

## **Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services**

You know them better by their acronym, PRIDES. If not, you most assuredly know them by their colorful vests working hard on the medians and in the ditches within Sun City. They are volunteers and have been helping keep Sun City pristine since 1982. Their long and storied history is like so many others; they were born of need and residents filled the gap.

In 1980, DEVCO turned over Sun City streets and medians to Maricopa County. The area covered 14 square miles and included 210 miles of streets and 3,200 trees and other plantings. The county assigned six employees to do it all. It was not enough. Within the first year, it became obvious they would never keep up with the workload..

One resident, Joe McIntyre, wrote a Letter to the Editor of the News-Sun. He asked for volunteers to show up and join him. The first Saturday, three residents stepped up. The next Saturday, the number doubled. By the spring of 1982, there was an incredible response to his call; the group had swelled to 400 plus members.

The PRIDES were born. The community was divided into 33 sections with a monitor in charge of each group of volunteers. They received no money from the county and relied on donations from the community. The county now provides them with needed supplies. The county also assumes the responsibility of trimming the remarkably tall palm trees that line Del Webb Blvd and 107th.

The PRIDES motto is "Keeping Sun City Beautiful." Over the years they have won dozens of national honors and recognition. They have also won the hearts, souls and admiration of Sun City residents who so often hear from their visitors; "Sun City is so clean!"