

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER / COVID VACCINATIONS – FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2021

In early February, 2021, Pat Carr, Assistant Village Manager/Director, Emergency Management & 911 Communications, Village of Tinley Park, requested our team’s assistance at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Pat’s request, in short, entailed having our volunteers on site from 8:00am to 5:30pm, Monday thru Saturday, to assist in various capacities with covid vaccinations. This detail started on February 10th and ended on March 20th. During that time frame, **our team members collectively VOLUNTEERED 618 hours at the site.** Twenty-two team members were involved in this detail, with one team member volunteering 92 hours alone.

Typically, these articles summarize events from one writer’s perspective. However, upon conclusion of this detail, volunteers were asked to provide a brief summary of what they did at the site and/or share any special moments. The following is a sampling of some of the comments that were submitted.



### 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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*\*\* I enjoyed the experience. I had the opportunity to help some people through the entire process. They would come alone and need wheelchair assistance. If they had the 15-minute observation period I would stay and talk, if it was a 30-minute observation I'd set a timer and return for them. Some were apprehensive and it helped calm them. \*\**

*\*\* It's been a very interesting job. I was talking to an elderly man and he started losing his balance. I grabbed his arm and kept him from falling backwards. We got him in a wheelchair right away.*

*Another lady was dropped-off and unable to walk so I was able to accompany her through the entire process. This has been a great experience. \*\**

*\*\* We greeted individuals as they entered the building and asked to see their confirmation. We would confirm their date, time and location. We would then direct them down the hall to the registration area. To me, it was amazing how appreciative and patient everyone was. I believe everyone was just relieved they were able to get the vaccine. \*\**

*\*\* For all of my shifts, I was at the front, checking people’s appointments, helping the mobility-impaired, and sanitizing the wheelchairs when they were returned from use. It was a pretty rewarding job, especially when helping someone through the entire process pretty much from start to finish; recognizing when someone needs a chair, pushing them through registration, then helping them get their vaccine, and even sitting with them afterward in observation and helping them back to their car or their ride. One older woman promised to keep me in her prayers. I’m not sure why, but that’s especially memorable to me. Also memorable was*

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TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER / COVID VACCINATIONS *con'td.*



meeting a woman who was 102 years old. Her daughter, who was there helping "Mom," was 79. That was a whole different perspective for me. One of the Guardsman I was working with shared that he met a woman who was 107 years old, and he realized she literally lived through TWO pandemics; the flu pandemic of 1918 and now COVID. It was a good experience and I was glad I could help. \*\*

\*\* I really enjoyed the Tinley Park Convention Center experience. I was involved with checking appointment confirmations as individuals entered the facility. I would verify they were in the correct location at the correct date and time as well as verify which dose they would be receiving that day. If they were receiving their second dose, I would confirm the date of their first to be sure they weren't there too soon for their second shot. If there were any questions/issues about confirming any part of their visit, I directed them to the National Guard posted at the front desk.

Occasionally (5 or 6 times for me), an individual would arrive who needed a wheelchair. If they did not have someone with them to push them through the facility, I would push them and stay with them until they exited the building. This was always interesting for two reasons: 1) I got to see how the entire process worked, which is truly an amazing well-oiled machine; and 2) I got to speak with the individuals for 15 or 30 minutes while sitting in the after-vaccination waiting area. All of them were very appreciative of my staying with them. And a heart-warming moment for me was one very kind lady tried to tip me. I told her that I was a volunteer and happy to help. She still tried to push it on me, but I thanked her again and suggested she donate it to her favorite charity. She said she would do just that.



All the staff, National Guard members, FEMA members, Tinley Park Police, and especially the other CERT members were so very kind and helpful all the time. It truly was a pleasure being there. \*\*

\*\*I really enjoyed pushing the people that came alone and needed that little extra help. I got to know them a little and some of their story. Love connecting with them. A memorable moment was when a woman gave me a knitted angel, that she made in memory of her late daughter. She touched my heart. \*\*

Such amazing stories and a great sampling of the experience that our team members had at this vaccination site. THANK YOU ALL for doing an amazing job! You all are appreciated!



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

# ASSIST SHAREFEST WITH FOOD GIVEAWAY AT LINCOLN-WAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL – MARCH 21, 2021

At 9:00am on Sunday, March 21, 2021 New Lenox CERT volunteers began to arrive at Lincoln-Way West High School to assist with the ShareFest Food Giveaway. Rather than do one large formal briefing with everyone, volunteers were briefed as they arrived and then sent to their respective assignments, which included the following locations:

### Food distribution area (bulk of our volunteers).

- Traffic management location at the west entrance on Illinois Highway.
- Traffic management location / placing numbers on vehicles near the school’s auditorium.
- Traffic management location in the south parking lot (stack vehicles in rows, then direct them toward the food distribution area.
- Traffic management location to direct vehicles into the food distribution area.
- Traffic management location to direct vehicles to the next point.
- Traffic management location to split vehicles into two lines in the food distribution area.
- Traffic management location to direct vehicles one-way out of the food distribution area
- Traffic management location near tennis courts to direct traffic out of the event.
- Traffic management location near football stadium to ensure vehicles are going one-way only.

Event leaders coordinated with New Lenox Emergency Services who blocked off (traffic cones) entrances on Gougar Road, placed an electronic messaging board at Illinois Highway & Gougar Road, handled egress onto Illinois Highway, and assisted in the south parking with the formation of lines for vehicles.

The event started early and our volunteers worked hand-in-hand with students from Lincoln-Way West High School in the food distribution area. In addition to the boxes with mixed items (milk, apples, cheese, yogurt, onions, etc...) there were a lot of individual items that were loaded into vehicles at various points in the distribution line. These items included cases of water, cases of Powerade, cases of Muscle Milk, cases of V8 vegetable juice, Skinny Pop popcorn, and much more.



Everyone worked diligently until shortly before 1:00pm, which is the time that the last vehicles came through the line and accepted the last remaining boxes of food. A short debriefing was then held where areas for improvement were discussed. Special thanks to everyone that assisted and helped to make this event a huge success. Hundreds of families were fed thanks to the efforts of ALL the volunteers that assisted with this event.



## ASSIST ROMEOVILLE PD WITH SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN– MARCH 27, 2021



At 4:34pm on Saturday, March 27, 2021 a text, email, and "I Am Responding" message from the Will County Emergency Management Agency was received by our team. The message was a "standby" for a search in Romeoville for a missing 74-year old female. Minutes later a second message confirmed that searchers were needed and that the staging area would be at the Robert C. Hill Elementary School, 616 Dalhart Ave. Romeoville, IL.

At 5:15pm our first team members arrived on scene and a short time later a total of EIGHT (8) NLSAR members were on scene. Everyone signed in, geared-up, and waited for an assignment.

By approximately 5:45pm SAR Management advised that this search would be done by searcher's vehicles and for the time being nothing would be on foot. A description of the woman was given and as it turned out, she was 47 years of age, not 74. Searchers were provided with some background on the missing woman along with a clothing description. Our team was then divided into four, two-person (per vehicle) teams. Teams were then individually provided with a portable radio and a map with an assigned search area. After receiving an assignment, our team members left the staging area and began to slowly drive up and down the streets in assigned search segments.

In this search, there were eight (8) search segments. The southern boundary was Montrose Drive, the eastern boundary was N. Independence Blvd. (Rt. 53), the northern boundary was Route 55, and the western boundary was Weber Road. In addition to our team, there were also searchers from Plainfield, Naperville, Lockport, and other teams. Our efforts were in addition to Romeoville PD Officers actively searching for the missing woman.

At approximately 7:20pm two of our searchers came across two Romeoville PD units that had located the woman on the sidewalk on Belmont Drive, just east of Montrose Drive (which runs north/south, as well as east/west). Minutes later, SAR Management advised everyone via the radio to return to staging where a short de-briefing was held.

Following the de-briefing, our team also held a short meeting in the parking lot across from the staging area. Overall, everyone agreed that SAR Management did an excellent job running this search, including creating the search segments and having everyone search by vehicle. Given the urban setting, facts and circumstances, it was definitely the most efficient was to accomplish the task. Following our team's debriefing, everyone headed back to New Lenox, arriving back in town at approximately 8:15pm.

Special thanks to our EIGHT (8) team members that participated in this Saturday evening search!

## ASSIST WITH VACCINATION CLINIC AT LINCOLN-WAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL – MARCH 25, 2021

The Village of New Lenox, along with partners at the Will County Health Department, Jewel/Osco Pharmacy, Lincoln Way High School District #210 and New Lenox Township, hosted Covid Vaccine Clinics on March 24th (Lincoln-Way Central High School) and on March 25th (Lincoln-Way West High School) from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The appointments (REQUIRED), were geared toward those that were 65 years of age and older. There were 800 appointments available each day for the Pfizer vaccine and folks were asked to be sure they were available for their 2nd shot 21 days later. This information was made available to the public via social media and other outlets. New Lenox CERT was requested to assist with the March 25th clinic at WEST.



At 7:00am on Thursday, March 25, 2021 New Lenox CERT members arrived at Lincoln-Way West High School to assist with a vaccination clinic. Our volunteers met with staff from Jewel-Osco Pharmacy who advised that volunteers were needed to assist with registration, which was held just outside of the auditorium. From 8:00am to 4:00pm, our volunteers assisted with the registration / check-in process, to include ensuring that everyone did have an appointment.

Special thanks to our volunteers, some of which spent 9 hours on-site, for doing a great job!!



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

## ASSIST TRINITY SERVICES, INC. WITH VACCINATION CLINICS – MARCH 17-18, 2021

On Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 9:00am to 1:30pm \*and\* on Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted with a COVID Vaccination Clinic at the (new) Trinity Services, Inc. facility. This new facility is located at 418 S. Cooper Road (418 Landings Drive), which is approximately one block south of Route 30.



At the entrance to the parking area, volunteers assisted clients by checking them in and placing numbers on their windshields so they can be easily located. Clients were then directed to their assigned parking areas. In addition, there were two different doors to enter the facility for vaccinations. When it was their turn, clients were directed to the appropriate door. A vast number of the clients had some form of disability. When necessary, our volunteers assisted them as needed.

Special thanks to our FOUR volunteers that assisted on March 17th and to our SIX volunteers that assisted on March 18th. Each of you are very much appreciated!



## ASSIST SHAREFEST / FOOD GIVEAWAY AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEW LENOX – MARCH 13, 2021

At 9:00am on Saturday, March 13, 2021 ELEVEN members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the United Methodist Church of New Lenox (UMCNL) to assist ShareFest with a CARES Act Food Giveaway event. Janet Maes took the lead for this event and everyone got to work soon after arriving on the property.

New Lenox Emergency Services volunteers took care of ingress (from Rt. 30) and egress (onto Haven Ave.) during the event. However, CERT volunteers assisted with traffic direction into the food distribution area and into the two lanes that had been created for loading the food boxes. As always, our volunteers did a great job and those that came through the line were very grateful. Our volunteers also worked hand-in-hand with volunteers from the UMCNL who also did a great job.



Some notable statistics from this event included:

- 151 cars came through the event, which supplied food to 290 families in less than 1 1/2 hours.
- 30,000 lbs. of food was distributed.
- This event also included the ShareFest "Food At Your Doorstep" program, which delivered 1,300 lbs. of food to 35 families in 14 different cities.
- Food was also sent to 7 local pantries.

*\*In the 1st Quarter of 2021, ShareFest (with the assistance of CERT and other volunteers) has supplied over 300,000 lbs. of food to 4,700 families!*

The event concluded at 11:30am following a short briefing. Special thanks to Janet Maes for taking the lead on this event and to everyone that assisted. Great job!



## QUESTION, PERSUADE AND REFER (QPR) TRAINING – MARCH 15, 2021

At 7:00pm on Monday, March 15, 2021 approximately 70 citizens (including 6 New Lenox CERT members) joined a Zoom videoconference for the purpose of completing a 90-minute QPR Class. The class, hosted by the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition and its Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group, was taught by Gia Washington from Sertoma Centre, Inc. Gia also serves as liaison to our coalition and has played an instrumental role in the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Task Group. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, welcomed those in attendance and thanked Gia in advance for her presentation.



Gia then shared a number of myths and facts about suicide. One common myth is “confronting a person about suicide will only make them angry and increase the risk of suicide.” The fact is, “asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety, opens up communication, and lowers the risk of an impulsive act.” Gia also shared suicide clues and warning signs, noting the more clues and signs observed, the greater the risk. As such, take all signs seriously.

Direct verbal clues are important. A couple examples include, “I’ve decided to kill myself” or “I wish I were dead.” Examples of behavioral clues include acquiring a gun, stockpiling pills, or putting personal affairs in order. Situational clues include being fired, expelled from school, death of a loved one, or diagnosis of a serious or terminal illness. Indirect verbal clues might be “I’m tired of life, I just can’t go on,” “My family would be better off without me,” or “I won’t be around much longer.”

Attendees also learned about additional risk factors. Several noted were: **1.** Easy access to lethal methods. **2.** Isolation, feeling of being cut off from other people. **3.** Impulsive or aggressive tendencies. The term “lethal triad” was also discussed and includes three components; upset person, firearm, and alcohol/drugs. When these three are present, the risk of violence is high.

The presentation also included examples of “protective factors,” which are good things. Some examples are having good health, best friends, pets, support of significant others, positive self-esteem, AA or NA sponsor or a good counselor or therapist. Attendees were also provided with tips for “asking the suicide question.” Suggestions include “if in doubt, don’t wait, ask the question,” if the person is reluctant, be persistent,” talk to the person alone in a private setting,” and “allow the person to talk freely.”

For **QUESTION**, the Less Direct Approach may include questions like “Have you been unhappy lately?” “Do you ever wish you could go to sleep and never wake up?” Direct Approach questions include “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” “You look pretty miserable, I wonder if you are thinking about suicide?” How **NOT** to ask the question..... “You’re not thinking of killing yourself, are you?” “You wouldn’t do anything stupid would you?”

For **PERSUADE**, it’s a good idea to listen to the problem and give the person your full attention. Also, don’t rush to judgment and be sure to offer hope in any form. Remember, suicide is not the problem, only the solution to a perceived insoluble problem. Then ASK: “Will you go with me to get help?” “Will you let me help you get help?” “Will you promise me not to kill yourself until we’ve found some help?” YOUR WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN AND TO HELP CAN REKINDLE HOPE, AND MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

For **REFER**, attendees learned that suicidal people often believe they cannot be helped, so you may have to do more. In addition, the best referral involves taking the person directly to someone who can help. The next best referral involves getting a commitment from them to accept help, then making the arrangements to get that help. The third best referral is to give referral information and try to get a good faith commitment not to complete or attempt suicide. Any willingness to accept help at some time, even in the future, is a good outcome.

REMEMBER – Since almost all efforts to persuade someone to live instead of attempt suicide will be met with agreement and relief, don’t hesitate to get involved or take the lead.” For effective QPR, say “I want you to live,” or “I’m on your side, we’ll get through this.” Also, get others involved. Ask the person who else might help – Family? Friends? Siblings? Physician? Faith-Based?

REMEMBER – When you apply QPR, you plan the seeds of hope. Hope helps prevent suicide!

Gia also did a couple scenarios with the audience, which made everyone think about if there were direct or indirect verbal clues, behavioral clues, situational clues, how would the question be asked, and the best ways to help the individual.

Gia also facilitated a Q & A session at the end before concluding at approximately 8:30pm. Special thanks to Gia for taking the time to present the material and to everyone that attended!

## MED OPS REVIEW / VIA ZOOM – MARCH 3, 2021 AND MARCH 10, 2021

From 7:00pm to 9:15pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 Randy Halach, EMT-B, provided the team with a Med Ops review, which included information on CPR/AED. Randy, an American Red Cross Instructor from 2018-2020, taught CPR, AED, FA, BLS and EMR and incorporated concepts from those trainings into his Zoom videoconference presentation. Randy’s presentation included a 77-slide PowerPoint that was put together specifically for this training – thank you Randy!



Randy’s presentation included, in summary, the following sections:

- “You Can Make a Difference” (Adult and Child)
- “Check-Care-Call” (Adult, Child and Infant)
- Checking a Responsive Person
- Signs and Symptoms of a Heart Attack
- The Cardiac Chain of Survival
- The Heart’s Electrical System
- Giving CPR
- If the Chest Does Not Rise with Rescue Breaths
- AED Basics
- Using an AED for Adult, Child and Infant

Randy did an excellent job with each of the sections and took time to answer questions throughout the presentation.



From 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 Randy provided “Part II” of his Med Ops Review, via Zoom. Much like with Randy’s March 3rd presentation, a LOT of ground was covered. Some of the key components included the following:

- Choking – Signs, Symptoms and First Aid
- Sudden Illness – Allergic Reactions and Anaphylaxis, Diabetic Emergencies, and Seizures
- Shock – Internal Bleeding, Wounds, Burns, Broken Bones, Head, Neck and Spinal Injuries
- Environmental Injuries – Poisoning, Bites and Stings

Throughout the presentation, Randy played videos to emphasize particular learning points. Randy was also kind enough to take questions throughout the presentation and at the end as well.

On behalf of New Lenox CERT, special thanks to Randy Halach for taking the time to do these great presentations. We appreciate the training!



# NAVIGATION EXERCISES AT JOLIET ARMY TRAINING CENTER – MARCH 18, 2021

At 6:30pm on Thursday, March 18, 2021, SIXTEEN members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in Training Area 2 at the Joliet Army Training Center (JATC) in Elwood, IL for monthly training. This training, led by Terry Hartigan and Joe Frigo, included exercises to improve team member’s navigation skills.



After arriving at the staging area, team members dressed and completed a 100-meter course to determine their individual pace counts. Terry and Joe then provided a briefing, which included an overview of the JATC’s compass course in Area 2. Following the overview, everyone was divided into three teams; Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. Each team was then given GPS / UTM coordinates to locate a marker approximately 1/2 - 3/4 of a mile from the staging area. Teams were told that they would receive a bearing and distance to their next marker. For example, 600 meters at 270° from marker 2-B (Bear).



All three teams set out in different directions from the staging area, calling in their progress along the way. The terrain included wooded areas, thick with vegetation, including an abundance of thorn bushes. In addition, a winding creek made it difficult to get to the first point. As such, some teams had to find alternative routes to get to their points. It was also interesting to see and hear what appeared to be Boeing CH-47 Chinook Helicopters (tandem rotor) flying nearby. We noted on the map that there was an area marked “DROP ZONE” that was northeast of our search area. Very cool stuff!

Teams used different methods to navigate to their markers. Team members quickly found out that their pace counts, taken on a gravel road, were MUCH different in the woods. It was also very challenging to keep the pace count and stay on azimuth due to having to navigate around impassable areas. A good way to do this is to send someone forward and line them up with the designated azimuth. Then a team member can leap frog forward, leaving another team member behind for the purpose of checking a back azimuth. At approximately 8:40pm teams were called back to the staging area due to time constraints.

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areas. A good way to do this is to send someone forward and line them up with the designated azimuth. Then a team member can leap frog forward, leaving another team member behind for the purpose of checking a back azimuth. At approximately 8:40pm teams were called back to the staging area due to time constraints. Joe and Terry then led a debriefing, which prompted some good discussion about this particular exercise. Everyone agreed that they would like to return to do more navigation exercises at the JATC. The debriefing concluded at approximately 9:00pm. Special thanks to Joe and Terry for leading this exercise and to our team members that participated!



## MULTI-AGENCY SAR TRAINING AT JOLIET ARMY TRAINING CENTER – MARCH 13, 2021

At 8:30am on Saturday, March 13, 2021 THIRTEEN members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Joliet Army Training Center for the purpose of participating in monthly multi-agency SAR training, led by Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency. Along with our team, members of several other SAR teams also met at the training site to participate in the Search Exercise. Shortly before 9:00am, searchers walked over to the Staging Area, which was set-up south of Arsenal Road in training area 5N.



Kim then provided the scenario, which included information about a hunter who had not returned home. Included in the briefing was the “victim’s” physical description, clothing description, and items that he had in his possession when he left home. SAR Management was run out of the Naperville Mobile Command Center where a wide screen monitor was set-up on the outside for the purpose of viewing teams in the field via SARTopo. Our thirteen team members were divided into two teams of six and seven, respectively. Our teams were given “Alpha” and “Bravo” as their radio call signs.

After choosing Team Leaders and receiving search assignments, our teams left the Staging Area and walked to their assigned search areas. Once there, teams performed AMDR and determined a search strategy. For example, Team Alpha chose to search north and south, with an azimuth of 360° and back azimuth of 180°. The terrain was difficult as it included areas with many thorn bushes, impassable undergrowth, creeks, and what could be described as swamps. Teams communicated with SAR Command via portable radios, calling in percentages of search area completed and clues when found.



At approximately 12:40pm teams were called back to the staging area for a debriefing, which was led by Kim Gotte. Despite the difficult terrain, teams did very well and this turned out to be a good exercise. The briefing concluded at approximately 1:00pm.

Everyone agreed that the Joliet Army Training Center is an excellent location to train / search. Special thanks to Kim for putting the exercise together and to Naperville EMA / SAR for bringing out their mobile command center. Also, special thanks to our THIRTEEN team members who came out to participate in the exercise – well done!



## ASSIST SHAREFEST WITH FOOD GIVEAWAY AT LINCOLN-WAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL – MARCH 7, 2021

At 9:30am on Sunday, March 7, 2021, TWENTY-FIVE members of New Lenox CERT met at Lincoln-Way West High School for a briefing related to the ShareFest Food Giveaway that was scheduled to start at 10:30am. The briefing was held at the front of the school (west side, near the American flag) and included information about the event as well as assignments. Because people were already starting to arrive, our volunteers quickly headed out to their assignments to ensure they were ready.

New Lenox CERT's traffic management role included directing vehicles into the event from the west entrance on Illinois Highway. Volunteers also directed traffic near the school's auditorium, they directed traffic into the food distribution area, they directed vehicles into one of two food distribution lanes, they directed traffic out of the food distribution area, and near the football stadium volunteers ensured that all traffic was one-way only. In most instances, traffic posts were doubled up to ensure that everyone had someone to work with.



In addition, our CERT volunteers assisted setting-up the food distribution area once the pallets of food came off the semi-trailer. Our CERT members were divided into two teams. One team worked one side (lane), while the other team worked the other side (lane). It should also be noted that some CERT volunteers brought their spouses along and they were a great help as well. It was great to see our volunteers working with Lincoln-Way West High School Students as well as some volunteers from Target.

With everything in place, the lanes were opened at approximately 10:00am, which was 30 minutes ahead of the planned 10:30am start time. Everyone that came through the lanes seemed very grateful to receive food, which included orange juice, milk, red potatoes, cheese, sour cream, cottage cheese, apples, protein packs, meat and other great selections. ALL the volunteers did an excellent job as did volunteers from New Lenox Emergency Services who were there to handle egress onto Illinois Highway after people received their food boxes.

The event concluded at approximately 1:00pm after about 300 vehicles came through the lines. As such, only a very small portion of food remained, which was transported to a local food pantry. A short debriefing was held and it was noted that our team gets more efficient each time we do one of these events.

Everyone was thanked for their time and effort, which was appreciated by many. Way to go New Lenox CERT volunteers – you all rock!



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

## ASSIST OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT / RECOVERY SEARCH – MARCH 5, 2020

At 7:30am on Friday, March 5, 2021 FIVE members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to 8775 N. IL Route 2, Byron, IL. This location, (Autoland of Byron) had been established as the staging area for searchers responding to this Recovery Search. Our team arrived at approximately 9:15am, geared up, and waited for SAR Managers to provide a briefing.



At approximately 10:00am the briefing was held and the following (all public source information, widely published) was provided: Brandon Cuddy, Male/27, went missing after he was seen at a bar in the Rockford, IL area on December 26, 2020. His vehicle was found wrecked on January 6, 2021 off of Route 2 and adjacent to the Rock River in Byron, IL. Searchers were provided with a physical description of the missing man as well as what he was last seen wearing. Following the briefing, search teams were established and eventually given assignments for six areas (search segments).



It approximately 10:30am our team was assigned search segment 106, which was a wooded area west of Route 2 and north of the staging area. An Ogle County Sheriff's Deputy was assigned to our team and was kind enough to lead our team (by vehicle) through the subdivisions and to the southwest corner of our search segment. SAR Management was advised at approximately 10:45am that we were commencing our search. Our team decided on a bearing of 360° (north) for our first pass, with a back azimuth of 180° (south) returning. All of our team members utilized SARTopo during the search, which allowed SAR Managers to track our progress in real time. SARTopo also allowed our team to see where the boundaries of our search segment were located.

The team encountered snow throughout the search. Although the recent weather had melted the snow considerably, there were still areas that were well over one-foot deep. The terrain included some moderate hills, but with the snow on the ground it made it physically challenging. Since it was still "winter," much of the foliage was absent, but there was still a good amount of thorn bushes and other entanglements throughout the search. Our team continued to make north / south passes, moving through the search segment from west to east. The search segment was completed at approximately 3:00pm, at which time team members drove back to the staging area.

After a debriefing with SAR Managers, our team signed out and headed back to New Lenox. The team arrived back at the Village Hall just after 5:00pm, which concluded a long day of traveling and searching. Special thanks to our volunteers that participated in this search. Your efforts were appreciated by the family of the missing, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department, the Byron Police Department and the Illinois Search and Rescue Council.

*\*On March 15, 2021 Brandon Cuddy was found deceased miles from the search area.*



## BASIC NAVIGATION TRAIN-THE-TRAINER – FEBRUARY 27, 2021

At 7:00am on Saturday February 27, 2021, ONE New Lenox Search and Rescue Team member drove to Illinois Valley Community College, 815 North Orlando Street, Oglesby, IL for an Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Basic Navigation Train-the-Trainer Course. Our team member arrived shortly after 8:00am and went to Building "J," Room 105 West, where the class was being held. There were a total of 7 students in this class, which was taught by Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency \*and\* ISARC Board Member.



Kim welcomed everyone and essentially went through the PowerPoint for the Basic Navigation Class for the purpose of highlighting various sections of importance. Highlights included, in summary, the following:

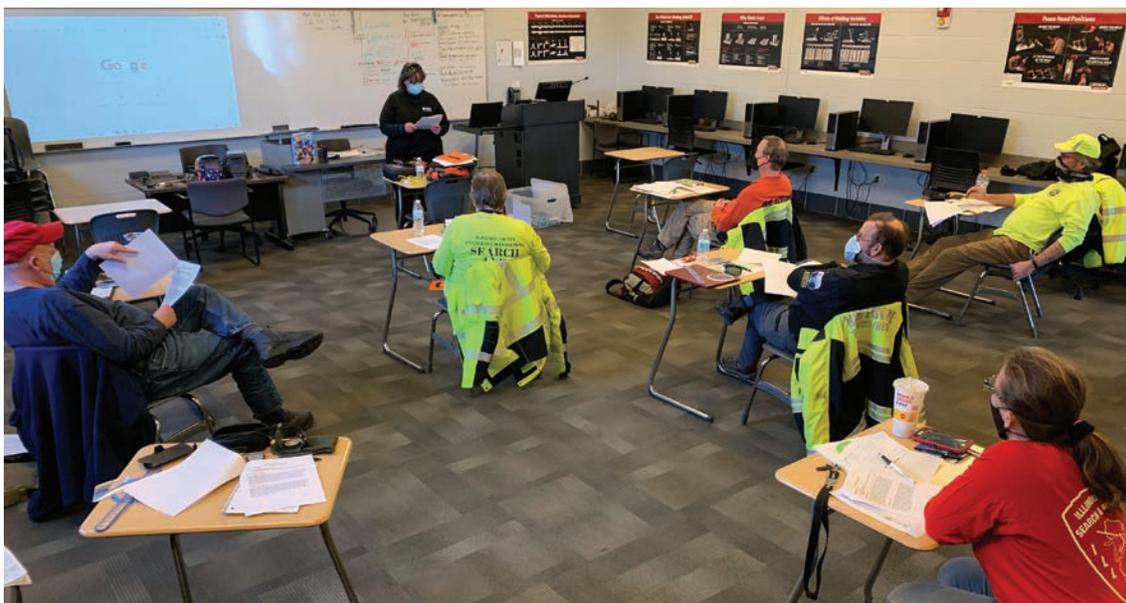
- Land Navigation – azimuth, back azimuth, sense of direction, compass following, current bearing, obstacles, and deliberate offset.
- Types of Compasses
- Pace Beads – determining distance traveled
- Flankers / Flaggers – duties and responsibilities
- Topo Maps
- Map Reading – map scale, contour lines, terrain features, map orientation, true north, etc...

Following the overview, the class participated in some tabletop mapping exercises which lasted until about 12:00pm. After lunch, everyone headed outside for the practical portion of the class. This included setting-up the following exercises:

- Pace Count – 100 Meter
- Compass Hold – Obtain Azimuth (Bearing)
- Getting Around An Obstacle
- Stationary (Landmark Azimuth)
- Flanker / Flagging
- Compass Circle

The exercises included understanding what supplies were needed for each station, understanding the set-up instructions, and demonstrating how to explain the station instructions to students. In addition, the class physically set-up the stations and completed them as well. After finishing the last station, everyone returned to the classroom for the presentation of certificates. The class concluded at 4:30pm at which time our SAR member returned to New Lenox, arriving at approximately 6:00pm.

Special thanks to Kim Gotte for taking the time to teach this valuable material. In addition, special thanks to our SAR member for completing this course, which now provides him with the ability to teach Basic Navigation through ISARC.



# INTRODUCTION TO TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – FEBRUARY 25, 2021

At 7:00pm on Thursday, February 25, 2021 New Lenox CERT held its monthly training. In light of COVID-19 as well as winter weather, this training was held via Zoom videoconference. Seventy-five New Lenox CERT members attended this training which was titled "Introduction to Traffic Management," presented by Randy James, South Lake County Regional CERT. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks before introducing Randy.

Randy then shared his screen and jumped right into his presentation. The presentation topics included:

- Introduction to Traffic Management
- Emergent and Non-Emergent Needs
- Core Traffic Management Skills
- What to Expect from the Public
- Nighttime Safety for Traffic Management

During the presentation, which included a number of videos, Randy stressed that CERT members MANAGE traffic and crowds, but they do not CONTROL traffic or crowds.

Emergent traffic management includes damage due to storms, vehicle crashes, structural fires, wires down, gas leaks, traffic signals out and evacuations. Whereas, non-emergent/community service traffic management includes festivals, parades, fireworks, Covid testing and pre-planned community events.

Randy explained that it's important to understand event goals and work toward providing a good experience for drivers as well as event staff. It's extremely important to be a professional representative for the event "owner," as well as CERT. Additional considerations and skills include:

- Training – instruction and mentoring by experienced instructors.
- 100% attention and great situational awareness is a must (keep your head on a "swivel").
- Confident body language – stance / posture, eye contact, and arm movements.
- Smile, nod, and mouth "thank you" to drivers – A LOT.
- Excellent public relations and interpersonal skills to interact with all levels of event management (staff, first responders, public, etc...).

Randy also stressed the need to be properly equipped. Examples included appropriate PPE, hi-vis vest/jacket, steel toe boots, bright traffic wands, 2-way radio, traffic cones, barriers, warning signs, etc... Also important is the need to have a plan to accommodate emergency traffic and giving the right-of-way to emergency vehicles. The concept of Learning + Coaching + Practice + Experience = "A Pro."

Randy's presentation also included information about the "Average" motorist, public relations skills, and traffic management activities for planned events. Randy showed a great example of a complex intersection, which depicted proper barricading and traffic cone patterns. As noted above, Randy's presentation included several videos which emphasized safety, including good (and bad) examples of traffic management. The videos were utilized, in part, to generate questions and discussion.

The presentation ended at approximately 8:30pm. Special thanks to Randy James for taking the time to create this presentation and deliver it to our team. In addition, thanks to everyone that attended. We had a great turnout for this very important topic!



## Traffic Management Needs

### Emergent:

- Damage due to storms
- Vehicle Accidents and MCAT (fatal) investigations
- Fires - Structure, brush fires, etc.
- Hazmat – perimeter support
- Demonstrations – perimeter support
- Wires or trees down that are a hazard or blocking the roads
- Gas leaks
- Traffic signals out
- LEO perimeter control
- Evacuations

### Non Emergent/Community Service:

- Festivals
- Parades
- Fireworks
- Drive thru Food Pantries
- Winter Coat Distribution
- Recycling Centers
- Drive Flu
- Covid testing
- Covid vaccination (drive thru; + large indoor events)
- Fundraising

**ENHANCE YOUR TEAM'S VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY!**

CERT Traffic and Crowd Management

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## Safety Cones



- JBC brand - durable
- 28" high with retro-reflective bands
- Same heavy construction as wider cones
- 14"x14 heavy base
- Much lighter than heavier, wider cones
- Stable in traffic and winds
- Less expensive, smaller, and lighter (5.5lbs) than 18x18 cones (7.5lbs)
- Easier to carry
- Store more cones in less storage space
- Shaped top for accessories
- Tip: Use a dolly to carry and pickup cones
- Tip: have cones in team and member vehicles
- Menards
- \$20 each; \$17 in quantity

CERT Traffic and Crowd Management

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## Have a Plan for Placement of Cones, Barricades, and Staff!



## Be Visible at Night

- Reflective materials – everywhere!
- Provide temporary illumination for stations
- Supplement permanent roadway lighting
- Avoid glare, shadows
- Avoid backlighting (headlights, high power emergency lights, lights behind you)
- Use light towers or other overhead sources
- Identify sources/contacts to secure lighting in advance!



## UNDERSTANDING RECENT TRENDS IN ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE – FEBRUARY 22, 2021

At 7:00pm Monday, February 22, 2021 the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition, in partnership with Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, hosted a virtual workshop entitled “*Understanding Recent Trends in Adolescent Substance Use.*” The presenter was Matt Littlefield, LPD, CADC, from Linden Oaks in Mokena. In Matt’s current position, he serves adolescents and their families in the outpatient dual diagnosis Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) & Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). Fifteen members of New Lenox CERT participated in this virtual workshop, which was delivered via Zoom.

Matt’s 90-minute presentation included over 100 PowerPoint slides, chock-full of great information and statistical data. The presentation was created to assist parents and school personnel in better understanding the recent trends and risks involved in adolescent substance use. Key points included identifying warning signs in mood, attitude, and behaviors, in addition to highlighting images of devices and paraphernalia utilized by adolescents. Matt did a great job explaining the basic tenets of the “disease model of addiction” as well as its progression. Matt also shared effective ways to approach struggling adolescents with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) along with providing a broad overview of treatment options and available resources.

In an effort to provide an understanding of just how informative Matt’s presentation was, here is only a small sampling of some of the slides:

- DEA Scheduled Drugs in the USA
- Age-adjusted drug overdose deaths, by sex, in the U.S. 1999-2019
- National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) & Chicago Metro Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2020 (overview of what drugs are being used in our area)
- Opioid-Related Deaths in Cook County and Will County 2016-2019 (*\*it should be noted that fentanyl was present in 90% of the deaths in Will County in 2019*)
- Four Categories of Opioids (Natural & Semi-Synthetic, Methadone, Synthetic, Heroin)
- “Speedballing” (heroin & cocaine) and “Goofballing” (heroin & methamphetamine)
- Opioid and Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse (2016-2019 SAMHSA data)
- Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the U.S. (past month & past year numbers)
- Trends in Availability of Drugs as Perceived by 12th Graders (2019 – marijuana 78%; alcohol 84.4%; cigarettes 71%; vaping device 81.2%; E-liquid with nicotine 79.3%)
- Tobacco (nicotine), Evolution of the E-Cigarette, and Nicotine Vaping Device Trends
- Marijuana Use Disorder, Methods, Devices, Potency, Concentration of THC, Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS), Types (Sativa & Indica), Edibles, and Synthetics
- Alcohol Use, Binge Drinking, Amphetamines, Inhalants, Cough Medicines, Stimulant Pills, Xanax Bars, LSD & Other Hallucinogens, MDMA (Ecstasy/Molly), Synthetic Cathinones (Bath Salts), Ketamine (Special K), and Kratom
- Substance Use Disorder (Definition, Categories, Levels of Severity)
- Observable Warning Signs, Advice for Parents, Levels of Care (Inpatient, Residential, Outpatient), Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances, Local Resources (Distance from 60451 Zip Code), Support Groups
- Linden Oaks Behavioral Health Mokena – Dual Diagnosis PHP (8:15am-1:15pm) and IOP (8:15am – 11:15am) for Adolescents
- New Lenox Safe Community – Substance Use Prevention Task Group (Participating Organizations)

It should be noted that in creating his slides, Matt did a great job at citing sources and providing links for additional information.

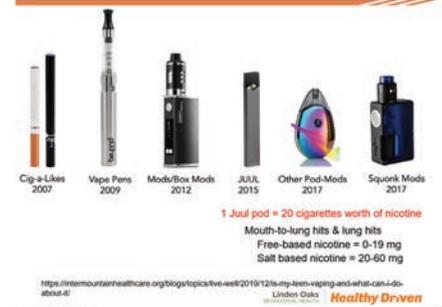
Special thanks to Matt and our friends from Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, Mokena for this wonderful presentation! In addition, special thanks to our CERT members for attending as well!

### Cannabis edibles



### Cannabis Potency & Need for Treatment

- Woodstock, NY in 1969 – 3-4% THC
  - Colorado legalization in 2000 – 5% THC max  
[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2721421/pdf/mml17\\_p532a.pdf](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2721421/pdf/mml17_p532a.pdf)
  - 2021 – local area dispensary (online search)
    - 19.55% Hybrid (Indica & Sativa) 3.5g - \$60
    - 24.2% Hybrid 3.5g - \$60
    - 22.64% Hybrid 3.5g - \$60
    - 28.68% Sativa 3.5g - \$60
- Freeman et al (2017) 16-year study found the following:
- Since 2000, cannabis has become the primary illicit drug responsible for first-time admissions to specialist drug treatment, superseding opiates and cocaine.
  - However, our findings highlight a cause for concern regarding the health impact of extremely potent cannabis concentrates (~70% THC) which have very recently risen in popularity in some parts of the USA.
  - Previous research indicates that the association between degree of cannabis use and cannabis use disorders is stronger in younger people. This may be in part due to age-related differences in **sensitivity to THC**. Moreover, inexperienced cannabis users may be especially **vulnerable to changes in potency due to their lack of tolerance and inability to estimate the potency of their own cannabis**.
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29382407/> Linden Oaks **Healthy Driven**



### Four categories of Opioids

CDC's Injury Center looks at deaths and nonfatal overdoses for four categories of opioids:

- **Natural opioids** (including morphine and codeine) and **semi-synthetic opioids** (drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and oxymorphone)
- **Methadone**, a synthetic opioid
- **Synthetic opioids** other than methadone (drugs like tramadol and **FENTANYL**)
- **Heroin**, an illicit (illegally made) opioid synthesized from morphine that can be a white or brown powder, or a black sticky substance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/analysis.html> Linden Oaks **Healthy Driven**

### Matt Littlefield, LPC, CADC

Matt works at Linden Oaks in Mokena serving adolescents & their families in the outpatient dual diagnosis Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) & Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP).

Previously, he worked at Silver Cross Hospital / Silver Oaks Behavioral Hospital on both their inpatient unit and outpatient adult mental health and dual diagnosis programs from 2016-20, while also facilitating a Bipolar Support group, which met twice per month, for over a year.

Matt earned his Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from National Louis University, Lake campus, in June & then became a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in October of 2018. He also became a Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC) in October of 2019.

Matt is currently serving as the President of the Illinois Mental Health Counselors Association (IMHCA).



Matt previously worked in the NFL for 14 years as a scout, in football operations, marketing, promotions, & public relations, before coaching at both the high school (Lenox) and college (Univ. of Chicago) levels.

Linden Oaks **Healthy Driven**

## FOOD GIVEAWAY AT LINCOLN-WAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 21, 2021

At 9:30am on Sunday February 21, 2021 **TWENTY-FOUR** New Lenox CERT volunteers met on the northwest e of Lincoln-Way West High School for a briefing related to this event. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them in advance for assisting with this ShareFest Food Giveaway.

Dan explained that the start time for the event was moved up to 10:30am, but noted as the briefing was in-progress, people were already starting to arrive. The following assignments were then discussed:

- Traffic Management @ Illinois Highway and the north entrance near the gymnasium / pool
- Traffic Management @ Gougar Road entrance near the auditorium
- Traffic Management @ where lanes split near the tennis courts



Since people were already starting to arrive, volunteers were sent to those locations and communication was made with New Lenox Emergency Services (on scene) regarding the exit onto Illinois Highway from the rear parking lot near the football field/stadium.

Everyone else was assigned to the food distribution area where two lanes would be established. Each lane would mirror the other and an equal number of volunteers would be assigned to each side / lane. Everyone then drove from the front of the school to the back of the school and parked out of the way of the food distribution area.

Working hand-in-hand with some of the ShareFest volunteers, pallets of food were unloaded from two 53-foot semi-trailers, which had been parked nearby. Boxes of USDA produce, meat, dairy, and vegetables were lined up along the lanes. There were also extra items such as apple fritters, popcorn, Home Chef meals, Muscle Milk and other small items that were also prepared for distribution.



Lincoln-Way West High School students joined our volunteers and shortly after 10:00am the lanes were opened up and food was distributed. As the time approached 10:45am, the traffic pattern had to be adjusted because cars were starting to back-up. Nine lanes (approximately 10-12 cars per lane) were created in the parking lot south of the auditorium, to alleviate the back-up onto Gougar Road. All Gougar Road entrances were closed so vehicles had to enter the campus from Illinois, providing extra room for vehicles. Once the cars were stacked in the south parking lot, things flowed smoothly.

Over 3,000 boxes of food were distributed to families from 10:00am to approximately 12:30pm. Everyone did an amazing job and it was really enjoyable working with the students who did a great job. Special thanks to Gary Cheney and our friends at ShareFest for doing the work that made this event possible. Also, thanks to our wonderful volunteers for coming out in the (extremely) cold weather for the purpose of helping others. Everyone is to be commended!



## LOST PERSON BEHAVIOR (NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING) – FEBRUARY 20, 2021

On Saturday, February 20, 2021 four members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall at 6:30am to carpool to Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby, Illinois for the Lost Person Behavior Course. They arrived at 7:45am and the training started promptly at 8:00am. There were 14 SAR members in attendance for the session which was led by Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency.

In the first morning session Kim covered how to determine the Probability Of Success (POS) by taking the Probability Of Area (POA) times the Probability Of Detection (POD) or  $POA \times POD = POS$ . She also covered the role of statistics including clues, theory, tasks, and profile of the missing person, local data, and international data. Kim then gave an overview of the International Search and Rescue Incident Database (ISRID) and how this tool is instrumental in tracking all missing persons not only in the U.S., but all over the world. Some of the data collected includes terrain like mountains, urban areas, water (lakes, rivers, ponds) and flat areas like in the Midwest. Searches are tracked by categories such as mountain, urban, water, rural, and suburban. There are different searching techniques used for these searches so tracking this data in ISRID is crucial to ensure all missing person statistics are tracked appropriately.

After a break Kim covered various methods of getting un-lost like random traveling, direction traveling, backtracking and staying put. These are options considered by a lost person so understanding their decision-making is key for SAR personnel to deploy searchers in the highest probability areas. After a discussion on Myths and Legends for searching (i.e. easier to walk downhill than uphill) Kim gave an overview of the Lost Person Behavior book, Chapter 8 which covers the subject categories like Autistic, Camper, Hiker, Dementia, Despondent and many others. She reviewed statistical tables for the most common categories and also the distance, elevation, mobility and survivability of the subjects. The class was then given maps and supplies (protractors, highlighters, etc.) to practice mapping search areas using the "bicycle tire" method. The circle of the tire is the area to search, the spokes on the tire are roads, highways, creeks and rivers, which are considered high probability areas. The reflectors on the tire are high risk areas like railroad tracks. The class went through multiple scenarios to practice mapping out the areas to search for each scenario that was given.



After a break for lunch, the class took a deeper dive into the different categories of subjects like Angler (fisherman, boaters), Autism, Hikers, ATV, Abduction, Camper, Children ( 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15), Dementia. Attendees discussed the survivability and the will to live for the different categories. For instance, younger children or Autistic children may not be aware of the various dangers of being lost including terrain, weather and traffic but older children or campers / hikers will do more to survive as they are aware of these risks.

After a final break the class broke-up into teams for exercises using maps, graphs, and supplies to map out search areas based on real scenarios that have occurred the past few years. Students were taught to plot areas for distance traveled from the Initial Planning Point (IPP) which is the point that is initially used to plan the search incident. The IPP may be the point last seen (PLS) or last known point (LKP). The IPP is the basis for distance for the IPP to the subject. The tables for the subjects are broken down by

25%, 50% and 75%. Each percentage (for instance 25%) includes the distance within which 25% of the cases are found, followed by 50% or median. The median represents the distance at which half of the cases were found closer than that distance and half the cases were found farther out. Using a protractor, each team drew circles around the IPP for 25%, 50% and 75%. The higher the percentage,

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

the further the circle is from the IPP middle point on the map. Kilometers are mostly used as the maps are usually in km format, instead of miles. Once those ranges were determined, the teams would then discuss the highest probability search areas within the search areas (i.e. roads, rivers, creeks, structures and buildings).

The class concluded at 5:30pm where each participant received a certificate for their participation. The four New Lenox team members departed and arrived back at the Village Hall at 7:00pm. Thank you to Kim Gotte for teaching this important class to enhance our SAR education and help us understand the dynamics of people that become lost or go missing. Also, thanks to our four dedicated SAR members who put in a LONG day to learn these valuable skills!



## ASSIST TRINITY SERVICES AND ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – FEBRUARY 17-18, 2021

Trinity Services, Inc., was contacted by the Illinois Department of Human Services to utilize their new facility located at 418 S. Cooper Road (aka 418 Landings Drive) for the purpose of administering Covid vaccinations to their clients. New Lenox CERT and New Lenox Emergency Services, thru the New Lenox Police Department, were called upon to assist with this operation.

CERT and Emergency Services volunteers assisted on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 8:00am to 1:00pm and then again on Thursday, February 18, 2021 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Volunteers, under the direction of staff, assisted clients when they arrived in the parking, handled traffic management duties, notified clients when it was their turn to go inside for their vaccination and helped clients in and out of their vehicles.



Special thanks to our volunteers who did a great job helping both Trinity Services, Inc. as well as the Illinois Department of Human Services. Well done!

## NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / NIGHT SEARCH – FEBRUARY 17, 2021

This one starts out with the idiom “*best-laid plans.*” Of course, this is short for the proverb “*the best-laid plans of mice and men oft go astray.*” Fortunately, our training actually turned out very well.

Our team HAD planned to train at Midewin Natural Tallgrass Prairie, but at 4:00pm we learned that the parking lot just off of W. Hoff Road (near the Wauponsee Glacial Trail) had not been plowed due to a recent snow. Despite the time spent creating a SARTopo map and writing a scenario specific to Midewin, we remained determined to hold training. An audible was called and a Nixle text message was sent to the team directing everyone to the New Lenox Public Works Facility, located at 2401 Ellis in New Lenox.

From 4:30pm to 6:30pm our lead trainers worked on some exercises around the facility and then waited for the team to arrive. At 7:00pm a briefing was held and the following exercises were announced:

- Scenario where a pedestrian was accidentally struck by a plow truck during a blizzard. It was believed that the victim might have been launched to the side of the roadway and buried in snow. Team “Alpha” would search the north side of Ellis Drive from the parking lot to Cherry Hill Road, while Team “Bravo” searched the south side of the roadway.
- Team “Alpha” would be provided with GPS (UTM) coordinates for a “victim,” which they would have to locate in a 25-acre field. Team “Bravo” would trail Team “Alpha” during the exercise.
- Team “Bravo” would be provided with GPS (UTM) coordinates for a “victim,” which they would have to locate in a 25-acre field. Team “Alpha” would trail Team “Bravo” during the exercise.



This all sounds pretty simple right? Well not so fast. It should be noted that during these exercises there was approximately 24” of snow on the ground, with drifts up to 36”. As such, these exercises would require a LOT of physical effort on the part of our team members. In terms of safety, team members were instructed to look out for each other, take breaks when necessary and stay hydrated.

At approximately 7:15pm the teams left the parking lot and began the search for the “victim” who had been struck by the plow. Team “Alpha” located the “victim” (CPR mannequin – head and torso) approximately 30 feet off the road and approximately 825 feet into the search.

Team “Alpha” easily located their “victim” in the middle of the field, followed by Team “Bravo” easily locating theirs in a wooded area at the southeast corner of the parcel. The two teams then made their way back to the staging area for a briefing.

During the debriefing it was noted that this training included the following aspects: 1. Physical effort. 2. Proper clothing and equipment. 3. Radio communications. 4. GPS skills. 5. Search skills.

One of the most comical comments made by a veteran team member was that she hated this training more than any other training, referring to how difficult it was to trudge through the deep snow for an hour. There was no doubt that this training tested everyone mettle, but everyone also knows quite well that our team trains and searches 24/7, 365 in all conditions.

Special thanks to those that planned this training and to everyone that participated!

## ASSIST SHAREFEST WITH FOOD GIVEAWAY AT THE NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL – FEBRUARY 17, 2021

At 9:30am on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 ELEVEN members of New Lenox CERT arrived in the New Lenox Commons (north side of the Village Hall) to assist with a ShareFest Food Giveaway. In addition to New Lenox CERT members, there were other ShareFest volunteers that arrived to help as well.



A New Lenox Public Works employee came by with a forklift to unload the pallets of food that had just arrived in a 24-foot box truck. The pallets included approximately 600 boxes of USDA dairy, meat, produce, and vegetables.



A lane into the food distribution area was established with traffic cones, starting at the corner of Gear Drive & Veterans Parkway. Three CERT volunteers were stationed on this corner to manage traffic that was coming from two directions. Vehicles that wished to participate in the event were directed into the outside lane (closest to the Village Hall) while others were directed into the inside lane.

The food giveaway was scheduled to start at 11:00am, but people started coming as early as 10:00am. The event was so popular that for a short period of time vehicles were in line almost to Rt. 30, despite volunteers doing an excellent job loading boxes of food into vehicles. Volunteers worked tirelessly until approximately 12:30pm, which is when the last boxes were given away. Everyone helped with breaking down cardboard boxes, stacking traffic cones, stacking wooden pallets, and general clean-up.



A short de-briefing was held and a group photo with volunteers was taken. Everyone was thanked for doing a wonderful job. Special thanks to our good friend Gary Cheney from ShareFest for securing this food order and organizing the event!



## SHAREFEST FOOD GIVEAWAY AT LINCOLN-WAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL – FEBRUARY 6, 2021

At 10:00am on Saturday, February 6, 2021 **nineteen** members of New Lenox CERT arrived at Lincoln-Way West High School to assist with the ShareFest Food Giveaway. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out on an especially cold day (5° at 10:00am). Dan then provided everyone with copies of the Community Event Log, which included an overview of the event, safety information, and a detailed description of the assignments.

Dan provided some background on the event, noting that the food that would be given out included vegetables, fruit, dairy and meat products, all contained in one box. It was noted that the food was purchased through last year's "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. ShareFest worked diligently to bring the food to our community and plan this event. Dan advised that CERT volunteers would be responsible for the following:

- **Traffic Direction** - Ingress from Illinois Highway, traffic flow through the campus and to the food distribution area, traffic flow from the food distribution area, and egress to Illinois Highway (eastbound/right turn only). *It was noted that New Lenox Emergency Services would have personnel with emergency vehicles at the entrance and exit on Illinois Highway.*
- **Distribution of Food** – Working with high school students, our volunteers would place boxes of food inside vehicles when they arrive at the food distribution area. This assignment would also include moving pallets of food around using a hand truck, stacking empty pallets, organizing empty boxes, etc...



In terms of **Safety**, volunteers were reminded of the extreme cold and the need to keep their hands and faces covered. "Buddy System" assignments were designed to have one person outside while the other person sheltered inside their vehicle. Volunteers were reminded to wear their hi-vis vest on the outside of their clothing or wear a hi-vis jacket. Lastly, volunteers assigned to the food distribution area were reminded to utilize proper lifting techniques when lifting boxes of food or empty pallets.

The briefing ended at approximately 10:10am, at which time everyone drove to their assigned locations. As planned, people started arriving at the campus and were directed to the food distribution area by our volunteers. Once there, Lincoln-Way West High School (LWWHS) students and our volunteers worked hand-in-hand. Boxes of food were safely placed in trunks and back seats without the recipients having to exit their vehicle. This process went on for more than 3 hours until a full-size semi-trailer had been emptied.

Shortly after 1:00pm a de-briefing was held in the food distribution area. Dan thanked everyone for their respective contributions that made the event a huge success. Well done team!

Special thanks to ShareFest for organizing this event, to New Lenox Emergency Services for traffic control on Illinois Highway, and to the awesome LWWHS students that did a terrific job too!



## SARTOPO FOR SAR MANAGERS – JANUARY 30, 2021

At 8:00am on Saturday January 30, 2021, three members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team drove to 1200 West Ogden Ave. Naperville, IL for a special training on SARTopo (for SAR Managers). The training was hosted by Scott Adams and Mark Hinch from Naperville SAR and was taught by Kim Gotte from Kendall County EMA (SAR), who is also an Illinois Search and Rescue Council Board Member.



Our team members arrived at approximately 8:45am and made their way into the Naperville EMA garage where a small classroom was set-up. Not including Kim, there were seven SAR members in the class. As instructed, everyone brought along a laptop so that everyone could do the training together using the same SARTopo map.

After everyone was connected to the facility's WiFi, Kim provided a URL to a map that she had designed for this training. Kim then walked everyone through the following

- Signing in through Google, Apple, Facebook, Microsoft, or Yahoo.
- Creating Range Rings (different distances) from the Point Last Seen (PLS).
- Adding New Objects (markers, lines, buffers, polygons, folders, operational periods, line assignments, buffer assignments, area assignments, clues, bearing lines, and sectors).
- Map Base Layers (MapBuilder Topo, MapBuilder Hybrid, Scanned Topos, Forest Service and TF Outdoors). Also included different types of Aerial Imagery, Street Maps, Shaded Relief, and Other Maps.
- Map Overlays (Contours, MapBuilder Overlay, Slope Angle Shading, Public Lands, Structures and more), Forecasts, Shaded Data, and Realtime Data.
- Measuring Distances (Points, Lines and Polygons).
- Creating and printing team assignments.
- Creating a PDF from a map.

Essentially for three hours everyone was able to practice with the SARTopo map, under Kim's direction and guidance. The training concluded at approximately 12:00pm and our team members were back in New Lenox by 1:00pm.

Special thanks to Kim providing this valuable training, to our friends from Naperville SAR for hosting and to our team members for attending!



## NARCAN TRAINING – JANUARY 25, 2021

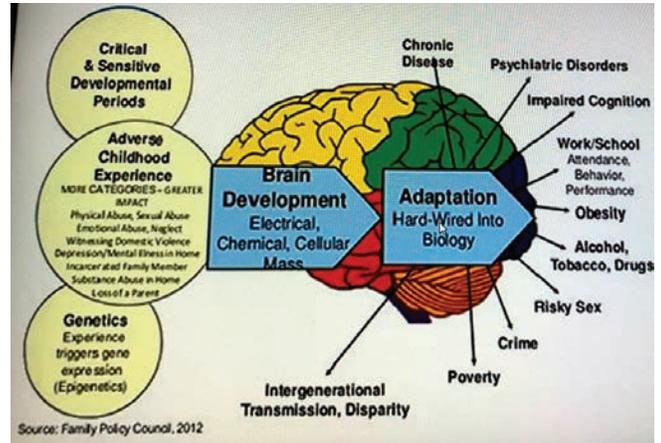
At 7:00pm on Monday, January 25, 2021 **seventy citizens**, including ten New Lenox CERT members, logged into Zoom to learn how Narcan® (Naloxone) blocks the effects of opioids and reverses a drug overdose. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, welcomed everyone and provided a brief background on the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition. Dan then introduced Dr. Kathleen Burke, Director, Substance Use Initiatives, Will County Executive’s Office. During the introduction, Dr. Burke was also thanked for her participation with the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition and its Substance Use Prevention Task Group.

Dr. Burke then shared her screen, which included a PowerPoint presentation. The Learning Goals for the presentation included ensuring that everyone is aware of the Illinois (legal) authorization for carrying Narcan®, how to identify an opioid overdose, how to respond to an opioid overdose, and how to administer Narcan®, which is an opioid antidote.

Everyone then learned about the “Good Samaritan Law” (2010) and Illinois Public Act 096-0361 “Emergency Medical Services Access Act.” Highlights included protections for drug possession when calling 9-1-1 as well as authorization to maintain supplies, possess, distribute and train responders to administer Narcan® to a person experiencing a drug overdose.

Dr. Burke then shared some sobering facts and statistics about the opioid crisis, including the fact that up to 29% of patients that are prescribed opioids for chronic pain go on to misuse them. In addition, about 80% of people who use heroin, first misused prescription opioids. According to the Will County Coroner’s Office, Will County Opioid Overdose Deaths continue to rise. For example, in 2012 there were 53 deaths and by 2019 there were 101. Dr. Burke stated that she suspects that when the 2020 numbers are released, they will be even higher due to the pandemic.

Dr. Burke used the statistical data as a segue to define what an “opioid” actually is; medications that act on opioid receptors in the spinal cord and brain to reduce the intensity of pain. They (opioids) also activate “reward regions” in the brain, which cause euphoria - or “high” – that underlies the potential for misuse. Some common prescription opioids include hydrocodone (Vicodin®), oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®), morphine, Tramadol, codeine and fentanyl.



A comparison of heroin versus fentanyl was made. Fentanyl is 50X more potent than heroin and 100X more potent than morphine. 2 milligrams of fentanyl (equivalent to a few grains of table salt) can cause breathing to stop in more than 95 percent of the American public. Dr. Burke then displayed a chart that explained how long opioids last in the body. The chart listed the drug, duration, and potency. For example, heroin (potent) can last 6-8 hours while fentanyl (extremely potent) will last 2-4 hours.

tolerance. Reasons might include prison, compulsory drug treatment center, voluntary treatment or sickness / hospitalization.

Dr. Burke explained the following steps of a drug overdose: Slow breathing > breathing stops > lack of oxygen may cause brain damage > heart stops > seizure, stroke, or even death. To determine if someone is having an overdose Dr. Burke recommended to:

- Look for slow or shallow breathing, or no breathing at all;
- Listen for snoring or gurgling sounds;
- Look for pale, blue, or purple skin, especially on the person’s lips or nails;
- Call out the person’s name loudly or shake them; and
- Rub the person’s sternum hard with your knuckles. The sternum is in the middle of the chest where the ribs meet.

A host of risk factors for drug overdose (opioids and other drugs) were discussed. Risk factors include a recent discharge from emergency medical care after an opioid overdose, taking more opioids than prescribed, mixing drugs, using alone, and reduced



In terms of an "Overdose Response," 9-1-1 should be called immediately if the person does not respond. Tell 9-1-1- that the person is not breathing or responding. Provide your exact location and detailed information like a cross street or location within a building. Then administer naloxone (Narcan®) nasal spray by laying the person on their back. Hold the nasal spray with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril until your fingers are against the bottom of the person's nose. Push the nozzle to release the spray. Dr. Burke showed everyone a diagram, which included the steps and demonstrated the technique on a mannequin's face.

Following administration of the naloxone, the rescuer should watch to see if the first dose has worked and if the person wakes up. If it has not worked, a second dose should be administered within 2-3 minutes. The person should be placed on their side in a rescue position. Rescue breathing should be done until medical responders arrive.

Naloxone is an "opioid antagonist" that temporarily blocks the effects of opioids, giving the person a chance to breathe. Naloxone works within 1 to 3 minutes and lasts 30 to 90 minutes. Naloxone can neither be abused nor will it cause an overdose. It's only known contraindication is sensitivity, which is rare. Naloxone may be used in children and pregnant women. Dr. Burke recomnded that naloxone be kept at room temperature, should NOT be left in a car overnight and although it has an expiration date, expired naloxone can still be administered.

If you do administer naloxone, please report it to: "Illinois Saves Overdose: Naloxone Distribution and Administration." The web site is <https://www.ilsavesod.org>. Click "Enter Naloxone Reversal Info Now" to submit CONFIDENTIAL information about the overdose you encountered.

Ways to prevent overdose death for people with an opioid prescription include taking the opioids ONLY as prescribed. In addition, do NOT mix with other drugs and/or alcohol. For opioid users and family members, know where to find naloxone and how to administer it. In addition, seek evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders. Risk factors for substance use disorder include; family history/genetics; mental health disorder; and environmental factors.

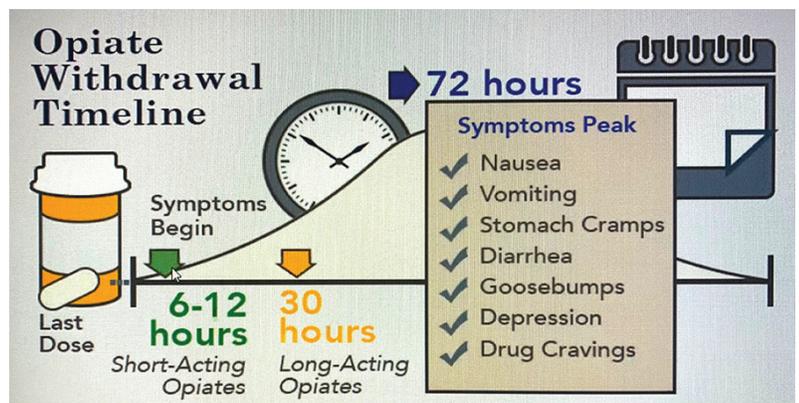
A color diagram of the brain depicted how an "Adverse Childhood Experience," "Critical & Sensitive Developmental Periods," and "Genetics" can affect brain development and adaptation. Factors in play include chronic disease, psychiatric disorders, impaired cognition, work/school (attendance, behavior, performance), alcohol/tobacco/drug use, risky sex, crime, poverty and intergenerational transmission, disparity. "Addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences." "It is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain – its structure and how it works."

Dr. Burke also discussed the opioid withdrawal timeline. Last dose > symptoms begin within 6-12 hours with short-acting opiates and 30 hours with long-acting opiates > symptoms peak at 72 hours and include: nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, diarrhea, goosebumps, depression and drug cravings.

Types of treatment include:

- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
  - MAT programs provide medication, like methadone, buprenorphine, and injectable naltrexone and counseling.
- Counseling and outpatient services
- Linkage programs (Safe Passage Network, Warm Handoff)
- Withdrawal management (inpatient detox)
- Short-term residential
- Residential treatment

Dr. Burke also shared a slide with additional resources as well as her contact information.



Following the presentation, everyone was advised of the date, time and location for the Narcan® nasal spray kit pick-up.

Dr. Burke then graciously took questions from those in attendance, which facilitated additional discussion and learning.

Dan Martin, on behalf of the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition, thanked Dr. Burke for her wonderful presentation. Dan also thanked everyone that took the time to participate in this valuable training, which concluded at 8:30pm.

## NEW LEW LENOX CERT ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 28, 2021



As 7:00pm on Thursday, January 28, 2021 the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team held its Annual Meeting, via Zoom videoconference. There were **70+** team members in attendance, which provided Dan Martin (CERT Program Coordinator) an opportunity to welcome everyone and thank them for their continued commitment and dedication to the team. Dan then proceeded to introduce the team leaders from teams 1 through 12, thanking each of them for their support and leadership.

A “2020 Year in Review” was then conducted. The review started with a summary of CERT meetings. It was noted that **127.5** hours were spent in meetings.

Next, a discussion was held regarding training in 2020, noting that volunteers spent **1,848** hours in training activities. Included in this segment was a summary of each of the trainings that were held throughout the year. This included monthly team trainings as well as additional trainings that were offered to volunteers.

Following the training segment, community events were discussed. It was noted that in 2020, **943** hours were spent participating in community events. Included in this segment was a summary of each of the community events that were held throughout the year.

Next, team activations were discussed. It was noted that in 2020, volunteers spent **2,451** hours of their time during activations. A summary of 2020 activations was discussed as well.

Dan and then provided a total number of hours for meetings, training, community events, and activations. The 2020 total was **5,369.5** hours.

For everyone’s information, the number of volunteer hours for the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team was also shared. The total was **1,294.5** and included meetings, training, and activations.

It was noted that the value of volunteer time (National average) is \$27.20 per hour. The value of volunteer time in Illinois is \$27.98. As such, the VALUE of New Lenox CERT and New Lenox SAR hours can be represented as: **6,664 (hours) X \$27.98 = \$186,458.72** \*2019 figures from Independent Sector [https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt\\_details/](https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_details/)

The meeting was then turned over to Dan Johnson, Chair, Training Task Group, to discuss training that’s planned for 2021. In summary, Dan outlined the following: **1/28/21** - Annual Meeting *via Zoom*; **2/25/21** - Traffic Direction and Control *via Zoom*; **3/25/21** - Triage and Treatment; **4/20/21** - Transport and Cribbing; **5/25/21** - Building (or bus or train) Search; **6/24/21** - Staging, Incident Command and Documentation; **7/21/21** - Disaster Simulation / Exercise; **8/24/21** - Water Safety / Shoreline Rescue; **9/23/21** - Survival Skills (Shelter Building, Fire Starting, Cooking, First Aid); **10/20/21** - Fire Safety, Utility Controls and Hazards; **11/30/21** - Team Building; **12/6/21** - Presidential Volunteer Service Awards.

The meeting was then turned over to Carrie Williams who let everyone know that the team’s online calendar (training, community events, newsletters, etc...) had been updated. Dan Martin thanked Carrie for her ongoing work on the calendar (link provided).

Dan Martin then reminded team members about additional training opportunities such as: Stop the Bleed, Narcan Training, Surviving an Active Shooter Event, Question, Persuade and Refer, Mental Health First Aid and more. Volunteers that attend authorized courses like these will be provided with the corresponding number of volunteer hours (training category).

Team members were also encouraged to complete IS-317.a Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317.a> and IS-315.a CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS) <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-315.a>, both from FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute - Independent Study Program. Dan noted that team members can earn (2) volunteer hours (training category) for completion of each course.

A make-up date of the 2020 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards was discussed as was the 2021 awards (December 6, 2021).

CERT Class #17 will start on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. The class will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The Final Exercise and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

Everyone was encouraged to “LIKE” the New Lenox CERT Facebook Page, which can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT/>.

Dan thanked everyone for their participation that led to an excellent January, 2021 Newsletter <https://www.newlenox.net/files/documents/01-2021CERTSARNewsletter1352105004010821AM.pdf>.



Everyone was encouraged to attend the 2021 National CERT Conference July 12-17, 2021, which will be held in Springfield, MO. Web site <http://2021nationalcertconference.com/>. Oasis Hotel and Convention Center 888-532-4338 <http://2021nationalcertconference.com/hotel-information/>.

It was noted that no information was available regarding the (2021) Prairie State CERT Challenge.

Following additional discussion, the meeting concluded at 8:30pm. Special thanks to 70+ team members that attended and provided valuable feedback during our Annual Meeting!

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## NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2021

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 seventeen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met via Zoom videoconference for their Annual Meeting. Dan Martin welcomed everyone and thanked them for their perseverance throughout 2020. Dan noted that despite tremendous challenges, the team did an outstanding job training and responding to searches.

A “2020 Year in Review” was then conducted which included a summary of the **716 hours** that the team spent **training**. The summary included highlights of NLSAR training, as well as the Kendall County Multi-Agency training, from January thru December. Team members added comments about some of the trainings, which included feedback regarding training locations.

Next, a summary of the **512.5 hours** of **search activations** were discussed. Team members reflected on the searches, which included some victims that were located, some that were found deceased, and others who are still missing. The discussion included commentary about terrain, weather, clothing, equipment, gear, search segments and so on.

It was noted that team members participated in a total of **66 hours** of **meetings**. This number included the Annual Meeting, NLSAR candidate interviews, and other miscellaneous SAR-related meetings.

Dan then summarized the 2020 NLSAR Participation Log with the team. This log, reviewed annually, is an Excel document, which outlines in summary the following:

- Meeting Hours – 66 total, average of 3.3 per team member, 2-hour minimum required.
- Training Hours – 716 total, average of 35.8 per team member, 30-hour minimum required.
- SAR Activation Hours – 512.5 total, average of 25.7 per team member, 10-hour minimum required.
- Number of SAR Activations – 12 total, average of 3.6 per team member, 3 minimum.
- Percentage of SAR Activations – Average was 32% per team member and high was 67%.
- Total Hours – 1294.5 total, average of 64.7 hours per team member, 40-hour minimum.

Dan noted that despite the pandemic, the team exceed the minimum standards in all categories.

Following the review of the Participation Log, the team discussed training for 2021, which included topics, locations and lead instructors. In 2021 the team will train in the following areas:

- Review of winter clothing, gear and equipment
- Night Search (X 3), including all SAR disciplines
- Navigation (compass, GPS) Exercises
- 16-Hour GSAR Course
- Fitness Test, Team Building and Communications
- Water Safety / Shoreline Safety
- AMDR, Critical Spacing, Flanker (Flagger) and Crew Leader
- Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Conference
- First Aid, Transport and Patient Packaging

In addition to these (NLSAR) trainings, the team will participate in the Kendall County Multi-Agency Trainings as well as ISARC Courses that become available throughout the year.

Following the discussion regarding training in 2021, Dan reminded everyone to complete their FEMA Independent Study Courses (IS-100.c, IS-200.c, IS-700.b and IS-800.c), which the vast majority of team members have already done.

Dan then turned the meeting over to Joe Frigo who did a 30-minute presentation on winter clothing, gear, and equipment, which included Q & A throughout.

Following Joe’s presentation a few miscellaneous items were discussed for the “Good of the Order” and the Annual Meeting concluded just short of 9:00pm. Special thanks to 100% of our TEAM for attending the meeting and for submitting valuable feedback, which will help to move us forward in 2021!



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WREATH RETIREMENT AND CLEAN - UP) – JANUARY 16, 2021

At 7:15am on Saturday, January 16, 2021 nine members of New Lenox CERT met in the upper level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of caravanning to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. The group left at 7:25am and met an additional four members of the team at the cemetery's visitor center at 7:50am.

Our team, along with other volunteers, got to work right away by removing the Wreaths Across America Wreaths from headstones and markers. Many of our volunteers utilized 10' X 10' blue plastic tarps, which were loaded with wreaths and then dragged across the snow to dumpsters. Once the dumpsters were full, the wreaths were stacked along the roadway for volunteers with pick-up trucks to remove. Volunteers cleared a section then moved to the next, and the next, and the next.

By approximately 9:30am the wreaths were removed from the headstones and markers, at which time our team headed over to the wreath disposal area where the wreaths along the roadway were taken. Volunteers unloaded dozens of trucks filled with wreaths until the clean-up was completed shortly after 10:00am. A short debriefing was held and everyone was thanked for their terrific efforts. Everyone departed the area and arrived back in New Lenox at approximately 10:30am.

Special thanks to our 13 volunteers who participated in this event. Everyone that participates in this event agrees that it's an honor to serve the veterans that have been laid to rest at the cemetery as well as their families.



## SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING / INCIDENT CHECK-IN AND SARTOPO – JANUARY 9, 2021

At 9:00am on Saturday, January 9, 2021 seven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team attended Multi-Agency SAR Training via Zoom. The training was hosted and instructed by Kim Gotte from Kendall County EMA/SAR, who is also an Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Board Member. Kim kicked-off the training by providing an overview about ISARC, which included mentioning that moving forward, those that have not completed the 16-Hour Ground Search and Rescue Course, must complete Basic Navigation (BNAV) first. To facilitate this, Kim said that several BNAV classes are being planned in advance of the GSAR classes. Kim advised that they are following the State's guidelines regarding COVID, and will plan classes accordingly. Kim also noted that there will be information coming out regarding the Mantracking Course that was previously postponed. As of now, it will be held on April 16th, 17th and 18th (40-person limit, 5 per agency). Lastly, Kim noted that the ISARC Conference is being planned for October 8th-10th and will be held at the Little Galilee Camp in Clinton, IL. Additional information on the conference will be available in the months to come.



Kim then provided everyone with an overview on **Check-In and Staging**, which included the following:

- Resource check-in includes trained volunteers, spontaneous / untrained volunteers, friends of the missing and those with special skills or equipment. When checking in, everyone should have an agency ID and / or driver's license. Bottom line – everyone must be accounted for and remembering to sign-out when leaving is critical.
- Do NOT go to an activation if you are sick. Social distancing protocols are still in place as are face coverings, especially when entering the mobile command center.
- The person assigned to checking people in should let folks know where to park and tell them where staging is located. Ideally, there should be separate check-in sheets for each agency, which facilitates assignments and makes signing out easier as well. Kim showed everyone a sample Incident Check-In List and demonstrated how it's to be completed.
- Kim mentioned that there should be separate sheets for law enforcement, Salvation Army, family, friends and other untrained resources.
- Kim noted that it's a good idea to select a Command Post location where access can be controlled. One point of entry / exit is ideal.

Kim did a "final thoughts" on check-in and also facilitated a Q & A from those in attendance.

Following the Check-In and Staging overview, Kim provided everyone with a short break. When everyone came back, Kim provided a QR code for a SARTopo map, to allow everyone an opportunity to interact with the live map that Kim had created. Kim then walked everyone through how to sign-in (SARTopo), and then explained the app's features. Kim was great about answering questions throughout the presentation, which provided an excellent overview of the mobile app. \*It should be noted that ALL members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team now have the app and have been utilizing it in training as well as during live searches.

The training concluded at approximately 12:00pm. Special thanks to Kim for hosting and to our team members that attended. Very valuable information was presented!



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**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

*Safe Community Coordinator*

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Fax: 815-462-6469

Email: [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net)

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

The next Basic CERT Course (New Lenox CERT Class #17) will start on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:30pm. The classes will be two hours (6:30pm - 8:30pm) on Tuesday nights for seven weeks. Following the last Tuesday evening class (October 19th), the Final Exercise and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 8:30am to 12:30pm. For additional information about New Lenox CERT or to register for a future class, contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, at (815) 462-6493 or via email at [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net).

Congratulations to the following classes:

- |                      |            |                       |            |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| • Class 1 Graduation | 10/17/2009 | • Class 9 Graduation  | 10/25/2014 |
| • Class 2 Graduation | 12/05/2009 | • Class 10 Graduation | 10/31/2015 |
| • Class 3 Graduation | 02/27/2010 | • Class 11 Graduation | 03/12/2016 |
| • Class 4 Graduation | 10/30/2010 | • Class 12 Graduation | 10/29/2016 |
| • Class 5 Graduation | 04/09/2011 | • Class 13 Graduation | 10/28/2017 |
| • Class 6 Graduation | 11/12/2011 | • Class 14 Graduation | 10/27/2018 |
| • Class 7 Graduation | 10/20/2012 | • Class 15 Graduation | 10/26/2019 |
| • Class 8 Graduation | 10/19/2013 | • Class 16 Graduation | 10/17/2020 |

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



Visit us on Facebook

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

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

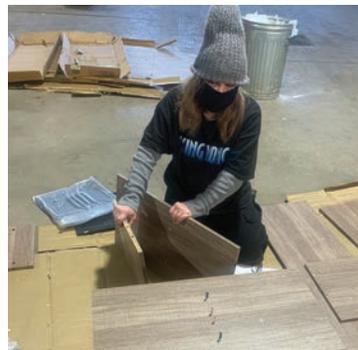
<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxSAR>

**ASSIST NEW LENOX TOWNSHIP  
FOOD PANTRY / ASSEMBLY OF  
SHELVING – JANUARY 28, 2021**

At 9:00am on Thursday, January 28, 2021 four members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the New Lenox Township Food Pantry to assist with the assembly of seven steel shelving units, one particle board shelving unit, and one steel storage cabinet. The request for assistance was made by Kathie Johnson, Family Services Manager for New Lenox Township, who also oversees food pantry operations.

Our volunteers brought their own tools and worked diligently throughout the morning to assemble the shelving units and cabinets. The work was finally completed at approximately 1:00pm. They did an excellent job and their efforts were greatly appreciated by Kathie Johnson.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped with this special project for New Township!



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National Achievement Award  
2010 Winner

**safe COMMUNITIES AMERICA.**  
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**FEMA**

**American Red Cross**