



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County-wide Initiative To Save Lives To Be Announced At Press Conference

Ulster County will kick off CPR and AED Awareness Week with the announcement of a new County-wide initiative to save lives of sudden cardiac arrest victims at a press conference being held on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 11 AM in the Surrogate's Court on the 3rd Floor of the Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY.

The new effort, the *Ulster County HEART Safe Community Program*, has been spearheaded by Ulster County Legislator Robert Parete, Chairman of the Health Services Committee, and Ulster County Buildings and Grounds Administrative Manager, Vic Work, in collaboration with the American Heart Association. The program's aim is to improve the chances for anyone suffering from sudden cardiac arrest to have the best chance of survival.

"Sudden cardiac arrest claims the lives of nearly 105 Ulster County residents each year," Parete said. "Most do not survive because the vast majority of people witnessing the arrest do not know how to perform CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) or because an AED (automated external defibrillator) was not available."

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The program encourages businesses, educational institutions, municipalities and community organizations to establish the proper training and procedures for staff, personnel and volunteers to address cardiac emergencies.

It promotes and supports CPR training and certification, and public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of AEDs for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members and early advanced care.

“We’re hoping that this program will encourage more people to learn CPR and also to ensure that more AEDs are made available so we can save lives,” said Donaldson, who recently launched the County’s Heart Safe Communities Program to help businesses, schools, community organizations and municipalities improve their ability to respond to sudden cardiac arrest.

Recent data shows that the survival rate can increase by 20 percent or more for those suffering cardiac arrest if the problem is recognized right away, 911 is contacted immediately, CPR is started, and early defibrillation to deliver a shock to the heart is applied.

The *Ulster County HEART Safe Community Program* will also recognize and honor the efforts of municipalities, businesses, educational institutions and other community organizations participating in the program at a yearly event.

For more details on *Ulster County HEART Safe Community Program*, please attend the Press Conference on June 2, 2008.

Please call (845) 340-3900 with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.