

Nov. 1/72 ?

From: Del E. Webb Development Co.
Public Relations Department
P.O. Box 555
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Sun City's new Sundial Recreation Center will not only have the tallest Sundial in the West, but will also come up with several other "firsts."

The Center's beautiful, sunken swimming pool will measure 50 ft. by 100 ft., plus a 25' x 25' diving area, making it the largest indoor pool in the State.

The pool area will be landscaped with indoor plants that can adapt to the air-conditioned climate of an indoor pool and will be augmented by some artificial plants where necessary to the overall effect.

Possibility of having the world's tallest synthetic palms, reaching from the pool deck level, almost to the ceiling 32 feet above, is being checked with manufacturers of artificial trees and shrubs.

Sundial Center will also have the state's first indoor shuffleboard courts, completely air-conditioned for all-season play. The ten lanes will be precision poured of concrete and the surrounding areas will be carpeted for comfort and beauty.

Another "first" will be the synthetic surfaced bowling green, which will be the first in the state to break from the traditional grass lawns.

A new type block called "fluted block," first used in the state by the Del E. Webb Corp. in construction of the new Phoenix Plaza Convention Center, is being utilized in the exterior walls of the Sundial buildings.

(OVER)

The new Center will have many other recreation facilities, including arts and crafts studios, exercise room and the community's third miniature golf course.

A 16,000 square foot covered central mall will separate the pool, shuffleboard, and hobby studio building from the multi-purpose auditorium.

The mall will be 204 feet long and will vary in width from 58 feet to almost 80 feet in the central area, where it overlooks the swimming pool. It will provide a park-like appearance with benches and will be ideally suited for art shows and arts and crafts displays.

The auditorium will be Sun City's largest, with 1,200 seating capacity. It will have its own spacious foyer and box office. The auditorium's capacity also can be increased by opening partitions that close off two large social or meeting halls on either side.

A large, well-equipped stage with cinemascope-sized screen, modern dressing rooms and large backstage storage areas will provide for movies, stage plays, concerts and other cultural performances.

Sundial Recreation Center is scheduled for early spring opening.

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Sun Citians find Sundial Center to their liking

By VAL BEMBENEK

Staff Writer

Sun City ogled Sundial Center over the weekend and used words ranging from "nice" and "nicest," to "spectacular" and "fabulous."

Thousands of persons filled their senses—the tastes of doughnuts and coffee, the smell of freshly dried paint and varnish, the sounds of entertaining musical and performing groups, the touches of

warmth in the therapy pool room and coolness in the covered but open-ended mall separating the two major recreation areas, and most of all, the sights.

FOR TEN months, all Sun City saw was the sundial

itself and the outside of a building they had been promised would be larger and have more club, recreation, and entertainment facilities than the four centers before it. They were not disappointed.

At dedication ceremonies Saturday morning, members of Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., and officials of the Del E. Webb Development Co., took their bows on cue. Fifteen-hundred persons who wanted to be the first inside strained to see Del E. Webb, the man who is making their retirement dreams come true, as he said "the building speaks for itself" and cut the traditional ribbon after waiting a couple of minutes for someone to bring him scissors.

IT TOOK almost as long for the early crowd to get inside as the speechmaking itself, even though the procession moved with the speed of an end-of-the-month sale.

Some people lined up first in front of the windows overlooking the olympic-sized swimming pool, while others headed first to the refreshment tables where 7,500 doughnuts and 5,000 cups of coffee waited.

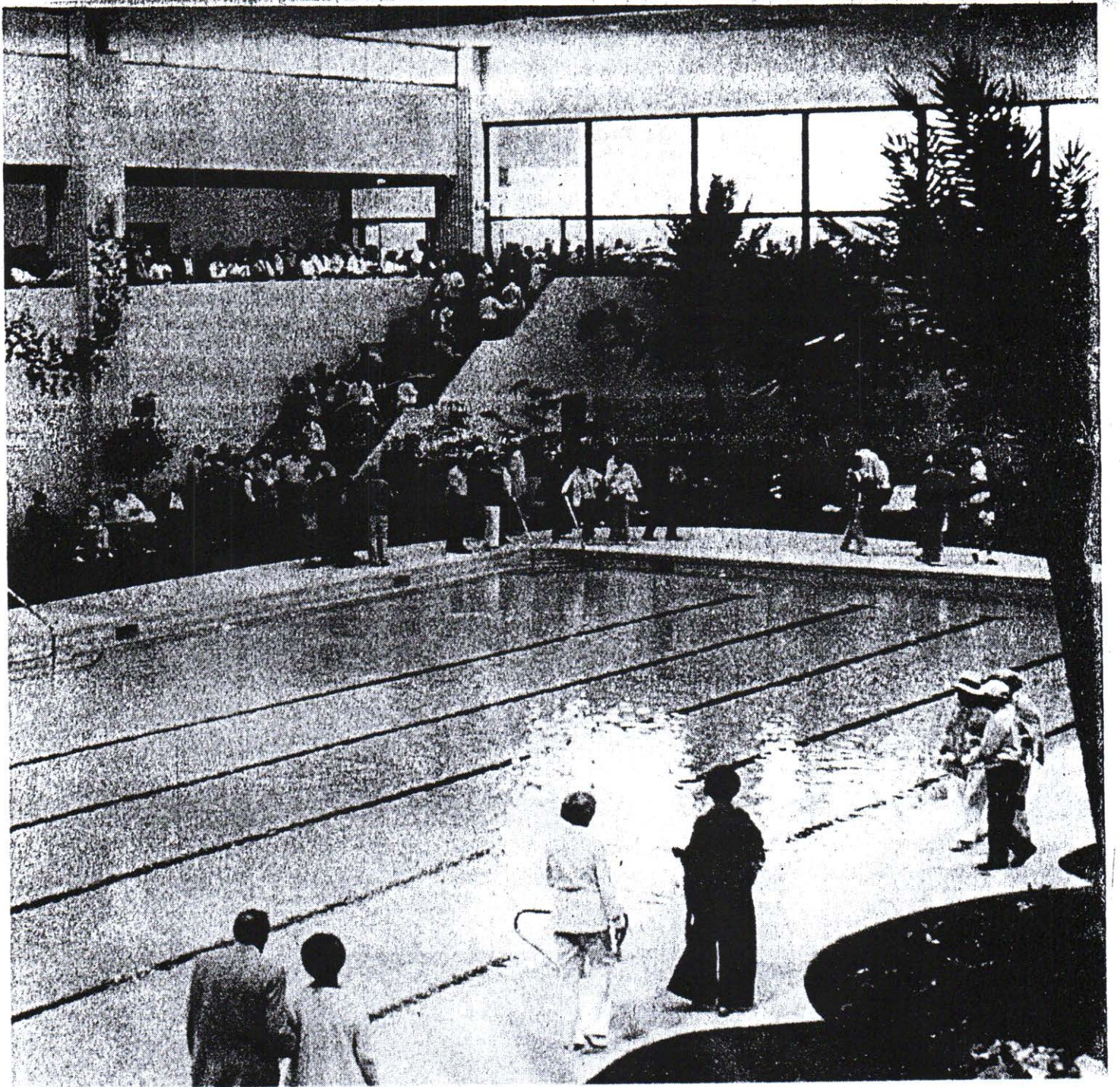
Some noticed Webb standing in the mall and took turns shaking his hand.

(Continued on Page B6)



Del E. Webb in brief remarks at dedication.

(OVER)



State's largest indoor pool drew largest crowds during opening.

(News-Sun Photos)

Sun Citians greet Sundial approvingly

(Continued from Page A1)

MOST PEOPLE just started walking around—slowly so they could touch the tops of the mature-size artificial palm trees which flank the pool, slowly so they could comment on the warm, sun-and-desert colors used exclusively in the decorating scheme, slowly so they could see the windowed display cases in front of the lapidary, craft, weaving, sewing, and ceramic rooms.

Newly formed activity clubs were happily accepting memberships as members eagerly explored the cupboard space in their room or looked out the one or more picture-frame bronzed-glassed windows which let in just enough natural light to punctuate the room.

BUT THE central attraction was the pool, located on the level below most of the activity rooms. You could tell the swimmers in the touring crowd—they were suntanned. They were also the ones who expressed happiness that it was an indoor pool to protect them from the blistering summer rays.

The pool is reportedly Arizona's largest, probably because there is an extra area at one end for diving.

Yet it doesn't look as big as 50 by 100 feet because the pool area, complete with artificial-grassed lawns under patio chairs and tables, artificial shrubs, artificial trees, and artificial vines climbing the brick walls is also huge. But the designers didn't fool Mother Nature completely—the white accent rocks are real.

THE 10 indoor shuffleboard courts also

overlook the pool through a sweeping glass window, so players can watch the swimmers while waiting their turn. The 12-table billiards room has smaller windows facing the pool—players of pool have to keep their eyes on the game, sharks notwithstanding.

On the lower pool level is a large clubroom, complete with its own kitchen, bridge tables, poker tables, and famous prints of poker-playing dogs on the walls.

On the opposite side of the mall, which will be used for outdoor displays and casual activities, is the auditorium, which will make the theatrically inclined in the community applaud with delight. It can seat a cozy 1,200 by itself and when both of the social halls on either side are turned into auditorium space by pulling back the folding walls, several hundred more.

THE 54-FOOT WIDE stage is professional enough that any thespian could already smell the greasepaint in the four dressing rooms, feel the excitement of the banks of fully controlled lights, and get a case of opening-night jitters pulling the series of curtains.

There's even two stage doors, one for people and another overhead garage-type door for moving in large sets. It doesn't have a Green Room, or a costume closet or a prop room backstage, but the excitement is still there—and everybody will be able to hear it because the sound system and acoustics are engineered that way.

And where do they store the thousand folding chairs when the auditorium is a ballroom? Right under the stage.

THE SOCIAL rooms are units in themselves. One has a kitchen, the other opens into the three-darkroom photo club workroom.

Separate from the Sundial building, just across a parking lot is the state's first artificial-turf lawn bowling green, which feels something like a dry kitchen sponge.

Next to it is the third 18-hole mini golf course in Sun City, called "pretty tricky" by the mini duffers who watched their ball roll up and down and around the cup as they played free over the weekend. They'll be able to practice without the sun in their eyes; the course is lighted for night play.

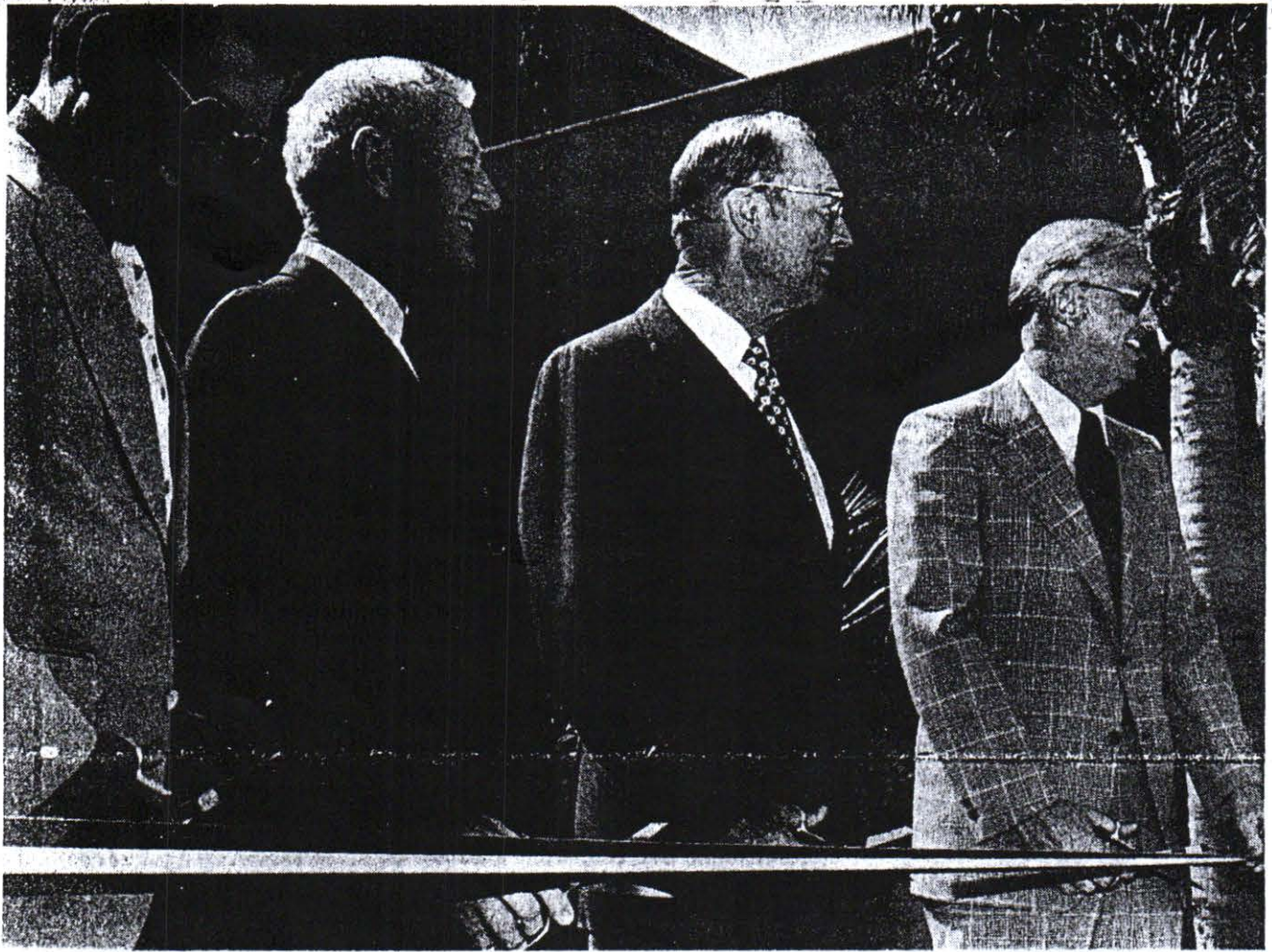
SUNDIAL Center is functional without being gaudy. Textured brick is used to break up the expanses of wide walkways, beautifully grained monkey-pod paneling accents several walls, an occasional bit of striped wallpaper saves the eye from tiring at the multicolored floral-patterned carpeting. The large walls in the shuffleboard room, for example, are broken up by three-dimensional sections in orange and pale yellow; panels of colored carpeting decorate the auditorium walls.

No one spoke at the dedication ceremony about the symbolism of the sundial or its recording of sunlit hours only, and no one mentioned the gnomon or usu of the ancient timepiece. Most just viewed it as a beautiful and appropriate addition to Sun City.

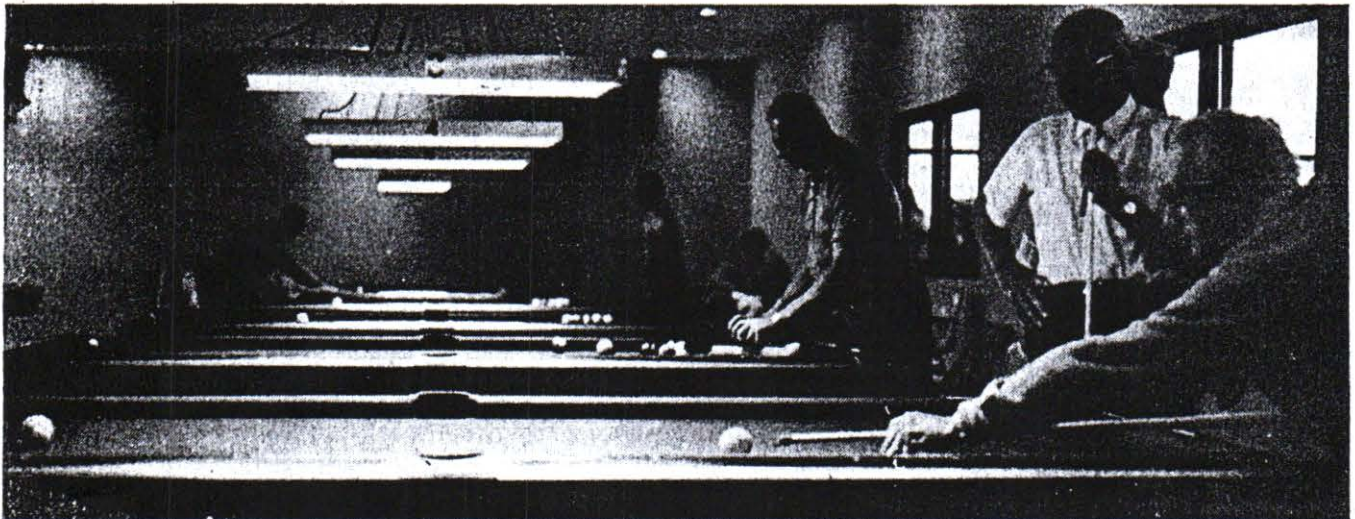
Some checked their watches as they passed the towering gold angle that points straight north.

It's a half-hour off now; in June it'll be as accurate as Big Ben.

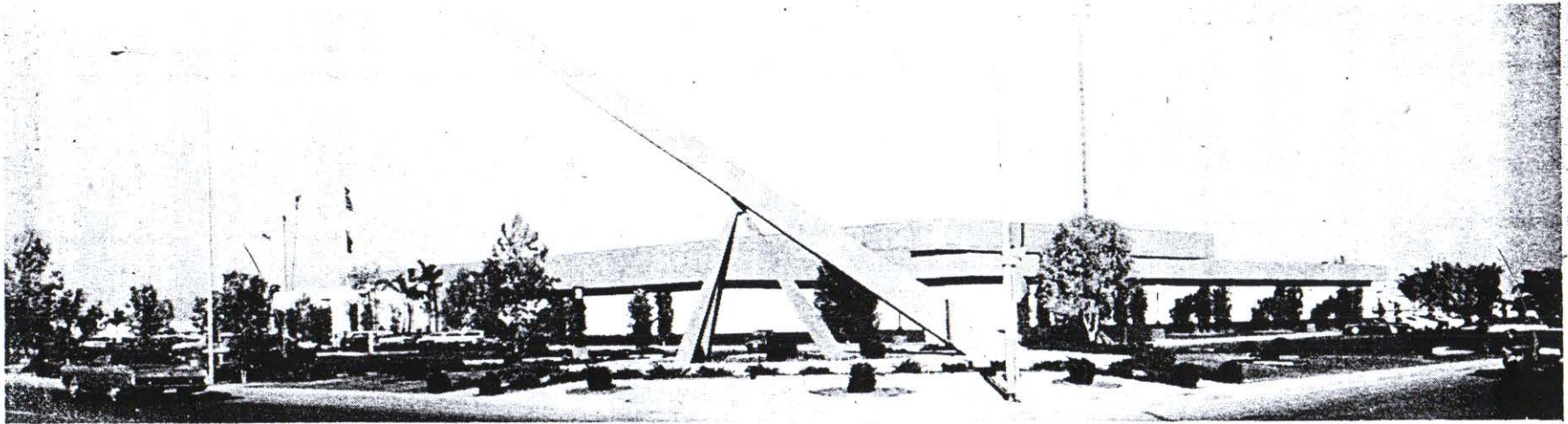
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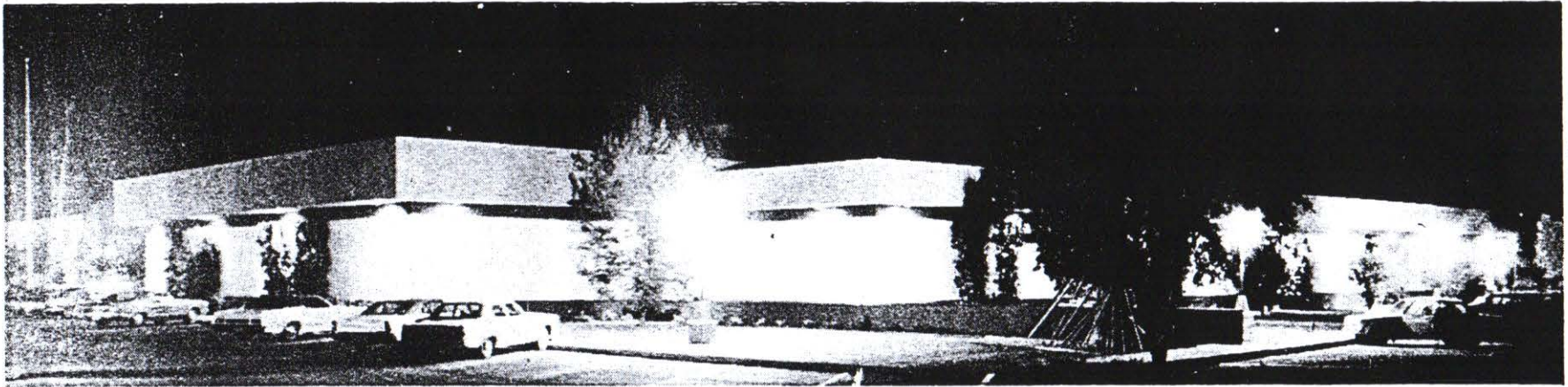
Principals in dedication of Sundial Center await cue for simultaneous ribbon cutting. From left are Del E. Webb Development Co. president John Meeker, Recreation Centers president John Anderson, Del E. Webb, and development company executive vice president Owen Childress.



Pool players wasted no time in getting feel of felt.



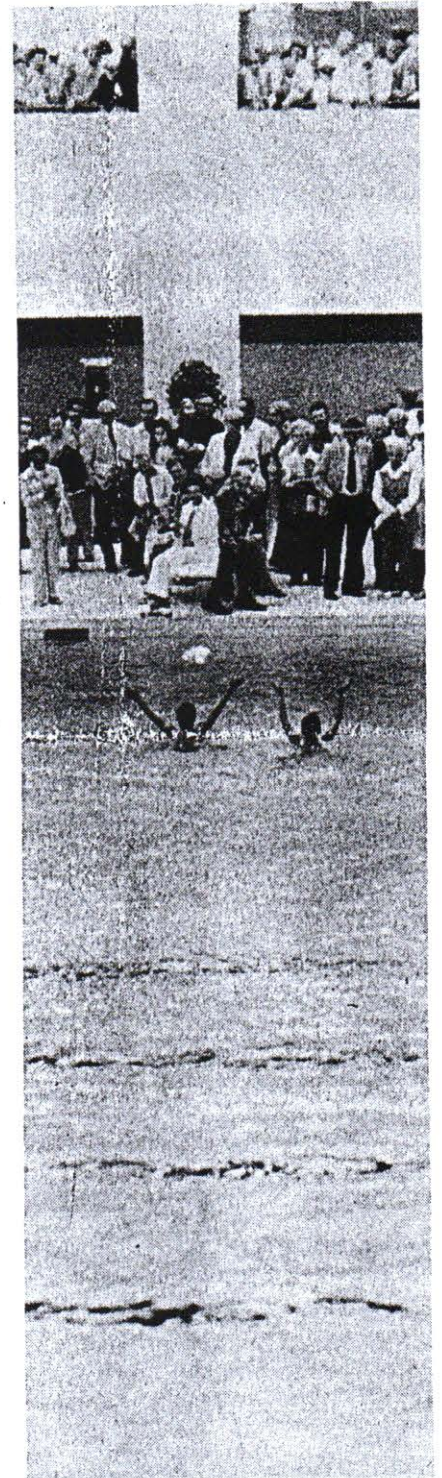
West's tallest sundial sets off Sun City's largest recreation center to date.



Night lighting makes center and landscaping distinctive.



Indoor pool and its landscaping drew most oohs and aahs.



Two Arizona Copper Queens water ballet members perform in pool:

(over)

News-Sun Photos



Crowd downed 7,500 doughnuts and 5,000 cups of coffee.



Gov. Jack Williams surveys pool in Friday night preview.

Oct. 1991

Valley boasts pair of gigantic sundials

By Nancy L. Brandt
For Arizona Senior World

The Valley of the Sun boasts not one but two of the largest sundials in the Western Hemisphere. The sundials, one in Carefree and the other in Sun City, were built when their prospective communities were young as attention-getters but have endured to take their rightful place among the Valley's points of interest.

The sundial in Carefree is the older of the two. It was built sometime around 1959 according to Diana Stockett, executive assistant to the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Carefree.

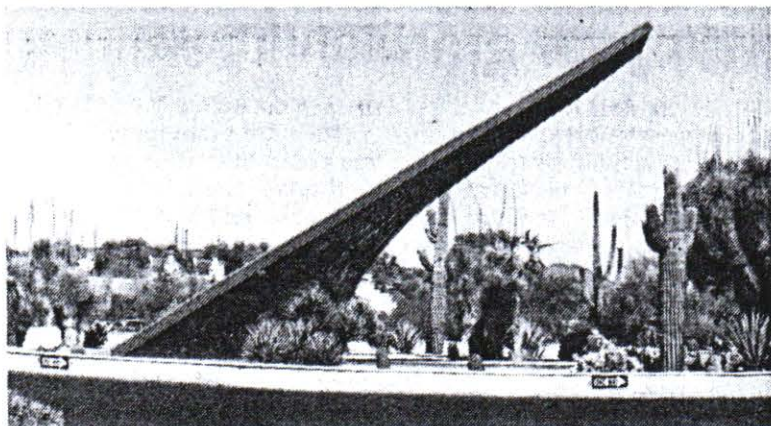
"I do know it was one of the first things that was built here," she told us. "Not the very first, but one of the first attractions that was built here years ago."

In helping to date the sundial, Nancy Zeno, planning secretary for the Town of Carefree, said, "We had an old photo and there's nothing in the town except the sundial. The photo was dated 1959."

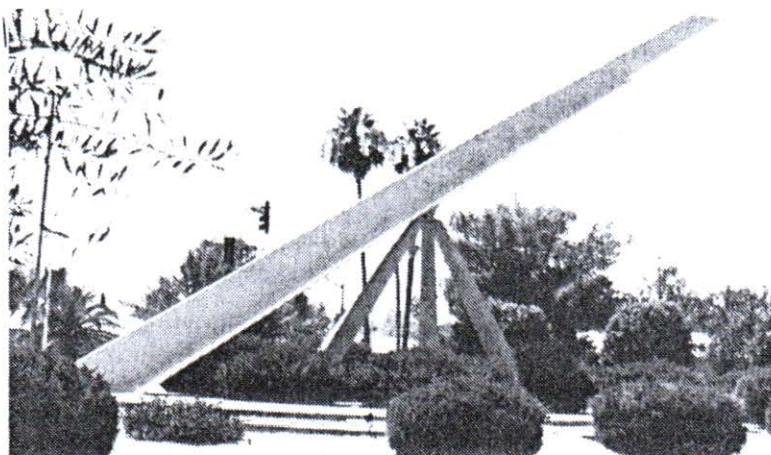
One thing that set this sundial apart was its solar water heating capabilities. When it was originally built the upper 54 feet of the gnomon (the needle or column that casts a sundial's shadow) supported a solar heater designed to supply water to the land office.

"It was dismantled years ago," Zeno said. "The water had to go from the sundial under the street to the building across the road. When it became a restaurant they needed hotter water than they could get (from the sundial)."

Located in Sundial Plaza just off Cave Creek Road, the golden sundial stands 35 feet tall with its



THE SUNDIAL AT CAREFREE



...AND THE SUNDIAL AT SUN CITY

needle or gnomon stretching 62 feet into the air. An eye catching giant sunburst of multi-colored glass hangs beneath the gnomon, catching and reflecting the rays of the sun.

The sundial underwent a complete refurbishing about a year ago. It was truly a community project with everyone pitching in to help raise the needed money. The town is justifiably proud of its

gleaming landmark.

Across the Valley, another sundial towers over the entrance to the Sundial Recreation Center at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard. Sun City's sundial, dedicated back in 1973, marks the last visit made by Sun City founder Del E. Webb before his death in 1974.

Although it lacks the solar capabilities, the gleaming white structure is imposing. According to John Meeker, former president of the Del E. Webb Development Company, when the sundial project was being discussed it was decided if Sun City was going to build a sundial it was going to be the largest one in the country.

Willie A. Chapman did the research and was instrumental in getting the mammoth timepiece built. "Bricker and Hoyt were the architects," he said. "The number one instruction (they were given) was, 'We want it one foot higher than anything you know about in the country.' And that's exactly what they got, a graceful white sundial that, as far as anyone knows, is still the tallest, reaching one foot further into the sky than its counterpart at Carefree."

March 29, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Not your average sundial

By JEFF OWENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Perhaps there is an ancient reason behind it. Maybe all sundials have more than 12 hours on them. But we don't know for sure. Maybe you can help.

The Daily News-Sun would like to know if anyone out there knows why the large sundial in front of Sun City's Sundial Recreation Center has not 12, but 15 hours!

Recreation Centers officials don't know. The Sun City Historical Society doesn't know.

"That's strange," said Jim Hawks, Historical Society vice president. "I don't ever recall a day with 15 hours in it."

The metal structure is among the largest sundials in the Southwest.

Around its face on the ground, the Roman numerals start out in the right direction from I to VII, but then things appear to go awry: an extra V, VI and VII appear before the normal order resumes with IX, X, XI and XII.

There's an extra 5, 6 and 7 o'clock right in the middle of everything.

Del Webb hath bestowed three extra hours on the city he created.

For anyone who ever wished there were more hours in the day, well there you have it, but an explanation remains elusive.

Contact Jeff Owens at the Daily News-Sun at 876-2519 with any information on this chronological mystery.



Steve Chermek/Daily News-Sun

This larger-than-life timepiece gives the Sundial Recreation Center, at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, its name.

Landmark ensures Sun City

The Sun Cities are relatively new with a heritage less than half a century old. But that doesn't mean residents haven't had time to collect a landmark or two. This is the first in an occasional series about the history and relevance behind selected local landmarks.

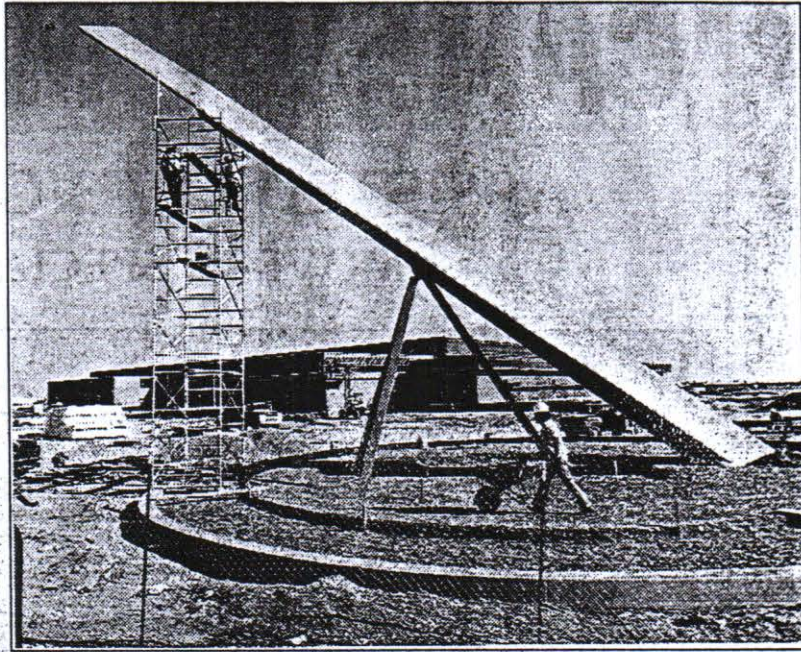
By RUTHANN HOGUE
Staff writer

Fifteen hundred people turned out in Sun City 24 years ago this month when Del Webb dedicated the nation's largest sundial.

The event marked the developer's last public appearance in the area when the \$2 million Sundial Recreation Center opened its doors at 10 a.m. April 14, 1973.

Since then, the gigantic timepiece has greeted thousands of Sun City residents and visitors alike — including President Clinton, who spoke at Sundial during the final days of his campaign last year.

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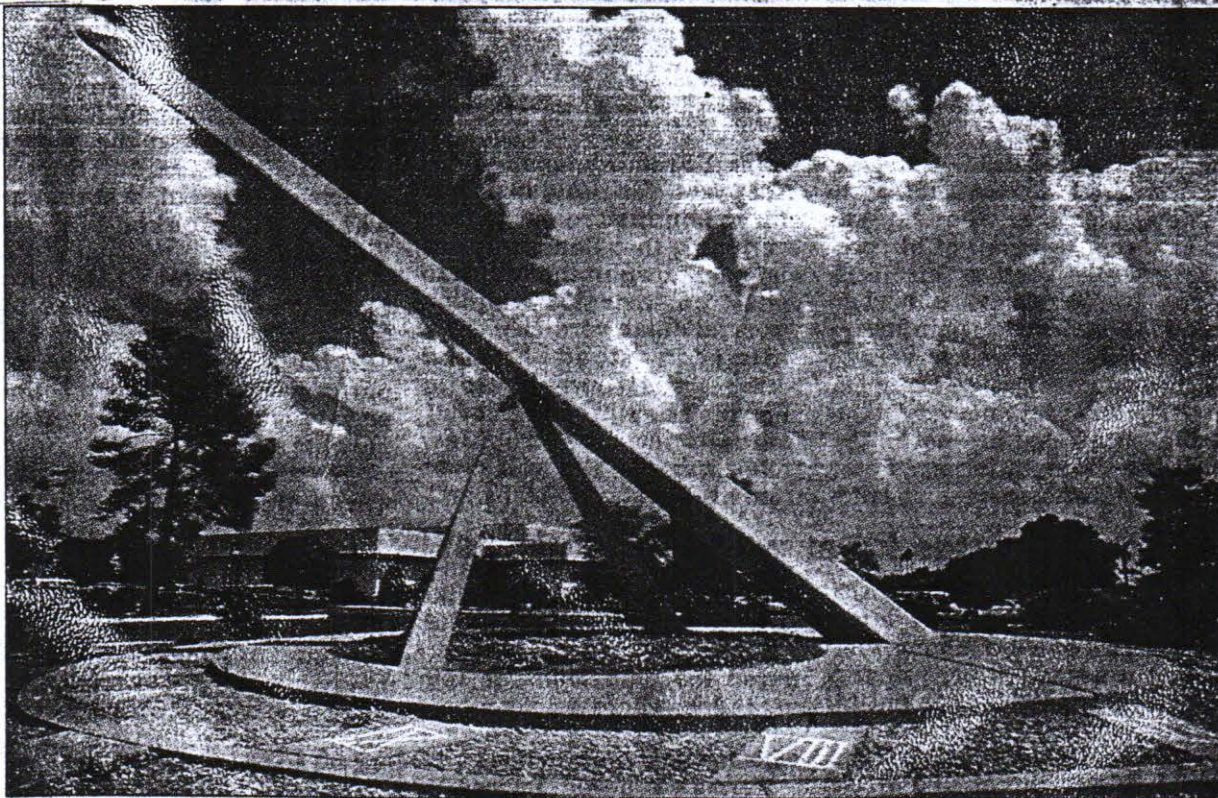
Submitted photo

biggest and the best when it opened after 10 months of construction.

The Sundial Center boasted the first indoor shuffleboard courts. It claimed the state's

world's largest synthetic plants, which have since been removed, once towered as they reached toward a 32-foot ceiling when the center opened.

always has big time



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

A photograph supplied by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society shows Sun City's Sundial shortly before its completion in April 1973. The \$2 million structure, shown above as it appears today, is reportedly the largest sundial in the United States.

4-14-97
D.S.

Sundial secures landmark

■ From A1

Del E. Webb Development Corp., felt compelled to demand that the center's namesake sundial be the largest in the country.

Willie A. Chapman was hired to research the monumental project. Based, in part, on Chapman's findings, architects Bricker and Hoyt built the sundial. It was built 1 foot taller than a similar sundial in Carefree, to ensure its title as the largest.

Jim Hawks, vice president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, said he isn't sure that the average person thinks of the landmark as a sundial when they look at the ominous structure. And they certainly don't appear to use it to tell the time. Even if they did, it would only be accurate twice a year, he said.

"The sun comes up and the sun moves in a predictable way so you can read the shadow," Hawks said, clarifying that seasonal changes affect exactly where the shadows are cast. The garden variety of sundials that are commonly used as yard ornaments can be adjusted to read time accurately.

"But this one you don't move," Hawks said.

Hawks has lived in Sun City for 11 years. He became familiar with the landmark sundial in the late '80s while serving on the recreation center board.

"When I first showed up, I looked at it and thought it was a jungle," Hawks said. "It was overgrown. It had been landscaped and it got out of control."

Hawks saw to it that the excess vegetation was cleared away. He wanted the sundial to look its best.

"Being a city of retirees, Sun City always had time on its hands," Hawks said, commenting on the appropriateness of the structure.

The Sundial Center was named by two Sun City women who entered a contest sponsored by Del E. Webb Development Co. and the Sun City Community Association. Arline Ellision and Viola Cody each won two 1972 Community Association Activity cards for their submission.

To suggest a landmark for future stories, write to "Sun Cities Landmarks" in care of the Daily News-Sun, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, Ariz. 85372.

SUN VIEWS

ISSUE #198 • APRIL 2018 • A PUBLICATION OF THE RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY, INC.

T.V. Night Makes for Memorable Dancing with Sun City Stars



Oh what a night! The audience was "Bewitched" during Dancing with the Sun City Stars as this year's contestants with a very special "T.V. Night" performance both entertained and marveled the audience and judges.

With stops and props from "Gilligan's Island" and southern California's "Baywatch" to "I Dream of Jeannie" and NASA's pilot Major Nelson back in Cocoa Beach, Florida, the audience hollered, howled and hooted for their favorite RCSC dance club member.

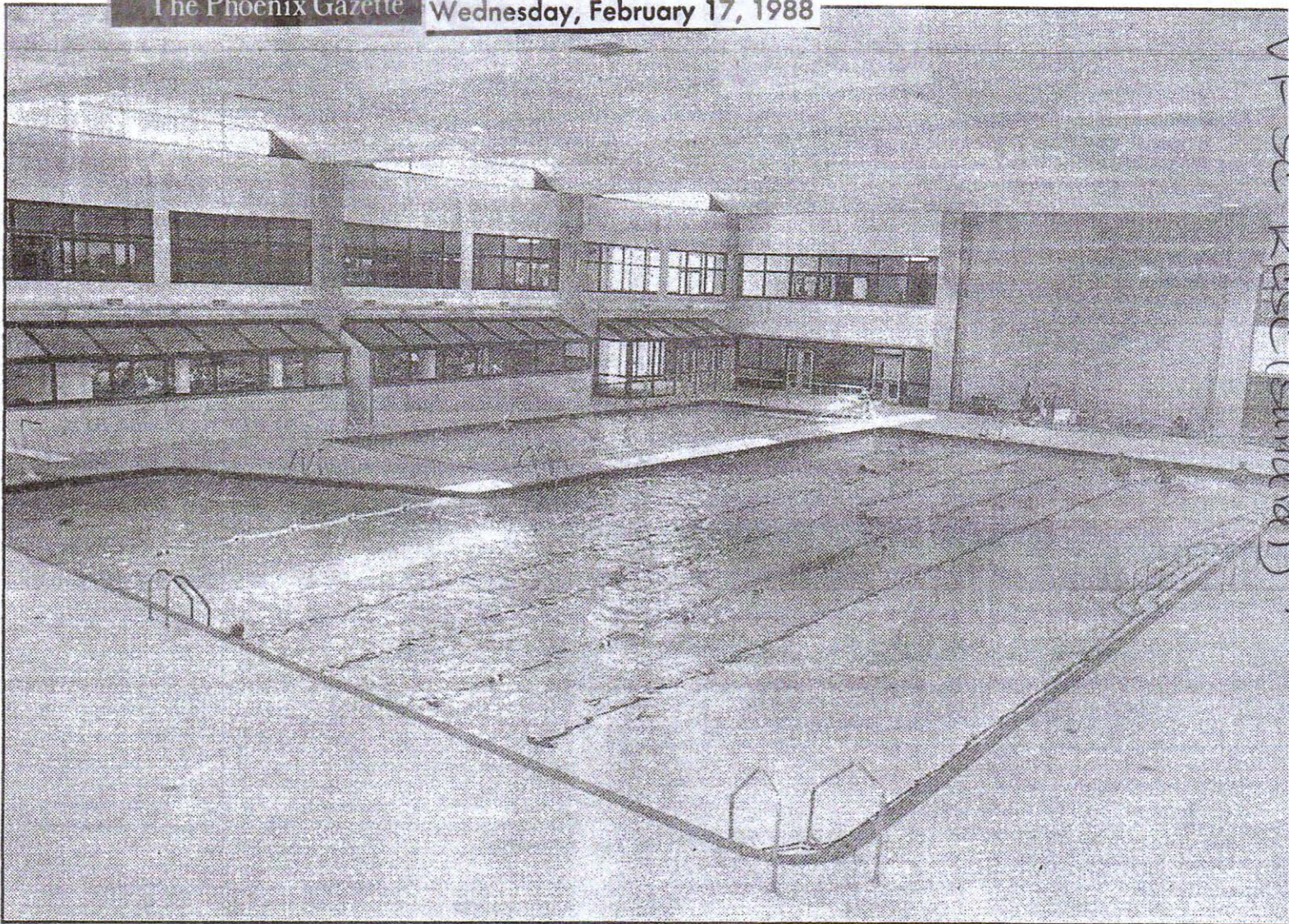
With a rousing "yabba-dabba-do" to "The Flintstones" came in as the runner-up, it was totally "Happy Days" here again in Sun City when the Fonz rocked the house to receive and a big 3-0 from the judges and a record number of audience votes!

Thanks to everyone for a wonderful evening of entertaining fun!

The entire Sun City AZ cast of the 2018 Dancing with the Sun City Stars production with their dance partners from the Utah Ballroom Dance Company (left to right):

- Lu Crenshaw danced the Foxtrot with partner Bannon to the Bewitched theme song
- Runner-up Sharon Word danced the Quickstep with partner Seth to The Flintstones theme song
- Winner Randy Tortorelli danced the Swing with partner Bailey to the Happy Days theme song
- Tip Thiedeman danced the Polka with partner Kylie to the Gilligan's Island theme song
- Judith Wares danced the Salsa with partner Alex to the I Dream of Jeannie theme song
- Jim Bates danced the Cha Cha with partner Heather to the Baywatch theme song.





VF SA RESEC (Sundial)

Dana Leonard, *The Phoenix Gazette*

The Sundial Rec Center has been refurbished and is open again.

In the swim: Reroofed Sundial pool opens

By **Connie Cone**
The Phoenix Gazette

SUN CITY — The splash splash is back at the Sundial Recreation Center and the mood is just bubbly, says Bill Beal, the Sun City rec centers division manager.

After almost a year-and-a-half hiatus, the Sundial's pool building at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, is open and under siege by those taking a look-see at the remodeling job.

The reopening is being cheered by Sun City residents, many who attended a rededication ceremony Sunday.

The two-level building, which has pools on the first floor and recreation and arts and crafts activities on the upper floor, actually threw open its doors the first of this month. "The parking lot has been full ever since," Beal says, excitedly.

"People are real glad to see it going, again. Most people are pleased with the changes and improvements we've made."

One of the major changes is color.

Out go the conservative hues of harvest gold and chocolate brown and in come the

rose tones — light rose, dusty rose and a color close to mauve.

Remodeling on the building began last summer, several months after the center closed down.

"There was some problem in coming up with the new design and what really was needed to get done and to get people to agree on it. And then it had to go to the architect and through the bidding process," Beal says in one breath.

After the design hubbub died down, the construction crew went to work on replacing the roof with one that was thicker and had more of a pitch to it.

"There was a moisture problem with the old roof. The new one eliminates standing water," Beal says.

Another remedy is an improvement in the building's air circulation. "That also is helping the moisture problem," Beal says.

Other improvements include handicapped facilities in the dressing rooms and bathrooms; new paint and tile also adorn the building.

A new feature is a 25-by-60-foot exercise pool designed for lap walking. "We made room for it by taking out some of the landscaping, moving some of the potted plants out," Beal says.

Overall, he says, Sundial's revamping went well. "There were a few delays but the finished product is beautiful."

Velma Abbott, who works in the Chartered Club office which keeps track of club activities, agrees.

She is happy to see Sundial's rebirth.

"It had the only indoor swimming pool of the rec centers. It caused quite an inconvenience to an awful lot of people who couldn't swim outside," she says.

"I guess the chlorine had warped the rafters and they were afraid it would fall in. First, they closed just the pool area and then had to close the upper level, as well. Our office had to find new places to meet for all the clubs that met in there. It's nice to have Sundial open again. It's a beautiful building, now."

Centers board still besieged over renovation

Sundial work controversial

By Karen Kirk

The Phoenix Gazette

SUN CITY — Sundial Recreation Center renovations are less than two months from completion, but there seems to be no end in sight to the criticism the Recreation Centers board is getting over how it handled the project.

Recreation Centers executive administrator Ed Vandertook announced at a quarterly membership meeting Thursday that the extensive work required to demolish the roof and a subcontractor's mix-up in ordering supplies have put construction crews about three weeks behind, but they still plan to have the project completed by their target date of Nov. 6.

The crews are putting decking on the roof and should have this part of the project completed by Friday. After the roof is secure and the scaffolding is removed, workers will begin replastering the swimming pool, replacing the pool deck and building a 25- by 60-foot exercise pool.

The board, in an earlier meeting, awarded a contract totaling \$114,098 to Swimming Pool Services for this phase of the project.

The pool building on 103rd Avenue was closed in May 1986 after a group of engineers determined that excess moisture had damaged the roof to the point of collapse.

Announcement of the three-week delay in construction seemed

to fuel the fires of Recreation Centers members who were fuming about the way the board handled the Sundial project.

For nearly 1½ hours after the meeting, they criticized the board and accused it of breaking Recreation Centers bylaws by entering into a \$1.3 million contract with W.P. Rowland Co. to renovate Sundial without consulting the members.

Article 10 of the bylaws states that the board cannot spend more than \$750,000 on a project without approval of 75 percent of the membership.

"I called the board and asked them about this, and they said they could pay for the projects piecemeal, so it wasn't \$750,000 all at once. If this is not illegal, it certainly is not honorable," member Charlotte Bowling said.

Board vice president Vincent DeFrancis, sitting in for vacationing president Louis Grunwald, defended the board's actions saying that it had consulted its attorney and found that the state statute on which the article was based had been repealed and that the spending limits set by the article are not valid.

He also said the board had exceeded that limit several times without consequence.

"It must be done if we are to effectively carry on the business of the board. Our counsel said it has occurred so frequently it is a practice the membership has accepted," he said.

Former board member Peter Cipriano joined in the criticism saying, "During my time on the

■ Sundial

From Page A

board, we thought you, the members, didn't have enough sense to vote it (Article 10) out of the bylaws, so we didn't tell you about it. We are operating contrary to our own rules. I propose it be put in a petition to change the articles at the election in December."

The members also took issue with the board for choosing to rebuild the roof rather than repair the existing structure.

Arthur Sullivan said the board asked he and other retired engineers to form a committee to investigate the Sundial situation, and then ignored their recommendation to hire the Porter-Ruscilli Construction Co. to rebuild the roof.

"It bothers me that we went to a great deal of trouble to prepare the report. We presented it to the board along with 10 copies of Porter's proposal, and it was ignored. The board said the way to go was to replace the structure. I don't think the membership of Sun City has gotten a fair shake on this," he said.

DeFrancis again defended the board's decision to hire W.P. Rowland, saying, "They (the committee) were asking us to rebuild something the way it was before, to repeat a mistake. This was an ad hoc committee that would not be accountable to Recreation Centers members if something went wrong. If we pay engineers, they are accountable if something goes wrong with the roof."

Board member Bob Turner said he agreed with the engineers committee's proposal until he inspected the roofing materials more closely and found them to be in worse shape than the engineers originally thought.

"Porter wasn't going to take the facia. When I got on the roof, I saw the facia was bent out of shape and could have dropped off, especially over the mall area," he said.

Turner also urged the board to work with its committees, rather than against them.

"There is much to be learned from what we have come through in the past. We have learned we must listen to what the people say . . . Lets go on with it, learn what we can, take committees recommendations into consideration and not repeat this mistake," he said.

Office building postponed

Members fight rec center plan

By Jeff Nelson
Special to Community

SUN CITY — Reacting to growing opposition, the board of directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City has shelved plans for an office building at the Sundial Recreation Center.

However, the board left the door open to include the project in the rec centers' 1995 budget, which the directors will consider this fall.

A board majority voted in February to build the new office building on the same property as the Sundial center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Since that time, the rec centers had sought bids from Valley architectural firms for the project.

About 130 rec center members — many of whom oppose construction of the building — attended a special meeting Thursday expecting that the board would hire an architect.

Instead, the board voted 7-2, with board President Art Williams and George Hartman dissenting, to postpone the hiring and any more work on the project until the 1995 budget comes up for review in November.

It's likely a new round of debate over the proposed project will occur, those on both sides of the issue say.

Board member Ed Anderson said although he feels the new administration building is a necessity, a time-out is needed.

"We need to back up, get it out to our members and explain to our members why we need it and put it into the 1995 budget," he said at Thursday's meeting.

Anderson and the other board members who support the project have been under increasing pressure by many rec center members to halt the project before ground

See CENTER, Page 3

CENTER

is broken.

Opponents argue that the building is not needed and that rec center fees would likely have to be increased to pay for and maintain the new offices.

Those who voted for the building's construction dispute this, saying they see no need to increase rec fees to pay for the building. Sun City residents pay \$110 annually for rec centers membership.

Preliminary plans call for a single-story, 10,000-square-foot building costing roughly \$550,000.

The new building would house administrative offices that occupy about 6,000 square feet at the Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

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.

Earlier in the year, there was an uproar over the possibility of lapidary clubs being shut down to make room for other clubs.

Nat Jampel, the board member

most outspoken in his opposition to the proposed office building said because Sun City's population has stopped growing, he sees no reason for the rec centers needing more space for offices and clubs.

Board member Kay Sentes, who also objects to the new office building, said the open area that the new office building would be located in should remain open for outdoor activities.

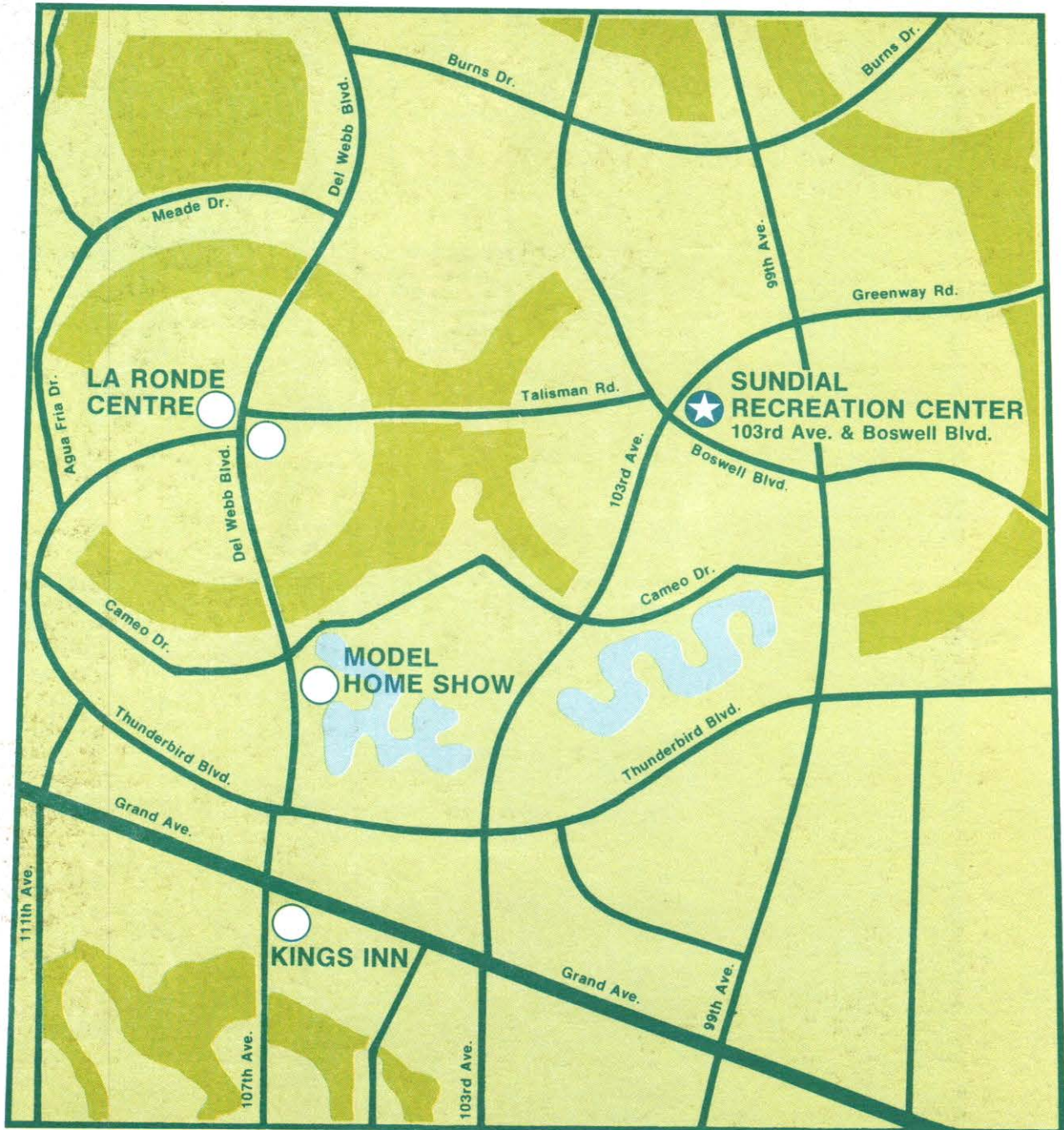
Williams, who voted against postponing the project, said the Sundial location is ideal because it is centrally located, has plenty of parking and is more accessible to the physically handicapped.

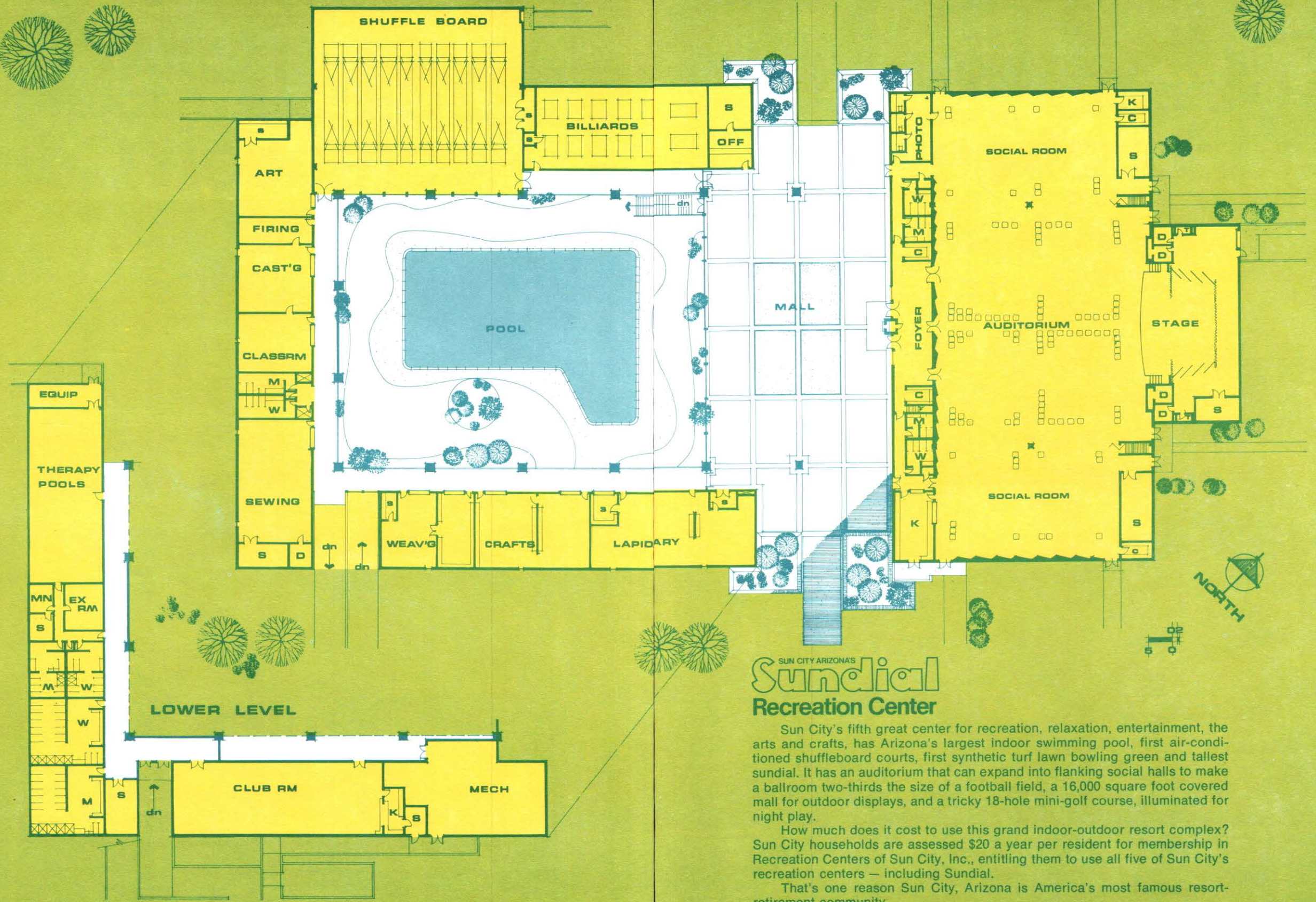
"The biggest complaint by people doing business at Lakeview today is the limited parking and problems with the ramps," he said.

As for the need for a new building, Williams said the office at Lakeview were never designed to be a permanent location for the rec center offices. He said Sun City's population was 20,000 when administrators moved into those offices in the 1970s.

R. I. "BOB" GEYER

SUN CITY ARIZONA'S **Sundial** Recreation Center





SUN CITY ARIZONA'S
Sundial
 Recreation Center

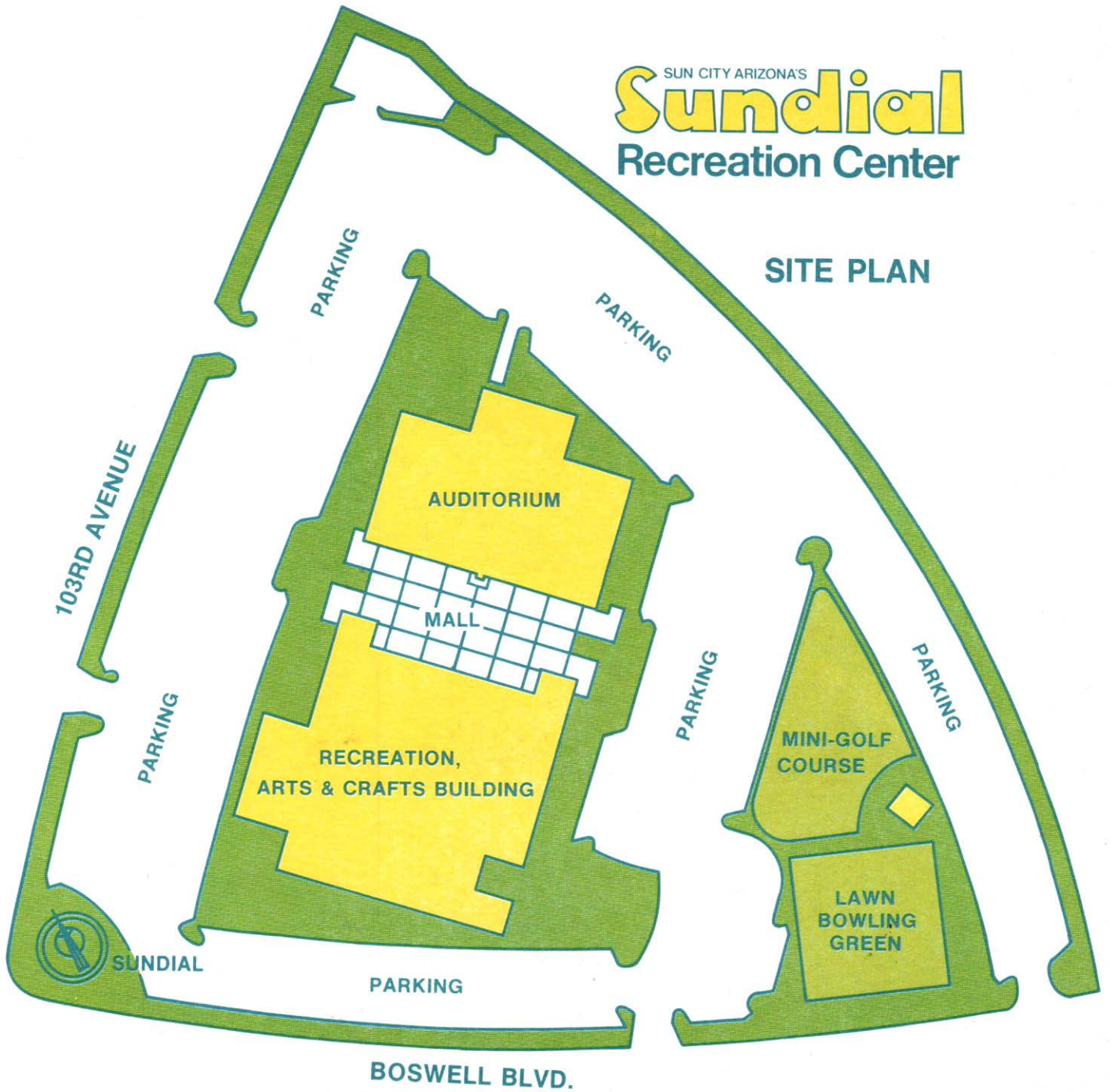
Sun City's fifth great center for recreation, relaxation, entertainment, the arts and crafts, has Arizona's largest indoor swimming pool, first air-conditioned shuffleboard courts, first synthetic turf lawn bowling green and tallest sundial. It has an auditorium that can expand into flanking social halls to make a ballroom two-thirds the size of a football field, a 16,000 square foot covered mall for outdoor displays, and a tricky 18-hole mini-golf course, illuminated for night play.

How much does it cost to use this grand indoor-outdoor resort complex? Sun City households are assessed \$20 a year per resident for membership in Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., entitling them to use all five of Sun City's recreation centers — including Sundial.

That's one reason Sun City, Arizona is America's most famous resort-retirement community.

SUN CITY ARIZONA'S
Sundial
Recreation Center

SITE PLAN



Revamped Sun City icon enjoys sunny unveiling

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Supporters of the iconic sundial at Sun-dial Recreation Center got their moment in the sun Friday morning as the Recreation Centers of Sun City held an official rededication ceremony.

"This is an historic occasion," said Larry Martin, known as the Sun City Walker. "This is truly one of Sun City's

best-known icons. I walk the Sun City streets every day and this is one of my favorite spots. It really was a wise decision to repair the sundial."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City had announced plans in February to have the sundial removed because of concerns that the rusty steel supports had created a

SEE SUNDIAL, A5



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities School Board Quartet sings during a dedication ceremony for the Sun City Sundial Friday morning at the Sundial Recreation Center.

SUNDIAL

FROM A1

safety hazard.

Board President Vance Coleman said the discussion over what to do with the sundial prompted a strong reaction from the community.

"Not only were there protests, there were passionate protests," he said. "We received letters from all over, including international. The passion was so deep, many people made contributions toward this project. Obviously, we made the right decision."

Bill Pearson, president of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, said the sundial is indicative of what Sun City is all about.

"There is one single component of the community everyone sees when they come to Sun City and that is the sundial," he said. "And when you see it, you fall in love."

John Carmichael of the North American Sundial Society was on hand to discuss the sundial from a func-

tional perspective.

"I was baffled by the wings on either side," he said. "You have to judge the time by the middle of the shadow ... from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by the edge of the shadow the rest of the time."

While that quirk makes Sun City's an unusual sundial, Carmichael said the aesthetic trade-off is worth it.

"It certainly is spectacular," he said. "We certainly don't mind (the designer) sacrificing the science just a little bit for the sake of art."

Carmichael said the sundial is accurate to within about 20 minutes and that a graph will be installed in the near future to help people use it.

As the crowd gathered around the sundial and the plaque was unveiled, Coleman asked those in attendance to take a moment to congratulate themselves.

"I'm sure every one of you who came out this morning did so because you are passionate about the sundial. You did this. Let's all applaud, because we saved this baby."

FORECAST

Sunny
High 77,
Low 51. Details, A12

DAILY DEAL

ADULTCARE ASSISTANCE
HOMECARE, A5



Daily News

Vol. 50 No. 180, 5 Sections 72 Pages

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 2007

Insurance firm turns down Sundial claim

STAFF REPORT

The Recreation Centers of Sun City's insurance policy will not cover damages to Sundial Recreation Center.

The rec centers announced Thursday its insurance provider, Cincinnati Insurance Co., has denied its claim from the June 19 collapse of Sundial's roof in the pool area.

An engineering firm hired by Cincinnati Insurance determined that "material defects in the composition of the support glulam beam that spanned across the south end of the pool" caused the beam to fail and collapse the roof, RCSC official said. The glulam beam was approximately 4½-foot-thick and made with layers of wood bonded by industrial strength glue.

Losses due to material defects in property are excluded from RCSC's insurance policy.

The beam that failed was from the original construction of Sundial in 1972 and was reused in the 1987 renovation of the pool facility.

"RCSC is now looking into what our options are," said Denny Nichols, RCSC board president. "While we are disappointed that our claim was denied, our members can rest assured that we will be going forward with the Sundial rebuilding."

Nichols would not make any more comments about the insurance claim. Insurance agents did not return calls for comment.

The RCSC employed its own structural engineers to evaluate the damage. Rec center officials did not say what their engineers have reported, if anything.

Last year, the RCSC board voted to allot \$2 million to the Sundial rebuilding project. Nichols said in a previous board meeting that the funds were allocated from a fund to renovate the Fairway Recreation Center. Any insurance reimbursements would have been put back into the Fairway project fund. It's unclear how the money will be handled now that the insurance company has denied the claim.



Barbara Ann Munter of Sun City Jackie Wheeler, below. Munter participants apply their own make

Page 2

Hard work has
already begun
for 2007 Ms.
Senior Arizona
contestants

First of two stories to
ring at the 2007 Ms. Sen
Arizona Dinner is

Sundial roof collapse sends users to other rec centers in Sun City

By Erin Zlomek
ERIN.ZLOMEK@ARIZONAREPUBLIC.COM

Regular users of Sun City's Sundial Recreation Center will be relocating their activities to other centers this summer while officials investigate and repair this week's roof collapse at the popular facility.

The Sundial's roof collapsed around 4:15 a.m. Monday when one of the roof's three support beams caved in as maintenance workers were servicing the center's indoor pool. Nobody was injured.

Engineers have not yet pinpointed a cause.

Other recreation centers, scheduled for renovations this summer, may remain open to host activities relocated from the Sundial facility, center director Norm Dickson said. The accident will prevent nearly 1,000 retirement community residents from using the pool or taking part in the center's usual activities.

Notices will be posted at the other centers listing the new times and locations of rescheduled Sundial classes and activities.

Most Sundial users shipped over to Bell Recreation Center on Tuesday for rescheduled classes and activities.

"I had no idea something happened," said Irene Glischinski, who swam at the Sundial pool Sunday.

Unfortunately, Glischinski may have an uncomfortable summer.

She has skin cancer and cannot swim outside. Sundial had the community's only indoor pool, Glischinski said.

There are seven recreation centers in Sun City. Bell and Sundial are the largest.

With two pools, spas, a fitness center and 2,000-seat auditorium, Sundial underwent a \$2.5 million renovation five years ago. The roof was inspected at that point.

"We wanted to make sure the roof was solid, and at that time it was given a clean bill of health," Dickson said. "We don't know what caused it (to collapse) — dry-wall, humidity, termites. The next job is to determine what happened."

Built in 1973, the center's roof collapsed once before in 1986. At that time, two of three 5-foot-thick beams that supported the ceiling collapsed. A small portion of the roof came down, but officials declared the third beam stable and in no need of replacement. Monday, the third beam finally caved in.

Dickson said his staff would explore options to prevent another accident.

"When the dust clears from this, no pun intended, we will examine our two bowling alleys, three auditoriums and anything else with a big span," Dickson said.

Experts investigate cause of roof collapse

Thousands of club members displaced

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Structural engineers, fire officials, electricians and insurance agents have started on the "long road" to rebuilding the Sundial Recreation Center following Monday's roof collapse that has displaced thousands of club members, fitness buffs and swimmers.

The roof over Sundial pool caved in at about 4 a.m. Monday. Five maintenance workers were inside cleaning at the time but evacuated before a 4-to 5-foot thick wooden beam crashed through the roof, said Ken Rice, Sun City Fire Department community relations director.

Other than some minor scrapes, no one was injured, Dodson said. The entire center is closed until further notice.

The cause has not been determined, said Jim Wellman, Recreation Centers of Sun City senior manager of centers operations.

'I'm extremely grateful there was no one in there. The sun is definitely shining on the citizens of Sun City.'

Dave Haynes,
Accel general manager

John Rowlinson, state fire marshal, said fire crews will monitor evacuation systems, sprinklers and alarms to ensure they continue to function amid the rubble. He also said fumes from the pool may have contributed to a weakened structure.

"Any time you have an enclosed pool, there's potential for corrosive fumes," he said. "The fumes would have an effect on a steel structure over a period of time, but the effect it would have on wood, I'm not positive."

Accel Electric of Phoenix was on site Tuesday to turn off electrical power to the

entire southwest wing of Sundial and to post notices that electricity cannot be turned back on, except by an authorized person, said Dave Haynes, Accel general manager. It's a standard safety precaution, he said.

And while power to the fire protection system remained in tact, electricians will return today to run an additional dedicated circuit to ensure the fire protection system remains functional, he said.

"It will be a long road to redo (the roof)," he said. "I'm extremely grateful there was no one in there. The sun is definitely shining on the citizens of Sun City."

Jeff Dickerson of Glendale Insurance, which handles the RCSC policies, declined to elaborate on the collapse, saying it is too early in the investigation.

"The insurance company is deeply involved, and it's going forward," he said.

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

Sun Citians speak out to save sundial

NORA AVERY-PAGE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors listened to many heartfelt, and occasionally angry, comments from members about the possible removal of the sundial monument at Thursday's board meeting, but made no decision about its fate.

"There's no way we're going to satisfy everybody," board president Vance Coleman said during the meeting.

Residents called for RCSC to think more about other options for the sundial and questioned whether the monument is structurally unsound, as the organization contends.

Sun Citian Larry Martin told the board that he walks five to 10 miles in the community a day, and enjoys seeing the sundial, which



SOURCE: YOURWESTVALLEY.COM

DAILY NEWS-SUN

stands at the corner of Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue outside the Sundial Recreation Center.

"I love that old sundial, but it's really not old," Martin said. "That dial gives me a delight each time I go by."

Martin also told the board that he is a retired engineer and had taken a look at the steel structure, and although he couldn't look at the base of the legs, thought

it would stand for many years to come.

"The loss of the sundial will be a loss of part of me," Martin said, after quoting Ernest Hemingway.

Noel Kasper, a representative of The Sun City Formula Registry, called for a membership vote on the sundial issue, and said the group will circulate a petition unless the board changes its mind.

"The RCSC was es-



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Larry Martin tells the Recreation Center's board "the loss of the Sundial (monument) would be a loss for me," during a meeting Thursday in the Sundial Auditorium.

established for the purpose of maintaining and protecting the Del Webb facilities and landmarks gifted to the people of Sun City so that they will endure

for future generations." Kasper read from a letter representing the his views and those of Anne Randall Stewart of the

SEE SUNDIAL, A5

SUNDIAL

FROM A1

Formula Registry. "It is not the purpose of this RCSC board of directors to destroy Del Webb landmarks and historic monuments."

RCSC Assistant General Manager Jim Wellman told those in attendance that the surface rust they see on the steel through the inspection holes is not the problem. He held up large slabs of rusted metal flaked off from the base of the structure that he had taken out that morning to demonstrate his point.

"We don't take this lightly," Wellman said, adding that the monument has been inspected by a certified structural engineer.

Joyce Stoffers said that although she is a newer resident of Sun City, she appreciates its heritage.

Stoffers, who is the former director of the American Clock & Watch Museum in Connecticut, told the board that the sundial is listed on the inter-

national website of the North American Sundial Society.

The Sun City sundial could be marketed much better, Stoffers told the board, to include walking tours or miniature replicas for sundial enthusiasts.

Stoffers also read a letter from the NASS secretary Roger Bailey, asking the board to "do the right thing."

"This monument deserves to be preserved and protected," Stoffers read. "Please maintain its place in the sun."

Bill Pearson, president of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, read a letter from that board requesting RCSC preserve a historical monument and not remove the iconic sundial.

"It shouldn't have been started in the first place," Pearson said.

Pearson also told the board that the last time Del E. Webb, the original builder of Sun City, was in the community was for the opening of the Sundial Recreation Center in April of 1973; the monument that gives the center its name was built at the same time as the building.

RCSC awaits Sundial bids

STAFF REPORT

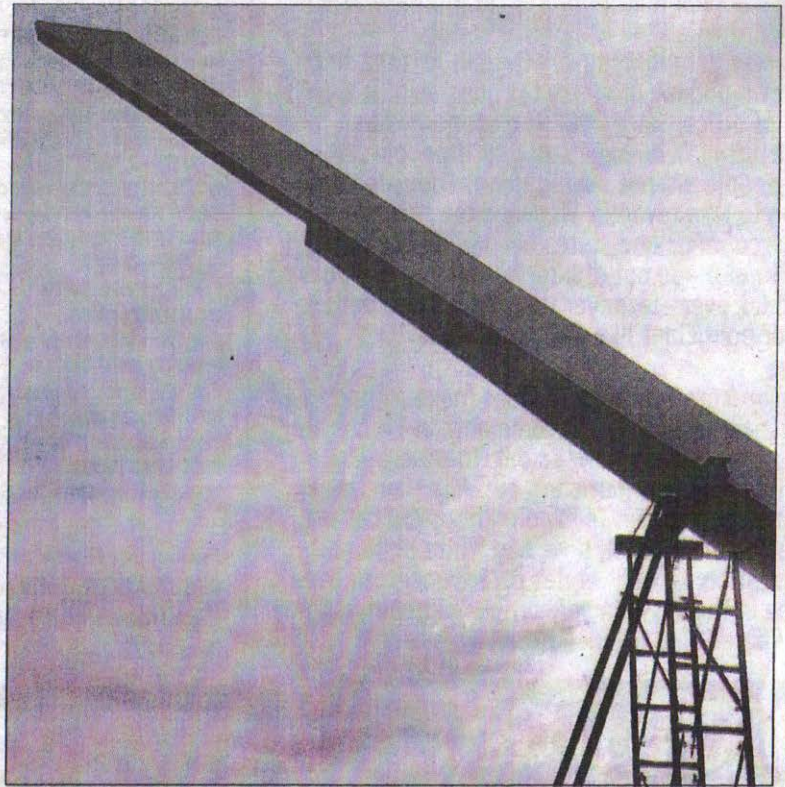
The repair of the sundial rising over 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard remains a priority, but there is no timeline for the project, according to the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The monument was shored up this week for stability because of safety concerns about the level of rust on the steel support legs.

RCSC announced last month that it would repair, rather than remove the iconic monument that marks the recreation center of the same name after a community outcry.

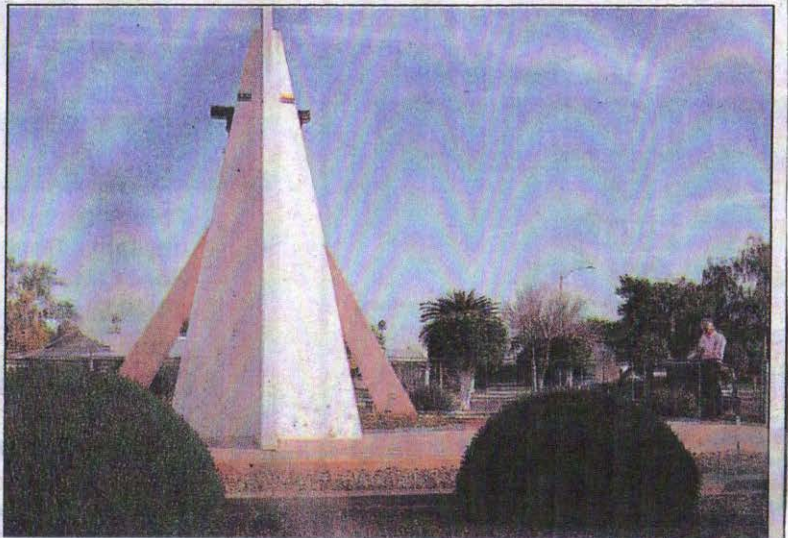
RCSC is getting bids for the work that needs to be done for the repair.

Because this repair is an unbudgeted expense, RCSC is asking for donations from the community to help with the costs. All donations for the sundial repairs can be made through the Sun City Foundation, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. All donations to the foundation are tax deduct-



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Above, scaffolding adds security to the Sundial in Sun City in preparation for work to be done. Below, Mike H. Smith of MS Square Construction records measurements of the Sundial Thursday. Smith said the Sundial was made from precast concrete and steel.



Board keeps sundial standing tall

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The iconic sundial monument will cast its shadow over Sun City for many years to come.

After listening to many unhappy comments from members at its board of directors meeting Thursday morning, the Recreation Centers of Sun City announced Friday it decided to repair, rather than remove, the monument.

Sun Citian June Merrill spoke at Thursday's meeting and said she was relieved to hear the sundial would remain.

"I'm so glad to hear that," she said.

Merrill has been involved in politics for many years, she told the board, and knows the most important thing leaders need to do is listen to the people.

Board member Tom Loegering said the decision was really the community speaking, not the board.

"We always listen

RCSC

FROM A1

to members," Loegering said. "This is more in line with what we thought the community really wanted."

Larry Martin calls himself Sun City's resident walker, and loves walking by the sundial monument on his daily trek.

"I for one, am thrilled," he said. "That's just absolutely wonderful."

Martin said he considers the sundial, along with the Liberty Bell replica and statue of Del Webb at the Bell Recreation Center, representative of what Sun City is all about and im-

portant to the history of the community.

"I like traditions," he said.

After a certified structural engineer inspected the monument, which marks the corner of the Sundial Recreation Center, RCSC determined the cost of repairing the severely rusted metal on the support legs would be more expensive than removing the steel and concrete structure.

"At this time, it is impossible to know an exact repair cost until further inspection can be made below the surface," an RCSC statement read. "We do know that the three steel supports at the foundation must be repaired to restore the

steel supports' structural capacity to ensure further deterioration does not occur."

Based on preliminary cost estimates, repairs to the monument at the corner of 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard would cost roughly \$50,000, while its removal would have come in at approximately \$17,000.

"They've wasted money on a lot of other things," Merrill said. "They need to have some responsibility."

Because this repair is an unbudgeted expense, RCSC is asking for donations from the community to help with the costs. All donations for the sundial repairs can be made through the Sun City

Foundation, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. All donations to the foundation are tax deductible.

Loegering said the fiduciary responsibility of the organization is important to him as a board member, and the board works to do any repairs in the most cost-effective way.

"We have to balance it," he said.

Although safety was RCSC's main concern and its reason for announcing the removal of the sundial last week, no time line has been set for repairs. The monument will be fenced off and supported as much as possible to provide stability and avoid potential accidents.

Sundial shadow fading

Rust, moisture damage creates safety concerns

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

An iconic Sun City structure will soon cast its last shadow. The sundial on the northeast corner of 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard that marks the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., will be removed. The Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors made the decision to tear down the structure for safety reasons, according to Tim Gallen, RCSC spokesman.

"Due to extensive deterioration of the steel supportive structure, the RCSC Board of Directors has decided to remove the sundial monument structure at Sundial Center," stated a press release sent to

Related Link

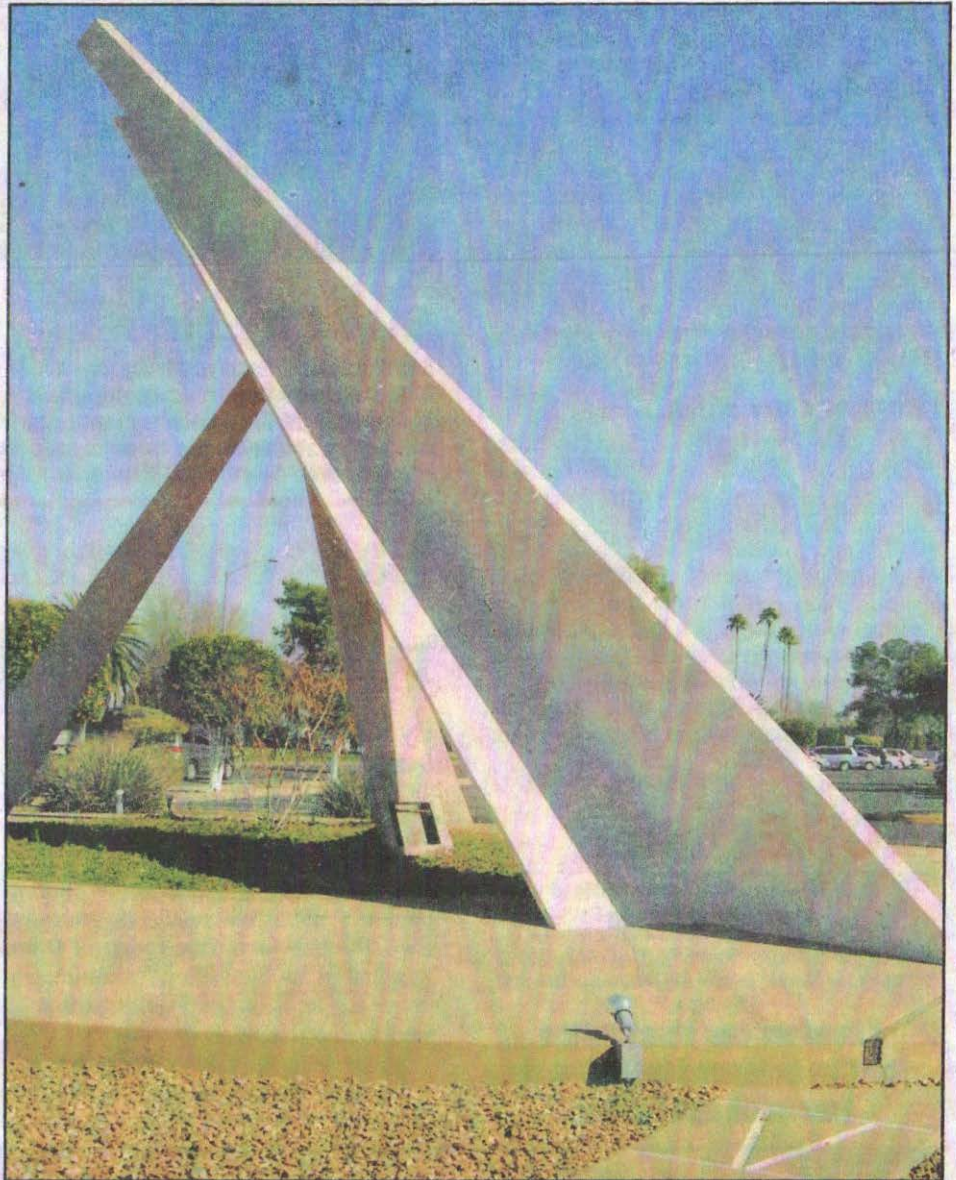
www.sunaz.com

RCSC cardholders Feb. 14.

The board also considered the cost of repair and continued maintenance for the structure in making its decision, according to Mr. Gallen.

RCSC obtained the opinion of a certified structural engineer about the sundial's condition, according to a second RCSC press release last week. Observations were that water infiltrated the stucco façade around the three supports and had accumulated on top of the foundations. This long-term exposure to moisture resulted in significant deterioration of the steel members at each support location, according to the press release. Minor amounts of surface rust and paint deterioration are evident at the top of the supports, but these do not compromise the structural integrity of the monument and are not the main issues that make this a safety issue, according to the press release. Cracks in the flanges of the pre-cast concrete were also reported.

Repair would entail raising the top of the



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
One of Sun City's iconic symbols will be coming down as Recreation Centers of Sun City officials announced last week the sun dial at the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., will be removed.

Sundial

Continued From Page 1

foundation's concrete to about half a foot above grade to reduce the support's exposure to moisture, according to the press release. The concrete slab around the monument's base would be removed to inspect the concrete and foundation below grade.

"Based on what would be required for repair, plus continued maintenance, the cost would be higher than removal," he stated in an e-mail.

However, when asked for specific cost figures for repair versus removal, Mr. Gallen did not respond. Resident Paul Zaleski is suspicious of RCSC officials' claims the repair cost is higher than removal since they will not provide cost estimate figures. Resident Kathy Shawl wondered why RCSC officials did not share the cost estimates for repair and removal with residents.

"I definitely believe that the citizens of Sun City should be the ones to make the decision," she stated in an e-mail.

Resident Lee Krieling agreed, and wondered why residents have heard nothing before this about safety concerns regarding the sun dial.

"Why are we just hearing about this?" he asked.

Resident Ken Svee believes the decision should be made in a public meeting after presenting a full report to the community, including cost comparisons for repair, removal and replacement.

Resident Sharon Billeter found it incredible the RCSC board would take down

an iconic landmark without firm cost estimates or community input.

Reaction from residents who received the press release was immediate. Several residents posted on the Public Issues Forum, www.newszap.com, regarding the decision. More answered questions posed by the Independent. Reactions were mixed, with some opposing removal and others favoring it.

Resident Bill Pearson believes the sundial has historical significance to the community and should be saved.

"My preference is to first try and repair the original," he stated in an e-mail. "Only if the costs were astronomical would I want to see that (removal) happen."

However, resident Will Ross believes the time has come for the sundial to go, regardless of its condition.

"It has been 50 years, the damn thing is just another eye sore," he stated in an e-mail, "Tear it down if they want and use the preservation monies to remove the monster."

When the sundial was originally erected the structure's steel supporting legs were not encased in concrete above ground, according to the RCSC press release. Because they were not protected from surface water, the legs have rusted to a point RCSC officials deemed it a safety concern.

However, resident Tom Beckwith, who was a welder most of his life, believes based on his own observation the rust on the structure is superficial.

"What I saw was the same you would see on steel delivered to a work site, just surface rust," he said.

His inspection did not include metallurgy testing or other methods, simply a vi-

sual inspection through holes already cut in the facade of the structure. But if other testing was done on the sun dial's steel integrity, that has not been shared by RCSC officials, according to Mr. Beckwith.

"You can bury a piece of steel in the ground and dig it up 100 years later and it would still be sound," Mr. Beckwith said.

Resident Gordon Rosier questioned RCSC's oversight of construction and continued maintenance of the sundial. He asked whether the contractor's progress during construction and, if so, why the lack of concrete encasement was not included. He also wonders why RCSC officials did not have a maintenance plan for the sundial from the beginning.

"The sundial should be repaired and maintained," he stated in an e-mail. "Our community already contributes an annual dues process in order to maintain our facilities."

Mr. Zaleski, a former machine shop owner, said repairing the sundial could be done at minimal cost by torching off the rusted portions and rewelding the mounting plates.

"The biggest cost would be the crane to lift it off and put it back," he stated in an e-mail.

RCSC officials have not set a timeline for removing the structure, according to Mr. Gallen.

"But it will likely begin sooner rather than later," he stated.

The RCSC board has not made a decision about whether something will be constructed in the sun dial's place once it is removed, according to Mr. Gallen.

Some residents believe if the sundial's supportive legs are in such dangerous

condition it is because RCSC officials were negligent in their maintenance responsibilities.

"Simple standard maintenance was never attempted or accomplished," Thomas O'Hara stated in an e-mail.

Resident Lucky Marr believes that since the Sundial Recreation Center roof collapsed, it is reasonable to assume the sun dial might also collapse.

Resident Martin Heller believes a community fund drive should be initiated to erect another one in its place, one that is newer or stronger. He stated in an e-mail that if every Sun City resident contributed \$3 it would generate a fund of more than \$100,000.

"Repairs are only a temporary solution to an already existing problem," he stated. "The cost of continuing repairs would eventually out spend what a newer stronger replacement would cost."

Other residents embrace the replacement option. However, resident Jean Fritts favors replacing it with a smaller version. While resident Marjoie Simmons believes there are other more important needs in the community, a smaller sun dial would be economical because it could be constructed for less money.

"The sundial is an appropriate and attractive landmark," stated Doyle Dickson in an e-mail. "I would like to see a new one erected."

Resident Stu Manville suggests a three-foot pedestal with a brass or bronze sun dial.

"I always considered the sun dial erection to be kind of cheap and ugly," he stated in an e-mail:

Sundial plan faces some heat

NORA AVERY-PAGE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

To Dwane French, the sundial at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard is an icon.

To the Recreation Centers of Sun City, it's an accident waiting to happen.

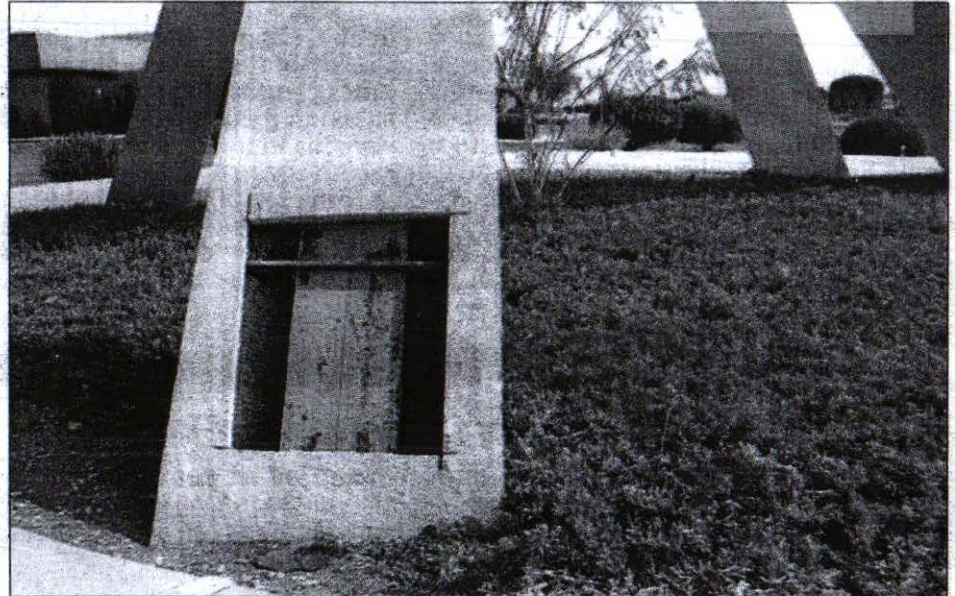
The RCSC has determined that repairing the sundial would be more expensive than removing it, since the steel structure supporting the concrete dial is rusted out.

Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager, said the corpo-

ration worked with a registered professional engineer to evaluate the structure, opening up inspection holes to look inside at the rust. The engineer submitted a report about what repairs would need to be done.

"The steel is compromised to the point where it needs extensive repair," Wellman said. "At the ground level, water has been attacking the steel structure."

People checking out the sundial themselves will see the rust



DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

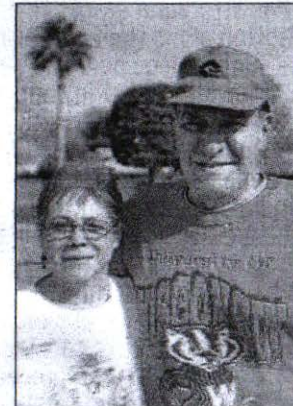
Voice your opinion
on our poll at
www.yourwestvalley.com



on the surface of the steel through the inspection holes, but the structure is damaged deeper than that, Wellman said.

RCSC has no timeline for when the sundial will be removed.

SEE RUST, A5



Above, an exposed steel beam supporting the sundial at Sundial Recreation Center shows signs of rust. Dwane and Bev French, left, want to keep the sundial because it is a Sun City landmark. For another opinion on the matter go to page A6.

RUST

FROM A1

but the board will discuss other options for what to put in that space.

Some residents, however, call the sundial great artwork representing the community. The monument marks the location of Sundial Recreation Center and was built in 1973 at the same time as the building.

"I would be in favor of keeping it there," French said. "I think it's a landmark. I can see the safety concerns, but that's no reason to take it down."

Safety is the main issue for RCSC.

General Manager Jan Ek said that's why the board acted

quickly to make a decision on the removal, even though some residents are not happy that it did not wait for input from members first.

"This thing weighs tons," Wellman said, pointing out that if one of the steel legs fails, the heavy concrete dial could potentially twist and fall into the street.

Both French and his wife Bev, who were playing a round of mini-golf at the Sundial Recreation Center Wednesday afternoon, wondered what the cost of both the removal and repair would be, and said there are probably many options for



Alleman

repairs. The sundial is recognizable and like the Statue of Liberty for Sun City, they said.

"It's a shame they have to do it," Bev French said.

Doris Alleman said she thinks money that might be used to repair the structure could be better spent.

"I'd like to repair it if it's feasible," Alleman said, adding she enjoys seeing the sundial when driving down the street. "I do like to see it, and it's unique for the community."

Bob Gosney, who was playing bocce at Sundial Wednesday, would agree with Alleman's financial concerns about possible repairs.

"The economy rules," Gosney said. "Maybe in four or five years, when they have enough money, they can do it."

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Community

A3

Sun sets on iconic monument

NORA AVERY-PAGE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

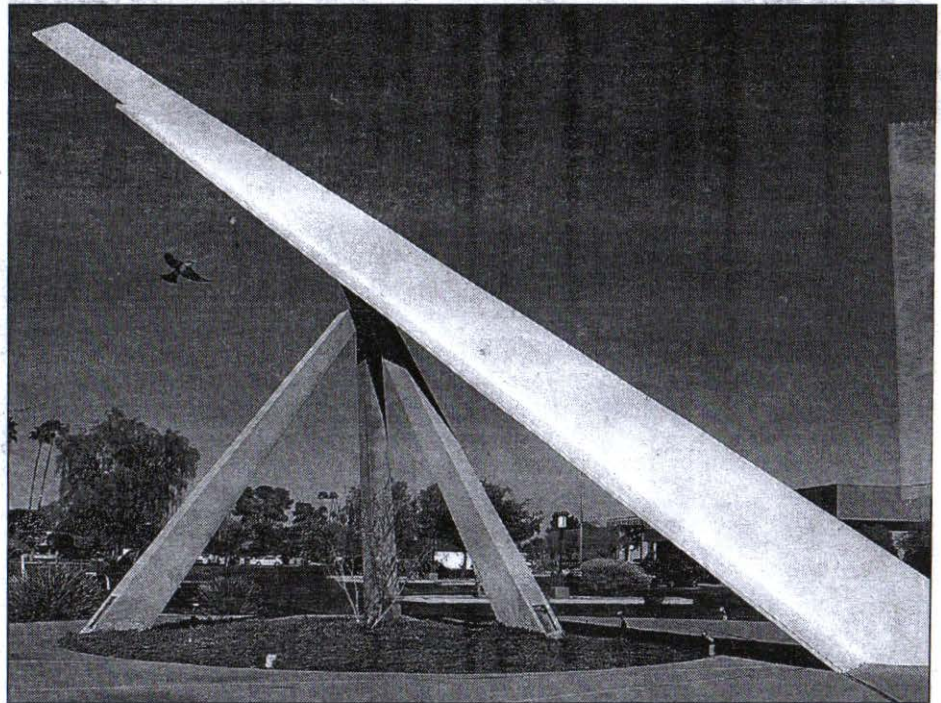
The sundial that rises over the corner of 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard will be removed, the Recreation Centers of Sun City announced Monday.

The steel supportive structure has deteriorated, and RCSC determined that repairing it would be more expensive than removing it, said communications coordinator Tim Gallen.

Gallen said there is no timeline for when the sundial will be removed, but the board will discuss other options for what to put in that space.

The sundial marks the location of Sundial Recreation Center and was built in 1973 at the same time as the building.

When the monument was originally erected, the structure's steel supportive legs were not encased in concrete above ground level, according to the RCSC. Since the supportive legs have not been protected from surface water over the years they have rusted to a point where the structure is now a safety concern.

**DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN**

The sun is setting on Sundial's iconic monument. RCSC directors have decided to remove the sundial, citing extensive rust damage to the structure's steel frame.

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 49, No. 13

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

www.newszap.com

RCSC obtains Sundial roof case settlement

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Recreation Centers of Sun City and Cincinnati Insurance Co. reached a settlement in their dispute over the Sundial roof collapse, but neither party wants the details released to the general public.

In a press release dated March 16, Tim Gallen, RCSC communication coordinator, stated the amount and terms of the settlement are protected by a confidentiality agreement and may not be disclosed or published to people outside the RCSC Board of Directors or its members.

"The non-disclosure requirement for settlement was expected by the board and

should not come as a surprise to the members," Mr. Gallen stated. "Confidential settlement terms are common practice in litigation and are regularly a condition of settlement."

Denny Nichols, RCSC board member, told residents attending the Feb. 25 board meeting an agreement was close, then told residents who attended a March 16 director-member exchange meeting an announcement was imminent.

"Very soon, and I really can't say when, we will have an announcement about the settlement on the Sundial roof collapse," he said.

While the settlement's confidentiality agreement prohibits the release of the amounts and terms to the general public,

Related Link

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RCSC cardholders do have an opportunity to review the settlement documents in a procedure laid out by RCSC officials. That access opportunity began March 20.

Sun City resident Anne Randall Stewart submitted a guest commentary (see page 5) to Independent for publication, in which she identifies a dollar figure for the settlement.

However, attempts by the Independent to have the figure confirmed by RCSC officials were unsuccessful. In response to specific questions, Mr. Gallen re-sent the March 16 press release announcing the settlement.

"The Board must take specific steps to protect the confidential and non-disclosure requirement of the settlement," he stated in the press release. "Disclosure or publication of the settlement terms may result in sanctions against RCSC by Cincinnati Insurance Co."

The press release laid out the procedure for RCSC cardholders in good standing to view the settlement documents. Members in good standing, upon execution of a confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement, will be allowed to confidentially review the terms of settlement within the RCSC corporate offices, at a pre-scheduled date and

See Roof — Page 6

Roof

Continued From Page 1

time, according to Mr. Gallen.

To arrange a review of the documents, members must call the RCSC corporate offices, 623-561-4600, and ask for Connie, who will then schedule a 15-minute time slot on a designated date. According to Mr. Gallen, members must provide their full name, member number and telephone number to get an appointment.

"Appointments must be pre-scheduled by phone; we are unable to accommodate any walk-ins," Mr. Gallen stated.

Members must present their member card at the time of their appointment, no other form of identification will be allowed, according to Mr. Gallen. Members must sign the confidentiality/non-disclosure Agreement, as presented, or viewing of the settlement will not be allowed, he added.

Viewing must be done in a designated area of the corporate office and no copies will be provided for members, according to Mr. Gallen.

Sundial history

The roof above the pool and adjoining club rooms at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., collapsed in the early morning June 19, 2006. There were no injuries to residents or staff in the cave-in. The incident scattered various clubs to new locations in the community.

The entire recreation center was closed following the collapse, but the auditorium, bocce courts and mini golf course were reopened in October 2006.

Cincinnati Insurance Co. officials Feb. 15, 2007 denied RCSC's claim to cover the cost of repairs to the Sundial roof.

An engineering firm hired by Cincinnati Insurance determined "material defects in

the composition of the support gluelam beam that spanned across the south end of the pool" caused the beam to fail, resulting in the roof collapse, according to a 2007 RCSC press release.

Losses due to those material defects are excluded from RCSC's insurance policy.

Despite the denial, RCSC officials stressed the corporation was moving forward to repair the facility.

"The RCSC is exploring all of our options at this point," Mr. Nichols said in a Feb. 22, 2007 board meeting. "We have not given up on it."

RCSC officials initially set aside \$2 million of corporate funds for repairs.

This was not the first roof collapse at Sundial. The Sun Cities Independent reported in July 1987 that one-half of the Sundial Recreation Center closed in May 1986 due to a failing roof, which ironically, also covered the indoor pool as well as the Men's Club, shuffleboard courts, and arts and crafts rooms. It was determined then moisture in the building rotted the wooden beams supporting the roof and there was a good chance it would collapse.

Engineering studies conducted at the time also revealed problems in the air circulation within the building.

In 2007 resident Tom Beckwith said he was concerned the roof's purlins were replaced in 1987, but not the main beams. Purlins are the horizontal boards supporting the rafters or main beams. The original beams constructed in 1972, when Sundial opened, were inspected for structural integrity.

Mr. Nichols said in 2007 it was his understanding the beams were again inspected in 1987 and 2001, and were found structurally sound.

Jim Wellman, RCSC's assistant general manager, said in 2007 the previous year's roof collapse most likely resulted in an abrupt manner rather than over time as the beams aged.

Rec centers officials, as they prepared to begin Sundial repairs in September 2007, uncovered damage to the facility more extensive than originally thought.

Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager, said the additional damage was discovered when engineers removed portions of a hallway ceiling. Apparently, when Sundial's roof collapsed damage was incurred to trusses facing Boswell Boulevard when the parapet wall fell. Initial investigations into the accident failed to reveal the full extent of the damage, Mr. Wellman explained in an e-mail.

The cost to repair the newly discovered damage was added to the cost of repairing the roof and pool area.

Cincinnati Insurance officials filed a law-

suit in September 2007 seeking affirmation of their decision to deny the Sundial claim. RCSC officials aggressively challenged the lawsuit.

The lawsuit languished in district court for more than a year as civil suits take a back seat to criminal suits. However, arbitration sessions were conducted earlier this year, leading to the settlement announced last week.

RCSC spent nearly \$5 million to repair Sundial, which reopened in September 2008.

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

Sundial faithfuls clock in

Center reopens 2 years after roof collapses over pool

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jackie Greene hasn't been in a Recreation Centers of Sun City pool since the roof over the pool at Sundial Recreation Center collapsed June 19, 2006.

"The pool at Sundial is the best because it's indoors, and the temperature can be controlled a little more," she said.

Greene and her friend, Connie Wigley, waited until the recreation center re-opened on Wednesday to take their normal dips in the pool. The two Sun Citians and other residents were back at the center that, for the most part, has been closed two years for construction.

More than \$5 million in repairs went into fixing the roof, putting in new dehumidification equipment for the pool areas and renovating other sections.

"We just had to wait patiently and complain all at the same time," said

Greene with a laugh. "But it's all been worth it."

Ken Streyle worked out at Bell Recreation Center, while Sundial remained closed but came back after he heard it re-opened.

"It was a lot closer for me to exercise at Bell but I love this place, especially because it has the only indoor pool in Sun City," he said.

Streyle said he's pleased with the restoration of the building and the upgrades, including new tile and carpeting.

"This recreation center looks real nice and everyone is going to be pleased with it when they all come in here," he said.

Wigley didn't realize Sundial had re-opened until she noticed more vehicles in the parking lot.

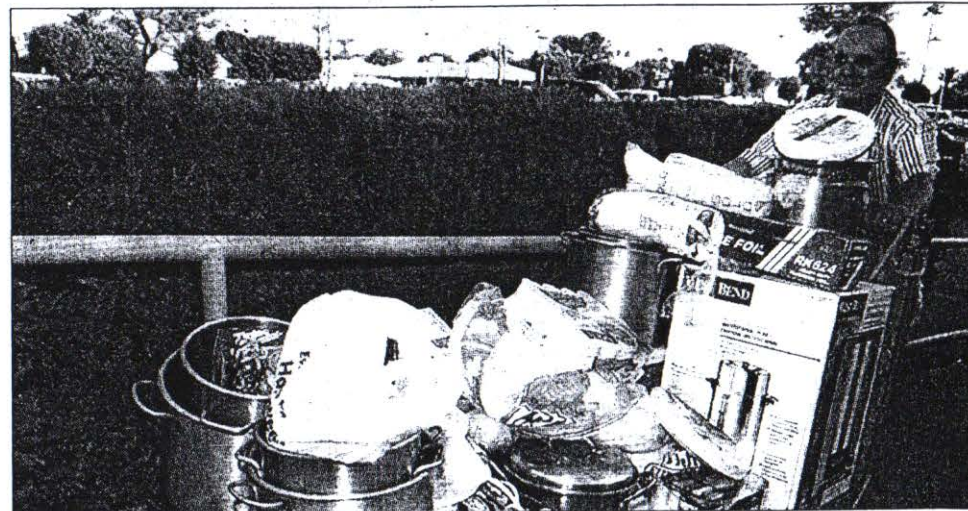
"I was actually on my way to Bell when I spotted all of these cars, so I decided to check it out, and I'm glad I did," Wigley said.

SEE SUNDIAL, A4



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jackie Greene, left, and Betty Chard, in the photo at left, are all smiles as they walk the lanes at the Sundial indoor pool Wednesday. Greene says she couldn't wait for the Sundial pool to reopen. Parts of the center were closed for reconstruction after the roof over the pool collapsed more than two years ago. Below, Jerry Korn of the Sundial Men's Club moves kitchen supplies back into the clubroom Wednesday morning.





MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marshall Dennis, left, and Don Boley of the Sun City Recreation Centers staff clean the windows outside the Sundial pool Wednesday morning. Sundial Recreation Center is open for business after being closed for the past two years when the center's roof collapsed.

SUNDIAL: Club members assemble goods for return

FROM A1

"I love Sundial because it had more choices in exercise equipment, particularly elliptical machines — my favorites," she said.

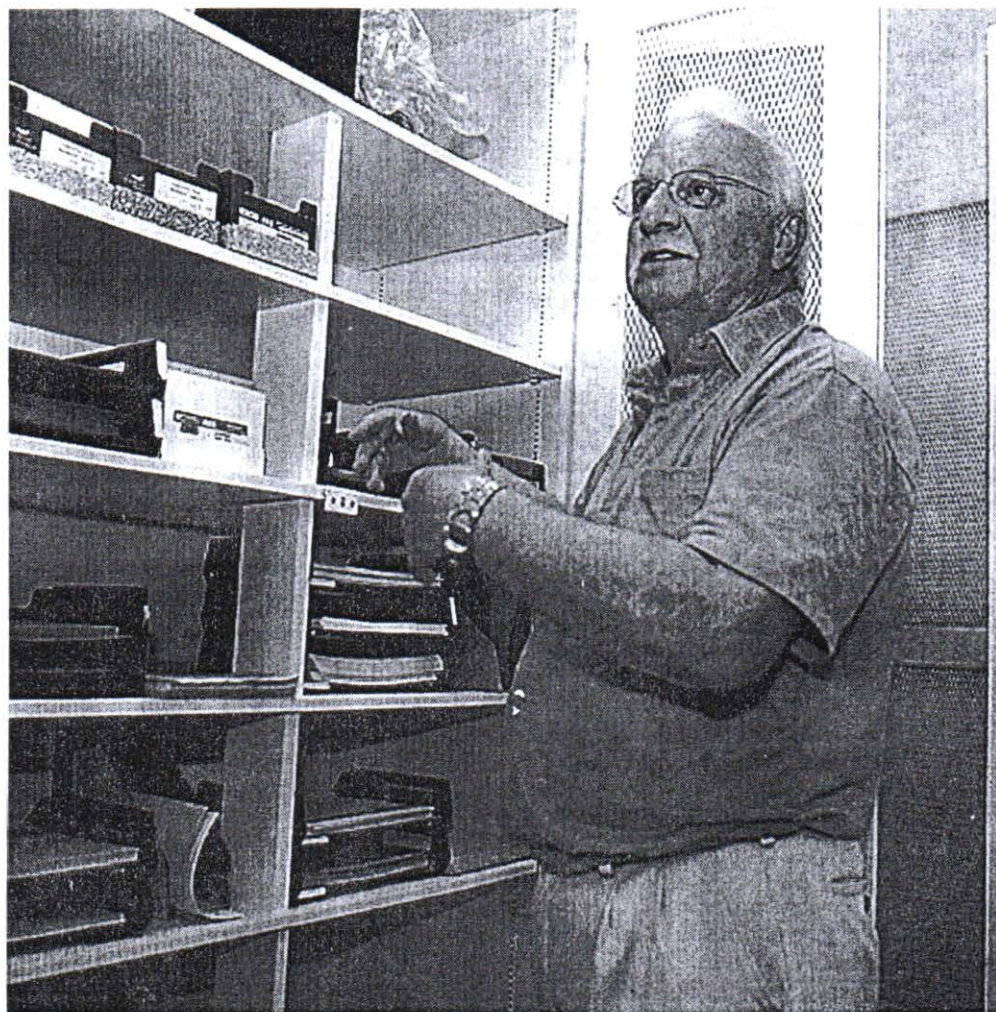
In addition to exercisers, club members began to move their belongings back into their meeting rooms.

Lee Kreiling, a member of the Calligraphy Society of Sun City, said the group hasn't met in the Bell Craft Club room for more than two years. Classes took place at Oakmont and Lakeview recreation center rooms.

"We have a lot of members so it was difficult to accommodate a lot of people in smaller rooms at the other centers, but we did it," he said. "I'm glad we're back because we have adjoining rooms that can handle the members."

Mary Ford, president of the calligraphy club, said she's pleased with the renovations and repairs to Sundial.

"It was worth the wait because it looks really nice," she said.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lee Kreiling of the Sundial Calligraphy club cleans construction dust from the clubroom's cabinets Wednesday. Sundial Clubs had to meet at other recreation centers after the roof caved in two years ago.

Rec center opens doors

Sundial renovation complete, clubs move back in

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

After more than two years Sun Citians are ready to reclaim their space.

The pool is open and clubs can begin moving back into Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors President Denny Nichols made the announcement Aug. 28 at the monthly board meeting. While the north building, housing the auditoriums, has been open the south building, including the pool, fitness area and club rooms, has been closed since June 19, 2006, when the roof over the pool collapsed.

RCSC officials spent about \$5 million to replace the roof and make renovations to other areas that sustained damages. Cincinnati Insurance Co. denied RCSC's claim to have the roof replacement covered under the rec centers' insurance policy. But U.S. District Court ruled the collapse should be covered under the policy.

"We have been saying all along that we would reopen

Related Link

www.sunaz.com

Sundial in August," Mr. Nichols said. "I am in the process of developing a new August calendar, in which Sundial will reopen Aug. 34, which is actually Sept. 3."

All clubs, except Lapidary, will be able to move back to Sundial Sept. 3, Mr. Nichols said.

"But it will be up to each individual club to determine when they actually make the move," he added.

Club have been meeting at other recreation centers and facilities throughout Sun City during the past two years. Sundial's opening will help ease crowding at those centers that took in displaced clubs, according to Tim Gallen, RCSC spokesman, in a press release.

RCSC officials call Sept. 3 a "soft" opening and are planning a grand opening for a later date, possible this month, according to Jim Wellman, RCSC assistant general manager. The grand opening could include guided tours, a club fair and entertainment, according to Mr. Gallen in the press release.

"We had hoped to just have one big grand opening to open

See **Sundial** — Page 10

Sundial

Continued From Page 1

the doors, but the timing did not work," Mr. Wellman said. "But once we received all our final approvals (of occupancy), we wanted to get the doors open."

In response to a resident's question about replacing bicycle racks, Mr. Wellman said all bike racks and benches removed at Sundial for the construction will be replaced. It was also suggested a manager's contact number be posted at Sundial in case of emergencies during evening use.

While U.S. District Court ruled in favor of RCSC on the insurance coverage, the case may still be open to appeal.

which has passed," Mr. Nichols said.

He did not say whether Cincinnati Insurance filed an appeal. The court has not rendered a decision on the amount of money the insurance company had to reimburse RCSC for its costs to replace the roof and make renovations.

"The attorneys are meeting to see how we can move forward," Mr. Nichols said. "We are really handcuffed by the federal court rules."

In the April 3 U.S. District Court decision Cincinnati Insurance Company's motion for summary judgment on the rejection of RCSC's claim for the Sundial Recreation Center roof collapse was denied by the court and RCSC's cross-motion for coverage was

3 motions pass unanimously

RCSC reopens Sundial auditorium

By Zach Colick
Independent Newspapers

Three motions passed unanimously Oct. 26 during the Recreation Centers of Sun City board meeting as residents gathered for the first time in nearly five months at the newly reopened Sundial Recreation Center auditorium.

The auditorium's hardwood floors were buffed and new chairs were available for the nearly 40 residents and board members who gathered last week.

Sundial's indoor swimming facilities and roof are still in disrepair and the RCSC is awaiting word on the cause of the mid-June roof collapse, said Jim Wellman, RCSC's sen-

Related link

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ior operations manager.

RCSC board member Jon Braemer introduced the first motion whereby independent golf teaching professionals will now be part of RCSC Board Policy 17, golf rules and regulations.

According to written language in the motion, there will be a maximum of four, independent teaching professionals on all RCSC courses. John Snyder, RCSC's director of golf operations, will determine the qualifications of these professionals.

Instructors will operate as independent contractors and will determine their own

schedules and fees, according to the motion.

Golf instructors will also conduct, as a group, free golf clinics twice a year to promote golf in Sun City. These will be held each Saturday for one month in the spring and fall.

The instructors will submit current proof of professional liability insurance each year and will instruct their insurance companies to furnish a copy of the notice of cancellation to Mr. Snyder, the motion stated.

Mr. Snyder said the instructors have been available for the four years he has been in charge of golf operations.

He added they now fall under board policy to ensure the program continues, which is important to the many Sun Citians who golf at RCSC golf courses.

"People learn to play golf better when they are playing more," he said.

The two other motions the board mulled over did not change their intent, but rather

the wording was changed for clarification, Mr. Braemer said.

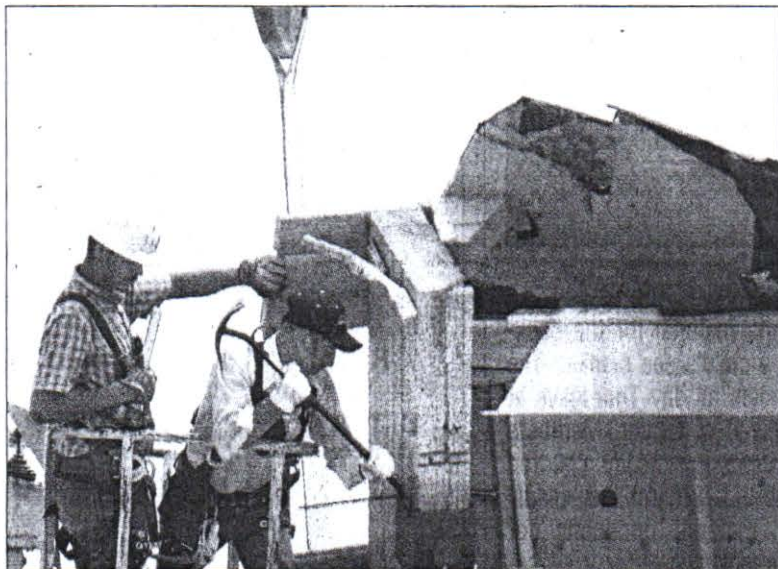
Motions two and three, which dealt with renters' privileges and refunds respectively, now state there are no refunds on expired privilege cards unless there is a death in the family.

A pro-rata refund will be available on a card if the deceased member's card is returned to the membership office within 90 days after death.

A pro-rata refund, the motion continues, will be available on a privilege card during the term of a lease if renters purchase a primary Arizona residence property in Sun City, before the card's expiration and upon purchase of a new member or privilege card.

Refunds will be pro-rated from the date of close of escrow on the new property to a term not to exceed 12 months from the initial purchase of the card. Such refunds may be subject to a service charge, the motion states.

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



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

A crane, left photo, lifts portions of the beam that crashed through the roof of Sundial Recreation Center June 19. Above, workers loosen downed beams Thursday before the straps from a crane are attached for removal.

Giant crane lifts beam at Sundial

Engineers check for clues in roof collapse

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A massive crane shot high above Sundial Recreation Center Thursday as it lifted out the beam that busted through the center's roof last month.

Recreation Centers of Sun City officials believe the 6-foot thick, more than 100-foot long beam holds the answer to what caused the collapse the morning of June 19. It took a few hours for the crane to lift the beam, which came out in one large portion and some smaller sections.

The "laminated beam" is composed of several 1½-inch thick, structure-grade wooden boards

that have been compressed and glued together, said Don Schordje, RCSC board president.

The RCSC insurance company is paying for the work at the site and for an engineer to examine the beam for clues. The RCSC also hired an engineer to assist in the investigation and to ensure the information matches up, Schordje said. A third engineer representing a wood products association will check for any defects in the beam, he added.

The original architects of the structure also have expressed concern over the incident,

See BEAM, A5

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2006

BEAM: Engineers check for structural damage

From A1

Schordje said.

"There are a lot of professional people out there doing an investigation," he said. "This (beam) should give us the answer. We expect there will be some conclusions that they'll be able to draw once they examine the beam and do tests on it."

Schordje said the RCSC insurance policy covers collapse and once the cause is determined, the next step will be to evaluate what or who may be to blame for the structural failure.

Schordje said preliminary conclusions don't draw a comparison to the near roof collapse that happened two decades ago at Sundial.

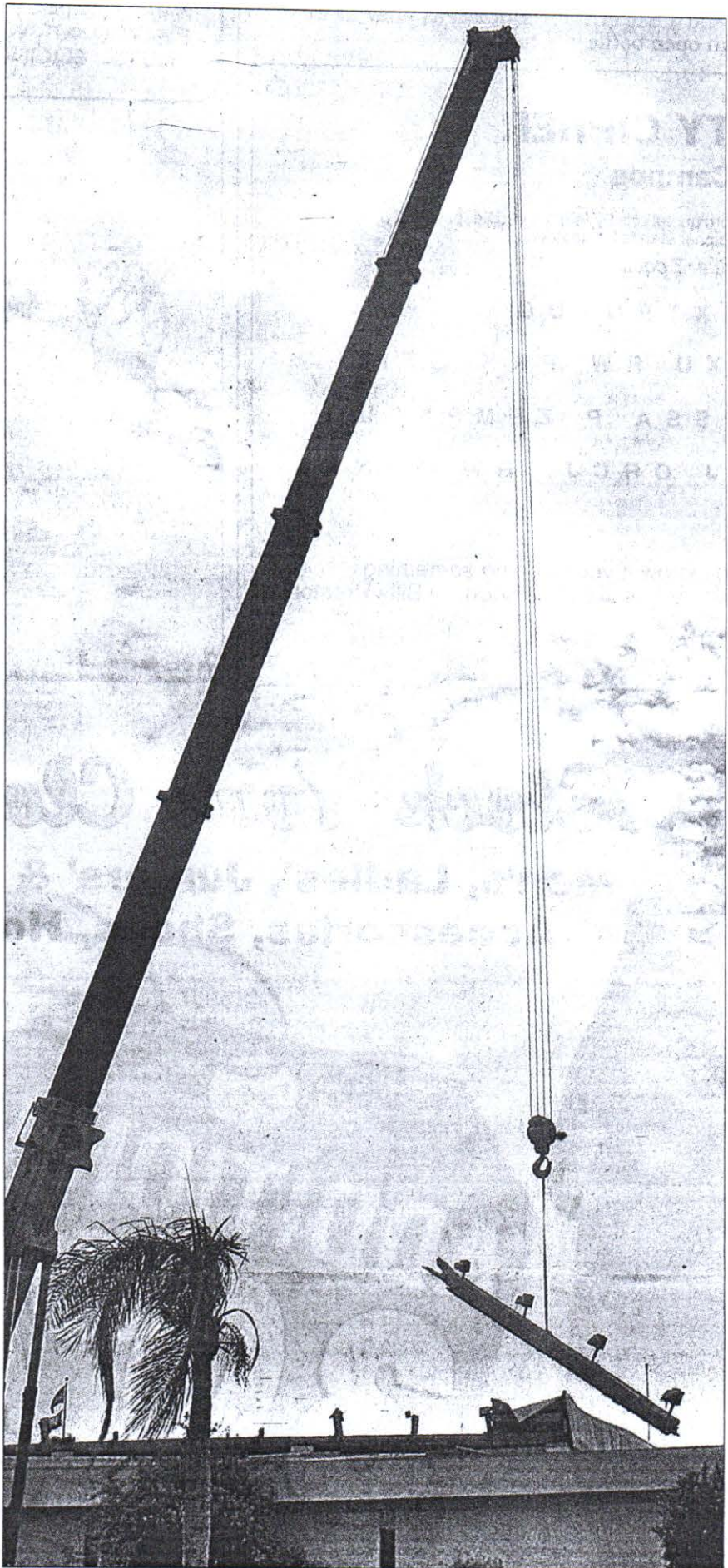
On May 15, 1986, the pool and craft area of Sundial were closed after an engineering investigation concluded that the roof was unstable, according to an article in the

Daily News-Sun. An investigation by engineering firm Pegler-Welch, Inc. revealed a "truss failure, caused by moisture and chlorine vapors."

Patrick Welch, a consulting engineer with Pegler-Welch, Inc., told the board at the time that the roof problem appeared to have been caused by air handlers that were installed as a means of cutting energy costs. He said the air handlers returned moisture into the building instead of drawing it out and that only one of the four air handlers on top of the building was working.

Welch recommended that a more extensive investigation be conducted to determine if the "glu lam beams" and lower roof sections also were affected.

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



ANNIE BOON/DAILY NEWS-SUN

RCSC gets OK to re-open parts of Sundial

STAFF REPORT

The cause of Sundial's roof collapse will take longer to determine than Recreation Centers of Sun City officials had hoped, but they got the go-ahead to begin work to re-open other portions of the center.

According to a RCSC press release, Cincinnati Insurance Company has paid in excess of \$200,000 for the initial cleanup and removal of the debris resulting from the June 19 structural failure that caused the roof over Sundial pool to cave in.

The RCSC has contributed another \$77,000 for the removal of additional debris, but officials say this may be recoverable under the corporate insurance policy once a cause has been determined.

Don Schordje, RCSC board president, said in the release that he had hoped by now some substantial information regarding the Sundial roof failure could be released.

"But, the engineers' investigations are still proceeding and no cause has been established, as yet," he said.

Jim Wellman, senior manager of centers operations, is coordinating the engineering investigation and security of the premises, according to the RCSC.

In addition, the architectural firm that designed the roof in 1986 has sent its architect and engineer to the site. Another engineer, whose area of expertise is laminated wood trusses, was sent by the American Institute of Timber Construction.

"The insurance company's investigating engineer is

working with our 'forensic' engineer to determine a cause," Schordje said.

The RCSC reported that the engineers have completed their visual inspections and will commence destructive tests on the failed beam in two to three weeks. A subrogation council is being formed, test protocol is being established and sent to all parties, the release stated. The RCSC expects it could take two months to get a final determination of the cause of the failure.

The RCSC has been cleared by the insurance company to proceed with necessary work to re-open the auditorium, mini-golf and bocce courts, the release stated.

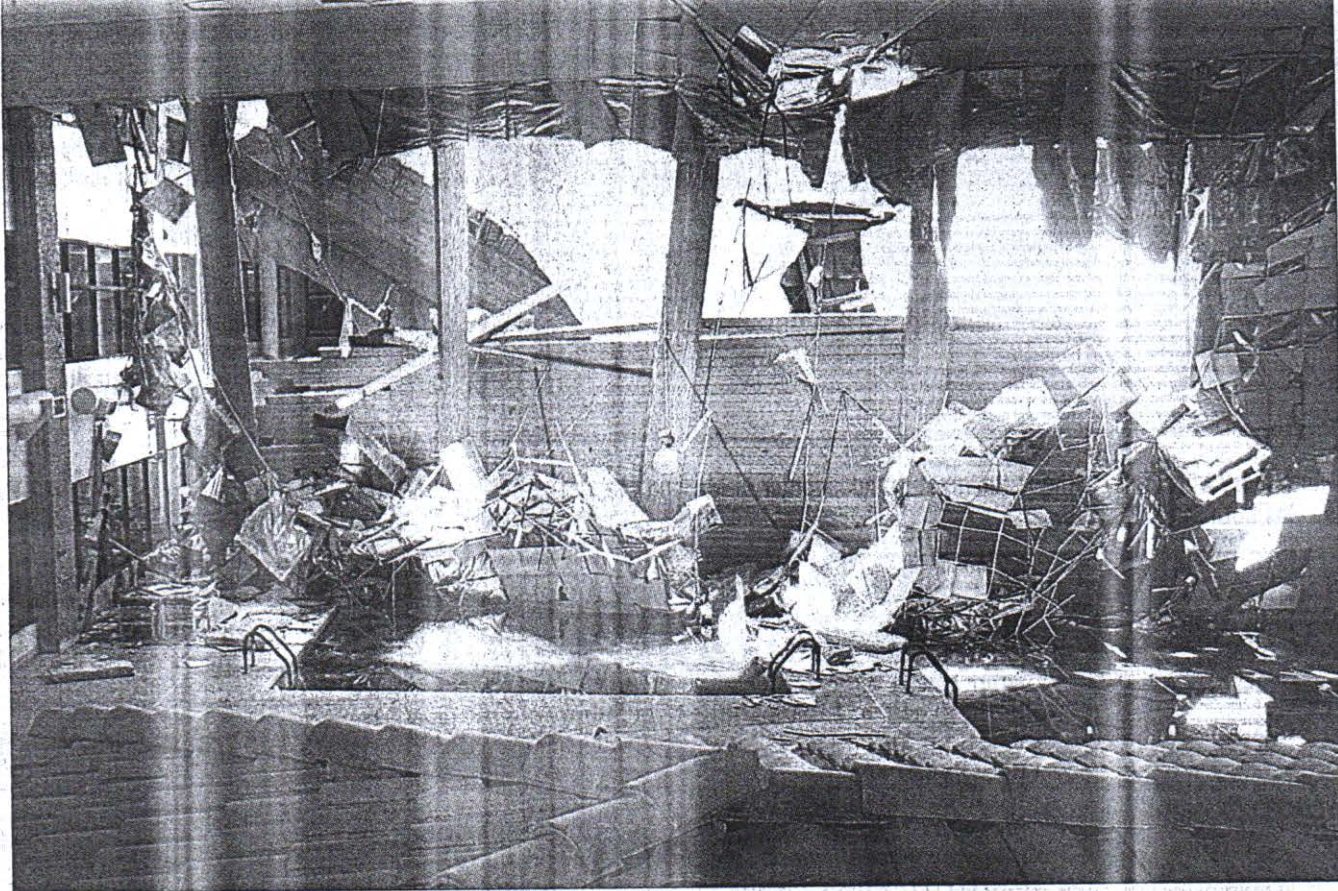
A structural engineer, hired by the RCSC, is carrying out the necessary safety inspections and RCSC officials said that so far, it appears that a portion of Sundial will be re-opened well before roof reconstruction over the pool begins.

"I have given no dates for any of the above to happen because no firm dates have been established, as yet," Schordje said. "We will update our members through the press as major milestones are established."

Once safety clearance has been received, selected club representatives will be escorted to their club rooms to retrieve possessions.

Schordje applauded Wellman for his work and praised unaffected RCSC clubs for sharing their resources with displaced clubs.

"The spirit of cooperation gives heart to the fact that Sun City residents pull together in the face of adversity," he said.



KEN RICE/SUN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

This is the scene at the Sundial pool after the roof fell in early Monday morning.

Roof collapse closes Sundial

Engineers probe cause

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Two hours before dozens of Sun Citians would have been swimming in the Sundial pool Monday morning, a "rumble that sounded like an earthquake" preceded the collapse of a portion of the recreation center's roof that just a week ago showed no signs of any structural damage.

"As tragic as this is, it's a blessing it happened when it did and there was no loss of life or injury" said Percy Morrison, who was on his way to the Sundial Men's Club, but was stopped short by red "Danger" tape surrounding the center.

"What if the place would have been packed?" he asked, though he knew the answer to his own question.

Several questions remain unanswered, and so far, Recreation Centers of Sun City officials have no idea what caused the roof over Sundial pool to cave in at about 4 a.m. Monday. Five maintenance workers were inside

cleaning at the time but evacuated when they heard a rumble that "sounded like an earthquake," RCSC Vice President Cecile "Babe" Dodson said at Monday's member/director exchange meeting.

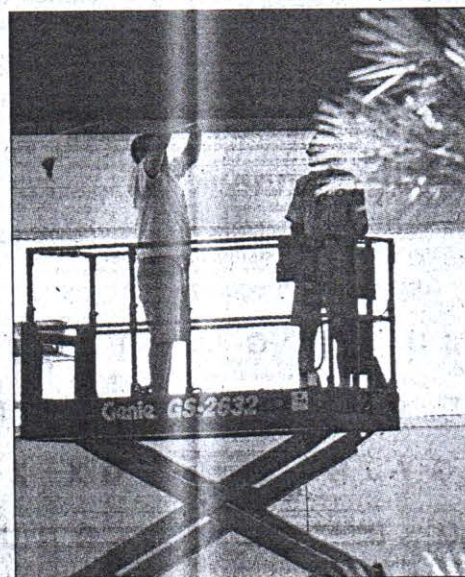
Other than some minor scrapes, no one was injured, she said. The entire center is closed until further notice.

Sun City Fire Department crews were on the scene immediately, and engineers were called in to examine the site, but no cause has been determined, said Jim Wellman, RCSC senior manager of centers operations. He said there were no cracks to warn inspectors of possible danger.

"We didn't see anything that would give us any heads up on (the collapse)," Wellman said.

The first step, he said, is to fully evaluate the site and damage and to confer engineers and the RCSC insurance company. This could take several weeks, he added.

Ken Rice, RCSC community relations director, said RCSC crews promptly turned off all the utilities and gas to eliminate any further hazards. He said it



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City workers check the beams on the Sundial patio Monday after the roof over the pool collapsed.

appeared a 4-to 5-foot thick wooden beam had buckled and landed on the pool area, bringing loads of debris with it. And as fire crews were checking out the scene, more debris tumbled in, Rice said.

"Those guys cleaning the pool were really lucky," he said. "I'll be curious to find out what caused this."

Had the collapse happened only a couple of hours later, Rice said, swimmers could have been seriously injured,

See SUNDIAL, A5

SUNDIAL: Roof repaired after collapse in the '80s

From A1

trapped beneath rubble or killed by falling debris.

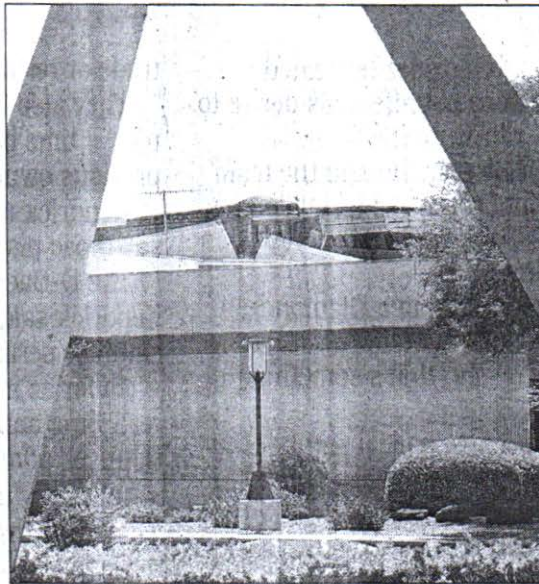
Normally, up to 40 early morning swimmers begin their day at Sundial pool when it opens at 6 a.m., and between 200 and 300 people come through the pool area daily, said Paul Hansen, supervisor at Sundial. Exercise groups attract about 400 residents to weekly activities at Sundial pool as well, he said.

The pool area of Sundial was renovated in 2001, but the roof wasn't a part of the project, said Norm Dickson, RCSC director.

The roof was inspected about a month ago by an outside contractor and no red flags were sent up, Wellman said. About a week ago, crews with Einstein Roofing seal coated the roof with a lightweight liquid, a standard maintenance procedure.

Paul Huckins with Buckeye-based Einstein Roofing said there were no signs of impending collapse when his crews applied the sealant. His crews perform standard roof maintenance and aren't responsible for inspections or engineering.

"My thinking is that it could have been an engineering problem, as far as the span of the building may have been greater than the



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

beam could handle," Huckins said. "They didn't see anything, especially in that section, that would cause alarm."

Sun City resident and retired engineer Dale Jacobson drove his golf car to Sundial Monday morning wearing his swimsuit.

"I guess I won't be swimming today," he said after talking to RCSC officials guarding the entrance.

From his experience as an engineer, he said a collapse of this magnitude doesn't just happen.

"I'm really surprised it did that without any notice," Jacobson said, adding that

there should have been some tell-tale cracks in the structure. "It doesn't go from perfect to just falling off."

The collapse may put other major projects on hold, Wellman said. The pool and spa area at Marinette Recreation Center was slated for renovation and was to close on July 5. However, with Sundial out of service, residents may need to use Marinette facilities, so renovations may be delayed. Wellman said a decision will be made soon.

Costs or a time-line for repairs have not been determined, Wellman said.

"Going forward, we will re-evaluate everything to ensure

everything is done right and there won't be a future problem," Wellman said.

This isn't the first time the roof at Sundial, located at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, has collapsed. In the early 1980s, the same portion of the roof caved in, said Ken Fold, RCSC board treasurer. It wasn't as "catastrophic" as Monday's collapse, but caused significant damage, he added.

The architects and engineers who assessed the previous collapse suggested that the structure didn't need steel beams and could be repaired with wooden supports, Fold said. The roof was repaired and has undergone standard, periodic maintenance ever since, he said.

For now, residents are encouraged to use rec facilities at Bell Recreation Center on 99th Avenue and Bell Road or Marinette Center 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive. Residents are asked to stay away from Sundial. There will be security patrols morning and night.

The collapse will be discussed at the RCSC board's next regular board meeting at 9 a.m. June 29. The meetings are usually in Sundial Auditorium. The location of this meeting will be announced.

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

The collapse of the Sundial roof will close the center at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard indefinitely.

Parade of events draws crowds to spring fling



THOMAS BOGGAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Sun City Poms march down 103rd Avenue during the parade that launched the 2006 Sun City Spring Fling Saturday.

JARED HARTUNG
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City celebrated the return of spring this weekend with food that could rival that served at any state fair, entertainment with a Las Vegas twist and a parade that is fast becoming a signature event of the Spring Fling.

The second-annual fling took place Saturday at the Sundial Recreation Center where people gobbled down apple dumplings, listened to Elvis impersonators and watched a parade of classic cars and golf cars.

The parade kicked off the day's events. Riding in the parade were former and current Ms. Senior Arizona winners.

A day of sunshine warmed locals as they browsed the classic vehicles in the Sundial parking lot, but once they had enough sun the revelers were able to head into the shade of the recreation

center to listen to music and visit many booths of information, learning and entertainment.

"It's a great day," said David Whyte of Sun City. "It's just wonderful to see this kind of community spirit."

"Everyone has a smile on their face," his wife Carol said.

Everything from boat races to swim competition were taking place at the Aquatics Center. Meanwhile, visitors could check out all the craft rooms that surround the pools and even go away with some treasures of their own.

On the other side of the rec center, the festival had taken over the Men's and Women's Clubs. Informational booths were available in the Women's club advertising everything from spinal alignment to golf swing analysis.

Russ Flatland of Sun City was one of the first to have

his swing checked out by the professionals from Victory Golfworks.

"I won't know how well it worked until I get on the course," he said. "Golfers always have one thing or another wrong with their swing."

"I came out for the whole event but I wanted to check these guys out," he said.

After his demonstration the lines grew around the booth while people clamored to fix their swings.

Over in the men's club, several video booths were set up where people could try their hand at virtual flying lessons, race car driving and duck hunting.

By the time the sun went down, residents were enjoying a barbecue dinner under the stars and an apple dumpling to go.

Jared Hartung may be reached at 876-2513 or jhartung@aztrib.com.

Swing into spring at Sun City fling

STAFF REPORT

Celebrate Sun City and the merriment of spring at the first Spring Fling festival Friday.

Sun Citians and their guests are invited to this free jubilee featuring dozens of entertainers, attractions and activities from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Sundial Recreation Center on 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard.

The Spring Fling is replacing the Apple Dumpling Festival this year, but promises to be an even larger-scale grand finale to Sun City's Fun Fair season. With a variety of attractions, from carnival games to aquatic and variety shows to karaoke, there's something fun for everyone.

Ken Meade Realty is working with the Recreation Centers of Sun City in co-sponsoring the Spring Fling Festival.

"The Sun Cities have been very good to Ken Meade Realty and we believe in giving back and supporting the

**For a schedule of events,
see Page A5.**

communities," said Steve Meade, the firm's president, in a release.

"We hope that the Spring Fling is a huge success and that everyone in the area has a great time and leaves with a smile on their face."

From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., a golf car and automobile parade will cruise from Bell Recreation Center at 99th Avenue south of Bell Road to Sundial. Participants are to meet at Bell at 8 a.m. to put the finishing touches on their parade cars, which are to be decorated with a spring theme in mind. Space is limited, and there will be awards for outstanding entries.

At 10 a.m., Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio will cut the ribbon at Sundial's entrance to kick off the main event. Shuttle service will run from the parking

lots to the recreation center, where games, entertainment, fun and food will await.

Spring Fling attractions will include a women's building full of activities, including a scrapbooking and craft tutorial by Judy Roff, "Craft Queen" and gardening tips from Dave Owens, "The Garden Guy." A hip coffeehouse will be complete with a food tasting, karaoke, a joke contest and a casino prize wheel.

A swim show and competition will take place inside the pool area, along with a bathing suit fashion show. A car show will be in the parking lot and outside in the mall area. The Desert Aires, the Sun City Line Dancers and many more will entertain, followed by a country barbecue at 4:30. Tickets for the barbecue must be purchased in advance for \$8 from the Sundial main office.

Also in the mall area will be carnival games, a fortune teller, food tents, kettle corn, apple dumplings and A&W Root Beer.

For information, call 876-3000 or call the Sundial main office at 876-3048.

OVER

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Spring Fling festival
- **WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.
- **WHERE:** Sundial Recreation Center, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, Sun City.

■ **ACTIVITY SCHEDULE:**

8 a.m.

● Golf cars and automobiles meet at Bell Recreation Center to ready for parade.

● Shuttles begin running in the Sundial parking lots.

9 a.m.

● Golf car and automobile parade begins

10 a.m.

● Sheriff Joe Arpaio cuts the honorary ribbon at Sundial's entrance.

● Mall opens and games begin.

● Entertainment begins.

● Aquatic show and swimming races begin in the pool area.

● Car show opens.

● Women's building opens.

● Coffee house opens and food tents begin serving breakfast.

● Golf venue and putting clinic open.

● Watercolor make and take opens.

1 p.m.

● Line dancing begins in the mall.

2 p.m.

● Bingo begins in the coffeehouse.

4 p.m.

● Women's building closes.

4:30 p.m.

● Western barbecue and campfire in the mall.

6 p.m.

● Dance begins on the main stage with The Music Makers.

7 p.m.

● Get your picture taken with Ms. Senior Arizona in the auditorium.

8 p.m.

● Rock 'n' roll dancing in the auditorium.

● Food service ends.

9 p.m.

● All activities close.

■ **ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE:**

● 10:45 a.m. — Elvis impersonator

● 11 a.m. — The Rhythm Ramblers

● 11:45 a.m. — The Starstruck Dancers

● Noon — The Piano Sounds of Dan Daleny

● 12:30 p.m. — Sun City Poms

● 1 p.m. — Country Memories

● Following the above performances — A Variety Show sponsored by the Tip Top Dancers of Sun City. This variety show will include more than 28 acts featuring dancers, singers, comedians and more. The best talent in Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grand will be there to entertain.

Dance, Play, Listen, Indulge!

Spring Fling Has Something for All

The Sun City Spring Fling 2005 will be held at Sundial Recreation Center on April 1 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Featured attractions include a cart parade, car show, variety show,

aquatic show, carnival food and games, a women's building, a coffee house, golf instruction, dancing, and much, much more. This event captures the very essence of the Sun City

lifestyle and celebrates the joy and prosperity of spring. Come join the "Dream Team" for an incredible day, where all worries melt away, and the child inside comes out to play.

Women's Hall 10am-4pm

- Dave Owens, "The Garden Guy"
- Judy Roff, "The Craft Queen"
- Scrapbooking
- Coupon exchange
- Quilting
- Rubber stamp booth
- Belly dancing
- Cosmetic surgery counseling



Coffee House 10am-2pm

- Karaoke
- Community sing-a-long
- Honky tonk piano
- Stand-up comedy
- Joke contest
- Roulette wheel, cards
- Coffee & food tasting
- Bingo at 2 p.m.

Golf Venue 10am-4pm

- Professional tips
- Putting clinic
- Mini golf tournament

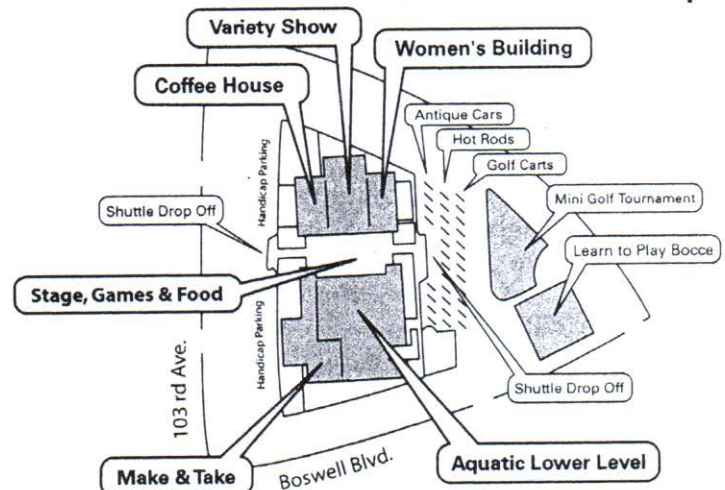
Aquatics 10am-3pm

- Master swimmers
- Synchronized swimmers
- Aquatic fitness
- Competitive swim meet
- Bathing suit fashion show

Schedule of Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8am | Shuttles start |
| 9am | Car/Cart Parade begins- Bell to Sundial |
| 10am | Spring Fling, car show, & food tents open |
| 10:30am | Main stage begins performances |
| 1pm | Line dancing begins in the mall |
| 2pm | Bingo begins in Coffee House |
| 4pm | Buildings close, main stage & mall stay open |
| 4:30pm | Country barbeque begins in mall |
| 6pm | Dance begins w/ special guest appearance |
| 8pm | Food stands close |
| 9pm | Dance ends, Spring Fling closes |

Sundial Event Map





MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City residents line up to use the treadmills at the Sundial Recreation Center fitness center Monday.

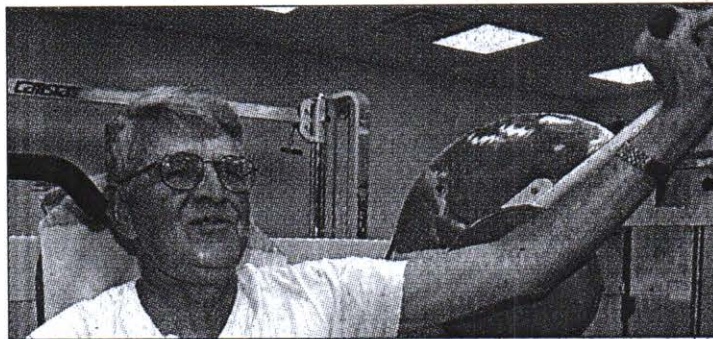
Attendance surges at remodeled Sundial fitness center

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fran Russell joined the surge of spa users at Sundial Recreation Center last month as the remodeled facility saw a 242 percent increase in usage, compared to January 2003.

"It's great, and it's free," said the Sun City woman who uses the spas and exercise equipment six days a week.

In January, 5,772 residents visited the Sundial spas, compared to 1,689 who signed in at the spa last January. Usage of Sundial's fitness center this January



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Gary Timmer uses the Total Tricep machine at the Sundial fitness center. He recently had surgery on his elbow and needs to stretch his arm.

increased by 69 percent with 11,137 visitors, up from the 6,616 members in January 2003.

Jim Kuchler, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board, credits the explosive usage increase to the

improved and enlarged facilities. If the centers can accommodate more residents, they will undoubtedly frequent the facilities more, Kuchler said, emphasizing that the turnout at Sundial is proof positive of that philosophy.

"This is exactly what we had hoped for," Kuchler said. "If we provide good facilities, people who are currently not using them will come out."

During the \$2.3 million Sundial renovation project, the fitness center was enlarged from 800 square feet to 2,000 square feet and new

See SUNDIAL, A5

OVER

From A1

exercise equipment was added. The spas were moved to the pool area and upgraded, which could account for the increase in spa-goers, Kuchler said.

The next project is planned for Bell Recreation Center, where the fitness center space will double and the pool and locker rooms will be remodeled. Kuchler and the RCSC board hopes the Bell center will experience the same surge of involvement that resulted from Sundial's improvements.

"People have moved from the exercise rooms at the other facilities to go to Sundial," he said. "Those who use Bell would return to Bell once the facilities were upgraded."

Norm Robarge lives closer to the Bell center, but makes the trip to Sundial to take advantage of the improved

RCSC PROJECTS

- Renovations made to The Camera Club room at Sundial are expected to be completed within the month. Cabinets, counter tops and upgraded lighting have been installed.
- Lighting upgrades to the front of Talisman Hall are expected to be finished this week.
- Renovations continue on the Mountain View pool and are expected to be finished within two weeks. The pool was drained over several days and plastered was removed. Skimmers have been installed and rough concrete surfaces are being finished to a smooth surface around the pool deck in preparation for concrete to be poured.
- Installation of parking lot lights to increase safety and security at Marinette is progressing. After the west parking lot is completed, the lights in the east lot will be installed.

spa, pool and fitness center.

"I come here because there's more machines and

there's much more to do," he said, noting that he would stay to workout at Bell were the facilities upgraded like Sundial's.

Judy Parker works out four times a week and gives Sundial's fitness center two thumbs up.

"We've tried the others, this one's the best," Parker said.

Norm Dickson, vice president of the RCSC board, said the increased number of visitations is exactly what the board had hoped for. Sign-in records at Sundial's fitness center showed an increase in evening visitors, some exercising as late as 9 p.m.

"People are using them at all times of the day, which is impressive," Dickson said. "We want more residents using the facilities and to give them more pleasant surroundings."

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

RCSC hopes to massage Sundial into therapeutic center

ADDING AMENITIES: Services to be offered at Sundial Rec Center

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A new therapeutic-massage program in Sun City won't "cure cancer or save the world," says Earl Feierabend, RCSC director of centers operations, but it just might make people healthier and happier.

Whether it is for stroke-recovery or relief from a sports injury or someone hankering for a good, old-fashioned massage, the Recreation Centers of Sun City offers therapy services geared toward stretching and massaging the muscles.

The RCSC hopes to develop Sundial as a "complete therapeutic-rehabilitative center," Feierabend said.

Therapeutic-massage services are part of the latest strategy centers' directors are employing to continue improving the community for residents, newcomers and visitors, he said.

Regular massage sessions will be from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with four certified therapists available, Feierabend said.

The RCSC has partnered with United Therapists Services to provide the service.

The original design of the Sundial remodeling project included three rooms designated for

massage-therapy services.

"We don't have space at other centers for similar types of things," Feierabend said.

For a limited time, free introductory sessions will be offered on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all of the community's centers. The introductory sessions will run through June 16. All sessions after the introductions will be at Sundial.

Eventually the service could be offered seven days a week by 11 therapists if there is enough demand, Feierabend said.

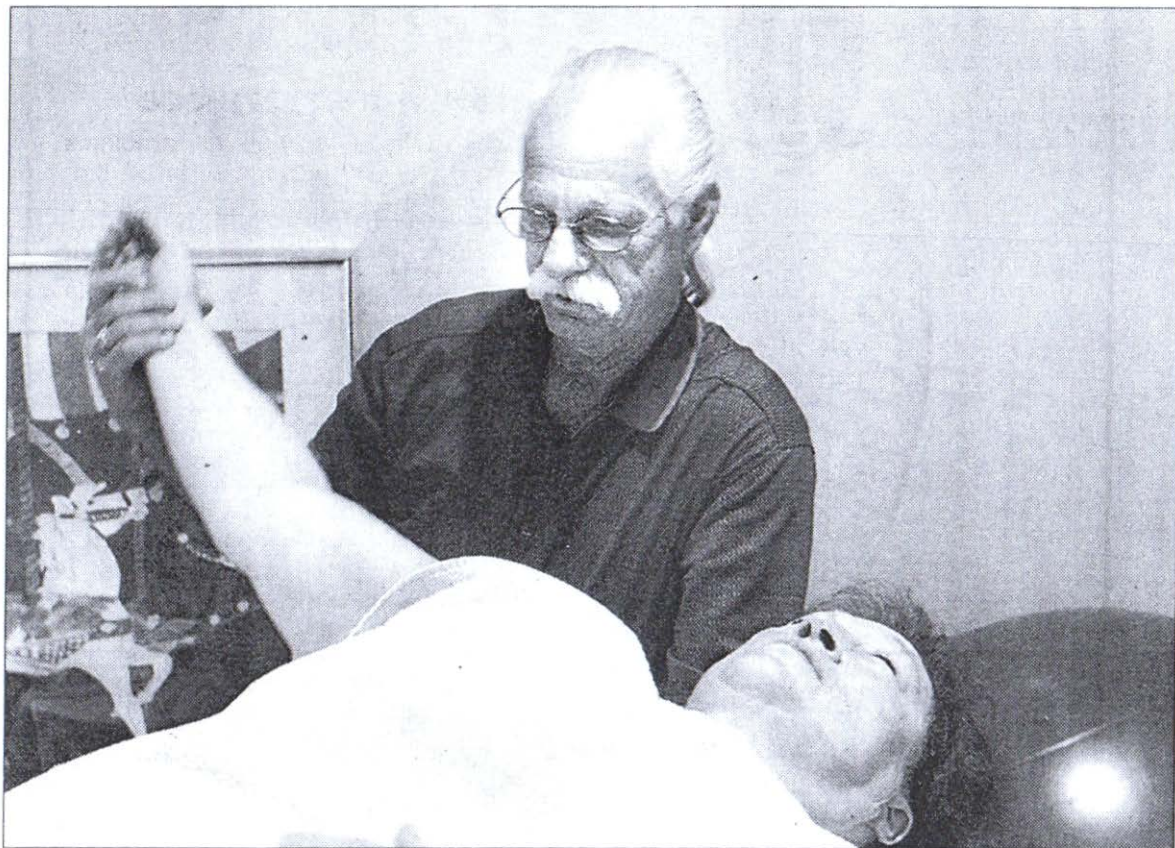
Therapeutic massage does more than just provide a service to seniors in a "growing, viable community," he said. It also "provides a service to the residents who are in need of some therapeutic medical massage."

Massage therapist Rod Zohner, who heads the group of four therapists providing the service, said the massage offered is primarily for therapeutic reasons, to improve the body's overall health and well-being, and not just for cosmetic or relaxation purposes.

Zohner uses massage to stretch and move the muscles to improve mobility and flexibility, he said. If someone comes in for a massage, Zohner evaluates the person and aims to apply the best techniques he can to improve that person's well-being. He and his staff individualize the massage to a person's needs, using various forms, including Swedish massage, shiatsu and other types. Zohner said many of his techniques

See MASSAGE, A5

OVER



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Massage therapist Rod Zohner works on Dorothy Meyers' muscles at Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City.

IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** Introductory massage-therapy sessions

■ **WHEN WHERE:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Sundial Recreation Center, Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 19, Lakeview Recreation Center, Thunderbird and Del Webb boulevards.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 26, Mountain View Recreation Center, Mountain View Road and 107th Avenue.

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 2, Bell Recreation Center, Hutton Drive and 99th Avenue.

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 9, Oakmont Recreation Center, Oakmont Drive and 107th Avenue.

7 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 16, Fairway Recreation Center, 107th and Peoria avenues.

■ **WHERE:** Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City

■ **COST:** Introductory session is free for residents, guests and non-members.

Technicality stalls spa re-opening

SUNDIAL: Variance sought to clear way for use in March

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City's bottom line won't suffer any ill effects from the closure of Sundial's two spas.

Earl Feierabend, Sun

City's director of centers operations, said securing county approval to reopen the spas shouldn't cost the centers anything other than time, and he doesn't expect any lost guest fees because of

the delay.

"It's not going to cost us anything one way or another," Feierabend said. "It's just inconvenient."

Questions remain about why gazebos over the spas were not included on plans submitted to the Maricopa County Environmental

Services Department, and why clearance between the spas and gazebo columns were short on one side of each spa.

All parties involved, however, agreed the clearance issue is minor, and centers officials should be able to get a variance allowing them to reopen the spas March 13. The rest of the refurbished center and the pools are open to members.

The remodeled Sundial Recreation Center opened Jan. 20 but the spas closed Jan. 30 after county inspectors failed to give them final approval because there is too little deck space between the spas and columns holding the gazebos.

Maricopa County's Environmental Services Department requires 4 feet of deck space between a spa and any surrounding structures to allow emergency personnel enough room to work.

"The grand opening was before final approval, but we asked people not to get into the spas," Feierabend said. "But you know how residents

are, they jumped right in."

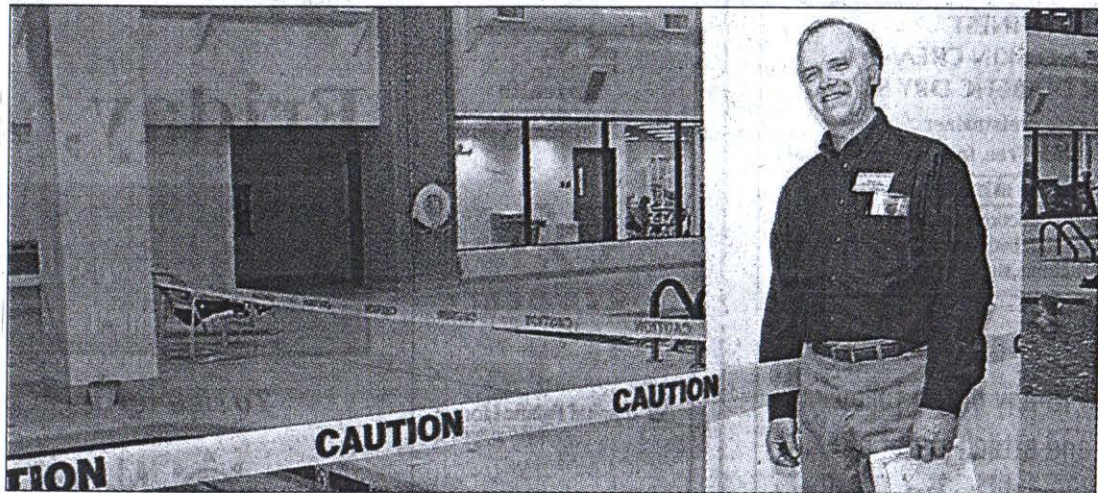
The spas now are closed off with yellow caution tape while centers officials await a variance hearing next month. Feierabend said Sundial's spas have at least 4 feet of clearance on three sides of each spa. The fourth side has only 3 feet, 8 inches of space between the spa and gazebo column, he said.

"We're having a meeting on March 13 with the pool people and Earl (Feierabend) to see if we can get a variance on that," said RCSC board President Dorothy Hirtzel.

Feierabend said the way the gazebos are built — on columns rather than walls — still gives plenty of room for paramedics to access a person near the spas and to comfortably place a gurney alongside them.

If the variance isn't approved, McBride workers will have to come in and cut four inches off each of the eight columns holding the two gazebos in order to provide the correct clearance

See SPAS, A5



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Earl Feierabend, director of operators for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, stands next to one of the spas at Sundial Recreation Center. The spas were closed soon after opening Jan. 20 because county inspectors failed to give them final approval, citing too little deck space between the spas and columns holding the gazebos.

OVER

From A1

while keeping all the columns the same size, Feierabend said.

During the renovation, the centers instructed the general contractor, McBride Building Group of Scottsdale, to allow for the 4-foot clearance, Feierabend said. A subcontractor hired by the centers, Rondo Pools of Phoenix, installed the spas.

"Somewhere between the time we informed them (McBride) of that and Rondo Pools completing it, those numbers got changed," Feierabend said.

"We didn't really become aware of it until the health inspector came out and mentioned it to us," he said.

A representative with Rondo Pools declined to comment. Don Kuklovsky, project manager with McBride Construction Group, said the variance is minor, and likely was due to miscommunication because Rondo Pools is not McBride's subcontractor.

"There was some discrepancy in the plans. We actually didn't have the spa

contract," he said. "(Rondo) did all their own permitting, their own plans."

Kuklovsky said the variance is "so close it's really a technicality."

Chris Baugh, a plan-review engineer with the county environmental services department, told the Daily News-Sun last week that the gazebos weren't included in the plans approved by the county.

Feierabend, however, said that wasn't the case. He said the gazebos were always part of the plans under which RCSC received its building permit. "We couldn't have gotten a permit without a plan, and the plan included those structures," he said.

Although Feierabend wasn't sure where the misunderstanding came from, he said McBride's overall construction plans included the gazebos, but Rondo's spa plans did not since they focussed only on the spas.

Dave Ludwig, manager of the county's environmental services department, said the plans submitted to his department were from Rondo

Pools and did not include the gazebos.

"Our plan review was based on the plans submitted by Rondo Pools," Ludwig said. "Bottom line is ... we approve what we see."

Had the 4-foot clearance been maintained, the gazebos wouldn't have been an issue for environmental services, Ludwig said. But as built, his department must require a variance, and county inspectors will have to make note of the exception each time they inspect Sundial.

"We just want compliance," he said. "We want them to get their required variance, put it on the records, have it checked each and every time."

Ludwig said he wasn't sure whether the gazebos were shown on plans submitted to the county for the overall construction permit.

Marilyn Coates, a code enforcement customer service representative with the county planning and zoning commission, said the centers got final approval on Sundial's building permit on Dec. 31, 2002.

However, she could not confirm whether the gazebos are shown on those plans or not. Only the applicant can review them, she said, and the plans are destroyed 90 days after the permit is finalized.

Feierabend said in situations where RCSC's construction plans do change, the cost is born by either the centers or the contractor, depending on what the change is. If it's something centers officials change their minds on, RCSC must pay. If it's an error on the contractor's part, the contractor pays.

Hirtzel said the spa closure — and earlier delays in the overall renovation — could provide a learning experience for the board, although she isn't sure it will mean a change in policy.

"I'm not saying it wasn't thorough, but this was the first big renovation. It would probably have been better to tear it all out and start over," she said.

Katy O'Grady can be reached at 876-2514 or kogrady@aztrib.com.

Gazebos sink Sundial spa approval

DELAY: RCSC, county officials differ as to nature of problem

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The grand reopening of the newly renovated Sundial spas was short-lived.

The recreation center's spas opened to much admiration Jan. 20, but closed again 10 days later after failing to get county approval. They likely won't open again until mid-March, pending that county approval.

Centers Operations Director Earl Feierabend said the delay was due to a shortage of county health inspectors and unacceptable handrails in the spas, but county officials said the problem was that the Recreation Centers of Sun City added gazebos to the spas after the renovation plans

had already gone through the county review process.

RCSC board Director Tom Whiston told members about the closing during Friday's board meeting, saying the spas are closed awaiting a final health inspection. At a board-membership information exchange Monday, resident and board critic Anne Stewart said she is worried about her health since she used the spas shortly before they closed.

Feierabend said that shouldn't be a concern. He said inspectors didn't approve of the handrails installed in the spas.

A county engineer, however, said the problem is that gazebos were added after the plans

were approved.

"The gazebos weren't shown on the plans we received," said Chris Baugh, a plan-review engineer with the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department. "If the gazebos had been shown during the plan-review phase, then this could have been avoided."

The county requires 4 feet of deck space around spas so emergency personnel have room to do rescue work, Baugh said. With the addition of the gazebos, the spas don't have enough: "The lack of deck space around the gazebos is the only concern."

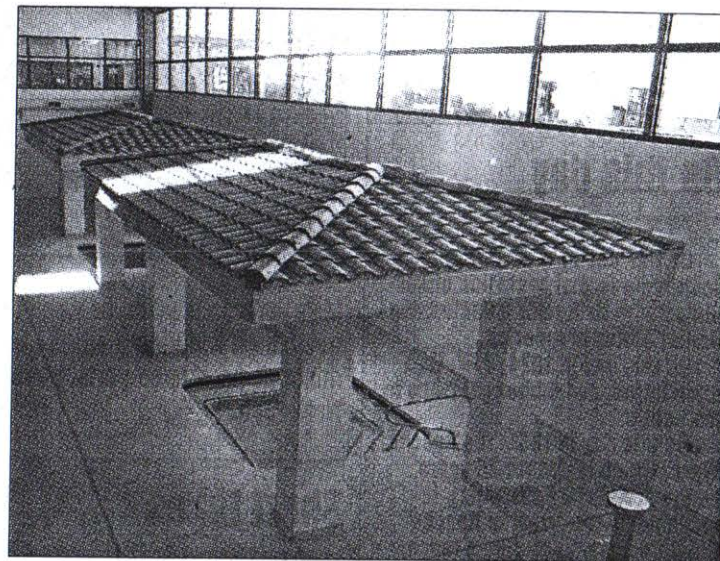
Karen Reno of the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department said that to request a variance on the gazebos, the centers must submit paperwork at least 30 days before the county's

swimming-pool advisory committee meets. Since the committee's next meeting is March 13, paperwork will have to be in by Feb. 13 to be considered then. Thus, the earliest the spas could open is mid-March, Reno said.

In addition to the handrails, Feierabend said the delay in getting final approval is due to a shortage of county health inspectors, but Reno and Baugh said there is no such shortage.

An issue with low door handles leading to the spas has been resolved. Feierabend said the inspector wanted the centers to raise the handles out of children's reach.

"They said the spas were not childproof," he said. Centers officials explained the community is age-restricted, and "after hearing that, they finally agreed to waive that



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sundial spas have been closed again pending county approval, expected to come in mid-March.

part of it."

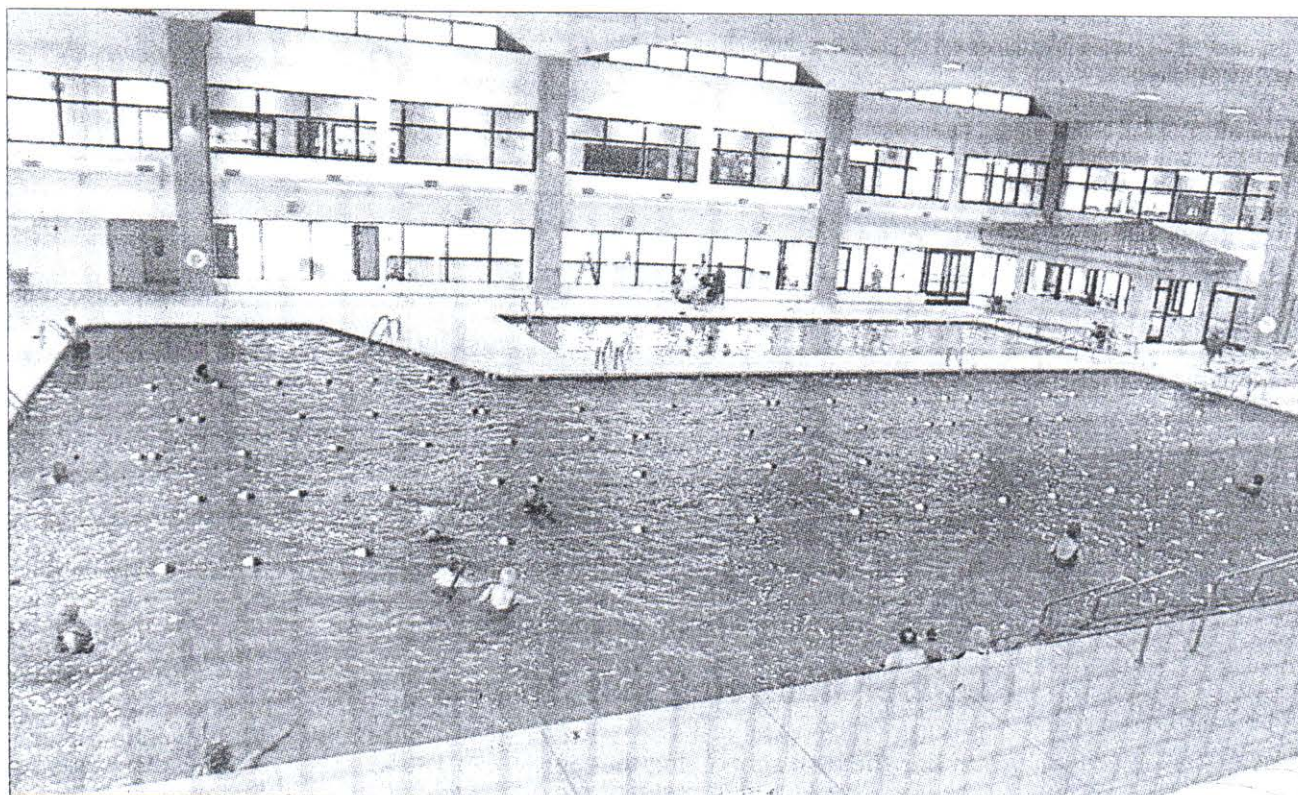
"I'm going to approve that," county engineer Baugh said.

During the closure, Feierabend said the RCSC plans to remove scuff marks from the

bottom of the spas, something the contractor failed to do.

Katy O'Grady can be reached at 876-2514 or kogrady@aztrib.com.

Back in the swim



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The pool at Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City reopened Friday after undergoing numerous improvements. The empty room on the lower level will house the workout center located on the second floor.

Sundial pool reopens

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It took a little longer than expected, but the results were praised Monday.

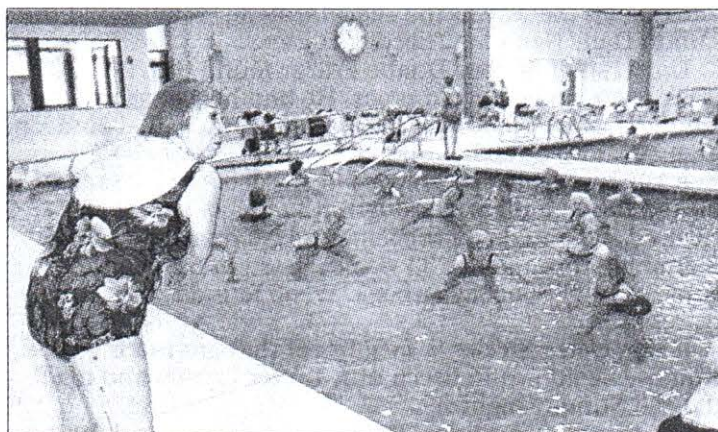
The pool at the Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City was a wave of activity Monday morning with exercise classes and recreational swimmers taking their dips in the renovated pool.

"I think it's great," said Gary Moore of Sun City. "They did a nice job on the place. It looks like one of those state-of-the-art facilities now."

The Sundial Recreation Center went through a series of renovations throughout the last year, with the biggest project coming in the pool and spa area of the center.

The opening of the pool was postponed earlier this year when a leak was discovered in one of the intake hoses and a filter for one of the spas was broken.

Friday morning, however, all repairs were fixed. By Monday, swimmers were at



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Aileen Gordon teaches the free-standing water aerobics class at the Sundial Recreation Center pool in Sun City Monday.

their peak in the pool area.

"This is a vision that we had for a long time that is now completed," said Dorothy Hirtzel, president of the Recreation Centers of the Sun City board of directors. "We did this for the people of Sun City and we did it to make life a little better for everyone."

The Sundial projects came with a price tag of about \$1.5 million, which was paid for by the RCSC's capital

improvement fund. That fund is fed by a \$700 fee charges to new home sales in the community.

"This project didn't have one dime come from the budget," Hirtzel said. "It was all done by the capital preservation fees."

It was money well spent, according to Diann Stevens of Sun City, who said she was pleased with the center's overhaul.

"A lot of people use the pool here and the hot tubs," she said. "There are people who use it for medical reasons and for fun. We missed it when it was gone for the year, but I think everyone is happy that it is opened again and how good of a job they did on everything."

The pool and spas were renovated after leaks were found and drainage systems collapsed. The cost of repairing the problems was actually higher than a total renovation of the swimming and spa area because of the amount of labor involved, according to Earl Feierabend, RCSC director of centers operations.

The board gave approval to go ahead with the project, which included moving the spas, bettering the pool and upgrading the showers in the recreation center.

Sundial Recreation Center is located at 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard in Sun City.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Unisex bathroom staying at Sundial

RCSC BOARD LISTENS:

Residents' appeal makes difference

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A group of Sun Citizens has earned its right to use a bathroom on recreation-center property.

The group — made up of handicapped and nonhandicapped residents — represents the disabled, the frail and extra-needs residents of Sun City. It was fighting to save the sole unisex bathroom at Sundial Recreation Center, while renovation plans at the center called for its demise. On Tuesday, the Recreation Centers of Sun City announced the bathroom would stay — with upgrades.

The unisex bathroom is necessary because many residents require help either changing or showering, said Jean Swanson, a certified-registered nurse anesthetist. Recreation center rules require residents using the pools to shower before entering.

"The bathroom is not just for handicapped residents," said Swanson who is confined to a wheelchair. "It is for people who can get around but need some extra help. It's also for people who have Alzheimer's and need help from their partner or caretaker."

The bathroom is located in the back of Sundial. Although no signs advertising its

location, the room is used a lot, Swanson said.

"I always see people using it, and if it is taken away then these people won't have a place they can use," she said.

Because renovation plans had called for the bathroom's removal, Swanson, along with a handful of other residents, petitioned the RCSC to reconsider the plans.

The board did, and the bathrooms will remain.

"They are for sure going to have one and possibly two," Jerry Swintek, RCSC president, said Tuesday.

"It's going to have a shower, a dressing room, a toilet and a sink. The room is going to have adequate space for people in wheelchairs and is for people who need their husband or wife to help them."

News of the bathroom's survival at Sundial was welcomed by Swanson, who said the issue has strong community support.

"It's just wonderful," she said. "In four days we've gotten 200 signatures, so it shows that this type of bathroom is needed and wanted in Sun City."

Handicap accessibility is important to residents using

Sundial because the pools temperatures are kept at therapeutic levels and have ramps for easier access.

Having just handicap accessible bathrooms was not enough, though, according to the group of concerned citizens, because it didn't address the growing population of people who need assistance in the bathroom other than strategically placed handrails and wider stalls.

"The original renovation plans called for the bathroom to be done away with, but we were informed that quite a few people needed it," Swintek said. "So we kept them."

Fervor over the potential closing of the unisex bathroom came to a head last week when word of the closure reached the public.

"They never came out and told us that the bathroom would be gone," said Robert Hartel of Sun City. "They just decided it was not in the plans and we had to find out about from other people. That's what hurt us."

Hartel uses the unisex bathroom to assist his wife, who is in a wheelchair.

Swanson and Hartel marshaled their forces and went out to find people to support having the bathroom and ended up petitioning the RCSC board to keep the

unisex bathroom in place.

George Webster said he signed the petition because he thought the recreation centers should cater to all residents, regardless of physical ability.

"It would be absurd to cut something that a lot of people depend on," he said. "The goal of the recreation centers recently has been to improve and expand, but if they cut the bathroom it would be a move in the opposite direction."

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, all public facilities have to be handicapped accessible. When the facility provides dressing rooms, according to the act, at least one unisex bathroom is required.

The issue could have been skirted by RCSC because its buildings are not public property.

Swintek, however, said providing a unisex bathroom will be beneficial to the residents of Sun City, and therefore be included in the renovation plans at Sundial.

"This is exactly what was needed," Webster said. "It's the type of things that a lot of people use regardless of whether they are in a wheelchair or not."

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

Major improvements set for Sundial Rec Center

Refurbishing estimates placed at \$350,000

By **JULI NESSETT**
Independent Newspapers

In a special meeting held at Sundial Recreation Center April 11, RCSC officials spoke about findings of an investigation regarding the improvement and possible replacement of the two spas at the rec center.

Earl Feierabend, director of centers operations, told those attending that the spas cannot be repaired and will be relocated to another area north of the large swimming pool.

The one spa that remains open is currently losing water at the rate of one foot per day, according to RCSC officials.

To simply repair the spas would have cost \$45,000 more than replacement.

Mr. Feierabend said many other problems were identified when the spa problem was investigated.

Investigators found that the floor drains in the spa room, locker rooms, rest rooms and showers had collapsed and, in addition, sewer lines in the rest rooms were clogged and needing repairs.

Thus, users of Sundial Recreation Center will soon have new showers, lockers and rest rooms, in addition to the new spas.

Attendees were able to get an idea of what the improvements will look like from architectural drawings.

Cost of this project is estimated at \$350,000, which will be paid for with money from the Capital Preservation/Improvement Fund. The fund is generated by the sale of residences to first-time Sun City homeowners.

Only four out of 20 contractors responded to RCSC requests for bids and only two estimates were provided.

According to RCSC officials, members were pleased with the plans and the potential of improving the facilities.

The project will take up to four months to complete and during that time the spas, locker rooms, showers and swimming pools will be closed.

According to Art Little, RCSC director, the renovations will probably take place this summer.

Daily News-Sun • Thursday, April 19, 2001

Courts' fate in limbo

SHUFFLEBOARD: RCSC board studies options to fix problem at Sundial

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors is looking to level the playing field — or, more specifically, the playing courts.

The Sundial Recreation Center's shuffleboard courts are becoming warped from moisture, and the uneven playing surface causes shuffleboard play to be skewed. Remedying the problem can lead in two directions, board members said.

Option one would find a solution to the moisture problem. Option two would be to close down the courts and combine the Sundial and Bell shuffleboard clubs.

"Right now we aren't making any decision," said Jerry Swintek, RCSC board president. "We are not going to get ahead of ourselves. We are first going to study the problem to see what can get done. From there we will make a decision."

Although not as popular in the Sun Cities as it once was, shuffleboard still gets its fair

From A1

share of players, Maxine Sheffelman of the Bell Shuffleboard Club said.

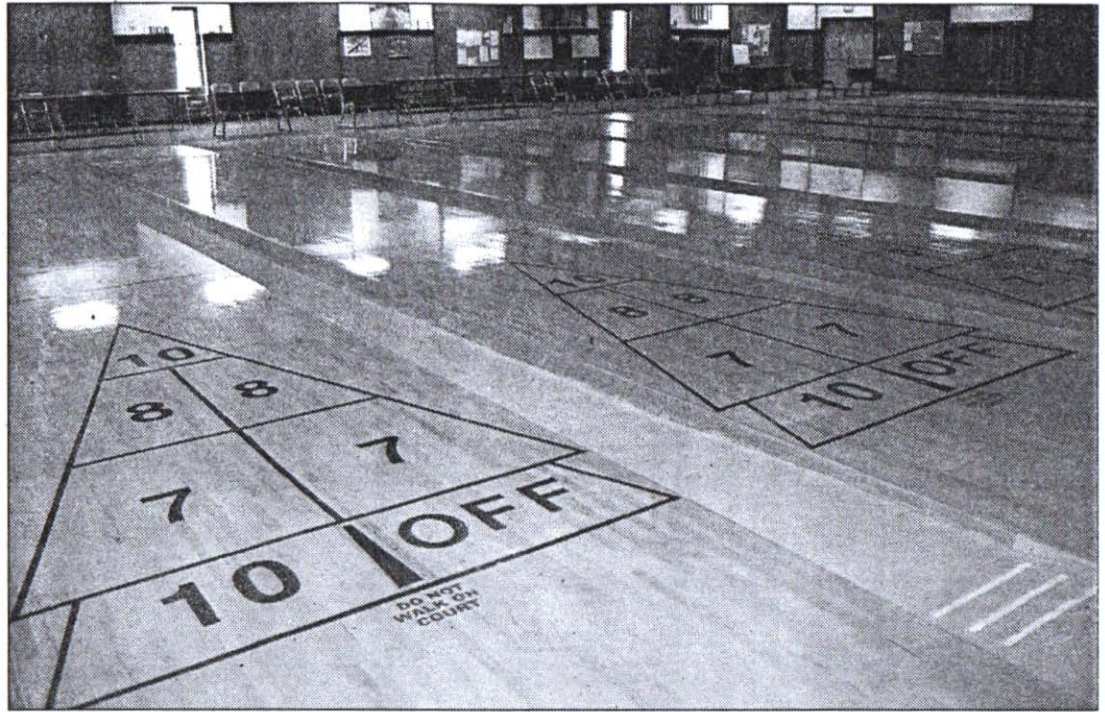
"We usually have 200 to 225 people signed up every year just at Bell," she said. "And that's a pretty good size. The other clubs throughout the community have about that many as well."

At its most popular, Sheffelman said, there were sometimes up to 500 members at each club, but that was before other activities and sports were commonplace within the Sun Cities.

Signs of the sport's fading popularity is evident in Sun City West, too, which used to boast 10 shuffleboard courts. That number was cut to five to increase the size of a bowling alley — a direct correlation to people getting involved in other activities.

The RCSC board has been in contact with both the Sundial and Bell shuffleboard clubs to discuss the situation with the damaged courts. Because finalized plans on what to do with the Sundial Shuffleboard Club have not been made, John Waldron, the Sundial club's president (and no relation to Sun City Grand's spokesman), said he is taking a wait-and-see approach to the issue.

"Hopefully, the courts will be fixed," he said. "Right now we have no opinion on what's being done because the (RCSC) board has not gone over



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors is looking for options suitable to the Sundial Shuffleboard Club's problem with warped courts.

everything yet. They know what the problem is and it is their call right now."

RCSC explored several options to cure the warping, such as using bowling-lane sanders to level the courts. The sanders were not wide enough, though, making RCSC dig a little deeper to find a solution.

"When it comes down to it, we have to look at the Sundial shuffleboard court because it is becoming uneven with the moisture underneath it," said Harold Boudrie, RCSC board member. "There is also no sanding machine wide enough to sand down the court to

make it even again."

The problem, Boudrie said, stems from water getting between the concrete base of the courts and the wood flooring of the court. The water causes the wood slats to bulge, making the playing surface uneven.

The Sundial courts are due to be dug up within the next few weeks as the recreation center receives a face-lift. Once dug up, the problem courts will be studied to see if a long-term solution can be found. If not, RCSC is considering moving the shuffleboard club to the Bell Recreation Center.

The Bell center has enough room to house both clubs and an open enough schedule to accommodate both groups. However, because of minor scheduling conflicts, the two groups would have to negotiate various times to use the courts.

So far this year, the Bell club has more than 185 members signed up to play with similar numbers at the Sundial club.

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

Sundial: 'biggest and best'

Rec center sees 25 years of activity

By JEFF OWENS
Staff writer

In the beginning, there was Oakmont Recreation Center.

And Del Webb saw that it was good, and other rec centers followed: Fairway, Mountain View, and Lakeview.

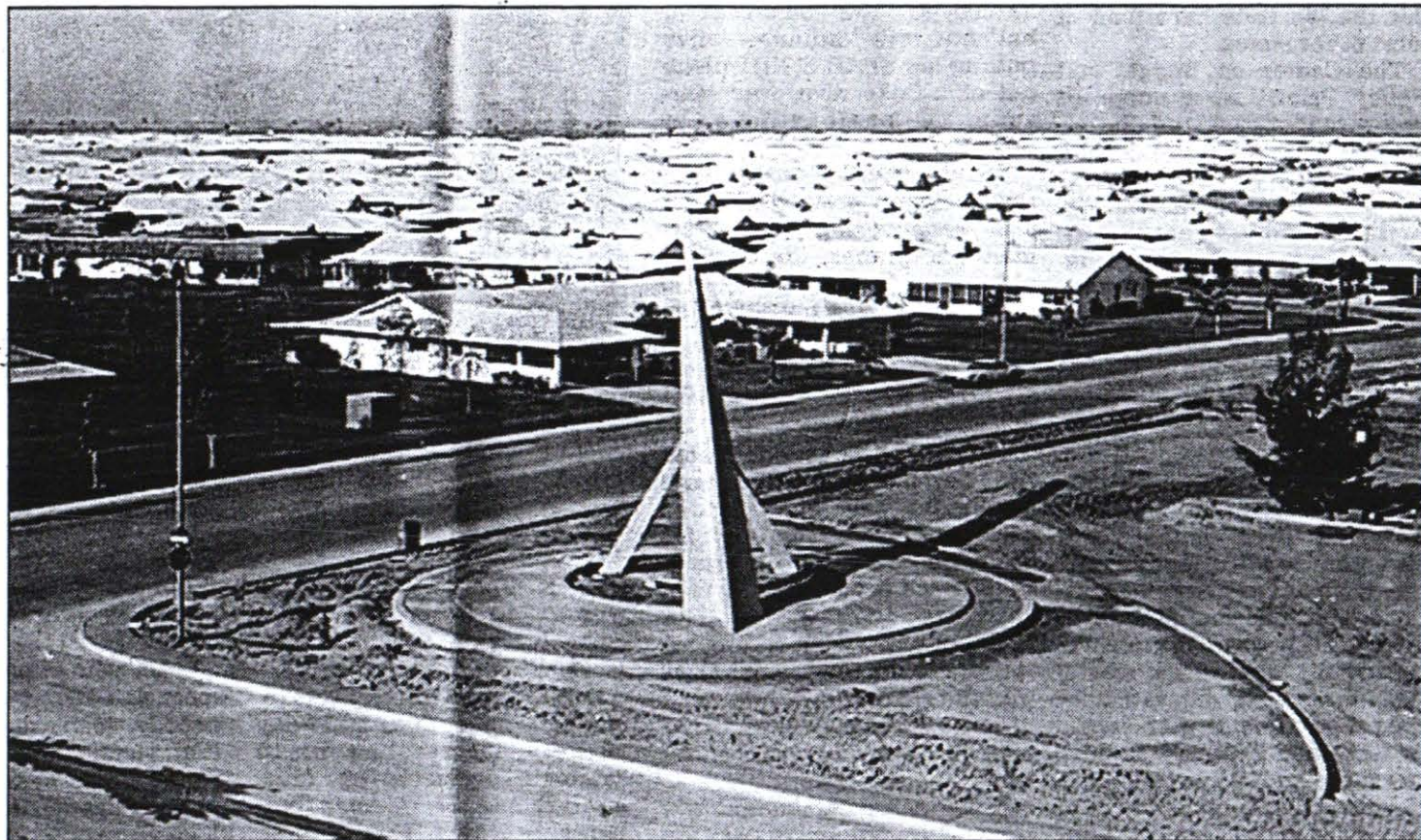
Those four were well-received, but it wasn't long before plans were under way for the costliest and most ambitious recreation center yet.

Now, exactly 25 years to the day after it was dedicated on April 14, 1973, the Sundial Recreation Center is going as strong as ever.

After 10 months of construction, the \$2 million Sundial Recreation Center on 103rd Avenue was the biggest of the five. It had more club, recreation and entertainment facilities. It had immense covered pools, and a 1,200-seat auditorium.

And out in front, pointing straight north, was the massive sundial — certainly the largest in town; maybe even the largest in the West.

At the 10 a.m. dedication ceremony on Saturday, April 14, 1973, Del Webb stood before his latest, best and biggest creation and told the throng assembled there, "The building speaks for itself."



Daily News-Sun file photo

This aerial view, taken during construction, shows the sundial that gave the rec center its name.

Then-Gov. Jack Williams had toured the facility the night before the dedication ceremony.

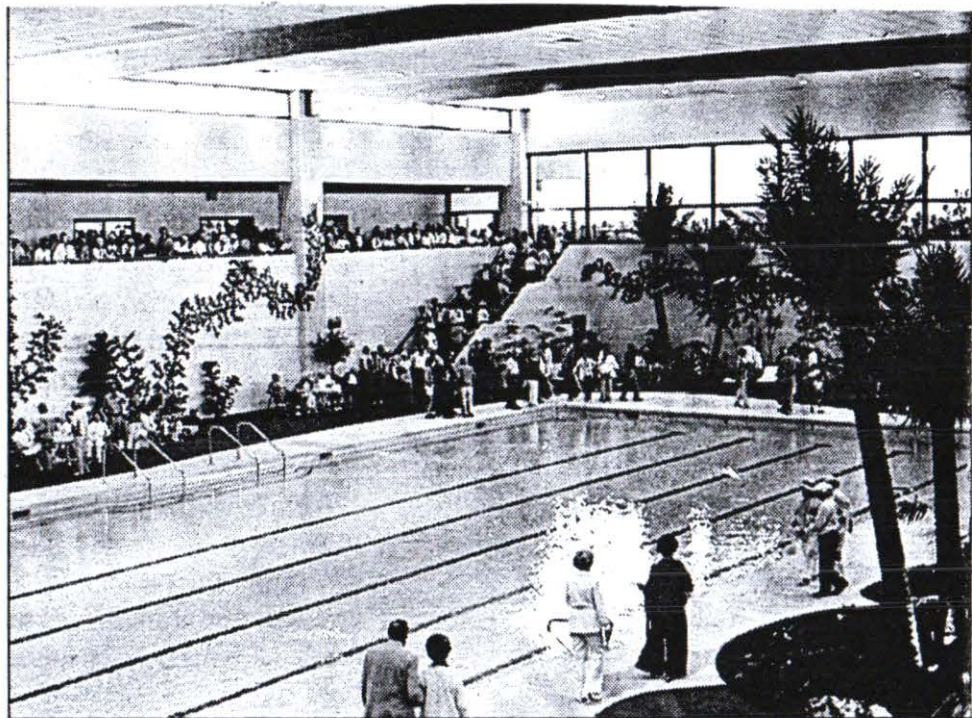
Sun Citians then poured in by the thousands, signing up for clubs and

marveling at the indoor pools. More than 7,500 doughnuts and 5,000 cups of hot coffee were waiting for them that morning.

Sundial is now home to 17 clubs, including popular rockhound, pho-

tography, silvercraft and lapidary organizations.

No special anniversary celebrations are planned at the rec center; today it's just business, or, ahem, pleasure as usual.



Daily News-Sun file photo

The covered pool and plantings inside the Sundial Recreation Center drew big crowds and favorable comments when the center opened for the first time.



Daily News-Sun file photo

Del Webb presided over the dedication ceremony April 14, 1973, that marked the opening of the Sundial Recreation Center.

Gem of a facility

Rockhounds museum showcases myriad of minerals

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

Members of one Sun City club don't mind getting their hands dirty when it comes to collecting museum artifacts.

October marks the third anniversary of the Sun City Rockhound Club's museum at Sundial Recreation Center, as well as the opening of the museum's new wing and the club's 30th anniversary.

To celebrate, the club will hold an open house 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 18-23 in the upper level of the Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 103rd Ave., Sun City.

The museum is open to the public. Admission is free.

When the club formed on Oct. 14, 1963 with 30 members, a museum was not even a vision in members' minds, says Fred Curtis, museum chairman.

"The objectives (were) just to study the natural sciences, particularly as it pertains to rocks and minerals and all forms of geology. (The museum) came out of the blue," Mr. Curtis says.

In 1965, the club was granted a charter by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. and held its monthly meetings at Mountain

Inside:

Rockhounds celebrate
30th anniversary See P. 7

View Recreation Center.

The museum opened Oct. 1, 1990 with hundreds of specimens housed in five cabinets and temporary display cases. The highlight of the collection was a mineral display under ultraviolet light.

"We ended up with almost twice as many specimens as we had before, so we petitioned the Rec Centers to obtain the little meeting room (next door). Last spring, they turned the room over to the club," Mr. Curtis says.

Club members worked eight to 10 hours daily all summer on the museum expansion, he says.

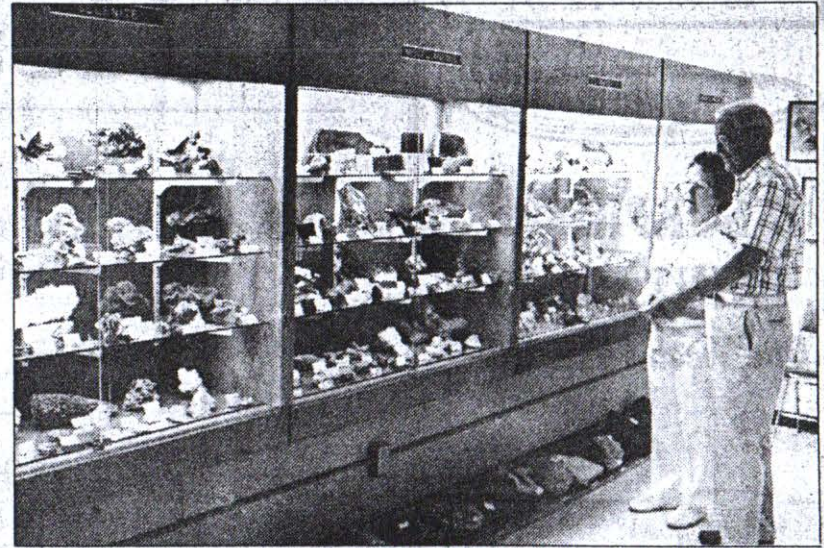
"We completely rearranged the museum. It took us from April 1 to the first of October (1993)."

The display cabinets in the "old" section have been upgraded and rearranged.

With the addition of the new wing, the museum now has 12 display cabinets and will feature a different exhibit each month.

During October, minerals from Mexico are featured.

The addition of the new wing has



Photos by TYSON KUHR/T/ Sun Cities Independent

Sun City residents Harold and Sadie Johnson visited the Sun City Rockhound Club's museum last week to see an expanded collection of minerals on exhibit. The museum marks its third anniversary this month.

enabled the club to almost double the number of items on exhibit. Four new cases are devoted to mineral specimens; highlights include collections of selenite, agate and jade.

The new wing also includes a large map of Arizona based on a photo taken from a satellite 500 miles above the earth.

By pressing a button, a corresponding light appears on the

map indicating where club members on field trips collected certain specimens.

The new wing also houses an expanded display of artifacts and fossils.

The fossil collection includes plants, animals and bone material of prehistoric animals such as dinosaurs.

See ■ MUSEUM, Page 7

The museum features more than 1,500 specimens from 40 foreign countries and the United States, Mr. Curtis says.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 people visit the museum each year, Mr. Curtis says, with most visiting during the winter and holidays.

"We've had visitors from every state in the union and probably 30 to 40 foreign countries.

"We get quite a few from Japan and Germany. A couple of weeks ago, someone from Poland visited," Mr. Curtis says.

The museum is open all year from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Rockhounds celebrate 30th anniversary

The Sun City Rockhound Club, which began with 30 members and now has grown to 350, has something for everyone, says Fred Curtis, club museum chairman.

"I'm sure we have a number of people who are only interested in the club because of social (activity). The bulk of our membership was not particularly interested in the rock collecting until they came to Sun City and less than 50 percent really collected rocks prior to coming here.

"We do have some members who are very knowledgeable and two who are experts in the identification

of rocks," Mr. Curtis says.

The club holds monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Mountain View Auditorium, 9749 N. 107th Ave., Sun City, field trips to various collection sites on the third Thursday of each month and "show and tell" picnics on the fourth Thursday of each month.

The club also holds classes for its members which focus on subjects pertaining to both rock collecting and geology, Mr. Curtis says.

"We have tools for sale at a discount, books, proper picks and things. We get it at a good price.

This is what we do to support the club. We sell excess specimens at reduced prices."

The Sun City Rockhound Club is open to Sun City Rec Card holders.



Wanna lift?

Recreation center installs elevator

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Charlotte Peterson says she no longer is afraid of the ramp at Sundial Recreation Center.

That's because the Sun Citian has rolled her wheelchair down the paved incline for the last time.

Now Peterson and other local residents who need assistance may use a new elevator installed this month at the center.

The elevator was opened to the public on Thursday, about three years after local handicapped residents rallied for its construction.

"I am so happy that this elevator is finally here," Peterson said. "It's just wonderful. Before when my husband pushed my wheelchair down the ramp I was always scared that I would fall."

The elevator has access to Sundial's three floors and is near the south end of the center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Peterson, along with her husband, John, were the first local residents to ride the elevator after it was dedicated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Members of the recreation centers board of directors credit the couple for soliciting local support for the elevator.

"They were so influential in this process from day one," director Norm Schuett said. "They have supported the idea of an elevator along with a number of other people for a long time."

John Peterson wrote a letter to the recreation centers in February 1988 requesting that staff install an electric inclinator once used to carry people in wheelchairs to and from the Sundial pool area.

The inclinator was used at the pool before the center was closed for roof repairs.

By May, recreation centers officers said they would improve handicapped accessibility to the Sundial pool area.

Eventually the board hired R.D. Coffman Enterprises Inc. of Phoenix to instead install the elevator, which cost a little more than \$100,000.

But that's not to say final approval of an elevator did not have its ups and downs.

Recreation centers directors disagreed on the best location for the elevator months before they decided to put it next to

the center's south entrance ramp.

Craft clubs that had building space where the elevator was built were moved to other parts of the center.

Installation of the elevator also hinged on approval from local, county and state building inspectors and other entities.

Three recreation center board presidents heard the pleas from community residents as to why the elevator was needed at the center.

Construction started in mid-

September and all inspections were completed March 13.

"I am very pleased. We have had a long wait with some moments looking pretty dark," Peterson said. "At times we thought the elevator construction would never get off the ground."

Georgia Clark, an instructor for the Sun City Handicapables Club, said her approximately 200 students most likely will use the elevator on a regular basis.

She said the elevator will be

used not only by handicapped residents, but by those who are impaired by other factors such as a stroke.

"This has been sadly needed for a long time," Clark said. "People can use it to go to the swimming pool, or the craft rooms. It will reduce a lot of hazardous entry into the building for wheelchairs."

Recreation centers staff completed other parts of the project such as landscaping, painting and installing floor coverings.

(OVER)



Daily News-Sun photo by Jacquie Pappas

GOING UP — Sun Citizens John and Charlotte Peterson were the first residents to use a new elevator that opened to the public Thursday in Sundial Recreation Center. The elevator is near the southwest entrance of the center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Top grain

Wooden floor nearly finished at rec center

By JACQUE PAPPAS
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — It has caused members of chartered clubs to clash and the directors of the Recreation Centers of Sun City much deliberation.

But come August, the auditorium at Sundial Recreation Center will reopen and boast a new wooden floor.

The auditorium at Sundial, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., closed in late April to allow crews to install the 17,331-square-foot wooden floor.

Recreation officials said work on the floor is scheduled for completion next Tuesday.

Approval of the new wooden floor crossed many bridges before the center's board of directors OK'd its installation.

The idea for the new project evolved when the Sundial Dance Club, one of many clubs that use the auditorium on a regular basis, requested that a new wooden floor be installed.

Club president Fred Clark said the dance group has wanted a wooden floor for many years. The old floor was made of vinyl tile.

"This will be a beautiful floor for dance and exercise clubs in Sun City," Clark said. "It's something that Sun City needs because a wooden floor is much easier on the joints and feet."

"In the past people here have driven into Phoenix and other places just to dance on a wooden floor. This project has been long-awaited."

Clark said the Sundial wooden floor will give Sun City one of the "largest in the Southwest."

The club hosts weekly dances that are attended by 1,200 to 1,500 area residents. The dances

will resume Aug. 12.

"Everybody's ready to start dancing again and we're just thrilled about this new floor," Clark said. "Now perhaps we can keep Sun Citians in the area instead of having them go elsewhere to dance."

In April 1988, the board allocated no more than \$100,000 to install the wood floor at Sundial.

But members of the Sundial Men's Club protested because it would close down the chartered club's bingo fund-raiser for several months.

In October 1988, the board voted to postpone the decision on materials and methods of replacing the floor.

After investigation and debate, the board unanimously voted to invite bids for the full floating hardwood floor in February.

More than a dozen other groups — from the Kealohas Hawaiian Dance Club to the Kachina Bridge Club — use the auditorium regularly as well.

Many of the clubs stopped activity for the summer months and others used alternate recreation centers while the floor has been installed.

But weekly bingo games sponsored by the Sundial Men's Club could not change locations during the floor installation, said George Muller, the group's bingo chairman.

Muller said the group would have had to apply to the Arizona Department of Revenue to change the location of the bingo games.

"When we were told that we

had to get out, we just decided to close instead of apply for a new license for a temporary location," Muller said. "It's a very-time consuming process. It was easier for us to close."

Although the bingo games will return Sept. 7, Muller said the club lost about \$8,000 during this summer's closure.

Last year the club gave \$33,000 in charitable donations to area groups. All monies donated were generated from the bingo games.

"Our charitable donations will suffer considerably. The Sundial Men's Club did not take any stand for or against the floor except for where our revenues came into play," Muller said. "We have worked hard to get our bingo where it is now and, only time will tell after we re-

open whether our old customers will come back."

The new wooden floor has been installed over the existing tile floor, said Bill Beal, centers facilities manager.

He said the floor is part of an overall renovation and improvement of the auditorium for use by all clubs and activities.

Recreation center staff started work in April by trimming the doors and converting the auditorium stage before the contractor installed the floor.

"That whole floor has been elevated 2½ inches with the wood floor," Beal said. "Our workers had to do a lot of work to modify the auditorium to accommodate the change. All the work being done in the lobby, except for the carpeting, has also been done in-house."

(OVER)



LAST TOUCHES — Jerry Scott, from Mission Hardwood in Scottsdale, works on buffing the new 17,331-square-foot oak floor in the auditorium at Sundial Recreation Center on Monday.

News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

Pool reopening date unknown

By Karen Kirk

The Phoenix Gazette

SUN CITY — Recreation Centers board president Louis Grunwald said members will have to wait a few more weeks to find out when they can use the Sundial swimming pool building again.

Grunwald, speaking at a board meeting June 25 said W.P. Roland Constructors Co. is setting up operations at Sundial, 104801 103rd Ave., and will begin construction shortly. However, company officials will not be able to estimate exactly when the project will be completed until they finish preliminary work on the site.

According to the company's contract, work must be completed within 120 days after construction is started.

Sundial has been closed since May 1986 when engineers discovered that the roof over the swimming pool was in danger of collapsing.

After holding several conferences with architects and Recreation Centers members, the board hired Rossman Schneider Gadbury Architects of Phoenix to redesign the pool building

so that it would be less prone to collecting moisture, which is what weakened the structure's original roof.

The design also includes enlarging the Sundial Men's Club room, and adding handicapped facilities and a shallow exercise pool.

Cost of the project is \$1.3 million.

The crafts rooms in the building will remain closed during construction, as will the parking lot surrounding the building. However, the Sundial auditorium will be accessible through a covered walkway, Grunwald said.

Although they will not be allowed on the site, Sun Citians will be able to keep up with the construction progress thanks to a local photography club, which has volunteered to take pictures of the work.

These and a weekly progress report will be displayed on a sign in the building's mall.

Local residents say they are thankful that construction has started, but many say the renovations are a year late.

Among the most critical is an ad hoc

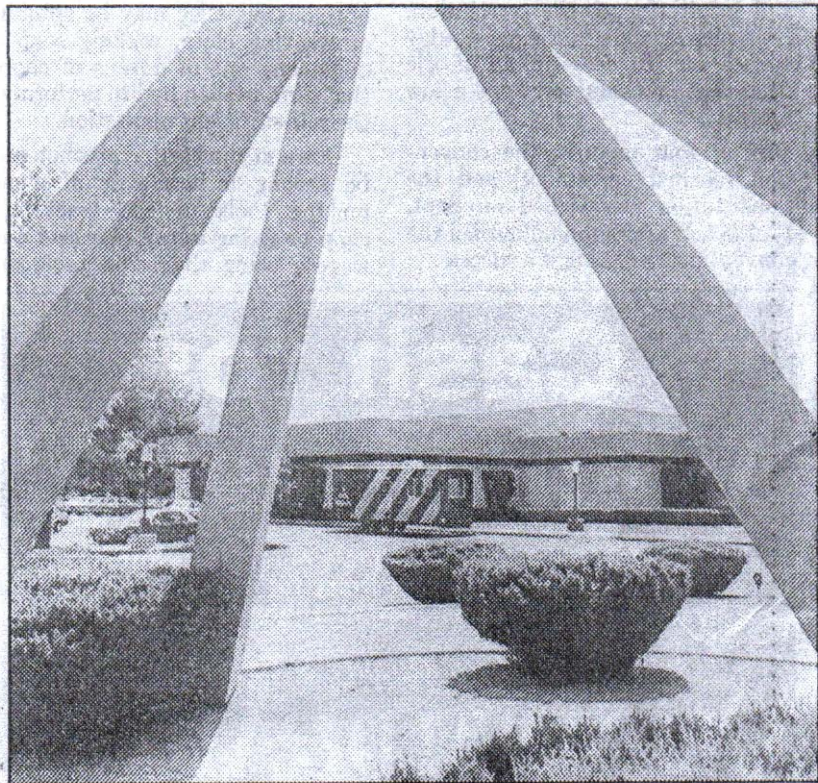
committee of retired engineers which has published reports saying the board unnecessarily delayed the work.

Grunwald defended the board against such attacks, saying that it was not going to be pushed to save time by putting up another roof that may fail.

He also accused the committee members of using the issue as an opportunity to show off their resumes.

"Most of the men in Sun City came from responsible positions before they got here. They try to do good jobs and offer help. This is not the time to have a resume contest to see who did more in their previous life. We (the board) like to listen and talk to people, but we like to have rationality when we do talk.

"The group is asking us why we don't just repair the roof or put a similar roof back up. I cannot agree with that. It never seems logical to repeat a mistake. We expect people to make changes when there is a disaster. That is why we are looking at recreating the roof design," Grunwald said.



Mark Henle, *The Phoenix Gazette*

A construction trailer waits outside Sundial Recreation Center.

Wood roof to cover recreation center

Gazette Northwest Bureau

SUN CITY — After nearly six months of debate, the Recreation Center Corp. board of directors has come up with a plan to replace the failing roof over the Sundial Recreation Center swimming pool.

The board chose a design featuring a ceiling with four wooden arches suspended from wooden laminated beams with a two- to three-foot insulated attic in between.

The board's main concern when choosing the design was to find a system that would prevent moisture from becoming trapped in the pool area and deteriorating the wooden beams, which caused the present roof to fail, Henry Schwartz, Recreation Centers engineer, said Friday.

The new roof will be constructed of wood that has been pressure treated to resist moisture. The underside of the arches will be covered with a vinyl-coated moisture-resistant material. Moist air that seeps into the attic will be drawn out through an exhaust fan.

Warm, humid air will also be exhausted from below the dropped ceiling through a similar ventilation system. The air 10 to 12 feet above the pool will be cooled or heated to maintain a comfortable temperature for the swimmers.

The pool room will be completely enclosed, but visible from surrounding walkways through windows. The area around the swimming pool will remain basically the same with the exception of the south wall, which may be moved in by four to

six feet to accommodate a larger men's clubroom, Schwartz said.

The contract, which the Recreation Centers board awarded to Rossman, Schnieder and Gadbery architectural firm on Oct. 22, includes the installation of facilities for the handicapped which are necessary to bring the building up to present county building codes.

It also includes renovation of the men's club and possible expansion of the exercise room, Recreation Centers executive administrator Ed Vander Took said.

Architects rejected the board's plans to combine concepts from three designs into one, according to Vander Took.

One of the proposals suggested that skylights be installed in the roof, but those were excluded in the final plans. The architects and board preferred to remove an 8-foot overhang on the outside of the building which will allow more light to come through existing windows.

The new roof will be stronger, more aesthetically pleasing and will also minimize noise in the pool area better than the flat roof now on the building, Schwartz said.

"Many people may be wondering why we didn't have a metal roof," Vander Took said.

"In the original investigation, we called in two companies that manufacture large metal roofs, but both walked away from it saying the environment wasn't something they

See ■ Sundial, NW-C

NW-D Wed., Nov. 5, 1986 *The Phoenix Gazette*

■ Sundial

From NW-A

wanted to deal with," Schwartz said.

"The way the beams are put together will be as strong as steel."

The architects should have final drawings completed in 60 to 90 days, and the job should be put out to bid by the first of the year. Construction, which will begin after the contractors study the plans, could be finished in six months if there are no delays and if all materials are immediately available, Schwartz said.

The Sundial auditorium should remain open during construction. If the contractors must close it for any length of time, they will work around the events that have been scheduled there, Vander Took said.

Demolition of the old roof, construction of the new roof and the renovations are estimated to cost \$1.5 million. The board recently received a letter saying its insurance company will not pay for the new roof.

Webb to join Sundial dedication

Del E. Webb will help open the \$2 million Sundial Center April 14 in ceremonies that will begin two weeks jammed with admission-free performances arranged by his development company.

A brief dedication is set for 10 a.m.

Opening day, a Saturday, will see continuous entertainment and music in the 1,200-seat auditorium and covered-pool areas.

REFRESHMENTS will be served.

The performances in the center will include:

Bob Kalston Concerts at 2 and 8 p.m. April 16; Sun City Symphony Pops Concert, 8 p.m. April 18; Phoenix Symphony Youth Orchestra, 8 p.m., April 19; Bob Crosby and the Bob Cats—Dance, 8 p.m., April 23-24; Los Indios Tabajaras from Brazil, 2 and 8 p.m., April 25; Phoenix Orpheus Chorus, 8 p.m., April 26; Ballet Folklorico Mexicano, 8 p.m., April 28; Sweet Adeline Barbershop Concert, 8 p.m., April 30.

Because of expected greater demand than Sundial auditorium can accommodate for most of

these shows, the Webb company has announced residents will have the opportunity of selecting two of the 11 events.

BY SHOWING the Recreation Center's activity card, each Sun Citian may select a ticket for each of two desired programs as long as tickets are available. Both husband's and wife's activity cards must be presented when picking up tickets, the Webb company said. Each activity card will be punched at the time tickets are received.

To simplify ticket

distribution further, an alphabetical breakdown has been established for dates tickets may be picked up.

Residents with surnames starting with a letter between A and I will obtain tickets April 2-3 or 4, between J and R, April 5-6 or 7, and between S and Z, April 9-11.

TICKETS will be distributed at the Sun City Ticket Office, east of Kings Inn, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beginning April 12, all remaining tickets will be made available to all Sun City residents on a first-come, first-served basis.

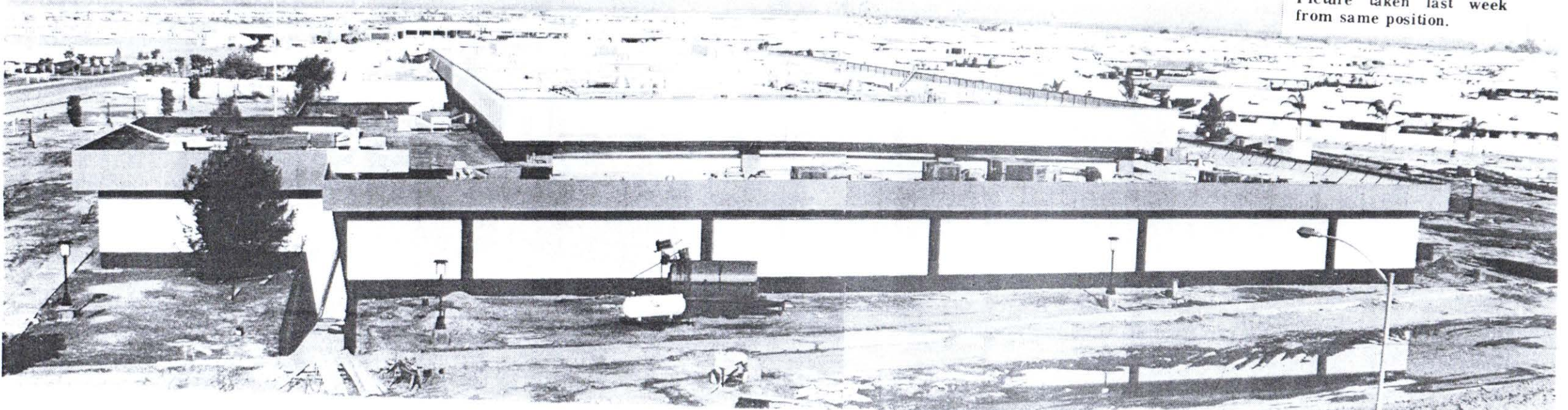
Now you don't see it . . .

Sundial excavation began June. Photo taken facing north.



Now you can't miss it

Picture taken last week from same position.



A \$3.2 million project that was begun with summer's end is rapidly nearing completion, bringing with it the most extensive recreational facilities under one roof in Sun City.

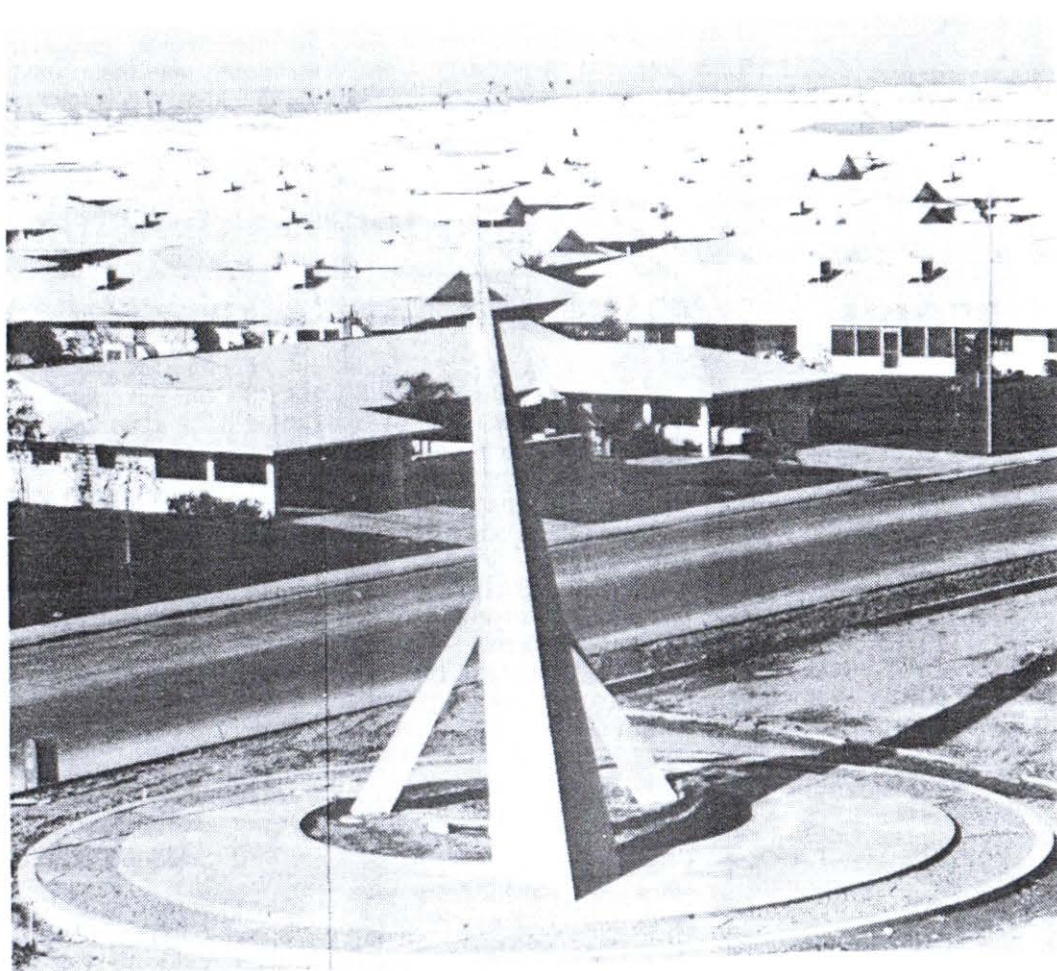
Sundial Center, located at the corner of Boswell Boulevard and 103rd Avenue, will provide for the residents of Sun City an olympic-size pool with additional diving area, locker rooms, showers, therapy rooms, activity and crafts rooms, and a 1,200-seat auditorium.

Del E. Webb Development Corp. is also throwing in a little prestige. At one corner of the development sits the largest sundial in the western United States, a claim previously held by Carefree's 35-foot sundial. Sundial Center's structure measures 36 feet.

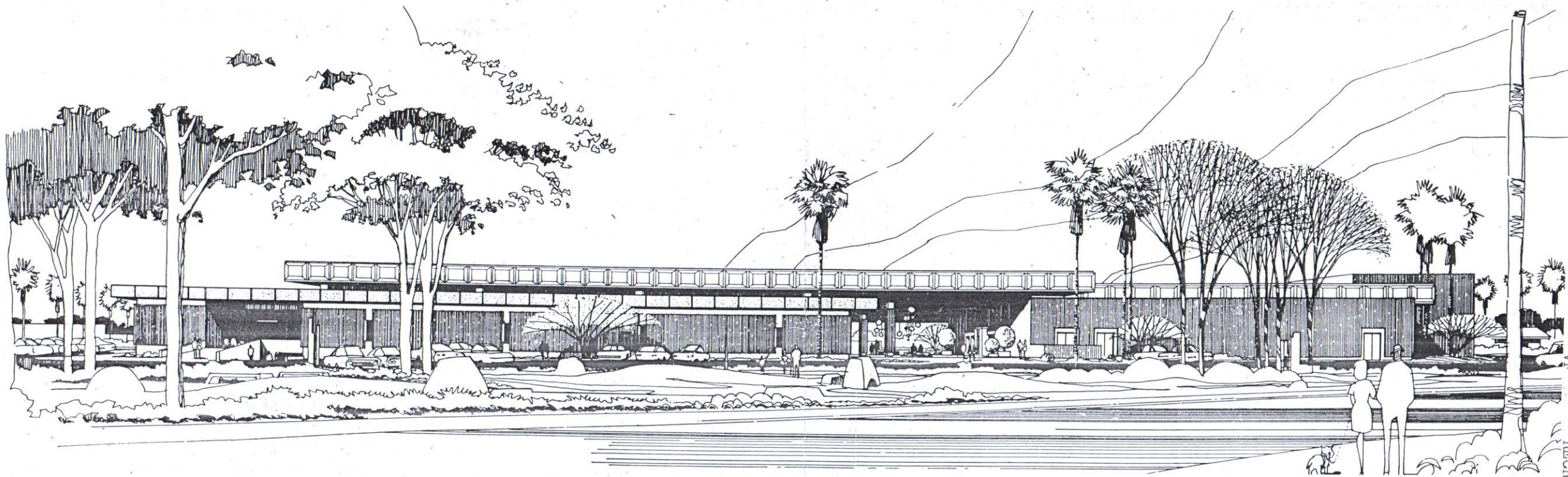
News-Sun photographer Wes Brewster was on hand to record the early excavation work at Sundial, climbing to the top of the walls of Church of the Palms for the panoramic photo at the top of this page. The church, located just across the street, was also under construction at the time.

Recent photographs were taken by News-Sun photographer Art Preuss, using the same perch for the bottom panorama.

Future photographs from the same angle are unlikely, Brewster and Preuss said. Both have contracted acrophobia.

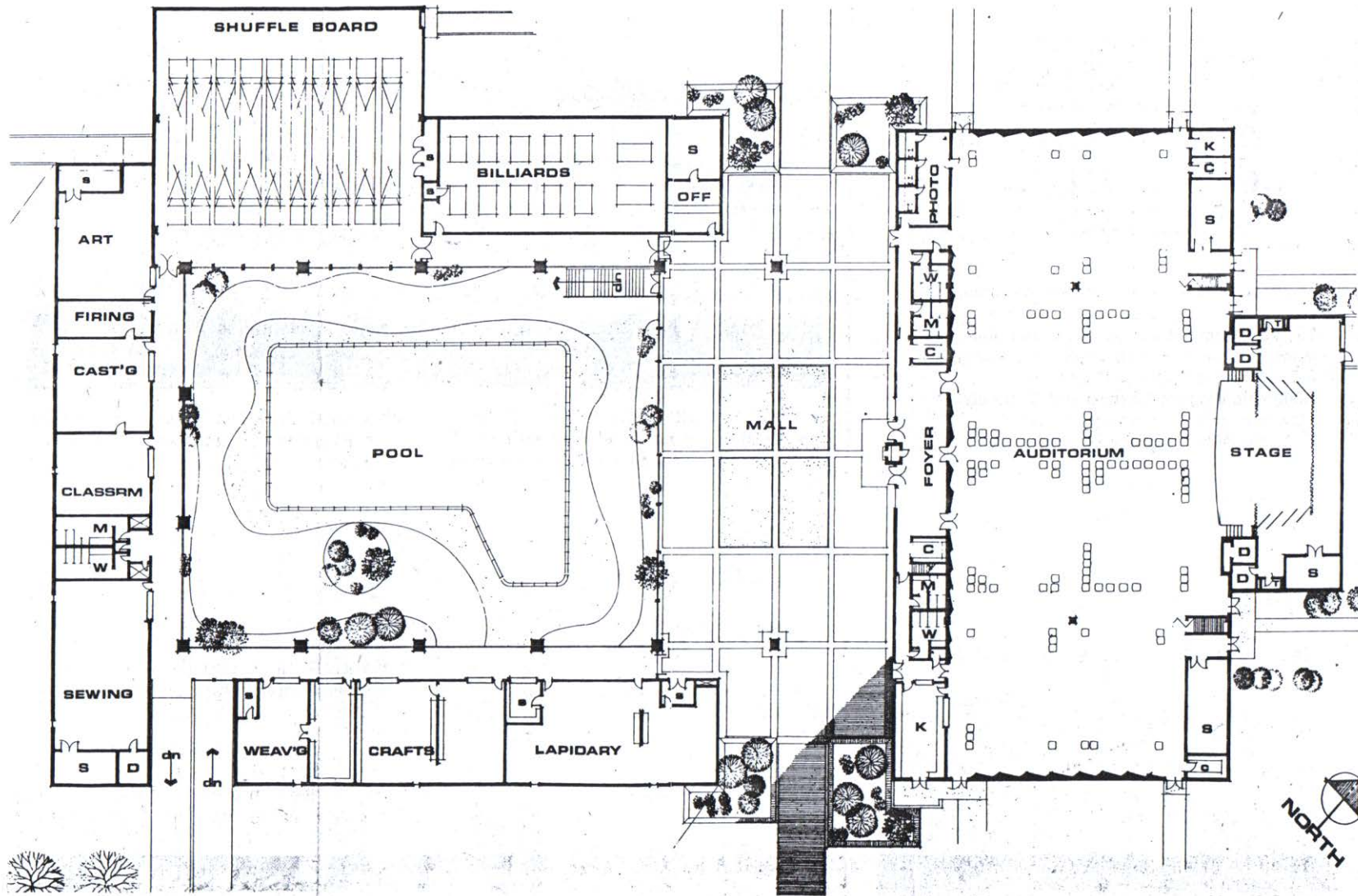


BILLED as west's largest sundial, concrete structure tops Carefree sundial by one foot, stands 36 feet high.



Architect's rendering shows \$2 million Sun Dial recreation center projected for 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, as presented to Sun City residents yesterday.

RECREATION CENTRE
OVER



SCHEMATIC DRAWING details floor plans for latest addition to community's recreation complex. All that remains is formal acceptance by newly named Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Plan for bi-level center shows Sun City's first enclosed shuffleboard courts and swimming pool.

Upper level off pool shows lapidary, crafts, weaving, sewing, ceramics and art rooms. Not shown is lower level with locker rooms for pool, therapy rooms and meeting areas.



VF- RECREATION CENTER - SUNDIAL
PRINT COPY

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| DATE | March 9, 1973 |
| JOB # | SCA-115 |
| CLIENT | Del E. Webb Development Co. |
| DESCRIPTION | Sundial Rec. Center ad |
| SIZE | |
| PUBLICATION | R & G |
| SAGUARO ADVERTISING | |

ading:

AN INVITATION TO SEE A \$2,800,000 SUNDIAL

head:

Sun City's new Sundial Recreation Center

ly Copy:

Incomparable is the only word to describe Sun City's mammoth new Sundial Recreation Center. The Del E. Webb Development Co. spent over \$2,800,000 to give * the residents of Sun City this palatial facility dedicated to recreation, relaxation, entertainment, the arts and crafts.

Nowhere else in the world is there anything like it!

* Like all four of Sun City's earlier recreation centers, Sundial Recreation Center has been paid for by the Del E. Webb Development Co., and will be deeded at no cost to Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., a nonprofit corporation owned and operated by the residents of Sun City.

You are invited to tour the lavishly landscaped grounds where you'll see the tallest sundial in Arizona, a masterfully designed 18-hole miniature golf course, and the first man-made turf bowling greens in the world.

In the center of this glorious playground you'll see one of Arizona's architectural masterpieces, a pair of structures 437 feet long and over 200 feet wide connected by a great covered mall.

dy Copy Continued:

Opening onto the mall is a foyer leading to an auditorium designed to accommodate everything from Beethoven to Bingo—or from a card party to a convention. It is flanked by four large social halls that can be opened into the auditorium to make a room two-thirds as long and half as wide as a football field. Two kitchens are included to serve banquets. Another feature of the auditorium building is a complete suite of photographic labs.

In case you're not impressed yet, just venture to the other side of the mall where you'll find yourself on a promenade deck fifteen feet above the largest indoor swimming pool in Arizona. From poolside majestic palm trees tower to a ^{height} of thirty feet. Swimmers lounge in a lush green garden where the temperature remains constant the year around. As you stroll along the balcony you will discover that ^{there's} ~~there's~~ also a billiard room with a dozen tables and ^a 7,000 square foot glass enclosure housing ten regulation shuffleboard courts.

As you round the corner, you'll find an astonishing array of professionally equipped studios and workshops for painting, ceramics, free form sculpture, sewing, silver craft, and lapidary arts all overlooking the great pool.

When you descend to the pool level you'll find yourself in a recreational dream world where the "indoor lake" is bordered by a pair of baroque therapy pools with a connecting exercise room. You'll marvel at the opulence of the swimmers' locker rooms, and the vastness of the poolside men's club that even has its own kitchen.

ody Copy Continued:

After you finish your tour, you're bound to ask how much it costs to use such a grand facility.

Would you believe \$20 a year? *per person*

And would you believe that for this same \$20 assessment ~~per resident~~ *other*, every Sun Citizen can use every one of four more fabulous recreation centers too!

It all adds up to the opportunity to enjoy \$7,000,000 worth of recreational arts and crafts facilities for only \$20 *(per person)* per-year.