Every year, the National Safety Council promotes National Safety Month, an initiative that focuses on heightening awareness of important safety issues. The National Safety Council and its local chapters provide information, education, and training programs focused on driving safety, emergency care, and occupational safety. Public and private organizations are also encouraged to sponsor local National Safety Month efforts. Topics for this month include teen driving, distracted drivers, fall prevention, and overexertion.

For more information, visit the NSC National Safety Month website at: http://www.nsc.org/nsm/.

In addition, the Home Safety Council promotes Home Safety Month, an initiative focused on heightening awareness to help the public become better informed and better equipped to prevent injuries in the home. According to research, some 20 million medical visits were required for treatment of home injuries last year. The Home Safety Council encourages the public to take some simple steps to minimize their risk from potential injuries, or even death, from the leading causes of unintentional home injuries: fires/burns, slips/falls and poisonings. The public can access free information and resources at http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/index.asp, including an online quiz to assess your home safety aptitude and a Home Safety Month checklist to help safeguard your loved ones from home injuries.

*Please visit http://www.citizencorps.gov/news/themes.shtm for additional themes and information each month!
Niagara County  Rob Mayer  716.286.802

Summer is shaping up to be an exciting time for Niagara County BCS. On the immediate horizon, we are still looking for volunteers for the Olde Sanborn Days Arts and Crafts Show; we will have a table there for the two days of the show, July 11th and 12th. Anyone interested in volunteering to help give information to residents and answer questions should call me.

Please mark your calendar. A CERT Skills Enhancement Training will take place at 6:30pm on Wednesday, July 22 in Dunleavy Hall, Room 211. Details will be available soon or you can contact Rob Mayer at 28608023 or rmayer@niagara.edu for more information.

In other news, I am scheduled to speak at Sen. Antoine Thompson’s stakeholders breakfast in June. Be on the lookout for details about that event as they become available. You are welcome to attend the breakfast and it is a great way to share information and network with other community volunteers throughout Niagara Falls.

I will attend a statewide conference in June focused on developing volunteer programs and will bring back information to share with you about making CERT in Niagara County a stronger organization. The community-driven nature of this program means we are volunteer dependent and ensuring that we employ techniques that maximize our volunteer effectiveness is a top priority. Please be aware that as a result of the conference I will be out of the office from June 17th-19th.

Finally, I want to recognize the Niagara County Medical Reserve Corps and their efforts to help make the Tour de Cure a success. We are currently mobilizing CERT members to assist the MRC in their efforts on June 6th. This is a great event for a great cause and Dr. Dyster, our MRC commander, should be thanked for his effort.

I hope all of you are having a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at our events.

City of Buffalo  Dana Estrada  716.851.4299

June is gearing up to be a very busy month for emergency preparedness! On June 13th, Border Community SERVICE is looking forward to participating in the Preparedness Expo at the Eastern Hills Mall. The event starts at 10 am and goes until 2. Be sure to stop out and say hello!

We’re also looking forward to the Volunteer Conference in Albany presented by SEMO on June18th & 19th. It’s a great networking opportunity filled with wonderful information and best practices from around the state. I am thrilled that a City of Buffalo CERT member will be attending as well – can’t wait to see you there, Marge!

And on June 20th, the Hispanic Health and Safety Fair will be taking place on Niagara Street from 1 to 4 PM. Please stop and see us at this wonderful event – there will be fun activities for children and important information for adults!

Special thanks to the Northwest Buffalo Community Center for hosting a Health & Safety Fair for their neighborhood. It’s nice to see so many agencies coming together to provide info to the community. Also, thanks to Academy & St. Mary’s Block Club, Valley Community Center, and Los Tainos Senior Center for hosting preparedness presentations in the month of May. Special thanks to Jose at Los Tainos for translating the preparedness presentation for some of the attendees. As always, interested block clubs, community agencies/centers, religious organizations, schools, and businesses in the City of Buffalo, should contact me to schedule free emergency preparedness training.

Members of City of Buffalo CERT had the opportunity to attend a SKYWARN presentation at the Erie County Training Academy on May 18th. This presentation was filled with information and allows attendees to be active as a Sky Watcher – helping NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) better track our weather. Thank you to Erie County for setting this training up. We all really enjoyed it!
Border Community SERVICE

A Special Acknowledgement and “Thank You”

A special BCS “Thank You” to Niagara County CERT volunteer Barb Patton and her extended family. They make a practice of volunteering their time as a family. BCS and our community have been enriched by their participation in CERT exercises and during the 2008 and 2009 “Beautify Niagara” clean-ups.

Volunteer at ARTPARK to Help Feed Hungry Neighbors

Border Community SERVICE invites you to volunteer before the “Tuesday Free Concerts at ARTPARK” to collect donations of canned food, non-perishable food items, special needs items such as paper products, baby diapers & toiletries, and cash donations. Volunteers will staff collection points every Tuesday starting June 9 through August 25.

Collections will benefit two soup kitchens in Niagara Falls—Community Missions and Heart Love & Soul. Last year Community Missions provided over 65,000 meals, 4,774 nights of shelter for 400+ homeless individuals, and 5,442 days of care for more than 150 At Risk Youth. Each month 350 families receive food bags at Heart Love & Soul and 145 noon time meals are served each week day.

The need of many in the community is clear. Your volunteer assistance will help to provide it. Please help.

Collection points for donated items will be located just prior to the ticket booths entrances to ARTPARK on 4th Street and at the upper lot on Portage Road in Lewiston. Volunteers are needed for two shifts, 4:00 to 6:00 pm prior to the pre-show and 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Please help as often as you can.

Volunteers are asked to contact the NU/COPC (Niagara University’s Community Outreach Partnership Center) Volunteer Center at 716-205-0287. Please come to help; then stay for the music!

Lightning Safety and Awareness

Lightning Safety Awareness Week is held the last full week of June each year. Each year in the United States, more than 400 people are struck by lightning. Because lightning only claims one or two victims at a time, and because it does not cause the mass destruction left in the wake of hurricanes or tornadoes, lightning generally receives much less attention than the more destructive storm-related killers. While many people think they are aware of the dangers of lightning, the vast majority are not. Adults in charge of outdoor activities and events, particularly those that involve children, should have and follow a specific lightning safety plan to minimize danger to participants and spectators. Visit NOAA’s website at http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov to download pictures, posters, public service announcements, and video clips to assist in outreach efforts on this important topic.

With the late spring and summer sport seasons upon us, weather safety precautions are always important. Coaches can find the NOAA’s lighting brochure to read the basic facts about lightning and its dangers at: http://www.weather.gov/os/lightning/pdfs/CoachGuide.pdf.
Community Announcements

Important Border Crossing Information!

Beginning June 1, 2009, all United States and Canadian citizens will be required to present a valid Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) travel document for entry into the United States by land or sea, required when requesting entry from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Bermuda.

The following documents qualify as approved WHTI travel documents:

For U.S. Citizens:
- A passport issued by the U.S. Government
- A passport card
- A valid trusted traveler program card (FAST, NEXUS, or SENTRI)
- An Enhanced State Driver’s License
- U.S. Military Identification with Military Travel Orders
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Document
- Form I-872 American Indian Card

For Canadian Citizens:
- A passport issued by the Government of Canada
- A valid trusted traveler program card (FAST, NEXUS, or SENTRI)
- A Enhanced Provincial Driver’s License (EDLs are currently only issued by British Columbia)
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Card

U.S. and Canadian children under the age of 16 will be able to present a birth certificate issued by a Federal, State, Court or Municipal Authority. Additionally U.S. and Canadian citizen children ages 18 and below who are traveling as part of an official group (i.e. sport, school, religious youth) will be able to present a birth certificate issued by Federal, State, Court or Municipal Authority. See the CBP website at http://www.cbp.gov/ for more information about children traveling with a school or religious group, social organization, or sports team.

A link to approved documents including costs, limitations and validity periods can be found at: www.GetYouHome.gov.

Skills Enhancement Training

For CERT volunteers will take place at Niagara University in Room 211 of Dunleavy Hall on July 22nd at 6:30 PM

Please contact Rob Mayer at rmayer@niagara.edu or 286-8023 for details.

Second Annual Orchard Parkway Garden Walk

A FREE self guided tour of beautiful gardens and architecture in Downtown Niagara Falls, New York.

Walk begins at the corner of Main Street & Orchard Parkway in Niagara Falls.

Saturday, July 11, 2009 9AM - 3PM