

Realtors hold anti-texting and driving event

More than 150 Realtors came out to the Darien Library on Feb. 6 to take the pledge not to text and drive. The event, hosted by the New Canaan and Darien boards of Realtors, included a continuing education course on social media and the kick-off of "It Can Wait," AT&T's anti-texting and driving campaign.

AT&T representatives were on hand to help members take the online commitment against distracted driving. Realtors were joined by law enforcement, education and elected officials from both towns.

"Realtors spend so much time in their cars in the course of conducting business, that we felt it important to take a leadership role in encouraging safety behind the wheel," Meegan Graham, executive officer of the New Canaan Board of Realtors, said.

Why start the campaign with adults?
"People point to teens as the culprits, but according



New Canaan Police Department Officer Jason Kim, left; New Canaan Chief of Police Edward Nadriczny; Dr. Bryan Luitzi, principal, New Canaan High School; Dr. Stephen Falcone, superintendent of Darien Public Schools; Darien Chief of Police Duane Lovello; Darien Police Department Sgt. Alison Hudyma, and Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson at the recent kick-off of 'It Can Wait,' AT&T's anti-texting and driving initiative, held at Darien Library on Feb. 6.

to 77% of teens surveyed by AT&T, adults tell kids not to text or email while driving — yet adults do it themselves all the time," Graham said.

Realtors are active members of the community, serving in leadership positions as volunteers in schools, charitable

and civic organizations, so are perfectly poised to model good driving practices, according to a release.

The event was sponsored by Harrigan Insurance and A.C. Auto Body, both of New Canaan, as well as Atlantic Residential Mortgage. The

board is planning to continue its efforts by partnering with the high schools to get teen drivers actively involved.

"We hope this is just the beginning of a community-wide initiative to eliminate distracted driving," Graham said.