



Wheeled history gets a showing

Model home part of Historical Society open house Feb. 2

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Driving was an adventure in the 1920s and 1930s because it was still a novelty. Today the vehicles from that era are prized collectors items.

Some of those cars, and others from more recent times, will be on display during an antique car show and open house 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Grand Center, 107th and Grand avenues, across from the Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The event is sponsored by the Sun City Area Historical Society and Liberty Buick, 8737 W. Bell Road, Peoria.

The show will feature 25 antique cars, many part of the CARS Club of Sun City, another event partner. In addition, Liberty Buick will display some of its newest models, according to Edison Allen, Historical Society president.

The CARS Club was started in 1981 by two Sun City residents who each owned a Model T Ford.

"We had to go all the way to Phoenix to be part of a car club and we wanted something closer to home," said club co-founder Bebe Lovitt.

She owned a 1926 touring car, but sold it about 15 years ago. It is now owned by her grandson.



This Model T, owned by Sun City West resident Gene Carter, is one of several cars to be included in the antique car show and Sun Cities Area Historical Society open house.

Submitted photo

Ruth Martin, the other club founder, owned a 1924 Roadster at the time, according to her son, James Martin.

Because it became unreliable, she later sold it and bought a 1930 Model A two-door, which she still owns, he added.

Ms. Martin and Ms. Lovitt remain active in the CARS Club.

"The club has grown quite a

bit since we started it," Ms. Lovitt said. "It now includes reproductions, classics and sentimentals."

While they no longer drive their cars, both women travel on club trips and to various car shows.

Cars in the show will span 60 years, Mr. Allen said.

In addition to the car show, the Historical Society will be open to

allow visitors to see local history.

They can also view a model home as it might have appeared in 1960, according to Mr. Allen. Complementary coffee and other refreshments will be available at the Historical Society.

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

History in the making

Historical Society preserves community's past, records the present

BY ANNE RYMAN
Sun Cities Independent

One local organization believes in saving everything associated with the history of the Sun Cities.

Since 1985, the Sun Cities Historical Society has collected and preserved historical information about life in the two retirement communities.

The society, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City, collects newspaper clippings, photographs, maps and other memorabilia from Sun City's 33-year history and Sun City West's 15-year existence.

"We're also interested in present-day things, too, because 50 years from now it will be history," says Jane Freeman, society archivist. This includes information about new buildings, community services and day-to-day events.

The Sun Cities Historical Society was organized in 1986 after a group of residents got together to work on a book about the history of Sun City, "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Ariz."

"We had all this material we gathered ~~when we were writing 'Jubilee'~~. What were we going to do with it? We said 'we'll set up a historical society,'" Mrs. Freeman says.

Since that time, the organization has grown to include 226 members. In 1989, society members purchased the first model home built in Sun City and converted it into a historical museum and headquarters. The building is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In July 1991, they added the original Del Webb sales office to the southwest corner of the organization's building. Del Webb officials opened the sales office in January 1960, and 200,000 people visited it the first weekend.

Today, the former sales office is home to photographs of the early history of Maricopa (the town which once existed where Sun City now exists), Sun City's early days of development and the first sketches of model homes.

The museum also features early memorabilia such as the elaborate three-dimensional post cards Del Webb sent to its residents in the 1970s. Collectibles include keyrings and buttons, as well as early souvenirs such as ashtrays commemorating the fifth anniversary of Sun City.

Volunteers have catalogued thousands of photographs, obituaries and newspaper articles, but much work remains, Mrs. Freeman says. Boxes of slide photographs must be examined to see if the people and events in them can be identified.

The society gets its items from local residents and organizations. To determine whether something has historical significance, Mrs. Freeman says the item, phot-

ograph or clipping must relate to the Sun Cities area. It should be dated and identified, particularly if there are people in a photograph.

In addition to its collection of historical items, the society hosts periodic exhibits and sponsors special programs. In May 1991, society members hosted a cele-

bration for former members of the Sun City Saints. The women's softball team was organized in 1965.

"We invited all the team members back and served hot dogs, popcorn and soda — just like the ballpark. We had 200 people," Mrs. Freeman says.

Society members plan another special

program this spring on an as-yet undetermined subject. They hope to host at least two programs a year — one in the spring and one in the fall.

To help with special programs, exhibits and general filing, the society plans to form an auxiliary group of about 40 people, says Rose Larson, secretary.

**Museum officials
looking for
kitchen stove**

Del Webb Sun Cities Mu-

seum officials are looking for a kitchen stove for the facility.

The museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is in one of the first model homes built by the Del Webb Corp. when it opened Sun City Jan. 1, 1960. The museum is furnished with items from the 1960s whenever possible.

Museum officials want to find a 1960s era stove to complete the period kitchen.

Call 623-974-2568.

Sun City's history clicks on website

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has committed to sharing Sun City's past with residents and outsiders alike, but it always comes back to the same issue.

"We have all these amazing things to share, but getting people to come out to the museum — that's the problem," said Judy Baerg, office manager. "So that's why we cre-

SEE MUSEUM, A5

MUSEUM

FROM A1

ated the website."

She conceded it was "not very good." When the society decided to put more of its focus and effort into the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, Baerg said they knew they needed a more effective online presence.

"Our goal is to share Sun City's history, and the museum is our most effective tool. But we weren't doing everything we could," she said.

"I think what we realized was that we were doing a very good job of cataloging all this information but not a very good job of sharing it. And like Bill (Pearson, president) always says, "What is the use of having all these great pieces of history if nobody knows about them?"

As a result, what used to be a website with contact information and little

else has been transformed into an online archive, a database of much of the museum's pieces with more added every day. The new site went live about six weeks ago, and Baerg said it is already drawing many more visits.

"We have hundreds of ads, brochures, all kinds of things from the beginning of Sun City, all available to view on the site," she said. "We're not finished yet. We have about 600 items in there now, with probably thousands more still to be added, but it's a good start."

The site also includes a blog written by Pearson, called Sun Cities Today. The intention of the blog will be to focus more on present-day Sun City and what lessons from its history can apply today. Pearson wrote in an introductory post that he envisions the blog as a meeting place of sorts for people interested in Sun Cities history to have meaningful discussions.

On top of all that, Baerg said the

society is preparing a new display for the museum, one dedicated to Sun City West.

"We're planning to finish it sometime in November. We'll have a big gala opening to celebrate," she said.

The goal, she said, is simple: get people in the door.

"Our whole focus here is on getting people to the museum. Once they get here, it is so easy for them to get lost in all the history."

The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Summer hours through November are 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday and Saturday as well as 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

Beginning in October, the museum will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

For information, visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.



Historical donation

The Recreation Centers of Sun City management team donated \$9,020.29 to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, presented by Theresa Cirino, left, RCSC Member Services director, and accepted by Gail Warmath, center, 2018 museum board president, and Bret McKeand, 2017 board president. Each year the RCSC management team selects a community non-profit organization for its fundraising efforts. Donations are collected throughout the year at various RCSC events, including the Ring That Bell Ceremony and Fall Festival, culminating in December with the Winter Celebration Golf Tournament and Sun City Holiday Celebration at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. [Submitted photo]

MUSEUM



Del Webb®



Sun Cities

MUSEUM

New officers for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Directors are, from left, Gail Warmath, president; Ed Allen, vice president; Tim Ericson, treasurer; and Doris Palmer, secretary. [Submitted photo]

Sun Cities Museum gets new leadership

Board officer for 2018 named

By Ed Allen
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Del Webb Sun Cities Historical Society and Museum Board of Directors got new leadership for the coming year:

Elected to lead the all-volunteer board were Gail Warmath, president; Ed Allen, vice president; Tim Ericson, treasurer; and Doris Palmer, secretary.

The Del Webb Sun Cities

Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is located in one of the five original model homes opened Jan. 1, 1960 for Sun City's grand opening. Stepping inside is a trip back in time as the living room, kitchen and bathroom reflect 1960s décor.

Other rooms hold displays on Del Webb — the man who pioneered the active adult community — as well as displays on the roles baseball, golf and the performing arts have played in the life of the Sun Cities communities. John Meeker's vision for Sun City

West and its early years are described in another area.

The Sundome Jr. Theater — Arizona's smallest theater — seats six on chairs taken from the Sundome Performing Arts Center in Sun City West before it was razed. Museum visitors can relax and watch a short film on life in Sun City in the 1960s.

Museum admission is free but donations are welcome. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays.

Editor's Note: Mr. Allen is a Sun City West resident.

v F I C Historical Society

Community

To report news or suggest story ideas, email WVnews@newszap.com

MEMORIAL



Jim Green, left, accepts the Sun Cities Historical Society's Friend of the Sun Cities award from Paul Herrmann during the group's gala fundraiser last year. [Bret McKeand/Independent Newsmedia]

Sun Cities lose long-time friend

Green was highly active in communities

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun Cities lost a good friend.

Jim Green, 82, an active community member for many years, died March 17 following a long illness. He leaves a strong legacy of advocacy and support for Sun City and Sun City West, according to those who worked with him.

"Jim was the sort of gentleman for whom everyone seems to have a kind and/or humorous story," said Steve Bjorkstad, Rotary Club of Sun City president. "He rarely

failed to touch the lives of everyone he met in an amazing and positive way."

Mr. Green was a 21-year member of the Sun City Rotary Club, having served through its rotation of officers — including president — and moving on to higher office in Rotary International. But no matter how far up the ladder or how many causes he was involved in, he found time to help others.

"I moved to Arizona just three years ago and immediately become involved with the Rotary Club of Sun City," Mr. Bjorkstad said. "When I accepted their invitation to become their current club president, Jim became my 'Obi-wan'"

Mr. Green was a tireless advocate for the causes that he believed would make the world a better place, according to long-time Rotary-mate Jim Hargrave.

"He had a profound effect on everyone he met," he said. "Whenever we were together I was always proud when he introduced me as his good friend."

Mr. Green made it his business to learn about the Sun Cities as it helped him in his work not just with Rotary but with the Sun City Community Fund and the historical society, his other two major Sun Cities causes.

"If Jim didn't know something about Rotary and the

V F Ic Historical Society Se-Independent March 28, 2018

Friend

» From page 4

community of Sun City, it probably wasn't worth knowing," Mr. Bjorstad said.

Mr. Green earned a BA in mass communications from The Ohio State University, where he roomed with Jack Nicolas; an MA in counseling from Kent State University; and PhD studies in counseling psychology from Case-Western Reserve University.

His professional career spanned all phases of development — annual, capital and planned giving. He began his career at Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio and then he moved to University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington; and Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, New Jersey.

He came to the Valley in 1981 and was Thunderbird Global School of International Management corporate relations director; and Phoenix Urban League development director. He first became active in Sun City in 1996 as Sun Valley Lodge resource development director. He was also a Sun Cities Historical Society board

member.

Mr. Green is perhaps best known for his work with the Sun City Community Fund, first serving on its board then as president. He was instrumental in getting the fund under the Valley of the Sun United Way umbrella and later arranging to have the Sun City Home Owners Association administer the Community Fund's special needs fund.

Other community agencies he was involved in included the Sun City Visitors Bureau, the West Valley Art Museum, Benevilla and the Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, now the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"I didn't work, as we call work," Mr. Green stated in a February 2017 Sun Life article. "My life was exciting, if was different every day, and I met fantastic, passionate people who helped me all along the way. The world was my playground."

He joined Rotary International at the Sun City club in 1997. Within Rotary, he served in many positions, club president, District 5490 Area 4 assistant governor, Rotary Vocation-

al Fund of Arizona president and District 5490 governor. He rarely missed RI's annual international conventions, regardless of where in the world it was being held.

Mr. Green led a Group Study Exchange Team to Brazil in 2005, and with the help of 20 other Rotarians throughout the district, he chaired the Brazil GSE Team experience in District 5490 the following year. He was actively involved with his club's Washington High School Interact Club, which is one of the largest Interact Clubs in the world. He was an eight-time Paul Harris Fellow.

Mr. Green's presence will be sorely missed.

"Whether a leader in the community or a young adult looking to make the world a better place or a high school student simply learning to fit in, Jim was always the same — an encourager, mentor and champion," Mr. Bjorstad said. "Service Before Self is a Rotary motto, which all Rotarians seek to live by and which Jim Green personified."

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

Community

To report news or suggest story ideas, email WVnews@newszap.com



Historical donation

The Recreation Centers of Sun City management team donated \$9,020.29 to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, presented by Theresa Cirino, left, RCSC Member Services director, and accepted by Gail Warmath, center, 2018 museum board president, and Bret McKeand, 2017 board president. Each year the RCSC management team selects a community non-profit organization for its fundraising efforts. Donations are collected throughout the year at various RCSC events, including the Ring That Bell Ceremony and Fall Festival, culminating in December with the Winter Celebration Golf Tournament and Sun City Holiday Celebration at Lakeview Recreation Center, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd. [Submitted photo]

MUSEUM

Sun Cities Museum gets new leadership

Board officer for 2018 named

By Ed Allen
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

The Del Webb Sun Cities Historical Society and Mu-

seum Board of Directors got new leadership for the coming year.

Elected to lead the all-volunteer board were Gail Warmath, president; Ed Allen, vice president; Tim Ericson, treasurer;

and Doris Palmer, secretary.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is located in one of the five original model homes opened

» See Museum on page 22

VF RC Historical Society

Museum

» From page 4

Jan. 1, 1960 for Sun City's grand opening. Stepping inside is a trip back in time as the living room, kitchen and bathroom reflect 1960s décor.

Other rooms hold displays on Del Webb — the man who pioneered the active adult community — as well as displays on the roles baseball, golf and the performing arts have played in the life of the Sun Cities communities. John Meeker's vision for Sun City West and its early years are described in another area.

The Sundome Jr. Theater — Arizona's smallest theater — seats six on chairs taken from the Sundome Performing Arts Center in Sun City West before it was razed. Museum visitors can relax and watch a short film on life in Sun City in the 1960s.

Museum admission is free but donations are welcome. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays.

Editor's Note: Mr. Allen is a Sun City West resident.



Del Webb®



Sun Cities

MUSEUM

New officers for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Directors are, from left, Gail Warmath, president; Ed Allen, vice president; Tim Ericson, treasurer; and Doris Palmer, secretary. [Submitted photo]

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 57, No. 17

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

yourwestvalley.com

MUSEUM

CONNECT WITH THE PAST

Museum memories encouraged Sun City purchase

By Rusty Bradshaw
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Guiding visitors through the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum brings back childhood memories for Sun City resident Barb Wagers.

Working as a docent at the museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, those memories come flooding back in some interesting ways.

"I was taking people through the kitchen one day and I caught a whiff of a very familiar smell," Ms. Wagers said. "It smelled just like my grandmother was in the room cooking."

Ms. Wagers' paternal

» See Museum on page 18



Barb Wagers relives memories of visiting the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum when it was still home to her grandparents. That connection played a part in her decision to buy a home in Sun City. [Independent Newsmedia/Rusty Bradshaw]

grandparents, N.C. "Jack" and Marie Wagers, were the second owners of the home, but sold it the year after they bought it — 1961 — to Ms. Wagers' maternal grandparents, John and Chloe MacDonald. The MacDonalds were the first to occupy the home as neither the Wagers or first owner Robert E. Lodge ever lived in the two-bedroom home that was used as a model home for Del Webb's age-restricted community that opened Jan. 1, 1960.

"I visited my grandparents in this home many times," Ms. Wagers, originally from Colorado, said. "I spent many Christmas-ases here."

Those family memories were a big factor in her decision to buy a home in Sun City in 2011.

"If this house had been available at the time I purchased, I would have bought it in a heartbeat," Ms. Wagers said. "In fact, I really wanted to have a home in phase I, but we ended up in phase II because that house had a bigger garage and yard."

It was not until 1998 or 1999 that she discovered the home had been turned into a museum.

When the museum started operations, recruiting new homebuyers was not one of the goals, although it worked for Ms. Wagers.

"It's always been about preserving the past and creating an appreciation for all that went into making the Sun Cities the success they are today," Ed Allen, former museum board president, stated in an email. "While I don't have any facts to support this statement, I believe most of our visitors are people who already own homes here. Some bring their visitors, but I don't think we can take credit for causing people to become property owners."

However, the museum is getting noticed by community visitors.

"The Sun City Visitors Center points out the museum on their bus tour, which has been helpful in creating traffic for the museum," Mr.

residents Center as it is today to prospective residents," she stated in an email. "We speak to people about how Sun City began; however, we do not focus on historical info. We refer visitors to the expert docents at the museum to learn accurate facts about Sun City's history."

When the Sun Cities Historical Society, the owners and operators of the museum, was incorporated in 1986 and the home purchased in 1990, there was likely no thought of using it as a homebuyer recruiting tool.

"That would be more in line with the mission of the visitors centers (in Sun City and Sun City West)," Mr. Allen stated.

Run entirely by volunteers, the museum is seeing an increasing number of visitors and society board members are seeking more people to offer their time to the task.

"The number of visitors continue to grow, and we'd like to be open more hours, but need more people who are interested in sharing the story of the Sun Cities with visitors," Mr. Allen stated.

The society board has plans this year to reach out more to the community. According to Bret McKeand, 2017 board president, that will include expanding the museum's digital footprint, expanding marketing and outreach within the community, and increasing membership.

"Last year was a great year for us," he stated in the society's spring newsletter. "Under the leadership of Past President Ed Allen, the museum was able to upgrade several exhibits, expand its events at the museum and in the community, and conduct a very successful gala-fundraiser."

He added the board is planning to build on that momentum. Museum officials already added a third day of open hours. The museum had been open 1-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, but was increased to include 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. The museum is closed from May 15 to Sept. 15.

623-974-2568

Museum hours

1-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday

resident John Fornell, is not a requirement.

Ms. Wagers, though, delights in being able to provide little snippets of personal history that show visitors a more intimate side of the community.

"It really killed me when they tore the Kings Inn down," she said. "That's where we stayed when we visited."

The Kings Inn was located at the intersection of Grand and 107th Avenue, not far from her grandparents' home.

Ms. Wagers also played tennis at the brand new Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., when she visited during her days as a college student. During tours of the museum, she tells visitors details about the home's history, like the back room was once an outdoor patio converted to an Arizona room in 1969, and that there was once a half wall in the kitchen separating the cooking and dining areas. She also talks about how her grandfather, Daddy Mac as he was called, rehaped the master bedroom to extend into the Arizona room and he added a bathroom.

"The house has been restored, as much as possible, back to its original configuration when it was a model home, right down to the 1960s furniture," Ms. Wagers said. "I can still remember watching boxing with my grandfather in the living room."

The museum is an ideal "home" for those curious about Sun City's past, according to Mr. Allen.

"We like to refer to it as the 'mystery of history,' the kind of people who driving along Del Webb or Meeker boulevards and wonder how the street got that name," he said. "People who love to hear others say, 'I didn't know that!' when they share some small, newsy nugget from the past."

Editor's Note: Mr. McKeand, Sun Cities Historical Society 2017 board president, is

the home had been turned into a museum.

When the museum started operations, recruiting new homebuyers was not one of the goals, although it worked for Ms. Wagers.

"It's always been about preserving the past and creating an appreciation for all that went into making the Sun Cities the success they are today," Ed Allen, former museum board president, stated in an email. "While I don't have any facts to support this statement, I believe most of our visitors are people who already own homes here. Some bring their visitors, but I don't think we can take credit for causing people to become property owners."

However, the museum is getting noticed by community visitors.

"The Sun City Visitors Center points out the museum on their bus tour, which has been helpful in creating traffic for the museum," Mr. Allen stated.

Visitors Center volunteers are quick to refer people to the museum for historical facts about the Sun Cities, according to Joelynn Higgins, Recreation Centers

The society plans to reach out more to the community. According to Bret McKeand, 2017 board president, that will include expanding the museum's digital footprint, expanding marketing and outreach within the community, and increasing membership.

"Last year was a great year for us," he stated in the society's spring newsletter. "Under the leadership of Past President Ed Allen, the museum was able to upgrade several exhibits, expand its events at the museum and in the community, and conduct a very successful gala fundraiser."

He added the board is planning to build on that momentum. Museum officials already added a third day of open hours. The museum had been open 1-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, but was increased to include 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. The museum is closed from May 15 to Sept. 15.

To increase those hours further, the society board needs more volunteers. A personal connection to the early days of the Sun Cities, such as Ms. Wagers' and new docent third generation

restored, as much as possible, back to its original configuration when it was a model home, right down to the 1960s furniture," Ms. Wagers said. "I can still remember watching boxing with my grandfather in the living room."

The museum is an ideal "home" for those curious about Sun City's past, according to Mr. Allen.

"We like to refer to it as the 'mystery of history,' the kind of people who driving along Del Webb or Meeker boulevards and wonder how the street got that name," he said. "People who love to hear others say, 'I didn't know that!' when they share some small, newsy nugget from the past."

Editor's Note: Mr. McKeand, Sun Cities Historical Society 2017 board president, is Independent Newsmedia, Inc. USA vice president.

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com. Continue the discussion at www.yourwestvalley.com.

PEEK INTO THE PAST

From the photo archives of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum



Sun City's national champion Saints

The Sun City Saints, a women's fast-pitch softball team sponsored by local merchants, captured the women's softball national championship title in 1979. The team played at Sun City Stadium, once located at 111th and Grand avenues, and was very popular with local fans. Home games consistently attracted crowds of over 2,000. The late Joe Davisson, president of the Saints Booster Club, is shown here celebrating the team's success with two players and Sun City Poms organizer Corrine Leslie, center. The Poms were initially created to serve as cheerleaders and boosters for the Saints and even though the stadium and Saints are long gone, the Poms remain popular ambassadors for the Sun Cities. A salute to the history of the Sun City Saints is included in an exhibit on display at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. For more history about the Sun Cities, visit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org and find the museum on Facebook.

Take a look at renovation of historic Sun City home

THE REPUBLIC

Sun City's first model home, which dates to 1960, is being restored to its original appearance, and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is inviting the public to take a peek at its progress.

The house at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave. in Sun City is the historical society's home, and was the smallest of the five model homes available when Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960, making a bit of history: It was the first Del Webb retirement community in the nation.

Tours of the house and the historical society's exhibits will be given Jan. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. Tours will begin on the patio of the Oakmont Recreation Center next door, where there will be hot dogs, chips and bottled water provided by Windermere Realty. A nine-member combo will be playing jazz and easy listening music.

Visitors will be escorted through the house in small groups, viewing changes that have taken place and plans for the future.



Paul Meier paints a 1960 Corvair on the carport wall of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society as Bud Rowbotham, owner of the real Corvair, watches.

New exhibits have been added by the society since the first preview of the restoration in November. A painting of a 1960 Corvair also graces the carport, thanks to artist Paul Meier.

Windermere Realty, Latham Construction, Margie's Laundromat & Cleaners and Meredith Andrews Real Estate Professionals are providing funding for the event.

VF IC Historical Society

VFIC Historical Society

January 10, 2007



Submitted photo

Society plans event

Windermere Realty will sponsor an open house for the Sun Cities Historical Society from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 13 at the historical society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. The society's home is the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation prior to the community's opening in 1960. Muralist Paul Meier (kneeling) and Sun City resident Bud Rowbotham compare Bud's Corvair convertible with the sketch of a 1960 model that is being prepared for the carport wall of the society's house.

VF Ia Historical Society

HONOR



Historical treasure

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum hosted its third annual Jubilee Gala Nov. 9 at Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greenway Road. Sun Citian Jim Green accepts the 2017 Friend of the Sun Cities award from Paul Herrmann, SCAHS trustee, for his philanthropic work in the Sun Cities. [Bret McKeand/Independent Newsmedia]

SEASONAL CLOSURE

Museum theater taking hiatus

Facility closed for summer

By Steven Held

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sundome junior theater will go dark for the summer.

The smallest theater in Arizona contains six seats from the country's largest capacity single floor auditorium — the former Sundome of Sun City West. The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum obtained six Sundome

seats for the tiny 10-foot by 10-foot addition to the 1960 Del Webb model home, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City, that houses the museum.

The museum is now closed until mid-September, when open hours will be 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

For many years this addition has been the room used to view the early Sun City promotional film shown nationwide, "The Beginnings." But it now offers "first-class Sundome seating" to a maximum of eight people.

Watching the 22-minute movie provides a break after visitors have toured the Marinette and Sun City Opening Day exhibits, Del E. Webb memorabilia and projects, the Sports Room, a performing arts interactive exhibit, the pink-tiled vintage bath and kitchen, and the Sun City West Exhibit in the Jane Freeman Room.

During the summer the museum is closed except for guided morning tours of six or more people. Clubs of 15-

25 people may book the outdoor McMillin Terrace for weekday morning meetings, and the museum will provide guided tours for small groups during the meeting. Restrooms are in the Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive, next door.

Call 623-974-2568 during weekday mornings to make tour reservations.

Editor's Note: Mr. Held, a West Valley Realtor, is a Sun Cities Historical Society board member.

VF RC Historical Society



SUN CITIES

JUBILEE GALA III

ARIZONA HISTORY DINNER SHOW

COMMUNITY PARTNER PACKAGES

Business Membership Offer \$100

Includes:

- One calendar year Museum web page listing and link to your web page

Individual Tickets

- Museum Members \$40
- Members table of 8 \$280
- Non-Members \$50
- Non-Member table of 8 \$350

Sponsorships and tickets can be purchased:

Email: scahsm@gmail.com

Online: www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

Or calling the Museum weekdays 9am to noon at 623-974-2568

* Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation *

* Portions of Sponsorships are tax deductible *

Checks - Cash - Credit Cards are accepted

Reservation Deadline: November 2nd, 2017

Preserving and Promoting the History of the Sun Cities!



SUN CITIES

JUBILEE GALA III

ARIZONA HISTORY DINNER SHOW

COMMUNITY PARTNER PACKAGES

Presenting Sponsorship

\$5,000

Includes:

- Premium table for 8-10
- Full back page advertisement in Gala Program
- Full page ad in Museum fall & spring newsletter
- One calendar year Museum web page listing and logo link to your web page
- One year museum membership + 2 each - Jubilee, SCW, and Del Webb books

**ONLY ONE
AVAILABLE**

Gala Sponsorship

\$2,500

Includes:

- Premium table for 8-10
- 1/2 page advertisement in Gala Program
- 1/2 page ad in Museum fall & spring newsletter
- One calendar year Museum web page listing and logo link to your web page
- One year museum membership + 1 each - Jubilee, SCW, and Del Webb books

Supporting Sponsorship

\$1,000

Includes:

- Premium table for 8
- Recognition in the Gala Program
- 1/4 page ad in Museum fall & spring newsletter
- One calendar year Museum web page listing and logo link to your web page
- One year museum membership + 1 each - Jubilee, SCW, and Del Webb books

Patron Sponsorship

\$500

Includes:

- Four tickets to the Gala
- Recognition in Gala Program
- One calendar year Museum web page listing and link to your web page
- One year museum membership

Preserving and Promoting the History of the Sun Cities!

STORE WIDE 1/2 PRICE SALE

(hard cover & paperback books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, magazines, etc.)



**Thursday, November 16 through
Saturday, November 18**

Books Around the Corner

**Sun City Library (Bell Recreation Center)
16828 N. 99th Ave.
Sun City AZ**

Open 9:30am to 4:00pm (special sale only hours)

suncitylibraryfriends.org

Del Webb®



Sun Cities

MUSEUM

Jubilee Gala III

**Thursday,
November 9, 2017
Palmbrook Country Club**



A benefit for the
Sun Cities
Area Historical
Society/Del Webb
Sun Cities Museum

A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

Thank you to our sponsors!

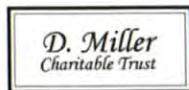
Presenting Sponsor



Gala Sponsor



Supporting Sponsors



- DAN KAMMRATH -



Patron Sponsors



Thank You to the Following for Donations

Arizona Broadway Theater, Del E Webb Center for the Performing Arts, Bearizona Wildlife Park, Ford World Travel, Setterberg Jewelers, New England Clock Shop, Cherry Creek Lodge, Scottsdale Museum of the West, Butcher Bob's, Heard Museum, Desert Caballeros Western Museum, Rossen House, Desert Botanical Garden, Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, APS Apache Gold Casino, Phoenix Zoo, River of Time Museum, Gilbert Historical Museum, Hall of Flame Firefighting Museum, Mesa Historical Museum, Lake Pleasant Cruises, Phoenix Art Museum, Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park, Scottsdale Center for Performing Art, Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium, Bell Metal Club, Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona Aviation Museum, Sun Cities Caregivers

Sun Cities Area Historical Society 2017 Board of Trustees

Bret McKeand, President; Gail Warmath, Vice President; Tim Ericson, Treasurer; Edson Allen, Past President.

Trustees: Paul Herrmann, A.J. Kovac, Yasmina Snider, Toni Ashby, Steve Held

The Board of Trustees would like to express its appreciation to all its sponsors and those who have contributed items for door prizes and to our silent auction, as well as to all of you who attended tonight's event. Thank You! A special thank you to all the volunteers who made tonight's program possible!

Proceeds from tonight's event benefit and fund the operations of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and its mission of "preserving and promoting the history of the Sun Cities."

PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

5-6 p.m.Check-in/Social
6 p.m.	WelcomePaul Herrmann, Emcee
	Introduction of Sponsors, Silent Auction Rules
6:05 p.m.	Dinner
7 p.m.	SCAHS Annual Meeting.....Bret McKeand, President
7:10 p.m.	Museum UpdateBret McKeand, President

2017 Friend of the Sun Cities Award

Presented to James Green
7:20 p.m.



The OK Chorale Cowboy Trio
7:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m. Table Gift/Silent Auction/ 50/25-25 Cash Drawing and Raffle Winners



Fall is always full of fun times in the Original Fun City - Sun City AZ!

Toll Free 1-844-4 SUN CITY or visit suncityaz.org



Sun Cities Museum tea party honors docents, volunteers

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum showed appreciation to docents, volunteers and special guests at an English tea party on the McMillin Terrace at the museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, April 12.

Twenty-six attendees enjoyed flavored teas, warm-from-the-oven scones, fancy finger sandwiches and an array of desserts. Members of the board of trustees staffed the kitchen and served as waiters.

Edson Allen, Board of Trustees president, thanked the volunteers for the hours they gave to the museum — some serving as docents to welcome visitors and introduce them to the history of the area; others working behind the scenes to keep the building and grounds in top shape. The museum has seen a steady increase in attendance, and it is hoped the hours it is open can be expanded in the fall.

Both men and women are welcome to join as docents. All that is needed is an ability to be a gracious host or hostess. Training is provided, but the museum's displays take over the task of telling how Marinette, Sun City and Sun City West came to be. A prodigious memory is not required, but docents are often



surprised by how a little knowledge leads to a desire to learn even more.

Interested in learning more? Call 623-974-2568.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City and is open 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It will close for the summer May 14, but will open on request for groups of six or more.



Submitted photo
Some of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Museum volunteers who attended a special event in their honor were, from left, Toni Ashby, trustee and docent; Kenlyn Boyd, Yucca Chapter Questers president; Barbara Wagers, docent; and David Verble, volunteer and former president.

vF IC Historical Society

April 13, 2016

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT



Historical society members David Verble, left, and Hal Lind mounted a commemorative plaque donated by the Yucca Chapter of Questers.

First Sun City building to receive historic designation

The building housing the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive is the first in Sun City to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The commemorative plaque reads: "Sun City, Arizona, officially opened on Jan. 1, 1960 as the world's first master-planned active-adult retirement community developed by the Del E. Webb Corporation. It was an instant success and quickly led to the creation of an entire industry catering to the needs of seniors. This building was one of five model homes built and opened in 1960. The property was purchased in 1989 by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and is today home to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Recognized by the National Park Services 2015." Visit the museum 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Free admission.

VF
HC
Historical Society

Area historians plan historical society for SC

Plans for a Sun City Historical Society edged forward last week when the group of historians which published "Jubilee" reviewed proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws needed to form an historical society.

The group has applied for membership in the American Association for State Local History and is also studying many of its publications.

The steering committee includes: Wes Matthews, Paul Morrill, Helen Randall, Dorothy Koehn, Les Merydith, Emil Fischer, Rita and Eugene Wright, Glenn Sanberg, Amanda Durand, Burt Davis

and Jane Freeman, temporary chairman.

Helen Randall and Dottie Koehn are acting secretaries.

The group meets at 10 a.m., third Thursday each month in Menke Sun City Room.

At the March 21 meeting, it is hoped bylaws and articles of incorporation will be ready. The group plans to apply for 501C3 tax-exempt status.

Problems of culling materials for archives to be located in Bell library also will be discussed.

Mrs. Freeman says residents interested in joining the group are welcome to attend.

NE IC Historical Society

HISTORY

Sun City West history to be showcased

Storyteller featured in 40th anniversary presentation

By Diana Weners
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

Area residents will have an enviable opportunity to hear one of Arizona's renowned storytellers at a free event right in their own backyard, as part of Sun City West's lineup of 40th Anniversary events in February 2018.

Lisa Schnebly Heidinger, a native Arizonan and great-granddaughter of Sedona Schnebly, for whom the city of Sedona is named, will present "The Dawn of Sun City West" at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16 in the Palm Ridge Recreation Center summit hall, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive. This event is free and open to the public.

As the author of "Arizona: 100 Years Grand," the

Official book of the Arizona Centennial, Ms. Schnebly Heidinger is uniquely qualified to discuss Arizona's history. She is an elegant speaker and a fun storyteller. She will talk about the early days of Sun City West and how the community grew up against the impressive backdrop of the Valley of the Sun's development.

A well-traveled Arizonan, Ms. Schnebly Heidinger has fun stories to tell from all reaches of the state, including Sun City West.

"I think of myself as intrepid: I have rafted rivers, camped in freezing weather and done taxes. But I still can't find my way to my friends' house, the Billings' house, in Sun City West. Those beautiful streets go in too many directions," she said.

This special program is made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council. Tickets are not required and attendees need not be Sun City West resi-

dents to attend.

A former journalist whose credits include "Arizona Highways," Ms. Schnebly Heidinger authored a total of 10 books. Along with Arizona's official centennial book, she wrote a biography of Sedona Schnebly.

"The Dawn of Sun City West" presentation will be based on interviews she conducted for "Calling Arizona Home," a book she wrote with Fred DuVal.

As a journalist and reporter for radio and television, Ms. Schnebly Heidinger interviewed the likes of Barry Goldwater, Rose Mofford and Evan Mecham. She covered polygamy in Colorado City, plane crashes, Grand Canyon issues, tribal politics and drug crossing on the Arizona-Mexico border.

Her Arizona roots and experiences run as deep as her storytelling abilities.

Editor's Note: Ms. Weners is Recreation Centers of Sun City West multimedia specialist.

SC Independent December 6, 2017

V.F. Setz IC Historical Society



Jubilee Gala III

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum celebrates its third annual gala fundraiser!

See More, Page 2, 3, 8 & 9



Inside our fall newsletter ...

Exhibit Upgrades



The Del Webb exhibit room receives a summer facelift and upgrades.

See Page 4



Happy Birthday, SCW!

Sun City West prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2018.

See Page 10-11

Thank you volunteers!

The museum loves its volunteers! We ask our two newest docents why they chose to volunteer with the museum.

See Page 12





At left: Michelle Dionisio, left, recently retired President and CEO of Benevilla, was presented with the "Friend of the Sun Cities Award" during the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's Gala II fundraiser held in 2016. From left, Ms. Dionisio, 2016 Museum President Edson Allen and Past President Constance McMillin. Above, Paul Herrmann, right, received the award in 2015 from Jim Sinclair.

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum stages Jubilee Gala III on November 9

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will hold its third annual Jubilee fundraiser Nov. 9.

This year's "Jubilee Gala III" takes on a Western theme and features an Arizona History Dinner Show featuring the popular OK Chorale Cowboy Trio.

As in the past, the event also pays tribute to a community leader and celebrates that person's contributions to the Sun Cities. This year's recipient of the "Friend of the Sun Cities Award" is Jim Green, a longtime executive at Sun Valley Lodge, a former member of the Historical Society's Board of

Trustees and president of the Sun City Community Fund.

The event begins 5 p.m. at Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greendway Road, Sun City.

Dress is business attire or western wear.

The Gala is the museum's largest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds support the operation of the museum, located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in Sun City. The museum is located in one of the first five model homes that opened in Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960.

Tickets are \$40 for museum members and \$50 for non-members. Tables of eight are available for \$280 for members; \$350 for

Order Your Tickets Today!

See the order form on Page 9 or purchase tickets online at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

non-members. Sponsorships are available as well.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org or by calling the museum at (623) 974-2568. Credit/debit cards are accepted.

The reservation deadline is Nov. 2.



Photos from the files of the Sun City West Independent

Sun City West prepares to celebrate 40th anniversary in 2018

By Katy O'Grady

Some 40 years after Del Webb Corp. broke ground on what was to become the company's second major active-adult community in Arizona, Sun City West continues to shine, preparing now to celebrate its Ruby Anniversary!

Sun City West's first shovels of dirt were turned on Feb. 15, 1978. In the succeeding years, the dry Sonoran Desert gave way to that lush oasis Del Webb envisioned, with nine golf courses and five swimming pools.

Countless other amenities poured in as well to create an enviable lifestyle for those lucky enough to live here.

A private library, bowling center, metal club and woodshop, tennis courts, and four giant recreation centers housing all manner of clubs sprang up in the community as build out continued over the years. Eager, involved residents jumped right in and established dozens of chartered clubs.

Progress marched forward, and Sun City West quickly gained a reputation as one of the nation's best retirement communi-

ties. Top-name entertainment performed in the community: Lawrence Welk, Dolly Parton, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Reba McEntire, Johnny Cash and others. The LPGA Golf Tournament was played in Sun City West in 1981.

Also during the community's formative years, several support organizations were formed to keep the community running smoothly in the absence of a centralized municipal government. The Sun City West PRIDES, Posse, PORA, Sun City West Foundation, Community Fund and sev-

eral service organizations continue to serve to this day. A variety of houses of worship also exist.

Although the developer is long gone, Sun City West continues to grow and change with its vibrant population of fun-loving active adults.

Four decades is a long time. Much can – and has – changed. The Recreation Centers of Sun City West, the Association charged with operating the four recreation centers and seven of the nine golf courses, as well as most of the other recreational amenities, tracks and adjusts to the changing

Jim Green to receive 'Friend of the Sun Cities' award

The Del Webb Sun Cities will present its most prestigious award at this year's Jubilee Gala III to long-time community leader Jim Green.

Mr. Green, a former member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees and president of the Sun City Community Fund, will receive the 2017 "Friend of the Sun Cities Award."

Jim came to the Valley in 1981 and immediately became involved in the business community as Corporate Relations Director at Thunderbird, the Global School of International Management and then as Development Director of Phoenix Urban League.

Jim became active in Sun City in 1996, when he became the Resource Development Director at Sun Valley Lodge.

He served on the Sun City Community Fund Board and spearheaded its union with Valley of the Sun United Way. He



Jim Green

arranged for the Community Fund to become United Way working in Sun City with all monies received and the income from its comfortable endowment remaining in Sun City to serve Sun City residents.

Community boards he has served on include:

- Sun Cities Historical Society
- Sun City Visitors Bureau
- Sun City Community Fund (President, 2001 – present)
- West Valley Art Museum (helped found the Sun Cities Art Museum in 1981)
- Benevilla

■ Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce (now the Surprise Chamber of Commerce) Chairman of the Board, 2002.

Jim also has been actively involved in Rotary International through his local Rotary Club of Sun City, which has brought attention to our community.

He served as president of the Sun City Rotary Club, president of the Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona and District 5490 Interact Chair.

He was the District 5490 District Governor in 2010-11.

He is an eight-time Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International's highest

honor.

"Jim's commitment to our community over the years is incredible," said Bret McKeand, 2017 president of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Trustees.

"His contributions have touched many organizations and many lives. Our community is truly better today because of Jim Green."

Past recipients of the Friends of the Sun Cities Award are Paul Herrmann, former executive director of the Sun Cities Visitor Center (2015); and Michelle Dionisio, former CEO of Benevilla (2016).



The OK Chorale Cowboy Trio combines the wonderful sounds of traditional cowboy music with the fascinating history of Arizona in the 1880's to create a unique, entertaining experience. It's a fun show for the whole family!

DEDICATED
PARTNERSHIPS.
STRONGER
COMMUNITIES.

We are proud to support organizations like Del Webb Sun Cities Museum that create a brighter future for Arizona.



The official colors of the Webb Corporation were red and black – Webb’s favorite colors. They provide a dramatic backdrop for the story of his life and the company he built.

Fresh Look for an Old Friend

Del Webb Exhibit Room earns well-deserved facelift & upgrade

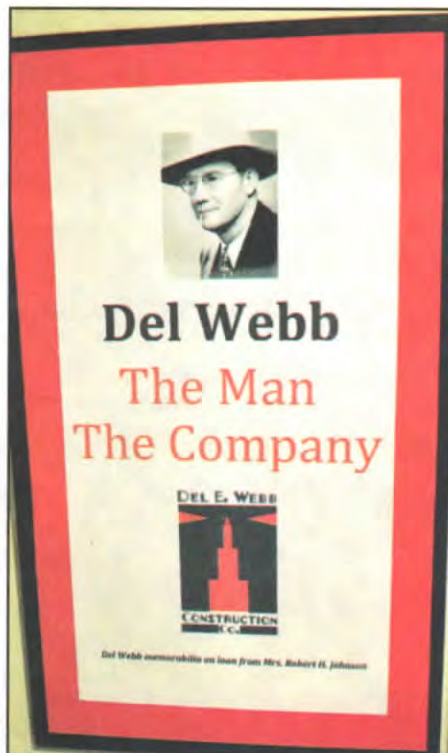
By Edson Allen

The summer months were used to give the Del Webb Room a fresh new look. It was one of the first exhibit areas to be completed before the museum opened in 2009, and was beginning to show its age. We started by asking our docents for suggestions to make the room more attractive and informative.

We hired graphic designer Dan Seabreeze to give a more professional appearance to the exhibit panels, and reorganized elements of the story.

As before, the east wall features the life of Del Webb – his growing up, his early years in Phoenix, the impact of the war years, his ownership of the New York Yankees, and his involvement with Las Vegas.

The south wall displays the variety and scope of the Webb Corporation’s work. Twelve broad construction categories reference more than 100 specific projects.



The business Webb built stretched from coast-to-coast, to Hawaii, and Central America.

With those accomplishments

as background, the story moves to what Webb said was the “most satisfying thing he had done: Sun City!”

A new exhibit on the west wall tells that story, and acknowledges the role John Meeker played. To top it off, a large satellite photo of Sun City will enable residents to see how their home looks from space.

The new exhibit panels are mounted over what had been a large, open closet. Since storage is very limited within our small building, we decided to reclaim the space for that purpose.

Volunteer craftsmen Hal Lind and David Verble enclosed the closet with two doors that now hold the panels giving the Sun City story.

Note: Edson Allen is a former president of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Trustees.

Come see what's new in the Del Webb Room!



The Del Webb Exhibit features new display placards and artifacts detailing the life of Del Webb, founder of the Sun Cities.



Growing Up

1899

1909

1912

1914

1921

1924

1928

1932

New York Yankees ~ A HOME RUN!



Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City and we have been doing so for over 52 years. We are a charitable non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

Sunshine Service, Inc has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

"The Cleanest and Most Sanitized Equipment Around"

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew, so did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in 2015, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.



New Knee Scooters Arrived!



Some Of The Many Items We Carry:

- Arm Exerciser • Bath Bench • Bed Rails • Bedside Commodes • Companion Chair Crutches • Foot Massager • High Chairs • Hospital Beds • Lift Chairs • Overbed Tables • Pack-N-Play • Ramp - Aluminum • Rollaway Beds • Strollers Trapeze Walkers • Weights • Wheel Chairs Translator Chairs • Knee

Monday-Friday • 9am-4pm
9980 W. Santa Fe Dr. • Sun City 85351-3197

623-974-2561



An official publication of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society © 2017 SCAHS 10801 Oakmont Drive Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 974-2568 email: scahsm@gmail.com

www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is certified by the Arizona Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts for Sun City, Arizona, (the world's first Active Adult Retirement Community), and its sister city, Sun City West. The Society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in one of the five original Sun City model homes.

Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wed., Friday Or for groups of six or more by appointment Office Manager: Julie Glass

Board of Trustees

- Bret McKeand President Gail Warmath Vice President Tim Ericson Treasurer Edson Allen Past President

- A.J. Kovac Toni Ashby Paul Herrmann Heidi Speed Yasmina Snider Seve Held

Contributors:

Edson Allen, Katy O'Grady, Bret McKeand Layout and composition by the Sun City Independent



Message from the President

Plan a visit to your museum ... without ever leaving home!

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is a favorite destination place for visitors from every corner of the globe.

It may be hard to believe, but each year more and more people visit our little museum. Even during the summer when the museum is locked up and shut down completely for three months -- we still serve those who want to learn about the history of our communities.

How can that be, you ask?

Well, thanks to the worldwide web, anyone with a computer anywhere on earth can, with the simple click of a mouse and a few key strokes, access our museum -- our news, our archives and the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

Summer was a busy time for us in terms of upgrading our website and social media.

If you haven't visited us online lately, give us another look at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Thanks to Board Trustee Paul Herrmann, the website has been vastly improved to provide greater information about the history of the Sun



Bret McKeand 2017 President, Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Cities, easier access to our archives and, best of all, the ability to purchase memberships and museum merchandise online.

A quick look at what you'll find on the website:

Information on our upcoming gala -- dates, times, ticket prices and more. And new for this year, you can now purchase your tickets directly online at the site.

Learn more about the history of Sun City and Sun City West by searching online our vast collection of photographs. Of all the items in our collection, our historic photographs are without a doubt, our pride and joy.

Read the latest news and stories about the museum and its exhibits. Of special interest are two interviews: One with

the late Jane Freeman, founder of the Sun Cities Historical Society, and one with former DEVCO President John Meeker.

Review our unique collection of Webb Spinners, the Del Webb Corporation's employee newsletter. Our collection includes newsletters from 1946 through 1983.

You'll find more than just photos and stories at our web site. Be sure to check out several videos -- including "The Beginning," one of the earliest films created by the Del Webb Corporation and used to promote Sun City.

And for the first time, you can now shop online at our web site -- and purchase several books detailing the history of the Sun Cities. Remember, your purchases all benefit the museum! (Hint: A great place for your Christmas shopping!)

Trustee Steve Held has also been busy updating our museum's Facebook page.

Be sure to visit us at facebook to keep abreast of all the great activities at the museum. Be sure to like -- and share with your friends!

So if you're unable to make it to museum in person, visit us on your computer or smart phone!

HISTORY

PEO sisters visit museum

Get a glimpse of Sun Cities history

A group of women got a glimpse of Sun Cities history during a recent private tour of the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Members of Chapter CG of P.E.O. had a private tour of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and were impressed with what they saw and learned. Some members — including Diane Christenson, Peggy Doe, Gretchen Widner, Jeannie Sophussen and Joyce Bowlby — wore hats and gloves as a salute to the 1960s era model home museum.

The museum is owned and operated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Private tours are available for groups of six or more weekday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Groups of 24 or less can conduct a meeting outdoors on the McMillin Terrace or 12 can conduct a meeting indoors. A docent will take 12 at a time, six in the Sundome Jr. Theatre and six to



Chapter CG PEO members, from left, Diane Christenson, Peggy Doe, Gretchen Widner, Jeannie Sophussen and Joyce Bowlby during a visit to the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum. [Submitted photo]

tour then reverse the groups. Donations are appreciated for these events.

To reserve, call 623-974-2568 weekday mornings. Regular museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays 1-4 p.m.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays through March and 1-4 p.m. through May 15.

The museum is located in one of five first model homes available for prospective

homebuyers when the Del Webb Corp. was preparing to open the community Jan. 1, 1960. The museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There is no admission charge to tour the museum, but donations are gladly accepted. The historical society is operated solely on community contributions.

VF IC Historical Society

cial added a weekday morning to its weekly afternoon hours.

Beginning in February, the museum will be open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and 1-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesdays. Museum officials saw a 20 percent increase in visitors during 2016. Museum volunteers responded enthusiastically by offering to man a morning shift in addition to their schedule of three afternoons only.

The new schedule is designed to appeal to the many area residents who are here during the winter but return to warmer climates in late spring. During November and December, the Museum was also open 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, but these hours were discontinued.

Sun Cities museum open added day

To accommodate the increasing numbers of visitors to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City, facility offi-

VP IC Historical Society

Del Webb:

A MAN.
A COMPANY.

Written by Margaret Finnerty
Second edition text by Tara Blanc and Jessica McCann

This reprinting made possible
by a generous grant from the
Constance W. McMillin Trust
Sun City, Arizona

Del Webb:
A Man. A Company.

Written by Margaret Finnerty
Second edition text by Tara Blanc and Jessica McCann

ISBN 0-929690-34-6
Library of Congress Catalog Number 91-70612

© 1991 Del Webb Corporation
Second, revised edition © 1999
Second printing September 2000

Reprinted July 2008 with permission of Pulte Homes, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book, including all photos,
may be reproduced without permission of Del Webb Corporation (now Pulte Homes, Inc.)

Printed and bound in the United States of America

Release May 2, 2016



Questers donate National Register plaque to museum

To help the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum celebrate its recent inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, the Yucca Chapter of Arizona Questers donated a bronze plaque for the building. Attending the presentation were Sandy Jordan, Chapter President Kenlyn Boyd, and Pat Forsythe. The museum is located in one of the five original model homes, which opened in Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960, and is the first Sun City building to be placed on the national register. The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, and will be open 1-4, Monday, Wednesday and Friday through May 13. Groups of six or more may arrange private tours during the summer when the museum is closed.

Editor: Any questions, call Ed Allen 623-975-1815 (however leaving May 4 for MN). After that, you can contact me via email, edsonallen@yahoo.com, or at 651-275-5385. Another option would be to contact our office manager, Julie Glass at 623-974-2568

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

From: Edson Allen <edsonallen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 3:44 PM
To: Julie Glass
Subject: Announcement
Attachments: Plaque Release.docx

For your records, I sent the attached news release to Jeff Grant at DNS and to Bret McKeand at the Independent.

ED

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

(Revised version to include Questers donation)

First Sun City Building to Receive Historic Designation



The building housing the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive is the first in Sun City to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historical society members David Verble (left) and Hal Lind mounted a commemorative plaque donated by the Yucca Chapter of Questers. The plaque reads: "Sun City, Arizona, officially opened on Jan. 1, 1960 as the world's first master-planned active-adult retirement community. Developed by the Del E. Webb Corporation, it was an instant success and quickly led to the creation of an entire industry catering to the needs of seniors. This building was one of five model homes built and opened in 1960. The property was purchased in 1989 by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and is today home to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Recognized by the National Park Services 2015." Come see the plaque and visit the museum! Open 1 – 4, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Free admission.

(EDITOR: For more information, contact Board President Ed Allen at 623-975-1815)

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

From: Edson Allen <edsonallen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:05 PM
To: Boyd
Subject: Historic Designation Plaque
Attachments: Plaque Release.docx

Thank you, Kenlyn, for the wonderful news that the Yucca Chapter of Questers will pay the cost of the plaque identifying our museum building as being on the National Register of Historic Places. The house the museum occupies was one of the five model homes opened on Jan. 1, 1960, and is the first building in Sun City to receive this historic designation.

We obtained the 20" x 16" brass plaque through Can Do Engraving in Sun City, AZ, which was the least expensive of the three quotes we received. The cost for the plaque is as follows:

Preparation and casting of the plaque	\$527.00
Sales tax	33.20
Shipping	60.99
TOTAL	\$621.19

Your check can be made out to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc. which is the parent organization of the museum.

We will work with you to come up with suitable recognition for your chapter's gift. Meanwhile, I'm enclosing a copy of the news release I sent out earlier today. While this features the installation, I'm sure we can create a second release that features the Yucca Chapter of Questers.

Thank you again for your strong, continued support of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Sincerely,

Edson F. Allen, President
Board of Trustees
Sun Cities Area Historical Society





Meet the woman who lived 100 lives!

Since 1987, Tanya Griffith has portrayed more than 100 famous women at sold-out performances throughout our area. Dressed in the style of the times, Tanya became the person she was portraying, and audiences enjoyed being transported back into the lives of queens, first ladies, artists, nurses, world leaders, movie stars, and even Indian maidens.

As part of its salute to the Performing Arts and the residents who have entertained us, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will be honoring Tanya from 1:00 – 4:00pm on Feb. 23 and 25. We wanted to provide her, and her fans, an opportunity to greet one another and be reminded of the great programs of the past.

Tanya will greet visitors in the living room at the museum. Before and afterward, visitors can view a few of her favorite costumes, along with a display of fashionable hatboxes and hat stands, each bearing a distinctive hat from a famous woman of the past. Photos of Tanya will show her in some of the costumes she wore, along with a brief description of the person she depicted.

Tanya began her career as a book reviewer in Canton, Ohio, back in the 1970s. She became sought after as a reviewer and traveled extensively. As time went on, she began dressing as a character from the book she was reviewing. She had a chance to buy a trunk of old clothing, and learned it had been owned by a Cassie Chadwick.

Doing some research to learn more about this person, Tanya found her to be a turn of the century con artist. Among other things, she claimed to be the illegitimate daughter of Andrew Carnegie. One or more of her cons caught up with her, and she ended up in prison where she died several years later. That caused Tanya to develop a story about her life, "Queen of the Cons," and began her career portraying the lives of famous women.

Over the next 40-some years, Tanya would go on to portray more than 100 women. She became a popular performer in the Sun Cities after the Griffiths moved to Sun City in 1987. Her husband, Dr. Bill, was pastor of the Willowbrook United Methodist Church for 12 years. Tanya's performances raised tens of thousands of dollars for local organizations, as well as throughout the nation. This is an opportunity to thank her for her artistry and her generosity.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. The memorabilia will be on display all week, Feb. 22 – 26 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Meet and greet Tanya the afternoons of Tuesday, Feb. 23 and Thursday, Feb. 25.

PHOTO: Tanya Griffith, the woman who lived 100 lives, gives a queenly wave while wearing her Annie Oakley dress surrounded by the custom-made dresses she wore as Grace Coolidge, the Queen Mum, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

From: Edson Allen <edsonallen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:21 AM
To: Bret McKeand
Cc: Julie Glass
Subject: Article for INDEPENDENT
Attachments: Article for Independent.docx; Tanya waving.jpg; Tanya Griffith.jpg

Bret, can you please direct this article & photo to the proper party with the INDEPENDENT serving Sun City, Sun City West, and Surprise?

The article is about our Feb. 23 & 25 plans to honor Tanya Griffith. I've included two photos I took yesterday in her home, trying to illustrate the headline idea of "The woman who lived 100 lives" -- one shows her giving a "queenly wave," the other is more horizontal.

If I can be of further help, please have the reporter contact me at 623-975-1815. Should he or she wish to talk to Tanya, her number is 623-977-4576.

Thanks for the help!

Ed Allen
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

4 out of 3 people struggle with math!

FUNDRAISER

Community leaders honored during Del Webb Museum gala

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society honored two long-time service organizations and the retiring CEO of Benevilla during its second annual fundraising gala Nov. 10 in Sun City.

"Jubilee Gala II," a fundraiser to support the society-owned Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, was at Palmbrook Country Club. Nearly 140 attended the event that included a talk by Arizona Highways Publisher Win Holden and awards presented to Sunshine Service, Lending Hands and recently retired Benevilla CEO Michelle Dionisio.

Ms. Dionisio was presented with the "Friend of the Sun Cities Award." She retired last month after 26 years with

Benevilla, a nonprofit organization providing an array of health care services and family resources to West Valley residents.

Ms. Dionisio served as the organization's president and CEO since 2000. Initially a Sun Cities-focused nonprofit offering adult-day care services, Ms. Dionisio led a successful \$7.9 million capital campaign to expand the organization's impact and to build an intergenerational campus in Surprise that today offers adult day health services, preschool for children, a family resource center and Birt's Bistro.

"Our community was truly blessed to have someone as passionate and commit-

» See Museum on page 6



Michelle Dionisio, left, recently retired President and CEO of Benevilla, was presented with the "Friend of the Sun Cities Award" during the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's Gala II fundraiser Nov. 10. From left, Ms. Dionisio, Museum President Edson Allen and Past President Constance McMillin.

DF IC Historical Society



Sunshine Service and Lending Hands were honored with the "Spirit of Sun Cities Award" during the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's Gala II fundraiser Nov. 10. From left, Paul Herrmann, Sunshine Service Executive Director Jim Sinclair, Helping Hands Vice President Dick Catlin, Helping Hands Manager Karen Bertelsen and Museum President Edson Allen.

Museum

» From page 2

ted as Michelle leading such an important organization. Many of our residents have been touched by her efforts, and her contributions to our community will be felt for a long time," said Ed Allen, Sun Cities Area Historical Society president.

The "Spirit of the Sun Cities Award" was presented to two organizations, Sunshine Service in Sun City and Lending Hands in Sun City West.

Both organizations lend equipment to residents in the Sun Cities at no cost. Available items include medical supplies, such as beds, walkers and wheelchair, as well as temporary beds and supplies to accommodate visiting grandchildren.

Sunshine Service was created in 1961 by the Sun City Civic Association and became an independent chartered organization in 1964. Lending Hands was modeled after Sunshine Service and opened its doors in 1982.

The nonprofit Sun Cit-

ies Area Historical Society was organized in 1985 to preserve, protect and promote the history of the Sun Cities.

The society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. The museum is located in one of the first five Sun City model homes constructed in 1959 by the Del Webb Corp.

The museum is open 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Admission is free. Call 623-974-2568.

Historical society plans second 'jubilee' fundraiser

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will pay tribute to several community "history makers" during its second annual Jubilee Gala fundraiser planned Thursday, Nov. 10 at Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greenway Road, Sun City.



Win Holden

"Jubilee Gala II" will celebrate the history of the Sun Cities by paying tribute to Michelle Dionisio, retiring CEO of Ben-

evilla, as well as saluting two community nonprofit organizations, Sunshine Service and Helping Hands. The evening will be capped off by a program featuring a presentation by Win Holden, publisher of Arizona Highways magazine.

The second gala fundraiser for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, operated by the nonprofit Sun Cities Area Historical Society, will also

include dinner, a short meeting, prizes, awards, and both silent and live auctions. Sun City's own Uncle Sam (Mike Lindquist) will be among the greeters.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and silent auction browsers will be entertained by popular pianist Jim Sackett. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$27 for members and \$30 for non-members.

Prizes and silent auction items include jewelry from Setterberg Jewelers, artistic metal pieces from the Bell Metal Club, a vase from the Clay Club at Lakeview and items from other Sun City crafts clubs and local merchants.

A framed photograph of a young Mickey Mantle and Del Webb, then-owner of the New York Yankees, will be part of a special live auction. The photograph was donated by Bob Mousaw of Sun City.

The gala will honor Michelle Dionisio, outgoing CEO and president of Ben-



Sun Cities Area Historical Society Treasurer Tim Ericson and Vice President Gail Warmath show off some items to be auctioned at the Nov. 10 Jubilee Gala II at Palmbrook Country Club. From left is a photo of Mickey Mantle and Del Webb, when Mr. Webb was part-owner of the New York Yankees, donated by Bob Mousaw of Sun City to be auctioned live. Early silent auction items include a decorative copper wall plaque from the Bell Metal Club and a vase from the Clay Club at Lakeview, new jewelry from Setterberg's, vintage jewelry (on the neck) and a small painting of a rural scene in Prescott.

evilla. Ms. Dionisio will receive the Friend of the Sun Cities Award.

Sunshine Services and Helping Hands will receive the second award of the evening, the Spirit of the Sun Cities Award.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was established in 1986 to preserve and promote the history of the Sun

Cities. The historical society operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in one of the first five model homes constructed in Sun City.

No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the museum, 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 1.

Call 623-974-2568.

VF IC Historical Society



Daily News-Sun



© 2006, Freedom Comm

Vol. 50 No. 89, 2 Sections 24 Pages

FRIDAY, NOV. 3, 2006

An edition of the EAST VALLEY Tribune

Original Sun City sets standard

Town that Webb built serves as model nationwide

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City may have made history 46 years ago as the world's first active adult community, but today, it is still the foundation for a thriving housing and lifestyle empire.

"This concept is still incredibly well-received across the country," said David G. Schreiner, national vice president for

Pulte Homes/Del Webb Adult Communities, during a presentation at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual meeting Thursday.

"The Historical Society is very important to us and is a big part of what makes Del Webb as successful as it is," Schreiner said.

Before it became a retirement mecca with more than 26,000 homes and

40,000 residents, Sun City was a 10,000-acre cotton field in the distant deserts west of Phoenix. Today — after Pulte purchased Del Webb in 2001 — there are more than 50 Pulte/Del Webb active adult communities



Schreiner

across the country.

"We weren't really smart in this business, we just listened," Schreiner said. "Del Webb's hallmark has always been to pay attention and reflect what consumers want."

Schreiner said the original Sun City is largely to thank for pioneering the active retirement lifestyle, and the community's success today further confirms that Del Webb/Pulte's projections for the future are

on target.

With 78.2 million Baby Boomers entering retirement — 7,900 turn 60 every day — Schreiner said there is a solid market for building more Sun Cities or similar communities. Pulte/Del Webb is counting on strong nationwide sales through 2030, he said.

"There are more 70-year-olds, by percentage, that own their own home, more than any other age," he said. "You (seniors) are

the ones with t

Because the name is widely highly respected, continue to de Webb brand the country, said. Since the of Del Webb, of Pulte's pro: attributed to communities h he added.

While Pulte communities

SEE

News-Sun

© 2006, Freedom Communications, Inc.

FRIDAY, NOV. 3, 2006

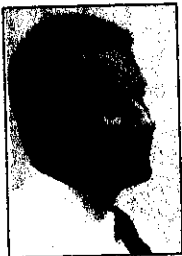
An edition of the EAST VALLEY Tribune

50¢

n City sets standard

nationwide

resid-
Sun
was
,000-
cotton
n the
t des-
rest of
ix. To-
- after



Schreiner

purchased Del Webb
01 — there are more
50 Pulte/Del Webb
adult communities

across the country.

"We weren't really smart in this business; we just listened," Schreiner said. "Del Webb's hallmark has always been to pay attention and reflect what consumers want."

Schreiner said the original Sun City is largely to thank for pioneering the active retirement lifestyle, and the community's success today further confirms that Del Webb/Pulte's projections for the future are

on target.

With 78.2 million Baby Boomers entering retirement — 7,900 turn 60 every day — Schreiner said there is a solid market for building more Sun Cities or similar communities. Pulte/Del Webb is counting on strong nationwide sales through 2030, he said.

"There are more 70-year-olds, by percentage, that own their own home, more than any other age," he said. "You (seniors) are

the ones with the money."

Because the Del Webb name is widely known and highly respected, Pulte will continue to deploy the Del Webb brand throughout the country, Schreiner said. Since the acquisition of Del Webb, 40 percent of Pulte's profit has been attributed to active adult communities by Del Webb, he added.

While Pulte/Del Webb communities are popping

SEE SUN CITY, A5

SUN CITY: AZ leads nation in new development

FROM A1

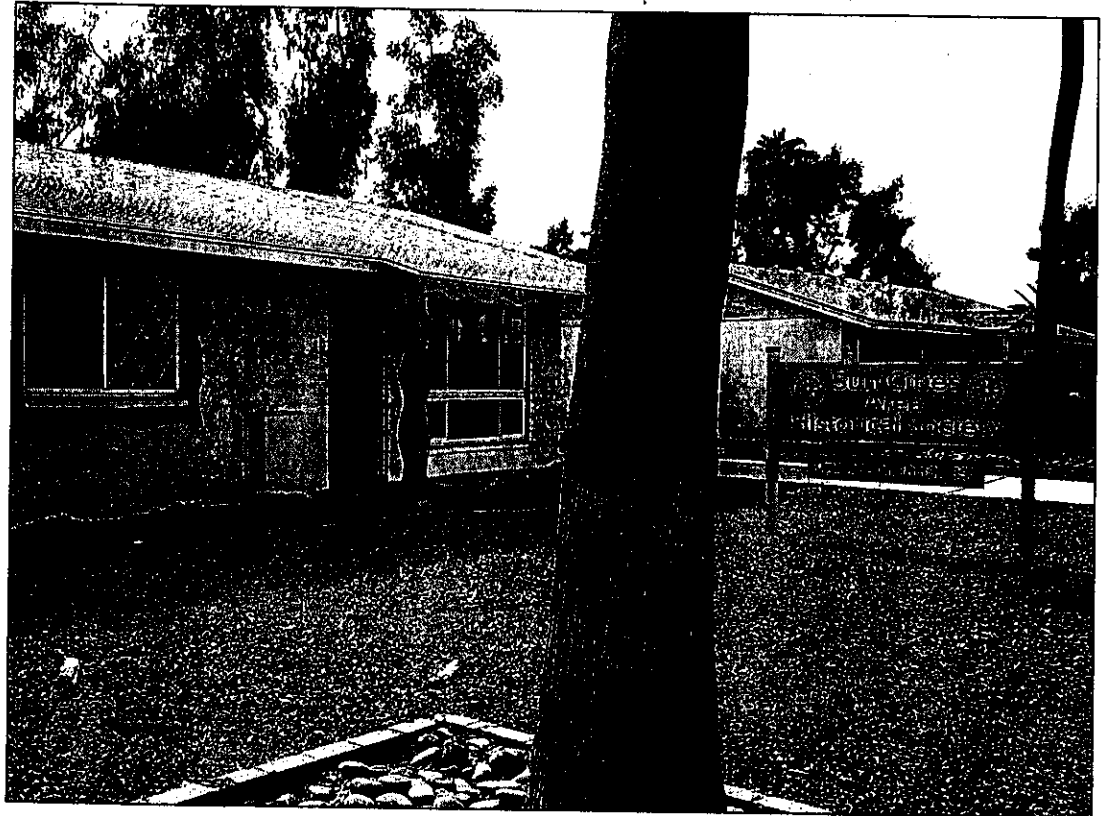
up in places such as South Carolina, Colorado and Illinois, Arizona continues to be a hot spot for new development, the Northwest and Southwest Valleys in particular, Schreiner said.

Approximately one in 10 of the home sales that closed in 2005 were in active adult communities, and 35 percent of all Phoenix area active adult homes closed were in the Sun City area, according to Pulte/Del Webb.

"Del Webb projects a 63 percent increase in active adult closings on the west-side by 2009," Schreiner said of the housing market in western states.

"You're in the happening place," he said.

For information about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, call 974-2568.



The Sun Cities Historical Society remodeled this Webb model home to resemble the original. Watch for photos in Saturday's Daily News-Sun.

MOLLIE J. HOPPER/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Trends to watch for in the Active Adult Community housing market

- Affordable challenges — National median price for homes is reaching \$340,000, and retirees will seek less expensive options.
- Diversity in locations and offerings — Some retirees want a smaller-scale community, some want the sunshine and some want four seasons.
- Work/play cycling — An increasing number of retirees are re-entering the work force, and recreational needs are changing.
- Technology as lifestyle spine — About 80 percent of Pulte/Del Webb residents across the country use the Internet. Amenities must expand to meet higher technological standards.

Source: David G. Schreiner, national vice president for Pulte Homes/Del Webb Adult Communities.



Submitted Photo

Museum elects 2016 board of trustees

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society recently installed its board of trustees for 2016. From left, standing, Yasmina Snider, secretary; Tim Ericson, treasurer; Edson Allen, president; Gail Warmath, vice president; A.J. Kovac. Sitting, Toni Ashby, Heidi Speed, Arlene Sampson and Priscilla Fenner.

VF IC Historical Society
SC Independent
February 24, 2016

V F IC Historical Society Independent February 17, 2016

February 17, 2016

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

27

Sun Cities Museum honors longtime resident, entertainer

As part of its salute to the Performing Arts and the residents who have entertained the area, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will honor Tanya Griffith 1-4

p.m. Feb. 23 and 25.

Since 1987, Ms. Griffith has portrayed more than 100 famous women at sold-out performances throughout the West Valley.

Ms. Griffith will greet visitors in the living room at the museum. Before and after, visitors can view a few of her favorite costumes, along with a display of fashionable hatboxes and hat stands, each bearing a distinctive hat from a famous woman of the past. Photos of Ms. Griffith will show her

in some of the costumes she wore, along with a brief description of the person she depicted.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. The memorabilia will be on display 1-4 p.m. all week, Feb. 22-26.

Del Webb Museum to host spring meeting

The Youngtown Public Library and Historical Museum will host the Sun Cities Area Historical Society spring meeting 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 15 at the Youngtown Clubhouse, 12030 N. Clubhouse Square.

A presentation and tour of the Youngtown Historical Museum are on the agenda. The public is welcome to attend.

Youngtown history

Gilbert and Frances Greer in 1942 purchased a long, narrow strip of land from the old "Vulture Road" (now Grand Avenue) to what is now Peoria Avenue, and they leased additional land south to Olive Avenue.

After Gilbert's 1949 death, Elmer Johns moved to Marinette, the tiny farming community east of where Youngtown came to be, to help Frances manage the ranch.

Benjamin "Big Ben" Schleifer, a Phoenix real estate developer, was eager to fulfill his long-time dream of building a community designed solely for older, retired, but active people.

Youngtown was founded Nov. 4, 1954, and became the nation's first retirement community. By 1959, the community included 700 homes and 1,400 people.

NF
IC
SE
Spotlight
February 24, 2016
Historical Society

Historical society gala was a spectacular time

Kudos to Bret McKeand and the entire gang at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum for the spectacular time at their gala.

Awesome show of support from the community and especially all of the sponsors who helped make this grand time come together. Seeing and hearing Jerry Svendsen was a real treat, he's one of the few remaining employees of the Webb Corporation who helped shape our incredible community.

Special thanks to Butch Bowman from Bell Travel. We were fortunate enough to win a day tour with them to Barleen's Arizona Opry and I will be the first to admit I was stunned at the quality of the food and the remarkable high energy show they served up. We had never been there, but we will be back again and again. Bell Travel is lo-

cated at the Greenway Center Terrace and they will be running buses to Barleen's in January, February, March and April. The Opry has several different performances, so check with Butch to see which one appeals to you.

Again, thanks to all for their hard work for both putting on this event and for show-

casing the museum. Now that the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum has historical designation on both the state and federal register, it is a must see for visitors and residents alike. They are open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Bill and Lori Pearson
Sun City

December 16, 2015

Independent

Historical Society

VF IC

Museum exhibit features performing dance groups

Along with featured exhibits on local golf, baseball and softball, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum has one of the four performing arts in a new display.

The new exhibit allows visitors to choose from more than 50 performances of six dance clubs and two variety shows with a simple touch of a

screen.

Performing groups include Tip Top Dancers, Sun City Poms, Rhythm Tappers, Jazzy Poms, Dancing Arts, Hawaiian Dancers, Sun City and Sun City West Variety Shows.

The performing organizations' selected acts they felt were among their best over the years, and guests can choose

their favorites to watch with music on equipment partially funded from a grant from the Arizona Historical Society and installed by Trustee Hal Lind.

Curator Edson Allen worked for almost three years on this exhibit with the help of students at Grand Canyon University and Dan Seabreeze of Seabreeze Design.

The museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in Sun City (behind Oakmont Center) is open mid- September through mid-May from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Group tours of six or more may be arranged at other times, including during the summer, by a phone call to 623-974-2568.

Museum sets first fundraising gala to honor residents

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will kick-off its 30th anniversary year with its first fundraising gala.

The event is scheduled 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 at the Sun City Country Club, 9860 W. Lindgren Ave.

The gala, which also serves at the organization's annual meeting, will feature entertainment by the Sun City Poms and a salute to several residents who have contributed to Sun City and Sun City West history.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society officially incorporated in 1986, soon after the celebration of Sun City's 25th anniversary. The society owns and operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, in one of the first five model homes built in 1960 by the Del Webb Corporation.

"The event is meant to celebrate the history of the Sun Cities and those who have played a role in making these communities what they are today," said Bret McKeand, Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees president.

Organizers hope the inaugural gala will start a trend.

"It is a fun event that we hope will become an annual celebration, but it's also meant to raise funds to sustain the museum and all it does to preserve and protect the history of the Sun Cities," Mr. McKeand said.

sponsorships are available.

The society is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

The Sun City Poms performance will include a salute to veterans.

The name of the event is tied to the organization's early beginnings, according to Mr. McKeand.

"One of the founders of the historical society — June Freeman — was co-author of the first extensive history of Sun City, a book called "Jubilee," that was published in conjunction with the community's 25th anniversary," he said.

Mr. McKeand added that in honor of Ms. Freeman, who recently died, the board believed it appropriate to link that title to the first fundraising gala.

Tickets are available by calling the museum at 623-974-2568 or by stopping by during open hours, 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, Nov. 1.



The first "Jubilee Gala" begins at 5 p.m. with a social gathering and silent auction. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the program.

Tickets are \$25 each for museum members and \$30 for nonmembers. Business

Gala Honorees

- Edson Allen, Sun City West, longtime historical society member and creator of several museum most popular exhibits. Authored "Sun City West Silver Anniversary."
- Constance McMillion, Sun City, another longtime historical society supporter and ardent arts supporter throughout the Valley, including the West Valley Art Museum and Theater Works.
- Paul Herrmann of Sun City, retiring director of the Sun City Visitors Center.
- The Sun City Poms, internationally recognized goodwill ambassadors representing the community and entertaining for more than four decades.



Memo to Members



*Latest happenings at your museum from
Ed Allen, president of the Board of Trustees*

Our salute to the "Woman Who Lived 100 Lives" was a BIG SUCCESS!

The museum saw a steady stream of visitors on Feb. 23 and 25, as many Tanya Griffin fans came to greet her and share memories of programs past. It was amazing how many different women the various visitors remembered seeing Tanya perform! Some had not seen her, but got to watch her portray Annie Oakley on a DVD playing in the Performing Arts Exhibit. Her costume hung next to it.

We had 333 visitors for the week, and the event raised \$439. Special thanks to the docents who came in the extra days: Yasmina Snider, Pris Fenner, Toni Ashby, and Loretta Allen. Despite not feeling well, Gail Warmath and Carol Dearen also came in, but we were able to send them home. Working behind the scenes were Bill Pearson who moved the golf cars in & out of the carport for us, and David Verble who converted VHS tapes of Tanya to DVDs to play at the museum.



Museum grounds have never looked better!

To get the museum ready for company, David Verble, a former trustee and board president, put in several afternoons clearing away weeds, and trimming overgrown shrubs. He even got permission from our next-door neighbor to pull the weeds between her house and ours! Betsy Harris trimmed the roses back, and they are beginning to blossom anew.

Landscaper volunteers to keep us looking good from here on.

Mark Stanley of *Across the Valley Landscape* takes care of the office building across the street and will touch up our yard each month after he's completed his work there. We'll be putting two signs in our yard – one along Oakmont and one facing the golf course to give him credit for his help. If you need yard work done, give Mark a call: 602-757-7183.

Mark your calendar for 1:00 Tuesday, Mar. 15

This is your chance to hear the history of our neighbor, Youngtown. Meeting will be in the clubhouse at 12030 Clubhouse Square. Take Alabama Ave. into Youngtown, and a little over one block west of 111th. The clubhouse will be on your right. Refreshments will be served.

Roof repair coming – thank Heaven we don't get much rain!

You may have noticed the stain in the ceiling in the Jane Freeman Room. We've had roofers in to look at what's needed, and have received proposals of up to \$4350 for a new roof over the rear of the house. That's definitely not in our budget, and we have found a roofer who believes he can patch the area to get several more years' life out of the old roof. It means a saving of \$4000 – and is certainly worth a try.

Don't forget your 10% discount on books, notecards, and more!

Looking for a gift? Consider one of the books available from our gift shop, or a pack of notecards specially designed for the museum.

- * Del Webb – A Man, A Company* \$20
- * JUBILEE – The story of Sun City's first 25 years* \$20
- * Images of America – Sun City \$20
- * Silver Celebration – The first 25 years of SCW \$20

Members receive a 10% discount on the above, as well as on tickets to special events.

* *Currently being reprinted*

10 cards, 5
SC scenes
by artist
Janette
Kimble –
Only \$8



Do you belong to an organization that needs speakers for meetings?

If so, suggest your program chairperson contact the museum as we offer a number of entertaining and informative talks on local history. The number to call is 974-2568.

- “Cotton Bolls to Golf Balls”...“Lizard Acres to Lush Oasis”...“The Grand Connection” tell how Sun City, Sun City West, and Sun City Grand came to be.
- “The Remarkable Del Webb” ... “The Boswell Connection” ... “John Meeker, Master Builder” tell the stories of three men involved with the building of our communities.

Last year, museum speakers gave 35 talks to 19 different organizations. While we do this free as a community service, we are always happy to receive donations!

Volunteers are always Welcome!

With the exception of a part-time office manager, all of us are volunteers. We've found it a stimulating place to work as we learn more about the history of our area. It's fun too, to be able to amaze friends with “Did you know that...” factoids that spice up conversation. The work is not difficult, but is a great learning experience.

I like to refer to it as the “mystery of history.” Why does a hospital carry a Boswell name? Who was the “Meeker” whose name is on a major SCW boulevard? What was the “West Beardsley” that a sign along the railroad track refers to?

Join us – and join the search! We have immediate openings for docents (we'd like to open the museum 5 afternoons a week) ... office help with mailings, filing, scanning, record-keeping ... writing letters, publicity releases, newsletter articles ... giving talks ... and more. *What skill do you have that you can share with us?*

Tell your friends about the museum! Open 1-4, M-W-F. And it's FREE!!

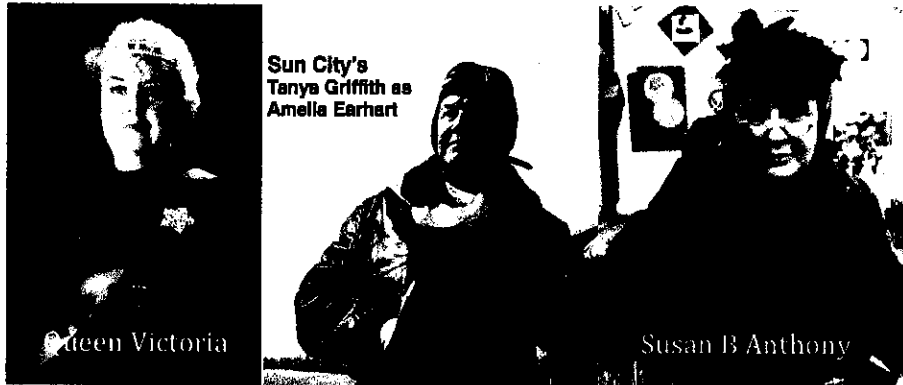
Meet & greet well-known,
local writer and actress

Tanya Griffith

Feb. 23 and 25 at the Museum
1:00 - 4:00:PM



Since 1987, Tanya has presented portrayals of more than 100 famous women at sold-out performances throughout our area.



Her one-woman reenactments raised tens of thousands of dollars for local churches and charitable organizations. We salute her for her entertainment and contributions to our community!

Feb. 22 through 26, 1:00 - 4:00PM

View memorabilia from Tanya's life and the women she portrayed - favorite costumes, hats, hatboxes, and more!

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City 623-974-2568

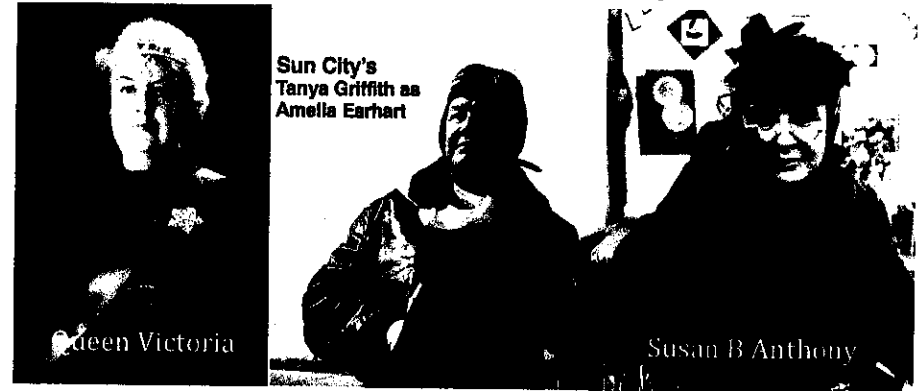
Meet & greet well-known,
local writer and actress

Tanya Griffith

Feb. 23 and 25 at the Museum
1:00 - 4:00:PM



Since 1987, Tanya has presented portrayals of more than 100 famous women at sold-out performances throughout our area.



Her one-woman reenactments raised tens of thousands of dollars for local churches and charitable organizations. We salute her for her entertainment and contributions to our community!

Feb. 22 through 26, 1:00 - 4:00PM

View memorabilia from Tanya's life and the women she portrayed - favorite costumes, hats, hatboxes, and more!

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City 623-974-2568



Community News

EMAIL WVNEWS@NEWSZAP.COM

Send us
your news tips

Got a tip? Contact News Editor
Rusty Bradshaw at
rbradshaw@newszap.com

Historical society honors 'friends' in inaugural gala

By Rusty Bradshaw
Independent Newspapers

Getting ready to begin its 30th year of operation, the Sun Cities Historical Society honored some of its "friends" during its first fundraising gala.

The inaugural Jubilee Gala featured a walk down memory lane with community history provided by historical photos, a 2015 television segment on the community and a first-hand account from someone who was a part of Sun City's beginnings. The society, devoted to preserving history for Sun City and Sun City West, operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Historical Society Museum, housed in one of the original model homes for the Del Webb community.

Sun City is the country's oldest planned active retirement community.

Providing historical perspective was Jerry Swensen, who worked with Del Webb

during Sun City's construction. He took attendees through the early years and talked of the upbeat approach to the community. Bill Pearson introduced the full CBS This Morning segment shot in and about Sun City. The network program became interested in the piece after llamas got loose and roamed through the community before being recaptured.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards.

Sun City West resident Edson Allen was presented the Jane Freeman award. He and his wife, Linda, had been coming to Arizona since 1975 when they visited his parents who moved to Sun City from Wisconsin.

Once retired, Mr. Allen became active in the Sun Cities Historical Society and began studying the history of the Sun Cities. He assembled a team of volunteers to research

See Gala — Page 29



The Sun City Poms performing unit danced multiple sets for those who attended the Sun Cities Historical Society's inaugural gala fundraiser Nov. 10. The group also received the Spirit of Sun Cities award. See other award winners on Page 29.

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Jim Sinclair, Sunshine Services director, presents Paul Herrmann, right, with the Friend of the Sun Cities award.

Gala

Continued From Page 2

the history of Sun City West and wrote the book "Sun City West Silver Celebration" for the community's 25th anniversary in 2003. He went on to develop talks on the Sun Cities and the lives of the men who put them on the map — Del Webb, John Meeker, Jim Boswell and others.

This year, he will have given 22 talks to local organizations.

Connie McMillin was given the President's award. A second generation Sun Citian who first visited when her parents moved to the retirement community in 1970.

Ms. McMillin became the first Sun Cities Historical Society member with an out-of-state mailing address. Over the years she attended many programs and became very active as a volunteer. While serving on the SCAHS Board of Trustees, she held various committee and board positions, including president.

Ms. McMillin is an active Theater Works and West Valley Art Museum board member. She was instrumental in the latter's relocation and affiliation with the city of Peoria. She is also a strong supporter of numerous arts organizations throughout the Valley.

The Sun City Poms were honored with

the Spirit of the Sun Cities award. Started in 1979 as cheerleaders for the Sun City Saints softball team, the group has evolved over the years.

Today it is two units — a marching unit and one for performances. Sponsored by Fry's, the group is highly energetic and demonstrates the group's dance standards. Some members even do acrobatics.

Performing with spunk and energy, these ladies have the time of their lives while sharing positive aspects of retirement and aging. They shatter the conventional images of senior citizens.

Paul Herrmann was selected for the Friend of the Sun Cities award. Born and raised in Chicago, Mr. Herrmann is a second generation Sun Citian.

He came to the community in 2000 and has served as Sun City Vistors Center executive director since 2002. He has also served on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (chairman in 2008) and on the boards of the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce, Sun City Community Fund, Sunshine Services and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

In addition, he has served on several Recreation centers of Sun City committees and has facilitated the Community Council of Sun City quarterly breakfast for several years.



Bret McKeand, Sun Cities Area Historical Society board president, presents Edson Allen with the Jane Freeman award. Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw



Bret McKeand presents Connie McMillin with the President's award. Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Join Us For A Special Celebration!



Inaugural Jubilee Gala

A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

A Fundraiser to Benefit the
Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Join the Historical Society for its annual meeting -- which this year includes a special 30th anniversary celebration and salute to Sun City and Sun City West "History Makers!"

This year's honorees:



■ Edson Allen of Sun City West, a long-time member of the society's Board of Trustees, creator of several of the museum's most popular exhibits and author of "Sun City West Silver Anniversary."



■ Constance McMillin of Sun City, a long-time supporter of the museum the arts throughout the Valley of the Sun -- including the West Valley Art Museum and Theater Works.



■ Paul Herrmann, of Sun City, retiring executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center.



■ Sun City Poms, the internationally recognized goodwill ambassadors representing the community for over four decades!

**Plus ... A Special Veterans Day
Performance by the Poms!**

**Tuesday,
November 10, 2015
Union Hills Country Club**
9860 Lindgren Avenue,
Sun City, Arizona

Reception at 5 p.m. ♦ Dinner at 6 p.m.
♦ Program at 7 p.m.
♦ Seating is Limited

♦ RSVP required by November 1, 2015
No Host Cocktails ♦ Business Attire

Tickets

Individual: \$25 (museum members)
\$30 (non-members)

Table of four: \$100 ♦ Table of eight: \$200
Cash/Check Only

**Call (623) 974-2568
to Purchase Tickets or Sponsorships**

Email scahsm@gmail.com

Purchase tickets at the museum
1-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351

Reservation Deadline: Nov. 1, 2015



Sun Cities Jubilee Gala 2015

November 10 ■ Union Hills Country Club

Community Partner Packages

Presenting Sponsor

\$5,000

Includes:

- ◆ Premium table for 8 at the gala
- ◆ Back Page Advertisement/Gala Program
- ◆ Full Page Advertisement in fall and spring museum newsletter
- ◆ One year museum membership

*Only
ONE
Available!*

Gala Sponsor

\$2,500

Includes:

- ◆ Table for 8 at the gala
- ◆ 1/2 Page Advertisement/Gala Program
- ◆ 1/2 Page Advertisement in fall and spring museum newsletter
- ◆ One year museum membership

Supporting Sponsor

\$1,000

Includes:

- ◆ Table for 8 at the gala
- ◆ Recognition in Gala Program
- ◆ 1/4 Page Advertisement in fall and spring museum newsletter
- ◆ One year museum membership

Preserving and Promoting the History of the Sun Cities!

Community Partner Packages

Patron Sponsor

\$500

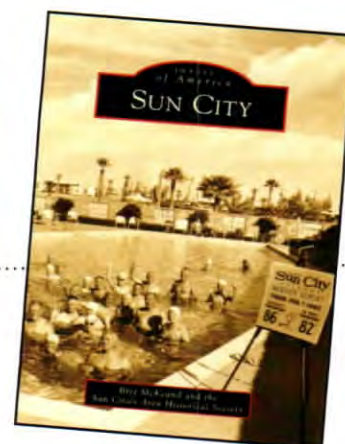
Includes:

- ◆ Four tickets to the Gala
- ◆ Recognition in the Gala program
- ◆ One year museum membership

Special Gala 'New Membership' Offer **\$200**

Includes:

- ◆ Two tickets to the Gala
- ◆ One year museum membership
- ◆ Signed copy of "Images of America: Sun City," published by Arcadia Publishing



Individual Tickets

\$30

Non-Members

\$25

Museum Members

**Call (623) 974-2568
to Purchase Tickets or Sponsorships**

Email scahsm@gmail.com www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351

A non-profit, 501(3)(c) organization

Cash/Check Only

Reservation Deadline: Nov. 1, 2015

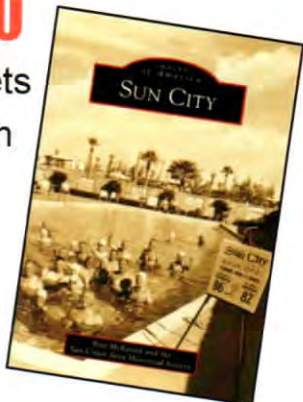


Jubilee Gala

A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

Please respond before
Nov. 1, 2015

Ticket Order Form

Individual Tickets:	Quantity	Special Gala "New Membership Offer"
Museum Member/ \$25	_____	<p>\$200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Includes two tickets ◆ One-year museum membership ◆ Signed copy of "Images of America: Sun City" published by Arcadia Publishing 
Non-Member/ \$30	_____	
Table of eight/\$200	_____	
Table of four/\$100	_____	
Total:	_____	

My regrets are expressed with a donation to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, of
 \$500 \$300 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Sponsorships

- Gala Sponsor** **\$2,500**
 Table for 8 at gala, 1/2 page advertisement in gala program, full page ad in spring and fall SCAHS newsletter, one year museum membership
- Supporting Sponsor** **\$1,000**
 Table for 8 at gala, recognition in gala program, 1/4 page ad in spring and fall SCAHS newsletter, one year museum membership
- Patron Sponsor** **\$500**
 Table of 4 at gala, recognition in gala program, one year museum membership

Your Name: _____
 Address (Tickets will be mailed): _____
 Telephone Number: _____

Total Enclosed:

Cash or Check Only

Return to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society
 10801 Oakmont Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351 ♦ Call 623-974-2569

History in the making

Sun Cities Historical Society gala a success

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society kicked off its 30th anniversary with its first-ever fundraising gala that highlighted its accomplishments over the past year and paid tribute to several local residents.

The Nov. 10 event at the Union Hills Country Club in Sun City also served as the organization's annual meeting. The program featured entertainment by the Sun City Poms, and a salute to three residents who contributed to the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society officially incorporated in 1986, soon after the celebration of Sun City's 25th anniversary. The society owns and operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, located in one of the first five model homes built in 1960 by the Del Web Corporation.



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
The Sun City Poms provided entertainment and Jerry Swensen gave a historical overview of the museum and community.



"The event was meant to celebrate the history of the Sun Cities and those who have played a role in making these communities what they are today," said Bret McKeand, society board of trustees president.

Mr. McKeand was happy with the results of the inaugural "Jubilee Gala" and hopes it becomes an annual communitywide celebration.

"It's a fun event that we hope will become an annual celebration, but it's also meant to raise funds to sus-

tain the museum and all it does to preserve and protect the history of the Sun Cities," said Mr. McKeand.

Among those honored at this year's gala:

- Edson Allen of Sun City West, a longtime member of the historical society and creator of several of the museum's most popular exhibits, was presented with the Jane Freeman Award. He also is author of "Sun City West Silver Anniversary."
- Constance McMillin of Sun City,

another longtime supporter of the historical society and an ardent supporter of arts throughout the Valley of the Sun – including the West Valley Art Museum and Theater Works, received the President's Award recognizing her support of arts and culture throughout the Valley of the Sun.

- Paul Herrmann of Sun City, retiring director of the Sun City Visitors Center, received the Friend of

See **History** — Page 4

History

Continued From Page 1

the Sun Cities Award.

• The Sun City Poms, the internationally recognized goodwill ambassadors who have represented the community and entertained crowds for over four decades, received the Spirit of the Sun Cities Award.

In addition to the awards, a special plaque was presented to the museum in recognition of it being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum earned the distinction earlier this year from the National Parks Service. The plaque will be prominently display at the museum.

A special CBS-produced video segment on the museum and Sun City that aired this past summer on the "CBS Sunday Morning" program was also shown to the audience.

The name of the event, said Mr. McKeand, is tied to the organization's early beginning.

"One of the founders of the historical society — Jane Freeman — was co-author of the first extensive history of Sun City, a book called 'Jubilee,' that was published in conjunction with the community's 25th anniversary," he said. "In honor of Jane, who recently passed away, we felt it appropriate to link that title to our first gala fundraiser."

The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Admission is free.

Call 623-974-2568 or visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Editor's note: The Independent's policy is to alert readers to any potential conflict of interest. Mr. McKeand, president of the nonprofit SCAHS Board of Trustees, is also president of Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA in Arizona.

Gala Sponsors



~ DAN KAMMRATH ~



Supporting Sponsors

THE
Constance W. McMillin
TRUST



Del Webb

Patron Sponsors



Special thanks to Moore Graphics, Sun City Poms, Ford's World Travel, Setterberg Jewelers, Theater Works and Bell Travel for their generous contributions.

The Board of Trustees would like to express its appreciation to all its sponsors and those who have contributed items for door prizes and to our silent auction, and to all those who attended tonight's event. Thank You!

Thanks to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum for keeping history alive in The Original Fun City!

1-844 4 SUN CITY | www.suncityaz.org

*Inaugural
Jubilee Gala*
A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Union Hills Country Club



A benefit for the
Sun Cities Area
Historical Society/
Del Webb
Sun Cities Museum

**Celebrating
30 years!**

PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

- 5-6 p.m. Check-in/Mix & Mingle
- 6 p.m. Dinner
Pledge of Allegiance..... Youngtown Councilwoman Margaret Chittenden
- 7 p.m. Welcome/IntroductionsBret McKeand, President
- Opening Remarks..... Jerry Svendsen
- Museum Exhibits Update.....Edson Allen

Presentation of Jane Freeman Award

- National Register of Historic Places Designation.....Bret McKeand, President
- CBS "Sunday Morning" RecognitionBill Pearson, Past President

Presentation of President's Award

- Introduction of the Sun City Poms Jerry Svendsen
- Performance by the Sun City Poms

Presentation of the "Spirit of the Sun Cities Award"

Presentation of the "Friend of the Sun Cities" Award

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum 2015 Board of Trustees

Bret McKeand, President * Tim Ericson, Secretary
Norm Dickson, Treasurer * Ed Cirillo, Past President
Trustees: Hal Lind, Gail Warmath, Priscilla Fenner,
Yasmina Snider, David Verble

*All proceeds from tonight's event benefit and fund
the operations of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum*

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made tonight's program possible

HONOREES

Jane Freeman Award

*For contributions and commitment to the
SCAHS and Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.*

Edson Allen

Ed and his wife, Loretta, have been coming to Arizona since 1975 when they first visited Ed's parents who had moved to Sun City from Wisconsin. Once retired, Ed became active in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and began studying the history of the Sun Cities. He assembled a team of volunteers to re-search the history of Sun City West, and wrote the book "Sun City West Silver Celebration" for the community's 25th anniversary in 2003. He went on to develop talks on the Sun Cities, and on the lives of the men who put them on the map ... Del Webb, John Meeker, Jim Boswell, and others. This year, he will have given 22 talks to local organizations.



President's Award

*An annual award presented by the
President of the Board of Trustees.*

Constance McMillin



A second generation Sun Citian who first visited when her parents moved to the retirement community in 1970, "Connie" became the first member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society with an out-of-state mailing address.

Over the years she attended many programs and became very active as a volunteer. While serving on the SCAHS Board of Trustees, she held various committee and board positions including president.

Connie is an active board member of Theater Works and the West Valley Art Museum, where she was instrumental in its relocation and affiliation in recent years with the City of Peoria. She is also a strong supporter of numerous arts organizations throughout the Valley.



Spirit of the Sun Cities Award

*An organization that exemplifies the joy,
optimism and excitement of the lifestyle
originally intended by Del Webb.*

Sun City Poms

The Poms started in 1979 by acting as cheerleaders for the Sun City Saints women's softball team. Today the group has evolved into two units: a marching unit and a performing unit. The Fry's Sun City Poms are highly energetic performers who demonstrate the organization's dance standards. Some even do acrobatics!

Performing with the spunk and energy of their youths, these ladies are having the time of their lives while sharing positive aspects of retirement and aging, and shattering conventional images of "senior citizens."

Friend of the Sun Cities Award

*A recognition of unselfish and unheralded
dedication, commitment and invaluable
service to our communities.*

Paul Herrmann



Born and raised in Chicago, Ill., Paul is a second generation Sun Citian. He moved to Sun City in 2000 and has served as executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center since 2002.

He has served on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (chairman in 2008) and has served on the boards of the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce, Sun City Community Fund, Sunshine Services and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

He has served on several RCSC committees and has facilitated the Community Council of Sun City quarterly breakfast for many years.

Join Us For A Special Celebration!



The Sun Cities Area
Historical Society
cordially invites you
to join us for our

Inaugural
Jubilee Gala

A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Union Hills Country Club

9860 Lindgren Avenue, Sun City, Arizona

Reception at 5 p.m. | Dinner at 6 p.m. | Program at 7 p.m.

Seating is Limited | RSVP required (card enclosed)

No Host Cocktails | Business Attire

This year's honorees:

Edson Allen ♦ Constance McMillin
Paul Herrmann ♦ Sun City Poms
Plus ... Silent Auction,
Performance by the Sun City Poms
and much more!

Celebrating
30 years!

A benefit for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

Admission by Ticket Only



Celebrating 30 Years!

— Sun Cities Area Historical Society —

Inaugural
Jubilee Gala

A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

Join us as we celebrate our 30th anniversary and pay tribute to our community's history makers!

November 10, 2015 Union Hills Country Club

5 p.m. Social ■ 6 p.m. Dinner ■ 7 p.m. Program

9860 Lindgren Avenue, Sun City, Arizona

No-Host Cocktails* Silent Auction * Business Attire



Jubilee Gala

A Celebration of the Sun Cities ... Past & Present!

Please
respond
before
Nov. 1, 2015

Your Name: _____

Guest's Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Address (if you prefer we mail your tickets): _____

Ticket Order Form

Individual Tickets:

Museum Member/ \$25

Non-Member/ \$30

Total Enclosed: _____

Quantity

Table of four/ \$100

Table of eight/\$200

Quantity

Total Enclosed: _____

Return by Nov. 1 to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society
10801 Oakmont Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351 ♦ Call 623-974-2569
Cash or Checks Only * SCAHS is a nonprofit, 501 (3)(c) organization

New museum exhibit showcases new performing arts display

The Sun Cities have long been touted as the place to retire and play golf as often as you want. And between Sun City and Sun City West, recreational baseball clubs today field 400 players, some into their 80s and 90s.

Now the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum features one of the four performing arts in a new display next to earlier local exhibits on baseball, softball and golf with pictures of Del Webb and Bob Hope.

The new exhibit allows visitors to choose from more than 50 performances of six dance clubs and two variety shows with a simple touch of a screen. "By touching 'Start Here,' visitors see and hear an introduction to the importance dance has played in the lives of Sun City and Sun City West residents over the past 50 years," said Curator Edson Allen.

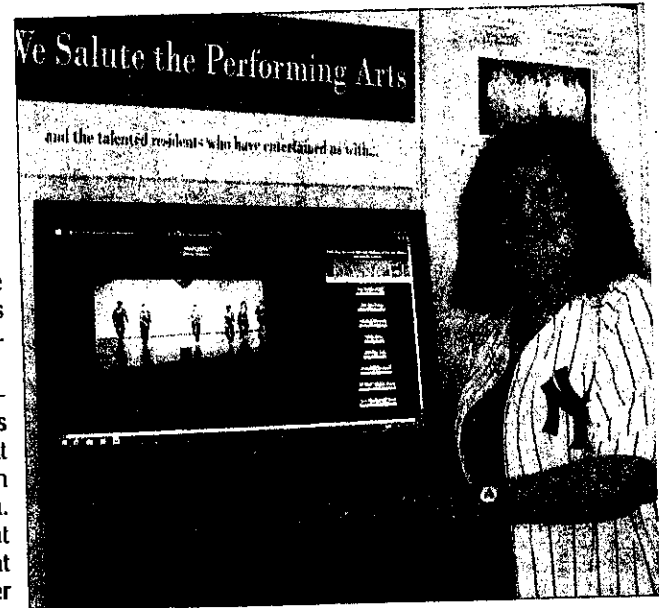
Performing groups include Tip Top Dancers, Sun City Poms, Rhythm Tappers, Jazzy Poms, Dancing Arts, Hawaiian Dancers, Sun City

and Sun City West Variety Shows

The performing organizations selected acts they feel were among their best over the years, and guests can select their favorites to see in living color with music on equipment partially funded by a grant from the Arizona Historical Society and installed by Trustee Hal Lind.

Additional wall panels describe the history of other performing arts including theater, choral and orchestral groups.

Curator Allen has been working for almost three years on this exhibit with the help of students at Grand Canyon University and Dan Seabreeze of Seabreeze Design. The museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in Sun City (behind Oakmont Center) is open mid-September through mid-May from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Group tours of six or more may be arranged at other times, including during the summer, by a phone call to 623-974-2568.



Volunteer Yasmina Snider will take patrons on tour at the museum.

**Send us
 your news tips**

Got a tip? Contact News Editor
 Rusty Bradshaw at
 rbradshaw@newszap.com

Historical society honors 'friends' in inaugural gala

By **Rusty Bradshaw**
 Independent Newspapers

Getting ready to begin its 30th year of operation, the Sun Cities Historical Society honored some of its "friends" during its first fundraising gala.

The inaugural Jubilee Gala featured a walk down memory lane with community history provided by historical photos, a 2015 television segment on the community and a first-hand account from someone who was a part of Sun City's beginnings. The society, devoted to preserving history for Sun City and Sun City West, operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Historical Society Museum, housed in one of the original model homes for the Del Webb community.

Sun City is the country's oldest planned active retirement community.

Providing historical perspective was Jerry Swensen, who worked with Del Webb

during Sun City's construction. He took attendees through the early years and talked of the upbeat approach to the community. Bill Pearson introduced the full CBS This Morning segment shot in and about Sun City. The network program became interested in the piece after llamas got loose and roamed through the community before being recaptured.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards.

Sun City West resident Edson Allen was presented the Jane Freeman award. He and his wife, Linda, had been coming to Arizona since 1975 when they visited his parents who moved to Sun City from Wisconsin.

Once retired, Mr. Allen became active in the Sun Cities Historical Society and began studying the history of the Sun Cities. He assembled a team of volunteers to research

See Gala — Page 29



The Sun City Poms performing unit danced multiple sets for those who attended the Sun Cities Historical Society's inaugural gala fundraiser Nov. 10. The group also received the Spirit of Sun City award. See other award winners on Page 29.

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw



Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
Jim Sinclair, Sunshine Services director, presents Paul Herrmann, right, with the Friend of the Sun Cities award.

Gala

Continued From Page 2

the history of Sun City West and wrote the book "Sun City West Silver Celebration" for the community's 25th anniversary in 2003. He went on to develop talks on the Sun Cities and the lives of the men who put them on the map — Del Webb, John Meeker, Jim Boswell and others.

This year, he will have given 22 talks to local organizations.

Connie McMillin was given the President's award. A second generation Sun Citian who first visited when her parents moved to the retirement community in 1970.

Ms. McMillin became the first Sun Cities Historical Society member with an out-of-state mailing address. Over the years she attended many programs and became very active as a volunteer. While serving on the SCAHS Board of Trustees, she held various committee and board positions, including president.

Ms. McMillin is an active Theater Works and West Valley Art Museum board member. She was instrumental in the latter's relocation and affiliation with the city of Peoria. She is also a strong supporter of numerous arts organizations throughout the Valley.

The Sun City Poms were honored with

the Spirit of the Sun Cities award. Started in 1979 as cheerleaders for the Sun City Saints softball team, the group has evolved over the years.

Today it is two units — a marching unit and one for performances. Sponsored by Fry's, the group is highly energetic and demonstrates the group's dance standards. Some members even do acrobatics.

Performing with spunk and energy, these ladies have the time of their lives while sharing positive aspects of retirement and aging. They shatter the conventional images of senior citizens.

Paul Herrmann was selected for the Friend of the Sun Cities award. Born and raised in Chicago, Mr. Herrmann is a second generation Sun Citian.

He came to the community in 2000 and has served as Sun City Vistors Center executive director since 2002. He has also served on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (chairman in 2008) and on the boards of the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce, Sun City Community Fund, Sunshine Services and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

In addition, he has served on several Recreation centers of Sun City committees and has facilitated the Community Council of Sun City quarterly breakfast for several years.



Bret McKeand, Sun Cities Area Historical Society board president, Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw
Freeman award. presents Edson Allen with the Jane



Bret McKeand presents Connie McMillin with the President's award. Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

Museum sets first fundraising gala to honor residents

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will kick-off its 30th anniversary year with its first fundraising gala.

The event is scheduled 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 at the Sun City Country Club, 9860 W. Lindgren Ave.

The gala, which also serves at the organization's annual meeting, will feature entertainment by the Sun City Poms and a salute to several residents who have contributed to Sun City and Sun City West history.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society officially incorporated in 1986, soon after the celebration of Sun City's 25th anniversary. The society owns and operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, in one of the first five model homes built in 1960 by the Del Webb Corporation.

"The event is meant to celebrate the history of the Sun Cities and those who have played a role in making these communities what they are today," said Bret McKeand, Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees president.

Organizers hope the inaugural gala will start a trend.

"It is a fun event that we hope will become an annual celebration, but it's also meant to raise funds to sustain the museum and all it does to preserve and protect the history of the Sun Cities," Mr. McKeand said.



The first "Jubilee Gala" begins at 5 p.m. with a social gathering and silent auction. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the program.

Tickets are \$25 each for museum members and \$30 for nonmembers. Business

sponsorships are available.

The society is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

The Sun City Poms performance will include a salute to veterans.

The name of the event is tied to the organization's early beginnings, according to Mr. McKeand.

"One of the founders of the historical society — June Freeman — was co-author of the first extensive history of Sun City, a book called "Jubilee," that was published in conjunction with the community's 25th anniversary," he said.

Mr. McKeand added that in honor of Ms. Freeman, who recently died, the board believed it appropriate to link that title to the first fundraising gala.

Tickets are available by calling the museum at 623-974-2568 or by stopping by during open hours, 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, Nov. 1.

Gala Honorees

- Edson Allen, Sun City West, longtime historical society member and creator of several museum most popular exhibits. Authored "Sun City West Silver Anniversary."
- Constance McMillion, Sun City, another longtime historical society supporter and ardent arts supporter throughout the Valley, including the West Valley Art Museum and Theater Works.
- Paul Herrmann of Sun City, retiring director of the Sun City Visitors Center.
- The Sun City Poms, internationally recognized goodwill ambassadors representing the community and entertaining for more than four decades.



Submitted Photo/ courtesy of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
 Among the first buildings constructed in Sun City during the summer of 1959 and officially opened Jan. 1, 1960 were Oakmont Recreation Center, shown on the left, and five model homes.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society slates fundraising gala for Nov. 10

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will kick off its 30th anniversary year with its first-ever fundraising gala Nov. 10 at Union Hills Country Club.

The event, which also serves as the organization's annual meeting, will feature entertainment by the Sun City Poms and a salute to several residents who have contributed to the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society officially incorporated in 1986, soon after the celebration of Sun City's 25th anniversary. The society owns and operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, located in one of the first five model homes built in 1960 by the Del Web Corporation.

"The event is meant to celebrate the history of the Sun Cities and those who have played a role in making these communities what they are today," said Bret McKeand, president of the board of trustees.

"It's a fun event that we hope will be-

come an annual celebration, but it's also meant to raise funds to sustain the museum and all it does to preserve and protect the history of the Sun Cities," said Mr. McKeand.

The inaugural "Jubilee Gala" begins at 5 p.m. with a social and silent auction. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. followed by the program.

Tickets are \$25 each for museum members; \$30 for non-members. Business sponsorships are available as well. The society is a non-profit 501(3)(c) organization.

Union Hills Country Club is located at 9860 Lindgren Ave., Sun City.

This year's honorees include:

- Edson Allen of Sun City West, a long-time member of the historical society and creator of several of the museum's most popular exhibits. He also is author of "Sun City West Silver Anniversary."

- Constance McMillin of Sun City, another

See Gala — Page 22



Submitted Photos/ courtesy of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
 The home above — the first of the five model homes on Oakmont Avenue — is today home to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

NF IC Historical Soc. Independence October 21, 2015

Gala

Continued From Page 21

longtime supporter of the historical society and an ardent supporter of arts throughout the Valley of the Sun – including the West Valley Art Museum and Theater Works.

- Paul Herrmann of Sun City, retiring director of the Sun City Visitors Center.

- The Sun City Poms, the internationally recognized goodwill ambassadors who have represented the community and entertained crowds for over four decades.

The Sun City Poms will also perform, and present a special tribute to veterans.

The name of the event, said Mr. McKeand, is tied to the organization's early beginning.

"One of the founders of the historical society – Jane Freeman – was co-author

of the first extensive history of Sun City, a book called "Jubilee," that was published in conjunction with the community's 25th anniversary," he said.

"In honor of Jane, who recently passed away, we felt it appropriate to link that title to our first gala fundraiser," said Mr. McKeand.

Tickets are available by calling the museum at 974-2568 or by stopping by during open hours 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday

or Friday. The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

The deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 1.

Editor's note: Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA is pledged to declare to its readers any potential conflicts of interest. Readers should note that Bret McKeand, volunteer president of the historical society, also serves as president of Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA.

Museum exhibit features performing dance groups

The Sun Cities have long been touted as the place to retire and play golf as often as you want. And between Sun City and Sun City West, recreational baseball clubs today field 400 players, some into their 80s and 90s.

Now the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum features one of the four performing arts in a new display next to earlier local exhibits on baseball, softball and golf with pictures of Del Webb and Bob Hope.

The new exhibit allows visitors to choose from more than 50 performances of six dance clubs and two variety shows with a simple touch of a screen. "By touching 'Start Here,' visitors see and hear an introduction to the importance dance has played in the lives of Sun City and Sun City West residents over the past 50 years," says Curator Edson Allen.

Performing groups include Tip Top Dancers, Sun City Poms, Rhythm Tappers, Jazzy Poms, Dancing Arts, Hawaiian Dancers, Sun

City and Sun City West Variety Shows

The performing organizations selected acts they feel were among their best over the years, and guests can select their favorites to see in living color with music on equipment partially funded by a grant from the Arizona Historical Society and installed by Trustee Hal Lind.

Additional wall panels describe the history of other performing arts including theater, choral and orchestral groups.

Curator Allen has been working for almost three years on this exhibit with the help of students at Grand Canyon University and Dan Seabreeze of Seabreeze Design. The museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in Sun City (behind Oakmont Center) is open mid-September through mid-May from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Group tours of six or more may be arranged at other times, including during the summer, by a phone call to 623-974-2568.



Volunteer guide Yasmina Snider will take patrons on tour at the museum.

Submitted



Independent Newspapers/Bret McKeand

Danish students pay visit to Sun City

A group of students from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture in Copenhagen recently visited Sun City as part of a tour of California and Arizona studying urbanism, societal change and aging. During their visit to the community on Feb. 28, the group stopped off at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum to learn more about the history of Sun City. The museum, located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is located in one of the first five Sun City model homes opened in 1960. The museum is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but is hosting special Saturday hours 8 a.m.-noon through March 28.

VF IC Historical Soc Independent March 18, 2015

VF IC Historical Society Independent March 18, 2015



Independent Newspapers/Bret McKeand

Danish students pay visit to Sun City

A group of students from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture in Copenhagen recently visited Sun City as part of a tour of California and Arizona studying urbanism, societal change and aging. During their visit to the community on Feb. 28, the group stopped off at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum to learn more about the history of Sun City. The museum, located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is located in one of the first five Sun City model homes opened in 1960. The museum is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but is hosting special Saturday hours 8 a.m.-noon through March 28.

September 9, 2015

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Del Webb Museum opens Sept. 16

Now on the National Register of Historic Places, The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum reopens Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, just behind Oakmont Center.

Hours are 1-4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Sun City's only free-standing museum.

"It's been tough and go getting this historic designation, and we are both excited and relieved it has finally been accomplished," says Bret McKeand, president of the DWSCM Board.

The museum joins other Arizona historical sites: the Wrigley Mansion, Hunt's Tomb, Petrified Forest and Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

Mr. McKeand said it is a fitting honor to be recognized as one of the state and nation's historic landmarks.

The museum, in the smallest of the five Sun City 1960 model homes, features displays on Marinette (the community here before Sun City), Del Webb, the man and founder of the concept of active retirement, other Webb construction projects nationwide, local spectator and participator sports, and life in early Sun City.

An interactive, performing arts exhibit featuring eight Sun Cities dance groups recently opened, and the Sundome Jr. Theater, seating six in original Sundome seats, has been remodeled and now is air-conditioned.

Visitors to the museum may view an early



promotional film in the Sundome Jr. Guests are urged to allow at least an hour for museum tours, which include furnishings in a '60s-era living room, bathroom and kitchen. Books and note cards are on sale in the Jane Freeman Room.

There is no admission charge to the museum. Tours for six or more may be scheduled in the mornings.

Call 623-974-2568 for more information and to ask about volunteering opportunities as guides and office aides.

The museum is operated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, founded in 1985 to preserve and present the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

Editor's Note: Bret McKeand is Independent Newsmedia president.

Lif

VF IC Historical Society Independent September 9, 2015

VF IC
Daily News Sun
October 29, 2015

GALA

Museum fundraiser set at Union Hills CC

STAFF REPORT

The Del Webb Sun Cities museum, now on the National Register of Historic Places, will have a fundraising gala Nov. 10 at Union Hills Country Club, 9860 Lindgren Ave.

There will be door prizes, awards to members of the community for service, food and a silent auction.

Diners may choose from Mediterranean chicken or baked tilapia for the event, which begins at 5 p.m. with a

social and silent auction. Following the 6 p.m. dinner will be the membership meeting and program.

Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Business sponsorships are available.

The Sun City Poms, the official Sun City goodwill ambassadors, will be honored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and will perform a short patriotic program.

The Jubilee Gala is the kickoff of the society's 30th

anniversary in 2016, and a short annual fall membership meeting will be conducted during the event to elect new trustees and summarize the year's activities.

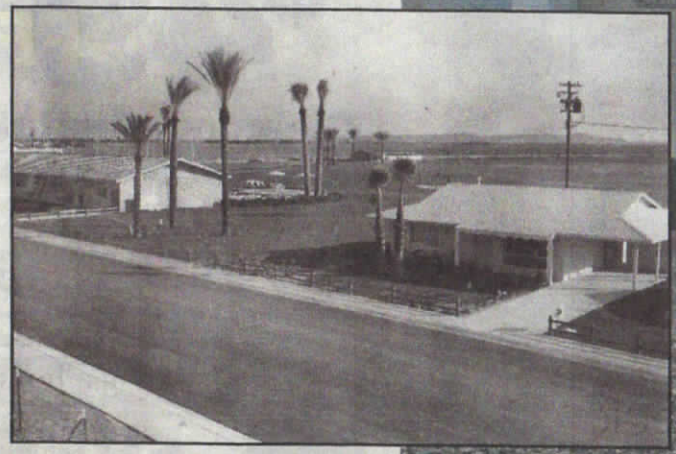
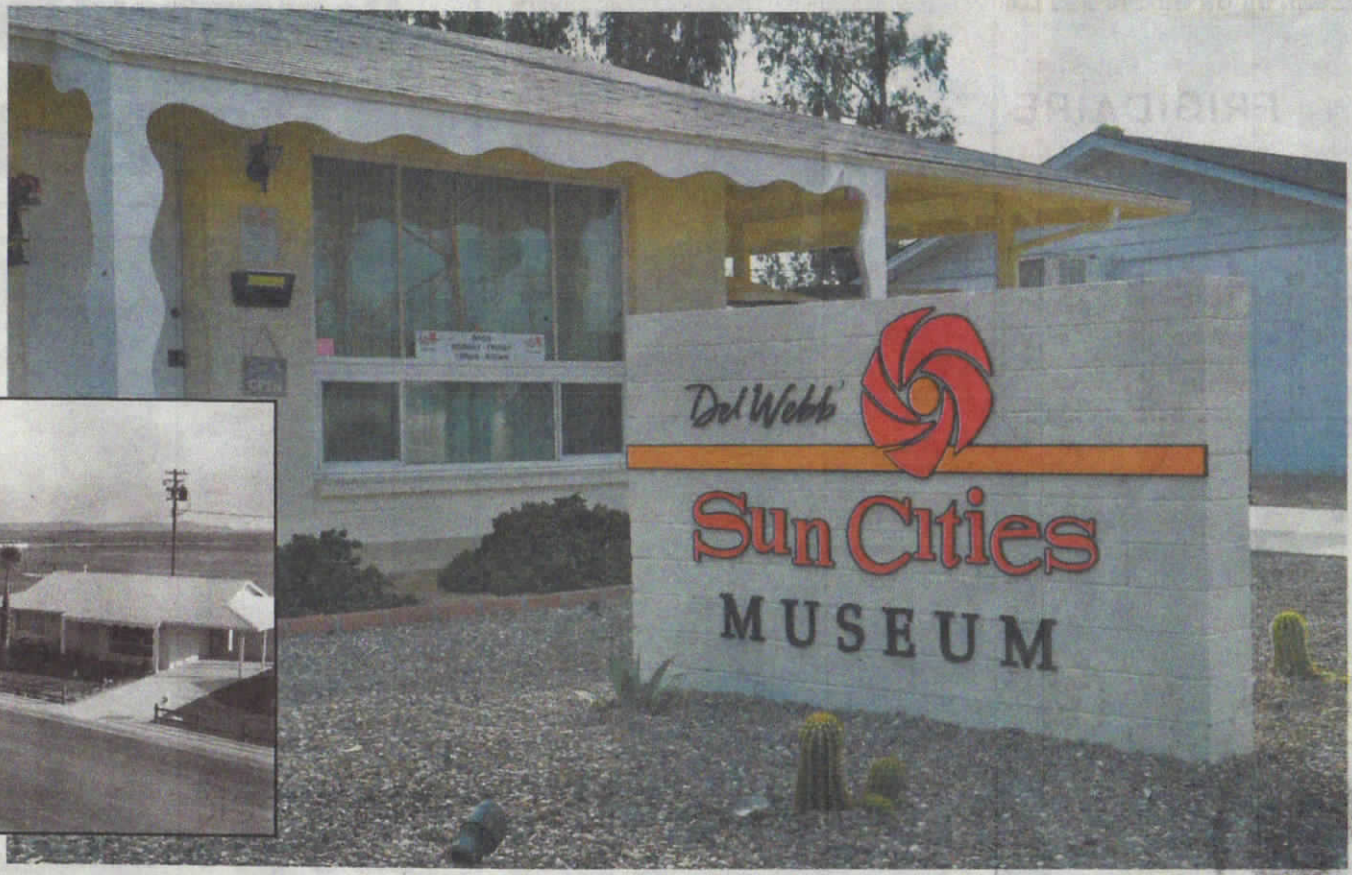
Deadline for reservations is Sunday. Reservations may be made by calling the museum at 623-974-2568 or visiting it at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave. (behind Oakmont Center) from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Cash or checks only are accepted.

HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sun City museum gets historic designation

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum as it appeared shortly after the community first opened in 1960 and as it appears today. The museum, which reopens to the public in September, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.



When the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum reopens to the public this fall, it will do so with a new and unique designation: The only building in the Sun Cities now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Museum officials were notified last spring that after several years of applying for the

designation, the museum was finally granted historic status.

The museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in Sun City, is home to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The organization was created in 1985 with a mission to preserve and present the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

The museum is located in one of the first five model homes built by the Del E. Webb Corporation in 1960 as it prepared to launch Sun City, the nation's first master-planned, active-adult retirement community. The community opened to the public Jan. 1, 1960. The five model homes, along

See Museum — Page 4

August 26, 2015

SPOTLIGHT

Museum

Continued From Page 1

with the Performing Arts Center and a golf course, were open to the public on that first weekend.

The home has been restored and features rotating exhibits focusing on the history of the community, as well as its developer — Del E. Webb — and the clubs and organizations in the retirement communities.

"We're extremely proud of our

museum and think it's a fitting honor to be recognized as one of our nation's historic landmarks," said Bret McKeand, museum Board of Trustees president.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The list is overseen by the National Park Service.

Presently there are over 80,000 places on the list. Other Arizona locations on the list include the Wrigley Mansion, Hunt's Tomb, Petrified Forest and Canyon de Chelly Na-

tional Monument.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum becomes the first property in either Sun City or Sun City West to earn the designation.

The museum is closed during the summer and is expected to reopen Wednesday, Sept. 16. Museum hours are 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

When the museum opens this fall, exhibits include a celebration of the performing arts in the Sun Cities, a display honoring Del E. Webb and a new tribute to the Sun-

dome Center for Performing Arts.

The museum is a nonprofit organization and relies on memberships for its funding. Call 623-974-2568 or visit delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org for information on supporting the organization.

Editor's note: In an effort to disclose any and all potential conflicts of interest to our readers, readers should note that Bret McKeand, president of the museum Board of Trustees, is also the Arizona President of Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA.



Del Webb museum honors homemakers with aprons

PAGE A6

Priscilla Fenner from the Del Webb Museum shows a few of the vintage aprons that will be a part of the upcoming spring exhibition of aprons worn during the 60s and 70s at the museum in Sun City. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

Del Webb Museum honors homemakers with aprons



The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in Sun City is preparing for the upcoming spring exhibition of aprons worn during the 1960s and 1970s. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]



Priscilla Fenner from the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum shows a few of the vintage aprons that will be a part of the upcoming spring exhibition at the museum in Sun City. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

Del Webb Museum honors homemakers with aprons

By Denelle Dunn
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is tying the past to the present with the help of apron strings.

The museum is honoring homemakers from the '60s to '80s later this month by displaying donated aprons made from a variety of materials such as chiffon and taffeta; others have been crocheted.

IF YOU GO

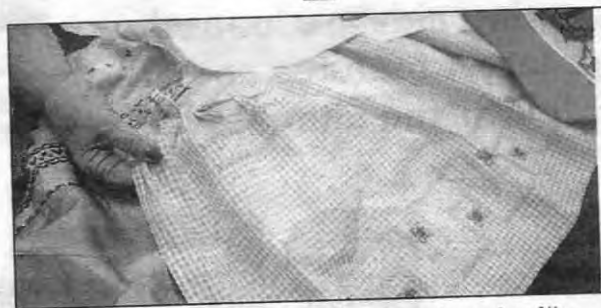
WHAT: Aprons Our Mothers Wore exhibit

WHERE: Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City

WHEN: Opens Feb. 14 from 1-4 p.m., runs through March

Aprons used 50 or more years ago were not just to prevent stains during cook-

» See Aprons on page A5



Priscilla Fenner from the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum shows a few of the vintage aprons that will be a part of the upcoming spring exhibition at the museum in Sun City. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

Aprons

» From page A1

ing but also were a fashion statement while worn at dinners or parties, according to museum intake coordinator Priscilla Fenner.

"I think these aprons will draw a lot more women to the museum. Some of these aprons are homemade," she said.

The museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, features a model of what a kitchen looked like 54 years ago in Sun City along with a vintage living room set.

The Del Webb museum will debut the exhibit, "Aprons Our Mothers Wore," from 1-4 p.m. Feb. 14 and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 15. The show will run through March along with a new expanded Marquette exhibit.

For information about the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum call 623-974-2568.

By Denelle Dunn

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is tying the past to the present with the help of apron strings.

The museum is honoring homemakers from the '60s to '80s later this month by displaying donated aprons made from a variety of materials such as chiffon and taffeta; others have been crocheted.

Aprons used 50 or more years ago were not just to prevent stains during cooking but also were a fashion statement while worn at dinners or parties, according to museum intake coordinator Priscilla Fenner.

"I think these aprons will draw a lot more women to the museum. Some of these aprons are homemade," she said.

The museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, features a model of what a kitchen looked like 54 years ago in Sun City along with a vintage living room set.

The Del Webb museum will debut the exhibit, "Aprons Our Mothers Wore," from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 14 and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 15. The show will run through March along with a new expanded Marinette exhibit.

For information about the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum call 623-974-2568.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Aprons Our Mothers Wore exhibit

WHERE: Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City

WHEN: Opens Feb. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m., runs through March



Priscilla Fenner from the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum shows a few of the vintage aprons that will be a part of the upcoming Spring exhibition at the museum in Sun City. [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

January 29, 2014

Museum seeks vintage aprons of 1960s, 70s

Aprons were passed down from mother to daughters, and some were brought here during the early days in Sun City and Sun City West. Others were made here in sewing classes. They all were the icons of the first homemakers, and some will soon be displayed in the smallest of Sun City's first model homes opened 54 years ago this month.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in that small home, hopes that perhaps the second generation families here still have them and may even be still wearing these aprons. They can now be properly honored if loaned for an exhibit in the Jane Freeman Room and on the McMillin Terrace this spring. The show is titled "Aprons your mother wore - icons of the Sun Cities' first homemakers."

Donations should be limited to two aprons per donor and one pattern.

Following are the instructions for the aprons to be loaned and/or donated:

1. Worn in Sun City or Sun City West during the 1960s and '70s. (They may have been made many years earlier.)

2. Clean and ironed and pinned on to hangers.

3. Delivered to the museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive (behind Oakmont Center) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30.

4. The donor should be prepared to share where, when and who details suitable for use if the apron(s) are selected for display.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will open the show early in February to run through April.

Call Pris Fenner, intake coordinator, at 623-977-3305.

Where it all began: Del Webb Sun Cities Museum expands Marinette exhibit

By P. Atwood Fenner
Special to the Independent

A newly expanded exhibit at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum provides visitors a glimpse into what life was like in the community that once existed prior to the development of Sun City.

Those who visit the museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive now first walk past images of Marinette, the early community that was once located on land that was to become Sun City.

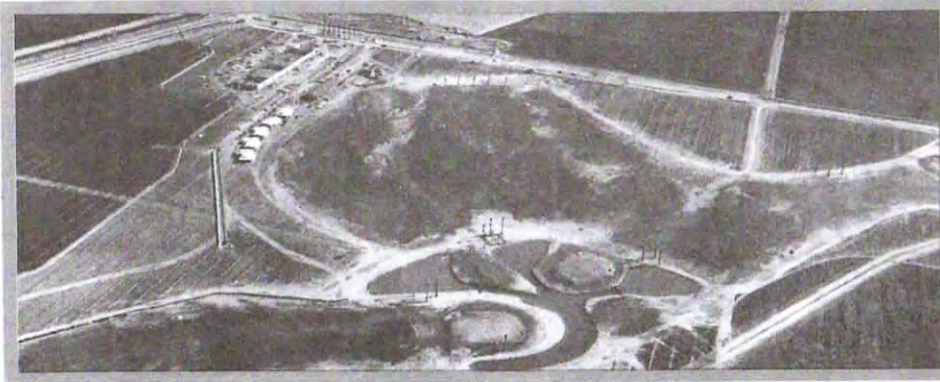
The museum has unveiled "Where It All Began - Marinette," an expanded exhibit covering the years from 1895 to 1959. The new display, located in the museum's living room, was mounted after the museum closed for the summer in

June.

The display, designed by museum trustee Ed Allen, is divided into three time periods and illustrated with old photos, many of which were provided by Amanda Durand, who grew up in Phoenix and Marinette and who still lives in Sun City.

The last panel describes the area in which her parents ran the general store, and many family photos add a personal touch to the displays. A grant from the Arizona Historical Society made the display possible.

Amanda (Mandy) visited the museum recently, a lithe-figured little lady dressed in red and wearing a red hat. She seemed to enjoy the new exhibit, which includes her 1947 wedding photo. **Continues on Page 2**



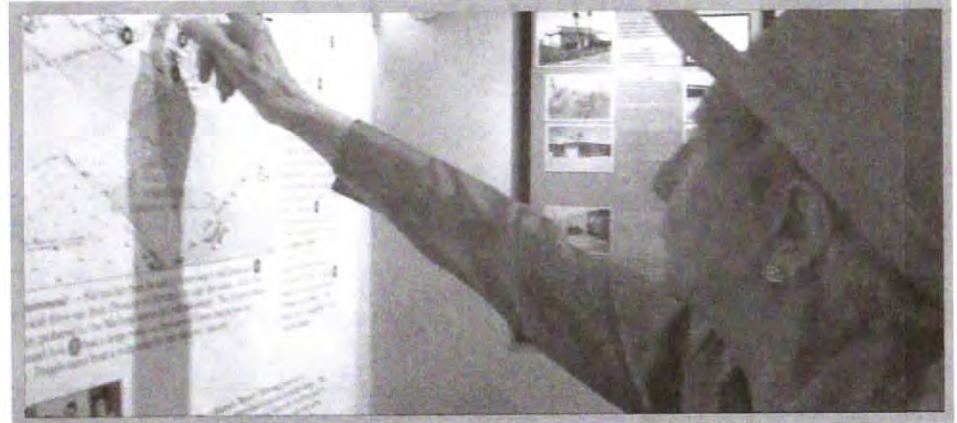
From a photograph taken in 1959 -- just months prior to the official opening of Sun City -- Del Webb workers construct the first model homes, recreation center and golf course at 107th Avenue just south of Grand Avenue. The land to the east is still being cultivated for cotton and a few buildings remain in what was the Town of Marinette. Within months, all signs of Marinette would be gone forever. A plaque denoting the existence of Marinette and located on a marker at 105th and Grand avenues is all that still remains to prove a town called Marinette once thrived in the Northwest Valley.

Continued from Page 1

Always eager to talk about the old days, she recounted much about her life here where John Durand, her early childhood friend, then her husband, managed cotton gin operations for "Jimmy" Boswell who eventually sold his fields to Del Webb.

Mandy was charged with keeping track of the locations from which the cotton being ginned had been harvested. She still has the charts she used for that work.

At one point after Sun City builders had been working on Phase II, she and John had planned to move to San Diego, but "Jimmy" couldn't spare John, who was setting up a new cotton gin. And in spite of the fact that both John and Mandy were too young to own a home in Sun City, "Jimmie" managed to arrange for the Durands to buy a home in Sun City. He would have loaned them money, but they had enough to pay cash for their home on Sarabande. This was only



Amanda Durand studies the last panel in the new Marinette exhibit on the living room wall in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. The panel includes a photo of Ms. Durand and her husband on their wedding day in 1947. Ms. Durand grew up in the Town of Marinette and now lives in Sun City.

Photos courtesy of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

a few blocks from Mandy's mother's home on 111th Avenue near Grand Avenue.

Mandy has been one of the main sources for the museum's materials on Marinette, and John drew the area map that is featured in the display. The late Jane Freeman, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society founder, first contacted her in 1976, when Mandy sold real estate and Jane was president of the Questers, who were trying to locate the early post offices

in the area.

Mandy still gives talks on the history of the area and contributed material to "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona."

The museum is open to the public 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Admission is free.

Call (623) 974-2568, or visit delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Volunteers and docents are always needed.

Museum to sell note cards with Sun City

landmark scenes

By P. Atwood

Special to the Independent

Just in time for the holiday shopping season, the Del Webb Sun City Museum will soon begin selling note cards depicting five different Sun City landmark scenes originally drawn by local artist Jeanette Kimble.

Thanks to an anonymous cash donation, the five original design Sun City landmark scenes are now at the printers and expected to be available to the public in November. The set of five pencil drawings are to be printed as blank note cards with matching envelopes and will be available for sale.

Former board member Arlene Macy had shown the Museum board the set produced in Sun City West, and when artist Jeanette Kimble suddenly arrived at the museum a year ago to volunteer, the new fundraiser project was conceived - that of Sun City note cards for the museum to sell.

Jeanette has spent the year sketching the scenes selected by the board: The museum building, the Del E. Webb and Liberty Bell statues at Bell Center, the sundial at Sundial Center, and the waterfall on Meeker Mountain behind Lakeview Center.

The artist began painting at age 10 in Danville, Ill. and also designed her own paper doll clothes. But she considers portraits her forte. At one

Related story, Page 6

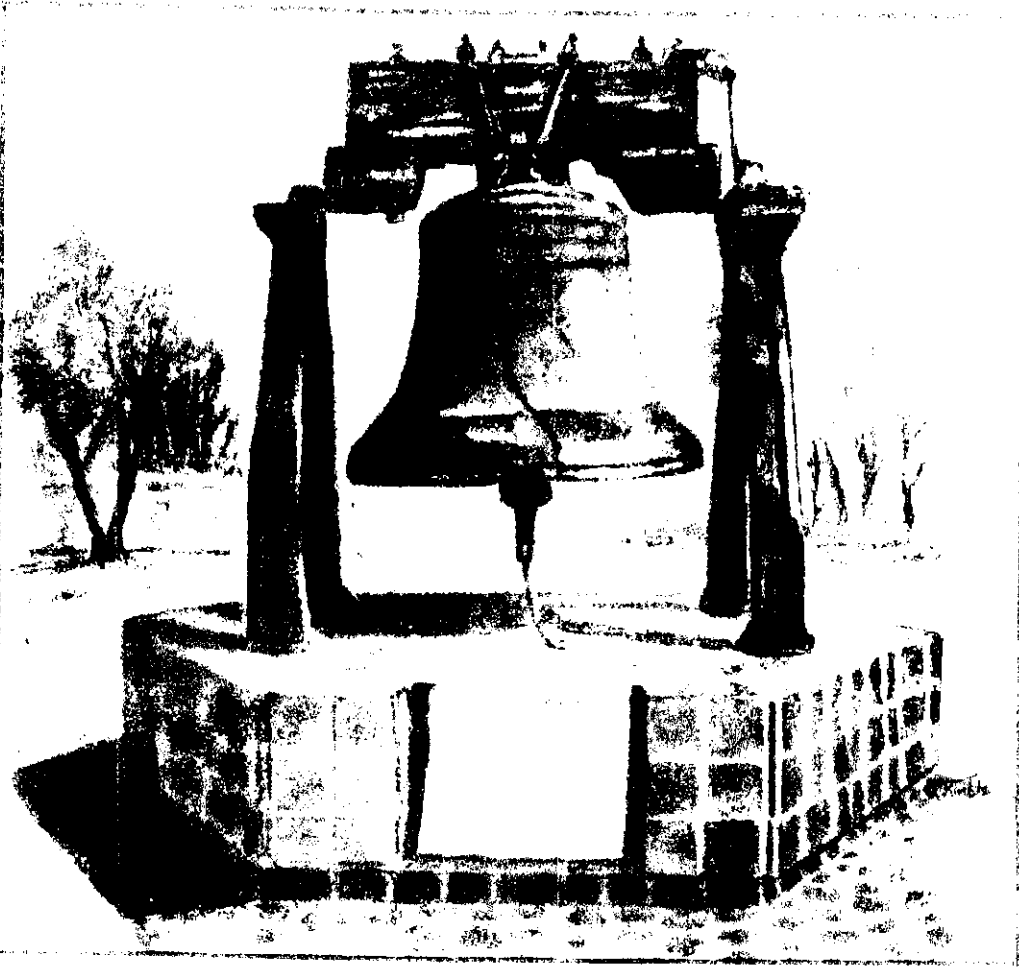
point in her life she ran a restaurant, and in the evenings did more than 40 portraits of customers, which hung in the restaurant to the delight of the diners in Hebron, Ind.

Jeanette also did pencil sketches of Merrivale, Ind. for the 1976 Book of Historical Buildings and included what residents had to say about their community.

"I've always been fascinated by old things and love history," she says. In Arizona she has made detailed pencil drawings of more than 50 historical buildings, many in the West Valley. And as producer of a recent Sun City Players Community Theater play, she painted scenery and paintings used on the set.

Her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education are from Indiana University, and her Ph.D. in philosophy and psychiatry was earned at Indiana State. She also studied at the Art Institute of Chicago.

After retiring in Indiana as an evaluator of art and music department curriculum at the state level, she moved to Arizona in 1984. She founded the Peoria Art League and was on the Peoria Arts Commission. They sent her to Peoria's sister city in Ireland where artists were her tour guides, and Jeanette was invited to have a showing of her work.



She has taught art privately in Glendale for the past 12 years and in Peoria for five years. Her current project is writing a curriculum for elementary art teachers.

She believes that art should be taught across the curriculum such as in geology and other science classes. She hopes teachers will develop visual perception in their students with methods she developed as a teacher, because her own art teachers had lacked a methodology.

"I plan to send a copy of my book to the Indiana State Superintendent of Schools who wants his art teachers do learn how to teach art - which is more than just pretty pictures,"

she said.

Card Project Coordinator Pris Fenner will organize volunteers to assemble the packages with two cards and envelopes of each scene, printed in brown ink on ivory stock. Each bears a short historical identification crediting Jeanette and the museum.

The cards are printed by Moore Graphics in Youngtown.

"As far as I know there are not even any postcards of Sun City available in Sun City at this time," said Ms. Fenner. "So these will make great gifts for those who still prefer to send thank-you's and invitations written by hand," she added.

Highlighting Your Community

NOVEMBER 2014

VF ID Historical Society Spotlight Nov. 2014

Sun City's history clicks on website

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has committed to sharing Sun City's past with residents and outsiders alike, but it always comes back to the same issue:

"We have all these amazing things to share, but getting people to come out to the museum — that's the problem," said Judy Baerg, office manager. "So that's why we cre-

SEE MUSEUM, A5

MUSEUM

FROM A1

ated the website."

She conceded it was "not very good."

When the society decided to put more of its focus and effort into the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, Baerg said they knew they needed a more effective online presence.

"Our goal is to share Sun City's history, and the museum is our most effective tool. But we weren't doing everything we could," she said.

"I think what we realized was that we were doing a very good job of cataloging all this information but not a very good job of sharing it. And like Bill (Pearson, president) always says, "What is the use of having all these great pieces of history if nobody knows about them?"

As a result, what used to be a website with contact information and little

else has been transformed into an online archive, a database of much of the museum's pieces with more added every day. The new site went live about six weeks ago, and Baerg said it is already drawing many more visits.

"We have hundreds of ads, brochures, all kinds of things from the beginning of Sun City, all available to view on the site," she said. "We're not finished yet. We have about 600 items in there now, with probably thousands more still to be added, but it's a good start."

The site also includes a blog written by Pearson, called Sun Cities Today. The intention of the blog will be to focus more on present-day Sun City and what lessons from its history can apply today. Pearson wrote in an introductory post that he envisions the blog as a meeting place of sorts for people interested in Sun Cities history to have meaningful discussions.

On top of all that, Baerg said the

society is preparing a new display for the museum, one dedicated to Sun City West.

"We're planning to finish it sometime in November. We'll have a big gala opening to celebrate," she said.

The goal, she said, is simple: get people in the door.

"Our whole focus here is on getting people to the museum. Once they get here, it is so easy for them to get lost in all the history."

The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Summer hours through November are 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday and Saturday as well as 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

Beginning in October, the museum will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

For information, visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

Museum showcases ads that changed a nation

By Bret McKean
Independent Newspapers

The 1960s were a tumultuous time. The assassination of a president. The Civil Rights struggle. The war in Vietnam.

It was a time of change for the nation and the world, and Arizona, too, was about to find itself on the cutting edge of change with the launch of a new concept in retirement housing.

In 1960, the Del Webb Corporation launched its newest project - an active-adult retirement community called Sun City. It would be the very first multi-generational retirement community ever created - and it would move most "experts"

said would fail. Seniors, they believed, would not leave their siblings and relatives to move to the middle of the desert.

And why should they? At that particular era in time, retirement was the gold watch and sitting on the couch watching the remainder of their life pass them by. Del Webb saw the potential of changing that by creating an active retirement lifestyle where every amenity was included in the purchase of a new home in Sun City.

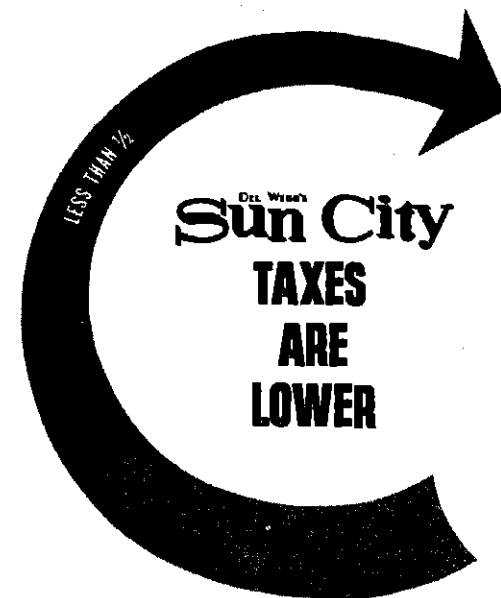
Just building it was not enough. The advertising staff at the Del Webb Corporation realized it needed to paint a picture in the minds of potential buyers that would move them to look

at retirement in a wholly different way.

What they created was a series of unique advertisements that focused on an image rather than a product. Most of the advertisements featured actual residents living and playing in Sun City -- having fun and enjoying their golden years.

Many of the advertisements appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the Midwest and East during the winter months, so naturally, the content also highlighted the weather - and residents enjoying outdoor activities.

Continues on Page 7



If you're lucky enough to be 50 or more you can live in Sun City next year and save all that money

Advertisements reproduced courtesy Pulte Corp./Del Webb Corp. All advertisements provided by the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

UF IC Historical Society Daily News Sun November 20, 2014

DESIGN

Note cards depict Sun City scenes

STAFF REPORT

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is selling historical Sun City Landmark note cards designed by artist Jannette Kimble.

The cards are printed on ecru stock with brown ink and include four pencil drawings of the giant Sundial, Del Webb Statue and Sun Cities Museum in a 1960 model home and the Liberty Bell; and an oil painting of the waterfall on Meeker Mountain at Lakeview Center. Each has a short historical description on the back of the card.

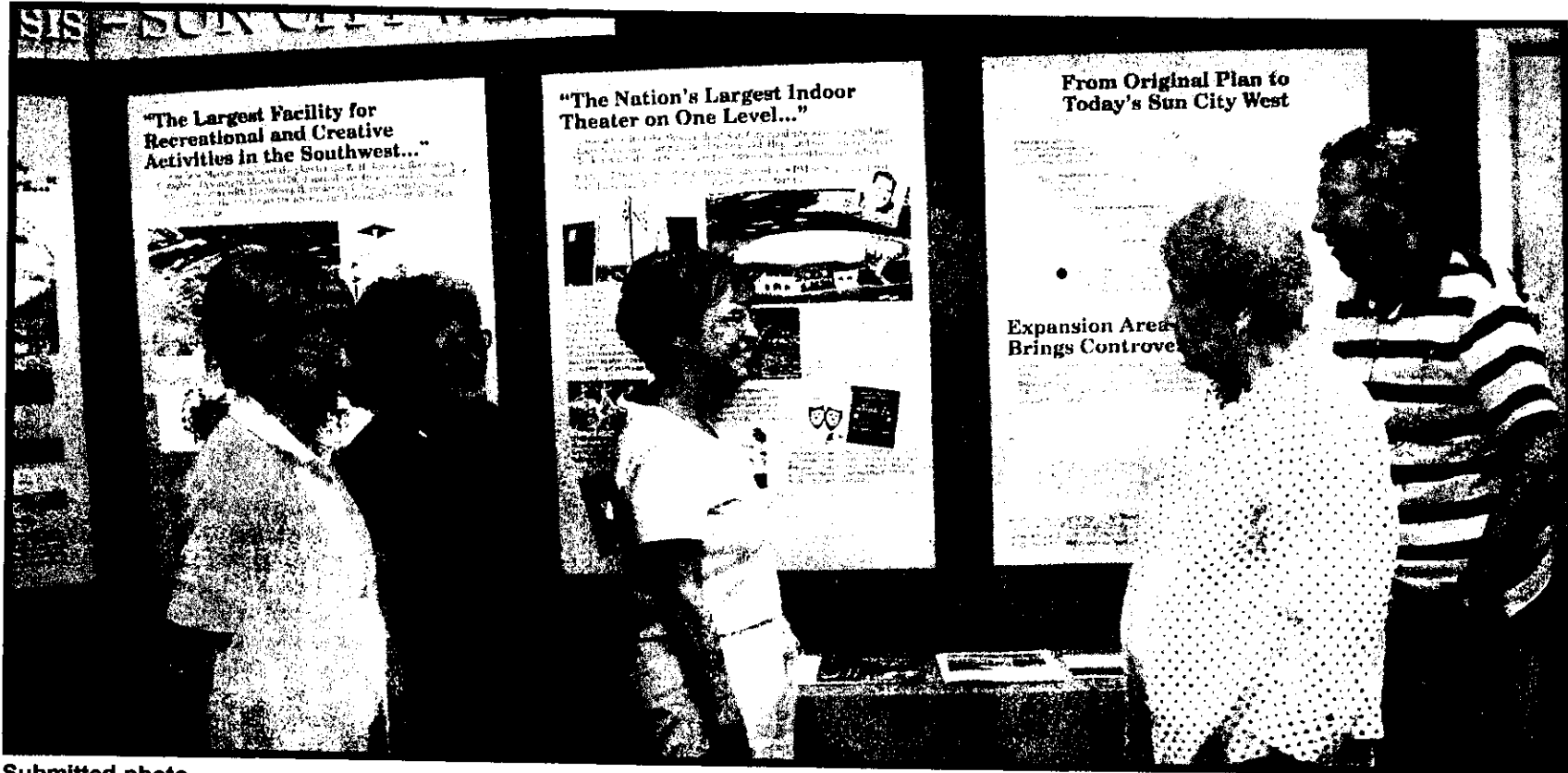
The cards and envelopes are packaged in sets of two and sell for \$10 (\$9 for mu-

seum members).

The cards are available at the museum, which is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, and at the Sun City Visitors' Center, located across from the entrance to the Maricopa County Sun City Branch Library in Bell Center.

Kimble volunteered her skills for this project, which has been under way for over a year. They were printed by Moore Graphics in Youngtown.

Museum hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Sun City Visitors' Center's hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



Submitted photo

Gail Warmath shows visitors Jerry and Shirley Wyatt through the kitchen of the Museum. Two new Museum Guides, Marion West and Hoppi Lilien shadow Museum Volunteer Coordinator Gail Warmath as she discusses the Sun City West exhibit with visitors Shirley and Jerry Wyatt. The Wyatts have recently moved to Sun City from Sun City Grand, where they lived for 16 years.

Sharing history

New museum guides train by shadowing seasoned ones

By P. Atwood Fenner
Special to Sp

Gail Warmath, the new volunteer coordinator for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, is busy these days training a few new guides.

"The training mostly involves shadowing a seasoned guide. Newcomers will always be paired with another who knows the ropes for the first few months," says Ms. Warmath.

On a recent Monday, Gail was training Marion West and Hoppi Lilien. They shadowed her as she welcomed guests and gave brief information about the new Marinette exhibit and existing exhibits focusing on the opening days of Sun City, Del E. Webb, Sun Cities sports and Sun City West.

And then the two newcomers joined the visitors for a showing of the short film distributed in the early 1960s by the Del E. Webb Corp. to televisions all over the country.

Gail brings years of experience as a volunteer at the Sun City Library to her new volunteer position at the museum, where she still is a docent and now also serves as a trustee.

Marion West moved to Sun City in 1987 and remembers being a guest before that at the old King's Inn. During that visit she was tempted and

picked a luscious orange hanging on a tree on the motel grounds.

"It was awful – so sour!" she laughed, admitting that she didn't know then about sour oranges, which are used mainly to make marmalade. She has had volunteer experience at an early Interfaith Services Day Care Center and also at Boswell Hospital. In both volunteer situations she says she really likes people, and that kept her motivated.

She also remembers how much fun it was to go to Cactus League baseball games when Sun City had a ballpark at 111th and Grand avenues.

The other new volunteer, Hoppi Lilien, has lived in Sun City less than a year. She also is a "people person" and once owned her own restaurant. She meets people easily (some of them in the new dog park at Thunderbird Road and Del Webb Boulevard) and likes to help them with their extraordinary needs – finding a mover or matching a playwright with someone with editing skills, for examples.

One of the interesting highlights of Gail's years as a museum guide came last summer when she conducted a private tour of the museum for a small group of mixed-ages Chinese residents. She was surprised at the nature of their questions, which she answered through an interpreter.

"They wanted to know who owned things like

our hospital, the businesses, utility companies and so on," she says.

When asked what is the most difficult aspect of her volunteer duties, she admits it upsets her if she gets a question she cannot answer. She had had a background answering reference questions and loves history, and when she is stumped she always tells the person, she will ask someone else and get back to them.

Gail admits the museum is a "fascinating place to work because so many neat people come through it."

And sometimes life goes in circles. Many years ago while working for Interfaith Services, she found a home for an 82-year old African American. And while she was doing this, he told her that he had once worked for the Boswells, picking cotton in town of Marinette –the town that once existed where Sun City now exists.

"Marinette, what's that?" she asked.

She now knows the answer to that question, and provides that information to every visitor who enters the museum.

The museum is always in need of volunteers to serve as museum guides. For information, contact the museum at 623-974-2568. The museum is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Happy New Year

Daily News-Sun

www.yourwestvalley.com

VF IC Historical Society

3 • Business A24 • Opinion A11 • Worth the Trip A6 • Puzzles, A13, A14, A17, A18 • C

2013

SUN CITY: YEAR IN REVIEW

Community bids farewell to its 'first lady'

By Richard Smith
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In 2013, Sun City said goodbye to a true champion for the community and its people.

Jane Freeman, one of the founders of Meals on Wheels, Sunshine Service and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, was fondly remembered at her memorial service in June at Faith Presbyterian Church.

Called "The First Lady of Sun City," Freeman died May 17 at the age of 93. She co-authored, with Glenn Sanberg, the book, "Jubilee," the 25th anniversary of Sun City.

Freeman "rescued over 3,000 photos and pieces of memorabilia that were thrown in the Dumpster," thereafter being called "Dumpster diva."

The photos and memorabilia found their way into the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. She talked James Boswell II into purchasing the house where the museum is located for \$50,000.

An advocate of the elderly through Sun Health, she also served on the board. Freeman delivered food to people with Meals on Wheels, was



Jane Freeman, an author of "Jubilee," photographed with her book. [File photo]

active in Interfaith, now Benavilla, served on many other boards and was active in other organizations, he said.

Her awards included being named Woman of the Year by the Daily News-Sun in 1981, Outstanding Citizen of Sun City in 1988, the Hon Kachina Award in 1990, and the Interfaith Mini Harlow Humanitarian Award in 2003.

Sun City Spotlight January 2014

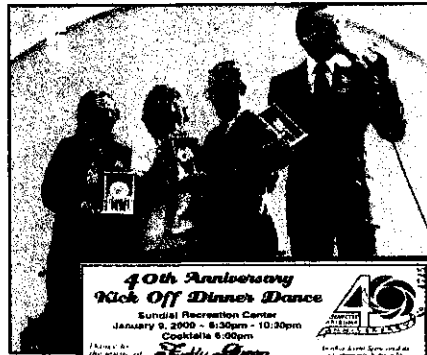
Happy Birthday Sun City!

Nation's first active-adult retirement community turns 54 on Jan. 1

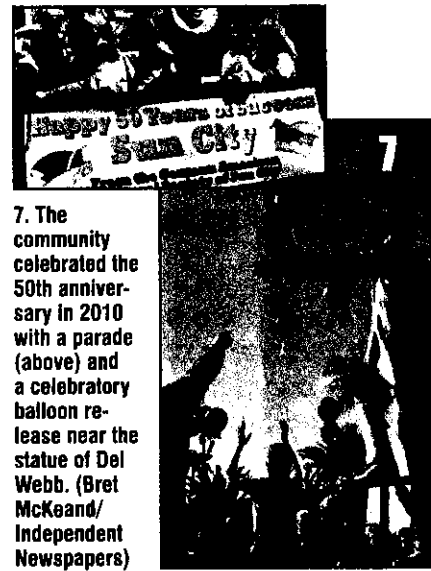
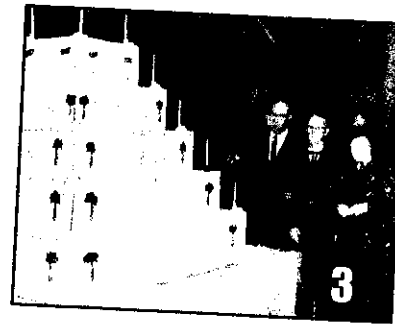
The Del E. Webb Corporation officially opened Sun City to the public on Jan. 1, 1960. Throughout the decades that followed, the community and its residents have chosen the first of the year to celebrate the founding of the community. A look back through the years: 1.) Year 1: Ralph Hawley, left, president of the Sun City Civic Association, and Tom Austin, DEVCO coordinator, hold a first anniversary birthday cake, January 1961. (Photo courtesy Sun Cities Area Historical Society.) 2.) Year 2: Residents celebrated the community's second anniversary in January 1962. May and George Baynes, the couple on the right, were the first to move to Arizona from out of state. Mrs. Charles Slatten, left, baked the big cake. (Photo courtesy Sun Cities Area Historical Society.)



3.) Year 5: Fifth anniversary celebration in January 1965. Del Webb cuts the five-tier birthday cake. In costume are Mel and Etta Phelps. Mr. Phelps died in 1987 at age 97. 4.) Year 10: Myron Floren of the Lawrence Welk Orchestra signs autographs during a concert held in January 1970 at the Sun Bowl. The concert was in celebration of the community's 10th anniversary. 5.) During a concert in 1990 to mark the community's 30th anniversary, several community leaders were honored for their service to Sun City. (Bret McKeand/Independent Newspapers). 6.) A ticket to the 40th anniversary dinner-dance.



6



7. The community celebrated the 50th anniversary in 2010 with a parade (above) and a celebratory balloon release near the statue of Del Webb. (Bret McKeand/Independent Newspapers)

More Sun City Anniversary Photos Online at arizona.newszap.com

Jane Freeman; A tribute to Sun City's 'First Lady'

By Bret McKeand
Independent Newspapers

Throughout Sun City's 53-year history, there have been many who have gone above and beyond the call of duty when it came time to giving back to their newly adopted hometown.

There have been few, if any, whose contributions will ever match those made by Jane Freeman.

Referred to by many as "The First Lady of Sun City," Jane Freeman passed away May 17 in Sun City.



Other than a room named in her honor at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, there are few monuments created in her honor. Yet, her work, her passion and her love for Sun City can be seen and felt throughout the entire community.

Jane moved to Sun City in 1970, and quickly embraced the lifestyle -- and volunteer spirit -- that was already prevalent in Del Webb's "experiment" of a community. Few knew at the time that Jane would not only perpetuate that spirit, but take it to a level few would ever match.

One of the first to recognize the significance of Sun City's title as the nation's first active adult retirement community, in 1985 Jane spearheaded the first in-depth history of the community. The result was "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City," a book co-written by Glenn Sanberg and released in time for the community's silver anniversary celebration. The book is still popular among history buffs and a popular item at the museum.

Jane earned the title of "Dumpster Diving Diva" around this same time when she climbed into a large trash bin to rescue old Sun City photographs, brochures and other memorabilia discarded by the Del Webb Development Co. after it closed its Sun City office and shifted its focus on the newly created community of Sun City West.

Jane's efforts saved over 3,000 historic photographs dating back to the very beginning of Sun City. Those photographs and archives served as the foundation for the beginning of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, an organization Jane helped create and operate.

Those photographs today are housed in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, which is located in one of the very first model homes constructed in Sun City. The home became available in 1989, and it was Jane who convinced James Boswell II -- Del Webb's early partner in the development of Sun City -- to donate the \$50,000 needed for the society to purchase the house.

But her accomplishments and contributions don't start or end with the historical society.

- She was one of the founders of the

Lady

Continued From Page 6

Meals on Wheels program in Sun City and herself delivered food to her homebound neighbors.

- She was actively involved for a number of years with Sun Health to help improve the quality of medical care to the elderly, and served on several Sun Health boards.

- She was instrumental in securing the first permanent site for Rio Salado Community College classes in Sun City. A long-time advocate for education, Jane retired to Sun City after a career in higher education that included a position as Dean of Students at the State University of New York in Rockland.

- She's been honored by her community and others in just about every way possible, including the Daily News-Sun's "Woman of the Year" honor in 1981, and the prestigious Hon Kachina Award in 1990 to name a few.

- She supported the local library, promoted the Sun City Community Fund and much, much more.

I first met Jane in 1983, shortly after I began working as a reporter for the Sun City Independent. We quickly became friends, and I quickly learned that Jane was an important contact – someone who not only knew the inner workings of Sun City, but someone who was then, and always would be, straightforward and honest with me.

For many years the Independent sponsored a holiday lights contest and we enlisted the help of community leaders to judge entries submitted by our readers. Jane was one of our most loyal judges and for many years she and I would drive the streets of Sun City to judge that year's entrants. She always looked forward to the contest and enjoyed it immensely – and would often

bring it up in conversation many years after we stopped sponsoring the contest. Truth be told, the pleasure was all mine.

In the early 1990s, she and I also traveled together to a remote spot in the middle of the desert to hear of a "big" announcement to be made by the Del Webb Corp. That announcement turned out to be the unveiling of the company's newest retirement community – Sun City Grand. We both agreed Webb had overstepped its ambition on this one. Sun City Grand was just too far out in the middle of nowhere for it to be successful. Our bias for the original Sun City clearly clouded our judgment – we were dead wrong on that prediction!

Jane's love of her adopted hometown was contagious. All of those who came into contact with her over the years walked away with a better understanding of Sun City and what made it so unique and desirable.

I certainly shared her passion for Sun City, but more important I always admired and respected her incredible desire to do good things. She was a rare breed. She believed that one person could make a huge difference in the world. If you want positive change, don't rely on others to make it happen. Roll up your sleeves – or jump in a dumpster if need be – and make it happen.

Those who knew her know Sun City has lost a true friend.

The woman who wrote the first "official" history of Sun City never considered herself important, nor did she ever want any glory or attention focused on her. But when the final history of Sun City is written, the list of those most responsible for the success of this great community will most certainly contain the name of Jane Freeman.

Editor's note: Bret McKeand is the former editor and publisher of the Sun City Independent, and current president of Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. He can be reached at bmckeand@newszap.com.

5/28/13

Jane Freeman Obituary: Jane Freeman's Obituary by the Daily News-Sun.

Jane J. Freeman

Long time resident and community leader, Jane J. Freeman, passed away May 17, 2013 in Sun City, AZ. She was born April 8, 1920 in Erie, PA.

Jane will be remembered for her friendly smile and her many contributions to the Sun City community. Among her many accomplishments Jane served as President of Sun City Meals on Wheels, was a member of the Board of Directors of the Sun City Library and founding member and President of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

During the 25th Silver Anniversary Celebration of Sun City Jane coauthored a book entitled "Jubilee" which highlighted the development and growth of the Sun City retirement community.

In 1981 Jane was named as "Woman of the Year" and in 1988 Jane was honored as "Outstanding Citizen" of Sun City. Born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, Jane moved to Sun City in the early 1970's and considered Sun City to be her home.

A memorial service will be held in honor of Jane at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 6, 2013 at Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, Arizona 85351. In lieu of flowers please make a contribution to a local [charity of your choice](#) in honor of Jane. Please visit www.menkefuneralhome.com to share memories and leave condolences for the family. Visit this person's Guest Book at www.yourwestvalley.com



Exhibit ends soon



Docents Kathy Schymanski and Joyce Kirkham wear aprons while they greet guests during the apron show. Here in the kitchen they are admiring a cotton pinafore with pink flowers worn in Dearborn, Mich., by Eleanore Osband's mother. Visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org for more information on museum exhibits.

Pretty little aprons!

France Allion of Sun City admires her mom's blue taffeta apron worn in Phase I of Sun City at church potlucks only a few blocks from the museum. She also loaned her mom's blue and white crocheted party apron, one of two loaned for the show, which runs through March 31.



MUSEUM EXHIBIT SHOWCASES ICONIC APRONS FROM YESTERYEAR.

By P. Atwood Fenner

The 31 vintage aprons in the museum this spring are telling tales!

Just looking at them conjures up scents of meatloaf, liver and onions and succulent roasts. One can almost visualize the chocolate, cherry and egg stains that were painstakingly removed from these home-made aprons worn over the housedresses of the homemakers in the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

Most of aprons were made in the Midwest and given lovingly to daughters and daughters-in-law. One Canadian mother even smuggled her aprons in her American's daughter's luggage when she came to visit. They all ended up in Sun City or Sun City West; some to be worn again here, others to languish in the back of the closet, and a few to be passed on to daughters or nieces.

Among the comments of those who attended the Feb. 14-15 "Aprons Our Mothers Wore" show opening were "Brings back memories," and "Look at all those cross stitches!" Ethel Sanders's apron has no stitches at all; it was cut from organza with a flocked design requiring no sewing.

The donated and loaned vintage aprons will hang through March 31 in the museum kitchen and Jane Freeman Room. Curator Edson Allen mounted new display paneling on one wall and tied another panel to a display case so that aprons could be "hung" on laundry line.

The descriptions and anecdotes for each apron are on recipe cards. Guest curator Jeanette Kimble and

Barb Brozman hung the show using only straight pins and push pins. The colorful poster and handwritten recipe cards were done by Carolyn Dearen and Pris Fenner.

"Uncovering the tales behind each apron was the most fun for me," said Pris who designed the apron intake card to include details of the origins and use of each apron. Her mother had made her organdy lace apron from curtains in Madison, Wis. and brought it to Arizona where it was worn for Desert Rose Questers parties in her home and at the Friends of the Library bridge tournament fundraisers in the 1970s, only a few blocks from the museum.

France Allion's mom wore her blue and white crocheted and blue taffeta party aprons to church events in Phase I, also near the museum. Grace Walston bought an embroidered Austrian apron in the 1970s at a thrift store at Peoria and 107th avenues, only a mile or so away from where it hangs today.

Quester Sandra Jordan, made her lacy organdy apron in 4-H in Iowa and wore it there to many receptions and here to serve high tea for the Yucca Questers; Loretta and Edson Allen of Sun City West loaned his mother's crisp white "wedding reception" apron worn in West Allis, Wis. and in Sun City where the Rev. Earl Allen was chaplain at the Sun Valley Lodge.

Gingham (checked material) aprons were especially popular in the 1960s and were embroidered in "chicken scratch" and "cross stitches." The display features a bouquet of colorful examples loaned by Toni Ashby, Marcia Case, Pamela Miller and Kathy Schymanski. When in high school, Joyce Barrett sewed a color-

ful mini-patchwork apron out of her mother's quilting scraps (photo at right).

Of course special holidays demanded special aprons: Christmas aprons are loaned by Carolyn Dearen and Ceci Brandon of Sun City West; and Valentine's Day is honored by one from Marcia Case.

Eleanor Osband, of Sun City West, donated several pieces including an ethnic apron worn at Oktoberfests in the Schlitz family home in Grosse Point, Mich. Loren and Barbara Littlefield loaned a novelty Elsie the Borden Cow apron and tablecloth which bring back memories of outdoor parties in the Midwest.

Perhaps the most unusual aprons are a his-and-hers set made by Caroline Koopman's aunt as a wedding present for her niece in 1956 in Illinois. Sadly, they have not been worn since they arrived in Sun City in 1984.

Reverence for aprons is shared by several who donated and loaned aprons. Marcia Case has shared her mother's aprons with her daughters. And there are three generations of apron-makers in one Sun City West family: Janice Maisey loaned two of her mother's aprons. Janice sews and sells hers at the RCSCW craft shops; her daughter sews and sells hers on e-bay.

Even the museum docents wear aprons as they volunteer during the show which drew 120 people in a day and a half on Feb. 14-15 when refreshments were served on the McMillin Terrace.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Hours are 1-3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Call 602-974-2568.

Sun City Spotlight *March 2014*

9

Aprons to air on lines at Del Webb Museum

Some are frilly of chiffon or taffeta; others are of cheerful printed cotton maybe with matching hot pad or tablecloth. These aprons were worn by real cooks in their kitchens or for show at potlucks and receptions.

They are the vintage "Aprons That Our Mothers Wore: Icons of the Sun Cities' First Homemakers" in Sun City and Sun City West. They will be hung in the Jane Freeman Room of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

"A pair of these aprons was loaned by a Sun City West woman who is the second generation to love to sew her own aprons and has passed this passion on to her daughter, who sells her aprons on eBay," says Priscilla Fenner, apron show intake coordinator. She adds that one of Sun City's first clubs was the Sewing Club, and that its members loved to make aprons.

Another Sun City West woman has donated her Canadian mother's aprons that she slipped into her American daughter's luggage when she wasn't looking. She brought them to Sun City West in the '80s.

Another crisp, white pique apron was worn by the mother of a Sun City West resident; as a minister's wife, she wore it for wedding receptions.

One pair of aprons, a blue taffeta and one crocheted in blue and white, was worn within two miles of the museum during Sun City's early days. The blue taffeta was for use at church potlucks.

A dainty white chiffon apron, made from a discarded pair of curtains in Wisconsin, was worn by a Sun City resi-

dent when she served punch to the Desert Rose Questers and at the Friends of the Library Bridge Tournaments in the 1970s.

"There are even some men's aprons in the show; and a gorgeous His and Her's set," said Fenner.

"Aprons That Our Mothers Wore" will

show through March.

The museum is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, just behind the Oakmont Center. Hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Morning tours may be arranged for groups of six or more.

There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome.

Information 623-974-2568.



Register for Tours of Sun City at www.suncityaz.org/bustours.html or stop in or call the Sun City Visitors Center 623-977-5000

Vintage apron show at Del Webb Museum

If aprons had mouths and noses, what stories they could tell.

At the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, their stories are being told anyway.

Vintage aprons, donated and loaned, are displayed in the kitchen and Jane Freeman Room at the museum, in the former 1960 model home, at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

They represent a simpler time when many homemakers didn't drive cars or even write checks, but kept spotless homes with fewer electrical appliances and fast foods.

Some full aprons – pinafores and cobbler aprons - protected the homemaker's clothing as she baked from scratch. Other short aprons were fancier – of chiffon, organdy, lace or taffeta – to be put on just as guests were arriving or for serving at wakes, weddings and other public social events. Short, gingham-checked aprons with chicken scratch and cross stitching were the most popular in the 1960s.

"Many of the aprons in our show were made in the Midwest by mothers of Sun City and Sun City West families, and were passed down to daughters and daughters-in-law," says Aprons Our Mothers Wore coordinator, Pris Fenner. "One Sun City West mother's aprons have inspired a daughter and granddaughter to make and sell aprons."

Some were worn within a few blocks of the museum during the 1960s and 70s for Questers, Friends of the Library and church events.

Ten aprons were donated to the museum by Ceci Brandon and Eleanore Osband of Sun City West and Toni Ashby, Marcia Case and Jeanette Kimble of Sun City. There are 21 other aprons on display, all with "recipe-card" descriptions and details.

About 120 people attended the museum during the apron show opening weekend when refreshments were served on the McMillin Terrace. Edson Allen and Jeanette Kimble curated the show assisted by Barbara Brozman, Carolyn Dearen and Fenner.

The apron show will hang through March 31. The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. There is no admission, but donations are encouraged. For morning tours of six or more, call 623-974-2568.