



SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



# THE SIREN



News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

August 2016

## *From the Desk of the Chief*

Hello Sun City Center Emergency Squad! A big thank you to all of you for all the hard work you have been doing. I know how hard everyone is trying to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," from all the thank you notes sent in and the word of mouth from the community. We are always under scrutiny because we are always out in the community and everyone is watching. I have had several businesses also send their appreciation for the Squad's professionalism and kindness. With that, Robin Watt will be letting everyone know about the Appreciation Brunch coming up on August 25th. We want to show you all that we are grateful for what you do. I hope to see everyone there. Please keep it up.

In the last month we have had 12 new EMTs, 5 new EMRs of which 4 are going to be drivers, and 4 new office assistants for Staff help. We are always needing new Squad members, so please ask people you know that we are looking for EMRs and Drivers. Word of mouth is essential to enforce all the recruiting information we put out. Right now, Sun City Security is having issues and we always seem to be mistaken for them and vice versa. We need to keep rumors from starting, spreading, or just clarify them so we do not take another hit from their issues as has happened in the past. We will support them as a fellow organization through their hard times but do not want to be pulled down because of them. Let's always stay positive.

**Rumors:** Once again I have heard rumors going around and I want like to stop them so not to confuse or upset our Squad members. If you have not heard it from me, the Deputy Chief, the Assistant Chiefs, or the Captains, I would question hard the validity of the rumor. **Rumor 1)** The documents we keep (i.e dispatch, run reports, paperwork on scene) are not official documents. Truth: All documents we fill out or use are official documents and are open to audit. All forms and logs should be filled out in pen and all mistakes one-lined out and initialed. Even the med list we give the hospital becomes part of the patient's medical record. Please take care to always treat documents and logs as official documents. **Rumor 2)** The Squad main building is going to be shut down for 6 months, or the Squad is remodeling in 6 months, or the Squad has a set plan for a rebuild. Truth: The Deputy Chief, Mike Bardell with Board Treasurer, Mick Hebel, have started the information gathering phase of a ready room, kitchen, and dispatch remodel. They are meeting with each group for ideas of what is needed and what is wanted. We would like to start by September but until plans have been written and contractors have given us timelines, we have no true timeline. Please work with them to gather information they need and stop the rumors. As we know, you will know. If you are not sure of a source, ask one of us before you spread information that may not be true.

Every month seems to get better and better and is all on account of all of you. Thank you for all you do and please keep it up. That is all for now. Thank you.

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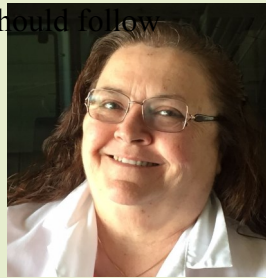
*Chief Robert Leonard, below.*



## Health Issues and Personal Protection by Linda Blume

The Isolation Book is at the Captain's desk filled with helpful information that I will be adding to as needed. We transported 3 cases of Pneumonia in July. Please have the patient wear a mask to protect yourself and others. The pneumonia shot will not prevent pneumonia but instead lessen the infection. There are many strains of a disease and the 'shot' is not going to protect you for all of them. It is your responsibility to help protect yourself, family, friends and co-workers. Washing hands is very important.

In the news has been concern about Zika. Stay away from standing water, wear long sleeves, and use mosquito spray. Several of our Health Care Facilities have ponds, pools, standing water. Some of the symptoms include mild fever, rash, joint or muscle pain, headache and conjunctivitis (red eyes) You should follow standard infection control and universal precaution to help prevent or minimize the risk of Zika transmission.



## Featured Volunteer—John Fetting

John Fetting and his wife Carol moved to Sun City Center in November of 2013. Prior to that, they spent several years RV'ing, before looking for something more permanent. With family living in Bradenton and long-time friends in Sun City Center, they found a place here and have really enjoyed it.

John found the Squad after seeing the ambulance parked in various places with the sign requesting help. Also seeing it drive by with lights and sirens, he knew that it might be worthwhile cause to get involved with.

John and Carol have been married 34 years and have a daughter, Lisa, who lives in the Chicago area. John served in the Navy for 4 years after high school and went to work as a carpenter in the Chicago area building houses for 40 years. He says "the only similarity between carpentry and being a first responder is the occasional sight of blood!" Team 5 is his home team, but we are fortunate that John helps out many other teams, especially during the summer when the snow birds are gone. His past volunteer experience included volunteering for his church up north, working on food drives and other worthy causes. However, he says, "working at the Squad is the most rewarding thing that I've done in my life."



## Run Report July 2016

### Monthly

Ambulance Runs	372
Van Runs	110
B/P	137
Falls	120
Lift Assist*	7

(\*new category)

### Year to date totals

Ambulance Runs	2553
Van Runs	674
B/P	759
Falls YTD	632

## Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Jim Rottman	Team 2
Gert Affrayroux	Team 2
Flo Jesse	Team 2
Dan Holtom	Team 4
Emily Lahti	Team 4
Lynn Kjollesdahl	Team 5
Jan Kjollesdahl	Team 5
Garry gose	Team 6
Pam Windspirit	Team 6
Beverly Beard	Team 7
Ron Wecker	Team 7
Arlene McCabe	Team 8

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## August Birthdays



Day	Name
2	Anita-Marie Abbe
2	John H. Fetting
4	Marty Gifford
5	Ray Walker
6	Joan Barfield
7	Adebola Atanda
8	Katherine Bizzano
8	Sandra Dillmuth
8	Joan Nixon
8	Ricardo Padron
8	Raymond Skaine
9	Ken Reid
9	Karen Stansell
10	Donna McClister
11	Roy Paulsen
13	Phyllis Marion
13	Sharon Riley
15	Randy Anderson
15	Don Churchill
15	Carol Culp
16	Ludmila Kulihin
17	Margaret Goss
17	Dalton Mace
18	Andrew Hebel
19	Robert Mulcahy
22	Gert Affayroux
22	Sherri Cooper
24	Lois Andress
24	Winnie Hicks
24	Suzanne McFadyen
24	Marie A. Nelson
25	Carol Bryant
25	Glenda Burgess
27	Timothy Baker
27	Karen Crippen
27	Helen Kashenid
27	Nancy Willett



### We Need You by Jan Huber



Why do we do what we do? Why do we arrive in the early morning darkness while others are fast asleep in their nice warm beds? Why do we come to work the night shift while others are just preparing for bed? Didn't we remember that we're supposed to be retired? Did we forget that this is supposed to be the "laid back" part of our life? What part of "laid back" don't we get? How come we're the ones at an MVA at 3am with the rain pouring down in buckets? Or how about the MVA in the Walmart parking lot at 12 noon when it's just about 117 degrees and we're on our knees back boarding a patient?

So, why do we do what we do? Could it have something to do with the closeness and camaraderie of our teammates? Perhaps it's a feeling of a kind of second family or maybe even the first we never had. Maybe we just like the white shirts and pants with lots of pockets. Perhaps some of us feel a sort of spirituality, a calling, if you will, to help others. At the very least, it's a need to provide comfort. Maybe we just like to be a part of a group that is so respected. Then again, maybe we just really like the snacks and home cooked meals.

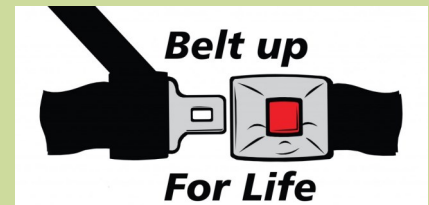
There are probably bits and pieces of all of these reasons in many of us. If there was some way we could express our feelings to just one other person--some way to convince them that being on the Squad is really special and brings us great satisfaction. We are such an important part of our community. Our uniforms and our actions sets us apart from every other volunteer group in the city and county. How about if each of starts to think about getting just one new recruit-- perhaps a friend, a neighbor, a golfing buddy, a bridge partner, a significant other.

We want to continue to grow, we need to expand our "family." Most importantly, we need YOU to help.

### Safety First by Mike Albanese

#### **Seatbelts Save Lives**

Above anything else you can do to be safe inside the ambulance is to buckle up that seat belt. The wheels should not turn until everyone is buckled in. Seat belts do save lives and statistics show that their use reduces serious crash injuries and death by about 50%. In ambulance accidents, unsecured people and equipment are the cause of more injuries and deaths than anything else. When patients, volunteers or machines go flying inside the cabin of the ambulance, injuries most definitely occur!



"During an ambulance collision, an unrestrained provider in the patient compartment essentially becomes a missile flying through the air at the same speed as the ambulance when it crashes. Providers usually end up smashing against the bulkhead and sustaining some type of head trauma."



## STRYKER TRAINING

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Squad held gurney training to review the operations of the both the gurney and the power loader. Forty-seven volunteers attended, including 15 EMTs. The training was from Stryker and was taught by Todd Taylor, Stryker representative.

Free to us, the training was well-received by all participants. Many stated that they learned much more than



they thought they would! We were shown what all the red handles and buttons do to help us in removing or replacing the gurney from the loader.

Mike Bardell says that this will be repeated in the future, probably twice a year, with the next one coming in the winter to allow our snow-

birds to participate.

## August Anniversaries

Team #	Name	Anniversary
6	Ted Adamczyk	3
WC	Nick Avella	5
2	Lou Balance	1
1	Lloyd Banfield	1
8	Helen Kashenider	1
1	Ludmila Kulihiin	1
6	Sandra Rife	1
5	Catherine Rogers	3
6	Larry St. John	1
8	Deanna St. John	1
3	Beverly Shackelford	20
2	Deb Spitler	1
3	Joanne Sudman	5
7	Beverly Weaver	5
1	Caroline Whalen	1
8	Carol Zeller	1
8	Sam Zians	1

Charlotte Epps was left off last month's anniversary list. She's been with us for one year as well!

**Happy Anniversary and thank you to  
All of you for your continuing dedication**

## Dates to Remember

**Summer Appreciation  
Brunch August 25th,  
Community Hall  
10:30 am**



## Speaking POINTS:

*When telling friends about the Squad, make sure you tell them:*

- ◆ WE are 100% Volunteer - no one gets a paycheck!
- ◆ WE are 100% FREE - no one ever gets a bill!
- ◆ WE do over 5000 runs a year in our community!
- ◆ We began in 1964 and are 52 years old.
- ◆ We are supported entirely by donations and community grants!

Finally a moment to sit and say thank you to all of you for the warm welcome and words of encouragement as I took on the task of Asst. Chief, HR. It is so enjoyable being greeted with hellos and smiles as I come through the doors in the morning. I've had the opportunity to meet most of you. It would be nice to say that my memory is still good enough to recognize and call you all by name, but alas, that is not the case. I will get there eventually. Thank you all once again. Please remember to extend your kindness and welcoming spirit to all of our new volunteers.

Chris McCann, Asst. Chief, HR