



New Lenox Safe Community Coalition

Meeting 25-02

March 26, 2025 / 10:30am

Meeting held at Gatto's Italian Restaurant

Meeting Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (JANUARY 29, 2025 COALITION MEETING)
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. New Program Coordinator for the New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team
 - B. New Program Coordinator for the New Lenox Search and Rescue Team
 - C. New Program Coordinator(s) for the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. New Lenox Safe Community Coalition History, Accomplishments and a Fond Farewell – Dan Martin
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Task Group Reports
 1. Domestic Violence Prevention
 - a. **Teen Dating Violence: What Trusted Adults Should Know – *in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month***
 - i. This event was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, via Zoom Videoconference. Nicole (Nikki) Merriman was the featured speaker who shared her personal story of a dating violence incident (sexual assault) that occurred when she was a teen. Nikki shared how the incident affected her and how she dealt with the stigma attached to the incident. Nikki's presentation was very powerful and those in attendance appreciated Nikki's courage for sharing her story with the intent of helping others.
 - ii. Jenny Guiney, Groundwork Community Outreach Supervisor, Guardian Angel Community Services, defined teen dating violence, discussed the different types of domestic violence relationships, defined abusive behavior, explained why some victims remain in abusive relationships, shared myths surrounding domestic violence and provided information regarding available resources.
 - iii. Marie Goulet, LCSW and Lead Social Worker for New Lenox School District #122, discussed the effects that social media have on teens,

provided a school perspective on teen dating violence and shared information regarding available resources.

- iv. 102 citizens registered to attend via Eventbrite and approximately 65 were in attendance. Well done!

b. Domestic Violence 101 (aka DV 101)

- i. DV 101 will be held via Zoom Videoconference from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Tracy Curtis, Community Education and Outreach Coordinator, Crisis Center for South Suburbia, will be the presenter.

c. Sexual Violence in a Digital World – *in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

- i. Sexual Violence in a Digital World will be held via Zoom Videoconference from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Bailey Gourley, Guardian Angel Community Services, will be the presenter.

2. Substance Use Prevention

a. DEA Presentation

- i. This presentation was held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the New Lenox Village Hall.
- ii. From 6:30pm to 7:00pm a small resource fair was held, which included informational tables from DEA Chicago Field Division (Diversion), DEA Chicago Field Division (Enforcement), HERO, Will County Substance Use Initiatives, Illinois Supply Company and Sam's Club.
- iii. From 7:00pm to 8:00pm Greg Czaczkowski from the DEA Chicago Field Division spoke about substance use disorders and shared what the DEA is doing to stop the opioid epidemic. Greg also shared his background and personal story, which everyone in attendance found remarkable.
- iv. From 8:00pm to 8:30pm Officer Candace Guidry, New Lenox Police Department, conducted a narcotics sniffing demonstration with her K-9 partner "Harlie." Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration.
- v. At 8:30pm everyone had one more opportunity to visit the resource tables. Thanks to the organizations for leaving them up and to Sam's Club for providing refreshments and snacks.
- vi. 95 citizens registered to attend this event via Eventbrite. Approximately 65 were in attendance.

b. Narcan Training

- i. This presentation was held on Monday, February 24, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, via Zoom Videoconference. Training was done by Dr. Kathleen Burke / Will County Health Department. 211 citizens registered via Eventbrite to attend and 118 were in attendance.
- ii. On Thursday, February 27, 2025 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm Narcan Nasal Spray Kits were distributed at the New Lenox Village Hall. This was a drive-up delivery method in the upper-level parking lot of the village hall. For those that could not make it, Narcan Nasal Spray Kits are being picked up at the New Lenox Village Hall.

c. Teen Substance Use: What’s New and What’s Hidden in Plain Sight – March 31, 2025

- i. This presentation will be held on Monday, March 31, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm, via Zoom Videoconference. Topics will include an overview on HERO and John Roberts (co-founder), legislative update, substance use in Will County, Narcan, an overview (and “show-and-tell”) of the HERO Hidden in Plain Sight Trailer, and a discussion regarding the intersection between substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health. In addition, Tim Ignowski will share his experience with SUD, his road to recovery and where he’s at now (providing peer support for HERO).

d. 2025 “Your Light Still Shines”

- i. A discussion was held to determine the format for this year’s event. A Planning Team has been formed and will be working on establishing a date, time and location for the event. The Planning Team will also be working specific topics as well as a Keynote Speaker and / or a Panel of Speakers.

e. Kratom

- i. After much discussion, it was decided that this group would approach Kratom from an educational, rather than regulatory, standpoint. Kratom will be an agenda item for future educational events.

3. Motor Vehicle / Traffic Safety

a. Teen Driver? What Every Parent Should Know

- i. This presentation was held via Zoom Videoconference on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The presenters were John Karales / Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, Jason Helbling / Lincoln-Way Community High School District 210, Jim Mihalovich / Top Driver, Margaret Pearson / Illinois Secretary of State’s Office, and Rocky Dellamano / Rocky Dellamano COUNTRY Financial. 234 citizens registered for this presentation via Eventbrite.

b. Rules of the Road Review Course – Offered by the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office

- i. This course was held from 10:00am to 12:00pm on Thursday, November 21, 2024 in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This was the LAST TIME this course will be offered by the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office. Approximately 30 citizens, mostly older adults, attended.

c. ThinkFirst For Parents of Teen Drivers

- i. This presentation will be from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Thursday, April 17, 2025, via Zoom Videoconference. This is a 60-minute evidence-based traffic safety program designed to educate parents on the GDL law. The goal of the program is to reduce new driver crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities by increasing parents’ awareness and enforcement of the GDL law. Michelle Larsen, Project Manager, ThinkFirst, will be the presenter.

d. Operation Lifesaver (Rail Safety) Presentation

- i. Carl Cicero from Metra will deliver an “Operation Lifesaver” presentation, via Zoom, and a date and time TBD.

e. Programs and Events for Future Consideration

- i. Illinois Secretary of State's Office Mobile DMV
- ii. Rules of the Road Refresher (Jim Mihalovich has offered to present)
- iii. *"Teen Driver? What Every Parent Should Know"* (Fall, 2025)
- iv. Senior Vehicle Inspections (Fall, 2025 at LWCHS)
- v. Bicycle Safety
- vi. Motorcycle Safety
- vii. Child Car Seat / Booster Seat Event

4. Suicide Prevention and Awareness

a. safeTALK

- i. This class was held from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Monday, November 18, 2024 in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class was taught by Sertoma Star Services. Thirty-four people registered via Eventbrite and approximately 20 attended.

b. VA S.A.V.E. Training

- i. This class was held via Zoom videoconference from 7:00pm to 8:00pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. Michelle Augoustatos, Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital provided the presentation. Seventy-eight people registered via Eventbrite and approximately 50 attended.

c. The Grief Experience – How to Cope *or* The Grief Experience – How to Support Someone Who Is Grieving

- i. Patrice Martin, Director of Grief Support, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, has offered to do one or both of these presentations. Following a discussion, it was decided that Patrice will present both programs (most likely late Spring or early Summer) on separate dates. Most likely, the presentations will be done via Zoom Videoconference

d. Mental Health 101: Tips and Tricks for a Healthy Mind

- i. This presentation was held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on Thursday, March 20, 2025, in the Council Chambers at the New Lenox Village Hall. The presentation was given by Marie Goulet, NLSD #122, who did an outstanding job. Approximately 30 citizens were in attendance.

e. Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

- i. This class will be held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on Thursday, April 3, 2025, via Zoom Videoconference. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

f. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) – Adult Version

- i. This class will be held from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.

- g. Applied Suicide Intervention Skill” (ASIST)**
 - i. This class will be held from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 and Thursday, June 19, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.
 - h. Out of Darkness Walk (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)**
 - i. Marie Kress led our team last year (September 28, 2024) at the Kankakee County Walk, which was held at Riverside Healthcare in Bourbonnais, IL. No date is available for 2025 at this time, but it will likely be around the same time (September). Please contact Marie if you would like to be on the team.
 - i. A Pathway to Hope and Healing**
 - i. World Suicide Prevention Week is September 7-13th this year. World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th. “*A Pathway to Hope and Healing*” is typically held around this time of year in support of this campaign. Following a discussion, it was decided that a Planning Team will be formed during the May 13th Task Group Meeting to determine an event location, date, time, format, speakers, etc...
 - j. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) – Youth Version**
 - i. This class will be held from 8:30am to 4:00pm on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.
 - k. Dr. Mike Mecozi (NEW) Presentation**
 - i. This presentation will be given from 7:00pm to 8:00pm (*tentatively*) on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.
 - l. safeTALK**
 - i. This class will be held from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. This class will be taught by Sertoma Star Services.
- 4. Emergency Preparedness**
- a. New Lenox Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and New Lenox Search and Rescue (SAR) Update.**
 - b. Stop the Bleed**
 - i. Our team of instructors taught a “*Stop the Bleed*” class for approximately 20 Plainfield EMA volunteers on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:30pm. The class was held at the new Plainfield EMA Facility and our instructors did an outstanding job.
 - c. Severe Weather Preparedness Training / Health and Safety Expo / Touch-a-Truck**
 - i. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at Lincoln-Way WEST High School. At the request of the National Weather Service, they would like this to be Severe Weather Preparedness Training, rather than the traditional Severe Weather Spotter Training. The Health and Safety Expo will be held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the atrium adjacent to the auditorium. The Touch-a-Truck will be held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the driveway just outside the doors to

the auditorium and in the parking lot just south of the auditorium. The Severe Weather Preparedness Training will be held from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the auditorium.

d. Stop the Bleed

- i. “*Stop the Bleed*” will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

e. Home Safety and Personal Defense by Joe Malone

- i. This class will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

f. Stop the Bleed

- i. “*Stop the Bleed*” will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

g. CERT Class #21

- i. CERT Class #21 will be held in September and October, 2025. The class will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The first class will be on September 9th and the last class will be on October 2nd. The Final Exercise (Disaster Simulation) and Graduation will be held on Saturday, October 4th.

h. Stop the Bleed

- i. “*Stop the Bleed*” will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

i. Surviving an Active Shooter Encounter by Joe Malone

- i. This class will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall.

6. Older Adults Falls Prevention

a. A Matter of Balance NEW Coach Class

- i. The MOB NEW Coach Class was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 and Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 1:00pm to 4:30pm (both days). It was originally scheduled for the 11th and 12th, but due to weather (snow) the second day was held on the 13th. The class was held in the Community Development Conference Room at the Village Hall. Linda Bunting and Gloria Bodnar led this training and did a terrific job. Congratulations and special thanks to Karen McHale, Dani Madon, and Diannaha Thompson for completing the class. It’s hoped that they will observe and / or coach this Spring.

b. A Matter of Balance Coach Refresher Training

- i. The Annual MOB Coach Refresher Training was held from 9:30am to 12:00pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. Linda Bunting and Gloria Bodnar did a terrific job leading this Annual Refresher. Dan Martin, Colette Loecke, and Kathy Beaudry completed the training. Following the training, Dan Martin treated everyone to lunch at Williamson’s.

c. A Matter of Balance Class #56

- i. MOB Class #56 will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:30am in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall. The first class will begin on Monday, April 7th and the class will graduate on Wednesday, April 30th. Dan Martin will Coach this class along with Gloria Bodnar.

d. “A Matter of Balance” Class #57

- i. MOB Class #56 will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 11:30am at the New Lenox Community Park District Admin Building, 701 W. Haven Ave. The first class will begin on Tuesday, April 22nd and the class will graduate on Tuesday, May 20th (had to adjust the schedule due to conflict with the room). Linda Bunting will Coach this class along with Kathy Beaudry.

e. Fit and Strong! Class #11

- i. “Fit and Strong!” Class #11 will be held at the Spencer Campus this Summer. The class will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:00am. The first class will be held on Monday, June 2nd and the last class would be Friday, July 25th. An instructor schedule was developed during the last task group meeting.

f. Seniors With Sole

- i. “Seniors With Sole” will be held in the New Lenox Commons this Summer. The program will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30am to 9:30am. The first session would be held on Tuesday, June 3rd and the last session would be held on Thursday, July 24th. Mercy and Tom Nolan have graciously agreed to lead this program once again. Gloria Bodnar has indicated that she will assist as well.

g. One Fall Can Change It All

- i. This event will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 from approximately 8:00am to 11:00am. A Planning Team has been formed and will be scheduling their first planning meeting in the near future.

h. A Matter of Balance

- i. The Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall has been reserved on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 11:30am in October. The first class would meet on Monday, October 6th and the last class would meet on Wednesday, October 29th.

7. Announcements / Organization Updates

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 / 10:30am, via Zoom Videoconference.

9. Adjournment

New Lenox Safe Community Coalition

“Through a collaborative process, the New Lenox Safe Community Coalition will improve the health, safety and quality of life for residents and visitors through injury analysis and the implementation of programs designed to increase safety and prevent injuries.”