

East Haven Earns HEART Safe Community Designation

HARTFORD – The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in collaboration with the American Heart Association, announces that East Haven 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., M.B.A. “East Haven 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.”

Mayor April Capone Almon stated "I am very proud to announce that East Haven has become a Heart Safe Community. It is one more step in our goal of improving the quality of life for all residents. We look forward to continuing training and education to make our community safer for all that live, work and visit here."

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.

East Haven met the program requirements for public placement of AEDs, trained community residents, and equipped staffed and trained emergency responders. In addition, East Haven is planning on continuing to provide community CPR training programs and expand the availability of AEDs in public locations. The Town of East Haven will receive this award at the Next Regularly Scheduled Town Council Meeting April 6, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Haven Senior Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven, CT.

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

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is the state's leader in public health policy and advocacy with a mission to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of our state. To contact the department, please visit its website at www.ct.gov/dph or call (860) 509-7270.

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