

Hamptonburgh forms Emergency Response Team

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Members of Hamptonburgh's first Community Emergency Response Team are, from left, seated, Lorre Rasmussen, Joyce Foulkes, Matt Sheridan, Kathleen Muir, Nancy Carey, John Turner, Donna Turner and Rose-Emma Calabrese; standing, Elmer Stevens (CERT president), Peter O'Keefe, Tim Meade, Richard Rasmussen (CERT coordinator) Bob Jankowski (town supervisor), Greg Willems (town councilman), Carol Prondak, Paul vanNiewerburgh, Milly Henry, Phyllis Montanari, Desiree Schweizer and Mike Murphy. Graduates missing from the picture are Charlie Haynes, Gary Cooper, Debbie Perez and Mike Rothfeld.

Photo provided

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HAMPTONBURGH — Twenty-three Hamptonburgh residents graduated from the town's first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program on Dec. 10 at Hamptonburgh Town Hall.

The graduates of this training program volunteered to be part of a group that is committed to preparing themselves and their neighbors to support local emergency responders, provide disaster relief and enhance community safety.

Richard Rasmussen, CERT coordinator, began outreach to the community for volunteers early this year and formed the group in May.

The team immediately began training in basic disaster response skills, such as first aid, fire safety, light search and rescue, psychological first aid, and emergency medical triage.

The Hamptonburgh CERT is the first organized in Orange County, and is part of a nationwide organization of about 3,300 CERTs with more than 200,000 members in the United States. It is part of Hamptonburgh's Emergency Management Plan and operates under the guidelines of the Department of Homeland Security.

The program is diversely structured to enable involvement at a basic or advanced level. Another wave of training will begin early next year.

To learn more, visit <http://townofhamptonburgh.org>.

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