

**Village of Hawthorn Woods**  
**South Lake County Regional Community Emergency Response Team**  
**Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award**

**Contact:**

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The Village of Hawthorn Woods Parks & Recreation Department is nominating the South Lake County Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the 2014 Illinois Association of Park Districts' Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award. The South Lake County Regional CERT was started in 2009 in response to the Presidential request for communities to create Citizen Corps Councils to bring together first responders, volunteer organizations, law enforcement agencies, and community-serving institutions to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. The South Lake County CERT serves the communities of Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Lake Zurich, and Long Grove. This group of citizen volunteers not only responds to the community in emergency situations, but serves the community through assistance with special events on a regular basis. They have repeatedly lent the helping hand to advance our leisure services and we thank them for their continued service.

South Lake County CERT volunteers worked cooperatively and diligently with the Village of Hawthorn Woods Parks & Recreation Department to ensure the annual Hawthorn Woods Third of July Fireworks event was a safe and enjoyable evening for the 5,000 plus attendees. The South Lake County CERT provided 35 volunteers to the fireworks event who organized a variety of services including traffic control, parking assistance, shuttle transport, and assistance with crowd control and security. The South Lake County CERT also organized and staffed the first aid tent on site which included two volunteer registered nurses. South Lake County CERT volunteers worked the event command post and provided radio communication equipment and dispatch support services for use by all event personnel. This amazing volunteer group also staffed an off-site parking venue for 300 cars and transported event goers by shuttle bus to the fireworks and back without incident.

The South Lake County CERT continually assists with the Department's community events. This past February they organized volunteers for the first annual Parks & Recreation Department Winter Carnival event to provide services in traffic control, parking, and first aid. After a late night on the third of July, South Lake County CERT volunteers returned early the following morning on the Fourth of July and had three entries in the annual Hawthorn Woods Parks & Recreation Department Fourth of July parade including the CERT Utility (a former ambulance),

the new CERT gator (amphibious capability), and the CERT trailer. The South Lake County CERT often provides vehicles for the Fall Family Fun Fest Touch-a-Truck event.

Thank you for considering the South Lake County Regional Community Emergency Response Team for the 2014 IAPD Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award. This group of individuals truly exemplify the idea of *people helping people* through selfless volunteerism

We could not safely conduct our Parks & Recreation Department special events without our South Lake Country CERT volunteers.