

# SUN CITY PRIDES, INC.

## HISTORY from 1980 - 1996

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The Sun City Prides, Inc., or, as they are familiarly known, THE PRIDES (an acronym for PROUD RESIDENTS INDEPENDENTLY DONATING ESSENTIAL SERVICES) was born in the Spring of 1980 as a service organization whose sole purpose would be to KEEP SUN CITY BEAUTIFUL by doing chores above the normal services of Maricopa County in order to preserve the high standard set for Sun City.

It began with a Letter to the Editor written by Joe McIntyre, a Sun City resident, calling attention to the littering along 99th Avenue. He stated that he would be out there on Saturday mornings to do what he could to clean up the area and hoped other Sun Citians might join him - - - and gradually they did.

The first recorded committee meeting was held on May 31, 1980, following a Coffee Hour hosted by the First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Youngtown, attended by 200 PRIDES. In attendance were residents Joe McIntyre, L. D. Hutson, Ralph Ossa, Tom Cowley, Ann Foster, Beverly Monson and Betty Hallen, as well as Dennis Clark, Maricopa County Highway Department Supervisor for Sun City. Joe McIntyre was unanimously appointed Chairman and Betty Hallen, Secretary.

The second meeting held June 7, 1980, was attended by the committee members, 122 PRIDES and representatives from Maricopa County and the Del Webb Corporation. At this meeting, L. D. Hudson was appointed Vice Chairman and Ann Foster, Treasurer.

Orange Vests were provided by the County. A logo was designed by Hank Wohlwend, who handpainted it on each jacket.

Originally, the city was divided into 33 work sections, each with a Monitor, who reported to the Monitor Coordinator. Later, this was changed. A Monitor Coordinator was appointed for each of three areas in Sun City: Phase I south of Grand Avenue; Phase II between Grand Avenue and Bell Road; Phase III everything north of Bell Rd. In general, the members work within their own neighborhoods. In addition, other work groups were gradually established for specialized work; Tree Trimming and Painting, Irrigation, Weed Spraying, Fertilization and a special Squad to cover the city wherever needed, especially, picking up oranges.

The residents, clubs and organizations began to see the value of the work of the PRIDES and responded generously with financial aid, making it possible for the PRIDES to live up to the name, PROUD RESIDENTS INDEPENDENTLY DONATING ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

This is one of the few service organizations which does not have a fund drive and as long as our citizens continue their support, the PRIDES will be able to retain this title. It has been the policy of the PRIDES that their name should never be used in association with any commercial advertising or for any promotional purpose.

In early 1982, the PRIDES became a non-profit corporation. The Articles of Incorporation and the By-laws were unanimously accepted at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 6, 1982, and soon thereafter tax exemption status was received. Full credit was given to Al Brown for his untiring effort in bringing this to fruition.

The By-laws called for a 9-member Board to be elected as follows: 5 members for a 2-year term and 4 members for a 1-year term. The Board elects its President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

At the Board meeting 11/20/82, a motion was made, seconded and approved to require that all letters or publications emanating from the PRIDES must be submitted to the Board of Directors for authorization.

By 1983 there were 319 active PRIDES.

By 1984 sufficient funds had been received thru donations and bequests that consideration was given to obtaining a headquarters for the acquired vehicles, equipment, tools, etc.

In late 1984 the Sun City Water Company approved plans for a PRIDES building to be situated on their land at the east end of Greenway Road to house their vehicles and equipment. Under a leasing agreement, use of the Water Company land by the PRIDES is perpetual, no matter who owns it in the future, at the cost of \$1.00 per year.

Del Webb Development Corporation (DEVCO) constructed an 80' x 48' building, which was completed the end of May, 1985, at a cost of \$29,645.00, paid from the PRIDES' treasury.

Ribbon cutting and Open House were held on June 8, 1985.



At the 8th Annual Meeting of March 5, 1988, motion was made, seconded and approved to name the headquarters building the "Vern and Carol Howland Building" in recognition of the Howlands' many hours spent taking care of the building, keeping the equipment in tip-top condition, being responsible for the inventory, constructing PRIDES' displays and setting them up at the Recreation Centers' Fun Fairs, and all of this done in addition to weed spraying and other general work.

The PRIDES have purchased and maintained flags at the intersection of Grand and 107th Avenues. A sensor light was installed.

In February 1987, approval was given by the Board of Directors to publish a Safety Bulletin twice a year. This has developed into a Newsletter titled "THE COMMUNICATOR."

PRIDES' Park at 105th and Peoria Avenues was completed by the PRIDES in 1987. Later a Gazebo and Water Fountain were added.

A song to honor the PRIDES was composed by Sun Citian Dutch Schultz.

Over the years the Sun City Prides, Inc. have received many awards for their contribution to the community. Among them the County Achievement Award for 1981, given by the National Association of Counties, in recognition of distinguished and continuing contributions to the cause of strong, efficient, modern county government in America, and the Governor's Pride in Arizona Award, Arizona Clean and Beautiful, 1990.

In the Spring of 1996, Citizens Utilities Co. donated a truck with hydraulic lift, making it possible for the Tree Trimmers to reach the tree tops in a safe manner.

The Irrigation System in Sun City is maintained almost exclusively by the PRIDES and, for the past ten years, under the direction of Merlin Stevens. The County is called in only in emergency situations.

In February of 1996 the PRIDES were invited to join the Sun City/Sun City West Presidents' Council, which is an informal organization comprised of the Presidents of the major volunteer organizations in the two communities.

What has come to be known as "The Great Storm of '96" hit the Northwest Valley about 6 PM on August 14th. It uprooted trees, tore shingles from roofs, did other structural damage and scattered much debris. The PRIDES did a great job in helping with the clean-up of the streets of Sun City in the aftermath of the storm.

Currently, there are 318 PRIDES continuing the task of "keeping Sun City beautiful", beginning their work where the County leaves off in order to preserve the high standard of cleanliness which has been set for Sun City.

There have been nine (9) strong leaders who have brought this organization to where it is today. They are listed below with their terms of office:

Joseph McIntyre	Chairman	5/31/80 - 1/ 1/81
	President	3/ 3/84 - 3/ 5/88
Lawrence Allen	Chairman	1/ 3/81 - 6/ 5/82
	President	6/ 5/82 - 3/ 3/84
Edward Koudelka	President	3/ 3/88 -10/ 1/88
Joseph Keenan	President	10/ 1/88 - 3/ 3/90
Stanley Jones	President	3/ 3/90 - 3/ 7/92
Waldo Smith	President	3/ 7/92 - 3/12/94
Marr Simons	President	3/12/94 - 3/ 1/95
Howard Matthias	President	3/ 1/95 - 3/ 1/96
Edward Pierce	President	3/ 2/96 -

History to 11/2/96  
Prepared by Betty Hallen

Approved by the Board of Directors

 1/3/97  
President Date



# PRIDES have rich community history

## Group helps keep Sun City clean

By Art Huseonica  
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services, or PRIDES as the group is commonly known, has a long and valued history in Sun City.

The PRIDES was established in 1980 as a service organization whose sole purpose was to keep Sun City beautiful. It began as the result of a letter to the editor written by Joe McIntyre, a Sun City resident, complaining about the litter along 99th Avenue. He noted he was out there every Saturday morning trying to clean up the litter, but needed the help of other Sun City residents.

Within two months, several meetings were conducted with appointed officials for

the PRIDES along with representatives from Maricopa County and the Del Webb Corp. Mr. McIntyre was unanimously appointed PRIDES chairman.

The PRIDES motto is "Keeping Sun City Beautiful."

Early tasks focused on litter clean-up and picking up oranges from thousands of ornamental orange trees. This was supported by the more than 200 volunteers that stepped forward to make the PRIDES a viable and valued organization.

In 1982, Al Brown worked to have the PRIDES successfully become a nonprofit corporation with tax-exempt status.

With donations rolling in and membership peaking at 300 in 1984, the Sun City Water Company approved plans for a PRIDES' building to be built using PRIDES funds on water company land at the intersection of Greenway



Sun City residents joined the PRIDES early in the community's history to help keep trash and debris cleaned from streets and other common areas. [Submitted photo]

Road and 91st Avenue. The PRIDES pay a \$1 per year lease. The building is called the Vern and Carol Howland Building in honor of the Howlands' generous energies working with the organization.

The PRIDES Park was established at Peoria and 105th avenues in 1987. Former governor Rose Mofford awarded the PRIDES in 1990 the Governor's Pride in Arizona Award.

Following the "Great Storm of 96," the PRIDES were mobilized to clean up the Sun

City streets of vegetation and other debris in the aftermath of the storm.

Since then, the PRIDES continue to have a strong relationship with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation and elected officials, including Clint Hickman, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors representative for District 4. Work progresses on replacing orange trees with drought-tolerant bushes and trees as part of the Project Desert Canopy under the guidance of the PRIDES Beautification Committee.

## ORGANIZATION



Richard Anderson, left, and Steve Fribley trim some shrubs in the median of one of Sun City's roadways. [Submitted photo]

"I was humbled to be elected to such an organization where its members are so passionate about their neighborhood," said Ken Smith, PRIDES president. "We are unique in what we do."

Mr. Smith also noted over the decades there have been thousands of PRIDES members, including many who stepped forward to assume leadership positions on the PRIDES Board of Directors and participate on various PRIDES committees. Continuing a family tradition, Mr. McIntyre's great-grand-

daughter, Kenzie Willneff joined the PRIDES.

The PRIDES do not conduct a fund drive, instead depending on donations from residents, clubs and businesses to support their mission of "Keeping Sun City Beautiful."

The next PRIDES event, in addition to work performed each Saturday morning, is the Arbor Day ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, April 27 at West Peoria Avenue and North 109th Avenue. Visit [suncityprides.com](http://suncityprides.com).

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Huseonica is a Sun City resident and he is active in the PRIDES.



Indep Dec 20, 2017



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## VOLUNTEER



## PRIDES retirement

Sun City PRIDES volunteer Tom Sullivan, left, was recognized for his service at the monthly PRIDES' meeting. Mr. Sullivan is "retiring" from the PRIDES after 17 years of active volunteerism helping to keep Sun City beautiful. He was presented a certificate by PRIDES' president Ken Smith. Visit [www.suncityprides.com](http://www.suncityprides.com). [Art Huseonica/Submitted photo]

VF SC PRIDES





Sun City PRIDES phase coordinators, from left, Pat Richardson, Rosemary Lynch, Jeannie Dircks and Barbara Richards keep PRIDES volunteers busy working to keep the community clean. [Art Huseonica/submitted photo]

## CLEAN

# Coordinating Sun City's cleanup

## PRIDES leaders keep the work flowing

By Art Huseonica  
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

With such a large area and so many miles of avenues to keep looking beautiful, Sun City PRIDES work assignments are coordinated by several very

busy phase coordinators.

Each week, coordinators such as Jeannie Dircks, responsible for Phase 2, goes out to survey to see if any specific area needs special attention for weeding, picking up debris or trimming. Mrs. Dircks then coordinates with the other phase coordinators, comparing notes and determining which area needs

the most attention by the Saturday Squad.

"It's wonderful to work with the other phase coordinators," said Mrs. Dircks. "It makes my job so easy when everyone involved with the PRIDES is so passionate about keeping Sun City beautiful."

Coordinating Phase 1 projects are co-coordi-

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## Clean

» From page 3

nators Rosemary Lynch and Pat Richardson. Mrs. Lynch has lived in Sun City for 30 years and is one of the original PRIDES. Being a coordinator for more than 12 years, she was instrumental in helping to coordinate the planting of drought-tolerant vegetation along Olive Avenue.

Ms. Richardson has lived

in Sun City for 16 years and has been a co-coordinator in Phase 1 for more than five years. Her focus has been on helping to get trees planted along 107th Avenue.

Phase 3 projects are coordinated by Barbara Richards. With the PRIDES for 13 years, Mrs. Richards has been working to keep invasive weeds at a minimum along Del Webb Boulevard.

For any projects that are too large or out of the jurisdiction of the PRIDES, the Maricopa County Department of Transportation crews step in to help. For example, all the spraying for weeds is now being done by licensed and certified county employees using specialized equipment.

Visit [www.suncityprides.com](http://www.suncityprides.com).

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Huseonica, a Sun City resident, handles publicity for the PRIDES.

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PRIDES

# Making shade in Sun City

## Rotary funds infuse PRIDES project

By Rusty Bradshaw  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

With fall and cooler weather approaching, the Sun City PRIDES are planning for their next phase in the desert canopy project.

The PRIDES started the desert canopy project two years ago as part of its efforts to enhance the beauty of the community, according to Lloyd Maple, PRIDES member. The intent is to plant shade trees in the wide medians in the community to offer walkers shade when traversing those areas.

The group completed its plantings on 107th Avenue earlier this year and is ready to address the east-west streets Alabama and Peoria avenues.

"We have planted more than 400 trees," Mr. Maple explained. "We have gone as far as we can on 107th and will be planting east and

west now."

The project got an infusion from a Rotary grant, coordinated by Sun City's two clubs — Sun City and Del Sol. The two clubs' officers secured a \$3,000 grant from Rotary District 5495 for the tree project.

"I heard our international president say he wanted to plant trees in memory of deceased club members, so I figured what a great way to do that and network with another Sun City group," said Jim Green, Sun City Rotary Club member.

Ian Riseley, RI president, challenged all 1.2 million Rotarians to plant a tree before Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, 2018.

The PRIDES will purchase "Red Push" Pistache trees with the Rotary funds for the Alabama and Peoria avenue plantings. The trees can grow as high as 40 feet and as wide as 30 feet, providing a large amount of shade underneath. Both Sun City Rotary clubs will install plaques at each tree planted in memory of deceased club members, according to Steve Bjornstad, Sun City

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Sun City PRIDES and Rotary members got a preview of the trees that will be planted using a Rotary grant. In attendance were, from left, Jim Green and Steve Bjornstad, Sun City Rotary Club; Lloyd Maples and Mike Will, Sun City PRIDES; Don Pipho, Sun City Del Sol Rotary Club; and Dean Pokrandt, Sun City Rotary Club. [Independent Newsmedia/Rusty Bradshaw]



## PRIDES

» From page 1

Rotary Club president.

PRIDES' leaders have yet to decide which roadway they will target first, according to Mike Will, PRIDES member.

The PRIDES partner with Maricopa County Department of Transportation for the tree plantings. Key to the liaison is the support provided by Oscar Pena, a crew leader for MCDOT. His expertise ensures a smooth operation every time the county provides support to a PRIDES project, such as weed spraying, repairing potholes and planting desert vegetation along Sun City's boulevards and avenues, said Ken Smith, PRIDES president.

Rotary's involvement will

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### CONTACT:

Rotary Club Sun City Del Sol: email  
- santadon111@yahoo.com

go beyond financial, according to Dean Pokrandt, Sun City club member and tree planting project coordinator.

"We will have some people out here to help not only with the planting but the ongoing maintenance," he said.

THE PRIDES, through their partnership with MCDOT officials, have permission to work in the medians to maintain the trees as they grow.

"The thrust of Rotary projects is sustainability," said Mr. Green. "So we will want to have our able members out here to help nurture these trees."

In addition to providing

shade, trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming, according to Mr. Riesley.

Newly formed Rotary District 5495 Gov. Nancy Van Pelt included a tree planting challenge in the 2017-18 club achievement award. Mr. Riesley's challenge allowed clubs to interpret it in different ways. The Sun City clubs chose to take a direct and active approach, according to Mr. Pokrandt.

The Sun City PRIDES and both Rotary clubs welcome new members.

Visit [www.suncityprides.com](http://www.suncityprides.com), [www.rotaryclubssuncity.com](http://www.rotaryclubssuncity.com) or email [santadon111@yahoo.com](mailto:santadon111@yahoo.com) for membership information for each group.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or [rbradshaw@newszap.com](mailto:rbradshaw@newszap.com). Continue the discussion at [www.yourwestvalley.com](http://www.yourwestvalley.com).



# Heat does not keep good PRIDES down

## Tree planting continues on shade canopy project

By Art Huseonica

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Despite triple-digit temperatures, the Sun City PRIDES continue working to help keep Sun City beautiful.

The PRIDES were seen the last two weeks planting drought-tolerant trees along 107th Avenue in Sun City's phase one. Teaming up with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation, the PRIDES volunteers planted 180 trees.

"The Maricopa County DOT crew has been wonderful in getting the trees to us early in the morning," said Lloyd Maple, PRIDES Beautification Committee member. "This enabled us to get an early start on planting."

Taking advantage of an opportunity to instill the importance and fun of community service at an early age, PRIDES member Bob Elston brought his granddaughter Emma Frankel with him to help to plant trees. Maricopa County DOT crews had



Sun City PRIDES member Bob Elston, left, and his granddaughter Emma Frankel helped with the 107th tree planting project. [Submitted photo/Art Huseonica]

already augered the holes.

Trees were purchased from Linden Tree Nursery of Sun City, that included red push Pistache and Chinese elm. These varieties, requiring less water, were selected to replace the high-maintenance ornamental orange trees that were planted during Sun City's development. The new

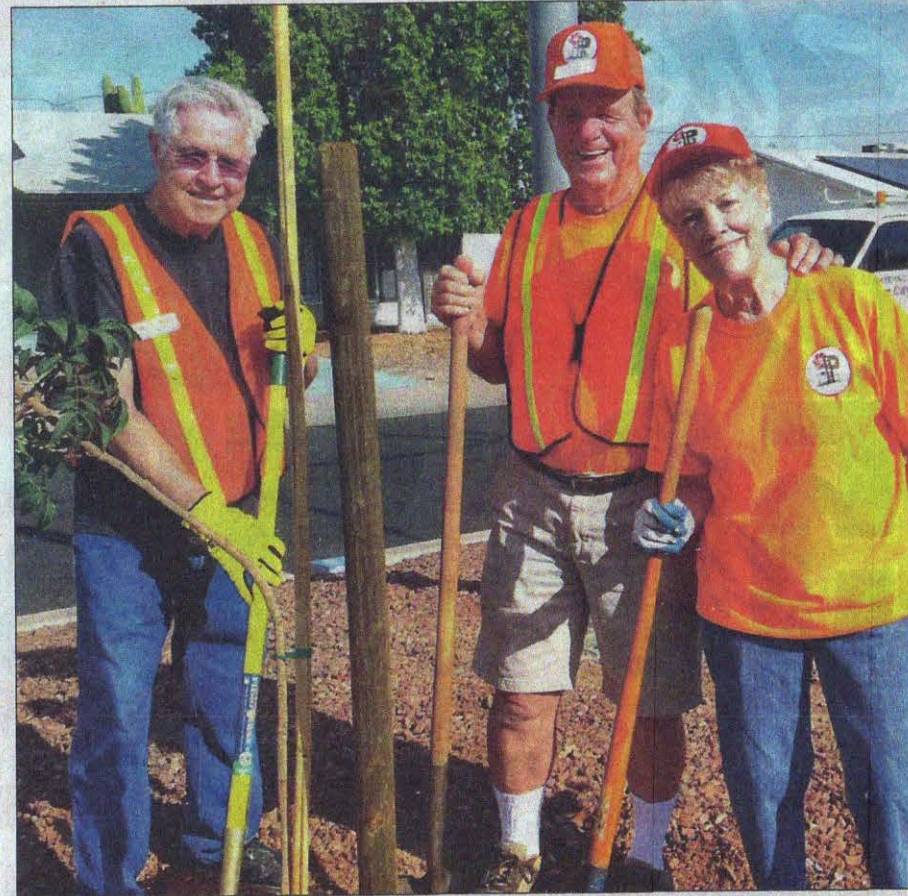
trees are located in the median of 107th Avenue, south of Alabama Avenue.

To learn more about the Sun City PRIDES and how you can become a member, visit [www.suncityprides.com](http://www.suncityprides.com).

Editor's Note: Sun City resident Art Huseonica handles publicity for the Sun City PRIDES.

10 June 21, 2017 | Sun City Independent

## HELPING OUT



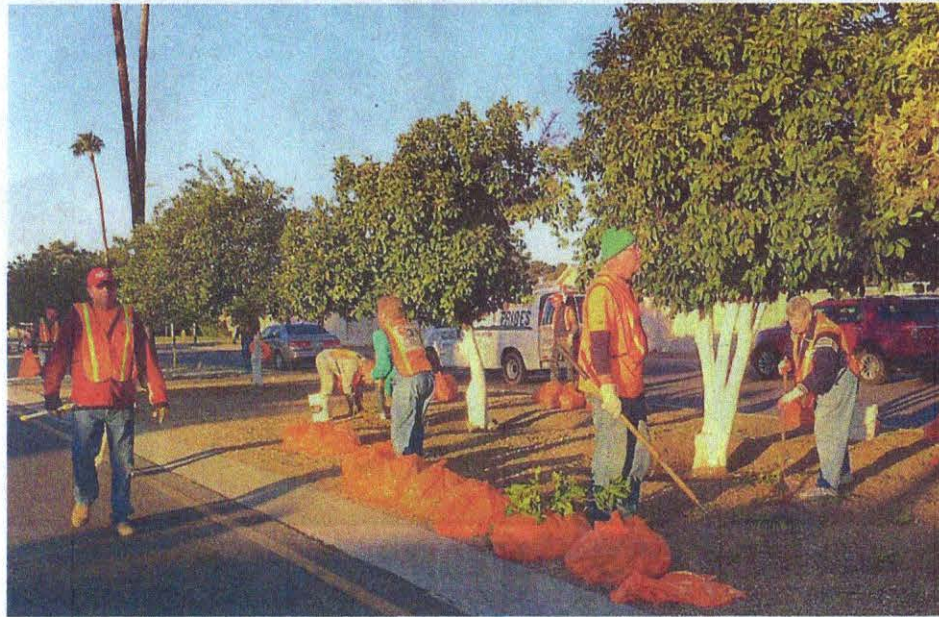
Sun City PRIDES members, from left, Richie Miller, Lloyd Maple and Grace Kinsey with one of the trees they planted 107th Avenue. [Submitted photo/Art Huseonica]



V F SC PRIDES

26 February 15, 2017 | Sun City Independent

#### LIBRARY EVENTS



#### Orange for oranges

Comes a Saturday and members of Sun City PRIDES fill bags of sour oranges along Thunderbird Road. Pictured, in no particular order, Jim Potter, Nancy Thompson, Olga Jackson, Robert Pulkinghorn, James Jerard and Irene Gagnon. [Submitted photo/Francine Jennings]



VF SC PRIDES

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# SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

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## Trees in the ground

Mike Will, left, Sun City PRIDES Beautification Committee chairman, and Molly Soblewski, PRIDES president, put the finishing touches on planting a tree in the median on Alabama Avenue Jan. 17. The trees, part of the PRIDES desert canopy project were funded by the Rotary Club and Sun City and the Del Sol Rotary Club.



# Community



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## PRIDES

# Sun City PRIDES under new leadership

## President, board, executive board elected

By Art Huseonica  
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

January means a new year for the Sun City PRIDES in more ways than one.

The group's membership elected a new president, board and executive board Jan. 6 during their annual meeting. New board members were elected for four positions whose two-year terms had expired, and one position due to an early resignation. The 2018 board of directors is Nancy Kachinski, Ken Smith, Molly Soblewski, Ritchie Miller, Rosie Swain, Mike Will, Pat Richardson, Jerry Kavanagh and Linda Owen. Board



PRIDES 2018 board of directors are, from left, Nancy Kachinski, Ken Smith, Molly Soblewski, Ritchie Miller, Mike Will, Pat Richardson and Jerry Kavanagh. Not pictured is Linda Owen. [Submitted photo]

members are elected by the PRIDES' membership present at the annual meeting.

At the board of directors

meeting after the general meeting, elected to serve on the executive committee were President Molly

Soblewski, Vice President Pat Richardson, Treasurer Ritchie Miller and Secretary Rosie Swain.

"It has been the most rewarding volunteer project I have been involved in." — See Prides on





PRIDES 2018 executive board consists of, from left, Rosie Swain, Molly Soblewski, Ritchie Miller and Pat Richardson.

## Prides

» From page 4

with," said Mr. Smith, former PRIDES president. "I am still on the board of directors and in a position to help ensure a smooth transition."

In addition to the array of accomplishments under Mr. Smith's leadership, the PRIDES have another five-year letter of agreement with the Maricopa Department of Transpor-

tation, numerous sidewalks were installed throughout Sun City and hundreds of drought-tolerant plants and trees were planted along area boulevards.

Mrs. Soblewski, the group's new president, has been with the PRIDES for six years and this is her third year on the board of directors.

"I was humbled to be elected president of such a fine organization such as the PRIDES, she said. "I prom-

ise to work hard in helping to keep Sun City beautiful."

In addition to regular projects the PRIDES are working on, their next major event is the annual awards luncheon scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018 at the Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave.

Visit [www.suncityprides.com](http://www.suncityprides.com).

**Editor's Note:** Mr. Huseonica handles publicity for the Sun City PRIDES.



**4** January 3, 2018 | Sun City West Independent

## **SCW PRIDES needs more volunteers**

The Sun City West PRIDES seeks volunteers to assist in their community mission.

Help is needed with physical work performed, but also to a variety of other roles, such as record keeping, communications, computer input, purchasing and maintaining equipment and supplies, and serving coffee, rolls, and donuts at monthly meetings.

There is an urgent need for people with plumbing or irrigation experience.

Call 623-584-2878  
or email [prides@scw-prides.com](mailto:prides@scw-prides.com).



SERVICE

August 2016

# PRIDES to plant in Grand Avenue medians

By Mike Will

Like others, I often wondered why Grand Avenue in Sun City did not have any landscaping in the medians when our neighboring communities had landscaping plants in their medians.

To help get an answer to my concern, Ken Smith, Sun City PRIDES president, contacted Arizona Department of Transportation and found an individual who agreed to meet and inspect the roadway with us. Mark Schallio, who is the ADOT Roadside Maintenance manager, assisted with this inspection. During our review of the medians, we also noted that there was no rock along the south side of Grand Avenue by the Quail Run Gold Course, 9774 W. Alabama Ave.

Mr. Schallio noted the lack of any rock, let alone decorative rock, in this specific area was due to engineers working on multiple Grand Avenue projects that converged at this point in the road and not working together to have the area symmetrical in appearance. Mr. Schallio agreed that it was an oversight and he would add decorative rock to those areas that had been missed. That was all he could commit to at that time.

After the lack of decorative rock was resolved, we got back to our discussion about

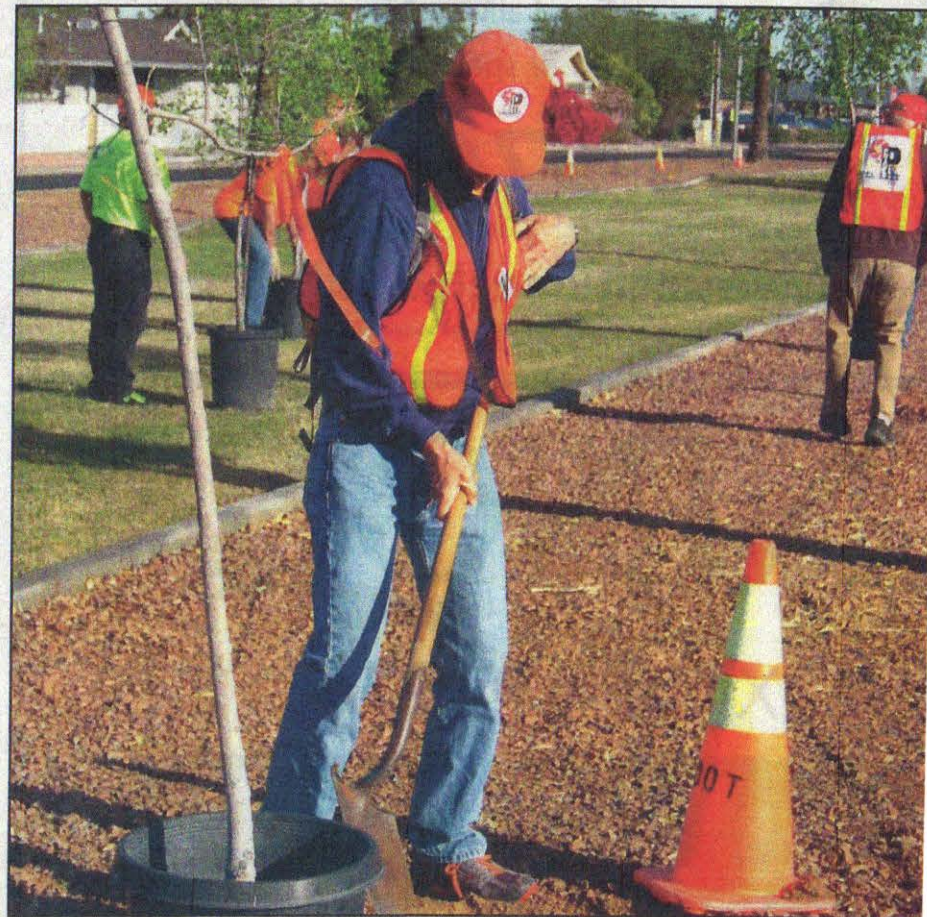
the Grand Avenue medians in Sun City. Mr. Smith and I asked if ADOT would help us with planting in the medians if the Sun City PRIDES would pay for the plants. He was very receptive to that idea! We pursued this with multiple meetings with ADOT.

ADOT had an Arizona State University intern on staff who developed a roadside plan and gave us the list of selected plants that would meet ADOT's approval. One of our PRIDES members is a master gardener who helped us select 20 different drought tolerant plants to be used.

The decorative rock has been added to the roadside along Grand Avenue by Quail Run Golf Course. ADOT will be ready for planting the plants that we selected this coming fall, in September or October. The Sun City PRIDES are now busy with the details of ordering plants and, of course, determining the cost of this project.

The Sun City PRIDES continuously work for the maintenance and beautification of the community and thank all of their Sun City friends who support the group to make these improvements possible.

*Editor's Note: Mr. Will is Sun City PRIDES secretary.*



Independent Newsmedia/Rusty Bradsh  
The Sun City PRIDES will expand their vegetation planting efforts to the medians on Grand Avenue much like their work on 107th Avenue, but with desert and median friendly plants.

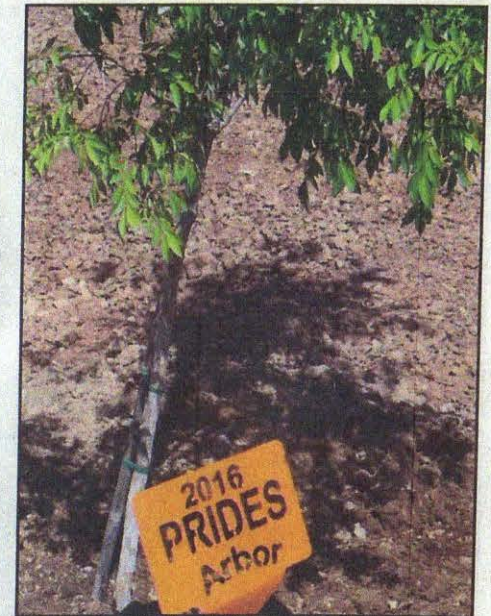




Submitted photos

## Memorial planting

The Sun City PRIDES were out in force April 28 to plant trees, with the help of Maricopa County Department of Transportation crews, in memory of members who died during the past year. Trees were planted in the median on Peoria Avenue west of 109th Avenue at Clair Drive. Members honored with trees were Barbara Gordon, Anna Wedding, Ann Foster and Jack Balbinot.





DEPENDENT

December 28, 2016



## Grand planting

Because Sun City was not involved in landscape planning when Grand Avenue was improved, Arizona Department of Transportation officials are working with the Sun City PRIDES to improve the appearance of the roadway. After ADOT crews added matching landscape rock to the areas that lacked the coverage, ADOT officials planned designed the planting layout and selected the various draught tolerant plants to be used. ADOT crews did the planting.

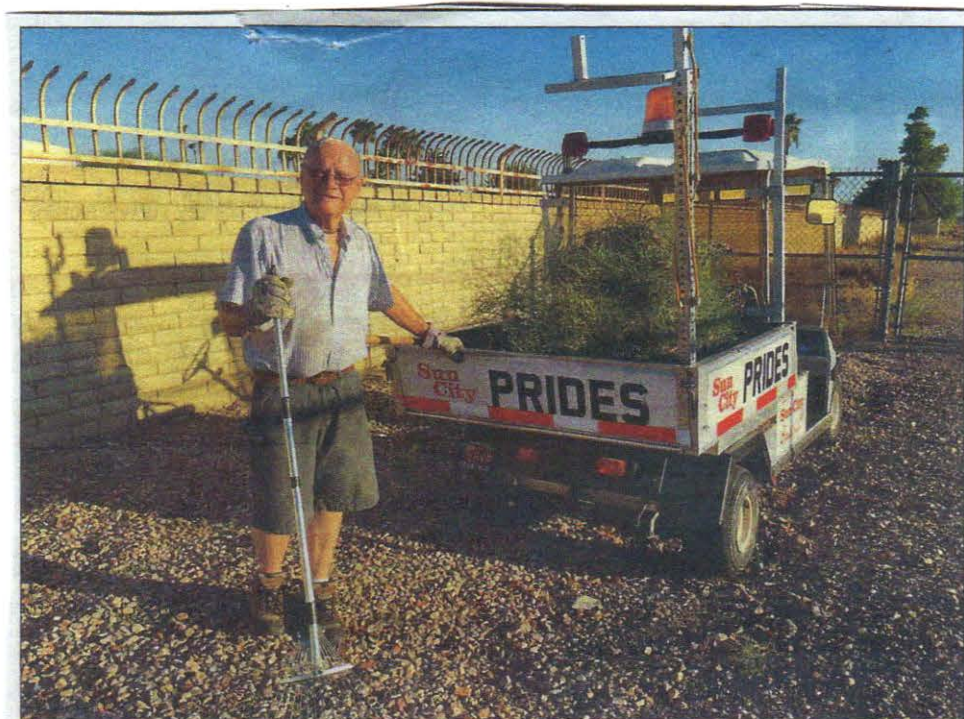
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November 2, 2016

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT



### **Sun City local cleans up the PRIDES building**

Tony Dircks of the Sun City PRIDES working outside near the PRIDES building, 10849 N 91st Ave. He removes loads of weeds to get ready for political signs to be installed. [submitted photo]

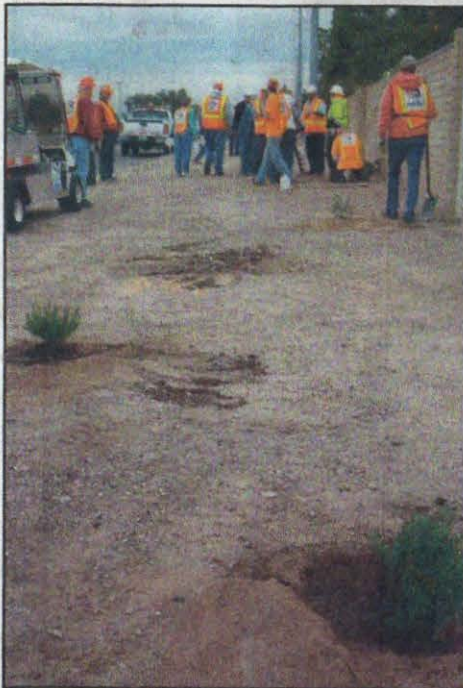


# Taking PRIDE in their environment

## PRIDES continue projects to beautify Sun City

The Sun City PRIDES and Maricopa County Department of Transportation teamed up to tidy up Olive Avenue at the southern end of Sun City.

PRIDES and county transportation crews worked more than four hours this morning, Jan. 4, to plant small shrubs and



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw  
Small shrubs and trees dot the right-of-way along Olive Avenue on Sun City's southern border, part of a PRIDES project to beautify the area.

trees along the northern side of the avenue. The shrubs, and dessert wild flowers to be planted later, will add some scenery to the common walls along the stretch of Olive Avenue from 107th to 111th avenues, according to Ken Smith, PRIDES president.

"It will really make this area look so much better, especially in a couple of years when the trees and shrubs grow more," he said.

The PRIDES will also do the same between 107th and 103rd avenues, but not until later in the year, or possibly next year, according to Mr. Smith.

In addition to the plants, PRIDES plan to install a crushed granite walkway along Olive Avenue in the area between the common walls and the street curb. The walkway will meander among the plants now being put into the ground. The walkway is also a future project for the PRIDES, the group of resident volunteers that work to keep the community clean.

The Olive project is one of many the PRIDES have conducted and are planning for community beautification.

"I have been out here since 1988 working on this Olive beautification," said Rosemary Lynch, a longtime PRIDES member. "I'm glad to see it is finally getting done."

Other beautification projects by the PRIDES include removing citrus trees along Del Webb Boulevard north of Bell Road and planting desert-friendly shrubs there, planting and other landscaping in medians on



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw  
PRIDES volunteers and Maricopa County Department of Transportation workers teamed up to plant desert friendly items along Olive Avenue. The group will also install a gravel "sidewalk" along the stretch from 111th Avenue to 103rd Avenue. That phase of the project is scheduled for spring.

Bell Road and annual Arbor Day tree plantings at various location in the community. The PRIDES are always in need of new member volunteers.

In addition to members picking up trash

in their assigned neighborhoods, volunteer patrols also take care of trash along roadways. These tasks include the busy streets such as Bell Road, 99th Avenue and Del Webb Boulevard.





Sun City PRIDES member Susan Hemphill carries a drought-resistant plant that is part of the project to replace aging, water-hogging ornamental orange trees along Del Webb Boulevard. PHOTOS BY CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC

## SO LONG, CITRUS

Xeriscape plants replacing iconic orange trees along Sun City street

By Lesley Wright

The Republic | azcentral.com

Sun City founder Del E. Webb exploited two of the Five C's that gave Arizona charm and prosperity.

He relied on climate to draw cold-weather retirees and wowed them with streets lined with citrus.

Now, Sun City residents may have to add an "X" to their lexicon — for xeriscape landscaping.

A local non-profit is working with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation to rip out dozens of the iconic ornamental orange trees that have lined medians on Del Webb Bou-

levard. is a sign that both the trees and public attitudes about water use have changed since the trail-blazing retirement community opened more than a half-century ago.

In place of the citrus, flowering, drought-resistant plants such as lantana, ocotillo, cactus and Valentine emu bush are being planted.

Volunteers from Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services, known as Sun City PRIDES Inc., have removed 27 trees from one block along Del Webb Boulevard, starting just north of Bell Road. Once they complete several projects in other parts of Sun



Water conservation is the main reason for removing the

### MORE ONLINE

Go to [surprise.azcentral.com](http://surprise.azcentral.com) to see Sun City before the changes and hear what residents have to

VFSC PRIDES



# PRIDES earns presidential recognition

## Gazette Northwest Bureau

SUN CITY — The PRIDES has been recognized as one of the top volunteer groups in the country by President Reagan, who personally presented PRIDES leaders with an award.

In a ceremony at the White House April 22, Reagan gave the PRIDES the 1985 President's Volunteer Action Award. The group was one of 18 honored.

"It is national recognition for a group of retired volunteers," PRIDES founder Joe McIntyre said. "They have accomplished two things: keeping a community of 45,000 clean and beautiful and lessening the cost of government."

Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services was founded five years ago when the Del E. Webb Development Co. completed Sun City. DevCo. maintained a crew of 40 workers whose full-time jobs were to keep the retirement community spotless.

When DevCo. shifted its emphasis to the newer community of Sun City West, maintenance of the street medians and common landscaping areas fell upon Maricopa County. The county did not employ 40 people to keep Sun City clean.

The community responded by forming PRIDES, whose more than 300 members pick up trash, trim bushes and sweep sidewalks in each of Sun City's 33 sections. An elaborate scheduling system keeps at least one PRIDES member working every day.

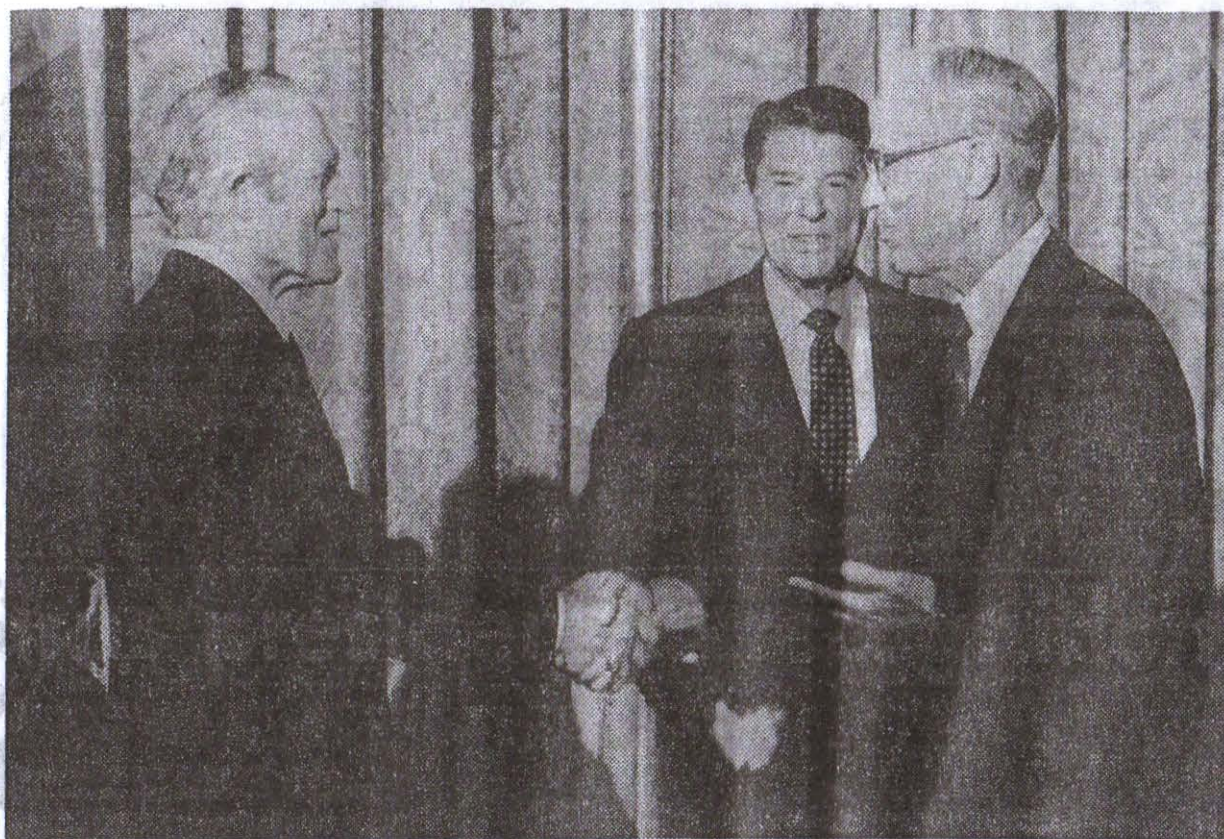
The group that organized the award, the National Volunteer Center, paid the travel expenses of

McIntyre and treasurer Ann Foster to the White House. McIntyre said the award winners toured the Rose and Blue rooms before attending the awards banquet.

Reagan and Vice President George Bush attended the ceremony, but Nancy Reagan did not. McIntyre said the president spoke on the value of volunteerism.

The Sun City program has drawn the interest in other communities. Sun City West has a PRIDES organization, and communities in southern Arizona and Missouri have asked for information about it.





The White House

Sun Citian Joe McIntyre (right) accepts a recognition award for PRIDES from George Romney, chairman of the National Volunteer Center, as President Reagan looks on. The Sun City group was one of 18 organizations honored.





JAROD OPPERMAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

A new sign installed by Sun City PRIDES member Ron Ely stands above the one that was found broken last week.

## SC neighborhood battles problem of pet waste

JAROD OPPERMAN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dog waste is causing a stink in an area of Sun City.

Gaylene and Ron Ely of the Sun City PRIDES say dog owners in their neighborhood haven't been picking up after their pets, and they have started an effort to eliminate the problem.

Earlier this month, with permission from other members of the community, the Elys installed two signs that read, "Please pick up after your pet" and a margarine container with complimentary bags along North 112th Avenue, part of

### Know the law

Learn what Chapter XI Section 1 of the Maricopa County Health Code covers by going to [yourwestvalley.com](http://yourwestvalley.com)

the area that they take care of as members of the Sun City PRIDES.

However, the next morning one of the metal stakes holding a sign had been bent 90 degrees, obscuring it from being read and the margarine container and bags had been found tossed over the fence and into a neighbor's yard.

"There are just so many jobs to do be-

SEE DOGS, A5

## DOGS

FROM A1

sides pick up dog waste," said Gaylene Ely.

Though members of the PRIDES are dissuaded from picking up animal waste, Gaylene Ely has been doing it anyway.

"We just want everyone to do their share," she said.

Ron Ely has since installed four signs in the neighborhood but is now bolting them to the concrete fencing.



SERVICE

# PRIDES plant trees on Arbor Day

## Memorialize fallen members

By Art Huesonica

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun City PRIDES memorialized previous volunteers during the group's Arbor Day celebration April 27.

A tree was planted in memory and special recognition to dedicated PRIDES volunteers who died during the past year — Don Avery, Richard Bondon, Bonnie Mirick and Faye Pitts.

The trees are located in the median of West Peoria Avenue near North 108th Drive, west of the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

"Their efforts to 'Keep Sun City Beautiful' are highly appreciated, so it is with this special ceremony that we memorialize those who have gone before us," said Linda Dirks, PRIDES Arbor Day chairwoman. "These Sun City residents had over 45 years combined volunteering for the PRIDES."

Don Avery's wife, Mary, was in attendance and was deeply moved by the ceremony.

There was also a tree planted in memorial to Leta J. Ly-



Sun City PRIDES members, from left, Jim Dirks, Linda Dirks, Ron Enzweiler, Ken Smith and, in front, Oscar Pena of Maricopa County Department of Transportation with one of the trees planted by the PRIDES on Arbor Day. [Submitted photo/Art Huesonica]

on-Murphy, a generous supporter of the PRIDES.

District 4 Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman was an active participant in the celebration.

"The work, pride and love are evident in the Sun City PRIDES," he said.

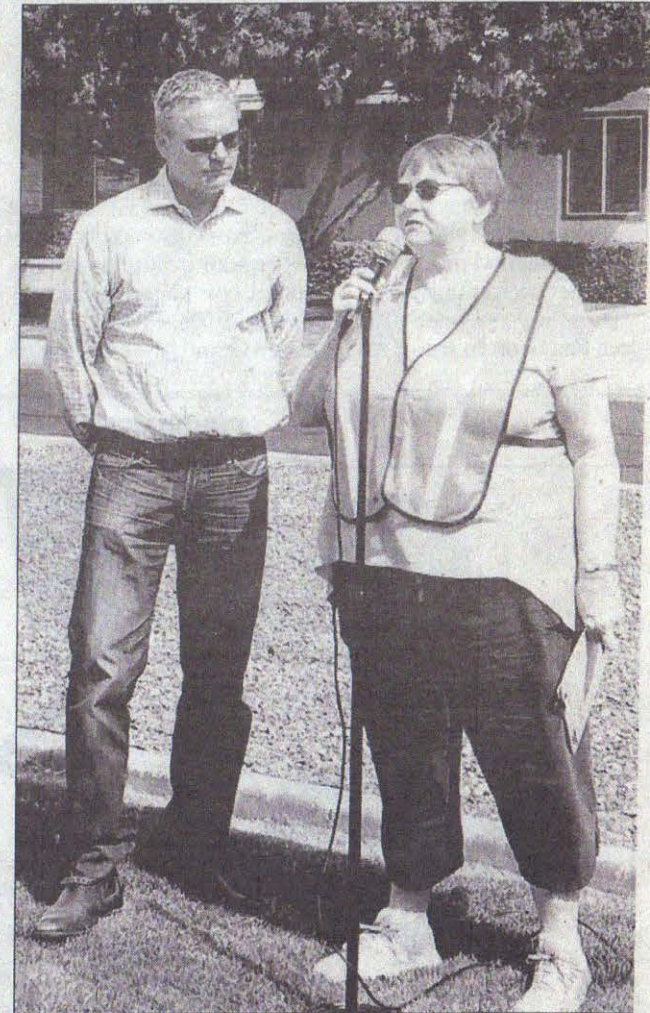
Mr. Hickman also expressed his appreciation for the close working relationship the PRIDES has culti-

vated with the many Maricopa County agencies, many of which were represented at the ceremony.

"This was a perfect way to help recognize our Sun City neighbors and volunteers," Ken Smith, PRIDES president, said. "We cannot forget those who contribute so much of their time and energy to keeping Sun City beautiful."

The PRIDES purchased desert-friendly trees from Linden Tree Nursery in Sun City. Maricopa County Department of Transportation personnel, supervised by Crew Leader Oscar Pena, with the support of PRIDES members, planted the trees. The Bell Metal Club made markers for the base of each tree.

**Editor's Note: Mr. Huesonica handles publicity for the PRIDES.**



Clint Hickman, District 4 Maricopa County Supervisor, and Sun City PRIDES member Linda Dirks explain the significance of Arbor Day. [Submitted photo/Art Huesonica]



## PRIDES PROVIDE PRICKLY PURCHASES



PHOTOS BY NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Maricopa County Department of Transportation worker Jesse Silvas, left, plants cacti on the median of Bell Road east of Lindgren/Burns avenues Tuesday morning in Sun City. Other MCDOT workers, above, prepare spots for the cacti. The Sun City PRIDES collected around 240 cacti through purchases and donations to beautify the median.





NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City PRIDES member Carol Howland, 100, is honored for her family's donations during a luncheon at the Mountain View Recreation Center in Sun City Thursday.

## PRIDES fete founder, 100

NORA AVERY-PAGE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carol Howland has many fond memories of volunteering for the Sun City PRIDES, and the group returned the favor by remembering Howland and her late husband by dedicating its building to the couple and their years of service.

The PRIDES members thanked Howland at their annual luncheon on Thursday at Mountain View Recreation Center and wished her a happy birthday; Howland is 100 today.

"I feel pretty good,"

Howland said.

She and her husband Vernon responded to a community call to action in the newspaper in 1977 to clean up Sun City. In those early days, Howland said she remembers the great times the group had together.

"A bunch of us got together and started pulling weeds," Howland said, adding that she and the other volunteers would work in the mornings then all go out to breakfast afterward. "We had a lot of fun."

The PRIDES building, dedicated to the Howlands

in 1988, commemorates their love and commitment to the community, explained former president Larry Allen.

Allen, who was the first president of the organization for 3½ years, told the rest of the PRIDES members at the luncheon about not only Carol Howland's years of service, but also how much he loves the organization.

"You people are the ones that make Sun City a holding pattern for heaven," Allen said.

Allen, at 93, also has

SEE PRIDES, A5



# PRIDES

FROM A1

many memories of his time with the PRIDES, especially when President Ronald Reagan visited the community in 1985 to present the organization with the President's Volunteer Action Award.

Allen actually wrote Reagan the letter that spurred the visit and reminded the president that they had met many years earlier when Allen was a college disc jockey and before Reagan moved to California and became an actor.

"It's been a wonderful experience," Allen said. "The people in PRIDES bring the best with them from wherever they have been. They're all wonderful people. I'm just so proud of them."

Recreation Centers of Sun City General Manager Jan Ek also expressed her love for the PRIDES organization and announced at the luncheon that the organization will be the beneficia-



NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City PRIDES honored more than 160 members during a luncheon at the Mountain View Recreation Center Thursday.

ry for the RCSC management team's fundraising efforts in 2012, which culminates each year in the annual holiday celebration.

Last year, Ek said, \$6,000 was raised, and she hopes to increase that number this year.





Submitted Photo

## **PRIDES pins**

PRIDES members enjoyed their annual luncheon meeting Feb. 9 at Mountain View Recreation Center. One of the events was the presentation of volunteer service pins. Recipients of service pins are, front row, from left, Jim Koopman, 25 years, Jim Dircks, 15 years, and Richard Bondon, 15 years; in back, are Grace Kinsey, 10 years, Gaylene Ely (for Ron Ely), 10 years, Linda Dircks, 15 years, Betty Smith, 15 years, and Harold Smith, 15 years.





Independent Newspapers/Jeff Grant

Members of the Sun City West PRIDES, from left, Don Bergstrom (in orange windbreaker and cap), Bob Lovell (in dark sweat shirt) and Ray Hicks (wearing sunglasses) remove trimmings from trees along R.H. Johnson Boulevard near Camino del Sol Feb. 25. The SCW PRIDES mark their 30th anniversary this week.

## 30 years of

Volunteer group marks milestone in keeping SCW 'clean, pristine'

**By Jeff Grant**

Independent Newspapers

hen Joan Barnett and her husband moved to Sun City West over three decades ago, they were very much

an active couple. Avid archaeology buffs, the pair occasionally went on digs. But when they'd return, Ms. Barnett would notice the weeds in the community, which was still in the midst of considerable construction at the time. Eventually, Mr. Barnett suggested his wife do something, and her efforts led to the Sun City West PRIDES.

Members of the all-volunteer organization can be seen each Tuesday and Saturday, some wearing their bright orange caps and

jackets, sprucing up rights of way or other public areas along major thoroughfares. Each December they coordinate a drive to produce luminarias for families of the service men and women stationed at Luke Air Force base, as well as kits that can be purchased in support of military members throughout the country.

It all started with a few phone calls after that initial conversation between Ms. Bar-

See PRIDES — Page 17



# PRIDES

Continued From Page 1

nett and her husband, said current PRIDES President Nicki Miller.

"She called the Sun City PRIDES, and asked how it works."

After speaking with Sun City's group, Ms. Barnett and some of her neighbors got together with a common goal of keeping what was then Del Webb's latest planned community "clean and pristine."

Exactly 30 years later, about a decade after Ms. Barnett passed away, the PRIDES' influence is felt and seen throughout the community of 17,500 housing units and roughly 27,300 residents.

From the neatly trimmed trees along R.H. Johnson Boulevard to the immaculate rock beds along Stardust Boulevard to the irrigation maintenance, the PRIDES' work is evident, and its goal remains very much what it was when it opened its doors March 8, 1982.

"This is a community of people working together to keep this community a beautiful place to live," said Ms. Miller.

The SCW PRIDES got its start about three years after the Barnetts arrived. In a hand-out, titled "Sun City West PRIDES: The Why — The How" provided by the organization, Ms. Barnett describes the community:

"The town was very small and very incomplete. Dirt was everywhere and so were weeds, weeds and more weeds. Each time I would return home from shopping, I would complain to my husband about all the weeds and how messy everything was, and how weed free and clean Sun City was. I guess he heard enough because one day he said if it bothered me so much, why didn't I do something about it?"

Ms. Barnett contacted Dr. Lawrence Allen, then-president of the Sun City PRIDES, and then got in touch with the Maricopa County Highway Department, local state legislator Hawley Atkinson and Bill Woodyard, the general manager of the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. All were on board with the idea of a PRIDES-like organization, and the effort began gaining steam.

On Feb. 17, 1982, a meeting was held to discuss the idea. Ms. Barnett, PORA's environmental protection coordinator Howard Cain, Mr. Woodyard, Dr. Allen and several



**Independent Newspapers/Jeff Grant**  
After joining in 1983, Ed Howe remains one of the organization's longest actively serving members. He said the commitment of its volunteers has sustained the SCW PRIDES.

others attended. Dr. Allen explained the operation, the parties agreed to think it over, and a week later they met again.

After a short discussion, Ms. Barnett wrote, "the group decided to proceed with the SCW PRIDES as an independent group."

A local news article advised residents of the group, and the first full meeting was held March 8, 1982. "Forty-four people showed up and the Sun City West PRIDES were formed."

Shortly afterward, the group decided what its acronym should stand for: Particular Residents Involved, Doing Environmental Services.

Of the 44 original members, 18 were women.

"One of their first projects was cleaning along Bell Road," said Peggy Joynson, a past president. "They picked up 150 bags of trash and tumbleweeds."

Over the years, the PRIDES grew in numbers and widened their cleanup area, but stayed true to the original concept. They now cover 26 miles of streets, sweeping gutters, curbs and sidewalks, trimming shrubs and trees, spreading and raking rocks and, of course, picking up trash. The group also has irrigation monitors who maintain 26 miles of plastic pipe for watering trees and bushes. At one point, the group even cleaned in El Mirage but discontinued that over safety concerns.

In January 2004, the PRIDES added a crew that works Tuesday mornings car-



**Independent Newspapers/Jeff Grant**  
Joan Barnett, the founder and first president of the Sun City West PRIDES, is seen in an undated photo inside the organization's headquarters. Ms. Barnett had a dream of seeing the community remain "clean and pristine" and used a collection of dedicated volunteers to accomplish the mission.

ing for grounds and parking areas housing the Sun City West Sheriff's Posse and SCW Foundation offices, as well as the building the PRIDES shares with another organization, Helping Hands.

The group's work has saved taxpayers a bundle.

It's estimated by Maricopa County that

See PRIDES — Page 18



## PRIDES

Continued From Page 17

the PRIDES save over \$475,000 a year in maintenance and landscaping labor costs, noted Ms. Joynson. "Not only do we save taxpayers, we're also making sure their homes are worth more."

Technology has aided the group.

Like many organizations, the PRIDES have used computers for a number of years for essential functions such as tool inventories, maintenance records and communicating with members. "It's helped us become more efficient and organized," Ms. Joynson said.

And the group has grown.

Now 370 members strong, the PRIDES boasts members from over 35 states, Canada and Great Britain. Many are "snowbirds" who spend the winter and early spring months in Arizona. More members come from Illinois (36) than any other state. 22 members come from Arizona, according to PRIDES literature.

The growth and performance of the PRIDES is cause for, well, a lot of pride within the group.

"Not only is this our 30th anniversary," noted Ms. Miller, "but as an organization, we couldn't be stronger. I think we're looking at our 30th anniversary with a lot of pride."

The spirit of volunteerism reflects a spirit within the community, offered Ms. Miller.

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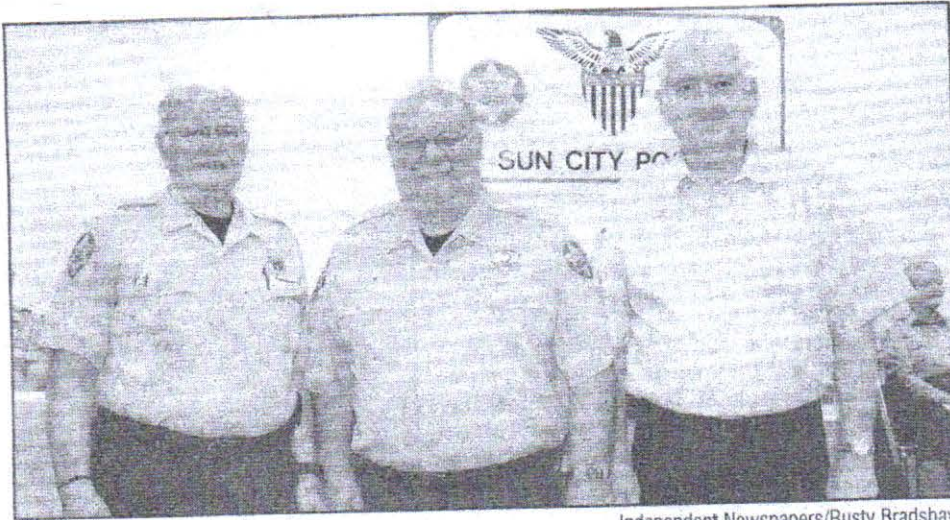
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## PRIDES pins

PRIDES members enjoyed their annual luncheon meeting Feb. 9 at Mountain View Recreation Center. One of the events was the presentation of volunteer service pins. Recipients of service pins are, front row, from left, Jim Koopman, 25 years, Jim Dircks, 15 years, and Richard Borden, 15 years; in back, are Grace Kinsey, 10 years, Gaylene Ely (for Ron Ely), 10 years, Linda Dircks, 15 years, Betty Smith, 15 years, and Harold Smith, 15 years.



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

## 10 years of service

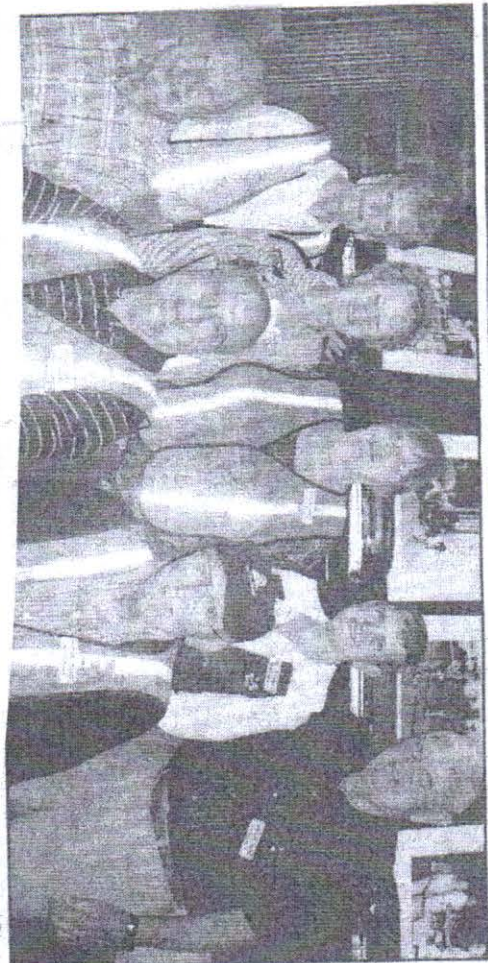
Sun City Posse officials recognized Bob Keefer, Ron Cummins and Bill Smith with certificates and pins for their 10 years of service to the all-volunteer organization.



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

## Top posseman

Tom Jordan, left, receives a plaque from Art Jenkins, operations officer, after being named Sun City Posse Member of the Year. Mr. Jenkins noted that among his other duties, Mr. Jordan conducted more than 3,000 vacation watches last year.



Submitted Photo



# PRIDES take Foundation handoff

By Rusty Bradshaw  
Independent Newspapers

**A** long-standing Sun City organization calls it quits.

The Civic Foundation of Sun City disbanded at the end of November. The organization, originally a branch of the Sun City Home Owners Association, was responsible mainly for painting and repairing the common walls in the community. But it provided assistance in other ways, according to Paul White, a long-time board member and one of the agency's founders.

"In the beginning it was established to have a 501(c)3 organization people could donate to for painting the walls," he said.

Walt Patterson, foundation treasurer, announced the dissolution in a short e-mail sent Nov. 29.

"The Civic Foundation of Sun City, formerly the Sun City Homeowners Foundation, will be dissolved at the end of November for lack of donations," he stated in the e-mail.

He added remaining foundation funds would be donated to the Sun City PRIDES.

However, Mr. Patterson did not respond to an e-mail request for further comment.

Sun City has another foundation, founded and operated by Recreation Centers of Sun City, and it will remain active, according to Deanna Szentmiklosi, RCSC spokeswoman. The Sun City Foundation's mission does not include wall repair and painting, she added.

Mr. White said the foundation board decided another organization could have more success raising funds. The PRIDES were selected because they have high membership and their



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw  
**Sun City PRIDES volunteer Faye Pitts fills a large garbage container with landscaping and other trash from Bell Road. The PRIDES received the remaining funds from the Civic Foundation of Sun City when that organization disbanded at the end of November.**

work is similar to the foundation's main mission.

"We were a board of five people, and the PRIDES have a larger group and more notoriety," Mr. White said.

PRIDES member Bonnie Mirick said the

money gained from the foundation will be used for the 99th Avenue project designed to paint desert-related figures on the walls lining both sides of the roadway. Mr. White estimated there

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Scanned



## PRIDES

Continued From Page 1

was about \$5,000 left in the foundation account.

Shortly after the foundation was established, the board raised \$150,000, which was used to paint nearly 37 miles of walls in the community, according to Mr. White.

"That was a bargain for painting," Mr. White explained. "We painted 3-4 miles of walls a couple of years ago and it cost \$20,000."

The PRIDES assisted in that initial effort by trimming trees and shrubs and cleaning the areas in front of the walls.

Over the years the foundation helped residents repair walls bordering their property that were damaged by vehicles, tree falls or other means. That repair is one of the things that drained foundation resources faster than they could be replenished, according to Mr. White.

"Our largest expense was at the corner of 107th and Olive avenues," he said. "The curved sign there was damaged three different times, and the last repair cost us about \$8,500."

He added foundation officials tried to get the insurance companies of the drivers cover the expense but were successful in only one of those incidents.

The foundation raised its funds through its own mailings and through a mail campaign in conjunction with SCHOA.

The foundation was separated from

SCHOA several years ago because HOA board members were concerned foundation funds were being spent on the private dog park at Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards, according to Mr. White.

"Foundation money was spent for specifically earmarked projects," Mr. White explained. "We paid the water bill at the park from money donated by them (park users)."

In addition to wall repair and painting, the foundation funded pulsing porch lights for residents to use when emergency services were called, Mr. White explained.

"Those lights helped the emergency teams find the house," he added.

Mr. White said it was hoped the PRIDES, a group the foundation made donations to over the years, would take over responsibility for the walls. However, Ms. Mirick said that has not been discussed by the PRIDES board.

"I suppose it is a possibility, but only for the painting, we would not be able to do repairs," she said.

The next PRIDES board meeting is in January and that would be the first opportunity for it to be discussed, Ms. Mirick said.

The Sun City Foundation, operated by RCSC, established in March 1986, assists homeowners unable to make their annual property assessment payments. To qualify, applicants must own a Sun City property, reside in the home and have lived in Sun City at least five years, according to Ms. Szentmiklosi. Applications must include financial information, then applicants are interviewed.

"If approved, the foundation pays all or a portion of the assessment," Ms. Szentmiklosi said.

The Sun City Foundation also used to provide 20 SCAT tickets a month to those in need, she added. If another local transportation agency is established, that assistance could be restarted, she noted.

RCSC's foundation is also funded entirely by donations. Ms. Szentmiklosi said donations have decreased during the struggling economy, by the agency is financially secure to continue its work. All foundation donations are tax deductible, she added. Foundation officials are also available to make presentations to groups, Ms. Szentmiklosi explained.

To apply or for additional information, call 623-561-4620 or e-mail boardoffice@sunaz.com.

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

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### TRAVEL: Torch camera gives new view of Lady Liberty, A12

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## PRIDES want to give Sun City a fresh coat

NORA AVERY-PAGE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City PRIDES member Bonnie Mirick thinks that the community needs a little bit of a facelift.

Mirick addressed the board of the Sun City Home Owners Association at its meeting Tuesday morning to outline a PRIDES plan to spruce up the appearance of the community, specifically the walls along 99th Avenue.

"We feel that Sun City is starting to look tired," Mirick said.

Mirick asked the SCHOA board if there would be any problem with the PRIDES painting murals at as yet to be determined intervals along the wall. The issue of who owns the Sun City walls has long been a point of discussion in the community, so the SCHOA directors told Mirick they could not give her and other PRIDES members permission to complete the project, but they commended the idea.

SEE PRIDES, A3



Wednesday, October 26, 2011

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Community

A3

# PRIDES

FROM A1

While SCHOA director Jim Powell questioned whether the murals would invite graffiti paintings on the walls, too, he recommended that Mirick attend the transportation committee meeting, which he chairs, to talk to Maricopa County representatives, as they are more likely to be able to make decisions regarding the walls.

Mirick explained that the murals will add both interest and color to the prominent walls, which are seen by anyone driving through the area; the murals would not be painted in "psychedelic colors" but instead more muted desert tones will be used, she said, adding that they are working with local artists to create templates that could include coyotes, geckos and cacti.

Powell has been increasingly concerned with the shape of the medians in Phase 1 of Sun City, and has been active in asking his transportation committee for solutions to the unsight-

ly brown grass areas in the medians south of Grand Avenue.

Powell told the board Tuesday's that unfortunately, the county has no room in its 2012 budget to fix up the medians, but he is hopeful that he will have better luck in 2013.

SCHOA is still accepting applications for its board of director elections in November; the final day to turn in candidate packets is Monday.

The elections will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 18 at the same time as SCHOA's vendor fair, featuring 50 local companies and more than \$3,000 in gifts, gift cards, and services to be raffled off.

Votes can also be cast on from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 19. The vendor fair and voting will be conducted at the SCHOA offices at 10401 W. Coggins Drive.



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN



Far left, workers plant cacti along the Bell Road median. Top left, golden barrel cactus in a Maricopa County trailer wait to be planted on Tuesday. At left, Jesse Silva works on planting a golden barrel in the median of Bell Road, just west of Lindgren Avenue on Tuesday. Silva and the rest of his crew from the Maricopa County General Maintenance department are helping the Sun City PRIDES add 250 new desert plants, including cacti ranging from cholla to

fish hook barrels, to the median throughout Sun City. Below, a golden barrel cactus sits freshly planted. The Sun City PRIDES are working on one of two of their biggest projects of the year — beautifying the median of Bell Road in Sun City.



Scanned



## Sun City Prides

The Prides are up and at 'em in the morning when it's cool  
 We don our vest, put on our gloves and take our trusty tools  
 We head out to the boulevards to make them bright and gay  
 We may be gray but still have Pride and want them kept that way  
 We hope you like the things we do and we would like to say  
 If you need a little exercise along the way  
 The nicest way to do it all is join our happy crew  
 When Pride day comes around

We wake up in the morning to the robin's beck 'n call  
 The early bird may get the worm but we get the leaves that fall  
 We pick up all the bottles, the cans and rubbish, too  
 That some folks drop along the way to clutter up the view  
 To keep our city at its best and always looking new  
 Don't toss it out the window as some are prone to do  
 Just put it in a tote bag and take it home with you  
 When Pride day comes around

*News-Sun  
 Wednesday,  
 Dec. 1, 1981*

It don't take years of training to prune or trim a tree  
 It does take heart and a lot of Pride to do it all for free  
 So if you wish to join us just give our phone a ring  
 Sun City Prides will show you how to make that old heart sing  
 We meet on Wednesday morning for love labors of the day  
 Saturdays we do the same, we think it's nice that way  
 It's rolls and coffee in the morn and chew a rag or two  
 When Pride day comes around

We need a landscape artist who can really paint a tree  
 And sanitation engineers to pick up the debris  
 Communication specialists to make those old phone calls  
 We need you folks that are not afraid to dress in coveralls  
 We even do aerobics with rake and hoe in hand  
 We get things done while working out and we don't need a band  
 If you have the thing called Pride we need you one and all  
 When Pride day comes around

Del Webb built our city with a lot of love and pride  
 And the greatest way to honor him is to stand up side by side  
 And keep our city handsome, how can you not abide  
 We know he's looking at us with a smile a mile wide  
 If you have a care or two that you want chased away  
 Just volunteer your talents that you have stashed away  
 And you'll be looking forward to every single day  
 That Pride day comes around

Now there are many many ways that you can be a Pride  
 Just do the things that make you feel all warm and good inside  
 It may be sharing of your wealth or give a helping hand  
 You only get one chance in life so do the best you can  
 Just start the morning with a smile, hey that's the thing to do  
 For every one you give away two come back to you  
 We thank you for your gracious help and your donation too  
 When Pride day comes around



SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

# neighbors

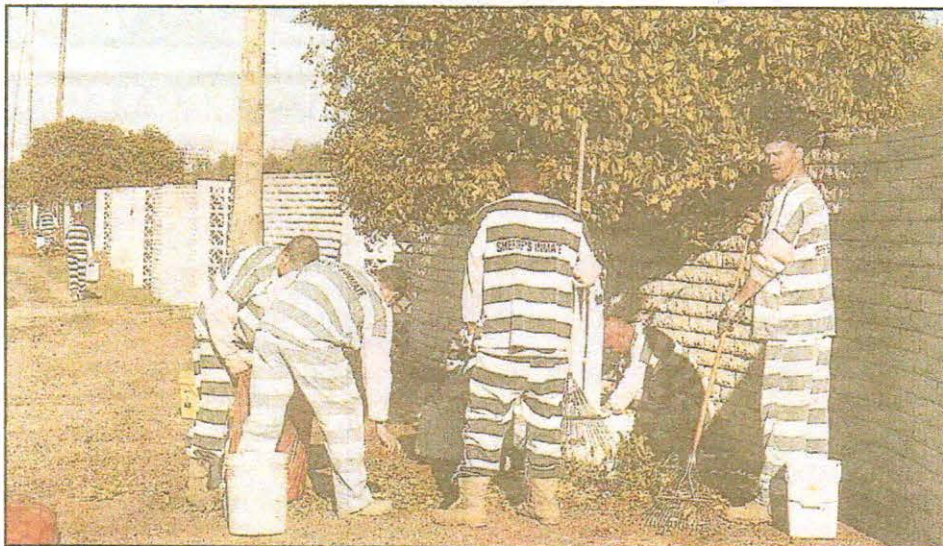
E-MAIL SUNCITYNEWS@NEWSZAP.COM



Submitted Photos

## PRIDES, inmates keep Sun City clean

Some 30 Sun City PRIDES volunteers showed up 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at 102nd and Alabama avenues to strip citrus trees in the median. These volunteers, known as the "Squad," volunteer Saturday mornings, except for holidays, in the winter starting at 7 a.m., working for about an hour and a half; in the summer they start at 6 a.m. A PRIDE van driver accompanies the group to see that they have the proper tools, bags, water and more. They volunteer year-round, though the group is smaller in the summer. The phase coordinators of phase 1, 2 and 3 inform the Squad as to where work needs to be done and where to meet. Many PRIDES then take part in a breakfast following their work. On some Mondays, the PRIDES get assistance from Sheriff Joe Arpaio's chain gang. They work about three hours where needed to help clean the city, stripping oranges and bagging them. The PRIDES furnish the tools necessary and direct them to the areas needing help. The van driver stays with them until the job is finished.



Scanned



# Workers take great Pride

BY LAURIE HURD

Attacking fallen leaves, arresting roadside garbage and giving dirt the runaround is just a few of the much needed tasks performed by the Sun City Prides.

The community-minded Sun Citizens who make up the Proud Residents Independently Donated Essential Services (PRIDES), picked up their rakes in 1980 and have been cleaning up Sun City ever since.

"I guess pride for our community brings us out," says Joe McIntyre, past president and founder of the Prides.

This unique organization began after Del E. Webb Development Co. (DEVCO) gave Maricopa County the job of maintaining Sun City's streets, along with keeping the medians and parkways clean and neat.

But Sun City's 14 square miles proved to be a big job for just six county workers. So McIntyre decided to do something about it.

McIntyre composed a letter to the editor of the local paper calling for volunteers to help in the upkeep of their community.

In two years, approximately 400 Sun Citians have put on their work clothes and lined the city streets with garbage cans and brooms.

The Prides have divided Sun City into 33 sectors with a monitor overseeing each area for general upkeep. A special force works on certain citywide projects. There are committees for weed spraying, tree trimming, painting citrus trees and taking care of the city's watering system. The Prides also maintain several miles of drainage ways.

McIntyre says the work done by the Prides has saved the county about a half a million dollars.

"I think we are known throughout the nation. We have had people from Japan and other countries come and observe us for their retirement communities. We were even on the Today Show," he says.

The Prides have grown to such an extent that they are in the process of moving into their own building. Currently supplies and vehicles are being kept at various members' homes.

"DEVCO has prepared the plans for us and they will build it for us at cost. The Sun City Water Co. will provide us the space for a \$1 a year. The building should be completed by March 1," McIntyre says.

He says the work of the Prides will continue in the future. "We plan to continue indefinitely."



# \*PRIDES make Sun City sparkle



Sun City PRIDES members rake leaves, along with grooming the crushed granite during their regular cleanup chores. Mem-

bers first used their own tools, but subsequent donations have enabled them to purchase equipment.

—From C8

maintain 29 miles of parkways with grass or desert landscaping, care for 2,600 trees and other vegetation on medians, maintain 11 miles of drainage ways, maintain the county's automatic watering system of 26 miles of pipe, 40 clocks, 85 valves and 2,385 bubbler heads.

The county has estimated the PRIDES perform 62,000 hours of work a year, amounting to \$500,000, and in return the county provides trash bags, pickup, paint for citrus trees, safety vests, herbicides and traffic control devices.

PRIDES also advise the county of potholes, missing street signs and other matters in its jurisdiction.

"We still let the county trim the palm trees," McIntyre said. "We haven't found any volunteers to go up there 50 or 60 feet."

Among PRIDES' tasks, however, has been cleaning up after olive trees, until one member told them the trees could be sprayed to prevent production.

"Until then, though, we had people on their knees picking up olives," McIntyre said.

Another devoted member spends hours sweeping seven sections of artificial turf that decorates the median on Del Webb Boulevard.

"He sweeps them every week and it takes three hours

*"The county just couldn't continue the amount of care Devco had and we would have to help."*

*--Joe McIntyre*

just to do one," Mrs. Holquist said.

Another couple spends hours daily spraying for weeds, which ultimately cuts down on the PRIDES' tasks.

Initially, PRIDES used their own tools, but through donations have raised enough mon-

**\* PRIDES, C10**



## \*PRIDES clean up

—From C9

ey to purchase them.

The group incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1982.

McIntyre said sometime this spring Devco will build a shell of a storage facility on leased Sun City Water Co. property on Greenway so PRIDES no longer have to store equipment at their homes.

Two vans, a pickup truck, a golf cart and trailers for herbicide sprayers, donated to the PRIDES, also will be kept there.

Community support has been the backbone of the PRIDES, McIntyre and Mrs. Holquist said.

Some residents have been inspired enough by the sight of PRIDES working along the road to stop and give donations.

"We still get people stopping right in the road to tell us we're terrific," he said.

"Sometimes we think that's a traffic hazard," Mrs. Holquist said. "But every 'Thank you' means a lot."

They credit all residents with being PRIDES helpers by maintaining their own properties. Others have taken up the example of the PRIDES without joining the group.

"One couple walks their

dogs along Bell Road from Del Webb Boulevard to 99th Avenue and they always pick up three bags of trash," Mrs. Holquist said.

McIntyre told of a woman who walks to a convenience store at Union Hills and 107th Avenue to get her Sunday paper, picking up trash along the way.

PRIDES also have been aided by members who "seem cap-

*"One couple walks their dogs along Bell Road and they always pick up three bags of trash."*

*--Fritzie Holquist*

able in all areas, repairs, painting, lettering," McIntyre said.

One member handpainted PRIDES logos on 280 vests.

"People used to think we worked for the county," Mrs. Holquist said, because members wore the orange vests county workers wear.

"I guess they thought we were gremlins," McIntyre said.

"Now when they ask who we work for, we turn around and show them our logo," Mrs. Holquist said.

The success of the PRIDES

\* PRIDES, C11

## \*PRIDES clean up

—From C10

spurred a spin-off in neighboring Sun City West, Particular Residents Involved Doing Environmental Services, started in 1982.

In 1981, the PRIDES were honored through the National Association of Counties for their volunteer efforts and in 1982 with the George Washington Honor Medal from the

Valley Forge Freedom Foundation.

Local and national television has chronicled the work of the PRIDES and groups around the world have studied them as part of the machination of a model retirement community.

"Little did we realize it would grow to this," McIntyre said.

He just wanted to pick up the oranges.



Sun City PRIDES member Vernon Howland sands the paint from a van donated by Palmer Plumbing in Peoria. The van is one

of several vehicles donated by local businesses. He will repaint the van with the PRIDES logo. (News-Sun photo)



## SUN CITIANS TAKE PRIDE IN THE "PRIDES"

### Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services

At the time the Del E. Webb Development Company (DEVCO) turned over the responsibility of maintaining the streets to Maricopa County, they had completed the development of Sun City. It soon became apparent to the residents that the county would not be able to maintain the streets and medians as DEVCO had done.

In 1980, Joe McIntyre wrote a letter to the newspapers asking residents, "Are you tired of our streets not being cleaned?" and asked that anyone interested join him at a designated time and place. Three people showed up!

This led to McIntyre founding the PRIDES, truly a bona fide service group—although they do enjoy socializing following the day's work. Shortly after organizing, they were incorporated as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The PRIDES depend on contributions from residents and local businesses. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Volunteers, both men and women (they claim to be an equal opportunity employer), come from all walks of life with a wide diversity of backgrounds. McIntyre, as part of a poem he wrote, stated:

*"They've been bankers, accountants, and owners of shops,  
Teachers and preachers, nurses and cops."*

What do the PRIDES do? They maintain 210 miles of streets and medians on 214 square miles housing approximately 45,000 residents. They can be recognized by their orange safety vests as they trim trees, pick oranges, paint tree trunks, wander down 11 miles of drainage ditches with litter pickups, feed and water about 2,500 trees, maintain the county's watering system (no mean feat in itself), and remove tons of trash.

Volunteers are coordinated by geographic areas. Coordinators in Phase I, II, and III every Saturday morning, assign volunteers to specific areas to clean, while others may be assigned to "troubled" areas. The squad leader drives a van and delivers supplies to the volunteers. Litter is deposited in orange plastic bags and left for the county to pick up on Monday mornings. Overtime comes into play in the event of a bad rain/wind storm.



The PRIDES have a very close working relationship with the Maricopa County Department of Public Works. The county, while providing no financial support per se, does provide the orange safety vests, orange plastic bags, supplies, fertilizer, paint, and weed control items. A law passed in September 2003 mandated persons using weed sprayers must be trained and certified to use such—this applies to the PRIDES volunteers using a sprayer.

It has been estimated that these wonderful volunteers save the county about \$500,000 a year! Vehicles, tools, and supplies are housed in a building built for them located at 91st Avenue and Greenway.



The group has received many recognitions. Among them are The National Association of Counties and The Freedom Foundation's George Washington Medal. In 1988, the President's Volunteer Action award was presented to Joe McIntyre by President Ronald Reagan at a special luncheon held at the White House. They have also been featured on local and national television shows. This exposure has created interest in other communities, such as Sedona, to form their own PRIDES. Sun City West's group came into being in 1982, and is equally vital as Sun City's.

Thanks to the PRIDES, it's no wonder newcomers to the area often remark about the cleanliness of the area. Long live the PRIDES!



"Concrete, steel and lumber make the buildings, but people make the community. Together we can realize a way of life unprecedented in America."

— Del E. Webb

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## WHO ARE THE PRIDES?

Who are the PRIDES?  
Well they're easy to know  
There's Manny and Harold  
And Betty and Flo.

They've been bankers, accountants  
And owners of shops  
Teachers and preachers  
And nurses and cops.

They've come from far places  
To be in the sun  
They dance and they bowl  
They bike and they run.

Some are confined  
Because of poor health  
But the spirit is there  
And they give of their wealth.

Their home is their castle  
They're willing to share  
A part of their lives  
For beauty and care.

When the good Lord looks down  
Over all He abides  
We pray that he smiles  
On the work of the PRIDES.

—Joe McIntyre,  
Founder

## HELP WANTED

By the Sun City PRIDES for the following  
*Executive and Professional* positions:

1. LANDSCAPE ARTISTS  
(Paint Tree Trunks)
2. TREE SURGEONS  
(Trim trees and shrubs)
3. FLOOD CONTROL ENGINEERS  
(Pick up debris in ditches)
4. SOIL IMPROVEMENT TECHNICIANS  
(Dig and pull weeds)
5. PHYSICAL FITNESS DEMONSTRATORS  
(Pick up citrus and debris)
6. SANITATION ENGINEERS  
(Sweep curbsides)
7. MAPOLOGISTS  
(Maintain street name signs)
8. COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS  
(Make phone calls)

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY  
WORK CLOSE TO HOME  
DYNAMIC WORK ENVIRONMENT  
PERMANENT WORK  
ON A PART-TIME BASIS  
SHORT HOURS  
GUARANTEED LIFETIME  
FRINGE BENEFITS  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER -  
YOURSELF

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP,  
TO SEND DONATIONS OR FOR  
FURTHER INFORMATION

WRITE: **SUN CITY PRIDES, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1463  
Sun City, AZ 85372

# SUN CITY PRIDES



**SUN CITY PRIDES, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1463  
Sun City, Arizona 85372  
**933-1687**



## SUN CITY PRIDES, Inc.

The Sun City PRIDES, a non-profit corporation, was organized in the Spring of 1980 for the purpose of maintaining the beauty of the community and to lessen the financial burden to government. It has grown to an active volunteer membership of over 300 retired men and women from all walks of life.

Sun City, with a population of over 45,000 covers 14 square miles. There are 210 miles of streets; these include 29 miles of parkways with grass and/or desert landscaped medians and rights of way. There are more than 3200 trees and plantings on these medians. There are also 11 miles of drainage ways to be maintained.

The PRIDE members provide more than 62,000 man hours of work each year in maintaining these streets, parkways, etc. In developing a maintenance and beautification program, the PRIDES divided Sun City into 16 sections with a monitor in charge of each section. The PRIDES also have a Task Force that works on special maintenance projects; they also have committees for functions such as tree trimming, painting the trunks of the Seville Ornamental Orange trees, weed spraying, tree and shrub feeding, care of automatic watering systems, reporting to the Maricopa County Highway Department needed street repairs, and recommending streets for surface treatment maintenance.

The volunteer work performed by the PRIDES is not limited to the aforementioned work. The magnitude of the work can be judged

by the fact that they trim, feed, and water approximately 2600 trees, replace trees when needed, remove tons of debris and oranges, paint the more than 1800 Orange Trees and maintain the County's automatic watering system which has 26 miles of underground piping, 40 clocks, 85 valves, and 2385 bubbler heads. The PRIDES rake and clean litter from every desert landscaped median and right of way and also remove litter from many miles of grass medians. Additionally, the portions of Arizona State Highway 60-89-93, routed through Sun City is maintained. The Prides conduct an ongoing educational program emphasizing the importance of preventing litter and the concern for care of public streets, medians and rights of way in Sun City. This is done thru articles published in the local newspapers, signs posted on medians, and public speaking appearances.

Donations by citizens, clubs and businesses provide the funds for work tools, bubbler and timer supplies, fertilizer and tree and shrub replacement. The PRIDES receive support from, and have an excellent relationship with, the Maricopa County Highway Department. The County supplies plastic trash bags, paint for trees, safety vests, advance traffic control devices and herbicides for weed spraying. Additionally, facilities and space on county-owned property have been designated for use by the PRIDES. Officials of the Maricopa County Government estimate the value of services provided by the PRIDES to be in excess of \$500,000.00 annually.

The PRIDES motto is "Keeping Sun City Beautiful." They have succeeded to such a degree that the story of the program has

spread across the U.S.A. This is evidenced by the fact that the John Knox Village Pioneer News in Lee Summit, Missouri, carried an article about the Sun City PRIDES and organized a likeness to the PRIDES of Sun City. Students at Northern Arizona University have also copied the organizational efforts and call themselves GRIME. The Freedom Foundation requested and received a history of the PRIDES and The President's Task Force On Private Initiatives has placed the Sun City PRIDES program in their computer data bank to be used as an example of successful volunteerism for other communities. Also, members of the PRIDES have appeared on local and national T.V. programs, including Channel 12 and the Today Show. A local song writer, Dutch Schultz, has written and recorded a song about the PRIDES.

In 1981, the PRIDES were the recipients of a national honor through the County Supervisors and the National Association of Counties for their volunteer efforts in maintaining the beauty and neatness of Sun City, and in assisting the County in providing these services.

Sun City residents can be justly proud of the many wonderful volunteer organizations whose excellent work makes Sun City the best Adult Retirement Community in the U.S.A., and the PRIDES are proud to be a part of these community efforts.

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**Proud Residents Independently  
Donating Essential Services**



*News Sun*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1981



Norbert Grove, treasurer and spokesman for the Sun City Prides, introduces Dutch Schultz, left, at ceremony in Bell Center. (News-Sun Photo)

# Song praises SC Prides

By JULIA WHTIFIED  
Staff Writer

Not every organization has a song written for it by none other than Sun City's famed composer and lyricist, John "Dutch" Schultz.

Schultz, 10510 Granada Dr., recently wrote a song for Sun City and Sun City West Sheriff's Poses and his newest son-to-be a hit is a song about another community-minded service organization, the Sun City Prides.

Schultz sang his "Sun City Prides" song to the group at a special ceremony Saturday in Bell Center.

THE PRIDES displayed their gratitude and acceptance by asking Schultz sing their new song again so they could sing along with him.

"I think the song is terrific because it covers the field," said Norbert Grove, Pride treasurer and official spokesman.

"We're very young and up until the time the Prides took over there was a deterioration of Sun City," Grove said.

GROVE SAID ALL Sun Citians are Prides just by cleaning up their own yards and "this song will get the show on the road" and explain the Prides' duty of keeping Sun City beautiful.

"Pride is the thing that rules the world and if everybody in this nation would just stop and react like you folks do, I really do believe 99 percent of the world's ills would be cured," Schultz said to an audience of about 100 Prides.

In upcoming weeks, Schultz's Prides

and Posse songs will be available on record and Sun Citians may obtain records from either the Prides or Posse members. Schultz said the cost of each record has yet to be determined, although donations will be used for manufacturing additional records; leftover funds will be placed in the treasuries of the Prides and Sun City and Sun City West Poses, according to sales totals of each organization.

SCHULTZ SAID this distribution manner will prevent anyone from making any profit from the recordings.

Schultz said he decided to write a song for the Prides because "I like to honor people who do a good job for the community."

OVER



# Prides' new member: Freedoms Foundation president

By EVELYN BARBER

It was an all-time, monumental day for the Sun City Prides and the Sun City Sheriff's Posse April 23 when both organizations received awards from Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

And that certainly capsules what the Sun City Prides organization is all about.

**A BIT ABOUT** the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge: It's a non-profit, nonsectarian, non-political organization founded in 1949 to carry out national programs of information and education that promote the traditional values of our country and offer a better understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship in contemporary society. Its national headquarters is about 25 miles west of Philadelphia.

The documentation on awards recipients will be on display at Valley Forge for a year so that the thousands of visitors to Freedoms Foundation will be able to see what it was that merited national recognition. The Prides' presentation book, containing its well-documented history, was prepared by Pride Bebe Lovitt and was considered by the judges on the recommendation of Miss Bess Stinson, past president of the foundation's Phoenix chapter.

It is interesting that the Freedoms Foundation is not endowed or government-financed. It is underwritten by tax-deductible contributions and membership dues.

**THERE ARE MANY** facets to its program: national awards such as those given April 23; private enterprise awards; educational projects; seminars for graduates; American heritage workshops; youth conferences on its campus and special programs from time to time like economic education projects, conferences for educators and workshops for professional organizations.

At present, Freedoms Foundation has 43 volunteer chapters in 21 states, including Arizona. Sun City could have a chapter, too, Allen says, and who knows? It could happen.

The dedication of the Prides as a whole and individually, and the admiration they command, is illustrated by Larry Olson, a Sun City "snowbird," and Marge Opfer, a Prides member.

Marge had to curtail her work with the group—and it is hard work—because of an ailment. Olson, to help the capable handicapped of Sun City, donated six E-Z Reachers to the Prides.

Thanks to the pick-up tool, which can lift anything from a postage stamp to an object weighing up to two pounds, Marge can continue working with zest to help keep Sun City beautiful.

The two groups turned out in numbers, filling half the Peace Pipe Room at Camelback Inn where the ceremonies were held. The Posse received an honor certificate and the Prides a George Washington Honor Medal (at left). Dr. Robert Miller, Freedom Foundation president, came to Arizona himself for the occasion (the Valley ranked high on the national honors list, with 13 awards earned).

Larry Allen, Prides president, surprised a couple of people with his acceptance speech. One was Joe McIntyre, founder of the group.

**SAYING THAT THE** Sun City Prides was not his idea but that of a gentleman who had been the first recipient of the Sun City Outstanding Christian service award the previous week, Allen called McIntyre up front to accept the medal and—I'm bragging now—an 8x10 copy of the picture I took of Joe and his wife, Lucille, at the Outstanding Christian awards dinner.

Joe is a quiet, modest man who works hard, smiles a lot and asks for little in the way of credit, but that must have been a most satisfying moment for him as his nationally-recognized community effort was acknowledged.

## DOUBLE TAKES

The other surprise was for the foundation's president. Allen inducted Miller on the spot into the Sun City Prides as an honorary member, presenting him with his membership card, a Prides work hat ("to wear with pride") and a copy of the record cut by musician "Dutch" Schultz of the songs he wrote about the Prides and the Posse.

**IN ADDITION, MILLER** was asked to endorse the same disclaimer card that every Pride does, promising not to hold anyone responsible for what might happen to him while working as a Pride—and relinquishing the right to strike.

Said Allen in accepting the medal: "We, the Prides, choose not to be regulated, but to accomplish that which needs to be done so that not only shall we enjoy the beauty and dream of Del E. Webb, the builder of Sun City, but, more important, appreciate what our Creator has provided for us and all those who are to follow. We...don't always see eye-to-eye, but we walk together hand-in-hand." OUE

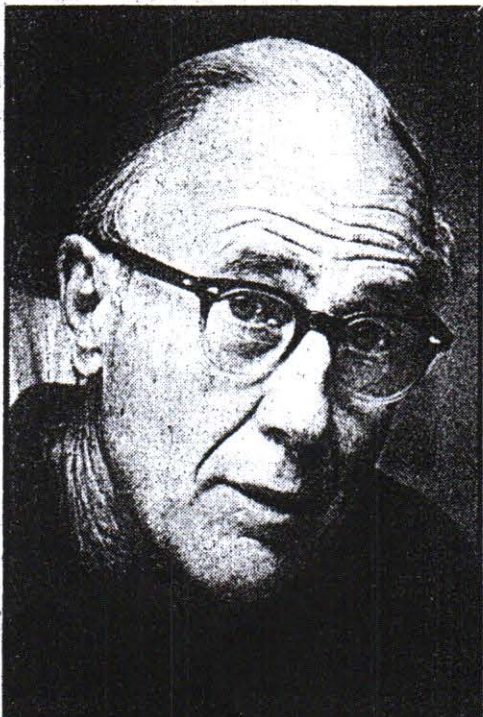


# PRIDES

## National spotlight to cast its shine on Sun City retiree cleanup corps

By ROBERTA LANDMAN  
Emphasis Editor

**S**un City: It takes some muscle stretching and a volunteer group that cares to keep this white-walled retirement mecca's



JOE MCINTYRE

streets and medians pristine clean—a Disneylandish pristine.

Someone has noticed the effect and the effort.

In a tribute to volunteer groups Monday, President Ronald Reagan will honor the corps of 300-plus retirees who help keep this Del Webb-developed city clean, the Sun City Prides.

Accepting a President's Volunteer Action Award will be Prides founder and president, Joe McIntyre, and Ann Foster, the 5-year-old organization's first woman member and first treasurer.

While media hoopla is zeroing in on the two who will lunch with the president Monday, Prides' daddy McIntyre chooses to zero in on the volunteer buddies in orange safety vests who followed his lead.

McIntyre's lead began in March 1980, when the retired executive vice president and treasurer of a Detroit chain of women's shops called upon a Sun City public to pick up where citrus trees were leaving off.

McIntyre, noticing fallen oranges from trees were remaining fallen on sides of county-maintained streets and medians, wrote a letter to the News-Sun suggesting

"citizens should do something about it ... should join me on Saturday and we'd begin to pick up the citrus."

Three people showed up that March Saturday, he remembers.

"By the end of June, we had 334 volunteers working with us and received 176 donations from people who were unable to work," says McIntyre.

Today, he reports, the number of volunteers remains about the same and donations to the non-profit corporation continue to come from "generous clubs, organizations and businesses, as well as from individual citizens."

Says a smiling McIntyre: "Not a day passes that...somebody drives up in a car and passes to one of our workers a \$5 or \$10 bill....One person wrote a check for \$25."

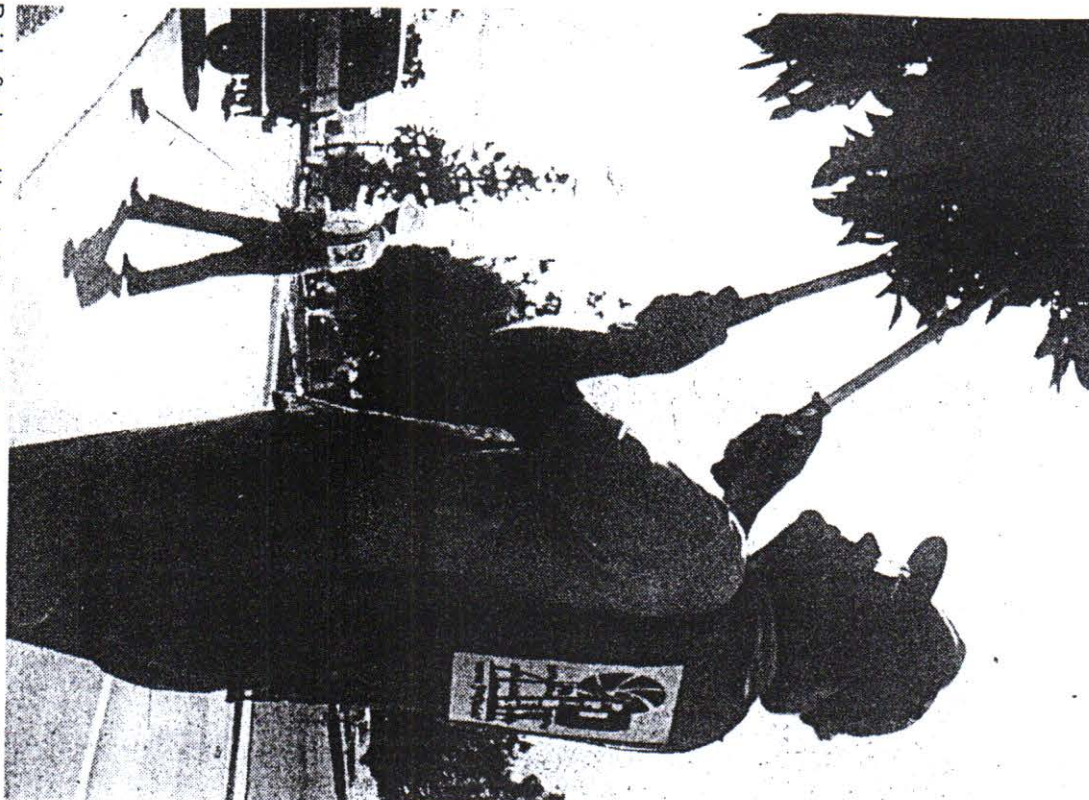
"Seeing us, it inspires people to support us."

McIntyre's "us" is "just everybody from every walk of life"—retired bankers, accountants, shop owners, homemakers, preachers, nurses, cops...

"Any morning of the week you'll find somebody working someplace," says McIntyre, and that

\* Prides, B2

Pride Sydney Harris trims one the community's 1,800 citrus trees.





**-From B1**

omeplace covers 33 neighborhood sections over 14 square miles: 210 miles of streets, 29 miles of landscaped parkways and rights of way, and the citrus trees that got McIntyre going in the first place—about 1,800 of them.

At the time fallen oranges had gotten the best of McIntyre, Del Webb Development Co., had finished its Sun City building, turned its efforts toward development of Sun City West and "the area was turned over to the county for maintenance," McIntyre explains.

The county, says McIntyre, was having a hard time keeping up with what Sun Citians had gotten used to—a model-pretty, manicured-all-over look Devco crews had for years provided in the company's push to sell homes.

A community used to the look rallied to the Prides' support, and so did the company that created Sun City, McIntyre reports.

He credits Devco with continued support of the Prides. The company has donated a van for the cleanup cadre, has provided instruction on how to maintain plant irrigation systems—a job the Prides took on—donates weed killer—the Prides have their own weed spray crew and spray tank—and is providing "drawings and will build a building at cost for us," says McIntyre.

The Prides' spirit and its capacity for work quickly took the group beyond orange collection and litter-pickup.

Tidy-up voluntarism in the group's short history has extended to weed spraying, tree and shrub feeding and trimming, and care of Maricopa County's local automatic watering systems.

"We maintain all irrigation systems in medians for orange, olive and palm trees that have to be watered, and we maintain valves and bubbler heads," says McIntyre.

The county, like Devco, has not ignored the Prides' helping hands.

It supplies members' orange safety vests, plastic trash bags, protective paint for trees, fertilizer, herbicides for weed spray, and facilities and space on coun-

ty-owned property have been designated for use by the Prides, McIntyre reports.

Ask McIntyre why Prides are such nice guys and gals, what motivates them to give up retirement time, to take a sense of order beyond their own yards, and his answer is twofold.

First, he credits a common history: "We're all a generation of the Depression. For 10 or 12 years it was so imbedded in us... independence as a way of life. Hard workers came out of that."

Second, that independence is tied to need dictated by recent economic history, McIntyre indicates.

"The birth of the Prides came at a particularly good time," says McIntyre.

For the last three or four years budget problems have forecast "the likelihood that funds would evaporate, that what would come to communities, to counties and states will be less and less available for these types of programs."

He adds: "It seems logical to do what you can do yourself, rather than expect the government to do it."

With the nation catching a glimpse of the Sun City Prides, McIntyre expects the appeal of the group's concept to take flight.

"I think it would spread to other areas and other locations throughout the nation, retirement communities and other areas," he comments.

The Prides' concept has already drawn interest, he adds.

Nearby Sun City West has its own Prides organization. Green Valley, a retirement community near Tucson has made inquiries, says McIntyre.

Outside Arizona, McIntyre says Landover Hills, Md., expressed early interest in the Prides, a Prides facsimile was organized in Lee Summit, Mo., and "a visitor from Lake Geneva, Wis.," also asked for Prides information to take back home.



# President to honor Prides

The Sun City Prides have been chosen by the White House as winners of the 1985 President's Volunteer Action Award in honor of their outstanding volunteer achievements to the community.

President Ronald Reagan himself will present the award to the group at a special White House luncheon April 22.

The award recipients were chosen from over 2,000 nominations nationwide in 10 categories. Fifteen individuals, groups and national organizations, two corporations and one labor union were chosen winners of the award.

The Prides are the only Arizona recipient of the award.

"This is recognition of a job well-done by the more than 300 members who make up the Prides," says Joseph McIntyre, president of the Prides. "It's a group award and the credit goes entirely to the members."

Established in 1980, the Prides are comprised of more than 300 volunteer residents who maintain the 14 square miles of Sun City.

Operating expenses are covered by individual donations and contributions from area clubs and businesses. The value of the services provided by the Prides is estimated to be over \$500,000 annually.

DAILY NEWS-SUN MARCH 5, 1985

The Phoenix Gazette Wed., Feb. 23, 1983 NW-3

# Posse, Prides receive honors

The Sun City Prides and Sun City Sheriff's Posse have been selected to receive awards for excellence in community programs from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pa.

Both Dr. Larry Allen, Prides president, and Maurine "Babe" Barkdoll, commander of the posse, said they are "extremely honored."

The Prides and the posse have been credited with keeping Sun City clean and safe through the use of volunteers.

Eight other organizations have been selected from Arizona to receive Freedoms Foundation awards.

"We're so honored," Barkdoll said. "It's a special 'thank you' to all of the people involved."

The awards will be presented to the groups April 23 during ceremonies at Camelback Inn.

In other news, the Prides celebrate their third birthday at 9 a.m. March 5 at the Faith United Presbyterian Church, 16000 Del Webb Blvd.

Allen said the past year has been highlighted by continued support and assistance from the Maricopa County Highway Department. The Prides' work schedule has doubled in the past year, with the group assuming more responsibility, he added.

On the national level, President Reagan has placed information about the Prides in the federal computer on Private Sector Initiatives, and actress Helen Hayes has used the Prides story in her television commentary.

To date, eight other communities have patterned a Pride-type operation after the Sun City group.

Allen said the group also has been honored by Sun City's Recreation Centers and Gov. Bruce Babbitt.

Guests at the Prides' annual meeting will include county and local officials, and Joan Barnett of the Sun City West Prides.

Any resident who would like to join the group and attend the meeting can call membership chairwoman Margo Rise at 933-8585.



C4 NEWS-SUN TUESDAY APRIL 22, 1986

# City's messy mock oranges gave McIntyre inspiration to begin PRIDES' activities

SUN CITY—One day in the spring of 1980, Sun Citian Joe McIntyre noticed that fallen oranges were messing up the streets. The former retail executive's response was simple.

McIntyre, who had moved to Sun City from New Baltimore, Mich., wrote a letter to the News-Sun and asked his friends and neighbors to help him pick up the oranges the following Saturday morning.

"I was at work for only a few minutes before three other people joined me," McIntyre recalled. "The next week several more residents came out and by the third week, we had about 50."

This was the beginning of the Sun City PRIDES, which stands for Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services.

In the organization's six short years, it has been recognized by the National Association of Counties, awarded the Freedom Foundation's George Washington Medal and most recently earned a National Volunteer Center Award from President Reagan.

In fact, if people write to the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiative asking how they can do their part to lower the cost of government, one of the first ideas proposed would be to form a group like the PRIDES.

In Sun City alone, the 350 volunteer PRIDES last year contributed more than 50,000 man-hours maintaining the 210 miles of Sun City streets, 29 miles of parkways, 3,200 trees and 25 miles of county irrigation system.

Every Saturday morning, the orange-vested retired bank presidents, lawyers, housewives, doctors, blue-collar workers and corporate executives sweep

sidewalks, trim trees, collect litter, spray weeds and perform the myriad other tasks so necessary to keep Sun City clean.

Why do the PRIDES do it?

"It's very gratifying," said McIntyre. "I enjoy the satisfaction of working with other people who volunteer their time to keep Sun City beautiful and lower the cost of government."

Dr. Larry Allen moved to Sun City from Jackson, Mich., seven years ago. As a retired doctor of chiropractic, one wouldn't expect Allen to be involved in such "menial" tasks.

But it's quite possible that Allen's philosophy, shaped during the depression like so many Sun Cities residents, explains the success of this group.

"I was born and raised in a small town where everyone helped each other," Allen said. "We took care of our neighbors and didn't look to others for help. We pitched in, shared joys, pleasures and sorrows. It's much the same here in the Sun Cities. The PRIDES are one big family."

The PRIDES exist through the donations of residents, businesses and Sun City clubs. It's not unusual for residents to stop their cars on Saturday morning, get out, dig into their pocket and make a donation on the spot.

By their beautification efforts, the PRIDES in Sun City and Sun City West save Maricopa County about \$950,000 each year and produce a community admittedly cleaner than the county could.

Lessening that cost is something which officials at the Maricopa County Engineers Office appreciate. Larry Waggoner is assistant county engineer of the operations division. He knows what the PRIDES mean to the county and community.

"The things they do for Sun City are hard to put a price tag

on," Waggoner said. "Because of our budget constraints, we couldn't provide the same quality of services Sun Cities residents have come to expect in terms of their environment. The community looks a lot better than county guidelines because of the PRIDES," he said.

As visiting journalists and broadcasters spread the news of what the PRIDES have done, other communities have begun to organize similar groups.

PRIDE-like groups are also forming in Maryland, Missouri, Florida and Michigan, all as a result of one man's desire to keep his community clean and lower the cost of government.



Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Aug. 17-23, 1988

# Sun City Prides: *Equal opportunity employer*

By PEG KEITH  
Sun Cities Independent

It's all a matter of pride, says Ed Koudelka, president of the Sun City Prides. "Keeping Sun City Beautiful," is the organization's motto.

The pristine, well-groomed aura that sets a distinctive tone for this retirement community didn't just happen, and doesn't just stay that way on its own.

Where else in the world could you find former doctors and lawyers, assembly line workers, clergymen and secretaries -- white, blue, pink and turned around collars -- hitting the streets at 6 a.m., picking up cigarette butts, palm fronds and windfalls, cleaning the medians, painting tree trunks, redding up concrete ditches -- just because they enjoy the work and the spirit of camaraderie?

Where else, but Sun City.

The seasons turn, and fall is on the way, and the Prides are preparing for it.

"The first meeting after the summer season will be Sept. 9," says Mr. Koudelka. "But until that time we'll be maintaining things as best we can."

They're not marking time, though. The squads and individuals on assignment will be up early to beat the August heat, "keeping it looking neat and clean."

Some of the Prides work a couple of hours, or one or two days a week; others don their reflective vests, work gloves, sturdy shoes and hard hats (if protective headgear is indicated) four or five days a week, just because they enjoy it.

Although there's a fluctuating membership, the Prides usually can count on 200 to 300 members for the various projects. "And do a good job," adds Mr. Koudelka.

The most important thing is to take care of the medians, says Mr. Koudelka. (Maricopa County mows the grass medians in Phase I.)

The squad group has a regular Saturday meeting at the Lakes Club where they meet for breakfast and companionship.

Task force assignments include the cleanup of unusually large or messy accumulations of debris, in shopping centers, perhaps.

There are crews that do nothing but clean up after the ornamental orange trees, (1,800 of them), do the trimming and, at certain times of the year paint the trunks white.

***The pristine, well-groomed aura that sets a distinctive tone for this retirement community didn't just happen, and doesn't just stay that way on its own.***

In April and May there are Prides who gather and bag the oranges that drop off the trees.

Other Prides serve as monitors, perhaps in charge of an area involving eight to 10 members; if one is ill or absent, the monitor often is the substitute; to make sure the job gets done.

Prides maintain the county's automatic watering system, with 26 miles of underground piping, 40 clocks, 85 valves and 2,385 bubbler heads.

Portions of Arizona state Highway 60-89-93, routed through Sun City, is maintained by the local organization.

A member of the Prides since 1982, the new president served as a board member for four years. He credits former president Joe McIntyre with bringing the group to its present status.

"He (Mr. McIntyre) was founder of the Prides; in 1980 he brought the group to a full-blown organization," says Mr. Koudelka.

A former director of labor relations for the Milwaukee Railroad, Mr. Koudelka's speech is rapid-fire; he analyzes his surroundings and any project at hand with the speed and logic of a computer.

"Our volunteers are about 50-50, men and women," he says. "We're an equal opportunity employer."

His newsletter carries a bit of advice for the members: "The only way to be happy is to make others happy. (Prides do this.)"

It also carries a chuckle: "Overheard: Two Sun City citizens remark as they see a group of Prides working in a large ditch, cleaning stones and debris from the area: 'Look at those four ladies stealing those rocks!'" (Prides don't do this.)

Prides have no major fund-raising activity, but accept donations throughout the year. It's not unusual for a resident to "accost" a member of the organization to present a \$10 bill or check on the spot. Aluminum cans are welcome. Residents can give them, (preferably bagged) to a driver, says Mr. Koudelka.

Help is always wanted, he says. Among the positions are

executive and professional positions (as outlined in the "company" brochure, which touts a dynamic work environment and permanent employment on a part-time basis) for: landscape artists (paint tree trunks); tree surgeons (trim trees and shrubs); flood control engineers (pick up debris in ditches); soil improvement technicians (dig and pull weeds).

Also, physical fitness demonstrators (pick up citrus and debris); sanitation engineers (sweep curbsides); mapologists (maintain

street name signs) and communication specialists (make phone calls).

While Prides rosters reflect a diverse membership, professional, technical, housewives, banking, business and academe, after a short time the members all begin to think alike -- when it comes to neatness.

Mr. Koudelka recounts the story of the Pride who brought his vehicle to a stop behind another car at the traffic light at 99th Avenue and Bell Road. To his amazement, the driver first in line

at the signal opened his car door and dropped a plastic bag of trash in the street.

The Pride, noting that the light had just turned red, set his brake, got out of his car, picked up the bag of trash. Then he opened the car door and said, as he placed the offending bag in the driver's lap: "I believe this trash is yours."

The driver sat motionless, then moved with the change of the light. It was, Mr. Koudelka says, "a nice bit of neatness enforcement."



# Whistle clean Prides run lean, pick up machine

By PEG KEITH  
Sun Cities Independent

It's orange blossom time.  
It's trim-up, paint-up,  
fertilize and spruce-up time  
for the sour orange trees that  
line the medians in Sun City  
and Sun City West.

It's the season when the  
Prides (Particular/Prideful  
Residents Involved Doing  
Environmental Services) take  
stock of all those ornamental  
shrubs along Bell Road,  
Thunderbird, Alabama, 99th  
Avenue and Union Hills in  
Sun City and along R.H.  
Johnson, Meeker and Stardust  
boulevards in Sun City West.

Before the season ends, the

## Role of the Prides

SC Prides president  
discusses the purpose  
of his organization ... P. 4

oranges on the ornamental  
trees will have to be removed.  
The Prides will come along  
with trailers to clean up the  
fruit (even shake it off the  
trees) once it begins to fall.

The intensified activity is a  
harbinger of cooler weather  
and signals a low-keyed re-  
cruitment program for the

See **PRIDES**, page 9



Laurie Hurd-Moore/Independent

**PRIDE IN SUN CITY.** Sun City Prides members Ralph Held, a former board member, Merlin Stevens, irrigation chairman and his wife, Martha, are part of a 300-plus network of volunteers. The group assists Maricopa County in maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of 217 miles of streets, medians and boulevards.



Particular Residents of the Sun Cities.

The Prides weed, sweep gutters, curbs and sidewalks, maintain the water system and decomposed granite and rocks, trim shrubs and trees and pick up trash on public thoroughfares which do not abut private property.

"We'll be trimming trees and painting the tree trunks white," says Sun City Prides President Joseph Keenan. "It's a nasty, hard job — We have to skin the trees down, before they can be painted."

The Prides' mission — to keep the retirement communities neat and tidy — is an obvious effort this time of year, as people come back from summer vacations and the blistering Arizona summers cool off a bit.

But you see them the year around. They're stand-outs in their orange vests, on foot or in golf carts, working their neighborhoods in the early morning, getting rid of weeds and trash.

They help to keep the retirement communities clean and beautiful.

While the Prides' effort is local, it fits nicely into the statewide "Arizona Clean and Beautiful" observance, which takes place in October.

Again this fall, Arizona Gov. Rose Mofford has encouraged all citizens to join grass roots movements in conservation and protection of public lands.

The Prides know a thing or two about grass roots.

"We go down the main public streets, into the gutters and trenches, and pick up everything: trash, oranges, cigarette butts," says Mr. Keenan.

"Then we leave the trash bagged in the medians. Maricopa County gives us the bags and picks them up. They're quite cooperative."

He adds, "The county once put a price on what we do. It amounts to the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The number of volunteer workers involved in the Sun City Prides stands at about 300, and more are needed. "The Grim Reaper is moving ahead of the recruitment," says Mr. Keenan. "We're looking for a few more workers. We'd like to get some tree trimmers."

The Prides president continues, "We're an equal opportunity employer. We set out early in the morning. Most of our people work one day a week, others arrange their own work schedules. We're divided into phases; a monitor in each phase assists the smaller work groups and the task force."

While most Sun Citian residents and visitors are careful about trash and refuse, there are those who toss garbage anywhere, empty out their ash trays in the street and drop off their fast-food lunch wraps as the spirit moves them.

That all means extra work for the outdoorsy types who sign on for the early morning pick-up patrols.

"It all takes a while. Sometimes the rain helps, sometimes it hurts," says Mr. Keenan.

He's been president of the Prides for about a year. "I missed a meeting, and they made me president. They didn't tell me ... I thought the president didn't do any work ... It has been a real lesson in the political process."

Last spring was memorable for the Prides. While they know a thing or two about grass roots, they could write a book about thistles.

"We could call 1989 The Year of the Tumbleweed. They were as plentiful as could be, near Bell Road, on the south side. Below Burns Avenue, they blew in from the vacant areas.

"The new automobile center (to be developed near 91st Avenue and Bell Road) might stop some of the weed problem," Mr. Keenan says.

Brought in by the wind, the weeds formed a ladder and climbed to the tops of the walls. In addition to being unsightly, they were a fire hazard.

The Prides teams had to hammer the drifter-giants down, removing the prickly bundles two or three at a time.

"Even if we crushed them, we could only get two or three tumbleweeds crammed into one of the huge garbage bags."

The Prides have discussed their concern about the hazards of tumbleweeds with the city of Peoria, and officials in that neighboring community have indicated a willingness to help with the problem.

Sun City West has many of the same concerns, and the annual invitation is out to join in the

work of keeping the community neat and clean.

Work areas are divided into sections, with monitors in charge. Each monitor sees that his or her section has proper tools for the tasks at hand.

Elmer Clark, Prides regular and member of the Board of Directors, says "We need more volunteers and more contributions, to replenish our hand tools and keep other equipment maintained and in good working order."

Speaking in the absence of Sun City West Prides President Lloyd Greenwood, Mr. Clark says that with new people moving into Sun City West and taking over houses, the community progresses. "All this means added responsibilities."

The Sun City West volunteers are on a continuous program of trimming, fertilizing and painting the citrus trees, and the Prides Board of Directors regularly reviews the work in designated areas.

There are slightly more than 200 volunteers in the group now.

"The county would do the work — if they had the time and the money," says Mr. Clark.

This is born out by Jerry Sudbeck, assistant county engineer for operations.

Mr. Sudbeck says Maricopa County's estimates (made less than a year ago) places value of the Prides work at \$150,000 for Sun City West and \$250,000 for Sun City.

"That's an average dollar figure for general labor," says Mr. Sudbeck, explaining that the

county does similar work on a number of center islands. Estimates of services provided are based on how long it takes to do a mile of medians at \$11 per hour for clean-up detail, and how long it takes to fill a bag.

"We have a good idea of the debris collected, as we regularly pick up the bags and haul them to the landfill on Mondays."

The county does not include in the total figures a certain amount of "immeasurables," says Mr. Sudbeck. This includes monitoring water systems and streets. "If there's a bubbler leaking, for instance, they get in touch with us, immediately."

If there's a bad spill, though, the county doesn't expect the

Prides to cope with it. "If there's a keg of nails or a bag of cement that's split, we're geared to do that."

The total figures are based on how often the county patrols. "We do a section of Shea Boulevard near Fountain Hills," says

Mr. Sudbeck, explaining that the Prides' patrols are on a quicker turn-around schedule.

Whether it's a quick turn-around schedule, giant tumbleweeds or orange blossoms, grass or garbage, they're all important to these Particular People.



The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE Mon., Feb. 26, 1990

# Prides set example in road cleanliness

## Sun City volunteers pick up honors

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — The Sun City Prides, a group of more than 300 volunteers who've been picking up litter in their city for the last 10 years, are serving as a working model for highway cleanups in Maricopa County.

A resolution citing the Prides and aimed at encouraging other volunteer groups to "Adopt a Highway" was approved Tuesday by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

Deputy county engineer D.C. Black says the county highway department has served as a support system for the Sun City program, providing orange safety vests for volunteers to wear, trash bags for the litter they collect, and a truck and crew to collect the filled bags on a regular schedule.

County officials are hoping that other non-profit, non-political volunteer groups also will want to set up similar programs in their own neighborhoods.

"Visitors are always impressed with the cleanliness of Sun City, and we've been asked how in the world the county can afford to keep up that area," Black says. "Of course, we can't.

"We don't have the capability or

the staff to have that kind of cleanup more than one or twice a year, whereas the Prides are out there every week.

"But we've been glad to support them, in the way they wanted their city to look. And we get the reflected light of all their work."

Black says the county is modeling much of its cleanup operation on the Prides' program. "Having the mechanics in place gives us the opportunity to implement our concerns on safety, for instance," he says.

Other civic groups in the county that already have such programs include the Sun City West Prides, Country Meadows Prides and the Homeowners Association of Villa de Paz. Williams Air Force Base is considering its own program, too, Black says.

The Sun City Prides program got its start about 10 years ago when one resident announced he was sick of the litter on 99th Avenue and began to clean it up, says Joe Keenan, the group's president. The man had the job almost all to himself for the first week, but on each succeeding work day, another helper or two would show up, until the Prides finally organized, set schedules and assigned jobs according to abilities.

OVER



# 'Hug a Pride on Saturday'

## Local group to be honored

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has uncovered treasure in the Sun Cities area.

The Sun City and Sun City West Prides saved the county \$394,000 in labor costs in 1989, Supervisor Carole Carpenter said. The savings were calculated based on what the county would have had to pay county workers at their average hourly wage.

The groups voluntarily maintain their communities' public thoroughfares.

To recognize the organizations, the supervisors have designated the first Saturday in March as a day to honor the Prides' members and accomplishments.

"The board also wanted to draw attention to the Prides to raise the visibility of citizens' cleanup and beautification efforts," said Carpenter, who represents District 4, which includes the Sun Cities.

Saturday will mark the third

annual Prides' day. The first was celebrated March 5, 1988.

But the community has extended the honor through March, said Lloyd Greenwood, Sun City West Prides president.

The group will be honored with breakfasts by the Sun City West Women's Social Club, the Sun City West's Men's Club, and will host a picnic of its own, Greenwood said.

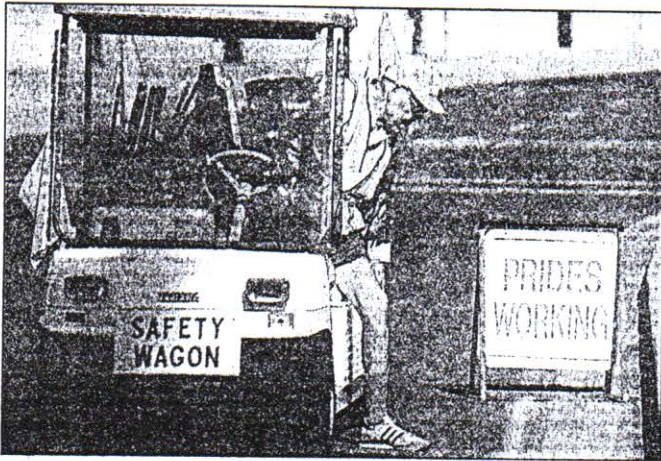
Carpenter and county officials will join the Sun City Prides at its annual meeting at 9 a.m. next Saturday at First Christian Church of Sun City, 14001 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

"We suggest that people hug a Pride on that Saturday. But if they don't want to do that, they could donate (to the group)," Sandy Goldstein, Sun City West Foundation president, said.

Donations to the Sun City Prides may be sent to P.O. Box 1463, Sun City, 85370, or to the Sun City West Prides at 14455 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd., 85375.

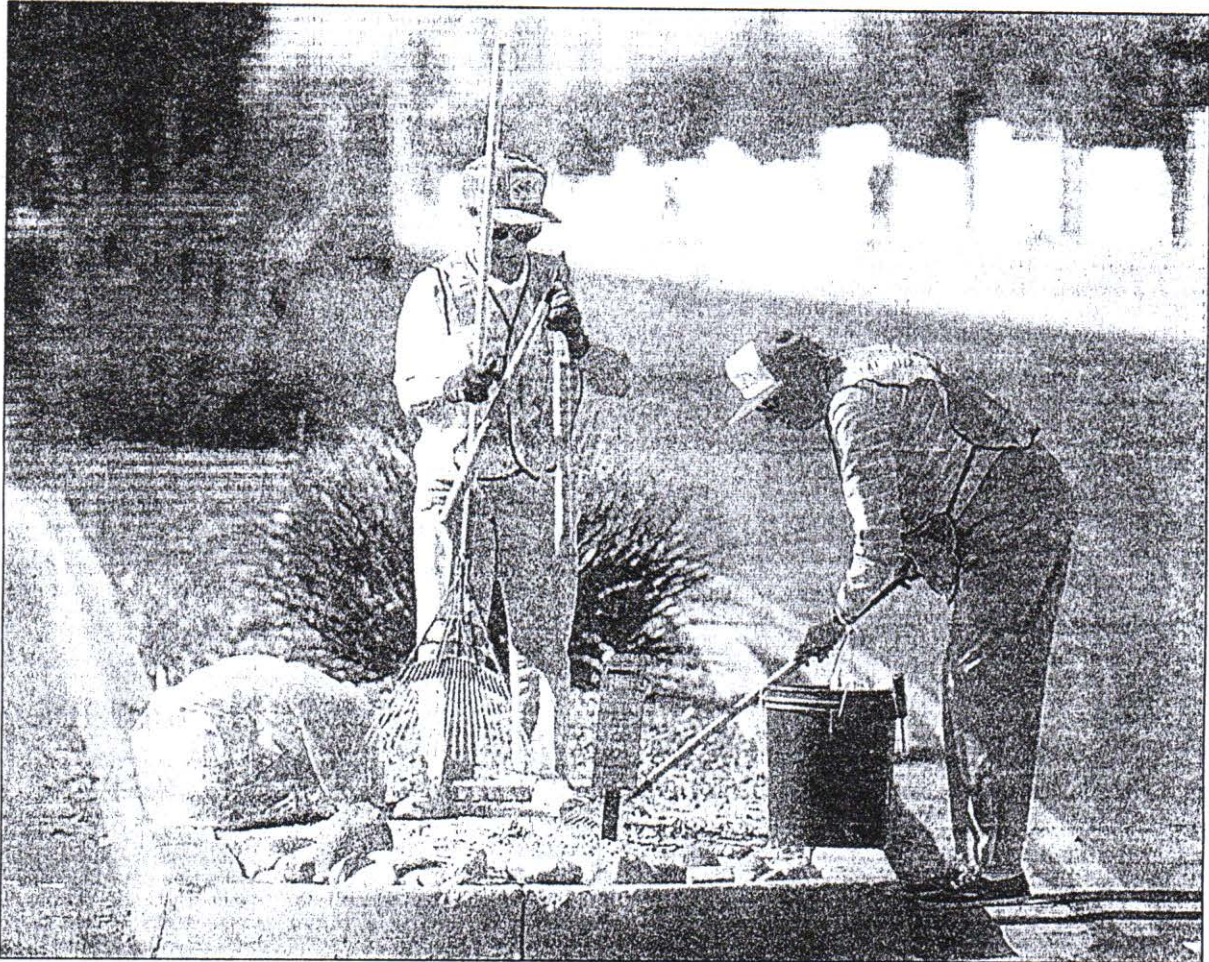
OVER





Community

# Picking up on pride



Harry Meehan, a member of the Sun City West PRIDES, picks up safety signs after a period of cleaning along R.H.

Johnson Boulevard. Among those who helped with the project were Lil Loew (bending over) and Sally Erb.

James Garcia / Staff photographer

## Litter gives Sun Cities groups the bends

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

### Sun Cities

**W**hat started as one man's concern over oranges littering the streets of Sun City has grown into a massive volunteer effort that has captured international attention.

Joe McIntyre was bothered by fruit that had fallen off citrus trees lining Sun City streets after Del E. Webb Development Co.'s maintenance crews left Sun City when Webb began work on Sun City West.

So he wrote a letter to the editor of a local newspaper inviting others to join him in picking up the fruit and other litter.

Although only four residents showed up at the initial meeting in 1980, the "pride"

fever was contagious.

"The Saturday after that there were more people, and we kept growing. We now have about 300 volunteers," said McIntyre who founded the Sun City PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services) and continues to serve on its board of directors.

"It's a matter of pride for people to want to keep Sun City beautiful," said McIntyre, a retired accountant.

PRIDES became so popular that Sun City West borrowed the idea about two years later, and that group now has about 250 members. The Sun City PRIDES helped train the initial group of Sun City West volunteers.

"We've had people from Germany, France and Canada taking motion pictures

of what we do and how we operate," said Thomas Kostal, Sun City West PRIDES president, who has been involved in the group for about 10 years.

The Sun City PRIDES also have drawn global attention, with visitors from as far away as Japan watching them work.

Members of Sun City PRIDES have been featured on national television and even had lunch with President Reagan at the White House. The Sun City PRIDES is in the computer data bank of The President's Task Force of Private Initiatives as an example of successful volunteerism for other communities.

Earlier this month, the Sun City and Sun City West PRIDES were honored by the Northwest Chamber of Commerce, along with other groups.

See CLEANUP, Page 5

(COVER)



# CLEANUP

From Page 1

with the Country Meadows PRIDES, whose members live in a residential subdivision that is partially in the county.

"The PRIDES save the county in excess of \$500,000 a year if we had to hire people to do this," said Dennis Clark, county highway operations supervisor. "I think they do an outstanding job. They do take pride in their community."

County Supervisor Carole Carpenter, who represents the Sun Cities, said:

"There is a limit to services government can provide, but there is no limit for what people can do for themselves to make their community a better place to live, and the PRIDES are a perfect example of that."

Although each PRIDES group operates independently, their work is similar.

Throughout the year, they trim, feed, and water thousands of trees. They replace trees when needed, remove tons of debris and oranges, paint orange trees, spray weeds, and maintain the county's automatic watering system, including underground piping and bubbler heads. They also rake and clean litter from every desert-landscaped median and right of way and remove litter from many miles of grass medians.

The PRIDES divide their communities into sections, with a monitor in charge of each area. An irrigation crew takes care of watering. They also have a task force that works on trouble spots, such as storm-damaged landscaping.

The Sun City PRIDES provide about 62,000 man-hours of work a year, McIntyre estimates. They keep the 14-square-mile community's 210 miles of streets with 3,200 trees and plantings and 11 miles of drainage-ways neat and clean.

Sun City West PRIDES care for landscaping and trees along 13 miles of streets, including Bell Road, El Mirage Road, R.H. Johnson Boulevard, 128th Avenue and Meeker Boulevard.

Donations by citizens, clubs and businesses pay for the work tools, bubbler and timer supplies, fertilizer, tree and shrub replacement and vehicles.

The Maricopa County Highway Department supplies plastic trash bags, paint for trees, safety vests, traffic control devices and herbicides for weed spraying.

In an excerpt of a poem about the PRIDES written by McIntyre, he describes the volunteers:

"They've been bankers, accountants and owners of shops, teachers and preachers, and nurses and cops. Their home is their castle, they're willing to share a part of their lives, for beauty and care."



# Prides embody spirit of voluntarism

## Corps has clean reputation

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

To many people, the spirit of volunteerism is personified in the Sun City Prides and Sun City West Prides, who combined have nearly 550 member volunteers.

The Prides can be seen on the main Sun Cities thoroughfares from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. every Saturday and again at various times during the week for special cleanup projects.

Street trash pickup is only one element of the Prides' efforts to keep the Sun Cities clean and maintain their reputation as being among the world's cleanest communities.

They can also be found trimming, watering and tending to trees and plants along public streets, cleaning up shopping center parking lots or working on special projects like cleaning and picking weeds at Sun City Stadium.

Tom Kostal, president of the 250-member Sun City West Prides and Waldo Smith, president of the 300-member Sun City Prides, praise the dedication and cohesiveness of their respective groups.

"We have 15 of the original 33 Prides members still with us after 11 years," Kostal said.

Smith said Sun City Prides founder Joe McIntyre, who started the Prides some 12 years ago, is also still actively involved as head of the special Prides work detail squad that tackles the big cleanup projects that often occur after heavy street and canal flooding.

The Sun City Prides work in all three phases of Sun City. Each phase is broken down

into sections and each section has its own regular work crew, Smith said.

Kostal said Sun City West is divided up into nine work sections or islands, each with its own monitor and crew.

"Seven of the monitors ride a golf car to carry and supply the tools for 20 to 25 people on each crew," Kostal said. "We also have a couple of trucks for the other two sections."

Each Prides organization maintains its own group of specialists. The Sun City Prides have a group of six sprayers and seven tree painters.

The Sun City West Prides, who recently celebrated their 10th anniversary (after taking nearly a year to get fully organized) has a 15-member water-irrigation department that often goes out mid-week to monitor water flow and repair irrigation equipment used for median trees and plants.

Both Prides groups have the same problems of attrition and recruitment.

"We never, ever have enough hands," Kostal said, noting his group shrinks to about one-third its normal size during the summer.

Smith estimates the Sun City Prides have lost about a quarter of their membership in recent years.

Prospective Sun City West volunteers should call Kostal at 584-5960 and Sun Citians looking for work should call Elma Flynn at 974-1100.

Since no pay is ever involved, what motivates Prides workers?

"We do it for ourselves and for Sun City West," Kostal said. "Most of the volunteers love to come out because it

the community who either already live in Sun City or plan to retire here someday because they've been so cooperative and supportive of our efforts."

involves them directly, they're proud of their community and they're willing to give up their time."

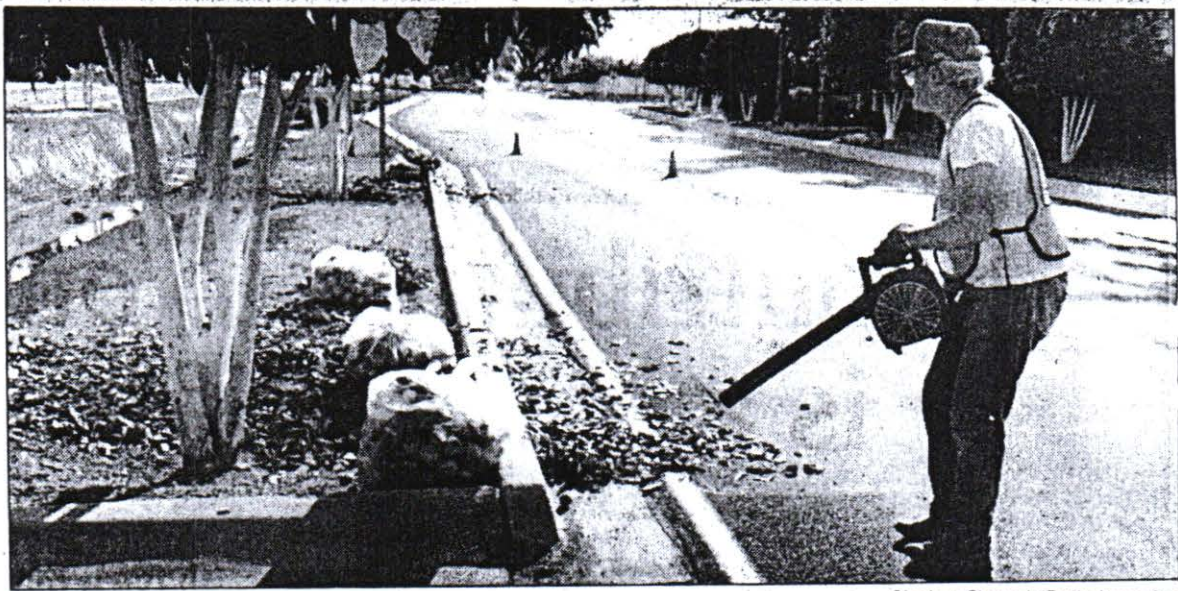
Smith said the same things

motivate his workers but wanted to get a plug in for the Sun City business community.

"I would like to recruit some of the business people in

OVER





Stephen Chernek/Daily News Sun

Tom Engelhardt blows leaves out of the road on Del Webb Boulevard near Boswell Boulevard, after the Prides bagged oranges that had fallen from the trees.



# Service group motivated by community pride

Thanks to Prides,  
Sun Cities streets  
remain spotless

by ANNE RYMAN  
Sun Cities Independent

Chuck Seltz pushes his rake into an orange tree and shakes the branches gently. Oranges tumble to the ground where they are retrieved, gathered in buckets and dumped into plastic bags.

While this is a common activity throughout the Valley, volunteers do the work in Sun City.

Mr. Seltz is a member of the Sun City PRIDES — Proud Residents Independently Donation Essential Services group — an organization that helps maintain Sun City's public streets, parkways and landscaped medians.



**Whether its picking up fallen oranges, litter or sweeping debris, the Prides are always there to make sure the community's streets remain looking their best.**

Maricopa County Highway Department mows and trims the grass and trims the palm trees and

the Prides pick up trash, spray for weeds, maintain irrigation systems and clean up after storms.

**"It was clean when I moved here ...  
I'd like to keep it that way."**

— Bob Kroeger, Sun City Prides

In addition to the yearly task of removing oranges from 1,800 orange trees, the Prides trim and fertilize the trees and paint the trunks white. The Prides put in about 50,000 manpower hours a year and save the county more than \$500,000.

The Prides began in 1980, when Sun Citian Joe McIntyre enlisted the help of friends and neighbors to pick up a bumper crop of fallen oranges. Only three volunteers made the first Saturday workday, but by the third week 50 residents gathered to help.

The group has since been recognized by the National Associ-

ation of Counties and received the Freedom Foundation's George Washington Medal and a National Volunteer Center Award from then-President Ronald Reagan.

And while the number of volunteers reached as high as 400 in the mid-1980s, the number has fallen to about 300 today.

So Prides President Waldo Smith has asked each member to recruit someone in the community.

"We are in need of new workers. We find people drop out because of health reasons or age, faster than new members come in," Mr. Smith

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## ■ PRIDES

From Page 1

says.

The Prides work on Saturdays from 6 to 8 a.m. in the summer and from 7 to 9 a.m. in the winter.

"But they can go out anytime they want to see what needs to be done," he says.

Most prides work a minimum of two hours per week, but some work as many as eight to 15.

"We want everyone to work at their own pace and ability with no pressure."

For example, if a person cannot work on a Saturday he or she can work any other day or hour. Couples often work together, but the Prides have individual members as well.

Richard Jech usually works one day a week but has been working twice a week recently collecting oranges.

"I had a lot of leisure time so I thought I'd help out," he says about his reason for joining a year ago.

Bob Kroeger, a Pride for almost two years, decided to join the organization to help maintain the appearance of the community.

"It was clean when I moved here and we'd like to keep it that way,"

he says.

Tom Engelhardt, a Pride since 1983, enjoys transporting the rakes, safety cones and buckets the prides use and he leads some of the tasks.

"My wife does get after me to do our own yard, but I prefer this," he laughs.

In addition to working together, members eat breakfast and socialize together at a local restaurant after the Saturday morning sessions.

"Nobody's cracking the whip," Mr. Engelhardt says. "You work at your own speed and when you're tired, you go home."

Mr. Seltz says says while the Prides have held picnics and social get-togethers in the past, the people enjoy labor the most.

"These people don't seem interested in social atmosphere in the sense of partying. What interests them is working," he says.

Mr. Seltz says just because people leave in the summer the amount of work doesn't decrease. Human debris — cigarette butts and packs, fast-food containers, aluminum cans and the occasional whiskey bottle — is less in the summer. But more natural debris

occurs during the monsoon season because of the increased wind and heavy rainfall.

Maricopa County Highway Department provides the fluorescent-orange vests Pride members wear for safety and identification as well as the herbicides, plastic bags and white paint for the tree trunks.

The Prides do not hold fund drives but instead rely on donations from individuals, businesses and community organizations.

Donations pay for equipment such as brooms, rakes, shovels, hedge trimmers and leaf blowers and for maintenance on the truck used to haul the tools and the golf cart used for spraying.

Many Pride members agree it's especially rewarding to be out working and have residents come up, shake hands and thank them for the work.

For more information on becoming a Sun City Pride, call 972-6558.



# Extra gust of energy gets Prides through summer

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Monsoons may be a refreshing change from the sweltering summer heat, but the gusty winds often create a nightmare for the Sun City Prides.

Recent storms have blown trash, tree branches and other debris throughout Sun City, making more work than usual for the local volunteer cleanup crew, said Chuck Seltz, Prides membership coordinator in Phase I.

"These storms make it really tough on some of our workers. They have to do a lot of stooping and picking up after one blows through," Seltz said. "This time of year, when a strong wind hits it carries the leaves and branches all over. The bark from eucalyptus trees curls up like cigars and scatters everywhere. We have to put in double duty to clean it up."

The Sun City Prides has about 325 members who help pick up trash, fertilize trees and spray weeds in neighborhoods throughout the retirement community.

However, the number of volunteers is virtually cut in half in the summer months when residents leave Sun City, Seltz said.

"We are short-staffed to some extent, but people are always willing to help when we are in a

desperate situation. These volunteers are really hard workers," Seltz said. "And that often means a lot of work in the summer when you have to rake some areas entirely by hand."

One nice thing about the summer months is a noticeable decline in the amount of trash in the community, Seltz said.

"There are a lot less cigarette butts, candy wrappers and other pieces of trash we always seem to be picking up. You wouldn't believe how many cigarette butts get thrown out of car windows by stop signs," Seltz said.

Earlier this summer, a "bumper crop for citrus" kept many Prides volunteers busy, Seltz said. "They were just coming down in droves. It took a lot of time to bag them."

Prides volunteers put all the fruit and debris in plastic bags on the street curbs for Maricopa County workers to haul away.

The county furnishes the Prides with the plastic bags, weed spray, fertilizer, traffic cones and the orange vests volunteers wear while on duty.

"We work closely with the county," said Stanley Jones, past president of the Prides. Jones and his wife, Margaret, have volunteered for the Prides for seven years.

The Prides rely on community donations to purchase and

maintain vehicles used by volunteers, Jones said.

A van, several trucks, golf cars, rakes, shovels, hoes and other tools are stored in a building built for the Prides at 91st Avenue and Greenway Road.

"The community has been very gracious in giving us donations. We never have fund drives. We feel that if the community appreciates what we do for them, then they will continue to help us."

Prides volunteers in Sun City are coordinated by geographic area. Membership coordinators in Phase I, II and III assign volunteers to specific areas to clean.

"Basically, people clean their areas at their own discretion. They take pride in making it clean," Jones said.

Other volunteers meet a squad leader every Saturday morning and get an assignment of "troubled areas" in the community to clean. The squad leader drives a van and delivers supplies to the volunteers.

"The summer usually is the hardest time for us because of the storms and because our manpower is greatly reduced. We always welcome more volunteers."

For information about the Prides, call Jones at 972-6558.

OVER



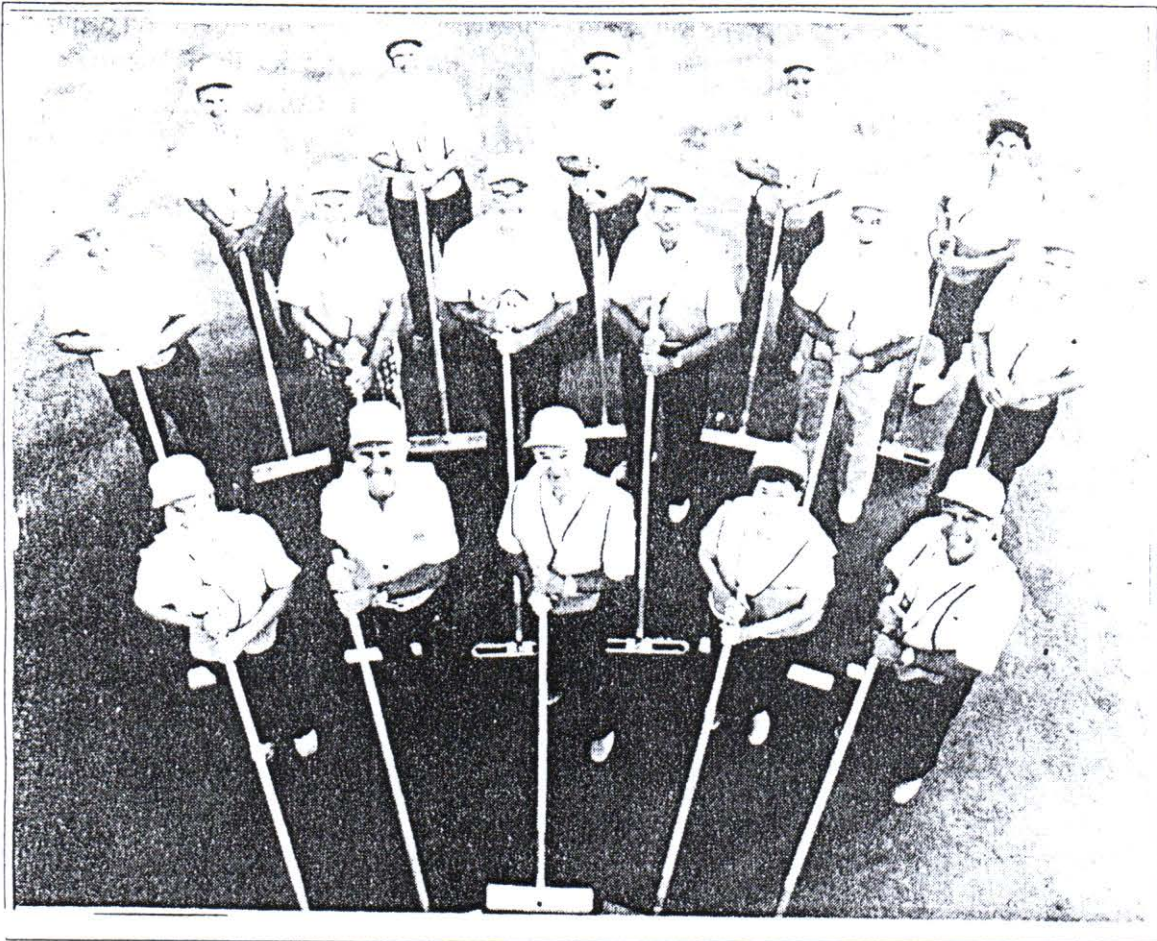


Stephen Chernenk/Daily News-Sun

Prides volunteer Nat Jampel sweeps branches downed by the season's strong winds.



## 'Sun And Scenery Are Not Enough



Members of the PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services) pose with their brooms. These volunteers do far more than sweep street litter, putting in many hours watering and fertilizing plants, trimming bushes and other tasks to preserve their community's environment. Photo courtesy Del Webb Corp.

By Igor Lobanov  
Mature Life Features

Psychologists and others emphasize that for older adults, especially, sociability is a key factor in not only staying fit but in living longer, happier lives. As one observer pointed out, "... for retired people who no longer have the support found in the workplace, social interaction becomes very important."

And, for many who develop and operate retirement communities today providing an active-lifestyle environment is a strong selling point for their marketing effort. The number and variety of activities available often is in direct proportion to the size of the operation — from a single apartment or condominium building to an entire community comprising varied housing arrangements, shopping centers, police and fire protection, a hospital and other necessities of everyday living geared especially to the older adult.

Among active-adult communities nationwide, Del Webb Corporation's Sun City West, on the sundown side of Phoenix, is setting an energetic pace — and providing an example for others in its broad scope of available recreational activities and volunteerism opportunities.

The month's activity calendar for the 21,000 residents may con-

tain close to 250 listings and include virtually every conceivable type of pursuit. There are about 200 clubs, and their focus ranges from astronomy to wood-working, Jazzercise to silk flower making, choral groups, square and round dancing sessions, synchronized swimming and hatha yoga, French, Italian and Spanish speaking groups, and a host of sports activities. If you're a model train buff, for example, there is the Railroad Club, housed in a 30-foot by 40-foot room where an impressive number of operating model trains roll along amid a beautifully-detailed town and countryside landscape layout, the whole complex lovingly maintained by the group's 62 members.

Anyone can teach a class in a subject of interest. When a group of 25 people charter themselves as a club, the community's management will provide support. Volunteerism is alive and well. Not everyone here is wrapped up solely in creating ceramics, singing acappella or swinging a golf club. Many direct their energies toward helping others for, as one resident put it, "this is the time (in life) to give back."

A 1991 nationwide study showed that more than four out of ten people age 60 and older did some form of volunteer work. And, while most said they did it to help others, twenty five per-

cent of them saw volunteering as a way of meeting and interacting with people. Churches and religious organizations topped the list for volunteering, followed by social service agencies. However, a survey of potential volunteers showed their second choice would be to help out in a retirement communities.

While thrift shops, a medical equipment lend-out operation and schools and churches in neighboring areas draw many volunteers, the most popular causes among Sun City West's residents are community security and preserving the environment of common areas.

Law enforcement and police protection are handled by the local county sheriff's office, but these the officers are aided by a force of nearly 250 Sun City West residents who see themselves as perhaps akin to that popular symbol of volunteer citizen help in the Old West: The Posse. No more sweaty horses and dusty trail rides. The members of this posse patrol the streets in golf carts and slightly modified police cars, checking on homes whose owners are on vacation, and generally serving as the regular officers' "eyes and ears."

Often a husband and wife will serve as a team, so their 20 hours of "duty shifts" each month (in some cases, this means being on



patrol in the middle of the night) becomes a commitment taken seriously. While most of the volunteers have received training in first aid, traffic-control and other police skills, they do not carry weapons and are instructed to avoid any direct confrontation with criminal behavior. Their mission is to observe and report any untoward activity to the regular authorities. Still, a few residents have requested and received advanced training as armed officers. Is the Possee effective? Residents cite one of the lowest crime rates in the country, with offenses usually limited to break-ins or theft from buildings under construction.

For Possee members, their sense of dedication is clear. As former merchant Norm Vadnoff, second in command of the Possee and with additional training as a weapon-carrying officer, put it "For 37 years I ran a retail store in the Hells Kitchen area of New York City. I worked 60 hours a week and never had a chance to donate to the community. Now I can do it. It's a way to repay."

Those who prefer to "give back" by helping preserve the appearance of their neighborhood join PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services). The 240 former doctors, lawyers, engineers and others are organized into committees, directed by a section monitor, that spend several hours each Saturday sweeping gutters, picking up litter, trimming bushes and fertilizing plants. Others spend time during the week watering the shrubs and trees. (As a water-conservation tactic, they periodically paint the trunks of orange trees white, to better reflect the Arizona sun.)

Sun City management claims the PRIDES save the county some \$400,000 a year in labor costs.

Watching individuals at play and groups of volunteers at work, one is struck by the fact that, quite aside from the overall high level of physical health, the camaraderie and banter is an important psychological element. No reclusive retirees here. These people are vitally-alive examples of the premise that the later years can be the best years.

Those who still believe that retirement years mean one must lay back and let time roll by, need only read a note someone has tacked to the bulletin board in the Recreation Center that says, "We're not senior citizens, we're recycled teenagers."



Murray Brawner, left, and Harry Wilke, members of the Sun City PRIDES, patrol Grand Avenue between 99th Avenue and the New River, picking up trash. The Sun City residents were working Saturday without the benefit of inmate labor.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

## Inmates take PRIDE in SC landscaping

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

The 350 volunteers in the Sun City PRIDES have been getting help maintaining public property from a less-than-volunteer force: inmates from the county jail.

The PRIDES — an acronym for “proud residents independently donating essential services” — last worked with the jail inmates about six weeks ago, said Waldo Smith, past president of the PRIDES.

The inmates have been out in Sun City four times, picking sour oranges from ornamental orange trees and collecting the fallen fruit, Smith said.

“They did an excellent job for us,” he said. “I have nothing but positive words for what they did.”

Smith said his group is trying to get the inmates back in Sun City to help remove weeds along Beardsley Road.

“These boys did nice work,” said Smith, who worked with the inmates. “In fact, I even counseled them to get their lives straightened out ... and someday they can live in Sun City.”

“You know (on hearing that), their eyes lit up like a candle, so I think it kind of got to them.”

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Capt.  
See Program beautifies, A5



# Program beautifies property

Marr Simons, PRIDES president, said he's enjoyed laboring alongside the inmates.

"They were very willing workers: Hard workers and pleasant and friendly," he said.

Simons said he wasn't nervous about working with criminals, and the guards and inmates seemed to get along well together.

"We're hoping to get them out here in the future," Simons said. "I'd like to see this made a more-or-less regular thing."

Wilson said he didn't know when the inmates would next be in Sun City. He said the program can't respond to all requests for its services because county budget cutbacks limit the number of officers available to supervise the crew, and it's sometimes hard to find posse volunteers.

But he judged the program a success.

Simons said his group would also welcome summer help from non-convicts or donations to help the PRIDES purchase supplies. Interested residents can call 972-9529 or send contributions to the PRIDES at P.O. Box 1463, Sun City, 85372.

—From A1

David Wilson said the Sun City landscaping is just part of the inmate labor detail's work.

"We kind of roam around the Valley," said Wilson, who oversees the group of 24 inmates as commander of the special projects division. Two jail buses are used to transport the detail.

"We drive around Maricopa County going to different locations, usually upon request," Wilson said.

The jail crew — watched by two or three armed detention officers and a few posse volunteers — has helped clean up Van Buren Street in downtown Phoenix and performed landscaping and maintenance work at sheriff's substations.

The Sheriff's Office also arranges with some local landowners to have the inmate detail glean produce left in fields after the commercial crop is picked, Wilson said. The fruit and vegetables are used in jail meals and leftovers go to charity, he said.

Inmates in the work crew are convicted of non-violent crimes, usually serving 30-to-60-day sentences, said Wilson, who added that shoplifting and driving under the influence are typical offenses. There have been no escapes from the program, he said.

Although some may receive time off their sentences for working, the inmates are not paid, and they are assigned — not volunteers, Wilson said.

"If they refuse to work, they have to sit in a cell 23 hours a day and they only get one visit a week and one phone call a week," he said.



# PRIDES pick up honors

## Magazine cites volunteer work

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Dawn creeps over the Eastern horizon, washing Sun City in a pool of purple, red and orange.

Golf cars quietly buzz down the streets heading toward the appointed meeting place. Orange-vested seniors check their supplies while waiting for an assignment.

Some trim trees. Others pick up oranges. Another group paints the trunks of citrus trees. Volunteers wander down into drainage ditches with their garbage pickers.

This scene doesn't just happen once a year. It replays itself every Saturday as the PRIDES of Sun City leave their warm beds to make a difference in the appearance of their community.

While the residents of Sun City recognize their efforts every day, USA Weekend honored the Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services (PRIDES) nationally as part of its fifth annual Make A Difference Day Awards.

"When I sent in our application I wanted them to know that we make

a difference 365 days a year — not just one special day," said Ed Pierce, the group's president.

In his letter to USA Weekend, Pierce explained that Sun City is unincorporated and therefore can't rely on city workers to keep the streets and sidewalks clean. It must

be done by volunteers with the assistance of the county, he wrote.

"It has been estimated that the value of the services donated to Maricopa County by the PRIDES exceeds \$500,000 per year," he said in his letter. "We trim, feed and water some 2,600 trees; replace

trees as needed; remove tons of debris; paint more than 1,800 ornamental orange trees; as well as maintaining the county's automatic watering system of more than 26 miles of piping."

Pierce said Del Webb was committed to keeping Sun City clean while it was being built. Once the developer pulled out, it fell on the shoulders of the residents to ensure it stayed clean.

### ■ From A1

And people from all walks of life have willingly donated their time to help give a spit-and-polish shine to their neighborhoods. Pierce said the volunteers range in age from 55 to 85. They are women. They are men.

"The thing that's always impressed me is the diversity of people we have in the PRIDES," he said. "We have people from blue-collar, white-collar and no-collar backgrounds. When you take

the time to talk with them and find out what they did in real life, it's amazing.

"One of the things that both surprised me and pleased me was the fact that both sexes are well-represented. There are many women in our group whose husbands are avid golfers and they're not interested in golf. So, while their husbands are out on the course, they're working for the PRIDES."

Howard Mathias, a retired university professor, and his wife, a retired elementary school teacher, joined the ranks of the PRIDES four years ago. He said he wanted to get involved not just to protect the property value of his neighborhood, but because

he doesn't want Sun City to struggle like other cities.

"I would hate to think of what it would look like if we weren't here," Mathias said. "There are so many neighboring communities who are struggling to do what we accomplish every day. I'm proud that we're able to do this for our community."

Despite the fact that the volunteers come from many walks of life, there is one trait that binds them all, Pierce said.

"We're all a bunch of neat freaks," he said laughing.

Waldo Smith said that's the truth.

"Let me tell you, when I was

farming, my farm was always one of the neatest in the area," said the 10-year PRIDES veteran. "And besides, I really enjoy the outdoor work, and I want to keep Sun City neat and clean."

Not every resident of Sun City wants to join the PRIDES, but the group's cleanliness motto does rub off on all the citizens of the community, Pierce said.

"We set a tone for the community in that the community see us out there cleaning up and they're more apt to clean up themselves," he said. "I'll see people out walking and they'll pick up trash as they go."

## PRIDES spruce up Sun City



# Volunteers clear debris in Sun Cities

By GREG ZEMEIDA  
Staff writer

7-29-96

They may not be in the army, but these volunteers do more at 6 a.m. every Saturday than many people do all weekend.

They belong to the Sun City and Sun City West PRIDES, two non-profit organizations dedicated to keeping their communities looking their best.

And this past Saturday, like every Saturday, they were out in force. This past weekend, however, they had several extra loads — branches and debris from Thursday's monsoon.

Every weekend, hundreds of volunteers from both groups perform maintenance and beautification work along the main streets running through their communities. Their duties include sweeping streets, trimming trees, spraying weeds and even painting trees, among other projects.

Ed Pierce, president of the Sun City PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services), said his chapter was formed in 1980, just after Del Webb finished construction in the area and no longer performed upkeep there.

"When they pulled out, it became obvious someone had to do something," he said.

It would be easy to take the PRIDES for granted after several years of community cleanup. There's little glory in sweeping up someone's mess and sprucing the landscape. But Thursday's storm brought the PRIDES back into the spotlight.

With downed branches and scattered debris everywhere, the Sun Cities really needed tidied up.

PRIDES are involved in more than just storm cleanup detail. Today, the group has more than 300 volunteers to cover the 210 miles of streets in Sun City. Each year, they provide more than 62,000 hours of work.

That much effort is not surprising considering what they do. Volunteers trim, feed and water about 2,600 trees, remove tons of debris and

► See Sun Cities, A5



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Jim Gibbons hops over flowing rainwater while cleaning the 99th Avenue drainage ditch north of Thunderbird Boulevard in Sun City Saturday.

Daily News-Sun

## ier monsoon's mess

The organization is also run on charity contributions, with the majority of cash donations coming from the Del Webb Corp. That bothers Ward a bit because the PRIDES' leading sponsor will be out of town within the next year.

"We will be on our own and a lot of this we will have to depend on contributions from the residents and contributions from the business community," he said.

The group may hold a special fund-raiser in the future.

Tom Kostal, a former president of the group, said he signed up just after the group formed because he wanted to keep the city clean. He serves as a monitor near the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, but pointed out that there were really no bosses in the group. He said no one gets any special treatment, even if they were a doctor, lawyer or company president before moving to Sun City West.

"When you retire, your past is your past," Kostal said.

# Sun Cities PRIDES clean up aft

■ From A1

maintain the county's automatic watering system, which has 26 miles of underground piping and 2,385 bubbler heads.

PRIDES volunteers said it's worth all the time and energy.

"We love it here and we want to keep it this way," said Leila Alexander, a 12-year participant.

Waldo Smith agreed, adding that this type of work comes naturally to him.

"I've always been a stickler for

neatness," he said.

Dick Ward, president of the Sun City West PRIDES (Particular Residents Involved Doing Environmental Services), said his volunteers share the same feelings about their community. He said he joined the group along with the local sheriff's posse because they performed a service that was unique.

"I thought that would be a great thing to be part of," Ward said.

The Sun City West group was established in 1982 and boasts more

than 300 members. Volunteers cover about 19 miles of streets in the area. They perform about 11,000 hours of work each year, saving the county about \$114,000.

Bob Strausser, the irrigation supervisor, said volunteers also have to check on 35 miles of piping around the area. He said he joined the group eight years ago because it allowed him to socialize with other people and was good exercise.

"It's the thrill of volunteering," Strausser said.





Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun



Vaugh Oberlink, above, of the Sun City PRIDES uses a leaf blower to clean pine needles at Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards Saturday. At photo left, Waldo Smith, left, and Charlie Boothe cut and remove a dying tree they felled near Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards.





Members of the Sun City Pride Club clean the debris from the median in front of Bell Camino Center. The 11-member group meets in front of the shopping center

every Saturday and is hoping to recruit more members for its clean-up campaign. (News-Sun Photo)

## Pride sparks SC clean-up group

Sun City instills pride in many of its residents.

But one group in particular is hoping to instill that pride into all Sun Citians and get them to demonstrate it.

THE NEWLY-formed and loosely-operated group has chosen the name Sun City Pride Club. And its main goal is to "keep Sun City the way it was when we first saw it."

In other words, the club could be called a clean-up committee.

L.D. Hutson, Joe McIntyre and Tom Cowley are the leaders of an 11-member operation that cleans different streets and medians in Sun City every Saturday morning.

"SUN CITY was one of the prettiest cities in the United States when it was under Del Webb," Hutson says, "but since Del Webb turned it over to the county, the streets have deteriorated."

Cowley adds, "We're a group of people who feel the town is going down the

drain and we want to do something about it."

Of course the Pride Club is not the only group to try to keep Sun City clean.

AND MCINTYRE is quick to add, "We recognize that there are people doing this of whom we have no knowledge, especially the people on 107th Avenue. They're not associated with any group and we'd like them to either join ours or just keep up what they're doing."

The Pride Club is similar to a group of citizens in

Sedona who every day clean up around the Oak Creek area. Though the three Sun Citians said they were unaware of the group, they called it "worthwhile."

The idea started in the latter part of March when McIntyre wrote a letter to the editor challenging all Sun Citians to help him pick up oranges the following Saturday. That was March 22 and the members have been increasing and cleaning every Saturday since then.

HUTSON says the county took over the cleaning operation south of Grand Avenue in September of 1978. At that time, he said, the county had a six-man crew to clean up, pull weeds and trim the trees.

When the streets north of Grand were turned over to the county in April of this year, the six-man crew remained the same size. "The county had four men and two women to clean and trim trees for 400 miles of streets. An impossible job," Hutson said.

He added that the county personnel can only clean individual streets once or twice a year.

HUTSON SAID the county is receptive to the idea of a group helping out.

"They appreciate any help they can get because of their small budget, and they don't anticipate an increase."

So far the group has helped clean the area from Grand Avenue to Bell Road and from 99th Avenue to Del Webb Boulevard, Hutson said. "Mostly weeds and oranges."

McIntyre said the group meets at about 6:30 a.m. every Saturday in front of Bell Camino Center and works for an hour and a half to two hours. He says he hopes to recruit more members to aid in the clean-up.

"IF WE can instill some pride and get about 200 people, we could break up into teams," McIntyre said.

Of course they're willing to answer any questions and get more volunteers over the telephone. Hutson can be reached at 977-8291, Cowley at 974-4127, McIntyre at 974-6870, and another member, Anna Foster, at 974-2202.

"Sun City is the greatest volunteer group in the world," Hutson said. "We want to keep Sun City beautiful, so the volunteers may need some motivation."

The motivation here, though, is a clean community and a sense of pride.





Mary Plattel (left), Leila Alexander and Dot Bartley, Sun City Prides members, stuff tree trimmings into trash bags during a cleanup outing.

## Prides of Sun City

### Volunteer group keeps community spic-and-span

By THELMA HEATWOLE  
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY — It was 6:30 on a September morning, and Fritzie Holquist was surrounded by a lively task force of senior citizens, all members of the Sun City Prides.

Holquist, Prides work coordinator, reminded volunteers, their work clothes topped with orange safety vests, that rain had washed sand from roadsides to sidewalks and streets. Assignments this day were well defined.

"I need four people to take brooms, dustpans, rakes and traffic cones to Bell Road," she said, outlining the work area.

Four retirees immediately stepped forth.

Others were dispatched to Union Hills Drive, to 99th Avenue and various locales of need.

Task-force members, arriving in Cadillacs, Lincolns, golf carts, even motorcycles, meet early Saturday mornings.

During the morning hours, they work in 33 sections of this retirement community to keep the parkways, medians, curbs and gutters clean and trim along the 210 miles of streets. They wield brooms, dustpans, weed sprayers and

paint brushes in maintenance and beautification.

Dewane Lamka, a Prides member, was wielding a broom in the early morning sunshine.

"The thing that really impressed us about Sun City was what the Prides had accomplished, that it was a neat and clean place to live. We wanted to help keep it that way," Lamka said. "In the summer, by the time the sun peeps over the hills, we have already been at work a half hour."

Holquist coordinates work of the section monitors and scouts the city during the week to find areas needing supplemental work by the task force. She acts as liaison with Maricopa County Highway Department workers, reporting areas of need.

Elma Flynn worked on a median along Bell Road, picking up rubbish and irksome cigarette butts.

"We tell any new workers, just to keep it (the medians) like you would your back yard," Flynn said.

Sun City has 29 miles of parkways with grass- or desert-landscaped medians and rights of ways. There are more than 3,200 trees and plantings on the medians and 11 miles of drainage ways

that need to be kept free of rubbish.

"Prides members provide more than 62,000 hours of work each year in maintaining these streets and parkways," Prides President Joe McIntyre said. "Officials of the county confirm an estimated value of services provided by the Prides to be in excess of \$500,000 annually."

Obviously, the Prides enjoy their work.

Hank Wohlwend, a former newspaper photographer from Clinton, Iowa, designed the Prides logo.

"For some reason, I like tree trimming," Wohlwend said, working on that detail. "I guess it is because I can see the results of the work."

The Prides have a headquarters building, constructed at cost by Del Webb, that houses their trucks and extensive equipment.

"We get a lot of support from citizens, business and clubs," said McIntyre, who founded the group in 1980.

The Prides received the President Volunteer Action Award in April from President Reagan. McIntyre went to Washington, to accept the medal, one of 18 given in the nation.





Sun City Prides' vans and crews are familiar sights on neighborhood streets. Prides are, from left, Laura Mahan, Ralph Ossa, known for irrigation system expertise, and Prides founder Joe McIntyre.





Safety-vested Sun City Prides cleanup army on its mission to keep Sun City beautiful.

*photos by Jim Painter*



THE PRIDES OF SUN CITY, ARIZONAKEEP THEIR PARADISE PRETTY

The Prides from Sun City, Arizona, are housewives (domestic engineers), retired doctors, dentists, military personnel, civil employees, engineers, accountants....dedicated seniors with new titles. These include, but are not limited to, landscape artists (paint tree trunks), tree surgeons (trim tree trunks), flood control engineers (pick up debris in drain ditches), soil improvement technicians (dig weeds), sanitation engineers (sweep curbsides) and mapologists (maintain and replace street name signs).

And there are advantages to becoming a Prides member....work close to home, permanent work on a part-time basis, short hours, guaranteed lifetime fringe benefits and no experience is necessary. By now, you've correctly determined that the Prides are Sun City retiree residents helping to keep their portion of America beautiful.

Sun City street and parkway maintenance is the responsibility of Maricopa County. And with the budget and manpower available, the County meets the standards it has set for itself. However, the resident Prides have decided to go beyond those standards. The 340 active members devote a total of \_\_\_\_ hours monthly to keeping Sun City spic and span and sparkling. One day a week, Prides members follow their early morning toil with a hearty breakfast at a local restaurant.

For more information about the Sun City Prides, write P. O. Box 1463, Sun City, Arizona 85372.



Wednesday, October 15, 1997 The Arizona Republic

# Volunteers donate time with pride

By ED PIERCE

This is the first in what we plan to be a series of articles designed to inform the Daily News-Sun readers of the purposes and activities of the Sun City PRIDES. The name is an acronym for Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services.

The organization was started in 1980. At that time, the Del Webb Corp. had completed the development of Sun City and it soon became apparent to the residents that Maricopa County would not be able or willing to maintain the various streets and medians at the previous level.

Our founder, Joe McIntyre, wrote a letter to the editor of this newspaper asking anyone interested in helping him to meet him at a certain spot on the following Saturday morning to start cleaning up the streets. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

As time went on, the organization was formalized, bylaws were written,

## PRIDES corner



it was incorporated, and permission was granted by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to receive non-profit status. In cooperation with Maricopa County officials, a division of labor, material, and services was agreed upon and this cooperation continues to this day.

The PRIDES is not a club, it is a service organization. We charge no dues, no uniform fees, and we depend entirely on the community of Sun City for donations to keep us going. We do not have fund drives, nor do we lend our name to commercial organizations. The "I," for

"independently," in our name is closely followed.

There is an organized division of labor within the PRIDES. A coordinator for each of Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III of Sun City is responsible for assigning upkeep tasks to members within those areas of the community. In addition, there are groups or individuals in charge of tree-trimming, watering, tree-painting, etc. You may have seen these people at work at various times of the week, or you may have seen the squad at work all over town early Saturday mornings. You may have even seen several of us eating breakfast together after we work on Saturdays.

In subsequent articles, we hope to explain the duties of our several sections. In the meantime, if you would like to help us in our motto of "Keeping Sun City beautiful," you can reach us at P.O. Box 1463, Sun City, Ariz. 85372, or at 972-6558.

*Ed Pierce is president of the Sun City PRIDES.*



Sat., March 28, and Sun., March 29, 1998 A3

# PRIDES sweep 1st woman into group's top position



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Elaine Olson is the first female president of the Sun City PRIDES.

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

Elaine Olson wasn't kidding when she said she wanted to clean up this town.

In nearly 16 years with the Sun City PRIDES, Olson has taken that pledge to heart. And she's put it in action, by patrolling Sun City's streets and sweeping them of unsightly garbage.

The efforts of Olson and volunteers like her is readily apparent in Sun City. A random drive down most neighborhoods reveals spotless avenues and manicured medians.

"Active retirement" may be the buzzword here, but the PRIDES are proactive as well,

in keeping their retirement home free of trash.

A talk with Olson, the PRIDES new president and its first female leader, reveals a bit about why she's so dedicated to the clean-up cause.

The yard of her Sun City home is meticulously groomed, with desert landscaping mixed with trees and figurines. A young relative, sunbathing in back, says the inside of her home is just as nice.

"It's spotless," she said.

Olson makes no fuss about the work she does with the PRIDES. But she sees the effort as vital to the community, and says the group saves the county \$500,000 a year.

► See Volunteers save, A5

## Volunteers save county thousands

◀ From A1

Maricopa County officials, meanwhile, say the number is higher than that.

Henry Quinonez, public works supervisor for the Northwest Valley, said the PRIDES save the county between \$800,000 and \$1 million each year, based on man-hours calculated at \$8 an hour.

Without the volunteers, he said, "the work would still get done, but it would take a lot, lot longer."

The PRIDES aren't simply roaming the streets, doing tough work that no one else can, though. Olson said there's a social aspect as well.

"We make a fun thing out of it," she said recently. "You go out maybe twice a month, and then go to breakfast. It's a social thing."

She doesn't make a big deal, either, about being president. In fact, she was surprised at being given the nod, but says she's had support from the group's 321 members.

"The guys said it was long overdue."



# Japanese group learns from Sun City PRIDES

By BECKY BEVINS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services) Inc. did what they do best on Friday. Members showed 17 visitors from Japan the importance of giving back to your community and the feeling of a job well done.

The tour group, with the help of the PRIDES, spent about an hour raking, pruning trees and picking up garbage. In Japan volunteer activity is not very active, said Takanori Bessho, a 28-year-old resident of Shimane, Japan, speaking through an interpreter. "We spend our whole lives, even through retirement, overworking in the private sector so volunteering isn't something many

people do in Japan."

The group of youths call themselves Shimane Youth Goodwill Wings. They are traveling to six cities in Arizona and California specifically to experience what it is like to volunteer. The group spent Thursday working for the Red Cross in San Francisco.

The purpose of their trip to the United States is to take what they have learned back to their country so that they can create a greater awareness of the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community.

"I want to try and get a hint of what it (volunteering) is about so that I can take that feeling back to my country for others to expand on,"

► See Sun Citians, A5

◀ From A1

said Yukio Kurotami, 29. Sun City is of particular interest to the Japanese philanthropists because their Japanese state, Shimane, is composed largely of senior citizens, Bessho said.

The members of PRIDES were happy to infect others with the spirit of giving and the importance of contributing to their community.

"It makes me very proud to be a PRIDE," said Waldo Smith, who guided the young squad of workers. "Helping others to make their community better is very important."



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

George Kramer of the Sun City PRIDES shows Chisato Nagai of Japan how to prune a citrus tree in Sun City Friday.



# When is a park not a park?

By JEFF OWENS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

The park doesn't really have a name. It's just there — 1.6 decaying acres of private property that have been for sale for years with no takers at the southwest intersection of Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards.

The members of the Sun City PRIDES call it Thunderbird Park, or Dog Park — people can often be seen walking their dogs there in the morning and late afternoon.

The PRIDES don't own the park, but should probably be able to call it anything they want — they're the ones who've tended to it for the last several years, stopping by each Saturday morning to clean it up.

Dog Park is often a mess though.

Monday morning, only two days after the PRIDES were last there, plastic garbage bags lay in the small parking lot awaiting pickup. One concrete bench lay in pieces on the ground; others were cracked and crumbling. The ragged black plastic which underlies the park's thin veneer of gravel desert landscaping is visible all over the place. Much of that gravel is strewn about the sidewalk which winds through the park.

People do go there — all the cigarette butts in the blackened tins on the several otherwise attractive concrete tables attest to that. A crude sign tells people to clean up after their dogs.

"About 12 to 15 people come in every morning with their dogs," said Vaughn Oberlink, one of the PRIDES members who stops by to clean each weekend. "They come back in the evening and let their dogs do their job again."

Oberlink said he finds the park's six wastebaskets full every Saturday. They were full again by Monday morning.

The PRIDES' Rosemary Lynch



Steve Chermek/Daily News-Sun

Woody and Carole, seated, their collie, Bay, and Carol Calhoun and her cocker/Brittany spaniel mix, met Tuesday at the park on vacant lots near Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards in Sun City.

said the park is owned by two women in Texas who have "little interest" in its upkeep.

Several years ago, Lynch said, "The PRIDES were dissatisfied with the unkempt appearances of the park, and with permission from the owners to maintain the grounds, the PRIDES agreed to spruce it up on a regular basis."

None of which was necessarily as polite as it sounds, however: Lynch said when contacted and told the

park was a mess, the owners first "got real snotty. They said 'We didn't ask you' and 'Stay off our property.'"

PRIDES squad leader Waldo Smith said the women changed their tune and their tone when he asked them if perhaps they would like a phone call and a clean-up bill from Maricopa County.

After that they let the PRIDES care for the land, but still, Smith said, "They refuse to do anything about the park. I tried to get them to

give it to the PRIDES. They refused to do it. I wish they'd get on the ball and take care of it themselves, but they won't."

The owners "don't want to be bothered" said Prudential real estate broker Bruce Milton, who is handling the sale of the property. Milton declined to identify the owners Tuesday, but said the asking price for the property is \$8 per square foot, which prices the park at slightly more than \$550,000.



Wednesday, May 26, 1999

© The Arizona Republic

# PRIDES live up to their name



Brent Whiting/The Arizona Republic

Members of the Sun City West PRIDES work on a cleanup project earlier this month. Members donate at least 90 minutes a week to keeping their community spruced up.

## Keeping Sun Cities looking great

By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

**SUN CITIES** — When a few people got together almost 20 years ago to do a little cleanup work on the streets of Sun City, little did they realize that they were setting in motion a unique project.

What evolved was a group called the PRIDES. Sun City hasn't looked the same since.

"They mean a great deal to the community, and they make a big difference," said Lone Boynton, the executive director of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

More than 300 Sun City residents are involved in the organization, whose acronym stands for Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services.

In Sun City West, its PRIDES group, in its 15th year, also has 300-plus members.

The goals are basically the same, according to Dick Ward, past president.

Del Webb had a profound influence in both communities.

"When he left, everyone wanted to keep Sun City as nice as it was," said the group's secretary, Barbara Robinson. "The county can only do so much. Even though it started out as a small group, other people started seeing what they were doing, and it just grew."

The PRIDES don't let the grass grow under the feet of newcomers. After someone has settled in, an invitation offering membership arrives.

"We don't have a lack of volunteers, but we were a little concerned at one time," Robinson said. "But the last year

— Please see **PRIDES**, Page 7.

— **PRIDES**, from Page 1

and a half, we did a little PR work and more advertising. We're finding our group of people are more gung-ho to this kind of work because it shows and they can say they are proud. People are thankful because we keep it so nice."

Any day of the week, any hour, there's a chance that someone will be out trimming trees, raking leaves or picking up litter.

"Everyone has certain jobs to do," Robinson said. "Picking oranges, picking up branches that have blown over. We have a lot of people donating time."

You can tell the fair citizens of Sun City by their shirts with the PRIDES logo and the motto,

“

*When Del Webb left, everyone wanted to keep Sun City as nice as it was. The county can only do so much. Even though it started out as a small group, other people started seeing what they were doing, and it just grew.*

**BARBARA ROBINSON**  
SECRETARY, SUN CITY PRIDES

"Keeping Sun City Beautiful."

Sun City West workers tidy up and do landscaping and other duties for at least 90 minutes on Saturday morning, and soome work as long as three or four hours.

"When the developer was here,"

Ward said, "people remarked about the cleanliness of the community, and that's a very positive factor. It impacts a person's personality. If I felt the effort was not with merit, I would have found something else to do."



## PRIDES continue Labor Day tradition of replacing flags

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

As a giant American flag was secured to the lines on its 70-foot pole Saturday morning, then slowly hoisted to unfurl in the brilliant sunshine and a light breeze, a handful of people in the nearby Taco Bell stopped munching and turned to watch.

A man refueling his car at the Union 76 service station across the street followed the flag with his eyes, one hand on the gas pump the other across his heart.

But the six members of the Sun City PRIDES who raised the flag were too busy to notice. They had their hands full — literally — with the 12-foot by 18-foot flag, one of three they raised that morning at 107th and Grand avenues in Sun City.

An Arizona state flag, and a Sun City flag, both much smaller, were hoisted on nearby smaller poles.

It's a regular Labor Day weekend chore, said PRIDE board member Rosemary Lynch, who was there making sure the flags didn't touch the ground in the process.

"We take the flags down in summer to protect them from the monsoon rains and the high wind" which could tear a flag from its moorings, she said.

New ones go up on Labor Day, though the PRIDES, especially volunteer Leila Alexandra, may be able to repair a slightly damaged flag.

The national emblem doesn't come cheap. The U.S. flag and its Arizona counterpart cost a little more than \$400, Lynch said. They come from Hook's Flag Shop in Glendale.

Up in the cherry picker truck doing the connecting was John Lines, the PRIDES first vice president. He had to adjust the ropes so the snaps exactly matched the grommets in the new flag, keeping it stiff, not limp.

A bucket truck wasn't always needed, said Ed Pierce, another board member who was on hand with wife, Ellen.

"But we had a flag stolen a few years back, so we shortened the rope and moved it up off the ground so folks couldn't get at it. That's why we need the cherry picker now."

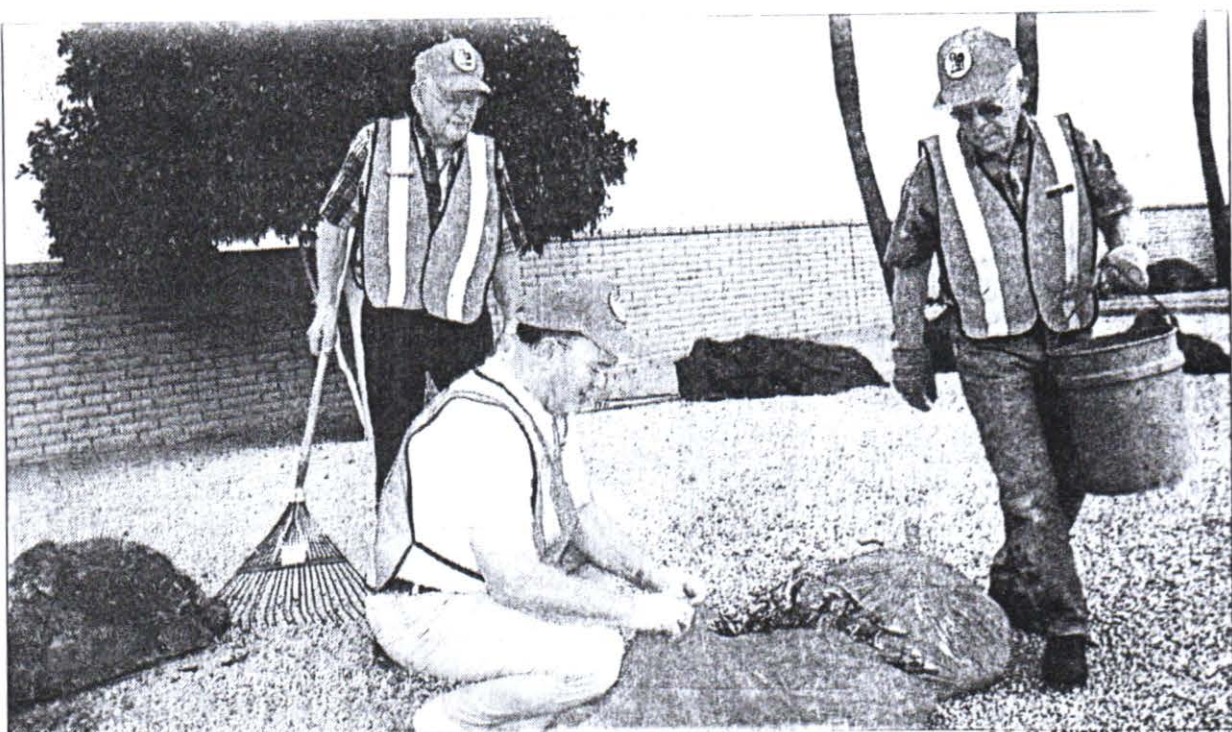
The PRIDES also maintain the floodlights that shine on the flags, one requirement for banners that are left aloft at night. That means making regular changes in the bulbs as they burn out, Lynch said, but not paying for the electricity.

"I don't know who does that," she said. "Maybe the merchants in the center."

Although the triple flag-raising caught the eye of some bystanders, few who passed in cars seemed to take much notice of the process.

In about 45 minutes, all three flags were proudly in the air, and the PRIDES headed back to their workshop near 91st Avenue and Greenway Road.





E.B. McGOVERN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City Prides Jim Dircks, Waldo Smith and La Verne Grimsrud bag oranges that were picked along Greenway Road. The Prides leave trash bags alongside main roads, where county workers can then pick them up.

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2000

## Prides keep Sun City clean

**VOLUNTEERS:** Sun Cities among cleanest streets in the Valley

JEFF OWENS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If you see an empty beer bottle, a discarded fast food bag or a crumpled cigarette pack littering the side of any major road through Sun City, you better look fast — it likely won't be there for long.

### Prides new officers, A3

While the rest of the Valley struggles with an increasing avalanche of ugly debris discarded by roadside litterbug motorists, volunteers of the Sun City Prides pride themselves on keeping major local thoroughways almost spotlessly clean.

A recent Arizona State University study revealed that just about everybody litters, including those who move to the Valley to appreciate the beauty of the desert.

And while Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale and other cities struggle to stem the tide of trash, the Prides simply get the job done in Sun City, with considerable help from Maricopa County.

"We pick up anything and everything that's there and shouldn't be," said Waldo Smith, Prides president. "We get the job done."

The Prides take it upon themselves to clean up all major Sun City arteries which, technically, are Maricopa County's responsibility. They gather trash, trim

### From A1

foliage and fertilize trees. They pick up fruit, particularly oranges.

"We try to get people to come in and pick them and ship them to California or Canada for marmalade," Smith said.

The Maricopa County Public Works Department usually collects the Prides' near-bursting orange trash bags on Mondays. "They haul away all the debris we pick up," Smith added. "We get wonderful cooperation from Maricopa County."

"They're really doing the county a favor by doing all the 'kitchen policing,'" said Kenneth Tyma of the Sun City Home Owners Association. "That's why it's always so clean here — those people are always out there. The Prides are out there keeping it

mornings to do the extra work that can't be done any other way. The Prides, overall, are the finest people to work with in the world."

In addition to the major streets, they also clean up along Grand Avenue, which, on paper, is the state Transportation Department's responsibility. The Prides prefer not to wait that long, though.

"We shouldn't, but it's the only way it gets done," Smith said. "I wouldn't say (ADOT) is uncooperative, but they're not out here much."

When the drainage ditches are especially full of mud or debris, the Prides can call out bigger guns: the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department provides a dump truck, a backhoe and chain gangs of inmates. Traffic control is provided by the Sun City Sheriff's Posse.

HOA staffers say they don't get

immaculate."

"They rake, bundle, cut and trim — almost like a manicure," said Frank Urquiza, the Maricopa County Public Works assistant supervisor in charge of Sun City. "Look down any street in Phoenix to see how bad the problem has become. The Prides do a heck of a job."

"We hold our part of the bargain by picking it all up," Urquiza said. "I get any stuff they can't handle or need help with."

The county gives the Prides the tools they need: orange trash bags, boxes, gloves and safety vests.

Hundreds of Prides work all week long on a strictly volunteer basis to clean the medians, road-sides, drainage ditches and railroad tracks.

"Anybody works whenever it's comfortable for them," Smith said. "We work Saturday

many telephone complaints about roadside litter because it never seems to stay on the ground long enough to cause a problem. "Everybody knows the Prides take care of it," one staffer said.

"That's one of the big features about the sign that says 'City of Volunteers,'" Tyma said.

Smith said the Prides do their job well, but there is one continual and particularly vexing problem: cigarette butts.

"They are an absolutely shameful thing," he said. "It's impossible for us to pick them all up."

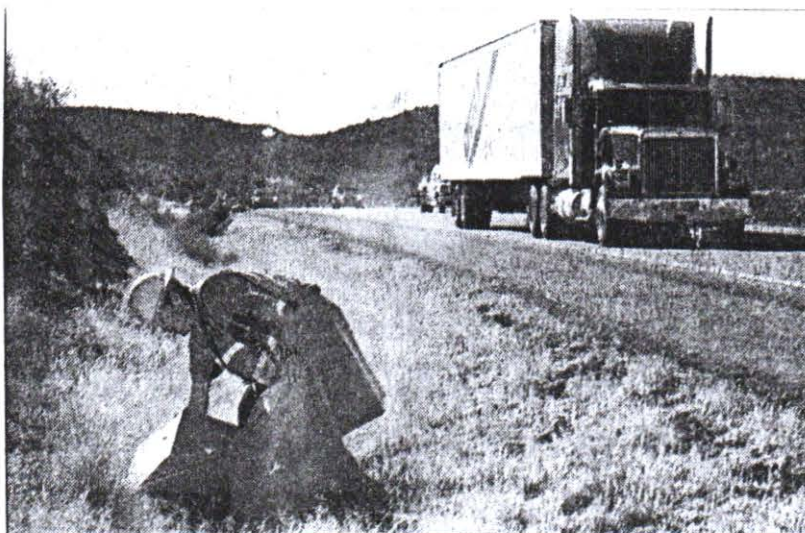
The Prides in turn are gratified that the community appreciates their efforts.

"Businesses, clubs and individuals give us money, and they've taken care of our needs very adequately," Smith said. "We've never had to ask for money."

(OVER)

See Prides pride, A5





BRAD ARMSTRONG/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Espiridion Orozco of the Arizona Highway Adoption Co. cleans up trash along Interstate 17 north of mile marker 227 just north of Phoenix.

## Study shows nearly everyone guilty of having been litterbug

**CLEAN STATE:** Even those who move for beauty of desert likely guilty

JOE KULLMAN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The profile of the typical despoiler of the Arizona desert is simple: almost anyone.

An Arizona State University study for the Arizona Clean and Beautiful organization found the description of the common litterbug can't be pinned down to any particular ethnic or age groups, education or income levels.

Residents of upscale areas are not any less likely to be among the culprits, the study concluded. Even people who indicated

interest in environmental causes admitted they're not blameless.

Ninety-eight percent of the people surveyed said they have littered.

So as the Valley's population increases, it's not surprising to see a proportionate rise in littering and illegal trash dumping, officials said. But some still find the growing problem ironic.

"People say they move here for the beauty of the area and want land preservation to save pristine desert. But then they're making our roadsides look like landfills," said Dennis Enriquez of Scottsdale's Environment Management department.

Enriquez recently directed a "litter audit" along a scenic two-mile stretch of Scottsdale Road

**See Study shows, A5**

several thousand acres in and around north Phoenix, north Scottsdale, Peoria and Apache Junction.

The dumping in remote areas puzzles Gerry Backhaus of Chandler's solid waste management department.

"People will drive miles and miles out to the desert to dump a washing machine to save \$5 it would cost to get into a landfill that's a lot closer," he said. "It doesn't make sense."

Backhaus and Steve Such, a Tempe waste inspection supervisor, said they're seeing more illegal dumping in alleyways and vacant lots.

The trend is frustrating, they said, because Valley towns and cities have been trying to make it easier for people to dispose of hazardous materials and large trash items.

Tempe has built a permanent hazardous waste center near McClintock Road and University Drive where people can take refuse not permitted in regular household trash and recycling containers.

"There's not much excuse for (illegal dumping)," Backhaus said. "It really gets down to

**'People say they move here for the beauty of the area and want land preservation to save pristine desert. But then they're making our roadsides look like landfills.'**

**Dennis Enriquez  
Environment Management  
department, Scottsdale**

people being too lazy."

Stricter enforcement in some Valley communities, with fines that can go up to \$1,000, is curbing some of the problem, said Arizona Clean and Beautiful director Leandra Lewis. But the long-term solution is education, she said.

"Part of the problem is the amount of migration of people into and out of the state . . . they don't develop a sense of commitment to their communities. They look at trash on the streets as someone else's problem," Lewis said.

**From A1**

north of Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard. Beer cans, fast-food containers, cigarette packs and plastic shopping bags were predominant among the 1,774 items of trash found there. That figured out to litter coming from about one of every 22 cars passing by.

The problem isn't limited to roadsides. The picturesque open spaces in the Valley's outlying areas "apparently look like a big garbage can" to many people with old cars, furniture, household appliances and construction materials to ditch, said Carla (her legal name), director of a non-profit group that supports Scottsdale's preservation efforts.

About 220,000 acres in those fringe areas are undeveloped state lands. Close to 300 tons of trash were taken from those areas in cleanups in the 1997-98 fiscal year, according to the state Land Department. In the 1998-99 fiscal year, cleanups hauled off almost 650 tons, including 140 abandoned cars and 2,000 tires.

Dumping and other abuse, particularly damage caused by off-road vehicles, has prompted the Land Department to fence off

But she sees positive signs around the Valley. Her organization has recruited several thousand volunteers to work with its environmental education programs and cleanup projects. Civic groups, Boy Scout troops and other community organizations are also giving the state Land Department thousands of volunteer hours annually to help remove trash from the open desert.

Lewis estimates almost \$3 million is spent annually statewide for removing litter and cleaning up illegal dump sites. That taxpayer expense would almost double without volunteer aid, she said.

Environmental and sanitation officials said residents also need to learn how much illegal dumping by businesses burdens the public purse.

Much of the trash cities, towns and the state have to haul from alleys, vacant lots and open desert areas comes from landscaping and construction companies trying to avoid landfill costs, officials said.

"If people see who's doing this, they need to let us know," said Backhaus, "because it's costing all of us more money every year."



# ORANGE BLO\$\$OM\$

**SUN CITY:** Buyer for marmalade company buys local fruit

**BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Those decorative Seville oranges falling onto Sun City streets these days could soon be headed for Canada or Great Britain as tart marmalade.

For years, commercial orange pickers have criss-crossed Sun City streets about this time of year, offering to pick and remove the sour oranges that grow in abundance on landscape trees.

Those oranges generally are sold to the country's biggest maker of jams and jellies, the J.M. Smucker Co., of Orrville, Ohio, which processes them into marmalade at a plant in Watsonville, Calif.

Others are shipped directly to Canada for processing, said James Truman of the University of Arizona Citrus Experiment Station near Surprise.

But this year, there's something new in the equation: a shortage of oranges.

That has prompted fruit broker Michael Lindahl to plead with homeowners and condo associations for the first time. "I need oranges," he said in an interview Monday.

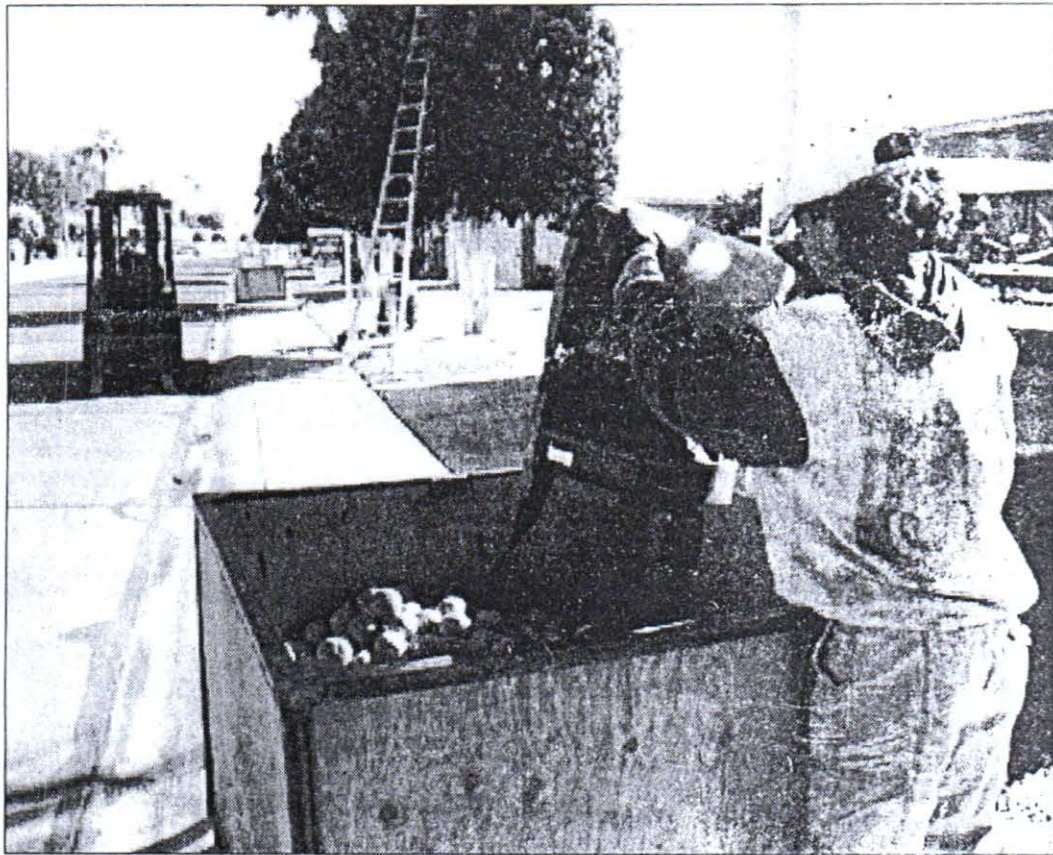
And, for the first time, Lindahl is offering to buy picked oranges, not just clean them up.

He said he'll pay 4 cents a pound for the sour oranges delivered to the large bins he has around the south end of Sun City.

He's also offered the PRIDES 4 cents a pound for the oranges PRIDES members may harvest in their Saturday cleanup efforts.

Waldo Smith, PRIDES president, said the group acts as a representative of the Recreation Centers in cleaning up oranges from the golf courses, rec centers and other public areas, and disposing of them.

The purchase offer, he said, is a first and one that will require board approval since the PRIDES generally don't sell anything.



A spokeswoman at the Smucker company confirmed that Lindahl is buying oranges for that company but declined to provide other details of the company's operations.

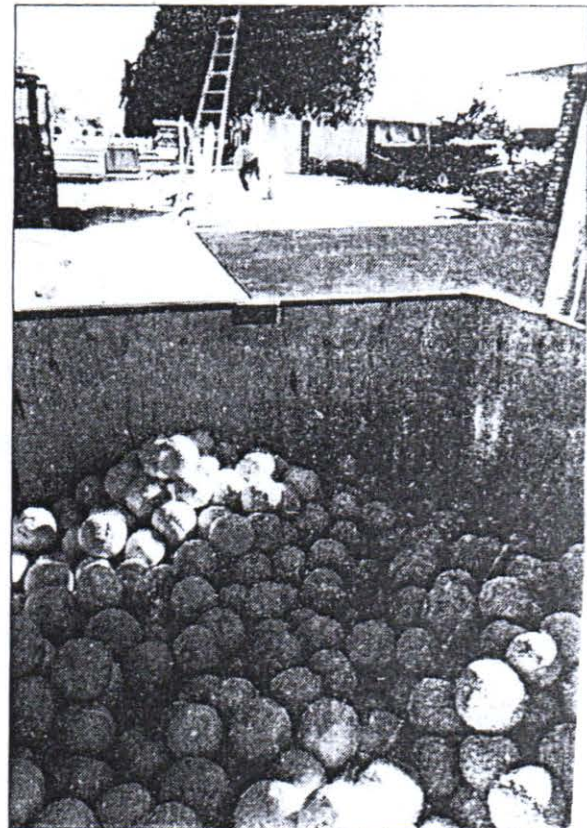
Other sources in the jam and jelly industry, however, said that most of the marmalade made from Sun City oranges is for export to Canada and the U.K., where residents prefer a tart product.

In the United States, most of us want sweet marmalade.

Nan Fraser, a Sun City dress shop owner who's from Glasgow, Scotland, said "it's true that we like it without as much sugar," and added that it was hard to get accustomed to the sweeter American product.

Lindahl said the Sun City oranges — they generally weren't planted in Sun City West — "are the sole raw material source for Smucker," which probably uses commercial oranges for the sweeter marmalade.

According to the International Jelly and and Preserve Association



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Oranges from a Sun City condominium complex fill a bin Tuesday.

See Oranges shipped, A5



# Oranges shipped out for marmalade

From A1

in Atlanta, marmalade is "a kingly delicacy, and many a royal sweet tooth demanded an array of fruit flavors rich with sugar."

The association said marmalade, which consists of fruit pieces and peel, plus sugar, probably originated about 1560 when the court physician to Mary, Queen of Scots, first compounded it to keep her seasickness at bay.

Later, in Versailles, it was served at the magnificent feasts of Louis XIV that always ended with marmalades served in silver dishes.

The association said orange marmalade is the fifth most popular flavor of preserves, after grape jelly and jam, strawberry jam and red raspberry jam.

A 1997 survey of supermarkets by *Progressive Grocer*

magazine found that marmalade sales in supermarkets at retail totaled about \$235 million that year, while total supermarket sales of the preserves category were about \$750 million.

Lindahl appealed to home owners and gardeners to consider him when they trim trees.

"Tell them not to cut back too often, and not to cut off blossoms or fruit," he said.

Smucker's, he said, "is concerned about the orange supply and they depend on Sun City for it."

In a typical year, he said, he or others might ship 20 large flatbed trucks of Sun City sour oranges to the jelly maker.

Each would carry dozens of wooden crates, 4 feet by 4 feet, and 32 inches high, that would hold about 1,000 pounds of oranges each.

All told, that's probably 50 tons of marmalade in the making.



Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25, 2001

# Founder of Sun City PRIDES, Joe McIntyre dies

STAFF REPORT

Joseph Z. McIntyre, 86, the Sun City resident who in 1980 founded what became the PRIDES, died Thursday in a Glendale care center.

McIntyre always saw life as an opportunity to be of service to his fellow man, two of his granddaughters said Friday.

"He never spoke about how he had accomplished much," said his daughter, Audrey Ross, also a Sun Citian. "He took pride in the PRIDES as an organization, and downplayed what he did for it."

The first PRIDES meeting was at the old Valley National Bank Building on the northwest corner of Union Hills Drive and 99th Avenue in 1980, with just three people there.

It came about after McIntyre put an ad in the Daily News-Sun, asking, "Are you tired of our streets not being cleaned?"

He suggested there might be a volunteer way of handling that chore, and the PRIDES, an all-volunteer group now 300 strong, was the result.

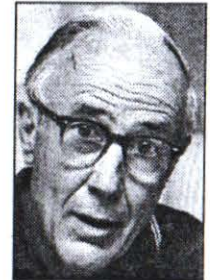
From that first meeting, attended by Ann Foster, 88 and still a PRIDE, arose the group that regularly cleans public spaces in Sun City.

Residents can see its members at work in the community just about any day of the week.

In April 1985, McIntyre was honored by President Reagan for his efforts. And those efforts spread to a PRIDES group in Sun City West.

McIntyre was born in Los Angeles attended Walsh Institute (of Business) in Detroit, became an accountant, and worked for many years at Himelhoch's before moving to Arizona in 1976. In addition to accepting a presidential award on

**See PRIDES founder, A5**



**Joseph McIntyre founded the Sun City PRIDES in 1980.**

## From A1

behalf of the PRIDES, McIntyre was named Sun City Christian Man of the Year, a recipient of the Carnegie Good Human Relations Award, and the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award. He was a member of the American Lutheran Church of Sun City.

McIntyre is survived by three daughters, Audrey Ross of Sun City, Ann Cooper of Youngtown, and Patricia of

Tampa; and a son, John of Santa Theresa, N.M.; his siblings, Richard McIntyre and Marie Reifel of Detroit; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation is 2 to 4 p.m. Monday in Sunland Mortuary, 15626 N. Del Webb Blvd. Service is 11 a.m. Tuesday at Sunland.

Memorials may be sent to the Sun City PRIDES, P.O. Box 1463, Sun City, Ariz., 85372.



# PROUD OF ADDITIONS

## Sun City PRIDES purchase two new vans

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City PRIDES make good use out of its equipment in the organization's quest to maintain the community's appearance.

Take for example the group's van, which was retired not too long ago.

The 1977 Dodge van was donated to the PRIDES in 1980 by Palmér's Plumbing Air Conditioning & Heating. The van had already nearly 200,000 miles on it at that time, but with care and maintenance the group was able to use the vehicle to its fullest.

"It had a lot of miles when we got it and we babied it along and it lasted us over 20 years," said Jim Dircks, PRIDES' member and leader of its squad group. "It served us well."

Painted orange like the safety vests and hats worn by PRIDES members to alert motorists that individuals were working near the streets, the van was used to transport equipment, supplies and water to volunteers working their regularly assigned areas throughout the community.

But after years of wear and tear, it finally came time to replace the vehicle.

Recently, the organization purchased two new Chevrolet vans. One of the new vans will be used in a similar capacity as its predecessor, while the other will be used for the PRIDES' squad group - a group which cleans up areas where no one else is assigned.

Both white vans are painted with the PRIDES logo and will be outfitted with all of the necessary items volunteers use to rake leaves, paint trees, trim branches, pick fruit, bag garbage and all other duties used to keep Sun City looking beautiful.

The new vans will not be painted orange because of cost restraints.

"We just about have them completed so that they are



Photo by Art Little/Special for the Independent

The Sun City PRIDES recently bought two new vans for the organization's work maintaining the community. The vans were entirely purchased using donated funds. Standing in front of the new vehicles are, from left, PRIDES members Ed Pearce and Jim Dircks.

handy for what we want to use them for," said Tony Dircks, PRIDES' member and Jim's brother. "We're so happy to have something new."

Tony Dircks selected the vans

and purchased them.

The vans cost approximately \$20,000 each and were paid for with funds accumulated from a number of Sun City donors.

"All the money we receive is

strictly donations, we don't solicit," said Rosemary Lynch, the organization's public affairs chairman. "All of our supplies

come out of donations and we're pretty proud of that."

Maricopa County provides the PRIDES with plastic bags, vests, paint and supplies to deal with weeds. The organization purchases everything else, using donated funds.

"The fact that we had the ability to replace very old, worn out and needy equipment was truly an encouragement to the organization," said Linda Dircks, PRIDES' treasurer and Jim's wife. "(The new vans) provide more adequate and proper space

to handle the equipment required to outfit our volunteers."

But well-maintained and heavily used equipment sometimes can still serve a purpose.

PRIDES members kept their old van in such good shape, that the organization was able to donate the 1977 Dodge to the Mingus Mountain Estate Residential Center - an education treatment center for girls.

For more information about the Sun City PRIDES or to volunteer, call 972-6558.





Photos by John Severson/The Arizona Republic

PRIDES member Richard Bondon trims a shrub as Rosemary Lynch (left) and Jenny Lienhard rake the median on Thunderbird Boulevard in Sun City. They use the white van when they're out working.

# PRIDES keep it all clean

## Volunteers help Sun City stay neat

By Alison Stanton  
Special for The Republic

When Rosemary Lynch moved to Sun City 16 years ago, one of the first things she noticed was how pristine the town is.

"When I first came to Sun City I thought, 'Wow, this is so clean — how do they do it?'" she said. "I found out that it was the PRIDES."

The Sun City PRIDES, which stands for Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services, is a non-profit organization that began in the spring of 1980 with a mission to help Maricopa County keep the town clean and beautiful.

According to PRIDES President Beverly Sisler, about 300 volunteers



spend around 1,000 hours a week raking, watering, trimming and picking up litter throughout the entire 14 square miles that make up Sun City.

In addition to cleaning 29 miles of

parkways and 52 medians, Sisler said, the volunteers, who are all Sun City residents, also monitor about 3,000 bubblers and 26 miles of under-

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OVER



# PRIDES

## They keep it clean

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ground sprinkler pipes.

Members also trim and feed more than 2,600 trees and have painted more than 1,800 orange trees. Annually, the value of the PRIDES' work is estimated to be around \$500,000.

"It works out pretty well," Sisler said.

The PRIDES also includes a group called "the Squad" that handles crises and other problems that are too complicated for individual volunteers to handle.

Former PRIDES President Stan Jones, 82, said that volunteers can choose what type of work they would like to do.

"New members can be part of 'the Squad' of their own area," he said.

"If you have your own area you can go out when you want and spend as much time as you want," Sisler added.

Shortly after moving to Sun City, Lynch decided to start

**"We have some in their 90s who are still working, and some are in their 50s. Most are between 65 and 75. We don't discriminate for any reason."**

— Beverly Sisler  
PRIDES president

volunteering with the PRIDES. Since then, she has spent a couple of hours each week walking along Olive Avenue between 103rd and 111th Avenues, picking up litter and checking on the many plants and sprinklers.

"I've been doing it for 16 years," she said.

Lynch, who is also public relations chairwoman for the PRIDES, said that while the county provides the group with supplies like trash bags, orange safety vests, paint for the trees and traffic cones, members must purchase many other needed items like rakes, paint brushes and shovels. Although the PRIDES never solicit funds,

Lynch said they are dependent upon contributions from the public for their supplies.

In addition to donations, Sisler said she is always looking for more people to join the organization, especially those who would like to plant trees and shrubs.

"We need volunteers," she said, adding that age, physical ability and a Sun City address are not prerequisites to join. All that is required is a willingness to work and a desire to help keep the town clean.

"We have some in their 90s who are still working and some are in their 50s. Most are between 65 and 75," she said. "We don't discriminate for any reason. Anyone who wants to join the PRIDES and work can work."

"One lady in a wheelchair does clerical work," volunteer Jim Dircks, 63, added.

In the spring, the PRIDES will celebrate their 25th anniversary in Sun City. Elaine Olson has been with the group since almost the beginning.

"A neighbor got me into it," Olson said. "I moved here in May of 1981 and got into it in June."

Jenny Lienhard, 66, joined the PRIDES last year. Although volunteering is new

for her — "When people were asked to step forward, I usually stepped back," she said, laughing — she said she has really enjoyed the time she has spent cleaning Alabama Avenue between 99th and 103rd Avenues.

"It's good exercise and I like to be outside," she said. "I do it because I enjoy it and for the camaraderie."

"There is no pressure, you can do your own thing," Lynch agreed.

Although the work can be hard and the summer temperatures are challenging, the volunteers all agree that seeing the results of their labor and having a clean town to live in make it all worthwhile.

"It's fun. We get a lot of satisfaction," Orvetta Hari, 81, said.

"The pay isn't very good but the rewards are great," Dircks added, laughing.

Hearing positive comments from friends, visitors, and passers-by is satisfying.

"It's such a good feeling to drive around with a newcomer and have them say 'Boy it looks clean!'" Lynch said.

Hari agreed. "People honk their horns and yell out 'Thank you' or 'God Bless you.' It makes you feel good."





STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Larry Allen, left, Carol Howland and Norbert Grover are three original members of the Sun City Prides.

## SC PRIDES celebrates 25 years of service

**MITCHELL VANTREASE**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Larry Allen has always prided himself on keeping Sun City clean for himself and others.

It's one of the reasons Allen joined the Sun City PRIDES 25 years ago. The retiree still dedicates a few hours a week to picking up trash.

Allen and five other original members were honored Saturday at the PRIDES annual meeting. They were presented service awards for their volunteer efforts to the 300-plus member non-profit organization.

"We have grown into a vital organization that in return really gives the county hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said.

Other charter members included Dora Norquist, Larry Allen, Carol Howland, Ann Foster, Norbert Grove, Ralph Ossa and Allen.

In addition, they also elected new members of the board at the meeting. Those individuals are residents Jenny Leinhard, Jim Dircks, Arlene Schindler, David Downey and Arthur Kline.

There are nine board members. Officers are expected to be elected with the next two to three weeks.

As part of the club's silver anniversary past president Beverly Sissler said a formal event will probably take place in the spring.

"It's our annual meeting, but we intend to do something special later," she said.

Howland, who is a retired member, said she's excited the PRIDES have lasted 25 years and hopes they exist even longer for future generations.

The now Peoria resident, who is a former Sun Citian, said she joined the group because of weeds in the area.

"Weeds were growing so high there, so I thought that should be done soon," she said.

When she and her husband were members, they helped the PRIDES with a number of jobs. They included weed spraying, tree trimming and trash pickup.

"It takes so much work, but we wanted our city to look very clean," she said.

Because of the Howlands' dedication, the PRIDES named the group's building

after them.

"We love this organization so much and what it does for a lot of people in Sun City," she said.

Howland retired from the group after 15 years of service when her husband died.

Allen said he joined the PRIDES after reading a letter in the Daily News-Sun from former resident and member Joe McIntyre encouraging resident to make Sun City cleaner.

"It's when I decided that we needed to work to keep this place clean," he said.

Since then, he's helped the PRIDES become a not-for-profit organization and has been the president for about three years. He said he's also been vital in developing a group for Sun City West and Sedona.

He still volunteers his time on Wednesdays for an hour and also on Saturdays.

"We really do a lot in the community, and they benefit from us so much," he said. "I'm really proud that we've lasted this long, and I can't wait to see what it might do in the future."

For information about the PRIDES, call 972-6558.



# PRIDES weed spraying requires class work

JENNIFER CUTLER  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Rain and new county regulations have stymied efforts by the Sun City PRIDES to keep weeds under control, particularly along a stretch of Grand Avenue between 107th and 111th avenues.

"We had done a beautiful job up until this happened," said Dave Downey of the PRIDES. "Each year we had fewer and fewer weeds, and now we are starting all over again."

The weeds on the south side of Grand are a problem that began to grow when the Sun City PRIDES were informed that starting Jan. 1 they could no longer apply spray products to the streets and medians they have serviced for more than 25 years.

The restrictions on spraying were the result of a law enacted in September 2003, which requires that anyone spraying state, county or city-owned property must be certified.

Today and Tuesday, eight PRIDES are attending certification training and testing.

The timing is right. As warmer weather draws near, weeds will continue to sprout.

The Sun City PRIDES, who work to clean up Sun City and the surrounding roads, adopted approximately 2

miles of roadside on Grand Avenue, through the Adopt-A-Highway program. The PRIDES make sure the roadside along the Grand is not littered with debris and occasionally remind the Arizona Department of Transportation to come out when the weeds get out of control.

ADOT concedes that the area along Grand Avenue is their responsibility, but it has yet to be determined when the section of road will be mowed.

Alison Saxe, a spokeswoman for ADOT, said that they are on its way to getting the weeds cut.

"We are planning on dealing with the weeds in this section, but the date isn't scheduled yet," Saxe said. "I know that the maintenance supervisor who is looking over the project is working with the Sun City PRIDES to set something up as soon as possible."

PRIDES president Beverly Sisler said the PRIDES will do all they can to help.

"We cleaned up the debris so that when someone does come out, they can go through with the mower and not worry about chipping a blade on the trash," Sisler said.

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation

will pay for the PRIDES' training and testing this week, said Frank Urquiza, MCDOT public works supervisor for Sun City/Sun City West. If members of the group become certified, the county will also pay for the weed concentrate.

"The only area (the PRIDES) will be aloud to spray are MCDOT right of ways and medians," Urquiza said. "They will find out after their training and testing that they have to mark where, when and what mixture rate that they are applying the herbicide."

Medians and roadways usually sprayed by MCDOT in the winter are also on their way to looking better, because the county's large herbicide truck is running again after being in need of repairs for a few months.

"The county finally got the weed-spraying truck up and going, and we are responsible for all four corners of Maricopa County," Urquiza said. "Up until Friday we have been getting good spraying weather, but when you have overcast and windy days the law prohibits us from spraying."

"We have a pretty good handle on them, but there's probably still a little out there that we might have missed."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City PRIDES members Fran Libby, left, Horst Nanke and David Downey attempt to remove weeds from an area next to Grand Avenue west of 107th Avenue Saturday.