

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

2019 PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS – DECEMBER 10, 2019

At 6:00pm on Tuesday December 10, 2019 members of our CERT and SAR Team began to arrive at the Village Hall for dinner, in advance of the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards at 7:00pm. Many of our volunteers brought their significant others and it was great to meet them. We appreciate the fact that spouses often times do double duty at home while our volunteers are training, helping at community events or responding to call-outs. As such, this event is also an opportunity to thank them!

By 6:45pm the room was filled with volunteers and family members who were enjoying a fabulous menu from Gatto's Italian Restaurant in New Lenox. Gatto's did a fabulous job catering the event and everyone really enjoyed the food. At 7:00pm an announcement was made to head up to the Council Chambers for the awards ceremony, including the presentation of certificates and medals by Mayor Tim Baldermann.



Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed those in attendance and thanked everyone for the great turnout. Dan introduced Mayor Baldermann who praised our volunteers for their commitment and dedication to New Lenox CERT, New Lenox SAR, and the Village. In addition, the Mayor thanked all the family members for supporting their significant others, allowing them to do so many things for our community. Following the Mayor's remarks, the awards ceremony commenced with the following receiving awards this year:

BRONZE: 100 TO 249 VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Babbington, Kevin
- Buda, Gregg
- Geraci, Chuck
- Harris, Simon
- Hartigan, Terry
- Matthews, Siobhan
- Mejdrich, Brian
- Rock, Carrie
- Schury, Michael
- Toepke, Rex
- Twietmeyer, Gloria

SILVER: 250 TO 499 VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Bretz, Art
- Dzik, Christine
- Maes, Janet
- Mandella, Jean
- Nolan, Mercy
- Nolan, Tom
- Thompson, Scott



cont'd. on page 2

Our Core Principles:

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

Recent Activities:

Volunteer Service Awards	1
Wreaths Across America	3
Christmas in the Commons	4
Coroner Overview, Crime Scene & K9	6
Team Building	7
Emergency Preparedness Education	8
Kane County Search	9
CERT Class 15 Graduation	10
CERT Building Search	11
LWSRA Trick or Trot 5K11	
Cub Scout Presentation	12
Chicago Marathon	13
CASA Running for the Kids	13
Illinois Search & Rescue Council	14
Spotlight Member Brian Mejdrich	15
Missing Woman	16

Mark Your Calendar 12



2019 PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS Cont'd.

GOLD: 500+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Galligan, Patrick
- Huizenga, Jenn
- Jones, Debbie
- Kacor, Berni
- Reeves, Jerry
- Schuld, John
- Stefka, Mike
- Tomnitz, Linda



SPECIAL AWARDS – 1000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

- Frigo, Joe
- Pakosz, Tricia

In addition to the awards for our outstanding volunteers, Trish Buhle’s dog “Buddy” was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and some special treats for all of his hard work. “Buddy” is at most of our community events where we have an informational table. “Buddy” has a wonderful disposition and draws children and families to our table where we can then take the opportunity to discuss emergency preparedness.

Following the ceremony everyone headed back down to the Community Room for our Holiday Party. A quick stop was made in the rotunda for a picture with all the recipients in front of the Christmas trees. Our guests enjoyed beverages, more food from Gatto’s, and a wonderful dessert table. Special thanks to everyone that was kind enough to make and bring a dessert. They were all fabulous!

The party ended at 9:30pm and we’re so glad everyone came. Once again, congratulations to all of our award recipients. We are proud of you and we appreciate you!



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

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY – DECEMBER 14, 2019

At 8:00am on Saturday December 14, 2019 a total of thirteen New Lenox CERT members, including friends and family, met in the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall. Everyone met at the Village Hall to carpool to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL where the Wreaths Across America event was taking place. Our group left shortly after 8:00am and arrived at the cemetery at 8:30am. Since we left several hours in advance of the 11:00am start time, we had no trouble entering the grounds and parking.



Rather than remaining idle until 11:00am, our group jumped in and started taking wreaths out of their boxes that had been pre-positioned along the roads throughout the cemetery. We did this in several sections and also transported the empty boxes to dumpsters that had been placed on the outskirts of the cemetery. At approximately 9:45am we headed over to the memorial where the ceremony was scheduled to take place at 11:00am.



While waiting, we had a nice time chatting and watching the crowd of volunteers gathering. This was truly a spectacular sight to behold and very humbling as well. There were dozens of American Flags held by Patriot Guard Riders and other volunteers. The sight of so many Americans gathered to honor the American Heroes buried at Abraham Lincoln was quite amazing. The ceremony featured a variety of speakers who did an excellent job capturing the true essence of Wreaths Across America. A number of volunteers were recognized, including a young boy who collected 60,000 pennies that would be placed at everyone one of the more than 50,000 graves at the cemetery. The ceremony concluded at approximately 11:45am at which time all the volunteers, including our team, headed out to various sections of the cemetery.



As we got to work, everyone remembered to place the wreaths at each of the gravesites with reverence. As the wreaths were placed, the name of the fallen Hero was read out loud as a sign of respect and remembrance. There were hundreds and hundreds of volunteers throughout the cemetery placing the wreaths. As such, it appeared that all of the 25,000+ wreaths had been placed in about an hour or so. To see these wreaths placed row after row, was not only beautiful, but moving as well.



Our group left Abraham Lincoln at about 12:45pm and was back at the Village Hall just after 1:00pm. Special thanks to our volunteers and their family / friends for being a part of this wonderful event!



CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS – NOVEMBER 30TH THRU DECEMBER 22ND (SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS)

This year's "Christmas in the Commons" was WAY BIGGER AND BETTER than in previous years. As such, there was a need for our awesome CERT volunteers to be on hand Saturdays and Sundays from 3:30pm to 8:00pm to perform a variety of functions. Every weekend families could visit with Santa, peruse items at the holiday market, ice skate on two rinks, ride in horse-drawn wagons, drink hot cocoa in souvenir mugs, sit around camp fires, and enjoy the amazing Christmas lights throughout the Commons. In addition to these wonderful things, each day featured additional activities as well.



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

- **November 30th** – Official lighting ceremony, free popcorn, free cookies, children’s coloring contest and food trucks!
- **December 1st** – Stuffed animal workshop, Lincoln-Way Area Chorale performance, Lamplight Singers performance, visits with Elsa & Anna and food trucks!
- **December 7th** – Craft beer from local breweries, trackless train rides, visits with Mickey, Minnie & Olaf and food trucks!
- **December 8th** – Trinity Services “Frozen Christmas,” Lincoln-Way West Madrigal Singers performance, Lamplight Singers performance, visits with Belle and Tinkerbell and food trucks!
- **December 14th** – Craft beer from local breweries, children’s crafts, visit with The Grinch, ice carving demonstration and food trucks!
- **December 15th** – Holiday sweets and treats sale, gingerbread cookie decorating, Lamplight Singers performance and food trucks!
- **December 21st** – Craft beer from local breweries, children’s crafts, visit from Buddy the Elf and food trucks!
- **December 22nd** – Touch-a-Truck and Santa send off, stuffed animal workshop, Lamplight Singers performance, visits with The Grinch & Buddy the Elf and food trucks!

Our volunteers assisted with the official lighting ceremony, oversaw the lines for Santa, monitored the fire pit / camp fire area, made the area safe around the horse-drawn wagon rides, and assisted in a variety of other areas as well. Despite the frigid temperatures and sometimes freezing rain, our volunteers were polite, professional, and always kept a smile on their faces. Special thanks to ALL of our volunteers who helped make this year’s “Christmas in the Commons” a huge success!



CORONER OVERVIEW, CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION, AND K-9 DEMO – DECEMBER 14, 2019

At approximately 8:45am on Saturday December 14th Dan Johnson from the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team arrived at the Kendall County Historic Courthouse, 110 W. Madison Street, Yorkville, IL for the 9:00am training. The topics for this month's training were Coroner Overview, Crime Scene Preservation, and a K-9 demonstration.



At 9:00am Kim Gotte kicked-off the training by introducing the first presenter, her son Levi Gotte, Kendall County Chief Deputy Coroner. Levi provided an overview of his office and the background of the Kendall County Coroner's Office. He discussed the difference between the Coroner and the Medical Examiner (Coroner is elected, Medical Examiner is appointed) and the duties of his role such as recording every death that occurs within Kendall County, investigating all unnatural and unattended deaths and the five death categories: Natural, Accident, Suicide, Homicide, Undetermined. He tied this into Search and Rescue by educating everyone on the types of victims that could be found during searches and the things to look for if someone is found where it could be deemed a crime scene. His presentation included various pictures, including types of evidence to be aware of when conducting a search.

The second presenter was Sergeant Justin Kness of the Sycamore Police Department. Justin's presentation focused on crime scene preservation. One important factor in this effort is chain of custody, which is the process of documenting EVERYTHING at a crime scene. For instance, if a victim is found under a tree and CPR is required, you may move that person to an open area to perform CPR. However, that must be documented so the authorities know that the victim was moved from the location where they were found. Also, if you are waiting for authorities to arrive to transport a victim, don't try to assist them by moving branches and trees to make a path for easier in / out. There could be evidence near the victim that MUST remain pristine. Searchers may use their flagging tape to cordon off the area and should tape off more area than is needed to ensure the immediate area around the scene is not contaminated. Pictures of evidence may be taken if requested by police or authorities but in extreme cases, your phone could be confiscated if the crime scene is deemed as a homicide. Best practice to be safe is to not take pictures, unless SAR command instructs you to do so.



The next portion of this training was the field work. At approximately 11:30am the training participants left the Courthouse and headed a few miles away to 1102 Cornell Lane, Yorkville, IL. The first part included searching for shell casings in a grassy field and how difficult it could be, even when the casings were within a couple feet of the marked flags in the ground. From some angles you can clearly see the casing, but from other angles you see nothing. This stressed the importance of performing regular 360's in the field, where searchers pause at structured times to look at everything all around them by turning clockwise and looking from the sky (if searching in the woods) to the ground. There were also some bones and a fake hand / glove that were placed in some bushes so searchers could see how that looks during a search in a heavily wooded area.



The last portion of the field work was observing two K-9 search dogs who were able to find prepositioned evidence in various locations in the woods. The dogs were instructed to search and when they found the item, they would point at it with their nose, turn to their handler and sit patiently until the evidence was confirmed by the handler. The dogs train for many hours each week and are rewarded for the hard work in the field which excites them to continue to perform well during training.

Upon conclusion of the field work at approximately 1:15pm the remaining participants drove over to the Coroner's lab, located a few hundred yards from the field work. Levi Gotte gave a tour of the lab and covered the multiple tools, materials, and processes that are used for performing autopsies.

At about 2:15pm twelve members from multiple SAR jurisdictions joined Kim Gotte in the Kendall County EOC, located next to the Coroner's lab to discuss the 2020 monthly training schedule. All Kendall County training sessions take place on the second Saturday of every month from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Other sessions are also planned throughout the year, such as GSAR courses, the ISARC Conference and the Kane County Full-Scale Exercise. Everyone discussed the training topics for each month and who would host each one. A couple of the sessions still need a host, so New Lenox will consider doing this if schedules and locations are available. The participants reviewed previous years' training and discussed over 30 SAR topics that could be selected for the sessions. The team does a great job to ensure they don't repeat the same training sessions every year and there will be a couple of new topics in 2020 that have never been done before.



The meeting concluded at 4:00pm and Dan Johnson arrived safely back home at approximately 5:00pm. Special thanks to Dan for attending this training and for representing our team at the planning meeting!

TEAM BUILDING – NOVEMBER 21, 2019

At 7:00pm on Thursday, November 21, 2019, forty-five members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Public Works Facility, located at 2401 Ellis in New Lenox. The purpose of the gathering was for the team’s monthly training, with this month’s topic being TEAM BUILDING.

Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and briefly talked about some upcoming events (Christmas in the Commons, Presidential Volunteer Service Awards and Wreaths Across America). Following this information, Dan talked about the qualities of a successful team, which included, but were not limited to:

- They communicate well with each other....
- They focus on goals and results....
- Everyone contributes their fair share....
- They offer each other support....
- Team members are diverse....
- A good mix of introverts and extroverts....
- Good leadership....
- They're organized....
- They make time for humor....
- They have fun.



In addition to the qualities of a successful team, Dan talked about characteristics of good team members, the importance of being a team player, and key elements of teamwork. Following the brief discussion, everyone in attendance was divided into four teams (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta). Four teams were created to correspond to the four stations that each of the teams would rotate to. The stations (challenges) were as follows:

- Station #1: “Walk the Planks” (Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy – Facilitators)
 - Two teams of four walk on the planks provided.
- Station #2: “PVP Pipe and Golf Ball Challenge” (Tricia Pakosz and Patty Edgett – Facilitators)
 - Each team member is given a section of pvc pipe, cut in different lengths, and used to transport a golf ball from point “A” to point “B.”
- Station #3: “Balance Boards” (Rich DeVault and Jerry Reeves – Facilitators)
 - Each team of three has a triangular board that they must balance different sports balls on from point “A” to point “B.”
- Station #4: “Obstacle Course” (Christine Dzik and Jenn Huizenga – Facilitators)
 - Three to four team members are blindfolded and directed through an obstacle course by fellow team members. Must not knock over objects, pick-up designated object, and walk back through the course.

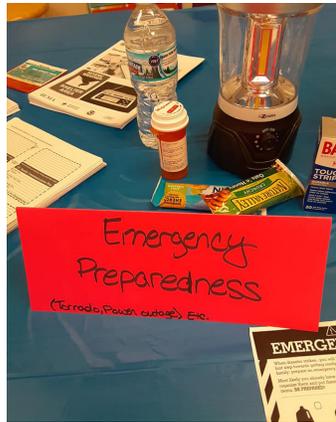
Teams spent 20 minutes at each station, then rotated to the next, as pre-determined. The challenges ended at 8:40pm and following clean-up, everyone headed back to the training room for a de-briefing. Special thanks to those that facilitated stations and to everyone that attended!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION AT NELSON RIDGE FAMILY NIGHT – NOVEMBER 20, 2019

At 5:30pm on Wednesday November 20, 2019 four members of New Lenox CERT met at Nelson Ridge School. Our team members included Patty Edgett, Siobhan Matthews, Jenn Huizenga, and Isaac Huizenga. Tricia Scanlon (a teacher at Nelson Ridge) asked Patty Edgett to help with teaching the students and families about emergency preparedness at the Nelson Ridge Family Night.

Our team members met with Mrs. Scanlon and she walked them to her classroom where our members began to set-up the tables and activities. Patty picked-up balloons to add to each table so that the kids knew where to go for each different exhibit. In the classroom there were five tables (stations):



Station #1 was the Emergency Preparedness Table, which included a NOAA weather radio, flashlights, water, snacks, medicine, blankets, batteries, and a couple other emergency preparedness items. Patty Edgett informed families how the NOAA radio can save you in an emergency. She also informed families about what they should include in their emergency bag / kit. There were also "family communications plan" fliers on the table for families to take.

Station #2 was the Vehicle Preparedness Table, which included items that would be useful in the event of a vehicle emergency. Display items included water, gloves, hats, a bag of salt, jumper cables, flashlight, compass, blankets, candles with matches, road flares and a couple other items in case of an emergency in the car. There were also cars sitting on the table just for fun to make the section a little more festive. Isaac Huizenga explained to the

children and their parents all the items that were on the table that are important, especially in these cold months. Did you know that having a bag of salt in your car can help with traction in case you get stuck on ice? This was one of the questions he asked as everyone came by.



Station #3 was the Animal Preparedness Table. This table included animal carriers, water, food, medication and animal toys. Stuffed animals were sitting on the table as well as documents about pet preparedness for families to take. There was also a chair that had animals painted on it for the kids to sit in. Jenn Huizenga talked to the children about their pets and why it's important to have a bag ready for them as well. The children also took a flier listing items that would be great to have in the bag for their pet.



Station #4 was the Game Preparedness Table. This table included a table bean bag game, the questions game, as well as prizes and preparedness books from the American Red Cross. Siobhan Matthews took this table and asked children questions about what they would do in the event of a fire. Siobhan also asked where a safe place would be in case of

severe weather as well as many other questions to get the children thinking about safety. The children and parents also had fun throwing the bean bags into the CERT and Flag boxes on the table.



Station #5 was our New Lenox CERT Display Board for families to look at as they went from one table to another. It was also helpful for families to understand what CERT is all about.

At 7:30pm the event ended and our team members took everything down and packed it away. Patty left the balloons for the classroom to have. Our team members left at about 8:00pm after thanking Nelson Ridge School staff for the invitation. The more information that the children and their families have, the more prepared they will be WHEN an emergency or disaster occurs.

Special thanks to Patty, Siobhan, Jenn, and Isaac for doing an amazing job at this event!

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KANE COUNTY FULL-SCALE SEARCH EXERCISE – NOVEMBER 2, 2019

At 12:00pm on Saturday November 2, 2019 fourteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to the Kane County Full-Scale Search Exercise. Team members loaded their equipment and clothing into vehicles and the team traveled to the Burnridge Forest Preserve / Paul Wolff Campground, which is located at 38W235 Big Timber Road in Elgin, IL. The team arrived at 1:05pm, which was the time specified in the reporting instructions. Our team parked in the same area, "geared-up," and headed over to the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) vehicle where credentialing was taking place. Each team member was issued a printed credential, affixed to a lanyard. Following the issuance of credentials, the team headed over to Staging and waited for assignments.



While waiting, our members divided into two teams of seven members. At approximately 2:30pm our two teams were given their first assignments. Our teams reported to an area just outside Incident Command and were provided with a briefing, maps, and radio call signs. After the initial briefing, a safety briefing was provided and an "evaluator" was assigned to accompany our teams. Our teams headed out to their search segments, conducted AMDR (Average Maximum Detection Range), set the appropriate (critical) spacing between team members, and assigned flaggers / flankers. The terrain was that of a typical forest preserve. It included paved parking lots, mowed grass, open prairies, and wooded areas. Some of the areas were swampy and had thick underbrush, which was difficult to move through. The first assignment for both teams was completed at around 5:00pm. After checking-in and being de-briefed, our teams were directed over to "rehab," for some food and beverages that were provided by the Salvation Army.



During some "down" time, our team members were able to check out some of the assets that were on site. The assets included mounted (horse) search animals, drones from several jurisdictions, an ITECS communications trailer from the Will County Emergency Management Agency, an ILEAS (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System) tent, a Kane County OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Humvee, and a number of other vehicles. In addition, a fixed wing aircraft was



utilized for this exercise, which was an asset of the Illinois Civil Air Patrol.

At approximately 5:45pm our teams reported to Staging once again and waited for the next assignments. By 6:00pm, our teams were deployed and assigned separate search segments. At this point all the teams were searching in the dark, which made searching challenging. The scenario included a total of 9 teen "victims" that were reported to have been diagnosed with some specific disorders. Some of the teens has already been located, while others were still missing. Our teams searched until about 8:30pm, at which time all teams were advised to report back to Incident Command. Some of these search segments were more than a mile away from Incident Command so it took until about 9:00pm for all the teams to return from the field. Teams were de-briefed and directed to a pavilion / shelter for formal de-briefing of the whole exercise which was to take place at 9:15pm.

Following the formal de-briefing and a search for some missing vehicle keys (much too long to explain), our team left the campground at 10:15pm. Our team arrived back at the Village Hall at about 11:30pm after putting in a LONG day. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who attended this valuable training. In addition, special thanks to Kane County OEM for putting on the exercise and for the invitation.



CERT CLASS #15 FINAL EXERCISE AND GRADUATION – OCTOBER 26, 2019

On Wednesday September 11, 2019, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, CERT Class #15 met for the first time in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. As usual, this was another great class with a tremendous amount of talent and diversity. This class included students from Joliet West High School, school teachers, an arborist, a registered nurse, a retired police officer, a business development executive, a maintenance technician, and the list goes on. The class got off to a great start during Unit #1 – Introduction and Disaster Preparedness, which included the infamous “Build a Tower” exercise. The schedule for CERT Class #15 was as follows:

September 11, 2019	Introduction and Disaster Preparedness
September 18, 2019	Fire Safety and Utility Controls
September 25, 2019	Medical Operations I
October 2, 2019	Medical Operations II
October 9, 2019	Light Search and Rescue
October 16, 2019	Disaster Psychology and Terrorism
October 23, 2019	Team Organization
October 26, 2019	Final Exercise and Graduation



New Lenox CERT has always used this model, which provides participants an opportunity to read over the materials in advance of each class. This way, participants can focus on the instructor, the visual materials, and the hands-on exercises. After completing the last unit on October 23rd, Class #15 was provided time at the end of class to prepare for the Final Exercise.

At 6:30am on Saturday, October 26th New Lenox CERT members began to arrive at the Village Hall to set-up for Class #15’s Final Exercise. By 7:15am our moulage team had arrived and was ready to receive over 40 volunteers who agreed to be “victims” for the exercise. At 7:30am our moulage team began applying moulage to the “victims” while other New Lenox CERT members prepared the equipment and supplies needed for the outdoor exercise. At 8:30am the “victims,” were provided with the scenario, exercise guidelines, and safety information. At 8:45am members of CERT Class #15, who were located in the Community Room and NOT in contact with any “victims,” were provided with similar information. At 9:00am, with all the “victims” in place, CERT Class #15 exited the lower level doors of the Village Hall and the scenario commenced.



CERT Class #15 was met with over 40 “victims” of a severe weather event. The “victims” were spread all over the New Lenox Commons with injuries ranging from minor lacerations to catastrophic injuries with severe bleeding. CERT Class #15 was given the task of setting-up Incident Command / Communications, completing a size-up, searching, triaging, treating, and transporting “victims” to the treatment area, which they had to establish. Logistics (New Lenox CERT Trailer) had already been established and needed supplies were disseminated to class members. The class did an excellent job with the exercise, which was evaluated by a dozen New Lenox CERT members who volunteered to assist. The exercise also included “injects” such as a fire and a cribbing exercise. The exercise concluded at 10:30am, at which time EVERYONE chipped in and cleaned everything quickly. Everyone was back in the Community Room by 10:50am for the de-briefing. In total, there were approximately 80 people that participated in this exercise.



The de-briefing concluded at 11:30am at which time lunch was served. Lunch included pizza, pasta, and salad from Beggar’s Pizza. At 12:00pm everyone completed their IEMA Act Oath, which was administered by Bill Byerley from New Lenox Emergency Services. Immediately following the Oath, Mayor Tim Baldermann was introduced by Dan Martin, who noted that the Mayor has never missed a CERT graduation. The Mayor thanked everyone from CERT Class #15 as well as everyone that assisted with the class. Following the Mayor’s kind remarks, the graduation commenced with each student receiving a certificate of completion, a CERT ID card, and a CERT backpack containing various supplies. The graduation ceremony ended at about 12:15pm with closing remarks by Dan Martin.



Congratulations CERT Class #15 and welcome to the team!

CERT BUILDING SEARCH TRAINING – OCTOBER 22, 2019

At 7:00pm on Tuesday October 22, 2019 fifty-five members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the old Kmart, located at 1500 W. Lincoln Highway in New Lenox. The team was on hand for Building Search training, which was the topic for the team’s monthly training. As this building had been vacant for over a year, it made a perfect location for this type of training.



Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, greeted everyone as they arrived and at 7:00pm sharp the briefing started. Dan provided an overview of “CERT Unit 5: Light Search and Rescue.” Following the briefing, Dan turned the floor over to Tricia Pakosz, who provided a safety briefing for those in attendance. Following Tricia’s safety briefing, everyone was divided into three teams; Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. The teams were then assigned a starting location, designated as Station 1, Station 2 or Station 3. Everyone was advised that each team would have 25 minutes at a station and then the teams would rotate.

Dan facilitated Station 1, which included the old pharmacy, auto center, and garden center. Tricia Pakosz facilitated Station 2, which included office and storage space on two levels. John Schulz facilitated Station 3, which included office and storage space on two levels. Each station included items (pool noodles and small toy footballs) that the teams had to locate through their search process. At the end of Station 3, mock explosives were placed in a room with a Rescue Randy mannequin. Teams had to locate the “victim,” recognize that there were hazards, and decide which course of action to take. Dan, Tricia, and John arrived at the abandoned Kmart at 4:00pm to set-up each of the stations.

Teams did a great job at each of the stations, locating most, if not all, of the items that had been “hidden.” At the end of each search, a short de-briefing was led by the station facilitators. Following the de-briefing, the teams were then directed to the next station. The rotations ended at 8:30pm at which time everyone met near the entrance for a de-briefing of the entire training. Each of the station facilitators provided a summary of the searches (strengths and areas for improvement). Each of the team leaders also had an opportunity to discuss their team’s search methods and time was also allotted for other to add comments or ask questions. The training concluded at 8:45pm, at which time everyone exited the facility. Special thanks to those that facilitated stations and to everyone that attended!



LWSRA “TRICK OR TROT 5K” – OCTOBER 19, 2019

At 7:15am on Saturday October 19, 2019, twenty-nine members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) met in the parking lot of Jewel Foods located at Laraway Road & Schoolhouse Road. The purpose of the gathering was to hold a briefing for the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association’s (LWSRA) “Trick or Trot 5K,” an event that the team helps with each year.



Dan Martin welcomed everyone and provided some details about the race, which was being held nearby in the Heatherglens subdivision. Dan advised that the race would have approximately 100 participants and would start and finish at the LWSRA’s facility, which is in the middle of the subdivision. Dan handed out color maps of the course as well as printed assignments for everyone, which included a background on the race as well as safety information. The team was also joined by members of New Lenox Emergency Services, who were assigned to handle traffic control at major intersections around the subdivision.



The briefing ended at approximately 7:30am and after a team photo, everyone traveled to their assigned locations. The race was set to kick-off at 8:00am, but actually did not start until 8:10am. Our volunteers served as race marshals for this event, which included some minor traffic direction and control when needed. Everything went very well throughout the course. Our volunteers not only did a great job keeping the runners safe, but they also gave them a tremendous amount of encouragement along the way. The last participants crossed the finish-line shortly after 9:00am, at which time all of our team members headed back to the Jewel Foods parking lot for a debriefing.

Dan collected radios and asked how things went on the course. Everyone reported that there were no incidents and that everything went smooth. Everyone was thanked for their assistance and the debriefing concluded at approximately 9:15am. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers for assisting with this race, which is a fundraiser for a great organization.



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PRESENTATION FOR CUB SCOUT PACK 94 – OCTOBER 17, 2019

At 6:30pm on October 17, 2019 Tricia Pakosz / New Lenox CERT, met with Webelos II Scouts of the "Kung Fu Chicken's Patrol" - Cub Scout Pack 94, at Peace Lutheran Church in New Lenox. Nine Scouts, their Cub Master / Den Leader, Bill Kozicki, Assistant Den Leader / Tricia Counter, and several parents began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Scouts then recited the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.



Bill Kozicki introduced Tricia who proceeded to talk with the Scouts and adults about what it is to be a good citizen. Tricia asked them if what they said in the Scout Oath and Scout Law were attributes of a good citizen, and they answered "yes." As Tricia was there representing CERT, her main focus was "A Scout is Helpful."

Tricia then touched on various ways to help people by being involved in organizations such as CERT, SAR and Scouts. The group talked about how it is good to help out with fun events like concerts and races because it offers a way for the community to become familiar with your organization and the people in it. Tricia gave them each a couple of programs from Eagle Scout Ceremonies and we discussed how, through their Eagle Projects, Scouts have the opportunity to give to their community in an on-going way. Eagle Scout projects such as hiking trail signage, building food pantry garden boxes, and even making the benches which are in front of Peace Lutheran Church, will provide a benefit to the community for years to come.

The group also talked about the importance of training for emergencies. To be a helpful citizen, people have to learn skills, grow in knowledge, and be aware of their surroundings; especially as it pertains to scene safety and not becoming a victim while trying to help. Tricia explained that to join CERT you take a 20-hour course and that there are a variety of monthly trainings under the leadership of Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator for the Village of New Lenox. Tricia let them know that it's important to offer help to the level of your training. For a fun example, Tricia explained that she can do a throw bag rescue, but driving firetrucks is beyond her limitations.

Tricia discussed doing the greatest good for the greatest number and how that is different from a single person in need. Tricia also cited several examples of Scouts helping each other and CERT helping in communities hurt by tornadoes and flooding.

<p>Scout Oath:</p> <p>On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty, to god and my country and to obey the scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.</p> 	<p>Scout Law:</p> <p>A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.</p> 
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Tricia let the scouts know that helping doesn't have to be big and elaborate, it comes in many forms, even something as simple as a smile. It starts with taking care of themselves, their family, and then moving out into the community. Tricia's talk lasted approximately 30 minutes and she left at 7:15pm.

Special thanks to Tricia for doing this talk and helping this Cub Scout Pack satisfy the requirements of:

"Arrow of Light Adventure: Building a Better World." Requirement #4 - "Meet with a government or community leader, and learn about his or her role in your community." Tricia did a great job sharing her knowledge of CERT and scouting!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 11, 2020 / 9:00am	Kendall County Multi-Agency Training (Tabletop Exercise and SARM Overview) in North Aurora, IL
January 16, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox SAR Annual Meeting in Community Room at Village Hall
January 21, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox CERT Annual Meeting in Community Room at Village Hall
February 8, 2020 / 9:00am	Kendall County Multi-Agency Training (Cold Weather Gear, Survival) in Kendall County
February 12, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox SAR Training at location TBD
February 18, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox CERT Training at location TBD
February 22, 2020 / 10:00am	New Lenox CERT – Cabin Fever Event at Martino Jr. High School
March 14, 2020 / 9:00am	Kendall County Multi-Agency Training (SAR Day Search) in Kane County
March 18, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox SAR Training at location TBD
March 23, 2020 / 7:00pm	New Lenox CERT Training at location TBD

New Lenox CERT Activity

New Lenox SAR Activity



CHICAGO MARATHON – OCTOBER 13, 2019

Five members from New Lenox CERT met on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 3:30am at the New Lenox Village Hall. The group carpooled to 14th & Michigan Ave., arriving at the parking garage at 4:45am. Our 5-person team walked to 12th & Michigan Ave. to check-in at a pre-established staging area.

Rich Frizelis from Chicago CERT greeted our team and explained what our assignments would entail. Rich also advised that our team members would be stationed “Laflin Medical,” mile #16, located in the parking lot of Whitney Young High School.

After the briefing our team signed in as marathon volunteers and were issued ID placards, jackets and hats. Following the issuance of our credentials and clothing, our team was supplied with a light breakfast and paired up with the other volunteers.



Following breakfast, our team was transported to “Laflin Medical.” The team helped set-up cots, tables, medical gear and miscellaneous supplies that would be needed throughout the day. Navy Captain Stevenson was the lead doctor who briefly explained our mission as transport for “non-finishers” and how to spot distressed runners.

Our team assisted medical staff handing out Vaseline for chafing and bio freeze for muscle fatigue. A medical review of each runner that entered the station was conducted and our team helped escort the runners to buses that transported them back to Grant Park.

At approximately 3:00pm the last patient was signed-out and our team helped pack-up the medical supplies. At 3:30pm our team was transported to Grant Park where a short de-briefing was held. Members then walked over to mile #26, located at Indiana and Roosevelt. The team cheered on runners and talked with other volunteers.

While walking back to the parking garage at 14th & Michigan Ave., our team noticed a runner in distress. They ran over to provide assistance, along with three uniformed Chicago Police Officers. Shortly after the intervention, medical transport arrived to provide additional care for the runner.



Our team members reported that they were proud of their achievements, including the ability to apply the skills that they have learned through CERT training. The team arrived back at the New Lenox Village Hall at approximately 5:00pm. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers for putting in an extremely long day and doing a great job!

CASA RUNNING 4 THE KIDS 5K / 10K / 8-MILER – OCTOBER 6, 2019

On October 6, 2019 fourteen CERT members met in the rear parking lot of Martino Jr. High School at 8:00am for a short briefing related to the CASA Running 4 the Kids 5K / 10K /8-Miler. Jerry Reeves covered safety, assignments, and proper water cup handling during the briefing. CERT volunteers were also encouraged to provide race participants words of encouragement as they traversed the course. New Lenox Emergency Services was short on volunteers, so two of our team’s volunteers were re-assigned to a traffic control position at Spencer Road & Constitution.



At 8:20am CERT members headed to their assigned locations. CERT members were in position by 8:30am. At 9:00am the race started with 201 participants sent out in waves (9:00am – 8 Mile, 9:06am – 10K, and 9:12am – 5K). Everything went very well with our CERT volunteers carrying out their duties as planned.

The race finished at 10:45am at which time CERT members reported back to the rear parking lot of Martino Jr. High School for a de-briefing. It was noted during the briefing that water station #2 was not at the pre-designated location and did not have supplies in place until the start of the race. Fortunately,



the situation was rectified and runners and walkers were able to utilize the station. In addition, water station #1 reported that there were apples on Old Plank Trail, which made running dangerous. A recommendation was made to have a broom at this station next year so that the trail could be swept before the race. The briefing ended at approximately 11:00am.

Special thanks to Jerry Reeves for taking the lead on this event and to our friends at Will County ARES for handling communications. Great job by all – thank you!

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

ILLINOIS SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 5-6, 2019

On Friday October 4, 2019, seventeen members of New Lenox SAR arrived at a motel in Forsythe, IL to stay the night in advance of the 2019 Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Conference. Our team went out to dinner and then spent the remainder of the evening hanging out.

Following a quick continental breakfast at the motel, the team drove to Little Galilee Christian Camp in Clinton, IL for the start of the conference. The conference began at 8:30am with the posting of the colors and Pledge of Allegiance. The Conference Committee was introduced and provided some welcoming remarks to those in attendance. The Annual Membership Meeting was held, which included the Election of Directors to the ISARC Board.

From 10:15am until approximately 11:45am, Fernando Moeriera, a visual tracker from Portugal, provided a presentation entitled "How Visual Tracking Benefits Search and Rescue." Fernando showed slides and told stories about how he looked for clues (primarily footprints), to locate missing people. Fernando also took the opportunity to discuss his book, "Visual Man Tracking for Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue."

From 12:00pm to 12:30pm, Daniel Martin, New Lenox SAR, provided a presentation entitled "Social Media for SAR and Volunteers." The presentation highlighted the good things that social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc..) can do for SAR Teams, but also pointed out the dangers too. Some of the dangers included posting information about active missing person cases that are considered "law enforcement sensitive" as well as posting inappropriate information on SAR volunteers' personal pages.

Following a break for lunch, conference attendees returned at 1:30pm for the "Breakout Sessions," which included:

- Mantracking (parts A, B, and C)
- Comms 101
- Mock Search (parts A and B)
- CISD
- Drones for SAR (parts A and B)
- UTM for SAR
- Map Reading SAR (parts A and B)



Our SAR volunteers attended several of the sessions, which ended at approximately 6:00pm. Some of our team members stayed for a fun team building game that was a hybrid of volleyball and foursquare. Dinner was served at 6:30pm and at approximately 7:30pm Fernando Moeriera provided a Mantracking demonstration for those who were unable to attend his breakout sessions. At approximately 9:00pm our volunteers met back at the motel for some additional "team building" and shenanigans.

At 8:30am on Sunday October 6, 2019 our team met at the camp for a presentation on "Evidence Handling / Crime Scene Preservation" that was done by Lieutenant Jason Buckley from the Peoria County Sheriff's Department. Lt. Buckley provided an overview of the Peoria County Sheriff's Department, including its Crime Scene Services Unit. Jason told a number of stories about cases that his department has handled, which included information about how their department handles crime scenes. In short, SAR volunteers should NOT touch evidence when it's located. When evidence (or "clues") are located, the information should be communicated to SAR Command who will send law enforcement to the scene so that it can be properly handled and collected.

Following Lt. Buckley's presentation, which ended at 9:30am, conference attendees headed off to the following "Breakout Sessions:"

- Evidence / Crime Scene
- Basic Weather Spotting
- Urban Search and Rescue (parts A and B)
- SAR Initial Operations aka SARIO (parts A and B)
- Using Garmin Basecamp

The sessions ended at approximately 12:30pm at which time our members said their goodbyes and headed home. Special thanks to our 17 team members who attended this conference. It was an excellent learning, networking and team bonding / building experience!



SPOTLIGHT MEMBER – BRIAN MEJDRICH

I decided enroll in the 20-Hour Basic CERT Training for Class #14, which began on September 12, 2018. My purpose was to learn some helpful skills and to create another chapter in my life. This decision came about based on 4 dates that I will never forget. 10/1/2015 the death of my Sister Kim, 51 yrs. diagnosis brain cancer; 08/24/2016 my father's death non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma 83 yrs. old; 09/2/2018 my neighbor Jerry Reeves saving a man's life from a heroin overdose; and 9/6/18 my friend, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Reidy's death in Riyadh Saudi Arabia during a helicopter training assignment. At that time, I was thinking to myself that I am on the cusp of turning 51 and that I needed to start giving back a bit, due to the four individuals that I mentioned did, and as in Jerry's case still does.

During the initial class Dan Martin asked each person what their reason was for participating in CERT training. My response was my neighbor saved a man's life a few days ago and he inspires me to be a better person. To tell you the truth, I wasn't sure if I was coming back to the next class, but I showed up week-after-week until our class passed our final assignment and graduated on 10/27/18. I felt great in accomplishing something with a group of self-less individuals. I felt renewed, re-focused and having a sense of worth, which resulted in me wanting to learn more. GSAR training was announced not to long after for the weekend of 11/17/18 & 11/18/18 and I jumped right in and have never looked back.

I am really a big kid at heart and will never grow up. New Lenox CERT, under Dan Martin's leadership accepts all, no matter what your skill set is. Dan told me early on that we all have different skills and those different skills / experiences are the ingredients of what make a great team. I have come to understand that, for I have watched and learned from each person that I have worked with in CERT since 9/12/2018 and I thank you all for making me feel welcome.

I am an independent Licensed sales agent representing health insurance and ancillary products for the past nine years for a combined 20 + years the health and commercial insurance. I also worked for Trinity and JVS of Chicago for a combined 10+ years as a social worker. My educational credits are several associates degrees in design and computer networking, a BA in Psych and many classes at the graduate level.

My home life includes my wife Lisa, daughter Christina 24, son Joseph 18, Grandson Brayden 5 and Labrador Retriever Rudy who is 8 yrs. old. They say that the wife is the anchor of the house and in our case, Lisa is. Lisa maintains the home and takes care of our son Joseph, for Joseph requires 24-hour assistance 7 days a week from seizure and developmental disorder at the age of 5-months old. Lisa is also an exceptional cook and grandmother and someone that you should meet. My daughter Christina recently graduated from Dental Assistants' School in December of 2019 and I am proud of her. Grandson Brayden keeps Papa busy whether it is attending baseball games, traveling or watching Marvel movies. Rudy never leaves my side even during the most difficult days.

Things that I enjoy to do are camping, skiing, mountain biking, baseball, and wood working. I also enjoy a pint of Leinie's or a glass of Cab/Sav, listening to music ranging from Queensryche, Vangelis to John Denver.

I would like to share some quotes that I live by:

"What one man can do is dream, what one man can do is love, what one man can do is change the world" (John Denver)

"Go that way really fast and if something gets in your way.... Turn" (Charles De Mar)

And of course, *"Doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people" (CERT)*

No matter what Dan Martin says, Die Hard is a Christmas movie and my favorite one only second to Scrooged. Thank you to all that have accepted me in this great group of volunteers and I look forward to a great 2020.



Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

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

CERT Class #15 graduated at 12:00pm on Saturday October 26, 2019 after completing their Final Exercise earlier in the morning. Twenty-seven citizens completed the class, which brings our graduation total to 448! Tentatively, CERT Class #16 will take place on Thursday evenings (6:30pm to 8:30pm) in the Community Room at the Village Hall starting on September 3, 2020. The class will meet for seven weeks on Thursday evenings until October 15th. The Final Exercise and Graduation will be on the morning of Saturday October 17th. 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.

Congratulations to the following classes:

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

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



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MISSING WOMAN / NEW LENOX – NOVEMBER 5, 2019

At 9:00am on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 the New Lenox Police Department contacted our team to assist with a search for a 54-year old female. Initial information indicated that the woman, identified as Patricia Talley, was last seen in the afternoon of November 4th in the parking lot of Silver Cross Hospital where her vehicle was parked. The woman, who is from Tinley Park, left her belongings in her vehicle and left in an unknown direction from the parking lot. Some additional information was provided as well, including her mental status and clothing description.

A Nixle Alert was sent to our team members that requested a response to the Silver Cross Medical Campus. In addition, the Duty Agent at the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) was contacted and assistance from the Will County Search and Rescue Team was requested. Members from New Lenox and Will County SAR Teams began arriving on scene at approximately 9:45am, at which time the staging area was moved to a location that would accommodate the WCEMA Mobile Command Center as well as searchers that were arriving to assist.

Ground searchers began searching the parking lot where the woman’s vehicle had been parked. Eventually, all vehicles parked at the medical campus were checked along with several buildings that were under construction. As the searched progressed, additional resources (K-9s, drones, and a helicopter) arrived to assist. The grounds of the campus, including parking lots, open fields, and the edges of retention ponds were searched. Throughout the morning and into the afternoon, the search continued to expand in all directions around the medical campus. Some of the last segments to be searched included properties in the area of Route 6 & Gougar Road, before the (ground) search concluded at 4:30pm. At approximately 5:00pm it was learned that the woman was found safe at a residence in Joliet, IL.

Special thanks to our team members who assisted with this search. In addition, we appreciate the assistance from the Will County Emergency Management Agency as well as all the mutual aid resources that arrived from throughout the region. Great job by all and we are grateful for a positive outcome.

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