

December 2020

The Siren

**Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad**

AMBULANCE

From the Chief's Desk

The holiday season is upon us. As normal for me, time seems to pass too quickly. I hope each one takes some time to enjoy this season and to be thankful for all we have. This has been a challenging year.

Many of us are not going to be able to spend time with our families. Shirley and I really enjoy our time with family and are not happy about missing that. But we will be with our squad family and that is always enjoyable.

Some bits of information for you. We have recently graduated a new class of EMRs (8) and a new Dispatch class of (8). There was a free rapid COVID -19 test site set up last Tuesday at the hospital. I understand they did about 900 and about 15 were positive. That is less than 2%. From the last information I received, around 30% of the infections come from 18-35 years old. Most of us are well beyond that group. I am not going to tell you not to worry about it, rather I would ask that you don't let it consume your life. You might want to do as Shirley and I have done and refrain from watching the news all the time. Rather, pay attention to the CDC and your physician. Same for Internet articles, as some were written over 6 months ago. Make sure you are reading the current information and that the source is reliable. So much research is going on all over the world. As for the vaccine, we will keep you posted.

Regardless of all that is going on, please try to have a Happy Holiday season. Christmas only comes around once a year. Hopefully, the biggest problem will be over eating. Especially with all the great food readily available at the Squad.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for December 2020

Caroline Whalen	1	Robert Bialaszewski	16
Richard Grant	1	Eileen Peco	16
Kelly Knigge	3	James Hiller	16
Dolores Whiteside	4	MaryAnn Vinci	17
Jack Riley	5	Susan Deptula	17
Tina Drury	6	Donna Heath	18
Theresa Snipe	6	Cynthia Lowe	20
LeeAnn Stinchcomb	7	John Lackey	21
Janice Rousseau	8	Rebecca Gonda	22
Kay Bogart	10	Leo Scire	23
Susan Fitts	11	Jim Abney	24
Ron Cowden	12	William Zeller	24
Diana Raphael	12	Loreen Brezec	26
Stanely Zabetakis	13	Gene Deiss	27
Linda Menier	13	Patricia Johnson	27
Pam Click	13	Lillian Stone	29
Hazel Crosby	14		
Joan McMullen	15		



Anniversaries: December 2020

Fifteen Years: Mary Borg T-3, Carol Watson T-2

Ten Years: Jack Riley T-0

Five Years: Mary Huntington T-1, James Diehl T-4, Sara Washburn T-5, John Colburn T-5, Geraldine Roth T-7

Three Years: Lynette Heisler T-7

One Year: Teresa Paddubny T-0

Note: Mary Borg and Carol Watson will have an article about their 15-year experience on the Squad in the January 2021 Siren.

Year 10-15-20-25-30

Monetary Awards
will be issued
in December

Stats Nov 2020 YTD

Ambulance Runs	366
Van Runs	100
Fall Calls (%)	169
Blood pressures	58
Falls as %	46%

Sick List for December

Jimmy Staines T-5

Check our website at
SCCEMS.com



Squad receives 100% rating from Charity Navigator

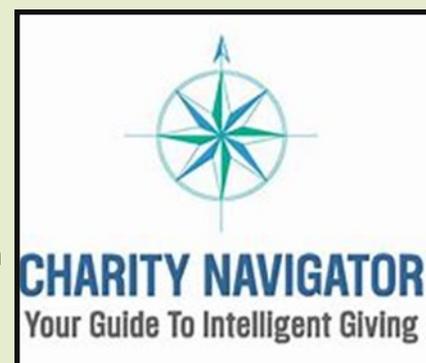
For more than 56 years, the Emergency Squad has served our residents. We have been 100% free all this time due to the support of a generous community. This past month we begin our annual fund drive. Your donations allow us to continue serving our community through the many services we provide: BLS ambulance services, wheelchair transportation to medical appointments for our non-ambulatory residents, blood pressure checks, walker and wheelchair loans, community education and more.

Recently, the Emergency Squad received a 100/100 rating from Charity Navigator. We share this with you to assure you that your donations go 100% to the operations of our organization. For those unfamiliar with the Squad, we are entirely volunteer: no one gets a paycheck, including our Chief, Directors or administrative staff.

If you are not familiar with Charity Navigator, its primary purpose is to examine the soundness of non-profit organizations. The Squad's 100/100 rating attests to our financial stability and accountability.

Charity Navigator evaluates a nonprofit organization's financial health including measures of stability, efficiency and sustainability. It also tracks accountability and transparency policies to ensure the good governance and integrity of the organization.

Specifically, Charity Navigator's rating system examines two broad areas of a charity's performance; their Financial Health and their Accountability & Transparency. Their ratings show givers how efficiently they believe a charity will use their support, how well it has sustained its programs and services over time and their level of commitment to good governance, best practices and openness with information. In 2020, Charity Navigator acquired ImpactMatters in order to launch the Impact & Results beacon, their first assessment of how well a nonprofit delivers on its mission. They provide these ratings so that charitable givers/ social investors can make intelligent giving decisions, and so that the nonprofit sector can improve its performance.



What's New?

Fifteen Years & Counting

Grace Ryan, Team 8

Grace moved to Sun City Center from New Hampshire where she worked in planning and development for senior services and statewide resource centers. During her first year in Florida she was a SHINE volunteer helping people understand the complex new Medicare Advantage plans. Grace soon joined her husband, Jim, on the Squad. She served on one of the overnight crews (yes, there were two crews on overnight duty) and soon realized she wanted to serve the Squad in different positions. First, Grace was an EMR for 9 years and then worked as a dispatcher for 5 years. Currently, Grace is a Coordinator for Team 8 and serves as a substitute dispatcher. Grace believes Team 8 became her Florida family. Her hobbies include traveling, book clubs and water aerobics. Until Covid-19 arrived, Grace was a memory screener for the South Shore Mental Health Coalition in sponsorship with the Byrd Institute of USF. Thank you, Grace, for all you do.



Arleen Sanders, Team 8

Arleen moved to Sun City Center from Natick, Ma in 2005. She has two sons; Evan lives in Utah and Michael lives in Natick, Ma. Arleen worked for Sears and Roebuck for over 20 years and retired after she worked in many different departments. She also worked for Donlan's, a local supermarket in Natick. Arleen joined the Squad as soon as she moved to Sun City Center and has worked at the front desk for 15 years. She encouraged her husband Irv to join the squad and Irv serves the Squad as a Coordinator for Team 5. Both Arleen and Irv love being on the Squad...neighbors helping neighbors. Arleen volunteered at South Bay Hospital for 15 years, and also for many years at the Kings Point Library. Arleen and Irv have been married for almost 60 years and they both love living here. Arleen believes it is a great place to retire. Thank you for all you do, Arleen.



Mary Borg – 15 years

Mary moved to Sun City Center in 2004 from Pennsylvania. Not long after moving here, she saw the Squad ambulance with a sign asking for volunteers. So she signed up. Mary has worked at the front desk and has assisted with organizing our awards dinners and with mailings when we did those in-house.

Mary was born in New York City after her parents emigrated from the Island of Malta after WWII. Mary worked as a telegraph operator for US Steel, but graduated from college with a degree in Public Administration. She later went on to become a Real Estate Broker. She has 2 grown children who live in Pittsburgh and her hobbies are sewing, organizing and being creative. Mary enjoys reading biographies.

Mary receiving her 10 year award from the late Chief Dennis Floto.



Adult Protective Services – 1-800-962-2873

This holiday season will be a welcome relief to most of us – an escape from the difficult year we've all been through. But for many of our seniors, the holiday spirit may evade them. Holidays can be lonely and stressful for many of our senior residents. Some may turn to alcohol; some may take out frustrations on their loved ones. And depression may result in self-neglect.

Elder abuse is "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person." But it can also include self-neglect.

AS first responders, we have a duty to report situations that we perceive to be abusive, even when that person lives alone and isn't taking care of themselves.

Have you left a home where transport to the hospital was refused and your gut was telling you something needed to be done? Has a neighbor or friend of a patient begged you to have someone stay there? This has happened to me while on duty and I left that home with an unsettled feeling that there was a serious problem in that household. After deliberation for a couple of hours, I chose to call Elder Abuse Helpline. Actually, I called 211 first (Crisis Center) and they referred me to the Elder Abuse line. on the patient.

Continued on back

Squad Policies

By Diane Simon, Asst. Chief of Safety

Do you like games? I love to play hand, knee and foot. If you've played, you know that there are as many different rules to the game as there are players. Sometimes, it's just easier to play something else!!



Having said this, some of you may not be away of our Policy and Procedures. The Squad is mandated to perform at a certain level of competency as well as adhere to mandates provided at the National, State, and County levels. Specifically, the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Florida Statutes, Provisions of Chapter 401, and Chapter 64-J 1 & 2 of the Florida Administrative Code, as well as the Hillsborough County and Florida Department of Transportation Directives. Whew—a mouthful, to be sure.

Our Squad Policies haven't been updated in quite a while and changes needed to be consolidated from both the Policies and Procedures. A big shout out to all those who worked so diligently to do this for Board approval. Currently, they are being updated to the Squad's Google account and will be available to everyone to read.

In the following months, I will be fielding questions and concerns in regards to the Policy. Stay safe, stay healthy, learn OUR rules, so you don't have to switch to Tiddly Winks!

Community Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, PR

On Thursday October the 29th and Friday the 30th, volunteers from the Squad and other local organizations came together at the hospital to assist with COVID-19 testing for the community. This was a great show of what "community" really means.

Public relations generally refers to strategic communications, often to maintain a public image. Community relations, in its truest sense, refers to methods, strategies or actions that a company or organization implements to establish or maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with their community.

This is what we did with the COVID-19 testing, and what we've done the last few years with other events, such as our health symposium and hurricane preparedness event, in which we encouraged participation from other SCC service organizations.

In years past (and our long time community residents and volunteers will remember) our local organizations did not cooperate, communicate or coordinate anything. In fact, for many years, there was tension and distrust between the Squad and Security Patrol and other non-profits. Maybe this was due to perceived competition for funds and volunteers, or maybe other reasons, but fortunately, today, this is no longer the case.



And we all benefit from this.

Chief Bardell has been instrumental in bringing our community organizations together and deserves much of the credit for doing so. We are truly lucky to have him.

Adult Protection continued

The person I spoke to walked me through all the questions he needed answered and was very supportive and reassuring that I made the right decision to call. They would be sending somebody out to that house either later that afternoon or first thing in the morning.

In case you wonder what was asked: Patient's name and spouse's name, address and phone number. Any family nearby? Concerned friend or neighbor's name and phone number. I did not have all of these pieces of information for him, but I had enough that they could give me a case number and make the call on the patient.

If you have ever wondered whether you should call, the answer is yes. What we need to remember is we must call if we SUSPECT a problem. It is not up to us to prove it, just suspect it. From there, the agency takes over and it is for them to decide at what level, if any, help they will provide.

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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	Eileen Peco
Team 7	Karen McInnis
Team 8	Jim Ryan