



# Village of New Lenox / New Lenox Police Department COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Volume 2 - Issue 1

January 2012

## NEW LENOX CERT TAKES 1ST PLACE AT THE 2011 PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE

On Saturday October 1, 2011 fourteen members of the New Lenox Police Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) traveled to Glenview, IL to compete in the 2nd Annual Prairie State CERT Challenge. The event was held at NIPSTA (Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training), a training facility for law enforcement, fire and emergency management personnel.



The Prairie State CERT Challenge is run through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and was created to test the skills of citizens that have completed the 20-hour Basic CERT Course. The CERT program educates citizens about disaster preparedness and teaches them basic disaster response skills. These skills can be utilized in neighborhoods where professional responders may not be immediately available to assist. Twelve teams, mostly from northern Illinois, competed in this year's challenge. Following an opening ceremony, the competition began at 8:30am. Throughout the day, competing teams tested their skills in the following areas:

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| #1: Cribbing                | #6: Scene Size-Up |
| #2: Organization            | #7: Team Building |
| #3: Fire / Hazmat           | #8: Transport     |
| #4: Triage                  | #9: Treatment     |
| #5: Evidence Identification | #10: Search       |



The event ended at 4:30pm, after which participating team, support staff and event organizers met for a debriefing. Although New Lenox CERT members knew how their team had scored at each of the stations, they had no idea how the other teams fared. Following comments from the event organizers, the scores revealed that New Lenox CERT finished with the highest score (1st Place), edging out the Chicago Police Department's CERT by 7 points. The Will County Health Department's team finished just behind Chicago's team, which made this a very successful outing for teams from Will County.



Members of the New Lenox CERT 2011 Prairie State CERT Challenge Team:

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Dale Alexander  | • Catherine Johnston |
| • Adam Bulthuis   | • Tania Mora         |
| • Gary Cook       | • John Opoka         |
| • Sean Egan       | • Maureen Peterson   |
| • Jon Heyer       | • Jon Ruane          |
| • Dan Johnson     | • Pete Simon         |
| • Andrew Johnston | • Reinhold Schmitz   |



These individuals spent many hours training for this event. This included reviewing printed materials and repetitive drills of skills that they were likely to see during the competition. As reflected in the final score, it's obvious their hard work and dedication paid off.

Although this is a significant accomplishment, the real benefit comes through what has been learned by preparing for and competing in this event. These team members are now better prepared to handle an emergency or disaster when, not if, it occurs. This level of preparedness extends to their families, neighbors and our community. Thanks to the New Lenox CERT 2011 Prairie State CERT Challenge Team for their courage and commitment to New Lenox.



### Our Core Principles:

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

### Recent Activities:

Prairie State Cert Challenge .....	1
Chicago Marathon .....	2
NLFPD Open House.....	2
CERT Training October .....	3
Governors Home Town Award.....	3
CERT Training November .....	4
CERT Training December .....	4
Holiday Party.....	5

### Upcoming Events:

Mark Your Calendar ....	4
-------------------------	---

### Member Spotlight

Randy Collette .....	6
----------------------	---

## NEW LENOX CERT/MRC VOLUNTEERS AT THE CHICAGO MARATHON



Front Row - left to right: Tania Mora, Licie Beller, Jennifer Kipp, Dan Martin, Joan Stefka Back Row - left to right: Randy Halach, Dave Klingensmith, Dale Alexander, Shelley Halach, Mary Ann Carroll, Mike English, Randy Collette, Mike Stefka

On Sunday October 9, 2011 thirteen members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC met at the New Lenox Village Hall parking lot at 5:15am. Car pool arrangements were then made for the drive to Chicago, IL for participation in the 2011 Chicago Marathon. Team members parked in Millennium Garage on Randolph St. just east of Michigan Ave. and then walked to the Harrison Volunteer Compound near Harrison Avenue



Tania Mora and Dale Alexander

and Balbo Avenue, between Michigan Avenue and Columbus Drive. Team members received credentials, orange vests, blue hats and long sleeve warm up jackets during check-in at 7:00am. At approximately 7:30am team members participated in a briefing which covered the team's assignments to Spotter Towers on Columbus Drive at the finish line. Following the briefing team members were assigned to two-person teams, each assigned a radio and bull horn. The two-person teams were then assigned to medical groups which consisted of doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health care personnel. The teams then walked to their assigned towers, most of which were approximately 4 feet off the ground while others were approximately 20 high. Team members worked hand-in-hand with medical personnel as the runners walked through the finish line area en route gear check areas, areas designated to reunite with family members or the marathon's "after party." The role of "Spotter" consisted of keeping a watchful eye on runners for signs of distress. "Spotters" then utilized a bull horn or radio to alert medical personnel of locations where runners were in need of assistance. Assignments were completed at approximately 3:00pm at which time team members returned to the Harrison Volunteer Compound to return assigned gear. Following a walk back to Millennium Garage and drive back to New Lenox, team members returned to the Village Hall at approximately 5:15pm. Although it was a long day for those that volunteered, it was extremely rewarding. For those interested in volunteering for the 2012 Chicago Marathon, please contact Dan Martin at the New Lenox Police Department.



## NEW LENOX FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE - OCTOBER 15, 2011

On Saturday October 15, 2011 eight members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC participated in the New Lenox Fire Protection District's Open House which was held at Fire Station #1 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Team members arrived at 11:00am to set-up a CERT informational table as well as a second table for the MRC. Collectively the tables neatly displayed literature from Ready.gov, the Will County

Health Department as well as newsletters and brochures from New Lenox CERT / MRC.



In addition to the literature, a spinning wheel with disaster preparedness questions was placed at the tables. Children attending the event enjoyed answering the questions and were rewarded with small prizes and candy. Our friends at the Will County Health Department were kind enough to lend us the wheel for this event.

Tania Mora organized this event and as always, did a wonderful job. Tania was assisted by Shelley Halach, Randy Halach, Dale Alexander, Patricia Edgett, Bob Reynolds, Jennifer Sforza and Kathy Fandl. A number of positive comments were received regarding the good spirit and professionalism that was displayed by each of these individuals. All are to be commended for a job well done.



**A portion of the printing costs of this newsletter have been donated by Perma-Graphic Printers, New Lenox, Illinois (815) 485-6955**

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

## CERT/MRC TRAINING - OCTOBER 18, 2011

On Tuesday October 18, 2011 at 7:00pm CERT / MRC training was held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Approximately 70 team members were in attendance for a synopsis of the 2011 Prairie State CERT Challenge which was held at the NIPSTA Training Facility in Glenview, IL on October 1, 2011. Pete Simon provided a Power Point presentation which included a short description of each of the events. Several members of the 2011 Prairie State CERT Challenge Team assisted Pete with the presentation, each offering their account of the stations. The presentation included a question and answer period along with additional discussion of the event. Those in attendance congratulated this year's team for their 1st place finish and many expressed interest in being a part of the 2012 team.

Following the Prairie State CERT Challenge presentation, Jackie

Mansholt, Emergency Response Coordinator for the Will County Health Department provided those in attendance with an overview of the Will County Pharmaceutical Distribution Plan. The overview included various diseases that would likely result in a pandemic outbreak, thus prompting the activation of the plan. Jackie also provided information regarding the four phases of the plan and what our team's role would be during the distribution of pharmaceuticals to the community. The presentation was well received with many questions asked and answered. Training concluded at 9:00pm.



## VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S HOME TOWN AWARD FOR PREPARING CITIZENS FOR EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

On Wednesday October 26, 2011 the Village of New Lenox received a Governor's Home Town Award for its "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters" program. The prestigious award was presented during a ceremony at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, IL and recognizes volunteers for their work to improve their communities.

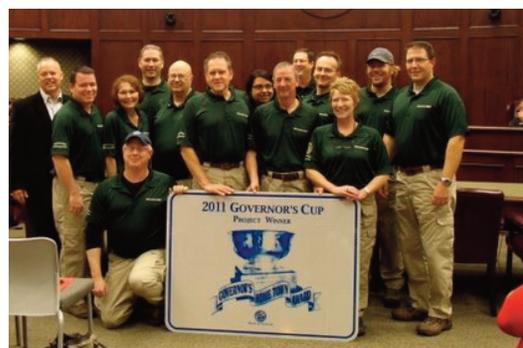
The Governor's Home Town Award recipients were chosen by a group of volunteer judges who reviewed and ranked applications based on community need, use of resources and results. Projects were judged within their population category as well as within an assigned project category such as services and mentorship,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



*From left to right: Chief Bob Sterba, Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin, Village Administrator Kurt Carroll, Mayor Tim Baldermann, New Lenox CERT Member John Opoka and Assistant Director of Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Dan Seals*

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

The New Lenox Police Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers also play an integral role in the "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters." Since the CERT program's inception in September 2009, over 180 residents have completed the 20-hour Basic CERT Class which teaches citizens how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Graduates of the program participate in on-going training, volunteer their time at community events and stand ready to assist first responders during times of crisis. On October 1, 2011, fourteen members of the New Lenox CERT / MRC took 1st place in the Prairie State CERT Challenge, an event designed to test the skills of CERT teams throughout the state.



"We're very proud of all our volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort to make New Lenox a safe place to live and raise a family," said Mayor Tim Baldermann. "The Governor's Award is an achievement that we're very proud of and truly appreciate the efforts that our volunteers have put forth," Baldermann went on to say. Volunteers that contributed to the Governor's Home Town Award were recognized at the November 14th New Lenox Village Board Meeting along with the Prairie State CERT Challenge Team.

## CERT/MRC TRAINING - NOVEMBER 17, 2011

On Thursday November 17, 2011 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm 70 members of New Lenox CERT / MRC participated in a training event which was held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

Catherine Johnston provided information related to each of the team member's "Go Bags." This overview ranged from what items are included in the backpack at graduation to recommendations for additional useful items. Included in the presentation was an opportunity for veteran team members to display some of the items that they've added to their backpacks and why they've found the items to be useful.

Pete Simon and Maureen Tamborski provided a brief overview of triage concepts. Following the overview, team members were divided into eight teams. Each of the teams was given an envelope which contained descriptions of 12 different injuries along with triage categories (green / minor, yellow / delayed, red / immediate and black / dead). Each of the teams were given approximately 10 minutes to discuss and determine where each of the "patients" should be transported. Following the exercise, Pete and Maureen held a discussion with each of the teams which included allowing a designated Team Leader to explain their team's decisions.



Bill Gill and John Opoka provided team members with information regarding injury prevention during activations. Bill and John's presentation included tips for breathing, lifting and several hands-on warm-up and stretching exercises. Team members were also provided with a handout for proper stances and breathing.



## NEW LENOX CERT/MRC TRAINING - DECEMBER 17, 2011



On Saturday December 17, 2011 from 9:00am to 1:00pm the New Lenox CERT / MRC held training in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Bill Gill started the training off by leading those in attendance with some warm-up exercises for the purpose of preventing injuries. The warm-up included proper breathing techniques as well as upper and lower body stretching exercises. The warm-up was conducted in the rotunda of the New Lenox Village Hall.



Patty Edgett then provided team members with a bloodborne pathogen PowerPoint presentation. Patty's presentation included an overview of potentially harmful bodily fluids, other harmful agents, wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and what to do if an exposure occurs. Patty supplemented the presentation with a refresher on wearing disposable gloves and equally important, the proper technique for taking them off.

Pete Simon and Maureen Tamborski provided team members with a refresher on bandaging, which included proper techniques for dressing wounds. Team members were divided into small groups which provided an opportunity for everyone to practice their skills on their fellow team members.

Pete and Maureen then conducted refresher training on splinting techniques. Much like with bandaging, everyone was afforded the opportunity to practice their splinting skills during the hands-on segment of the refresher.

Lastly, team members were divided into groups for a triage exercise. Each group was provided with an envelope containing 10 victims / injuries. The groups were asked to triage the victims by placing them in the proper category (minor, delayed, immediate and dead). After completing the exercise, a discussion was held with each of the groups who were asked to provide justification for their classifications.



Forty-five team members were in attendance for this medical-related refresher training.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Semi-Annual Meeting - Thursday, January 26, 2012
- Monthly Training - Tuesday, February 28, 2012
- Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo - Tuesday, March 6, 2012
- Monthly Training - Wednesday, March 28, 2012
- Monthly Training - Saturday, April 21, 2012



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

## 3RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY - DECEMBER 10, 2011

On December 10, 2011 approximately 70 team members attended the 3rd Annual Holiday Party which was held at Charleston's Bar and Grill from 6:30pm to 11:00pm. Tania Mora did a wonderful job planning the party and making it very special for those in attendance. Judy Rehm assisted with the decorations and John Opoka was kind enough to donate 12 poinsettias from the Alsip Nursery. The poinsettias were taken home at the end of the evening by 12 lucky raffle winners. John Schuld was kind enough to donate a beautiful sheet cake which was handmade and decorated by John's wife. The cake looked exactly like the CERT logo and was enjoyed by all.

The party provided an opportunity for team members to socialize and get to know each other outside of a training environment. Anyone interested in assisting with next year's party should contact Tania Mora in the months to come. Thanks again to all that planned, decorated, donated items and attended!



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

**Additional Information****Daniel Martin**

Public Safety Division Chief  
New Lenox Police Department  
Phone: 815-462-6100  
Fax: 815-462-6101  
Email: dmartin@newlenox.net



Visit us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT>**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM  
20-HOUR BASIC CLASSES**

The Final Exercise and Graduation for CERT Class #6 was held on Saturday November 12, 2011. Another 23 residents graduated from the 20-Hour Basic CERT Class. This brings our total to 189 since the inception of the program in September 2009.

One, perhaps two, 20-Hour Basic CERT Classes are being planned for 2012. Anyone interested in registering for a class and participating in the New Lenox CERT / MRC Program should contact Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin at the New Lenox Police Department.

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

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

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:  
PATTY EDGETT**

When I learned in 2009 that New Lenox was starting a CERT program, I jumped at the chance to become involved. I have been a registered nurse for thirty-eight years and I am in my sixth year as school nurse for New Lenox Oster Oakview Intermediate School. I also have a degree in education. Most of my work experience has been in hospital nursing, where I spent twenty-one years, mainly in the Intensive Care Unit. I have also worked at a physician's office, a nursing home, as a substitute teacher, done a little waitressing, and served in various volunteer roles. I have been a medical advocate for victims of sexual abuse, a volunteer for therapeutic horse-back riding for those with special needs, and a church youth leader. I was married to a great guy who was a physician, father of four, Army colonel, and Viet Nam veteran. Sadly, he passed away of cancer in 1998. I have four grown step-children and ten grandchildren who live in the western United States. I have lived in New Lenox for twelve years. I enjoy travel and have been to many places, including most of Europe, Great Britain, Israel and even Siberia. This year I visited missionaries in a remote area of western Alaska and joined a medical mission team to serve primitive villages along Nicaragua's Rio Coco River.

New Lenox CERT/MRC is exciting and challenging. It gives me an opportunity to utilize my nursing and teaching experience, learn new skills, meet new people, and serve my community. One of the things I enjoy most is interacting with my fellow team members, encouraging them, and helping them to develop their own unique gifts and talents. CERT/MRC is so much more than just a great organization that teaches valuable emergency preparedness lessons. It's a training ground for service and leadership....it's also a lot of fun!

**Now's the Time.****Resolve  
to be  
Ready.****in 2012****Ready.**[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)**FEMA****American  
Red Cross**