



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

Volume 1 - Issue 2

April 2011

BLIZZARD 2011

On Tuesday February 1, 2011, in response to a Winter Storm / Blizzard, a Shelter was established at the New Lenox Police Department at 7:00pm. Meteorologists predicted snowfall amounts between 12 and 24 inches, wind chills in single digits and wind speeds 40-50 mph (gusts approximately 60-70 mph). Power outages were expected due to the winds and blizzard conditions. Three CERT / MRC Volunteers staffed the Shelter throughout the night. Approximately 20 stranded motorists were transported to the Shelter to wait out the storm and were provided with food, beverages, blankets / cots and movies. Shelter Operations ended at approximately 7:00am on Wednesday February 2, 2011.



On Tuesday February 1, 2011, in response to a Winter Storm / Blizzard, an American Red Cross Shelter was established at Lincoln Way West High School at 5:00pm. Meteorologists predicted snowfall amounts between 12 and 24 inches, wind chills in single digits and wind speeds 40-50 mph (gusts approximately 60-70 mph). Power outages were expected due to the winds and blizzard conditions. Seven CERT / MRC Volunteers staffed the Shelter from 5:00pm on Tuesday February 1, 2011 until 7:00am on Thursday February 3, 2011. No clients utilized the Shelter during its operational period but experience was gained from setting it up and staffing it.



Our Core Principles:

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

CERT TRAINING

On Saturday April 16, 2011 the New Lenox CERT / MRC held training from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Lincoln Way Christian Church, 690 E. Illinois Highway New Lenox, IL. Members of the Will County Emergency Management Agency's Search and Rescue Team provided a Power Point presentation, followed by hands-on instruction, on back boarding and transport.

New Lenox CERT / MRC member Patricia Edgett then provided a Med Ops refresher. This training was also Power Point based followed by hands-on instruction and practice.

New Lenox CERT / MRC member Chuck Keskel and Ryan Gust from the Boy Scouts of America provided the team with several team building exercises. The



Lynda Luka Will County EMA Assistant Chief Search and Rescue providing back board training. New Lenox CERT / MRC member Gary Cook is role playing as a victim while New Lenox CERT / MRC member Reinhold Schmitz is keeping Gary's neck stabilized.



Sherry Gramse checking vitals - Robert Reynolds is playing the role of victim.

exercises were designed to build camaraderie amongst team members by getting them to work together as a team to solve problems. The exercises were excellent and were well received by team members.

Forty-four team members attended this training event which was planned and executed by the Training Committee.

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2nd ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE CERT CHALLENGE

For those of you interested in participating in this year's (2nd Annual) Prairie State CERT Challenge (PSCC), please mark your calendar for **Saturday October 1, 2011**. This year's Challenge will be held in Glenview, IL at NIPSTA. This is an excellent facility and this will undoubtedly be a great event!

As everyone is aware, last year's team took 2nd place (by 1 point to an excellent Elk Grove Village Team). They did an outstanding job and represented us well! The goal for this year is to send **two teams** to the event. As such, please start thinking about participating. Teams will start forming in the near future to allow ample time for training and preparation for this year's event.

Additional information about the event will be forthcoming. In the interim, team members are encouraged to contact team members

who participated in last year's event for additional information. It's likely they will share some interesting stories, tell you they had a great time (despite the heat), and found the PSCC to be a great learning experience.

Last year's team included:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Pete Simon | Jon Ruane | Brian Fischer |
| Catherine Johnston | Jon Heyer | Adam Bulthuis |
| Gary Cook | Tom Mroz | |
| Lori Fischer | Sean Egan | |



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 Bulthuis

ST. BALDRICK'S

On Friday March 25, 2011 the New Lenox CERT / MRC participated in the New Lenox Police and New Lenox Fire Department's St. Baldrick's event, which was held at Gatto's Atrium Pointe in New Lenox, IL. The current running total for the fundraiser is approximately \$48,000 – approximately \$1500.00 of which was raised by our St. Baldrick's Team.

Every 3 ½ minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer; it's the #1 disease killer of children in U.S and Canada. These funds will be utilized for childhood cancer research to cure this horrible disease.



A special thank you goes out to the following team members that participated in the event:

- Alex Vancina (St. Baldrick's Team Captain)
- Randy Halach
- John Schuld
- Colin Schuld (John's son)
- Jennifer Sforza
- Jesse Garrett (Jennifer's friend)
- Dan Martin



In addition, many of our CERT / MRC team members were in attendance at the event. Those in attendance participated in the silent auction and raffles, adding to the event's total. Thanks to all who came out to support the event as well as those who made donations to our St. Baldrick's Team!

WILDERNESS AND REMOTE FIRST AID TRAINING



On Saturday April 5, 2011 and Sunday April 6, 2011, the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition and Citizen Corps Council, in partnership with the American Red Cross, sponsored a Wilderness and Remote First Aid Class which was held in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The 16-hr. course, taught by an instructor from the American Red Cross, included information about a variety of injuries that may occur in the wilderness and how to treat the injuries. In addition to the classroom



instruction, students spent approximately 4 hours on Sunday participating in hands-on outdoor exercises. These exercises challenged students to demonstrate skills learned in the classroom by applying them in a "wilderness" setting. Through the exercises, students had to identify and treat "illnesses" displayed by role players. Some of the illnesses included severe lacerations, head injuries, heat exhaustion and hypothermia. Twelve residents enrolled in the course, including seven from the New Lenox CERT / MRC.



COMMUNITY AWARDS CERT / MRC VOLUNTEERS

Several CERT members were invited to attend the Village Board Meeting where the Mayor recognized and awarded several community members and specifically volunteers of the New Lenox CERT / MRC that assisted with the Blizzard on February 1-2, 2011. Each volunteer received an award for their participation and efforts

during the Blizzard. CERT Members included: Randy Collette, Tania Mora, Dale Alexander, Jon Heyer, Jon Ruane, Jennifer Sforza, Patricia Edgett, Reinhold Lohkamp-Schmitz, Allison Novorolsky and Pete Simon.

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 . . .

“Nothing is stronger than the heart of a volunteer”

Col. James Doolittle, USAAF



2nd ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY EXPO SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

On Tuesday March 1, 2011 the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition and Citizen Corps Council sponsored its 2nd

Annual Health and Safety Expo – Severe Weather Spotter Training. The event was held at Lincoln Way Central High School, 1801 East Lincoln Highway New Lenox, Illinois, 60451.

The Health and Safety Expo was held from 6:00pm to 7:00pm and featured over 20 exhibitors, each focusing on some aspect of health or safety. This year’s special guest at the Expo was Mark Strehl, Meteorologist for FOX Chicago News.

The Severe Weather Spotter Training was held from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and was conducted by Jim

Allsopp from the National Weather Service Chicago Office (Romeoville, IL). Approximately 350 people attended the Spotter Training which was Power Point-based and included a number of severe weather event videos.

Approximately 60 CERT / MRC members participated in this event by either staffing informational tables, attending the spotter training, or both.



SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

On Wednesday March 16, 2011 CERT / MRC training was held at Lincoln Way Christian Church, 690 E. Illinois Highway New Lenox, Illinois.

Training was conducted in round robin fashion with three stations - interior room searches, exterior field search for items and team building.

The interior searches required team members (teams of two) to search dark rooms for hidden items. Trainers / evaluators assisted before, during and after the search by reminding team members of proper search techniques.

The exterior field searches were done in teams of 12-15. Trainers / evaluators placed 25 items in a field which included tall grass /

weeds and cut grass. Teams, each led by a team leader, formed lines approximately shoulder-width apart while conducting the line searches for the items. As the teams located evidence (2 steps at a time) team members would notify a scribe who would document each of the items.

The team building exercises consisted of two competing teams of four in a “plank walk” across the parking lot. Each team had two boards with ropes and team members had to walk in unison across the parking lot to a designated area, turn around and return to the start line.

The training event began at 7:00pm and ended at 9:00pm. Approximately 50 team members were in attendance.

NEW LENOX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPRING EXPO

On Saturday March 19, 2011 the New Lenox CERT / MRC participated in the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce Spring Expo by staffing a table with informational materials. Information included Ready.gov literature as well as preparedness materials for those with functional needs. In addition, the Shelter Management Committee had a display and materials for preparing animals for disasters. On the MRC side, materials were also available pertaining to public health issues (pandemic flu, washing hands, etc.). Team members spoke to numerous visitors regarding the New Lenox CERT

/ MRC Program and a number of individuals indicated they were interested in taking the Basic CERT Class and participating with the team. Nine volunteers worked a total of 49 hours during the event. This included set-up Friday evening as well as time spent staffing the table during the Expo on Saturday.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- French Market - June 11th, August 6th, and September 24th
- Loyalty Day Parade - Sunday May 1st, 2011
- Triple Play Concert Series - June 4th, August 6th and September 3rd
- Sean Kingston Concert - Thursday July 7, 2011
- Chicago Marathon - Sunday October 9, 2011



Additional Information

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Visit us on Facebook

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

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

CERT Class #5's Final Exercise and Graduation was held on Saturday April 9, 2011. Congratulations to this great group of 25 residents who did an excellent job during their 7-week course. Much like previous CERT classes, this class was comprised of residents with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. CERT class #5 "students" have already integrated into the team and are doing a fantastic job. CERT Class #6 is tentatively being planned for the Fall of 2011, although no definitive dates have been selected.

Welcome CERT Class #5 and Congratulations!

- 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

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

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
 CERT MEMBER LIFE SAVED BY NLFD**

by Kristie Evans, New Lenox CERT / MRC Member

New Lenox - They breathed into her the breath of life! New Lenox paramedics Justin Bakker and Bryan Pattison along with EMT's Joe Drobney and James Brown saved the life of Shelley Halach a New Lenox resident, CERT member, and Certified Veterinarian Technician at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium.

On Wednesday, January 19, 2011 Randy Halach called 911 shortly after 9:30 PM when his wife went into anaphylactic shock. She had been treating and bathing an orphaned rabbit at home and was caught off guard by this life threatening attack.

New Lenox Fire Department paramedics arrived in less than four minutes to find her unresponsive and began to administer life saving critical care. CPR alone would not have saved her. She was then rushed to Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet and was pronounced code blue upon arrival.

Shelly and her husband Randy are members of the

New Lenox CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), where just hours before she spoke at CERT's first meeting for 2011. She presented an outline of activities to implement on behalf of the "Animal Shelter Team." Always an advocate for every critter she comes in contact with, it is usually Shelley administering love and life saving skills to her mammal and aquatic friends.

Today Randy Halach wants Mayor Tim Baldermann, New Lenox Public Safety Division Chief Daniel Martin, New Lenox Fire Chief Jon Mead, and all of the community to know how overwhelmingly thankful he is for these four young men and the 911 dispatcher along with the emergency doctors and nurses that saved his wife's life. "It's a miracle

and I just could never thank them enough, but I want them to be recognized for what they did. I just can't thank them enough," said Randy over and over as he willed up with grateful emotion.



Don't Drop the Ball!

**Resolve
 to be
 Ready
 in 2011!**

ready.gov

