

November 23, 2016

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Marinette expected to reopen areas

Areas of Marinette Recreation Center; 9860 W. Union Hills Drive, under renovation were expected to reopen this month.

The auditorium, social hall ceiling, main restrooms and kitchen were remodeled and new pool restrooms were installed.

Work to be done at the end of October included the cabinet and top instal-

lation in the kitchen and restrooms, installation of appliances and toilets, lavatories, restroom partitions, interior doors and some detail work.

Contractors for the project were DVP Professional Builders, Accel Electric and Custom Cooling. The project cost was \$259,015.

RENOVATIONS

'It's beautiful' Sun City's expanded Marinette Center opens to rave reviews

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Rebecca Dargis looked around the interior of the structure at Marinette Center with its soaring, vaulted ceiling.

"Look at all the courts!" Dargis said.

The frequent pop of pickleballs being swatted around filled the building as players on eight covered courts rallied back and forth, stopping only as a point was scored or as a game concluded, allowing new players to move in. Visible through large open sections on two of the building's sides were a dozen more outside courts - giving the complex a total of 20 in all.

"It's going to be a real showcase for pickleball," said player Roland Lefebvre.

The courts were in full operation Monday — along with a new 4,020-square-foot fit-

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Sun Citians enjoy the newly expanded pickleball courts and a host of other renovations at the Marinette Recreation Center in Sun City Monday. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

Marinette

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ness center, refurbished outdoor pool, new outdoor spa, restrooms and shower areas and much more — as the newest and northernmost of Sun City's seven recreation centers opened most of its facility for the first time since undergoing a sweeping renovation that began in July.

"We had at least 50 lined up; there's probably 100 people on the pickleball courts already," said Recreation Centers of Sun City Assistant General Manager Jim Wellman about 20 minutes after the doors opened at 8 a.m.

The \$4.4 million project gave Marinette expanded restroom areas, meeting space for fitness center users to consult with personal trainers, a state-of-the-art video monitoring system to allow RCSC employees to learn of any problems or injuries on the playing surfaces almost immediately, and

outdoor patio area with tables and chairs.

There also are a basketball half-court, rubberized walking track and horseshoe pit — three amenities that will take another three to four weeks to complete.

The covered pickleball courts, the most visible change, drew raves from players.

"The playing surface is awesome; the bounce of the ball is really good," commented Wendy Shackley, 57. "This will be really good because we won't have to wait. We'll be able to get right in. It's state-of-the-art; this is just wonderful."

"I think we'll have more play year-round. It's become a real draw," said David Sinclair, president of the Sun City Pickleball Club, which claims about 425 members.

The expansion coincides with the steady expansion in popularity of the sport and is likely not only to create more of a destination at Marinette

but also add to Sun City's retirement marketing portfolio.

The idea of pickleball players, the expansion couldn't happen without a response from RCSC officials, who knew a good thing when they saw it.

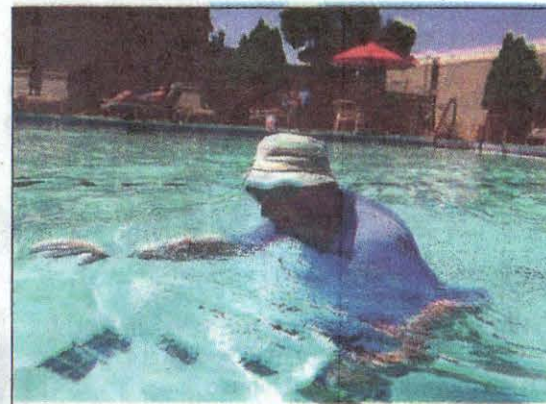
The covered courts are the only ones in the Northwest Valley and one of the few sites in the greater Phoenix area. In addition to offering the potential for local tournaments, it also provides the opportunity for events drawing from throughout the Valley and even the Southwest, said Sinclair, including the possibility of at least one non-age-restricted event.

"We've had a lot of inquiries. This is just fantastic for Sun City," he said.

The praise extended to the fitness area, which now boasts over three dozen weight machines and cardio machines, as well as a free-weight area with a cushioned, rubberized floor.

"It's beautiful. I can't believe it," said Barb Meadows. "The gym before was a closet. You felt really closed in. You couldn't see out. There were only minimal machines."

With Marinette's reopening, several Sun City fitness centers will now breathe a little easier. Bell, Fairway and Mountain View all had increased use with the nine-



Robert Zech of Sun City works out in the newly expanded pool area at Marinette Recreation Center Monday. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

month shutdown.

About 5,000 people used Marinette during the 2013, the last full year for figures. With an expanded array of

options, it's likely that number will grow.

"I've been using Bell Center," said Isaac Hershey. "This is just wonderful."

MAR 20, 2015

YF SC Rec Centers massive

HAPPY CAMPERS



Ruth Boessenkool of Sun City West sits with her granddaughter Alexienna, 6, while they wait their turn at bowling at the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavillion in Sun City West. Sun City West residents are inviting their grandchildren to tag along in their activities throughout the month as they visit for spring break for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West's Happy Camp. Right, Levi Boessenkool, 3, of Vancouver, British Columbia, grabs a bowling ball at the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavillion in Sun City West. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]



RENOVATION

Expanded, improved Marinette Center in Sun City opens Monday

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The weight machines at Marinette Center in Sun City are ready again to pump you up.

The fitness and recre-

ation complex off 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive will reopen Monday for most activities following a \$4.4 million, nine-month renovation and expansion, highlighted by an expanded, state-of-the-

art, 4,060-square-foot fitness center and a brand-new covered pickleball area — the first of its kind in the West Valley.

“Members are really going to enjoy this facility,” said

John O’Neal, superintendent and safety officer for Robert E. Porter Construction of Phoenix, one of the contractors for the project.

“With the popularity of
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Renovation

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pickleball, this gives us a new facility for that," said RCSC Communication and Marketing Coordinator Joelyn Higgins.

The pickleball area will feature eight courts under a high vaulted ceiling with open side areas for ventilation. The courts will not be air conditioned, but the covering is expected to make a difference in players' comfort, said Sun City Pickleball Club President Dave Sinclair.

"In our experience, with covered courts there would be 10-degree temperature difference. (And) you're not going to have the sun beating down on you," he said.

There also are 12 outside courts.

The pickleball area is just one aspect of the entire \$4,387,373 upgrade.

The expanded fitness center has dozens of weight ma-

chines, treadmills, elliptical trainers and a free-weight area with a rubberized floor. The outdoor pool and spa has been renovated. There is also a 440-yard, rubberized outdoor walking track, a horseshoe pit and basketball half court. Further improvements include a thermal solar system for pool water pre-heating, electronic water heaters for the showers, and new doors, windows and exterior stucco for all remaining buildings.

The walking track, basketball court and horseshoe pit will remain closed for up to four more weeks to complete work there, according to RCSC officials.

But everything else is ready to welcome Marinette users back.

An average of 5,000 people per month visited Marinette in 2013, the last full year figures were available, according to Higgins, and the facility's users are looking forward to returning.

Many have gone to other RCSC centers for fitness and pool use, mainly the Bell and Fairway centers.

Vicki Melak, a Marinette regular and member of the Clay Club, one of several activity organizations that meets at the Union Hills Drive site, used the Bell Center during renovations. Melak said she is "anxiously awaiting" the reopening.

"Everybody knows everybody else up there," she said.

Monday's opening is slated for 8 a.m., but starting Tuesday, Marinette will resume normal operational hours: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; and 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

Children's swim hours at Marinette will return to 1-4 p.m.

For a complete schedule of activities at Marinette visit: sunaz.com/marinette-center/.

For information, call 623-876-3054.



A worker smooths concrete Thursday for the sidewalk outside Marinette Center's new covered pickleball facility. [David Jolkovski/Daily News-Sun]

Sun City set for area's first covered pickleball courts

By Jeff Grant
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Pickleball — perhaps America's fastest-growing recreational activity — may be continuing its rise in popularity, but even the most die-hard participant finds play a challenge under the midday heat of Arizona's summers.

This year, that promises to be less of a problem for Sun City pickleballers.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City is in the final months of a nearly \$4.4 million renovation of Marinette Center that includes the Northwest Valley's first pickleball facility with a roof. The new eight-court area will be almost completely open on the sides, giving it plenty of ventilation, but players will be shielded from the sun by an elevated roof.

"We think it will be a lot more comfortable," said Sun City Pickleball Club president Dave Sinclair. "In our experience, with covered courts there would be 10-degree temperature difference. But you're not going to have the sun beating down on you," added Sinclair.

The club, now around 350 members and expected to reach 400 by March 31, has

had input with RCSC officials from the time the covered courts were a concept and throughout the planning and construction process.

The eight courts will be separated by a player waiting and spectator area with room for seating. RCSC does not plan to install bleachers.

Still the venue should not
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Recreation Centers (Marinette)

V F SC

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VF SC Rec. Centers (Marinette)

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Daily News-Sun



Marinette project bumps up use of Bell, other RCSC sites

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Construction crews create a fire line during the overhaul at Marinette Recreation Center in Sun City. [Jarod Opperman/Daily News-Sun]

CONSTRUCTION

Marinette project bumps up use of Bell, other RCSC sites



Construction continues on the future pickleball courts at Marinette Recreation Center in Sun City. (Jarod Opperman/Daily News-Sun)

The exercise machines at Bell Recreation Center are due to begin getting busier in a few weeks with the return of Sun City's wintertime residents.

This year, they'll likely be busier than ever.

The fitness centers at Bell and Fairway recreation centers, the largest and most modern in the Recreation Centers of Sun City system, are poised to handle more users this fall. A sweeping renovation of Marinette Recreation Center is continuing, and during the work that facility will be closed to most activity, sending its regular users in search of weight-lifting repetitions and laps in the pool at other available sites.

"I'm not happy with it, but that's the way it goes," said Marvin Wolff, a Marinette regular who has been using the Bell Center since work at Marinette began in late July.

Wolff said the biggest adjustment has been the change to newer, more robust fitness equipment. "I'm getting used to it. It's a little more difficult," he said.

Still, most Marinette users, including Wolff, appear to be taking the change of scenery in stride.

"It's a great facility," said Diane Gaffney of the Bell rec center.

The last of the nine recreation centers in Sun City built by Del E. Webb, Marinette is undergoing its most significant renovations since opening in 1980.

Highlighted by a more than tripling of its weight-room space, the recreation center on the corner of 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive is receiving an expanded, state-of-the-art 4,060-square-foot fitness center, eight new covered pickleball courts, a rubberized walking track, improved restrooms and shower areas and new exterior stucco work and windows. Its spa is being moved outdoors.

The facility also is losing its tennis courts and its mini-golf area, but Joelyn Higgins, RCSC spokeswoman, pointed out these amenities are available at other recreation centers.

"We wanted to have a pick-

leball facility that could attract special events, and with this, we will be able to do that," she said.

While Higgins did not immediately have a final cost figure for the project, Assistant RCSC General Manager Jim Wellman had pegged the figure "somewhere between \$2 million and \$3 million during a presentation on the plan in February 2013.

Higgins also said RCSC officials believe regular Marinette users will not gravitate to just one alternative site during the work; heading to Fairway, Sundial and Lakeview during the project.

Marinette's social hall and auditorium, which remain open now, will close Sept. 29-Oct. 30 during stucco work and window replacement. Information about club and event rescheduling is available at the Lakeview Clubs Office or by calling 623-561-4600.

The entire list of Marinette's improvements should be

complete by early 2015.

An average of 5,000 people per month visited Marinette in 2013, according to Higgins, and the facility's users are looking forward to returning rather than making a permanent switch.

Vicki Melak, a Marinette regular and member of the Clay Club, one of several activity organizations that meets at the Union Hills Drive site, said she's "anxiously awaiting" the reopening. Melak said while Bell Rec Center has more space, she prefers familiar surroundings. "Everybody knows everybody else up there," she said.

Wolff said he's adjusted his schedule, using the Bell site around noon. "Here, during the winter, it's more packed," he said.

However, he predicted the overflow from Marinette would not be a problem. "It's not used that much, because it's older," he said.

One Bell user said he may switch permanently once the



no place like home. She predicted the temporary relocation will be worth it.

"We're excited over this," she said. "If it takes months for us to get the upgrades they've planned, we're going to be happy."

get tired of doing the same thing over and over. Sometimes you need to do something different.

For Melak, whose club activities and exercise and swimming have kept her at Marinette for years, there's

new fitness center at Marinette opens. Dick Gorman actually lives closer to that site, but has used Bell often, spending about two hours at a time there, using machines in the fitness center and swimming. "I probably will (switch). You

VF SC RCSC (Marinette)

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INDEPENDENT

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Marinette makeover

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Blocks are stacked and ground is cleared as the Marinette Recreation Center, 9860 W. Union Hills Drive, renovation project picks up steam. The \$4.3 million project includes expansion of the fitness center, moving the spa outdoors, creating a new pickleball center with shade and rearranging the outdoor walking track.

Marinette Center offers 'full service'

The lion's share of the improvements scheduled for Marinette Recreation Center on the city's north-east side has been completed, but one project is far behind schedule.

At the August meeting of the Board of Directors, Marinette Enhancement Committee Director Len Haynes shared his consternation with the directors and public because the contractor on the craft building apparently will be using the full 180 days on his contract to complete the 6,000 square foot building, set on the north side of the property. The building therefore will not be ready for use until mid-December.

And bids will be let soon for construction of a five-foot block wall, on both north and south ends of the east side of the property as a vandalism prevention measure.

Several other improvements have been completed and are in use beginning with the kitchen in the social hall.

Also lights were installed at the new jogging track, horseshoe and bocce ball courts and miniature golf course so that they may be used in the evenings by members. The tennis courts are now lighted.

The Marinette Center reports increased participation in the pool check-ins. There were 10,746 this June compared to 8,620 for the month last year.

The new therapy pool is now in use, and now that the gas line and furnace have been installed the pools are open year round. Four outdoor showers have been installed nearby.

In the new exercise room there are five exercycles, two treadmills, two rowing machines, a leg exerciser, workout mat, all-purpose weight machine, two slant boards and dumbbells.

The new Bocce Courts are open 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Equipment is furnished by the monitor who now has a new building for this purpose.

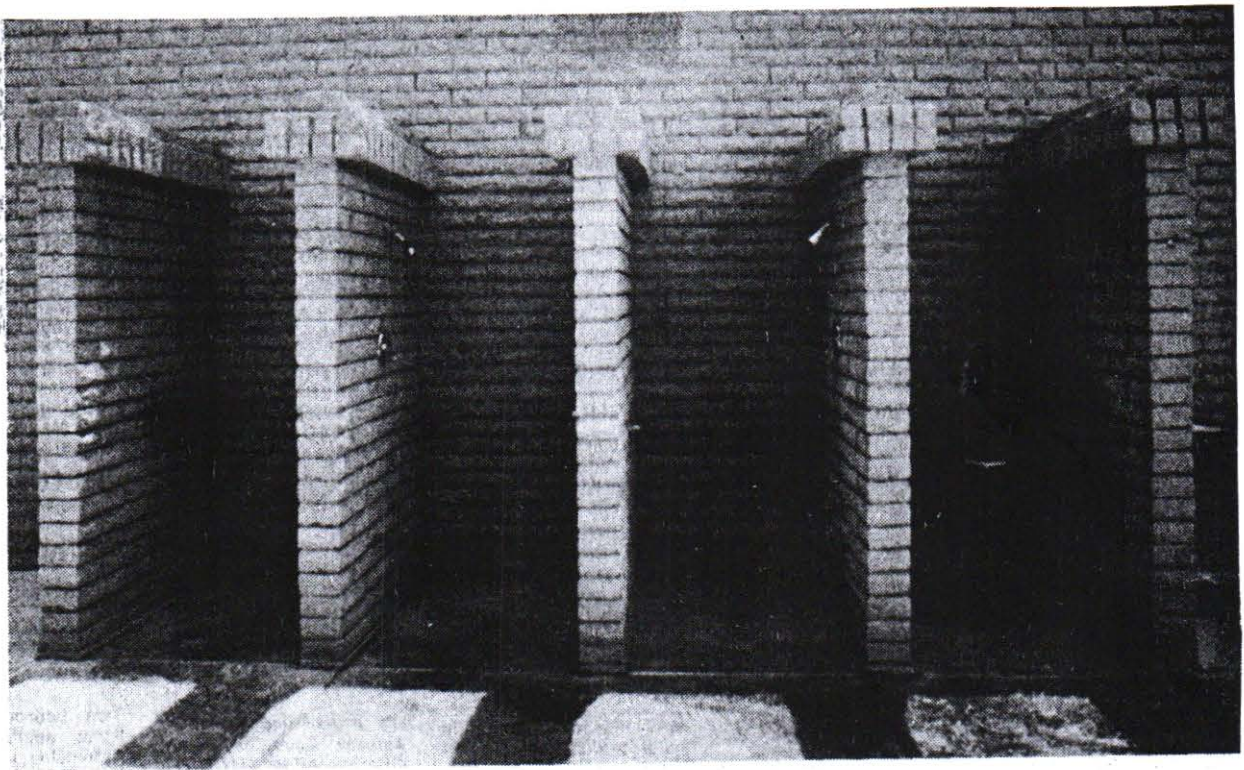
To join the Sun City Bocce Club, a phone call to Pete Cipriano 972-1497 will start the bocce rolling.

Second Clay and Sculpture and China Painting Clubs are now being organized also at Marinette. Contact Kit Reaney at 974-1327 for the former and Mary Louise Goode at 977-9116 for the latter group.

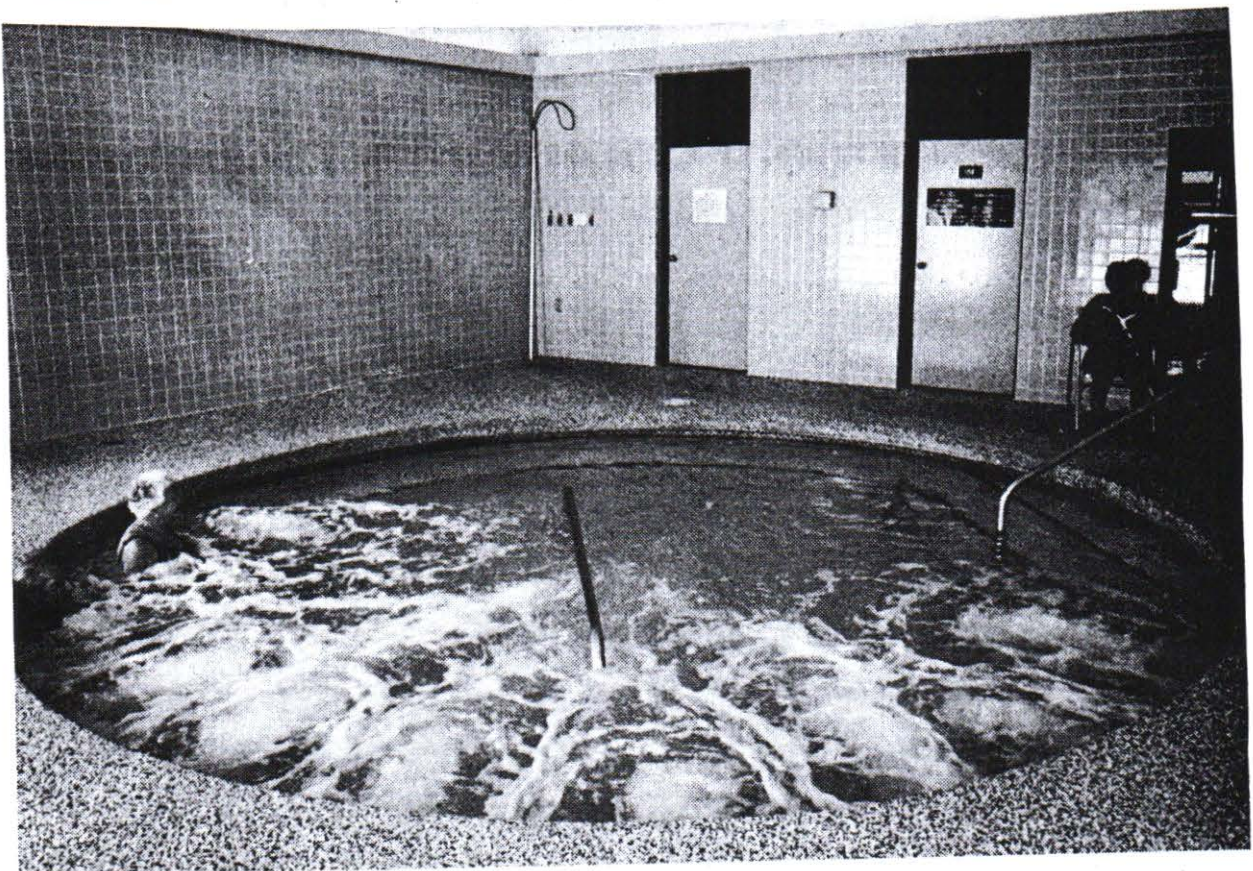
Haynes has nine members on the Marinette Enhancement Committee. He feels that Marinette is no longer a "bare bones" facility now that it is almost ready to offer "full service" as the other centers do.



Alene Dawes jogs every morning on new track at Marinette Rec Center.



Outdoor facilities make shower-taking very convenient in good weather.



Sun Citians enjoy the benefits of the new therapy pool.

Rec center adds twist to seniors workout routines

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

George Nieters, 86, lights up at the mention of the exercise equipment.

"It's wonderful," he said, looking over the contortionistic devices meant to hone the hips and deltoids. "It's just beautiful."

And Nieters isn't alone in admiring the new equipment recently installed at the Marinette Recreation Center in Sun City. Joyce Stephens, logging miles on her exercycle, ekes out a smile. "This is great equipment," she said. "I just love it."

About \$60,000 in new equipment, from stairmasters and cycles to weight and rowing machines, arrived earlier this spring. And since then, the center has served thousands of sweating, hard-driving seniors.

Dan Wilson, utility worker for the center, at 9860 Union Hills Drive in Sun City, says people have always come to the exercise room. But with the state-of-the-art gear in place, some folks are now showing up for three and four workouts a day.

"Please don't tell anyone that I come four times a day," one woman said. "Everyone will think I'm crazy."

Wilson proudly shows off the Cybex equipment, designed to work the muscles, yet also ease some of the pain of muscle gain.

For instance, four new treadmills come with safety switches, in case a weary jogger jumps the track. They also clock time, distance and calories burned, and have easily adjustable speed monitors. They even boost to an incline, giving runners and walkers an uphill feel.

Three exercise bikes have been added, with built-in racing programs.

And a variety of machines work every known body part, from glutes and calves to biceps and triceps. "This one's good for your love handles," said Wilson, pointing to a particular contraption.

Helvi Kangas, 76, who coordinates workout programs for many of the Marinette seniors, says the equipment is perfectly suited to their needs.

"They're doing beautifully," she said. "I try to tell them it's important to firm and tone the muscles in their body. That way a lot of knee and hip operations could be avoided."

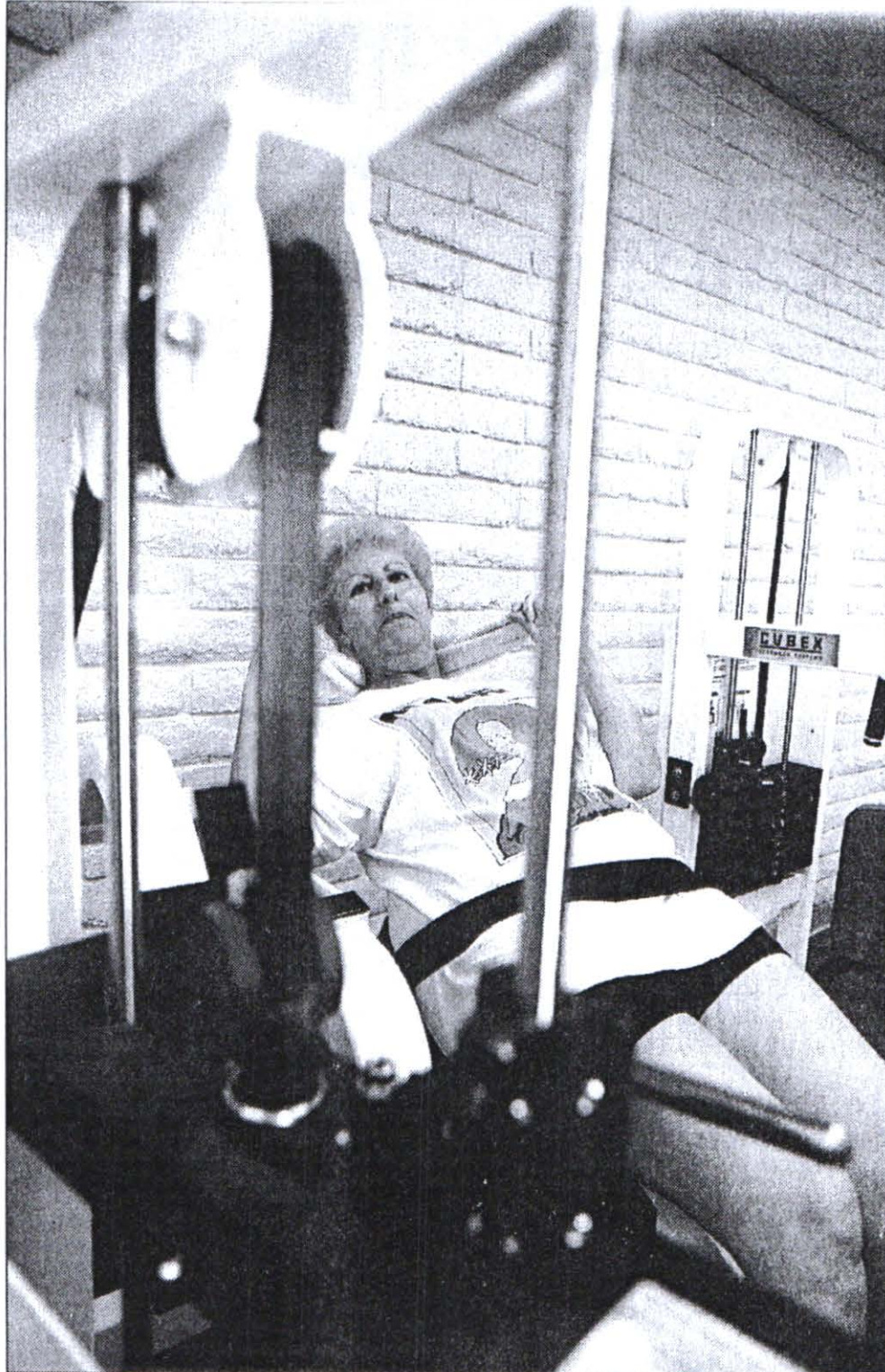
Kangas, who once worked as a fitness consultant with Nordic Trac, the maker of popular exercise machines, said a lifetime of working out has left her feeling "like a 30-year-old."

Together with her husband, Wesley, the Sun Citian has dedicated her life to exercise, and hits the weights every other day. Along with walking and running jaunts, the program has left her feeling amazingly spry. "I'm small, I'm only 108 pounds. But I'm all muscle."

And while other seniors may not become as fit, they still will benefit from time spent in the weight room.

"If they do a good program under a doctor's control, it can be very beneficial to them," said Wilson.

Frank Yonke, 83, who recently underwent triple bypass surgery and now works part time at the center, is evidence of the recuperative power of working out. Cycling away on an exercise bike, he surveys Marinette's new wares. "This is great equipment," he said.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Gayla Lauer works out on the Cybex back extension machine at Marinette Recreation Center in Sun City. The equipment at Marinette was updated in March. Mountain View Recreation Center also received new equipment last year.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1998

Tower revenue may fund rec center projects

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

A deal between the Recreation Centers of Sun City and U S WEST Communications caused a furor last year, when it left a cellular phone tower looming over a community pool, to the chagrin of nearby residents.

Now, however, officials are making amends by offering to funnel money generated from renting the space back into Marinette Recreation Center.

General Manager Jim Warfield made the proposal during a board study session Monday.

"I would like the board to consider this," Warfield said. "I'd like to ask the people of Marinette, 'What would you like to do with this money?'"

Warfield's plan is to use the approximately \$9,600 a year paid by U S WEST to fund center projects not already budgeted. The idea met with good reaction from directors.

"I don't think anyone on the board would disagree," President Don Pritchett said. There was no dissent on the plan, though a formal decision was not made.

Directors did decide, however, to vote on motions affecting the Red Book, Sun City's directory of bylaws.

Among the motions up for a vote in next week's public meeting are proposals changing the name of one club, and altering the way club dues are collected.

Directors will decide at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, in Sundial Recreation Center Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., whether to change the name of the Oakmont Gourmet BBQ Club to the Gourmet Social Club.

They'll also vote to adopt a long-range planning committee, and on whether to have clubs deposit dues into accounts collectively.

The Feb. 26 meeting is open to the public. For information, call 876-3000.

Displaced Sundial clubs shift operations

STAFF REPORT

There were 29 clubs affected when Sundial Recreation Center closed last month after a roof collapse.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has been working to relocate the displaced clubs to other RCSC facilities.

Following is a list of when and where Sundial clubs will be meeting while the center is closed until further notice.

The information is subject to change and is effective through Aug. 31. For information, call the RCSC Clubs and Activities Office at 876-3000, or visit www.sunaz.com.

Arts & Crafts

● Palo Verde Artists — 9 a.m. to noon Fridays, Lakeview Art Club at Lakeview Recreation Center, Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards.

● Calligraphy — 9 to 11 a.m. Thursdays, Bell Crafts Room at Bell Recreation Center, 99th Avenue and Bell Road. Classes will be 8:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, July 19 and 26 in the Riverview Meeting Room at Riverview Golf Course, Del Webb Boulevard, south of Bell Road.

● Camera Guild — 8 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays in Oakmont Auditorium, 107th Avenue and Oakmont Drive.

● Sundial Crafts — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday at Bell Crafts in Bell Recreation Center; 8 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at Lakeview Handicrafts; and 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays at Oakmont Needle Arts and Crafts.

● Handweavers & Spinners — Members are welcome to use looms and equipment at Oakmont Artistic Weavers. No club meetings are scheduled at this time.

● Sundial Silverstones — 8 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bell Lapidary; 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays at Bell Silvercraft.

Duplicate Bridge

● Kachina — 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays in Lakeview Social Hall 2.

Dance

● All That Jazz — 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays in the Bell Aerobics Room.

● Singles Dance Club — 6 to 11 p.m. Fridays in Bell Social Halls 1 and 2. Board meetings will be 3:30 to 5 p.m. today and Aug. 3 at an officer's home.

● Sundial Dance Club — 6 to 11:30 p.m. Aug. 5, 8, 12 and 26 in

Bell Social Halls 1 and 2. The Aug. 19 dance will be in Mountain View Auditorium, 107th Avenue and Mountain View Road. Board meeting will be 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. July 26 at an officer's home.

Exercise

● Aqua Fitness — Board and instructors meeting will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 9 in Lakeview Social Hall 1. Registration will be 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 26 in Mountain View Auditorium.

● Dance for Fitness — 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Marinette Auditorium, Union Hills Drive and 99th Avenue.

● Handi-Capables — Tuesday and Thursday classes are canceled. Members can go to Fairway pool 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Fairway Recreation Center, 107th and Peoria avenues.

● Stretch & Slim — 9 or 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Bell Aerobics Room.

● Pilates — A new series starts July 17. Classes will be 9 to 10 a.m. and 10:30 to 11 a.m. Mondays, and 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the Bell Aerobics Room.

Music and Theatre

● Piano Club Music Institute

Lessons — For information, call Mary Jordan at 933-9053, or Barbara Stewart at 876-3603.

Political

● Republicans — Membership meetings will be 6 to 8:30 p.m. July 24 and Aug. 28 in Bell Social Hall 1.

Social

● Sundial Men's Club/Oakmont Men's Club — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday in Talisman Hall, Del Webb Boulevard and Talisman Road. There will be no meetings July 11-13, Aug. 5 or Sept. 2, 6, 14, 15, 19 and 26.

Other Clubs

● Rockhounds — Picnics will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 27 and Aug. 24 in Lakeview Social Hall 1.

● Apple Macintosh — The club will share space with the Computer Club at Fairway Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Saturday.

Events

● Sweet Adelines Summer Show — 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at Mountain View Auditorium.

● Dolan Ellis Summer Show and free ice cream social — 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 11 at Mountain View Auditorium.

Friendship Quilters relocate to Bell

STAFF REPORT

The Friendship Quilters club of Sun City has relocated to Bell Recreation Center after the closure of Sundial Recreation Center.

The following is a schedule of the club's upcoming activities. Club hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Mondays and noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays.

For information, call Candy Wettergreen at 875-9321.

● Saturday — Quilts show projects.

● July 10 — Paper piecing project No. 7.

● July 12 — Paper piecing project No. 7.

● July 13 — Shop Hop.

● July 17 — Community service.

● July 19 — Show and Tell and community service.

● Work also will be done July 24, 26 and 31.

Renovations close parts of Marinette

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A \$500,000 renovation project at Marinette Recreation Center has begun, closing portions of the Sun City center until late fall.

The pool, spa and shower rooms at Marinette closed today as crews prepared to drain the pool and clear out the site, said Jim Wellman, Recreation Centers of Sun City senior manager of centers operations. All other amenities at Marinette will remain open through the renovations.

The pool will be relined and will undergo plumbing and equipment improvements, Wellman said. The spa will receive a new tub, equipment and plumbing. The deck around the pool and spa areas will be overhauled, and the showers and changing rooms will be gutted and remodeled.

The \$500,000 project was approved in this year's Capital Preservation budget. Despite the Sundial Recreation Center roof collapse June 19, the Marinette renovations are proceeding as scheduled, Wellman said. The cause of Sundial's roof collapse will be unknown until the RCSC insurance company and engineers complete a six- to eight-week investigation, he said.

With two RCSC pools closed for the summer and Bell pool being inundated with displaced Sundial users, Wellman said residents are encouraged to use pools at other centers.

Former president OK'd tower

Communications structure stirs anger of neighboring residents

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

The question of who approved the building of a massive communications tower over Marinette Recreation Center was partially resolved Monday, when a former official stepped forward and took responsibility.

But debate still surrounds the raising of the tower, which looms directly over the Marinette Center pool and stands some 30 feet higher than officials had originally planned.

At a meeting Monday between community leaders and about 60 Sun City residents, former Recreation Centers Board President Ed Anderson said he approved leasing the tower space to U S WEST Communications, though he never sought a vote of the board.

"It wasn't something I thought needed to be presented to the board," said Anderson, who was president of the board from August 1994 to December 1996.

He also said he believed the agreement made between the Recreation Centers and U S WEST called for a tower rising only 50 feet and standing far from the Marinette Center pool.

The tower now stands at about 80 feet high, almost directly over the pool.

The original contract, however, never stipulated that the communications tower couldn't go higher than 50 feet, said board Director Bud Moriarty.

A memo regarding the tower, sent from Anderson to project manager Chuck O'Day, contained the only mention of a height restriction, Moriarty said.

The contract leasing the site to U S WEST was signed in September by General Manager Jim Warfield, and the tower put in place nearly two weeks ago.

Housing personal communications equipment for U S WEST, the tower has been called everything from a potential lightning rod to an eyesore that damages property values. A woman at Monday's meeting even blamed the tower for poor TV reception. Personal communications equipment includes phone, pager and fax machines.

Several residents made it clear at the meeting that they object to the tower's presence, and the thought of more cropping up in the future.

"If I had wanted change, I wouldn't have moved to a place like Sun City," said John Laue to audience applause.

But whether officials can now change the situation remains in question.

A U S WEST representative told the board last week that while the communications giant is willing to paint the tower and clean up "its aesthetics," its height can't be lowered.

"Fifty feet won't work in our network," said Rex Engebretson, real estate manager with U S WEST in a meeting with the board last Thursday.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Flouella Derrick and former Recreation Centers of Sun City board President Ed Anderson discuss the communications tower being installed at the Marinette Recreation Center during a special Recreation Center board meeting Monday.

No one from U S WEST attended Monday's gathering.

But while the board did not approve the contract, the recreation centers probably can't back out without a legal battle, Moriarty said.

A legal fight, however, wouldn't serve the interests of the communications firm, he added.

"They would probably arbitrate," Moriarty said.

A U S WEST official reached Monday afternoon agreed that the company wants to negotiate, though it has no plans to walk away from the contract.

"I couldn't say we're of a mind to say 'Never mind,'" said Jim Roof, U S WEST spokesman.

Board approves tower agreement

Deal increases lease fee with U S WEST

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

A public meeting turned into a shouting match Friday as citizens and local officials angrily debated the raising of a U S WEST communications tower at a recreation center.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board voted to approve additions to a deal leasing the tower space to U S WEST, but before the meeting's end an official had walked out and others were left debating responsibility for the plan.

"I am so damned glad I'm going to be out of this job," said Board Director Chuck Westerveld, who retires in December, as he left during a question-and-answer session.

Before that session, five board members voted to approve a revised agreement leasing space for the 80-foot tower at Marinette Recreation Center.

One board member, Vice President Bud Moriarty, voted against the move.

The tower, holding equipment for phone, fax and pager users, has been a source of controversy since it was put up several weeks ago.

Marinette Center users and property owners have called it an eyesore and a drain on property values.

Residents have also decried the deal's approval, since it was revealed that the Recreation Centers board never

voted on the leasing agreement.

At Friday's meeting, Westerveld said he and other board members knew of the deal, negotiated last year. But Moriarty shot back that he knew nothing about the plan.

"Shame on him," Moriarty told the crowd. "You can't say that."

Former board president Ed Anderson recently acknowledged that he OK'd the deal with U S WEST last year. But while General Manager Jim Warfield reportedly signed the contract, the board never approved of the plan — a violation of Recreation Centers policy.

After the meeting, Westerveld said he thought other board members had known about the deal and had since forgotten.

"I was unhappy with people calling me a liar," he said.

Moriarty, the lone member voting against the move, said the board should have examined other facts before agreeing to the deal.

"I'm very disappointed that the board approved of additions to the contract when the facts were not clear," he said after the meeting.

In a letter submitted to other officials, he pointed to board bylaws stating that only board members can establish policy or approve contracts.

And no president can ap-

prove a contract without a board vote, Moriarty wrote.

"I feel the original intent was for good, but it's turned out to be a catastrophe," he told the audience.

The contract addendum bumps up U S WEST's rental cost for the site from \$500 to \$800 a month.

It also asks that U S WEST change the look of the "monopole," to make it "slimmer, more like a flagpole," said board President Don Pritchett.

In addition, it asks that no additional equipment be added to the tower, and that U S WEST acknowledge the recreation centers as a non-profit organization.

Other board members, including Marion James, Dick Austin and Ed McCrea, expressed dissatisfaction with the look of the tower, but voted to approve the deal.

McCrea asked the approximately 50-member audience whether a legal battle over the contract was worth the cost.

"Do we as the recreation centers want to go to court and fight someone like U S WEST?" he asked.

Marinette Recreation Center is located at 9860 Union Hills Drive in Sun City. The board's next meeting, a study session, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Monday in the Lakeview Recreation Center board room.

Marinette Center plans open house

NEWS-SUN Tuesday, January 22, 1980

Rec Centers' open house this week will feature Marinette, last to open (November 1979) at the corner of 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

Open house for all Sun Citizens is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday.

The name Marinette was chosen to commemorate the original name of the site which now is Sun City. Henry Gelletly coordinated the open house plans.

AN EXTENSIVE stamp exhibit will be a feature of the event. Stamp appraisals for those who wish them will be made by qualified members of the Stamp Club in the craft room.

The Leather Craft Club, also working in the craft room, will demonstrate members' skills and the North Side and Kachina Duplicate bridge clubs will talk about their activities.

The North Stars and the SunSets will square dance in the social hall and between sets Leilani Dance Club will demonstrate various forms of Hawaiian dance.

The history of Marinette, the settlement for which the center is named, stretches all the way from early Phoenix to the opening of the Vulture Mine in the Bradshaw Mountains.

WHY?

Because the shipping route led from Phoenix to the Bradshaws along what later was called Grand Avenue. Grand Avenue today is an almost exact replica of the line of traffic used by eight-mule team freight lines and post riders.

In 1863 the German mineralogist, Henry Wickenburg, was prospecting in the hills overlooking the Hassayampa River. As he was throwing rocks at his burro, he noticed one rock seemed unusually heavy. Looking more closely, he saw it was heavy with gold.

That was the beginning of Maricopa County's first town, the site of the crushing of gold ore from the Vulture Mine that Wickenburg began. The settlement was called Wickenburg.

A FEW years later, in 1867, Jack Swilling, the developer of an irrigation system using the prehistoric Hohokam canals, visited Wickenburg and convinced the miners that an investment in the water company would lower their food and forage prices.

Wickenburg blazed a 54-mile Vulture Road to haul men and supplies to the canals. Within that year wagons laden with produce were rolling to Wickenburg.

Other canal companies were formed. The Arizona Canal Co. was formed to furnish a waterway from Granite Reef, north of Mesa, to the arid plain west of Phoenix.

After the 32-mile waterway was finished and its 20 laterals in 1885, the builder, William Murphy, headed East to try to sell Illinois farmers into becoming pioneers.

TWO OF them, Delos S. Brown and J.B. Greenhut, both from Peoria, Ill., bought four sections of land along Vulture Road.

Brown platted 80 acres of his ranch for business and residential lots and named the locality Peoria. Desert freighters soon began stopping at the town well to take on water for the dry trek westward.

In 1894, the Greenhut Ranch was sold to Chauncey Clarke who settled at the ranch house before moving on to found a ranching and oil fortune in California.

Even then the Arizona climate began attracting snowbirds to Castle Hot Springs, which later became the winter governor's home.

R.P. Davie, a business entrepreneur from Marinette, Wis., was impressed by the growth and potential of the area and bought and leased thousands of acres between Rio Nuevo and the Agua Fria and soon a small colony named Marinette was thriving.

Marinette gambled on the sugar beet potential and lost; the soil, it seemed, could not produce a sweet enough beet to make the crop profitable and Davie lost heavily.

THE HOLDINGS were sold in 1920 to Southwest Cotton Co., a subsidiary of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., and the town of Marinette became a company compound.

In 1936 the Marinette

Ranch was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co., also of Litchfield Park. However, the emphasis was on crops, not people.

Marinette had become a rich plantation. Little but a railroad sign remained of the original town, Marinette.

About five miles southwest of Marinette was a

sign on the Luke Air Force Base railroad spur, bearing the name "Webb."

This came from the name of a construction camp established in 1941, when a young builder named Del E. Webb of Phoenix was awarded the contract to build Luke Air Field for the U.S. Army.

THE BUILDING of the air force base, named after Frank Luke, Arizona's first Medal of Honor winner from World War I, gave Webb many ideas about community development.

Later the Boswell family leased cotton acreage to Webb to build a motel, shopping center, medical

clinic, recreational complex with craft shops and art studios and a model home show.

Webb took orders for 400 houses and apartments during the opening month, January 1960.

And so started Sun City, now commemorating its roots by naming one of its buildings Marinette.

6/27/78
Sun News

Center plans received

Preliminary plans for Union Hills Recreation Center have been received by Bill Dewey, vice president of the board of directors of Recreation Centers of Sun City.

Work on the new recreation center is expected to begin by late September and be completed by spring of 1979, although the cost has not been determined, Dewey said.

The structure will occupy 8½ acres, "with plenty of room for expansion," he said.

DEWEY REPORTED the plans include a studio for Recreational Reading for the Blind, tennis courts, a swimming pool, a social hall and craft shops.

Exact details, such as the number of tennis courts, have not been worked out yet, Dewey said, but added that final plans will be finished and available to the public at the Rec Centers board meeting July 11.

Felix Dhainin is working as a volunteer architect with the board on the final version of the plans, he said.

IN OTHER MATTERS, the board voted to reject a request by the Town Meeting Association of Sun City to allow initiative petitions limiting property taxes to be circulated at recreational facilities.

The petitions would introduce political matters into recreational facilities, which would clash with the basic purpose of those facilities, Wilbur Erickson said.

Treasurer Erickson also reported the subsidy check from Del E. Webb Development Co., for running Bell Recreation Center came to \$96,061, \$600 less than the figure reported at the last meeting.

The money was invested in U.S. Treasury bonds maturing June 30, 1980.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — JUNE 9-15, 1999

Friendship Corner to be added at Marinette

Open house slated June 12

By MIKE RUSSO
Independent Newspapers

Social interaction is important for people of any age but it carries special significance for senior citizens, especially those who may have lost a loved one.

Through the death of a spouse,

the senior citizens may have withdrawn to the sanctuary of their home and isolated themselves from the outside world.

Slowly, the person may want to again integrate into society but apart from joining one of Sun City's many chartered clubs, opportunities have been rare.

In an effort to provide informal meeting locations for Sun Citizens, the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. is about to open its second Friendship Corner.

An open house, inaugurating the new Friendship Corner, will be held 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June 12 in the Social Hall at Marinette Center, announced Marge Murphy, RCSC director.

The Marinette program will be similar to one instituted several months ago at Oakmont Center and has proven highly successful.

"We usually get twenty-five to thirty people attending at Oakmont," Mrs. Murphy said.

"It provides a place for people to interact socially; a warm, welcom-

ing place for people to talk, socialize and meet new friends," she added.

Establishment of settings for informal social interaction was recommended in a 1997 study of needs of people over the age of 80.

The study was conducted by Arizona State University's Center of Design Excellence, directed by Mary R. Kihl, Ph.D., associate dean of research.

The report stated, "We found that informal settings for conversation were lacking (in Sun City)."

RCSC Director Dorothy Hirtze echoed Mrs. Murphy's sentiment that establishment of another Friendship Corner was a wonderful idea. "People like to get together and visit," she said.

Placement of the second Friendship Corner is important according to Mrs. Murphy.

"I think it is really important for people in the northern portion of the community, who don't want to travel to Oakmont," she observed. "I'm very pleased with this opening."

JULY 7-13, 1999 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — PAGE 9

Marinette Friendship Corner proves popular

Additional Friendship Corners considered

By **MIKE RUSSO**
Independent Newspapers

The resounding success of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.'s second Friendship Corner, at Marinette Recreation Center, has led to consideration of adding a third, according to RCSC Director Marge Murphy.

The initial Marinette Friendship Corner, June 12, drew an enthusiastic 130 people, Mrs. Murphy reported during last week's Rec Centers board meeting. That was followed by a gathering of 80 the second week, June 19.

"We are really happy with the response we have received to the Friendship Corner," she said. "It is going very well."

Patterned after the initial Friendship Corner, which was established several months ago at Oakmont Recreation Center, the Marinette gathering is held 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each Saturday.

"We get an average of thirty-five people attending each week at Oakmont," Mrs. Murphy said. Oakmont's Friendship Corner is held 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each Saturday, which provides people an opportunity to attend both sessions. "One lady told me she attended both last week (June 19)," Mrs. Murphy said.

Refreshments are provided at the gatherings. "We have coffee and cookies," Mrs. Murphy said.

The response has been so encouraging, "We are looking at shifting one of the two Friendship Corners to a weekday, or perhaps, even adding a third," Mrs. Murphy said. "We are seeking input from the residents."

Mrs. Murphy said she has informally polled some people and

Wednesday morning seems to be the favored time slot for shifting one of the meetings or creating a third session.

Establishment of settings for informal social interaction was recommended in a 1997 study of needs of people over the age of 80.

The study was conducted by Arizona State University's Center of Design Excellence, directed by Mary R. Kihl, Ph.D., associate dean of research.

The report stated, "We found that informal settings for conversation were lacking (in Sun City)."

Social interaction is important for people of any age but it carries special significance for senior citizens, especially those who may have lost a loved one.

Through the death of a spouse, the senior citizens may withdraw to the sanctuary of their home and they isolate themselves from the outside world.

Slowly, the person may want to again integrate into society but apart from joining one of Sun City's many chartered clubs, opportunities were rare, but the Friendship Corners now provide an outlet for the needed interaction.

"It provides a place for people to interact socially; a warm, welcoming place for people to talk, socialize and meet new friends," Mrs. Murphy said when announcing the establishment of the Marinette Friendship Corner.



Marge Murphy

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SUN CITY
RECREATION CENTERS OF
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Rec officials review tower contract

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

An 80-foot tower will remain standing over the pool at Marinette Recreation Center at least until Monday, when officials with the Recreation Centers of Sun City decide whether to keep the tower, alter it, or bring it down for good.

Questions surround the raising of the tower, erected last Wednesday and stocked with personal commu-

nications services, or PCC, equipment for U S WEST Communications. While officials debate whether to keep the looming metal tower — to be decided at a board preview session — they'll also be asking who ordered it in the first place.

"If the board did not approve it, how did management sign it?" asked board Director Bud Moriarty during a meeting Tuesday with officials from U S WEST and Bechtel Corp.,

the construction firm that built the tower.

"We need to know how all this evolved and what controls we'll have over it once it's up," said Moriarty.

And while officials debate who gave the OK to lease the \$500-a-month tower space to U S WEST, they'll be examining terms of a contract signed last September by Jim Warfield, Recreation Centers general manager, and negotiated by

Chuck O'Day, Recreation Centers project manager.

But while the contract reportedly called for a 50-foot tower to go up near the Marinette Center pool, a U S WEST official conceded that the company changed and raised the height specifications, yet never informed the Sun City board.

"This is our fault," said Rex Engebretson, Regional Real Estate Manager, Wireless, with U S WEST. "I understand the concerns. It's an

ugly pole, and it needs to be cleaned up."

Work on the tower has been stopped, and Engebretson said the company is willing to do what it can to "clean up the aesthetics" of the tower, which could include painting it, and removing some steps and an antenna.

Questions about its height remain, however. Engebretson said after examining original specifications for

► See Tower concerns, A5

■ From A1

the tower, the company decided 50 feet would not be tall enough.

"As we progressed in development work we had to increase the height, he said. "Fifty feet won't work in our network."

Board officials weren't happy with that answer, however, and protested the change of the tower's design.

"That's not what we were trying to put down there," said Warfield. "If we had what we'd originally put down there, nobody would have even seen it."

"We wouldn't be at this point if it had been brought to the whole board," said Moriarty.

Officials now plan to study the contract, and will decide Monday whether to attempt to rescind it.

"If the board agrees the tower should remain, then we can go on and negotiate (with U S WEST)," Moriarty said.

Work on the tower is now about 90 percent complete, Engbretson said. U S WEST is leasing the approximately 10-foot-square space from the Recreation Centers on a five-year lease, he added.

The tower is one of 188 similar structures in the Valley serving phone, pager and fax machine users, said Jim Roof, U S WEST public affairs spokesman.

The board's preview session is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Monday in the Lakeview Recreation Center board meeting room.

Daily News-Sun reporter Bruce Ellison contributed to this report.

August 5, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz

Phone tower at Marinette stirs concerns

By BRUCE ELLISON
Staff writer

An 80-foot cellular phone tower has risen alongside the pool at Sun City's Marinette Recreation Center — but it isn't clear who approved the deal that put it there.

Bud Moriarity, a member of the Recreation Centers Board of Directors, said he wouldn't talk about the tower until after a meeting with the board.

"You'll have to ask the president," he said.

Asked if the board approved installation of the tower, Moriarity said, "I have no comment on that at all."

Helen Thiel, the board secretary who keeps the minutes, said Monday there was nothing she knew of in the minutes approving the tower.

When asked who did approve it, Thiel said, "That's what the board is trying to find out." She referred a reporter to Moriarity.

Most board members are away for the summer, Thiel said, including President Bud Pritchett, who may return today.

However the centers controller, Bill Collier, said he had documents on file approving the deal with U S WEST, adding of the board: "I think they do know. Maybe it's just a matter of recalling what they did."

Collier said "that's about right" when asked if the tower would bring in about \$5,000 a year, the rate offered several other landowners who had earlier talked with cellular tower builders looking for sites in the Sun Cities.

The tower, on centers property about 10 feet from the north edge of the pool, and inside the complex, holds several cellular phone antennae in an array near the top. It is easily visible for blocks, and already has spurred fears from pool users that it might attract lightning.

It rises from a 16-foot by 16-foot concrete block structure that soon will be painted a desert pink to match the rest of Marinette's decor.

The tower, whose cost is estimated at \$100,000, is being erected for U S

WEST, according to a building permit.

The tower is set on a concrete footer that is about 4 feet wide and 16 feet deep, a worker on the site said.

Chuck O'Day of the centers purchasing and warehousing center, is project manager, said Eddie Miller, the Marinette Center manager.

O'Day did not return a call left at his office.

Miller said work on the tower began late last week. On Monday, a crew with a cherry picker was finishing work on the metal structure itself, while masons were busy bricking up the base.

Miller said, "I've had a lot of calls" about the tower — which both pool users and nearby residents said came as a surprise to them.

"They don't like it," Miller said. "But that's the way people are, they don't like change. You do something new and they don't like it."

An on-site representative of the contractor installing the tower said it was one of three to be put in the Sun Cities, and one of about 200 Valleywide that U S WEST was adding for a new cellular service.

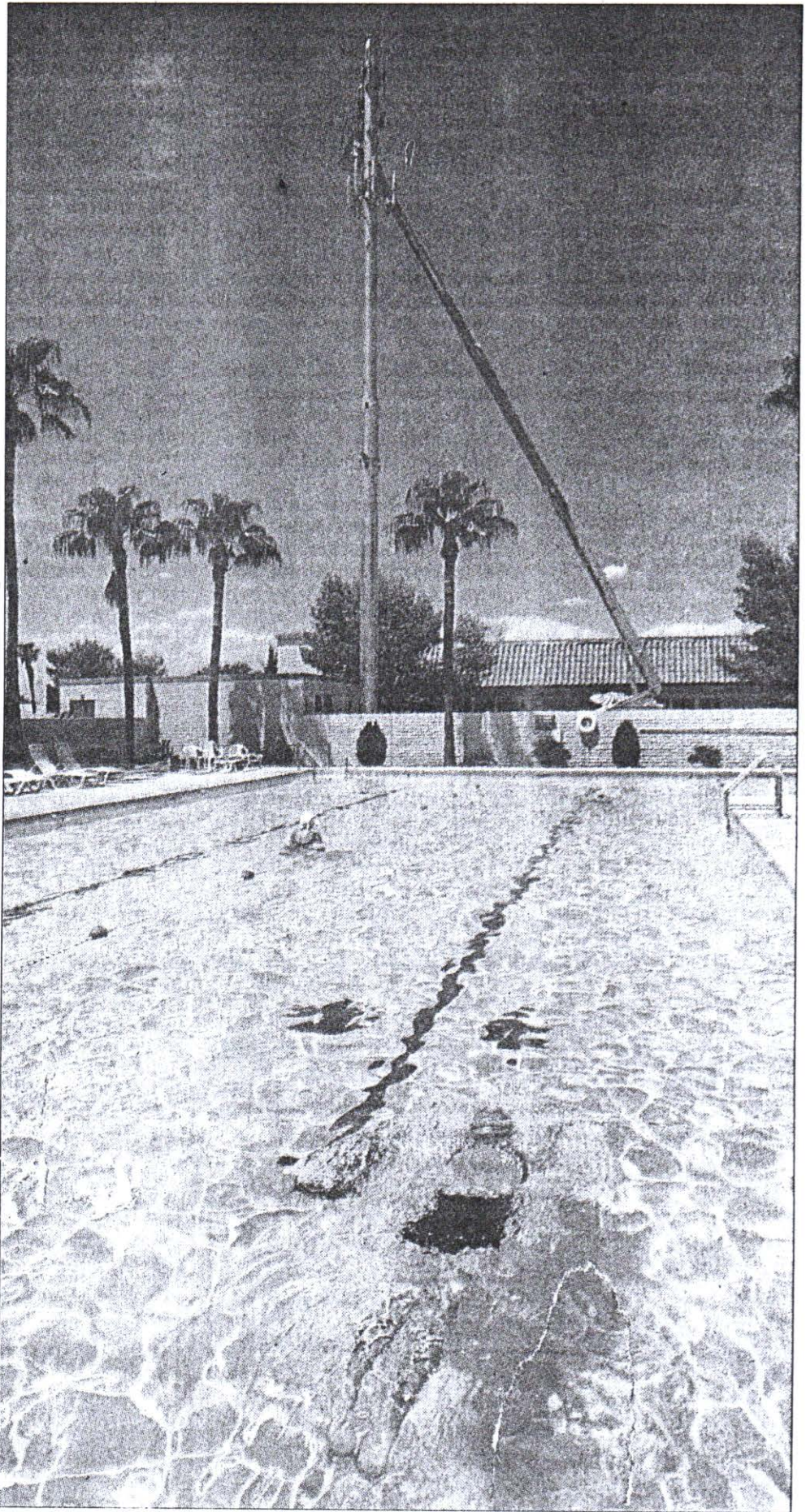
U S WEST public affairs spokesman Jim Roof in Phoenix referred calls about the system to another spokesman in Seattle, saying people there knew more about cellular service than he did.

But the office there referred calls back to Roof, saying the Sun City tower was not a project of the U S WEST cellular operation.

Roof then said it might be part of the telephone company's new PCS wireless service, and promised to see what he could learn about it, but did not return calls by press time.

Earlier this year, the Sun City Fire District heard a proposal from a cellular builder to rent space at fire stations for similar towers, but eventually decided against the deal, in part because the towers would abut residential areas and "not look too good to the neighbors," said Assistant Fire Chief Steve Morrow.

OVER



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

An almost-complete 80-foot U S WEST cellular telephone tower looms over swimmers in the pool at Marinette Recreation Center in Sun City. Who in the Centers approved the project seems open to question.

Marinette stood, then crumbled where Sun City grew

Long before Del Webb gambled on a retirement community between the Agua Fria and New River channels, other men had gambled on crops here—sometimes winning, sometimes losing.

Long before Lawrence Welk performed in the Sun Bowl, fine orchestras played in a grand hotel ballroom in pre-Depression days—but the hotel burned down.

Long before bubblers and sprinklers greened the golf courses, the rivers here ran with water nearly all year and mules were hitched to walk in slow circles so wells could be dug—many of them still gurgle up clear water.

Long before Santa Fe trains shrieked cautiously past flashing boulevard signals, locomotives stopped here to take on water from the landmark tank—people welcomed the tracks then, now they are an unremoveable hazard.

Long before Cadillacs and Buicks, golf cars and adult tricycles watched out for each other, children roller-skated with free abandon on Grand Avenue—after school or church, or before the game on the sandlot baseball diamond.

Long before this was Sun City, it was Marinette.

The name rings a bell; that's the name of a banquet room at the Suntowner restaurant, the name of Sun City's newest recreation center, the name of several clubs, the name on a water utility pumping station on 107th off Grand. It's also the name of a city in Wisconsin.

But this Marinette is gone: it is not even a ghost town, for nothing of it remains except a few frame houses which were moved to El Mirage and Surprise when the bulldozers came,

some rusting pipes protruding from abandoned wells, some bruised bits of concrete and rock which may have been foundations of the general store or the supervisors' houses or other structures from the "hub" of Marinette, between 105th and 100th, between Grand and Coggins.

What happened in those last few years to the agricultural community that proclaims itself with its own spanking new post office in 1912 is a memory to former Marinette residents who scattered to Glendale, Litchfield Park, El Mirage and beyond.

Marinette started out as a copy-cat to nearby Peoria, much like Sun City began with the same concept as Youngtown.

History repeats itself. But never exactly.

The same year that Wickenburg was officially named and began its "gold growth," the old Hohokam canals of the Salt River Valley were being rebuilt. As the possibilities of agriculture in this seemingly barren land broadened, other canal companies were established and one of these waterway developers—who had just brought water to a 38,000-acre irrigation district west of Phoenix—went back to Illinois to entice farmers to move here.

The proposal must have seemed economically sound, for two wealthy residents of Peoria, Ill., purchased the land and water rights and the town of Peoria, Arizona, was born in the late 1800s.

By the early 1900s, Peoria farmers were prospering in cattle and starting to experiment with cotton, a crop the Indians had cultivated successfully.

This potential impressed a businessman from Marinette, Wis., twin city of Menominee, Mich., locat-

ed on Lake Michigan's Green Bay.

Like so many Wisconsin towns, Marinette was named from Indian legend—a Menominee princess. Perhaps this was a charm to R.P. Davie, who bought and leased acreage between the Agua Fria and New River on either side of the Vulture Road—the "grand avenue" between Phoenix and Wickenburg and the prospering Vulture Mine beyond.

This land differed from the Peoria development however, in that there were no modern canals extending out here from the east.

So Davie hired a contractor with 200 mules to clear the entire area between 99th and 111th avenues of the mesquite and sagebrush, then drilled 10 wells by mule-power.

In 1912, Marinette, Arizona, became official.

Perhaps because he had no experience in cotton-growing, Davie did not turn to this as a cash crop.

Some historical references note that he gambled on sugar beets and lost because the soil wouldn't produce a sweet enough beet. Whatever the reason was for his failure after investing so much money and time in the land, he sold his holdings in 1920 to the Southwest Cotton Co., a subsidiary of Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

They, too, gambled with this land at first, trying to cultivate Yuli, a type of sagebrush whose roots produced a white sticky substance the company believed could form a rubber-like base for a type of synthetic tire.

Mrs. Mandy Durand, a Marinette resident as a child who moved to Glendale and then, at retirement, to Sun City, remembers seeing these bushes in 1928 when her family, the Monreals of Phoe-

and came to establish and run the mercantile store in Marinette. It was planted from Nevada Avenue north to Grand Avenue. I learned later that another tire and rubber company had planted the bush in an area sought of Tucson and lost an estimated \$14 million on the venture."

But Southwest Cotton knew cotton.

They planted more fields, dug more wells and administered the "company compound" at Marinette from the main offices in Litchfield Park.

Thus, Marinette never had a chance to grow as Peoria had. She could not even become a second-place stopping point for travelers between Phoenix and Wickenburg and points beyond, for most trains and travelers rested in prosperous Peoria.

Since all of Marinette's population worked for Southwest, she was a town of labor and sweat—a distinctive contrast to today.

But the Mexican-Americans were not transient laborers since cotton was hand-picked from mid-July to the last part of May. There were celebrations for baptisms, marriages, Saints Days; there was music and dancing, especially in the "tent cities" which clustered around the scattered wells.

The town itself experienced an influx of people in the mid-'30s, as folks from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas deserted the Dust Bowl and bent their backs with the cotton ginning operation.

(The gin was located where the Sun City Medical Building is now.)

But, ironic as it sounds, progress stopped Marinette again.

In 1936, the ranch was sold to the J. G. Boswell Co., also of

Litchfield Park and the old Georgia cotton family—with the know-how and fresh money—replaced the mules and field workers with machines.

The crops flourished but the people dwindled. The gin and its operation was transported to Litchfield Park; sections of the land were subleased; crops diversified into lettuce and alfalfa.

World War II brought destiny to the area, but not in the form of renewed prosperity for Marinette.

In 1941, Del Webb's construction company was awarded the contract to build Luke Air Force Base and, though it would be only speculation whether or not Webb even noticed the dusty wide spot in the road called Marinette by its remaining 25 post-war residents, something of its potential for other than agricultural use might have remained.

The land had water, a main railroad line, and a main highway which led right into (and out of) the capital city of Phoenix.

In 1955 when Youngtown and the concept of a retirement community caught the public's eye, the Marinette that R.P. Davie had hoped would prosper was only a shell of his vision.

And the impact of synthetic fibers in the commercial market was not giving that shell much warmth for hatching in the eyes of the Boswell Company either.

Yet the circumstances, the speculation, the ideas came together, and in 1959, Boswell released the acreage to Webb who fertilized the land between the Agua Fria and New River dry beds with slump block, asphalt, nails, glass, and talent—and there emerged something even more striking than the mythical Phoenix bird, the very real Sun City.