

Border Community SERVICE

FEBRUARY 2012

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*Important
DATE!*

Save the Date! Saturday, June 9, 2012
Empowering Volunteers Conference
More details to follow!

EOC Course

We're making plans to host an Emergency Operations Center Course on Friday, March 9th on the Niagara University campus. This course would be scheduled from 8:30am until 4:30pm and would be an all-day commitment. A limited number of openings are anticipated. If you are interested in being considered for course enrollment, please email Dana Estrada at dle@niagara.edu

Wheatfield CERT



CERT Volunteers are invited to assist with the final Wheatfield CERT Training Exercise on **Saturday, March 10, 2012** starting at 8 a.m. at **St. Johnsburg Fire Company, 7165 Ward Road, North Tonawanda (Wheatfield)**. Volunteers are needed to act as victims for the Disaster Simulation. CERT members who feel they will benefit by participating as a student in the final exercise or any of the classes are welcome to join and participate as well.

Here is a list of the remainder of classes that you can attend as a refresher. Classes are from 6:30-9:30 pm at St. Johnsburg Fire Company.

Feb 14: Light Search and Rescue: Search & Rescue Size-up and Operations

Feb 21: CERT Team Organization and Incident Command System (ICS 100) – *this is a good class to attend if you haven't received your ICS 100 certificate yet, which is required in order for you to receive your regional CERT ID*

Feb 28: Disaster Psychology: Impact of Disaster on Rescuers & Victims and its Mitigation, presented by Bonnie Frazer

Mar 6: Terrorism & CERT: Terrorism & its Goals - CERT Protocols for Terrorism Incidents, presented by Dennis Carson

Anyone interested in volunteering in the final exercise or participating as a student at any of the classes must register in advance by contacting Valerie Haseley at 716.205.0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu.

Border Community SERVICE Staff

Director of the Institute of Civic Engagement
David B. Taylor, PhD

Executive Director

Dana Estrada
dle@niagara.edu
716.205.0075

City of Buffalo

Elizabeth H. Oddy
ehoddy@bpdny.org
716.851.4299

Niagara County

Valerie Haseley
vhaseley@niagara.edu
716.205.0076

BCS Coordinator

Gail Struzik
gstruzik@niagara.edu
716.205.0077

Office Information

Phone: 716.286.8010
FAX: 716.205.0072

Office Location:

443 Roosevelt Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Mailing Addresses:

PO Box 2040
Niagara University, NY
14109-2040

City of Buffalo PD
74 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Border Community SERVICE

Niagara County

Valerie Haseley

716-205-0076



January began with our second annual Emergency Preparedness Workshop for 100 Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts and their Leaders. The day-long workshop took place on Niagara University's Campus where they learned the curriculum to complete the requirements of the Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge and the Girl Scout Emergency Preparedness Patch. The participants learned about Fire Safety and First Aid, but most of all, they learned team work and how to



better prepare themselves and their families during an emergency situation.

Thank you to **Howard Morgan** from the Boy Scouts for conducting the classes and break-out sessions.

In January, we also began the **CERT** class taking place at St. Johnsburg Fire Company in Wheatfield. It is a great group of individuals who are able to bring a variety of knowledge and skills to each of our training sessions. See page 1 on how you can assist with the Disaster Drill Simulation or attend one of the classes as a refresher.

Please contact Valerie Haseley at 716.205.0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu if you would like to have a presentation scheduled with your group.

City of Buffalo

Dana Estrada

716-205-0075

January was a busy month for our program in Buffalo. Among the highlights for the month was the City of Buffalo 3rd Annual Day of Service for Community Health, Wellness and Education fair in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event, at City Hall on January 13th, was a wonderfully well attended event aimed at both visitors to City Hall as well as city employees. We also presented at the ELIM Christian Fellowship on Chalmers Street in the Central Park Plaza area as part of the Senior Companion Program. Over 40 individuals were in attendance.

February is also shaping up to be a busy month. We're making stops at Holy Spirit Church on Dakota, the North Buffalo Community Center, School 86 and McKinley High School for their African-American Heritage Celebration.

We're also making plans for another City of Buffalo CERT course for this spring. If you know of someone that would be interested, please give them a heads up! More information should be forthcoming shortly.

As always, if you know of a group that would like to receive an emergency preparedness presentation or would like BCS to supply material for an event or tabling opportunity, please call 205-0077 or email dle@niagara.edu.

Border Community SERVICE of Niagara University

CERT Skills Enhancements



How a Disaster Develops

James J. Zymanek, Director of the Town of Amherst
Department of Emergency Services and Safety

Description: This presentation will go through the evolution of a disaster, the disaster declaration process and what you can do to assist as a CERT member.

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 29, 2012
6:30-7:30 PM

Location: Cambria Fire Hall
4631 Cambria-Wilson Road
Lockport, 14094

Please RSVP to Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 205.0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu by Monday, February 27. This presentation is open to CERT members and members of the community.

Learn to defend yourself without becoming the aggressor!

A Personal Security/Self Defense seminar

Philip Barr, Martial Arts Instructor and Iraq War combat veteran



Description: Philip's unique, non-violence based approach to personal security will introduce the concepts of preventative security, conflict de-escalation, and physical escape/attack survival tactics and techniques.

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 6:30-8:30 PM

Location: Wheatfield Youth Center, 2800 Church Road, Wheatfield (North Tonawanda), 14120

Please RSVP to Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 205.0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu by Friday, April, 20 as space is limited. This presentation is only open to CERT members.



Update your Information

Have you moved recently? Perhaps changed your phone number or added a cell phone? Changed your email address or would rather get our information at a different email address? As BCS and CERT move forward to better serve the community, it is extremely important that we maintain correct, updated contact information for our CERT-trained volunteers. In the event of an emergency, it is essential that all pertinent information in our files is up-to-date.

Please contact the BCS office with any updated information so that we can keep your records as complete as possible. You can email Gail at gstruzik@niagara.edu or call 205-0077.

NU AGAIN OFFERING FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE TO NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY

The program called VITA, (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service, is entering its 31st year at Niagara University. Under the program, NU students prepare and electronically file federal and state tax returns free of charge for elderly and low-income taxpayers in the community. The program is coordinated by members of Beta Alpha Psi, the international honor society for accounting, and the college's Accounting Society.

Beginning Feb. 9, assistance will be provided from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. at Niagara University (St. Vincent's Hall, Room 205) on the following dates: Feb. 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 and 28; March 1, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29; April 3, 10, 12 and 17.

No appointments are needed to participate in this free service. Niagara University's VITA program has garnered national accolades from Beta Alpha Psi, an organization with more than 300,000 members in 289 chapters on college and university campuses around the world. For more information, please call 716.286.8050 or visit www.niagara.edu.

Winter Driving Tips

Winter isn't done with us yet! Here are some winter driving tips to remember and use:

- ◇ Get the latest weather forecast before you leave; check www.weather.gov.buf.
- ◇ Keep a full tank of gas at all times.
- ◇ Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights - even the hood and roof - before driving.
- ◇ Brake early and brake correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in wintry conditions.
- ◇ Be aware that exit ramps usually have less anti-icing material than the main line and take care when exiting the thruway.
- ◇ Don't use "cruise control". The slightest touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- ◇ Don't get overconfident in a four wheel drive vehicle. It may help you get going quicker, but it won't help you stop any quicker.
- ◇ Look further ahead in traffic than you normally do. Even a split-second of extra reaction time can make a difference.
- ◇ Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right.