

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

RINGO STARR AND HIS ALL STARR BAND CONCERT – SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

At 3:30pm on Saturday, September 14, 2024, thirty-two members of New Lenox CERT met in the Council Chambers at the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to the Ringo Starr Concert. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for helping with the biggest concert New Lenox has held to date. Dan advised that expected attendance could reach near 6,000 people and reminded everyone to stay vigilant throughout the concert. In addition, Dan went over the concert’s Incident Action Plan, which included a number of safety and informational items. Following a summary of the Incident Action Plan, Dan went over assignments, which included 4 golf carts to assist concert goers from the parking lots to the entrances. Following a group photo, everyone headed out to their respective assignments at 3:55pm.

The gates opened at 4:30pm at which time hundreds, which turned into thousands, made their way into the venue. In speaking with guests, some indicated they had been waiting since 9:00am to ensure a good seat / vantage point for the concert.

Following two opening bands that did an excellent job warming up the massive crowd, Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band took the stage at 8:30pm. Our volunteers did an excellent job keeping emergency aisles open, which was extremely challenging given the number of people as well as their excitement. Other volunteers held their positions throughout the venue while Ringo and his band were on stage.



At approximately 10:00pm all volunteers assisted with egress at each of the gates to ensure guests left in a safe manner and with no alcoholic beverages. At approximately 10:30pm everyone headed into the Village Hall for a debriefing.

During the debriefing, highlights were covered in each of the assigned areas. From minor medical emergencies to keeping the aisles open to providing those with functional needs assistance, our volunteers did an excellent job.

Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this concert as well as all the concerts this summer. Outstanding job!

Our Core Principles:

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

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

LEVERAGING AND CRIBBING – SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 23, 2024 approximately 40 members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Public Works Facility for monthly training. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the training. Following the overview, everyone in attendance was divided into four teams which were designated as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. In addition, everyone was provided with a “station rotation,” that included 4 stations / exercises for a duration of 20 minutes each.

Dan then introduced Battalion Chief Brian Applegate and his crew from the New Lenox Fire Protection District. Considering the extensive training these men have, we were grateful to have them assist with this training.



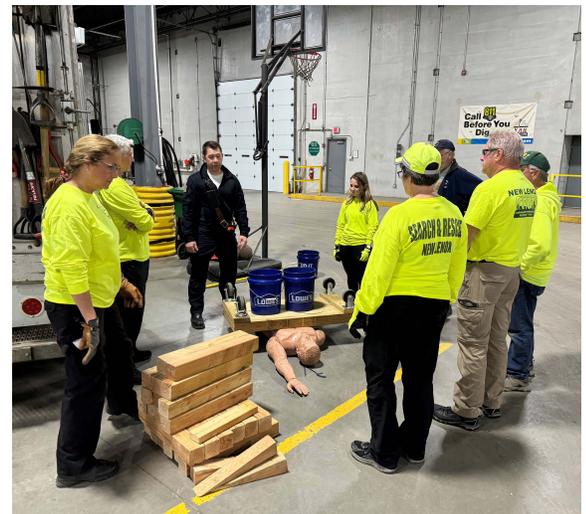
Everyone then headed out to the Public Works Garage where 4 stations were set-up as follows:

Station #1 – trapped “victim” under debris (simulated). Mary Ann Cody and Scott Thompson assisted Battalion Chief Applegate at this station.

Station #2 – trapped “victim” under debris (simulated). Rich DeVault assisted a NLFPD Firefighter at this station.

Station #3 – trapped “victim” under debris (simulated). Joe Frigo assisted a NLFPD Firefighter at this station, which also included a demonstration of a battery powered lifting device.

Station #4 – trapped “victim” under debris (simulated). This station was led by Dan Johnson and Lisa Murphy.



Buckets of cement were used to simulate heavy weight on the trapped “victims.” Team members assumed roles as Team Leader, Safety Officer, Medical Person, Fulcrum Builder, Crib Builder and Feeder (of 4 X 4s). When time permitted, team members completed the exercise a second or third time, changing roles each time. After 20 minutes at a station, teams rotated to the next.

At approximately 8:40pm everyone returned to the classroom for a debriefing, which included a discussion about key points, lessons learned and areas for improvement.

Special thanks to the NLFPD for assisting with this month’s training and special thanks to our team members that assisted at each of the stations. We also appreciate everyone that attended training!



IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS – SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

From 7:30am to 4:00pm on Friday, September 20, 2024, thirteen members of New Lenox CERT attended the “In the Midst of Chaos” Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

Following the Opening Ceremony, Reed Timmer, Weather Chaser, provided the Keynote Address from 8:00am to 8:50am. Then, Dr. William Hampton, provided a presentation on Emergency Medicine in the Movies from 8:55am to 9:45am

Morning Breakout Session included presentations as follows:

- Dr. Vicki Schlanser – “Trauma Resuscitation from the Field to the Trauma Bay”
- John Callahan – “Coroner, Preserving Evidence”
- Dr. James Cole – “Mental Health in Hospitals”
- Peter Lazarra – “This is Why I Love EMS”

Following a very nice lunch, Afternoon Breakout Session included:

- Kevin Sears – “MVC Trauma / Extrication”
- Frederick Simon – “Spy Maneuvers”
- John Cram and Arthur Berg – “Trauma Simulator”
- Troy Siewart – “Crises Don’t Have to be Confrontational”

The Afternoon General Sessions included

- Steve Smith – “Responding to an Active Threat / 5 Immediate Actions to Take”
- Dr. Jackie Medland – “From Clash to Cooperation: Mastering Difficult People”

Closing Remarks were provided by Dr. James Doherty.

It’s nice to report that a number of our volunteers won some great raffle prizes during the conference too.

Special thanks to everyone that attended “In the Midst of Chaos” this year. Our attendance grows larger each year based on the recommendations from those who attend.



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SAR MED OPS REFRESHER AND NIGHT SEARCH – SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

At 6:00pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, fifteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at New Lenox Public Works Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is just off of Cedar Road approximately ½ mile north of Route 6. Our team has enjoyed training at this location as it provides ample parking and includes various types of terrain.



Dan Martin, New Lenox SAR Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Martin Greenberg to the team. Dr. Greenberg then led a lecture on bleeding injuries that SAR members could see in the various environments where we search. The lecture touched on methods of controlling bleeding and was a segue way to a discussion about Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs).

At this time everyone took out their IFAKs and an examination of their contents was conducted. In addition, Dr. Greenberg made several recommendations regarding items that our team should consider adding. In short, new items will be purchased to replace the old ones and items that we currently don't have will be added. After all the items have been ordered and received, there will be a follow-up training to ensure everyone knows how to use everything in their kits.



Following Dr. Greenberg's lecture, everyone was given an opportunity to do some hands-on practice. This included the proper application of dressings, bandages and SAM Splints. At the conclusion of the hands-on practice everyone thanked Dr. Greenberg for the training and he departed.

Next, team members were provided with a QR Code for a Caltopo map, which included three search segments. Everyone in attendance was divided into three teams – Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. At this time everyone was told that there were a number of "victims" in each of the search segments. The "victims" were dowel rods with an injury card attached. The assignment was to conduct a search for "victims" then appropriately triage them once located. Teams were told to use radio communications and to mark each of their found "victims" in Caltopo.

This exercise took approximately one hour and all "victims" were located. Everyone met back at the staging area where a short debriefing was held. Special thanks to Dr. Greenberg for providing the training and thanks to those who attended.



“RECYCLEPALOOZA” (HHW AND RECYCLING EVENT) – SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

At 7:30am on Saturday, September 14, 2024, eleven members of New Lenox CERT met at the Spencer School Campus, 1721 S. Spencer Road, to assist with this year’s “Recyclepalooza” event. Our team has been assisting with this event since 2011. In short, “Recyclepalooza” includes the following:

- Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Electronics Recycling
- Styrofoam Recycling
- Scrap Metal Recycling
- Scrap Wood Recycling
- Household Goods and Food Donations
- American Flag (used / tattered) Disposal

This event is organized by Will County Green and in partnership with ShareFest New Lenox / Will County. In addition, the Village of New Lenox and New Lenox Township are partners and contributors.

Following a short briefing with Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, and Marta Keane, Will County Green, volunteers headed out to their assignments, which included:

- Traffic Management (several points / positions)
- Scrap Metal and Scrap Wood Recycling (unloading vehicles)
- Household Goods and Food Donations (information and sorting)

The first shift worked from 7:30am to 11:30am. The next shift, which consisted of seven new volunteers, assisted from 11:30am to 3:00pm. Some from the first shift stayed for the entire duration. Everyone did an excellent job on a day that say almost 1,000 vehicles come through with items.

Special thanks to our amazing volunteers for playing an integral role in this outstanding event!



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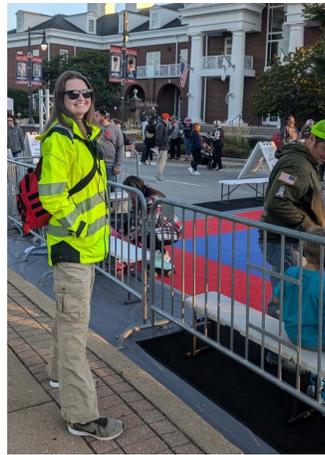
SILENT ROLLER DISCO - SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

At 5:30pm, with everyone present, a short briefing on the night's activities and new layout was held. Everyone agreed that having the rinks closer together and the DJ's in the middle was much better this year.

At 5:45pm Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) were distributed to CERT volunteers who headed out to their assignments. Team members were positioned around each rink watching the skaters until 10:00pm. Minor injuries were treated accordingly by our team members who did an excellent job.

At 10:00pm the IFAKs were collected and a short debriefing was held.

Special thanks to our volunteers for keeping every safe and helping those that needed assistance.



MOVIE NIGHT IN THE COMMONS – JUNE, JULY & AUGUST, 2024

New Lenox CERT was asked to assist with “*Movie Night in the Commons*” once again this summer. As many people know, Movie Nights were on Wednesday evenings. Activities started at 7:30pm and movies typically started around 8:30pm. Movie Nights started on June 5th and ended on August 14th.

This year, additional activities were added for teens on the north side of the police department at Fireman’s Park. Activities included music, games, a food truck and more. This was done to provide teens with some structured activities so that families with young children could enjoy the movies.

A typical Movie Night for CERT volunteers started at 7:30pm with a briefing near the Concession Stand. Briefings included collaboration with New Lenox Police Department personnel to determine if anything in particular needed to be shared with CERT volunteers. Following the briefing, volunteers would head out to their assignments which typically included:

- Staffing at Fireman’s Park for the teen activities.
- Staffing at the front steps of the New Lenox Public Library.
- Staffing at the crosswalk between the New Lenox Police Department and New Lenox Public Library.
- Staffing of a Floating Assignment (entire Commons to Fireman’s Park).
- Staffing of a Floating Assignment (coverage for Village Hall, Stage, Concert Trailers, and Pergola).

CERT volunteers typically worked in pairs, but some assignments included additional personnel. A typical Movie Night was staffed with approximately 10 CERT volunteers that helped from 7:30pm to approximately 10:30pm.

Special thanks to our volunteers for their dedication and commitment to making Movie Nights safe for teens, families and all who attended this summer!



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GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE BASICS FOR CERT VOLUNTEERS – AUGUST 22, 2024

At 6:30pm on Thursday, August 22, 2024, forty-two members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the training. Following the synopsis, Dan divided everyone into four teams that were designated ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, and DELTA. The teams then were directed to a large open field just west of the Village Hall where four exercises were set-up as follows:



Station 1 – AMDR / Critical Spacing and Efficiency Search. At this station, team members were taught how ground searchers determine spacing (AMDR) before they commence an efficiency search. Then, they were taught how to use the AMDR number to set their distance on the search line (Critical Spacing). Finally, team members were shown how a Crew Leader moves flaggers and searchers forward during an efficiency search.



Station 2 – Evidence Search. At this station, four large areas were flagged off (one for each team). Twenty blue paper raffle tickets were hidden in the search segment for teams to find. All the teams needed two passes, not quite shoulder to shoulder, to complete the search. Collectively, teams found between 18 and 20 tickets, which were not easy to see.



Station 3 - Flag Line. At this station, teams were given an azimuth to shoot (example 0 degrees and 10 degrees) and instructed to place six flags 10 steps apart. Teams were taught what a “back azimuth” is and were instructed to shoot a back azimuth after placing the third flag.

Station 4 – Compass / Determine Azimuth for Three Fixed Objects. At this station, team members were divided into three groups that stood over three traffic cones. Team members were then directed to shoot an azimuth at a pre-position flag and discuss their findings.

The stations were led by members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team, who are also CERT members. Starting at 6:45pm, teams rotated through the stations every 20 minutes until teams completed all four stations. Upon completing the exercises, everyone returned to the Community Room for a de-briefing.



During the de-briefing, Station Facilitators discussed their respective stations. In short, everyone did an excellent job completing the exercises. In fact, many team members did extremely well and there’s no doubt that when needed, they can work side-by-side with trained ground searchers.

Special thanks to our Search and Rescue Team Members for leading the stations and special thanks to everyone that attended!



SAR MONTHLY TRAINING / GPS & CALTOPO EXERCISES – AUGUST 13, 2024

At 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, eighteen members of New Lenox SAR met at Pilcher Park for monthly training. The team met at a pavilion near the east entrance to the park (Gougar Road & Highland Park Drive). Dan Martin, SAR Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to training. Dan provided a brief overview of the training and asked everyone to open the Caltopo map (link and QR Code sent prior to training) on their smartphones. Dan advised that all the activities for this particular training could be found on the map and directed everyone to take a look at the warm-up hike and exercises. Dan asked everyone to use Caltopo while on the hike to become familiar with the "Navigate To" function.



At this time the team proceeded on a 2-mile warm-up hike which included exercises (squats, high knee raises, mountain climbers, lunges, etc...) along the route.

Upon returning to the staging area, Dan directed everyone to look at the area on their Caltopo map marked "GPS Exercises." Everyone in attendance was then divided into 5 teams (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, & Echo). Each team was provided with GPS coordinates (in UTM) and were directed to enter the coordinates into their GPS units. Using the "Find" function, teams were directed to follow the line to the provided coordinates. In addition, George Nelson provided everyone with instructions on how to enter the coordinates into Caltopo to navigate that way as well.

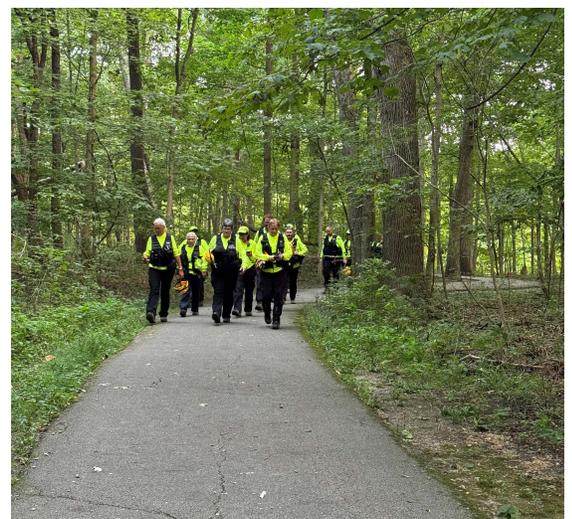


At this time everyone was divided into three teams (Alpha, Bravo and Charlie). In Caltopo, three search segments (201, 202 & 203) had been created. Each segment was approximately one acre and included two training aids (infant CPR mannequin heads on a 3-foot doll rod). Teams were instructed to utilize proper radio communications, conduct AMDR, set critical spacing, utilize good flagging techniques, radio in found training aids (with GPS coordinates) and mark the items in Caltopo as clues. After completing the search segments, all three teams located the training aids in their respective search segments.

Next, everyone was divided into 5 teams and directed to look at items marked as 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105. These were locations in the wooded area north of Francis Road and east of Gougar Road where training aids (infant CPR mannequins) had been placed. Teams were instructed to utilize the "Navigate To" function in Caltopo to locate their assigned item. Teams were directed to use proper radio communications during the search. All five teams located the training aids.

Teams returned to the parking lot near Gougar Road & Francis Road after completing the final search. De-briefings were held with each of the teams as they came in from the field. Following the de-briefings, team members were dismissed. Training concluded at 9:00pm.

Special thanks to our team members for participating in this valuable training. Everyone did an excellent job refreshing on GPS & Caltopo and even learned some new things too!



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ASSIST WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE / MISSING MALE 73 Y.O.A. - AUGUST 8, 2024

At 2:01pm on Thursday, August 8, 2024, the Will County Sheriff's Office requested assistance in locating James Sujka, 73-year-old male, who was last seen at 9:30am in the 100 block of Cardinal Lane in Beecher, IL. According to the Sheriff's Office, Sujka is approximately 5'11", 215lbs. wearing a gray t-shirt with a Chicago sports team on the front, black shorts and gym shoes. The Sheriff's Office also reported that Mr. Sujka could not speak.

One member of the New Lenox SAR team was able to respond to the initial call and joined Crete and other agencies to perform an initial search, gather information, and speak to local area residents.

After the initial search, more responders joined the efforts and at approximately 4:30pm the staging area was relocated Balmoral Racetrack. Six New Lenox SAR team members responded and gathered at the staging area. After signing-in, a team leader was elected, assigned to Team Charlie, and issued a radio. The team departed to their assigned search segment at approximately 6:00pm.

The team undertook an urban search and looked for James at Pheasant Lake Estates, located at 1 Pheasant Circle, Beecher, IL. Searchers were instructed to speak to the residents first and obtain permission before searching each property. The area consisted of tightly packed mobile homes on even terrain. Many residents had sheds on their properties. Cornfields also bordered the subdivision on two sides.

For efficiency, the team agreed to divide into 2 smaller teams of 3. Each team then searched their side of the street. Once the end of the street was reached, the team pivoted and searched the next streets until the segment was complete. Many residents were home, cooperative with our team, and provided suggestions for additional areas to search.

After completing the first search segment, our team search an adjacent segment after receiving permission from Incident Command. This segment was completed at approximately 8:15pm and the team returned to search base.

The team rehabbed while waiting for the next assignment. The team was then assigned to a search segment which contained soybean and cornfields. At approximately 9:15pm, while preparing to deploy to the assigned segment, all teams were told to stand down. James had been located by a K-9 unit in a dense cornfield and was safe.

Shortly before 10:00pm, a debriefing was held where James' family addressed the assembled teams and expressed their thanks for everyone's efforts in locating him. Afterward, all team members departed and returned home.

Special thanks to our team members for volunteering their time and participating in this search!

Will County Sheriff's Office's posts

Will County Sheriff's Office 2h · 🌐

SEEKING HELP LOCATING MISSING BEECHER MAN

The Will County Sheriff's Office is seeking help from the public in locating James Sujka, 73 year old, who was last seen at 9:30 am, on the 100 block of Cardinal Lane in Beecher. Mr. Sujka is described as 5'11" tall, 215 lbs, wearing a gray t-shirt with a Chicago sports team on the front, black shorts, and gym shoes. Mr. Sujka cannot speak. Sheriff's deputies are asking for your help. If you see Mr. Sujka please call 911 immediately.



ASSIST NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT / NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 6, 2024

On Tuesday, August 6, 2024 twenty-eight members of New Lenox CERT met at 5:00pm for a briefing related to the New Lenox Police Department’s “National Night Out” event in the New Lenox Commons. Prior to the briefing, John Opoka, who was serving as the Lead for this event, met with Beth Alderson, Community Engagement Director, Village of New Lenox and Officer Kristine Kioltyka, New Lenox Police Department, to finalize the areas where New Lenox CERT volunteers would be utilized.



The briefing with CERT volunteers included information about their role in the concession stand, New Lenox CERT information table, children’s games, and vendor assistance. All twenty-eight members headed out to their appointed areas shortly after 5:10pm.

The beautiful evening was very well attended with families and many young children and young adults. Police vehicles, informational tables and children’s activities led to a very nice family friendly event. New Lenox CERT volunteers were very engaging with the games and enjoyed handing out prizes to the youngsters. Food preparation and packaging was a two-hour hectic and non-stop exercise. Everyone worked well together in a small area and really got the job done. Time was very well spent.

Recruiting for the new CERT Class was a theme all members focused on.

Both Beth Alderson and Officer Kristine thanked the New Lenox CERT members as a group for their involvement with the success of the evening.

After the police department raffle, CERT members cleaned up the concession area, broke down the informational table and game set-up, and returned to the original briefing area for a quick debrief. No issues were communicated and everyone was thanked for their tremendous attitude and attention to detail in performing their duties. The debrief ended at 7:59pm.

Special thanks to John Opoka for leading this event and to those that participated!



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ASSIST LWSRA / WHEELCHAIR SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - JULY 27 & 28, 2024

On Saturday, July 27, 2024 and Sunday, July 28, 2024, New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association with a Wheelchair Softball Tournament at their facility, which is located at 1900 Heather Glen Drive, New Lenox, IL.

The hours for the two details were as follows:

- Saturday, July 27th – 8:00am to 3:00pm (six CERT volunteers)
- Sunday, July 28th – 8:00am to 2:00pm (seven CERT volunteers)



Each day, volunteers arrived approximately 15 minutes in advance of the start time to meet with Keith Wallace, Executive Director, Lincolnway Special Recreation Association. Following the briefing, our volunteers went to their assigned locations to assist with traffic management and parking.

Our volunteers advised that it was a pleasure to meet Keith, his staff, and many of the wheelchair softball tournament participants. New friendships were definitely made over the course of the two-day tournament and we look forward assisting with future events at the facility.

Special thanks to our volunteers that assisted over the span of the weekend. Everyone did a terrific job!



ASSIST LINCOLNWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION - JULY 26, 2024

At 10:45am on July 26, 2024 six members of the New Lenox CERT arrived at the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association (LWSRA) to assist with their End of Summer Camp Celebration. After meeting with LWSRA Director Keith Wallace, the six CERT members took up positions at their assignments.

Assignments were as follows: two members staffed the Heather Glen Drive entrance and two members staffed the Knightsbridge Lane entrance. Two CERT members circulated through the parking lot, directed vehicles to parking spaces, and ensured safe crossing for all pedestrians.

The parking lot was open only to families, employees and friends attending the event. CERT members also directed the mobile petting zoo, Kona Ice van (generously funded by neighborhood children from proceeds from a lemonade stand) and a NLFPD truck and ambulance to their designated spots at the softball field.

Celebration attendees began arriving promptly at 12:00pm. A DJ, petting zoo, magic show, face painter and fire department vehicles kept all of the attendees entertained.

The event ended at 2:00pm at which point CERT was thanked for their assistance and relieved of their duties. Team members left the premises about 2:15pm.

CERT members were provided with a lunch cooked by St Jude's Knights of Columbus (led by fellow CERT member Mike Ortman).

Special thanks to our volunteers for helping today!



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WATER SAFETY / SHORELINE RESCUE – JULY 25, 2024

At 6:30pm on Thursday, July 25, 2024, thirty-six members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to training. Following some announcements and a brief overview of the training, Dan introduced Brian Applegate, Battalion Chief, New Lenox Fire Protection District.



Chief Applegate provided everyone in attendance with a lecture on water safety and shoreline rescue. The lecture included an excellent PowerPoint presentation, which included lots of information on this topic. Throughout the presentation, it was clear to see that Chief Applegate was not only knowledgeable about water safety / shoreline rescue, but he was passionate about it as well.

At approximately 7:30pm everyone departed from the Community Room and walked over to the pond in the New Lenox Commons. Chief Applegate put on his dry suit and went into the water to simulate an individual that needed help in the water. On the shoreline, 5 lines were formed for practice with the water rescue throw bags. Each of those lines was led by 1-2 New Lenox Search and Rescue Team members who had a good amount of experience with deploying the bags. Chief Applegate worked his way through the water, back and forth, providing our team members with an opportunity to throw the bags to him. Chief Applegate provide coaching tips, as did our SAR members on the shoreline.



At approximately 8:30pm everyone headed back into the Community Room for a de-briefing, which was led by Chief Applegate. Following the de-briefing, everyone thanked Chief Applegate for providing the training. In addition to Dan Martin

thanking Chief Applegate, he thanked everyone for attending as well.

Special thanks to the New Lenox Fire Protection District for allowing Chief Applegate to provide this training, which was greatly appreciated!



FOOD FIGHT: TACO FEST – JULY 20, 2024

At 10:30am on Saturday, July 20, 2024, eleven members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the Village Hall for a briefing related to "Food Fight: Taco Fest," which was an all-day food festival with a variety of activities for children as well as adults. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for helping with the event. Dan issued everyone Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs), a map of the event's layout, and an itinerary of scheduled activities. The briefing then moved outdoors and included a complete walk-through of the event before guests arrived. The layout included a number of food trucks, food tents, ticket booths, beer sales area, a sit-down area under a tent with tables and chairs, face painting and two separate inflatables areas for children. Dan pointed out the areas that CERT volunteers were asked to staff, which were primarily the areas with the inflatables.



At 11:00am the gates opened, and guests began to arrive. In addition to the food, the inflatables were a big hit for the kids and thanks to our volunteers, it was a safe activity for them as well. Not long into the event, CERT was asked to monitor Gate #2, which was the designated access point for vendors. This location was then staffed by a CERT volunteer for the duration of the event.

At 4:00pm, our "second shift" arrived to relieve "first shift" volunteers. It should be noted that some volunteers stayed from beginning to end (10:30am to 9:30pm), which is amazing!

Throughout the day guests enjoyed some amazing food, a live DJ, a chihuahua beauty pageant, live music, a tortilla throwing contest and hot sauce eating contest. At the end of the event, "Los Razos Mexican Grill" was the restaurant that received the most votes for best taco and were crowned the winner of this year's Taco Fest.

By 9:00pm the final activities were coming to a close at which time CERT volunteers assisted with pedestrian egress. Following this assignment, everyone headed into the Community Room for a short de-briefing. In short, some areas for improvement were discussed and volunteers were thanked for doing an amazing job. The de-briefing ended at approximately 9:30pm.

Again, special thanks to our wonderful volunteers for assisting with this event!



ASSIST WILL COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – JULY 19TH AND 20TH

The Will County Emergency Management Agency requested mutual aid assistance with Damage Assessments throughout Will County from Friday, July 19th, thru Sunday, July 21st. The damage assessments were needed due to damage that occurred from storms on the night of July 15th, which included tornadoes that have since been classified as category EF-1 and EF-2. New Lenox CERT volunteers were available all three days, but as it turned out, the Damage Assessments were completed by Saturday, July 20th, so the Sunday, July 21st detail was cancelled.

At 9:00am each day volunteers reported to Farragut Elementary School, 701 Glenwood, Joliet, IL for the briefing. Four New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted on Friday and four also assisted on Saturday.

Volunteers were assigned to teams (2-4 on each team) and provided with maps, radios and iPads for documenting information. The command phone number was provided to teams that had questions or needed to pass along sensitive information.

In short volunteers were advised to:

- Walk up to doors, but do not go inside.
- Door hangers were provided for residents to scan a QR Code and report damage. If no one answers, leave door hanger.
- Record data as described by residents.
- Don't make promises, but rather fully identify the damage so a follow-up can be conducted at a later time by other EMA personnel.
- Report downed power lines.
- Be mindful of wasps and downed branches.
- Radio in when starting and leaving an area.
- Photograph home damage, not trees down.
- Unaffected houses don't need entire survey completed – place an X on the map or circle it so they know it was reached.
- For veterans, there are additional resources on Glenwood Ave., right across from Community Concerns. Resources include food and some help with building supplies such as ramps, and mental health hardships.



The surveys that were being utilized included the resident's name, address, date and type of incident. Questions also included information about water, electrical or appliance damage. If there was anyone in the house with a disability, was there damage to any supportive equipment? The survey also included the age of the home, homeowner's insurance (yes or no) and did the homeowner have any specific unfulfilled needs. Our volunteers reported that for the most part, residents were cooperative and appreciated the efforts.



Our volunteers advised that according to the pace counters on their watches, they walked approximately 5 miles each day. On both Friday and Saturday, the assignments concluded at 5:00pm.

Special thanks to our volunteers for assisting with the Damage Assessments and doing a terrific job!



PARTY IN THE PARK (FORMERLY SPECIAL NEEDS DAY) – JULY 19, 2024

At 10:15am on Friday, July 19, 2024, seventeen members of New Lenox CERT met at the main entrance (lower level) of the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to "Party in the Park." Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for helping with this wonderful event. Dan issued everyone Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) as well as an assignment sheet. As Dan was starting the briefing, Olga Viano, Deputy Director Recreation, New Lenox Community Park District, arrived and immediately thanked everyone for assisting with this event. The briefing went quickly as it was noted that some of the guests attending the event were starting to arrive. At this time, our volunteers walked over to their assignments, which were as follows:

- Traffic Management (Veterans Parkway between the library and village hall)
- Drop Off / Pick Up Area (Veterans Parkway between the library and police department)
- Medical Tent (10' X 10" tent in the administrative parking lot at the police department)

Our volunteers did a wonderful job assisting dozens and dozens of functional needs clients as they arrived in buses and vans. Guests were escorted over to the activity area where food, drinks, games and music were going on for everyone to enjoy.

After the vast majority of guests had arrived (approximately 11:30am) our volunteers moved over to the big tent to help the New Lenox Lions Club serve lunch. Additional duties such as traffic management were ongoing while lunch, games and music / dancing were still going on.

Shortly before 1:00pm activities started coming to a close at which time our volunteers assisted functional needs clients back into their buses and vans. At 1:20pm everyone walked back to the Village Hall where a short de-briefing was held.

Special thanks to our volunteers that assisted with this event. Everyone did an outstanding job!



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SEARCH AND RESCUE / MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING – JULY 18, 2024

At 6:30pm on Thursday, July 18, 2024, fourteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at New Lenox Public Works Waste Water Treatment Plant 3 for monthly training. This is a regular training location for our team as it's remote, has excellent parking, cut grass, and is surrounded by wooded areas as well.

Prior to the team's arrival, the following stations were set up:



Navigation / Compass – Teams were directed to select 5 fixed objects to shoot an azimuth at. One at a time, team members shot azimuths at each of the points. After everyone was done, team members discussed their findings to ensure no readings were off more than a couple degrees.



Transport – Teams were directed to place the Rescue Randy mannequin on a portable litter and secure him. The "victim" was then transported through an obstacle course, which included flagging tape (high and low) for the team to duck under and step over. Upon reaching the end of the course, team members had to turn around and traverse the course back to the starting location. Team members were reminded NOT to touch any of the fiberglass poles or flagging tape.



Evidence Search – Teams were provided with a Caltopo map that outlined a .2-acre parcel of land (paved and grass) where a training pistol (similar to a .9mm semi-automatic) was hidden. Teams had to conduct an (evidence) search until the item was located.



Shoreline Rescue / Water Rescue Throw Bags – At this station team members practiced deploying water rescue throw bags at distances of approximately 20-25 meters. Hula hoops were placed at these distances and throw bags that landed in the center of the hula hoops were a perfect score. Team members practiced with the line in the bag as well as quickly coiling the line and redeploying.



Navigation / Compass – Teams were instructed to meet at a traffic cone and were given an azimuth and a distance. Numbers given were: 87 degrees / 36 meters; 145 degrees / 36 meters; and 335 degrees / 18 meters. Using a compass and pace count, team members had to find objects that were several feet into wooded areas at the above distances from the traffic cone, which was placed in an open field.

Following the briefing, everyone walked approximately one mile around the paved road of the facility. This was done at a pace similar to the team's fit test, so it was relatively brisk. After the warm-up, everyone met in the middle of the field, which was a little smaller than a football field. A large circle was formed at which time team members, one at a time, picked their favorite exercise. The team did push-ups, jumping jacks, stair climbers, leg lifts, forward lunges, side lunges and a few more as well. After everyone had an opportunity to lead an exercise, the "physical" portion of the training was complete.

At this time everyone was divided into three teams and direction was given as to where to start. Teams spent approximately 15-20 minutes at each of the stations then rotated to the next until teams had completed all five stations. At approximately 8:30pm everyone assisted with rounding up equipment and supplies at each of the stations. Following this, a short de-briefing was held and training concluded at 8:45pm.

Special thanks to everyone that participated in this training. Great job by all!

MISSING FEMALE 80 Y.O.A. IN BURR RIDGE, IL – JULY 15, 2024

On Monday, July 15, 2024 at 11:35am our team was requested to assist with a search for an 80-year-old with dementia in Burr Ridge, IL that had been missing since 3:00pm the previous day. The staging area, as given, was Citizens Park, 105474 Madison Street, Burr Ridge, IL.

By 1:00pm four members of NLSAR were among a number of other search teams and law enforcement agencies that had arrived at the staging location. It should be noted that for this search, the air temperature was 90 degrees and due to the humidity, it "felt like" just over 100 degrees.

A Caltopo QR Code was provided during the briefing as well as a clothing description and background on the missing woman. Teams were then formed and two members from another team joined our four team members to make "Team Bravo." At this time, Team Bravo was provided with two search segments that were within walking distance of the staging area.



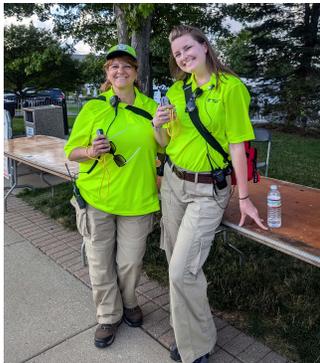
After arriving at the first search segment, AMDR was completed and Team Bravo commenced their search. This area was very dense and included construction debris such as large concrete chunks, roofing shingles, and scrap wood. The density of the brush also made the area impassable. It was determined that the team would search an adjacent area instead.

As Team Bravo searched through the high brush and edges of a wooded area, a helicopter and drone flew overhead. Once completing that area in two passes, Bravo began to walk the 1/2 mile back to the staging area.

All of Bravo regrouped at the staging area at 3:00pm. Shortly after another assignment was given, everyone learned that the woman had been found, alert and conscious.

Following the good news of a positive search outcome, NLSAR and most other agencies left the staging area around 3:15pm. Special thanks to our team members that participate in this search!

SMOKEY ROBINSON CONCERT – JULY 6, 2024



At 4:30pm on Saturday, July 6, 2024, twenty-seven members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the Village Hall for the Smokey Robinson Concert Briefing, which was led by Simon Harris. The briefing included information about the venue, start times for the bands, assignments and more.

Everyone was provided with an Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK), map, and assignment list along with a reminder regarding which radio channel to utilize during the event. The briefing ended at approximately 4:50pm at which time everyone headed out to their assignments.

Three golf carts were available for this concert so an additional CERT member was assigned to assist with transports to the entry gates. Volunteers with this assignment were extremely busy transporting guests with functional needs. Additional handicapped parking was added for this concert and was definitely needed. Within an hour, ALL available spots were taken.

After the bulk of the guests were in the venue, the evening went relatively smooth.

At approximately 10:45pm, everyone met in the rotunda. Following a short debriefing and collection of the IFAKs, Simon thanked everyone for their assistance and everyone headed home.

Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this concert – great job!



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

ASSIST NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT / EVIDENCE SEARCH – JULY 1, 2024

On Monday, July 1, 2024 the New Lenox Police Department contacted our team to assist with an evidence search in an open field and wooded area just east of Stonebridge Park. A text message was sent to our team with instructions to stage at Stonebridge Park (approximately Nelson Road & Grandview Drive) at 12:00pm.



Following the initial text message to New Lenox SAR members, a separate message was sent to New Lenox CERT members as well. The thinking was to have CERT members serve as a force multiplier for this search by pairing them up with trained ground searchers (New Lenox SAR members). CERT members were instructed to wear long pants and boots as the search would include tall grass, some wooded areas, as well as muddy areas. CERT members were also advised to bring their backpacks to carry water and other needed supplies.

At 12:00pm a total of 18 searchers (9 CERT members & 9 SAR members) met at Stonebridge Park for a briefing. At this time Dan Martin introduced Sergeant David Taylor to everyone and following the introduction, Sergeant Taylor provided details regarding the incident. Dan Martin then explained how the search would be conducted, how flagging would be accomplished, and tips on safety.

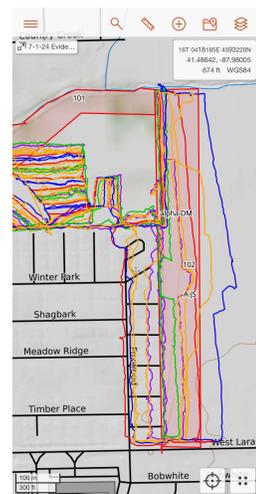
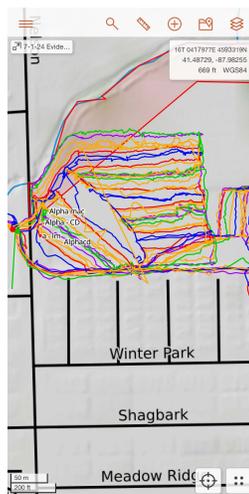


For the next three hours or so an evidence search was conducted through open fields with both mowed and tall grass. Some wooded areas adjacent to Jackson Branch Creek were searched as well. The search moved east to an open farmer's field where the team searched a section approximately 100 yards wide from north to south. When Laraway Road was reached, the team searched from south to north through the Winter Haven Subdivision, which included a stretch along Foxwood Drive to the northern boundary of the subdivision. Throughout the search, SAR members utilized a Caltopo Map that had been created specifically for this search.



At approximately 3:30pm the search concluded and a de-briefing in the parking lot of Stonebridge Park was held. Although no evidence or clues were found, everyone was reminded that there was no way of knowing if anything had actually been discarded during the incident. In short, everyone did an excellent job during the search and it was terrific to see how CERT members can be utilized in searches like this.

Special thanks to EVERYONE that assisted with this search – great job!



PLAY DAY IN THE COMMONS – JUNE 29, 2024

At 9:30am on Saturday, June 29, 2024, nineteen New Lenox CERT volunteers met on the north steps of the Village Hall for a briefing. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, thanked everyone in advance for helping and then went over the details of the event. Everyone in attendance received a map of the venue and Dan pointed out where all the activities were located. In addition, Dan went over assignments, which included:

- Bounce Houses at two separate locations
- Foam Party
- Character visits (Disney Princesses)
- Carnival Rides
- Young Entrepreneur's Fair
- Food Truck(s) Area
- Floating Assignments



In short, ALL of the assignments had a focus on keeping children and families safe in each of the respective areas. In addition to the above-mentioned assignments, five CERT volunteers were assigned to traffic management / parking at the following areas: Children's Museum, Old Plank Trail Bank, New Lenox Police Department (lower-level lot), Lions Community Center and the New Lenox Public Library. It should be noted that by 12:30pm all the lots were filled as was the upper-level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall. Fortunately, around the same time (12:30pm), guests were also leaving. As such, parking spots became available for those just arriving.



Between 10:00am and 2:00pm our volunteers did a wonderful job with their assignments and served as outstanding sources of information for guests as well. Our volunteers also assisted with two incidents where children were separated from their parents, but reunited within minutes.

At 2:00pm our volunteers transitioned into helping with traffic management as vendors and others began traversing the Commons with their vehicles so they could load up tents and supplies. At 2:30pm the work was done and everyone headed into the Community Room at the Village Hall for a short debriefing, which took about 10 minutes.

Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this event. Terrific job by all!



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Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

Phone: 815-462-6493

Fax: 815-462-6469

Email: dmartin@newlenox.net

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

The 2024 New Lenox CERT Basic Class will be held as follows: September 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, October 1, and 3. These classes will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The Final Exercise (Disaster Simulation) and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 8:00am to 12:30pm, also at the Village Hall. If interested in registering for this class or otherwise becoming involved with the New Lenox CERT program, please contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox at (815) 462-6493 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net.

- 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
- Class 13 Graduation 10/28/2017
- Class 14 Graduation 10/27/2018
- Class 15 Graduation 10/26/2019
- Class 16 Graduation 10/17/2020
- Class 17 Graduation 10/23/2021
- Class 18 Graduation 10/15/2022
- Class 19 Graduation 10/21/2023

To learn more about the CERT program and the CERT Basic Class, visit <https://www.ready.gov/cert>



Visit us on Facebook

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<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxSAR>

**ASSIST LASALLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE /
MISSING FEMALE 40 YOA - JUNE 26, 2024**

At 7:37pm on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, our team received a Mutual Aid Request, through the Illinois Search and Rescue Council, to assist with a missing 40-year-old female that had been missing since approximately 10:00am. The staging area, as given, was 2948 N 4351 Road Sheridan, Illinois.

At this time seven NLSAR members indicated that they would respond to this request with the first team member arriving on scene at 9:18pm. Four additional team members arrived within the next 25 minutes and the final two team members joined our team during the search.

The missing woman's photo was provided via text messaging and displayed on the large screen near Incident Command. It was noted that her hairstyle had changed recently and a description was provided.

At 10:08pm NLSAR (Team Foxtrot) was given an assignment to search Section 106. After arriving at the search segment, a brief conversation was held with the property owner who was aware of the missing woman and had been on the lookout for her as well. The gentleman gave permission to search the property.

By 10:28pm the team began their search. The section was heavily wooded with many downed trees,

thick underbrush, a pond, and vegetation that caused itching & a burning sensation when contact was made. The first pass was completed by 11:30pm. By 12:10am the second pass was completed. The decision to return to staging was made based on the difficult navigation and the inability to contact Command.

Team Foxtrot arrived back at Command at approximately 12:20am. A de-briefing was provided and all members departed by 12:45am, arriving back in New Lenox around 1:45am.

It should be noted that the woman was found safe a few days later. Special thanks to our team members for participating in this search!

MISSING PERSON



Sarah F. Petritsch
40 year old female
Missing since 10:00 AM
on 6/26/24
Missing from
2900 block of N 4351st Rd
Sheridan, IL 60551
Her hair is now in a shoulder
length bob, with a middle part,
and no bangs.
Missing left front tooth.

If you see Sarah or have any information contact the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office at (815) 433-2161 option 6 or 8

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