

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM, MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS *and* SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

NEW LENOX RECEIVES 4TH CONSECUTIVE GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN AWARD

On December 3, 2014 the Village of New Lenox received a Governor's Hometown Award for its "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters" program. This is the 4th consecutive Governor's Hometown Award for the Village of New Lenox and the first year as "Cup Finalist." The prestigious award was presented during a ceremony at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, IL and recognizes volunteers for work toward improving their communities.

The Governor's Hometown Award recipients were chosen by a group of volunteer judges who reviewed and ranked applications based on community need, use of resources, and results. Projects were judged within their population category as well as within an assigned project category such as services and mentorship, memorials and monuments, parks and recreation, beautification and sustainability and history and preservation. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity administers the Governor's Hometown Awards Program and this was the 32nd annual ceremony to recognize community volunteers.

The New Lenox "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disaster" program was created through the village's Safe Communities America Coalition and Citizen Corps Council which is comprised of individuals representing over thirty community organizations in New Lenox and Will County. Safe Communities and Citizen Corps members are responsible for identifying injury prevention priorities, safety promotion, preparedness activities and assessment of these efforts within the community. In June 2010 the Village of New Lenox received accreditation as a "Safe Community" by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Safety and the National Safety Council. New Lenox was the 9th community in the United States to achieve this accreditation. In September 2010 the New Lenox Citizen Corps Council received a National Citizen Corps Achievement Award for work also related to preparing citizens for emergencies and disasters.

The New Lenox Police Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and Search and Rescue (SAR) Team volunteers played an integral role in the "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters" project presentation. Since the CERT program's inception in September 2009, over 275 residents have completed the 20-hour Basic CERT Class which teaches citizens how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Graduates of the program participate in on-going training, assist at community events, provide emergency preparedness presentations for community groups, and stand ready to assist first responders during times of crisis. Volunteers donated over 5,000 hours of their time participating in these activities in 2013.

Mayor Tim Baldermann, who attended the awards ceremony in Springfield, expressed thanks and appreciation for the volunteer's efforts. "Our volunteers participate in many events throughout the year and we appreciate everything they do." "We're very proud of them and their contributions to making New Lenox a safe place to live and raise a family." "The Governor's Hometown Award is an achievement that our community can be very proud of and to be a Cup Finalist this year is truly an honor," Baldermann went on to say. Volunteers that contributed to this year's Governor's Hometown Award were recognized at the December 15th Village Board Meeting.



Ellen McCurdy, Senior Policy Advisor to the Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; Patricia Edgett, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox MRC; Kurt Carroll, Village Administrator, Village of New Lenox; Patricia Pakosz, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox SAR; Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, New Lenox Police Department; Alain Murry, New Lenox CERT; Michael English, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox SAR; Randy Halach, New Lenox CERT, New Lenox MRC, and New Lenox SAR; Tim Baldermann, Mayor, Village of New Lenox

Our Core Principles:

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

Recent Activities:

Governors Hometown Award	1
Prairie State CERT Challenge	2
Monthly Training - Dec. Christmas in the Commons	3
Monthly Training - Nov. SAR Monthly Training - Dec.	4
Family Night	5
SAR Training - Nov	6
CERT Training October	6
CERT Class #9	7
SAR Training - Nov.	7
Missing Person Search	8
Chicago Marathon	8
SAR Training - October	9

Upcoming Events:

Mark Your Calendar	9
--------------------	---

Member Spotlight

Sue Fordyce	10
-------------	----



Village of New Lenox



NEW LENOX PLACES 2ND AT THE 2014 PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE

We couldn't be prouder of our New Lenox Prairie State CERT Challenge Team! They took 2nd place at the "2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge," which was held on Saturday October 18, 2014 at the College of DuPage Homeland Security and Education Center in Glen Ellyn, IL.

Eleven dedicated members of our team started training in August for this year's event. Many evenings were spent brushing up on team building, triage & treatment, transport, interior search, fire safety & utility controls, disaster psychology, documentation and exterior search. Each team member volunteered to take the lead on one or more of these disciplines. Team members taught each of the topics at one of the training sessions and then took the lead at the respective "stations" during the event.

The event, sponsored by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, created an environment where 11 Community Emergency Response Teams rotated through 8 stations (approximately 30 minutes each), which tested their emergency response skills. A total of 210 volunteers participated in this year's event, which included volunteers from the 11 teams as well as volunteers that served as role players, evaluators, station assistants and planning team members.

The event ended at 4:00pm with the completion of the last station, followed by a Closing Ceremony in the auditorium of the Homeland Security and Education Center's Auditorium. After thanking all of the teams and volunteers for participating, the scores for the event were posted as follows:

Carol Stream	751
New Lenox	724
Milton Twp.	700
Naperville	680
Chicago	676
South Lake County	658
North Brook	624
Addison	617
Buffalo Grove	608
Highland Park	604
Glen Ellyn	577

New Lenox scores for each of the stations were as follows:

Station #1	Team Building	80
Station #2	Triage/Treatment	88
Station #3	Transport	98
Station #4	Search (Interior)	94
Station #5	Fire/Utilities	94
Station #6	Disaster Psychology	87
Station #7	Documentation	94
Station #8	Search (Exterior)	89
	Total	724



A BIG thank you to the 2014 New Lenox Prairie State CERT Challenge team (pictured left to right): Rich DeVault, Randy Halach, Dave Lauer, Tricia Pakosz, Mike English, Trish Buhle, Shelley Halach, Lisa Murphy, Patty Edgett, Joe Frigo, Dan Johnson



Our 2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge Team performed exceptionally well at the event which has brought a great deal of credit and recognition to our program (and community). The event, as well as the training leading up to the event, has raised the skill level of our 2014 PSCC Team Members. As such, these team members will be able to pass along their experience to others in our CERT program. This increases our team's level of preparedness for WHEN a disaster strikes our community. Ultimately, lives are saved and injuries are prevented or treated in a more effective manner because of the dedication of these volunteers.

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

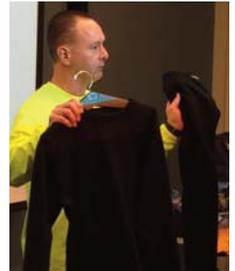
MONTHLY TRAINING / WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS – DECEMBER 9, 2014

At 7:00pm on Tuesday December 9, 2014 fifty-two members of the New Lenox CERT, MRC and SAR met in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department for monthly training. Daniel Martin, New Lenox Police Department's Public Safety Division Chief, welcomed those in attendance and seized the opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions toward the Village's recently awarded Governor's Hometown Award. Dan explained that this year's award was for "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters" and without everyone's efforts, the award would not have been possible. Following the welcome and thank you, the floor was turned over to Tricia Pakosz, Chair of the Training Committee. Tricia outlined the training for the evening and introduced Al Murry as the first presenter.



Al began his presentation by displaying his 72-hour disaster supply kit and miscellaneous preparedness supplies. In show-and-tell fashion, Al explained the importance of having a NOAA weather radio, flashlight, water, food, extra clothing, first aid kit, whistle, multi-purpose tool, and a number of other supplies that would be essential during an emergency or disaster. The unique part of Al's presentation was the fact that Al essentially found all these items around his house and placed them in a sturdy cardboard box. Al stressed that people do not have to spend a lot of money on supplies or expensive containers. In typical Al fashion, he engaged his audience by asking topic-related questions and those that answered correctly were awarded with emergency whistles.

Joe Frigo, assisted by Lisa Murphy, then took the "stage" for a presentation on how to dress for extreme cold. Joe and Lisa brought along their cold weather clothing and displayed various pieces of clothing during the presentation. Joe explained the importance of having a good base layer that wicks perspiration away from the skin. Joe went on to say that the next layer should consist of an insulation layer, such as a warm fleece that zips up at the neck. Lastly, Joe explained the usefulness of having an outer layer made of fabric such as Gortex™. Joe advised that's important to stay warm but not to sweat. Individuals can take layers off or remove their hat and / or gloves to help control the body's temperature. In addition to clothing, Joe also spoke about footwear, and displayed the properties of some of the boots that he had brought along.



Dave Lotz covered the importance of vehicle maintenance and preparedness during the winter. Dave utilized a PowerPoint to demonstrate the importance of keeping vehicles well maintained during winter months. Dave spoke about special precautions that must be taken while driving during winter months such as checking for winter storm watches and warnings before leaving home, as well as watching for black ice on the roadway. In addition to discussing how anti-lock brakes work and the importance of checking fluid levels, Dave displayed a comprehensive list of emergency supplies that drivers should have with them in their vehicles. Winter related items included an ice scraper, jumper cables, tow rope, warm clothing and blankets, and of course extra food and water. Dave did an excellent job explaining the importance of keeping tires properly inflated and then explained the safe way for jumping a car battery. Dave also provided everyone in attendance with a checklist for fluid levels, emergency supplies, tires, and a diagram for the safe method of jumping a car battery.



John Schuld did PowerPoint presentation on winter storms which included a definition of a winter storm as well as associated risks (auto crashes, cardiac arrests, hypothermia and frost bite, house fires, asphyxiation). John explained that winter storms are often include snow, ice, winter flooding and extreme cold. Each of these includes their own specific hazards. For example, snow might include blizzards, blowing snow, snow squalls and snow showers. John stressed the importance of being prepared and understanding the hazards. Winter weather preparedness includes preparation at home, work and while driving. John reiterated several of the tips given by Dave and added to be sure to keep vehicle gas tanks filled and if stranded, stay in your vehicle but ensure that exhaust pipes are not blocked by snow.

Patty Edgett then came up to talk about what she keeps in her kit in terms of medications. Patty displayed what she calls her "emergency pharmacy pouch," and explained the usefulness of each of the items. Some of Patty's items included the following (along with their use):

- Antibiotic ointment and band aids – apply to cuts and scrapes to prevent infection
- Pain / fever reducer – (Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen)
- Digital thermometer
- Toothache medicine – for the temporary relief of gum or tooth pain (Anbesol, Oragel)
- Loose filling and loose cap repair – for temporary dental repair
- Sore throat lozenges - Chloraseptic, Cepacol, generic brands
- Eye drops
- Hydrocortisone cream – for allergic rash, poison ivy, and itching
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) antihistamine for allergic reaction, nasal congestion
- Motion sickness tabs - Dramamine, Bonine, generic brands
- Powdered Gatorade - mix with water to replace electrolytes (after vomiting, diarrhea)
- Antidiarrheal - Imodium, generic brands



In addition to showing those in attendance what was contained in her pouch, Patty suggested to check with a doctor or pharmacist before taking any over-the-counter medications. It's also a good idea to keep your doctor's contact information and a list of any prescription medications. Similar to Al's suggestion, Patty said that the pouch could be a make-up bag, pencil container or anything similar that can be found around the house. Patty said to "keep it small and simple." Following Patty's presentation, Tricia Pakosz came back up the podium to wrap things up.

This was an excellent training! Thanks to Tricia and the Training Committee for putting it together. In addition, thanks to all of our presenters as well as Sally Van Cura who provided a wonderful sheet cake for everyone to enjoy!

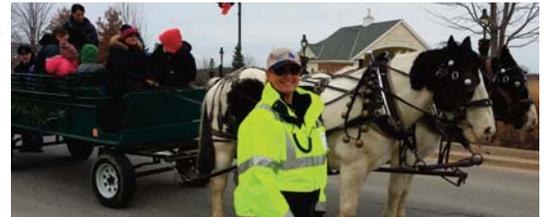
CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS – DECEMBER 7, 2014

At 12:00pm on December 7, 2014 thirteen members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met in the rotunda at the New Lenox Village Hall for Christmas in the Commons. This was the 6th Annual Christmas in the Commons, an event that treats families to some great holiday activities each year. The festivities included an opportunity to visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus and two cool elves. The Community Room was the site for the coloring contest, which was set-up with thousands of crayons and several different choices of holiday characters to color. As guests walked around the village hall, they had the opportunity to enjoy holiday music from the Liberty Jr. High School Madrigals, Martino Jr. High School Madrigals, Lincoln-Way West High School Madrigals, and the St. Jude Catholic Church Bell Ensemble. Free popcorn was available for everyone and parents were afforded an opportunity to have child identification cards made for their children, compliments of the New Lenox Police Department. Outside, visitors enjoyed live reindeer, horse drawn wagon rides around the Commons, and free hot chocolate and cookies at the concession stand.



At approximately 12:30pm volunteers were briefed, prior to the 1:00pm start of the event. Volunteers then assumed roles that included the following:

- Opening doors, greeting guests, and answering questions (4 volunteers)
- Safety and security for the line to visit with Santa (5 volunteers)
- Safety and security for the horse drawn wagon rides (2 volunteers)
- Relief (breaks) for volunteers and duties as needed (2 volunteers)



Most of the indoor activities wrapped up at approximately 4:45pm as visitors moved outside for the tree lighting ceremony. At 5:00pm Mayor Tim Baldermann thanked all the volunteers for assisting with the event and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Santa and Mrs. Claus were then introduced, along with their elves. The crowd then joined in with a "3-2-1" countdown and the switch was thrown to light the Christmas trees in the Commons. Everyone departed by 5:30pm after a fun-filled day. Special thanks to all our volunteers who did wonderful job keeping visitors safe throughout the event!

MONTHLY TRAINING / 2014 PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE OVERVIEW – NOVEMBER 13, 2014

At 7:00pm on Thursday November 13, 2014, approximately 60 members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met at Beggar's Pizza for monthly training. As a show of appreciation for the good work that our volunteers do year round, everyone in attendance was treated to pizza and soda to start the meeting. At approximately 7:30pm everyone was finishing their dinner at which time Daniel Martin, New Police Department's Public Safety Division Chief and CERT / MRC Program Coordinator, provided a brief synopsis of the 2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge (PSCC). The synopsis included date, time, location, participating teams, and a quick overview of the event. Members of the New Lenox PSCC Team were then introduced and invited to come up and provide an overview of each of the eight stations (challenges) that were included in the event. The following team members were responsible for describing the stations:



- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Team Building | Tricia Pakosz and Shelley Halach | • Fire Safety / Utilities | Trish Buhle |
| • Triage / Treatment | Patty Edgett and Randy Halach | • Disaster Psychology | Lisa Murphy |
| • Transport | Dave Lauer and Joe Frigo | • Documentation | Dan Johnson |
| • Search (Interior) | Mike English and Rich DeVault | • Search (Exterior) | Mike English and Joe Frigo |

During the presentations, the PSCC Team members provided the following information for each of the stations:

- Scenario for the station
- What the team was asked to do / accomplish
- Planning, organization, safety and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Scoring (including how our team scored vs. participating team's averages)
- Strengths, weaknesses and how to improve in the future

Each of the presentations was excellent and generated some good discussion throughout the evening. Following the presentations, each of the team members was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Jonathon Moneken, Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Dan Martin thanked this year's PSCC Team for their time, effort and participation in the event. Everyone in attendance was encouraged to participate in future events due to the learning, camaraderie and experience that's gained by our team members each year. This experience is invaluable as it prepares our team for emergencies and disasters that will inevitably occur.

Keeping our community safe, healthy and prepared . . .

NEW LENOX SAR MONTHLY TRAINING – DECEMBER 4, 2014

At 7:00pm on Thursday December 4, 2014 nine members of the New Lenox SAR Team met at the Hadley Valley Preserve and Spring Creek Greenway Trail for monthly training. Team members utilized the parking lot off of Route 6, approximately ½ way between Gougar Road & Farrell Road. Dave Klingensmith and Joe Frigo took the lead on this particular training which consisted of a search, transport, shelter construction and fire starting.



To begin the training, Dave Klingensmith provided the following scenario / briefing for those in attendance: A 12-year old boy name Joseph James (answers to Joe or Joey) was last seen at approximately 2:00pm when he left his home to play outside. Joseph was believed to be in the forest preserve near his home and was only dressed for the afternoon weather. Joseph left a message on his mother’s cellular phone indicating that he had fallen into a creek, was wet, cold, and was having great difficulty walking. A set of GPS coordinates was left in the voicemail but according to his mother, Joseph’s speech was slurred and unsteady. Dave included a full description of Joseph, the GPS coordinates, clothing description and the fact that he is a Boy Scout and has some knowledge of first aid.



Mike Stefka agreed to be Team Leader while Gary Cook plugged in the coordinates into his GPS unit. The team set out for Joseph’s suspected location and began a hasty search starting from a bridge at the west end of the preserve that runs over Spring Creek. The victim (Rescue Randy mannequin) was quickly located and triaged by New Lenox SAR Team Medic Randy Halach. The victim was found to be suffering from hypothermia and had a broken right leg which was lodged under a bridge pillar. With the assistance of fellow team members, the victim’s leg was dislodged from its trapped position and splinted. The victim’s clothing was removed (simulated) and he was “burrito wrapped.” The victim was then placed onto a stretcher and was

transported by team members approximately one mile to an extraction point.

Upon reaching the extraction point, the scenario was suspended to allow Joe Frigo the opportunity to teach team members how to construct a shelter from a small tarp that team members typically carry in their packs. Joe then provided an overview of fire starting utilizing flint and steel as well as magnesium. Prior to training, Joe had dropped off a garbage bag that was filled with various types of tinder. Joe then demonstrated the fire starting techniques and then afforded everyone the opportunity to start a fire using the tinder. During the exercise, Lisa Murphy sustained an eye injury (simulated and pre-planned) from walking into an object. Randy treated Lisa’s injury and arrangements were made to carry her pack and walk her back to the staging area.



After this portion of the training had been completed, the scenario was started once again. Team members then carried the victim back to the staging area to complete the exercise. At this time a debriefing was conducted which allowed team members an opportunity to provide comments about the exercise. The exercise provided an opportunity to learn about strengths and weaknesses, both individually and team. The debriefing ended at approximately 9:30pm at which time team members departed the area. Special thanks to Joe Frigo and Dave Klingensmith, as well as Lisa Murphy for her assistance!

FAMILY NIGHT AT NELSON RIDGE SCHOOL – NOVEMBER 18, 2014

On November 18, 2014 Nelson Ridge School held its annual Family Night event. This year’s school decor was "Under the Sea" so individual activities were cleverly named to match the theme. School Nurse Patty Edgett, who is a New Lenox CERT / MRC team member, set-up one of the computer labs with her activity titled "Disaster Surf-Vival." Students and families played the Disaster Master game from the Ready.gov website. They enjoyed playing and learning about how to prepare for and survive in disasters like tornadoes, floods, winter storms, power outages, and more. There was a NOAA weather radio on hand for demonstration. Each family was given a Family Emergency Plan packet to take home. Families were also informed of how to access more emergency planning information on the Ready.gov website.



NEW LENOX SAR MONTHLY TRAINING WITH WCEMA – NOVEMBER 15, 2014



On Saturday November 15, 2014 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (SAR) Team met at the New Lenox Police Department at 8:00am to prepare for a trip to the Plainfield Police Department. The Plainfield Emergency Management Agency and Plainfield SAR agreed to host November's SAR training, in partnership with the Will County Emergency Management Agency's SAR Team. Shortly after arriving at the Plainfield Police Department, SAR volunteers were directed to a nearby wooded area where the scenario was scheduled to begin at 9:00am.

Searchers from Will County, Plainfield, Naperville and New Lenox were then provided with a briefing before being deployed. In short, a 9-year old girl had been missing from her parent's home (nearby) since 7:30am and was last seen walking down the railroad tracks. The girl's name, clothing description and medical history was provided along with known hazards in the area.

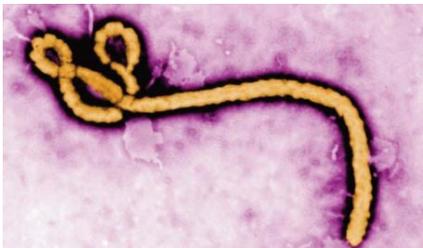
Two teams were then deployed with instructions to conduct a hasty search for the missing girl. Within the search area, one team was deployed at the northern boundary while the other team was deployed at the southern boundary. Terrain for this search consisted of open areas with short grass, open areas with tall grass and weeds, as well as wooded areas with thick brush. Hazards included a creek, railroad tracks and barbed wire. Teams completed searches of two assigned areas without locating the missing girl. Following another search the girl (mannequin) was located and treated for signs of hypothermia. The girl was then transported to Incident Command / Staging where she was turned over to "paramedics." Following a de-briefing, New Lenox SAR members departed the exercise area at approximately 12:30pm. Special thanks to those that participated in this multi-agency training exercise.



CERT / MRC MONTHLY TRAINING – OCTOBER 15, 2014

At 7:00pm on Wednesday October 15, 2014 New Lenox CERT / MRC held monthly training in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Due to a nationwide concern about the Ebola Virus, Alpesh Patel, Epidemiologist and Jackie Mansholt, Emergency Response Coordinator, both from the Will County Health Department, were invited for a presentation. Mansholt and Patel provided those in attendance with a PowerPoint presentation on Ebola and were kind enough to answer questions about the virus throughout the presentation.

The presentation included signs, symptoms, information regarding how the virus spreads, as well as treatment options. The information that was presented was from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health as well as the Will County Health Department. Everyone in attendance appreciated the information and thanked our friends from the Will County Health Department for the presentation.



Following the presentation on Ebola, New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteer Patty Edgett, RN, BSN, Med PEL-CSN, provided those in attendance with a presentation on the Enterovirus D68. Patty's presentation included a brief history of the virus, signs / symptoms of infection, how it's spread, statistical data (what time of the year it spreads, in which states, how many are infected, etc...), how it's diagnosed, treatment options and prevention. Patty was also kind enough to entertain questions throughout the presentation, which generated some excellent discussion. Following the presentation everyone thanked Patty for the information and her time.

CERT CLASS #9 FINAL EXERCISE – OCTOBER 25, 2014

CERT Class #9 started on Thursday September 11th. The class met at the New Lenox Police Department on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm through September and into October. The last classroom unit was taught on Thursday October 23rd at which time the class was given an opportunity to develop a “strategy” for their Final Exercise, which was scheduled for Saturday October 25th.



On Saturday morning Final Exercise volunteers (moulage experts, “victims,” logistical support and evaluators) began arriving at approximately 7:30am. For the next hour-and-a-half, our victims were moulaged, supplies were set-up, an Incident Command area was established and the Final Exercise area was established. Meanwhile, CERT Class #9 met in the parking lot at approximately 8:30am and worked out what they believed to be the final details of their plan.

At 8:55am the role players walked out the back door of the training room at the police department while minutes later CERT Class #9 entered through the front door. Students were then provided with the scenario which included 18 children and adults from a local church traveling on a bus to an event in Chicago, IL. A tornado came through at which time the bus pulled over and the occupants ran for shelter at the police department. The victims then sustained injuries as a result of flying debris and being blown into objects.

CERT Class #9, after receiving a copy of the scenario, a map of the area and radios, then walked out to the parking lot where they were issued equipment. The equipment included PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as hard hats, goggles, gloves, and respirators. In addition, teams received “Go Bags” which contained supplies to triage and treat victims. Teams also received supplies to set-up a triage area as well as supplies to conduct search & rescue operations and transport victims. As the teams moved out to search for victims, our evaluators were in place to document strengths and weaknesses of the team members.



The scenario ended at approximately 10:30am at which time equipment and supplies were returned to the CERT trailer. Everyone then returned to the training room where a “hot wash” of the exercise was conducted. The Incident Commander, Team Leaders, evaluators and victims all provided some excellent comments regarding the exercise. Following the Final Exercise CERT Class #9 had lunch and took the IEMA Act Oath which was administered by New Lenox Emergency Services Deputy Director William Potocki. Mayor Tim Baldermann provided remarks for the graduation ceremony and assisted by handing out the CERT backpacks to the graduates. Congratulations to CERT Class #9 – welcome aboard!

SAR TRAINING / NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS – NOVEMBER 4, 2014

On Tuesday November 4, 2014 twelve members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (SAR) Team met at the New Lenox Police Department for monthly training. Gary Cook, Mike English and Rich DeVault took the lead for this particular training which included navigation (GPS) and communications.



Rich DeVault started the training by providing an overview the Motorola family channel radios that have been utilized by CERT and SAR personnel during training activities. Rich covered the basics of the radio such as how to turn it on and off, how to select channels, how to transmit, etc... Rich then showed the team another portable radio similar to the original family channel radios that will likely be more suitable for SAR operations. Team members had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the radio while asking Rich a number of questions. For those interested in making a purchase of the alternate radio, Rich advised that he would be happy to place the order. In addition to covering radio nomenclature, Rich also covered radio protocol, including how to talk on the radio.

Mike English then provided the team with general information about GPS units through a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included how to find current coordinates, how to plot coordinates, and the various uses of GPS units during SAR operations. There were a number of questions that were asked during Mike’s presentation which generated some good discussion.

Following the classroom presentations, Gary Cook explained the field exercise which included the ability for team members to demonstrate the following:

- Ability to receive and understand the assignment from Incident Command
- Ability to utilize the radio and GPS unit to report starting position
- Ability to report each sequential search position to Incident Command
- Ability to report findings (flags, landmarks, etc...) to Incident Command



Three teams were then created at which time the teams walked over to the New Lenox Commons, starting near the Performing Arts Pavilion. Teams then radioed their starting positions to Incident Command (Gary, Mike, and Rich) and began to locate their respective target locations. Each team located two separate locations utilizing the GPS and radios as instructed. Following the exercise everyone walked back to the police department for a wrap-up. Special thanks to Gary, Mike and Rich for putting together an excellent training!

NEW LENOX SAR MISSING PERSON SEARCH – NOVEMBER 1, 2014

At 8:00am on Saturday November 1, 2014 New Lenox SAR members met in the parking lot at the New Lenox Village Hall for carpooling purposes. New Lenox SAR was requested to assist with a Missing Person Search and were requested to report to Palos West Middle School, 104th & Palos West Drive, Palos Park, IL for staging. SAR team members arrived at the school at approximately 8:30am and were re-directed to the Palos Fire Protection District Station, approximately three blocks south of the school.



At this time our team assisted the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management with assembling tables and chairs for the briefing which was scheduled for 9:00am. Additional SAR teams from throughout the Chicago land area arrived at the Fire Station and also awaited the briefing which started closer to 10:00am.

Searchers were then advised in summary the following: John Michael Cunningham Jr., male, white, 27 years of age, 5'10, 160lbs., left his parent's home on Timber Edge Lane on Thursday October 30, 2014 at approximately 10:30am. Cunningham was last seen wearing a gray t-shirt and black sweat pants (no socks, shoes, jacket, etc...). Cunningham, described as having short brown hair and a scar on his forehead, also left the home with no cellular phone or wallet. Searchers were advised that a fly over for the subject as well as a hasty search with all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) proved negative. Searchers were then told track line searches would be conducted throughout the local Cook County Forest Preserve District trail system within the following boundaries: 131st St. (south boundary); Cal Sag Channel (north boundary); Bell Road (west boundary); and LaGrange Road (east boundary). Searchers were told that Incident Command would operate from a Mobile Command Center situated at nearby Horsetail Lake. Staging and Rehab would remain at the Palos Fire Protection District Station. In addition, searchers were told that two helicopters would be flying overhead throughout the search.

Following the briefing, searchers were transported to Horsetail Lake via Cook County Department of Homeland Security military surplus vehicles. Team assignments were then given out and following a safety briefing, teams started their respective track line searches. Each team was composed of 5 searchers with a Team Leader on the trail and 2 searchers on each side of the trail about 50 feet into the wooded area. The first round of searches were completed at approximately 12:00pm at which time teams were transported back to Rehab for a quick lunch. Teams, including New Lenox, were re-deployed at approximately 1:00pm for additional searches which lasted until 4:00pm. Teams were then transported back to Rehab / Staging to sign out, following a vitals (blood pressure) check. New Lenox SAR members then returned to New Lenox, arriving at the Village Hall at 5:00pm.



Special thanks to Joe Frigo, Lisa Murphy, Randy Halach, Dan Johnson, Gary Cook and Dave Lauer for their time and effort during this search!

CHICAGO MARATHON – OCTOBER 12, 2014

On Sunday October 12, 2014 New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers met at the New Lenox Village Hall at 5:00am to car pool to Grant Park in Chicago, IL. Lisa Murphy, Mike English, Tom Chojnacki and Dave Klingensmith graciously agreed to volunteer for the 2014 Bank of America Chicago Marathon. After driving to Chicago and arriving at the North Parking Garage of Soldier Field, our volunteers walked over to the event where they received their credentials after checking in. Following several briefings, Lisa, Mike, Tom and Dave were assigned to Spotter Towers in the Finish Line area.



The Chicago Marathon kicked off at 7:30am and shortly after 9:30am the "elite" runners came across the finish line. A steady flow of runners crossed the finish line throughout the morning and into the early afternoon. Our volunteers' assignment was to observe runners as they walked from the finish line and past their spotter tower. Spotters had radio and voice communication with medical personnel who were on the ground and ready to assist finishers in distress. The course was officially closed at 3:00pm at which time our volunteers returned to the staging location to return their assigned equipment.

After walking back to the Soldier Field North Parking Garage, our volunteers drove back to New Lenox, returning at approximately 5:00pm. Lisa, Mike, Tom and Dave put in a long day and did a fantastic job representing our team. Thanks very much for your hard work and dedication!

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

Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Public Safety Division Chief
 New Lenox Police Department
 Phone: 815-462-6100
 Fax: 815-462-6104
 Email: dmartin@newlenox.net



Visit us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT>
<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>
<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxMedicalReserveCorps>
<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxSAR>

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

CERT Class #9 started on Thursday September 11, 2014 and graduated on Saturday October 25, 2014, following their Final Exercise. For those interested in future classes please know there is no charge for the training but attendance at all sessions is required to complete the program. If a session is missed, it must be made up in a subsequent class offering with the approval of the Program Coordinator.

The CERT training program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and medical operations. For additional information about the New Lenox CERT Program or to register for the next class, contact Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin at the New Lenox Police Department by phone (815) 462-6100 or email dmartin@newlenox.net.

Congratulations to the following classes:

- Class 1 Graduation 10/17/2009
- Class 2 Graduation 12/05/2009
- Class 3 Graduation 02/27/2010
- Class 4 Graduation 10/30/2010
- Class 5 Graduation 04/09/2011
- Class 6 Graduation 11/12/2011
- Class 7 Graduation 10/20/2012
- Class 8 Graduation 10/19/2013
- Class 9 Graduation 10/25/2014

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

**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER –
 SUE FORDYCE**

My name is Sue Fordyce and I am a member of New Lenox CERT Team. I grew up in the LaSalle-Peru area. I went to school in southern Illinois at Greenville College where I met my husband who was from southern Indiana. We both were looking for teaching jobs and found them in the unknown territory of the "Chicago suburbs." We raised a daughter and a son and now have five grandchildren.

After 39 years of teaching, I retired in 2007. I had taught junior high science as well as reading in grades 2-5 in Country Club Hills and Hazel Crest. I have been completing long-term substitute teaching assignments in the Homewood School District for the last seven years. So I enjoy retiring again and again. My admiration for first responders is what drew me to CERT. I received the training and skills I hope I never have to use. Each month we are offered an opportunity to practice and update this training. We often think that disaster can't happen here.... then the November 2013 tornado struck nearby. I think our most important mission is to help our neighbors and family in emergency preparedness. As a CERT member I am offered the opportunity to volunteer at community events such as the 5K races, the Triple Play concert series, ShareFest, and Proud American Days. These volunteering activities and the CERT organization make me proud of our community and its citizens.



FEMA



American Red Cross