



October 2007

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Citizen Corps Initiatives



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Hats Off to Citizen Corps Partners

By: F/Lt. Harold Love, Citizen Corps Program Manager

As we rapidly approach the end of another year, I want to take the time to recognize all Citizen Corps volunteers, partners, coordinators, and councils for your commitment to service.

In the October edition of FEMA's Community Preparedness News, Brock Bierman, Director of the Community Preparedness Division wrote, "When state, territorial, tribal, and local government; first responders; affiliated

volunteers; and private sector partners coordinate their emergency planning efforts through Citizen Corps Councils, our communities and our nation become more resilient to disaster."

Your participation over the past year in hundreds of emergencies and planned events at various locations throughout the state exemplifies the importance of integrating Citizen Corps program volunteers into local emergency planning and

exercising. We must continue to promote our programs and recruit volunteers through workshops, presentations, and other public relations opportunities as we strive to fulfill the Citizen Corps mission to prepare our communities for all hazards.

"People who care about each other enjoy doing things for one another. They don't consider it servitude," Ann Landers.

Thank you for all you do.

CERT Response

By: Lori A. Phillips, EMT-P, I/C, Calhoun County Volunteer Coordinator

In mid-September, there was a horrific car crash in an outlying township in Calhoun County. Two Calhoun County CERT members, Joan Kempf and Mary Sayers, were first to arrive on scene. They were there before any first responders or EMS. They became the first responders.

Even though it is not a typical CERT function, they rendered immediate

aid and comfort to the victims of the accident.

According to the firefighters and medics who responded to the scene, these two volunteers did a fantastic job. They were able to give the EMS personnel vital information when they got on scene and this helped expedite the treatment of the victims.

EMS also used their assistance to help with crowd control and keeping

the victims calm.

These two ladies went above and beyond the call of duty in this situation. Their caring and comforting support for these patients was a great benefit to those involved. They remained calm and utilized their training to take care of community members.

They are a great asset not only to the CERT team, but to their community as well.

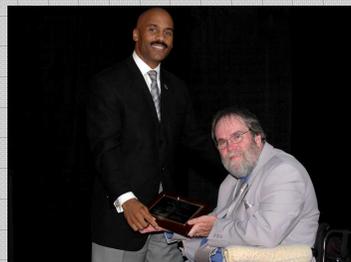


Citizen Corps Awards

The Citizen Corps Team and Individual of the Year awards were presented by Capt. Eddie L. Washington of the MSP EMHSD during the MEMA Awards Banquet on October 17 in conjunction with the Summit at Boyne Highlands.



Capt. Eddie L. Washington presented the 2007 Citizen Corps Team of the Year Award to the Northwest Detroit CERT Team.



Capt. Eddie L. Washington presented the 2007 Citizen Corps Individual of the Year Award to Mr. Gary Belyea of the St. Clair County CERT Team.

2007 Citizen Corps Team of the Year

The 2007 Citizen Corps Team of the Year Award goes to the Northwest Detroit CERT Team. This team, led by Ms. Linda Gruss, has participated in several exercises including drills organized on their own to renew their skills.

This team has organized their CERT volunteers in their police district and is deployed on neighborhood patrols and events, and for major city events and exercises.

Their concept is being utilized to launch the

Citizen Corps Neighborhood that combines CERT, Neighborhood Watch, VIPS, and MRC teams in the Detroit area. This Northwest CERT team is constantly educating and involving their community to spread the word of preparedness.

Activities that the Northwest Detroit CERT team have been involved with include the Eminem Concert, 9/11 Police and Fire Departments Memorial Service, Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade,

North American International Auto Show, Autorama, Detroit River Days, International Freedom Festival, Willow Run Air Show, Dream Cruise, Emergency Vehicle Parade, Back to School Rally, City of Detroit's Pet Appreciation week, Detroit's full-scale exercise, mock CERT training, pandemic flu functional exercise, City of Detroit's Illegal Sign Blitz, unity in the community Parade, and several training sessions.

2007 Citizen Corps Individual of the Year

The 2007 Sgt. Dave Fournier Citizen Corps Individual of the Year Award goes to Mr. Gary Belyea of the St Clair County CERT Team. Gary is a wealth of knowledge and is an integral part of the St. Claire County CERT Team.

In addition to providing instruction and information, Gary has volunteered during many CERT projects including sorting radios for police departments, performing office work, calling people with special needs during extreme heat, inventorying and organizing disaster

trailers, educating citizens during the annual Hometown Security Day, and serving as a victim at many disaster exercises.

Gary has volunteered more than 115 hours for the CERT program just this year (January 2007 to September 2007). He has spent endless hours at home putting together brochures, stuffing envelopes, and performing emergency management tasks.

He attends monthly training and is often asked questions and looked to for advice. His teammates have repeatedly made

comments about the knowledge that Gary holds.

His initiative is wonderful, stopping by the Emergency Management office almost every other day to see if there are any jobs he can help with. Gary has always been courteous and helpful both towards emergency management staff and other CERT members. He is a valuable asset to the St. Clair County CERT Team and his dedication to his community is apparent from his hard work and loyalty to the CERT Program.

Columbia Township Neighborhood Watch

On October 4, the Columbia Township Neighborhood Watch group received a \$500 grant from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. for its community awareness organization.

The Columbia Township Neighborhood

Watch group is the largest in the area with 300 members. Columbia Township's group has been recognized by the Department of Homeland Security for its outstanding involvement in its community, as well as for assisting law enforcement

with the reduction of crimes in the area by providing the community with neighborhood watch patrols and the reporting of suspicious persons and activity.

Congratulations to John Huizenga and his crew on a job well done!

Upcoming Events

November 6-7	CERT Train-the-Trainer, Auburn Hills
November 9*	Statewide Focus Group Meeting, Lansing
November 15	CERT and Fire Corps Coordinators Meeting, 10 a.m. tele-conference call
November 15	Neighborhood Watch and VIPS Coordinators Meeting, 10 a.m. tele-conference call
December 10	Medical Reserve Corps Meeting, Lansing
*Tentative date	

Please submit articles and upcoming events for publication to citizencorps@michigan.gov. The deadline for the next issue is January 8, 2008.

The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and/or policies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

We want to hear from you!

Submit your articles and photos to citizencorps@michigan.gov

The deadline for the next issue is January 8, 2008.

Visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/emhsd

