



RAYMOND L. PHILO
Chief of Police

**NEW HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**



DAVID J. SWARTS
Chair

April 02, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday April 02, 2008, was "Operation Safe Stop" day throughout New York State. The New Hartford Police Department joined many other law enforcement agencies throughout the State in "Operation Safe Stop". "Operation Safe Stop" is a traffic safety program addressing School Bus safety, with it's emphasis placed on educating the public of the dangers of passing stopped school buses, and enforcing those laws that protect our students. It is hoped that with this press release we can alert the public to the dangers of passing stopped school buses and remind the public of our continuing enforcement efforts. We want to emphasized that it is imperative for the safety of our children that motorist be especially cautious in School areas, obeying the special school zone speed limits, and being prepared to stop for school buses loading and unloading children on either side of the road.

The New Hartford Police Department participated in "Operation Safe Stop" by having Officers assigned to follow school buses looking for vehicles passing stopped school buses. The good news is that during this years "Operation Safe Stop" no motorist were observed passing stopped school buses that had their red stoplights activated. Unfortunately many motorists continue to place our children at risk by violating the special "School Zone" speed limits that are in place during the school day. New Hartford Officers ran radar in school speed zones and thirty-six (36) speeding tickets were issued to drivers who violated the posted school speed zones. There were also three (3) speeding tickets issued for violations outside of school zones, five (5) tickets were issued to motorist using Cell phones, and there were eight (8) other tickets issued for various violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Every year in New York State school children are injured and killed by motorist who fail to obey the law and use due care in School Zones and with stopped school buses. An estimated 50,000 motorists illegally pass New York State school buses every day. In New York State, between 2002 and 2006, 188 pedestrians under the age of 19 were injured and 2 were killed, by motorists passing stopped school buses. The New Hartford is dedicated to doing everything in it power to prevent these tragic deaths and injuries from happening in our jurisdictions.

Our enforcement efforts will continue throughout the remaining school year and we again ask that all motorists please slow down and be especially alert while driving where children are walking. Expect children to do the unexpected and when you see a school bus, be prepared to stop. We all need to work together to keep our children safe; we will be doing our part, hopefully the public will do theirs.

This press release was written and sent by Lieutenant Timothy O'Neill, if you have any questions contact the Lieutenant at 733-6666.

New Hartford Police Department
32 Kellogg Road, New Hartford, New York
Telephone: (315) 724-7111 Fax: (315) 724-8618