



# EMS & FIRE CONNECTION



March 2024 Edition

## Safety and Emergency Service's Apparatus Fair

Learn how Safety and Emergency Services works together to support our citizens and emergency responders!

Safety and Emergency Services is thrilled to announce the commencement of preparations for the highly anticipated 2024 Safety and Emergency Services Apparatus Fair, held in honor of your dedication and commitment to safety!

We cordially invite you to join us on Saturday, April 13th, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm for an exciting event designed for the whole family to enjoy.

The festivities will feature thrilling live demonstrations, delicious food trucks offering yummy treats, engaging outdoor games, vibrant music, and an unparalleled opportunity to interact with various emergency response vehicles up close.

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of community safety and preparedness!

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
at the  
Public Safety Complex  
located  
10750 Ulmerton Rd.  
from  
10:30 am to 2:30 pm



### HIGHLIGHTS

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# New Street Drug Awareness



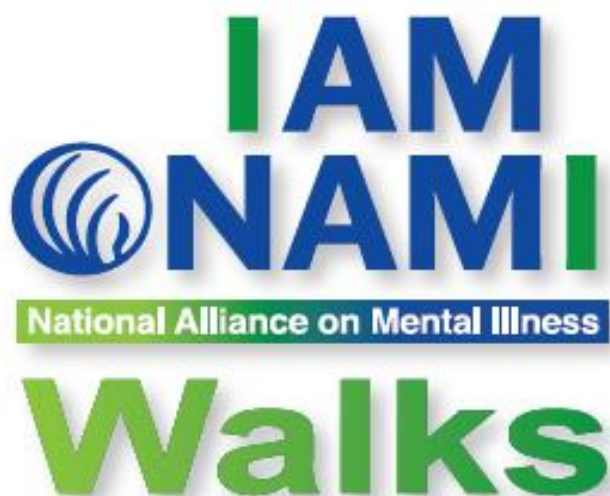
There is a new synthetic fentanyl analog that may be circulating in our area, called **Nitazene**. You may need more Narcan to reverse Nitazene overdoses and may see a higher rate of cardiac arrest. Nitazene can be a pill, powder, or liquid. Please see photos for identification.



# NAMIWalks Pinellas County

Saturday,  
May 18, 2024 - 9AM

England Brothers Park  
5010 Dave McKay  
Way Pinellas Park, FL



## MentalHealthForAll



Learn more at  
[namiwalks.org/pinellas](http://namiwalks.org/pinellas)



# Officer Development Leadership Training



Fire departments across Pinellas County joined efforts to host an Officer Development Leadership Training. The weeklong seminar was attended by close to 100 current, new, and upcoming department leaders throughout the county.

This event included topics such as: department culture, leadership from all levels, tactical strategies, task-oriented resilience, and conflict resolution. This year's keynote speakers featured **New York City Fire Department's Chief John Hodgens**, **Chicago Fire Department's retired Deputy Fire Commissioner Chief Tim Sampey**, and **Pasco County Fire Rescue's Chief Tony Perez**.

Thank you to the Pinellas County Training Officers for organizing this event annually to allow for the development of leaders and future leaders in the fire service.



**FIRE  
LEADERSHIP**



# Palm Harbor Fire Rescue Breaks Ground for New Station 68!



Palm Harbor Fire Rescue is thrilled to announce that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Station #68 took place on January 22nd! This significant milestone was achieved thanks to the tireless efforts of their building committee and all the individuals who played a crucial role. PHFR extends their sincere gratitude to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication as they continue to enhance safety and serve our community.



# AmbuBus Training



On February 29th, an extraordinary day of training unfolded with the regional AmbuBus Teams! Invaluable lessons were learned, and best practices were generously exchanged, fortifying the collective response to bolster community support during their most challenging moments.

Sincere thanks go to Hillsborough County Emergency Management for graciously providing an excellent space for this training. Special appreciation extends to all the dedicated AmbuBus Teams!

Paramedics Plus LLC/Sunstar EMS  
Tampa Fire Rescue  
Hillsborough Fire Dept  
Pasco County Firefighters  
Hernando County Fire Rescue District  
Polk County Fire Rescue  
Citrus County Fire Rescue



# Seminole Fire Rescue Approved as Fire Training Provider



CONGRATS!



The **Seminole Fire Rescue Department** has achieved official recognition as a fire training provider by the State of Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. This milestone enables them to establish a comprehensive schedule for the upcoming year, offering specialized in-house courses tailored to empower our firefighters with essential state certifications in Fire Officer, Pump Operator, and Aerial Operations.

This week marked a significant achievement as they successfully concluded their inaugural course for Fire Officer 1 certification, focusing on Building Construction for the Fire Service. Seminole Fire Rescue takes immense pride in their dedicated team of young and ambitious firefighters who exemplify unwavering commitment to the department and are diligently preparing themselves for the challenges of tomorrow.

Congratulations to all involved for a job well done!

# Virtual Office Hours With



# Dr. Angus Jameson



Join us for Dr. Angus Jameson's Virtual Office Hours, a monthly open forum for system clinicians to engage directly with the Medical Director.

Held on the last Friday of every month from 10 AM to 11 AM, the agenda is shaped entirely by the queries and interests of those who join. Come ask your questions, give suggestions for system improvement, or bring up any topic on your mind!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83832904678?pwd=LytwT1hTOVQ4K1FyNkVIeHROOVI2UT09>

Meeting ID: 838 3290 4678

Passcode: OMD







# Safety & Emergency Services Employee Recognition Awards



FEBRUARY 2024

# Congratulations

## Regional 9-1-1

**Outstanding Service Award** - Joe Motil  
**Skilled Craftsman Award** - Joe Motil

## Financial Services

**Behind the Scenes Award** - Laura Jaeger, Tina Bowen

## Support Services

**STAR Award** - Bob Crandall

## EMS/Fire Admin

**STAR Award** - Mark Eggers  
**Team MVP Award** - David Hudak



Please consider nominating someone for March's Employee Recognition Awards for Regional 9-1-1, Fire and EMS Admin, Support Services and Financial Services



# Around The County

## Congratulations



On the morning of February 15th, the Highland Hulks came together to pay tribute to **Driver-Operator Steve Avise**, who bid farewell after dedicating 20 remarkable years to **Clearwater Fire & Rescue** and the community of Clearwater. Wishing you the very best in your future endeavors, Steve, and sincere appreciation for your unwavering service! Congratulations!





# Around The County



## Congratulations

Please join us in congratulating the following members of **Largo Fire Rescue** for celebrating milestone years of dedicated service to our community! Thank you for your continued hard work and efforts to safeguard our community with pride and excellence!

- Lt. Warren Cargill- 35 Years**
- Division Chief Don Rooks- 25 Years**
- District Chief Eric Snell- 25 Years**
- Lt. Lance Michael- 25 Years**
- Firefighter/EMT Michael Brownlee- 25 Years**

# CONGRATULATIONS!

*on your years of service*



*Lieutenant Warren Cargill*  
35 Years



*Division Chief Don Rooks*  
25 Years



*District Chief Eric Snell*  
25 Years



*Lieutenant Lance Michael*  
25 Years



*Firefighter Michael Brownlee*  
25 Years

# Around The County

## Congratulations



Congratulations to **Steven Raisch** of **Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue** on his well-deserved promotion in February to the esteemed rank of District Chief! DC Raisch has been an invaluable member of PSFRD since 2014, showcasing his dedication and expertise. His ascent to Lieutenant in 2022, following a tenure as Acting Lieutenant since 2018, is a testament to his exceptional leadership. With confidence, PSFRD anticipates his continued excellence in this new role.

Congratulations to **Firefighter B. Gemmell** of **Seminole Fire & Rescue** for passing his final Truck Driver/Operator testing!

Gemmell's exceptional performance, including proficiency with apparatus, SOPs, tool usage, rope rescue setup, aerial pumping, and positive attitude, speaks volumes about his dedication and potential. With his initiative and drive to continually learn and positively influence others, Gemmell is poised to achieve even greater success in the future.



Please join us in congratulating **Chief Hawkins** of **Safety Harbor Fire Department** on his well-deserved promotion to **Deputy Fire Chief!**

Chief Hawkins boasts an impressive career spanning over two decades in the fire service, with roles ranging from FF/EMT to Division Chief. Having served diligently with the City of Clearwater and most recently as District Chief for SHFD since 2020, Deputy Chief Hawkins brings a wealth of experience and leadership to his new position.

In his role as Deputy Fire Chief, Hawkins will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations and logistics of the fire department. We wish Deputy Chief Hawkins the best of luck in this new chapter of his career!

# Around The County

## Congratulations



Congratulations to **District Chief Greg Newland** of **Safety Harbor Fire Department**, who was officially sworn into service during the City Commission meeting on February 8th. District Chief Newland's family proudly presented him with his badge, while Mayor Joe Ayoub facilitated the Oath of Office.



Let's extend a warm welcome to two of **Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue's** newest Firefighters, **Spencer Bush** and **David Waller**! Both Spencer and David joined TSFR at the beginning of February, and they are thrilled to have them on their team. Welcome aboard!

# Around the Community



**Largo Fire Rescue** extends their deepest gratitude to the wonderful Largo community for joining in on February 8th at **Station 41** Open House! A huge thank you to the Benevolent Florida Firefighters, the exceptional Largo Extrication team, LKQ Pick Your Part, Piper Fire Protection, and all esteemed partnering agencies, city departments, and residents. Your support and collaboration were instrumental in making this event a resounding success!

A special shoutout to the incredible Largo Extrication team for once again showcasing their remarkable skills and dedication. Your commitment to excellence truly shines through! Thank you all for being part of this fantastic day.



# Around the Community



On February 15th, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue's E66 crew provided blood pressure checks at the CSA Community Health Fair. They extend their sincere thanks to all who joined them!



On February 14th, Palm Harbor Fire Rescue's E66 crew found themselves in the right place at the right time. While teaching hands-only CPR at the YMCA, the fire alarm went off. The building was quickly evacuated, and PHFR's dedicated crews efficiently solved the problem. The cause was the Heat Detector connected to the Fire Alarm panel signaling higher temperatures in an electrical closet. Their Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) confirmed the box at 125°

F. Further checking revealed blocked vents as the reason for the high temperature. CPR education triumphs once again! We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved.



# Around the Community



The February 24th car wash hosted by **St. Petersburg Fire Rescue** was an outstanding success! They're excited to share that they surpassed their goal, raising over \$1300! A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated firefighters, lifeguards, TASC0, Suncoast Safe Kids Coalition, and the entire community for rallying behind them. Thanks to their generous support, 113 children who otherwise couldn't afford it will now have the opportunity to receive free swim lessons. SPFR thanks everyone again for the incredible generosity and support!





# Around the Community



Things really heated up at the **Treasure Island Fire Rescue Chili Cook-Off** on February 17th! A massive shoutout to all the chili enthusiasts who came out and spiced up the event with their support. Let's also give a hearty round of applause to our talented cooks who brought their A-game and flavor to the table!

Now, without further ado, let's unveil the winners:

In the Open class:

- 1st Place - Hal Merriman
- 2nd Place - Terrie from Minnesota
- 3rd Place - Team Pirates

In the Pro class:

- 1st Place - Fusion Resort
- 2nd Place - Grillin' and Chillin'



Hats off to all the winners! And a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a blazing success. Here's to more chili cook-offs and fiery fun in the future!





Meet Hugo of Team Denali

# FUNDRAISER

## APRIL 14, 2024 1-5 PM



*Pee-Pee's Garage* **CRAFT BREWERY**

6340 49TH ST N . PINELLAS PARK



**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT  
THE USA PATRIOTS KIDS CAMP  
LIFE WITHOUT LIMBS IS LIMITLESS!**

FEELING EXTRA SHARP? TAKE PART IN OUR  
**AXE OF KINDNESS THROWING COMPETITION**



RAFFLE PRIZES  
CRAFT BEER  
FOOD TRUCKS



FAMILY EVENT  
GAMES  
DOG FRIENDLY

# THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 273 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF MADEIRA BEACH PRESENT



vs



AMERICA'S AMPUTEE SOFTBALL TEAM

WE INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN US AS THE USA PATRIOTS TAKE ON FAMILIAR FACES FROM THE MADEIRA BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT, AMERICAN LEGION, POST 273 AND SUPPORTERS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.



**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
**APRIL 19, 2024 • 6:30 PM**  
**Madeira Beach Recreation Complex, Field #3**  
**200 REX PLACE MADEIRA BEACH**



# TGH Child Abuse Prevention Symposium

# CAPS

2024



**Muma**  
**Children's**  
**Hospital**



This 6.0-hour CE/CME virtual and in-person instructor-led event for multiple health disciplines and community partners is designed to increase understanding of the providers taking care of the pediatric trauma suspected abuse patient.

Scan to Register



**April 3, 2024**  
**8 a.m.-3 p.m.**



FOUNDATION

NANCY C. BRUEMMER, M.D.  
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

# Mental Health Training

## Franciscan Center 'Operation Restore'

### Find Your Center

#### DATES FOR UPCOMING

#### RETREATS

March 18-21, 2024

April 22-25, 2024

June 24-27, 2024

July 22-25, 2024

September 16-19, 2024

October 21-24, 2024

November 11-14, 2024

If you, or someone in your agency is interested in attending, please email or call

Liz Fogo @ [lfogo@pinellas.gov](mailto:lfogo@pinellas.gov) or 727-582-5755

**Seats go quickly! Reserve yours now!**

# FIRST RESPONDER HOPE ♥ LINE

The First Responder Hope Line is a confidential resource first responders and the people they care about can use when stressed, depressed, or struggling in some other way. Connect confidentially by calling 1-866-4FL-HERO (866-435-4376) or visiting <https://lasttoask.com/>.

Available to ALL First Responders AND Families of First Responders:

**Fire Fighters**  
**EMT's**  
**Police Officers**  
**911 Telecommunicators**

Established in 2020, the First Responder Hope Line employs retired or former first responder peers as care coordinators who are trained to listen without judgement and provide emotional support. In 2022, the Crisis Center received additional funding to hire a First Responder Ambassador, Retired Asst. Chief Meg Ross, who is working to increase awareness of the line and reduce the stigma associated with seeking behavioral health resources throughout the 11-county coverage area from Pasco to Collier County.

The Suncoast Alliance for First Responders (SAFR) was also established to bring together first responder leaders and community partners to create a strategic plan to address the barriers and gaps to behavioral health resources in the Tampa Bay area. The SAFR has completed a strategic plan, R.E.A.L. Hope for First Responders and will be meeting in January to put this plan into action.

Calls to the First Responder Hope Line 2022 and 2023:

111 Calls to Hope Line in 2022.

227 Calls to Hope Line so far in 2023.

200 First Responder Care Coordination Follow-Ups so far in 2023.

1132 Calls from First Responders (excluding Hope Line) or their families so far in 2023.

(410 Out of Area, 722 in 11-County Area)

First Responder Hope Line: 1-866-4FL-HERO (866-435-4376) or visit <https://lasttoask.com/>  
WEDU Special Documentary - Last to Ask: [WEDU Specials](#) | [Last to Ask](#) | [PBS](#)





# Announcing!

Pinellas County Animal Services has many amazing dogs and cats that need loving homes! These are just a few of them looking for their fur-ever homes! Please consider adopting one of these wonderful animals or spread the word to anyone who is looking to add a furry member to their family! For more info on these animals, visit <https://pinellas.gov/adoption-center-dog-cat-adoptions/>

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**BENJI MUTT**



**CHEDDAR**



**CAMILA**



**ZEUS**



**PATTY**



**MAVIS**



**NAYLA**



**KATE**



**BANDIT**



# PINELLAS COUNTY, FL



40489 US-19  
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Sponsored by:  
St. Petersburg College  
Tarpon Springs Campus

APRIL 5TH  
8:00-10:00  
**2024**



443 Main St, Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Sponsored by:  
Compass Church



10555 Park Blvd,  
Seminole, FL 33772

SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY  
AVAILABLE



Scan here to donate!



2151 54th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33714

SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY  
AVAILABLE

# Free First Friday Breakfast

## Active duty & Retired: Fire-EMS-LEO-Dispatch





# PASCO COUNTY, FL

**APRIL 5TH**  
**8:00-10:00**  
**2024**



**10740 SR-54**  
**Trinity, FL 34655**



# Free First Friday Breakfast

**Active duty & Retired: Fire-EMS-LEO-Dispatch**