

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

TRIAGE AND TREATMENT – SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

At 6:00pm on Wednesday September 23, 2015, twenty-three role players (Lincoln-Way West Drama Club, Boy Scouts, and children of CERT members) arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall to assist with monthly training. The kids were led back to the breakroom where Patty Edgett, Patti Miller, Becky Strilko and Lisa Murphy were ready to "mouflage" them. The kids received injuries that were classified as "Minor," "Delayed," and "Immediate," all resulting from a gas explosion. After approximately one hour of moulage, Patty Edgett conducted a short briefing with the "victims," which prepared them for their roles.



Meanwhile, team members were arriving in the Community Room and were asked to have their gear ready to go following Randy Halach's overview of Triage and Treatment. Randy started promptly at 7:00pm with a PowerPoint which covered Disaster Medical Operations I and II, with an emphasis on Triage and Treatment. Randy concluded at 7:20pm at which time he provided everyone with the scenario for the exercise. Team members staged in the rotunda of the Village Hall while the "victims" were lead out the back door of the building to keep them out of sight. The "victims" were then positioned in the Commons, throughout the lawn in front of the Performing Arts Pavilion.



The Triage exercise began with our team members conducting a brief size-up of the area and when it was determined that it was safe to approach, teams of two began making their way to the "victims," many who were screaming for help. Teams of two made their way to the "victims," with other teams leap frogging on to the next "victim." The teams did a great job with Triage, taking about 90 seconds to assess and tag each victim green (Minor), yellow (Delayed), or red (Immediate.). The scenario did not include any black (Dead) tags. The Triage scenario ended at approximately 8:45pm, with a quick de-briefing with team members back in the village hall rotunda.



At 8:50pm, or so, the Treatment scenario began with the teams once again approaching the area in twos. Teams went to work quickly, completing head-to-toe assessments, applying dressings, bandages, and in some cases splints. Team members did a good job elevating bleeding wounds, watching for symptoms of shock and seeking the assistance of those who were classified as having Minor injuries. The Treatment scenario ended at approximately 8:10pm, which was followed by a quick sweep of the lawn to ensure that nothing was left behind. Everyone headed back the Village Hall to clean-up and prepare for a short de-briefing.

The first order of business was to thank our wonderful role players who did an excellent job. The role players provided constructive feedback, which prompted good discussion with our team members. Randy Halach and Patty Edgett facilitated another 10 minutes of discussion with our team members after the role players left at 8:30pm. Special thanks to EVERYONE who helped to plan and execute this training event, which proved to be extremely beneficial!



Our Core Principles:

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

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Village of
New Lenox

medical
reserve
corps



ASSIST FRANKFORT / NEW LENOX RUNNING CLUB – SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

On September 19, 2015 the Frankfort / New Lenox Running Club organized a 20-mile run on Old Plank Trail for those training for the Chicago Marathon in October. New Lenox CERT was asked again this year to help out. Six members of our team were assigned locations prior to the run. Two members were positioned at Wolf Road and two others were at the Grainery in Frankfort to assist with traffic control and cheer on the runners. There were also two CERT members on bikes who stopped throughout the course to perform traffic control at Joliet Highway, Schoolhouse Road and Harlem Avenue. Our team members received many compliments from the runners for controlling the traffic.



All the runners started at 6:00am at Lion's Den on Cedar Road and ran to Ridgeland Avenue, the 10-mile turnaround location. It was very wet on the trail with standing water, but there were no issues with slipping or falling, despite brief heavy downpours. All runners completed their run by 10:30am and CERT members left their stations as the last runners passed.

Special thanks to our team members who assisted with this activity – great job!

Photos courtesy of Dawn Myers Bitter



SAR TRAINING / KANE COUNTY NIGHT EXERCISE – SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

On Saturday September 19, 2015 at 4:15pm, six New Lenox SAR members met in the parking lot at the New Lenox Police Department for the purpose of carpooling to a night exercise hosted by Kane County. Our team members left at 4:30pm with plans to meet two additional SAR members at the exercise.



At approximately 5:40pm, everyone arrived at the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve, 35W003 IL Route 31, South Elgin, IL. Team members had to display SAR credentials and check-in was done electronically. Our team, along with teams from the Will County Emergency Management Agency, Naperville, Lockport, Romeoville, and others dressed and prepared their equipment for the exercise. After a brief wait, six of our team members formed a team, while two of our team members joined another search team.



Prior to deployment, teams were provided with the scenario for the exercise which included several missing children, ages 11-13. The kids were last seen playing paintball in the forest preserve on Friday afternoon. Due to a large overnight birthday party at a nearby house, no one noticed the kids missing until early Saturday afternoon as some of the kids slept inside, while others slept outside in tents. The search (exercise) began at 2:00pm with the Kane County Sheriff's Department and the Kane County Office of Emergency Management taking the lead early on. At this point (approximately 6:00pm) a hasty search had been conducted along bike trails as well as along the Fox River with negative results.

Our team members were deployed with their respective teams and were given areas to the north of the Fox River to search. The terrain was heavily wooded with tall weeds, vines, thick brush and lots of fallen trees. It took about 1 ½ hours to complete one pass and another 1 ½ hours to complete a second pass. In addition to the difficult terrain, teams were literally running into spider webs with spiders as big as half dollars in them. At approximately 9:40pm, teams were directed to return to the staging area, per the Incident Commander.



Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve



After returning backpacks and other gear to vehicles, everyone met under a pavilion for a "hot wash" of the exercise. During the hot wash, it was learned that some, but not all of the "victims" were located. The good news was that no one was missed. The "victims" were in areas that had not been searched. The "hot wash" ended at 10:45pm at which time everyone officially checked out of the exercise. Our team members left the forest preserve, arriving back in New Lenox at about midnight. Special thanks to our team members that participated – great job!



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SAR ACTIVATION / EVIDENCE SEARCH PLANO, IL – SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

At 3:30pm on Friday, September 11th the Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR Division issued a request for assistance with an evidence search in Plano, IL. The request was in response to a 23-year-old man who was found dead in the middle of a Plano subdivision street early Friday morning. Kendall County Coroner Ken Toftoy said Andrew Erickson, of Oswego, was pronounced dead after he was found suffering from a chest wound around 4:00am in the 4200 block of Cummins Street in the Lakewood Springs Subdivision.

One member of NLSAR was available to assist and left New Lenox at 4:00pm. Our SAR volunteer arrived at the designated staging area at 111 E. Main Street in Plano, IL (Plano PD) at approximately 5:15pm. On arrival, notification was provided that the staging area had been reassigned to the Emily G. Johns School at 430 Mitchell Drive, Plano, IL. Upon arriving at the new staging area, searchers were briefed on the incident that had taken place earlier in the day. The evidence search was focused on the murder weapon, which had not yet been recovered.



According to the Kendall County State's Attorney, David Acevedo, 22, 3800 block of Munson Street, Plano, has been charged with five counts of first-degree murder for allegedly stabbing a Sandwich man.

In addition to New Lenox, Plainfield, Will County and Plano PD were all represented. Plano PD searchers went out as teams "Alpha" & "Bravo," and the Plainfield / New Lenox team was dispatched as team "Charlie." The teams' collective efforts were focused on searching the residential area between where the murder occurred, and the perpetrator's house, which was only a few blocks away. The residential search required searchers to search all properties (front yards, back yards, side yards, streets, etc.) within our specified grids. Team "Charlie's" first assignment was to search the north side of Cummins Street between Klatt Street and Klatt Street (Klatt Street loops around). Half of Team "Charlie" searched front and side yards, and the other half searched backyards. When backyards were fenced in, searchers needed to get permission from the homeowners to enter the property. All of the village residents were very cooperative, and the search teams did not have to call upon police assistance to enter any properties.

The first search area was completed at 7:30pm. Upon returning to Incident Command, we noted that more groups had been dispatched (up to "Foxtrot"). It was determined with the resources currently available that we could finish the entire search area with another search from each group. Team "Charlie" was dispatched to a second search area, which was Pratt Street between Klatt Street and Munson Street. For this search, gear modifications were necessary as darkness was setting in fast. Team members equipped themselves with flashlights, headlamps, and high visibility outerwear. The second search area was completed and the team returned to Incident Command at 9:15pm. The murder weapon was not found, but the target search area was covered with a good degree of confidence. There was a final debriefing and searchers were dismissed at 9:30pm. It was noted that there was no further resources required for the following morning. Our NLSAR team member returned to New Lenox at 10:30pm.

SHAREFEST JOB & RESOURCE FAIR – SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

At 9:00am on Friday September 11, 2015, fourteen members of the New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Village Hall to volunteer for the ShareFest Job and Resource Fair. Our volunteers were given a short briefing, which included the following assignments:



- Upper level and lower level outside entrance / exit
 - o To assist with traffic control as well as ingress and egress from the Village Hall
- Upper level and lower level inside entrance / exit
 - o To direct job seekers to the various tables and to help answer questions
- Other duties as needed
 - o Notify company representatives about lunch, assist with lunch, assist company representatives with their displays, assist Job and Resource organizers, etc...

Following the briefing, everyone walked around to gain a good understanding of the event's layout. Everyone was in place by 9:45am, in advance of the 10:00am opening.

The Job and Resource Fair was busy, especially in the beginning. Although job seekers (estimated at about 500 throughout the day) were excited to visit many companies, the Amazon table seemed to have the longest lines. In fact, our volunteers assisted with the Amazon line and at one point had to re-direct the flow of the line so it wouldn't block the entrance to the Community Room.

Our volunteers did a wonderful job throughout the morning and into the early afternoon. The event ended at 1:00pm, at which time a de-briefing was held in the rotunda for about 10 minutes or so. At the end, everyone was thanked by Gary Cheney, ShareFest organizer, for their assistance.

NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / TRANSPORT – SEPTEMBER 8, 2015



At 7:00pm on Tuesday September 8, 2015 New Lenox SAR members met in the parking lot of the New Lenox Police Department for monthly training. Rich DeVault took the lead on this training, which was "Transport." Since most team members had participated in CERT "Transport" training on August 25th, Rich only provided a brief verbal overview of the carries.

Rich then brought out a deer cart that he has modified for the purpose of using it for SAR-related activities. The cart has two wheels under the carriage, which allows it to balance relatively easily. In addition, Rich showed those in attendance how to place a collapsible stretcher on top of the cart and secure it with steel pins. Our SAR members were placed onto the stretcher, while other SAR members wheeled them around over various types of terrain.

In addition, various methods for securing the "victims" to the cart were practiced. The practice mostly entailed where to place the nylon straps over the "victim." Training ended at approximately 8:30pm, just as the rain started to arrive. Special thanks to Rich for taking the lead on the training and for spending many hours making modifications to the cart. Great job!



LYNYRD SKYNYRD CONCERT – SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

At 4:30pm on Saturday September 5, 2015, nineteen members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met in the parking lot of the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing for the Lynyrd Skynyrd Concert. This particular concert was the last of the Triple Play Concerts held over the summer in the New Lenox Commons. Volunteers were provided with an overview of the concert, including the fact that over 5,000 people were expected to attend. Everyone was shown samples of the tickets and passes that they might see throughout the evening. This included "All Access Passes" for the bands and stage hands. Other passes were also displayed such as those for ticket volunteers, food vendors, and several non-profit organizations. The concert's Incident Action Plan (IAP) was discussed, including the shelter plan for severe weather. The briefing concluded at 4:50pm, at which time volunteers headed off to their assignments.



The gates opened promptly at 5:30pm and hundreds of concert-goers headed for their preferred spots in the lawn area. Our volunteers did a great job maintaining the aisles that had been established by New Lenox Public Works. Volunteers also did a great job assisting those with physical impairments by providing rides to Gate #1. Our team members controlled access to the Village Hall, watched over the inflatable video screen near the library, and provided security throughout the Commons to ensure that individuals did not jump the fences.

The two opening acts got the crowd warmed up for Lynyrd Skynyrd who took the stage at 9:00pm. With what appeared to be the largest crowd of the season, those in attendance enjoyed all of Skynyrd's top hits for approximately 90 minutes. In terms of weather, it was a perfect evening for a concert. Aside from a concert attendee's turned ankle toward the end of the show and a few lost items, the evening went very well. Our volunteers assisted with egress at Gates #1, #2, and #3, ensuring that guests did not leave with alcoholic beverages. At approximately 10:45pm, Mayor Tim Baldermann met with volunteers at Gate #1. The Mayor thanked everyone for their assistance during this concert, as well as all of the concerts throughout the summer. In addition to the appreciation for the volunteer's efforts at the concerts, the Mayor thanked everyone for everything that they do for the community throughout the year.



After the Mayor departed, a short de-briefing was held to discuss everyone's assignments. The briefing ended just before 11:00pm and everyone was thanked again for the efforts. Great concert season everyone – thank you!

“THE BAND PERRY” CONCERT – AUGUST 30, 2015

Fifteen members of New Lenox CERT / MRC arrived at the New Lenox Police Department at 3:30pm on Sunday August 30th for a pre-concert briefing. The briefing was held in the lower level west parking lot of the police department and included an overview of the concert’s Incident Action Plan (IAP). Fortunately there was no threat of severe weather, but to be on the safe side, a review of the Emergency Shelter Plan was still discussed. In addition to the IAP, team assignments were also discussed, including a couple of special requests for this particular concert. The briefing ended at 3:50pm in order to allow everyone to walk to their assignments by 4:00pm.



The gates opened at 4:30pm and numerous concert attendees rushed to establish their viewing space for the evening by setting-up their lawn chairs and spreading out their blankets. Speaking of lawn chairs and blankets, our volunteers did a great job handling a minor “territorial” dispute between two families who had a disagreement over square footage. Ultimately the parties were separated and no additional issues occurred throughout the evening. Other volunteers did a great job handling perimeter security, while others kept an eye on some of the tour buses that were parked in the Commons. Volunteers also assisted with a minor injury (turned ankle) and did a great job answering questions from concert attendees.



The warm-up acts were well-received, but “The Band Perry” really got the crowd going. The band had lots of energy and it was obvious that the crowd really enjoyed their performance, which ended at approximately 9:20pm. Our volunteers staffed Gates 1, 2 and 3 during egress, ensuring that patrons did not leave with any alcoholic beverages. Following a smooth exit by concert attendees, a de-briefing was held near Gate #1. The few minor issues were discussed, but for the most part, the concert went very well. Special thanks to our volunteers who once again did a great job handling a number of different assignments.



MONTHLY TRAINING / TRANSPORT – AUGUST 25, 2015

At 6:00pm on August 25, 2015 Joe Frigo, Dave Lauer and members of the Training Committee met near the CERT / MRC trailer in the west parking lot of the New Lenox Police Department to gather supplies needed for “transport” training. Supplies included two “Rescue Randys,” blankets, tarps, and orange traffic cones. The crew then headed across the street to the New Lenox Commons to set-up five stations in the lawn near the Performing Arts Pavilion. The stations included the following:



1. 4-person carry
2. 2-person carry / conscious victim
3. 2-person carry / unconscious victim
4. 1-person carry / pack strap and blanket drag
5. 6-person carry



Lisa Murphy remained in the Commons to keep an eye on the supplies while everyone else walked over to the Community Room at the Village Hall to meet team members who were arriving for the 7:00pm training. Dan Martin, Public Safety Division Chief for the New Lenox Police Department and CERT / MRC Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the training. Veteran team members gave a warm welcome to six new team members who came out to participate in the training prior to the start of CERT Class #10. Joe Frigo and Dave Lauer then provided a brief overview of various carries, which would be practiced in the Commons. At approximately 7:20pm team members then walked across the street to begin the hands-on portion of the training.

Joe and Dave ran through the five stations and demonstrated the carries. Team members then counted off to create five teams - Alpha, Brave, Charlie, Delta, and Echo. The teams then went to their first assigned station to begin training. A grid had been designed in advance, allowing the teams to rotate to the next station every 10 minutes. Everyone did an excellent job with the carries and it seemed that 10 minutes was the right amount of time for team members to practice each of the carries. In addition to Dave and Joe leading the training, members of the Training Committee served as station leads who did a great job providing direction and guidance for the teams.

The training concluded at approximately 8:15pm at which time everyone helped to fold blankets, tarps, and return the supplies to the staging area. Joe and Dave held a short de-briefing which ended at 8:30pm. Special thanks to everyone that made this training possible, including Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy’s kids (also members of CERT Class #10), who were “victims” at three of the stations.

ST. JUDE'S RUNNING WITH FAITH 5K & 10K – AUGUST 22, 2015

Twenty-one members of our team met at 5:30pm at the New Lenox Police Department for the St. Jude's Running With Faith 5K & 10K Race. Since the weather was beautiful, the briefing was held in the west, lower level parking lot of the police department. Our team has volunteered for this particular race for the past several years so many of our team members were familiar with the details. That said, the approximate number of runners (200) was discussed as well as the route for both the 5K and 10K. In addition, team members were advised that a New Lenox Fire Protection District ambulance would be stationed at the Start / Finish Line and to dial 9-1-1 if a serious medical emergency occurred. Lastly, Jerry Watts and his amateur radio operator friends joined the briefing to let the team know that they would be stationed throughout the course to assist with communications. The briefing ended at approximately 5:50pm, at which time everyone heading out to their assignments.



For this race, our volunteers were asked to staff three water stations located at the following locations:

1. Veterans Parkway near Old Plank Trail Bank
2. Gear Drive & Ridgefield Road
3. Haven Avenue & Wildwood Drive



The race started promptly at 6:30pm, with the 10K runners starting approximately five minutes before the 5K runners. Our volunteers did an excellent job cheering for the runners as they passed through each of the stations, while keeping them hydrated with cups of water. In addition, our volunteers assisted with traffic direction and control, when necessary, in the areas near the water stations. The water stations were disassembled as the last runner passed by each one.

At approximately 8:45pm our volunteers met at St. Jude Catholic Church and School for a de-briefing. Following the de-briefing, volunteers were invited to stay for some food and beverages. Special thanks to all of our volunteers that assisted with this event – great job!

NEW LENOX SAR TEAM COMPLETES WARRIOR DASH – AUGUST 15, 2015

The New Lenox Search and Rescue Team decided to register for the Warrior Dash in Channahon, IL, in lieu of regular monthly training. The team felt that participating in a 5K Run with 12 obstacles would be a great way for folks to challenge themselves and build confidence. In addition, participating in this event would also be a great team building activity as participants would assist and encourage each other throughout the course.



Twelve team members met at the Jewel-Osco at Nelson Road & Route 30 at 7:00am to car pool to the Dollinger Family Farm, 7502 E. Hansel Road, Channahon, IL where the event was held. Our team arrived at the farm at approximately 7:30am, in plenty of time for the 9:00am "wave." After check-in was complete, pre-race pictures were taken and some light stretching was done. Team members headed over to the "corral" at 8:45am and the race kicked-off right at 9:00am.

After about a 1/2 mile run, the team encountered a small creek with water and plenty of mud. Shortly thereafter, several mounds of dirt (mud) were traversed with pools of waist deep water in between. The team stuck together, encouraging and helping each other over obstacles along the way. Whether it was a cargo net, trenches filled with mud, steep walls, fire or barbed wire, everyone did a great job overcoming the obstacles. Everyone finished the course together and received a medal at the finish line where a very muddy picture was taken as well.



Following pictures and showers, everyone enjoyed a post-race beverage and some live music. It was agreed upon that this event, or something similar, would be an annual event for the team. Special thanks for everyone that participated and / or came out to encourage those that completed the course!



JOE NICHOLS CONCERT – AUGUST 16, 2015

At 3:30pm on Sunday August 16, 2015 sixteen New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers met at the New Lenox Police Department for the Joe Nichols Concert Briefing. The briefing was held in the west lower level parking lot of the police department from 3:30pm to 3:50pm. The briefing included an overview of the concert, a review of the Incident Action Plan (IAP) and individual assignments. Everyone walked up to the Commons and were in place at their respective assignments by 4:00pm, 30 minutes in advance of the gates opening.



The first band, Stephen Neal, took the stage at approximately 4:45pm and played until about 6:00pm. The second band, Morgan Evans, started at about 6:15pm and played until 7:30pm or so. The crowds steadily increased until Joe Nichols took the stage at 8:00pm. By 8:30pm the crowd was estimated to be approximately 2,500, and everyone seemed to enjoy the first of two Country in the Commons shows.



Fortunately the evening was relatively uneventful. There was a very minor medical issue, a disagreement between attendees and a lost cellular phone that our volunteers assisted with.



This was of course in addition to everyone’s assigned duties, which were carried out very efficiently. The concert ended at approximately 9:30pm, after which our volunteers assisted with egress from the venue. Following the majority of attendees exiting from the Commons, a de-briefing was held near Gate #1. As mentioned, just a few minor issues were discussed and everyone was thanked for a job well done. Our volunteers left the Commons at approximately 10:00pm. Great job team!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 4, 2015

At 5:30pm on August 4, 2015 twenty CERT / MRC members arrived at the New Lenox Police Department to assist with National Night Out (Against Crime) activities. The event started at 6:00pm and was located in front of the police department and across the street in the New Lenox Commons. Activities included informational tables from various organizations, inflatable jumpers, emergency vehicles, free hot dogs, snow cones, etc...



Randy Halach set-up an informational table, which included literature from Ready.gov as well as information about our upcoming 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. In addition, a raffle was held for a free NOAA Weather Radio that was on display at the table. Throughout the evening dozens of families visited the table to learn about disaster preparedness, to enter into the raffle and to sign-up for the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. All of our volunteers that staffed the table did an excellent job speaking with visitors.



In addition, a number of our volunteers helped at the two inflatable jumpers. Our folks did a great job controlling lines, ensuring that the appropriate number of children were in the jumpers, and maintaining general safety. Our team members also helped out in the concession stand, serving up hot dogs and other free goodies to hundreds of families.

At approximately 7:30pm ten of our volunteers walked over to an open field north of the police department where a landing zone had been established for a LifeStar Medical Helicopter. Our volunteers established a perimeter around the landing zone to ensure that no one breached the perimeter during the landing. Unfortunately at about 7:30pm word was received that the helicopter was dispatched to a real emergency and would not be able to land at the event. Nonetheless, our volunteers were thanked by police and fire personnel for their assistance.



National Night Out wrapped-up shortly after 8:00pm, after which a short de-briefing was held. Everyone that participated was thanked for doing a wonderful job and reminded that next year’s event will be held on Tuesday August 2, 2016!

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FRENCH MARKET – AUGUST 1, 2015



On Saturday August 1, 2015 Randy and Shelley Halach arrived in the New Lenox Metra Lot at 8:00am to set-up an informational table at the weekly French Market, which officially opened at 9:00am. Randy and Shelley were joined by Ed Selvas, Gene Wolfe and Patty Edgett, who assisted in staffing the table, which represented our CERT and MRC.



Our volunteers spoke to numerous visitors throughout the morning and encouraged them to enter into a raffle for a NOAA Weather Radio. A number of residents that stopped by the table also picked-up an application for the next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class as well as a copy of our latest newsletter. Adults and children learned about disaster preparedness from our volunteers as well as from the Ready.gov literature that was available at the table. As a function of our MRC, Randy and Patty also conducted blood pressure screenings for a number of visitors throughout the event.



The French Market wrapped-up at approximately 1:00pm. Special thanks to our volunteers for doing a terrific job staffing the table!



SPECIAL NEEDS DAY – JULY 24, 2015

Special Needs Day was held on Friday July 24th in conjunction with the New Lenox Community Park District’s Proud American Days. New Lenox CERT and New Lenox Lion’s Club member Lynn Eckhardt organizes the event each year on behalf of the Lion’s Club. New Lenox CERT / MRC members began arriving at approximately 10:30am as special recreation groups from throughout the area began arriving. Our team members, along with volunteers from other organizations, assisted Special Needs Day guests from their vehicles and into the tent area.



Inside the tent, guests were seated at tables where volunteers served pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, cookies and beverages. While everyone was enjoying their meals, a DJ started playing music and it didn’t take long for the dancing to begin. Everyone enjoyed their lunches, the music and dancing. By 12:00pm or so, many guests started heading over to the carnival to enjoy the rides. Several of our volunteers went on the rides with Special Needs Day guests and had a great time. Everyone seemed to enjoy going back and forth from the carnival to the tent. During their travels, guests stopped by to see Trish Buhle’s therapy dog “Buddy,” who was a huge hit!

Special Needs Day started winding down around 3:00pm and shortly thereafter guests were escorted back to their vehicles.

Our volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the day and can’t wait to do it again next year. Special thanks to all of our volunteers, many of which took the day off of work, for making a lot of wonderful people very happy!



SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JULY 23, 2015

On July 23, 2015 at 7:00pm, approximately 40 members of New Lenox CERT / MRC met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for our Semi-Annual Meeting. The following is a summary of the discussion:

- Following the May 27, 2015 Special Meeting, an Ad Hoc Leadership Committee was formed to follow-up on the suggestions that were made during the Special Meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee met on July 14, 2015 and made the following recommendations:
 - o New teams will not be created based on geographic areas or skill sets. Concentration will be placed on identifying good leaders and the development of leadership skills.
 - o The 12-13 teams that will be formed will have two Team Leaders or Co-Leaders. The title of “Assistant Team Leader” will be eliminated.
 - o Once identified, Team Leaders will assume leadership positions for 12 months and then be re-evaluated annually if they wish to continue in the position.
 - o Quarterly leadership meetings and training for Team Leaders will be established.
 - o A “Phone Team” will be established to contact team members for important upcoming events. Team Leaders will still be responsible for contacting their team members during activations or as needed.
 - o The Nixle text messaging system is an excellent means of communication and will continue to be utilized moving forward. Team members were requested to reply to text messages when they’re sent.
- Tricia Pakosz provided an update regarding upcoming training and used the speaking opportunity to recruit new members for the Training Committee.
- Randy Halach advised that he needs assistance with the informational table during community events. Randy advised that even an hour or two at any one of the events would be helpful.
- Shelley Halach spoke about some of the recent pet preparedness events that she’s attended, as well as the pet preparedness portion of the informational table. Shelley also advised that she would be grateful for assistance at events involving pet preparedness.
- John Schuld provided an overview of a new concept that he and Dan Johnson had created regarding a Shelter Management Team (SMT). John explained that a small team of people would staff small shelters and would have all the necessary blank forms organized in folders in advance of the request. The SMT would ask for the assistance of the entire CERT / MRC if the shelter operation was larger in scale. Much like the others, John took the opportunity to recruit new members for the SMT.
- Dan Martin asked to be contacted by those interested in developing a PowerPoint presentation on Emergency Preparedness that can be delivered to boy scouts, girl scouts, homeowners associations, etc... Team members that would deliver these presentations to groups are especially needed.
- The Functional Needs Committee has been eliminated, but our team will continue to assist at Special Needs Day during Proud American Days. New Lenox CERT / MRC will be mindful to incorporate functional needs requirements into training, planning, and exercises.
- CERT Class #10 starts on Thursday September 17th and those in attendance were requested to assist with recruiting new students. Our goal is to graduate 40 from this class. Those wishing to attend any of the sessions as a refresher are welcome to do so. In addition, those interested in teaching any of the units should contact Dan Martin.
- The New Lenox Police Department has been awarded \$10,000.00 by ComEd and the National Safety Council. The funding will be utilized to send 150 New Lenox residents through the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. The “deliverable” is that the “work” must be completed by July 31, 2016.
- The 2015 Prairie State CERT Challenge will be held on Saturday October 3, 2015 at the College of DuPage Homeland Security Center. Good luck to this year’s team that will be representing New Lenox.
- Dan Martin referenced several sign-up sheets that were located on the sign-in table. Dan asked for assistance with an upcoming French Market, National Night Out and two Country in the Commons Concert.



The meeting ended at approximately 8:45, after which a number of folks stayed to meet with some of our committee chairs, or otherwise do some networking.

WATER RESCUE TRAINING – JULY 18, 2015

At 7:45am on Saturday July 18, 2015, ten members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at “South Island,” at the Kankakee River in Wilmington, IL. As our team gathered, SAR members from Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA), Plainfield and Lemont joined our team members. While waiting for members of Wilmington ESDA (Water Rescue) to arrive, WCEMA SAR Chief Domingo Kaller conducted a “pack check” with all those in attendance, for the purpose of ensuring that SAR members were carrying all the necessary gear. Shortly after completing the gear check, we learned that the training was going to take place at “North Island” on the other side of the bridge.



After driving over to North Island, members of Wilmington ESDA discussed water rescue throw bags, including the proper technique needed to efficiently deploy the bags. In addition, water safety principles were discussed, which included ensuring that SAR members wear a properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD). In addition, SAR members were reminded that if they do fall in the water, remain in a semi-seated position with feet forward. Following the water safety discussion, everyone had an opportunity to deploy the water rescue bags. SAR members deployed the bags to Wilmington ESDA members (on land) and during the exercise everyone was reminded not to step on the lines. In addition to being deployed with the lines inside the water rescue bags, team members also deployed them with the lines out of the bags. This was done to simulate a “miss” and the need to quickly get the line back in and throw it again.



Due to the Kankakee River being too dangerous (high waters / swift current), training was not done with anyone in the water. Training ended at approximately 10:00am and a short meeting amongst New Lenox SAR members was held thereafter. Special thanks to all of our team members that attended the multi-jurisdictional monthly SAR training.

STEVE MILLER CONCERT – JULY 18, 2015

At 4:30pm on Saturday July 18, 2015, twenty-two New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers met at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing for the Steve Miller Concert. The weather was very hot, with a heat index of approximately 105 degrees. As such, the briefing was held in a conference room inside the police department. Those in attendance were provided background on the concert, including an expected attendance number of 5,000. In addition to the heat, there was also a Tornado Watch, in effect for Will County until 10:00pm. Due to this threat, additional time was spent discussing the shelter plan, which included assigned areas for volunteers to staff. Shelter locations included the New Lenox Village Hall, New Lenox Public Library, New Lenox Police Department, and the New Lenox Community Park District Administrative Building. The briefing wrapped up with an overview of the Incident Action



Plan (IAP) as well as a review of the assignments for the evening. Everyone departed the police department at 5:00pm and headed out to their assignments.

The gates opened at 5:30pm, and the first band took the stage at approximately 5:45pm. Reminders to stay hydrated were given to our volunteers frequently, along with an opportunity to utilize the break room at the village hall from time-to-time to stay cool. Volunteers were also made aware that a “cooling center” had been established in the rotunda area of the village hall. Throughout the evening a number of concert goers came took advantage of the air conditioning. The second band took the stage at approximately 7:15pm, followed by Steve Miller shortly before 9:00pm. The Tornado Watch passed, the temperatures cooled down and fortunately it ended up being a nice evening. The concert ended at approximately 10:30pm. Our volunteers were stationed at each of the three gates to assist with egress and to remind concert attendees that alcoholic beverages could not be removed from the Commons.

A short de-briefing was held at approximately 10:45pm where a couple heat-related medical issues were discussed. Overall, everything went very well. Special thanks to everyone that assisted with the concert and for helping to make it a success!

MISSING PERSON / SUICIDAL – JULY 13, 2015

On July 13, 2015 at 5:00pm, seven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (SAR) Team met in the parking lot at the New Lenox Police Department for the purpose of carpooling to Elgin, IL to assist with a mutual aid search. After arriving in Elgin at approximately 6:30pm, our team members learned that a 64-year old man, possibly suicidal, went missing earlier in the day and was thought to be somewhere in the area of his home in Elgin. Our team, as well as others, were deployed after being given specific areas to search. Our team was assigned an area that consisted of heavy brush, standing water, and an abundant number of mosquitoes. After approximately two hours of searching, volunteers were called back to the staging area due to the threat of severe weather as well as darkness. The missing person was not located and the search was scheduled to resume in the morning on July 14th. Our SAR members left Elgin and returned back to New Lenox at approximately 9:30pm.



COAL CITY TORNADO CLEAN UP - JUNE 26, 2015

On Friday June 26, 2015 ten members of New Lenox CERT Team left from the New Lenox Police Department at 7:00am, carpooling to the Diamond Banquet Hall in Diamond, IL. At the banquet hall an additional member met the team for a total of 11 New Lenox CERT members. We contacted Brenda Lutz from the Will County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) and she directed us to Allison Anderson and Domingo Kaller, also from WCEMA, who explained our assignments for the day. Ten of our CERT members were assigned to lead 40-50 clean-up volunteers. We were expected to use our CERT knowledge to keep the volunteers safe, organized and on task. Teams were scheduled to be deployed in buses to specific areas within Coal City. The assignment was to help move all the debris from the front yards of affected homes and to clear the back yard debris only if asked by the residents. We were all given specific instructions not to go inside the structures even if asked by a resident, and treat all down power lines as live lines. All leaders were given a radio to communicate with Domingo, a map, and informative flyers to place in doors of the homes we came in contact with.

The first team was deployed at 9:15am from the Diamond Banquet Hall was assigned storage units in "Area 5." There were 300 total units, many severely damaged. Volunteers helped unit owners move their belongings into trucks or move debris from the aisles to allow trucks to pass. The remaining teams we deployed shortly after Team 1 to the streets of Coal City. After several hours in the field the teams started coming back to the banquet hall for lunch and redeployment. A couple members went home around 12:00pm while several teams were re-deployed back to the city streets until approximately 2:30-3:00pm. Many of the areas covered still needed more clean-up crews and

there were additional areas that teams were not allowed to enter due to safety concerns. New Lenox CERT members left Diamond between 3:00pm and 3:30pm.

There were just over 1,000 volunteers helping with the clean-up. Fortunately there were only a couple minor injuries; two volunteers stepped on nails that went through their shoes and one volunteer hurt her elbow from tripping on a rock. The food supply was endless; ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken and many other goodies. Plenty of water was provided and one team said a resident brought them McDonalds.

Mayor Kurnz from Diamond also thanked us for coming out and said our team members did an excellent job! Special thanks to our volunteers that helped on June 26th as well as those that helped thereafter.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wednesday, October 7, 2015 / 7:00pm - New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at the New Lenox Police Department
- Saturday, October 17, 2015 / 8:00am - Multi-Jurisdictional SAR Training at location TBD
- Wednesday, October 21, 2015 / 7:00pm - New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at New Lenox Beggars Pizza
- Saturday October 24, 2015 / 8:30am - New Lenox SAR Training (Lost Person Behavior) in Batavia, IL
- Saturday October 31, 2015 / 8:00am - New Lenox CERT Class #10 Final Exercise and Graduation at NLPD
- Thursday, November 12, 2015 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Monthly Training at the New Lenox Police Department
- Tuesday November 17, 2015 / 7:00pm - New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday November 21, 2015 / 8:00am - Multi-Jurisdictional SAR Training at location TBD
- Sunday, December 6, 2015 / 12:30pm - Assist with Christmas in the Commons at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Wednesday, December 16, 2015 / 7:00pm - New Lenox CERT Monthly Training at the New Lenox Village Hall



Additional Information

Daniel Martin

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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 – dates and times TBD. Classes are typically held on weeknights from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department. Contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, at the New Lenox Police Department (815) 462-6100 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net, to register for a 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

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



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**OLD CAMPGROUND FESTIVAL –
 JUNE 27, 2015**



On Saturday June 27, 2015 our CERT and MRC volunteers met at the United Methodist Church at 8:30am to set-up an informational table for the “Old Campground Festival,” which started at 10:00am. This was a new venue / event for our team with allotted space for food vendors, crafters, and non-profit organizations. Randy Halach took the lead on this event, wearing two hats as CERT and MRC volunteer, although his attire for the day represented CERT. Randy was joined by his wife Shelley, who set-up a wonderful pet preparedness section for the informational table. Patty Edgett represented our MRC, and with Randy’s assistance, over 30 blood pressure checks were completed. Additional assistance at the booth was provided by Gail Spitilli, Laura Johnston, Phillia Mitchell and Ed Selvas. Many individuals and families stopped by the informational table to pick-up Ready.gov literature and speak with our volunteers. A member of the New Lenox Patriot noticed our tent and interviewed Randy. Our volunteers also handed out applications to several interested guests. As always, everyone did an excellent job and their efforts are greatly appreciated!



One last shout out to Gail Spitilli, Laura Johnston, Phillia Mitchell and Ed Selvas. What a wonderful job they did promoting New Lenox CERT. They handed out a lot of Ready.Gov & FEMA material!



NEW LENOX, IL
 NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL



FEMA



American Red Cross