

March 2021

# The Siren

Newsletter of the Sun City Center  
Emergency Squad

AMBULANCE

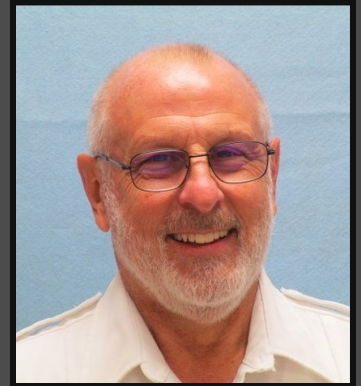
## From the Chief's Desk

There are many things to say. First, I would like to thank everyone that helped in the Covid-19 testing, vaccine site or both. This has been a great comfort to many in our community. In the SCC area alone over 10,000 people are thought to have been vaccinated.

The Governor has recently signed an order allowing EMTs and Paramedics to give the shot. We are currently working with HCC to set up a class to give them the required training and supplying them with the required training from Moderna and Pfizer. We hope to convince the state to let us open our own site to administer the vaccine. In the greater SCC area alone, as many as 30% of our people are 55 to 64. We need to do this to ensure our area is better protected.

Lastly, with only a few exceptions, the entire Squad has had both shots. This is something we have all looked forward to for a long time. But nothing has changed regarding mask use in the squad building and N95's in the ambulance and van. These procedures remain in effect. As does the EMT assessing the patient for potential Covid symptoms prior to allowing the rest of the crew near the patient.

We graduated 10 new EMR's in February. That was the largest class in quite a while. Although there was not enough EMR students for March, we believe there will be for April. New Dispatch and Driver classes are also scheduled.



Chief Mike Bardell

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Team Captains



SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



# UPDATES & REPORTS

## Birthdays for March 2021

Sharon Ringland	1	Dale Johnson	19
Lloyd Banfield	2	Richard Bishop	20
William Grussi	4	Lynette Heisler	23
Sharon Skaryd	4	Sam Sudman	23
Dayle Martin	5	Jo-Ellen Bromberg	24
Richard Bothroyd	7	Peg Noeltner	24
Thomas Ginter	8	Betty Richner	24
Harold Jeffery	8	Louise Howe	25
Joan Komorowski	8	Kathleen Sager	25
Sheila Houlihan	9	Timothy Zion	26
Dorothy McKenzie	9	Teresa Paddubny	30
Dana Wallace	9	Bob Bizzano	31
Shirley Dwyer	12	Virgina Defever	31
Eliot Marcus	14	Mary Porterfield	31
Phyllis Cowden	16		
Sylvia Eddens	17		
Jeanne Krull	17		

**amazon**smile

## Anniversaries: March 2021

**Fifteen Years:** Walter Prouty T7

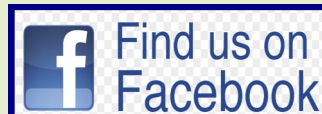
**Five Years:** William Zeller T8

**Three Years:** Ron Cowden T6, Ana Bower T2, Phyllis Cowden T0

**One Year:** Keith Corsi T1, Ray Vaccaro T5, Roark Williams T0



Check our website at  
**SCCEMS.com**



## Stats Feb 2021

**Ambulance Runs** 361

**Van Runs** 100

**Fall Calls ( 47.3%)** 140

**Blood pressures** 135

**Y-T-D Falls** 284

## Sick List for March 2021

John Irvin T 8

**We will be collecting pet food and supplies through the end of March.**

## Volunteers Show Appreciation

A "whisper" campaign was recently begun to collect "appreciation funds" for Chief Mike Bardell and Deputy Chief Tina Drury for their full-time, constant effort to keep the volunteers healthy and safe this past year. The captains of each team asked for donations and the presentation was made to

Mike and Tina by Team 4 EMT Pam Zion Tuesday, February 16th.

Deputy Chief Tina Drury teared up and at last, Chief Bardell was speechless.



## Squad Recognizes South Bay Hospital

The Emergency Squad recently recognized South Bay Hospital with a Community Appreciation Award for the community COVID-19 testing events we have hosted over the past few months. Nearly 5,000 local residents have received COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests through these events.

(left to right)

Michelle Harvey,  
Chief Financial  
Officer

Shannon Piatkowski, Interim  
Vice President of  
Operations

Chief Bardell  
Sheldon Barr,  
Chief Executive  
Officer





# What's New?

## What is the Difference between Advanced Directives and a DNR?

As people age and plan for their retirement, they often have many legal documents to consider. In addition to wills and estates, there are several health-related documents that many include in their legal considerations and these can be confusing.

Often we are asked what a DNR (or DNRO) is and how do people get one? A Do Not Resuscitate Order, known as a DNR or DNRO, is a legal form that specifies that the holder named on the form, does NOT wish to be resuscitated should they be found without a pulse and not breathing. This does NOT mean they do not want medical treatment if they are still alive – with a heartbeat and breathing.

In Florida, the form must be on yellow paper and signed by a Florida licensed doctor to be legally valid. It should also be kept in a place where it can be quickly found or retrieved by healthcare providers and EMS services. You can obtain a DNR(O) form from your doctor, online, and usually from your estate attorney. And it is always wise to discuss this with your doctor and your family, so they understand your wishes.

Advances Directives are also known as Living Wills. Most hospitals will ask older patients or their families if the patient has a Living Will and to provide a copy of it for the hospital. This legal document specifies what medical actions the patient wants, should he or she no longer be able to speak or make decisions for themselves. As an example, it may include such actions as providing oxygen or fluids or withholding them. This document should be discussed with your doctor, family and legal counsel to carefully lay out any course of medical action that they patient desires, should they become incapacitated.

You should discuss these issues with your family, your doctor and/or attorney in making these decisions.

The image shows a yellow form titled "State of Florida DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER". It includes sections for "PATIENT'S STATEMENT" and "PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT". The form is designed to be filled out by a patient or their family, and then signed by a physician. It includes checkboxes for "Surrogate" and "Court appointed guardian".

## February EMR Class



Back row: Instructor - Barry McKee, Maureen Kurowski, Laurie Odmark, Vicki Kosin, Ed Whitehead, Shannon Bielaska, Instructors Walt Bowers and Shirley Bardell

Front row: Instructor - Jim Malanowski, Barbara Rezner, John Pryor, Gail Roy, Instructors Marcie McKee and Paul Donohoe.

Missing from photo: Roger Sitara

## From Deputy Jeff Merry

### Phoney Baloney



A Comedy Play

### STOP SCAMS!

Meet a group of friends who share tales of being scammed. Watch them come together to outsmart the dirty, rotten scammers once and for all!



**Saturday, March 13th 2:00-3:30 pm**

**ONLINE EVENT — Watch from the comfort of HOME!**

Join us LIVE on [Facebook.com/umcsc](https://www.facebook.com/umcsc)

### YOUR Feedback Needed

Completed Feedback Forms through Survey Monkey will enter you into the drawing for a

**\$25 Visa Gift Card**

SAGES is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This volunteer troupe of senior actors is driving up from Clearwater to perform for us at **no charge**.

Please help them by completing the online survey to show the impact of their efforts to their grant funders and sponsors!

The play runs 1 hour. Stay tuned after for a Panel of Experts addressing the latest scams in our area!

Brought to you by

**SAGES**  
Plays with Purpose  
[SAGEstheater.org](https://www.sagestheater.org)



Don't Forget Our Recruiting Meetings  
on the 2nd Wednesday of Every Month at the Training Center

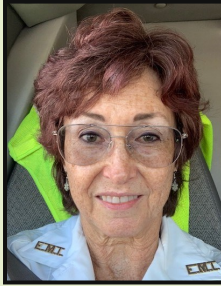


Let your friends and neighbors know that we hold information meetings monthly and would love to share what we do at the Squad. If you can come to the meeting, please feel free to bring friends and neighbors with you.

## Public Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, PR

Recognition is not something that most of us seek at this stage of life. For the most part we aren't here to get a pat on the back, even though it's always nice to be appreciated. However, letting our community know the good we do as an organization makes fundraising and recruiting easier. And while those two efforts benefit from public relations, we also generate the public's good will from the kindness, professionalism, and responsiveness of our crews on duty day. But it's not just our ambulance crews: our van crews, dispatchers and front desk staff all have patient contact, either by phone or face to face. And their professionalism and kindness also generates a positive impression of our organization.

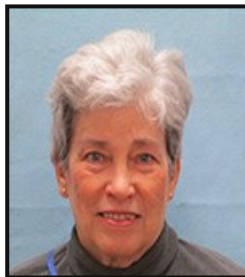


Whether meeting face to face or by telephone, your response to our residents makes a difference to them and to our Squad. You make my job easier through your patience, empathy and attention to detail. Thank you all.

## Toughbook Reporting

By Merrill Pritham, Assistant Chief Quality Control

It has been a long Covid season and we are all getting "over" it. We still have to try to put out good reports and here are some of the mistakes and short-cuts that get in the way of that: using unknown for gender and/or system (GI means gastro-intestinal), no complaint when patient has injuries, not rating pain, even headache, or stating "sore" but not painful, forgetting to check blood sugar on falls and lift assists, charting what you did for lacerations and avulsions, and properly rating dislocations as trauma.



Please check your report number, especially at the beginning of the shift. Thanks for letting me know when you find an error as it speeds up correction and I don't have to call in and bother our hard-working dispatchers. Stay well and keep up the good work.

You are much appreciated!

## March is National Nutrition Month

### Nutrition & Health Tips from the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics

National Nutrition Month was initiated in 1973 as National Nutrition Week, and it became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing interest in nutrition. The second Wednesday of March is Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day, an annual celebration of the dedication of RDNs as the leading advocates for advancing the nutritional status of Americans and people around the world. This year's observance will be March 10. Eating Right for Older Adults:

- make half of your plate fruits and veggies
- choose whole grains instead of breads, pastas, etc.
- try fat-free and low-fat dairy
- choose low fat, high quality and vary your proteins
- Limit your sodium, saturated fat, and added sugar
- Stay well hydrated
- Be mindful of portions
- Cook more often at home
- Stay physically active
- Consult a registered dietitian if you have questions

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and Complete Food and Nutrition Guide, 2021

Published by the SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Mike Bardell; Editor Robin Watt, Assisted by Patty Trela. Articles are accepted up to the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for the following month's issue. Items may be address to The Siren and posted The Siren mailbox, just below the Team 8 mailbox. US Postal mail should be address to: Sun City Center Emergency Squad, The Siren, 720 Ray Watson Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573. When sending by email, send to [robinw@scc-ems.us](mailto:robinw@scc-ems.us), subject line: The Siren.

### Team Captains

<b>Team 1</b>	<b>Robert Leonard</b>
<b>Team 2</b>	<b>Betty Richner</b>
<b>Team 3</b>	<b>Chuck Russ</b>
<b>Team 4</b>	<b>Tim Zion</b>
<b>Team 5</b>	<b>Ken Ayers</b>
<b>Team 6</b>	<b>Eileen Peco</b>
<b>Team 7</b>	<b>Karen McInnis</b>
<b>Team 8</b>	<b>Jim Ryan</b>