

Village of New Lenox

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## SANDBAGGING AND CRIBBING – MARCH 21, 2018

At 7:00pm on Wednesday March 21, 2018 more than 50 members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met at the New Lenox Public Works Facility for monthly training. Topics for the month of March included Sandbagging and Cribbing. Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator for the Village of New Lenox and CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and turned the floor over to John Opoka. John, New Lenox CERT / New Lenox Relay for Life Team Captain, then provided everyone with an overview of the July 13th event and summarized some recent meetings that he’s been attending. John encouraged everyone to either join our team, support fundraising efforts, and / or attend the July 13th event at Lincoln-Way West High School. John also announced that there would be a Relay meeting immediately following our team’s training.

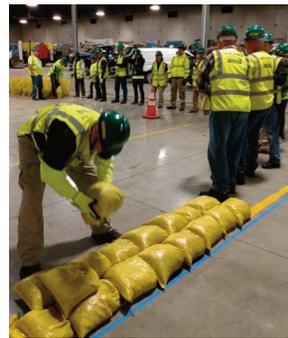


John Schuld then took the floor and provided a brief overview of the sandbagging exercise that he and Joe Frigo would be leading. John stressed safety, including proper shoveling and lifting techniques as well as wearing work gloves and helmets. John also spoke about proper sandbag filling techniques and briefly talked about how to fold and stack the sandbags.

Dan Martin then provided an overview on cribbing, including the need to conduct a proper size-up before entering any structure. Dan went over the various positions (Team Leader, Safety Officer, Medical Person, Lever Operator, Fulcrum Operator and Cribbers). Dan also stressed safety and emphasized not placing hands under the object being cribbed. Dan suggested utilizing wooden blocks to push cribbing materials into place.

Following Dan’s presentation the room was divided into half (approximately 25 each) and everyone headed out to the garage. Group 1 started the sandbagging exercise with John Schuld and Joe Frigo at 7:30pm. Group 2 started the cribbing exercise with Dan Martin also at 7:30pm.

The sandbagging exercise included everyone in the group working together to fill the bags with a sand mixture, which was followed by passing them down a line to a temporary holding area until they were needed. Another line was then formed and the bags were passed to the area where the levee was being built. The bags were properly folded and then stacked, simulating the direction of the flow of the water.



At the cribbing station each group was divided into three separate teams. Each team volunteered for the needed assignments and then began the exercise. Teams did a good job attending to the “victim” (Rescue Randy mannequin), communicating, and lifting the object (pallet, sheets of wood, sandbag and heavy machine rubber tire) off the victim. Quick debriefings were held for each team and then again with the whole group.

The groups traded stations at 8:00pm and both exercises concluded at 8:30pm. Following clean-up, a debriefing was held in the facility’s classroom. The debriefing concluded at approximately 8:45pm, at which time the instructors and everyone that participated were thanked for their efforts. Special thanks to New Lenox Public Works for the use of their facility as well as providing the materials and set-up!



**Our Core Principles:**

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

**Recent Activities:**

Sandbagging & Cribbing	1
SAR Training UTM	2
NL Chamber Spring Expo	3
NL Relay for Life Meeting	3
SAR Physical Agility & Team Building	4
Dist. 122 PTO Fun Fair	5
CERT Training Severe Weather Tabletop	6
Night Search at Midewin	7
CERT Semi-Annual Meeting	8
Sar Training/Alzheimers	9
SARM Tabletop Exercise	10
NLSAR Training January	10
SAR Training Survival Skills	11
CERT Helps Senior	11

**Member Spotlight**

Siobhan Matthews 10

**Upcoming Events:**

Mark Your Calendar 5



# SAR TRAINING / UTM (UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR) – MARCH 10, 2018

At 7:50am on Saturday March 10, 2018 five members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall. Everyone jumped into one vehicle and traveled to the Plano Police Department, 111 E. Main Street, Plano, IL for SAR training that was being hosted by Kendall County EMA / SAR.

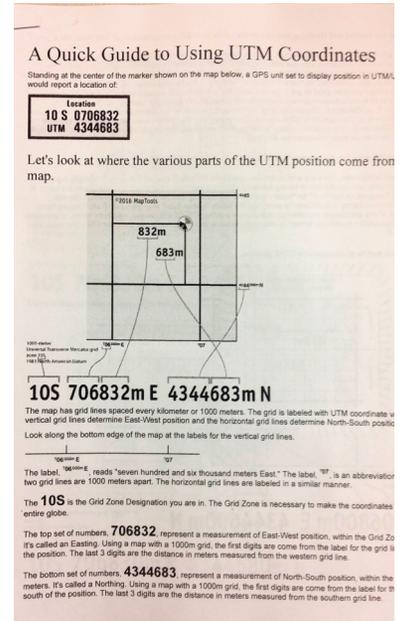
After signing-in and receiving the handouts that were graciously provided, training started promptly at 9:00am with an introduction from Kim Gotte, Kendall County EMA / SAR and Chair of the Illinois Search and Rescue Council. Kim then turned the floor over to John Bennett, also from Kendall County, who explained that UTM stands for Universal Transverse Mercator, another method utilized to plot coordinates on a map or enter into a GPS system. John explained that maps have grid lines spaced every kilometer or 1,000 meters. Grids are labeled with UTM coordinate values. The vertical grid lines determine East-West position and the horizontal grid lines determine North-South position.

Those in attendance learned that the top set of numbers represent a measurement of East-West position, within the grid zone, in meters. It's called Easting. The bottom set of numbers represent a measurement of North-South position within a grid zone, in meters. It's called Northing. To help understand UTM, John led several map exercises to give those in attendance practice finding various locations utilizing the UTM method. In addition, everyone had an opportunity to answer a number of questions that were provided on a practice sheet, which included an accompanying map. Attendees were giving the challenge of identifying the following (examples):

- Determining what features are located at:      755.3km E 4255.4km N
- ""      ""      ""      759.2km E 4254.0km N
- ""      ""      ""      754.7km E 4256.6km N

The exercise also included plotting UTM coordinates on a map with pre-existing landmarks such as campgrounds, creeks, meadows, trails, etc... The exercises were a great way to learn UTM. Kim Gotte then provided everyone with UTM coordinates that will be used for a hands-on exercise in April. The training concluded at approximately 12:30pm and after a brief stop for lunch, our team was back in New Lenox around 2:00pm.

Special thanks to John Bennett and Kim Gotte from Kendall County for providing this valuable training. Also, special thanks to our team members who attended!



## NEW LENOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPRING EXPO AND HOME SHOW – MARCH 10, 2018



At 7:00pm on Friday March 9, 2018 Trish Buhle, Ed Selvas and Regina Sanders met in the fieldhouse at Lincoln-Way Central High School to set-up for the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce Home Show that was scheduled for Saturday March 10, 2018 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Trish, Ed and Regina did an excellent job setting up the table with our tri-fold board, severe weather preparedness handouts, and plenty of literature from Ready.gov. There was also a section on pet preparedness which is always a big hit with families with animals.



At 8:30am on Saturday March 10, 2018 a number of our volunteers arrived at the Expo and prepared for the event to start. Dozens of individuals and families visited the table throughout the morning and took the opportunity to speak with our volunteers about emergency preparedness. Trish Buhle went home to get "Buddy" her famous "CERT dog," who was a big hit when he arrived. Overall it was a great event and we are glad to have had the opportunity to participate.



Special thanks for our wonderful volunteers for doing a great job at this event!

## NEW LENOX RELAY FOR LIFE KICK-OFF MEETING – MARCH 7, 2018

At 6:30pm on March 7, 2018 a kick-off meeting was held for the American Cancer Society fundraising event for teams participating in this year's Relay for Life in New Lenox. The meeting was held at Gina's Teardrop Café in New Lenox. Gina donated the space and food for the meeting. New Lenox CERT Relay for Life team members Trish Buhle, Christine Dzik, and John Opoka, along with his wife Suzi, represented our team.



New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann started the evening by extending best wishes to all the teams for a successful July 13th event. He also thanked all in attendance for their efforts and dedication in fighting cancer, a disease that unfortunately affects all families. He mentioned the great work of the New Lenox Relay for Life over the years, and especially the leadership of Terri Murphy who recently lost her husband after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

The New Lenox Relay for Life event leaders, both Terrie Murphy and Karen Bruck, spoke and introduced their various committee members in attendance. They discussed various fundraising strategies that teams may use to encourage donations.

Dinner and a trivia game followed. Questions about the event were intermingled with the fun of the game and the meeting ended at approximately 8:45pm. After adjournment, Terrie Murphy thanked New Lenox CERT team for coming back to the event and extended her help in anything we may need.

Any questions regarding the New Lenox Relay for Life and / or New Lenox CERT's team, may be directed to John Opoka. To sign-up for our team or to make a donation, go to [www.relayforlife.org/newlenoxil](http://www.relayforlife.org/newlenoxil).

## NEW LENOX SAR / PHYSICAL FITNESS AND TEAM BUILDING TRAINING – MARCH 7, 2018

At 7:00pm on March 7, 2018 eleven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met on the stage of the Performing Arts Pavilion in the New Lenox Commons. Everyone was in attendance for the team's monthly training and this month's topic was "Physical Fitness and Team Building." The team started by doing a (verbal) exercise to get to know each other a little better. In a circle, team members took turns answering questions like: "Name one event in your lifetime that made you who you are." "What gets you fired up?" "What do you want to be remembered for?" "What is at the top of your bucket list?" Everyone had a lot of laughs and it was fun to hear everyone's answers to the questions.



Following 5 minutes of light stretching, the team walked at a quick pace around the Commons. The second lap around everyone formed a single file line and did an "Indian Run." The last person in line had to quickly make it to the front of the line and the process was repeated until everyone had a chance to be the last and first persons in the line.

The next activity utilized a deck of cards. A circle was formed and everyone picked a card. Numbered cards were given the same value. Face cards equaled 10 and aces equaled 11. In clockwise fashion, team members said their card value and chose an exercise to lead for that number of repetitions. The team did push-ups, jumping jacks, stair climbers, leg raises, etc... Team members did a great job and were warmed up to move into the team building exercises.



The "Electric Fence" was the team's first challenge. The team was given an obstacle ("electric fence") that was approximately 4-feet tall and 10-feet wide. The team was then placed in a 10' X 10' square along with "Rescue Randy Jr." (training mannequin). The team was then instructed to get themselves and "Rescue Randy Jr." out of the square and over the fence without touching it. After 2 minutes of developing a strategy, the team did a terrific job working together to safely and efficiently complete the assigned task. Following the exercise a discussion was held regarding working together, developing trust, adapting to change and overcoming challenges.

Four team members volunteered for the next challenge, despite not knowing the details. Blindfolds were placed on the volunteers and they were assigned names of vegetables (Cabbage, Spinach, Onion and Broccoli). The "sighted" team members walked their blindfolded teammates over to the challenge, which was an obstacle course. Instructions were given to verbally navigate the blindfolded teammates through the course and communications had to be with their vegetable names only. One at a time until all four were on the course, the blindfolded team members navigate through the course. They had to walk around traffic cones, crawl under flagging tape and be sure not to touch or knock over any of the obstacles. Course participants did a great job as did those giving the verbal instructions. Following the challenge a discussion was held regarding communication and trust.



On additional challenge was completed, which consisted of forming a circle and joining hands. Team members were given instructions to repeat the command and do the command. For example, "Jump In," "Jump Out," "Jump Left," "Jump Right." Team members then had to repeat the repeat the command, but do the opposite movement. Lastly, team members had to repeat the opposite command, but do the command that was called out. It was a little brain twisting, but a fun exercise to wrap-up with.

The team building portion of the training concluded just short of 9:00pm, after which a team meeting / discussion was held. Training then ended at 9:30pm. Special thanks to all who attended!

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

## NEW LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT #122 PTO FUN FAIR – FEBRUARY 24, 2018



At 10:30am on Saturday February 24, 2018 Trish Buhle along with five members of our team met at Liberty Jr. High School to set-up an informational table for the New Lenox School District #122 PTO Fun Fair. Our volunteers did an excellent job setting up the table which included FEMA Ready.gov materials as well as additional information about severe weather. The table also had a terrific section on pet preparedness, including literature and examples of supplies. Our volunteers also displayed flyers for the April 19th Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo, which will be held at Lincoln-Way West High School. In addition and almost as important due to his celebrity status, Trish Buhle brought her therapy dog "Buddy" (AKA Buddy the CERT Dog).



The event started at 11:00am and included a steady flow of children and families to our table. Our volunteers did a great job getting folks over to our table and so did "Buddy." Once at the table our volunteers engaged children with games that included age appropriate questions about severe weather and emergency preparedness. Parents were provided literature and some even picked up an application for our next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. A total of 12 team members worked in shifts throughout the event, which was fantastic!

The event ended at 3:00pm and was a huge success. Special thanks to Trish Buhle for leading this event and for bringing "Buddy" along. Also, special thanks to the 11 other volunteers that helped throughout the day. Everyone did a great job!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wednesday April 11, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training (Annual Physical Agility Test), at Hickory Creek Preserve
- Saturday April 14, 2018 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training (Navigation/UTM) with Kendall County SAR, at location TBD
- Friday April 20th thru Sunday April 22nd – AWR-213 Wide Area Search, at Local 150 in Wilmington (registration required)
- Tuesday April 24, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Training (Stop the Bleed), at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Sunday May 6, 2018 / 12:00pm – New Lenox CERT Community Event (Loyalty Day Parade), meet at New Lenox Village Hall
- Thursday May 10, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training (Night Search / Transport), at location TBD
- Saturday May 12, 2018 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training (Fit Test, Communications & Documentation) with Kendall County SAR, at location TBD
- Saturday May 19, 2018 / 7:00am – New Lenox CERT Community Event (NLSD #122 PTO 5K Color Run), meet at Nelson Campus
- Thursday May 24, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Training (Triage, Treatment & Transport), at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Monday June 4, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training (Night Search / Communications), at location TBD
- Thursday June 7, 2018 / 6:00pm – New Lenox CERT Community Event (Chasing the Sun 5K), meet at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday June 9, 2018 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training (Day Search) with Kendall County SAR, at location TBD
- Saturday June 16, 2018 / 4:00pm – New Lenox CERT Community Event (Night Ranger Concert), meet at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Thursday June 21, 2018 / 6:00pm – New Lenox CERT Community Event (Trinity Triumph 5K), meet at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday June 30, 2018 / 4:00pm – New Lenox CERT Community Event (Triple Play Concert), meet at the New Lenox Village Hall



New Lenox CERT Activity

New Lenox SAR Activity

## CERT TRAINING / SEVERE WEATHER TABLETOP EXERCISE – FEBRUARY 22, 2018

At 6:15pm on Thursday February 22, 2018 several members of CERT Team #2 arrived at the Village Hall to set-up the Community Room for monthly training. They did a great job setting up the tables and chairs to accommodate the Severe Weather Tabletop Exercise that was planned for the evening.

At 7:00pm, sixty members of New Lenox CERT filled the Community Room to participate in the exercise, which was led by Daniel Martin / New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator and Jeff Butler / Deputy Director, New Lenox Emergency Services. Following opening remarks, the tabletop exercise commenced with an overview of exercise goals & objectives as well as definitions of tabletop exercise, emergency support functions and core (target) capabilities.

The exercise was presented as an unfolding severe weather event, starting with 48-hour advance warning from the National Weather Service – Chicago Office. At various stages of the exercise discussion was held regarding actions that should be taken by CERT members given current conditions. Participants were also informed about what first responders (law enforcement, fire service, and emergency management) would typically be doing during the various stages of the event.

Following a tornado watch in LaSalle, Grundy and Will Counties, the tornado watch was upgraded to a warning when funnel clouds were observed by trained spotters in the Ottawa and Marseilles areas. The scenario included a tornado touch down in Channahon with the path of the storm continuing in a northeast direction toward New Lenox. Additional reports confirmed another touch down near Baker Road & Route 52 in Manhattan. Participants were told that there were reports of uprooted trees, severe damage to structure and flying debris. The tornado then entered New Lenox in the area of Delaney Road & Tanaga Basin Drive. It made its way through the Palmer Ranch Subdivision, the Nelson School Campus and Laraway Ridge Subdivision before crossing Laraway Road near Cedar Road where it lifted off the ground and continued in a northeasterly direction.

Participants were provided preliminary damage reports and were shown maps of the area as well as photos of damage resulting from a tornado. In addition, examples of numerous 9-1-1 calls were provided which included downed power lines, requests for medical assistance, reports of impassable roadways, etc... Additional discussion included CERT notification procedures, establishment of a staging area, methods of communication, and determination of assignments for CERT members. This included search and rescue, triage, transport, treatment, damage assessment, traffic control, etc... The discussion also included responsibilities for law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, hospitals, public works and utility companies.

The scenario also included secondary events such as the smell of natural gas in a subdivision, a personal injury crash at Laraway & Nelson Roads, a severe thunderstorm warning from the National Weather Service, and the explosion of a residence in Laraway Ridge. Additional challenges such as the establishment of a location for Incident (Unified) Command, parents driving around barricades to get to the Nelson Campus, convergent volunteers, and media personnel making their way into affected areas were also discussed. The scenario concluded with (mock) information regarding the number of fatalities and injuries as well the tornado being classified as an F-4 due to its wind speed of approx. 200mph.

Following the exercise a de-briefing of the exercise was held and additional key points were held. Training concluded at 8:45pm although a number of folks stayed for additional discussion. Thanks to all who participated in the exercise and to Jeff Butler for coming out to share his expertise.



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

## SAR NIGHT SEARCH AT MIDWIN NATURAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE – FEBRUARY 5, 2018

With previous permission from U.S. Forest Service personnel at Midewin Natural Tallgrass Prairie, Dan Johnson, Patrick Galligan, and Dan Martin met at the Hoff Road & Chicago Road parking lot at 5:00pm on Monday February 5, 2018. Our three team members arrived early to set-up an exercise that had been in the planning stages for several weeks. Team members were due to arrive no later than 7:00pm for a briefing and to start the exercise.

Our exercise planning team hiked out 1.5 miles in snowy conditions with a temperature hovering around 9°. The team's Rescue Randy Jr., dressed in winter clothing, was lowered into a ravine just off the trail. The training mannequin was made to appear as though he slipped off the trail, fell into the ravine and had his legs trapped in some fallen timber. This placement was consistent with the scenario, which included this occurring when a father and son were hiking the trail.



After being unable to free his son and with his cell phone back in his vehicle, the father left his son to summon help. After staging Rescue Randy Jr., our three team members hiked back to the parking lot and awaited the arrival of the team.

At 7:00pm, with snow still steadily coming down, 13 team members were on scene and ready to go. Dan Johnson conducted the briefing, which included the detailed scenario, and Dan Martin gave the safety briefing. Rich DeVault stepped up as Team Leader and it was decided that one large team would conduct the search.

The team headed into Midewin at 7:15pm and by approximately 7:45pm they had hiked 1.5 miles in 4"-6" of snow and located the victim in the ravine. Team members worked together to conduct a medical assessment, splint the victim's leg and extract him from the ravine. Other team members prepared the makings of a hypothermia kit (burrito wrap) which was ready to go by the time the victim was extracted. Team members then worked together to treat the victim for hypothermia using a tarp, thick foam pad, wool blanket and space blanket to wrap him. The victim was then secured from his feet to his head with climbing rope to hold him in place. The victim was then carefully lifted and placed onto a portable 12-handle litter and prepared for transport.



Working together, the victim was carried back to the staging area. The team utilized a 5-person carry (2 on each side and 1 at the head) to carry the victim. Two team members led the way through the snow and pointed out hazards on the 1.5 mile hike back. Team members switched positions along the way to ensure that everyone stayed fresh, given that the team was hiking through snow. The team arrived back at the parking lot (staging area) at approximately 8:45pm and the scenario concluded. During the de-briefing, the team's strengths were discussed and areas for improvement were identified. The de-briefing ended just after 9:00pm with everyone being given a reminder to drive safe on their way home. Special thanks to all that planned and participated in this exercise, which was very realistic and hands-on.



## NEW LENOX CERT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 24, 2018

At 7:00pm on Wednesday January 24, 2018 sixty-five members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village for the team's Semi-Annual Meeting. Daniel Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked Team #1 for coming in early to set-up the room. Dan then introduced each of the Team Leaders in attendance. New Lenox CERT has two Team Leaders for each of the twelve teams and all but two Team Leaders were in attendance.

A short discussion was held about leadership, including the qualities of a successful team. Emphasis was placed on veteran members mentoring others, with the goal of everyone being able to step into a leadership position.

A summary of CERT volunteer hours for 2017 was provided, which included the following:

- All Activities            4,284 total volunteer hours
- Meetings                327 volunteer hours
- Training                2,277 volunteer hours
- Community Events    1,680 volunteer hours



Dan Johnson provided everyone in attendance with a report from the Training Task Group. Dan outlined the proposed training for 2018, which included our team's core disciplines as well as some new and exciting things. Dan emphasized the August 18th full-scale exercise and encouraged everyone to not only participate, but to attend the training events leading up to the exercise. Dan also mentioned the April 19th Severe Weather Spotter Training, CERT Class #14's Final Exercise on October 27th and the Regional Shelter Operations Training that our team is hosting for the American Red Cross on November 3rd.

Trish Buhle provided the report for the Public Information Task Group. Trish talked about many of community events where historically our team has staffed an informational table. In addition, Trish had some excellent ideas for new events this year. Some of the ideas included staffing a table at Ladies Night Out, Fridays at 5, a Triple Play Concert and Christmas in the Commons, to name a few. Trish requested that anyone interested in helping with any of the events should contact her.

Catherine Johnston provided the report on behalf of the Public Information / Emergency Preparedness Task Group. Catherine advised that her group has been working on a PowerPoint that can be presented to various audiences. Catherine advised that she is looking for audiences (scouts, homeowner's associations, faith-based groups, etc...) to present to. In addition, Catherine solicited those in attendance to assist with the emergency preparedness presentations, noting that anyone that's completed the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class has the ability to present.

Eleni Bosch spoke about the Pet Preparedness Task Group and noted how her group goes hand-in-hand with the other two groups. More specifically, the Public Information Task Group includes information on pet preparedness at their tables and the Public Information / Emergency Preparedness Task Group includes information in their presentations about pet preparedness. Eleni encouraged those with an interest in animals / pets to get involved and contact her for additional information.

On behalf of John Schuld, Dan Martin provided information related to the Shelter Operations Task Group. Dan advised that New Lenox CERT will assist the American Red Cross when mutual aid is needed for shelter operations. Dan explained a recent meeting with the American Red Cross and the Will County Emergency Management Agency and what came out of the meeting is that we'll host an ARC Regional Shelter Operations Course / Exercise on Saturday November 3rd. The location is still to be determined, but will likely be at a local high school with auditorium, cafeteria and gymnasium facilities.

An announcement was made that CERT Class #14 will start on Wednesday September 12th and will graduate on Saturday October 27th. A reminder was provided that assistance with the Final Exercise on October 27th is greatly appreciated.

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is in September. As noted, CERT Class #14 will be held in support of NPM. Additional events will be planned by the team's task groups in an effort to generate preparedness activities in September.

The CERT quarterly newsletter is going very well and the January 2018 issue was outstanding. A request was made for emergency preparedness-related articles for upcoming issues.

The CERT Facebook page is also going well and recently surpassed 1,000 "Likes." Dan Martin encouraged everyone to share the page with their friends and family. Dan also noted that New Lenox CERT is now on Twitter and also encouraged everyone to follow the page.

A variety of items were then brought up for discussion and included the following:

- Starting a CERT Association in Illinois
- Hosting a CERT rodeo or competition
- Additional community involvement (clean-up day, Relay for Life, etc...)
- Social Events (live music, festivals, sporting events, etc...)

Dan requested that anyone with a desire to assist with any of the proposed activities to contact him.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:40pm with Dan thanking everyone that attended!

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

## SAR TRAINING / ALZHEIMER'S (EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES) AND MANAGING CONVERGENT VOLUNTEERS – FEBRUARY 10, 2018

At 8:00am on Saturday February 10, 2018 six members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to Oswego Fire Station One, 3511 Wooley Road, Oswego, IL for multi-jurisdictional SAR training hosted by Kendall County EMA / SAR. Our contingent arrived at the fire station at 8:45am and after signing-in, did some networking with volunteers from other SAR teams.

Kim Gotte from Kendall County EMA / SAR then introduced the Mayra Ligeza from the Alzheimer's Association (Illinois Chapter) who provided everyone in attendance with a copy of her PowerPoint presentation. Those in attendance learned about how important communication is when dealing with individuals with early stage, middle stage, and late stage Alzheimer's. Mayra noted that an individual's ability to communicate changes throughout the disease in the following ways:

### Early Stage (Mild)

- Able to convey thoughts and feelings through language
- Able to make decisions about future care
- May misinterpret what others say

### Middle Stage (Moderate)

- Use basic words and sentences
- Rely more on tone of voice, facial expression, and body language
- Continue to need emotional connection and meaningful activity

### Late Stage (Severe)

- May still respond to familiar words, phrases, or songs
- Use body language and the five senses to connect



Mayra explained that those with Alzheimer's may experience difficulty in finding the right words and may take longer to speak or respond. In addition, those stricken with the disease may start withdrawing from conversations and will struggle with decision-making or problem-solving. Mayra did an excellent job walking everyone through each of the stages and provided some excellent tips for communication. The tips were highlighted with several videos from experts and those who have loved ones affected by Alzheimer's. Mayra provided some excellent resources such as alz.org as well as the 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900). Everyone in attendance was grateful for the presentation, which concluded at 10:00am.

After a short break, Kim Gotte provided a presentation on Managing Convergent Volunteers, which was excellent as well. Kim pointed out how to avoid mistakes including: Assuming volunteers have no potential value; ignoring volunteers; and getting annoyed by inappropriate clothing, bringing untrained dogs or otherwise not being prepared for a search. In addition, Kim pointed out that it's unwise for SAR Managers to be unprepared for spontaneous volunteers and the danger in doing a poor (or no) assessment.

Kim outlined the importance of registering volunteers and conducting an appropriate interview with them. Volunteers may then be divided into three groups. 1. Suitable for base operations. 2. Field deployable. 3. Unsuitable for operations. Examples of potential assignments include work in base operations (registration table, form distribution, map distribution, equipment distribution). Clerical assignments may include form or map duplication, documentation unit, runner, or scribe. Volunteers may also be suitable to assist with parking and other duties in the staging area. Caution must be exercised with duties related to transportation with Kim noting that it's better for volunteers to transport "stuff" rather than people. Kim also covered potential assignments in "rehab" and ground operations. As far as untrained volunteers go, a "general search" may be better suited than an efficiency or thorough search.

Kim's presentation also covered terrain considerations, PPE, medical concerns, clue discovery protocol, communications, and best practices for volunteers who are unsuitable for operations. In addition, Kim noted some kind methods to conduct a "rejection notification," how long to train volunteers, and what to do with volunteers who show up with special skills or equipment. In closing, Kim noted the importance of developing a volunteer protocol, including a registration form and liability waiver. Kim's presentation ended at approximately 11:00am, which allowed our team to make it back to New Lenox by 12:30pm. Special thanks to Kim Gotte and Kendall County EMA / SAR for hosting this great training and to our volunteers who attended!

## SARM (SEARCH AND RESCUE MANAGEMENT) TABLETOP EXERCISE – JANUARY 20, 2018

At 7:30am on Saturday, January 20, 2018, two members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the New Lenox Village Hall to carpool to Yorkville. At 8:30am they arrived at the Kendall County Sheriff's Office to attend a multi-agency quarterly SAR Management functional tabletop.



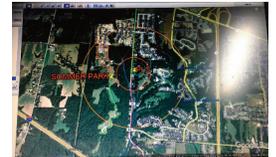
The exercise began promptly at 9:00am led by Kim Gotte of Kendall County EMA / SAR and Chair of Illinois Search and Rescue Council. A total of 11 SAR members from various agencies participated in the training. Kim discussed changes on three forms - Initial Consensus Ranking Summary, Staging Check-In Form, and Staging Resources List. She also provided a brief review of options within USGS, Google Earth, and CalTopo mapping before breaking into two groups for the tabletop exercise.

The functional tabletop exercise was taken from a 2012 Peoria search which at the time was the largest search in Illinois, including Peoria, Douglas, and McLean Counties and covering over 30 square miles. A Silver Alert was issued for 73-yr. old male with advanced Alzheimer's disease. It occurred in early February with very similar weather conditions as today. The physically active individual left his home on foot with insufficient outerwear. His wife reported him missing at 2:30pm and SAR resources arrived on scene at 5:30pm.

For the exercise, we started the "Sign In" form, took information from the law enforcement officer, completed the First Arriving Officer Checklist, completed the Missing Person Questionnaire, determined urgency rating, communication plan, and determined profile from the Lost Person Behavior book. Then, using USGS TOPO, we mapped 25%, 50% and 75% probability rings based on PLS (Point Last Seen). We began establishing search segments, completed medical and safety briefings, and dispersed 5 Initial Search Teams, 3 K9's (secured scent item), and 2 water assignments. At the conclusion of the tabletop, we reviewed and critiqued our individual Missing Person Questionnaire and Safety Plan.

Kim Gotte concluded the exercise describing the actual events that unfolded over the course of a week. Apparently, a young man returning to school offered the man a ride within minutes of him leaving his home. The Alzheimer's man was very lucid at the time and had requested a ride to a local state park 5 miles from his home (90% ring). The student dropped him at the entrance of the park and continued on to school. The student returned home the following Saturday and learned from the local news of the elderly man's disappearance. He reported the event to the police who then expanded the search Sunday morning through 3,200-acre park. A local news reporter who had been interviewing the family and was very familiar with the park, participated in the Sunday morning search. The man was found deceased in a creek within a mile from the entrance.

After the tabletop, members were provided a tour of the Naperville Emergency Management Mobile Operating Center (MOC1). Training concluded at 2:00pm with our team members returning to New Lenox by 3:00pm.



## NLSAR TRAINING / NAMUS & EVIDENCE – JANUARY 20, 2018

At 8:00am on Saturday January 20, 2018 two members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team attended the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) SAR monthly training. Training was held at the Plainfield Police Department with WCEMA, Naperville, Plainfield, and New Lenox SAR Team representatives in attendance.

Mark Czworniak (retired Detective from Chicago PD) was the first guest speaker. Mark is a consultant for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Mark provided a PowerPoint presentation on missing children and NCMEC services. Mark gave several statistics, which included the fact that in 2016 there were 465,676 missing children in the United States. Fortunately, most do return home.

Additional services provided by NCMEC include:

- Missing Fliers
- Media Affairs
- Coordinate search dogs, helicopters, dive teams, and horses
- Print Topological maps for searches
- Manage Searches
- Work with FBI
- Train and assist law enforcement
- Provide online publications
- Assist in reunification effort



Mark also spoke on sex trafficking and how sexual predator's use social media and cell phones to groom children. Mark talked about the importance of checking kids' cell phones to ensure that their communications do not include contact with potential predators.

The second guest speaker was Gene Sullivan. Gene is a Deputy Coroner with Will County Coroner's Office who works on cold case investigations. Gene gave a PowerPoint presentation on the National Missing and Unidentified Person (NAMUS) system. NAMUS is a database used by law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners and families. The web site is [www.namus.gov](http://www.namus.gov). He spoke on the technologies entered into the database, including age regression and progression, teeth, fingerprints, toxicology, tattoos, facial depiction, personal items, and medical information. Gene gave several examples of different cold cases that they worked on and the agencies he interacts with.

The training ended with a question and answer session. Gene talked about when searching for a body to be aware of evidence that may be in the area. If victim or evidence is found, SAR members should stay on their line to ensure that potential evidence is not contaminated.

Following training, our team members returned to New Lenox at approximately 12:00pm. Special thanks to the presenters as well as our team members who were able to attend this valuable training.

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

## SAR TRAINING / SURVIVAL SKILLS – JANUARY 13, 2018

At 8:00am on Saturday January 13, 2018 seven 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 in Kendall County. After a short discussion, the team left at 8:10am and drove to the Kendall County Historical Courthouse, located at 110 W. Madison Street in Yorkville, IL. The team arrived at approximately 8:50am, signed-in and did some networking with SAR members from Kendall County and other teams.



Kim Gotte from Kendall County EMA / SAR and Chair of the Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) led the training. Kim started with a PowerPoint that covered cold weather clothing. The presentation included various types of materials for base layers as well as outer garments that help protect from the cold. Kim’s presentation also covered head ware, gloves, and winter boots.

Following the presentation on cold weather clothing, Kim did an extensive presentation on cold weather injuries. The presentation covered hypothermia and frostbite extensively. In addition to describing these types of injuries, Kim covered treatment as well as prevention.



Following the classroom presentations, Kim demonstrated how to wrap a hypothermic victim in a “burrito.” This included laying a 62-ft. piece of 3/8” climbing rope on the ground and creating 10-12 loops, which were later used to snug the victim into the “burrito.” Kim demonstrated laying a tarp on the ground over the rope. This was followed by a foam mattress (camping sleeping pad), which was utilized to insulate the victim from the cold ground. A blanket was placed over the foam mattress for additional warmth, followed by a reflective space blanket.



The class was divided into two teams, each given the challenge of properly wrapping their victim and preparing them for transport. Everyone really enjoyed the exercise and the opportunity to practice these lifesaving skills.

Following the hands-on exercise, Kim completed her PowerPoint, which included additional information on cold-related injuries, treatment, and preventive measures (shelter, starting a fire, etc...). The class concluded at approximately 1:15pm and after grabbing some lunch at a nearby restaurant, our team headed back to New Lenox. Everyone arrived back at the Village Hall at 3:00pm.

Special thanks to our team members for attending as well as to Kim Gotte and Kendall County EMA / SAR for providing this excellent training opportunity!

## NEW LENOX CERT HELPS A SENIOR IN NEED – DECEMBER 20, 2017

On December 19th Senior Services of Will County requested assistance for a 61-year old female with stage 4 lung cancer. According to information that was made available, the woman’s mother had passed away in early December and the woman was being evicted from her apartment. Assistance was requested to help the woman pack her belongings so they could be moved to storage locations.



On December 20th eight (8) New Lenox CERT members, along with other volunteers, arrived at the woman’s apartment in Bolingbrook. The woman’s apartment was described as a one-bedroom and very full. Volunteers jumped right in and started organizing and packing various areas of the apartment. The boxes were then moved to a truck and driven to the woman’s hotel room, self-storage, or a relative’s home.



There were several trips made to these locations and additional trips were made for the purchase of additional boxes, markers, and packing tape. Around noon a volunteer supplied food (chicken, rolls and a couple of side dishes), which was greatly appreciated. Amazingly, a little before 3:00pm, the apartment was nearly empty of furniture, boxes, and garbage bags. Additional family members arrived to finish packing the remaining items.

A very special thanks to our volunteers who took time out of their busy lives to drive to Bolingbrook to help a senior in need!



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

**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

*Safe Community Coordinator*

Phone: 815-462-6493

Fax: 815-462-6469

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



*Visit us on Facebook*

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

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

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

CERT Class #13 graduated on Saturday October 28, 2017. It was an excellent class with many folks eager to become part of our team! Our next class will start on Wednesday September 12, 2018 at the New Lenox Village Hall. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for seven weeks. The Final Exercise and Graduation will be held on Saturday October 27th, 2018 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, at (815) 462-6493 or via email at [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net) to register for the class.

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

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

**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER—SIOBHAN MATTHEWS**

Hello all! I am new to New Lenox, which is one reason why I wanted to join CERT. I grew up in Burbank which is a little town near Midway Airport. Growing up I was in girl scouts and loved the crafts helping in the community and the trips! In high school I was in track, cross country and the outdoor club. I have to say cross country was the best we would run in the woods and I just felt so relaxed and could run for hours! I love nature and being outdoors it just makes me happy!



One of my best memories as a child was going to my grandparents in Arkansas every summer. My grandparents lived in the middle of nowhere with farms all around them. They were huge volunteers in their church and community cooking for less fortunate people and driving the elderly to and from places as needed. My grandpa would play the harmonica for us every night while they spoiled us with ice cream! They were so inspiring and I looked up to them. My grandpa had a garden in tires due to the soil being clay. There was nothing like eating a cherry tomato from his garden. I don't know if it was the soil or the memories but it was delicious! Once I bought my first house in Oak Lawn I made a garden of my own!

I have worked for over 12 years as a Mortgage closer at different banks but the same field. Growing up I always wanted to work with children as a teacher but got swept up in the mortgage world I never ventured that direction. For holidays I started putting together kid parties for my family and friends little ones. My cousin and I would set up 3 activities depending on their age group and Everyone had a blast including me! After a fun day it was off to their parents with a little too much sugar, which I am sure they will pay me back for some day once I have kids of my own!

My husband and I were married in June of 2016 and we then needed a bigger house as my little starter home was not going to cut it with 2 large dogs and my husband. We started looking at places we can someday raise a family and we found a house in New Lenox!

We bought the house in June of 2017 and we love it! I am big on crafts and have my own crafting room at our new house. I have made quilts, sewed purses for my friends for my wedding and now make homemade health products such as magnesium foot and bath soaks. I am expanding every day but have a great time doing them and trying to help people heal naturally!

In New Lenox our friends took us to the Bare Naked Ladies concert in the park and on our way out we received a flyer about a class that was coming up for CERT. I wanted to be a part of a community not just live in it so I contacted Dan and I graduated in class 13! Dan and all the CERT Team members are truly an amazing bunch. In a short amount of time, I have been fortunate enough to meet many new people and hear some remarkable stories. I have to say one of the many things I learned about was the NOAA radio. I truly did not even know it existed!

Thank you to every member that has shared their knowledge with me and helped us newbies feel welcome! I cannot wait to grow with the CERT team and be a member for many years to come! Go CERT!

**Resolve to Be  
Ready  
2018**

**Preparing Makes Sense**  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
**#Prepared2018**

