

Library to close briefly in June

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Library staff and Maricopa County Library District officials are steadily moving toward bringing the Bell branch up to a fully functional county library and expect the work to be complete by the end of June.

Library paid staff became county library district employees May 4, but there is still plenty of work to be done to complete the transition. Some of that work includes rewiring the branch at the Bell Recreation Center, 16828 N. 99th Ave.; repainting; redoing the flooring; and replacing furniture. Those tasks will necessitate a two-week library closure. That is tentatively scheduled for June 15-28, although those dates could change, according to Nelson Mitchell, library district marketing and public relations coordinator.

"That depends on a lot of coordination between government county approvals, permits, etc., and the leg work that the contractor has to take care of," he said May 13. "Things may become a little more clear next week."

In the meantime, Harry Courtwright, county library director, was scheduled this week to talk with staff and volunteers about the choice of paint colors and the type of flooring. The library district is funding all renovations.

In addition, library staff is conducting surveys to determine the types of services they want provided by the library under county operation.

"We are doing a lot of outreach activities," Mr. Mitchell said. "A survey of residents was done and once we have the results we'll have a better idea of what services to offer."

One service that is locked in is a summer reading program for children up to 18, according to Mr. Mitchell. The two-month program kicks off Monday, May 26, and includes three separate branches — one for children birth to 4, another for children 5-12 and the last for teenagers.

"The program is designed to encourage children to read more books," Mr. Mitchell said. "They are rewarded for the books they read."

Participants who complete the entire program will be given a book they select.

The program is similar to other offerings in the library districts 16 other branches. Mr. Mitchell said the Sun City program will not be retooled for the Sun City branch during the first year.

"What we learn this summer could lead to changes in the future," he said. "This (a library in a retirement community) is a new experience for us."

Sun City library staff is learning district library procedures, Mr. Mitchell said.

"Some of the culling involves moving books from other libraries," Mr. Mitchell said. "While some materials will remain, others that have been in the Sun City library for years will not."

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, March 19, 1999

SC Library retains fee structure, clarifies policy

By JEFF OWENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Library Board of Directors decided Thursday morning that certain groups will continue to pay full price to use the Bell Library's Hoover Room for their monthly meetings.

Non-profit organizations and those sponsored by the library pay \$35 per session in the Hoover Room; groups which aren't non-profit pay \$70 per session.

Thursday's decision was in response to a request for the lower rate by local group American Association of University Women, a non-profit group which has its monthly business meetings in the Hoover Room.

"They're a good group," said Chuck Youngman, executive director of the Bell Library. "The problem is, it's closed."

The board nixed the request at its Thursday meeting, and unanimously passed a motion clarifying its Hoover Room policy on meeting rates.

Previously, the policy stated exceptions to fees for groups may be made to non-profit organizations which use the Hoover Room to "inform, educate or advise residents as

to civil, legislative, tax, voting, health or other beneficial rights and privileges."

Bell Library Assistant Director Ann Kinzer said AAUW members read the policy and thought, being a non-profit group, that they qualified for the \$35 rate rather than the \$70 rate they had been paying.

But since AAUW business meetings in the Hoover Room are not open to the public, the library board denied the request and revised the above Hoover Room rate policy to include the clarification "This does not include regular business meetings of such groups; use of the room for such meetings will require the regular fee."

AAUW's Kay Bignall said "If they treat all non-profits the same and charge \$70, that's not that bad. It would've been nice at \$35 — I'd rather pay \$35, but we'll settle for the \$70. We tried."

In other action, the board unanimously passed a motion to change its bylaws so that library's Finance Committee will meet quarterly in order to review the status of library finances and budgeting.

Previously, the Finance Committee met at the discretion of the board's president and treasurer.

Few know history of Sun City Library

By JACK HIERONYMOUS

The Sun City Library is the most-used common facility in this retirement community, aside from the golf courses.

The library has recently come under fire, mostly by residents who have no knowledge of the history of the library, its operation, or the problems it currently faces. It's hugely appropriate that the record be

aired, swiftly and accurately, for better community understanding.

Del E. Webb, the visionary who led the area parade in creating retirement communities, began construction of this original Sun City in 1961, including therein the vast marvelous recreation facilities for the retirees who flocked to the site from around the entire country. Alas, not included in his agenda, a dreadful oversight indeed, was a provision for a circulating library.

Sun City Phase II, spanning from Grand Avenue to Bell Road, was begun about 1972; it was not until this latter date that provision for a library was included in the plans for expansion. The library was erected in the Bell Recreation Center, but no condition was made by Webb to include its operational expense under the umbrella of the Recreation Cen-

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VIEW

ters of Sun City.

The library was thus an independent entity, completely separate from the recreation centers; it still remains so, with minor exception, to this day. We are a private, non-profit Arizona corporation.

Lessons learned are a benefit, and Del Webb Corp., in the development of Sun City West beginning in 1979, included within that subdivision a splendid community library; it was placed under the direct supervision of, and permanently funded by, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, and it remains so today.

Strangely, the development of Sun City Grand, a recent Webb development in the city of Surprise, lacked both the construction of a library building and the operational funding

At any rate, the seeds of our own present fine library facility in the Bell and Fairway centers were planted in 1961, thanks to a few dedicated residents, the Maricopa County Library presented Sun City with a loan of 3,000 books as a starter-set. The facility was manned by a librarian and five volunteers and the operation was most casual and informal. Over time, the volunteers grew in number and thousands of books were contributed for lending to Sun Citians. In 1972, the library incorporated, moved into its new building, and has developed into the splendid facility you enjoy today.

Thirty years ago, the Bell and

Fairway libraries operated without severe financial burden, but those were the good ol' days when gasoline was 14 cents per gallon and milk was 36 cents a quart. But not today, people. The proper operation of a suitable library is a fairly expensive undertaking.

For several years the library has received from the Recreation Centers of Sun City a few financial windfalls, to wit: payment of public utilities and basic building maintenance. All other operating expenses are borne in toto by our non-profit corporation.

It must be noted that should the recreation centers care to absorb the entire library operation under its wing, that body is most welcome to do so; as of this date, the directors of the centers have expressed no interest in that acquisition.

The financial operation of our library is no small potato. For example, the annual budget for the purchase of new books is \$60,000. We are fortunate indeed that director Charles Youngman purchases our books at a 40-percent discount off store price; he is a skilled negotiator.

It became necessary a few years ago to require local users of the library to purchase annual library cards for \$15. All residents have been welcome to use the library facilities at no cost. The annual charge is applicable only to those who bor-

row books or audio-visual cassettes, or who use the library's Internet connection.

Although this purely voluntary charge costs a library user but 4 cents a day, some community residents proclaim even now that highway robbery has taken place, and the responsible rascals should be flogged. Isn't that utter nonsense? Some of our misguided citizens should be reminded that the free lunch went out of vogue at the turn of the century. Now, we proudly point out that more than 16,000 of our residents are given to using the libraries facilities and own a card for that privilege.

To the complainers, we point out that there is indeed an option. Phoenix, Peoria and Glendale have superb library facilities, all tax-supported. However, be prepared; if you want to join the Glendale library, for instance, bring \$31, vis-a-vis \$15 in Sun City.

It is not to the credit of Sun Citians that each year 5,000 books from our 100,000 book inventory simply "disappear." They are stolen, misplaced, damaged or rendered unsuitable for further circulation because of malicious scrawled messages in page margins, or pictures have been snipped from pictorial editions. Five thousand? Here in Sun City? A shocking statistic, isn't it?

It may be interesting to note that virtually every other library in the

entire country is supported by state, county or city taxes. On the contrary, the Sun City library is supported, aside from the Recreation Centers contribution outlined above, entirely by gifts, donations, small fines, usage fees, a generous contribution from the Community Fund of the United Way and bequests from those who thoughtfully remember their library when they depart this planet. To those who contribute so generously, we are deeply grateful.

And were it not for the 280 volunteers who cheerfully grace our rooms and aisles (God bless 'em!), well, we'd simply be out of business, nothing but a Sun City memory. Our 15 full- and part-time employees, mostly underpaid, could not begin to offer the services continually provided by our selfless volunteers. We salute them!

Please be grateful for your library, people. It's to be enjoyed. If you know of any missing books, please return them — the loss of 5,000 books a year is a dreadful legacy and expense to bear.

And to all of you, there are a few donation boxes located within the libraries. Your contributions are always welcome. Drop in a buck. Or a fiver. Or a ten. Believe us, we can use it!

Thank you! Your libraries are grateful.

Jack Hieronymous is on the board of directors of the Sun City Library.

Rec Centers give \$40,000 to bail out strapped library

Board calls donation a stopgap measure

By Lori Baker
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — After months of discussions, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board has agreed to give \$40,000 to the financially strapped Sun City Library.

The 37-year-old library, which has branches at the Bell and Fairway recreation centers, has had money woes due to decreasing donations and increased expenses. It had been facing a \$70,000 deficit. The library receives no government funding and depends on donations.

"The library is an integral part of the community," board President Don Pritchett said.

Board member Jim Matise, who is liaison to the library board, said the \$40,000 is a stopgap measure and doesn't mean that the money will be provided again next year. An audit is being conducted of the library's financial books.

"We are helping the library with a long-range plan," Matise said.

The Recreation Centers board's decision Aug. 27 was made after a joint meeting between that board and the library board Aug. 21.

Arthur Neault of Sun City had urged the Recreation Centers board not to give the library money.

"We all recognize that the library is important to the community, but I don't believe it should be supported

by the Recreation Centers," Neault said. "There is no guarantee that the library won't come back next year."

Library board Vice President Peter Olegar said he's pleased the Recreation Centers provided the \$40,000.

"We're bleeding badly, and we needed a transfusion," he said. "We've cut down our hours and our staff, but we're at a point now where we can't cut more without endangering the services to the community."

This was the first time the Recreation Centers provided money to help with the library's operations. The Recreation Centers provide buildings, parking, maintenance and utilities for the libraries.

The library must raise money through donations and library card sales to pay its \$366,000 annual costs for salaries, books and other materials, library director Chuck Youngman said.

The library's 12,000 card-holders pay a \$15 annual fee. Circulation was 278,487 in 1997. In addition to regular books, videos and audio tapes, the library offers books in large print and services to the homebound. The library also provides space for classes and community meetings.

— Please see **LIBRARY**, Page 4

• Monday +

September 7, 1998

Library tries book sale, plea for donations

— **LIBRARY**, from Page 1

To help raise money for the library, used books are on sale. In addition, letters will be mailed in October asking for donations.

The Bell library, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and Fairway library, 10060 W. Peoria Ave., are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday.

In other business, the Recreation Centers board:

- Delayed a decision until October about requiring players with an unexpired annual golf fee permit to pay \$1 per 18 holes of golf or 50 cents per nine holes of golf. The new fee was to take effect Sept. 1, but the board decided to obtain legal advice after several golfers questioned the proposal. Golfers maintained that they had an annual contract and that new fees could not be imposed until their contract expired.

- Provided \$6,000 to the Sun Cities/Youngtown Water Committee to cover the Recreation Centers' share of providing information to Sun City residents about the value of Central Arizona Project water and to help pay for a study on how CAP water would be used in the Sun City area.

- Provided \$98,000 for computer costs for the golf pro shop and the membership office's video/photo ID system.

Lori Baker can be reached at 444-7120 or at lori.baker@pni.com via e-mail.

Rec Centers board bails out SC Library

Contribution of \$40,000 to be made to library

By **MIKE RUSSO**
Independent Newspapers

Like knights in shining armor riding out of the pages of literature to rescue a damsel in distress, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors has come to the aid of the Sun City Library.

The Rec Centers board of directors last

week approved donating \$40,000 to the assist the library during its time of need.

The vote was 5-0 with directors John Powell, Chuck Chadbourn, Dorothy Hirtzell and Bud Moriarty being absent.

The library board had requested funding from the Recreation Centers Inc. about nine months ago, but the request for \$60,000 was turned down at that time.

Although last week's vote was unanimous, some directors expressed reluctance to make the contribution during the Aug. 17 board workshop.

Treasurer Dick Ohnstad, during that meeting, observed, "If we start giving to the library, we will end up contributing to the library every year."

"I don't want it to become a case of the 'kids coming to mom and pop for a few bucks



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The library is an integral function of Sun City.

Don Pritchett
President
RCSC
board of directors

to tide them over,” said director John Powell, during the Aug. 17 session. He said, however, he still favored the contribution.

“We do already give a lot to the library. Some of our rec card fees (goes to the

libraries) through the use of our facilities,” Mr. Ohnstad continued.

“On a long-term basis, are we postponing the day the library runs out of funds? Or do we get to the point we are subsidizing the library?” he queried.

Mr. Ohnstad mentioned the Long-Range Planning Committee is studying the problem.

Director Ed McCrea confirmed, “The Long-Term Planning Committee is trying to work out a joint long-term plan with the library. They are desperate. They need the money.

“This is a stop gap, the \$40,000,” he added.

A member of the audience, Arthur Neault, opposed the contribution.

See ■ **LIBRARY** Page 7

"The library is an asset to the community but it should not be supported by the Recreation Centers," Mr. Neault said. "There is no guarantee the library will not experience this problem next year or the year after."

"The Recreation Centers Inc. should mind its own business and stay out this," he added.

However, board President Don Pritchett did not agree with Mr. Neault.

"The library is an integral function of Sun City," Mr. Pritchett said.

"We certainly want Sun City to have good libraries," the RCSC president said on Aug. 27. "A lot of people use the libraries but not the rest of the amenities."

"This is a one-time thing," Mr. Pritchett said. "They do have a problem."

The library's financial woes have been ongoing but have intensified in recent years.

"The library had a budget deficit of \$105,000 at the beginning of the year," Mr. Ohnstad said.

"Currently the deficit is \$60,000 to \$65,000. ... about \$40,000 from the budget."

"We are at a point, if we don't get support from the public in the next two years we could very simply be out of business," said Chuck Westerveld, Sun City Library board treasurer.

"The public has to support the library," he continued.

"The donations and contributions have gone down. Surprisingly the memberships have not fallen nearly to the degree of donations and contributions. That is not the problem."

Director Dick Elton concurred that the community must demonstrate better support for the library.

"You have come from communities, as I have, where libraries were supported by taxes. This is not the case in Sun City," Mr. Elton said.

"The \$40,000 is not a problem solver," he observed.

"I don't like the idea of giving the money to the library, but we have got to have the library," Mr. Elton said.

"The library is very important and we have got to keep it in Sun City. However, a plan needs to be developed," he opined.

"They came to us for help," said director Jim Matise, who introduced the motion to bail out the library. "We need the library in our community."

"They are in dire straits now.

They have used what little bit of money they have without dipping into their reserves," he said.

However, he noted the library has got to try to raise more money.

Mr. Pritchett urged all Rec Centers members to obtain library cards.

Mr. Westerveld acknowledged that the library has got to cultivate other funding sources.

"We have a mailing going out in October," he said. "We hope to generate some good funds."

"We have two mailings a year, one for each zip code," he added.

He mentioned the library's reserves have dipped below \$300,000.

Library revenues have decreased from \$386,00 in 1996 to \$296,00 last year and down to \$213,000 this year. Meanwhile, expenses have risen from \$336,000 in 1996 to a projected \$368,000 this year.

One major source of funding in the past was severely curtailed this year.

The library received about \$15,000 last year from the Community Fund, according to Mr. Westerveld.

"They (Community Fund) offered \$1,000 this year with the stipulation that we would be unable to go out to the public with our mailing in October," he explained.

"So we rejected it. We had asked for \$35,000."

Efforts are being made to trim library expenses, Mr. Westerveld said.

"We have cut expenses," he said. "We cut the number of employees from 14 to 10."

"We have reduced just about every area without hurting the services we provide."

Friday, April 3, 1998

Relationship between centers, library works

8/23/98

By ED ANDERSON

The relationship between Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. and the Sun City

My view

Library Inc. is in need of clarification for the public.

Recent letters and an editorial in the Daily News-Sun have implied that the recreation centers is the bad guy here for not "taking over" the library and solving its financial problems.

Actually, there is no "bad" guy in this scenario. It is how we relate to each other that isn't understood.

There are two basic things to keep in mind:

■ The library is a separate legal entity because it wants to be.

■ The Recreation Centers of Sun City does and always has given a lot of financial

support to the library.

Although there is a close and unique relationship between the two, the library has always been a separate corporation. The library has its own board of directors, raises its own money, hires its own staff and makes its own rules. If any of this were to change, it would be at the behest of the library board.

From the beginning, the Recreation Centers of Sun City has worked closely with and supported the library, financially and otherwise. Two buildings are furnished without cost to the library. Rental of similar facilities would cost at least \$20,000 a year. Electric bills for 1994 were \$21,984. Other utilities, janitorial, maintenance and upkeep expenses are not listed separately by building in the Bell and Fairway recreation

centers expenses, but they represent an additional \$11,885.

Finally, the recreation centers' photo ID card is also used as the library card, saving the library an expense and restricting loaning of materials to Sun Citians, a requirement of the recreation centers.

This unusual arrangement has been in existence for many years. It probably lacks legal niceties — but it works. The recreation centers will continue to support the library and the board of directors encourages all individuals, businesses and professional people to do likewise.

The writer is president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Friday, April 3, 1998

Library, rec board bound to succeed

Like an El Nino-driven weather front, a cloud is hanging over the Sun City Library.

The library is in the midst of a financial crisis. As a private institution, it doesn't receive its funding from the same tax coffers that keep public libraries in business. There's no Andrew Carnegie out there to throw it a lifeline.

The library is a boon to the community, a storehouse of knowledge and a sanctuary. It's a place where Sun City residents who can't afford the luxury of buying books can go for free entertainment, or if they need it, a brief escape from the harsh realities of life through vicarious adventure. It's a cache of information for anyone doing research on anything from how to grow roses to getting the lowdown on the latest bills Congress is debating.

The information that a library provides in this so-called Information Age is not a frill, it's a necessity to a community

and its residents.

It has been suggested that the Recreation Centers of Sun City take over operation of the library and fund it through recreation fees. We don't recommend this as a solution to the library's current problem, but perhaps the library and the Recreation Centers could form a partnership of sorts.

Since everyone who is authorized to use the Sun City Library is also a member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, it seems logical that the rec centers could offer some financial relief without taking over the entire burden. Even paying for the annual subscriptions for the library's periodicals would be a help.

This is a community with a greater than average share of bright and competent people. Most of them became that way with the help of a library.

We're confident that wealth of wisdom and experience will be put to good use, and through a spirit of cooperation, the leaders of Sun City will find a way to nurse the library back to financial health.

The library's problems, like El Nino storm clouds, will not last forever.

OUR
VIEW

Is Sun City Library effective? You can make book on it

By GLENN B. SANBERG

The story of the Sun City Library is an enchanting one. Starting in 1861 with books loaned by the Maricopa County Library, and supervised by a volunteer who dug into her own pocket to pay for index cards and pencils, the Sun City institution has graduated into a big time operation.

Besides providing reference and cultural material contained in more than 90,000 volumes, including large print collections, the Library offers a wide variety of lectures and presentations. Programs vary from investing advise, and estate planning, to car repair rip-

**Retired
in style**



offs, health education and a course in "Writing your life stories" taught by a professional writer.

Last year more than 7,000 people used the new Hoover Room for classes and other similar functions.

Since many Sun Citians cannot leave their homes because of physical or other limitations, the Sun City Library

began a home bound book service in 1995 which was funded by an initiating grant of \$12,280 from the Arizona State Library. The B-4-9 Lions Clubs agreed to participate by supplying book bags which can be sent postage-free both ways, a program involving some \$25,000 annually.

A video collection was started in 1991 at Bell Library with the donation of 25 copies. The following year, Fairway Library followed suit. At the present time there are more than 2,000 videos in the collection which is still growing. Thanks to a donation from the Delaney Eye Clinic during the 1980's, Bell and Fairway Libraries have been able to aug-

ment their video collections substantially.

Sun City is fortunate to have some 250 library volunteers who perform many of the tasks usually assigned to paid employees. These include checking books in and out, answering questions on the telephone, and assisting patrons using the Xerox machine. Volunteers also handle the paper book collection and manage the book sale table. These services save an estimated \$200,000 a year in library operations.

Unlike most libraries, The Sun City Library, Inc., is an independent private institution. It is not supported by tax

money. While the building, maintenance and utilities are provided by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, all other functions must be funded by donations, user fees or investments.

Sun City is unique in many ways and its library represents an outstanding example of its uniqueness. Charles Youngman, Executive Director, informs me that he will be happy to explain how you too can be a part of this uniqueness. The telephone on his desk responds to 974-2569.

Sun Citian Glenn B. Sanberg is retired from the American Society of Association Executives.

Feb. 19, 1998

Check it out

Funding methods vary widely at NW Valley book centers

By **BRUCE ELLISON**
Staff writer

For several years now, the Sun City Library has been in a continual funding crisis, without enough cash to maintain its normal operations.

Hours have been curtailed and staff laid off as the crunch forced officials of the private non-profit organization to take action to conserve dwindling resources. And a fund-raising plan with an out-of-state charity has drawn criticism from directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, which supplies the library with free space for its two branches.

In Sun City West and Youngtown, which also have local libraries, things have gone more smoothly.

But those libraries have a more solid financial footing, which may make a big difference. Sun City is dependent on private donations, while Sun City West's library is run directly by the Recreation Centers there, and Youngtown's library is a public institution, supported by tax dollars.

The Sun City Library Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt group, set up in January 1971 to take over operation of what was then a volunteer library with little formal organization. Del Webb Corp., the developer of Sun City, had given the volunteers 820 square feet in the first recreation center, called Town Hall Center, and the Maricopa County Library had provided 2,500 books on loan. Ruth Mildner, the volunteer first librarian, ran things until her retirement in 1969, and was succeeded by another volunteer, Dorothy Weber, who stayed until 1972, when the library got its first paid librarian.

After its formation, Sun City Library Inc. "took title to the library and assumed its control and operation, providing a free library to Sun City residents," says the authoritative Sun City history, "Jubilee."

"Funds to operate the library
► See Funds dwindle, A5

A closer look at your libraries

Source: Maricopa County library census

SUN CITY



Assistant Director Ann Kinzer

Population: 38,000
Library Budget: \$400K
Borrowers: 16K
Gov't Support: \$0
Salaries: \$164K
Fringe benefits: \$28K
Materials: \$60K
Misc. expenses: \$225K
Librarian salary: \$35K
Books: 110,000
Videos: 4,825
Avg. weekly use: 12,083
Annual circ.: 343,929

SUN CITY WEST



Librarian Marla Lea

Population: 30,000
Library Budget: \$275K
Borrowers: 17,000
Gov't Support: \$0
Salaries: \$103K
Fringe benefits: \$13K
Materials: \$62,000
Misc. expenses: \$24K
Librarian salary: \$33K
Books: 41,500
Videos: 1,331
Avg. weekly use: 4,571
Annual circ.: 326,560
Circ. per capita: 10

YOUNGTOWN



Library Director Florence Hinrichs

Population: 2,400
Library Budget: \$3,000
Borrowers: N.A.
Gov't Support: \$3,000
Salaries: none
Fringe benefits: none
Materials: \$8,000
Misc. expenses: \$0
Librarian salary: \$0
Books: 15,000
Videos: 360
Avg. weekly use: 285
Annual circ.: 21,295
Circ. per capita: 8

Photos by Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

◀ From A1

were, and still are, obtained from fees, gifts, memorials, donations, bequests and memberships.

"The library receives no public money or tax support to this day," the 1985 book says — and that's still true in 1998.

The Bell Library was included in Webb's plans for that recreation center which opened in 1976. A branch today operates in the Fairway Recreation Center.

Although the library gets free space and maintenance from the Recreation Centers, it still is dependent on donations for its operating budget — which totals about \$400,000 a year including books, said librarian Chuck Youngman, who's been on the job seven years.

In the first 11 months of 1997, though, the library spent \$360,000 while taking in only \$274,000, he added.

It has 9½ full-time equivalent paid staff members in two locations, and about 280 volunteers. It has 16,000 library card holders, about 110,000 books, 1,200 audio tapes and 2,800 videotapes and offers public Internet access. It serves a community of about 38,000 residents — meaning its operating cost is about \$10 per resident per year, with two locations.

It must buy its own books, and often holds book sales to raise cash for newer acquisitions.

"We are essentially a private library serving a public function," Youngman said.

Youngman, who makes about \$35,000 a year, earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh.

In some respects, the Sun City Library is like an official Recreation Centers club: It gets free space for its ac-

tivities, but must raise funds for its own operations and staff and provide its own monitors, and only centers members may participate in its activities.

Rec centers operate SCW library

In contrast, the R.H. Johnson Library in Sun City West is fully a function of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, with an operating budget for staff, supplies and the like provided as part of the centers' overall operations. It's just like a pool or tennis court. It occupies a separate building at the Johnson Center built by developer Del Webb Corp. specifically as a library, and given to the recreation centers.

It has two full-time paid staff members and seven part-timers, who are paid directly by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West as centers employees. It operates from one location, with about 135 volunteers. Its operating budget from the Recreation Centers of Sun City West is about \$175,000.

Its book purchases are funded by Friends of the Library, which raises about \$68,000 a year for that purpose, from book sales and other events. The Friends, although a tax-exempt organization, also is a chartered club.

Like the Sun City Library, the Johnson Library received thousands of books from the county on permanent loan, and those books were given to the library when the county library system was reorganized and the library privatized four years ago.

Marcia Lea, the librarian, has been on the job for 11 years, succeeding Evelyn Cornish, the first librarian. Lea, who makes about \$34,000 a year, also has a master's degree in library science.

The Johnson Library serves a population that now is about 30,000, and has 16,000 borrowers. It houses about 49,000 books, 2,500 audio tapes, and 1,300 videos. It, too, has Internet access. Its annual operating cost per resident, including books, also is about \$9, with one location.

Neither of the Sun Cities libraries is a part of the Maricopa County library system, so that interlibrary loans arranged through the county aren't possible.

If the libraries were in the county system, they would have to be public libraries, available for use by anyone, whether or not members of the recreation centers, said county library administrator Bill Scalzo.

"To qualify for aid from the county, you have to be a public library and open to everyone" including children doing school research, he said.

The Surprise and El Mirage libraries are county libraries, he said, though the cities provide the physical space for their operation.

Scalzo said the Sun City Library's budget "is considerably larger than what we spend on any of our branches," though considerably less than what municipalities such as Glendale, Phoenix or Scottsdale spend on their public libraries. (Phoenix spends \$17 million, Glendale \$4 million, and Scottsdale about \$5.5 million, according to a state library census. On a per-capita basis, Phoenix spends \$15.50, Glendale \$21.93, and Scottsdale \$30.11 each year for libraries.)

Youngtown Library is public

In Youngtown, which has only about 2,400 residents, the library is public, meaning that it is open to all county residents and is subsidized by Maricopa County.

When the Sun City Library imposed a \$15 annual fee for borrowing privileges, a number of people in Phase I, near Youngtown, got free cards from Youngtown's library, giving the Youngtown operation a cash infusion from the county.

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The library has one computer with Internet access, paid for by Hinrichs personally, since she uses the computer and her America Online subscription to keep in touch with family.

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And the Council of Service Clubs of the Sun Cities, a coordinating group for 29 area groups such as Lions and Kiwanis, can't collect dues from its members, threatening its existence, its president says.

Youngman thinks that to survive, the Sun City Library needs two things — a budget from the Community Fund or the Recreation Centers of perhaps \$50,000 a year, and a campaign to get more bequests and legacies — something called planned giving.

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Check

Funding methods vary widely at NW Valley book centers

By BRUCE ELLISON
Staff writer

For several years now, the Sun City Library has been in a continual funding crisis, without enough cash to maintain its normal operations.

Hours have been curtailed and staff laid off as the crunch forced officials of the private non-profit organization to take action to conserve dwindling resources. And a fund-raising plan with an out-of-state charity has drawn criticism from directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, which supplies the library with free space for its two branches.

In Sun City West and Youngtown, which also have local libraries, things have gone more smoothly.

But those libraries have a more solid financial footing, which may make a big difference. Sun City is dependent on private donations, while Sun City West's library is run directly by the Recreation Centers there, and Youngtown's library is a public institution, supported by tax dollars.

The Sun City Library Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt group, set up in January 1971 to take over operation of what was then a volunteer library with little formal organization. Del Webb Corp., the developer of Sun City, had given the volunteers 820 square feet in the first recreation center, called Town Hall Center, and the Maricopa County Library had provided 2,500 books on loan. Ruth Mildner, the volunteer first librarian, ran things until her retirement in 1969, and was succeeded by another volunteer, Dorothy Weber, who stayed until 1972, when the library got its first paid librarian.

After its formation, Sun City Library Inc. "took title to the library and assumed its control and operation, providing a free library to Sun City residents," says the authoritative Sun City history, "Jubilee."

"Funds to operate the library

► See Funds dwindle, A5

◀ From A1

were, and still are, obtained from fees, gifts, memorials, donations, bequests and memberships.

"The library receives no public money or tax support to this day," the 1985 book says — and that's still true in 1998.

The Bell Library was included in Webb's plans for that recreation center which opened in 1976. A branch today operates in the Fairway Recreation Center.

Although the library gets free space and maintenance from the Recreation Centers, it still is dependent on donations for its operating budget — which totals about \$400,000 a year including books, said librarian Chuck Youngman, who's been on the job seven years.

In the first 11 months of 1997, though, the library spent \$360,000 while taking in only \$274,000, he added.

It has 9½ full-time equivalent paid staff members in two locations, and about 280 volunteers. It has 16,000 library card holders, about 110,000 books, 1,200 audio tapes and 2,800 videotapes and offers public Internet access. It serves a community of about 38,000 residents — meaning its operating cost is about \$10 per resident per year, with two locations.

It must buy its own books, and often holds book sales to raise cash for newer acquisitions.

"We are essentially a private library serving a public function," Youngman said.

Youngman, who makes about \$35,000 a year, earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh.

In some respects, the Sun City Library is like an official Recreation Centers club: It gets free space for its ac-

tivities, but must raise funds for its own operations and staff and provide its own monitors, and only centers members may participate in its activities.

Rec centers operate SCW library

In contrast, the R.H. Johnson Library in Sun City West is fully a function of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, with an operating budget for staff, supplies and the like provided as part of the centers' overall operations. It's just like a pool or tennis court. It occupies a separate building at the Johnson Center built by developer Del Webb Corp. specifically as a library, and given to the recreation centers.

It has two full-time paid staff members and seven part-timers, who are paid directly by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West as centers' employees. It operates from one location, with about 135 volunteers. Its operating budget from the Recreation Centers of Sun City West is about \$175,000.

Its book purchases are funded by Friends of the Library, which raises about \$68,000 a year for that purpose, from book sales and other events. The Friends, although a tax-exempt organization, also is a chartered club.

Like the Sun City Library, the Johnson Library received thousands of books from the county on permanent loan, and those books were given to the library when the county library system was reorganized and the library privatized four years ago.

Marcia Lea, the librarian, has been on the job for 11 years, succeeding Evelyn Cornish, the first librarian. Lea, who makes about \$34,000 a year, also has a master's degree in library science.

OVER

The Johnson Library serves a population that now is about 30,000, and has 16,000 borrowers. It houses about 49,000 books, 2,500 audio tapes, and 1,300 videos. It, too, has Internet access. Its annual operating cost per resident, including books, also is about \$9, with one location.

Neither of the Sun Cities libraries is a part of the Maricopa County library system, so that interlibrary loans arranged through the county aren't possible.

If the libraries were in the county system, they would have to be public libraries, available for use by anyone, whether or not members of the recreation centers, said county library administrator Bill Scalzo.

"To qualify for aid from the county, you have to be a public library and open to everyone" including children doing school research, he said.

The Surprise and El Mirage libraries are county libraries, he said, though the cities provide the physical space for their operation.

Scalzo said the Sun City Library's budget "is considerably larger than what we spend on any of our branches," though considerably less than what municipalities such as Glendale, Phoenix or Scottsdale spend on their public libraries. (Phoenix spends \$17 million, Glendale \$4 million, and Scottsdale about \$5.5 million, according to a state library census. On a per-capita basis, Phoenix spends \$15.50, Glendale \$21.93, and Scottsdale \$30.11 each year for libraries.)

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Friday, Feb. 6, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Steve Chernek/Daily News Sun

Sun City Library raised more than \$1,000 in a book sale last weekend, but Jane Freeman and Elsie Elton wonder why the library board dumped them as sale organizers.

Firing puzzles library volunteer

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

For more than a decade Jane Freeman and Elsie Elton wrote the book on volunteering in Sun City.

During that time the Sun City women were mainstays of the Sun City Library, running its book sales and in the process raising more than \$100,000 for the cash-strapped institution.

That dedication came to an abrupt end in December, however, when the two received letters stating that their services would no longer be needed.

The letter, signed by then-library board President Don Manlove, acknowledged the women's voluntarism: "To raise more over \$100,000-plus in 11 years with two dedicated volunteers is truly an accomplishment that deserves our utmost praise.

"However," the letter continued, "we wish to turn the book sales over to others."

Library staffers and other volunteers are now running the project, said Director Chuck Youngman.

And that puzzles Freeman, a former library board president and 18-year associate with the institution. She says that, aside from the Dec. 22 letter, she's never received word on why the library, with its financial deficit of \$91,000, took a successful operation out of the hands of volunteers and turned it over to paid staffers.

"How do they justify getting rid of two volunteers," Freeman said recently. "After all these years of earning money for them. I just don't understand."

And Freeman is not the only one vexing about the layoff. Elton likewise fails to see the

logic in the move, and even Youngman says he regrets the decision.

"I was against it," he said of removing the women. "I feel bad for Elsie and Jane. ... They spent countless hours up here."

Manlove, three-time board president, made the decision last year to remove the women, over Youngman's objections and reportedly without consulting the board.

As last year's president, Manlove was within his rights to unilaterally fire the women, in one of his last acts as head of the board.

But he now says he doesn't want to discuss the decision.

"I'm no longer the president, so I think I shouldn't comment," said Manlove. "I don't think it's right for me to say anything, since I'm no longer officially connected with the library."

The board's current president, Elizabeth Liston, likewise declined comment.

Manlove added that the move was "a board decision," and said he wanted to avoid airing the debate in the media.

Another former board member, however, said he was informed of the move "at the last minute," and believes the action should never have been taken.

"The board members didn't know," said John Calder, since retired from library of-

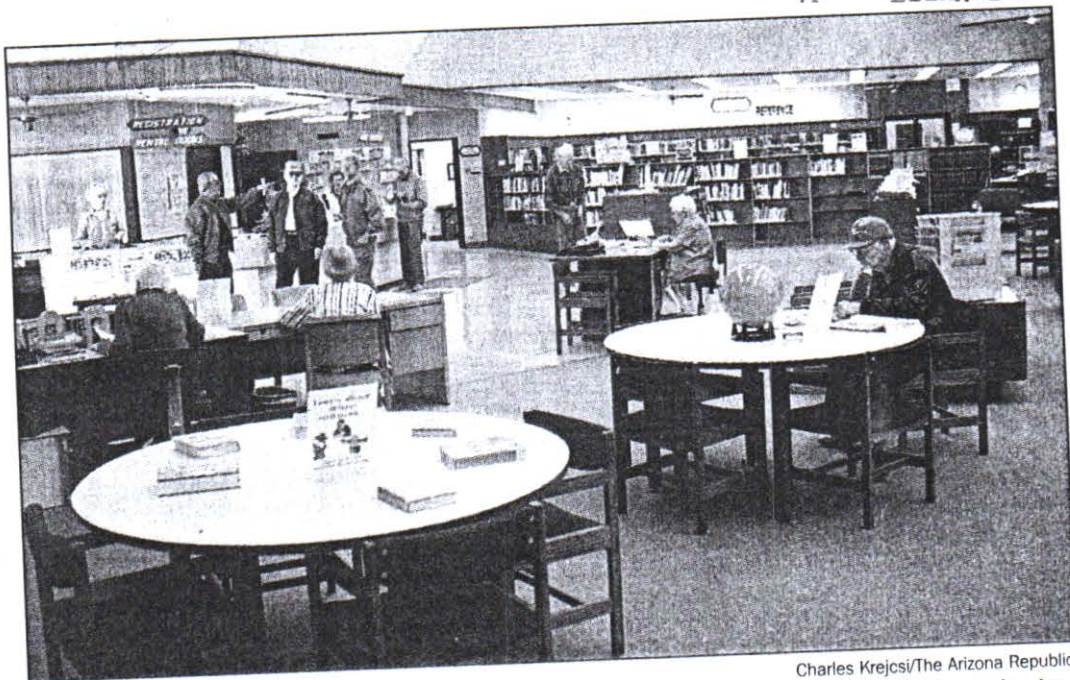
fice. "It was a tremendous loss. (Freeman and Elton) put in probably thousands of hours and raised thousands of dollars for the library. They've done well."

In the wake of the decision, the library counted a successful January book sale, with

more than \$1,000 raised.

Despite that, however, Youngman maintains that he welcomes the help of volunteers like Freeman and Elton.

"If they would come back, I'd take them back in a minute," he said.



Charles Krejci/The Arizona Republic

The 36-year-old Sun City Library has 100,000 books and videos and 20,000 patrons at its two branches, at the Bell (above) and Fairway recreation centers.

“

Why should a Sun City organization assist in raising charitable funds for a Montana corporation?

CHUCK CHADBOURN

LEGAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN,
RECREATION
CENTERS
OF SUN CITY

Library funds deal questioned

By Lori Baker
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — When the Sun City Library joined forces with a Montana children's ranch to raise money, officials didn't expect a firestorm.

The Yellowstone Boys & Girls Foundation agreed in March 1996 to pay the library 5 percent of the value of annuities sold by Yellowstone to Sun City residents referred by library officials.

But in December 1997, Chuck Chadbourn, chairman of the legal affairs committee for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, said he and other committee members believe the

library is wrong to be involved with Yellowstone, a non-profit corporation that operates a ranch for troubled youths in Billings.

"The efforts of the Sun City Library's employees and directors should return to solely operating a library and not operating as a commission agent for the fund-raisers," said Chadbourn, a retired accountant.

"Additionally, why should a Sun City organization assist in raising charitable funds for a Montana corporation?"

Peter Olegar, chairman of the library's Planned Giving

— Please see **LIBRARY**, Page 4

— **LIBRARY**, from Page 11

Committee, said that the library was looking for ways to raise money and that Yellowstone had a good reputation.

"Yellowstone Foundation has the planned-giving abilities the library lacked plus many years of experience and outstanding integrity," said Olegar, a retired engineer. "This has hurt our contributions to the library because people are wondering what's going on. We want to get this cleared up soon."

The 36-year-old library, which doesn't receive any government funding, relies on donations to operate. Contributions have been dropping in recent years. In 1997, the library had an \$80,000 deficit and had to draw from its reserve account.

"We're going to have to close our doors in three years if things continue at this rate," library Director Charles Youngman said. "We are looking for ways to increase our funds."

In recent years, the library has had to cut operations by decreasing staff, slashing the budget for books and materials and reducing the number of days it is open.

Attorneys for the library and the recreation centers are reviewing a 1993 memorandum of understand-

ing between the library and the recreation centers to determine whether there is a violation and whether either one could be held liable if a Yellowstone customer sues.

The library "may conduct fund-raising events for its own benefit but not for other outside benefits in RCSC meeting facilities without specific permission from the RCSC board of directors," the memorandum of understanding says.

Although the library is a separate corporation, it operates in buildings owned by the Recreation Centers of Sun City at the Bell and Fairway recreation centers. The recreation centers pay for the buildings' upkeep and utilities, and the library pays for operational costs, including salaries, and books and other materials.

Randy Houston, a Yellowstone Foundation planned-gifts officer, first contacted Sun City Library officials about using a room to present information about planned giving.

Subsequently, library officials and Houston came up with a plan by which Yellowstone could help the library raise money.

To date, the foundation has given the library \$7,500. There was a \$5,000 "good will" payment, plus a \$2,500 payment because a Sun City

woman bought an annuity. However, that woman had planned to buy the annuity before Yellowstone's agreement with the library started, said Wes Robbie, Yellowstone Boys & Girls Foundation president, in Montana.

"Our intentions from the beginning were that this would be a win-win situation for Yellowstone and the library," Robbie said. "Yellowstone has gotten dragged into a dispute between the library and the recreation centers that I do not understand."

Chadbourn became concerned in November, when Houston distributed business cards that stated he was development director of Sun City Library Inc. and listed the Bell and Fairway libraries' addresses. He later was told by library officials not to use those cards. Houston does not use library facilities to talk to clients.

Because of the controversy over Yellowstone, Chadbourn's proposal to have the recreation centers board

Library prepares to throw book at scofflaws

BY JULIA DE SIMONE
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Library officials are prepared to throw the book at residents caught stealing and defacing property.

Approximately 5,000 publications from the Bell and Fairway libraries' 100,000-volume inventory are annually lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged or rendered unsuitable for further circulation due to malicious scrawled messages in page margins. In addition, some snip pictures from pictorial editions.

Although residents from Peoria, Glendale and Westbrook Village frequent the libraries, officials said

the majority are from the Sun Cities.

"I can understand teen-agers doing this, but (people) 55 and older should know better," said Chuck Youngman, executive director of the Sun City Library Inc.

Jack Hieronymous, director for the library board, agreed.

"It's a terrible shame and it's certainly giving Sun City a bad name," he said. "It's dreadful."

Mr. Youngman said they are in the process of completing inventory and will by March 1998 determine the exact number of books missing.

See ■ BOOKS, Page 9

He said, however, library officials in the United States estimate that 10 percent of a library's book collection will have to be replaced annually. It costs \$27 each for the average fiction or non-fiction book.

Mr. Youngman said recently the Merck Manual, which lists the diagnoses for various illnesses, was stolen. He said it is used extensively by residents.

"Somebody walked out with it. ... I could cry," Mr. Youngman said.

Nancy Donielson, coordinator of volunteers at Bell Library, said recently a library user reported another patron stealing a magazine, hiding it under their coat and walking outside with it. He then confronted the alleged criminal, who denied any wrongdoing.

"It's rather depressing ... that people wouldn't be honest with us," said Mr. Hieronymous. "We pretty much have to rely on people's basic honesty, and sometimes, they fail us in that respect."

Although the library user was able to write down the resident's driver's license number and the Sheriff's Department was contacted, both officials decided not to prosecute due to the value of the magazine. Mrs. Donielson said it cost about \$3.

However, she said neither library officials nor the Sheriff's Department are condoning theft.

Mrs. Donielson said they have

placed a sign on the magazine rack that states a particular magazine is no longer available due to a theft reported to the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Youngman added that they are planning on stationing a volunteer near the magazines to better monitor the area.

He added that stealing and defacing public property is considered a misdemeanor in Arizona.

Although Mr. Youngman said they haven't prosecuted anyone because "we can't catch them" they won't think twice about it.

"Absolutely, we would stop them from doing it," he said.

Mr. Youngman said he believes if they had a security system in place, they wouldn't be encountering problems with books being stolen.

Lack of funding is holding them back from implementing a security system at both libraries, similar to the one found at the Glendale Public Library.

Mr. Hieronymous said he would hate for them to go that route just because he believes it would be an "embarrassment" to the community.

"Most of the Sun Citians are good citizens," he said.

Defacing property is another embarrassment facing the library.

Mr. Hieronymous said some library-card holders consider themselves "self-righteous censors."

He said they are offended by

four-letter words in books or pictures not deemed appropriate for their eyes, so they remove them.

Mr. Youngman said examples include scratching out or underlining words with an ink pen and writing comments up to a paragraph long in the margins of the books.

"It happens quite a bit," he said. "It's absolutely censorship. They don't want the books on the shelf."

He said defaced books are sold at the library's thrice-annual book sales. If the book is used often, library officials will order a new one.

However, Mr. Youngman said they are not permitted to write off any books for tax purposes due to their non-profit status.

Mr. Youngman said residents also will mark up the original crossword puzzles, especially those found in the *New York Times*.

"They fill (them) out and nobody can use them," he said.

Although Mr. Youngman said they have made copies of the puzzles, library users are still writing on the originals.

Library officials encourage library users to continue reporting incidents of patrons stealing or defacing property to them.

Mrs. Donielson said the library patron who made officials aware of the patron stealing the magazine should be commended.

"He really followed through and felt like this isn't something that should go on," she said.

Mr. Youngman also encourages residents to continue contributing to the library's collection to help make up for the lost, stolen and destroyed books. The libraries are always in need of books in good condition, especially on gardening, psychology and best sellers, he noted. All donations are tax-deductible.

"That's one of the nice things about Sun City — the people really contribute some nice books," Mr. Youngman said.

12-31-97

over)

Questions arise over SC Library's fund-raising

RCSC director asks: Were funds solicited on Rec Centers property?

BY JULIA DE SIMONE
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City Library Inc. could be in violation of a 1993 agreement with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, according to Chuck Chadbourn, a Recreation Centers director and former liaison to the

library.

Mr. Chadbourn is concerned that a fund-raising agreement between the library and the Yellowstone Foundation violates the pact with the Recreation Centers and could potentially place the Recreation Centers in a position of liability.

Yellowstone and the library have

been involved in a campaign to generate funds for the financially-troubled library since 1994, with the library receiving a commission from the Foundation's sale of annuities.

"They're raising money for something other than the library and using library (facilities) and collecting a commission," Mr. Chadbourn said.

The statement of relationship between the two groups allows library officials to conduct fund-raising events for its own benefit but not for outside agencies in the center's meeting facilities without specific permission from the Rec Centers board of directors.

The Rec Centers own the buildings that house the Bell and Fairway libraries. It provides the upkeep and maintenance for the buildings, including utilities. The libraries and recreation centers are separate corporations.

The libraries are responsible for the remaining financial responsibilities, which includes the every day operational expenses of the facility. Recreation dues do not pay for library services.

Library officials have been conducting business with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation's planned-giving programs since 1994 in an effort to raise needed funds, said Peter Olegar, vice president of the Sun City Library and chairman of the planned Giving Community.

He said the foundation — whose main operation is running a Billings, Mont., treatment center for boys and girls with emotional and learning disabilities between the ages of 6 and 18 — is also a non-profit 501-c 3 corporation, operating under the rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. Randy Huston is the local representative for the 40-year-old founda-

Chuck Chadbourn, Rec Centers director, has concerns with the SC Library's plans to raise funds via an outside agen-



tion.

According to Gary Hickie, vice president of finance for the Yellowstone Foundation, the foundation uses various programs to raise money for the support of the treatment center.

The foundation is marketing gift annuities in Sun City and has agreed to give 5 percent of each annuity sold back to the library.

Charles Youngman, executive director for the library, said a thorough investigation was conducted prior to the two groups joining forces.

Mr. Olegar said they and foundation officials signed a legal document agreeing to the mutual benefits of the planned giving programs.

"These people are top drawer. ... They're really the ones helping," he said.

According to the agreement, 5 percent of the purchase value of the annuity would go directly to the library.

Charles Youngman, executive director for the library, said the library has received \$7,500 in cash from the foundation within a three-year span.

Mr. Olegar said \$5,000 of that money was seed money to help the

library establish its own library memorial program, which is a gift in memory of a departed loved one or friend.

Mr. Chadbourn said he's not questioning the Yellowstone Foundation but its relationship with the Sun City Library, which he deems "inappropriate" because of the 1993 agreement.

Mr. Chadbourn also served as library liaison to the committee for the last three years. Jim Matisse, a newly elected Recreation Centers' director is the new liaison to the board.

In addition, to what he feels is inappropriate use of Rec Centers facilities, Mr. Chadbourn contends that Mr. Huston handed out business cards with the addresses of both libraries listed, giving the appearance that he was representing the library corporation.

Mr. Youngman said Mr. Pritchett contacted him via letter and phone about both the business cards and using library facilities to conduct business, and it was promptly discontinued.

He said Mr. Huston was instructed to not distribute cards or sell

annuities on the library premises. He said Mr. Huston now conducts business downtown or makes trips to the homes of Sun City residents who request his service.

"I don't think we even thought of them conducting business on the premise," Mr. Youngman said. "If we are in violation, it was not done intentionally. We don't want to insult the recreation board."

Don Pritchett, president for the Recreation Centers, said he doesn't know if the library is in violation of the agreement because he hasn't looked into all the details.

Mr. Pritchett said the Recreation Centers' attorney would look into the agreement next week.

Mr. Chadbourn said in the event of lawsuits by customers of these fund-raising endeavors, the library's insurance would not cover either the library or its officers and directors.

Mr. Olegar said the Yellowstone Foundation has its own liability insurance.

Mr. Hickle said contracts prepared by Mr. Huston are between the donor and the foundation.

"The library is not liable," he said.

Mr. Hickle said although the library could be named in a potential suit "it would be a far stretch." He added that the foundation was formed 40 years ago and has never been sued.

Mr. Youngman added they are currently checking the libraries' insurance policy, which is up to renewal April 1.

He said they will make certain if they are faced with a predicament Mr. Chadbourn paints, they are not

liable. He said if they are, then "Good-bye Yellowstone."

Mr. Youngman said, however, library officials will continue accepting the 5 percent commission if an annuity is sold to a Sun City client they refer to Mr. Huston.

"I don't want to poke the recreation center with the stick (but) if we're not doing anything illegal, I'm not going to stop," he said. "If he (Mr. Huston) goes out to their (the potential client's) home, and we get 5 percent, is that conducting business (on Rec Centers property)?"

Mr. Olegar agreed, adding that library officials will seek legal opinion.

"We don't believe we're in conflict with anyone "They (Recreation Centers' officials)

haven't said this is the way you ought to do it," he said.

Both officials said the libraries are in dire financial straits and going this route was one attempt to raise money for the facilities.

"Where do we go for financial help?" Mr. Olegar asked. "It's a (difficult) problem — we're not only bleeding, we're hemorrhaging."

Mr. Youngman said they just ended 1997 with a \$91,000 deficit for both libraries, pulling money from a reserved fund to pay for it. He said the library has more than \$200,000 in reserves.

"I feel, honest to God, if we don't quit (pulling money from the reserves), we'll be out of business in three years," he said.

Mr. Youngman recently made a

recommendation at the Jan. 22 board meeting to cut the positions of three part-time employees, starting in March.

He calculates it will save the library \$35,848 — which includes medical insurance, retirement funds and other expenses in addition to the employees' salaries.

Mr. Olegar said if the library closed, there's no doubt it would be a loss to the community.

"You mean to tell me a town of 45,000, and it doesn't have a library?" he asked.

Mr. Youngman agreed.

"We all need to work together," he said.

"I think we're a vital part of Sun City and for us to be fighting about this is counterproductive to everyone."

Daily News-Sun

Thursday, Jan. 8, 1998

SC Library, rec centers clash over funding

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

The Sun City Library has rescinded its offer to place a director of the Recreation Centers of Sun City on its voting board.

This follows the recreation centers' refusal to donate \$42,000 to the library, which has been hurt by falling contributions. The library may now seek further cuts in staff, books and supplies.

The library board's new president, Elizabeth Liston, said the decision not to offer a seat to the recreation centers came in response to that board's refusal to donate money.

"The (library) board agreed that since we're not going to be having a closer relationship, we're not going to set up a voting seat," Liston said.

'The recreation centers have voted on this, and we have no plans to reopen the proposition at the present time.'

Elizabeth Liston
Library board president

Neither do library directors plan to further solicit donations from the recreation board, at least for now.

"The recreation centers have voted on this, and we have no plans to reopen the proposition at the present time," she said.

Liston, who became president of the library board this month, also took aim at critics of library management.

"Some of the criticism has been grossly unfair," she said this week. "They didn't have the facts, and their conclusions were not true."

In its final meeting of 1997, the recreation centers board of directors

voted down a motion that would have granted \$42,000 to the struggling community library.

In casting their votes, some directors said they felt the library should improve the way it manages funds before receiving aid.

"From the information I've gotten thus far, the library has been mismanaged," said Bud Moriarty, vice president of the centers' board. Others cited the library's large budget deficit in vetoing the move.

The library's 1997 deficit stands at roughly \$40,000, said library Director Charles Youngman.

In vetoing the move, however, recreation directors were not just voicing their own opinions.

According to a report by an internal auditor enlisted by the recreation centers to examine library finances, "it is virtually impossible to do an audit of the library issuing a favorable report."

The report, obtained by the Daily News-Sun, cites an "inadequacy of records," an "improper computer record ... and a budget that does not reflect details in figures or narrative form."

These shortcomings "all point to a need to revamp the (library's) accounting system as it presently stands," the report said.

Efforts have been taken since the audit to redesign library accounting and computer systems, said Liston.

Not all recreation directors were against donating the money, however.

Don Pritchett, board president, was disappointed that the motion didn't pass, and said time will help mend the relationship between the two organizations.

"The best thing is to let things cool down," Pritchett said.

In the meantime, however, some library staff may be cut — already one part-timer has been let go — and popular magazine subscriptions may have to be canceled, said Youngman.

Also, the library's plan to reopen Wednesdays has been temporarily shelved.

"We've shifted around some staff, and we're going to see what we can do to conserve money," said Youngman.

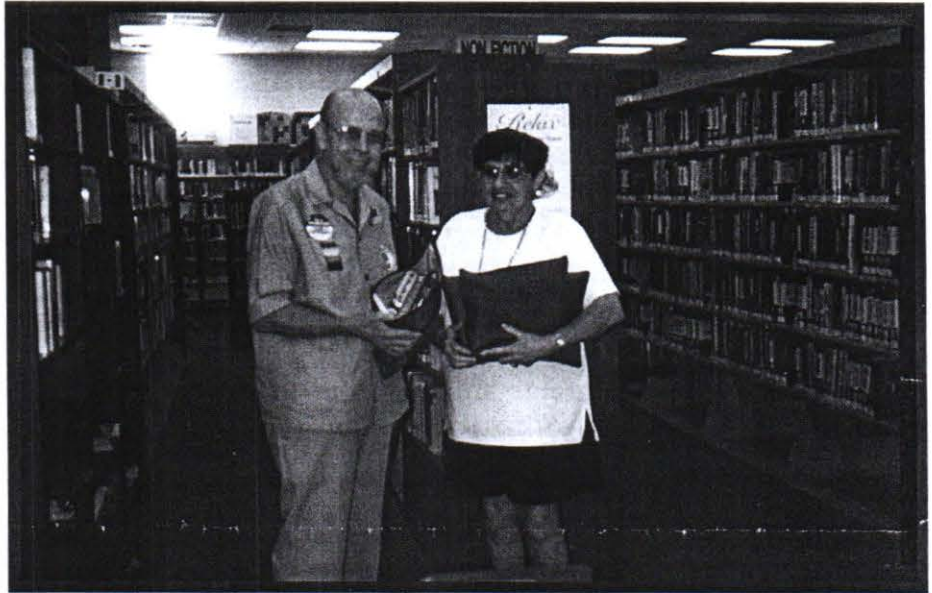
Sun City Library Opens Doors for the Homebound/Visually Impaired

The Sun City Library has initiated a program designed to enrich the lives of the visually impaired and the homebound populace with the many joys that come from reading

a good book or watching a great video. The Americans with Disabilities Act makes possible the delivery of library materials, postage free to patrons who have limited mobility or are home-bound. A grant from the Library Services and Construction Act provided the initial funding for this service. The Sun City B-4-0 Lions Club donated the money for durable zip-closing nylon bags used to transport the books and cassettes through the mail.

To receive books, a patron fills out a name and address card, and chooses the type of reading preferred. Over 4,300 books in large print are housed

reader has three weeks to enjoy the books. To receive videos, an information form is filled out by patron and a list of available videos is supplied by the library; there are currently 73 videos set aside for



DR. MILT FOX AND MRS. HARRIET BELLANGER



MRS. RUTH DUMELLE

in the Sun City Library, just waiting to be read. When the card is returned to the library, two books, a customized catalog containing the selected reading categories, and a selection form for the next order are shipped out in a nylon mailer bag. The

this program, ranging from old classics such as SINGING IN THE RAIN to newer releases like APOLLO 13 and JURASSIC PARK. Check out time for videos is 10 days. Delivery both ways is free and hassle-free. The patron simply places the library materials back into the nylon bag, turns the address card around in the pocket on the bag to show the library's address, and places the bag for pickup by a postal carrier.

Participants in the program order frequently and express their appreciation for this service. One person compared it to Christmas-receiving a package in the mail with a "gift" inside. The service has been eagerly welcomed and the number of people served is steadily increasing. If you or someone you know could use this service, please call the Sun City Bell Library at 974-2560 and ask for Homebound Services Representative.

Subsidy proposed to save library

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

A new chapter may be added to the story of the struggling Sun City Library.

A member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board is proposing that the board subsidize the library, to the tune of \$160,000 a year.

Other board members, however, are willing to research the issue but don't want to write a check just yet.

Still, any help would be a boon to the library, which has fallen on hard times in recent months.

Board Director Chuck Chadbourn, who broached the subject at a board study session Monday, said the library is about \$97,000 in debt. And while it holds some \$360,000 in financial reserves, that money won't keep the center afloat if business continues to spiral.

"The time has come to do something," said Chadbourn.

Library officials have called this the worst year ever for donations. Staff members were laid off and library hours shortened this summer.

While the library collects a recently instituted \$15 user card fee, it relies heavily on donations. Paradoxically, after the fee was established last year, many people stopped making donations.

"(The fee) was both a plus and a minus," said Assistant Director Ann Kinzer recently. "It was fair for everyone, but it hasn't generated income like we'd hoped it would."

Library Director Charles Youngman said he was aware of Chadbourn's proposal but couldn't comment.

"We're discussing it with them, but it's really under wraps," he said, adding that a meeting with the board is slated for Thursday.

► See Board agrees, A5

Board agrees to review library funding options

◀ From A1

Chadbourn said that as part of his plan the board would subsidize the library in exchange for library board input and an annual financial audit.

He added that the money would be well spent on the library's many features, including its homebound book service, video collection and much-used Internet computer link.

Other board members agreed to look into funding the library, but requested more information.

"We need to talk with them about certain items," said board President Don Pritchett.

chett.

While the recreation centers own library buildings and pay its utilities, no other money is funneled in by the Sun City governing board.

Library officials have considered other funding plans, but are hesitant about turning the center into a full-fledged community library — complete with government funding — because of its unique patronage.

By taking state money, the library would be obligated to expand, for example, its reference section. But Sun Cityans are very particular about the kinds of books they thumb through, Kinzer said.

Rec centers have obligation to fund library

By WILMA (PINKIE) WITT

My, such a liberal offer to our library with our money! There are a few facts that

everyone should know, especially the board members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

On May 24, 1976, Del Webb Corp. deeded the Bell Recreation Center complex of 26 acres with its buildings, sports complexes, craft shops, social hall, swimming pool, parking lot, etc. to the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

As soon as the library was in place, books from the already existing library in Lakeview Recreation Center were moved to the Bell Center Library. Volunteers were already in place and many more volunteers offered their services.

But a library is not like a garage sale, a two- or three-day affair. It is a large, ongoing operation that needs paid workers as well as volunteers who must be trained to do the menial tasks of shelving books as they are returned, checking them for the condition in which they were returned, repairing them if they can, checking for overdue books and calling the person who checked out the book, dusting books and shelves is a never ending job in a library.

The head librarian is in charge of buying books within a small budget if that budget is dependent on just

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donations. There is so much more to running a library than meets the eye that it shouldn't be neglected for lack of funding.

About two years ago, when the library was desperately begging for money in its annual drive, we found to our dismay that the Recreation Centers of Sun City was not fulfilling its obligation of funding the library except to pay the utilities and do the janitorial maintenance.

At that time, many of our friends and neighbors were as surprised as we were to find that the recreation centers had abrogated its responsibility to include the libraries in its budget. All who moved to Sun City were given to understand that the library was free to all who held a recreation card and that there was a fee charged only for bowling and golf.

We were encouraged to circulate an informal petition that read as follows: "We the undersigned adamantly oppose the proposed charge of \$15, for a library card. This is not the way to solve the present financial crisis when the Recreation Centers of Sun City should shoulder its responsibility of supporting the library in time of need. Our library is the showcase of Sun City and a center of culture. Newcomers expect a free library when they pay their yearly dues. It was understood when we came here that only two activities, bowling and golf were not free."

Signers were asked to give their recreation card number, their name and telephone number. In no time

we had more than 200 names without making a concerted effort to reach a large group of people. The signers were shocked when they read the statement to find that the recreation centers was not taking its responsibility for the library.

Interesting things came out while talking to potential signers.

In one case the wife signed without hesitation while the husband argued that he wouldn't sign the petition because it would be cheaper for his wife to pay \$15 for a library card than to have their dues raised (which they were in spite of the "promise" not to do so) which would cost them \$30.

Another person said he always gave \$50 to the library and never used the library. He was now having second thoughts about giving anything.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has been less than honest with us, the homeowners, who are paying our dues for the upkeep of Sun City. Sun City is known for its voluntarism and that is what has made the reputation for Sun City — not the recreation centers.

They are charged with the upkeep of Sun City and they would rate an "F" from what I know.

What did the theater fiasco cost? First there was the fund-raiser from Tuscon whose fees were more than she collected when she was discharged. Then, there was the cost of the voting to find out what we all knew from the beginning. But each of the board members had to have

his or her claim to "fame" so we got Court 8, which we didn't need, nor were we consulted — "we" meaning tennis players and the pro who has been in Sun City and the head tennis pro for 24 years (and for years before coming to Sun City was a certified professional). One of the tennis players was on the standing committee of engineers but was never consulted before or during construction. It was only after the court was finished that one of the players noticed that the court was too short and too narrow by 2 feet. The pro was finally consulted and he produced the official dimensions of a tennis court so the fencing and fence posts and light posts already set in concrete had to be torn up in order to enlarge the court to the standard size.

That isn't the only expense, since there will be quite a penalty for not getting a permit to build the court in the first place and if the recreation centers don't act soon they will find themselves in court — at our expense, since we are the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Although the subject of this letter is the library, my point in mentioning the foregoing instances of spending is to alert every member of the recreation centers that we stand to lose everything that we came here for.

There will certainly be a class-action suit filed regarding the personal communications system tower at Sundial Recreation Center. My suggestion is to involve the Sun City

Home Owners Association and let them engage a lawyer.

Of course we would all be paying the fee but let's not let that eyesore stand. I wonder, too, where the money went that undoubtedly was advance rent. Another source of income which we don't hear about is the \$300 per unit sold in Sun City.

In 1996, the real estate board has a figure of 1662 units sold and up to Aug. 31, 1997, there have been 1,116 units sold at the transfer fee of \$300. And there's more to come as houses are selling. In round figures this could amount to \$900,000, not counting the new rental units being built.

The Recreations Centers of Sun City can well afford to fund the library, do a better job on repairs and replacements, and by refusing to pay for poor workmanship and fraud in landscaping where out of 10 or 12 saplings planted along the Boswell Boulevard side of Bell Center five were dead when planted. (As of this writing they are still there.)

If I may, I would like to make one more suggestion in this already lengthy article, and that is that we as members of the recreation centers should demand a financial statement and each be given a copy or have it published in our local papers. As I understand it, we can take a peek at it but no copying.

Thank you for listening. I feel very strongly that we are at the crossroads and we could all find ourselves up the creek without a paddle and we have no one to bail us out.

The writer is a Sun City resident.

Once upon a tome

9-4-97

Sun City librarian enjoys reading tales to children

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Your local librarian was once a madam. Well, sort of.

Jane Grenard, a substitute librarian at the Sun City Library, has been active in local productions for years and one of her most memorable performances included a part as a brothel boss.

"If I hadn't been a librarian, I would've liked to have been an actress," Grenard said.

Luckily, Grenard has found herself in a position where she doesn't have to sacrifice one for the other.

For the last month, she has combined her passion for literature with her talent for drama by volunteering as a storyteller at the Sun City Library.

Grenard first began her storytelling adventures last spring, after she told the library's director about an experience she had in college.

"While I was taking a course in college, neighborhood children would come over to my front porch and I had 15 or 20 children sitting around listening to the story," Grenard said.

The director asked her to tell stories to the children who were vacationing in the area. She then was asked to do it again in August.



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Storyteller Jane Grenard of Sun City reads aloud to Chelsea Brooke and her grandmother Ruth Garten (top left) and Valerie Yarema and her grandmother Doris Yarmena (at bottom) in the Sun City Library Saturday.

Over the years, Grenard has developed a keen sense of what her audiences appreciate and tries to tailor her books to the age of the audience.

"I have selected books that will fit various grades and usually I have very young children, so I have picture story books for them and adventure books for the older chil-

dren," Grenard said.

She said children usually enjoy stories with which they have had some personal experience.

"Interest varies from child to child, but they usually like something that they've had a personal account with. I had a book on vari-

► See Stories delight, A5

OVER

ous forms of transportation and there was a little girl there and she had ridden horseback with her daddy and she was pleased about that," Grenard said.

Grenard likes to tap into her acting background to make the stories a little more exciting for the children.

"I'm able to project my voice and I've been in plays and I can dramatize stories," Grenard said.

One of her most memorable parts was in a play called "No, No, A Thousand Times No" in which she played a madam.

"I was dressed with lots and lots of beads and jewelry and black top, a very red skirt with great big poppies and blond wig and huge hat," Grenard said.

Though she doesn't dress in costume to illustrate stories, she keeps to true dramatic form by bringing along a prop or, as she prefers, a special guest.

The children aren't the only ones pleased with Grenard's storytelling. Grenard receives a lot of satisfaction from the sessions, which last about an hour.

"I would be happy to think the joy of storytelling is seeing the children's faces light up. That's always fun," she said.

Grenard, who received her bachelor's degree in library science from Wayne State University in Detroit at the age of 50, said she did not have a lot of exposure to books as a child growing up in a rural town, but would do anything to feed her insatiable appetite for knowledge.

"I was born in South Dakota and grew up in Canada and read all the books I could find. We didn't have libraries; we had small book shelves in a country school I attended," she said.

Grenard continued her interest in the world of information for many years. During World War II, she worked as a civilian employee and information officer and was later transferred to the library.

"I liked it very much, but soldiers wanted to read nothing but comic books," Grenard said.

As a seasoned librarian and experienced world traveler with a flair for drama, Grenard has a wide range of literary interests.

"I like biographies best of all, because they're about interesting people and if they're interesting enough to have a biography written about them, I want to read them," she said.

She has read the biographies of many famous people, including Estee Lauder, who started producing makeup in a barn. She also read about Jane Fonda.

"I didn't like Jane Fonda, what she did during the Vietnam War and that she was taking drugs. Then I read her book. Her mother committed suicide and she had quite a hard life. I changed my views about her," Grenard said.

She continues her desire to learn by visiting many countries throughout the world, including Japan, Austria, India and England.

"I'm old in years and young at heart."

July 15, 1997

Library wrestles with money woes

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

Despite a few calls and one patron who asked where he could find the donation jar, the Sun City Library has received little relief for its financial troubles.

And its belt will remain tightened, with staff cuts and slashed hours likely until Labor Day.

"I don't think, until we get into the fall, we'll know where we stand," said Ann Kinzer, assistant director.

Until then the library, with branches at Bell and Fairway Recreation Centers, will remain closed Wednesdays. Staffers will remain on shorter hours, away from the shelves and the increasingly popular Internet access that was recently installed.

In March, the Bell location brought in three computers — two CD ROM models and one plugged into the Internet. And

while interest in the CDs has been lukewarm, everyone wants to wade through the Web.

"The Internet has been extremely popular," Kinzer said.

Unfortunately, the library can only afford to staff its computer room for a few hours a day. That is, until coffers are counted this fall and directors take stock of their dwindling cash flow.

The library, a private, non-profit agency, is seeing its worst year for donations.

Three workers have been laid off and book orders curtailed because of the lack of funds.

While the library is affiliated with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, which owns the buildings and pays the utilities, no money funnels directly to the library.

Despite the crisis, that's a situation officials aren't eager to change.

"We really have nothing to do with their operations," said Ed McCrea, recreation centers board director. "It's a separate organization."

Board President Don Pritchett, who announced the dilemma at a recent board meeting, could not be reached for comment.

But even if a larger group were to take the library under its wing, problems would persist.

"That's not what Sun City people want," Kinzer said. "We serve a unique patron group. ... In order to service business people and school kids we'd have to expand, for example, our computer area and reference sources."

Even though Sun Citians are increasingly logging onto computers, reference selections in the library lean heavily toward medical texts. And seniors aren't writing book reports.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Helen Short of Sun City looks for a good book at the Sun City Library. She said she uses the library's services often. Financial problems have forced library officials to cut staff and decrease hours, at least until Labor Day.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, Jan. 6, 1997

Library unveils new meeting hall

By P. SOLOMON BANDA
Staff writer

The 3,500 square-foot Hoover Wing addition to the Sun City Library in the Bell Recreation Center, 16828 N. 99th Ave., opened for business Friday amid little fanfare.

An official dedication is months away but the new \$214,000 addition named after Robert and Ruth Hoover, two longtime patrons and financial supporters of the library, is ready for meetings.

And not a minute too soon.

A World War II roundtable nearly filled the 90-seat room to capacity Friday morning with 70 people on hand.

Charles Youngman, executive director of the library, said the new meeting hall is booked solid from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March.

"We were booked since the middle of December," Youngman said, "This shows how badly we needed this."

Previously, meetings and lectures were presented before business hours in the reference area in the north end of the library.

Additional meetings can now be scheduled either before or after the library opens because those attend-

ing meetings will not have to walk through the book aisles and reference area to get there and can walk in through the hall's own secured entrance.

"They can have meetings in there until 10 p.m. if they wanted to," Youngman added.

Youngman said the only time slots immediately available are on Saturdays.

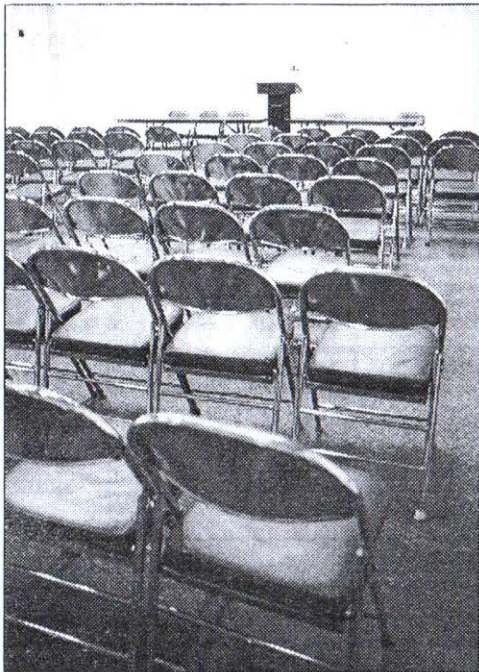
Three to seven computer reference and work stations also will be set up in an expanded reference section where patrons will be able to do research on the Internet and on two computers dedicated to business/medical and reference.

Patrons will also be able to use computers as word processors.

The addition was built on a dirt lot adjacent to the library's north wall and extended into the Del E. Webb Memorial Garden. Some shrubs east of the gazebo were torn down but the gazebo remains unaffected.

The wing also includes a board office. An audio/visual room housing the library's video and audio collection will take over the space of the old board office.

Office space in the new wing will provide the library's 280 volunteers with more space in which to receive, record, catalog, tag and index the thousands of books, magazines, newspapers and videos that are bought or donated annually.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Chairs dot the new Hoover Wing at the Sun City Library at Bell Recreation Center. The meeting room seats 90.

Library's delivery service lifts spirits

By P. SOLOMON BANDA
Staff writer

Many users of the Sun City Library's Homebound Service are lifelong readers who for some reason cannot get to the library.

People like Helena Wildman.

Entertainment options have dropped to nearly zero for Wildman, an 87-year-old retired math teacher.

"I'm not very much into television," she said. "Most of it is ads and silly stuff."

Open heart surgery six months ago meant the end of Wildman's driving days.

Now she must depend on others for transportation, which means she spends a lot of time alone — reading.

The library's program enables her to read at least five books per week for recreation, mainly novels. Her favorite authors are Agatha Christie and Erle Stanley Gardner.

Wildman is not, however, alone in her predicament, Charles Youngman, executive director of the library said.

Before starting the program two years ago, Youngman conducted an informal census of people who might need such a service.

He talked to people at service agencies such as Sunshine Service, Interfaith Services and Meals on Wheels.

Youngman found an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 homebound people in Sun City.

And that number is expected to grow with the aging of the community's residents.

So far, 100 people use the library's Homebound Service. Program coordinator Ann Kinzer said she hopes to reach more. She has mailed publicity pamphlets to ministers and she's visited care centers.

"Not everybody is associated with those groups," Kinzer said.

Wildman found out about the program through Wooddale Village and she cannot begin to say how much she appreciates the service.

More than 4,300 large-print books — non-fiction, biographies, mysteries, romance, westerns — are available through the program, as are more than 75 video cassettes and more than 100 audio cassettes.

Using heavy-duty reusable canvas mail bags donated by the B-4-9 Lions Club, Kinzer, her assistant Harriet Belanger, Nancy Fister and library volunteers drop the books in the mail.

Postage is free under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Once Wildman is done with the books, she simply turns the address card over so the library's address shows through the window on the bag, and leaves the bag with their selections for the mail carrier to pick up.

For information on the Sun City Library Homebound Service, call 974-2569.

11-15-96



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Helena Wildman reads from a book she received through the Sun City Library's Homebound Service. Large-print books are delivered to her via the mail each week. She uses the service because health problems keep her from driving.

Library expansion under way

Fall finish expected for Bell's new wing

By Barbara Deters
Staff writer

6-19-96

SUN CITY — Residents soon will have more access to books, meeting space and the Internet.

Construction on the \$208,000 Hoover Wing at the Bell Library started last week and is expected to be completed in October.

It'll be done just in time for the return of winter residents, said library patrons, who are glad to see the expansion.

"During the winter time, the library is full," said Sun City resident Margaret Figland.

Rose Hampton, a Bell Library volunteer, said she's glad the construction is taking place during the slower summer months "and most of it will be done when we get busy in the fall."

The biggest contribution to the wing-construction fund came from a single Sun City couple, Bob and Ruth Hoover, who didn't want to specify how much they had donated.

"We try to help other people, especially health and cultural centers. We've been very fortunate, I guess, and we want to share with others what we have," Bob Hoover said.

Other contributions came from the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. and about \$2,000 in individual contributions, said Bell Library Director Charles Youngman.

Youngman said he's been working to get funding for the wing for three years. The Hoovers donated once, but when contributions were slow in coming, they donated again, to Youngman's amazement.

"Excited — that's not the word. We're ecstatic," Youngman said. "Thank goodness for the Hoovers. They're really generous."

The project will add about 3,500 square feet to the existing 10,000-square-foot library, which was built in 1975 and acts as the main library for the community.

The wing will be attached to the northwest wall of the existing library. It will include a meeting room that seats 82 people, four offices for library staff and a reference room.

The community really needs the meeting space, Hampton said.

"We have so many meetings here and we have no place for them. It inconveniences people who come here to use the library as well as those of us who are trying to look up material for them," Hampton said.

The expansion is a welcome addition, said Sun City resident Gerald Krulik.

"People in this community are aging and sometimes the physical activity they can do is limited, and the library can replace that," he said.

Youngman said more space was needed for the computer section. "Right now, the only thing that's

computerized is the cataloging of books and periodicals. The new computers will enable the patrons to do research on the Internet."

In addition, the library will have CD-ROMs. One CD-ROM contains an entire encyclopedia, which helps save shelf space.

Youngman said the library plans to get a Macintosh and four or five IBM clones to go in the reference room.

The office space is badly needed for the staff, he said. "We're all jammed in a little room in the library."

The wing also will allow for space to sort books for the library's book sales, which are held three times a year.

The library has received about \$500 in donations for furnishing the new wing, Youngman said.

But more is needed.

"That's where we're going to have a problem because we need to raise money," he said. "We don't get any state, federal or local funds for this library. It's a private library so we depend upon donations for support."

The Bell Library has a book collection of 105,000 and has special collections about Sun City and Arizona. It also has an extensive selection of books on finances and health care, subjects that Sun Citians are interested in.

The library's 280 volunteers provide service to the 400,000 Sun Citians who visit the library annually.

Booked solid

Sun City Library marks 35th year

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Thirty-five years ago, Maricopa County lent 2,500 books to the residents of Sun City.

These original seeds germinated into a full-fledged library with more than 90,000 volumes. This year, the Sun City Library celebrates its 35th anniversary with 20 of those years spent in the Bell Recreation Center.

The staff and volunteers of the library invite the residents of Sun City to join in celebrating these anniversaries with cake, coffee and punch on Wednesday in the Bell Library, 16828 N. 99th Ave. Door prizes will be awarded and 20th anniversary coffee mugs will be on sale.

Ruth Mildner, a retired librarian, decided a community just wasn't the same without a library. She arranged for the 2,500 books to be available, and dug into her own pockets to buy index cards and pencils.

Mildner was given space in what is now Fairway Recreation Center. It was open three days a week and all the records were kept in shoe boxes.

Once the word got out, Sun City residents flooded their new library with book donations. Many people found they had no room for all the books they toted from their home states.

Overwhelmed with books and longer library hours, Mildner pleaded for help. Dorothy Weber, a former Chicago librarian, responded.

The Friends of the Library also was founded to help raise money and serve as volunteers. By 1969, Mildner retired and Weber took over. Weber, along with several other volunteers, helped establish the Sun City Library as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation in 1971.

Space rapidly became a problem for the growing library. In 1972, Del Webb Corp., developer of Sun City, gave the group 2,500 square feet in Lakeview Recreation Center to expand its services. A paid librarian was hired in December 1972 and was assisted by 30 volunteers.

Plans for the library at Bell went on the drawing board in 1974. It would be a separate building with 10,250 square feet and room for a 5,400-square-foot expansion. The Fairway Library was designated as a branch and still exists today.

On April 10, 1976, the Bell Library formally opened. Since that time, it has made a tremendous impact on Sun City, said Jane Freeman, a member of the library board.

"I don't think any community can be without a library," she said. "Reading is essential to living. Reading is essential to learning. Libraries are a wonderful resource for all kinds of reference information. I can't think of a community without one."

To ensure continued success for the library, the Friends of the Library is evolving into a more organized auxiliary to raise funds for the nonprofit group. Freeman and Elsie Elton have raised more than \$100,000 during the past 10 years through book sales. Chuck Youngman, director of the library, said he would like to see these women have some help in raising money.

Directors OK funding for SC library 1-23-96

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY — The Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors gave the Sun City Library the green light to move ahead with its expansion, approving up to \$125,000 for the project.

Board member Chuck Chadbourn made a motion to move the money into the 1996 capital improvement budget to

supplement the \$165,000 raised by the library. The expansion includes a large meeting room and office space.

"This addition is our job, not (the library's) job," Chadbourn said. "It's our building and it is going to be open to use by the recreation center members. It will have its own entrance and restrooms so that it can be used after

► See Board mulls, A3

■ From A1

hours. This is a great addition to Sun City — not just the library."

The seed money for the addition came from an anonymous donor. He gave \$100,000 specifically designated for the 3,380-square-foot addition.

Chadbourn said the architect came up with an estimate of \$220,240 for the addition. This means the recreation centers most likely won't have to chip in the entire \$125,000.

In other board news:

■ The board will vote on a motion to accept an insurance bid from Cincinnati Insurance Co.

The recreation centers received bids from three companies. The Northbrook Insurance Co., which currently covers the centers, came in with an auto and umbrella package with an annual premium of \$220,717. Cincinnati came in with a bid of \$205,245 for an identical package.

In addition, the board will vote to approve a package providing machinery coverage with The Hartford

Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co. with an annual premium of \$13,286.

■ The board discussed a proposal from the Sun City Home Owners Association to have joint elections in December.

In a letter to Dick Austin, board vice president and chairman of the elections committee, Erna MacIver of the HOA suggested sharing the use of the Maricopa County voting machines for electing members to both boards. MacIver wrote that the HOA used a mail balloting system to elect its members this year. The HOA spent a total of \$8,157 on postage alone.

The recreation centers saved several thousand dollars by switching to walk-in balloting. The two groups would split the cost of the election.

■ The board will vote on a measure that would prohibit the use of the recreation centers for individual businesses.

This motion was brought to the

table after the board received reports of private individuals using the bowling alleys and golf courses to provide private lessons. Many of the students were from outside Sun City.

The new board policy would prohibit such activity anywhere on recreation center property.

■ Board member Don Pritchett is making a motion to the board that the recreation centers donate \$3,000 to the Arizona Golf Association's legislative fund.

This money will go to the group responsible for lobbying for golf courses. Pritchett said this same group was able to lower the taxes on the golf courses, saving the recreation centers \$44,307.

In addition, this group is actively monitoring the state water requirements that will go into effect in the year 2000. Pritchett said the recreation centers are looking at drainage for recharging the water supply, efficient water standards and irrigation.

■ Prices at the driving ranges may go up if a motion put forth by Prit-

chett receives board approval.

Pritchett said it's been five years since the last increase in driving range fees while the cost of operating the ranges has steadily risen.

Driving ranges are expensive to operate, with 30,000 golf balls purchased each year at a cost of 30 cents per ball; 111 baskets costing \$4.75 a piece; new range tractors which cost the centers \$24,360 this year; labor coming in at \$65,360; accounting at \$12,640; seed, fertilizer and sand cost \$21,705; maintenance cost \$6,400; water costs ran \$11,460; and miscellaneous items cost \$500. This means the recreation centers spent a total of \$151,952 to operate the ranges.

Pritchett said he would like to see the prices of a dozen balls raised to 75 cents from 50 cents, a small bucket would be \$1.75 rather than \$1.25, a medium bucket would be raised from \$1.85 to \$2.25 and a large bucket would cost \$3.50, up from \$2.75.

1/19/96

Petition pans library fee

120 Sun City residents sign in protest of \$15 charge

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY — More than 100 residents have signed a petition to the Sun City Library board of directors opposing the new fee for library cards.

"To start charging \$15 is to start taking away from the spirit of Sun City," said Pinkie Witt, the Sun City resident who began circulating the petition. "The recreation centers are sitting on a pile of money that could be used to support the library."

The \$15 fee was initiated to alleviate the financial strain the li-

brary has faced year after year. The Sun City Library is a non-profit organization which is separate from the recreation centers and depends entirely on grants, gifts and other donations to operate.

This year's library budget, which was approved by the board at its January meeting, anticipates operating expenses totaling \$337,321.

The majority of these expenditures come from salaries, materials and supplies. The library is housed in the recreation centers at no cost, and utilities are covered by the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

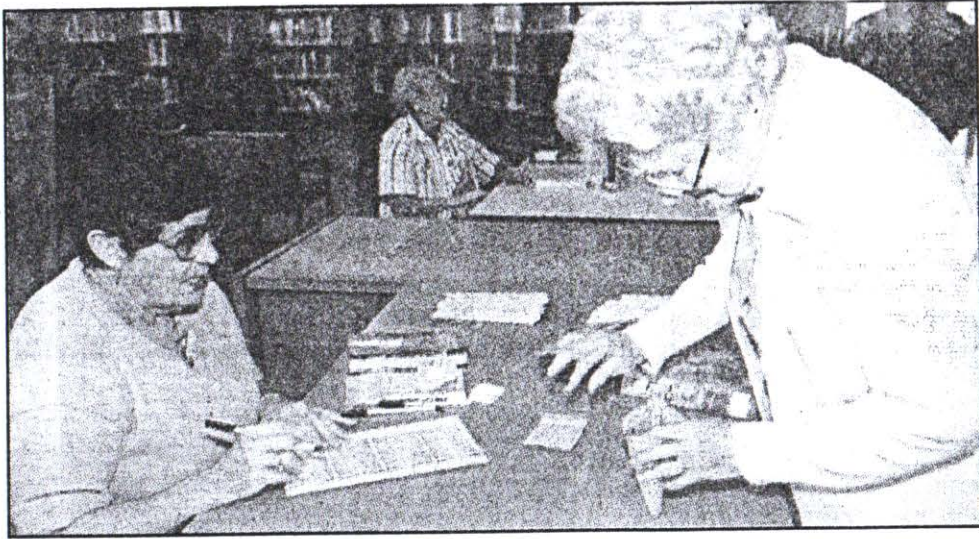
The \$15 fee is being assessed when

a resident's recreation card is up for renewal, said Chuck Youngman, executive director of the library. It is being assessed only to those recreation center members who choose to use the library. To date, the library has collected \$4,455 in fees.

Witt said she would like to see the recreation board allocate money to operate the library. She said with more than \$3 million in surplus, the recreation centers could easily cover the costs of operating the library.

Those signing Witt's petition contend they were promised free access to everything in the recreation cen-

► See Library faces, A5



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Helen Short, left, buys her 1996 library card from Harriet Belanger at the Bell Library in Sun City. Library users are being charged a \$15 annual fee for the first time in the library's history.

■ From A1

ters except golf and bowling when they moved to the area.

In addition, Witt said she would like to see the residents of Sun City give more gifts of money and time to the library.

"There was a lot of money collected when the library was small and there were more volunteers," she said. "Now there's a shortfall because the cost to operate the library has gone up. The cost of periodicals, newspapers and books has all gone up, so it stands to reason it's going to cost more money to operate the library."

"We used to have people who would give \$25 or \$50 a year to the library, but the younger people coming into

Sun City aren't doing that. They don't seem to have the feeling about Sun City that us older people do."

Even the names on the petition clearly showed a lack of support for the library, Youngman said.

"Of the 120 people who signed the petition, 65 were not registered patrons and have never used the library," he said. "Twenty-one were registered, but never donated a dime to the library. The other 44 were regular users and did donate to the library."

Witt said one of the reasons some people declined to sign the petition was because they thought Youngman was being paid between \$70,000 and \$80,000 a year.

"I wish they were paying me that much," Youngman said laughing. "I make \$35,000 a year and am not ashamed to say that. This rumor has been floating around for a long time. If they want to pay me that much, that's fine with me, but they don't."

In fact, the wages for the 13 paid employees at both branches of the Sun City Library are low, Youngman said, adding that he has people with master's degrees in library science earning \$6.50 an hour.

According to the 1996 budget, \$192,528 was set aside for salaries, \$15,402 for federal income tax, \$1,463 for unemployment insurance, \$1,000 for worker's compensation

and \$17,728 for medical benefits.

Youngman said he worked hard on the \$337,321 budget to find ways to cut back on spending. He was able to save \$3,500 by re-negotiating various contracts and leases. He also intends to continue the mailings started last year to let Sun City residents know about the library and its needs.

Other goals for 1996 include:

- Drastic improvements to the books for the homebound program.
- Expanding the reference services through the use of computers and the Internet.
- Some increase in staff wages.

Sun City Library preserving

Arizonans' role in WWII

By Charles Kelly
The Arizona Republic

Far from where World War II was fought — the frozen forests of Europe, the beaches of Normandy and Italy, the sun-seared islands of the South Pacific — researchers in Arizona are giving voice to the war's veterans before time and age remove them forever.

In Sun City, library volunteers help former service people and home-front workers shape their

Inside

■ See **Page B2** today and each day until Memorial Day for recollections of World War II veterans and homefront workers.

memoirs. In Tempe, a dedicated amateur has gathered information about the war's Hispanic aviators from Arizona. Last year, various historians pulled together *Arizona Goes to War: The Home Front and the Front Lines During World War II*, edited by

Brad Melton and Dean Smith.

Educator Thomas Barratt and Charles Youngman, executive director of the Sun City Library, came up with the idea of making the library a repository for memories of various wars, particularly World War II.

With the World War II generation passing away and many veterans living in the Sun City area, the two wanted to make sure their stories survived.

"When I leave, I want future generations to come here who

have no recollection of World War II and say, 'Here's some prime material, some amazing stuff,'" said Youngman, 67.

The chance to gather the material is fleeting, added Barratt, 76.

"This is a dying generation," he said. "It would be nice if we could help people preserve the information on what it cost for them to have their freedom."

The effort by the Sun City Library is already having an impact

See **WWII** Page B2

Making history

■ For information about how to take part in the Sun City Library's veteran history effort, call the library at (623) 974-2569.

■ To take part in the Veterans History Project in Washington, D.C., visit www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/ or phone 1-(202)-707-4916, or the Message Line, 1-888-371-5848, or the FAX Line, 1-(202)-252-2046. Or e-mail vohp@loc.gov. Or write: the Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20540-4615.

0632

nationally. It has shipped written transcripts of veterans interviews (many of them conducted by Barratt) and videotaped veterans talks to the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Those operating the project want to use May 29's dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington to inspire people to submit memoirs, said Anneliesa Behrend, public affairs coordinator for the project.

"Arizona's doing great work," she said.

The Sun City Library is among more than a thousand organizations across the country, including universities, veterans service groups and high school history classes, that have supplied information in the two years the project has been active, Behrend said.

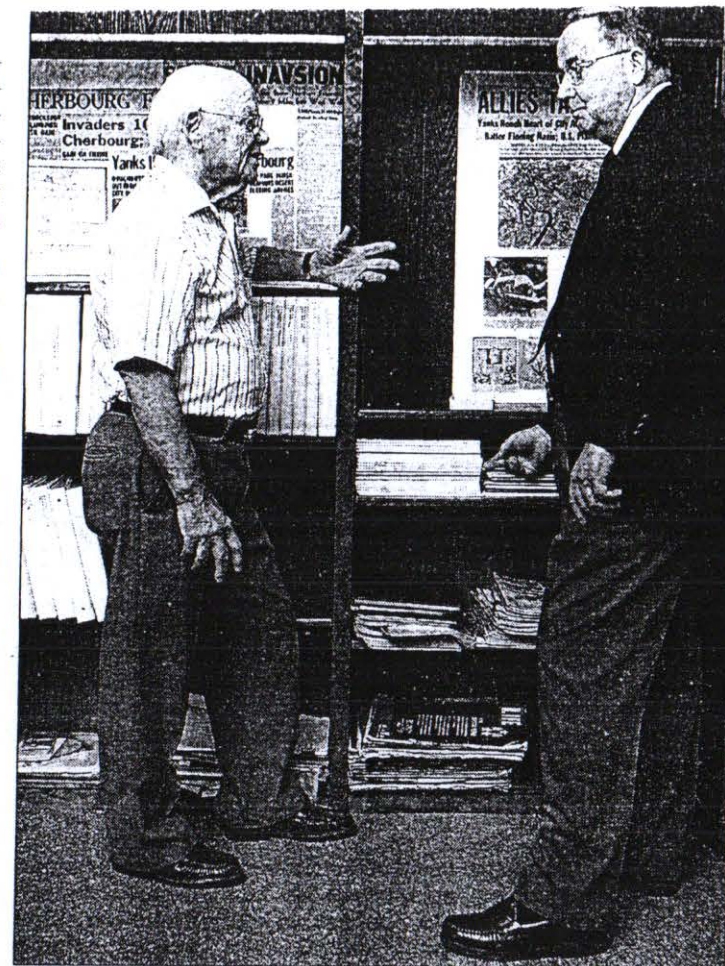
About 45 interview transcripts and 40 videotapes have been gathered by the Sun City Library since its effort began in 1996 as an offshoot of forming a World War II round-table discussion group.

Tempe historian Smith, who helped edit *Arizona Goes to War*, said the memories are especially important for this state, which boomed because service people who trained here came back to live once the war was over.

"There was the old Arizona before the war and the new Arizona since then," Smith said.

And the new Arizona could be as fascinating as the old, though historians traditionally have focused on the "cowboys and Indians" themes of pre-statehood Arizona, Smith said.

The fact that much Arizona history is relatively unexplored opened a door for Tempe resident Rudolph Villarreal,



Mark Henle/The Arizona Republic

Thomas Barratt (left) and Charles Youngman chat in front of the World War II collection at the Sun City Library and Cultural Center. The two came up with the idea for the collection.

64, a retired quality-assurance engineer in the aerospace industry.

His heritage and interest in aircraft led him to research the stories of Arizona Hispanics who served as pilots or on aircrews in World War II. He was surprised to find these men numbered about 200.

He self-published a book, *Arizona's Hispanic Flyboys*, to highlight their role in the war, which he thinks got lost because so many Arizonans

served in that conflict.

"I don't think they were (purposely) overlooked," Villarreal said. "I just think they were caught up in the numbers."

Sometimes amateur efforts at World War II history, such as that of Villarreal, provide rich material on the war.

P-38 pilot Claude Murray, a Sun City resident who served in the 7th Photo Recon Group in the war, produced a fascinating 67-page self-published

WWII: MY STORY

As Memorial Day approaches, *The Arizona Republic* is running recollections of World War II veterans and home-front workers in their own words. For audio or video of other veterans' stories, visit azcentral.com.

Sun City resident **Richard Durst**, who died in January at age 85, won the Silver Star while an officer in the Army's 5th Infantry Division. He recalls reacting to a German ambush near Hoscheid, Luxembourg, in which a tech sergeant named Jones was killed by a burst of automatic pistol fire.

"We rushed forward, spraying the area with rifle fire, cursing our would-be killer and casting sidelong glances at our dead comrade. My reaction to the situation was a bit slow. I permitted the men to take the three Germans prisoner, rather than killing them on the spot. Now I had the onerous task of deciding what to do with them.

On the one hand, I wanted desperately to avenge the death of the young former college student who had just saved my life. On the other hand, I realized that I would be committing murder, just like the Germans at Malmedy and scores of other places there in the Ardennes, if I had them shot after having taken them prisoner. Fortunately for them, I couldn't bring myself to kill them. I did, however, order the German who actually shot Jones to carry his bloody body all the way back to the battalion aid station in Liperscheid. Having to do so might well make him wish he'd never seen an automatic pistol."



Richard Durst

— Charles Kelly

Source: Veterans History Project, World War II, Sun City Library and Cultural Center.

memoir about his experience called *Flight Boots to Wooden Shoes*.

It recounts how Murray, now 82, hid from the Nazis for seven months in occupied Holland after his plane was shot down on Oct. 6, 1944. He posed as a deaf-mute Dutch salesman.

"Frankly, it's my war story," Murray said. "It's all true, it's all great and everybody likes it. And it's unusual."

Murray said a historian

helped him with his account, and he is grateful for that help. That's a common reaction among World War II veterans who finally get to explore and record this vital part of their experience, said Youngman:

"A lot of them say ... 'We're glad to know when we pass on that somebody at least will appreciate what we did.'"

Reach the reporter at charles.kelly@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6936.

Sun City Library

needs aid

By Robert Barrett
Staff writer

SUN CITY — To the list of things that cost more these days — cars, clothes, food — you can add library cards.

Starting Monday an annual card for the Sun City Library will cost \$15.

"We are so short of operating funds that we have no choice other than to start charging a fee," said Dr. Milton Fox, president of the Sun City Library Board.

"Most people don't understand that we are strictly a private library and all our support in the past has come from contributions," Fox said.

The library, which receives no funds from the state, county or federal government, opened in Fairway Center in 1961 with a loan of about 2,500 books from Maricopa County. It now has 95,000 volumes, 13 employees, 200 volunteer workers, two locations and an annual budget of \$350,000 to \$400,000 a year, Fox said.

There is no way to tell how many of the approximately 14,000 people who use the library each year will pay the fee so they can check out books, Fox said.

"We felt if we could get the \$15 charge from about 4,000 people then with that money, plus what we expect in contributions, we could put together an operating budget," Fox said.

Some residents are not happy with the charge, he said.

"We've had some calls and letters complaining about the fee," Fox said. "But we've also had the reverse. In fact, I would say about 80 percent of the comments about the new fee were favorable. Many people said it was about time we started charging and we feel good about that."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. provides the building, electricity and maintenance costs for the main library at Bell Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and space for the smaller branch library at Fairway Center, 10060 W. Peoria Ave.

"But the telephones, the books, the furniture, the carpeting and the salary we pay to our 13 employees are paid by the money that's contributed each year by the residents and some commercial people here in Sun City," Fox said.

In addition to fiction and non-fiction volumes found at other libraries, patrons have access to an extensive medical section.

"Our medical reference section is probably more extensive than most public libraries," Fox said.

In addition to the medical section, the reference area also has an extensive collection for people interested in business and investing, Fox said.

The library has started a homebound service. Volunteers visit those who cannot get to the library. They can call and order books and videotapes from the library. The order is mailed to them and returned to the library in special envelopes provided by the Sun City Lions Clubs. There is no cost to the homebound.

"That has become, very quickly, a well-used and very popular program and it is expanding all the time," Fox said.

There are plans to form a foundation that would help raise funds for the library and organize and manage a "Friends of the Library" group, Fox said.

"If we can do that we can get away from charges," Fox said. "That's what we're out to do."

SC Library approves charge for user card

Patrons to pay \$15 a year to use library, beginning Jan. 1

By CINDY TRACY
Sun Cities Independent

Faced with increasing costs and dwindling revenues, the Sun City Library will in 1996 begin charging patrons to use its facilities.

The Library's board of directors voted last week to begin charging \$15 for an annual library card as of Jan. 1, 1996. Milton Fox, president of the board, says the new fee is one of four plans aimed at generating income for the organization.

The organization, which operates libraries at Bell and Fairway recreation centers — also plans to sponsor a community fund drive, implement a planned-giving program and ask the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. for additional funds.

Mr. Fox says 14,000 people use the library but only 3,900 contributed to the fund drive.

"So there is a part of the problem," he reflected, "and it just slides right out. You

can't miss it."

Financial stability was a theme for the library's Nov. 8 annual meeting. Treasurer Mildred Roig presented an accountant's compilation as of Dec. 31, 1994. The balance sheet showed assets of \$429,940 and liabilities of \$8,808.

After a discussion on whether an accountant's compilation was necessary and a vote not to use the same accounting firm for

another report, the board heard Ms. Roig elaborate on the library's financial need, a need including \$12,000 in monthly investments.

Ms. Roig also pointed out there was \$200,000 in the building fund for the library's planned addition. She and subsequent speakers expressed their hope that the recreation centers board will ratify a

See ■ LIBRARY, Page 7

proposed pledge of \$125,000 to furnish the rest of the \$325,000 needed.

And, Ms. Roig said, although the library has over \$58,000 in investment funds, there is still a need for as much help as possible.

"So you will still be hearing the library needs money," she said.

Mr. Fox said the board's decision to charge the user fee has received mostly favorable reaction, but there

have been some negative calls, too.

One of the reasons for the library card, Mr. Fox said, would be to distinguish the library as a separate facility from the Sun City Recreation Centers.

Mr. Fox said the library was grateful for the contribution of facilities and other help from the Rec Centers, but the library wanted people to understand it was autonomous from the Rec Centers.

Barking up the right tree

Researchers discover plenty of surprises in genealogy

By Robert Barrett
Staff writer

YOUNGTOWN — Karen Hahn was surprised to learn three of her ancestors were hanged for being witches in Salem, Mass., in 1692.

"I also have ancestors who were on the juries and making the accusations about witches," she said.

Hahn, a member of the Sun Cities Genealogical Society, learned about the witches when she began tracing her family tree after a great-great-aunt claimed the family had a famous ancestor.

"That's not uncommon," Lorraine Menich, administrator of the society's library, said last week. "You get people who think they are descended from George Washington, and he didn't have any children. He did have stepchildren."

Menich said a lot of people come to the library looking for proof that they are descended from the king of Sweden or a Cherokee princess.

"Everybody's got a Cherokee princess in their family," Menich said.

Hahn didn't think there was a Cherokee princess in the family, but her aunt claimed family members came to the "new world" on the Mayflower, Hahn said.

"It didn't take long to disprove that," she said with a laugh.

But the records search of the Mayflower and its passengers was interesting, Hahn said. While she was searching for more information about the family, Hahn learned of the witches.

"Genealogy is fun, it brings history alive," she said.

People trying to trace their roots do not need to travel back East to do research or take a trip to Europe, Menich said. Information is available in the society's library or can be acquired through the mail or from other genealogical societies.

The library, 12600 N. 113th Ave., Suite 6C, in Youngtown, is one of the most complete genealogical libraries in the Southwest, Menich said.

The library's rooms are lined with reference books that include things such as a list of names of

**"Everybody's got
a Cherokee princess
in their family."**

Lorraine Menich
Administrator of Library,
Sun Cities
Genealogical Society

those who arrived on the Mayflower; military records showing the names of those who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Indian Wars; the 1850 census data showing names of heads of household; and old county and church records from around the country.

"Boston started recording marriages and such in '1630," Hahn said, holding up a book filled with names.

There also is a lot of Arizona information available at the library, Menich said, such as the

marriage records of everyone ever married in Maricopa County.

The library also has computers, donated by the Mayo Clinic, where members can do online searches for information.

Society membership is open to everyone, Menich said. It has approximately 600 members of all ages who live in the northwest Valley as well as Wickenburg, Prescott and other parts of Phoenix. Dues are \$20 a year for an individual and \$25 a year for a family.

"People are welcome to come here to the library and take a class to learn how to do the research," Menich said.

Menich teaches a class for novices that lasts about two hours and costs \$4.

"It teaches you how to get started," she said.

Beginning, intermediate and advanced classes also are available at the library as well as seminars and classes for specialized activities such as how to analyze census

IF YOU GO

SUN CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY RUMMAGE SALE

When: Thursday-Saturday,
7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: 11103 W. Caron
Court, Sun City.

Cost: Free admission.

records and search military and immigration records.

The library is funded by membership dues and activities such as this week's rummage sale, Menich said.

The sale, Thursday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be at 11103 W. Caron Court in Sun City. Caron Court is one block north of Olive Avenue.

"This is the fifth year we've done this, and all the money we raise goes toward the building fund," said Hahn, the rummage-sale chairman. "We hope to eventually buy our own building for the library."



Suzanne Starr / Staff photographer
Frequenting the Sun Cities Genealogical Society library are library administrator Lorraine Menich (left) and Karen Hahn, chairman of this week's rummage sale that benefits the society.

Genealogical society wants library

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY
Staff writer

YOUNGTOWN — Fifteen years ago, Arlene Cervoni watched Alex Haley's "Roots" and began to wonder about her own ancestors.

Today, thanks to the resources of the Sun Cities Genealogical Society, the Sun Citian has been able to trace her father's side of the family back hundreds of years. Now, she's working on her mother's roots.

When she's done with that, "I'll continue with something," Cervoni said. "You're never done."

Cervoni is one of a growing number of people taking advantage of the genealogical society's 3,000 reference books; genealogical magazines it trades with a hundred other groups from around the country; birth, marriage and death certificates; maps; microfiche, microfilm and computer systems with genealogical records; and the friendly resources the genealogical society has to offer people interested in discovering their ancestors.

"When people come in, they're just absolutely amazed at what we have," said Lorraine Menich, the genealogical society's librarian.

In fact, the Sun City volunteer organization has grown so much, it's running out of room to house its material in an office building in the Valley View Professional building, 12600 N. 113th Ave., Youngtown.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Arlene Cervoni, left, is membership chairman of the Sun Cities Genealogical Society, and Lorraine Menich is the library administrator.

The computer room shares its space with the mail room. A refrigerator stands guard outside the restroom. Books, stacked on top of bookcases, rub against the ceiling. A door doubles as a bulletin board.

"We've run out of space," Menich said during a tour through the cramped four-room office.

"We're so crowded," she added. "And we sign up somebody new every day."

So the genealogical society, organized in 1972 to "collect, preserve and disseminate information with reference to genealogical and related data," is looking to purchase its own home.

The genealogical society's top fund-raiser is its annual rummage sale from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 16 through 18 at 11103 W. Caron Court, Sun City. All sorts of donated items

will be on sale, with proceeds going to the library building fund.

The genealogical society relies on donations. Menich has a \$400 annual book budget, which she said buys her four new genealogical books each year. The rest of the materials come from people who have used the books for their own information and want to share it with others.

The genealogical society encourages its member to share their findings in support groups and seminars that help them learn how to take the known, even something as simple as the date of death, and connect it to the unknown.

It takes time, though.

The Sun Cities is rich with those interested in genealogy as many senior citizens decide to put their history together.

"A lot of them are doing it for their grandchildren's children," said Menich, who began her genealogical tracings 10 years ago. "When I first got a grandchild, I thought I'd find out about what my grandparents did."

"It's fascinating once you get into it."

The genealogical society's library in its Youngtown office building, open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, is free to members. Non-members are asked to leave a monetary donation.

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Out of the red, into the black

New plan hopes to boost SC Library revenues

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

In an effort to solve its financial crisis, the Sun City Library will open its doors to residents of area care centers beginning in 1994.

The library will charge neighboring residents \$25 a year to use the Bell and Fairway libraries, a move which could

contribute \$20,000 a year toward the library's \$210,000 annual budget, says Library Director Charles Youngman.

Former Sun City residents who have moved to care centers in the surrounding area say despite their contributions to the library over the years, they have been denied access to the facilities, Mr. Youngman says.

Although the library will be open to residents of neighboring communities, not

everyone will be permitted to use the facilities.

"People worry about teen-agers coming in, but we're not going to serve anybody under 55, with the exception of professional people," he says.

If the change proves successful, library officials may expand their service base further.

"We're just going to put our toe in the

water and go from there," Mr. Youngman says.

Bell and Fairway libraries are running a deficit of \$60,000, he says. Library officials had considered several options to solve the organization's fiscal crisis, among them closing the library's doors one or two days a week.

Expanding the service base is a solution which came out of a written agreement between the Recreation Centers of Sun

See ■ LIBRARY, Page 7

City and the Sun City Library.

The agreement says the library can institute a guest policy provided no Rec Centers member is denied timely services and provided no library guest receives services which are not available to Rec Centers members.

The agreement also spells out each organization's responsibilities.

"In previous years, (we) never had a written agreement," Mr. Youngman says.

"It was verbal. The Rec Centers would furnish the building, the grounds, the maintenance of the grounds, parking, gas, electricity,

water, sewer and trash removal. We had agreed in the past to buy all the book stock, staff the library, put down carpeting, install interior fixtures.

"So the operating costs were assumed by the library and the other costs were assumed by the Rec Centers."

Another solution to the library's financial woes was considered by officials.

"We have the power and the ability here to provide the library with funds out of (members') assessments, but the board feels it's not proper," Rec Centers Board of

Directors President Gerald Unger said at an Oct. 27 board meeting.

Director George Hartman believes the library needs to rely on the generosity of area residents rather than Recreation Centers revenue.

The library is also attempting to raise funds by seeking donations via a mail campaign to residents, Mr. Youngman says.

Sun City Library services are free to Sun City residents and the library relies on donations to meet its budget.

Library officials are asking residents for their input via a survey and will hold a town hall forum on the topic 1-2 p.m. Nov. 19 in Bell Recreation Center Social Hall 2, 16820 99th Ave., Sun City.

SC:/books — Library goes on line

Staff report

SUN CITY — The Sun City Library personnel are surfen' the net.

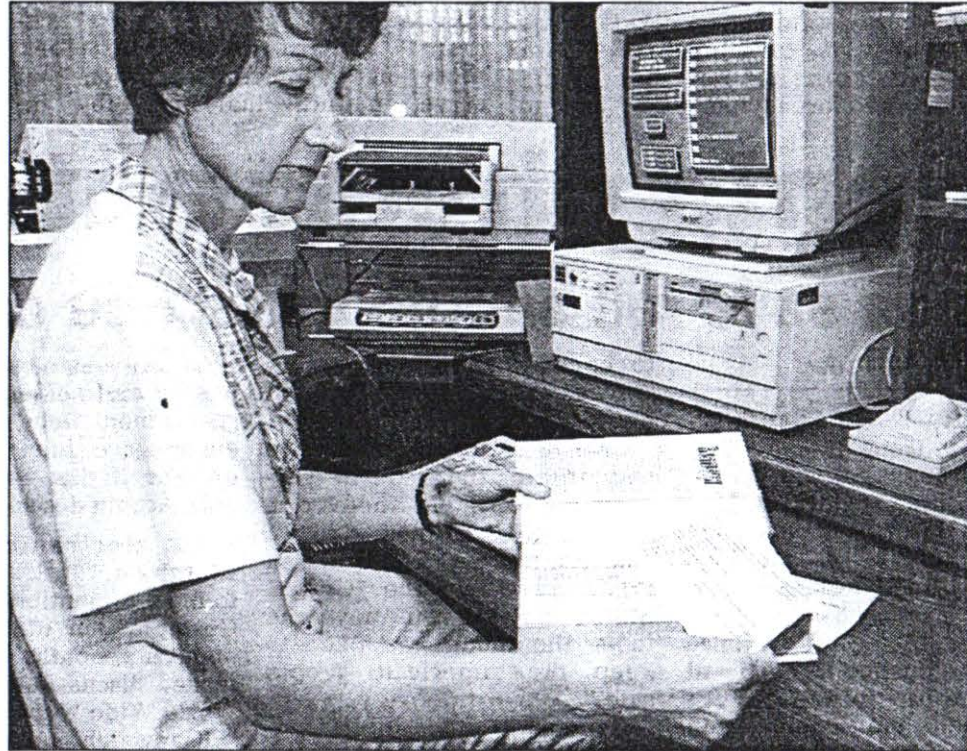
Thanks to a program sponsored by the Arizona Department of Libraries, Archives and Public Records, library staffs statewide are being provided with full access to the Internet, a world-wide computer network.

Jim Betz, who is contracted to install the computer infrastructure, said the project evolved from e-mail messages between libraries to text-only Internet access. Now it expands to full access.

This means better access to information for patrons of the Sun City libraries, said Chuck Youngman, executive director of the libraries.

"If we can't find the answer to a question, our staff can go on the computer and try and find the answer," he said. "It's going to be really interesting to see how far we can stretch our capabilities. As far as text retrieval is concerned, we're able to pull anything out of the Phoenix Library or Glendale Library."

Betz is encouraging libraries to offer Internet access to the public through the non-profit Arizona Telecommunication Community Computing organization, known by its acronym, AzTeC. This group of



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Anne Fratzke, library loan clerk at the Sun City Library, prepares to loan a book to another Arizona library.

fers users with Internet e-mail accounts, local and state information, forums for discussion and links to many national and global resources

all at no charge to Arizona residents.

AzTeC menus can connect to libraries with local providers so people statewide can check out their

resources. Patrons will have current data at their fingertips. Towns and cities also can use AzTeC to keep citizens informed about local happenings.

In addition, AzTeC offers a wide range of educational and entertainment resources such as:

- Medical information.
- Access to 53 other U.S. free-nets and 28 free-nets worldwide.
- E-mail messages to friends, families and featured celebrities.
- Research information.
- Connection to the Weather Channel.
- Access to Usenet and special interest groups.

"The Internet is becoming an essential resource for information of all types and a medium of communication amongst people worldwide," Betz said. "Libraries have historically served the information needs of the community and it is only natural that they play a key role in providing equality of access to the Internet."

Whether the patrons of the Sun City Libraries will have individual access to the Internet is still very much up in the air. There are no immediate plans for the future, Young said.

Sun City Library plans mobile service

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

The Maricopa County Library District Bookmobile may no longer be rolling into Sun City, but the Sun City Library plans to offer residents what may turn out to be an even better alternative.

Prior to the county's announcement that the Bookmobile would no longer visit the Sun City area, library officials had applied for funding in order to begin a similar

service, says Administrative Assistant Martha Bard.

"What we're talking about at the library is we really want to develop a route to serve residents in Sun City," Ms. Bard says.

"We would make a regular route of care centers in the area."

Library officials would like to stop at about 30 locations in the Sun City area, among them facilities such as Camelot Manor,

See ■ MOBILE, Page 3

■ MOBILE

From Page 1

Hearthstone, Sun Valley Lodge and Wooddale Healthcare Center.

"We're thinking of serving primarily group home residents who don't have the chance to get out," says Ms. Bard.

Library officials estimate the service will cost about \$22,000 annually. About \$10,000 would be for a driver who would travel to ear-

marked sites two to three days a week and \$12,000 for an administrator to oversee the program.

Ms. Bard says library officials have not yet discussed whether the service would use a van or automobile.

Library officials ought to know by the end of the year whether funding to begin the service will be

available.

Ms. Bard says even if funding does not materialize, library officials will seek other sources of funding, perhaps donations from local groups, in order to offer such a service.

"We're going to do it one way or another," Ms. Bard says.

Bookmobile puts brakes on service

Eliminates Sun City stop

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

The Maricopa County Library District Bookmobile has slammed on its brakes and will no longer serve customers in the Sun Cities.

The bookmobile has for several years paid regular visits to the Grand Shopping Center at 107th and Grand avenues in Sun City. As of September 1, however, that stop has been eliminated in order to better serve other areas.

From September 1994 to February 1995, a Bookmobile/Outreach Task Force composed of librarians from the Maricopa County Library District and several other public library systems in the Valley met to analyze and make recommendations on how to improve Bookmobile service to county residents, according to a letter sent to Bookmobile patrons by the Maricopa County Recreation Services Library District, which operates the Bookmobile.

The task force was created by

"The task force saw it wasn't a good use of taxpayers' money to go to places within reach of a library."

— BARBARA KEEN
Public Services Administrator
Maricopa County Library District

the county Board of Supervisors to ascertain whether taxpayers were getting the most for their money, says Barbara Keen, public services administrator for the Maricopa County Library District.

Task force members found that many of the existing bookmobile service locations were either underutilized or were within the service areas of current library facilities.

They felt county residents would be better served by a Bookmobile which emphasized service to niche groups of at-risk youth, rural resi-

■ BRAKES

dents, the institutionalized physically disabled and the institutionalized or homebound elderly.

"The task force saw it wasn't a good use of taxpayers' money to go to places within reach of a library," Ms. Keen says.

She says the decision to discontinue several current stops was based on average monthly circulation at each stop, the total number

of patrons served, distance from a fixed library facility and type of customer service (rural, commuter, youth and elderly).

The Sun City stop was used moderately, Ms. Keen says. In 1993-94, the average patron count was 135 a month and the average number of items checked out per month was 42.

At some locations served by the

Bookmobile, the number of patrons per month is as high as 201 and at others as low as three.

Ms. Keen says the library district has received only a couple of complaints from area residents angered because the Bookmobile is leaving Sun City.

"I think we've had maybe two complaints, but once we explained the problem they were fine."

Although the Bookmobile will no longer stop in Sun City, it will stop at two locations in Peoria.

The Bookmobile will stop 1:15-2:45 p.m. Sept. 18, Oct. 2, 16 and 30; Nov. 13 and 27, and Dec. 11 at Desert Harbor in Peoria and 10-11:30 a.m. the same dates at Westbrook Village.

For more information, call Barbara Keen at 506-2950 or Glynn Dunbar at 506-4904.

From Page 1

See ■ BRAKES, Page 3

Déjà vu: SC Library once again struggles for funds

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

The doors to Sun City's two libraries could be closed this summer if the financially beleaguered institution does not receive needed donations from community residents.

And if the Bell and Fairway Recreation Center branches do remain open, Sun Citians may find themselves having to fork over a small fee to use the facilities.

Because the library's financial situation "has really gotten worse

ple who renew their memberships declined, but the number of clubs donating funds to the ailing institution has also decreased.

"Many of the clubs that donated to us regularly, we haven't seen this year," Dr. Fox says.

By the end of February 1994, clubs had donated more than \$8,000 to the library. This year that figure is down to \$500.

Sponsorships are down by nearly \$3,000 compared with last year's figure, as are fees from book rentals, used books, the copier and guest passes. Whereas the library had \$22,313 in its coffers last February, this past February, the most recent month for which figures are available, the library had less than \$13,000.

The library's annual budget is \$317,000, which includes \$100,000 specifically earmarked for an expansion to the Bell Center branch. By the end of February, the library was operating at a \$14,310 deficit.

Sun City Library services are free to Sun City Rec Center members and the library relies on donations to meet its annual budget.

Dr. Fox and Executive Director Charles Youngman attribute the decrease in donations to a misconception rampant in the community: A belief the library is funded by the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City is responsible for the library's operating costs, but other costs are assumed by library officials.

in the last few months, ... there's never been a fee to use the library, but if it keeps going on like this we may have to resort to that," says Milton Fox, M.D., president of the Board of Directors of the Sun City Libraries, Inc.

Last summer proved a slow one for the Sun City Library, thrusting the institution out of the black and into the red. But in November, library officials said the financial picture looked far brighter thanks to an influx of contributions.

That enthusiasm has dwindled in

Board members are considering reducing the number of books the library purchases, including paperbacks and large typeface books, Dr. Fox says.

The board is investigating several other options in order to solve the organization's fiscal crisis, among them closing the facility's doors more often.

"Another thing that we've had to consider is reducing the hours, closing Mondays to cut back. Up until a few years ago we were closed Mondays," Dr. Fox says.

Although each of the library's 12

full- and part-time employees is due for a raise, Dr. Fox admits a pay increase is likely not forthcoming.

Board members also are investigating the possibility of organizing a foundation separate from the library's board of directors whose members would establish an endowment fund for the library.

"There's always going to be ups and downs in the economy and giving. If the library had its own foundation, you'd smooth out the rough spots," Dr. Fox says.

Board members also have discussed a mass mailing to solicit contributions from area residents.

recent months as the steady stream of contributions enjoyed last fall has fallen off considerably during the winter and spring.

"As the year ended last year, we had picked up and we were doing better. But since the first of the year, the gifts and donations have really been down," Dr. Fox says.

Library officials believe the combination of several factors has plunged the library into the red.

Not only has the number of peo-

See ■ LIBRARY, Page 3

If the library were to receive \$10 from each resident in Sun City, "we would make it (for the rest of the year) and be able to put a little into the reserve (fund)," Dr. Fox explains.

Between 600 and 800 people use the library during hours of operation. In one day a few weeks ago, a record-breaking 956 patrons checked out 1,054 books.

During the Bell Recreation Center Fun Fair, 2,500 people visited the library, Mr. Youngman says.

The library's financial woes not only mean uncertainty for library officials and patrons but also a halt

to the Bell Library's impending construction project.

Donations may be taken or mailed to the Bell Center branch of the library, 16828 99th Ave., Sun City, Ariz., 85351.

The library has a contribution box through which it raises about \$1,200 a year, Mr. Youngman says.

"That really doesn't cover much," he admits.

Library patrons who have suggestions on how the facility can increase donations or continue to operate without additional funds may fill out a yellow form at either branch of the library.

Library awaits funds

Bell site crowded as usage rises

By Jeffrey Nelson
Special to Community

SUN CITY — Plans have been unveiled for a 3,380-square-foot expansion at the Bell Library that will help serve a growing army of visitors.

As the community's population has aged, the library has drawn more and more visitors, said Charles Youngman, executive director of the library, 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

Youngman believes that residents who are unable to participate in activities such as bowling, tennis and shuffleboard any longer because of declining health are renewing their interest in reading.

The 20-year-old library serves between 700 and 900 people per day and that has the 10,800-square-foot facility stretched to its limits, he said.

Library staff members often have difficulty finding space for books, chairs for visitors and work space for volunteers and staff, Youngman said.

Jean Brown, one of 250 volunteers at the library, said the expansion isn't something the library can continue to operate without. "When you have an office in the hallway, you need more space," she said.

The answer to the library's space problem is a \$300,000 expansion to add another 3,380 square feet of floor space.

It will include a 1,224-square-foot meeting hall, 468-square-foot refer-



Joe Dansereau reads at the Bell Library. Officials hope to raise \$200,00 for a much-needed expansion.

Mark Henle / Staff photographer

ence area, 300-square-foot office for the library's board of directors, a 258-square-foot office for Youngman and a 171-square-foot area for book sales.

The remaining space will be used for additional offices and storage, Youngman said. Storage boxes are

stacked on top of book shelves and line the existing office walls in the library.

An anonymous donor has provided a big boost to the library's campaign by offering a check for \$100,000. Youngman and his volunteers are working to raise the remaining \$200,000.

"We'll take anything at this point,"

Youngman said.

Donations are needed because the library lacks a huge reserve fund for new construction, he said. Operating expenses are covered by an annual contribution from the Sun City Community Fund and other private donations.

Rec board gives nod to library aid

Agrees to provide up to \$125,000 for planned Bell Library expansion

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors has agreed to assist the ailing Sun City Library and help pay for a planned expansion of the Bell Library.

The board agreed last week to allocate funds in next year's budget for construction of an addition to the Bell Center branch. The addition, located at the rear of the library, will include a large meeting hall able to accommodate as many as 82 people, several offices, a book sales area, a 616-square-foot reference area with computers and two restrooms.

The addition is expected to cost \$225,000, says Rec Centers Director Chuck Chadborn, but the library has already received a \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor specifically earmarked for expansion of the Bell Center branch.

The board ultimately agreed to allocate a maximum of \$125,000 for the construction of what Mr. Chadborn terms "this desperately needed addition."

The addition, he says, would not only provide much-needed work, office and storage space for the library, but also a meeting room available for use by both library patrons and members of the Recreation Centers.

Because the 3,570-square-foot addition will include a meeting hall and restrooms which could be closed off from the remainder of the facility, groups could conceivably meet at the library 24 hours a day, says Library Executive Director Charles Youngman.

Some former Rec Centers directors balked at helping the financially beleaguered institution, claiming the Recreation Centers has already done more than enough to help the library.

In past years, some directors contended the library ought to rely on the generosity of area

residents rather than Recreation Centers revenue. The Recreation Centers Board of Directors in late 1993 turned down a request for \$50,000 to help offset losses at the Bell and Fairway libraries.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City is responsible for the library's building and maintenance costs, but operating costs are assumed by library officials.

Current directors feel their action may spur community residents to lend greater support to the facility.

"I fully support this particular motion and I'm sure other contributions will be made that will decrease the amount of money the Recreation Centers will have to come up with (for the library)," says Director Chuck Westerveld.

While directors support library officials' efforts to solve their space constraints, "this is strictly a proposal for 1996," Board President Ed Anderson told audience members at an April 27 board meeting.

Mr. Youngman calls the board's decision to allocate funds for an addition "fantastic."

"I really appreciate them giving us that. Hopefully next year at this time you'll be able to see a new addition," Mr. Youngman says.

The last few years have seen battle-weary library officials fight an uphill battle to obtain contributions from a variety of sources in order to continue.

And although assistance from Rec Centers directors may alleviate the facility's cramped quarters,

library officials still need contributions to keep the doors of both branches open.

Library officials are currently considering several options to solve the facility's fiscal crisis, among them closing the doors of its two branches this summer or closing the doors more often, reducing the number of books purchased and hours of operation, withholding pay raises, and organizing a foundation

separate from the library's board of directors whose members would establish an endowment fund for the library.

Board members also have discussed a mass mailing to solicit contributions from area residents. Mr. Youngman says library officials recently sent out a 6,200-piece mailing in the area, to which 10 percent of residents have responded thus far.

Library may close doors to outsiders

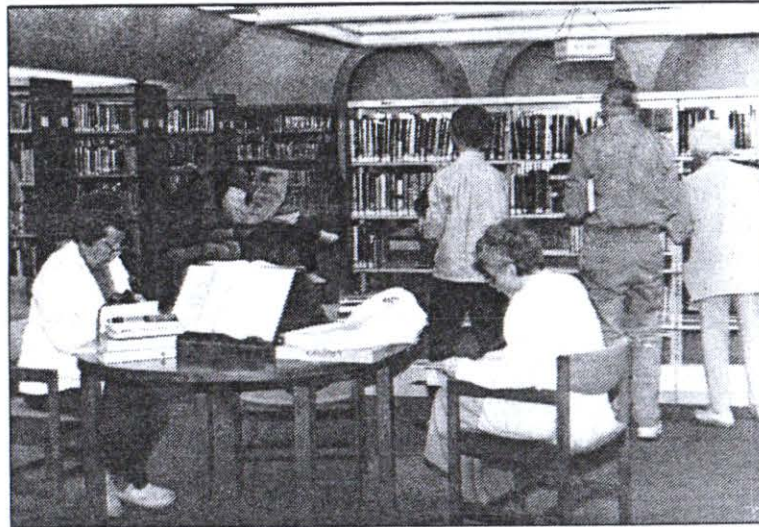
Growing population in SCW is overwhelming facility

By **TERI CARNICELLI**
Sun Cities Independent

Residents of the communities surrounding Sun City West may soon be denied access to the R.H. Johnson Library — library card holders or not.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc. Governing Board will vote this month on whether to limit the use of the R.H. Johnson Library solely to Sun City West residents.

The issue was first discussed by the board during its September meeting when Director Jack O'Connor, then-chairman of the Library Committee, brought it to the board as a suggestion from the



While the R.H. Johnson Library is currently used by residents of Sun City, Westbrook Village and Happy Trails and Sunflower R.V. resorts, that may change drastically after a Jan. 26 Governing Board meeting.

demand on the facility.

"Our concern is doing the best job we can for people in Sun City West," Ms. Lea says.

Library volunteer Agnes Raught says, "I never liked the fact that people from Sun City can come over here and use our library and we can't use their (library). It's not fair."

Besides, she says, with more than 16,000 card holders, "it's really

crowded."

Ms. Lea concurs. "We open 9 a.m. Tuesday (after being closed Sun.-Mon.) and by 10 or 10:30 a.m. it's so crowded there's often no place to sit."

Mr. O'Connor agrees there is already an overcrowding problem.

"The growth is here and they're going to come here to use the library; it is becoming a problem now, and it's better to do this now

committee.

Friends of the Library, a non-profit fund-raising arm of the library, last month approved a resolution to cut off all ties to the Maricopa County Library District, thereby making the R.H. Johnson Library a private facility.

The only assistance the library now receives from the county is a book loan agreement.

"The Friends of the Library have worked very, very hard and if they think it will best serve Sun City West to (adopt this resolution) then I think we should go along with it," says Governing Board Director Virginia Smith.

Library Director Marcia Lea

reports the library, which contains about 40,000 books, loans about 25,000 books a month. Last year, 301,000 books were checked out.

There are 16,000 active library memberships, 600 of which are outside Sun City West, she adds.

The library is currently used by residents of Sunflower and Happy Trails RV resorts, as well as residents of Sun Village, Sun City and Westbrook Village.

"It wasn't really until the last two years that it's become a problem," Mr. O'Connor explains.

Library volunteers and committee members fear the increasing population of Sun City West, coupled with the expected boom in Surprise, will place an undue

See ■ **LIBRARY**, Page 8

when the growth is still at a minimum."

The resolution before the board is to discontinue issuing cards to residents outside the community beginning Feb. 1.

The next step would be to sever all ties with the County Library District the next fiscal year, which begins June 30. At that time all library cards that belong to non-residents will be invalid.

Governing Board Director Allan Grossman points out that nonresidents will still have access to county libraries, such as those located in El Mirage and Surprise, and to the county bookmobile, although "it's just not as convenient as ours."

The board will vote on the resolution at its regular meeting, scheduled for 8 a.m. Jan. 26 in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

1/24/95

\$100,000 gift fuels library expansion

Space crunch at Bell location spurs fund raising

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Now that the Sun City Library has moved out of the red, supporters are checking out opportunities to expand the Bell Library.

The non-profit organization ran a deficit budget for two years and nearly depleted its reserves to maintain services at Bell and Fairway Library. With all its funding coming from the Sun City Community Fund and private donations, the library appealed to the community for help.

"Thanks to a lot of publicity, we are now breaking even," said Roseann Huff, assistant director of the Sun City Library. "People responded well to our financial crisis, but we have an ongoing need."

One of those needs is space, said Chuck Youngman, executive director.

"We are holding three classes a week from 8 to 10 a.m. on writing life

history," he said. "And every Friday, we have some sort of special class or presentation. We had 128 people in here for one meeting last week. We had to go find chairs just to seat everybody."

Plans have been drawn for a 3,380-square-foot addition to the library. A \$100,000 anonymous donation already has come in to fund the project.

"I called a Sun City man with my idea to expand the library, and he anonymously donated \$100,000," Youngman said. "I wrote a letter to one woman asking for \$50,000, and she sent a check for \$500. I thought about sending her a bill for the remaining \$49,500," he added with a laugh.

The seeds of an idea grew from a reading garden behind the library to a full-fledged expansion.

"Last summer I thought I'd like to have a reading garden," Youngman said. "Then we ran into a space problem, and thought I may as well

go for the whole banana."

The whole "banana" encompasses a 3,380-square-foot addition branching off the reference section in the back of the library. The expansion would include a large meeting hall, two offices, a director's office, a book sales area, a board office and a reference area.

Youngman envisions the new reference area to include computers. Users would be able to access Internet as well as get full-text retrieval of any magazine article.

More space also would be good for the staff, Youngman said. The library employs six full-time employees, seven part-time employees and has 250 volunteers. They are stuffed into every nook and cranny in the library, sometimes up to three in an office.

While the library is getting tight on book space, it primarily is struggling to house all its visitors. Last year, 143,674 patrons visited the Bell Library, and 44,854 patrons visited the

See Librarian appeals, A5

—From A1

Fairway Library for a total of 188,528 visits to the libraries.

Library officials estimate that 700 to 900 people a day visit the library. These people asked 31,140 reference questions and checked out a total of 341,594 items in 1994. Its 250 volunteers gave 39,729 hours of their time — more than all branches of the Phoenix Library system combined, Youngman said.

Letters requesting donations will be sent to Sun City residents in the near future. Youngman also anticipates speaking to several community-service organizations.

"I don't mind asking for money," he said. "This town has some money, and they are very generous in donating."

Donations to the library building fund may be sent to the Bell Library, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City, 85351.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Chuck Youngman, executive director of the Sun City Library, stands on the land intended for a library expansion. The library has received a \$100,000 donation to go toward the cost of construction.