

Niagara County Legislators Vote to Fund One Year Continuation of BCS!

Border Community SERVICE has received wonderful news! Niagara County recently demonstrated its commitment to citizen preparedness training by voting to support the Border Community SERVICE Program when grant funding expired on June 30th.

On June 19, 2007, the full Niagara County Legislature approved County Manager Gregory Lewis' request to allocate \$200,000 of the county's federal homeland security aid for a one-year continuation of the Border Community SERVICE Program.

"We shouldn't allow this program to go away with this grant, but we should take a leadership position and fund it with homeland security dollars 100 percent," Lewis said. "We have more than adequate [homeland security] dollars that we have yet to spend from 2005 and 2006," the manager said. The county budgeted \$2.67 million in federal homeland security aid this year alone. The \$200,000 is being taken from a line in the budget labeled "miscellaneous equipment."

Sheriff Thomas A. Beilein praised the training programs, some of which have been taught by instructors from his department. "The feedback on these programs is absolutely positive," Beilein said.

Niagara University has hosted Border Community Service for three years. "They've made a commitment to do this as part of Niagara University's mission," Lewis said. Lewis said the three priorities set by the Department of Homeland Security for the use of its grants to localities are, in order, interoperability of communications equipment, defense of critical infrastructure and citizen preparation. Thus, he said, funding these training programs is an appropriate use of the money.

The county manager said he will urge Buffalo and Erie County to chip in to keep the program going after Niagara County's \$200,000 is used up.

**Excerpts taken from Thomas Prohaska's "Funding of emergency training backed," The Buffalo News 06/11/07*

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Successful First CERT County-wide Tabletop Exercise

Niagara County CERT Volunteers recently participated in a successful first-time "tabletop" exercise. On June 26th, CERT volunteers gathered at three sites, in North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, and Cambria, for a game-like experience planned to provide practice in skills that might be needed during an emergency situation.

After being given a scenario developed by Chief MacKay of NFFD with support

from Howard Morgan of Cambria and Ed Suski of Columbia Hook & Ladder (NT), CERT Volunteers worked to respond to many challenges.

CERT was supported by RACES members, amateur radio operators, who staffed the 3 sites and the Emergency Operations Center in Lockport under the direction of Niagara County Director of Emergency Services, James Volkosh.



It's great news!!

Volunteer Opportunities

Your help is needed to represent **CERT** at
“Crime Night Out”
 on **Tuesday, August 7**

Niagara Falls

The Niagara Falls Block Club Council continues to take an active role in crime prevention by hosting a local, nationally recognized Crime Night Out evening in conjunction with the 24th Annual National Night Out. The event is scheduled from **5:30 to 8:30 PM** at the Polish Nook Restaurant, 2242 Cuda-beck Avenue, Niagara Falls. It will be followed by a walk through the neighborhood from 8:30 to 9PM. Volunteers are needed to host an information table and distribute emergency preparedness materials.

Lockport

Lockport’s “Crime Night Out” event will take place **6 to 9 PM** at the corner of Washington and Allen in the City of Lockport. Again, volunteers are needed to host a CERT information table and distribute emergency preparedness materials. Please call the BCS office at 205-0070 if you are interested in representing the CERT program at either one of these locations. All materials will be supplied.

Ideas?

If you know of additional activities appropriate for volunteers associated with BCS, please contact our office (205-0070).

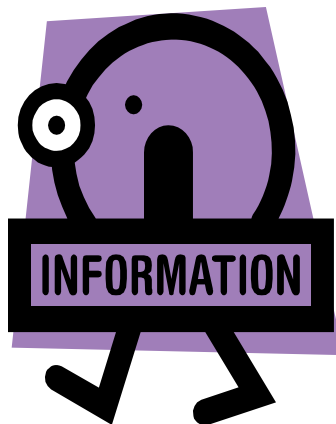


**Please watch your email for
 CERT training announcements.
 Dates and sites of Fall of 2007
 courses to be announced soon!**

As Border Community SERVICE continues with new funding, CERT trainings will be planned at locations in Niagara County. Our funding can sponsor CERT Training for approximately one hundred fifty (150) volunteers at 6 sites in Niagara County. We want to develop a strong CERT presence in Niagara County and need your help to recruit potential CERT volunteers.

If you know anyone who may be interested in attending **FREE** CERT training, and who would also be likely to participate as a CERT volunteer following their training, please suggest that they register at www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice. They can also contact our office at 205-0070 to register for CERT Training.

Please Update Your Contact Information!



Have you moved recently? Perhaps you changed your phone number or added a cell phone? As the Border Community SERVICE program and CERT move forward to better serve the community, it is extremely important that we maintain correct, updated contact information for CERT-trained volunteers. In the event of an emergency it is essential that new addresses, new email addresses, new or changed phone numbers (cell phones included), and any other pertinent information are on file. As CERT teams become better organized and more active, this information is vital.

Please contact the BCS office with any updated information you may have so our records are as complete as possible. At your earliest convenience please provide your contact information by phone (716-205-0070), email (nch@niagara.edu), fax (716-205-0078), or regular mail (PO Box 2040, Niagara University, NY 14109-2040). Thank you very much for your assistance!