

TOWN HALL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES CENTER

POST OFFICE BOX 555

DEL WEBB'S
Sun City
A R I Z O N A

You are now a valued member of a very purposeful and dynamic Association, operated for our mutual benefit. On behalf of the Officers and Directory of the Town Hall Recreational Activities Center, I extend to you our warmest welcome.

The Association meets the second Monday of each month in the Town Hall at 7:30 P.M. We urge you to attend these meetings and take part in activities which appeal to you. We are enclosing a list of these activities, and the names of Town Hall Board Members in charge of each.

If you fail to find your favorite sport or hobby listed, please contact one of our officers. We probably know others with the same interests who would like to organize a group for the enjoyment of this particular activity.

If you have any questions, please call or drop by. We will do everything possible to make the years ahead the best of your lives!

Town Hall Center Chairman

T O W N H A L L A C T I V I T I E S S C H E D U L E

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Argyle Knapp
10746 El Rancho Dr.
933-2227
2nd Tuesday - 10:00 A.M.

LAPIDARY

Mr. Howard Gilman
10828 Connecticut Ave.
933-2521
Friday - 1:30 P.M.

SWIM CLUB - MEETING

Mr. Joe Browe
11068 Florida Ave.
933-1719
1st Thursday - 1:30 P.M.

ART

Mrs. Dorothy Campbell
10740 Sun City Blvd.
933-0322
Tuesday - 1:30 P.M.

LAWN BOWLING - PLAY

Mr. Leland Cornell
10746 Crosby Dr.
933-0000
Monday-Wednesday-Friday
1:45 P.M.

WOMEN'S SENIOR LEAGUE

Mrs. Edna Guillett
10619 Hope Dr.
933-3450
3rd Thursday - 10:00 A.M.

BRIDGE - DUPLICATE

Tuesday - 7:00 P.M.

LAWN BOWLING - MEETING

1st Monday - 12:30 P.M.

WOODWORKING

Mr. Harry Kleemeyer
10722 El Rancho Dr.
933-2270
3rd Saturday - 10:00 A.M.

BRIDGE - EVENING

Mrs. Evelyn Shafer
10734 Canterbury Dr.
933-1606
Thursday - 7:30 P.M.

MEN'S CLUB

Col. X.L. Horn
10838 El Dorado Dr.
933-1748
Afternoons

BRIDGE - LADIES AFTERNOON

Mrs. Grace Houston
11002 Canterbury Dr.
933-2759
Friday - 1:00 P.M.

MOSAICS

Mrs. Sophia Rose
11235 - 111th Ave.
Friday - 9:00 A.M.

CHURCHES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

10625 - 111th Ave.
Sunday - 8:00-9:30-11:00

CAMERA

Mr. Al Wilson
10813 Connecticut Ave.
933-1717
Wednesday - 7:30 P.M.

SEWING

Mrs. Catherine Van Horn
10601 La Jolla Dr.
933-3519
Wednesday - 9:00 A.M.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Community Center
Sunday - 9:30 A.M.

CANASTA - CLUB ROOM

Thursday - 7:30 P.M.

SHELL ART

Mrs. Josephine Gust
11024 Florida Ave.
933-2191
Thursday - 9:00 A.M.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Community Center
Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

CERAMICS

Mrs. Hazel Schmidt
10738 El Rancho Dr.
933-3861
Monday - 9:00 A.M.

SHUFFLEBOARD - PLAY

Mr. Ted Rutz
10302 Pinehurst Dr.
Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday
10:00 A.M.

BAPTIST DAY-SAINTS

Community Center
Sunday - 7:00 P.M.

DANCE

Mr. Wendell Noell
10750 Crosby Dr.
933-2634
Saturday - 8:00 P.M.

SHUFFLEBOARD - MEETING

1st Tuesday - 9:30 A.M.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Town Hall
Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

DANCE INSTRUCTION

Friday - 6:30 & 7:45 P.M.

STITCH & KNIT

Mrs. Roberta Lindblom
10828 Sun City Blvd.
933-2443
Wednesday - 9:00 A.M.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Town Hall
Sunday - 9:30 A.M.

GYMNASTICS - LADIES

Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis
10941 Canterbury Dr.
933-2538
Monday - 9:30 A.M.

MOVIES

Town Hall
Monday - 7:30 P.M.

UNITED CHURCH

107th Ave. at Sun City Blvd.
Sunday - 9:30 & 11:00



TOWN HALL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES CENTER

POST OFFICE BOX 555

DEL WEBB'S
Sun City
ARIZONA



MR. & MRS. JOE F. RICE

3264 San Simeon Court

Reno, Nevada.



HOOT, MON! — Hooting and tooting, John Lumsden, left, and Bill Craig provided the skirts and drones to lead a parade of lawn bowlers to the green at Sun City, Fla. Contestants from all over the state took part in the recent invitational contest. Though Sarasotans Lumsden and Craig have lived in the U.S. and Canada for 43 and 39 years, respectively, their pre-tournament show included perfect control of a burred Scottish accent.

Retirement Cities 'Successful Solution' For Active Oldsters

(Continued From Page 1)

sands of elderly people 'just sitting around on benches.' He decided that activities should be important in any program that Webb might undertake."

By 1959, Time pointed out, Webb had to decide on investing millions to build a community that would be limited to residents 50 years old or more, with no school-age children. With all community facilities in, plus a host of recreational and hobby pursuits (such pre-investments would pay off, urged Breen), Sun City opened and 272 houses were sold the first weekend.

In describing Webb retirement communities, Time said: "Del Webb and his staff found that they had miscalculated on only one point: instead of wanting to work at least part time, most Sun citizens have been happy to spend all day at play.

"There is plenty to play with. Like a laird of the manor, Webb has supplied his tenants with almost anything and everything they want to keep on the go." As a result, 90 clubs and organizations have been formed, "organized spontaneously by Sun City residents without artificial 'cruise director' stimulation. . . ."

Time reported the "aged" are the fastest growing minority in the U.S. It calls the retirement city "a dramatically successful solution" to retirement for the growing army of active oldsters willing and able to cut out and start a new life.

What Just One Day's Mail Can Bring!

Time Magazine has for decades thrust into the international spotlight the subject of its weekly cover picture. The August 3 issue on Del Webb and the Webb Corporation was no exception, as one day's mail from the firm's national press clipping service demonstrated recently.

Inside a bulging packet of clippings were stories from newspapers throughout the U.S., representing circulation of 2,540,000, ranging from the Benton Harbor (Mich.) News-Palladium to Boston's Christian Science Monitor and to the Los Angeles Sunday Times.

Reviews included mentions in business columns, and extensive quoted ma-

terial from Time's story on retirement. Papers in the area of Webb communities reported the story in considerable detail.

By mid-August other national media were planning stories on retirement, the leading picture magazine of Germany was compiling a feature story on Del Webb and the firm's towns, and Japanese television cameramen filmed Arizona's Sun City for home viewers.

Which led to speculation on how writers and announcers would explain coffee klatches, "life begins at 50," and golf five days a week to our senior citizen neighbors in Europe and the Orient.

The WEBB Spinner

Volume 16

August, 1962

No. 8

Published by the
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in the interests of the personnel of its
various projects and branch offices

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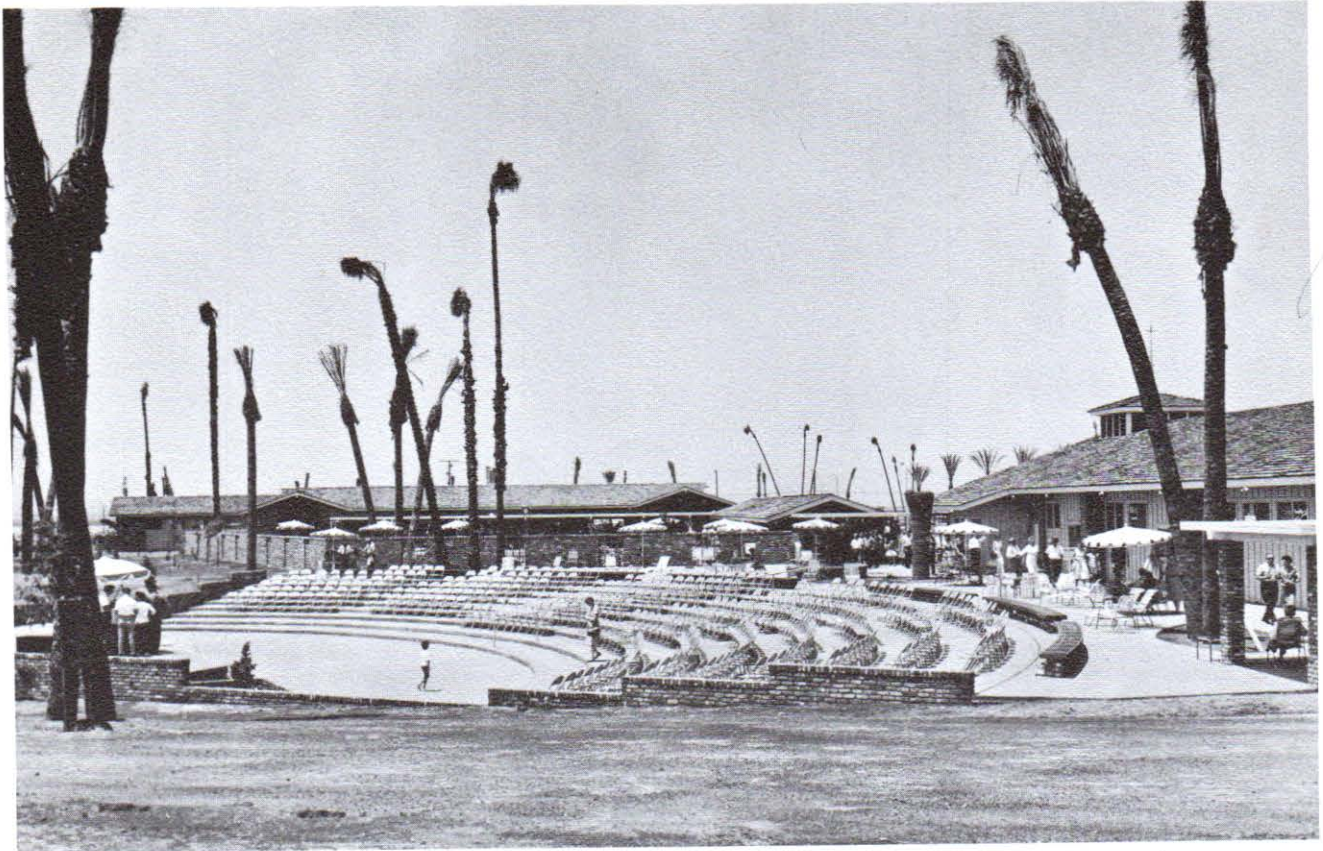
CIRCULATION MANAGER

Lee Sevedge

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Spaciousness Is The Keynote For Sun City's Recreational Facilities



THE GREEK THEATER at Sun City, terraced to provide every guest a clear view, will be the scene of year-around outdoor meetings and entertainment. Adjacent to the spacious Town Hall, it looks toward a large stage with a backdrop of the green fairways of the Sun City golf course and the towering mountains in the distance. **BELOW** — The attractive entrance to Sun City, with the Kings Inn motor hotel in background.



IT'S A REALLY Merry Christmas
...THIS FIRST HOLIDAY SEASON
 at **DEL WEBB'S Sun City**

The spicy aroma of fruit cakes and cookies baking in the bright kitchens wafts out over the golf course. The Arts & Crafts Shop has been rivaling Santa's own for gift-making activity. Cameras have been clicking all over the "Ag" Center as Sun City farmers gather proof of their December-grown products to send to the frozen East and North. And no Club House ever rang with happier gatherings than those at Sun City.



...TODAY...the Sun City Choral Group
invites You to a CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

3 P.M. on the
CLUB HOUSE
TERRACE

★
THERE WILL BE
NO CHARGE
FOR ADMISSION,
OF COURSE

★
 Director of the Choral Group is Mr. Otto Highfield, a Sun City citizen who has had more than 35 years experience directing church choirs and other choral groups in Chicago and Denver.

SOLOISTS:

- Mrs. Mamie Hite
- Mrs. E. C. Gilbert
- Mrs. Stephen Quayle
- Mr. Forrest McGlynn

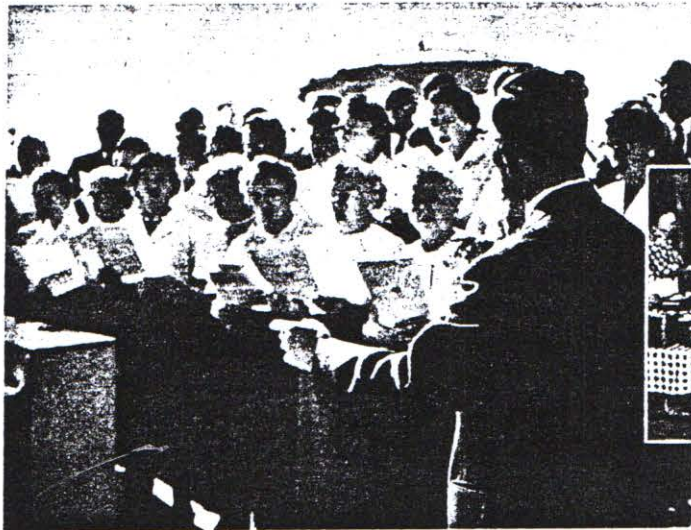
QUARTET:

- Mrs. Mamie Hite
- Kay Burlingham
- Isam Travis
- Otto Highfield

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT:

- Mrs. Olaf Olsen, Violinist
- Mrs. Otto Highfield, Pianist

The program will include such traditional favorites as "Oh, Holy Night", "The Virgin's Slumber Song", "Jesu! Thou Dear Babe Divine", "Oh, Bethlehem", and "Joyous Christmas Song".



Mr. Highfield directs the Group in rehearsal for Today's Concert



12 MI. NW OF PHOENIX OUT GRAND AVE.
HIGHWAY 60-70-89

BUILT BY

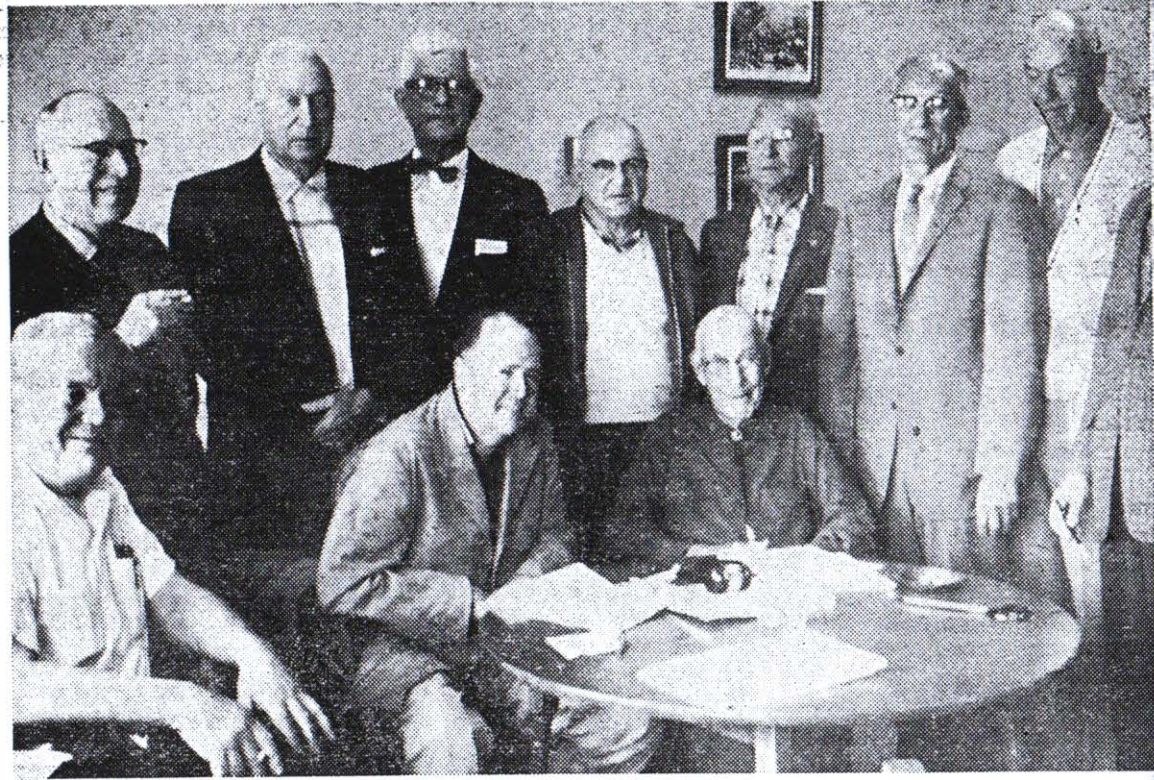
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YOUNGTOWN NEWS and SUN CITY SUN



(NEWS-SUN STAFF PHOTO)

TOM BREEN (at table, center), Del E. Webb Development Co. housing director, and Ralph Hawley, president of Sun City Civic Association, sign documents transferring Sun City recreation facilities to the association, while board members look on. Leo B. Wilson, secretary-treasurer, is seated far left; standing left to right are Lynn Olson, vice president, and Roy Lutz, Eugene Butler, Robert Fisher, Homer Mack, Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, and Carl Johnson.

Rec Centers plan social hall

By GILLIAN SILVER

The needs of older and less active Sun Citians will be met with the creation of a new recreational facility: a social hall located in Oakmont Center.

Peter Cipriano, director, Recreation Centers of Sun City, says the plans are a response to residents' requests. While most Sun Citians utilize the centers' tennis courts, swimming pools, golf courses and clubrooms, some recreation members are no longer agile enough to participate in the more strenuous activities. The new social hall will enable these members to use the facilities all Sun Citians help support.

Cipriano says the recreation centers want to help residents stay active. "After all," he says, "The less you do, the less you want to do."

The new program will occupy the area that was to have been the Oakmont therapy pool. Activities held there will be more social than athletic in their orientation.

Locating the new facilities at Oakmont Center is a practical solution says Cipriano "since we need to have a space that is available constantly. The room will be used steadily all week."

Renovation of the space will provide an area for slide shows, movies, card playing and guest speakers, "a nice, cozy, living room where people can have coffee, chat, make friends," he says.

Transportation to the facility will be provided by area agencies or volunteers.

The social hall would encompass a variety of needs and function

under professional guidance.

"What we're contemplating is an activity director to coordinate the programs," says Cipriano.

"One of the fears of some of our directors is that we are getting government-involved. We are not looking for money to run the center. We are looking for expertise to set it up."

Initially, outside organizations may be involved in establishing the program. "But," says Cipriano, "eventually we hope the operation can work with one paid staff member and volunteer support."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City will assume financial responsibility for remodeling and furnishing the facility, as well as keeping it maintained.

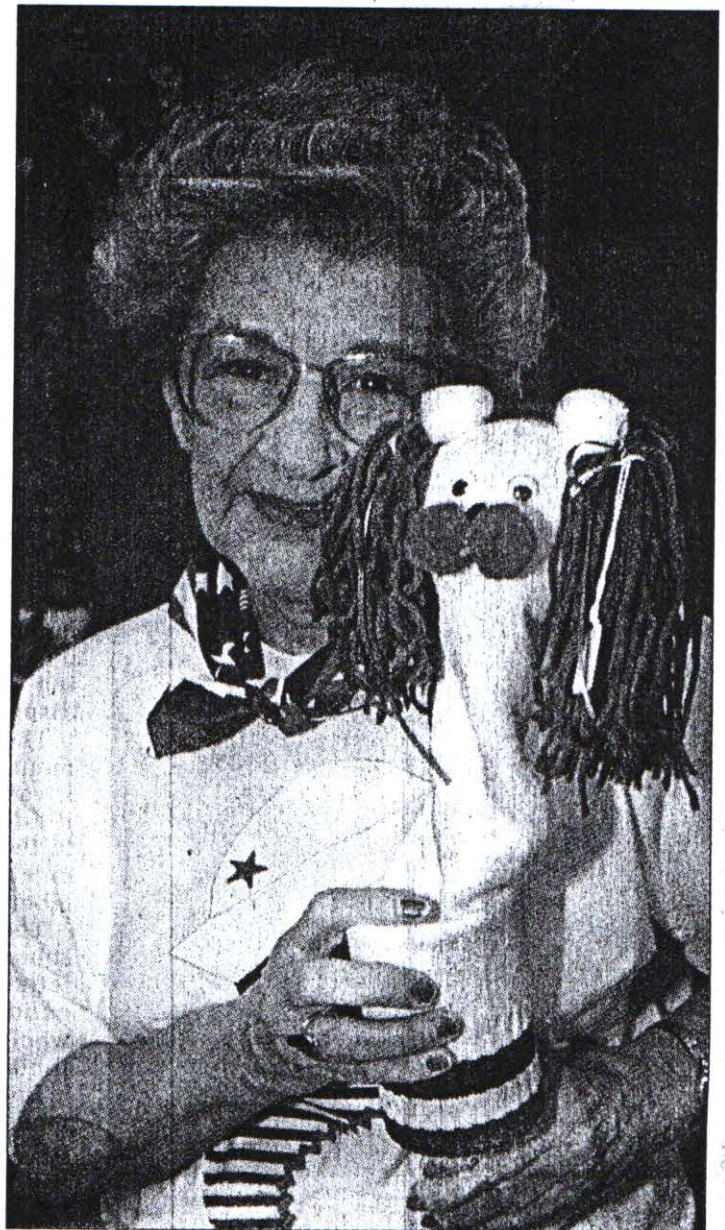
Plans for the social hall have received support from Sun City Area Community Council member Ed Hemphill. The local gerontologist recommended the rec centers seek assistance from the Area Agency on Aging. The agency is currently considering the Centers' request that the social hall be accepted as an agency demonstration project. If approved, funds will be provided to hire a professional to lead the program and cover operating expenses for the first year.

Approval of the project "will happen, I don't doubt it a bit," says Cipriano. "The space is there waiting for us. All we have to do is start working on it."

Residents interested in helping at the social hall as volunteers should contact Cipriano at 972-1497.



Chelsea Curran, 10, of Southbury, Conn., above, shows a ring to her grandmother, Eleanor Greco of Sun City, at the Oakmont Fun Fair, where Betty Schooley, right, tries to sell a puppet made by members of the Needle Arts and Crafts club. The fair Saturday kicked off a series of such events.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Oakmont laughs out loud

Hundreds lured to Fun Fair day

By RUTHANN HOGUE
Staff writer

Jayson and Amber Roehrig seemed unaware that the strings of their helium balloons had become tangled as they reached for brightly colored pot holders made by the Oakmont Needle Arts and Crafts club.

The 5-year-old twins from Phoenix were among hundreds who stopped in at the Oakmont Fun Fair on Saturday. They were escorted by their grandmother, Mary Lou Cali of Sun City. Cali read about the fair in the newspaper and thought her two blond, blue-eyed grandchildren might enjoy the food, music and crafts.

"I wanted to see what was going on," she said, proudly displaying a plastic bag with a pair of pink boxer shorts she picked up for \$10 at the booth of the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City. "I bought a pair of 'Go Joe' shorts and I'm going to wear them."

Cali pointed out three shiny gold "Junior Deputy" posse badges — one inside the bag and one each pinned on Jayson and Amber's shirts. The third badge, she explained, is for Cali's son who lives in West Virginia.

"I got him a badge too, and he's 46 years old," Cali said with a mischievous grin.

Meanwhile, Amber held tightly to

one of two white-and-orange duck magnets her grandmother bought at the Grandmothers and Friends table. Amber's tiny face remained serious as she announced plans to put her duck on the refrigerator.

Jayson, whose freckles seemed to dance as he nodded and grinned, said he wanted to take the yarn bow off of his magnet, as his fingers loosened the knot.

Perhaps Grandma Cali will bring the twins back to a string of fun fairs which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Saturday through the end of March. Each recreation center will take a turn opening their doors. Clubs set up booths to sell their wares and attract new members. Those goals aside, with a clown offering lipstick applications and the country sounds of the Banjo Band and later, Dutch and Dee Schultz, the focus at Oakmont on Saturday was definitely on having fun.

"Sure, we're having fun," said Marge Johnson of Sun City, during a break from working at one of the tables. "This is what we call fun: sitting out in the sun and drinking coffee."

Marge and her husband, Steve, no longer live in the Oakmont neighborhood. Yet they keep coming back. He is a 16-year member of the Lapidary/Silvercraft club. She still plays bridge at Oakmont on Wednesdays. She also frequents Lakeview and Bell recreations centers, which are closer to their new house.

"I still come back here because this is home to me," said Steve,

who was wearing a silver bolo tie and turquoise belt buckle he made himself at the center.

Lisa Overton of the Needle Arts and Crafts Club showed off her handiwork, too. Her crochet hook bobbed in and out as she added a few more handbags made from plastic grocery sacks to her display.

Overton estimated that about 20 purses, most of them lined, had sold with one hour of the fun fair remaining.

"You've never seen them before because I invented them," Overton said.

Overton got the inspiration from someone who taught a class on how to make floor mats.

"I decided I wasn't going to waste all my time making floor mats and wipe my feet on them," Overton said. "At least I can use this."

June Herrmann of Grandmothers and Friends said her bunch was busy most of the day as well. Their most popular sellers were Easter items from stuffed bunnies to festive towels.

"It's been a real good turn out," Herrmann noted. "Weatherwise, it's been good, and there's a lot of entertainment they seem to enjoy."

Across the auditorium, Gladys Carson of Sun City hawked dish cloths and cloth creations used to store plastic grocery bags. Carson was also pleased with sales receipts, as was Viola Zahradnik, both of Needle Arts and Crafts.

"I was really surprised that we were as busy as we were," Zahradnik said.

Oakmont boosts weekend spirits

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Local residents who want some company on Saturday now have a place to play games, read the newspaper or socialize.

Starting this Saturday, the Recreation Centers of Sun City will open a "Friendship Corner" in Oakmont Center, 10725 Oakmont Drive.

The center's auditorium will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays in an effort to give residents "something to do on what can often be a lonesome day," said Caroline Thomas, centers club office manager.

Thomas said coffee and tea will be provided, as will games, cards, newspapers and an organ.

"On weekdays there are clubs and other activities and on Sunday many people go to church. But Saturday is a day that many people have nothing to do," Thomas said.

If the Friendship Corner is successful, Thomas said management will consider opening other centers on Saturdays.

"We want to get this going and see what develops. The idea here is that if someone comes in and there is a group of people playing cards or something that their attitude will be 'come on over, join us,'" Thomas said.

Centers General Manger Jim

Warfield said he got the idea from a Sun City woman at his weekly listening post.

"She said she was not a golfer or a bowler but wanted someplace to go other than an organized club where she could sit and talk to people. Saturday can be a long day if you are by yourself," Warfield said.

Warfield is available every Thursday at 2 p.m. at a center and at 3 p.m. at a golf course to answer questions and listen to concerns and suggestions by residents and employees. The locations of his listening posts are posted at all centers. For more information call 876-3000.

The board of directors also has a listening post at 9 a.m. on Fridays at Lakeview Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

"This friendship room is a good example of an idea the centers are putting into fruition that came to us by a resident at the listening post," Warfield said.

Warfield said the Saturday Friendship Corner will not be a club, but rather a service offered to recreation center members and their guests.

The Olive Branch Senior Center, used by many Sun City residents, is not open on weekends.

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2000

SC Rec centers plan to repair Oakmont lot

CONCERNED: Board believes parking spaces contain safety hazards

KATE FLEITAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fears that deteriorating conditions at Oakmont Rec Center may lead to injuries prompted the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. board of directors to study a way to repair the center's parking lot.

Director Norm Burt, chairman of the board's engineering committee, met Monday with Jim Harrison, the rec centers project manager, to identify areas on the south end of the parking lot where the black top has deteriorated.

The two men focused on the "golf car" section of the parking lot. They marked

out areas that needed repair, and Harrison said he would get estimates on making the repairs, Burt said.

Board members originally discussed repaving the parking lot, but Burt asked them to consider a less expensive alternative — cutting out the bad spots and filling them with cement.

"It would be a simple matter to repair the spots instead of spending \$20,000 on the parking lot," he said. "This year, we're really watching expenses. In the past, there were jobs being done that weren't needed."

But the signs of wear extend beyond the golf car parking area.

The pavement contains holes filled with pebbles and broken pieces of pavement in front of the lawn bowl clubhouse, right outside the disabled parking lot. There are cracks and varying

'It was all wavy, and the old people stumbled on it all the time. It needed to be replaced.'

Ralph Spalding
Oakmont club member

levels of ground all over the lot.

Earlier this year, a member of the Oakmont Lawn Bowl club used her own money to repave the broken concrete outside the lawn bowlers' clubhouse. Ralph Spalding, a member of the club, said the condition of the concrete had become a safety hazard.

"It was all wavy, and the old people stumbled on it all the time," he said. "It needed to be replaced."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Cracks and crevices dot the Oakmont Recreation Center parking lot. Recreation center board members are trying to rectify the problem before someone gets hurt.



BOARDTALK

Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., 876-3000

MARCH 1999

Oakmont was Sun City's First Recreation Center – Built in 1959

Sun City's first recreation center was built in 1959 and opened in January 1960. Those who attended the opening ceremonies of Oakmont Center in 1960 would probably not recognize it now.

The Del Webb Company built seven centers over a period of 19 years. Marinette was the last center built in 1979. All the centers have the same goal of offering fun for Sun Citians and yet they also are quite different in the features they offer.

Then, as now, Webb Company policy was to have all the amenities in place before a home was offered for sale. Therefore, when the first model homes were shown to thousands of people during the first week of January 1960 Oakmont Center, sitting on 2.51 acres, was ready, as were the first nine holes of the North Golf Course. (Note: This center was known as the "Civic Association Center" for the first eight years and dues were \$1.00 per year.)

Since 1960 Oakmont underwent many alterations, renovations and modernization, as have the other six centers. Walls have been built, entire shower rooms moved nearer the pool, club rooms and large patios added and a new front entrance was built onto the auditorium. The lapidary and jewelry club members built a new building and recently new rest-rooms for the handicapped were added. These are a few examples of constant updating

and change. Leadman Richard Hoffman is proud of "his" Oakmont and is constantly striving to keep it up and make it better.

Currently at Oakmont there are 15 thriving clubs with active membership. They are: Artistic Weavers, Canasta, Ceramics, Four Round Bridge, Grandmothers & Friends, Friday Night Bridge, Wednesday Afternoon Bridge, Gourmet Social, Ladies Exercise, Lapidary & Silvercraft, Men's Club, Needle Arts & Crafts, Roadrunner Pinochle, Lawn Bowls and Sun City Social Club. These clubs have a total membership of 3,052. For meeting times of each club, please consult the current issue of Spotlight.

The two Club Coordinators (COCs) for these clubs are Marjorie B. Cottone and Betty Tudor.

The auditorium at Oakmont comfortably seats 250 and is used by groups, clubs and Sun City organizations such as the Home Owners Association and the Women's Golf Association, to name but two.

Twice a year a "Fun Day" is held at Oak-

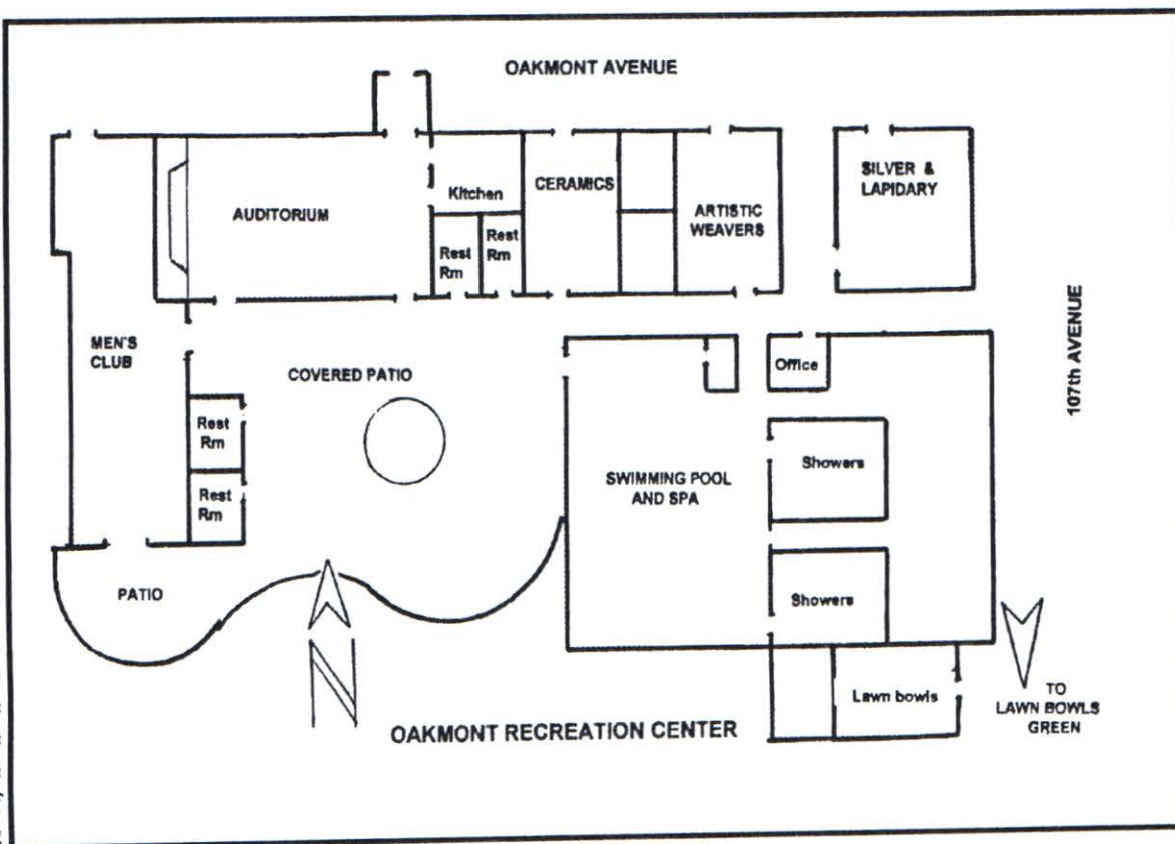
mont for children, grandchildren and parents.

On Saturdays from 10.30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. members meet at the Friendship Corner to enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, board games, bridge, conversation and camaraderie

Compared to other centers, Oakmont is small but it is a very efficient center. And, in spite of its age, it is in excellent condition. The view across the North golf course from the large covered patio is breathtaking. A second covered patio, outside the men's club, is very pleasant and is being considered as possibly being suited to outdoor dancing.

It is hard to believe that Oakmont Center is 40 years old! Members are encouraged to stop by and see the center and if you plan to visit a particular club, check the Spotlight for the days and hours it is open.

Oakmont is situated south of Grand Avenue on 107th Avenue.



Cut gas line clears Oakmont center

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Oakmont Recreation Center was evacuated Friday afternoon after workers severed a gas line in the center's parking lot.

No one was injured but traffic was snarled for about an hour in front of the center along 107th Avenue south of Grand Avenue as firefighters and gas company workers secured the line soon after it broke at about 1:25 p.m.

"I was digging about 12 to 18 inches deep, and I hit a gas line I guess," said Ed Mueller, a technician with Accel Electric, which is reestablishing Oakmont's parking lot lights in a resurfacing project.

Jay Olson, a journeyman electrician working with Mueller on the lights, said Mueller was using a trencher when he struck the gas line.

"I evacuated the buildings," Olson said. "Then I called 911."

Olson said there were only six individuals in Oakmont Recreation Center, and they were unaware of the gas leak.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Workers hit a gas line in the Oakmont Recreation Center parking lot Friday. The area was evacuated

See NO DELAY, A5

From A1

"I got them out of there. They didn't even know what was going on," he said. "I didn't want to take any chances."

Olson and Mueller waited on a bench in the Grand Center across the street from the center as firefighters worked on the leak.

"It shakes a person up pretty good," Olson said. "People can get killed doing that."

"It's a good thing it was windy to blow it around," Mueller said.

Battalion Chief Ron Gilbert with Sun City Fire Department said the parking lot asphalt already had been torn up, which may have reduced the depth to the gas line. He said the 1-inch line was about 22 inches deep.

"They're usually 18 inches below," Gilbert said.

Sun City Fire Department personnel were still trying to contact Accel Electric officials Friday afternoon to make sure the company had gotten a Blue Stake inspection at the site, as required under Arizona law, Gilbert said.

The gas smell was strong north of Oakmont at the Grand Center, where part of the parking lot was cordoned

off, but just south of the building, Oakmont Lawn Bowls Club members continued their play adjacent to the evacuated center.

"We didn't have to disturb the lawn bowl folks because of the winds," Gilbert said.

"Neither snow, nor rain nor gas leaks keeps us from playing," said lawn bowler Bill McKean.

Ann and Harry Howland were just arriving to play when the gas line broke.

"I saw the guy get off the (trencher) and go running, and then I heard the hiss," Ann Howland said.

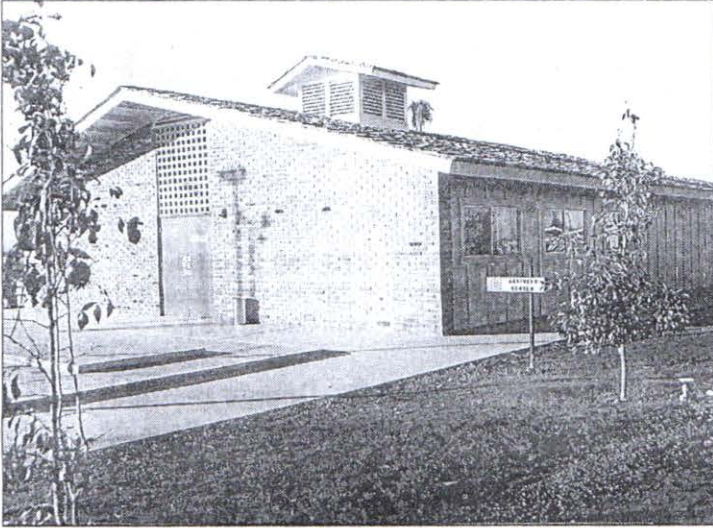
The Howlands said they couldn't smell the gas since the wind was blowing in the opposite direction.

"If it wasn't safe, I don't think they'd let us be here," Ann Howland said.

Along with Sun City Fire, others responding included the Sun City Sheriff's Posse, Surprise, Glendale and Phoenix fire crews, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

Glendale's hazardous-materials unit checked for gas pockets in Oakmont Recreation Center before allowing people back in, Gilbert said.

Dorothy Hirtzel, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, said work likely will resume Monday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oakmont Recreation Center, pictured here circa 1960, is the oldest recreation center in Sun City. The Artistic Weavers Club, the Ceramics Club, the Lapidary and Silvercraft Clubs are seeking new members. For information, call 876-3046.

Oakmont greens will stay put

JRA AVERY-PAGE
AILY NEWS-SUN

After public outcry, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors has decided not to remove the lawn bowling green at Oakmont Recreation Center.

RCSC officials announced Wednesday afternoon they would no longer be considering the proposal because it is "vital or a long-range plan to be completed and finalized before any discussion regarding RCSC's amenities and recreational facilities can effectively occur."

Simply put, said RCSC General Manager Jan Ek, the board wants to have a

definitive plan of what will be best for the community in the future, and officials don't want to make any changes when they don't know what will come years down the road.

"There needs to be an overall long-range plan," Ek said. "I think it's a good thing at this point."

Rich Enockson, president of the Oakmont Lawn Bowling Club, said the board's decision is good news.

"The RCSC board of director's decision is definitively the right one," Enockson said. "It's a really good deal."

Enockson said many of the club's

events and tournaments occur in the winter, and he's pleased they can now schedule those upcoming events, which the club had been holding off in light of the "unnecessary" potential closure.

The RCSC release stated that the Long Range Planning Committee will be submitting a strategic plan soon, but it will take time to be analyzed by the board.

Ek pointed out while the lawn bowlers will be pleased with the news, it is important to note that the board has a fiduciary duty to do what is best for the community, even if the idea is unpopular, although it does take public opinion into account.

SUN VIEWS

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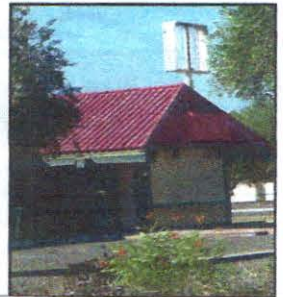
Ad Hoc Committee Takes on "Grand" Property

Oakmont Changes with the Times

Starting with a pool remodel over two years ago specifically intended for water sports, the Oakmont Recreation Center has seen a great deal of renovation, concluding with the completion of the auditorium and patio space. New exterior stucco, paint and decorative rock accents complete the updated appearance at Sun City AZ's very first recreation center. Stop by and have a look!

these people to help determine a direction for this property's use. Sun City has long sought additional property to expand and grow and this property fits that bill," stated RCSC Board of Directors Vice President Rich Hoffer.

Town Hall-style meetings will be announced when scheduled and your input will be important as Sun City AZ continues to look towards our future.



Front Entrance to Oakmont early on



Circa late 1990s



Today

VF SC REC. Centers - Oakmont