



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

YELLOW DOT ILLINOIS

Submitted by Randy Collette

Yellow Dot Illinois is a life-saving, traffic safety initiative that provides first responders with critical information to improve emergency care for persons involved in vehicle crashes. Because the first hour following an injury is the most crucial, the Yellow Dot program provides essential personal health information to emergency responders in order to promptly care for a crash victim.



When a crash occurs, emergency medical first responders such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians are immediately dispatched to the scene. These responders usually have basic information such as the location of the crash and the number of victims. Frequently, minimal personal information is available during this early, most critical time period. If paramedics and emergency medical workers know what medications a person is taking, if the person has allergies or a chronic condition, they can make better decisions about treatment. Delaying treatment can mean the difference between life and death in some cases. With the Yellow Dot program, you simply fill out a short information sheet which includes basic information. Such information includes, name, date of birth, allergies, medical conditions and medication you take for those conditions. Other info includes emergency contact information along with family physician information. After filling out the information you simply affix the Yellow Dot sticker to the lower left corner of rear window and place your information packet in your glove compartment. All of this can be done in less than 15 minutes and will give you a peace of mind knowing if something happens, you are prepared.

Please contact the New Lenox Police Department, Will County Health Department or Will County TRIAD for Yellow Dot supplies. Additional information about the program is also available at www.yellowdotillinois.org.



JIM PETERIK WORLD STAGE CONCERT - JANUARY 14, 2012

On Saturday January 14th the New Lenox CERT / MRC was asked to assist at the Village of New Lenox at Lincoln Way West High School for the Jim Peterik World Stage Concert. The team was given multiple tasks including ticket sales, will call, ushering of concert guests to their seats and securing of backstage areas. Team members reported for assignment at 6:00pm and assigned tasks were completed at approximately 10:00pm.

Team members performed their assigned tasks without any incidents. The concert was a success and team members were thanked for their assistance by Mayor Baldermann and his staff. Team members in attendance were as follows.

- Adam Bulthuis
- Tania Mora
- Randy Collette
- Tammy Orseno
- Patti Miller
- Trish Buhle
- Mike English
- Mary Skerrett
- Anthony Paukstis
- Randy Halach
- Jaclyn Brown
- Pete Simon



Our Core Principles:

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

Recent Activities:

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WELCOME HOME SCOTT SCHAEFER, PETTY OFFICER, 2ND CLASS, US NAVY – JANUARY 26, 2012

On Thursday January 26, 2012 New Lenox CERT / MRC member Scott Schaefer arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall to attend our Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting which was scheduled to start at 7:00pm. Much to Scott's surprise, approximately 200 members of the community were on hand to welcome him home from his tour in Afghanistan. This included 81 of our team members along with members of the New Lenox American Legion, New Lenox VFW, Soldiers Guardian Angels, Lincoln Way West High School ROTC, New Lenox Police Department (Officers and Cadets), New Lenox ESDA, New Lenox Fire Protection District, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Village of New Lenox (Mayor, Trustees and staff), Press, Channel 6 Cable TV, residents and Scott's friends and family.



Those in attendance considered it an honor and privilege to participate in Scott's welcome home celebration. During Scott's military service which began in 1981, he and his family have made considerable sacrifices. The welcome home celebration provided an opportunity for our team

members and community to say thank you to Scott for his service to our country as well as our community.



SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2012

On Thursday January 26, 2012 the New Lenox CERT / MRC held its Semi-Annual Meeting in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The meeting started at approximately 7:40pm, following the Homecoming Celebration for Scott Schaefer. Eighty-one team members attended the meeting which ended at approximately 9:00pm. The meeting consisted of the following items:

- A discussion about leadership which included the announcement of changes in the Team Leader and Assistant Team Leader positions
- Reports from the Training, Public Information / Emergency Preparedness, Shelter Management, Functional Needs and Community Service / Volunteerism Committees
- A discussion regarding the quarterly newsletter which included the solicitation for articles and other contributions
- An explanation of the "Safe New Lenox" web site which will include components of the CERT / MRC programs
- An overview of a video project (90 second PSA and 8-10 minute video) that two team members are currently working on
- An overview of the Medical Reserve Corps which included leadership and direction
- An update on the training levels / matrix as well as the database that is needed to track training and volunteer hours
- An update on upcoming events ranging from movie nights to community events



MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC) 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Medical Reserve Corps, which was announced during President George W. Bush's 2002 State of the Union address, and officially launched as a demonstration project in July of 2002. Over these past ten years the program has grown to over 200,000 volunteers in almost 1,000 units across the country—ready to respond to emergencies and building resiliency in thousands of local communities through prevention, preparedness and public health activities. For additional information regarding the 10th anniversary and other MRC activities, please visit the National MRC Website at www.medicalreservecorps.gov.



ANIMALS IN DISASTER PRESENTATION AT STONE CITY KENNEL CLUB – FEBRUARY 21, 2012

On Tuesday February 21, 2012 from 8:00pm to 9:00pm Shelley Halach conducted an Animals in Disaster (pet preparedness) presentation for approximately 60 members of the Stone City Kennel Club. Shelley is a member of the CERT / MRC Shelter Management Committee and specializes in animal preparedness and sheltering.

Shelley's presentation included a historical summary of various disasters (natural and man-made) which could affect our community. In addition, Shelley presented some interesting statistics which included the fact that 63% of all U.S. households have pets – 45% of those households have more than one pet. Research has also shown that people are unwilling to leave pets behind during a disaster. Shelley discussed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 which requires state and local emergency managers to provide plans for sheltering household pets and service animals during disasters. An important part of Shelley's presentation included key components of FEMA's overall civilian preparedness strategy:

- Get an Emergency Supply Kit
- Make a Family Emergency Plan
- Be informed about different types of emergencies and the appropriate responses

Shelley also stressed the essentials of a Pet Preparedness Kit which includes some of the following items:

- Food – enough for 3 days
- Water – enough for 3 days
- Pet medications
- Pet first aid kit
- D tags, harness or leash
- Adoption papers, vaccination documents
- Veterinarian information
- Crate or pet carrier
- Pet litter, paper towels and plastic bag
- Familiar items (favorite toys, bedding and treats)

Lastly, Shelley provided the kennel club members with the following important tips with regard to emergency planning for pets:

- Create an evacuation plan for family members and pets
- Consider family and friends who would be willing to take in you and your pets
- Locate hotels and motels that are pet friendly
- Research local boarding facilities (kennels or veterinary hospitals)
- Develop a buddy system
- Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for pets if you are unable to do so
- Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning
- Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment

New Lenox CERT / MRC members Lori Vollmer and Randy Halach also attended the event and assisted Shelley with the presentation. Special thanks to Shelley for a great job and for continually bringing credit and recognition to our team!



Pictured left to right: Randy Pavlik / Stone City Kennel Club, Shelley Halach and Lori Vollmer:

Photos are courtesy of Randy Halach.



Animal and his / her owner together

2012 NEW LENOX HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPO / SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING – MARCH 6, 2012

On Tuesday March 6, 2012 the New Lenox CERT / MRC participated in the 3rd Annual Health and Safety Expo / Severe Weather Spotter Training which was sponsored by the Village of New Lenox, the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition and the New Lenox Citizen Corps Council. The event was held at Lincoln Way West High School, 21701 Gougar Road New Lenox, IL. The Expo was held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and the Severe Weather Spotter Training was held from 7:00pm to 9:15pm. The New Lenox CERT Public Information Committee arrived at 4:00pm for set-up. The informational table contained a number of FEMA and Ready.gov publications related to Family Emergency Planning, Assembling Disaster Supply Kits and Preparing for Emergencies and Disasters. Public Information Committee Members also assisted with other aspects of the event including assisting other vendors with setting up their tables and carrying items into the event from their vehicles. One committee member was also kind enough to wear a costume for the Illinois Secretary of State's Office Life Goes On (organ/tissue donation) Program. The character was "Morgan Da' Organ" a 6-foot wide liver. MRC members also staffed an informational table and offered blood pressure screenings as well. Approximately 30 screenings were conducted during the 2-hour event. Following the Health and Safety Expo, approximately 50 team members attended the Severe Weather Spotter Training.



(Pictured left to right: Dale Alexander, Dave Malinow, Kathy Fandl, Bill Evans and Shelley Halach)



Trish Buhle as "Morgan Da' Organ"

LADIES SELF-DEFENSE CLASS – MARCH 10, 2012

On Saturday March 10, 2012 from 9:00am to 12:00pm the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition and New Lenox Citizen Corps Council hosted a Ladies Self-Defense Seminar. The seminar was taught by Dennis Wright from Dennis Wright Martial Arts. The seminar was attended by 25 ladies, mostly members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team / Medical Reserve Corps, or their mothers, daughters and sisters. In addition to Dennis Wright, there were two women and three men that assisted with the class.



The 3-hour class taught the ladies various methods to defend themselves from an attack on the street or walking trail. The methods included several strikes and kicks from upright positions as well as from the floor. At the end of the class the ladies were challenged to defend themselves from multiple "attackers" for a period of two minutes. Overall it was an excellent class with positive feedback from all in attendance.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Monthly Training - Saturday, April 21, 2012
- New Lenox Clean-Up Day - Saturday, May 5, 2012
- Loyalty Day Parade - Sunday, May 6, 2012
- Stone City Kennel Club Pet Emergency Preparedness Event - Saturday, May 12, 2012
- NLSA #122 5K Run - Saturday, May 19, 2012
- French Market - Saturday, May 19, 2012
- Monthly Training - Wednesday, May 23, 2012
- Night Ranger Concert - Saturday, June 2, 2012
- Monthly Training - Thursday, June 21, 2012
- Sara Evans Concert - Friday, June 22, 2012
- French Market - Saturday, June 30, 2012



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NEW LENOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPRING EXPO AND HOME SHOW – MARCH 17, 2012

On Saturday March 17, 2012 members of the Public Information / Emergency Preparedness Committee and other New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers attended the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce Spring Expo and Home Show which was held at Lincoln Way Central High School. Volunteers arrived at approximately 8:00am to set-up the informational table prior to the 9:00am scheduled start time.



Rich Orłowski from Channel 6 Cable TV interview Dale Alexander, Ramona Young and Bob Reynolds during the Expo.

The New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition and Citizen Corps Council purchased a NOAA Weather Radio as a raffle item for the CERT / MRC table. The raffle item was a big hit, drawing dozens of people to the table for a chance to win. Throughout the day volunteers answered questions and distributed preparedness literature from Ready.gov. In addition, a number of team members stopped by the table to say hello to their fellow team members. The event ended at 2:00pm, after which volunteers packed up the table and left the high school. Following the event, the drawing was held and a couple from Manhattan were the winners of the NOAA Weather Radio.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (BUILDING SEARCH) TRAINING – MARCH 28, 2012

On Wednesday March 28, 2012 the New Lenox CERT / MRC held its monthly training event in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Training began at 7:00pm with an overview of the "Safe New Lenox" web site. The new site (www.safenewlenox.org) includes information about the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, New Lenox Citizen Corps Council, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox MRC. Collectively, the site contains a summary of programs designed to keep our community healthy, safe and prepared.

Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin provided team members with a Search and Rescue review with an emphasis on building searches. Following the review, team members put on their Personal Protective Equipment (helmets, goggles, gloves and N-95 respirators) and were divided into eight teams. The teams were then led to the upper level of the village hall at which time they searched the building from north to south. Teams located "victims" (stuffed animals marked with a 3-digit number) and radioed their findings to "Incident Command." All disciplines contained within the review were followed by the teams.

Following the search exercise, the 5-6 person teams were broken down into 4-person teams. The teams then participated in a team building exercise. The team building exercise was the "plank walk" where two teams covered a distance of approximately 50-feet on the planks and then returned to the start line. The two fastest teams then competed against each other while everyone else cheered them on. The winning team received a disaster preparedness book which was donated by Pete Simon. Approximately 45 team members were in attendance for this training event which concluded at 9:15pm.



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BANK OF AMERICA SHAMROCK SHUFFLE – MARCH 25, 2012

The New Lenox MRC was requested by the Illinois MRC to assist with the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle. Our team met in the parking lot at the New Lenox Village Hall at 5:30am and departed for Grant Park Chicago, IL at 5:45am. All volunteers were transported in the Village’s EDC van which arrived at Soldier Field at 6:45am. After a short walk from the parking garage, our team arrived at the Harrison Volunteer Compound in Grant Park at 7:00am.

Following registration, all medical volunteers were given their assignments and a briefing was held. Our team, along with volunteers from other MRCs, was assigned to Spotter Towers. Spotters were needed at the finish line area to identify runners in distress and in need of medical attention. Three or four volunteers were assigned to each spotter tower and were provided with radios and “bull horns” to contact medical personnel. In addition to checking for runners in need of medical assistance, spotters were also asked to provide encouraging comments as the runners passed by the towers.



Maureen Peterson and Dale Alexander

Following the briefing, volunteers walked to their assigned Spotter Towers which were located on Columbus Drive (between East Balbo Drive and Congress Parkway) and in the post-race area which circled Buckingham Fountain. The race kicked off at 8:30am with the first runner crossing the finish line 23 minutes and 18 seconds. The flow of runners (40,000) continued to cross the finish line until approximately 11:15am. At approximately 11:45am all volunteers were released from their assigned towers and returned to the Harrison Volunteer Compound where radios and portable “bull horns” were returned. By all accounts, the race was a huge success and only a handful of minor injuries were reported.

After ensuring all New Lenox MRC volunteers were present, the team walked back to the Soldier Field parking lot for the return trip to New Lenox. During the drive back an informal de-briefing was held which yielded positive comments from everyone that participated. The team arrived safely at the New Lenox Village Hall at 1:15pm at which time everyone departed to enjoy the rest of the day which turned out to be sunny and in the 60’s.

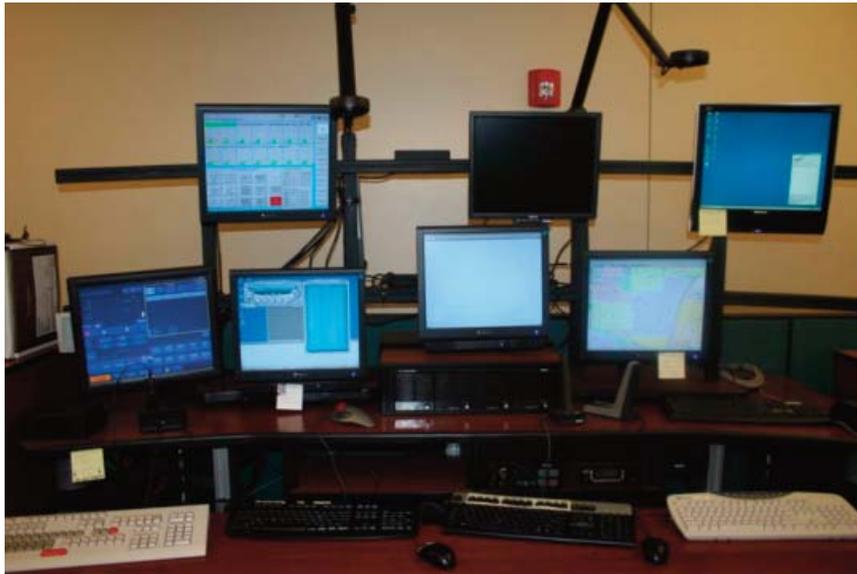


HAZMAT AND COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING – FEBRUARY 28, 2012

On February 28, 2012 the New Lenox CERT / MRC held training in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Approximately 70 team members attended the training which started at 7:00pm and ended at 9:15pm.

Training started with a hazardous materials overview by Chief Jon Mead from the New Lenox Fire Protection District. Chief Mead covered the various definitions of hazardous materials, hot zones, safe zones and what our team's role would likely entail during a hazardous materials incident. The presentation was lecture-based and was supplemented by PowerPoint slides to illustrate a number of points. Chief Mead fielded questions throughout the lecture which was well received by our team members.

Brad Veerman, Director of the Lincoln Way Public Safety Communications Center (LWPSCC), presented an overview of the LWPSCC. The overview included a history of the center with a great deal of information regarding construction of the new center that is currently located in the Frankfort Township Building on U.S. Route 30 & Wolf Road. Director



Veerman also provided an administrative and operational overview of the center. This included a description of staff positions, receiving 9-1-1 calls, the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system as well as dispatching police and fire calls. Director Veerman answered a variety of questions throughout the presentation which was quite informative.

UNWANTED MEDICATION DISPOSAL PROGRAM

An Unwanted Medication Disposal Container is located at the New Lenox Police Department, 701 W. Haven Avenue New Lenox, IL 60451. The container is located just inside the front entrance of the Administrative Offices and is available to residents Monday thru Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm for the disposal of unwanted medications. Acceptable prescription and over-the-counter medications include pills, salves and liquid medications in original containers. Items not in original containers must be packaged in non-leaking containers. **Unacceptable items include sharps, needles, IV bags, thermometers and medical waste.**

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Additional Information

Daniel Martin

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 New Lenox Police Department
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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.citizen corps.gov/cert/>

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
 DALE ALEXANDER**

I graduated from Lincoln Way High School in June 1966. I started my career working for the Rock Island Railroad in Chicago. I worked there 12 years then went to work for the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway.

While laid off, I worked for Climax Traffic, Brach Candy then TAS Traffic. I was then hired back at the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway and after being laid off again, went to Wisconsin Central Railroad. I then returned to the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway and finally retired from the Canadian National Railroad in May 2009.



The last eight years of my mother's life was spent in a wheelchair. I was her caregiver for those years. I am very thankful for that time. I Learned a great deal on how to care for someone of any age but especially the aged. My mother died at the age of 91 1/2 years young.

Those half years mean a great deal to you when you are a child or in the winter of your life.

My girlfriend died on December 26, 2010. We were together 25 years. I asked her to marry me 3 times. She said I was to ornery. JUST KIDDING, but we never got married. I was married once. Guess that's enough for one guy!

I joined CERT because I was retired and wanted to dedicate my life to the sick, the weak and people that have tragedy in their life and need help. People meet tragedy in their lives in many ways. For instance weather, earthquake and fire. CERT is there to help. I am very proud to be part of it.

Now's the Time.

**Resolve
 to be
 Ready.** ✓
in 2012



Ready. ✓
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