



QUAD CITY CERT

is your Community Emergency Response Team

Executive Board

www.quadcercert.org

Newsletter ~ Winter, 2010 ~ Issue 16

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With the Support of...

Brooklyn Heights Mayor

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Independence Mayor

Gregory P. Kurtz

Seven Hills Mayor

David A. Bentkowski

Valley View Mayor

Randall Westfall



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD...

The Quad City CERT Executive Board, including our fire chiefs, Chief Koscielski, Chief McConville, Chief Lasky, and Chief Nelson would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for their contributions throughout this past year. Without you, there would be no Quad City CERT. You are the heart of the organization and we are grateful to have such enthusiastic volunteers!

We wish you and your families a very Special Holiday Season and a Healthy and Happy New Year!



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you read through the newsletter, please note important dates listed for 2011. We have the 2011 General Meetings scheduled as well as several important classes for continuing education. The NIMS 700a class is Saturday, December 4th so please sign up quickly! We're also offering the ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System and new CERT Modules, Animal Response 1 & 2. We hope that our membership will attend these very important and useful classes! Have a wonderful holiday season and a safe and healthy new year!

GENERAL MEETING: WED., DECEMBER 8TH!



To submit an article, please forward content, photos, etc. to Thea Guilfoyle at gcc@brooklynhts.org and include your name and contact information.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Find and circle all of the Christmas words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a holiday message!



ANGEL
BELLS
BETHLEHEM
CANDLES
CANDY CANE
CAROLS
DECORATIONS
EGGNOG
FAMILY
FRANKINCENSE
FRIENDS

FRUITCAKE
GABRIEL
GIFTS
GOLD
GREETING CARDS
HOLLY
ICICLES
JESUS
JOSEPH
LIGHTS

MANGER
MARY
MISTLETOE
MYRRH
ORNAMENTS
POINSETTIA
SANTA
SHEPHERDS
SKATES
SLEIGH

SNOWFLAKES
SNOWMAN
STABLE
STAR
STOCKING
THREE WISE MEN
TOBOGGAN
TOYS
TREE
WREATH



LEND A HELPING HAND!



At a previous General Meeting, we had "IDEA" cards for our membership to share activities they would like to do. One activity that was submitted by several people was to volunteer at the Cleveland Food Bank or a shelter. Research is continuing and we hope to have a plan after the first of the year. Many thanks to Joe Putich for stepping up to coordinate this very worthwhile activity! Other similar ideas are welcome!

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES!

Please call (216) 739-3702 to register for these classes!



IS-700a NIMS Class *National Incident* *Management System*



This course introduces the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. It is designed for individuals with emergency management responsibilities including prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation - CERT teams!

The class takes about three hours and will be moderated by Quad City CERT's Bob Francesangeli. Our class goes through the on-line course together and students can then log on at home and key in the test answers that you have from the class.

Saturday, December 4th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Willow Room / Indep Civic

Call
Today!



ICS 100 - Intro to Incident *Command System*



Course material includes the history, features and principles and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and NIMS (National Incident Management System).

Saturday, January 15th
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Willow Room / Indep Civic Center

Animal Response *Modules 1 & 2*

In terms of disaster response, the focus of CERT Animal Response I & 2 is preparation for recognizing specific animal behaviors and situations involving animals you may encounter when performing broader CERT response functions. These classes are for any individual that has animals in their home and for CERT volunteers as supplemental training to support the disaster response training through the CERT basic training courses. In these classes you will learn:



- Animal Issues in Emergency Management
- Animal-Related Emergency Management Functions
- Disaster Planning for Your Animals
- General Animal Behavior
- The Role of CERT in Responding to Animal Issues
- CERT Responder Safety When Dealing With Animals
- Knowledge and Skills Needed for CERT Functions That May Involve Animals
- Sources for Additional Training and Information

Ginger MacCutcheon and Donna Algeri will be instructors for these two classes.

Module 1
Saturday, March 23rd
7:00 p.m.
White Oak Rm / Indep Civic Center

Module 2
Saturday, March 30th
7:00 p.m.
White Oak Rm / Indep Civic Center



Quarterly General Meeting

Our next Quarterly General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Oak Room at the Independence Civic Center

We have a very busy agenda including:

- Refreshments!
- Important Updates & Announcements
- Recognize Active & Alumni Trainers
- Recognize 2010 Graduates
- Speaker Bernard Becker, CSU, Director of Continuing Education, Center for Emergency Preparedness at Cleveland State University



**RSVP's are welcome at (216) 739-3702 but walk-ins are welcome!!
Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. so we can begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.!**



FUNdraiser Committee Needed!!

After the first of the year, we will begin planning to have a fundraiser and would like to have a small committee set up to handle the details. The proceeds help Quad City CERT purchase training materials or other types of equipment.

Last year we held a Wing Nite FUNdraiser at Parma Tavern and it was a fun evening with raffles, side boards, etc. We can have another Wing Nite or choose to do something completely different.

This is a short-term commitment and, with a few volunteers working together, not a huge job, in fact it can be a whole lot of fun!!

If you're interested in helping to plan this event, please call Thea at (216) 642-1147 or you can sign up at the General Meeting on Wednesday, December 8th.



We wish you and your families
a happy, healthy and safe
holiday season!!

VISIT OUR TABLE!!

Quad City CERT will have a table at the **Independence Holiday Fest** at the Independence Civic Center. The event runs from Noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 5th! We have a Portable DVD Player to raffle off so stop by and purchase a ticket!!

Additional volunteers to man the table would be appreciated! If you can help for an hour or two, please call Jeff Malarik at (216) 524-0102 or send him an email at jeffmalarik@gmail.com.

QUAD CITY CERT 2011 HOLIDAY TREE AVENUE OF THE TREES INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

If you get a chance, go see the Quad City CERT tree. The tree was decorated with photo ornaments of our volunteers in action. Your picture may be there!! The ribbons are phrases of our purpose and mission! Thanks to Bill Johnson for handling the decorating this year!



PRESENTERS NEEDED!!

Quad City CERT was requested to speak to the PTO Seven Hills Chapter of the Parma Schools Early Childhood group. In October, Chief Lasky gave a very informative presentation outlining the purpose of CERT and the history of Quad City CERT. The presentation was very well received and the group had a lot of interesting questions and comments.

This presentation was a great way to promote Quad City CERT within our community. We are hoping to continue doing presentations to local community groups throughout next year.

If you are comfortable speaking in front of a group and willing to do a couple of presentations, please call Thea at (216) 642-1147. We have a template of information ready to go and presentations would be scheduled according to your availability.



Thank you Chief Lasky!



NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES

We are happy to have a few new faces in the Quad City CERT administration. Jeff Malarik is our new Community Coordinator for the City of Independence. Jeff has stepped right into the job by scheduling the volunteer workers for the Holiday Fest on December 5th at the Independence Civic Center. Former Executive Director, Bill Johnson has taken on a new role as the Independence Board Representative. Bill also is the QCC Representative at the Citizen Corps meetings. Phyllis Glaeser, currently the Executive Board Secretary, will be the Seven Hills Board Representative in addition to taking the Board meeting notes. Thank you!

We appreciate Jeff, Bill and Phyllis and their desire help steer Quad City CERT!

★ QUAD CITY CERT GRADUATES!! ★



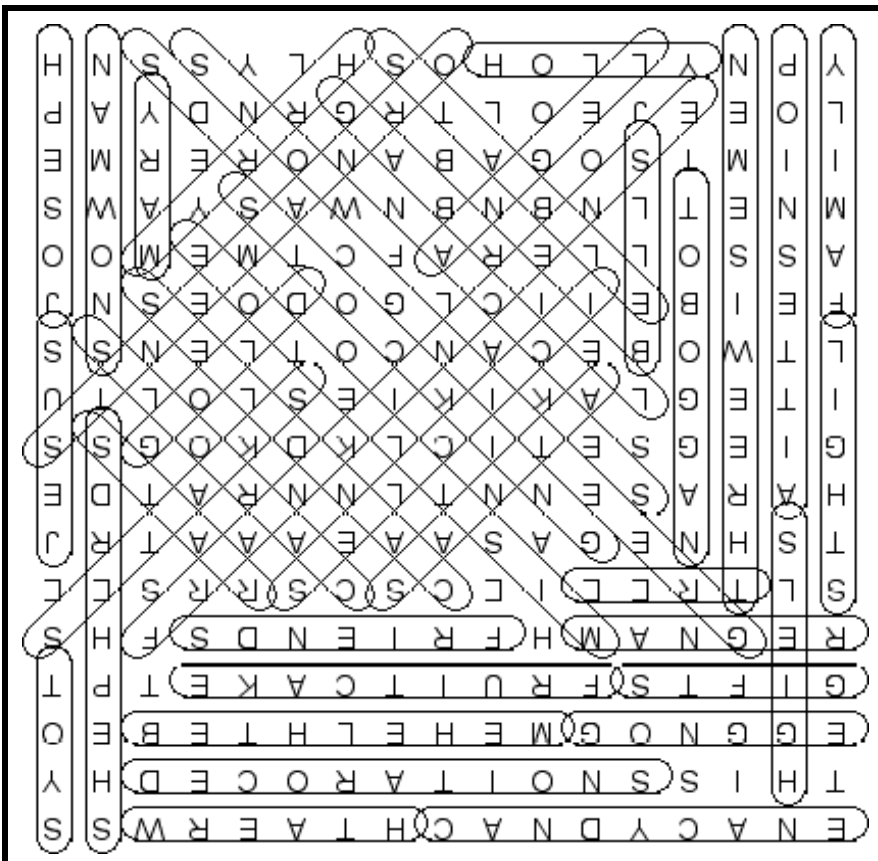
From left to right, our graduates are: Criss Mauer (IN), Nino Seritti (SH), Roger Lesh (IN), Virginia Chormanski (SH), Margie Mitchner (SH), Carol Lesh (IN), Anna Oriti (SH), Melissa Howe (SE), Ron Lewayne (VV), and Nancy Lewayne (VV). Not shown is Mike Adams (VV).

We had a wonderful class of interested and dedicated residents who completed the FEMA 20-hour classes. Congratulations to the 2010 graduates!! This year we had three residents who took the classes for a second time as a refresher. What a great idea! All graduates will receive their badges at the December 8th General Meeting.

This year we had many volunteers from other teams who needed one or two classes and we opened our training to anyone who wished to attend. Nine people from other teams attended. Melissa Howe from South Euclid attended all her classes with us! Students outside of Quad City CERT who attended were from Cleveland Hts., Highland Hts., South Euclid and Tri-City. They were all wonderful to have in our classes and we wish them well!

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

The hidden sentence is: TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY



Our trainers did a fabulous job and delivered classes that were captivating and made everyone in attendance think about many issues in a different light. FEMA would be proud! Thank you to each and every trainer and to Bob Frances, Training Chairperson, and to Nina Boodjeh who graciously shares her wit and wisdom.

Over the past four years, there has been one additional resident present at all training classes. She completed the 20-hour training in 2006 yet graces each class with her beautiful smile and friendly hello to all. She brings delicious bakery, has the coffee ready and keeps attendance. A heartfelt thank you to Sally Pope!



RUDOLPH'S REPEATS & REMINDERS



VOLUNTEER CONTACT INFORMATION

Through the many emails we send over the course of a year, we found that many home and work emails have changed. In addition, some phone numbers have also changed. In some cases we have no current contact information at all! Please call or email us to update your contact information so we can maintain a current database. Send additions or changes to qcc@brooklynhts.org or call (216) 739-3702. We appreciate you checking to see if your information is up to date!!



2011 GENERAL MEETINGS

Quad City CERT volunteers are urged to attend these four quarterly meetings. Important updates are announced, volunteers are recognized, informative speakers are scheduled and more! Your feedback is welcome and appreciated! All meetings begin promptly at 7:00 p.m., are at the Independence Civic Center, and all are on Thursdays! The dates are:

March 10th, June 9th, September 8th, December 8th

Please mark your calendars!!



MISC CERTIFICATIONS

If you have CERT-related certifications, please let us know by sending us a copy of the certification or letter of completion. Some examples of this would be on-line classes, EMT (Emergency Medical Technician); teaching, military service, etc. We will log any certifications in our database. These may prove very beneficial in an emergency!



IMPORTANT REFERENCE NUMBERS

CONTACT NUMBERS	FIRE Non-Emergency	POLICE Non-Emergency
Brooklyn Hts.	351-3542	741-1327
Independence	524-4001	524-1234
Seven Hills	524-3321	524-3911
Valley View	524-6469	524-9687



FACEBOOK



Quad City CERT has a Facebook page! On our page you can view the photos from various events. Drop us a line and sign up to be our friend!

Safe & Bright Holidays

It's a magical time of the year, but it's also a time with increased safety hazards – lights, trees, candles and holiday cooking are just a few of the most dangerous. Protect your family and help keep your holidays safe and bright with safety tips, family activities and more.

-  **Water, water, water your tree**
Dry trees pose a fire risk – make a fresh cut on the base before putting your tree into a sturdy stand, and water frequently.
-  **Check your lights, check them twice**
Inspect all of your electric lights and decorations for damage or wear. Cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections may pose a fire or shock hazard.
-  **Plan your fire escape**
Use the holidays as a good time to practice a fire escape plan with your loved ones. Identify at least two exits from every room in the house.
-  **Sleep safe: Install carbon monoxide alarms**
Be sure that at least one carbon monoxide alarm is installed on each floor of your home, and always close to sleeping areas.
-  **Be flame aware**
Always blow out unattended candles and teach your children to stay away from lit candles or fireplaces.
-  **Give wrapping paper a second life**
Don't burn used wrapping paper as it may cause intense flash fires. And throwing it out adds waste. Consider recycling or repurposing it instead.
-  **Know your lights and cords**
Do not connect more than three miniature light strings together. Also, be sure to check the rating on your extension cords and do not plug in more than the recommended wattage.
-  **Steer your tree clear**
Your tree should be positioned at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. It should also not block any doorways or exits.
-  **Decorate with a safe eye**
Cords should not be run under carpets or tacked-up with metal nails or staples. Small decorations can be choking hazards so keep them out of the reach of toddlers.
-  **Look for UL**
The UL Mark appears on products that have been tested for safety. Make sure to look for it to help keep your holidays safe and bright.