

Daily News-Sun

Friday, Oct. 1, 1999

# Proxy ballots jeopardize vote results

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City may have voted Thursday to allow their Rec Board board members to serve a second term — but the outcome is in doubt while a parliamentary challenge is considered.

At the Centers' quarterly membership meeting, residents used paper ballots to vote on the change to the articles of incorporation, showing their recreation cards before voting.

But some members also brought proxy votes, purported to be from others who couldn't be at the session in person. All of those proxy votes were opposed to the change.

But board secretary Dick Elton said the proxy ballots had no signatures and were unacceptable since the bylaws say such proxies must be signed.

If the in-person ballots alone are counted, the change was approved, 86-76.

If the proxy ballots are included, the outcome is

reversed, with the matter defeated 156-86.

Before the votes were tallied, board president Robert Briscoe said proxy voting wasn't allowed, and that only in-person ballots were valid.

But a few minutes later, resident Roberta Ward read Briscoe another part of the bylaws that allowed for proxy voting at membership meetings. That section said the secretary would have to have notice of such voting, either before the session or at it.

With all votes still uncounted, Briscoe then conceded that perhaps the proxy ballots were valid.

But a few minutes later, with results in hand, he again changed his mind, saying that since the secretary (Dick Elton) was not notified of proxy voting, those votes wouldn't count.

Still, he said, "we'll ask for some legal advice before we say which way the vote went."

Twelve people at the meeting spoke about the change, with about half opposed. They suggested it was a way for a clique of interested directors to

perpetuate themselves in office or take over the board.

Ward said she thought the change "is a short term solution to your problems in recruiting candidates for the board.

"Who benefits? she asked. "Residents, or past directors who can benefit from apathy?"

But former board members said it takes a year or two of seasoning and learning before a new board member can make a real contribution, and it was better if they could stick around for a second term to benefit from that experience.

The charter change would allow a full second term only after a director has been off the board a year.

One resident called the idea of two terms a good one, but questioned whether the Thursday vote was democracy at work.

"How can 167 voters in this room, out of about 40,000 members in total, make the choice?" he asked.

# Rec Centers change election procedure

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

## Board drops mail voting in favor of county-run operation

The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. has decided to abandon its mail balloting procedure and instead switch to voting at the polls for all future elections.

The switch is expected to save nearly \$17,000 a year, not to mention headaches caused by controversy surrounding past elections conducted through the mail.

"After the last election, there was a lot of discontent and the election ran for a month and it took a week to count the ballots," says board Vice President Dick Austin, who

serves as chairman of the Election Procedures Revision Committee.

Under the new method, no Sun City residents will be required to tally votes, Mr. Austin says. Beginning this year, the members will cast their votes by secret ballot at polls operated by the county Elections Department.

"The counting of the ballots will be done by the county and will take out the implication that somebody counted some ballots wrong," he says.

Witnessing the brouhaha surrounding the last election spurred Mr. Austin and other members of the Election Procedures Revision Committee to find a "better way, something more cost-effective and efficient," in which to conduct elections.

By enlisting the aid of the county's Election Department, the cost of each future election could be \$1,000, saving the corporation about \$17,000 annually.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of December,

with the board of directors deciding where the polling places will be.

"Right now we are considering Marinette, Bell, Sundial and Fairway," Mr. Austin says.

"It has been suggested that we might want to consider Lakeview as one of the polling places. If we did that, we would not use Bell."

Members of the Rec Centers Board of

See ■ VOTING, Page 8

Directors will make arrangements with the county to conduct and complete the election within one day.

County Election Department officials are expected to provide the voting machines and print the ballots.

Rec Centers members who are unable to get to the centers to cast their ballots won't be left out in the

cold. They may cast an absentee ballot up to five days prior to the date of the election.

"People are concerned (about) those who are unable to get to the centers. That's why we put in absentee voting," says Director Carol Jaslow.

Absentee ballots, which must be returned to the Rec Centers either by mail or in person, will be

removed from the ballot boxes, and opened and tabulated along with the regular ballots.

Although no Sun City residents will be needed to count ballots, volunteers will be needed to work at the polling sites.

To volunteer, call the Rec Centers at 876-3000.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

# Rec centers board OKs administrative offices

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

3-11-94

SUN CITY — Responding to demands for more space for clubs, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board has approved construction of a building for its offices at the Sundial Recreation Center.

The new building will house administrative offices that occupy about 6,000 square feet at the Lakeview Recreation Center.

The vacant office space at Lakeview, in turn, would be used for clubs. Among those groups that have requested more space are the printing club, calligraphy club and agriculture club.

"We're just in the talking stage and we haven't decided what space would be used for what clubs," said board member Max Domino.

The board's decision to go ahead with a building, reached during a special meeting Monday, followed several months of discussions about building needs.

Board members Domino, Nat Jampel and Kay Sentes voted against the new building. Board president Art Williams and members Ed Anderson, Doris Gregory, George Hartman and John Ober

avored it.

Earlier in the year, there was an uproar over the possibility of lapidary clubs being shut down to make room for other clubs. Domino said the lapidary programs will not be closed.

He said the size and cost of the building at Sundial, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., has not been decided. But the building is to be finished by Nov. 1, he said.

Administrative offices for the rec centers have been at Lakeview Center, 107th Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard, since the 1970s.

But Williams said he believes the new building will be more accessible to members and will be more efficient for management operations.

In other business, the board approved increases in bowling rates starting May 1. Williams cast the lone opposing vote.

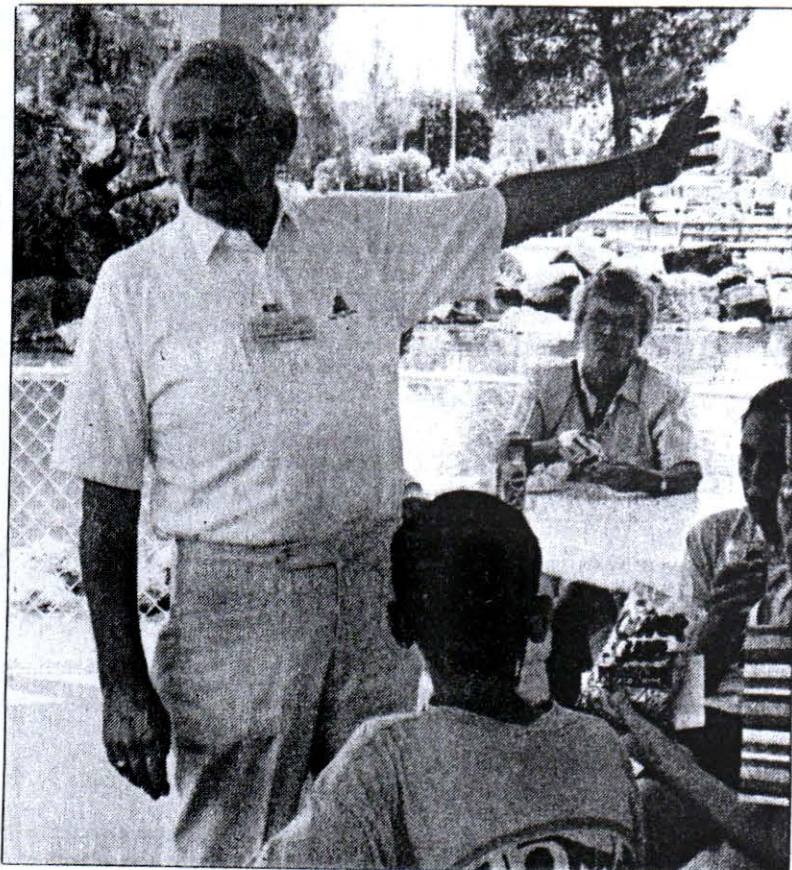
Bowling fees will be boosted to \$1.10 per line from \$1 for members; guest bowling fees will be \$1.75 per line, up from \$1.50 per line. Also, locker fees will be doubled to \$12 per year, up from \$6 per year; shoe rentals will increase to \$1 per pair, up from 50 cents per pair.



## Getting to know you

The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. held a picnic last week for 12 students from Arrowhead Elementary School participating in a special program designed to foster stronger relationships between young and old. During the seven-week program, the children were given a chance to strike up friendships with 12 Sun City residents. At the conclusion of the program, each student was given the assignment of writing a biographical sketch of their new friend. All participants enjoyed a picnic May 13 at Viepoint Lake. At right, Rec Centers President Art Williams explains the area to the young visitors.

Photos by TYSON KUHRT  
Sun Cities Independent



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-

## RCSC COMMUNICATIONS HOTLINE

# Annual Rec Center fee required of all members

By DICK AUSTIN

12-7-94

Concern has been expressed recently by some members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City regarding their annual assessment.

**Q: Why do I have to pay \$200 annually when my neighbor pays only \$100?**

A: The current facilities agreement states the "Rec Centers agrees to impose an annual assessment upon each homeowner to cover costs of maintaining, operating and developing the common community recreational facilities at Sun City. The annual assessment shall be calculated as follows:

A. For residential real property acquired by deed recorded on or before April 30, 1992, the annual assessment shall be equal to \$100 for each person named in the deed as holding a fee ownership interest in the property.

B. For residential real property acquired by deed recorded on or after May 1, 1992, or the escrow opened on or after May 1, 1992, the annual assessment shall be equal to

the greater of \$200 per household or \$100 per person named in the deed as holding a fee ownership interest in the property."

(The definition of a household for facilities agreement purposes is considered to be one or two individuals. If there are three or more persons named on the deed, the fee would be \$100 per person over two in addition to the \$200 per household).

The facilities agreement continues with "Owner(s) agree to pay in advance to Rec Centers the annual assessment for each person who is a legal or beneficial owner of the property, regardless of their use or non-use of any such facilities, and regardless of whether such owner is qualified under the corporation's bylaws to use any such facilities."

**Q: Why do I have to pay the**



AUSTIN

**annual assessment when I don't use any of the facilities?**

A: All homeowners are required to pay the assessment to enable the Recreation Centers of Sun City to keep the centers and golf courses in excellent condition, which in turn helps keep members' property values high.

In addition, Article II, Membership, Section 1 (3) of the corporation's bylaws states that the "homeowner must execute a facilities agreement in the form required by the corporation obligating the homeowner to pay the annual assessments when due. The facilities agreement shall obligate the homeowner to pay assessments whether or not the homeowner uses

the facilities."

**Q: I don't remember signing a facilities agreement. When was this supposed to have happened?**

A: The facilities agreement was one of the documents the title company should have given you to sign at the close of escrow.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City membership office will be pleased to answer additional questions you may have regarding the facilities agreement and your responsibilities in connection with it.

*Editor's note: Mr. Austin is a member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Board of Directors.*

# Sun City Rec Centers begin plan to audit financial records of clubs

Sudden request for books draws ire of one chartered club

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

An ounce of prevention may worth a pound of cure.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has announced plans to conduct audits of many of its chartered clubs to make certain all records kept by the clubs are in tip-top shape.

Spotting problem areas now, say

Rec Center officials, could fend off any interest down the road from the Internal Revenue Service.

In previous years, outside auditors recommended the Rec Centers conduct audits of its clubs, says Chuck Chadbourn, a member of the Recreation of Sun City Board of Directors and chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee. No one, it seemed, wanted to undertake the cumbersome task.

"We go in and really examine their financial records and compare them with the records they file every year with the Rec Centers," Mr. Chadbourn explains.

"The reason we're doing club audits is basically to make sure they conform with Rec Centers bylaws, with IRS statutes and state of Arizona statutes."

Mr. Chadbourn says because each chartered club operates under the Rec Centers "umbrella, if one of them violates provisions and laws, they could jeopardize our status or cause us (to be) audited."

If a problem is discovered with a club's records, Rec Centers officials can assist the club in resolving the problem.

5-10-95

See ■ AUDITS, Page 7

"In some cases we may be able to help the clubs if they're having trouble handling their (records). These are all clubs that sell crafts. They make crafts and sell them in their shops. And so far they keep decent records. Initially, we're auditing all the silvercraft and lapidary clubs in Sun City."

Mr. Chadbourn, who had a long career in accounting, is one of two officials conducting the audits.

"The two of us doing it are experienced auditors," he points out.

The silvercraft and lapidary clubs at Fairway Recreation Center were the first two audited.

Thus far, most club members have been courteous when it comes to the auditing process. However, one club seemed less than cooperative when it came to being audited.

*In some cases we may be able to help the clubs if they're having trouble handling their (records).*

Chuck Chadbourn  
Director  
Recreation Centers of Sun City

"(Fairway) Lapidary said they did not want the audit done and said if it had to be done they wanted it done in the fall. (The club president) said I threatened him with closing the club. He said, 'What would you do if we didn't comply and let you do the audit?' I said, 'As a last resort, all we could do is deny you privileges of using the rec centers.'"

Current Fairway Lapidary Club President Bob Laumeier says he

wanted the club's past president and treasurer to attend, along with the group's secretary, for the audit of the club's 1994 records.

But many of the club's members had already left for the summer.

"That was why I requested it be in the fall," he says.

"I think the timing was atrocious. I was not inclined to give him the 1994 records without the 1994 (club) treasurer there. I feel to review their work without them being present is unacceptable procedure."

Mr. Laumeier also felt the club was given short notice of the audit. He says he received a letter April 13 informing him the club would be audited April 18. He feels Rec Centers officials could have been more explicit in explaining what they sought.

Rec Centers officials may well

be conducting additional audits this fall and winter. Mr. Chadbourn has no idea how long it could take to audit each of the corporation's 134 clubs.

Despite the uncertainty about whether the audits will uncover any problems, the program is likely to continue.

"We hope this will be an ongoing project over the next few years. I think it'll keep us from running afoul of the laws," Mr. Chadbourn stresses.

"If nothing else, it'll reassure us that everything's fine."

Board President Ed Anderson assured audience members at an April 27 board meeting the "audits are not aimed at any particular clubs but to make sure we are in compliance with IRS (and) state regulations."

# Rec Board revises refund policy

## Sun City renters who die afforded same privileges as owners

By **BRET McKEAND**  
Sun Cities Independent

5-31-95

The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. has revised its refund policy regarding members who die and will now offer the same treatment to renters as owners.

The policy, which some directors feel has long been unfair to renters, previously offered membership refunds only to those owners who passed away. The board last week revised the policy to include renters as well as owners.

Director Dick Austin called the former policy "grossly unfair" to renters. He says renters support golf and bowling as much as owners and thus deserve the same treatment.

"Renters spend their dollars here as well (as owners)," he says.

The revised policy now allows for a "prorated refund" of membership dues in the event of a death of a non-owner/renter or owner. A similar refund policy for both owners and renters had been in effect regarding pre-paid annual green fee permits and golf car permits.

The new policy was approved 7-2 at the board's May monthly meeting, held May 25 at Sundial Recreation Center.

To receive a refund, the deceased member's recreation card must be returned to the membership office within 30 days after the date of death.

Director Chuck Chadbourn agrees the prior policy excluding renters was unfair, but voted

against revising it to include non-owners so as to discourage renters from moving to Sun City.

"I don't want to see Sun City become a city of landlords and renters," says Mr. Chadbourn. He feels renters "benefit from our volunteerism," yet give very little back to the community.

Director Carol Jaslow supported the new policy. She says the Recreation Centers must be fair in its treatment to members and doesn't feel the policy will have any affect on whether people buy or rent a home in Sun City.

In other business:

- The board approved a request to merge

three Sun City square dance clubs into one entity. As of Jan. 1, the Sun City Twirlers, Sun City Spinners and Tuesday Night Twisters will become the Sun City Squares.

- Unanimously approved a name change for the Oakmont Ceramics & Mosaic Club. The club's new name is the Oakmont Ceramics Club.

# Decision changes fee status

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

8/31/95

SUN CITY — Come Jan. 1, those single homeowners paying \$100 a year for recreation fees will lose their grandfathered status if they sell their homes.

This new ruling was passed by the board of directors by a vote of five to one at its monthly meeting Thursday in Sundial Recreation Center.

The motion read, "After Jan. 1, 1996, all single-person households presently paying a \$100 membership fee will, upon selling the real property, be removed from the 'Grandfather Policy,' and upon purchasing new property in Sun City, will be subject to the \$200 per household minimum policy, which went into effect May 1, 1992."

"This is not an increase of anybody's fee," said board treasurer Chuck Westerveld. "All it does is remove the grandfather clause allowing single homeowners to carry with them the \$100 fee if they sell their residence and purchase another home in Sun City within six months. This certainly has been one of the inequities of the system."

Board President Ed Anderson was the sole nay vote.

"I don't believe in property assessment," he said. "I never have and I don't think I ever will. I think it should be an individual assessment. I don't favor this motion."

In other board action:

■ The board unanimously voted a change in the wording of the guest policy. The rules previously stated a guest could use the facility unaccompanied if their host, a recreation center member, was ill.

The new wording expanded that exception to included those otherwise unavailable because they are at work. The guest would be required to obtain a waiver letter from the membership office in addition to presenting a guest punch card and the host's recreation center card.



# SC Recreation Centers gear up for 'Info-Expo'

By JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

After a two month break, Recreation Centers of Sun City board members are ready to get back to business.

The next board meeting will be held 9 a.m. Aug. 28 in the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 103rd Ave.

A joint board meeting and quarterly membership meeting will be held 9 a.m. Sept. 25 at Sundial.

Issues to be addressed include a possible budget increase for overseeding golf courses, parking for people with disabilities and the INFO EXPO.

Board secretary Carol Jaslow

said she and board member Marion James will seek ways to improve attendance at certain clubs.

"We're trying to work with these clubs and help them with their membership," she said. "We're trying to set up things so they'll be smooth transitions."

She said the card and lapidary clubs, in particular, are looking for ways to improve their membership.

Ms. Jaslow, who will not be permitted to renew her term in December because of the Recreation Center's bylaws, said another of her goals is to make the community more aware of the club activities in the area.

See ■ INFO-EXPO, Page 7

## ■ INFO-EXPO

From Page 1

She also would like to see attendance increase at the meetings, especially the quarterly membership meetings.

Ms. Jaslow said it is important the quarterly meetings have a quorum of at least 100 members when voting on a proposal such as changes to the bylaws or approval of certain expenditures.

"If you don't have a quorum, you can't vote on it," she said.

Don Pritchett, board president, agreed.

"We try to put things together to

present where the board is going," he said. "Sometimes we think we're talking to ourselves because there's so few people that attend."

Board members will also discuss their upcoming "RCSC INFO-EXPO."

The project is the brainchild of board member Dick Elton. It will be held 8 a.m.-noon Nov. 15 at the Sundial Recreation Center.

The event will provide residents with information on the recreation centers.

In addition, members from clubs

and various activities such as golf and bowling will provide information on their organizations and urge residents to join.

"We're finding a lot of people want to get their own booth," Mr. Pritchett said.

In addition, Ms. James will discuss the election and urge residents to meet the candidates at upcoming forums.

Candidates are currently sought to fill positions that will be left open by Dick Austin, board member; Chuck Westerveld, treasurer

and Ms. Jaslow.

Candidates must file a petition with at least 100 valid signatures, verified by an election committee. Deadline for submission of completed packets is 4 p.m. Oct. 17.

The election will be held Dec. 2. New members will take office in January 1998. Terms are three years.

Nomination packets are available at the administrative office at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 Thunderbird Blvd.

Call 876-3000.

Daily News-Sun

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1997

# Rec boards seek common solutions

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

Recreation centers board members from Sun City and Sun City West found Friday they had a number of common problems — and a few differences, stemming largely from the way they are organized.

Nineteen people attended the joint session, in the Palm Ridge Activity Center in Sun City West, the second such meeting this year.

Among other things, board members compared notes on:

- The cost of recreation centers membership.

- How dues are used for various activities.

- Emergency planning for disaster aid.

- How and whether the two centers might find ways to allow members to use one another's facilities.

They also noted that centers members often were sharply critical of board actions and members.

Don Pritchett, president of the Sun City board, said he opened meetings with the motto, "Positive attitudes are contagious. Is yours catching?" because, he said, "there are so many

people who are so negative," something that brought nods from the colleagues in Sun City West.

Later in the session, Chuck Westerveld, the treasurer of Sun City's board, said of complainers, "there's about a hundred people who don't belong in Sun City" while the rest of the community didn't cause much problem.

Pritchett noted that there already is cooperation between the two centers operations, with a bowling league that now includes play at Bell and Lakeview Lanes in Sun City and the R.H. Johnson sports pavilion in Sun City West.

And, he said, this weekend's octogenarian golf tournament allows residents of either community to play in the Sun City or Sun City West tourneys leading up to the championship.

Still, Pritchett said, "we ought to be able to do something more" about allowing reciprocal use of the facilities. Although such reciprocity for summer golf was on the group's tentative agenda, discussion on it was postponed.

Hal Lind, treasurer in Sun City West, said he had done a study of

centers dues, and noted that "Sun City and Sun City West are at the bottom of the list when you compare them with other Del Webb communities" and with homeowners associations in other major Valley retirement communities. However, this information doesn't keep residents from complaining about fees.

"Sun City Grand is \$425 per household," Lind said, compared with \$126.50 and \$115 per person in Sun City West and Sun City, respectively.

Lind also noted that both communities "have roughly the same installed base (\$70 million) of facilities," but that Sun City West served a smaller population (about 33,000 to 39,000).

"Tracking the Consumer Price Index from 1979, we're about \$8 below where we should be on dues," Lind said.

Board members also talked about their relationship with homeowners associations, with Sun City board members saying they wanted to strengthen their ties with the Sun City Home Owners Association.

In Sun City West, the ties are closer in part because the Property

Owners and Residents Association there is required to perform certain services in connection with deed restrictions, and then must cooperate with the centers board on enforcement.

Board members also commented on the fact that Sun City West operates three separate funds — for centers, bowling and golf, while in Sun City, "it's all one common pot," as Westerveld put it.

In Sun City West, funds collected from golfers, for instance, can only be used for golf operations and maintenance, while in Sun City, the funds can be shifted from place to place as needed.

"But you do have to make sure that you're doing things for all the centers and golf courses," Pritchett said.

In Sun City, golf and swimming are the most popular activities, "so we've put a lot of work into those areas," he said.

He also said that as the community ages and changes, clubs need to be looked at to be sure they are serving the community and have adequate space for their activities, or may need to give up excess space for other users.

- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT— SEPTEMBER 17-23, 1997

## INFO-EXPO zeroes in on residents' questions

By JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

Residents won't have to worry about their questions falling on mute ears at the Sun City Recreation Centers' first Informational Expo.

Forms requesting residents to "speak up" will be available Sept. 16-Nov. 3 at 28 different locations, including all monitor stations, golf course pro shops, club office and membership stations.

Questions from the forms will be answered at the RCSC INFO-EXPO, scheduled 8 a.m.-noon Nov. 15 at the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 103rd Ave., Sun City. Admission is free.

"I want a way to hear them (members), and what they perceive to be their problems, wishes and hopes for the recreation centers," said Director Dick Elton, who came



**Dick Elton/**  
The rec board director says expo will highlight the 142 clubs and other opportunities available to rec center members.

up with the idea for the information event.

Mr. Elton said the celebration will re-acquaint residents with the number of programs and activities available to recreation center cardholders. There will be refreshments and music.

"If they go, they're going to be reminded of the great number of

opportunities available to them," he said. "They don't realize there are 142 chartered clubs — (not) counting golf, bowling, swimming and some of those things or exercise clubs — but chartered clubs."

Mr. Elton said they're asking for questions now to avoid controversy during the event. Questions will be accepted after the Nov. 3 deadline.

About 1,000 residents are expected to attend the expo. Volunteers from the recreation centers, civic groups and the community will assist with the event.

More than 100 clubs and other groups are expected to sponsor and decorate tables to compete for prizes from 8 to 9 a.m. As of press time, about 50 clubs had signed up for a table.

Residents will be able to register for door prizes and other giveaways, pick up free literature, enter a raffle or try to win a silly, fun contest. In addition, videos and demonstrations will be shown.

Residents' questions, submitted on the forms, will be answered 9-11 a.m.

"Reviewing a few programs, giving recognition and introductions, awarding of prizes, picking raffle winners, seeing beautiful charts, graphs or slides, and much more, will go on in this time slot — but no speeches," Mr. Elton explained.

Events highlighted during the opening hours of the expo will be repeated at the end of the event from 11 a.m. to noon.

Call 876-8341.

See ■ INFO-EXPO, Page 8

- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT - NOVEMBER 12-18, 1997

# INFO-EXPO planned this weekend

Large turnout expected at Sundial event that involves over 100 clubs

**JULIA DE SIMONE**  
Independent Newspapers

It's finally here.

The Sun City Recreation Center's first RCSC INFO-EXPO will be held 8 a.m.-noon Nov. 15 at the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 103rd Ave. More than 1,400 people are expected to attend. Admission is free.

"All you have to do is bring a good attitude and smile a lot," said Dick Elton, the event's innovator.

Mr. Elton said the INFO-EXPO cost under \$800 to stage, which was mainly supplemented by a \$700 food donation from Ken Meade Realty of Sun City.

He said the main goal of the event was to serve as a liaison between the community and the recreation center.

Mr. Elton added that it also was started to re-acquaint residents and newcomers with the numerous activities available in the area.

"The reason for the INFO-EXPO event is to promote the club and promote what the Recreation Center has to offer," he said.

All participants will be greeted with a 12-page packet of information including the

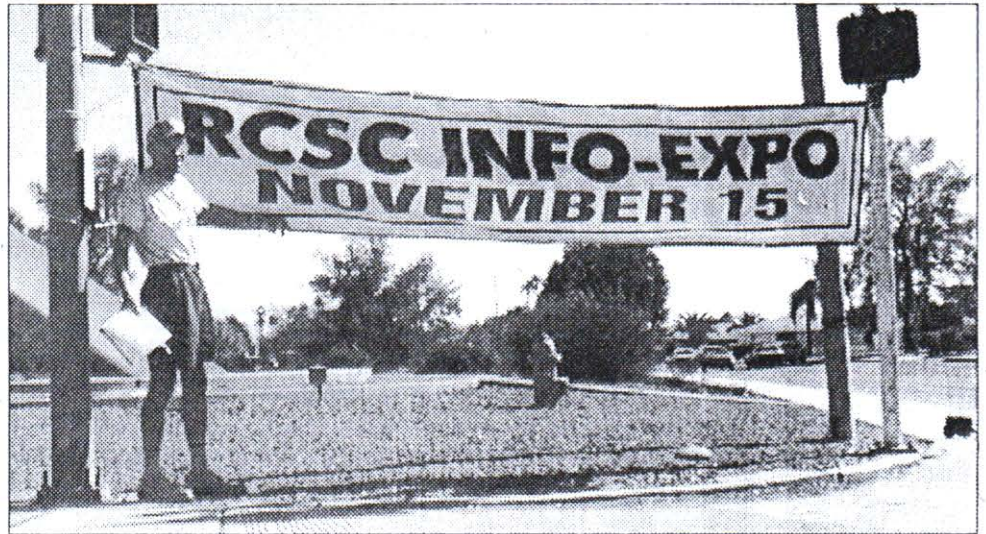


Photo by JULIA DESIMONE/Independent Newspapers

Dick Elton counts the days until the Sun City Recreation Center's first RCSC INFO-EXPO. It will be held 9 a.m.-noon Nov. 15 at the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 103rd Ave. Admission is free. More than 1,400 people are expected to attend.

program, layout of club tables, list of all clubs, evaluation form and a ticket for 50 door prize drawings, according to Mr. Elton.

Also included in the packet will be a 30 question "INFO 101 QUIZ" and a 37-question "INFO 201 EXAM." The winner on the INFO 201 quiz will receive \$50 and the runner-up be awarded \$20.

Residents' questions and concerns about the recreation center, submitted in early November 1997, also will be answered by

board members.

In addition, members from 104 clubs in Sun City will staff tables and provide participants with information on their organization.

Prizes will be given out for best decorated tables. Videos and demonstrations also will be shown.

Events highlighted during the opening hours of the EXPO will be repeated at the end of the event. Refreshments will be served.

11-15-97

# Tip Top Condition

*Sun City Rec Centers find  
more and more members  
focusing on physical fitness*

BY JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

**G**eorge Steele doesn't need flashy spandex or Nike™ Air Jordans to flex his 91-year-old muscles.

Instead, the Sun City resident relies on his casual attire and the exercise equipment at the Marinette Recreation Center to strut his stuff.

Sporting a multi-colored cap with a bola tie snuggled around his collar, thin, speckled socks shout from a pair of white sneakers.

"I just work out like this," Mr. Steele said, his eyes peeping from behind his glasses.

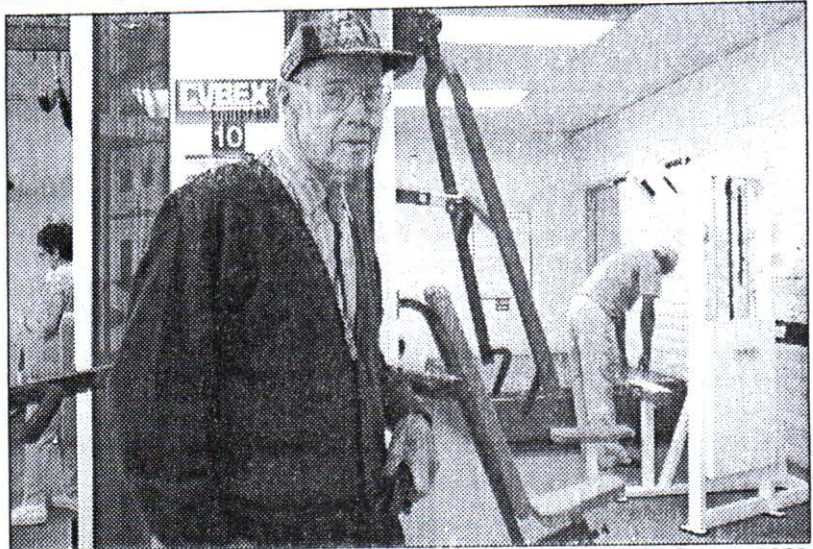
"I never work that hard where I sweat — maybe in the summer time."

Although the Sun City resident said he tries to exercise daily, he usually works out four times a week for an hour per day.

Mr. Steele said he lifts dumbbells for 30 minutes and uses a variety of other equipment for the remaining time at Marinette.

"They have really nice equipment ... oh, yeah," he said. "It's very good. It's dandy. I don't know what else you need."

According to Dick Elton, director for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, more than 20,000 people in January 1998 frequented the exercise rooms at Bell, Marinette, Mountain View and Sundial recreation centers. This figure doesn't reflect attendance at Lakeview's exercise room, which was closed during January.



George Steele prepares to pump iron at Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 Union Hills Drive. The 91-year-old Sun Citian said he tries to work out an hour each day. He refers to the equipment at Marinette as "dandy."

Recreation center officials also have been remodeling and updating equipment at a variety of the centers for the past two years.

"There's better things on the market that are quieter and do more for you physically," Mr. Elton said. "If they realize we have state-of-the-art equipment. ... they'll use it."

Mr. Elton said changes have been made to Mountain View, September 1996; Marinette, March 1997 and Lakeview, February/March 1998.

He said plans have been made to update equipment and remodel Sundial's exercise room in September 1998 and Bell Recreation Center is targeted for renovation by January 1999.

Cost for equipment at each center varies from \$65,000 to \$80,000.

Equipment name brands include Cybex and Paramount.

"We just put out for bids," Mr. Elton said. "A good product at the best price is what we go with."

Mr. Elton said all rec center members are required to complete a one-hour orientation on the proper use of the equipment prior to getting on it. They are then given an "EO," or equipment orientation, to be placed on their rec center card verifying they are familiar with the equipment.

Mr. Steele said he's not complaining but grateful he can continue enjoying one of his favorite hobbies.

"It's something I like to do," he said. "I think if I was in a class and had to do it, I'd lose the interest at my age."

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

June 16, 1999

# Rec fee increase slated for January

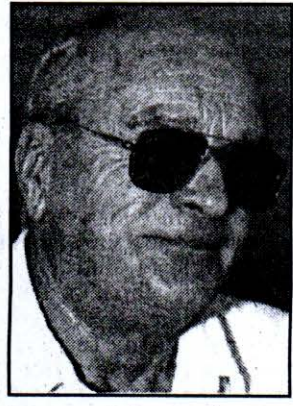
By JOSH KRIST  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Rec centers fees in Sun City won't go up until Jan. 1 at the earliest.

Members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors will put the fee hike on the agenda in September. If approved, they say, the increase won't take effect until the new year.

"If we wait until Jan. 1, that makes it three years since we had a fee increase, which makes it reasonable," said Bob Briscoe, board president.

At a study session this week, the board was polled, and three



Briscoe

of the eight members wanted the assessment fee increased to \$130 from \$115 effective, Sept. 1.

That would have meant placing the item on the agenda for the June 24 meeting in Sundial Auditorium. The meeting starts at 9 a.m.

The assessment fee is charged to each person named on the deed to a Sun City house or condo.

"The assessment fee basically goes to the yearly operation of all the rec centers and everything, basically all the operating costs of Sun City," said Briscoe.

Three years ago, when the rec centers' fee structure was changed from a per-household to a per-person basis, there was a storm of protest from people in households that wound up paying more money.

"Any time you have a fee increase or anything like that, there's a certain amount of people who don't like it.

"But I think for the most part, when people see what kind of facilities we have, I think most people realize that a small increase is fair," the board president said.

On another issue, Briscoe said, he hopes a change in the board's bylaws will be on the agenda in September.

A person now may serve on the board for one three-year term.

But if the change in bylaws is approved by the board and a quorum of Recreation Centers members — 100 — are present, a board member could serve two three-year terms if he or she took a year off in between terms.

Thursday, Aug. 13, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# Rec centers propose increase

## Newcomers to pay more

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Recreation Center Board of Directors is expected to OK a measure Aug. 26 mandating that Sun City newcomers dole out \$700 upon buying their Sun City homes.

If approved, the money will go toward a new capital expenditure fund that could generate up to \$560,000 a year for the Sun City Recreation Centers, said recreation board president Bob Briscoe.

"We're 40 years old, and we're going to start having major expenditures," he said.

Briscoe said he proposed the fund as an alternative to tapping into the recreation centers' \$13 million annual operating budget, which is used to pay

more than 400 employees and keep the recreation centers running.

He said the fund will also be an alternative to borrowing money from banks and paying interest should an emergency occur.

Creating the new fund will keep the recreation centers from dipping into its reserve funds, which should total \$2.3 to \$2.5 million, said Harold Boudrie, board treasurer.

"We're nowhere near down to it," said Ed McCrea, board member. "It gets close in the summer, but it will build back up in the fall."

The fee will only be charged to homebuyers new to Sun City.

"It won't affect people already living here," Briscoe said.

Other retirement communities such as Westbrook Village and Sun City Grand charge a similar fee ranging from \$1,000 to about \$1,500, Briscoe said.

If the board approves the proposal, it will go into effect Oct. 1.

The move is one of several steps the board is taking to keep the recreation centers ahead of the financial curve.

Last year, the board moved to have Realtors who own more than one home in Sun City pay a \$300 transfer fee for each home.

Prior to the board vote, a Realtor could own several homes in Sun City but only pay one \$300 fee, McCrea said.

The board is also expected to raise recreation center fees for the first time in three years, from \$115 to \$130 a year.

In accordance with Recreation Center bylaws, the jump would need to be approved by at least 100 members.

The hike could go into effect as early as Jan. 1.

Briscoe said if fees are raised, they will still be among the lowest in the Sun Cities around the country, which range from \$133 a year in Sun City West to \$1,367 a year in Sun City Palm Desert.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1999

## Public golf all year?

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Some directors at the Recreation Centers of Sun City believe the centers need to study the implications of letting non-residents play on the community's eight golf courses year-round.

Additional revenue would be the motive, they have said in discussions at Golf Committee meetings.

But Dick Ohnstad, a member of that committee and a director, said no decision has been reached on whether to make the change, or even recommend it to the full board. The matter isn't likely to be discussed by the board this month or next, he said.

Among other reasons, committee member and Centers director John Powell is away from the area on vacation and not expected back until September.

Ohnstad said he knows "some people don't want outsiders" playing year-round.

But "if we did that, the preliminary indications are that we'd have about \$500,000 in additional" and badly needed revenues, he said.

The golf operations have been running a deficit.

Non-centers members now are allowed on golf courses in the summer, when play by members is at its lowest level.

Ohnstad said residents have complained about the golf fee increase, and are likely to complain about additional outsiders.

"We wanted to look at other sources of revenue," he said of the idea of more outside play.

Bowling is a sport where use has dropped and revenues fallen off. But a plan to let out-of-town bowlers into Sun City's two lanes seems to have been workable without complaints, Ohnstad said.

"The bowlers accepted that well, and accepted a fee increase at the same time," he pointed out.

"The golfers have been less accepting of fee increases, and may be less accepting of outsider players.

"We'll just have to see."



AUGUST 25-31, 1999 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT —

# Sun City rec board director resigns

## Opponent of fee increase quits

By MIKE RUSSO  
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. board of directors is seeking a candidate to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Jim Matisse.

Mr. Matisse had served nearly two years of a three-year directorship, having been seated in January 1998.

Bob Briscoe, board president, said Mr. Matisse verbally informed him Aug. 9 that he would be resigning from the board and a resignation letter was submitted Aug. 11.

"His resignation took effect immediately," Mr. Briscoe said.

There was no reason given in the letter for resignation, Mr. Briscoe

noted.

Several telephone messages left for Mr. Matisse went unreturned.

Mr. Briscoe speculated that Mr. Matisse may have resigned because, "I think he is disgusted with the way things are going."

Mr. Matisse had been opposed to a recent board decision to impose a \$700 charge when first-time Sun City home buyers sign their title.

He has also been a vocal opponent of the proposed recreation center annual fee increase from \$115 to \$130, and cast the only dissenting vote regarding the proposed hike in a board study session.

He felt the fee increase was unjustified and would adversely

impact those residents already struggling to make ends meet.

Rather than raise the fee, Mr. Matisse suggested the board look for ways to cut expenditures.

Mr. Matisse had served as the liaison between the rec centers board

and the Sun City Library board. He was avid supporter of the library and was instrumental in the library receiving a \$40,000 contribution from the rec centers in August 1998.

The board will now begin a search for a replacement, according to President Briscoe. "We will appoint someone to fill his last four months, and in the next election, whoever, comes in fourth will serve his final year, and then they will be able to run again," Mr. Briscoe said.

Friday, Aug. 27, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# Newcomer fee increase OK'd

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City Recreation Centers Board of Directors OK'd a controversial \$700 fee that newcomers will pay when they purchase a home in the retirement community.

Board members voted 6-1 Thursday night to approve the fee, with Dick Ohnstad casting the sole dissenting vote.

The money will go toward a capital preservation fund designed to take care of problems that could arise as the community ages.

"In basic words, we're doing what any good corporation does. We're planning ahead and trying to put a little money aside," said board President Bob Briscoe.

The fund is expected to generate about \$560,000 a year, he said.

"This should've been in place years ago," said board member Dorothy Hirtzel, who voted in favor of the fee.

Some local real estate agencies oppose the fee, citing the potential adverse affect on property prices in the area.

Donna Nish, a local Realtor who spoke at the meeting, questioned the August vote, saying it bypassed snowbirds.

Beginning Oct. 1, home buyers

will pay the \$700 fee. This will be in addition to a \$300 transfer fee approved by the centers' board last year.

The 1999 revenue from the \$300 fee has generated about \$627,600 for the centers, according Brian Donnelly, president of the Sun Cities Board of Realtors.

In other action, the board:

- Appointed Bev Davis to fill the director's post formerly held by Jim Matise, who resigned earlier this month. Davis has served on the golf and bowling committees.

- Voted to post an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation allowing board members who have served one three-year term to serve a second three-year term following a one year hiatus. The change to the articles would provide for a two-year service cap.

Board member Dick Ohnstad said he agreed to allowing board members to serve more than once, but opposed the two-year limit.

The measure will need to clear a majority vote requiring at least 100 voting members in September before it goes into effect.

- Approved a boost in the 1999 capital budget by \$11,000 for additional costs for bocce courts at Sundial and \$20,000 to replace the asphalt driveway at North golf course.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

12-4-96

## Sun City Rec Centers Board of Directors

## 21.7 percent turns out to elect 3 directors

Staff report

Edward McCrea, Marion James and Richard "Dick" Elton were elected to the nine-member Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors Tuesday.

McCrea and five other candidates were vying for three seats that will be open the end of December as the terms of Doris Gregory and board President Ed Anderson expire. Nat Jampel resigned in August for health reasons and his term would have expired the end of this month.

McCrea was the top vote-getter with 4,507 votes cast in his favor.

Marion James was elected to the board with 4,013 votes and Richard "Dick" Elton won a post with 3,727 votes.

Only the top three vote-getters make it to the board.

Rounding out candidates on the ballot and number of votes received are Phyllis Roach, 3,510; Alfred Cohen, 2,495 and Lynne Ormandy, 2,504.

Voter turnout was 21.7 percent, up significantly from last year's 6 percent, said Dick Austin, elections committee chairman, who announced the results today.

McCrea, a resident since 1990, is president of the Pennsylvania Club and vice president of the Retirement Community Association. He worked as director of office administration and was vice president for the Firemen's Fund Insurance Co. in Honolulu. He was volunteer coordinator for the city and county of Honolulu.

"I'm amazed, it was a great turnout," McCrea said. "I think we, (the new board members) can work with the



McCrea



James



Elton

board. We'll see what happens. I'm not going to make any commitments at this point."

James, a resident since 1987 and member of the Sun Cities Genealogical Society, worked for Slick Airways in Burbank, Calif., as supervisor of payroll and as office manager for Catalina Sportswear Contractor in San Fernando, Calif. A former volunteer for Henry Mayo Hospital in Newhall, Calif., she spent six years caring for her aunt.

James credits the help from her volunteers for her victory. "I'll try to do a good job."

James said she believes the vote on the performing arts center closes the issue and said she will support a change of the fee structure to \$115 per person.

Elton, a resident since 1971, served on various Sun City Home Owner Associations and recreation centers committees. A president of the Condominium Owners Association for 15 years, Elton was one of the Sun City residents who helped open the Rio Salado Community College program in Sun City in the early 1980s. He is a World War II veteran and a retired lieutenant commander.

The new directors will be sworn in Dec. 19 but won't officially take office until January.

# Capital preservation fee approved

## Fee to apply to first-time buyers

By MIKE RUSSO  
Independent Newspapers

First-time property owners will soon have to pay an additional \$700 on the purchase of their primary residence to enjoy the Sun City lifestyle.

The fee, which will be used to fund capital improvement projects, will take effect Oct. 1.

Last week's vote of approv-

al was 6-1 with Director Dick Ohnstad voting in opposition.

"The motion does not define how the money will be spent," Mr. Ohnstad said in voicing his opposition.

"We have not defined the capital fund and what is

SEPTEMBER 1-7, 1999

*The funds would be put into a separate account to be used only for capital improvements*



**Harold Boudrie**  
Rec Board Treasurer

will be invested in or spent for," he continued.

He criticized the board for not being professional in discussing what he considered an incomplete motion.

He suggested tabling the item until next month.

However, board president, Bob Briscoe, said the motion did not have to be as detailed as Mr. Ohnstad would like. He assured the audience the money would not be used for ordinary maintenance of rec centers facilities.

"This should have been done twenty years ago," Mr. Briscoe said.

Treasurer Harold Boudrie said the motion was not the idea of the directors. "The motion came from rec centers members themselves," he said.

"The funds would be put into a separate account to be used only for capital improvements," Mr. Boudrie emphasized.

"This fund will give us the money to preserve our assets and build up new ones," said Director Ed McCrea. "It will enhance the beauty of Sun City."

Director Dorothy Hirtzel questioned the impact the action would have on real estate values in Sun City. She was fearful that the added expense tacked onto the sale price of a residence would deter potential buyers.

"We are in competition with other retirement communities and we do not want to discourage new residents," she said.

However, Gerry Unger, a former director, said the converse was true, and continued deterioration of rec centers facilities would adversely affect real estate values.

"If you don't maintain these facilities, you might as well pick them up and put them in El Mirage or Youngtown and see what they are worth," he observed.

Mr. Unger explained that Del Webb originally assessed an approximate \$2,000 per lot fee to pay for rec facilities. "When that original homeowner sold, he collected the \$2,000 from the next buyer but no funds were ever collected for the upkeep of recreation facilities," Mr. Unger said.

Audience member Tom Wiston, a former real estate agent, said, "This will continue to make Sun City the place to be."

He mentioned there are much

“

*This fund will give us the money to preserve our assets and build up new ones.*

**Ed McCrea**  
Rec Centers Director

higher buy-in fees assessed in other retirement communities.

Another member of the audience, Jo Burg, also a real estate agent, said no such fees were assessed in either Sun City West or Sun City Grand.

In other board action:

- The resignation of Dick Matise was unanimously accepted and Beverly Davis was named as his replacement. Mrs. Davis will serve the final four months of Mr. Matise's term, and may then seek election to the board.

- The board approved posting an amendment to Article VIII (2) of the Articles of Incorporation to be effective Jan. 1, 2000, which would allow directors to seek a second term after sitting out one year.

The issue will go before the recreation centers general membership during the Sept. 30 board meeting.

In order to amend the articles of incorporation, the matter must be voted upon by a minimum of 100 of the members.

- The board unanimously approved an \$11,000 increase to the 1999 capital budget for additional costs of adding bocce courts at Sundial Recreation Center.

Friday, Oct. 1, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# Board hikes rec fee

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City recreation centers members complained Thursday for nearly an hour about overpaid management, shoddy workmanship, poor house-keeping and wasteful extravagant entertainment costs.

But it wasn't enough to keep the directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City from voting unanimously to boost annual dues by \$15 to \$130 a year.

Higher dues will take effect with memberships expiring Jan. 1 and thereafter.

The increase, which had been discussed earlier in the year, was widely expected to be approved, a point confirmed by director Dick Elton who told one objector that the board generally didn't bring up items for a vote when it knew they would be defeated.

"We sure did talk about it a lot before this meeting and study it," he said.

Still, objectors said the fee hike wasn't fair to older residents, many of whom no longer are physically able to use many centers' amenities; or to those who were on fixed incomes and could not afford increases.

Board president Robert Briscoe stressed that the recreation facilities and amenities, used or not, added to the values of homes in Sun City.

And he several times said that the fee is like a tax, something that everyone has to pay, regardless of direct benefit.

Dues have not changed in three years, board members pointed out, while the cost of living has gone up.

## From A1

They said the budget has been squeezed as much as possible, and there were no more costs to be cut.

The previous change boosted some people's payments while cutting others, since it moved from a \$200 per household fee to a \$115 per resident fee.

That helped single people, often widows, but boosted costs for couples or those with three or more people listed on deeds.

In another action — also hotly contested by a dwindling audience — the board OK'd spending \$100,000 to improve kitchen and catering facilities in the Lakeview Recreation Center, to allow the centers to provide catered food service to clubs and outside organizations. Although the centers now operate a small catering business, board members said many residents weren't aware of it, and often used outside firms to handle food service for their events.

That likely will change after the new equipment is installed.

Board member Dick Ohns-tad said clubs choosing to use outside caterers after the Rec

Centers have the service available would have to pay more for meeting rooms, but that he didn't expect they would be required to use the Centers' catering service exclusively.

Early in the Sundial Auditorium session, which also included a quarterly membership meeting with about 175 people present, Treasurer Harold Boudrie noted that budgeting for 2000 was tight, and that even with the changes in fees there might not be enough cash to cover costs.

Trouble spots are in bowling and food services. Bowling fees were hiked in September, but the results aren't impressive, Boudrie said. "And we certainly anticipate raising food prices for snack shops and coffee shops," in the new year, he said.

The treasurer said he expects golf operations to be in the black, but that there wouldn't be much, if any, money for capital expenditures, such as machinery or new walks.

Boudrie said the budget and finance committee, which has been meeting weekly, expects to have its work complete and a tentative budget for next year available for the board's Oct. 18 study session.

See Sun City, A5

# Sun City Rec board approves \$15 annual assessment fee hike

## Membership fee increases to \$130

By **TOM BARRY**  
Independent Newspapers

Faced with stagnant revenues and a budget shortfall, homeowners in Sun City will be asked by the Recreation Center next year to pay 13 percent more in their annual membership assessment fee.

The proposal drew protests from several audience members at Thursday's RCSC board meeting, who offered a laundry list of objections, from supposed waste and inefficiencies, extravagant spending and excessive salaries for administrative personnel.

Flo Derrick said the increase is unjustified, especially coming on the heels of a recently approved \$700 capital preservation fee on first-time home buyers. She said the Rec Centers also stands to gain from

a state-enacted tax relief measure that would reduce its property taxes significantly.

Those objections notwithstanding, the RCSC board unanimously approved the \$15 increase, from \$115 to \$130 a year, effective Jan. 1.

Board president Bob Briscoe and other directors strenuously objected to charges of waste and excess, saying the RCSC budget has already been cut to the quick.

"Our management salaries are lower than the average and well within the range of comparable positions," said Mr. Briscoe.

"Management salaries are an insignificant part of the overall budget and lowering the salaries will have little effect on cost savings," said fellow board member John

**See ■ ASSESSMENT, Page 10**

Powell.

Director Dick Ohnstad said, "We have no way of reducing our costs any further and continue to maintain the level of service that our residents expect. We have looked everywhere and there's simply nowhere we can make any more cutbacks."

Mr. Briscoe said Sun City residents enjoy far greater amenities at a substantially lower cost than in other retirement communities its size.

Such amenities have the effect of

increasing property values by as much as 25 percent, he added.

"If you do nothing else but get up in the morning and look up into the sky and go to bed at night and complain in between, you will still enjoy the benefit of improved property values," said Mr. Briscoe.

Further, he noted the membership assessment fee has not been raised in three years.

With allowances for inflation, fee revenue has failed to keep up with the increased cost of operation, he said.

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz

# Sun City Rec Centers conduct resident tours

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Residents of Sun City will be able to get an in-depth look at three of the community's seven recreation centers starting Friday.

The visits, sponsored by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, are intended to let people who may ordinarily visit only one or two centers see what's available at the others.

Included in the tours and explanations will be a backstage look at Sundial Auditorium. Literally.

That room and its dance floor, which can accommodate more than 1,000 people, acquired a certain national cachet in 1996 when President Clinton spent a couple of hours there in a campaign stop in the Valley.

Sundial also is the only center with an indoor swimming pool. In fact, it has two.

The sessions kick off Friday at Marinette Center, 99th Avenue at Union Hills Drive, with Meryl Deacon, the club coordinator, hosting the open house.

The visits continue Oct. 26 with coordinator Betty Tudor showing off Mountain View, on 107th Avenue a few blocks south of Peoria Avenue.

Sundial is last on the list, on Oct. 29. Two club coordinators, Carole Snell and Charles Cottone, are hosts.

Sundial, with its large and functioning sundial as a landmark, is at the intersection of Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue.

In each case, members of clubs at the centers will have their club rooms and workshops open to show off to visitors.

Visitors get a free continental breakfast of coffee and rolls.

Also offered will be a brief history presentation for each center, a look behind the scenes, a map to take home and a list of all clubs and club contacts.

The entire process is designed to give all residents a better idea of the activities and facilities available to them, said Dorothy Hirtzel, a director of the centers and chairwoman of its clubs committee.

Each open house begins at 8:30 a.m. The formal presentations will conclude by 10:30 a.m., Hirtzel said.

Sessions start with coffee and rolls, where visitors get an information packet and meet other visitors. Club officials will speak briefly, followed by questions and answers.

The quick tour of the center will begin at 9:30 a.m. After the tour, visitors may stop back at any club or other room for an additional look, conversation or a visit with members.

Clubs that do not have physical space in the centers, but whose members meet there, will have tables to explain their operation and functions.

Hirtzel said she and other centers directors hope that many rec centers members take the opportunity to find out what they can do, and how they may enjoy more of the activities sponsored by the centers.

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 1999

Daily News-Sun

# Sun City Rec Centers' income drops

By KATE FLEITAS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A decrease in the use of Sun City golf, bowling and food service facilities led to a drop in overall income for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

Harold Boudrie, chairman of the budget and finance committee and treasurer of the Rec Centers board of directors, said the income loss will not prevent him from presenting a balanced budget at the board's next regular meeting, 9 a.m. Thursday in Sundial Auditorium.

"We're real happy with it. We would like to spend a lot more in golf, but we're not going to spend it because it isn't there," Boudrie said.

The proposed budget shows \$15,236,311 in income and \$12,199,943 for expenses, compared to the \$13,898,204 in income and \$11,813,222 for expenses budgeted

for 1999.

To compensate for the loss of income from golf, bowling and food services, the board voted to raise membership fees from \$115 to \$130 a year — effective January 1 — in September, hence the higher income this year.

The board created a new source of income — the Capital Preservation Fund, paid for by a \$700 Capital Preservation fee charged to new Sun City residents.

"We're expecting to raise \$980,000 with the Capital Preservation fee this year," Boudrie said.

Money from the Capital Preservation Fund must be spent in \$100,000-plus amounts for projects that are expected to last at least 15 years.

More than \$1.78 million is budgeted in the capital plan to pay for the repair of facilities.

Expenses will increase in a number of categories, including payroll taxes

and benefits, repair, maintenance and wages, according to the proposed 2000 budget.

Boudrie said he believes it is necessary to spend money on capital improvements at recreational centers, many of which are more than 35 years-old.

"On the South golf course the main water line, which feeds the irrigation bed, is in bad shape, and the gusher may come out of the ground. That would cost at least \$160,000 to add a new line," Boudrie said.

Bowling at the two Sun City lanes dropped by more than 17,000 paid-games in the last year. In 1998, approximately 303,144 games were played. During that same period in 1999, only 286,033 games were played.

Boudrie said he associates the drop in bowling with increased health problems of bowlers. He also said the sport has not attracted new

participants.

Last summer automatic scoring machines were added to the two Sun City lanes, exacerbating the problem.

In September, bowling fees were raised by 15 cents.

"People coming into Sun City are not interested in taking up bowling," he said.

The use of Sun City's eight golf courses also dropped in 1999. During the first nine months of 1998, golfers played 330,293 rounds of golf on Sun City courses. In 1999, that figure dropped by more than 13,000.

Patronage of the seven Sun City Recreation Center food service facilities dropped in 1999. Boudrie said he can't explain this drop, but believes it is related to the number of people visiting the bowling and golf facilities.

"If people are not in the bowling alleys, they're not going to the coffee shops. People have to start patronizing our two coffee shops to raise income," Boudrie said.



10/27/99

# Tax break little known

## Homeowner groups can save thousands

By Edythe Jensen  
The Arizona Republic

Thousands of Arizona homeowners associations stand to lose huge property tax breaks next year if they don't get in touch with their county assessors.

Information about the breaks has been so scarce that even some association experts don't know about it.

A new tax law, which took effect in July, allows homeowners associations to consolidate common-area amenities such as swimming pools and clubhouses into a single parcel taxed on a value of only \$500.

That means a \$5 million clubhouse with tennis courts would be taxed on only \$500. Depending on the taxing district, the amount owed could be reduced from tens of thousands of dollars to less than \$10, Maricopa County Assessor Kevin Ross said.

The law excludes golf courses.

Savings are likely to be passed on to homeowners, whose association dues pay the common area taxes.

Phoenix attorney Lynn Krupnik, who represents a number of Valley homeowners associations, said the new tax law will reduce one client's \$3.5 million valuation to \$500.

Neighborhoods with large clubhouses and recreational facilities stand to see the greatest tax reductions. For the Anthem community near New River, an estimated \$70 million in amenities would be valued at \$500, Phoenix lawyer Curtis Ekmark said.

Ekmark chaired a legislative action committee that supported the common-area valuation change. Planned communities with posh amenities were a form of double taxation to residents under previ-

— HOMEOWNER, from Page B1

ous tax assessments, he said.

That's because the amenities raised individual home values — and property taxes — yet residents were forced to pay additional taxes on the amenities through higher common-area assessments, Ekmark said.

But neighborhoods will lose the tax break if homeowner association leaders don't do their homework.

The 2000 taxes are based on this year's valuation, which was set before the new law took effect. To get the break, association representatives must fill out assessor's forms requesting consolidation of common areas and change in the current valuation. They must also prove that their organization is non-profit and that the amenities are for the use of all members.

"I haven't heard of it," Gilbert Neighborhood Services Director Lili Schuett said of the tax break.

Barbara Sparks, director of the Southeast Valley Neighborhood Leadership College, said she only recently learned of the new law and doesn't know enough about it to answer questions.

The college trains residents to participate in homeowners associations. Sparks referred inquiries about the new law to attorneys who specialize in homeowner association law.

Ross said he plans to step up the public information campaign this week with a mass mailing to all Maricopa County homeowners associations for which the county has addresses. He has also posted information on the assessor's Web

site: [www.maricopa.gov/assessor](http://www.maricopa.gov/assessor).

Gilbert Councilman Les Presmyk, former president of the Islands Homeowners Association, said his neighborhood's 100-plus acres of common areas that include artificial lakes makes it imperative that board members and property managers stay on top of tax law changes.

Presmyk, who was aware of the new law, said his association has saved thousands of dollars in previous years by catching errors in common-area valuations.

The savings for homeowners associations are likely to mean lower county tax revenues next year, but Ross said he supported the law because it was fair. The assessor said he agreed with the law's proponents that high taxes on common areas could seem like double taxation.

Edythe Jensen can be reached at (602) 444-7939 or at [edythe.jensen@pni.com](mailto:edythe.jensen@pni.com).

— Please see HOMEOWNER, Page B5

# SC Rec Centers adopts \$14.2 million budget

## Capital expenditures budget trimmed

By MIKE RUSSO  
Independent Newspapers

A budget of \$14,256,311 for fiscal year 2000-2001 was unanimously adopted last week by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. board of directors.

Little opposition was voiced by the public to the budget that is comprised of: income, \$14,256,311; expenses, \$12,199,943; capital expenditures, \$1,780,200.

Treasurer Harold Boudrie said the members of the Finance Committee put in long hours agonizing over the budget, and the group did its best to

hold the line on expenditures.

He said many capital improvements were needed by the aging recreation centers facilities, but there was just not enough money in the budget to do them all and priorities had to be established.

He cited as an example the main irrigation line at South Golf Course, which is in need of extensive repairs, if not replacement.

"The main irrigation line at South Golf Course is ready to explode," Mr. Boudrie observed. "If we replace that, we must find \$60,000 to do the work.

"We have an estimated \$276,168

in estimated cash flow for 2000. This is where the funds for repairs must come from," he added.

Golf fees are the second largest income component and they are projected at \$4,079,344 next year.

However, Director Dick Ohnstad cautioned that projection may be optimistic.

It was noted that golf revenues this year are lagging more than \$400,000 behind budget. Some of it was attributed to the decline in the purchase of unlimited golf passes since the fee was increased last September to \$850.

See ■ BUDGET, Page 10

## ■ BUDGET

From Page 1

Mr. Ohnstad said the Golf Committee may have to look at increasing golf fees next year.

"... the Golf Committee recognizes the need for an increase in golf card rate some time in the year 2000," he said.

However, President Bob Briscoe does not concur.

"That's not necessarily true," he said. "We will poll all the golfers to see what kind of system they want.

We will then determine the type of income we can generate.

"I, personally, would like to see us not raise the fees next year," he added.

Mr. Boudrie noted the major component of expenditures, salaries, is budgeted at \$5,523,035, but actual expenditures will likely be less.

"We can't fill all the positions we have," Mr. Boudrie said.

"Budgeted salary expenses are

well over the actual salary," Mr. Ohnstad commented.

"Our salary ranges are not attractive. Therefore, we cannot hire all the people we would like to."

President Briscoe also cautioned that the tax break afforded recreational facilities by recent legislation will not be available until 2001, "if they don't repeal it. That's still a year and half away."

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — NOVEMBER 24-30, 1999

# Setting the record straight

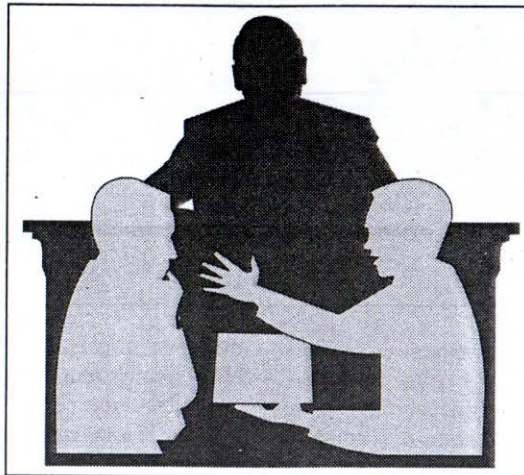
## President explains Rec Centers reorganization plan

I am writing in response to many calls and conversations I have had recently regarding the reorganization of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

There seems to be a lot of misinformation and exaggeration about what is actually happening. I would like to help clarify the situation.

Your board of directors is implementing a business management plan that is similar to that which is happening all around corporate America today. This management philosophy is to bring in highly qualified people in each division within the organization to concentrate on that area and find ways to cut costs, improve buying and spending policies and make that part of the organization more cost effective. Since RCSC is a nonprofit organization our goal is to cut costs, improve maintenance, buying and other such procedures so Sun City can remain an enjoyable and affordable place to live.

Let me give you an example to help simplify the plan or idea behind this management concept. If you have a division of your organization with a \$6 million annual budget it is highly probable there is \$125,000 to \$175,000 that is spent need-



lessly because of too much to do or management spread too thin. You bring in a highly qualified manager at \$75,000 per year and he concentrates on this division or area and cuts out that \$125,000 to \$175,000, and you have saved up to \$100,000 after paying his salary. Your RCSC board is looking for this type of conservation to occur.

While it may not be that drastic in the first year

or so, we do believe there will be a considerable savings in the very near future, and we will be achieving a more cost effective and smoother running operation.

I have read and heard many complaints about money spent unnecessarily on jobs being done wrong and having to be re-done; about equipment that may not be needed but was replaced anyway; about wasted manpower and why we have not corrected this waste.

We are now attempting to solve these types of problems. We have spent many hours trying to have a program that will save our money and still keep our beautiful community running well. Please give your board some patience and understanding as we try to put into practice this new venture.

I only ask that you look at the overall plan and get all the facts before passing judgment on this reorganization. All of your board members live in Sun City and we want to keep it the way it was meant to be; a wonderful place to retire.

ROBERT J. BRISCOE  
PRESIDENT, RCSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 12, 1999

## Rec Centers redo contract policy

**LONG-TERM:** Sun City board will have to approve contracts of more than 1 year

### STAFF REPORT

A recent change in Rec Centers of Sun City policy requires operations managers to approve all contracts which obligate the centers for more than one year.

The RCSC board of directors voted unanimously to amend purchasing policy at a meeting yesterday in Sundial Auditorium. The following paragraph will be inserted into board policy statement No. 15:

"Any contract, obligating the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. for longer than 12 months, must be approved and signed by an Operations Manager."

Director Dick Ohnstad said the budget and finance committee discovered contracts which bind the rec centers for up to five years.

"We have contracts that extend from two to five years which have not been signed by upper

management. We want those to be approved and signed," he explained.

Most likely, the operations managers will inform the board before they sign any contracts which exceed one year, director Harold Boudrie said.

Two operations managers are planned in the new RCSC management structure, one to oversee golf operations and the other to manage the recreation center facilities. Members of the board are finalizing the job description of the golf operations manager and hope to have the position filled by April 1.

In related business, the board approved a contract with Toback Business Consultants, the company which provided audit and tax preparation services to the rec centers for the past three years. At a study session earlier this week, Boudrie, the board's treasurer, said he was not satisfied with the Toback's services.

"A lot of corrections had to be made and we found a lot of errors we didn't like," he said.

Boudrie said he will pursue a new auditor if elected treasurer again next year. Ohnstad said

this move would have to wait until next summer.

"To change accountants, you start in June or July after tax season is over. You get bids then," he explained.

A \$700 fee paid by new homeowners in Sun City received a name change. Board members approved to change the Capital Preservation Fee to the Capital Preservation/Improvement fee.

All new homeowners in Sun City must pay a \$700 Capital Preservation Fee, according to the policy.

Director Marge Murphy said the name change was needed to capture the philosophy behind the fund.

"I'm concerned because the wording indicates preservation only. This is needed so future boards will look towards improvements to keep Sun City as best as possible to compete with neighboring retirement communities," she said.

Board members approved the measure seven to one, with Ed McCrea dissenting.

"The word 'improvement' could bring out all sorts of things and I don't approve of it," he said.

# Burt wins in SC rec race

KATE FLEITAS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Former Recreation Centers employee Norm Burt, who headed operations at both the Lakeview and Bell Recreation Centers, was top vote-getter in balloting Tuesday for governing board members at the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Outgoing Home Owners Association board member Jerry Swintek was elected to the RCSC board, along with Ted Haupt and incumbent Beverly Davis.

Another incumbent, Dorothy Hirtzel, lost her bid for a full three-year term.

In balloting for the HOA board, three former members of the Recreation Centers board were elected. They include Ed Anderson, Ed McCrea and Gerry Unger, who was also an incumbent HOA member.

Joining the group is newcomer Helen Struble.

The new HOA directors replace outgoing

**See Burt is, A5**

## From A1

12-17-89

board members Claude Wall, Byron Healy and Gene Zylstra.



Burt

Seven people filed as candidates to fill the four seats on the 14-member board. They included Gerry Unger, Claude Wall, Ed Anderson, Ted Lee, Helen Struble and Ed McCrea.



Davis

a one-year term.

RCSC president Bob Briscoe

will assign the directors to serve as committee chairs at the beginning of the year.



Haupt

Burt was an employee of the centers for more than eight years. In campaign literature, he said he wants to revamp management and create a working environment "that allows employees to voice their ideas and concerns without fear of retribution."

Swintek led the HOA effort to revise Sun City deed restrictions.

Eight people filed as candidates to fill the four seats on the RCSC board of directors. Losing in their bids for election were Hirtzel, George Bischof, Ken Fetha and Gloria Jean Green.

The four new HOA directors will be installed at a ceremony 10 a.m. Thursday in the HOA office.

More than 2,800 people voted Tuesday. Voting booths were set

up at Bell, Lakeview and Fairway recreation centers and at the HOA office. The ballots cast Tuesday along with the more than 850 cast through early voting, were tabulated by Maricopa County.



Swintek

Outgoing RCSC director Dick Elton said the low number of voters indicates a problem with elections.

"It's so small you can influence people very easy," he said. "You get one letter in the paper and that's what the people see. Most never even go to the meetings."

The election results were announced at a 9 a.m. press conference in Social Hall No. 1 at Lakeview Rec Center. To qualify for the HOA election, a candidate had to be a Sun City homeowner, an HOA member and have lived in the community for a year.

March 28 and 29, 1998

Vol. 41 No. 203

5 sections, 52 pages

# Board OKs guidelines for rec membership

## Residents of new SCW developments to pay for use

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

Developers of new housing in Sun City West who want their customers to be able to use recreation centers now have some guidelines about how much that privilege will cost.

Residents of the community who bought houses from Del Webb Corp. paid for construction of the community's four centers, seven golf courses and other amenities as part of their home price.

And all persons listed on deeds are required to be Centers members and pay annual fees, currently \$126.50 a year per person.

But some housing wasn't

developed by Webb, and isn't included in the mandatory membership provision that Webb included in deeds. In other cases, lots intended for commercial use have been sold for residential use to builders other than Webb. Their owners are nearing final plans to construct housing.

It is those projects that will be affected by the new guidelines.

The installed value of all Centers facilities is more than \$70 million, said Centers treasurer Hal Lind, or more than \$4,000 for each of Sun City West's 17,000 dwelling units.

The new guidelines adopted at Thursday's governing board meeting allow additional

dwelling units to come under the recreation centers umbrella, but at a cost.

For each new single family home, condominium unit or apartment unit, the guidelines say, the Centers will charge an up-front buy-in fee of \$5,000 per dwelling unit. There's also a requirement that all the residents in those projects become Centers members and pay the annual dues.

Independent living facilities will carry a buy-in fee of \$3,000, and a 100 percent membership requirement; assisted living facilities carry a \$500 fee, and a 50 percent membership requirement. Skilled nursing homes will not be charged.

► See New developments, A5

# New developments seek Centers membership

◀ From A1

Grandview Terrace, the 288-unit independent living complex on Granite Valley Drive, was allowed to buy in to Centers membership for \$2,500 a unit, plus a requirement that all owners pay annual dues.

An apartment project in the central core by The Ryerson Co. and McDonnell Douglas Realty — still to be started — holds a contract with the Centers to buy in at \$2,500 a unit. That contract, signed almost three years ago, gives the de-

velopers five years to start construction or renegotiate, said former Centers treasurer Jack O'Connor.

The new guidelines may give pause to Ryerson and the Fitzpatrick family, who already have plans for large projects in Sun City West: The Fitzpatricks could build as many as 196 apartment units on a vacant 16-acre tract off Veterans Drive in the expansion area, and Ryerson plans a 100-unit luxury complex next to the Sundome overlooking Hillcrest Golf Course,

as well as the already-contracted rental complex near the post office.

Earlier Recreation Centers discussions with Ryerson about the golf course project were fruitless, O'Connor said, after some Centers board members thought \$15,000 a unit was a good starting point.

The buy-in fees are payable as each unit is sold.

Dirk Prather introduced the guidelines after talking about the need for them at the February board meeting. Development of the Fitzpatrick

property was foremost in his mind, since Fitzpatrick in December had told neighbors that he intended to put the proposed units under Centers membership, and indicated that \$2,500 was what he would have to pay per unit to do so.

Prather said in February that there was no set fee and that each project was negotiable, but that some "guidelines" were desirable.

He said Thursday he thought the new fees were reasonable, and that if they were much higher "develop-

ers may not join and we could have problems with too many 'guests' finding ways to use Centers facilities."

The vote to adopt the guidelines was 6-0, with Carole Hubbs, chairwoman of the Legal Affairs Committee abstaining. Richard Catlin was absent; the president (Larry Watts) votes only to break a tie.

Because developers who want their projects to be seniors-only must provide certain facilities intended for the convenience of senior citizens

in order to meet federal fair housing act guidelines, Centers membership is important to them.

# Site for proposed arts theater moved from Bell to Mtn. View

By CINDY TRACY  
Independent Newspapers

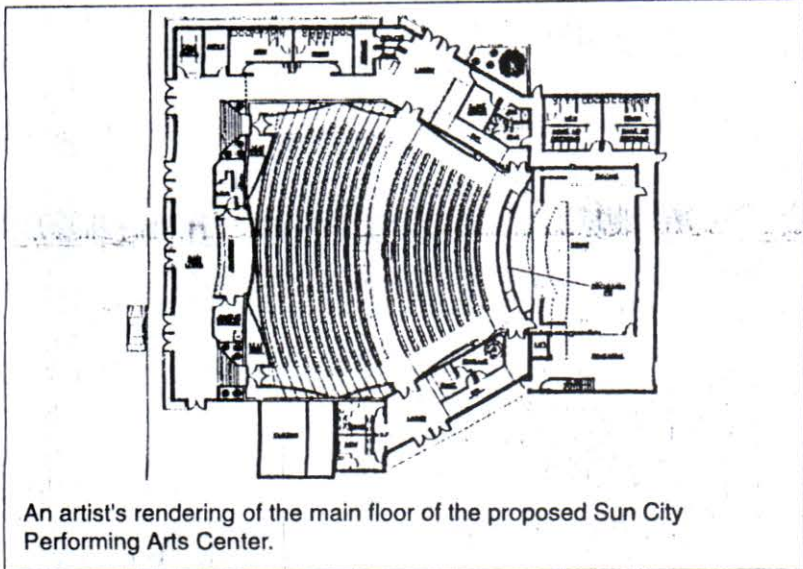
Backers of a proposed performing arts theater in Sun City are stepping back from plans to build a \$5 million facility at Bell Center and will instead renovate the existing auditorium at Mountain View Recreation Center.

An open house to present new plans for the theater will be presented 1-4 p.m. Feb. 27 at Mountain View.

The proposed arts center is a project of the Sun City Foundation, which will undertake the renovation and improvements to the Mountain View site.

The RCSC will own and maintain the facility. Groups and clubs now housed at Mountain View will be accommodated elsewhere while modifications are in progress.

The Sun City Foundation, according to its president, Carol Jaslow, who also is a Rec Centers board member, was created so people who wanted to donate to Sun



An artist's rendering of the main floor of the proposed Sun City Performing Arts Center.

City projects could do so and receive tax benefits. Ms. Jaslow says the foundation will raise the bulk of the funding for the project.

"It is the responsibility of the foundation through community efforts and outside grants," she says.

She says there are some funds already available in the form of

pledges for an aborted 1994 plan to create a performing arts center at Bell Center.

Renovating Mountain View is expected to cost \$1-2 million.

The Mountain View site is a good one, Ms. Jaslow says, because it already has the existing

**See ■ THEATER, Page 7**

car space necessary to accommodate the slightly over 800 people the performing arts center will seat.

Plans call for an expansion area of 12,488 square feet to be added to the 10,617-square-foot existing building, a total of over 23,000 square feet.

On the theater's sloping floor will be 322 seats in the front of the theater and 476 seats in the rear, with 30 spaces set aside for wheelchairs.

Ms. Jaslow says there will be comfortable seats and lots of entrances to make the theater wheelchair accessible.

The intention is, she says, to make the center available for performing groups, but it will also be available for multi-use clubs, speakers, etc.

"We have decided we are going to do this," she says.

A drive for a small performing arts theater first began a few years ago. A fund drive was started and an outside, professional organiza-

tion was hired to handle the campaign. The initial response to the theater was, however, lukewarm and the relationship with the fundraising organization was eventually terminated.

# Home values factor in recreation centers

By PETER CIPRIANO

A house that our pioneer Sun Citians bought originally for \$9,000 today sells for \$60,000 plus. The inflation factor in this price differential in the period of time involved only covers about half the increase in the value of that house. The rest of the increase in value was brought about by the fact that when Del Webb built that house, he sold not only just a house, but along with it, a Sun City way of life.

What else could he do to recoup the cost of our enviable recreation facilities but to add their cost to the price of each and every house sold? Can anyone deny that the recreation centers, golf courses and other amenities were paid for by being

MY  
VIEW

included as part of the cost of every house sold?

It certainly would not have been justified nor feasible to assess one cost to one house and another cost to another house because of the number of people who were to live there. Use of the recreation facilities was limited to people who paid for them when they became homeowners in Sun City and paid their property's share of the cost.

Recreation Centers of Sun City "R Us." There would be no active retirement community to bless our existence here in the "biggest country club in the world," nor would the price of our house have anywhere near its present value were it not for our paid right to use the recreation centers. Does anyone really think that our houses would be worth the same — recreation centers or not?

Now that we have established that the cost of recreation centers was

charged out to every property in its sale price — not the number of people who would be living there — we have to justifiably charge out the considerable cost of upkeep and maintenance of the operation equitably to each property.

I doubt that anyone can argue that when a property is assessed \$100 by way of a membership fee, that property is not paying its fair share of the burden. If it takes \$200 per property to maintain the lifestyle we so eagerly bought when we became Sun Citians, any property paying less is being subsidized by the ones of us paying the \$200 per property — grandfathering notwithstanding.

Every property should shoulder its fair share of the burden because every property reaps the benefits of the Sun City way of life in its increased and increasing value and eventual sales price.

Why is it that we are blinded by

our own self-interest to the point of not wanting to admit that we can't run our recreation centers for any less than \$200 per property? Why is it that some of us call it unfair that we are being charged the fair full fare even though we were told what it would be when we first eagerly moved here? Why is it that some of us are grandfathered at \$100 — a figure that does not pay the freight today?

There is only one clear business-like method we can use to be able to budget every year that would tell us exactly what our membership income will be. I'm sure we would all be shocked to know about the properties that cheat the rest of us by listing one resident when indeed there are two or more — some even underage.

I wonder how many properties are still listed in the name of a deceased person thus paying only the grand-

fathered \$100 rate. These and other forms of hanky-panky have been cited which force the majority of us to subsidize other properties that don't contribute their fair share.

Fair is fair. It's not right for any property to pay \$100 when it costs \$200 to run our recreation centers. If hardship cases exist there are ways of dealing compassionately with them. Any property paying less than \$200 is being subsidized by the ones of us paying \$200.

If fairness is an issue here, if equitable treatment is the issue here, if business like procedure is the issue here, you must end the inequity by charging fees on a per property basis.

To soften the blow you might consider allowing single residents to have free use of the facilities for visiting guests only.

The writer is a resident of Sun City.

11-29-96



# Demands on centers reviewed

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

New Sun City residents with different hobbies and interests may lead the Recreation Centers of Sun City to re-evaluate its allocation of club space and athletic facilities.

"There are new demographics going on all the time ... the retirement lifestyle is changing all the time, and new people coming in don't want some of the old things going on," said Art Williams, recreation centers vice president.

"I think this next year we're going to have to sit down and really take a hard look at the attendance figures of all the 150 clubs and really see where the interest does lie," said Max Domino, board treasurer.

The proposed closing of Lakeview Lapidary Club, discussed at Thursday's board meeting, is an example of an older club with declining attendance, Williams said.

"They have to accommodate a little bit, so that space can be used for other purposes," he said, suggesting calligraphy and printing clubs may need room.

No final decision has been made about whether to close Lakeview Lapidary, board President Gerald Unger said at Thursday's meeting. Unger has said the determination would be made next year.

"A decision like this is not just off-the-cuff; research goes into it — you check their attendance and if it's going downhill ... something has to give," Williams said.

Nora Mastrine, the outgoing secretary of Lakeview Lapidary Club, said the suggestion to close her club struck her "like a bolt out of the blue." She presented 93 signatures protesting the idea to the board Thursday.

Lapidary is less popular than it was, Mastrine said.

"The people that are coming into the city now are mostly interested in athletic opportunities like golf and swimming and tennis," she said, "but there'll come a time when they're going to be interested in lapidary."

The club has 185 members with as many as 35 percent regularly participating, Mastrine said.

"Lapidary is not a dead art," she added.

New activities, such as computers, are increasing in popularity, Williams said. Computer club members moved their equipment into a new room in Fairway this year.

"The area that they have was occupied by about six people two or three days a week, so another accommodation was found for them," he said.

The relocated sewing club shares space with another group.

It's hard to predict which activities will be popular in the future, Domino said.

"We're still thinking that golf is going to be No. 1, and we're going to maintain our golf courses in that respect," he said.

But beyond that, "it's all going to depend upon just exactly what the people that move in here desire — and they have to let their desires be known, because we haven't got any magic crystal ball that we can dial up and say 'what are we going to need in the next five or 10 years as far as programs for the people?'" Domino said.

The added tennis court at Mountain View Recreation Center and the elimination of shuffleboard at Oakmont Recreation Center are other signs of the centers addressing changing recreational desires, Williams said.

The renovation of the Sun Bowl, planned for 1994, will likely include the addition of some

## Study holds key to retirees' interests

—From A1

that people are interested in," he said.

Domino and Williams said the planned Sun City Home Owners Association study, to be conducted by Arizona State University, will be of interest to the recreation centers board as it forecasts future retirees' interests.

The proposal for the study, which is to address what Sun City will be like in five to 10 years, is being reviewed by Del Webb Corp. officials, said George Hartman, a board mem-

ber of the recreation centers and HOA. Hartman's HOA long-range planning committee discussed the study's format.

Hartman said Del Webb has agreed to pay for the study, estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The study is scheduled to begin Jan. 15 and could be the first part of a three-phase investigation of Sun City which would include a survey and focus groups, Hartman said.

**Daily News-Sun**

Thursday, Dec. 23, 1993

# Sun Cities roll out welcome mat for grandchildren

## Movies, sports top SC activities

**Daily News-Sun staff**

The Recreation Centers of Sun City are accustomed to providing a range of activities for those 55 and older.

But during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, the centers are striving to entertain a younger crowd: visiting grandchildren.

This is the first year the recreation centers has planned an extensive schedule of children's events, said Nancy Barber, activities coordinator.

"We decided to give it a try," Barber said. "We don't know how many grandchildren will be here in the area, but we thought that if they are, what might help amuse them?"

The following activities are part of the center's "Christmas & Kids" list of events:

**Sunday**

■ The movie "Aladdin" will be at 1 p.m. in Fairway Auditorium, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

■ Remote-controlled model sailboats will sail on Viewpoint Lake from 9 a.m. to noon at Lakeview Park, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

**Monday**

■ Board games and refreshments will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Ave.

■ The movie "Beethoven" will be at 1 p.m. in Marinette Auditorium, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive.

**Tuesday**

■ "The Christmas Star," a planetarium show, will be at 8:30, 10 and 11 a.m. and 1:30 and 3 p.m. in Fairway Center's Arizona Room. Tickets are required and available free at the Lakeview club office.

■ Line dancing classes will be from 1 to 3 p.m. in Bell Recreation Center, 16820 99th Ave.

■ The movie "Pinocchio" will be at 3 p.m. in Fairway Auditorium.

**Wednesday**

■ The movie "Homeward Bound" will be at 1 p.m. in Marinette Auditorium.

**Dec. 30**

■ The movie "Beauty and the Beast" will be at 9 a.m. in Fairway Auditorium.

■ Remote-controlled model sailboats will sail on Viewpoint Lake from 9 a.m. to noon at Lakeview Park.

■ Line dancing classes will be from 1 to 3 p.m. in Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th

Ave.

■ Board games and refreshments will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Oakmont Center.

**Dec. 31**

■ A junior golf clinic will be conducted from 8 to 9 a.m. at North Golf Course, 12650 N. 107th Ave.

■ The movie "Benji" will be at 1 p.m. in Marinette Center.

Also during the week:

■ The Sun City Model Railroad Club will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 27 through Dec. 30 at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

■ The Sun City Mineral Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 27 through Dec. 31 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

■ Children 8 and older may play tennis, croquet, mini golf, racquetball, handball, shuffleboard, pingpong or bowl at the centers.

■ Children from 4 to 16 years old may swim from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bell or Fairway pools; from 1 to 3 p.m. in Marinette and Oakmont pools; and from 3 to 5 p.m. in Lakeview and Mountain View pools.

For information call the recreation centers at 876-3000. All centers facilities except the golf courses will be closed Christmas Day.

## SCW kicks off special week with mini-golf tournaments

**Daily News-Sun staff**

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West will sponsor several activities for visiting grandchildren as part of its third annual Kids Christmas Week:

■ Two mini-golf tournaments will begin at 9:30 a.m. Sunday on the mini-golf courses at R.H. Johnson and Beardsley Park, 12755 Beardsley Drive.

Children 6 to 12 years old may play at Beardsley Park and those 13 to 17 years old may compete at R.H. Johnson. Participants will be placed in flights by age group.

A golf clinic for children 6 to 17 years old will be conducted from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at Pebblebrook Golf Course.

The clinic will cover putting, chipping and iron play. Residents may donate clubs for the clinic at any of the centers' golf course pro shops.

To register for the golf events, call 546-2401.

■ Through Jan. 2, Beardsley Pool will be open to children 6 years old and older from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m., and the R.H. Johnson Pool will be open to all children from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Swimmers younger than 8 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

■ Bowling and shuffleboard will be open to children 12 years old and older, and children 16 and older may play billiards.

■ A children's bowling event will be from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday in the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion, 19863 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Two bowling games will give children 8 to 18 years old a chance to compete in four age-group categories; a party will follow.

Children must be signed up for the event at the bowling control counter in the sports pavilion.

# Rec Center officials challenged to find added space

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

7-13-94

The debate over enlarging present recreation facilities or building new facilities may have in part led to the first recall election in the history of the Sun City Rec Centers, but the argument is certainly not new to the community.

As the retirement community has grown over the years, so has the need for additional clubs — and places for them to meet.

Limited by its geographic boundaries, however, Sun City is in a peculiar situation. It is unable to grow physically and

there is very little room to construct new buildings. Although the population has remained relatively stable the past few years, Rec Center officials say more and more people are joining local clubs and using area recreation facilities.

This increased demand was one of the reasons the current Rec board earlier this year considered building a new administrative building and enlarging rooms at Lakeview Center. The board backed off its proposal after an outcry from angry members — several of whom initiated the recall targeting four members of the board.

Dick Austin, newly appointed to the

Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors, recently conducted a study on chartered clubs for the centers in an attempt to determine "what has changed since Sun City was formed."

He says, "People have said that Sun City is the same, it won't change, it will get no larger. In 1960, there were six clubs. In 1994, there (are) 137 clubs. Is that change?"

"In 1992, 26,000 residents were members of the clubs. In 1993, close to 30,000 were members. In 1994, 32,000 residents are members of the clubs. More people

See ■ SPACE, Page 3

are taking an interest in these clubs and participating and that's good."

## Demand for space

Finding space to accommodate all the clubs and members has been a long-time problem for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

The centers are limited in physical size and space. Bell Recreation Center has two meeting rooms, Fairway, Lakeview and Marinette each have three, Mountain View and Oakmont each have one and Sundial has one which can be divided into three.

"We have seven centers and clubs (are) meeting in all the rooms there every single day," says Nancy Barber, clubs and activities director.

Clubs currently feeling the greatest pinch include the bridge clubs, the Calligraphy Club, Canasta Club, Model Railroad Club and Photo Club. The Calligraphy Club, says Ms. Barber, uses all three social halls at Marinette Recreation Center but must turn potential members away because it cannot accommodate more people than is permitted by the fire code.

"The dance clubs definitely need more room. Our line dancers are bursting at the seams," Ms. Barber said in March.

Ms. Barber attributes the increased participation to younger retirees moving into the area — retirees more concerned with physical fitness.

Another reason for the increase in participation may be linked to the large number of activities designed specifically for singles. Sun City is made up of a large number of single residents.

"We now have approximately 35 percent of our homes occupied by one person vs. 8 percent in the 1960s," says Jim Hawks, a past president of the Rec Centers Board of Directors.

Current President Art Williams says the lack of space has haunted Rec Centers directors for several years.

"In 1985, there was some discussion regarding the need for finding additional space but when a new board took office the problem was set aside and all input was lost."

Despite the lack of space, Rec Centers directors are constantly bombarded with requests from club members seeking space. Among the recent requests for space:

■ The Fairway Woodworking Club has requested a 900-square-foot addition to its present facility. Club officials say they need more space for workbenches and equipment. The board has approved \$30,000 toward construction of the addition.

■ The Best Friends Dog Club requested the Recreation Centers purchase a piece of property for a park in Sun City where club members could walk their pets.

Members want the board to spend \$180,000 to purchase a 3.5-acre parcel of undeveloped land located between the Sunland Pet Rest Cemetery and the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City headquarters.

■ Members of the Bocce Club of Sun City say they need space for a centralized bocce complex. Sun City is home to six bocce courts — two at the Bell Center, two at Lakeview and two at Marinette.

■ The local computer club, which last year was moved from Marinette to Fairway, has grown from 62 to 395 members and is seeking additional space.

"As new residents move into Sun City I can see at least three additional computer clubs of 400 people being chartered in the next few years," Mr. Williams said at the May 26 membership meeting.

In addition, Mr. Williams says "the Calligraphy Club has grown from 50 members to 130, the Handicraft club has grown from 25 to 190 members and we have five

additional clubs wanting (more) space as well.

"Also there are two clubs that want to be chartered — the printing club, with 50 people signed up, (and) a video club, with 80 people interested. In all, there are 1,983 members (who) are affected (by the shortage of space)."

## Solutions hard to find

Current directors are investigating solutions to the problems caused by space limitations. Past directors and Rec Center officials have attempted to deal with the problem but they, too, have had little success in trying to come up with amicable solutions.

Among the proposals considered in the past:

■ Purchasing or renting space in shopping centers and commercial buildings;

■ Moving or consolidating the smaller clubs or those used less frequently by members;

■ Building a new administrative office at Sundial Recreation Center, thereby freeing up space for clubs at Lakeview Recreation Center.

Directors consider the prices charged for leasing or purchasing a commercial building in Sun City or Youngtown to be prohibitive.

"Purchase prices ran from \$350,000 for a bank at Grand Shopping Center, which is much too small, to the bank at 99th and Bell for \$750,000 plus renovations to make them adaptable," Mr. Williams said in a speech at a recent board meeting.

"Rental of stores ran from \$6.50 to \$9.25 per square foot with long term rentals. In 10 years, the rental would have cost (the Rec Centers) at least \$1 million plus renovation costs."

Clubs have been moved from one room to another in one center or

OVER

even from one center to another to make way for newer clubs, Mr. Williams says.

"We shifted a few clubs from one facility to other facilities, converted meeting rooms to craft rooms, required those clubs not utilizing an area full time to relocate and share a space with another club that also was utilizing an area only part time, usually at the annoyance of both groups," he says.

Past board president Gerald Unger says previous directors sought ways to solve the difficulties of cramped quarters.

"We added the building for the (Sun City) Players' workshop down at Mountain View. They bought the building but the Rec Centers provided the space for the foundation.

"We expanded the space at the wood shop and metal shop in Bell. We also expanded the Rockhounds Museum. It took us a year. That was a conference room and it was being used by boards of five or six clubs for meetings once a month. We finally convinced them to have board meetings in their own

rooms," he adds.

Caroline Thomas, who served as clubs and activities director for more than seven years and served with the Rec Centers for more than 20 years, says space was always a problem during her time on the board. She left the organization in 1992.

"We had to make certain relocations. If one club is successful and increases (its) membership, moves had to be made."

Mr. Unger believes many club members who would like more space are simply impatient.

"The thing people don't understand is that when they ask for more space, it takes time."

Although many club members want more space, some members of existing clubs are reluctant to surrender the space they have, making consolidating of clubs nearly impossible.

Earlier this year, directors backed off plans to close the lapidary club-room at Lakeview Center and convert it into a room for a printing club. The club is still without a

home.

During a meeting last year, Mr. Williams said directors were considering closing the facility due to low usage.

Because the community is home to five lapidary clubs, directors believed the clubs could consolidate and help the Rec Centers reduce expenses associated with heating, cooling and cleaning the room.

Other tried and untried solutions which have been suggested include encouraging clubs to meet in the afternoon and evening and allowing clubs to use space originally intended for storage.

"We tried getting some people to meet in the afternoon," Ms. Thomas recalls.

"We did try and get some of the craft clubs started in the evening. The Clay Club tried it with moderate success, having classes in the evening. And we started having the Bridge Club meet on Sundays. We were pretty much at a point of rearranging for space when I left."

Ray Danford, president of the board in 1989, says dealing with limited space "isn't easy."

"We had some flack but most everybody was willing to meet whenever they could get space. You have to take the hours that are assigned."

Many feel a lack of space at the Recreation Centers will be a continuing problem.

"One cannot create space without building it or replacing another group that already occupies that area," Mr. Williams says.

# Ex-Webb officials join drive for theater

## Meecker, Tuffs to assist campaign to build performing arts facility

Two new people who will advise and assist in the drive to build a new performing arts facility in Sun City have joined the Sun City Foundation.

John Meecker, who worked for the Del Webb Corp. for many years, and Donald Tuffs, who served as general manager of the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts and senior vice president of marketing for the Del Webb Real Estate Group, will serve on the advisory board of the Sun City Performing Arts Theater project group.

Mr. Meecker, who joined Del Webb in 1959 as chief of planning and design and construction manager, was instrumental in the planning and building of both Sun Cities. He left the company in 1981.

Donald Tuffs of Sun City West has been involved in the Sun Cities

area with the Del Webb Corp. and Prudential for 24 years. Mr. Tuffs has been involved with the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society and the Sun Cities Art Museum.

The group spearheading the project will soon choose an architect, says Gerald Unger, also a member of the advisory board.

"Nine architects have been interviewed and a final architectural commitment is nearing," Mr. Unger says.

"Also, a contract is pending with a professional fund-raising firm which will bring expert advice to the project."

Numerous meetings have been held during the past year to formulate plans for the theater and have resulted in the decision to hire an architect and to use the services of a professional fund-raiser.

Don Tuffs, right, former general manager of the Sundome, and John Meecker, far right, former vice president of the Del Webb Corp., have joined the Sun City Foundation and will assist the drive to build a Sun City performing arts theater.



Since last July, \$15,000 has been raised toward construction of a performing arts theater, says Al Barker, a member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors and chairman of the foundation.

Mr. Unger says the funds were received from groups and individuals with no formal drive or any personal requests being made.

"This was achieved through free concerts where 'the hat was passed around,'" he says.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has pledged to dedicate the land whenever the group demonstrates a viable plan.

"We think Sun City is ready, willing and able to build and operate the finest performing arts facility in the Northwest Valley," Mr. Unger says.

The foundation is seeking volunteers to assist with the theater project. Call Helen Gilmand at 876-3000.

# Voters recall Williams, Domino

## Jaslow, Edelen join SC board

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Ed Anderson was elected president and newly elected board members Carol Jaslow and James Edelen were sworn in this morning at a special meeting of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors in Lakeview Social Hall 1.

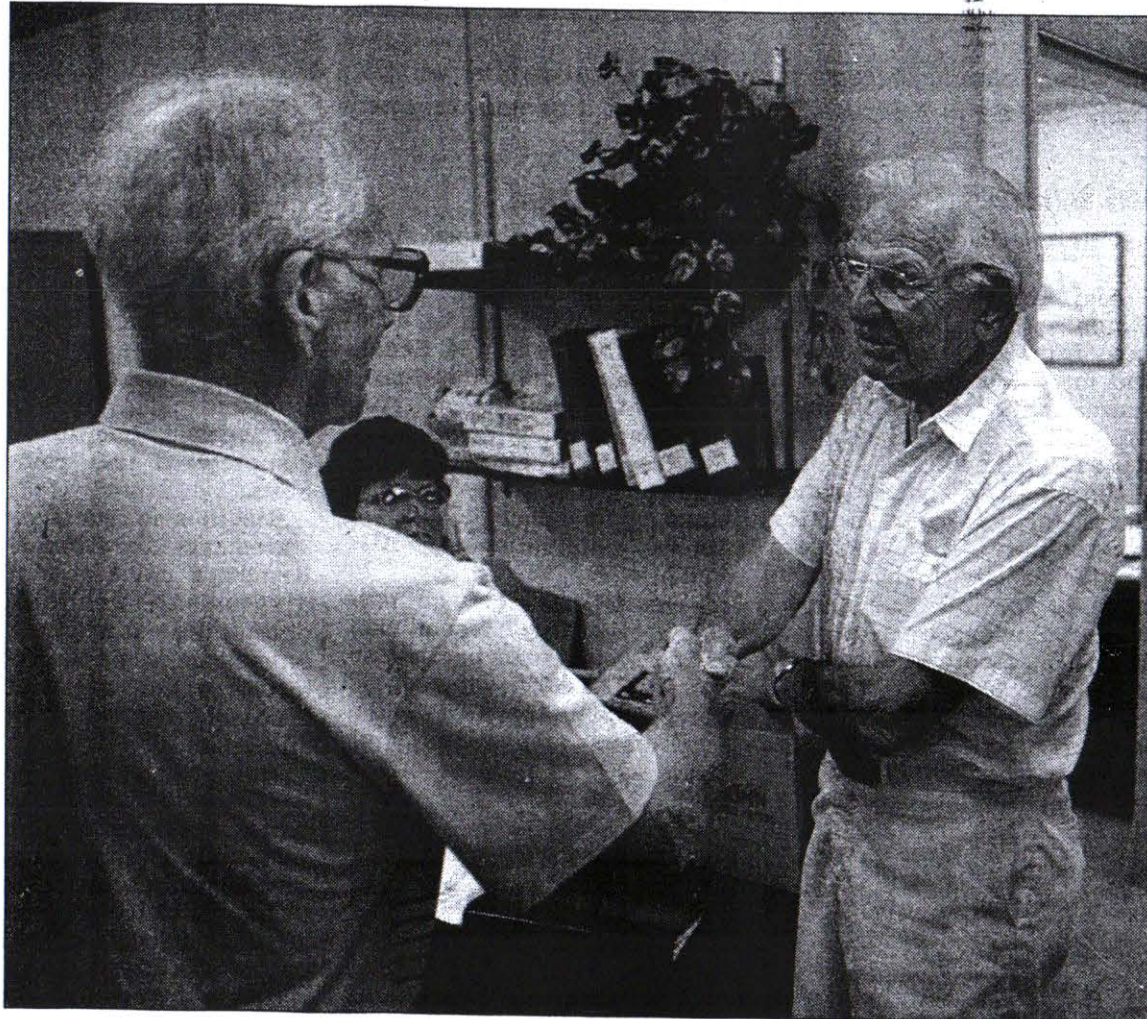
Anderson, nominated by John Short, was elected by a 7-0 vote, with Nat Jampel absent and Anderson abstaining.

Dick Austin then nominated Al Barker for vice president and Jaslow nominated Kay Sentes. Barker won by a 5-1 vote, with Jaslow supporting Sentes, and Sentes and Barker abstaining.

Since Anderson is the new president the board also elected Austin as replacement treasurer, unanimously but with Edelen and Austin abstaining.

"Hopefully, since the recall is now completed, we can bury the hatchet and we can get along with running Sun City," Anderson told the board.

The next scheduled board meeting is a study session Aug. 22, open to the members by state law. Study sessions are usually at 9 a.m. in Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 25 in Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Dick Austin, left, wishes Art Williams well after Williams, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, was defeated in a recall election Tuesday. Vice President Max Domino was also defeated. New board members Carol Jaslow and James Edelen were seated at a 10 a.m. meeting today.

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — President Art Williams and Vice President Max Domino lost the Recreation Centers of Sun City recall election and have been replaced on the board of directors by Carol Jaslow and James Edelen.

Election committee chairwoman Doris Gregory announced the results of the recall election at a special board meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in a small downstairs conference room at Lakeview Recreation Center.

Six board members, the board's secretary, three leaders of the recall effort and Marie Williams listened as Gregory read the balloting committee's report: Of 19,446 validated ballots, 9,169 opposed the recall and 10,277 supported removing Williams and Domino from office. Gregory said 559 ballots were ruled invalid, most for writing on the ballot.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the results of the recall election and I can't say that I am not disappointed," Williams said.

The former board president thanked Gregory and members of the balloting committee for their work and praised every board member by name but pointedly omitted



Jaslow



Edelen

## RECALL

←.....→  
Recreation Centers of Sun City  
election results

Ballots validated: 19,446  
Ballots invalidated: 559  
**TOTAL: 20,005**

"No" votes cast: 9,169  
"Yes" votes cast: 10,277  
**TOTAL: 19,446**

Votes for Edelen: 9,662  
Votes for Jaslow: 9,729

Kay Sentes and Nat Jampel, who, like Domino, are out-of-town and missed the Tuesday evening meeting.

"I envision a difficult period ahead, until a new board assumes leadership in January," Williams said.

See Outcome of, A3

# Outcome of recall disappoints Williams

—From A1

"I assure you that, as a result of this recall election, the board will be operating in a fish bowl — not under my surveillance but by the community," he said. "It is obvious, from the results, that the community is split down the middle."

About 53 percent of the ballots were cast in support of the recall with 47 percent in opposition. The number of ballots received — 20,005 — was 46 percent of the 43,467 mailed, a high turnout for a recreation centers election.

The meeting adjourned to applause.

Bruce Norris, one of the former directors who led the recall effort, walked over to Williams and extended his hand. "Art, you are a real gentleman," he said.

Williams looked momentarily surprised and shook Norris' hand. "Well, coming from you, that's a lot," he said.

The recall proponents left and Williams exchanged hugs and handshakes with other board members. Carrying a cardboard box, he and his wife left the board offices.

In a telephone interview this morning, Williams said he is "dis-

appointed, more than surprised" by the election's outcome.

"I think there is a misunderstanding among the people about what the job of a director is," he said.

The bylaws give the board management responsibility, he said. "I would not have run for the board if I thought it was any different. A director, in my opinion, is not just a figurehead."

Williams said he did not regret his actions or decision to not resign. "If I had to do it over I would do exactly the same thing," he said.

The former board president criticized the Daily News-Sun's coverage and opinion page as "absolutely biased" and "slanted."

Williams said the newspaper's editorial treatment of letters to the editor "made a tremendous difference" in the election's outcome. He said letters supporting the board did not appear until late in the summer when most residents have left the community.

Williams said he will be an observer and monitor the board's actions.

"Sun City will survive," he said, "and perhaps as a result of this the residents will take a more active

interest" in the recreation centers.

"I don't know the two new directors' backgrounds or business acumen well enough to judge them," he said. "I wish them luck, but I know that you do have five good-thinking people on the board that will carry the community through."

The recall movement began after a March special meeting when the board approved constructing an office building at Sundial Recreation Center. Recall proponents continued circulating petitions after the board rescinded the vote May 5. Recall backers have criticized the board as insensitive to members' wishes.

George Hartman and John Ober, also targeted by the recall effort, resigned before ballots were mailed last month.

Pete Cipriano, one of the former directors who led the recall effort, said this morning that the recall results reflect the will of the people.

"I think it shows the future board that they should consider the members when making decisions. Not only consider the members, but not act arrogantly toward the members. I don't want to crow, but still, obviously, this is the way things are."

Jaslow, who replaced Williams on

the board, said this morning that she was surprised to win.

"In a way, I guess I'm glad it (the election) wasn't a total runaway; it might make life easier, but we do have to remember that there were a lot of people who did not support the recall," Jaslow said.

"I hope we can pull together for the next four months and do a job because I certainly expect people to be watching us," she said. "I know that there's a lot of bad feeling on the board from some of the members of the board. I hope that that can be resolved so that we can get some things accomplished."

Jaslow said she would like to revise and expand the recreation centers' election procedures and investigate issuing a newsletter to members during her four-month term.

Edelen said this morning that he is "not surprised so much as gratified" by the election results.

"I would like to see the board returned to a policy-making position rather than an administration position," he said.

Domino is out-of-state and could not be reached for comment on the election results.

# Anderson sets agenda

By IAN MITCHELL 8-4-94  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Ed Anderson sat behind the president's desk Wednesday afternoon. He was still wearing the name tag identifying him as treasurer of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors.

A new name tag is on order.

Anderson, elected president of the board Wednesday morning after the recall of Art Williams and Max Domino, said the next five months will be a "period of evaluation" for the recreation centers.

"I think we need to consider what the public wants. We're going to have to be very careful about what we do, but I don't want people to think

we're afraid to do anything," Anderson said.

"It's not going to be a weak board, even though it's only got five months to live."

After the recalls and resignations, the recreation centers' board is inexperienced, Anderson said.

Anderson, Doris Gregory and Nat Jampel took office in January. Dick Austin and John Short were appointed in May. Carol Jaslow and James Edelen joined the board Wednesday.

Seven of nine directors have served for less than a year, Anderson said. "There are going to be mistakes made and it's going to be a learning process for all of us," he said.

After Wednesday's board meeting,

the directors gathered in their Lakeview Recreation Center office and agreed to work together, the new president said.

"We still disagree, we still dissent, but it should be done within the framework of the board," he said.

Part of the board's job will be to rebuild community unity, Anderson said.

Work in progress — such as projects at the Lakeview coffee shop, Sun Bowl and Fairway wood shop — should continue, he said.

Whether an office building should be constructed — a plan for a building was one of the reasons recall proponents cited for the drive to remove Williams and Domino — is a

See New president, A5

—From A1  
question that should be studied further, Anderson said.

At a March 7 special meeting, the board originally approved constructing an office building at Sundial Recreation Center on the site of the unused lawn bowls court.

But in May, after the recall effort was announced, the board voted to postpone consideration of the office building until the 1995 budget, which should be approved before the end of this year.

Anderson said a committee of supporters and detractors of the building plan should be formed to study the space-usage needs of clubs and the recreation centers.

"Whether we'll get it done this year and be able to get it in the '95 budget, I don't know," he said.

Members of the Bocce Club of Sun City had asked the board to convert the Sundial lawn bowls court into a bocce complex and were upset that the courts might be used as a building site. Club President Pete Cipriano helped lead the recall effort.

If the committee decides a building is needed, "I'm not even going to speculate about the Sundial issue," Anderson said.

"Whatever happens at Sundial needs to happen for the benefit of the majority of members."

Anderson and his wife Loretta moved to Sun City in 1991 from Wyoming, where he worked for the Wyoming De-

partment of Agriculture as a fiscal control officer and later for the state examiner's office as a financial examiner/auditor.

Outside of state government, he was business manager of a Cheyenne hospital and operations manager at a department store.

Anderson said he will probably be spending more time in the directors' offices now that he has been elected president, but said he doesn't plan on working 30 or 40 hours a week.

"I have no intention of running a day-to-day operation," he said. "That's the general manager's job."

Anderson said he wanted to publicly thank Art Williams, Max Domino, George Hartman and John Ober for their service to the community. Hartman and Ober resigned after the recall effort was launched.

The new board president said he hopes the controversy of the recall is over.

"I hope we can put it behind us, but as long as people have the perception that the board doesn't listen to them, we are going to have the recall staring at us," he said.

Anderson said he spoke with one of the recall backers after Wednesday's meeting and hopes to meet with him to discuss issues in detail.

"I want to sit down and meet with those people — or anybody that wants some input into what we are going to do," he said.

## SC Recreation Centers board

	Took office	term ends
<b>President</b>		
Ed Anderson	January 1994	1996
<b>Vice President</b>		
Al Barker	January 1991	1994
<b>Secretary</b>		
Doris Gregory	January 1994	1996
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Dick Austin	May 1994*	1994
<b>Directors</b>		
James Edelen	August 1994**	1994
Nat Jampel	January 1994	1996
Carol Jaslow	August 1994**	1994
Kay Sentes	January 1992	1995
John Short	May 1994*	1994

\*Appointed. \*\*Elected in recall.



# Centers returns to No. 1

## Staff report

SUN CITY — Like the telephone company, the Recreation Centers of Sun City has run out of numbers, and this year started issuing recreation center cards from No. 1.

"We had to start recycling the numbers when we got to 90,000," said a membership office employee. Numbers starting with 90,000 are used for renters and other non-owners, she explained.

Monica Staab, membership office supervisor, said a recreation card bearing the No. 1 was issued in January, but apparently has already been turned in after a property was sold. It has no current member, she said, although new Nos. 2 and 3 issued this year still are active.

Recreation card No. 4, however, belongs to a longtime resident — it was issued to the same owner in 1967.

Before that time — in the days before computers — when residents moved, died or otherwise dropped their membership, the old recreation card number was simply reassigned to someone else. With the advent of computerized records, Staab said, "we had to keep a consecutive list, up to 89,999."

In 1994, Staab said, more than 1,400 properties in Sun City changed hands, meaning new owners received recreation cards, although some buyers may have received two cards (one for a spouse). During that year, more than 4,000 new recreation cards were issued.

Despite the low numbers that some people now are receiving, longtime residents apparently aren't upset at some newcomer getting a lower number.

"We haven't heard any complaints about that at all," Staab said.

# Centers step up barrier attacks

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

Five years after Congress passed a landmark law intended to make every public facility accessible to those with disabilities, recreation centers in Sun City and Sun City West have made major efforts to provide that accessibility.

But centers in both communities still have improvements to make, and making them could take years, officials said.

"We do have a detailed plan for compliance," said Paul Richards, who heads the Americans with Disabilities Act study group at the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc.

"We still have considerable work to do," Richards said. His outline of what needs to be done is based on a survey made two years ago by an independent-living group hired to evaluate accessibility of the centers.

In Sun City, said Jim Warfield, general manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc., "the biggest expense we've had so far is to install an elevator in the Lakeview Center," which had only ramps to reach its upper and lower levels. The cost was more than \$20,000 Warfield said.

The ramps are hard for people who walk, he said, much less those in wheelchairs.

The recreation centers board in Sun City has no specific committee charged with finding what needs to be done, Warfield said. "We have plenty of people who let us know, and they're not hesitant at all about telling us what to do," he said.

Warfield himself found out what it means to be handicapped when he had to navigate his own centers on crutches a while back after knee surgery.

Among the smaller things already done: installing handles on drinking fountains that can be operated by a

shoulder or arm as well as a hand, and putting volume controls on many pay telephones.

The Sun City centers also have an organized employee-sensitivity program, said Human Resources Director Marian Krehl. Job applications were changed, she said, to make sure those with disabilities can apply.

In Sun City West, said Richards, among the improvements needed are more toilets accessible to those in wheelchairs.

That's a lot of money to spend, he said, especially since the needed changes often result in the loss of a toilet or two, meaning the overall structure in which the toilets are located then may not meet the county building code requirements for number of toilets.

Warfield, at the Sun City centers, is struggling with the same toilet problems, he said. "We need to work on bathrooms at Oakmont, and even install some shower stalls that a person who needs a care-attendant can get into with the attendant. But that is major plumbing work, a major cost."

Work on Sun City West golf courses and mini-golf courses also will be expensive, Richards said. Toilets on the courses will need to be upgraded, and ramps installed in mini-golf areas. "That is going to be a significant expenditure."

But smaller things that cost less have been done, said Les Hicks, general manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. Among the accomplishments in the last few months: sidewalk ramps have been installed in the Doggie Park and to lawn bowling and tennis court areas at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. Coffee shop counter heights have been lowered, and so have customer service counters in the membership

► See Costs mount, A5

## ■ From A1

office and at monitor stations.

Seating in the Stardust Theatre has been redesigned for wheelchair accessibility, Hicks said, while at the Beardsley Recreation Center, shower stalls with grab bars have been installed. Fire extinguishers also have been lowered.

Hicks said about \$10,000 in specific improvements for ADA compliance have been made, while more improvements will be included in maintenance and repair budgets over coming years.

As each building needs major work, the ADA-needed facilities will be built in.

Among the changes will be motion sensitive faucets in sinks and urinals, and restriping of parking lots to widen handicap spaces for van accessibility.

Recreation centers in Sun City also will be restriping for van accessibility.

Like Richards, Hicks said the recreation centers exist to serve the owners, the people who use them. "That means all of the people," he said.

"While the law says you have to show you're making a reasonable effort to accommodate the disabled, we want all parts of our community to feel welcome and able to use our facilities."

Still, said Richards, some things seem troubling — such as a wheelchair ramp to the gazebo at Beardsley, which he doubts few in wheelchairs would ever use. It's a major expense, Richards said, but it's on the list with a low priority.

## Day tours use handicap vans

SUN CITY — The day tours operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City have proven mighty popular — so popular that recreation centers officials now are hiring special buses to accommodate those in wheelchairs who might want to take the trips.

"We found that the charter bus companies we were using didn't have any way to handle wheelchairs," said Pat Bruyn, club coordinator. "So we have decided to contract with a service that runs handicap vans, like the ones SCAT or the Red Cross use, so that anybody in Sun

City who wants to participate in a tour can get one."

There is no extra fee for the special van transport, Bruyn said.

Initially, the vans are rented only for a few tours — two of the six slated in October, for instance — but more can be hired if the demand is there, Bruyn said.

"I certainly hope we fill them up," the club official said. "It's a service that's probably needed, and you can help to let people know it's available."

Bruce Ellison

over



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Mildred Imowitz makes her way into the Beardsley Park Recreation Center pool for the Arthritis Aquatic Program. Imowitz, who lost her leg to poor circulation, swims three times a week in the Sun City West pool.

wel-  
and  
:hael  
977-

# Community

■ The original Lakes Club, a month away from completion, was destroyed by fire Feb. 17, 1972. A rebuilt club was dedicated seven months later.

## Club marriages off to good start

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — After a summer of playing musical clubrooms, members of charter organizations of the Recreations Centers of Sun City are settling into their new homes.

The consolidation of some clubs began in December amid controversy. Now the fray has subsided and club members are pleased with their new surroundings, said Carol Jaslow, board secretary for the recreation centers.

"I wrote letters to the art club members telling them I hope they're happy in their new surroundings," Jaslow said. "I told them I knew it wasn't easy being the first ones to have to give up their space."

Flagging membership and too little activity in the art clubs spurred the clubs committee to look at the use of space by duplicate clubs. Art clubs and lapidary clubs were the first to be audited for membership and club use.

The committee called a meeting of the art clubs and told the members they would have to decide which

clubs would give up its space to combine with another art club. The Fairway and Bell art clubs agreed to move.

Members of the Fairway club now meet in the Lakeview art room and the Bell club shares a space in the Sundial art room. The space once occupied by the Fairway Art Club has been taken over by the rapidly expanding computer club.

The marriages are working.

"I think the members of the Bell Art Club were a little leery at first," said Virginia Sevedge, the president of the Sundial Art Club. "They didn't want to give up their room, which I totally understand. But when everybody tries, we can get along. I'm not sorry at all that they've joined us. I think eventually we may turn into one club. We'll just have to see."

The board of directors supplied funds for improvements to the Sundial and Lakeview art rooms to better accommodate the merged groups.

"It's working out just great," Sevedge said. "We didn't have a kitchen before, and now we have one. Each club has its own sink and cupboards, and each club has five

storage cabinets. We're just really pleased."

Work in the Lakeview room is under way, Jaslow said. A communication mix-up put renovations behind schedule, but she said she hopes all the work is completed by the end of the summer.

"The only hang up we've had is a mix-up on the purchase of new lights for Lakeview," she said. "It wasn't a line item in the budget, but I was assured there was money there to buy them and to go ahead and do it. They don't want to build their new cabinets until the lighting is in."

The new lighting in Sundial has proven to be a wonderful addition, said Virginia Drumm, the president of the Bell Art Club. A family crisis took Drumm out of town for much of the summer, but she has heard positive reports on the new space and schedule.

"They tell me the lighting is ideally suited for painting," she said. "We have a portrait class that is a joint effort on Saturday. We have a model and share the cost. And we've been able to work out a schedule where our club has the space for 2½ days

and they have it for 2½ days."

The one thing the Bell artists do miss are the windows in their former space.

"It felt so open," Drumm said. "There are no windows in Sundial, but the lighting is so good it helps. Most everyone is adjusting well."

Now the spinners and handweavers club is enjoying the windows of the former Bell Art Club. The weavers previously had two sites — a room in Sundial and a room in Bell.

The group was asked to vacate the Sundial and the Bell rooms and combine space into the former Bell Art Club room. The space vacated at Sundial has become the home of the Macintosh portion of the computer club. IBM enthusiasts still meet at Fairway.

While the road to making these changes has been filled with political pot holes, Jaslow said she is pleased with the results.

"I feel like a mother who has hatched her children," she said. "Now they're on their way — they're on their own."

# Build a 500-seat theater <sup>D.V.</sup> at Bell Recreation Center

By ED VICTOR 9-23-96

Last fall, when it was proposed that Mountain View Auditorium be converted to a theater, no one was prepared for the tremendous outcry and opposition to this idea.

This huge protest should convince everyone that the use of Mountain View as a theater site should be discarded.

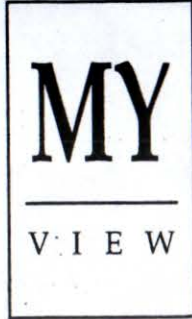
But this does not mean that we should forget altogether about building a much-needed theater. So, two questions now arise:

- Where shall we build a theater?
- What size would be most feasible for the successful raising of funds to build this theater?

With respect to where the theater should be, let's consider the possibilities suggested in previous letters submitted to this paper.

First, we can't build at the Sun Bowl because of the newly established out-door recreational facilities there, and because of difficulty in getting in and out of the parking area.

Second, I have spoken with the Theater Works people in Peoria. While they would welcome all Sun City residents to participate in their productions, their extensive winter



and summer programs do not permit Sun City organizations to use their facilities to the large extent that we in Sun City would want and need.

Third, those people who wrote in and suggested that we in Sun City use the Stardust Theater in Sun City West must be newcomers, because they are not aware that the bylaws of both communities do not permit this. Also, even if it were allowable, the Stardust Theater is now being used so extensively that it is running into scheduling problems of its own.

So, to me it seems that the best location for a theater is the one that was originally selected, namely, the Bell Recreation Center quadrant at 99th Avenue and Hutton Drive.

The parking is superb, especially in the evening, and the approaches and exits are better than any other location. Consequently, inconveniences to residents in this area would be at a minimum.

Also, no organizations at Bell Center would be dislocated at all. Incidentally, this location is the one that Del Webb himself originally set aside for a theater.

So, I would like to recommend to the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors that it strongly consider returning the site of the theater to Bell Center, and that the board state this location in the formal ballot. This would put to rest the fears of those who use both Moun-

tain View and Bell auditoriums.

Finally, let me talk a bit about the size of the theater and its effect on fund-raising.

Our initial drive for raising \$6 million for a 1,500-seat theater failed because, while there were many generous persons who donated to the fund, there were too many others who were so skeptical of raising such a large amount that either they adopted a let's-wait-and-see attitude or else they refused to contribute at all.

I personally think that it would have been much easier to raise \$2 million for a 500-seat theater.

Notice that I have suggested a 500-seat theater, not a more expensive 800-seat theater. This will please the large number of Sun City organizations (choral, dance, and musical) who always wanted a smaller 500-seat theater, and who vigorously suggested this size.

Yet, at the planning meetings these organizations were consistently ignored by those who wanted and pushed through the decision for the expensive 1,500-seat theater.

I welcome the formal ballot in December. I know that, with the ballot worded clearly, the results will be a true and honest reflection of the feelings of all the Sun City residents.

*The writer is a resident of Sun City.*

# Recreation Centers board fails to resolve dues problem

By Barbara Deters 11-28-96  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — For a second time, the Recreation Centers board deadlocked on whether to restructure annual membership dues, which some residents have deemed unfair to singles.

But several board members vowed to continue raising the issue until it is resolved.

Board members thought they had enough votes at last week's meeting to pass a new annual assessment fee structure. The new structure would call for an annual assessment fee of \$115 per household — with a household consisting of one person — and each additional person named in the deed also would pay \$115 a year.

The proposal would have eliminated a two-tier fee structure in which 29,475 residents who bought their homes before 1992 were grandfathered under a different fee structure. Those residents have been paying \$100 per person. Those who bought their homes after 1992 have been paying \$200 per household.

That means a single person who bought before 1992 pays \$100 a year, but a single person who purchased a home after 1992 pays \$200 per year.

The board's vote on the issue was split 4-4 when Carol Jaslow, who voted in favor of a similar proposal at last month's board meeting, changed her mind. The board only has eight members. Nat Jampel resigned several months ago.

Last month, the deadlock came when Doris Gregory voted against the measure, saying she wanted more time for discussion.

Last week, Gregory voted in favor of the proposal and vowed to bring the issue up again next month. She also said she'd be proposing to increase transfer fees paid by new Sun City home buyers from \$300 to \$400 as a way of raising revenues for the centers.

A separate proposal to increase the annual fee 5 percent across the board and leave the grandfathering clause intact was also defeated. Only Don Pritchett and Chuck Chadbourn voted for it.

The deadlock surprised some board members and frustrated others.

"We go into these study sessions on Monday and we bat these things around," said board member Dick Austin.

Austin said he thought Gregory had changed her vote, so the proposal would win on a 5-3 split. He hadn't counted on anybody else changing his or her mind.

President Ed Anderson was angry, saying votes like this "put a bad image on the board."

While people have a right to change their minds, he said, "why do they change it between Monday and Thursday? It's frustrating."

Chuck Westerveld, who had introduced the proposal, said there was no reason to delay the issue and every reason to vote for it. He said the Recreation Centers needed a dues increase to help with the 1997 budget and he complained it would probably take six months for new board members to understand the issue before they'd be willing to vote on it.

In explaining her decision, Jaslow said she wanted to make it clear that she wasn't opposed to the motion itself. She just thought the board shouldn't be voting on the issue just two weeks before the group's membership goes to the polls to vote for three new board members.

"I didn't know it would come out 4-4 but I feel that having waited this long that we can wait until January," she said. "Surely these people that we're electing don't have their heads in the sand. It won't take them a year to get up to speed. They're certainly aware of the problems, know the options presented and know that we haven't had an increase in years."

Some residents at the meeting said they were in favor of changing the dues structure so that all residents pay an equal amount, but said they didn't see why dues had to be increased in the process.

"I think they should have voted for the increase today," said Wilho Puro, a 20-year Sun City resident, after the meeting.

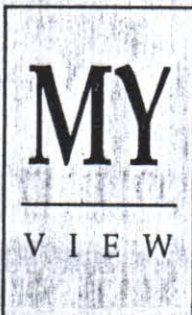
Former board member Pete Cipriano said the board should have eliminated the grandfather clause, and instituted a \$200 annual fee on all homes.

## \$200 recreation fee acceptable

By WERNER R. KOEHLER 11-29-96

Much has been said recently about the \$200 annual recreation center fee imposed on a per-household basis, and legal action has been started to get this changed — the reasoning being that with only one person in a household using the recreation centers, their fee should be half that of a two-person household.

When we moved to Sun City, we understood that there would be an annual fee of \$200 to us for the use of these facilities, whether or not we used them, and we accepted that.



However, in light of the recent controversy over this fee, there are other things that should be pointed out.

■ We have never used any of the recreation center facilities. If a single-person household should only pay half the fee, should we pay any?

■ What fee would be appropriate for a two-person household if only one person uses the recreation centers?

■ Our present fees probably will increase if a lower fee is established for single-person households, meaning that even though we do not use these facilities, we will be subsidizing to an even greater extent than we now do, those who do. Is this fair to

us and others like us?

■ While most single-person households are either widows or widowers, I am sure there are some who are single by choice, and some who moved here as widows, widower or single persons, accepting the \$200 fee at that time. If it was acceptable then, it should be acceptable now.

Perhaps the annual fee should be abolished entirely and the centers operated strictly on a user-fee basis. I think that the \$200 annual fee would then look pretty small to anyone using the centers on a regular basis.

The writer is a resident of Sun City.

# Arts center voted down, foes elected

By Barbara Deters  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Recreation Centers voters turned down the idea of constructing a performing arts center by more than a 2-to-1 margin in last week's local election.

Voters also elected three board members who opposed construction of the center.

## INSIDE

More community election results, Page 3.

Winning three-year terms on the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. in Tuesday's election were Ed McCrea and Marion James, who had actively opposed

construction of the performing arts center, and Dick Elton, who said he'd like to see an art center built, but not for a few years.

Candidates losing in Tuesday's election were Phyllis Roach, Al Cohen and Lynne Ormandy.

The vote counts were: McCrea, 4,507; James, 4,013; Elton, 3,727; Roach, 3,510; Cohen, 3,495; and Ormandy, 2,504.

The vote on the performing arts center was 2,239 in favor of building it, 5,795 against.

Voter turn out was better than last year's. With 8,244 of the organization's 38,000

— See **VOTE**, Page 3

## VOTE

eligible members casting ballots, voter turnout was 21.7 percent. Last year, 6.8 percent, or 2,581 eligible members, cast ballots.

Board members take office Jan. 1, joining members Chuck Westerveld, Chuck Chadborne, Carol Jaslow, Bud Moriarty, Dick Austin and Don Pritchett.

Leaving the board are Ed Anderson, Doris Gregory and Nat Jampel, who had resigned for health reasons in August.

A key opponent of the performing arts center said he wasn't surprised at the outcome of the vote.

"This is the third time that they were told no. When are they (the Recreation Centers board) going to get the message?" asked Tom Sullivan.

Sullivan said people don't want the

performing arts center because they think their Recreation Centers fees will be raised to pay for it.

Sullivan helped organize a petition drive against construction of the center and gathered 4,000 signatures. However, the board didn't accept the petitions, saying they weren't gathered properly.

The board also sought residents' opinions on the issue with a poll. Those results also came back against the center, but board members complained that some residents stuffed the ballots on the opinion poll.

Elton said he favors the performing arts center, but not right now.

James said the Recreation Centers board is "going too fast on plans with new things" and thinks it should concentrate on existing facil-

ities.

"The Recreation Centers are aging ... and they need to be brought up to date," she said.

Anderson and Austin expressed disappointment with the election results. The board as a whole was strongly in favor of building the theater.

"There was no doubt that a stance

on the PAC had an effect on the way people voted," Anderson said.

Anderson said he believes the community still needs a performing arts center.

"We, as a board from the beginning, handled the promotion of the PAC poorly. But, I still think there is a need for that in this community."

# Sun City board addresses club consolidations

By ANGELA MULL  
Staff writer

Too many clubs using too little space has the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors taking a close look at consolidating the groups.

"We can't continue going like we are," said Board President Don Pritchett at a study session Monday. "We've got all of these underutilized areas. It's a double-edged sword when we do not use what we have."

The board has developed a formula for calculating exactly how much space club mem-

bers use and has applied it to the various Sun City clubs. The five lapidary groups — especially Sundial and Lakeview — have been under scrutiny recently after the formula revealed that a small number of members in the clubs are using a large amount of space. This is contributing to high operational costs relating to electricity, board members said.

Pritchett said he has been in some club rooms where machinery is running although nobody is in the room.

Board member Chuck

Westerveld said the board has to be careful about telling clubs to join together so that the space can be better used.

"If you say that they're underutilizing that room, you've got to say what the heck you want to use that room for," he said.

Westerveld added that he thinks some club members would pay a fee for the time they use the equipment.

Members who belong to the clubs only because they want to sell their crafts as a source of income is another concern of Pritchett's. He said he does

not want the recreation board supporting that kind of use of the clubs.

When people utilize the clubs to make crafts and socialize with others, Pritchett said larger groups seem to enjoy themselves more.

"Clubs that have low attendance don't have nearly as much fun," he said.

But having fun is not all that the clubs should be doing, said board member Carol Jaszlow.

"We want them to speak to new people in town to meet

their needs," she said.

Chuck Chadbourn, another board member, said some problems have resulted after clubs attract new members. New people sometimes feel uncomfortable because they are not treated as well after they complete the initial training period for using the equipment.

"They have to recruit new people and retain them," he said. "If they don't retain them, we have to look at their charters."

In other business, the board

discussed two items that it will vote on during its Thursday meeting:

■ Latin Dance Club officials are seeking a name change to the Latin American Dance Club to more accurately describe the type of music played.

■ The Tweens, a club that has been meeting since October, is seeking a charter. The Tweens is a group for Sun City residents who are still working and want to participate in activities during evenings and weekend hours.



# Clubs trace flux in membership

## Sun Citians log on to computer club

By ANGELA MULL  
Staff writer

During a time when the demand for computers grows more voracious every year, it shouldn't come as a surprise that Fairway Recreation Center's Computer Club has had a membership boom.

Over the last four years, the group has added more members than any other chartered club in Sun City. According to club membership records, in 1993 the Computer Club had 395 members. In 1996, there were 980, an increase of 585.

Club President Gary Howard said many people join the club because relatives give them computers that they don't know how to use.

"It starts off with teaching them how to use it, and the interest grows from there," he said. "I consider it a hobby. It's something you can play with. It's interesting and instead of exercising your body, you're exercising your mind."

Howard said club membership for 1997 is at 1,027, and he expects it to climb to 1,500 in 1998.

"I don't know what to do for space," he said. "We're bursting at the seams right now."

The club meets in two rooms which hold only 70 people each. That can cause problems when more than 140 members show up, Howard said.

Space and utilization problems are one reason Carol Jaslow, Sun City Recreation Centers Board of Directors member, is interested in club membership numbers from 1993 to 1996. Jaslow, who is also the chairwoman of the Clubs Committee, said



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Billie Phillips teaches beginning classes for personal computers at the Fairway Computer Club. The club is the fastest growing in Sun City.

the numbers will help recreation centers officials pinpoint which clubs are in danger of losing their charters.

Clubs whose memberships have dipped consistently below 50 will receive warning letters, Jaslow said. Included in the letters are what the club's problems are and offers to help boost membership.

Clubs that receive letters have until the fall to add members, at which point those who haven't will be contacted again and a merger with another club will be suggested, Jaslow said.

Membership hasn't decreased only at the individual level at Sun City's clubs. Total membership at all clubs has dropped from 27,826 in 1993 to 26,534 in 1996, a decrease of 1,292. Jaslow said the decrease didn't really surprise her.

"Part of the problem is that a lot of clubs have lost members through attrition and have not made a concerted effort to replace people because the club is a social venue and nobody is telling anyone to do anything," she said. "We are trying to urge them to bring their club up to

► See Club rosters, A5

### ■ From A1

snuff or merge with another club whose membership has gone down. Most are trying to get their membership up so they don't have to merge."

Some of the membership decreases are not as serious as they appear. The biggest decrease from 1993 to 1996 was in the Sundial Recreation Center's Travel Trailer Club. Membership decreased by 202 over the four-year period, but was still 1,466 in 1996. At one point in 1994, the group hit 2,500 members.

Jaslow said she was very surprised at the membership numbers in individual clubs.

"There are some that show some really good increases and some we hadn't anticipated are really down," she said.

The craft clubs that she expected to see fading out aren't. However, one club whose membership decreased unexpectedly was Fairway's Sun City Men's Softball group. The group earned its charter in 1995 and had a membership of 225. In 1996, it had 125 members.

"It's still sizeable, but that surprised me," Jaslow said.

Another interesting trend Jaslow noted was the decrease in membership at the bridge clubs. Of the 19 contract and duplicate bridge clubs, 16 have had decreased memberships since 1993, one has the same number of members and two increased their memberships. Six clubs have fewer than 50 members.

Of the clubs that lost members, the Lakeview Recreation

Center's Saguaro Club lost the most. The contract bridge club had 202 members in 1993 and 130 in 1996, a decrease of 72.

Groups that have had solid memberships and membership increases have active leaderships, Jaslow said, such as the one in the Bell Recreation Center's Sun City Ballroom Dance Club. Membership there has gone from 78 in 1993 to 424 in 1996, an increase of 346.

One trend with political implications is the steady increase in membership at Oakmont Recreation Center's Democrats Club. The group had 56 members in 1993 and 380 in 1996. Jaslow said the increase could be because the group is attracting more of Sun City's younger crowd.

At the other end of the political spectrum, membership at Sundial's Sun City Republican Club steadily increased until 1996. In 1993, there were 440 members. In 1995, there were 725 members, an increase of 285. However, membership dropped from 725 in 1995 to 446 in 1996, a decrease of 279.

Republicans Club President Anne Doyle said she's not sure why there was such a large decrease from 1995 to 1996. However, she said Sun City is more of a conservative area than a liberal one, which could explain why overall membership for 1996 is higher for the Republicans than the Democrats.

In 1996, the Republicans had 446 members while the Democrats had 380.



**Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.**  
*"City of Volunteers"*

DATE: 2 October 1997  
 TO: You, as an important and former RCSC Director  
 FROM: Dick Elton, current RCSC Director and Director of INFO-EXPO  
 SUBJ: **Reserved seats for you at the RCSC INFO-EXPO 11/15/97**

It is my hope that somehow you have heard about the RCSC INFO-EXPO being held in the Sundial Auditorium from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, 15 November 1997. But, in the event that it has somehow not come to your attention, a couple of poop sheets explaining some of INFO-EXPO are enclosed.

Why am I bothering you about it? The reason that I'm writing to you is that the Board of Directors would like to not only have you attend the event but, also, would like you to have a reserved seat for the 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. part of the program. There are about 50 of you former Directors still in Sun City and time will not be taken to introduce you individually. You will not be asked to stand up, wave, and say something intelligent. You will be introduced as a group of very important people who have so well served your Rec. Centers and your community.

Now, if you have a little story, or anecdote, or something like a "roast" of Directors or of Management that can be used to entertain the crowd, that would be most welcome. Perhaps you can tell the little story or I could certainly use it in the introductions. Such anecdotes could brighten the program considerably, so think about it please and then let me know. OK?.

Anyhow, getting back to reserved seating, there will be a post with a sign on it "FORMER BOARD MEMBERS" and seats there will be marked "RESERVED" for you and your guest or spouse. Just please call Helen and confirm that (1) you will be there and (2) would like reserved seating for one or two. Or, you may call me at home with that same information (933-9573) but not after 9:00 p.m.!

I am sorry that this letter could not be properly addressed to you individually in recognition of the important person that you are. Please understand that these are very busy times and I simply do not have time. But I do look forward to having you at the INFO-EXPO and being able to say "hello" to you and having you tell me how to relax and take it easy and stop worrying about the Rec. Centers. I need that.

Cordially,

*Dick*

*OVER*

## RCSC INFO-EXPO.

=====

The RCSC INFO-EXPO will be held in the Sundial Auditorium on Saturday, 15 November 1997, from 8:00a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The event is designed to alert the membership (of the Rec. Centers corporation) as to the enormous amount of opportunity that is provided for members to keep active, stay well, and be happy both day and night. Those attending will be reminded of all of the recreational, social, learning and fun possibilities that exist. They will learn a good deal of who does what behind the scenes. They will learn something of who has the major responsibilities in management. In particular, they will learn about the 150 clubs and groups which are a major part of the Rec. Centers operation.

Much of this understanding and learning will come about because everyone has the opportunity to have their written questions about their Recreation Centers answered on 15 November. About 15 September forms will be available at all monitors stations, and other heavy traffic areas, on which they can write their question(s). All questions will be answered. Some question/answers will be written on sheets to pick up at the INFO-EXPO. Other questions will be responded to in a variety of ways and persons during the 9 to 11 program.

### PROGRAM:

8:00 to 9:00am About 120 clubs and groups will have decorated tables in the east and west wings of Sundial Auditorium. There will 2 club members at each club table to explain what their club does. There will be prizes for (1) the best decorated table; (2) the best handout materials; (3) the best overall presentation including costume. This is a highlight.

Also, there will be live music. There will two refreshment areas open. The Board of Directors will be present in a booth up front to hand out game cards and coupons for door prizes. There will be demonstrations of a treadmill and bicycle.

9:00 to 11:00am. This will be the program in the center portion of the auditorium which will be a variety program aimed partly at specifically answering certain questions which were submitted. This portion will feature a variety of presentation techniques but can not really be written out until later. There will be signed reserved seats in this center section (seating 900) for governing boards from the S.C. Library, C.O.A., Ambassadors, H.O.A., as well as former Directors, some committees, and monitors. Awards to clubs, door prizes, game prizes, etc. will be announced during this portion of the morning.

11:00 to 12:00noon A repetition of what was going on from 8 to 9 with more refreshments (hope to have a refreshment not offered at 8 to 9), more music, and more mingling because people now feel more free and know more and want to talk to other individuals more and see the club tables that won prizes and that they missed earlier.

# Fitness coach pumps up Sun Citians

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

Sun Citians eager to hit the weights but fearful of aggravating a medical condition can now get medical advice right in the weight room.

Over the past year Don Willes, manager of Wellness Services with Sun Health, has been coaching participants in their recreation center workouts.

The move has been applauded by the centers' board of directors, which approached Sun Health about pumping up a fitness overview.

And Willes says the service has helped him personalize fitness for nearly a thousand Sun Citians.

"We thought the collaboration would be a good idea," said Willes. While the numbers of those working out in the rec centers continues to rise, many people don't know how to use equipment or fear imploding a medical condition.

But for a \$25 fee, Willes will step in and pen a personalized plan.

Rud Moriarty, vice president with the Sun City recreation board, calls the plan a vital service and a boon to government.

"It takes away our liability and provides information," he said. "It meets the specific needs of in-

dividuals."

Participants join Sun Health's Personalized Advantage program, giving them two sessions with Willes, including a wellness profile and fitness assessment. Then they get physical.

"This population has a lot of health concerns," Willes said. He tries to alleviate those concerns and guide exercisers around new Cybex gear installed at Marinette and Mountain View recreation centers.

Next year the board will pump updated gear into Lakeview, Sundial and Bell centers, said Moriarty.

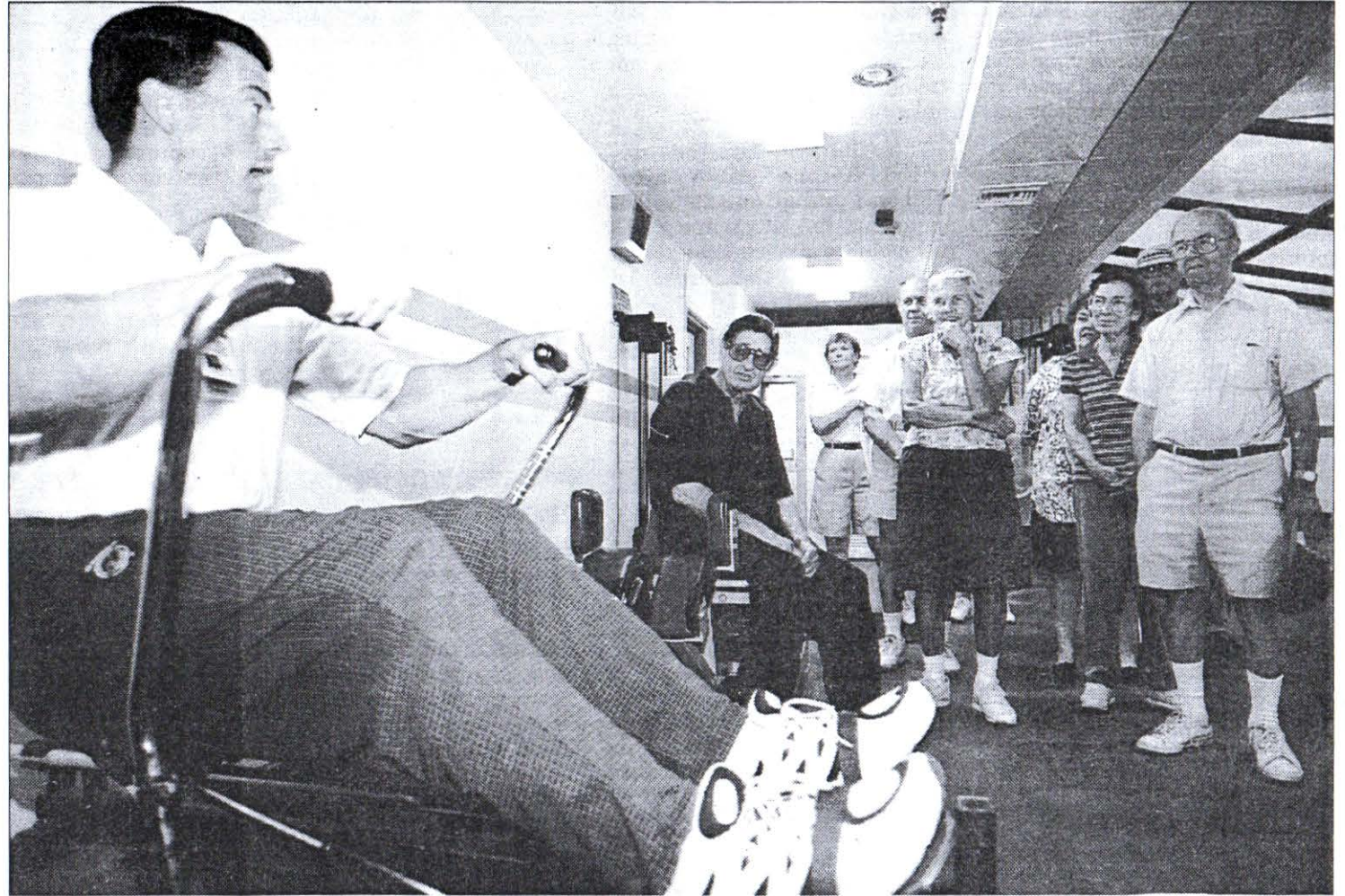
"It accommodates the needs of the people," Moriarty said of boosting fitness with modern machines. "It's a good gesture for the future."

The board recently approved the purchase of two treadmills at Bell and Mountain View centers, and will go to bid on equipment for other sites, he said.

Willes, meanwhile, confers on fitness each Tuesday afternoon at various centers. He also credits the board with hosting frequent orientations.

"We're getting a good response to this," he said.

For information, call Willes at 876-5635.



Don Willes, a Sun Health exercise physiologist, demonstrates the proper posture for using the rowing machine in the fitness room at the Sundial Recreation Center.

Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

# Sun City rec board mulls budget hike

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

Exercise is booming in Sun City, with fitness room attendance up 17 percent this year. But does that necessitate a budget hike of \$50,000 for more space?

Yes, says the Recreation Centers Board of Directors.

At Thursday's meeting, directors are expected to vote to increase the centers' budget by \$50,000. The money is to revamp the Lakeview fitness room, now too small to accommodate those turning out to pump up, said President Don Pritchett.

"I think it's money that will be well spent," Pritchett said. Similar renovations in other centers, he added, have been well received.

"I think it's shown that if we build something nice they will come," he said.

Next year's budget includes money for new Lakeview equipment. But more than spiffy machinery is needed if the room is to serve exercisers, he said.

The plan is to expand the room

into an existing spa area. But, Pritchett said, the ceiling must also be torn out and a larger air conditioning unit installed.

"It's turned out to be a more difficult job," he said.

Lakeview continues to be one of the more popular recreation sites, with 41 percent of those polled in a recent homeowners survey saying they prefer the center, at 10626 Thunderbird Blvd.

Income results look good for the recreation centers, with membership assessments up \$148,668 from the budget year-to-date, attributed mostly to a fee increase that took effect in January.

Costs for wages are \$192,149 below budget and total income is \$86,382 beyond the mark set for this year.

In total, the recreation centers are running \$579,533 under budget, with expenses totaling \$7,923,240, to date. The budget set for 1997 is \$11,382,125 in expenses and \$12,794,211 in income.

"We're in good shape. Everything is operating very well," said Director

► See Centers running, A7

10-31-97

## ◀ From A1

Chuck Westerveld.

Members debated other motions in Monday's study session, including a move limiting clubs to 30 hours a week in the summer.

The board also plans to eliminate a rule requiring that club instructors give 10 percent of fees back to the centers. The rule was sharply criticized in recent weeks.

In another motion eventually bumped from the agenda, Director Carol Jaslow suggested the board find a way of increasing "equity" between clubs, since some clubs donate "great amounts" back to the centers — to pay equipment and other costs — while others make "puny" contributions.

"We need to have an amount for the replacement of equipment. And we need to provide a cushion for clubs," she said. "I think this needs to be looked at very carefully."

Thursday's monthly public meeting begins at 9 a.m. in Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

Sat., Nov. 1 and Sun., Nov. 2, 1997

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## Rec board seeks ways to help declining clubs

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

The odds are stacking up against Sun City bingo.

Dogged by attrition and intense competition from reservation casinos, local bingo games and organ concerts are attracting fewer people.

This week the president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City said the organization may have to help the ailing clubs.

"They are really hurting," said Don Pritchett. "We really need to help them."

Pritchett clicked off a list of problems faced by bingo and organ clubs, including falling attendance and rising expenses.

He suggested cutting fees paid by clubs to use recreation halls. Other board members supported the idea.

"All I care about is that we cover our costs," said board Director Chuck Chadbourn.

Clubs that rent space in Sundial and Mountain View auditoriums could receive a break on weekly rent, up to as much as \$65, if Pritchett's proposal is accepted.

The centers, required by Arizona law to charge rent from clubs that allow open attendance, would cut Mountain View costs from \$147 to \$100 a week under the plan. Rent in Sundial would drop from \$200 to \$135 a week.

"I don't know if this would be enough," said Pritchett. "But so many good things have happened this year. Clubs have reduced their costs ... I say we go ahead and do it."

No official motion was made in Thursday's board meeting, with directors agreeing to investigate the matter.

However an official with Sundial Men's Club, which runs a weekly bingo game, said a break in rent would be a great help to the club.

"If we could drop our rental fees we could run better bingo, because we'd have more funds to work with," said Sundial Men's Club President John Gunner.

Gaming competition hits the club at all sides, with tour buses shuttling Sun Citians to casinos and civic groups running their own games.

Attrition also takes its toll, with fewer new members coming forward to fill the ranks of older players.

Gunner said the club could cut its prize money — it now awards at least \$100 in every game. But then "the players would not be happy."

Therefore, he sees the rental decrease as one of the most viable ideas.

Organ clubs, too — hosting organ concerts about once a month in Sun City — are seeing a dip in attendance. But at least one club wouldn't benefit from a break in rent.

Russ Robbins, president of the Harmony Organ Club, says the group restricts its concerts to Sun City recreation cardholders, and thus doesn't have to pay rent, as required by the state.

Still, he says attendance has dropped, though the club is holding strong at about 1,000 members. He likewise sees membership falling because of competing activities.

"People these days would rather stay home with their computers," he said.

Helene Gumina, president of the Sun City Organ Club, also has seen her club's membership drop. But she adds this is "no problem."

## In Sun City, 3 groups pick 13 to serve

By Lori Baker

The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — Residents elected community leaders to serve for the next three years.

Elections were held Tuesday for the boards of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Sun City Taxpayers Association.

In the Recreation Centers board election, Richard Ohnstad, a retired controller, captured the most votes, 1,628. Other winners were Jim Matise, a retired businessman, 1,264 votes, and John Powell, a retired businessman, 1,169 votes. Voting tallies for the other two candidates were John Laue,

915, and William Nyblade, 703.

Board members oversee seven recreation centers, two bowling centers, eight golf courses and an \$11 million annual operating budget and set policies for the 450 employees. The rec centers have about 38,000 members.

Sun City Home Owners Association members elected five new board members: Frank Bowman, a retired chief financial officer for the Arizona Department of Transportation; Lucille Corkrey, a retired elementary school principal; Blaine Donaldson, a retired health care executive; Robert

— Please see SUN CITY, Page 4

## Sun City chooses 13 to serve on 3 boards

— SUN CITY, from Page 1

Kortright, a retired businessman; and Michael Rotchford, a retired high school teacher and businessman. Vote tallies were not available. Other candidates were Earl Peterson and Claude Wall.

The 21,000-member association is an advocate for Sun City residents with county and state officials. The association works to safeguard the water supply, advise members of reliable tradespeople and attempts to protect members from scams. The group also works to improve public transportation and to protect senior citizen overlay zoning in Sun City.

In the Sun City Taxpayers Association board election, there was no contest because five people ran for five seats. They are Bernard Bernardini, a lawyer; Raymond Dare, a retired General Electric Co. employee; Henry Darmstadter, a retired business owner; Gerald Dolezal, a retired real estate broker; and Robert Swander, a real estate sales executive.

The taxpayers group, which has 19,000 members, was founded in 1960 to protect Sun Citians from unwarranted tax increases and unjustified utility rate increases.

Lori Baker can be reached at 444-7120 or at lori.baker@pni.com via e-mail.

Northwest Valley

## COMMUNITY

# New leaders chosen for Sun Cities

## 9 elected to 2 boards in Sun City West

By Lori Baker  
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY WEST — Voters have elected new board members for the Property Owners and Residents Association and the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

In the PORA race, the top vote-getter in Tuesday's election was Phil Garner, a retired engineer, with 1,267 votes. Other winners were Caryl Shafer, a retired hospital administrator, 1,118 votes; John Shipe, a retired engineer, with 1,064 votes; Bruno Talvacchia, a retired engineer, 976 votes; and Dean Snell, a retired engineer, 953 votes. They all will serve terms from 1998 to 2000.

Talvacchia had been appointed last year to serve a partial term because a board member resigned. He was eligible to run for a full term.

In the Recreation Centers election, eight people competed for four seats. John Firestone, a retired businessman, received the most votes, 2,326. He will serve a three-year term along with Richard Catlin, a retired human resources executive, 2,058, and Hal Lind, a retired engineer, 1,907 votes. In addition, Dick Tollefson, a retired businessman, won a one-year term with 1,743 votes.

— Please see 2 GROUPS, Page 4

## In Sun City, 3 groups pick 13 to serve

By Lori Baker  
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — Residents elected community leaders to serve for the next three years.

Elections were held Tuesday for the boards of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Sun City Taxpayers Association.

In the Recreation Centers board election, Richard Ohnstad, a retired controller, captured the most votes, 1,628. Other winners were Jim Matisse, a retired businessman, 1,264 votes, and John Powell, a retired businessman, 1,169 votes. Voting tallies for the other two candidates were John Laue,

915, and William Nyblade, 703.

Board members oversee seven recreation centers, two bowling centers, eight golf courses and an \$11 million annual operating budget and set policies for the 450 employees. The rec centers have about 38,000 members.

Sun City Home Owners Association members elected five new board members: Frank Bowman, a retired chief financial officer for the Arizona Department of Transportation; Lucille Corkrey, a retired elementary school principal; Blaine Donaldson, a retired health care executive; Robert

— Please see SUN CITY, Page 4

## 2 groups pick leaders Sun City chooses 13 to serve on 3 boards

— 2 GROUPS, from Page 1

Other PORA candidates' results were: Ruth Everman, 912 votes; Ginny Fletcher, 900 votes; Helene Mamber, 740 votes; and Thomas Fagan, 888 votes.

PORA is a quasi-government organization with about 16,000 members. It provides lobbying on elder issues and a consumer referral service with vendors in 250 categories. It also acts as a central clearinghouse for residents to present concerns about the community, resolves deed restriction violations and sponsors field trips. The Master Gardeners, a group of volunteers who provide advice about choosing plants and disease control, are in the PORA office.

On the rec board, Firestone, Lind

and Tollefson have been serving one-year terms ending this month to finish for board members who resigned. They were eligible to run because they served partial terms.

Other candidates' vote tallies were: Ernest Edison, 1,672 votes; Dudley Gibson, 1,426 votes; Margaret D'Amico, 1,290 votes; and Gary James, 992 votes.

The board oversees the operation of the Recreation Centers facilities, which include four recreation centers, seven golf courses and a library. Board members make policies affecting the Recreation Centers' 400 employees and a \$13 million annual operating budget.

Lori Baker can be reached at 444-7120 or at lori.baker@pni.com via e-mail.

— SUN CITY, from Page 1

Kortright, a retired businessman; and Michael Rotchford, a retired high school teacher and businessman. Vote tallies were not available. Other candidates were Earl Peterson and Claude Wall.

The 21,000-member association is an advocate for Sun City residents with county and state officials. The association works to safeguard the water supply, advise members of reliable tradespeople and attempts to protect members from scams. The group also works to improve public transportation and to protect senior citizen overlay zoning in Sun City.

In the Sun City Taxpayers Association board election, there was no contest because five people ran for five seats. They are Bernard Bernardini, a lawyer; Raymond Dare, a retired General Electric Co. employee; Henry Darmstadter, a retired business owner; Gerald Dolezal, a retired real estate broker; and Robert Swander, a real estate sales executive.

The taxpayers group, which has 19,000 members, was founded in 1960 to protect Sun Citians from unwarranted tax increases and unjustified utility rate increases.

Lori Baker can be reached at 444-7120 or at lori.baker@pni.com via e-mail.



# Three elected to SC Rec Board

Just over 2,000 of 43,000 members

cast votes in annual election of board

BY JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

who received 1,628 votes; Jim Maise, 1,264 votes; and John Powell, 1,169 votes.

Sun City has some new leaders though the selection was made by approximately 5 percent of eligible voters — the lowest turnout in at least three years.

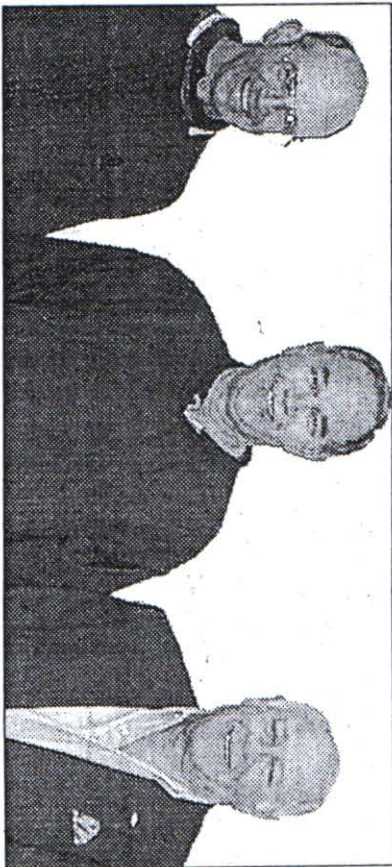
The new officers for the Recreation Centers of Sun City are: Dick Ohnstad,

They will fill vacancies left open by Dick Austin, board member; Carol Jaslow, secretary; and Chuck Westerveld, treasurer.

The installation process will be held

See ■ REC BOARD, Page 5

Dick Ohnstad, John Powell and Jim Maise (left to right) were elected to three-year terms on the Sun City Rec Centers' board of directors in last week's election.



## HOA Winners

✓ Lucille Corkrey  
✓ Bob Kortright  
✓ Frank Bowman  
✓ Blaine Donaldson  
✓ Mike Rotchford

## SCTA Winners

✓ Bernard Bernardi  
✓ Raymond Dare  
✓ Henry Darmstadler  
✓ Gerald Dolezal  
✓ Robert Swander

More on Page 5, 7

## REC BOARD

at the regular board meeting, 9 a.m. Dec. 18 at Sundial Auditorium, 14801 103rd Ave. New members, however, will not take office until Jan. 1, 1998. Terms are three years.

Mr. Ohnstad said he doesn't have an agenda as a new board member.

"I think our present board is doing a good job and I want to continue with it," he said.

Mr. Maise agreed.

"I just want to step in and see what's going on," he said. "It's a learning process, and I want to represent the people of Sun City."

Mr. Powell said he also looks forward to working with the board, but would like to see some changes implemented.

"I will try to instigate a hold-back program on contracts (withhold final payment until work is deemed satisfactory) awarded by the Recreation Centers to ensure good performance."

Mr. Powell said he wants to try and maintain a good financial program, upgrading all facilities and

keeping them clean and attractive for the members.

The new board member added that he wants the avenue of communication to thrive.

"I will continue working on improving communications between the board, clubs and the residents," he said.

The new directors for the Home Owners Association are: Lucille Corkrey, Bob Kortright, Frank Bowman, Blaine Donaldson and Mike Rotchford.

Members will serve three-year terms, which began Dec. 9. Howard Matthias, HOA president, said they do not release candidate's total votes.

Claude Wall also has been appointed to fill the remaining two years of the seat vacated by Helen Struble this past year due to family health problems.

In addition, Earl Peterson was appointed in a two-year term vacated by Jerry Hirsch's resignation last year.

According to recreation center

voter turnout.

"It wasn't at the lack of my trying," she said. "Why we have such apathy in Sun City is a wonder. It just doesn't make sense to me. ... The only time they get real excited about something is when we do something wrong."

Mr. Matthias said he also was disappointed with the voter turnout.

"We'll be looking at this," he said. "We're disappointed, but not ... with the (new) candidates."

board members, only 2,041 out of 38,000 residents, or 5.37 percent of eligible voters, cast ballots in this year's election.

Last year, they said voter turnout was 21.7 percent, owing mostly to the controversial nature of a failed proposal to build an 800-seat performing arts center in the area. Voter turnout the year before was 6 percent.

Marion James, board member, who also was the chairman of the election, was disappointed with the

Daily News-Sun

Monday, July 13, 1998

# Recreation Centers make renovations, add exercise equipment

## Staff report

A few Sun City recreation centers are undergoing some nips and tucks as part of a summer renovation project.

Renovations at Sundial Recreation Center started about two weeks ago and are expected to be finished in mid August.

The changes will bring more space for the sewing club, but decrease the number of pool tables. Lakeview recreation center, which already has about 30 tables, will become the center for billiards play, said Richard Dombrowski, one of the construction site workers.

Joe McHugh, who has been playing pool at Sundial every day for the last six years, said he is pleased with the change.

"It's smaller and cozy. Those larger places tend to be a little impersonal," McHugh said.

Mack Pearson, however, another longtime billiards player, said the new room is too small to play pool

and has room for maybe only two tables instead of the four tables now in use.

The Sundial recreation center pool will also get new fiberglass and they're re-tiling the area round the deck.

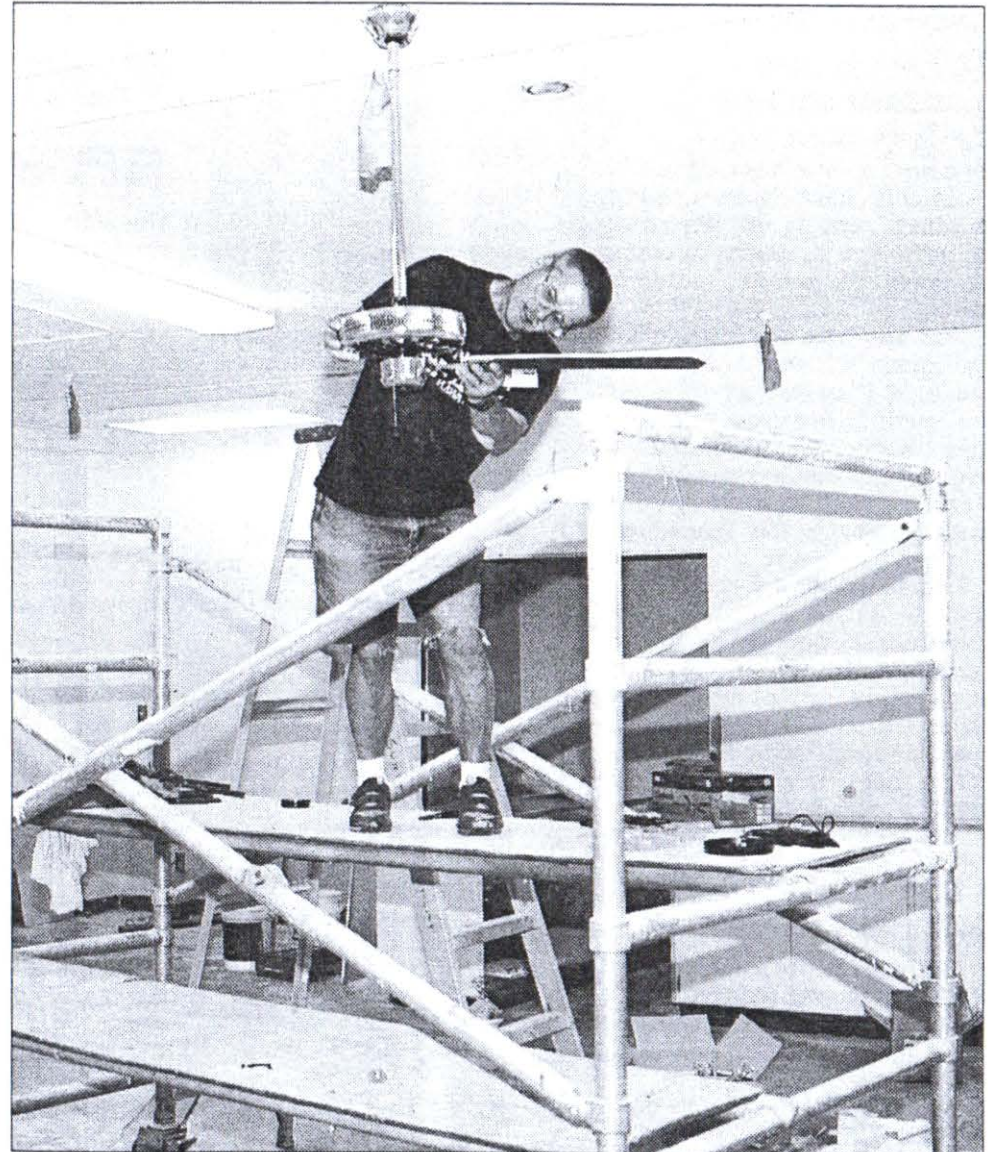
"They found out there were three layers of tile that had been laid in there over the years," Dombrowski said.

The thin linoleum will be replaced with thicker floor covering.

Vacationers will also come back to brand new exercise equipment. The older equipment will be auctioned off at Lakeview at a later date, Dombrowski said.

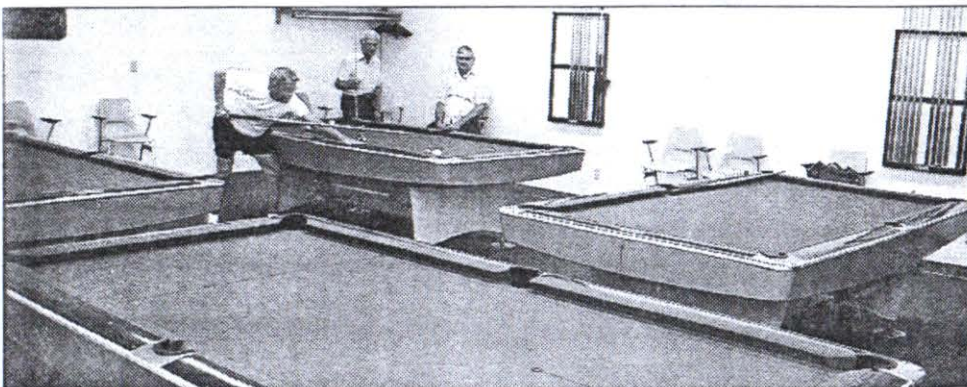
Fairway will see the addition of new rooms for three of its clubs including the china painting club, the ceramics club and the model railroad club.

Construction for the additions began about two weeks ago and cost about \$78,000, said Charlie Pitcher, who oversees the project.



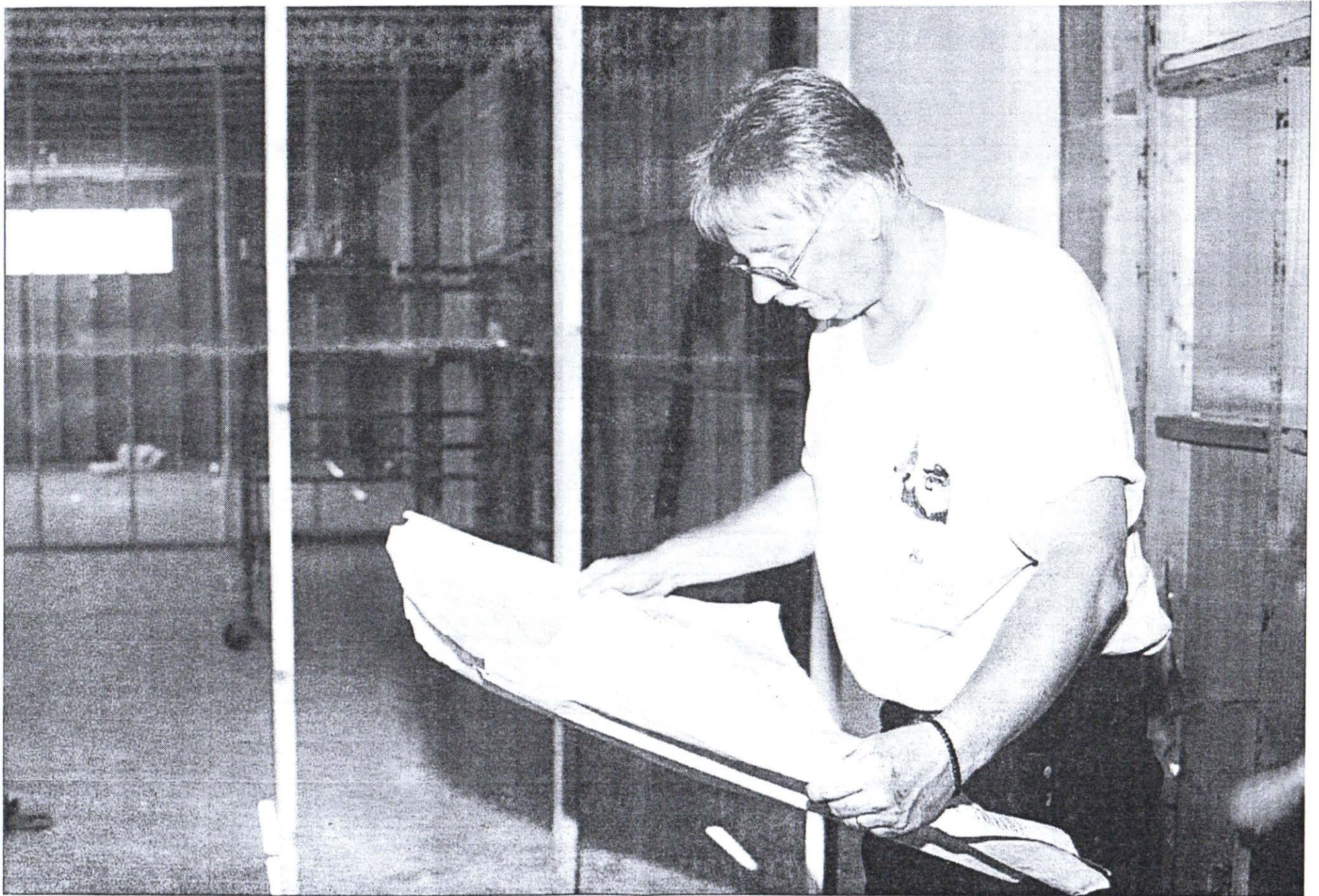
Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Richard Dombrowski, a Sun Dial Recreation Center volunteer, assembles a fan in what was the billiard room and will become the new sewing room in the Sun Dial Recreation Center in Sun City Friday. (OVER)



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Sun Citizens shoot pool in the new more compact billiard room in the Sun Dial Recreation Center in Sun City Friday. The new room houses four tables, six less than in the previous billiard room.



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Leadman Charlie Pitcher looks over plans for the addition he is in which reportedly cost 78,000 dollars and is under construction at the Fairway Recreation Center in Sun City. The addition will house china painting, ceramics and part of the miniature railroad club.

# Rec centers' survey cites changing needs

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

New rules about retirement and old challenges that accompany aging are among the reasons some residents of Sun City aren't making it to the community's recreation centers.

In a survey conducted by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, 19 percent of 200 respondents said they didn't use the centers for a number of reasons.

Younger retirees said they were too busy working. Others cited reasons including a visual handicap and lack of transportation.

One respondent, Clover Westphal of Sun City, said for six years she regularly patronized the Bell Library and grabbed the occasional bite to eat at one of the Bell Center restaurants.

After the death of her husband 10 months ago, however,

Westphal said she found it increasingly difficult to find transportation.

"There were times when I didn't get out of the house for two to three weeks," Westphal said. "Here I live only a matter of a few blocks from the Bell center and felt frustrated I can't even get up there. There are lots of activities but if you can't get out of the house, they are to no avail."

Seventeen percent of the survey's respondents said they felt the same way.

"Transportation was the biggest problem," said Dick Elton, recreation center board member and chairman of the communications committee. A possible solution to the problem would be a trolley similar to the one Del Webb ran through Phase I in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"The cost is prohibitive for any one organization to do it, but I don't know what could

happen if more than one organization kicked in," Elton said.

Many of the problems associated with the drop in use of the recreation centers can be attributed to increased life-span, an issue which is growing more prevalent in the area.

"We've got to do something for these people who are over 80 and who are paying \$115 in rec center fees just like everybody else does," Elton said. "Not only are they over 80 now, but in five years, there are going to be a whole lot of people in their 90s. We can't ignore that segment of Sun City anymore," Elton said.

One of the suggestions made to accommodate this segment of the population was a "hang out" area in one of the recreation centers, where people could gather to drink coffee,

► See Younger residents, A5

## Younger residents ask for changes

◀ From A1

talk or thumb through the newspaper.

Conversely, the recreation centers are also looking to address the needs of younger Sun Citians, who may keep working after retirement age. Many requested activities scheduled after 5 p.m. or on the weekends.

Julie Haning, 56, works in a salon in Surprise and said she is interested in taking art or pottery classes, but finds the classes aren't offered at times convenient for her.

She also said that some of the entertainment is aging.

"One of the things that really worries me is if things are going to stay the way they are for the last 30 years, no-

body is going to move here. The Baby Boomers aren't going to move in. They don't want old equipment, they want new equipment and they want to have fun," Haning said.

The rec centers recently finished installing nearly \$400,000 of new equipment.

Some of the suggestions made to accommodate this younger crowd included an antiques club, a four-wheel drive club and investment and travel clubs.

Other overall suggestions included an indoor walking track and a theater.

Most of the respondents said they were happy with the current rec centers.



Tina Schade/Daily News-Sun

New officers of the board of directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City are from left, Harold Boudrie, John Powell, Bob Briscoe and Dick Elton.

## Rec centers board elects new leaders

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It was a changing of the guard Monday as the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. Board of Directors elected new officers, most of whom secured their posts by narrow margins.

Bob Briscoe was elected board president by a 5 to 4 vote over Dick Ohnstad, who has held the position since September. Ohnstad is the subject of a recall effort by golfers angry over last year's golf hikes. John Strasheim, who headed the recall against Ohnstad had no comment about the results.

Briscoe is one of the board's newest members, elected in December.

"I'm going to need a lot of guidance and help as a rookie," Briscoe told the board.

One of the first orders of business for the new president will be to assign chairmen to head the rec centers' 12 committees, including budget and finance, long-range planning and investment.

John Powell, who has served on the board for two years, was elected vice president and replaces outgoing

board member Bud Moriarty, who served out a three-year term.

Dick Elton, who was elected as secretary, won by a 5 to 4 vote over Ed McCrea, the former board secretary.

Harold Boudrie, one of board's budget and finance committee members, will continue to serve as treasurer.

Some of the issues the board will contend with in 1999 include a proposed raise in the price of open and league bowling games and a possible mandatory hike in recreation centers membership dues.

The board also elected officers for the Sun City Foundation, a non-profit organization established in the 1980s. The foundation provides financial assistance to residents who need help in paying their recreation center dues.

Newly elected officers for the foundation are McCrea, president; Nancy Root, vice president; Elton, secretary and Boudrie, treasurer.

All terms begin immediately.

# Rec fees likely to rise to \$130 Jan. 1

## Fee increase needed to curb depletion of reserves, say SC Rec Center official

“  
If we wait  
until Jan. 1,  
that makes it  
three years  
since we had  
a fee in-  
crease.”



**Bob Briscoe**  
RCSC Board  
President

By **MIKE RUSSO**  
Independent Newspapers

Sun City residents will have to dig a little deeper to pay their rec center membership fees come the first of the year.

The RCSC board of directors plans to consider hiking the fee from \$115 to \$130 annually during its September meeting.

If approved, the change would become effective Jan. 1.

“If we wait until January 1, that

expenditure cuts need to be examined.

He suggested not overseeding a couple of the golf courses as a way to cut expenses and show members that the board is attempting to control expenses.

General Manager Jim Warfield said that was possible but he would prefer the overseeding program be continued to deter the browning of the fairways during winter months.

“At one time, all the courses were not overseeded,” Mr. Warfield said. However, he predicted such a course of action “will drastically affect the golf community.”

“The people are telling us constantly we need to raise the standards,” Mr. Warfield continued. “You need to tell the people you need so much money to do the things you want done.

“We have eight golf courses, seven centers to maintain, that’s why it costs so much,” he added.

President Briscoe said, “We want country club living but we don’t

makes it three years since we had a fee increase. That is reasonable,” explained board President Bob Briscoe. The last fee increase was effective Jan. 1, 1997.

Discussion over the fee increase grew heated at times and drew an admonition from Mr. Briscoe to keep personal attacks out of the discussion.

The board was split on when to implement the change. Four directors favored Jan. 1 and three wanted the change effective Sept. 1.

want to pay for it.”

He concurred with Mr. Warfield that overseeding should continue.

“Everyone who lives here benefits from the green golf courses, not just golfers. It enhances the property values,” Mr. Briscoe said.

“You can’t just shove things down people’s throats. You have to justify increases,” he added.

Director Ed McCrea remarked, “Sun City must keep in mind we have competition (for retirees) now. We have Sun City West. Sun City Grand, Heritage. If you let the golf courses go brown, we will lose people.

“We have a lot more than other people have got and we have it for less money,” he concluded.

Mr. Matisse also felt residents had not been given sufficient notification of the impending fee increase.

Director Dick Ohnstad refuted that assertion. “We announced last year, even before the budget was passed — probably in August — that we are going to look at a mem-

bership increase.”

Director Jim Matisse opposed any increase.

“We have got to be fair about this,” Mr. Matisse said. “Ten percent of Sun City’s residents are living below the poverty level. How many gallons of milk, loaves of bread will that \$15 buy?” he queried.

Mr. Matisse said he had gotten the 10 percent figure from Interfaith Services. However, data from the 1995 mid-decade census, indicates the number of households in the

community living below the poverty level is among the lowest in the county at 4.65 percent.

Rather than raise the fee, Mr. Matisse suggested the board look for ways to cut expenditures.

“Harold (Boudrie) is working his tail off to nickel and dime expenses. Even taking out pay phones,” Mr. Briscoe observed.

Director Dick Elton, although he favored the increase, agreed that

See ■ REC FEES, Page 9

bership increase.

“It was stated in December. Harold (Boudrie) has announced nearly every month (that a membership fee increase is required),” Mr. Ohnstad continued.

Treasurer Harold Boudrie displayed front page articles from the *Independent* and the *Daily News-Sun* in recent months regarding the imminent fee increase.

“It’s time (for an increase),” Mr. Boudrie said. “We can’t let the reserve get lower. It was over \$5 million; now it’s \$4.8 million and by the end of October it will be down to \$3 million.”

RCSC, according to its bylaws, must maintain a reserve of at least \$2.5 million.

“Last year, the rec centers spent \$222,286 more than it took in,” Mr. Boudrie said.

In 1997-98, the Recreation Centers ran a surplus of \$539,718, according to Mr. Boudrie.

“We are dipping into that reserve pretty heavily,” Mr. Boudrie empha-

Thursday, March 11, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# 'Biggest bargain in town'

## Rec centers fees fall below other facilities in the Valley

By BECKY BRACKEN  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

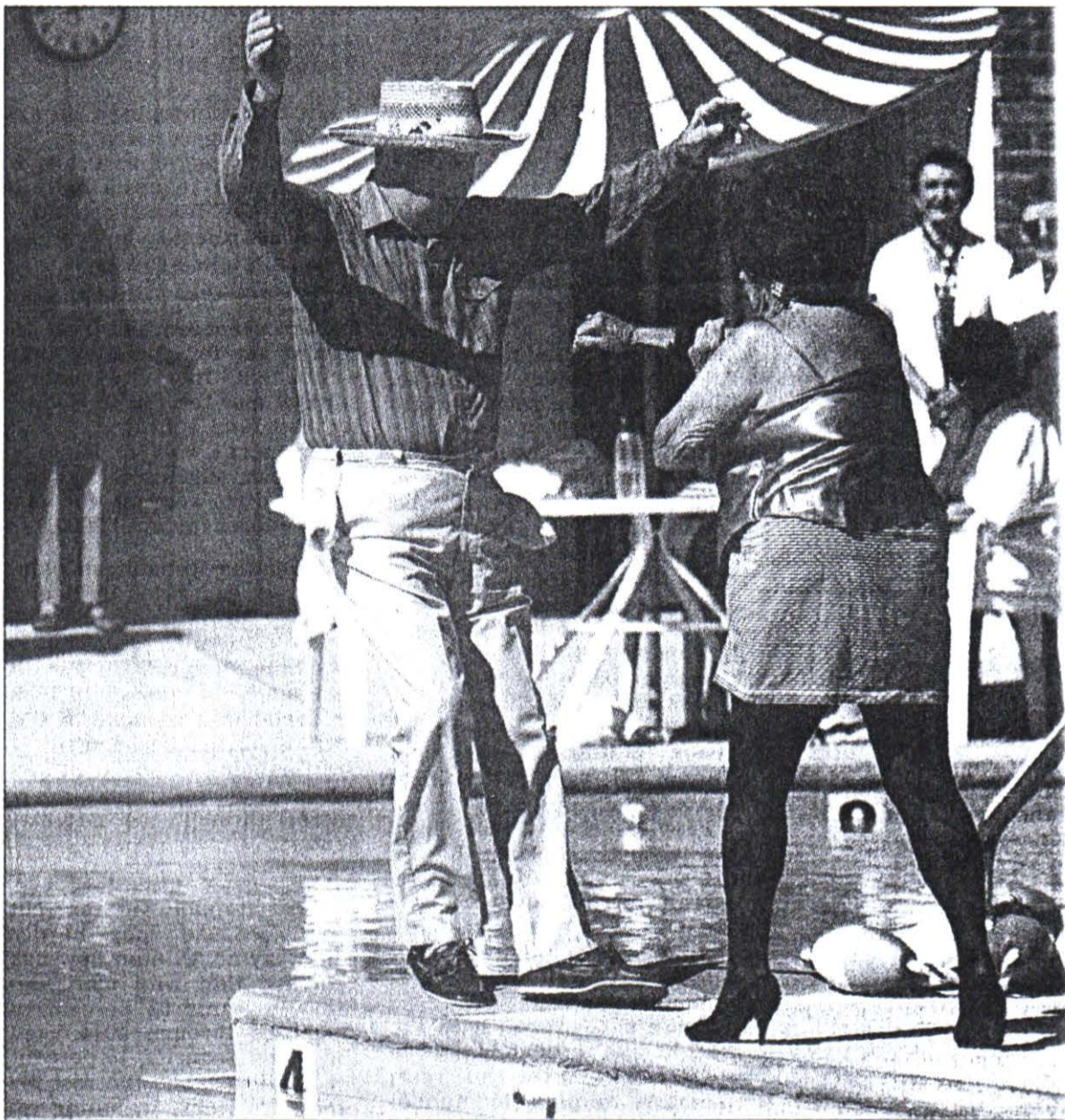
Although homeowners regularly complain about rising membership fees and soaring golf charges, recreation centers in the Sun Cities are among the Valley's better bargains.

"I think we're getting the biggest bargain in town," said Nancy Urbach of Sun City West. "It's a big bargain, that's all I can say."

That's especially true when compared to people who belong to, say, the Scottsdale Country Club, where people pay \$3,800 per person or \$4,800 per couple. That price includes pre-paid greens fees, guest rates, preferred tee times over the public and access to the men's and women's clubs, which offer upscale facilities. The price does not include golf cart rentals.

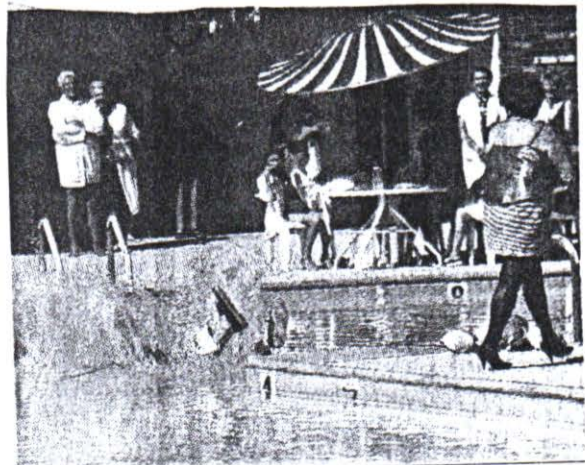
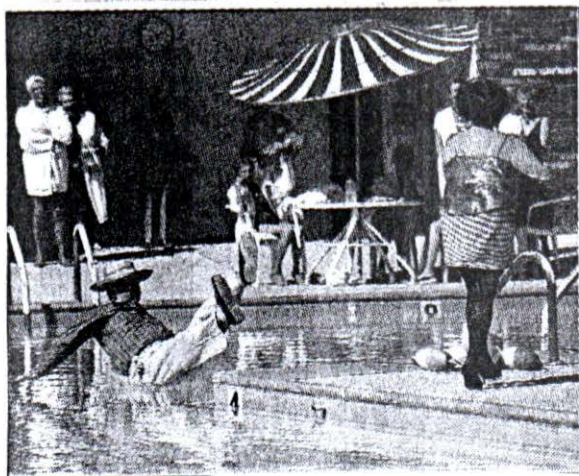
Want to drop from the deluxe to the more ordinary? Q Sports Club memberships are available for \$99-\$199 down and \$37-\$42 per month, depending upon specials. The Q has three Valley locations — Tempe, Phoenix and Scottsdale. Q membership provides access to workout equipment, aerobics classes, a pool, sauna and a steam room.

All but the steam room are available in Sun City and Sun City West rec centers.



Steve Chernek/Daily News

Clell Todd gets a push (above) from "Gertrude Flesh," and then makes a splash (below) during a performance by the Aqua Suns synchronized swim team at the Fairway Recreat Center pool during the Fun-Fair on Saturday.



OVER

meeting rooms. There's also a private library. An additional \$725 allows access to seven golf courses. A cart trail pass will run \$165.

The newest development in the area, Sun City Grand, with more than 2,000 homes completed, operates one large facility with both indoor and outdoor swimming pools, indoor track and fitness center, several arts and crafts rooms and a ballroom available to residents.

The annual cost is \$228 per person. An additional \$1,400 will purchase access to two golf courses — but that includes the trail pass.

Officials of Del Webb Corp. credit the number of amenities and low price to planning.

Unlike municipal facilities, or private clubs, the original cost of all recreation centers' facilities was included in a home's price.

The developer built the recreational amenities as the community developed, and recouped the capital cost by including it — and streets, water lines and all the rest — in lot prices.

Residents today pay only the operating expenses.

Ryan Peterson, a Del Webb Corp. spokesman, said planners decide the number of homes that will be built, what amenities to include and how much it will cost to maintain the facilities.

From that, they determine the rec center dues. To keep costs low in the initial phase, the developer pays rec center fees on lots that don't yet have homes. In general, developers also retain control of the homeowners or recreation association until the commu-

## The cost of recreation

price per year/per person

Scottsdale Country Club	\$3,800
<small>Includes pre-paid green fees, guest rates, preferred tee times and access to clubs</small>	
Sun Lakes/Tempe	\$732
<small>Includes beach, tennis club, pool, workout facilities, sports courts, park</small>	
Q Sports Club	\$543 - \$703
<small>Includes pool, sauna, workout facilities, aerobics</small>	
Sun City Rec Center	\$115
<small>w/golf access</small>	
Sun City West Rec Center	\$133
<small>w/golf access</small>	
Sun City Grand Rec Center	\$228
<small>w/golf access</small>	
	\$1,400

nity is almost built out.

"Country clubs and other facilities don't have as many members as the different Sun City associations do," Peterson said. "Because we have so many people to share the cost, the rates are lower."

Webb officials also consider the amenities potential residents want.

"For instance, if we determine that only 1 percent of the people moving into a community are bowlers, we won't build a bowling alley," Peterson said. "There's no reason to pay for it if no one will use it."

Peterson said that is evident in the differences among the amenities offered at the older Sun Cities and the new Sun City Grand.

"We put in facilities that create a more resort-type of environment in Sun City Grand. We did tons of research on the first wave of

Baby Boomers that will most likely be attracted to the community," Peterson said.

He said the research show potential residents more interested in rock climbing and in-line skating than in shuffleboard, which is offered in Sun City, so it was left out of Grand.

Once Del Webb Corp. sells all of the houses in a development, operation of the recreation centers is left in the hands of an elected board.

After all of the homes in a development are sold, Del Webb no longer subsidizes the operations of the facilities, so the rec boards are faced with the challenge of setting yearly fees to cover all costs and provide reserves for major improvements or repairs.

Sun City board members now are struggling with the prospect of a fee hike. The rec board continues to explore alternatives to raising fees,

year, but right now we're looking at a lot of different alternatives to raising fees," Briscoe said. "There may be a small increase in bowling rates later in the year."

Boards try to keep costs low, but inflation and the cost of maintaining aging facilities often demands larger budgets. The decision to raise rates is never easy, said Mauryne Young, spokeswoman for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

"It's considered extremely carefully," Young said. "There are 30,000 members to be considered with all different income levels. We only raise fees when absolutely necessary."

But, Young said, it's necessary to maintain the quality of the facilities to keep residents happy and to keep the value of their investments in both the recreation facilities and their homes intact.

Sun City West raised fees effective July 1, 1998, from \$126.50 to \$133 per person per year.

Young said while there were a few members of the Sun City West community upset at the hike, most felt they were still getting a great bargain.

"Most people understand that just like the cost of bread goes up, so does the cost of maintaining cars, homes and rec center facilities," she said.

Sun City in Las Vegas, Nev., charges \$237 per person for rec fees, \$700 for a golf card and \$300 for a trail pass. Sun City in Roseville, Calif., charges \$510 for a rec card, \$1,600 for a golf card and \$230 for a trail pass.

Sun Lakes near Chandler is an adult community with a homeowner's association. It provides a beach and tennis club with pool, workout room, three tennis courts, bocce, volleyball, basketball, racquetball and maintenance on 12 acres of park and a 50-acre lake. Dues for Sun Lakes are \$183 per quarter.

In Sun City, the residents of about 26,000 dwellings are each required to pay an annual \$115 per person recreation center fee for facilities that include seven spas, eight swimming pools, tennis courts, volleyball, movies, handball, racquetball, bingo, bocce, dancing, and arts and crafts. For an additional \$640, residents have access to eight golf courses. A trail pass to drive

personal golf cars on the courses may be purchased for \$135.

Sun City West's mandatory recreation fee is \$133 per person listed on the deed. The centers have about 33,000 members in 16,000 homes.

For that fee, residents get six swimming pools, four fitness rooms, 27 tennis courts, arts and crafts rooms, a lecture hall, two ballrooms and a men's club building with two

► See Rec centers, A5











# BOARDTALK

Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., 876-3000 October 1999




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

<b>MEMBERS:</b> 42,500±	<b>DIRECTORS:</b> 9 elected by the membership	<b>PAID EMPLOYEES:</b> 430±
<b>ACRES:</b> 1,100	<b>NET WORTH:</b> \$50-\$60 million	<b>YEARLY BUDGET:</b> \$14 million
<b>VOLUNTEERS:</b> About 1,400		

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

<b>140 Clubs:</b> 11 dance 2 computer model railroad Handi-capables		38 arts & crafts 8 exercise 3 photo  rose & garden 	30 cards & games 10 social 2 national recreational vehicle 	17 sports activities 12 music & drama stamp travelogue agriculture  
---	---	--	---	--

In addition to the above clubs, the Recreation Centers members have a multitude of facilities and 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 4 pool rooms - 49 tables table tennis horseshoe courts croquet roller skating 	 8 golf courses 2 restaurants 5 snack bars 5 mini-golf courses 1 volley ball court 1 handball/racquetball court 1 basketball court 1 pickle ball court Sun Bowl with seating for 6,000	19 tennis courts 5 fitness centers 2 walk-jog tracks 1 softball field 15 Bocce courts 7 lawn bowling greens 24 indoor & outdoor shuffleboard courts picnic ramadas park with walking paths 
---	---	---

In addition to the above Recreation Centers members also 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, days tours, taking lessons and classes, bingo - and much more - in the 9 auditoriums/social halls or outdoors. Furthermore, all the outstanding concerts at the Sun Bowl are FREE

The required annual assessment, paid by all persons listed on the

deed to Sun City property, allows participation in all of the above. Of course, bowling, golf, theater, tours and some

plays have a nominal charge. Most of the 140 chartered clubs have a fee between \$3 and \$20 a year to join.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Dick Elton	Membership Communication Committee
Marge Murphy	Membership Communication Committee
Dick Ohnstad	Engineering. Golf Committee
John Powell	Golf Committee Chairman
Helen Thiel	Copy/Text/Layout Editor

It's 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 the income is used to operate and maintain all the recreational facilities.

# Rec center plan slashed in half

## MANAGEMENT: Board votes to add 1 new position, cites financial problems

KATE FLEITAS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A plan to cut costs at Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. by adding two managers was slashed itself Thursday.

The RSCS board of directors voted 5 to 3 to create one new manager position at its membership meeting in

Sundial Auditorium, bringing to two the number of managers for the Centers.

Members of the board, who have been studying a three-manager structure, did not communicate how they would divide the general manager Jim Warfield's duties with another manager.

Originally, the board planned to vote on a motion that created two new management positions, one to run the financial operations and one to run the golf operations. Under the plan, Warfield would become manager of all non-golf recreation center facilities.

When Director Dick Ohnstad

suggested amending the motion to include the addition of only one manager, Director Ed McCrea asked for 30 days to study a two-manager plan.

"Before we vote on a two manager structure, we need to know what they do," he explained.

Members of the board took a vote on postponing their decision and were split 4 to 4. President Bob Briscoe cast the deciding vote against taking more time to consider the two-manager system.

Harold Boudrie, board treasurer.

**See Rec centers, A5**

### From A1

listed a number of areas where finances have been mishandled in an attempt to justify the need for the additional position.

He mentioned a few of these areas, including:

- Monthly reports from checking accounts — 75 to 80 marks did not agree (Boudrie now brought that number down to under 5).

- Pay phones at the Bell Recreation Center — expenditure of \$30 to \$40 per month on five pay phones even if residents did not spend that much in 35-cent calls.

- Golf equipment inventory — some equipment which has been removed is still listed in the inventory.

- Pro shop inventories — 3/4 of items in pro shop are not listed in inventory.

- Desert landscaping at Willowbrook — board authorized \$35,000 for project, but \$41,000 has been spent and sprinklers were installed instead of desert landscaping.

- Creek lining at Riverview performed incorrectly

- Water line and accompanying computer controls mishandled at golf courses.

- Expenditure of \$16,900 for a Sun Bowl performance (Brenda Lee) when other bands can be hired (Ink Spots) for \$4,500.

Boudrie said he has spent 35 to 40 hours each week trying to get the recreation centers' books in order.

"We need somebody to look at the expenses more closely," he said.

Several people provided their opinions on the restructuring arguments, including Warfield.

Although he would not comment on the proposal, Warfield did respond to Boudrie's evaluation of his financial management. He said no money was missing, but was inaccurately recorded. He defended the cart path job, stating the board had instructed him to complete the job for under \$100,000 using in-house labor.

Warfield invited members of the recreation centers to review the books.

"That will tell you the truth," he said.

Board members who voted in favor of the two-manager plan include Ohnstad, Beverly Davis,

John Powell, Marge Murphy and Dorothy Hirtzel. The motion was opposed by Boudrie and Dick Elton.

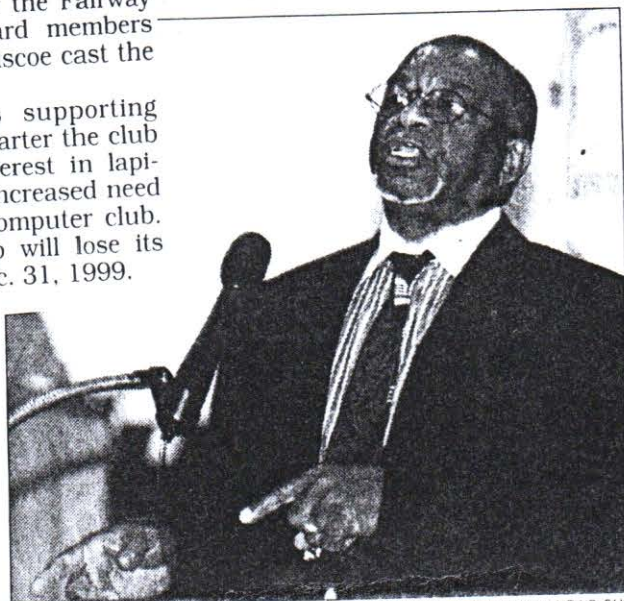
Director Ed McCrea abstained from the vote.

At a study session earlier this month, members of the board were 7 to 2 in favor of the three manager structure. The plan was rejected by Ohnstad and Beverly Davis, who favored restructuring, but with the addition of only one new manager.

In other news, the board voted 5 to 4 to de-charter the Fairway Lapidary Club. Board members were torn 4 to 4. Briscoe cast the deciding ballot.

Board members supporting the motion to de-charter the club cited decreased interest in lapidary work and an increased need for space for the computer club. The lapidary group will lose its charter effective Dec. 31, 1999.

**Members of the board, who have been studying a three-manager structure, did not communicate how they would divide the general manager Jim Warfield's duties with another manager.**



James Warfield, general manager of the Sun City Recreation Centers, addresses a crowd during a rec board meeting Thursday morning.

# Board expects savings for rec centers

Daily News-Sun •

**SUN CITY:** Splitting management duties is plan to save money

**KATE FLEITAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City residents should see a decrease in Rec Centers expenses within six months after a new management plan takes effect, said Bob

Briscoe, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors.

"If the basic philosophy is correct, within six months to one year, you'll be able to see how we save money," he explained.

Briscoe believes the savings will eventually pay for the golf operations manager position.

"We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in golf. There must be a better plan of buying, like

purchasing in groups. There could be improvements in seeding, fertilizing and other areas," he said.

People will be able to see the savings by comparing expenses in golf operations — maintenance, equipment and basic operations — between 1999 and 2000, Briscoe said.

"There are so many areas to improve," he explained. "The operations manager will make them more efficient and save money."

Under the new management plan, the responsibilities of the general manager will be split between a golf operations manager and a rec center facilities operation manager.

The golf operations manager will oversee almost every area associated with golf — Sun City's golf courses and the pro and overhaul shops; and supervise a secretary.

**See Board restructures, A5**

## Board restructures rec center administration

From A1

golf pro, five golf course supervisors and the overhaul shop supervisor. The operations manager of the rec center facilities will oversee two bowling lanes and the rec center facilities; and supervise a secretary, club manager and the "lead persons" at Sun City's five rec centers.

The two operations managers will team-supervise the managers of food service, finance, human resources, projects and purchasing.

"Both operations managers will need to go to all of those managers. Those key people in the middle will then report to each manager," Briscoe said.

The board plans to make Jim Warfield, the current general manager, the operations manager of the rec center facilities. Board members are in the process of finalizing the job description of the golf operations manager and hope to post it the next week, Briscoe said.

The job will first be posted around the golf courses and rec facilities. After the holidays, it will be advertised in newspapers.

The preliminary job description calls for a person with an agronomy degree who has managed golf courses in the Southwest region. Board members

don't want to hire a person fresh out of golf school.

"We do want experience," Briscoe said. "The system is in place but there are things that have to be analyzed and the person will need to be able to make good business decisions."

Director John Powell recommended the board offer a salary between \$55,000 and \$90,000 to be competitive with neighboring retirement communities. He said the upper end would not be awarded instantly, but would serve as an incentive.

Powell said Sun City has served as a launch pad for many golfers, who have gone on to higher-paying jobs with country clubs.

Briscoe believes the rec centers will benefit if they can hold onto a good person for at least one year.

"If we bring in a quality person and if he fixes things for just a year, then we could hire a less-experienced person to take over the operations," he explained.

In comments made earlier last month, Briscoe said the division of labor will prevent rec center business from "falling through the cracks." Members of the rec board voted five to two to reorganize the rec centers management at the board's regular meeting in November.

Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1999

# Centers prepare for tight year

## ASSETS: Balancing SC Rec Centers' budget should stop repeat of 1999 drop

KATE FLEITAS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Rec Centers of Sun City's assets dropped from \$4.2 million to \$3.9 million in 1999, but Harold Boudrie believes a balanced budget for 2000 will keep that number from dipping further.

"We spent more than we took in," said Boudrie, treasurer of the RCSC board of directors. "This is why we want a balanced budget in 2000, so we'll only spend money coming in."

Boudrie, who has been on the budget and finance committee for 10 years, said rec centers assets should not drop below \$3.5 million. The centers' assets totaled more than \$3.9 million at the end of November, but Boudrie expects to receive bills for capital projects throughout December.

Members of the budget and finance committee knew the rec centers would spend more than it made in 1999, but they thought they'd have more income. They didn't expect bowling and golf income to drop, Boudrie said.

To date, the rec centers have gone more than \$100,000 over the 1999 budgeted expenses. Membership assessments are below budget by \$74,700 and bowling fees are down by \$25,800. In golf, prepaid green fees are down by \$213,000, guest daily fees are down \$155,500 and resident daily fees are down by \$129,000. Prepaid and daily car fees are down \$49,500. Merchandise sales in the pro shops are \$40,000 below budget year-to-date figures.

"We anticipated more people playing golf," Boudrie said. "We estimated too high and decreased it by 3 percent in the 2000 budget."

The centers spent more than \$1.3 million on capital projects in 1999. Upgrading the bowling lanes at Lakeview Rec Center cost \$260,000 and the lanes at Bell

## Operating results

Highlights for the 11 months ending Nov. 30, 1999:

- Membership assessments are \$74,700 below budget year to date.
- Transfer and access fees were \$85,000 above the budget year to date.
- Bowling fees are down \$25,800 from the budget year to date.
- Prepaid green fees are \$213,000 below budget from the year to date.
- Guest daily fees are down \$155,000.
- Resident daily fees are down \$129,000.
- Merchandise sales are \$40,000 below budget year to date.
- Membership programs are \$29,700 below budget year to date.

Rec Center cost \$216,966.

Anticipating a continued need

for improving rec center facilities, board members created a policy which requires all new Sun City homeowners to give \$700 toward a Capital Preservation/Improvement Fund.

The policy went into effect in October and is expected to accrue more than \$980,000 in 2000. The money can only be used on preservation/improvement projects, which cost more than \$100,000 and have a depreciable life of at least 15 years.

The budget and finance committee expects to begin 2000 with \$3.8 million. To keep a balanced budget, the members postponed many projects until 2001 and 2002.

Board members have tried to come up with ways to increase the rec centers' income, including raising the annual membership fee. In January, the rec centers membership fee goes from \$115 per year to \$130 annually.

Most recently, the board approved a bowling punch card that gives a discount on open bowling.

Boudrie said hopes the 2000 budget will get the rec centers assets up over \$4 million by the end of next year.