

October 2021

The Siren

*Newsletter of the Sun City Center
Emergency Squad*



From the Chief's Desk

Not that you can tell by the heat, but we are headed into Autumn. Before you know it, Christmas will be here. With that in mind, please remember to keep up to date on squad happenings, for instance, the Annual Awards Dinner and other events.

Within the last couple of weeks, hospital emergency departments have been more open and available to EMS transports. This is a welcomed change. Please continue to keep aware of hospital emergency statuses when on duty. Here's hoping things have permanently started to settle down with Covid positive rates decreasing.

Pfizer boosters and flu shots are going to be available early in October at the squad.. Moderna is not yet approved for a booster. It is expected to be approved very soon, followed by Johnson and Johnson. Once Moderna is approved, we will be identifying dates for these injections.. Remember, whatever vaccine you originally had is the one you have to have for your booster. Do not mix them.

For those teams who are receiving new members, please welcome them to the squad and introduce yourselves. Our family is growing and we are so very happy to have them.

For those not vaccinated, surgical masks remain mandatory in the squad and education building. For everyone on the van and ambulance, approved N95's remain mandatory.

I am sure these requirements will remain in effect for quite some time.

Please check the Education Calendar on a regular basis for upcoming classes and meetings.

Please also check your badges for your expiration dates.

Here's hoping everyone has a happy Halloween this October and thank you for all you do.



Chief Mike Bardell

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SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



UPDATES & REPORTS

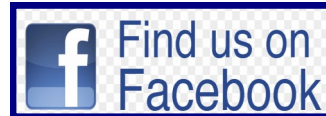
Birthdays for October 2021

Jim Clara	1st	Lorraine Kennedy	12th
Helen Corradi	1st	Joanne Sudman	12th
Barbara Multon	1st	William Lotz	14th
Lynne Albrecht	2nd	Cathy Zurek	14th
Roger Sitara	3rd	Maureen Carey	15th
Scott Eichfeld	4th	Nancy Heiss	15th
Carol Barton	5th	Laurel Odmark	16th
Joanne Koncick	5th	Sally Reid	16th
Diane Friedel	7th	Skip Aylesworth	17th
Mervyn Hollander	7th	Gerald Eckman	22nd
Sally Stammen	7th	Walt Prouty	22nd
Patricia Bonacum	9th	Brenda Levy	23rd
Ginny Rottman	9th	Dianne Good	24th
John Petersen	10th	Jennifer Schutts-Stone	24th
Bonnie Murphy	11th	Dar Brown	26th
Jim Ryan	11th	SteveFafoutis	28th
William Whitford	11th	John Smits	28th

Happy Birthday!

October Anniversaries

25 years: Dick Schneider
15 Years: Jim Malanowski
10 Years: Walt Bowers
 Hazel Crosby
5 Years: Karen McInnis
3Years :Rebecca Gonda
 Joanne Koncick
 John Kunzler
 Linda Menier
1 year: Mary Baker
 Gerald Eckman
 Elizabeth Oskamp
 Frank Reid
 Cindy Rohr
 Lynn Simmons



Stats September 2021

Ambulance Runs	325
Transported	161
Fall Calls (%)	120
(37%)	
Blood pressures	69
Van runs	109
Y-T-D Falls	1243

Sick List for October 2021

Team 2
 Suzi Russell
 Bob Bizzano
Team 4
 Gary Giles,
 Maureen Kurowski
 Peg Campbell
Team 8
 Bonnie Murphy
 Tom Murphy
 Lisa Preston

Safety and Well-Being

Has anyone noticed how attitudes seem to have changed universally? WE, as EMS, need to be that positive force when on duty. Many folks are still sequestered in their homes and isolated from any social activity. Much like cabin fever for those who live up North during a seasonal snow storm. Keep a smile on your face—even behind the mask it shows—and speak softly and with care to our patients and each other. It won't be long before we can all return to the hugs, hand-shakes, and friendly gatherings. In the meantime, lead by example. It will keep you safer from aggressive behaviors and lift your spirits as well.

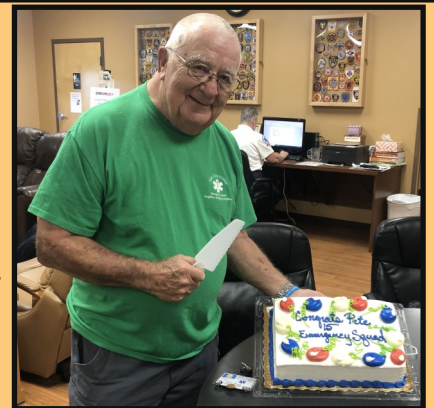


Be safe out there—
 Diane. Simon, Ass't.
 Chief, Safety

Pete Blair celebrates 15

Pete Blair has served the community in many capacities since moving to Sun City Center in 2005. He joined the Squad in 2006; wife Margie joined soon after in 2007. He became an EMT and an instructor and is currently serving as a dispatcher for Team 2. Pete has held several jobs including EMR and Driver, prior to becoming an EMT. Pete has also produced several recruiting and training films and headed up the EMSTARS project when the Squad changed over from paper reports to Toughbooks.

In addition to volunteering for the Squad, Pete is also the Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, using his skills and experience to encourage others to volunteer.



What's New?

Hazel Crosby Defines Generous

Ten years ago, Hazel Crosby joined the Emergency Squad and we became her family. In these 10 years, Hazel has generously donated both her time and her money. Just recently, Hazel donated \$50,000 to the Squad. This makes her one of the few who have donated over \$100,000.

Hazel is a retired nurse and serves as a dispatcher on Team 5. She is always quick to volunteer for events and she assisted at our COVID testing and vaccine events last Fall and this Spring.



Changing of the Guard Team 3

In 2003, Chuck Russ joined the Emergency Squad. Initially, he served as an ambulance driver, which required that he not only learn emergency vehicle operations, but also CPR and first aid. Within a few years, Chuck was serving as Captain of his team, managing crew scheduling, overseeing team duties and still serving on the ambulance.

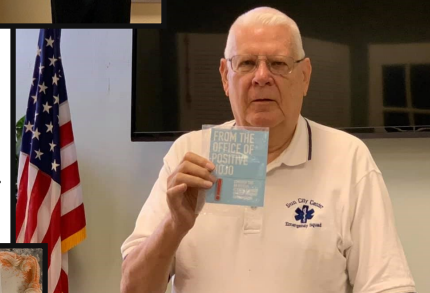
But that wasn't enough. Chuck soon joined the Squad's education department as a CPR Instructor; then as Assistant Director of CPR Training, becoming the Director of CPR Training around 2008. Since then, Chuck has been responsible for teaching hundreds of people and many, many instructors how to perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. The program he has managed has become the top CPR site for our region.

Few remember, but approximately 10 years ago, Chuck was attending an event at Veteran's Theater in Kings Point. While in the



men's room, another man collapsed. Another Squad member was there and together with Chuck, the two of them did CPR until HCFR arrived and took care of the patient. And the patient survived!

Jim Hunton, a recent volunteer joined us a couple of years ago. He, and wife Betty have been members of team 5. Earlier this year, Jim became



an EMT and also served as Asst. Captain for his team. We know he'll do an amazing job!



HIPAA AND LEGAL ISSUES FOR EMS

By Linda Eargle, HIPAA Compliance Officer

First, a huge thank you to every single squad member! What you are doing makes a difference and our squad couldn't exist without you..we'd be a squad.. (Bad joke)

As a reminder, we are all faced with temptations to violate HIPAA or occasions when we are not aware. For example, last week I saw the ambulance parked in an unusual location with lights on.. my inclination was to ask someone what had happened since I'd never seen this before. OOPS.. HIPAA...I don't need to know and therefore it's illegal for me to know. I'd challenge you to always ask yourself, if the patient information is something you NEED to know or there is a NEED to provide to someone else.

From a more global legal perspective, the second question those in dispatch, ambulance and van teams should consider is, "Is this action what a reasonable and prudent dispatcher/team member should do?" 2021 has resulted in a number of legal cases occurring related to these EMS team members across the U.S. I mention this to remind us that whatever our role on the squad, what we do is incredibly im-



amazon smile

If you aren't familiar with Amazon Smile, now is the time to learn what it's about. It is a charity program that doesn't cost you a dime. Instead, amazon contributes to the charity of your choice when you sign up and select your favorite charity. Then it donates a % of your purchases to that charity. Its that simple. Learn more at: <https://smile.amazon.com>

Community Relations

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

Good will is the established reputation of a business, regarded as a quantifiable asset. In business, it is represented by the excess of the price paid at a takeover of a company, over its fair market value.

As an organization, the Emergency Squad certainly has the highest credibility, confidence and positive public perception of any organization in the community, and quite likely in the county. There are many reasons for this: our volunteers' integrity; the financial stewardship of our current and past financial officers and chiefs; and the safeguarding of our reputation by both volunteers and officers of the organization.

We know, though, that we will never make everyone happy. There will always be someone who feels slighted or ignored, who doesn't understand how/where we operate or our dependence on volunteers.

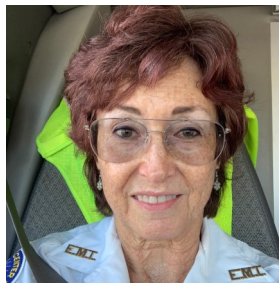
That said, there are a few considerations we should keep in mind when we're in uniform and on duty. These include:

Don't tell the patient that their doctor(s) have incorrectly diagnosed them or prescribed the wrong medications. Our job is to get them to the hospital; we are not diagnosticians.

Don't endorse anyone, service, product, hospital, or company. If you're in uniform, your opinion carries more weight. This can come back to haunt the Squad in multiple ways. Save those recommendations for when you are not representing the Squad in a professional capacity.

Within reason and considering the situation, be positive with the patient and their family. When on a call, we need to set aside our personal feelings and provide a professional team. This includes whether we are having disagreements/personality conflicts with a crew member.

Please know, this is not addressing any recent situations, but instead just a reminder. You are all amazing and do a phenomenal job serving our community. Our success is a continuing team effort.



Toughbook Tips

by Merrill Pritham, Asst. Chief QA

September has flashed by for me and things are going very well with the reports, but we still have a few points to make:

All falls, especially on known diabetics, require a blood sugar test. Many lift assists start out as falls, so should be classified as trauma as well. When the patient refuses a blood sugar check, unable to complete or n/a should be noted on the flow sheet. Those choices show when you click on the blood glucose level.

All pain complaints, such as "severe headache" should be charted on the flow sheet under pain level.

PICC lines are "Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter" and need to be handled very carefully, making sure to keep the area as sterile as possible. This is a direct line to the patient's heart, thus infection can spread rapidly.

Don't forget to give O2 to those with low oxygen levels.

Please get the gender right and don't classify anybody as "dead", unless they are.



This month

Pfizer booster shots - October 8th

Flu Shots October 15th at the Training Center.*

***Do NOT get the flu shot if you receive the booster on October 8th**

October Events

It seems the community is opening back up! October has a lot of events with the possibility of more coming up. If you are interested in helping out, there are sign-up sheets on the back ready room wall with additional details about the events below.

Friday, Oct. 1st - Concerts for a Cause at Kings Point - 3 to 5 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 6th - Jen's Market at Kings Point - 9:30 am - 2 PM

Friday, Oct. 8th - Oldies But Goodies Dance Fundraiser - 6- 10 pm

Saturday, Oct. 16th - Fall Fest at the Community Association 9am to 2pm

Wednesday, Oct. 27th, Charity Golf Tournament, Caloosa Golf Club 8am to 2pm

Thursday Oct. 28th - Kings Point Fall Expo, 10 am to 2pm

Thursday, Oct. 28th - 2021 Community Health Fair at Community Hall, 12pm to 3pm

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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