


**Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.
10626 West Thunderbird Blvd.
Sun City, AZ 85351**

MEMORANDUM

To: Title Companies and Realtors
From: Monica Staab, Manager Member Services 
Date: December 13, 2002
Subject: Change of Annual Assessment Amount

We anticipate that a resolution will be passed at the January 2003 RCSC Board of Directors meeting that will change the annual per person assessment to a per property assessment as of February 1, 2003. This change **will not** affect current property owners that have their personal residences titled in their name(s) as of the above date. These property owners will be grandfathered and will continue to pay the per person annual assessment, or one-half of the per property assessment. If a resident is a property owner, as of the above date, and sells their primary residence and purchases another primary residence, they will be assessed at the per person rate.

The revised property assessment as of 2/1/03 will be \$300.00 which covers the first two names listed on the property deed. If a third or fourth, etc. name is listed on the property, each individual person beyond the first two will be required to pay one half of the per property assessment, or \$150.00 each based on the current per property assessment.

Any properties in escrow that have not been recorded by 2/1/03 will be required to pay the per property assessment.

If the above noted resolution is not passed you will be notified of this situation. If you do not receive any further correspondence from RCSC on this issue, you should inform buyers of this change.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

cc: Board of Directors



COMMUNITY FEES

Last Updated: 07/01/2007

Note: Fees listed DO NOT include Condominium Association Fees unless stated

Sun City

623.876.3000

FEE	AMOUNT		WHO PAYS
Tenant Activity Card	\$190.00		
Resale Transfer Fee (one time fee each and every purchase)	\$300.00	One time	Buyer
Annual Recreation Fee (per lot) <i>396</i>	\$380.00	Annual	Buyer
Capital Preservation Fee	\$2,500.00	One time	Buyer
Dawn Lake Fee 623.972.5254 (Pro-rated)	\$288.00	Pro-rated	Buyer
View Point Lake Fee 623.876.3000 (Pro-rated)	\$285.05	Annual	Buyer

Sun City West

623.544.6100

Resale Transfer Fee (per each resale)	\$210.00		Buyer
Annual Associate Member dues (per person on title)	\$296.00	Annual	Buyer
Asset Preservation Fee (New Residents)	\$2,000.00	One time	Buyer
Disclosure Packet Fee	\$95.00		Seller
Tenant Activity Card (1 to 9 Per Month Lease)	\$25.00		Tenant
Tenant Activity Card (10 to 12 Month Lease)	\$258.00		Tenant
Guest Card (per person)	\$24.00		Tenant
PORA (Property Owners & Residents Association) Voluntary	\$20.00	Annual	Buyer

Sun City Grand

623.546.7444

Resale Transfer Fee (one time fee each and every purchase)	\$100.00		Buyer
Recreation Fee	\$962.00	Annual	Buyer
Tenant Card (per tenant)	\$100.00		Buyer
Copy Fee	\$30.00		Seller
Disclosure Fee	\$100.00		Seller
Architectural Review Fee	\$200.00		Buyer
C.A.R.E. Fee	\$575.00	One time	Buyer

Westbrook Village

623.561.0099

Resale Disclosure Fee (one time fee each & every purchase)	\$740.00		Buyer
Recreation Fee (per household-no limit on # of persons)	\$507.24	Annual	Buyer
Capital Preservation Fee-Waived if already Resident Owner	\$670.00		Buyer

Arizona Traditions/AAM

602.957.9191

Resale Transfer Fee	\$90.00		Buyer
Disclosure Fee	\$130.00		Negotiable
Homeowners Dues (incl. common area maint, guarded gate, all amenities except golf)	\$97.91	Monthly	Over

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2004

Dog park supporters press RCSC

Directors chose not to pursue unsolicited offer to buy plot

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tempers flared at the Monday meeting of the Recreation Centers of Sun City when residents charged the board of directors with making a hasty decision not to purchase La Ronde park from its new owners.

"We thought that when the opportunity to buy the park presented itself, that it was only natural that the RCSC would buy it," said Chuck

Chadbourn of Sun City, who has had a vested interest in the dog park for years. "It was offered to the RCSC for no profit and you (RCSC directors) cavalierly turned it down."

The 1½ acres of land, also known as the neighborhood dog park, was purchased by Robert and Eva Knight of Sun City from the previous owners, Marcia May of Dallas and Paul Pilzer of Utah, who had the property listed for sale at various times in the past.

The Knights formed Duffy Land Dog Park LLC and purchased the park behind Washington Federal Bank at Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards at the end of March, and hoped to sell it to the recreation centers at cost — \$150,000. The property once held a \$750,000 price tag before the Knights negotiated the lower price.

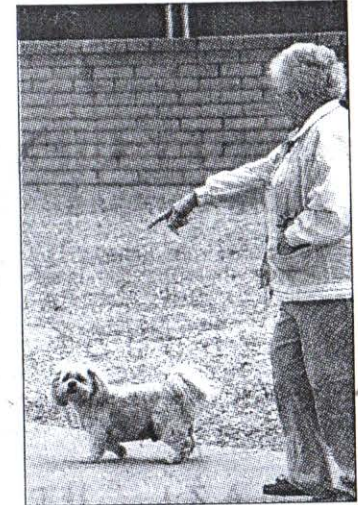
The couple sent the RCSC board a letter, offering to sell the property to the corporation and were surprised to receive a brief rejection letter in the mail about two weeks later.

"They turned us down

cold," Bob Knight said in an earlier interview. "I think if they had tried to buy it, they would have had to pay several hundred thousand more."

"We hoped that it was such an obvious step forward for Sun City that this would be viewed as a great opportunity for all of Sun City," Eva Knight said. At the Monday meeting, residents expressed disappointment in the board's actions and alleged the directors had met in private to make their decision. Bob and Eva Knight didn't

• **See DOG PARK, A5**



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lena Tatum and Buddy, an Lhasa apso, walk in the La Ronde dog park in Sun City in this file photo taken March 2.

OVER

From A1

attend the meeting, but said they'd been previously told by Kuchler that the board met and made its decision.

When Chadbourn asked the board if it had consulted Earl Fieirabend, director of operations, about the decision, members said they hadn't.

"So, they pay you money to run the recreation centers and no one asked you?" Chadbourn asked Fieirabend. "That's appalling."

Bud Hantke, RCSC treasurer, responded by saying that when the unsolicited offer came into the RCSC, it became a private matter between the board and the sellers. Residents set up a meeting regarding the dog park on Sunday evening, and though the RCSC board was invited, no directors attended.

"We don't have to bring an unsolicited offer to a membership vote," Kuchler said. "We chose not to consider an unsolicited offer. ... The board did not take hasty action on this."

He continued to explain

that the board turned down what he deemed a "thoughtful offer" for several reasons, including insurance liabilities concerning multiple dogs and humans sharing the park, along with maintaining and monitoring the property.

The Knights' letter also mentioned specific covenant and conditions, informing the board that if it chose to buy the land, that it should remain a dog park.

"As long as these covenants and conditions exist, I will never vote to approve the purchase of it," Hantke said. "Perhaps the board can look into this if the covenants and conditions are changed."

Bob Knight said he would be willing to continue conversations with the RCSC board, but was firm in his vision of maintaining the dog-friendly policy.

"I would hate to see a situation where they do what they've done with everything else and say 'no pets allowed,'" he said. "If they had a reasonable proposal, we'd be willing to listen. Maybe we could work something out."

Hantke and Kuchler both

urged the crowd to look at the situation from a business standpoint, not an emotional one.

"Your assertion that we don't have a dog park (in Sun City) is untrue, it's just that the RCSC doesn't own it," Kuchler said. "From a business point of view, it's just not a good deal."

The Sun City Home Owners Association Foundation set up a tax-exempt fund recently to pay the park's water bills. The PRIDES have continued efforts to keep the park beautiful. Gerry Unger, Sun City resident and director of the HOA Foundation, approached the board, wondering how they could turn down the Knights' offer, as the community has already proven its loyalty to the park.

"I've never publicly opposed the action of the boards," Unger said. "However, I would urge that you reconsider buying this property. ... I think arbitrarily denying the people of Sun City ownership of that park was done hastily."

Anne Stewart of Sun City also made her case on why the RCSC should obtain the

property by pointing out how the dog park fits into Del Webb's vision for the community.

"The dog park is more than a place for your dog to go poop," Stewart said. "This is where people come together — this is their social life. You need to bring this subject to the people and let the people decide."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West maintains a dog park on one of its properties — R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. Carolyn Jennings, RCSCW director, said the park has been nothing but a joy to residents.

"It's a community thing, and people who have pets can congregate and enjoy each other's company," Jennings said. "It's the camaraderie of a common interest which is good for both the dogs and dog owners."

"I don't know why the RCSC would turn one down," she continued. "I think it's a good thing, personally, and why not have one?"

Annie Karstens may be reached at 876-2532 or akarstens@aztrib.com

Sun City dog park owners want longevity

RCSC prohibits household pets on facility properties

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Drive by the lot behind Washington Federal Savings Bank on the southwest corner of Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards and there are cars in a gravel parking lot there throughout the day.

Behind the parking lot is Duffeland Dog Park, which draws about 300 people a day to spend some quality time with their pets. People new to Sun City may believe this park is another amenity offered by Recreation Centers of Sun City. They would be wrong.

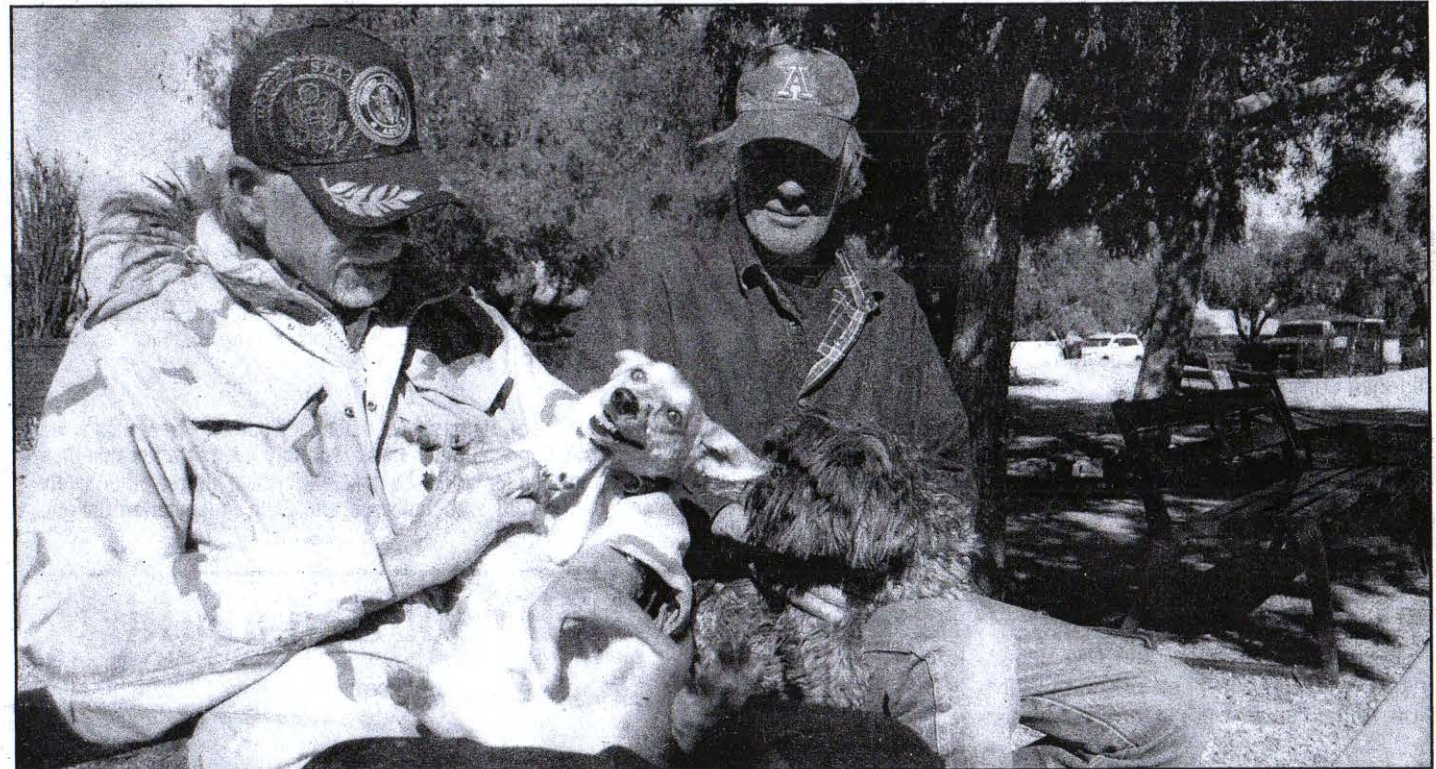
The park is owned, indirectly through a limited liability corporation, by Sun City residents Bob and Eva Knight and maintained by park users, with some help from the Sun City PRIDES.

"To the best of my knowledge, the original Sun City is the only 'Sun City' that does not have a dog park owned and maintained by the rec centers board," Mr. Knight said.

The two closest communities — Sun City West and Sun City Grand — each have one. Mr. Knight believes for the Sun City park to survive, it must be owned and operated by an entity with some longevity. While he recognizes there may be other possibilities, he believes RCSC is the most logical choice.

"But they won't touch it," Mr. Knight said.

Mr. Knight said a former RCSC general manager had discussed with him the possibility of purchasing the park, but the board



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
Ray Kay, left, with Otis the Wonder Dog, and John Zappa with George enjoy some time in the Sun City dog park. The facility is privately owned and maintained, but the owners believe it needs to be owned by an entity to ensure its survival.

did not follow through.

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, said she was unaware of any such interest by RCSC.

"Not to my knowledge, it has never been discussed since I have been here," she stated in an e-mail. "It has never been presented to the board in my tenure."

Park

Continued From Page 1

county's budget woes.

He said he has also thought about creating a nonprofit organization.

If RCSC were to consider acquiring the dog park, it would mean changes in the corporation's governing documents. Ms. Ek said a board policy prohibits any household pet from all RCSC properties.

"This policy has been in effect for a long time, so I cannot speak to why it was established," she stated. "I assume that liability, cost of monitoring and enforcing rules, and the cost of cleaning and maintaining the area were all considerations."

However, Ms. Ek said there has been some discussion in long range planning committee meetings about providing pet areas for residents.

Ms. Knowlton said one full-time maintenance person, in addition to other duties, spends 1-2 hours daily at the Sun City West dog parks watering and cleaning. She estimated a cost of \$20,000 per year for park maintenance. She added the parks are monitored by the community's two dog clubs to ensure only residents are using the park.

"Both parks are very well used, with about 30-50 people and dogs every day" she said. "Most usage is in the winter months."

The Sun City Grand park, located near the main village center, is about 18,000 square feet and includes a large grass area, concrete sidewalks, benches and a water fountain for dogs, according to Ms. Mills. She estimated about 3,000 residents are regular park users.

While Sun City dog park owners and supporters search for an organization willing to take on the responsibilities of maintenance, park users have stepped up to the plate to provide for its needs. Users contributed funds to fence the park and that work, following months waiting for county permits, is complete. Park supporters will host a potluck picnic 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15.

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

Ms. Ek was hired Jan. 2, 2007.

Neither Sun City West nor Sun City Grand had dog parks included when they were constructed. Each community added the amenity after requests from residents. Sun City West added two adjoining parks, one small and a larger one, behind the Sundome in 1994, according to Cindy Knowlton, Recreation Centers of Sun City West recreation manager. Sun City Grand's park was proposed in 2001 and completed in 2003, according to Mitzi Mills, Sun City Grand recreation manager. Both are private parks for use by community residents.

The property where the park is located is zoned residential, but the Knights' intention is to preserve it as a park.

"But we're not going to live here forever," Mr. Knight said. "That (park preservation)

won't happen unless the ownership and maintenance of the park are in the hands of an organization that will have longevity."

Mr. and Mrs. Knight bought the property, which he believes was to be part of the La Ronde shopping center but never developed, about five years ago for \$150,000. At that time it was used as a park.

"We learned that most of the people using it were elderly who went there to socialize with their dogs," he said.

Mr. Knight said he has considered approaching Maricopa County about purchasing the land and maintaining it as a park, but has not pursued it.

"This is not the best time," he said, referring to the struggling economy and the

See Park — Page 20

Chemical patch could save millions

Sealant proposed to reduce lake seepage

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A chemical patch may solve the seepage at Viewpoint Lake, averting the need for an overhaul of the lake's liner and saving the Recreation Centers of Sun City up to \$5 million.

Laboratory test results indicate the patch, which would cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000, might fix the problem, RCSC board President Norm Dickson said at Monday's member/director exchange.

Earlier this summer, 20

soil samples were taken from Viewpoint Lake at Thunderbird Boulevard and 105th Avenue and tested with various chemical sealants that could potentially reduce seepage. The first test revealed that a weaker chemical sealant would not be enough to reduce the seepage according to standards set by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The ADWR requires that the lake's water seepage, estimated at 129 million gallons over the course of one year, be reduced by at least 50 percent, Dickson said.

After a second test, the laboratory confirmed that a stronger chemical sealant would do the job, reducing seepage by 50 percent or more, he said.

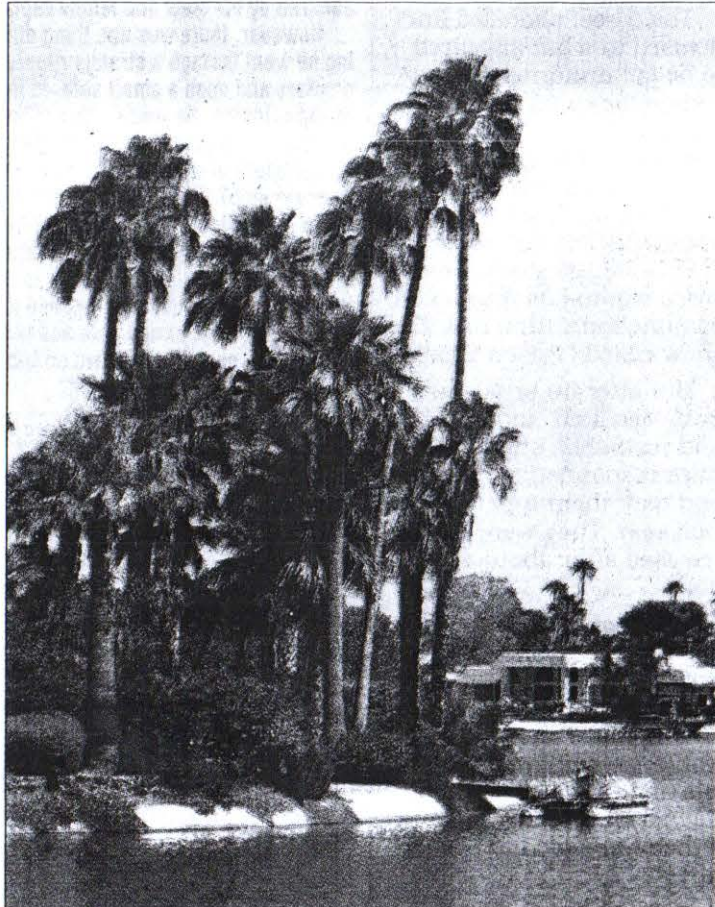
When the liner was originally installed, it was weighted down with a foot of

soil. Jim Frederick, RCSC director and golf operations committee chairman, suspects the soil has since shifted, leaving the liner vulnerable to fishing hooks and other wear and tear, Frederick said. The life expectancy of the liner is about 20 years, and it's now about 25-years-old, he said.

Current estimates show that the simple repair to chemically seal the lake could cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000, Dickson said. If lab tests had revealed that a chemical sealant would not be effective, an overhaul of the lake's liner could have cost between \$3 million and \$5 million, the board reported.

Of course, Dickson said, the board is pleased to learn that a chemical sealant will

See LAKE, A5



FILE PHOTO

Viewpoint Lake may have escaped an overhaul when test results revealed the seepage problem may be cured by a patch, saving the RCSC nearly \$5 million.

over

LAKE:

Company must guarantee results

From A1

likely be effective. However, the process is not complete yet. Now, the board must take the lab test results to the company that would be applying the sealant. Before any work is done, the RCSC board will need a signed contract from the company, promising in writing that the 50 percent seepage reduction is guaranteed, Dickson said.

Once the RCSC board receives the written guarantee and the contract is signed, Dickson said application of the chemical sealant should take place in December or January when golf course use is at its lowest. Viewpoint Lake acts as a reservoir of water used to irrigate Lakes West Golf Course.

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

6 RCSC pools lack chair lifts for disabled

ADA act doesn't cover community

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Joan Adair of Sun City doesn't buy that the Recreation Centers of Sun City can't afford more than one chair lift to make getting in and out of the pool easier for people with disabilities.

Money matters aside, she wonders if the absence of chair lifts at the other six Sun City pools violates handicap accessibility laws.

According to the Fair Housing Act, the RCSC pools are not in violation of any laws or regulations.

"Any development that was built prior to March 13, 1991, is not required to have been built to be accessible under the federal Fair Housing Act," SAID Barbara Chandler, director of the Design and Construction Resource Center of Fair Housing Accessibility First. "After 1991, common use facilities would have to be accessible according to the act."

RCSC pools are not regulated by the American Disabilities Act because they are part of a private community and are not open for general public use, Chandler said. Though the pools are not in violation of any laws, ADA guidelines recommend a slope entry ramp or chair lift at any community pool, said Eric Holland, spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department.

While Bell Pool is being replaced and rebuilt, renovations to facilities built prior to March 13, 1991, also aren't required to be handicap accessible under the Fair Housing Act, Chandler said.

Additionally, even if the pools were constructed after March 13, 1991, handicap accessibility laws only require the route to the edge OF THE pool is handicap accessible. There are no mandates that

require chair lifts or ramps, Chandler said.

There is a chance residents can see to it that every RCSC pool has a ramp or chair lift — they can pay for it themselves. Residents may make a "Reasonable Modification Request" to the RCSC, asking for a lift or ramp to be installed. The RCSC must allow the modification, but

they don't have to pay for it.

"If you had a development built in, say, 1970 and someone made a request for a lift, (the corporation) would have to honor that request, but the resident who made that request would have to pay for it," Chandler said.

The only chair lift in Sun City is at Fairway Recreation

Center's outdoor pool. For more than a year, the Handi-Capables Club of Sun City has been trying to change that. In June, Bonnie Sanders, president of the Handi-Capables Club, told the RCSC board that she and other club members will continue to lobby for a chair lift

See CHAIR, A5

CHAIR: Lifts cost as much as \$8,000 per pool

From A1

at Sundial's indoor therapy pool where the club meets for water exercise sessions. Sundial pool has a sloped entry ramp — it's the only RCSC pool that does.

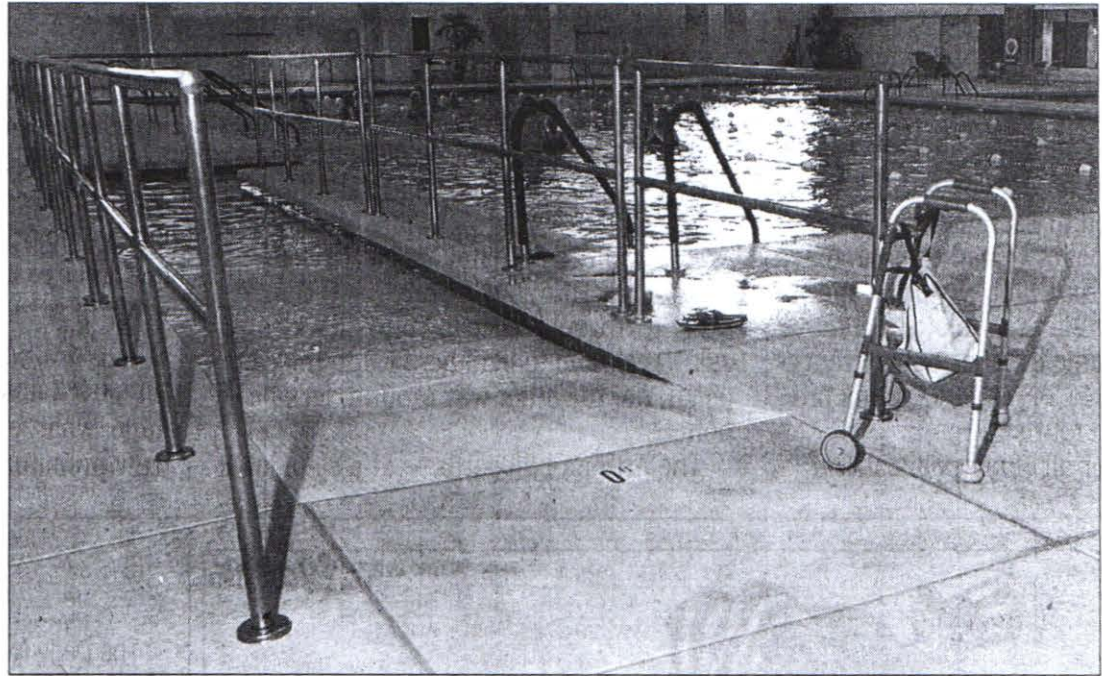
One chair lift costs an estimated \$6,000 to \$8,000, according to Jim Wellman, RCSC senior manager of center operations. The expense, he said, is not in the RCSC budget at this point. He said the prospect of installing additional lifts hasn't been entirely dismissed.

"We're always reviewing our facilities," Wellman said, adding that he doesn't have an answer yet for those vying for more lifts.

Every RCSC pool, Adair said, should have a lift. In a letter to the RCSC, she asked if the new Bell pool would have a chair lift installed during construction. Wellman's answer was no. She then wrote a letter to the Daily News-Sun, asking for more coverage of this sensitive issue.

"I don't want an answer, I want results," said Adair, who has made it a personal crusade to campaign for a chair lift at every RCSC pool. "It's my cause, and I'll keep perusing it."

Her daughter is paraplegic and when she visits, Adair would like to take her to Bell pool, the nearest recreation center to her home. She currently swims at Bell six days a week.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The chair lift was removed from the Sundial Recreation Center when the center was remodeled a few years ago. It was replaced by ramps for people in wheelchairs.

"Doesn't it make sense that a person would like to utilize the pool nearest their home?" she asked.

Though shaded, the Fairway pool is not conducive for year-round aquatic physical therapy and exercise, Sanders said.

The indoor therapy pool is one of two pools at Sundial and is preferred by club members, who are generally arthritic, amputees, stroke patients or recovering from surgical procedures. Adair doesn't think adding a lift at Sundial is enough.

"For (six) pools, (the price) is a drop in the bucket compared to the millions they're spending on the rec centers and golf courses," she said. "It just makes no sense."

Adair hopes others will follow her lead and continue to request chair lifts from the RCSC.

"It's not only for the paraplegics or the amputees, it's for all of us because who knows what the future might be. We're not guaranteed good health," she said. "The years are going to creep up on them and before they

know they may need such a lift.

There are no chair lifts in any of the four pools in Sun City West recreation centers, said David Bennett, supervisor at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. However, three of the four pools have ramps and the RCSCW furnish special waterproof wheelchairs for member use.

For information about the Fair Housing Act, visit www.fairhousingfirst.org.

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



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Evelyn Stefanick of Sun City can choose between the steps or the ramp to get into and out of the Sundial Pool.

SATURDAY, FEB. 28, AND SUNDAY, FEB. 29, 2004

Sun City rivals Prescott in population

STAFF REPORT

Sun City has long set a distinction for being one of the first retirement communities in the country.

It's also one of the largest.

Turns out, the community sets a lot of distinctions for its amenities and operations, according to the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The group, to which all residents of Sun City belong, has compiled some interesting statistics about the community.

Here is a little about the community people should know.

For example:

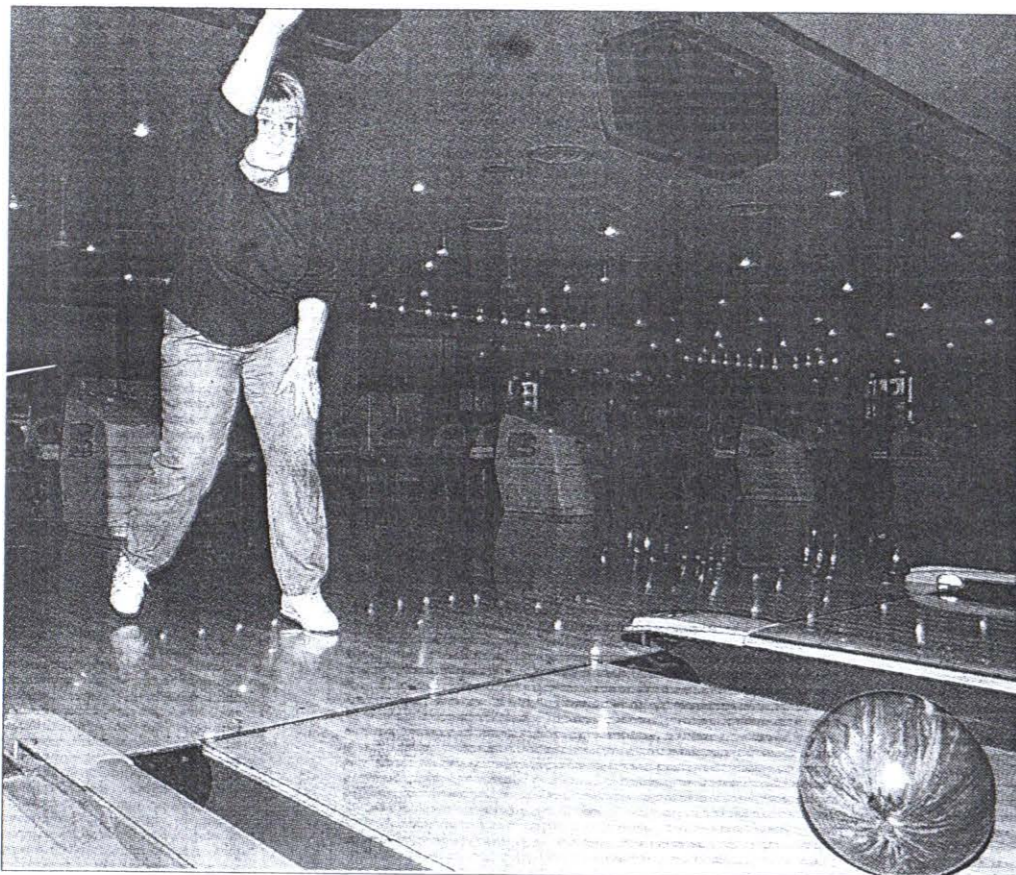
- Sun City has a population of more than 41,000 residents and more than 26,000 properties, roughly the size of Prescott.

- Sun City is not a city, but an unincorporated portion of Maricopa County with no mayor or city council.

Then there's the RCSC itself, which runs all the facilities, making it the biggest in the country.

- Sun City has more recreational facilities than any community in the United States. Its properties are valued at more than \$55 million and operates with an annual budget of approximately \$15 million.

- The RCSC is a private non-profit Arizona corporation formed under IRS rules for a 501C-4 corporation. It employs approximately 430 people with 60 percent of the



DAILY NEWS-SUN file photo

employees living in Sun City.

- RCSC's responsibility is to operate the recreation centers and golf courses for the benefit of its members.

- RCSC is directed by nine board members elected by the Sun City community. Three new board members are elected to the board every year.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City have more than 340,000 square feet of space under roof, including two restaurants and two bowling centers.

From A1

Because it has more recreation facilities than any other group, the centers and surrounding amenities have racked up some high numbers of visits and space available to residents. The facilities themselves:

- Occupy about 85 acres of land.

- In 2003, recorded more than 1.5 million member visits.

- Have more than 340,000 square feet of space under roof.

- Have two restaurants.

- Have two bowling centers.

- Have eight swimming pools (two indoor, six outdoor).

- Have 134 chartered clubs.

But if you come to Sun

City, you're likely going to be headed out to the links. It's the amenity for which the community may be most known, and the eight RCSC courses:

- Occupy more than 1,000 acres of land.

- Have more holes of golf than any other single location in the United States.

- Have five snack shops.

- Have 30 miles of cart paths.

- Have 17 lakes.

- Have nine well-pumping stations.

- Have 10 irrigation pumping stations.

- Have six maintenance buildings.

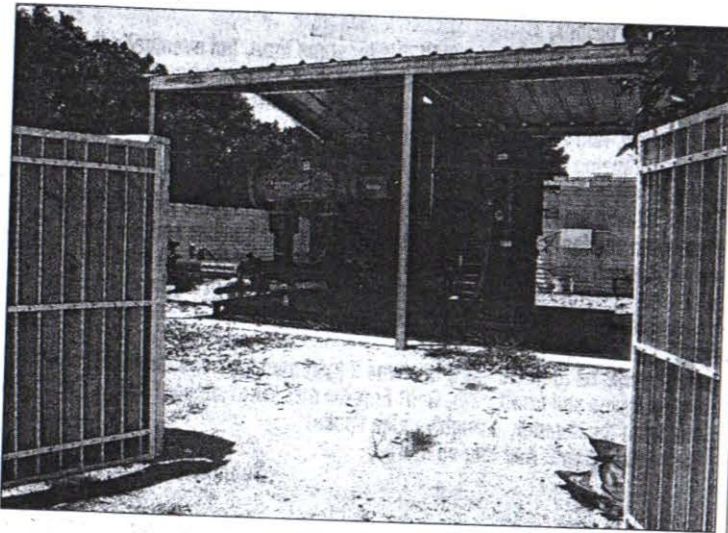
- Have five driving ranges.

- Are where nearly 400,000 rounds of golf are played each year.

For information about Sun City, call 876-3000 or visit www.sunaz.com

See FACTS, A5

State levies \$5,000 penalty against RCSC



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Center of Sun City hopes to save water with the recently installed pump station on Lakes East Golf Course.

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City was slapped with a \$5,000 penalty this week for exceeding the groundwater allotment for its seven golf courses in 2002 and 2003.

The RCSC avoided a \$110,000 penalty by proving to the Arizona Department of Water Resources that its long-range plans already included several water-saving projects, and RCSC officials promised to execute those plans.

"The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. acted quickly and responsibly to correct the groundwater management problems at its golf courses," said Herb Guenther, ADWR director. "They have hired experienced superintendents, conducted training for the staff, initiated best management practices at the facilities, and have begun additional infrastructure improvements designed to save water."

Under the settlement, the RCSC also must "pay back" the aquifer with 881 acre-feet of water by 2010, said John Snyder, RCSC director of golf operations. Since 2002, the RCSC has been under its water allotment, Snyder said, and has already repaid the aquifer with 100 acre-feet of water. He projects that nearly 200 acre-feet of water will be repaid in 2005.

The RCSC will be on a probationary status for five years in addition to paying the \$5,000 penalty, ADWR officials. The penalty will be paid for out of the RCSC's operations budget, said Norm Dickson, RCSC president.

"The civil penalty is appropriate for groundwater management exceedances, which could have been prevented," Guenther said. "Conserving groundwater is a central component of Arizona's Groundwater Management Act, and it is critical that all groundwater users limit their use to only that which is permitted."

Dickson said negotiations with the ADWR have been going on for about a year. He said the RCSC misinterpreted ADWR's allotment laws. In

public meetings, the RCSC board maintained that the RCSC was in fine standing with the ADWR, not realizing that in fact, it wasn't.

The RCSC had a 20 percent flex account on its groundwater usage, meaning that if water usage went 20 percent above 5,130 acre-feet of water — its annual aggregate allotment for seven golf courses — then it was in violation of the Arizona Groundwater Management Act. In 2002 and 2003, the golf courses exceeded the RCSC's limit by pumping more groundwater than their rights allowed, according to the ADWR.

Dickson said the RCSC board figured that if groundwater usage was below its limit at other times within its 10-year program, it could balance out the excess usage in 2002 and 2003. However, the limit is calculated and enforced annually.

"We were looking at the use of water and the language in one way, and the ADWR was looking at it another," Dickson said. "We assumed you would get (20 percent) every year and if you went over one year, you'd do whatever ADWR told you to do, like pay a fine or something.

But we assumed we got a fresh start every year, which wasn't the case. They said, once you lose it, it's gone."

Gordon Wahl, supervisor of the Phoenix Active Management Areas industrial program, said the 20 percent flex account gives golf courses the ability to either bank credits or debits depending of the weather conditions, but only throughout the course of one year.

"The flex account gives them a cushion against climate conditions, and they used all of theirs," Wahl said. "Once you go over, its over."

One of the driest years on record, 2002 hit RCSC golf courses hard, he added. It was the second year of the RCSC's 10-year water allotment program with ADWR, Dickson said. Being over its allotment right of the bat was discouraging, he said.

"We went over our limit because it was such a dry year — there's no way to recover that," Dickson said. "2002 slapped us like it slapped all the golf courses in the area. That's what got us in trouble. The worst thing that could happen is to be hit with a real bad dry year at the beginning of this period."

He said he appreciates the ADWR's willingness to work with the RCSC by waiving the \$110,000 penalty in favor of

allowing the RCSC to continue its water conservation efforts, which get pricey.

Since 1995, the RCSC has invested more than \$6 million in improvements and upgrades to its facilities, and the RCSC has committed to make additional improvements to reduce groundwater use by 2007, the ADWR reports.

"They had seen that even before they got involved, we were taking aggressive steps to conserve our water," Dickson said. "It shows them we are in fact, complying in their real goal — not to collect fines, but to save water. They saw that and said this is what they want golf courses to do, why slap them with a fine?"

Some of the RCSC's long-range water conservation plans include:

- Solving the seepage problem at Viewpoint Lake, which is losing about 400 acre-feet of water each year. Tests to determine possible solutions are under way.

- Renovating Lakes East Golf Course to convert about 9 acres of greens to desert landscaping.

- Lining the golf course creeks with a chemical sealant designed to prevent seepage.

- Rebuilding wells and pump stations.

Space problems corner RCSC

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's five lapidary clubs may face a merger this summer and club members are opposing the move.

The five lapidary clubs, chartered by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, occupy five club rooms at five recreation centers — Sundial, Oakmont, Lakeview, Fairway and Bell.

Gayle Schmidt, RCSC director and co-chair of the Club Organization Committee, said the committee considers five too many.

The COC committee is proposing to merge the clubs, condensing them from five to three in the interest of freeing up space for other groups, Schmidt said. For example, the Sun City Calligraphy Club has been around for 17 years and doesn't have a room of its own.

Schmidt said the logical choice would be to remove the Oakmont Lapidary and Silvercraft Club and the Lakeview Lapidary Club from their rooms and encourage those members to join the clubs at Sundial, Fairway or Bell.

"We have five lapidary clubs, and the number of people that are using those clubs doesn't justify the space allotted to them," Schmidt said. "Ideally, it makes more sense to close Oakmont and Lakeview, to me. But I would like them to come to that conclusion on their own."

The COC has been directing a space study to determine the best uses of RCSC-owned facilities, Schmidt said. As part of that process, the presidents or vice presidents of the lapidary clubs and the COC co-chairs, Schmidt and Cecile "Babe" Dodson, got together at a "space utilization meeting" April 20.

The proposal to merge was met with expected opposition, Schmidt

See CLUBS, A5



DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Bob Hager works on a project in the Lakeview Lapidary Club.

From A1

said.

"People were upset, but we didn't expect it to run really smoothly," Schmidt said. "People become very possessive of their clubs. At some point, we have to make these decisions. We're trying to get the best use out of what space we have."

Merle McDonald, vice president of the Oakmont Lapidary and Silvercraft Club, attended the meeting and said he hopes the COC will back down and leave the five clubs as they are. He said he doesn't consider the proposal to be a merger, but a closure.

"If the club merges with another club, that means our club is closed," McDonald said. "I don't see what they're going to gain by closing them. We're prepared to fight it."

Nothing is final and no vote has been taken, Schmidt said, but the RCSC does have the authority to vote, approve and enforce the merger

authority to ask one 'like' Club to merge with another 'like' Club or request one chartered club to share its dedicated space with another chartered club in order to utilize space based on membership participation and square footage."

The original Oakmont lapidary club room was built in 1962 and paid for by club members, McDonald said. In 1978, the club was changed from the Town Hall West Lapidary Club to Oakmont Lapidary and Silvercraft.

The club room is 840 square feet with a maximum occupancy of 17 people. Club members consider their space more than just a place to practice their art, he said.

"If the club was closed, I probably would give up silvercraft. I've never belonged to another silver craft club," said McDonald, a member for eight years. "It's like a little family. We care for each other and there's a real bond there. A lot of people would miss that."

without bending any board policies.

"There would be no problem in closing the clubs that need to be closed," Schmidt said.

The Oakmont Lapidary and Silvercraft Club has 54 individual members, and according to its RCSC charter, the club may remain open as long as there is a minimum of 25 members, McDonald said.

"I think they would have to have a better reason for closing our clubs," he said.

"We have plenty of members, and I don't see any legal reason."

Schmidt cited RCSC Board Policy 12A to prove the legitimacy of the proposal. It reads: "A Club may be asked to relocate by the Board of Directors because of altered space requirements. If the Club chooses not to do so, then the Club's charter will be suspended pending such time, as an acceptable space may become available. The Board of Directors has the

Harold Papineau, president of the Lakeview Lapidary Club, also attended the space utilization meeting.

"I thought the meeting was very poorly run," he said.

"It's their property, but they don't have to treat us like a bunch of dummies. Every president there felt they had to defend their ground. But I think that they have to utilize the space, and if you're going to utilize space, someone's got to give."

Papineau complained about the COC's timing — trying to uproot an entire club as summer approaches makes proper communication with members nearly impossible, he said.

"What are you going to do at this time of the year when everyone's leaving?" he asked.

The RCSC board of directors may be reached at 876-3000.

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

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

RCSC board to re-address member quorum

By Rusty Bradshaw

Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials are preparing to re-address the membership meeting quorum issue, and could do so at the next regular board of directors meeting.

Gene Westemeier, RCSC board president, said the board was to meet with the full quorum ad hoc committee last week to discuss its findings and recommendations.

"We hope to have a decision by the end of the month," Mr. Westemeier told residents who attended the April 5 directors/members exchange meeting.

The RCSC board is scheduled for meet 9 a.m. Thursday, April 29 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

In October RCSC officials proposed raising the quarterly membership meeting quorum from 100 to 10 percent of the eligible RCSC corporate cardholder voters. Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, estimated there were more than 35,000 voters, making the new quorum 3,500. The board tabled the matter, but in December approved a bylaw change striking the 100-member quorum but not specifying a minimum. With no specified number, the quorum reverts to state law, which is 10 percent of the eligible voters.

In quarterly membership meetings, corporate members can make motions from the floor to be considered by the board, but only if there is a quorum present at the meeting, either in person or by proxy.

Supporters of the change argue a larger quorum eliminates the possibility of a small special interest group from changing corporate bylaws or policy.

"That (100 members) is an inappropriate number to be allowed to change policy and bylaws by motion," said Denny Nichols, RCSC board president in 2009.

See **Quorum** — Page 17

Quorum

Continued From Page 1

Jerry Swintek, a former RCSC board president, believes the 10 percent quorum figure is too high, making it nearly impossible to conduct a membership meeting. He also believes the change is unnecessary because other corporate bylaws provides the protection Mr. Nichols advocated was the result of the board's quorum change.

Article III, Section 5 of the RCSC bylaws spells out that members can make a motion during a quarterly membership meeting, which then will be considered by the board. If members disagree with the board's decision on the motion, they can then petition the matter for a general election. The petition must contain signatures from 10 percent of the corporation's eligible voting members.

"This article, not the meeting quorum requirement, is why we have not had a problem in 36 years," Mr. Swintek to the board during a Dec. 7 directors/members exchange meeting when the new quorum proposal was revealed.

Sun City resident Anne Randall Stewart believes another bylaw change by the board — reducing the time to gather petition signatures from six months to three — is a further attempt by RCSC leadership to distance members from the decision-making process. She and members of her Sun City Formula Registry are less than a month from

See **Quorum** — Page 28

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

May 4, 2005

RCSC considers bylaws changes

By Matthew Roy
Independent Newspapers

When the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors met April 28 at the Social Hall at Sundial Recreation Center, they discussed a number of proposals to amend RCSC bylaws.

One proposal put forward by Director Gene Zylstra would provide the board a mechanism to oust board officers; another proposal from Director Jim Frederick would define the rights of "spousal owners" under 55.

"This is not a new motion," said Mr. Zylstra. "This started last year and it has been my job to follow up on it."

If adopted, the proposed

addition of Section 8 to Article V of the bylaws would allow the board of directors to unseat any of its officers — president, vice president, treasurer or secretary — by a two-thirds vote if they were judged "unwilling or incapable of satisfactorily performing his/her share of the duties and responsibilities of that office."

After stepping down, an ousted officer would have the option to remain on the board. Once vacated, the officer's position would be filled by board appointment within 15 days.

Though none present voiced opposition to Mr. Zylstra's proposal, some members

See RCSC — Page 7

RCSC

Continued From Page 1

expressed concern over the amendment procedure.

"This is a new addition to the bylaws," said Sun City resident Bill Gill. "Don't the members have to vote on it?"

Treasurer Jim Kuchler explained amendments of RCSC bylaws could be enacted in one of two ways: changes proposed by members require a vote of the membership; changes proposed by the board may be approved by a majority vote of the board. Mr. Kuchler pointed out the Articles of Incorporation, unlike the bylaws, might only be changed by a vote of the members.

RCSC cardholder Bill Shipley also voiced procedure concerns.

"Why does it take a two-thirds vote to remove an officer, but only a majority vote to change the bylaws?" asked Mr. Shipley.

Mr. Shipley's question went unanswered as the board moved and approved the posting of the amendment unanimously. Now approved for posting, Section 8 is available for public perusal and will face a board vote at a future meeting.

Director Frederick laid out a proposed amendment to Article II of the Corporation Bylaws, which would define the rights of "spousal owners" under 55.

According to the proposed amendment, spousal owners younger than 55 must at least 19 and be able to prove at least one person 55 or older resides at the property in Sun City in order to obtain an RCSC card. Such "under

aged" persons would qualify for most of the rights and privileges of members, but would be excluded from holding RCSC office.

However, those younger than 55 who were not married, but only lived with a resident, though they could own the property, would be denied RCSC membership.

Sun City resident and RCSC watchdog Anne Randall Stewart objected to Mr. Frederick's proposal on the grounds that limiting membership rights to spouses would be an unfair intrusion into the privacy of residents.

Treasurer Kuchler suggested that Ms. Stewart and any other concerned residents should fully read the proposed additions in context with the whole of Article II.

The board voted unanimously to post the proposed amendment.

Fee hike angers SC residents

By Zach Colick
Independent Newspapers

Dozens of residents gathered at the Sundial Recreation Center Auditorium Dec. 14 as the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors approved a 2007 budget of \$15.8 million and two other fee hikes.

The new budget, an increase of \$400,000 from last year, will take effect Jan. 1, 2007, and projects an income of \$17,174,251 while operating expenditures total \$15,792,215.

Membership fees and annual lot assessments help make up the difference.

Board members approved raising the annual Capital Preservation Fee from \$2,100 to \$2,500, which would only affect incoming residents of Sun City who would pay the one-time fee. The board also raised the annual property assessment fee from \$360 to \$380 per lot.

"This benefits our current membership," said Ken Fold, RCSC Board treasurer.

Residents who moved in before Feb. 1, 2003, will see a \$10 rise in property assessments from \$180 to \$190.

What do you think?

Will the raising of Recreation Centers of Sun City fees and budget benefit the community, or be burden?

● Public forums
www.newszap.com

● 24-hour Speak Out line
623-445-2892

● E-mail
zcolick@newszap.com

Related Link

www.sunaz.com

The board treasurer anticipates 1,603 new homes will change hands or be constructed next year and monies collected from the capital preservation fees will be placed into that fund.

Both the Capital Preservation Fee and property assessment increase fees will take effect April 1, 2007, Mr. Fold said.

The capital preservation fee is limited to the spending of projects that cost \$100,000 or more and have a life span of 15 years or longer, he said.

These projects are estimated at nearly \$2.6 million for 2007. Such projects include

major renovations to area rec centers and repairing restrooms.

"It's just a fact of life that our older rec centers need to be updated and renovated," Mr. Fold said.

Capital expenses, which go toward purchases of lawnmowers and other maintenance-related equipment, are expected to total \$1.7 million.

Resident Tom Richards said he was opposed to the lot assessment fee increase as it will make it difficult to sell his home in the future, which he believes will become devalued.

"The board should take a seriously look at this before making a decision," he said.

Outspoken resident Noel Kasper, who works closely with Anne Randall Stewart, shared similar sentiments, saying all RCSC members should pay the grandfathered-in fee.

However, Board Member Dave Rutledge, a former real estate agent, explained the raising of fees is the right thing to do and many real estate agents agree property values will not be tarnished. An esti-

See **Budget** — Page 7

Budget

Continued From Page 1
mated 152 homes were sold within the month.

He added the money collected would be used exclusively for the upkeep of rec centers, golf

courses and property.

"We really do need that money," Mr. Rutledge said.

Mr. Fold said budget talks start mid-year where RCSC officials provide input on what operating expenses they need. Residents are also included in the discussions.

A finance committee met for

more than six weeks, two-to-three hours at a time this summer and cut \$486,000 from the proposed 2007 budget. The Board of Directors evaluated the budget afterward and cut an additional \$660,000, Mr. Fold said.

"Hundreds of hours were put into this process," said RCSC

Board Member Norm Dickson. "When you take out \$1 million, you're not going to meet the needs of everyone. We did the best we could."

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at newszap.com. News Editor Zach Colick can be reached at 972-6101 or zcolick@newszap.com.

DO YOU KNOW SUN CITY?

Sun City is has more recreational facilities than any community in the U.S. The yearly budget is close to \$15 million. There are over \$55 million in assets for the recreational facilities. The seven centers occupy 340,000 square feet of space that has to be heated and cooled. The centers sit on 85 acres of land which require upkeep. The yearly utility bill is \$1.5 million.

The golf operation, through installation of new energy saving equipment, saved approximately \$90,000 on the electric bill in one year.

There are 130 clubs operating for the members. The Centers handle over 1.5 million member visits per year. Over 300 volunteers help the corporation in some way. They provide time and experience which the corporation could never pay for.

The eight golf courses occupy 1,100 acres of land. There are more holes of golf in Sun City than in any other single location in the U.S. The courses have 30 miles of cart paths, 17 lakes, nine well pumping stations, 10 irrigation pumping stations, six maintenance buildings, five driving ranges and 15 restrooms. Nearly 400,000 rounds of golf are played each year. In 2003 the golf deficit was reduced from \$400,000 to \$18,000. The installation of the irrigation system on the South course required 1.5 million feet of wire.

The population of Sun City is 41,000, approximately the size of Prescott. Over 2,000 houses a year are sold. The average age is 73. There are over 131 members over 100.

The property taxes are among the lowest in the area. The annual assessment fee, even though we have the most recreational facilities, is the lowest per property fee of any of the 14 Sun Cities in the U.S.

Sun City does not borrow money or levy special assessments to pay for the recreation facilities improvements.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.





VF - RECREATION CENTERS GENERAL

MEMBERS: 40,789	DIRECTORS: 9 elected by the Membership	PAID EMPLOYEES: 435 ±
ACRES: 8,900	NET WORTH: \$50—60 Million	YEARLY BUDGET: \$15 Million
CITY OF VOLUNTEERS		

Sun City is the world's first, largest and most successful retirement community. It is the largest "country club" anywhere. Read below about the wide range of activities Sun City has to offer:

135 Clubs: 9 Dance 2 Computer Model Railroad Handicapables Signing 	37 Arts & Crafts 6 Exercise 3 Photo   2 Rose & Garden 	24 Card & Game 11 Social 2 National  RV Club 	12 Music & Drama Stamp Travelogue 21 Sports activities 
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In addition to the above clubs, the Recreation Centers members have a multitude of facilities activities available to them. These include:

7 Large Multi-use Centers 10 Hot Spas 8 Swimming Pools 1 Lake-Boating & Fishing 2 Bowling Centers—40 lanes 3 Pool Rooms—45 tables   Table Tennis Horseshoe Courts Roller Skating	 8 Golf Courses 2 Restaurants 5 Snack Bars 5 Mini-Golf Courses 1 Volley Ball Court 2 Handball/Racquetball Courts 8 Pickle Ball Courts Sun Bowl with seating for 5,000 	19 Tennis Courts 5 Fitness Centers 2 Walk-Jog Tracks 1 Softball Field 15 Bocce Courts 7 Lawn Bowling Greens 20 Indoor & Outdoor Shuffleboard Courts   7 Picnic Ramadas 2 Walking Paths
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RCSC, Inc. members have the privilege of attending (some without charge) recitals, shows, concerts, lectures, fun fairs, festivals, dances, tournaments, plays, movies (with popcorn), dinner-theater, craft shows, day tours, lessons and classes, bingo—and much more—in the 9 social halls/auditoriums or outdoors. Furthermore, the outstanding concerts at the Sun Bowl are all FREE to the members.

It is almost impossible to comprehend that all of the above is available through the small annual assessment mandated in the "Facilities Agreement", which the home buyer signs at the time of purchase. However, if a member chooses not to participate in any of the activities, the annual assessment is still due as this income is used to maintain the properties and pay all the expenses of RCSC, Inc.

The required annual assessment, allows participation in **all** of the above. Of course, bowling, golf, theater, tours and some plays have a nominal charge. Most of the 135 chartered clubs have a fee between \$2 and \$20 a year to join.



2005 Board and Management Team

- Norm Dickson - President**
- Gayle Schmidt - Vice President**
- Ken Fold - Secretary**
- Jim Kuchler - Treasurer**

DIRECTORS:

- Jean Buck. Cecile Dodson,**
- Jim Frederick and Nadine Meis**

SENIOR MANAGERS

- Jim Wellman-Centers**
- John Snyder -Golf**
- Mark Nellis—Finance/Admin.**
- Marion Krell—Human Res.**

RCSC reviews guest policy

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

8-16-05

Sun Citians may not have to "baby-sit" their adult sons and daughters on RCSC property anymore.

Spurred by resident complaints, the board of directors is re-evaluating its guest policy, board President Norm Dickson said at Monday's Recreation Centers of Sun City member/director exchange meeting.

The board has received several complaints from members who don't appreciate having to be with their guests at all times when visiting any RCSC facility regardless of the guest's age, Dickson said. Nothing is final, but Dickson said the board understands the complaint and is reviewing a possible amendment to the policy that will allow guests over age 21 to utilize facilities unaccompanied by a member.

Jim Frederick, director and chair of the insurance committee, said the RCSC insurance company approved any measure that would allow guests 21 and older to be alone on RCSC property.

"A lot of people came to me and asked why they had to baby-sit for their 45-year-old (guests)," Frederick said.

"As a response to concerns of members, we're looking into that," Dickson added. "We're trying to make that a lot more flexible than it currently is."

The current policy, he said, requires that members must sign in their guests at recreation centers or golf courses, and then accompany them for the length of their visit. The rule, Dickson said, applies to guests of any age.

He said the tricky part of revising the policy will be enforcing it. He said he anticipates confrontations with residents who may argue why their 20-year-old guest isn't allowed to be alone on RCSC property when someone one year older is allowed.

"If you have a flat rule, it's easy to enforce," Dickson said. "With an age limit, there could be confrontational situations. We have to make sure we're not creating a nightmare for ourselves."

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

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, OCT. 30, AND SUNDAY, OCT. 31, 2004

SC rec centers add manager

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

James Wellman of Avondale will serve as the Recreation Centers of Sun City's new senior manager for centers operations starting Monday.

Wellman will take on a portion of what Earl Feierabend, former centers operations director, was responsible for before he resigned in May. During the transitional time this summer, the RCSC board opted to reorganize the centers into two divisions — centers management and business and accounting.

In his position, Wellman will be responsible for the centers management division, which includes building operations and maintenance, grounds maintenance, skilled trades and capital improvement projects for the seven recreation centers.

Wellman has more than 24 years of experience in facilities management, computer and telecommunications contracts, purchasing and communications installation.

"I'm looking forward to working in Sun City," said Wellman, who moved to Avondale from California about a year and a half ago. "The people have been very nice, and I think it'll work out really well."

With Wellman in place to lead the centers management division, the RCSC is still seeking someone to head up the business and accounting division as the senior manager for finance and administrative services.

The new business and accounting division will include accounting, membership, clubs, purchasing, communications, information systems, food services and bowling.

Jim Kuchler, RCSC president, said the senior manager for finance and administrative services position was offered to three candidates, but since no mutual agreements could be made on the terms of employment, the position has been re-posted as a vacancy, and the RCSC will again be accepting applications from qualified parties.

In the meantime, Kuchler, who has served as the interim director for both new divisions, will continue to fill the vacant position while preparing Wellman for his duties.

"We're fortunate to have him," Kuchler said of the new hire. "We were looking for someone to help lead the corporation in the years to come."

Annie Karstens may be reached at 876-2532 or at akarstens@aztrib.com

RCSC OKs short-term privilege cards

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Short-term visitors to Sun City can purchase a monthly pass to use recreation centers facilities.

The idea, representatives and supporters say, is to turn renters into residents by allowing them to check out the facilities without purchasing a one-year card.

"We felt we were losing a number of people who are renting other places, such as Sun City West, who do offer short-term cards," said Gene Westemeier, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board. "This will help give them an opportunity to see what Sun City has to offer."

The RCSC board of directors unanimously passed the motion at Thursday's regular board meeting.

The measure allows eligible people to

purchase a short-term Privilege card for 30, 60, or 90 days for \$60 a month, under the RCSC bylaws.

Residents who spoke to the board before the vote were mostly supportive.

Arvid Peterson, a real estate agent, said he and his wife, Kay, have seen most short-term renters become homeowners.

So offering the short-term cards is an incentive over the previous requirement for renters and short-term visitors to pay \$210 for a full-year membership.

"If you rent, you buy here," Peterson said. "Last year, we had five (clients) who rented in Sun City West and one in Sun City, and they all stayed (and became residents)."

Denny Nichols said he had concerns over the association losing money in the long-run by not collecting the annual fee for short-term visitors. He also ques-

tioned how charter clubs will be able to regulate membership.

Bottom line, Nichols said, is renters who are paying \$1,500 a month to stay in Sun City should be able to afford another \$200 for an RCSC card.

After the meeting, Kay Peterson said she was thrilled with the unanimously approved decision to offer the short-term cards.

"This is going to let people come here and rent and try out the fantastic facilities," she said. "And we see that those who rent purchase in those communities."

Privilege Cards provide access to RCSC facilities and activities but not the ability to vote in RCSC elections. Privilege Cards are an option for Sun City residents who meet the requirements outlined in Corporate Bylaws Article II Section 3 and Board Policy #8 - Privilege

Cardholders.

Although any Sun City resident who meets the qualifications for a Privilege Card may purchase one, these short-term cards will likely be a benefit to short-term residents who rent a home in Sun City for no more than three months and those who may wish to try out RCSC amenities before purchasing a home in Sun City.

Short-term Privilege Cards are available at Cardholder Services, on the lower level of Lakeview Recreation Center. If any resident is unsure whether they meet the qualifications, logon to www.sunaz.com and click on the Board tab to find links to the Corporate Bylaws and Board Policies, or call Cardholder Services at 623-561-4603.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

RCSC director resigns, board to appoint replacement

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Art Little has resigned from the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors after nearly five years.

At Monday's RCSC member/director exchange meeting, Little cited personal reasons for resignation. His position on the board will remain vacant until the remaining directors appoint a qualified Sun Citian to fill his seat, said Norm Dickson, RCSC president.



Little

"We're sorry to see him go," Dickson said. "He's given several years of service to Sun City, but I understand his reasons."

Little retired in 2000 as a publisher of a business-to-business trade magazine and, only a few months after his retirement, began serving on the RCSC board when he was appointed to fill a one-year term. He was re-elected in 2001, but resigned after seven months because of health problems. In 2002, he was re-elected.

During his years on the RCSC board, Little has served as president of the Sun City Foundation — a nonprofit organization that aids Sun Citians with proven financial deficiencies and encourages educational, cultural and enriching community

projects. He said he will remain on the board, but will step down as president.

In 2001, Little was the driving force behind the RCSC newsletter, SunViews, which is distributed to every home in Sun City and available at every recreation center. He also coordinated production of the Sun City Blue Book, a reference manual for residents and developed the RCSC Web site, www.sunaz.com. He has been chairman of the RCSC communications committee since 2003.

"It's been a good run," Little said. "I ran on the premise that I would increase member communication. This has been like a second life after I retired."

At Tuesday's meeting, Mildred Selinsky applauded Little for his years of service on the board.

"He's done a great job," Selinsky said. "He's meant a lot to Sun City. He spearheaded the SunViews and that really is fabulous."

"He will be missed," Dickson said. "He brings a lot of experience to the board. That kind of experience is difficult to replace."

Appointing a director to fill Little's vacancy could be a lengthy process, Dickson said. Sun Citians interested in being appointed to the board should have a background in business operations, accounting, construction or other related fields.

For information, call the RCSC board office at 876-3000.

RCSC staff can levy temporary suspensions on cardholders

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City passed two changes to its policies at Thursday's special evening meeting.

The board unanimously voted to approve an amendment by director Tom Loegering that gives senior management staff members with RCSC the power to suspend cardholders for 10 days in certain cases.

After a question arose about the policy from a member who attended the meeting, General Manager Jan Ek explained that the change comes because of a recent incident when an employee was threatened.

Ek said a cardholder threatened an employee with bodily harm, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office officer who responded to the incident could not remove the cardholder from the property because he was not trespassing.

Since the situation arose after regular hours, the management could not reach the board to request a suspension of the cardholder. Prior to Thursday's vote, the board president would appoint a hearing commission of three other directors to determine whether a cardholder should be suspended.

Ek, RCSC Assistant General Manager Jim Wellman, the director of support and services, the director of bowling operations, the director of human resources, and the controller will now be able to temporarily suspend cardholders or their guests in cases of

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RCSC

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danger or threat to any person or property.

Board president Vance Coleman told the crowd at Thursday's meeting that the newly formed government affairs committee would help RCSC work with MCSO in such situations.

The board also unanimously voted to form a marketing committee. Proposed by director Carole Martinez, the committee will make recommendations to the board about marketing Sun City as a premier retirement community.

April 27, 2005

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

RCSC, HOA iron out issues

Door of communication opened?

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

Sun City's two governing bodies failed to see eye-to-eye on issues brought up in a joint meeting meant to foster good will and communication.

The Sun City Home Owners Association Board of Directors, which has publicly complained

about a lack of cooperation, sought a meeting with the Recreation Centers of Sun City. RCSC does not agree a problem exists with the two entities.

"Sun City was built as a whole entity, not half and half," HOA Director Anne Corcoran said. "What we are asking you to help us with, we are getting negative responses. I don't hear compro-

mises...I'm just tired of it. We need to work together."

The two organizations finally met April 15 at the behest of the HOA, which brought three agenda items to the table.

HOA wants a non-voting seat on the RCSC board and vice-versa. It proposed to pay a service fee to RCSC to collect HOA non-mandatory membership

dues when it collects the mandatory rec fee dues each year and it asked for a "quarter column" of space for HOA news to be included in the monthly RCSC publication "Sun Views."

HOA and RCSC should appoint a representative, not an elected director, to sit on a permanent non-voting seat on each other's board, HOA President Tom Stolt said. And, he said, each organization should change its bylaws to reflect the

new positions to ensure they continue.

"I have a little problem with this," RCSC Board President Norm Dickson said. "It's a complete surprise to me and the board."

RCSC President Dickson referred to an HOA letter, which indicated each organization would invite a board member from the other side to participate

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in its monthly meetings as a non-voting member.

RCSC President Dickson said what HOA proposed at the meeting was more complex and significantly deviated from what was presented on the agenda. HOA President Stolt disagreed.

"We've had difficulties in the past communicating with each other," HOA President Stolt said. "I can't think of a better way than for members to be sitting on a board and reporting back what transpired."

RCSC President Dickson again insisted the proposal was not what was worded in the agenda.

"I didn't miss your point," HOA President Stolt said. "It is on the agenda. In our opinion it is."

HOA Director Phyllis Roach said the concern should not be that every detail be specific but for mutual board participation, which would bring the two groups closer.

RCSC President Dickson said newly appointed RCSC Director Jean Buck will do just that in her liaison position.

RCSC Director Gene Zylstra noted he sits on the HOA's Long Range Planning and Water committees.

There are plenty of opportunities of communication between the two groups, said RCSC President Dickson, who added he, too, served on the HOA Long Range Planning Committee last year.

HOA's two final proposals were basically shot down.

If RCSC were to add a line or two about HOA membership dues to its annual dues notices mailed to residents, it would save HOA time and expense, HOA President Stolt said.

"It doesn't seem like a workable thing," RCSC Director Ken Fold said.

He said residents would write one check out for both dues, which would result in a co-mingling of funds and if HOA were to dispute its membership dues, that would force RCSC to audit its books to show proof.

RCSC Director Jim Frederick also said it might be a little "deceitful" because residents may look at the bottomline and pay both dues, without intending to pay the non-mandatory HOA due. He also said it would cause RCSC to change its billing procedure.

"Why do you want to do it. To increase your membership?" questioned RCSC Director Gayle Schmidt.

HOA President Stolt said yes and it would save HOA a considerable expense. He asked for a one to two years trial run.

"Should we be the vehicle to help you get more members?" RCSC Director Schmidt said. "I can see where it's good for the HOA and more problems for RCSC."

"Do you have the infrastructure to do it?" HOA President Stolt said.

"That's not my point," she replied.

HOA Director Roach chimed in.

"Are you against us getting more membership?" she said. "That's a funny question. You are set up to do it. Just add a line or two."

RCSC President Dickson questioned the legality of co-mingling funds of two separate agencies.

"I'll sum it up by saying is it going to solve more problems or create more problems," he said. "I'll come down on it's going to create more problems."

When it came to "Sun Views," RCSC has printed articles for HOA when room was available, RCSC President Dickson said. Even with 16 pages, RCSC has to turn down clubs each month because there

is no space.

HOA President Stolt pointed to its neighbor to the west, where the Recreation Centers of Sun City West prints a full page for free in its monthly publication for PORA, HOA's counterpart.

"If we put on an extra page in 'Sun View' for HOA, your position would be then RCSC members should pick up that cost," RCSC President Dickson said. "To ask us to put out an extra page at extra cost is asking a lot."

He also said he thought RCSCW and PORA were connected in some legal way, which accounted for the publication.

PORA President Chuck Ullman, contacted later, said there were no legal ties between the two and a mutual agreement with RCSCW provided the free service to PORA at this time.

RCSC Director Zylstra said he didn't mind running news for HOA if room was available.

RCSC Director Schmidt acknowledge HOA was a "wonderful organization and yes we need it."

But it "seems to me HOA has a problem it can't solve and is looking at RCSC to solve it," she said.

"If you have a problem would you come to us for help? HOA Director Anne Corcoran said.

"I doubt it," RCSC Director Schmidt said.

"I rest my case," HOA's Corcoran said.

HOA Director Marge Murphy asked RCSC directors if they did not feel that HOA news would benefit residents.

Yes, it does but so do news from the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City, PRIDE, the library and other community groups that help people, RCSC President Dickson said.

RCSC Director Zylstra asked if the legality issue of co-mingling of funds could be resolved so RCSC can help HOA but was told too many other problems existed for the rec center to collect HOA dues.

RCSC Director Schmidt suggested a few members from each board meet to come to some sort of agreement.

RCSC President Dickson said the two organizations have worked successfully together, including holding joint board elections and the residents orientations and should build upon the positives.

"What we are going through is not an adversarial, confrontational discussion," he said, directing his comments to the audience and media. "Each organization has different goals, needs and objectives and each of us has to be responsible to the group we represent. I don't want a negative connotation put on this. We can disagree with dignity."

Gerry Unger, who sat on both boards and currently serves as an HOA advisor, recommended RCSC seriously consider the suggestion of creating a non-voting seat on the board for HOA.

"It would be a real advantage," he said.

Art Williams, who served as RCSC President in 1994, blasted the directors.

"I was disappointed at this meeting at the expression of animosity by both sides," Mr. Williams said. "I didn't think it was necessary and not conducive to getting anything resolved."

He said as RCSC president he often held lunch meetings with the HOA president.

"We didn't accomplish very much," said Mr. Williams, who also was an HOA director. "But we had thoughtful conversation on how to cooperate for the betterment of the entire community because both boards affect every member of the community. Your clientele are the same people. You should not be fighting. You should agree once in awhile"

He said both groups needed to get their houses in order.

HOA Director Jim Corcoran

was hopeful after the meeting.

"If it opens the door to further discussions and better communication not only I but I'm sure many others on the Home Owners Association Board would be in favor of that."

Post your comments on this issue at newsblog.info/0302

News editor Cecilia Chan can be reached at 972-6101 or cchan@newszap.com

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

May 25, 2005

RCSC looks at spousal clause

More restrictive card criteria propose

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

Homeowner and resident Joe Biver is a full-fledged member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City for the past 12 years, entitled to vote in its elections.

However, a proposed bylaw change to restrict who is eligible for a Membership Card would prohibit him from casting another ballot until he reaches 55.

"I am one of the people in your crosshairs," said Mr. Biver, 51, at last week's directors-members exchange meeting. "If this goes through my Membership Card would be revoked. I don't want to give up my right to vote. It's the only way to influence the

board."

Current bylaws states homeowners 55 and older who live in Sun City qualify for a Membership Card, which allows them to use the rec facilities, vote and run for the RCSC Board.

And those under 55 and older than 19, like Mr. Biver, also get a Membership Card, if at least one resident is 55 years or older and living in the household. Mr. Biver's 82-year-old disabled mother, Ruth, lives with him.

Mr. Biver, however, was told RCSC erred in giving him a Membership Card in the first place and that he should have received a Privilege Card, which allows him access to the rec facilities but not vote or run for office.

Under the proposal, Mr. Biver, and other underage resident owners, would need to be married to a qualifying homeowner in order to get a Membership Card.

"You can still participate in the clubs," Director Ken Fold told Mr. Biver. "You just can't vote or sit up here on the board."

Bonnie Sanders, president of the Handicapables Club, said children who cared for their parents would be banned from using the rec facilities under the proposal but was told the Privilege Card addressed her concerns.

"Hopefully when you finally pass it and implement the policy you will look at the caregivers," said Mr. Biver, who became emotional in

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Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan
Joe Biver and his mother, Ruth, have lived in Sun City for 12 years. Mr. Biver worries he might lose his right to vote under proposed bylaw changes.

OVER

RCSC

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relating how living in Sun City kept his mother alive for the past 12 years. "We are not saying those not on the deeds or the ones who move in with their parents to find themselves."

Mr. Biver, asked the board of directors to consider grandfathering in current Membership Card holders.

Board President Norm Dickson said they would need to check into that request.

"You made a very good presentation and gave us things we need to look at," Mr. Dickson said. "You bring up valid points."

Keith Dare, 52, said he and business partner John Bozek, 58, both own a home together.

"I'm on the deed," Mr. Dare said. "I am suppose to have voting rights."

Mr. Dickson said the amendments are subject to change until the board votes on it.

Anne Randall Stewart, who often challenges the board, spoke out against the proposal to require underage residents to be a "spousal owner" to qualify for the right to vote.

"This is discrimination against unmarried partners, whether homosexual or heterosexual," said Ms. Randall Stewart, who is married. "If you are not married, you can't vote to protect your property rights. My concern is taking away property rights by legislating morals."

She noted she would post her

Proposed amendments:

Article II, Section 1A: To qualify for a Membership Card, a member or member representative must be 55 years of age or older and reside **on** or occupy the **Sun City** lot as **his/her primary Arizona residence**. If a **spousal owner** is under 55 years of age, he/she must not be under 19 years of age, and must reside in Sun City as **his/her primary Arizona residence**, and provided further that at least one **owner**, 55 years of age or older, occupies the property at the same time.

Article II, Section 2 (a) Privileges of members shall be to vote, to hold office, **if 55 years of age or older**, and to use all available facilities, subject to the Articles of Incorporation, Corporate Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Board Policies of the Corporation, to become members of the clubs of the corporation and to participate in the activities of said clubs. Members shall have certain guest privileges as provided in the Rules and Regulations and Board Policies of the Corporation.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors will vote on the amendments 9 a.m. May 26 at Sundial Auditorium, Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue.

comments on her group's Web site and was told by Mr. Dickson she was out of order for mentioning an organization not part of the association.

"You will not be warned again," he told her.

The proposal also would require homeowners who live in Arizona full or part time to live primarily in Sun City in order to get a Membership Card. And members must be 55 in order to run for the board.

"We have numerous people buying property here who live in Peoria and Glendale and they use our rec centers," Director Nadine Meis said.

Mr. Dickson later said the corporation's bylaws is a living document that changes with time.

"It has been changed many times over the years," he said. "And what we are trying to do is adhere to the principles Sun City was founded under, a retirement community for those 55

and older."

Mr. Dickson also said questions regarding if underage, unmarried owner residents would need to move once the qualifying homeowner dies was something for the Sun City Home Owners Association to address.

"We don't get into who gets to live here, just who gets Membership Cards," he said.

In order for Sun City to keep its senior citizens overlay and meet federal housing requirements, 80 percent of the homes must have a at least one resident 55 or older and no resident under 18.

Director Jim Kuchler said 90 percent of the households in Sun City meet the standard.

Post your comments on this issue at newsblog.info/0302

News editor Cecilia Chan can be reached at 972-6101 or cchan@newszap.com

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

January 21, 2004

CARD AND LOT FEES

RCSC raises rate for singles, others

By Geno Lawrenzi
Independent Newspapers

Richard Paveglio is upset and he does not care who knows it.

It bothers the Sun City resident that people who purchased their homes after Feb. 2, 2003, must pay higher per lot assessment fees than those who lived in the community previously.

In a letter to the Independent newspapers, Mr. Paveglio pointed out the following:

- Under new rules, buyers will pay a mandatory annual per lot assessment of \$300 on the purchase, acquisition or transfer of property.

- As of Feb. 1, 2004, recreation card fees will be raised to \$330 for singles and \$165 for all others.

"This is an unfair fee (for single owners)," said Mr. Paveglio. "(It represents) an unfair double fee for singles and may be in violation of state and federal unfair pricing laws. This fee definitely discriminates against single owners, the majority of whom are women and can least afford higher rates."

He claimed the fee schedule also violates Sun City



Lawn bowling attracts as many women as it does men. Dorothy Hallas and Marge Vandergiessen show their style at Bell Lawn Bowl Club where they are members. Lessons are free at the Sun City Lawn Bowls Clubs. For more information, call 876-9141 or 933-5848.

bylaws and cites Article 8, Section 5, which states, "All members shall have equal rights and privileges and shall be subject to equal responsibilities."

If other property is or was owned within the past 12 months, excluding investors, the buyer will be

"grandfathered in under the \$150 per person fee structure," said Mr. Paveglio, who was self-employed prior to his retirement.

Mr. Paveglio has printed an information sheet for res-

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DYER

Fees

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idents who bought their homes after Feb. 2, 2003, which urges them to go to the Sun City Recreation Center office at Lakeview Recreation Center and request a refund of \$150 on grounds the charge is unfair.

"The present fee schedule is unfair because it discriminates against widows, widowers and all singles," he said. "This is the group with the highest medical costs, lowest income and the group who use the facilities the least."

He noted as of Feb. 2, 2003, two owners would pay \$300 for a pair of recreation cards, while a single owner would pay \$300 for one card. If a spouse dies, the survivor would become the single

owner and pay the double fee for one card.

He wants the recreation board to write a new fee schedule that is fair.

If the board refuses, Mr. Pavaglio said he will urge residents to band together as a class and put up the money to hire an attorney.

He said residents can get a list of new home buyers by calling John Wake at (480) 596-3851, or tap into the Web site at homesalenews.com.

If all else fails, Mr. Pavaglio said he will form a citizens' committee to elect a board of new directors who support the old fee schedule.

The fee was changed from a per person to a per lot basis on assessment so the corporation would have a better idea as to what the revenues would be, said Jim Kuchler, president of the RCSC board

of directors.

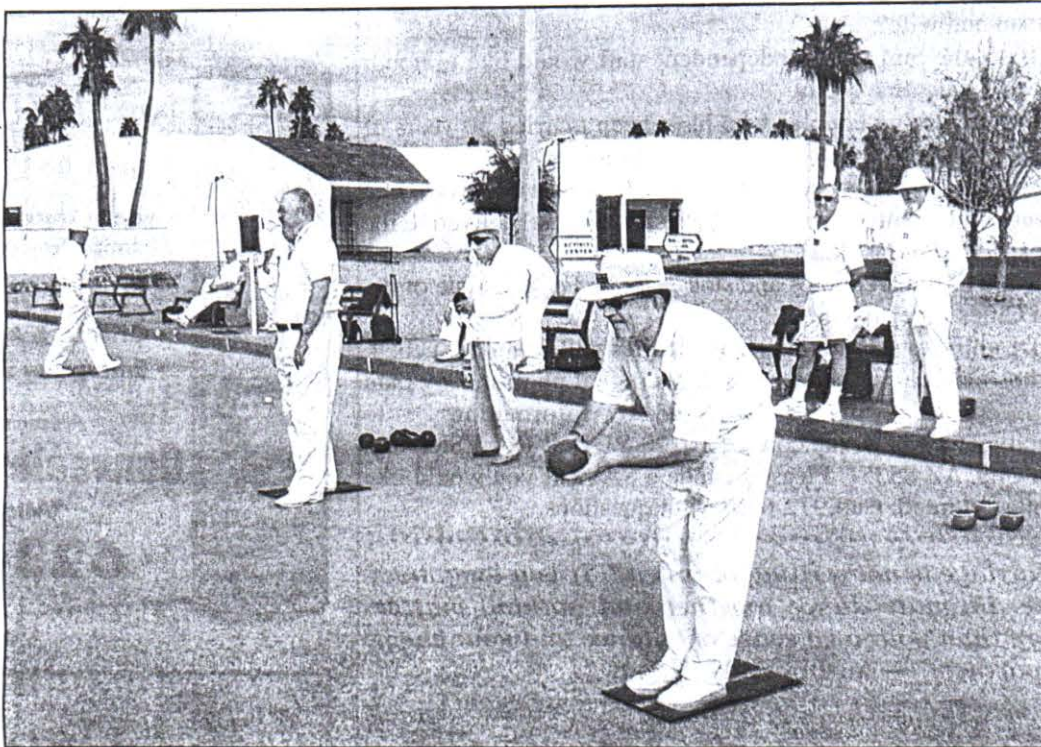
"We know how many lots there are but we don't know how many people," he added. "As for the charges of being unfair, we grandfathered the current residents into the new system of per lot. If there was a single person living on a lot, that person continued paying \$150 a year at that time. This year, we raised the assessment to \$330 per lot or \$165 per person if they were under the old system."

"This protects the single person from having to pay a double fee. We feel it is a fair way of assessing fees."

In 1961, the community association charged \$40 per

lot. A year later, it was changed to a per person basis and the per lot assessment remained that way until 1992 with the dollar amount going up to meet rising costs.

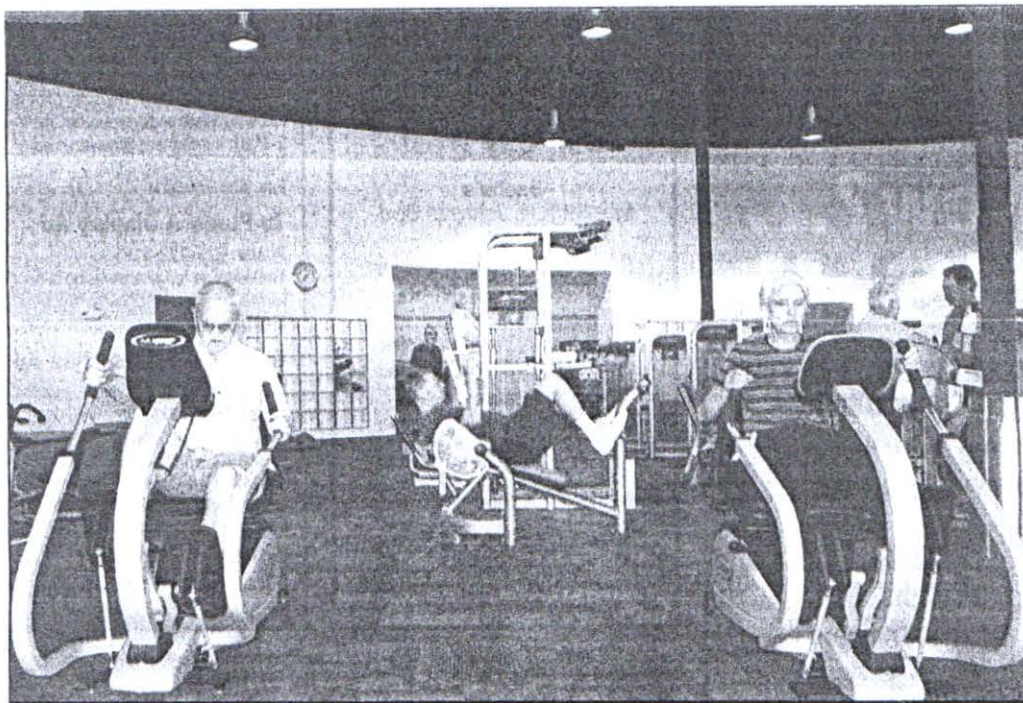
"To my knowledge, this is the first time anyone has challenged the legality of our fee process," said Mr. Kuchler, a retired U.S. Air Force Major.



Photos by Geno Lawrenzi/Independent Newspapers

George Tucker lines up for a roll at the Bell Lawn Bowl Club. Like his fellow members, Mr. Tucker enjoys the fresh outdoor atmosphere, the sociability and the challenge of beating his fellow bowlers. As of Feb. 1, recreation card fees will be raised to \$330 for singles and \$164 for all others.

On the Move: Seniors become more active



Independent Newspapers/Zach Colick

Sun Citians gather Oct. 26 in the newly remodeled weight room at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave. More baby boomers and elderly are leading more active lives, according to Recreation Centers of Sun City officials.

RCSC caters to health-conscious crowd

By Zach Colick

Independent Newspapers

For many Sun Citians, the old adage that "an active mind is a healthy mind" may need to be tweaked to a different mantra: An active body is a healthy body.

This sentiment may better represent the thousands who frequent Sun City's seven recreation centers, according to some, as retired baby boomers and elderly are leading more active lives than their counterparts a decade ago in the oft-maligned quiet retirement community.

That was not always the case, according to Sun Citian Bob Smith, who frequents the newly remodeled Bell Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave. He said many of the amenities available today in Sun City were not there 10 to 20 years ago.

Equipment was minimal and, as more active baby boomers moved into Sun City, a change was needed to refurbish area rec centers from antiquity to modernity.

"More people are attuned to exercise these days, leading them to a better quality of life," said Sun Citian Glen Baumbach.

"Whether that extends their longevity, I don't know," he

What do you think?

Has the face of Sun City changed and are more people active?

- Public forums
<http://www.newszapforums.com>
- 24-hour Speak Out line
623-445-2892
- E-mail
suncitynews@newszap.com

joked.

Regardless, the RCSC said they are attuned to resident's needs and wants.

RCSC Board President Don Schordje said more workout equipment has been implemented within the past 10 years, first at Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave., in 1996, to accommodate the younger, spryer generation coming into Sun City.

Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitor's Center, said Sun City has a wide array of residents, but the reasons for many moving to the sprawling West Valley has not changed since the planned community's inception close to 50 years ago.

"This is the best value for retirement living," he said.

While he admits the face of Sun City has remained intact, Mr. Herrmann agrees more and more people are health conscious. They move here for the rec centers and the proximity of the two Sun Health hospitals — Sun Health Boswell Hospital, 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd., and Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital, 14502 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West.

"This is all very appealing to seniors," he said.

Simply put, seniors are not slowing down, President Schordje said.

They are getting more weight conscious and want to keep their bodies in shape as pickleball and tennis courts, and walking pools are more and more in demand.

"The activities we offer are clearly changing," President Schordje said.

He said the RCSC responds to residents' needs and wants to stay "competitive."

"The generation before simply didn't have these services available to them," President Schordje said.

In 2004, 282,812 residents exercised or swam at one of the seven RCSC facilities and

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Seniors

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259,812 residents did so last year. The drop-off was due in part to renovations at Bell Center, President Schordje said.

Mr. Smith noted the RCSC has listened to residents concerns and have gotten with the times.

A suggestion box, introduced this year, gives RCSC feedback from its patronage.

"There has been a 100 percent change for the better with bigger

and better equipment," Mr. Smith said, adding treadmills, bicycles and elliptical machines are welcomed additions.

Exercise, by way of aerobics and weight lifting, as well as swimming at the newly renovated and modernized Bell Center, is behind why Elaine and Jimmy Robinson moved to Sun City more than a year ago.

Mr. Robinson said he can attest staying active has paid monumental dividends.

By working out a few times a week on a treadmill, elliptical

machine or lifting weights, he has helped to both lower his blood pressure and lose weight.

"It has helped increase my stamina," Mr. Robinson said. "Staying active keeps you young."

His wife, meanwhile, says she takes greater advantage of Bell Center's aquatic activities, although the indoor accommodations at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., is something she misses.

The outdoor walking pool at Bell Center has been a salvation for Mrs. Robinson, who appreciates

the relaxing, calm atmosphere the pool delivers as there is no interference from swimmers kicking up water or getting in her way.

"If these amenities were not available, we wouldn't be here," she said. "The water takes pressure off my joints."

While efforts to modernize rec center fitness rooms have been made during the past decade, RCSC clubs have remained relatively the same, according to Cheryl Johnson, the RCSC's clubs and activities supervisor.

"Clubs used to run from 9 to 4,"

Mr. Herrmann said. "Now, there are more options available at night, even speaking engagements in the evening.

All clubs must have 50 members to be operational, but some have folded entirely due to a lack of interest. Lapidary and silver craft clubs still thrive, and lawn bowling and pickleball have gained popularity recently, Ms. Johnson said.

"There are new interests out there," she said of the newly chartered clubs. "A lot of new clubs are

busy and are promoting themselves."

Lagging membership caused other clubs, like the bridge, silver and lapidary, and Oakmont and Sundial's men's clubs, to merge together — creating much stronger club leaderships, Ms. Johnson said.

"People want to stay active and the RCSC is here to help them achieve that goal," she said.

Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forums at newszap.com. News Editor Zach Colick can be reached at 972-6101 or zcolick@newszap.com.

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 52, No. 7

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

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**YOUR
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VF SC - Recreation Centers - Independent 2.22.12



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Sun City resident Jan Seidner, left, works on a sculpture at Marinette Clay Corner while Beryl Hilliard and Jim Warzon, in background, work on a bowl. The sanctioned clubs are just a sampling of what visitors can experience while renting in Sun City while deciding whether or not to buy a home in the community.

'Stay and play' promotes Sun City

RCSC marketing committee discussing merits of program

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City take on the movie line, "Build it, and they will come," is "Get them here, and they will buy."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City marketing committee, as part of its research of ways to promote the community, initiated discussion on a "stay and play" concept that plans to give people a chance to see what Sun City has to offer in hopes they will purchase a home. The concept is in the early discussion stages and may be years away from implementation, according to Bill Pearson, RCSC board and marketing committee member.

"The marketing committee was the impetus

If You Go

RCSC marketing committee

1 p.m. Tuesday, March 20

Upper level board room at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

of this idea," he said. "But there is still a lot of discussion yet to be had before the details are all fleshed out."

The concept is similar to Del Webb's original "stay and buy" and John Meeker's "planned stay" programs employed in the early- to mid-1960s that led to a rapid increase in Sun City home sales.

"When Meeker's planned stay program started, 50 percent of the homes sold were through this program," Mr. Pearson explained.

The concept would allow visitors to rent prop-

erties in Sun City on a short-term basis and have access to the community amenities. It would provide them an opportunity to experience the full Sun City lifestyle, Mr. Pearson added.

Residents have mixed feelings about the proposal, but some who support it have reservations. Kenneth Gegg does not believe there is a market for this type of rental in Sun City, but Diane Guzman agrees the concept should be pursued. If it is, Ms. Guzman suggests recreation cards with a different look and possibly even a bar code type identifier that can be scanned. Barbara Chait believes if properties are to be rented they should be monitored to make sure occupants are retirees and properties are rented for at least a few month.

Sharon Klemm believes a "stay and play" program would be more headaches than it is

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Play

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worth.

"It would be like running a motel or resort, and that is not what the RCSC was set up to do," she stated in an e-mail.

Lee Krieling agrees.

"Promoting Sun City is a useful thing, but is it part of RCSC's charter?" Mr. Krieling asked in an e-mail.

Mr. Pearson said RCSC and Sun City Visitors Center officials are working together to revamp and integrate their Web sites. The Visitors Center would continue to be the lead agency in community promotion outside the area, while RCSC would continue facilities management and member communication inside the community.

Part of a "stay and play" program would identify rentals that were available for shorter terms and promote those through the Web sites, Mr. Pearson explained.

"There are a lot of rentals in Sun City, but few want to rent for a month or less," he said. "Most want at least six months."

Carole Martinez, RCSC board member and marketing committee chairwoman, said in the Feb. 6 members/directors exchange meeting 2-3 day rental periods were discussed. Resident Karen Schuerman said in the same meeting that any rentals under a "stay and play" program should be owned by RCSC. However, other residents disagree.

Ms. Guzman believes RCSC rental ownership would be a conflict of interest, while Ms. Chait believes the corporation should not take on residential property maintenance.

"There would be upkeep, and you would need people to show and rent out the properties," Ms. Klemm stated.

Beryl Cropley suggests a different approach to ownership or working with realtors to find available rentals.

"If there is such an unfilled demand for trial of the facilities, RCSC could form a cad-

re (club) of eager members who would be willing to escort and sign in such explorers on their personal cards," she stated in an e-mail.

Resident Norm Philking suggested in the Feb. 6 exchange meeting there are plenty of rentals available for visitors wanting to check out Sun City's amenities.

"There's the Motel 6 and Best Western right on Grand Avenue," he said.

However, Mr. Pearson believes to get the full Sun City experience, prospective buyers should have the opportunity to stay within the community to give them a chance to interact with neighbors more frequently.

"When they stay in motels, you don't see them much outside the times they are in the facilities," he said. "It's not the same as being within the walls."

Mr. Pearson believes the "stay and play" program would help boost home sales, which in turn would increase property values. He is convinced the program would entice buyers because it was his own experience.

"If you had asked me the day before I came to visit my parents if I would buy here, my answer would have been no way," he said. "But the day after arriving I said this is where I wanted to retire."

He said that reversal of philosophy is repeated to him by many community newcomers. Mr. Pearson believes Sun City offers the best value for homeowners with a \$440 per year property assessment for seven recreation centers, eight golf courses and various other amenities. Newer age-restricted communities have a single recreation center and golf course, and the course is not community owned, he added.

However, resident Mike Bennett believes there is a better way to increase home sales in the community.

"If you really want to sell more houses in Sun City, lower the RCSC fees," he stated in an e-mail. "They drive many potential buyers away."

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

New Directors Elected; Board to appoint this month



Carole Martinez



Linda Lindquist



Bill Pearson

RCSC Members elected three candidates to the Board of Directors in the December 13 election. Results are as follows:

- Bill Pearson: 454
- Linda Lindquist: 423
- Carole Martinez: 385

Members cast a total 1,262 ballots, which includes absentee ballots and those cast on Election Day. The three new directors will be installed at the December 22 Board Meeting and officially take over their duties on January 1. All three will serve three-

see ELECTION on Page 2

ELECTION: Board to fill vacancy

continued from Page 1

year terms.

The remaining vacancy on the Board will be filled by an appointment in January 2012. Application packets for qualified Members who are interested in an appointment are available at the Board Office. Interested applicants must pick up their own packet and produce a valid Member card. Packets need to be completed and returned to the Board Office no later than Friday, December 30.

Requirements for an appointment:

- Must be at least 55 years of age;
- Must be a deeded real estate owner of property in Sun City, Maricopa County, Arizona
- Must be a resident of Sun City for a minimum of two years prior to December 1, 2011
- Must be a Member in good standing;
- Must reside in Sun City, Arizona and be available at least ten months of the year;
- Must meet the requirement to hold an Arizona liquor license; and
- Must be eligible and available to serve for the year 2012

For further information, please contact the Board Office at 623-561-4620.

RCSC, county have optimistic view

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Despite an economy that continues to struggle, Recreation Centers of Sun City and Maricopa County's District 4 are on a solid financial footing going into a new year.

While county government suffered setbacks when state legislators cut shared revenue and passed on some costs to the county during the

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past two years, that appears to be over, according to Max Wilson, District 4 supervisor. But while the economy is expected to make slow improvements, falling property values will pose

a challenge for everyone, he added.

As with the rest of the Valley, Sun City home sales remain well below the high sales marks of five years ago. But RCSC officials took steps in 2011, to increase its revenues and is building stronger reserves to address future facility needs.

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View

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RCSC

The RCSC preservation and improvement fee was increased to \$3,000 and that resulted in a more than 40 percent increase in the fund over last year.

That increase prompted the RCSC board to begin setting aside \$500,000 per year for 10 years into a separate capital improvement reserve fund, with the first installment made Jan. 1. The idea is to build a reserve to cover emergency situations, such as the Sundial roof collapse, instead of using general operating funds.

"When we did that (used general funds for Sundial) we had to defer a lot of maintenance to all the facilities," said Gene Westmeier during a board meeting earlier in 2011. "We can't afford to do that again."

The board's biggest challenge for 2012 will be seating four new members, according to Carole Martinez, a board incumbent who was re-elected. However, there were only three candidates for four spots, which means the extended challenge is to increase volunteerism and membership involvement

View

Continued From Page 6

and participation in committees, according to Jan Ek, RCSC general manager.

While RCSC voters did elect three members to the board, there are still two vacancies to fill — the seat not filled in the election and the seat vacated when Jim Bishop died in December.

Ms. Martinez stated in an e-mail that seating new board members will bring a new perspective along with new challenges.

"The RCSC needs to step up and create an atmosphere of accepting and meeting challenges head on, keeping members informed, and finding new and creative ways to relay information to the membership," she stated.

In addition to its other communication tools, she believes some evening, casual meetings can help get a pulse of what the working adults feel about the community, retirement and the board. She also suggested an outreach program to some of the assisted living communities within Sun City. "These folks have great ideas as well," she stated.

Ms. Martinez foresees reconsideration of amending bylaws to allow two rec cards per

household for deeded owners. She believes the late 2011 attempt was too confusing.

"This bylaw change is not asking for a change, it is actually asking for the bylaws to be returned to the way that they were in 2005," she stated.

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RCSC adds \$12 to property assessment

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors approved a \$12 increase in property assessments Thursday, effective Feb. 1.

The \$432 per property assessment will rise to \$444 per

year and to \$222 per year on the per person assessment. The yearly privilege card cost would increase to \$222.

While several residents in attendance expressed their displeasure over the increase, saying that even that small amount can be damaging for

someone already struggling to pay their bills, others, such as Ben Roloff, said it is better to have a small increase now than a significant rise down the road.

"I didn't come to thank you for raising my assessments," Roloff said. "But I do want to

thank you for recognizing the reality of increased costs."

The increased assessment will help RCSC cover rising costs, such as the utility rate increases, but money used for property improvements such

SEE ASSESSMENT, A5

ASSESSMENT

FROM A1

as the new facilities at Fairway Recreation Center comes from the Preservation and Improvements Fund, which is paid into by new home buyers.

To the naysayers, Coleman suggested joining one of the organization's committees to help them make decisions that will be best for the community.

The board also approved the new 2012 budget and planned projects for the PIF fund, which include an overhaul of the irrigation system at the Lakes West golf course, the "much awaited" expansion to the Bell Recreation Center metal and wood club workshop, and an irriga-

tion remodel at the Sunbowl, which will include the creation of a dog park.

The other motions approved by the board Thursday include a matching contribution proposal for employee 401(k) savings, small wording changes to changes to Board Policy 17 regarding the golf, and a \$2,000 donation to the Sun City Posse for its assistance in property security at RCSC.

The RCSC board also swore in three new members after the elections earlier this month, welcoming Bill Pearson and Linda Lindquist as new directors, and Carole Martinez, who was re-elected.

"On behalf of all of us, I wish you success in this undertaking," Coleman said.

Current board members Tom

Loegering, Gene Westemeier, and Carey Shore end their terms at the end of this month, and said farewell to the RCSC staff and the rest of the board.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve on this board," Loegering said.

"I think the future for Sun City is bright," Westemeier added in his goodbye.

There are now two open spots on the board, and members of the community can apply for the appointed positions by filling out candidate packets available at the Lakeview Recreation Center board office, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.. Packets are due by Dec. 30.

Nora Avery-Page can be reached at 623-876-3691 or naverypage@yourwestvalley.com.

RCSC sets up expense fund

STAFF REPORT

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board recently adopted several policy changes, including one that establishes a fund to pay for unforeseen expenses.

Director Gene Westemeier made motion at Thursday's regular board meeting that starting in January, \$500,000 be transferred from the Preservation and Improvement Fund to a capital reserves account.

The transfers would take place annually and continue each year until the account reaches a \$5 million balance.

Westemeier said the funds would be saved in case of major projects related to a "catastrophe" such as the collapse of the Sundial Recreation Center roof several years ago.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

The board also OK'd director Dan Hill's recommendations to change board policy 22 regarding refunds. One of the changes states that if within 90 days of the purchase of an annual golf pass/permit the permit holder becomes unable to golf due to medical reasons and can show written verification from a doctor, they will be issued a 50 percent refund of their annual golf pass/permit.

In other business, the board approved:

- Director Carole Martinez's proposal to change policy 10 that "except where specifically stated otherwise,

FROM A1

anyone using RCSC facilities with open sores, wounds, skin irritations, or any other such abnormal condition must have them completely enclosed in bandages."

- Director Larry Klein's request to charter a new ukulele club.

To view the meeting minutes, management reports and the board policies, visit www.sunaz.com.

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RCSC opens Fairway for tours of completed section

STAFF REPORT

After a project delay that kept the second phase of Fairway Recreation Center from opening on schedule this summer, the final part of the center will be open today.

Recreation Centers of Sun City personnel, including assistant general manager Jim Wellman, will be on hand to walk people around the new facility beginning at 10 a.m. Cardholders are also invited to take self-guided tours throughout the

new section of the center.

Maricopa County issued a temporary certificate of occupancy to RCSC because there remains a handful of minor items to be completed, including installation of the sails over the swimming pool. RCSC officials said those final details will be completed as quickly as possible over the next several weeks.

The new phase will officially open for general use at 2 this afternoon.

RCSC officials clarify amendments

By Tim Gallen

Special to the Independent

As Recreation Centers of Sun City officials continue to consider bylaw changes regarding rec cards, they received numerous questions about the proposals.

To help clarify residents' confusion, RCSC officials included some examples to help illustrate the intent of the each proposed change.

Under existing bylaws, spouses of qualifying owners can be issued a member card, with voting rights, as part of the annual property assessment. That spouse must be 19 or older and occupy the home with the qualifying owner. If the qualifying owner no longer occupies the home, the spouse is no longer eligible for a card.

A qualifying owner is a deeded owner of the property who lives in the home and is 55

or older.

Regardless of assessment basis, only up to two cards can be provided as a part of the annual property assessment. All underage owners who are not spouses must purchase a privilege card in order to use the RCSC facilities.

For example, if a 50-year-old daughter who lives with a parent in a Sun City property and both are deeded owners of the property and the annual property assessment of \$432 is paid for the property, the daughter is not eligible for a member card because she is an underage owner who is not a spouse of the qualifying owner. Only one card may be issued for the parent. If the daughter wants to use RCSC facilities or participate in RCSC

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Bylaws

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clubs, she must purchase a privilege card for an additional \$216 for the year.

The proposed change for underage owners, regardless of marital status, who occupy the Sun City property with a qualifying owner is they may be issued a member card, with voting rights, as a part of the annual property assessment. However, according to the Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance creating the "Senior Citizen Overlay," if the qualifying owner no longer occupies the Sun City property, the non-spouse underage owner is no longer eligible to reside in the Sun City property and cannot obtain a RCSC member card.

For example, the 50-year-old daughter living with a parent is eligible for a member card, with voting rights, because she occupies the Sun City property with the qualifying owner and is a deeded owner. If the parent no longer resides in the Sun City property, the daughter may not continue to reside in the property.

The existing bylaw for spouses who are not deeded owners allows them to purchase a privilege card, with no voting privileges, in order to use the RCSC facilities.

For example, with a 70-year-old wife living with her husband but is not a deeded owner with a \$432 property assessment, only the husband is eligible for a member card because his family trust, which was formed to benefit his family of a previous marriage, does not include his current

wife. If the wife wants to use RCSC facilities or participate in RCSC clubs, she must purchase a privilege card for an additional \$216 for the year.

The proposed change would allow non-deeded spouses to receive a free Privilege card, with no voting privileges, that the assessment is on a per property basis and that only one member card has been issued to the qualifying spousal owner. Documentation of marriage is required.

For example, the 70-year-old wife is eligible for a free privilege card but not eligible to vote as long as husband's member card is the only other card issued for the property and documentation of marriage is provided.

The existing bylaw for lifetime use allows people granted lifetime use to purchase a privilege card, with no voting rights, to use the facilities. Eligibility for lifetime use includes not being a deeded but occupying a Sun City property, 55 or older or living with someone 55 or older.

For example, a 60-year-old non-deeded widow living in a Sun City home under her deceased husband's trust, which provided for the lifetime use of the property by the widow, with a \$432 annual assessment must purchase a \$216 annual privilege card to use the RCSC facilities.

The proposed change would allow the widow to have a free privilege card, provided the property is assessed per property and only two cards, member or privilege, may be issued. Documentation of lifetime use granted is required.

Editor's Note: Mr. Gallen is RCSC communications coordinator.

RCSC seeks input on member cards

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors is asking for help from members about possible changes to the corporate bylaws and rules involving member cards.

The proposed changes would modify the bylaws in regards to underage owners, whether or not they are the spouse of a qualifying owner,

spouses who are not deeded owners, and lifetime use cards.

Detailed explanations of the changes were discussed at Thursday's board meeting and are available online at www.sunaz.com.

"We have not made up our mind," board president Vance Coleman said during the meeting. "We need your help making up our minds."

Currently, underage owners who are spouses of a qualifying, of-age owner can receive a member card, and are eligible to vote, as a part of the annual property assessment. But all underage owners who are not spouses must purchase a privilege card to use the RCSC facilities.

Under the proposed changes, underage owners,

regardless of marital status, who live in a Sun City home with a qualifying owner, such as a daughter living with her mother, would also be eligible for a member card as part of the \$432 annual assessment, rather than having to pay an extra \$216 a year for a privilege card.

That non-spouse owner,

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www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Death Notices/From A1

A5

CARDS

FROM A1

however, would not be allowed to continue to occupy the Sun City residence if the qualifying owner no longer lived there as well, such as in the case of death or long-term medical relocation, according to the Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance creating the "Senior Citizen Overlay."

In the case of 55-year-old

or older spouses who are not deeded owners of a Sun City residence, the current bylaws state they may purchase a privilege card if living with a qualifying owner.

The possible changes would allow that undeeded spouse to qualify for a free privilege card with documentation of marriage, as long as the property assessments are paid on a per property basis and only one member card has been issued.

In RCSC's example, a 70-year-old wife lives with

her husband in his Sun City home, but she is not a deeded owner because she is not included on a trust formed for her husband's family from a previous marriage. The proposed changes would allow the wife to receive a free privilege card, but not have voting rights.

The final possible change deals with lifetime use rights for people who are not deeded owners, but living with a qualifying owner.

At present, a person can be granted lifetime use to

access the RCSC facilities if they are of-age themselves or living with a qualifying owner. However, a 60-year-old widow living in the Sun City home owned by her deceased husband's family trust still must purchase a privilege card even if the trust provides for lifetime use of the property to the widow.

The changes would allow that widow to receive a free privilege card as long as the property assessments are up to date, and only two cards, either member or privilege

are issued for the property.

RCSC board member Gene Westemeier stressed the importance of these issues and encouraged discussion from residents at Thursday's board meeting.

"Before we go to a motion, we want to have more meetings on this," he said.

For information on the bylaws and the possible changes, visit the RCSC website, www.sunaz.com, or contact the board office at 623-561-4620 or email at boardoffice@sunaz.com.

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GETTING TO KNOW US



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

This inviting scene of Viewpoint Lake and beyond was taken from the top of Boswell Memorial Hospital.

Sun City organizations invite 2,600 new residents to orientation meeting

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Thousands of new Sun City residents are invited to learn about their community, what it stands for and what it means to be a Sun Citian.

Local governing boards, clubs and organizations are responding to a surge of newcomers by offering a New Member Orientation to acquaint them with retirement-community lifestyle by invitation only.

More than 2,600 new

residents will receive an invitation to the orientation at Sundial auditorium in late February to hear presentations and visit tables set up by the different organizations to showcase their services and what their groups contribute to Sun City, said Phyllis Roach, chairwoman of the Sun City Home Owners Association membership committee and co-chair of the public-relations committee.

Two years ago, 500 new residents were invited and 200 attended an

orientation, limited to highlighting the recreation centers.

"Just doing it for the recreation centers was kind of singular," said Art Little, director on the Recreation Centers of Sun City board and member of the community information-exchange committee.

"We felt it was important to get the whole community involved, not just one entity."

In addition to the RCSC, the HOA, PRIDES, Visitor's Center, fire district and

Sun Health are among the organizations to be represented at the event.

Roach encouraged her fellow HOA board members to attend and act as resources for newcomers who may not be familiar with documents such as CC&Rs or what the association offers to the community.

"We should be there not only to listen, but to provide an opportunity for new people to have one-on-one

See ORIENTATION, A5

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interaction with us," Roach said. "Some newcomers have no idea what existed for them when they bought their house, this is their opportunity to find out. They'll discover a lot."

There was no orientation last year, mainly because the coordinator, Steve Wohlbruck, passed away, Little said. The event is a big undertaking, and the resources needed to put it on was hard to find last year, he said.

"We had to develop a momentum. The energy came from HOA, and we've all been working on this orientation since last October," Little said. "We all felt the time was right, and it

was time to do it again."

Many local leaders expressed a common goal in reaching the latest Sun City residents: to install the value of voluntarism.

"New people have to understand that what makes this city work is its volunteers," Roach said. "It's a city you want to come to because of the way people work together."

Paul Herrmann, director of the Visitor's Center, said a number of the newcomers are from a younger generation that hasn't experienced a place like Sun City, "The City of Volunteers."

"Baby Boomers haven't been exposed to much voluntarism," Herrmann said. "People need to understand that the entire concept of

Sun City is based on that."

He referenced Del Webb's widely known quote as a mission statement for the orientation: "I built you a city, but only you can fulfill its promise."

"We need to be educating people about the involvement in the community that makes our city what it is," Herrmann said. "People need to realize that they haven't just bought a home in a community, they've bought into a lifestyle."

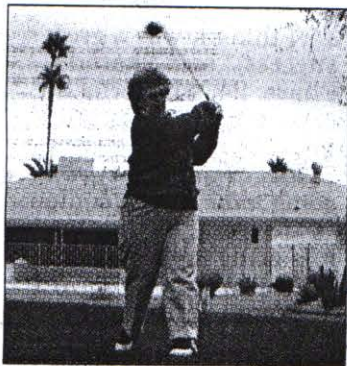
Herrmann is excited that the Visitor's Center will be represented at the event, because the center is often newcomers first contact with Sun City.

"I've felt like we needed to be a part of this," he said. "If people learned

about Sun City through the Visitor's Center, it would be nice to follow up with them now that they've made this their new home."

Beverly Sisler, president of the Sun City PRIDES, which contributes to the beauty and cleanliness of Sun City, said she hopes new volunteers will step up as a result of the orientation.

"We think that what we have to offer would be of interest to new residents," Sisler said, adding that a newcomer's perspective would be beneficial to the PRIDES. "They're going to be bringing Sun City even more up to speed by bringing in what the younger seniors would like to see."



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Sun City is a golfer's paradise, with eight recreation centers courses and three private clubs.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Senior softball rules at the Sun Bowl.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

A Bell Crafter makes hearts for Meals on Wheels clients.

Owner-member or what?

Confusion stirs bylaw amendment proposal

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors is considering a bylaw amendment that has raised questions of fairness and discrimination and blurred lines of membership.

At Monday's director/member exchange meeting, Director Jim Frederick restated his motion — with some slight language changes to his previous motion — to amend Sections 1a and 2a of Article II that refer to membership qualifications. The motion was approved for posting to the public and the board will vote on it at the May 26 quarterly membership meeting.

Frederick said the purpose of the amendment was to clarify the definition of membership to alleviate debate on who is and who isn't a RCSC member. However several residents who attended Monday's meeting saw the amendment as an affront to

nonspousal co-owners of a property.

Regardless of who's right and who's wrong — both sides agree the issue is a confusing one with many layers.

Norm Dickson, RCSC president, defended Frederick's motion, saying the amendment wouldn't change the way things are now and have been for years.

The amendment, he said, would clarify exactly who is eligible for a membership card that allows residents to vote, run for a board position and use all RCSC facilities, and who is eligible for a privilege card, which allows residents who are under 55 to use RCSC facilities and participate in clubs and activities, but doesn't permit them to vote or run for a board position.

The amended version of Section 1a of Article II would read: "To qualify for a membership card, a member or member representative must be 55 years of age or older

and reside on or occupy the Sun City lot as his/her primary Arizona residence. If a spousal owner is under 55 years of age, he/she must not be under 19 years of age, and must reside in Sun City as his/her primary Arizona residence, and provided further that at least one owner, 55 years of age or older, occupies the property at the same time."

Frederick further moved that Section 2a of Article II be amended to specify age eligibility to hold office to conform with Article IX, Section 2c, be posted as well.

The amended version of section 2 would read: "Privileges of members shall be to vote, to hold office if 55 years of age or older, and to use all available facilities, subject to the Articles of Incorporation, Corporate Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Board Policies of the Corporation, to become members of the clubs of the corporation and to

See PROPOSAL, A5



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Joe Biver poses with his mother, Ruth, in their Sun City home. Biver, who owns the house, has carried a membership card since he moved to the community in 1993 when he was 40.

OVER

From A1

participate in the activities of said clubs. Members shall have certain guest privileges as provided in the Rules and Regulations and Board Policies of the Corporation."

Dickson said that the phrase referring to the "primary Arizona residence" would not affect winter visitors or part-time residents. For example, he said, the wording would prohibit a property owner from obtaining member privileges who actually lives in a Peoria home and rents out his Sun City home.

Joe Biver and his mother, Ruth, moved to Sun City in 1993. Biver is 51 and his mother is 82. Biver is listed on his deed as a homeowner, his mother is not. Biver is a volunteer with the Sun City Handi-Capables Club, was president of this year's Fairway Fun Fair project as leader of the Travelogue Club and has participated in other community groups and activities.

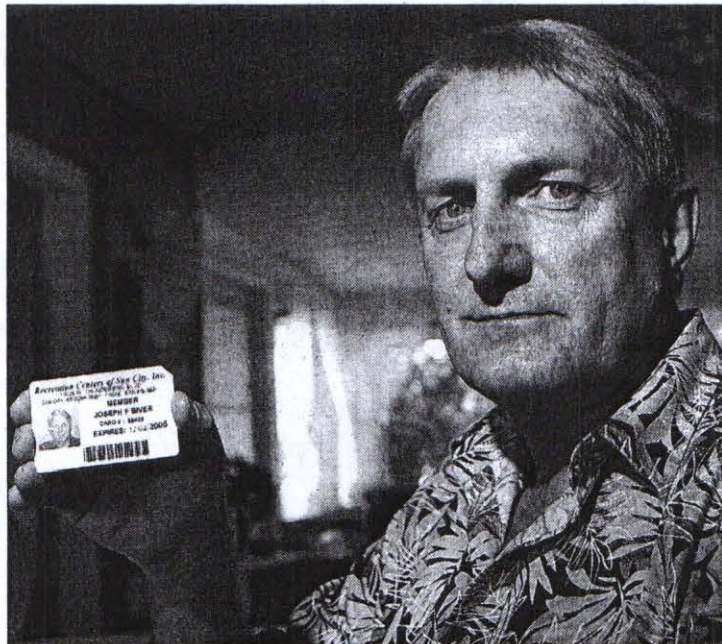
When they moved in, the RCSC membership office issued Biver a full-fledged membership card. For 12 years, he has been voting and enjoying all of the rights of full membership.

Dickson said the membership office made a mistake. From the start, Biver should have been issued a privilege card, not a member card. Every year, Biver paid his annual assessment fees to renew his RCSC membership. The error was never detected.

"We thought I'd done our due diligence before moving," Biver said during a tearful presentation to the RCSC board Monday. "I have never encountered anyone saying I'm ineligible because I followed the rules you gave me."

Biver pointed out another error. On the RCSC Web site, in a sub-section of the link called "Fact vs. Fiction," the RCSC does not clearly exclude homeowners such as Biver from member rights.

The Web site reads: "Lot



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors says an error was made when Joe Biver received a membership card when he moved to the community in 1993 at the age of 40. Biver holds the deed to the house where his mother also lives.

owners become members when they pay the mandatory Annual Property Assessment...Sun City is set up as a non-profit corporation. Every property owner is a member of the Corporation."

After listening to Biver read the Web site excerpt, Dickson agreed it was incorrect and would have to be changed.

Biver also referred to the 1992 RCSC Articles of Incorporation which allow a property owner who is on the deed to have a membership card and keep it if their co-habitant dies or there are other extenuating circumstances.

Biver asked the board if they would consider grandfathering through those who moved in while under previous bylaws. The board members said they would look into the option, and promised to pinpoint any discrepancies in policies that may have occurred over the years.

So, when did the rules change? Dickson said various bylaw amendments have been made over the years, but the age-restrictions have

been consistent and the most current versions are the ones to live by today.

Biver argued that he signed his facilities agreement in 1993 with the assurance that he, as an owner, he would always be a member as long as he paid his fees.

Biver doesn't have the luxury of assurance anymore. Because he is not a spousal owner of the home and he is not yet 55 or older, Biver should only receive a privilege card. That means no more voting.

"They want to take away a right that I have and I don't want to let them," Biver said. "When they tell me everything they've told me for 12 years is wrong, how can you rely on anything they say?"

Bonnie Sanders, president of the Sun City Handi-Capables Club, complained to the board that the way they issue membership cards is unethical. She asked the board why spouses are the one exception to the rule, while other co-habitants that may not be spousal, like dependents or family members, don't count.

"You are discriminating

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Recreation Centers of Sun City quarterly membership meeting.
- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. May 26.
- **WHERE:** Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.
- **INFORMATION:** www.sunaz.com.

against sons and daughters, caretakers or the disabled," Sanders said.

Keith Dare, Sheila Narone, Anne Stewart and others agreed with Sanders, and expressed similar concerns about why the RCSC can decide who is allowed to be called an RCSC member. Dickson said county, state and federal laws regarding property privileges and age-overly also refer to spouses as the exception.

Among its responsibilities, the RCSC is charged with collecting the community assessment fees and distributing membership cards. The Sun City Home Owners Association enforces the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, including who can and can't live in a Sun City home.

Biver knows that as long as his mother is alive and living with him, he can stay in his Sun City home. He worries about what would happen if his mother died before his 55th birthday.

"But that's a moot point as long as she keeps breathing," Biver said. "If she dies, can I stay?"

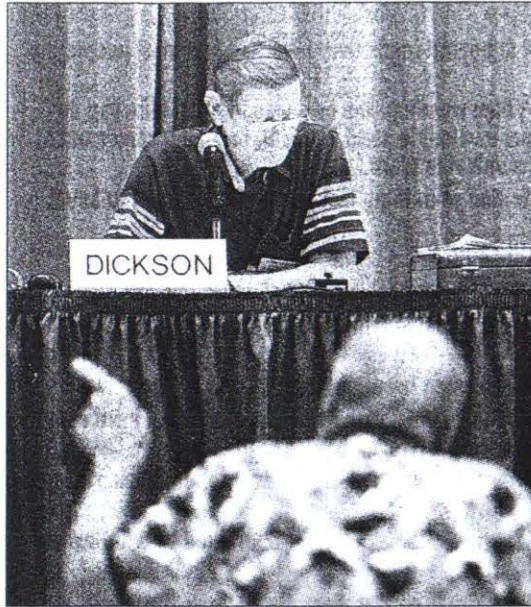
According to Jim Corcoran, HOA board director, rules are rules, and no person under 55 is allowed to live in a Sun City home without an age qualifying resident unless he or she is a surviving spouse of a person age 55 or older. The rules are set by federal age-overly laws and enforced by Maricopa County officials, Corcoran said.

If Biver's mother dies, "All he needs to do is get someone 55-years-old or older to rent the home and live in it with him. Otherwise, he'd have to sell it and leave," Corcoran said. "Somebody in that house has to be 55 or older."

To reach the RCSC board of directors, call 876-3000.

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

RCSC board OKs bylaw change



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jerry Swintek, a past president, addresses the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors on a proposed bylaw amendment Thursday at the board's meeting in Sundial Recreation Center.

Opposition cites deed restrictions

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The RCSC board of directors approved a bylaw amendment to clarify membership qualifications, but the resolution wasn't reached without confusion, controversy and debate.

At Thursday's Recreation Centers of Sun City quarterly membership meeting, the board voted 7-1 to amend Sections 1a and 2a of Article II that refer to membership card qualifications.

Director Gene Zylstra voted against the motion. Vice President Gayle Schmidt was out of town, and Jim Kuchler, treasurer, was absent because of illness.

President Norm Dickson said the amendment doesn't make significant, policy-altering

changes. He said it simply clarifies exactly who is eligible for a membership card that allows residents to vote, run for a board position and use all RCSC facilities. It also states who is eligible for a privilege card, which allows residents who are under 55 to use RCSC facilities and participate in clubs and activities, but doesn't permit them to vote or run for a board position.

Director Jim Frederick moved that the amended version of Section 1a of Article II read: "To qualify for a membership card, a member or member representative must be 55 years of age or older and reside on or occupy the Sun City lot as his/her primary Arizona residence. If a spousal owner is under 55 years of age, he/she must not be under 19 years of age, and must reside in Sun City as his/her primary Arizona residence, and provided further that at least one owner, 55 years of age or older, occupies the property at the same time."

Zylstra argued that using the word "owner"

in the last line changes the meaning of the bylaw, causing it to fall out of line with Sun City's residency qualifications.

"We shouldn't approve (the motion) with the word 'owner' in the amendment," Zylstra said, citing Sun City's deed restrictions and federal and county age-overlay laws that don't require a resident age 55 or older to actually be listed on the deed to be allowed to reside in Sun City.

Maricopa County ordinance reads: "Each dwelling unit, if occupied, shall be occupied by at least one person not less than 55 years of age."

Dickson said Zylstra's argument crossed the line into dealing with who is allowed to reside in Sun City, a policy regulated by the Sun City Home Owners Association and the county. Dickson said Zylstra's concern strayed from the RCSC's charge to distribute member cards appropriately.

See RCSC, A5

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"We (the RCSC) can set membership card rules" Dickson said. "This has nothing to do with residency."

The word "spouse" has also garnered some concerns since the motion was posted for public review earlier this month. Dickson explained Thursday that the bylaw should have included the word "spouse" from the beginning, as it has always been the policy to view spouses as the exception.

A legally recognized married couple is the only exception recognized by federal, state and county laws and RCSC policies, said Ken Fold, secretary.

"It's not gay bashing or any ulterior motive that some may think is involved here," Fold said.

Sun Citian Noel Kasper spoke at the meeting and urged the board to table the

COMING UP: Postponing a maintenance project doesn't sit well with two Recreation Centers of Sun City board directors. See story in the weekend edition of the Daily News-Sun.

vote until further attention could be given to the motion.

"There's enough dissension to allow time for more consideration," Kasper said.

Dickson disagreed, saying the board has had sufficient legal input on the issue and has spent adequate time dealing with the specifics.

● Also included in the approved amendment of Article II includes a change to Section 2a that specifies age eligibility to hold office to conform with Article IX, Section 2c.

The amended version of section 2 reads: "Privileges of members shall be to vote, to hold office *if 55 years of age or older*, and to use all

available facilities, subject to the Articles of Incorporation, Corporate Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Board Policies of the Corporation, to become members of the clubs of the corporation and to participate in the activities of said clubs. Members shall have certain guest privileges as provided in the Rules and Regulations and Board Policies of the Corporation."

● An amendment to Section 8 of Article V of the Corporation Bylaws; "Removal of Board Officers," was unanimously approved at Thursday's meeting. The bylaw now allows for an officer to be removed from office by the other directors, but permits the officer to remain on the

board as a director.

The bylaw now reads: "A board officer (president, vice president, treasurer, secretary) who is unwilling or incapable of satisfactorily performing his/her share of the duties and responsibilities of that office, may be removed from that office by a ballot vote of two-thirds of the board of directors.

"An officer so removed shall be eligible to continue as a director ... A new election by the board of directors for the vacated position will be held within 15 days after removal. In the case of a vacancy in the president's office, the vice president will perform the duties of the president until a new president is elected."

To reach the RCSC board of directors, call 876-3000.

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

We're listening

RCSC slates regular sessions for residents to air comments, concerns

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Wellman's RCSC Listening Posts are intimate, round-table discussions loaded with ideas and, believe it or not, laughter.

"I just want to hear the heartbeat of our members," said Wellman, RCSC senior manager for centers operations. "The one-on-one is very important — getting to know them personally. They share a lot of wonderful ideas and thoughts."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City offers the Listening Posts at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month to accommodate working residents. Meeting locations rotate among the seven recreation centers.

Discussions are open, there is no agenda, and the Listening Posts are less formal than RCSC member/director exchange meetings, Wellman said. A small group met at Bell Recreation Center Tuesday, and while the group was focused on a variety of issues, people were comfortably cracking jokes and lightheartedly comparing an array of recreation center experiences.

Topics of discussion ranged from slippery surfaces in the Sundial locker rooms to the possibility of new rubberized walking tracks, but talks focused primarily on the new Bell pool.

Members of the Sun City Swim Club — which includes the Master Swimmers, the

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Aqua Suns and various swim classes — were present to ensure their input is considered in design plans for the pool.

The new Bell pool will be a 25-meter regulation short-course competitive pool constructed by Paddock Pools, Wellman said. He said the RCSC is aiming to finish the pool at the same time as the other renovations at Bell — the first part of 2006.

The pool will be the first and only pool in Sun City that, if designed properly, will be sanctioned by national swimming organizations as an official competition pool.

In the past, the Master Swimmers, Sun City's competitive swim group, has not been able to play host to a swim meet, said Barbara Miller, Swim Club president. Having a say in the pool's design is imperative, she said.

"It's so important to us for the Bell pool to be right," Miller said. "It's critical to competitive swimming to have a regulation pool (in order) to be sanctioned."

Details such as the number of lane lines, lane ropes, the position of the lights and the condition of

the deck were discussed at Tuesday's listening post. Wellman told the group he is hoping the pool's budget will allow for eight lanes, but it may be limited to six.

"I've learned a lot about pools," Wellman said. "This is the way things happen, people giving input."

The Listening Posts, Miller added, are ideal opportunities for clubs or individual residents to speak frankly with Wellman about RCSC facilities, concerns and requests.

"They really listen to us and accommodate us," Miller said. "And they set up meetings when we ask."

Wellman said he makes note of every suggestion made by Listen Post attendees. Any concerns about safety issues at recreation centers are investigated immediately, he said. Some of the residents comments are included in his future project proposals to the board. He encourages all residents to attend a Listening Post and promises that their input will be taken seriously.

"They're why we exist, so I want to sit down and talk with them," Wellman said. "

OVER



ANNIE BOON/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marge Evans, left, a member of the Stars Master Swimmers; Dorothy Keller, vice president of the Stars Master Swimmers; and Ken Fold, RCSC board secretary and co-chairman of the properties committee, discuss plans for the new Bell Recreation Center pool at Tuesday's Listening Post.

Solar

Continued From Page 1

the manner in which the project was formulated.

"What criteria did you use to determine Wilson Electric and Global Renewable Energy were companies of choice?" He asked. "How many solar companies were examined? Are bidding records public documents?"

Gib Foulke, in a Feb. 22 letter to the editor, expressed concerns that the initial cost of installation and ongoing maintenance costs were not shared with residents. He is concerned that if the area receives another heavy hail storm, RCSC would be liable for costly repairs.

In a second press release, RCSC officials explained there would be no cost to the corporation for installation and RCSC would be responsible for maintenance of the equipment after installation.

RCSC officials submitted every project that qualified for the solar incentive auction as incentives may not be available in the future, or if available, may be significantly reduced, he added.

However, RCSC is not the first Sun City agency to discuss a solar project. The Sun City Fire District Board of Directors discussed a similar project, on a smaller scale, during public board meetings late last year. Fire district officials remain committed to the project, although they have had to overcome some obstacles, according to Hank Oleson, assistant chief.

"Most of the first few bidders we had did work mostly on residential and commercial, and we would not have been eligible for the incentives because we are a government agency," he explained.

Fire district officials are now negotiating with a company that would own the equipment and lease it back to the district, according to Mr. Oleson.

The fire district plan would have solar panels mounted on parking shade structures at each of its fire stations and the administrative office. The fire district would not pay for the installation of the equipment and shade structures. They would be leased

over a set period of time when complete, with the intent that at the end of the lease period the district would own the equipment. The proposal also includes an option to purchase the equipment outright at specific points during the lease period.

The shade structure/solar panel apparatus would be similar to ones constructed in El Mirage's Gateway Park.

"We went down and looked at those, and they are much better than we expected," Mr. Oleson said.

Because it is a nonprofit organization, RCSC also was not eligible for incentives for the photovoltaic systems and found companies that will offer a similar option as that being negotiated by fire district officials. RCSC officials selected Wilson Electric to provide the solar electric systems and Global Renewable Energy teamed with Priceless Plumbing to install a solar water heating system at the Oakmont and Bell pools.

The solar electric systems for RCSC are projected to save \$937,255 over 15 years, according to Mr. Gallen. The thermal system is expected to reduce natural gas heating expenses by more than \$900,000 in 15 years, he added.

In addition to his other concerns, Mr. Loegering does not like the probability that manufacturing dollars for the equipment will go to foreign companies as U.S. manufacturers do not appear viable. He cited the falling stock of First Solar in Tempe, despite receiving \$4 billion in federal loans.

"I think that the board should seriously consider how good warranties are from an industry that is apparently unable to sustain itself without serious federal subsidy," he stated in a letter to RCSC officials.

There is a 25 year warranty on the solar modules and a 10-year warranty on the inverters, with a 2-year "bumper to bumper" warranty on everything, according to Mr. Gallen. The lease for the PV system is for 15 years, but RCSC will have the opportunity to purchase the systems after five years at a significant discount from their original cost. RCSC will purchase the thermal solar outright for a total cost of \$326,630 and will receive rebates totaling \$84,368, according to Mr. Gallen.

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

RCSC plans for solar, fire district still negotiating deal
 By Rusty Bradshaw
 Independent Newspapers
 Solar energy panels will be popping up at recreation centers and some golf courses in Sun City, but not all residents are pleased about it.
 Recreation Centers of Sun City officials plan to install a 2.2 megawatt photovoltaic solar project, which is expected to generate about 4 million kilowatts per hour annually. The systems will be installed at all seven recreation centers, Bell Lanes, Lakeview Lanes and some golf maintenance facilities. The system will include an estimated 14,000 solar panels and produce the same amount of energy it takes to power 347 homes.

Significant cost savings

Related Links

www.sunaz.com
 www.suncityfire.com

RCSC officials project a \$1.8 million energy cost savings when the system is in place.

However, resident George Loegering, echoing other residents' concerns, is skeptical because no details of the plan were brought to residents for public discussion before a decision was made.

"I have not seen any planning, discussion or proposal for this plan," he said.

Mr. Loegering also questions the validity of the savings and prefers RCSC officials implement the program on a smaller scale trial basis to determine if the savings are possible.
 RCSC officials counter the project plans could

not be made public because of the competitive nature of the project.

"The RCSC Board of Directors was unable to make this public until last week because RCSC was required to make bids for the APS incentive blind auction and since that is a very competitive process, it was vital that it be kept quiet that Sun City was even considering a large amount of solar," Tim Gallen, RCSC spokesman, stated in a press release.

Other Sun City residents are excited about the solar project. Several praised the board during member/director exchange meetings since the project was announced. Gordon Rosier, in a Feb. 15 letter to the editor, stated he was pleased RCSC officials had followed his recommendation to install solar panels at all recreation centers.
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Sun City rec centers to get solar systems

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City is going green.

The RCSC plans to install solar electric, or photovoltaic, systems at all seven recreation centers, the two bowling alleys and some of the golf maintenance buildings. Thermal solar water heating systems will be installed at the Bell and Oakmont recreation centers pools.

RCSC predicts a \$1.8 million savings over the next 15 years because of the new systems.

Assistant General Manager Jim Wellman announced the installation at RCSC's board meeting on Thursday, adding that the Mountain View Recreation Center pool has been using the thermal solar system for about six years.

"There's a whole big process to it," Wellman

SOLAR

FROM A1

said. RCSC started planning for the solar projects last year.

Besides money savings, Wellman said, these solar projects will be a benefit for Sun City residents because the photovoltaic panels will be installed onto new carport structures, offering a bit of shaded parking to facility visitors.

Wellman also said that while it took a while to figure out the best operation methods for the solar heating at Mountain View, the system has now paid for itself and saves the organization money, especially in the winter months, when keeping the pools at their standard 85 degrees takes more energy.

Sun City resident Norm Dixon complimented Wellman and the board for their



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Water at the Mountain View Recreation Center pool is kept warm through solar heating. RCSC has committed to installing solar water heaters at other campuses along with solar-electricity panels to cover parking lots and roofs.

"green" efforts. "That is a great move," Dixon said, adding that the systems will provide dividends for years to come.

Wellman also told the board Thursday

that the newly renovated Fairway Recreation Center received its final certificate of occupancy from Maricopa County in late January.

The final cost of the project was about

\$16.6 million, less than the budgeted estimate of more than \$18 million, Wellman said.

Nora Avery-Page can be reached at 623-876-3691 or naverypage@yourwestvalley.com.

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VF SC - Recreation Centers - Fairway - SC Independent - 2.1.2012



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Grand opening

Maricopa County District 4 Supervisor Max Wilson, left, was on hand to congratulate Sun City on the renovated Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Jan. 27 at the grand opening. Later, visitors toured the facility, including this couple viewing the model railroad club room. Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager, announced the estimated final cost for the two-phase construction is \$16.6 million, down from the original pre-construction \$18 million projection.



Sun City resident Jan Seidner, left, works on a sculpture at Marinette Clay Corner while Beryl Hilliard and Jim Warzon, in background, work on a bowl. The sanctioned clubs are just a sampling of what visitors can experience while renting in Sun City while deciding whether or not to buy a home in the community.

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

'Stay and play' promotes Sun City

RCSC marketing committee discussing merits of program

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City take on the movie line, "Build it, and they will come," is "Get them here, and they will buy."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City marketing committee, as part of its research of ways to promote the community, initiated discussion on a "stay and play" concept that plans to give people a chance to see what Sun City has to offer in hopes they will purchase a home. The concept is in the early discussion stages and may be years away from implementation, according to Bill Pearson, RCSC board and marketing committee member.

"The marketing committee was the impetus

If You Go

RCSC marketing committee

1 p.m. Tuesday, March 20

Upper level board room at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

of this idea," he said. "But there is still a lot of discussion yet to be had before the details are all fleshed out."

The concept is similar to Del Webb's original "stay and buy" and John Meeker's "planned stay" programs employed in the early- to mid-1960s that led to a rapid increase in Sun City home sales.

"When Meeker's planned stay program started, 50 percent of the homes sold were through this program," Mr. Pearson explained.

The concept would allow visitors to rent prop-

erties in Sun City on a short-term basis and have access to the community amenities. It would provide them an opportunity to experience the full Sun City lifestyle, Mr. Pearson added.

Residents have mixed feelings about the proposal, but some who support it have reservations. Kenneth Gegg does not believe there is a market for this type of rental in Sun City, but Diane Guzman agrees the concept should be pursued. If it is, Ms. Guzman suggests recreation cards with a different look and possibly even a bar code-type identifier that can be scanned. Barbara Chait believes if properties are to be rented they should be monitored to make sure occupants are retirees and properties are rented for at least a few month.

Sharon Klemm believes a "stay and play" program would be more headaches than it is

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Play

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worth.

"It would be like running a motel or resort, and that is not what the RCSC was set up to do," she stated in an e-mail.

Lee Krieling agrees.

"Promoting Sun City is a useful thing, but is it part of RCSC's charter?" Mr. Krieling asked in an e-mail.

Mr. Pearson said RCSC and Sun City Visitors Center officials are working together to revamp and integrate their Web sites. The Visitors Center would continue to be the lead agency in community promotion outside the area, while RCSC would continue facilities management and member communication inside the community.

Part of a "stay and play" program would identify rentals that were available for shorter terms and promote those through the Web sites, Mr. Pearson explained.

"There are a lot of rentals in Sun City, but few want to rent for a month or less," he said. "Most want at least six months."

Carole Martinez, RCSC board member and marketing committee chairwoman, said in the Feb. 6 members/directors exchange meeting 2-3 day rental periods were discussed. Resident Karen Schuerman said in the same meeting that any rentals under a "stay and play" program should be owned by RCSC. However, other residents disagree.

Ms. Guzman believes RCSC rental ownership would be a conflict of interest, while Ms. Chait believes the corporation should not take on residential property maintenance.

"There would be upkeep, and you would need people to show and rent out the properties," Ms. Klemm stated.

Beryl Croyley suggests a different approach to ownership or working with realtors to find available rentals.

"If there is such an unfilled demand for trial of the facilities, RCSC could form a cad-

re (club) of eager members who would be willing to escort and sign in such explorers on their personal cards," she stated in an e-mail.

Resident Norm Philking suggested in the Feb. 6 exchange meeting there are plenty of rentals available for visitors wanting to check out Sun City's amenities.

"There's the Motel 6 and Best Western right on Grand Avenue," he said.

However, Mr. Pearson believes to get the full Sun City experience, prospective buyers should have the opportunity to stay within the community to give them a chance to interact with neighbors more frequently.

"When they stay in motels, you don't see them much outside the times they are in the facilities," he said. "It's not the same as being within the walls."

Mr. Pearson believes the "stay and play" program would help boost home sales, which in turn would increase property values. He is convinced the program would entice buyers because it was his own experience.

"If you had asked me the day before I came to visit my parents if I would buy here, my answer would have been no way," he said. "But the day after arriving I said this is where I wanted to retire."

He said that reversal of philosophy is repeated to him by many community newcomers. Mr. Pearson believes Sun City offers the best value for homeowners with a \$440 per year property assessment for seven recreation centers, eight golf courses and various other amenities. Newer age-restricted communities have a single recreation center and golf course, and the course is not community owned, he added.

However, resident Mike Bennett believes there is a better way to increase home sales in the community.

"If you really want to sell more houses in Sun City, lower the RCSC fees," he stated in an e-mail. "They drive many potential buyers away."

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

Friends of the Library News & Events

April showers - don't we wish it were so. Well, hold the good thoughts and maybe it will happen. Lots of other good things in Sun City and especially the April sunshine.

Library Events

Both Bell and Fairway branches will continue blood pressure checks. April 12 10-11am and April 30 2:30-4pm at Fairway and April 27 3-4pm at Bell. This is certainly a service everyone should take advantage of between doctor's appointments.

Both branches are still offering one on one computer instruction and help with e-readers. Check with customer service counters for times and dates.

This is a good month for authors. Look who is coming:

Professor Judith Ann Trolander will be in the Fairway Arizona Room on April 18 at 1pm to discuss "Age 55 or Better" a history of active adult communities from her book "From Sun City to the Villages." The Del Webb SunCities Museum is co-sponsor of the event with Fairway Library.

At Bell branch, Ursula Brock will discuss and sign her book "Through the Eyes of a Gringa" from 10 to 11am on April 3 in the North Wing. More than just a scenic trip through Central America, it is about people, how they live, the way they treat their elderly family members and how they overcome everyday problems.

At 10am on April 10, author Sharon Catlett will talk about her book "Farmlands, Forts And Country Life", the story of Southwest Denver in the North Wing at Bell.

"Gripped by Gambling" and "Switching Addictions" cover the experiences of author Marilyn Lancelot during her descent into compulsive gambling, followed by years of recovery; then discovering it was possible to switch from one addiction to another. She will tell you about it on Wednesday, April 11th at 10am in the Bell branch North Wing.

Book Clubs

Speaking of authors and reading, the book clubs will meet as usual on their special days at 1:30pm in the North Wing at Bell branch.

Mystery Book Club - April 4 - A Little Stranger by Sarah Walters.

Crime and Carnage Club - April 5 - About Face by Donna Leon.

Fiction Book Club - April 26 - 2012 One-book Arizona selection "Arizona, 100 Years Grand" by Lisa Schnebly Heidinge.

Volunteers

The Friends of the Sun City Libraries, and the libraries themselves, have the greatest bunch of volunteers anywhere. They are dedicated, loyal and reliable. We have tried to tell you about them one by one, but it is hard to get them to talk about themselves in any but the most general way. Once again we will attempt to highlight one of these great people as often as possible.

This month we highlight Sue Painter, who serves as treasurer of the Friends organization. From being president of the Computer Club, Sue progressed to the RCSC Board of Directors. As a board member she was the liaison to the library and then to the Friends and eventually a full board member. She has spent weeks getting all financial information updated and organized. She formed a Financial Committee to oversee all the necessary business that goes with running a non-profit.

Sue came to Sun City in 2003 from Ohio, so you can see she has accomplished a lot in a short time. She has two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren. Prior to coming to Sun City, Sue was director of operations for a construction association in Ohio along with an associate company that managed an apprenticeship program for the construction trades. Keeping busy and managing things comes naturally to Sue. We hope she keeps doing it for a long time.

Hope April will be a good month for you and look forward to those May flowers.

Looking to sell something?

RCSC Cardholders can advertise on bulletin boards at the seven recreation centers and golf pro shops!

Advertise items for sale, lost pets, home/condo rentals, etc.!

Advertisements must be on 3x5 note cards and include cardholder name and RCSC card number on back.

Submit to the Clubs & Activities Office for approval and distribution to any or all centers and pro shops. Ads are posted for 30 days.

Friday, March 19, 2010

Confusion mounts over Sun City homes in trusts

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has been talking lately about trusts and what Sun City homeowners need to keep in mind, but residents continue to express confusion over what is being said. At Monday's exchange meeting, Sun Citian Dave Patton said the RCSC's comments in the March edition of SunViews only made things worse.

"The information you are putting out

is too vague," he said. "On the one hand, you're saying the trust doesn't change anything, but on the other hand you're saying it does."

Willard Johnson said he, too, was confused.

"I have my home in a trust with my three children," he said. "I thought it would be a good thing. I didn't realize it might cause problems here in Sun

SEE TRUSTS, A5

TRUSTS

FROM A1

City."

The issue of trusts has been gaining steam over the past few months. When a homeowner puts a home into a trust, the other members of that trust can be considered owners. For the RCSC, that opens up a host of issues — which owners are eligible RCSC members, which of those owners actually will have membership cards and what, if any, changes need to be made to the annual assessment fee on that property? For some residents who are on a per-person assessment plan, the creation of a trust might force them to switch to per-property.

A trust is a legal arrangement whereby property is managed by a person/persons/organization for the benefit of another. A trust is created by a settler who entrusts some or all of their property to people of their choice. The trustees hold legal title to the trust property. There are dozens of types of trusts, however, complicating the issue further.

Director Craig Brown sympathized with Patton and Johnson and offered some clarification.

"One of the problems we're facing with this, and the reason why it appears vague, is because it is intentional," he said. "We, the RCSC, can not

render tax or legal advice. For that reason, we are somewhat forced to speak in generalities."

Brown said he understands the desire for a clear, frank explanation, but the board has to be careful.

"We can only be so concise without getting into 'advice' territory," he said.

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, said staff is working to put out more information.

"We understand what you are saying, and there is more information coming," she said.

The issue of trusts came up when the RCSC started looking at county records and comparing them against their own. What they found, Ek said, is that many of the people they have as RCSC-eligible homeowners no longer own their homes at all. Or in some cases, the home is in a trust, and so there are several home owners.

"We ran into all these trusts," she said. "And the question becomes, 'Who is a member? Who can be a member?'"

Residents have expressed concern over what trusts mean in relation to the Preservation and Improvement Fund, which requires a one-time payment of \$3,000 any time a deed changes hands. If a child inherits a home, that child pays the PIF fee. But if the child is a deeded owner because of a trust, then no fee would be required. And, if the home is sold within 12

months, no fee is required.

It is in trying to inform the residents that the RCSC has encountered confusion. Each resident's situation is different, Ek said, and so putting together an explanation has been difficult. Letters were being sent to homeowners with trusts, but Ek said that is no longer the case.

"The letters are being put on hold for the time being," she said.

In Sun City West, the inheritance fee is not an issue. Katy O'Grady, general services officer for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, said even in cases of inheritance, the child would not have to pay RCSCW's \$2,300 Asset Preservation Fee.

"When a home passes to children via a trust or inheritance, the child(ren) do not have to pay an APF," she said. "They will pay transfer fees to cover the costs of us transferring the ownership in our files. Right now the transfer fee is \$225."

Gene Westemeier, RCSC board president, said the board is just as frustrated as the residents.

"This trust thing is giving us all heartburn," he said. "But we're just trying to get our records in order. That's what it's all about."

For information, visit www.sunaz.com/facts/trusts.html.

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

View

Continued From Page 7

Bill Pearson, newly elected to the board, sees 2012 as a banner year for RCSC and Sun City. He believes the continued struggling economy can be seen as a blessing as well as a curse.

"Those thinking about retirement will be looking for value, and there is no better alternative (in age restricted communities) than Sun City," he stated in an e-mail. "Being well-positioned only matters if you can market yourself so people see that value."

He believes the advent of the marketing committee is a much-needed addition.

Mr. Pearson's thrust as a board member will be to bring people back together as a community and believes better, more open communication is a place to begin. He also believes building a sense of community will help improve the volunteerism in Sun City.

"The last election should be an eye-opener for all of us — three candidates with four open positions shouts volumes," he stated. "You don't build a strong, vibrant organization when residents don't want to be involved and part of the process."

He believes the key is reaching people before they buy into Sun City.

"We have to stop thinking about outreach as being what is convenient for us (the RCSC) but what works in getting the residents involved," he stated. "I think the new makeup of the board will bring some interesting ideas in front of the residents; in all likelihood the only way we will get some of them to happen is with community support."

Sun City Home Owners Association board members and management were also contacted for comment, but did not re-

spond by press time.

Maricopa County

The county's major challenge for 2012 will be economic growth, according to Mr. Wilson.

However, growth will come slowly as the housing market continues to be sluggish. Mr. Wilson stated in an e-mail there are too many vacant and foreclosed homes in the Valley and too many people are not able to make their mortgage payments for homes whose value is much lower than the amount needed to pay off loans.

"While property taxes will stay the same or fall for a majority of residents, it's never good economic news that your house is worth less on the market than it was," Mr. Wilson stated.

The growing solar industry is one of the few bright spots in the economy, especially in the West Valley, according to Mr. Wilson. Solar has the potential to create jobs and a new permanent industry for Arizona, he added.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer promised the state would not raid county coffers again, and that should help county officials maintain a stable budget, according to Mr. Wilson. However, county department heads were instructed to set aside 5 percent of their budgets in a contingency that could be used in an emergency, he stated. County officials will continue to push for stability in taxes, he added.

"We want to be the low cost leader nationally in delivering government services," Mr. Wilson stated.

Legislative redistricting will benefit District 4 in that it became more compact, losing some neighborhoods in Phoenix, according to Mr. Wilson.

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

Sept 21, 2012

POOLS

FROM A1

The 75-mile radius, Ek said, matches the board policy that says if Sun City homeowners also own another Arizona home outside that radius, the Sun City home can be considered their primary residence for occupancy purposes.

Ek said to be consistent those two policies should be brought in line.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the board will consider having just one monthly member exchange meeting instead of two.

During member exchange meetings, RCSC members can address the board in a less formal manner.

Ek said that, generally, the member exchange meetings were not well attended and often attended by the same group of people.

She said she hopes that with just one meeting, people will be more likely to attend and express their opinions to the board.

The meetings would take place the second Monday of every month, rather than every first and third

Monday, allowing for a larger spread between the member exchange meeting and the regular board meeting, which is on the fourth Thursday of the month.

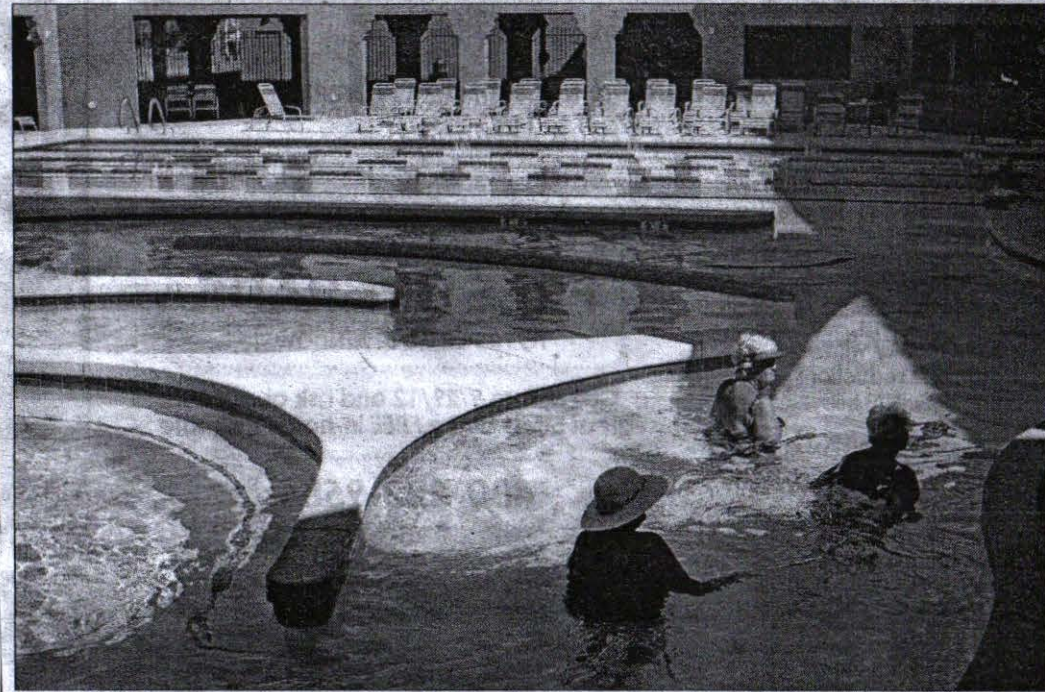
The change would also help the board keep costs down and still serves the same purpose, Ek said.

"They don't want it to be perceived as being taken away," Ek said of the board. "It doesn't mean there couldn't be another meeting if something came up."

Another motion to be proposed next week would clarify the pool policies regarding cardholder conduct and rules and regulations, putting in writing the no-children policy in place at Fairway and Oakmont recreation centers. Ek said there have been no children hours at Fairway since it reopened after renovations this summer, and at Oakmont, RCSC had received many complaints about issues with children on the small deck area.

Plus, with the number of classes scheduled at Oakmont, it makes it difficult to fit in a time for child-friendly pool hours, Ek said.

The same motion also changes the age requirement for fishing from 8 years old to 6.



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Changes might be coming to some of the pool rules at Sun City recreation centers. The RCSC Board of Directors will vote next week to clarify age limits at Fairway, pictured, and Oakmont.

RCSC to tighten pool rules

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City plans to crack down on people from outside the community using RCSC pools, gyms and other facilities.

At next week's meeting — 9 a.m. Thursday at the Sundial Recreation Center — the board will amend a policy to say that guests

who live within a 75-mile radius of Sun City, not including caretakers/caregivers or club guests, may only visit RCSC facilities once a month.

Guest privileges for Recreation Centers members are intended to be for visiting family and friends, but RCSC General Manager Jan Ek said that she has received reports

of people from surrounding communities asking people they don't know as they walk into the facilities to sign them in as their guests.

"We have had a lot of problems, and it's been getting worse recently," Ek said. "This gives us something to kind of go by."

SEE POOL, A



Esther Paige of Sun City applauds during an announcement at Duffee Land dog park in Sun City Tuesday that the Recreation Centers of Sun City will purchase the park from Bob Knight. **NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN**

Deal keeps dog park in Sun City

MITCHELL VANTREASE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City soon will own a dog park.

Duffee Land owner Bob Knight announced Tuesday the RCSC would buy the park at Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards. The transaction is expected to go through in January.

Knight said he chose to sell the park after discovering he had an aggressive form of prostate cancer.

"I've been responsible for the dog park for nine years, but when I started developing these health problems I really wondered what could happen to the park," he said.

So Knight approached the RCSC board.

RCSC Board President Vance Coleman said all of the directors unanimously supported the idea of owning Duffee Land.

"When you look at it, you just can't say no," said Coleman. "Many people were already requesting a dog park so this happened at the right time."

Larry Klein, RCSC board member, said he also received many requests from residents about a dog park.

"Now we don't have to go through the process of developing land, just some enhancements because it's already here," Klein said.

Some of those enhancements might include resurfacing the parking lot, adding

SEE PARK, A5

PARK

FROM A1

a grassy area and installing new sprinkler systems.

Knight wouldn't disclose the sale price.

"I originally bought it for \$150,000 and sold it at a lower price, so it wasn't about the money for me, but they assured me the dog park would remain," Knight said.

The park, which covers two-thirds of an acre, is named after Knight's dog Duffee, who died from urinary

tract problems.

"He loved to come to here, but I did, too," Knight said. "And this park was more than just about the dogs but the people, too."

More than 280 families or 400 individuals use Duffee Land.

"When Del Webb developed the other Sun Cities, a dog park was placed in those communities but overlooked in the original Sun City," Knight said.

According to Knight, businesses across the street at LaRonde Shopping Center developed the empty land as a dog park, and he bought it.

The residents who use Duffee Land help maintain the park.

Sun Citian Judy Luna has brought her American Eskimo dog, Yeti, to Duffee Land for seven years.

"I think it's a wonderful idea that RCSC will take it over. After all, the park is in Sun City and should be maintained by them," Luna said.

Alice Kirberg moved to Sun City in December and brings her Shih Tzu, Harley, to the park twice a day.

"I'm all for them taking over as long as it remains a dog park," she said. "This park has become a social network for the people and the dogs."

Proposed RCSC guest rules cause confusion

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

One thing was clear at Thursday's Recreation Centers of Sun City meeting, a proposal to tweak rules regarding guest use of facilities was anything but.

The RCSC board of directors was seeking to amend a policy to say that guests who live within a 75-mile radius may only visit the association's facilities once a month. The change would not apply to caretakers, caregivers or club guests.

General Manager Jan Ek said last week that guest privileges for Recreation Centers members are intended to be for visiting family and friends,

but there has been a growing problem of people from surrounding communities asking people they don't know as they walk into the facilities to sign them in as guests.

Several residents took to the microphone Thursday to explain their situations and ask what the policy change would mean for them.

"I'm the president of the table tennis club," said Caroline Rucker. "We're very competitive, and we like to bring in guests from the area (around Sun City). I don't know who is responsible for keeping track of this 75-mile limit."

SEE GUESTS. A5

GUESTS

FROM A1

Board president Vance Coleman said: "Our facilities are for our members, but we have an awful lot of people taking advantage of our good nature and using our facilities at no cost to them. We've got to find a way to address this."

One Sun Citian said she has family in Surprise who often come to Sun City to work out with her, and she asked the board if she is going to have to alter her schedule.

Another resident said her out-of-state grandchildren come

to visit one of their divorced parents every year.

That parent lives within 75 miles of Sun City. She asked if the proposed policy would limit them to swimming with their grandparents in Sun City only once a month.

After another explanation of the intent of the new policy and attempt at explaining what it will do in practice, the board unanimously voted to withdraw the motion.

"I think we've heard enough here," Coleman said, "and we're going to have to revisit it."

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-8762531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

RCSC drops 1 meeting

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City voted this week to eliminate one of the board's two monthly director-member exchange meetings.

"I'm shocked at the cutting back of membership meetings," said Myles Sagan, a Sun City resident who frequently attends RCSC meetings.

Board president Vance Coleman said the board is cutting down on its meetings partly in the hopes that consolidating will mean more people at each meeting, thereby creating better discussions.

"Over the last year or so I've counted the people in attendance," he said. "And normally, we have more staff here than we do individual residents."

Sagan said he felt it was important the board of directors continue to hold two director-member exchange meetings every month.

"It means more opportunities to attend," he said. "If even one person loses out on a chance to voice a concern, that is unacceptable."

Director Bill Pearson, who introduced the motion, said hosting sparsely attended meetings does the board no good.

"There's 'a lot' of communication, and then there's 'good' communication," he said.

Pearson said the board members plan to spend more time attending club meetings and listening to member concerns one-on-one, in an informal environment.

"Rather than expecting you to come to us," he said. "I think it might be best for us to go to you, where you are most comfortable."

RCSC board to consider changes to documents

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors will consider during its next regular business meeting a motion to eliminate some open member meetings.

The board will meet 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. The motion is one of several that will make changes in RCSC's governing documents that will affect members' access. Other motions include limiting guest visits for people who live within 75 miles of Sun City to one per month and limiting pool facilities available for children. The board will also consider raising golf fees.

Citing poor member attendance, the board proposes eliminating one of two



Bill Pearson

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RCSC

Continued From Page 2

member/director exchange monthly meetings. While it is not included in motions proposed for the Sept. 27 meeting, RCSC officials stated, in a press release distributed last week, that it will also soon vote on a motion to eliminate three of the quarterly membership meetings and have only a single annual membership meeting.

"It is obvious by lack of attendance it is time for some modifications and RCSC is hopeful the upcoming changes will produce great benefit to all concerned," stated a press release sent out by Christy Kleinhans, RCSC communications coordinator.

RCSC officials declined additional comment, referring to the press release.

However, board member Bill Pearson, speaking for himself not the board, said he supported the meeting changes to increase communication with members, not reduce it.

"I voted for it (exchange reduction) to give me time to go to clubs and talk to people," he said. "If they won't come to you (meetings), you go to them."

RCSC officials said the next annual meeting is already planned as an all-day event that will include food, entertainment and an exchange of information. The annual meeting is scheduled Saturday, Jan. 26.

Mr. Pearson added that the change in the annual meeting allows RCSC officials to draw hundreds of people to the meeting over a full day. Mr. Pearson also noted the

RCSC is working on bringing back a sense of community as former Del Webb Corp. employee John Meeker had intended when selling Sun City.

The press release also stated the board's decision came after investigating what other communities around the country are doing.

Some residents believe these changes would be detrimental to RCSC members.

"You are making motions that are taking things away from us," said Michael Brock during the Sept. 17 member/director exchange.

Anne Randall Stewart is concerned these measure are going before the board before residents have had a chance to provide input on them.

"How can the board take away member meetings?" she asked.

She also disagrees with the motions to limit pool access for children and limiting visits by members' guests who live within 75 miles of Sun City to one per month. **See letter on Page 5.**

During the Sept. 17 member/director exchange, Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, said board and management concerns regarding the guest visits was to avoid abuse and overloading RCSC facilities. She explained many people who live in surrounding communities come to Sun City as guests specifically because the \$2 daily guest use fee is cheaper than for facilities in their own communities.

In its press release, the board requested resident input on the motions prior to the Sept. 27 board meeting.

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

RCSC solar projects well on their way

Solar energy projects at Recreation Centers of Sun City facilities are well on their way to completion, while RCSC officials continue to wait for permits for other projects.

The two Bell thermal pool-heating solar projects were nearly 80 percent complete by the end of November. Pumps and associated plumbing were the last items to complete before testing. At Oakmont, crews were completing preparations for the ground mount panels, fencing was being fabricated and equipment purchased.

Priceless Plumbing is the contractor for the thermal projects.

RCSC officials continued to wait at the beginning of December for permits from Maricopa County Planning and Development for the photo voltaic electricity-producing projects.

budget requirements. The human service agency serves more than 5,000 residents. To date, CAN officials have received \$12,200.

Call 623-933-7530 or visit www.suncity-can.org.

Performers uncover options to club fees

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charlie Musgrave said his father once told him what to do if he really wanted to prove a point.

"If someone wants to play a game, let them pick the game," said Musgrave, associate conductor of Sun City Concert Band. "Let them set the rules they want to play by, and then beat them by their own rules."

At a meeting Wednesday night of the leadership of the performing clubs of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Musgrave outlined a plan of action he believes will do just that.

The RCSC's performing clubs expressed strong opposition to last month's change to Board Policy 12, which removed the exception to the \$2 club guest fee for them and other groups, because the performing groups believe the fee will cripple them. Many of the performers in



JAROD OPPERMAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charlie Musgrave, associate conductor of the Sun City Concert Band, holds up an independent contractor agreement and the Recreation Centers of Sun City's regulations concerning independent contractors, Wednesday, explaining a plan to bypass the RCSC's decision to change its club guest fee policy.

the clubs are not residents of Sun City and charging them for every practice is seen as too great a cost. Since the RCSC's board of directors approved the change, the performing groups have been looking at ways to respond.

Musgrave said he met with an attorney who encouraged him to think outside the box. The plan he devised? To designate

the club's non-Sun City performers as independent contractors and sign them all to \$1 annual contracts. Musgrave consulted with other performing group leaders and he said they believe after careful review of the RCSC's bylaws they are in good standing to do that.

SEE FEES, A5

FEES

FROM A1

"We're looking for a way to save our groups," Musgrave said. "We don't want to see them go away. I believe by thinking outside the box we may have found a solution to saving all our groups."

A member of the audience suggested that once the board sees the performing groups have found a way around the guest fee they might respond by taking away the independent contractor provision, though Musgrave said he does not believe they would do so.

"If they did that they would have to deny all the other groups, not just the performing groups, their independent contractors," he said. "And it's their rules, it's their forms. I don't see a problem."

Ed White, Sun City Concert Club president, said the performing groups were given a 30-day grace period to decide if they wanted to continue on as char-

tered clubs or take up the offer to de-charter. White proposed that each representative in attendance at the meeting go back to their clubs with the independent contractor idea, vote on it, and if they like the idea to get their outside performers to fill out the contractor forms. The leadership is scheduled to meet again Jan. 30, the final day of the grace period, and White suggested they gather all their forms together and turn them in all at once to make a statement.

"We want to present them as a united group," he said. "As I understand it, we are following their rules, and legally we've found a hole. We can't just roll over dead like they want us to do."

And if for whatever reason the independent contractor idea does not work?

"Well, then we have a little thing called a recall," White said.

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

RCSC spurns performers' plan

JEFF DEMPSEY

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City stood firm Monday against an effort by community performing groups trying to maneuver around a policy change that removed exemptions to the \$2-per-visit guest fee.

"You've been your own worst enemy," RCSC board member Bill Pearson told

the leader of an effort to circumvent the policy change during the director-member exchange meeting. "You've argued your case to the papers and not to us."

Late last year the RCSC board approved changes to its club policy and removed exemptions to the \$2-per-visit guest fee, a move that caused a stir among RCSC's performing groups who rely on participation from nonresi-

dents of Sun City. Two weeks ago, those groups announced a plan to designate their guest performers as independent contractors, which they believed was in accordance with existing policies.

It isn't, according to the RCSC.

"It is apparent in the language of BI (board policy) 12 that an independen

SEE RCSC, A

RCSC

FROM A1

contractor is someone that provides a service to a club and is paid for those services," according to a handout distributed at Monday's meeting. "Not someone who participates in a club and performs with a club."

In short, clubs using independent contractors to provide a service, such as dance callers or class instructors, are in the clear. Designating club members as independent contractors? The board said that is not acceptable.

"The RCSC Board of Directors would not want the actions of one club to put any other clubs in jeopardy, therefore, would be likely forced to restrict the number of independent contractors that could be hired annually by a club," the handout stated.

Ed White, Sun City Concert Club president, who leads the effort against the policy

**For a Q&A on this issue
with RCSC General Manager
Jan Ek, go to yourwestvalley.com**



change, was first to speak at the meeting, saying he is disappointed in the board's decision to move forward with the policy change despite repeated pleas from himself and others at numerous board meetings.

"It seems to me that the board has failed miserably in its people-to-people programs and promises," White said. "It is my earnest hope and prayer that somehow, some way, the BP12 club situation can be resolved with this board."

Pearson said White has done himself no favors in his comments against the board and reiterated his stance that the board's responsibility is to the people of Sun City and that it is not within his purview to concern himself with any club's guests.

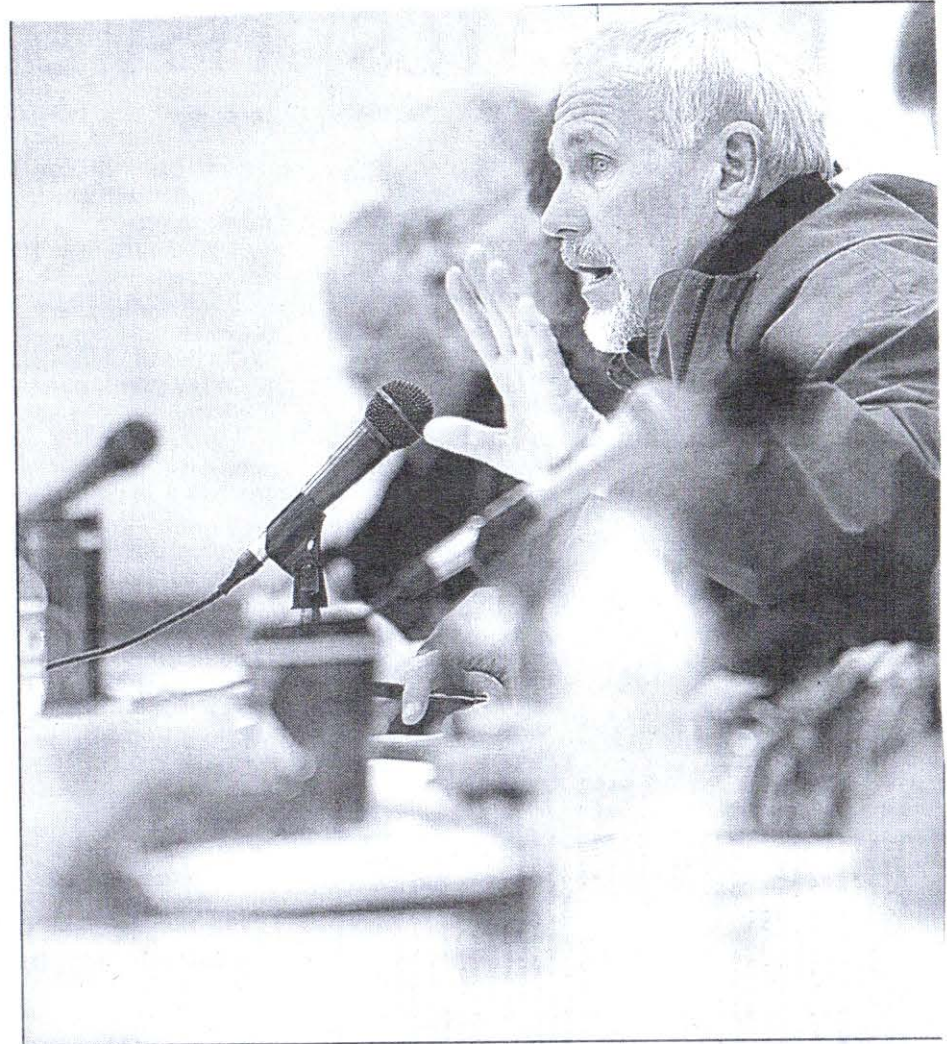
The board's responsibility, he said, is to ensure a prosperous future for Sun City and its residents.

"I don't care about people not living in Sun City," he said. "I don't."

Pearson said last week he hoped this year's board, under new president Jim Brasher, would be more open to meeting with the performing groups and discussing their concerns, and Brasher opened the door for just that.

"We want you to present solutions to becoming a legitimate Sun City club, with Sun City members. Put that in writing and we will talk to you about it," Brasher said to White. "We will meet with you on that."

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



NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bill Pearson, RCSC board member, responds to a comment during a discussion of the RCSC fee policy Monday.



SOUR NOTE

The Sun City Recreation Board has voted to enforce a \$2 fee for every practice and a \$1,000 charge for each performance. That puts Sun City's three bands at risk.
— **COMMUNITY LIVING, Page 3**

Lee Subke, 85, of Sun City West, plays the flute as the Sun City Concert Band rehearses. DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

Fee policy a sour note for Sun City

By Jen Lebron Kuhney
The Republic | azcentral.com

Sun City's performing-arts clubs are looking for ways to save the hobbies they love after a recreation board voted to strictly enforce fee rules.

The Sun City Recreation Board voted 8-1 Dec. 20 to make all groups follow an existing rule that requires non-residents to pay \$2 for every practice and performance on the senior community's grounds.

Groups must also pay a \$1,000 setup fee for each performance, according to e-mails about the policy obtained by *The Republic*. Clubs can avoid fees if they make an annual donation to the recreation center of \$17,500 or more.

The policy begins Feb. 1.

The Sun City performing bands have been the most vocal critics of the fee, but the policy affects all clubs with non-resident members.

"We're fighting for something I believe is paramount to the ambience of Sun City," said Ed White, the president of the Sun City Concert Band.

Sun City is home to three performance bands, which have nearly 300 members. More than 40 percent of those members are not Sun City residents.

For years, band members have practiced and performed at Sun City facilities for free. Many musicians attend several practices and performances a week. The use fees would cost members \$72 a year, too much for retirees on fixed incomes, White said.

The management staffers who operate the West Valley senior-living community have said the fee is an issue of fairness. Other groups and guests who use Sun City's recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, pay the fee.

Recreation board members did not respond to requests for comment.

Since the vote, the performance clubs are scrambling for solutions.

They include seeking inde-



Conductor George Zoske leads a rehearsal of the Sun City Concert Band, which opposes stricter enforcement of non-resident and performance fees. PHOTOS BY DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC

pendent-contractor status for some members or using performance space in Surprise. As a last resort, the clubs could take the recreation board to court or try to recall board members, club members say.

To avoid the use fee, Sun City performing-arts clubs could hire non-resident performers as independent contractors. Under the recreation board rules, the resident clubs could pay the contractors any fee that they chose. The clubs plan to pay each contractor \$1 per year.

At a Jan. 2 meeting, performance-club leaders agreed to pitch the idea to their members. White plans to present the performers' contracts to the recreation board Jan. 31.

It's unclear if the board will approve the arrangement.

Surprise option

The Sun City bands are also seeking help from Surprise.

In December, Len Shykind, a Surprise resident and Sun City Concert and Pops Bands' pub-



Gordon Mead, 74, of Sun City, plays the trombone in the band, whose members worry that fee requirements of \$72 a year for each participant, will be too much for its members on fixed incomes to afford.

licity chairman, sent an e-mail to a neighbor, Mayor Sharon Wolcott, asking for help.

On Monday, leaders from the bands met with Mark Coronado, the city's recreation director.

They got a warm but cautious welcome.

"I want to be clear, we're negotiating a deal right now as the city has to do its due diligence," Coronado said of working with the bands.

"With that said, the city is excited about the possibility of having a city band to prov-

7 bands

tremendous entertainment from very talented musicians."

The conversations are extremely preliminary, he added, and there was no discussion about how much it may cost the city.

Surprise does not have any city facilities where the band could practice indoors on a regular basis.

However, school facilities, such as theaters or gymnasiums, may be available because the city has an agreement with Dysart Unified School District.

Coronado said he would contact the school district within the next week or two to discuss possible options.

Going to Surprise comes with risks.

The Sun City recreation board's policy states that all tools, equipment, fixtures and furniture purchased or donated to the performance clubs belong to the recreation center. That means the bands could lose instruments and the theater group could lose costumes or props if they were no longer official Sun City clubs.

The clubs' leaders are expected to discuss the options with their members before reconvening on Jan. 30. White said he hopes that all of the clubs will remain united as they determine what they will do next.

Playing on

The bands and the other performing-arts clubs intend to meet and rehearse in Sun City through Jan. 31, Shykind said.

What happens after that is less certain.

Charlie Musgrave, the concert band's associate director, has spoken with a lawyer about legal options.

A lawsuit may not be a good choice since the board likely has deeper pockets than clubs' members, Musgrave said.

The clubs can find another way, he said.

"I think that by thinking outside the box, we may find a solution that saves all of our organizations," Musgrave said.

RCSC board will review performers' plan

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Recreation Centers of Sun City board member Bill Pearson read about the performing groups' plan to get around a newly revised guest fee policy, he said he blanched but was not entirely surprised.

"This is exactly what we should have expected," he said.

Pearson was the only member of the

board of directors who voted against the revision of Board Policy 12, the most controversial change, which removed a special exemption to the \$2 guest fee for certain clubs. He said he voted not because he did not want the change but because he did not like the way the board had gone about making it.

"I think we were on

SEE FEES, A5



NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nona Uthoff of Sun City West plays the bass clarinet during a Sun City Concert Band practice at the Fairway Recreation Center earlier this week.

FEES

FROM A1

the right track," he said. "But when there is conflict between people, between groups, between organizations, it is best to sit down and have a discussion. We haven't done that, and that is disturbing to me."

Feeling the policy change would adversely affect their clubs, the performing groups came

up with an idea to get around the policy change — designate their outside members as independent contractors and sign them to \$1 annual contracts.

Pearson said he does not know if the outcome would have been any different had the board sat down with the leadership of the performing groups, but he believes the decision would have been more informed as a result, and perhaps more acceptable to the groups if they truly felt their opinions were considered.

"Last year, we had a board that did not think those discussions were necessary," Pearson said. "I hope this year's board feels differently."

When asked how the board of directors might respond to the performing groups' end-run, Pearson said he cannot speak for the board as a whole, but he did say he is not looking forward to how the situation plays out.

"Now we're in an even more awkward position," he said. "Because now they are do-

ing this, which means we have to do that. They've come up with what they think is a solution, and

we should have expected it."

Jane Brambilla, director of the Sun City Choraliers, said at her group's rehearsal Monday, members are supporting the other performing clubs.

"We have only two members who are not Sun City residents so the new policy is manageable for us," she said. "But we stand with the other groups because for some of them this change is devastating."

The RCSC's board of directors will next meet for a director-member exchange at 9 a.m. Monday at Lakeview Social Hall No. 3.

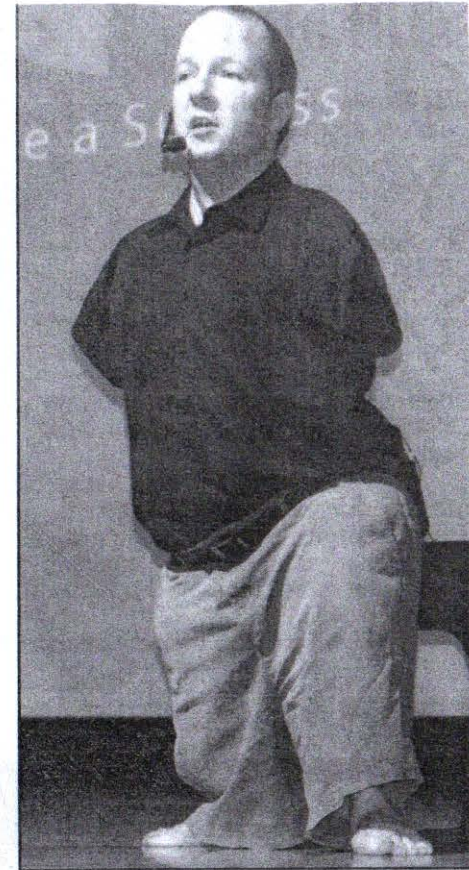
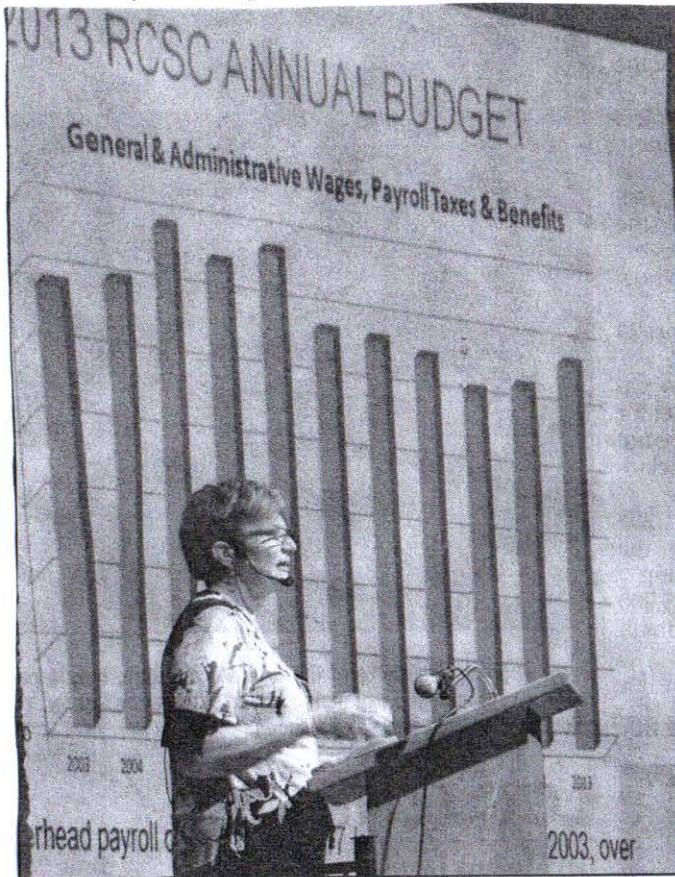
Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

If You Go

WHAT: Recreation Centers of Sun City directors-members exchange

WHEN: 9 a.m. Monday

WHERE: Lakeview Social Hall No. 3.



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
Residents who attended the Recreation Centers of Sun City Jan. 26 received a lot of information, including budget presentations from Jan Ek, left, RCSC general manager; a summary of the organization's goals and objectives for 2013 from Jim Brasher, RCSC board president; and an inspirational message from Chet McDoniel, right, a man born with no arms and shortened legs.

New approach: Lessons learned

RCSC officials deem annual meeting success, needs tweaks

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials were pleased with their first attempt at a single membership meeting for the year, but they see there are changes that can be made.

The event was not a total success, as the business portion of the meeting could not be conducted because a quorum was not achieved. At least 1,250 people were required to be registered in attendance at the 2 p.m. business portion, and there were less than 500, according to



● Guest Commentary. Page 24

Jim Brasher, RCSC board president. The attendance was far short of the Sun City Pops Band concert the following day, which drew more than 800 people.

"Total member attendance, according to

registration figures, fell short of our hopes, but it was our first attempt at an all-day type of event," Jim Brasher, RCSC board president, stated in an e-mail, representing the board's initial impressions.

Overall, the board believes the event was successful and enjoyed by those who attended. Board members believe the annual meeting was a good mix of RCSC business, budget presentations and opportunities for members' comments and entertainment. The event was also an opportunity for directors to circulate among attendees and meet members and answers questions.

"I had a really great time talking to a lot of people," board member Bill Pearson said the

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Lessons

Continued From Page 1

day of the event.

RCSC management and staff also had a chance to mix with members, as many employees volunteered for food management, registration, setup and general organization duties.

Keynote speaker Chet McDoniel, a man born with shortened legs and no arms, was a crowd favorite, as he spoke about overcoming obstacles in life. Members were also entertained by Dale Elliott on the piano; the Sun City Ukulele Club, led by Mark Baker; and Craig Davis, with magic, juggling and comedy.

However, the board and management recognized the event may have been too long. The board believes it was too conservative when allotting time for the various presentations.

"The breaks were too long," Mr. Pearson said that day. "But those breaks did allow for more one-on-one time with residents, so that was the bright side."

Board members agree next year's event should be shortened. They also believe more advanced publicity would be helpful.

"(We will also) avoid scheduling on a rainy day," Mr. Brasher quipped in his e-mail.

RCSC officials will continue their focus on marketing Sun City on a wide scale, ac-

ording to Mr. Brasher, in his presentation on the board's 2013 goals and objectives. Corporate leadership is working with Catapult, a marketing firm, which helped develop a new community logo, unveiled at the annual meeting.

"We will have a new marketing website developed in the next few months, and we will update the main and golf websites," he explained.

Mr. Brasher said there was much to be gained from history, and talked of how community events were a large part of Sun City in its early years. RCSC officials hired Theresa Cirino to serve as events and entertainment coordinator.

The first of the community events RCSC officials plan is Del Webb Days, scheduled 2-10 p.m. Saturday, March 2 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Mr. Brasher said RCSC officials are also working to develop an online voting program.

"This will add convenience and, we hope, increase voter turnout," he said.

Management and sitting board members will also put more emphasis on getting more cardholders involved in running for board positions.

"There is no better way to invest in Sun City than to volunteer for the board," Mr. Brasher said.

He added the board and management will continue to concentrate on cost containment while paying attention to the needs of the community and infrastructure.

The meeting was also an opportunity to introduce RCSC's revised, more modern Sun City logo. It was very well received, judging by comments and the number of branded apparel items purchased by residents, according to Mr. Brasher. Proceeds from sale of those materials will go to Sun City Community Assistance Network as part of RCSC's annual employee fundraising efforts, given to a different community organization each year, he added.

While the business portion of the annual meeting was opened and closed quickly because a quorum of at least 1,250 people was not present, Mr. Brasher opened the floor for comments. Most people who spoke touched on the quorum issue. The majority opposed such a high number, but two residents voiced their support.

"I think you can make the (1,250) quorum, and I understand why you changed it," said George Horning.

Judy Christianson said she did not want 100 people deciding how Sun City was operated. She believes more people should attend meetings.

"If you don't put your input in, you won't get anything out of it," she said.

However, others believe the number should be reduced.

"I don't normally agree with Anne Randall Stewart, but I think we need to reduce the quorum," he said. "You will never get a quorum at 1,250."

Terry Smith said the only way it would be possible would be a proxy system. But

Mr. Brasher explained the corporate documents clearly state proxies could not be used to establish a meeting quorum.

Walter Schmidt believes the high quorum number is hypocritical, pointing out that in annual board member elections, winning candidates do not get that many votes.

Board member Larry Klein stressed that even though there are not quorums during membership meetings, it does not effect corporate business or residents' ability to communicate with the board.

"It just eliminates one way for members to participate," he said.

Mr. Klein added the board has been influenced in its decisions by members.

"You can raise a level of concern the board may not have," he said. "The sundial is a perfect example."

The board had proposed tearing down the sundial, but community outcry influenced it to reconsider, and the monument at the recreation center bearing the name was refurbished instead.

Gary Howard disagreed, saying a vast majority at a night meeting at Mountain View Recreation Center more than two years ago opposed raising the quorum, but the board did it anyway. Other residents pointed to the recently changed Board Policy 12 for clubs, which filled Sundial's auditorium in November 2012 with a majority of attendees opposing the change.

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

RCSC: Fewer meetings = more people

Residents concerned bylaw changes reduce member control

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
Independent Newspapers

The Sun City Recreation Center Board of Directors will consider a bylaw change eliminating some membership meetings and proxy votes.

The board will also consider a proposed long range plan for the corporation's preservation and improvement fund, designated for capital improvements projects.

If You Go

Recreation Centers of Sun City
Board of Directors

9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 25

Sundial Recreation Center, 14801
N. 103rd Ave.

The bylaw change, if approved as proposed, would eliminate three quarterly membership meetings and retain the January meeting as the required annual meeting. In addition, the change would eliminate members' ability to

vote at membership meetings without being in attendance through proxies.

The proposals did not sit well with some residents. Michael Brock believes the board is taking away opportunities for cardholders to be part of the governing process. Anne Randall Stewart agrees.

"They are trying to deny us the opportunity to have a voice," she said.

Mrs. Stewart urges cardholders to attend the board meeting and protest the changes.

However, RCSC officials believe the changes will streamline the process and allow for more

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Board

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Participation.

"We are trying to make things more user-friendly," board member Bill Pearson said of eliminating three quarterly meetings. "First and foremost, the goal is to get a lot of people in that auditorium (for the annual meeting)."

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, said doing away with the proxy votes is an attempt to bring RCSC into compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes Title 33. She acknowledged RCSC does not operate under Title 33, rather it is governed by Title 10.

"While RCSC is not required to comply with Title 33 by law, there are several things that RCSC does voluntarily that are in compliance with Title 33, as does Sun City West," she stated in an Oct. 15 e-mail. "As you know, we are frequently asked to comply with Title 33."

Ms. Ek also told residents at the Oct. 15 member/director exchange meeting that in the six years she had been with RCSC, not one proxy was filed.

Under the existing bylaws, members had to file proxies at least seven days prior to a membership meeting. All proxies were valid for a maximum of three months from the date of execution.

With only one membership meeting, resident Karen Schuerman questioned how RCSC officials would handle a motion put forward by a member at a membership

meeting that was tabled by the board.

"Would we have to wait an entire year to the next membership meeting before action was taken?" she asked.

Board member Cord Angier said RCSC could call a special meeting to deal with the motion. Mr. Pearson said if a motion was made from the floor the board would have to act upon it.

"This is a huge change, but it is all founded on getting people in the room," Mr. Pearson said.

The board will also consider a \$28.3 million PIF budget, recommended by the long range planning committee, including a variety of capital expenditures through 2020. The budget includes \$1.6 million for projects expected to be completed in 2012 — Sun Bowl property irrigation, Bell woodworking and metal expansion and the Beardsley well replacement.

The 2013 proposed projects include a new well at Sunland and renovations at Marinette Recreation Center and North Golf Course.

Mrs. Stewart believes approving the long range plan circumvents Article X of RCSC's Articles of Incorporation, which limits to \$750,000 any liability without a three-quarters majority vote of members at a membership meeting.

"In a bad economy with the uncertainty of living on pensions for the rest of our lives, giving up membership control of the RCSC purse strings is ill-advised," she stated in a column posted on the Sun City Formula Registry website, www.annereport.com.

However, the Article X limit is for debt for projects, according to Ms. Ek.

"As has been the history since its inception, RCSC pays for all capital projects in cash," she stated in an Oct. 17 e-mail. "Therefore, there would be no indebtedness or liability created for RCSC with any of the projects listed on the long range plan as the preservation and improvement fund will have sufficient cash to fund all of these projects."

Should something change and funds are not available, projects would be postponed or cancelled, she added.

Some residents at the Oct. 15 exchange meeting lobbied to alter the plan to include a performing arts center in Sun City. The long range plan proposal calls for expanding the Mountain View Recreation Center auditorium backstage and giving the center a facelift in 2019, at a projected cost of \$1

million.

However, Steven Puck of the Sun City Players believes that proposal is inadequate.

"Mountain View is really just a gymnasium with a stage," he said. "What we would like to see is an economical multi-use building."

He added there are 12 other clubs that can use a performing arts center.

Resident Roy Quid believes creating a performing arts center can be accomplished with minimal RCSC expense.

"We've talked to some big name performers who are willing to donate funds," he said. "The Wickenburg performing arts center started out just like that with grass roots support."

Former RCSC board member Don Schordje supports efforts to create a performing arts center in the community.

"Mountain View was adequate for the time it was built," he said. "But now that time has passed."

He was disappointed a Mountain View renovation was pushed back seven years.

"I would like to see more money allocated for it, and I would like to see it moved up," he said.

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

Golf tops RCSC wish list

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

After years of discussion, the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors approved a long-range plan detailing the major projects the organization intends to carry out through 2020.

Among the projects included in the plan are a complete overhaul of North Golf Course in 2013 at an estimated cost of \$6 million, new irrigation systems at Willowcreek and Willowbrook golf courses in 2015 (\$3.6 million), and replacement of golf maintenance buildings at four locations in 2020 (\$3 million). Board President Vance Coleman said the long-range plan will provide the board and future boards with valuable guidance.

"We finally have a long-range plan," he said at Thursday's meeting, "something we can work from, instead of just grabbing things out of the air."

Steven Puck, president of the Sun City Players Board of Directors, said he and his colleagues have been advocating for years for a dedicated theater in Sun City. He noted the \$1 million face lift scheduled for Mountain View Recreation Center in 2019 but said that is not enough.

"We want a performing arts center," he said. "We cannot continue to pin our fu-

SEE PLANNING, A5

Saturday, October 27, 2012

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS

Recreation Centers of Sun City Long-Range Plan Summary

- 2012:** Finish replacing irrigation at Sunbowl property, regrade and replant, level ball field and re-gravel track, construct dog park in northwest corner of property (\$477,723)
Finish expanding Bell Woodworking & Metal clubs (\$636,043)
Beardsley Well Replacement (\$500,000)
2013: New well, Sunland (\$1.2 million)
Marinette: fitness center expansion, move spa outside, create pickleball center with some shade, rearrange outdoor walking track (\$2.3 million)
North Golf Course: complete renovation – irrigation, main lines, bunkers, tees (\$6 million)
2014: Bell Tennis Court replacement (\$1 million)
Capital Reserve (\$3 million)
2015: Willowcreek and Willowbrook irrigation system (\$3.6 million)
2016: Riverview: irrigation, bunkers, tees, greens (\$3 million)
2017: Lakes East: irrigation system (\$2 million)
Remodel Lakeview: yoga, pilates, classrooms, club expansion, steam/sauna (\$1 million)
2018: Replace South Pro Shop & add golf cart storage (\$1 million)
2019: Expand Mountain View back stage in auditorium, give center a face lift (\$1 million)
Mountain View – move spa outside, expand fitness if continued demand justifies such (\$600,000)
2020: Replacement of golf maintenance buildings with steel buildings at four locations (\$3 million)

PLANNING

FROM A1

ture on one activity, that is to say golf."

Coleman said the long-range plan should not be looked at as a binding agreement.

"I view it as a living document that can change with time," he said. "What we look at is 'needs' first, and then we can look at the 'wants.' This is not set in stone."

Board Treasurer Larry Klein, who chairs the long-range planning committee, said the plan needs to be in place, regardless of whether it satis-

fies everyone.

"This thing has been worked on and talked about for a long time," he said. "This was not made on short notice, or on a whim. The long-range plan needs to be there."

Klein did add, however, that the most-discussed project that did not make it into the plan was the theater, at an estimated cost of \$5 million to \$6 million. It did not have the support at this time to make it in, he said.

"We have to choose the projects that best serve the community with the money we have," he said.

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

Policy change hits sour note



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Sun City's Concert and Pops bands drew thousands to its 2011-12 concerts at Sundial Recreation Center. A change in club policy, including requiring daily guest fees, have band officials concerned the groups may not be able to maintain its membership.

Daily guest fee could have devastating effect on bands

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials are considering changes to RCSC's chartered clubs policy that some club leaders believe will have an adverse consequence for their groups.

Proposed changes include a \$2 per day charge for club guests and keeping a guest register to be submitted to RCSC officials monthly with guest fees. Another change defines special clubs as those that require non-RCSC cardholders to complete the group.

The Sun City Concert and Pops band members believe this change could cripple membership and be the demise of the groups. The concert band was established in 1979, and presently boasts 141 members, and the pops band formed in 1965, and features 100 members. The bands

rely on membership from outside Sun City, and a large percentage of each band is non-Sun City residents.

However, if required to pay the guest fee, nearly all but two nonresident band members will leave the group, according to Ed White, band spokesman.

"If we have to have these rules, it will destroy the band," he said.

During an Oct. 30 rehearsal meeting, he asked concert band nonresident members, with a show of hands, if they would leave the band if required to pay the guest fee. All nonresident members raised their hands.

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, stated in an e-mail Policy 12 changes were introduced to provide equity for all RCSC guests. While the \$2 per day fee is part of it, there are other provisions in the proposal designed to provide equity, she added. In numerous clauses in the policy, both existing and proposed, it states RCSC cardholders should not be displaced.

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Policy

Continued From Page 1

RCSC officials brought forth a proposal in September to limit guests with facility privileges at members' homes to once per month to address that issue. But the motion was tabled for further study after residents protested during the September member/director exchange and board meeting.

Meanwhile, residents will have a chance to review and ask questions about the Policy 12 proposal during a presentation 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave. They will have another chance to voice their input during the member/director exchange 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19 at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

While the agenda is not yet complete, the first opportunity for the RCSC board to vote on the changes will be the regular board meeting 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Sun City clubs have different dynamics, including some for social, recreation and performance. Ms. Ek said it is possibly beneficial to create different guidelines for each dynamic. However, she believes that could create additional challenges to equity.

"It is difficult when rules and regulations are different for different situations," she stated. "It tends to create ill will between the different dynamics."

Ms. Ek added some of the Policy 12 changes were generated by members' concerns about inequity.

"A bit of what exists now is because members have asked the board why they have to pay guest fees for their grandchildren, but a club guest from another community pays nothing," she stated.

Responding to band officials' protests to the board, RCSC officials suggested the band could raise funds to cover the cost of guest fees. Mr. White said the band does not charge admission to its concerts, except the Sousa concert. Its only source of revenue is donations taken at each free event. Mr. White said those funds are used for instrument purchase and upkeep.

"A lot of these instruments are very expensive," he said.

The bands draw crowds of 750 to more than 1,000 per concert, and many band members feel, along with Sun City residents, that the groups provide a community service and promote Sun City's quality of life.

Sun City resident Wanda Rose stated in an e-mail that the bands provide welcome entertainment for many residents who enjoy the concerts.

"These folks provide so much enjoyment for others and are willing to give of their time and talent in doing so," she stated. "We have donated at the door to the best of our ability, understanding the costs of music and supplies."

Resident Fern Junso believes the band concerts have value beyond musical entertainment.

"They (the bands) are wonderful for drawing publicity for Sun City," she stated

in an e-mail. "(The board) should cancel this problem in the interest of promoting the many wonderful entertainment features Sun City has to offer."

Lou Bevilacqua, an 8-year band member who lives outside Sun City, finds it questionable he will be forced to pay to practice for the Sun City concert and pops bands.

"I have played in many other city bands throughout the country to help make money for the cities, and did it gladly without pay," he stated in an e-mail. "But here in Sun City I'm expected to provide my own uniforms and the incidentals that go along with playing the long season each year."

He believes even charged a \$4 annual fee, the existing charge, is an insult to performers.

"Count me out of that dumb idea," he stated.

Sun City resident Carolyn Otto, who now lives at Royal Oaks, but still owns her Sun City home, continues to pay her recreation assessment, although she is not able to access recreation facilities.

"I cannot afford to pay my Sun City dues, plus pay again for a rec card, or pay \$2 per session for every practice and performance," she stated in an e-mail.

Ms. Otto believes the bands provide a significant contribution to Sun City, but the policy changes will penalize the volunteers who provide it.

"It is one thing to agree to volunteer to bring pleasure to the residents, it is quite another thing to charge the players to perform while the audience has no cost," Ms. Otto stated. "As you lose up to half of the volunteers you now have and the tremendous loss of the outstanding quality of these volunteers, you will gain nothing financially and certainly nothing in the quality of life."

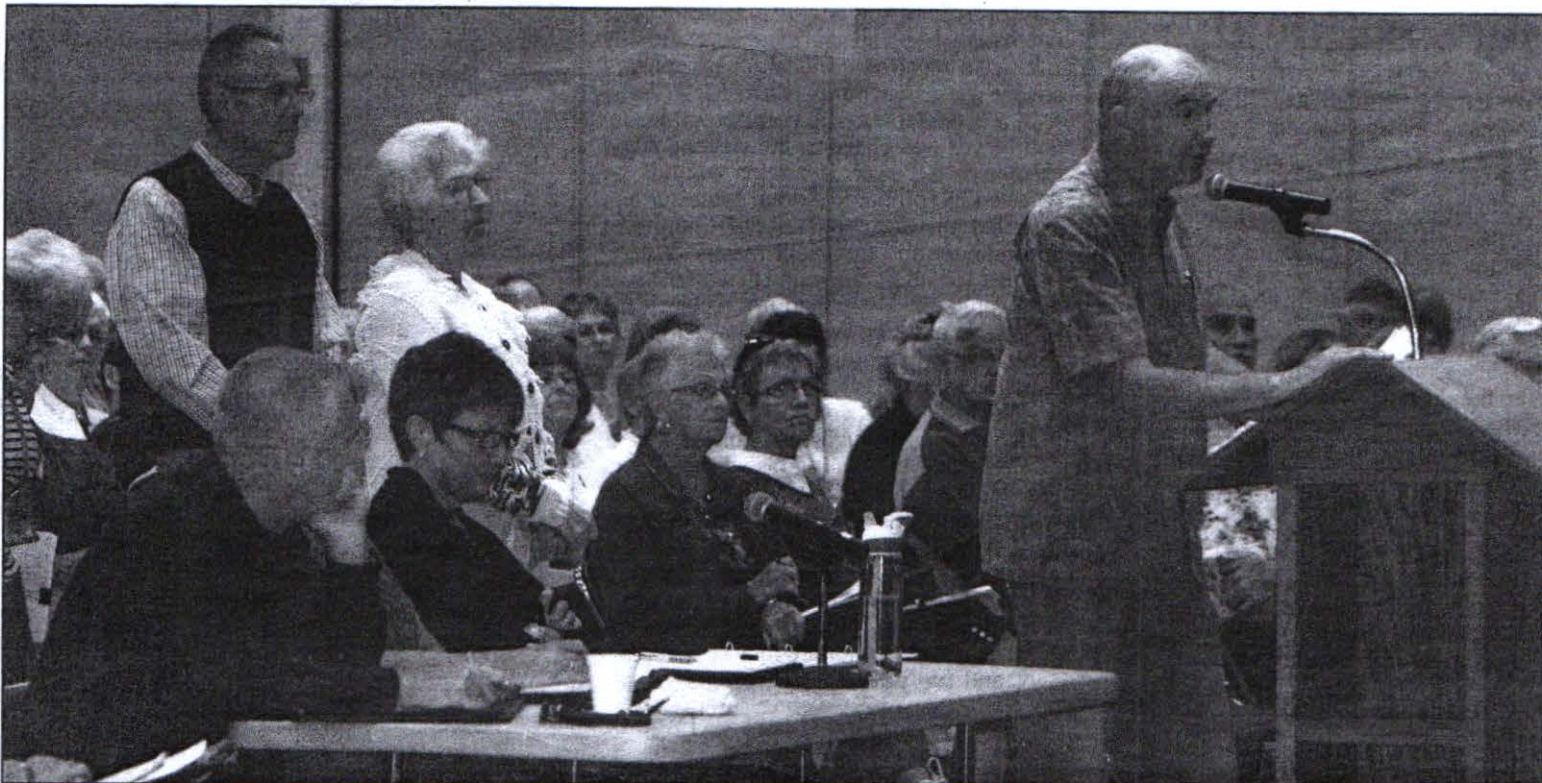
Len Shykind, publicity chairman of the concert bands, conducted a survey with the bands and noted the members disappointment. Nearly 120 people responded as of Oct. 31, wanting to get the community involved in the discussion through public meetings and media coverage since Sun City residents appreciate the band concerts.

"Many residents couldn't afford a regular paid concert, and ours are free that they would be deprived of good music our bands were about the only thing left in Sun City that they didn't have to pay extra for," Mr. Shykind added.

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

Food drive continues

Washington Federal, 19005 N. RH Johnson Blvd., is sponsoring a food drive for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. Individuals may drop off items 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Dec. 21. Suggested items include peanut butter, canned vegetables or fruits, rice, pasta, beans, and any nonperishable food items. No glass.



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

With others waiting in line to speak, Sun City resident Neil Swezey tells Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors their assertion club policy rule revisions concerning guest fees is a fairness issue does not hold water.

'Fairness does not hold water'

Resident argue board's plan to charge club guests

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City residents packed the Sundial Recreation Center auditorium Nov. 12 to hear an overview of changes to the chartered clubs policy. Most expressed their disapproval of a new proposed guest charge.

Revisions to Recreation Centers of Sun City board policy 12 were designed to make it more user friendly to clubs, according to Larry Klein, an RCSC board member and Club Organization Committee chairman. He added the committee hammered out proposed revisions over the last year. Some points in the proposed policy designed to make it easier on clubs are reduced

If You Go

RCSC Board of Directors

9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 29

Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

reporting, newly written club guidelines and dropping a requirement for clubs to have committees.

"We wanted to make the policy practical for all clubs regardless of size, and we wanted to let clubs make the decisions whenever possible," Mr. Klein said.

However, some club committee members were not happy associating with the end result. Committee member Phyllis Roach said, fol-

lowing the revision presentation, the proposals were more vague than committee members wanted.

"Board policy 12 (as proposed) was not originated by the committee," she said. "It was Larry Klein's idea, he would not listen to what the committee had to say."

Mr. Klein, in a Nov. 12 telephone interview, said revision ideas came from multiple sources, including himself, other board members, RCSC management, cardholder suggestions and committee members.

"It is definite the committee did not agree on all items," Mr. Klein said. "But they made their recommendations to the board, and the board acted on them."

He added the proposed revisions cut back on numerous required items from the existing

See Charge — Page 6

Charge

Continued From Page 1

policy.

"The guiding principle was that if the clubs can make the choice, let them do it," Mr. Klein said.

While she was silent on the guest fee, the biggest bone of contention from residents, Ms. Roach said committee members wanted things included in the revisions that were ignored.

"We said we would go along with it (proposal) if what we put in was included," Ms. Roach said.

Two items she said the committee proposed, but were not included, were term limits for officers and a requirement that each club have a bank account.

"But he (Mr. Klein) did not want to hear any of that because he said younger people don't want rules and regulations," Ms. Roach said.

Some people who spoke Nov. 12 said they agreed with 99 percent of the proposals, but did not agree with the guest fee. A number of clubs were represented in the protests, including duplicate bridge, knitting clubs, dance groups, the Sun City Players, the RV club and the concert band club.

Ian Halkett, a Sun City dance club member, believes dance groups will be severely affected by the guest fee because it will reduce the number of single men attending who enjoy ballroom dancing. He said that creates problems single women will not be able to dance as much and will leave the Sun City clubs for other groups.

He said several years ago RCSC officials determined more guests than members were taking free ballroom dance lessons offered through the club, so forced the dance clubs to end the lessons.

"Not only were guests penalized, but all the members were also deprived of those free dance lessons," Mr. Halkett said.

Some residents believe allowing guest participation is good for Sun City.

"Allowing guests to participate in events is one of the best marketing tools Sun City has," said Nancy Nixon. "If you start charging, you will reduce the guests and that marketing ability."

Several club representatives suggested allowing the individual clubs to set guest fees, and allowing clubs to keep that revenue. Mr. Klein said the guest fee was not designed as a revenue producer for RCSC, rather it was a question of fairness to all Sun

City cardholders.

"We constantly hear complaints from cardholders who ask why they have to pay the \$2 per day for their grandchildren but club guests do not," Mr. Klein explained.

Resident Neil Sweezey disagreed.

"There are a number of ways to solve the problem without changing programs that have been around for many years," he said. "I don't believe the fairness issue holds water."

Resident Mike Kennedy echoed those sentiments.

"I don't care if a member of the band or a play is treated differently than I," he said.

It was suggested a contributing artist category could be added to the policy to allow for no guest fees for groups like the concert band club that need members from outside Sun City to fill their ranks.

"Allowing guests to participate in events is one of the best marketing tools Sun City has. If you start charging, you will reduce the guests and that marketing ability."

— Nancy Nixon

While Mr. Klein agreed with residents that some aspects of the policy revisions needed further adjustment, he seemed set on the guest fee.

"It was never the intent that guests use RCSC facilities at no charge," he said several times during the meeting. "It is the philosophy of this board that non-cardholders should not be able to use the facilities for free."

While Mr. Klein said policy revisions could see some adjustments before it goes to the board for final approval, Ed White, concert band club president, said it appeared RCSC officials expected the revisions to pass as written. He claimed he received new club forms a week before the Nov. 12 presentation that were specifically required by the policy 12 revisions.

"They have already decided board policy 12 will go ahead," Mr. White said.

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, denied any knowledge the forms were distributed to clubs. She called it an error in the process.

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



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Sun City residents were lined up to attend the Nov. 12 presentation on proposed changes to Recreation Centers of Sun City policy on clubs. The biggest complaint was about a plan to charge club guests for every visit.

Club policy makes waves for RCSC

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bill Pearson said Monday the Recreation Centers of Sun City finds itself in the midst of a "perfect storm."

Speaking before a full house at the RCSC director-member exchange meeting, he said he and fellow board members were shocked to learn that 64 percent of the Sun City Concert Band members

come from outside Sun City.

That led the board to discuss changing a policy that exempts some clubs, such as the band, Handbell Ringers and Senior Softball Club, from charging a fee to outsiders who join their ranks.

Pearson said the exceptions were put in place because bands have numerous spots to fill and may need to look outside Sun City for, say, a tuba player. Those

exceptions, he said, may have gone too far.

"We were stunned to find that 64 percent of the concert band comes from outside the community," he said. "That's not filling in spots, that's taking over the club. That's no longer Sun City's orchestra, it's the West Valley's."

SEE POLICY, A5

POLICY

FROM A1

Pearson said the board decided to look at the policy to see if a change could be made that would make things equitable for all clubs and club members, with a priority on Sun City residents as members and less reliance on outsiders.

"Sun City residents first and foremost," Pearson said. "That's the direction we're taking."

The argument of those who do not want

to see any change is that the Sun City Concert Band and other such groups cannot function without guests from outside Sun City.

Virginia Summers, a singer and actress who said she has attended many of the band's concerts, said charging a fee to the guest musicians who play with the band sends the wrong message.

"The Sun City Concert Band is known throughout the country as a premiere group," she said. "Why do (the guest musicians) need to pay to volunteer?"

Barry Spinka, presi-

dent of Sun City's Computer Club, seconded Summers' comments.

"If people are willing to put forth their time and effort," he said, "why would we charge them?"

Janis Stiewing, vice president of Sun City's Mah Jongg Club, took note of the board's frequent use of the term "equity."

"Equity seems to be very important to you," she said. "I'll tell you, if you make exceptions for some clubs, I will be right back here asking for equity for mine."

Board president Vance Coleman said equity is indeed the chief concern.

"I have a hard time justifying non-members not paying," he said. "They're getting something for free, but in fact, they are not because Sun City residents are paying for it."

Board Treasurer Lar-

ry Klein said if a club is so reliant on guests to keep it operating then perhaps that club needs to look at ways to do things differently. He also agreed with Pearson, saying a club with more guests than residents is a problem.

"I would say you are missing the point of Sun City clubs," he said. "A policy change may behoove them to work harder to recruit members from within Sun City."

Pearson said the board now finds itself in an awkward position.

"We have created the perfect storm," he said, "where we now have people on both sides of this argument telling us not to back down."

Coleman said the board will continue to discuss how Board Policy 12A might be changed. He said he hoped to have it settled by the end of the

year but also said that might not be possible. Pearson said he hopes a solution can be found that is satisfactory to everyone.

"I'm a firm believer in compromise," he said. "I think compromise is the only solution here."

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be 9 a.m. Nov. 29 at Sundial Auditorium. For more information, visit www.sunaz.com.

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

Friday, April 30, 2010

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

RCSC OKs short-term privilege cards

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Short-term visitors to Sun City can purchase a monthly pass to use recreation centers facilities.

The idea, representatives and supporters say, is to turn renters into residents by allowing them to check out the facilities without purchasing a one-year card.

"We felt we were losing a number of people who are renting other places, such as Sun City West, who do offer short-term cards," said Gene Westemeier, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board. "This will help give them an opportunity to see what Sun City has to offer."

The RCSC board of directors unanimously passed the motion at Thursday's regular board meeting.

The measure allows eligible people to

purchase a short-term Privilege card for 30, 60, or 90 days for \$60 a month, under the RCSC bylaws.

Residents who spoke to the board before the vote were mostly supportive.

Arvid Peterson, a real estate agent, said he and his wife, Kay, have seen most short-term renters become homeowners.

So offering the short-term cards is an incentive over the previous requirement for renters and short-term visitors to pay \$210 for a full-year membership.

"If you rent, you buy here," Peterson said. "Last year, we had five (clients) who rented in Sun City West and one in Sun City, and they all stayed (and became residents)."

Denny Nichols said he had concerns over the association losing money in the long-run by not collecting the annual fee for short-term visitors. He also ques-

tioned how charter clubs will be able to regulate membership.

Bottom line, Nichols said, is renters who are paying \$1,500 a month to stay in Sun City should be able to afford another \$200 for an RCSC card.

After the meeting, Kay Peterson said she was thrilled with the unanimously approved decision to offer the short-term cards.

"This is going to let people come here and rent and try out the fantastic facilities," she said. "And we see that those who rent purchase in those communities."

Privilege Cards provide access to RCSC facilities and activities but not the ability to vote in RCSC elections. Privilege Cards are an option for Sun City residents who meet the requirements outlined in Corporate Bylaws Article II Section 3 and Board Policy #8 - Privilege

Cardholders.

Although any Sun City resident who meets the qualifications for a Privilege Card may purchase one, these short-term cards will likely be a benefit for short-term residents who rent a home in Sun City for no more than three months and those who may wish to try out RCSC amenities before purchasing a home in Sun City.

Short-term Privilege Cards are available at Cardholder Services, on the upper level of Lakeview Recreation Center. If any resident is unsure whether they meet the qualifications, logon to www.sunaz.com and click on the Board tab to find links to the Corporate Bylaws, Board Policies, or call Cardholder Services at 623-561-4603.

Daily guest fee could have devastating effect on bands

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials are considering changes to its chartered clubs policy that some club leaders believe will have an adverse consequence for their groups.

Proposed changes include a \$2 per day charge for club guests and keeping a guest register to be submitted to RCSC officials monthly with guest fees. Another change defines special clubs as those that require non-RCSC cardholders to complete the group.

The Sun City Concert and Pops band members believe this change could cripple membership and be the demise of the groups. The concert band established in 1979, and presently boasts 141 members and the pops band formed in 1965, and features 100 members. The bands rely on membership from outside Sun City, and a large percentage of each band are non-Sun City residents.

However, if required to pay the guest fee, nearly all but two non-resident band members will leave the group, according to Ed White, band spokesman.

"If we have to have these rules, it will destroy the band," he said.

During an Oct. 30 rehearsal meeting, he asked concert band non-resident members, with a show of hands, if they would leave the band if required to pay the guest fee. All non-resident members raised their hands.

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, stated in an e-mail Policy 12 changes were introduced to provide equity for all RCSC guests. While the \$2 per day fee is part of it, there are other provisions in the proposal designed to provide equity, she added. In numerous clauses in the policy, both existing and proposed, it states RCSC cardholders should not be displaced.

RCSC officials brought forth a proposal in September to limit guests at members' home to once per month to address that issue. But the motion was tabled for further study after residents protested during the September member/director exchange and

board meeting.

Residents will have a chance to review and ask questions about the Policy 12 proposal during a presentation 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12 at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave. They will have another chance to voice their input during the member/director exchange 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19 at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

While the agenda is not yet complete, the first opportunity for the RCSC board to vote on the changes will be the regular board meeting 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 29 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Sun City clubs have different dynamics, including some for social, recreation and performance. Ms. Ek said it is possibly beneficial to create different guidelines for each dynamic. However, she believes that could create additional challenges to equity.

"It is difficult when rules and regulations are different for different situations," she stated. "It tends to create ill will between the different dynamics."

Ms. Ek added some of the Policy 12 changes were generated by members' concerns about inequity.

"A bit of what exists now is because members have asked the board why they have to pay guest fees for their grandchildren, but a club guest from another community pays nothing," she stated.

Responding to band officials' protests to the board, RCSC officials suggested the band could raise funds to cover the cost of guest fees. Mr. White said the band does not charge admission to its concerts, except the Sousa concert. Its only source of revenue is donations taken at each free event. Mr. White said those funds are used for instrument purchase and upkeep.

"A lot of these instruments are very expensive," he said.

The bands draw crowds from 750 to more than 1,000 per concert, and many band members feel, along with Sun City residents, the groups provide a community service and

Bands

Continued From Page 14

promote Sun City's quality of life.

Sun City resident Wanda Rose stated in an e-mail the bands provide welcome entertainment to many residents who enjoy the concerts.

"These folks provide so much enjoyment for others and are willing to give of their time and talent in doing so," she stated. "We have donated at the door to the best of our ability, understanding the costs of music and supplies."

Resident Fern Junso believes the band concerts have value beyond musical entertainment.

"They (the bands) are wonderful for drawing publicity for Sun City," she stated in an e-mail. "(The board) should cancel this problem in the interest of promoting the many wonderful entertainment features Sun City has to offer."

Lou Bevilacqua, an 8-year band member who lives outside Sun City, finds it questionable he will be forced to pay to practice for the Sun City concert and pops bands.

"I have played in many other city bands throughout the country to help make money for the cities, and did it gladly without pay," he stated in an e-mail. "But here in Sun City I'm expected to provide my own uniforms and the incidentals that go along with playing the long season each year."

He believes even charged a \$4 annual fee, the existing charge, is an insult to performers.

"Count me out of that dumb idea," he stated.

Sun City resident Carolyn Otto, who now lives at Royal Oaks, but still owns her Sun City home, continues to pay her recreation assessment, although she is not able to access recreation facilities.

"I cannot afford to pay my Sun City dues, plus pay again for a rec card, or pay \$2 per session for every practice and performance," she stated in an e-mail.

Ms. Otto believes the bands provide a significant contribution to Sun City, but the policy changes will penalize the volunteers who provide it.

"It is one thing to agree to volunteer to bring pleasure to the residents, it is quite another thing to charge the players to perform while the audience has no cost," Ms. Otto stated. "As you lose up to half of the volunteers you now have and the tremendous loss of the outstanding quality of these volunteers, you will gain nothing financially and certainly nothing in the quality of life."

Len Shykind, publicity chairman of the concert bands, conducted a survey with the bands and noted the members disappointment. Nearly 120 people responded as of Oct. 31, wanting to get the community involved in the discussion through public meetings and media coverage since Sun City residents appreciate the band concerts.

"Many residents couldn't afford a regular paid concert, and ours are free that they would be deprived of good music our bands were about the only thing left in Sun City that they didn't have to pay extra for," Mr. Shykind added.

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



JAROD OPPERMAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City residents raise their hands after being asked who was planning on getting up to speak at Monday's RCSC board-member exchange meeting.

Sun City residents bash membership compromise

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For the Recreation Centers of Sun City's Board of Directors on Monday it was another meeting, another packed house and another group of residents displeased with the proposed changes to the RCSC's club policies.

More than 80 people attended the board-member exchange meeting, which on a typical day might see as many as a dozen.

"This additional fee being proposed, really, is a penalty," said Sun City resident Patty Mason. "You are penalizing people who want to be a part of our community."

At the heart of the issue is Board Policy

12, and specifically, a change that would eliminate an exception for certain clubs to the \$2 guest fee. Board President Vance Coleman said the board does not view what they are doing as changing the policy but rather clarifying and reinforcing what is already there.

"This is not a change in policy," he said. "Somewhere along the line we forgot what the policy was, and some clubs are not adhering to it."

Last week, the RCSC sent out a memo to its clubs detailing the board's position and explaining a compromise — clubs that did

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CLUBS

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not wish to be subject to the \$2 guest fee could decertify and continue to operate under different rules, outlined in the memo. Maryanne Strong, another Sun City resident, said neither choice is acceptable.

"These options don't work," she said. "You've got a problem here, and you're not solving it."

Board Secretary Cord Angier said the board has no intention of crippling the performing arts groups, who have been the most vocal critics of the change, but they noticed a discrepancy in the policy and did not want to ignore it.

"When we saw what (this change) meant for the band and other groups we wanted to work with you," he said. "To get our brains together and come up with a plan. I was giddy about it because I thought we had a good one."

Angier said the board will continue to work on the policy even after the changes are approved.

"I believe we've done a pretty good job," he said. "We can continue to work out the bugs, and we are willing to do that."

Duane Moore, another resident, said he believes some of the details of the proposed decertification option

need to be worked out. For instance, the requirement of four free performances per year.

"Four performances," he said. "We have some music groups that don't have the time or the means to do four performances. I think that part of it needs to be looked at."

Board Treasurer Larry Klein offered some clarification, saying the performances do not all have to be large-scale concerts at Sundial Auditorium or the Sun Bowl.

"They can qualify in lots of ways," he said. "Assisted living facilities, smaller things like that. I don't think any group will have trouble with the four performances, I really don't."

Ed White, president of the Sun City Concert Band, suggested perhaps the board could solve its problem by eliminating the \$2 guest fee for all clubs. He said his group, at least, is committed to remaining a club.

"When you decertify," he said. "What are you? You're nothing."

He added remaining a club and being subject to the guest fees could cripple them. The band is comprised of 55 Sun City residents and 82 guests, he said.

He and several others urged the board to delay a vote on the policy changes until further discussion can take place, perhaps in the form of a new ad-

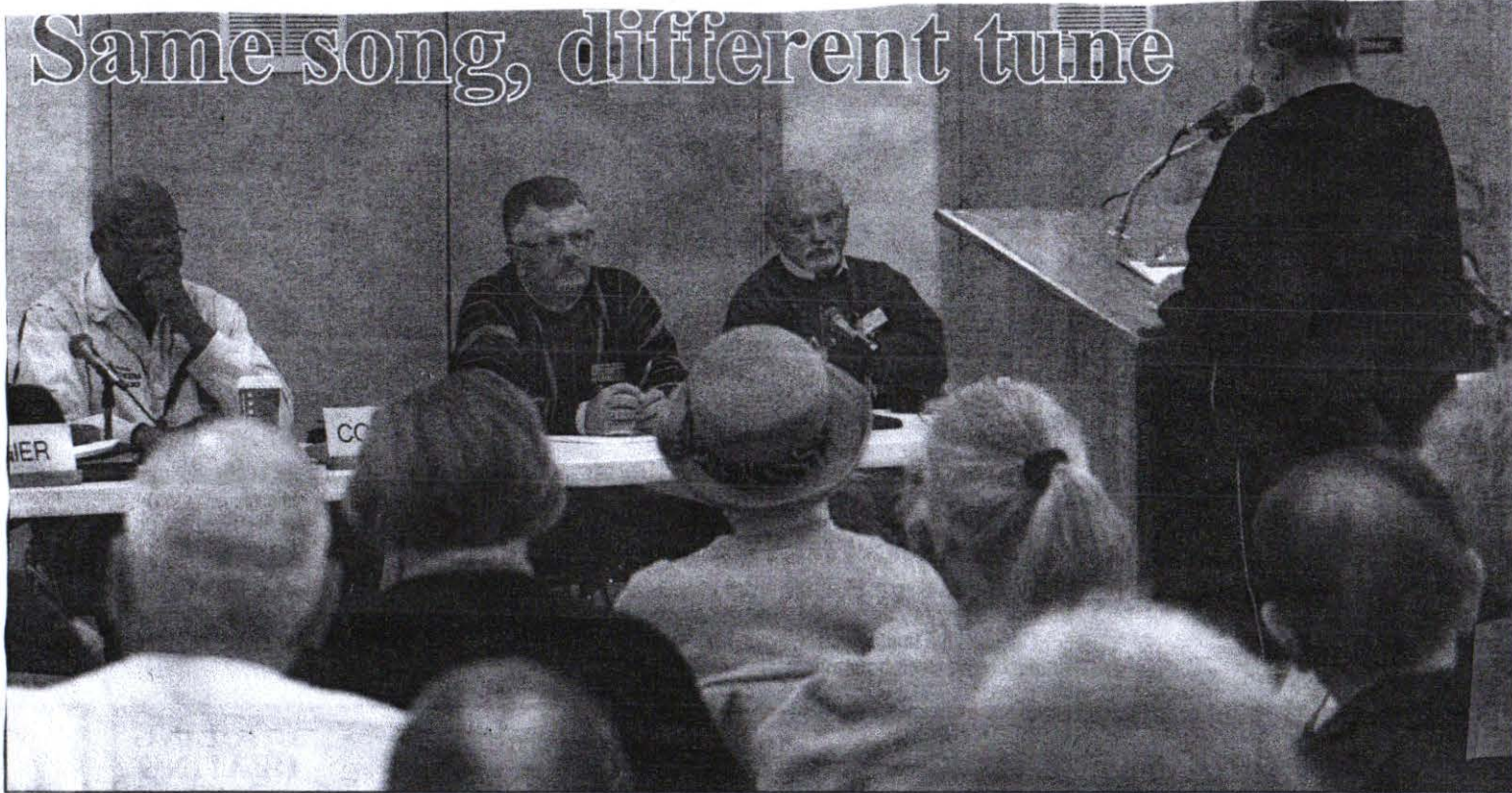
hoc committee of board members and club representatives.

"I hope you consider the gravity of this situation," White said. "I personally think these groups are a major asset to the community and I would hate to see them leave."

Director Bill Pearson said the board has done the best it can to address what they view as a real problem with the policy.

"Is (our solution) perfect? No," he said. "But we're moving in a direction that is workable for most clubs, and I say most."

The board will conduct its next regular meeting at 9 a.m. Dec. 20 at Sundial Auditorium.



Same song, different tune

Recreation Centers of Sun City board members, including, from left, Vance Coleman, Dan Hill and Larry Klein, listen Dec. 10 as residents expressed their concerns about a proposed compromise to revisions to the RCSC's policy governing clubs. Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Despite options, club leaders remain concerned about survival

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials tweaked Board Policy 12 in preparation for the final vote, but some clubs remain concerned about their future.

Some club members complained about the proposed \$2 per guest per visit, saying it would affect group revenue or membership — or both. A standing-room-only crowd attended a 3-hour Nov. 12 public meeting to express their concerns. Using information gathered there and through correspondence, RCSC board and management staff worked out what they believed was a compromise for the community's performing arts groups.

"We value the performing arts and are ap-

If You Go

RCSC Board of Directors

9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20

Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

preciative of the opportunities provided Sun City residents through these groups, which are primarily known as 'special clubs' now," the board stated in a letter sent to residents by e-mail.

The RCSC board is scheduled to consider its Board Policy 12 revisions for a final vote during its regular business meeting 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The special clubs category is to be eliminated, replaced by a performing arts groups category. Qualifying clubs can opt to join that

group by dechartering as an RCSC club. Groups that choose that option can continue to use RCSC facilities free of charge, but to do so must present four annual performances at no cost to residents. Under this option the groups would also not be able to collect free will offerings at those performances.

The other option is to remain a chartered RCSC club and live under the requirements of Board Policy 12.

However, Steven Puck, of the Sun City Players drama group, said the options do not work for his organization. In addition to the guest fee creating problems with membership, time available in RCSC facilities in the proposed changes for performing arts groups was not adequate for the Players.

"You are trying to create a resolution to something that is not a problem," Mr. Puck said.

He added that according to RCSC bylaws,

Policy

Continued From Page 1

if a club decharterers all its assets revert to RCSC. Jim Brasher, board member, said that was not entirely true and read the provisions, which state if a club is dechartered, its equipment and supplies may be sold to other clubs or donated. Anything left after that would revert to RCSC.

"That's pretty much the same thing," Mr. Puck said.

Ed White, Sun City Concert and Pops bands president, said the equipment provisions of dechartering was one of his concerns. He asked Bill Pearson, board member, in an e-mail after the Dec. 10 member/director exchange meeting for some clarifications, including whether the band would retain its instruments and other materials if it dechartered. Mr. White had not received a reply by press time.

Several residents at the Dec. 10 exchange meeting expressed their concerns the board was going against resident wishes with club policy changes about guest fees. However, board members argued they were addressing concerns of a majority of residents who believe it is not fair for them to pay for facility use, but nonresidents do not.

"We recognize this (proposed alternatives) does not work for all clubs, but it does work for the majority of people who believe it is not fair they pay for the facilities but those from outside do not," Mr. Klein said.

Vance Coleman, RCSC board president, said the clubs policy was not really changed in regards to guests, it was simply becoming enforced.

"We have forgotten what the policy was and we are just getting back to that," he said.

Cord Angier also said the proposed changes were designed to address another violation of RCSC regulations.

"The bottom line is the policy says people cannot be members of RCSC sanctioned clubs unless they are RCSC cardholders," he said.

However, he said board members wanted to work with the bands to provide a workable solution. In its letter to residents, the RCSC board praised cardholders for their input and encouraged more. But during the Dec. 10 board members bristled when some residents accused them of not listening to their concerns. After Mr. Puck explained why the alternatives did not work for the drama group, Mr. Coleman expressed his frustration.

"I have not heard you respond to the options," Mr. Coleman said. "In fact, I don't want to hear from you at all. We asked for written comments."

Several residents suggested forming a committee to research the matter more thoroughly before taking a final vote. However, Mr. Klein said the board has been working on Board Policy changes for up to two years. When challenged, he admitted the guest fee was an issue that had not come to light until recently.

Other residents suggested the board should have discussed their changes with the performing arts groups before crafting proposals.

"That is what I wanted to do, but I was outvoted," said Bill Pearson, RCSC board member. "I am only one of nine board members."

Mr. Puck believes the board should take more time to find solutions that work for the performing arts clubs.

"There is no rush, no gun to your head," Mr. Puck said. "Why enforce something that does not work?"

Mr. Klein agreed there were portions of the policy that still needed fine-tuning. But even though the board planned to finalize it in the Dec. 20 vote, he stressed it was a

living document and could be adjusted as additional solutions are worked out. The policy will become effective when approved by the board, but in an initial letter to residents explaining the options for performing arts groups, the panel stated those groups would have a grace period until Feb. 1 to come into compliance.

Mr. White said dechartering was not an option because without the RCSC sanction, the dechartered group could lose any ability to use RCSC facilities. He also remained concerned about the requirement to turn over assets to RCSC if dechartered. He requested, through Mr. Pearson, clarification on several concerns, including whether performing groups could request specific dates, times and locations for their four performances; the firmness of facility availability for practices, if dechartered; the issue of equipment retention, if dechartered; insurance coverage; and whether a club could perform outside Sun City if invited.

Mr. White also clarified the issue of a separate Concert Band Society, which appeared to be a board concern. He said the nonprofit 501(c)(3) was founded to provide volunteer and financial support to the Concert and Pops bands. The society's funds come from the annual Sousa concert, for which admission is charged and the band pays rental and setup fees for Sundial. The society also gains funds from memberships. It also got some money when funds raised by the Sundome Society to expand the Sundome in Sun City West was distributed among various groups. That money came with restrictions, allowing the band society to use it only for specific items. Funds taken as good will offerings at the other concerts does not go to the society, rather are used for band expenses, according to Mr. White.

Mr. White also addressed another board concern about Sun City residents being denied participation in the bands based on musical ability level.

"They can be a member and we urge them to come to practices, but not necessarily perform," Mr. White said. "To my knowledge, that (Sun City resident turned away) has not happened."

He added the bands do have nonmusical members.

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



JAROD OPPERMAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City residents wait to hear from board members during Thursday's RCSC board meeting.

RCSC passes guest fee

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City's Board of Directors conducted its last meeting of the year Thursday and approved a board policy change that has been a hot topic of discussion for several months along with a multi-million dollar overhaul of one of the community's golf courses.

"I'm very disappointed

that the board has not listened to all the performing arts groups in the community," said Virginia Summers. "I think it's a tragedy, and I'm disappointed all of the people who have raised opposition have not been heard."

The change — which removes the exception to the \$2 club guest fee for the band and other groups in addition to making the policy shorter — was met

with heated opposition when it was introduced in the Clubs and Organizations Committee and again when it reached the board of directors.

The board repeatedly stated its intention to get the policy in its revised form passed before the end of the year and to make whatever changes were deemed necessary

SEE FEE, A5

FEE

FROM A1

on an as-needed basis afterward. There were still those Thursday, however, who wanted the board to table the motion again, as it did at November's meeting.

"I don't think (guests) should pay," said Sun City resident Douglas Welch. "This should be tabled for further discussion. The peo-

ple don't want it."

Not all of those who spoke were against the proposed policy change. Sun City resident Ron Butler said he supported the board's efforts.

"It is clear some groups are not in compliance (with the policy)," he said. "Why should a select few be exempt from this requirement?"

Butler said he does not believe the \$2 guest fee will prove fatal for any of the af-

fectured clubs but if it did, he said, Sun City would survive.

"Clubs and activities have ceased to exist before," he said. "And our community has still flourished and expanded."

Butler said he views those who have been speaking out against the policy change as a very vocal minority.

"You are not the majority in this community," he said. "And I think the majority of non-club members would

agree all clubs need to pay their fair share."

In his last meeting as a member of the board, President Vance Coleman said he believes the board is making the right decision with the policy change.

"It isn't about being unfair to anyone," he said. "It's about being fair to everyone. (The fee) is in the bylaws. It's not new. We're just enforcing what is in the bylaws."

The board also approved

a motion to move forward with the overhaul of North Golf Course, a project estimated to cost just under \$6 million.

The vote was 7-2, with Bill Pearson and Linda Lindquist voting against. Pearson was also the lone dissenter in the vote approving the policy affecting the clubs.

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

How is RCSC governed?

By Vance Coleman

How do federal, state and local laws affect RCSC?

Federal, state and local laws supersede any of RCSC corporate documents. To that end, RCSC is regulated by Arizona Revised Statutes Title 10 as a private, non-profit corporation. RCSC is not now, nor has been in violation of any federal, state or local laws.

Why isn't RCSC regulated by Title 33 for planned community associations?

RCSC does not qualify under Title 33 as a planned community association because not every property owner in Sun City is required or can qualify to be a member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

A planned community association is a common interest organization to which all the owners of lots in a planned community must belong. The four defining characteristics of a planned community association are: 1) all owners are automatically members; 2) governing documents create mutual obligations; 3) mandatory fees or assessments are generally levied against owners and used for the operation of the association; and 4) owners share a property interest in the community.

There are three qualifications required to be an RCSC member: 1) Must be a deeded real estate owner of property located in Sun City; 2) must be 55 or older (unless qualified under spousal exemption); and 3) must occupy the Sun City property as his/her primary Arizona residence unless his/her other Arizona residence is farther than 75 miles from Sun City.

What are the RCSC Articles of Incorporation and what powers do RCSC members have?

The RCSC Restated Articles of Incorporation define the general nature of business in which the corporation is engaged and certain powers of the corporation and its board of directors and members.



Commentary

Vance Coleman

In order for RCSC to govern effectively, the members elect a board of directors to act on their behalf. The corporate documents delegate most of RCSC's decision-making powers to the board. This leaves the members with very few direct powers. The members have the voting power to elect and remove directors, amend the Restated Articles of Incorporation, convey assets exceeding \$50,000 in assessed value and approve indebtedness or liability in excess of \$750,000.

RCSC is not now, nor has it been in debt in excess of \$750,000. The Fairway project was paid for by cash as it was completed.

How are the RCSC Articles of Incorporation changed?

An amendment to the Restated Articles of Incorporation may be proposed by resolution of the board or by petition signed by at least 10 percent of the total membership of the corporation as of the first day of the preceding July.

The proposed amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the members at a regular or special meeting called pursuant to the provision of the bylaws. Contrary to the RCSC Articles, however, the proposed amendment cannot be adopted or rejected by a majority vote of the members, present or represented by proxy, because Arizona Revised Statutes Title 10 requires a two-thirds vote of the members.

Editor's Note: Mr. Coleman is RCSC board president.

Lines of communication

New website first step in RCSC committee's enhancement efforts

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

The first step in improving communication for Recreation Centers of Sun City cardholders was launched the week of May 4 with a revamped RCSC website. The site received good reviews from residents who have seen it. They praised its look and user friendliness.

Related Link
www.sunaz.com

"I like the new website, and I think it is more user friendly, Judy Reed stated in an e-mail. Mike Lindquist believes the new site reflects Sun City as a modern, up-to-date place to live. He was pleased with the new site's look and information."

"I viewed the new RCSC website this week for the first time. My initial thought was....WOW! He stated in an e-mail. "I found it very sharp, ex-

citing and full of useful information."

The new website is part of RCSC's efforts to improve communications, led by its member communications committee. The group, which meets monthly, continues to discuss other items for enhancement, including SunViews e-mail blasts, member/director exchanges, new resident orientation, fun fairs, new resident brochures, an electronic marquee, brochure spin racks and banners.

"Communication is one of our best tools. See Lines — Page 20"

Lines

Continued From Page 1

said Bill Pearson, committee chairman, during the group's meeting last week.

He added watching the evolution of RCSC's communications coordinator position since he moved to the community has been fascinating. He said at that time there was a multiple-person staff for communications, now it is being handled by one person and the workload has not been reduced.

"We are trying to do things in a cost effective manner, but sometimes that is not always the best," Mr. Pearson said.

While the website provides a lot of information, diversity is important as not all residents own computers, or surf the Web if they do.

"I am wondering how many people use computers, and really look things up. For me that venue works," Ms. Reed stated. "I get the Independent on Wednesdays so I keep it around to look up some things, so I think the newspaper probably reaches more residents than the internet, but am not sure how many really do use computers."

Baron le Vison does not visit the RCSC website, but praised the RCSC board's communication in the form of Board President Vance Coleman's monthly columns in SunViews and the Independent.

Kenneth Gegg sees the revamped website as just another venue for RCSC talking points, similar to SunViews.

"Living here for about 13 years plus I see very little change, except the raising of our living expenses and, thanks to the foresight of past boards, we are expected to catch up for past non-planning," he stated in an e-mail.

Marilyn Olney was unaware RCSC even had a website.

"I think a lot of people do not realize that RCSC has a website," she stated in an e-mail. "They ought to publish this more."

She believes that in a senior population fewer people are computer literate.

"RCSC needs get the ones who are in a communication mode," she stated.

RCSC communication with residents — existing and new — does need improvement. During the April 26 RCSC board meeting, Mark Smith said he would soon be a resident and was impressed with the faci-

ties. However, he was frustrated a he found it to get absorbed in the "The information about the pi not easy to come by," he said.

New resident Mike Hemmig initiative to get involved and att member communications me week. He said he learned a lot ju in on the meeting.

Skelli Dedmon and Diane W mittee members, said it was excit the enthusiasm of newcomers.

"It is always good to hear fr Ms. Worth said.

Addressing venues other tha ternet, Ms. Worth put together a source guide for the committee t. The guide provided information a to submit materials to the variou publications that circulate in Sun t.

"My goal was to establish a f submission," she said. "Our resi our best marketers."

Ms. Worth believes the media guide should be made widely to residents and others because people and groups in the comm are not associated with RCSC, suc nesses and churches.

From an RCSC sanctioned cl point, Ms. Dedmon suggested RCS should reconsider the requireme material submitted to outside pu be approved by the RCSC club o said the process slows down the get the information submitted.

"Getting preapproval presents problem," she said.

Mr. Pearson also said the more information goes through, the m diluted.

"I believe there is a way to exp even if we still have to go throug office," he said.

The member communications tee meets again next month, 1 p day, June 12 at Lakeview Recreatio. The group will not meet in July, b sume the monthly schedule in Au committee will continue to refine with the vision of making specif mendations to the RCSC board i according to Mr. Pearson.

In the meantime, RCSC official continue to refine the website. Paul H

INDEPENDENT

YOUR
24/7

NEWS SOURCE

Vol. 52, No. 19

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

www.newsrap.com

Lines of communication

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"We are trying to do things in a cost effective manner, but sometimes that is not always the best," Mr. Pearson said.

While the website provides a lot of information, diversity is important as not all residents own computers, or surf the Web if they do.

"I am wondering how many people use computers, and really look things up. For me that venue works," Ms. Reed stated. "I get the Independent on Wednesdays so I keep it around to look up some things, so I think the newspaper probably reaches more residents than the internet, but am not sure how many really do use computers."

Baron le Vison does not visit the RCSC website, but praised the RCSC board's communication in the form of Board President Vance Coleman's monthly columns in SunViews and the Independent.

Kenneth Gegg sees the revamped website as just another venue for RCSC talking points, similar to SunViews.

"Living here for about 13 years plus I see very little change, except the raising of our living expenses and, thanks to the foresight of past boards, we are expected to catch up for past non-planning," he stated in an e-mail.

Marilyn Olney was unaware RCSC even had a website.

"I think a lot of people do not realize that RCSC has a website," she stated in an e-mail. "They ought to publish this more."

She believes that in a senior population fewer people are computer literate.

"RCSC needs get the ones who are in a communication mode," she stated.

RCSC communication with residents — existing and new — does need improvement. During the April 26 RCSC board meeting, Mark Smith said he would soon be a resident and was impressed with the facili-

ties. However, he was frustrated at how hard he found it to get absorbed in the process.

"The information about the process was not easy to come by," he said.

New resident Mike Hemmig took the initiative to get involved and attended the member communications meeting last week. He said he learned a lot just by sitting in on the meeting.

Skelli Dedmon and Diane Worth, committee members, said it was exciting to hear the enthusiasm of newcomers.

"It is always good to hear fresh ideas," Ms. Worth said.

Addressing venues other than the Internet, Ms. Worth put together a media resource guide for the committee to consider. The guide provided information about how to submit materials to the various printed publications that circulate in Sun City.

"My goal was to establish a format for submission," she said. "Our residents are our best marketers."

Ms. Worth believes the media resource guide should be made widely available to residents and others because there are people and groups in the community that are not associated with RCSC, such as businesses and churches.

From an RCSC sanctioned club standpoint, Ms. Dedmon suggested RCSC officials should reconsider the requirement that all material submitted to outside publications be approved by the RCSC club office. She said the process slows down the ability to get the information submitted.

"Getting preapproval presents a bit of a problem," she said.

Mr. Pearson also said the more hands the information goes through, the more it gets diluted.

"I believe there is a way to expedite this, even if we still have to go through the club office," he said.

The member communications committee meets again next month, 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 12 at Lakeview Recreation Center. The group will not meet in July, but will resume the monthly schedule in August. The committee will continue to refine its efforts with the vision of making specific recommendations to the RCSC board in the fall, according to Mr. Pearson.

In the meantime, RCSC officials will continue to refine the website. Paul Herrmann,

Continued From Page 20

a committee member and Sun City Visitors Center director, said there are problems with the new site that need to be addressed. An example is that on the old site clubs could be sorted by interest and recreation center, but that function is not available in the new site. He plans to have that brought back.

The site will include a separate page for each RCSC sanctioned club, where text, photos and videos can be posted summarizing club activities, according to Mr. Pearson.

Ms. Dedmon encourages residents who have lived here a number of years to get reacquainted with the community they chose to live in. She believes the new website could be a good place to start.

"New activities and social events are available every day and much has changed in the 11 years I have lived in Sun City," she stated in an e-mail. "I'm still learning something new every day, and it's a great way to meet new people. With www.sunaz.com, the SunViews and Independent, all of which are free, there is no reason not to be an informed resident."



The Sun City Pops Band had them dancing in the aisles during its Jan. 27 concert at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. More than 800 attended the concert, which featured a full bill of dance music. The Pops Band will no longer be a Recreation Centers of Sun City chartered club. Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Pops Band leaves Sun City fold

Concert Band members choose to stay for time being

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Now there is one. Sun City lost one of its two large performance bands when Pops Band members voted to leave the community fold and change the group's name. It is now called the West Valley Pops Band.

"We could no longer afford to be associated with the Sun City recreation department," stated a press release sent to band patrons by Len Shykind, the band's publicity coordinator.

The move comes after a months-long dispute between the Sun City Concert Band Club, a chartered Recreation Centers of Sun City club,

If You Go

Sun City Concert Band

2 p.m. Wednesday, May 15

Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

and the RCSC Board of Directors over a change in the corporation's club policy. The policy, approved in December, requires band members who live outside Sun City to pay a \$2 guest fee for each band rehearsal. The policy also requires clubs that have nonresident members to track their attendance and turn over all guest fees to RCSC.

The Pops Band had one more Sun City concert on its schedule, but it will not be conducted

at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., as planned. In his press release, Mr. Shykind, a Surprise resident, stated the band board is working to find a place for that show, and possibly one or two others before the end of the performance season.

"We plan to have a lot more concerts for you to go to," the press release stated. "And they will still be free concerts."

While the Pops Band will decharter immediately, the Sun City Concert band will finish out the performance season with its final concert, 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 at Sundial Recreation Center, according to Ed White. Concert Band president.

"That could change," he said. "The band board will decide the best course of action and then take that to the whole band for a vote."

Band

Continued From Page 1

The RCSC board did alter its policy prior to approval to offer performing clubs the option to decharter and still perform in rec center facilities. The alternative also retained the rent-free status quo if performing clubs offered four free concerts annually and did not solicit donations at their conclusion.

"Sun City has many other musical offerings for its residents, including the Rhythm Ramblers, Concert Band, Orchestra, Piano Club, Sun City Handbell Ringers and the Ukulele Club, to name a few," stated Joelyn Higgins, RCSC communications director, in an e-mail Feb. 28.

She added RCSC officials have no interest in acquiring a de-chartered club's assets. In the approved club policy, acquisition by RCSC is the last option.

Paragraph 29 of the policy states, "When a club is de-chartered, equipment and supplies may be sold to other clubs, club members or outside sources with approval of the club's Executive Board, RCSC's Board of Directors and RCSC's Assistant General Manager. If the club cannot or does not wish to sell the equipment or supplies, it may donate them to similar chartered clubs with RCSC's Assistant General Manager's approval. The club may sponsor a final closing event for its members, after such, all assets will revert to the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc."

The Pops Band will be able to perform in Sun City in the future, if member so wish, Ms. Higgins added.

"RCSC has several meeting rooms, social halls and venues available for rent to RCSC cardholders and area organizations," she stated. "Associated rental fees and set-up costs would be assessed as applicable."

Rec center officials maintained in the past the policy change was an issue of fairness.

"We recognize this (alternative) does not work for all clubs, but it does work for the majority of people who believe it is not fair they pay for the facilities but those from outside do not," Larry Klein, RCSC board member, said during a Dec. 11 RCSC member/director exchange meeting.

Vance Coleman, then-board president, claimed the clubs policy was not really changed in regards to guests, it would simply be enforced.

"We have forgotten what the policy was and we are just getting back to that," he said at the Dec. 11 meeting.

Band members believed the alternative was not workable because the approved policy change included a clause that dechartered club assets would be sold to other groups or, in the event they did not sell, become property of RCSC.

Mr. White remains mystified as to why the board believed the club policy needed modification in this way.

"I can't figure out why the board is trying to 'fix' something that has worked so beautifully for so long," he said.

Mr. White also believes RCSC is not spending corporate funds wisely for community entertainment. He pointed to RCSC officials' decision to pay top dollar for acts at the Sun Bowl and for the March 2 Del Webb Days.

'Just sad, doggone it'

"We've got great groups here, and they will do that for nothing," he said.

As they move forward, the Pops Band will be sponsored by Valley View Community Food Bank, 10515 W. Peoria Ave., which will provide space for the group to rehearse. According to last week's press release, not only will the Pops Band offer more than its one scheduled concert for the current season, but plans an expanded season beginning in October.

"We will be playing at many of the churches and high schools that presently have food drives for the Valley View Community Food Bank in the Sun Cities and West Valley areas," the press release stated.

Pops band concerts will continue to have no monetary admission charge, but patrons will be asked to bring a nonprescribable food donation for Valley View.

The Pops Band includes about 70 musicians and welcomes new players. Practices are conducted 9-11 a.m. Saturdays.

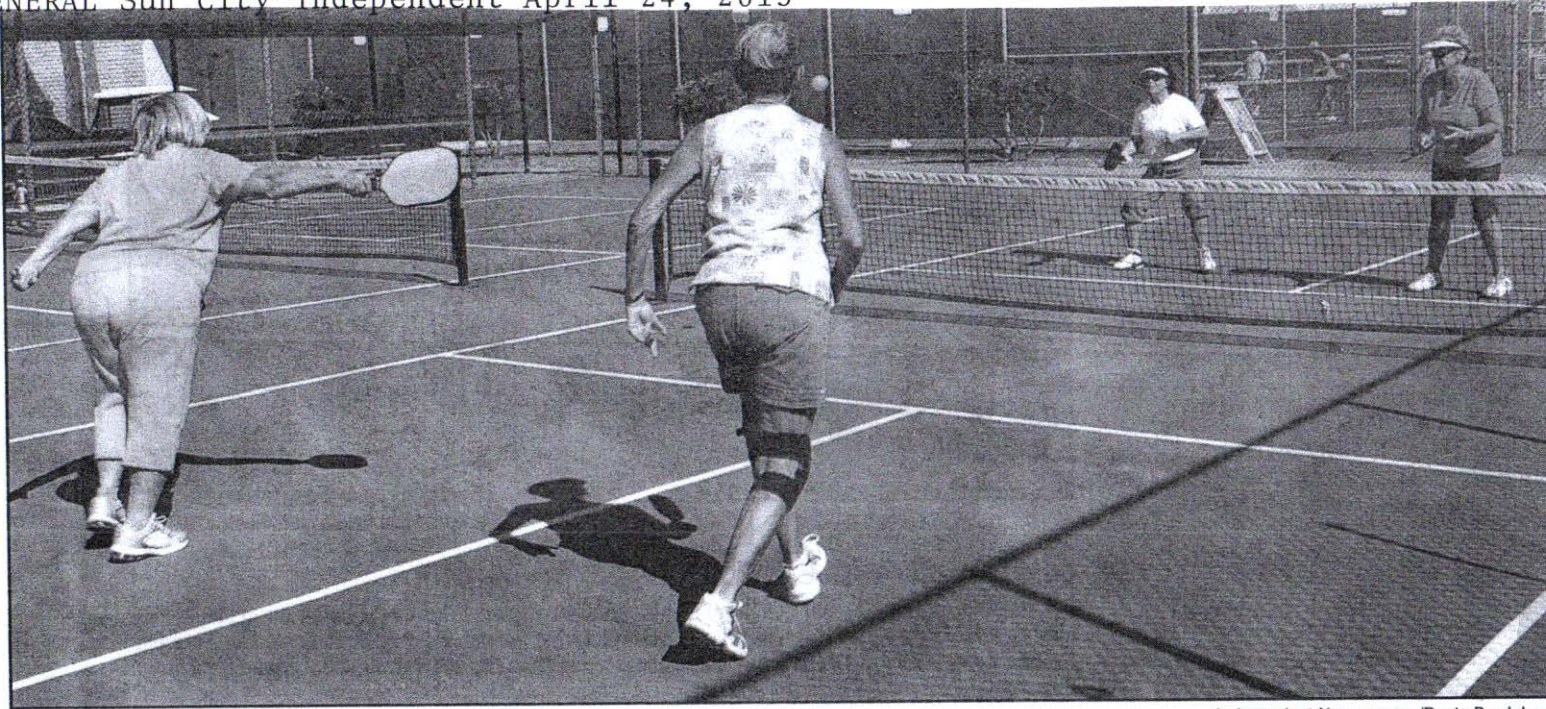
Mr. White said the Concert Band members are waiting to see the results of the Pops Band decision.

"They are blazing the trail," he said.

The group's only other option is to go back to what he called a practice band, which provided no public performances.

"That would be a shame," he said. "We are recognized as one of the best concert bands in the world. It's just sad, doggone it."

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



Residents Anita Dahl, Delle Langhans, in near court, Bev Coon and Mary Mahan, all in their 70s, enjoy their sixth pickleball game before 9:30 a.m. at Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive. Improving pickleball and tennis courts is one aspect of renovation plans for the center.

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Club wants new mold for space

RCSC officials wait for details before making decision

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

As Recreation Centers of Sun City officials prepare to finalize plans for their next recreation center renovation, they received an expansion request from a Lakeview center club.

The Sun City Clay Club, with space at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., made the request during the April 8 RCSC member/director exchange meeting. Board members gave no answer at that meeting and said they would examine the request.

Dale Lehrer, Clay Club vice president, told the board the request was to address a long-term need for more space.

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“Our membership has grown, and the space we have to work with is small,” she said.

Larry Water, who is assisting club members with plans, showed four different concepts for the proposed expansion.

However, RCSC officials are deep into planning for renovations at Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive, that could include some structural rebuilding.

RCSC officials would not comment to Independent about plans for Marinette, although

two meetings were conducted in February allowing residents to view plans.

“Planning is still underway for the Marinette expansion project,” stated Joelynn Higgins in an April 19 e-mail. “At this time I am unable to discuss any details. Construction most likely would not begin until 2014.”

, but discussions in board and Long Range Planning Committee meetings focused on expanding the fitness center and improvements to the tennis and pickleball courts, according to meeting minutes. Committee members also considered some options in a March 19 meeting that included a larger building footprint to allow for a future second level.

The committee also recommended to the RCSC board a rebuild of club spaces using space made available by the renovation design,

Clay

Continued From Page 1

according to the meeting minutes.

Ms. Lehrer told the board the Sun City Clay Club has the longest operating hours of any club at Lakeview.

"In the past, we have been just making due," she said. "This is a safety issue, and it impedes our ability to get new members."

Mr. Water's plans included both short- and long-term proposals.

"For the expansion, one club (at Lakeview) would have to be relocated," he said.

Mr. Water said the proposed expansion would increase kiln capacity for the club.

"This (expansion) would allow a greater number of members to use the club space at any one time, and it improves safety," he said.

Ms. Lehrer said the club has about 175 members, which has increased about 50 percent annually for several years.

"It has been slow growth, but it spiked in the last year," she explained.

Clay Club members raised and spent about \$15,000 in the past 12 months to update equipment, according to Ms. Lehrer. The club will continue plans for ongoing equipment replacement as needed, she added.

Larry Klein, RCSC board member of Long Range Planning Committee chairman, said club members were doing the right thing by making such a detailed presentation to the board.

"When working your budget, show what you need both short- and long-term," he told club members, who filled the Lakeview social hall, for the April 8 exchange meeting.

Clay Club members met April 9 to discuss the expansion plans, but Ms. Lehrer did not return phone calls for comment on the results of that meeting.

Joelynn Higgins, RCSC communications coordinator, stated in an e-mail last week that the exchange meeting was the first time the Clay Club made an expansion request.

"I don't believe the board has had a chance to formally discuss the proposal," she stated April 17.

The RCSC board approved a Preservation and Improvement 5-year spending plan

in October 2012, but an expansion of the Sun City Clay Club space was not included in that budget.

While the Clay Club is the only group to have made an expansion request recently, the Bell Woodworking and Metals clubs are seeing their repeated requests for expansion of their space come to fruition this year. Work at the Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., location is nearly complete.

"We've been working on this for 20 years," said Dave Shiffman, Metals Club president.

The club space expansion is expected to be complete some time between May and July.

Metal club members requested an expansion be included in the RCSC budget for a number of years. However, funds were not allocated until 2012 when they were included in the 2013 budget.

The renovation will add about 1,290 square feet to both shops, located on the southwest corner of the recreation center.

"My guess is we will be close to 5,000 square feet when it's all done," Mr. Shiffman said.

The expansion is needed to allow for more working space inside the shops and to increase safety, according to Brian Wiggin, a club member.

"In the last year we have gone up by 100 members," he said.

Metal club membership is at 426. The shop includes several machines, including welders, plasma cutters and lathes. The expansion will allow them to be more spread out, and give space for installation of a computerized plasma cutter, according to Mr. Wiggin. The computerized plasma cutter was already purchased, but is in storage until the work is complete.

While the Bell Woodworking Club is also experiencing club growth, the metal club's need for additional space is more critical because it is the only facility in Sun City. In addition to the Bell wood shop, there are two others, one at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Road, and the other at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

The combined renovation at Bell will cost about \$450,000 before electrical work is included, according to Mr. Shiffman.

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

RCSC has no plans to close dog park

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
Independent Newspapers

Despite calls from two residents, Recreation centers of Sun City officials have no plans to close Duffee Land Dog Park.

RCSC purchased the land behind Washington Federal, on the southeast corner of Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards, across from the LaRonde Shopping Center last fall from resident Bob Knight. The land, under Mr. Knight's ownership, had been a private dog park for several years. RCSC took over responsibilities for the park Jan. 1.

However, Jerry Sylvester and Dennis Gorlock, who live adjacent to the park complained at the April 8 RCSC member/director exchange that noise and trash at the park have gotten out of control. Mr. Sylvester sent RCSC officials a letter demanding the park be closed.

"It is a filthy mess," he said. "People do not pick up after their dogs, the park is not monitored and the open times are totally ignored."

He also said the park was a health haz-

See **Dog** — Page 15

Dog

Continued From Page 2

ard, and he reported such to Maricopa County.

"I love dogs," Mr. Gorlock said. "But to listen to people who don't take care of them is miserable."

Joelyn Higgins, RCSC communications coordinator, stated in an e-mail that while RCSC is still in transition after acquiring the park, measures are taken to ensure the cleanliness and proper use of the park. She explained that within 5-10 minutes of 6:30 a.m. the park gates are unlocked for day use and locked at sunset. However, she said there are no funds allotted in the RCSC budget for a full-time monitor at the park. The park hours are posted on the property, she added.

"Signage with the 'rules' have been ordered and will be formally posted on the property," she added.

RCSC pays for park maintenance and

any improvements. RCSC staff tends to the grounds on a weekly basis and volunteer efforts supplement in between RCSC visits, according to Ms. Higgins.

"Trash is being picked up and walks cleaned on a regular basis," Ms. Higgins explained.

Since buying the land, RCSC installed a water supply line and timer to irrigate existing trees and plants, and added new waste receptacles, Ms. Higgins stated. Weeds were also removed and trees were trimmed shortly after taking possession of the land, she added.

Mr. Sylvester said the problems he complained of last week were not as prevalent when the park was owned by Mr. Knight. He also claimed trash containers in the park were not up to county standards of "flyproof" receptacles.

"You're operating the park in such a way that it violates county ordinances," he told the board.

RCSC officials also plan to build an off-leash dog park in the southwest area of the Sun Bowl property, 10220 N. 107th Ave., Ms. Higgins stated.

BUDGET

Final budget forum addresses SCW fee hikes

By Tina Gamez
DAILY NEWS-SUN



Sun City West resident Jim Swanson, left, listens to RCSCW staff talk about the financial plan for 2013-2014 after commenting on the asset preservation fee and membership fee increases in the R.H. Johnson lecture hall Wednesday. [Tina Gamez/Daily News-Sun]

A group of 30 Sun City West residents Wednesday listened to the reasons behind a 2013-14 budget that calls for increasing membership dues, golf rates and the asset preservation fee in order to keep the Recreation Centers' ledgers balanced.

General Manager Mike Whiting conducted the third of three budget forums, ex-

plaining the reasons behind the proposed spending plan and listening to residents' comments and concerns.

The largest revenue sources are membership fees at 52 percent, golf fees at 27 percent and asset preservation fees at 12 percent; and those were the hot topics when audience members had their say.

The budget proposal suggests increasing member-

ship fees from \$385 to \$410, a \$1 increase per round on regulation courses and raising the asset preservation fees from \$2,500 to \$3,000. These would add \$1,045,000 to the budget and help cover some of the big capital projects.

In comparing member dues with 19 other retirement communities, Sun City West is in the bottom

» See Budget on page A5

Budget

» From page A1

three. "We're pretty reasonable. Our dues are per head, not household like everyone else," Whiting said.

As a community ages, less golf is played, but Whiting said, "the downward trend has changed to a flat line, which is really good, and "we have a number of non-residents who play here and, of course, they pay more."

Some unanticipated expenses are the Affordable Care Act, work on parking lots and the golf player assistant program, which, the general manager said, "could no longer be run as a volunteer program." Those three totaled \$1,156,000.

Audience member Hal Wallace said he gets feedback from those he plays with about the courses being top-notch. He said the Sun City West courses are on the low end regarding fees and would like the finance committee to raise golf fees and "still keep it competitive," to "get the pressure off the (membership) dues." He suggested raising fees \$3 to \$5.

Whiting said golf "has never been self-supporting" in Sun City West. The issue with raising fees, he said, is that the communities "right around us, are very competitive with us and raising our fees over theirs will really kill our outside play." He said most of the outside play is from Sun City Grand.

On the rec fees dues, a woman mentioned the 1.7 percent raise in Social Security which is "eaten up by the raise in your Medicare and the raise in your secondary insurance." She said many people don't have unlimited funds.

Whiting said there is 3 percent of the population in

Sun City West that who are around the poverty level.

"We have much more here — many, many more amenities in Sun City West than you do in these other communities," Whiting said, and he thinks the \$25 increase in fees is reasonable.

He added the association has dramatically cut staff over the years and most of the employees are part time, making minimum wage.

Jim Swanson, a resident and Realtor in the area, criticized the asset preservation fees hike. He said the hike doesn't always get paid by the buyer. The seller may end up paying the fee. They're seeing buyers asking sellers to make concessions and contribute toward their closing costs.

Also bringing up membership fees, Swanson drew an applause when he said: "There are many seniors who are hurting." He suggested freezing membership fees for residents who have been in Sun City West 20 years or longer and may not be using the facilities as much.

Whiting said the bylaws say everyone has to pay.

On health care coverage, the law requires employees working 30 or more hours

per week be covered by health insurance. RCSCW's employee coverage on health care is 80 percent, while employees pay 20 percent, and it is typical of most companies, Whiting said.

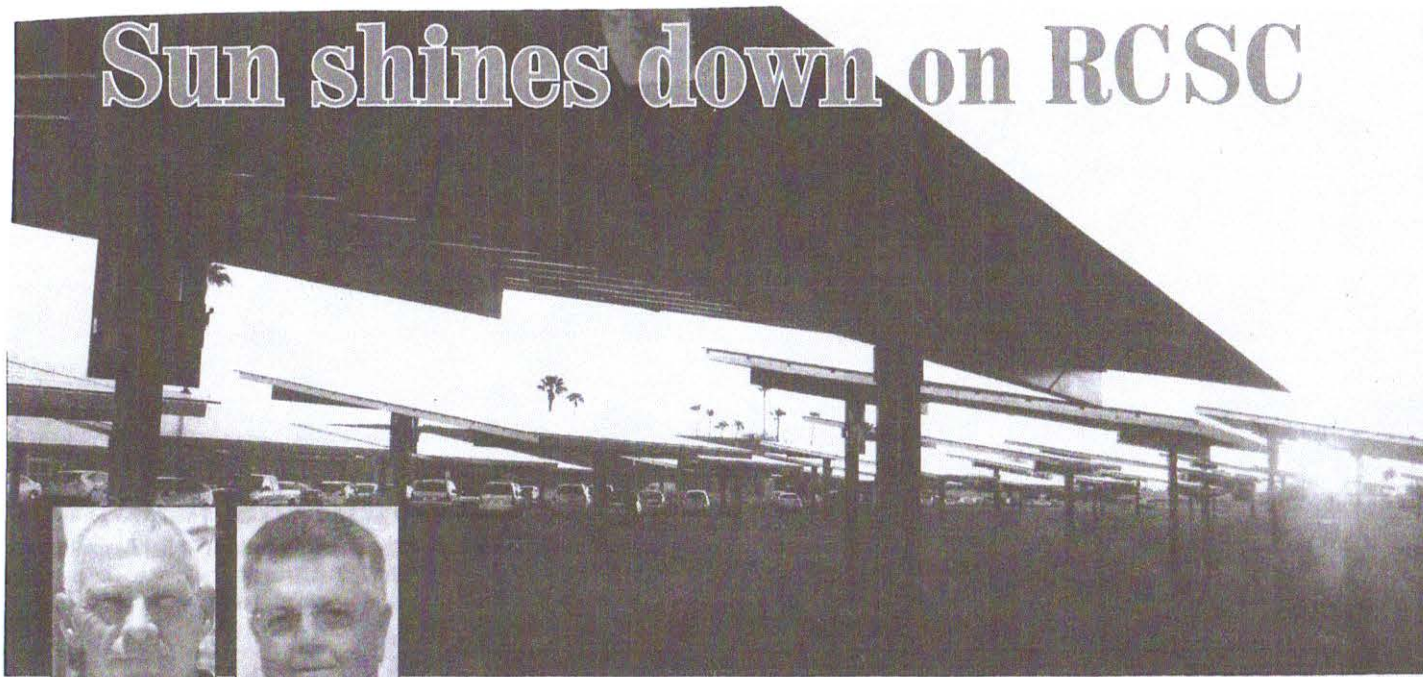
The expenses that take a bigger chunk of the budget are wages and benefits at 57 percent, utilities and depreciation expenses (how capital properties are funded) at 12 percent each.

Whiting also talked about smaller capital projects such as HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems which add up to 222 units and bathroom renovations, most of which are 30 years old. On the HVAC units, he said, "You can imagine how many we have to replace every year."

On large capital projects, he mentioned the well having to be replaced at some point, with a million dollar cost, and replacing an irrigation distribution station.

To view the 2013-2014 Financial Plan, visit www.sc-waz.com.

Sun shines down on RCSC



Bill Pearson



Dan Hill

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

The rising sun peaks through the parking shades at Bell Recreation Center that hold solar panels to generate electricity. Recreation Centers of Sun City officials estimate a net savings of \$56,000 annually from the 14 solar systems on rec center properties.

Board mulls solar-system purchase through PIF

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials plan to purchase the solar energy system installed at all recreation centers and some golf courses.

The RCSC Board of Directors will consider at its first business meeting following the summer break a motion to add \$4.4 million to the long range plan budget for the purchase. The board will meet 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 in the main auditorium at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

The long range budget plan for the Preservation and Improvement Fund was RCSC board approved in late-2012. It included \$29.7 million of planned expenses through 2022. Some of the major projects include \$6 million for a full renovation of North Golf

If You Go

RCSC Board of Directors

9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26

**Sundial Recreation Center,
14801 N. 103rd Ave.**

Course, planned for 2013; \$3.6 million to replace the Willowcreek/Willowbrook irrigation system, projected for 2015; \$3 million for irrigation, bunker and tee replacement at Riverview Golf Course, earmarked for 2016; \$3 million to replace a golf maintenance buildings, planned in 2020; and \$2.3 million for a planned 2014 renovation of Marinette Recreation Center.

The budget also calls for an annual \$500,000 transfer into the RCSC capital reserve fund.

The \$4.4 million solar system purchase is planned in 2019, after the existing owner

has had possession of the system the state-mandated five years. It is one of two additions to be considered Sept. 26. The other is a \$1 million project at Mountain View Recreation Center that will include expanding the auditorium's back stage area and giving the entire center a facelift.

During the RCSC member/director exchange meeting Sept. 9, resident Barry Spinka questioned RCSC administration about why it was planning to buy the solar system. Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, said the buyout would be more cost effective for RCSC.

"We were not eligible for the rebates and grants because we are a nonprofit organization," she explained. "We had to find a third party to own it for at least five years."

RCSC officials signed a 15-year lease agreement with the third party owner. The lease expense averages \$609,000 annually, according to a June 25 press release sent to

Solar

Continued From Page 1

residents. That is balanced against projected \$665,000 in savings to RCSC electricity costs, according to the press release. That amount includes \$480,000 annual cost savings plus \$185,000 in incentives from APS for the 14 photovoltaic systems on RCSC properties. Purchasing the system would eliminate the annual lease cost.

"We are saving a considerable amount of money by purchasing the system," Ms. Ek said in the exchange meeting.

However, RCSC officials have taken criticism for other items in the long range PIF plan, including \$6 million for the North Golf Course and the planned renovations at Marinette.

Resident Noel Kasper protested all projects that exceed \$750,000.

"You are flying in the face of the articles of incorporation with the PIF budget," he said at the exchange meeting. "Anything that is over \$750,000 is supposed to be brought to a vote of the members."

He suggested if RCSC officials wanted to change that provision they had that option under Article 14.

"But you need 10 percent of the members to approve that," he said.

RCSC officials argue the provision cited by Mr. Kasper only calls for a vote of members for projects more than \$750,000 if the cost creates an indebtedness. Since all projects in the long range plan will be funded

from the PIF, no indebtedness will be created.

Resident Steve Packard objected to the planned renovation at Marinette Recreation Center, but not on monetary grounds.

"I like the idea of improvement and expansion, but when you take away amenities, that is not right," he said in the exchange meeting.

The Marinette project will include expanding the fitness center, moving the spa outdoors, enlarging the pickleball courts and rearranging the walking track. However, these plans will eliminate mini golf and some other amenities.

"Taking away amenities is not good planning," Mr. Packard said. "If people want less amenities, they should go to Sun City West."

Board member Dan Hill said RCSC conducted a number of town hall meetings during the planning period for the Marinette project and gathered comments from residents.

"There was a lot of research on these amenities and their usage before we made our decision," he said.

Board member Cord Angier maintained the neighborhood center concept, which offered the same amenities at all rec centers, is not workable any more.

"I know we can't please everyone," he said. "I get in my golf car and travel to a center farther from my home than my neighborhood one. I don't like it, but..."

Bill Pearson said RCSC officials are shaping the recreation centers for future users,

namely baby boomers.

"The plan for the community is for utilization of clubs," he said. "We try to plan the assets to the needs. Changing demographics means needs will change."

Mr. Spinka, who has publicly stated he is a candidate for the RCSC board, believes residents should get involved to have a say in how the community is planned for the future.

"Get involved in committees so you can be a part of the planning," he said.

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

RCSC unveils new look for employees

As a part of RCSC Management Team's 2013 goals to improve overall customer service, all RCSC employees will soon be wearing uniforms that will convey a fun yet professional appearance in addition to making staff easy to identify.

While many long-time residents are well aware of RCSC staff presence in the Centers they normally use, new residents of Sun City and guests visiting our facilities will be able to find help when needed.

"Uniforms will help RCSC Cardholders, new residents and all of our guests know at a glance who is available to assist them," said RCSC General Manager Jan Ek, "especially in the case of an emergency."

Though many RCSC employees have routinely worn polo-style uniform shirts in the past (facility attendants, grounds crew, skilled trades, bowling mechanics and utility workers), requiring all employees to dress in the same manner will help to create a sense of equality among staff and encourages a team atmosphere.

"Everyone is on the RCSC Team and this will help create a unified look at all of our facilities," said RCSC Assistant General Manager Jim Wellman. "All RCSC employees, including Jan and myself, will be easy to spot and offer assistance when required."

All RCSC employees are expected to begin wearing the new uniforms Aug. 12.



Submitted photo

Modeling the new Recreation Centers of Sun City uniforms are, from left, Joelyn Higgins, RCSC communication and marketing coordinator; Linda Menna, RCSC executive assistant; Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager; and Jan Ek, RCSC general manager.

Summer of construction



Workers dig a trench as part of the total renovation of Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., lawn bowl greens. It is one of several major construction and renovation projects at various Recreation Centers of Sun City facilities this year.

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Bell shop, South golf building most costly projects

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Sun City residents might be calling this construction summer with all the Recreation Centers of Sun City renovation and rebuilding projects this year.

A number of major projects were completed in the first half of the year, mostly expansion or renovation efforts. One of the biggest was expansion of the Bell Center woods and metal shop. Other major projects in the first six months of 2013 included solar projects at all recreation centers and some golf courses, the Sun Bowl ballfield, the South Golf Course maintenance building, lawn bowl greens at Bell and the Sun Bowl amphitheater.

Dave Shiffman, Bell Metals Club president, said the Bell shop expansion was necessary because of increased club member-

Related Link

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ship.

"We've been working on this for 20 years," he said. "We have added about 100 new members in the last year."

The South maintenance building is being rebuilt after it was destroyed by fire in 2012. Renovations at the ballfield, amphitheater and Bell lawn bowl greens were necessary to address aging facilities, according to monthly reports by Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager.

Expected to cost \$600,000, the South building is the most expensive project for 2013. The Bell shop expansion, which was completed in June, carried a cost of \$540,288. The South, 11000 N. 103rd Ave., maintenance building is funded through insurance and some Preservation and Improvement Fund monies, while the shop expansion was funded entirely from the PIF. The PIF is built

from a \$3,000 fee paid whenever a Sun City home is purchased or transferred. The PIF takes in about \$400,000 monthly.

Two other projects are slated to get underway before the end of the year, although no schedule has yet been established, according to Joelyn Higgins, RCSC communications coordinator. Pickleball courts at Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave., will be expanded and new pool lighting installed, and North Golf Course, 12650 N. 107th Ave., will undergo a complete renovation. The anticipated costs for the Mountain View projects have not been fully determined. The golf course renovation is estimated to cost about \$6 million. The Pickleball court expansion will be paid from the general fund, while the golf course renovation will be PIF funded.

RCSC officials are also planning a major renovation at Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive. While prelimi-

RCSC

Continued From Page 1

nary plans are complete for that project, it will not commence until 2014, according to Ms. Higgins. Drawings of the planned renovation are on display at several locations in the community, including Marinette; Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave.; Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.; Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.; and Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

Work on parking shades to hold photo voltaic electricity producing solar panels began at all recreation centers at the beginning of the year. The installation came at no cost to RCSC, but the corporation will lease the system and have an opportunity to purchase it outright in the future. Excess power produced by the system is put back on the grid and RCSC receives credit from APS for it.

Systems at Marinette and Oakmont, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive, recreation centers; the Quail Run, 9774 W. Alabama Ave., maintenance facility; Lakes, 10433 W. Tal-

isman Road, pro shop; and Willowbrook/Willowcreek, 10600 N. Boswell Blvd., maintenance facility were online and producing electricity in June, according to Mr. Wellman. Bell, Sundial and Lakeview centers were expected to be online by the end of July, he added.

"Lakeview center will be the last to come online due to APS transformer and entrance equipment replacement and relocations," Mr. Wellman stated in his June report.

The Sun Bowl ballfield project was in the final stages at the end of June with leveling in preparation for Bermuda grass sprigging, according to Mr. Wellman. The cost for this PIF-funding effort is \$200,848. The Sun Bowl, 10220 N. 107th Ave., amphitheater project includes a new irrigation system, smoothing grass seating areas, overseeding Bermuda grass, adding walkway bollard post lights, new handrails and a new driveway for food trucks, according to Mr. Wellman. The cost, also from the PIF, is \$245,883.

The Bell lawn bowl greens are getting a complete renovation, thanks to the generosity of a resident donation, which will cover most of the \$484,308 cost, according to Ms. Higgins.

Web Portal and Elections Update

RCSC Elections and Web Portal

RCSC Cardholders continue to sign up for the new RCSC Web Portal in preparation for this year's Board of Director elections which will be held completely online.

Electronic voting will allow members to vote from any computer, anywhere - whether they are out of town or right here in Sun City. Safeguards restricting each qualified member to only one vote will be in place and confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process. Eligible RCSC Cardholders will have access to the election portion of the portal beginning one month prior to Election Day starting on November 11. For any members without access to a computer, in-person voting will be held at Lakeview on Election Day (December 10) from 8am to 4pm.

Candidates will be introduced at both the October 31 and November 21 Board meetings. Two candidate forums are scheduled: November 11 at 6:00pm in the Marinette Auditorium and November 19 at 1:30pm in Fairway Arizona Rooms 3-4. The forums are a great opportunity for Members to meet and talk with the candidates. Look for more details on the candidates and the forums as the election process continues.

New Email System Update

As part of the web portal rollout, RCSC is also using a new email system to communicate with Members. All Cardholder email prefer-

ences were brought into the new portal and emails were sent to members with information on managing their email preferences. If you have not been receiving recent RCSC Email Alerts, you are urged to contact the Cardholder Services Office at the Lakeview Center or by calling 623-561-4603 to confirm that your current email address is in the system. Emails can also be sent to webportal@sunaz.com if you have any questions or problems accessing the portal. In addition, Cardholders are advised to add tegcampaigns@tegcampaigns.totalegolf.com and rcsc@sunaz.com into their address books to avoid emails from RCSC going directly into Junk Email folders.

Besides online voting and managing participation in email communications from RCSC, the new web portal allows Cardholders to manage other routine interactions with RCSC. More detailed information regarding the portal can be found at: <http://sunaz.com/portal/webportal/>.

Portal Information Sessions Planned

Cardholders that continue to have concerns regarding the web portal are encouraged to attend an upcoming informational session. As of press time, the first session is scheduled for Friday, October 25 at 1:30p.m. in Lakeview Social Hall #1. Other sessions in November will be announced at a later date.

Sun City evolves as its amenities age

By Lesley Wright

The Republic | azcentral.com

Sun City, the pioneering West Valley retirement enclave, continues to attract new residents, with buyers modernizing the homes one dwelling at a time.

To make sure those retirees stay, the incoming Recreation Centers of Sun City board has to ensure that the community's pools, tennis courts and other amenities do not deteriorate.

The board of the non-profit agency tasked with keeping the 53-year-old retirement community viable had its annual election last month.

The new directors on the nine-director board are Dan Schroeder, a retired construction manager; Peter Lee, who retired from the U.S. Department of Defense; and financial expert Michael Kennedy. None of the candidates promised great changes during the campaign.

The secret to the continued success of the 9,000-acre community in unincorporated Maricopa County appears to be managing gradual changes. A critical part of that is maintaining and upgrading key community features, which real-estate agents say is the biggest draw for prospective Sun City residents.

For the outgoing board, that meant taking cost-efficient steps for the future. They installed solar panels over parking spaces at recreation centers, despite skepticism from some residents, and replaced aging pipes and other infrastructure.

Homes are also getting a facelift. Looks can be deceiving to



A Sun City resident rides his golf cart through the neighborhood. STACIE SCOTT/THE REPUBLIC

“ Sun City periodically needs to reinvent itself and does so as each new generation retires. ”

JOELYN HIGGINS

Sun City spokeswoman

said Joelyn Higgins, a Sun City spokeswoman.

An average of seven new homeowners every day buy the concrete-block homes Del Webb began building in 1960. The new, younger residents help the community transform slowly, even as newer, fancier retirement communities open around them.

“Sun City periodically needs to reinvent itself and does so as each new generation retires,” she said.

Outgoing board members advised their successors that guiding that reinvention includes building repairs and accommodating changing recreation tastes.

Cord Angier, 73, is stepping down from the board after a three-year term. He advised the new directors to research the older buildings that may have problems and to learn about

new trends.

“We have looked at the future and have tried our best to figure out what the younger generation will want to do,” Angier said. “The ones we’ve talked to said they want Sun City — they want the amenities and they don’t want to pay a lot for it.”

SUN CITY TIMELINE

1960: Sun City debuted Jan. 1. More than 100,000 people showed up the first weekend to view five model homes.

1963: The Sun City Homeowners Association formed.

1964: Voters rejected an incorporation proposal.

1972: The Sun City Community Association changed its name to Recreation Centers of Sun City.

1978: Sun City is built out with more than 27,000 homes.

2010: Sun City had a yearlong 50th anniversary celebration.

Source: Sun City Visitors Center

courses. Marketing continues to tout that Sun City has the most amenities for the lowest annual fees — \$456 per household — among all the Sun City-style retirement communities built since.

The new board director moved to the Valley in 1969 and watched Sun City grow up.

"I lived in a number of different places in the Valley, but I knew I would live in Sun City," Kennedy said. "I've talked to people in others, but the fees are larger and the facilities are smaller."

To tend to those facilities, Sun City stewards must keep an eye out for expensive repairs and do inspections to avoid things like the Sundial roof collapse, Angier said.

That catastrophe occurred at 4:15 a.m. June 19, 2006, at the Sundial Recreation Center. No one was injured when one of the beams holding the wide-span roof collapsed. It has since been replaced with a steel-truss roof, and the facility looks almost new.

Keeping the golf courses

fresh and attractive is believed critical to luring new homeowners. When Angier took a look beneath the greens during his term, he saw how the original piping had aged. Those also are being replaced.

"The main waterlines (to the courses) were so old and brittle, if you put enough pressure on them they would just break," Angier said.

Future boards might have to contend with problems at the 33-acre Viewpoint Lake, which has a lining leak that could cost \$10 million or more to repair. The rec board worked out a plan with the Arizona Department of Water Resources earlier this year to get administrative relief by ensuring the lake's water is managed efficiently.

For every headache brought on by aging facilities, the community takes a step forward.

The board installed solar panels on covered parking at the recreation centers, launched an electronic voting system and converted tennis courts to pickleball courts to meet next-generation sports demands.

Overbuilt amenities

New board members learn quickly that keeping up with seven recreation centers, two bowling centers, eight golf courses and assorted clubhouses is a challenge in itself.

Kennedy noted that Del Webb "overbuilt" Sun City's recreational attractions since it was the model community for what would become an international brand. The later versions of Sun City had fewer recreational centers and golf

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May 14, 2013

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A34 • Puzzles, A29, A33, A36, A37 • Classifieds A35

RCSC

Pickleball players win round in Sun City

By Jeff Dempsey
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's pickleball players attended an exchange meeting with the Recreation Centers of Sun City's board of directors in March to propose an expansion of Mountain View Recreation Center's courts from four to seven.

They made the request because the overhaul of Marinette Recreation Center scheduled for this fall will increase the total pickleball courts from 12 to 20 but while that project is going on Sun City pickleball players would be left with only the four courts at Mountain View.

Board members made it clear they agreed with the

pickleball players' concerns Monday as they announced they will vote at this month's regular meeting to approve the expansion at Mountain View.

Board member Bill Pearson said the board recognized that the pickleball situation was one that needed to be addressed.

"The players were concerned they would be left with less than enough courts," he said, "because we're not sure how many courts will be left open when construction gets under way at Marinette."

If approved at this month's regular meeting, the existing four pickleball courts at Mountain View will be rebuilt

using post-stress concrete in place of asphalt, and three additional courts will be built using the same materials.

The project will not remove any tennis courts.

There was some question as to funding, which will come from the general operating fund and not from the Preservation and Improvement Fund. Jim Wellman, RCSC's assistant general manager, said the project does not qualify for PIF.

"A PIF project has two requirements," he said. "It has to cost a minimum of \$300,000, and it has to have a useful life of at least 15 years."

Wellman said the cost of the

» See RCSC on page A5

» From page A1

project is still being tallied, but he said a rough estimate would be about \$20,000 per court, plus some permit fees and other costs.

"I do not expect this project to meet the cost requirement," he said. "It will probably be (closer to) \$150,000."

Board president Jim Brasher said the quick action is an acknowledgment of both the worthiness of the project and the need to get moving on it soon.

"We hope to begin construction on this by the summer so we can get it done before Marinette's courts go down," he said.

He said unallocated money in this year's operating budget will be enough to cover the expense.

"Our budget and finance committee took a look at it and they determined we could pay for it."

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

VF SC RCSC

SUNVIEWS

ISSUE # 154 • AUGUST 2014 • A PUBLICATION OF THE RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

Marinette Expansion - Past, Present and Future

When homes in Phase 3 of Sun City were originally purchased, salesmen from the Del Webb Development Corporation (DEVCO) were quick to show on the map where the "future" recreation center would be at 99th and Union Hills. Residents at the time were content to use the Bell Center until "theirs" was constructed.

Due to construction cost overruns at Bell, plans for what would be Sun City's northern most recreation center were quietly cancelled. Upon hearing this news, homeowners in the area let it be known they were unhappy and being short-changed. DEVCO acquiesced by building a very small center on the planned site which opened in 1980. Two meetings rooms, four tennis courts and a swimming pool so small it was heated by bottled gas rendering it all but unusable except in the warmer months.

Within a few years, additional amenities were added to Marinette and the facilities were upgraded. This included the fitness room, bocce and horseshoe courts, jogging track and mini-golf – all lighted for night use. Natural gas was brought in to adequately heat the pool. The crafts building was completed in 1984.

Fast Forward to 2014

Thirty years later, work has begun on the Marinette Center once again. An extensive expansion and renovation project has started that will once again showcase the amenities, facilities and activities Sun Citians have grown to expect and appreciate. Highlights of this project include expanded lobby and seating area, expansion of the fitness center (to 4,000 s.f.), a rubberized walking track, 20 pickleball courts (eight which will be under a permanent shade pavilion), an outdoor spa with shade sail, expanded horseshoe courts, half court basketball area, new restrooms for fitness and

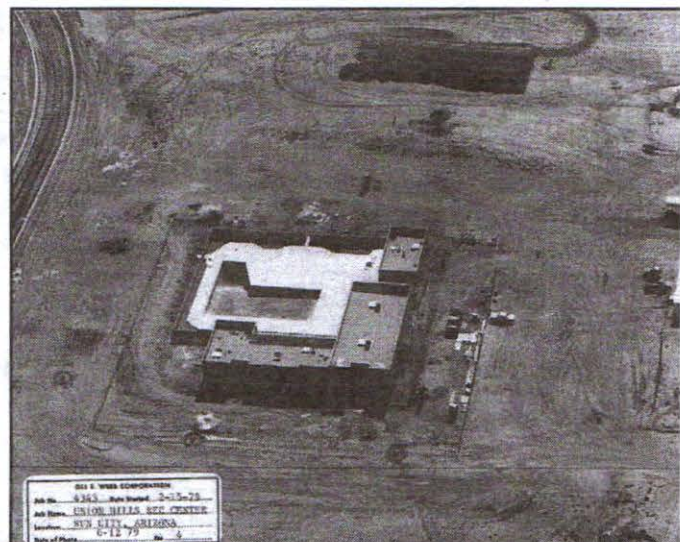
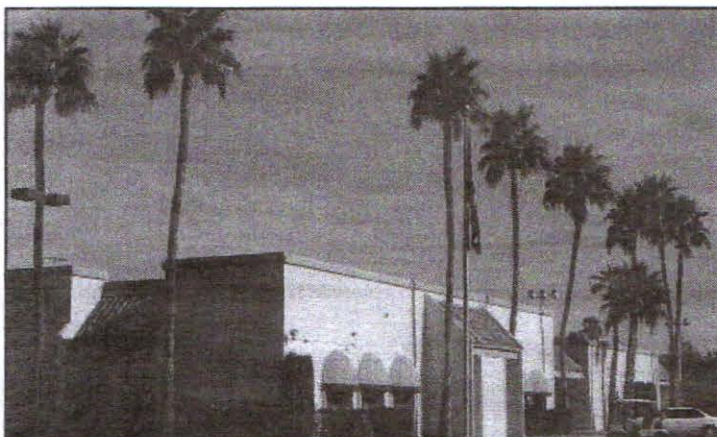
pickleball, thermal solar systems for pool and shower water pre-heating, security walls and fencing, pool shower room improvements, new doors and windows, and exterior stucco on all of the buildings.

It is anticipated that this project will take approximately seven months to complete. During this construction period, the auditorium, social hall and clubs building at Marinette remain unaffected except for a 4-6 week closure while the windows, doors and stucco work are being done. Cardholders will be kept informed as the project progresses.

To The Future

While neighborhood centers were the original concept in Sun City, most Cardholders these days understand the benefit of utilizing all of the RCSC facilities available for their fitness and recreational needs. Having every activity offered at every Center is no longer realistic or feasible.

RCSC looks forward to continuing to provide the broadest range of recreational and social facilities possible to enhance the active lifestyle and well-being of our residents. Marinette will be there for future residents when this project is complete – and not just for those living north of Bell.



Above: Say "so long" to the original yellow brick. New windows, doors and exterior stucco will be added to all structures at Marinette for an overall updated and contemporary look.

Right Top: Preliminary design for the new electronic signage to be installed at Marinette.

Right Bottom: Aerial photo dated June 12, 1979 of Marinette (initially named Union Hills Rec Center) during construction (courtesy of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum).

VF SC Rec. Centers

Project Updates

General Centers Projects and Information

Plans are underway to design and install (12) electronic signs at RCSC Centers and the Sun Bowl Amphitheatre with the exception of Sundial which already has electronic signs. (Some locations will have two signs installed while others like Oakmont and the Sun Bowl will receive only one.) Most of the signs will be constructed using a high profile style to improve visibility. In addition, there will be one non-electronic sign placed at Bell Center, along the North end of 99th Ave, to advertise the library, restaurant, visitor's center and Bell Lanes. Sign construction and installation for each location will commence as the set back variances and permits are approved by Maricopa County Planning and Development Department. The total project is expected to be completed in early 2015. Contractor is Bootz and Duke Signs. (PIF Cost - \$782,103)

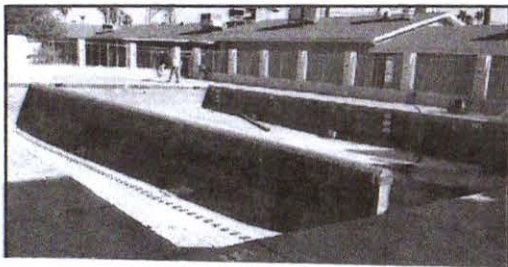


Mt. View Center

The foam roof over the Mt View auditorium was repaired, sealed and re-coated. Contractor was Starkweather Roofing. (Cost - \$54,553)

Oakmont Center / North Pro Shop

The Oakmont pool/spa, equipment building and Facility Attendant Station project is in its final stages of construction. If all goes well the new pool and spa are expected to open in early July 2014 rather than late June, as previously reported, due to delays in applying the acrylic deck surface. Remaining work includes the interior Pebble Sheen finish inside the pool and spa, installation of all stainless steel railings and stabilizing the water chemistry prior to final inspections by the health department. Contractors to date include: CCBG Architectural, K.L. McIntyre Construction and Aquatic Builders. (PIF Cost



Engineering and myself determined a way of moving the courts about 9' to the North thereby eliminating the zoning departments code concerns. The RCSC Board of Directors approved our idea and on June 23, 2014 the revised plans were re-submitted to Maricopa County Planning and Development. We are hopeful that the permit for this project will be awarded without more required plan corrections from other sections of the building department. The project includes demolition of the current (8) tennis courts and the installation of (10) new tennis courts. The new updated complex will also include a shaded gathering area, courtside canopies with benches, water and electric to each court, tables and benches for spectators and planters in the common areas. Contractors to date include Lloyd Sports Engineering as architect and project manager and Sunland Sports as building contractor. (PIF Cost - \$1,778,074)

The Bell Pools, Spa and outdoor shower rooms that were closed on May 5, 2014 to resurface the cool decking, make repairs to the pools and spas and repair the shower areas in the outside locker/shower rooms re-opened on Friday, June 20, 2014. Contractors included Spartan Concrete, Aquatic Builders, Ken McIntyre Construction, Utility staff at Bell Center and the RCSC Grounds Crew. (Estimated Cost - \$85,000 plus shower room repair costs of approximately \$45,000)

The foam roof over the Bell Library was repaired, sealed and re-coated. Contractor was Starkweather Roofing. (Cost - \$50,749)

The Bell aerobics room received a new cushioned engineered floating hardwood floor which makes this floor much more Sun City friendly for those who use this room for aerobic exercise. Contractor was Puckett's Flooring. (Cost - \$17,727)

The two 100 gallon domestic hot water heaters providing hot water for the showers inside the fitness building are being replaced with (5) new Ranai tank less water heaters. This tank less technology is working out very well on the outside pool shower rooms at Bell so the same equipment is being used again to replace these two worn out water heaters. Contractor is Sunland Plumbing. (Cost - \$22,280)

Carpet was replaced in the space occupied by the Sun City Visitors center. Contractor was Resource Carpet of Arizona and the Bell Utility Worker staff. (Cost - \$4,808)

Quail Run Maintenance

The Quail Run maintenance yard is currently being re-paved and cement pads installed for bulk sand and materials storage. Contractor is Regional Paving. (Cost – \$34,135)

Lakeview Center

Installation of new LED low voltage lighting on the Lakeview Waterfall is now completed. Contractor was Accel Electric. (Cost – \$11,256)

The foam roof over Georges Café and the South bowling entrance was repaired, sealed and re-coated. Contractor was Starkweather Roofing. (Cost – \$47,555)

Sundial Center/Riverview Pro Shop/Lakes Maintenance

The (2) layers of roofing over the Sundial auditorium and vestibule were removed and a new built up and coated roof was installed. Contractor was Progressive Roofing. (Cost – \$234,775)

The Riverview pro shop was re-carpeted with 100% nylon carpet squares. Contractor was Resource Carpet of Arizona and RCSC staff. (Cost – \$7,690)

Asphalt at the Lakes Maintenance facility was seal coated. Contractor was Pinnacle Paving. (Cost – \$5,868)

Bell Center

A pre-application meeting was required by Maricopa County zoning department to discuss options regarding light pole heights and set back requirements along Boswell Blvd. The meeting was not very productive from an RCSC perspective however Lloyd

Marinette Center

The Marinette Center expansion and renovation project is underway with the June 23rd closures of mini golf, horseshoes and Pickleball. Demolition of these areas will commence immediately after the closures occur. After the closure of the pool, fitness center and spa building on June 30, 2014 these areas will also be demolished. The Marinette Center expansion and renovation project includes a 4,000 s.f. fitness center, rubberized walking track, a total of 20 Pickleball courts, an outdoor spa, thermal solar systems for pool water and shower water pre-heating, new doors, new windows and exterior stucco of all remaining buildings. Contractors to date include: CCBG Architectural and Robert Porter Construction. (PIF Cost – \$4,387,373)

The roof on the Marinette clubs building was repaired sealed and re-coated. Contractor was Starkweather roofing. (Cost – \$28,277)

Skilled Trades Department

The RCSC Skilled Trades department completed 127 work orders during the last half of May 2014 and the 1st half of June 2014.

Grounds Department

The RCSC Grounds team continued with their routine maintenance work at all Centers, the Sun Bowl/Ballfield and the (7) lawn bowling greens. They also were instrumental in repairing the irrigation systems and planting shrubs in the Bell pool area prior to its reopening.



Ball

Continued From Page 2

Along with Mountain View Rec Center, Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive, will have 16 courts added in 2014 to four existing ones, according to the proposed site plan provided by Sun City Pickleball Club President Alesia Brown.

The new courts are coupled with a growing number of people playing pickleball.

"They say it's the fastest-growing sport in America, and it is one of the fastest-growing in senior communities," Ms. Brown said.

The Sun City Pickleball Club was chartered in 2003 and since then has at least doubled in membership, Ms. Brown said.

She explained the club averages about 250 members per year. Sun City West, an age-restricted community west of Sun City, has about 500 club members.

Mr. Wellman stated he believes popularity has risen in Sun City because of the smaller court sizes and a lower racket-to-ball impact on the arms.

"I have been working for the RCSC for nine years and I have seen this sport continue to gain popularity," he stated.

Sun City Pickleball Club Vice President Frank Johnson said the sport is well-suited for the retirement age group.

Along with being suitable for all ages, the game has inexpensive equipment and allows for varying degrees of competition. One can play competitively against another team or against just one other person.

"It brings a little competition back in

your life," Ms. Brown said. "If you don't want competition, it's just fun."

As pickleball grows in popularity, tennis courts are converted to pickleball courts.

Ms. Brown said that all the pickleball courts were once tennis courts, and they have had to convert tennis courts to pickleball courts by their own means in the past, usually with tape or chalk.

More and more places are adopting the sport across the country. Mr. Johnson said in Florida there is a retirement community with more than 100 courts. He also said he believes the sport will be incorporated more into schools, and noted that he knew of places in Minnesota where pickleball was being played as interscholastic competition in high schools.

It is generally accepted the sport originated in 1965 when U.S. Rep. Joel Pritchard, William Bell and Barney McCallum came home one summer day to find their children bored and restless. According to the website www.pickleball.com, they set out to create a game that would engage them through the lazy days of summer.

Pickleball is played with special wooden paddles and a smaller version of the wiffle ball on a badminton-size court. The goal of the game, as stated by www.pickleball.com, was to create a game that was as fun as can be for every member of the family.

Pickleball became a nationally recognized sport in 1972 and is now played in clubs and leagues across the country.

Editor's Note: Ms. Dickson-Powell is a student at Arizona State University's Cronkite School of Journalism.

November 20, 2013

Pickleball gets Sun City makeover

By Kaitlin Dickson-Powell
Special to the Independent

New pickleball courts are being added to some of Sun City's recreation centers to accommodate the growing needs of players.

The four pickleball courts at Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave., will be removed and replaced, and three new ones added for a total of seven new courts, Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager, stated in an e-mail. Mr. Wellman added there will be more courts with better playing surfaces, along with lighting for night players.

The courts are to be finished sometime this year, according to the assistant general manager's report on the RCSC website. However, according to Mr. Wellman, it is unknown the exact date of their completion.

"We are still in the permitting phase, and after that we will need to get construction proposals," he stated.

RCSC adds board voting options

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials were forced to abandon the all-online voting process for the 2013 board election following complaints from residents.

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, reported Nov. 21 that just more than 1,600 residents had registered for the RCSC web portal, their only option to vote in the board election. That is far short of the RCSC membership eligible to vote. A large number of residents lodged complaints with RCSC because they have had difficulty registering on the web portal, or they had other restrictions, according to Barry Spinka, one of the eight board candidates.

"There have been a lot of complaints about the online-only voting," he said during the Nov. 21 board meeting. "We should be assisting those who can't get out of their homes or have no computer."

Jim Brasher, RCSC board president, said that was being addressed.

RCSC officials sent a press release early Nov. 22 outlining other options for voters.

"Members can come in person on Election Day (Tuesday, Dec. 10) to the Lakeview Center Social Hall No. 2, where they can have the option of either voting online or with a paper ballot," stated Joelynn Higgins, RCSC communications and marketing director, in the press release.

Lakeview center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., is the only polling place for the 2013 election and will be open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

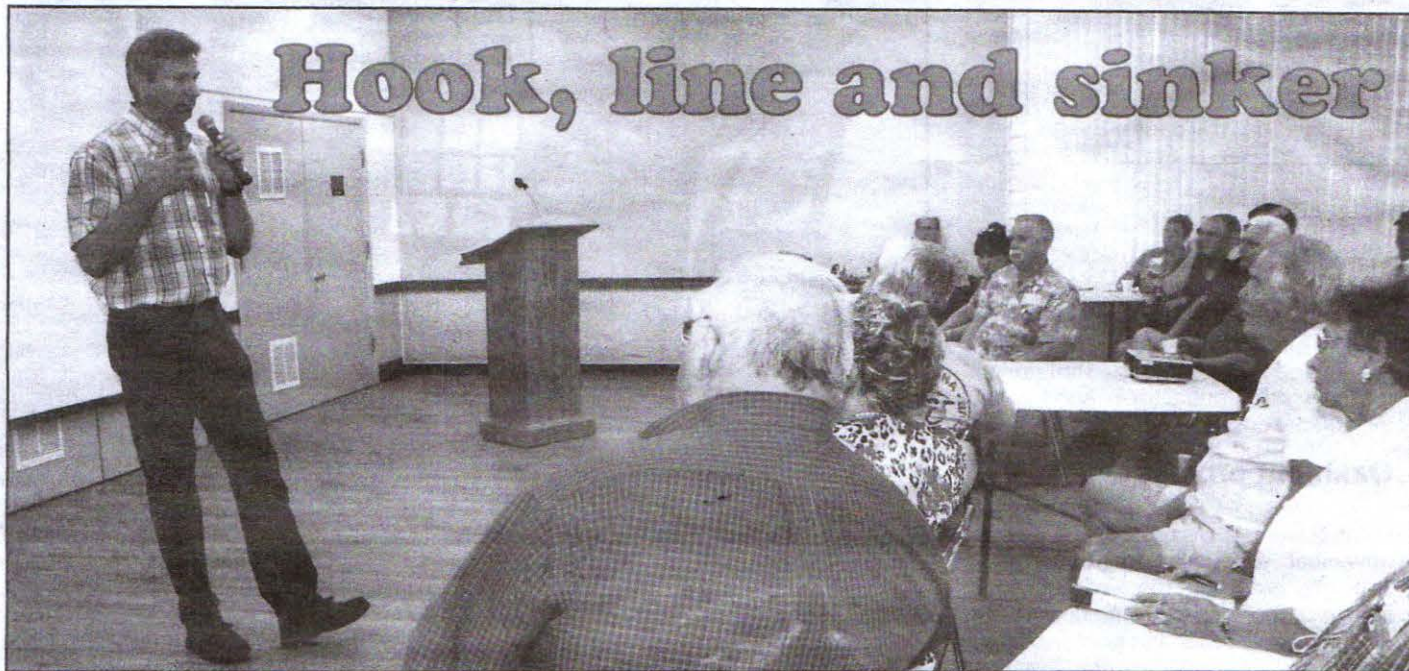
In addition, RCSC members who are unable to vote either online or in person may request an absentee ballot from the corporate office by calling 623-561-4600, Ms. Higgins added. All absentee ballots must be received no later than 4 p.m. Dec. 10.

Members with questions regarding the web portal are asked to e-mail webportal@sunaz.com with their concerns.

Ron Smith, another board candidate, admitted being "computer illiterate" at the Nov. 21 board meeting and thanked RCSC staff for helping him register on the web portal.

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

V F SC RCSC



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Eric Swanson explains to a packed Lakeview social hall the recommendations for building a string fish habitat in Viewpoint Lake. The five-year plan calls for heavy reliance on volunteer labor to put the habitat pieces together.

RCSC mulls 5-year plan to improve lake fishery

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Fishermen at Viewpoint Lake will find more on their hooks than the unused bait, but it will take a while.

Residents heard last week recommendations for establishing a stronger fish habitat in the lake. The effort would be a five-year plan that would involve residents getting involved hands-on in the process.

"The board thinks we have a great plan for the lake," said Jim Brasher, Recreation Centers of Sun City board president. "There will be some changes."

The board will consider the plan during its regular business meeting 9 a.m. June 26 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Recommendations were developed with Eric Swanson of Swanson Solutions LLC. A 29-year veteran of Arizona Game and Fish Department, Mr. Swanson spent 20 years overseeing the agency's urban fishing program.

RCSC's effort to increase utilization of the

What do you think?

What other improvements would you like to see at Viewpoint Lake?

- Public forums: arizona.newszip.com
- Email: rbradshaw@newszip.com

Related Links

- www.sunaz.com
- www.azgfd.gov

lake began several years ago after corporation officials came to an agreement with Arizona Department of Water Resources about the lake's status. The 33-acre man-made lake has been leaking water for several years, according to Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager.

RCSC General Manager Jan Ek worked with ADWR officials to find a solution that avoided spending more than \$1 million to reline the lake.

While the board was working out details for increased fishing, it developed and

implemented other measures to increase cardholder use of the lake. That included adding paddle boats to the existing row boats available for use.

"People seem to love the paddle boats," Mr. Brasher said.

The five-year fisheries plan pleased a number of residents interested in the sport.

"I would like to see some of the money RCSC has used to stock fish," said Darwin Hiser during the May 29 RCSC board meeting. "I want to see bass put in."

Simply stocking more fish is not feasible because without the proper habitat, the larger fish will consume the smaller ones at a rate faster than they can reproduce, according to Mr. Swanson.

Bill Pearson, RCSC board member, said the lake has been under utilized over the years.

"We have the potential to do more with the lake," he said.

Mr. Swanson gave 10 specific recommendations, most revolving around creating breeding, hiding and living conditions that do not currently exist in Viewpoint Lake. The overall goals for the five-year plan are to provide a clean, biologically bal-

See Fish — Page 6

UF SC RC SC

Fish

Continued From Page 1

anced quality of life for residents; maintain safe and satisfactory water quality; and improve sport fishing.

Mr. Swanson's first recommendation was to stock the lake with threadfin shad to serve as a forage source for fish brought in later.

"They will become the main food source for bass, bluegill and catfish," Mr. Swanson explained.

He suggested bringing in 12,000 next month and another 8,000 next spring. After that, they should be well enough established to reproduce on their own.

The next step is to install environmentally safe habitat implements, and that is where resident help will come in. RCSC will look to residents to help construct living spaces for fish, including "catfish condos," "fingerling fortresses," "bass bungalows" and "pipe palaces." Resident and Boy Scout help will also be used to install pea gravel as spawning grounds, hanging habitats for young fish and snowflake pens.

Mr. Pearson said the plan to get residents involved building fish habitats is part of what Sun City was founded upon.

"Sun City is great because we get people involved in running it," he said.

The total five-year cost is projected to be \$145,050, according to Joelyn Higgins, RCSC communications and marketing director. It will not be a preservation and improvement fund project. The habitat buildup is expected to cost \$41,700. The 2014 total cost will be \$42,200. While that amount was not budgeted, there are funds available from projects that came in under budget, accord-

ing to the wording of a motion to go before the board in its June 26 meeting.

Once the habitat is in place, Mr. Swanson suggests stocking various game fish, including rainbow trout to go with the bass, bluegill and channel catfish. The plan also includes stocking white amur to keep the alge under control. Mr. Swanson recommends stocking with smaller, less aggressive predator fish in the beginning.

"You want to grow it first before you bring in the top guns," he said.

RCSC officials, with help from their consultants, will continue monitoring the lake management plan and annual maintenance. Part of that monitoring will include gathering and compiling statistics on usage and satisfaction. RCSC officials will also need to address some natural out-of-water predators, including birds.

"The best approach is to just make it as uncomfortable as you can for those birds to hang around," Mr. Swanson said.

He also suggested revising the corporation's existing fishing regulations by lowering daily catch limits.

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

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Signs

Continued From Page 2

the north end of its frontage with 99th Avenue to advertise the Maricopa County branch library, Le Petite restaurant, Bell Lanes and the Sun City Visitors Center, according to Mr. Wellman.

RCSC officials are preparing plans to submit to Maricopa County Planning and Development for permits and setback variances.

"Construction will begin when the permits and variances are approved," Mr. Wellman explained.

The total project is expected to be completed in early 2015, Mr. Wellman stated. The project will be funded from the preservation and improvement fund at an estimated cost of \$782,103. The contractor is Bootz and Duke Signs.

Two electronic message signs were installed at Sundial Jan. 7 and 8 — one on the Boswell Boulevard side and the other on the 103rd Avenue side. That project cost \$102,107 with Supercharged Electric and McIntyre Construction as contractors.

The electronic signs are a good addition to the community, according to resident Ben Roloff, despite his initial disappointment with some of the lettering quality.

"That will be a great way to communicate information to people in the community," he said. "Given time and experience, I'm sure they will be better."

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

Electric signs going up at RCSC facilities

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

With positive feedback from the two electronic signs at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., the Recreation Centers of Sun City leadership is moving forward to add signs at other facilities.

Plans are being made to install 12 electronic signs at RCSC centers and the Sun Bowl amphitheater, according to Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager. Some locations will have two signs, like those erected at Sundial earlier this year, and others, like Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 N. Oakmont Drive, and the Sun Bowl, 10220 N. 107th Ave., will have just one, he added.

"Most of the signs will be constructed using a high-profile style to improve visibility," Mr. Wellman stated in his report to the board.

Bell Recreation Centers, 16820 N. 99th Ave., will have one electronic sign placed at

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VF SC RCSC



Postal crash



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Some mail delivery was interrupted about 10 a.m. Dec. 31, when a delivery truck collided with a car at the intersection of 99th Avenue and Burns Drive. The driver of the car was westbound on Burns Drive when the light turned green. She started across the intersection, and hit the postal truck that was headed southbound on 99th Ave. She was not injured, but the postal driver was taken to a hospital. Further information was unavailable by press time.

Facing the 2014 challenges

Sun City officials aim to enhance community

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Organizations providing governance for Sun City face many challenges in the new year, but officials believe they are up to the task.

RCSC

RCSC officials will look to a number of projects and philosophies in the coming year, all designed to enhance the community.

Facilities improvements will be in the forefront.

Jim Brasher, RCSC board president, stated in an e-mail the main challenges will be finalizing renovations planned for Marinette

Recreation Center and the Bell Recreation Center tennis complex, improvements at Duffeeland Dog Park and identifying solutions for RCSC clubs that are in need of additional space. The board will also focus on development of an RCSC marketing website.

"Directors must be creative in problem-solving to come up with effective plans for community needs," Mr. Brasher stated.

Carole Martinez, RCSC board member, wants to repurpose the newly merged Communications and Marketing Committee to become the Communications and Outreach Committee. She also wants to see a community program similar to TORCH introduced in Sun City.

"The better informed our members are, the more information these people can share with others in the community," she stated in an e-mail.

Ms. Martinez also wants an outreach pro-

gram initiated to have the board directors be available to attend speaking engagements.

"Not everyone is available during the member-exchange meetings, so perhaps having an outreach program to where the directors have meetings outside of the regular meeting times, offsite at other recreation centers or gatherings (would provide greater opportunity for resident input)," she stated. "In other words, have the board directly involved with those who reside here."

Board member Bill Pearson believes RCSC officials must adjust to a different demographic living in Sun City.

"There are clearly challenges with regard to people working later in life and the impact that will have on the RCSC," he stated in an e-mail.

He believes less free time will impact clubs and organizations, and time constraints will

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2014

Continued From Page 23

"Law enforcement has a particularly difficult challenge serving in the vast district."

Unfortunately, county officials must adjust to federal and state policies.

"It is often a costly, burdensome task. Others have great influence over our funding and economy," Mr. Hickman stated.

A promoter of customer service, Mr. Hickman believes District 4, because of its size and recent growth, lags behind some of the older, more established East Valley cities and Phoenix in having its fair share of offices and services.

"In a tight economy, that is hard to rectify easily," he stated. "We do have an ambitious, responsive county transportation department and we are using electronic technology to speed up service and convenience wherever possible."

Mr. Hickman said he is working with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to increase patrols and service.

"People in the Sun Cities tell me MCSO is very aware and attentive to public safety needs," he stated.

Mr. Hickman also want to use his job as a promoter of the West Valley, to make everyone aware of what he believes is a great lifestyle and amenities, including regional parks.

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

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demand RCSC officials become more flexible in when facilities are open and how to secure volunteers for the organizations that rely on them.

"In addition, there is (and always has been) the difficulty in balancing the needs of those living here with those who want to buy into an age-restricted community," Mr. Pearson stated. "I think we are doing a better job of that, but we have work to do."

Residents will have the opportunity to attend monthly special events in addition to the free Sun Bowl and Sundial shows, according to Mr. Brasher. Sun City club music groups will return to perform at Sun Bowl beginning in April, and there will be expanded visibility events by the Sun City Foundation.

Ms. Martinez also wants to see the Sun Bowl dog-park project completed, using lessons learned at Duffeeland Dog Park.

Mr. Pearson believes RCSC should begin an aggressive long-range planning strategy that goes beyond facilities, looking more at trends and potential buyers. He is also hopeful RCSC will begin to move in a more forward and open style of governance.

"The fact we had a number of candidates for the election speaks well for the future," he stated. "But, that's just a beginning. I love the idea of town-hall-type setting where we can begin to engage the population on issues important to them and the community."

SCHOA

SCHOA officials are adjusting to a different way of operating and plan this month, to develop a list of wants, needs, aspirations and goals, according to Jim Stark, board president.

"It is my first goal, above all, to focus on that transition and make our 'new' structure successful," he stated in an e-mail. "To that end, I expect SCHOA to concentrate more closely on its core mission: Protecting community values and standards, as most succinctly spelled out in Sun City's CC&Rs."

Mr. Stark's plan will include more actively engaging all board members and other SCHOA members through the organization's various committees, advancing ideas to increase membership and promoting more community involvement in the SCHOA mission.

Lyle Roth, SCHOA treasurer, plans to review and develop a business model for the future.

"The recent and very positive change in bookkeeping services has suggested a need to re-evaluate all of our business relationships," he stated in an e-mail.

Mr. Roth also suggests more direct assistance to individuals unable to keep their properties up to CC&R standards through SCHOA's Resident Assistance Program.

Board member Walt Patterson said while SCHOA's vigilance to the age overlay was very good, it needs to remain high on the

SCHOA will also continue to work with MCDOT, ADOT, MCSO, Sun City Posse, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and Maricopa County Planning to correct and improve the infrastructure of Sun City to the benefit of all residents, according to Vice President Jim Powell.

Judy Reed, secretary-elect, wants to continue to promote the opportunities SCHOA offers. Pam Schwartz, newly elected to the SCHOA board, wants to keep SCHOA relevant to all residents by raising awareness. "Continued dissemination of information about SCHOA, its partnerships and resources is essential," she stated in an e-mail.

Greg Eisert, also a new board member, believes the Governmental Affairs Committee should continue to observe, report and take a proactive approach at the state Legislature, RUCO and the Arizona Corporation Commission regarding legislation and other actions affecting Sun City homeowners, and work on developing key personal relationships within those organizations.

New board member Rita Tillery suggests that in order to accomplish that, SCHOA officials put more effort into educational outreach.

"We should also try to reduce community confusion as to SCHOA and the many condominium associations in Sun City," he stated in an e-mail. "It is easy for homeowners to become confused by conflicting and inconsistent answers by members of the two groups."

Board member Pete Granucci believes SCHOA's "compliance with compassion" approach should continue.

"We all believe this is the best approach for SCHOA compliance," he stated in an e-mail.

Maricopa County

While economists claim the recession is over and there is an expanding economy, that is not the impression for Maricopa County officials.

"A wise man once said, 'Maricopa County is never going to be out of the fiscal woods, so we have to learn to live in the woods'" Clint Hickman, District 4 county supervisor, stated in an e-mail.

He explained wages, home values and county tax revenues are inching up very slowly while the needs of county departments and residents increase. County officials are in the midst of a critical review of their spending to see what can be done better and more efficiently.

"But having studied our key county operations this past year, there's not a lot of fat," Mr. Hickman stated. "Your county officials have been good stewards of your tax dollars."

With continued West Valley growth, county officials see strains on transportation and other services.

"We have the usual strains of transportation and services," Mr. Hickman stated.



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Saturday,
April 5, 2014

SPOTLIGHT

Public television showcases RCSC

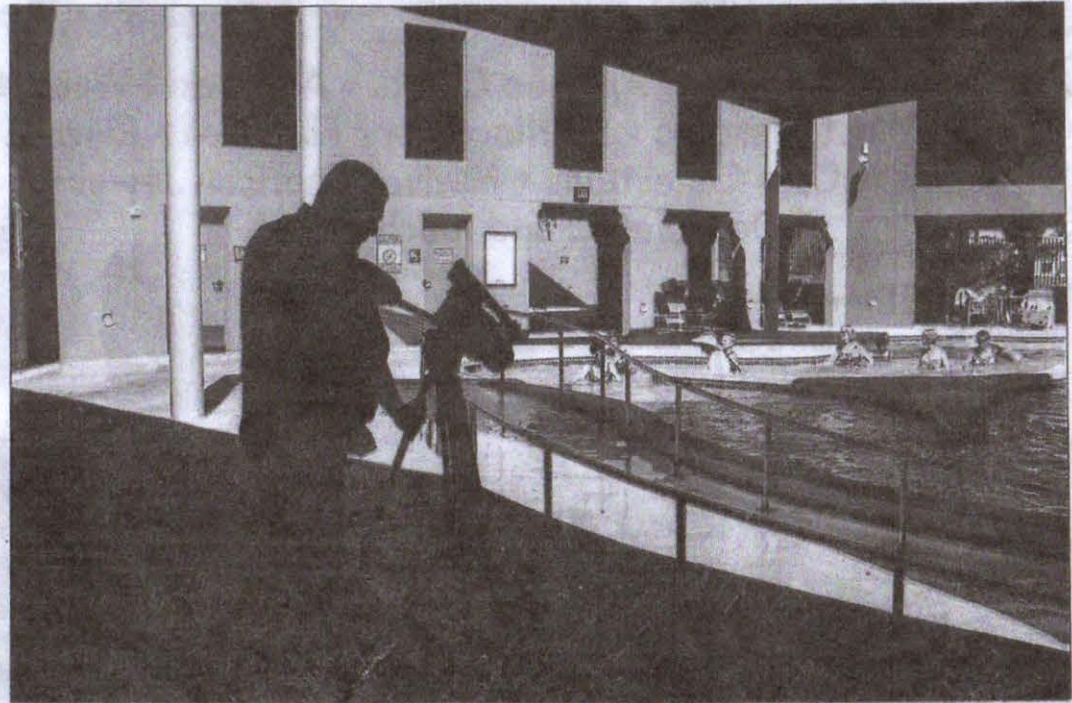
By Denelle Dunn
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Filming took place Friday in Sun City for a video that will run on Eight Arizona PBS.

The 3-4 minute video will showcase how the Recreation Centers of Sun City manages to conduct all of its events and have all of its facilities operating without incurring debt, RCSC officials said. Arizona's public television station, also will produce a 30-second TV commercial broadcast prime time in select cities.

"We want others to know that our sense of community was the foundation for Sun City for the past 50-plus years and that spirit still thrives here today," RCSC General Manager Jan Ek said. "I think

» See PBS on page A5



Sun City residents use the walking pool at the Fairway Recreation Center while filming for a Sun City promotion video Friday morning. Insight Production was working with Sun City residents morning film a 3-4 minute "interstitial" to be aired between programs on PBS. [Jarod Opperman, Daily News-Sun]

PBS

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it's really exciting because Sun City is called the 'best-kept secret' but the purpose of this is to remove that secret. We want to showcase Sun City as much as possible."

PBS will highlight the variety of recreation centers' activities, but also focus on economics.

"I always say I'm a bean counter, and I'm also one to stay in the confines of a budget," Ek said. "When something happens, we never have to worry."

RCSC operates seven recreation centers, eight golf courses, two bowling facilities, multiple snack bars, the Viewpoint Lake facilities and has more than 300 employees while remaining in the black.

With more than 120 char-



RCSC General Manager Jan Ek raises her hands in celebration as filming at the Fairway Recreation Center pool finishes. Insight Productions was working with Sun City residents all morning film a 3-4 minute "interstitial" to be aired between programs on PBS. [Jarod Opperman/Daily News-Sun]

tered clubs, Sun City residents can partake in activities ranging from music to technology to crafting.

PBS will showcase all of Sun City recreation center's

amenities, and Ek said she hopes it will get more people excited about moving to the community.

PBS will air the video next year.