

Wag Your Partner Round & Round

On April 26 the annual training for Clinton County CERT Therapy Dog teams was held at the County Administration Building.

Thanks to two of our CERT and Therapy Dog volunteers, Stan and Kay Bates for knowing twin brothers, Doug and Don Sprosty through their own hobby of square dancing. We were able to have the Sprosty brothers come to the training to call and instruct the teams to dance with their four legged friends.

The Sprosty brothers, call and instruct for people in their club called the Solo Steppers in the Davenport and Bettendorf area. They also call and instruct in Morrison and Geneseo. The twins have been calling since 1972 at the age of 12.

You may be asking yourself, what it means to be a “caller” and second, how do dogs square dance. To answer those questions, first, a caller is a person who prompts dance steps while dancers are square dancing. Second, the dogs danced by being led by their handler with a leash and/or training commands that they already knew in order to complete team and group steps.

With the help of the Callers, the handlers were able to learn their dance steps in order to lead their dog to follow their steps. The ironic part of this training was that the Callers had never called and instructed dogs to square dance before this night. However, with that said, the Callers did a great job leading this training!



Photos of the 2017 Clinton County CERT Therapy Dog Program Training with team participants being instructed by the Callers on how to square dance with their dogs individually and together as a group.



Traffic Control Basics for Any Event

Personal safety first, second and always was the number one thing Dan Howard made clear to the 17 CERT volunteers present at the CERT Special Event Traffic Control Training in June. This training qualified volunteers to assist law enforcement officers by directing traffic during community special events.

Topics focused on at the training included proper gear to use and wear, positioning safely between traffic, using clear hand signals and communication to explain directions to drivers and effective techniques when using whistles, flash lights and voice commands to direct traffic.

There was also hands on training for volunteers to go through different traffic situations in a dark room. They used traffic control tools to practice the gestures and commands necessary to direct traffic effectively all while being faced with multiple visual and noise distractions.

This training provided additional training for those volunteers helping at the Grand Mound 4th of July Fireworks event this year. However, the Grand Mound fireworks show is not the only special event in the county that may have the need for volunteers to help with traffic control. Refresher training will be given prior to an upcoming special event where volunteers are need for traffic control in the future.



THIS ISSUE'S EMERGENCY TIP:

How to Keep Your Valuables Safe: How will you confirm the details of valuables that were in your home or business to your insurance agency if affected by a flood or destroyed in a fire? The below tips recommend you document, insure, and protect your property by:

- **Creating an inventory of your home or business.** A detailed inventory of your property's contents will help you prove the value of what you owned, which could speed your insurance claim processing, and will provide documentation for the tax deductions you can claim.
- **Ensuring you have appropriate insurance.** Not all insurance policies are the same. Coverage amounts, deductibles, and payment caps can vary significantly. Consult with your insurance professional to be sure your policy is right for you.
- **Keeping vital records in a safe place.** Store paper copies, or electronic copies on a flash or external hard drive in a waterproof and fireproof box, safe, or bank deposit box. Insurance Information Institute offers a free tool at KnowYourStuff.org, which allows you to create a home inventory with your smartphone, tablet or computer.
- **Storing policy numbers and contact information nearby.** Keep your policy numbers, your insurance professional/company phone number, and claim filing instructions in a secure, convenient location.

Looking Ahead - 2017 CERT Schedule

Mark your calendar for the upcoming training events. Communication through email will still be used to update volunteers on additional trainings that come up. If you are interested in signing up for a training, requests can be sent to Amanda unless a different registration process is required.

Tuesday, August 1st @ 6:00 – 8 pm

DeWitt National Night Out

Lincoln Park (Located at 6th Avenue and 11th Street)

Thursday, September 28th @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Topic is TBD

EOC in the Courthouse (612 N. 2nd St., Clinton)

TBD (Usually beginning of October)

City of Clinton Fire Department's Open House

Central Station (344 3rd Avenue S., Clinton)

TBD (Usually beginning of October)

City of Camanche Fire Department's Open House

Fire Station (917 3rd Street, Camanche)

Sunday, October 22nd @ 8 am – 10 pm

Ground Search Training

Eagle Point Park Lodge (3900 N. 3rd St., Clinton)



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Do You Have Something to Say?

Would you like to include information in this newsletter? Good news, there will be available space in the upcoming newsletters for your helpful tidbits.

We want to hear from you so email me your brief article! Prospective articles can include information from your experiences or facts pertaining to volunteering, CERT or emergency preparedness. All articles are due to Amanda by the end of either May or November - apearson@clintoncounty-ia.gov.