

Yesterday & Today: Kuentz Recreation Center



Named after then-president of the Del E. Webb Development Company, the Fred Kuentz Recreation Center opened in January 1989 and was Sun City West's third recreation center. At left, the facility under construction in 1988. At right, the facility as it appears today. Both photographs were taken by Bret McKeand; the photo at left originally appeared in the Sun City West Independent.

Sun City West's third center opened in 1989

The Kuentz Recreation Center, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd., was the third recreation center built in Sun City West.

When it officially opened in January 1989, it was intended to be the final recreation center to be constructed in the community.

Several years later, the Del Webb Corporation purchased additional land to expand Sun City West and a fourth recreation center -- Palm Ridge -- was constructed.

The Kuentz Center was named after Fred P. Kuentz, a senior vice president for the Del E. Webb Corporation and president of the Del E. Webb Development Company.

As president of DEVCO, Mr. Kuentz oversaw the early development of Sun City West.

When it opened, the facility featured the 300-seat Stardust Theatre, as well as craft rooms, an outdoor pool, exercise rooms, tennis courts and more.

The community celebrated the center's opening with day-long festival on Feb. 10, 1989, that featured entertainment by the Bouncing Czechs Polka Band and the Sparky Thurman Orchestra.

The community's softball field was also constructed a few years later at the center.

The older photos shows the facility under construction in 1988, while the newer photo shows the same view as it appears today.