

Happy Birthday, Sun City!

Community celebrates 55th birthday on Jan. 1, 2015



Year 1

Celebrations ... throughout the years. Sun City residents have always enjoyed celebrating their community's anniversary. The Del Webb Corporation officially opened the doors to the nation's very first active-adult retirement community on Jan. 1, 1960. While it was still developing Sun City, the Webb Corporation made it a point to host a community celebration at the start of every new year. Later, once the company departed the community, celebrations were held less frequently, with the largest community-wide celebrations held in 1985 (Silver Anniversary), 2000 (40th anniversary) and in 2010 (Golden Anniversary). **Year 1:** Ralph Harley, left, president of the Sun City Civic Association, and Tom Austin with the Webb Corporation, hold a first-anniversary birthday cake on Jan. 1, 1961. **Year 2:** Unidentified residents mark Sun City's second anniversary with another, larger cake. **Year 5:** The cake grows even larger! In 1965, Del Webb (left) cuts a five-tier cake while Mel and Etta Phelps (in costume) look on. Mrs. Phelps died in 1987 at age 97. **Year 10:** Myron Floren, popular accordionist from the Lawrence Welk television show headlined a concert at the Sun Bowl to mark the 10th anniversary in 1970. **Year 10:** The Webb Spinner, an in-house Webb Corporation newsletter, celebrated the 10th anniversary of its most famous development in the January 1970 edition. **Year 20:** Residents staged a community variety show at Sundial Recreation Center. **Year 25:** The Silver Anniversary celebration included a large parade and recognition on "Good Morning, America." **Year 30:** Stars from the Lawrence Welk show again perform at the Sun Bowl. **Year 40:** A special commemorative cookbook is published. **Year 50:** The community celebrates its golden anniversary with a number of events, including a parade and a salute to developer Del E. Webb.



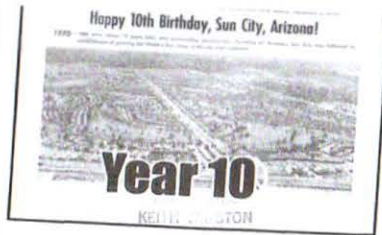
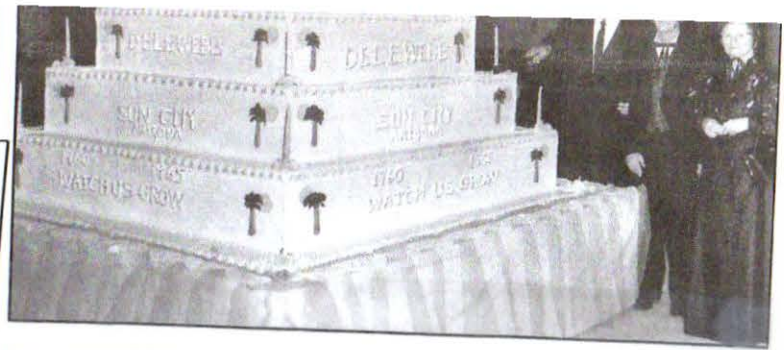
Year 5



Year 10



Year 2



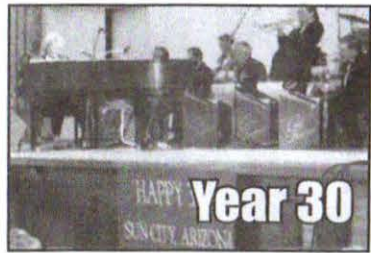
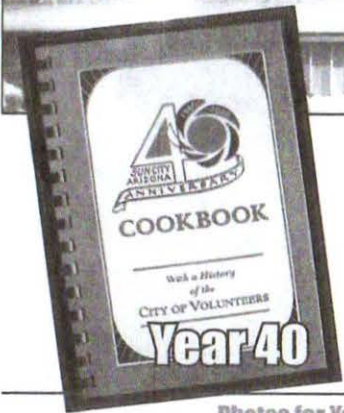
Year 10



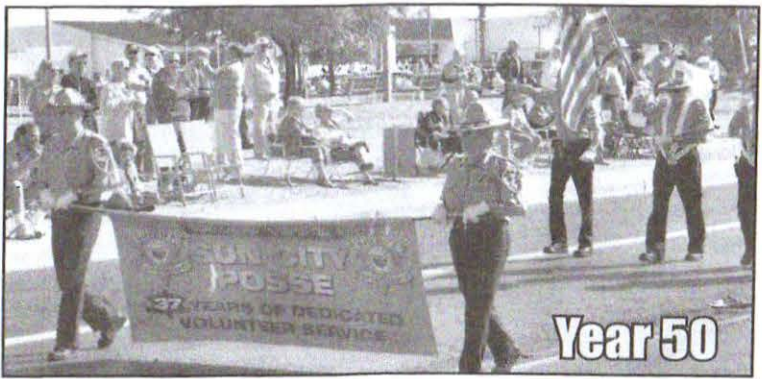
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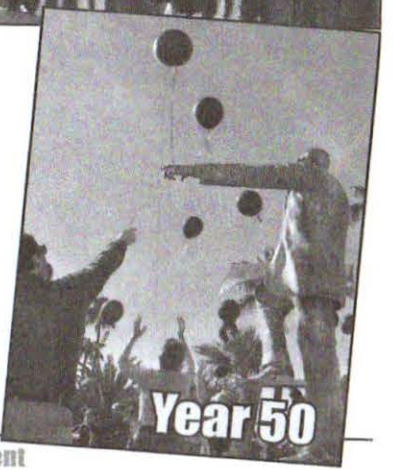
Year 20



Year 30



Year 50



Year 50

Photos for Years 1-10 courtesy Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Remaining photos from the archives of the Sun City Independent

PARADE ATTRACTS THOUSANDS

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Monday, March 15, 2010



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities/Youngtown Special Activity Center friendship float, left, heads down the street during the Sun City 50th Anniversary Parade Saturday. Above, Mary Mahan, Ann Peterson and Lydia Jaurez, from left, cheer parade participants. See related story, more pictures, A6

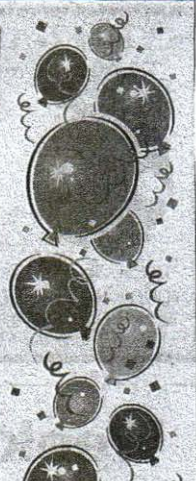
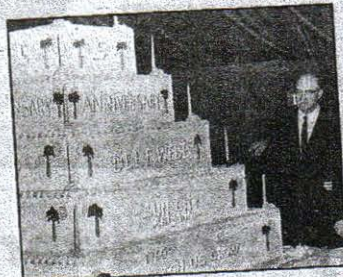
Happy Birthday, Sun City!

THE NATION'S FIRST ACTIVE ADULT RETIREMENT COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS 52ND ANNIVERSARY!



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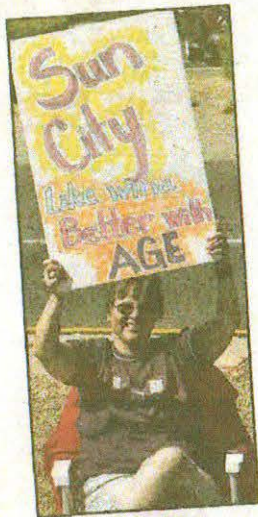
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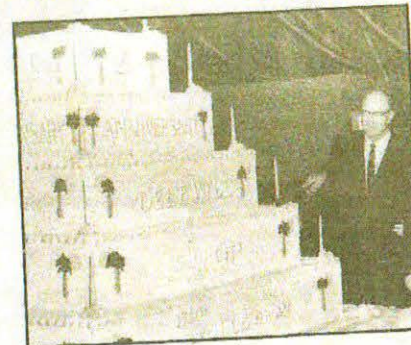
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2011 Review: A look back on year of changes

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City residents saw a number of changes throughout 2011, and some may be looking optimistically toward 2012 while others may be breathing a sigh of relief as the year of change is now history.

The national and Valley economy continues to struggle and tight financial times impacted many issues in the community. Other hot topics surrounding residents' quality of life had an impact.

January

- Several businesses in small Sun City community shopping centers were hit by burglaries prior to and following Christmas and News Year's Day. While the crime spree made some nervous, they also learned some valuable lessons about protecting their assets.

- Residents debated the value of social gathering places in the community. While there was general agreement on the concept, finding the best location proved difficult.

- Residents asked the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors to reconsider some decisions made in 2010. Among those decisions were increasing the membership meeting quorum requirement to 1,250, the approach to renters, straight sheet tee time scheduling and allowing golf maintenance workers to play at no charge.

See Review — Page 6



Above, clockwise: Peoria police pursued a stolen vehicle on Union Hills Drive in March and caught the suspect in the backyard of a Sun City home — with the help of a former law enforcement officer and longtime volunteer for the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City.; Problems with county permits delayed the planned July opening of the Fairway Recreation Center phase two renovation. The delay was first thought to be a few weeks, but the structure did not get a temporary certificate of occupancy until October.; Lawn bowlers turned out in force to protest RCSC plans to close the lawn bowl green at Oakmont Recreation Center. RCSC officials promised to keep the green open through April 30, 2012 and will continue to study all lawn bowling facilities.



Review

Continued From Page 1

February

- Sun City residents and organizations joined others in the Northwest Valley on a regional committee seeking options for public transportation after Sun City Area Transit ceased operation in December 2010.

- Sun City Posse officials encouraged residents to start a Block Watch in their neighborhoods and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office stepped up investigative efforts after residential burglaries began to rise in the community.

- Residents experienced sub-freezing temperatures, prompting a number of submit photos of ice-encased fountains and other winter oddities in Arizona.

- A judge denied Union Hills County Club officials in their lawsuit against some homeowners fronting the golf course and the decision shelved plans to build condominium units on a portion of country club land. The club, straddling Union Hills Drive with half in Peoria and half in Sun City, draws members from throughout the Northwest Valley. With their lawsuit, club officials tried to convince homeowners to sign a waiver allowing the construction, but a small number resisted.

- Sun City Fire District officials negotiated the sale of a piece of land in Youngtown with the anticipation of relocating one of its fire stations there. The former Tequila Willy's property, 13232 N. 111th Ave., will be the future home of Station No. 133, 13013 N. 111th Ave. But no firm date for construction was determined.

- Claiming it was structurally unsound, the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors decided to tear down the sundial on the northeast corner of 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard. But a public outcry changed board members minds and they approved a plan to renovate the structure.

March

- Maricopa County Department of Trans-



Submitted Photo

Poms on parade

The Sun City Poms have been honored with awards from two different parade organizers. They received the second place award from the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade for "Marching" unit and a first place award from Gilbert Days for "Most Creative" unit; this featured their new Polka routine. The Sun City Poms will continue their decades-long tradition of marching in the Fiesta Bowl Parade. On Dec. 15, 1979, the Poms organization led the parade, marching in front of a 100-foot Sun City/Sun City West float. Call 602-392-4242.

Review

Continued From Page 6

portation officials made several traffic changes in Sun City based on recommendations from the Sun City Home Owners Association Transportation Committee. Most of the changes involved either placing or removing traffic signs on various roadways.

- Sun City condo owners got hit hard by Arizona American Water Co. water and wastewater rate increases of 12 percent and 31 percent respectively. Because condos have a single water meter rather than ones for each individual unit, the rate represented increases of 36 percent for water and 42 percent for wastewater, according to Jim Ball, a Sun City Condo Owners Association board member.

April

- RCSC's long range planning committee began an intensive review of all facilities to determine which need attention in coming years. The review was also designed to recommend specific capital improvement projects.

- The Arizona Legislature passed a law amending state mining regulations to require cities and counties to include and element for sand and gravel operations in their general plans. This would increase regulation of aggregate rock operations, including several in the Agua Fria riverbed, by government bodies.

- Sun City golfers opposed RCSC's plan to redesign Willowcreek Golf Course. Members of the greens committee complained a detailed report they submitted, after being asked for their input by RCSC officials, was largely ignored.

- Maricopa County was one of the hard-

est hit by the Arizona Legislature's change of the state shared revenue formula, an attempt to balance the state budget. County officials expected to lose \$56 million in revenue. As an unincorporated area, Sun City roads and some other services are dependent on county funding.

May

- Residents and Sun City Home Owners Association transportation committee officials worked with Maricopa County Department of Transportation to improve the look of wide medians on some community streets. County officials were working on different approaches to see what works best and most cost effective.

- With no success in the past year, Sun City officials redoubled their efforts to get a single ZIP code for the retirement community. One of Sun City's two ZIP codes is shared with Peoria, creating confusion for homebuyers.

- For the third straight year, Sun City Fire District officials reduced their annual operating budget. However, such decreases were expected to be harder to make in coming years.

June

- A woman's screams ended a strong-arm robbery at the CVS Pharmacy, 10720 W. Bell Road, without the thieves getting what they wanted.

- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 3 officials planned to work closely with posses in Westbrook Village, Sun City and Sun City West to provide additional training designed to enhance patrols and Posse collaboration.

July

- The RCSC board approved getting site plans for Marinette and Lakeview recreation

centers as a prelude to future major projects at those sites. The plans will be used to develop long range plans for renovations or replacement.

August

- Residents voiced their concerns about legislative redistricting after initial proposals showed Sun City would be split between two districts or would be in the same district as Sun City West. The Arizona Independent Redistricting Committee's recommended district maps kept Sun City within one district and Sun City West in a separate district.

September

- The RCSC board announced it was considering bylaw changes that would clarify rec card eligibility for non-owner and under age spouses. However, the board later said it was shelving the plan after receiving what it termed overwhelming input against the plan from residents.

October

- RCSC and SCHOA saw a shortage of candidates for their respective board elections. RCSC had three candidates for four open seats and SCHOA had four candidates for six open seats.

November

- A German film company was in Sun City shooting a feature length documentary

about the community and its people.

December

- A late morning fire destroyed the maintenance facility at the South Golf Course. While fire investigators were able to determine the starting point of the blaze, a cause was elusive.

- The Civic Foundation of Sun City disbanded and donated its remaining funds to the Sun City PRIDES. The foundation, originally under SCHOA and later separated to a standalone group, was responsible for repairing and repainting the community's common walls.

News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

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March

- Maricopa County Department of Trans-

See Review — Page 21

Anniversary bonus

Sun City group empties treasury from 50th frolics

ZACH COLICK
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's 50th anniversary may have come to a close, but several community organizations are reaping the benefits of left-over money from the golden anniversary committee's coffers.

On Tuesday morning, anniversary committee members handed out checks at the Bell Recreation Center, totaling \$65,000, to 10 organizations for future projects and services to benefit the community.

The organizations that received \$6,500 each included the Sun City PRIDES, Sheriff's Posse of Sun



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bill Szentmiklosi shakes hands with Warren Clucker after receiving a check for \$6,500. The money was part of funds left over from the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee. Ten groups received the same amount during a presentation at the Bell Recreation Center on Tuesday.

SEE CASH, A5

CASH

FROM A1

City, Sunshine Service, Civic Foundation of Sun City, Sun City Taxpayers Association, Sun City Homeowners Association and Sun City Visitors Center. In addition, committee members donated checks to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Valley View Community Food Bank and Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, said the 50th anniversary committee never knew it would have the ability to donate \$65,000, let alone have enough cash to fund many of the activities during the past year to commemorate Sun City's 50th birthday.

At the outset of the 50th anniversary planning process in 2007, Herrmann and committee member Pat Clucker said, for whatever reason, it was difficult to obtain donations from area

businesses and community philanthropists to provide for activities and events. Donations came in late — some came in months before the actual events took place — quashing some efforts to make the anniversary celebration as grand as possible.

Nevertheless, Herrmann said the goal from the beginning was to donate any remaining funds from the committee's bank account to some of the most deserving Sun City organizations in order to sustain services for residents in the months and years to come. The vetting process was simple: reward longtime organizations that have made a lasting impact in the community.

Warren Clucker, a committee member, handed out the checks Tuesday morning and explained where some of the monies would go. RCSC board president Vance Coleman accepted a \$4,500 check for renovation efforts to the aging sundial at Sundial Recreation Center, as

well as a \$2,000 check to benefit the corporation in whatever manner it sees fit.

A representative from the PRIDES, the folks in orange vests who can be seen tidying up the community, accepted a \$6,500 check for median and sidewalk beautification efforts. Posse Commander Bill Dyer accepted a \$6,500 check for improved computer systems, while Sunshine Service' director Jim Sinclair accepted a donation to purchase children's toys and books for residents to borrow when visiting grandchildren arrive in town.

With a \$6,500 check to SCHOA, community volunteers will continue to clean up yards for those owners who cannot physically or financially do the work themselves. The Sun City Visitors Center and Sun Cities Area Historical Society received checks for marketing efforts to attract Baby Boomers from across the United States and Canada to move to Sun City.

"I think it's the

greatest place ever," Clucker said. "We need to get the word out (about Sun City)."

Walt Patterson, a Civic Foundation of Sun City volunteer, said the \$6,500 check his organization received is the seed money needed to beautify and improve the community walls in Phase I of Sun City between 103rd and 107th avenues along Olive Avenue. Patterson said the project could cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, the bulk of which must come from donations.

Patterson said other portions of the community's deteriorating walls will be identified for future improvements, a project he estimates could take several years from a funding and repair standpoint.

"We must provide a good introduction to Sun City for visitors at all of the community entrances," he said. "It must look like a nice place to visit."

Zach Colick can be reached at 623-876-2522 or zcolick@yourwestvalley.com.

Sun City 50th anniversary celebration closes with grand finale on Wednesday

Irony? Perhaps, but if nothing else, it is noteworthy that in the early '60s Sun City was one of the hottest properties in the country, and The New Christy Minstrels were one of the hottest vocal groups as well. Bringing the two together makes perfect sense. It's just some 50 years later. What makes it so sweet is both are still going strong.

The closing act for Sun City's 50th anniversary will be the New Christy Minstrels featuring Randy Sparks (the founder) and Dolan Ellis (the Arizona Balladeer). It will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Sundial Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 and will be available at the door.

Certainly the New Christy Minstrels will provide excitement enough. But let's face it, many in the crowd will be hoping to hear their name pulled as the winners are drawn for the 50th anniversary raffle drawing held during the evening's events.

The list of prizes is impressive with the following: a 2010 Smart Car from Smart Center Chandler; a 2011 EZGO 2five golf car donated by Pohle NV Center; a Mexican Riviera cruise from the Ford Travel Agency; three flat panel 32-inch TVs purchased by the 50th anniversary committee and dozens of awesome prizes made and donated by Sun City clubs specially for this celebration.

Only 3,000 tickets have been printed for this raffle and they are \$10 each. We will be selling them at the door if they have not been sold out by then. They are more than

two-thirds gone, so if you want to insure you have one or more, stop by the Sun City Visitor Center (hours Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.).

While you are there, you may want to pick up a memento. We have assorted sizes of 50th anniversary T-shirts, hats, visors and golf shirts marked down to half price. They are going fast, so don't hesitate.

Sun City, since its very first year anniversary, has enjoyed celebrating how the community came to be and those who built it.

As we drew closer to 2010 and that magical moment of 50 years, we knew we needed to keep pace with those before us, and hopefully we have succeeded in honoring their memory. It's been a long, arduous but truly memorable adventure.

We hope you have enjoyed it, and we especially want you to join us as we bring down the curtain at this final finale. It will be a night to remember so get your tickets while they are still available.

There have been hundreds of people and businesses who have contributed, but my special thanks to the Daily News-Sun for their efforts for the past two years in helping put the word out.

Hope to see you on the Wednesday at Sundial.

Bill Pearson

Chairman

50th Anniversary Publicity
Committee



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

A familiar face brought a close to Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebrations. Dolan Ellis, second from right, is the Arizona State Balladeer, and grand marshal for the 50th Anniversary parade.

Concert draws curtain on anniversary fun

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's 50th anniversary celebration came to an end Wednesday night with a rousing concert at the Sundial Recreation Center that brought the capacity crowd to its feet and left Mary McFadden fondly recalling days gone by.

"It was very, very enjoyable and made us realize what fun times we had when we were younger," McFadden said, referring to the New Christy Minstrels concert.

Warren Clucker also was happy and, as 50th anniversary committee president, he

was proud to have given Sun Citians something to remember.

"As long as people enjoyed it, we're happy," Clucker said.

The committee sold 1,500 tickets for the final event, and the auditorium was packed to capacity Wednesday.

"It's a tribute from the people of Sun City that they came out for this show," Clucker said. "People are here to show their respect for the things that have gone on for the last 50 years."

SEE ANNIVERSARY, A4

ANNIVERSARY

FROM A1

State representatives Debbie Lesko and Rick Gray were also in attendance and helped with the drawing for various items donated by local clubs, such as a hope chest, stained glass windows and bola ties.

One of the New Christy Minstrels original members Dolan Ellis, who is the official Arizona balladeer and was grand marshal for the opening Sun City 50th anniversary event, helped the committee draw names for prizes that included plasma screen televisions, a Mexican Riviera cruise, golf car and Smart Car.

"This has been a great year from the beginning, with the parade and the variety shows and this wonderful ending with the New Christy Minstrels," said Sun Citian Marilyn Sell.

Sell attended the concluding festivities with her friends McFadden and Helen Garwood.

Kelley Greenburg, who directed a variety show in November, had fun at the finale.

"It's a great way to cap off a lot of hard work," she said.

The New Christy Minstrels are also celebrating their 50th year, and the group, led by founder Becky Spade,



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

State representatives Rick Gray and Debbie Lesko, above, choose names in a raffle. The prizes included a cruise, golf car, television and a Smart Car. Founded on Jan. 1, 1960, the New Christy Minstrels closed Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration in concert Wednesday night. At left, the New Christy Minstrel's Becky Jo Benson delivers a tune.

was glad to be a part of Sun City's celebration.

"I can remember when this place was being built. That's the problem," Sparks joked to the audience.

The concert had Sun Citians both laughing and singing along. A rousing chorus of "This Land is Your Land" brought the crowd to its feet.

Attendees could purchase CDs and other items by the New Christy Minstrels and

were also available to sign autographs after the concert. Sales of the group's greatest hits album would help fund music education, Sparks said.

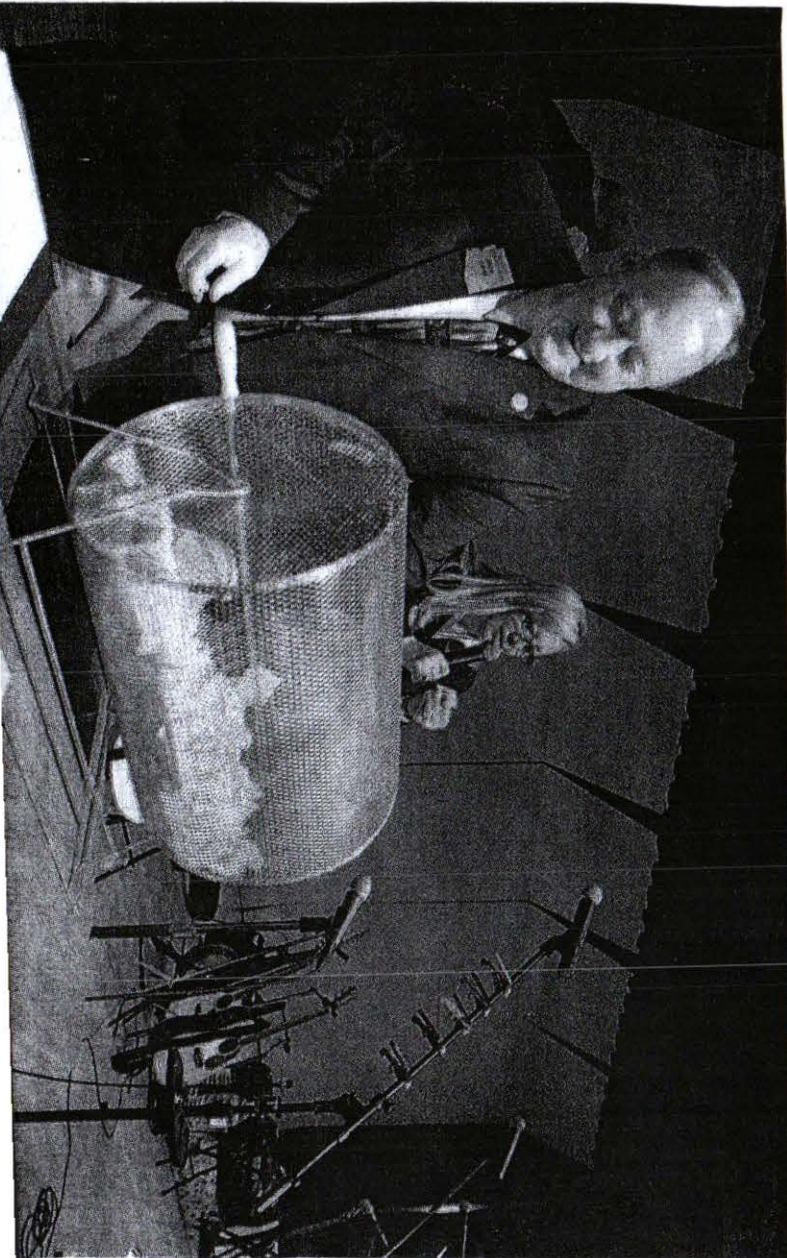
"We want young people to know that music is more than something that vibrates your car," he said.

Paul Herrmann, a 50th anniversary committee member, said the group started planning in the spring of 2009, with the first event in

"It's been a long time," he said.

After fund-raising problems at first, the committee now has more than \$50,000 left money that the group will discuss how to distribute through the year, Herrmann said.

Clucker said the committee has also collected items for a time capsule, which will be placed in Fairway Recreation Center and opened at the community's 100th anniversary.



ANNIVERSARY

FROM A1

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The New Christy Minstrels are also celebrating their 50th year, and the group, led by founder Bendi Sparks



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

State representatives Rick Gray and Debbie Lesko, above, choose names in a raffle. The prizes included a cruise, golf car, television and a Smart Car. Founded on Jan. 1, 1960, the New Christy Minstrels closed Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration in concert Wednesday night. At left, the New Christy Minstrel's Becky Jo Benson delivers a tune.

was glad to be a part of Sun City's celebration.

"I can remember when this place was being built. That's the problem," Sparks joked to the audience.

The concert had Sun Citians both laughing and singing along. A rousing chorus of "This Land is Your Land" brought the crowd to its feet.

Attendees could purchase CDs and other items by the New Christy Minstrels and

were also available to sign autographs after the concert. Sales of the group's greatest hits album would help fund music education, Sparks said.

"We want young people to know that music is more than something that vibrates your car," he said.

Paul Herrmann, a 50th anniversary committee member, said the group started planning in the spring of 2009, with the first event in

"It's been a long time," he said.

After fund-raising problems at first, the committee now has more than \$50,000 left, money that the group will discuss how to distribute through the year, Herrmann said.

Clucker said the committee has also collected items for a time capsule, which will be placed in Fairway Recreation Center and opened at the community's 100th anniversary.

SUN CITY AT 50



1960S PHOTOS COURTESY OF
SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



CHARLIE LEIGHT/
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



Groundbreaking retirement community retains affordability and small-town charm

By Peter Corbett

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Rita and Earl Warren spent five years traveling in a recreation vehicle before finding their dream home in Sun City.

They fell in love with the age-restricted retirement community after visiting a cousin there and spending the past few winters in Mesa.

It's been a year since the Warrens moved into their remodeled condominium near 111th Avenue and Thunderbird Road. They say they are enjoying Sun City's small-town feel and activities — golf, tennis and bicycling — along with other sports and entertainment the Valley has to offer.

"We're so damn busy in retirement it's killing us," Earl Warren joked.

Earl, 67, and Rita, 60, who re-

tired from real-estate careers in Denver, are among the younger residents and Baby Boomers moving to Sun City. The 50-year-old West Valley retirement community revolutionized the sunset years for hundreds of thousands of Americans and spawned myriad age-restricted communities.

Like other proud Sun Citians, the Warrens are quick to dispel misperceptions about their community.

"We used to think it was just a bunch of old people waiting to die," Earl said.

That is clearly not the case, with seniors in their 90s lifting weights and playing pickle ball at recreation centers, along with more staid activities like lawn

See **SUN CITY** Page HO2

Clockwise from top: Residents enjoy the pool at the Oakmont Recreation Center and lawn bowling at the Fairway Recreation Center, both circa 1960; Denver transplants Earl and Rita Warren on their patio; and a 1990 photo of Sun City's oldest home, at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

Sun City, 50, still shines

SUN CITY

Continued from HO1

bowling and water aerobics.

Residents pay just \$420 annually per household for access to eight golf courses and seven recreation centers that offer pools, bowling, racquetball, tennis, billiards, boating, horseshoes and shuffleboard.

Sun City real estate has become more affordable since prices have declined along with the rest of the Valley housing market.

"People are seeing in Sun City an exceptional value," Earl said. "You don't have to spend all your money."

Kim Kohlhase, Prudential Arizona Properties branch manager in Peoria, said Sun City "has not seen the extreme swings of the market."

Affordable homes

Prices for homes currently on the market include:

» An 885-square-foot, one-bedroom, one-bath condo for \$34,900.

» A single-family 1,026-square-foot home with two bedrooms and 1³/₄-baths for \$54,000.

» A 1,974-square-foot home on the third tee of a golf course for \$237,000.

"You'd never know you were in Sun City in that house," Kohlhase said of the latter.

Nancy McClean, Prudential associate broker, said Sun City's homes have been remodeled with a variety of facades because there is no architectural committee to limit such alterations.

A recent tour found such vintage features as decorative block with geometric patterns, white rocks on roofs, mail slots in the doors, wooden paneling, gold-and-brown shag carpeting, asphalt tile and skylights, a bright-pink kitchen with the original ceramic tile and vintage Frigidaire appliances.

"There are some homes in their original condition," said Bill Pearson, Sun Cities Museum president. "There are

Midcentury Modern architecture, said Sun City's modest homes with low-sloped rooflines are unlike others of similar vintage in the Valley.

"The homes were modestly modern, very appealing to frugal empty-nesters and are a lasting testament to mainstream acceptance of modern, clean lines in everyday architecture," said King, creator of Modernphoenix.net.

"It's always a delight to drive through Sun City. You have a distinct awareness of when you enter and when you leave due to the architectural cues — and that's a huge achievement in place making."

\$30,000 remodel

The Warrens bought a 1,200-square-foot condominium for \$71,000 in March 2009. They spent about \$30,000 remodeling the two-bedroom, one-bath home, built in 1973. That included a kitchen and bathroom makeover, with contemporary lighting and plumbing fixtures, new tile, cabinets, countertops and appliances. The north-facing patio got new tile to replace the indoor-outdoor carpeting, and dual-pane sliding doors and windows were added throughout the home.

The highest electric bill for the home, which has ceiling fans and block construction, was \$135 in August. That matches the couple's monthly

homeowners-association fees which pay for water, sewer and landscaping. Their taxes are just \$500 per year.

Buyers also pay a one-time \$3,000 capital preservation assessment fee, which is used for major renovations of community facilities.

The Warrens say they save money by using their golf car for grocery shopping and other errands. Strangers wave from their golf carts and people stop to pick up trash along the streets, Rita said.

"It's got that feel to it of small-town America," she said.

The couple also like the proximity of the Banner Boswell Medical Center.

Like others here, Rita suggested that "Del Webb was way ahead of his time" in developing Sun City.

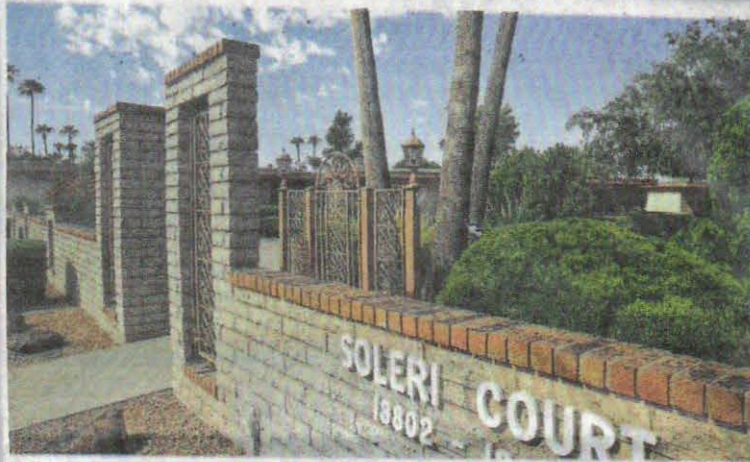
Opened in 1960

Del Webb, a legendary contractor and developer, opened Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960, at 107th and Grand avenues with five model homes near the community's first golf course. The modest block-wall homes with carports sold for \$8,500 to \$11,750. Air-conditioning cost an extra \$600.

Sun City wasn't the first age-restricted community in Arizona. Nearby Youngtown is older. But Sun City was a model of success.

Webb sold about 1,300 homes that first year, primarily





The entrance to Soleri Court, where Denver retirees Rita and Earl Warren purchased a two-bedroom, one-bath condo last year for \$71,000.

to retirees from Arizona and California. It took longer to lure folks from the Midwest.

Sun City is generally bounded by Olive Avenue, Beardsley Road and 91st and 111th avenues. It includes close to 27,000 homes built from 1960-78 and close to 40,000 residents.

Sun City West and Sun City Grand added 26,700 homes and about 48,000 residents between 1978 and 2005.

In Sun City and Sun City West, one household resident must be at least 55 years old; in Sun City Grand, one resident must be at least 45.

Retirees looking for age-restricted communities have at least 400 options, including 30 in Arizona, said Bill Ness, founder of 55places.com.

The original Sun City has great values but competes with the newer homes and amenities offered at Sun City

West, Sun City Grand, Trilogy at Vistancia, Westbrook Village and Robson Ranch, he said.

"There is still a lot of demand for this type of community," Ness said of Sun City. "It is not as affected by the downturn, and there haven't been as many foreclosures."

Buyers are starting to get more serious about making their move to retirement communities, he said.

Pearson, 63, the museum president and a former union leader from St. Paul, Minn., said he thinks Sun City will get its share of Boomers.

"I was skeptical," he said of Sun City when he first visited his parents there more than a decade ago. "I didn't want to come here."

But after experiencing the community spirit of Sun City and its activities, Pearson said he was convinced "that's how I want to get old."



BY CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Opinion

All opinions on this page are those of the authors or artists.

Bells ring for Sun City 50th Anniversary

BILL PEARSON
SUN CITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

The Sun City 50th anniversary celebration continues in July with a couple of events, but they are sure to be ones you won't want to miss. The first and biggest is Sunday at the Bell Recreation Center from 9 to 11 a.m. The RCSC is having its annual Ring That Bell ceremony, with the state-ly Ray Mills portraying Uncle Sam. He's agreed to do it one last time and it will be a presentation you will not want to miss.

To help make the day a bit more memorable, two events have been scheduled before and after the festivities. For those hungry early risers, there will be a free continental breakfast kicking off at 7 a.m. It is sponsored by Pricilla Richie from the Ken Meade Greenway office. Beyond sponsoring the event, Pricilla will display her fabulous war memorabilia collection as well.

Immediately following the ceremony, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will have a rare Sunday opening from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For anyone who doesn't know the story behind our version of the Liberty Bell's creation there will be a fascinating pictorial display. The museum is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, next door to the Oakmont Recreation Center and south of Grand

Avenue and Del Webb Boulevard.

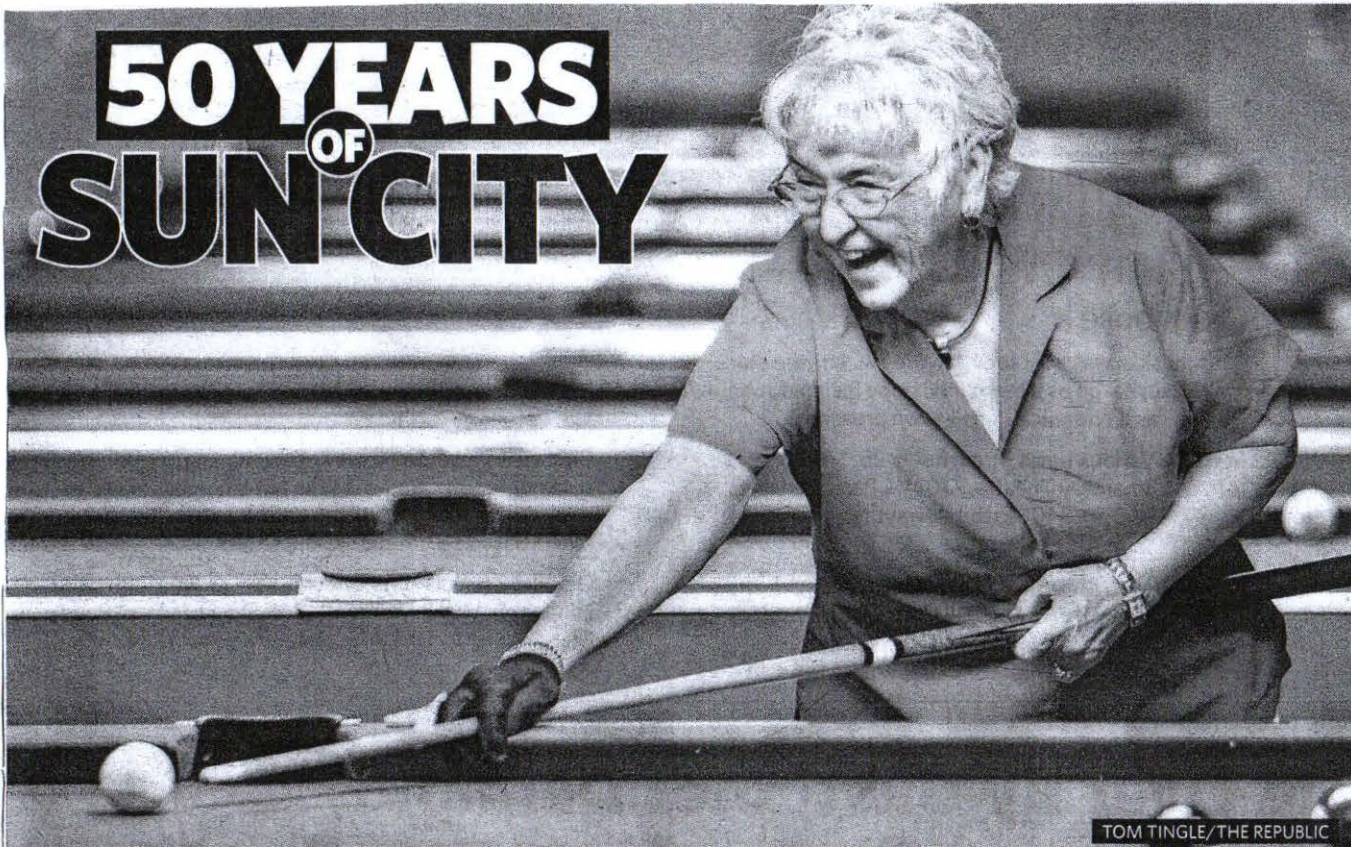
Next up will be a special summer indoor concert at the Sundial auditorium. This free program will be interesting in that the group is a Simon and Garfunkel tribute show that may well prove quite popular to the Boomer population (and those still young at heart, too). The fun begins at 7 p.m. so find your best Graduate costumes, pick up Mrs. Robinson and we'll see you all there to sing along with the tunes of this awesome duo.

On another note, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum has been drawing record crowds during this 50th year celebration and they have gone to their new summer hours. The Museum will be open Thursday and Saturday mornings 9 a.m. to noon and will Friday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. Every Friday in July will feature some special treats, so plan on stopping by.

And don't forget about the amazing raffle the will be at the closing ceremonies Jan. 12. The prize list just keeps growing, so watch for announcements of some really cool stuff. Tickets will be on sale at the July 4 event and you can also get them at the Sun City Visitor Center, mornings from 9 to noon. They are \$10 each.

Hope to see you all on July 4, but if not, have a happy and safe holiday.

50 YEARS OF SUN CITY



TOM TINGLE/THE REPUBLIC



AND IN 1963...

REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO

As Sun City celebrates its 50th anniversary, *The Arizona Republic* revisits the adult community's past and explores its present. **PAGES 3-4**

Flo Colgan, 70, of Sun City, shoots pool with her friends. Left: Three years after Sun City opened in 1960, residents illustrate its lifestyle.

**Sun City by
the numbers**

1960 The year Sun City debuted.

7 Recreation centers.

40,000+ Sun City's estimated population.

11 Golf courses, which includes five regulation courses, three executive courses and three courses operated by country clubs.

55 Minimum age for residents.

120+ Chartered clubs operating under the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc.

2 Libraries.

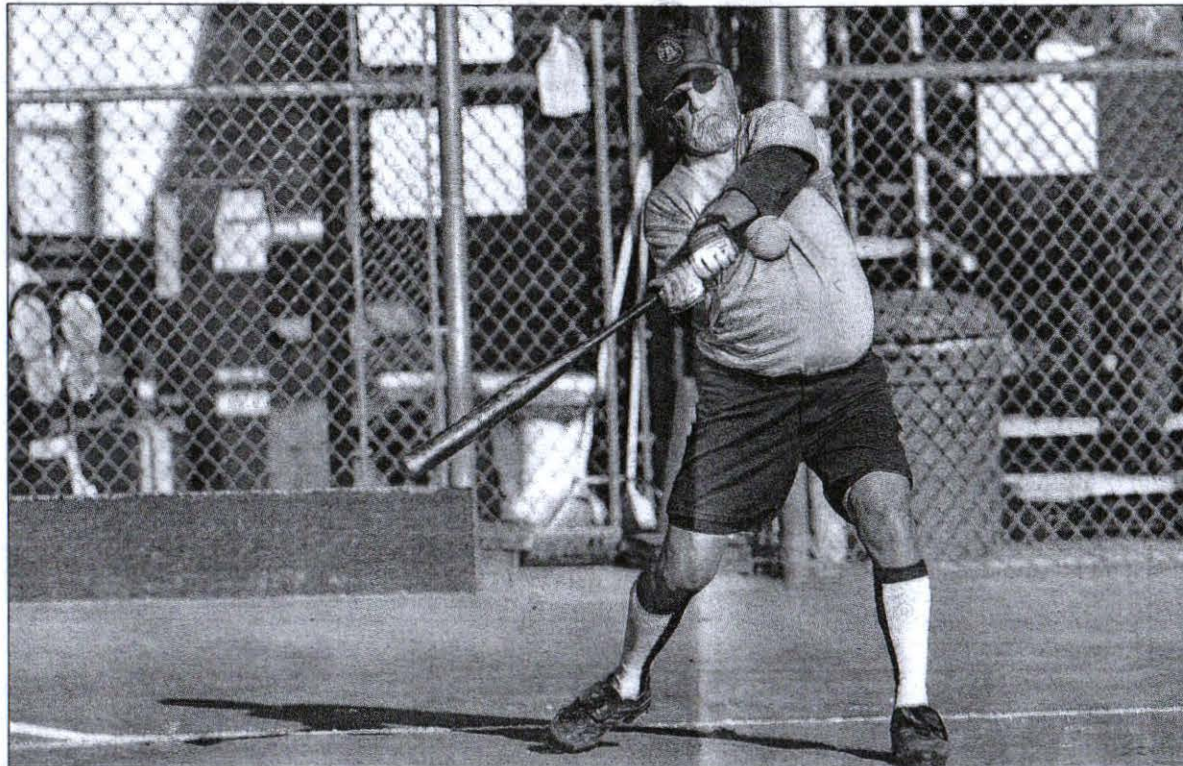
\$150,000 Starting price for single-family homes.

30 Churches and synagogues.

350+ Civic, service, church, charitable, cultural and recreational groups.

Source: Sun City Visitors Center and Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc.

'Active retirement' concept was a hit



JACK KURTZ/THE REPUBLIC

Sun City pioneered lifestyle to fit needs of modern seniors

By Sherry Anne Rubiano
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Sun City is rich in history. The concept of "active retirement" was born when Sun City debuted in 1960.

One of the original five model homes is used as the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Resident groups that formed in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City and the Sun City PRIDES, continue to serve the community.

As Sun City commemorates its 50th anniversary this year, *The Arizona Republic* revisits Sun City's past and explores its present.

Above: Tom Haroldson connects for a base hit during a senior softball tournament in Sun City West, a Sun City spinoff.

Right: A worker frames a house during Sun City's early days.

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Britton of Eugene, Ore. won this house, a Meadowgrove Model 1A-R on Augusta Drive, in a contest to name Sun City. Its base price was \$8,500.

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Anniversary events

Golden anniversary festivities are scheduled through January. Visit www.sun-city50thanniversary.org for updates and more information.

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Sock Hop and Pizza Party	Sept. 24 6:30-10 p.m.	Sundial Auditorium 14801 N.103rd Ave.
Banner Boswell Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	Oct. 13 10-11 a.m.	Banner Boswell Memorial Hall 13180 N. 103rd Drive
Oktoberfest	Oct. 30 Time TBA	Sundial Auditorium 14801 N. 103rd Ave.
Banner Research Institute Tour	Nov. 10 10-11 a.m.	Banner Research Institute 10515 W. Santa Fe Drive
Fall Variety Show	Nov. 21 2-3:30 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.	Sundial Auditorium 14801 N. 103rd Ave.
50th Anniversary Golf Tournament	Dec. 9, 12:30 p.m.	Sun City Country Club 9433 N. 107th Ave.
Holiday Around the World Party and Viewpoint Lake Boat Parade	Dec. 10, 4 p.m.	Lakeview Center 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.
50th Anniversary Grand Finale	Jan. 14, 7-10 p.m.	Sundial Auditorium 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

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Source: Sun City 50th anniversary committee.

Sun City timeline

1960 — Sun City debuts Jan. 1. More than 100,000 people show up the first weekend to view five model homes in a community designed for active adults.

1963 — The Sun City Home Owners Association is formed.

1964 — The only vote on incorporation is held. Voters reject incorporation 2,558 to 1,036.

1966 — The Sun City Fire District is established.

1967 — Sun Bowl, an outdoor amphitheatre, opens.

1968 — Sun City Symphony presents its first concert.

1969 — Construction of Boswell Hospital, now Banner Boswell Medical Center, begins.

1972 — Sun City Community Association changes its name to Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc.

1973 — Sheriff's Posse of Sun City organizes.

1978 — Sun City is built out.

1985 — President Ronald Reagan honors the Sun City PRIDES with a President's Volunteer



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This aerial photo taken on Feb. 3, 1960, shows how Sun City looked a month after its opening day.

Action Award.

1988 — The Sun City Fire District cancels its contract with Rural/Metro and establishes its own fire department.

1993 — Sun City is declared the "City of Volunteers."

2009 — Sun City's yearlong celebration of its 50th anniversary kicks off Dec. 9.

Source: Sun City Visitors Center.

Five unusual things about Sun City

City of volunteers

1 Sun City residents are known for their volunteering spirit. Residents donate their time in schools, food banks and community groups. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan honored the Sun City PRIDES with a President's Volunteer Action Award.

Active lifestyle

2 What set Sun City apart when it opened in 1960 was its emphasis on an active-adult lifestyle. Residents have many opportunities for recreation and socializing, from playing golf and swimming to meeting up for crafts activities and dancing.

Pristine neighborhoods

3 Take a drive through Sun City, and its cleanliness stands out. Its walls are graffiti-free, streets are litter-free and trees and shrubs are trimmed. Trash containers are located underground. Residents' front yards are well-maintained.

Safe community

4 More than 175 residents keep an eye on Sun City as members of the Sun City Sheriff's Posse. They patrol neighborhoods, provide medical assistance, train residents to form a Neighborhood Watch and check the homes of residents who are out of town.

Popularity of golf cars

5 The golf car is the second most popular mode of transportation in Sun City, according to the Sun City Visitors Center. Many people use their golf car as a second vehicle to run errands. Customized golf cars are also a common sight on Sun City streets.

Lifestyle is still golden as Sun City hits age 50

by John Faherty - Jul. 4, 2010 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Fifty years ago, Sun City was an idea.

The idea was outrageous and revolutionary. It seemed almost dangerous.

Old people - or older people, anyway - could spend the last 30 or 40 years of their lives having fun.



Seniors stay active in Sun City

You want to shovel snow and wait for the grandchildren to visit? Fine, stay in Iowa. If you want a place with low-priced homes and big blue skies, if you want clean streets and friendly neighbors, come to Sun City.

It was marketing, of course. It was slick talk and high-pressure sales. And it worked.

On Jan. 1, 1960, more than 25,000 people came to visit the five model homes on the western fringes of the Valley.

That first weekend, 252 homes were sold. Within a month, 400. By the end of the year, 2,000.

Now, five decades later, Sun City is golf courses and swimming pools, chess clubs and shuffleboard. And it is home for more than 41,000 people.

They enforce the rules that define the place while they celebrate its lifestyle.

Each day, they work to make sure that Sun

City's grand idea is their truth.

The enforcer

It is just after 7 in the morning, and Bill Szentmiklosi is standing on his tiptoes looking over a backyard fence in Sun City's Phase 1.

"Oh, looky here, somebody's been doing some work," he says. "This is nice."

Szentmiklosi, 59, is a Sun City resident. He is also the compliance manager for the Sun City Home Owners Association. It is his job to make sure his town remains as close to perfect as it can.

Like many Valley communities, Sun City requires all homeowners to obey rules known as covenants, conditions and restrictions.

If a resident breaks a rule, there is a good chance somebody - probably a neighbor - will call the HOA's compliance department.

In May, the HOA handled 935 reported violations.

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Back in his car, Szentmiklosi continues to patrol the neighborhood. At another home, another problem.

"Larry, Larry, this is better, but it's not done," he says to himself as he gets out of his minivan to check on a repeat violation for weeds. "So, I'll send him another letter."

After serving as a police officer for 33 years in Michigan, he knows when to look the other way.

At yet another property, Szentmiklosi bends over to measure the distance between the garage wall and the property line, knowing by eye that it's going to be short of regulation.

"I'll measure this here. You need 5 feet," he says standing over his tape. "This is 4 feet, 6 inches. We won't quibble with this, not worth it."

The biggest problem he looks for is not illegal garages or weed-choked lawns. He's looking for young people.

Age limits aren't just part of Sun City's image. They're in the law.

The federal Fair Housing Act requires that at least 80 percent of the homes in communities like Sun City be occupied with somebody 55 or older. If a community is not in compliance, it is no longer a retirement community - it is just being discriminatory.

The "age overlay" allows Sun City to not have a school district. This is what keeps property taxes at such low rates.

Sun City's rules allow people under the age of 19 to visit but only for a total of 90 days in any 12-month period.

In May, there were 47 reports alleging underage people living in Sun City homes.

Szentmiklosi does not particularly like knocking on those doors.

"We like to have a heart, but we need to look at the needs of the whole," he says.

Szentmiklosi walks up to a door on Cinnabar Avenue and knocks.

The report says a resident's adult daughter has moved into the home with three young children.

The resident opens the door, and Szentmiklosi identifies himself.

The woman immediately steps outside and closes the door behind her.

"I have my grandkids over once in a while, but it's just visiting Grandma," she says.

"Nothing wrong with that," Szentmiklosi replies.

Then he starts asking some questions about

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her children and where they live. Then they meander off topic about home remodeling, and he finally steers her back to her children and grandchildren.

He appears to be looking for some inconsistencies, like the cop that he was for three decades.

"Yeah, old habits are hard to change," he would say later.

In the end, he thanks the woman for her time. The investigation, he says, is closed to his satisfaction.

But just as he is leaving, he turns to her again.

"Well, nice to see you this morning," he says with a smile. "You just need to know that somebody around here, one of your neighbors, is watching."

The player

At 9 in the morning in the pool hall of the Lakeview Lanes Recreation Center, Helen Gregory is ready to break.

Gregory, 98, has been shooting pool for 30 years. She spends every Monday and Saturday morning with the Billiard Belles.

"Playing with your friends and visiting is very important when you get older," she says. "It's important to have things on your schedule, to have something to look forward to. I wouldn't miss it."

Her husband taught her to play. Then her grandsons bought her some books on the game, which taught her "the nuances."

She moves around the table slowly, chalking her stick before each shot. Her hands and arms have a little more quiver than she would like, but as she stands over a shot, she collects herself. She steadies at the last moment and then strikes.

"I'm not especially good anymore," Gregory says. "I played it a lot better when I was in my 80s."

The playing is more important than the results. The Billiard Belles are her friends.

"Oh, they are wonderful," Gregory says. "When some of them get too old, we keep getting nice new ones. They are all nice girls."

When her husband of 73 years, Kenneth, died three years ago, she missed two weeks but then reappeared.

"It gives me something to look forward to," she says.

The other women in the group defer some to Gregory. She suspects they ease up a little on her during games, but they all say they do not.

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After 90 minutes of shooting pool, the women then go for brunch at Mojoes, the restaurant in the recreation center. Gregory skips brunch. She can't hear well anymore and stopped going when she felt she was missing the conversations.

But there is no way she is giving up the pool.

"I still like the same things I always liked. I'm just older," she says. "I'm still me."

The poster child

In the noonday sun, Bill Pearson leaves the Sun Cities Museum, locks the door behind him and climbs into his golf cart for the drive home.

He is 61 but looks 10 years younger. He is fit and intense. And he loves Sun City with a missionary zeal.

He remembers when he flew down from St. Paul, Minn.

"I fell in love with it the first time I came here in 1997 to visit my folks," Pearson says.

He called his wife to make an announcement. "The second night after I got in, I called my wife and said, 'This is where we are going to retire,'" Pearson says. "She said, 'What?'"

At the time of the call, Pearson was the president of the United Food & Commercial Workers Local 789.

He routinely worked 80-hour weeks. He liked organizing and negotiating. He admits to relishing a good fight.

He and his wife bought their Sun City home

after Pearson turned 50 years old, still too young to move in. They rented it out for four years, then they did some work on it. Then they left Minnesota for good.

"Everybody was stunned. I was a workaholic," Pearson says. "To a person they said, 'You are going to be bored to tears.' I never looked back."

What Pearson loved most about Sun City was its egalitarian nature. Although Sun City has a name, it is unincorporated. There is no city government. There are no positions of innate authority. There are volunteer boards and organizations that work together to keep the place going.

"No one controls Sun City; we control ourselves," Pearson says. "I am a collectivist at heart. I think people do better when they have a sense of responsibility and ownership."

Pearson has worked as hard at retirement as he did for the union.

He spent his first two years volunteering at the visitors center. Then he went to the HOA, where he served as a board member. "We

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rebuilt it from the ground up," he says. Now, he is the president of the Sun Cities Museum.

He played racquetball fanatically until he had his knees replaced. Now, he is into lawn bowling. He sets a goal of reading three books a week.

"When we go through life, we are always asking ourselves: What do I want to be when I grow up?" Pearson says. "I'm still asking myself that. I can wake up every day and ask myself: What do I want to do today?"

The striker

At 5 in the evening, Georgia Perry stands at the beginning of the lane, holding the bowling ball under her chin.

Her approach is studied and slow, her backswing graceful. Her ball does snap into its hook as it rolls down the lane, as much as it seems to change direction gracefully, like it was pushed by a strong breeze into the pocket of space right between the 1 pin and the 3 pin.

As all the pins fall, she turns around, smiles shyly and walks back.

Perry, 69, loves the game, but she had never played it before she moved to Sun City from Connecticut in 1993.

When she first arrived, she was into race walking and would routinely walk past the bowling alley in the recreation center near her home.

She would often see a woman who worked at the center standing outside smoking, and she would wave to her. One day, they got to chatting.

"She said I should come on in and give bowling a try," Perry says. "When I said I didn't know how, she said, 'Well, there is a lady right over there who can teach you.' "

This, she says, is typical of her experience since moving here. Perry is a Black woman in a place that is, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 96.1 percent White.

Perry says she has felt as welcome here as anywhere else in the country.

"It's all right. For me, it doesn't matter. It's all about who you are," Perry says. "When you find ignorance, you make room for it. You set them straight in a nice way. You find some here, but honestly, you find some everywhere."

What brought Perry and her husband here is the warm sun after a lifetime of Connecticut winters. "Fry me to the moon," she says.

But what keeps her here are the endless opportunities. "There is something to do every day. This is like a vacation for me."

And one of those things is the bowling. It's

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better exercise than you think, she says. Then she raises her short sleeve and shows off impressive biceps.

The widow

As night falls in Sun City, a bouquet of fresh flowers sits on the Brozka grave site at Sunland Memorial Park.

Sunland was not around when Sun City opened in 1960. A cemetery might not have fit the image.

But eventually even the most active of active adults are going to die.

So Sunland opened two years later.

The grave markers closest to the cemetery buildings show birth years in the 1890s and deaths in the 1960s and '70s.

Moving west across the grass, the birth dates move into the 20th century. They show young men who went off to war to fight the Germans and the Japanese.

Many of the gravesites are for two. Leonard Brozka, 1920-1999, lies next to an empty spot for Edith.

"I'm only 87," Edith Brozka says. "People don't think I'm 87 because they think when you get old you have to get fat."

Edith, in fact, is as healthy as can be. Every day she takes a multivitamin and a fish-oil pill. She goes for a checkup once a year, and the doctor advises her to keep doing what she is doing.

On New Year's Day, 1942, Edith and Len eloped in Napoleon, Ohio.

In 1991, the couple moved to Sun City. Life was good. There were friends and activities. Then, in 1999, Len died.

"I do miss my husband - oh yes, all the time. Fifty-eight years is a long time," Edith says. "They don't make them like that anymore. They don't come that nice."

Three months after Len's death, her twin sister died.

"Life goes on. You do what you have to do," Brozka says. "God gave me a life, and he meant me to live it."

So she volunteers at the local hospital. She is committed to exercise and never misses her water-aerobics classes. She also loves to sew.

"I'm always shortening slacks for somebody," Brozka says. "It seems we are all getting shorter."

Her life, she says, is full and rich and filled with friends.

Her daughter, back in Pennsylvania, used to

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nudge her mother to come back east. But Sun City is her home. It is her husband's home, too.

"I'll still get him flowers, just to let him know that I am thinking about him," Brozka says. "I'll be buried with Len. After 58 years, I can't leave him. He's waiting for me."

Reach the reporter at john.faherty@arizonarepublic.com.

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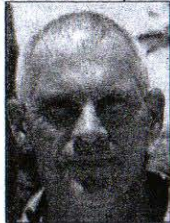
Sun Citians celebrate Webb's birthday

By Bill Pearson

Temperatures are starting to heat up and with those tepid temps come a slower pace and more indoor activities.

Throw into the mix the winter residents leaving by the motorhome load and it becomes apparent why the Sun City 50th anniversary festivities fall off during the summer months.

However, there are still events going on and perhaps none more promi-



Bill Pearson

nent than the birthday celebration for Sun City's founder, Del Webb. He died on July 4, 1974 at the age of 76. If he was still alive, he would be turning 111. Not an age unheard of in this fabled community.

The festivities will be conducted at the Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive, on Sunday May 16. The doors open at noon with cake and refreshments being served on the patio from 12:30 to 3:45 p.m. Two presentations will be conducted inside the rec center, the first starting at 1 p.m. and the second at 2:45 p.m.

See **Birthday** — Page 28

Birthday

Continued From Page 17

Party favors, a cadre of Webb employees stopping by, Jim Gatscher presenting "The Life and Times of Del Webb" and Sun City's own renown actress Tanya Griffin portraying Webb's secretary Maxine Newman will be included in the day's activities.

To help make the festivities even more memorable, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum (next door to the Oakmont Recreation Center) will be open from noon to 4:30 p.m. During this 50-year celebration of the community's birth, the museum has been sporting record crowds and this special Sunday opening should add to those impressive totals.

Later that evening, the Arizona Trio will be playing an outdoor show at the Sun Bowl starting at 7:30 p.m. For those who still have gas in that tired old tank, the Sun City Players will be performing "Laugh Out" on Monday, May 17 at the Mountain View Recreation Center auditorium, 9749 N. 107th Ave., beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at the door or in advance.

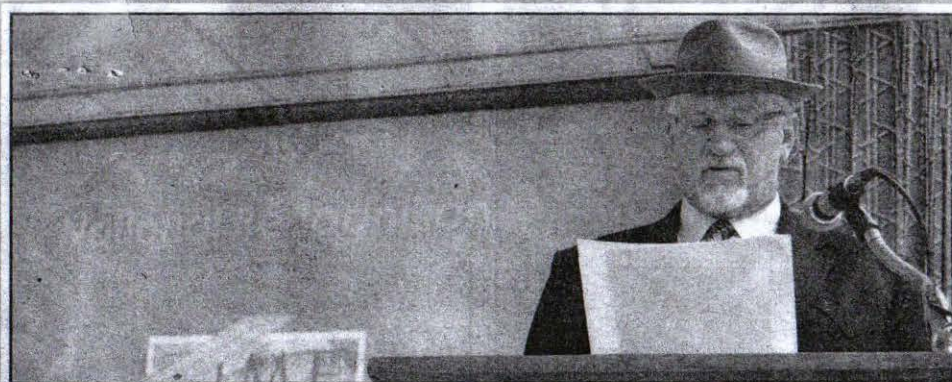
The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will shift to its summer hours June 1. Recognizing many of the year-round residents are working, the summer hours will be 9 a.m.-noon Thursdays and Saturdays and 5-8 p.m. Fridays. In addition, group tours can be run

for as few as four people and reservations can be made by calling 623-974-2568 and asking for Judy.

Raffle tickets for the Smart Car to be given away at the 50th anniversary closing ceremony in January are moving briskly and tickets can be purchased all summer at the Sun City Visitors Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave. They are on reduced hours during the summer, mornings Monday through Saturday. Shirts, hats, visors and other memorabilia is also on sale there.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson is Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee publicity chairman.





Photos by Bret McKeand/Independent Newspapers

Happy Birthday Del Webb!

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society celebrated the 111th birthday of the community's founder with a special event May 16 at Oakmont Recreation Center. More than 200 people attended the program, which featured complimentary cake, recollections of the early days of the community by several former Del Webb Development Co. employees, and a special biography on the life of Del Webb as told by Jim Gatscher of the Sun City Players. By the end of the day, 450 slices of cake were served and 215 people toured the Del E. Webb Sun Cities Museum located next door to Oakmont Recreation Center. Above is Mr. Gatscher portraying the famous builder in "The Life and Times of Del Webb," a story accompanied by a Powerpoint presentation. Below left, Jane Freeman, founder of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and Bill Pearson, SCAHS president, prepare to cut the ceremonial cake. Below right, Bev Dryer Stewart, founder and second coach of the Sun City Saints, shared stories about the community's national championship women's fast-pitch softball team. The team played in Sun City during the 1970s and 1980s, and was immensely popular with local fans. Ms. Stewart, 71, now lives in Phoenix and has donated a large collection of Saints memorabilia to the museum.





Independent Newspapers/Julie Maurer

Mystery photo winners

Independent Newspapers West Valley Publisher Charlene Bisson presented four Diamondbacks tickets to Christa and Bill Hayes of Sun City. They won the random drawing of the feature Image Enigma, presented by Independent Newspapers in partnership with the Sun Cities Historical Society.

Image Enigma Winners

Christa and Bill Hayes have been announced as the winner of Independent Newspaper's and the Sun City Historical Society's Image Enigma contest. They won tickets to the Arizona Diamondbacks vs. San Francisco Giants game Wednesday, Sept. 8.

The Hayes can claim their prize by calling or visiting Independent Newspapers at 623-972-6101 or 17220 N. Boswell Blvd., suite L101, Sun City, 85373.

VF SCAHS IMAGE ENIGMA INDEPENDENT JUNE 2, 2010

IMAGE ENIGMA

Submitted photo/Courtesy of the Sun Cities Historical Society

Jumping the tracks

Independent Newspapers and the Sun Cities Historical Society present a mystery photo content. Each week the Independent will feature a new photo and readers are invited to guess the picture. Those with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing to win Arizona Diamondbacks tickets vs. the San Francisco Giants 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8. Can you describe the area in the photo above? E-mail answers to Bill Pearson at scahs@scazhistory.org. The Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, hosts summer hours 9 a.m.-noon Thursday-Saturday and 5-8 p.m. Friday.

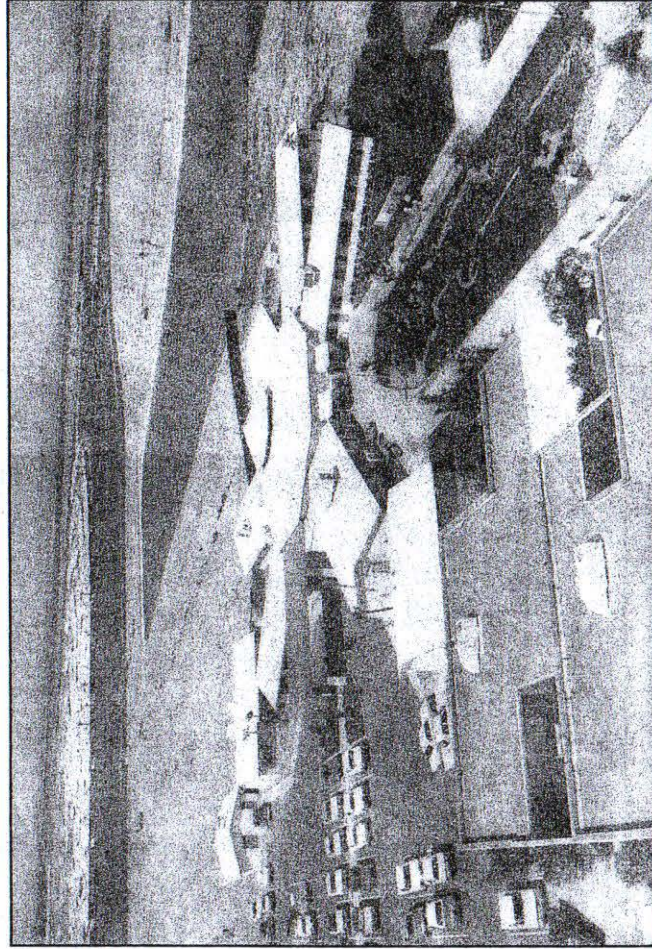
**Image Enigma
Answers Revealed**

Readers are wondering why the Independent didn't print the answers to last week's Image Enigma. We apologize for the confusion. Here are the answers to the prior two weeks.

6/2: In the late 1960s, the Del E. Webb Development Co. announced plans to "jump" north of Grand Avenue and expand Sun City. Until that time, Sun City's boundaries had been confined to the area south of Grand Avenue. The new area would become known as Phase 2, and extend the retirement community's boundaries north to Bell Road. In 1969, the company unveiled an elaborate model home sales pavilion just north of the new recreation center (Lakeview) and Sun City's first lake.

6/9: Opening day! Sun City founder Del E. Webb, left, was on hand for a ceremony that took place in January 1967 to officially mark the opening of the Sun Bowl outdoor amphitheater. Del Webb dedicated the facility and presented a flag to Michael Bross, president of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

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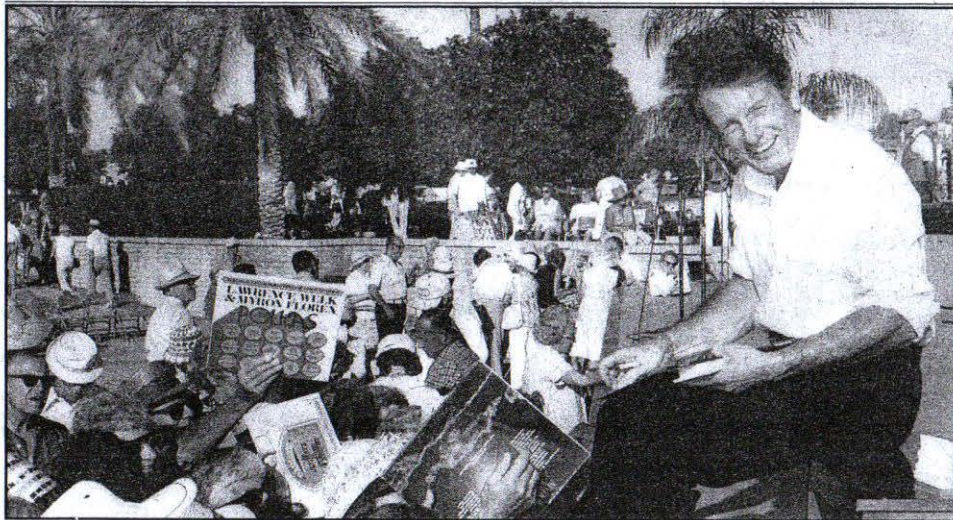
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IMAGE ENIGMA



Submitted photo/Courtesy of the Sun Cities Historical Society

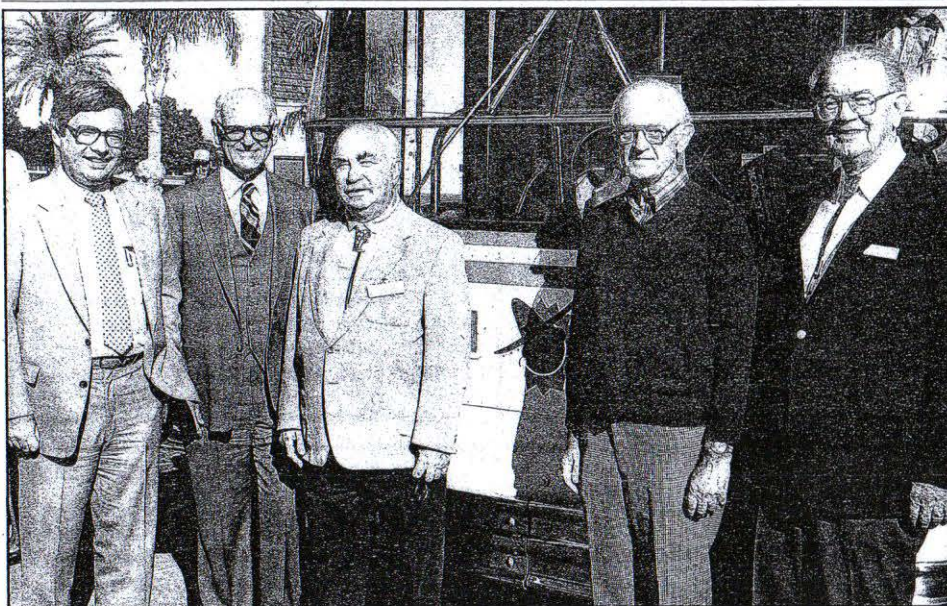
Guess who?

Independent Newspapers and the Sun Cities Historical Society present a mystery photo contest. Each week the Independent will feature a new photo and readers are invited to guess the picture. Those with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing to win Arizona Diamondbacks tickets vs. the San Francisco Giants 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8. Who is in the above picture? Do you know the significance of the event? Hint: He was a popular performer on the Lawrence Welk show. E-mail answers to Bill Pearson at scahs@sczhistory.org. The Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, hosts summer hours 9 a.m.-noon Thursday-Saturday and 5-8 p.m. Friday.

Image Enigma Answers Revealed

6/16: Sun City celebrates its 10th anniversary with TV star Myron Floren at the Sun Bowl. Mr. Floren was a regular performer on the popular Lawrence Welk television show and frequent performer in Sun City and Sun City West throughout the years. Independent reader Karen Stephenson shares a memory of Myron: She used to listen to her friend's father practice the accordion with him and play soccer. Reader Susan Sagahon said she had the opportunity to play on stage with him in the 50s at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, Calif.

IMAGE ENIGMA



Submitted photo/Courtesy of the Sun Cities Historical Society

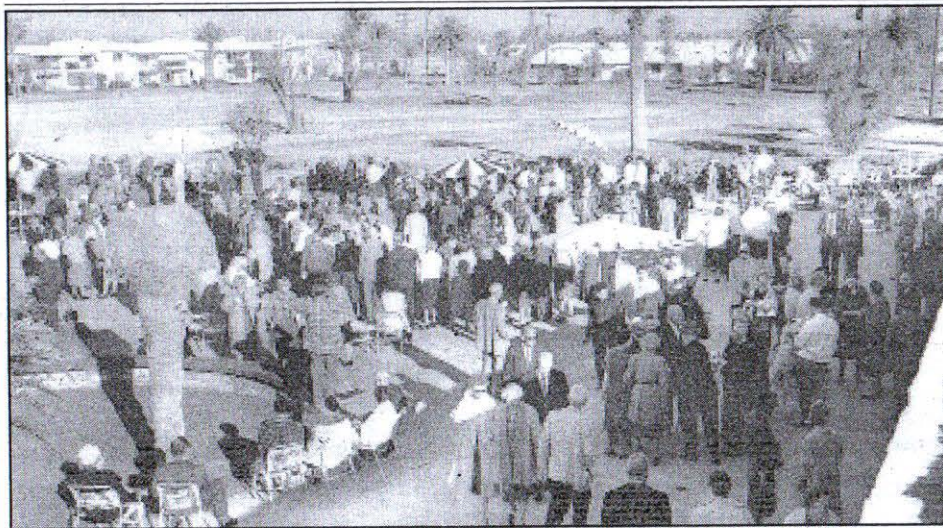
Ready to roll!

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Image Enigma Answers Revealed

6/23: Sun City celebrates the opening of the Sun City Area Transit. Image Enigma will return 7/14. Thank you for your patience.

IMAGE ENIGMA



Submitted photo/Courtesy of the Sun Cities Historical Society

Welcome

Independent Newspapers and the Sun Cities Historical Society present a mystery photo contest. The Independent will feature a new photo and readers are invited to guess the picture. Those with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing to win Arizona Diamondbacks tickets vs. the San Francisco Giants 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8. Do you know the significance of this event? E-mail answers to scahs@scazhistory.org. The Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, hosts summer hours 9 a.m.-noon Thursday-Saturday and 5-8 p.m. Friday.

Image Enigma Answers Revealed — Aug. 4

New residents were always officially welcomed to the community during a "Newcomers Coffee" hosted by the Del Webb Corporation. Picturedw as an early 1960's event at Town Hall Center (now Fairway Recreation Center). The tradition has continued through the years and Newcomers Coffees are today still conducted on a regular basis in both Sun City and Sun City West.

IMAGE ENIGMA



Submitted photo/Courtesy of the Sun Cities Historical Society

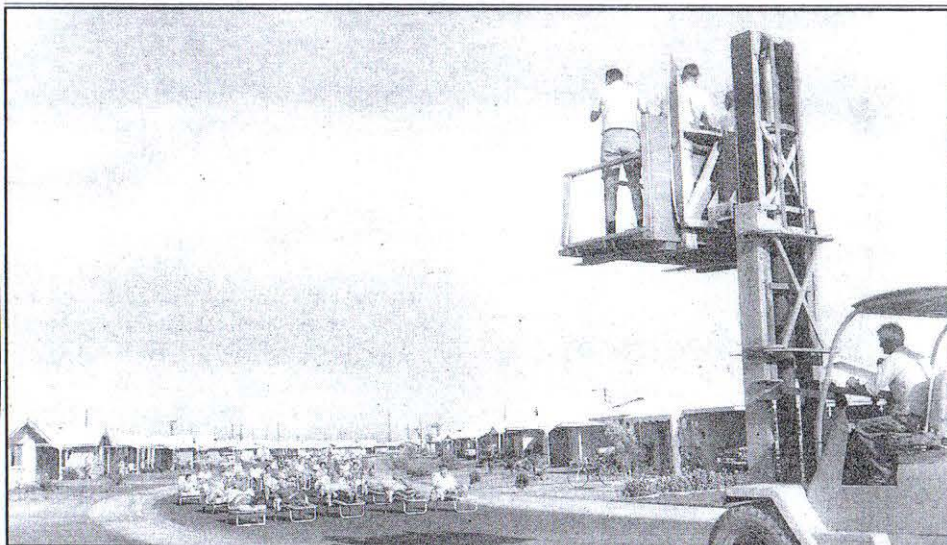
What's new?

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Image Enigma Answers Revealed — Aug. 11

Visitors preview the second set of model homes and the second recreation center (Town Hall Recreation Center - now Fairway Recreation Center) at the corner of 107th and Peoria avenues. The new series of model homes was unveiled on Jan. 29, 1961 and 40,000 attended the opening. The second section of Sun City to be constructed featured 1,975 homes and 400 apartments.

IMAGE ENIGMA



Submitted photo/Courtesy of the Sun Cities Historical Society

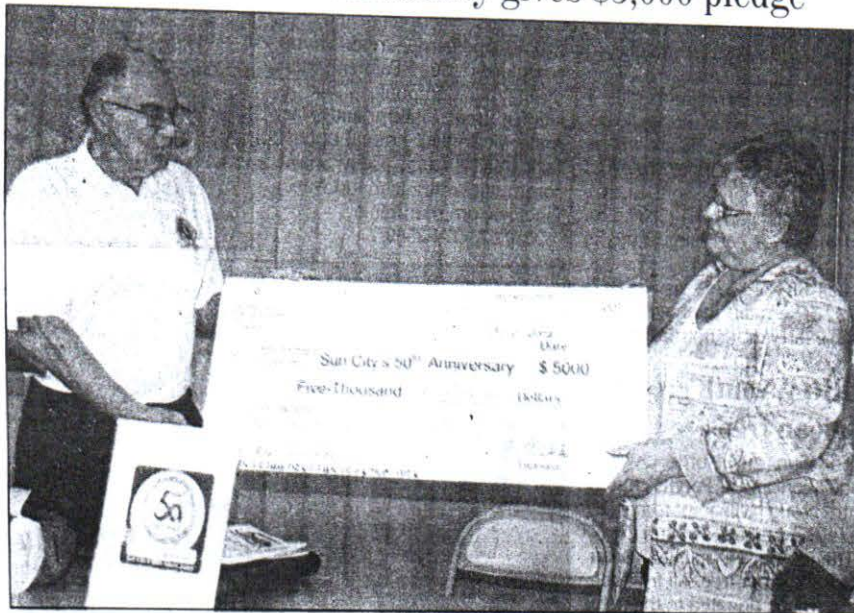
Say cheese

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Image Enigma Answers Revealed — Aug. 18

The idea of a community devoted entirely to active retirees generated interest from media throughout the world. The Del Webb Corporation's talented public relations and marketing team was adept at promoting the community through the printed word and photos that always showed residents having fun and enjoying life. In 1963, the PR team lines up residents in lounge chairs for a promotional advertisement that would be published in the Saturday Evening Post.

Kick Start: Historical society gives \$5,000 pledge



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
Dave Verble, left, Sun Cities Historical Society president, presents Susan Sommers, Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee president, with a mock check for \$5,000, pledging the organization would contribute that amount to the celebration activities.

Committee seeks resident help

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City's 50th anniversary got a jump start in funding last week.

The Sun Cities Historical Society pledged \$5,000 to the committee coordinating the celebration activities for 2010. The announcement was made during the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee's Jan. 21 public meeting, which drew about 20 people.

The historical society pledge kick-started the committee's fundraising efforts, which have been slow so far, according to Sun City resident Bill Pearson.

"We didn't get much from businesses outside Sun City," Mr. Pearson said. "We will do what Sun City residents have always done, we will look within for what we need."

In addition, the committee cut back on some of the planned activities, with the hope that if fundraising picks

Related Link

www.suncity50thanniversary.org

up some can be added back in, according to Sun City resident Susan Sommers, 50th anniversary committee president.

"We do have people and businesses coming forward," Ms. Sommers said. "But it is difficult out there."

Businesses that have committed to supporting the effort include Colby Management, Ken Meade Realty, Sun City Home Owners Association, Sunshine Service, Windemere Realty Thunderbird, Union Hills Country Club, Recreation Centers of Sun City and the Sun Cities Historical Society.

"We started people thinking about the celebration at the Circle of 50 breakfast in November," Ms. Sommers.

Donation boxes for the committee are available at Safeway, 10926 W. Bell Road, through mid-March, she added. One

resident suggested approaching grocery stores about their e-script program, which donates a small percentage of sales to nonprofit organizations. The Sun City Posse utilizes the e-script program. However, Ms. Sommers said committee officials were looking for funding that provided money up front.

"Also, if you get too many organizations doing the same thing it dilutes the program for all those participating," said Sun City resident Paul Herrmann, committee publicity coordinator and Sun City Visitors Center director.

In calling on Sun City residents and businesses to help the effort, he quoted community founder Del Webb; who said, "I built you a community, but only you can fulfill its promise."

Mr. Herrmann said Sun City's longevity indicates significant work has been done on

• See Help — Page 9

Help

Continued From Page 1

that fulfillment, but the yearlong 50th anniversary in 2010 needs resident and business participation to showcase it.

"It is up to us to step up to the plate and make this work," he said.

Mr. Pearson encouraged residents to step forward in large numbers to support the anniversary celebration both monetarily and with volunteer efforts. When speaking of the anniversary sponsor stickers sold for \$50 each, he paused, took \$100 from his wallet and said, "I'll take two."

"Now is the time for you to show how much you love Sun City," Mr. Pearson said. "If the community works together, we don't need anything from outside our walls."

He suggested if all of the 2,500 sponsor stickers are sold, that would give the committee \$125,000, enough to pay for the celebration.

"We can show the world why Sun City is the best retirement community in the world," he said. "If we don't take pride in our community it won't be here in 50 years."

Mr. Pearson and his wife, Lori Peterson, will co-chair the committee's sports events subcommittee. But he said he had

another unofficial job.

"It is my job to get you all pumped up about this," he said.

The committee has a tentative schedule of events, including grand opening ceremonies Dec. 9 and a golf tournament the following day. The year-long celebration will kick off Jan. 1 with the ringing of church bells and chimes, followed by an anniversary party commemorating the Jan. 1, 1960, opening of Sun City. Other monthly events include a concert and dance in February, a parade and barbecue in March, a community variety show in April, a birthday party for Del Webb in April, an Independence Day pancake breakfast in July, an ice cream social in August, a sock

hop in September, an Oktoberfest in October, a second community variety show in November and a grand finale in December.

Ms. Sommers said other activities will be added to the calendar as they are finalized.

"We're working with all the clubs and organizations to see what they want to do in partnership with us," she said.

Visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org or e-mail SunCity50thAnniversary@cox.net to volunteer or donate to the committee.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Sun Cities News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.



The Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee received an unexpected surprise during its Jan. 21 meeting. The Sun Cities Historical Society announced its was lending its full support to the campaign marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of Sun City and presented the committee with a \$5,000 donation. The gift is the largest single donation received by the committee to date. David Verble, left, president of the Historical Society, presented the donation. Next year, 2010, marks the golden anniversary for the nation's most famous retirement community. For information on contributing to the committee and activities planned for 2010, email SunCity50thAnniversary@cox.net.

Ring the Bell highlights July 4 activities

By Bill Pearson
Special to the Independent

Fourth of July celebrations are nothing new to Sun City. The community has always been as patriotic as anywhere in the country.

Sun City has large numbers of veterans living within the walls and those who aren't have always been quick to pay tribute to those who are. Celebrating the country's birthday and honoring those who sacrificed for freedoms is just what Sun City residents do.

This year is an extra special treat with Sun City celebrating 50 years of existence. The 14-month party continues Monday, July 4 with an early morning continental breakfast at the Bell Recreation social halls sponsored by Pricilla Richie and the Ken Meade Greenway office. She brings with her a fabulous war memorabilia collection that you will not want to miss.

The breakfast will run from 7-9 a.m. Immediately following that, is the annual Recreation Centers of Sun City ringing of the bell ceremony led by Uncle Sam, Sun City resident Ray Mills, and a supporting cast of inspiring characters. The program runs from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

For those eager for more, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, next door to the Oakmont Recreation Center, will open its doors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For those unfamiliar with how the Sun City "Liberty" replica bell came to be, there will be a pictorial display giving all of the details on its birth.

The museum is housed in one of the original model homes, restored in part to look as it did opening day 1960. The displays and collections included inside provide a history of how Sun City was created.

Bell

Continued From Page 2

The museum's summer hours are 9 a.m. to noon Thursday and Saturday mornings and 5-8 p.m. Friday evenings from 5 p.m. Summer hours run June and July and Friday nights in July will provide an added bonus. This late night, date night special will feature the 22-minute film "The Beginnings" and each Friday evening will have a twist with popcorn and other special treats.

The Museum can also be opened for those looking to bring a group, club or organization though by calling 623-974-2568 and scheduling a convenient time.

July's fun does not end there. A free concert is scheduled 7 p.m. Sunday, July 18 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. This one is a bit unique for Sun City as the RCSC has stepped up to bring in a group that is expected to appeal to a younger crowd. The Simon and Garfunkel Tribute band will play hits that many of the boomers will even be able to sing along to.

Tickets for the January 50th anniversary raffle are on sale at the Sun City Visitor Center, open mornings Monday-Saturday until Labor Day.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson is a Sun Cities Historical Society Museum Board of Directors member.

Monday, May 10, 2010

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

A3

Sun City serves up anniversary events



JOY SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Soroptimist Dorothy Kay of Sun City Grand serves strawberry shortcake Saturday at the Lakeview Recreation Center in Sun City for a festival celebrating Sun City's 50th Anniversary.

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A strawberry festival and an open house at Del Webb Sun Cities Museum drew steady crowds Saturday for another in a series of events celebrating Sun City's 50th Anniversary.

The Valley of the Sun Soroptimists sponsored the strawberry festival in Lakeview Recreation Center social hall.

Proceeds benefit Soroptimist's Service Fund, which provides scholarships and grants to community organizations to improve the lives of women and girls both locally and around the world.

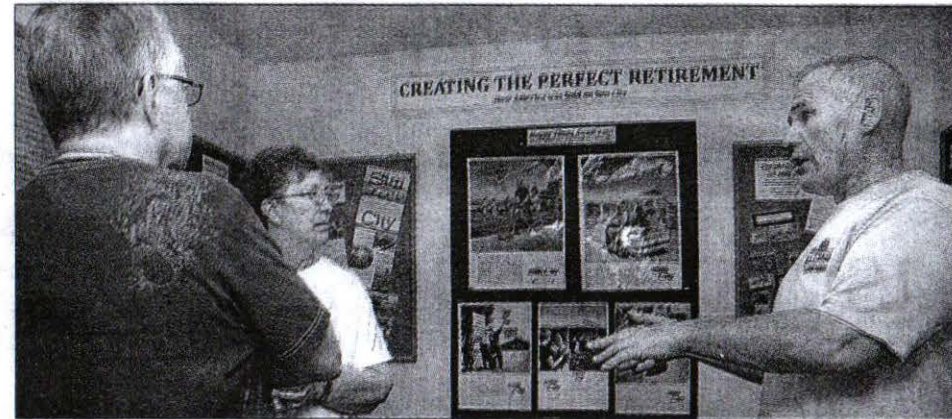
Jo Williams and Gretchen Long of Sun City came to help the charities, as much as for the dessert.

"We read about it in the paper and wanted to help the good cause," Long said.

Event organizer Priscilla Fenner, said the group wanted to revive the spring festival which was during Mother's Day weekends in the 1970s.

"Everyone likes shortcake just fine," Fenner said.

Strawberry festival participants were encouraged to visit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, where



JOY SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Roger and Judy Burnett of Sun City listen to Bill Pearson talk about the history of Sun City during their visit Saturday to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Pearson is president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

new exhibits celebrate Del E. Webb, his company, baseball and golf and Marinette, the town site in the cotton fields on which Sun City was built.

Judy and Roger Burnett were two of the first visitors at the open house, after attending the strawberry festival.

Though they have lived in Sun City six years, this was their first visit to the museum. The Burnetts work, so they said they have not had the opportunity to explore all Sun City has to offer.

"We're learning more than we knew before today about Sun City," Judy said. "We didn't know Del Webb was involved with so many other things besides Sun City."

Bill Pearson, president of Sun Cities Historical Society, said the

museum has seen a dramatic increase in visitors this year.

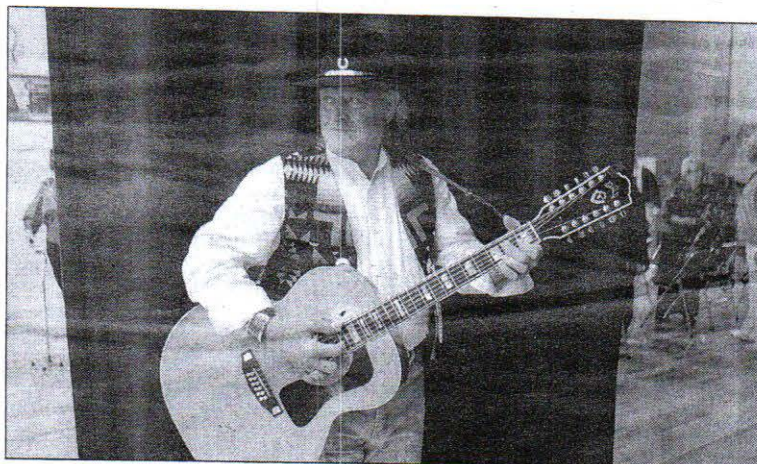
"We've had 1,450 people visit in the last four months," Pearson said. "And that is more than we have had in two and a half years."

"We wanted this to be the best year ever, and we have already achieved that," he said.

The museum occupies one of the first homes Webb built for the 1960 debut of Sun City. It is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

On June 1, the museum will switch to summer hours: 9 a.m. to noon Thursdays and Saturdays, and 5 to 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Joy Slagowski may be reached at 623-876-2414 or jslagowski@yourwestvalley.com.



Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official state balladeer, will entertain Saturday afternoon at the Sundial Recreation Center.

NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Parade celebrates Sun City's 50th anniversary

This Saturday marks one of the next big events for Sun City's 50th anniversary. A community parade will travel from the Bell Recreation Center to the Sundial Recreation Center. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided afterward.

— Sherry Anne Rubiano/*The Republic/azcentral.com*

PARADE ROUTE

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the Bell Recreation Center, near Bell Road and 99th Avenue. The parade will travel west on Hutton Drive to Del Webb Boulevard, south on Del Webb Boulevard to Talisman Road, and east on Talisman to Boswell Boulevard. The parade will end at the Sundial Recreation Center. It will feature floats, a dance band, a Wells Fargo stagecoach, Shriners, the Luke Air Force Base Color Guard, camels, a horse drill team, and the Come Back Buddy Band. The parade is sponsored by Royal Oaks Lifecare Community.

PARADE DINNER

After the parade, food and refreshments can be purchased from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Sundial center. Entertainment will include Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official state historian, and Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official state balladeer.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, said the parade is designed to be a good time, which matches the overall theme of Sun City's 50th anniversary yearlong celebration. Upcoming events include a golf tournament April 10, the Sun Bowl Variety Show April 21, and Del Webb's Birthday Party on May 16.

INFORMATION

Visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org for a full calendar of events or call the Sun City Visitors Center at 623-977-5000.

March 3, 2010

SUN CITY INDEI

Everybody loves a parade

By Bill Pearson

From Sun City's earliest days, parades have played an important role in anniversary celebrations.

This 50th anniversary is no different and may well be the biggest and best of them all. Scheduled for Saturday, March 13, the Del Webb 50th Anniversary parade route will leave from Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and go down Hutton Drive to Del Webb Boulevard, turning onto Tailsman Road and proceeding to Boswell Boulevard, ending at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will take approximately two hours. It is 3.3 miles along the parade route and the number of vehicles, animals, marchers and assorted entries are bigger and better than any past parade Sun City has ever been. We encourage watchers to get their lawn chairs out early and for those living on the parade streets that intersect, plan your day accordingly. The parade route will be blocked off from traffic for the safety of those entered.

Leading the festivities will be the grand marshals Dolan Ellis and Marshall Trimble. Once they arrive at Sundial Recreation Center they will be performing at the afternoon barbeque in the center parking lot. The Sundial Men's Club will be selling brats and chips for \$2, and pop, beer and water for \$1.

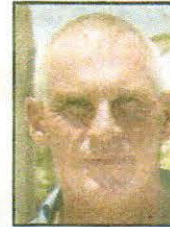
Without giving too much away, there will be camels, a stagecoach, horses, mini-cars, classic cars and a plethora of other types of units assembled. You won't want to miss this 50th gala event as it will be one for the ages.

March is one of our busiest months and beyond the parade and barbeque, there are dozens of events. One of the most popular is Wisconsin Days scheduled Thursday, March 4 (the anniversary program had the wrong date so please take note). It will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be at the Sun Bowl. There is a \$7 donation for those attending.

One day later, Friday, March 5, there will be a group photo opportunity for all those taking part in the February 50-mile challenge. Our goal is to assemble all those participating and capture for posterity just how active Sun City residents are. There will be

GUEST Commentary

Bill Pearson



some great door prizes for those who turn in their log sheets so if you were involved come on down to the Sun Bowl at 1 p.m. and be memorialized as one of the many.

As always, you can refer to your handy 50th Anniversary guide for times, dates and places. If you need one, copies are available at the Sun City Visitor Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and other locations in the community. Better yet, visit our Web site at www.suncity50thanniversary.org for the updated calendar with times and locations corrected. T-shirts, golf shirts and other 50th anniversary items are still on sale at the Visitor Center as well.

And one last reminder: Our RCSC 50th anniversary golf tournament still has some openings. This event will be at Sun City's first golf course and will feature a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start. The North Course, 12650 N. 107th Ave., is historic and only a fitting site for this fun event. There will be lots of gimmicks, games and awesome prizes, so get your entries in soon or run the risk of being shut out. The forms are available at the Visitor Center, online at our Web site or the various Sun City golf courses.

Hope to see you all at the parade.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson is Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee publicity chairman.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

DAILY NEWS-SUN

MY VIEW

Sun City's 50th Anniversary events dot calendar

BILL PEARSONPUBLICITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
SUN CITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Though the 50th anniversary date has come and gone, the year long celebration is in full swing with the calendar of events jam-packed with non-stop action. Clearly, there is something for everyone and if you haven't received a copy of the program or if you threw it out, there are copies available at the Visitors Center.

Coming up this week are two examples of the range of events. On Friday at the Sun Bowl is the opening ceremony for the Arizona Senior Olympics. Starting at 4 p.m., this kickoff marks the first time Sun City has played host to this grand event that celebrates the active lifestyle enjoyed by seniors all across Arizona. Then over the next two weeks, Sun City will be the home of five of the dozens of games. The opening ceremony is free and open to the public.

Saturday at the Sundial auditorium, we are having a special semi-formal dance. The Howard Schneider Big Band Orchestra will play from 6:30 to 10 p.m.. Tickets are \$10 per person, it is BYOB. There will be light refreshments, coffee and ice water on hand. The 10-piece orchestra will ensure an evening of great dancing for Sun City rec card holders and it is open to the public. Tickets are available at the door and at the Sun City Visitors Center through Friday.

The remainder of the month has a half dozen great opportunities as well so please check your program for dates, times and locations. You can also visit our Web site at www.suncity50thanniversary.org for the updated calendar of events.

March promises to be the biggest and best of celebrations yet. Heading up the long lineup of events is the Del Webb 50th Anniversary Parade scheduled on March 13. Never will Sun City have seen the likes of this 3-mile caravan and collection of pure joy. Details will come but be sure to mark your calendar for a day of fun because immediately following the parade will be the Parade Barbeque in the Sundial rec center parking lot. Tickets for food, beer and beverages will be ridiculously inexpensive and the entertainment will be exceptional.

And for those of you who participated in the 50-Mile Challenge, we will have a photo shoot at the Sun Bowl. It is scheduled for March 5 at 1 p.m., so plan on stopping by and getting your picture taken with all of the other fitness fanatics.

While the details are still being worked out, the Daily News-Sun and the 50th Anniversary Committee is hammering out what may well qualify for a Guinness World Book of Records event. The Sun City Showcase of Homes will be on March 5, 6 and 7. Stay tuned as we plan to show the world exactly why Sun City is the best value for active retirement living in the country.

Easy to see there is lots going on, and we hope you all are taking part in these world-class events. As always, you can get more information from the Sun City Visitors Center or by visiting our Web site posted above. 50th Anniversary merchandise is available at the Visitors Center open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Hope to see you all at the events.

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CELEBRATING



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Shirley Cleveland of Sun City Choraliers (front) is joined by Patty Mason (left) and Jocelyn Rogers at Sundial Recreation Center.

Sun City

Sun City got an early start on its 50th anniversary celebrations this week. The community's official anniversary is Jan. 1. More events are planned to mark the occasion.

PAGES

Retirement area Sun City turns 50

REAGOR

Sun City's 50th

Fifty years ago, developer Del E. Webb opened his first Sun City retirement community just as retirees were beginning to flock to Arizona for its warm weather.

Del Webb's company, which was bought by Pulte Homes in the late 1990s, changed the way Americans retire and helped make Arizona a destination.

The original Sun City continues to draw residents, as do the three newer Sun Cities west of it in the Valley.

Sun City celebrates 'extraordinary past, brilliant future'

STAFF REPORT

After an opening ceremony earlier this month, Sun City will officially begin its 50th anniversary year of celebration Friday. To mark the occasion, the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee will play host to a party from noon to 2 p.m. at the Bell Recreation Center Social Hall, complete with entertainment and refreshments. Following the party, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, will have an open house for those interested in taking a trip back in time. The open house will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

While organizers are certainly hoping for a large turnout at Friday's party, they would be crazy to expect a turnout like Del Webb got back on Jan. 1, 1960. When Del Webb and his partners decided to greenlight the active retirement community that would become Sun City, they were confident it would be a hit, but they did not know what the early response



would be. Webb worked for more than five months to convert a cotton field into a city, complete with a golf course, recreation center,

shopping center and five model homes. With lots of press coverage leading up to the opening weekend, Webb said he hoped to have 10,000 people visit for opening weekend. He was off just a little — by about 90,000.

More than 100,000 people visited Sun City that weekend, proving to Webb and the rest of the world that a new era in retirement living had begun. The response on Jan. 1, 1960, proved that retiring adults wanted more out of their twilight years than to sit on the couch. Those 100,000 people proved, contrary to popular

SEE SUN CITY, A5

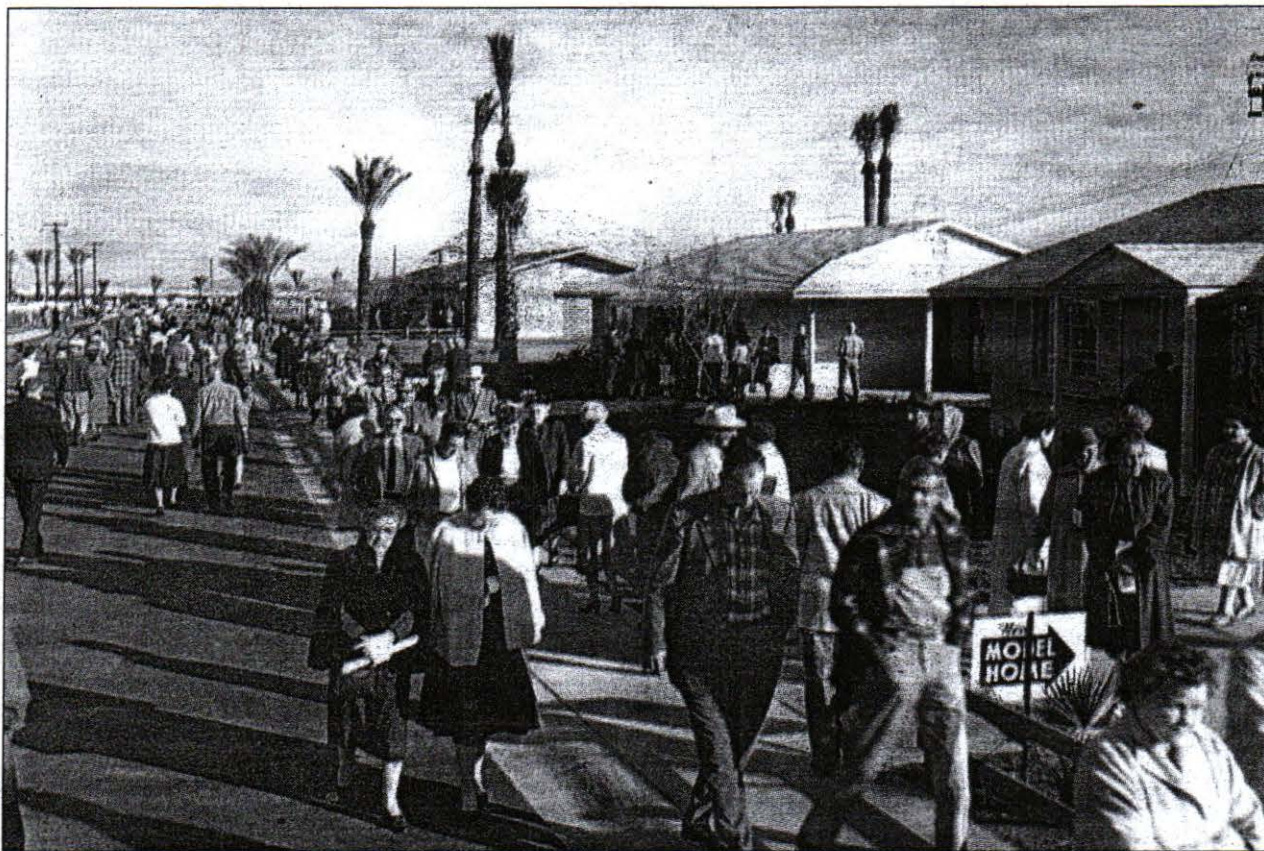


PHOTO COURTESY DEL WEBB SUN CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Crowds jam the streets of the infant Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960.

SUN CITY

FROM A1

belief, retirees were indeed willing to leave their families and cross the country to live among their peers.

The accomplishment was not

lost on Webb, in fact, it was a great source of pride. In 1962, Webb was profiled in TIME Magazine, and in that interview he said Sun City was his greatest achievement.

"When I see what we've built, it's the most satisfying thing that's ever happened to me.

An old fellow came up to me

once with tears in his eyes and thanked me for building Sun City. He said he was planning to spend the happiest 40 years of his life there."

Friday, today's Sun City residents will have a chance to honor that accomplishment.

Sun City. Fifty years later, and still going strong.

Daily News-Sun

Freedom Communications Newspaper © 2009

THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 2009

Sun City celebrates 'extraordinary past, brilliant future'

STAFF REPORT

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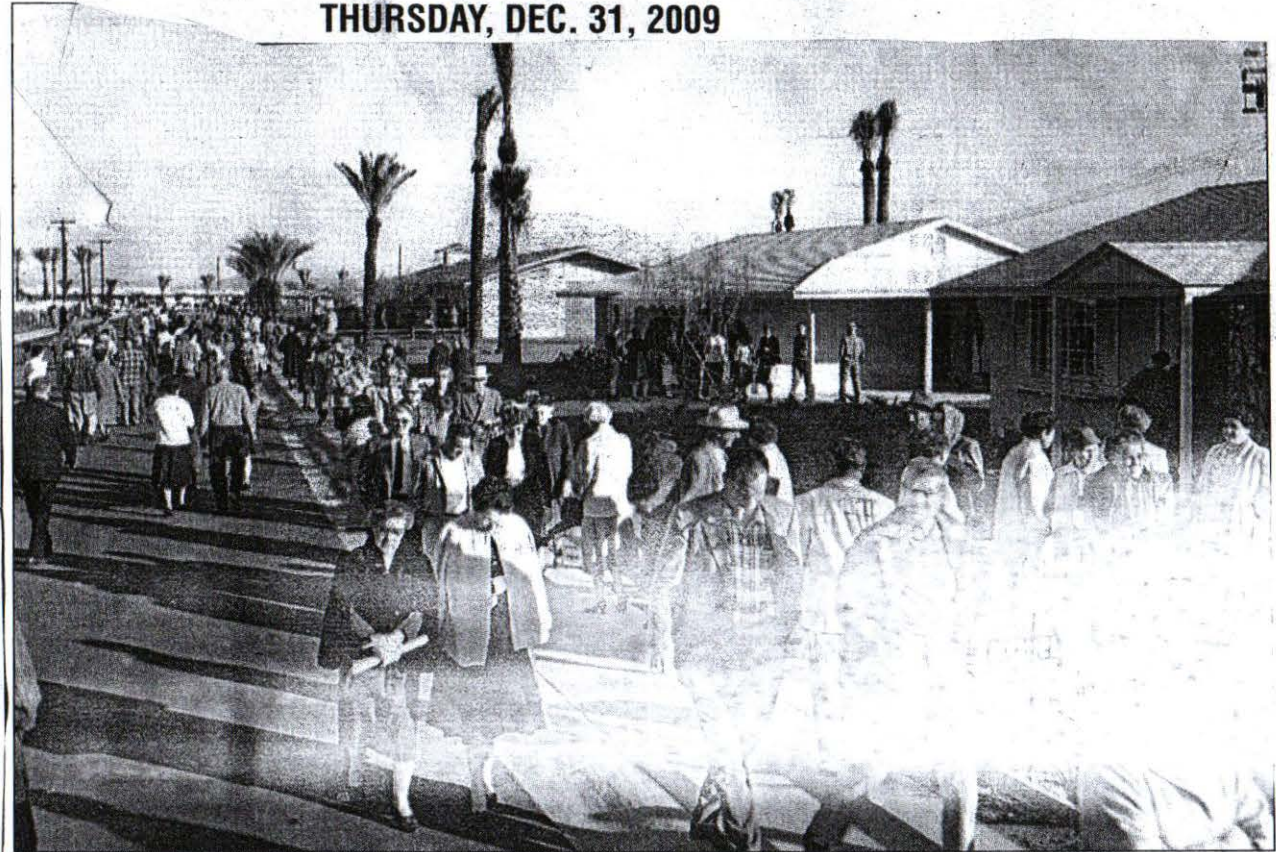
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SEE SUN CITY, A5



Crowds jam the streets of the infant Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960.

PHOTO COURTESY DEL WEBB SUN CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

SUN CITY

FROM A1

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Sun City. Fifty years later, and still going strong.



Daily News-Sun



Freedom Communications Newspaper © 2010

SATURDAY, JAN. 2, AND SUNDAY, JAN. 3, 2010



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mary Cole reacts after she and other guests release balloons during the Sun City's 50th Anniversary Party at Bell Recreation Center Social Hall in Sun City Friday. The balloons were fitted with tags in hopes they will be returned from where they land.

JEFF PIPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee, it is all about building momentum. With each event, they are hoping to get a few more people committed to the celebration. But with events early on, when that momentum has not been established, the turnout can be difficult to predict. Such was the case with the anniversary party New Year's Day at the Bell Recreation Center Social Hall.

"We were concerned about this one, yes," said Committee spokesman Paul Herrmann. "With Bell Rec Center closed today, we weren't sure we would be able to get people out here for it. But I think we're all very happy with the result."

SEE CELEBRATION, A5

CELEBRATION

FROM A1

Hundreds of people filled the social hall for two hours of food and entertainment, highlighted by the ringing of bells at 1 p.m. — the official anniversary time of Sun City — and the release of 50 balloons, one for each year. The crowd was a good one, Herrmann said, reiterating that the committee hopes to keep attracting new people each time.

"What we are hoping is that the crowds will continue to grow as we go along," he said. "The first few events are always scary because you never know how to plan. How much food to buy, that sort of thing. But we feel like we can keep all these people coming all year and just keep adding more and more."

In retrospect, committee member Bill Pearson said they wish they would have picked a different venue.

"I think we're all lamenting that we did not decide to do this at Oakmont Recreation Center, where it all began," Pearson said. "But hindsight is 20/20."

After the party, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum had an open house for those interested in continuing the fun.

"Another reason we wish we had this party at Oakmont, which is right next to the historical society," Herrmann said. "But it's OK. We'll keep that in mind next time."

Pearson said things will calm down a bit with 50th anniversary festivities now that the kickoff celebrations have come and gone.

"There's certainly no shortage of things to do in January, and I hope everyone will consult their calendars," Pearson said. "But we also have big plans over at the museum. The Del Webb exhibit is awesome. We're working very hard to get people pumped up about it."

For information, visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org or stop by the Sun City Visitor Center at Bell Recreation Center.

**Strong start
spurs
anniversary
momentum**



NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

The Sun City Choraliers perform during Sun City's 50th anniversary celebration at Sundial Recreation Center Auditorium. Many more activities are planned during the yearlong fete.

Sun City marks 50 years

By Sherry Anne Rubiano
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Sun City's yearlong 50th birthday bash is under way.

Wednesday's grand-opening ceremony initiated the festivities, themed "An Extraordinary Past - A Brilliant Future."

Honoring and keeping up Sun City's heritage is what this celebration is about, said Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center.

Sun City captured national headlines and became a model for other planned active-retirement communities worldwide when it opened in 1960.

Herrmann said this is an opportunity to recapture the spotlight and let the world know Sun City remains a vibrant community.

The grand-opening ceremony marked the first of more than 20 activities commemorating Sun City's golden anniversary in 2010.

Those who missed the kickoff have plenty more chances to celebrate.

The next is the Sun City Anniversary Party on Jan. 1 from noon to 2 p.m. at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave.

Variety shows, a parade and barbecue, a sock hop and pizza party, golf tournaments, health and wellness programs, and other activities are planned through January 2011.

A time capsule is in the works.

The Sun City 50th anniversary committee is asking the community for ideas on what to include. The time capsule will be sealed and put on display in the foyer of the new Fairway Recreation Center at 107th and Peoria avenues.

The time capsule will be opened at another milestone anniversary, possibly Sun City's 75th birthday, according to Herrmann.

Anniversary souvenirs, including T-shirts,

How to get involved

There are many ways residents and businesses can participate in Sun City's 50th anniversary. They can help fund activities by purchasing a \$50 Proud Sponsor decal. The decals will be available all through 2010.

Also, organizers are recruiting volunteers on an ongoing basis. About 100 volunteers have signed up so far to help out at various events.

Call the Sun City Visitors Center at 623-977-5000, visit suncity50thanniversary.org, or e-mail suncity50thanniversary@cox.net to learn more.

cup, visors and an anniversary magazine, will be available at each event and at the Sun City Visitors Center, 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

Groups like the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are participating.

The society plans to host an open house Jan. 1 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at its 10801 Oakmont Drive headquarters, which has been renamed the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

The building is among the five original home models that opened Jan. 1, 1960.

During the open house, there will be entertainment and refreshments.

Visitors can view a new Del Webb exhibit, which opens this month.

David Verble, president of the historical society, considers the 50th anniversary a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"We're trying to do as much as we can to make it a successful celebration and commemoration within the community and make it something that will be worth participating in," he said.

Celebration of Sun City's 50 years begins

By Bill Pearson

Imagine the sheer terror in the minds of the Devco employees as they gathered the night before the grand opening of Sun City.

Sitting around the Kings Inn on New Year's Eve, each had to ponder their fate if they had to explain to their boss, Del Webb, how wrong they were about trying to create some kind of magical, mystical retirement community in the middle of the desert.

Today, we look back on that magnificent moment in time and celebrate the genius of risk takers who changed the face of retirement. They took us from rocking chairs to a robust and rollicking good time as we aged. One hundred thousand people toured the Sun City model homes over that three day grand opening and retirement has never looked the same since.

In honor of those who had the intestinal fortitude to build it and the remarkable resiliency of those who moved here and shaped it, 2010 will be dedicated to them. We have set the course with a year-long celebration in memory and tribute to those pioneers who took a chance and gave us all something very special.

• The fun began Jan. 1 at the Bell Recreation Center social halls, 16820 N. 99th Ave., with an anniversary party to commemorate opening day. Beginning at noon and running for two hours attendees laughed, sang and remembered what a special day it was. Cake and ice cream was served, along with the Sun Cities School Board Quartet serenading the crowd. Immediately following that, the party moved on to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum (next door to the Oakmont Recreation Centers, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive) where there was an open house through 4:30 p.m. (music and treats included).

• At Bell Lanes/La Petite Restaurant, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and Lakeview Lanes/Mojoe's Restaurant, 10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd., ran a 50-cent special. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. bowling was 50 cents per line and hot dogs and soda were available for that same half a dollar each. This event was open to Sun City rec card holders and their guests.

• Starting with a social hour 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 the Sun City Life Long Learning Club and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will host a magnificent historical

GUEST Commentary

Bill Pearson



presentation on how Sun City came to be. This presentation is free and refreshments will be served so plan on stopping in for the fast moving three hour session. Admittance is limited to the first 250 people.



• The 50-mile challenge is slated to begin the first week of February so stay tuned as those details are announced.

These are just a handful of events from the jam-packed calendar in our 50th anniversary souvenir booklet program. If you do not have one, they are available, along with our souvenir shirts, caps and other items, at the Sun City Visitor Center. It is open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Or for more details visit our website at www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

Happy New Year from all of us at the 50th Anniversary Committee

Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson is Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee publicity chairman.

January 6, 2010

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT



This 1960 photograph shows opening day in Sun City. More than 100,000 people visited that weekend and 237 homes were sold.

Golden anniversary party about ready in Sun City

By Sherry Anne Rubiano

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

The wait is nearly over. Sun City's golden anniversary celebration officially kicks off Wednesday.

The grand-opening ceremony will be 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. The ceremony will feature free entertainment and presentations to mark Sun City's 50th anniversary, which officially falls on Jan. 1.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will give a tribute to Del E. Webb, Sun City's founder. There will be appearances by Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official state historian, and Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official state balladeer. The event also will feature the Luke Air Force Base Color Guard, carolers, a barbershop quartet, and a raffle for a new golf cart.

"We're just trying to get people excited," said Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center. "We wanted to get things kicked off early before the holidays got in full swing."

Other activities, including a golf tournament at Sun City Country Club and a holiday event at Lakeview Center, are scheduled the rest of the week to continue the celebration.

These are the first of more than 20 spe-

Upcoming events

Several activities are planned next week to celebrate Sun City's upcoming 50th anniversary. For more information, visit suncity50thanniversary.org or call 623-977-5000.

Grand Opening Ceremony

1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Sun City 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament

12:30 p.m. shotgun start Thursday at Sun City Country Club, 9433 N. 107th Ave. The tournament is sold out.

Sun City Holiday Celebration

4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Lakeview Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. Free event featuring Santa displays, musical performances, games and refreshments.

Source: Sun City 50th anniversary committee.

cial events planned to commemorate Sun City's historic birthday. The Sun City 50th anniversary committee has organized dances, variety shows, health and wellness programs, a parade and barbecue, golf tournaments, and additional activities through January 2011.

Remember when



John Meeker, third from left, joins other Del Webb officials in cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of Lakeview Recreation Center in 1971. DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

JANUARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Jan 1	Sun City's 50th Anniversary Party	12 noon - 2 pm @ Bell Social Hall
Jan 1	Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Open House	2 pm - 4 pm @ Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
Jan 2 & 3	50¢ Bowling 50¢ Hot Dogs 50¢ Soda	8 am - 3 pm ONLY @ Bell Lanes/La Petite Restaurant & @ Lakeview Lanes/Mojoe's Restaurant
Jan 2	Pickleball Fun Day	1 pm - 3pm @ Mountain View
Jan 6	Together Again: Judy Garland & Liza Minelli Tribute. Tickets \$12.50	7 pm @ Sundial
Jan 9	Daily News Sun Open House	8 am - 12 noon
Jan 9 - 11	Gil Stephan AZ Mixed Rinks 4's	8:30 am @ Bell & Lakeview
Jan 11	Chamber Music West, Ying Quartet (Contact Church for details)	7:30 pm @ Faith Presbyterian Church
Jan 12 & 13	Salisbury Singles Lawn Bowling Tournament	8:30 am @ Bell, Lakeview Oakmont, Fairway Greens
Jan 13	Nutrition & Fitness Program - Free (Banner Boswell Presentation)	10 -11 am & 7 pm - 8 pm @Sundial East Hall
Jan 14	Sundial All Clubs Open House	9 am - 1 pm @ Sundial
Jan 14	Buffet & Entertainment Great Little Balloon Company	5:30 pm @ Faith Presbyterian (Contact Church for details)
Jan 16	50th Anniversary Kick-off Tennis Party	1 pm @ Bell Courts
Jan 16	Pickleball Fun Day	1 pm - 3 pm @ Mountain View
Jan 18	Sun City Players "Annie Revisited."	7 pm @ Mountain View
Jan 19	Can Am Games Lawn Bowls	10 am & 2 pm @ Fairway, Mountain View, Oakmont
Jan 21 & 23	Sun City Women's Golf Association Open	12:30 pm Shotgun Start @Lakes West, Riverview
Jan 27	Stromperz Dixie Jazz - Free Show	4 pm @Sundial
Jan 27	Sun City Life Long Learning Club And the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Present The History Of Sun City	6 pm - 9 pm @ East Hall Sundial
Jan 28	Buffet & Entertainment Glass Harmonica Lynn Drye (Contact Church for details)	5:30 pm @ Faith Presbyterian
Jan 31	Sun City Concert Band - Free Show	3 - 4:30 pm @ Sundial

JOURNAL SENTINEL

50 years ago, Sun City, Ariz., opened as the hot new model for U.S. retirement communities

From page 1

RETIREMENT Sun City turns 50 today

LAURA SEGALL / FOR THE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Seniors still having fun in the sun

By **BILL GLAUBER**
 bglauber@journalsentinel.com

Sun City, Ariz. — Pat Maier is a snowbird. Every autumn, the 72-year-old flees the cold of Elkhorn, Wis., and enjoys six months of leisure in Sun City. She walks along the broad streets, goes bowling at a local recreation center, and plays golf on courses that roll through neighborhoods like wall-to-wall carpeting.

The other day, she joined a golf foursome that included a 93-year-old man.

"He shot par on the first four holes," Maier says. "He was a better golfer than me."

Like the seniors who have flocked here for decades, Sun City is aging well. America's first active adult community for retirees hits late middle age, turning 50 on Friday.

On Jan. 1, 1960, the modern way of American retirement was born with the opening of Sun City, a new community carved from the desert, 12 miles northwest of downtown Phoenix. The creation of the city was nothing less than a social phenomenon, a new way to live into old age.

Please see **RETIREMENT, 14A**

Golf cart crossing signs are visible in Sun City.

JSOnline.com

To view a slide show, visit www.jsoline.com/photos.

Pat Maier (left) of Elkhorn and Ken Klein of Whitewater walk around their winter neighborhood in Sun City, Ariz., this week without need for snow boots.



It was a different time, a different country. Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House. John F. Kennedy was on the cusp of announcing his historic candidacy. And Elvis Presley was in the midst of a two-year hitch in the U.S. Army.

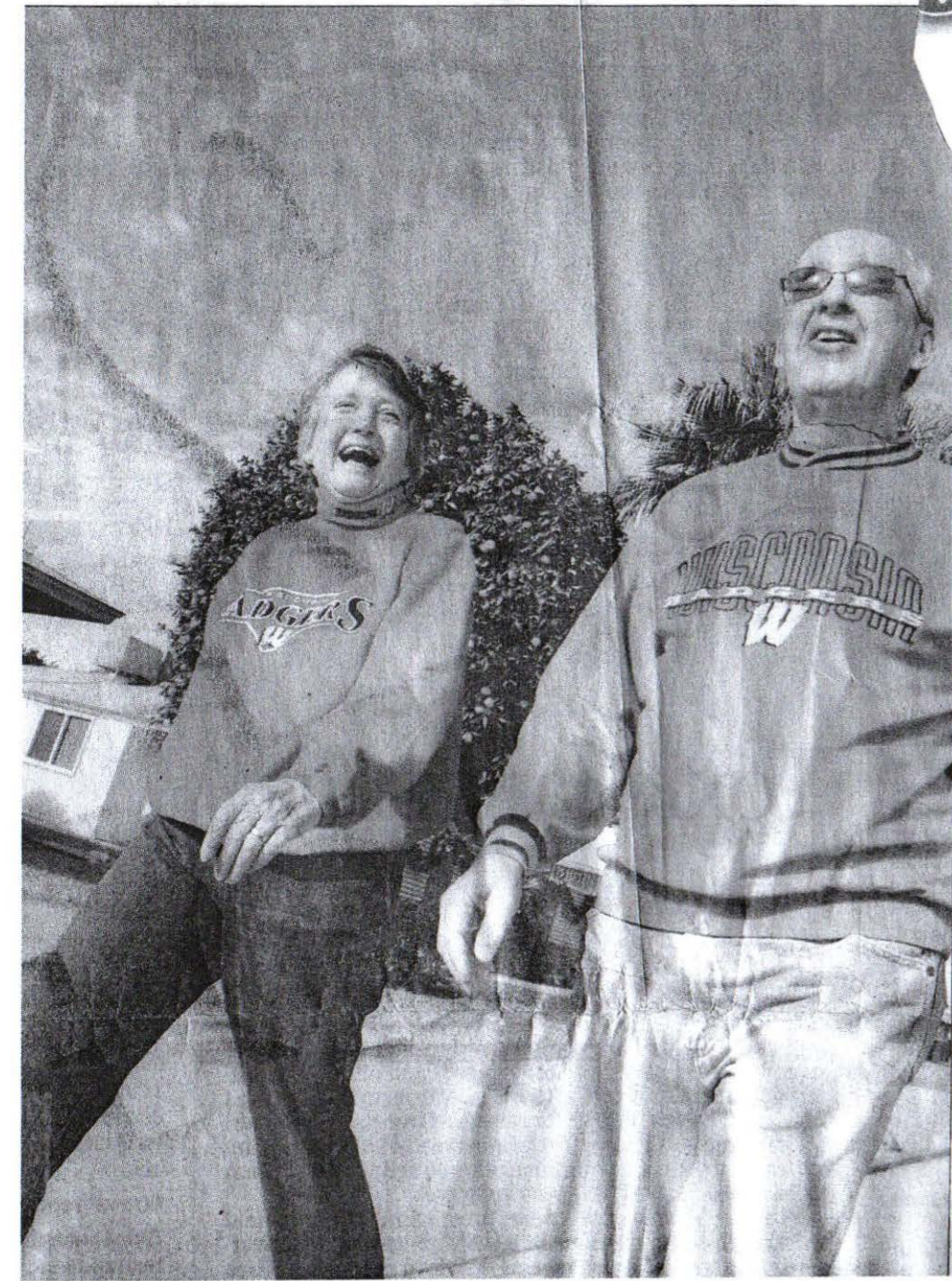
New York was still the country's most populous state as America's population surged to 179 million. There were 16 million Americans 65 years of age and older.

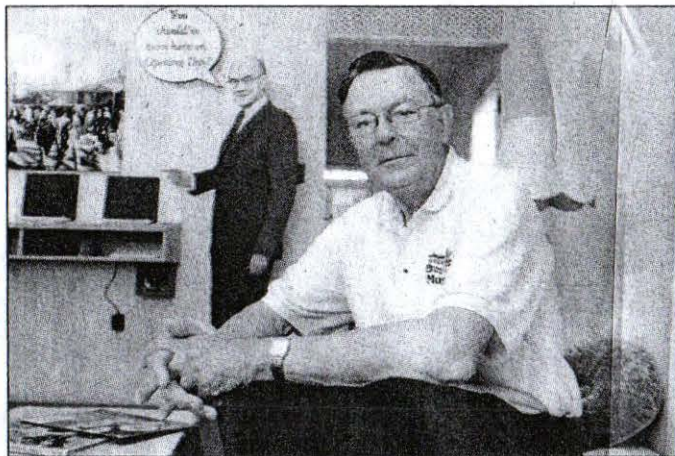
For many back then, the notion of a long, comfortable retirement was almost unheard of.

A half-century later, nearly everything has changed. The country's population has tilted west and south and soared to more than 300 million people. And the population of seniors age 65 and over reached 36.8 million.

Sun City grows up

Sun City, built over nearly two decades, has long since grown to full maturity with single-story homes, asphalt roads, shopping centers, condos, apartments, assisted-living facilities, a hospital, recreation centers and





Ed Allen, 75, who moved to Sun City West in 1996 after retiring from Milwaukee's Allen-Bradley, volunteers at the historical society.

Around here, a second car is a golf cart and the cardiac softball tournament is open to guys with stents, bypasses and a history of cardiac events.

This is fun-in-the-sun for those 55 and over.

About 40,000 people live here now — median age 72 — some following in the footsteps of parents and grandparents who settled here decades before.

Rolling back through the years, the creation of Sun City appears so seamless now. The combination of demographics, pensions, increased life expectancy and the rise of jet-age travel triggered a new way to look at old age.

But in its time, Sun City was truly revolutionary. The first residents saw themselves as pioneers, even if they did swing golf clubs instead of axes.

It showed Americans that after a lifetime of work, you could break free of old homes, communities and

families, head to a warmer climate and navigate your way through the so-called golden years.

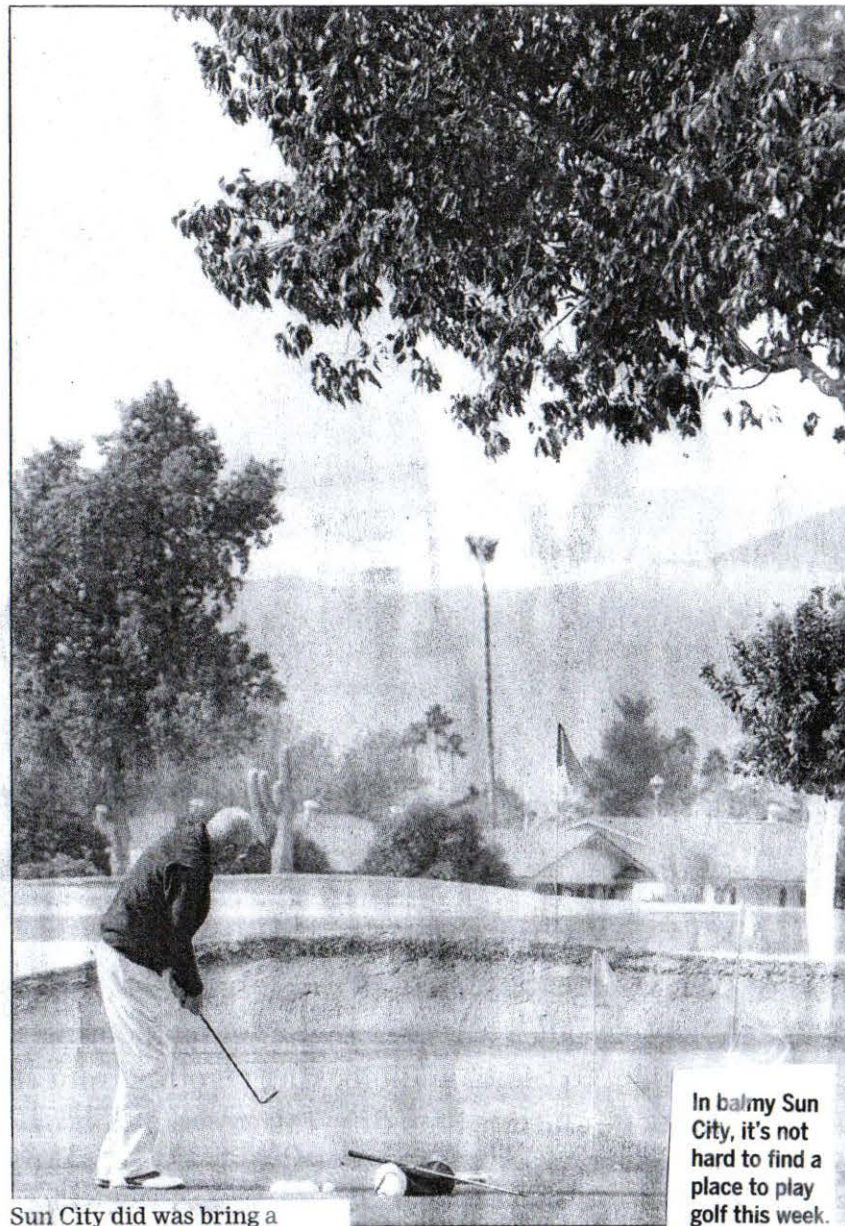
"It gave a whole new dimension of an active retirement," says Ed Allen, 75, a former Milwaukee resident who now volunteers at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

In 1996, Allen moved with his wife to Sun City West — the area's second big retirement community — two weeks after retiring as vice president of corporate communications from Allen-Bradley.

He's among thousands of former Wisconsin residents who have made their way here over the decades. The number of Wisconsin natives is so large that there is an annual Wisconsin Day celebration with bands, beer and brats.

A dream for the masses

Sun City wasn't America's first master-planned retirement community. But what



In balmy Sun City, it's not hard to find a place to play golf this week.

LAURA SEGALL / I

Sun City did was bring a dream of retirement to the masses through a combination of marketing savvy and heavy construction.

It was the brainchild of the Del E. Webb Development Co.

In his time, Del Webb was one of America's biggest movers and shakers, a 19th-century man who put his

His firm built air bases, as well as a sprawling internment camp for Japanese Americans. Later, he helped put the glitz into Las Vegas, constructing the Flamingo, which was overseen by mobster Ben (Bugsy) Siegel. Webb was also part owner of the New York Yankees.

But Webb's lasting monument was Sun City and a brand of retirement communities planted throughout the United States. By 2001, the Del Webb Corp. was merged with Pulte Homes Inc.

Webb, who died in 1974, selected one of his company's vice presidents, Thomas E. Breen, to oversee the Sun City project. Breen consulted with experts in geriatrics, visited places such as St. Petersburg, Fla., where older people lived in rooming houses, and came up with plans for the new city.

Another Webb associate, John Meeker, enhanced the project by focusing on the sense of community with the addition of clubs that catered to the social needs and hobbies of the new residents.

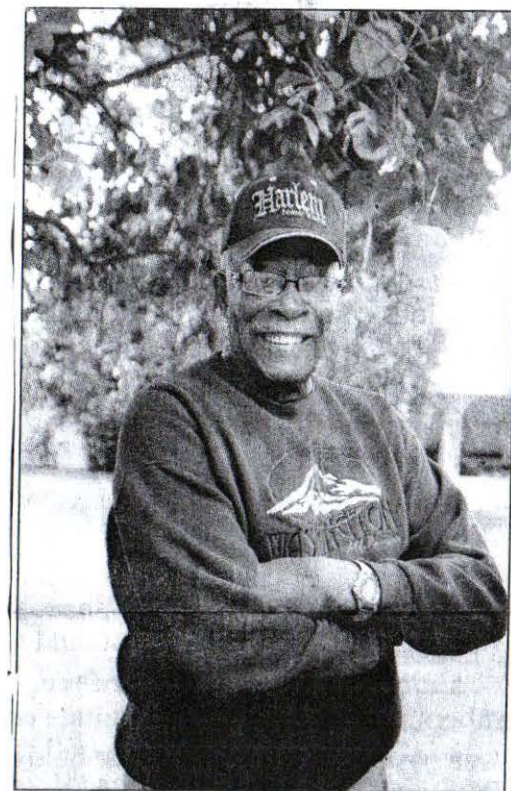
"They realized that people didn't want to sit on their hands," Allen says. "They wanted an active, fun lifestyle."

Built on volunteers

At 8 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1960, Sun City opened to prospective buyers, with five model homes — priced from \$8,500 to \$11,750 — a shopping center and a golf course on display.

Over the first 72 hours, more than 100,000 people wandered through the site and 237 homes were sold.

To see Sun City now, a half-century later, is to see what amounts to a 1960s-style development, with spacious lots and modest ranch homes, neighborhoods cloaked behind walls that hide major roadways.



Vance Coleman, 79, a former Milwaukee resident who served in government and the military, says Sun City hasn't been publicized enough. "Once people come here, they love it," he says.

But the essential ingredients of Sun City, both then and now, are the residents. They call this a city of volunteers, and for good reason. Sun City is unincorporated. Residents volunteer for everything from making sure the sidewalks are clean to joining a neighborhood watch group.

Decades after its founding, people still arrive.

Maier and her partner, Ken Klein of Whitewater, Wis., came here in 2001. She was drawn by memories of coming to Sun City years before, visiting an aunt and uncle with her children and her now-deceased husband. He was attracted by the warmth and the dozens of activities available, such as water aerobics and bowling.

"I grew up in Superior," Klein says. "I've been thinking about a warm-weather retirement for many, many years."

A new generation

Sun City is changing with the times. Several of the city's recreation centers have been modernized, huge pools, elaborate weight rooms and well-stocked craft shops drawing the athletic and the artistic. The new growth sport is mini-tennis, or pickle ball.

The housing bubble and bust hit here, too, though not as severely as the rest of Arizona.

"We bought a house two years ago before the big price slide," Klein says. "We paid \$189,000. If we got \$145,000 for it now, we'd be lucky."

But Klein doesn't plan on selling. He's poised for a long retirement.

The question that looms over Sun City is, how will

the community attract the next generation of retirees, the boomers?

Many boomers are still looking at depleted nest eggs, 401(k)s. The whole notion of a retirement built around an endless season of golf may not be as attractive to the boomers as it was to their parents and grandparents.

When can boomers retire?

R. Gillie Stephan Jr., 79, a Milwaukee native who has lived in Sun City since the 1980s and who runs the annual Wisconsin Day celebration, isn't sure the city will appeal to the boomers.

"I see them active in walking and exercising," he says. "They do not get into the clubs like woodworking or the metal shop. The boomers to me are independent."

He wonders whether the boomers will be able to retire anytime soon.

"Do they have the money to retire?" he says. "Will they have to get their Social Security and continue to work? I don't know. I came down here at 55. I don't think they'll do that."

The new retirees also reflect a nation far more diverse than generations past. Sun City reflects an older, mainly white America.

Among the handful of African-Americans who have settled in Sun City is Vance Coleman, 79, a former Milwaukee resident who served in government and the military.

"This place hasn't been publicized too much," he says. "And it needs to be. Once people come here, they love it. It's clean, quiet, secure and inexpensive. The real selling point is the population. It's easy to get along here."

Coleman says the city's future remains bright because the formula for retirement works: sun, recreation and friendship.

"No snow and no stress," he says. "Gosh, it's just so relaxing."

Parade peeps to pound SC streets

By Rusty Bradshaw

Independent Newspapers

The camels are coming — and so are the Shriners, Cooties and Pony Express.

Sun City streets will carry about 100 entires in the 50th anniversary parade Saturday, March 13. The 3.3-mile route will begin at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and go down Hutton Drive to Del Webb Boulevard, turning onto Tailsman Road and

proceeding to Boswell Boulevard, ending at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

"We're pretty excited about the parade," said Sun City resident Warren Clucker, 50th Anniversary Committee chairman. "This is a big parade, almost too big."



The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will take approximately two hours. The parade route will be blocked off from traffic for the safety of those entered. But the parade will travel on one two-lane side of Del Webb Boulevard while the other side will be open to traffic, Mr. Clucker explained.

The parade theme is "As time marches on," reflecting time passing through the 25th, 40th and 50th anniversary thresholds leading toward Sun City's 100th birthday in 2060, according to Mr. Clucker.

There will be two camels in the parade along with the Wells Fargo stagecoach and the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile, he said. Other notable entires include the Sun City Bocce Club displaying flags from all 50 states, the Dysart High School marching band, the CARS Club of Sun City, VFW No. 1433 "Cooties," the Sun City Elks, 10 Ms. Senior Arizonas, the Scottsdale Horse Drill Team, the Comancheros (the Pony Express riders) and the Sun City Poms. Sun City Independent will also have an entry in the parade.

See Parade — Page 20

March 10, 2010

Parade

Continued From Page 1

Leading the festivities will be the Luke Air Force Base color guard and grand marshals Dolan Ellis and Marshall Trimble, who will perform at the afternoon barbeque in the Sundail parking lot following the parade. The Sundial Men's Club will be selling brats and chips for \$2, and pop, beer and water for \$1 at the barbecue.

District 9 Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Glendale) and Maricopa County District 4 Supervisor Max Wilson will also be in the parade.

"We are looking for someone willing to videotape the entire parade so we can have this great event recorded for history," Mr. Clucker said.

Anyone interested in performing this task is encouraged to contact Pat Clucker at 623-977-2128.

Committee officials also still need volunteers, some with golf cars. Prospective volunteers can also call Mrs. Clucker.

Parade awards will be presented during the barbecue at Sundail, Mr. Clucker said.

Royal Oaks Life Care Community is a major sponsor of the parade and Setterberg Jewelers will sponsor the barbecue, Mr. Clucker said.

***Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum
at www.newszap.com. News Editor Rusty
Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or
rbradshaw@newszap.com.***

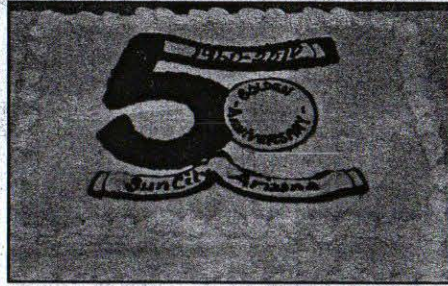


Submitted Photo

Orchestra celebrates with concert

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sun City, the Sun City Chamber Orchestra will perform a concert 7 p.m. March 16 at the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. This group of musicians plays for schools, assisted living centers, local musical organizations, holiday celebrations and the Sun City recreation centers. The March concert features music for all tastes, including popular, classical, and patriotic music. This concert will be free to all, but a small donation may be made to cover the cost of new music.

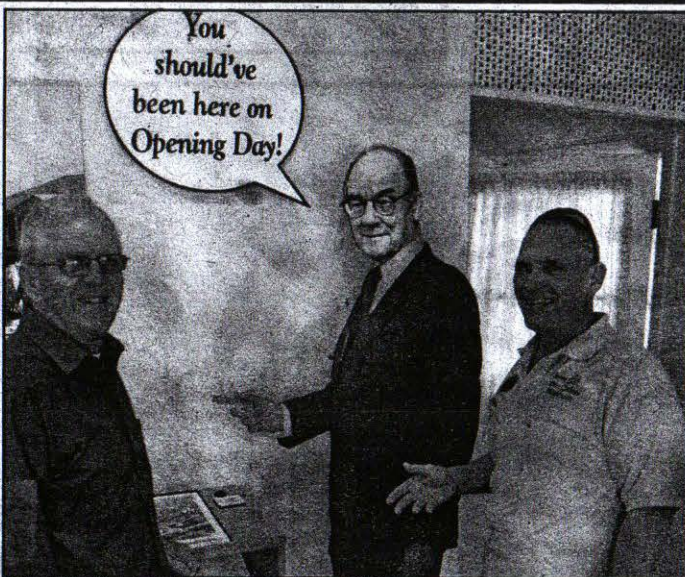
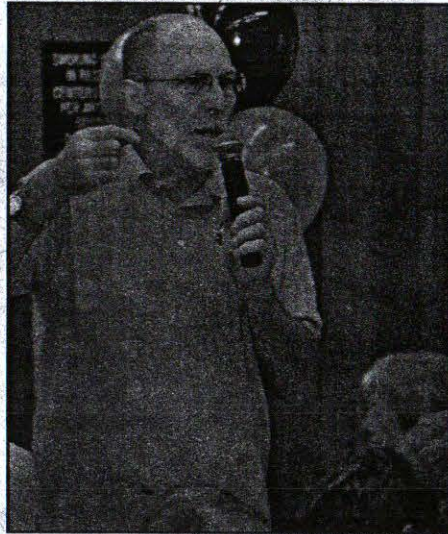
Kicking off 50 years



Photos by Bret McKeand

A golden celebration begins!

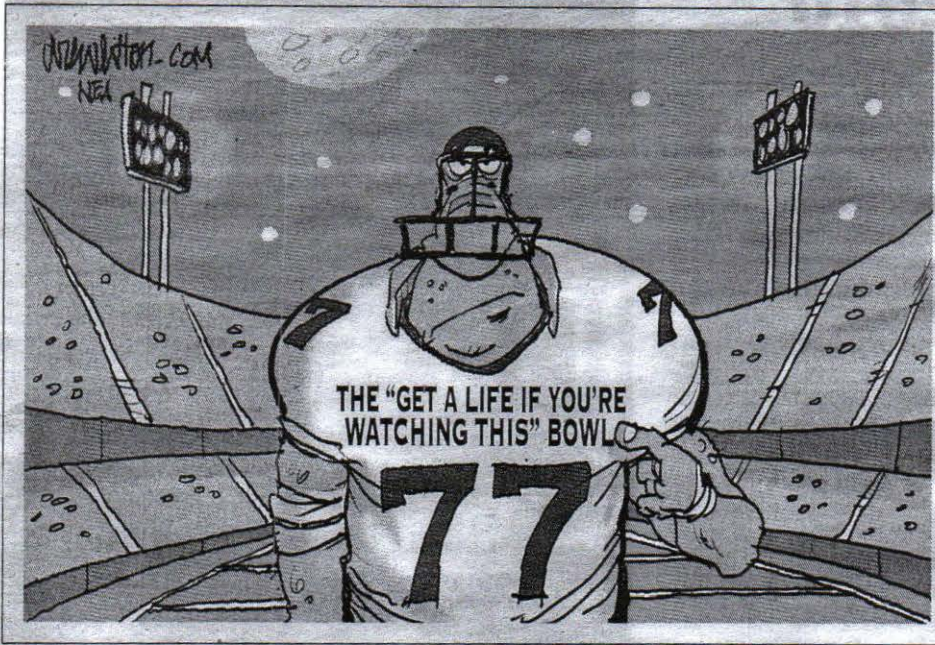
A special 50th anniversary party was Jan. 1 at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., to mark the official golden anniversary of Sun City. The community first opened to the public Jan. 1, 1960. The event attracted several hundred residents who were treated to birthday cake and refreshments, speeches and music by a barbershop quartet. Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, left, welcomed attendees. Volunteers serving anniversary cake were, above right, from left, Jolene Wolzen, Nancy Grubb and Charlene Ewen. The Sun Cities School Board Quartet performed several numbers in front of a slide show depicting the life of Sun City Founder Del Webb. Quartet members, below right, from left, were Dave Tague, Ken Corns, Doug Campbell and Bud Heterman.



Photos by Bret McKeand

Museum marks anniversary

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum opened its doors Jan. 1 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of Sun City. The museum, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, is located in one of the model homes first visited by curious buyers on Jan. 1, 1960. The home has been restored to its original condition and today includes exhibits and artifacts showcasing the history of the Sun Cities. A crowd of nearly 400 attended the open house. Bill Pearson, left, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, welcomes Dwight Lockhart to the event. The Vintage Voices, above, right, provided barbershop-harmony entertainment. Incredibly, quartet member Joe Salz, second from left, also performed at the house on opening day in 1960.



My View

Please be brief (no more than 300 words for letters and 700 words for my views) and type or print name, address, city and phone number for verification. Letters and call-in comments may be edited for clarity and length.

Webb's vision is more than just 'new way of life for seniors'

BILL PEARSON
PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
SUN CITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Del Webb said he wanted to "build a new way of life for seniors." Little did he know on opening day Jan. 1, 1960, that it would become so much more. Across the country, developers are building age-restricted communities. More importantly, his dream for an active adult lifestyle within the walls of Sun City is still going strong.

Jan. 1, 2010, marks 50 years of unequalled success. The 50th Anniversary Committee has created a yearlong celebration to honor those who made Sun City work. Webb, his employees and hundreds of thousands of residents all played roles in bringing the community to life.

Now it is your turn Sun City. With the opening ceremonies out of the way, every month there will be events to mark 2010 as a year to remember. January is an especially busy month with more than 20 events listed on the calendar (please refer to the Sun City 50th anniversary program for the full schedule. If you don't have one, they are available at the Sun City Visitor Center).

We kick off the month's events with the Anniversary Party Jan. 1 at the Bell Social Hall. We'll start at noon and go until 2 p.m. There will be free cake, ice cream, entertainment by the Sun City School Board Quartet and the Red Hot Clown Club. At 1 p.m. the churches across Sun City will ring their bells in unison with our own Liberty Bell.

Immediately following the conclusion of the program, we will move the party to the original model home next to Oakmont Recreation Center. The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive will be open from 2 to 4:30 p.m. There is a wonderful new Del Webb display and you can see the "ads that changed a nation."

On Jan. 2 and Jan. 3, Bell Lanes/La Petite Restaurant and

Lakeview Lanes/Mojoe's Restaurant will have a 50th anniversary special. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun City Rec card holders and their eligible guests may bowl for 50 cents a line and get a hot dog or a soda for a half a dollar each.

The Daily News Sun will have an open house on Jan. 9 at their offices at 10102 W. Santa Fe Drive. The Saturday event will feature a "Trip Down Memory Lane" with photos of Sun Cities history. There will be entertainment, snacks by New York West Pastry and the event will run from 8 a.m. until noon.

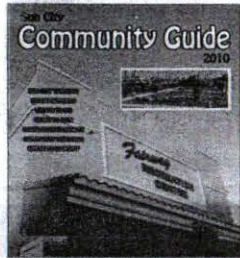
The Sun City 50th Anniversary will have its next open meeting Jan. 27 at the new Fairway Rec Center starting at 2 p.m. in the Arizona room.

On Jan. 27, the Sun City Life Long Learning Club and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will put on an evening of education where we will trace the history of the Valley and the community. There will be a social hour from 6 to 6:30 p.m. with the session lasting until 9. The event is open to the public and should be a great time.

The Sun City Swim Club will be circulating the "50 Mile Challenge" the end of January. Copies of the log-in form can be found at all monitors' stations as you enter the fitness centers. The event will run through February. In February there also will be many of the events for the Arizona Senior Olympics coming to Sun City, so check your program for dates, locations and times.

Retirement used to mean being put out to pasture and rocking your life away. Del Webb's vision for a "new way to live" changed all of that. Join us as we celebrate 2010 by getting involved in the events planned each month. For information on what is happening, visit our Web site at www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

Inside



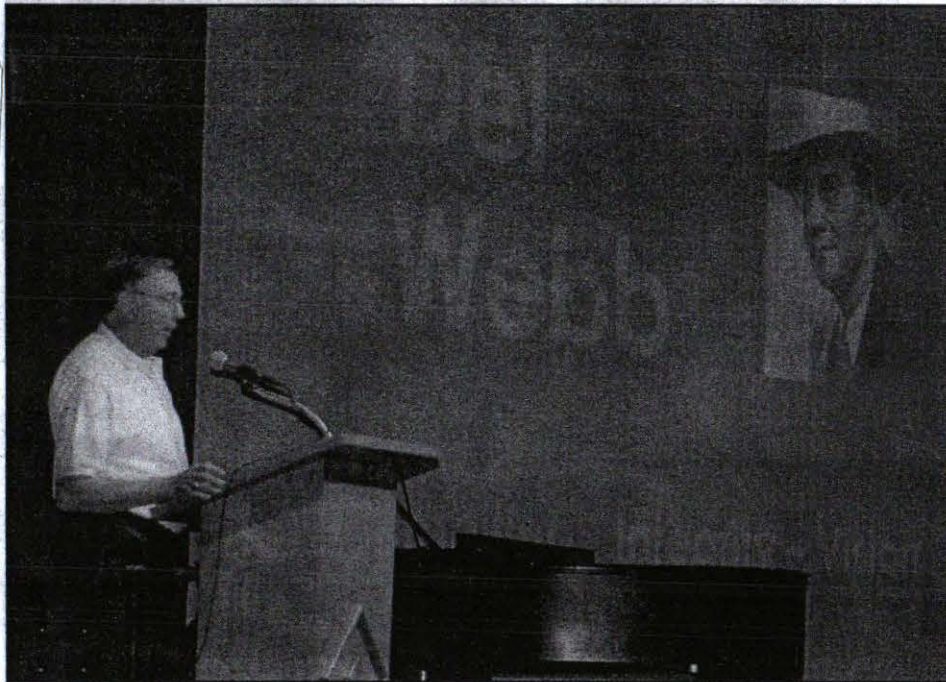
SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

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Wednesday, December 16, 2009

www.newszap.com

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: CELEBRATIONS BEGIN



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
Edison Allen narrates a history of Del Webb as part of the Sun City's 50th Anniversary grand opening program. The event kicked off the yearlong celebration of Sun City as the world's first active retirement community. See more photos on Page 17.

Anniversary merits return engagement

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Joe Salz sang with a Phoenix barbershop quartet 50 years ago in front of Sun City's first model homes.

He returns to the site Friday and joins The Vintage Voices for a performance from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in front of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, the model home at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave.

The Vintage Voices, a quartet from the Sun Cities Chapter Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus, recently crowned champions of the Far Western District Division Five Bash. Other quartet members include Ralph Brooks, Bob Riedel and Bill Shaw.

The Sun Cities Area Histori-

cal Society will host the first of several open houses during the anniversary year at the newly designated Del Webb Sun Cities Museum following the Sun Cities 50th Anniversary Party at Bell Recreation Center. Refreshments will be served and docents will provide commentary in the model home from 2 to 4 p.m. on New Year's Day. The museum is home to the historical society.

"We are delighted to have Joe back in front of the house where it all began 50 years ago. We hope you will stop by and see us," said Bill Pearson, president of the historical society trustees.

Saltz began singing in the first grade in Dubuque, Iowa,

and moved up to the high school choir, glee club, church choir and barbershop quartet. He and a buddy moved to Phoenix in 1950 and installed jungle-gym equipment at the Madison School District in 120-degree weather, which set a record that year.

In 1955 he joined the Phoenixians Barbershop and sang with the Desert Knights, the group hired to sing on opening day of Sun City in 1960.

"Actually, this New Year's Day will be the third time I've sung officially in Sun City for a special Del Webb event. Our Desert Knights and The Copper Belles were invited to perform at a Nov. 27, 1960, holiday event," he recalled.

It's the community's turn

BILL PEARSON

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

As I was leaving the Sun City Home Owners Association the other day, an old friend stopped me and asked why nothing was going on with the 50th Anniversary? I was stunned. For those of us who have been shaping the coming year's events, we're feeling like nothing else exists.

Then it struck me, the committee is too close to what's happening and most of the community has been too far removed from it. The good news is that's all about to change. With the opening ceremonies just weeks away, Sun City residents will take center stage.

To better understand where we are, what is going on and what residents can do, we are having a Town Hall Meeting Wednesday. The get-together will be in Lakeview Social Halls and will begin at 2 p.m. Anyone who wants to get a sneak peek at the first two months of the celebration should drop in and see what's on the calendar.

For those who can't make it, we will be delivering a 60-page program to your doorstep Dec. 5 in the Daily News-Sun supplement. Every resident will get one and it will provide a clear snapshot of what we have been doing and better yet, what you can do for the next 14 months.

One thing is clear, this is a community celebration and there is no way, let me repeat no way, the 50th Anniversary Committee can do all of the things we have planned.

We have been blessed with some great volunteers to date, but we still need hundreds more as we move through the year. What makes this so fun is we have enough options that volunteers can get in at whatever commitment level they chose.

Just to whet your appetite, there are three kick-off events in less than a month. The biggest is the opening ceremony Dec. 9 at Sundial. We have seating for



1,800 so plan on being there early; it starts at 1 p.m. and runs until 3:30. On the 10th is the first of three golf tournaments, and

it is sold out. So, be sure to get in early on the other two. Next up is the Sun City Parade of Boats on the 11th. The Lakeview gathering will be loads of fun, and we will be serving Rock Spring Pie and several other great surprises.

The year's festivities have been built around the theme of an active retirement community. Clubs, organizations, churches and businesses have embraced the celebration in the last two months, and that have left all of us delighted. We are coming together and the only piece left in the puzzle is the residents and how they will fit in. Join us on Wednesday to see what you can do. And if you miss us there, check our Web site at www.suncity50thanniversary.org/.

As always, we have T-shirts, raffle tickets, golf shirts, caps, visors, decals, and an assortment of other 50th anniversary memorabilia. You can purchase them at the Visitors Center or at the meeting Wednesday. Residents bore the brunt of the initial financial support and with every item you buy, we can do more things with the events we put on.

Let me just close by thanking every business, club and organization for buying an ad in the Anniversary Program. Your support has allowed us to produce a first-class piece of work that will be used by residents for the entire celebration. And a special thanks to the Daily News-Sun for its partnership in bringing this all together.

See you all Wednesday and if we miss you there, there's no question we will be seeing you during the celebration.

Sun City hosting 50th anniversary party Jan. 1

Sun City's golden-anniversary celebration continues Jan. 1, the official date of Sun City's 50th birthday. Community members are invited to mark the special occasion at an anniversary party at the Bell Recreation Center.

- Sherry Anne Rubiano,
The Republic/azcentral.com,
sherryanne.rubiano@arizonarepublic.com



Opening day on Jan. 1, 1960, brought thousands of people to view new model homes in Sun City.

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Party details

- » What: Sun City Anniversary Party.
- » When: Noon to 2 p.m. Jan. 1.
- » Where: Bell Recreation Center Social Halls, 16820 N. 99th Ave.
- » Activities: Entertainment and refreshments.
- » Cost: Free.

Golden Anniversary

The Sun City Anniversary Party is one of several events planned for the yearlong celebration. A parade and barbecue, a sock hop and pizza party, golf tournaments, variety shows, health and wellness programs and other activities are scheduled throughout 2010.

Sun City History

Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960. More than 100,000 people showed up the first weekend to view the original five model homes in a new community designed for active adults. Sun City captured national headlines and became a model for other planned active-retirement communities worldwide.

More information

Visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org or call the Sun City Visitors Center at 623-977-5000.

Join Us For Our

OPEN HOUSE

Featuring a trip down memory lane tribute to Sun City's 50th anniversary

**Saturday, January 9th
8:00am-12:00 Noon**

- Photos of Sun Cities history to be displayed
- Entertainment including Sun Cities All-Star Band
- Tours of the Building- Learn more about how a newspaper is created
- Light snacks provided by New York West Pastry

Food Donations accepted for Valley View Community Food Bank in Youngtown

10102 Santa Fe Drive in Sun City
(Off of Grand Ave between 99th Ave & 103rd Ave)

www.youngwestvalley.com

Daily News-Sun

Sunrise Today

Glendale Beoria Today

DAILY NEWS-SUN, THE SUN CITY VOICE FROM THE BEGINNING

The Daily News-Sun newspapers' mission is entirely local. Published six days a week since 1977, the Daily News-Sun is full of news and features designed for retirees ranging from Baby Boomers through the Greatest Generation. The Daily News Sun currently serves the communities of Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grand.

The newspaper emerged in 1956 from humble beginnings with two mimeographed pages of news published by Marshal Adams as the Youngtown News. Youngtown is the brainchild of Ben Schleifer, one of the first developers to see the possibilities of communities populated entirely by senior citizens. The Youngtown Historical Society keeps a few copies of these earliest issues at Clubhouse Square.

In 1957 The Youngtown News changed to a twice-monthly

publication, typeset on a small tabloid size. That year the paper began publishing photographs. Adams took on partner Sydney Lambert, who in 1958 assumed ownership and operation of the Youngtown News.

The slogan at the time was "All the News That Residents Want to See and Read in Print."

Advertisers were mostly Glendale- and Phoenix-based businesses, as there were few businesses yet

established in Youngtown in the late 1950s.

Among the visitors to the pioneering retirement community of Youngtown was Delbert Eugene Webb, owner of a Phoenix construction firm and co-owner of the New York Yankees. When Webb's company applied to Maricopa County for zoning to build 1,000 houses in "the Youngtown area" - across Grand Avenue to the east on land that had long been used for farming - the Youngtown News rejoiced.

Six months after the Webb Company began selling houses in the then fledging Sun City in 1960, Lambert changed the newspaper's name to the Youngtown News and Sun City Sun. The paper also updated its slogan which became, "Youngtown's First Newspaper and Now Sun City's First."

Lambert decided to sell his tabloid to entrepreneurs Burt and Ursula Freireich. Burt had been a sports writer with the Phoenix Gazette but dreamed of owning his own paper.

With a \$1,500 down payment and lots of confidence - but with little experience in photography or crafting display advertising - Burt Freireich took control of the paper, which was renamed the News-Sun for the July 22, 1960, issue. The paper soon went to weekly publication.

Finally, in 1977 the News-Sun became the Daily News-Sun, published six days a week.



**An Extraordinary Past
A Brilliant Future**

Sun City 50th Anniversary

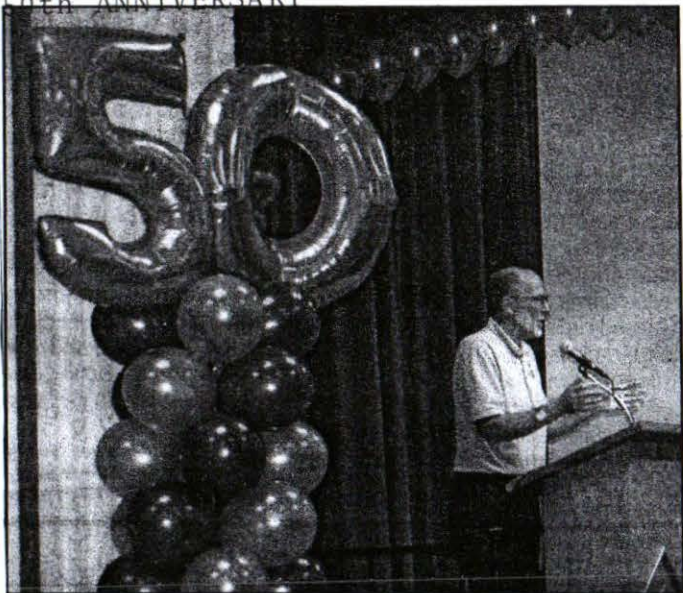
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Sun City, AZ 85372-1270

Email: SunCity50thAnniversary@cox.net

Visit our website for a
complete list of events!

www.suncity50thanniversary.org



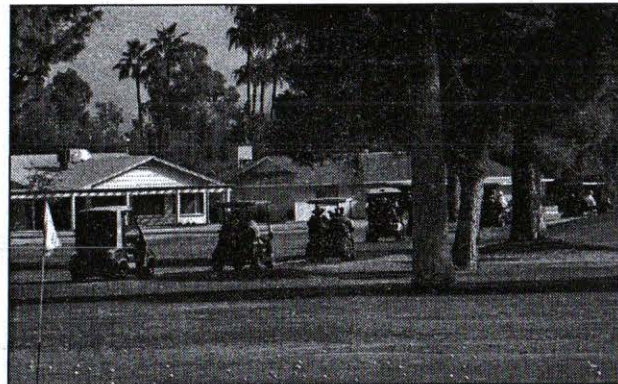
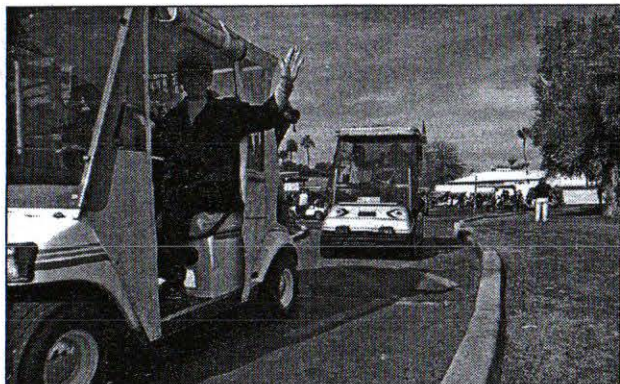
Let festivities begin

Sun City kicked off its 50th anniversary with a flurry of activities last week, including a grand opening, a golf tournament and a holiday celebration. Highlights included, clockwise from top left, Paul Herrmann gets things started at the grand opening; Don Kenna tees off in the golf tournament while George Esterbrook watches; Arizona Historian Marshal Trimble belts out a musical history story; the Luke Air Force Base color guard presents the colors at the grand opening; Agua Fria Kiwanis President Larry Kuppler hands out bags at golf tournament registration; West Valley leader were represented at the grand opening, including, from left, Bob Barrett, Peoria mayor, Col. Andre Curry, Luke Air Force Base mission support group commander, Michael LeVault, Youngtown mayor, Lyn Truitt, Surprise mayor, Max Wilson, Maricopa County supervisor, and Debbie Lesko, Arizona District 9 representative; and Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official balladeer, entertained the crowd at the grand opening.

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

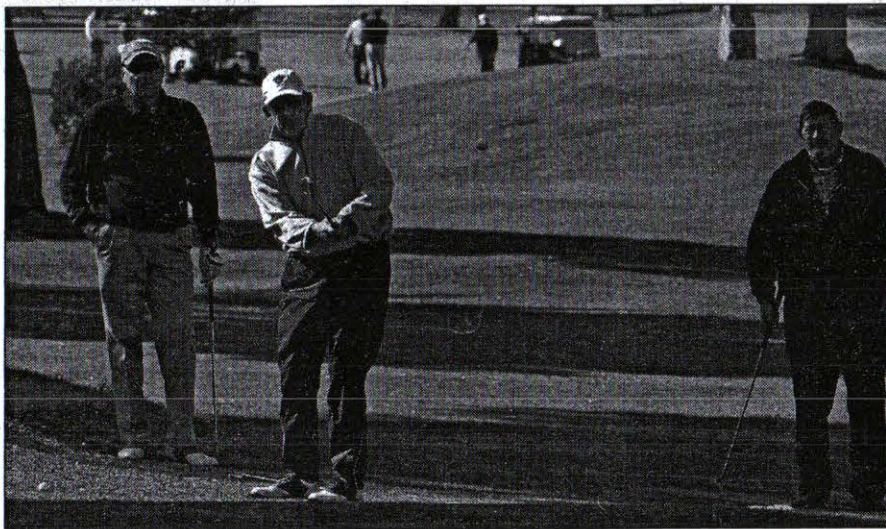


50TH ANNIVERSARY FUN



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sandra Kibbie, left photo, and other golfers make their way to their holes for the shotgun start of the 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament at Sun City Country Club Thursday afternoon. Kibbie said she was happy to be playing in a "just for fun" tournament.



Larry Vroom pitches onto the 18th hole of Sun City Country Club while John Dahlgren, left and Jack Lucas watch. Carsten Carlson, not pictured, rounded out the foursome playing in the 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament. Visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org for information on upcoming tournaments and other 50th anniversary events.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: CELEBRATIONS BEGIN



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Edison Allen narrates a history of Del Webb as part of the Sun City's 50th Anniversary grand opening program. The event kicked off the yearlong celebration of Sun City as the world's first active retirement community. See more photos on Page 17.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SUN CITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Join the Sun Cities Area Historical Society as we celebrate Sun City's 50th anniversary in 2010. The SCAHS has published a special commemorative publication, "Reshaping Retirement in America," now on sale for only \$5 at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Special offer: Become a member of the SCAHS and receive your commemorative copy for FREE! Join us Jan. 1 as we kick off the anniversary celebrations with an open house at the museum, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Call (623)974-2568.

RESHAPING RETIREMENT IN AMERICA SUN CITY, ARIZONA



1960-2010

How the nation's first active adult community pioneered a lifestyle that created a model for generations of retirees to come.

Post your News

News items and photos for Community News can be submitted to the newspaper by posting them in the Post Your News section at

www.newszap.com.

Sun City museum celebrates community's 50th anniversary

By Priscilla Fenner

Special to the Independent

For Joe Salz, New Year's Day is a homecoming.

It was Jan. 1, 1960, that he sang with a Phoenix barbershop quartet in front of the five Sun City model homes in the 10800 block of Oakmont Avenue.

On Jan. 1, 2010, Mr. Salz will sing there again from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in front of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, the model home at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave.

This time he sings with The Vintage Voices, a quartet from the Sun Cities Chapter Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus, recently crowned champions of the Far Western District Division Five Bash. Other quartet members include Ralph Brooks, Bob Riedel and Bill Shaw.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will host the first of several open houses during the anniversary year at the newly designated Del Webb Sun Cities Museum following the Sun Cities 50th Anniversary Party at Bell Recreation Center. Refreshments will be served and docents will provide commentary in the model home from 2 to 4 p.m. on New Year's Day. The museum is home to the historical society.

"We are delighted to have Joe back in front of the house where it all began 50 years ago. We hope you will stop by and see us," said Bill Pearson, president of the historical society trustees.

Mr. Salz began singing in the first grade in Dubuqu, Iowa, and moved up to the high school choir, glee club, church choir and barbershop quartet. He and a buddy moved to Phoenix in 1950 and installed jungle-gym equipment at the Madison School District in 120-degree weather, which set a record that year.

After other experiences doing odd jobs, they joined the Air and three years later he married a Phoenix girl when he returned from the World War II. In 1955 he joined the Phoenicians Barbershop and sang with the Desert Knights, the group hired to sing on opening day of Sun City in 1960.

"Actually, this News Year's Day will be the third time I've sung officially in Sun City for a special Del Webb event. Our Desert Knights and The Copper Belles were invited to perform at a Nov. 27, 1960, holiday event," he recalls.

Of that first singing visit he recalls the comment of a visitor, "Who in the hell would buy way out here?"



Submitted Photo

Visitors flock to Sun City on opening day, Jan. 1, 1960, to check out the new retirement community. The Sun Cities Historical Society will conduct an open house to mark the community's 50th anniversary at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave. The museum is located in one of the first five model homes opened in Sun City.

City set to celebrate 50

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
Independent Newspapers

After more than two years of planning, the opening days of Sun City's 50th anniversary celebration are here.

Organizers of the yearlong event are excited for the festivities to begin. The opening ceremony is 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer will send a proclamation to be read while Dolan Ellis, Arizona balladeer, and Marshall Trimble, Arizona historian, will provide entertainment. There will also be a presentation by the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and a host of other fast-moving groups, according to Bill Pearson, 50th anniversary committee publicity chairman.

The first of three 50th anniversary golf tournaments is Thursday, Dec. 10 at the Sun City Country Club, 9433 N. 107th Ave.

"This one filled up fast so we encourage you to watch as entries go on sale for the next two after the first of the year," Mr. Pearson said.

This week's other event got a bit of a change when the annual boat parade around Viewpoint Lake was canceled, although some homeowners indicated they may still decorate their boats, according to Mr. Pearson. In place of the parade, the Sun City Holiday Celebration will be 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 at Lakeview Recreation Center social halls and on the patio, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. The 50th anniversary committee will offer a Santa display, free Rock Springs pie and music by the Rhythm Ramblers, according to Paul Herrmann, 50th anniversary committee public relations chairman. And the Sundial Men's Club is conducting a special Wednesday night Bingo game Dec. 23 with all proceeds donated to the Sun City 50th anniversary.

Following the turn of the year, the committee will host monthly events.

"What we have laid out is a good start and we can add to it as we go," Mr. Pearson said.

With most of the plans in place, committee members and residents can relax and enjoy the festivities — almost.

"It will be a relief on Jan. 2 because things are still coming in quickly," Mr. Herrmann said. "After that, it will settle into a month-to-month routine."

While fundraising for the celebration was slow at the beginning of this year, it picked up near the end. Mr. Pearson said the committee raised about \$10,000 on a drawing for a golf car and is expecting to bring in a similar amount for the golf tournament, according to Mr. Pearson. The committee also sold advertising in a commemorative booklet that could raise as much as \$25,000, Mr. Pearson said.

"The advertising at the end was just stag-

Celebrate

Continued From Page 18

gering," Mr. Pearson said. "We originally looked at a 36-page book and it ended up 60 pages."

One of the major events early next year is a parade through Sun City streets and organizers are looking for entries, according

to Warren Clucker, parade chairman. The Parade will be Saturday, March 13 leaving Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave. and proceeding down Hutton Drive to Del Webb Boulevard, travel along Del Webb Boulevard to Talisman Road at La Ronde Center continuing along Talisman Road to Boswell Boulevard on to Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The grand marshals will be Marshall Trimble, Arizona historian, and Dolan Ellis, Arizona balladeer.

"There will be antique cars, decorated golf carts, VFW, Shriners mini-cars, horses, flags, Luke AFB color guard, music and much more," Mr. Clucker said.

For entries or other information, call 623-977-2128 or e-mail wscoo7@aol.com.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.

Volunteering Facelift

■ **Sprawling Sun City, the nation's first planned retirement community, turns 50 on Jan. 1.** While the looks of the curving, palm-lined streets and ranch homes haven't changed much, the new retirees have a different outlook.

The original residents of this "City of Volunteers" were mostly couples; few women worked outside the home. Today, many of the 40,000 residents are single women. They have more education and work experience than the first women of Sun City and they want to use their career skills in more challenging and effective ways.

Sun City Grand retiree Carol Struck, 61, a former school superintendent, is negotiating with

farmers and backyard gardeners to create a farmers' market as she did back home in Bloomington, Ill. This is her second major volunteer project since moving here in 2008; the first was a used-book store.

"A lot of the recently retired women I know are like me," she said. "We exercise, play golf or tennis, but we also need activities that are mentally challenging."

In 1960, about 95 percent of "Sun Citizens" were fully retired couples. Today a third of homebuyers in the two newest Sun City communities are single women, said Jacque Petroulakis, spokeswoman for Pulte Homes and the Communities of Del Webb. In a recent survey of women who bought new homes, only 54

percent considered themselves retired and many viewed volunteer work "like a full-time job," Petroulakis said.

This demographic shift is most evident when new residents choose volunteer activities.

Volunteer duties, from the ever-present golf cart security patrols to the army of helpers in the activity centers, have always been a crucial aspect of Sun City life. The early residents would do almost anything they were asked, but today's retirees are choosier.

Paul Herrmann, 64, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, said new volunteers want to see successful results for their investment of time and energy.

"They want to work on projects they can see through to the end,"

he said. "Many aren't going to be happy just stuffing envelopes or answering the phones. And bake sales? Many of the new residents who grew up in the '60s or '70s just don't bake."

Community and nonprofit groups had to adapt.

Interfaith Community Care, in neighboring Surprise, draws most of its 400 volunteers—300 are women—from Sun City. Increasingly, it has been trusting experienced retirees with more responsibility. The farmers' market, for example, is under the Interfaith flag. New social enterprises—a used-book store and a child care center—use the skills of the new volunteers.

"They are results-driven," said Kristine Koschke of Interfaith Community Care. "When they go home they want to know they have made a real difference."

The boards of Sun City's community organizations were 100 percent men in the early years, according to Herrmann. Now, women outnumber men on some boards, including the Visitors Center. Partly as a result of women's involvement, board agendas are now less about golf and tennis policies, and more about health, wellness and security.

A quarter of Arizonans volunteer, ranking the state 42nd in the nation, government figures show. Volunteering is more important than ever as the state cuts services, said Len Kirschner, AARP Arizona president. "Volunteers can fill the gap," he said.

Sun City starts golden celebration



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Handbell Ringers of Sun City perform during the Sun City 50th Anniversary opening ceremony at Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City Wednesday.



JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's year of celebrating its 50th Anniversary got off to a rousing start Wednesday afternoon as hundreds packed the Sundial Auditorium to kick off the festivities.

"People ask us, 'Why are you doing this?' I say it's because we can," said committee member Paul Herrmann. "Nobody else can claim to be the first active retirement community, not anywhere else in the world. This is our time to celebrate."

Marshall Trimble, official historian for the state of Arizona, took to the stage with a guitar, telling stories not

SEE FIRST, A5



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Sun City Choraliers perform during the Sun City 50th Anniversary opening ceremony Wednesday in the Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City Wednesday.

FIRST

FROM A1

only about Sun City but about the state.

Trimble said he became aware of Del Webb, the man who started it all, at an early age.

"I became familiar with him in 1951 when he brought the New York Yankees to Arizona," Trimble said. "I saw all the legendary players, including a young kid by the name of Mickey Mantle. At that time, you only had your radios, really. It was an incredible experience to see these guys up close and personal. I really had a fondness for Del after that."

Trimble said he remembers when Sun City first opened.

"We used to drive by there on the way up north. Back then it was called 'Marinette,'" he said. "I remember after they changed the name to Sun City I always used to wonder, 'Whatever happened to that Marinette place?'"

After a performance by the Sun City Choraliers, Edson Allen of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum gave a presentation on the life story of Webb. An audio recording of Webb's appearance on the Merv Griffin Show was played, during which he described the creation of Sun City as the greatest thing he had ever done.

"He offered it up without prompt," Allen said. "It is truly remarkable that looking back on three quarters of a century and having done all the things he had done, Webb chose



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marshall Trimble, the official Arizona state historian, performs during the Sun City 50th Anniversary opening ceremony Wednesday in the Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City Wednesday.

Sun City as his greatest accomplishment."

Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official state balladeer, then took the stage and brought the house down with stories and original songs about the state.

"I can't believe it's been 50 years since Del Webb started Sun City," Ellis said. "The sad part is, I remember it quite vividly."

Ellis said there is something special about the people who move to Arizona, something that makes them unique.

"It's an entrepreneurial spirit that seems to be in the DNA of people who move here," he said. "I think that's a big part of why Sun City was so successful. These are people who were willing to leave their comfort zones for a chance at something better in life. They said, 'I served my time in the office and now I want something more.'"

CBS Channel 5's Sean McLaughlin served as the master

of ceremonies, and he read a letter from Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

"The people of Sun City exhibit values which are an example for us all," she wrote. "Sun City is a point of pride for the entire state."

Next up on the Sun

City 50th Anniversary slate of events is an event Friday that will feature food, entertainment and other activities, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Lakeview Social Halls.

For more information on 50th Anniversary events, visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

Sun City 50th anniversary calendar of events

EVENT	DETAILS
Sundial Men's Club Bingo	Dec. 23. Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.
Sun City Anniversary Party	Jan. 1. Noon-2 p.m. Bell Social Halls, 16820 N. 99th Ave.
50-cent bowling 50-cent hot dog 50-cent soda	Jan. 2 and 3. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bell Lanes, 16810 N. 99th Ave., and Lakeview Lanes, 10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd.
Nutrition and Fitness Program	Jan. 13. 10-11 a.m. and 7-8 p.m. Sundial East Hall, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.
Semiformal Dance	Feb. 20. 6:30-10 p.m. Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Ticketed event.
Falls Prevention Program	March 10. 10-11 a.m. Sundial East Hall, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.
50th Anniversary Community Parade	March 13. Parade leaves Bell Center at 10 a.m. and arrives at Sundial Center at 11 a.m. Bell Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and Sundial Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.
Sun City Parade Barbecue	March 13. Noon-4 p.m. Sundial Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Ticketed event.
50th RCSC Golf Association Golf Tournament	April 10. 7:30 a.m. shotgun start. RCSC North Course, 12650 N. 107th Ave. Registration begins Jan. 1.
Sun Bowl Variety Show	April 21. 7 p.m. Sun Bowl, 107th Ave. and Clair Drive.
Del Webb Birthday Party	May 16. 12:30 to 5 p.m. Oakmont Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Ave., and Del Webb Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.
Independence Day Pancake Breakfast	July 4. Ticketed breakfast 7-9 a.m. Free program begins 9:30 a.m. Bell Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave.
Sock Hop and Pizza Party	Sept. 24. 6:30-10 p.m. Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Ticketed event.
Banner Boswell Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	Oct. 13. 10-11 a.m. Banner Boswell Memorial Hall, 13180 N. 103rd Drive.
Oktoberfest	Oct. 30. Time TBA Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. Ticketed event.
Banner Research Institute Tour	Nov. 10. 10-11 a.m. Banner Research Institute, 10515 W. Santa Fe Drive.
Fall Variety Show	Nov. 28. 2-3:30 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Mountain View Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave.
50th Anniversary Final Golf Tournament	Dec. 10. 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Sun City Country Club, 9433 N. 107th Ave. Registration begins May 1.
Holiday Around the World Party and Viewpoint Lake Boat Parade	Dec. 10. 4 p.m. Lakeview Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.
50th Anniversary Grand Finale	Jan. 14. 7-10 p.m. Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

50th anniversary celebration starts next week

By **Bill Pearson**

Celebrate!

It has been years in the making, the committee has had turnover and tumult, but through it all, we have endured. We have suffered through the worst financial mess one could have imagined and pushed on to put together what will still be one heck of a party.

Within a matter of weeks, Sun City will kick off its 50th anniversary celebration. The calendar of events is jam packed with things to do, both from our standard fair to a wide array of special gatherings. It truly is a recognition of just how good we have it here in the first, and in our opinion the best, active retirement community in the country.

Everyone acknowledges Del Webb's genius for the inspiration and the creation of this remarkable concept in senior living. Sometimes overlooked are the thousands and thousands of residents who took Webb's vision and shaped it into what Sun City has become. This year-long celebration is dedicated to them.

We will conduct our opening ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 9 at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. We have invited the governor and both state senators along with many of the local politicians. Dolan El-

GUEST Commentary

Bill Pearson



lis, Arizona balladeer, and Marshall Trimble, Arizona historian, will provide us with some great entertainment. There will be a presentation by the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and a host of other fast-moving groups to keep the event nothing but fun. Seating will be for the first 1,800.

We will conduct our first of three 50th anniversary golf tournaments Thursday, Dec. 10. This one filled up fast so we encourage you to watch as entries go on sale for the next two after the first of the year.

The annual boat parade around Viewpoint Lake provides the back drop for our next event. We will begin the festivities Friday, Dec. 11 at Lakeview Recreation Center social halls and on the patio, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. There will be an awesome Santa display, free Rock Springs pie

and music by the Rhythm Ramblers. And the Sundial Men's Club is conducting a special Wednesday night Bingo game Dec. 23 with all proceeds donated to the Sun City 50th anniversary.

With a brief hiatus during the Christmas holidays, we come back hard and strong Jan. 1 with the 50th anniversary party at the Bell Recreation Center social hall, 16820 N. 99th Ave. Free cake and ice cream will help ring in 50 years of unmatched success, and after the celebration ends at 2 p.m., we will head on down to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum for another two hours of partying.

It does not stop there. We will have 50-cent bowling Jan. 3-4, hot dogs and sodas from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at both Lakeview Lanes and at Bell Lanes. Mojoe's and La Petite restaurant will be serving up the food, so stop by and roll a line or three.

Every Sun City resident will be getting a program of events Dec. 5, so watch for it as we show you first-hand just how much will

be going on. One of our goals for the 50th was to try and bring residents together and to enhance the sense of community that has always been at the core of Sun City's existence.

We will have all of the memorabilia available for purchase at the events. If you can't get to them you can always pick up whatever you need at the Sun City Visitor Center, open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. We also need hundreds of volunteers and you can sign up at our events or can visit our Web site at www.suncity50thanniversary.org. And anyone stuck on what to buy for Christmas, we have gift certificates available at the Visitor Center.

It has been a long, long time in the making, but Sun City's 50th anniversary is just around the corner. Join us whenever possible as we celebrate 50 years of remarkable success.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson is Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee publicity chairman.

50th Anniversary Committee lines up sponsors, events

JEFF DEMPSEY

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The 50th Anniversary of Sun City is only a few months away, and Wednesday afternoon the 50th Anniversary Committee gave an update on the status of their year-long celebration plans.

"We've got a number of sponsors lined up, and I think we'll see even more coming in soon," said Paul Herrmann, who is in charge of public relations for the committee. "We have a lot of ideas, and we want to be able to do as many of them as possible, so keep working hard."

The committee detailed plans for a number of activities they think will make the 50th anniversary a special one. The celebration will begin Dec. 9 with a 50th Anniversary Kick Off Ceremony, followed by a golf tournament Dec. 10 at Sun City Country Club. Dec. 11, a parade of boats will be on Viewpoint Lake.

SEE ANNIVERSARY, A5

ANNIVERSARY

FROM A1

Perhaps most notable is the plan for a time capsule, which will be opened in 2060 during Sun City's 100th anniversary celebration.

"We received approval from the Recreation Centers of Sun City to place the time capsule in the new Fairway Recreation Center," said Vice President Warren Clucker. "It will be in the entryway so everybody who comes in will see the plaque."

Clucker said the committee is looking for items that represent the every day lives of Sun Citians to place in the time capsule and that anyone with ideas should contact the committee.

"We're also looking for Sun City couples who are celebrating their 50th anniversary next year," Herrmann said. "Keep an eye out because we need help in locating them. We want them to be part of the celebration."

President Susan Sommers said the committee also is looking for original Sun Citians.

"We would love to have some people who moved into Sun City in 1960 get involved, but we do need help finding them," she said.

Clucker talked about the community parade planned for March 13 and the need for more volun-



Sponsorship decals and other items celebrating the anniversary may be purchased at the Visitors Center, located in Bell Recreation Center just south of Bell Road.

teers to pull it off.

"We'll be needing help in the staging area to make sure the floats are organized, we'll need marshals along the route to be sure the parade keeps moving," he said. "I would really hope that, of the 41,000 goodhearted Sun City residents, we can find 100 or so willing to help make the 50th parade a truly special event."

Bill Pearson, publicity chairman, said anyone with an event planned for next year needs to let the committee know by the end of October.

"We have a 30- to 60-page yearlong program, with a run of about 50,000 copies, and it is critical if you are having an event that you let us know so we can get you in there," Pearson said. "We'll be distributing them to every household in Sun City and we'll have additional copies at places like the Visitors Center and the rec centers for people to pick up."

Pearson, a frequent proponent of community involvement, again urged the people of Sun City to take part in the celebration in some way, big or small.

"If every resident in Sun City does just a little bit then this whole thing goes off without a flaw," Pearson said. "And I know all of you here care. But it's the people who say they don't care that have me worried. Because if you have enough people that just don't care, Sun City ceases to exist."

Pearson asked the people in attendance to do everything they can to get more people involved.

"When you leave here, talk to your neighbors, talk to the people around you," Pearson said. "Let's get these people going."

The committee's next meeting is at 2 p.m. Nov. 18, in the Lakeview Social Halls. For information, visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org or call the Sun City Visitors Center at 623-977-5000.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

Happy 50th birthday, Sun City

Sun City commemorates its golden anniversary in 2010, and area residents are planning to celebrate all year. The festivities kick off in December. Here are five things you should know about Sun City's beginnings:

- 1.** Sun City was the first active adult community of its kind.
- 2.** Sun City debuted Jan. 1, 1960.
- 3.** More than 100,000 visitors showed up the first weekend.
- 4.** There were originally five model homes, a nine-hole golf course, a community center, craft building, shopping center and motel.
- 5.** About 400 homes were sold in the first month.

Source: Sun City Visitors Center.

50th anniversary plans work toward rewarding climax

BILL PEARSON
CHAIRMAN
SUN CITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It has been a long time in the planning, and we're still not there yet. Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration is slated to begin within months and there is still a mountain of work to do. The opening ceremonies scheduled for Dec. 9 of this year are still coming together.

Long before the kickoff event can take place, the committee will be working on an even more daunting task. We have committed to produce a full-color glossy program that will be delivered to every doorstep in Sun City. We will also use it throughout the year to showcase our active retirement lifestyle and to put an exclamation point on those businesses and organizations that supported us financially; the ones that made it possible for this remarkable event to happen.

Our partnership with the Daily News-Sun began Sept. 1. It was an easy fit; the DNS has been here from the very beginning and its history nearly mirrors ours. They have been the local home town newspaper, and their goal is to continue being that for the next 50 years.

While there are many components to the relationship, perhaps the one having the most potential is using the Daily News-Sun's sales staff to market the ads and solicit sponsors for the events scheduled during the year. Unfortunately, there has been some competitive misunderstandings the past several months as the Sun City Area Historical Society has been selling ads for their historical journal and created questions in potential ad buyers' minds.

The two efforts are distinctly different. The SCAHS Journal will document the history of Sun City while the program produced

by the 50th Anniversary committee will be the definitive guide as to what is happening where and when during the yearlong celebration. The 50th program will be a massive run while the Historical Journal will be a limited Edition collectable piece.

The one thing worth noting in the last month is Winter Visitors are starting to return, business is picking up and retailers are looking for ways to spend their fall ad dollar wisely. Several major sponsors have come on board in the past week and event sponsorships are selling out nicely.

Dennis Connolly is the advertising specialist from the Daily News-Sun handling the 50th ad sales and event sponsorships. In the first week, he reported there has been an immediate interest in being in the yearlong program simply because of the great reach and reasonable buy-in. It was clear Dennis was excited by the numerous options available and his talent for getting his clients the best bang for their buck should be the perfect marriage. Dennis can be reached at 623-876-2525.

The next open meeting for the 50th anniversary is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sept. 23. As usual, it will be at the Lakeview Social Hall. We will have shirts, hats, visors, raffle tickets and decals for sale. We will be looking for volunteers to sign up, and we will be bringing everyone up to date on where we are with schedule events. Refreshments will be served.

For those not able to attend, the Sun City Visitor Center has all of the above items for sale, or to get involved, visit our website at www.suncity50thanniversary.org. The enthusiasm is mounting as we near the kickoff, so plan to now to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Opinion 2

Sponsorships line up for Sun City's 50th anniversary

BILL PEARSON

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

SUN CITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

After several unsuccessful fund-raising efforts to finance our yearlong celebration, Sun City's 50th Anniversary Committee is finally finding solid footing. It couldn't have come at a better time. With the festivities set to kick off the beginning of December, the time is growing short, and it is great to see partnerships forming and support coming from businesses and residents alike.

The Daily News-Sun has agreed to work with the 50th Anniversary Committee to produce a 24-40 page program that will highlight all of the festivities for the year. They will handle the distribution (slated to be dropped on doorsteps Dec. 5), will help with layout and design, and their sales force will sell ads during September. If you are a Sun City business looking for a must-be-in publication, this will be the one. Half of the 50,000 magazines will be given to residents at their homes, and the other half will be distributed throughout the year at events.

The news gets even better, as local businesses have started taking an interest in sponsorships of events. Certified Fiduciary Services Inc., will be taking the Parade of Boats on Dec. 11. Karen Wellert, owner of Adultcare Assistance Homecare will sponsor both the Opening Ceremonies Jan. 1 and the Fall Variety Show in November 2010. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have Del Webb's Birthday Party May 16 and Pricilla Richie from Ken Meade's Realty, Greenway Office will sponsor the Independence Day Pancake Breakfast.

The interest in sponsorships is encouraging and for any business or organization looking to boost their status in Sun City, we have numerous other events they can get great recognition by sponsoring. In addition, they will get an ad in the yearlong program so residents will see who helped make the celebration a success.

For those interested in sponsorship, want ad space, purchase a window decal or get involved with our golf tournament, contact Paul Herrmann (623-977-5000) or Susan Sommers (623-824-2543). They will be happy to talk to you regarding marketing opportunities.

Residents also are playing an important role in making the 50th Anniversary come together. Along with their support by putting on events, we are finding individuals donating money, buying T-shirts, hats, visors, window decals and raffle tickets for a golf car that will be given away in at the opening ceremonies in December. All of the above can be purchased at the Sun City Visitors Center.

It's not too late for business owners and homeowners to get involved. That said, don't hesitate. To find out more about what you can do, visit our Web site at www.suncity50thanniversary.org or come by our next Town Hall open meeting — Sept. 23 at Lakeview Social Hall. We will start at 2 p.m.; refreshments will be served, we'll have stuff for sale; and fun will be had by all.

Sun City's yearlong celebration is shaping up, and this will be a great marketing opportunity so don't miss out on being a part of it.

Businesses reap benefits from joining in Sun City's 50th anniversary

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Monday, July 13, 2009

BILL PEARSON

How would you like to be a part of one of the most spectacular marketing opportunities of a lifetime? Before we go there, let's take a quick look back.

The night before the opening of Sun City, even Del Webb's most faithful employees questioned whether anyone would show up for it. The decision to proceed with this type of active retirement community had been scoffed at by the experts. Suffice to say, creating Sun City was a risky proposition.

No one had expected the hoards of people that tramped through the five model homes. Even less would have believed they would sell 200-plus homes in that four-day period. As we look back on those unmatched years of success, there is one constant that fueled the growth.

Simply put, it was a marketing program of pure genius. Webb's creative people were able to convince thousands of seniors that moving away from their families and buying into a slice of retirement heaven was the right thing to do. It was brilliant.

Now, some 50 years later, we have that same opportunity. As we approach 2010, Sun City, the residents, the clubs, the organizations and all of the businesses that have close ties to the community have the chance to tap into that fabled history. The 50th anniversary has all the makings of an event that will once again establish Sun City as THE place to retire.

Recognizing the challenge of

GUEST COLUMNIST

businesses donating money, the committee understood the importance of building a marketing strategy; one that gave companies a chance to get something back. We knew savvy business owners would spend money for advertising, and we quickly set out to create a real value-added package.

The 50th Anniversary Marketing Committee has set levels of options that allow even the smallest business to buy in and be a part of the yearlong promotion. There are many choices with prices starting as low as \$50 and topping out at just under \$6,000 (which includes two full-page ads and multi-media exposure). Anyone interested in this "chance of a lifetime" should call Paul Herrmann at the Sun City Visitor Center (623-977-5000), Pete Peterson at (623-826-3530) or Susan Summers (623-824-2543).

Our goal is to showcase Sun City as the premier active adult retirement community that it is. The yearlong calendar of events will showcase all of the things we do on a day-to-day basis and those businesses, clubs and organizations that help support the promotion will clearly benefit by supporting us and making it happen.

Bill Pearson is vice president of the Sun Cities Historical Society and spokesman for the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee.

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Community

A3

Hats off to Jane Freeman

The Hats Off salute this month honors a special volunteer who has devoted countless hours to become the walking, talking encyclopedia of Sun City — Jane J. Freeman.

Through her efforts, along with co-author Glenn Sanberg, the history of the first 25 years of Sun City came to life for the community's 25th anniversary celebration. The book, titled "Jubilee: — A History of Sun City," takes the reader from the desert that was to become Sun City and moves forward with recordings of who did what, when it happened and how it happened. She devoted a year and a half of her life to research, typing and finalizing this historical book so future Sun Citians would know, understand and appreciate the beginnings of their community.

Freeman seemed destined for a life of giving to others as she sought a college degree in education. At the University of Virginia, she completed her doctorate in education, then moved to New York, where she met her future husband, Leslie. She was dean of students at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y. The couple married Dec. 20, 1958. She has two step children, Toni and Les Jr., who are both retired. Toni lives in New York and Les Jr. in Montana.

When Leslie retired in 1970, the Freemans moved from New York to "get away from the cold and ice." They purchased a golf course home on Prairie Hills Circle and settled in to an active retirement lifestyle. She fondly remembers the security they felt in their new Sun City home. They left doors and windows open and



Freeman

were never concerned about locking them at night.

After the death of her husband in 1977, Freeman became even more involved in the community. She has repeatedly been recognized for her dedication to the community and her giving spirit. She was recognized for more than 25 years of service to Meals on Wheels and received Interfaith's Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award in 2003. In 2005, she received emeritus status from Sun Health for 15 years of service. In 2007, she was recognized by the Valley of the Sun United Way for her community involvement.

In addition to awards, Freeman has served in various positions for many Sun City organizations. She is the former first vice president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City. She served many years on the Sun City



Library board of directors and is past president. She is the past president of the Sun City Community Fund/United Way and of the Sun Health Foundation board of trustees. She also is the former board chairwoman of Sun Health Extended Care Services.

Freeman has emeritus status with the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The society began, in part, when Freeman and other concerned residents learned that the Del Webb Corp. office was contemplating discarding unwanted files and documents once the build-out of Sun City was completed. These pieces of history were rescued and gave birth to the historical society for the preservation they deserved.

The above lists just a few of Freeman's volunteer achievements. She has served in more than 25 significant positions during her Sun City residency. Her numerous efforts were rewarded in 1981 when the Daily News-Sun named her Woman of the Year.

When asked about how writing the history of Sun City began, Freeman said with a laugh, "people got tired of me continuously asking questions about the community and told me I

should write a book." She started by becoming the Sun City ombudsman with the Northwest Valley Paper Council, sponsored by the Independent and Daily News-Sun newspapers, where local issues and events were discussed. From there, she and Sanberg collaborated to give the Sun City community an official history book, which is available at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Freeman also used her research and writing skills to co-author a 25-year history of Banner Boswell Medical Center.

In response to a question regarding why she volunteered to be so involved in the community, Freeman jokingly responded, "because she was asked to and it sure beat doing housework," but followed that closely with the statement that it is because of the wonderful people she has met through volunteerism. She is the definition of a "people person."

Though small in stature, Freeman has an enormous, giving heart, and the community of Sun City has benefited from her tireless efforts and generous commitment to volunteerism.

Elton conversation initiated 40th anniversary

As Sun Citizens approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.

By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw

The Hats Off salute this month honors a man who has been credited by many as being the founder of the celebration to honor the 40th Anniversary of Sun City — Richard "Dick" Elton.

The year was 1999 and Sun City volunteers were meeting to discuss the upcoming ramifications of Y2K. Coinciding with Y2K was the anniversary of 40 years of existence for Sun City. Mr. Elton proposed to the group an idea to have a grand celebration in honor of the spirit of volunteerism throughout the community. This conversation spurred into action the beginnings of the 2000 Sun City 40th Anniversary festivities. It was a yearlong tribute to the volunteers, Del Webb and the Sun City active retirement lifestyle.

Although personal issues allowed Mr. Elton to only be involved in the first-year plan-

ning stages of the event, his ongoing support and belief never wavered.

Mr. Elton met his college sweetheart, Elsie, in 1936 and they were married in 1942. They raised three children — Wallace, Cynthia and Judith. They are the proud grandparents of two grandsons and three

great grandsons. Mrs. Elton died in 2000. Mr. Elton respectfully stated she had been his "pal" for 64 years.

The move to Sun City came in 1971 when Mr. Elton accepted a position as Dean at Glendale Community College. He and his wife moved to the sunshine of Arizona from Brockport, New York. He immediately became involved in the community by joining several recreation center clubs. He volunteered with a group of residents to go door-to-door throughout the community collecting signatures to get the federal overlay regarding the 55-year age restriction legally established for Sun City.

Soon he was volunteering at the Visitors Center, serving on committees for the homeowners association and recreation centers, and holding the position of director of the



Richard Elton

condo owners association board. Mr. Elton ran and was elected at 79 to a three-year term on the recreation center board of directors. During his term he is proudest of his efforts presenting an "info expo" to help promote the recreation center clubs and for convincing the board to establish a long term planning committee.

Closer to home he volunteered for the condo association group where he personally lived serving as a member of the board or as president for 28 years.

For all of the volunteerism Mr. Elton did for the community he admits one of the very best and most satisfying volunteer services he has done was as a courtesy cart driver at Boswell Hospital. In this position he was allowed to use his genuine caring nature to give compassion to those in troubled times.

With three college degrees education was a driving force in Mr. Elton's life. He lives by the motto, "There is no finish line for education." This sentiment served Sun City well in 1976 as he pursued a satellite Glendale Community College office and six classrooms for the community. This effort was a huge success and in 1978 became Rio



Salado Community College with 2,000 Sun City seniors attending classes.

Mr. Elton has been physically active all of his life with hiking, biking, climbing, running and backpacking. He backpacked the highest point in each of the 48 contiguous states and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. At 72 he backpacked the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. He started running at 60 and over the years has participated in about 135 races.

Not to miss out on an opportunity to promote the Sun City lifestyle, Del Webb supplied Mr. Elton with uniforms as an unofficial volunteer promoter. In 1994, at 77, he ran his last 5K race in the Arizona Senior Olympics, tying the State record for 75-79-year-olds.

Combining his volunteerism in the community and his walking, running, backpacking, hiking, etc., Mr. Elton is a true example of what it means to live an active retirement lifestyle. The community recognizes and is thankful that Mr. Elton took to heart the words "active retirement lifestyle" and devoted his retirement years to Sun City.

Editor's Note: Authors Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw are real estate associates with Ken Meade Realty and are supporters of the 50th Anniversary celebration. Contact Ms. Holley at 623-505-8743 and Mr. Bradshaw at 623-810-9183 to recommend an anniversary celebration volunteer for a deserving Hats Off salute.

Hats off to Fran Park

While conducting interviews of 25th and 40th anniversary volunteers, there was a name repeatedly mentioned and the request that he receive recognition for his voluntarism. This Hats Off salute honors the Rev. Fran Park, chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee.

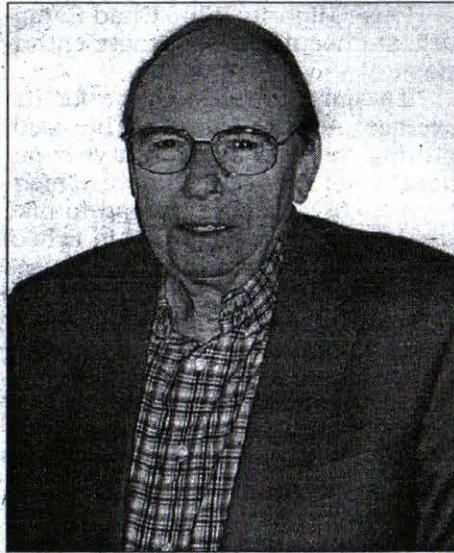
Park speaks about his time volunteering for the 40th anniversary as if it were yesterday, fondly recalling the volunteers who formed one giant, hard-working team, whose common goal was to make the celebration a success.

While emceeding at the closing ceremonies, Park read the volunteer's creed, which was "we believed it ... we planned it ... we worked for it ... we did it." He passes on this creed to the volunteers of the 50th anniversary and advises everyone involved "not to think small" for this historical event.

Park moved to the sunshine of Sun City from Columbus, Ohio, in January 1984. He left behind the cold and snow when asked to be the senior pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church on Del Webb Boulevard. He retired from the church in 1998 and began teaching spring terms at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He has been named a life trustee of the seminary.

While he was out of town on one of the Pittsburgh treks, he said, he was "somehow elected" to the chairmanship position of the 40th Anniversary Committee.

Park was born in Beaver, Pa., a small town outside of Pittsburgh. His



Park

childhood years were spent in Chicago and Cleveland, Ohio.

While attending college in Wooster, Ohio, he met his future wife, Sue Jacobs. They were married in August 1953. They have one son and two daughters. Their son, Andrew Park, lives in St. Petersburg, Fla. Their daughter, Ann Wade, lives in Delaware, Ohio, and has two sons ages 24 and 26. Their daughter, Cathy Koeneman, lives in Columbus, Ohio, and has three daughters ages 8, 14 and 16.

He graduated from the seminary and was ordained a pastor in June 1957 and found his first pastoral position for First Presbyterian Church in Fredericktown, Ohio. As his pas-



Sun City will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010, and the Daily News-Sun will salute volunteers who have made past celebrations successes in this occasional column by Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw. Holley and Bradshaw are real estate associates with Ken Meade Realty and members of the 2010 anniversary committee. If you know of a dedicated anniversary celebration volunteer, call Holley at 623-505-8743 or Bradshaw at 623-810-9183.

toral career progressed, Park moved his family frequently. He served as the first pastor of Northminster Church in North Canton, Ohio. He became pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Elmira, N.Y., then went on to Columbus, Ohio, when he became pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, where he served for 14 years prior to his move to Sun City.

Park remains active in his retirement with commitments in the East and West Valley. Sue Park says her husband is a failure at retirement. While he is pastor emeritus at Faith Church Sun City, he is engaging in ministry as pastoral associate at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale. In April 2004, the couple moved to Phoenix to accommodate his commitments. Though they do not live in the community, they still have Sun City blood running through their veins and continue to volunteer in the area.

Park serves on the Institutional Review Board of Sun Health Research Institute and is a member of the board of Royal Oaks Life Care Community. Sue Park is a member of

the Sun City Bell Ringers.

Park has been a board member for Boswell Medical Center, Sun Cities Area Transit, the Sun City Library and is past president of the Sun City Rotary Club.

As chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Park and his team of volunteers were committed to having numerous events that were fun filled and got the residents out of their houses. When reviewing the calendar of events for the 2000 celebration, which included raffles for a Cadillac, golf car, two British Airways round-trip tickets and cruises, celebrity visits, dances, ice cream socials, a 2.5-mile parade where 10,000 people lined the streets, sports events, food fairs, symphony presentations and more, it is obvious their goal was reached. It was not just an anniversary party, but rather a celebration of what Park calls "older adulthood."

Of his days as chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee, he recalls feeling that it was important to recognize the original residents and honor the community known as the "City of Volunteers."

Anniversary celebration picks up steam in Sun City

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee met Wednesday afternoon in the Lakeview Social Hall 1, and they were greeted by a shocking sight.

"There are a lot of people here," said committee member Walt Patterson. "I think we're going to have a packed house."

More than 100 people attended the meeting, a crowd committee member Bill Pearson said he was surprised — but grateful — to see.

"We've had a few of these meetings now, and attendance in the past has been pretty sparse," he said. "But I've always said, once we get closer to the anniversary people will start showing up. And here they are."

SEE ANNIVERSARY, A5



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick Hirmann of the Sun City Host Lions Club and Ginny Beck of the Sun City Handweavers and Spinners Club peruse the calendar of events for Sun City's 50th anniversary during a meeting Wednesday.

ANNIVERSARY

FROM A1

The committee announced several efforts that will be made in order to market the anniversary, both to bring in funds and to get the word out. Two large 50th Anniversary banners will be hung on the Sun Bowl, which Patterson said "should be visible from Peoria Avenue."

And committee member Paul Herrmann had a big announcement of his own.

"The county will be putting up Sun City entry signs on Bell Road at the west and east entrances," he said. "We were going to organize a fund-raiser, but the county decided to just pay for it themselves."

Herrmann said there is a possibility for additional welcome signs at other locations, including the northern entrance on 99th Avenue.

But the focus of the meeting was on raising money and bringing in volunteers. Herrmann said, with the tough economy, business donations are not coming in as they have in the past.

"We are now selling 'Proud Sponsor' decals for \$50, which is not asking very much and has been very successful," he said. "So if you shop somewhere and you don't see that sticker in the window, please encourage them to come by the Visitor's Center and purchase a sticker."

Pearson said people should also make it a point to talk to business owners who do have the sticker.

"Acknowledge that you appreciate their support of the community," he said.

The committee discussed some of its marketing plans, including posting videos online, advertising through the Discover the Region handbook and distributing a 50th Anniversary program. The plan calls for 50,000 copies to be printed, with one program going to each of the 27,000 homes in Sun City and the remaining 23,000 to be handed out at social gatherings and events.

Pearson reiterated to those in attendance how important it is that they volunteer.

"The residents are the best marketing tool we have, because nobody can pitch this community like the people who live here," Pearson said. "If you love Sun City, all you have to do is tell people why. 2010 is our year to show the outside world what we are all about."

One statistic Pearson gave in particular seemed to resonate with the audience.

"Over the next 20 years, 10,000 Baby Boomers per day will reach retirement age," Pearson said. "That's 10,000 per day. If we want to keep the Sun City we know and love and keep the outside from creeping in, we have to show people who we are."

Pearson encouraged everyone in attendance to sign up and to go back to whatever clubs or groups they are a part of and spread the word.

"Give us your money, give us your time, give us your expertise — whatever you can give, we'll take it all," he said. "Remember, you are buying into your future and the future of Sun City."

For more information, call Paul Herrmann at 623-977-5000 or visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

rough town

50th-year panel seeks backing

SUN CITY — The city's 50th-anniversary committee is seeking the community's support to raise money to finance its yearlong celebration. The committee is in charge of organizing Sun City's 50th birthday in 2010.

The committee is selling sponsor decals to businesses and residents for \$50. Proceeds will be used for anniversary activities. Anyone who purchases a decal will be listed on the committee's Web site, www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

The committee also is holding a raffle to raise funds. The grand prize is a golf cart.

Call 623-977-5000 or visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

Hats off to Max Gimpel



Sun City will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010, and the Daily News-Sun will salute volunteers who have made past celebrations successes in this occasional column by Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw. Holley and Bradshaw are real estate associates with Ken Meade Realty and members of the 2010 anniversary committee. If you know of a dedicated anniversary celebration volunteer, call Holley at 623-505-8743 or Bradshaw at 623-810-9183.

The Hats Off salute this month recognizes Max Gimpel, known as the Sun City Logo Man.

He is the creative mind and artistic talent behind the logos for the 25th, 40th and now the 50th Sun City anniversary celebrations. All of his Sun City logo designs incorporate the signature and recognizable Del Webb pinwheel sunburst.

Gimpel celebrated his 91st birthday in January, and it is fitting that he is honored for his voluntarism through this salute. His sense of humor is still strong, as he jokingly says that if the community would like a Gimpel logo for a future celebration "they need to get that order in now."

Gimpel's artistic talent was evident when he was a young man growing up in Vienna, Austria. Born in 1918 to Moses and Mina Gimpel, he was the youngest of five sons. His parents recognized and supported his talent, however made it clear he was to graduate from the Hebrew Academy before pursuing the arts. He obeyed their wishes before beginning fine arts, design and calligraphy studies at the Vienna Art Academy.



Gimpel

In 1938, life changed for Gimpel as his family emigrated to the United States when Nazi troops invaded Austria. They made New York City their new home.

At age 22, Gimpel began his voluntarism by enlisting with the Navy during World War II. In his enthusiasm to enlist, he forgot an important step: After completing boot camp, it was discovered he was not a U.S. citizen. He was sent to the Supreme Court to obtain citizenship, and his citizenship papers display his photo proudly wearing his Navy uniform.

While stationed at Subic Bay in the Philippines, he created a design for a U.S. Navy base chapel as well as

Christmas and Valentine's Day cards for fellow servicemen, menu cards for Navy functions and was commissioned to create oil paintings for the wall of the mess hall and officers' club.

After being discharged from the service, he pursued mechanical engineering studies at City College of New York and Columbia University. In 1949, he met and married the love of his life, Alice. They have two sons, Allen and James. Allen is a Jewish educator and James is an architect. It is with great sorrow that Gimpel reports that Alice passed away in January 2008. She was his steadfast support, strength and critical eye. He credits her for honing his artistic talent. The love for his wife, family, art and life are what make Gimpel the man he is today.

Although he has always been a freelance artist, Gimpel's work career was as a supervisor with Bell Telephone Laboratories in the engineering and art departments. He retired after 30 years of service there. Over the years he has continued to express his artistic side through designing graphics, commemorative

medals, posters, stamps and teaching art and calligraphy classes.

The Smithsonian Institution is home to a Gimpel one-of-a-kind creation. His original design of the American flag is displayed in the Naval History Division at the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The flag design is created by using the words of the Pledge of Allegiance to form the blue field for the stars and the words of the Star Spangled Banner form the red stripes.

The Gimpels moved to Sun City in 1978 and to Sun City West in 2004, where he lives today. Since arriving in the community, he began sharing his artistic gift. Besides the Sun City logo creations, recipients of his logo designs include Sun City Sunshine Service, the 30th Anniversary for Youngtown, the Arts in Mesa, the Sylvia Plotkin Judaica Museum and the Arizona Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness. He says of his work that his greatest accomplishment was the design of the synagogue and stained glass windows for Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West.

It's not too early to plan

By Lily Leung
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Surprise's 50th anniversary is still 21 months away, but City Clerk Sherry Ann Aguilar began preparing for the date more than a year ago.

During that time, Aguilar and a historian began compiling the city's history, asking residents for pictures, old newspaper clippings and other memorabilia.

Aguilar hopes their hard work will result in a published book of stories, photos and quotes, ready for sale by Jan. 1, 2010.

Based on about 50 interviews, the book actually begins before Surprise's incorporation, December 12, 1960. It takes residents back to 1937, with a section discussing the area's railroad system and agricultural industry.

Surprise, at that time, was filled with ranches and cotton and rose fields.

for Surprise's 50th

The book also will include:

- » Luke Air Force Base's impact on the city
- » The city's rodeos.
- » The history of its annexation.
- » Its housing and commercial boom in the 1990s.

The book concludes with the city's vision.

Aguilar said the city plans to have the book available for sale on the city's Web

site and the city store.

Although the book is expected to be available by the beginning of the year, the actual 50th anniversary celebration won't be until December.

Aguilar said it will likely fall on the day of the annual Surprise Party, but details of the event have not been firmed up yet.

The city will soon create a planning committee to organize the celebration.

Surprise! It's your birthday

Surprise and Sun City will both celebrate their 50th birthdays next year. But the neighboring communities in the Northwest Valley are more like fraternal than identical twins. They share some similarities, but each has a distinct history and community life.

	SURPRISE	SUN CITY
How it got started	Surprise started as a farming village. Surprise was founded in 1929 but not incorporated until Dec. 12, 1960.	The Del E. Webb Development Corp. purchased farming land in the northwest Phoenix area. The first five model homes opened to the public Jan. 1, 1960.
Name origins	The city's name comes from Surprise, Neb., the hometown of the city's founder, Homer C. Ludden.	Del E. Webb named the area himself.
Claim to fame	Surprise is one of the fastest-growing cities in the state.	Sun City was the first active-adult community in the U.S.
Population	109,972.	44,000.
Demographics	The average age is about 36. The median household income in 2007 was about \$59,600, according to U.S. Census estimates.	The average age is about 73. The median household income in 2007 was about \$34,700, according to U.S. Census estimates.
Things to do	Spring training games at the Surprise Stadium, Heard Museum West, Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex, West Valley Art Museum, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Surprise Aquatic Center, DreamCatcher Park.	Seven recreation centers, eight golf courses, three country clubs, two bowling centers, Sun Bowl Amphitheatre, Viewpoint Lake, and more than 120 clubs.

Collecting historic photos

If you have any historic photographs or stories from Surprise or Sun City's early days, we want to hear from you.

Please send Surprise photographs to lily.leung@arizonarepublic.com. Please send Sun City photographs to sherryanne.rubiano@arizonarepublic.com.



Sun City's opening day on Jan. 1, 1960, caused a traffic jam on Grand Avenue. More than 100,000 people came to view the first five model homes.

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sun City 50th anniversary has community buzzing

By Sherry Anne Rubiano
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

The opening of Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960, made national headlines.

More than 100,000 people showed up the first weekend to view the original five model homes in a new community designed for active adults.

Area residents hope to raise as much excitement about the 50th anniversary.

"We were the very first planned active-retirement community built anywhere in the world," said Paul Hermann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center. "(That) we've made it 50 years is ... big news."

Hermann is a member of the Sun City 50th anniversary committee. Committee members have been making plans for more than 1 1/2 years.

They are counting down the days until they kick off a yearlong celebration.

The committee is working with residents and local organizations, including the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, to sponsor activities and events throughout 2010.

A 50th birthday party is scheduled for Jan. 1 at the Bell Recreation Center. The party will feature cake and entertainment. Churches will be asked to ring their bells that day.

One of the year's highlights is a parade on March 13. Community variety shows, Del Webb's birthday celebration, and a sock hop also are in the works.

Other projects include a 50th anniversary book, calendar, and a time capsule that will be opened on Sun City's 100th anniversary.

Susan Sommers, president of the Sun City anniversary committee, said their goal was to maintain the visibility of Sun City as a place to move to and to celebrate its history.

Northwest Valley News Aug 1960
March 28, 2009

Hats Off To... Park always mentioned for work

As Sun Citians approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.

By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw

While conducting interviews of 25th and 40th Anniversary volunteers there was a name that repeatedly was mentioned and the request that he receive recognition for his volunteerism. This Hats Off salute honors Rev. Fran Park, 40th Anniversary Committee chairman.

Mr. Park speaks about his time volunteering for the 40th Anniversary as if it were yesterday, fondly recalling the wonderful volunteers that formed one giant, hard-working team whose common goal was to make the celebration a success. While emceeing at the closing ceremonies, Mr. Park read the volunteer's creed, which was, "We believed it...we planned it...we worked for it...we did it."

He passes on this creed to the volunteers of the 50th Anniversary and advises everyone involved "not to think small" for this historical event.

Mr. Park moved to the sunshine of Sun

City from Columbus, Ohio in January 1984. He gladly left behind the cold and snow when asked to be the senior pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church on Del Webb Boulevard. He retired from the church in 1998 and began teaching spring terms at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He was named a life trustee of the seminary. He laughs when he reports it was while he was out of town on one of the Pittsburgh treks that he was "somehow elected" to the chairmanship position of the 40th Anniversary Committee.

Mr. Park was born in Beaver, Pa., a small town outside of Pittsburgh. His childhood years were spent in Chicago and Cleveland. While attending college in Wooster, Ohio, he met his future wife, Sue Jacobs. They were married in August of 1953. They have three children, one son and two daughters.

Mr. Park graduated from the seminary and was ordained a pastor in June of 1957 and found his first pastoral position for First Presbyterian Church in Fredericktown, Ohio. As his pastoral career progressed Mr. Park moved he and his family frequently. He served as the first pastor of Northminster Church in North Canton, Ohio. He



Fran Park

became pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Elmira, N.Y., then on to Columbus, Ohio, when he became pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church where he served 14 years prior to his move to Sun City.

He remains active in his retirement with commitments in the East and West Valley. With all he is involved in, Mrs. Park states her husband is a failure at retirement. While he is Pastor Emeritus at Sun City's Faith Church Sun City, he actively engages in ministry as pastoral associate at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale. In April 2004 they moved to Phoenix to accommodate his East and West Valley commitments.

Though they do not reside in the community they still have Sun City blood running through their veins and continue to volunteer in the area. Mr. Park currently serves on the Sun Health Research Institute Institutional Review Board and is a Royal Oaks Life Care Community Board of Directors member. Mrs. Park is a member of the Sun City Bell Ringers.

Mr. Park's other Sun City volunteerism includes board memberships with Boswell Hospital, Sun City Area Transit, the Sun City Library, as well as being Sun City Rotary Club past president.



As Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee Mr. Park and his team of volunteers were committed to having numerous fun-filled events and got residents out of their houses. When reviewing the calendar of events for the 2000 celebration, which included raffles for a Cadillac, golf cart, two British Airways round trip tickets, cruises, celebrity visits, dances, ice cream socials, a 2.5-mile parade where 10,000 people lined the streets, sports events, food fairs, symphony presentations and much more, it is obvious their goal was reached. It was not just an anniversary party, but rather a celebration of what Mr. Park calls "Older Adulthood."

Of his days as 40th Anniversary chairman he recalls feeling that it was important to recognize the original residents and honor the community known as the City of Volunteers.

Editor's note: Ms. Holley, a real estate associate with Ken Meade's Greenway office, is a volunteer for the 50th Anniversary Committee and serves on its community involvement and ways and means committees. Mr. Bradshaw is also a real estate associate with Ken Meade and is a volunteer for the 50th Anniversary Committee. They are looking for Sun City volunteers associated with the anniversary celebrations to be recognized through this column. Call Ms. Holley at 623-505-8743 or Mr. Bradshaw 623-810-9183.

Freeman provides walking history

As Sun Citians approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.

By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw

The Hats Off salute this month honors a very special volunteer who has devoted countless hours to become the walking, talking encyclopedia of Sun City - Jane J. Freeman.

Through her efforts, along with co-author Glenn Sanberg, the history of the first 25 years of Sun City came to life for the community's 25th Anniversary celebration. The book, entitled "Jubilee - A History of Sun City," takes the reader from the desert that was to become Sun City and moves forward with recordings of who did what, when it happened and how it happened. She devoted a year and a half of her life to the research, typing and finalizing of this historical book so that future Sun Citians would know, understand and appreciate the beginnings of their community. Ms. Freeman seemed destined for a life of giving to others as she sought a college degree in education. At the University of Virginia she completed her doctorate degree in education, Ed.D., and moved to New York State where she met her future husband, Leslie. She held the position of Dean of Students at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y. They were married on Dec. 20, 1958. She has two step children, Toni and Les, Jr. Both children are now retired. Toni lives in New York state and Les, Jr. in Montana.

When Mr. Freeman retired in 1970 the Freeman's moved from New York state to "get away from the cold and ice." They purchased a golf course home on Prairie Hills Circle and settled in to an active retirement lifestyle. She fondly remembers the security they felt in their new Sun City home. They left doors and windows open and were never concerned about locking them at night.

After the death of her husband in 1977, Ms. Freeman became

even more involved in the community. She has repeatedly been recognized for her dedication to the community and her giving spirit. She was recognized for over 25 years of service to Meals on Wheels. She received Interfaith's Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award in 2003. In 2005, she received Emeritus status from Sun Health for 15 years of service. In 2007, she was recognized by the Valley of the Sun United Way for her community involvement.

In addition to awards, Ms. Freeman has also served, in various positions, for many Sun City organizations. She is the former First Vice President of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. She served many years on the Sun City Library Board of Directors and is past President. She is the past President of both the Sun City Community Fund/United Way and of the Sun Health Foundation Board of Trustees. And she is the former Board Chairman of the Sun Health Extended Care Services.

Ms. Freeman holds Emeritus status with the Sun Cities Historical Society. The Society began in part when Ms. Freeman and other concerned residents learned that the Del Webb Corporation office was contemplating discarding unwanted files and documents once the build out of Sun City was completed. These pieces of history were rescued and gave birth to the Historical Society for the preservation they deserved.

The above lists just a few of Ms. Freeman's volunteer achievements. She has served in over 25 significant positions during her Sun City residency. Her numerous efforts were rewarded in 1981 when she was awarded Woman of the Year by the Daily News-Sun.

When asked about how the writing of the history of Sun City came about, Ms. Freeman laughs and says "people got tired of me continuously asking questions about the community and told me I should write a book" -- so she did just that. She started by becoming the Sun City ombuds-

man with the Northwest Valley Paper Council (sponsored by the Independent and Daily News-Sun newspapers) where local issues and events were discussed. From these beginnings she and co-author Glenn Sanberg collaborated to give the Sun City community an official history book. For those interested, this book is available at the Sun City Historical Society, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Ms. Freeman also used her research and writing skills to co-author a 25 year history of Boswell Hospital. In response to a question regarding why she volunteered to be so involved in the community Ms. Freeman jokingly responded "because she was asked to and it sure beat doing housework", but follows that closely with the statement that it is because of the wonderful people she has met through volunteerism. She is the definition of a "people person".

Though small in stature, Jane J. Freeman has an enormous giving heart and the community of Sun City has truly benefited from her tireless efforts and generous commitment to volunteerism.



Submitted photo

Jane Freeman

Anniversary gives community chance to reinvest

PAUL HERRMANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUN CITY VISITORS CENTER

There's something very special about Sun City, and there has been since the day it opened Jan. 1, 1960. As strange as it may seem, no one was born here; they moved to the community later in life. Once they arrived, it was like finding a safe haven, a sense of serenity within the walls. A place they could adopt and live out their retirement years being active involved and engaged.

As much as we love it here, times are changing. With the tough economic times, there are questions whether retirement communities can survive. There are those who attack and criticize age restricted developments. One author, Andrew Bleckman, went so far as to say that Sun City residents are selfish and on a path to self-destruction; that we will not even reinvest in ourselves, let alone the outside world.

Those are pretty harsh words aimed at our community. Fortunately, with our upcoming 50th anniversary we have a great opportunity to respond. The recent economic downturn has shaken the business community. Companies that in the past would have showered us with financial support and door prizes have fallen on tough times. This economy has put our backs against the wall. It begs the questions:

- Will Sun City residents rise to the occasion and support a 50th anniversary celebration?
- Will those who have time volunteer to serve on committees?

• Are we willing to give to our community to insure our future?

We know these are difficult questions and we understand the challenges in front of us. We also understand it isn't just companies who are feeling a financial pinch. That being said, Sun City is a community of 42,000 residents and hundreds of businesses with each and every one of us having a vested interest in preserving and protecting the incredible lifestyle we bought into.

Proud Sponsor decals are being sold to businesses and residents to fund anniversary activities. The decals sell for \$50 each and are available at the Sun City Visitor Center. Decals will also be sold at Sun City events and directly to businesses with the help of our volunteers.

Come to the 50th Anniversary Community Meeting Wednesday at Lakeview Recreation Center Social Hall beginning at 2 p.m. This will be an excellent time to ask questions about our plans, sign up as a volunteer, and purchase a Proud Sponsor decal.

Over the next three years, more than 20 million Baby Boomers will reach retirement age. They are already looking at retirement communities and Sun City is just one of many options. Our 50th anniversary celebration should spotlight our community as their best choice. For that to happen, it will take a total community effort. We hope you love Sun City enough to get involved and be a part of making 2010 the year that propels us into our next 50 years; our "Brilliant Future."

Gimpel makes his mark in Sun City

As Sun Citizens approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.

By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw

The Hats Off salute this month recognizes the talented Max Gimpel, known as the Sun City Logo Man.

He is the creative mind and artistic talent behind the logos for the 25th, 40th and now the 50th Sun City anniversary celebrations. All of his Sun City logo designs incorporate the signature and recognizable Del Webb pinwheel sunburst.

Since Mr. Gimpel celebrates his 91st birthday this month, his recognition here is fitting. His sense of humor remains strong as he jokingly states if the community would like a Gimpel logo for a future celebration, "They need to get that order in now."

Mr. Gimpel's artistic talent was evident when he was a young man growing up in Vienna, Austria. Born in 1918 to Moses and Mina Gimpel, he was the youngest of five sons. His parents recognized and supported his talent, however made it clear he was to graduate from the Hebrew Academy before pursuing the arts. He obeyed their wishes before beginning fine arts, design and calligraphy studies at the Vienna Art Academy.

In 1938 life changed for Mr. Gimpel as his family emigrated to the United States when Nazi troops annexed Austria into the Third Reich. They made New York City their new home.

At 22 Mr. Gimpel began his volunteerism by enlisting with the U.S. Navy during World War II. In his enthusiasm to enlist he forgot an important step and after

completing boot camp it was discovered that he was not a U.S. citizen. He was then sent to the Supreme Court to obtain citizenship and his citizenship papers display his photo proudly wearing his navy uniform.



Max Gimpel

While stationed at Subic Bay in the Philippines he created a design for a U.S. Navy base chapel as well as Christmas and Valentine's Day cards for fellow servicemen, menu cards for special navy functions and was commissioned to create oil paintings for the wall of the mess hall and officers club.

After being discharged he pursued mechanical engineering studies at City College of New York and Columbia University. In 1949 he met and married the love of his life, Alice, who died in January 2008. They had two sons, Allen and James. Allen is a Jewish educator and James is an architect.

Mrs. Gimpel was the artist's steadfast support, strength and critical eye. He credits her for honing his artistic talent. Friends and acquaintances say the love for his wife, family, art and life are what make Mr. Gimpel the special man he is today.

Although he has always been a freelance artist, Mr. Gimpel's work career was as a supervisor with Bell Telephone Laboratories in the engineering and art departments. He retired after 30 years of service there. Through the years he continued to express his artistic side through designing graphics, commemorative medals, posters, stamps and teaching art and calligraphy classes.

The Smithsonian Institute is home to a Max Gimpel one of a kind creation. His unique design of the American flag is displayed in the Naval History Division at

the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The flag design is created by using the words of the Pledge of Allegiance to form the blue field for the stars and the words of the Star Spangled Banner form the red stripes.



The Gimpels moved to Sun City in 1978 and to Sun City West in 2004, where he resides today.

Since arriving in the community he began sharing his special artistic gift. Besides the Sun City logo creations, some of the benefactors of his talent are logo designs for the Sun City Sunshine Services organization, the 30th Anniversary for Youngtown, the Arts in Mesa, the Sylvia Plotkin Judaica Museum and the Arizona Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness.

Of his work he states his great-

est accomplishment was the design of the synagogue and stained glass windows for Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West.

Mr. Gimpel's artistic donations are done for causes that he cares about and Sun City is fortunate to have been the recipient of his great talent. The community recognizes and appreciates his gift.

Editor's note: Ms. Holley, a real estate associate with Ken Meade's Greenway office, is a volunteer for the 50th Anniversary Committee and serves on its community involvement and ways and means committees. Mr. Bradshaw is also a real estate associate with Ken Meade and is a volunteer for the 50th Anniversary Committee. They are looking for Sun City volunteers associated with the anniversary celebrations to be recognized through this column. Call Ms. Holley at 623-505-8743 or Mr. Bradshaw 623-810-9183.

Herrmann: Do You Love Sun City?

By Paul Herrmann

There's something very special about Sun City, and there has been since the day it opened on Jan. 1, 1960. As strange as it may seem, no one was born here; they moved to the community later in life.

Once they arrived, it was like finding a safe haven, a sense of serenity within the walls. A place they could adopt and live out their retirement years being active involved and engaged.

As much as we love it here, times are changing. With the tough economic times, there are questions whether retirement communities can survive. There are those who attack and criticize age-restricted developments.

One author, Andrew Bleckman, went so far as to say that Sun City residents are selfish and on a path to self-destruction; that we will not even reinvest in ourselves, let alone the outside world.

Those are pretty harsh words aimed at our community. Fortunately, with our upcoming 50th Anniversary we have a great op-

portunity to respond. The recent economic downturn has shaken the business community. Companies that in the past would have showered us with financial support and door prizes have fallen on tough times. This economy has put our backs against the wall. It begs the questions:

- Will Sun City residents rise to the occasion and support a 50th Anniversary celebration?
- Will those who have time volunteer to serve on committees?
- Are we willing to give to our community to insure our future?

We know these are difficult questions and we understand the challenges in front of us. We also understand it isn't just companies who are feeling a financial pinch. That said, Sun City is a community of 42,000 residents



Paul Herrmann

and hundreds of businesses with each and every one of us having a vested interest in preserving and protecting the incredible lifestyle we bought into.

Proud Sponsor decals are being sold to businesses and residents to fund anniversary activities. The decals sell for \$50 each and are available, right now, at the Sun City Visitor Center. Decals will also be sold at Sun City events and directly to businesses with the help of our volunteers.

Come to the 50th Anniversary Community Meeting 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 at Lakeview Recreation Center Social Hall. This will be an excellent time to ask questions about our plans,

sign up as a volunteer, and purchase a Proud Sponsor decal.

Over the next three years, more than 20 million baby boomers will reach retirement age. They are already looking at retirement communities and Sun City is just one of many options. 50th Anniversary celebration should spotlight our community as their best choice. For that to happen, it will take a total community effort.

We hope you love Sun City enough to get involved and be a part of making 2010 the year that propels us into our next 50 years; our "Brilliant Future."

Editor's note: Paul Herrmann is the executive director of the Sun City Visitor's Center.

Sommers leads celebration's pack

As Sun Citians approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.

By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw

With the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration just a little over a year away it is an appropriate time to honor the current Sun City Golden Anniversary Board President Susan Sommers, who is and has been hard at work in the planning for this event.

The Golden Anniversary is a year-long celebration planned as a tribute to the community Del Webb envisioned when the first Sun City model homes were built and the marketing process of a unique active retirement community began in 1960.

Ms. Sommers, in her capacity as board president, is a good example of the spirit of volunteerism in the Sun City community. Her dedication and commitment to the success of this important celebration are to be commended.

Prior to Ms. Sommers move to Arizona her parents, M.W. (Ron) and Rosemary Maddox, moved to Sun City West in 1984. Her first visit to see them was in July. Even though the summer heat made her question her parents' decision, she began a practice of visiting twice a year, but chose the winter months. She quickly learned of the active retirement lifestyle and varied amenities offered.



Susan Sommers

That is when the Sun City bug bit her.

When Chase Bank offered Ms. Sommers a job transfer out west she jumped at the chance by moving first to

Sun City West and then to Sun City in 2005, which made her a second generation Sun Citian. A bonus was that her sister, Linda Graham, already lived in the community.

When Ms. Sommers was asked about her family a huge smile crossed her face. She proudly states she has two wonderful daughters and two great sons-in-law. Her daughter Kiersten is married to Jason Folb and daughter Gwen is married to Daniel Cabo. Together they have given her three granddaughters, 8 months, 3 years and 7 years old, to brag about.

In 2006 Ms. Sommers became a licensed real estate associate with Windermere/West Valley Realty. This choice of profession came naturally after 25 years in the banking industry selling repossessed and foreclosed manufactured homes for banking institutions.

In her first venture into local volunteerism she followed her interest in the history of Sun City. Through her affiliation with Windermere Realty she revived a relationship with the Sun City Historical Society. Her enthusiasm for the project awarded her a seat on the board.

She successfully organized an



event to bring further awareness to the society by scheduling an open house at the original Sun City model home. She persuaded a jazz group to donate their talent and arranged a hot dog roast. Although pessimists warned her not to expect more than 75 visitors she was determined to make this event a success and held on to her goal of seeing 200 people pass through the door. She persevered and greeted about 300 attendees.

The Historical Society saw an increase in interest and membership.

This success and volunteer spirit did not go unnoticed. Ed Allen, historical society past president, asked Ms. Sommers to attend a Sun City 50th Anniversary public meeting. She quickly volunteered to chair the Ways and Means Committee. In the spring of 2008 she was appointed president.

In addition to her real estate career and the duties of the 50th Anniversary presidency she also volunteers as treasurer of her condominium homeowners association.

Ms. Sommers let her optimism show when she stated all 50th anniversary events will require help from the community. However, she is not worried about that because this is the "city of volunteers" and she knows they will come through for this historic event. There is a growing list of volunteers and she encourages more residents to come forward. She appreciates the volunteers who have already signed up and states that as plans move forward volunteers will be receiving their call to action.

She invites the community to log on to www.suncityaz.org, then click on the 50th Anniversary link for more information. Those with questions or interested in volunteering can e-mail suncity50thanniversary@cox.net.

Ms. Sommers sends an open invitation to all Sun City residents to attend the next 50th Anniversary public meeting Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

Editor's note: Ms. Holley, a real estate associate with Ken Meade's Greenway office, is a volunteer for the 50th Anniversary Committee and serves on its community involvement and ways and means committees. Mr. Bradshaw is also a real estate associate with Ken Meade and is a volunteer for the 50th Anniversary Committee. They are looking for Sun City volunteers associated with the anniversary celebrations to be recognized through this column. Call Ms. Holley at 623-505-8743 or Mr. Bradshaw 623-810-9183.



ANNIE BOON/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The planning committee for Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration named Eva Knight its chairwoman. Knight replaces Tom Beeson, who resigned for personal reasons.

Committee revs up for 50th anniversary

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The groundwork is being laid for Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration, as community leaders and resident volunteers continue monthly planning meetings.

At Wednesday's meeting, Eva Knight of Sun City accepted a nomination to serve as chairwoman of the planning committee, replacing Tom Beeson, who resigned from the position for personal reasons.

"I'm really looking forward to our 50th," Knight said Monday. "We look back at our heritage and 50 years of Sun City, and we look forward to celebrating the future of Sun City."

In the 1980s, Knight served as the first female mayor of Alliance, Neb., for two terms. She and her husband, Bob, own the Sun City Dog Park near La Ronde shopping center off Del Webb Boulevard and Talisman Road. While Knight was mayor of Alliance, the town celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Knight said she believes her experience in planning those events prompted the 60-some people at the meeting to vote her in as chairwoman.

"As the original Sun City, we have a lot to celebrate and a lot of new ground to plow," she said. "I'm

FYI

WHAT: Sun City 50th Anniversary Planning Committee meeting. All residents welcome.

WHEN: 2 to 4 p.m. March 14.

WHERE: Social Halls of Lakeview Recreation Center, Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards.

really pleased we're beginning so early. We're fortunate to have many members of the 40th Anniversary planning committee to help guide us."

The legal status of the anniversary committee stirred dissonance among residents who attended last week's meeting. To collect money, manage sponsorships and establish accounts, the group must decide whether to incorporate privately or to be included under the umbrella of existing nonprofit corporations, such as the Recreation Centers of Sun City or the Sun City Home Owners Association.

An adhoc committee formed to research options and make a recommendation to the committee at next month's meeting.

Golden Anniversary: Sun City gears for birthday



Independent Newspapers/Zach Colick

Clad in special T-shirts, Sun City's 50th Anniversary Committee shows off Nov. 14 a logo they helped develop to celebrate the community's golden anniversary in 2010.

Celebration kicks off next year

By Zach Colick

Independent Newspapers

The Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee unveiled its anniversary logo Nov. 14 and the kickoff date was announced for celebrating the community's golden anniversary.

Committee members plan on having Gov. Janet Napolitano speak in Sun City in December 2009 to officially kick off a yearlong celebration chalk full of entertainment and festivities. A parade has already been scheduled for March 2010 with antique cars, including a 1948 Tucker, as well as decorated golf carts.

"This is a unique distinction and we all ought to be part of something this great," said Parades Chairman Warren Clucker. "We will soon be marching from an extraordinary past into a brilliant future."

Volunteer forms were handed out to the more than 30 people in attendance at Lake-

What do you think?

What activities would you like to see at Sun City's golden anniversary?

- Public forums
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- E-mail
zcolick@newszap.com

iew Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., where committee members stressed the need for residents to ask their fellow club, church and organization goers to become involved in whatever way possible.

"The more you give, the more you get," said Committee President Eva Knight.

During the meeting, committee members discussed their roles and what they are working on.

Organizers said funding for

the yearlong event will come from community and area businesses. Kolbe Management has taken on some financial tasks while Windermere Realty has already provided funding for printing and graphics work.

Treasurer Larry Kuppler noted the 50th Anniversary Committee is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity and residents can receive tax deductions if they donate money to it.

Administration Chairman Walt Patterson is hoping to develop a calendar, listing events occurring throughout the calendar year of 2010 as activities will be planned for each month.

Mr. Patterson is also working on getting the word out to the media and archiving goings-on to document the preparation process for future community celebrations.

With help from the Independent, Sun City Visitor's Center Executive Director Paul

See Golden—Page 3

Want to know more?

Until the anniversary Web site is built, to learn more about the event:

- Visit www.suncityaz.org
- Call the Visitor's Center at 623-977-5000
- By mail at P.O. Box 1270, Sun City, AZ, 85372

Herrmann and other committee members are putting together a historical book, detailing important news and happenings since Sun City's inception in January 1960.

Health and Wellness Chairman Allan Walker said he hopes to bring all 31 houses of worship together for some sort of involvement.

"Every group out there needs to be involved to expose people to what the 50th anniversary committee can do," said Arts and Culture Chairwoman Connie McMillin. "When it's all said and done, we want to leave a legacy for Sun City."

Special Events Chairwoman Pat Clucker said the plan is to have one or more special events each month, including jazz, bluegrass and country music concerts as well as sock hops and barbecue picnics.

Residents also voiced their two cents, including Richard Bondon who would like to see new no littering signs in the community adorned with the 50th anniversary logo.

Ms. Knight said the committee is working on some sort of legacy -- possibly a monument in a historical part of Sun City -- to commemorate the 50th anniversary and look toward the future.

For the anniversary committee to gain more money, Mr. Bondon said a garage sale should be held as a fundraiser.

Mr. Herrmann is also teaming up with residents Lou and Jan Sniderman, who plan on creating a 50th anniversary Web site. In the meantime, information concerning the 50th anniversary committee can be found by visiting www.suncityaz.org, calling the Visitor's Center at 623-977-5000 or by mail at P.O. Box 1270, Sun City, AZ 85372.

The next 50th anniversary committee meeting is planned for sometime in April 2008.



Independent Newspapers/Zach Colick

Tom Beeson addresses a crowd last week at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., about plans for Sun City's 50th anniversary in 2010.

Steering committee established

By Zach Colick
Independent Newspapers

Sun City's 50th anniversary committee met last week with plans to have residents discuss what activities should be incorporated and how long the golden anniversary celebration in 2010 should last.

The two-hour meeting focused most of its energies on whether the committee should become a 501c-(3) nonprofit entity or a club under the umbrella of civic organizations such as the Sun City Home Owners Association or Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Residents voted 21-11 to set up an ad hoc steering committee to look into the "value" of becoming either a club or 501c-(3).

The committee was formed late last year and is still in the early stages of getting organized — a point that was clearly evident throughout the meeting. As the meeting went on, disagreements mounted left and right over every detail that was addressed inside Lakeview Recreation Center's Social Hall 1, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

There were even resignations from some of the founding committee members — who held their first meeting one month ago — more than halfway through the meeting, surprising some on the board.



Independent Newspapers/Zach Colick

Resident Doug Caravaggio, who served on Sun City's 40th anniversary committee, speaks about the importance of sponsors for an event of this magnitude to be successful.

If you Go:

What: Sun City's 50th anniversary committee meeting

When: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 14

Where: Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd

Tom Beeson, the committee's president, and his wife, Judy, its secretary, resigned as they plan to travel extensively around the world in the coming months.

Mr. Beeson added he would not be able to continue his duties on the SCHOA board of directors and take charge of an

event that requires years of planning.

Eventually, a steering committee was established and will be headed by resident Eva Knight, who was mayor of Alliance, Neb., and helped celebrate her town's 100th anniversary.

Resident Bill Bein was elected secretary.

"I can honestly say this is the last thing I expected today. We have a big challenge ahead," said Ms. Knight, who was elected based on vocalizing her con-

February 21, 2007

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

Golden

Continued From Page 1

cerns with how the committee should be managed. "I love Sun City and realize the special story we have to tell."

Members of the 40th anniversary committee attended last week's meeting and presented a binder detailing events that took place and how the celebration was organized in 2000.

Doug Caravaggio, who served on the 40th anniversary committee, said "seed money" from the RCSC and sponsorships from a number of businesses such as Blue Cross Blue Shield and car dealerships was imperative for the suc-

What do you think?

What events should be incorporated into Sun City's 50th anniversary celebration?

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cess of the monumental event — and should continue for the 50th anniversary.

Planning events for such a celebration, he said, needs to take place years in advance so sponsors can see a return on investment

even before the celebration takes place.

"To get good sponsors, you have to have a really great program," he said. "It takes money to run a program, but if you do it right, it can be a success."

Organizers created a list of committees and invite residents to volunteer. Committees include: Transportation, Pavilions, Facilities, Entertainment, Parades, Sports, Safety, Steering, Publicity and Fundraising.

Residents also discussed what types of activities they would like to see for the celebration they agreed should last one year with events sprinkled throughout the year.

Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitor's

Center, said something special should be planned for Jan. 1, 2010, the actual golden anniversary date.

While many said the New Year's Day holiday was a day typically spent with family, Mr. Herrmann and Ms. Knight agreed that could be the grand kick-off.

They added that should be the day where Gov. Napolitano addresses the community and congratulates residents on Sun City's longevity.

A member of the Sun City Players Club, an area theater troupe, said they would like to have someone write a play that could be performed at the Sun Bowl.

In the past, the troupe performed a one-act play called

"Caught in Del Webb's Web," which was performed at the 10th, 25th and 40th anniversaries.

Others discussed developing a logo for the event, a Web site and contacting businesses for signs to adorn area recreation centers for more publicity.

"We need to start including the entire population of Sun City in as many ways as possible," Ms.

Knight said.

The Sun City 50th anniversary committee will next meet 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., to further plan events and entertainment.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at newszap.com. News Editor Zach Colick can be reached at 972-6101 or zcolick@newszap.com.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Don Schordje, RCSC Board President



Bringing the Volunteer Spirit of Sun City to the World

On January 1, 1960, the staff of DEVCO (Del Webb Development Corporation) was in place and waiting, not sure what was going to happen, as they opened an expensive gamble in the Arizona desert. Five model homes, a golf course, swimming pool, clubhouse and craft center were ready to welcome an unknown number of prospective retirees. DEVCO did not need to worry. In the first three days of its opening nearly 100,000 visitors toured the site that would eventually grow to become Sun City.

Today, as we approach our 50th anniversary, Sun City is recognized worldwide as the oldest retirement community in existence. This year we have hosted visitors from Japan, Russia and the Netherlands who are curious about how a self-governing community without a mayor or city council can exist and thrive. Europe's sociologists are concerned about the ramifications of their "baby boomer" population coming of retirement age and carrying expectations that their governments will not be able to fulfill. Therefore, Europe's private developers are meeting and planning to

step in and try to fill this need. They ask us, "What makes Sun City so successful and what would it take to duplicate your success?"

On November 29 I will have an opportunity to answer some of their questions. I will be addressing an international conference at the invitation of the province of Limburg in the Netherlands. Attendees will be coming from all over Europe and the United States.

My presentation will stress two axioms that must be present in order to succeed:

1) There must be an assortment of organized events available to the membership to provide a variety of sports, crafts and social activities, as well as mental stimulation.

2) The community must have a spirit that is conducive to volunteerism. It is the volunteers who give a community its sense of pride and guarantee that the community will remain self-reliant and self-sufficient.

This will be a real challenge for Europe since they have traditionally been more dependent on the government to intervene in their welfare.

Their concerns and interest toward addressing this serious retirement crunch can serve as a reminder to us, also. We must not lose the original focus and values that DEVCO's first pioneers brought with them. Volunteers are needed to keep our community safe and beautiful. We need to join the SCHOA, the Posse, the PRIDES or any one of the myriad of organizations that help or serve our community. Volunteers are needed—if only for a few hours per week or month—to keep Sun City vibrant and a model for other communities throughout the world.

We are an affluent community in that we have an educated populace consisting of retired managers, accountants, teachers, technicians and skilled tradespeople. Giving back some of our talent for a few hours a week or month will not only guarantee the survival of Sun City, but it will keep us in the spotlight as the prime example of what a retirement community should be.

Take pride in your community. Volunteer!!

50th anniversary merits attention

Committee to mark
golden anniversary

By Bret McKeand
Independent Newspapers

Sun City will turn 50 in three years and representatives from several civic organizations want to make sure the celebration lives up to the significance of the occasion.

A 50th anniversary committee held its first meeting Oct. 20 and participants discussed numerous ideas on how to proceed and what type of celebration should be conducted. All agreed the anniversary is one that deserves widespread attention.

"We should think really big about this," said Ben Roloff, sec-

retary of the Sun City Home Owners Association. "We have a great story to tell, and we need to tell the whole country."

Representatives from the SCHOA, Recreation Centers of Sun City, Sun City Prides, Sun City Posse and Sun City Condo Owners Association were among those present at the first meeting. Group members are encouraging other citizens to join the effort.

"Our suggestion is that members of the community step up to be volunteers and leaders of committees," said Jean Buck, a member of the RCSC Board of Directors. She said the rec centers will gladly provide meeting facilities for future committee meetings.

See **Anniversary** — Page 3

Anniversary

Continued From Page 1

Sun City, founded by the Del Webb Corp., opened Jan. 1, 1960. Although not the first full-fledged retirement community in the nation — Youngtown owns that title — it was the very first master-planned active-adult retirement community that featured the concept of home purchases tied to a recreational lifestyle.

Del Webb officials were concerned the concept might not draw much attention. Their fears were allayed on opening day 1960 when a string of cars, stretching back two miles, packed Grand Avenue waiting to inspect — and purchase — those first few model homes.

The Del Webb company sold 237 homes during the first 48 hours of sales; 400 by the end of the first month.

The success of Sun City spawned an entire new industry — the retirement community. Del Webb Corp. has gone on to build numerous other Sun City communities throughout the nation.

"We want this to be a great event that will gain national attention," said SCHOA President Doug Kelsey. "It will take a lot of time and planning."

Mr. Kelsey said SCHOA has pledged \$2,000 toward helping with the celebration.

Committee members discussed a number of ideas, including planning a series of events versus one program; reaching out to attract national attention; soliciting corporate sponsors to help fund and promote activities and partnering with other civic organiza-



Independent Newspapers/Bret McKeand

Sun City will turn 50 in 2010 and area residents are beginning to plan festivities to mark the event. Members of various civic organizations are looking for volunteers to create a 50th anniversary committee to organize celebrations. A festive golf cart, pictured here, helped honor the community's 30th anniversary during a parade held in 1990.

tions to promote the celebration on various Web sites.

Communitywide celebrations were held for the fifth, 25th and 40th anniversaries. Ms. Buck said members of the 40th anniversary committee have expressed an interest in helping with the 50th anniversary in 2010.

The committee will hold its next planning meeting 10 a.m.

Jan. 17 at the Lakeview Recreation Center, Social Hall 2, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

Residents interested in volunteering for the event are asked to call Mr. Kelsey at SCHOA, 974-4718.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forums at newszap.com. News Editor Zach Colick can be reached at 972-6101 or zcolick@newszap.com.

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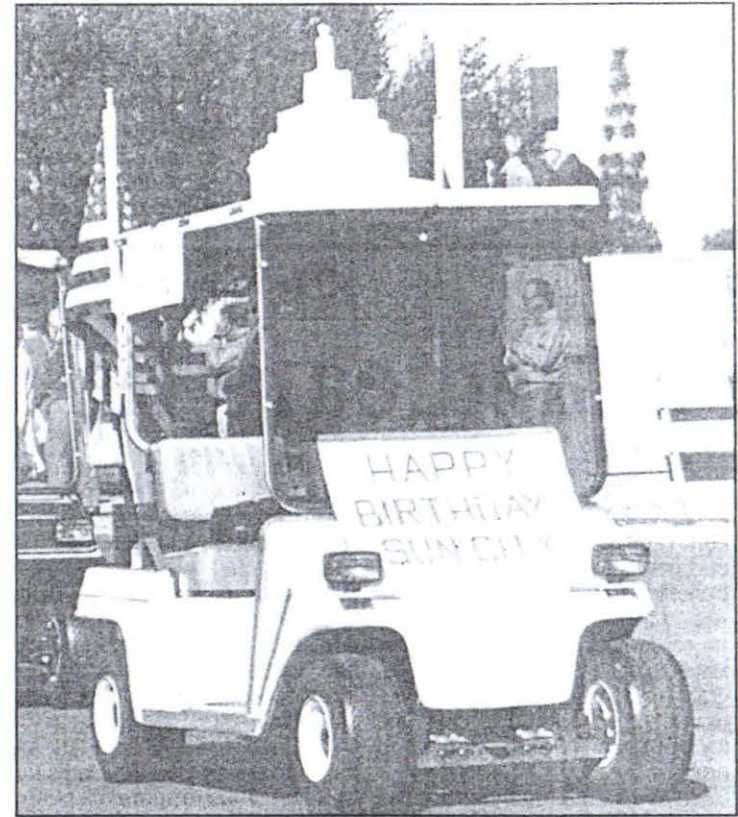
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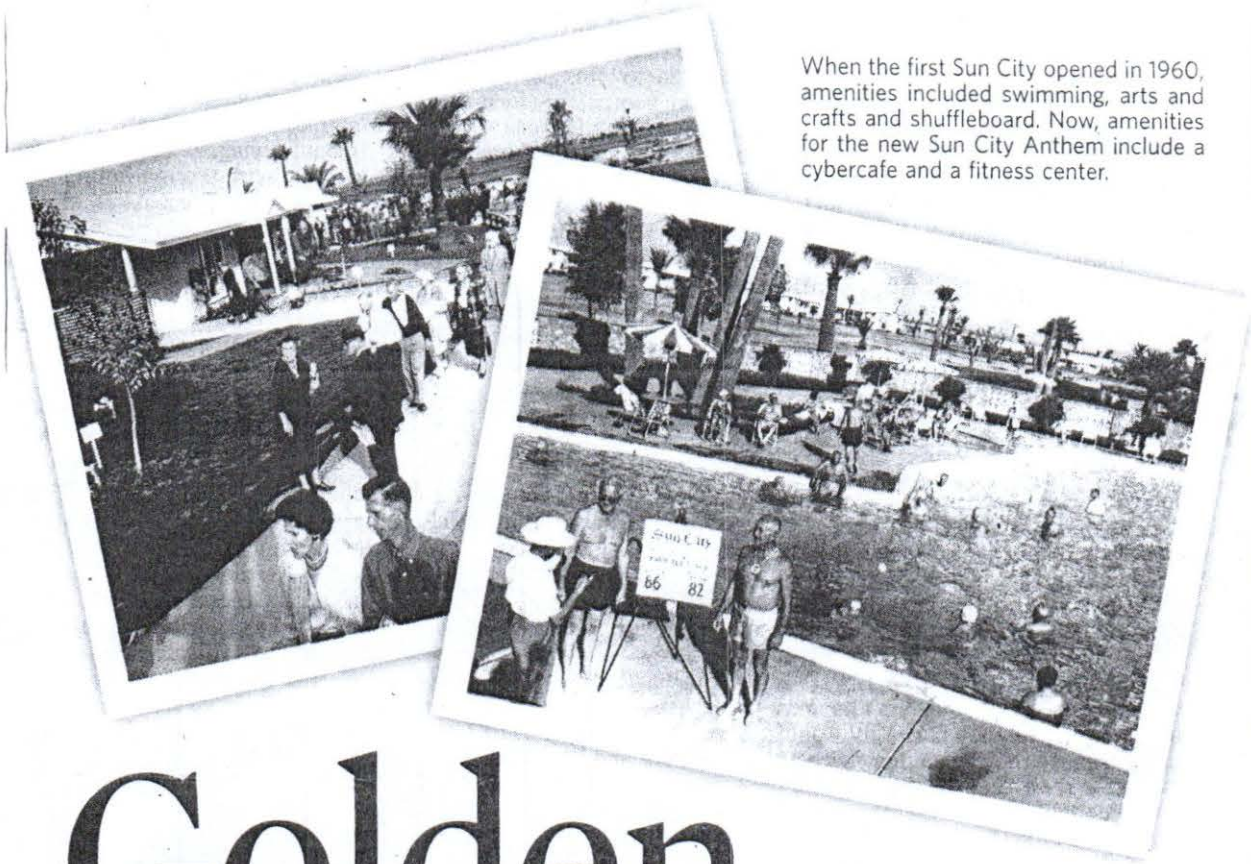
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When the first Sun City opened in 1960, amenities included swimming, arts and crafts and shuffleboard. Now, amenities for the new Sun City Anthem include a cybercafe and a fitness center.



Golden years

Newest Del Webb developments cater to new breed of active adults

By Maura J. Halpern
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

On New Year's Day in 1960, developer Del Webb waited to see if anyone would come to his brand-new community.

After all, he had created an isolated development in the middle of the desert, 20 miles northwest of Phoenix.

Would four years of research and \$2 million in investments pay off?

That weekend, about 100,000 people — 10 times what was expected — descended on recently transformed cotton fields to view the newest trend in retirement living.

This large-scale community, Sun City, introduced a new phrase: active retirement.

Residents in Del Webb's age-restricted community enjoyed a full menu of amenities, from archery to shuffleboard.

Bolstered by a national advertising campaign, Sun City's success proved to Del Webb that his formula did, in fact, click.

Sun City West followed in 1978 and Sun City Grand opened in 1996. Since 1996, almost two-dozen Sun Cities have opened across the country.

The active-adult buyer has burgeoned into one of the fastest-growing segments in the housing industry. Several other developers have entered the market, such



JAMES CARRENO/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Jack and Shirley Hanson stand outside their new home at Sun City Anthem at Merrill Ranch and are among the first to live in one of the newest Sun Cities.

"Del Webb realized people who are retired don't just want to sit around on rocking chairs."

Jane Freeman
Longtime Sun City resident

as the Villages of Lake-Sumter Inc., which built the Villages in central Florida.

This year, the Valley's Del Webb legacy continues as the newest Sun Cities open: Sun City Festival in north Buckeye and Sun City An-

them at Merrill Ranch near Florence.

Between Sun City Grand's debut a decade ago and today, two events occurred that reshaped the active-adult housing industry.

In 2001, Palte Homes Inc. acquired the Del Webb Corp. to create one of the nation's largest home builders.

Also that year, the first baby boomers turned 55, which made them eligible to live in active-adult communities. This enormous demographic created one of the largest segments in the housing industry.

See SUN CITY Page D3

First Sun City approaching 50

SUN CITY
Continued from D1

A new concept

The idea of an age-restricted community wasn't new when the Del E. Webb Development Co. purchased 10,000 acres in 1959 from J.G. Boswell, who owned the cotton ranch where Sun City was built.

In 1954, New York developer Ben Schleifer transformed a cattle ranch in the West Valley into the nation's first age-restricted retirement community, known as Youngtown.

He built 800 homes that bordered the area where Sun City would stand. Buyers had to be at least 50 years of age.

But there was a drawback in this first retirement community, said Jane Freeman, a volunteer at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and longtime Sun City resident.

Youngtown lacked amenities.

"Del Webb realized people who are retired don't just want to sit around on rocking chairs," said Freeman, co-author of *Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*. "They desired more out of life and wanted to feel productive."

While Youngtown didn't include pre-planned amenities, residents took initiative to create activities, said Lucille Rethford, president of the Youngtown Historical Society.

They swam in a nearby lake and organized dance parties and clubs.

"In 1954, retirees didn't really desire the kind of amenities Sun City had," Rethford said. "In 1960, people began to want those things included in their community."

So when residents moved to Sun City, they had their choice of swimming, arts and crafts, lawn bowling, golf, shuffleboard and other activities.

For the first time, a community included age restrictions and the cost of facilities for an active lifestyle in the home title. By the end of 1960 Del Webb sold 1,300 homes in Sun City.

A new buyer

While clubs remain an integral part of today's Sun Cities, the amenities have evolved to suit the needs of today's active baby boomer.

Shuffleboard and lawn bowling courts have been replaced with state-of-the-art fitness centers, cyber cafés and a multitude of organized sports.

The 3,200-acre Sun City Festival will include championship golf courses, a 31,000-square-foot recreational center,

"I feel like I live in a resort. People are very happy to be here, to develop their lives and grow even more."

Mike Holloway

Sun City resident and real estate agent

indoor and outdoor pool and spa, an amphitheater, fitness areas and a technology center.

The development also will expand on Sun City Grand's Arizona State University Lifelong Learning Academy, with additional online programs.

"You won't see shuffleboard courts at today's Sun City. These active adults want cutting-edge amenities," said Jacques Petroulakis, director of public affairs for Pulte Homes and the Communities of Del Webb in Arizona. "They're taking tai chi, pilates and advanced computer classes."

Owners began closing on homes last week at Sun City Anthem at Merrill Ranch, the 1,300-acre, age-restricted portion of the master-planned community near Florence.

Sun City Anthem will include a 49,000-square-foot Union Center for Wellness and Higher Learning, a cyber café, walking paths, fitness center, pools, a variety of sports and other amenities.

What the Sun City buyer desires in a home has been redefined, too.

The first residents chose from five models that ranged from 850 to 1,600 square feet.

Prices for these modest cinderblock homes started at \$8,500. Air-conditioning was optional.

Today's Sun City home includes 20-inch ceramic floor tiles, granite kitchen countertops and recessed lighting. And those come standard. Prices start in the mid \$190,000s.

Also, many baby boomers still work and want homes pre-wired for high-speed Internet access.

Take Frank and Jeanne Schley, for example. The Schleys, who live in Southern California, purchased a 2,900-square-foot home in Sun City Festival.

Frank, 62, is a corporate jet pilot and Jeanne, 60, is retired.

Between the two, they own four computers. They plan to convert one of the three bedrooms in their new home to an office.

The Schleys also were drawn to Sun City Festival's cutting-edge exercise amenities and lifelong learning classes.

"We're both very into fitness and we stay very busy," Jeanne Schley said. "I don't want to become a couch potato; that doesn't suit me at all as a retired person."

The boomer influence

With the nation's population of 55- to 75-year-olds estimated to reach 80 million by 2020, baby boomers are changing the way builders do business.

This fast-growing segment is so influential, in fact, that the National Association of Homebuilders sponsors an annual conference for builders and designers to stay abreast of boomer trends.

The three-day symposium, "Building for Boomers and Beyond," was held in Phoenix this year.

At the conference, industry experts discussed in-demand amenities, interior design trends and hot markets.

Even during a time when many fret over the Valley's cooling housing market, Pulte executives aren't too concerned about opening two developments at once.

"The Sun City brand has been around for a long time and has seen several slumps in the housing industry. It has always performed better than the traditional market," said Sam Colgan, president of Pulte's West Valley division.

The legacy

Del Webb died in 1975, three years before Sun City was built out at 26,000 homes.

Today, more than 200,000 people live in Del Webb communities in 13 states. This number includes Sun Cities and several smaller active-adult communities around the country.

While the marketing of today's active-adult communities has changed and the buyer has redefined retirement, the idea behind it all hasn't changed much since Webb unveiled the first Sun City.

A colorful Del Webb magazine advertisement from 1959 encouraged retirees to come experience a place where "vacations last a lifetime."

Mike Holloway, a Sun City Grand resident and real estate agent with Windermere West Valley, still agrees.

"I feel like I live in a resort," Holloway said. "People are very happy to be here, to develop their lives and grow even more."

Reach the reporter at maura.halpern@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6916.

Source: Builder magazine

The Valley's Del Webb legacy

1960

Sun City opens northwest of Phoenix. Transformed from cotton fields, it is the first large-scale "active-adult" community in the country. At buildout in 1978, it contains 26,000 homes.

1978

Sun City West opens two miles northwest of the initial community. Completed in 1997, it includes 16,900 homes.

1996

Sun City Grand opens in Surprise. At buildout in 2005, it contains 9,611 homes.

Active-adult-community builders

Almost 50 years after Del Webb unveiled the first Sun City, the active-adult buyer has become one of the fastest-growing segments in the housing industry. Several developers cater to active adults.

- Pulte Homes and the Communities of Del Webb, **17,795** active-adult closings in 2005.
- Villages of Lake-Sumter Inc., **4,262**.
- Shea Homes, **1,863**.
- Epcon Communities, **944**
- WCI Communities, **815**.
- Avatar Holdings, **670**
- ICI Homes, **542**
- G.L. Homes, **375**.
- Kara Homes, **330**.
- SeaGate Homes, **307**.

2001

Pulte Homes, Inc. acquires Del Webb Corp., creating one of the nation's largest home builders.

2006

For the first time, Del Webb unveils two Sun Cities at once: Festival in Buckeye and Anthem at Merrill Ranch in Florence.

Celebration picks up steam

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Like a locomotive pulling out of the station, the effort to celebrate Sun City's 50th anniversary is picking up steam.

Anniversary committee members hosted community leaders in a breakfast, sponsored by Union Hills Country Club, 9860 Lindgren Ave., Nov. 13 to give an overview of the planning so far. A preliminary calendar of events has been set, but there is still a lot of work to do for activities

and fundraising, according to Paul Herrmann, Sun City Visitors Center director and committee publicity coordinator. In calling on Sun City residents and businesses to help the effort, he quoted community founder Del Webb, who said, "I built you a community, but only you can fulfill its promise."



Mr. Herrmann said Sun City's longevity indicates significant work has been done on that fulfillment, but the yearlong 50th anniversary in 2010 needs resident and business participation to showcase it.

"It is up to us to step up to the plate and make this work," he said.

The committee will preview its plans in a community meeting 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

If you go

Sun City 50th Anniversary community meeting
2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19
Lakeview Recreation Center,
10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

Related Link

www.suncity50thanniversary.org

Susan Sommers, anniversary committee president, said planning for the celebration started more than one year ago and has

garnered some business support, including from Colby Management, Ken Meade Realty, Sun City Home Owners Association, Sunshine Services, Windemere Realty and Union Hills Country Club.

Warren Clucker, committee vice president, acknowledged efforts of committee members. Bill Bein is serving as committee secretary and Larry Kuppler is the treasurer. Heading up sub-committees are Walt Patter-

See Steam — Page 3

Steam

Continued From Page 1

son, administration; Bill and Lori Pearson, athletics; Marilyn Holley, community involvement; Connie McMillin, culture and crafts; Allan Walker, health and faith; Warren and Pat Clucker, special events; and Ms. Sommers, ways and means.

Working under the motto "An Extraordinary Past and Brilliant Future," the committee is striving for a number of goals, according to Mr. Herrmann. Chief among those goals is organizing a year-long celebration highlighting education, recreation, entertainment and social activities designed to unite residents, organizations and businesses. The group also hopes to motivate residents to participate in the planning and implementation of the celebration, Mr. Herrmann said.

"Sun City is made up of a lot of different entities working on their own things," he said. "We need to get everyone working together."

In addition to creating a legacy to community founder Del Webb, the celebration is also expected to contribute funds to organizations dedicated to serving the interest and needs of Sun City residents, according to Mr. Herrmann.

While the details of the 2010 celebration activities are still being worked out, committee members released a list of events that are locked in. They include a 50th anniversary party and bell ringing in January to kick off the year; a parade and barbecue dinner, possibly in March; a July ice cream social and entertainment; a variety show in October; and an anniversary finale in December. Other events will be plugged in as planning progresses, Mr. Herrmann said.

Committee members hope to

have an activity at each of Sun City's seven recreation centers during the 2010 celebration, according to Ms. Sommers.

"Recreation Centers of Sun City officials are helping us coordinate those activities," she said.

Funding sources are expected to include sponsor contributions, product sales, calendar sales, event ticket sales, raffle ticket sales, and contributions from residents and businesses.

Mr. Herrmann said contributors will be recognized publicly in promotional publications and newspaper advertising. He added committee members recognize that with existing economic difficulties in the country monetary donations may suffer, but stressed in-kind contributions will also be accepted and recognized.

The committee has a Web site, www.suncity50thanniversary.org, where residents can see updates on the planning process.

Ms. Sommers said Sun City and Sun City West are unique, in that there are more than 40 Sun City communities around the country, but all but the West Valley communities are subdivisions of a city.

"Because we have made this work so long, budding communities similar to ours all over the world look to us for examples," she said.

Mr. Herrmann said he regularly gives tours to Japanese and Korean visitors who hope to take examples from Sun City back to their own countries to benefit planned communities there.

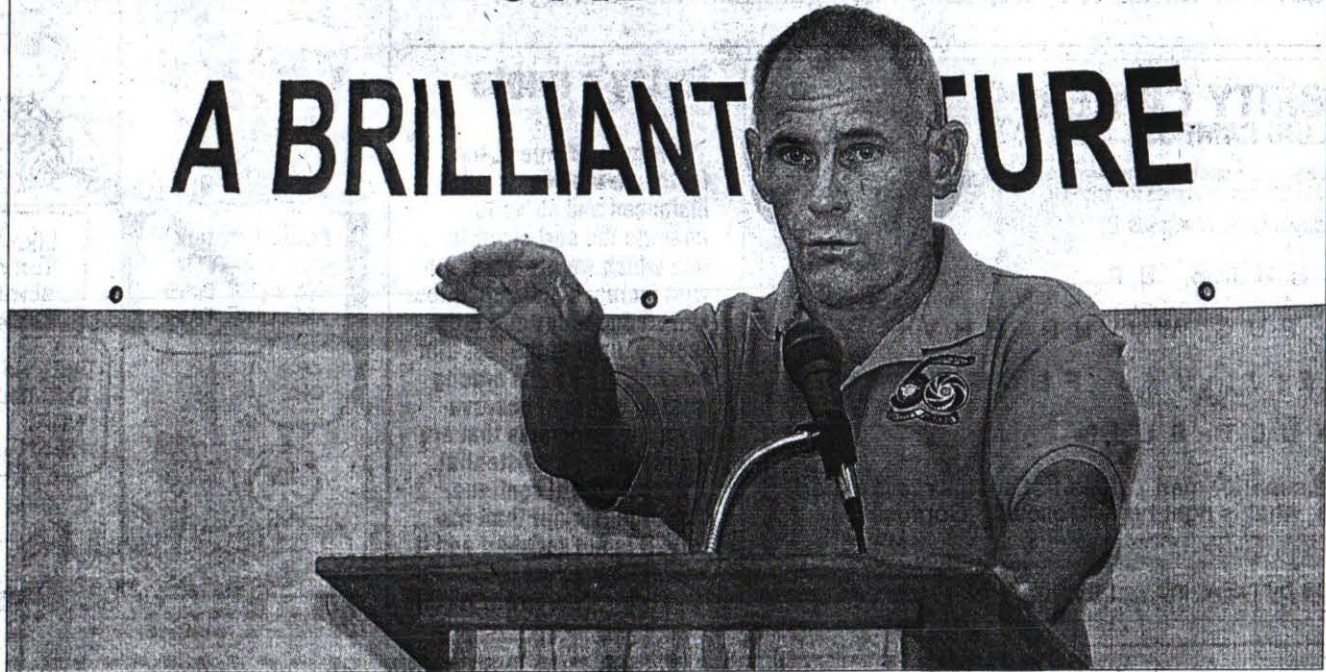
"The senior population is a worldwide phenomenon," he said. "Everyone is still looking to Sun City as a model because the community has lasted so long."

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. Sun Cities News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.



SCHOA Secretary Bill Pearson, who is doing double duty on the Sun City 50th Anniversary committee, implores people attending a planning meeting Wednesday at Lakeview Recreation Center to get involved.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PAST.. A BRILLIANT FUTURE



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

OVER

WANTED: Volunteers

Sun City anniversary panel needs helpers

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee met Wednesday to outline its plans for the next two years, with one theme prevalent from every speaker: more volunteers are needed, and they will be needed soon.

"I don't need a lot of help right now," said Walt Patterson, administrative chairman for the committee and president of the Sun City Home Owners Association. "But starting next year, we're going to need a lot. If we're going to be able to do all the things we want to do, we're going to need the volunteers."

The committee is planning to "fill the next calendar year" with events related to the anniversary,

which is Jan. 1, 2010.

Paul Herrmann, spokesman for the committee and executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, said voluntarism when he first came to the community was very high.

"I moved here just in time for the 40th anniversary, and at the luncheon we had 250 to 300 people," Herrmann said. "We need people to get involved now, too."

Easily, the most passionate address — and the only one that drew applause — came from SCHOA Secretary Bill Pearson, who serves along with his wife, Lori, on the anniversary committee. Pearson said he sees the anniversary as the single greatest marketing tool since the community opened in 1960.

"This is our opportunity to

SEE 50th, A5

50th: Volunteers sought

FROM A1

show the whole world what this community is all about," he said.

Pearson said it was Del Webb who designed the community, but it was the people who lived there who built it.

"They stood up and they took ownership and they made this community what they wanted it to be," he said. "And that's what we're asking you to do now. We need people to step up, raise their hands and say they'll help."

Pearson said the "calendar year of events" is too great a task for the group now assembled.

"We need you, because if you don't step up we can't do it," Pearson said.

Herrmann added that, when the community opened in 1960, it garnered national attention.

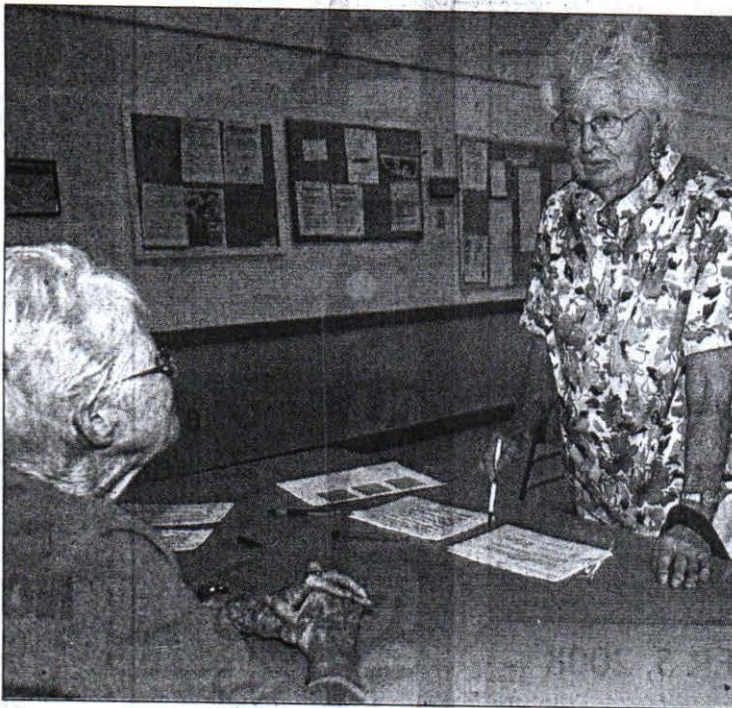
"We had a story on the cover of Life magazine, and national media here writing about us," Herrmann said. "We see no reason why that can't happen again for the 50th anniversary."

Committee member Connie McMillan said she is eager to move forward with the planned events and hopes to bring in as many volunteers as possible.

"This is an exciting time for all of us," McMillan said. "We want to encourage everyone to get on board early. Come out and help us."

To volunteer, e-mail Walt Patterson at suncity50thanniversary@cox.net. For information, call the Sun City Visitors Center at 623-977-5000 or visit www.suncityaz.org.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mary Wold, right, plans to volunteer in some capacity for the Sun City 50th Anniversary year of events. She discusses it Wednesday, with Betty Kent, whose husband, Bob, is on the steering committee.

Sun Citizens prep for 50th

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
Independent Newspapers

Anniversaries are special, just ask any wife. Golden anniversaries are something to be celebrated.

Sun City volunteers are planning a big celebration for the community's 50th anniversary. It will be a year-long event following more than two years of preparation.

The Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee will kick off a year of fundraising in December, according to Susan Summers, committee member.

One fundraiser is sales of a 50th anniversary 16-month calendar, complete with photos of Sun City then and now.

"This calendar will help people see how much the community has progressed," Ms. Summers said. "We are not still in the 1960s."

The committee is planning monthly activities for 2010 that will complement Sun City club and organization events, according to Paul Hermann, Sun City Visitors Center director and 50th Anniversary Committee publicity spokesman.

"We are trying to come alongside the groups to enhance their events," Mr. Hermann said. "We want to make them bigger and more special."

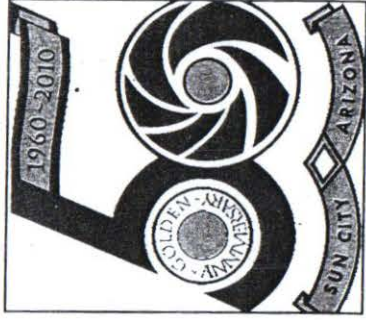
The committee will sponsor at least one event per month, Ms. Summers said.

"Sometimes it could be in conjunction with a club or organization, or it could be a committee-only event," she said.

There may also be additional anniversary events during specific months, she added.

The committee is contacting all sports clubs and partnering with Recreation Centers of Sun City on Sun Bowl events.

"We are hoping to enhance



the dollars they have available (for Sun Bowl concerts) to allow them to bring in a bigger name or bigger shows," Mr. Hermann said.

As with most activities in Sun City, the anniversary celebration needs volunteers.

"We need all the residents involved," Mr. Hermann said. "There are a lot of things people can be involved with, including being on sub-committees."

Ms. Summers said volunteers can put in as much time as they would like.

Visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

The committee will schedule periodic community meetings to update residents on the progress of the event. The next public meeting is targeted for November. The working committee meets 1 p.m. every other Monday at the Sunshine Services Building, 9980 Santa Fe Drive.

Committee members also hope to gain national recognition for the anniversary, as Sun City did when it was started in 1960.

"Sun City made the Today Show back then," Ms. Summers said. "I was 14 then and saw it on TV."

She remembers her parents asking, "Why go to the desert to live?" But they caught the

See 50 years — Page 3

50 years

Continued From Page 1

"Sun City Fever", and moved to the community in 1984.

"With Sun City, the whole idea of retirement changed," Ms. Summers said. "I am proud to be a second generation Sun City resident."

Committee members are also working with Pulte Homes, which is celebrating an anniversary of its own, to coordinate events with the Sun City celebration.

Volunteers are working closely with the business community in Sun City.

Mr. Hermann said the anniversary celebration can also provide a positive spin for the community.

"Sun City is being portrayed as 'old retirement.' The thing now is liveable communities of all ages," he said. "We must explain who we are and why."

Mr. Hermann is also interested in using the celebration to gather information from residents and prospective buyers. He said the talk on the street is that volunteer-

ism is down in Sun City already and it may continue on a downtrend with Baby Boomers moving in.

"We need answers to if that is true and why," he said.

He said most boomers are not interested in traditional volunteer roles.

"They want something meaningful and something for themselves," he said.

*Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com.
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THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008

A3

DAILY NEWS-SUN

www.yourwestvalley.com

Anniversary board seeks volunteers

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee will need hundreds of volunteers through 2010 to commemorate the retirement community's golden year.

"When it's all said and done, this isn't just our celebration, but we want everyone involved from making phone calls to knocking on doors," said Susan Sommers, chairwoman of the Means and Ways subcommittee.

On Wednesday at Lakeview Recreation Center, board members for the anniversary committee met with a number of residents to get more interest in the volunteer group. Committee chairpersons talked about the plans and festivities for the yearlong celebration.

Sommers said her committee will have several fund-raisers for the anniversary events, including cookbook and calendar sales, along with commemorative shirts, hats and pins.

Pat Clucker, events chairwoman, said major activities are expected to happen at least once a month. They'll feature a variety show at the Sun Bowl, jazz concert, parade, Oktoberfest with the German Club and a sock hop at Sundial Recreation Center.

Clucker said the group has discussed placing luminaries throughout Sun City on Dec. 31 as well as having a 50th anniversary float in the annual boat parade at Lakeview Recreation Center's lake.

"We just need volunteers to do all of these special events because this will only come around once in our lifetime," she said.

'After this is over, we want people to know we're still the youngest old people in town.'

— Walt Patterson, 50th anniversary committee administrator

Clucker said the events are tentative and could be subject to change. Glendale and Surprise will have 50th anniversary incorporations, which might factor into parts of the Sun City celebration.

Paul Hermann, publicity chairman, said a Web site, www.suncity50th-anniversary.org, has been established for residents to learn about the events and volunteer for the festivities.

Walt Patterson, administrator of the 50th anniversary committee, said they would like as many volunteers as possible.

"We need for people to help us because it's going to take a lot to pull it off," he said. "After this is over, we want people to know we're still the youngest old people in town."

For information or to volunteer, call 623-977-5000 or visit www.suncity50th-anniversary.org.

Sun City prepares for golden celebration

By Bret McKeand

It is hard to believe, but three years from now, Sun City will be preparing to celebrate its golden anniversary. That is right. On Jan. 1, 2010, Sun City — the world's very first active adult retirement community — turns 50.

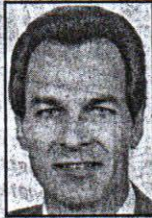
It seems as if it were just yesterday the community rallied to mark the 40th anniversary of the opening of Del Webb's experimental community. And since it was an experiment many industry insiders doubted would succeed, each anniversary was, and continues to be, an occasion to celebrate.

The fifth anniversary in 1965 saw a parade down the community's busiest street at that time — Peoria Avenue. There were other anniversaries to follow, with the silver anniversary in 1985, finally putting to rest any doubts that an active-adult retirement community was certainly a successful experiment and a concept here to stay.

In fact, the success of Sun City quickly spawned similar "Sun City" communities in California and Florida in the early 1960s, followed in the 1970s by the second largest Sun City — Sun City West — in 1978 and Sun City Grand in the 1990s. Del Webb's original idea in 1960 continues to be hugely popular and the Del Webb Corporation, now owned by Pulte Homes, continues to build Sun City communities throughout the nation.

But it all started on that very first day of 1960. And the concept born on that day has grown into an industry and lifestyle that is as popular as ever. As Baby Boomers enter into retirement, the so-called "Sun City lifestyle" appeals as much to them today as it did their parents in the 1970s and their grandparents in the 1960s.

Oddly enough, there haven't been too many written histories documenting the birth, growth and



Bret McKeand

continual perpetuation of Sun City and its famed "lifestyle." There have been many stories written about the community in trade publications and magazines (the most famous earning a spot on the cover of Time Magazine on Aug. 3, 1962), but few books.

One of the best, if not the most thorough, book was written in 1985 as the community prepared to mark the silver anniversary. "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," was written by long-time Sun City residents Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg.

The book — still available at the Sun Cities Historical Society and, if you're lucky, at one of the local thrift stores — featured historical notes, a plethora of vintage photos from the community's early days and, most important, first-person recollections from those early residents who we used to refer to as "Sun City pioneers."

But as the community prepares to make plans for its 50th anniversary, and I certainly hope a committee similar in scope to the 40th anniversary steps up to plan this celebration, there are several of us "old timers" who think it probably makes sense to update "Jubilee" and record how the community has changed during its second 25 years.

The project has the blessing of "Jubilee's" original author, Jane Freeman, still a Sun City resident.

As a former editor of the Independent, I've offered to serve as the project coordinator. But as with the first "Jubilee," I'd like this to be a community project and I welcome input and assistance from others. I already have several residents who have expressed a desire to assist with this project. Others are invited.

We're looking for citizens who may have been involved in civic issues and associations, clubs, sport/recreational activities, religious institutions and more. If you are interested, please give me a call at 972-6101. I'll be arranging a meeting later this year to start the planning process and to see where this leads us.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Editor's note: Bret McKeand is the former editor and publisher of the Sun Cities Independent. He began his career as a reporter for the newspaper in 1983 and today serves as vice president of operations for Independent Newspapers in Arizona.

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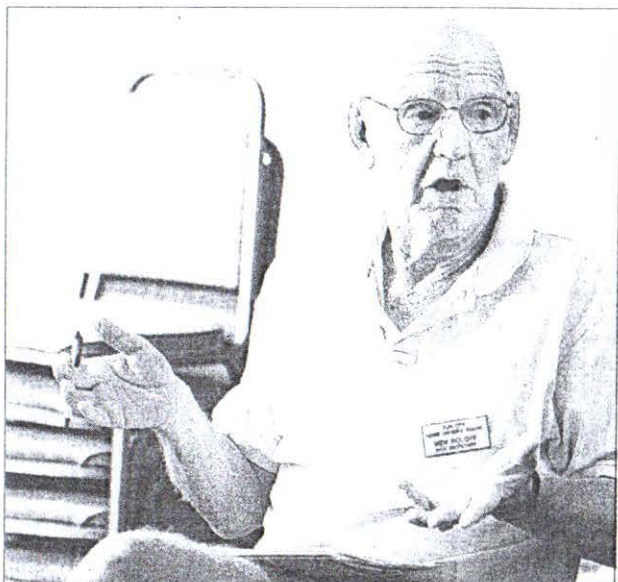
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50TH ANNIVERSARY

SC INDEPENDENT

10-11-06

Sun City leaders prep for 50th anniversary



THOMAS BOGGAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ben Roloff, secretary of the Sun City Home Owners Association, makes suggestions for the community's 50th anniversary celebration.

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In three years and three months, Sun City will turn 50, and local leaders are calling on residents to throw their community the biggest birthday celebration imaginable.

At the first 50th anniversary organizational meeting Thursday, representatives from various Sun City organizations agreed that international attention, national media coverage and several special events should mark the milestone. And resident volunteers must run the show, from planning phases to execution.

"Board members come and go, we need members of the community to set up a committee," said Jean Buck who serves on the Recreation Centers of Sun City board.

Ben Roloff, Sun City Home Owners Association director, said it's time to start putting plans in motion.

"We need to think really big about this. We have a great story to tell and this is a great time to tell it."

Representatives from the Sun City Sher-

iff's Posse, the Sun City PRIDES and the Condominium Owners Association also were present at the meeting.

The group recognized that Sun City, a pioneer active adult community and the largest of its kind in the world, is what it is today because of its volunteers.

"People will want to volunteer (to serve on the planning committee). They'll be telling their story, they're part of it," added Doug Kelsey, SCHOA president.

Once the volunteers are in place, it will be time to connect with corporate sponsorships to help fund the celebrations and possibly hire a professional event coordinator, said Tom Beeson, SCHOA director. As plans take shape, Roloff said, the national media, like the Good Morning America broadcast, should be alerted to the approaching anniversary.

"Sun City was and still is a big thing out here," Kelsey said.

Anyone interested in volunteering on the 50th Anniversary planning committee should call the SCHOA offices at 974-4718.