

Sherman earns HEARTSafe Community designation

HARTFORD – The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with the American Heart Association, announces that Sherman has been designated a **HEARTSafe Community**.

“The **HEARTSafe Communities** program is designed to promote and recognize the efforts of local municipalities to provide improved cardiac response and care to its residents,” said DPH Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H. “Sherman has demonstrated its commitment toward ensuring that its residents and visitors receive the early lifesaving response proven to increase the chances of survival for heart attack victims.”

“Sherman’s Volunteer Fire Department is fully responsible for this designation,” said Andrea O’Connor, First Selectman. “I want to particularly congratulate Kris Fazzone and Kathy Grant for the lead role they have played in ensuring that residents and visitors have access to life-saving technology in the event of a cardiac emergency.”

DPH began the **HEARTSafe Communities** program to foster community environments that improve the survival odds for people suffering sudden cardiac events, such as cardiac arrests or heart attacks. The key to the program has been dubbed by the American Heart Association as the *Chain of Survival*. The *Chain of Survival* has four vital links: early access to emergency care; early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); early defibrillation and early advanced care.

A **HEARTSafe Community** promotes and supports: CPR training in the community; public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members; and early advanced care.

Sherman met the program requirements for public placement of AEDs, trained community residents, and equipped, staffed and trained emergency responders. In addition, Sherman is planning on continuing to provide community CPR training programs and expand the availability of AEDs in public locations.

Municipalities wishing to obtain designation as a **HEARTSafe Community** can download an application from the State Department of Public Health website at: www.dph.state.ct.us or contact Gary St. Amand, Health Program Associate, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program at gary.stamand@po.state.ct.us or 860-509-7581.