



The Official Newsletter of the  
**Sun Cities Area  
 Historical Society**

Spring 2013 | Volume 22 | Number 1

# Spring membership meeting April 11

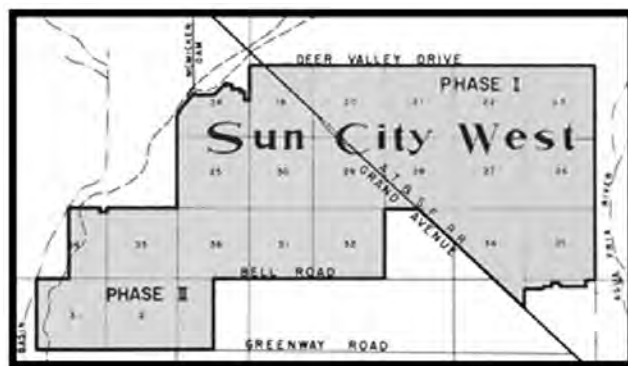
## Sun City West's plans, schemes, faded dreams revealed during talk

Not all of Del Webb's dreams came to fruition - most notably the size, shape and some of the features of his first Sun City west of the Agua Fria River.

Ed Allen, who wrote the history of Sun City West for the community's 25th anniversary, will share little known stories from the past at the annual Spring Membership Meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at 1:30 p.m. Thursday April 11. The meeting will be held in the Heritage Traditions in Sun City West.

Ed will present a look back at what Sun City West might have been had all the original plans, schemes and dreams been realized. They included:

- A city of 75,000
- A major shopping mall
- A resort hotel
- Time shares



Originally planned to cover 13,000 acres, original plans for Sun City West called for it to be built in two phases and have 75,000 residents.

- A dinner/theater club overlooking Hillcrest
- A cemetery
- Much more

The meeting is open to the public, and refreshments will be served. It will be in the main meeting room in Heritage Traditions at 19303 N. New Tradition Road, Sun City West.

## Inside our spring newsletter ...

### Newest Exhibits



The history of Marinette is shared in a revamped and expanded exhibit.

See Page 3



### Salute to Volunteers!

The Sun Cities have long been known for their philanthropic endeavors and both Sun City and Sun City West pay tribute to their volunteers.

See Pages 4-5

### Museum plans sale



Find great bargains at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's yard sale on March 23. See Page 8



An official publication of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society © 2013 SCAHS 10801 Oakmont Drive Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 974-2568 email: scahsm@gmail.com www.delwebbsuncities-museum.org

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is certified by the Arizona Historical Society



The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts for Sun City, Arizona, (the world's first Active Adult Retirement Community), and its sister city, Sun City West. The Society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in one of the five original Sun City model homes.

Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday Or by appointment Office Manager: Julie Glass

Board of Trustees Edward Cirillo President Don Tufts Vice President Norm Dickson Treasurer Bill Pearson Past President

Edson Allen Priscilla Fenner Arlene Macy Bret McKeand Hal Lind James McGreevy Gail Warmath

Newsletter Editor: Bret McKeand Contributors:

Edson Allen, Priscilla Fenner, Katy O'Grady Layout and composition courtesy of the Sun City Independent

Message from the President

Spring season offers variety at Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

As spring training flourishes around us, and a new baseball season is close, our baseball exhibit is here to entertain you.

Using modern presentation techniques, we will soon be upgrading the Marinette exhibit to be more easily accessible. And we have plans to include a performing arts exhibit soon.

The Museum was well represented at the recent March 2 Del Webb Day sponsored by the Sun City Recreation Association.

And our Museum's Yard Sale will be held here on March 23. Come early to see, and hopefully purchase, some very interesting items.



Ed Cirillo

2013 President, Sun Cities Area Historical Society

This issue of our newsletter highlights efforts by Sun City and Sun City West artists to honor the thousands of volunteers who have served through the years in dozens of organiza-

tions in a variety of ways. Spring is the traditional season for honoring them, and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's event will be held on our breezy McMillin Terrace on March 28.

Our Spring Membership Meeting will be held at the Heritage Traditions in Sun City West on April 11 at 1:30 p.m. Learn more about Sun City West, and what DIDN'T happen there. Your friends are also welcome.

We are still in need of financial support. Donations to the Museum or the Endowment Fund would be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the Spring!



Newest addition to the museum

The Yucca Chapter of the Questers recently gave the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum a grant for a credenza and four modern storage units. The cherry finished custom credenza was recently installed in the Museum living room. Four other modern cabinets (grouped together into two units) are in use in other rooms and the remaining funds were returned to the Questers. The Museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

## Update on Exhibits

# Marinette exhibit is improved; to move to living room

By Ed Allen

Before there was Sun City, there were Marinette and cotton fields.

And because this pre-dated the nation's first active living community, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is placing its Marinette display so that museum visitors will see it first as they enter the front door.

Marinette is an important part of the past because it was the community and cotton plantation that preceded Sun City. It began in 1892 when two men from Marinette, Wis. obtained land grants and negotiated a water stop with the railroad being planned from Prescott to Phoenix. They named the stop after their Wisconsin home town.

The parcels passed through several hands, having failed at being subdivided into tiny lots, planted with sugar beets and alfalfa, and were bought by the Southwest Cotton Company, a subsidiary of Goodyear Tire in 1920. The Boswells acquired the holdings in the 1940s when tire construction shifted away from using cotton. They set up cotton gins, managers' homes and several businesses in the tiny community of Marinette.

But Marinette disappeared as Sun City opened in 1960. Although little black beetles popped up in people's yards when homes were built, the bugs disappeared as the cotton bolls gradually gave way to golf, tennis and bocce balls, and thousands of new homes.

The museum has always had a small exhibit featuring Marinette,

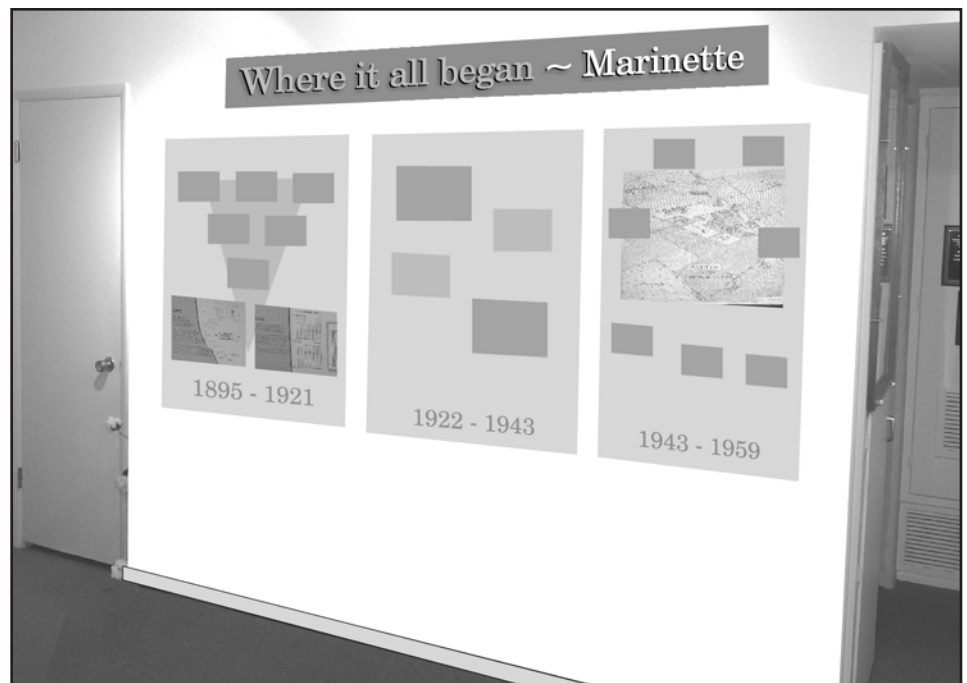


This early map from 1895 listed "Marinette" as a stop on the way to Phoenix.

but thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the Arizona Historical Society, a more comprehensive display is underway for a more prominent location. "Where It All Began –

Marinette" will now be put in its proper place, historically speaking.

The new Marinette display should be completed by March 31.



This sketch shows how the new Marinette display, consisting of three 3 by 4-foot illustrative panels will be placed above the new credenza on the wall of the museum living room, to the left as visitors enter the museum. (Picture of the new credenza is on page 2.)





Posing with their 40th Anniversary sculpture, "A Lifestyle of Giving" dedicated to Sun City's Volunteers, past, present and future, are sculptresses, from left, Kay Smith, Connie Perrin Turner and Betty Jane Peters. This photo was taken on the 6th Anniversary of the installation. Today Connie says the pieces need to be spruced up to be looking good again. She hopes someone will raise \$1200-\$1500 to have them sandblasted so they will look their best to those passing by the Lakeview Center at Thunderbird Road and Del Webb Boulevard.

## HONORING SUN CITY VOLUNTEERS

### Bronze statue salutes community's philanthropic spirit

By P. Atwood Fenner

**B**ronzes, the dream of 'three steel magnolias' honor volunteers. Sculptors were Connie Perrin Turner, Kay Smith and Betty Jane Peters.

In the spring, many organizations honor their legions of volunteers with a breakfast, luncheon or dinner.

But the City of Volunteers has already honored its selfless workers in a more permanent and artistic fashion. And volunteers may drive buy it often and consider themselves immortalized in bronze every time they pass the "statue" - in reality four people, a bench, a bouquet of flowers, some books and a dog - located on the lawn to the left of the Lakeview Center main entrance on Thunderbird Road. It is titled "A Lifestyle of Giving" and is dedicated to all current, past and future volunteers in the community.

Connie Perrin Turner sculpted the first larger than life statue of the Sun City Posse Figure (representing 59,000 volunteer hours in 1998). It and a bench crafted by the Bell Metal Club were erected at the end of Sun City's 40th anniversary year on Dec. 16, 2000. The others - a P.R.I.D.E. and a Student, both sculpted by Kay Smith, a Smocked Lady by Connie, and a dog



Sparky, the bronze representing the thousands of pets who have found homes due to the efforts of the Sun City Animal Rescue (SCAR), was installed in 2001 as part of the 40th Anniversary celebration. He was so popular, he was "appropriated" by parties unknown (as Mark Twain would have said) and had to be replaced in 2008 by the sculptresses, affectionately dubbed the "three steel magnolias."

named Sparky by Betty Jane Peters as well as a bouquet and the books - were installed March 17, 2001 during The International Year of the Volunteer.

The P.R.I.D.E.S. had donated 1,175,000 hours since 1950; the Smocked Lady represents 3,000 volunteers and 6,500 million hours donated since 1970 at Boswell Hospital and the books the 420,000 hours in 10 years by helpers at two private libraries in Sun City. The Student represents the future and volunteers who gave time and expertise at area schools. Sparky, sits in for 3,000 pets who had found homes since 1985 through Sun City Animal Rescue

(SCAR). The bouquet honors the Sun City Rose and Garden and the Sun City Agricultural Clubs for their generous activities in the community.

It was the climax of a dream for the three sculptors - Connie, Kay and Betty - dubbed the "three steel magnolias" for their hundreds of hours spent on this ambitious project. And in an ironic twist, March 17 was the day Snell Johnson, who was to have cast the figures at Bronze Works in Big Timber, Montana, died. The casting was done instead by his brother Lyle due to Snell's illness.

The idea of the statue sprang from a vision by Connie while at a S.C. 40th Anniversary Committee meeting. She teamed with Kay and Betty Jane to complete the project commemorating 40 years of volunteering. They raised the \$100,000 in cash and sponsorships with the help of a Volunteer Statue Committee of 19 chaired by Betty Jane with Connie as Art Director and Kay as Consultant.

The P.R.I.D.E was sponsored by Curt and Maronee Ulman, the Student by Margaret C. Ptolemy, and Sparky by Don E. Hutchings and Gilbert M. Haake, who named the piece after a beloved pet. Community donations, collected by the Sun City Foundation, paid

for The Posse Figure and the Smocked Lady. (Sparky had to be replaced after he disappeared in 2005, and the three sculptors went to work and raised \$2,500 to complete their new Scotty in 2008.) At the sixth anniversary of the statue the ladies festooned their creations with balloons.

Speaking at the Posse Figure installation in 2001 attended by hundreds of people, Connie said, "This has been almost a spiritual experience. We have had many things to overcome, but it was meant to be. It was well worth it."



Artist Connie Perrin Turner puts the finishing touches on the Posse Figure before sending it to be cast in bronze in 2000. It is the first of four human figures, one animal, and a bench to be installed as "A Lifestyle of Giving," later that year and in early 2001 as part of Sun City's 40th Anniversary. Connie also sculpted the Smocked Lady and had the original idea for the project to honor all volunteers.

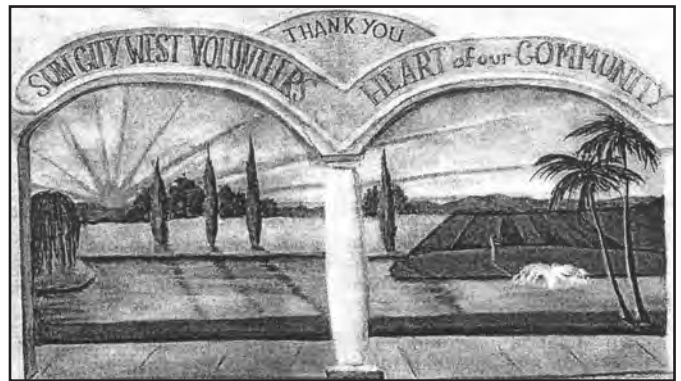
## SCW raising money for mural to honor those who donate talents

Sun City West is preparing to honor its hundreds of volunteers with a mural. But first they must raise the money to do it

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West is collecting donations for the creation of a 10 by 20-foot wall mural recognizing its volunteers. It will be painted on the east side of the Lapidary Club room across from the Member Services office at the R.H. Johnson Center, and is scheduled for completion by summertime.

The design features two rounded archways inscribed "Sun City West Volunteers" and "Heart of our Community" with "Thank You" in a small connecting arch above and between them. The arches frame a stylized scene of palm trees, fountain in a pool, planted fields, tall pointed shrubs, trees and a sunburst. It was designed by members of the Sun West Art Club and is expected to cost about \$7,000. (Photo above right.)

The artwork honors the time contributed by individuals to the Recreation Centers' facilities: the Library, Village Store and chartered clubs, as well as all the community's groups including PORA, The Posse, P.R.I.D.E.S., Community Fund, Foundation, the churches, Meals on Wheels and Banner Del Webb Medical Center.



"We want to honor all individuals, including those who simply do good works on their own, helping their neighbors grocery shop, or getting them to doctors' appointments," said Jack Steiner, RCSCW public relations chairman. He added, "This is in addition to honoring those volunteer-based organizations for all that they do."

Steiner's committee plans is raising money for the mural through donations by individuals or organizations. Members also will be available at regularly scheduled events. A canister for donations is in the Member Services Office, and donations will be accepted at governing board workshops and board meetings.





# Unlock the            Mystery            of History

The past comes to life at the only museum in the nation devoted to the world's very first active adult retirement communities! Located in the first of five model homes built in Sun City, the museum offers a living tribute to the history of Sun City and Sun City West, and to the enduring spirit of those who pioneered an exciting new lifestyle!

## Become a Member!

Show your support for the museum and its efforts to preserve our community's unique heritage!

- Copper Circle           \$15
- Turquoise Circle       \$25
- Silver Circle            \$50
- Gold Circle             \$100
- Clubs/Organizations   \$25
- Businesses             \$50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. SCAHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

## Special offer

Join at the Gold Level (\$100) and receive a FREE copy of "Del Webb: A Man. A Company."  
(Limited offer; while supplies last.)



**Exhibits, Historical Artifacts and More!**



Tours, Volunteer Opportunities

Speakers Bureau

Meeting Facilities



**Call or Stop By Today!**

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, Arizona  
(623) 974-2568 \* [delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org](http://delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org)  
Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday

This advertisement made possible in part due to a generous gift from Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
9949 W. Bell Road, Ste. 101, Sun City, AZ 85351



## Museum volunteers to be feted, fed March 28 at midday luncheon/tea on McMillin Terrace

It's only a tea in the sense that the two courses will be finger food – some hot and some cold – as will be the tea.

The Museum's annual volunteer appreciation event is set for 11:30 a.m. Thursday March 28

It's a party to honor our many office and guide volunteers and to earn a promotion from guide to docent.

Following the luncheon, Museum Curator Edson Allen will explain the new Marinette exhibit in the liv-

ing room and ask guides for input on the performing arts exhibit still in the preparation stage to replace the Marinette display in the Sun City West Room.

Guests include popular Museum speaker Constance McMillin, whose trust provided the funds to build the terrace, and members of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Trustees.

There will be door prizes.

## Many groups make visit to Museum in spring

Since the middle of February, they've been flocking to the Museum, both during hours and as groups before the museum is open, which is from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Solo Spouses Group came Feb. 23 with a group of 16. On March 1, Trustee Edson Allen brought a group from Heritage Tradition.

Guide Carol Dearen hosted a group of Beta Sigma Phi's from Sun City West on March 13, and on March 22 the Rosie the Riveters will return to the McMillin Terrace.

On March 27 a group of PEO members will visit the

Museum, and on April 18 Sallie Williamson, a Museum guide, will take her Questers on a special tour.

The Museum is closed to the public June through August, but tours may be booked. There is no charge for a private tour, but donations are cheerfully accepted. To arrange for a morning tour of six or more people, on any weekday, phone 623-974-2568.

The Museum also provides speakers on historical topics pertaining to Sun City and Sun City West. Phone the above number or send an e-mail to edsonallen@yahoo.com.

---

## *Let Us Entertain You ... with Dance*

The vast amount of video footage provided by the many performing dance groups in our two communities has required considerable editing as we prepare this new exhibit. It will be the first of four saluting the entertainers in our midst – dance, drama, vocal music, and instrumental music.

The Dance Exhibit will feature eight different groups. Visitors will watch a short overview of these groups, and then select the one(s) they like to watch in more detail. Menu's will offer choices of individual acts performed over the past 20 years.

The museum is partnering with Grand Canyon University on this project, and two senior students are doing the editing as part of their coursework. It prom-



One of the first dance groups, the Sun City Poms were cheerleaders at Sun City Saints baseball games.

ises to be an exciting and fun-filled exhibit once all the pieces are pulled together.

---



## Museum to conduct yard sale March 23

The items at left are just the tip of the iceberg, because they cleaned out the storage room at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum since this photo was taken, and there is a lot more to buy starting 8 a.m. Saturday, at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. Edson Allen, left, says some really fine items will be sold by silent auction (such as these size 11 golf shoes), but this 4-by-6-foot photo of the Lawrence Welk Orchestra appearing in 1974 to a really, really packed crowd in the Sun Bowl -- and much more -- is up for grabs. Cash only, please.

---

Sun Cities Area Historical Society/  
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum  
10801 Oakmont Drive  
Sun City, AZ 85351