

Lights & Sirens



FALL 2021



Combined, our team of medics have 87 years of emergency service experience. L-R, Noah Waldron, Kyle Davies, Weyshawn Koons and Ryan Nelson, ready to respond with advance life support techniques.

Meet our Medical Program Director

Our Medical Program Director, Dr. Josh Corsa, serves San Juan Island EMS and the five other EMS agencies within San Juan County. Appointed by the governor in 2019, Dr. Corsa is responsible for ensuring that quality medical care is delivered by more than 100 EMTs and Paramedics in our county. He also provides continuing education to make certain volunteers and career staff stay up to date on the latest medical advances.

In 2021, Dr. Corsa was able to secure state approval for a major update to the county's medical protocols, which were developed with input from providers across the United States. These new protocols dictate what medications may be given and what procedures may be performed by the county's first responders.

New additions include the use of ventilators, portable ultrasound machines, and antibiotics for sepsis. His leadership has made San Juan County one of the first places in America to bring some of these tools out of the hospital and into the ambulance.

Dr. Corsa also serves as a trauma surgeon and intensive care physician at Providence Regional Medical Center – Everett. He started his medical career as a volunteer

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Conozca a Nuestro Director del Programa Médico

Nuestro director del Programa Médico, el Dr. Josh Corsa, sirve la agencia de SEM de las Isla de San Juan y de las otras cinco agencias de SEM dentro del Condado de San Juan. Nombrado por el gobernador en 2019, el doctor es responsable de garantizar que la atención médica de calidad sea entregada por más de 100 TEM y paramédicos en nuestro condado. El Dr. Corsa también proporciona educación continua para garantizar que tanto los voluntarios como el personal de carrera se mantengan al día con los últimos avances médicos.

En 2021, el Dr. Corsa consiguió que el estado aprobara una importante actualización de los protocolos

médicos del condado, que se desarrollaron con la aportación de proveedores de todo Estados Unidos. Estos nuevos protocolos dictan qué medicamentos pueden administrarse y qué procedimientos pueden realizar los socorristas del condado. Las nuevas incorporaciones incluyen el uso de ventiladores, ecógrafos portátiles y antibióticos para la sepsis. El liderazgo del doctor ha convertido al

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Board of Commissioner's Report: Long-Term Care

At the end of 2017 the Life Care Center of the San Juan Islands closed its doors, displacing many of our neighbors, friends, and family. The community has been seeking a solution to the loss of this facility and its services to some of our community's most vulnerable residents ever since.

On August 28th, San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 announced its intent to acquire the Village at the Harbor for the purpose of providing and expanding long term care services. To proceed with this acquisition, the hospital district will require additional funding derived from a voter approved levy lid lift. The District has placed a levy lid lift measure on the November General Election ballot.

If approved, this measure would increase the hospital district's levy from \$0.34 per \$1,000 in assessed value to \$0.70 and would provide the funding necessary to proceed with the acquisition of the Village at the Harbor. If the measure is not approved, the hospital district will be unable to proceed with the acquisition at this time.

The hospital district is a special purpose local government funded by property taxes (like a library district or a fire district) that is dedicated to ensuring healthcare services for residents. Our District has two property tax levies. Its main levy primarily subsidizes Peace Island Medical Center. PeaceHealth is a separate, not-for-profit hospital that could not afford to function

here without the subsidy. The District's other levy supports San Juan Island EMS, and is not affected by this measure.

If approved by the voters, funds from this levy increase will:

- Immediately subsidize 4 to 6 Medicaid beds
- Fund the expansion of more capacity
- Support wages and benefits to retain staff and/or recruit additional staff
- Create a first-of-its kind home-based program to help seniors age in place
- Pay the debt service on a bond to acquire the Village at the Harbor

The annual cost increase to taxpayers for this lid lift, if passed, will be as follows:

Property Value	Total Annual Increase
\$300,000	\$108
\$500,000	\$188
\$800,000	\$288

More details about our plans for Long Term Care and the levy lift ballot issue can be found on <https://sjcphd.org/ltc> or contact Nathan Butler, hospital district Superintendent at butler@sjcphd1.org or call 360-378-2857 ext. 202.

Commissioners	Location & Contact Info	Hours
Position 1: Gail Leschine-Seitz	Nathan Butler, Superintendent	Monday through Friday
Position 2: Anna Lisa Lindstrum	849 Spring Street, Unit B5	10:00am - 4:00pm
Position 3: Everett Clary	P.O. Box 370	
Position 4: Kyle Loring	Friday Harbor, WA 98250	
Position 5: Trish Lehman	(360) 378-2857	

Transitions



Best wishes to **Ian Randall**, staff EMT, as he and his family move out of state to be closer to family.

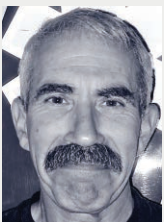
We will miss Ian's cheerful nature and high-quality EMT skills.



A big welcome to **Trevor Bolton**, who started as volunteer EMT, and who is now joining the ranks of our full-time crew.



Long-time EMT volunteer **Herb Mason**, who has recently retired from his job with the Town of Friday Harbor, is stepping in as a per diem EMT. With 30 plus years volunteering as an EMT in our community we are happy to be seeing more of Herb.



It is with warm hearts we say goodbye and thank you to **Steve Alluise**, who after 17 years

of volunteering with EMS has decided to retire to spend more time with his family. Steve has always been there when we needed him most—in the middle of the night or in a snowstorm. He will be missed.

New Volunteer Opportunities!

Want to be part of an amazing organization in service to our community?

EMS is seeking volunteers to drive ambulances and/or serve as boat crew during marine responses. These are non-medical support positions that will help our first responders focus on patient care rather than with the operation of the ambulance or boat.

Those who are interested and qualified may enroll in training for either/or both the marine response program and the ambulance driver program scheduled for late October.

Contact Training Officer and Director of 911 Response, Weyshawn Koons, at wkoons@sanjuanems.org at (360) 378-5152 ext 104 or go to www.sanjuanems.org for more information about these new volunteer positions.

Management Update, Integration of EMS and Fire

Nathan Butler, Superintendent

We have reached the point where the integration of San Juan Island EMS with San Juan Island Fire and Rescue is now in the hands of voters.

This November, voters will see a ballot measure presented by San Juan Island Fire and Rescue requesting an EMS levy. If approved, the Fire District will operate EMS services beginning in 2023 when current EMS funding through the Hospital District ends. The current EMS levy expires at the end of 2022, and the two levies will not overlap.

The Integration of EMS and Fire represents the culmination of several years of work, and a one-year Citizen's Advisory Group. The group determined that integrating EMS and Fire into one organization would

result in the following: improved response times, improved depth of volunteer resources, unified command structure, simplified levy management, financial benefits, and a unified training program. The voters will now decide whether this integration should proceed.

The potential integration of these two agencies is a bittersweet transition. I have been honored to witness day in and day out the quality of care provided by this group of first responders dedicated to the health of our community. I know that if the voters approve the EMS levy, our first responders will carry on with professionalism and honor at San Juan Island Fire and Rescue. ■

Medical Program Director

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EMT and shortly afterwards joined the US Army as a medic. Dr. Corsa continues to serve in the US Army Reserves as a surgeon and is a veteran of multiple combat deployments. He remains an active Firefighter/Paramedic and regularly responds to 911 calls. The opportunity to return to his roots and help shape the future of EMS both in San Juan County and across the country is a dream come true for Dr. Corsa. San Juan County is extremely fortunate to have a professional of his caliber leading its pre-hospital medical response. ■

Director del Programa Médico

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condado de San Juan en uno de los primeros lugares de América en sacar algunas de estas herramientas del hospital y llevarlas a la ambulancia.

El Dr. Corsa también es cirujano de trauma y médico de cuidados intensivos en el Providence Regional Medical Center en Everett. Comenzó su carrera médica como paramédico voluntario y poco después se alistó en el ejército de los Estados Unidos como médico. Sigue sirviendo en la Reserva del Ejército como cirujano y es un veterano de múltiples despliegues de combate. También sigue siendo un bombero/paramédico en activo y responde regularmente a las llamadas al 911. La oportunidad de volver a sus raíces y ayudar a dar forma al futuro de los servicios médicos de urgencia, tanto en el condado de San Juan como en todo el país, es un sueño hecho realidad para el Dr. Corsa. El condado de San Juan es muy afortunado de tener un profesional de su calibre al frente de su respuesta médica prehospitalaria. ■

Move Right and STOP for Lights and Sirens

Washington State law requires all vehicles to immediately yield right of way to all emergency vehicles that are using lights and sirens. Please move to the right and stop. This applies to emergency vehicles approaching from any direction, not just from behind.

- If your vehicle or bicycle is in motion, move to the right as soon as it is safe to do so and come to a **full stop**.
- If you are unable to move to the right, slow down and come to a **full stop**.
- Stay stopped until all emergency vehicles have passed, and it is safe to proceed.
- Do not move to the left unless directed to do so.

Ceda el Paso a las Luces y Sirenas

La ley del Estado de Washington exige que todos los vehículos cedan inmediatamente el paso a todos los vehículos de emergencia que estén utilizando luces y sirenas. Por favor, muévase a la derecha y deténgase. Esto se aplica a los vehículos de emergencia que se acercan desde cualquier dirección, no sólo desde atrás.

- Si su vehículo o bicicleta está en movimiento, muévase a la derecha tan pronto como sea seguro hacerlo y **deténgase por completo**.
- Si no puede desplazarse hacia la derecha, reduzca la velocidad y **deténgase completamente**.
- Permanezca parado hasta que todos los vehículos de emergencia hayan pasado y sea seguro continuar.
- No se mueva hacia la izquierda a menos que se le indique que lo haga.



San Juan Island
Emergency Medical Services

1079 Spring Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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