

LIBRARY

Sun City books now available online

Library Friends get web sales started

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA

Readers can now purchase books from Books Around the Corner online.

The Friends of the Sun City Libraries operates Books Around the Corner as its major fundraising source. The used book store is located in a room inside the Bell branch of the Sun City libraries, 16828 N. 99th Ave. The Friends board has been trying to establish an online sales outlet for nearly a year, but have run into difficulties.

But now Books Around the Corner books and other merchandise is available on eBay, according to Tim Geiger, Friends board member and online sales coordinator.

"The eBay store is now live," he said during the group's Nov. 9 meeting. "We

WHEN YOU SHOP:

Links to Books Around the Corner shopping and social media.

eBay store: https://www.ebay.com/sch/booksaroundthecorner/m.html?_nkw=&_armrs=1&_ipg=&from=&rt=nc&_dmd=2

Bookstore Twitter: @BooksAroundtheCornerBookstore
Bookstore Facebook: www.facebook.com/booksaroundthecornerbookstore

Friends of the Sun City Libraries Twitter: @SunCityLibraryFriends

Friends Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/suncitylibraryfriends>

have a few things on there right now."

Earlier this year Friends board members thought they had an outlet with Amazon, but that ran into difficulties and getting an online store was delayed. But once Mr. Geiger turned to eBay the online sales were re-established.

"We did have a delay in getting eBay active because they said we were not approved for a lot of sales items," Mr. Geiger explained. "But I got

us approved as a nonprofit, so now we can have up to 500 items."

The Friends eBay store has items available for a specific price or allows an option to make an offer, Mr. Geiger explained.

"I'll be working to get more items on the site," he added.

Friends officials will also post a link to the store on its multiple Facebook pages.

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

VF SC Libraries

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LIBRARY



Jennie O'Leary, left, of the Sun City Branch of the Maricopa County Library District and Sue Blechl of the Friends of the Sun City Libraries prepare for a free presentations to area clubs and community organizations. [Submitted photo]

Library friends start speakers bureau

Available to explain library, group services

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Information on Sun City's libraries and their support group, Friends of the Sun

Cities Libraries, is now available in a presentation form for community clubs, groups and organizations.

The Sun City branches of the Maricopa County Library District and the Friends of the Sun City Libraries are working together to provide presentations on

the library's resources, services and volunteer opportunities available in the area. The agencies established a speakers bureau to help get the word out to residents.

The new speakers bureau will visit local clubs and community organizations to pro-

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vide information and to get input on how to better serve the community.

"You will hear about the libraries and the friends," said Sue Blechl, Friends outreach chairwoman.

The Friends purchased special equipment to make PowerPoint presentations.

"Our equipment is small and compact," said Marcia Davis, Friends of the Sun Cities Libraries board chairwoman.

Friends volunteers will use an iPad with a mini projector, a remote and a screen to make the presentations, she explained. The Friends will have at least two representatives at each presentation to help operate the equipment and be available to answer

questions, she added.

"We have one program scheduled already and we want more," she said.

The program is designed to be mutually beneficial, according to Ms. Davis.

"We will provide information on the libraries and the Friends, and use presentations as a recruitment for volunteers," she said. "But we will also be asking each group what we can do for them."

All programs are free and will be tailored to the specific group, including topic, format, time limit and other factors. Prizes or treats can also be included in each presentation, according to Ms. Blechl.

Contact Ms. Blechl at 623-972-3409 or sueblechl@gmail.com to schedule a presentation.

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LIBRARY

Friends read to care patients

Planned expansion in the fall

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For some, especially those with memory issues, reading becomes more difficult, but the activity still helps keep one's mind active.

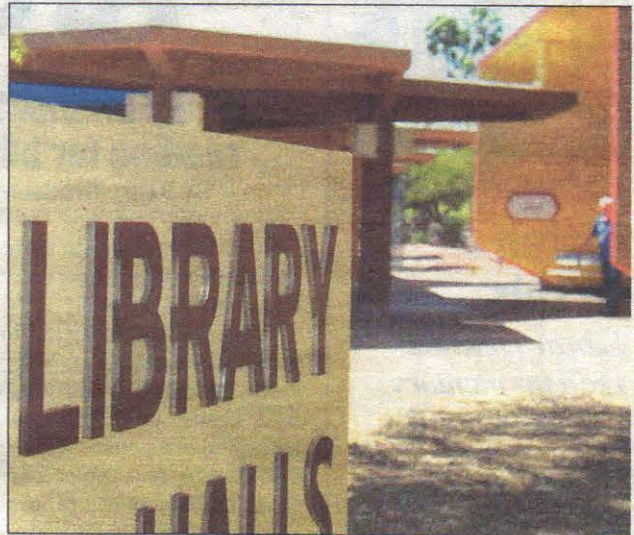
In an effort to help some residents in care centers, the Friends of the Sun City Libraries instituted a program in which volunteers read to patients to help keep their minds stimulated. The Book Friends program, which got its start earlier this year, will see some expansion in the fall, according to Friends officials.

Planning for the program began in January when Judy

Wannamaker, Friends vice president and Book Buddy chairman, met with fellow Friends board member Charlotte Klose to discuss the possibilities. The pair then met with the three activities coordinators at the Woodmark, 17207 N. Boswell Blvd., to work out details of the program offering its services in the care center's two memory care programs.

"Now, in June, Book Friends has three readers working with groups of five patients per week," Tom Everitt, Friends newsletter editor, stated in the June e-publication. "In September, we hope to add two more volunteers."

In Books Friends' beginning weeks, Ms. Klose was the lone reader. In her first



Friends of the Sun City Libraries' new Book Friends program offers care center residents a chance to have books read to them. [File photo]

30-minute session, she read to one patient who listened silently and attended every subsequent session, accord-

ing to Mr. Everitt.

"Sadly, a few weeks later, she passed away," he stated.

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Friends

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"This was Charlotte's introduction to the memory care programs of The Woodmark."

Friends readers participate in the Woodmark's Specialized Personalized Attention program designed for later stage memory patients. The Woodmark also offers Monarch Memory Assistance that provides services

for persons with early stages of memory loss.

"In the fall, we plan to initiate a slow expansion of our work into Monarch while our already trained volunteers continue reading sessions for the first group," Mr. Everitt stated.

Anyone interested in volunteering in the Book Friends program is encouraged to contact Ms. Klose through Books Around the Corner, 602-651-2014.

The Friends of the Sun City Libraries Board of Directors will have no meetings during the summer. The next board meeting is scheduled 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 14 in the Maricopa County Library District Bell Branch, 16828 N. 99th Ave.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com. Continue the discussion at www.yourwestvalley.com.

VF SC Libraries

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 56, No. 8

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

suncityindependent.com

Now Online

- Expanded coverage
- Free weekly newsletter
- View entire paper every Wednesday

Stepping down, trending up



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Flanked by board members Pat Bates, left, and Marcia Davis, Tom Everitt, Friends of the Sun City Libraries board president, presides over his last meeting after a six-year run as the group's leader, a run that culminated in increased usage, donations and nearly all other categories last year. The Friends provide financial and other support to Sun City's two Maricopa County Library branches. **See story on Page 2.**

UF SC Libraries Independent February 17, 2016

Library numbers trending up as president steps down

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Friends of the Sun City Libraries has a new leadership.

After a successful six-year run as board of directors president, Tom Everitt is stepping down from the board. But many other board faces will remain the same, and Mr. Everitt will certainly be no stranger.

Marcia Davis was elected board president while Judy Wannamaker will serve as vice president and Pat Bates will be the board's new secretary. All have been long-standing board members, as is Sue Painter who will retain her post as treasurer.

"It has been a good run, but the time has come," Mr. Everitt said during the board's Feb. 11 meeting.

Remaining in their posts as chairs of Friends standing committees will be Ms. Painter, Finance; Camilla Kuberka, activities; Judy Wannamaker, Book Buddies; and Ms. Davis, Web and Records. Ms. Wannamaker will temporarily fill the Board Development Committee chair, a position previously held by Mr. Everitt.

The Friends did lose one board member when Jerry Walczak resigned. Elected to the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors three months ago, he could not maintain both posts as he chaired the Friends' Publicity

Committee. Roberta Hawksworth will take command of that committee.

As his final act, Mr. Everitt presented the board with the annual 2015 report. Using a theme of "What's Up," he talked about trends being up in nearly all categories, including bookstore sales and volunteer hours. The Friends also spent more on programs than the previous year.

"Our organization is very proud of these achievements," Mr. Everitt said. "We believe, however, the best is yet to come."

The full annual report will be published in the March Spotlight, inside the Feb. 24 edition of the Sun City Independent.

Mr. Everitt said he has two potential board candidates he will provide the board for interviews.

In keeping the momentum of 2015, sales at Books Around the Corner were higher in January than the previous year, according to Mary Ann McDonald, bookstore manager.

"We had a really good January," she said. "We sold more than \$200 more than we did in January last year."

While he left the board, Mr. Everitt will continue his support of the Friends and the libraries. He agreed to serve as writer and editor for the board's publicity efforts.

"He will stay involved with the board in many, many ways," Ms. Davis said.

NEW DEAL

\$6 Sun City hike will buy a lot at community's 2 libraries

VF Se Libraries
Daily News-Sun
December-30, 2014

keep them watching their bottom line, she prefers avoiding the cost of a new book or DVD.

That's why Hoffman felt a sigh of relief when she learned an agreement between Maricopa County, the Friends of the Sun Cities Libraries and the Recreation Centers of Sun City would keep the communities two public libraries open and operating without any cutbacks.

"That's reassuring, I would really miss it," she said outside the Bell Center branch this week.

Under the deal, approved earlier this year, property owners in Sun City will pay an additional \$6 a year on their annual assessments charged by RCSC. The increase, which will raise the yearly charge from \$456 to \$462, takes effect Feb. 1. The provision is part of a \$19.2 million budget for calendar 2015 approved by the RCSC Board of Directors Dec. 18.

The hike will offset the loss of \$130,000 in annual rent charged by the Rec Centers to the Maricopa County Library District for about the past five years — since 2009 for the Bell Center branch and 2010 for a second facility within Fairway Center. Prior to that, Sun City had managed the libraries.

County Supervisor Clint Hickman, who helped broker the deal, said the two Sun City facilities were the only ones out of 17 in the MCLD system that county taxpayers were subsidizing the rent. The District 4 supervisor, who has been in office less than three years, said the payments were questioned by his colleagues on the five-member board.

"It was hard for me to grasp we were paying rent for facilities we weren't paying rent for in other parts of the Valley," he said.

"I had nice, frank discussions with Rec Board as well as Friends. I thought this was the best way to go. They agreed," Hickman said of the March and April talks.

Unfortunately, for the Rec Centers, Sun City's budget



Sun City librarian Jennie O'Leary explains use this week of the new Maricopa County Recorder's Office kiosk inside the Bell Center library. [Jeff Grant/Daily News-Sun]

covers a calendar year time frame while the county operates on a fiscal year cycle, meaning someone had to come up with the \$65,000 needed to cover rent after the county's fiscal 2014 year ended June 30. Friends agreed to pick up the entire payment.

"We were absolutely delighted with the agreement," said Tom Everitt of the Friends of the Sun City Library. "Our relationship with county system has been an excellent one, as well as with RCSC. Our role is to make sure library remains operating at a high-quality level and supports programs the county can't."

The county will continue funding library operations. That includes salaries for a staff of six full-time and three part-time employees at Bell Center and two full-time and two part-time workers at Fairway Center, according to Cindy Kolaczynski, director of the Maricopa County Library District. County taxpayers also support materials — books, CDs, DVDs

and other items — programing employee benefits, supplies — paper, pens, copiers, etc. — telecommunications, library equipment maintenance and courier service, she added.

The entire county system uses couriers to deliver materials unavailable at the library where they are requested.

In addition to janitorial services, Sun City provides all maintenance — for example, painting, lighting and general repairs at the 13,545-square-foot branch at Bell Center and the 4,365-square-foot facility at Fairway Center, Kolaczynski said.

The director said the county's expenses at each of its 17 branch libraries are different. "For example, in Litchfield Park, we pay for janitors," she noted. The Town of Gilbert pays the entire cost to operate the library there, which is the Maricopa County system's largest at 60,000 square feet and busiest.

"Sun City is the only community in which we pay 100

percent of operating costs for," she said.

For the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, the county budgeted \$772,025 for the two Sun City sites — \$534,165 for the Bell Center branch and \$237,860 for the Fairway branch.

Sun City's two libraries are among the county system's top five in terms of borrowing and program activity.

Kolaczynski said during fiscal 2014, 156,893 customers personally visited the Bell Center branch and 108,620 visited the Fairway branch.

"In addition, there are many customers who virtually visit to download eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, videos and music," she added. "In FY14, we had 3,353,935 customers visit our website and over 6 million digital items available to download."

The Bell Center branch has 21 computers and 10 iPads for public use. Fairway has 10 public computers. During the fiscal 2014 year, a total of 431 various programs at

the Bell Center branch drew 4,073 people. A total of 16 programs took place at Fairway, attended by 2,582.

Recently, new mobile shelving was installed at both libraries while new computer tables and chairs were added, all paid for by Friends.

"Now all shelving is on wheels. It allows you more freedom. We're trying to improve things for senior citizens," said Everitt.

Jane Elam of Sun City, a four-year library user, said she enjoys the convenience of ordering materials from her computer at home. "I just go online with my card, pick out what I want, and get it the next day. It's perfect."

Neil Carlson is another Sun Citian thankful the libraries service has been preserved. A part-time resident who lives in Indiana seven months out of the year, Carlson said he orders materials regularly for pickup.

"We're readers. It's very convenient. It's a real important part of Sun City for us," he said.



Sun City resident Grace Waugh browses the shelves inside the library at Bell Center on Tuesday. [Jeff Grant/Daily News-Sun]

\$6 Sun City hike will buy a lot at community's 2 libraries

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Linda Hoffman enjoys reading, but like most seniors whose fixed incomes keep them watching their bottom line, she prefers avoiding the cost of a new book or DVD.

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Dec 26, 2014

Dly News Sun

Libraries

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Libraries

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CONVENIENCE



Sun City librarian Jennie O'Leary explains use this week of the new Maricopa County Recorder's Office kiosk inside the Bell Center library. [Jeff Grant/Daily News-Sun]

Sun City library offers new service for deeds, other data

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The public can now submit property deeds, plat maps and other official documents to the Maricopa Recorder's Office remotely.

The Recorder's Office will formally open a kiosk in the Maricopa County Library District's main Sun City Branch at Bell Center in Sun City, 16820 N. 99th Ave., Jan. 6, said MCLD Director Cindy Kolaczynski.

The kiosk is the Recorder's Office's seventh across

the Valley, including existing locations inside the Northwest Regional Library in Surprise and the White Tank Branch Library in Waddell.

"It allows people to record documents sitting in the library instead of traveling downtown and battle traffic," said Kolaczynski.

Located toward the rear of the library, the kiosk is equipped with a scanner and computer with an interactive video link.

"You touch the screen, an

email is sent to one of county recorder's staff, and they come onscreen," said librarian Jennie O'Leary. "You can talk to them and tell them what you want to do. They can see you, and you can see them and talk to them. They'll walk you through whatever you need to do."

Payment is accepted via card reader. The kiosk takes Visa or MasterCard.

For information online, visit <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/recorder/kiosk.aspx>

VF SC Libraries Dly News-Sun Dec 26, 2014

Daily News-Sun

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• Business A10 • Opinion A11 • Columns A26 • Puzzles A22, A25, A28, A29 • Classifieds A27

DONATION

Friends of Sun City Libraries opens checkbook to pay rent

By Denelle Dunn
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Friends of the Sun City Libraries is donating \$65,000 to pay rent to keep the Maricopa County facilities open through the end of the year.

The donation comes as the county and Recreation Centers are working on lease agreements for the Sun City Bell and Fairway branch libraries.

Tom Everitt, board president for the Friends of the Sun City Libraries, said he's glad that a temporary solution has been found. "It's important for us to keep the library operation in place and through a communication error the two parties could neither find a way out of it. We saw a way we can help and were glad we were able to do so," said Everitt.

Approximately 80 percent of Sun City residents use both the Sun City and Fairway branch libraries, officials said.



Patrons peruse the collection at the library at Fairview Recreation Center recently. [Jarod Opperman/Daily News-Sun]

libraries for over the last five years. That's what the Friends of the Library are for. It supports the county libraries," said Sue Painter, treasurer of the organization.

Earlier this month, Maricopa

County Supervisor Clint Hickman said those involved in discussions over the leases are "confident that a favorable solution for all parties will be reached."

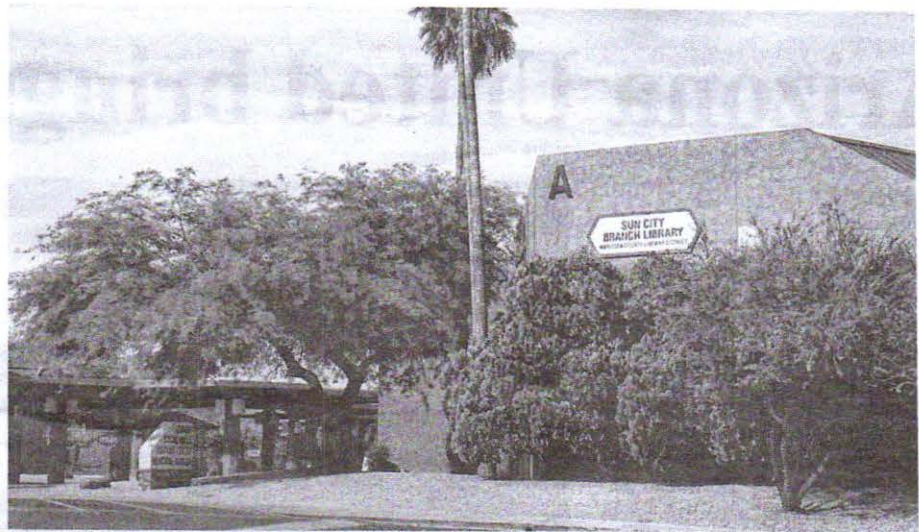
"In amicable fashion through

community goodwill and trust we are exploring solutions to ensure the same level of exceptional library services continue in Sun City," Hickman stated in a release. "We are confident that a favorable so-

lution for all parties will be reached in a timely manner and library services will continue uninterrupted."

While some have feared the libraries are in jeopardy

» See Friends on page A5



A difference in fiscal years apparently led to rumors that Maricopa County would terminate its lease with the Sun City Bell Branch Library. JEN LEBRON KUHNEY/THE REPUBLIC

Sun City, county to negotiate library deal

Jen Lebron Kuhney
The Republic • azcentral.com

Maricopa County will continue to run the two Sun City libraries despite rumors officials could terminate the agreement that keeps them open.

Officials from the county and the West Valley senior-living community said rumors began as the county's lease with the Bell Branch Library comes to an end in June, which coincides with the end of the county's fiscal year.

The Sun City Recreation Board, which leases the space, ends its fiscal year on Dec. 31. The difference between the two calendars led to some confusion about when the county needed to renegotiate its lease, officials said.

"In amiable fashion through community good will and trust, we are exploring solutions to ensure the same level of exceptional library services continue in Sun City," County Supervisor Clint Hickman said.

The county pays about \$130,000 each year to lease space at the Sun City library branch near Bell Road. It also operates the community's Fairway Branch Library on Peoria Avenue, but struck a deal with the Sun City Recreation Board to not pay rent there.

The county has run the two libraries for the past five years and plans to continue operations for the foreseeable future, officials from both parties said.

If both parties agree that the county should no longer pay rent at the Bell

SUN CITY LIBRARIES

Bell Branch

Address: 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City 85351

Hours: Monday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fairway Branch

Address: 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Room 144, Sun City 85351

Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Source: Maricopa County Library District

Branch Library, Sun City homeowners likely would be assessed about \$4.75 per property each year to make up for the costs, said Joelyn Higgins, a recreation board spokeswoman.

Nearly 262,000 people use the two libraries each year, according to Higgins. More than 80 percent of those users are from Sun City, she added.

Recreation board manager Jan Ek said the partnership has benefited Sun City residents significantly.

Officials were unsure when the deal would reach an agreement but were confident both sides would come to terms without any interruptions to library services.

"We have successfully worked with Maricopa County officials for years, and this certainly will not be an exception," Ek said.

VF SC Libraries

Sun City could lose libraries

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

After turning over its libraries to the Maricopa County Library District several years ago, Sun City is in danger of losing the facilities.

Negotiations were underway last week between Recreation Centers of Sun City and library district officials on a new lease for the library spaces at Bell, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and Fairway, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., recreation centers. The leases, originally signed five years ago, expires April 30.

Several residents asked RCSC board members March 27 during the board's

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regular meeting whether library district officials cut the lease from their future budget. While the board would only respond they are in negotiations, officials provided a cryptic hint in a statement released the morning of March 28.

"Despite high usage by community members (and also residents outside of Sun City), Maricopa County Library District budget cuts have officials feeling they can no longer pay rent," the release stated.

Library district officials did not return an email request for comment by press time.

RCSC has provided utilities, janitorial, maintenance and skilled trade services at no charge at both library branches since the leases began five years ago. RCSC officials lamented in the press release the corporation would lose more than \$100,000 in annual rental revenue if the leases are not renewed. However, RCSC officials hinted the libraries would continue under corporate management.

"Failure to continue these leases will result in a loss to RCSC of more than \$130,000 annually, while continuing to maintain much of the operating costs of the libraries," the release stated.

RCSC officials plan to meet with Maricopa County Dist. 4 Supervisor Clint Hickman and library district officials this week to attempt to work out an agreement.

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

Fairway library slates 2 speakers

STAFF REPORT

The Fairway Branch Library this month is hosting two speakers who will share their passions for history and music/comedy.

From 1-3 p.m. April 18, Judith Ann Trolander will discuss "Age 55 or Better: A History of Active Adult Communities" with an emphasis on Sun City.

She will reference her book "From Sun Cities to the Villages" as she explains her research on the development of age-restricted active adult communities in the West Valley.

On April 23, David Schildkret will discuss the relationship between

humor and music. The program will run from 10-11:30 a.m. Using video, audio and PowerPoint, Schildkret will define the basis of humor, the history and context of humor, and our human capacity to find things funny, aided by music.

Schildkret uses excerpts from the Marx Brothers, Monty Python, Wile E. Coyote and other films to show how viewers respond to humor combined with musical stimuli.

Both programs will be in the Fairway Recreation Center Room 1, next to the library. Fairway Branch Library is at 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

Information: www.mclidaz.org.

Friday, September 21, 2012

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Donation provides gathering place

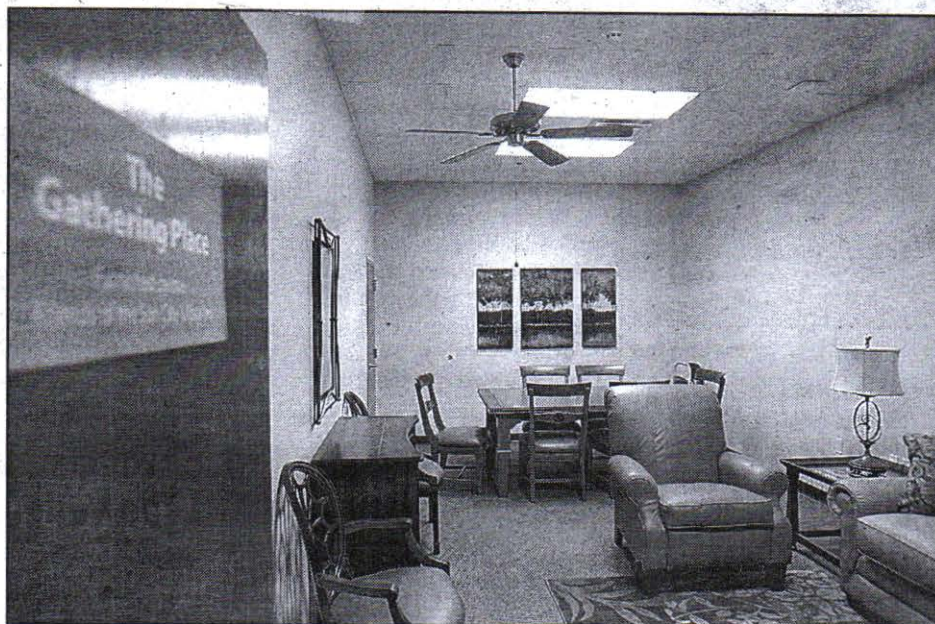
STAFF REPORT

Customers at the Sun City Branch Library now have a comfortable new place to get together for meetings or simply to chat thanks to a \$15,000 donation from the Friends of Sun City Libraries.

The space is called "The Gathering Place."

"The Friends had heard from customers about how much they missed the social side of visiting the library since being taken over by the Maricopa County Library District," said Kristie Nolasco, Sun City Branch manager. The social room can be used for meetings, informal visits or a place to use a cellphone.

"We wanted to provide a place in the library where people could read without being disturbed or meet without disturbing others," said Mary Anne McDonald, president of the Friends of Sun



NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Branch Library opened "The Gathering Place," a room where library visitors can read, meet with others, take a nap and use cellphones.

City Libraries Board of Directors. "The meeting place is perfect for these activities," she said.

People can use the space on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are not needed, and a library card is not required to use the room, which is open during the library hours — 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

The room — previ-

ously unused office space — is located off the main library, 16828 N. 99th Ave., down the hallway from the Friends bookstore.

The Friends' donation paid to equip the Gathering Place with two chairs, a small sofa, and a large table at which six to eight individuals can sit, officials said.

Sun City Bell Library, predecessor to the current library, was run as a private enterprise by

a board of directors.

The county library district began operating the Sun City Branch Library in 2009, which required an extensive building renovation.

During fiscal year 2011-12, the library averaged 16,650 visitors per month and circulated nearly 266,000 items.

For more information about Sun City Branch or the other 16 libraries operated by MCLD, visit www.mclldaz.org.

Library district ramps up to help job seekers

By Nelson G. Mitchell
Special to the Independent

Although many libraries are known for their robust selection of books and CDs, customers, more than ever, are now turning to libraries to assist with job searches. Libraries in the Maricopa County Library District are aiding customers in their quest to find work and develop new skills that make them more employable.

Job-search computers have been installed in more than a dozen MCLD libraries. Several libraries are also hosting classes and workshops to help job-seekers make informed decisions about their transitional journeys.

Portable computer labs have been installed at North Valley Regional Library and Gila Bend Branch Library to assist job seekers with skill assessments, resume development and job applications. Each of the portable labs comes equipped with 11 laptops, PC storage cart, a projector and projection screen. The laptops will be used during workshops and moderated instruction.

North Valley Regional is providing face-to-face instruction to help customers create resumes, search for jobs, complete employment applications, and research the value

of more education. Visit North Valley's Web page calendar at www.mclldaz.org for the class schedule.

Within a few weeks, Gila Bend Library's bi-lingual instructors will be conducting classes on resume writing and other job-search tasks. In the meantime, customers can update their basic computer skills by learning how to set up e-mail accounts, how to conduct Internet searches, and how

to create, save and edit documents.

Aguila, Gila Bend, Fountain Hills, Perry, Fairway, Robson, Queen Creek, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Sun City, White Tank, North Valley, Southeast and Northwest libraries each has a desktop workstation dedicated exclusively to job seekers. The workstations are being used for job search and placement

See Jobs — Page 21

Jobs

Continued From Page 20

assistance plus comprehensive skills assessment, development of individual employment plans, and one-on-one counseling and career planning through video conferencing.

Arizona State Library received a grant from the Arizona Office of Economic Recovery to provide job-search resources to

citizens via Internet. The initiative is implemented with ASL to implement workforce initiatives at numerous libraries in its system. Free Internet access at libraries already provides many library card holders with avenues to look for employment. MCLD personnel, accustomed to assisting with online research, will be able to provide expertise to support this effort.

Visit www.mclldaz.org.

Editor's Note: Nelson G. Mitchell III public relations and marketing for the Maricopa County Library District.

DEPENDENT

December 21, 2011

Sun City Branch Library thriving after going public 2 years ago

By Nelson Mitchell

Special to the Independent

un City library customers were not sure of the outcome when Maricopa County Library District took over the Sun City (Bell) Branch Library a couple of years ago. However, according to Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. member, Mary Goitia, Sun City residents have access to more in library resources and services than they could have ever imagined in their former library.

Prior to MCLD assuming Sun City Library operations, the Bell Library was privately owned. When tough economic times became an issue, MCLD was asked by the Sun City Library Board of Directors to step in. Because Sun City is now a public library, it is open to any Maricopa County resident. With a valid library card, services and materials are free.

After Bell became an MCLD library, the interior of the facility was refurbished. There was new carpeting, a new layout, a new customer service desk, new furniture, a new meeting room, better lighting, updated data system, and more and newer computers.

In a turn from the previous system, the Dewey-less concept was introduced to encourage browsing and make materials easier to find. Now materials are organized in neighborhoods by subject matter instead of the Dewey Decimal numbering system.

The wooden, free-standing card catalogue unit was archived in favor of a modern, digitalized, online system to locate materials. When customers need help, however, there's always a librarian nearby to answer questions or assist with locating materials.

A separate room was set aside to house non-circulating Civil War-era and other historical titles.

A self-check-out system was installed that empowers customers to check-out and check-in their materials, eliminating the need to stand in queue at the customer service desk. According to Ms. Goitia, it is also easier to renew materials and order materials that are not in the Sun City collection.

Since it opened as part of the Library District, the Sun City Branch has issued about 12,500 library cards. When the library was private, there were about 4,200 card holders. System-wide, customers now have access to

nearly 900,000 titles. The library's circulating collection stands at more than 30,500 items.

During the past fiscal year, more than 267,000 items were checked out. Also, during the past fiscal year, 267 programs were conducted in the library and attended by more than 1,900 customers.

One of the more popular classes the Sun City Branch offers is one-on-one computer instruction. Customers can spend up to one hour per session learning about Internet research, the e-mail process or how to conduct fruitful information searches. Customers gather each month to discuss recent books about mysteries and crime. Authors regularly visit to share insights about their latest novels.

Many customers are especially appreciative of the health and human service programming that supports the interests of much of the Sun City populace. Presentations are offered about how to use telephone assistive devices, how to counter Medicare fraud, and how to access Social Security benefits; there are regular blood pressure checks; and topics such as peripheral neuropathy and financial strategies are presented.

MCLD provides its customers with access to free downloadable computer games, ownership of three free music MP3s a week, and entrée to the Greater Phoenix Digital Library that includes downloadable audiobooks, eBooks, eMusic and eVideos. "Prior to the Library District inheriting Bell Library, access to these resources was not possible," said Ms. Goitia.

Library District management hopes to implement additional changes at the Sun City Branch that make it more people-friendly. Items for consideration include better seating, better lighting and better shelving, especially for the media collection.

Two years ago, Sun City Library's board of directors may have been concerned about how Bell Library would fare as a part of MCLD. Today, it seems clear that with more resources at customers' fingertips, things are turning out just fine. Visit www.mclad.org.

Editor's Note: Nelson G. Mitchell III, is public relations and marketing writer for the Maricopa County Library District.

Evelyn and Everett Bates enjoy spending time on the computers in the library at Fairway Recreation Center. Evelyn said she likes the setup because it's easier to find what they're looking for.



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fairway Library open for business

STAFF REPORT

Progress continues at Fairway Recreation Center, where one project is about to wrap up and another is set to begin.

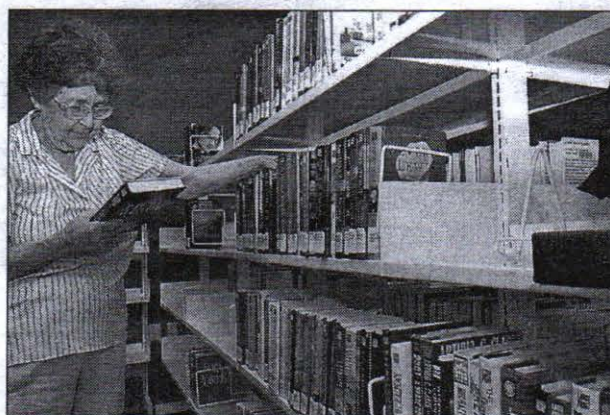
Though the Fairway Branch Library is already open for all services, there will be a formal opening and ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. May 18. The public is invited to attend, tour the county's newest branch and sign up for a library card. Sun Citians are the focus of the library, but others in the community are encouraged to attend as well.

"We want the entire community to enjoy the many resources this and all of our libraries provide to the community," said Harry Courtright, director of the Maricopa County Library District. "There are picture books for children and large-print adult novels. There are audiobooks and teen-centric DVDs. We also hope that customers, especially (children), take advantage of our summer reading program," he said.

The library will have no shortage of amenities: eight computers, wi-fi and 6,500 items for check-out, including newly released books and movies.

Those who attend the ceremony will enjoy cookies and punch.

In addition to the library, the Recreation Centers of Sun City recently announced it will move forward with Phase 2 of the Fairway renovation plan.



Virginia Meyer peruses the large-print books in the library at Fairway Recreation Center Thursday. She says she's happy it's finally opened, and she doesn't have to drive to Bell Recreation Center anymore.

Once a contractor is selected and the building permit is received from the county, RCSC will be able to officially start Phase 2. As with Phase 1, the second phase will start with a weeks-long decommissioning process, which will entail cutting electrical, water and other utilities, as well as asbestos inspection and abatement. Upon completion of decommissioning, demolition of the remaining club buildings will occur. Phase 2 of the Fairway project will include a swimming pool, spa, fitness center, indoor walking track, locker rooms and lawn bowling green. Phase 2 construction will likely begin in July and is estimated to take about a year to complete.

Fairway library patrons welcome changes

MITCHELL VANTREASE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carolyn Whiteneck couldn't wait until the new Fairway Library opened to the public.

Whiteneck and her friend, Connie Armstrong, always borrowed books from the old library and went to the Bell location until construction was finished on the new facility. They were impressed with the building's amenities, from new state-of-the-art equipment to the carpet.

"This is a nice, beautiful open place," said Whiteneck, who attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday for the new library. "My parents moved to Sun City when it was 2 years old, and they really would be impressed with this place if they were alive."

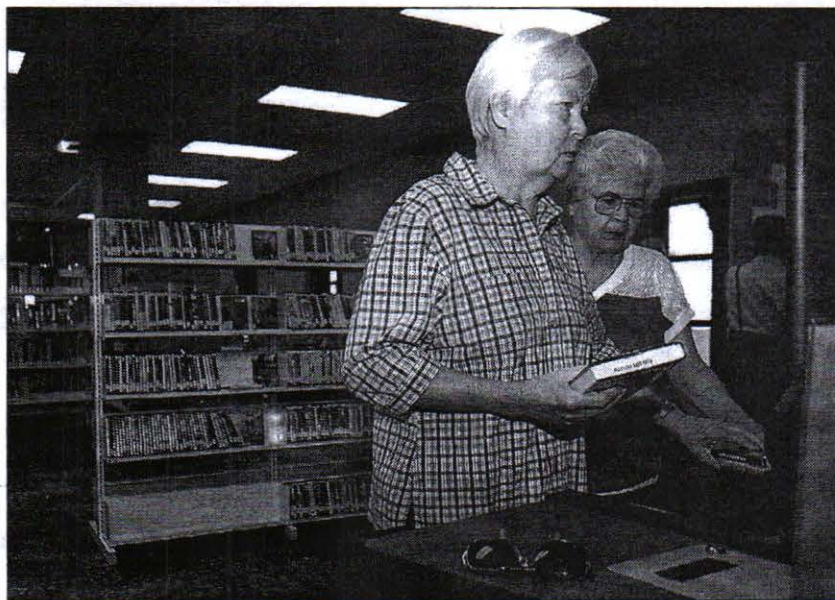
Local, county and staff officials attended the ceremony, including Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson, District 4.

"It took a group effort for everyone to bring this to fruition, and we thank everyone for their help to get this library up and going," Wilson said.

Nelson Mitchell, a spokesman for the Maricopa County Library District, said many people worked hard to make the 4,000-plus square-foot library accessible.

From wi-fi Internet access to thousands of books and magazines, Mitchell said the library also will be family-friendly to neighboring communities, including Peoria and El Mirage.

Mary Anne McDonald, president of the Sun City Friends of Library, said she's happy with the library and thanked everyone for their efforts.



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Cori Larsen, left, and Dee Delavega check out books at the new Fairway Branch Library in Sun City Tuesday. The pair said they plan to visit often for their reading needs.

Gene Westemeier, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, said the Fairway Library will be beneficial to so many in Sun City and the surrounding communities.

"This library will be of use to so many people," he said. "The work of so many people has gone into this building, and we appreciate all of the hard work put in."

Armstrong said the opening of Fairway's facility was worth the wait.

"This is such an improvement because the old one was crowded at times because it was too small," Armstrong said.

Mitchell Vantrease may be reached at 623-876-2526 or mvantrease@yourwestvalley.com.



Nelson Mitchell of the Maricopa County Library District speaks at the grand opening of the Fairway Branch Library Tuesday.

Patrons: Library's change was for the better

By Lesley Wright

The Republic | azcentral.com

Even those who most wanted to change admit that the Sun City Library may have lost a bit of its charm when it handed itself over to the Maricopa County Library District.

There were the scores of volunteers who daily met and worked at the Bell branch on 99th Avenue just south of Bell Road. There were the retirees who planted themselves for the day and chatted (rather loudly) with their friends. And there was that wooden card catalog that worked just fine without any Internet intervention.

But there are few complaints two years after the private Sun City Bell and Fairway library branches merged with the county system. The old donation-dependent library could not begin to service the demands of a 21st-century population.



Joyce Alessandrini browses the shelves at the Sun City Library, which merged with the county system two years ago. CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC

Sun City is no longer the isolated outpost it was in 1962 when the library opened as part of Sun City Recreation Centers. And the Baby Boomers who have moved in had little interest in donating large sums to keep it going and even less interest in a library limited in resources.

"We had an old card catalog,

for crying out loud, and it was never even accurate," said Mary Goitia, a Friends of the Sun City Library member who spearheaded the move to join the county in 2009. "A lot of Baby Boomers were going to Surprise or Peoria for library service."

Donations kept it alive

For years, the two Sun City libraries subsisted without government support, aside from the original 2,500 volumes donated by the county. Donations paid for a handful of employees, who largely took a back seat to the 250 volunteers. The Sun City Recreation Centers covered the building, maintenance and utilities, which still left the library system with a budget that would reach \$350,000 a year.

That's a lot of money when you are counting on widows to leave large bequests in their wills, said Goitia, who was executive director.

Even the volunteers, who are now restricted in their activities, acknowledge the move was a good one. Some volunteers, feeling unwanted, just left. Others stayed and adjusted.

"I used to miss it," volunteer

Ada Weimer said of the days when volunteers processed and checked out books and handled many other duties. "I don't anymore. It's different, but it's definitely busier."

Cardholders have increased from about 4,200 in the last days of the private library to 12,500 today.

Library users find computers, tech support, interlibrary loans, online and over-the-phone services and other perks that came with joining the county.

Patrons make constant use of the 16 computers, check out Blu-ray movies and download e-books and music. Free one-on-one computer lessons are popular.

Barbara Shape, a 77-year-old resident who lives in Ohio and Sun City, said the difference is all to the good. "This is so much nicer," she said. "Their selection was so poor."

Sun City adjusts to

Patrons have few gripes 2 years after joining county's system

By Lesley Wright
The Republic | azcentral.com

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MARY GOITIA

Friends of the Sun City Libraries member

Even the volunteers, who are now restricted in their activities, acknowledge that the move was a good one. Some volunteers, feeling unwanted, just left. Others stayed and adjusted.

"I used to miss it," volunteer Ada Weimer said of the days when volunteers processed and checked out books and handled many other duties. "I don't anymore. It's different, but it's definitely busier."

Cardholders have increased from about 4,200 in the last days of the private library to 12,500 today.

The library lost many patrons after 1996, when, in a desperate fundraising move, the library board imposed a \$15 fee for cards. Patrons were furious. But other fundraising measures, including one event that asked people to bring in all of their pennies, weren't paying the bills.

It also was not paying for top-of-the-line computers, tech support, interlibrary loans, online and over-the-phone services and other perks that came with joining the county. A \$387,000 renovation did not hurt, either.

Better selection, equipment

Barbara Shape, a 77-year-old resident who lives in Ohio and Sun City, said the difference is all to the good.

"This is so much nicer," said Shape, who was picking through the "new" books this week. "Their selection was so poor."

Access to programming and a general social dependency on technology has aided acceptance of the new library.

A lot of Sun City residents appear to have received e-readers over the holidays, for example. A class on how to use one drew more than 100 people, Sun City branch manager Kristie Nolasco said.

Patrons also make constant use of the 16 computers, check out the Blu-ray

library change



Roberta Skrydlak, who splits time between Chicago and Sun City, checks her e-mail on one of the 16 public computers at the Sun City Library. CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC

movies and download e-books and music. Free one-on-one computer lessons are popular.

"We did have people who had to adjust," Nolasco said. "It just gave us the opportunity to show them how to do it."

Goitia fears that the library has lost some of the social atmosphere of the old days, when the chatter was constant.

But Tom Scudamore, a 76-year-old winter visitor from upstate New York, said he thought the social element was

humming along just fine.

Scudamore belongs to a dedicated group of puzzlers who piece together some of the dozens of puzzles donated to the library. People stop by and chat at the puzzle table, giving everyone a bout of sociability. On top of that, all of the patrons have much-needed accessibility to the Internet.

"Everything's easily located," Scudamore said. "Everyone's helpful."

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

community news

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Submitted photo

New members of the Sun City Friends of the Library Board of Directors are, from left, Mary Goitia, Tom Everitt and Joanne Sade.

Library board adds members

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Friends of the Sun City Library made preparations for the year by adding three new board members to fill vacancies, and got ready for a fundraising event.

Named to the board during the Feb. 23 annual meeting were Mary Goitia, Tom Everitt and Joanne Sade. Ms. Goitia was formerly the Sun City branch library director but left the position about two months ago. Other board members are Mary Anne McDonald, Kathy Shawl, Rich Lybolt, Jill Campbell and Sue Painter.

Friends of the Library was formed during the summer 2009 from the former Sun City Library Board of Directors when the library transitioned to Maricopa County Library District control. The group's goal is to support library operations, according to Ms. Campbell.

Friends funding comes from book

sales at Books Around the Corner in the former Hoover Room of the library, 16828 N. 99th Ave.

The group conducted a book sale in conjunction with the Bell Recreation Center Fun Fair March 6, according to Ms. Campbell.

"The bookstore's sales were outdoors in front of the library and we had hundreds of books of all genres," she said.

Books Around the Corner offers used books, many in nearly new condition, in a wide variety of categories. Funds are used to purchase items for the library that have been requested by patrons but that county library district officials are unable to furnish, according to Ms. Campbell.

During the Feb. 23 board meeting, members were updated on other activities of the group. Plans are being researched for an outreach program, which would

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Board

Continued From Page 2

make books available to homebound residents, and those in nursing homes and care centers, Ms. Campbell explained.

The Friends of the Sun City Library meet 9 a.m. the third Thursday of each month at Books Around the Corner.

Post your opinion in the Public Issues Forum at www.newszap.com. News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2780. rbradsh@newszap.com.

LOCAL News

Fairway Library, Sun City, given green light

A new Sun City library will open in spring 2010 after the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved a lease agreement with Recreation Centers of Sun City. The Fairway Branch Library, at 107th Avenue and Peoria, will be operated and managed by the Maricopa County Library District.

"We are happy to add this facility to our cadre of community services for families," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Max Wilson. "We don't have to hire additional

library personnel to run the library and the lease is a mere \$10 a year. Through our generous partnership with RCSC, we were able to bring this revered resource to the community," Mr. Wilson added.

The building is new and will house other Sun City recreation activities. The Friends of the Sun City Libraries will kick in \$150,000 to purchase furniture and \$50,000 for materials.

According to Library District Director Harry Courtright, "We already have a number of materials that will be transferred from storage. It will take us a couple of months to

put up shelving, put furniture in place, and arrange the collection to accommodate our "Dewey-less" system.

"By being adaptable and re-configuring our staffing pattern, we are able to avoid hiring additional personnel for Fairway," Mr. Courtright said. "We have been in a hiring freeze for the past year."

Sun City Branch Library, south of Bell on 99th Avenue, opened in April under the Library District's banner. There are 16 other District libraries, all outside of the city of Phoenix. Visit www.mclldaz.org.

County agrees to operate new Sun City library

The Maricopa County Library District has agreed to operate and manage a new library branch in Sun City. It will be at the renovated Fairway Recreation Center at 107th and Peoria avenues. The public library is scheduled to open in the spring and will be open to county residents.

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

Lease agreement

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors recently approved a lease agreement with the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. to operate and manage the new library branch. The library will take up about 4,365 square feet of space in the Fairway Recreation Center.

Preparations

The Library District will transfer library materials from storage to help fill the new library. The Friends of the Sun City Libraries also will provide \$150,000 to buy furniture and \$50,000 for materials.

In their words

"We are happy to add this facility to our cadre of community services for families," County Board of Supervisors Chairman Max Wilson said in a statement. "Through our generous partnership with RCSC, we were able to bring this revered resource to the community."

Nearby branches

The Fairway Branch Library will be the second library in Sun City that will be operated by the County Library District. The Sun City Branch Library, south of Bell Road on 99th Avenue, was taken over by the Library District last spring.



ERIN TURNER/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Handling ribbon-cutting duties on the Sun City Branch Library are, from left, Harry Courtright, Maricopa County library district director, Max Wilson, chairman of the Maricopa County board of supervisors, Tom Scanlan, president of Sun City Friends of the Library, and Warren Hoffmann, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Ceremony turns page on library changes

ERIN TURNER

DAILY NEWS-SUN

A buzz ran through the crowds in the Sun City Branch Library Saturday — and for once, librarians encouraged the extra noise.

The grand reopening ceremony for the library, which is now part of the Maricopa County library system, took place Saturday morning and featured performances from members of the Arizona Broadway Theatre, a ribbon-cutting, prizes and giveaways and

snacks and refreshments.

John Peterson of Sun City won a book after spinning the prize wheel and said he's much more likely to visit the library more frequently following the renovation and expanded collection of materials.

"It's a tremendous library," he said.

Sally Beaton, another Sun Citian who visits the library three or four times a week, agreed.

SEE LIBRARY, A5

LIBRARY

FROM A1

"I think it's really great," she said. "I think the thing I'm going to appreciate is the check-out system and the fact that you can acquire the things that aren't here from the other libraries. I like that idea."

With the library among the 17 in the Maricopa County Library District, about 900,000 items are available to county residents who have a free county library card, said Harry Courtright, county library district director.

"It's a wonderful day for people in Sun City. Their library is now a 21st or 22nd century library," he said. "They have all the latest and the people here now have access to the entire collection of the library district, where before, they only had access to the items that were in the building. Now they can request anything."

The library is organized with the "Dewey-less System," which means items are arranged by genre and alphabetically rather than by the Dewey Decimal System — an easier prospect for seniors, Courtright said.

"We changed from using numbers and we use words, so if you're looking for cookbooks it says on the book 'cooking' and there are big signs in the library," he said. "It makes it easier for people to browse and find what they're looking for."

Since the library's reopening several months ago, more patrons than ever have shown up each day, an indication to Courtright that the change is well-received among residents.

"On average between 900 and 1,000 a day. That's really a good number for a library this size," he said.

Other dignitaries attended the event, including Max Wilson, chairman of the Maricopa County board of supervisors, who recalled his first memories in a library as a child, Rep. Debbie Lesko of Glendale, R-District 9, and Rec Centers of Sun City board president Warren Hoffmann and vice president Denny Nichols.

"We've gone from a very good library system to an even better one," Nichols said. "I want everyone to enjoy this facility."

The library had been open to the public since the summer but the special ceremony was planned for Saturday when more winter residents had returned to see the \$700,000 in renovations and new system.

All Maricopa County residents can check out books and other materials with a free library card at the Sun City branch. To obtain a free library card, customers must confirm Maricopa County residency.

Library card applicants must show identification that includes a picture I.D. and proof of current Maricopa County residential address. Acceptable proofs of identification include driver's license or state-issued identification card, military identification, personalized checks, lease agreement, passport or utility bill. A post office box number alone is not acceptable as confirmation of residential address.

Library customers may access the Internet via public computers, take computer classes, participate in book discussions, learn about health-related issues and talk with authors. For the full calendar of activities and more information visit www.mclidaz.org.

The Sun City Branch Library is at the Bell Recreation Center on 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

Erin Turner may be reached at 623-876-2522 or eturner@yourwestvalley.com.

Thursday, April 16, 2009

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

County seals Sun City Library deal

STAFF REPORT

Beginning today, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors is in charge of the running Sun City's Bell Library.

"We are committed to providing the Sun City community with access to quality library services and materials," Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Max Wilson said following the supervisors' takeover vote Wednesday. "We will renovate the Bell Library so that it is more accessible and functional for customers, including a new layout, more and newer computers, updated data systems, new furniture and a wider variety of materials."

Sun City Library Executive Director Mary Goitia said the county is not wasting any time in beginning the renovation process.

"You would not believe how quickly they move," Goitia said. "They are bringing carpet samples and paint chips Tuesday. They called to ask if they could help move furniture. It's amazing."

Goitia said county library representatives are coming Friday to meet with the library staff and volunteers.

"They're going to talk to us about the timeline, when they expect to have everything done," Goitia said. "They are formally taking over the operational budget May 1, but other than that, we don't yet know any dates."

The update is expected to be completed by mid- to late-summer at the Bell Library, 16828 N. 99th Ave., which will take on the name of Sun City Branch Library. A second library, Sun City's new Fairway

SEE LIBRARY, A5

LIBRARY

FROM A1

Library, is still under construction. An agreement has not been reached for the county to take over Fairway.

Last year, the Sun City Library Board of Directors asked the county to consider operating the Bell Library. The agreement called for the all contents

of the two Sun City libraries to be donated to the Library District. Current Sun City library employees will be retained as library district employees.

Recreation Centers of Sun City owns the buildings where the two libraries are housed, and the library district has negotiated a five-year lease with RCSC for the Sun City Branch Library.

The Sun City Branch Library will be open to all county resi-

dents who have valid county library cards. County library cards are free to county residents.

The Maricopa County Library District comprises 18 libraries in and around metropolitan Phoenix.

In March, district libraries had their highest one-month circulation in history: 657,490.

To learn more about Maricopa County Library District's resources, visit www.mclidaz.org.

Maricopa County will take over Sun City Bell Library, keep workers

Nelson Mitchell, coordinator of public relations and marketing for Maricopa County Library District, submitted the following article.

By a unanimous vote, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has agreed

NEWS BY YOU

to take over a once privately-held

Sun City library. Effective immediately, the Sun City Bell Library will be operated by the Maricopa County Library District.

"We are committed to providing the Sun City community with access to quality library services and materials," said Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Max Wilson, who represents the community. "We will renovate the Bell Library so that it is more accessible and functional for customers, including a new layout, more and newer computers, updated data systems, new furniture, and a wider variety of materials."

The update is expected to be com-

pleted by mid- to late summer. The Bell Library, which will be renamed Sun City Branch Library, is at 16828 N. 99th Ave.

In these tough economic times, it became evident that the Sun City library system would have difficulty making ends meet. Rather than abandoning the library, the Sun City Library board of directors asked the Library District to operate Bell.

The agreement calls for all contents of the two Sun City libraries to be donated to the Library District. Sun City library employees will be retained as library district employees.

Recreation Centers of Sun City owns the buildings where the two libraries are housed. The library district has negotiated a five-year lease with RCSC for the Sun City Branch Library.

A second library, Sun City's new Fairway Library, still is under construction. An agreement has not been reached for the county to take over Fairway.

Library switch delayed, still on track

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Hurry up and wait has been the watch word for conversion of the Sun City Library to county operation, but the waiting may nearly be over.

Maricopa County Library District Board of Directors had planned to address the change March 11 but it was postponed to March 18, then further postponed to April 1.

"They were hoping to have the approval this month, but the meeting was called off because library district officials didn't get the proper paperwork to the board," said Tom Scanlan, Sun City Friends of the Library board president.

He reported the lease for the Bell Recreation center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., location has been approved and most other documentation has been completed. Officials are still working on the lease for the library branch at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Mr. Scanlan said.

"I know these delays are frustrating, but they (library district officials) assured us everything is going along smoothly, except for the paperwork issue," he said.

Mary Goitia, Sun City Library director, indicated the snafu relating to the March 18 meeting may have been because of changes

in procedures for the county library district taking over a private facility.

"They haven't taken over a private library in eight years," she said. "The (district) staff believed the process was still the same, but there have been changes."

She added once the district board, which consists of Maricopa County Supervisors, approve the takeover, district officials are expected to be in the Sun City facility the following day.

"That will include the people doing the remodeling," Ms. Goitia said. "They are all ready to come."

Mr. Scanlan said the latest delay was cause for concern for Friends of the Library board members.

"We were afraid this delay brought with it the possibility we've done all this work only to have it fall apart," he said.

As part of the transition to library district operation, the Hoover Room is planned to be converted to a book store for use by the Friends of the Library. In its meeting March 19 the Friends board fielded residents' concerns about whether that plan would violate use restrictions for the room.

However, Ms. Goitia said there are no use restrictions on the room in any Sun City Library documents. She added the room was part of an entire wing added to the Bell

Recreation Center for library use.

County library officials stipulated the Hoover Room would not be under its control once the transition was made and that is why the Friends will retain control over the room's use.

"The county (library district) officials did not want to get into problems of use of the room issues, and they don't do that at any of their libraries," Ms. Goitia said.

The Hoover Room had been used as a meeting room by various groups in the community and they have had to find new locations. Some of those changes have been beneficial for the groups, according to Ms. Goitia.

"We suggested the World War II discussion group talk to the American Legion," she said. "They later called us and said it worked out great for both groups because both are getting new members from it."

She added room use issues were cropping up before the library transition.

"There were some for-profit groups using the room free of charge and some groups' activities were not in line with the library's mission," she said.

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

Changes afoot



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Helen Tomich, left, and Pat McDowell use the current manual system to check in books returned to Sun City Library at Bell Recreation Center in Sun City Wednesday. When the library becomes part of Maricopa County Library District, the books will be scanned electronically before they are returned to the shelves.

Sun City Library readies for switch to county district

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City Library is undergoing some housecleaning in preparation for an anticipated county takeover and part of the chore involves sweeping out groups that met in the Hoover Room at Bell Recreation Center.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, which serves as the county library district's board of directors, will meet March 11 to discuss the proposed takeover of Sun

City's two libraries. About a month later, if all goes according to plan, the libraries at Bell and Fairway Recreation Center will be part of the county district.

"We're going through our inventory, weeding out old books that aren't circulating," said Sun City librarian Steve Tompkins. "We're trying to get as much housecleaning done as possible before the county comes in."

One point of contention in negotiations among the county library,

Sun City Library and the Recreation Centers of Sun City, which owns the buildings, has been the use of the Hoover Room.

Sun City Library Executive Director Mary Goitia said the county library officials were not keen on outside groups holding meetings in their libraries.

"It's a fair use issue. They don't want to open the library to one group because they will then have to open it to every group," Goitia

SEE LIBRARY, A5

ARIZONA

LIBRARY

FROM A1

said. "We were told they would just as soon not have meeting space here at all and avoid the problem entirely."

Among the groups that no longer meet there is the AARP, which conducted driver's safety classes there every other Saturday. The instructor of the courses, who asked not to be quoted, said the classes have been discontinued, and she is not aware of any plans to move elsewhere.

Goitia said she is sympathetic to those who are sad to see the classes go.

"It's unfortunate, because we know those classes were helpful to a lot of people. And there were so many clubs that we hate to have to ask to leave. Some of them, it just breaks my heart," Goitia said. "But we understand the county's position. They don't want to risk being seen as playing favorites. There are a number of other meeting spaces available in the community, though, so we hope all the groups will find a new home."

Goitia said once the county library takes over, the Hoover Room will serve two purposes. First and foremost, it will be the home of the Sun City Library and Friends used bookstore. The other half of the space will be used as offices for the library and Friends.

"The two groups will merge

when the county comes in, and we'll need office space," Goitia said. "The bookstore has to be back there as well because the county doesn't want us selling books out of the library itself."

Goitia said plans are in place to direct people around the back of the building to what will serve as a separate entrance to the used bookstore, complete with drop-off bin for donations.

If the takeover is approved next month, there will likely be limited closures for about a month while the library is remodeled, Goitia said. She said she anticipates having the library completely finished in April.

"There will occasionally be areas closed off for safety reasons, but the library should never be completely closed. They plan to do a lot of work at night to minimize the inconvenience," Goitia said. "This has not been an easy process, but I want to assure every one of our residents that it will be worth it in the end."

That is because, Goitia said, library cards will now be free to all Maricopa County residents. And the list of available materials will be massive, as the county's entire stock will be no more than a couple day's shipping away. Also, there will be no shortage of new programs to offer the library's patrons.

Nelson Mitchell, spokesman for the county library district, said residents can expect a wide variety of programs from which to choose.

"We are a ways off from de-

termining the exact programs. Some or many of the programs that are offered to adults in our other libraries might form the basis of what's offered at Sun City. We view each of our library communities as having unique needs so we try to think about what type of programs appeal to each community," Mitchell said.

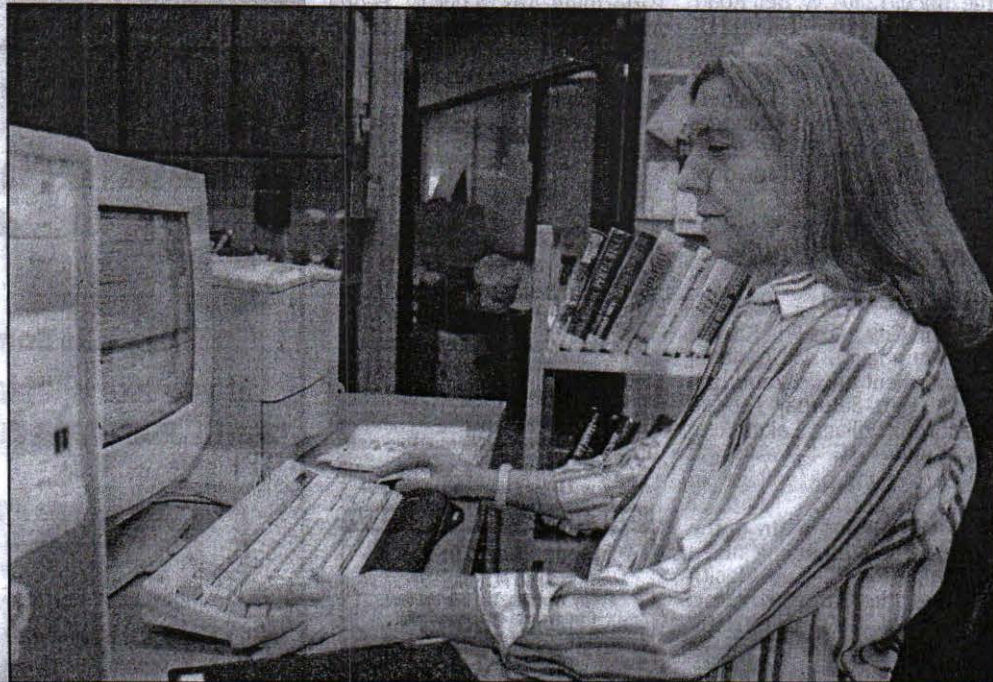
"As we begin to make the transition from the old to the new, we will review existing programs to get a sense of what appeals to Sun City customers," Mitchell said. "Certainly, the staff at Sun City would want to get a sense of what other types of programs customers are interested in. Customers will also be queried as to their interests in determining which programs might be implemented. Obviously, there will be less of an emphasis on children's and teens' programs."

Some examples of programs at other locations that Mitchell said might be offered in Sun City are book discussions, film series, exercise and computer literacy classes.

"One of our considerations for program decision-making will be cost," Mitchell said. "Because budgets are stretched, we will look more closely at programs that come with little or no implementation costs. We also must consider investment of time and personnel to implement programs."

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

Getting Ready: Staff prepares for switchover



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Coral Gallaher types in information for bar codes on Sun City Library materials as library officials prepare for the possible takeover of operations by the Maricopa County Library District.

Library decision due March 11

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Maricopa County Library District staff are preparing for takeover of operations of the Sun City Library's Bell branch as the district board will consider the matter next month.

The county library district's board of directors, which consists of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, is scheduled to meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 11 at 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, to consider acceptance of the takeover of the Sun City Library's two branches, one at Bell Recreation Center, 16828 N. 99th Ave., and the other at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., according to Nelson Mitchell, library district spokesman.

The board will consider the lease agreement for the Bell branch and an agreement with the existing Sun City Library Board of Directors for the disposition of assets, Mr. Nelson

If you go

Maricopa County Library District Board of Directors

10 a.m. Wednesday, March 11
Supervisors headquarters, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix

said. In the meantime, county library officials are conducting prep work for the changeover.

"Our facilities staff is inspecting the space at Bell to determine what alterations need to be made," Mr. Mitchell said. "They are also looking at the collection for culling and bringing in other resources."

While the lease for Bell has been completed, the agreement with the library board regarding assets is ongoing. However, Mr. Mitchell said nearly all items have been agreed upon in principle. Library board officials expect books, video and other collection materials will be handed over to the county district while all funds in the board's accounts will be re-

tained for the Friends of the Library, according to Mary Goitia, Sun City Library director.

Sun City residents were literally lined up earlier this month to renew their library cards now that they are free, according to Ms. Goitia.

"There were 60 people lined up for the free cards Feb. 2 and we had 54 more in the next few days," she said during a Feb. 9 RCSC directors/members exchange.

In preparation for the county district takeover, Sun City Library officials ceased charging for cards beginning Feb. 1. However, library patrons must still have cards to access the library, Ms. Goitia said.

"And when the county takes over, they will need to have the county district's library cards, which are also free," she explained.

Sun City Library officials are also eagerly watching the

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progress of Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., as the phase one rebuild moves forward. When complete, which is expected late this year, according to Recreation Center of Sun City officials, it will house the second Sun City Library branch.

"We are very excited about the progress being made at Fairway," Ms. Goitia said.

Mr. Mitchell said the Fairway lease is not complete. He said there are still some issues to be worked out, but since the facility is not complete finishing that lease is not a priority.

Sun City Library officials are also working in other ways to prepare for the county district takeover. One task is assigning

barcodes to all materials available for checkout, according to Coral Gallaher, library staffer. Materials include books, CDs, DVDs and even some VHS tapes, she explained.

"There is a large volume of stuff to work on and we wanted to see if we could get most of it done by the time the county takes over," Ms. Gallaher said.

The process involves affixing a bar code sticker to each item, then entering information matching the bar code into the library's computer system. The Sun City Library's computer files will then be transferred to county files when the switch in operations is made, Ms. Gallaher explained.

The process includes creating computerized file cards, similar to the card catalog system, she added. However, once the county district takes over operations, physi-

cal card catalogs will no longer be used, according to Ms. Goitia.

"Everything will be on the computer system," she explained.

Maricopa County Library District will make structural and other improvements to the Bell facility, according to Ms. Goitia.

"In order to update the technology utilized within the library, a massive wiring project will take place," she said. "Wireless access will be available for all cardholders and a new automated check-out system will be installed."

Updated lighting is also being planned to improve the reading experience within the library, she added.

County improvements will also include furniture, painting, carpeting and other flooring.

"Most of the furniture currently in the library is original, dating back to its inception," Ms. Goitia

said. "New carpeting and new paint on the walls, when combined with updated furniture, will make your trip to the library much more pleasant and comfortable."

While most renovation work is expected to be done during times the library is closed, there will be short periods during regular hours when the facility will have to be closed as well.

"In order to bring about these improvements, it will be necessary to close for a few days here and there in order to protect our patrons," Ms. Goitia said. "This will be necessary as the concrete is being disrupted for the installation of wiring, etc. The end result, however, will be worth the minor inconvenience."

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

Library merger on horizon

Sun City library,
county officials
begin process

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Library officials and members of its support group, Friends of the Library, continued steps to merge as Maricopa County Library District takeover of operation of the two Sun City branches nears.

Lease negotiations of the library facility at Bell Recreation Center, 16828 N. 99th Ave., are complete and signed by Recreation Centers of Sun City, according to Sue Painter, RCSC

liaison to the library board of directors. However, because the Fairway branch is still under construction, a separate lease for that facility will not be negotiated until February, she added.

The library board, with two new members from the Friends board, approved revised bylaws Jan. 15 for the combine entity. Chair people were also named for several committees, which will begin work in specific areas of support for the library, according to Mary Goitia, Sun City Library director.

"We are preparing for the transition, which includes the opening of a bookstore for the Friends of the Library," she

said.

The new bookstore will be located in the Hoover Room at the Bell branch.

Ms. Goitia also announced the library will discontinue charging for new cards and renewals beginning Sunday, Feb. 1.

Changes in the bylaws for the combined document were minimal from the library and Friends separate bylaws. However, board members discussed options for membership voting. Because the new bylaws allow donors, in addition to dues paying residents, to be members of the Friends group, some board members were concerned

See Library — Page 3

Library

Continued From Page 1

about the additional cost of mailing ballots to all members. However, Tom Scanlan, board president, said it was not necessary to mail ballots.

He suggested ballots could be available at the library on the prescribed election date and members would come to the facilities to vote. The process would also include a ballot monitor to make sure the ballot box is not stuffed.

"The monitor would have a list of members and when they voted their name would be crossed off," he said.

However, Mary Anne McDonald said mailing ballots should be done for at least the first year, then board elections could be

could be conducted at the library branches.

"(In a mail election) a lot of people might get their ballots and just throw them away," Mr. Scanlan said.

To advise members about the election he said the board could put information in the newspaper, post signs at recreation centers and use RCSC's communications resources.

When Maricopa County Library District assumes operational control of the library, the material assets will be transferred to the district. However, monetary assets will remain with the combined library/Friends board, according to Bob Hays, board treasurer. He reported library donations were down in 2008, especially in the latter months.

"I attribute most of that to the possibility of the county (library)

district takeover," he said.

The library board also did not conduct its annual fundraising drive in the fall.

"We felt that would be doing a disservice to our patrons to ask for money then hand over the library to someone else," he said.

However, the library/Friends group will continue fundraising efforts following the switch to county district operation to fund its efforts to support the library, Mr. Hays explained.

"So our future budget does reflect costs and revenue for fundraising," he explained.

The library board experienced an operating loss of just more than \$133,000 for 2008.

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

Board mulls library change

SC facility may go to county control

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Library patrons may see a new operator of the facility.

The library's board of directors will hear options 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 in the Hoover Room of the library, 16828 N. 99th Ave., for having the county make the Sun City Library a

branch within its district. It is also expected the board will conduct a vote to determine whether to pursue the county option, according to Mary Goittia, library director.

"The library has a need for dedicated funding and the board is simply exploring opportunities," Ms. Goittia said. "It is hard to run a library without dedicated funding."

Maricopa County has taken in private libraries in the past, including in Gilbert, according

If you go:

Sun City Library Board

9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18

Hoover Room at Sun City Library,
16828 N. 99th Ave.

to Nelson Mitchell, library district spokesman.

However, handing over the Sun City Library would not be a "done deal" if the Sun City Library board voted in favor of it, according to Ms. Goittia.

"The library board and rec centers board would have to reach agreement," she said.

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors would also have to buy into the proposal and that would require a vote of the board, Mr. Mitchell explained.

"There would also be a re-search of the financial situation," he said.

Sun City Library board member Irene Shoup was contacted Sept. 10 for comment, but said it would not be proper for her

On the Web

This story is online at the Public Issues Forum, www.newsazp/forums.com.

to say anything on the matter at that time. Board members Mary Anne McDonald and Tom Scanlan were also called for comment, but did not return calls by press time.

While no decision had been made yet, board member Nancy

See **Library** — Page 10

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Tsuchiya said there are advantages to having the county operate the Sun City Library.

"Technology is so expensive," she said. "When you have an entity like the county buying software, they can do more."

She added Sun City residents are paying taxes into the county library system but get no benefits because they have no county library in the community. However, residents can visit and get cards from county libraries in the area, such as Surprise and Peoria. Ms. Goittia said some Sun City residents already patronize the Youngtown library, which is not in the county district.

Ms. Tsuchiya said having the county operate the Sun City Library would not take away services, rather it would provide more.

"It would open up the world," she said. "There is a large stack of pros to this (county operation) and only a few cons."

County involvement in the Sun City Library evolved from Ms. Goittia's search to gain funding for an automated catalog in the Sun City facility. She explored the possibility of funding it through the county, similar to the effort at the Desert Foothills Library in Cave Creek, a private facility.

"They were able to do that at Desert Foothills because it was located in an incorporated town, which provided an entity to manage the funds," Ms. Goittia said. "We are not in an incorporated town."

County officials then suggested making the Sun City facility a county branch library, Ms. Goittia said.

"Since it was put on the table, it was something we needed to explore," she said.

Mr. Mitchell said county supervisors would not comment on the prospect of taking over operation of the Sun City Library because a formal request had not been made. But library district officials and Sun City Library representatives did meet Sept. 16 to talk about the details of such a request, according to Mr. Mitchell.

"It is our understanding that the Recreation Centers of Sun City is acceptable to county involvement with the library," Mr. Mitchell said.

Tim Galen, RCSC spokesman, said the rec center board has not

been approached regarding a county takeover of the library and until approached would have no comment on the matter.

If the Sun City Library board votes to request county operation, it would have to make a presentation to the county board of supervisors, according to Mr. Mitchell. The board would then vote to either accept or reject the request, he added.

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

Library offers services for visually impaired

As we get a little older, our eyes just do not get any younger. Sometimes, eyesight changes dramatically. This does not mean that we can't use the library, though. In fact, the library has many resources and services to offer the visually impaired.

Magnifying readers are located in the computer room and the periodical sections of the library. Just slip the book or newspaper under the glass and read each page in large print. The print size can be adjusted based on individual needs. Ask one of the librarians for assistance.

We also have one of the largest collections of large-type books right here in Sun City. We are constantly adding new books for our patrons' enjoyment. We order large-print best sellers on a regular basis.

The library has hundreds of books on tape and CD for checkout, as well.

Also, through an agreement with the Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library, the Sun City Library provides exchange services to patrons who are having difficulty with machines issued by the state library.

The library offers homebound services, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service. The agreement provides free delivery and return of large-print books for library patrons who are blind or who cannot use or read conventionally printed material due to a physical handicap. Please call 623-974-2569 for information regarding our services.

Patrons may also apply for the Arizona State Library Braille and Talking Books Division free library services. The Arizona State Library has over 90 popular magazines in Braille and recorded formats available for eligible subscribers. There are also many books available in various formats.

Helpful links for the vision impaired are:

The Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library www.lib.az.us/

Read Easily Ebooks Online Library, www.readeasily.com. This site provides online Ebooks that can be easily read online. The reader is able to adjust the magnification for personal need.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

John Willy, standing, will retire from his job as branch manager at Fairway Library Nov. 14. Assistant Branch Manager Annette Lopez will take his place, and Scott Luebke will assist her.

Fairway Library manager retires

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fairway Library branch Manager John Willy is retiring after nearly five years at the library.

"I have enjoyed immensely serving this community down here," Willy said. "The knowledge that I have helped the people here is ample payment for all these years."

The Sun Citian was no stranger to Fairway Library when he began working at the library in February 2001. Mary Ellen Danley, president of the Sun City Library Board of Trustees, said she remembers when Willy was a patron of the library. He would read in the library for hours on

end and was often the last patron to leave the library after closing time she said.

"We almost had to kick him out sometimes," Danley said. "He stepped into the position at short notice and has worked hard to upgrade Fairway Library. He's very well-liked by volunteers. We regret losing him."

After his last day at the library Nov. 14, Willy, 67, said he is looking forward to traveling in his free time. He has already planned bike tours through Loire, Paris, and northern Idaho.

Assistant Branch Manager Annette Lopez will replace Willy as branch manager of Fairway Library. She has worked with the Sun City

libraries since 1996. As branch manager, Lopez said she hopes to update the library's reference materials and media department with new DVDs, CDs and videos. She said she would like to see high-quality books added to the inventory.

"I'm very excited. I always wanted to be a branch manager," Lopez said, adding that Willy will be missed at Fairway. "He was good to work with. He was very friendly, and he's a good people-person."

For information about the Sun City libraries, call 974-2569.

Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or aboone@aztrib.com.

Sun City Library volunteer stacks up service hours

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The interaction with people and books has kept Mary Lou Salas at the Sun City Library as a volunteer.

"I love talking with others and being around all of these interesting books," she said.

Since 1989 when she retired, Salas has clocked more than 2,500 hours at the 99th Avenue and Bell Road branch.

The Sun Citian said she's performed a number of jobs from greeting visitors to shelving books.

"You're surrounded by a wealth of information right here," she said.

Nancy Donielson, library volunteer coordinator, said 240 residents participate in the volunteer program, including the Fairway branch. Their jobs have



RYAN D'AGOSTINO/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mary Lou Salas volunteers four hours every Monday at the Sun City Library. The former teacher has logged more than 2,500 hours of service at the library since 1989.

ranged from working in the computer room and audio-visual department to shelving books and answering questions. "Without our volunteers,

Fyi

- **WHAT:** Sun City Library volunteer.
- **INFO:** 974-2569.

we truly wouldn't be able to function," she said. "I'm very pleased with all of the work that's been done so far.

"We appreciate all of things they've done because we couldn't survive without them."

Salas said she has always been fond of libraries because she's a retired fifth-grade teacher.

"I took an aptitude test one time that said I should be a librarian," she said, laughing.

For four hours each Monday, residents might spot Salas sitting at the front desk, checking books and rental tapes or shelving books.

"I'm here to help anybody that needs help, and I love talking with people," she said. "It's the perfect job for me to have as a retiree."

In addition to the library, she's volunteered at a few entertainment venues, including the Phoenix Theater and Black Theatre Troupe.

Donielson said she's proud of Salas and believes she's personified what volunteers should be not just to the library, but also to other organizations.

"(Salas) is really interested and enthusiastic about what she does, and it shows," she said. "She's typified all of the things volunteers should do."

If you have a community service story to tell, Mitchell Vantrease may be reached at 876-2526 or mvantrease@aztrib.com.

Artists showcase works at library

Palo Verde group kicks off celebration

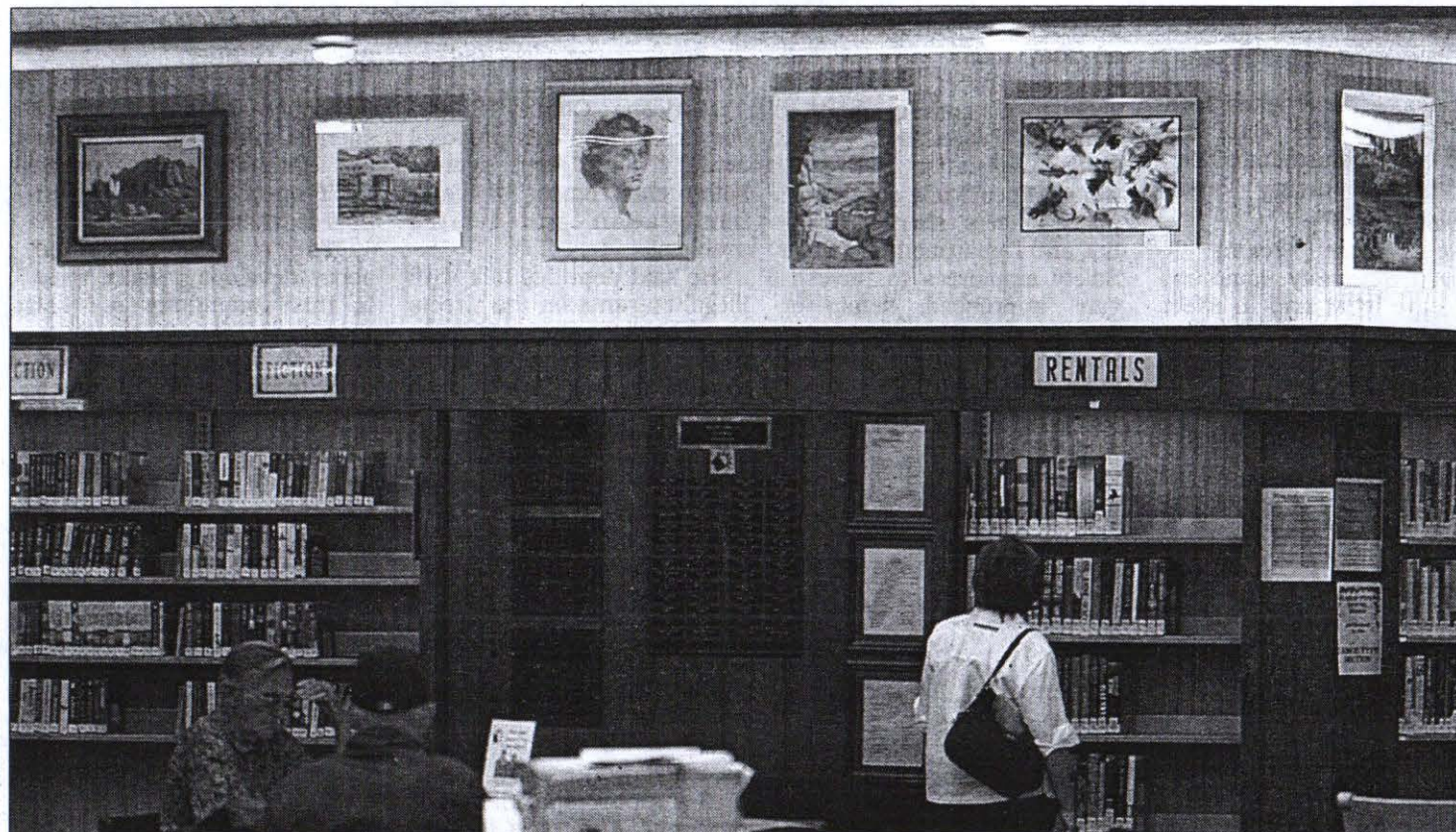
ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Library and Cultural Center kicked off National Library Week with a tribute to art, inspiration and good will.

Monday morning, patrons of the Sun City Library at Bell Recreation Center were greeted by 145 pieces of original artwork provided by the Palo Verde Artists, a group of about 165 Sun Citians who represent varying levels of artistic experience.

Artwork can be purchased right off the walls, and as soon as a piece is bought, a new one will take its place. The exhibit will continue throughout the year, and during a reception for National Library Week 2006, 20 percent of the artwork's proceeds will be presented to the library as a donation.

"Since this is a cultural center as well as a library, we decided to bring the art in and let people enjoy the variety," said Gina Jannink, librarian at Bell. "The decor and the scenery here hadn't changed for years. We wanted to freshen our look, and this definitely does that."



Works by the Palo Verde Artists hang above patrons' heads in the Sun City Library and Cultural Center Monday.

Ron Shone, vice president of the Palo Verde Artists, said his group is gearing up to expand its exhibits to the Fairway Library and other local venues. The display at Bell Library is the first of its kind, Shone said, and working with the library and cultural center is a logical partnership.

"It just makes sense. If we could, we'd have cellist in there everyday and really make it a cultural center," Shone said. "Besides some entertainment, like movies, we wanted to get some fine art in there."

As the artwork will be rotating as pieces sell, library patrons can expect to see different pieces hung throughout the year.

"Like any gallery, it's in a constant state of flux — it'll be constantly moving," Shone said. "People won't have a chance to get bored."

Grace Gardner, Bell Library volunteer, said the once arid library walls now look more like a gallery.

"I think it's a lovely display. It adds something to the library," Gardner said. "Your eye is drawn to them."

Volunteer Pat Robinson agreed.

"They were the first thing I saw when I walked in this morning," Robinson said. "I love it."

The works of art include acrylics, pen and ink, pastel, watercolor, oil and mixed media. Prices range from \$20 to \$650.

"These are strictly Sun City artists with tremendous backgrounds," Shone said. "We're so excited to give these artists an opportunity. It'll motivate them to keep working on their art, and that's a good thing."

The artwork exhibit is open to the public, and library patrons will be invited to pick up a Gallery Guide that lists all of the participating artists, the titles of their work and an associated number code for each piece with the artist's asking price for each artwork. Those interested in purchasing a particular piece should make their check out to Palo Verde Artists Club.

A different Palo Verde Artist will be featured each month. This month, artist Anita Paulson of Sun City is being featured with her piece, "Botanical Delight," which sits on a solo easel in the foyer and is selling for \$480.

Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or aboone@aztrib.com.

OVER

"A Gallery Guide to the Art of the Palo Verde Artists, Sun City, AZ"



"Cactus Bloom" by Arlene Parkin, left, and "Hummingbirds" by Anita Paulson are among the paintings by the Palo Verde Artists on display at Sun City Library and Cultural Center.

STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

MARIA OFFIDANI, Watercolor

- 100 Indian Pottery ## \$200
- 101 Pink Orchid ## \$100

VIVIAN McCAULEY, W/C/Prints*

- 119 Walk in the Woods \$250 *
- 120 Lakeview Terrace 325

FLORENCE ZACK, Oil Originals

- 156 Pretty Plumeria # \$150
- 157 Blend of Color 140
- 158 White Beauty 160
- 159 Indian Artistry 150
- 160 Star-Gazed Lilies 160
- 161 Moonlit Sky 30

MONA BLESSUM-VINSON, W/C

- 216 Good Morning \$400
- 176 Glowing Glads 350
- 177 Cactus Flowers 400
- 178 Red Poppies 275
- 179 Pink Peonies 350

DICK ZAMBRANO, Watercolor

- 129 Abstract Boats \$100
- 130 Adobe Village 125
- 131 Colorful Cacti 100

ARLENE PARKIN, Acrylic/Scratch

- 202 First Bloom \$125
- 203 Cactus Bloom 95
- 204 On the Move 95

BARBARA HILL, Acrylic Originals

- 121 Peace Amid Chaos \$ 95
- 122 Serenity 95
- 123 Sound of Spring 95
- 124 Prosperity 95
- 125 Got Saki 85
- 239 Komono # 75

MARGO STRASBURG, W/C Prints

- 169 Determination \$225
- 170 Zinnia Backside 225
- 171 On Point 175
- 172 Navajo Canyon 450

BLANCHE TARVESTAD, Oil/W/C

- 197 El Sapo (The Frog) \$475
- 198 Almost Forever 250
- 199 Come on In 250
- 201 Red Flowers/Window 250

RON SHONE, Oil/Giclees

- 149 San Xavier \$245
- 150 Rosson House 325
- 151 San Luis Rey 325
- 152 Fruit Basket 185
- 153 Vermont House 245
- 154 St. Mary's Basilica 325
- 155 San Luis Obispo 245
- 219 Basket Lilacs # 185
- 221 Sullivan House # 325
- 222 Basket Lilacs #1 185

RUTH STOLOFL, Mixed

- 192 Ravi \$350
- 193 Athena 300
- 194 Window World 200
- 195 Cathedral Rocks 200
- 196 Flight of Fancy 200
- 191 Hibiscus # 200
- 229 The Old Barn 250
- 230 Alaska 200

JUNE HARRIS, Watercolor

- 181 Costa Kingdom \$225
- 182 Desert Chicks 175
- 183 Townsend Stop 175
- 184 Autumn Harvest 95
- 185 Dream Coast 175

CATHY TYRRELL, Mixed

- 163 Grand Canyon \$300
- 164 Bouganvillea 300
- 165 Mirage 195
- 166 Gossips 225
- 167 Crayfish 60
- 168 Banana Bloom # 75
- 162 Bible & Gloves # 95
- 236 Thinking # 35
- 237 Thinking Big # 45
- 238 Wild Flowers # 60

ANITA PAULSON, Oil Orig.

- 200 Botanical Delight \$480
- 106 Chrysalis Moment 225
- 108/9 Hummingbirds \$ 140/110
- (10% off for the 2-pc set 200)
- 112 Pink Lady 325
- 110 Mom! Look... 225

MARY TASSELL, Watercolor

- 132 Cathedral Rock \$350
- 133 El Dorado Garden 300
- 134 Out Wickenburg Way 350
- 135 Sonoran Sunset 300
- 136 Vulture Mine 350
- 223 El Dorado Arches # 300
- 224 Sagura Blossoms # 175
- 225 Rainbow Arch # 300
- 226 Assisi, Italy # 250

JEANNE PETERSON, Oil/Mixed

- 186 Desert Duet \$130
- 187 Castle in the Sky 140
- 188 River to Nowhere 125
- 189 A Moment Alone 135
- 190 Night Vigil 125
- 227 Adobe Retreat # 125
- 228 Abandoned Dreams # 85

MARLENE BONNEVILLE, Mixed

- 209 Tabby Cat \$100
- 210 High Country 65
- 211 Yellow Flowers 45
- 212 Cauliflower Blue 40
- 213 Pasture 20
- 231 Red Barn # 20

TERRILYNN FILLIS, Oil Originals

- 180 Sweetheart Roses \$175
- 214 Lilac Basket 165
- 127 Soaring thru Heaven 120
- 215 Springtime Tree 225
- 126 Midnight Shore 150
- 217 Fall in th Mountains 175
- 232 Mountain Lake # 155
- 233 Spring in Country # 155
- 234 Row the Boat Ashore # 125
- 235 Mauve Ocean # 135

MARGE SIGMUND, Original Oils

- 205 Prayer Hour \$175
- 206 The Door 100
- 207 Dangerous Beauties 75
- 208 Tarahumara 65
- 107 Shades of Taos 40

DONNA IMPELLIZZERI, WColor

- 138 Skull on Post \$200
- 137 Quail & Cacti 200
- 139 Wolven Basket 120
- 105 Early 1900's # 200
- 241 Kiss Me Princess # 120

RAY SHARGANI, Original Oils

- 114 Mountain Majesty \$260
- 115 Sundown 200
- 116 Winter Wonderland 225
- 117 Moonlight 125
- 118 Indian Summer 75
- 113 Nightfall # 260
- 245 Beautiful Rooster # 135
- 246 Daybreak # 65

MARAGRET OSBURN, Collage Oil

- 103 All Boy # \$650
- 102 Play Ball! # 475
- 104 Enchanted Forest 550
- 128 Swan Boat 550
- 173 To Know A Veil 575
- 148 Splash # 165
- 147 Sunday Sail # 165
- 174 Hour of Destiny 550
- 175 Secrets 275
- 240 Cat-Fish 375

Means art is in offices, computer area, or along doorways, etc.

JOE AMAROSSO, Oil Orig.

- 142 Lonesome Pine \$110
- 143 Serenity 89
- 144 Coming Spring 99
- 145 Ghost Mountain 99
- 147 Still Lake 79
- 141 Muddy Waters # 110
- 242 Red Hills # 69
- 243 Yellow Tree # 69
- 244 Desert Dawn # 69

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Refreshments and tours at the Sun City Library and Cultural Center and Fairway Library in celebration of National Library Week through Saturday. Artwork by the Palo Verde Artists of Sun City is now on exhibit at the Sun City Library and Cultural Center.
- **WHEN:** 9 to 10 a.m.
- **WHERE:** The Sun City Library and Cultural Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and the Fairway Library, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.
- **INFORMATION:** 974-2569.

Purchase art with aut cash. Make checks to

Fairway Library site back on ground floor

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Preliminary plans to renovate Fairway Recreation Center are under way, and to the satisfaction of the Sun City Library and Cultural Center board, the library is now planned for a ground floor space.

In November, Fairway Library manager John Willy prepared for a worst-case scenario after seeing preliminary line drawings for the renovation that showed the library on the second floor of a new two-story building.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors is proposing to construct the elevator-accessible building on Fairway's 44-year-old campus. It will house various clubs and the library.

However, moving the library to the second floor would have been taxing on library patrons, who tend to be older retirees, and would be unwise because of the weight of books and library equipment, Willy said.

Determined to rally for the lower level spot, Willy and other library representatives attended three

meetings mediated by RCSC president Norm Dickson and attended by Fairway's club presidents.

The Fairway meetings are designed to bring club presidents, library management and the RCSC board together to establish renovation plans that would work for everyone, Dickson said. The meetings will continue throughout the building process, he said.

At Thursday's library board meeting, Willy was pleased to report that the RCSC board heard the library's plea.

During the most recent Fairway meeting on Feb. 7, the RCSC presented revised preliminary line drawings that show the library on the ground floor.

"I was thrilled to death when the library was put on floor one," Willy said. "My patrons here are unanimously opposed to having the library on the second floor."

The Computer Club of Sun City, which was originally slated for a ground floor spot, volunteered to be on the second floor, giving the library its space.

See LIBRARY, A5

From A1

"There's no reason to prevent us from being able to operate on the second floor," said Bill Johnson, Computer Club president. "They asked for a volunteer, and we decided we could be on the second floor easily."

Floor plans and square footage have not been decided, but the new library space will likely be slightly larger than its existing space, Willy said, and it will be in close

proximity to the parking lot.

A new and larger Arizona Room may be included adjacent to the library, providing additional meeting space, he added.

Dickson emphasized that nothing is final yet, and public meetings will be held in the future to gather even further input into the project. Construction at Fairway won't likely begin until late 2006, Dickson said, and no budget has been approved by the board.

The next phase will deal with the club's and library's specific needs regarding electricity, plumbing, storage and other building factors, he said.

Both Johnson and Willy agree the RCSC and club leaders are doing their best to execute a successful planning process for the Fairway renovations.

"They are listening now, absolutely," Willy said. "I think they are handling the process well up to this point.

We'll see what happens next."

"The recreation centers are including us all the way, informing us and asking our opinion and needs and wants," Johnson said. "I think they're doing an excellent job."

For information about RCSC projects or to express your opinion to the RCSC board, call 876-3000.

Annie Boon can be reached at 876-2532 or aboorn@aztrib.com.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 2005

Bell Library updates look

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The entry way of Sun City's Bell Library is being freshened to improve the first impressions of patrons.

"The area will be more open so that patrons can get a better view of the library when they walk in," said Regina Jannink, librarian at Bell Library.

The small-scale revamping will make the library more inviting to patrons and will display the library's resource materials in a more attractive way, Jannink said. The result will be a more personal and

informative environment, she added.

The project will cost the library's capital improvement fund about \$1,946, Jannink said. Construction begins Saturday and will last for about two weeks, she said.

Plans include replacing the sandwich board in front of the library with a 3-foot by 4-foot sign to advertise sales, events and other announcements.

Wood slatwall, a grooved surface used to hang displays or materials, will be installed on each entry wall, to display various resources available to Sun Citians and seniors. A cabinet will sit below each

slatwall to hold extra copies of the literature displayed. Library hours will be displayed on a new stand-alone sign in the foyer.

The area around the circulation desk will also be rearranged to become more "people friendly," Jannink said. The information desk will be repositioned to be the first thing patrons see when they enter.

"They will be greeted by a smiling volunteer who will direct them where they need to go," she said.

For information about the Sun City Library and Cultural Center, call 974-2569.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MAY 22, AND SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2004

SC Library head plans retirement

STAFF REPORT

During Thursday's board of trustees meeting, Charles Youngman announced his retirement as Sun City Library and Cultural Center's executive director.

Youngman intends to remain in the position to train the incoming director, even if that means staying on through the fall or the end of the year.

"I want this to be a smooth transition," Youngman said. "I wanted to let (the board members) know in advance so they could start the process."

Mary Ellen Danley, library board president, said Youngman's professionalism has been a great benefit to the library.

"We're going to miss him a

lot," Danley said. "The library is the way it is because of him."

Three candidates are being considered. The ideal replacement would have a master's degree in library science, an aptitude for working in a senior environment and the ability to continue Youngman's efforts, Danley said.

Board members plan to meet in early July to deliberate and make their decision on who will fill Youngman's shoes. The new director will most likely step into the position in early September.

Youngman has served as library director for about 15 years, Danley said.

Youngman said he and his wife plan to enjoy their Prescott home after his retirement.

Sunday, May 2, 2004

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.

OVER

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,

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

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.



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.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, OCT. 30, 2003

Sun City library polls plentiful

STAFF REPORT

Sun City Library and Cultural Center, 16828 N. 99th Ave., had its largest voter turnout in this year's election.

Winning three-year terms were Vicky Dingman, Phyllis Orsi and Irene Shoup. Winning a two-year term was Ned Trembley. Donald Manlove was the fourth candidate.

More than 295 ballots were cast. The nominating committee was Shoup, the chairwoman, Andy Brauneis, Trembley, Lillian Cox, Marion Yearnd and Margaret Manson.

Yearnd, Dave Scoville, Marge Broome and Manson counted the ballots Wednesday.

The library's annual meeting also was Wednesday, with reports from Mary Ellen Danley, president; Shoup, secretary; Brauneis, treasurer; John Willy, manager of the Fairway branch; and Charles Youngman, director of the Bell branch.

For information about the library, call 974-2569.

More than just books



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bell Library volunteer coordinator Nancy Donielson shows off the children's section of the library, which features books and activities for children. Right, volunteer Pat Schloss, right, suggest some action movies for John Irving to rent through the library. Bell Library is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and closed on Sunday. The library is also planning a book sale for July 11.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Library posts \$10,000 net loss for year

Estate contributions proved facility's financial salvation

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City Library will cease to exist by some time in 2004 unless enhanced revenue sources are not located.

That gloomy forecast was made by Chuck Youngman, library executive director, during the library's Board of Trustees annual meeting Oct. 23.

The library, which posted a net operating loss of \$10,336 in fiscal year 2001-02, has experienced financial prob-

lems for several years. Last year's operating loss was a significant improvement over the \$109,732 operating loss posted in 2000-01.

"Projections based on our current income indicate that unless we receive approximately \$450,000 to \$500,000 annually we will cease to exist as a viable library by some time in 2004, unless we get more estate money," Mr. Youngman said.

"This year we were fortunate to receive more estate money than last year," he said.

"We are going to need more estate money if we are going to survive."

The library was the beneficiary of bequeaths totaling \$226,633 during the past fiscal year. That was up sharply from the \$84,412 received during 2000-01.

"Our estate money is really is saving us," Mr. Youngman said. "Without the estate money, we would really be in a hole."

Without the generosity of estate bequeaths the library would have posted an operat-

ing loss of \$236,969.

"On an ongoing basis, the library has had financial difficulties," observed Ted Barratt, Board of Trustees president. "The library needs a secure course of funding, such as the Recreation Centers (or the establishment of an endowment fund).

"In the interim, the best thing we can do it keep the library open the best way we can," he continued.

"We really believe we really have a fine library and cultural center and it is meeting the

needs of the community," Mr. Barratt added.

Mr. Barratt said establishment of an endowment fund would be the ultimate salvation for the library. He estimated it would require an endowment of \$8 to \$10 million, and he doubted that could be attained, especially during the current economic climate.

"The future of the library is going to depend on (a large financial endowment) or the

See **Library** — Page 5

Library

Continued From Page 1

Rec Centers taking it over," Mr. Youngman opined. He said he would favor absorption by the Rec Centers.

"It should be stressed that the library is performing a service for the Recreation Centers that only costs them the price of the buildings and maintenance thereof, which they estimate at an annual cost of \$150,000," Mr. Youngman said.

Having the RCSC take over the library was suggested by Chuck Chadbourn, a former

RCSC director and library liaison, during the Oct. 17 Library Board meeting. Sun City West's library is operated by that community's Recreation Centers.

Mr. Youngman credited the contributions made by volunteers for keeping the library afloat. Volunteers donated 34,788 to the library last fiscal year.

"Donated services for 2001 would amount to \$179,158.20 based on the current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour," Mr. Youngman said. "Without the volunteers we would not be able to operate the libraries."

"We have a wonderful

group of volunteers who provide the services we need here," he added.

Mr. Barratt mentioned the devotion of volunteers allows the library to operate with an absolute minimum number of paid employees.

"We are convinced we have a good staff and a minimum staff," Mr. Barratt said. "They are not working for a grandiose salary," Mr. Youngman said.

The need for an infusion of funding is nearing a crisis since Mr. Youngman believes the carpeting at Bell Library will have to be replaced within the next year or two and the cost will approach \$60,000.

October 30, 2002

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

SC Library pulls plug on porn perusers

By Ryan Jones

Independent Newspapers

Due to a growing trend, the Sun City Library board has adopted a new policy regarding the viewing of sexually explicit Web sites at the library.

The new policy states that "library computer workstations may not be used to view sexually explicit materials that appeal to the (excessive sexual) interests of the library patron."

The policy also explains that if the material is viewed, and a library employee sees it, then the person will be asked to remove the offending material from the computer screen and asked to never access it again.

If the patron does not comply, then they will be asked to leave the library. In the event that a patron is removed, they will receive a letter from the library director stating that

library privileges have been revoked. The revocation can either be permanent or temporary. "It is really up to the librarian," said Sun City Library Director Charles Youngman.

"We have an Internet use policy, but we did not think that we would have a problem with this when we passed it," said Mr. Youngman.

The main concern of the library on this issue is the fact that people have children and grandchildren who come to the library. "We don't want to have kids standing around and seeing (offensive material) at our library," Mr. Youngman said.

Mr. Youngman noted that when computers were initially installed in the library, there was no problem with the patrons accessing such sites. The problem has grown so much that it is now at a point

were at least one person a week is caught viewing sexually explicit or offensive materials.

"The worst problem we had," explained Mr. Youngman, "was one individual who came in, and had obviously been drinking. He came in, went straight to the computers and accessed one of these Web sites." This was a little more extreme than most cases, but it gives a good example of this problem.

This new policy was enacted Oct. 17, so it will take a little time to see how well it will work. The new policy has been posted at both the Fairway and the Bell branches of the Sun City library and no problems have been reported so far.

The Sun City West Library does not have a similar policy in place for its patrons' Internet usage and there are no plans to implement such a pol-

icy at the library, according to Marcia Lea, head librarian.

Ms. Lea believes there is no need to establish measures to prevent the viewing of sexually explicit material from the Web because the Internet access available on the library's computers supports only text.

"At this point, we don't have any problems," Ms. Lea said. "With what we have, you couldn't get anywhere like that.

"I suppose there are places people can go where there are words that are offensive to other people. But the people here using (the computers) only seem to be using them for e-mail," Ms. Lea added.

According to Ms. Lea, the Sun City West library has no plans to attain Internet service with image and graphics support.

Jeremy Pearlman contributed to this story.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT October 23, 2002

Former director proposes changes to aid SC Library

Two possible plans suggested

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

A former Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. Governing Board member has proposed a plan to help the financially strapped Sun City Library.

Chuck Chadbourn, who served a stint as the RCSC liaison to the library, presented his proposal to the Library Board of Trustees during the board's Oct. 17 meeting.

Mr. Chadbourn, who has an accounting background, said, "I feel the two libraries here are very important to the community." To keep them viable, "a financial change must be accomplished," he added.

"I care about the Sun City Library," Mr. Chadbourn said. "I care about all libraries."

Mr. Chadbourn offered two alternatives for keeping the library viable:

- Turn over the library to the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. and they can run it as a Rec Centers department.

This would allow the \$15

annual library card fee to be eliminated. Mr. Chadbourn suggested it could be replaced with an approximate \$7 per person increase in the annual Rec Centers assessment.

- Keep the Library Corp. operating as is but reduce payroll significantly.

Mr. Chadbourn proposed the Sun City Library could reduce its expenses by paring its number of paid employees and using more volunteers, thereby reducing wage and benefit expenditures.

He suggested retaining only two full-time employees, who would receive health benefits, and seven part-time workers (20 hours weekly), who would not receive paid health benefits. Those employees would be supplemented with volunteers.

"The Fairway Library could be operated by all volunteers with purchases made by the Bell librarian," Mr. Chadbourn said.

He mentioned that Sun City West's library, which is

Library

Continued From Page 1
operated by the Rec Centers, has only two full-time employees.

"The Friends of the Library purchase all the books," Mr. Chadbourn said. "They spend about \$70,000 annually."

He noted the Sun City West Library will spend an estimated \$170,000 on payroll and benefits this year. Conversely, the Sun City Library expended approximately \$231,000 on payroll and benefits through the first eight months of this calendar year.

"If they adopt a program similar to Sun City West, the library would save about \$139,000 (in payroll costs)," Mr. Chadbourn estimated.

Mr. Chadbourn also expressed his support for the monthly visits by the Maricopa County Library bookmobile. He said he did not understand the Sun City Library Board's objection to this service.

"I am totally in favor of as many resources as possible being available to citizens,

such as the bookmobile and the new library in Surprise (scheduled to open in November)," Mr. Chadbourn said.

"I think we need to do something and it needs to be dramatic," he continued. "Some board decisions may hurt some friends of theirs. These are tough decisions but the board needs to make them."

Thomas Barrett, Library Board president, responded to Mr. Chadbourn's suggestions. "Certainly you have raised some reasonable questions," he said.

Tom Whiston, RCSC director and liaison to the Library Board, said if the library were placed under the Rec Centers' direction, the library's non-profit, 501 (c) 3 status would have to be addressed.

He suggested the library could possibly merge with the Sun City Foundation, which also has a 501 (c) 3 designation.

"We do not want the library to close," Mr. Whiston said. "This is a cultural assist. We make every effort possible in each legal direction to keep them operational."

DAILY NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, OCT. 5, AND SUNDAY, OCT. 6, 2002

Sun City library expands

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Library is expanding to meet the needs of the community in hopes that the community will meet its needs.

Having already renamed their facility the Sun City Library and Cultural Center, library officials have been extolling the virtues of the community facility, boasting its age-appropriate selections and plethora of informational resources, and offering programs such as bingo and financial consulting for residents.

For years, the library has been feeling the pinch of its budget, with little money coming in but a lot being spent for resources and other needs. Its financial situation became so bleak this year that library hours were cut back until donations came in to the library, allowing it to function without cuts.

The library, with two branches — at Fairway and Bell recreation centers — is a tax-exempt, private entity

that receives no revenue from the community, county or state. Its sole funding source is contributions. The Recreation Centers of Sun City pays for the library's buildings and utilities, but not its day-to-day operations.

Without community donations, library directors reported the facility likely would close at the end of the year with a deficit of nearly \$100,000.

In an effort to boost interest in the library — and at the same time generate money for it — library officials have launched some new programs including the bingo and financial planning sessions, as well as an expanded number of book sales.

"We are running many more specials now," said Sue Haub of the library. "Everything we are doing now is to help our revenue. The whole purpose of all of our programs is to help."

In a move to increase funding, library Director Charles Youngman is taking fund-raising in new

directions, such as discounting books at weekly sales and holding promotional sales to boost revenue.

At the sales, according to library officials, handmade quilts donated by Thursday's Dynamite Quilters of Sun City are being raffled off at both the Bell and Fairway locations.

"Since summer, the community has verbally demonstrated its desire to support the library, for which the library is very grateful" Youngman said. "By having active participation in these events, it allows the community to put its support into action."

"We exist on whatever we can raise," said Tom Barratt, president of the library board. "Our income is based on library cards, rentals and our annual fund drive and new programs that we are implementing. Those are helping, but there is still a need for us to get support from the community. Unless the community gives more support, it's not going to be enough, I'm afraid."

For information about programs or to donate, call 974-2569.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

September 18, 2002

RCSC, Library boards at odds

Library Board views bookmobile's presence as threat

By **Mike Russo**

Independent Newspapers

The boards of directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City and the Sun City Library are at loggerheads over visitations by the Maricopa County Library District bookmobile.

The RCSC Board views the bookmobile as an added benefit for Sun City residents, while the Library Board views it as

threat to its facilities.

The Rec Centers Board reached an agreement with the Maricopa County Library District to have the bookmobile visit the community every other week for a total of three hours - an hour-and-a-half each at Mountain View and Marinnete recreation centers.

Visitations by the bookmobile began Sept. 4.

"We thought it would be a

plus for the Sun City Library; making people more aware of the library services. They would find the bookmobile does not have as much as our libraries and would go and use the libraries," explained Tom Whiston, RCSC director and liaison to the Library Board.

"We felt maybe this would raise awareness and usage of Bell and Fairway libraries would increase," added Jerry

Swintek, RCSC Board president. "No one thought this would be detrimental to the library.

"We also saw this as an opportunity to get some services out of the county," Mr. Swintek added. "We get such little service from the county."

Charles Youngman, executive director and librarian, does not share the enthusiasm of Messrs. Swintek and Whiston; feeling the bookmobile's presence will be detrimental to

the Sun City Library.

"We don't agree it will stimulate usage," Mr. Youngman said. "We feel there is no need for them at all.

"We had a face-to-face meeting between the Library and Rec Centers boards about two or three months ago," Mr. Youngman said. "They told us they were going to bring in the bookmobile and we told them we did not want the bookmo-

See **Books** — Page 3

OVER

Books

Continued From Page 1
bile."

Mr. Youngman said the bookmobile could be better used providing services to areas of the county that have no or reduced library services.

"This action on the part of Recreation Centers (Board) greatly endangers the future of the Sun City Library since the county issues free library cards," Mr. Youngman noted. Sun City residents may use the Sun City Library for no fee but there is a \$15 charge to obtain a library card, which is required to borrow materials from the library.

"The Library Board of Trustees feels that the Recreation Centers (Board) has undermined all our efforts toward seeking financial stability," Mr. Youngman added.

Notices were placed on library bulletin boards informing residents of the Library Board's displeasure over the bookmobile's presence in Sun City, and urging them to voice their opinion.

The bookmobile idea was spurred by a conversation Mr. Swintek had with District 4 Supervisor Max Wilson during the March 6 annual Sun City

Home Owners Association dinner with county officials.

The initial appearance of the bookmobile was well received, according to Vince Micallef, outreach services coordinator, Maricopa County Library District.

"Attendance for two stops were four people at Fairway and we had 20 at Marinette," Mr. Micallef said. The bookmobile stopped at Fairway rather than Mountain View through a misunderstanding. In the future, the bookmobile will be at Mountain View and Marinette.

"Our intent was to put the bookmobile as far north and south as we could to keep it away from the Sun City libraries," Mr. Swintek explained.

Mr. Swintek noted the RCSC Board does not have a contract with the county and could cancel the arrangement at any time.

"If it is detrimental to the library, we would ask the county to stop sending the bookmobile," he said.

"If we are hurting the library by bringing the bookmobile in, that is the last thing we want to do," Mr. Whiston said.

Mr. Micallef said it is not the intent of the county library district to undermine the local

library.

"We are trying to provide county services to county taxpayers; another choice of library services," Mr. Micallef said. "We want to add to what Sun City already has."

Mr. Swintek said the RCSC Board will likely survey users of the bookmobile before making a determination to retain or eliminate the service.

The bookmobile is scheduled to return to Sun City on Sept. 18. It will be at Mountain View Recreation Center from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and will proceed to Marinette, where it will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Swintek is optimistic that the two boards can work out their differences and the extra service can continue for the residents.

"We don't want to hurt our library," Mr. Swintek said. "We are for the library."

Mr. Swintek also wished to dispel rumors circulating in the community that the RCSC Board plans to close the Fairway Library.

"We have no intention of closing the Fairway Library," Mr. Swintek said.

Closure of the Fairway Library was considered by the Library Board earlier this summer while the library was experiencing fiscal problems.

Sun City librarian tenders resignation

Resignation is effective Jan. 1.

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

The man who has served as librarian of the Sun City Library and Cultural Center for the last 13 years has tendered his resignation.

Charles Youngman, who also serves as the library's executive director, tendered his resignation to the Library Board of Trustees during the group's Sept. 19 meeting.

The resignation, which is effective Jan. 1, 2003, was accepted by a 5-3 vote of the board.

Recent letters of criticism of Mr. Youngman and some board members in local newspapers is believed to be, at least in part, the cause of Mr. Youngman's resignation, according to Tom Barratt, board president.

The resignation was accepted with "genuine regret," according to Mr. Barratt.

"His performance was very fine," Mr. Barratt said.

A statement released by the board praised Mr. Youngman's contributions. "Under Mr. Youngman's outstanding leadership, with the input,

help and support and the contributions from the library staff and many, many dedicated library volunteers, the resources, programs and services of the Sun City libraries have been vastly improved in breadth, depth and quality, responding to the needs of the community and patrons," according to the statement.

A search committee has been formed and will soon begin the task of finding a replacement for Mr. Youngman, according to Fran Park, board member, who expressed his sadness at Mr. Youngman's decision.

"He has been wonderful for the library and I will hate to see him go," Mr. Park said.

"He has done an excellent job," Mr. Park opined. "He is qualified. He has the degrees. He makes outstanding selections for the library. He has a real concern for older people and the way we function, and the needs of older people who want to use the library."

Mr. Park noted that Mr. Youngman took a 20 percent pay cut earlier this summer

See Librarian — Page 9

Librarian

Continued From Page 1
when the library was experiencing financial hard times.

"He took a significant cut in salary, so when that occurs you have even less money to find a replacement," Mr. Park said.

Mr. Park said it was unfortunate that Mr. Youngman has had to endure personal attacks.

"I think it is bad for people in the community to attack

other people," he said. "It is not accomplishing anything."

A portion of the criticism leveled at Mr. Youngman has resulted from his objection to the visitation of the Maricopa County Library District bookmobile to Sun City. Arrangements for the bookmobile were made by the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The bookmobile visits Marinette and Mountain recreation centers twice monthly, for a total of six hours.

The bookmobile was

unwanted by the majority of the library board, according to Mr. Park.

"What we really need from the county is a direct contribution from our tax dollars or in-kind contributions, like

allowing use of their large-print books," Mr. Park said.

"We are a non-profit (organization) and totally dependent upon contributions, bequests, etc., to keep us afloat," he added.

Youngman leaving library post

PERSONAL ATTACKS: Director says he's had enough harassment

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City Library Director Charles Youngman resigned from his post this weekend, effective Jan. 1.

Youngman, who has been director of the library for the last 13 years, said his decision to resign was based on personal attacks made against him for his work to pull the library out of financial turmoil.

"I don't mind fighting the bookmobiles," Youngman

said this morning. "But when they start personal attacks on me and my wife, it's not something I need to put up with any more. I've had it, and I don't need it. I'm of retirement age and I'll let someone else deal with this."

Youngman was referring to a recent letter printed in an area publication that described Youngman as inept. It went on to say that Youngman is only in his position at the library because of his wife.

Youngman's wife works as a cataloger for the library.

The letter was written by former Recreation Centers of Sun City board member Art Williams, who has written several letters on behalf of the centers, which pays for the library's utilities, but does not support the library financially.

Williams was unavailable for comment about his letter or Youngman's resignation.

Library board President Tom Barratt said Youngman's decision to resign is unfortunate because he worked hard

in the best interest of the library and the community.

"He took a beating in the papers and had personal attacks against him," Barratt said. "He decided that it just wasn't worth it anymore."

In a letter given to Barratt, Youngman reported that the "stress and strain" of working in the library is not worth the personal attacks made on him anymore.

"It was unfortunate that it came to such a personal level," Barratt said. "I don't think anyone on the board wanted to see him go. I know I didn't. He has done a lot for the library. Since he came aboard, there have been significant advances in service and programs offered at the library."

Youngman announced his plans to resign to the library board last week, and several board members voted not to accept his resignation.

"I think it was a show of support for all he has done," Barratt said.

Budget problems have plagued the library in recent years, with fiscal constraints coming to a head this year. Earlier, Youngman took a voluntary pay cut to help the library get back on its feet, but that wasn't enough for some critics.

Letters in newspapers have attacked Youngman's credibility in recent weeks, especially against his work to halt the Maricopa County Bookmobile from coming into Sun City.

After the library reported its financial troubles to the public — several weeks after Youngman took the 10 percent pay cut — several residents complained that his yearly salary was still too much to be economical for the library.

Youngman was paid about \$50,000 annually; his counterparts in the county-library system make about \$80,000.



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charles Youngman, executive director of the Sun City Library and Cultural Center, holds a donation box Thursday. He says since a story appeared in the Daily News-Sun about the library's financial plight, the community has been responding.

Sun Citians respond to library's call

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The community is responding to the Sun City Library and Cultural Center's financial trouble.

A month ago, library officials reported that unless money started coming in, there was a good chance the library could be closed. Although not out of its budget crunch, the library has received several thousand dollars since making its plea to the community.

"Since the article appeared in the Daily News-Sun, we've had about \$5,000 in donations from the community," said Charles Youngman, library director. "We've also been promised by several people that the library would be remembered in their will."

The possible bequests are central to the library's survival, according to library officials.

Library board Treasurer Andrew Brauneis said that in the Sun City

Library's 41-year history, it has had about two years of strong funding from estates.

"We need money now from the community to get us through this really thin time," he said. "But when we are looking at the long-term solutions, estates are what will allow us to keep ahead."

The library, with two branches — one at Fairway Recreation Center and the other at Bell — is a tax-exempt, private entity that receives no revenue from the community, county or state. Its sole source of funding is contributions.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City pays for the library's buildings and utilities, but does not budget any money for the library's day-to-day operations.

Financial difficulties aren't new to the library. In 1997, after what library-board members called the "worst year for donations," library officials adopted a \$15 annual fee

for patrons wishing to check out books or tapes.

Library donations dropped even more after the fee was put in place, Youngman said.

Sun City resident Wilma Witt is one of those residents who believe the RCSC and the library created their own problems with funding. She said she doesn't understand why a community library would charge people for using the facility when residents have to pay RCSC fees every year.

"It's just not right," she said. "Even if RCSC took one dollar from each of the annual dues, then it would give the library \$40,000 a year. Another thing we don't hear about is the \$700 fee RCSC charges for units sold in the community. RCSC could well afford to support the library, but doesn't."

Sun City Library was formed in 1961 by a group of volunteers, but it was not part of Del Webb's plans for

the community so funding sources were never considered.

Library officials are expecting close to a \$90,000 deficit by the end of the year, and have taken austerity measures such as reducing paid staff and cutting back on library hours. Youngman has voluntarily taken a 20 percent pay decrease.

With nine paid staff members, the library recently cut one full-time position and will cut another and one part-time position Aug. 1, Brauneis said. The cuts will mean limited hours at the two branch libraries on Fridays and Saturdays, starting in next month, but will save the struggling organization about \$7,500 for the year.

Nevertheless, a large deficit is expected unless donations start rolling in at a breakneck pace. To contribute, call the Sun City Library at 974-2569.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, JULY 20, AND SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2002

Gifts keep SC library afloat

STAFF REPORT

Community support saved services at Sun City Library.

A month ago, Sun City Library officials reported staff would be cut, library hours would be reduced and the director's pay had been trimmed to accommodate dwindling funds. On Thursday night, the library board restored those cutbacks because of an increase in community funding after the library's woes were detailed in a Daily News-Sun article.

Charles Youngman, library director, said the board has been encouraged in recent weeks by the amount of community support the library has received.

"A lot of people are concerned and have given us some money to continue," he said. "Because of the community support, the board decided not to cut any of the services for the time being."

The library, with two branches — one at Fairway Recreation Center and the other at Bell — is a

tax-exempt, private entity that receives no revenue from the community, county or state. Its sole source of funding is contributions. The Recreation Centers of Sun City pays for the library's buildings and utilities, but not its day-to-day operations.

Without community donations, library directors reported the facility likely would close at the end of the year with a deficit of nearly \$100,000. The proposed cuts would have saved a few thousand dollars, but not enough to prevent the closing.

The library isn't out of danger, though, Youngman said. Long-term financial solutions are contingent on residents including bequests to the library in their wills.

In the short term, the library still needs community donations to help it close out the year without a multi-thousand dollar deficit.

"It's starting to pick up," Youngman said. "We are getting help and that's a good thing."

To contribute to the library, call the Sun City Library at 974-2569.

© THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002

Sun City rallies to save library

\$20,000 donated, board delays cuts

By Sean L. McCarthy
The Arizona Republic

Sun City residents are rallying to save the community's private library from shutting its doors.

Faced with a growing financial shortfall, the Sun City Library and Cultural Center planned to cut hours, jobs and salaries Aug. 1, with the prospect of closing the library's

two branches altogether sometime next year.

But more than \$20,000 in financial aid has come from within the community this month, including \$8,000 in individual donations, a \$5,000 donation for the purchase and acquisition of large-type books, a \$5,000 grant for computer equipment and \$2,000 from the Rotary Club, also for large-type books.

Library Director Charles Youngman had volunteered to cut \$10,000 from his annual salary, while cutting a full-time position from the Fairway branch and a part-time job at the main Bell branch. Both branches also were looking at fewer hours of service.

So Youngman and his employees met privately with the library's governing board last week, armed with this new-

found support and with hopes of postponing the service cuts.

They succeeded.

"These (decisions) have been rescinded due to the favorable response from the community," Youngman said.

The library still sees more red than black in its financial books, however.

Before this recent outpouring of community support, Youngman estimated the library's deficit in 2002 would run \$93,000, more than the budgeted total of \$508,000.

The library, a private non-profit organization, gets some help from the Sun City Recreation Centers board, which operates and maintains the library buildings. An annual fund-raiser each October and \$15 library cards also bring in \$120,000.

Some citizens also have formed a Friends of the Library and Cultural Center Committee. For more information about the group or how to join, contact Ned Trembley at (623) 977-4645.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

JULY 10-16, 2002

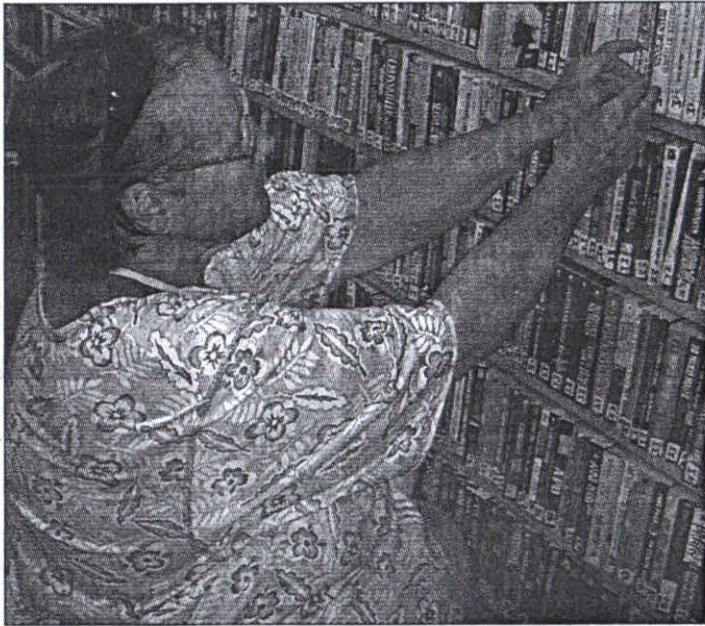


Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

Grace Lahvic checks the paperback book selection at Fairway Library.

SC Library faces financial crisis

Outlook is bleak, according to director

By Mike Russo
Independent Newspapers

Unless the Sun City Library receives an infusion of money, the book may close on the 41-year-old institution.

For the second time in the last four years, the library is facing an economic crisis.

A more than \$90,000 budgetary shortfall is forecast for this year, noted Chuck Youngman, library director.

"The future is bleak," Mr. Youngman said. "We have projected our income and without getting additional grants or estate money, we figure we will

be closing some time in 2003.

"We don't qualify for state grants because we are not tax supported," Mr. Youngman continued. "We have applied for grants from other organizations but when they see our financial situation they are reluctant to fund us."

The library was struggling to stay afloat when the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors approved a \$40,000 donation to bail out the library in August 1998.

The Library board had requested \$60,000 from the RCSC board nine months prior but was turned down at that

time.

Sun City Library is a not-for-profit organization, receiving no government or RCSC funding. RCSC does, however, maintain the library buildings, since it owns them. The library operates facilities at Bell and Fairway recreation centers.

"One of the big problems is the people don't realize the library operates only on donations," said Alice Phillips, a longtime volunteer at Fairway Library. "If they want to keep the library running the same way it is now, they are going to

See ■ LIBRARY, Page 3

OVER

to donate."

With the library dependent upon donations, a sagging economy may be to blame for some of the library's woes, but Mr. Youngman discounts the role it has played.

"It is not the contributions as much as the estates," he explained. "Lately we have not received much of anything."

"Membership has remained steady," he continued. "We have about 4,000 resident cardholders and about 70 non-resident cardholders."

Sun City residents pay \$15 annually for a library card and residents of neighboring communities can obtain a card for \$25.

"We have many library cardholders from Peoria and Surprise," said John Willy, Fairway librarian. "I wish we had more."

Estate bequests, however, have fallen.

"The board is working on targeting estate attorneys," Mr. Youngman said.

The board has also considered going to semi-annual fund solicitations rather than the annual drive, which last year resulted in donations of \$66,800.

In an effort to prolong the library's life, cuts have been made and more are planned.

The library, which had nine paid employees, recently cut one full-time position and the director has taken a 20 percent salary decrease. Another full-time position and a part-time position are scheduled to be eliminated Aug. 1.

In addition, a reduction in the library's hours of service is being considered effective Aug. 1.

Also, the closing of Fairway Library has been discussed, according to Mr. Youngman.

"We have considered closing Fairway," Mr. Youngman said. "We really don't want to do it. The residents of Phase I would be hurting without a library."

"There should be no consideration to closing one of the libraries," said Ms. Phillips, a 22-year Sun City resident and a second-generation Sun Citian.

"We want to keep the library open in Phase I," she continued.

"If there are cuts to the library budget, they should be uniform; not made to just one of the libraries," Mr. Phillips added.

Closure of the Fairway Library would also be unpopular with Grace Lahvic, a 15-year Sun City resident.

Ms. Lahvic, who uses the library several times a month, would miss the facility.

"I like the library," she said. "It is about the best thing around here."

An infusion of new members

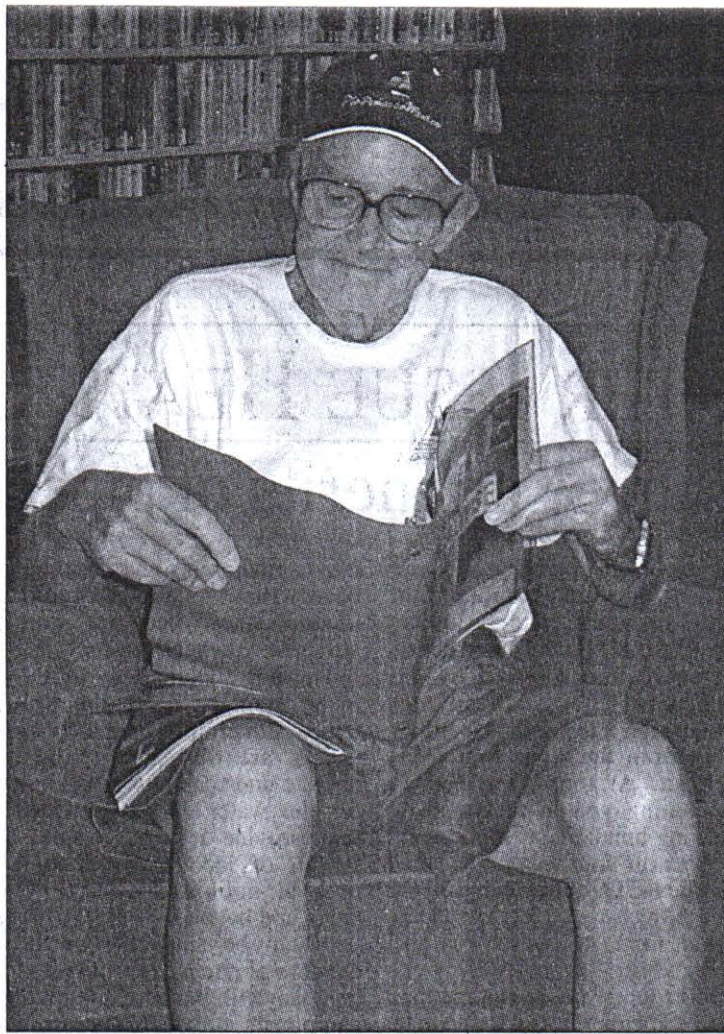


Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers
Sun Citian Bill Cunningham peruses a periodical during a visit last week to Fairway Library.

and raising card fees are two suggestions to save the library offered by Mr. Willy.

"Only about 10 percent of residents are cardholders," Mr. Willy said. "More people need to purchase library cards to show their support for the library."

No card is needed to use the library facilities but it is required to check out materials.

As for raising fees, Ms. Lahvic said, "I would be willing to pay more for a library card to keep the library open."

Those sentiments were echoed by Bill Cunningham,

another Fairway regular.

A two-year resident, Mr. Cunningham uses the library a couple of times a week.

"I would be willing to pay a little more for a library card," he said. "But not much more."

He also has some suggestions for improving the library, which may attract more members.

"I wish they would get more bestsellers faster and a better selection of magazines," Mr. Cunningham said. "The ones they have are usually a month or more old."

Other potential bailouts for

“

Membership has remained steady. We have about 4,000 resident cardholders and about 70 non-resident cardholders.

Chuck Youngman
Sun City Library
Director

the library are requesting funding again from the RCSC and joining the Maricopa County Library System, both of which do not seem viable to Mr. Youngman at this time.

"We have examined joining the county library district," Mr. Youngman said.

"(Former county Supervisor) Jan Brewer came out to speak with us," he continued. "The problem is the buildings are owned by the Recreation Centers. To join the library district, they (the county) would have to have ownership of the buildings. They would take over the entire operation."

Mr. Youngman mentioned that library board members have met with Rec Centers officials to discuss another possible donation, but that does not seem likely.

"They are having their own problems, so they are not in a position to help us," Mr. Youngman said.

Jerry Swintek, RCSC Board president, confirmed that the Recreation Centers is not currently in position to assist the library.

The library board of directors will consider several potential courses of action when it meets at 1 p.m. July 10 in the Hoover Room at Bell Library.

Rec Centers
General

SC Rec Centers prepare for 1st edition of 'Sun Views'

New tabloid will take the place of monthly 'Spotlight'

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Rec Center members be prepared — the premier of *Sun Views* is right around the corner and it is full to the brim.

According to Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. Director Art Little, the final edit of RCSC's new newspaper was to be completed Aug. 15.

Mr. Little expressed great appreciation to the membership communication committee for all of its assistance in preparing the newly formatted informational tool.

"They are really a dedicated group of people," he said.

He also said with the talent and input of Chuck Moser, editor and communications coordinator, the paper was able to be put together quite smoothly.

Sun Views will feature a "Director of Center" column by Earl Feierabend, as well as "Course Happenings" by Director of Golf

Course Operations Manager Steve Ravenkamp, and the "President's Corner," a column by current Board President Jerry Swintek.

As of the third week of August, both the Sun City Libraries Inc. and Sun City Homeowners Association had agreed to assist the project financially.

The libraries will have a quarter of a page in each issue, while HOA will have a full page. HOA agreed to sign on for a trial run of seven months.

Mr. Little is also courting several other organizations for participation.

"The financial participation is helping to deflate the labor costs involved and at this point it looks like we are at a break even point," said Mr. Little.

The cost of producing *Sun Views*, which will be a tabloid size paper (13 inches high and 11 inches wide) 12 pages long, is \$24,000. The cost of producing *Board Talk*, *Spotlight*

and *Course Happenings* — three separate publications replaced by *Sun Views* — was approximately \$37,000, according to Mr. Little.

"I made a promise when I started this, that it wasn't going to cost any more money. And we're actually saving money because volunteers are doing most of the work," he said.

The publication will be distributed to all homes in Sun City through the *Sun Cities Independent*. The first edition will be published Aug. 29. Additional copies will be available at the recreation centers.

Other specifics residents should expect to see are a volunteer of the month column, as well as columns about the importance and spirit of volunteers.

Upcoming schedules for events at clubs, rec centers and the Sun Bowl will be included, as well as the usual club meeting schedules.

Dismissed librarian seeks board hearing

More than 30 supporters attend board meeting

By JULI NESSETT

Independent Newspapers

A group of over 30 Sun City residents and volunteers at Fairway Library, upset over the termination of library manager Martha Bard, attended the library board of directors meeting March 15 to voice their displeasure.

Ms. Bard was terminated due to an altercation between herself and a patron of the library. According to Charles Youngman, executive director, events following the dispute also played a part in Ms. Bard's termination.

Following the conclusion of regular business matters, Dr. Milton Fox, president of the board, called an executive session in order to discuss the personnel matter.

Audience members voiced their displeasure with the executive session. They wanted to air their views in public and felt Ms. Bard had a right to have supporters at her side.

Following a short debate over this matter, Dr. Fox tried to approve a motion to temporarily suspend the meeting. This motion was not passed.

However, protesters begrudgingly agreed to leave after Dr. Fox said they would be informed of the outcome.

A few volunteers who gathered outside of the building after leaving the meeting were unyielding on the point that Ms. Bard's termination was unwarranted.

Several volunteers of Fairway Library have quit over this matter, one of whom was a 16-year volunteer and another who had been with the library for 20 years.

"The library is going to be less

without her," said Sun City resident Dick Heun. Mr. Heun and his mother also quit as volunteers at Fairway over this issue.

Later in the day Ms. Bard said the session was basically an attempt to have the board listen to an appeal of her termination.

"They said I could explain why I wanted an appeal. I presented a three-page chronology of events that occurred up to the firing," said Ms. Bard. "They asked me if I thought the altercation between myself and Mr. Roberts (the patron the disagreement occurred with) was the reason I was fired, and I said yes."

Very little else transpired during this meeting and Ms. Bard left not knowing her fate.

She was later told by a staff member that she would be granted the appeal.

Dr. Fox confirmed this, stating Ms. Bard's appeal would be heard in a closed meeting at 8:30 a.m. March 27.

Although the meeting will be closed to the general public, Ms. Bard will be allowed to have some witnesses appear on her behalf.

Library plans to fill post

VOLUNTEERS UNHAPPY: Want manager back

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

2/25/01

Sun City Library head Charles Youngman plans "to look for a professional librarian" to take over the library's Fairway branch, a post vacant after he dismissed Martha Bard from the job last week.

About two dozen of the library's volunteers protested Bard's firing Tuesday and didn't seem mollified when Youngman invited them all into the library to listen to their concerns.

"We listened," Youngman said of himself, library board President Dr. Milton Fox and a few other directors. "I wanted to hear what they had to say, but some of them said I wasn't willing to listen."

He and Fox said that other than presenting the volunteers with a letter, the pair didn't attempt to sway the views offered by the volunteers, or to justify their action.

But one of the protesters, Cindy Woll, said Youngman "didn't want to know about

See Volunteers contest, A5



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City Library volunteers picket Tuesday morning to protest the firing of the Fairway Branch manager.

Volunteers contest firing

From A1

the problems we all have had" with the patron who allegedly complained about Bard.

"He told us Martha was gone and that's the way it would stay," Woll said.

Those volunteers say Bard was fired after she got into a dispute with a patron whom they called argumentative, rude and arrogant. They all had had trouble with that patron, they said.

That man, they said — and they identified him by name — told Bard, "he would have her job," said several volunteers who witnessed the Feb. 13 exchange.

Youngman, citing the privacy of personnel records, wouldn't discuss the dismissal except to say it came because Bard violated written policies.

Bard said Monday she had

been asked to apologize for the incident, but declined "since in my view no apology was necessary."

In a later interview Tuesday, Youngman said the library had no specific policies for how employees should deal with disruptive patrons.

"That's a good point," he said. "We may need to develop some standards of behavior for library users" that might let workers know what authority they have in such situations.

Bard declined again Tuesday afternoon to discuss the matter in detail, saying only that she thought Youngman and the board may have overreacted to the situation, and that she hopes it might yet be defused in her favor.

Some of the protesters said the patron also was a heavy contributor to the non-profit independent library, but

Youngman said he had no knowledge of the contributions made unless he looked them up.

He also declined to say who may have complained about Bard's behavior.

The name of the patron who allegedly provoked the incident and which was provided by volunteers is not listed in the Sun City telephone directory, and a directory operator said the man's number was not available.

While the search for a new librarian is conducted, Youngman said, a former Bel Air Library administrative official Diana Gallovich, will serve as a temporary branch manager.

Youngman also said the library, which gets space from the Recreation Centers of Sun City but is otherwise unconnected to it, has no plans to close the branch, as some volunteers Tuesday had suggested might be the case.

draws protest

FAIRWAY BRANCH LIBRARY: Volunteers picket in objection to manager's firing

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

About 20 volunteers at the Fairway branch of the Sun City Library picketed the library this morning, protesting the firing of branch librarian Martha Bard.

But Bard, a seven-year employee of the independent Sun City Library Inc. who was head of the Fairway Branch, won't be reinstated, head librarian Chuck Youngman told the protesters.

In a letter he handed to the picketers, Youngman said Bard's dismissal "was necessary" because she violated several provisions of the library's personnel handbook. Because the matter concerns personnel, he said, he couldn't provide more details about the incident that led to her dismissal.

That didn't satisfy the picketing

volunteers, who believed they had all the details they needed.

They said Bard got into a dispute with a regular patron on Feb. 13. Many called that patron "a problem," "arrogant and rude," or just hard to get along with.

"Most of us have had similar experiences with him," said Doris Kieffaber, a nine-year volunteer. "He is very rude."

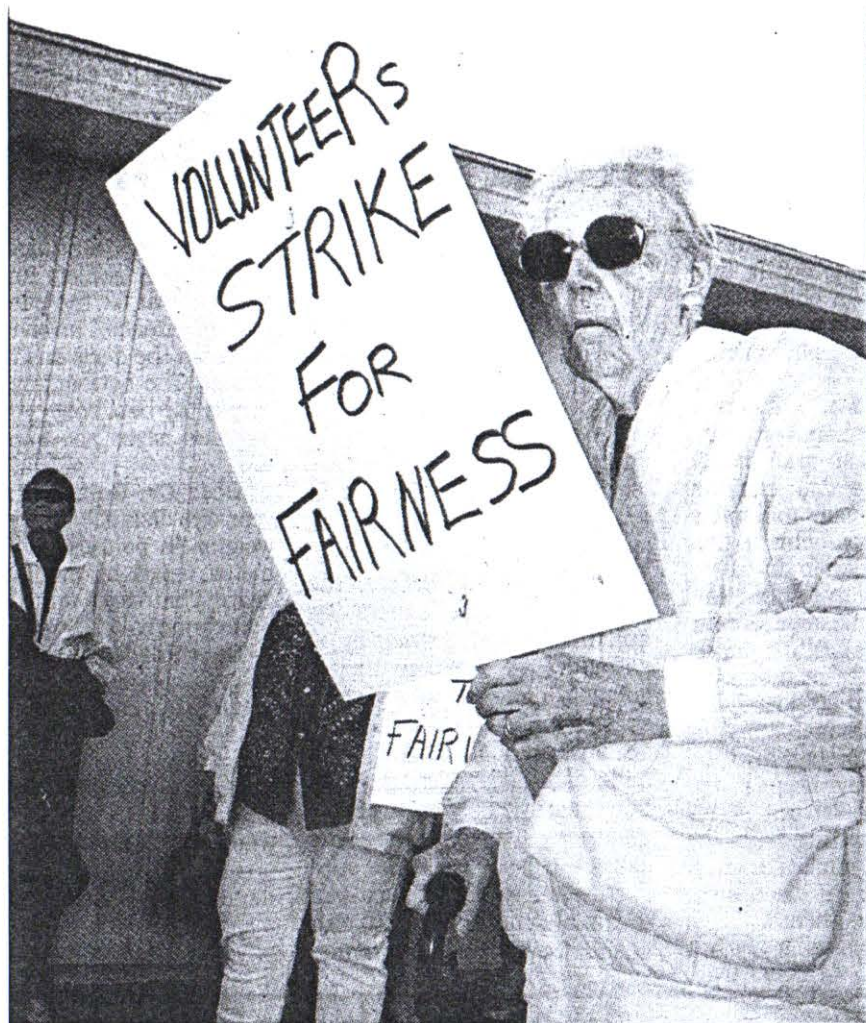
But he also is apparently a heavy contributor to the independent Sun City Library, others said, and had the ear of library-board members and Youngman.

"He left that day loudly saying he would have Martha's job," said Cindy Woll, who was in the library at the time. "I guess he did."

Bard, who was not at the protest, said Monday she was given an opportunity to apologize to the patron, but could not do so "because I didn't think there was anything to apologize for."

As a result, she lost her job at 4 p.m. Thursday, Youngman confirmed to the picketers, who he

See Dispute with, A5



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Doris Kieffaber, a Sun City Library volunteer, joins others protesting the sudden dismissal of the branch librarian at Fairway this morning.

From A1

invited into the library for a talk this morning.

Youngman said Diana Gallovich, a former administrative secretary at the main Bell Library, would become temporary manager at the Fairway branch, which was to be closed for the day today.

"Martha performed many of her duties in a professional and dignified manner,"

Youngman said in a prepared statement. "However, both the board of directors and I strongly believe this dismissal is warranted."

Youngman was joined by the library board's president, Milton Fox, and several other directors, at the impromptu meeting.

Fox said that while he knew the protesters felt strongly about the firing, "our people (board and

administration) feel very strongly about it, too.

"That's why we're here, even if we have to listen to some things that aren't pleasant."

Bard said Monday she hoped she could return to her job, but that isn't likely now.

"It's gotten into a situation that I don't think is warranted, and I'd still like to go back," she said Monday. "Chuck is a decent fellow,

and I'm not sure the demonstration or whatever is helpful."

Bard worked at the library at New York University while she pursued graduate studies in theater and Near East studies, she said, "and I've used libraries forever."

Volunteers called Bard "so polite, so helpful to all the library users" that they are aghast at her abrupt dismissal.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT NOVEMBER 8-14, 2000

Sun City Library sustains considerable damage as result of recent heavy rains

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

With the unusually heavy rainfall the Valley of the Sun has experienced in the past few weeks, problems were bound to happen.

Which is exactly what occurred at Bell Library Oct. 27. As heavy torrents of rain fell on Sun City, a roof drain became displaced, which caused an overflow of water to pour into the main part of the library.



**Charles
Youngman**

According to Charles Youngman, executive director of Sun City Library Inc., \$4,000 to \$5,000 in damages resulted. Books, cassette tapes and video tapes were destroyed, some of which are irreplaceable.

Library patrons were standing in the area as the rain began to flood into the non-fiction area.

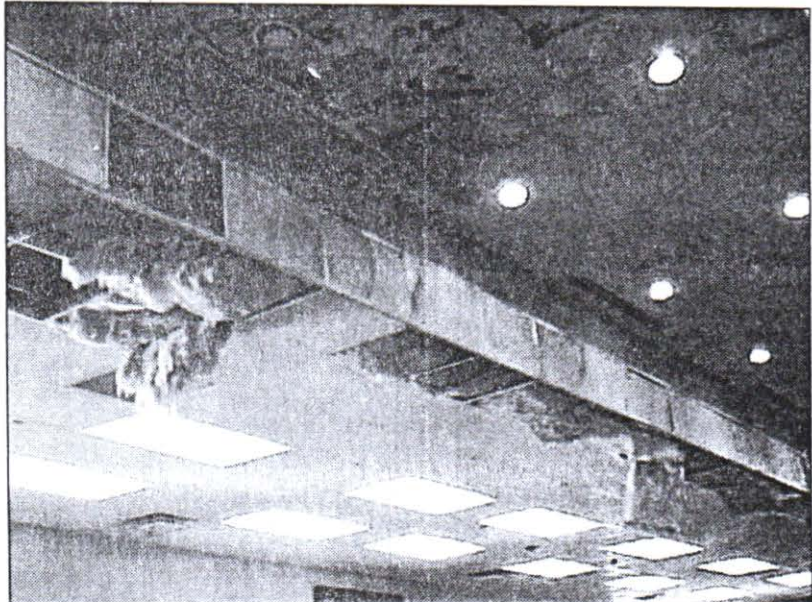


Photo by JULI NESSETT/Independent Newspapers
Wet insulation hangs from ductwork at the Sun City Library following an Oct. 27 deluge.

"People were frightened and didn't know what to do," explained Mr. Youngman. "Luckily the assistant director happened to be here and ran to get the people out of the way."

The leakage began at approximately 2:15 p.m. and within the

hour it was running out the front doors of the library.

"It looked like Niagara Falls," he said.

Over 16 shelves of books were damaged and Mr. Youngman said about 50 of them are irreplaceable.

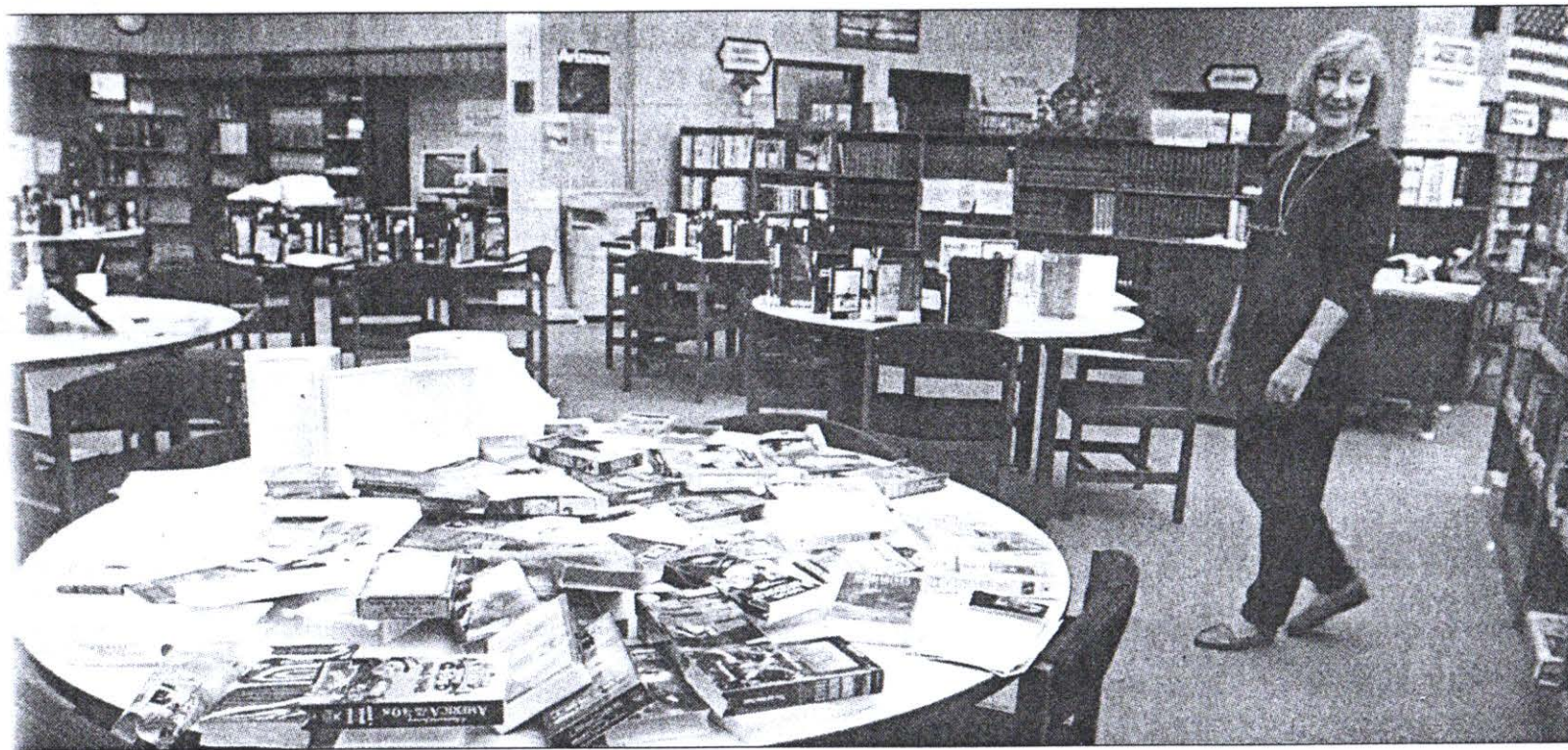
The clean-up of the library required two different crews and it was closed for a week after the disaster. All of the bookshelves within the building are now elevated on pieces of Styrofoam in order to keep mold from growing.

Although the library is open again, patrons will not be allowed in the non-fiction section until repairs are made.

The library is a separate entity from the Recreation Centers and exists solely through donations. Due to this fact, the library has its own deductible insurance policy of \$1,000, and officials are appealing to the community for any amount of donations in order to cover the cost.

All donations made to the library are tax-deductible. To make a donation call 974-0283.

Sun City Library cleans up, reopening set for Friday



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

DAMAGE REPORT: Last week's storm took its toll on Rec Centers' property

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The main Sun City Library in Bell Recreation Center will re-open Friday after staff members and other workers finish cleaning up from a flood.

The water came Friday from a broken roof drain.

Roof leaks also plagued the pro shop at Willowcreek-Willowbrook golf courses, Rec Centers officials said. But damage to merchandise was minor, and the shop re-opened Monday.

Librarian Chuck Youngman said library staff was in the building when the flooding began, minimizing damage to books.

But a number of videotapes appear to have been soaked, and

"Nick" Nichols, in photo top left, shows where Friday's rain came through the Willowbrook-Willowcreek pro shop, where he's the manager. Above, volunteer coordinator Nancy Danielson stands amid drying books at Bell Library where the roof collapsed from the strain of the storm.

See Library set, A5

(over)

Daily News-Sun • Thursday, Oct. 12, 2000

Faith Presbyterian donates \$10,000 to libraries

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City Libraries are \$10,000 closer to completing its computer cataloging, thanks to Wednesday's donation by the Faith Presbyterian Church.

Although the libraries still need \$200,000 to complete the process, which will include automated checkout services, the Bell and Fairway Library are now connected via computer. Once the process is complete, a resident can look up a book at one library

and find out if it is available at the other library.

The Rev. Alice Geils of Faith Presbyterian Church presented the \$10,000 check to Mary Early, president of the library board.

"It's one of the outside civic duties we decided to do," said Leo Baker, finance chairman of the church. Faith Presbyterian donated \$10,000 to the Dysart School District in 1998 and has donated \$60,000 to Habitat for Humanity.

Chuck Youngman, executive

director of the library, said the \$10,000 is earmarked for the computer project only, or the Wide Area Network Project, and the libraries come closer to finishing the project as more donations come in.

"We appreciate the generosity of the church," said Youngman, who anticipates the project to be completed in five years.

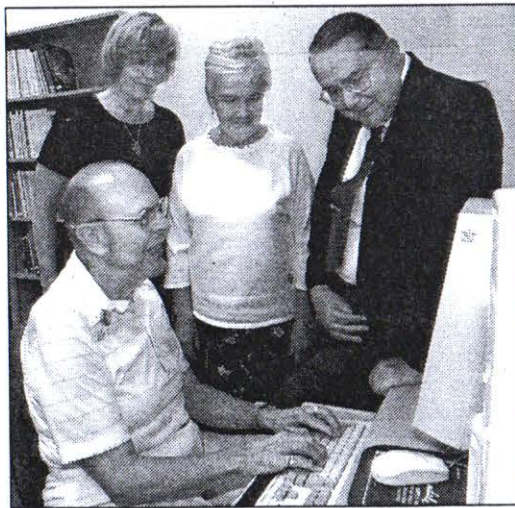
The libraries have just begun to input books into the computer. There are currently 25 in the computer, and librarians and

volunteers have 90,000 books to go, said Milton Fox, treasurer of the board.

"It's a mini-step towards finishing the job," Fox said.

The library is always accepting donations. The Sun City Library does not receive any financial support from any governmental agency and is totally dependent on voluntary support of the community, sale of library cards and occasional grants to provide its operating funds.

For information on donating to the library call 974-2569.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Milton Fox, treasurer of the Sun City Libraries board, works at one of Bell Library's computers while the Rev. Alice Geils of Faith Presbyterian Church, Mary Early and Chuck Youngman, the libraries' executive director. The church donated \$10,000 toward computerization of the libraries' catalog.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2000

Sun City Library raises \$951 with appraisals

By Jim Gintonio
The Arizona Republic

With only a small state grant available to keep the wheels turning and pages opening at the Sun City Library, officials have to keep coming up with creative ideas to raise funds.

The library has been conducting antique appraisals for three years, and \$951 was raised at the latest event. The Sun City Library Inc. works with Christopher Galleries of Scottsdale.

"From the beginning, we have had an enthusiastic response from our public," library director Chuck Youngman said in the June edition of *Library Administrator's Digest*. "Everything

from pins to barrels has been brought to the library."

Appraisal rates are \$5 and \$10, with \$100 going to the galleries and the rest into the library fund. The Friends of the Sun City Library coordinate sales. Youngman said the library board must raise more than \$400,000 annually from gifts, bequests and donations.

The Sun City facility applied for \$59,000 from the library development division of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records and received \$15,000, Youngman said.

Reach the reporter at Jim Gintonio@ArizonaRepublic.com or (602) 444-7125.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT MAY 17-23, 2000

Sun City Library goes state-of-the-art Technology upgrades planned

By JULIE RIDDLE
Independent Newspapers

In the future, Sun City's bibliophiles will enjoy a newer, more up-to-date system of finding information, as the library undergoes a technological overhaul.

The library board, which recently voted to introduce automation to patrons at the Sun City Library, was able to fund the project with money received through a grant from the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), awarded to the library by the State of Arizona Department of Library, Archives

and Public Records. Donors, too, have helped to fund the transformation.

The first step in the renovation process is to network the library's computer systems and provide a fast connection between the Fairway Branch and Bell Library, as well as to the Internet. With that network in place, library software will be installed, accessible to all computers on the network. The software will be used for cataloging books and other library materials, storing the data in MARC (Machine

See ■ LIBRARY, Page 5

Readable Cataloging) format, compatible with other libraries.

Renovations are currently in the planning stages, according to Sun City Library Executive Director Charles Youngman.

"We are just starting out with basic phone lines and getting things in here to set up computers," he said. "We received a grant for \$15,000 and need to raise roughly \$4,300-\$5,000 to finish the job." Mr. Youngman said the library is currently talking with professionals about the projects.

"We made a commitment to Interstate Systems, which is working with us, to have us to go through US West — we have to go through them," Mr. Youngman said.

The entire project will be worth approximately \$90,000, Mr. Youngman said.

Access to Internet and e-mail privileges will eventually increase, Mr. Youngman said. At the moment, both the Bell Library and Fairway Library have two computers for public use, all of which offer Internet and e-mail.

"We are looking toward three more computers," he said. "All would have Internet and e-mail."

The On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC), the entity through which the Sun City Library participates in inter-library loans, could be accessed on-line, therefore simplifying the process.

Recategorizing the library's

materials and the speed at which people can get checked out would be next on the list of projects.

"We will be bar-coding all the books," Mr. Youngman said. "We are getting CD-ROM's to print out library cards in the MARC format. Once we have that, we can move ahead with actual computerization of the card system. We are also computerizing the checkout line. After that, we will be on par with Glendale and Peoria libraries."

Usage of the current system will not be affected by the refurbishing, Mr. Youngman said.

"People can still use it," he said. At the current time, the card catalog will continue to be in use.

Mr. Youngman says volunteers will be vital to both the speed of efficiency of library workings.

"We need as many or more volunteers to keep it going — we have 240 volunteers at both libraries right now," he said.

It will be some time before everything is completed, Mr. Youngman said.

"We operate mostly under donations," he said. "We will do this as we get the money — it will probably be about five years."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Shirley O'Leary reads the Washington Post at Bell Library. She came to the library to get reading material on flower arranging. She's entering a rose show next month. Although library visitation is up, circulation is down compared with last year.

Books stay on shelves

SUN CITY: Computer usage linked to increase in library visitors, but circulation decrease

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

April 6, 2000

More people are walking along the aisles in the Sun City libraries, but fewer of them are checking out books.

Comparing circulation statistics from February of last year to this past February 2000, about 300 more people visited the Bell and Fairway libraries. But circulation dipped by about 1,000 books.

The reason, said Charles Youngman, executive director of the Sun City Library, Inc., is the popularity of computers.

"People are looking more to new technology and less on books," Youngman said. "We're getting more people in the library, but they're not checking out books."

He said people coming to the library are using the reference books — most of which can't be checked out, reading the newspapers and magazines and using the two computers at Bell, and one at Fairway, available for Internet and e-mail purposes.

"I like to take advantage of the

research available and read the newspapers to keep abreast of all the news," said Gerald Krulik of Sun City, who visits the library about four to five times a week.

The number of people accessing the Internet at the libraries has nearly tripled, from 100 people in May of last year, to 275 people this past February. Grace Melody, assistant director of the Sun City Library, Inc. said she has had to begin a schedule for people to use the computer because of high interest.

"We've had to turn people away (because there wasn't an available computer)," said Melody, who plans on getting more computers when money is available.

Melody is also initiating steps for the library's card catalog to be put on-line, with a goal anywhere from five to 10 years.

"It's a long way to where we are now to where we want to be," Melody said.

The biggest problem is getting the money available to begin this major task, Youngman said. Because the library receives no financial assistance from federal, state or county governments, the libraries depend entirely on donations from the surrounding community and the \$15

Charles Youngman
executive director
Sun City Library

annual library card fee, he said.

It costs about \$400,000 a year to keep the library up and running, Youngman said, with about 240 volunteers helping



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nancy Esty reads to her 2-year-old grandson, Colin Danch, at the Sun City Library.

at the library. And that doesn't leave a lot of extra money available for the cost of having an on-line catalog system, Melody said.

"Right now, we're just on the verge of beginning this venture," she said. "We are very much behind the times of other libraries."

Telephone lines have to be upgraded, additional computers and printers have to be bought and software has to be purchased to accommodate this task.

"If we don't come into the 21st century, we're going to be left in the dust," Youngman said.

Seniors in cyberspace

Internet growing in popularity among Sun Citians

By JULIE RIDDLE
Independent Newspapers

It is a place where many, especially senior citizens, fear to tread.

The Internet, also known as the World Wide Web or cyberspace, has taken its place as a cultural force among young adults, but until recently was slow to catch on with the older generation.

In Sun City, Internet fever has taken hold. At the Sun City Library, where the public has use of two Web-accessible computers, many seniors are partaking, said library assistant director Grace Melody.

"Beginning March 1, people

wanting to use the Internet at the (Sun City) library will have to call ahead to make appointments — it has gotten that popular," she said. "We will have 15-minute blocks of time — 15, 30 or 45 minutes, depending on availability."

Though March 1, is still several weeks away, Ms. Melody said citizens have already been calling to set up appointments ahead of time. Courtesy, however, sets the time limits for now.

"If you are on a computer that someone is waiting for, you have 20 minutes to finish your business," Ms. Melody said. Three or four people are often waiting for each computer, she said.

Seniors, while wanting to experiment with the Internet, are sometimes a little leery, Ms. Melody said.

"Some are not eager to try it on their own. We have volunteers to help them out with any questions they might have," she said.

Sun Citians use the Internet for a variety of reasons.

"They are usually looking up travel or financial information," she said. "We also allow them to set up free e-mail through the Web so they can e-mail their grandkids or whomever they want."

Barbara Hanson, who uses the

See ■ CYBERSPACE, Page 3

library's computer terminals, said the Web is something to which she is becoming accustomed.

"It was not intimidating at all," she said. "I heard about it from a friend, I came to check it out, and it is wonderful — I think it is really interesting," she said.

Usually, Ms. Hanson said, she uses the Internet to look up flights and news from her home state of Minnesota, and of course, keep in touch.

"Today I am e-mailing my grandchildren in Minnesota and my sister in Mexico," Ms. Hanson said.

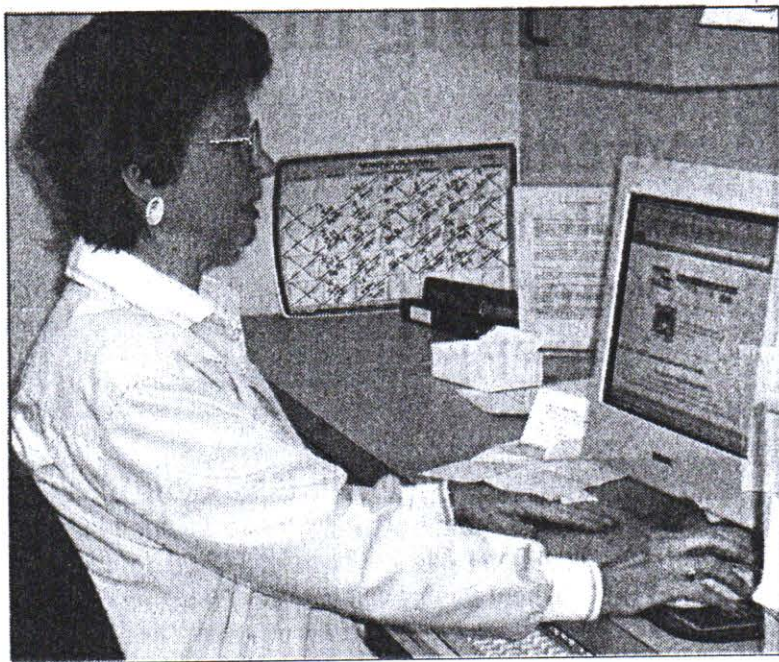
At Sun City West's R.H. Johnson Library, Internet access is restrict-

ed to a service known as Aztec, which provides text but no pictures.

"At this point that is all we have. It gets used pretty much all through the day," said library manager Marcia Lea. "Usually it is just e-mail though."

Ms. Lea says most people looking to get on the Internet join the Computer Club, which operates through the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

"Mostly the people that use it here (at the library) are all novices," she said. "The people who are serious about it usually have access to their own computer."



By JULIE RIDDLE/ Independent Newspapers

Barbara Hanson uses the Internet at the Sun City Library. Like most seniors, the Web helps her to keep in touch with family and friends in other states and countries.

Daily News-Sun • Monday, Jan. 31, 2000

SC Libraries profit from gifts

KATE FLEITAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Library, Inc., which showed a deficit of more than \$90,000 two years ago, now shows more than \$500,000 in expendable assets.

Donations from the community, including bequests, private donations and a \$40,000 gift from the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors in 1998, helped bring the library out of debt, said Milton Fox, the library's assistant treasurer.

The Sun City Library Inc. operates two libraries within RCSC buildings. Although the rec centers pays the utilities for the two facilities, Sun City Library Inc.'s board of directors manages all other financial matters.

The library showed a deficit of \$91,756.11 at the end of 1997, according to a Dec. 31, 1997, balance statement. Donations had dwindled and the revenue from the \$15 library cards were not enough to meet expenses.

To cut costs, library administration

eliminated four full-time positions and closed the library on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

"There was a lot of anxiety," Fox remembered. "We had a small reserve and had to dip into it to meet our expenses. The reserve was being quickly depleted, and we thought we'd be out of business in three years."

Another library member asked the RCSC board of directors for help. The board responded by approving a \$40,000 donation. The library used the board's donation to purchase books and periodicals, said Chuck Youngman, the library's executive director.

By the end of 1998, the library was out of the red, showing \$37,000 in expendable assets.

"We were able to get to the end of the year with a surplus for the first time," Fox recalled.

Since that time, bequests have continued to pour in, and the library's surplus has grown to more than \$500,000. Fox

said he believes the library's future depends on bequests from Sun City residents.

"If we have to depend on library card mailings, we'll be in trouble," he said.

More than 12,000 people purchased \$15 library cards from Sun City Library, Inc. last year.

The RCSC board of directors was criticized for its part in helping the library, said Harold Boudrie, the board's treasurer. Boudrie, who was a member of the board's budget and finance committee in 1997, said the previous board did not study the library's expenses like they should have.

Boudrie says the current board, which is struggling to rebuild the rec centers' badly depleted cash reserve, will not approve any more large donations.

"I don't think they'll ever give like they did," he said. "Don't ever expect the rec centers to donate that kind of money to them again."



Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. History



1960 Del Webb opened the first five model homes in Sun City, the world's first master planned retirement community. After record first year home sales, the need for a library to serve the community's cultural, educational and recreational needs was recognized. Sun City gave 820 square feet in the Town Hall Center, now the Fairway Recreation Center site, for use as Sun City's first library, a mini-library open three days a week. Records were kept in shoeboxes. Maricopa County Library supplied the initial inventory of 2,500 books. Eight volunteers ran it.

1961 An informal "Friends of the Library" group was organized to raise money and to serve as volunteers. The following year, the "Friends" recognized the need for, and created, a Library Operating Board.

1971 The Sun City Library, Inc. was formed as a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation, which controlled of the Library until 2009.

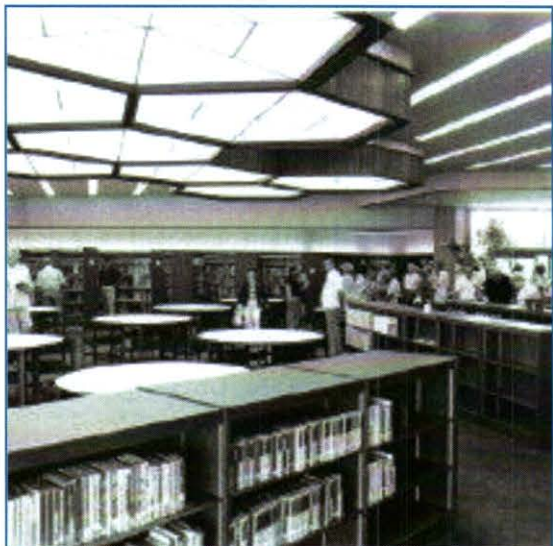
1972 The Webb Corporation made 2,500 square feet available at the Lakeview Recreation Center, for a much needed move to larger facilities. The first paid librarian was hired, aided by a volunteer staff of 30.

1974 The Webb Corporation made space available in the Fairway Center for a Branch Library. At the same time, planning was underway for a new Bell Recreation Center. The plans included space for a 10,250 square foot library, with room for a 5,430 square foot expansion.

1976 The Bell Center Library opened.

1982 The Library expanded to 50,000 volumes, serving 43,000 patrons, with 275 volunteers, who gave 49,989 hours of service.

1984 Always in need of financial support, the Friends of the Library used a large variety of fund raising methods, including an organized annual bridge marathon. The Library didn't just offer books, but also included "Books on Wheels", cassettes, jigsaw puzzles, and large type books. Polaroid cameras were available for check out.



1976: The Bell library on opening day. Photo courtesy of the Sun City Area Historical Museum

home bound individuals. The MCLD managed Sun City Libraries have **677,494** items available to every card holder, including printed books, audio books, DVDs, CDS, magazines, and even ukuleles. We've come a long way since 1960, but one thing has remained consistent: Sun City and the Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. know the immeasurable value of a great community library.



1963: Jerry Costin is checking out books to Charles Nearman. Photo courtesy of the Sun City Area Historical Museum

2008 Facing continual financial challenges (even a controversial fee for library cards did not meet the needs), the Sun City Library voted to pursue becoming part of the Maricopa County Library District (MCLD).

2009 The Sun City Libraries became part of the MCLD, closed for a brief time for renovations, and then reopened in the summer. To reflect their new role of support, the nonprofit "The Sun City Library, Inc." was amended to become "Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc." Its mission was and is to **ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH SUPPORT FOR THE SUN CITY LIBRARIES.**

2009 The "Books Around the Corner" Bookstore opened in the old Hoover Room of the Bell Library. Proceeds (over \$38,000 a year in 2015) from the 100% volunteer operation supported the Libraries with materials, equipment, and program needs.

Today The Friends of the Sun City Libraries, Inc. has over 90 volunteers serving on the Board of Directors, in the Libraries, in the Books Around the Corner Bookstore, and as Book Buddies who deliver materials to