

# INSIDE SUNSHINE NEWSLETTER

March 2021



## SEPO Board

With prior public sector experience under my belt, it is my goal as President to be open, transparent and engaging with our community as we move into this new Board year. With that said, your 2021 SEPO Board has hit the ground running.

Clearly COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact upon the “friendliness and engagement” that all of us enjoyed prior to its onset. It appears most of us can almost see the light at the end of this tunnel later this year, having been fortunate to have received the vaccine. The board will be looking into trying to understand the magnitude of persons who wish to receive the vaccine but are still in need of assistance. No promises! But we are committed to give it a try to ensure those who want the vaccine will get it, thus helping in this critical element of our Community’s health.

I cannot prepare this message, without mentioning I am an Engineer. Engineers systematically attempt to understand problems, inventory current conditions, develop potential solutions, provide pros and cons for each alternative, evaluate costs and benefits and often present recommendations to resolve problem issues. That has been and will be my method of approaching Board related issues. This Board would also like to attempt using technology to obtain opinions about various issues that may come up for board consideration. The plan is to use simple e-mails sent to the community which will contain various questions/options to get community feedback. We will then compile this information and provide it to the Board so that we can make intelligent and informed decisions using this data as a method to better understand what the community may feel.

Sunshine Estates Country Club is truly a community somewhat like a family. Each of us has varying experiences with our own families. Ideally, we all get along greatly with our brothers, sisters, in-laws, aunts, uncles and cousins. Unfortunately, not everyone has this experience. I am certain the same applies to our Sunshine Country Club Estates family. All I ask is that you be open minded and receptive to new ideas and provide feedback to our Board so that we can attempt to make the best decisions we can as relates to our family.

We hope this 2021 board will be one that you can be proud of by examining issues related to our Covenants, Bylaws and Policies & Procedures.

It is my intent that concerns, complaints recommendations and/or suggestions to the Board will be acknowledged and a response will be provided.

Please give this new board a chance to get its feet on the ground and to be able to move forward until changes in Covid-19 occur. We will more than likely continue using virtual meetings for most of the year.

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While you are not in the same room, seeing people face to face you, at least you can observe and hear what is occurring, without ever having to leave your home.

I am convinced the governance of the Board will be placed back on track as it was intended to do in the next year of Board activities. Please help me and the other Board members get there.

Tony Tramel, SEPO President

## **SEPO Communications**

This is the final newsletter of this winter season. SEPO e-mails will continue to be sent out during the summer whenever you send me something. And the Web site will be kept updated (based on your input). As a reminder - Communication Guidelines can be found on the Sunshine Web site here: (<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/communication-guidelines>)

Please call anytime with questions or issues you may have concerning SEPO Communications.

Beth Parrish  
314-960-6710

## **Women's Club**

The Women's Club is open to all women who reside in Sunshine Estates. It's a good way to meet other women who live here and get involved in our community. We start meeting in October, have one meeting each month and our last meeting is in March. The coffee is hot, and the apple fritters are to die for. Unfortunately, this year was not our typical year. Hopefully, we will be able to start again in the fall.

Sometime around February, we have a meeting to make plans for the fall season. At least one event is planned for every month. We ask for a volunteer to chair the event or two co-chairs to work together. We put on Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, a party to introduce all new residents and various themes parties.

We sell tickets to these events and the cost is around five to ten dollars. The money we raise goes toward purchasing things for the Estate. Last year, we had the lounge chairs in the pool area recovered and purchased new shuffleboard equipment. We bought a new sound system, big screen TV's and other things that everyone can enjoy. We also consider donating to various charities.

During the summer months we have a potluck dinner once a month, as well as summer holidays. There is no cost for the potluck. Just bring a dish to share and visit with neighbors.

So, our basic mission is to raise funds and have fun doing it. We hope all new women will consider joining us this fall, or whenever Covid-19 is finally under control. I'm optimistic and believe it will be over soon.

Hope to see new faces and old smiles this fall.

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Marian Young, Vice President

## Men's Golf League

Every March the Men's Golf League holds their annual tournament followed by an awards party. This year the tournament is being held on March 1 and 2, which means the golf course will not be available for resident use during the tournament. The exact tee times are still being determined and will be communicated to those who are participating in the tournament. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the awards party this year due to Covid-19.

Mark Owen (by Beth Parrish)

## Women's Golf League

Due to Covid-19 the women will not be holding their annual tournament and awards party. Hopefully, next year.

Terry Debackere

## Woodworker's Club News

The woodshop appears to have survived the cold weather we experienced in late February without problems. We "winterized" the building by draining the water pipes, adding RV antifreeze to the sink traps and the toilet and turning off the water supply to the building. As of this writing everything is back to normal.

Shop cleanup continues to be the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 am (March 2, 2021). Thanks to Cathy Chajec for organizing and supervising that necessity.

Woodshop orientation classes have been held in February. The woodshop limit of seven persons has required multiple sessions. If you are new to the community and wish to use the woodshop, you must attend one of these sessions prior to being given access to the shop. Contact John Chajec ([jcsayjack@gmail.com](mailto:jcsayjack@gmail.com)) to get your name on the list for the next orientation.

The March woodworkers club meetings will be held at 1pm on March 12 and March 26, 2021. The March 12 meeting will be held on Google Meet, while the March 26 meeting will be held in the pavilion if weather permits.

Thank you to all who have helped with cleanup, winterization, orientation and instruction.

Jerry Wetherbee



**Sunshine Neighborhood Watch – CERT Team  
(Est. 2008)  
SCCE - Harlingen's premier NW & CERT Team**



***Lights On -- Lock Up and Look Out for each other!***

Lenore J. Combs, NW-CERT Coordinator 956 245 1276 [LJCombs44@gmail.com](mailto:LJCombs44@gmail.com)

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NW-CERT March NL 2021

Dear Friends,

Thanks - and the biggest and noisiest round of applause to our faithful NW volunteers who did not miss one Patrol despite challenging weather. (Yeah, clap clap yeah)

Our last month's weather was a real-life reminder about a call to action and possible need for a CERT Team response. Sunshine is not immune from disasters and a CERT Team on hand is invaluable. Sort of "hold down the fort until professional help arrives".

Hurricane Dolly July 2008 – Caroline Cochran and her neighbor become fast friends with Harlingen FD Battalion Chief Darrel Loftus. He happened by in here accidentally during Dolly just checking out Harlingen's status. Ha – what did he find – us – stuck – flooded, no electricity etc. And why are we still here, he thinks – in an RV park – why did they not evacuate?? Well, our homes can't drive out for one. (Our Utility bill has us listed as an MH park – why would we still be here?). And so our Harlingen CERT Team was born.

Many of us soon completed the CERT class and established a great partnership with the Harlingen Fire Department (just as NW and the Citizens Police Academy are associated with Harlingen PD). As we learned and grew, we had classes and drills and even a Statewide Train-The-Trainer CERT exercise here. Occasionally we assisted HFD staff in the training for City employees for Emergency Preparedness, Fire Extinguishers and Sheltering.

Mock Drill - October 2014 (planned event - Sunshine volunteer residents played the victims for the area wide Call Out for a Train-The Trainer course). CERT students had a Call Out. Their role was to report on scene, respond safely and act according to CERT protocols from Team Leaders to crews. A previously scheduled mock call-out was sent indicating that SCCE needed assistance. Via the chain of ICS Command, the Team Leader (John) was notified. The CERT responders were met and were briefed in a safe area close by the scene. After report, they established teams, prioritized the damage assessment and planned the rescue. Exercises were comprised of – the stove blew up in Retzlaff Hall, the building was compromised, there was an event with 150 residents, many of whom were injured or worse. Down at the Woodshop, there was a severe bleeding injury from a Ban Saw. Lorraine Lewis delivered her baby, Konnie Gush suffered psychological trauma and was found mumbling and hiding in a closet. And there was a near-drowning event in our pool with Sherri Gardner. Procedure was followed and critiqued. All victims were accounted for and a practical lesson was learned from the student and the victim point of view. SCCE and our CERT Team were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the LRGVDC and Citizens Corp.

How did CERT start? In 1985, a baseball game was seriously interrupted by an earthquake in LA., Mexico City had recently experienced an 8.1 and in 1987, the Whittier-Narrows earthquake demonstrated the need for training of civilians to prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies. These disasters underscored the threat of a major disaster with the need for trained volunteers to assist the professionals (LE and EMS as an example). The objectives were to educate and train the public and government sectors in disaster preparedness; evaluate and disseminate disaster information and to develop, train and maintain a network of CERT volunteers. In 2002, CERT became part of the Citizen's Corp and as of 2004, all States were participating.

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**Now, all things considered – if we were not under COVID-19 we would be discussing and sharing suggestions at our meetings for buttoning up our home in preparation for returning back home for the summer. There were some great ideas exchanged. See the following -**

A main Hurricane concern is always the possibility of objects from your porch or lawn flying thru your or others property in strong winds. Please put away the possibilities. A similar concern is in the Storage Lot. Make sure your shed is tied down hurricane proof and secure. There should be no attractive nuisances laying around that could become a flying projectile. (my RV thanks you)

Also, there would have been a “Utility” tour, by Golf Cart, of transformers, utility pads and poles etc. The main teaching point being to have these areas clear in case of..... Emergency crews need immediate access to these areas. They will not carefully move your plants. See what a transformer is, where they are and what it does. Envision the damage one of these electric wires dangling from a pole in a puddle nearby could cause. We would have reviewed how to shut off the water and how to turn off the gas with a tool (and not to turn gas back on until the Gas Company comes out to check it).

In April, we usually have a Disaster Preparedness/Readiness program. This is an open meeting for everyone (before COVID-19 anyway).

## **Sunday 14 March - Daylight Savings Time begins (Spring ahead – Fall back)**

\* Time to check your Smoke Alarms and the CO2 Detectors. Did you know there are bed shakers for the hearing impaired? And things for your phone? How 'bout your Fire Extinguisher? Most common types have a 10-year shelf life but every 6 months you should turn it upside-down and give it a shake. This ensures the powder does not build up on the bottom and that it should flow thru the nozzle.

BTW, the CERT Team generally went to poor neighborhoods and installed donated smoke alarms free. The team went door to door with an educator and an installer. It was quite an experience. We partnered with HFD and the Red Cross.

Easter Sunday 4 April - comes early this year, so please give our safety suggestions a thought. Traditionally, the exodus home begins a few weeks ahead of Easter. Please make sure the Office has your updated info.

Think about taking a few CERT classes, online for now. Maybe soon, we can have the real deal. Check out IS 317 *Introduction to CERT* online, a free 2hour class via FEMA.

## **Next NW-CERT meeting -- Monday 15 March (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) – Virtual**

COVID rules: Wear your mask Wash your hands Social Distancing Act Responsibly



Our local EMS ambulance teams will soon be driving thru Sunshine, Encore and Lakeside in an “area fam” exercise. Don’t be alarmed – it is only a drill. This is a common occurrence as these teams become familiar with our streets and layout. Pete Director, their EMS supervisor will have given them a test. Do not give away the answers but you can be helpful.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This is the final newsletter of this winter season. SEPO e-mails will continue to be sent out during the summer. And the Web site will be kept updated (based on your input). Thanks to all everyone who submitted articles for this month's Newsletter and throughout this Winter Season. The Sunshine Newsletter is a quick and easy way for residents to be aware of and prepare for activities that are coming during the month. Hopefully, next season we can have it filled with all kinds of fun things to do.

As always, guidelines for submission each month are located on the Web site here:

<https://www.sunshinecountryclub.com/guidelines-sepo-newsletter>.

If you have any questions after reading these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy St. Pat's Day to all.

**Beth Parrish**

**SEPO Newsletter Editor ([seponewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:seponewsletter@gmail.com))**

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