

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM and SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS / DECEMBER, 2023

New Lenox CERT was once again asked to assist with Christmas in the Commons, which kicked off on Saturday, December 2, 2023. In addition to the kick-off, CERT assisted on 12/3, 12/9, 12/10, 12/16, 12/17 and 12/23.

Each day at 3:45pm, CERT volunteers met at the upper level / main entrance to the Village Hall for a briefing. Dan Martin, CERT Program Coordinator, distributed radios and IFAKs (Individual First Aid Kits) during the briefing. Briefings typically ended at about 3:55pm at which time everyone headed off to their assignments.

The following represents some of the duties and responsibilities of CERT volunteers during Christmas in the Commons:

- Assist with Parade / Santa’s Grand Entrance (December 2nd)
- Assist with Lighting Ceremony (December 2nd)
- Assist with Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides (loading, unloading, escort around Commons)
- Pedestrian Crossings (Veterans Parkway & Gear Dr. and Veterans Parkway in front of VH)
- Fire Pits (Veterans Parkway between VH & Library – safety around fires)
- Fire Pits/ Food Trucks / Reindeer Visits (in front of PD – safety of guests)
- Visits With Santa (Village Hall entrance and rotunda – line management guest safety)
- Heated Tents (line management and guest safety)
- Information and Duties As Needed

Each night our volunteers did an EXCELLENT job and their efforts were greatly appreciated by guests as well as Village staff.

Christmas in the Commons was held from 4:00pm to 8:00pm on the nights mentioned above. Typically, volunteers met for a group photo at 8:00pm and a de-briefing was held in the Community Room thereafter. De-briefings consisted of an overview of how things went throughout the evening, including strengths as well as areas for improvement. De-briefings typically ended at approximately 8:45pm.

Special thanks to everyone that made Christmas in the Commons a huge success. Well done!



Our Core Principles:

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

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2023 PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS – DECEMBER 4, 2023

At 6:00pm on Monday, December 4, 2023, approximately 75 members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Dinner and beverages were served from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. At 7:00pm everyone went upstairs to the Council Chambers for the presentation of awards by Mayor Tim Baldermann and Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT / SAR Program Coordinator.

The Mayor thanked all the volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the CERT and SAR programs. He also made a point of thanking family members who support our volunteers while they are away at training, community events and activations. Following the Mayor’s opening remarks, awards were presented to the following:

1000 + Hours – Special Plaques

- Nolan, Mercedes
- Nolan, Thomas
- Schuld, John



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

500 + Hours - GOLD

Grellner, Valerie
Miller, Patti

250 + Hours - SILVER

Humbrecht, Lauren

100 + Hours - BRONZE

Halsey, Patience
Hartney, Cathy
Hastings, Marybeth
Kelly, Amanda
Nelson, Andrea
Nelson, George



In addition to recognizing our 2023 Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipients, the following volunteers were also recognized and thanked for their continued contributions:

1000 + Hours (active members / previous recipients)

Cody, Mary Ann
Devault, Richard
Edgett, Patricia
Frigo, Joe
Huizenga, Jennifer
Johnson, Dan
Jones, Deborah
Kacor, Berni
Mitchell, Phillia
Murphy, Lisa
Pakosz, Tricia
Selvas, Edward
Thompson, Scott



500 + Hours – GOLD (active members / previous recipients)

Bosch, Eleni
Bracken, Douglas
Bracken, Ronni
Buhle, Patricia
Dzik, Christine
Halach, Randy
Harris, Simon
Johnston, Laura
Maes, Janet
Mejdrich, Brian
Opoka, John
Spitilli, Gail
Stefka, Michael



The Awards Ceremony concluded at about 7:30pm at which time everyone headed back downstairs to the Community Room for the Awards / Holiday Party.

Special thanks to Carrie Williams and her husband Leigh for doing a terrific job as DJs. They played a variety of music during the party, sang songs and inspired many to sing karaoke. So much fun!

Special thanks to our non-recipients for attending and supporting fellow team members that received awards.

Lastly, congratulations to our award winners. You are all amazing and appreciated more than you know. Keep up the great work and continue to inspire others as those before you inspired you!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - DECEMBER 16, 2023

Between 9:00am and 11:00am on Saturday, December 16, 2023, 15 members of New Lenox CERT arrived at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. Everyone gathered near the memorial for a service that was scheduled to begin at 11:00am.

The service, which honored members from all five service branches, ended at approximately 11:30am. Before everyone departed the memorial area, instructions were provided as to how the wreaths should be laid at each of the gravesites.



Our team members stayed together as a group and headed over to Section 16 to lay wreaths. With dignity and respect, hundreds of wreaths were carefully placed against the headstones. Service members names were read out loud along with their branch of service, rank and date of death. In addition, each member was thanked for their service.

After completing Section 16, our volunteers headed over to Section 17 and laid wreaths there as well. Everyone wrapped-up by 1:00pm and headed back to the shuttle busses.

Our volunteers, along with hundreds of others, laid approximately 30,000 wreaths in just a few hours. Special thanks to everyone that helped with this amazing event.

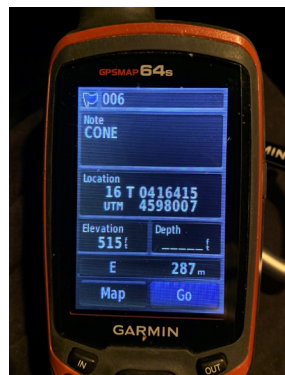
Our team will be returning on January 15, 2024 to assist with the wreath retirement, as we do each year.



NEW LENOX SAR TRAINING / NIGHT EXERCISES- DECEMBER 13, 2023

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 18 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team met at Pilcher Park. More specifically, everyone met in the parking lot off of Gougar Road in front of the greenhouse. A few hours earlier, one team member had arrived to set-up all of the exercises.

After a short briefing, the team jumped right into training. The first thing that was done was dividing everyone into three teams. Once the three teams were assembled, they were given designations as Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie.



Everyone was provided with a QR code to a CalTopo map that was created especially for this training. The maps were opened and everyone located the area where the compass exercise would take place. Teams were instructed to find their respective mark on the map where a traffic cone was placed on the ground. Further instructions included team members standing over the cone individually, and shooting an azimuth at three fixed objects. Veteran team members helped some of the less experienced members with compass functionality. Once everyone was done, everyone compared their azimuths to ensure that everyone was within a few degrees of each other. Following this exercise, a short debriefing was held.



The next exercise included an evidence search in an area located just to the south of the greenhouse. The team was briefed that the search was for a handgun. It should be noted that the item was a plastic molded prop, dark in color to simulate a real pistol. Team leads, for each of the teams were selected, and they took a few moments to formulate a plan. Everyone was then brought together in line formation with spacing, approximately 6 feet apart. Team leaders stood behind each of their respective teams, and it was decided that the team leader for Team Bravo would give the commands. The area to be searched needed two passes to complete. Following the search, a short debriefing was held.



For the next and final exercise, the teams were directed to their CalTopo maps. Search segments 100, 101, and 102 were located across the street (east of Gougar Road & north of Francis Road). Instructions were given that this would be an article search. Team Alpha would be searching for upper torso CPR mannequins, Team Bravo would be searching for small traffic cones, and Team Charlie would be searching for empty coffee cans.



Teams were instructed to use appropriate radio communications, utilize AMDR, set critical spacing, and flag accordingly during their search. As items were located, they were marked on CalTopo as clues. In addition, there were a few items that were not located due to time. As such, team members were given the GPS coordinates in UTM and were able to find the remaining items. Everyone then returned to the staging area just after 9:00pm.

A short debriefing was held regarding the exercise. Some items to note were (some) difficulty in utilizing CalTopo because of signal issues. Otherwise, flagging went well as did the respective searches. Everyone also did a pretty good job marking the clues in CalTopo, as well as setting their tracks.

Special thanks to everyone that came out on a cold December night to train. Everyone's efforts are always appreciated!

CalTopo Map



CD764 - Write

CERT MONTHLY TRAINING / DISASTER PSYCHOLOGY – NOVEMBER 30, 2023

At 5:30pm on Thursday, November 30, 2023 the Training Planning Team met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall to make final preparations for this month's training. Preparations included walking to different areas in the Village Hall for the purpose of selecting appropriate areas for the scenarios.

At 6:00pm four teens from Lincoln-Way Community High School District #210 arrived and met with Lisa Murphy and Lauren Humbrecht to receive final instructions regarding their roles as actors for this particular training. In addition, the teens were walked around to the various areas where each of the four scenarios would take place.

At 7:00pm approximately 50 New Lenox CERT Members were in attendance at which time Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, welcomed everyone. Dan then turned the floor over to Lisa Murphy who provided a 10-minute refresher on Disaster Psychology. Everyone in attendance was then divided into four teams that were identified as – ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE and DELTA. Everyone received a printed paper copy that showed teams rotating every 20 minutes starting at 7:15pm. It also showed the scenarios as follows:

Station 1 - Tornado During Movie Night – facilitated by Lauren Humbrecht

As attendees settled in for movie night, an unexpected storm rolled in. Patrons began gathering up their belongings. As they were starting to leave the Commons, the tornado sirens went off and rotation was actually seen building above the venue. Everyone was quickly moved into the buildings to take shelter. The tornado touched down just north of the Commons, but caused severe damage throughout the area. Once the storm passed and the area was deemed safe, New Lenox CERT was requested to assist in clearing the buildings.

Station 2 - Active Shooter at Triple Play Concert – facilitated by Lisa Murphy

At approximately 6:45pm, an active shooter began firing rounds into the crowd of people attending the Triple Play Concert. Panicked attendees ran to shelter in the surrounding buildings. The shooter was apprehended quickly and the scene was cleared. However, a few people are refusing to leave the village hall. New Lenox CERT has been requested to assist.



Station 3 - Building Explosion - facilitated by Rich DeVault

Earlier today, a boiler exploded within the village hall. Half of the building has been destroyed; the other half has been damaged from fires and debris. The building has been evacuated, but one individual is unaccounted for. New Lenox CERT has been requested to assist in searching the remaining part of the building. The building has been deemed safe; however, there are still small areas that continue to smolder and the air is filled with smoke and debris dust.

Station 4 - Train Derailment – facilitated by Tricia Pakosz

At 7:45pm, a Joliet-bound express Metra train derailed as it passed through the New Lenox station, located at Cedar Road. & Route 30. As it was just after rush hour, the train was approximately half-full.

New Lenox CERT has been requested to find passengers and assist them in exit the train safely.

As noted, teams spent 20 minutes at each of the stations. Station Facilitators briefed the teams and team members made sure areas were safe before making entry. The student actors were absolutely amazing in their roles. Depending on the scenario, the actors were shut down and needed to be stimulated to get them to talk *or* they were extremely excited (scared, yelling, crying, angry, etc...). The student actors played their roles magnificently and really challenged our team members. Team members, using principles learned in the Disaster Psychology Unit, were empathetic listeners and provided reassurance to the "victims." When a team member was not "connecting" with a "victim," another team member stepped in to assist. It should be noted that there were three female "victims" and one male "victim." In our scenarios, it seemed



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as though female team members connected better with the female victims. To take it a step further, younger female team members seemed to make a better connection with our teen actors, perhaps because they were closer in age.

The scenarios concluded at approximately 8:35pm at which time everyone returned to the Community Room for a debriefing.



First, our teen actors were thanked for their assistance. Everyone applauded their efforts and truly appreciated how well they played their roles. As a token of our appreciation, the teens were presented with CERT backpacks and ballcaps. A short discussion then followed, which allowed station facilitators and the teen actors to speak about their respective scenarios. An excellent discussion ensued and much was learned. The de-briefing concluded at approximately 8:50pm.

Special thanks to Lisa and Lauren for planning and executing this excellent training event. Also, special thanks to everyone that attended. We had a great turnout and everyone appreciated the opportunity to participate in this type of training. Great job by all!



NEW LENOX SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING – NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Cold-Related Illness, Cold Weather Gear & Patient Packaging

At 6:00pm on Thursday, November 16, 2023 Dan Martin, New Lenox SAR Program Coordinator, met instructors for this training at the New Lenox Public Works Facility. Instructors included Dr. Martin Greenberg, Val Grellner, Sandy Scannell, and Nancy Tafoya. Dr. Greenberg had prepared a PowerPoint presentation for this training, which had been loaded onto the computer in the facility’s training room earlier in the day. Supplies for the hands-on portion of the training had also been brought inside for the training team to set-up.



At 7:00pm, 20 members of New Lenox SAR were on site and ready to train. Dan Martin introduced the instructors and thanked them for providing this valuable training to our team members. Dan then turned the floor over to Dr. Greenberg who then started his presentation. As noted in the article’s title, Dr. Greenberg provided information about cold-related illness, cold weather gear and patient packaging. During Dr. Greenberg’s presentation, several items were passed around the classroom. They included three types of emergency blankets, two of which had the ability to generate heat. Dr. Greenberg, now assisted by Val Grellner, led a Q & A session, which prompted further discussion. Following the Q & A, everyone in attendance was divided into two teams (Alpha and Bravo).

At this time Sandy Scannell and Nancy Tafoya became involved in the training by facilitating two stations. The stations included a hypothermia victim (Rescue Randy Mannequin) and a frostbite victim (live team member). At both stations, teams were asked to assess, treat, package and transport the victim.



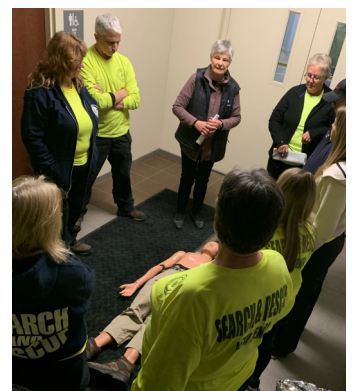
The Hypothermia Station’s scenario included information about an athletic 30-year male whose dog ran into a wooded area on an 18-degree day with a moderate wind chill. The man was not properly dressed when he ran after his dog and became lost in the woods. The man’s family reported him missing later in the evening. His coat and cell phone were located in his car by law enforcement officers. During a search for the man, our team located him in the woods and it appears that he is hypothermic.

The Frostbite Station’s scenario included a 40-year-old male missing for over 24 hours. The man was trying out new strap on snow shoes and trek poles in a heavily wooded area. He was wearing an insulated coat, hat, boots and wool mittens (determined to have gotten wet). Night time temperature was 30 degrees with a light wind. Our SAR Team located the man sitting up but found him to be somewhat uncooperative when offered assistance. Frostbite was apparent on several fingers on both hands.



Each team spent about 20 minutes at the first station and then traded places. Another 20 minutes was spent at the stations at which time the hands-on portion of the training concluded. Everyone assisted with clean-up and then reconvened in the training room for a de-briefing. Dr. Greenberg wrapped everything up, which was followed by Dan Martin thanking the instructors for their time and effort.

Special thanks to our team members that attended this training and learning these lifesaving skills!



“PUMPKIN SMASH” – NOVEMBER 4, 2023

At 8:30am on Saturday, November 4, 2023, thirteen members of New Lenox CERT met in the upper-level parking lot of the New Lenox Village Hall. Once everyone was assembled, Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, led everyone through the Village Hall and out through the north side lower-level doors. Everyone then met with Beth Alderson, Special Events Coordinator, who provided a brief overview of the event. It was helpful being outside so that Beth could point out where all the activities were being held. During the briefing it was decided that our volunteers would assist in the following areas:

- Traffic Management at the pumpkin drop-off locations @ Veterans Parkway & Gear Drive
- Pumpkin Smash Areas (total of 8) in front of the Village Hall
- Pumpkin Chipper (Public Works Woodchipper) near the New Lenox Public Library



It was also discussed that if check-in lines became long, some of our volunteers could be shifted to assist.

Following the briefing, everyone was issued radios as well as Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs). Our volunteers then headed out to their assigned locations to have a look at areas of responsibility.

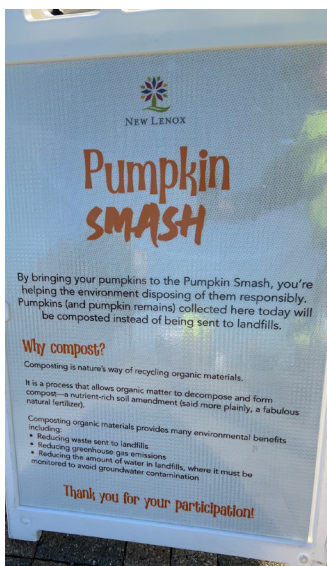
Our volunteers did an excellent job with traffic management, which also included unloading pumpkins from dozens of vehicles. Volunteers in the pumpkin smashing areas also did an excellent job keeping everyone safe. They also kept the tarps clean by resetting them before each family took their turn. In addition, volunteers working the chipper area also did a nice job keeping everyone safe in that area too.



The morning went by fast, and it was great to see kids having a great time smashing the pumpkins. The last families finished up at around noon at which time a short de-briefing was held.

Beth Alderson joined our team members for the de-briefing where strengths and areas for improvement were discussed. Our team members came up with some fun and exciting ideas for next year.

Special thanks to everyone that participated in the Inaugural Pumpkin Smash!



TEAM BUILDING – OCTOBER 25, 2023

At 7:00pm on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 approximately 45 members of New Lenox CERT met in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall for monthly training. This month's topic was Team Building, which included a short discussion about qualities of successful teams. Dan Martin, New Lenox CERT Program Coordinator, divided everyone into six teams following the discussion. Everyone was provided with a printed copy of the team building stations, which showed teams rotating every 15 minutes starting at 7:15pm. The stations that teams rotated through were as follows:

- Obstacle Course, led by Sandy Scannell
- Pool Noodle Challenge, led by Jenn Huizenga
- Cone Head Challenge, led by George Nelson
- Balance Board Challenge, led by Dan Johnson
- PVC Pipe / Golf Ball Challenge, led by Tricia Pakosz
- Walk the Planks, led by Berni Kacor



The rotational grid had two teams "competing" at each of the stations. For example, Alpha and Bravo competed against each other while Charlie and Delta competed. And while those teams were competing, Echo and Foxtrot were competing.

The Obstacle Course required one team member from each team to be blindfolded. Blindfolded team members were then directed through the obstacle course by their teammates, who verbally directed them around, over and under obstacles. The goal was to pick up a racquet ball that had been placed on the top of a traffic cone and after doing so, make it back to the starting point.



The Pool Noodle Challenge had teams in a relay race. Team members had to carry small balls (golf balls, whiffle balls, playground balls) with two pool noodles from "Point A" to "Point B" and back. Additional challenges were given to participants such as stepping over objects and ducking under others.



The Cone Head Challenge required teams to compete against each other to see who could move from the start line to the turnaround point and back the fastest. Team members balanced small traffic cones on their heads and interlocked arms as they walked together. Additional challenges were added such as requiring team members to walk sideways, backwards and staggered (facing front, facing backwards) also while arms were interlocked.

The Balance Board Challenge required three team members from one team to compete against three team members from another team. Teams had to balance a triangular wooden board that had a ball on top (football, playground ball, softball, golf ball) while walking from the start line to a turnaround point and back. The wooden board was balanced by each team member holding a wooden doll rod, approximately 2" in diameter and 12" in length. Once one ball had been transported to the turnaround point and back, the next ball had to be balanced and so on.

The PVC Pipe / Golf Ball Challenge was done with two teams working together to transfer a golf ball through sections of PVC pipe from one team member to the next, in chain fashion. Once a team member did their part, they had to quickly move to the next delivery point in leap frog fashion. This challenge had team members making 90 degree turns and moving up and down ramps and stairs until the golf ball was transported to the finish line.

The Walk the Planks challenge is our oldest challenge and one of our favorites. Teams competed against each other by walking on planks from the start line to a turnaround point and back to the finish line. Verbal commands such as "left," "right," "left," "right," were needed to get the planks moving in unison. Ropes are attached to the planks in eye hooks to help raise them – which makes it look like teams are cross-country skiing.



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The challenges ended at 8:30pm at which time everyone returned to the Community Room for a debriefing. In short, everyone had a lot of fun and it was a great opportunity to meet our newest members from CERT Class #19. It was also an opportunity to build trust and confidence by doing things we've never done before. Important concepts included: Communication, common goals, working together, supporting each other, trusting each other, leadership and fun.

Special thanks to those that facilitated the stations and special thanks to everyone that joined in on the fun!



SHAREFEST CLOTHING, GOODS, AND FOOD GIVEAWAY AT PCHS – OCTOBER 22, 2023

At 7:45am on Sunday, October 22, 2023, seven members of New Lenox CERT met at Providence Catholic High School to assist Gary Cheney and ShareFest with a Clothing, Goods, and Food Giveaway.

Following a short briefing, volunteers assisted as follows:

- Traffic Management – U.S. Route 30 & East Entrance to the Campus
- Traffic Management – U.S. Route 30 & West Entrance to the Campus
- Traffic Management – Southwest Parking Lot
- Traffic Management and Pedestrian Crossing – South Parking Lot / School Entrance

Volunteers were extremely busy as there were other activities going on at the campus as well. These other activities included junior football league games, a soccer game, and PCHS football weight training. Collectively, there were hundreds of cars coming and going from the campus, which kept everyone quite busy.



Our volunteers did an amazing job parking cars for people that arrived on campus early (8:00am to 10:00am) for the clothing and goods portion of the event, which started at 10:00am. In addition, our volunteers kept the southwest parking lot organized as hundreds arrived for the food giveaway portion of the event, which started at 11:30am.

The food giveaway wrapped-up at about 1:00pm, at which time our team met for a short debriefing to discuss how things went.

Special thanks to this great group of volunteers who did an outstanding job throughout the duration of the event.



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

CERT CLASS #19 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 THRU OCTOBER 21, 2023

CERT Class #19 was held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm from September 6th thru October 18th. The Final Exercise and Graduation was held on Saturday, October 21st from 8:00am to 12:30pm. Twenty-eight citizens did a terrific job in each of the sessions as well as in the Final Exercise / Disaster Simulation.

Special thanks to the instructors that taught each of the units. Their time and talents are greatly appreciated!

Also, special thanks to MANY of our veteran team members that assisted with the Final Exercise / Disaster Simulation. The Moulage Team arrived at 7:00am to prepare for over 25 "victims" (role players) to arrive and receive theatrical makeup to simulate injuries. Evaluators also arrived at 7:00am to set-up the exercise in the New Lenox Commons.



CERT Class #19 arrived at 8:00am and began going over their assignments, although they did not know what exactly the scenario would be.

Following separate briefings for Role Players, Evaluators, and CERT Class #19, the exercise commenced at 9:00am sharp.

The class did an excellent job setting-up Incident Command, a Staging Area, and a Treatment Area. They also did a great job searching for victims that were scattered throughout the Commons as a result of a "severe weather event." Class members properly triaged victims and treated them accordingly (Red / Immediate). Transport teams were formed and they did a terrific job transporting victims to the Treatment Area.

In addition to search and rescue operations, a small fire was extinguished, utilities were shut off and a victim was extracted from heavy debris by-way-of leveraging and cribbing. Team members also did a good job communicating via two-way radios, which was a first for many. Incident Command did very well at directing assignments and completed required documentation. The exercise concluded at approximately 10:30am at which time everyone helped out with clean-up and the return of supplies to the CERT trailer.

By 10:45am everyone was back in the Community Room for a de-briefing, which lasted approximately 45-minutes. The de-briefing provided an opportunity for evaluators to give feedback in all the different areas (Incident Command, communications, search, triage, treatment, transport, etc...). In addition, it provided an opportunity for the Incident Commander and Incident Command Staff to comment on the exercise. Time was also set aside for Team Leaders to talk about how their respective teams did, which prompted additional discussion and feedback.

At 12:00pm Mayor Tim Baldermann arrived to address the class and present CERT backpacks and certificates to the newest graduates. It should be noted that the Mayor has attended 19/19 CERT graduations and is a tremendous advocate and supporter of the program.

Congratulations CERT Class #19 and welcome to the team!

ILLINOIS SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

This year, 20 members of the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team traveled to Clinton, Illinois for the annual Illinois Search and Rescue Council Conference. 19 of the 20 members arrived on Friday and had an opportunity to spend some time together. This included going out to dinner and hanging out at the hotel afterwards.

Early Saturday morning everyone met for breakfast at the hotel and then headed over to the Little Galilee Christian Camp where this year's conference was being held. After signing in, everyone met in the main dining area where the Posting of Colors was done by the Illinois State Police Color Guard. Following Opening Remarks, our team members attended the following breakout sessions:

- AFRCC Basic Inland Search Course
- Traumatic vs. Medical Emergency
- Salvation Army
- Critical Stress Incident Management
- Field Encounters
- Evidence Preservation

After a break for lunch, our team members attended the following breakout sessions:

- AFRCC Basic Inland Search Course
- Traumatic vs. Medical Emergency
- SAR Teams: Administrative and Operational Best Practices
- Overview of Forensic Anthropology
- National Crisis Response Canines
- K-9 Flanking 2.0



Following the training, which ended around 5:00pm, dinner was held. After dinner, the Annual Membership Meeting was held, followed by a live auction. The auction was a lot of fun and our team members went home with some pretty cool stuff. Everyone headed back to the hotel at around 9pm where everyone had some time to relax and unwind from the long day.

Sunday morning, everyone met for breakfast and then drove over to the conference at Little Galilee Christian Camp. Our team members then took part in the following sessions:

- AFRCC Basic Inland Search Course
- Drones (Part A and Part B)
- SARTopo for Search Managers (Part A and Part B)
- Team Building (Part A and Part B)



Following training lunch was served, which was followed by clean-up of the dining hall. Our team members got on the road by 1:30pm or so and headed for home.

Special thanks for to our team members for attending this year's conference. The learning, networking and team building that occurred during this conference was great to see. A big thank you to ISARC and the Conference Committee for doing a terrific job too!



“IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS” – SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

At 8:00am on Friday, September 22, 2023 nine members of New Lenox CERT met at the Tinley Park Convention Center for the purpose of attending “In the Midst of Chaos.” This one-day conference is organized each year by the Region VII All Hazards Emergency Preparedness Committee. Region VII EMS, Emergency Medical Services, consists of 15 hospitals, 115 fire departments & ambulance services and nearly 5,000 EMS providers.

This year’s keynote speakers included:

- **Carly Posey** – a national advocate for school safety. Two of her four children were inside Sandy Hook Elementary School when an armed intruder entered the building on December 14, 2012. Both of Carly’s children survived, but the lessons learned were significant.
- **Lieutenant Jason C. Redmond, Naval Officer, US Navy SEAL** – is the author of “The Trident,” capturing a 21-year career and journey in leadership serving with the US Navy SEAL Teams. Lt. Redmond now takes those lessons learned and is sharing his motivational message with companies, teams, churches and individuals across the globe.

In addition to the keynote speakers, there was an early bird session on “Stop the Bleed,” as well as a variety of breakout sessions. Some of the sessions included:

- Peter Lazzara – Pediatric Assessment in Trauma: The EMS Way
- Troy Siewart – Insightful Response to a Mental Health Crisis
- Mike Caplan – Our Deadliest Weather: The Unexpected Killer
- Kevin Sears - Considerations for Special Entrapment Incidents
- Dr. William Hampton – From Batteries to Lightning Bolts: Electrical Trauma
- Dr. Niko Arendovich – Older Adult Trauma: From Triage to Decision
- Stop the Bleed Part II

In addition to the breakout sessions, there were also featured presentations which include:

- Panel Discussion – Highland Park: The Surgical Perspective
- Katie Godman – The 8 Tools of Improv Comedy in Everyday Life
- Steven Smith – Parkland Lessons Learned: Training and Communication

Closing remarks were at approximately 4:00pm by Dr. James Doherty.

In short, our volunteers enjoyed the speakers, breakout sessions, featured presentations and of course a wonderful lunch. Special thanks to our volunteers for taking the time out of their busy lives to attend such an informative workshop. And – kudos to the Region VII All Hazards Emergency Preparedness Committee. Terrific job!



Additional Information

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

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

- Class 1 Graduation 10/17/2009
- Class 2 Graduation 12/05/2009
- Class 3 Graduation 02/27/2010
- Class 4 Graduation 10/30/2010
- Class 5 Graduation 04/09/2011
- Class 6 Graduation 11/12/2011
- Class 7 Graduation 10/20/2012
- Class 8 Graduation 10/19/2013
- Class 9 Graduation 10/25/2014
- Class 10 Graduation 10/31/2015
- Class 11 Graduation 03/12/2016
- Class 12 Graduation 10/29/2016
- Class 13 Graduation 10/28/2017
- Class 14 Graduation 10/27/2018
- Class 15 Graduation 10/26/2019
- Class 16 Graduation 10/17/2020
- Class 17 Graduation 10/23/2021
- Class 18 Graduation 10/15/2022
- Class 19 Graduation 10/21/2023

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



Visit us on Facebook

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

<https://facebook.com/safenewlenox>

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

**ASSIST ILLINOIS-WISCONSIN SEARCH DOGS –
OCTOBER 21, 2023**

On short notice and during a busy weekend, Mary Bobor and Stu Sikora were kind enough to assist K-9 Handlers from the Illinois-Wisconsin Search Dogs Team.

Mary and Stu drove out to Bullfrog Lake in Willow Springs on Saturday, October 21, 2023 and assisted K-9 Handlers from 8:00am to 4:00pm. This was several hours longer than the original request, but both Mary and Stu were kind enough to help.

They walked considerable distances into wooded areas to allow the K-9 Teams to track their scents. Both reported that it was a positive experience, and they learned a lot.

Special thanks to Mary and Stu for helping and representing our team!



Resolve to Be Ready 2024

Preparing Makes Sense
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NEW LENOX, IL