

Village of New Lenox

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

OUR FALLEN HERO 5K – SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

At 7:30am on Saturday September 22, 2018 eleven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the parking lot of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mokena to prepare for the "OUR FALLEN HERO 5K," in memory of PFC Aaron Toppen. From the OUR FALLEN HERO 5K web site:

On Monday, June 9, 2014 Mokena lost an American hero. PFC Aaron Toppen grew up in Mokena, attended Mokena Public School District #159 and graduated from Lincoln Way East High School in 2013. From a young age, PFC Aaron Toppen was incredibly patriotic and dreamed of following in the footsteps of both his maternal and paternal grandfathers by enlisting in the military to serve the Country he loved. Despite the risk, but with the support of his family, PFC Aaron Toppen followed his dream and was sworn into the United States Army in July 2013 where he received training at Fort Benning, Georgia thereafter reporting to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team in Colorado. PFC Aaron Toppen was deployed to Afghanistan in March 2014 firm in his belief that "I stand between the innocent and harm not because I should...but because I can". While serving his Country with pride, honor and bravery, PFC Aaron Toppen made the ultimate sacrifice for his Country and lost his life during a joint operation of Afghan and NATO forces in the Arghandab District of southern Zabul province.

PFC Aaron Toppen has been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon and the NATO Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and is recommended for the Medal of Valor.

The 5K kicked off at 8:00am after a wonder National Anthem. Our SAR team was proud to participate in this event, which supports the Pat Tillman Foundation.

Our team members enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning with several hundred runners and walkers. As our team members finished the event in about 52 minutes, the DJ complimented our team and announced that "New Lenox Search and Rescue" was crossing the finish line. Our team stayed to speak with a number of citizens who came up to our team members and asked questions about our team and its mission. Our team left the event at ab out 9:45am, following the awards ceremony. Special thanks to Lisa Murphy for organizing this event for our team.



Our Core Principles:

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

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LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE – SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

At 11:00am on Sunday September 23, 2018 thirteen members of New Lenox CERT met in the parking lot of Lion's Den / McKay Center for a briefing regarding a parade that was set to kick-off at 12:00pm from Martino Junior High School. Dan Martin advised everyone in attendance that our team was asked to provide traffic control on Joliet Highway at the following cross streets: Lake, Sojourn, Tauber, Spencer, Anderson, Somerset, Princeton, Dartmouth, Colombia and Vanderbilt. Apparently during last year's parade vehicles entered onto Joliet Highway as the parade was in progress so CERT was asked to ensure that didn't happen again this year. The briefing ended at 11:15am and everyone headed out to their respective assignments.



The parade, consisting of emergency vehicles, the Lincoln-Way Marching Band and a variety of floats, started at 12:00pm sharp. The parade headed east on Joliet Highway with students tossing candy to those that lined the streets along the way. Everything went smoothly along the parade route except for one individual who pulled in front of the parade (Dartmouth & Joliet Highway) after being directed not to do so. Regardless, everyone had a great time and the parade turned north onto Schoolhouse Road and made it safely to the high school.

Special thanks to our volunteers who were kind enough to come out on a Sunday to assist with the parade!

SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR CERT MEMBERS – SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

At 6:30pm on Thursday September 20, 2018 members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met at New Lenox Community Park District's Fireman's Park, just west of the Lions Community Center. Members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team had arrived early to display some of their gear for everyone to check out.



Dan Martin welcomed those who arrived early and did a quick "show-and-tell" with his gear, as did Patrick Galligan. Additional SAR members also showed off various pieces of equipment from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

At 7:00pm, after providing a quick overview of the evening's activities, Dan turned the floor over to Lisa Murphy. Lisa went into greater detail about the survival skills training that was on the agenda for the evening. In short, the 40-plus members in attendance would be divided into three groups so they could rotate through three stations. The stations were as follows:

- Fire Starting Rich DeVault and Linda Tomnitz
- Shelters Lisa Murphy and Joe Frigo
- Wilderness First Aid Patty Edgett and Tricia Pakosz

The stations were designed for a 20-minute presentation and then teams (designated ALPHA, BRAVO and CHARLIE) would rotate to the next station until all three stations were completed.

At the shelter station, Joe and Lisa showed everyone how to tie some relevant knots as well as build various types of shelters. At the fire starting station, Rich and Linda showed everyone various methods and tools to start fires. At the wilderness first aid station Patty and Tricia provided an overview on first aid and how it applies to wilderness situations. Patty and Tricia also had numerous first-aid items and equipment on display.

The training concluded at approximately 8:20pm, which allowed time for a short debriefing. Special thanks to our instructors that did a wonderful job as well as those who attended!

FRANKFORT NEW LENOX RUNNING CLUB 20-MILER – SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

At 7:00am on Saturday September 15, 2018 eight members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met at various points on Old Plank Trail. The points included Schoolhouse Road, Spencer Road, Lake Road, and Joliet Highway where it intersects with Old Plank Trail. On this particular day the Frankfort New Lenox Running Club (FNRC) was completing its 20-mile run in preparation for the October 7th Chicago Marathon. The running club had requested New Lenox CERT to assist them with traffic control at those particular locations in the interest of keeping the runners safe.



The runners passed through the above-mentioned intersections starting at around 7:00am, making their way to Cedar Road, which was the turnaround point. After turning around at Cedar Road they then made their way back to the Grainery in Frankfort.

While wearing their high visibility vests, our volunteers did an excellent job slowing down traffic and / or stopping it as the runners proceeded through the intersections. The last runners cleared Schoolhouse Road at approximately 10:15am at which time the last pair of our volunteers completed their assignment.

Special thanks to our volunteers who kept the runners safe throughout the morning. Also, good luck to all the FNRC runners who will be competing in the marathon on October 7th!

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

RECOVERY SEARCH / KANKAKEE RIVER STATE PARK – SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

At 9:09am on September 13, 2018 SAR ground teams were requested by the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) to assist with the search for a male subject in the Kankakee River State Park. SAR personnel were directed to report to WCEMA's garage, 16841 W. Laraway Road at 11:00am for a briefing. Three members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team reported to the facility and were briefed by Harold Damron, Director of WCEMA.



During the briefing, those in attendance learned that Daniel Jarski had been missing since Sunday September 9th, which was widely reported by the media. The subject was described as 62 years of age, a father of three, and from Grant Park. Jarski's vehicle, a red Chevy van, was located on September 11th in a hunting area on Route 113, near the Kankakee River in Bonfield, IL. Following the briefing, searchers were directed to report to the Kankakee River State Park's Chippewa Campground – Hunting Area 6, which was designated as the staging area.

Our team members, along with a member of WCEMA SAR, arrived at the staging area at 12:05pm and were further briefed by a law enforcement officer. Additional information was provided by searchers that had been conducting a search on ATVs. Trails west of Warner Bridge Road from Hunting Areas 5 thru 8, had been checked. An individual with a search dog also indicated that two search dogs had been out earlier in the morning and a cadaver dog was currently involved in the search as well.

Maps of the state park were utilized as a reference and a discussion was held regarding priority areas. Our search team members covered trails, wooded areas, open prairie, corn fields and areas near the river. The team took a break at 2:45pm and held a discussion regarding additional search areas. Our team continued searching until approximately 4:00pm and then returned to the staging area. A short debriefing was held and our team members left the park at 4:30pm, arriving back in New Lenox at approximately 5:30pm.

An additional search was scheduled for Saturday September 15, 2018. Special thanks to our team members that participated in this search!

SHAREFEST HHW AND RECYCLING EVENT – SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

At 7:15am on Saturday September 8, 2018, eight members of New Lenox CERT met in the parking lot of Spencer Campus for a briefing related to the ShareFest HHW and Recycling event. The eight CERT members constituted the first of four shifts of volunteers for the day. Volunteer shifts were broken down as follows: 7:30am to 9:30am, 9:30am to 11:30am, 11:30am to 1:30pm, and 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Some of the volunteers stayed for one shift, while others volunteered for multiple shifts. There were a total of 13 volunteers that assisted throughout the day.

Following the briefing our volunteers headed out to their traffic direction and control points throughout the campus. Will County Land Use / Will County Green created a color map of the event, which included the traffic flow pattern for the following stations:

- Electronics
- HHW (Household Hazardous Waste)
- Styrofoam
- Scrap Metal
- Wood
- Food, Clothing, Books, and Household Goods
- American Flags (per US American Flag etiquette and disposal guidelines)



This year's event was based on an appointment only system, which was found to be extremely efficient. Approximately 45 vehicles flowed through the event every 15 minutes. Our volunteers did an excellent job directing the vehicles through the traffic pattern where they were assisted at each of the individual stations by volunteers or waste/recycling company staff. Without exaggeration, everyone that our CERT members made contact with expressed gratitude for the event and commented on how efficient the lines were.



The last vehicles came through the stations at 3:00pm at which time our CERT volunteers assisted with breakdown of the event (stacking traffic cones, signage, sand bags). Marta Keane from Will County Land Use / Will County Green expressed here thanks and appreciation to our volunteers for their efforts throughout the day. The last shift of volunteers left at 3:30pm with a sense of accomplishment, knowing how much HHW (flammable, caustic, poisonous) material was removed from New Lenox homes by virtue of this event. Great job by all involved!!

OLD CAMPGROUND FESTIVAL – SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

At 8:00am on Saturday September 15, 2018 several members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the United Methodist Church grounds to set-up our informational table for the Old Campground Festival - Flea Market & Craft Fair. Trish Buhle took the lead on this event and also brought her comfort dog "Buddy," who is always a big hit with visitors, especially children!

Our members provided literature from FEMA on being prepared for emergencies and disasters. They also answered questions regarding how to join New Lenox CERT and made recommendations on how to put together a disaster supply kit. In addition, kids played our safety game by answering questions regarding disaster safety and everyone who played received a small prize.

Many people stopped by our table throughout the day until the event's conclusion at 3:00pm. The table was taken down and materials were sorted in preparation for our next event. Special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who assisted at this great event!



NIGHT SEARCH / MESSENGER WOODS – SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

At 6:45pm on Thursday September 6th, 14 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Messenger Woods Nature Preserve on Bruce Road approximately one mile east of Cedar Road. Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy had organized this particular training, which included a night search for two male teenagers. After everyone dressed and gathered all necessary equipment for the search, Joe provided the briefing for the team. In an effort to practice with GPS and UTM coordinates, Joe provided the team with UTM coordinates of where the teens were located. The UTM coordinates were entered into several of our team members GPS units and the team set off to search for the teens.



Twelve team members stayed together while Joe and Lisa trailed since they knew where the "victims" were located. The UTM coordinates took the team directly to the victims, which took about 15 minutes. The victims were located way down at the bottom of a steep hill near a small creek. A quick size-up of the area was conducted, which included checking out the terrain and speaking to one of the teens. Team members then made their way down to the teens, including Patty Edgett who served as Medical Officer for this training. Patty quickly assessed that the victim's leg was broken so she bandaged it and applied a splint. Additional team members made their way down the steep slope with a "stokes" basket while the remaining team members prepared a rope system for extraction. The team did an excellent job setting the victim into the stokes basket and moving him approximately 75 feet to the extraction point. With team members pulling at the top, the extraction team carried the victim slowly up the hill. The extraction team did a good job communicating with each other as well as the team at the top of the hill. Throughout the journey to the top of the hill, team members checked on the condition of the victim and made sure that the stokes basket was level.

After reaching the top of the hill the victim was set down momentarily to allow team members to regroup. The team then carried the victim all the way back to the staging area, which was approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. A de-briefing was held and Joe spent some time going over some of the knots that were utilized during the extraction. Time was also spent discussing upcoming training, events, and the ISARC Conference. Training ended just shy of 9:00pm at which time everyone drove out of the Nature Preserve together. Special thanks to Joe and Lisa for planning the training. In addition, special thanks to Ryan and Sean Murphy for being our victims for this training event.

BRUCE HORNSBY CONCERT – AUGUST 25, 2018

At 4:30pm on Saturday August 11, 2018 twenty-one members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Village Hall. Everyone was in attendance for a briefing for the Bruce Hornsby Concert. In the absence of Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Rich DeVault and Mary Ann Cody reviewed the event's Incident Action Plan. They covered expected attendance, the opening acts, special requests including securing the patio outside the Community Center for a VIP Party, the severe weather plan and everyone's respective assignments. The briefing ended at 4:45pm.



Members reported to their respective positions by 5:00pm. The gates to the venue opened at 5:30pm and fans entered the venue in an orderly fashion. Our volunteers that handled the lawn area did a wonderful job making sure everyone was safe and the aisles were kept clear. Volunteers at other assigned areas also did a terrific job assisting the guests throughout the evening.

Lez Stroud (aka Survivorman) opened the evening at 6:00pm and played until 7:00pm. Joan Osborne followed from 7:30 to 8:30pm. Bruce Hornsby took the stage at 9:00pm and played until 10:30pm at which time our volunteers assisted with egress at all three gates. Although it was a very humid night, we were very fortunate that the evening was uneventful.

A short debriefing was held inside the Village Hall in the rotunda area. Again, it was a relatively uneventful evening and therefore there was little to discuss. Everyone was thanked for doing a great job and the debriefing ended at 11:00pm.

Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this concert as well as all the concerts this summer. Everyone did a great job keeping our guests informed and safe!

RECOVERY SEARCH / ASSIST HIGHLAND PARK POLICE – SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

On Friday August 31, 2018 our Search and Rescue Team was contacted by the Illinois Search and Rescue Council to assist with a Recovery Search for a missing kayaker (Sebastian Duncan, 20-year old male). The subject was last seen in his yellow 10-foot kayak on Lake Michigan near Highland Park on Monday August 27th. It was reported that the kayak capsized and the victim drown as a result. Search efforts were on-going throughout the week and residents along the Lake Michigan shoreline were requested to be on the lookout for the victim and his kayak.

At 7:00am on Saturday September 1, 2018 nine members of NLSAR met at the Village Hall, with one additional team member driving separately. The team then carpooled to "Forest Park," located at 551 Lake Road in Lake Forest, IL, which was designated as the staging location. Our team arrived at 8:15am and were ready for the briefing at 8:30am, which was given by Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency. Following the briefing, which included safety information, everyone in attendance was divided into five teams. New Lenox Search and Rescue was divided into two teams, with three additional searchers added to each team. There were five sections of shoreline to be searched, each approximately one mile in length.

Our two teams had the first two search segments north of the staging area. Team "Alpha" left on foot from the staging area while Team "Bravo" was transported to the northern portion of their search segment, working south along the shoreline. The terrain was unlike most of our ground searches. There were large rocks / boulders along the shoreline, which were slippery due to the waves from Lake Michigan. Much of the time searchers had to have 3 points of contact with the rocks to avoid falling. The shoreline also contained some sand and pebble beaches as well as trees and other vegetation. The shoreline was searched very thoroughly and within two hours Teams "Alpha" and "Bravo" met at their mutual ending points. Shortly thereafter transportation arrived and transported both teams back to the staging area.

Upon returning to the staging area the rain started to fall a bit harder and dense fog started to come in from the lake. Additional teams returned to staging and everyone grabbed some lunch, compliments of the Salvation Army. Shortly thereafter a de-briefing was held, which concluded at approximately 12:45pm. Our team members then secured their gear and carpooled back to New Lenox, arriving at the Village Hall at 2:00pm. Special thanks to our volunteers who participated in this search during Labor Day Weekend. Your time and effort is appreciated by many!

*Sebastian Duncan's body was found on Sunday September 9th along Highland Park's Openlands Lake Michigan Shoreline near Fort Sheridan

NATIONAL CERT CONFERENCE / NAPLES, FL – AUGUST 20TH THRU 25TH

On Monday August 20th Dan Martin attended FEMA's CERT Program Manager Course, which was being held just prior to the National CERT Conference in Naples, FL. The 3-day course is designed for CERT Program Coordinators for the purpose of providing best practices information to help keep volunteers active and engaged.



Dan was joined by fellow team members Patty Edgett and Chuck Geraci when the conference started on August 23rd. The conference was attended by hundreds of CERT Program Managers and volunteers from 26 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Each day began with morning general plenary sessions presented by leaders in emergency and disaster management. Afterward, break-out sessions were designed on five tracks; national initiatives, disaster response, program management, advanced CERT training, advanced related training, and a bonus track. Attendees were free to sit in on any of the sessions. Presenters represented a wide range of leadership in CERT, SAR, EMS, EMA, public safety, education, and NGO's (Red Cross, Salvation Army). There were 15 separate break-out sessions on Thursday and Friday, with topics as varied as youth initiatives and preparedness, shelter training, a tabletop exercise, Stop the Bleed, use of unmanned aircraft (drones) and more. The most popular sessions were those where speakers discussed CERT deployment and lessons learned in real life disasters and emergencies, two of which were the recent (2017) Fort Lauderdale Airport shooter and the Parkland High School shooter incidents.

The week concluded with a Saturday morning disaster drill. Participating members were bused to an off-site church/school campus where they practiced at a variety of skill stations, one of which was cribbing of a vehicle off a victim. The concluding exercise was a CERT response to a simulated post school shooter scenario. Members practiced team organization, leadership, communication, med-ops, and simulated transport for treatment. But the week wasn't all work and no play. There were many vendor tables with 'freebies,' a Casino Night, a Golf Outing, and a nightly "hospitality suite." By far the most rewarding part of the week was meeting, sharing with, and getting to know fellow CERT from all over the country. The next National CERT Conference will take place in 2020 in Missouri, exact date and place to be determined. Make plans now to attend. You won't regret it!

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

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CERT TRAINING – AUGUST 18, 2018

At 7:00am on Saturday August 18, 2018 a number of CERT volunteers arrived at the Village Hall to set-up training for the team. This particular training was designed to allow team members to practice the following CERT disciplines: Cribbing, Triage, Treatment, Transport and Building Search. As an added bonus, Team Building was added to the mix as well. The stations were set-up outside of the Village Hall, inside the Village Hall and across the street in the Commons. Everything was ready to go by 7:45am as team members were starting to arrive.



At 8:00am Dan Martin welcomed the 40 team members that were in attendance. Dan provided an overview of the training, which included a safety briefing. Those in attendance were informed that Dan Johnson would serve as Incident Commander and would also handle communications. Team members (minus those leading each of the stations) were divided into 5 teams and provided with an opportunity to select a Team Leader. Team Leaders were given instructions that Incident Command would contact them for their next assignment (station). The agenda, including station rotations, was as follows:

	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30
CRIBBING	TEAM 1	TEAM 5	TEAM 4	TEAM 3	TEAM 2
TREATMENT/TRIAGE	TEAM 2	TEAM 1	TEAM 5	TEAM 4	TEAM 3
TRANSPORT	TEAM 3	TEAM 2	TEAM 1	TEAM 5	TEAM 4
BUILDING SEARCH	TEAM 4	TEAM 3	TEAM 2	TEAM 1	TEAM 5
TEAM BUILDING	TEAM 5	TEAM 4	TEAM 3	TEAM 2	TEAM 1



- 8:00am to 8:25am Welcome, Introduction, Prep Time
- 8:30am to 8:55am Station(s) Explain - 5 min., Complete - 15 min., De-Brief 5 min.
- 9:00am to 9:25am Station(s) Explain - 5 min., Complete - 15 min., De-Brief 5 min.
- 9:30am to 9:55am Station(s) Explain - 5 min., Complete - 15 min., De-Brief 5 min.
- 10:00am to 10:25am Station(s) Explain - 5 min., Complete - 15 min., De-Brief 5 min.
- 10:30am to 10:55am Station(s) Explain - 5 min., Complete - 15 min., De-Brief 5 min.
- 11:00am to 11:25am De-Briefing
- 11:30am to 12:00pm Lunch



Dan Johnson, as well as the leaders of each of the stations, did a great job keeping teams on time. John Schuld led the teams in a cribbing exercise on the east side of the Village Hall, which challenged team member's skills and lifting an object off Rescue Randy Jr. Patty Edgett and Lisa Zuales led the Triage / Treatment station, which tested (START) triage skills, wound splinting, bandaging and tourniquet application. John Opoka and Rich DeVault led transport, which included chair carries, blanket / tarp carries, backboard carries and several other techniques. Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy led the indoor building search, which challenged team members to conduct a search in the dark for "victims." Tricia Pakosz and Phillia Mitchell led a fun team building exercise, which had team members working together to "transport" a golf ball through small pieces of PVC pipe held by each of the participants. The training ended at 10:55am and after station clean-up, everyone met back in the community room for a barbeque and de-briefing.



Following lunch and the de-briefing, training ended at 12:00pm. Special thanks to each of the station leads for planning and executing excellent challenges for our team members. In addition, thanks to all of our team members that participated. We definitely learned a lot and had a great time!

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CHRIS ISAAK CONCERT – AUGUST 11, 2018

At 4:30pm on Saturday August 11th twenty members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Village Hall. Everyone was in attendance for a briefing for the Chris Isaak Concert. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, went over the event's Incident Action Plan. Dan covered expected attendance, the opening acts, special requests for our team, the severe weather plan and everyone's respective assignments. The briefing ended at 4:50pm, at which time everyone headed out to their assignments in the Commons.



The gates to the venue opened at 5:30pm and everyone was excited to find a good seat. Our volunteers that handled the lawn area did a wonderful job making sure everyone was safe and the aisles were kept clear. Volunteers at other assigned areas also did a terrific job helping guests throughout the evening.



Following the two opening bands, Chris Isaak took the stage at 9:00pm. He put on a fantastic show which everyone enjoyed. We were very fortunate that the evening was uneventful. The show ended at about 10:30pm and our volunteers assisted with egress at all three gates.

A short debriefing was held inside the Village Hall in the rotunda area. Again, it was a relatively uneventful evening and therefore there was little to discuss. Everyone was thanked for doing a wonderful job and the debriefing ended at 11:15pm.



Special thanks to our volunteers who assisted with this concert. Your efforts were truly appreciated!

SAR TRAINING / SURVIVAL SKILLS – AUGUST 8, 2018

On Wednesday August 8, 2018 at 7:00pm 12 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Messenger Woods Nature Preserve on Bruce Road between Cedar & S. Parker Roads. This particular training was "Survival Skills" and was led by Lisa Murphy, Joe Frigo, Rich DeVault and Terry Hartigan.



Lisa welcomed everyone in attendance and provided an overview of what the team would be doing for the evening. Lisa then turned the training over to Terry Hartigan who demonstrated how to find true north without a compass. Terry used a tall post that was used to cast a shadow on a level, brush-free place on the ground. The spot where the shadow ended was marked and then Terry allowed some time to pass (completed before the team arrived). Terry showed how the shadow traveled west to east and then stood on the two markers, which faced north. In addition to demonstrating the shadow casting method, Terry showed everyone how to use the (analog) watch method as well.



Everyone then went over to an area where three shelters had been constructed. Joe Frigo then demonstrated how to make a ridge line for a tarp. Joe started by showing everyone how to make a trucker's hitch knot, which was attached to a tree as one anchor point. Joe then showed how to make a timber hitch knot on another tree / anchor point. The ridge line was stretched tight and Joe showed everyone how to use stakes to anchor the corners to the ground.

At this point everyone gathered their tarps, 550 Paracord and stakes which would be utilized to construct shelters in the woods nearby. Each team member located a suitable location on high ground to make their shelter. Ridgelines were created and then tarps were draped over them. Various types of shelters were constructed and anchored to the ground with commercial or wooden stakes.

Following the shelter building exercise, everyone returned to the meeting point, which was a campground. Various methods of fire starting were discussed which included matches, lighters and striking magnesium to create sparks. In addition, various types of raw materials (tinder) for fire starting were discussed. These included dry bird's nests, dry grass, and things that can be brought from home such as dryer lint. Everyone was given an aluminum roasting pan to collect tinder, which was followed by starting the fire. Most everyone used the method of striking magnesium to create a spark. Once the fires were started, dry sticks were added. Following the exercise the fires were put out with dirt, checked and double checked that they were extinguished.



A short de-briefing was held, which included thanking Lisa, Joe, Rich and Terry for the instruction. Training concluded at 9:00pm at which time everyone exited Messenger Woods. Special thanks to our team members who attended this valuable training!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 7, 2018

At 5:45pm on Tuesday August 7, 2018 thirty New Lenox CERT volunteers met in the west, lower level parking lot of the New Lenox Police Department. Everyone gathered to assist with the New Lenox Police Department’s National Night Out event. Following a short briefing, volunteers headed up to the New Lenox Commons to assist in the following areas:

- Concession Stand (9 volunteers)
 - Preparing and serving hot dogs, popcorn, water, etc...
- Pavilion / Stage (7 volunteers)
 - Preparing and serving sno cones
- Inflatables (6 volunteers, two at each inflatable)
 - Controlling lines, safety of children, etc...
- Traffic Control (2 volunteers)
 - Ensuring the safety of pedestrians crossing near the library
- New Lenox CERT Informational Table (4 volunteers)
 - Distributing Ready.gov literature, severe weather literature, New Lenox CERT newsletters and applications for our next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class
- Floating Assignment (2 volunteers)



Our volunteers did an excellent job with their assignments from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. It was estimated that approximately 1,000 visited National Night Out. Families took advantage of seeing several specialty vehicles (police cars, a police motorcycle, a fire engine, a public works snow plow, SWAT truck), a martial arts demonstration, the HERO “Hidden in Plain Sight” trailer and enjoyed visiting the informational tables of participating organizations. Our volunteers enjoyed working with the New Lenox Police Department Officers as well as volunteers from other organizations that also participated.

Following the event a short de-briefing was held in the west, lower level parking lot. Special thanks to each of our volunteers for assisting with this wonderful event, designed to bring the community together.

FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – AUGUST 4, 2018



At 10:30am on Saturday August 4, 2018 six members of New Lenox CERT met at New Lenox Fire Protection District (NLFPD) Station #1 for “Family Fun Day.” Our members set-up our informational table, which included information from Ready.gov, information on severe weather, and information about our 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. In addition, Carrie Williams brought a bunny and a kitten for the children to play with as their families visited our table.

The event started at 11:00am with plenty to keep the kids and families busy. This included an opportunity to climb aboard a fire engine, use the “Fire Safety Simulator,” see a smoke alarm demonstration, jump in an inflatable, eat some tasty sno cones, try on some fire fighter gear, learn about kitchen safety, and visit the informational tables, including New Lenox CERT’s.



Everyone had a great time at the event, which ended at 2:00pm. Special thanks to our volunteers who participated as well as to the NLFPD for the invitation.



CERT EVIDENCE SEARCH TRAINING / SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JULY 26, 2018

At 7:00pm on Thursday July 26, 2018 fifty (50) members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Daniel Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and provided a short overview regarding the evening’s activities. By 7:10pm everyone was gathering their gear and heading out the doors of the Village Hall to participate in Evidence Search Training.



Just to the west of the Village Hall three grids were set-up, which were approximately 30 feet wide X 50 feet long. In each of the grids 10 red electrical connectors were dispersed throughout the grass to simulate a search for firearm shell casings. Team members lined up shoulder to shoulder to conduct the search, which included flagging each of the found objects. Upon conclusion of the exercise, two groups found all 10 objects and one group found 9 objects.

The next exercise entailed forming a line and searching a large field for a “handgun,” which was a molded ASP™ training gun. Members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team assumed the role of Crew Leaders and did a great job keeping everyone in a uniform line. As the line was reaching the end of the search area, the “handgun” was located. Time was spent discussing evidence preservation protocol, including flagging the item and securing the area with evidence tape.

Those in attendance then had an opportunity to walk near an area where a “bone” was dropped in tall grass to give them an idea of how difficult it is to search for human remains. Everyone then walked by an area where dried “blood” was placed on leaves and on the ground to give them an idea of what they might come across during a search (evidence, or otherwise). Following the outdoor exercises, everyone headed back into the Community Room at 8:00pm for the team’s Semi-Annual Meeting.

Each of New Lenox CERT’s Team Leaders (12 teams, 2 team leaders each) was thanked for their on-going leadership. A short synopsis of volunteer hours was provided for the period of January 1, 2018 thru July 26, 2018, which consisted of the following:

- 3,502 Total Volunteer Hours
 - o 238 Volunteer Hours Meetings
 - o 1,270 Volunteer Hours Training
 - o 1,994 Volunteer Hours Community Events

A synopsis of the meetings, trainings and community events was provided along with activities that are planned thru the end of the year.

A brief discussion was had regarding the work of the following Task Groups:

- Training
- Public Information
- Public Education / Emergency Preparedness
- Pet Preparedness
- Shelter Operations



Dan thanked the Chairs of each of these groups and their members for their efforts.

Everyone in attendance was encouraged to do some recruiting for the next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class (#14), scheduled to begin on September 12th.

The meeting wrapped up with comments regarding the team’s newsletter, Facebook page, Annual CERT Picnic and Presidential Service Awards. The meeting concluded at 8:35pm after everyone was thanked for their attendance, as well as their on-going commitment to the team.



SPECIAL NEEDS DAY AT PROUD AMERICAN DAYS – JULY 27, 2018

At 10:30am on Friday July 27, 2018 approximately 30 New Lenox CERT volunteers met at the site for Proud American Days, which was located in the open field just east of Walmart. Everyone was there to help with "Special Needs Day," hosted by the New Lenox Lions Club with support of the New Lenox Community Park District and other organizations. This annual event is where approximately 500 special needs clients come together for a fun day of food, music and carnival rides.



Our volunteers jumped right into the action by assisting the various organizations who were dropping off their clients at the entrance to the event. Our volunteers welcomed the guests and helped them over to the tent area where lunch would be served. As each van pulled up, it was great to see the excited faces of the special needs clients who look forward to this event each year.

As organizations were still coming in with their clients, our volunteers helped serve food to those who eagerly awaited lunch. As lunch was being served the DJ started the music, which prompted those finished with their lunch to get up and dance. Everyone had a great time eating, dancing and having fun until about 12:30pm when the carnival opened.



A vast majority of the special needs clients and their caretakers gravitated over to the carnival where Windy City Amusements staff graciously donated their time to operate the carnival rides. Our volunteers assisted the special needs clients onto and off the rides, and several also enjoyed the rides with them.

The vast majority of the attendees left between 2:30pm and 3:00pm and were assisted back into their vehicles by our CERT volunteers. It was a wonderful and rewarding day working with the special needs clients. It was also a great time working with volunteers from other organizations that were there to help as well. Special thanks to our volunteers who gave their time and their hearts to help out!

NEW LENOX RELAY FOR LIFE – JULY 13, 2018

Several months prior to the July 13th New Lenox Relay for Life event, John Opoka stepped forward and accepted the role of Team Captain for the New Lenox CERT Relay for Life Team. John attended a number of Team Captain Meetings and during training, John provided updates regarding the event. In addition, John utilized his leadership skills to assemble our Relay Team, keeping each team member informed right up to the day of the event.



At 2:00pm on July 13th John and a number of others arrived at the Lincoln-Way West High School Football Field to set-up the team's tent in a Halloween theme. The Halloween theme was chosen because this year's Relay was dubbed "Say Boo to Cancer," in part because the event was on Friday the 13th! Lisa Murphy brought out a fraction of her Halloween props that she decorates her yard with, which created one of the best displays at the event.



The event kicked-off with a wonderful and moving Opening Ceremony at 6:00pm. Following the ceremony, the event got underway with the first lap being led by cancer survivors. Our team members joined in while others stayed at the tent for "Trick-or-Treaters." The evening was warm, but very nice. It was great to participate in the event and it was also nice to spend time with other team members.

The Luminaria Ceremony was held at approximately 9:30pm and included reading the names of those who lost their battle with cancer as well as the names of survivors. The ceremony included a walk around the track in darkness and silence to remember those who are gone. Following the Luminaria Ceremony our team members continued to walk around the track and participated in activities like cake walks. Due to a threat of a thunderstorm, our tent and props were taken down just before midnight.



In short, it was a very enjoyable event. Our team raised over \$2,000.00 for the American Cancer Society. Special thanks to John Opoka for his leadership and to Lisa Murphy for the use of her Halloween props. In addition, thanks to those who helped with set-up, participated in the event, and to those who gave generous donations to our team. Well done everyone!!



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

SAR TRAINING / EVIDENCE PRESERVATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF BONES – JULY 14, 2018

At 8:00am on Saturday July 14, 2018 seven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the upper level of the Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to training. The team traveled to Oswego Fire Station #1, 3511 Wooley Road Oswego, IL to attend monthly training with Kendall County SAR and affiliated teams. Our SAR members arrived at approximately 8:45am and spent the next 15 minutes networking with volunteers from other teams.

At 9:00am Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency, introduced Sergeant Justin Kness from the Sycamore Police Department. Sergeant Kness gave an excellent presentation on evidence preservation, noting the following questions that should be asked and answered:

- How will evidence be recorded?
- Will photos / videos be requested or allowed?
- Will GPS coordinates be needed?
- How will the scene be secured (crime scene tape, flagging tape, flags)?
- How should evidence be protected from the environment?
- Who is the point of contact for evidence finds?
- To what extent may the searcher act on what is found?

In addition to the above, Sergeant Kness spoke about communication and the importance of NOT utilizing the radio for confidential finds (body, weapon, human bones). Another key take away from the presentation is the fact that emergency medical care for injured persons trumps everything else. Those in attendance also learned the importance of searcher safety, protocol for "dignity covers," and documentation – Who/What/Where/When/Why/How?? Everyone was left with a very good understanding of how important evidence and chain of custody are. Everyone also understood that confidentiality is critical in all searches and investigations.



Kim then introduced Jacquie Purcell, Kendall County Coroner, who gave an excellent presentation entitled "Bones: Human or Animal." Ms. Purcell displayed a number of slides that depicted human and animal bones, noting the differences between the bones. Following the PowerPoint, everyone was invited to the front of the room to exam human and animal bones. Ms. Purcell happily answered questions regarding the bones which, to a lay person, might be difficult to determine if they were human or animal.

Everyone then went outside where Kim had several evidence search exercises set up. For each search, everyone lined up shoulder to shoulder, knowing that the pieces of evidence would be small and difficult to find in the tall grass/weeds. During the exercises, searchers found bones, "blood," a knife, and a "pistol." Utilizing the skills learned in the classroom, the evidence was flagged and crime scene tape was used to cordon off the area. The last exercise included a search for shell casings that were located in grass that was approximately 4-6" high.



The exercises concluded at approximately 1:00pm and following the drive back, our team members arrived back in New Lenox around 2:00pm. Special thanks to our friends at Kendall County EMA / SAR for the invitation and thanks to those from our team who attended!

NLSAR TRAINING / SEARCH EXERCISE – JULY 10, 2018

At 5:30pm on July 10, 2018 Mary Ann Cody and Dan Martin met near the Metra Station located on Laraway Road, just east of Cedar Road to set-up the training for the evening. Mary Ann and Dan set-up the reflective "TRAINING" sign to alert passing motorists that training was in progress. The "Rescue Randy" mannequin was placed in an open field in tall grass / weeds as were a number of "clues" (baseball hat, nylon briefcase, cell phone case, and a black toy pistol). UTM coordinates were documented for the locations of each of the items. Prepared maps of the entire search area were affixed to the back windows of Dan's vehicle as they would be utilized later in the briefing. Mary Ann and Dan also had a case of water on ice for the team to ensure everyone stayed hydrated.



At 6:15pm a scheduled Nixle text message went out to the team, which notified team members where to respond. At 6:25pm the first NLSAR member arrived on scene and by 6:50pm everyone had arrived. Including Dan and Mary Ann, 13 NLSAR members participated in this exercise, which commenced with a briefing at 7:00pm. In short, the team was provided with a scenario involving a 24-year old male, potentially suicidal, who had been missing since earlier in the day. Law enforcement determined that the subject may be in the area (divided into two search segments) and requested our team's assistance.

Two teams were developed - ALPHA (6 members) and BRAVO (5 members). Crew Leaders were determined and provided maps of their respective search segments. In addition to the briefing, the following training objectives were discussed:

- Nixle text messaging – ability to activate the team
- Crew Leader – leadership, direction and guidance
- AMDR
- Critical Spacing
- Search Line – integrity
- Flankers / Flaggers
- Communication – via radio when team leaves base, commencing search, etc...
- Clues / Evidence – preservation and proper notification protocol
- GPS Coordinates – UTM



Teams ALPHA and BRAVO left staging at 7:20pm and after conducting AMDR in their search segments, they began their searches at 7:30pm. ALPHA had a slightly larger search area with tall grass, weeds and some trees. BRAVO had the smaller search area, but it was denser, with trees and bushes throughout. The teams did a good job with radio communications, which included calling in clues and providing UTM coordinates. ALPHA located the "victim" at approximately 8:20pm and shortly after the exercise concluded.

Everyone returned to the staging area where a de-briefing was held. Strengths were discussed as were areas for improvement. Overall it was a good exercise with several takeaways. Training concluded at 9:00pm, at which time everyone departed the area. Special thanks to Mary Ann Cody for her planning efforts, which led to a successful training exercise. Also, thanks to everyone that participated!



ASSIST WITH 4th OF JULY CELEBRATION IN THE NEW LENOX COMMONS – JULY 4, 2018

At 5:45pm on Wednesday July 4, 2018 three members of New Lenox CERT met in the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall. Jerry Reeves ensured that all team members had radios, which proved valuable later in the evening. At 6:00pm our team members met with Beth Alderson, Village of New Lenox, Special Events, at the lower level of the Village Hall. She explained the duties related to assisting with three areas set-up for children’s activities.

First, tables were set-up as a treasure hunt. Kids were provided with a list of items to check off if they spotted them in the Commons area. After finishing the kids would come back to the table to collect prizes.

Second, tables were set-up for making necklaces out of beads and string. Assistance was provided when needed and our CERT volunteers were helpful in answering questions from parents.

Third, tables were set-up for face painting. Our CERT volunteers assisted in forming lines for kids to get their faces painted with designs.



Our volunteers were at their assigned locations until 6:40pm when heavy rains started coming down. The tables were moved to protected areas outside the lower level of the Village Hall. Our volunteers then assisted people who entered the Village Hall for shelter from the severe weather. This assignment included keeping everyone on the first floor of the building and preventing people from wandering around.

At 7:30pm, after the rain let up, our volunteers went back outside after clearing out the Village Hall. At 8:15pm Mayor Baldermann made an announcement to cancel the fireworks due to public safety and another storm approaching. At 8:25pm a severe storm came through with high winds, rain, and lightening which led to people heading back into the Village Hall for shelter. Our CERT volunteers assisted with getting people into the building as well as recovering items that had blown off the tables.

During periods when the rain slowed down, people were escorted out of the building to their vehicles. Shortly before 9:00pm the Village Hall was cleared and our volunteers were thanked by the Mayor and Beth for assisting throughout the evening.

Special thanks to Jerry Reeves, Laura Johnston and Art Bretz for doing an outstanding job in many ways!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 5-7, 2018 - New Lenox SAR Training (Illinois Search and Rescue Conference) in Clinton, IL

Saturday October 13, 2018 / 9:00am – New Lenox SAR Training (Autism) with Kendall County SAR at location TBD

Tuesday October 23, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Training (Disaster Psychology) at New Lenox Village Hall

Friday October 27, 2018 / 8:00am – New Lenox CERT Class #14 Final Exercise at New Lenox Village Hall

Saturday November 3, 2018 / 8:00am – American Red Cross Shelter Operations Training at Spencer Campus

Tuesday November 6, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training (Night Search) – at location TBD

Saturday November 10, 2018 / 9:00am – New Lenox SAR Training (Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Awareness) with Kendall County SAR

Thursday November 15, 2018 / 6:00pm – Stop the Bleed Training at Lincoln-Way West High School

November 17-18, 2018 – ISARC 16-Hour Ground Search and Rescue Course at New Lenox Village Hall

Thursday November 29, 2018 – New Lenox CERT Training (Team Building) at New Lenox Public Works Facility

Wednesday December 5, 2018 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training (Physical Skills / Winter Clothing Gear) at location TBD

Saturday December 8, 2018 / 9:00am – New Lenox SAR Training (CISD) with Kendall County SAR at Oswego Fire Station #1

Tuesday December 11, 2018 / 6:00pm – Presidential Service Awards at New Lenox Village Hall



New Lenox CERT Activity

New Lenox SAR Activity

CERT and SAR Activity

PLAY DAY IN THE COMMONS – JULY 15, 2018

At 12:45pm on Sunday July 15, 2018 seven members of New Lenox CERT met at the Village Hall for a briefing for "Play Day in the Commons." Two members of New Lenox CERT were already assisting New Lenox Emergency Services (since 9:45am) by shutting down the New Lenox Commons area to traffic. Our volunteers were asked to staff traffic posts at Veterans Parkway between the library and police department and at Veterans Parkway & Livingston Drive.

Following the briefing our volunteers headed out to the Commons to assist in the following areas:

- Inflatable water slide #1 (one volunteer)
- Inflatable water slide #2 (one volunteer)
- Inflatable (jumpy) (one volunteer)
- Video game trailer (one volunteer)
- Character (Paw Patrol) visits (two volunteers)
- Floating Assignment (one volunteer)

The event started at 1:00pm sharp with lots of families eagerly awaiting the start of the activities. In addition to the inflatables, video games, and character visits, there was also face painting, balloon animals and an exotic animal show near the performing arts pavilion. There were literally hundreds of children enjoying the activities with their parents, which created lines for each of the activity areas. The weather was 90°F with an even higher heat index. As such, the water inflatables were a big hit with the kids who found them very refreshing.

From 3:00pm to 5:00pm musicians from the School of Rock Mokena did a great job keeping people entertained. In addition, lots of people took advantage of the concession stand, which was staffed by personnel from the New Lenox Community Park District. The afternoon went by quickly and it was great to see all the kid's smiling faces from enjoying the activities.

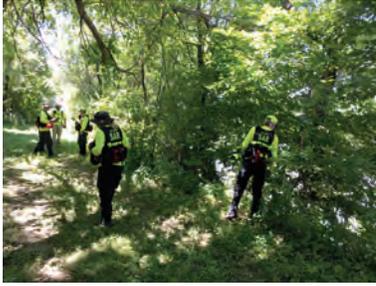
The event wrapped up at 5:00pm with our volunteers helping in various ways right to the end.

At 5:15pm a short de-briefing was

held in the rotunda of the Village Hall. Some ideas for next year were generated by our wonderful volunteers. Special thanks to our CERT members who assisted at this event. Everyone did an outstanding job!



MUTUAL AID REQUEST / SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN IN OTTAWA, IL – JULY 7, 2018



At 8:00am on Saturday, July 7, 2018, seven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Village Hall to carpool to Ottawa, IL to assist with a search for a missing person. At 7:50am, the team arrived at the Shell Gas Station located at I-80 & Route 71, which was designated as the staging area. The team received a briefing and then were transported to the property of the missing individual.

Sherman Hall, aka "Skip," a veteran, was last seen Thursday July 5th in the afternoon on the road in front of his property. The subject was described as a 65-year old male, Caucasian, 6' 2", 135 lbs., grey hair, with mustache and beard. There was no information available regarding the subject's clothing. The subject left his vehicle, wallet and cell phone at his home. Additional information such as background, medical history, etc... was provided.

At approximately 9:30am, the team received its first assignment. Joe Frigo was team lead and Mary Ann Cody handled communications. The New Lenox SAR team was joined by a member of the Peoria SAR Team. The eight-member team searched a dense area directly across from the individual's home. The team returned to staging at approximately 11:00am for a brief rehab.



At 11:30am, the team received its second assignment located approximately ¼ mile behind (North) of the individual's home and bordering the Fox River on the West. This area was comprised of extremely dense, hilly terrain along with many obstacles such as multiple creeks, refuse, and abandon vehicles. The team returned to staging at approximately 1:30pm. The Salvation Army supplied the teams with food and drinks. Following a brief rehab period the team headed back to New Lenox, returning at approximately 3:00pm.

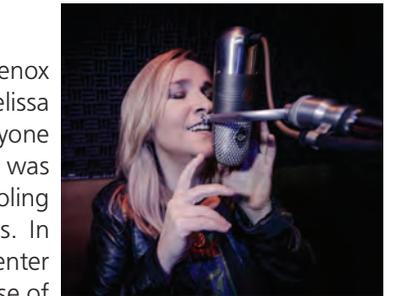


MELISSA ETHERIDGE CONCERT – JUNE 30, 2018



At 4:30pm on Saturday June 30, 2018 twenty members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team arrived at the Village Hall for the Melissa Etheridge Concert. After parking in the upper level of the Village Hall, everyone met in the Council Chambers where the Incident Action Plan for the concert was discussed in detail. One of the highlights included information about the cooling tent at Gate #1, staffed by New Lenox Fire Protection District Paramedics. In addition, the rotunda inside the Village Hall was available as a cooling center along with the New Lenox Public Library. These plans had been made because of the heat index, which at the time of the briefing was over 100°F. Everyone at the briefing was given their assignments and a reminder to stay hydrated and take frequent breaks. The briefing concluded at 4:50pm, which allowed everyone to be at their assignments by 5:00pm.

The gates opened at 5:30pm with everyone entering the venue in an orderly fashion. Our CERT volunteers did an excellent job at their assignments, which included several locations around the perimeter of the venue, the front doors of the Village Hall, Gates 1, 2 & 3, in the lawn area, handicapped seating area, and near the performer's trailers. Crowds continued to grow throughout the evening leading up to Melissa Etheridge taking the stage at 9:00pm. Melissa played a 110-minute set, ending at 10:50pm, after which our volunteers assisted with egress at each of the gates.



At 11:15pm everyone met inside the Village Hall for a debriefing, which included a re-cap of the evening. Fortunately there were no major issues that occurred during the event and all of our CERT volunteers left in good shape. Special thanks to each of our folks that assisted with the concert – great job!!

Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

Phone: 815-462-6493

Fax: 815-462-6469

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**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! CERT Class #14 started 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 to register for the class.

Congratualtions 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/>



Visit us on Facebook

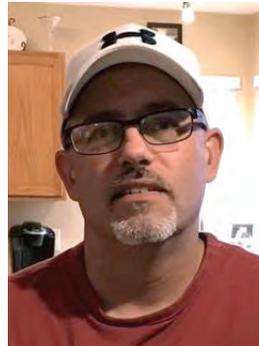
<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT>

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER –
JERRY REEVES**

Hello everyone, my name is Jerry Reeves. I was born in Oak Lawn and was raised in little town called Lemont. I went to Lemont High School and graduated in 1987. My hobbies are shooting and boating. Most of my life I lived loving the woods and outdoors. Our house was on a heavily wooded lot surrounded by what I called the jungle. I had pet raccoons growing up and ran with just about every animal you would see in the woods in Illinois. I have been an automobile mechanic for our family owned shop, Ron’s Service Center, going on 30 years. I got married in 1995 and have 2 gorgeous teenage daughters. We moved to the Joliet / New Lenox border In 2005. New Lenox reminded me of small town Lemont in so many ways. I joined CERT 3 years ago when I noticed an advertisement for the class on the Village of New Lenox web site. I used to do a little prepping for “just in case” and didn’t know too much about treating injuries so I decided to take the free course. Wow it has been the best thing I could have done. I met so many awesome people and it has been a blast. I love taking all the free courses offered by Safe Communities and Dan Martin. For instance, I took the Narcan training on August 30th during an opioid awareness class called “Your Light Still Shines.” Three days later I used the training and Narcan to save a life. I never would have dreamed how well CERT has worked



out for me. I became a team leader this year. I also have been accepted on the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team. Recently I went out on my first call out with the SAR team and it was challenging, but so fantastic. Thank you Dan Martin and Safe Communities for all you have done for people like myself!

