

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS – DECEMBER, 2022

On weekends in December (3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 17th & 18th) approximately 20-25 New Lenox CERT members assisted with Christmas in the Commons. Each afternoon, CERT members met at 3:30pm in the Council Chambers at the Village Hall for a briefing. Following each of the briefings, CERT members were in place at their assigned locations by 4:00pm. Christmas in the Commons was held each weekend from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Shortly after 8:00pm on each of the evenings, CERT members participated in a de-briefing to recap the event and strategize better ways of handling assignments. During the three weekends, CERT members assisted in the following areas:



- Official Lighting Ceremony (December 3rd)
- Visits with Santa (outside and inside the Village rotunda)
- Line Management at the heated tent where various activities took place
- Pedestrian Crossings in front of the Village Hall (several locations)
- Fire Safety and Pedestrian Safety at two fire pit locations (three fire pits at each location)
- Pedestrian Crossings at the reindeer display
- Traffic Management and pedestrian crossings at the entrance / exit @ Trinity Services, Inc.
- Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides – loading and unloading carriages / wagons and walking escorts 360° around the Commons.
- Lost and Found – taking custody of found items and reuniting them with owners
- Ambassadors of Information – directing guests to activities, answering questions, etc...
- Other Duties As Needed / Requested

Everyone did an excellent job keeping guests safe and informed during this annual event. An interesting side-note is that those volunteers assigned to escort the horse-drawn carriage rides were averaging between 18,000 and 22,000 steps per evening. That equates to a LOT of trips around the Commons.

Special thanks to ALL our volunteers for helping to make Christmas in the Commons 2022 a great event for the thousands that came out for all the wonderful activities!



Our Core Principles:

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

Recent Activities:

Christmas in the Commons	1
Presidential Volunteer Service Awards	3
Multi-Agency SAR Training	5
Team Building	7
Missing Man Frankfort	8
SAR Training / Navigation	8
Basic Land Navigation	9
Kane County Full Scale SAR Exercise	9
Building Search Training	10
"Scarecrow Stroll"	10
ShareFest	11
CERT Class 18 Final Exercise	12
Rock & Roll	
Silent Disco	13
ISARC Conference	14
Lightways Hospice & Serious Illness Care 5k	15
Evidence Preservation/ Staging/SARTopo	15
Drive Thru Flu Shot	16



Christmas in the Commons Cont'd



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

2022 PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS – DECEMBER 5, 2022

At 6:00pm on Monday, December 5, 2022 New Lenox CERT members met in the Community Room for food and beverages, in advance of the 7:00pm 2022 **Presidential Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony**.

At 7:00pm everyone met in the Council Chambers, located on the upper level of the Village Hall. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann. The mayor, who has attended ALL 18 CERT Basic Class Graduations and ALL Presidential Volunteer Service Awards Ceremonies, thanked CERT and SAR members for their dedicated service. The mayor also thanked CERT family members for the support they provide to their loved ones while they are away serving our community. Following the mayor’s remarks, Presidential Volunteer Service Awards were presented as follows:

BRONZE (100 – 249 volunteer hours)

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Eckhardt | Lynn |
| Holubek | Michelle |
| Humbrecht | Lauren |
| Scannell | Sandra |
| Sikorski | Mark |
| Spain | Debbie |
| Spain | Steven |



SILVER (250 – 499 volunteer hours)

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| Bobor | Mary |
| Morris | Joseph |
| Pyzek | Tammy |
| Sikora | Stewart |



GOLD (500 + volunteer hours)

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| Harris | Simon |
| Johnston | Laura |
| Maes | Janet |
| Murry | Alain |

In addition to the above-mentioned Presidential Volunteer Service Awards, the following CERT / SAR members received special plaques for 1,000 + volunteer hours:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Edgett | Patricia |
| Huizenga | Jennifer |
| Jones | Deborah |
| Selvas | Edward |
| Thompson | Scott |

Aside from the official awards, CERT / SAR members that are already in the “1,000 Hour Club” were recognized for their service as follows:

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| Cody | Mary Ann | 1,198 hours |
| Devault | Richard | 1,710 hours |
| Frigo | Joe | 1,502 hours |
| Johnson | Dan | 1,375 hours |
| Kacor | Berni | 1,411 hours |
| Mitchell | Phillia | 1,338 hours |
| Murphy | Lisa | 1,719 hours |
| Pakosz | Patricia | 1,417 hours |

It was noted that these numbers were run in October, so hours as of December 5, 2022 are actually higher. It was also mentioned that in all likelihood, next year’s ceremony will recognize volunteers with over 2,000 hours of service. Following the ceremony everyone returned to the Community Room for the team’s Holiday Party, which ended at approximately 9:00pm.

cont'd pg. 4



2022 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards Cont'd

Again, CONGRATULATIONS to this year's award recipients. This event was just one small way that we can say THANK YOU for your service. Please know how much you are appreciated year round!



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

MULTI-AGENCY SAR TRAINING IN WILMINGTON – DECEMBER 10, 2022

At 9:00am on Saturday, December 10, 2022, four members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the Wilmington ESDA's Facility, located at 103 N. Main Street in Wilmington, IL. The purpose of this month's training was to cover Winter Searching, Cool Toys for Search and Rescue, and to discuss the 2023 Training Schedule.

Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency and Director of Training, Illinois Search and Rescue Council, welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that the 2023 Illinois Search and Rescue Council Conference will be held at the Little Galilee Christian Camp in Clinton, IL from October 6th thru the 8th. Kim also provided a quick overview of both Wilmington and Braidwood ESDA to the 17 SAR members in attendance. Following the introduction, Kim began her (PowerPoint) lecture on Winter Searching. The following is a summary of the content.



WINTER SEARCHING

Foot travel may be required in one of two forms. 1. Non-technical: Walking, searching, and getting to the search area. 2. Technical: Climbing, accessing a search area, examining a high-risk area, and technical rescue. Kim noted that while walking / searching, to prepare for travel in SAR work, you need five things:

1. Fitness
2. Energy
3. Water
4. Rest
5. Technique

Kim also spoke about conditioning in SAR. Conditioning is an important component of SAR and should include nutrition and hydration. Important reminders include:

- Stay Hydrated - dehydration can contribute to hypothermia. Drink plenty of water and drinks with electrolytes if you will be active for a long period of time. Avoid drinks with alcohol and caffeine.
- Eat for Heat - something that's good for your body. Your body needs food to fuel your exercise and generate body heat.
- Monitor Your Energy - Fatigue can contribute to hypothermia, so be aware of your energy level and plan the length of your excursion accordingly. Rest when necessary and cut the outing short if you are unsure about your stamina.
- Rest / Preparation - good rest and nutrition will substantially improve performance.



Be properly clothed for the type of travel anticipated. Wear layers of clothing to prepare for the elements. Pack and carry the appropriate equipment for the type of travel anticipated.

Technique - experience can be partially replaced by practices learned through instruction and observation. Without proper techniques, the best conditioned person could easily reach their limits.

Pace - pace and rest play a big part in traveling efficiency. Maintain a realistic pace. Keep body temperature stable by reducing the practice of quick starts and lengthy tests. A realistic pace is essential in high altitude to avoid hypoxia. Any group pace is governed by the pace of the slowest group member.

Rest Step - used when terrain is difficult and great energy is required to take each step. The technique is slow but may be the only way to travel over difficult terrain, even at altitudes that are not considered high altitudes. The Rest Step was adopted from mountaineering. It's a technique of taking small steps, locking each knee, and synchronizing the breathing, to allow for a respite before taking the next small step.

Kim also covered:

- Novice travelers make the mistake of walking too fast.
- Walking Downhill - less fatiguing than walking uphill. Toes jam into the front of shoes, so tighten laces if going a distance downhill. Knees are jarred.
- Walking Sticks - useful for support during travel. Can be substituted for everything from a tent pole to a weapon.

cont'd pg. 6

Multi-Agency SAR Training in Wilmington Cont'd

- General Wilderness Travel - requires constant awareness. Keep your feet directly over your weight. Keep the soles of your boots flat on the ground to improve traction. Can be accomplished by taking small steps at a slow, steady pace. Avoid an angle of descent that is too steep.
- Brush - get through it quickly or travel around it. Found in gullies and drainages where water and rich soil are prevalent. Can be small trees, shrubs, or vines. Downhill brush can be dangerous because a foot may slip, catch the vegetation, and cause a fall.
- Scree and Talus Slopes - consist of small rocks and gravel that have collected below rock ridges and cliffs. Each step must be picked carefully. Done by kicking in with toe of the upper foot so a step is formed in the scree.
- Snow - greatest hazard in snow and ice areas is intense cold and high winds. Can lead to loss of dexterity and coordination. Judging distance can be difficult due to the lack of landmarks and the clear, cold air. Image distortion is a common phenomenon.
- Snow Travel - common problems include depth perception, footing in steep terrain, white-out conditions in wind, crevasses on ice / snow, and varying conditions throughout the day, need for extra equipment and energy expenditure in snow conditions.

COOL TOYS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Know Your Gear - if you carry gear, make sure you know how to use it. Gear can get very heavy and very expensive. Make sure that equipment is appropriate for the incident. If batteries are needed, carry the proper size. In SAR, gear is NOT a discipline where you should skimp on equipment. For the most part, you get what you pay for.

Binoculars - right size and type for the job. Right power for the job. Where it is nice to have high power, often it is overkill and can lead you to need more than one type. Binoculars Compact - compact and light style. Easy and light to carry in a pack or vest. 10-12 power is enough for what we do. Can be fairly inexpensive. Binoculars - Marine or Water Resistant / Waterproof - usually larger and heavier. Often combined with a rangefinder and / or compass. Often fog proof, which is nice in rain and humidity. Can include a wave height measuring feature. Can be quite a bit more expensive.

Night Vision / Infrared - often better to have monocular rather than binocular. Right generation so not to damage eyes (GEN II or higher). Can be pricey. Cheaper work for SAR purposes. Can look into places that you might not otherwise go (ex. under a porch).



Handheld Thermal / FLIR Camera - fairly expensive (\$600-\$1,000 or more). Learning curve to use. Hard to differentiate between items. Metal and flesh need to be different temperatures.

Goggles - nice to wear over glasses. Anti-fog lenses. Interchangeable lenses for day and night. Complete eye protection.

Flashlights - carry more than one plus extra batteries. Best to have dimmable or with several settings. Brighter is not better. Rechargeable is nice. Smaller is often better. Colored Flashlights - different uses for different colors. Red for night and searching for water / brass. Green to see animals and paperwork. Blue to see through surface water.

GPS (Cheaper) - reasonably priced. Not a lot of features. Can't load maps in many models. Color often not an option.

Garmin GLSMAP GPS - a bit higher price. Can add maps. Often can wireless transmit information to another. External antenna.

Garmin Inreach Satellite GPS / Communication Device - works when no signal on cell phone. Transmits location (trackable). Fairly expensive. Monthly / Annual activation fee. Stays charged for up to 14 days.

Following the presentations, the next hour was spent on putting together the training schedule for 2023. Training concluded at approximately 1:30pm. Special thanks to our SAR members that attended!



TEAM BUILDING – NOVEMBER 29, 2022

At 4:30pm on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 set-up for our team’s monthly training began at the New Lenox Public Works Facility, located at 2401 Ellis, New Lenox, IL. This month’s training was TEAM BUILDING and setting-up the exercises took approximately two hours. At 6:30pm team members began to arrive and by 7:00pm approximately 40 were in attendance.

Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. As an incentive to attend this month’s training, team members received a KOBALT LED headlamp, compliments of LOWE’S Home Improvement in New Lenox. Following opening remarks, Dan introduced Whitney Clever-Stock who designed all of the exercises. Dan noted that Whitney spent a tremendous amount of time drawing everything up, in addition to arriving early for set-up.



Whitney then provided a brief lecture on Team Building and Team Members. This included qualities and characteristics of great teams as well as great team members. Following the discussion, everyone was divided into four teams (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta). The stations for this training included:



Station #1 – “Minute to Win It” type exercises in the facility’s training room. This station was facilitated by Patty Edgett who led the teams in several games that involved red solo cups. This station also included an exercise where everyone lined up and traced a picture on a piece of paper on the back of their teammate in front of them. The object was to see if the image was accurately portrayed by the time the last person was done. In addition, teams participated in the Human Knot exercise. Teams stayed at Station #1 until it was their turn to enter garage where the other exercises were located.

Station #2 – Walking Planks, which was located in the facility’s garage. This exercise was facilitated by Jenn Huizenga and Jerry Reeves. Team members had to walk in unison on planks to get from point “A” to point “B.” This exercise included obstacles that the teams had to navigate.



Station #3 – Electric Fence, which was located in the facility’s garage. This exercise was facilitated by Lauren Humbrecht and Rich DeVault. Team members had to extract the “Rescue Randy Jr.” mannequin from an area that was surrounded by an “electric fence.” Team members had to develop an extraction plan, which included team members getting inside the fence, lifting the mannequin up and over the fence to awaiting team members on the outside.



Station #4 – Communication and Critical Thinking, which was located in the facility’s garage. This exercise was facilitated by Tricia Pakosz and Scott Thompson. Team members were given stacks of messages that they had to “deliver” to the appropriate location (Report to Incident Command, Keep to Ground Team, or Garbage). This challenge was similar to the game of “telephone.”



Station #5 – Obstacle Course, which was located in the facility’s garage. This exercise was facilitated by Lisa Murphy and Joe Frigo. A blindfolded team member was directed through the obstacle course by teammates. The blindfolded team member left “bread crumbs” (cotton balls) along the way. Once through the course, the team had to carry the large “Rescue Randy” mannequin through the course on a backboard, following the bread crumb trail that was left by their fellow team member.



It should be noted that before teams entered the garage for the above-described challenges, a discussion was had regarding Incident Command. Teams selected their Team Leader and discussed other roles such as safety officer, transport, medical officer, etc... It should also be noted that an overall scenario was provided to everyone and each of the stations represented one challenge along the way to rescuing a victim. At each of the stations, facilitators read the continuation of the scenario to teams, explained the challenge and answered questions. Each of the stations were timed and point deductions were calculated (ex. 10 second deduction if the electric fence was touched).

The exercises wrapped up at approximately 8:45pm at which time everyone returned to the training room for the debriefing. Each of the stations were covered, including best times for each of the stations.

In short, everyone did a terrific job and had a lot of fun.

Special thanks to Whitney for planning and executing TEAM BUILDING TRAINING. Also, a big thank you to our station facilitators who also did a terrific job. Lastly, we appreciate and thank our friends at New Lenox Public Works for the use of their amazing facility.

SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN / FRANKFORT, IL – NOVEMBER 26, 2022

The Will County Emergency Management Agency as well as the Illinois Search and Rescue Council requested mutual aid assistance for a missing man from Frankfort. Details from the Will County Sheriff's Office Facebook page as follows:

MISSING PERSON SEARCH ADVISORY - FRANKFORT AREA

On Saturday 11/26/2022, starting at 8:00 AM, Search and Rescue Team Members from multiple agencies will be in the area of Frankfort Square and surrounding areas as search efforts continue to locate Luis Padilla. Approximately 50-70 trained Search and Rescue volunteers and Law Enforcement Officers will be in the area, stationed at the closed Lincoln-Way North Campus. However, volunteers may also be parked on streets, as the search area has now been widened. Please use caution when driving in the area.

This event was organized by the Will County Emergency Management Agency at the request of the Will County Sheriff's Office Investigations Division. While we understand concerned citizens may want to assist, for liability and safety concerns, citizens will not be allowed to join or participate in the planned search efforts.

Since Mr. Padilla was reported missing, the WCSO Investigations Division has conducted multiple area searches utilizing K9s and drones, reviewed video submissions from residents and businesses, and followed up on tips submitted via email, voicemail, and anonymous crime tip submissions with information and possible sightings of Luis Padilla. Unfortunately, this is still an active investigation, and neither Mr. Padilla nor his bicycle have been located.

Residents of Frankfort Square and surrounding areas are requested to check their home security cameras for Mr. Padilla on Monday 11/14/2022 between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Luis Padilla was last seen wearing a grey short sleeved shirt, black pants, and riding a light blue men's bicycle.



Sixteen members of New Lenox SAR arrived at Lincoln-Way North High School by 7:30am as requested. Following the briefing, eight members were assigned to a search team, another seven members were assigned to another search team and one team member was assigned to a combined search team. Each of the teams completed two search segments each. Search segments included wooded areas and subdivisions. Search segments were completed by approximately 1:30pm.

We had a tremendous turnout for this search. Special thanks to our team members for giving their time and talents on a holiday weekend to search for this individual who still remains missing.

NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / NAVIGATION – NOVEMBER 17, 2022

At 3:00pm on Thursday, November 17, 2022 exercise set-up for this training began at Pilcher Park in Joliet, IL. Exercises that were set-up included:

- **Determining a bearing for three fixed objects.** From a traffic cone in an open field, a light pole was 330°, another light pole was 36° and a lighted sign across Gougar Road was 51°
- **100-meter pace count.** Team members will determine their pace count by walking 100 meters twice so their pace count number could be utilized in another exercise.
- **Find an object with given distance and bearing.** From a tree, team members will locate infant CPR mannequins there were placed at: 27 meters @ 151°; 100 meters @ 41°; and 81 meters @ 278°
- **Navigating around an obstacle.** Team members will be provided a bearing of 20° until they reached a fixed object. They will then pace the distance to clear the object at 290°. Once back on 20°, they will clear the object, then turn 90° (110°) and pace back to where they started on the other side. Then, they will be back on their 20° bearing.
- **Flag line.** In an open field, team members will be given a bearing of 305° to place 5 flags every 8 paces. Once the third flag is placed, team members will check their back azimuth (125°). The remaining 2 flags will be placed and the back azimuth will be checked once again.



Team members began arriving at approximately 6:30pm. Between 6:30pm and 7:00pm everyone completed their 100-meter pace count. At 7:00pm a briefing was held where each of the above stations was explained in detail. Everyone in attendance was divided into four teams (2-3) each and provided with a station rotation schedule. At 7:30pm the teams began the stations, which took approximately 10 minutes each to complete.

At 8:20pm everyone met at the original briefing area where a discussion of the exercises was held. It was noted that all teams found all the objects and everyone's azimuths were in 2-3° of each other when determining a bearing from a fixed object. After a discussion regarding the stations, everyone was now divided into two teams for a GPS exercise as follows:

- **Find objects with given GPS Coordinates.** Two CPR mannequins (adult head and torso) were placed in the woods at two separate locations as follows: 16T 0415728, 4597923 and 16 T 0415936, 4597949.

The two teams utilized their GPS units as well as the SARTopo app on their Smart Phones to navigate to the training aids. Both teams did an excellent job with this exercise. Rather than trudging directly through the woods, team utilized walking paths for a more efficient route to the objects. Once again, everyone met back at the original briefing area where a debriefing of the training was held. In addition to the debriefing, some upcoming trainings were discussed.

Special thanks to everyone that participated in this training, which tested a variety of navigation skills.

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

BASIC LAND NAVIGATION (BNAV) – NOVEMBER 5, 2022

At 8:00am on Saturday, November 5, 2022 six members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the Joliet Army Training Area, 20610 Arsenal Road Elwood, IL, to participate in an 8-hour Basic Land Navigation (BNAV) Class. This Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) course was sponsored by New Lenox CERT / SAR and there was a total of 15 attendees from several jurisdictions.



Kim Gotte, Section Chief, Search and Rescue, Kendall County EMA and Executive Director of Training, Illinois Search and Rescue Council, welcomed everyone along with Dan Martin from New Lenox CERT / SAR. Kim and Dan traded off sections of the course, which was presented via PowerPoint. Students learned the basics of land navigation, which included an overview of what search teams do. Emphasis was placed on flagging / flanking, where a compass is relied upon to keep teams on course. Students learned about different types of compasses, including their nomenclature. In addition, an overview of topographic maps was given, which included a classroom exercise. The classroom portion of the training concluded at 12:30pm at which time students were provided with a break for lunch.



At 1:30pm everyone met in Training Area #6 for the field exercise portion of the training. The field exercises included:

- 100-meter pace count
- Compass familiarity – finding a bearing on a fixed object
- Flagging exercise – 5 flags placed on a given azimuth every 8 paces – back azimuth checked
- Determining a bearing – 4 objects were sighted and readings were discussed as a group
- 75-Meter Compass Circle Exercise – 7 teams located placards with a given azimuth and distance

It should be noted that the class did quite well considering the 50-60mph wind gusts that lasted throughout the afternoon. The compass circle exercise concluded at approximately 4:30pm, after which a short discussion was held regarding navigation concepts learned throughout the day. Following this discussion, students completed their evaluation forms and were presented with their certificates of completion.

Special thanks to Kim Gotte for giving her time and talents to teach this class. Also, a big thank you to ALL the students that completed the class. Lastly, special thanks to the Joliet Army Training Area for the use of their classroom and Training Area 6.

2022 KANE COUNTY OEM FULL-SCALE SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE – OCTOBER 29, 2022



On October 29, 2022, the Kane County Full Scale Search and Rescue Exercise was held at Paul Wolf Campground / Burnidge Forest Preserve, located at 38W235 Big Timber Road, Elgin, IL. This exercise included agencies from Aurora, North Aurora, Carol Stream, Hanover Park, Kane County, Kendall County, McHenry County, Naperville, New Lenox, and Plainfield, along with drones and ATV's.

At 10:15am, two members of New Lenox SAR met at the New Lenox Village Hall to carpool to the Kane County exercise arriving at approximately 12:00pm. At 12:45pm, two searchers were assigned to Team "Hasty 2" to do an initial search. One New Lenox SAR member was an evaluator who was assigned to this team, and later assigned to follow Team "Delta." Evaluator responsibilities included going out with search teams and see if they were following proper SAR protocols.

Most searchers arrived at 1:00pm, with others arriving shortly thereafter. The searchers were divided into 5 groups, with an average of 5 members on each team. The scenario was: A 62-year-old man went fishing and did not return. His 2 sons were concerned, so one of them called 911 and stayed home, while the other son (34 years old) went to the campground with his young son and daughter to look for the 62-year-old father. Since none of them returned, all four of them were reported missing. During the briefing, each team was handed a printout for each victim which included their age, name, and description.



Our team member was assigned to Team "Bravo" along with members from Carol Stream and Kane County. The grid was divided into 20 search segments. At 1:30pm, Team Bravo was deployed to Section 2, which included a large area near the pond. Most of this area was wooded with extremely dense brush and thorn bushes.

At approximately 4:00pm, the teams were notified that a real person was reported missing and last seen at this campground. The victim was a female, 50 years old, from the Ukraine, blonde hair, and did not speak English. She was last seen at this campground, so the teams were instructed to continue searching their assigned areas, except now they were searching for a real missing person instead of mannequins. The drones were searching as well. The woman had been arguing with her daughter-in-law, got upset, walked off, and disappeared. This search lasted approximately one-half hour, when it was announced that she was found safe.

Team Bravo then continued the training search until 5:30pm with about 60% of the section completed. They then took a break to hydrate, rest, and eat dinner that was provided by the Salvation Army. After the break, Team Bravo was assigned to Section 17 which was on the north side of the campground. They were to search from north to south, and from the west border to 100 feet out. This segment had tall grass, but was not as dense as the first one. The search was not quite completed when at 7:30pm, all units were to return to base. A small team was put together and given coordinates to retrieve the mannequins that had not been found. At 8:00pm a hot wash was held which lasted one hour. New Lenox team members signed-out at 9:00pm and arrived back at the Village Hall at approximately 10:15pm.

Special thanks to our team members for making the long drive to participate in this valuable exercise!

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

BUILDING SEARCH TRAINING – OCTOBER 26, 2022

At 6:00pm on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 instructors for this training arrived at the New Lenox Public Works facility to set-up search exercises designed to complement this training. By 7:00pm over 40 New Lenox CERT members arrived at the facility and were welcomed by Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator. Dan then spent the next 20 minutes or so reviewing concepts from the Light Search and Rescue Unit, which included: Search and Rescue definition (size-up, search, rescue), Deciding to Attempt a Rescue, Goals of Search and Rescue, Safety Considerations, Search Markings, Search Methodology, Communication, and Tips / Best Practices. Everyone in attendance was also provided with a printed copy of the lecture.

At approximately 7:25pm everyone was divided into four teams (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie & Delta). In addition, everyone was provided with a color copy of the station rotation, which showed teams rotating every 15 minutes starting at 7:30pm. Stations were as follows:



Station 1: Search of shop areas led by Lisa Murphy and Lauren Humbrecht

Station 2: Search of mezzanine areas led by Joe Frigo and Whitney Clever-Stock

Station 3: Search of open garage area led by Scott Thompson and Phillia Mitchell

Station 4: Evidence search in open garage area led by Dan Johnson and Tricia Pakosz

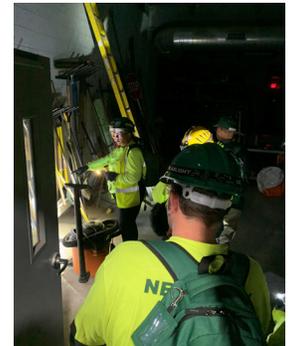


The station facilitators provided briefings for each of the teams and gave them a few minutes to determine assignments. At Stations 1 & 2, teams searched for mini footballs, at Station 3 they searched for small lengths of pipe insulation (similar to pool noodles) and at Station 4 they searched for small steel washers. Station facilitators evaluated how the teams searched (search methodology), how they communicated, how they documented finding "victims," and their overall results (how many items found).



The stations concluded at approximately 8:40pm at which time everyone headed back to the facility's training room for the debriefing. During the debriefing the station facilitators discussed strengths and areas for improvement. Time was allotted for Q & A and discussion, which was followed by a raffle. Many attendees took home holiday wreaths as well as aloe plants that were provided by Carrie Williams – thank you!

Special thanks to our station facilitators for doing a terrific job and thanks to everyone that attended!



NEW LENOX CERT PARTICIPATES IN "SCARECROW STROLL" – OCTOBER 24TH THRU NOVEMBER 2ND

Seven members of New Lenox CERT met in the New Lenox Commons at 5:30pm on Friday, October 21, 2022 to put together a display for the "Scarecrow Stroll," hosted by the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce.

Our extremely creative volunteers created a display featuring a scarecrow "victim" being treated by none other than our team's training mannequin, Rescue Randy. Randy, dressed in CERT attire, did an excellent job splinting the "victim's" leg, under the watchful eye of a number of smaller scarecrow friends.

This year's "Scarecrow Stroll" runs from October 24th thru November 2nd and features over sixty organizations. Take a stroll around the Commons to check out all the terrific displays, including ours!

Special thanks to our amazing volunteers for taking the initiative to participate in this year's event. You knocked it out of the park!



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

ASSIST SHAREFEST WITH EVENT AT PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – OCTOBER 23, 2022

At 9:00am on Sunday, October 23, 2022, fifteen members from New Lenox CERT met at Providence Catholic High School, 1800 W. Lincoln Highway in New Lenox, for the purpose of assisting with the ShareFest event. CERT volunteers were to provide traffic management, as well as pedestrian safety to those attending the event. John Opoka, New Lenox CERT Team Leader, served as the on-site supervisor for this event.

Prior to the briefing with CERT members, John met with Father John Merkelis, President of Providence Catholic High School, and Gary Cheney, ShareFest, to go over logistics and other pertinent protocols. In this early morning meeting, it was decided to have the event completely outdoors due to the magnificent weather. This meant that all clothing and goods initially staged inside the high school needed to be moved outside in a very short time. An "army" of youth volunteers and some adult volunteers that were assembled made this happen. It was a very impressive operation!



New Lenox CERT had three members that arrived very early. They immediately became busy placing traffic cones and determining the positioning of traffic lanes and traffic flow. This was important since vehicles began to arrive at 7:00am and by 9:00am almost a complete row of vehicles was assembled.

At 9:00am John led the briefing with New Lenox CERT members by thanking them for coming. John also introduced Gary Cheney, which included a short bio and synopsis of the amazing work he does. Gary is a man with a Big Heart and a Big Brain that's needed to plan, organize and execute these types of events.

John mentioned that in our CERT training where we "Size-Up" before we act, Gary Cheney has done that with this event. We were now in the final stage of "taking action" to make this happen. New Lenox CERT was proud to assist in this regard! Gary's response: "I love New Lenox CERT!"

At the eleventh hour we found out that New Lenox ESDA was unable to provide personnel and vehicles for this event. New Lenox CERT immediately stationed two volunteers at the West Entrance and two volunteers at East Exit to manage traffic.



At 9:10am the remaining twelve New Lenox CERT members went to their assigned positions. Ten with parking lot assignments, and two with table duty with other volunteers.

Over 200 vehicles were directed and lined up by CERT volunteers who were kind and respectful to those arriving for the event. Many of the attendees made a point of thanking our volunteers. It really was a good feeling to help and see so many that were appreciative of our efforts.

Throughout the event minor problems were addressed and resolved. Upon conclusion of the event, a debriefing was held that included discussing measures to maintain and improve our future efforts with this event.

Gary Cheney released and thanked our volunteers at 1:00pm. Everyone expressed a good feeling to assist at such an awesome event. Special thanks to John Opoka for taking the lead and to everyone that assisted!



CERT CLASS #18 FINAL EXERCISE AND GRADUATION – OCTOBER 15, 2022

At 7:00am on Saturday, October 15, 2022 over a dozen veteran members of New Lenox CERT arrived at the New Lenox Village Hall to set-up for CERT Class #18's Final Exercise / Disaster Simulation. About half of the team went into the Village Hall to do moulage for approximately 30 "victims" that were scheduled to arrive at 7:30am. The other half of the team went across the street to the Village Commons to set-up a cribbing exercise, a controlled fire, and an area for the team to demonstrate their ability to turn off a gas main. In addition, the CERT equipment trailer (logistics) was placed at a pre-designated location with needed items placed near the trailer for optimal accessibility.



As noted above, "victims" (children and adults) began to arrive at 7:30am and were moulaged in the employee break room at the Village Hall. CERT Class #18 arrived at 8:00am and were granted access to the Community Room within the Village Hall to allow them time to do some pre-planning, despite not knowing the scenario.



At 8:45am the "victims" were read the scenario in the break room while CERT Class #18 was being read the scenario in the Community Room. The "victims" then walked across the street to the Village Commons where they transitioned into their role of "victims" of a tornado. Based on the scenario, the "victims" were given lacerations, bleeding, suspected fractures, open fractures and other injuries consistent with this sort of event. In addition, each of the "victims" were given an injury card to assist them with their role play. CERT Class #18 then exited the Village Hall at 9:00am and the disaster simulation was declared as active.



CERT Class #18 established Incident Command and quickly sent a team out to conduct a size-up and damage assessment. Search Teams were then established to search for victims. The search teams communicated their findings to Incident Command via portable radios. All found "victims" were triaged with green, yellow, or red triage tape and injury cards were completed. Immediate (red) injuries were treated and Transport Teams were requested to transport "victims" to the Treatment Area that was now established.



As the exercise progressed, "injects" were added such as the need to turn off a gas main in one area and suppress a small fire in another. As learned in class, the "victim" trapped under heavy debris (Rescue Randy Mannequin) and triaged in grave condition, was extracted last. The Team Leader for the Treatment Area kept track of the numbers (green, yellow, and red) and remained in communication with Incident Command regarding the number of "victims." The exercise concluded at 10:30am at which time everyone helped with clean-up. Following clean-up of the Commons and returning items to the CERT trailer, everyone headed over to the Community Room at the Village Hall for the de-briefing.



The de-briefing provided an opportunity for exercise evaluators / facilitators to comment in areas consistent with the Basic CERT Curriculum. This included Search, Triage, Treatment, Incident Command, Communications, Fire Suppression, Cribbing, Utility Control Shut-Off, Size-Up and more. In addition, the Incident Commander and her team discussed their role as did the Team Leaders for the Search Teams. Transport Team Leaders also provided comments as did the Team Leader for the Treatment Area.



At 11:40am the debriefing concluded and lunch was served to everyone in attendance. Following lunch, CERT Class #18 received the IEMA Act Oath that was administered by Jeff Butler, Deputy Director, New Lenox Emergency Services. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, then introduced Mayor Tim Baldermann, who was in attendance for his 18th consecutive CERT Graduation. The Mayor congratulated the class and thanked everyone that played a role in helping this class through the disaster simulation. The official graduation ceremony then commenced with 29 citizens receiving their certificates of completion, identification cards and CERT backpacks.

CONGRATULATIONS CERT CLASS #18 AND WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

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

ROCK AND ROLL SILENT DISCO – OCTOBER 15, 2022

At 5:15pm on Saturday, October 15, 2022, seventeen New Lenox CERT volunteers met at the New Lenox Village Hall for a briefing related to the “Rock and Roll Silent Disco,” sponsored by Mayor Baldermann and the Village of New Lenox. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, led the first half of the briefing while Megan Applegate, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor & Village Administrator, led the second half of the briefing. At approximately 5:45pm all volunteers exited the Village Hall and walked over to the Commons for assignments as follows:

- Roller Rink Safety – 8 volunteers – 2 at each rink
- Roller Skate Rental – 2 volunteers at the concession stand
- Headset Return – 2 volunteers at the exit near gate #1
- Stage / DJ Safety – 3 volunteers near the stage
- Floating Assignment – 2 volunteers, assigned where needed



The event was scheduled from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Attendees purchased an entry ticket for \$5.00, which granted access to the Commons. If desired, attendees could check out a headset to listen to the two DJs. The headsets lit up (red and green) based on which DJ an attendee was listening to. Skates were available at the concession stand for those that did not bring their own.

The rink near the library was designated as a kid and / or family rink, while the one in front of the police department was designated as the adult rink. Our volunteers did an excellent job keeping an eye on everyone. As predicted, there were some falls, but no injuries reported.

In addition to skating and listening to music, attendees had the opportunity to visit food trucks for some excellent food & beverages. It was great to see so many families enjoying the event on a cool mid-October evening.

Things started winding down close to 10:00pm where the headset return area became busy. After all the headsets were returned, everyone met for a short debriefing near Gate #1. Overall, it was a successful event and many hope that it returns in 2023.

Special thanks to everyone that assisted with the Inaugural Rock and Roll Silent Disco. Everyone did a terrific job!



ILLINOIS SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

Sixteen members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team attended the 2022 Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Conference. This year's conference was held at Little Galilee Christian Camp in Clinton, IL from Friday, October 7th thru Sunday, October 9th. Most of our team arrived at the camp on Friday afternoon for the purpose of setting-up a mock search scenario. This scenario was a 2-part breakout session that was scheduled for Saturday from 2:35pm to 5:30pm. A SARTopo map was created in advance of the conference, which our team members used to plan the search. Approximately two hours was spent going over boundaries and seeding search segments with clues. After the work was completed in the search segments, team members drove to Decatur, IL to check into the hotel that was recommended by the ISARC Conference Planning Team.



Friday evening was spent having dinner and hanging out at the hotel. Our team enjoys doing this each year because aside from the annual conference, most time is spent training or on call-outs. Having the opportunity to spend time together in a relaxed environment has proven to be beneficial for our team.

On Saturday morning, after a quick breakfast at the hotel, our team members drove to the camp where those staying at the camp were just finishing breakfast. The conference started with a welcome and opening remarks from Jason Buckley, which was followed by the Annual Membership Meeting. There were a few technical glitches during the morning session, but it allowed for some time to discuss other SAR-related items.

After lunch, some of our team members attended breakout sessions, while others went over to the staging area for the mock search. Some of the breakout sessions that were attended by our team members included K-9 Flanker and UTM / Map Reading. Both of these sessions started at 1:00pm.

At 2:35pm a briefing was held with those that were attending the Breakout Session that our team hosted, which was officially called "Mock Search." In short, our search included a search for two (live) victims that were last seen the night before. The live victims were played by two female team members who did an outstanding job. Other Team members served as evaluators / exercise facilitators, but also assisted participants with some search techniques. Our scenario ended shortly after 5:00pm with both victims being located. Following the search, a short de-briefing was held where strengths and areas for improvement were discussed. Following de-briefing, everyone headed back to the hotel for dinner and some additional social time similar to Friday evening.

On Sunday morning, following a quick breakfast at the hotel, team members headed back to the camp for the final day of the conference. Everyone attended the General Session (SAR Check-In / Staging), which was followed by the breakout sessions. Team members attended SAR Communications, Crew Leader, Equipment & Cool Toys for SAR, and K-9 First Aid. Following lunch, everyone headed home at about 1:00pm.

Special thanks to our team members that attended this year's conference. We would also like to thank the ISARC Conference Planning Team for offering this year's conference. We recognize that a tremendous amount of (volunteer) time is spent putting the conference and it doesn't go unnoticed.



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

LIGHTWAYS HOSPICE AND SERIOUS ILLNESS CARE 5K – OCTOBER 8, 2022



At 8:15am on Saturday October 8, 2022 New Lenox CERT Members assisted New Lenox Emergency Services with traffic management for the Lightways 5K, which supported Joliet Area Community Hospice. There were over 150 runners and walkers of all ages, along with some K9 friends, who completed the course in approximately 90 minutes. Our volunteers did a terrific job - no issues or incidents were reported. Special thanks to our volunteers for assisting with this event.

EVIDENCE PRESERVATION / STAGING / SARTOPO – OCTOBER 1, 2022

At 9:00am on Saturday, October 1, 2022 approximately 20 SAR members from various teams met at Hammel Woods Forest Preserve in Shorewood, IL for monthly Multi-Agency SAR Training. The training topics for this training included **Crime Scene / Evidence Preservation, Check-In / Staging, and SARTopo Mapping.**



The first training topic was on **Crime Scene / Evidence Preservation**, given by two Will County Sheriff’s Police Crime Scene Investigators. The presentation was Q & A style and covered many areas related to the preservation of evidence. Discussion included making sure searchers have a good briefing before commencing the search. This typically begins with Detectives providing a good overview of the case, including relevant background information. A solid briefing provides SAR Command, law enforcement, and searchers with a good idea of what might be relevant clues versus discarded trash. The evidence preservation discussion was from 9:00am to approximately 10:45am.



The next topic was **Check-In**, given by Kim Gotte, Kendall County EMA / SAR. Kim’s presentation included a PowerPoint as well as distribution of relevant forms that are completed during check-in. It was noted that it’s important to complete the forms properly, including areas that a searcher has been properly trained.

Kim’s next PowerPoint was on **Staging**, which included additional relevant forms. Kim explained how Search Managers group teams at staging. It was noted that searchers should NOT check-in at staging unless they’re 100% ready to go. Too often team members check-in, but when they’re called for an assignment, they are back at their vehicles, in the washroom, or otherwise roaming around. Once at staging stay there and be ready to deploy.

Kim also went over new features for **SARTopo**, including the Resource Page. Kim reminded everyone that when arriving on site, scan the QR code for the search. Once scanned, click on + at the top of the page and choose Resource. Enter your name, agency, canine, searcher, etc... Kim advised that all teams should start using this feature. SAR Managers are then able to export to Excel for sorting resources.



Also, when enabling tracking, use team designation (ex. “ALPHA”) and your initials. So, an example might be, “ALPHA MS.”

Kim also noted the difference between a Marker and Clue. A Marker should be used for starting and stopping. A Clue is evidence. Never list a body as a clue. Instead, list as “Find.” Be mindful that what you list as Clue shows up on the big monitor at SAR Command.

Kim also touched on the Debriefing Form. The Team Leader should consult with team for debrief information before completing the form. Upon the form’s completion, it’s to be turned in at SAR Command before leaving.

The training ended at 12:15pm. Special thanks to our SAR members that attended this valuable training, which was shared with our team members.

Additional Information

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Safe Community Coordinator

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Visit us on Facebook

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

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

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

The New Lenox CERT Basic Class is typically held in the Fall each year (September & October). If interested in taking the 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

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|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| • Class 1 Graduation | 10/17/2009 | • Class 10 Graduation | 10/31/2015 |
| • Class 2 Graduation | 12/05/2009 | • Class 11 Graduation | 03/12/2016 |
| • Class 3 Graduation | 02/27/2010 | • Class 12 Graduation | 10/29/2016 |
| • Class 4 Graduation | 10/30/2010 | • Class 13 Graduation | 10/28/2017 |
| • Class 5 Graduation | 04/09/2011 | • Class 14 Graduation | 10/27/2018 |
| • Class 6 Graduation | 11/12/2011 | • Class 15 Graduation | 10/26/2019 |
| • Class 7 Graduation | 10/20/2012 | • Class 16 Graduation | 10/17/2020 |
| • Class 8 Graduation | 10/19/2013 | • Class 17 Graduation | 10/23/2021 |
| • Class 9 Graduation | 10/25/2014 | • Class 18 Graduation | 10/15/2022 |

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

ASSIST VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX WITH DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINIC – OCTOBER 1, 2022

At 8:45am on Saturday, October 1, 2022 three New Lenox CERT volunteers met in the New Lenox Commons to assist with a drive-thru flu clinic. This event was hosted by the Village of New Lenox, in partnership with Jewel-Osco, and was held from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Our volunteers were briefed by Megan Applegate, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor & Village Administrator, who organized the event. In short, our volunteers assisted with traffic management within the Commons for the duration of the event.

The event was well organized and a success. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped make this possible!



**Drive-Thru
Flu Shot/COVID Vaccine Clinic**

Join the Village of New Lenox and Jewel-Osco on Saturday, October 1st from 9am-12pm to get your **FREE** seasonal flu shot and/or COVID vaccine!



- The clinic will be held in the Village Commons (101 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox), for individuals ages 3 and up. No pre-registration is required.
- The vaccines are **FREE** with most insurance providers (Medicare Part B and VA Insurance included), and will be administered by a Jewel-Osco pharmacist.
- At the event, you will be required to remain in your vehicle and wear a face mask. Be sure to bring your insurance card and copy of the consent form (if filled out prior to event).

** Pneumonia vaccines will also be available upon request **

You may download a copy of the **Vaccine Consent Form** at www.newlenox.net to bring with you OR pick a copy up from Village Hall during regular business hours Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5pm.

Please call (815) 462-6400 with any questions.



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