

November 2021

The Siren

*Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad*

AMBULANCE

From the Chief's Desk

As we start into the holiday season, I notice it is a little cooler here lately. A very welcome change for me.

Covid-19 seems to be on the downward cycle right now. With the holidays means family members will be getting together. There are hot spots now and not everywhere is like us. Monday, we start the booster and everyone that wants a shot will be able to get it. It is being done in KP, but that is only where it is given. If you're from this area or not, we think to get by this, we need to do offer this to everyone.

I know I have said it before, but we have been restricted from our normal life for a long time and most of us are social creatures. As a result, patience is in short supply, with our community we are older and don't know how much time we have left so waiting for anything is unthinkable.

With the rising prices of food, I asked the Board to increase the team food budget. If we must scrimp on something, we shouldn't start there. The monthly allotment is \$300.00 a month per team and the Board agreed to raise it to \$350.00. I think is one of the best programs the Squad has ever started and it accomplishes many things.

The Awards dinner is fast approaching. It is November 19th at Community Hall. I hope to see many of you there. It's been about 2 years since our last one and I believe it's a great way to kick off the holiday season. Remember to sign up.

As always, its an honor for me to be your Chief. Representing the Squad in the community is an easy for me to do, because of the high quality of care and professionalism that you provide to our patients and residents.

Thank you all. Be safe out there.

Mike Bardell



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

Birthdays for November 2021

Sara Washburn	2nd
Jackie Kisner	2nd
Terrie McNamara	5th
Shannon Bielaska	6th
Kim Humbarger	7th
Wendy Rudolph	9th
Elda Miller	9th
Erma Faron	10th
Frank Reid	12th
Gladys Rivard	12th
Don Mayer	13th
Robert Means	14th
Gerri Roth	17th
Michael Jasudowicz	19th
Edward Cox	20th
Ted Adamczyk	20th
Walt Bowers	21th
Debbie Jasmer	22th
Jim Hunton	23rd
Suzi Russell	25th
Dave Watkins	25th
Julie Wickersham	27th
Theresa Tally	27th

November Anniversaries

15 Years:	Valerie Cook
	Eileen Peco
	Dennis Nash
10 Years:	Naomi Layton
	Erma Faron
5 Years:	Wendie Quinn
1 year:	Vicki Kosin
	Diane Friedel
	Allison Yoakem
	Darlene Brown
	Michael Anderson



Stats September 2021

Ambulance Runs	325
Transported	195
Fall Calls (%)	140
Blood pressures	77
Van runs	
Y-T-D Falls	1383

Sick List for October 2021

Team 6

James Hiller
Bill Whitford



Remembering Bob Bizzano

If you worked the morning shift, you probably saw him in the ambu-lanced bay. He was there almost every morning since joining the Squad in 2007. Bob Bizzano, a member of the maintenance team, kept our wheels turning and our facility operating for the last 14 years. He was quiet, steady and always ready to lend a hand, whether it was a plumbing, mechanical or some strange problem none of us ever encountered before; Bob was there to figure it out.

What many of us may not know, is that Bob also gave his time to other organizations. He was a volunteer with the Gleaners, a Bay area organization that raises funds to support many local non-profits, like the Squad. And he was also a volunteer with Elmira's, a local wild animal rescue in Wimauma.

Many days, as soon as Bob left the Squad, he would drive to Elmira's to help take care of the lions, tigers, bears, wolves and many other creatures that are residents at this rescue. Again, Bob was the go-to guy to fix anything including cages, feeders, golf carts or trucks. He helped expand their cages, mow the lawn and on a rare occasion, show a few folks around.

He touched the lives of many through his dedication to helping others, both human and animal, and will be greatly missed by all.



Dick Schneider celebrates 25 years

Dick Schneider reached out in 1996, to volunteer for the Emergency Squad. At the time, the Squad facilities were only the main building and our ambulances. Since that time, the Squad has grown and Dick's responsibilities for both of our buildings and all 8 vehicles – 4 ambulances, two wheelchair vans and two administrative vehicles, has also grown. Now, Dick's crew includes volunteers who help clean and maintain our wheelchair inventory, volunteers who sterilize and clean the ambulances and vans as well as those who help keep our wheels turning and buildings operating as they should.

In January of 2018, Dick was made an Assistant Chief, recognizing the years of dedication and responsibility. During his time, he has overseen the specification and purchase of multiple vehicles, ensuring that they meet the needs of emergency and van crews. His near-daily presence ensures that any building or vehicle issues get quickly addressed and resolved.

We are extremely grateful for the dedication and commitment that Dick Schneider has given to the Squad and the community.



What's New?

October EMRs

The Emergency Squad is pleased to announce its newest Emergency Medical Responders from its October class. Emergency Medical Responders go through 54 hours of training including 8 hours of CPR class. They must pass CPR in order to become an EMR. After finishing the class, all the volunteers go through mentoring before working on the ambulance or wheelchair van. The EMR is responsible for recording the patient's medical history, medications, allergies and preparing the Patient Care Report in conjunction with the EMT. They also must be prepared to assist with any patient care as requested by the EMT.

Pictured Left to Right: Tom Potter, Kristin Scott, Diane Neyenhouse, Jim Neyenhouse, Instructors John Gentry and B J Capron.

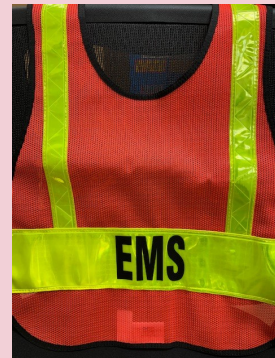


Grants

Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Supports the Emergency Squad

The Emergency Squad recently was given a grant from the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. The grant is earmarked for the purchase of 24 traffic safety vests, used when first responders are

Working an auto accident scene. The grant, \$1200, allowed the Squad to purchase 24 vests to replace the existing vests which are over ten years old.



Sun City Center Charitable Foundation Grant

On October 20th, Board members of the Sun City Center Charitable Foundation met with Chief Bardell and Assistant Chiefs from the Squad, to present a check for \$2346. This grant allowed for the purchase of 100 tourniquets which are critical to stopping arterial bleeds. The tourniquets will be given Squad EMTs for carrying in their medical bags; to students who attend "Stop The Bleed" training; as well as placed on the ambulances.

"Tourniquets are one of the fastest ways to save a life if someone has an arterial bleed. We are very grateful for this grant which allows us to better serve our residents," said Tina Drury, Deputy Chief.

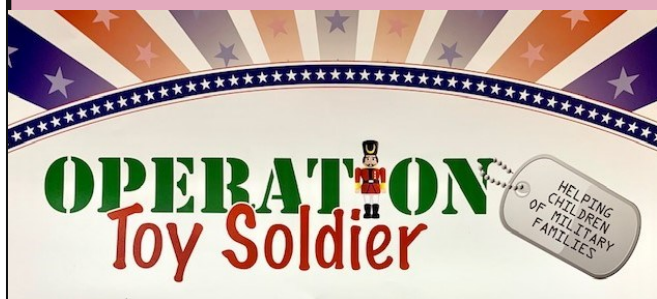


MyMedic Cat 7

Operation Toy Soldier

Again this year, the Emergency Squad will be collecting toys for "Operation Toy Soldier." For the past 16 or 17 years, the Emergency Squad has collected toys for needy children. For the past five years, the Squad collected toys for the children of military families.

Unwrapped toys can be dropped off in the lobby of the Emergency Squad until Wednesday December 1st. If you prefer to make a donation to this effort, please make your checks out to "Operation Toy Soldier." The checks and toys will be picked up by Veteran's Funeral Care of Clearwater.



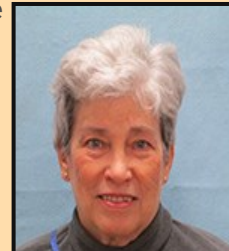
"Switcheroo!"

If you're confused, you're probably not alone! Recently a switch was made between Diane and Merrill—with the Chief's and the Board's approval. Diane Simon will (again) serve

Diane Simon

as Ass't. Chief of QA and Merrill Pritham will serve as Ass't. Chief of Safety.

Merrill Pritham



Community Relations

By Robin Watt, Ass't. Chief, Community Relations

It was an incredibly busy month for community events and public relations. It appears that many clubs and organizations tried to make up for being "quarantined" the last year and held their events all in October. And fortunately for us, several of these were benefits for the Squad!



We participated in 12 community events, including our own recruiting/ volunteer information Wednesday. In addition, there were flu shots, radio interviews, anniversary celebrations and of course, getting the petition signed. Help is always appreciated and for the most part, these events can be fun social events.

Now that October is over, there will be fewer community events as most folks will be focused on the upcoming holiday season, including us!

My thanks to all who turned out to help and participate. Representing the Squad in our community truly is an honor and you all do it so well.

Thank you.

Toughbook Tips

by Diane Simon, Ass't. Chief, QA

Great reporting and some great responses to my queries. Please make sure to check for messages as that is the way I will communicate with EMT's going forward.



A few things of note are that when your patient is on oxygen upon arrival and we transport, please make sure to administer oxygen at the same level or higher as needed. Many of you are noting it in the narrative versus using the FLOW tab/Medications. Please use the latter.

Same with Bleeding Control, or use of a splint or cervical collar etc. These are all Interventions.

Your narratives range from a single sentence to a small novel - but whatever makes you comfortable is fine.

Changes in status should also be noted on the INCIDENT tab - i.e., MVA's you should all be wearing your reflective vests, or you called an ALERT.

Questions for me are welcome. Please use my squad email....many thanks for all that you do for the Squad and the community.

November 19th Annual Awards Dinner

Every year for many years, the Squad has hosted its volunteers for a nice dinner and some entertainment. Last year, 2020, was the first year in many that this did not occur, due to COVID-19.

This year, we want to make sure that all of our volunteers realize that our organization would not be what it is without them. It takes us all to make this work and to care for our community. So we hope to make it as special as all of you.

Our Awards Dinner will be held on **November 19th from 4:30 to 8:30 at Community Hall on South Pebble Beach.**

Photographer James Corwin Johnson will be there to take your "prom" photo. Kevin Books will be entertaining us and the catering will be by Banquet Masters.

Volunteers are allowed to bring one guest; please include them on your "reservation" check. Your Captain or Ass't. Captain will be returning your check at the dinner. It will only be kept if you do not attend.

Unlike prior years, we ask that you bring your unwrapped toy **TO THE SQUAD AND NOT TO THE DINNER.** This is a change from our past procedures.

And - last but not least, this is a BYOB event - rules for Community Hall do not allow for the hosting organization to provide alcohol.

"Tis the Season"

amazonsmile

If you are not familiar with Amazon Smile, it is an easy way to make donations to your favorite charity. Google Amazon Smile and follow simple instructions to sign up and pick your favorite (us?) non-profit!

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Team Captains

Team 1	Robert Leonard
Team 2	Betty Richner
Team 3	Jim Hunton
Team 4	Tim Zion
Team 5	Ken Ayers
Team 6	Eileen Peco
Team 7	Karen McInnis
Team 8	Tom Canedy