Schedule Change!  
CERT Training at Cambria Volunteer FD will begin Tuesday, May 27th!

The Town of Cambria Volunteer Fire Department will present a CERT Training course on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. The class will meet beginning May 27, 2008 and continue through June 19, 2008. A course review and simulated disaster training exercise is tentatively planned on Saturday, June 21 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

The class includes academic and hands-on instruction and is open to anyone over the age of 16. To register or get more information, please contact Border Community SERVICE at 716 286-8010 or by e-mail to nbb@niagara.edu. Interested potential participants can also visit our website, www.niagara.edu/bordercommunityservice and complete an online registration.

Campus CERT Train-the-Trainer Course at Niagara University May 20 - 22, 2008

A Department of Homeland Security grant to Michigan State University will enable a MSU training team to provide a Campus CERT Train-the-Trainer course at Niagara University later this month. Participants from campuses as distant as San Francisco and Spokane, Washington will join other participants from local emergency response agencies as well as local colleges and universities for a three day training leading to CERT Instructor certification by NYSEMO and many better prepared communities.

City of Buffalo & Border Community SERVICE will partner in regional preparedness effort!

Border Community SERVICE recently received wonderful news! The City of Buffalo and Niagara University have agreed to work as partners to offer citizen preparedness training and participation opportunities for City of Buffalo residents.

Niagara County, Erie County and the City of Buffalo are UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) partners. One UASI goal is to work together to create a region that is prepared and resistant to all types of emergencies, both natural and man-made.

Program goals in the City of Buffalo include significant community emergency preparedness education outreach, assisting CERT trained volunteers to better serve their neighbors, friends and colleagues, and working with community agencies and groups.

Volunteers will have an essential role in working to meet federal guidelines requiring that 5% of all residents to receive emergency preparedness education and training each year until at least 80% of all residents have received this training.
Community Announcements

**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Water Safety Expo on Saturday, May 17!**

The United States Coast Guard has invited Federal, State, & local boating safety agencies and safety equipment vendors to provide exhibits and demonstrations focused on water and boating safety themes such as properly fitting a life jacket (PFD), proper use of visual distress signals, and handling common medical emergencies while boating on our Great Lakes.

Highlights of the Water Safety Expo will include a Coast Guard Helicopter, a Coast Guard water rescue demonstration, kayaking safety demonstrations, and tours of the Buffalo Coast Guard base and the historic Buffalo Lighthouse.

Booths will focus on specific boating safety themes. Boating safety experts will answer detailed questions, provide advice, literature and references just for you and your specific needs. It's also a way for boaters to get the latest information on new technology and trends. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be conducted free Boating Safety Examinations at the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority Small Boat Harbor located at 1111 Fuhrmann Blvd., Buffalo, NY 14203.

The Boating Safety Expo is scheduled for May 17, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the United States Coast Guard Base (Sector), 1 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203. **This event is FREE to the public!**

**Niagara County Announces**

**2008 Rabies Immunization Clinics**

By law, all cats, dogs and domesticated ferrets must have a current rabies vaccination. In cooperation with the Niagara County Veterinary Society, the Niagara County Department of Health will hold Rabies Immunization Clinics in 2008.

**Saturday, May 17:** 2 - 4PM  
Cornell Cooperative Extension ("County Fairgrounds"), 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, 433-8839

**Saturday, June 7:** 2 - 4PM  
Hyde Park–Oasis/Centennial Pavilion (behind Ice Arena), 911 Robbins Drive, Niagara Falls, 286-4956

**Saturday, September 13:** 2 - 4PM  
Cornell Cooperative Extension ("County Fairgrounds")  
4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, 433-8839

**Saturday, December 6:** 2 - 4PM  
North Tonawanda Public Works Dept.

**CERT Pop-up Shelter Now Available for Community Events**

A 10’ x 10’ CERT green pop-up shelter and a portable table are available for use by CERT groups at community events such as Canal Fest, National Night Out and the Niagara County Fair. Please call to reserve. FEMA emergency preparedness pamphlets are also available for distribution by CERT.

**Parenting Plus: “Choices for Change”**

**A FREE Six Week Parenting & Nutrition Series**

This series is sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension at Heart & Soul, 939 Ontario Avenue, Niagara Falls. The series will meet from 9:30-11:30 am on the following Wednesdays:

- **May 7, 14, 21, & 28 and June 4 & 11**

Participants are expected to attend all sessions. Topics include: discipline, smart shopping, portion sizes, meeting children’s needs, healthy snacks, building family strengths, the challenge of being a parent, and replacing stress with peace.

To register, please call the Cornell Cooperative Extension at 278-8131 or Janet Smith at Heart & Soul (282-5684) by May 2nd. A minimum number of participants must be met or the series will be cancelled. Door prizes will be awarded each week & a grand prize will be awarded at the end of the six weeks.
Smart Disposal: Properly Dispose of Your Medications!

Recently released studies show higher levels of medications and drugs in water systems. A few small steps can make an important difference in safeguarding lives and protecting the environment.

Follow your prescription’s directions and use all medications as instructed. If you do not use all of them, **DO NOT FLUSH** unused portions and **DO NOT POUR** them down a sink or drain. Instead, pour the medication into a sealable plastic bag. If it is a pill, crush it or add water to dissolve it. Add kitty litter, caw dust, coffee grounds, or any other material that will make it unable for pets and children to eat. Seal the bag and place it in the trash. Be sure to remove and destroy all identifying personal information.

Another alternative is to check with approved state and local collection programs. Some pharmacies have take-back programs. Check with your local pharmacy for additional recommendations or if you have any questions about disposal techniques.

Attention Niagara County Residents!
Invasive Plant Species Toxic to Humans

Giant Hogweed, a federally listed noxious weed, has been reported in Niagara County. Giant Hogweed sap, in combination with moisture and sun exposure, can cause **severe** skin and eye irritation; blistering, permanent scarring and blindness can also occur.

When the sap from a broken leaf, stem, root or flower comes into contact with moist skin, within 1 to 3 days lesions, followed by blisters, form. The initial irritation usually subsides in a few days but the affected area can remain hypersensitive to ultraviolet light for years and re-eruptions of blisters and lesions may occur. In rare instances, the burns from the lesions and blisters may require hospitalization. The worst risk is exposure to the eyes, which can lead to blindness.

If you come in contact with the plant, immediately wash skin thoroughly with soap and water. Once irritation begins, seek medical help. If the sap has come in contact with the eyes, immediately seek medical attention.

The Giant Hogweed plant has a 1 to 3 inch thick stems with dark purplish blotches. The leaves are compound, lobed, and deeply incised, growing up to 5 feet in diameter. It has numerous white flowers that form a flat-topped, umbrella-shaped head that can reach up to two-and-a-half feet across. In the late summer, half-inch long winged, flattened oval seeds form.

This invasive plant prefers rich, damp soil such as that found along railroad right of ways, roadside ditches, stream banks, or other moist areas. However, it can survive in other habitats.

If you think you may have Giant Hogweed on your property or area or would like additional information, please contact the **Niagara County Department of Health (716-439-7444)** or the **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (518-402-9425)**.