquet.

exhibited by both Tom Moriarity and Peter Smyth. Many thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the Annual Banquet and celebrate the achievements of these two members!

**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!



**SUMMER STORMS:**  
*Be Safe... Not Sorry!*

With the arrival of summer comes the increased threat of thunderstorms. According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), approximately 10% of thunderstorms are considered severe, producing large hail, high winds and the possibility of a tornado. The lightening that accompanies such storms can occur as far as 10 miles away from the rainfall. To ensure that you or someone you love does not suffer a lightning strike, take note of the following NFPA recommendations:

- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightening. Seek shelter inside a home, building, or hard-topped vehicle. Remember that there is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter.
- If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, lightening is about to strike. If no shelter is available, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet and place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground.

- Inside, stay away from windows and doors.
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off. Stay off corded phones, computers and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry or washing dishes.

Of course, the best way to protect yourself from being caught in an unexpected storm is to stay informed. Keep a battery-operated or hand-cranked radio handy and listen to NOAA weather radio (162.475 VHF in the Greater Hartford area) to check local forecasts regularly. In the event that someone is struck by lightening, call 9-1-1 immediately. Lightening strike victims carry no electrical charge, so attend to them immediately by checking their breathing, heartbeat and pulse. CPR may be needed.

More information about thunderstorm safety is available online at [www.nfpa.org/disaster](http://www.nfpa.org/disaster) (click on "outdoors"). In addition, members of the Hazardville Fire Department are always happy to answer your questions and can be reached at **(860) 749-8344**.

**CAN YOU  
FILL THESE  
BOOTS?**



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.

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 station and its equipment; and participating in required training sessions. 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 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.

## HFD SOAKS UP THE *Sun*

**T**hanks to a program sponsored by Glastonbury-based DCS Energy, Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) has installed a 9Wk Solar PV (photovoltaic) Panel System to produce clean energy for the firehouse. The system generates approximately 900kwh of electricity per month, saving the Department approximately \$180 per month (or \$2,000 per year) on electricity costs. Every dollar saved is a benefit to the district's taxpayers.

Solar panel systems were offered to qualifying towns and non-profit agencies. HFD Commissioner Tom Kozikowski, who learned of the opportunity last 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.

The system, valued at \$58,000, is leased through DCS Energy for five years, with no deposit or monthly fees. At the end of the lease, the system will be donated to the HFD.

DCS Energy is able to provide this no-cost system to nonprofits through



the United States Treasury 1603 Federally Funded Program and a third-party funding partner. The funding partner will receive the renewal energy credits (RECs) and any rebates for the life of the system. In return, the nonprofit will receive the free electricity that is generated through natural resources (aka "green energy") and reduce their electricity costs for the next 25 to 30 years.

DCS Energy offers similar residential and commercial programs through this same UST 1603 Tax Grant. If you would like more information, visit the company's website at [www.dcsenergy.com](http://www.dcsenergy.com).

Those interested in seeing the new system will find the solar panels located on the firehouse's east side, over the truck bays. Three other Enfield fire departments have also installed solar systems through this program.

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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 2775