

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

## MOVIE NIGHT IN THE COMMONS – JUNE, 2024

New Lenox CERT was asked to assist with *Movie Night in the Commons* once again this summer. As many people know, Movie Nights are on Wednesday evenings. Activities start at 7:30pm and the movies typically start around 8:30pm. Movie Nights started on June 5th and will end on August 14th. For additional information about Movie Nights, visit the Village of New Lenox web site [www.newlenox.net](http://www.newlenox.net) and click on the Special Events tab.

This year, additional activities were added for teens on the north side of the police department at Fireman’s Park. Activities include music, games, a food truck and more. This was done to provide teens with some structured activities so that families with young children could enjoy the movies. As the month of June winds down, the teen activities have proven to be a huge success!

A typical Movie Night for CERT volunteers starts at 7:30pm with a briefing near the Concession Stand. The briefing includes collaboration with New Lenox Police Department personnel to determine if anything in particular needs to be shared with CERT volunteers. Following the briefing, volunteers head out to their assignments which typically include:

- Staffing at Fireman’s Park for the teen activities.
- Staffing at the front steps of the New Lenox Public Library.
- Staffing at the crosswalk between the New Lenox Police Department and New Lenox Public Library.
- Staffing of a Floating Assignment (entire Commons to Fireman’s Park).
- Staffing of a Floating Assignment (coverage for Village Hall, Stage, Concert Trailers, and Pergola).

CERT volunteers typically work in pairs, but some assignments may include additional personnel. As such, a typical Movie Night will include 10-12 CERT volunteers that assist from 7:30pm to approximately 10:30pm.

Special thanks to our volunteers for their dedication and commitment to making Movie Nights safe for teens, families and all who attend!



**Our Core Principles:**

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

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# TRINITY TRIUMPH 5K – JUNE 20, 2024

At 6:00pm on Thursday, June 20, 2024, thirty-eight members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them in advance for volunteering for the Trinity Triumph 5K.



Dan provided everyone with a Community Event Log, which outlined roles, responsibilities and assignments. Everyone was also provided with a map of the course and an additional map was drawn on an easel for everyone to see. A good portion of the time was spent talking about traffic management, primarily how to safely move the runners / walkers on Gear Drive (from Mustang to Illinois Highway). To facilitate this, 1-2 volunteers were at every intersection on Gear, from Mustang to Illinois Highway. Volunteers were provided with instructions to move from Gear to Wildwood (one block east) once the runners / walkers had passed their locations on Gear Drive. Additional time was spent talking about the CERT water station, which was located at mile marker 2 (Wildwood & Joliet Highway). Following the briefing, everyone met in the rotunda for a group photo.



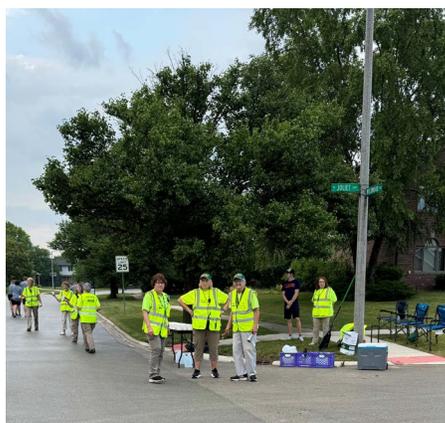
At 6:30pm everyone left the Village Hall (while it was pouring rain)! The rain continued for the next 30 minutes, during which time decisions were being made by race officials whether to proceed or cancel the event. Fortunately, the rain stopped shortly after 7:00pm and a decision was made to proceed.

The race kicked-off at approximately 7:08pm at which time runners / walkers crossed Haven Ave. and entered the Aerohaven subdivision. Our volunteers did an outstanding job with traffic management in the long stretch on Gear Drive to Illinois Highway. Runners / walkers (heading south) were kept on the west side of the street and safely away from northbound traffic. New Lenox ESDA had coned off the shoulder on Illinois Highway (between Gear & Wildwood), which kept runners / walkers safe from traffic. CERT volunteers were also on the corners of Gear & Illinois Highway as well as Wildwood & Illinois Highway as an additional safety measure.

Runners / walkers then made their way northbound on Wildwood with CERT volunteers keeping them safe AND encouraged. Volunteers at our Water Station (Wildwood & Joliet Highway) did a great job keeping everyone hydrated and motivated. Race participants were treated to music, cheering and yes – plenty of cow bell!

All race participants made their way safely through the course with the last walkers heading into the Commons at approximately 8:15pm. Around this time, our volunteers met back in the Community Room for a de-briefing. In short, there were no issues nor any areas for improvement to be addressed. Dan thanked everyone for their time and the de-briefing ended at approximately 8:30pm.

Special thanks to everyone that helped with the Trinity Triumph 5K. Well done!



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

# SURVIVAL SKILLS – JUNE 19, 2024

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, June 14, 2024 almost 40 members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of the training. Dan then turned the floor over to Brendan Clancy who provided a 20-minute overview on Survival Skills. Brendan touched on water procurement / purification, shelter types, fire starting and a host of other useful skills.

Dan then divided those in attendance into four groups, which were identified as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Everyone was given a color copy of the stations that showed where teams would rotate to every 15 minutes. The stations, which started at 7:30pm, were as follows:



**Water Procurement / Water Purification** led by Brendan Clancy  
*Brendan showed the groups various ways to collect and purify water. A number of items were on display and were demonstrated.*

**Wilderness First Aid / Scenario** led by Tricia Pakosz and Scott Thompson  
*Tricia and Scott created a scenario where the groups found a woman (played by Berni Kacor) and a man (Rescue Randy mannequin) at a camp site. The groups had to assess the situation, determine that the victims were stung by bees, and that the female needed an EPI pen. The male, who fell and hit his head while running, also needed to be treated.*



**Shelters** led by Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy  
*Team members were shown several shelters that were made from simple tarps and a poncho. Team members were shown how to create a ridge line and were shown several very useful knots. Time was allotted to allow team members to practice the knots.*

**Fire Starting** led by Rich DeVault and Lauren Humbrecht  
*A number of items were on display, including, but not limited to: road flares, magnesium rods / strikers, fireproof matches, 9V battery with steel wool, tinder / kindling, etc Lauren and Rich demonstrated various materials and methods for starting a fire.*

Because there was SO MUCH INFORMATION at each of the stations, the timeline fell a little behind, but it was well worth it. Everyone returned to the Community Room at 8:45pm for a de-briefing.

Dan thanked Brendan for the presentation and for facilitating a station. Dan also thanked Tricia, Scott, Joe, Lisa, Rich and Lauren for doing an excellent job at each of the stations. The de-briefing wrapped-up just short of 9:00pm at which time everyone headed home.

Again, thanks to our instructors for doing a terrific job and a big thank you for those who attended!



# FLAGGING / FLANKING EXERCISES & MOCK SEARCH – JUNE 11, 2024

From 3:30pm to 6:00pm a number of field exercises were set-up on the grounds of New Lenox Waste Water Treatment Plant 3. From 6:00pm to 6:30pm New Lenox Search and Rescue Team Members began to arrive for monthly training. At 6:30pm a briefing was held, which included a brief overview on flagging and the flanker position. Following the briefing, the field exercises commenced as follows:

**Flagging Practice** – team members paired-up and faced each other. In unison, one side held a hula hoop to simulate a tree limb or similar object that flagging tape would normally be affixed to. The other side tied a long piece of flagging tape to the hula hoop, using a method where the tape can easily be removed with one finger. This was repeated ten times at which time team members reversed roles.



**Flagging / Line Movement** – this was done in an area similar to the size of a football field. An azimuth of 360 degrees was utilized (back azimuth 180 degrees). Eight fiberglass flagging poles were in the ground on each side of the field (matching), approximately 10 steps apart. Two teams were formed and took turns practicing on the field. The Crew Leader moved the flankers forward and as they were reaching their locations to flag, the line was directed to move forward. Team members practiced purposeful wandering and 360-degree searches when they reached the flankers flags. Everyone rotated clockwise and raised their hand after completing their 360. Teams repeated this exercise a number of times – up and down the field. Roles (Crew Leader, Flanker and Line Searcher) were changed before each pass.

**Flag Line (3-foot fiberglass poles)** – 5 traffic cones (approximately 10-feet apart), were placed at the north end of a field, approximately 75-yards from the start. Team members shot an azimuth to their assigned traffic cone. With 7 flagging poles in hand, team members walked toward their assigned cone. At every 10 steps, a fiberglass pole was placed into the ground. Team members checked their back azimuth at the 3rd or 4th placement. The exercise, which was repeated a number of times, was done to demonstrate that a solid flag line can be placed without having to constantly check a compass.



Following the field exercises, everyone met for a short briefing in advance of the mock search. Everyone had already been given a QR code for a Caltopo map. The map showed three search segments (201, 202 and 203) that were approximately 1-acre each. These search segments were located just outside the north fence of the facility and had been “seeded” with clues (training aids) before everyone arrived. The training aids were infant CPR mannequins and adult (head and torso) CPR mannequins. The teams were given a minute or so to determine a Crew Leader, Flankers and Line Searchers. In addition to the emphasis on flagging, this exercise also provided team members with an opportunity to practice: communications, navigation (compass), searching, GPS (clues called in utilizing UTM coordinates), Caltopo (tracks, reading map / search segment, marking clues), physical agility (searching in prairie, wooded areas



– high steps, step over objects, duck under objects) and teamwork.

The search went well and took just under an hour to complete. All three teams located their training aids (two in each search segment). Following the search, a short de-briefing was held just inside the gate of the facility. Lessons learned and areas for improvement were discussed. Everyone was congratulated for a job well done and thanked for coming out to training.

Training concluded at 8:50pm and the last car left the property at 9:00pm. Well done team!



# CHASING THE SUN 5K – JUNE 6, 2024

At 5:00pm on Thursday, June 6, 2024, 38 New Lenox CERT volunteers met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for the Chasing the Sun 5K briefing. This event, which our team has assisted with for many years, is sponsored by the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce and the New Lenox Community Park District. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them in advance for helping.



Dan provided a history of the race, anticipated number of participants, information about communications, information about what to do in the event of an emergency and safety information. In addition, Dan covered assignments and stressed the importance of encouraging the runners and walkers as they passed by. Dan requested everyone to return to the Village Hall immediately following the race for a de-briefing. Following a quick team photo in the rotunda, everyone headed out to their assignments at approximately 5:30pm.



The race kicked-off promptly at 6:00pm and there appeared to be approximately 150 participants on the course. Our CERT volunteers did a terrific job in their respective assignments, keeping everyone safe (traffic management locations) and hydrated (water station @ Wildwood Park). As anticipated, the last participants passed by our last traffic location shortly after 7:00pm. By 7:15pm all of our volunteers had returned to the Community Room at the Village Hall where a short de-briefing was held. In short, everything went very well and there were no areas for improvement noted. The briefing ended at 7:20pm at which time everyone stayed for some food and beverages.



Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this 5K. Great job!



# SMOKEY ROBINSON CONCERT – JUNE 1, 2024

At 4:30pm on Saturday, June 1, 2024, twenty-seven CERT members arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall to assist with the Smokey Robinson Concert. Everyone was directed to the Council Chambers, where Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone as they arrived. Dan then provided a briefing, which included in summary the following:

- Incident Action Plan
- Safety Briefing
- Assignments
- Severe Weather Plan



Following the briefing, a team photo was taken and everyone headed out to their assignments at approximately 4:50pm.

It should be noted that it had been raining during the briefing and continued to rain once everyone was in place. CERT volunteers waited for the gates to the venue to open at 5:30pm at which time a small number of people trickled in. At approximately 6:30pm a decision was made to postpone the concert until July 6, 2024. Following the Mayor’s announcement from the stage, everyone made their way to the Community Room on the lower level of the building.

At this time Dan thanked everyone on behalf of the Mayor and the Village and stated that he hoped to see everyone back on July 6th. Special thanks to everyone that came out to help with this event!

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## TRIAGE AND TREATMENT REVIEW – MAY 21, 2024

At 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 approximately 40 members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and provided a brief overview about what the training would entail. Following the overview, Dan turned the floor over to Val Grellner who provided a 30-minute lecture on **Triage**. In short, Val explained why Triage in a Mass Casualty Incident is so important. Val explained the 4 categories (Delayed, Minor, Immediate and Deceased) and provided examples of what would land a victim into each of those categories. In addition, Val went over the Triage Tags that are in the Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) so that everyone knew how to properly fill them out. Lastly, Val touched on Pediatric Triage, noting the differences of how children (8 y.o.a. and under) are assessed, versus a victim 8+ y.o.a. Following Val's lecture, a Triage Exercise was held where everyone in attendance was paired with a partner. One person was the "victim" and one person was the rescuer. In 60 seconds or less, the "victim" was given a triage category and directed to the appropriate "treatment area" in the rotunda. From there, a discussion was held regarding what justified sending a "victim" to green (minor), yellow (delayed) or red (immediate).



At approximately 7:45pm Randy Halach took over the training and provided a refresher on various **Treatment** methods. Randy's lecture included information on bleeding control (direct pressure, dressings, bandages, and tourniquets) as well as splinting. Randy kept the lecture short, knowing that everyone would be getting additional information during the hands-on portion of the training.

Everyone was then divided into four groups (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta) and provided with a sheet of paper that showed the rotation times (every 10 minutes) starting at 8:00pm. The stations were as follows:

- **Splinting / Sam Splints** – led by Randy Halach
- **OLAES and Israeli (Emergency Bandage)** – led by Joan O'Malley
- **Bleeding Control / Wound Packing / Tourniquets** – led by Val Grellner
- **Triangular Bandaging** – led by Nancy Tafoya and Sandy Scannell

The Station Facilitators provided instruction at each of their tables and gave team members ample opportunity to practice the techniques. The stations ended at approximately 8:40pm at which time everyone took their seats for a short de-briefing.

Dan Martin thanked Val, Randy and the Station Facilitators for the instruction. Val and Randy provided some final discussion points and the de-briefing concluded at approximately 8:50pm.

Special thanks to everyone that attended this important training!



# NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE / ANNUAL FIT TEST - MAY 16, 2024

At 6:30pm on Thursday, May 16, 2024 eighteen members of New Lenox SAR met at Messenger Woods for the team’s Annual Fit Test. Four members had excused absences and will complete a make-up test.

Lisa Murphy had the lead on this training. Lisa and some other team members had made prior trips to Messenger Woods to design a course (fit test) that would closely resemble what we (ground searchers) do during a real activation. This test is a departure from the previous 3-mile course on a paved surface that our team had completed for many years. Instead, this course was designed to go through the woods on a dirt (muddy) trail, with many obstacles (tree roots, rocks, branches, etc...) to step over. The course, designed by Lisa and fellow team members, was approximately 2.6 miles and included changes in grade throughout the course.



Three team members who had previously completed the course went out to pre-designated locations to ensure that those taking the fit test stayed on course. Two additional team members who had previously completed the course stayed with everyone else to help keep them on track. Lisa provided a short briefing at 6:45pm and stayed at the start / finish line to record everyone’s times.



The course was challenging and MUCH different than the “standard” 3-mile course on a paved surface. There was a lot of mud on the trail and even some places with standing water. Everyone did a great job staying upright (well... for the most part) and found the changes in scenery and grade interesting. Most importantly, team members found THIS course more reflective of what we actually do as searchers.

Everyone finished within 6 minutes of each other and the average time was around 42 minutes. Following completion of the test a short de-briefing was held to discuss the course, its strengths and any potential changes moving forward. In short, the team seemed to like the new test and agreed that it was challenging and more reflective of what we do during an actual search.

Special thanks to Lisa and those who assisted her with designing the course and facilitating the test. Also, great job by everyone that completed the course!

## ASSIST CAROL STREAM PD / MISSING MALE 56 YOA – MAY 16, 2024

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 1:21pm New Lenox Search and Rescue was called out to assist with a search for a missing 56-year-old male in Carol Stream, IL. Staging was at Armstrong Park. Two members arrived around 3:00pm, another member arrived just prior to the stand-down, and another member was just minutes away when the stand-down was given.

Teams were deployed soon after our team member’s arrival. Two New Lenox members were teamed-up with two members from Boone County. A New Lenox team member was appointed Crew Leader, and the team was designated as “Team George.” Teams were provided with a flyer with information about the missing subject.

At 3:15pm Team George was assigned an area north of the Point Last Seen (PLS). The north boundary was Army Trail Road, south to Lies Road, Merbach Drive was the east boundary, west to Kuhn Rd. The team divided and used vehicles to cover the suburban search, exiting vehicles to check retention ponds and wooded areas. The small retail area was also covered, driving in parking lots and behind the stores. At 4:15pm the team met and walked into an area that drones were unable to see.

At 4:30pm the Crew Leader contacted the officer in charge to advise the assigned search segment had been completed. The team was given a new area, which included areas to focus on.

At approximately 5:10pm the team was advised that a stand-down had been given, although the missing subject had not been located. The team returned to staging and were thanked for responding. Members signed-out at 5:15pm and headed to Homer Glen for the Annual Fitness Test.

Special thanks to our team members for responding to this search!

**Carol Stream Police Department** · Follow  
2h · 🌐

The Carol Stream Police Department urgently requests the public’s help locating a missing and possibly nonverbal senior.

RAPHAEL AGUILAR-SOTO, AGE 56, was last seen at 900 block of Moccasin Ct at 1100 hrs. in Carol Stream.

He is of a thinner build, has long black hair, and a black beard, wears a brown hat, and a Timberland yellow hoodie, and carries a Bible.

RAPHAEL AGUILAR-SOTO is maybe Non-Verbal.

If you see RAPHAEL AGUILAR-SOTO, please call 911 immediately so we can safely transport him home to his family.



## SHORELINE RESCUE / WATER SAFETY – MAY 11, 2024

On Saturday, May 11, 2024 three members of New Lenox Search and Rescue joined 7 other multi-agency members at Wilmington ESDA for a training on Shoreline Rescue and Water Safety. Just before 9:00am, everyone signed-in and gathered in the training room. The training was presented by Kim Gotte, who began by sharing information on her affiliation with Wilmington ESDA since 2010. Kim then mentioned the types of rescue and recovery equipment in the building, encouraging everyone to look at the sonar boat, jet skis, and one of only four boats in Illinois that goes over low head dams (the triangular shaped boat).

The training began with a reminder of the immense power of water, with a discussion of velocity and hydrodynamics. Water is fastest at the surface and midstream, and usually slowest along banks and water bottom. Water is also faster at the outsides of bends and slower at insides of bends.



For searchers, safety is always top priority. The GSAR role near water is to facilitate clue location, not to get into the water. There are dangers of foot entrapment in strong currents, and muddy edges that can get a searcher stuck along water edges. To describe where something is from a searcher's viewpoint, the class was reminded that "Downstream" is the direction the current is going, while "Upstream" is the direction of the source of the water. Searchers should always have at least two people together - always. This especially comes into play if a throw bag is thrown so the 2nd searcher can hold on to the thrower for added stability when reeling in a victim. The rescuer should never tie themselves to the victim, but hold the rope in a way that it can easily be let go. The hand or fingers should not go inside the loop at the end of the throw bag to avoid injury or getting pulled in.



Searchers near water need to be equipped with proper PPE, PFD, and throw bags. PFDs should have a whistle and dive knife attached. For throw bags, 1/2" rope is easier on the hands, even with gloves. A maximum length of 50' of rope is controllable. Kim made a suggestion to buy one throw bag with 100 feet of rope, then buy a separate empty throw bag. Cut the 100' of rope to 50' lengths and now there will be two throw bags.

In the event a searcher falls into the water, the class reviewed Self Rescue Techniques. The person should endeavor a defensive movement when in a current by positioning the body on the back, face up, feet near surface pointed downstream. Jettison a pack if wearing one, leaving on the PFD only. If able to swim to shore, it should be at an angle to the shore. If approaching a strainer, the person should try to go sideways but headfirst, if possible, to lessen the danger of going over the strainer head first and getting stuck under water.

The classroom portion ended near 10:00am. Everyone relocated via vehicles to the water's edge at South Island Park in Wilmington to practice throw bags. Two Agency men floated downstream in the Self Rescue position numerous times while everyone practiced throw bags and re-stuffing them. The class was able to observe that throw bags throw better when wet. The target should be to throw directly in front of the victim across their chest. Victim should cross rope onto left shoulder so that victim will swing towards shore. The rescuer should hold the rope behind them at the downriver hip so it doesn't entangle the thrower.



This portion of active training continued until 11:30am. Most attendees then exited while a few returned to the Wilmington ESDA location to wash some of the throw bag ropes. All 3 NLSAR members were able to try the rope washing device for the New Lenox throw bags used, afterwards leaving the location at 12:00pm.

Special thanks to our members for attending this valuable training and to Kim Gotte for teaching these skills!

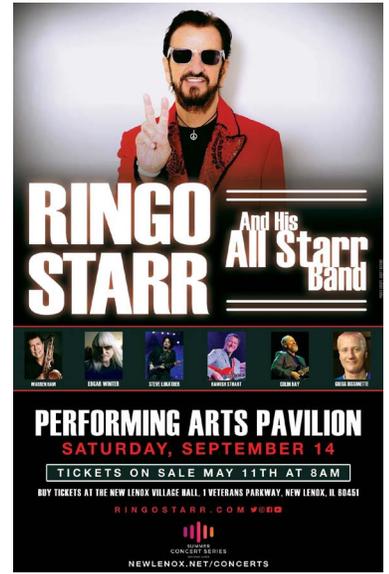
# ASSIST WITH RINGO STARR TICKET SALES – MAY 11, 2024

At 6:00am on Saturday May, 11, 2024, eight members of New Lenox CERT met in the upper parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing. Joining our team members for the briefing were Mayor Tim Baldermann and Beth Alderson, Community Engagement Director, Village of New Lenox.

In short, our volunteers were needed at the following locations:

- Upper-Level Parking Lot and Upper-Level Main Entrance – to assist with the 7:00am to 8:00am line (Smokey Robinson ticket holders that were eligible for a \$10.00 discount) and to assist with the regular line (8:00am to 12:00pm).
- North Side of Village Hall and Lower-Level Main Entrance – to assist with the regular line (8:00am to 12:00pm).
- Upper Level / Inside – to ensure guests had their identification ready as well as their form of payment.
- Lower Level / Inside - to ensure guests had their identification ready as well as their form of payment.
- Floating Assignment – to assist in areas where needed and to provide breaks.

Volunteers in attendance were also provided with a printed document that contained information about early ticket sales, regular ticket sales, and general information (event information, ticket pricing, methods of payment, admission policy, etc...). Volunteers were asked to assist guests with functional needs and in need of special accommodations.



After being issued radios, our volunteers headed out to their assignments and immediately made themselves available to answer questions.

Arriving guests were directed to the appropriate lines and at 7:00am early ticket sales commenced. Everything went very well during the first hour of ticket sales and at 8:00am the lines were opened for regular ticket sales, which also went very smoothly.

At 10:30am our volunteers assisted Village Hall staff with clearing fencing and traffic cones that had been in place when there were long lines. After this, our team met for a short de-briefing and Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, thanked everyone for helping.

Special thanks to our CERT volunteers for assisting in a variety of ways with this event. Well done!



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

## SPECIAL TRAINING IN VACANT STRUCTURES SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION – MAY 7, 2024

At 3:00pm on Wednesday May 8, 2024 set-up began for our special training that was to occur at the abandoned structures located on the corner of Cedar Road and Haven Avenue. These structures, which included one commercial building and two single family residences, became available as training sites because they were scheduled to be demolished to make way for a traffic circle as well as some commercial development.

At approximately 5:30pm CERT members began to arrive and parked in the New Lenox School District 122 Administrative Center parking lot, located across the street from these structures. Once parked, team members began to dress for the training and gather their equipment. At 6:00pm everyone headed over to the east end of the parking lot for a briefing. Dan Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the special training. Dan explained the nature of the training to include the exercises that would be held in each of the structures. The four stations that everyone would rotate through included the following:

- Damage Assessment (old 7-11, old Century 21, 105, 109 and 115 E. Haven Ave.)
- Search and Triage (105 E. Haven Ave. - old AT & T building)
- Search and Transport (109 E. Haven Ave.)
- Search and Treatment (115 E. Haven Ave.)



Dan explained that everyone would be divided into four teams. Based on the attendance, there would be approximately 10 team members per team. Teams would be designated as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta. Starting at 6:30pm, teams would spend 30 minutes at a station (schedule & instructions provided), then rotate to their next assigned station. Dan read the written instructions for each of the stations and explained them in greater detail as well. Following the briefing, everyone was divided into the four teams as noted and given approximately 5 minutes to develop a course of action for their first station.

The Damage Assessment Exercise had teams traveling to 5 buildings and doing a complete 360 assessment of the structures. Teams were checking for downed power lines, smell of gas, structural damage, broken windows and anything else noteworthy. A Damage Assessment Form was completed by each of the teams.



At the Search and Triage Exercise, teams had to find 20 wooden cribbing blocks that were dispersed throughout the building. Taped to each of the blocks (which were also numbered) was a patient injury card. Teams had to conduct a thorough search for “victims” and once located, assess their injuries (green, yellow or red). Upon completing their search, teams held short de-briefings to discuss their findings.

At the Search and Transport Exercise, teams had to locate four “victims,” which were fire department-style training mannequins. The mannequins were placed in different locations within the house, including on different levels. Teams utilized different methods to transport the “victims” out of the house. Methods included backboard (with spider straps), Reeves portable litter, chair carry and two-person carry. All “victims” were placed in the backyard of the residence (per the instructions) and then returned to where they were found.



At the Search and Treatment Exercise, teams had to search for and find 15 CPR mannequins (head and torso) that were dispersed throughout the residence, including under mattresses and other debris. In addition to the CPR mannequins, 3 wound models were placed at different locations along with medical supplies. Written instructions were placed with the wound models that directed a wound packing element, direct pressure element (4” x 4” dressing), and tourniquet application element.

All teams were required to utilize radios to call “Incident Command” when they commenced

or finished their exercise. When entering structures, teams had a team members announce "New Lenox CERT – if you can hear me, come to the sound of my voice." Each of the teams switched roles at each of the stations (Team Leader, Scribe, Searchers, etc...) so everyone had an opportunity to gain experience in different roles. The exercises concluded at 8:30pm at which time everyone headed across the street where the briefing was held.

During the de-briefing strengths and areas for improvement were discussed. Overall, teams did very well and this SPECIAL TRAINING provided an opportunity for team members to practice a variety of skills in very realistic environments. The de-briefing ended at 8:50pm due to severe thunderstorms heading into the area.

Special thanks to everyone that participated. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!



## RECOVERY SEARCH CHICAGO, IL – APRIL 27, 2024

On Saturday, April 27, 2024 six members of New Lenox Search and Rescue joined searchers from multiple agencies for a recovery search. The subject of the search was a 24-year old male, missing since April 9, 2024. Staging was in the 4200 block of E. 92nd Street in Chicago, IL in an open lot. Attendees were instructed to park on the residential street. An assisted living facility across the street was kind enough to allow searchers use of their washrooms.

New Lenox SAR was signed-in by 8:45am. Shortly after 9:00am a briefing was held describing this search as a high-profile case, where any questions from people encountered should be referred to the Chicago Police Department Command Staff. A photo of the subject and clothing description was provided. Near the staging area were several family members of the subject, along with a Chicago Alderman.

A radio channel and cell phone to Command were provided for calling in potential clues. Safety, situational awareness and hydration was discussed, as well as the directive to not go onto any private property or abandoned buildings. In wooded areas, the only interest was in the actual subject or his clothing, so nothing else found in the woods needed to be called in. The Salvation Army rehab truck arrived at the staging lot at 10:15am.

By 10:45am the New Lenox Team (Bravo) was transported to their search location, a dense but searchable wooded area bordered by Metra train tracks and a residential neighborhood. Within an hour of searching, team members were made aware of additional information based on some found items by the canine unit and NLSAR. Chicago PD joined up with the team to review found items in the segment. While the Bravo Team Crew Leader escorted the Chicago PD to marked clues, the remaining team went on and completed the segment by 1:30pm.

Transport was requested, and Bravo was transported back to base for rehab. A debriefing was held at 2:15pm and NLSAR exited the staging area by 2:30pm.

Special thanks to our team members for participating in this search.

*Keeping our community safe, healthy, and prepared . . .*

# LOYALTY DAY PARADE – MAY 5, 2024

At 12:30pm on Sunday May 5, 2024, members of New Lenox CERT met Mark Sikorski in the upper-level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall to help decorate his pick-up truck for the Loyalty Day Parade. Additional CERT members arrived at the Village Hall and took the shuttle bus to our team’s staging area, which was on East 4th Street, just east of Cedar Road. By 1:30pm approximately 25 CERT members had gathered at the staging location. Many of our team members donated bags of candy for the parade, which added to the hefty stash that we already had on hand. In addition to the candy, our CERT members also grabbed our team’s (April, 2024) newsletter as well as additional emergency preparedness literature from FEMA. Each year, our team uses the parade as an opportunity to provide this type of literature to the community.



It should be noted that it was an absolutely beautiful day for a parade – sunny and about 70 degrees. While waiting for the parade to start, our team members took the opportunity to enjoy the nice weather and visit with each other.

The parade kicked off promptly at 2:00pm. Our team was directed onto Cedar Road by parade organizers. From there, the parade went north and past the viewing stand near Cedar Road & Haven Ave. The crowd was amazing and very appreciative of our team. The parade turned left onto westbound Haven Ave. as our team members tossed candy to the kids (okay – to a lot of adults too!). It was amazing how quickly the parade went. The next thing our team knew, the parade was making a right turn onto Veterans Parkway and into the Commons. The parade officially ended at the circle, between the Village Hall and New Lenox Public Library.

Special thanks to Mark Sikorski for decorating his truck and leading this event for our team. Also, a BIG thank you to those that participated and were kind enough to donate candy – that was super nice. Great job TEAM!



# “BE THE FORCE” 5K – MAY 4, 2024

At 8:00am on Saturday, May 4, 2024 thirty-four members of New Lenox CERT met in the upper-level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing. John Opoka, who graciously agreed to lead this event, provided those in attendance with donuts from Fleckenstein’s Bakery. Special thanks to John for his generosity – those donuts were excellent!

John then led a briefing, which included an overview of the 5K (expected attendance, map of the course, assignments, safety information, etc...). Following the briefing, everyone headed out to their assigned locations at approximately 8:30am.



The race kicked off at 9:00am promptly and the elite runners began passing our volunteers who were engaged in traffic management throughout the course. When it was safe to do so, our volunteers cheered on the runners (and walkers) for their efforts. At the water station (approximately 1 ½ mile mark near Wildwood Park), our volunteers offered water to participants. Lots of encouragement was given to participants from our water station volunteers too!

Shortly after 10:00am everyone completed the course at which time our volunteers returned to the Village Hall for a de-briefing. Overall, the event went very well and John thanked everyone for a job well done.

Well done team – thanks for helping to make this a very successful (and safe) 5K!



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

## LIGHTNING SAFETY & URBAN / SUBURBAN SEARCH – APRIL 13, 2024

On April 13, 2024, twenty-two 22 members of various SAR teams gathered at Building 4 at Hammel Woods in Yorkville IL. Three NLSAR team members had signed-in by 8:45am. Training began promptly at 9:00am with a presentation by Levi Gotte, Chief Deputy Coroner of Kendall County and Public Safety Trainer, on "First Responder Lightning Safety."

These are some interesting facts about lightning which enlightened the attendees:

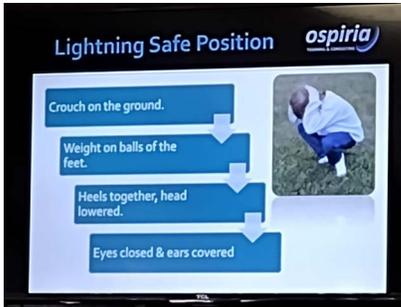
- The average lightning bolt will power a 100-watt household bulb for 3 months.
- A lightning bolt is an average of 50,000F, 5x hotter than the surface of the sun.
- Can strike up to 10 miles outside of a storm.
- Lightning strikes kill 10% of victims and 25% of survivors have long-term trauma.
- Where: 40% open fields, 23% under trees, 14% boating/swimming, 5% golf, 5% heavy machinery, 4% telephone.
- Who: 84% male, 16% female
- When: 21% June, 30% July, 22% August
- The brain is essentially a computer; lightning can affect the electrical connections like it would a computer.



The emphasis was made that nowhere is really safe from lightning; there are only "unsafe" and "safer" locations. "Safer" locations are within large, enclosed, substantially constructed buildings. Stay in inner rooms and areas. Avoid contact with conducting paths to the outside, as these can serve as lightning rods. Examples are corded phones, electrical appliances, metal doors. Lightning might strike outside the home which could affect a tv or computer but not affect the resident. Power surge cords are not always effective. The discussion also advised against taking showers during lightning storms as water and copper pipes are conductive. As for cell phones, they are connected to wireless wiring so they may not be really safe during a lightning storm. Hand held radios have a very low wattage with not much risk likely but should be limited. Umbrellas can serve as a lightning rod; it was discussed that it is slightly better to be wet in a lightning storm but best to be dry and safe.



Vehicles are safe because the shell protects the occupant, not the rubber tires as many people believe. The windows and doors should be closed, and do not touch any exposed metal. The charge will dissipate after several seconds so wait and then find a safer area. Follow the 30/30 rule during outside activities, which is if less than 30 seconds from flash to "bang" seek shelter. Wait 30 minutes after last lightning strike to resume outdoor activities.



After a brief break, Kim Gotte began a presentation at 10:00am on Urban and Suburban Search. A key difference is that in an Urban Search, the local Police Department will put out a "blast" informing residents there are searchers in the area. Searchers should not go up to doors or people's yards unless requested. Be polite but it is not necessary to talk to people unless they talk to you. Barns and sheds are off limits without permission, also because could be dangerous (what if meth lab was inside). Urban searches also differ in that there are people, hazards, debris, animals, traffic and other environmental factors. If a large group of vehicles is encountered as in a parking lot, search base should be contacted and they will determine further search or will send in separate team. Various search types were discussed, such as spiral, grid, open area. In urban evidence searches sometimes metal detectors are used, however, it picks up a tremendous amount of irrelevant debris as well.



At 10:45am, Kim went over the CalTopo map for the training Search Exercise. Noted, was a bicycle unit assigned to "blue" areas, with ground searchers assigned to "red" areas. Searchers drove to assigned segments and were instructed to locate and mark pink utility flags as clues. This exercise was completed by most of the searchers by noon, returning to Building 4. Following a wrap-up discussion, sign-out was 12:30pm.

Special thanks to our team members for attending this excellent training!

# TRANSPORT / CARRY METHODS AND PATIENT PACKAGING - APRIL 25, 2024

At 7:00pm on Thursday, April 25, 2024, over 40 members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Public Works Facility, 2401 Ellis, New Lenox, IL for training. This month's training covered Transport / Carry Methods and Patient Packaging.

Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and then introduced Patrick Hardin from MABAS, who is the USAR Operations Branch Chief, and member of Illinois Task Force 1. Pat then introduced his colleague, Will Paces, MABAS ILTF1 Training Director, who graciously agreed to assist Pat with the training. Also on hand were the following members of the New Lenox Fire Protection District: Battalion Chief Brian Applegate, Lieutenant Dan Reynolds, and Firefighter / Paramedic Luke Wroblewski.



Pat, with the assistance of all the fire service personnel listed above, showed everyone various pieces of equipment that they use to transport victims in a variety of situations. Methods shown included a back board using webbing, a back board using "spider straps," a hasty harness using webbing, and drag methods using heavy duty body bags as well as Reeves portable litters. The classroom demonstrations took approximately 30 minutes at which time everyone was divided into four teams - Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta.



At this time everyone moved out to the facility's large garage area where four stations were established as follows:

- Station #1 - Backboard with Spider Straps - led by FFPM Wroblewski
- Station #2 - Patient Drags and Portable Carries - led by Lt. Reynolds
- Station #3 - Hasty Harness (constructing & putting on) - led by Chiefs Hardin and Paces
- Station #4 - Backboard with Webbing - led by Chief Applegate



The instructors did an outstanding job demonstrating the methods and providing our team members with hands-on practice. Teams rotated stations everyone 15-20 minutes until all four teams had completed the four stations. After everyone was done, a team photo was taken, and a quick de-briefing was held. The training concluded just before 9:00pm.



Special thanks to our friends from MABAS and the NLFPS for training our team members in these transport methods. Everyone in attendance was very appreciative.

Lastly, a big thank you to those who attended. We had an excellent turn out and it was great to see everyone learning and practicing these skills. Great job by all!



# NAVIGATION (MAP READING & COMPASS) EXERCISES AND NIGHT SEARCH – APRIL 17, 2024

On Wednesday, April 17, 2024 from 3:30pm to 6:00pm navigation exercises and a search exercise was set-up on the grounds of New Lenox Waste Water Treatment Plant #3, which is located on the far north end of New Lenox. Shortly after 6:00pm our team members started to arrive and were directed to park within the grounds of the facility.

At 6:30pm everyone completed a 100-meter pace count (out and back). All team members were then provided with a pace count sheet that included pace count calculations.



Following the pace count, a short briefing was held which included map reading, compass techniques, navigation exercises, and a night search. In addition, everyone was provided with a QR Code for a Caltopo Map that included where all the exercises (stations) were located as well as the search segments for the night search.

Following the briefing, everyone was divided into four teams – Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Team members were also provided with a printed document that included the stations and the rotation times, which were every 20 minutes starting at 6:50pm. The four stations were as follows:

**Navigate Around a Building** – At a heading of 90 degrees, team members were instructed to navigate around a building. At a designated point, team members had to turn 90 degrees, pace outward until the building was cleared, then clear the building on a 90-degree heading. Once on the other side of the building, team members had to turn the other way 90 degrees and pace themselves back to where they were on the other side of the structure. Team members then turned once again on their original 90 degree heading and continued on to a designated point to conclude the exercise. The exercise was then completed in reverse, using 180 degrees as the heading.

**Flagging Exercise** – Team members were instructed to shoot an azimuth along a road, adjacent to a field where the exercise had been laid out. The azimuth (between 3-5 degrees) was then used for the flagging exercise. Team members were instructed to place a flag (red, utility type) in the ground every 10 paces. After placing the 3rd flag, a back azimuth was to be shot to ensure the flags were being placed in a straight line. After the 6th and final flag was placed, another back azimuth was shot.

**Determine Azimuth / 3 Fixed Points** – Team members were instructed to agree upon 3 fixed objects to shoot an azimuth at. Then individually, team members stood over a traffic cone, shot their azimuths and recorded them. After all team members were done, teams shared their numbers and discussed any major variances.

**Navigate to Objects / Heading and Distance Provided** – Everyone met at a traffic cone in the center of the exercise and were provided with the following:

- 312 degrees / 23 meters
- 354 degrees / 26 meters
- 45 degrees / 34 meters
- 150 degrees / 31 meters

Team members used their pace counts in this exercise. Individually, team members shot azimuths and used their pace counts to find the following: toy firearm, roll of red duct tape, CERT helmet and a flashlight.

A short de-briefing was held following the navigation exercises.

Following the de-briefing, everyone was divided into two teams – Alpha and Bravo. Teams were instructed to utilize the following skills in this search exercise: Caltopo (set tracks, mark clues), Communications (radios to contact Search Base), AMDR (based on



## Navigation Exercises and Night Search Cont'd

an infant CPR mannequin), Critical Spacing, Flagging, Crew Leader, Search Line (purposeful wandering, 360 search), and GPS / UTM (provide to Search Base upon locating a clue).



The teams did an excellent job finding two clues in each of their respective search segments. The search segments were approximately 1 acre and included steep terrain (Section 101 in particular) as well as thick woods and underbrush. Following the exercise, everyone met at the north end of Section 102 for a de-briefing. Shortly before 9:00pm everyone headed for their vehicles and the training concluded.

Special thanks to our team members for participating in this month's training!

CalTopo Map



176TL - Write



## ASSIST AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT / MISSING 11 Y.O.A. MALE – APRIL 9, 2024

At 6:20pm on Tuesday April 9, 2024, New Lenox Search and Rescue received a notice about a missing 11-year old boy in Aurora, IL. All NLSAR team members were then notified via NIXLE and instructed to meet at a staging location in Aurora. Five members of the New Lenox team responded to this search. There were 64 searchers from 11 different jurisdictions on site and teams began being deployed at 7:45pm.

NLSAR members were deployed to search in downtown Aurora. The team searched along streets, the river, bridges, stores, dumpsters, cars, landscaping and parking lots within their search area. Most of the stores and businesses were closed, and the streets were pretty quiet with very few pedestrians.

At approximately 9:30pm a call to all search teams was given to stand down as the subject had been found and was safe. All teams returned to search base at approximately 10:00pm, were thanked for their participation, radios were returned, and everyone was asked to sign out. The NLSAR team members returned home safely at approximately 11:00pm.

Thank you to the NLSAR members who participated in this search!



Photos courtesy of the Aurora Emergency Management Agency

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# SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING / HEALTH & SAFETY EXPO / TOUCH-A-TRUCK – APRIL 3, 2024

A very special thank you to over 30 CERT volunteers that assisted with this event, which was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at Lincoln-Way WEST High School.

Our volunteers started to arrive at 3:30pm and following a short briefing, they assisted in the following areas:

**Traffic Management** – directed Touch-a-Truck vehicles to their parking spaces, directed vendors to parking areas and directed event guests to parking areas.

**Assisted Vendors** – carried items (literature & giveaways) for vendors into the school and to assigned tables. After vendors parked, CERT volunteers showed them to their assigned tables and collected raffle prizes for the drawing at the end of the event.

**Informational Table** – staffed an informational table with emergency preparedness literature, CERT newsletters, and information about the next Basic Class.

**Miscellaneous Duties** – handed out raffle tickets for the drawing, helped set-up additional tables & chairs for the Health and Safety Expo, served as Event Ambassadors by answering questions, directed guests to activities, and handed out raffle prizes to winners at the end of the event.

**Severe Weather Spotter Training** – attended the two-hour severe weather spotter presentation.

The event concluded at approximately 9:15pm and a number of our volunteers stayed until 9:30pm.

Again, a BIG THANK YOU to our volunteers for playing an instrumental role in this very successful event!



**Additional Information**

**Daniel Martin**

*Safe Community Coordinator*

Phone: 815-462-6493

Fax: 815-462-6469

Email: [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net)

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

The 2024 New Lenox CERT Basic Class will be held as follows: September 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, October 1, and 3. These classes will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The Final Exercise (Disaster Simulation) and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 8:00am to 12:30pm, also at the Village Hall. If interested in registering for this class or otherwise becoming involved with the New Lenox CERT program, please contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox at (815) 462-6493 or via email at [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net).

- 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
- Class 10 Graduation 10/31/2015
- Class 11 Graduation 03/12/2016
- Class 12 Graduation 10/29/2016
- Class 13 Graduation 10/28/2017
- Class 14 Graduation 10/27/2018
- Class 15 Graduation 10/26/2019
- Class 16 Graduation 10/17/2020
- Class 17 Graduation 10/23/2021
- Class 18 Graduation 10/15/2022
- Class 19 Graduation 10/21/2023

To learn more about the CERT program and the CERT Basic Class, visit <https://www.ready.gov/cert>



Visit us on Facebook

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<https://www.facebook.com/NewLenoxSAR>

**ASSIST NEW LENOX LIONS CLUB WITH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW / FUNDRAISER – APRIL 7, 2024**

From 10:00am to 10:30am on Friday, April 5, 2024 members of New Lenox CERT arrived at Lincoln-Way WEST High School to help load a stage onto a flatbed trailer. The stage would be used on Sunday, April 7th as a runway for the Lions Club Fashion Show at New Lenox VFW Post 9545.



At 8:30am on Sunday, April 7, 2024, twelve members of New Lenox CERT met at New Lenox VFW Post 9545 to assist the New Lenox Lions Club with set-up for their event. CERT and Lions Club members worked hand-in-hand bringing in the stage pieces, which were quickly transformed into a stage / runway for the fashion models. In addition, 18 round tables were set-up (10 chairs per table) for 180 guests that would be arriving for the show / luncheon in the afternoon. The tables were then covered in table cloths and centerpiece floral arrangements were placed on the tables as well. Volunteers also carried in and set-up dozens of baskets that were raffle prizes for the event. Work was wrapped-up in under an hour and following a short de-briefing everyone left the VFW.



At 3:45pm, thirteen CERT members arrived at the VFW to assist with taking down the stage, tables and chairs. Everyone worked extremely well together and within 45 minutes the banquet hall was completely emptied. The stage was carried out to a flatbed trailer while all the tables and chairs were placed in a storage room. Volunteers also assisted vendors carry items out to their vehicles. After a short de-briefing everyone left the VFW at around 4:30pm.



At 10:00am on Monday, April 8, 2024, one member of New Lenox CERT met members of the New Lenox Lions Club at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. Everyone worked with custodial staff to return to the stage and miscellaneous items to the school. This work was completed in under 15 minutes.



Special thanks to everyone that helped on Friday, Sunday and Monday. The New Lenox Lions Club is a wonderful service organization that does so many good things for our community. It's always a pleasure working with them throughout the year during various events. Great job by all!

**Resolve to Be Ready 2024**

Preparing Makes Sense  
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