

Border Community SERVICE

Special Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative for Community Empowerment

www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

APRIL 2009

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One Training Ends; Another Begins!

Border Community SERVICE would like to congratulate those dedicated individuals who completed the most recent CERT training hosted by the Town of Wheatfield.

The following individuals were to complete their training on Saturday, April 4, 2009: Amanda Ackerson, Alyssa Benware, Brendan Bodkin, Henry Curtis, Michael Eagler, Ashley Evans, Debora Furdak, Alison Getchell, Linda Hardy, Roger Hubacher, Richard James, Karen Janik, Jacquelyn Langdon, Jean Marie Letourneau, John Levy, Tracy Lloyd, John Meisenburg, Francis Pahl, Christopher Pease, Corey Pelczynski, Craig Raines, Elaine Roman, David sanders, Stacie Shugerts, Edward Sturgeon, Ann Marie Weinheimer, Pamela Woods, and David Wylucki.

Border Community SERVICE would like to thank Town of Wheatfield Supervisor Timothy

Demler, the Town of Wheatfield Fire Board and the five fire companies for their outstanding participation and support. Special thanks to Chief Rich Silvaroli and members of Frontier Volunteer Fire Company and to Chief Gary Jack and members of the St. Johnsburg Volunteer Fire Company for their extraordinary support throughout the course and especially during the training exercise.

As the Town of Wheatfield CERT class draws to an end, a CERT course is scheduled to begin in the Town of Tonawanda on Thursday, April 9. Classes will be held Thursday evenings (6:30-9:30 PM).. The course will conclude with a course review and simulated disaster training exercise on Saturday, June 6, 2009 (9AM-1PM).

As always, the Town of Tonawanda CERT course is offered free of charge so please tell friends and family and encourage them to enroll! Please see the back page of the newsletter for a printable flyer.



Left: Volunteer victims from a local Boy Scout troop are moulaged with simulated wounds and ready for placement during the final simulation drill.

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Community Announcements

Clean Up and Beautify Niagara Falls

The Niagara Beautification Commission is looking for volunteers to help with its annual clean up and beautify Niagara Falls event. This year the event will be **Saturday April 25, 2009**. It will begin with a kick off breakfast and ceremony at **8 am**, compliments of the Seneca Niagara Casino. And Hotel, at the Casino entrance "Under the Arch" on Fourth Street. Those attending the Kick Off Breakfast and taking part in the cleanup effort will receive bags and gloves. There will be a hot dog lunch for volunteers at the Oasis at Hyde Park following cleanup efforts (around **12:30 pm**).

To join the Border Community SERVICE cleanup team, please call Nancy Brennan Blundell at 286-8304.

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

The Niagara Falls City School District and Orleans-Niagara BOCES present

An Evening With Henry Winkler, Actor, Author, Producer, Director

Part of the annual Parents and Partners Celebration Dinner

When: May 14, 2009, *Promptly* beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Performing Arts Center at Niagara Falls High School

What: Family Style Dinner begins at 7pm, \$10.00 Per Person. Dinner reservations can be made by Thursday, April 3, 2009 by contacting your neighborhood school.

Questions can be directed to (716) 286-4190.

"Make a Difference, Make a Change: Gang Intervention and Prevention"

May 28th & 29th, 2009 at The Niagara Falls Conference Center (101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303)

The goal of this training is to familiarize all of the attendees from law enforcement agencies, parents, school districts, the healthcare industry, and community stakeholders with the most current information on contemporary gang trends, gang identifiers, school violence, and community awareness. Intervention and prevention strategies will also be covered during this conference. Additionally, the training will encompass the following topics:

- Introduction to Street Gangs
- Rap Music and its impact on Gang Recruitment
- Western New York Region Gangs/ National Information
- Gangs in Schools and in our Neighborhoods
- Dealing with the At-Risk and Gang Involved Youth
- Graffiti: What does the writing on the wall really mean?
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Please Contact Jeannie M. Beeby-McNeil (585) 798-7092 McNeil.Jeannie@jobcorps.org for additional information. The registration and conference fee is \$130.000 and includes two full days of dynamic training, continental breakfast, a buffet lunch.

Peep, chirp, quack!*

Why Parents Should Think Twice Before Giving Baby Birds to Young Children for Easter

Easter brings to mind brightly colored eggs, baskets full of candy, and large chocolate bunnies. Traditions associated with the Easter season are enjoyable for children and adults alike. However, some Easter traditions are of particular concern for children, placing them at risk for serious illness. Baby animals, including baby chicks and ducklings, are sometimes given as gifts or put on display at this time of the year. Because they are so soft and cute, many people do not realize the potential danger baby birds, such as chicks and ducklings, can be to small children. Young birds often carry harmful bacteria called *Salmonella*. Each spring some children become infected with *Salmonella* after receiving a baby bird for Easter.

Bacteria that are carried in the bird's intestine contaminate their environment and the entire surface of the animal. These bacteria can be harmful to humans. Children can be exposed to the bacteria by simply holding, cuddling or kissing the birds and by contact with bird enclosures or bird environments. Young children are most susceptible to infection because they are more likely than others to put their fingers into their mouths and because their immune systems are still developing.

How do I reduce the exposure of young children to *Salmonella* from chicks and ducklings?

- Do NOT give chicks or ducklings to young children as Easter gifts.
- Do not let children under 5 years of age handle baby chicks or other young birds.
- If anyone touches the chicks or ducklings, make sure that they wash their hands immediately. Pacifiers, toys, bottles or other objects should not touch the baby birds or their enclosures. If these objects do become contaminated, wash them with warm, soapy water.
- Do not allow anyone to eat or drink while interacting with birds or their environment. Keep the bird area separate from areas where food and drink are prepared or consumed. Do not allow chicks or ducklings on table surfaces or places where food will be prepared or eaten.

What are the signs of *Salmonella* infections in humans?

Most people have diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain that starts 1 to 3 days after they ingest the bacteria. These symptoms usually resolve after 1 week. Other symptoms might be nausea, chills, headaches or general achy feeling. Young children, the elderly and other immune-compromised persons may have a more severe infection.

** Article taken from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/matte/matteSeasonal.htm#3>*

Attention Volunteers!

FEMA recently released new Independent Study Courses. One course of particular note that may be of interest to you "IS-00026" entitled "Guide to Points of Distribution." It's a rather short course that provides guidance on setting up a distribution system for distributing materials to the community during times of disaster. This could be food, water, ice, tarps, etc. The course covers the set-up, opening, closing and organization required for three sizes of Point-of-Dispensation (PODs) locations in order to match the emerging need. The course is available at www.training.fema.gov. Go to the Independent Study Course list and scroll down to number 00026.



CERT Training Course in the Town of Tonawanda

CERT Training is a FREE Community Emergency Preparedness course that both includes academic and hands-on instruction. The eight (8) class course will be held Thursday evenings (6:30-9:30 PM) beginning **Thursday, April 9, 2009**. The course will conclude with a course review and simulated disaster training exercise on **Saturday, June 6, 2009** (9AM-1PM). The class will meet at the **Town of Tonawanda Fire Training Facility, 70 Fire Tower Drive**. *The course is free; there is no charge for this training. Participants should plan to attend all sessions.*

CERT Training prepares you to help yourself, your family, your neighbors and your associates in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Emergency personnel may not be able to help everyone immediately and you can make a difference by using CERT Training to save lives and protect property. CERT training topics include:

- Disaster Preparedness:** Disasters & Disaster Workers, Community Preparedness
- Fire Safety:** Fire Chemistry, Fire Hazards, Fire Safety, & Fire Suppression
- Light Search and Rescue:** Search & Rescue Size-up and Operations
- Emergency Medical Operations I:** Triage & Treating Life Threatening Injuries
- Emergency Medical Operations II** Public Health Considerations & Patient Treatment
- CERT Organization and Incident Command (ICS 100)**
- Disaster Psychology:** Impact of Disaster on Rescuers & Victims and Its Mitigation
- Terrorism & CERT:** Terrorism & its Goals; CERT Protocols for Terrorism Incidents
- Disaster Simulation Training Exercise:** Course Review & Hands-on Exercise

CERT training is fun and FREE! Through personal education, training and volunteer service, each person can help make their community safer, stronger and better prepared for the hazards of weather, terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. **Preregistration is required. Register NOW!** All participants must be at least 16 years of age (with parental permission), should plan to attend all eight class sessions, and must register as a volunteer with Border Community SERVICE for insurance coverage.

Join The Team!

For more information or to enroll please contact:

**Nancy Brennan Blundell, Executive Director,
Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University
at 716 286-8304 or e-mail: nbb@niagara.edu**

or

**Heather Johnson, Town of Tonawanda CERT
at 716 879-6606 or hjohnson@tonawanda.ny.us**