



## The Sherman Traffic Safety Work Group's Year in Review

The Sherman Traffic Safety Work Group (STSWG) had a very busy 2011. Formed last Fall, the Work Group has worked hard on our mission to **“improve and maintain safety for all users of State and Town roads in Sherman by reducing unsafe and irresponsible driving practices.”** With the support of the Board of Selectmen, the Town, the Sherman School, the CT State Police and our Resident Troopers, we have executed various awareness campaigns and have begun the task of collecting data to help determine what corrective action is required. A summary of our activities follows.

### The 1st Annual Slogan & Creative Media Contest.

We kicked off our first Sherman School contest with a school-wide safety presentation featuring Jack Hall, STSWG member & amateur race car driver, to create a dialogue with students on what safe & unsafe driving is. Over 50 entries were submitted from grades Pre-K through 6th and included posters, poems, raps, comics, essays and a movie to come up with ways to reduce irresponsible & unsafe driving. The winners were:

**Creative Media:** - 1st place: Alyssa Svinte & Kelli Souza, 2nd Place: Cassidy Ranno, 3rd Place: Alexa Buffa, Honorable Mention: Lauren Lombardo & Alyssa Svinte.

**Slogan:** 1st Place: Wilson Pitt, Tyler Schult & Devon Langsworthy, 2nd Place: Madison Berlangier, 3rd Place: Ms. McDevitt's 4th Grade Class & Honorable Mention: Chloe Jackson & Olivia Allen.

We thank all of our Judges and the Prize Sponsors; Webster Bank, Luks Realty, Grand Prix New York, Lake Compounce, and several private donors for their generosity and support.



## Public Information - Signage

As a part of our continuing effort to inform the general public of our core message, the STSWG posted signs all around town at the beginning of the school year advising motorists to “Drive Carefully”. Shortly thereafter, we were able to purchase and deploy permanent signs with the message “**Welcome To Sherman**” and “**Drive Like Your Kids Live Here**”. We hope to be able to put up more signs in the future, and move those we have to new and better sites as we become aware of them.



## Website:

In November, the STSWG was able to establish a link to our new web site from the Town’s home page, [www.townofsherman.org](http://www.townofsherman.org), through the generous help of Al Burgasser, the town’s webmaster. On this site appears our mission statement, a description of who we are, photos from some of our notable activities, and our newsletter. Also present is a link to our email [ShermanTrafficSafety@gmail.com](mailto:ShermanTrafficSafety@gmail.com), which we hope will provide feedback for the website and, more importantly, suggestions from the all of you, as to what other information we might make available or new activities we might offer, to increase the safe driving practices in our town.

## School & Town Sponsored Events:

The STSWG had the pleasure of participating in two events; the SPTO Harvest Fair and our Town’s Halloween event. At the SPTO Harvest Fair, we teamed up with the CT State Police, who brought along the ‘Convincer’. The Convincer allowed the over **120** riders to experience the surprising amount of force generated with such a low speed collision (approx 5 MPH) and to gain respect for the benefit that a seat belt can provide. In keeping with our Safety theme, we handed out over **250** flashing reflectors during the Halloween event, with the message of ‘Be Seen & Be Safe’, along with helpful tips for being seen while riding bikes, running/walking, etc during periods;. **Remember, just because you can see a car, does not mean they can see you.**



### Data Collection & Recent Statistics:

The STSWG has received numerous requests to look into increased enforcement, including an understanding of where, when and by whom the violations are occurring. We are currently working on a robust data collection effort, but in the meantime here are the most recent statistics for the month of October, as provided by our Resident Troopers:

84 tickets written in Sherman

Seatbelt-1

Unregistered vehicle-5

Speeding-68

Equipment violations-6

Other moving violations-4

In addition to the tickets, there were 40 warnings

**The fines for speeding averaged \$160, with the highest for the month at \$196 on Wakeman Hill Road.**

These are very disturbing statistics, especially since they only represent actual stops. We can only guess at how many offenders are not caught.

November was "Click it or Ticket" month statewide. Stats will be published when available; however, we were advised that the majority of stops have been our own residents.

Certainly fines will get attention but they are not the most important reason to obey the laws. Obeying the rules of the road and driving with a safety first attitude should be on our minds whenever we get behind the wheel. Please help us in achieving this goal. If you have any questions or comments or would like to know how you can help reduce unsafe and irresponsible driving practices, please contact us at [ShermanTrafficSafety@gmail.com](mailto:ShermanTrafficSafety@gmail.com).

We wish you all a Safe & Happy Holiday Season and look forward to accomplishing even more in 2012,

The Sherman Traffic Safety Work Group Members:

Amy Bocompani, Chair

Ann Smith Chiaramonte

Joe Chiaramonte

Art Crane

Ed Hayes

Rick Hudson

Dorinda Lenihan

Jack Hall (member at large)