



The Official Newsletter of the

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Fall 2019 | Volume 28 | Number 3



Museum unveils expanded gallery

Grand opening scheduled Nov. 2-3

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Inside our fall newsletter ...



Expansion timeline

A look at construction of the new gallery, from groundbreaking to opening.

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SCAHS kicks off fundraiser

New brick walkway is a great way to honor a loved one while at the same time benefit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

See Page 4



New exhibits open

A salute to James G. Boswell II is one of the newest exhibits on display.

See Page 8



Visitors to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will notice a number of changes and upgrades to the building -- most notably the addition of a new gallery (at left, looking at the building from the golf course). Over the summer the house and the new expansion were painted pink -- to match the color of the building as it appeared in 1962 (above, when owned by the McDonald family). The painting was paid for by Trustee Barb Wagers, whose grandparents once lived in the house.

Building expansion, upgrades, new look await visitors to Del Webb Museum

By Bret McKeand

A number of dramatic changes, upgrades and new exhibits await those who visit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum this fall and winter.

The most anticipated change to the museum is the addition of a new 700-square-foot gallery that was constructed over the summer.

The gallery -- a newly constructed and separate building connected to the original house -- includes additional meeting and exhibit space as well as an upgraded and expanded gift shop.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, owners of the museum, will host an official grand opening weekend, Nov. 2-3, to celebrate the changes, the most expansive in the building's 30-year history.

"We're very excited about all the changes at the museum," said Don Tufts, president of the Board of Trustees.

"The upgrades really improve our ability to provide a quality experience to those who visit the museum. We invite everyone to come see for themselves all the great changes that have been made."

A special sneak-preview will be provided to museum members prior to the public grand opening.

The most noticeable change, however, is the new exterior color of the museum. The

museum and the new gallery have both been painted pink to match the original color of the building as it appeared in the 1960s.

The cost to paint the building was paid for by Museum Trustee Barb Wagers. Barb's grandparents once owned and lived in the house.

Other notable upgrades:

■ The new gallery will open in November with exhibits celebrating health care and volunteerism in the Sun Cities.

■ The new gallery will also provide space for museum talks, programs and community meetings.

■ An expanded gift shop will offer new merchandise to help raise funds for the museum. Items include souvenir hats, visors,

Expansion Timeline



March 28, 2019
Official groundbreaking ceremonies.



May 17
Foundation poured.



May 24
Work begins on block walls.



June 24
Ready for roof work to begin.



A groundbreaking ceremony for the new expansion was held March 28. From left, Trustee Doris Palmer; John Lees, president of the Del E. Webb Foundation; Don Tufts, SCAHS president; Trustees Kevin Nicastro and Paul Herrmann.



Above, a shovel used in 1969 at the official groundbreaking ceremony for Boswell Hospital was displayed at the museum expansion ceremony. Left, Trustees Doris Palmer and Edson Allen look over plans for the new 700-foot gallery.

drink coasters, water bottles and more.

The museum is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in one of the first five model homes constructed in Sun City.

The building was first unveiled when the new community opened Jan. 1, 1960.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society purchased the property 30 years ago and 10 years ago renamed it the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

The expansion, which involved construction of an entirely new building behind the current museum, was made possible by an \$80,000 grant donated by the Del E. Webb Foundation.

The original museum consists of 1,580 square feet, not counting a carport and back porch. The approximately 700-square-foot new gallery replaced the back porch and encompasses much of the current back yard.

Construction cost approximately

\$118,000. The museum earlier this year launched a fund-raising campaign to cover added costs of interior design, as well as new exhibits, supplies and physical upgrades to the existing building.

The museum's Board of Trustees is hoping to generate \$100,000 during the 2019 fund campaign.

"The museum plays an important role in promoting the history of the Sun Cities, and we're confident our community will step up to generously support our efforts," said Mr. Tufts.

Residents can support the museum by becoming a member or simply donating to the organization.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was organized in 1986. Its mission is to preserve, protect and promote the history of Sun City and Sun City West, as well as the story of Del Webb.

**Public invited
to open house
November 2-3**

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum invites the public to an open house Nov. 2-3 to celebrate the opening of the new gallery.

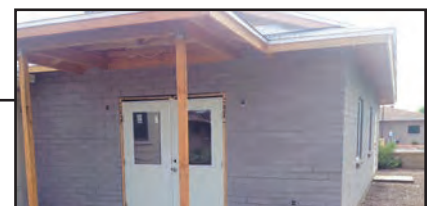
The open house will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3.

Tours of the museum and new gallery will be provided. Admission is free.

Expansion Timeline



June 25
A new sidewalk will take visitors to a new handicapped-accessible entrance.



July 30
The new entrance and the rear exterior as seen from the golf course.

Museum News & Events



The museum's new gallery includes space for expanded exhibits, museum talks and community meetings.

Museum slates history programs in new gallery

The museum will kick off a new series of history talks this winter that will focus on a variety of local topics.

The talks will be held in the new museum gallery. All programs begin at 10 a.m.

■ Nov. 19: "The Boswells," by Edson Allen.

■ Dec. 5: "Utopia? Not Quite!," Part 1, by Ben Roloff.

■ Dec. 14: "Coffee Brake," by Bill Pearson and Ben Roloff.

Programs will last 45-60 minutes. Seating is limited to 30 and reservations are required by calling the museum, (623) 974-2568.

Cost is \$1 for museum members; \$3 for non-members.

Email scahsm@gmail.com.

Museum gift shop offers expanded list of souvenirs

It's never too early to start your holiday shopping and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum has an exciting new selection of Sun Cities-related



gift merchandise at its expanded gift shop and available for purchase at the museum's website.

In addition to its selection of books on the history of the Sun Cities, the museum now offers a variety of items boasting the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum logo.

Themed-items include hats, visors, golf towels, bowling towels, luggage

tags, drink coasters, insulated drink containers, playing cards and tote bags. All proceeds directly benefit the museum.

Save the date: Gala is March 5

The museum's 2020 Jubilee Gala fundraiser will be held Thursday, March 5 at Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greenway Road, Sun City.

Live music will be provided by pianist Nicole Pesce. She will be joined by Suzanne Lansford and Renee Grant Patrick.

Tickets are \$50 each, with museum members receiving a 10% discount- Visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Pathway of Friends Walkway raises funds for museum

Sun Cities residents, churches and businesses can create permanent recognition for themselves, a family member, friend or loved one while at the same time benefit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

The museum is introducing its "Pathway of Friends Walkway" that leads along the sidewalk connecting the original building to the new expanded facility.

Inscribed bricks can be purchased to be placed along the walkway. A 4-by-8-inch brick costs \$80. An 8-by-8-inch brick is \$120. Logos or art can be added for an additional \$6.

Bricks can be ordered at the museum or online at www.polarengraving.com/suncitiesareahistoricalandsociety.

Order Online at

www.polarengraving.com/suncitiesareahistoricalandsociety



Expansion Timeline



Aug. 1 Works begins on the interior.



Sept. 4 New carpet installed; interior work progresses.



Sept. 30 Addition is painted and nearly complete.



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 52 years. We are a charitable 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 2015, 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.

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www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.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 for groups of six or more by appointment

Board of Trustees

Don Tuffs President

Paul Herrmann Vice President

Kevin Nicastro Treasurer

Doris Palmer Secretary

A.J. Kovac Seve Held Toni Ashby Barb Wagers Bret McKeand Ben Roloff Anne Levig

Office Manager Linda Borton

Layout and composition donated by



Message from the President

Welcome to the Grand Opening of our new, expanded Gallery!

It's FINALLY here! After two years of planning, designing and construction, the new addition to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is finally ready for its debut.

Members and sponsors will get the first peek from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1.

The public Grand Opening will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and noon until 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2-3.

We will then go back to our regular hours of 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The new expansion area features new exhibits on healthcare in the Sun



Don Tuffs 2019 President Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Cities, plus a special area that will honor various volunteer organizations.

In addition, the room will feature many historical talks starting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19 when historian Ed Allen discusses the J.G. Bo-

swell Company's involvement in the building of the Sun Cities.

Our Sun City historian Ben Roloff follows at 10 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 5 with "Utopia? Not Quite."

Finally, It's COFFEE BRAKE with Ben Roloff and Bill Pearson at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

Seating is limited to 30 attendees with preference going to Society and Museum members.

So RSVP now to reserve your seat. This can be done on line at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org or by calling the Museum office at 623-974-2568.

And a very special thanks ...

Special thanks to those who helped fund our expansion: This special building would not have been possible without major help from the following:

- ◆ Del E. Webb Foundation
◆ JG Boswell Family Foundation
◆ Chas Roberts Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
◆ Sun City West Rotary Club
◆ Questers Ocotillo Chapter
◆ Questers Road Runner Chapter
◆ Anne Levig
◆ Connie McMillan
◆ Barb Wagers
◆ Don & Karen Tuffs

- ◆ Sally Ann Williamson
◆ Desert Legacy Construction Company.

And the many hours donated by current and past Board of Trustee members and friends.

Our sincere thank you to everyone involved.

Don Tuffs, President Sun Cities Area Historical Society



Be a Part of History!

There are several ways to show your support!

- ✓ *Become a member (fill out the form below)*
- ✓ *Donate to our building campaign (fill out form below)*
- ✓ *Become a major donor and be recognized on our "Donor Wall" installed in the new expansion. (Call the museum for assistance.)*

The past comes to life at the only museum in the nation devoted to the world's very first active adult communities. Located in the first of five model homes built in Sun City, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's mission is to preserve, protect and promote the history of Sun City and Sun City West!

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is expanding in 2019 ... and we need **YOUR SUPPORT!**

In 2019 the museum will undertake a major building expansion and launch its first-ever capital improvement campaign. Support your local museum by making your tax-deductible contribution today!

Fill out the form below to make your tax-deductible contribution

Annual Membership

By becoming a member of the museum's parent organization, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, you will receive newsletters, announcements of coming events, and a 10% discount on items in the gift shop. **Memberships are tax deductible.**

- Turquoise \$25
- Silver \$50
- Gold \$100 Includes SC or SCW book
- Business Includes listing on museum website

YES, I want to support my local museum! Please accept my contribution:

Membership level: _____ Additional donation: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
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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.



Call 623-974-2568

10801 W. Oakmont, Sun City, AZ 85351
Open Monday 1-4 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday 10-4 ♦ FREE ADMISSION!

Visit us -- and donate -- online at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org



Trustee Edson Allen looks over the museum's newest exhibit, a tribute to the Boswell Family and the role James G. Boswell II played in the creation and development of the Sun Cities.

Newest exhibits salute Boswell family, healthcare and volunteers in the Sun Cities

By Edson Allen

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum reopened in September with a new exhibit paying tribute to one of the unsung heroes in the history of the Sun Cities, and the opening of the new gallery in November will provide additional room for several new exhibits that focus on healthcare and the volunteer spirit of the community.

An update on the museum's exhibits:

New exhibit features James G. Boswell II

Boswell is nowhere nearly as well known as Del Webb, yet played an important role as his partner in the development of Sun City. Webb had the vision, but Boswell had the land – some 20,000 acres that eventually saw Sun City and a portion of Sun City West sprout on them.

The two men formed a partnership known as the Del Webb Development Co. – DEVCO for short – that would plan and build Sun City and then Sun City West. Boswell's background was

farming, in fact at one point he was the largest farmer in the nation! But few people knew the extent of his holdings, as Jim was a quiet person.

A gift of \$1.2 million started the hospital, although Jim chose to have it named for his uncle, Walter O. Boswell, who managed the Arizona operations before Jim took over.

We can thank Jim for stipulating that it was to be "the finest hospital that could be built" at that time. Jim also enabled the Sun Cities Area Historical Society to purchase back in 1989 the home the museum now occupies.

Complementary exhibit showcases the "Selling of Sun City"

Across from the Boswell exhibit is one showing the many marketing tools that were used to bring the new Sun City to the attention of the nation. Full-page ads ran in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, *Look*, and *Life*, and are displayed on a TV monitor. The movie shown in the Sundome Jr. Theater depicted life in the new community and was sent to hundreds of movie theaters across the nation.

Realizing residents were the best sales people, Meeker offered them free, custom-designed Christmas cards to send to their friends and relatives back home. Samples of these elaborate, die-cut cards are on display, along with other marketing tools that brought Sun City to the attention of America.

The Way to Lizard Acres

Leaving the kitchen, a replica of a railroad sign points the way to Lizard Acres – and on to the lush oasis of Sun City West that followed it. Two additions have been made to the Sun City West exhibit: an enlarged satellite view along with a listing of the historical milestones in the unfolding of the community. Also on display is Sun City West Rec Card #1, which belonged to Bill Woodyard, first manager of the SCW Rec Centers.

"History of Healthcare" featured in new Gallery

One of the largest exhibits in the museum's history appears in the new addition. The six panels tell the story

of the evolution of the highly rated healthcare available today in Sun City and Sun City West.

The story begins with the search for a doctor willing to locate in the small, but growing Sun City of 1961. When one was finally found, he came with controversy – a 10-year old son!

A year later, Pastor Witt of United Church formed a group to plan a retirement home on 103rd with a hospital behind it on 101st. While Sun Valley Lodge came into being, Jim Boswell and others felt the planned 61-bed hospital was too small, and proposed the beginning of today's Banner Boswell Medical Center.

State and county officials felt a hospital wasn't needed and red tape was voluminous. Medical professionals claimed "No doctor or nurse will work way out there," to which Meeker famously replied, "We will hire your best and brightest!"

A section of the new exhibit deals with "Boswell West," which due to the generosity of the Webb Corp., became the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital when it opened in 1988. Of the several



Right, William W. Boswell and Del Webb at the groundbreaking ceremony for Boswell Hospital. Above, the Sun City hospital opened in November 1970.



additions, the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health attracted specialists that benefitted women of all ages.

The Sun Health story is woven throughout the exhibit as it has taken different forms over time. But central to its mission has always been fundraising to support the two hospitals and the Research Institute.

Honoring "Those Who Serve"

Sun City and Sun City West are unique in the extent of the volunteer

activity that supports both the communities. We will be featuring different volunteer groups over the coming months, with the first to be the Sun City and Sun City West Posses. The exhibit describes what caused the groups to begin, the growth in services, and the number who serve us today.



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OF SUN CITY



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History Tidbits

Sun City resident elected 40th president of the United States

By Ben Rolloff

The headline above paraphrases a story appearing in a local newspaper in November 1980, shortly after Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter to become the nation's 40th different president.

Of course, there is a back story explaining the headline. Read on!

Gov. Reagan finished his second four-year term as governor of California in 1975 and began testing voter interest in him as a primary challenger to President Gerald Ford -- an "accidental president."

Before the G.O.P. convention in 1976, Sun City Republicans invited Reagan to speak at the Sun Bowl, and a large crowd turned out to lend cheers to his effort. After his address that afternoon, the former governor was given a certificate proclaiming him an "Honorary Resident of Sun City, Arizona."

Fast forward four years.

Reagan didn't win his party's nomination in 1976 but did in 1980 and went on to defeat President Jimmy Carter in the fall election. The headline above followed that success.

Now jump ahead to May 1983. President Reagan's advance team and the Secret Service came to the Valley to prep for the president's address to the National Rifle Association at its annual convention in Phoenix on May 6, 1983.

Additionally, President Reagan's staff had a proclamation ready for his signature noting the beginning of "The Month of Volunteerism." Arrangements were made to have the signing in front of a group of volunteers who were nationally famous -- the Sun City Posse.

What a day for the Sun Cities. After

President Ronald Reagan is fitted with a Sun City Sheriff's Posse hat during his visit to the Posse on May 6, 1983. (Sun Cities Area Historical Society)



his major address in Phoenix on the topic of protecting the Second Amendment, President Reagan was helicoptered out to Sun City and landed in a church parking lot, and then convoyed to the Posse headquarters, which was packed with members of both the Sun City and Sun City West Posses.

The proclamation was signed, some nice compliments specifically were given to our local posse teams, the President received the customary gifts of hats and shirts from Posse leaders. A team of volunteers from the two posse squads entertained the president with a short demonstration of proper "handcuffing" technique.

The Secret Service spent an entire day in Sun City thoroughly checking

for possible hiding spots where an ill-willed foe of the president might hide including the ventilation shafts. Additionally, emergency evacuation routes were planned -- just in case. The entire event took 20 minutes, and President Reagan was on his way to the waiting copter for a flight to Sky Harbor where Air Force One was refueled and ready for the return to Washington D.C.

Posse members had "their day in the sun and 20 minutes of fame."

Ben Rolloff is a member of the SCAHS Board of Trustees. Stories on the history of the Sun Cities written by Mr. Rolloff and others can be found at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Visit the museum online!

Fans of Sun Cities history can now visit the Del Webb Sun Cities simply by punching a few keys on their computer keyboard!



Visit the museum's website at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org to learn more about the community's history, to see a list of current exhibits, sign up for upcoming events, review past newsletters, view historic films and videos, purchase souvenirs and to become a museum sustaining member.

Plus, you can stay up to date on current activities by following the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum on Facebook.



What We Do



Book Friends Program

Volunteers read to memory care patients at various memory care facilities



Book Buddy Program

Volunteers take books, puzzles, DVDs & CDs to those who are not able to go to the Library. Please call 602-651-2014 if you, or someone you know, is interested in getting library materials delivered to your home, free of charge



Library Support

Dedicated volunteers assist library staff with book shelving, organizing, and more. Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. also provides funding for library supplies, equipment, speakers, programs and much more.



Speakers Bureau

The Sun City branches of the Maricopa County Library District and the Friends of the Sun City Libraries work together to provide presentations on the library's resources and services available in our area. For more information or to book a program,



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- Stop and shop at our Bookstore! Enjoy our clean, organized atmosphere, our unbeatable prices, and friendly volunteers.
- Volunteer to be a Book Buddy. Or tell us about someone in need of Book Buddy services. Call the Bookstore at 602-651-2014 for more information.
- Volunteer for other positions with Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Call the Bookstore at 602-651-2014 for more information.
- Remember the Friends in your will.

Like Us on Facebook! Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.



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The Sun Cities Area Historical Society gratefully acknowledges these members and donors for their support in 2019.

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Bryce & Stacie Woods
Dianne Zogut

Support your
museum!
Become a
member.
See Page 7



Linda Borton joins museum as new office manager

Linda Borton, former executive director of the Ohio Farmers Union, has taken on the position of office manager for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

She and her husband, Mel, moved to Sun City in 2017.

Originally from Ohio, Linda's background includes working for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Dayton, Ohio, and working as a state manager for Ohio Farmers Union Service Corporation in Ottawa, Ohio.

She was a state director for the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture, Rural Development, in Columbus, Ohio before joining the Ohio Farmers Union, a nonprofit organization, where she retired as executive director.

She received her bachelor's degree in organizational management from Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio.

She is a longtime volunteer with the American Red Cross and received the American Red Cross Henri Dunant Award as Volunteer of the Year in 2017.



Linda Borton

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We are proud to support organizations like Del Webb Sun Cities Museum that create a brighter future for Arizona.



A Proud History
A Bright Future



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 www.suncitywest.com



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PORA

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tion at home and send it in.

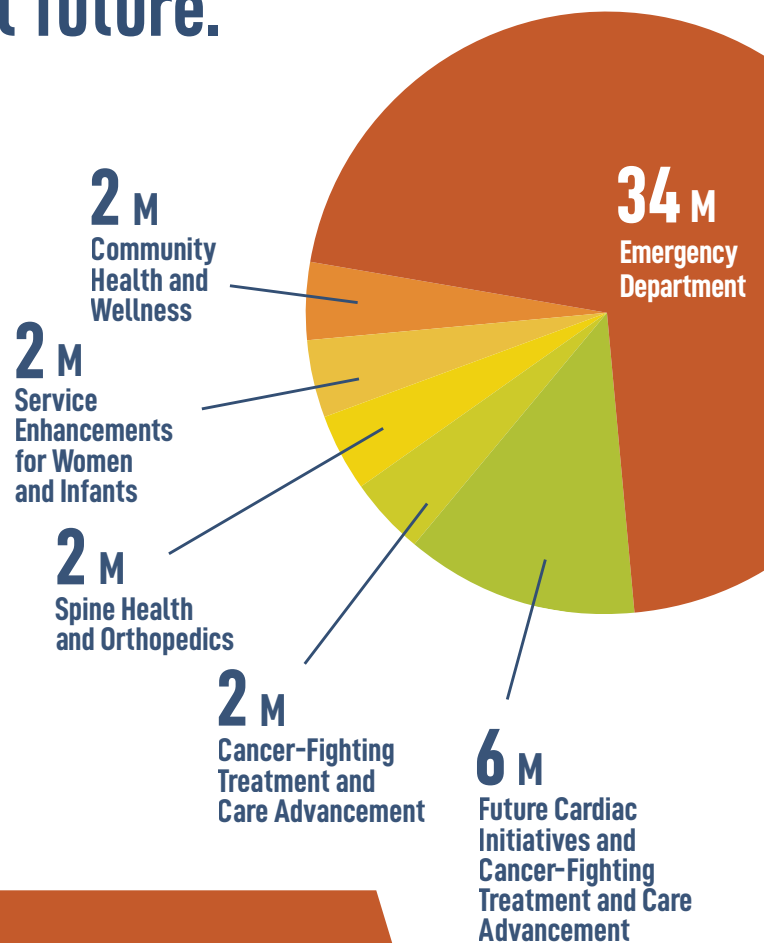


41% to Goal!

Community support ensures our West Valley's vibrant future.

Generosity for Generations

A campaign to raise and invest \$48 million in funding for Banner Boswell Medical Center, Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center, and Sun Health Wellness.



Find out how you can make an impact.
(623) 832-5330 or visit SunHealthFoundation.org.

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Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
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