

Village of New Lenox

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

OLD CAMPGROUND FESTIVAL – JUNE 24, 2017

At 8:30am Trish Buhle, the lead volunteer for this event, arrived on the grounds of the United Methodist Church for this year's Campground Festival. Trish began setting up the 10' X 10' tent, tables and literature for the CERT informational table. Trish was assisted by additional CERT volunteers who also helped her staff the table throughout the day.



The festival officially started at 10:00am at which time visitors started making their way around the grounds. Many families visited our table throughout the day and were provided with Ready.gov disaster preparedness literature. In addition, prizes were given to children who played games related to emergency preparedness. It was great to see the kids learn something about preparedness while having some fun too. In addition, Eleni Bosch set-up a wonderful pet preparedness display and was available throughout the day to answer pet-related questions.



The weather was absolutely perfect for this event; sunny and in the mid-70s with a light breeze. The beautiful grounds of the United Methodist Church provided plenty of shade and a perfect atmosphere for an outdoor event. The Old Campground Festival concluded at 4:00pm and provided an opportunity for our team to inform the public about emergency preparedness and handout a number of applications for our next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who gave their time to staff the table and represent our team!

TRINITY TRIUMPH 5K – JUNE 22, 2017

At 6:00pm on Thursday June 22, 2017 thirty-two New Lenox CERT volunteers met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to the Trinity Triumph 5K. Everyone in attendance was provided with some background regarding the 5K, which included the history of the race and the individuals that benefit from the proceeds. In addition, the course map was discussed along with measures to take in case of an emergency. Volunteers were provided with the "Community Event Log," which listed everyone's assignments. Assignments included race marshal positions along the course as well as assistance at the 5K's water station on Wildwood Drive, just north of Illinois Highway. The briefing ended at 6:20pm and was followed by a quick team photo prior to everyone heading out to their assignments.



At approximately 6:30pm everyone was at their respective assignments and those at the water station prepared the cups of water for the runners and walkers. The race kicked-off promptly at 7:00pm from the New Lenox Commons with some of the elite runners making their way southbound on Gear Drive and across Haven Avenue within the first two minutes or so. Thankfully, everything went very smoothly with our CERT volunteers directing participants through the course and keeping everyone hydrated at the water station. The last walkers passed by the final race marshal position by 8:00pm allowing our volunteers to head back to the Village Hall



for the de-briefing. Since everything went very well, the de-briefing was short and allowed everyone the opportunity to head over to the Commons for some post-race refreshments.

Special thanks to our volunteers for cheering on the participants throughout the course while keeping them safe and hydrated. Great job!

Our Core Principles:

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

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RICHARD MARX CONCERT – JUNE 17, 2017

At 4:30pm on Saturday June 17, 2017 twenty New Lenox CERT volunteers met in the west parking lot of the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator for the Village of New Lenox and CERT Program Coordinator, provided everyone in attendance with copies of the CERT Community Event Log. The document provided volunteers with an overview of the Richard Marx Concert, including estimated attendance, opening bands, and assignments. In addition, the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the concert was discussed, including the Severe Weather Shelter Plan. The briefing concluded at 4:50pm, which provided everyone an opportunity to walk to their assigned locations by 5:00pm.



Concert officials were in contact with the National Weather Service as well as contracted meteorologists in an effort to receive the latest weather information. The weather was very nice for the first couple hours, but radar indicated a line of thunderstorms approaching our area. Several meetings were held to discuss options and due to the threat of severe weather approaching, the Severe Weather Shelter Plan was activated at approximately 8:30pm. Light rain had just begun as concert attendees started to make their way to the Village Hall, New Lenox Public Library and New Lenox Police Department. The light rain was followed by thunderstorms in the immediate area, but by this time concert attendees were safe within the designated shelter locations. New Lenox CERT members staffed each of the locations along with NLPD Officers.



Meteorologists indicated that the severe weather (thunderstorms) would pass, light rain would follow and then it would clear. After it was safe, concert attendees returned to the venue where crews were working hard to prepare the sound equipment and lighting. Richard Marx took the stage at approximately 10:20pm and provided his fans with a great show, playing for about 1½ hours. The venue emptied quickly and safely thanks to the assistance of our volunteers directing folks toward the exits. A short de-briefing was held in the lower level west parking lot of the police department, which ended not long after midnight. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who did an outstanding job keeping everyone safe during this event!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wednesday July 12, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Saturday July 15, 2017 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Tuesday July 18, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Semi-Annual Meeting at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday July 22, 2017 / 4:30pm – Triple Play Concert in the New Lenox Commons
- Friday July 28, 2017 / 10:30am – Special Needs Day at Proud American Days
- Tuesday August 1, 2017 / 6:00pm – National Night Out at the New Lenox Police Department
- Saturday August 5, 2017 / 4:30pm – Triple Play Concert in the New Lenox Commons
- Tuesday August 8, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Saturday August 12, 2017 / 7:30am – New Lenox SAR Warrior Dash in Channahon, IL
- Saturday August 19, 2017 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Wednesday August 23, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday August 26, 2017 / 6:00am – New Lenox SAR Tough Mudder in Rockford, IL
- Saturday August 26, 2017 / 5:00pm – Running With Faith 5K & 10K at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday September 2, 2017 / 4:30pm – Triple Play Concert in the New Lenox Commons
- Wednesday September 6, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Wednesday September 13, 2017 / 6:30pm – New Lenox CERT Class #13 Starts at New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday September 16, 2017 / 8:00am – New Lenox SAR Training with WCEMA at Location TBD
- Fri., Sat. Sun. Sept. 22nd thru 24th – New Lenox SAR / Illinois Search and Rescue Council Conference in Clinton, IL
- Tuesday September 19, 2017 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall



SAR ACTIVATION BRAIDWOOD, IL – JUNE 12, 2017

On Monday June 12, 2017 at 12:36pm mutual aid assistance was requested for a missing person with dementia. SAR volunteers were requested to stage at Shadow Lakes Realty, located at the corner of Coal City Road & Route 129.



Upon arriving at the staging area volunteers received additional information. The victim was identified as Kim Gray –AKA- Kay Gray, female, Asian, 73 years of age, who suffers from dementia and was last seen at her home in the 100 block of Largemouth Lane between 8:00pm Sunday and 8:30am Monday. Volunteers were given her physical description and after a short wait, searchers were directed to Search (Incident) Command a few blocks away.

New Lenox provided six searchers during this activation, which consisted of searching wooded areas within the Shadow Lakes complex. The area featured a number of bodies of water and channels, which were searched by area fire department water rescue units. After searching assigned areas with negative results, teams were directed back to Search (Incident) Command for a de-briefing. Following the de-briefing, our team members made their way back to the staging area where everyone secured their gear. The scene was cleared at approximately 4:30pm at which time everyone departed from the area. No additional assistance was requested from trained searchers following this initial search.

**On Friday June 23, 2017 Kay Gray was located at the Chicago City Hall and appeared to be in good health. Source: The Herald News*

CHASING THE SUN 5K – JUNE 8, 2017

On Thursday June 8, 2017 at 6:00pm, 30 members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met in the Community Room at the Village Hall for the Chasing the Sun 5K Briefing. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator and CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed those who came to volunteer their time and talents. Those in attendance were provided with an overview of the race, which included:

- Start / finish location
- Course – including map, race marshal positions and water station location
- NLFPD ambulance staging area
- Medical emergency protocol
- Safety – including intersections and along the course
- Encouragement for 5K participants



Following the overview Dan went over the assignments for the 5K. Thanks to a tremendous response from our volunteers, there was great coverage throughout the course. Following the briefing everyone participated in a team photo and were out the door at 6:20pm.



Everyone arrived at their assignments at approximately 6:30pm and the race started promptly at 7:00pm. Our volunteers did an excellent job keeping the participants on the course as well as keeping them hydrated at the Wildwood Park Water Station. "Great job," "Way to go," "Good job runners," were some of the words of encouragement given to the runners throughout the course. By 8:00pm the final participants passed through our last race marshal position, at which time everyone reported back to the Village Hall for a de-briefing.



Our team members provided excellent feedback / suggestions for next year's event. Overall the race went very well and concluded with no incidents. Special thanks to our CERT volunteers who helped to make this 5K safe and fun for the participants.



NLSAR SEARCH EXERCISE – JUNE 6, 2017

At 6:00pm on Tuesday June 6, 2017 Gary Cook and Dan Martin met at Stonebridge Park to set-up training for the team. The area just to the east of the park was used for this exercise as it included a large grassy area as well as a wooded area adjacent to Jackson Creek. Four articles (fishing pole, tackle box, soft cooler and a ball cap) were placed in the field. "Rescue Randy" was then placed approximately 50 feet into the wooded area, approximately 300 feet east of Nelson Road.



Team members started arriving at approximately 6:30pm and the exercise kicked-off at 7:00pm. The scenario was as follows: *At approximately 1:00pm today Thomas ("Tom") Springer, M/W/74, 821 Winter Park Drive, left his home to go for a walk. Tom was last seen walking northbound toward the open field at the end of his street, which he often does. Tom usually returns within an hour and at 5:30pm Tom's wife called the New Lenox Police Department to report him missing. After approximately one hour of searching the area with negative results, the New Lenox Search and Rescue (NLSAR) Team has been requested to assist with the search. It is now 7:00pm and all NLSAR members have now staged at Stonebridge Park, just west of the open field.*

Two team (crew) leaders were identified to lead two search teams. The teams were directed to search the open field first, as many areas included waist-high grass, which could conceal a person lying flat. The teams were also given additional information regarding the "victim's" medical condition (Alzheimer's), medications, and that he likes to fish. The field was then divided into a north and south grid. The teams then began their search from west to east (90° Azimuth), then east to west (270° Back Azimuth). Flagging was done predominately with ground flags. Standard biodegradable flagging tape was utilized in marsh areas with tall cattails. During the search the teams located the above-described items and called in their GPS coordinates to Search Command. Shortly after 8:00pm the teams completed the search of their respective grids, combining as one large team for the final pass in the north grid.

Teams returned to staging where they were given instructions to search the wooded area along the creek. Team members close to the creek were equipped with PFDs and water rescue throw bags. Approximately 15 minutes into the search the "victim" (Rescue Randy) was located. A laminated card indicated the subject was conscious with respirations 28/min., and capillary refill under two seconds. It was also noted that the subject knew his name, but didn't know where he was at. He also had difficulty understanding commands, felt weak and fatigued. Team members then treated the victim accordingly and transported him back to staging via a 4-person portable stretcher.

A short de-briefing was held, which included discussion regarding: Navigation (compass and GPS), flagging, critical spacing, communication, safety, medical treatment and transport. As with any exercise, there were lessons learned, but overall everyone did a very good job. Special that to all our members who participated in this exercise!

TRIPLE PLAY CONCERT SERIES TICKET SALES – MAY 13, 2017

On Saturday May 13, 2017, New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted with the 2017 Triple Play Concert Series ticket sales. Functions ranged from distribution of numbered tickets to maintaining place-in-line integrity, line queuing, directing residents through the lines, answering questions, retrieval of the sequential tickets near the sales windows, and visually observing residents in line for any medical issues.



At 4:50am John Opoka arrived to serve in the supervisory role for the CERT volunteers, and his first function was to check both upper level (south) and lower level (north) residents in line. Mayor Tim Baldermann arrived even earlier and started handing out numbered tickets to maintain place-in-line integrity. At approximately 5:30am the Mayor stopped handing out the tickets and announced to the crowd his appreciation for purchasing concert tickets and being the "early birds." He also conducted a spontaneous survey by asking residents if they were White Sox or Cubs fans (50-50). He then had about ten trivia questions regarding Cubs history, and proceeded to hand out Cubs tickets to the correct responders. This was a wonderful gesture and much appreciated by the people who were the "early birds."

At 6:03am John Opoka started the briefing with our volunteers near the Village Hall entrance on the lower (north) level. A total of 17 CERT volunteers were in attendance to assist with the ticket sales. The briefing consisted of handing out radios to everyone and assigning personnel to various positions. All volunteers were ready to go at 6:15am and the Mayor coordinated an early start to the concert ticket sales at approximately 6:40am.

All functions went well throughout the morning with a very pleasant group of residents, and an equally pleasant group of CERT members and village staff. "Thank you" was the phrase often used by the Mayor and village staff, who appreciated the efforts put forth by our volunteers.

One male resident had an issue with his neck and feeling anxious, which was addressed by a number of CERT members. He did not need additional medical assistance, and was watched closely until he left.

At approximately 8:30am the lines were reduced inside the building at both levels and approximately (6) CERT members were relieved of their duty. At 9:30am all other CERT members were relieved of their duty. At 9:45am John Opoka thanked the window sales staff at both levels for utilizing CERT volunteers and applauded their efforts related to efficient ticket sales.

Special thanks to John Opoka for taking the lead for this event as well as to those who assisted. Everyone did a great job!

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

REGION VII EMS FULL-SCALE EXERCISE – MAY 20, 2017

At 6:00am on Saturday May 20, 2017 forty-eight members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) arrived at the METRA Station (Laraway Road & Calistoga Drive) to participate in the Region VII EMS Full-Scale Disaster Simulation. The exercise had been in the planning stages for approximately six months and was designed to test the surge capacity of the Emergency Departments at Silver Cross Hospital and Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, in the aftermath of a large-scale disaster. The exercise included a simulated crash of a METRA train vs. school bus, involving approximately 100 victims (60 on the train and 40 on the bus).



Patty Edgett led a team of 12 New Lenox CERT volunteers, who worked hand-in-hand with two Silver Cross Hospital staff members to moulage approximately 100 role players. The moulage team arrived early (5:00am) and in less than an hour, all role players had received moulage in the following categories: Immediate (triage tag – red), Delayed (triage tag – yellow), Minor (triage tag – green) and Deceased (triage tag – black). The “victims” waited inside the station and on the platform after receiving their moulage.

At 6:45am a briefing was held in front of the station, which included various safety announcements to ensure that everyone remained safe during the exercise. Following the briefing the “victims” were placed on the train and school bus, which prompted the exercise to go live shortly after 7:00am. New Lenox Fire Protection District firefighter / paramedics were the first to arrive on scene to assess the situation. They were then assisted by additional firefighter / paramedics through a request for mutual aid. The firefighter / paramedics triaged all the “victims” on the train and on the bus. They also established the treatment areas that were designated by colored tarps, which were placed on the sidewalk in front of the train station.

Approximately 20 minutes into the exercise New Lenox CERT members were requested to assist with transport of the victims from the train and bus. Our volunteers worked hand-in-hand with the firefighter / paramedics in removing “victims” from the crash scene and to the designated treatment areas. By 8:10am all victims (except deceased) were removed from the train and the bus, utilizing various carry methods (tarps, backboards, carts with wheels, etc...). Everyone did an excellent job during transport and several of our “medical” volunteers assisted in the treatment areas as well. As the last “victims” were transported to the hospitals, our volunteers returned equipment to the CERT trailer and stood by for the “hot wash.”

Shortly after 9:00am it was learned that the “hot wash” would only include members of the Planning Team, at which time our CERT volunteers were thanked for a job well done and dismissed (after properly signing out). Special thanks to ALL of our volunteers who trained for and participated in this exercise, a first of its kind for our team. Great job!!

SAR TRAINING / HIKE AND GEAR CHECK – MAY 9, 2017

At 7:00pm on Tuesday May 9, 2017 eight members of the New Lenox SAR Team met at the Hickory Creek Preserve for monthly training. Joe Frigo took the lead for this particular training which encompassed a hike and gear check to test the team’s equipment, tools and clothing. Everyone was properly dressed and equipped by 6:45 pm at which time Joe held a short briefing in the parking lot. All team members in attendance were informed of the trail distance and terrain. The teams would hike approximately 2.25 miles to the end of the trail at LaPorte Road and turn around for the hike back. During the hike the team tested their GPS devices, flashlights and hiking boots to ensure that everyone’s gear was up to par.



The team concluded the 4.5-mile hike at approximately 8:30pm where a debriefing was held. Team members discussed the importance of staying hydrated and noted that a concerted effort to drink water was made along the way. Obtaining new team gear was also discussed, which will enhance the team’s ability to ensure appropriate preparedness for any type of search including urban areas or difficult terrain.

The de-briefing concluded just before 9:00pm. Special thanks to Joe Frigo for leading this training event. Also, thanks to those that attended the training.

LOYALTY DAY PARADE – MAY 7, 2017

At 12:00pm on Sunday May 7, 2017 Gary Cook, who led this event, arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall with a flatbed trailer, pulled by his Dodge Ram pick-up truck. Gary, with the assistance of a number of our volunteers, quickly transformed the trailer into a parade float. Our CERT float featured handrails for safety as well as green and yellow balloons. The float also had green and yellow streamers and a banner affixed to the side, proudly displaying our logo.



Shortly after 1:00pm everyone loaded onto the trailer for a brief ride over to the assigned staging area at Cedar Road & 4th Avenue. At this location a number of additional CERT members joined in on the fun, bringing the total number of participants to approximately 30. Everyone had a great time socializing and watching the other participating organizations lining up. With plenty of candy and emergency preparedness materials ready to hand out, our team members were ready to go. The parade kicked-off right at 2:00pm as it does each year with our float and team members making their way onto northbound Cedar Road toward Haven Ave.

Several of our team members rode on the float, tossing candy to children and their families. Our remaining team members walked behind the float, also tossing candy and handing our Ready.gov literature to families. Our float continued westbound on Haven Avenue and approximately 40 minutes later turned the corner onto Veterans Parkway. With just a little candy to spare, the parade ended near the New Lenox Public Library and the Veterans Memorial. Gary then pulled the float back to the Village Hall where everyone pitched in to dismantle it. Everyone was done at approximately 3:00pm with plenty of time left to enjoy the beautiful day.

Special thanks to Gary Cook for taking the lead on this event as well as everyone who participated. We looked great along the parade route and received many compliments from parade goers.

SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING / HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPO – APRIL 26, 2017

At 4:00pm on Wednesday April 26, 2017 a number of New Lenox CERT volunteers arrived at Lincoln-Way West High School to assist with the Health and Safety Expo, which preceded the Severe Weather Spotter Training. Our volunteers did a great job setting up the New Lenox CERT informational table, which included a very nice pet preparedness section. In addition, CERT volunteers helped representatives from 50 participating organizations in various ways which included opening doors, carrying materials and showing them to their tables. Thanks in part to our volunteers, the Health and Safety Expo started on time at 5:00pm and shortly thereafter dozens of attendees started visiting the tables. By 6:30pm the venue was really hopping with people visiting tables as well as many of the vendors networking with each other. From 6:45pm until shortly after 7:00pm the line was out the door with people waiting to register and receive their door prize ticket.



Shortly after 7:00pm Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator for the Village of New Lenox, welcomed those in attendance. The Lincoln-Way Air Force Jr. ROTC was then introduced for the presentation of colors, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The students did an excellent job and after they left the stage those in attendance were seated. Jamie Enderlen, National Weather Service Meteorologist, was then introduced as the main speaker for the evening. Jamie had a great personality and did an excellent job with her presentation. Jamie's presentation included lots of audience participation and some excellent severe weather videos. Following an opportunity to ask questions, the presentation concluded at approximately 8:30pm

and was followed by the selection of door prize winners. Thanks to the generosity of the organizations that participated in the Health and Safety Expo, approximately 20 people went home with NOAA weather radios, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, gift cards and gift baskets.

Special thanks everyone that helped make this year's event a huge success! There were 313 people in attendance for the Severe Weather Spotter Training. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



MISSING 16-MONTH OLD GIRL IN JOLIET – APRIL 25, 2017

At 8:07pm on April 25, 2017 the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team, along with other SAR teams affiliated with the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) SAR Division, were requested to assist with the search for a missing "1-year old." An initial staging location was given, but was changed to Oak Valley School, 1705 Richards St., Joliet, IL at 8:37pm. New Lenox SAR members began to arrive on scene at approximately 8:45pm and by 9:15pm a total of 12 team members had arrived.

Our team members were given various assignments throughout the evening, which typically took less than an hour each to complete. Our team members, along with members of other ground search and rescue teams, searched the neighborhood around the victim's home, which was located in the 300 block of Louis Road. Team members searched front yards, back yards and wooded areas for a 16-month old girl who was last seen playing outside near her home.

At approximately 2:00am on April 26th, ground search and rescue teams completed their assignments, including New Lenox SAR. The Will County Sheriff's Police handled the investigation, which continued throughout the night and into the morning. Nearby ponds were checked by dive teams, teams of Bloodhounds conducted additional searches and the investigation continued throughout the day and into the evening.

On the morning of April 27th it was learned through media sources that the Will County Sheriff's Police, with the assistance of the F.B.I., executed a search warrant at the victim's home. Shortly after midnight on April 27th the body of Samaj Crosby was discovered in the home. A cause of death was unknown pending an autopsy by the Will County Coroner's Office and additional investigation by the Sheriff's Police and F.B.I.

At 7:00pm on April 27th our team met in the Community Room at the Village Hall for a debriefing of the search. There were many lessons learned from this search and everyone that was involved was offered follow-up counseling, if necessary.

Keeping our community safe, healthy and prepared . . .

Additional Information

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

We are now accepting applications for our (FREE) 20-Hour Basic CERT Class, which will be held on Wednesdays starting September 13th at the New Lenox Village Hall. Classes will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm thru October 25th, with the Final Exercise and Graduation on Saturday October 28th. 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.

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

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



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**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER –
PHILLIA MITCHELL**

I was born in Chicago and raised in Burbank, IL. My sisters and I were the neighborhood babysitters, which gave me a love for children. I loved playing softball with my brothers and the neighborhood kids, and sitting around our back yard fire pit eating ice cream with my family.

After I married, we lived in Mokena, and now in Manhattan. I went through some difficult trials and hit a low point in my life. It was at this point I surrendered my life to Christ, and my life was changed from that moment.

When we started our family, I quit my job at Inland Steel Container Corporation in Alsip where I worked in the Marketing Department. We were blessed with three sons and one daughter. I was thankful to be a stay at home mom so I could home school my children from kindergarten through high school. These were busy years (the best of my life) as we were also involved in baseball, soccer, and home school fine arts (choir, drama, speech). I became involved in church youth ministries and found time to learn karate, earning a 2nd degree black belt. Now two of my sons are Majors in the Marine Corps, and my third son is a car salesman. They have their own families, blessing me with 11 grandchildren. My daughter is a hair stylist and teaches piano. For the past 12 years I have been a care-giver for the elderly. I enjoy playing the guitar, but I don't have much time lately.

I found out about CERT through my friend Gail Spitilli. Since I love helping people and learning about preparedness, I decided to take the 16-hour course. In CERT I found a wonderful group of people who are caring and giving. Through CERT, I became interested in the Search and Rescue Team. After going through the required training and fitness test, I was accepted onto the team. I found a great group of people who give much time to training, going on call-outs, and helping each other to be the best that we can be. I feel so blessed to be a part of the CERT / SAR family.



Resolve to Be Ready 2017

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