

## **Saved By the Belt**

On 05/24/2011 at the Shorewood Village Board Meeting, the Shorewood Police presented Saved by the Belt awards to three motorists. These motorists were traveling through Shorewood and became involved in serious automobile accidents. The Shorewood Police officers at the scene determined the crashes were so severe; the motorists would have surely sustained great injury or lost their lives had they not chosen to wear their seatbelts. Here are their stories:

On Halloween day 2010, Angela Salazar and her son Brandon were driving on Route 59 through the intersection of Black Road. Another driver, for unknown reasons, made a left turn in the path of the Salazar's vehicle. Having little warning and no way to avoid the crash, Angela and Brandon's vehicle smashed into the other vehicle, sustaining catastrophic damage. The Salazar's were able to step away from the crash unharmed despite the vehicle's damage amounting to a total loss.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Victoria Self, was driving on the south end of Route 59 near the Interstate 55 interchange. Due to foul weather and icy roads, Victoria lost control of her vehicle at highway speed. She left the road and struck a light pole, collapsing the front of her vehicle directly in front of the driver's seat. Victoria walked away shaken but intact. This may not have been so without her seatbelt.



The Saved by the Belt program is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The Shorewood Police Department has participated in this program, which recognizes and awards motorists for obeying the law and following safe practices.

Each of the above motorists was presented with an award certificate and medallion. We appreciate their example and their assistance in spreading the word that seatbelts save lives.