

Village of New Lenox

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

ASSIST TROY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND WILL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE POLICE – APRIL 1, 2019

At 9:06am on Monday April 1, 2019 the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) sent out a mutual aid request for searchers. Searchers were needed to conduct a shoreline search for two missing individuals who were presumed drowned in the DuPage River. The staging area for this incident was Hammel Woods in Shorewood, IL and searchers were advised to utilize the entrance off of Route 59.



John Ferek / Patch Staff

New Lenox SAR had the first team member on scene at 9:53am with six additional team members arriving between 10:04am and 11:00am. After signing-in, four of our team members along with two searchers from other teams formed the first ground team. Our team was directed down to the river where recovery operations were underway. A short briefing was held, which was followed by a shoreline search assignment. In short, our team was asked to search river "right" from the dam (just north of Jefferson St.) to the dam just beyond the pedestrian bridge. After reaching the second dam, our team was instructed to search river "left" (upstream) back to our starting location. At this point, the male victim had been recovered and we were directed to search for the female victim.

The search was completed slowly and methodically. Our team had two searchers on the river's edge wearing a personal flotation devices (PFDs). Two additional searchers were carrying water rescue throw bags and each were assigned to a searcher closest to the water. Two additional searchers without PFDs or throw bags were off the water about 15-20 feet, depending on terrain. At approximately 60% through the search, three additional New Lenox SAR members joined our team. Throughout our shoreline search, water rescue teams were also searching in waders and in boats. Our search was completed at approximately 12:30pm and at 12:40pm WCEMA sent out a communication that no additional searchers were needed. Our team held a short de-briefing and left the area at approximately 1:00pm.

John Ferek / Patch Staff: – The Will County Coroner's Office has announced the two people recovered on Monday from the DuPage River near Hammel Woods were both drowning victims. The two victims have been identified as 28-year-old Abraham Ramos of Palatine, IL and 22-year-old Hannah Tammeling of Plainfield. Ramos was pronounced dead around 10:45 a.m. on Monday and Tammeling was pronounced dead around 2:10 p.m. Monday.

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE WITH ALZHEIMER'S / NEW LENOX – MARCH 27, 2019

At 10:15pm on March 27, 2019 the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team was requested by the New Lenox Police Department to assist with a search. The request was for a 70-year old male with Alzheimer's that was last seen on foot in the area of Route 30 & Marley Road at approximately 9:45pm. The subject was last seen wearing a brown leather jacket, glasses, and wears a hearing aid. At 10:20pm a text message was sent to the team with instructions to stage at the Lincoln-Way Community Bank on the corner of Route 30 & Marley Road.

Our first team members arrived on scene at approximately 10:35pm. Sergeant Mike Jurka from the New Lenox Police Department provided additional information, which included areas that had already been searched by his department, the Will County Sheriff's Police, New Lenox Fire Protection District, and New Lenox Emergency Services. At this time, two New Lenox SAR members were dispatched to the victim's home in the 500 block of Marley Road to double check the residence.

Additional team members continued to arrive on scene as preparations were being made for an "initial" search of the area. Just before deploying our first team, our two searchers that had been assigned to check the residence returned to the staging area. At this time, we learned that they located the victim in a corner on his porch, presumably staying out of the rain that had been falling. The victim was turned over to New Lenox Fire Protection District and New Lenox Police Department personnel.

At 11:00pm a text was sent to additional New Lenox Search and Rescue Team Members who were still responding to the scene. Additional searchers were told that the subject was found and to discontinue their response. Not including those who were on their way, 15 New Lenox SAR members were on scene before 11:00pm. A short de-briefing was held and everyone was dismissed at 11:15pm. Special thanks to those who responded to this incident and to our team members who located the victim!

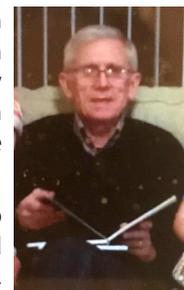


Photo courtesy of New Lenox Police Department

Our Core Principles:

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

Recent Activities:

Assist Troy Fire & Will Co. Forest Preserve	1
Missing Male With Alzheimer's	1
Triple Play Ticket Sales	2
Assist N.L. Lions	2
CERT March Training	3
Missing Male in Peotone	4
Emergency Preparedness	4
First Aid/CPR/AED	5
Day Search Training	6
Assist Cabin Fever Event	6
Resource Centers & Donations Management	7
Assist with Family Resource Center Aurora	8
NLSD 122 PTO Fun Fair	9
Evidence Search	10
Assist New Lenox	10
Operation Lifesaver	11
NLSAR Training	12
Missing Female Crest Hill	13
NL CERT Annual Meeting	14-15
Cold Weather Survival Skills	15
National Day of Service	16

Mark Your Calendar 9



TRIPLE PLAY CONCERT SERIES TICKET SALES – MARCH 30, 2019

At 5:45am on Saturday March 30, 2019 ten members of New Lenox CERT met at the Village Hall for a briefing related to Triple Play Concert Series Ticket Sales. John Opoka led the briefing and provided oversight for this event. In short, CERT volunteers were requested to assist with providing a safe environment for the Triple Play Concert Series Ticket Sales. This included, but was not limited to:

- Greeting residents at the upper and lower level entrances;
- Directing residents to upper and lower level lines;
- Watching for slippery floors and keeping visitors safe;
- Answering questions related to the ticket sales;
- Keeping upper and lower level lines approximately the same length; and
- Ensuring there was no "line jumping."



Following the briefing, our volunteers were in place at 6:15am. As a courtesy to residents, Mayor Baldermann opened the doors to the Village Hall at 5:15am due to the rain. As such, many residents were already inside the Village Hall and in line.



Ticket sales started promptly at 7:00am and despite the early hour, everyone was cheerful and happy to purchase their tickets. Our CERT volunteers did an excellent job greeting residents and providing kind words as they exited the Village Hall. Ticket sales went really smooth and approximately 9:00am the lower level ticket sales window was closed. At this point residents were directed to the upper level ticket sales window and shortly thereafter CERT volunteers were advised they could call it a day.

A short de-briefing was held and the feedback indicated that everything went very smooth. CERT members commented that the residents were very happy with the set-up and how everything flowed. At approximately 9:30am the de-briefing concluded and everyone was thanked for doing a terrific job!

ASSIST NEW LENOX LIONS CLUB AT THE VFW – MARCH 24, 2019

At 8:30am on Sunday March 24, 2019 twelve members of New Lenox CERT met at the Harry E. Anderson (New Lenox) VFW, Post 9545, located at 323 Old Hickory Road. Team members met to assist our friends from the New Lenox Lions Club who were hosting a Ladies Fashion Show as a fundraiser. The Lions Club requested assistance setting-up a large stage that would be utilized during the fashion show.



Our team members got right to work and started bringing in various sections that would serve as a stage and runway for the show. Our team members worked under the direction of Lions Club members who had set-up the event on previous occasions. It was amazing to see how quickly the stage was assembled with everyone working together. After the stage and runway was assembled, lights around the stage and runway were put in place as well as skirting around the entire platform. CERT and Lions Club members then worked together to assemble the back-drop (black curtains) for the stage, which really made the set-up look professional.



Team members then chipped in to arrange the tables and chairs, which included placing tablecloths on the table and setting them. From start to finish, the whole set-up took about an hour. Lisa Kline, Lions Club Past-President and event organizer, provided her sincere thanks and appreciation for the assistance. After a quick team photo, everyone departed at approximately 9:30am.

At 3:30pm a new group of eight CERT volunteers arrived at the VFW to help take everything down. The fashion show ran a little behind, but by 4:00pm our team members were able to get to work. Once again, working with Lions Club members, the stage and runway was dismantled. Other CERT volunteers assisted with table clean-up and helped some of the organizers carry things out to their cars. In about 30 minutes, with everyone working together, everything was done. After a quick team photo, everyone left the VFW at 4:30pm.



The New Lenox Lions Club is a great organization who do wonderful things for the community. It's always a pleasure to help them whenever we can. Special thanks to our volunteers for coming out and doing a terrific job!

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

CERT (MARCH) MONTHLY TRAINING – MARCH 28, 2019

At 5:30pm on Thursday March 28, 2019 several members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the New Lenox Emergency Services Facility, 907 Country Creek Drive, to set-up training for the evening. Topics for this month’s training included:

- Bloodborne Pathogens (led by Patty Edgett)
- HERO “Hidden in Plain Sight” Trailer (led by Jan Dombrowski and HERO volunteers)
- Inside Building Search (led by Rich DeVault)
- Outside Search (led by Tricia Pakosz)



By 6:30pm team members started to arrive and signed-in at the main gate to the facility. A quick count indicated that 47 team members participated in this training.



At 7:00pm everyone entered the garage of the facility where Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Coordinator, provided the briefing. The briefing included a quick overview of each of the 20-minute stations as well as safety information. The briefing concluded at 7:10pm at which time team members were divided into four teams designated as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. The teams then headed off to their first station and would follow this schedule:

TIME	STATION 1 BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS	STATION 2 HERO HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT TRAILER	STATION 3 INDOOR SEARCH	STATION 4 OUTSIDE SEARCH
7:15PM – 7:35PM	TEAM ALPHA	TEAM DELTA	TEAM CHARLIE	TEAM BRAVO
7:35PM – 7:55PM	TEAM BRAVO	TEAM ALPHA	TEAM DELTA	TEAM CHARLIE
7:55PM – 8:15PM	TEAM CHARLIE	TEAM BRAVO	TEAM ALPHA	TEAM DELTA
8:15PM – 8:35PM	TEAM DELTA	TEAM CHARLIE	TEAM BRAVO	TEAM ALPHA



At Station #1 Patty Edgett did an excellent job with an overview of Bloodborne Pathogens. This station was located in the breakroom of the facility. At Station #2 our friends from HERO (Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization) showed our team members the contents of the “Hidden in Plain Sight Trailer.” This tour included a showing of hiding places, paraphernalia and an overview of the latest drug trends. Station #3, led by Rich DeVault, included a search for “Victims” (16” pool noodles) that were hidden in an area used by Public Works. The room was dark and included sound effects of a severe thunderstorm. Station #4 included an outdoor search for a victim, which was led by Tricia Pakosz. At stations 3 and 4, Rich and Tricia evaluated leadership, communications, use of the “buddy system” and search technique.



At approximately 8:40pm everyone met inside the garage for a briefing, which included thanking each of our stations leads for their instruction and information. Overall, everyone did an excellent job. Thanks to those who attended this month’s training!



SEARCH FOR MISSING 20-YEAR OLD MALE IN PEOTONE – MARCH 23, 2019

At 12:11pm on Saturday, March 23, 2019 our team received a request for mutual aid assistance from the Will County Emergency Management Agency. The email, text, and "I Am Responding" message requested searchers to assist the Will County Sheriff's Department with a search for a missing 20-year old (male/ white), with diminished mental capacity. Searchers were requested to report to an address in the 6500 block of W. Kennedy in Peotone, IL.

Just before 1:00pm our first team members arrived on scene. Shortly thereafter we had a total of thirteen team members on scene and ready to assist with the search. A short briefing was held prior to each of the teams deploying to their search areas. The briefing included information about the victim (all available via public sources) Patrick Bennett, M/W/20, who has diminished mental capacity (approximately 10-year old level). The briefing also included a physical description for Patrick as well as a possible clothing description.



*Photo courtesy of
Will County Sheriff's
Department*



Our thirteen members were divided into three teams and some searchers from other teams were added to our respective teams. All teams were given search areas, which were properties in the immediate vicinity of the victim's home. Teams went door-to-door to notify the homeowners about the missing subject as well as to seek permission to search the properties. All of the homeowners were supportive and allowed teams to search around their homes and properties. Throughout the afternoon the search continued to extend outward from the victim's home. At approximately 6:00pm the search concluded and all searchers were directed back to the staging area.

Our team conducted a short de-briefing after signing out at Incident Command. At the time of the de-briefing, the victim was still missing and the Sheriff's Department was continuing with the investigation. Following the de-briefing (approximately 6:30pm) our team members left the area and headed back to New Lenox. Special thanks to each of our team members who participated in this search.

**At approximately 11:00pm some posts emerged on social media (Facebook) that the victim had returned and was safe.*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATION – MARCH 16, 2019

At 9:30am on Saturday March 16, 2019 Trish Buhle arrived at the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, 22712 Wolf Road, Frankfort, IL for an emergency preparedness presentation. As the presentation was outside of New Lenox, it was done with the approval of the Will County Emergency Management Agency.

Ed Selvas joined Trish at 9:45am, still in advance of the 10:00am scheduled start time. As it turned out, two additional speakers were unable to participate in this event. As such, Trish had the floor for a full two hours with Ed providing additional commentary during the presentation. Trish's presentation covered the following:

- How to prepare a 72-hour kit and go bag
- What to do in a home fire, thunderstorm, and tornado
- First aid kit and supplies
- How CERT triages and treats victims
 - Head-to-toe assessment
 - Three "killers"
- How to shut-off utilities and use of a non-sparking tool

In addition, Trish and Ed provided information about other resources that are available in the area. This included, but was not limited to: TRIAD Meetings, Stop the Bleed Classes, Narcan Classes, Special Needs Registry through the Will County Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross Pillowcase project, as well as CERT. Trish also brought FEMA / Ready.gov literature to provide as handouts. Literature topics included disaster supply kits, pet preparedness, family communications plans, and information on severe weather.



*Trish Buhle demonstrating a
head-to-toe assessment*

ADULT FIRST AID / CPR / AED TRAINING – MARCH 13, 2019

At 6:00pm on Wednesday March 14, 2019, twenty-one members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the Community Room at the Village Hall for Adult First Aid / CPR / AED Training. Gregg Buda was the lead instructor for this American Red Cross program. Gregg showed the group a video entitled "Recognizing and Responding to an Emergency." Students were told to make observations that might signal an emergency and then determine what course of action to take. Since some citizens might not feel qualified to help, or might be afraid of being sued, information was provided about Good Samaritan Laws.

A good way to active the EMS System is to call 9-1-1. Victims may be unresponsive, not breathing, have excessive bleeding or they may have head, neck or spine injuries. It's always a good idea to obtain consent before giving care or under certain circumstances, there may be "implied consent." If the patient is alert and awake, but does not give consent, do not give care. Call EMS if it's a life-threatening condition.

Always check the scene to make sure it's safe. Are there any hazards? Stay clear if the scene is unsafe. Attempt to determine what happened? How many people are involved? What condition is person in? A rescuer should try to form an initial impression. Is the person moving? "Hey _____!"

Students learned whether to CALL or CARE (to level needed and level trained) first. Examples were given whether to CALL first or provide CARE first.

Students also learned the acronym **SAMPLE**:



- S** Signs and symptoms
- A** Allergies
- M** Medications
- P** Pertinent medical history
- L** Last food or drink
- E** Events leading up to incident



Students also learned about conducting a head-to-toe assessment. Starting at the top rescuers should check - head and neck, shoulders, chest and abdomen, hips, legs and feet, arms and hands.

Students were told to check the victim's skin to see how it looks and feels. Also, check for bleeding, cuts, burns, bruising, swelling, and medical ID tags. In addition, can the victim move body parts? Is there any back pain?

Students learned the warning signs for a Heart Attack, which include: Chest pain, pressure and discomfort; in 3-5 minutes, the pain may go away, but can come back; pain may spread to the arms; pale skin; sweating; shortness of breath; nauseous; dizziness / light headed; anxiety; unusually tired; and Unresponsive. In addition, our group learned that for those that previously had a heart attack, pain could feel different the second time.

With a Cardiac Arrest, the heart stops and it may come without warning. The Cardiac Arrest chain of survival includes: Calling 9-1-1, early CPR, early defibrillation, early advanced life support, and integrated cardiac arrest care at hospital.

When providing CPR, check level of responsiveness, place the victim on a flat surface, and kneel on the side and over the victim. The rescuer should place their hands over the victim's chest, palm into the chest with fingers interlaced. Arms should be kept straight and locked and 30 chest compressions should be given, least 2" deep. The compressions should be 100-120 per minute, followed by 2 rescue breaths. Remember to tilt the head, lift the chin and pinch the nose closed before giving the breaths. The rescuer should watch for chest to rise and fall.

With AEDs, rescuers should follow voice and visual prompts. Some come with pediatric pads, designed for victims up to 8 years or less than 55lbs. Other AEDS have a key or switch that configures the AED for use on a child up to 8 years of age.

Students also learned how to recognize choking. If confirmed, give the victim 5 firm pats on the back. If the item is still obstructing the victim's airway, from behind, place hand over fist and deliver upward abdominal thrusts.

In addition, students learned signs, symptoms and treatment for the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Shock | Stroke | Environmental Injuries |
| Breathing Emergencies | Bleeding | • Heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke |
| Asthma | Burns | • Cold- Related Emergencies |
| Anaphylaxis | Muscle, Bone and Joint Injuries | ○ Hypothermia |
| Diabetes | Head, Neck and Spinal Injuries | ○ Frostbite |
| Seizures | Poisoning | |
| Fainting | | |



Everyone in attendance had an opportunity to practice on the CPR simulators as well as the training AEDs. In addition to the CPR / AED practice, everyone practiced the technique to assist a choking victim. Following the training, a short discussion was held regarding the "Red Envelope Project" as well as the team's last training in Hoffman Estates. Everyone left at about 9:30pm, but not before thanking Gregg for providing the excellent training!

DAY SEARCH (TRAINING) IN HOFFMAN ESTATES – MARCH 9, 2019

At 7:30am on Saturday March 9, 2019, eighteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the upper level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to training. After figuring out who would be driving, team members left at about 7:40am, arriving at Bode Lake Forest Preserve in Hoffman Estates at 8:30am. Everyone signed-in, geared up, and waited for the briefing.



At approximately 9:30am the briefing was given which included, in summary, the following: "Jacob Walters," M/W/15, 111 Abbey Woods Circle, 5'07, 130lbs, brown hair and green eyes went fishing earlier in the morning and never returned. "Jacob" was further described as wearing a blue jacket, blue t-shirt, white socks and brown (size 8) shoes. "Jacob," was described as being in good physical condition and carrying a tackle box, rod and reel, and two cans of Squirt soda.



Our 18 team members were divided into three teams of six. All teams stood by in the staging area waiting for their respective search areas/assignments. At about 10:00am our teams were deployed into their search areas, which were found to be very large. The terrain was wooded and swampy (semi-frozen) in some areas. Teams completed AMDR, determined critical spacing, identified flankers / flaggers, and proceeded to search their respective areas.



At approximately 12:30pm, after covering less than 50% of the assigned areas, it was announced that the exercise had concluded and everyone was directed to return to the staging area. After waiting for the teams to return (some were still in the field), a debriefing was held by a representative of the Hanover Township Emergency Services. It was then learned that the "victim" was in an area that had not yet been searched. The exercise concluded at 1:30pm at which time our team members returned to New Lenox (approximately 2:30pm).

Special thanks to all of our team members who participated in this search!

ASSIST WITH CABIN FEVER EVENT – MARCH 9, 2019

At 9:00am on Saturday March 9, 2019, members of New Lenox CERT arrived at Martino Jr. High for the "Cabin Fever" event. In addition to setting up the team's informational table, volunteers assisted Officer Paul Simon from the New Lenox Police Department with some additional last-minute items needed to get the day going. Additional team members arrived at 9:30am to finalize the table and set-up the game area.



At the table, team members answered questions and gave out literature, mainly FEMA's "Pedro the Penguin" activity books and IEMA's "Severe Weather Guides." The game schedule was taped to our game table, as well as hung up at each entrance. We had a lot of kids coming and going all day, dropping by to see what games we were playing. The kids really enjoyed playing "flippy cup" and visiting with "Buddy."



Tom and Mercy Nolan brought their grandsons Shaun and Ean. Ean was nice enough to handle the music during the games. Music was needed for some of the games like hot potato and freeze dance. Trish Buhle's son Zack was in charge of "Buddy" while Trish ran the games.

The event ended at 1:00pm, after which team members packed up the table and helped others. Special thanks to Trish Buhle for leading this event and to all of the other volunteers who helped make it a huge success!



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MULTI-AGENCY RESOURCE CENTERS AND DONATIONS MANAGEMENT – FEBRUARY 20, 2019

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 21, 2019 seventy members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. This month’s topic included an overview of Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC) as well as a presentation on Donations Management. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and then introduced Joy Medrano, Director for Volunteer Engagement and Disaster Preparedness, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

Joy explained that a MARC is an efficient and effective way of assisting those in need, while maintaining confidentiality for those utilizing available services. It’s also an excellent tool to help expedite individual, family and community recovery. Joy summarized a list of services typically available at a MARC, which included, but were not limited to:

Advocacy	Documentation Replacement	Financial Assistance Advising	Emotional / Spiritual Care
Clothing	Domestic Animal Assistance	Food / Nutrition	Medical Assistance
Children and Youth Services	Education of Job Training	Household Goods	Missing Persons
Debris Removal	Health Agency Support	Housing	Mold Remediation



Joy covered the Concept of Operations for a MARC, noting that it’s focus is to be community-centered. Joy noted that it’s important to pre-identify agencies and organizations along with other appropriate partners. Consideration should be given to which local agency(s) are willing and capable to be the lead agency. It’s also important to pre-identify potential facilities, such as churches and schools, that may serve as a MARC.

Joy also walked thru other aspects of planning for a MARC as well as the steps needed to stand-up a MARC. It’s always important to remember site security as well as the ability to accommodate those with access and functional needs. Logistical considerations were also discussed such as posting of signage, the need for computers, copy machines, telephones and general office supplies.

“Standing Down” a MARC was also discussed and included making sure that advance notice of closing is given to partners, clients, local government, and the general public. Provisions should be put into place for continued casework for those in need and a plan for long-term recovery. The MARC then must be returned back to its original state.

Before starting her presentation on Donations Management, Joy allowed a few of our volunteers to speak about their experience at a “Victim Resource Center” in Aurora, IL which was stood up in the aftermath of an Active Shooter Incident at a plant in Aurora on February 15th. Collectively, our volunteers put in 96 hours at the “Victim Resource Center” between February 18th and February 20th.

Joy then discussed the history of Donations Management in the United States, citing several examples such as Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992. In 1993 FEMA convened a National Steering Committee to address the need for a National Donations Management Plan. Several examples were cited where good people, with the best intentions, often donate items that are not needed in the aftermath of a disaster (ex. prom dresses, winter coats sent to tropical locations, etc.). In addition, often times an excess of donations becomes a “disaster within a disaster.” Piles and piles of clothing and household goods often sit and literally rot, because that are not enough volunteers available to sort through the items. In short, cash donations are the best way to support victims as they can purchase WHAT they need WHEN they need it.

Dan Martin thanked Joy for her wonderful presentations and also thanked everyone for attending. Training ended at approximately 8:45pm at which time many of our volunteers stayed for a little while to visit



ASSIST WITH MASS INCIDENT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER IN AURORA – FEBRUARY 18-20, 2019

New Lenox CERT was requested to assist with the Mass Incident Family Resource Center held at the IBEW Local 461 Headquarters at 591 Sullivan Road, Aurora, IL. This event was hosted by the Department of Justice Victim's Assistance Unit, following a February 15th mass shooting incident at the Henry Pratt Company in Aurora, IL.

On Monday February 18th, Jenn Huizenga, Art Bretz, and Carrie Williams represented New Lenox CERT by volunteering at the Center. Our volunteers arrived at approximately 1:00pm and were met by Joy Medrano, Director for Volunteer Engagement and Disaster Preparedness, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Joy explained how our volunteers would be assisting at the Center and provided a quick tour of the facility. In short, our volunteers were there to serve as Ambassadors, escorting those who needed assistance to various resources throughout the Center.

Individuals were greeted and then escorted to an area where they were interviewed to determine what type of assistance was needed. While individuals were at the Center, our volunteers afforded them the opportunity to take a break for hydration and nutrition. On this first day, our volunteers served as a friendly face in an overwhelming environment.

On Tuesday February 19th, the following CERT members arrived by 10:00am for the debriefing held prior to the doors opening at 11:00am: Diego Ortegón, Christine Dzik, Jenn Huizenga, Art Bretz, and Debbie Jones. Tricia Pakosz came in shortly after and Tammy Brown-Bosse arrived at 2:00 p.m. All stayed until 6:00pm, except Diego who had to leave at 3:00pm.

During the briefing, specific directives were provided, which included refraining from posting information on social media, websites, etc. Volunteers were also asked to not wear anything red, or uniforms indicating medical or law enforcement. Volunteers were required to register their organization, name, contact information, and sign the Code of Conduct. Also, organization ID's needed to be presented and worn during this event.

Joy Medrano provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities. New Lenox CERT was stationed at the registration table. Following sign-in by the clients, CERT members served as Ambassadors by walking clients through the various services offered. After a first stop at the FBI Victim Assistance table, clients were guided to the Crime Victim Compensation table. The CERT Ambassadors stayed in close proximity to the clients, ready to guide them to the next station, while providing them with enough private space. Organizations / services offered included:

- St. Vincent De Paul Society
- Spiritual Care table
- Chaplains table
- DuPage County Health Dept
- Several local counseling services
- Salvation Army
- American Red Cross
- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

Additionally, clients and participants were offered meals, snacks, and drinks throughout the day. On Tuesday, approximately 8-10 clients came through the Center. It was learned that counseling services were also being offered onsite at the plant which could explain the low attendance at this event.

In the afternoon, a representative from the Victim's Assistance Unit gathered everyone around towards the back of the room, when there were no clients present. She thanked everyone for their presence, but stressed that even if only a handful of clients came in and were helped, it branched out to 35, as those same people shared their experiences from the services offered with other family members and peers to also help them. She stated that she has seen how a year after a tragic event, these same clients strongly remember the help and comfort offered to them. It was also announced that this event would continue one more day, Wednesday, but for shortened hours, 10am to 2pm, as they had heard more clients were interested in coming in. After it was determined who would be returning on Wednesday for assistance, the event ended at 6pm. All participants and organizations signed out and exited.

On Wednesday February 20th, Art Bretz and Debbie Jones arrived at the Center at 10:00am and served as Ambassadors until 3:00pm, before returning to New Lenox.

Collectively, New Lenox CERT members volunteered 96 hours over the course of three days. Special thanks to each of our volunteers that stepped-up to help others during an unbelievably difficult time.

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NEW LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT #122 PTO FUN FAIR – MARCH 2, 2019

On Saturday March 2, 2019, the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team staffed an informational table at the New Lenox School District #122 PTO Fun Fair. Trish Buhle took the lead for this event and throughout the day, a total of 12 volunteers helped her staff the table.

In addition to having information on disaster / emergency preparedness for families, our table also featured Trish’s dog “Buddy,” affectionally known as “Buddy the CERT Dog!” “Buddy” is ALWAYS a big hit with the kids, and this event was no exception. Talk about a great way to get kids and families over to the table!

In addition to literature and our K-9 star, our table also featured some fun disaster preparedness games geared toward kids. What a better way to get kids to learn about disaster preparedness than to do it in the form of a game?

Lastly, several parents expressed in taking the next Basic CERT Class that starts in the Fall. Once again, our informational table proved to be a great marketing tool for our program!

Special thanks to Trish for taking the lead on this event and to ALL of our wonderful volunteers who came out to interact with the kids and their families at this great annual event.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 13, 2019 / 9am: Kendall County SAR Training (Fit Test & Team Building) in Plano, IL
- April 16, 2019 / 7pm: New Lenox SAR Training (Fit Test & Communications) at Hickory Creek Preserve
- April 23, 2019 / 7pm: New Lenox CERT Training (Triage & Treatment) at New Lenox Village Hall
- April 30, 2019 / 7pm: Severe Weather Spotter Training at Lincoln-Way West High School
- May 5, 2019 / 12pm: Loyalty Day Parade meet at New Lenox Village Hall
- May 11, 2019 / 9am: Kendall County SAR Training (Shoreline Safety) at TBD
- May 16, 2019 / 7pm: New Lenox SAR Training (Water Safety/Rescue) at TBD
- May 18, 2019 / 7am: NLSD #122 PTO 5K Color Run meet at Nelson Campus
- May 20, 2019 / 7pm: New Lenox CERT Training (Transport) at TBD
- June 8, 2019 / 9am: Kendall County SAR Training (Patient Packaging & Transport) at TBD
- June 8, 2019 / 4pm: Triple Play Concert (Cheap Trick) meet at Village Hall (sign-up required)
- June 18, 2019 / 7pm: New Lenox SAR Training (Patient Packaging & Transport) at TBD
- June 20, 2019 / 6pm: Trinity Triumph 5K meet at New Lenox Village Hall
- June 27, 2019 / 7pm: New Lenox CERT Training (GSAR Exercise) at TBD



New Lenox CERT Activity

New Lenox SAR Activity

EVIDENCE SEARCH / NORTH AURORA – FEBRUARY 16, 2019

On Thursday February 14, 2019 our team was contacted by the Illinois Search and Rescue Council regarding a request for mutual aid assistance in North Aurora, IL. The request was being made on behalf of the North Aurora Police Department, who requested assistance with an evidence search for a weapon that was used in Armed Robbery that occurred in Dixon, IL. Those involved in the robbery were involved in a vehicle pursuit that resulted in a crash in North Aurora on February 12, 2019. Our team was advised that the Kane County Office of Emergency Management would be in charge of the search and that the staging area would be at Jewel Middle School, located at 1501 Waterford Road in North Aurora, IL. Teams were requested to be on scene and ready to go by 8:00am on Saturday February 16, 2019.



On Saturday, eight New Lenox SAR members met at the New Lenox Village Hall at 7:00am to carpool to the evidence search. At 7:45am our team arrived at Jewel Middle School and after signing-in, our team members, along with team members from other teams, awaited an assignment.

By 8:30am, team "Delta" was established and assigned to an area near the crash site to search for a silver handgun. The team drove in two vehicles to the assigned area. The assigned search area was a cornfield. Borders were Mooseheart Road on the north, landmark (tree) on the west, Orchard Road on the south and houses on the east. The harvested cornfield was frozen, partially iced over and very uneven terrain. Temperatures were in the 20's, overcast, with minimal winds.

We quickly arrived at our search location and performed our AMDR (Average Maximum Detection Range), designated the flaggers on each end of the line, confirmed our compass azimuth and then began our grid search. After a few minutes we were told from Incident Command to return to the staging area.

Upon returning to staging we learned that another team found the evidence nine minutes after they began their search near the I-88 off-ramp. Law enforcement officials expressed their appreciation for such a strong turnout and also stated that the evidence recovered will help tremendously in the upcoming court proceedings against those in custody.

The NLSAR Team returned back to the New Lenox Village Hall at approximately 11:00am which concluded this search. Special thanks to our eight team members who participated in this search!

ASSIST THE VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX – JANUARY 19, 2019

At 10:45am on Saturday January 19, 2019, twelve members of New Lenox CERT met at the Village Hall for a briefing in advance of a special event that was scheduled to kick-off in the Commons at 12:00pm. Following the briefing, team members were assigned to the following areas:

- New Lenox Community Park District, 701 W. Haven Ave. (2 volunteers in Village vehicle)
- New Lenox Community Park District, 1 Manor Drive (2 volunteers in Village vehicle)
- New Lenox Public Library (2 volunteers in Village vehicle)
- Trinity Services, Inc. (2 volunteers in Village vehicle)
- Village Hall (4 volunteers – no vehicle)

Following the briefing everyone helped to clean-off the Village vehicles from an overnight snowfall and snow that was still continuing. The eight volunteers with assignments in vehicles then headed out to their respective locations while our four other volunteers remained at the Village Hall.

The event (women's rally) kicked-off at 12:20pm, about 20 minutes behind schedule. At about 1:15pm the participants of the event walked around the block and back to the Commons. At this time the participants (approximately 130) dispersed and left the area. Our team members returned to the Village Hall where a short de-briefing was held. In short, everything went very well and our CERT members did an excellent job.

Thanks very much to those that assisted the Village of New Lenox and helped to keep everyone safe.

OPERATION LIFESAVER (RAIL SAFETY) PRESENTATION – FEBRUARY 13, 2019

At 7:00pm on Wednesday February 13, 2019 fifty citizens gathered in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for an Operation Lifesaver presentation. Thirty-three of those in attendance were New Lenox CERT members!

Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, welcomed everyone and then introduced Mayor Tim Baldermann who was kind enough to provide opening remarks. The Mayor, who is also on the Board of Directors for METRA, thanked everyone for attending. The Mayor also stressed the importance of safety near railroad tracks and the fact the most injuries and deaths are preventable.

Dan then introduced Larry Green from METRA who was the main presenter for the evening. Dan also acknowledged Carl Cicero from METRA who greeted everyone when they arrived. METRA was kind enough to supply very nice ice scrapers, lighted key chains, and carabiners to everyone in attendance.

Larry then started his Operation Lifesaver presentation and it didn't take very long for folks to catch on that Larry is a really funny guy. Although the topic is very serious, Larry presented it with tasteful humor and told some excellent stories throughout the presentation. A summary of the areas that were covered in Larry's presentation included:

- The stopping distance for trains (locomotives with freight or passenger cars).
- The importance or recognizing that there may be multiple tracks at a grade crossing and what types of signage to look for.
- The fact that trains hang over approximately 3-feet on either side of the tracks.
- Tanker trucks and school busses must stop at all grade crossings.
- "Overdriving" your headlights near a grade crossing is dangerous as a vehicle may be traveling too fast to stop if it needs to.
- What to do if your vehicle stalls on the tracks – driver runs toward the train on a 45° angle.
- Signage at grade crossings includes - Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) number, name of the railroad, name of the roadway, and railroad phone number.
- Driving around gates at a grade crossing may result in a \$500 fine and trespassing on tracks may result in a \$120.00 fine.
- "3 Don't's" at grade crossings – Don't pass; Don't shift gears; and Don't stop on the tracks (it's also illegal).
- Avoiding distractions – cell phones, texting, eating, putting on make-up, taking medication and drowsiness.
- Operation Lifesaver – LOOK, LISTEN and LIVE!

Larry's presentation also included two excellent videos that reinforced the dangers around railroad tracks and grade crossings. Larry finished his presentation at 8:00pm and was kind enough to stay for additional questions.

Special thanks to Larry, Carl, and METRA for providing this wonderful presentation. Also, thanks to those who were in attendance!



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NLSAR TRAINING / NIGHT SEARCH – FEBRUARY 12, 2019

At 5:00pm on Tuesday February 12, 2019 four members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team arrived at Pilcher Park to set-up a Night Search Exercise for the team. The prep work entailed setting two "Rescue Randy" mannequins in a ravine near Hickory Creek. These would be the "victims" that the team would have to search for, treat for hypothermia, extract, and transport back to the staging area. The mannequins were in place by 5:30pm at which time the exercise planners stood-by and waited for their teammates to arrive.

At 7:00pm an additional sixteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team were geared-up and ready to start the exercise. Everyone met under the open pavilion as the wind gusted at approximately 40mph, with blowing snow and temperatures in the teens. Team members were then provided with the following scenario:

A man (Randy Smith) left his house nearby on foot at approximately 10:00am. "Randy" is approximately 5'8" 165 lbs. We do not have any clothing description. He has no medical conditions and is not on any medication. His family has tried calling him since 4:00pm and said he is not answering. They have searched the roads between Pilcher Park and his house but there is no sign of him. He is believed to be somewhere in this area as his family indicated he was going on a hike here this morning. Your objective is to perform an initial search on the road / trail to the Pilcher Park Nature Center. Both sides of the road / trail are to be searched for any sign of the victim. Once at the Nature Center, please check in with the Incident Command for further instructions. We have copies of maps of Pilcher Park and supplies you may need for patient packaging.

At approximately 7:10pm two teams of eight were formed and a Team Leader was designated for each team. The teams then began their initial search as instructed in the briefing. Teams Alpha and Bravo searched along opposite sides of the road / trail until they reached the Pilcher Park Nature Center. At this time an "inject" came in with intel that law enforcement was able to ping the victim's phone. The following UTM coordinates were then given to the teams:

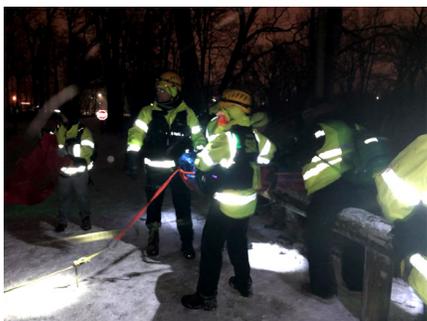
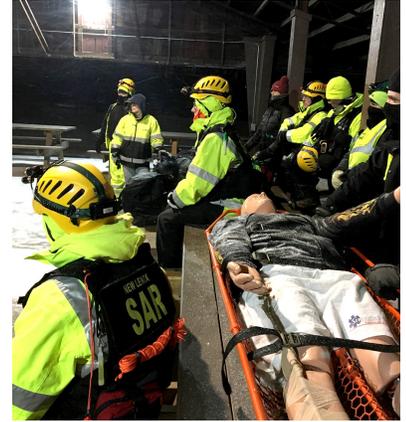
16 T 0415655

4597792



The teams then followed their GPS units to the above coordinates and a quick search of the area revealed the "victim" and a second "victim" at the bottom of a ravine near Hickory Creek. A team was sent down to check the medical condition of the "victims," finding them conscious, but hypothermic. The victims were wrapped and treated for hypothermia while others at the top of the ravine prepared for a low angle rescue. A "stokes basket" was lowered down the hill and the smaller of the two "victims" was brought up first. After placing the first "victim" into a portable litter, the basket was lowered again and the larger "victim" was carried up the hill. Team members at the top of the hill formed a line and pulled the carrying team up the hill as they held onto the basket containing the "victim." Once at the top of the hill and on the road / trail, two teams carried the "victims" back to the pavilion (approximately 1/2 mile), which concluded the exercise.

A de-briefing was held and training concluded at 9:20pm. Special thanks to everyone that planned or participated in this exercise – great job!



SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE 25 Y.O.A. / CREST HILL – FEBRUARY 9, 2019

At 5:23am on Saturday, February 9, 2019 a request for search teams was sent through the Will County Emergency Management Agency's "I Am Responding" system. The message indicated that that a 25-year old female was missing and the staging location for the search would be 2100 N. Center Street in Crest Hill, IL. At 6:00am another message was sent updating the staging location to Railway & Industrial Services, Inc., 2201 N. Center Street in Crest Hill. A third message was sent at 6:33am that requested additional searchers.

By 7:30 am, eleven members from New Lenox Search and Rescue had arrived on scene. In summary, the Crest Hill Police Department received a report that a 25-year old female had gone missing. Friends of the female, who had been with her at the time of her disappearance, provided information regarding her last known whereabouts. The information included the fact that she was seen near a slow-moving freight train and when the train passed, she was gone. The female had been reported missing at approximately 2:45am and following a search by law enforcement, ground search and rescue teams were requested.

Our eleven SAR members were split into three different teams and given their search assignments. "Team One," consisting of four NLSAR members, was tasked with searching a school bus corral located just southeast of St. Mary's Cemetery. Each of the 200+ buses had to be manually searched, inside and out, to ensure that the individual hadn't taken shelter in one. The surrounding parking lots also needed to be searched for signs of her possibly passing through.

"Team Three," also consisting of four NLSAR members, was sent to search an area near the train tracks. It was located between Oakland Ave and Rt. 53 (approx. 3/4 of a mile). The subject was last seen near Oakland at the train tracks just south of the cemetery. Team members searched both sides of the tracks, in sometimes heavy brush and wet ground.

"Team Six," consisting of the remaining three NLSAR members and led by an individual from Naperville SAR, was assigned to search St. Mary's Cemetery. Maps were not available, but the team was given boarders of the area to follow. The cemetery consisted of a perimeter lined with trees and shrubs, a maintenance building and standard flat and upright tombstones. The perimeter search was completed by foot and a building was checked by pounding on the secured door and calling out. The two interior roads of the cemetery were searched by individuals in their vehicles with respective assignments to both west and east sides of the roads.

Upon completion of the first round of assignments, team members "rehabbed" and some were sent out for a second assignment. Shortly thereafter, teams were notified that the female had returned home and was safe.

Our eleven NLSAR team members conducted a quick debriefing at staging. The main discussion was regarding winter weather gear. The temperature had been around 10 degrees and it was stressed how imperative it is for everybody to have appropriate winter gear. Also, communications were difficult as one of the IC issued radios stopped working due to the battery draining in the cold weather.

At approximately 11:00am, all team members left Crest Hill and headed home. Special thanks to everyone that participated in this search!



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NEW LENOX CERT ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 22, 2019

At 7:00pm on Tuesday January 22, 2019, fifty-five members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met in the Community Room for our Annual Meeting. Attendance was good considering the day consisted of freezing rain and icy conditions. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator for the Village of New Lenox, welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for their continued support and dedication to New Lenox CERT.



Dan introduced the Team Leaders from each of the 12 teams within New Lenox CERT. Dan thanked the Team Leaders for helping to lead their respective teams throughout the year. In addition, Dan reminded everyone to please be responsive to their Team Leaders when they email, call, or text.

A "2018 Year in Review" was done, which included a summary of volunteer training hours as follows. CERT members accumulated 5,625 hours in 2018 (254 hours – meetings; 3,323 hours - training; and 2,048 hours – community events)! A quick synopsis was then done of each of the meetings, team trainings, and community events. On behalf of the Village and all the community groups that our team assists, Dan thanked everyone. It was also noted that attending the trainings is important to maintain skill levels. In addition, attendance at community events is important as well because it provides an opportunity for team members to spend time together. WHEN our team is called into a stressful event, it's good to know and trust your fellow team members.

For informational purposes, Dan let everyone know that our Search and Rescue Team members (also CERT members) accumulated 1,266 volunteer hours in 2018 (52 hours – meetings; 786 hours – training; 428 hours – activations)!

A couple minutes was spent talking about the 2018 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA) and the volunteers that were honored on December 11, 2018. Dan reminded everyone that two team members (Lisa Murphy and Rich DeVault) have now exceeded 1,000 volunteer hours. The 2019 PVSA will be on December 10th.

Dan Johnson then gave the report on behalf of the Training Task Group. Dan summarized a recent meeting of the Task Group and recognized all of the members that have contributed. Dan then summarized the methodology of how the group came up with the training topics for 2019. Dan explained that some of the trainings (ex. triage, treatment, transport, search & rescue) will serve as a refresher to the material that's presented in the Basic CERT curriculum. Other topics such as water safety/water rescue, train/bus extraction exercise, large ground search exercise, and a large disaster exercise are new elements that have been added to make training interesting. By-way-of example, Dan noted that it's entirely feasible that our CERT may be called to assist with a high-profile missing person case where a large number of searchers will be needed.

Trish Buhle talked about the wonderful work that's been done by her group, the Public Information Task Group. Trish took the opportunity to solicit for new volunteers to help staff our informational table at community events. Trish also requested that our team members think about events where a disaster preparedness informational table would be appropriate. The next event will be the New Lenox School District #122 PTO Fun Fair, which will be held on Saturday March 2, 2019 at Liberty Jr. High School.

Dan referenced the Public Education / Emergency Preparedness Task Group and the need for short (30-60 minute) presentations on emergency preparedness that can be done for various community groups. Dan advised that he would like to see someone take the lead for this group and hoped that those that completed the Emergency Preparedness Train-the-Trainer on May 22, 2018 could step-up and start giving some of the presentations.

A few minutes was spent talking about the Pet Preparedness Task Group. This group will continue to work closely with the Public Information Task Group at community events. The importance of having a pet preparedness element at our informational tables was stressed. Dan will meet with Eleni Bosch in the near future to discuss the direction for this group.

Some time was spent discussing the feasibility of having a group that would identify potential community events that the team could participate in. Recent examples included John Schuld identifying and leading the Wreaths Across America event as well as John Opoka stepping up and getting our team involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. At this time no formal group will be formed, but EVERYONE is encouraged to seek out events that may be a good fit for our team to assist with.

Dan talked about how hard the team works throughout the year during trainings and community events. As such, it would be nice to have a little fun too! A discussion was had regarding the formation of a "Social" Task Group that would put together picnics, game nights, and other outings that may be of interest to our team members. At this time no formal group will be formed, but EVERYONE is encouraged to look for fun activities that our team members may enjoy. Dan will then work with those that provide suggestions to get some of these activities off the ground.

This year's Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo will be on April 30, 2019 at Lincoln-Way West High School. The Expo will be from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, while the Spotter Training will be 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Dan encouraged everyone to attend and to consider helping at the Expo as well.

CERT Class #15 will be held on Wednesdays starting on September 11th. The final exercise and graduation will be on Saturday October 26th. Dan extended an invitation for team members to attend any of the classes as a refresher and to consider helping out as well. In

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addition, everyone was asked to help market the class in an effort to fill the class and keep our program going strong.



The 2019 Prairie State CERT Challenge will be held in September, tentatively on the 21st or 28th. At this time, it's unknown where the event will be held, but the City of Chicago is being considered. Dan advised that our team will participate and volunteers that have never previously participated were encouraged to consider being part of the team.

The 2019 New Lenox CERT / SAR Newsletter turned out great and Dan thanked everyone for participating in activities that were highlighted in the issue. Anyone that's interested in submitting an article for the newsletter was encouraged to contact Dan.

The CERT Facebook Page has 1,198 "Likes." Team members were encouraged to share the page with the friends. Dan also reminded everyone that the team has a Twitter account (@NewLenoxCERT). Everyone on Twitter was encouraged to follow the page.

Dan reminded everyone of the online calendar that was created by Carrie Williams. It's a convenient way to check out upcoming trainings and community events. The calendar is for team members only.

Following some questions and discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm. Special thanks to everyone that attended the meeting and contributed to the discussion!

COLD WEATHER SURVIVAL / SURVIVAL SKILLS – JANUARY 12, 2019

At 8:00am on Saturday January 12, 2019 fourteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall. Carpool arrangements were made for the ride to Harris Forest Preserve in Yorkville, IL where the monthly Kendall County Multi-Jurisdictional SAR training was being held. We departed a few minutes before 8:00am and arrived at our destination at 8:40am.



Shortly after 9:00am Kim Gotte from Kendall County welcomed everyone in attendance and took a few minutes to discuss a recent SAR activation in Kendall County. Kim then began describing methods of treatment for hypothermia, including the "burrito wrap." Kim demonstrated how to lay rope on the ground in a zig-zag fashion. Kim then covered the rope with a 10' X 10' tarp, an exercise mat (layer between the ground and the "victim"), and a "space blanket." Kim, with the assistance of a volunteer, then covered the "victim" with a wool blanket and wrapped him from his feet up to his neck. Kim then demonstrated how to thread the rope through loops, snugging them from the feet to the shoulders. The rope was tied off and was secure enough for SAR members to pick the victim up off the ground and carry him. Following the demonstration everyone in attendance was divided into four groups. Each of the groups solicited a volunteer to be their "victim" and they wrapped him (or her) into the "burrito." It was a great exercise that got everyone involved.



Following the "burrito wrap" demonstration, Kim showed everyone various ways to make a fire. Examples included a rocket stove, toilet paper soaked in (isopropanol) rubbing alcohol inside a one quart can, matches dipped in candle wax, and others. Kim also talked about the many uses for Paracord®, including its use in closing wounds and for fishing. Kim allowed everyone to take an Almonds tin and create a small survival kit with the items that she brought for everyone (thanks Kim!!!).

Following training our team went for a hike in Harris Woods. The hike included a trek up a large sledding hill and around a trail that circled back to the parking lot. Our team's hike included a transport component with team members carrying other team members in a 4-person litter. The hike and carry provided an opportunity to test the team's ability to carry a "victim" for a considerable distance in snowy conditions. A short de-briefing was held in the enclosure where the cold weather survival training was held.

Everyone then headed over to a nearby restaurant for lunch, which included an informal team meeting and fellowship. Following lunch everyone headed back to New Lenox, arriving just before 1:30pm. Special thanks to everyone that attended this month's multi-jurisdictional training, hosted by our friends in Kendall County!



Additional Information

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Safe Community Coordinator

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Visit us on Facebook

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<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

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

CERT Class #14 graduated on Saturday, October 28, 2018. Thirty-nine citizens graduated from this class and are now training with our team. CERT Class #15 will be held on Wednesday evenings (6:30pm-8:30pm) from September 11th thru October 23rd. The final exercise and graduation will be held from 8:00am to 12:00pm on Saturday October 26th. To register for this 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

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

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE/CEMETERY CLEANUP – JANUARY 21, 2019

At 8:00am on Monday January 21, 2019, nine members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met at the Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day / National Day of Service, our team wished to assist Wreaths Across America in the clean-up of Abraham Lincoln Cemetery in Elwood, IL. On December 15, 2018 our team members, along with hundreds of other volunteers, placed live wreaths at gravesites throughout the cemetery. It was now time to remove the wreaths and our team members were honored to assist.



Our team members arrived at the cemetery at approximately 8:30am and got right to work. The 5° temperature and 2-foot snow drifts did not deter our team members and other volunteers from removing thousands of wreaths from headstones. The wreaths were placed in dumpsters (where available), along the side of the road, and into pick-up trucks owned by volunteers. Everyone did a terrific job carrying the wreaths by hand, on sleds and on plastic tarps. Everyone worked very efficiently, honored to do this work on behalf of our country's service members.

In approximately 2 hours Sections 16 and 17 were completed and it looked as though work was wrapping up in other areas of the cemetery as well. After a quick photo with our group and an exchange of goodbyes, our group departed the cemetery at 10:40am, arriving back at the Village Hall at about 11:00am.

Special thanks to each of our team members who participated in this wonderful activity at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.



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