

THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2015 / VOL. 9 ISSUE 1



A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS

As you are no doubt aware, Hazardville has been the scene of nine suspected arson fires since last August, including seven structure fires in vacant homes and barns and two car fires. Factors such as the close proximity of these fires and similarities in the way they have ignited lead investigators to believe that the same person is responsible.

Thankfully, no occupied structures have been targeted by the arsonist, but any fire poses a threat to nearby residents and our firefighters. That said, we commend the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) firefighters for the high level of skill demonstrated in fighting these fires and for their dedication and commitment to protecting this community. Their quick response and extinguishment has been critical in preventing the spread of fire to neighboring homes.

Police, including Enfield's detective division, are diligently working with both the HFD fire marshal and state fire marshal to solve this string of crimes and are following any and all leads. All resources are being utilized. Local residents, in the meantime, have been asked to be extremely diligent in watching for and reporting anything suspicious.

If you have any information that you think may be related to these fires, we urge you to call Detective William Cooper at 860-763-8936. Even the smallest detail could help bring an end to this string of arson fires.

Sincerely,
Tom Kozikowski
Fred Macsata
Richard Tkacz

The Impact of Changing Demographics on **SERVICE DEMAND**

A recent study conducted by Emergency Services Consulting International and reported by the Census Bureau revealed some interesting statistical information about the population served by the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) and its impact on service demand.

According to the study, the **average age of residents living within the HFD response area is 43.3**, compared to the national median age of 37.2. This indicates that, while the general population of the nation is aging, the population served by the HFD is older overall. In addition, **one of the largest age groups within the service area is those age 65 and over**. As one would expect, this group tends to produce a higher utilization rate of emergency services due to falls, medical emergencies and public assist requests. Children under the age of five also generally have a higher utilization rate due to falls and other household accidents, but the

HFD's segment of this population group is lower than average.

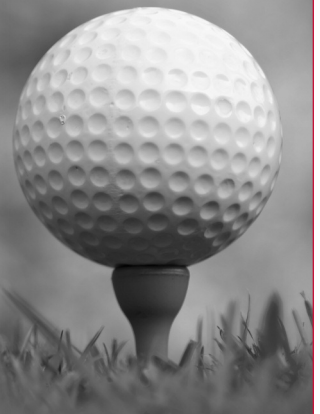
Another important indicator of potential service demand within a community is housing occupancy and tenure. Communities with higher owner-occupied rates and lower renter-occupied and vacant rates tend to see a lower level of overall service demand.

Conversely, those communities with higher renter-occupied and vacant property rates often have a higher service demand. This is believed to be due to socio-economic factors; stable communities with a higher average income tend to produce a lower level of service demand. The Hazardville district is largely owner-occupied, with very low rental rates and even lower vacancy rates, indicating that it is a stable community with fewer numbers of transient populations.

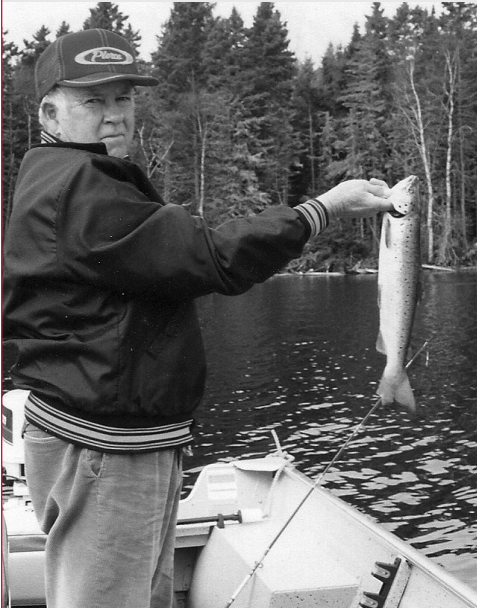
If you are interested in learning more about this study and its impact on planning for the future, please call the HFD at **(860) 749-8344**.

GOLF TOURNEY COMING SOON...

Watch for details on the Hazardville Fire Department's (HFD) **23rd Annual Golf Tournament**, featuring 18 holes of golf and dinner. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Jarmoc Memorial Scholarship. For more information, please call **Patrick Martin** at **(860) 614-5506**.



Fond Farewell to Longtime Member **DAVE STEELE**



Condolences to the family of David T. Steele, 87, a lifelong resident of Enfield. Dave was a valued member of the Hazardville Fire Department family, having served a combined total of 50 years.

Dave's involvement with the HFD included 30 years as Chief Engineer. During this time, he developed a reputation for being able to fix just about anything. According to Chief Jack Flanagan, young members of the HFD team weren't always sure how to take Dave. He was a former Marine with a gruff exterior. When something broke Dave would accusingly ask, "Why did you break it?" He'd then turn around and fix it. The firefighters soon learned he was joking with them all along.

At the time of his passing, Dave was an honorary member of the HFD. He and his wife, Betty, enjoyed many trips to northern Maine, and he loved trains. There's no doubt he will be missed by many.

FILLING THE BOOTS: *Former HFD Volunteer Finds His Life Calling in Fire Service*

It was 1978 when 18-year-old Scott Merrill, a senior in high school, heard the first whisper of his life's calling. A rash of barn fires was causing heightened concern and alarm in the Town of Enfield, and Merrill, who had always been interested in matters that impacted his community, found himself drawn to firefighting. At the time, he lived on the same street as Andy Whalen, then Deputy Fire Chief of the Hazardville Fire Department, who also inspired his interest. Merrill made the decision to join the HFD as a volunteer. Little did he know that he had just answered the call and that his time as a volunteer would serve as the foundation for his entire career.

As a volunteer, Scott started by attending drills and meetings. He benefited from on-the-job training and gradually learned the different job tasks and skills necessary to fill the boots of a firefighter. He also learned that as a firefighter, he was part of a strong social network; the HFD members became like a family to him. They enjoyed a lot of good times together and also supported one another in many ways. Scott says he was "drawn in" by his fellow firefighters, some of whom have remained lifelong friends. He has the utmost respect for the people he met through the HFD and credits them with "showing him the ropes" and teaching him "what it means to be a good firefighter."

Training at HFD was a major confidence builder for Scott and gave him insight on what he wanted to do in life. Following high school, he attended Springfield Community Technical College, where he earned a degree in Fire Science. He then went on to earn a degree in Psychology from the University of Connecticut. Through it all, his interest in firefighting continued to grow, and he set his sights on becoming a full-time firefighter.



Scott Merrill, Former Firefighter, Hazardville Fire Department

Following college, Scott took fire entrance tests throughout New England, ultimately landing a job in Manchester, NH. The rest, as they say, is history. He's been employed by the Manchester Fire Department for more than 30 years, currently in the capacity of captain. He also works for the New Hampshire Fire Academy. Scott says there is nothing he'd rather do in life, and he is indebted to the HFD for providing the experience he needed to move forward. He also thanks his father, who worked as an emergency worker for CL&P, for instilling him with a strong work ethic.

Scott encourages young people searching for a career to consider firefighting as an option. "If a person is willing to work hard and have patience, firefighting is a career like none other," he says. "Filling the boots can give a person direction and purpose." He explains that the personal, professional and social benefits of being part of a firefighting team are vast.

The HFD is always in need of courageous men and women to "fill the boots" by serving as volunteer firefighters. Will you answer the call? To learn more about what the training and duties entail, please visit us online at www.hazardvillefire.org or call **(860) 749-8344**.

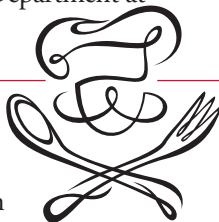
WOOD AND PELLET STOVE SAFETY

It's been a bone-chillingly cold winter here in Connecticut, and many local residents have enjoyed the warmth of wood and pellet stoves to help heat their homes. Unfortunately, for all the comfort it provides, heating equipment such as this is one of the leading causes of home fires during winter months. You can help protect your home and family by following the safety tips below provided by the National Fire Protection Association:



- Have a qualified professional install stoves, chimney connectors and chimneys.
- Stoves should have the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Have your chimney and stove inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep every fall just before heating season.
- Clean the inside of your stove periodically using a wire brush.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a covered metal container, and keep it at least 10 feet away from the home and other buildings.
- Keep a close eye on children whenever a wood or pellet stove is being used. Remind them to stay at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- Stoves need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect the CO alarms so that when one sounds, they all sound.

As the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Be sure to properly maintain all your home's heating equipment before a problem arises. For more information on wood and pellet stove safety, please call the Hazardville Fire Department at **(860) 749-8344**.



FIREHOUSE GOURMET

Members of the HFD enjoy some terrific home-cooked meals together at the firehouse, and we'd like to share some of our recipes with you. Here's a tasty dish that's sure to warm even the coldest winter day.

Crock Pot Pork

1-2 pound pork loin
1 sliced yellow onion
3 cups of beef broth (no sugar)
1 TSP garlic powder
1 TSP onion powder
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook in your crock pot on low for 10 hours. Serve with mashed sweet potatoes and French bread for a hearty and delicious meal!

CAN YOU FILL THESE BOOTS?



The Hazardville Fire Department relies on the support of volunteers to help ensure the safety of our community. Please consider joining forces with us by becoming a volunteer firefighter. It's 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.

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.

HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

385 Hazard Avenue
Enfield, CT 06082

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

*****ECRWSS*****

Local Postal Customer

MISSION STATEMENT

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

GENERATORS 101

Play It Safe When You Power Up!

As we've learned from experience here in the Northeast, severe weather, such as heavy snowfalls and summer storms, can result in power outages. During these times, a growing number of people turn to portable generators. Sadly, CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen. Before you fire up your generator, make sure you know the risks, and take precautions to protect your home and family. The following tips from the National Fire Protection Association will help you do just that:

- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.



- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.

- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts and tears, and the plug should have three prongs, especially a grounding pin. If you must connect the generator to the house wiring, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code®(NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.