

**March 2022**

# *The Siren*

*Newsletter of the Sun City Center  
Emergency Squad*

AMBULANCE

## **From the Chief's Desk**

It appears the community is opening back up – we've had many events taking place and there are more to come! I want to thank everyone who steps up to assist with getting the word out!

One event I want to draw your attention to is the Disaster Planning event on March 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be two sessions, but each will present the same information. So, if you can get to one of them, you'll hear the same details as presented at the other. The first session is at Kings Point Veterans Theater from 9:30 to 11:30 am. It is open to all residents of the community, not just Kings Point. The afternoon session is at United Methodist Church from 2pm until 4 pm. If you can't make it to one, go to the other and be prepared for hurricane season!

As I look ahead at summer scheduling, I know, as usual, we'll be short-handed. This happens every summer and we often go down to just one ambulance because we don't have enough volunteers to fill that 9 to 5 day-time shift. If you have new neighbors, friends at church or in a social club, please invite them to our second Wednesday evening meeting to learn more about the Squad. The next one is March 9<sup>th</sup> at our training center at 6 pm. Word of mouth and personal invitations are the best way to recruit new volunteers.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the annual all squad meeting is Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1 pm at Community Hall on S. Pebble Beach. Don't worry, it rarely lasts that long! However, we need a Quorum, in accordance with our bylaws. I suspect we'll have coffee as a minimum and maybe a few refreshments!

As always, it's an honor to be your Chief. I appreciate the time and energy you donate to our community by serving on the Squad.



**Chief Mike Bardell**

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**SUN CITY CENTER**

**EMERGENCY SQUAD**



# UPDATES & REPORTS

## Birthdays for March 2022

Nancy Jackman	2nd	Richard Bishop	20th <sup>th</sup>
Lloyd Banfield	2nd	Sam Sudman	23rd
Patty McClure	2nd	Phil Prather	23rd
Michael Stephens	4th	Peg Noeltner	24th
Sharon Skaryd	4th	Diane Christopherson	24th
William Grussi	4th	Betty Richner	24th
Rich Bothroyd	7th	Jo-Ellen Bromberg	24th
Hal Jeffrey	8th	Louise Howe	25th
Tom Ginter	8th	Tim Zion	26th
Sheila Houlihan	9th	Mimi Mendez	27th
Dottie McKenzie	9th	Barry McKee	24th
Shirley Dwyer	12th	Teresa Padubney	30th
Eliot Marcus	14th	Fabio Marchetti	30 <sup>th</sup>
Donna Munz	14th	Mary Porterfield	31st
Jeanne Krull	17th	Ginny DeFever	31st
Sylvia Eddens	17th	Michael McClintic	26 <sup>th</sup>
Dale Johnson	19th	Len Farrell	28 <sup>th</sup>

## March Anniversaries

Team #

### 5 year Anniversaries

Michael Jasudowicz	0
Jorge Ignarra	1
Wendy Helton	3
Leo Scire	5
Nancy Birkett	6
Patricia Johnson	6

### 3 year Anniversary

Donna Heath	7
Randy Heath	7

### 1 Year Anniversaries

Wendy Tankersley	1
John Kosin	2
Karen Butenschoen	2
Len Phillips	4
Mimi Mendez	4
Chris Holove	5
Elaine Schaefer	7
Lisa Preston	8

## February Statistics

Ambulance Runs	340
Falls	120
% of calls	35.3%
Van Runs	106

Blood Pressures	61
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## Sick List

Team 1	Gail Letzring. Naomi Layton
Team 5	Tom Leydon Gloria Deiss
Team 7	Suzanne McFadyn Walt Prouty Dennis Nash Sharon Crabtree
Team 8	Debbie Goodrow Lisa Preston

# March is National Kidney Month

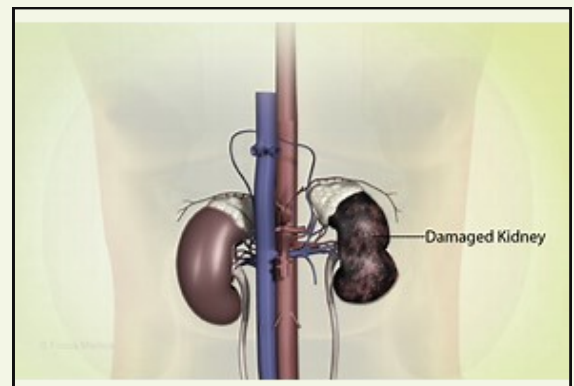
**Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)** is a condition characterized by a gradual loss of kidney function. Early stages can be asymptomatic. Disease progression occurs slowly over a period of time. It is another “silent” disease, as the early symptoms can feel like many other health issues.

Early symptoms include: fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite, high blood pressure, blood in urine, decreased mental sharpness, need to urinate (especially at night,) muscle cramps, swelling in feet and ankles and persistent itching.

Sounds a lot like getting older, which is why it is a “silent disease.” Plus, the causes of CKD are not always known. However, having high blood pressure, diabetes, autoimmune diseases like lupus, drug addictions, overuse of certain medications or polycystic kidney disease, are all common risk factors. Having a family history of CKD also increases the risk of having it.

You can take action to reduce your chances of developing CKD. These include: manage your blood sugar, eat healthy, stop smoking, stop drinking alcohol, exercise regularly and control your medications.

CKD is diagnosed through blood work and urine tests. High blood pressure is a common symptom as your body and heart have to work harder to expel internal wastes built up in the excess fluids in your body. As always, talk to your doctor if you have persistent symptoms.



# What's New?

## South Bay Hospital will become HCA Florida South Shore Hospital

On Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, **South Bay Hospital** will officially become **HCA Florida South Shore Hospital**. HCA will be re-branding all its hospitals, physician practices and freestanding emergency rooms in Florida, adopting our new brand, **HCA Florida Healthcare**.

Recently, Sheldon Barr, CEO at South Bay Hospital, rode along with Team

3. She was incredibly enthusiastic about getting a first-hand "LOOK" AT HOW THE Squad performs.

Pictured right, L to R, are Walt Bowers, EMT, Sheldon Barr, Nancy Odden, EMR, and John Petersen, EMR Driver.



## Mike Zimmerman, South Bay ER Director Meets with Ambulance Crews

On Thursday February 24<sup>th</sup>, Mike Zimmerman met with EMTs and ambulance crews to talk about issues in the ER. His presentation focused on the EMT/Nurse relationships in the ER and his desire to ensure better communication and greater confidence in the EMTs ability to call stroke and sepsis alerts. Mike would rather we err on the side of patient care if we suspect either a stroke or sepsis, by calling an alert by radio, prior to arriving at the hospital. Mike encouraged the EMTs to feel comfortable in approaching the Charge Nurses to find out when they'll be able to accept the patient.



*Sepsis is the body's extreme response to an infection. It is a life-threatening medical emergency. Sepsis happens when an infection you already have triggers a chain reaction throughout your body. Infections that lead to sepsis most often start in the lung, urinary tract, skin, or gastrointestinal tract. Without timely treatment, sepsis can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.*

## NEWEST EMT's

Our newest EMTs are Lorraine Kennedy, Sally Reid and Frank Reid!

Lorraine moved here from Long Island, NY, where she worked as an Emergency room nursing assistant. She joined the Squad in 2019 as an EMR. After spending a couple of years on the ambulance, Lorraine went to EMT school in the Fall semester of 2021. She is on Team 1 her home team.

Sally Reid joined the Squad in the summer of 2020, in the middle of COVID-19. While going to EMR class, she kept telling husband Frank, who was visiting their kids in Alaska, that he might also enjoy becoming a Squad volunteer. Frank joined in October of 2021, going through EMR school and then becoming a driver. Both Sally and

Frank went to EMT classes in the Fall Semester of 2021. Frank and Sally's home team is team 8. They are both serving other teams.



## Jack's Shack Supports the Squad

On Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>, Jack's Shack held its second fundraiser for the Emergency Squad. Troy and Deb Melquist opened Jack's Shack in 2020, holding their first event for the Squad in early 2021. This year they raised \$2000 for the Squad, in spite of the weather being rather dreary and chilly that day.

Also participating in both fundraisers were the Bluewater Band – Jim McGuire and Scott Heims.



If you aren't familiar with Amazon Smile, now is the time to learn what it's about.

**amazon**smile

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>

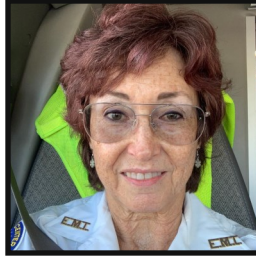


## Community Relations

By Robin Watt, Asst. Chief, Community Relations

Many thanks to all who have stepped up to help with recent events. It seems like the community is ready to hold gatherings and we definitely want to be there!

I know many folks are wondering about the all Squad photos we'll be taking on MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup>. Below is the last all squad photo that was taken in 2010. I had hoped to get this done in 2020, but COVID-19 would have meant that everyone wear a mask and distance – not making a very good photo.



This is not mandatory - attendance is completely up to you and whether you want to be included in the photo. We will also be doing team photos and specific group photos, such as the Board of Directors. The photos are scheduled on a Team 4 duty day and hoping it is a slow day, we will either photograph them first, work them in as best possible or, as a last ditch option ask them to return on the 24<sup>th</sup>. I plan on having chairs in ambulance bay to avoid everyone being in the ready room.

But there will be no "make-up" dates for other groups. This isn't an easy thing to do and having everyone at the Squad milling around waiting will be tough on the on-duty team. It will be a uniform event. However, if your duty uniform is a T-shirt – wear that!



More details will be released by email soon. Thank you again for your patience!

## Dance Extravaganza raises Funds

Sun City Center and Kings Point Dance Groups put on a dance extravaganza at the Kings Point Veterans Theater on February 25<sup>th</sup>, raising \$2100 for the Emergency Squad. The groups that danced were the Happy Tappers, Hula Honeys, Jazzmatazz, Silver Shakers, Silver Tappers, TimeSteppers

and West Coast Swing/Hustle. We thank all the dancers and their support volunteers for helping the Emergency Squad.

In the photograph below is Bruce Rogers, emcee for the program. The check was written for \$2050, before the last \$50 donation was made.



## All Squad Meeting & New Directors

In accordance with the Squad's bylaws, the Squad holds an annual All Squad meeting. This meeting is to inform the volunteers of Squad business, including financial issues. Most often it is when the Squad votes on new Directors for its Board. This year only three volunteers ran for the three openings on the Board and thus were automatically "elected."

We thank the Election Committee members: Doris Ferron, Board Secretary Cricket Fraser, Helen Corradi, Beverly Brown, Betsy McGhee, Maureen Kurowski and Noreen Schramm.

Our new Directors are Kelly Knigge, Skip Aylesworth and Shawn Brauch.

However, we still will hold our annual meeting. Please attend, as a quorum is required by State law.

**All Squad Annual Meeting is March 24th at Community Hall, 1910 S. Pebble Beach, from 11 am to 1pm.**

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### Team Captains

<b>Team 1</b>	<b>Mary Christiano</b>
<b>Team 2</b>	<b>Betty Richner</b>
<b>Team 3</b>	<b>Walt Bowers</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>