

# Border Community SERVICE

Special Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative  
for Community Empowerment  
[www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice](http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice)

February 2009

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## CERT Training Courses Scheduled

The **Town of Wheatfield** in Niagara County will host a CERT course on **Monday nights** (6:30-9:30 PM) beginning **February 23** when the first class will be held at the Town of Wheatfield Community Center. Subsequent classes will be hosted by the Town's five volunteer fire companies: Adams VFC, Bergholz VFC, Frontier VFC, St. Johnsburg, and Shawnee VFC.

The **Town of Tonawanda** in Erie County will offer a CERT course on **Thursday nights** (6:30-9:30 PM) beginning **April 9**. All classes will be held at the Town of Tonawanda Fire Tower.

Detailed information about these courses can be found on Pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. **Please print and share the announcements with family, friends and colleagues who may be interested in CERT Training.**

**Information for Young  
Children Distributed -  
Thanks to Dedicated  
CERT Volunteers!**



"Thank You" to Marianne Evans, Jim Maw and David Printup who volunteered their time to prepare packets of information that were mailed to more than 100 day-care centers, early childhood programs, and elementary schools. Each packet held a "Let's Get Ready!: Planning Together for Emergencies" kit developed by Sesame Street in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security to help adults teach young children (3-5 years) how to get ready for emergencies by learning their addresses, assembling a disaster kit (with the help of an adult) and identifying people in their neighborhoods who can help them in emergencies; a "Helping Children Cope With Disaster" booklet; and other items to help families prepare for emergencies. More information can be found at [www.sesamestreet.com/ready](http://www.sesamestreet.com/ready) and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Special thanks to Marianne and Jim who also checked dozens of CERT kits to make sure they are complete and ready for the Town of Wheatfield CERT course.

# Program Updates!

## Town of Tonawanda

Thirty-four enthusiastic community members enrolled in the Town of Tonawanda winter CERT course. The course will conclude with a training exercise at the Town's Fire Tower on Saturday, February 28. The next Town of Tonawanda CERT course will begin on Thursday, April 9. Please see P. 5 for more details.

A general meeting of Town of Tonawanda CERT will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 19 in the Sheridan Parkside Community Center auditorium. Please visit the Town of Tonawanda Citizen Corps web site for updated CERT information or contact Heather Johnson at 716 879-6606 or [hjohnson@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:hjohnson@tonawanda.ny.us).

Emergency preparedness information was sent to Town schools and child care centers serving 3-5 year olds.

## Niagara County

Every Niagara County school and registered child care center that serves students who are 3-5 years of age received information specifically designed to help adults teach children to prepare for emergencies and the help them cope with them. Niagara County Head Start programs in Lockport, Niagara Falls (Sacred Heart & Donovan Center sites), North Tonawanda and Newfane have planned Border Community SERVICE emergency preparedness training presentations for their parent groups.

The Town of Wheatfield will host its first CERT course beginning Monday, February 23 at the Town of Wheatfield Community Center. Classes will also be held at the Town's five fire companies: Adams, Bergholz, Frontier, St. Johnsbury and Shawnee.

## City of Buffalo

**Dana Estrada**

**716.851.4299**

Explaining emergencies to young children can be difficult at times. Fortunately, the Department of Homeland Security and Sesame Workshop recently teamed up to make it much easier! They developed "Let's Get Ready! Planning Together for Emergencies" a resource kit that includes a Sesame Street DVD, a parent/caregiver magazine and a children's workbook. Children, ages 3-5 years, learn how to get ready for emergencies by learning their full names and addresses; by assembling a disaster kit (with the help of an adult, of course!), and by identifying people in their neighborhoods who can help them in emergencies. Border Community SERVICE is working to distribute the kit to daycare and after school child care providers in the City of Buffalo. All of the materials are available in both English and Spanish. More information is available at [www.sesamestreet.com/ready](http://www.sesamestreet.com/ready)

In addition to the Sesame Street material, each daycare center will receive emergency preparedness brochures for distribution to the families of the children they serve. Several day care centers have already requested and received the material including: The Children's Place of Buffalo, ASC/ECC Child Development Center, The Salvation Army, Cornerstone Manor, Munchkinland Day Care, Ellicott Masten YMCA Child Care Center, HSBC Family Center, and the Holy Cross Head Start Centers. Thus far, centers that serve more than 970 children have received the materials! If you know of day care centers in the City of Buffalo that would be interested, please give me a call!

I've also had presentations at the after school programs at the Delevan-Grider Community Center and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School on High Street. What a great group of kids! I have to admit that I was stumped when one little boy asked why fish don't get hurt when lightning hits the water they live in. I need to research that! I also want to thank the super seniors of All Saints Church on Esser Street and the Evergreens of Holy Family Church for hosting preparedness presentations. I enjoyed the conversation and fun of these two fantastic groups.

If you would like to host a presentation including either the "Ready America" program (includes a free Grab & Go Safety Kit for attending!) or the "Map Your Neighborhood" program, please call me at 851-4299 to set a date. Remember, working together makes your community stronger!

# Free Tax Help at Niagara University!



Niagara University accounting students are providing free tax preparation services for **elderly and low income** residents. Federal and state income tax forms will be prepared and filed electronically. Be sure to bring **ALL** tax documents (W-2's, social security income, bank interest).

## Dates for March 2009

**Tuesdays** March 10, 17, 24, & 31 (5:30-7:30pm) at Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Rooms 207 & 210

**Wednesdays** March 11, 18, & 25 (5:30-7:30pm) Niagara Falls High School (Library), 4455 Porter Rd, Niagara Falls NY 14305 (716 286 - 7925)

**Thursdays** March 12, 19, & 26 (5:30pm-7:30pm) Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Rooms 207 & 210

## Dates for April 2009

**Tuesday** April 7 (5:30-7:30pm) at Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Rooms 207 & 210

**Wednesday** April 1 (5:30-7:30pm) Niagara Falls High School (Library) 4455 Porter Rd, Niagara Falls NY 14305 (716 286-7925)

**Thursday** April 2 (5:30-7:30pm) at Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Rooms 207 & 210

This **free tax help** is sponsored by Niagara University's Accounting Society and Niagara University's Beta Alpha Psi Chapter in partnership with ReNU Niagara: Niagara University's Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC).

*Walk-ins only will be accepted. Appointments are not available.* For questions and information, please call ReNU Niagara COPC at 716-205-0289.

## Dates for February 2009:

**Tuesdays** February 3, 10, 17, & 24 (5:30-7:30pm) at Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Rooms 207 & 210

**Wednesdays** February 4, 11, 18, & 25 (5:30-7:30pm) at SUNY ATTAIN Lab of the Niagara Falls Housing Authority (NFHA) at the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Building, 3001 9th Street (1st Floor), Niagara Falls, NY 14305 (716 285-5374 Ext. 252 or 208)

**Thursdays** February 5, 12, 19, & 26 (5:30-7:30pm) at Niagara University, Dunleavy Hall, Rooms 207 & 210

## FREE FLU SHOTS

Pastor William T. Spensor and the Mt. Sinai Baptist Missionary Church announce a **FREE** Flu Shot Clinic for everyone, ages three (3) years and older, at **Mt. Sinai Baptist Missionary Church**, 1750 Tennessee St., Niagara Falls from **2:00 to 6:00 PM** on **Monday, February 23, 2009**.

For assistance with transportation, please call Sister Michelle Shine at 716 285-8644.

For information about flu shots, please call Elaine Roman at 716 439-7436 (Niagara County Department of Health).



## Transition to Digital Television Postponed to June 12, 2009

This week the United States Congress passed legislation, the DTV Delay Act (S. 352), to delay the Digital Television Transition from February 17, 2009 to June 12, 2009. Additionally, the DTV Delay Act extends the Converter Box Coupon Program until July 31, 2009. To learn more about the DTV Delay Act and to view the updated Citizen Corps DTV Transition Fact Sheet which explains ways for Citizen Corps Councils and Partners to get involved in their community, please visit [http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/press/2009/DTV\\_Transition.shtm](http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/press/2009/DTV_Transition.shtm).





## CERT Training in the Town of Wheatfield!

**CERT Training is a FREE Community Preparedness course** that both includes academic and hands-on instruction. The course will be held on six Monday evenings (6:30-9:30 PM) beginning **Monday, February 23, 2009**. There will also be two Saturday classes. Fire Safety and Light Search & Rescue will be held (9AM-3PM) on Saturday, February 28, 2009. The course review and simulated disaster training exercise is tentatively scheduled on **Saturday, April 4, 2009** (9AM-2PM). The first class will meet at the **Town of Wheatfield Community Center, 2790 Church Rd**. Subsequent classes will meet at the five Town of Wheatfield Fire Company Halls on a schedule to be announced.

CERT Training prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors 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

**Terrorism & CERT:** Terrorism & its Goals; CERT Protocols for Terrorism Incidents

**Emergency Medical Operations I:** Triage & Treating Life Threatening Injuries

**Emergency Medical Operations II** Public Health Considerations & Patient Treatment

**Disaster Psychology:** Impact of Disaster on Rescuers & Victims and Its Mitigation

**CERT Organization and Incident Command (ICS 100)**

**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](mailto:nbb@niagara.edu)**

**or go to [www.niagara.edubordercommunityservice](http://www.niagara.edubordercommunityservice)**  
**for online registration and/or to view a CERT Briefing**



## 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
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Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University  
at 716 286-8304 or e-mail: [nbb@niagara.edu](mailto:nbb@niagara.edu)**

*or*

**Heather Johnson, Town of Tonawanda CERT  
at 716 879-6606 or [hjohnson@tonawanda.ny.us](mailto:hjohnson@tonawanda.ny.us)**