

Del Webb®



**Sun Cities**  
MUSEUM

The Official Newsletter of the

# Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Fall 2011 | Volume 20 | Number 2



## Sunshine Services: Celebrating Five Decades of Serving Sun City!

See Page 6

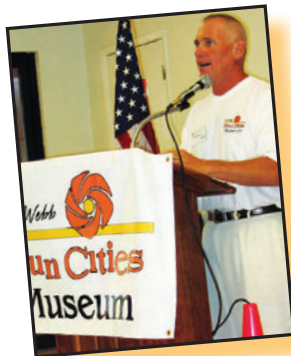
### Inside our fall newsletter ...

#### Fall Membership Meeting



The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its fall membership meeting on Nov. 5.  
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#### Final Farewell



Outgoing President Bill Pearson provides his parting thoughts on the past, present and future of the museum.  
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#### Volunteers Needed



Fall means the return of winter visitors and larger crowds at the museum. Volunteer guides are needed.  
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# Arizona history comes to life at November 5 SCAHS Membership Meeting at Oakmont

**S**he was a rancher, poet, travel writer, the first Arizona woman to hold public office and founder of one of the state's prestigious museums.

And Sun Cities Area Historical Society members and friends can meet Sharlot Hall as brought to life by Sun City West resident Barbara Dienes at the Nov. 5 meeting in Oakmont Auditorium, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Sharlot's 73-year-life unfolds like a novel, including economically forced relocations, physical challenges, stimulating mentors, travel guides and friends in public life, a jealous wife who broke with the husband guiding Sharlot on one of her historical fact-finding tours, the need to pull a gun on a native guide who refused to take her across a swollen creek near Winslow, years of subsistence tied to the land, bouts with depression and success in publishing poetry and editing.

And through it all runs a dedication to collecting and preserving Arizona history and artifacts and her tedious efforts to raise funds to do this.

Thanks to her bold efforts, today Territorial Governor Goodwin's log house anchors a complex of assorted historic buildings collectively known as the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott, once Arizona's Territorial Capitol. Sharlot had been inspired by her mentor



Barbara Dienes portrays Sharlot Hall at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's fall membership meeting.

Charles Lummis' efforts to build a museum in California.

In 1907 as Bill Clerk in the 24th Arizona Territorial Legislature, she helped draft bills in proper form and correct English reflecting her interest in the preservation of Arizona's pioneer past. One of those bills was the one which established the Pioneer Home for aged and infirm Arizona pioneers, which is

still located in Prescott, and was to be her home for the last week of her life.

In 1909 she became Historian of Arizona and set off on travels taking her to almost every corner of the Territory. In March of 1911 she joined the official party of the dedication of the Tonto (now Roosevelt) Dam, which included President Theodore Roosevelt.

Her fortunes as a writer and official historian peaked with her expedition to the Arizona Strip - virtually unknown territory - to collect data and artifacts. One purpose was to publicize the economic worth of the Strip and rouse Arizonans to fight against Utah's attempt to annex the area.

She traveled and lectured extensively for this cause. However, when Arizona became a state in 1912, she lost her appointed position as State Historian when George W.P. Hunt became governor.

Sharlot was selected to be an elector in 1925 to Washington with the Electoral Vote from Arizona, and was presented with a gown of Arizona copper to wear. There she was photographed and entertained at the Congressional Club, the Senate Luncheon Club and the National Pen Women's League and asked to speak and read her poetry.

Representing the Phoenix Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Barbara Dienes dresses in character as she becomes



Sharlot Hall. Her years as a teacher of grades two to graduate school will be evident as she relates the fascinating life of an Arizona legend in the first person.

Barbara retired to Sun City West where she is active in the Sun City West Sunrise Lions and the above patriotic organization which provides scholarships for students and teachers and presents 22 “Living History” programs.

She has written several church scripts, five of national historical characters and eight of Arizona characters: Jack and Trinidad Swilling, Paul and Florence Litchfield, Martha Summerhayes, James Addison Reavis: The Baron of Arizona and his wife Sophia, Melvin Jones, Buckey and Florence O’Neill, Sharlot Hall and Arizona’s Symbols.

These programs have been designated an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project, and she is researching

five or six more Arizona characters.

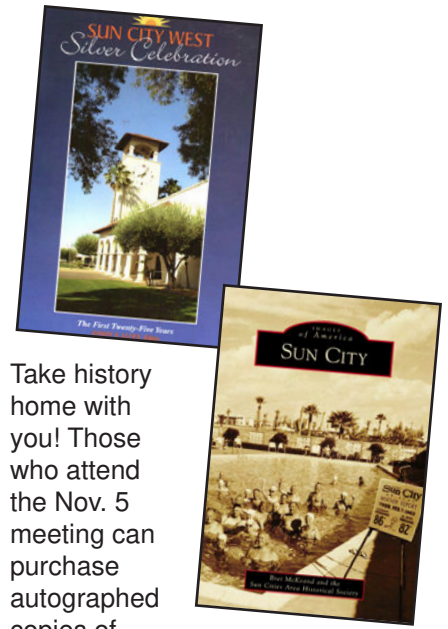
Incoming SCAHS Board President Ed Cirillo is chairman of the Nov. 5 event, which includes light refreshments.

The meeting is open to members and the public. Board member Bret McKeand will autograph copies of his recent publication “Sun City,” one of a series of Images of America by Arcadia Publishing Co.

And Ed Allen, also a board member, will autograph copies of his publication, “Sun City West – Silver Celebration.”

Memberships in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will also be on sale starting at \$15. A commemorative Sun City coin will be given to all persons who join that afternoon.

The organization is located in, and runs, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, next door at the west side of the Oakmont Recreation Center, at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. Mu-



Take history home with you! Those who attend the Nov. 5 meeting can purchase autographed copies of books focusing on the history of Sun City West and Sun City. All sales benefit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

seum hours are 1-3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For information, phone 623-974-2568.



Sun City celebrated Independence Day with the community’s annual “Ring That Bell” ceremony July 4 at Bell Recreation Center. This year’s program was presented by members of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, and focused on the topic of “Rights and Responsibilities.” Barbara Dienes, center portrayed Sharlot Hall. Ms. Dienes will present her Sharlot Hall portrayal at the SCAHS fall membership meeting on Nov. 5.



An official publication of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society © 2011 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: 1-3 p.m. Monday - Friday Or by appointment Office Manager: Judy Baerg

Board of Trustees

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Bret McKeand

Contributors:

Edson Allen, Priscilla Fenner, Bill Pearson Layout and composition courtesy of the Sun City Independent

Message from the President

The Last Farewell ...

The last farewell... I find writing to be cathartic and enjoyable; it tends to make me think, ponder my thoughts. Usually I can sit at a keyboard and bang out a column, blog post or thread in a matter of minutes. This final President's column wasn't that easy, it almost took on the air of a eulogy. Don't get morose - no one died.

I love great storytellers and tend to drift towards storytelling when I write. Drawing readers in, rather than just dragging them along or sending them screaming away from the end result makes so much more sense. If you visit the Suncitiestoday blog on the back of the museum website, you will see what I mean.

I've tried to avoid that technique when writing these columns. Getting to the point and being on point is always preferable for those who edit and understand the value of being succinct. I'm not one of those; I hate editing, losing words to make space. Sorry, just who I am.

So in this my final column, I am taking liberties and having a



Bill Pearson 2011 President, Sun Cities Area Historical Society

go at being more me and less "presidential" (I've just never been impressed with titles or status; it's always been more about what people do than what they say or who they are).

We were walking our puppies this morning and I was agonizing over what to say. As we walked, a loveable old tune from 1971 kept popping into my head giving me the inspiration to get writing. Everyone loves Roger Whittaker (except maybe those who hate whistling) and it just seemed to make so much sense to call this column "The Last Farewell."

Leaving the museum is a sad day in my life. The past three years on the board has opened my eyes and given me

an appreciation for those who came before us. Who took the hard scrabble of nothing but cotton fields and from it carved out a place in history that has always been vastly misunderstood and most assuredly undervalued.

Sun City and Sun City West are so uniquely different than almost all other age-restricted communities. They were the first of its kind and they were built around an idea that was foreign to most everyone. There was no blueprint or "How To for Dummies" manuals to help them "get it right." It was trial and error and but for the love of those building it and those buying into it, it could just as easily have died a very quiet death before it ever really got off the ground.

Perhaps people were more resilient back then, or maybe failure wasn't so readily acceptable. Whatever it was, Del Webb's people who ran DEVCO pushed through it all and created a concept that has blossomed. It has become a way of life that has changed the lives of millions.

That's why the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum



is so important. We are the most definitive repository of how and why Sun City came to be, why it succeeded, and who the people behind it all were. Other places have snippets - we have it all. If you doubt me, spend a day looking through our files, cabinets, closets and displays ... simply amazing.

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This farewell is about way more than just recognizing those from Sun City and Sun City West's build-out years. The reality is the museum has been, is and will always be a work in progress. From the first glimmer of the concept of "Jubilee" (Sun City's 25th anniversary book) to the wild suggestion to start our own historical society and the subsequent opening in 1989, it has been an ongoing saga to "get it right."

Boards, docents and volunteers of all stripes have been there to help shape it. Residents have walked in and dropped off 60's and 70's memorabilia that fills shelves and display areas. People have graciously given money, time and expertise to mold it into what it is today.

It's been a labor of love by so many that even trying to think about thank them all would be a fool's game. That said, I would be remiss to not thank the board members who have been by my side. They made my job easier. A special thanks to the docents (now we call them guides), is also in order; without them we couldn't even open the doors.

Jane Freeman has been our inspiration. She was the founder and the driving force that kept us frugal, financially sound and so remarkably laden with artifacts from our past.

Judy Baerg has been done a great job as the first real employee and her volunteer staff has stayed focused on inputting volumes of incredible materials on our Del Webb Sun Cities Museum website.

Attendance has improved astronomically and Sun City's first house has never looked better. Displays are sharp, easily readable and self-explanatory. The McMillin Terrace has added a dimension we never had, adequate space for parties and gatherings. We have been able to incorporate new technologies to showcase items previously never seen by the public. Perhaps best



Bill Pearson's term as president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society comes to an end this fall and Ed Cirillo will be installed as president at the Nov. 5 membership meeting. During his term as president, Mr. Pearson was the first to announce the new name for the society's headquarters: The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

of all is we are now able to share our collections with the world; our website is that good.

Let me be clear: We've accomplished a lot in the past three years. But to think we did it alone would be ignorance at its finest. Our successes are only a reflection of the history of our communities and the strengths of the people living here. Their commitment and dedication to make sure we had the tools to work with are the ones that deserve a standing ovation.

Let me just conclude with my thanks to each and every person and organization who has stepped up and brought us to this point. The museum is a great place to visit because of each of you who have given in your own large or small way. If you haven't been by the museum (either ever or in a long while) you owe it to yourself to come by Monday through Friday, 1 to 3 p.m.

You will love it; the museum is that darn good.



Shown here, a display by the Sunshine Committee at the annual Western Days in October 1963. The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, founder of what would eventually become Sunshine Services, displays some of the items the committee had to loan early Sun City residents.

*Sun Cities  
Area Historical  
Society archives*

# Sunshine Services — offers a lending hand

## Non-profit prepares to celebrate 50 years of serving Sun City

By **P. Atwood Fenner**  
Sun Cities Area Historical Society

**W**hen Sun City folks need a rollaway bed for company, or a high chair or stroller for the grandchildren, they go to Sunshine Service, the same place they go to borrow sickroom equipment – walkers, wheel chairs, hospital beds and commodes.

And thanks to a Sun City minister, the place to borrow all these types of equipment has been

around for 49 years. It has been calculated that during 2010 alone, residents saved over \$2 million dollars.

It all began in 1961 as a project of the Sun City Home Owners Association, a committee founded by resident Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite.

This Sunshine Committee was originated to help Sun Citizens seeking work. Soon the Reverend and his staff of four Sun City ladies began to help newcomers get quickly

acquainted with the community and its residents.

Next, members began offering transportation for ill residents, lawn and house care and even temporary financial assistance.

By 1963 Director Thistlethwaite was busy with correspondence, phone calls, conducting meetings and delivering medical equipment to residents. And he had about 200 home and hospital visits monthly. He got help from a staff that had expanded to a membership of



nearly 400.

Rev. Thistlethwaite and nine district chairmen formed the organizations' Executive Committee and made and revised the group's bylaws. The chairmen and co-chairmen had jurisdiction over several subdistrict chairmen who were in contact with neighborhood chairmen.

The Sunshine Committee was funded by money from the Community Center Camera Club on movie nights and special programs by other Sun City clubs and organizations.

Also there were private donations, cash gifts by recipients of aid who could afford to give, and contributions by people in memory of Sun Citians whom the Committee had aided in time of need.

The Committee had acquired hospital beds, wheel chairs, crutches, walkers and dozens of other essential items. All this was stored in the carport and utility room of the Thistlethwaite home and was loaned free to residents who could not afford expensive rental costs. Free delivery was also available. And there was car pool service for those without transportation to medical appointments. And members made home and hospital calls.

"We are social beings. We want and need each other," said Rev. Thistlethwaite. "The Committee is here to be with and serve those who might otherwise be alone."

The Sunshine Committee incorporated as Sunshine Services in November 1964.

In 1968, the Del Webb organization stepped in to help solve the growing equipment storage problem: they donated the land, fur-



The Sunshine Services building at 9980 Santa Fe Drive was dedicated in 1974. The building was built at cost by the Del E. Webb Development Corp. At left, The Rev. Duane Thistlewaite accepts congratulations from John Meeker, president of DEVCO.

*Sun Cities  
Area Historical  
Society archives*

nished the architect, provided the improvements and landscaping and built the building at cost at 10307 Coggins Drive. More than \$12,000 was raised by clubs, organizations and individual contributions. And by 1969, plans were made for expansion of the facility.

Rev. "T" was lauded as working eight to 10 hours a day in his retirement, although the 76-year old did not believe that one should "retire from life," when one retires from work.

He had earned the title of "Mr. Sunshine." And he walked the walk ... bringing good cheer and sunshine to chase gloom away.

"So often people need someone with whom to discuss their

problems as much as they need the sickroom equipment. I am ready to go out any time of the day or night if I can help." he said.

The new Sunshine Service building at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, built at cost by the Del E. Webb Development Corp., was dedicated in January, 1974. The slump-block structure provided over 6,000 square feet of warehouse storage space with another 1,130 square feet of office and reception area. The Webb Corporation was praised also for donating the new lot, and then purchasing the former Sunshine Building.

John W. Meeker, president of the Del E. Webb Development Corp., said the dedication event was more

than the dedication of a building.

“It is the culmination of a goal reached by many hard-working people and organizations.” By now services included loaner cribs, highchairs, play pens and other juvenile equipment for visiting grandchildren. The non-profit corporation had a board of 25 directors and a volunteer group of district and neighborhood chairmen. Rev. “T” still averaged around 800 hospital and home calls monthly.

By 1976 the *Arizona Republic* was taking note of the non-profit group in Sun City, which had just expanded its storage facility and was free of the debt of the \$110,000 construction cost.

Reporter Thelma Heatwole noted that Rev. Thistlethwaite, 83, said that Sunshine Service had saved Medicare about \$200,000 in 1975. This was in the rentals of sick room equipment, which Sunshine Service loans at no cost to needy Sun City residents.

When the items are returned, the patients may make donations. There are also contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs. The lending closet is in the black with its inventory of more than 500 wheel chairs, 500 walkers and about 75 hospital beds and other equipment including hydraulic lifts, breathing equipment and more.

Rev. “T” said that the group now had some paid office help and that he believed Sunshine Service could be started in other communities. “We started with \$150. Others could do that with churches or lodges, the starting agent... .”

By 1982 there were 11,000 items



Medical equipment and children's furniture are some of the items loaned free of charge to Sun City residents by Sunshine Services. Rev. Thistlethwaite shows a sample of the equipment to Sunshine Committee member Mrs. George.

in the inventory, and Sunshine Service had helped other organizations to get started, including Sun City West, which opened its Helping Hands Foundation in 1982.

They also helped Solecito in El Mirage (then in Peoria and now Glendale), Carefree, and Scottsdale. Later they were to help Southwest Lending Closet get a start in Avondale.

“Today we have an agreement with the Youngtown Community Fund, Inc. to provide equipment they don't have to their residents when referred by the YCF,” says Jim Sinclair, in his 11th year as Sunshine Service executive director.

The most popular item at Sunshine Service today is probably the four-wheel, lightweight aluminum walker; for Sinclair the least expected requests are for ankle weights to strengthen legs and over-the-door pulleys to strengthen arms. And they loan many card holders so those with arthritic fingers can enjoy playing card games. Another unusual item is the little call bell for the sickroom, “probably designed to make many

a housewife's life miserable,” he said.

Sinclair goes to equipment shows in Las Vegas and says he thinks Sunshine “pretty well has got everything covered.” He says they abide by health and safety rules on all equipment and no longer stock drop-side cribs, which were hazardous to children.

“We are not trained to install infant car seats and refer requests to the Fire Department at 99th and Union Hills. (They require reservations.)” he said.

As retirees hasten to finish or buy holiday gifts for relatives who will descend on sunny Arizona at Christmas time, Sunshine Service, too, is preparing to dust off countless rollaway beds (they have three sizes), strollers, high chairs, new smaller metal children's beds and cribs.

The volunteer elves at Sun City's non-profit lending closet will soon be hustling to fill loan orders as the December holidays always bring in the borrowers.

Information at Sunshine Service: 623-974-2561.





# Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City and we have been doing so for over 45 years. We are a non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew. So did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in 2009, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.

Sunshine Service, Inc has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania

## Some Of The Many Items We Carry:

**Arm Exerciser • Bath Bench • Bed Rails • Bedside Commodes • Companion Chair • Crutches  
Foot Massager • High Chairs • Hospital Beds • Lift Chairs • Overbed Tables • Pack-N-Play  
Ramp - Aluminum • Rollaway Beds • Strollers • Trapeze • Walkers • Weights • Wheel Chairs**



Monday-Friday • 9 am - 4 pm  
9980 Santa Fe Dr.,  
Sun City 85351-3197  
**623-974-2561**

# Museum puts out call for guides

## Volunteers sought to staff Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

It's been a long, hot summer! And thanks to a few dedicated guides, the Museum was able to re-open in September for two hours on weekdays.

But now it's October, and the rest of us need to step up to the plate so that the Museum can open for at least three hours to make it easy for residents and guests to tour the building. And also a few volunteers would be welcome to help at the Saturday Nov. 5 Membership Meeting at Oakmont.

You've heard of the Each one-Teach one language course. Well, let's modify that to Each one-Bring one. (I know it doesn't rhyme like it should, but you get the idea, right?) Tell your friends how much fun you have, and how little real work it is to be a guide at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Liking people is a must – loving history is a plus. Married couples could enjoy an afternoon together; it's almost like being in their own home with a refrigerator full of water and dish of candy on the table.

Volunteer Coordinator Pris Fenner is back now and hopes to hear from you all soon. You snow birds, if you're reading this, hurry back. WE NEED YOU! We'd like to get you new guides trained and ready to meet and greet our curious visitors before the frost appears on the pumpkins.

Phone the Museum at 623-974-2568.



Long-time museum guide Kathy Schymanski calls attention to New Mexico, where the Del Webb Corporation had several projects in Albuquerque.

**Call 623-974-2568  
to learn more about  
volunteer opportunities!**





# 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 Level     \$15
- Turquoise Circle   \$25
- Silver Circle       \$50
- Gold Circle         \$100

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

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

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

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

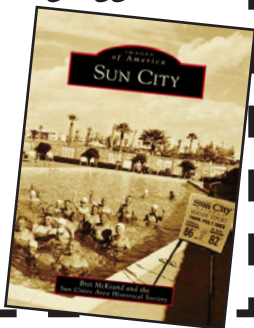
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 introductory offer

Join at the Gold Level (\$100) and receive a FREE copy of "Sun City: Images of America" photographic history book. (Limited offer; while supplies last.)



Exhibits, Historical Artifacts and More!



Tours, Volunteer Opportunities

Speakers Bureau

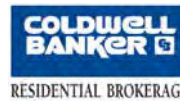
Meeting Facilities



Call or Stop By Today!

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, Arizona  
(623) 974-2568 \*delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org  
Museum Hours: 1-3 p.m. Monday-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





# Ring the Bell!

## Residents celebrate Independence Day

Sun City citizens celebrated Independence Day with the community's annual "Ring That Bell" ceremony July 4 at Bell Recreation Center. This year's program was presented by members of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, and focused on the topic of "Rights and Responsibilities." (1.) Members of the Sun City Sheriff's Posse presented the colors, while (2.) Bill Mathay and Phyllis Ilten served up red, white and blue refreshments. After the program, attendees were invited by (3.) Uncle Sam (Mike Lindquist) to ring the community's replica Liberty Bell. (4.) Ed Cirillo, the incoming president for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, served as the program's emcee, while current (5.) President Bill Pearson staffed a table at the event to promote the historical society and the museum.



Photos by  
Bret McKeand  
Independent  
Newspapers





“Did Del Webb import rabbits to help Midwesterners feel more at home?”

That’s one example of the kinds of questions asked of speakers from the museum. In this case, before the question could be answered, the man continued, “And then did he bring in coyotes to control the rabbits?”

Our speakers never know what bit of folklore they may encounter in giving a talk.

Each year, our Speakers Bureau give talks to dozens of different clubs and organizations – Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs; church groups; PEO and Quester chapters; state clubs; and others. Last year, more than 2,365 individuals learned something new about the history of Sun City, Sun City West, or Del Webb.

## Questions about Sun Cities history? Speakers Bureau available to help



Jim Gatscher of the Sun City Community Players tells the story of Del E. Webb during a special Sun Cities Area Historical Society event held last year in celebration of Mr. Webb’s birthday.

These talks are provided at no charge as a service to the community and as a means of pub-

licizing the museum. We do suggest that the organization make a donation or take out a

membership in the Society.

Among the most popular talks are:

“Cotton Bolls to Golf Balls” – the events leading up to Sun City, the nation’s first active adult community.

“From Lizard Acres to Lush Oasis” – the sequel to Sun City, Sun City West

“Del Webb – The Man and the Company He Built” – the remarkable story of a wannabe baseball player who went on to build one of America’s largest construction firms.

“Fields of Dreams” – the history of baseball in the Sun Cities.

If you belong to a group that uses outside speakers, suggest the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum to the person in charge of programs. Have him or her call the museum at 974-2568, or Ed Allen at 975-1815.

## Historical books, DVDs available at Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

A soon to be out-of-print book is among those for sale in the Museum. *Along the Old Vulture Road*, by Albert F. “Al” Tudor will no longer be published since his recent death.

It includes cattle tales and trails from Wickenburg to Phoenix along Grand Avenue, aka U.S. 60. Cost is \$10.

Several years ago the Historical Society, thanks to a grant from the Constance W. McMillin trust, was able to reprint *Del Webb: A Man/A Company*, by Margaret Finnerty.

It was written in 1991 and revised for the second time by Tara Blanc and Jessica McCann in 1999. A second printing came in 2000, and Pulte Homes gave the Society

permission to reprint in a dark blue soft cover in 2008. Cost is \$20.

The fledgling Sun Cities Area Historical Society entered the publishing world the year after it was formed in 1987 with *Churches of the Sun Cities*, by Emil C. Fisher, who carefully penned ink drawings to go with short stories about all the area churches built up to that time. Cost is \$1.

The first major history of Sun City was the bright red soft covered *Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*, written in 1984 by Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg. The book is available for \$20.

In 2003 the Society sponsored Edson Allen’s soft cover *Sun City West Silver*

*Celebration*. The book covers the journey from Lizard Acres to lush oasis in its 289 pages. Cost is \$5.

And the most recent publishing effort is *Reshaping Retirement in America, Sun City, Arizona*. It was published in conjunction with the golden anniversary with Society members Edson Allen, Jo Ruck and David Verble as consulting editors. It summarizes how the nation’s first active adult community pioneered a lifestyle that created a model for generations of retirees to come. Cost \$5.

The Society also sells the DVD, *The Beginnings*, a film shown in potential retiree communities touting the lifestyle of the Sun City pioneers enjoying

life in the Arizona desert.

It is shown to visitors of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in what may be the smallest theater in the U.S.A. – the former sales building/refreshment shack/Sun City Saints dressing room. Cost is \$10.

The newest item in the collection is Arcadia Publishing’s “Sun City,” a collection of photographs directly from the archives of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Released late last year, the book showcases the history of Sun City from Marinette to the 50th anniversary. Written in part by Bret McKeand, a member of the board of trustees, the book sells at the museum for \$21.99

## State archives host monthly public tours

In celebration of Arizona's Centennial, the Arizona State Archives is hosting monthly tours.

The public is invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Polly Rosenbaum Archives and History Building, 1901 W. Madison St., Phoenix.

Tours are offered 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month.

On "Tour Tuesdays," participants will hear about the numerous collections the archives have and how the archives work to preserve Arizona's historical records and make them available to the public.

Tours are limited to 20 people. Call 602-926-3720 to reserve a spot.



The official celebration of Sun City's 50th anniversary came to a close earlier this year with a grand finale dinner and hot-air balloon display at Sun City Country Club. The event was sponsored by the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee.

*Photos by Bret McKeand/Independent Newspapers*



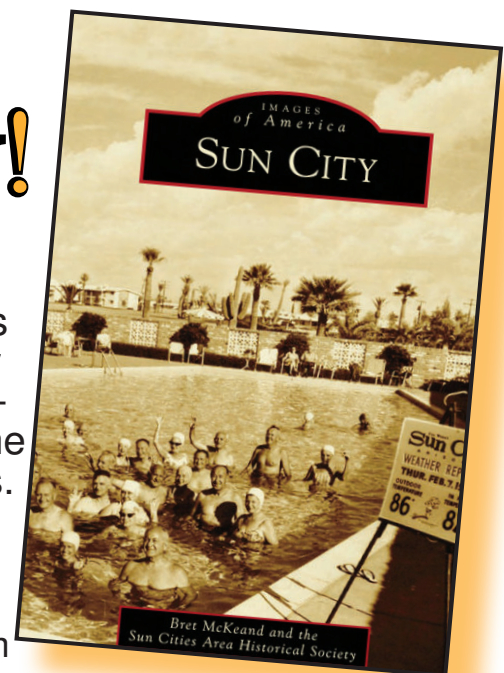
# Own A Piece of Sun City History!

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has teamed up with Arcadia Publishing to create "Sun City," as part of Arcadia's popular "Images of America" series. The book traces the history of the nation's most famous retirement community through photographs from the archives of the historical society and Independent Newspapers.

**On Sale Now for \$21.99!**

Purchase at your favorite bookstore or online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

*All proceeds benefit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.*





## From the Archives



# Happy Holidays!

From the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

**From the archives of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum:** Del E. Webb Corporation workers erect a giant Santa Claus at the entrance to Sun City, 107th and Grand avenues, 1961.

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