

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## FIRE SAFETY, UTILITY CONTROLS AND HAZARDS – SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

At 7:00pm on Wednesday September 14, 2016 approximately 50 members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. The training topic(s) included fire safety, utility controls and hazards. Trish Buhle did a wonderful job putting together a PowerPoint presentation, which provided an overview of Unit #2 – Fire Safety and Utility Controls. Unfortunately due to a family emergency, Trish was unable to attend the training so Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, presented the slides. Following the 20-minute presentation, everyone in attendance was divided into three groups. The stations and team rotations were as follows:



Stations	Bullex Fire System Extinguisher Training System	Utility Shut-Off and Fire Extinguisher Nomenclature	Hazard Identification
7:30pm to 7:45pm	Group 1	Group 3	Group 2
7:50pm to 8:05pm	Group 2	Group 1	Group 3
8:10pm to 8:25pm	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1

At the Bullex Fire Extinguisher Training System station, run by Daniel Martin, team members donned their protective gear and simulated a fire size-up. Using the buddy system, two team members used verbal commands and approached the live fire. Using P.A.S.S (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep), team members extinguished the fire with Bullex water fire extinguishers. Team members used verbal commands when backing out and had another team behind them in case they were needed. Team members also assisted in re-pressurizing the fire extinguishers, which made things go quickly.

At the Utility Shut-Off and Fire Extinguisher Nomenclature station, run by Joe Frigo and Rich DeVault, team members had an opportunity to physically shut-off utilities. Team members practiced on a breaker box, an older box with round screw-in type fuses and a gas main. In addition, team members learned about the different types of fire extinguishers as well as what the various pieces are called (ex. hose, nozzle, pressure indicator, handle, trigger, safety pin, inspection tag).

At the Hazard Identification station, run by Art Bretz and Debbie Jones, team members learned about products/chemicals that are typically found around the house. The station had approximately 40 pictures of items that could be classified as flammables/combustibles, explosives, gases, acids, bases, oxidizers, and water reactives. In addition, team members reviewed the acronym L.I.E.S. (Limit, Isolate, Eliminate, Separate). Art and Debbie did a great job running the station, which was very interactive.



Upon completion of the stations, everyone met in the Community Room for a de-briefing, which included some good discussion regarding what was learned at the stations. Special thanks to each of our volunteers who ran a station and thanks to everyone that attended!

**Our Core Principles:**

- Readiness
- Member Safety
- People Helping People
- Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people...

**Recent Activities:**

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Michael Ortman	12
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## ASSIST FRANKFORT / NEW LENOX RUNNING CLUB – SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

In mid-August, New Lenox CERT was requested to assist the Frankfort / New Lenox Running Club (FNRC) with their "20-Miler" on Saturday September 17, 2016. This has become an annual event for the FNRC because it helps prepare those who will be running the Chicago Marathon with their "long run" in advance of the event. New Lenox CERT has been assisting the running club for the last few years and welcomed the opportunity to help out again.



The FNRC met at Cedar Road & Old Plank Trail (OPT) at approximately 5:30am along with several of our volunteers. Following tradition, the runners took a group photo, which was still in semi-darkness and then prepared to start their 20-mile run. Our volunteers headed out to their positions at Schoolhouse Road & OPT, Wolf Road & OPT, and the Grainery in Frankfort at White Street & OPT. Several of the elite runners made it to Schoolhouse Road rather quickly and were assisted across the road by our volunteers, as were the remaining runners. The same process continued at the other locations that were staffed by New Lenox CERT volunteers.



After heading out 10 miles, the runners turned around and made their way back to Cedar Road. Along the way they were once again assisted by New Lenox CERT volunteers. The runners also took advantage of many water stations along OPT, which were staffed by friends and family of the runners. The last runners made it back to Cedar Road by approximately 10:00am, where they spent time stretching, cooling down and rehydrating. The FNRC expressed their thanks and appreciation to our volunteers via Facebook following the run. Good job by all that helped out!

## SAR ACTIVATION / ST. CHARLES, IL – SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

At approximately 4:30am on Saturday September 17, 2016 New Lenox SAR members received a text message to assist with a search for a missing man in St. Charles, IL. The request for mutual aid assistance indicated that the subject was a 42-year old male who might have done harm to himself.



NLSAR team members began to arrive at the staging area (St. Patrick's Church, 6N491 Crane Road St. Charles, IL) by 6:00am. Additional information indicated that the subject's vehicle had been located at the entrance of a nature preserve. Law enforcement and fire personnel had conducted an initial search of the walking path around the preserve with negative results. Search dogs were currently searching an area of interest and a helicopter was on its way to assist as well.

Searchers from teams from throughout the area joined NLSAR members and were given assignments to conduct thorough searches of various areas within the nature preserve. The terrain ranged from open prairie, to wetlands, to wooded areas. The areas that our team searched were thick with cat tails that were 10-12 feet high. It was difficult to see fellow searchers that were only 10-15 feet away and with the helicopter overhead, verbal communication was difficult as well.

The subject was not located and the Kane County Sheriff's Department advised that the investigation would continue. NLSAR member's arrivals and departures were staggered throughout the day. Our last team member returned to New Lenox at approximately 4:30pm.



*\*subject was located safe by the Kane County Sheriff's Department a few days later.*

## SHAREFEST JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR – SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

At 12:30pm on Thursday September 15, 2016 ten (10) New Lenox CERT volunteers arrived at New Life Church, 500 Gougar Road, New Lenox, IL to assist with the ShareFest Job and Resource Fair. A short briefing was held in the parking lot, after which volunteers were issued radios to enhance the ability to communicate during the event.



Although the event didn't officially start until 1:00pm, the 50+ employers were already set-up and dozens arrived early, eager to meet them. Many job seekers also attended the event to take advantage of the various workshops that were available to help them increase their marketability to prospective employers. Lastly, many came to take advantage of the "Dress For Success" portion of the event where job seekers were offered gently used business attire to wear during job interviews.



Our volunteers did a wonderful job both inside and outside of the Job and Resource Fair. Those outside in the parking lot did a superb job directing traffic into the rear parking lot, while controlling ingress and egress throughout the event. Other CERT volunteers did an excellent job inside the church, directing job seekers to various workshops and into the main area where employers had set-up tables. Several hundred people attended the event throughout the afternoon, which was considered a big success. Our volunteer's services were needed until just shy of 4:00pm.

Special thanks to our folks that helped out with this wonderful event. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by event organizers as well as attendees!

## SAR TRAINING / HI-COPE COURSE – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

On Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 9:00am to 2:00pm eight members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team attended training at Rainbow Council in Morris, IL. Tricia Pakosz and Joe Frigo, with the assistance of Scout staff members Chris Gregory and Jim Thuot, led the training.



The team began the session learning safety and completing an on-ground belay session. From there, team members moved to the Hi-COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) course. Beginning with entry into the five events via caving ladder, the team moved through a series of high wires with various hand holds and one unstable bridge. Upon finishing the events individuals were lowered by their belayer back down to the ground.

After a brief break the team moved to the tower. There were two events, a 30' rappel and a 20' climb where individuals are lowered by their belayer after reaching the top platform. The team switched in and out of the events with and without wearing packs/vests.

Everyone had a great time, gaining confidence in themselves and trust among other team members. Following the training and on the way back to New Lenox the team stopped for lunch, which provided an opportunity to discuss the day's activities.



## SHAREFEST HHW AND RECYCLING EVENT – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

New Lenox CERT assisted at the ShareFest Recyclepalooza with traffic management at Spencer Campus on Saturday, September 10, 2016. ShareFest organizers offered a free reuse/recycling event that allowed Will County residents the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste, electronics, Styrofoam, scrap metal, clothes, home goods, toys, books, food and flags.



CERT members were in place from 7am to 3pm on a rotating basis on the Spencer Campus at the following locations:

- Spencer Pointe entrance parkway (3 volunteers)
- Spencer Crossing exit (3 volunteers)
- Congestion points within the event (3 volunteers)
- Floating assignment (2 volunteers)

One resident posted to What's Happening in New Lenox, "I had something for every "station" and I was there & back home in less than 1/2 hour. ALL of the volunteers were friendly, knowledgeable, helpful & quick at expediting the many vehicles that were present this afternoon. God love them for doing this all morning through the rain & still being in a great disposition towards the end of the event!"



The event went very well with a steady flow of traffic. Event organizers also commented on the planning that took place weeks beforehand to properly layout the stations, by-pass lanes and signage, not surprising, this to a smooth operation. Our team ensured that traffic was managed safely and efficiently throughout the day, special thanks to the a.m. volunteers that bore the brunt of the wet weather, well done!

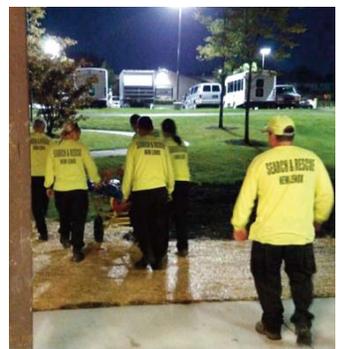
## SAR TRAINING / TRIAGE, TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT – SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

On Thursday, September 8, 2016 AT 7:00pm, nine members of the NLSAR Team met at the CERT trailer in the NLPD lower parking lot and then assembled across the street at the covered pavilion. The training topic for September was Triage, Treatment and Transport. Bill Gill led the training, and was assisted by Joe Frigo & Gary Cook (with lots of help from others). Items used from the CERT trailer for this training event were our new transport cart, boxes of dressings and bandages, 2"x 4"x 8' boards and Rescue Billy (small boy).

Training started with triage. Bill reviewed the different labels for triage, being **Immediate (red)** priority #1, **Delayed (yellow)** priority #2, **Minor (green)** priority #3 and **Dead (black)** priority zero. Next Bill reviewed treatment for various types of injuries, including shock, impaled objects, broken bones (including compound fractures), airway obstructions, bleeding, etc. We discussed the proper way to address a victim and ask if we are OK to treat them. We reviewed the proper techniques for head-to-toe assessments given different injuries.



Next we reviewed several different transport techniques, including backboard, tarp, chair, fireman's carry and using our new NLSAR cart. Once we got all the "textbook" information behind us, Bill gave us a real life scenario with four victims. One victim was dead, and the other three had various different injuries. As a group we verbally triaged the victims, then one at a time used Rescue Billy to hands-on treat the three victims and transport them to a designated evacuation area. The group performed well, treating and transporting the three victims to safety. We finished up with a short de-brief and then returned all the supplies to the CERT trailer at 8:30pm. Special thanks to Bill, Gary, Joe and everyone that attended!



*Keeping our community safe, healthy and prepared . . .*

# ST. JUDE’S RUNNING WITH FAITH 5K & 10K – AUGUST 27, 2016



At 5:30pm on Saturday August 27, 2016 twenty-seven members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing regarding the Running With Faith 5K & 10K Race. As luck would have it, it turned out to be a beautiful evening in terms of the weather. The temperature was in the low 80s with sunny skies. A number of our volunteers were veterans of this race, having assisted in various capacities for several previous years. Per standard protocol for these types of briefings, a history of the race was provided along with our team’s responsibilities, which consisted of staffing three water stations along the course. Team members were informed about where the New Lenox Fire Protection District Paramedics would be stationed and everyone was requested to dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. Team members received their assignments at one of three water stations and were provided with a Community Event Log and course map. In addition, our friends from Will County ARES attended the briefing and were kind enough to assist with communications throughout the course. The briefing ended at 5:50pm with plenty of time for everyone to head out to their assigned water station in advance of the 6:30pm race start time.



Approximately 225 runners participated in the event, with more runners registered for the 5K than the 10K. As the runners made their way through the course, our volunteers provided them with cups of water as they passed by the stations. In addition, our folks did a great job encouraging the participants to do their best. Many of the runners verbally thanked our volunteers for their assistance or otherwise acknowledged their efforts. Both the 5K and 10K ended just before 8:00pm. Our volunteers cleaned up their respective stations and headed over to the parish for a de-briefing.



John Opoka was kind enough to lead the de-briefing, which included many positive comments. The de-briefing concluded at approximately 8:15pm and many of our members stayed for the after-race festivities in the gymnasium. Many thanks to all that participated and helped make this race a huge success. Terrific job!



# CHICAGO CONCERT – AUGUST 26, 2016

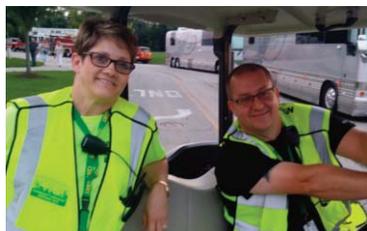
At 4:30pm on Friday August 26, 2016 twenty-three members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing regarding the Chicago Concert, the last of the 2016 Triple Play Concerts. Several of our volunteers for this concert had actually volunteered for all six 2016 Triple Play Concerts!



Those in attendance were provided with a Community Event Log, which included an overview of the concert along with volunteer assignments. As with every concert, the



Incident Action Plan was discussed along with what to do in case of emergency. Volunteers were advised where to go in the event the Severe Weather Shelter Plan was activated. Everyone knew that rain was in the forecast, but fortunately no severe weather was expected. The briefing ended at approximately 4:50pm, which gave everyone plenty of time to head out to their assignments.



Our volunteers did an excellent job throughout the evening. Thanks to our volunteers, a woman’s lost purse was returned and a number of guests with disabilities were transported to the nearest gate via golf cart. Food vendors appreciated the assistance from our volunteers who assisted them in and out of the venue throughout the concert. Two young ladies who jumped the gates without tickets were professionally escorted from the premises while other CERT volunteers positioned throughout the venue prevented similar occurrences. At the very end of the concert one attendee fell and was attended to by our volunteers until New Lenox Fire Protection District Paramedics arrived on scene. Overall our volunteers did an outstanding job right up until 11:00pm, which was the conclusion of the de-briefing.

Many thanks to the Chicago Concert volunteers as well as those that assisted throughout the entire 2016 Triple Play Concert season. Great job!!

*Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people . . .*

## SURVIVAL SKILLS – AUGUST 16, 2016

At 6:00pm on Tuesday August 16, 2016 over 20 members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the New Lenox Community Park District’s Firefighter’s Park Pavilion, just north of the New Lenox Police Department, to learn how to tie some basic knots. Joe Frigo was kind enough to offer the session in advance of the 7:00pm “Survival Skills” training. Joe showed those in attendance how to tie several different knots and told them how they could be used in different applications. Those in attendance were provided the opportunity to practice the knots during the session.



By 7:00pm approximately 50 CERT members had arrived and were eager to learn some new skills. Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the training. Everyone was then divided into three groups to match the three stations that were set-up. A training matrix had been pre-established as follows:

7:20pm to 7:45pm	Shelter and Shelter Construction with Joe Frigo	Group 1
7:20pm to 7:45pm	Fire Starting (Methods) with Rich DeVault	Group 2
7:20pm to 7:45pm	Practical Survival Skills with Tricia Pakosz	Group 3
7:45pm to 8:10pm	Shelter and Shelter Construction with Joe Frigo	Group 3
7:45pm to 8:10pm	Fire Starting (Methods) with Rich DeVault	Group 1
7:45pm to 8:10pm	Practical Survival Skills with Tricia Pakosz	Group 2
8:10pm to 8:35pm	Shelter and Shelter Construction with Joe Frigo	Group 2
8:10pm to 8:35pm	Fire Starting (Methods) with Rich DeVault	Group 3
8:10pm to 8:35pm	Practical Survival Skills with Tricia Pakosz	Group 1



At the Shelter Construction Station, Joe Frigo showed CERT members some knot tying skills similar to what he had demonstrated during the 6:00pm session. Joe, with the assistance of Lisa Murphy, showed how to construct a shelter between two small trees using a tarp, some 550 Paracord, and some simple tent stakes. Joe took his time and walked through the process step-by-step. Joe then showed everyone how to construct a shelter using a rain poncho, which was staked at the ground and suspended from a tree to form a tent shape. Each group that came to Joe’s station really enjoyed learning how to construct a shelter, while recognizing the importance of shelter from the elements.



At the Fire Starting Station, Rich DeVault had a number of fire starting methods on display. The display ranged from water proof matches to magnesium fire starters. Rich talked about all the things that can be utilized to start fires such as dryer lint, cotton balls with petroleum jelly, and dry leaves. Rich spent his 25 minutes with each group talking about the various methods of starting a fire, which included live demonstrations. Much like with Joe’s station, everyone really enjoyed Rich’s presentation.

At the Practical Survival Skills Station, Tricia Pakosz covered a lot of ground. Tricia spoke about conducting a proper size-up following a disaster, which led into an overview on damage assessment. Tricia also went into disaster supply kits, which included some excellent recommendations regarding contents. In addition, Tricia reminded everyone about having enough food and water on hand, while adding various methods of food storage into the discussion. Tricia’s presentation really was all encompassing and generated some excellent discussion with members of each of the groups.



Following a short wrap-up, the training concluded at 8:30pm. Special thanks to our instructors and members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (SAR) Team who assisted with the presentations. In addition, thanks to all those who attended and learned some valuable skills.

## WALLFLOWERS CONCERT – AUGUST 13, 2016

At 4:30pm on Saturday August 13, 2016 eighteen CERT members arrived at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing related to the Wallflowers Concert. After initially meeting in the parking lot, everyone walked up to the police department where the briefing was held in the Patrol Sergeant’s Conference Room. Those in attendance were provided with an overview of the event, which was the 5th concert of the season. Included in the briefing was a brief synopsis of the Incident Action Plan, which covers everything from traffic control to sheltering in the event of severe weather. Volunteers were also provided with their respective assignments and to ensure effective communications, radios were issued. The briefing ended at 4:50pm at which time everyone walked across the street to their assignments.



As luck would have it, the weather in the late afternoon and evening was perfect. The gates opened at 5:30pm and everyone flowed into the venue in an orderly fashion. The first band “Epic,” featured Mayor Tim Baldermann on lead vocals. The Mayor did an excellent job and thanked everyone for coming out to the show. The second band “Jaren Mahone,” took the stage at 7:15pm as ticket holders continued to arrive in the Commons for an evening of music. The Wallflowers took the stage shortly after 9:00pm and played some of their hits, which the crowd really enjoyed. Our CERT volunteers did a great job throughout the evening and everything went quite smoothly.

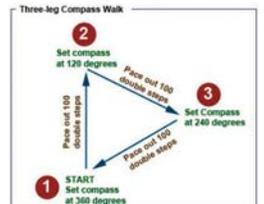


Following an encore of several additional songs, the Wallflowers ended at 10:45pm at which time attendees left the venue through gates 1, 2 and 3. Our CERT volunteers did an excellent job working with the New Lenox Police Officers to ensure no one left with open alcoholic beverages. Following egress, our volunteers met at Gate #1 for a short de-briefing and to turn in their radios. Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, thanked everyone for a job well done and everyone was dismissed at approximately 11:00pm.



## SAR TRAINING / LAND NAVIGATION – AUGUST 8, 2016

At 7:00pm on August 8th, thirteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Hickory Creek Barrens pavilion for monthly training. Lisa Murphy and Joe Frigo lead the team through some refresher exercises in compass use and basic land navigation. Joe started things by going over compass basics, which included types of compasses, different holds, and shooting azimuths. The group was then split in half, with Lisa taking the lead on flagging and Joe taking the lead on compass work.



For flagging, each member was required to shoot an azimuth with their compass. Once they had the azimuth, they needed to take on the SAR role of “flank” or “flagger” and placed 5 flags along their bearing. Spacing between flags was set at 20 paces. Once completed, each individual checked their work to make sure their flags were tied in a straight line. This skill is essential during searches. It is used to mark a team's progress throughout an area and keeps the group in a straight line.

For compass work, each member completed a three-leg compass walk. They were to choose a starting point and mark it. SAR members were then given the following azimuths: 360°, 120° and 240°. Between each azimuth, team members walked 30 paces. If done correctly, these azimuths form a triangle. This exercise teaches the importance of learning the correct way to shoot an azimuth, as well as knowing your pace count.

Following the exercises, Lisa and Joe went over a few other related topics, which included:

- How to “box” around an obstacle when flagging;
- Marking on both sides of obstacles;
- Using double flags to identify the start and finish points of an area; and
- The best color choices for flagging tape to ensure the best possible visibility.

Training ended at approximately 8:15. Special thanks to Lisa and Joe for leading the training and to those who participated!



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 2, 2016

At 5:30pm on Tuesday August 2, 2016 thirty-six members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Police Department for a short briefing before the start of National Night Out (Against Crime). Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the national event, which included what the New Lenox Police Department's version of the event would entail. Following the overview, Martin advised that volunteers would be needed in the following areas:



- Concession stand to serve hot dogs, bottled water, etc...;
- Inflatable jumpy #1 to control lines and ensure the safety of the children inside;
- Inflatable jumpy #2 to control lines and ensure the safety of the children inside;
- Touch-A-Truck Areas to assist children in and out of vehicles and ensure their safety;
- Greet guests and traffic control near the New Lenox Public Library;
- Greet guests and traffic control near Old Plank Trail Bank;
- Direct guests to the Illinois State Police Distracted Driving Simulator inside NLPD;
- New Lenox Police Department's informational table to assist NLPD Cadets; and
- CERT / Safe Communities informational table



Following the briefing CERT volunteers headed out to their assignments in advance of the 6:00pm start time. In no time at all the Commons was filled with people of all ages, especially families with young children. Everyone in attendance enjoyed free food from the concession stand as well as the information at many of the tables that had been set up in front of the police department. Children were excited to have their faces painted, jump in the inflatables, and climb-up into the many vehicles that were on display.



Shortly before 8:00pm a raffle was held and several lucky children were winners of bicycles and other prizes. New Lenox CERT raffled a Midland NOAA Weather Radio, which was a great prize for a lucky winner. The event wrapped up at 8:15pm, after which a short de-briefing was held in the lower level parking lot. In short, it was a great event and our team's volunteers made a major contribution toward its success. Special thanks to all that participated!



## SPECIAL NEEDS DAY AT PROUD AMERICAN DAYS – JULY 29, 2016



Wow – was this a great day! Twenty-seven of our volunteers, not including friends and family, arrived at 11:00am for Special Needs Day at Proud American Days. A number of our volunteers took the day off of work to participate as they had been looking forward to it as much as the 500 or so special needs clients that came to the event.



The New Lenox Lions Club did an excellent job organizing the event as they've done for a number of years. CERT volunteers, as well as New Lenox Police Department Cadets, jumped right into the action and assisted the various organizations as they arrived with their special needs clients. These excited men and women were escorted into the main tent and seated for lunch. Volunteers served hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, water, and cookies as they enjoyed some great music provided by the DJ. Our volunteers had a wonderful time helping out and several enjoyed dancing while they were serving lunch. In addition, our CERT volunteers didn't forget their training and the importance of ensuring that everyone stayed hydrated. Dozens of cases of cold water were dispensed and our volunteers kept a close watch on everyone during the event due to the high temperatures.

Shortly after 12:00pm the carnival opened and our volunteers assisted with getting everyone over to the rides. New Lenox CERT staffed each of the rides, ensuring that everyone got onto and off of the rides safely. Several of our volunteers enjoyed the rides with some of the special needs clients who really appreciated the company.

Event organizers kept a close watch on the weather, which included severe thunderstorms that were approaching. A decision was made to end the event approximately 45 minutes early at which time CERT volunteers calmly and professionally escorted everyone from the carnival and back to the main tent. Volunteers then assisted the special needs providers with getting their clients safely back to their vans and on their way home before the heavy rains arrived. The event ended at approximately 2:30pm and despite ending a bit early, it was a huge success. Special thanks to all that assisted – everyone did an outstanding job!



## CERT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JULY 21, 2016

At 7:00pm on Thursday July 21, 2016 sixty-five members of the New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room for the team’s semi-annual meeting. Daniel Martin, the New Lenox Police Department’s Public Safety Division Chief and CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and then jumped right into the meeting agenda.



Martin thanked the volunteers (CERT and SAR) for their volunteer hours from January 1st thru July 11th, which totaled 3,130.5 hours! This tremendous number included attendance at training, community events, meetings, and activations. Martin thanked Dave Klingensmith for building the team’s Microsoft Access database, which tracks volunteer hours, amongst other important features.

Volunteers were urged to participate in community events as it not only helps a variety of community organizations, but helps build cohesiveness amongst team members. Martin encouraged those in attendance to sign-up to help with Special Needs Day (July 29th), National Night Out (August 2nd), and the “Running With Faith” 5K Race (August 27th).

Meeting attendees were told that CERT Class #12 would be starting on Thursday September 15th and would graduate on Saturday October 29th. Team members were offered an opportunity to come to any of the classes as a refresher and to consider helping out with the final exercise.

The Prairie State CERT Challenge was briefly discussed. New team members were provided with an overview of the event and how our team’s participation has benefited not only our team, but our community as well. Although not confirmed, it’s believed that the next event will be in the Spring of 2017.

Team members were thanked for their participation in activities during April, May and June, which led to a fantastic 12-page July 2016 newsletter. Martin encouraged those in attendance to consider writing an article related to disaster preparedness or something related to the team’s mission for the next issue.

It was reported that the CERT Facebook page is doing well with over 800 “Likes.” Team members were encouraged to share the page and articles with their Facebook friends.

A great discussion about ways to recognize the team’s outstanding volunteers was had. Martin explained that the team’s leaders met and agreed that the Presidential Service Awards would be a great way to recognize our volunteers for their efforts. It was learned that based on preliminary data, 8 team members would be eligible for a gold award (500+ hours), 21 team members would be eligible for a silver award (250-499 hours), and 31 would be eligible for a bronze award (100-249 hours). Martin advised that on behalf of the team, he would apply to become a “certified” organization authorized to grant the awards. Once accepted, a volunteer recognition event would be planned. Recipients, friends, family, and fellow team members will be invited to attend the awards ceremony. More to follow...

Committee Chairs provided reports from the Training, Public Information, Pet Preparedness, Shelter Management, and Emergency Preparedness Committees. Everyone in attendance was encouraged to participate in one or more of the committees, each of which is doing excellent work.

After a short wrap-up, the meeting ended at 8:30pm. A number of team members stuck around until almost 9:00pm to visit. Thanks to all that attended and contributed to a great meeting!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Saturday October 8, 2016 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training at Location TBD
- Saturday October 15, 2016 / 8:00am – SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Wednesday October 19, 2016 / 6:30pm – CERT Monthly Training at Lincoln-Way School District #210 Transportation
- Saturday October 29, 2016 / 8:00am – CERT Class #12 Final Exercise and Graduation at New Lenox Police Department
- Thursday November 10, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training at Location TBD
- Tuesday November 15, 2016 / 7:00pm – CERT Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Saturday November 19, 2016 / 8:00am – SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Sunday December 4, 2016 / 12:00pm – Christmas in the Commons at New Lenox Village Hall
- Monday December 5, 2016 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training at Location TBD
- Wednesday December 14, 2016 / 7:00pm – CERT Monthly Training at Location TBD



## SAR WATER SAFETY / WATER RESCUE TRAINING – JULY 14, 2016

At 6:45pm on Thursday July 14, 2016 eleven members of the New Lenox SAR Team met at a private residence in Mokena, IL for water safety / water rescue training. The team needed the use of a swimming pool to conduct the training and Rich Devault's sister graciously allowed the use of her in-ground pool.

Joe Frigo, Tricia Pakosz and Mike English were the instructors for this particular training, which covered the use of personal flotation devices (PFDs), how to survive in swift water, how to get up and over a strainer, how to use a pair of pants as a flotation mechanism, how to remove your SAR pack if a searcher falls into the water, and how to properly use water rescue throw bags. The information was provided verbally by our instructors and was followed by hands-on training.



Joe Frigo talked about various types of PFDs and stressed the importance of carrying a knife on the PFD rather than in a backpack. Mike English then jumped in the pool and demonstrated how to tie knots in a pair of pants and how to get air into them by flipping them over in the water. Mike demonstrated how to place the pants over your head, hold them at the bottom, and use them as a PFD.

Team members then took turns getting over a "strainer" after Tricia Pakosz provided an overview of what they are (trees, man-made obstacles and debris that water can flow through, but a swimmer will get trapped). Team members got into the water and transitioned from a floating position (feet first) into a strong free-style swim position. Everyone then propelled themselves over the "strainer" (2 large pool noodles) and to safety.

Team members then took turns playing victim and rescuer for the throw bag training. The bags were thrown from the loaded position as well as with the ropes outside the bags. The proper technique for holding the ropes as well as bringing someone to shore was also discussed.

Lastly, Joe Frigo provided everyone with an opportunity to wear a backpack that was loaded with a 10-lb. weight. Team members then simulated falling into the water where they loosened the straps and removed the backpack. This was an important technique to understand and practice in the event a searcher does fall into the water with his or her pack on.

After a short review of the techniques that were covered, Joe also did a short segment on knot tying. The training ended at approximately 8:30pm. Special thanks to our instructors as well as those who attended this important training activity.



## HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS CONCERT – JULY 16, 2016

At 4:30pm on Saturday July 16, 2016 twenty members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) met at the New Lenox Police Department to assist with the Huey Lewis & The News Concert. Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief and New Lenox Police Department CERT Program Coordinator, provided volunteers with a briefing. The briefing included an overview of the event’s Incident Action Plan as well as specific assignments for CERT volunteers. To ensure effective communication throughout the evening, everyone in attendance was issued a radio if they didn’t already have one. The briefing ended at 4:50pm, at which time everyone walked across the street to their respective assignments.



As luck would have it, it was a beautiful evening for a concert. The weather was in the low 80s with a nice breeze throughout the event. The gates opened at 5:30pm and guests filed into the venue in an orderly fashion. Our volunteers ensured that aisles were maintained in the lawn area and those working at various locations around the venue ensured that no one hopped the gates. Golf cart rides were provided to those that needed assistance. Interestingly, during one transport a woman yelled to stop the golf cart and turn around. Our puzzled volunteer wasn’t sure what happened, but complied with the request. As it turned out, the woman had her phone out and was playing Pokémon Go during the ride. She wanted to stop to catch a Pokémon. This was definitely the best story of the evening!



Huey Lewis & The News took the stage at 9:00pm and thrilled the crowd with many of his favorites. He and the band sounded great and entertained the crowd until 10:30pm. Our volunteers staffed the gates for egress, ensuring that no one left with open alcoholic beverages. Following egress, everyone met at Gate #1 for a short de-briefing. Positive feedback was provided and Debbie Jones was thanked for making desserts and bringing homemade iced tea. Thanks to all that assisted and once again did an excellent job!

## MICHAEL MCDONALD CONCERT – JULY 9, 2016

At 4:30pm on Saturday July 9th, 25 members of the New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Police Department. A briefing was held for the Michael McDonald concert, which included an overview of the concert's Incident Action Plan. Discussion included what volunteers should do in case of various emergencies such as severe weather. Everyone in attendance received an assignment which ranged from providing golf cart rides to those with special needs, to maintaining aisles in the lawn seating area. Following distribution of radios, everyone headed across the street to their respective assignments.



The gates opened at 5:30pm and the long lines at each of the three entrances quickly dissipated. The weather was absolutely great for an evening concert, with temperatures in the low 80s and mid 70s by the end of the evening. The opening bands entertained the crowd until 9:00pm when Michael McDonald took the stage.



McDonald played until 10:30pm after which concert attendees began leaving the venue by-way-of the three respective gates. Our volunteers staffed each of the gates, ensuring that everyone was safe and that no one left the venue with open alcoholic beverages. At approximately 11:00pm volunteers rallied at Gate #1 for a short debriefing. Some minor issues were discussed in the interest of making improvements for the following concert. Following the debriefing everyone was dismissed shortly after 11:00pm.



Special thanks to each of the volunteers that assisted with this concert. Everyone did an excellent job!

**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

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**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM  
20-HOUR BASIC CLASSES**

CERT Class #12 will graduate 25 new CERT members on Saturday October 29, 2016. For those interested in taking our 20-Hour Basic CERT Class, please contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, at the New Lenox Police Department (815) 462-6128 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net. Classes are typically held one week night per week for seven weeks with the final exercise and graduation on a Saturday morning.

Congratulations to the following classes:

- Class 1 Graduation 10/17/2009
- Class 2 Graduation 12/05/2009
- Class 3 Graduation 02/27/2010
- Class 4 Graduation 10/30/2010
- Class 5 Graduation 04/09/2011
- Class 6 Graduation 11/12/2011
- Class 7 Graduation 10/20/2012
- Class 8 Graduation 10/19/2013
- Class 9 Graduation 10/25/2014
- Class 10 Graduation 10/31/2015
- Class 11 Graduation 03/12/2016
- Class 12 Graduation 10/29/2016

To learn more about the CERT program and the 20-Hour Basic Class, visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>



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**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER –  
MICHAEL ORTMAN**

My family moved to New Lenox in 2004. When we decided to relocate, we looked in many communities. It is always bittersweet to move, but once we landed in New Lenox we felt a warm welcome and knew it would be home for many years.

I grew up in Back of the Yards neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago. I loved playing sports and was an avid fan of all the Chicago professional sports team.

My wife and I have three wonderful children and two amazing grandchildren. My children were very involved in school and community activities. I love spending time with them attending many concerts, programs, and sporting events through the years. My parents supported me in all my activities, and it is very important to me that my children feel the same support. I coached youth basketball, baseball, soccer and volleyball over 20 years in three different communities.

As a family, we enjoy traveling, playing cards, building puzzles, gathering around watching sports on TV, grilling and relaxing in the yard and most of all eating dinner together to share the happenings of our day.

Some of my favorite hobbies include cooking, golfing, and bowling.

Being a part of CERT has been a great opportunity to meet new friends and learn more about ways to support and protect our community. I volunteer in the community through CERT, church events, and other service opportunities. I am proud to be involved in CERT known for their commitment to preparedness and safety of our community.



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