



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

Volume 1 - Issue 1

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## A NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

### Our New Lenox Citizen Corps Council Accepts FEMA's "Newcomer" Award - September 22, 2010 in D.C.



Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin and Director of Preparedness Will County EMA Brenda Lutz, Accepting Award from FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate

On September 1, 2010, to kick off National Preparedness Month, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the winners of the 2010 National Citizen Corps Awards.

According to FEMA, the awards are presented in ten categories to "recognize innovative practices and achievements of communities and individuals across the nation that make our neighborhoods safer, stronger and better prepared to manage any emergency situation."

The New Lenox Citizen Corps Council won the "Newcomer Award" for their many successes as a new Council. New Lenox is the first Council in Illinois to win a National Achievement Award.

The New Lenox Citizen Corps Council was created in part, due to the Village's participation in the Safe Communities America movement, a World Health Organization (WHO) program overseen by the National Safety Council in the United States. In June, New Lenox was the 9th community in the United States to receive a "Safe Community" designation.

The New Lenox Citizen Corps Council encourages citizens to seek training in first aid and emergency skills and to participate in volunteer activities that support the community.



#### 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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Training

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CERT Training  
Committee  
Chairperson

## PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE - JUNE 26, 2010 New Lenox Police Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Awarded Second

New Lenox CERT placed 2nd in the first-ever Prairie State CERT Challenge in Bensenville, Illinois. The Elk Grove Village CERT edged out New Lenox 899 to 898 points to win the competition.

The event, hosted by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), brought together volunteer CERTs from 13 communities located in Illinois.

Ten individuals represented New Lenox in the competition and will now teach other CERT volunteers what they learned during the event.



Front Row (left to Right) Pete Simon, Catherine Johnston, Gary Cook, Lori Fischer  
Back Row (Left to Right): Jon Ruane, Jon Heyer, Tom Mroz, Sean Egan, Brian Fischer, Adam Bulbuis

Tentatively, the 2nd Annual Prairie State CERT Challenge will be held in October 2011 in Champaign, Illinois. New Lenox CERT is eager to participate once again in this competition.

The New Lenox Citizen Corps Council encourages citizens to seek training in first aid and emergency skills and to participate in volunteer activities that support the community.

## OSTER-OAKVIEW TORNADO EXERCISE

On Saturday September 18, 2010 the New Lenox CERT held an exercise at Oster-Oakview School in New Lenox. Team members were not told the location or the exact time of the exercise. An email was sent to all team members at approximately 8:15am followed by a text message through the Community Alert Notification System. The Program Coordinator then contacted the Team Leaders via phone and they in turn contacted their team members. On arrival, incident command was established along with a small team that conducted a size-up of the location. Approximately 25 "victims" were

pre-positioned within the school. The victims were Lincoln Way Central High School students who received a variety of "injuries" with the assistance of moulage experts. Search and Rescue Teams were established as was a Triage Area. The exercise played out through the course of the morning and

**"Nothing is stronger than the heart of a volunteer"**

*Col. James Doolittle, USAAF*

was evaluated by individuals from the Will County Health Department, as well as the Will County Emergency Management Agency. Following the exercise, a de-briefing was held which included comments from the evaluators, Incident Commander, Team Leaders, team members and volunteer



*Al Murry and Reinhold Schmitz carrying "victim" Ryan Drake - Senior at Lincoln Way Central High School.*

victims. The exercise included approximately 70 New Lenox CERT members as well as several members of the Will County Health Department MRC / CERT.



## MIND OVER MILES - 8K RUN New Lenox Chamber of Commerce

On Saturday, November 6, 2010 twenty one (21) New Lenox CERT / MRC volunteers assisted with the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce Mind Over Miles 8K Run. The CERT / MRC volunteers were responsible for two water / aid stations along the 8K route. In addition, volunteers provided traffic control at eight (8) intersections due to ESDA being needed on main streets and not

having enough personnel.

The run was a huge success and the volunteers did a great job with their assignments.

Following the run, the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce received numerous compliments regarding our volunteers professional demeanor.



*Post race refreshments offered by local sponsors at Lincoln-Way West High School.*

## THE AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC) PARTNERS WITH NEW LENOX CERT / MRC FOR SHELTER MANAGEMENT EXERCISE

On November 13, 2010, more than 65 New Lenox CERT members and American Red Cross volunteers set up a mock shelter at Lincoln-Way Central High School. Participants were told to expect 85 people who just lost their homes in a devastating tornado. CERT members worked together under the direction of experienced Red Cross Managers to set-up cots in dormitory fashion, segregating single men, women, and families while providing for those with functional needs. A registration area was designated and members began registering those affected by the storm. It quickly became apparent we



have some quality actors in the group as they took on the roles of a variety of difficult "clients", previously encountered in prior shelter operations. Next everyone

participated in an extensive debriefing session where members and Red Cross Shelter Managers discussed what they encountered and how they handled situations as well as what they could have done differently. Before the drill was over, members had an opportunity to see the American Red Cross Mobile Communications Vehicle.

With 79 CERT members having completed the American Red Cross Shelter Operations workshop and/or this drill, New Lenox CERT is now capable of standing up a shelter should the need arise.

# AMERICAN RED CROSS DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TRAINING



On Wednesday December 15, 2010 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm the New Lenox CERT / MRC held training in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The American Red Cross provided two instructors that presented a Damage/Disaster Assessment course. The instruction included a comprehensive Power Point presentation along with a 24-page handout which also provided an overview of the course. The instructors did an excellent job with the presentation and graciously entertained

questions from those in attendance CERT / MRC members now have been provided with a general overview of Disaster / Damage Assessment. In the event a disaster, such as a tornado or flood, impacts New Lenox, CERT / MRC members will now be able to assist emergency responders with conducting a proper assessment of the damage.

Jon Heyer and the Training Committee worked closely with the American Red Cross to bring this course to New Lenox.



## Resolve to be Ready in 2011!

Don't Drop the Ball!  
ready.gov

### JOIN THE READY.GOV *Resolve to be Ready Campaign*

The New Year is a perfect time to Resolve to Be Ready! The New Lenox CERT / MRC is proud to promote the Resolve to be Ready initiative for 2011.

Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign, Resolve to be Ready is a nationwide effort designed to increase

awareness as well as encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the New Year.

The Ready campaign would like to make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take the three important steps:

1. Get an emergency supply kit;
2. Make a family emergency plan; and
3. Be informed about the types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses.

Additional information can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not a single act, but a habit”**  
*Aristotle*



## 2011 HEALTH & SAFETY EXPO Severe Weather Spotter Training

On Tuesday March 1, 2011 the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, New Lenox Citizen Corps Council and New Lenox

CERT / MRC will host a Health and Safety Expo along with Severe Weather Spotter Training at Lincoln Way Central High School. The Health and Safety Expo will be held from 6:00pm to 7:00pm and will feature a number of health and safety displays provided by local community organizations. The Severe Weather Spotter Training will be from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and will be taught by a representative from the National Weather Service Chicago Office (Romeoville,

Illinois). All CERT / MRC members are encouraged to attend along with their friends and families. Please RSVP your seating by calling (815) 740-8351.



**Additional Information**

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Visit us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxCERT>

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
 RESPONSE TEAM**

The CERT 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 disaster medical operations.

Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

- 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 Starting 02/24/2011**

**Contact Daniel Martin  
 at the New Lenox Police  
 Department to Register**

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - DR. JON HEYER  
 CERT Training Committee Chairperson**



Dr. Jon Heyer,  
*Holistic Chiropractor  
 and Acupuncturist  
 Holistic Health & Chiropractic  
 of Frankfort, Illinois*

Our selection for member spotlight to kick off our first CERT Newsletter is Dr. Jon Heyer who's a Midwest native born in Michigan who brings his knowledge, expertise and genuine care for the health and well being of others to his clinic in Frankfort where he is enjoying his 12th year being a Chiropractor. Jon credits the Logan College of Chiropractic Medicine, for his degree; he's also a licensed Acupuncturist. Read how Jon recalls stumbling upon New Lenox CERT in his own words below.

I first heard about CERT from a book written by my favorite author. He was journaling his progression from being unconsciously incompetent (not knowing he'd be a victim) to one of being consciously competent (he was aware and prepared) should there be a disaster in his town. It was then I realized; I too wasn't prepared.

Then one day I read in the LW Sun New Lenox was

starting a local CERT! So, I called to join. After completing the 7-week certification training I walked away with a great deal of knowledge, understanding of processes and how to react in real world scenarios I experienced during the course. I'm now confident of what I need to do for myself and others should an emergency or disaster happen. I was also fortunate to be on our Prairie State Challenge Team which was not only fun, but tested my leadership skills and proved to me how effective the curriculum truly is.

Since joining the New Lenox CERT, I have made some really good friends and together we continue to become prepared for emergencies and disasters. New Lenox CERT is constantly offering additional training and information locally through government partners such as the Will County Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross and FEMA.

Lastly, what I like best is the knowledge CERT is able to give the people of the community. CERT is in place to take care of our residents and visitors should disaster strike. Isn't that our Patriotic duty?



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