

April 2020

The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad

AMBULANCE

From the Desk of the Chief

It seems like an eternity since I wrote my March Siren article. Who knew we would be here? Everyone wants to move on, and that is understandable given we are living this 24/7.

We do have a couple COVID19 cases in SCC; this was probably unavoidable given we have so many travelers and family ties. What has happened in this community is unprecedented. Closing all the recreational facilities took a lot of courage, as there will always be some people that will not like it. It has been brought to my attention that Goodwill and Food pantries will be seeing larger inventory as a result of people cleaning closets and kitchen storage.

Look at our Assisted and Independent living facilities, and how quick they started asking questions and determining who was on their campus. Until a few weeks ago, I never heard of social distancing. Now if you get too close, people look at you funny. I'm not sure how that works if you are dating.

We have had people that have to step back for different reasons and we respect and understand their need to do so, and we were concerned as to how we would meet this challenge. Many of you have stepped up to fulfill those needs. There is an old saying that in times of crisis, many people have to flee, but there are those that are able and run towards the crisis. This would fit all of you who are able to continue working, except that part about running - - - this is SCC, we walk.

I'd also like to note, that many groups have stepped up to assist us. Several local groups have sewn facemasks for us and others in the community. The officers of the MOWW are making a donation specifically for the purchase of PPE equipment. Other groups are offering assistance in feeding us. I'm sure as this continues, we'll see many other acts of generosity.

These are challenging times but all this will pass. Then we can get back to an active retirement. I am proud to belong to an organization that does so much for a community. Thanks for all you do.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for April

John Kunzler	2	Frank Gatto	16
Daniel Zawacki	3	Sharon Dolan	18
Marcia Lederberg	4	Anthony Marro	18
Vallery McKeehan	4	Darlene Whitehurst	19
Floyd Curvin	5	Elizabeth Ellis	20
Russ Girgenti	6	Mohsen Khalifa	20
Mary Bramel	7	Christine Zewin	21
Jennie Casey	7	Sheri Angel	22
Janet Meyer	7	Kevin Kaspar	22
Bud Bergeman	8	Bud Wiehe	23
Betsy McGee	8	Cricket Fraser	25
Joan Feehan	9	David Graves	26
April Lester	9	Gretchan Chapman	27
Diane Simo	9	Don Marotta	27
Linda Conklin	11	Barbara Phillips	27
Lawrence Bardsley	12	Reinhold Baal	29
Barbara Cuthbertson	12	Scotti Fortiner	30

Anniversaries Team#/ Years

Fifteen Years:

Marilyn McCormick T6

Ten Years:

David Watt T7

Five Years:

Linda Kalpin T4,

Diana Raphael T3,

Janice Rousseau T3

Three Years:

Cricket Fraser T4,

John Gentry T8,

Thomas Ginter T3

One Year:

Jane Kelley T6,

Daniel Krupa T1,

Nancy Heiss T8,

Marty Heiss T8,

Jim Abney T6,

Gail Letzring T1,

Beverly Hiller T1

Stats April 2020

Run Report

Ambulance Runs 398

Van Runs 104

Fall Calls 164

Sick List for April 2020

Chris Avella T-1

Bob Rusnak T-2

Rosita Rodriguez T-2

John Kunzler T-3

Peg Campbell T-4

Linda Mascetti T-5

amazon smile



March 2020 EMR Graduates and Instructors

The Emergency Squad began its March Emergency Medical Responder class with 5 students. As the class progressed and as news of the CoronaVirus took hold, four class members dropped out. It is understandable to be concerned about our own health and we encourage all volunteers, not just our own, to make good decisions for themselves and their families, regarding contact with others. We are grateful that new volunteer Ray Vaccaro stuck with us and finished the class!

L-R Instructors Marcie McGee, John Gentry, BJ Capron, Walt Bowers, student Ray Vaccaro, instructors Shirley Bardell, Barry McGee and Jim Malanowski.



ABOVE & BEYOND

Thank you for all you do!

Tina Drury, Deputy Chief

I wish to somehow thank all the people that have offered to step up and fill in for all shortages. Thank you does not seem like enough in this particular climate.

Also I (we) have recently changed procedures for Dispatch, ambulances and vans, along with the Front Desk/Front Door. It is confusing for all of us with this rapidly changing environment, but we ask that you check the new Coronavirus Procedure Book at the Captains Desk if you have questions regarding changes. Please take all precautions by sanitizing your hands coming in and going.

Know that we are doing everything possible to be there for you, our Community, neighbors and friends.



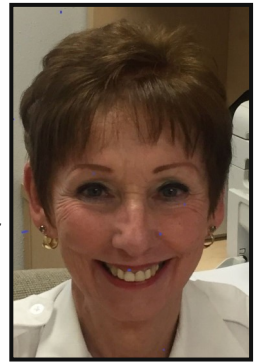
With a Different Twist...

Chris McCann, Asst. Chief HR

Do you remember a while back when cars were called “used”? The word was plastered all over billboards and televisions. Then, it seems all out of the blue we were hearing and seeing the words pre-owned. Hmm . . . means the same thing with a fresh touch doesn’t it? What a concept!

If changing wording a bit works for cars, then why not try changing the wording we use to find volunteers for the Squad?

Maybe you have noticed that articles in the newspapers no longer contain the word “volunteer” in their content. We call our meeting Emergency Squad Information Meetings. Same meaning, but slightly different wording. We are also talking about neighbors and friends freely giving of their time to help their neighbors in need instead of volunteers. Does it mean the same? Absolutely, but with a different twist!



Annual Squad Meeting and Board Election

On March 12th, the Squad held its annual meeting to elect new Board members. Attendance was very low as the many members had voted prior to the meeting and were honoring “social distancing” due to the CoronaVirus. At that time, we were just beginning to be aware of how horrible this virus can be.

A quorum was obtained and the meeting conducted. Two Board directors, term-limited after 6 years of service, were recognized for their commitment to the Squad. Eileen Peco, Chairman of the Board, and Mary Ann Meeker, Treasurer, both step back from the Board, but continue to serve in their team roles, while looking for their next projects.

Votes were counted and new Directors were announced by Betsy McGhee, chair of the election committee. Elected to 3 year terms: Ken Ayers, Lloyd Banfield and Doris Feron. Winsor “Skip” Aylesworth was elected to serve a 2 year term. Terry Blankenship was elected to serve a one year term.

Serving in leadership positions are: Tom Canady, Chair; Ken Ayers, Vice-Chair; Terry Blankenship, Treasurer and Emily Lahti, Secretary. Also, Mike Bardell has been re-appointed Chief for 2020 -2021 and Marty Gifford has been re-appointed Chief Financial Officer for 2021.

Pictured below left: Skip Aylesworth, Doris Feron, Ken Ayers and Terry Blankenship. Not in photo: Lloyd Banfield.

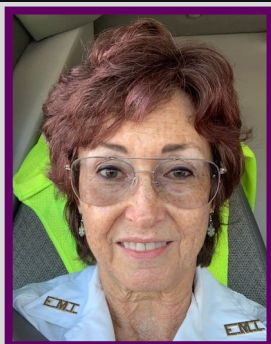
Pictured right: Chairman of the Board and 6 year Board member Eileen Peco and Board Treasurer receiving plaques of recognition from Chief Mike Bardell and new Chair, Tom Canady.



How Quickly Things Change

By Robin Watt, Assistant Chief
Public Affairs

A month ago, we were nearly overwhelmed with all the events that were on the calendar. Then COVID-19 "struck" and wiped out our schedule of events. Not just for us, but pretty much the entire country!



Hopefully our "social distancing" will be over in the next few weeks and we can get back to our normal routines. But looking forward, we do have events you can put on your calendar now.

In August, our **Summer Appreciation Lunch is scheduled for Thursday August 27th at Veteran's Theater.** At this time, our **Annual Awards Dinner is scheduled for Friday December 11th, at Community Hall.** I realize that the vast majority of our volunteers who expressed their thoughts, preferred mid-November as a time for the awards. The dates for these annual events are usually selected a year in advance, so we are currently stuck with the December date, unless some group cancels their mid-November event.

Other events will come up once the coronavirus has subsided. These will be announced and sign-up sheets for help will be posted again on the back of the ready room.

Until then, stay healthy – and about 6 feet away from me!

Community Support

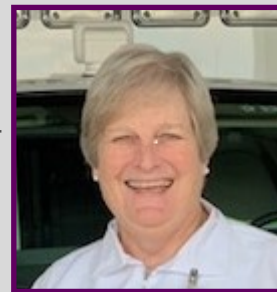
The Kings Point Quilters donated a quilt to be raffled at the Spring Fling event on Friday, March 13th in the KP Veteran's Theater. The quilt raffle earned \$1,350.00 to be donated to the Sun City Center Emergency Squad. No group photo is available due to the social distancing policy that we all follow. The KP Quilters hope to have a group photo shoot at a later date.

In addition, The KP Quilters and the SCC Sew & Sews have been busy making masks for us. WE also recently received a donation of \$1000 to specifically pay for our much needed PPE during this time.



HIPAA and the Corona Covid-19 Virus

By Linda Eargle, HIPAA
Compliance Officer



If you follow Sun City Center on Facebook, you've seen the discussion of HIPAA and people wanting to know if someone in Sun City Center has been diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus. The Federal government interprets individual privacy violations as information that can be tracked back to an individual. That can be a case number, which is why we require that you destroy any personal notes you have during your shift. Violations could be to say that you transported someone with symptoms similar to those described for Covid-19, since these are unique to our area.

HIPAA regulations say that referring to a patient as someone in their 90s is a violation. While that would be true in other areas of the country, in Sun City Center, a 90 year old is not that unusual; someone 100 years old would be a HIPAA violation.

The stress this disease has added to us all is enormous. Talking with each other while in the duty room or contacting one of the support people can improve the way we work or help to ease our stress levels. The best policy is to make sure you shred all notes at the end of the day and only share non-identifying information after you leave the duty room.

Thank you for all you do and your willingness to continue to serve in these challenging times.

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Team Captains

Team 1	Robert Leonard
Team 2	Betty Richner
Team 3	Chuck Russ
Team 4	Tim Zion
Team 5	Ken Ayers
Team 6	Dick McCormick
Team 7	Karen McInnis
Team 8	Jim Ryan