

Hamptonburgh receives emergency-response grant

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HAMPTONBURGH — The Town of Hamptonburgh's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was recently awarded a three-year grant of \$30,000 from the New York State Division of Emergency Management Citizen Corps Office, funded through the Department of Homeland Security's Grant Program.

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The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic emergency response skills.

CERT members are volunteers who assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and take an active role in preparing their community. Hamptonburgh graduated the first team of residents in December.

"The grant award enables us to provide more training, purchase equipment, and progress with our community awareness campaign," said Richard Rasmussen, CERT coordinator.

The program is structured to encourage involvement at different levels and offers a variety of volunteer opportunities.

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.

To learn more about the Hamptonburgh CERT and volunteering for the team, visit townofhamptonburgh.org. Another round of training will begin soon.

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