

# Training scheduled for potential emergency response volunteers

By MARY SCHLEY

RESIDENTS OF Carmel interested in helping themselves and their neighbors during a disaster or emergency — like a wildfire or flood — are invited to volunteer for the Community Emergency Response Team, which is overseen by Carmel Police officer Rachelle Lightfoot. Training sessions begin next month.

CERT basic training is limited to 20 students per class and, during the coronavirus pandemic, is offered in a half-dozen three-hour online sessions, plus a one-session mandatory FEMA class. A day of in-person skills training, oath-taking and graduation will wrap up the training, after which volunteers will be cleared to help out with everything from traffic control to triage.

The course assures CERT volunteers will be ready to respond to disasters and emergencies by teaching them about the hazards that may impact the area and training them in basic disaster response skills, including fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. CERT offers a consistent approach used in volunteer training and organization used nationwide, so professional responders know they can rely on

team members during dynamic and critical situations when they need to focus on more complex tasks.

Carmel Gives is sponsoring the class, so it's free for volunteers, and completing all sessions is necessary for graduation. The online trainings will take place every Saturday in October and the first Saturday in November, with each session running from 9 a.m. to noon. The mandatory free online FEMA course will cover the incident command system used by fire departments and others to communicate with each other during emergencies.

The final session, scheduled for Nov. 14 or Nov. 21, will be held outside and will cover how to use a fire extinguisher, how to communicate via radio, how to use the ICS to deploy a team, how to free a victim trapped by heavy rubble, search and rescue techniques, basic triage at a mass casualty incident, disaster psychology, how to treat life-threatening and less critical injuries, how to splint a limb, how to move a victim, and other valuable skills and information. It will take all day.

For information or to sign up, contact Carmel CERT Captains Wanda Vollmer at (831) 915-3148 or Scot Smythe at (650) 804-8767.

# Live from the parking lot at Sunset

SUNSET CENTER is hosting another drive-in affair in the north parking lot, but this time it will involve music instead of films. Performing Oct. 3-4 at 3 and 7 p.m. both days, Andre Thierry will present "An Accordion Soul, Zydeco-Pop Party," for up to 40 cars at each show. Organizers say Thierry is "masterful on all accordion types," and plays "with a force few can match."

"The award-winning, Grammy-nominated musician and his band effortlessly

deliver energetic performances, blending his own electrifying sounds with stirring dance beats, exhibiting elite accordion style," they said. "It's feel-good music that captivates the audience every time."

The concert will run 75 minutes, and guests will have fun options for food and drinks, too, from the Big Sur Taco truck. Tickets are \$65 per vehicle, with up to four passengers. For tickets, which will sell out quickly, go to sunsetcenter.org.

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