

## “Beautify Niagara 2006: Paint up, Clean up, Rake up” was a Sweeping Success!



### Inside This Issue

	PAGE
Expired Certifications	3
Future Training Dates	4
Disaster Conference	4
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Volunteer Profile	3

Despite dreary April weather after a week of sunshine, hundreds of local volunteers turned out to make the renamed Clean Sweep “Beautify Niagara 2006: Paint up, Clean up, Rake up” a great success!

Block Club joined the BCS team that was assigned to the Gill Creek Park area, located at the corners of Hyde Park and Niagara Street.

The morning ceremonies started off at Seneca Niagara Casino, where volunteers were given cleaning supplies, sweatshirts, and breakfast. Cleanup locations were assigned and tasks handed out. Groups were sent all over the City of Niagara Falls and tasks ranged from simple litter detail to removing graffiti at city parks and painting.

The BCS volunteers worked from 9 AM to noon, cleaning the park area and the creek beds. The crew picked up 26 bags of garbage consisting of usual litter items and a variety of other things including bowling pins, play balls, a child’s swimming tube, and binoculars. They also dragged shopping carts, milk crates, a bicycle, and a wooden pallet out of the creek. The garbage was neatly piled and left near the street for a Monday pickup by the city garbage handlers.

The Border Community SERVICE cleanup team consisted of Nancy Brennan Blundell, Nola Cornett-Heidrich, Linda Kroening, Dorothy Carter, Priscilla Baker, Liz Broomfield, and Dave Taylor. Several volunteers from a Niagara Falls

All “Beautify Niagara” volunteers met back at the Hyde Park Oasis in the early afternoon for a closing picnic cooked by the Niagara Falls Block Club Council and to share tales of toil and trash.

**Left:** BCS Director Dave Taylor, and volunteer Dorothy Carter pull one of many shopping carts out of Gill Creek. **Right:** Additional BCS volunteers drag another shopping cart out of the creek.



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# Volunteer Opportunities

Border Community SERVICE is an organization of trained volunteers who agreed to provide an average of 4 hours per month of community service when they received their training. Many opportunities exist to volunteer to make the community a stronger, safer place and to fulfill your commitment.

## Healthy Neighborhoods

Healthy Neighborhoods is looking for volunteers to help them during weekdays from 10 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers will accompany Healthy Neighborhoods staff members who visit homes to promote healthy choices. BCS volunteers provide emergency preparedness information acquired through their "Together We Prepare" training to the households, assist with survey completion and distribute first aid kits. For more information, please contact Gail Root of Healthy Neighborhoods at (716) 278-8292.

## Local Red Cross Chapter

BCS provides training in partnership with three local chapters of the American Red Cross: the Niagara Falls Chapter, the Greater Buffalo, and the Eastern Niagara County Chapter in Lockport. Your local Red Cross Chapter needs volunteers to assist with blood drives, provide office support, train to become a member of the local Disaster Assistance Program and support their work in many other ways. Please contact your local chapter if interested. If you are unsure of which Chapter is yours, please contact us. Please report your hours of volunteer time with the American Red Cross as Border Community SERVICE hours.

## Project Linus

Project Linus is a not-for-profit program that provides handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill,

traumatized, or otherwise in need. Volunteers are needed to donate their time to create these blankets and to help gather financial support. To volunteer, contact the Western New York Chapter of Project Linus at (716)

627 - 3883 or by email [plwny@adelphia.net](mailto:plwny@adelphia.net)

## Niagara Medical Reserve Corps

The NMRC is a group of medical personnel (doctors, dentist, pharmacists, and nurses) willing to augment available medical personnel in the event of an emergency. The NMRC meets monthly for training. Please call our office for more information.

## Inventory of CERT Kits

One hundred (100) CERT Kits were recently received by Border Community SERVICE for future CERT trainings in Niagara and Erie counties. If you're willing to spend a few hours with fellow volunteers to check that the kits are complete and ready for distribution, please call us. It'll be fun and, remember, many hands make work light!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Nola at (716) 205-0070, unless otherwise indicated. If you know of volunteer activities that are appropriate for BCS volunteers, please contact Nola. Border Community SERVICE must report volunteer hours to our funding agency. Please maintain a personal log of your volunteer hours. Our office sends a monthly reminder to report your hours accrued. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

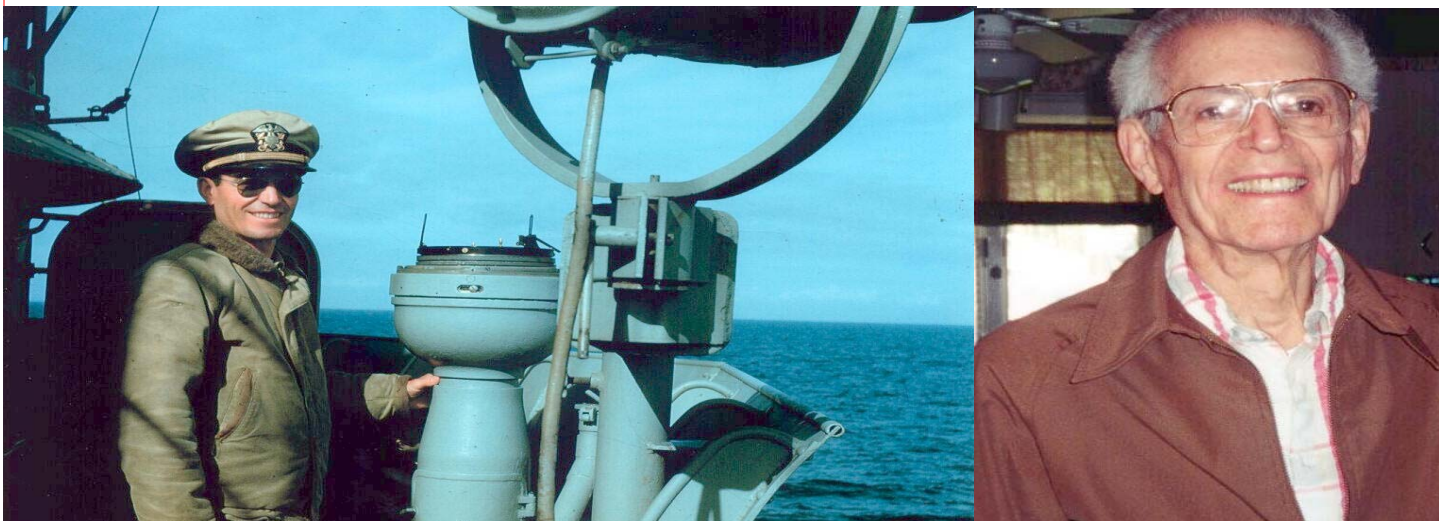


## Planning to attend the conference? Volunteer to help now!

The **2006 Bi-National Emergency Preparedness Conference** will be held on **Wednesday & Thursday, July 19 & 20, 2006** at **The Conference Center Niagara Falls** in downtown Niagara Falls. It will be a wonderful, memorable event. Hundreds of attendees are expected so there's lots of work to be done, before and during the conference. We can't present the conference without the assistance of our dedicated volunteers. **Please volunteer to help now.**

Volunteers who provide substantial assistance will have the opportunity to attend the conference without paying the registration fee. **That's a \$200.00 value!** Don't wait until the last minute. Let us know **now** that we can count on you.

## Volunteer Profile - Rocco L. LaRocca DDS



Left: On board the USS Los Angeles homebound from Guam (1945), Right: Dr. LaRocca today.  
(Many thanks to Dr. LaRocca's daughter, Barbara Walker, for sharing these wonderful pictures!)

This month we honor **Rocco L. LaRocca DDS** as our "Volunteer of the Month."

As a Border Community SERVICE volunteer, he completed basic level training including "Community First Aid & Safety" and the "Together We Prepare" as well as advanced training in CERT.

Dr. LaRocca graduated from Niagara University in the late 1930's and his life has exemplified the values and traditions of Niagara University. He is an inspiring example of a person who has made the world a better place with a lifetime of service to his family, his community, his alma mater, and to his nation.

After graduating from Niagara University, he attended the Temple University School of Dental Medicine and subsequently served as an officer in the US Navy during both World War II and the Korean War. Stationed on Guam, he offered dental care to sailors fighting far from home. After returning to the States, he cared for service personnel at the base at Fort Niagara and earned a promotion to the rank of Captain.

Dr. LaRocco practiced dentistry in the City of Niagara Falls for more than 50 years and attended to the dental needs of several of the Vincentian fathers.

A man of great faith, Dr. LaRocco attends Mass

daily and recently became a Eucharistic Minister.

A member of VFW Post 54, he'll serve as the Grand Marshall of this year's Niagara Falls Memorial Day Parade.

Dr. LaRocco has earned a reputation as an excellent cook who specializes in Italian cuisine and prepares a meal every day. He strives to make healthy meals available to others by delivering donated fruit and vegetables to five soup kitchens daily.

His healthy lifestyle including daily tennis, vigorous exercise several times a week at the Air Force base and frequent walks.

Dr. LaRocco is an active member of the Niagara Medical Reserve Corps. He recently assisted Dr. Dyster during the "Beautify Niagara" cleanup and was available to provide emergency assistance in the event a volunteer needed help.

Born on May 31, 1916, Dr. LaRocca will celebrate his 90th birthday later this month!

Everyone at Border Community SERVICE congratulates him on 90 year well-lived and wishes him a very, very Happy 90th Birthday and many more years of health and happiness!

### Have your Adult CPR with AED Skills and Infant & Child CPR certifications expired?

Anyone who enrolled as a Border Community SERVICE Volunteer prior to May 1, 2005 may find that their one-year American Red Cross certification in Adult CPR with AED Skills and Infant & Child CPR has expired. We encourage you to renew your certification by attending these classes again. Recertification training is available to our volunteers free of charge. Your investment is your interest and time. To determine the next available training dates, please call our office at 716 205-0070 or check either our website or the monthly newsletter for more information.

## Volunteer Trainings

There are two Basic Level Trainings scheduled at this time. Volunteers who are missing training components are invited to attend the missing components and complete your training. As pre-registration is required, please call 205-0070. Seats will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis; walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

All of these classes are open to new volunteers. If you have friends, neighbors or colleagues who are interested in joining our volunteer program, please have them call the office at 716 205-0070 or enroll online at [www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice](http://www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice).

Some volunteers have yet to complete the "Together We Prepare - Train the Trainer" portion of our program. This is an excellent time to do so. In addition, many of our volunteers' certifications in Adult CPR with AED Skills and the Infant & Child CPR are expired or will soon expire. Please call the office if you are interested in renewing them to make arrangements. First Aid Basics and Together We Prepare do not need to be renewed at this time.

### ARC - Niagara Falls

2079 Sawyer Road

(off Williams Road, adjacent to the Summit Park Mall)

6 PM to 10 PM

**Monday, May 15:** Adult CPR with AED Skills

**Thursday, May 18:** Infant & Child CPR

**Monday, May 22:** First Aid Basics

**Thursday, May 25:** Together We Prepare

### ARC - Greater Buffalo

786 Delaware Avenue

6 PM to 10 PM

**Thursday, May 4:** Adult CPR with AED Skills

**Thursday, May 11:** Infant & Child CPR

**Thursday, May 18:** Together We Prepare

## Advanced Level Trainings

Future CERT Trainings are being planned by the Cambria Fire Department, the Town of Amherst, the City of Buffalo (at Medialle College), and at several additional locations. Please watch your email for definite dates and locations., then **please share this information**. The best recruiters for CERT Training are those who've enjoyed and completed CERT training and recognize the value of preparing community members to assist in the event of a disaster.

Individuals who have completed the "Community First Aid & Safety" and the "Together We Prepare" courses and are interested in training to become a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team are encouraged to contact their local American Red Cross chapter for training information.



## SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 27-28, 2006

### New York State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DISASTER HUMAN SERVICES CONFERENCE

C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University § 720 Northern Boulevard § Brookville, NY 11548

This 2-day conference will target organizational leadership and disaster human services planning. A series of expert panels, workshops and facilitated discussions will be presented over the course of the conference, ending with a tabletop exercise on Wednesday afternoon. Conference agenda, workshop descriptions and registration forms will be posted on **New York State VOAD's website, [www.nysvoad.com](http://www.nysvoad.com)**.