Best wishes for a great holiday season from the Staff of Border Community SERVICE at Niagara University ~ Dave, Dana, Valerie, Elizabeth, & Gail

CERT classes to begin in January in Wheatfield and Town of Lancaster

On Tuesday, January 17th a CERT class will begin at St. Johnsburg Fire Department at 7165 Ward Road in North Tonawanda (Wheatfield) and on Thursday, January 19th a CERT class will begin at the Lancaster Office of Emergency Management at 321 Columbia Avenue in the Village of Depew. Both courses will run from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and continue for 8 consecutive weeks. Each course will culminate in a disaster simulation on March 10th.

To enroll online for either course please visit http://www.niagara.edu/bcs-enrollment/.

For information on the Wheatfield course contact Valerie Haseley at vhaseley@niagara.edu. For information on the Lancaster class, please contact Dana Estrada at die@niagara.edu.

2011 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Niagara University’s Department of Criminal Justice will join the U.S. Border Patrol and five other local law enforcement agencies to sponsor the 2011 Holiday Food Drive for the Food Bank of Western New York. The food drive will run from Nov. 21 until Jan. 3, 2012. All food donations collected at NU will be distributed to the hungry in Niagara County. Food can be dropped off at the Roosevelt House, 443 Roosevelt Avenue, Niagara Falls between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday, but if you would prefer to have the food picked up, simply call our BCS office 205-0077 or the Institute for Civic Engagement at 205-0074.
November began with a tabling event at the Tuscarora Nation Health Center’s Healthy Harvest Health Fair. It was a well organized event and I was able to speak with many families about emergency preparedness. I also partnered with HANCI’s Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs and spoke to 120 individuals at three of their meetings held in Lockport, Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda.

During the month of November we had presentations at Christian Home Companion’s employee meeting, St. Paul Lutheran Church’s Mother’s of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) group in North Tonawanda, a Daisy Troop at GJ Mann Elementary School in Niagara Falls, the Advantage Program through the Housing Authority at the Niagara Falls High School, the newly opened Office of Aging Congregate Meal Site at Pendleton Methodist Church, the Lockport Head Start program, and The Tatler Inc. held at the historic Tatler Mansion in Niagara Falls. Lastly, I attended Independent Health’s Good for the Neighborhood event held at the Doris Jones Center in Niagara Falls.

I would also like to take the time to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and have a healthy and safe New Year!

Niagara County  Valerie Haseley  716-205-0076

Grand Island & Buffalo CERT Classes

BCS wrapped up two classes in November in Grand Island and Buffalo. It is a pleasure to welcome this group of individuals to our team. Thank you to Stephen Stouter and the Grand Island CERT Team for hosting the program at the Grand Island Fire Company that had a graduating class of 18. We would also like to thank the Buffalo Fire Department and Commissioner Whitfield for hosting the Buffalo class that graduated 30.
November was a busy month in the City of Buffalo with great skills enhancement training for CERT members. On November 10th, the City of Buffalo Fire Department sponsored an American Heartsaver CPR/AED training for individuals enrolled in the City of Buffalo CERT class. Eighteen CERT members took advantage of the free training provided by Lt. Hanes-Stetter of the Buffalo Fire Department. Many thanks to Lt. Hanes-Stetter, Firefighter Woodward Kilpatrick and Commissioner Garnell Whitfield for arranging this important training.

On November 29th, CERT members were invited to participate in a mass casualty triage drill by Pati Aíne Guzinski, Erie County Health Training Coordinator, and members of the SMART team. Twenty CERT members from around the region went through a review of Emergency Medical Operations and then had to attend to “victims” spread throughout the hallways and classrooms of Medaille College. Thank you to all who participated.

Border Community SERVICE has been lucky enough to participate in several health and safety fairs during the last month, including one at the busy and festive Broadway Market. We look forward to the next fair at the Matt Urban Center on the 20th of December. We also are looking forward to several presentations for the Nursing Workforce students. The students are all enrolled in high school in the City of Buffalo but participate in studies with D’Youville College so they can better prepare themselves for college once they graduate.

As always, if you know of a group that would appreciate a free emergency preparedness presentation in the City of Buffalo, please call 829-4299 or 205-0075. Happy Holidays!

Map Your Neighborhood

Bill Parke, Adjunct Assistant Professor of History and Government at Daemen College invited us to join them at their Map Your Neighborhood event at the Clinton Bailey Community Association block club. Below are some snapshots from the event:
Emergency Preparedness Workshop for WNY Scouts

Border Community SERVICE is offering a **FREE Emergency Preparedness Workshop** for all Western New York Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts aged 11-18. The workshop is taking place at Niagara University on **Saturday, January 14, 2012**. Registration is at 8:30 am and the program is from 9 am – 3:30 pm and lunch will be provided.

This event includes education and information to complete the requirements of the **Girl Scout Emergency Preparedness Patch** and the **Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge**, excluding the practical exercise (disaster drill).

Troops or individual scouts can register online at  [http://www.niagara.edu/emergency-preparedness-workshop-registration](http://www.niagara.edu/emergency-preparedness-workshop-registration).

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Valerie Haseley, Niagara County Project Coordinator, at 716-205-0076 or vhaseley@niagara.edu.

Sign-up Today for NY- Alert

New York State is commitment to provide New Yorkers with information so that they will understand the risks and threats that they may face and know how to respond accordingly. Each of us has the responsibility to be as prepared as possible for any emergency that may arise. One of the keys to preparedness is having up-to-date information.

The information posted here will include severe weather warnings, significant highway closures, hazardous materials spills, and many other emergency conditions. Additionally you will find information regarding response actions being taken by local and state agencies and protective actions that you should take to protect you, your family and your property.

By signing up for NY-Alert, you can receive warnings and emergency information via the web, your cell phone, email and other technologies. Signing up for NY Alert is free. Your information is protected and never shared. You can modify what type of information you receive or unsubscribe at any time. It is a tool to provide you with critical information when you may need it most. You can find more information or sign up for NY-Alert now by going to [https://users.nyalert.gov/](https://users.nyalert.gov/).

FYI: Border Community SERVICE Offices will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 22, 2011 and re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.