

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

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH EVENT AT THE NEW LENOX PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Lenox CERT member Al Murry had an idea regarding what to do to promote emergency preparedness during National Preparedness Month (September). Al wanted to staff an informational table Monday thru Friday (September 15th thru the 19th) during business hours at the New Lenox Public Library. That's 10:00am to 8:00pm (Monday thru Thursday) and 10:00am to 6:00pm (Friday). In addition, Al wanted to invite those that visited the table to a 90-minute emergency preparedness presentation on Saturday September 20th from 10:30am to 12:00pm. Well guess what? Al, with the help of other New Lenox CERT volunteers, pulled it off! Not including set-up and tear-down of the table and its materials, Al donated 50 hours of time to ensure this event was a success. In fact, Al took a week's vacation from work to ensure that this event was a success – thanks Al for doing a fantastic job!

Al estimated that approximately 2,000 citizens visited the table throughout the week. Approximately 700 emergency whistles were handed out to seniors, women and children while hundreds of others picked-up emergency preparedness literature from Ready.gov.

Approximately 45 residents attended Saturday's seminar, including a good mix of people both young and old. Here's what those in attendance received as raffle prizes:

- 10 backpacks, flashlights and 100 emergency whistles (Tom Chojnacki, New Lenox CERT)
- 10 NOAA weather radios (Anneliese Moyer, American Red Cross)
- 10 First Aid Kits (Tracy Simons, Silver Cross Hospital)



Special thanks to the above for their generosity and support of this event. In addition, special thanks to New Lenox Public Library Director Kate Hall for the use of the facility. All the volunteers that assisted Al during the week did an outstanding job and their time is greatly appreciated. Lastly, thanks to Sue Murry (Al's wife) "for helping me put this project together and putting up with me" (quote from Al Murry).

NEW LENOX SAR FULL-SCALE EXERCISE IN KANE COUNTY – SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

On Saturday September 20, 2014 the New Lenox SAR Team participated in a multi-jurisdictional exercise in Kane County at the Campton Forest Preserve. Team members left New Lenox at 8:00am, arriving at the forest preserve at shortly before 9:00am. This was a large full-scale exercise involving search and rescue teams from around the Chicago land area.

After preparing their gear and equipment, SAR members received a briefing prior to being deployed into the field. The scenario involved an elderly couple lost in the woods. New Lenox SAR team members were paired with three members from Lemont SAR and were given the name "Team Critical 5." After searching for several hours the couple was located by search teams at which time a de-briefing was held at the Incident Command area. Following the de-briefing, our SAR members returned to New Lenox, arriving back in town at approximately 4:00pm. Special thanks to our team members who put in a long day and did an excellent job!



Our Core Principles:

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

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Tom Chojnacki	10
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Village of New Lenox

medical reserve corps



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS – SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

On Tuesday September 16, 2014 monthly training was held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Al Murry was kind enough to provide a presentation that he developed for National Preparedness Month and was scheduled to present at the New Lenox Public Library on Saturday September 20, 2014. In light of the timing, our monthly training provided a great opportunity for Al to “test drive” his presentation.

Al’s presentation covered a lot of ground and included the following:

- Emergency / Disaster Preparedness
- Identifying Hazards
 - o Thunderstorms and Lightning (When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!)
 - o Earthquakes (Drop, Cover, and Hold!)
 - o Flooding (Turn Around, Don’t Drown!)
 - o Tornadoes (Warning Systems, Safest Room, Watches and Warnings)
 - o Blizzards (What to do if stranded in a snow storm)
 - o Fires (Prevention, P.A.S.S., Stop, Drop and Roll)
- Assembling a Family Disaster Supply Kit
 - o Flashlight, First Aid Kit, Water, Food, NOAA Weather Radio, etc...
- Creating a Family Communications Plan
 - o Gather, Discuss, Implement and Practice (G-DIP)
- Taking Protective Measures



As always, Al did an excellent job with the presentation and kept the audience engaged throughout the presentation. There was plenty of discussion as well as time for some a meaningful Q & A session. Thanks Al for the great presentation!

FRENCH MARKET – SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

On Saturday September 6, 2014 Shelley Halach, Dale Alexander and Trish Buhle volunteered to staff an informational table at the New Lenox French Market between 9:00am and 1:00pm. Attendance at the French Market was particularly important as our volunteers were there to promote National Preparedness Month (September) and to promote the next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class (Class #9).

Shelley, Dale and Trish (along with her K-9 “Buddy”) arrived at 8:30am for set-up. The table looked great and Shelley added a number of pet preparedness items including Ready.gov literature and a sample pet preparedness 72-hour kit. Families came to visit throughout the morning and two residents completed applications to join CERT Class #9! Randy Halach also stopped by before leaving for another volunteer assignment at the Notre Dame vs. Michigan Football Game.

It was a great French Market season and New Lenox CERT / MRC looks forward to additional appearances next year. Special thanks to all our volunteers who staffed our informational table throughout the French Market Season!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Monday October 6, 2014 / 7:00pm - New Lenox SAR Training, Location TBD
- Saturday October 11, 2014 / 12:00pm – New Lenox Fire Protection District Open House at Fire Station #1
- Wednesday October 15, 2014 / 7:00pm – CERT / MRC Monthly Training in the Community Room at the Village Hall
- Saturday October 18, 2014 / 8:00am – 2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge at the College of DuPage Homeland Security Center
- Saturday October 18, 2014 / 8:00am – SAR Training with WCEMA, Location TBD
- Saturday October 25, 2014 / 8:00am – CERT Class #9 Final Exercise and Graduation
- Tuesday November 4, 2014 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training, Location TBD
- Thursday November 6, 2014 / 7:00pm – Question, Persuade and Refer Training in the Community Room at the Village Hall
- Thursday November 13, 2014 / 7:00pm – CERT / MRC Monthly Training in the Community Room at the Village Hall
- Saturday November 15, 2014 / 8:00am – SAR Training with WCEMA, Location TBD
- Thursday December 4, 2014 / 7:00pm – New Lenox SAR Training, Location TBD
- Tuesday December 9, 2014 / 7:00pm – CERT / MRC Monthly Training in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall
- Saturday December 20, 2014 / 8:00am – SAR Training with WCEMA, Location TBD



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

NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / SAR SIZE UP – SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

On Wednesday September 3, 2014 ten members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Johnson and Joe Frigo were the instructors for this training event, which included an overview of SAR Size-Up. Bill Gill was not able attend the training, but assisted Dan and Joe in preparing the presentation which included the following:

- Objectives of Search and Rescue
- Search Management
- Size-Up Steps
- Basic Principles of Search and Rescue
- Factors to Consider
- Indoor Search Plan
- Outdoor Search Methodology
- Basic Search Techniques
- Progress Evaluation
- Resources
- Personal Safety Equipment and Rescue Tools



Throughout the presentation, those in attendance asked questions which led to some excellent discussions. In addition to discussing size-up, team members also discussed activation protocol and upcoming training events. Special thanks to Dan, Joe and Bill for their time and effort – great job!

ST. JUDE RUNNING WITH FAITH 5K AND 10K RACE – AUGUST 23, 2014

On Saturday August 23, 2014 at 5:30pm twenty members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC arrived at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing relative to the Running With Faith 5K and 10K Race. Volunteers were provided with some background on the event, including details about the course, 6:30pm start time at St. Jude Parish, and locations of the water stations that our volunteers were asked to staff. Volunteers were also informed that New Lenox ESDA personnel would be providing traffic control at major intersections while St. Jude Parish volunteers would be handling race marshal duties. Lastly, those in attendance were advised that a New Lenox Fire Protection District ambulance would be staged at the start / finish line and that (non-emergency) communications would be handled through the Illinois Radio League. The briefing ended at 5:50pm at which time volunteers left the station to staff water stations at the following locations:

- Veterans Parkway near Old Plank Trail Bank
- Gear Drive & Ridgfield Road
- Haven Avenue & Wildwood Drive



As planned, the race kicked-off at 6:30pm with 10K racers coming through the water stations first. Approximately 10 minutes later the 5K racers started, and also started coming through the water stations. Between the 10K and 5K entries, over 300 runners participated in the race. Our volunteers did an excellent job keeping the runners hydrated, especially considering the hot and humid conditions. They also did an excellent job cheering and encouraging the runners as they came through the water stations.

As the last runners came through the water stations, volunteers place the used paper cups in garbage bags and placed extra water bottles on the tables for pick up by St. Jude Parish volunteers. The last runner crossed the finish line at approximately 8:00pm at which time a short de-briefing was held in the parking lot at St. Jude School. Following the de-briefing some of the volunteers stayed to enjoy some pizza, beverages and a live band. Special thanks to everyone that assisted with what turned out to be a very successful event.

LINCOLNWAY ANIMAL HOSPITAL OPEN HOUSE – AUGUST 23, 2014

On Saturday August 23, 2014 Shelley Halach, Randy Halach and their niece Kristen represented New Lenox CERT at the Lincoln-Way Animal Hospital's Open House. Our "Pet Preparedness Team" arrived at the animal hospital at approximately 10:30am to begin setting up the informational table and tent. The table included a pet first aid kit, a pet "go bag," a medical case, and several pet preparedness brochures for display. The event began at 12:00pm. Everyone that visited our table received a pet emergency brochure, recommended "go bag," first aid lists, and a baggie with a bone and CERT card, which provided website information. Shelley gave a presentation where she spoke about preparing pets for disasters, having pet go bags packed, sheltering, and information regarding what we do in CERT. Shelley, Randy and Kristen wrapped up at approximately 2:30pm and did a great job representing our team – thank you!



DISASTER RESPONSE – SUMMARY OF THE BASICS – AUGUST 23, 2014

On Saturday August 23, 2014 at 8:00am, thirty members of the New Lenox CERT and MRC arrived in the Community Room at the Village Hall for monthly training. Training consisted of an overview of the following topics / areas:

- Incident Command
- Equipment Trailer (Logistics)
- Search and Rescue
- Triage / Treatment
- Transport



Daniel Martin, New Lenox Police Department Public Safety Division Chief and CERT / MRC Program Coordinator, welcomed those in attendance. Following opening remarks, a brief overview of the Incident Command System was discussed as well as activation procedures specific to our team. Team members then grabbed their backpacks and everyone walked outside to the team's 16-foot equipment trailer. Everyone had an opportunity to have a look inside so they knew where everything is stored. Team members then set-up tents, tables and chairs needed for Incident Command as well as Staging.

Rich DeVault then provided the overview of Search and Rescue operations for CERT members. The overview included a reminder about personal safety, using the "buddy system," and how to execute a proper search of an interior room (including door markings). Rich also provided those in attendance with information pertaining to grid searches and noted that outside searches are certainly something that the team might be asked to do.

Patty Edgett and Randy Halach then provided summary of Triage and Treatment, as taught in Disaster Medical Operations I and II. Following Patty's portion of the training, team members' set-up a triage area for minor injuries (green tarps), delayed injuries (yellow tarps), immediate injuries (red tarps), and dead (black tarps). Randy then further explained the triage area, including going over how victims are marked (triage cards or color tape). Patty then concluded by covering the documentation that's needed in the triage area.

Dave Lauer and Joe Frigo then provided the Transport portion of the training by demonstrating a number of carries that may be utilized during a disaster operation. Dave and Joe showed those in attendance the team's orange backboard, a military-style folding litter, blankets, and tarps that may be used as items to facilitate transport victims. Dave and Joe demonstrated 1-person, 2-person, 4-person and 6-person carries and provided an opportunity for team members to practice as well. "Rescue Randy" was used during the practice carries and was always a willing participant.

Due to the extreme heat and humidity, the team did not conduct a walk-through exercise. Everyone returned to the Community Room and its air conditioning for a quick wrap-up. The training ended just before 12:00pm. Special thanks to the instructors who did an excellent job with their portions of the training.



ELK GROVE VILLAGE RECOVERY SEARCH – AUGUST 16, 2014

On Saturday August 16, 2014 five members of New Lenox SAR met at the New Lenox Police Department at 7:00am to car pool to Elk Grove Village, IL. Our team, along with many others from throughout the Chicago land area, were requested to assist the Elk Grove Police Department and Elk Grove Village CERT with a Recovery Search. The victim was a 26-year old male that had last been seen on June 27, 2014 near his home.

NLSAR Team members arrived in Elk Grove Village at approximately 7:45am and were briefed by Elk Grove PD and CERT personnel. NLSAR was assigned as the "Green Team" and were joined by two members of Naperville SAR. The Green Team was assigned a large area with difficult terrain that was hilly, sometimes wooded, thick brush and other obstacles. In addition to the difficult terrain, the humidity was high and the mosquitos were fierce. Although the team found many items, they were not related to the missing person.

The search was completed at approximately 1:15pm at which time the team returned to the Incident Command area for a de-briefing. It was noted during the de-briefing that although the victim was not located, Elk Grove PD and CERT were thankful to searchers for eliminating this area from their investigation. After taking off their gear and ensuring they were properly hydrated, NLSAR members returned to New Lenox, arriving back at the police department at approximately 2:30pm. Special thanks to our volunteers who put in a long day and represented our team well!



Keeping our community safe, healthy and prepared . . .

SEARCH TECHNIQUES FOR SAR TEAMS – AUGUST 14, 2014

On August 14, 2014 at 7:00pm nine members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (NLSAR) Team met at the Hickory Creek Preserve located on the corner of U.S. Route 30 & Schoolhouse Road. NLSAR members met for monthly training which was led by Mike English and Rich DeVault. The topic(s) for monthly training were Average Maximum Detection Range (AMDR), Critical Spacing, Flagging Techniques, Evidence Marking and Crew Leader Responsibilities.



Mike and Rich reminded those in attendance that AMDR is used to determine how visible an object is in a search environment. Variables include the size of the object, the color of the object and the terrain (open field, tall grass, and heavy brush). Searchers determine AMDR by pacing away from the object until it can't be seen anymore. Searchers then move clockwise about 6 paces and walk in toward the object, again noting when the object becomes visible and how many paces until reaching the object. This process is repeated a total of eight times. The scores (paces) are then added up and divided by eight to determine the Critical Spacing which will be used at the start of the search. Mike and Rich cautioned that Critical Spacing will change as the terrain changes so it's up to the Crew Leader to make adjustments accordingly.

NLSAR members were provided with a refresher on flagging techniques which included a recommendation to use orange or red flags as they seem to have the highest visibility. Mike and Rich checked to ensure that everyone is carrying bio-degradable tape and recommended long "tails" that can be easily seen when flagging. Flags should also be kept at about the same height, eye level if possible. Flags are removed by the flagger who placed them when the team rotates back in the opposite direction. Like a marching band, the flagger (right flank for example) will remain in the same position and the team will pivot or swing around him / her. When there are no trees or anything else to hang flags from, which is the case in an open field, wire flags that can be stuck in the ground should be used.

Mike and Rich did an excellent job going over proper methods to mark evidence. Some tips that were given included:



- Always ask Incident Command during the briefing how to handle evidence marking / collection.
- Pictures, a sketch, and a description of the area should be done when crime scene evidence is located.
- All evidence should be handled as if it were of extreme value. Found evidence should be communicated to Incident Command and the item should be guarded until such time that it can be collected.
- Flag off area around evidence (different color than flag lines).
- If it's a crime scene, mark a large perimeter around the evidence – twice as big as you think.
- Call in with GPS coordinates.
- If you come across crime scene type evidence, do not step over or have the team gather around. Step backwards to preserve the scene.

Crew Leader responsibilities were covered and some excellent tips were provided. Crew Leaders should know the composition of their team such as the inclusion of an EMT. Crew Leaders will assign duties such as communications, flaggers (right flank, left flank), and someone to handle GPS duties (if equipped). Crew Leaders will ensure that when a team member is searching within 20 feet of water, he or she will wear a personal flotation device (PFD). The team member next to the searcher wearing the PFD will be equipped with a water rescue throw bag. Crew Leaders will start the search with Critical Spacing and ensure that proper spacing is maintained throughout the search. Whistle commands were covered as well. Two blasts starts the line, one blast stops the line (360 degrees performed) and three blasts indicate an emergency.

Following the overview, Rich and Mike provided those in attendance with a search scenario. A search team was formed and a Crew Leader was appointed. Utilizing the skills that were covered prior to the exercise, the team searched a field with tall grass and weeds. The team made two passes and located the objects (rags) that had been previously placed. Flags placed during the exercise were collected and the Forest Preserve area was left as it was prior to the training. The exercise ended at approximately 8:30pm just as it was getting dark out. Following a short de-briefing and a little social time, everyone left at about 9:00pm. Special thanks to Mike and Rich for doing an excellent job with training.



SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS EVIDENCE SEARCH – AUGUST 3, 2014

On Sunday, August 3, 2014 at 7:00am, two members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue (NLSAR) Team met at Serena High School, 2283 N. 3812th Road Serena, IL to participate in an evidence search. Serena High School was designated as the staging location for the search. Information packets, assignments and radios were distributed after check-in and the briefing started at 7:30am. Strike Team Rosters were already pre-determined, consisting of 7 teams with approximately 9 search members per team. NLSAR members were assigned to Strike Team Foxtrot along with police officers from various towns. During the briefing the Strike Teams were informed to look for a rifle, orange sweatshirt and blue jeans. The assailant is deceased but had allegedly stolen this weapon during a burglary and is a person of interest in a homicide investigation.



After the briefing all Strike Teams were driven by bus to their respected search areas. Foxtrot was given a search bordered by county road, a shallow creek and a west GPS coordinate. At 8:45am Foxtrot began the search and immediately found an article of clothing, radioed basecamp and eventually collected as evidence. The terrain was lightly wooded, tall grass and part residential. Those living in the area were informed of the search well in advance. After two line sweeps of the area the search was complete and no other items were found in that area. Foxtrot was picked up and returned to the staging area at 10:24am.



After rehydrating, eating some food provided by the Salvation Army, and having vitals taken, Foxtrot and Alpha teams were assigned to search an area that had not been completed. At 11:45am, Foxtrot and Alpha were driven to the search area and a short briefing was given to the team leaders. It was determined the search area could be covered with one sweep, Foxtrot on left and Alpha on the right, searching southeast until the creek was reached. The search was completed with no additional items found. Foxtrot and Alpha were picked-up and returned to the staging area at 1:20pm.

A debriefing was held 1:45pm and everyone was thanked for their time by the Incident Commander and various Section Chiefs.

PETER FRAMPTON CONCERT – AUGUST 2, 2014

On Saturday August 2, 2014 at 4:30pm seventeen members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing regarding the Peter Frampton Concert. Volunteers were provided with an overview of the 2nd concert of the Triple Play Concert Series, including a summary of the event's Incident Action Plan. In addition to covering the Incident Action Plan, volunteers were provided with their assignments for the evening which included the following:



- New Lenox Village Hall North Entrance to allow authorized personnel access to the building.
- West Fence (band parking area) to maintain fence integrity and prevent thefts from the performer's trailers.
- North Fence (between Performing Arts Pavilion and the New Lenox Public Library) to maintain fence integrity.
- Southeast Fence (between the New Lenox Public Library and the New Lenox Village Hall) to maintain fence integrity.
- Southwest Fence (between Village Hall loading dock and Gate #1) to maintain fence integrity.
- New Lenox Village Hall Building Department Parking Lot (handicapped parking) to drive the golf cart for those that need assistance getting around to the main gate.
- Lawn Aisles to ensure that aisles are maintained before and during the concert; assist with minor medical issues that may occur during the event.
- Inflatable Screen near the library to ensure no one trips over lines and to prevent vandalism.
- Floating Assignment to relieve posts and handle additional duties needing attention throughout the concert.

The briefing ended at 4:50pm at which time volunteers walked down to the New Lenox Commons to assume their assignments. The gates opened at 5:30pm and within a couple hours the venue was filled with approximately 5000 attendees. Katie Quick came on stage at 6:00pm, followed by 10,000 Maniacs at approximately 7:30pm. Fans were warmed up and ready for Peter Frampton who took the stage at 9:00pm and played until 10:30pm. Fortunately the concert was uneventful from a first responder perspective. Volunteers did an excellent job with their assignments and assisted with one medical issue involving a diabetic seizure. New Lenox Fire Protection District Paramedics were on scene and transported the victim to the hospital. Our volunteers assisted with egress, ensuring that everyone departed safely through the exits. A short de-briefing was held at 10:45pm which included discussion about minor improvements that can be made at future events. Volunteers were thanked for doing a wonderful job and dismissed at 10:55pm.

CONTROLLED BURN BEEF COOK OFF – JULY 26, 2014

The New Lenox Fire Protection District’s Foundation hosted the “Controlled Burn Beef Cook-Off” again this year on Saturday July 26th, in conjunction with Proud American Days. At 7:00am, New Lenox CERT members Rich DeVault and Dale Alexander arrived at the site and were ready to go. Rich and Dale developed a strategic plan in advance of the cook-off, knowing they would be competing against 12 other capable New Lenox-area teams. Rich’s gas grill was brought to the site on Friday evening with the assistance of Naomi Carden, who was kind enough to transport the grill in her pick-up truck. Rich and Dale began to cook their beef roast at approximately 7:30am, using their “secret” recipe and grilling skills. The team carefully monitored the roast’s temperature throughout the morning and seasoned as needed. The roast was done and ready for presentation shortly after 11:00am. Rich and Dale carefully sliced the meat, selecting pieces that they felt the judges would enjoy. The sliced roast was then displayed over a bed of lettuce and parsley. The entry was then turned over to event staff who presented it to the judges who



were facing away from the teams. During judging, team members walked around and sampled the roasts cooked by their competitors. Many compliments were given to Rich and Dale regarding the flavor of their entry. At approximately 12:00pm the competition ended and the judges were ready to announce their decision. Third place went to a team from Silver Cross Hospital; second place went to a team from the United Methodist Church; and first place went to a team from Trinity Services. Although Rich and Dale didn’t win, they had a great time and did a fantastic job representing New Lenox CERT. Thanks to Rich and Dale for a job well done!

VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX FRENCH MARKET – JULY 26, 2014

On Saturday July 26, 2014 the following volunteers set-up and staffed an emergency preparedness informational table at the New Lenox French Market:

- Randy Halach
- Patty Edgett
- Shelley Halach
- Trish Buhle
- Randy Collette



Volunteers arrived at approximately 8:30am to set-up the table as the French Market opens at 9:00am on Saturday mornings. Our volunteers spoke to many people throughout the morning, several of which were interested in the upcoming 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. Over 20 visitors came to the table to have their blood pressure taken by Patty and Randy. Shelley spoke to a number of folks who have pets and provided them with Ready.gov literature regarding emergency preparedness for pets. Trish brought along her dog “Buddy,” who recently completed therapy training – he was a big hit



with everyone who stopped by the table. Randy, and everyone at the table, had a number of families stop by the table. The prize wheel with emergency preparedness questions was a big hit with the kids! The table looked great – lots of emergency preparedness materials, pet preparedness literature, and the contents of an excellent 72-hour disaster supply kit. The French Market concluded at approximately 1:00pm at which time everyone assisted with disassembly of the table. Special thanks to Randy and Shelley Halach for bringing and storing all the items needed for the table. Thanks to everyone for helping out and conveying the importance of emergency preparedness to the community!

NEW LENOX SAR NAVIGATION TRAINING – JULY 19, 2014

On Saturday July 19, 2014 (9:00am to 12:00pm) six members of the New Lenox SAR Team met at Lower Rock Run Forest Preserve in Joliet, IL for Navigation Compass Training. The training was conducted by the Will County Emergency Management Agency SAR Team. There were about 35 in attendance from several Will County agencies. Training began by calculating everyone's pace count for 100 yards through a heavy weeds, similar to the terrain where the exercises were held. There were three compass challenges throughout the day, two were individual-based and one included a partner.



For the first exercise everyone was given an index card that created different starting points, bearings and distances to travel from a point. There were 9 markers (letters A thru I) previously set up in an area with heavy weeds. Everyone started at either a different marker or a different bearing from the same marker. SAR members recorded the letter for each marker they found and compared their results with the trainers.

The second challenge was the "Flankers Challenge" where an individual SAR member tried to walk in a straight line for 100 yards using the provided compass bearing. The objective for the searchers was to get as close as possible to the marked stake in the ground.

The third exercise was conducted partially in the parking lot and the weeded areas. NLSAR partnered in two's and were given a starting point and index card to follow certain bearings and distances that would lead to landmarks, such as the front entrance sign, pavilion, park bench, etc... The landmarks were recorded and compared to the results provided by the trainers.

All challenges were completed and everyone learned a little more about compass work from these exercises.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JULY 17, 2014

At 7:00pm on July 17, 2014 approximately 45 members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for the Semi-Annual Meeting. Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, New Lenox Police Department and CERT / MRC Program Coordinator provided opening remarks, followed by the introduction of Team Leaders and Assistant Team Leaders. Following the introductions, Committee Chairs for the following committees provided updates: Training (Tricia Pakosz), Public Information (Tania Mora), Emergency Preparedness (Al Murry), Shelter Management (Daniel Martin for Dan Johnson), and Pet Preparedness (Shelley Halach).



The next 20-Hour Basic CERT Class (#9) was announced. The class will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Training Room at the New Lenox Police Department, starting September 11th. Randy Halach and Patty Edgett will be assisting as instructors as they both recently completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer Course. Everyone in attendance was provided with a list of dates and times for each of the units as well as an application. An invitation was extended for current CERT members to attend any one or more units if they wished refresher training. Everyone was also encouraged to recruit a New Lenox neighbor or friend to take the class.

Those in attendance were requested to sign-up for a number of community events during the month of July, August and September. The events ranged from Special Needs Day at Proud American Days to staffing an informational table at the New Lenox French Market. Several other events were also mentioned which included two additional Triple Play concerts as well as a 5K & 10K Race. Everyone was thanked for their continued participation in community events.

In addition to the discussion regarding community events, time was spent discussing upcoming training, including a 4-hour training event on Saturday August 23rd as well as monthly training in September (16th). Tricia Pakosz advised that the Training Committee will be meeting in the near future to plan for these training events. Tricia extended an invitation for anyone interested in training to attend the meetings.

The 2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge was announced and discussed. The event will be held at the College of DuPage, Center for Homeland Security, on Saturday October 18th. Those interested in participating in this year's event should notify Public Safety Division Chief Martin.

A short discussion was held regarding the team's newsletter. The recently released July Newsletter was referenced during the discussion and a request was made for articles for the October Newsletter.

Those in attendance were reminded that from a marketing perspective, social media is extremely helpful to our team. Everyone with a Facebook account was asked to "Like" the New Lenox CERT, New Lenox MRC and New Lenox Safe Communities America pages. The material for CERT and Safe Communities America has been moved to the Village of New Lenox web site and can be accessed at www.newlenox.net.

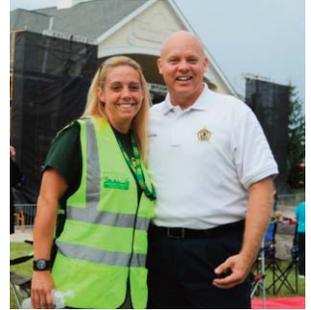
A short discussion was held regarding the Medical Reserve Corps. A meeting with leadership (and those interested in attending) will be held in the near future.

Following discussion of agenda items, time was set aside for Q & A. The meeting then was adjourned at 8:30pm. Thanks very much to those that attended the Semi-Annual Meeting!

Keeping our community safe, healthy and prepared . . .

PAT BENATAR / NEIL GIRALDO CONCERT – JULY 11, 2014

At 4:30pm on Friday July 11, 2014, twenty-three members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC arrived at the New Lenox Police Department for a briefing related to the Pat Benatar / Neil Giraldo Concert. This concert was the first of 2014 Triple Play Concert Series and included two opening acts (The Rave @ 5:45pm and John Waite @ 7:15pm). During the briefing volunteers were provided with an overview of the concert’s Incident Action Plan, including contingency plans in the event of severe weather or other emergencies. Volunteers were also shown what the “official” passes looked like, including “all access” and “limited access” passes for staff and vendors. Lastly, volunteers were provided with their assignments which included perimeter security (throughout the Commons), driving a golf cart from the handicapped parking lot to Gate #1, access control at the Village Hall main entrance (lower level), maintaining the integrity of the lawn aisles, staffing an exterior dressing room door, staffing the area



where the performer’s trailers and vehicles park, securing the remote inflatable screen and floating assignments to provide relief to other volunteers. The briefing concluded at 4:50pm, which provided an opportunity for volunteers to be in place at their respective assignments by 5:00pm, 30 minutes before the opening of the gates to the venue.



After the gates opened, the New Lenox Commons area filled up fast and eventually contained approximately 5000 concert attendees. The Rave warmed-p the crowd and by the time John Waite concluded, everyone was anxious for Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo to take the stage. At approximately 8:40pm that’s exactly what happened. It was apparent that everyone was enjoying the show based on the dancing and singing that was going on! New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers did an outstanding job throughout the concert, which included assistance with a minor medical issue that was referred to the New Lenox Fire Protection District Paramedics. The concert ended at approximately 10:15pm at which time volunteers assisted with egress at gates 1, 2 and 3. At approximately 10:40pm volunteers gathered for a short de-briefing which included discussion about the assignments and areas for improvement. Following the de-briefing, volunteers were thanked for their assistance and were dismissed at 10:45pm.



NEW LENOX SAR WATER RESCUE TRAINING – JULY 8, 2014

On Tuesday July 8, 2014 at 7:00pm, 13 members of the New Lenox SAR met at Hickory Creek in Pilcher Park for Water Rescue Training. Joe Frigo and Tricia Pakosz took the lead on this training event and did an excellent job! The training was designed to train searchers what to do if they or their partner fall in the water. Throughout the training Joe and Tricia stressed safety! This included stressing that it’s mandatory to wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) when searching with 10-feet of a body of water.



Those in attendance learned about the different types of PFDs, which included Types I, II, III, IV, and V. In addition to the PFD overview, everyone learned about the “swimmer defensive position” in the event a searcher is swept away by the current. The “swimmer” rolls onto their back and keeps both feet downstream which will help fend off items under the water (sunken trees/branches, old bridge pilings, concrete and rebar, tree roots, large rocks, steel cable, etc...). SAR members also learned that standing up in swift current could have deadly consequences due to foot entrapment. Foot entrapment occurs when a foot / feet become lodged under an object such as large rock(s). When this happens, the current pushes the body forward and because the foot / feet are trapped, the body is driven under the water in a horizontal position. Drowning can easily occur as a result of foot entrapment. Another hazard that Joe and Tricia shared included getting caught in a “strainer.” It’s defined as anything that swift water can flow through, but the “swimmer” cannot. Examples of strainers include cars, trees, man-made obstacles and debris. If a strainer cannot be avoided, then the person should turn over onto their stomach, face downstream and aggressively swim toward the strainer. Successfully getting over the strainer is a mix of timing, momentum and strength to propel your body over the obstacle. In addition to covering water hazards, Joe and Tricia provided a quick overview on basic knots that can be utilized to “tie off” someone that has successfully



caught a line from a throw bag. A brief discussion was also had regarding what to do if someone falls through the ice. This included utilizing a “frog leg” technique to get back onto the ice, followed by a belly crawl to safety. Following a short throw bag demonstration, everyone in attendance had the opportunity to practice with the throw bags, which included stuffing the line back into the bags. The training concluded at approximately 8:30pm just as it was starting to get dark. Thanks to all that attended this VERY worthwhile training event.



Additional Information

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Visit us on Facebook

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

CERT Class #9 started on Thursday September 11, 2014 and is currently scheduled to graduate 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/>

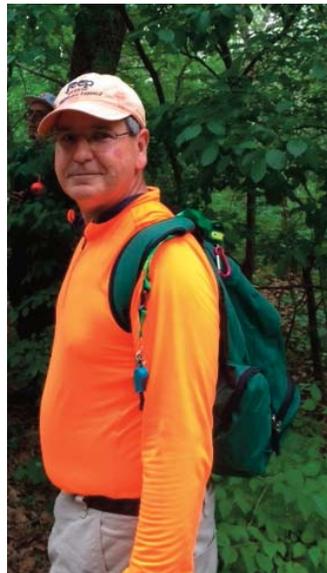
**SPOTLIGHT MEMBER –
 TOM CHOJNACKI**

My name is Tom Chojnacki and I am a member of the New Lenox CERT Team. I grew up in South Chicago, went to Mt. Carmel High School and graduated from Georgia Tech in 1977. While at Tech, I met my wife, Melissa. We have two boys, Patrick who graduated from U.I.C. last year, and Andrew who is currently attending college at Illinois State.

I work for W Diamond Group, located in Des Plaines, as the Plant Manager. I have been with them for 32 years. We have 550 employees and manufacture men's tailored suits, primarily the Hart Schaffner Marx brand. My wife and I are members of Parkview Christian Church in Orland Park. I am an avid fan of the White Sox, Blackhawks, and Bears. When time permits I enjoy working with my solar panels currently hooked up in my gazebo. We're "off the grid" in my yard.

I was in CERT Class 8 and I'm Assistant Team Leader for Team #11. I joined CERT for several reasons. I wanted to prepare myself and my family for emergency situations. I also wanted to get more active in our community and joining CERT was a great way to do that. The skills we learn in our exercises apply to our personal lives and in the workplace. I have implemented several safety practices and procedures at work since I joined CERT. I have also had a conversation with the CERT Coordinator in Des Plaines about starting a CERT Team in our plant.

There are so many volunteer opportunities throughout the year. From helping out at community 5K races, to sharing emergency preparedness information at different events, this has been a very rewarding activity for me. There are many training activities in New Lenox and surrounding counties to choose from. I always learn something new at these training sessions. We all come from different backgrounds and have different skills to offer to the group.



FEMA



American Red Cross