

## Residential Recycling: 2 groups offering curbside pickup routes

# Lions fear donation reduction

By Rusty Bradshaw  
Independent Newspapers

Sun City Lions got a rude awakening after announcing their curbside recycling program when Parks and Sons, a commercial refuse collection business, announced the expansion of its own efforts.

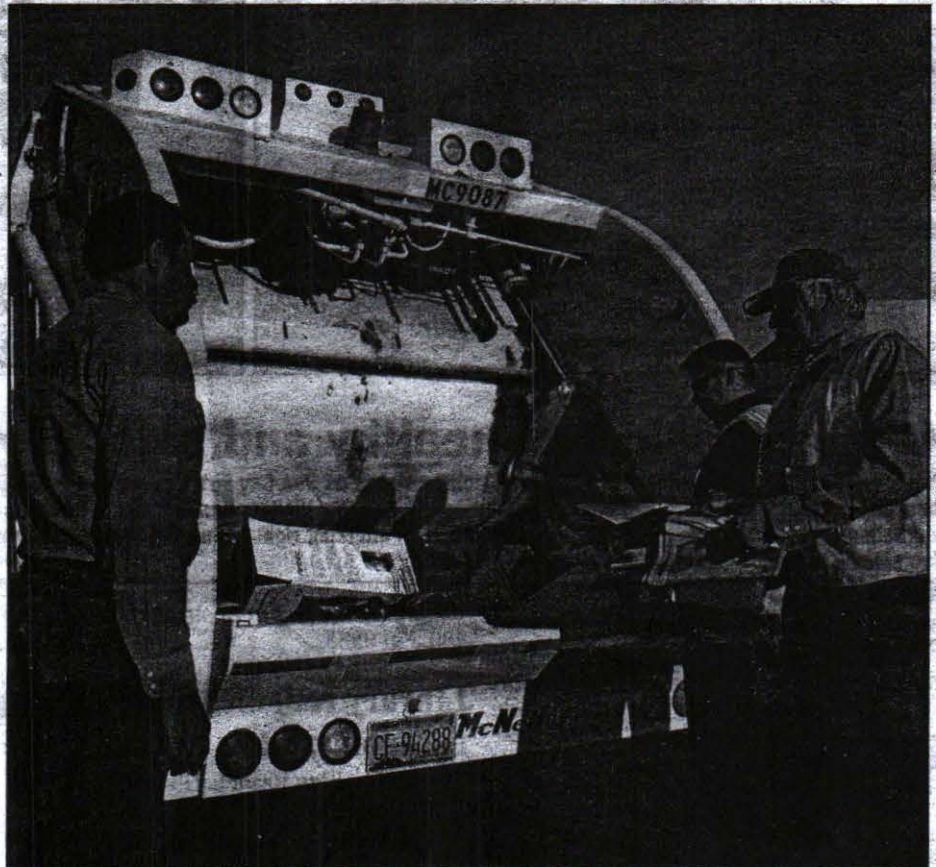
Lions recycling officials believe the Parks and Sons programs will negatively impact their donations, making it difficult to fund programs in Sun City's two Lions clubs — the Host and Pioneer groups.

"We started our program the first week of September and Parks and Sons started a couple weeks after that," said Paul Yopps, Lions recycling coordinator.

The Lions pick up all recyclables except glass three days a week — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday — in Sun City and Sun City West in addition to drop-off points in both communities. Parks and Sons picks up recycling the first and third Wednesdays south of Grand Avenue in Sun City and the second and fourth Wednesday north of Grand Avenue. In Sun City West, Parks and Sons picks up recycling the first and third Wednesdays.

The Lions schedule is the first and third Monday in Sun City's phase one, the first and third Tuesday in phase two and the first and third Thursday in phase three. In Sun City West the Lions' pickups are conducted the second and fourth Monday in section one, the second and fourth Tuesday in section two and the second and fourth Thursday in section three. The Lions do not collect recycling on holidays while Parks and Sons has pickups on some holidays.

The refuse company has done curbside recycling of papers for some time, but expanded its program to also include cans,



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw  
Lions recycling supervisor Cruz Fernandez watches as workers Ricardo Jarimillo and Joaquin Cabrol load some paper into the new truck purchased for the residential recycling routes started in Sun City and Sun City West last month.

### Related Links

[www.lionsrecycling.com](http://www.lionsrecycling.com)

[www.parksandsons.com](http://www.parksandsons.com)

boxes, plastic and glass beginning last month.

"It had been just limited to paper products," said Shawn Parks, of Parks and Sons. "We're not charging the residents any more for this pickup."

In the past, Parks and Sons had given paper it picked up to the Lions, according to Judy Graylin, Lions Recycling spokeswoman. But the company suddenly stopped delivering paper to the organization and said it could bid for the material, she added. But

as the price went up as the market for recyclables changed, it became impractical for the nonprofit organization to continue paying.

"In 2007 we started paying the transport fee, but it kept going up and it got to the point where we could not afford it," she said.

The Lions call their program residential recycling to avoid confusion with Parks and Sons curbside moniker, Ms. Graylin said. Lions officials are also encouraging residents to take their recyclables to the drop-off locations on the northwest corner of Bell Road and Del Webb Boulevard, and the southeast corner of 107th and Peoria avenues in

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# Recycling

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Sun City; and behind the Safeway at R.H. Johnson Boulevard and Camino del Sol in Sun City West.

"A lot of people are doing this anyway," Mr. Yopps said. "For some it is a reason to get out of the house."

The Lions will continue their residential recycling program, but officials are concerned the Parks and Sons program will reduce the amount the Lions receive. The organization sells the recycled material as the major fundraiser for the Host and Pioneer Lions clubs. Mr. Yopps said the Soroptimist and Sun City West Kiwanis also benefit from the Lions' recycling program.

However, Mr. Parks said the company plans to continue to work with charitable organizations in the Sun Cities. He said his business would donate some of the proceeds of the recycling program to local charities.

"There is not a horrible amount of rebate," he said.

Mr. Parks added the industry has taken a hit in the economy.

"Since we announced the program, we have had several charities come forward, and we are always willing to help more," he said.

Mr. Parks has heard concerns from some clubs about their loss of donations.

"That is a concern, but this is being offered as a convenience to residents. If they have the ability to continue to donate their recycling to these organizations, they should continue to do so," he said. "We just need to do what is necessary to provide the service for our customers. We would like to work with some of these organizations."

"Residents don't need any special bins, they just put their recycling out on the opposite side of the driveway from their underground cans, so the drivers won't confuse it with trash," Mr. Parks said. "They can put it out the evening before or early in the morning the day of."

He said the program has been in the expanding process for about 15 months.

"We met with PORA, SCHOA and the Sun City Grand Community Association, and they all expressed interest from their residents," Mr. Parks said. "They felt papers alone were not enough."

He said the company was not ready or capable at the time to expand the program then, but has since taken steps to grow the program.

"In July we rolled it out to our commercial customers," Mr. Parks said. "Then we did it in other areas of the Valley, and the Sun Cities area was our third phase."

The Lions had a loan approved to buy land in Surprise to build a recycling center,

but when the economy went bad the loan fell through. Lions officials then began to look at other options, which included taking plastic and the residential recycling program. They began working on both options last year, including investing in new equipment, Ms. Gravlin said.

"We don't want to be in a fight with Parks and Sons, we are just doing what we can to survive," she said.

While Lions officials are concerned because their drivers are not seeing much put out on their collection days, they believe that is partly because residents are in the habit of putting it out on Wednesdays.

"I've talked to some people who, now that they know about our schedule, will start putting it out on our days," Ms. Gravlin said.

Mr. Yopps also said the reduced amount may also be partially due to fewer winter visitors returning to the community as early as they used to.

"A lot of our snowbirds are not back yet," he said.

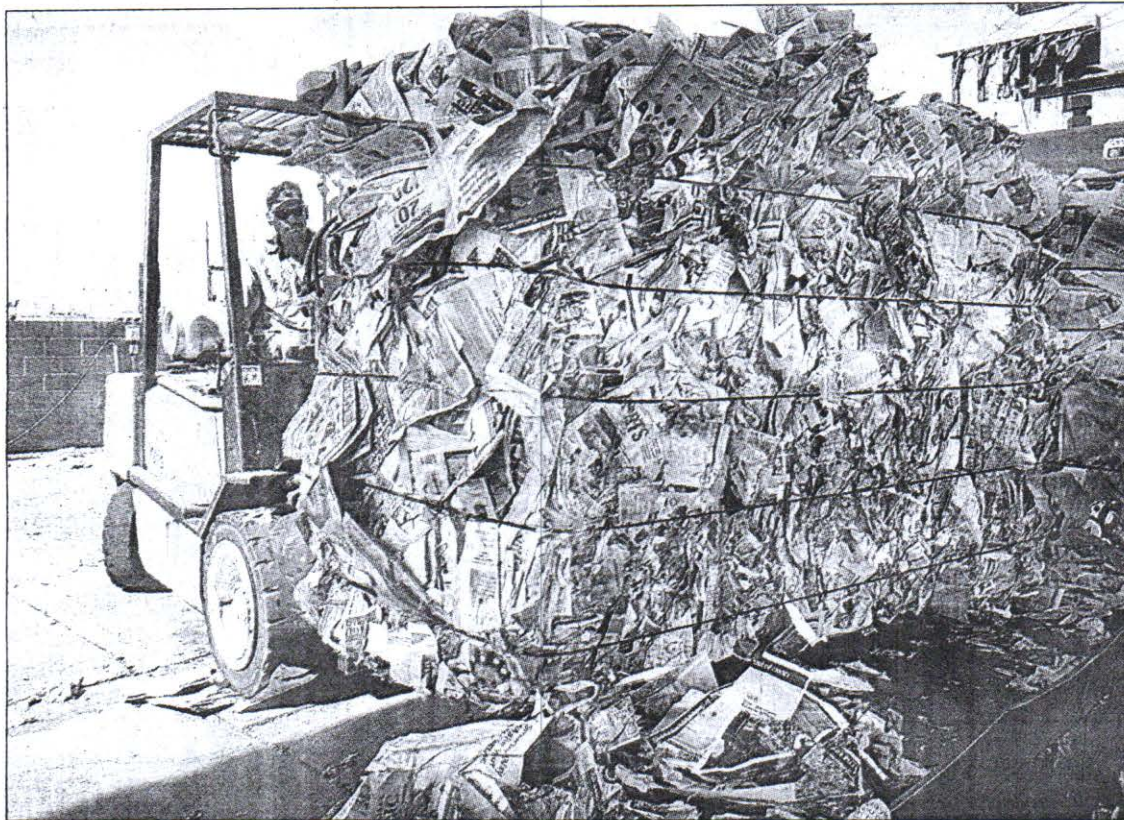
With the increase in Internet shopping, the Lions are also seeing no catalogs dropped off or left for pickup, and magazines and being recycled in fewer numbers.

Ms. Gravlin said the Lions program is suffering from theft at its drop-off locations.

"The price of paper is back up and we're having trouble with people stealing our paper," she said.



# Lions' share



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ramone Hernandez moves the paper bales to a corner of the Lions recycling center in El Mirage, where they will be collected for recycling as home insulation.

## Recycling Sites

All sites accept paper items — newspapers, junk mail and phone books, corrugated cardboard and aluminum cans. Select sites accept glass. No sites accept plastic, hazardous materials, garbage, furniture or appliances. For information, call 972-0936.

- Behind Freed's Consignment at 107th and Peoria avenues, Sun City. Glass accepted.

- Behind the former Sun Foods IGA at 99th Avenue and Greenway Road, Sun City. Glass accepted.

- Behind Safeway at Bell Road and Del Webb Boulevard, Sun City. Glass accepted.

- Behind Safeway at 13503 Camino del Sol, Sun City West. Glass accepted.

- Behind Trader Joe's at 99th Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard.

- At 115th Avenue and Union Hills Drive.

- On the northside of the Northwest Regional Library, 16089 N. Bullard Avenue, Surprise

- Behind Macayo's Mexican Kitchen at Bell Road and Reems Road in Surprise.

# Growth boosts recycling efforts

ANNIE BOON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It's hard to imagine that a stack of papers collecting dust in the corner could help provide glasses for needy children, a house for the homeless or relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

But the Sun City Lions Recycling Association makes

it happen by donating its recycling proceeds to nearly 40 charitable organizations, and it all starts when area residents recycle.

"I want to give away anything we can to help someone else," said Sun Citian Pat Dehne, who dropped off newspapers and old eye glasses during her first trip to the recycling center

Thursday. As community service chair for the Phoenix Emblem Club, a women's Elk Lodge association, Dehne was asked to find a recycling center that benefitted a good cause. She said the Sun City Lions Recycling Association is the perfect spot.

"I didn't want these things sitting around my house," she said. "We try to give back

through recycling. Those who don't are missing the chance to help someone who needs it."

In 1967, the Sun City Host Lions Club began going door-to-door collecting old newspaper to recycle as a club fund-raiser.

The initiative caught on.

See RECYCLING, A5



# RECYCLING:

## Ton of paper saves 17 trees

### From A1

By 1990, several Lions clubs were participating and the local trash hauling company, Parks & Sons, had lent collection resources and space to the Lions. Today, recycling efforts continue to grow to meet increasing demands.

"We're growing all the time," said Paul Yopps, Sun City Lions Recycling Association president. "People are glad to have a place to recycle."

The recycling center, at 11613 N.W. Grand Ave., was ordered by El Mirage city officials to leave its location in 2003 after an application to renew its business license revealed the land was not zoned for recycling. In order to meet the proper zoning requirements, that land would have to be rezoned from commercial to industrial. The Lions has been on the hunt for a new space for its center ever since.

Yopps said the association is in the process of purchasing its new hub, but he declined to give further details as nothing has been finalized. He said he should know by next week if the purchase is successful. The prospective site is about eight miles from its current site.

"We're looking for something bigger now. If we have to move, we'd like to move somewhere with the space we need," Yopps said. "There isn't much land left in the West Valley for industrial (space) and what is left is very expensive. But I think we've lucked out."

When items are donated for recycling, the Sun City Lions Recycling Association, with 11 staff members, weeds through materials, bundles them and sells them to outside companies. Proceeds above operating costs go directly to several Lions charities, including Sun Cities Area Transit, Habitat for Humanity and the Lions Vision Center for the Blind. Drop off donations may also include eye glasses and hearing aids. Last year, about

\$26,000 was donated through the center.

In addition to enabling charitable giving, recycling is an obvious benefit to the environment, Yopps said. For every ton of paper that's recycled, 17 trees are saved, he said. Last year, the center baled 9,000 tons of paper that was sent off for recycling.

The Parks & Sons recycling program was developed to pick up recyclable items from homebound residents in the Sun Cities and Youngtown who couldn't make it to the Lions several public drop off sites. Trucks pick up the items curb-side about twice monthly. The company doesn't charge the Lions nor the residents for the service.

"That's our community service donation to them," said Jerry Parks, general manager of Parks & Sons. "Our program started out as kind of a way to help those who couldn't take it to the bin, but when people found out they started using it more."

Parks said seniors who aren't homebound are encouraged to take their recyclables to public drop off bins where Lions volunteers will weed through deposits before they're taken to the recycling center. When Parks & Son's makes a pick up, it requires additional staff time and money to sift through items and deliver them.

"Lions get more from the drop off site. It's easier, makes them more money and they have places for aluminum cans and glass," Parks said.

Dick Richard of Sun City said he'd like to see more Sun Cities area residents recycling.

"As I take a walk in the morning, some places I was really proud to see were recycling," he said. "We're using a lot of resources, let's recycle some of them. Let's keep the few woods around for our grandkids."

*Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or [aboone@aztrib.com](mailto:aboone@aztrib.com).*



# Lions Clubs of Sun Cities Area Have Donated More Than \$5 Million



## **We Serve**

That's right! Thanks to the support of our fund-raising activities by Sun Cities area residents, we have donated more than \$5 million to charitable causes since Lions became active here in 1960. In 2004-2005, you made it possible for us to set a new one-year record of benefactions for humanitarian causes – more than \$300,000!

As part of the largest international service club association, now active in 192 nations, the 10 Lions Clubs in this area have extended assistance to many forms of vision impairment – eye glasses for needy youngsters, leader dogs, and programs over the world providing vision tests, surgery and glasses so that millions of people can enjoy the gift of sight. The clubs address a broad range of other needs in the community and around the world.

## **Thank You, Sun Cities Area Residents!**

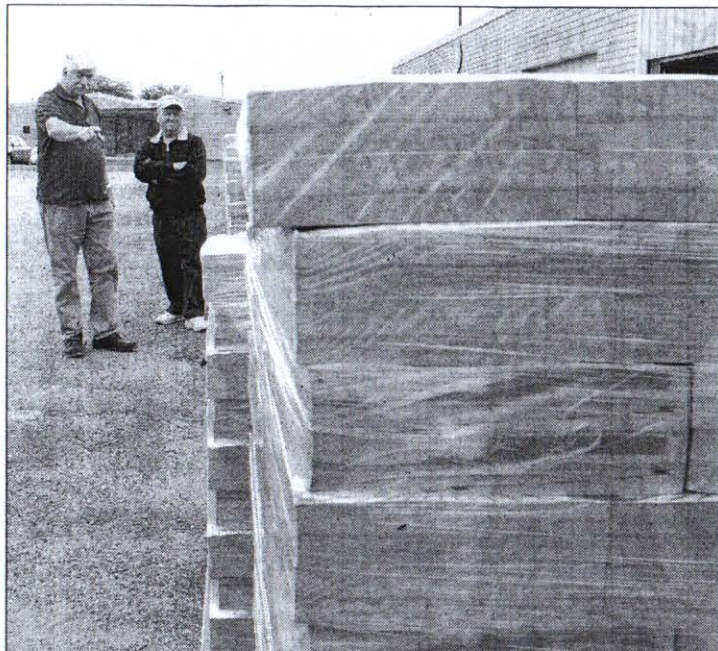
*If you are interested in becoming a part of this humanitarian effort by making a contribution or by becoming a member, call one of these Lions Clubs:*

- Sun City Host Club, Paul Cornell , 583-0024
- Sun City Mid Week, Sue Kirk, 933-7534
- Sun City Early Birds, Don Pritchett, 977-1517
- Sun City Bell, Judy Hart, 974-1946
- Sun City West Pioneers, Wendell Mattson, 546-4492
- Sun City 79ers, Ken Johnson, 974-3526
- Sun City West Sunrise, Ed Lieske, 584-5925
- Surprise/Sun Village, Jerry Parker, 975-0147
- Surprise/Grand, Phyllis Hall, 556-1558



## SPECIAL INTEREST

# Lions clubs use creative methods to raise funds



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

John Bliss, left, and Skip Merfield of the Midweek Lions count phone books at the Sun City Lions' facility on 99th Avenue. The Lions clubs in the Sun Cities will deliver the books over the next few days.

JOY SLAGOWSKI  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities area Lions Clubs have contributed \$300,000 to humanitarian projects and causes for the 2004-05 year, an accomplishment deemed "outstanding" by a representative of the national organization.

Additionally, the clubs have surpassed the \$5 million mark in total donations in the nearly 45 years they have been in this area.

"(This) \$300,000 is an outstanding amount to contribute," said Melitta Cutright, public relations manager at the Lions Club national headquarters. "The Sun City clubs have certainly had an impact on their community through their fund raising and their support."

Alex Post, Lions Club long-time secretary, said that the 10 area Lions Clubs' contributions have exceeded the amount donated for any year since the Lions started clubs in the Sun Cities in 1960.

Jack Hart, former Sun City Lions Club president, and husband of current president, Judy, said that the clubs concentrate on charitable contributions related to vision impairment.

"We donate eyeglasses for needy kids who can't buy them," Hart said. "We give a lot to the Lions vision operation that helps people all over the world, including sending doctors to provide medical help for eye problems."

The clubs contribute by providing seeing eye dogs, as well as providing eye tests and surgery. The club also

participates in recycling used eyeglasses to be distributed in developing countries, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness.

The club also provides food and clothing to victims of natural disasters through its Lions Club International Foundation.

Raising money takes creativity.

The Sun Cities clubs' biggest fund-raisers are the delivery of annual Sun City phone directories and Sun Life magazine. The clubs also raise money from paper recycling, special events and the White Cane fund-raisers, where members set up tables outside local stores and solicit donations.

There are nearly 1.35 million Lions members in 194 countries.



# Despite loss of site, Lions carry on recycling efforts

ANNIE KARSTENS and JESSI TODDEN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As the Sun City Host Lions Recycling Association continues its search for a new recycling center, rumors are circulating that recycling drop-off bins have been closing. The center's board members, however, insist that all recycling efforts and locations are up and running.

Despite its appeal to the El Mirage Common Council in October, the recycling center has been ordered to relocate from the site it has occupied since 1993 at 11613 NW Grand Ave. in El Mirage. All requests to retain zoning privileges or to beautify the existing location have been denied.

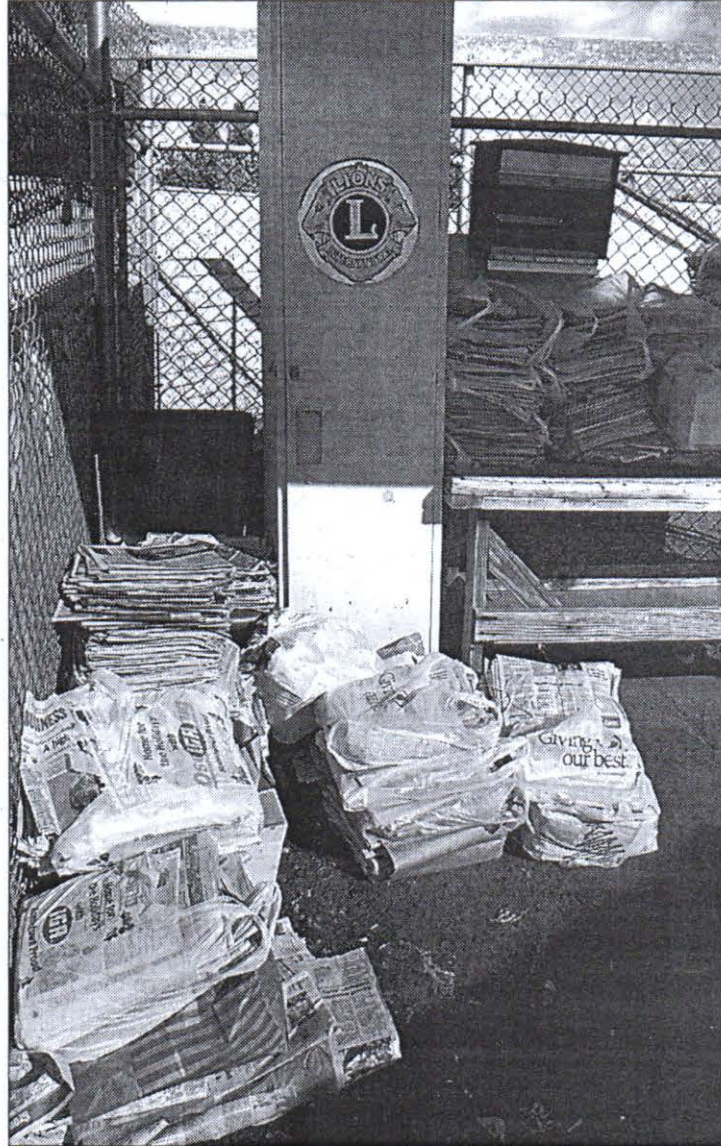
The required move came when the El Mirage Common Council decided against renewing the center's zoning permit because of the nature of the facility.

"They aren't zoned to operate as a commercial facility in this area," said El Mirage Mayor Robert Robles. "The ideal location for them is an industrial location, not a retail or commercial one."

According to Robles, the Host Lions Club has decided not to build a new recycling center in El Mirage, despite the city council's efforts to help them find industrial land.

"We weren't just going to kick them out in the street. We were going to work with them," Robles said. "We just had to go by the books."

Board members of the Lions Recycling Center would not comment on locations under consideration until a decision is made.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Local Lions clubs are still accepting newspapers at their recycling centers, including this one behind Safeway at Del Webb Boulevard and Bell Road.

OVER



Since the public became aware of El Mirage's decision, the center has received several calls from concerned residents asking if recycling bins in the area are closed. Some have even said there are signs on the bins telling people to take their recyclable goods elsewhere.

"It really has us perplexed here," said Judith Gravlin, board member and office manager at the center. "We don't have any idea where that information is coming from."

"The whole operation is working the same way it always has," Gravlin added.

The Lions have coordinated with managers of grocery stores and plazas where the bins are located. According to Gravlin, those managers would not have imposed a closure on the bins, nor do they have any authority when it comes to maintenance. Employees of the recycling center make rounds twice a day to pick up litter and to ensure the upkeep of the areas.

Although the Sun Foods IGA grocery store in Greenway Plaza off 99th Avenue has closed, the recycling bin in the rear of the building is fully functional. There are general signs posted on it that read, "Sorry! We can no longer accept tin cans, glass or plastic" and "Please break down

corrugated boxes," but there are no signs of closure.

Sun City resident Bill Keller has been taking his recyclables to the Greenway Plaza location for 12 years and appreciates what the Lions Club has done for the community. He said he is aware of the relocation process, but never thought the recycling site he had come to rely on had closed.

"It's a very handy place to get rid of stuff and we have so much paper these days, like phone books and cardboard boxes," Keller said, noting that recycling has become a necessity to residents.

Paul Yopps, board president for the recycling center, said he has encountered residents who stop him and question the status of the recycling sites, telling him they have seen closure signs.

His reply to them is: "Our bins are open. We have no intention of closing them." Yopps added, "People may figure that since we're moving, we're closing, which we are not."

Recycling bins will remain open throughout the move due to the Lions' ability to store recyclable goods, he said.

The Sun City Host Lions Club started the project as its major fund-raiser and has since donated millions of dollars to charities such as Leader Dogs for the Blind, Lions International Foundation, Lions Vision Center Inc., Lions Quest Student Drug

Program, Sun Cities Area Transit, Arizona Center for the Blind, Mingus Mountain Estate Residential Center Inc., Habitat for Humanity, Make a Wish Foundation, Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center and Volunteers for Hospice.

All proceeds from the center are donated to local charities and organizations.

Collection points for cardboard are the same as for newspapers, magazines and junk mail. Glass, tin and plastic are not accepted. The local collection sites are:

- Behind Freed's at 107th and Peoria avenues, Sun City.

- Behind the former Sun Foods IGA at 99th Avenue and Greenway Road, Sun City.

- Behind Safeway at Bell Road and Del Webb Boulevard, Sun City.

- Behind Safeway at 13503 Camino del Sol, Sun City West.

Individuals who drop off cardboard at any of those locations are asked to break down boxes so they lay flat. Merchants and individuals who have large accumulations of boxes may call the Sun City Lions Club's hot line at 972-0936 for pick-up service.



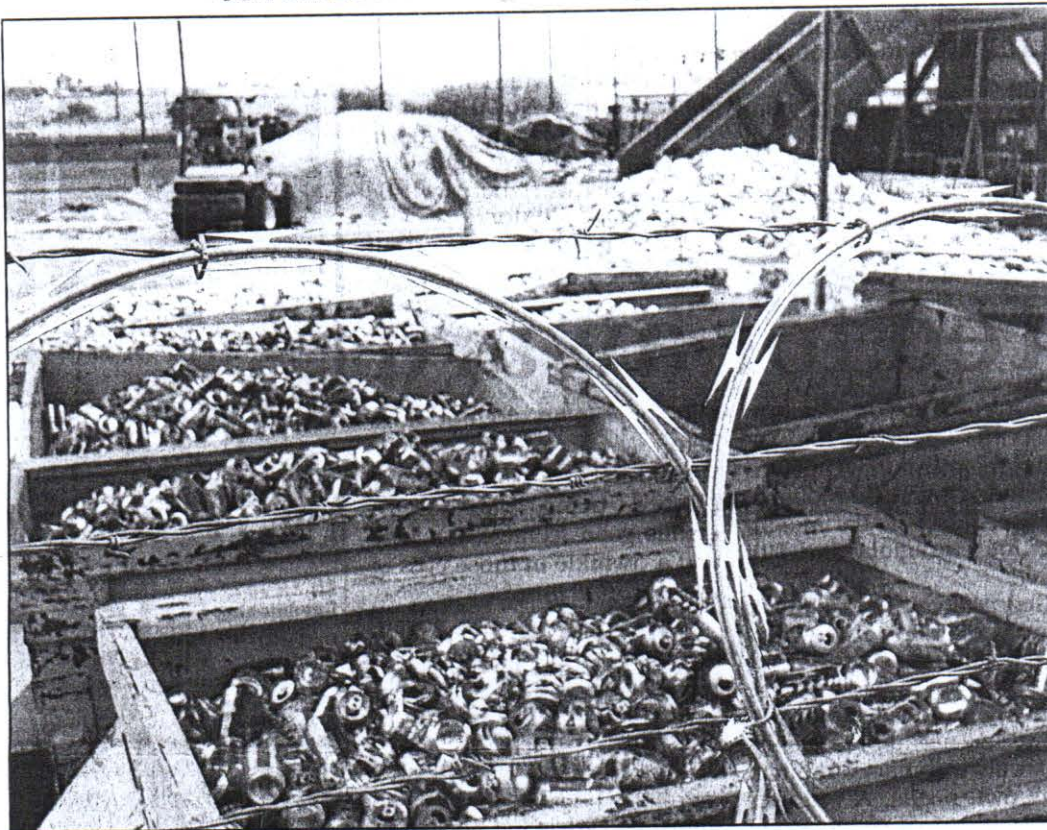


Photo by Matt Loeschman/Independent Newspapers

The Sun City Host Lions Recycling Center yard, 11613 N.W. Grand Ave., is void of activity Oct. 31, serving as a harbinger of things to come. The Lions must vacate the premises following a decision of the El Mirage City Council.

# LIONS MUST LEAVE

## El Mirage Council denies rezoning

By Matt Loeschman  
Independent Newspapers

An overflow crowd of 100 Lions Club supporters could not sway the El Mirage City Council last week.

The council voted 5-1 to deny rezoning of property where the Sun City Host Lions Club Recycling Center has operated for the past decade, meaning the group must vacate the premises and seek new headquarters.

"Unfortunately, there was not much discussion in the meeting about the issue," Sun City Lions Recycling Association President Paul Yopps said. "It's tough to accept. It's like the decision had already been made. They weren't listening tonight."

The vote became necessary when last summer it was discovered the site was

improperly zoned.

Council members Michele Kern, Norma Valdez, Alice Ortiz and Bruce Baker along with Mayor Robert Robles voted to deny the rezoning. Councilman Almond Cutright Jr. voted against the denial.

"There has to be another way to do this," Councilman Cutright said to a standing ovation. "The Lions do so much good for this community."

Councilwoman Tensi Reed was not present at the meeting.

The decision could doom the recycling association. Finding new headquarters will cost at least \$300,000, Mr. Yopps said, money the non-profit group does not have.

"If we do survive, we will have to quit giving to many charities we have previously supported," Mr. Yopps

explained. "This definitely hurts."

El Mirage city officials have called the site an "eyesore" at the gateway to their community. Seeking to expand and attract new businesses, El Mirage planning and zoning commissioners recently recommended the land not be rezoned. It is currently zoned for general business instead of light industry, as El Mirage now considers the recycling center.

El Mirage's new general plan also calls for retail development along the southern frontage of Grand Avenue. The city also recently rescinded an offer to sell a parcel of land to the Lions at El Mirage Road and Peoria Avenue, claiming they need the land for possible expan-

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OVER



# Lions

Continued From Page 1

sion of a water treatment facility.

Lions members and community members pleaded with the council to rezone the property, allowing the recycling center to stay on site.

"But this is what we have planning and zoning commissioners for," Councilman Baker argued. "They are experts on this."

The recycling center currently occupies 1.5 acres of land owned by the center's neighbor, Parks & Sons.

Jerry Parks of Parks & Sons spoke first before the council.

"The work that the Lions do for the children and charities of this community is overwhelming," Mr. Parks said. "I feel it would be a travesty to shut them down."

The center has 11 employees who could lose their jobs should the association fold. Six of those employees are El Mirage residents.

John Aragon of El Mirage told council they were mistaken on their residents' view of the recycling center.

"You stated the majority of

El Mirage is not in favor of the Lions Club," Mr. Aragon said. "Nobody talked to me about it. It's just not true."

"What difference is this rezoning going to make in the long run?" he asked. "Please, just think carefully about what you are doing."

Surprise resident Judith Gravlin, the recycling center's office manager the past seven years, asked the council to think about the employees who would likely lose their jobs.

"More than half of our dedicated staff live in this very city," she said. "Are you prepared to make this decision?"

Jay MacKinlay presented the council with a previous planning and zoning decision recommending the rezoning.

"What happened in the past two months? Why was this decision reversed?" Mr. MacKinlay asked.

Mr. Yopps told council members his group would do everything in its power to beautify the site. He spoke of raising the surrounding walls and adding other screening and landscaping.

"Just tell us what we need to do," he pleaded. "We are willing to do whatever it takes."

Sydney Parks also spoke in favor of the Lions while Jeffrey Cohn, attorney for Parks & Sons, vehemently addressed the El Mirage council.

"We strongly support the efforts of the Lions," Mr. Cohn said. "And we are worried about the people that may lose their jobs. This may be a joke to some of you, but it is no joke to them. How will they pay their rent or buy groceries?"

"If this was your family, would you make the same choice?" Mr. Cohn asked. "If you kick this business out, that property may sit undeveloped for who knows how long."

Mr. Cohn warned the council the site could sit dormant for many years. He used the Los Arcos project in the East Valley as an example.

"Is this the legacy this city council wants to leave?" Mr. Cohn added. "Think about it. Don't commit this travesty."

The council offered no explanation for their decision, simply voting by a show of hands to the displeasure of the crowd packed into the El Mirage Senior Center. Some residents were earlier turned away at the door due to fire

code restrictions.

Following the vote, the majority of the crowd quickly left the building, dropping their picket signs in disgust.

About 50 residents also picketed outside the senior center 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

Mr. Yopps looked stunned as he departed the senior center. He said his group will continue to work with El Mirage officials to try to find a new headquarters in the city. One proposed location is in the city's new industrial park.

"The next step is to determine if we can stay," Mr. Yopps said. "We are looking at more \$300,000 to relocate. All the land around here is expensive and the charities we support may not see as much money from us."

Since the center opened in 1993, it has contributed more than \$4 million to local charities and organizations. The recycling association is supported by the Surprise Grand Lions Club, Surprise Sun Village Lions Club, Sun City Host Lions Club, Sun City West Pioneer Lions Club and the Sun City West Sunrise Lions Club.

City officials have no determined when the Lion

need to vacate the land.

"That hasn't been discussed yet," El Mirage Senior Planner Mark Smith said Oct. 31.

Regardless, Mr. Yopps cannot help but wonder whether the association may have accepted its last aluminum can.

"This is very frustrating," he said. "It sort of came about all of the sudden. We've just been there so long and now we have to leave. It won't be easy."



# It's official: Lions center must move

## El Mirage council rejects rezoning

JESSI TODDEN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

About 100 people, from Boy Scouts to trash haulers, failed Thursday night to convince the El Mirage City Council to allow a Lions Club recycling center to continue operating along Grand Avenue.

The 5-1 vote affirmed a Planning and Zoning Commission decision to maintain the commercial zoning designation for the land at 11613 N.W. Grand Ave. rather than change it to industrial. Almond Cutright Jr. was the only dissenting vote; Tensi Reed was absent.

Lions Club members, Parks and Sons waste management employees and Boy

Scouts, who receive money from the center, carried placards that read, "It's not fair to Lions," and "El Mirage Schools Love Lions Recycling."

Four El Mirage police officers were asked to attend the meeting for added security.

Council member heard testimony from representatives for Parks and Sons, which owns the land on which the recycling center operates, the Sun City Host Lions Club and residents.

"We're hoping you'll see fit to rezone that property," said Jerry Parks, "They're here to serve the community, serve the children."

Judith Gravlin, recycling center office manager, made a plea to the council for the charities the center helps. Paul Yopps, president of the board of directors for the recycling center, told the board the Lions would be willing to beautify the center. Attorney for the Sun City Lions Club, Jay McGinley, accused the

council of not wanting to work with the club.

"You've all enjoyed the benefits of recycling," said Jeffrey Cohn, attorney for Parks and Sons. "You kick this business out that property may sit (fallow) for years. You allow this property to sit foul it may sit there for the next generation to clean up. Is that the legacy this city council wants?"

Councilman Bruce Baker said he voted against rezoning the property from commercial to industrial based on the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

"We've set up boards and if we don't listen to the wise counsel that we put there to give us that counsel then why have them," Baker said. "This had nothing to do with emotional issues. That was not the issue before us. The issue was was it correctly zoned."

The city intends to continue to work with the recycling center to help them find a new

home in El Mirage, said Mayor Robert Robles, who maintains his vote was best for the city.

"We're here to help them," he said. "But for so long the city has been a dumping ground for everyone. Them days are over. We're not in that ball game anymore."

The Lions Club will ask the city for a six-month extension in order to look for a new home, Yopps said.

"If we buy land tomorrow, it will probably take us 60 to 90 days to move," he said.

Yopps said the club will try to work with the city and will look into industrial property in El Mirage, but members plan to look in Surprise as well.

El Mirage resident Tania Anderson said she was on the fence about the issue but has since aligned herself with the council.

"I don't like driving by there and seeing things flying around there," she said. "It had to start somewhere and with someone."



DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, OCT. 30, 2003

# El Mirage pulls land from club

## Host Lions seeks extension for recycling center

**JESSI TODDEN**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

El Mirage has rescinded its offer to sell a parcel of land to the Sun City Host Lions Club Recycling Center.

There was no formal agreement to sell the land next to the city's water-treatment facility at El Mirage Road and Peoria Avenue, but the Sun City Lions Club had begun due diligence on the property.

City Manager B.J. Cornwall said the city took back its offer because of future growth would force an expansion of the water-treatment facility.

"When you run a city, you have to look to the future — maintain some things for the future," he said.

The Host Lions Club will request a six-month extension from the El Mirage Common Council to allow it to maintain the recycling center at its current site, 11613 N.W. Grand Ave., said Paul Yopps, president of the center's board of directors. The council is scheduled to vote whether to change the city's current zoning from commercial business to industrial during a special meeting tonight.

Earlier this summer, it was discovered during a routine business-license renewal application that the site is improperly zoned. The El Mirage Planning and Zoning Commission declined to change the zoning. The recycling center made an appeal to the council. If the council votes against modifying the zoning, the recycling center will have to leave.

If the Host Lions Club is granted a continuance, center officials plan to search for a new home, Yopps said. The city has suggested land in the industrial park, which is already zoned for that type of business, Cornwall said.

"It's the perfect location. We'd be happy cause they're still in business and still in business in the city of El Mirage," he said.

Yopps said club officials have met with a Realtor about purchasing property in the El Mirage industrial park. Owners want \$139,000 and acre.

"If that's what land is running for, then that's way out of our league," Yopps said. "If we can't find anything, then we're out of business."

Center officials are encouraging residents to attend the public hearing at the El Mirage Senior Center tonight starting at 6. The public will have the opportunity to address the council.



# Lions plot future

## El Mirage offers to sell land for recycling center

JESSI TODDEN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

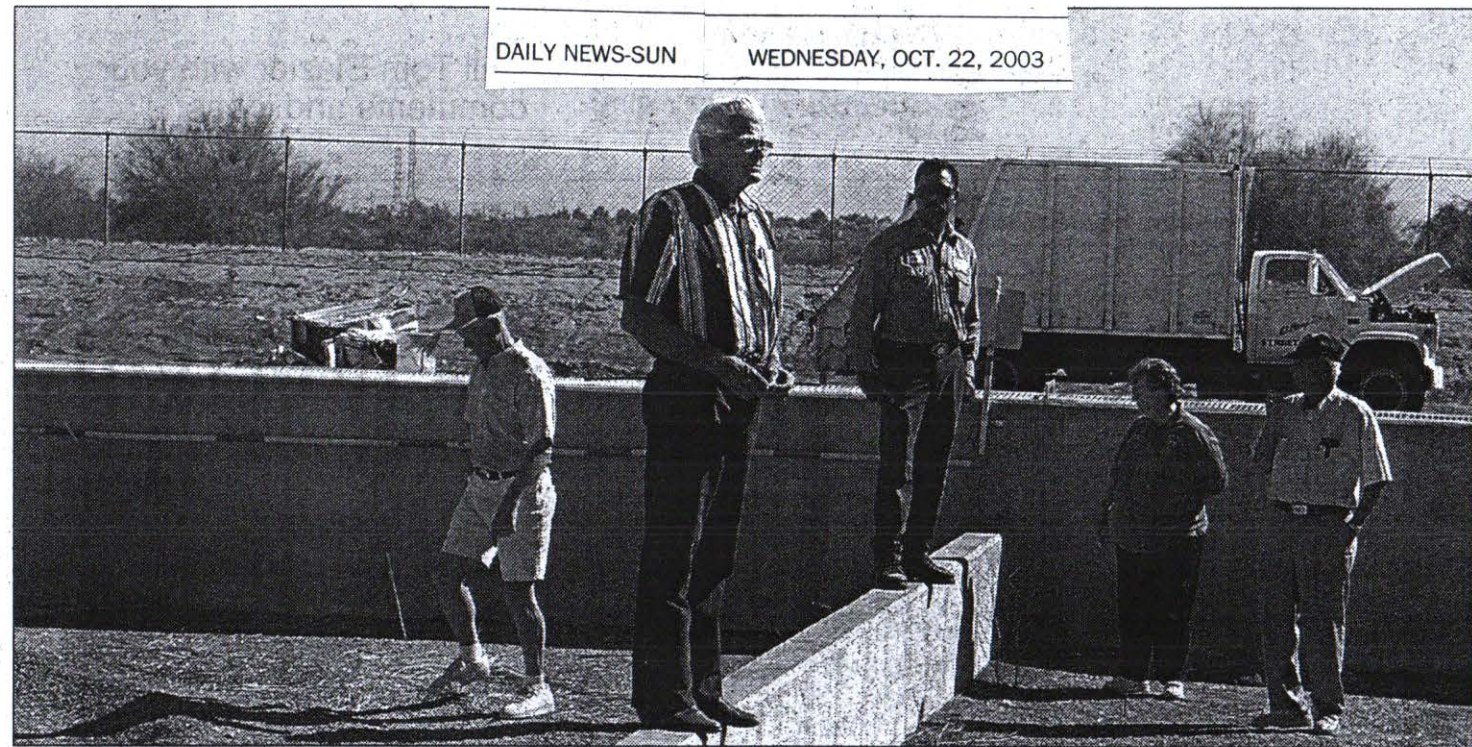
The Sun City Lions Club is considering an El Mirage Council proposal to relocate its recycling yard to an industrial area at El Mirage Road and Peoria Avenue.

The proposal has delayed until Oct. 30 a decision on the club's rezoning request for the recycling operation, which is at Thunderbird and Grand Avenue.

Judith Gravelin, the manager of the recycling center, said a price tag hasn't been attached to the deal. Paul Yopps, president of the recycling center's board of directors, said the Lions Club is doing its due diligence on the property next to the city's wastewater-treatment plant to see if it is worth purchasing.

The recycling center, which processes material from the Sun Cities as well as portions of Surprise and El Mirage, is in a site zoned for commercial business, but not for industrial use. The El Mirage Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously in the summer against recommending that the Common Council rezone the land.

After surveying the proposed property, the Lions Club Recycling Center board of directors agreed to purchase the land, depending on the overall costs and if the property is cleared, which the



DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22, 2003

JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul Yopps, front, president, and other members of the recycling center board of directors, survey property being offered for sale by El Mirage for the relocation of the center.

## LIONS: City offers land for center's relocation

From A1

city has agreed to do, Yopps said.

The estimated cost to move the scale, baller and canopy to the new site and construction of a concrete slab for the equipment is \$110,000. Yopps said the total estimated cost, which includes an office, sewer, electric and water hookups, is more than \$200,000.

He said the center doesn't have enough money and may

have to get a loan.

The moving costs do not include the price of the land. The city hasn't settled on a cost for the property, said B.J. Cornwall, El Mirage city manager.

"We need to know some costs," he said.

Cornwall said the city needs to level the property, install a gate and give the road an entrance and exit.

"Hopefully really soon we're going to get some answers," he said. "We're

hoping to have a meeting prior to the 30th."

The Sun City Host Lions Club started the recycling center as its major fundraiser, and since has injected millions of dollars into charities such as Leader Dogs for the Blind, Lions International Foundation, Lions Vision Center Inc., Lions Quest Student Drug Program and Habitat for Humanity.

The center is facing closure because its site does not meet El Mirage zoning

requirements.

The center, which has 11 full- and part-time employees, occupies three lots owned by local refuse collection company Parks & Sons. The company allows the center to operate lease-free. The center owns a fourth lot adjacent to the property on which its business office operates. That lot is not at issue.

A recent project made possible through the recycling center is a collaborative effort with Dysart schools to recycle paper.



# UNRECYCLABLE?

## Lions recycling center faces ouster

By Tom Barry  
Independent Newspapers

From the Dysart Unified School District and the Surprise-Little League to a vision center in Youngtown and programs that benefit at-risk youths in El Mirage, local Lions Clubs members have long shown their generosity to West Valley communities.

Unbeknownst to many, however, a significant portion of the funds the Lions have raised were generated by a non-profit recycling center located in El Mirage. Since the center opened in 1993, it has donated more than \$4 million to local charities and organizations.

But the Sun City Lions Recycling Center, located on a frontage road at 11613 NW Grand Ave., was dealt a blow last week. It may soon have to vacate the premises it has occupied for a decade.

El Mirage city officials now consider the modest 1-1/2-acre facility an unwelcome "eyesore" at the gateway to their community, filled with mountains of newspapers,

telephone books and aluminum cans destined to be recycled.

Claiming it does not conform to the local zoning ordinance, the El Mirage Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously voted to recommend denial of the center's application to renew its business license.

"We were floored by the decision. After all, we'd been there for 10 years and they've never said anything until now," said Paul Yopps, president of the Sun City Lions Recycling Association.

The association is supported by the Surprise Grand Lions Club, Surprise Sun Village Lions Club, Sun City Host Lions Club, Sun City West Pioneer Lions Club and the Sun City West Sunrise Lions Club.

The property is owned by the center's neighbor Parks & Sons, a refuse hauling company that has permitted the association to use the land since 1993.

But the area is zoned for general business as opposed to light industrial, as the city

now says the recycling operation is considered.

Mr. Yopps estimates the cost to relocate at a minimum of \$300,000, which the association lacks and is hard-pressed to immediately raise.

"That wouldn't even include the cost to purchase another site," he said.

Asked why El Mirage routinely renewed the center's business license for the past decade, Mark Smith, El Mirage senior planner, explained, "Until recently, we really didn't have a planning staff to review zoning compliance citywide."

Further, Mr. Smith said El Mirage's new general plan calls for retail and commercial development along the southern frontage of that portion of Grand Avenue.

"It's considered the gateway to El Mirage from the eastern approach, and the mayor and council envision redevelopment of that area in conformance with the general plan," he said.

Since the recycling center's plight came to public light,

See **Recycle** — Page 5



Photo by Tom Barry/Independent Newspapers  
A forklift operator loads newspapers onto the conveyor belt of a baling machine at the Sun City Host Lions Recycling Center at 11613 NW Grand Ave. El Mirage city officials said the 10-year-old facility does not conform to local zoning and must vacate the premises.

OVER



# Recycle

Continued From Page 1

Mr. Smith acknowledged the city has fielded numerous calls from concerned individuals.

Mr. Hopps will appeal the commission's recommendation Oct. 14 before the El Mirage Common Council, which will be the final arbiter on the issue.

Despite the Planning and Zoning's ruling, he remains optimistic the council will consider all possible alternatives, including raising the center's 7-foot perimeter wall to 10 feet, screening and landscaping, and erecting enclosures for the recycling operations.

"The worst thing that could

happen is we'd have to shut down, which would seriously impact the Lions' fund-raising efforts throughout the West Valley," Mr. Hopps said.

"We're willing to bend over backwards and work with the city to satisfy their concerns," he added.

## If you go

**What:** El Mirage Common Council to decide on appeal by Sun City Host Lions Recycling Center to keep the facility open

**When:** 6 p.m. Oct. 14

**Where:** El Mirage Senior Center, 14010 N. El Mirage Road

**Info.:** 933-0235

But Mr. Smith said, "I sense the mayor and council share similar opinions as those of the Planning and Zoning commissioners."

Nonetheless, he said El Mirage officials are willing to assist the Sun City Lions Recycling Association find a more suitable alternative site for the recycling center. Approximately 50 percent of El Mirage is zoned for industrial or commercial use, he noted.

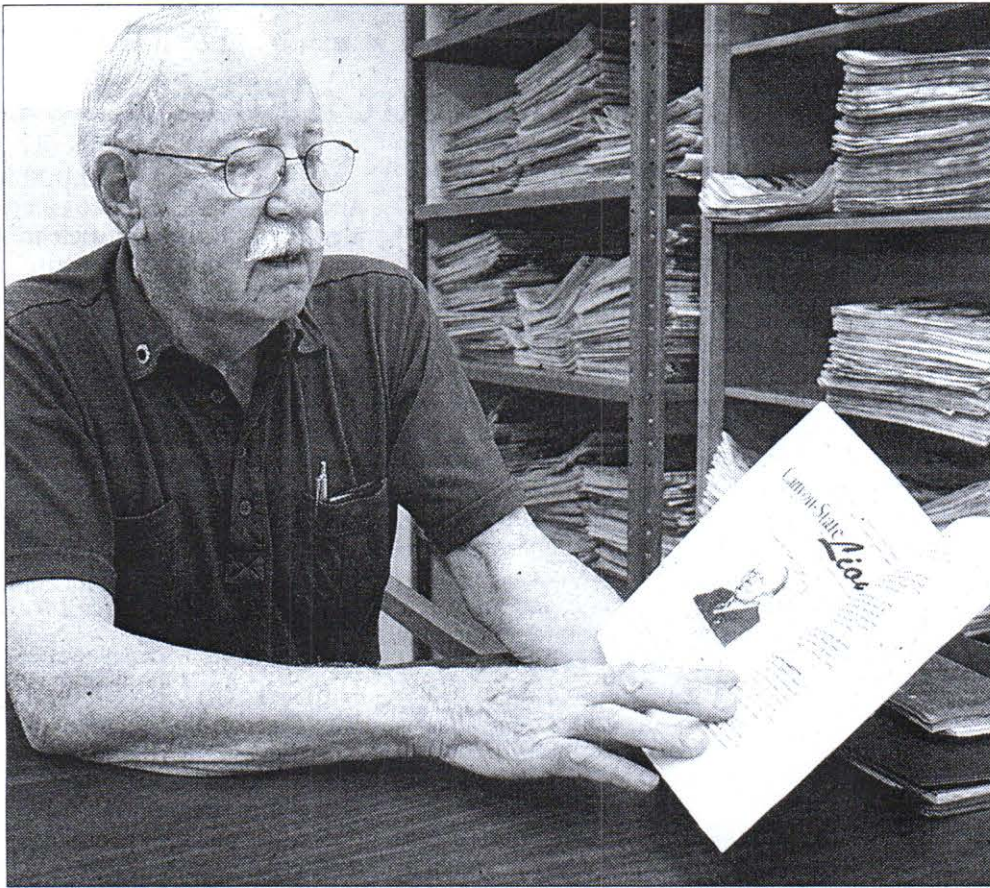
"We appreciate the good works the Lions have done over the years and we're willing to assist them in finding a new home if necessary," said Mr. Smith.



Photo by Tom Barry/Independent Newspapers

**Standing amidst a huge mountain of phone books, Paul Yopps, president of the Sun City Host Lions Recycling Center board, ponders the facility's future. Supported by West Valley Lions Clubs, the non-profit center has generated more than \$4 million for local charities and programs over the past decade.**





STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN



Jim Bailey of Sun City, left, spent five years researching the history of Lions Clubs in Arizona before writing, "We Serve in Dry Heat," above. Bailey has been involved in Lions Clubs for more than 50 years.

# Arizona origins roar to life

## Sun City Lion chronicles club history in state

**ERIN REEP**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Bailey has been part of Lions Clubs for more than 50 years and has served as district governor for Arizona Lions Clubs.

As an Arizona Lion, Bailey felt something was missing — a book recording the history of Lions Clubs in Arizona.

"There didn't seem to be a definitive history of how Lions Clubs started in Arizona, including the story of how Lions Clubs International was actually started by a native of Arizona," he said. "We've had sketches of district governors in the past. But something was missing."

Bailey spent five years researching — conducting interviews, reading, traveling throughout the state and gathering information — to write "We Serve in Dry Heat." The

book was published this year by Trafford Publishing in Canada.

"We Serve in Dry Heat" recalls the history of Melvin Jones, founder, and past district governors of Arizona.

Jones was born at Ft. Thomas in 1879. He studied business and law, and became a successful insurance salesman in Chicago while in his 20s and 30s. Yet Jones wasn't satisfied with his success in the business world.

"He said, 'Something's missing here,'" Bailey explained. "We're not doing anything for the community."

Jones gathered area businessmen and helped form Lions Clubs International.

Bailey said he hoped to highlight the servanthip and dedication of Arizona Lions.

"We Serve in Dry Heat" traces the historical development of Arizona Lions Clubs beginning in 1923 — covering Lions who were elected to district and international offices, humanitarian projects, programs of local Lions Clubs as they included women and children, and the influence of Helen Keller, which led the organization to begin aiding people

with vision impairment worldwide.

Dick Bryan of Sun City West, a past international president, and Dave Roberts of Sun City, director of the International Association of Lions Clubs and representative at the 85th international convention in Osaka, Japan, are two local Lions featured in the book.

Bailey has a background in printing, broadcasting, writing and public relations. Before moving to Arizona, he was a broadcast journalist in Wisconsin and Minnesota, owned a Minnesota public-relations agency and was public-relations officer for a Wisconsin college and vocational district.

"We Serve in Dry Heat" can be purchased for a \$20 donation; 30 percent of the proceeds help fund the Lions Clubs Camp Tatiyee, a summer camp for physically challenged adults and children in Lakeside.

To order, call Jim Bailey at 933-3130 or Trafford Publications at 1-888-232-4444, or order from Trafford's online bookstore at [www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com).

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or [ereep@aztrib.com](mailto:ereep@aztrib.com).



# Lions lead crusade against darkness

Knights.

In your mind's eye, you may already see the steel-armored warriors with drawn lances. You may even hear their charging horses bearing down on the chilling, metallic masks of adversaries.

Knights.

Their purpose was a worthy one and still is today. The quests for honor, justice and compassion are admirable ones. To advance the cause of that which is right is the essence of knighthood.

Though suits of armor have long since passed, pursuits of virtue live on. They live on in a special legion of knights who were called upon on this very date 78 years ago to join a "crusade against darkness."

It was during the Lions International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, on June 30, 1925, that Helen Keller issued a challenge.

"I appeal to you, Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"



**Rich  
Kenney Jr.**



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lori Kirsop uses a magnifying glass to read the words in the book she is brailleing into her computer. The Youngtown woman is a volunteer brailist for the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix.

The Lions accepted the challenge made by Keller, a blind and deaf woman who became a renowned author and lecturer, and made sight conservation their major goal. Today, the International Association of Lions Clubs is the largest service organization in the world with approximately 1½ million members in more than 43,000 clubs.

Sun City resident Jim Bailey, who is 80, has been a Lion since 1952 when he joined the group in Menomonie, Wis.

"I've always been proud of our motto, 'We Serve,'" he said, "because we really do. We serve and we serve well."

A member of the Sun City Mid-Week Lions Club, Jim has written a book on Arizona Lionism, titled "We Serve in Dry Heat." The book's name is indicative of Lions members' commitment to their cause as they provide humanitarian service in the heat of Arizona summers, serving others despite excessive temperatures in the triple-digit range.

The book covers several major projects supported by the Lions of Arizona. One is the "Sight and Hearing Foundation," which was established to

**See LIONS, A5**

OVER

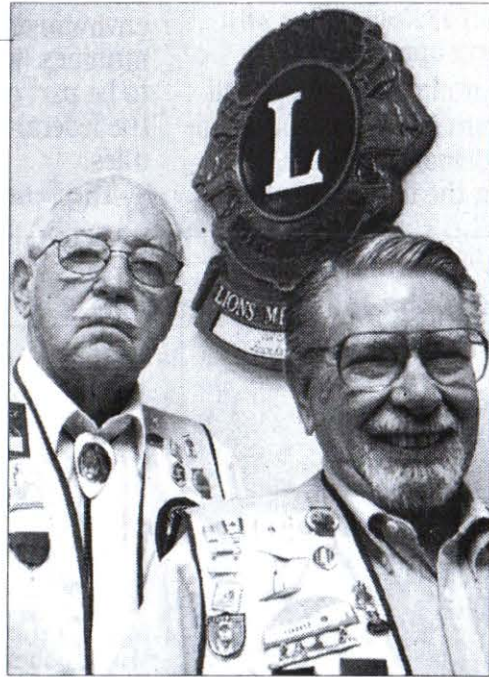


## From A1

restore vision and hearing of financially disadvantaged persons. Services include exams, treatment, cataract surgery and hearing aids. Another project is the "Lions Vision Center" which is a full-service optical center that provides eyeglass exams and eyeglasses for individuals.

Alex Post, 87, secretary-treasurer of the Sun Cities Lions Foundation, is another loyal Lion. The foundation was established in 1962 to be the information office and coordinating bureau for the Arizona Lions Clubs.

A member since 1981, Alex, who hails from Philadelphia, talked about his first experience with a Lions Club. "I was a guest at a Sun City Lion's luncheon. Of course, I had heard about the Lions but didn't know much about them. During the lunch, I remember how the president had asked for six volunteers for a project they were



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

considering. Well, every hand in the room went up! I was so deeply impressed that I became a Lion that very day."

Like Jim, Alex is proud of the club's motto and especially proud of how the Lion's

serve students in area schools.

"The gratification comes when you know of a particular case where we've helped a child with a severe vision impairment who needed

Jim Bailey, left, and Alex Post, both of Sun City, are among the millions of Lions worldwide who ascribe to the "We Serve" motto. Bailey has written a book on Arizona Lionism, titled "We Serve in Dry Heat."

surgery," he said. "Then, several months later, after having gone through surgery, he's invited to one of our cabinet meetings or conventions, and the kid gets up to the podium and he picks up a newspaper and reads an article out of the newspaper. Now, that is gratification!"

Although she is not a Lion, Lori Kirsop is another essential Knight of the Blind. She is a volunteer brailist for the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix. She has retinitis pigmentosa, an eye disease that affects her night vision.

"I cannot see in the dark," the 33-year-old, Youngtown resident told me. "I've lost the vision in my right eye and have tunnel vision in my left eye. I became a brailist so

that I could braille books to help visually impaired people learn to read. Braille is the love of my life."

Lori, who has a master's degree from ASU in German literature, takes classes online from Rio Salado College and plans to obtain her master's degree in vision impairment to teach visually impaired students.

"It is satisfying to me to be able to help those who need to learn to read braille," she said. "Every child needs to learn to read. I feel that I am giving freedom to visually impaired people by translating English into braille. For me, it's the sheer joy of helping others to learn to read so they can make something of themselves. This is my life's work and I love it."

It was Helen Keller's greatest purpose in life "to one day see enough braille presses, libraries, schools, training centers and teachers to assure all persons the opportunities they would have had, had they not been blind."

Jim, Alex and Lori are helping to bring about such opportunities to blind and visually impaired individuals. They are the heroic champions of Helen Keller's call to action so many years ago.

They are knights. Knights of the Blind.

*If you have a column idea, e-mail Rich at Rhkenneyjr@aol.com or write him at the Daily News-Sun, 10102 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351.*



October 23, 2002

## ■ A Name to Know

The next two years should be busy ones for **David I. Roberts.**

The Arrowhead Ranch resident and Sun City Mid-Week Lions Club member was



recently elected to a two-year term as a director on the International Association of Lions Clubs Board of Directors.

With 35 directors and four officers, the board oversees the international activities of 1.4 million Lions Club members. There are only seven directors from North America.

As part of his duties for the international service club's oversight board, Mr. Roberts will attend numerous meetings, expos and other functions throughout the United States and the world.

Although his travel schedule includes trips for 35 weekends over the next year, Mr. Roberts is excited about his new position.

"It's a humbling experience to be elected," Mr. Roberts said. "You try for the position and you think you can do it. Then you get elected and you realize how much of an honor and how much work it's going to be."

Mr. Roberts first joined the Lions Club in 1977, while living in Flagstaff. He has been a member of the Sun City Mid-Week Lions since 1988.

In past years, Mr. Roberts has served as president of the Mid-Week Lions Club, the Sun Cities Lions Foundation and the Lions Foundation of Arizona.

Additionally, Mr. Roberts has worked in Sun City for Merrill Lynch for the last 20 years.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2002

# Sun City man named Lions Club director

**David Roberts**, of Sun City, was elected to a two-year term as a director of the International Association of Lions Clubs at the group's international convention held in Osaka, Japan.

Roberts has been a member of the Sun City Mid-Week Lions Club since 1988 and has held many offices. He has also served as president of the Lions Foundation of Arizona and Sun Cities Lions Foundation.

In his new post, he will oversee the Lion's SightFirst program, a \$143.5 million effort to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness.





STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ed Roberts, left, of Scottsdale, congratulates his father, David Roberts of Wickenburg, during a roast at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West to celebrate David's election to the Lions International board of directors.

## Sun City Lion named to international board

STAFF REPORT

David L. Roberts, member of the Sun City Mid-Week Lions Club, was honored during a dinner Thursday at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West. Roberts was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the 1.4 million member International Association of Lions Clubs.

He is the second Sun City club member and eighth Arizonan since 1946 to earn the honor. Tom Clewes of Sun City was elected in 1974.

Roberts is a past president of the Mid-Week Lions and recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest award given by the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

He joined the Lions in 1977 in Flagstaff and has served as district governor and council chairman of the

Governors of Multiple District 21. He is a progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received two International President's awards, four District Governor awards and is a sponsoring Key Member.

Roberts has served as president of the Arizona Lions Foundation, president of the Sun Cities Lions Foundation and Sun Cities Council of Service Clubs and was youth outreach chairman for District 21.

Other honors include outstanding service for the Flagstaff club and Boy Scout district awards of merit and a Silver Beaver Award.

Roberts and his wife, Anna — also a Melvin Jones Fellow — operate a family financial-planning business within the framework of Merrill Lynch & Co. in Sun City.

They have two married sons and four grandchildren.



# REACHING OUT to working seniors

## LEGION, LIONS: Groups adjust to draw from growing pool of new residents

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As retirees age and pass away, veterans and service organizations alike in recent years have experienced a drop in membership — especially in the Sun Cities, as original residents die and younger residents still working and with less time for social and volunteer activities move in.

Two groups are working to change that. American Legion Post 96 in Surprise and a branch of the Mid-Week Lion's Club in Sun City are gearing their meetings toward working people in hopes of attracting new members.

"There's a lot of folks here who are still working," said George Cushing, newly elected commander of American Legion Post 96. "It limits their time to do volunteering."

Cushing, 61, is a quality engineer for Lockheed Martin, the Fort Worth, Texas-based aeronautics company. He commutes from downtown Surprise to Tempe every day — a 100-mile round-trip. He has 193 working days until retirement.

When he moved to Surprise from Georgia in 1999, he looked for a Legion post to join.

"I've been a Legion member for 16 years," he said. "One of the reasons I selected 96 was, it was the only post that meets here in the evening. Most of the other posts in the area meet in the daytime — and I work, so I couldn't attend."

Post 96 will not meet during the summer. When it begins meeting again in September, meetings will be at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

Membership Chairman Ed Foerster said evening meetings were part of the planning for the post to draw working business people.

"It gives 'em time to get home from work," he said. "It gives 'em time to get home, eat and relax a little before the meeting."

Foerster was the charter commander in 1999, the year the post formed. He jokingly said he "did a little praying" that year.

"I had hopes, because there are more and more people moving into Sun City," he said, noting that Sun City Grand has more younger retirees but hasn't finished building out yet.

Post 96 is three years old, and its membership has almost doubled over the last year.

"We were 62 last year; currently we're 114," Cushing said.

Membership in the Legion is for veterans of war, as mandated by Congress.

"You have to be veterans, but at the same time, we want younger veterans," Foerster said.

Post 96 includes veterans from the Persian Gulf, Vietnam and Korean wars and World War II. Foerster said outgoing Commander Bill Lipscomb is on active duty and served in Bosnia.

The post voted at its Monday night meeting to move from its

current site in the Surprise Community Center to the Happy Trails subdivision. The move will become official in September, Foerster said.

"We just had our first request for a color guard," he said.

On May 26, the post's new color guard conducted its first unofficial ceremony at a retirement center in Surprise.

At 7 a.m. Tuesdays, about 10 members of a new Lions Club branch meet at LaRhone's Country Cupboard in Sun City. The branch club is an offshoot of the Mid-Week Lion's Club in Sun City. Members meet twice a month and meetings are short and to-the-point: 55 minutes.

"I'm one of the seniors that work," said Dave Roberts, a financial adviser for Merrill Lynch. "I spend 40 to 50 hours a week working for my employer, and I spend another 20 to 30 hours a week working for the Lions. I spend two to four hours a day on Lions."

A club must have seven members to become a branch club; 25 are required to form an independent club, Johnson said. There are 13 people who have been attending the Mid-Week Lions branch club, which has met four times. In August, about eight or nine more will become Lions through a candlelight ceremony, Roberts said.

Roberts is more involved than the average Lion. In July, he will fly to Japan, where he is expected to be

elected a director of Lions Clubs International. There are 33 such directors worldwide who serve as the board for the club internationally. If elected, Roberts will serve a two-year term.

The new branch club's president is Mike Lang, 42, manager of Avid Hearing Aid Center in Sun City. Lang met the club's founder, Bob Johnson, through the Lions' voluntary project of providing prosthetic devices for the hearing impaired (hearing aids). He said Johnson knocked on his door and encouraged him to join the branch club. Once there, Roberts talked him into being president, Lang said.

"I figured if I have some extra time, I could give it back to the community," he said.

The Lions Club was started by native Arizonan Melvin Jones in 1917, Johnson said. It was founded as a service organization "united in a single cause: helping those less fortunate," a brochure from the organization reads. The Lions Club has programs to help the visually impaired, hearing impaired, those with diabetes and underprivileged children.

If you would like information about American Legion Post 96, call Ed Foerster at 975-1522. For information about the branch chapter of the Mid-Week Lion's Club, call Bob Johnson at 876-9111.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or at ereep@aztrib.com.

OVER

LIONS CLUB  
VF





MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dave Roberts of the Midweek Lions addresses business people at LeRhone Country Cupboard Tuesday about starting an early-morning Lions Club for those still working.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

From left, Joe Stevens of the Wickenburg Lions chats with Connie Sayer and Chuck Walters at LeRhone Country Cupboard Tuesday.



# Volunteering times 2

## ROBERTS RULES: Couple share ideal to help others

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

9/17/01

Working together, Ann and Dave Roberts of Merrill Lynch in Sun City provide steady guidance to the organizations where they volunteer — and stabilizing advice to their clients in uncertain times.

He is active in Lions Clubs and Salvation Army. She is a cornerstone of Kiwanis.

### Working for you

Together, the couple, who first met in high school in Phoenix, have aided charitable fund-raising efforts to the tune of millions. They also contribute significant time, averaging many hours in addition to working full schedules.

"I feel an obligation to do volunteer work," said Ann Roberts, who is assistant vice president and an investment associate at Merrill Lynch. "You can't do it by writing a check. You have to volunteer."

Dave Roberts, who is a Merrill Lynch vice president and senior financial adviser, said that many people tend to take on too much when volunteering.

"It's better to do smaller things and work with others in a team," he said.

While Merrill Lynch encourages its employees to contribute their talents to the communities in which

they live, Dave and Ann Roberts hardly take on small tasks.

Last year, Ann Roberts was a Kiwanis district governor for District 8, which includes Sun City and surrounding communities. She also has been active in Kiwanis' Children's Miracle Network, raising awareness for the iodine deficiency program. She joined Kiwanis in 1989.

Dave Roberts is a Salvation Army board member, working to expand Salvation Army's presence in the Northwest Valley. He also is running for International director of Lions Clubs in November and is president of the Lions Vision Center board in Youngtown. The center provides low-cost or no-cost eye care for individuals referred for help.

"Lions and other organizations are collecting blood and volunteering," he said, wearing a cheery 'Love makes the world go round' tie created by Amanda, age 15, for Save the Children. "If we could get new people in the Sun Cities to contribute even a small part of their time, it would help enormously."

That shift should be welcome. In recent years, voluntarism has been waning, but last week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., have shown how Americans respond in a crisis.

"When you have something this catastrophic, you see patriotism and voluntarism you haven't seen in years," Ann Roberts said. "When you receive so much, you have to give something back."

To volunteer or contribute, Dave and Ann Roberts suggest contacting any of the three organizations they



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dave and Ann Roberts work together at Merrill Lynch in Sun City. But they also spend many hours a week volunteering for local organizations.

support:

- Kiwanis International ([www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)) encourages contributions to the Kiwanis International Foundation "911 Victims Children's Fund," 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Call Ann Roberts about attending an upcoming meeting: 876-2724.

- Lions Clubs International ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)). Dave Robert's group meets at noon each Wednesday in JB's, 10801 N.W. Grand Ave. To send contributions for the emergency relief fund, write to Lions

Clubs International Foundation, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523. Locally, call 602-267-7573 to find out about volunteering.

- Salvation Army ([www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)). Write to 180 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802, or call 1-562-436-7000.

"Working for you" features professionals in the community who contribute their time to service work. To nominate a candidate, write Jeanne Winograd at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or call her at 876-2532.



## Sun Citian named Lions Man of the Year

Roby Fretwell, 87, is a familiar and comforting presence to many senior citizens in Surprise and El Mirage.

For more than 20 years he has arrived at their doorsteps each Wednesday in a Red Cross bus. He drives some to the El Mirage Senior Center and delivers hot meals to others who are unable to leave their homes.

"It's a very pleasurable thing to do," said the Sun City resident. "They're good people. I've driven a Red Cross bus all over and these folks really appreciate what you do for them."

He tirelessly volunteers not only for the Red Cross but for his Lions Club where he works as an advocate for handicapped children.

Recently, his efforts within the Lion were recognized at a conference in Laughlin, Nev. He was chosen Man of the Year from more than 3,500 Lions Club candidates.

"I was gladly surprised and felt very honored," Mr. Fretwell said of the award.

He said the Lions recognized him for a project he took on two years ago to buy and install a walk-in cooler and commercial ice maker at a camp for handicapped children.

"It cost about \$8,200, but I was able to raise it through my wood cutting hobby," he said.

For hours each day, Mr. Fretwell can be found in his workshop carving people's names from blocks of wood.

"I buy my own wood at Home

Depot and I don't charge anything for them. I just take donations for charity," he said.

He estimated he has cut and donated around 8,000 names over the last six years.

"My wooden names are in 38 states and nine foreign countries including Japan, Malaysia, Chile, England and New Zealand," he said.

Mr. Fretwell said he began his hobby after suffering a heart attack.

"I was laying there wondering what I would do and thought about starting this," he said.

"I enjoy doing it. I think the most important thing in life is staying busy and doing something for somebody and seeing them appreciate what you do for them."



Photo by NICHOLE BRIGHT/Independent Newspapers

Roby Fretwell, Lion's Club Man of the Year, holds a wooden nameplate he carved for the Red Cross.



# OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

## Lions recycling program helps environment, charities

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN  
Independent Newspapers

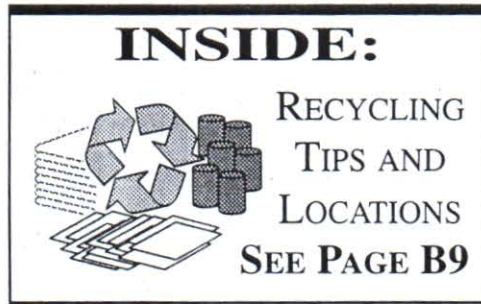
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What first began as a simple, small-town newspaper recycling program has since grown into one of the largest programs of its kind in the country, setting a new standard for other communities' recycling efforts.

The Host Lions Club of Sun City initiated its conservation efforts in 1966 when Sun City resident Sam Higginbotham began operating a handful of newspaper bins for people to drop off their local newspapers.

"We started out with a couple of bins and now we run a recycling center in El Mirage," says Gene Gravlin, who managed the community program from 1985 to 1995. Mr. Gravlin has since turned over the operation to his son, Paul.

The Sun Cities are among the nation's



leaders when it comes to newspaper recycling. More than 65 percent of all newsprint distributed in the community is returned to Lions Club bins. The national average is 25 percent.

The program last year was responsible for collecting and processing 3,500 tons of newspapers in Sun City and 2,100 tons in Sun City West.

As the popularity and success of the pro-

cans, aluminum cans and corrugated cardboard.

Recycling proved not only beneficial to the environment, but to local charities as well.

The club's efforts don't stop after the newspapers have been cleaned and bailed at its recycling plant.

The paper is then sold, with most of the proceeds going to the Host Lions Club. The club, in turn, distributes the funds to area charitable organizations.

"People want to help," Paul Gravlin says. "They know it's going to charity."

"We have a lot of overhead because we have a payroll of 15 people who clean the paper and process it.

"We collect it, bail it and ship it. After all of that, anything we make as 'profit' is given to the Lion's Club," he says.

Groups that receive funds from the program include sight and hearing organizations, community school systems, handicapped individuals and civic organizations.

Although about \$200,000 was distributed last year, Mr. Gravlin expects revenue to be a lot less this year due to a decline in the value of newsprint.

"The amount we give back fluctuates because the price of paper fluctuates," he says.

"Last year we gave a lot more because the price of (recycled) paper was \$200 a ton and now it's \$20 a ton."

Although there are several smaller newspaper collection bins throughout the Sun Cities, Mr. Gravlin says it is more cost effective to pick up

recyclables from one of four main collection centers.

In Sun City there are collection sites at the Greenway Shopping Center, Sun Bowl Plaza and Bell Camino Plaza. In Sun City West the main collection center is at the Sundome Plaza.

"We make more money on it if it comes to the bin," Paul Gravlin says. "It's more cost effective for us to clean the paper as it comes in and put it into a container at the major bin sites."

In addition to the efforts of Lions, Parks and Sons of Sun City Inc. includes picking up recyclable material along with their regular trash collection service. Parks and Sons offers "curbside service" at no charge and gives what they collect to the Lions.

Parks and Sons picks up newspaper, tin cans, aluminum cans and glass. They do not collect corrugated cardboard.

"The best thing for us is to have the newspaper separated from the others (aluminum and tin cans and glass).

"The others can be together, but we need to have the newspapers separate from the others items," says Jerry Parks, general manager of Parks and Sons of Sun City Inc.

Mr. Parks says curbside service first began a number of years ago because some people were not able to get out and take their recyclables to a Lions bin.

"We do this strictly as a public service. We donate all that we pick up to the Lions so they have it to make their money," Mr. Parks says.

"We really encourage the people

to take it to the Lions bins that they have behind the shopping centers," says Mr. Parks.

"It's less of a strain for us because right now we're basically swallowing the cost of all the equipment, all the fuel, all of the insurance, all of the manpower, everything," he says.

See ■ RECYCLING, Page

OVER





Photo by CHRIS RASMUSSEN/Independent Newspapers

## **Some of the most valuable trash in the country**

*Sun City Lions Recycling Association Inc. collected more than 5,600 tons of newspapers last year, netting about \$200,000 for local charitable organizations. The Lions recycling program is recognized as one of the best in the country. On average, 65 percent of all newsprint in the Sun Cities is returned to Lions Club bins, compared to the national average of 25 percent.*



# Olive Branch scores big

## Lions club sees Sun Health ante

By CHRISTINE A. GOW  
Staff writer

1-28-96

SUN CITY — The Olive Branch Senior Center got more than it bargained for when the Sun City Host Lions Club said it would donate \$17,500 to the center.

But then, the Lions Club didn't expect it would be giving that much money to the senior center, either.

The service organization said it would match 50 cents on every dollar that the Sun Health Foundation gave the center in January — but it didn't expect the health-care support organization to donate \$35,000.

Host Lions Club President Maxine Osborne handed Olive Branch Executive Director Ivy Wixson a check for \$10,000 at a club luncheon Thursday. The Lions will give the center the remaining \$7,500 in June.

"We're just thrilled. It's a wonderful donation and it's a lot of money," Wixson said. "We are pleased that they are giving us this money, that they think enough of what we do here that they're giving us this money."

The senior center provides socialization, recreation and educational opportunities for seniors. The center provides discounted daily lunches and provides counseling, legal advice, health screenings, consumer information and employment assistance.

Twice a week the center offers a program for visually impaired seniors. That pleases members of the Lions club because they are devoted to aiding the sight and hearing of seniors.

The Lions club donates money to



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Maxine Osborne, at left, president of the Sun City Host Lions Club, chats with Jean Kiernat, administrator of the Olive Branch Senior Center, and Ivy Wixson, manager of the senior center, at the Lions club meeting Thursday.

the senior center yearly because of their dedication to seniors in the Sun Cities and Youngtown, said club member Paul Gravlin.

"One of our prime organizations to donate to is the senior center because the money stays in Sun City," Gravlin said. "We want to keep the money helping people in Sun City because that's where we get our money from."

The \$10,000 was generated from the Sun City Lions Recycling Association, Gravlin said. The non-profit consortium of area Lions clubs has been collecting newspapers and giv-

ing the proceeds to charities since 1966. It operates 16 recycling bins throughout Sun City and donate \$231,000 to charities last year, Gravlin said.

The senior center will use the money to "increase our service here and add some additional programs that were needed," Wixson said.

In February, the senior center will take over the home-delivered meal program run out of the El Miras Senior Center. The Lions club donation made that possible, Wixson said.



# Paper chase *8-15-95*

## Thieves target curbside recycling for big returns

By **CINDY TRACY**  
Sun Cities Independent

A new kind of crime is on the rise in the Sun Cities — and it's occurring practically on residents' front doorsteps.

According to the Sun City Lions Recycling Association, newspapers destined for the recycling bin are being stolen from sidewalks throughout the Sun Cities.

Perhaps spurred by the rise in the price of paper and frustrated by increased security at Sun City Lions recycling locations, the newspaper thieves are targeting newspapers wait-

ing for pickup at the curbs of private homes.

Eloise Austin, chief of security for the Sun City Lions Recycling Association, says thefts have increased within the past month.

Residents who can't take their old newspapers, bottles, aluminum cans and corrugated boxes to one of 16 Lions collection sites can receive curbside service from Parks and Sons of Sun City. The trash collection firm has donated the service to the Lions for the past five years.

"We're aware that it's there," says Jerry Parks, Parks and Sons' general manager, about the curbside theft problem.

He says he doesn't think it's a huge problem, but his company has received a few calls from homeowners who say they've put out all their recyclables the night before pickup and found everything still there in the morning — except the newspapers.

Mr. Parks says for many years the price of paper never made this kind of theft worthwhile.

Joe Osborne, vice president of the recycling association, says curbside recyclers should put their materials within their prop-

erty line, not on their front sidewalks. Recyclables should be placed in driveways or adjacent to in-ground trash containers, he says.

"The liability is increased markedly if the theft is made from private property rather than a public thoroughfare," he says.

Mr. Osborne says residents who notice any vehicle other than a Parks and Sons trash truck used for curbside pickup should call the Sun City or Sun City West posses.

A description of the vehicle and the direction it went would help catch the thieves, he says.



# against newsprint theft

5-9-95

## Locks secure local bins

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Staff writer

Starting this week, newspaper recyclers in the Sun Cities won't be able to make deposits at Lions club bins after dark or before sunrise.

A consortium of local Lions clubs that collects and sells recycled newspapers for charity is locking up its bins to prevent theft of the increasingly valuable commodity.

Sixteen area bins in Sun City and Sun City West area are affected by the lock-up policy, said Jack Hieronymous, spokesman for Sun City Recycling Association Inc.

The bins are being locked as a preventative measure only.

The Lions consortium has no evidence that any newspapers have been stolen from area bins, but newspaper thefts have occurred elsewhere in the Valley, Hieronymous said.

"We only presume that this could happen here also. ... We are motivated by what could possibly happen to us," he said.

The impetus for the thefts that have occurred elsewhere apparently is the skyrocketing price of newsprint. Lions officials say the price for recycled newspapers is now well over \$100 per ton. That compares to about \$35 per ton a year ago.

"We know from past experience that throughout the Phoenix metro area, once the price of newsprint gets over

\$75 a ton, thievery will begin," Hieronymous said.

That means someone with a pickup can back up to a collection site, fill up the bed with newspaper and head to the nearest recycler and collect about \$100.

The Lions' newspaper collection sites in the Sun Cities are portable fenced enclosures that hold 25 to 30 tons of stacked newspapers. Before officials decided to lock the enclosures at night, they were easy targets for anyone who wanted to make some quick cash.

Lions clubs elsewhere in the Valley use enclosed metal bins with a slot on the top where the newspapers can be deposited, but not easily extracted. The local Lions recycling consortium uses similar bins for aluminum it collects for the Valley of the

Sun chapter of Soroptimist International.

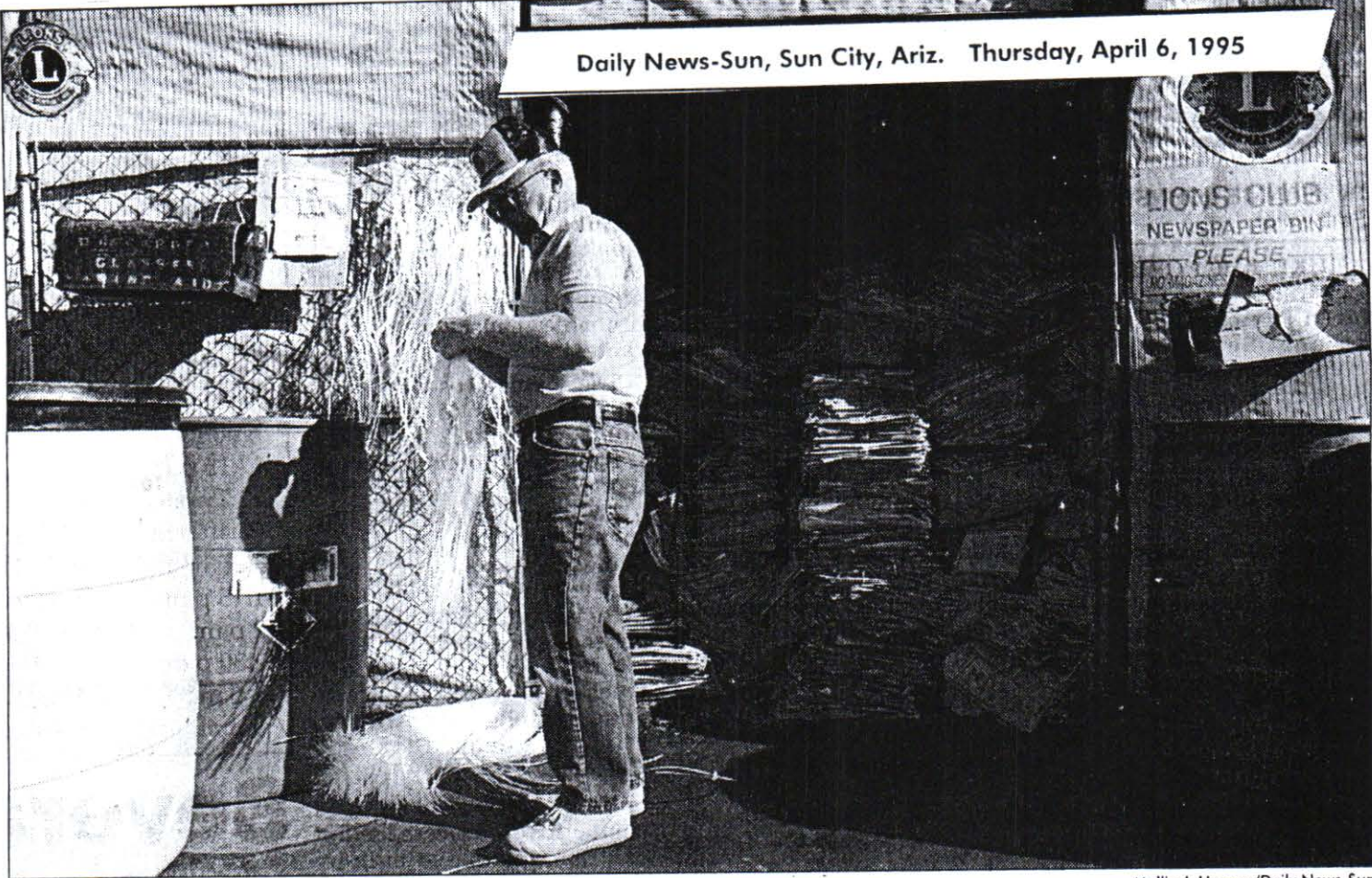
Evelyn Michel, recycling coordinator for the Soroptimist club, said she has not heard of any thefts of the aluminum bins.

The aluminum bins, she said, "are set up in such a way that it would be very hard for (thieves) to take the cans out."

In addition to locking area newspaper collection sites at night, Hieronymous said a security force composed either of volunteer Lions club members or private security officers will begin watching the bins during the day.

Hieronymous said the Lions expect to distribute \$500,000 among consortium members this year, which in turn spend the money on charitable projects.





Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Skip Merfeld of the Mid-Week Lions takes care of business at the Lions club newspaper bin behind Greenway Terrace. Merfeld says the Greenway location is the busiest and needs to be emptied weekly.

# Newsprint prices benefit Lions

## Recycling program collects papers, cash

By DEBBIE L. SKLAR  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Like cereal and produce, the cost of newsprint is soaring and one local organization is reaping the benefits from the higher paper prices.

"This year has been a banner year for us and we will be able to donate more than \$500,000 because of it. Last year we collected 15,000 tons of newsprint and hope to gather a lot more this year. The cost of newsprint has skyrocketed because more and more people are turning their papers in for recycling," said Jack Hieronymus, promotion coordinator of the Sun Cities Lions Recycling Association. "In turn, the Lions are getting paid more money."

Members of the Lions clubs of Sun City and Sun City West, who collect discarded newspapers around Sun City and Sun City West for recycling, have collected more than 100,000 tons and donated \$2 million to charities since their recycling project began in 1966.

In 1994, the Lions donated \$182,485 to 60 charities and other deserving service organizations, Hieronymus said.

Local recycling plants said the cost of recycled newspapers has skyrocketed because of supply and demand.

"Actually, there isn't enough mills making paper," said Mike Rietz, plant manager of Weyerhaeuser, a recycling plant in Phoenix. "Demands are high and when people scream for paper, you can jack up your prices a little bit. The cost of raw materials has also gone up and that has a lot to do with the price

**'National figures are 15 percent of the population recycles newspapers, but in the Sun Cities the figure goes to 65 percent. People here are very much into recycling because they have been programmed for it from wherever they came from.'**

**Jack Hieronymus  
Sun City Lions**

increase."

Rietz said he pays between \$50 and \$60 a ton for loose newspapers and double that amount for newspapers in bails.

"I usually sell about 400 tons of recycled newsprint a month," he said. "Right now there is a big demand for it. I wouldn't say there is an emergency paper shortage, but there is a big demand for waste paper instead. Prices are up and historically they are at an all time high."

According to Don Leyshon, operations director at the Daily News-Sun, old newspapers bring more than \$100 per ton from recycling plants. He said last year companies were paying about \$35 per ton.

"The reason prices have escalated for old newsprint is because there is no supply and the demand is big," Leyshon said.

"The Lions' have volunteers that supervise the bins, but the heavy work is mostly done by residents of nearby communities," Hieronymus said. "The old newspapers are very heavy to haul away, residents from Surprise and El Mirage help out."

The Lions collect newspapers from the bins and then take them to a large collection facility on Grand Avenue west of Sun City.

Once the newspapers are collected in the yard, they are sent to a paper mill in Snowflake, where they are prepared for recycling.

"They mix the newsprint with forest clippings or unsuitable pieces of lumber not used for paper making," Hieronymus said. "When the old newspapers are recycled, the new material is resold to newspapers."

Hieronymus said Sun Citians are more conscientious about recycling than the rest of the nation.

"National figures are 15 percent of the population recycles newspapers, but in the Sun Cities the figure goes to 65 percent," he said. "People here are very much into recycling because they have been programmed for it from wherever they came from."

"We are trying to increase recycling even more in the Sun Cities," Hieronymus said. "Newsprint has become more of a precious commodity, so we want to get more and more people help to recycle it."

Hieronymus said the Lions are working on a program to make the public even more aware of recycling.

"A lot of people aren't aware there is a company here that provides curb side recycling for handicapped individuals," he said. "We've come a long way and want to continue to go even further. This year we are planning to increase our facilities to include the recycling of plastic."

Parks & Sons of Sun City Inc., a private firm located in El Mirage which hauls refuse in the retirement communities, provides free pickup service for recyclable materials for people unable to take their recyclables to Lions bins. The firm gives the collected recyclables to the Lions.



# Lions' benevolence increases

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

The Sun Cities Lions and Lioness clubs donated about \$35,000 more to charity in 1991-92 than the previous year, although the clubs' income from recycling rose only slightly.

Lions and Lionesses donated \$212,470 in fiscal year 1991-92, up from \$176,528 in 1990-91. Recycling raised about \$108,000 of that total last year, up only slightly compared with \$101,500 in 1990-91.

The Sun Cities Lions Foundation released figures "so the public knows where the money is going," said Jim Bailey, president of the Mid-week Lions Club. "We're thankful that the public has been so generous."

Most of the money went to Lions club programs to help the blind, Sun Cities-area charities and aid programs in neighboring communities.

The Lions' Camp Tatuyee for the handicapped received \$28,162, the single-largest donation, while the Arizona Lions Eye and Tissue Bank, the Arizona Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation and Interfaith Services each received about \$16,000.

Bailey said the extra money came from other fund-raising programs, such as delivering magazines and the Sun City telephone directory.

The groups also often receive donations from clubs and other organ-

## Recycling location to close

The Sun City Lions clubs will close their recycling bin Friday at the Exxon Service station on the corner of Del Webb and Thunderbird Boulevards. The service station is closing.

Members of the Lions are asking residents with recyclables to use bins on Sunland Drive east of Agua

Fria Drive, next to the pet cemetery; in the Greenway shopping center at 99th Avenue and Greenway Road, behind the supermarket; or at Boswell Hospital in the southwest corner of the rear parking lot across from the day care center.

For information, call 974-5136.

izations which are turned over to the public fund, he said.

Gene Gravlin, who oversees the Lions' recycling operations, said income from recycling has dropped because the clubs' expenses are up.

Older residents found it more difficult to bring newspapers to a few centrally located bins, Gravlin said. "As the population has grown older they don't bring it in any more, so in order to keep the total tonnage from dropping significantly, we have more locations."

But the Lions must pay to have the papers picked up at the satellite locations and taken to a larger bin for processing, and that cost reduces the income the clubs make from recycling.

Although the satellite bins and a curbside recycling program have

helped, the total tonnage of newspapers coming in has dropped about 20 percent in the last two years, Gravlin said.

The amount of newspapers coming in has dropped from an all-time high of 5,800 tons in 1985 to about 4,000 tons last year, he added.

The drop in the amount of newspapers donated has occurred simultaneously with a drop in the prices the Lions can earn for newsprint. Prices now are "about as low as they've ever been," Gravlin said. "We sell directly to the mills; that's the only way we can make any money."

The Lions also recycle tin and glass, but Gravlin said those programs do not bring in much money.

Sun Cities Lions clubs recycle about 1,500 tons of glass a year,



"more than anyone else in the state," Gravlin added.

But the Lions must pay to ship the glass to California since there are no bottling operations in Arizona which use recycled glass. The cost of shipping — \$425 for every 24 tons — cuts into the program's profits, he said.

The Lions clubs are in the process of purchasing a compactor for its tin recycling program and have located a local market for the metal in Coolidge, so "we'll make out pretty well with that once we get started," Gravlin said.

Since the Lions began recycling in 1965 the clubs have netted more than \$2½ million for charities, he said.

There are nine Lions clubs with a total of almost 1,000 members in the Sun Cities, and about 300 Lionesses in five clubs.



# Recyclers model national plan

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Volunteer-run aluminum recycling in the Sun Cities is being touted as a model program by the nation's largest beverage can recycler.

Officials from Alcoa Recycling Co., a subsidiary of the Aluminum Company of America, praised two local service clubs Wednesday for joining forces and launching an expanded aluminum can recycling program in the area.

"Your recycling program is probably one of the best in the country," said George Cobb, president of Alcoa Recycling in Nashville, Tenn. Cobb was joined by other recycling industry representatives, elected officials and service club members at a dedication ceremony Wednesday morning.

"This program works because there is community understanding that the money collected goes to many worthwhile charities."

The dedication kicked off a joint-venture in which aluminum

cans from curbside collections and Valley of the Sun Soroptimist donation bins are processed by the Sun City Lions at a recycling post in El Mirage.

The Lions will load, sort and haul the cans to the recycling post using equipment supplied by Alcoa Recycling.

The recycling plant, located on land donated by Parks & Sons, is at 11601 W. Grand Ave.

Cobb said the cans processed at the El Mirage site will be bound into bails and transported via railroad to "melting sites" in Indiana and Tennessee.

"Arizona is a very important state to us. Each person here uses an average of 360 cans per year and that's a high volume," Cobb said.

In 1990, Americans recycled 64 percent of the beverage cans produced — about 55 billion cans — and earned more than \$900 million, Cobb said.

Recycling projects in the Sun Cities, home of the largest volunteer recycling programs in the nation, will be used by Alcoa

See Alcoa praises, A7

## Alcoa praises Sun Cities

— From A1

Recycling as models for other communities throughout the nation, Cobb said.

Alcoa has agreed to purchase cans directly from the Soroptimists, which before sold cans "to a middleman," said Donna Gilliland, club president.

"Today we will start dealing directly with the aluminum can buyer — Alcoa. Hopefully this will give us more money per pound and let us contribute even more to charities throughout the Valley," Gilliland said. "The Soroptimists were one of the first service clubs in the United States to get involved with an aluminum can recycling project. We had the vision 21 years ago to start a program and get to where we are going now."

The Valley of the Sun Soroptimist Club, made up of professional women, started out with two aluminum can collection bins in 1971 and now have four bins in Sun City.

Last year, the group collected more than 30,000 pounds of aluminum cans and donated \$60,000 to area non-profit organizations.

Gilliland said the club hopes to have eight bins at various shopping centers in the community by July.

The Sun City Lions began recycling newspapers in 1966 to raise funds for local sight and hearing programs.

Since its inception, the Lions recycling program has raised more than \$2 million. The overall effort now includes 10 Lions clubs in Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown, Peoria, Surprise and El Mirage.

Gene Gravlin, president of Sun City Host Lions and coordinator of the recycling project, said the Lions Club has worked with the Soroptimists by sharing proceeds from a curbside recycling program.

Sixteen months ago, trash collector Parks & Sons started collecting glass, newspapers and aluminum cans from about half the homes in the Sun Cities and donated the items to the Lions.

Can proceeds from Sun City are given to the Soroptimists and cans from Sun City West benefit the community's local Kiwanis clubs.

So far, the curbside effort has yielded 1,000 tons of paper, 100 tons of glass and 10 tons of aluminum, Gravlin said.

Dennis Crooker, Alcoa vice president, said a little more than half the aluminum beverage cans on store shelves are from recycled cans.

Soroptimist aluminum can bins are located at Sunbowl Plaza, 107th Avenue and Clair Drive; Thunderbird Plaza, 99th and Thunderbird; Greenway Terrace, 99th and Greenway; and at Bell Camino Center, 107th Avenue and Bell Road. The newest bin will be at La Ronde Center, 107th and Talisman Drive.



# Lioness founder honored

## Sun City woman cited for helping less fortunate

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Eleanor Vick loves to go to local elementary schools on Veterans Day and hand out flags to the children.

"They are so patriotic and they are so proud to show us their school. When we hand them a flag they can't wait to wave it in the air," Vick said.

The flag distribution is just one of many ways local Lionesses serve the community.

Vick, 70, started the Sun City 79ers Lioness Club 10 years ago, and was recently honored by the Lions Clubs International Foundation for her generosity, compassion and concern for others.

She, along with Sun City West Lioness Helen Klett, are among the 451 women in the world who have been named a Melvin Jones Fellow.

There are now 5,529 Lioness clubs with 143,754 members worldwide.

The 57 members of the 79ers club support 18 different charities and participate in a number service activities.

"It was such a surprise. The club arranged for this and I didn't know a thing. I feel that it's such an honor," Vick said.

In 1973, the Lionesses and Lions Foundation established the Melvin Jones Fellow to honor members who are dedicated to humanitarian service.

The designation was named in tribute to Jones, who founded Lions 75 years ago.

Sandy Holman, president of the Sun City 79ers Lioness Club, said members of a committee secretly nominated Vick for the award and presented it to her at a meeting earlier this month.

"There was a lot of suspense as to who it would be, but once the name was announced everyone agreed it couldn't have gone to a more caring person. They don't just give out this award to anybody," Holman said. "Lioness Eleanor is quite an unassuming lady, a friend and example to all of us. She has definitely shown concern and compassion for others in many ways."

The club donated \$1,000 to the Lions Clubs International Foundation for its Sight First program geared to cure and



Stephen Chermek/Daily News Sun

Sun Citian Eleanor Vick, 70, was recently honored by the Lions Clubs International Foundation for her generosity, compassion and concern for others. Vick along with Sun City West Lioness Helen Klepp are now among the 451 women in the world who have been named a Melvin Jones Fellow.

prevent blindness in third world countries.

Although Lioness clubs are an offshoot of Lions clubs, Holman said members do not have to have a spouse who is a Lion.

As most Lionesses, however, Vick and Holman are married to Russell Vick and Bill Holman.

The local Lioness clubs remain active around the year.

Fund-raisers include rummage sales, style shows and helping florists deliver flowers to local residents. Holman said the Lionesses got \$820 for delivering flowers on Mother's Day.

"Humanitarian service is the goal of the association. Vick was one of the founding members of the club and helped it get organized to serve others," Holman said.

Vick, who worked in elementary and middle schools in Illinois for 16 years, was the second president of the club.

The club now usually meets on the first

Wednesday of every month for a luncheon meeting. For information, call 974-9623.

While Vick is believed to be one of the first Sun City Lionesses to be named a fellow, several Sun City West Lioness Club members have been given the honor.

Most recently, Helen Klett of the Sun City West Lioness Club was named a Melvin Jones Fellow. Klett is one of several Sun City West Lionesses who has the distinction.

Klett's husband, W.M. "Doc," was past Lions district governor in South Carolina. Klett started a Lioness club there and later became a Lion when the couple moved to Florida.

She moved to Sun City West 2½ years ago and joined the Lioness Club.

"Our club does so much to help people. That's what makes being a part of it so special," Klett said.



# Lions' project generates \$2 million

By CONNIE STEELE  
Daily News-Sun staff

Lions Clubs call themselves Knights of the Blind. Their programs help prevent blindness and assist sight-impaired people.

Members of the Lions deliver publications door-to-door and contribute their earnings to charity. They also run the Sun Cities area newspaper and glass recycling programs to raise money for their work for the blind.



Steele

The Host Lions Club and Sam Higginbotham are considered to be granddaddies of the Lions newspaper recycling project. People who know have said the program is the most productive single Lions project in the country, said John Hilliard, who works with Gene Gravelin, the project's coordinator.

Since 1965, Lions' "paper" has generated about \$2 million, Hilliard said.

Lions' "paper" money has financed the construction of the Lions Community Service complex of buildings on 99th Avenue, north of Olive Avenue, which provides offices for the

## Did you know?

Sun Cities Lions Foundation, the national Recording for the Blind, the local Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind and a number of community service agencies.

Agencies rent Lions Foundation office space for \$1 a year instead of asking supporters for rent money. These agencies that benefit from the Lions serve the entire community — agencies like the local branch of American Red Cross, Jewish Family and Children's Service, Sun City Information and Referral Service and the American Diabetes Association.

"We're saving the community more than \$90,000 a year in rent," Higginbotham said.

Lions' distribute about \$160,000 each year through the 11 Lions clubs operating in the Sun Cities, Hilliard said. It used to be greater, but old newspapers draw less money.

As the project's founding club, the Host Lions Club retains a 38 percent share with the remainder distributed on a prorated basis among the other 10 clubs.

Lions' "paper" money supports four state projects. About \$12,000 a year goes to Camp

Tatiya for disabled youth and adults, Higginbotham said.

"When I ran the program, I tried to see half of the money stayed in the Sun Cities," he said. "It's still run this way today."

"Paper" money helps the Sun Cities Area Transportation service, Sun Valley Lodge, Interfaith Services of the Sun Cities Area and other community services.

Lions' money provides eye examinations and eye glasses for area school children, talking book recordings, eye banks, seeing-eye dog training and combats sight-threatening diseases like diabetes.

Members of Lions clubs estimate they collect about 55 percent of all the newspapers discarded in the Sun Cities, Youngtown, Westbrook Village in Peoria and Happy Trails in Surprise.

Higginbotham got involved in the program after reading about a newspaper recycling program in the Wall Street Journal.

For 12 years, Higginbotham and a crew of Lions emptied the area's two bins on Saturdays and Tuesdays after getting permission from John Meeker, president of Del Webb Corp. to place the bins.

Meeker later donated the 1-

acre parcel on which the Lions built the Community Service complex for an estimated \$87,000.

Higginbotham likes to tell the story of how he arrived in Sun City in January 1960. He and his wife planned to look the place over. They'd driven down from Nevada where he ran a construction business.

"We thought we were going into Phoenix and then drive out," he said.

But when the Higginbothams saw the Sun City sign they stopped. After checking out the development with Del E. Webb, the couple bought a three-bedroom, two-bath house for \$11,300 on a golf course lot for an additional \$1,200.

Driving out of the fledgling community, Higginbotham turned west toward Nevada instead of going east into Phoenix.

He recalled his first wife asking, "I thought we were going into Phoenix?"

His reply: "Well, we spent all of our money."

Area Lions Clubs are: Host, B-4-9, Sundowners, Midweek, Early Birds, Bell, 79ers of Sun City. In Sun City West are the Pioneers, Sunrise, Sundome and Kachina Lions clubs.



# Waste not

## Local Lions program promotes recycling of glass, newspapers to help environment

With a glass recycling program that has grown from one ton of recycled glass a week up to 12 tons, Lions Clubs throughout the Sun Cities are sending out a call for help.

It's all about glass.

What they want is more glass, a lot of glass, gently deposited into their recycling bins.

"To date," says Gene Gravlin, Lions Club recycling coordinator, "the glass recycling program has been a success.

"However, the Lions want to double the amount of glass they are recycling.

"This increase will help to generate more funds for Lions Club projects and offset the decrease in the price of newspaper."

It could be said that the Lions are seeking, not a success, but a smashing success, from their recycling program.

"It's easy to recycle your glass bottles and jars," says Mr. Gravlin. "Just bring them to any Lions Club newspaper/recycling bin and deposit them in the barrels provided.

"You may leave the lids and labels on the bottles and jars, but, if possible, wash out the insides."

The Lions cannot accept bottles or jars made of ceramics or lead-based glass. Also, no light bulbs, pyrex dishes or plate/window glass, please.

Mr. Gravlin further explains that bottles must be sorted by color, and it's impossible to sort the broken items.

Bags loaded with crushed glass (after it's sorted) measure four feet high and a yard square, with each holding upwards of 1,200 pounds.

The growth of the recycling

program has been accomplished over the past 12 months, says the coordinator, thanking those who already are recycling their glass bottles and jars.

"In doing this, you have assisted the Lions in aiding the blind and the handicapped. This is a win-win situation for the Lions clubs and the residents of the Sun Cities."

The Lions estimate that, to date, their project has kept nearly three-quarters of a million pounds of glass out of local landfills.

Mr. Gravlin suggests that those people new to the Sun Cities, or seasonal residents who are not recycling glass, could join the program.

"Let's all work together to keep the Sun Cities clean and help others, at the same time. Just drop, *gently*, your glass bottles and jars into the barrels at each Lions Club newspaper recycling bin."

He further suggests that owners or managers of bars or restaurants might donate glass bottles to the Lions clubs.

"This reduces their trash load, gives financial support to the Lions, promotes community good will and makes good business sense."

Clubs, church groups and business organizations can recycle glass as well, says Mr. Gravlin.

"This is a great way to help keep your community clean, lessen waste, and help others.

"If your club, group or organization is looking for a worthwhile community project to undertake, why not recycle glass? Why not feel good about yourselves and help others at the same time?"

For details on how to recycle glass, call 566-8368.

### Lions Recycle Paper/Glass bins

#### Sun City

- Thunderbird Plaza
- Boswell Hospital
- Sunshine Services
- HOA Building
- King's Inn
- Grand Shopping Center
- Royal Oaks Apartments
- Lions Foundation
- Greenway Shopping Center
- Bell Camino Shopping Center
- Circle K (on Union Hills Road)

#### Youngtown

- Youngtown Mall

#### Sun City West

- United Bank
- Safeway

#### Peoria

- Arrowhead Mall



# Lions Clubs will deliver directories

## Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Ten Sun City area Lions Clubs are earning money for community service projects by distributing the new Sun City-Sun City West homeowners directory.

Approximately 32,000 copies of the 1990 edition of the directory, published by Mast Advertising and Publishing, are being delivered to the residents of Sun City, Youngtown and the Country Meadows and Sun-Air Estates subdivisions of Peoria, according to Vern Hill, a member of the Sun City Midweek Lions who is coordinating directory distribution locally.

Hill and Al Post, program chairman of the Midweek Lions Club, negotiated the distribution contract — a club project for the past 12 years.

The annual fund-raiser began when former directory publisher, the late Jack Blake (owner of California-based Blake

Publishing) was a Midweek Lion, Post said.

"We developed the method of delivery and all the other fine points of distribution," Post said.

Hill estimated as many as 200 area Lions are participating in the distribution effort, which earns their respective Lions clubs 27 cents per phone book delivery.

"There's a whole flock of them, I can tell you that," he said.

Hill said nearly all 10 clubs have picked up their delivery stock.

Area Lions clubs have been delivering the telephone directories for several years to help finance club projects benefitting the visually impaired, the blind and diabetics.

Their distribution efforts are made possible under an agreement reached with Mast by the Sun City Home Owners Association (HOA).

Additional copies of the telephone directory, for newcomers and for homeowners inadvertently missed in the distribution sweep, are available at the HOA office, 10401 W. Coggins Drive.

Arve Dahl of the Sun City West Kiwanis Club is coordinating distribution of about 7,000 telephone directories in that community. Additional copies are available at the Property Owners and Residents Association (PORA) office, 13815 W. Camino Del Sol, Sun City West.



## Lions oversee Camp Tatiyee for handicapped kids

*Editor's note: The following story is the fourth in a series of five stories examining the work of local clubs and how their activities help others outside the Sun Cities.*

By **YOLANDA MUHAMMAD**  
Sun Cities Independent

High-spirited laughter ripples through the pinetops.

A 10-year-old boy races down a mountain trail, pushing his wheelchair wheels at full throttle, chasing after a squirrel.

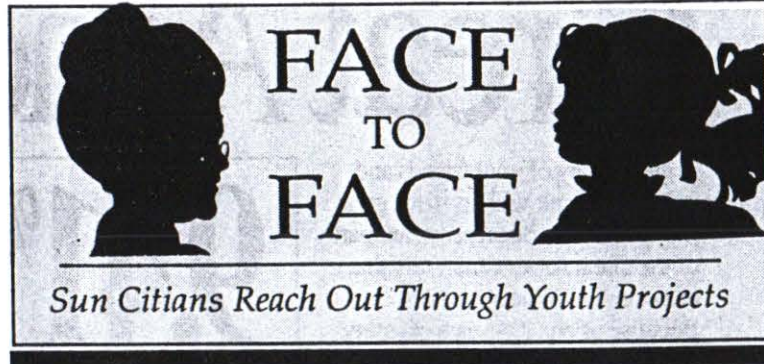
"Whatcha gonna do with him after ya catch him, Bobby?" a girl calls out, backing her wheelchair around a tree to get a better view.

Bobby wheels madly on, determined to catch and befriend the squirrel.

These kids are having more fun than they have ever had before. They are free of their everyday struggles.

The Lions Clubs of Arizona believe that when everyone is handicapped, being handicapped is normal and no one is afraid to perform.

This is the philosophy that underlies Camp Tatiyee, a "haven of happiness" for physically and mentally handicapped children, young people and adults.



According to Mike Pernatozzi, president of the board of directors of the Arizona Lions, of the \$150,000 it takes to operate Camp Tatiyee, the 11 Lions Clubs in the Sun Cities donate about one-third of the \$84,383 dollars that comes directly from state clubs.

The Lioness do their share to donate funds and time, too -- running and making things to stock the camp store, cleaning and getting to know the kids.

"The Sun City Clubs are our biggest support for the camp," Mr. Pernatozzi says. The camp is located approximately 200 miles from Sun City, near Show Low, Ariz.

There are three Sun Citians on the board of directors, George Carter, past president of Sun City Mid-Week Club; Dr. George Heffernon and Glen Lavin of the '79ers.

But it is not with money alone that Sun Cities Lions and Lioness encourage the less fortunate -- it is also with time and personal care.

Take Lion George Heffernon, for example.

There was a puppeteer who came up to Camp Tatiyee every summer to put on a show for the campers. One of the puppets was in a wheelchair.

The children loved this puppet.

Though the puppeteer did not want to sell the puppet, Mr. Heffernon convinced him to do so, buying it for permanent residence at Camp Tatiyee.

The puppet wears a camp T-shirt and in the winter travels around to tell children about the camp.

"It gives us good public-



**HANDICAPS ARE MINIMIZED** when kids attend Lions Camp Tatiyee, where freedom and equality mean fun.

See **CAMP**, page 5  
over



ity," Mr. Heffernon says, "and gets the story of the camp out to a lot of handicapped children."

The Lions provide the camp experience free of charge to handicapped children and to a few adults.

The physically and mentally handicapped attend the camp, as well as the blind and deaf.

Campers enjoy more than the great outdoors, they experience self-realization, personality development and conditions for maintaining good health.

Lifelong friendships are formed.

The camp has a heated, indoor swimming pool, a recreation auditorium with video equipment, arts and crafts rooms and playground equipment.

Activities include fishing, cookouts, magic shows, bowling, music, tennis, picnics, nature walks, ceramics, water sports and dramatics.

During the nature walks the children can observe deer, elk, squirrels and rabbits.

There are four dormitories, with baths, showers and comfortable beds that house 24 youngsters each.

And there is an outdoor chapel utilized for all faiths.

Camp Tatiyee visitors are permitted adventures they can rarely experience anywhere else.

Some children experience their first horseback ride. Others, their first opportunity to enjoy nature and friendships with others who have genuine empathy for their circumstances.

According to Mr. Pernatozzi, Jim Buscy came up with the idea of the camp as a Lions project in 1957.

"We had our first campers in 1959.

"The Lions brought in every stick and built the camp up from the ground," Mr. Pernatozzi says.

There are 36 camp counselors who stay at the camp for 10 weeks under a director.

Tom and Lucille Edgerly have been the custodians of the camp for years, staying there year around.

"There are Lions' camps all over the country," Mr. Per-



### HAPPY CAMPERS

natozzi says, "but ours is unique, in that we serve all the handicapped. The majority of them have been set up for the blind.

"At Camp Tatiyee, we take everyone.

"Once you get involved in the camp, it will take you over completely.

"You go out there on the weekend -- it's a long trip -- for work and clean up details, but once you leave, you have such a good feeling about what you have accomplished."

Mr. Pernatozzi says that on the day some of these handicapped children leave Camp Tatiyee, they are already making plans to come back the next summer.

"For some of them, their only enjoyment is that one week at Camp Tatiyee."

The majority of the work, Mr. Pernatozzi says, is done by vol-

unteers -- the Lions, Lioness and friends.

On a typical work weekend to get the camp ready for the kids, 70 Lions will show up to clean, repair or add to the facilities.

"The last time we were up there 14 members of the Sun City Pioneer Lions helped us out," Mr. Pernatozzi says.

Mr. Pernatozzi reels off a long list of the names of the Lions who have given time to keep the camp running smoothly.

"It's a good thing my wife is understanding" he says, "because I am gone all the time and when I am at home I am on the phone all the time with camp business.

There will be an open house at Camp Tatiyee on July 16.

Anyone is welcome to come up and see the camp and meet the kids.



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# Paper chase:

## Lions king of beneficial drive

By PEG KEITH  
Sun Cities Independent

CONT PAGE

WETA

Consider the implication of 6,000 tons of old newspapers a year, dumped into the new Northwest Valley Landfill: every ton of paper creates a garbage crunch that requires 3 3/4 cubic feet of landfill space to cover.

Recycling is one solution to this crunch.

It can be done on a small or grand scale. In Sun City and Sun City West, the project is a mammoth undertaking, backed by the devoted effort of 10 participating Lions clubs.

The Sun City Lions coalition is the largest volunteer paper recycling corps in the country.

The 6,000 tons of old newsprint that volunteers bundle for recycling each year accounts for almost 60 percent of the total amount consumed in the region, with proceeds that average \$60 a ton.

Congressman Bob Stump has described the Sun City Lions clubs -- the median age of members is 82 -- as the most successful newspaper recyclers in the country.

B

See PAPER, page five



Independent file photo

**VOLUNTEERS** Gib Parke, left, and Sam Higginbotham, both members of the Host Lions Club, bundle donated papers.

OVER

LIONS CLUBS

VF



# • PAPER

From page one

B

He was in Sun City earlier this month and praised the men, who, he says, are setting a shining example for Phoenix, and the country, to follow.

The organizations' 20-year-old salvage-for-sale program has become a prosperous fund-raising effort, which benefits the handicapped.

Since the start of the collection program, Lions have gathered enough newspaper to fill Sun Devil Stadium two-thirds full.

"We started out small," says Gene Gravlin, current program manager. While the recycling program has grown to major proportions, he finds that scheduling the paper pickup is no problem at all.

Mr. Gravlin estimates the average Sun Citian household gets 20 to 30 pounds of newspaper a week. Collections, then, are influenced by the seasons, as approximately 40 percent of the total accumulates in the summer.

The supply fluctuates from about 35 tons a day in cool weather, to an average of about 18 tons daily through the summer months.

The tonnage estimates are as long as a piece of string. "It's simple," the chairman says. The Lions committees cut twine to a length appropriate for tying an easy-to-manage bundle of paper. These comfortable ties wrap up nearly a million bundles of newsprint each year. The club pays out about \$4,000 a year for string.

The Lions receipts are, annually, about \$335,000 for their work (minus about \$102,000 for unloading costs including the mechanical conveyor and the man-hours necessary to make it run).

The members look at their net (unloaded) proceeds, about \$233,000 last year, when they begin to check the balance sheets for the project.

There are a few incidental expenses, about \$32,000, for advertising, trash, bin maintenance, administration, security and construction labor.

Thus, the project delivers nearly \$200,000 net proceeds, for distribution to Lions programs, special interests and area activities.

Or, with an eye on the ledgers, Mr. Gravlin sees it as a program that delivers 86.3 percent of proceeds for contributions and 13.7 percent paid out for operational expenses.

Collection trucks are taken to the staging area, where three men help with the loading. It would take six men eight hours to unload 25 tons of paper manually, Mr. Gravlin says.

Henney Trucking Company has a backup supply of nearly 16 trucks to haul the newspaper to Southwest Forest Industries' paper mill facilities, near Heber, in the White Mountains.

"They haul bark for horsebedding, and mulch for florists and nurseries into the Valley, and take the waste paper back," Mr. Gravlin says. "The trucks are committed for that purpose.

There's no easy way to handle the paper. On the front lines, the Lions regularly cope with paper deposits with magazines, trash, four-color inserts and brown paper bags mixed in with the newsprint.

All these extraneous items must be removed. Brown paper changes the color of the newsprint, if it is processed.

"And we can't use telephone books," Mr. Gravlin continues.

But you don't hear the Lions complaining. Some Sun Citians can barely make it to the collection bins. Mr. Gravlin says, "They come on their bicycles, in their golf cars, on foot, even, with the waste paper."

Volunteers will arrange home pick-ups, if need be.

As a commodity, the price of paper may vary, but about 80 percent of the production in the Snowflake mill is recycled newsprint.

"People in Sun City are reading the same paper, over and over, maybe 50 times," says Mr. Gravlin.

He urges these newspaper readers to take a look at how the money from the recycling program is used, and at the people who benefit from the "recycling philanthropy."

Congressman Stump sees it as a shining example for other environmentally-minded Americans to follow.



# Sun Cities Lions roar with donations

SUN CITY — The 1,000 members of the 11 Lions Clubs and seven Lioness Clubs in the Sun Cities have contributed more than \$700,000 to individuals and charitable efforts over the past two years.

Spokesman Doug Morris of the Sun Cities Lions Foundation, composed of officers of the area Lions Clubs, said the foundation recently compiled total contributions from the clubs.

A total of \$702,385 was donated to 86 individuals and organizations over the two-year period.

Morris said most of the money benefitted the Sun Cities, but a considerable por-

tion went to young people in the surrounding communities such as Peoria, El Mirage and Surprise. Particular emphasis was put on assisting persons with sight and hearing impairments.

The biggest beneficiary was Camp Tatiyee, near Show Low, on the Mogollan Rim. The camp, owned and supported by the Lions, serves physically and sometimes mentally handicapped children. The Sun Cities Lions contributed \$61,985 to the camp's operation the last two years.

Other major beneficiaries were Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, Sun City West, \$30,000; Arizona Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation,

\$29,804; eye glasses and eye examinations for individuals, \$25,378; and Sun City Area Interfaith Services.

Although the Lions have an array of fund-raisers, the service

clubs' single most effective fundraiser is the newspaper drive. Bins throughout the community bring in enough discarded papers to raise about \$250,000 annually in recent years, Morris said.



## Paper drive: Lions project turns trash into dollars

*Editor's Note: The following is the final story in a three-part series examining the community paper drive sponsored by Sun Cities Lions Clubs.*

By BRET MCKEAND

The Lions want your old newspapers ... and so do the Prides, the Posse, the Community Fund and others.

For it's through the efforts of the Lions and their paper drive that these and approximately 40-50 other local non-profit organizations receive a bulk of their yearly contributions.

Each year the 11 local Lions Clubs collect about 6-7,000 tons of donated paper in 19 bins spread throughout Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown. That paper is sold to a recycling plant and all proceeds are turned over to area service organizations.

Last year, nearly \$250,000 was raised through the paper drive. Organizers feel there exists the potential within the communities to increase that figure to \$500,000 this year.

"People can make a dollar contribution to local agencies by giving us their trash," says Gene Gravlin, a member of the Host Lions Club and chairman of the paper drive.

"Not one dime of this is used for anything else but given to charity," he adds.

Members of the various

Lions clubs help collect paper, organize the bins and bundle the paper. Bins are assigned to the various clubs according to each club's membership.

All proceeds from the drive are returned to each club, again according to membership, and it left up to that club as to how the money will be dispersed.

Gravlin says a "bulk of the money" goes toward projects directed at the blind and handicapped such as Sun Sounds Radio, Reading for the Blind, Lions Vision Center and Arizona Low Vision Foundation. Approximately \$10,000 each year is used to purchase eye glasses and pay for eye examinations for school children who may not be able to afford such necessities.

The remainder, however, is given to many worthwhile community service organizations here in the Sun Cities. Among those receiving donations include the Sun Cities Community Fund, Sun

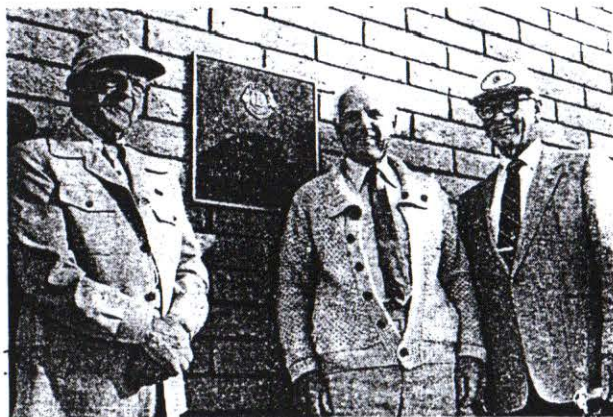
Cities Prides and Poses, Sun Cities Area Transportation, Sunshine Services and more.

Depending upon how much is collected each year, anywhere from 40 to 50 organizations and various programs will receive grants.

In 1979, the Lions Community Service Building

was built with donations received from the paper drive. The facility, which now includes three buildings, located at 99th and Olive avenues, provides office space for 10 non-profit service organizations for the low rent of only \$1 a year.

See LIONS, page seven



Bret McKeand/Independent

**THE LIONS COMMUNITY SERVICE BUILDING, 9451 N. 99th Ave., was built entirely with funds raised through the Lions paper drive. Standing in front of one of the three buildings on the site are, from left, Sam Higginbotham and Gene Gravlin, of the Host Lions Club, and Chuck McKinnis, of the B-4-9 Lions.**



## • LIONS

from page one

Sam Higginbotham, former chairman of the paper drive, says the community services building was one way of truly "keeping the money (collected from the paper drive) in Sun City."

"I looked around and saw all these services spread out all over town," says Higginbotham.

"They were all helping our residents here in Sun City but most of their donations were being used to pay their rent which was about three or four hundred dollars a month."

Higginbotham convinced the Del Webb Co. to donate land for a facility which would bring all these service organizations under one roof. With funds raised through the paper drive, the Lions providing the money needed for the building.

The first building was constructed in 1979 at a cost of \$85,000. In 1982 a second building was built at a cost of \$185,000 and last year a third building was added at a cost of \$81,000.

Higginbotham estimates the buildings save the organizations which occupy them about \$60,000 a year.

The third building serves as the home for the Sun Cities Area Transit Association (SCAT) and also serves as a warehouse for the Lions. Chuck McKinnis, president of SCAT, estimates the building and \$1-a-year rent saves his organization about \$8,000 a year in rent.

"SCAT would never have had the capital needed to build this building," says McKinnis.

The paper bins are located in most major shopping centers throughout the Sun Cities. Residents who cannot make it to the bins, can have their papers picked up by the Lions by calling 972-0936.

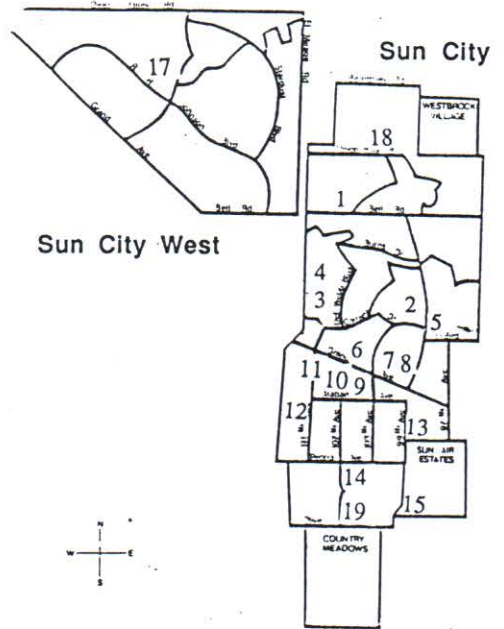
The Lions remind residents that only newspapers are being accepted at this point. The Lions cannot accept phone books, cardboard or magazines.

"If it weren't for the generosity of the residents of the Sun Cities, we wouldn't have a project," says Gravlin. "It only works because they make it work."

### Paper bin locations

The following is a list of the locations of area paper bins, operated by Sun Cities Lions Clubs. To have newspapers picked up, call 972-0936.

1. Bell Camino Shopping Center
2. Greenway Shopping Center
3. Exxon Station (on Del Webb Boulevard)
4. Garden Area (on Sunland Drive)
5. Thunderbird Plaza
6. Boswell Hospital parking lot
7. Sunshine Services Building
8. Royal Oaks Apartments
9. Home Owners Association
10. Kings Inn
11. Grand Shopping Center
12. Youngtown Mall
13. Arrowhead Mall
14. Safeway Store (on 107th and Peoria)
15. Lions Foundation (on 99th and Olive)
16. United Bank
17. Safeway (in Sundome Shopping Center)
18. Circle K (on Union Hills Road)
19. Olive and 103rd avenues





# Paper drive: Lions project turns trash into dollars

*Editor's Note: The following is the second in a series of three articles examining the community paper drive sponsored by the Sun Cities Lions Clubs. Part three will examine the local organizations which benefit from proceeds raised through the program.*

By BRET MCKEAND

Recycling paper is a good way for residents to rid themselves of useless trash and for non-profit groups to raise funds.

But according to a spokesperson for the Southwest Forest Industries, recycling paper is also good for the environment.

Southwest Forest Industries is the company that the Sun Cities Lions Foundation sells its collected paper to for recycling purposes. The paper drive program, a joint effort between the 11 local Lions clubs, nets nearly 7-8,000 tons of paper a year and raises about \$250,000 annually.

All of the funds are returned back to the Sun Cities communities and donated to local non-profit service organizations.

Gene Gravlin, chairman of the drive, feels that with further cooperation from residents the Lions could possibly double the amount they currently collect each year.

bin is the one located behind Lucky's grocery store in the Greenway Shopping Center which nets approximately six tons of paper a day.

The papers are taken to a warehouse located at 99th and Olive avenues in Sun City. The papers are stored in trailers and await pickup by Southwest Forest Industries.

From Sun City, the papers are transported to Southwest's recycling plant in Snowflake, Ariz. Kathy Milus, director of public affairs for Southwest Forest Industries, says the papers are first sent through a "de-inking" process to "wash" the ink off the newspapers.

"It is similiar to a washing machine," says Milus. "But instead of clothes we are putting newspapers into it."

From that point, the newspapers are "beat to a pulp" and that pulp is then mixed with other wood fibers

to produce newsprint. Milus says all recycled papers are used to produce newsprint which is then sold back to the newspaper industry.

Milus says 282,000 tons of recycled newsprint are produced a year at the Snowflake factory. She says recycling has a number of benefits.

"Recycling is an excellent way for groups to raise money," says Milus. "The Sun City group does an outstanding job -- they have among the highest recovery rate in the country."

Another, more important reason for recycling, says Milus, is that it benefits the environment. Papers which are thrown away into the trash, she says, take up landfill space and are eventually just "buried in the ground."

"Recycling papers saves

landfill space which has become a critical issue nowadays," says Milus.

Milus says that each ton of paper recycled saves three cubic yards of space in a landfill.

According to Milus, recycling has become more and more popular throughout the nation. In 1985, 20.4 million tons of paper were recycled, 84 percent of which remained in the United States. The remainder was exported to foreign countries.

She adds, however, that is estimated that 48 million tons are still not being recovered and is buried in landfills.

Along with being used for newsprint, recycled paper is also used in the production of fuel and insulation.

Milus says the advantages of recycling has led some states and cities to begin exploring mandatory recycling

laws for paper, glass and plastics.

The local drive, however, accepts only newspapers. Gravlin says the costs involved with recycling other items is greater than what the Lions would be paid in return for such items.

Currently, the Lions do not accept phone books, magazines, junk mail or cardboard.

"There is no use in our taking it if we (the Lions) can't make a profit on it," says Gravlin.

The program has been in existence in Sun City since 1966 and currently there are 19 paper bins spread throughout Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown.

But what happens to the newspapers once they are dropped into the bins? Just how do the "old" newspapers reach the recycling plant and become "new" newspapers?

Each day, the bins are visited by Lions volunteers. The papers are organized, stacked and bundled. According to Gravlin, it is estimated that "someone drops off a paper to one of the bins every 30 seconds."

Gravlin says the bins are emptied at least once a week -- some even more frequently. The Lions' most productive





**PAPER DRIVE RAISES FUNDS.** Local Lions Clubs are urging area residents to not throw away their old newspapers, but rather, donate them to local paper bins. Host Lions Club members Milt Jacobsen, left, and Ike Eisenhower help arrange and bundle papers at one of the area's 19 bins.

## Paper drive: Lions project turns trash into dollars

*Editor's Note: The following is the first in a series of three parts examining the community paper drive sponsored by Sun Cities Lions Clubs. Part two will discuss the recycling process and Part three will examine the local organizations which benefit from proceeds raised through the program.*

By BRET MCKEAND

Sun Citians are literally "throwing" away money. For more than 20 years now, Lions clubs throughout the Sun Cities have been urging area residents to donate their used newspapers to Lions-operated collection bins.

One of the largest annual fund-raising projects in the community, the Lions have raised more than \$1 million from collected paper -- all which has been returned back into the community in one form or another.

Organizers, however, feel that a great many residents are not aware of the Lions' paper drive and what it can do for the community. Of the amount of paper collected each year, organizers say more than twice that amount is not given to the bins and probably "thrown out in the garbage by area residents."

According to Gene Gravlin, chairman of the paper recycling project, the paper drive allows area residents to "make a dollar contribution by giving us their trash."

"Not one dime of this is used for anything but (to be) given to charity," says Gravlin.

According to Gravlin, the Lions collect between 6,000 and 7,000 tons of paper each year -- sometimes as high as 20 tons a day. By selling the paper to a recycling company, the Lions were able to raise \$250,000 in 1985.

All of the funds are then given to the individual Lions clubs in the area to be distributed to more than 30 local non-profit service and health agencies.

The project was started by the Host Lions Club of Sun City, which continues to this day to oversee the entire project even though all 11 Sun Cities Lions Clubs are involved -- eight in Sun City and three in Sun City West.

The first bin appeared in Sun City in 1966 at the Safeway Grocery Store on 107th and Peoria avenues. The program, however, was not an overwhelming success -- very little paper was being donated by residents and, due to the low price for paper, the Lions were receiving very little in return for their efforts.

This all began to change in 1971. Sam Higginbotham, a member of the Host Lions Club, stepped in as chairman of

*See PAPER, page 2*



## • PAPER

*from page one*

the program and was determined to change what was then a minor effort into a major fund-raising project.

"I believe we had only raised a total of \$7,000 from the bins during the years 1966 to 1971," recalls Higginbotham.

The first thing Higginbotham did was to investigate different recycling companies and settle on a company which would pay the Lions the highest market price for their paper. His second goal was to create more paper bins.

"I went to John Meeker (then president of the Del E. Webb Development Co.) and asked him for the authority to put metal bins in all the shopping centers in Sun City," says Higginbotham.

Higginbotham says Meeker and the Webb Company has "greatly assisted" the Lions in their efforts. The Lions paid for the metal bins and until recently, Del Webb only charged the organization \$1 a year to lease space in each of its locations.

Today, the Lions operate 19 bins in the Sun City-Sun City West-Youngtown area.

"Our goal is to get people to save their newspapers and to bring them along when they go shopping," says Higginbotham.

Members of the Lions spend time each day organizing the bins and bundling the papers. String is left at each bin for those would like to bundle their own papers.

At the present time, the Lions are only seeking newspaper donations and cannot accept phone books, magazines or junk mail. Gravlin says it costs the Lions too much to have these items recycled.

Higginbotham says the Lions receive a great deal of cooperation from the community.

"Somebody drops off paper every 30 seconds," says Higginbotham. "We have people 75 years and older who can hardly walk bringing these papers to us."

Higginbotham recalls the enthusiasm of one resident who "wore out three golf cars" helping to round up newspapers. "He'd be driving around Sun City picking up papers from his neighbors and he always pulled up to the bins with about 70 or 80 pounds of paper piled on his golf car."

For those who cannot make it to the bins, Lions volunteers will pick up any paper donations. Residents who need papers picked up should call 972-0936.

"We call it (the paper drive) a project, but it's more than that," says Gravlin. "It's like operating a small materials handling company."

Both Gravlin and Higginbotham agree that there are still a great many people who are throwing their papers in the trash rather than donating them to the bins. They feel there is the potential in the Sun Cities for the Lions to collect \$500,000 worth of papers a year -- double what they currently collect.

"If it wasn't for the generosity of the residents, we wouldn't have a project," says Higginbotham. "It only works because they make it work."



### *Support the Lions Paper Drive*

When through reading this paper, please drop it off at one of the 19 community paper collection bins. Your donation will help raise funds for area non-profit service organizations.



Bret McKeand/Independent

**IT'S HARD WORK, BUT IT'S WORTH IT.** Volunteers from area Lions clubs donate their time and efforts every day to help bundle paper at area bins. Above, Gib Parke, left, and Sam Higginbotham, members of the Host Lions Club, help organize the large amount of donated paper.



# Bins to collect paper add to Lions' benefits

By KAREN S. LEONARD  
Staff Writer

Local organizations, Boswell Memorial Hospital and 12 schools have been helped financially by the 11 Lions clubs in the greater Sun City area.

The clubs donate more than \$100,000 a year to organizations.

They get the money from collecting recyclable paper products discarded by citizens.

**FROM 500** to 600 tons of paper, cardboard and phone books are recycled from the 21 Lions bins in the greater Sun City area, Lions bins operation chairman Sam Higginbotham said.

And he believes, "If we could just get people to understand what we're trying to do," more residents would donate products.

When Higginbotham worked on the first board of directors for the club in November 1966, he said he remembers only two Lions bins in this area.

He said he left the board until 1971 to take care of his ill wife, but he's been in charge of the bins operation since he returned

to active club life after her death.

**IN 1973** the Lions started to fence the collection areas so they looked much as they do today.

The Community Services Building was built with the money collected from paper donations and Higginbotham said he estimates at least half the money received goes back into Sun City, benefiting residents, especially those in need.

He said 38 percent of the money is kept by the club and helps pay expenses and the rest is given away or used to put up buildings and other facilities for worthy agencies.

"Wherever we find a need in the community, we try to fill it," he commented.

**HE SAID HE** believes the club has "good support" from the community and that collections since the Community Services Building was constructed have increased \$3,000-\$4,000 a month.

The clubs receive \$45 a ton for

paper and cardboard from Superior Products in Chandler, Higginbotham said.

The contract with the Chandler company is complete at the end of the year, he added, and the club is negotiating with the firm for a 2- to 5-year contract at the \$45-a-ton price.

The biggest difficulty the Lions bin operators encounter is thievery, he stressed.

**HIGGINBOTHAM** said he estimates between five and 10 tons of paper products are taken from area bins each month.

He has caught several people in the process of stealing papers, he said. Some of the thieves go to court and are fined for their crimes, he added.

Higginbotham said after 14 years he's getting "kind of worn out" and so he is handing his job over to Gene Gravlin. Gravlin, Higginbotham said he hopes, will do a better job than Higginbotham has, because "he's (Gravlin) a new man with a new start."



Vol. 23 No. 8 Sun City, Arizona

# Paper builds building

By LINDA VON TERSCH

Paper is the prime building material for a new community service building to house 14 Sun City service organization.

Sun City Lions Foundation recycles paper to raise funds for its building projects, including the Community Services Center, targeted for a September opening.

Call 974-1448 for home pick-up. All paper items will be accepted, except Mountain Bell telephone books.

It will take 5,000 tons of recycled paper to raise the necessary \$200,000 for the building construction at 99th Avenue and Olive, said Doug Morris, spokesman for the Lions Foundation.

Lions are collecting 400 tons of paper monthly in its 17 paper bins scattered throughout Sun City and Sun City West and selling it for \$40 a ton.

Morris says 1,200 tons make the round in the community every month and Sun Cities residents are throwing away 800 tons of it or about \$400,000 a year.

"We could do a lot with that kind of money if we could get people to put their paper in the Lions' bins," Morris said. "I cringe when I think about the money being thrown away."

Community Services Center will be the second building the Lions Foundation has supported through its 15-year paper drive. The three-year old Higginbotham Studio and list of charities have benefited from \$500,000 a year endeavor.

Building contractor Leland Development Corporation and architect Bruce Bosley, both of Phoenix, will begin construction April 1 and complete August 15.

Each of the 14 tenants will have a renewable 10-year lease and pay a \$1 annual rental fee plus its share of utilities and janitorial services. The land, donated by Del Webb Development Company, is (Please see PAPER, page 6)

## Paper

(From page 1)

property of Sun City, although it's part of Peoria Postal District.

Tenants are American Red Cross, Hospice of the Valley, Center for the Blind, Salvation Army, Jewish Federation, American Cancer Society, Interfaith Services, Sun Cities Area Transit System, Inc., Arizona Diabetes Association, Volunteer Bureau, Community Council, Information and Referral Service, Community Fund and Meals on Wheels.

"There will be room for expansion," Morris said. "Some organizations may only need a telephone or answering service or a place to put a desk."

Service organizations pay about \$50,000 a year in rental fees at various commercial property, he said.

Although some organizations, such as Salvation Army and American Red Cross, are able to raise money to pay rent, other groups depend on Sun City Community Fund for donations.

"Sun City Community Fund supports the lesser financial organizations," Morris said. "But, with their own building, organizations can operate more effectively and economically."

Community Services Center has been in

the planning stages for the past 18 months.

"It generally started with people who thought it was needed. It's beginning to be a reality," Morris said. "There will be other buildings developed in the community because we need them and it will happen a lot faster if people would save their paper."

Lions' paper bins are located at United Bank, 99th and Concho Circle; Safeway, 107th and Peoria; Our Co-Op, 111th Avenue and Alabama; Grand Avenue Shopping Center (near Melody Lane Restaurant), 107th Avenue and Grand; Sun City Homeowners Association, 105th and Coggins Drive; Home Federal Savings, 99th Avenue and Peoria; Sunshine Service, 9980 Santa Fe Dr.; Circle K, 107th and Union Hills Drive; Bell Camino Shopping Center, 107th Avenue and Bell; United Bank, 19441 Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West; Sun City West Shopping Center; Boswell Memorial Hospital; Sunland and Agua Fria Drive; 103rd Avenue and Olive.

Call 974-1448 for home pick-up. All paper items will be accepted, except Mountain Bell telephone books.



# SC Lions clubs to 'pin' those who donate paper

In 1974, Sun City and Youngtown residents recycled enough old newspapers to save more than 40,800 U.S. forest trees from being cut.

But recently, Sun City Lions clubs collections have decreased.

As an incentive and a thankyou for newspaper deposits, Lions clubs will give Bicentennial lapel pins

to contributors from 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday at collection bins.

The pin has two crossed American flags and the numerals "76" in the center. If the 1,000-pin supply runs out, the offer will be repeated later.

LIONS MEMBERS will be stationed at bins behind Valley National Bank at Arrowhead Shopping

Center, behind Plaza del Sol's Safeway Market, behind Lucky's at Greenway Center, behind Thunderbird Center's Bayless Market, McClellan's Nursery, and in front of Bayless in Youngtown.

Local clubs use proceeds from the sale of discarded newspapers to benefit community organizations, including Sunshine Services, Salvation Army, Boswell Hospital, Sun City Library, C. T. Dickenson Memorial Fund (scholarships), Pop Warner Little League Football, the Handi-Van, Sun City Community Fund, and St. Vincent de Paul.

Money also has been used for Recording for the Blind, eye glasses and examinations for Peoria and Dysart school children, Valley View Community Hospital, the Papago and Southwest Indian schools.

"We know that it is very easy to discard papers into garbage cans," newspaper committee chairman Sam Higginbotham said.

BUT IF PEOPLE could see "the smile on the face of a child with a new pair of glasses or a blind person

who is being trained to take care of himself," they would save papers for deposit in Lions bins, he said.

The clubs have asked that persons not leave cardboard or magazines in the bins.

Also at the bins, boxes are provided for used eye glasses and hearing aids. Glasses are sent to Phoenix Center for the Blind for sorting. If serviceable, they are catalogued according to prescription and shipped to Mexico.

FRAMES AND parts may be used in the United States, but state law doesn't permit re-use or resale of lenses. For this reason, lenses are sent to Mexico for distribution.

Besides those mentioned already, collection bins are located at the News-Sun parking lot, the Homeowners Building parking lot, the Exxon Station at Del Webb Boulevard and Thunderbird Road, and Sunland Cemetery.

Information on newspaper collection and a list of bin locations may be obtained from Sam Higginbotham, project chairman, 933-3438.



'76 pins like this will be awarded to paper savers by Lions clubs.





(LEFT) Wil Stevener (left), Lions District Governor, and Sam Higginbotham (right), president of Sun City Lions Club, welcomed Arizona Gov. Raul Castro to our community. Following a luncheon at Lakes Club, Gov. Castro addressed Lions members and guests.

*Devco S.C. News*

*April 1975*



**SERVICE CLUBS**

Through the years the Sun City community has been enriched in many and unique ways by the efforts of the service clubs. Just as the neighborhoods of the community developed friendship groups, service clubs extended that spirit to the wider community.

*Lions*

The Sun City Host Lions Club was the first service club organized in Sun City. The date was September 1960 and the town had a population of fewer than 2,000. Meeting in the newly established Greenway Drug Store, this small but determined group of businessmen conceived their first project. They plunged immediately into a community service program by manning the school crossings in Peoria and El Mirage before and after school hours, thus pioneering the way for other service clubs to follow.

Eight Lions clubs were spawned over the years, bringing to the community an organized volunteer work force of more than 700 members. In the order of their chartering, the clubs are the Host, B-4-9, Sundowners, Midweek, Early Birds, Bell, 79ers, and the Sun City Diabetes Club.

With its large combined membership and the income from the sale of paper from its bins in Sun City, the Lions raise in excess of \$100,000 a year to support programs for handicapped children and the blind. The Community Agency Service Building on 99th Avenue was financed from these funds through the Lions Foundation.



*First Lions Club meeting at Greenway Drugstore, September 7, 1960*

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