

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

## BANK OF AMERICA SHAMROCK SHUFFLE – MARCH 29, 2015

At 6:00am on Sunday March 29, 2015 Tom Chojnacki, Randy Halach, Dave Klingensmith and Mike English met at the New Lenox Police Department to prepare for the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle. Mike English drove the Village of New Lenox van to Chicago, IL where they parked in the North Garage at Soldier Field. Tom, Randy, Dave, and Mike then walked to the check-in location(s).



Medical / Spotter Tower check-in was located at the Hilton, where Randy checked in at 7:00am. Tom, Dave, and Mike checked in around 7:30am. At the Hilton we received our credentials, spotter tower vests, radios, bull horns and laminated maps. Randy then had to go to the medical tent at Columbus and Balbo for further information and assignment. Randy was assigned to the pre-finish area on Columbus Avenue just south of the finish line. Randy didn't have any major medical issues with the runners, but did deter a few spectators from walking on the course.

Tom and Mike were assigned to Spotter Tower 17, the first tower north of the finish line on Columbus Avenue. Dave was assigned to Spotter Tower 16 with Jason, from Bolingbrook CERT, whom we've worked with in the past. Each tower was assigned a third person at 8:45am. Jacquelyn, a University of Illinois at Chicago nursing student was assigned with Mike and Tom. Tom stood in the tower with the bullhorn, Mike had the radio on ground, and Jacquelyn was in the tower. Adriana was assigned with Dave and Jason. Dave had the bullhorn while Jason operated the radio and Adriana was on the ground. Temperature was 34 degrees at the start of the race with 20-30mph winds, with gusts up to 40mph.

There were about 30,000 runners and fortunately there were only a few runner issues near Tower 17.



However, most of the kitty litter at Spotter Tower 17 was gone by the end of the race. Freezing rain started near the end of the assignment and transitioned to rain. The assignment ended at 11:15am, spotter tower gear was returned to the Hilton, while Randy returned his gear to the Balbo Medical Tent. Tom, Randy, Dave and Mike returned to the New Lenox Police Department at 12:30pm. Special thanks to our volunteers for representing New Lenox CERT / MRC in this year's Shamrock Shuffle!

## SAR TRAINING / PACK ESSENTIALS – MARCH 10, 2015



At 7:00pm on Tuesday March 10, 2015, twelve members of New Lenox SAR met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Tricia Pakosz and Dan Johnson took the lead for this training, which included a request that everyone bring their favorite SAR items to share during training. Tricia went around the room and asked everyone to share their item, what they liked about it, where it was purchased and anything else of interest. Some items that were displayed and discussed included:

Gaiters, knee pads, backpacks/duffle bags, signal flares, smoke, strobe light, tick remover, mosquito repellent, and a radio holder.

In addition to the "show and tell," Tricia provided a handout entitled "The SAR Pack" by David Dixon. Tricia and Dan covered various sections of the handout which included essential gear, recommended gear, clothing, and packing tips.

In addition the "pack essentials" portion of the training, Gary Cook discussed attendance. Gary's discussion covered attendance at the annual meeting, monthly training (New Lenox) and call-outs. Gary also discussed additional opportunities to earn hours such as attendance at Will County and Kendall County EMA Multi-Jurisdictional training. Overall, Gary advised that most SAR members were doing very well with their hours.



Lastly, upcoming (New Lenox) SAR training was discussed. This included what topics will be covered and who will be taking the lead on these training events for the next few months. Training concluded at approximately 8:30pm with several SAR members staying to discuss equipment and training.

### Our Core Principles:

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

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## MONTHLY CERT/MRC TRAINING - INTERIOR SEARCH – MARCH 19, 2015

At 7:00pm on Thursday March 19, 2015 forty members of the New Lenox CERT/MRC met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Martin provided the opening remarks and turned the floor over to Mike English who provided a 20-minute overview of Unit 5 – Light Search and Rescue. Mike then requested those in attendance to count off by threes, thus forming three individual teams. Team members then met in separate areas in the Community Room to prepare their gear and equipment for the exercises that would follow.

At 7:25pm the teams walked to one of the following (assigned) stations:

- Station #1 – Search markings and utility shut-off
- Station #2 – Size-up and damage assessment
- Station #3 – Interior search (of upper level mechanical area)



Station #1 was led by Patty Edgett and Tricia Pakosz. Patty provided the teams with three scenarios, which required them to place the correct search markings on a paper flip chart, which was affixed to an easel. Tricia provided guidance regarding the proper way to shut-off a gas main and had each of the team members accomplish the task. In addition, Tricia demonstrated the proper way to shut off electricity via an electrical panel (modern breakers and older screw in fuses). Again, each team member was required demonstrated the proper methods.



Station #2 was led by John Schuld and Emily Serno. John provided each of the teams with an overview of size-up and damage assessment via a PowerPoint presentation. John then displayed a number of photographs of damaged buildings. The teams were asked to identify the structures as light, moderate or heavily damaged. John also led a discussion regarding team responsibilities in lightly, moderately and heavily damaged buildings. A number of hypothetical examples were discussed which led to excellent discussion.

Station #3 was led by Rich DeVault and Stan Huber. Rich and Stan had the teams stage in the upper level of the Village Hall's mechanical room. The teams were directed to conduct a search for objects (2 foot long black round pieces of Styrofoam). Each of the pieces of Styrofoam had a colored piece of Paracord tied to it – one color for each team. As such, teams left the Styrofoam in place and just collected the Paracord, which was counted at the end of the exercise. Rich and Stan stressed safety, before and during the exercise. The teams did an excellent job with their voice commands and utilizing the buddy system.

The stations operated for 15 minutes and 5 minutes was provided to rotate to the next station. At 8:25pm the exercises concluded and everyone returned to the Community Room for a de-briefing. Each of the station leaders were provided an opportunity to discuss their stations, which was followed by feedback from the teams. The de-briefing ended at approximately 8:45pm after some excellent comments and discussion. Special thanks to Mike English for providing the overview as well as the station leads who did a great job! Also, thanks to everyone that attended – great job!



## USING UTM COORDINATES IN SEARCH AND RESCUE – MARCH 7, 2015

On Saturday March 7, 2015 Mike English represented the New Lenox SAR Team at the Kendall County Sheriff's Office in Yorkville, IL. Multi-jurisdictional training was conducted by Kim Gotte from Kendall County EMA. There were about 15 in attendance from Kendall County, Naperville and New Lenox. Training began with a classroom PowerPoint presentation using Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates with topographic (TOPO) maps. Those in attendance learned how to interpret UTM coordinates, the differences between UTM and using latitude and longitude, and how to find points on a map given UTM coordinates using different types of rulers.

Since UTM coordinates are based on actual distances (meters) vs. latitude and longitude - degrees, minutes and seconds, UTM is much easier to calculate distance from point to point. The Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) would like to have all Illinois searchers using the same coordinate system, UTM, moving forward. UTM coordinates can be obtained from GPS units similar to DDS.

After the PowerPoint, those in attendance were given an exercise to report the positions of certain symbols on a map and locate several given coordinates. The majority of the participants were able to perform this without any issues. Everyone was then split into 5 groups of 3 to practice locating points using a larger map. The last exercise was with the same group and involved a pre-determined UTM coordinate that needed to be marked on a large map to the exact meter. The position wasn't difficult to find, using what had been learned and with the tools provided ([www.maptool.com](http://www.maptool.com)). The map was of the City of Plano and the UTM Coordinates were the exact location where the Plano man was found during a search less than 2 years ago.

The training concluded at 11:45am, which did not leave enough time to cover GPS units.



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

## SAR TRAINING/NIGHT SEARCH – MARCH 21, 2015

At 6:30pm on Saturday March 21, 2015 ten members of New Lenox SAR arrived at Dellwood Park in Lockport, IL for a multi-jurisdictional (night) training exercise which was scheduled to begin at 7:00pm. Our team members, as well as SAR members from Will County EMA, Plainfield, Lemont, Naperville and Porter County, IN prepared their gear while waiting for the Will County EMA Mobile Command Center to be set-up. The training, in part, was designed to provide an opportunity for new SAR managers to handle incident command responsibilities.



At approximately 8:30pm SAR volunteers were divided into teams and the scenario was provided. In summary, the scenario consisted of two girls, 12 and 13 years of age, that had made plans to meet at the park earlier in the afternoon. The “names” of the girls, physical descriptions, and the fact that one of the girls has asthma was noted. In addition, one of the girls had her dog with her when she left her house in a nearby subdivision. After the girls did not return home, the Lockport Police Department was notified, missing person reports were filed, and an investigation was started.

Search managers divided the park into several sections (“A” Alpha, “B” Bravo, “C” Charlie, etc...). Teams were then given their respective assignments and the search commenced. The terrain throughout the park varied from open grassy areas to heavily wooded areas with steep drop-offs. Most of the searches were completed within two hours at which time teams returned to the staging area for rehab and additional assignments.



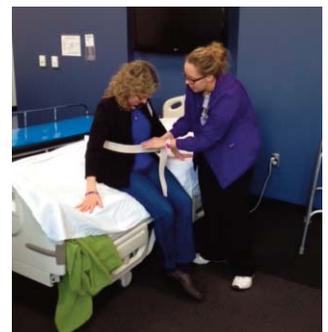
At approximately midnight, one of the victims (CPR mannequin) was located along with the dog (stuffed animal). It was originally planned that Tactical Ropes personnel were going to do an extraction of the victim which was found at the bottom of a steep ravine. As it was getting late and in the interest of time the extraction was not completed. At approximately 12:30am everyone met at the Mobile Command Center for a debriefing and to sign out. Following the debriefing, our team held its own debriefing to discuss the scenario and equipment. Everyone left the park shortly before 1:00am, returning to New Lenox at approximately 1:15am. Special thanks to our SAR members who participated in the exercise – well done!

## FUNCTIONAL AND ACCESS NEEDS SUPPORT (FAN FAIR) – FEBRUARY 7, 2015

New Lenox CERT & MRC members attending the FAN Fair at Joliet Jr. College on Saturday February 7, 2015, were Randy Halach, Tom Chojnacki, Dave Klingensmith & Gail Spitilli. The FAN Fair started promptly at 8:30am with introductions and brief overviews by Harold Damron, Director of the Will County Emergency Management Agency, Larry Walsh, Will County Executive, and Ken Cozzi from the American Red Cross. The Keynote Address was presented by Jessica Mitchell, FEMA Region V, Disability Integration Specialist.

The FAN Fair included a review of:

- Disability types
- Functional Needs Support Services
- Importance of Advanced Planning and Planning Process
- Service Delivery Systems
- Engaging Partners
- What Makes Inclusive Planning Effective
- Promoting Inclusive Planning
- FEMA Online Course IS-368



The workshop included an opportunity for attendees to attend three breakout sessions:

- Lighthouse of the Blind / Wheelchair & Bed Transfers
- Autism Society / NAMI
- American Sign Language / FEMA limited English Proficiency

Following the breakout sessions a closing ceremony was held at 3:15pm. Special thanks to Gail, Tom, Dave and Randy for attending this very worthwhile event!

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATION FOR ST. JUDE WOMEN'S CLUB – FEBRUARY 3, 2015

At 9:30am on Tuesday February 3, 2015 Al Murry and Dan Martin arrived at St. Jude Catholic Church in response to a request for a presentation on emergency preparedness from their Women's Club. Following the business portion of the meeting, Al Murry introduced himself and briefly turned the floor over to Dan Martin who provided an overview of the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition. Following Dan's overview of Safe Communities and the New Lenox CERT program, Al began his presentation.



As always, Al kept his presentation very interactive by asking the ladies questions about severe weather and what they would do during various emergency situations. By-way-of PowerPoint, lecture and show-and-tell items, Al engaged the ladies and rewarded them with emergency whistles for their participation. By the end of the 60-minute presentation, the ladies were eager to head home and work on their disaster supply kits and family emergency plans. The ladies thanked Al and Dan for their time and hoped to see them again for a follow-up presentation.

## SAR TRAINING, SURVIVAL SKILLS – FEBRUARY 7, 2015

by Gary Cook

On February 7, 2015 I left New Lenox at approximately 8:00am and arrived at Harris Forest Preserve on Route 71 in Yorkville at 8:45am for monthly multi-agency SAR training. Training began at 9:00am and "Survival" was the theme for this training. Kim Gotte, Assistant Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency, brought a significant amount of equipment to show and share, so we started with making alcohol burners from pop cans. Kim showed us how to score and separate the can bottoms (about an inch from bottom), and then how to put them together. Once the two can bottoms were sealed together, we punched five holes in the center (to add fuel and for flame). About 12 additional holes were punched around the periphery for venting. Once complete, we filled the can with alcohol (90% works best, burns hot with little smoke). Before lighting we placed a penny in the top to cover some of the holes to act as a diffuser. We did make two styles of burners, the first was empty, and the second we packed with vermiculite. Expanded vermiculite has a very large chemically active surface area, which makes it useful as an absorbent, which holds the alcohol nicely and it can prevent spillage too. After preparing these burners, we then made a pot stand from chicken wire. Using small 1/2" square rolled wire, we cut rectangular sections 6-squares by 26-squares. We then formed the wire into a roll and hinged the two ends together with screen and foil duct tape to form circles. These circles set nicely around the burners and then let you cook over the burner.



The next project demonstrated how to make a #10 Can Rocket Stove (it cooks an entire meal with twigs). This burner requires more resources than the simple alcohol burner; one large #10 can with steel lid (#3-lb coffee can size), and three smaller #2-3 cans (the size of baked bean cans). Kim gave us formal (hard copy) instructions on how to make these burners, and also gave each of us a full set of cans and some vermiculite to complete this project at home.

We then experimented with different fire starters, tinder and accelerators. As usual, dryer lint and Vaseline soaked cotton balls work great and are easy to keep in Ziploc bags. It's always good to have fire proof matches and a wind proof lighter as well.

We next looked at some methods of creating shelters. We learned how to use the sheet bend knot using paracord to make a hammock with a tarp (without having to use the grommets). This knot is very versatile and tightens when weight is applied and like every good knot, it's easy to undo.

We also looked at some other makeshift shelters, using different supplies from our backpacks, like walking sticks, plastic bags, and tarps.

Lastly we looked at the many different uses for paracord, and specifically how it is made up of seven smaller cords (military spec'd paracord has one black or green twine, which is stronger than the other six). We unwound the seven cords and made a fishing line with hook. We also further separated one of the seven lines into three smaller twines, which we then used to see something (with a needle).

The day's events wrapped up at noon, and I arrived back in New Lenox at 1:00pm. The training was very appropriate for the season, as it was cold and very windy. We got to see all these survival techniques used in elements that would require them.



## MONTHLY TRAINING / DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY – FEBRUARY 18, 2015

At 6:00pm on February 18, 2015 six members of the training committee met at the Village Hall to prepare for the 7:00pm monthly training event. Simultaneously, twelve students from the Lincoln-Way West High School Drama Club arrived as well. Everyone walked back to the employee break room where Patty Edgett and Patti Miller began to apply moulage to the students, simulating that they were victims of a natural gas explosion. The drama club students were super energetic and were excited about assisting our team with a scenario that focused on disaster psychology.



As the students were getting ready for their acting roles, New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers began to fill the community room. Everyone knew that disaster psychology would be the monthly training topic and that there would be a scenario, but details remained guarded. Due to the severe cold and travel delays, volunteers were still filing into the room at 7:00pm when the training began. Dan Martin provided the opening remarks and turned the training over to Lisa Murphy who provided a 20-minute overview of disaster psychology.

As Lisa was delivering the training, the training committee, who also served as evaluators for the evening, briefly met with the drama club students. The plan consisted of three groups of four students who would be located at three separate locations within the village hall. The first group was then led to the records archives room where they remained with their evaluators, Patty Edgett and Stan Huber. The second group was then led to an upper level office area where they remained with their evaluators, Tricia Pakosz and John Schuld. The third group was then led to a storage / mechanical area above the upper level of the village hall. These students remained with their evaluator Emily Serno, who waited to be joined by Lisa Murphy following her disaster psychology overview.

At approximately 7:25pm Lisa Murphy ended the overview and read the scenario to those in attendance. Essentially, the scenario detailed



an explosion occurring during an architectural tour of the building. The students were in different parts of the building at the time of the explosion and sustained minor injuries from the blast. The students were frightened from the blast and feared that another blast might occur. In addition, the students were upset because they were separated from their teacher as well as their friends who were in other tour groups within the building. After Lisa Murphy provided everyone with the scenario, Dan Martin gave the safety briefing and had those in attendance count off by threes. Teams 1, 2, and 3 quickly prepared their gear and PPE. The teams then named a team leader and developed a strategy while being escorted to each of the scenario locations.

The scenario(s) lasted approximately 20-25 minutes with student actors giving it their all. Some of the students were hysterical and difficult to calm down. Others were scared, crying and frightened. Some students were angry that the explosion occurred and placed the blame on others for causing their plight. CERT / MRC volunteers did a very good job with the “victims,” applying the principles learned in the disaster psychology unit and during Lisa Murphy’s review. That said, the actors definitely made it challenging with their bloodcurdling screams and hysterics. The scenario(s) were then ended, at which time the evaluators spent 5-10 minutes de-briefing the teams. Following the individual team de-briefings, everyone returned to the community room for a de-briefing with everyone.

Our student actors were seated front and center for the de-briefing, but before starting, they were given a standing ovation for their efforts. The format for the de-briefing included time for the evaluators, team leaders (Mike English, Dave Lauer, and Patti Miler), and student actors to provide comments. The de-briefing took approximately 5-8 minutes per team, which allowed the training to conclude at 8:30pm. The training concluded with another big thank you to the drama club students, who extended invitations to everyone to see them in upcoming plays at Lincoln-Way West High School. Special thanks to everyone who attended this first of its kind training, as well as everyone that worked hard to make it happen!



## SAR TRAINING – WINTER HIKE AND COMMUNICATIONS TEST – FEBRUARY 9, 2015

On Monday February 9, 2015, thirteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at Pilcher Park in Joliet, IL for monthly New Lenox SAR training. Everyone prepared their clothing and gear when they arrived at the park, allowing Joe Frigo to begin the briefing promptly at 7:00pm. Joe took the lead for this training event, which included organizing a 3-mile hike through the park. The purpose of the hike was to ensure that everyone's winter clothing (base layer, jackets, boots, etc...) were adequate for severe winter temperatures. In addition, Joe wanted to provide an opportunity for everyone to check their head lamps, flashlights, GPS, and additional equipment to ensure it was functioning properly.

After providing the briefing, those in attendance were divided into two teams. Joe arranged for the teams to hike in a circle, or loop. As the hike began, one team went to the left and the other went to the right with the idea of meeting at the 1/2 way point. Throughout the hike Rich DeVault and Lisa Murphy were responsible for ensuring that the team's newly acquired radios were functioning properly. Radio checks were performed along the way and the radios performed well. In addition, Joe tested a personal survival strobe to determine if it could be seen at various distances. After meeting at the 1/2 way point and each team checking on the other, the second half of the hike was completed.

After returning to the starting point in approximately 1 hour, team members took a picture to memorialize the training event. A debriefing was held, which included a discussion about equipment and being prepared for call-outs. Team members also discussed planning for the next training event, the team's last call-out, and the importance of attending multi-jurisdictional SAR training as well.

Special thanks to Joe Frigo for planning the training and to Rich DeVault and Lisa Murphy for testing the radios. Attendance was excellent, so thanks for everyone who came out on a cold February night to train!

## NLSD #122 PTO FUN FAIR – FEBRUARY 21, 2015

On Saturday February 21, 2015 the following members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteered at the New Lenox School District #122 PTO Fun Fair at Liberty Junior High:

- Randy Halach
- Shelley Halach
- Tom Chojnacki
- Patty Edgett
- Trish Buhle
- Dale Alexander

Volunteers began to arrive at the Fun Fair between 10:00am and 10:30am for set-up, prior to the 11:00am start time for the event. Two tables were actually set-up, one for CERT and one for MRC. The tables looked great and included plenty of material from Ready.gov (disaster supply kits, family emergency plans, pet preparedness, preparedness for those with functional needs, etc...), as well as material on severe weather. In addition, the tables contained some excellent examples of disaster supply kits for both humans and pets (Shelley Halach's favorite)! Our awesome volunteers also stopped to pick-up green and yellow balloons for the table, a very nice touch.

In addition to the literature and sample disaster supply kits, our prize wheel was available to kids throughout the event. Kids took turns spinning the wheel and answering questions about disaster preparedness. Our volunteers were kind enough to purchase tokens from fun fair staff to give to the kids when they spun the wheel. The tokens were used to purchase fun items from the prize area.



Visitors to our table also enjoyed the company of "Buddy," Trish Buhle's therapy dog. Buddy was decked out in his CERT bandana and was thrilled to get lots of attention throughout the day. As always, "Buddy" was a huge hit with the kids!

As an added bonus, Tom Chojnacki's wife Melissa, who works at Liberty, was kind enough to set-up six laptop computers so the kids could play games at the Ready.gov web site's section for kids. Numerous kids learned about emergency preparedness throughout the day by playing the Ready.gov games.

The fun fair wrapped up at 3:00pm and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to our volunteers who did a great job at this event, which included collecting 5 new CERT applications!



## MONTHLY SAR TRAINING – FEBRUARY 21, 2015

At 8:00am on Saturday February 21, 2015 eight members of New Lenox SAR met at the Plainfield Police Department for monthly multi-jurisdictional SAR training. Teams in attendance included Plainfield, Naperville, Lemont, Will County Emergency Management Agency and New Lenox. Training topics included the following:



- Cold Weather Survival
- Evidence Preservation
- Animals in SAR

Those in attendance learned about taking a philosophical approach to survival with the “brain” and a positive attitude being the most important tool needed to survive. One’s attitude can determine someone’s exit (or not), from a situation. Another important consideration for survival is controlling “stress.” In a survival situation, stress may include cold/heat, thirst/hunger, fatigue, and sleep deprivation. In addition to stress, is “fear.” Fear may include the fear of being alone, wild animals, darkness, suffering, death, and being ridiculed. Fear can be controlled through mutual support, good leadership, comforting others, and involving everyone in simple tasks.

Another important concept for survival is the concept of stopping what you’re doing and taking the time to sit down, think, observe and plan. Taking the time to think through a situation can definitely lead to a successful outcome. Another interesting concept that was shared was the “Rule of 3;” 3 seconds of panic, 3 minutes without air, 3 hours in the environment, 3 days without water, and 3 weeks without food. If a human can overcome these, they have a good chance of surviving the incident. In addition to the Rule of 3, “defensive living” was discussed. The philosophical approach includes having a preparedness ethic, avoiding unnecessary risks, and preparing for different types of emergencies. Interesting statistics were also shared which included the thinking that survival is: 80% mental, 10% equipment, 5% experience, and 5% luck. The conclusion of this portion of the training included the advice to overcome, improvise and adapt, but most importantly, never give up!



During the evidence preservation portion of the training, volunteers learned the importance of recognizing that certain found articles may have evidentiary value. As such, it’s important to preserve them as soon as they’re located. Evidence preservation includes contacting Incident Command immediately, providing GPS coordinates and carefully walking away from the item(s) without creating additional footprints. In addition to reviewing evidence preservation techniques, an overview of evidence collection was also covered. This included how to package items, and whether the item should be packaged in paper or plastic. Methods of preserving footprints were also discussed, including casting them in plaster as well as utilizing a product called NeverWet™ made by Rust-Oleum. A discussion was had regarding searchers actually performing evidence collection duties. Unless exigent circumstances exist, evidence collection by volunteer searchers is generally discouraged.

The last portion of the training included an overview of animals in SAR, specifically horses and how they can be utilized in search operations. The presentation included a PowerPoint and video(s) that depicted horses in search operations. Those in attendance learned about “body signals” that horses give that will help determine what they’re thinking or how they’re feeling. Examples include eyes that are blinking (processing information, thinking), or ears that pointing forward (attentive, curious). Other body signals include flared nostrils (nervous, excited, alert, working), and a swishing tail (annoyed, irritated, flies). Volunteers also learned about a horse’s vision, sense of smell, hearing, touch and taste, all senses that are helpful during search operations. Following the classroom presentation, everyone had the opportunity to visit with a horse in the parking lot of Plainfield Police Department. Following the visit, training concluded at approximately 11:00am.



## NEW LENOX CERT / MRC / SAR MEMBERS COMPLETE CPR-AED TRAINING

At 8:00am on Saturday February 28, 2015 ten members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC / SAR met at New Lenox Fire Protection District Station #1 for CPR / AED training. The training was conducted by New Lenox Fire Protection District Paramedics and included a 2-year certification from the American Heart Association. Congratulations to the following volunteers for completing the 5-hour class:

Ranelle Berkshire	Dave Klingensmith
Paul Berkshire	Patty Kosek
Trish Buhle	Tammy Orseno
Naomi Carden	Mike Stefka
Bill Gill	Joan Stefka



## NEW LENOX SAR ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2015

At 7:00pm on Thursday January 8, 2015 the New Lenox SAR Team held its annual meeting in the training room of the New Lenox Police Department. Thirteen team members were able to attend the meeting, despite the harsh winter weather, which included sub-zero temperatures and snow. New Lenox SAR Team Leader Gary Cook prepared an excellent agenda for the meeting which included the following:

- 2014 Year in Review (major training events, lessons learned, and review of participation log)
- 2015 Training Schedule (training topics, selection of leaders/co-leaders for each topic, and discussion of training with Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR and affiliated SAR teams)
- Equipment (budget and suggestions for purchases)
- New Lenox SAR Manual (suggestions for minor revisions, including those that pertain to physical fitness criteria, annual participation hours, annual meeting, staging area for call-outs, and adding items to the personal carry items list)



Discussion during the meeting was excellent and everyone agreed that 2015 will be another great year for our team. The meeting ended at approximately 9:00pm, at which time several team members stayed for further discussion of agenda topics. Special thanks to Gary Cook for taking developing the agenda and running the meeting.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wednesday April 1, 2015 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT / MRC Training Committee Meeting at the New Lenox Police Dept.
- Thursday April 9, 2015 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at Location TBD
- Tuesday April 14, 2015 / 7:00pm – New Lenox CERT / MRC Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday April 18, 2015 / 8:00am – Multi-Jurisdictional SAR Training at the Plainfield Fire Department
- Saturday April 18, 2015 / 8:00am – Triple Play Concert Series Ticket Sales at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Tuesday April 21, 2015 / 7:00pm – Severe Weather Spotter Training at Lincoln-Way West High School
- Sunday May 3, 2015 / 12:00pm – Loyalty Day Parade Stage at New Lenox Police Department
- Saturday May 16, 2015 / 8:00am – Multi-Jurisdictional SAR Training at Location TBD
- Wednesday May 20, 2015 / 7:00pm - New Lenox CERT / MRC Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday May 30, 2015 / 7:00am – NLSD #122 PTO 5K Run at Nelson Prairie and Ridge Schools
- Tuesday June 9, 2015 / 7:00pm - New Lenox CERT / MRC Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Thursday June 11, 2015 / 6:00pm – Chasing the Sun 5K Run Stage at the New Lenox Police Department
- Saturday June 20, 2015 / 8:00am - Multi-Jurisdictional SAR Training at Location TBD
- Saturday June 20, 2015 / 4:00pm – Kenny Loggins Concert Stage at the New Lenox Police Department
- Thursday June 25, 2015 / 6:00pm – Trinity 5K Run Stage at New Lenox Police Department
- Saturday June 27, 2015 / 9:00am – Old Campground Festival at United Methodist Church





## EVIDENCE SEARCH STREATOR, IL – JANUARY 19, 2015

The Will County Emergency Management Agency's SAR Team and SAR affiliates were requested to assist with an evidence search in Streator, IL on Monday January 19, 2015. According to a news release, the evidence search was part of an ongoing investigation of a shooting and police pursuit that occurred in Streator the previous day.

Dave Klingensmith represented New Lenox SAR in the evidence search. Dave left New Lenox at 7:30am in order to participate in a 9:00am briefing in Streator. Dave related that approximately 25 SAR members from a number of teams participated in the search. Searchers were requested to search for guns, shell casings and bullet holes in homes along the route of the police pursuit. Dave related that SAR members searched along the roadway, in alleys, and in yards for evidentiary items. A number of shell casings were located along with bullet holes that were not located during the initial police investigation.

The search ended at approximately 2:30pm and was followed by a short de-briefing. Dave then drove back to New Lenox, arriving at 5:00pm. Special thanks to Dave for putting in a long day and for representing our team during this search!

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## MISSING PERSON SEARCH – JANUARY 25, 2015

At approximately 9:30am on Sunday January 25, 2015 the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team received a mutual aid request for assistance from the Will County Emergency Management Agency's SAR Team. The request was regarding a missing person and searchers were asked to report to the Manhattan Police Department for a briefing. Team members began to arrive at the Manhattan Police Department at approximately 10:00am but soon learned that the staging area was being re-located to an elementary school in Wilton Center. Shortly after arriving at the elementary school, SAR members were advised that the staging area would be re-located one last time to Martin Long Road, east of Symerton in Wilmington Township.



After arriving at the staging area, those on scene were advised that a Terence Mulcahy, M/W/55, was missing. Searchers were told that Mulcahy's truck was located Saturday morning near the briefing area. The truck was found abandoned, off the road, stuck in the mud, engine running, and in reverse. The Will County Sheriff's Police determined that the vehicle belonged to Mulcahy who was later reported missing by his daughter.

At approximately 11:00am teams were deployed in all four directions from the point of where the vehicle was located. Areas along the roadways, farm fields, a creek, and nearby farmer's homes / barns were the focus of the search which went into the afternoon. Teams were deployed at approximately 3:30pm for what was likely to be the last, or perhaps second to last, search of the day. While heading to an assignment, New Lenox SAR members spotted an object which "looked out of place" in a plowed farmer's field. Binoculars were then utilized to determine if it was the missing person and it appeared as though it was. The team then ran approximately 200 yards from the roadway into the field and located a male matching the description of the missing person (later verified). Unfortunately the male was

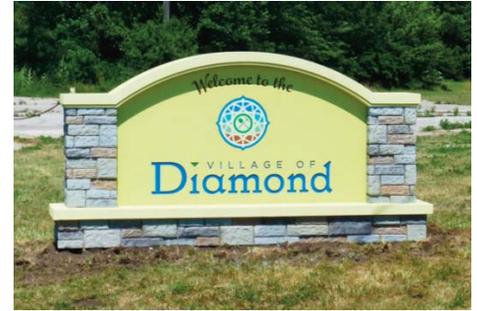


deceased, laying on his side, frozen in a fetal position. The finding was communicated with Search Management / Incident Command. New Lenox SAR members stood by until Sheriff's Deputies arrived on scene, at which time team members walked back to the staging area. After a short de-briefing, the call-out ended at 4:15pm and our team arrived back in New Lenox at approximately 5:00pm.

Although this search ended with the missing person found deceased, it's comforting to know that searchers helped bring closure for the family. In addition, despite the elements (cold, wind, blowing snow, ice, mud) search volunteers from all participating teams did a great job. Search management also did an excellent job determining search areas and deploying teams. Again, despite the outcome, it was a pleasure to work with some great people and it was an excellent learning experience for our team members.

## SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 20, 2015

The Semi-Annual CERT/MRC Meeting was held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall on Tuesday January 20, 2015 at 7:00pm. Seventy team members were in attendance for the meeting, which featured Mayor Terry Kernc from the Village of Diamond as our guest speaker. Mayor Kernc spoke about the November 17, 2013 tornado that struck the Village of Diamond as well as neighboring Coal City. For those that were in attendance, it was obvious that Mayor Kernc’s presentation was straight from the heart. In the interest of wishing us to learn from her experience, the Mayor openly shared decisions, even those that she now feels were not necessarily correct. Mayor Kernc’s presentation included the following major points:



- The Response (damage assessment, search & rescue, utility shut-off, victim treatment & transport, traffic control, establishment of curfew, mutual aid)
- Incident Command (establishment of EOC and participating organizations)
- Overwhelming Support and Assistance (teamwork, communication, organization, documentation)
- Call Center (located at Coal City Police Department, documentation of calls of those seeking to volunteer or make donations)
- Volunteer Management (establishment of volunteer resource pool, supplies, assignments, shuttle buses, feeding volunteers)
- Public Relations (media as an asset, social media, radio, newspapers, community meetings)
- Supplies Management (designated drop-off areas, abundance of supplies, distribution of supplies, know when to say no to donations)
- Debris (need for a debris management plan, mutual aid from organizations such as Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network)
- Monetary Donations (participating organizations, fair distribution to affected residents, transparency, need for a disaster relief fund policy)
- Recovery (emergency assessments, repair versus rebuild, plan review & inspections, permit fees)
- Stress Management (recognize staff & volunteer stress, say thank you often, work as a team, recognize mistakes will be made)
- FEMA (understand what FEMA can do and that correct information is passed along to residents, participate in FEMA training)
- IEMA (anything over \$20,000 requires competitive bid, understand procurement standards, participate in IEMA training)
- Village of Diamond Changes (emergency portable radios, Village Hall updated phone system, debris removal contract, Emergency Powers of the Mayor Ordinance)
- For Consideration (annual review of homeowner’s insurance, review existing contracts & ordinances, review of debris management plan, participate in county mitigation plan)

The Mayor’s presentation ended at approximately 8:00pm following a brief question and answer session. Special thanks to Mayor Kernc for sharing her experience and for recognizing our volunteers that assisted with donations following the tornado.

Following the Mayor’s presentation we moved into the business portion of the meeting, which began with committee reports from Tricia Pakosz (Training), Al Murry (Emergency Preparedness), Dan Johnson (Shelter Management), Randy Halach (Public Information), and Shelley Halach (Pet Preparedness). Committee reports included a synopsis of 2014 activities as well as a look ahead as to what’s being planned for 2015. Our committee chair persons did an excellent job with their reports and utilized the opportunity to do some recruitment for their respective committees.

A brief synopsis of our quarterly newsletter was given, which was followed by a request to “Like” the CERT, MRC, SAR and Safe Communities America Facebook pages.



Those in attendance were reminded of upcoming training events in February, March and April. In addition, the New Lenox 2015 Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo was announced for April 21, 2015 at Lincoln-Way West High School. Aside from CERT / MRC training, everyone was encouraged to attend a variety of workshops that are being offered by the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition. Lastly, an announcement was made for a very ambitious project that Al Murry is spear-heading. Al would like to see a disaster supply kit (approximately 14 items) in every home in New Lenox. Al will be forming a committee to research the costs and logistics involved in such an endeavor and seized the opportunity to solicit volunteers. Good luck to Al and his team – what a fantastic idea!

The Semi-Annual Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm, although members of the Training Committee held a short meeting thereafter. Thanks to all that participated!

**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

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**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 –  
 TRICIA PAKOSZ**

In 1974 my family moved from bustling Tinley Park to a cornfield called New Lenox. I met my husband Bill while waitressing during my senior year at Lincoln-Way Central (1982). We married in 1986, live in our "starter" home, and have four children, Mitchell (1988), Michael (1990), Meghan (1993) and Matthew (2001).

My husband is an Eagle Scout, so we raised Boy Scouts, including Meghan as a Venture Scout. Campouts, meetings and training keep me busy. One highlight was the five days of riding horses in the mountains with Meghan at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Thankfully I didn't need to use my Wilderness 1st Aid training.

While on a Scout camp out with Matthew, members from a Search and Rescue (SAR) team ran a search scenario. It caught my interest. The Scouter in charge told me about CERT and to talk to Dan Martin.

I completed my CERT class in October 2012. I have since had the opportunity to volunteer at Triple Play Concerts, Proud American Days, and 5k runs. When New Lenox started a SAR team, I couldn't wait to join and have been on several searches. There are terrific people on both teams and I enjoy working with and learning from them.

"Be Prepared" is a Scout motto which reflects what I love about Scouts and what drew me to CERT/ SAR and that is being ready and able to help your family, community and self.



**FEMA**



**American Red Cross**