

February 2021

The Siren

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

AMBULANCE

From the Chief's Desk

We are off to a great start in the year. Almost everyone wanting the COVID-19 vaccination shot has received it. We are incredibly pleased at the number of Squad members being done. Next week we start the second shot sequence. I have spoken to many of you and I know you are relieved that the process has started. The staff worked untold hours making phone calls and preparing and combing lists to try and ensure everyone got done.

I know some of you did not agree with the priority list, but we set out to get everyone a shot even those that opted out. We reached out to all the facilities to see if they could work some of you in. We also asked the hospital. I want to assure you they all said they would do whatever they could. I also do not want to leave out HCFR. We were overjoyed when the calls started coming back helping us be able to get everyone vaccinated that wanted it. We truly are grateful for their support.

As most of you know, the state gave an allotment of 5000 shots for Sun City Center. I am happy the shots came to the community, but I am disappointed with the initial rollout. I think it has a tendency to divide the community, rather than build one. There was a promise of 5000 more for Kings Point, which by now you know is scheduled. Regardless, I will continue to pursue community type thinking. You must get a good share of the community done to start herd immunity. The squad will be soliciting volunteers to help, but the shots will be given by those contracted by the state. Pay attention to your email.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for February 2021

Edward Cohen	1	Helenanne Frobrose	17
Marianne Jenkins	1	John Colburn	18
Tom Rawlings	2	Brigitte Austen	18
Barbara Capron	6	Pete Blair	19
Debra Schulenberg	6	Ronald Claeys	21
S. Diane Hathaway	6	Elizabeth Schneider	21
Barbara Schneider	7	Sue Baker	21
Marilyn Kupka	7	Judy Myette	21
Emily Lahti	9	Bertil Johnson	22
Carol Hillberry	10	Irv Sanders	22
Marty Heiss	11	Sandra Andel	23
Connie Abbott	12	Barry McKee	24
Randy Heath	12	Annette Rawlinson	26
Mikel Rawlinson	12	Erik Sager	27
Robert Jensen	13	Anne McNamara	28
Valerie Cook	14	Chris McCann	28
Lynn Mooney	14	Tom Murphy	29



amazon smile



Anniversaries: February 2021

Fifteen Years: Diane Simon T-0

Ten Years: John Lackey T-7

Five Years: Virginia DeFever T-7

Three Years: Jeanne Krull T-0

One Year: Marilyn Kupka T-0

We are pleased to announce that Mary Christiano T1, Paul Donohoe T1, Jennifer Meier T2 and Jim Hutton T5 have received their Florida EMT Licenses. Congratulations to all.

Check our website at
SCCEMS.com



Stats Jan 2021 YTD

Ambulance Runs 374

Van Runs 100

Fall Calls (38%) 144

Blood pressures 87

Sick List for February 2021

Jorge Ignarra T1

Ray Vaccaro T5

Beverly Brown T6

Jan Huber T6

Jim Hiller T6

John Irvin T8

My Faith Has Been Restored

By Chris McCann, Asst. Chief-HR

For quite some time it has been like pulling wisdom teeth trying to seek out those special individuals willing to give of their time to help others. We have opened our doors at information meetings month after month without much success. There were many months when not one person walked through that door and other months when two or three people attended.



All of that changed in the month of January. We had a record of 28 people join us in our second Wednesday meeting. In my email the next morning were three more applications from our website. Each of these individuals was interested in joining the Squad and have now completed the interview process.

Many will be students in EMR and Dispatch classes being held over the next two months. Some are snowbirds who will be taking classes when they return. Others have joined teams as cooks or front desk personnel. Yes indeed, my faith has been restored. Faith in the innate goodness in people!

Now it's your turn. When you come in contact with new members of our Squad family, please make them feel at home with a warm welcome!

Continue to Protect Yourself

Tina Drury, Deputy Chief

Vaccines have been in the forefront for some time now and we need to keep in mind that this pandemic is not over because you have received your vaccines. This virus has mutated many times and is changing around the world as you are reading this message.



I want to encourage you all to follow through with getting your second vaccine and keep your White card as proof of your Vaccination which will be required in the future to travel by planes, cruises, trains or out of the country.

Please remember it is still important to **Wash** your hands, **Wear** a mask and continue to **Social Distance**.

We have been very successful at the Squad with our safety protocols but it is important that you do your part to protect yourself and others.

Be well and Stay Safe.

What's New?

Fifteen Years of Service

Diane Simon, Team 0

In 2004 Diane moved from Hawaii with her soulmate, who was critically ill. He passed away from a stroke in 2005 and Diane was neither prepared nor aware of the cause of the stroke. Diane vowed that she would not let this happen to someone else, if she could prevent it. In the Spring of 2006 Diane walked into the Squad and joined. She became an EMR (hand-writing reports back then), and then went EMT school. Diane believes that she was in the last class to be taught at the Education Building by HCC via HCFR. Diane worked closely with George Frasca and Pete Blair in the purchase of Documed for the Squad. When Squad members serving as the Director of Education and as Quality Assurance Officer retired, Diane covered these vacancies for the Squad. Currently, Diane has been appointed by Chief Bardell and approved by the Board to be the Assistant Chief for Safety. She also assists the Quality Assurance Office as a clerk and back-up staff if needed. Diane stated that she loves the Squad and what the Squad does for the community. She is a firm believer that the Squad is a great example of unity, members put our personalities on the doorstep and commit to serve the community. Diane stated that serving on the Squad "fills her desire to educate, contribute to the well-being of neighbors," and she views Squad members as her "family in Sun City Center."



Donation

Dr. Arthur Bailyn and Susan Bailyn presented a check from the Gladys and Mildred Tomiak Foundation to the Emergency Squad on January 1st in the amount of \$25,000.00. The Tomiak Foundation is a private foundation that focuses on the well-being of seniors and appreciates the support that the Sun City Center Emergency Squad provides to Sun City Center residents.



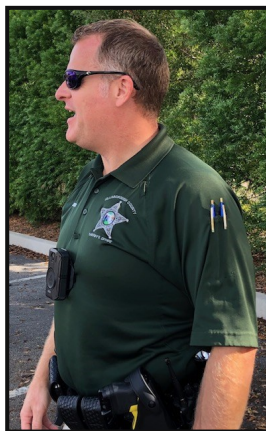
L-R: Susan Bailyn, Chief Mike Bardell and Dr. Arthur Bailyn

Award Presented

Special Presentation....

Members of the Squad, CA, VESTA and Kings Point presented a certificate of Appreciate to Deputy Jeff Merry, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department. Jeff was recognized:

- for his many contributions to the community
- for his planning for the COVID-19 testing at South Bay Hospital
- for his expertise in reducing congestion during the testing and moving the line of cars while keeping everyone safe during the testing
- for his support as a representative of the Sheriff's Department which reduced the need for an off-duty officer to direct traffic during COVID-19 testing at South Bay Hospital



Thank you for your support Jeff

January EMR Graduates

Congratulations to our new EMR Graduates



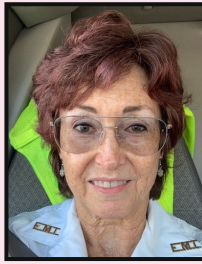
Back Row: Steve Fafautis, Instructor Walt Bowers, Ed Cox, Instructor Barry McKee, Instructor Shirley Bardell

Front Row: Instructor Jim Malanowski, Bobbie Cockrell, Instructor Marcie McKee, EMT Jim Hunton

Public Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, PR

Happy New Year! Thank goodness 2020 is done and gone. We have a whole year to write a new chapter for ourselves and the Squad.



In spite of COVID-19, the Squad still had a busy year. Hopefully this year, we have more opportunities to interface with the community in educational settings, funfests and club meetings. We had big plans last year for seminars, which obviously got canceled. With more people getting the vaccine, there's a chance that we'll have events, although I suspect masks will be "in fashion" for a while.

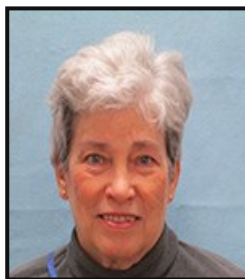
As usual, please invite neighbors to our monthly recruiting meeting; we had many folks step back last year because of the virus. However, many of you invited neighbors and friends to January's meeting and we had a record number attend! Word of mouth is still the best way to find new volunteers.

Share Your Enthusiasm!

Toughbook Reporting

By Merrill Pritham, Assistant Chief Quality Control

January has been an eventful month with COVID raging, finally getting a vaccination, and moving into my new place.



The Squad continues its excellent service to the community and I have only a few problems to report. Some are still using "E" as a street prefix on every street. Please don't! If you find this on your report, clear it and select the proper street. Same thing for "US" instead of +United States.

Try to rate every patient's pain level and measure the blood sugar on fall victims. This is an old story and most are doing this, but I must have something to complain about.

Thank you for all you do.

Message from Deputy Merry HCSO Community Resource Officer

Currently there are several scams victimizing our residents. The most predominant are the "grandparent scam", at home testing fraud, the romance scam, and stimulus grant money scam. Remember gift cards are NOT a legitimate payment method, no matter what they tell you. If it sounds too good to be true or sounds fishy, IT IS!

1. Stimulus Fraud: If you receive a phone call about the stimulus checks it is an attempt to get your bank account information. It begins by saying they are the Treasury and they need to direct deposit the money.
2. At Home testing: There are people going door to door claiming to be with Homeland Security and offering at-home testing. This is a Medicare scam and the cons charge Medicare thousands of dollars for non-existing Medicare services.
3. Grandparents scam: The person claiming to be your grandchild or law enforcement holding your grandchild asks you to send money immediately and provides details on how — for example, via prepaid cards or to a particular Western Union office. The call comes late at night. Scammers figure an older person may get confused more easily if they call them, the National Consumers League warns.
4. Romance scam:
These scammers find their victims on social media sites, such as FaceBook, Instagram, Plenty of Fish, Meetme.com, just to name a few. They build trust and create the illusion of an actual relationship by chatting several times a day and crafting their stories and answers based on information obtained from the victim themselves. Then comes the request for money.
The scammers often say they: Work on an oil rig, are in the military, or are a doctor with an international organization.
They ask for money to: Pay for a plane ticket or other travel expenses, Pay for surgery or other medical expenses, Pay customs fees to retrieve something, Pay off gambling debts, Pay for a visa or other official travel documents.

The scammers will ask for the money to be loaded onto gift cards, deposited into mysterious bank accounts, and purchase bitcoin. NEVER send money or gifts to someone you have not met in person.

Published by the SCC Emergency Squad. Editor-in-Chief, Mike Bardell; Editor Robin Watt, Assisted by Patty Trela. Articles are accepted up to the 25th 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, subject line: The Siren.

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