

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM *and* SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS – DECEMBER, 2021

New Lenox CERT volunteers played an integral role in this year's Christmas in the Commons event, which was held on December 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th. On each day of the event, volunteers met at the front steps (north side) of the Village Hall at 3:45pm for a briefing. Scheduled activities and volunteer roles were discussed before everyone headed out to their assigned locations. From 4:00pm to 8:00pm each weekend, CERT volunteers assisted in the following areas:

- Official Village Commons Lighting Ceremony (December 4th)
- Visits with Santa (line management and safety)
- Traffic Management near Trinity Services, Inc. (vehicles and pedestrians)
- Fire Pits (safety due to open fires – 3 pits at 2 locations)
- Horse and Carriage Rides (loading / unloading and pedestrian safety 360° around the Commons)
- Information (answer questions from guests, usually regarding location of activities)

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Our Core Principles:

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

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Christmas in the Commons – December, 2021 Cont'd

New Lenox CERT volunteers played an integral role in this year's Christmas in the Commons event, which was held on December 4th, 5th, Approximately 10-12 New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted each day and did an outstanding job keeping guests safe and informed. Debriefings were held at 8:00pm each evening for the purpose of identifying areas in need of improvement.

Special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for helping to make this a fun and safe event for all!



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

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – DECEMBER 18, 2021

At 7:30am New Lenox CERT volunteers began to arrive at the Elwood Village Hall, 401 East Mississippi, Elwood, IL to assist with Wreaths Across America. Debbie Bennett, organizer of the event, requested assistance at this location with loading wreaths into vehicles, which were scheduled in hourly “waves.” New Lenox CERT agreed to assist with this task from 7:30am to 4:00pm. Some volunteers signed-up for the 7:30am to 10:30am shift, other volunteers signed-up for the 10:30am to 1:30pm shift, and others signed-up for the 1:30pm to 4:00pm shift. It should be noted that some of our volunteers signed-up for all three shifts! A total of 30 New Lenox CERT members (and a few family members), assisted with this event and played an integral role in its success.

Vehicles began to arrive at 7:30am and an efficient system was quickly developed to transfer boxes of wreaths (9 per box) into vehicles. Before exiting the line and heading to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, vehicles stopped at a pop-up tent to see Debbie and other volunteers for additional instructions. There was a steady flow of vehicles throughout the morning and into the afternoon. Many volunteers moved boxes

of wreaths into the staging area while others loaded cars, pick-up trucks, and trailers. In addition, a number of our volunteers loaded their own vehicles and made numerous trips out to the cemetery to respectfully lay wreaths.

The whole operation switched locations in the early afternoon, which included a reversal of traffic flow. This was necessary because thousands of boxes of wreaths were staged at a second location on the opposite side of the “circle” as there were too many boxes to be staged at one single location. The switch occurred very efficiently and volunteers adapted quickly to the new location.

Shortly after 4:00pm the last vehicles came through the line to pick-up boxes. Approximately 27,000 wreaths were distributed and subsequently placed at the graves of those who bravely served our country. Special thanks to our volunteers for working so hard throughout the day. It was an extremely rewarding experience knowing that our team played a significant role in honoring our nation’s heroes.



ASSIST WITH MOBILE RX FOOD MARKET - DECEMBER 29, 2021

At 9:30am on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 fifteen members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team arrived at Cornerstone Church, 1501 Gougar Road, to assist with a food giveaway event. This event was sponsored by Silver Cross Hospital and the food was provided by the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Following a short briefing, volunteers set-up the traffic pattern and started staging vehicles that arrived early in the parking lot. Other volunteers assisted by unloading the truck and setting up the food distribution area. This included placing smaller items (ex. spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, pancake mix, pancake syrup, dairy) into plastic bags to make it easier to load into vehicles. Other items that were provided included oranges, carrots, potatoes, cereal, eggs, milk, energy bars, fresh meat and other non-perishables.



After the food distribution area was set up, the first cars came through the line at approximately 10:45am, 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time. Many of those that received food were grateful and thanked volunteers for assisting with the event.

The last cars came through the line at approximately 12:30pm at which time everyone helped with clean-up. Following a short de-briefing and team photo, most of our volunteers headed over to the New Lenox Township Food Pantry. There was extra food left on the truck, so the gentleman from the Northern Illinois Food Bank was kind enough to drive it over. In less than 30 minutes our volunteers had the truck unloaded and the food was put away in different areas as directed by Kathie Johnson, Family Services Manager, New Lenox Township.



Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this event - well done!



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

SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN IN CHICAGO – DECEMBER 20, 2021

At 6:00pm on Sunday, December 19, 2021 the Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) sent out a request for mutual aid for a missing 27-year old male. The search was scheduled for 9:00am on Monday, December 20, 2021 at the Catherine Chevalier Woods in Chicago, IL. This search was the continuation of a search that was held earlier in the day, which was led by the Cook County Forest Preserve Police Department. According Darik.News/en, Petko Yankov was “last seen at his home on Thursday, December 13, in the morning when his mother went to work.”

On Monday, December 20, 2021 one New Lenox SAR member arrived and signed-in just before 9:00am. By 10:00am two teams were created, Echo & Delta. Teams were then assigned to search segments and were subsequently deployed. A SARTopo map had been created, which also displayed the areas that were searched the previous day.

The terrain had a lot of deadfall and some massive thorn bush areas. After completing the assigned search areas, teams returned to Search Command at approximately at 2:15pm. Our New Lenox SAR member signed out at 2:30pm and headed back to New Lenox.

Special thanks to our SAR member for participating in this search.



Petko Yankov, photo courtesy of Darik.News/en

ASSIST SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL WITH MOBILE RX FOOD MARKET – DECEMBER 15, 2021

Between 9:30am and 10:00am on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, eighteen members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team met at New Life Church, 500 Gougar Road, New Lenox, IL, for the purpose of helping with a food giveaway event. This particular event was sponsored by Silver Cross Hospital and was in partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank. This Mobile RX Food Market was promoted through Silver Cross Hospital and was intended to feed those in need.

One of the first things that our volunteers did was set-up a traffic pattern with orange traffic cones. The pattern directed vehicles through the parking lot where they were staged while waiting to enter the food distribution lane. Next, our volunteers assisted staff from the Northern Illinois Food Bank with setting up tables and packaging food items for distribution. The set-up took approximately one hour and we were ready to go right at 11:00am. In addition to our volunteers, staff from Silver Cross Hospital also assisted in the food distribution lane.

While the event was in progress, many of the recipients expressed their gratitude not only for the event, but for the volunteers that were assisting as well. Everyone worked very well together and it was a truly rewarding experience to help others. Everything ended by approximately 12:30pm at which time our team members gathered for a short debriefing where the logistics of the event were discussed.

There was also some food left over from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Arrangements were made to take it over to the New Lenox Township Food Pantry. Our volunteers assisted by loading the food into their vehicles where it was driven over to the pantry and brought into the facility.

Special thanks to everyone that participated in this wonderful event!

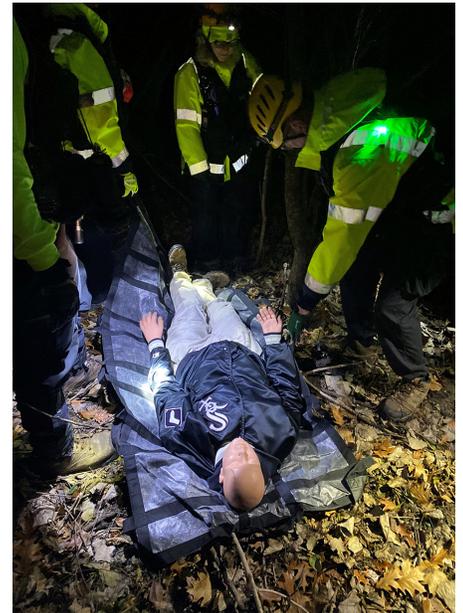


NIGHT SEARCH EXERCISE AT PILCHER PARK – DECEMBER 15, 2021

Preparation for the New Lenox Search and Rescue team’s monthly training started at 3:30pm on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at Pilcher Park. This month’s training included a night search exercise where a number of disciplines would be practiced and tested. These disciplines included, but were not limited to, crew leader, search basics, AMDR, critical spacing, flagging, navigation with compass, navigation with GPS using UTM coordinates, and navigation / map reading using the SARTopo mobile app.

Team members started to arrive at approximately 6:30pm, prepared their gear, and dressed accordingly for the weather. At 7:00pm a briefing was given to all those in attendance. In summary, the briefing included a search for a missing 13-year old boy with autism who had been on a field trip and disappeared. A complete physical and clothing description was provided.

At this time everyone was divided into three teams. Team Alpha was assigned initial search #1. Team Bravo was assigned initial search #2. Team Charlie was assigned initial search #3. The initial searches were on trails / roads that were logical routes that someone would take from the point last seen. After completing the initial searches, which included locating one clue (victim’s backpack), the teams returned to the staging area for assignments. While at the staging area, the SARTopo “tracks” were checked, which verified that the initial searches had been fully completed.



At this time everyone was divided into two teams (Delta and Echo). The teams were then assigned two efficiency searches, which were designated as Search Segments 1 and 3. Search Segment 1 was primarily an “urban search, consisting of paved parking lots and gravel roads around the Bird Haven Conservatory (225 Gougar Road) as well as the maintenance buildings for Pilcher Park. Search Segment 3 was primarily a wooded area adjacent to /west of Search Segment 2. Teams utilized proper communications when they departed from the staging area and when they arrived at their search segments. As outlined in the objectives for this exercise, teams completed AMDR, set critical spacing, and proceeded with their searches accordingly.

The “victim” (Rescue Randy training mannequin) had been placed in the north end of Search Segment 3. Due to dense woods and in the interest of time, an “inject” was provided regarding the “victim’s” whereabouts. Accompanying the were GPS / UTM coordinates, which lead one of the teams to the “victim.” The “victim” was then assessed, provided medical attention, and transported via portable litter to the staging area.

Shortly after 9:00pm a debriefing was held at the staging area where all aspects of the search exercise were discussed. In short, team members did a very good job with the exercise, but areas for improvement were identified as well. Special thanks to our friends at the Joliet Park District / Pilcher Park for allowing our team to conduct this night search exercise. In addition, special thanks to all of our team members that participated in the last training exercise for 2021!



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CLOTHING, GEAR AND DRONES – DECEMBER 11, 2021

At 8:00am on Saturday, December 11, 2021 seven members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the upper parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall. The purpose of meeting at this location was to carpool to SAR multi-agency training, which was scheduled to begin at 9:00am at the North Aurora Police Department, 200 South Lincolnway, North Aurora Illinois.

Team members arrived at the police department at 8:45am, signed in, and took a few minutes to network with other SAR volunteers. At 9:00am Kim Gotte, Kendall County EMA, Search and Rescue, welcomed everyone and provided a quick overview of ISARC activities.

Following the opening remarks, Kim started a presentation on clothing for SAR. Important concepts regarding clothing include: 1. First line of defense in harsh conditions. 2. Protects SAR members from cold related injuries. 3. Ensures comfort in adverse conditions.

It was noted that natural fiber materials are derived from plants or animals and include cotton, wool, silk, and down. Pros and cons of each of these fibers were discussed.



Kim also spent a few minutes talking about synthetic fiber materials. These fibers are produced by chemical synthesis and include nylon, polypropylene, and polyester. The pros and cons of each of these fiber materials were also discussed. Kim also talked about some registered trademark materials in each of these categories (Thermax, Thinsulate, Polarguard, Polartec).

It was also noted that the rate of heat transfer through clothing depends on the quantity and thickness of dead airspace. It also depends on the amount of air that passes through material, as well as water, and moisture. In addition, heat loss can be attributed to closures that are not designed or applied properly. This includes seams, vents, pockets, and reinforcements.

An important concept of this presentation included information about the "Layer System." From the outside working inward, the layers include: Waterproof shell, synthetic down parka, fleece jacket or vest, synthetic or wool shirt and pants, synthetic wicking long johns, perspiration, heat, and skin.

Other important concepts for dressing appropriately include an underneath layer, wicking layer, clothing layer, insulation layer, and shell layer. Shell options include those that are waterproof, water repellent, water resistant, waterproof and breathable.

In addition, Kim discussed additional clothing considerations. These included items for the head, hands, feet, footwear, and gaiters. Several recommended clothing items were discussed and various examples were shown.

Kim then switched PowerPoints and transitioned into a presentation on personal protective equipment and gear. Kim noted that it's very important for searchers to wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, sturdy boots with ankle protection, a hat, cap, or helmet, eye protection, and work gloves.

In addition to what is worn on a searcher's body, a good pack or vest appropriate for carrying all gear and equipment is required. During the presentation several examples of packs and vests were shown and some discussion ensued regarding various options.



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Clothing, Gear and Drones – December 11, 2021 Cont'd

Kim also noted that searchers often burn a lot of calories during lengthy searches. As such, it's important to carry high energy snacks, granola bars, or even peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

It's also important to carry personal first aid kits. They should include items such as Band-Aids, first aid cream, personal medicines, pain medicine, tourniquet, and other items that would be appropriate for a variety of search environments.



It was also noted that items such as compasses, pocket size notepads, pens, pencils, and whistles are key items for a searcher. Various types of compasses were discussed and examples were shown.

Other key items included flashlights, headlamps, spare batteries for flashlights and GPS units, a wrist watch, a knife or utility tool.

Some time was spent talking about flagging tape, flagging tape holders, surveyors' flags, and tree markers. Again, several examples were shown and discussed.

Seasonal search gear was also discussed and included items such as insect repellent, sunscreen, outer layers appropriate to the environment (rain gear, winter coat, etc.), and small Ziploc bags or dry bags.

Survival items were also included in the discussion, which included items such as waterproof matches or lighters, duct tape, and items that can be utilized for shelter.

A discussion was also held regarding additional items such as portable radios, cell phones, handheld thermal devices, night vision, and drones. Some other items to have "just in case," include extra clothes, extra socks, dry boots, muck boots, waiters, tarps, towels, and sleeping bags.

One of the most important concepts in this presentation included a segment on equipment readiness. It was noted that following a search, searchers can easily forget to make sure that equipment is ready to go before the next search. As such, it can leave a searcher unprepared when the time comes. Being prepared to go at a moment's notice is critical. Searchers may be alerted for another search within hours of completing one.

Along these lines Kim talked about the four "ARs." They include Replenish, Repair, Repack and Rest.

Following the presentation on gear, Kim introduced several law enforcement officers from local agencies who have formed a drone team. These gentlemen did an excellent job describing their mission and the types of searches they do utilizing their drones. They talked about several cases where their drones have been utilized as well as the various outcomes. They went through each of their respective drones that were on display and talked about things such as flight time, camera capability, and flying distances. Unfortunately, due to high winds, no demonstration could be conducted.

Following the three training segments, a meeting was held with everyone in attendance to discuss the 2022 training calendar, which included training topics and locations. This meeting concluded at approximately 1:00pm.

Our team members departed the North Aurora Police Department team and were back at the village hall shortly before 2:00pm. Special thanks to our volunteers who attended this very informative training event.



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TEAM BUILDING – NOVEMBER 30, 2021

At 6:00pm on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 nine members of New Lenox CERT met at the New Lenox Public Works Facility, 2401 Ellis, New Lenox, IL for the purpose of setting-up team building exercises, scheduled to start at 7:00pm. From 6:00pm to 6:30pm, the following stations were set-up:



Station #1 “Walk the Planks,” led by Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy

Station #2 “Balance Boards,” led by Berni Kacor and Jenn Huizenga

Station #3 “PVC Pipe / Golf Ball Transport,” led by Tricia Pakosz and Jerry Reeves

Station #4 “Spaghetti / Marshmallow Tower Building,” led by Dan Johnson and Rich DeVault

By 7:00pm, approximately 40 members of the team were on site and were welcomed by Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator. A brief synopsis of upcoming events was provided, which was followed by a discussion regarding the qualities of a successful

team, characteristics of good team members, and key elements of teamwork. Some of the key points of the discussion included the need for good communication, team members contributing their fair share of the work, good leadership, positive attitude, ability to adapt, trust, commitment, and working toward a common goal.

Following the discussion on successful teams, everyone was divided into four groups / teams – Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. In addition, everyone was provided with a “station rotation grid,” which outlined how the teams would rotate from station-to-station every 15 minutes starting at 7:15pm.

At the “Walk the Planks” station, team members used two sets of planks to walk a distance of approximately 50 yards. 3-4 team members (per set of planks) competed against each other. Each group worked toward developing communication and coordination skills needed to walk together in sync, without falling off the planks.



At the “Balance Boards” station, two teams of three competed against each other. Each team had to balance a triangular board with three 2” dowel rods, which were approximately 16” in length. One ball at a time, each team had to “transport” a ping pong ball, racquet ball, baseball, softball, tennis ball, football and a playground ball approximately 50 feet and into a large container. Teams had to rush back to the start and repeat the process until all balls were transported and placed into the container.



At the “PVC Pipe / Golf Ball” station, team members were provided with sections of PVC pipe, which were cut into different lengths. The pipes also had straight cuts as well as angled cuts. Teams were then given a golf ball, referred to “Mr. Mechanic.” Mr. Mechanic had to be transported through the pipes for the distance of approximately 50 yards, over obstacles. If team members dropped Mr. Mechanic or knocked over an obstacle, they had to start over from the beginning.



At the “Spaghetti / Marshmallow Tower” station, team members were provided with 20 pieces of hard spaghetti, a length of masking tape, a length of string, a marshmallow and a pair of scissors (only for cutting). Team members had to ensure the marshmallow did not touch the table and build a tower using the items that were provided. It was interesting to see that all four teams that rotated through this station chose different strategies, but all were successful. In fact, one team’s tower measured approximately 46” in height.



After the teams completed all four stations, everyone met at the “Walk the Planks” station for a final competition. Two team members were selected from Alpha and Charlie, while two team members were selected from Bravo and Delta. Everyone else lined up to cheer on the teams who did an outstanding job walking on the planks (over 50 yards and back). It was a great way to end the team building challenges!

At about 8:40pm everyone returned to the Training Room where a short de-briefing, covering all the stations was held. The station facilitators provided excellent recaps of how each of the teams did. In addition, the facilitators shared how teams communicated and worked together to overcome challenges.

Dan Martin wrapped-up by thanking the station facilitators as well as everyone who participated. The training concluded just before 9:00pm. Way to go team!

ASSIST SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL WITH MOBILE RX FOOD MARKET – NOVEMBER 24, 2021

Between 9:30am and 10:00am, fourteen members of the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team arrived at New Life Church, 500 South Gougar Road to assist with a “Mobile RX Food Market.” This event was sponsored by Silver Cross Hospital, with support of ShareFest New Lenox, Northern Illinois Food Bank, and New Life Church.



As CERT volunteers arrived, they agreed to assist with setting-up a traffic lane from the front of the church to the back parking lot near the food distribution line. In addition to the traffic lane, the parking lot was set-up to hold / stack vehicles while they waited for their turn in line. Other CERT volunteers helped move pallets of food into the food distribution line. Additional CERT volunteers, working hand-in-hand with other volunteers, packed cardboard boxes with miscellaneous items. This work went on for about an hour and at 11:00am the first vehicle came through the food distribution line.



Although it was a very cold and windy day, all the volunteers worked diligently throughout the event. Approximately 250 families were fed over the course of two hours. Many of the people picking up food were very grateful and took the time to thank volunteers for their efforts. Given the fact that it was the day before Thanksgiving, it was very heartwarming to know

that many of the families genuinely appreciated the food that was being provided.

The last vehicle came through the line at approximately 1:00pm at which time all the volunteers chipped in to clean-up the area. A debriefing was held with all of our CERT volunteers who were thanked for their time and effort.

Special thanks to everyone that assisted with this food giveaway event!



MULTI-AGENCY SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING – OCTOBER 9, 2021

At 8:00am on Saturday, October 9, 2021, three members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at the upper level parking lot of the Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to the Aurora Police Department for Disaster Medical Ops / Transport / Patient Packaging training. The team members arrived just before 9:00am along with other agencies, with about a total of 30 in attendance.

Kim Gotte, Kendall County Emergency Management Agency, facilitated this training and kicked-off the day with wilderness training. In this session she covered things such as abrasions, contusions, punctures, burns and internal bleeding. She then discussed head-to-toe assessments and keeping the victim calm, followed by the three types of bleeding; arterial (arteries), venous (veins) and capillary (capillaries). She then discussed how to stop the bleeding and treat victims with imbedded objects. She wrapped-up this session by discussing tourniquets and the various gauze / bandages to be used when treating victims. She then shared different bandages with everyone to practice the proper techniques for treating wounds.



In the next session, Kim discussed fractures (open and closed), dislocations, sprains and strains. She covered splinting and the different types of splints that can be used in the field, like cardboard, sticks and other objects to stabilize limbs. The final classroom topic that was covered was treatment for bug bites and stings. One method is to mix meat tenderizer with water which forms a paste that will dry but instantly soothes the affected area. She discussed poison ivy and poison oak “leaves of three, let them be,” is good to remember when in the woods.

The final hour of the training was outside to practice various transport techniques including tarps, backboards with spider wraps, baskets and portable litters (tarp with handles). The key for all carries is to stabilize the victim, especially the head and neck area. Ensure good communication amongst the team that is carrying the victim and if the victim is conscious maintain an open dialog with them to make them comfortable.

The training ended at 1:00pm and the three NLSAR members signed-out and departed, arriving back at the New Lenox Village Hall at 2:00pm. Special thanks to Kim Gotte and our three team members for attending this valuable training!



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MULTI-AGENCY SAR TRAINING / CREW LEADER AND FLANKER –NOVEMBER 13, 2021

At 7:00am on Saturday, November 13, 2021 four members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met in the parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall for the purpose of carpooling to Monthly Multi-Agency SAR Training. This month's training was held at the Boone Creek Conservation Area, 916 N Cold Springs, Road, Bull Valley, IL 60098, which is about a 1 ½ hour drive from New Lenox.

Our team members arrived at the Boone Creek Conservation Area at 8:30am, signed-in, and helped set-up the outdoor classroom, which was being held under a pavilion. At 9:00am Kim Gotte, Kendall County SAR and Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISARC) Board Member, welcomed everyone and provided a brief overview of ISARC events. Kim then began her (PowerPoint) presentation / lecture by discussing the make-up of ground search and rescue teams, including the role of Crew Leader. Kim noted that leadership is essential for the position of Crew Leader for a variety of reasons. Team members (volunteers) deserve good leadership and it's also critical from a safety standpoint. Additional TRAITS for a good Crew leader include:

- Knowledge, fairness, and willingness to listen.
- Understanding and knowledge of NIMS.
- Willingness to share information and keep team members informed.
- Care about team members. If you (Crew Leader) don't care, they won't care.

Additional traits / considerations include:

- Praise in public (and if needed, "discipline" in private)
- Crew Leaders that are positive - especially in negative situations.
- Crew Leaders that are calm and fair.
- Crew Leaders who enjoy what they do, will invariably do it well.

Kim also spoke about authority, responsibility and accountability within SAR. Safety is a also a key component in ground search and rescue operations and includes:

- Safety of team members, which is even more important than the safety of the victim. If it looks dangerous, be sure to make a good decision whether to proceed. Do everything to protect your people.
- Crew Leaders need to ensure that safety protocols are being followed.
- Team members have to watch out for each other as well.
- Crew Leaders need to ensure that no team member is left alone.
- Crew Leaders need to ensure that team members take breaks, stay hydrated and get nourishment.

Kim also covered whistle signals that Crew Leaders may use during searches. 1 short – means stop;

2 short – means go; 3 short – means danger, but keep moving unless you encounter a problem; 1 long – means collapse on Crew Leader.

Kim also covered Probability definitions as follows:

- POA - Probability of Area
- POD - Probability of Detection
- POS - Probability of Success
- POS = POA X POD

Estimating POD > terrain, time spent, thoroughness, number of searchers.

Factors that affect POD include:

- Prejudice
- Searcher Fatigue
- Searcher Boredom
- Weather
- Terrain and Vegetation
- Searcher Training / Morale
- Ineffective Leadership

During the presentation Kim also covered the importance of documentation, including some of the forms that are commonly used during searches. Kim briefly highlighted the "Lost Person Form," "Crew Assignment Form," and the "Debriefing Form."

Another important aspect of conducting an effective search includes "Search Forward Movement Tactics." Kim provided examples of how a curve can affect a line, how to line up on a curved trail, and line movement using the "flanker first" method. Kim then spent some time talking about "flankers," who are also referred to as "flaggers." They are responsible for keeping the team on set path as well as marking where the team has searched.

Following the classroom portion of the training, everyone was divided into teams of approximately 5-6 searchers each. Teams were then instructed to conduct an efficiency search on a designated bearing while flagging every four paces. In addition, the exercise was designed to allow each team members to assume the role of Crew Leader, Flanker and Line Searcher. The exercise took approximately 45 minutes and concluded just before 1:00pm. Following a short debriefing everyone departed the conservation area, including our New Lenox SAR team members.

Our team members arrived back at the New Lenox Village Hall at approximately 2:30pm. Special thanks to Kim Gotte for providing the instruction and to our team members who attended.



DUPAGE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE POLICE SAREX – OCTOBER 30, 2021

On Saturday, October 30, 2021 two NLSAR members participated in a full-scale exercise at the Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville, IL.

They arrived at 7:00am, signed-in, were given a training plan packet, and were briefed as to the events for the day. NLSAR was asked to provide support to the people in the land search portion of the exercise with one member embedded into a team and the other being an evaluator / instructor.



As a good number of the participants were CERT members and had not previously completed BNAV or GSAR, the basics of GSAR were focused on. These included searcher safety, AMDR, grid search, 360 turns and simple compass use (north, south, east and west). SARTopo was mentioned, but only SAR members utilized this tool.

Participants were signed-in and were assigned to one of four teams. At approximately 8:30am an extremely upset and injured woman (actress), began to interact with searchers who reached out to law enforcement, who gathered pertinent information on her missing husband. Medical personnel also addressed her wounds. This was the

start of a missing person scenario. Information was gathered, a quick briefing was held and teams were sent to search segments. During this first search segment there was a real-life event. The search exercise was put on hold until it was safe to proceed. Clues were found, reported, and gathered. The morning exercise ended with the missing man being found by searchers, treated and transported by medical personnel.

Teams broke for lunch, which was served by the Salvation Army, at 11:30am.

After lunch, four new teams were formed. The exercise started with a distraught mom (actress) seeking help for her missing husband and two children. The afternoon scenario proceeded without incident and the missing people were found, treated, and transported.



The exercise was called at approximately 3:30pm at which time searchers returned to command for a short debrief. Safety and the importance of moving safely, yet with purpose were stressed. Participants then turned in radios and signed out. NLSAR members were back home by 5:00pm.

Special thanks to the DuPage County Forest Preserve Police for putting together this exercise and thanks to our SAR members who participated. In addition, special thanks to Bill Dabovich, Dabo's Photos, LLC for the photos of the exercise.



ASSIST VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX WITH DRIVE THRU FLU SHOT CLINIC – OCTOBER 24, 2021

On Sunday, October 24, 2021 from 10:00am-1:00pm, the Village of New Lenox, partnered with Jewel / Osco Pharmacy, in hosting a drive-thru flu shot clinic in the Commons.

At 9:30am CERT three met with staff in front of the Village Hall to discuss the logistics of the clinic, including road closures and traffic flow. The weather, while uncooperative, did not seem to hinder attendance, as by the start of the clinic at 10:00am, a line of vehicles had already begun to form. CERT members were stationed in two locations and did an amazing job managing traffic flow between the registration area and pharmacy technicians' tents, splitting vehicles into two lines and holding them in place until a technician was available.

By the end of the clinic (and nearly an inch of rainfall!), around 50 cars had passed through, with Jewel / Osco Pharmacy having administered more than 150 different shots.



ASSIST SHAREFEST FOOD AND GOODS GIVEAWAY EVENT – OCTOBER 24, 2021

At 9:30am on Sunday, October 24, 2021, sixteen New Lenox CERT volunteers met at Providence Catholic High School (PCHS) for the purpose of assisting with a ShareFest Food & Goods Giveaway, which was scheduled to take place between 10:00am and 2:00pm. After initially meeting at the front of the high school, everyone drove around to the back (southwest side) of the school and parked in the gravel lot. Our volunteers then walked into the school and participated in a short briefing, which was led by Gary Cheney from ShareFest. Following the briefing, volunteers were divided into two "teams." One team consisted of volunteers assigned to traffic management duties and the other team was assigned to the food giveaway (set-up and distribution).



It should be noted that it poured rain for the duration of the event. However, our CERT volunteers wore raingear and maintained a terrific attitude despite the conditions. Many people parked and walked into the school to "shop" for the giveaway items throughout the morning. Other people began to line-up for the food giveaway as early as 10:30am and were staged in the gravel parking lot by our volunteers. At one point, approximately 100 cars were staged / lined-up in the lot for the food giveaway, which was scheduled to start at 12:00pm, but started at 11:30am.



CERT volunteers did a great job directing vehicles into the gravel lot while crossing pedestrians who were walking from the parking lot to the school. Once the food giveaway began, vehicles were merged into one lane as they entered the food distribution area. There, our volunteers worked hand-in-hand with volunteers from PCHS, loading food into vehicles as they came through the several "stations."



For several hours, CERT volunteers worked diligently at their assignments until the line for the food giveaway finally diminished close to 2:00pm. Once the last vehicles passed through the food distribution area, our volunteers assisted with the clean-up and then went into the school for a short de-briefing.

Special thanks to everyone that participated in this event. Everyone did a remarkable job, especially considering the weather conditions.



NEW LENOX CERT CLASS #17 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 THRU OCTOBER 23, 2021

New Lenox CERT Class #17 was held on Tuesday evenings (6:30pm to 8:30pm) from September 7th thru October 19th. The Final Exercise / Disaster Simulation and Graduation was held on Saturday, October 23rd (8:00am to 1:00pm). Twenty-two citizens graduated from this class, which brings our program's total to 489.

This class, like our others, consisted of a very diverse and talented group of people. Nursing students, administrative professionals, educators, retired RNs, social workers, and other professions were represented in this class. This group had excellent attendance over the course of 7 weeks, asked great questions, and were very engaged in the course content. Our instructors really enjoyed teaching this particular class.



At 7:00am on Saturday, October 23rd fifteen veteran New Lenox CERT members arrived in the Village Commons to help set-up the final exercise / disaster simulation. At 7:15am Patrick Harden from MABAS arrived with about 25 mannequins that were utilized as "victims" for the exercise. These mannequins were dispersed throughout the Commons and were given "injury cards" to simulate a variety of injuries. At 8:00am about a dozen New Lenox Scouts arrived and were directed to the stage under the performing arts pavilion where our Moulage Team was waiting for them. Each of the scouts had moulage applied to simulate an injury. They were also told how to role play the injury that they were given. Our veteran CERT members, who also served as evaluators once the exercise started, also set-up a cribbing scenario as well as a situation where a (mock) gas main would have to be turned off during the exercise.

The class arrived at 8:00am and began to prepare for some sort of disaster, but did not have any details at that point. They spent time learning about the radios that they would use during the exercise and also went over the contents of the deployment bags (CERT backpacks) that were issued specifically for this exercise. These bags included dressings, bandages, triage tape, triage cards, splinting material, and other items that would be needed in the "field." The class also sorted through the paperwork (CERT forms) that would need to be completed during the exercise. At 8:50am they were read the scenario and had a few minutes to make last minute preparations. In short, the scenario included a large group of adults and children that were in the Commons for an event when severe weather swept into the area. The team (CERT Class #17) was asked to conduct a search for lost and injured victims. Once located, victims were to be triaged, treated (if necessary) and transported to the Treatment Area where additional treatment would be given.

From 9:00am to 10:30am the class set-up Incident Command, which was staffed with an Incident Commander, Assistant, and Scribe. The class sent Search Teams into the Commons to locate, triage, treat, and transport victims. Other class members were assigned the role of setting-up a Triage Area. While all this was going on, the class was given "injects" such as the smell of gas near the concession stand and a victim trapped under debris behind the stage. In total, 32 "victims" were transported to the Treatment Area before the exercise concluded at 10:30am. Everyone then pitched-in and brought all the equipment and supplies over to our team's 16-foot enclosed trailer where it was stored properly.

From 10:45am to 11:30am a de-briefing was held in the Community Room where all exercise evaluators and participants were given an opportunity to comment about the exercise. From 11:30am to 12:00pm everyone (Class #17 and Evaluators) had lunch, which consisted of pizza, pasta, and salad from Beggar's Pizza. At 12:00pm Mayor Tim Baldermann addressed CERT Class #17. It was noted that the Mayor has been to every single CERT graduation since 2009! The Mayor congratulated the class and thanked all of the instructors and evaluators that assisted with class as well as the Final Exercise / Disaster Simulation. The graduation ceremony then commenced where graduates were presented with a certificate, ID card, and CERT backpack. The ceremony concluded at approximately 12:30pm.

Congratulations to CERT Class #17 and welcome to the team!



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CRIBBING, TRANSPORT AND MEDICAL – OCTOBER 20, 2021

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 thirty-five members of New Lenox CERT met at the north side main entrance of the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone and introduced 10 members of New Lenox CERT Class #17, which was still in session, but wished to participate in the team’s monthly training as practice for their final exercise / disaster simulation. Dan provided a brief outline of training, which included the following:

Station #1: **Transport**, led by Joe Frigo and Lisa Murphy

Station #2: **Cribbing**, led by Dan Johnson and Rich DeVault

Station #3: **Medical**, led by Tricia Pakosz, Scott Thompson, and Jerry Reeves



Dan explained that everyone would be divided into three teams / groups, which would be identified as “Alpha,” Bravo,” and “Charlie.” Starting at 7:15pm, teams would spend 20 minutes at their first assigned station, then rotate to the next station at 7:35pm. After 20 minutes at that station, teams would rotate one last time at 7:55pm.

At the **transport station**, team members practiced a one-person arm carry with the Rescue Randy Jr. mannequin. Team members also practiced a chair carry with the mannequin as well as live victims. The chair carry also included traversing stairs (up and down) in front of the Village Hall. A 6-person (+ one team member at the victim’s head) blanket carry was also practiced. Included in this carry was practice with commands, “log rolling” and rolling the blanket inward for a better grip.



At the **cribbing station**, which was located on the loading dock of the Village Hall, the large Rescue Randy mannequin was “trapped” under “debris” (pallet with weights on top). Team members had to conduct a size-up, formulate a plan and put together assignments (team leader, safety officer, fulcrum builder, crib builder(s), lever operator and medical person. Twenty minutes provided enough time for teams to go through the exercise twice and the second time through team members were able to assume a different assignment.



At the **medical station**, team members reviewed tourniquet application as well as dressing, bandaging and splinting. Our station leads demonstrated the skills and then team members practiced on each other. Those with backgrounds in healthcare were also very helpful and provided additional instruction during the practice portions.



After all three teams had an opportunity to rotate through the stations, everyone met on the loading dock for one final exercise. The instructions included removing debris from the large Rescue Randy mannequin, attend to his medical needs, and transport him to a “treatment area.” “Alpha” was assigned the cribbing portion, “Bravo” was assigned to the treatment portion (bandaging, dressing and splinting), and “Charlie” was assigned the transport portion.



Following the final exercise everyone met at the front of the Village Hall for the de-briefing / lessons learned segment and wrap-up. The training concluded just before 9:00pm.

Special thanks to our station leaders for doing a great job and to those who attended this training, which included extremely important skills for CERT members.

Additional Information

Daniel Martin

Safe Community Coordinator

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

On Saturday, October 23, 2021 a group of 25 citizens graduated from New Lenox CERT Class #17. For additional information about New Lenox CERT or to register for a future class, contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, at (815) 462-6493 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net.

Congratulations to the following classes:

- Class 1 Graduation 10/17/2009
- Class 2 Graduation 12/05/2009
- Class 3 Graduation 02/27/2010
- Class 4 Graduation 10/30/2010
- Class 5 Graduation 04/09/2011
- Class 6 Graduation 11/12/2011
- 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

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



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**VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX 75th
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION –
OCTOBER 1, 2021 THRU OCTOBER 3, 2021**

The Village of New Lenox celebrated its 75th Anniversary from Friday, October 1st thru Sunday, October 3rd. On Friday, citizens enjoyed food, beverages and a performance by Joey Kar from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. On Saturday, there was a kid's carnival, craft fair, a live performance from STARSHIP (featuring Mickey Thomas) and a fantastic fireworks display. On Sunday there were vintage cars on display, bingo, a pie eating contest, egg-and-spoon races, three-legged races, potato sack races, and a time capsule announcement. Given all the activities, New Lenox CERT was requested to assist in various capacities on all three days.



On Friday, October 1st twelve New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted with beverage ticket sales and safety around the venue. Special attention was paid to the fire pit areas that were set-up for people to enjoy a fire while eating and listening to music.



On Saturday, October 2nd twenty-five New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted with beverage ticket sales (11:00am – 8:30pm), the STARSHIP Concert (7:00pm – 8:30pm) and the fireworks display (8:30pm – 9:00pm). This was definitely the biggest role our volunteers played over the weekend. As always, everyone did an excellent job keeping those in attendance safe. Volunteers were also very helpful during a heavy rainfall that began at approximately



3:30pm during the craft show. Our folks went out into the rain and help vendors take down their displays to help prevent water damage to their wares.

On Sunday, October 3rd two New Lenox CERT volunteers assisted with beverage ticket sales (11:00am – 4:40pm).

Special thanks to the many volunteers that helped make the Village's 75th Anniversary Celebration a success!

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