

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
NEW LENOX SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA COALITION**

**Meeting 15-07**

**Held at the New Lenox Village Hall / Community Room  
1 Veterans Parkway New Lenox, IL 60451  
Wednesday August 26, 2015 / 2:30pm**

**Call to Order**

Dan Martin called the meeting of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition to order at 2:33pm.

**In Attendance**

Daniel Martin / New Lenox Police Department, Allison Anderson / Will County Emergency Management Agency, Bill Byerley / New Lenox ESDA, Will County ARES and Illinois Radio League, Emily Johnson / New Lenox Chamber of Commerce, Emily Krettler / American Red Cross, Gary Cheney / ShareFest, Kathie Johnson / New Lenox Township, Katie Roley / Will County Health Department, Lauren Lotz / New Lenox Community Park District, Liz Schwenke / Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, Liz Wetmore / New Lenox Public Library, Marisa Schrieber / New Lenox Fire Protection District, Mary Jo Button / St. Jude Parish, Mary Kate Burns / Trinity Services, Inc., Noe Santiago / Gentiva Home Health Care, and Tom Donegan / Metra.

Also in attendance were the following:

- Patricia Steinkamp / Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group
- Sue Meyers / NAMI of Will – Grundy County
- John Bosman / New Lenox Police Department
- Kathy Hilton / State Representative Margo McDermid's Office

**Approval of the June 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the June 24, 2015 meeting were sent to members via email prior to the meeting. Liz Schwenke made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Bill Byerley. After no further discussion, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

**Presentation / Guest Speaker – Gary Cheney / ShareFest**

Gary Cheney provided those in attendance with an update on this year's ShareFest activities. Gary shared locations that are accepting food, clothing, household goods, etc... Gary also spoke about the "Recyclepalooza" and Household Hazardous Waste Collection that would be held on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Spencer School Campus. Gary provided everyone in attendance with ShareFest handouts and encouraged everyone to spread the word about the event as well as the need for volunteers.

**New Business**

Although Bob Nelson was not in attendance at the meeting, Dan Martin thanked him and New Lenox School District #122 for the use of Martino Junior High School over the summer. Fit and Strong Class #1 was held at the school and it was a great success in part, due the facility and accommodations.

**Old Business**

Dan Martin provided a synopsis of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Communities America Conference, which was held in Chicago on Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Dan advised that he attended sessions on the 10<sup>th</sup> and

11<sup>th</sup>, while Mary Kate Burns and Rachel Ridge joined him on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Dan advised that there were some good presentations and it was a great opportunity to network with coalition members from other communities from around the country. Dan encouraged everyone to consider attending next year's conference.

Dan Martin also advised that he was asked to speak at a monthly National Safety Council in-service training on August 19<sup>th</sup> at NSC Headquarters in Itasca, IL. Dan advised that he was honored to receive the invitation and to represent the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition. Dan advised that he spoke about Safe Communities Accreditation from a local perspective, including the benefits of accreditation.

## Task Group Reports

### Older Adults Fall Prevention

Noe Santiago advised that Matter of Balance Class #18 (last class for 2015) will start on September 14<sup>th</sup> and is being held at the New Lenox VFW on Mondays from 9:30am to 11:30am. Noe reported that the class is currently filled and will be taught by Laura Regis, Sherry Scherdin, and Norma Cason.

Noe advised that a Matter of Balance Coaches' Class is being planned for September 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 5:00pm at the New Lenox Township Building. Several Matter of Balance (and Fit and Strong) graduates will be taking the class to earn Matter of Balance Coach Certification. The class will be taught by Kathie Johnson, Laura Regis and Noe Santiago, who are "Master" instructors.

Noe advised that National Falls Prevention Awareness Day is Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first day of Fall (Autumn). In support of the day, the Task Group is planning an event with a number of participating organizations that will offer free screenings and services to attendees (seniors). In addition, Fit and Strong Class #2 will be in session and will serve as a "demonstration" of the program.

Noe also mentioned that Fit and Strong Class #2 will start on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>. The class will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Guy Sell Senior Center, 1090 S. Cedar Road (next to the New Lenox Township Building). The class will be held from 1:00pm to 2:30pm thru November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Martin also noted that a grant from the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging is covering expenses for our Matter of Balance and Fit and Strong Classes. Dan advised that he's grateful for the grants and the opportunity to offer these programs to New Lenox seniors.

### Suicide Prevention and Awareness

Pat Steinkamp provided an overview of the August 17<sup>th</sup> Healing Hearts – Survivors of Suicide Support Group Meeting. The meeting was held from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the New Lenox Police Department. Pat advised that Roseanne Tadsen from Decision Point Counseling was the guest speaker and her topic was "coping."

In addition, Pat provided a synopsis of an event that is being planned for September 10<sup>th</sup> in Support of World Suicide Prevention Day. The event will include a panel discussion as well as a Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Class for the last hour. Pat advised that a representative from NAMI of Will - Grundy County will be a panelist and will speak about being a survivor of suicide. Michele Batara will speak on behalf of the Crisis Line of Will – Grundy County and will provide an overview of their services. Stephen Kehoe from Silver Cross Hospital Behavioral Health will speak about their services, including admissions for those that are seriously contemplating suicide. Pastor Troester from St. Paul Evangelical Church will provide information from a faith-based perspective. Lastly, Pat advised that she will speak about the loss of a loved one (her son) to suicide. Pat advised that the next Healing Hearts meeting will be September 21<sup>st</sup> (New Lenox Police Department @ 7:00pm). Pastor Dave Hedlin from Peace Lutheran Church will be the guest speaker and his topic is "Difficulty of Turning a Corner."

### Poisoning by Prescription Drug Overdose

Dan Martin advised that Monday August 31<sup>st</sup> is International Overdose Awareness Day. The National Safety Council will be participating in an event at Federal Plaza in Chicago from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Anyone that is interested in attending should contact Dan.

### Emergency Preparedness

Dan Martin reported that the New Lenox Police Department and its Community Emergency Response Team was awarded a \$10,000 grant from ComEd and the National Safety Council. The grant will allow 150 citizens to enroll in the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class and receive a disaster supply kit (backpack), which is valued at approximately \$65.00.

Dan advised that CERT Class #10 will start on Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> and will graduate on Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Dan advised that CERT volunteers have been busy with training as well as community events (Triple Play Concerts, 5Ks, etc...)

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). Dan listed examples of things that organizations can do to participate in NPM and help prepare their employees for emergencies and disasters.

Lastly, New Lenox CERT will participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie State CERT Challenge, which will be held on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dan is the Chair of the Planning Team for this year's event.

### Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

New Lenox Police (Traffic) Officer was in attendance and provided an update on some of the New Lenox Police Department's traffic safety initiatives, which included:

- School Safety Campaigns
  - School Resource Officer Education
    - Presentations with Fatal Vision Goggles
    - Red Ribbon Club
  - School zone speed enforcement
  - Texting and cell phone use in school zones
  - School bus stop arm violations

John also shared with the group other things that he does as traffic officer and provided an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions. Dan Martin thanked John for attending the meeting and providing some excellent information.

### Announcements / Organization Updates

Those in attendance shared current news and events relevant to their organizations. Dan advised that he would be willing to forward electronic copies of materials that would be beneficial to the group.

### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday September 30, 2015 / 2:30pm**. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45pm.