



Submitted

Homestead Hospice honors heroes at Sun City Health and Rehabilitation

From left, Gene Baird, Marcu Wcevo, Regino Montes, Salvatore Guarino, and Russell Maki were five service people honored by Homestead Hospice May 15. Homestead Hospice presented each with a special certificate thanking them for their sacrifices and bravery during a red, white and blue cookout at Sun City Health and Rehab. "Every day we live in freedom because of these incredibly dedicated men and women," said Theresa Salerno, director of operations for Homestead Hospice. "We simply can't show them enough appreciation for what they have done for us and our nation. Tokens are just our small way of saying thank you for their huge sacrifices." Above right are Regino Montes and Homestead Hospice employee Michael Butts.

Sun Health named a 'Healthiest Employer' for 2015

Whether it's promoting lunch-time or after-work exercise, encouraging good nutrition or providing incentives to get and stay in shape, Sun Health has embraced the growing employee health movement.

The nonprofit community-based health organization was among dozens of companies honored May 28 by the Phoenix Business Journal as part of the publication's annual Healthiest Employers program celebrating businesses for their efforts to keep their workers in good health.

Sun Health ranked in the top 20 of mid-sized employers — those with 251 to 999 employees.

For nearly 50 years, Sun Health has been a champion of healthy living for patients and community members in the West Valley.

That mission extends to Sun Health's more than 580 employees who are encouraged to participate in Sun Health's Employee Wellness program to help them improve their health and wellness in big and small ways.

Employees are provided with baseline biometric screenings annually, which include checks of blood pressure, weight, waist circumference, body mass index and body fat percentage. This information helps staff members assess their health and learn where they could improve.

Each month, employees are challenged to meet a health goal, ranging from walking a certain number of steps, to increasing fiber intake, to staying hydrated to strength-training exercises. Each challenge comes with an incentive to encourage participation. Earning challenge points can lead to gifts such

as activity trackers, athletic shoe vouchers or even a check for \$150.

In 2015, Sun Health began offering its employees an online wellness platform Wellsource, which includes a comprehensive health assessment — the Personal Wellness Profile (PWP) — based on self-reporting. Responses are tabulated, resulting in an individual risk assessment report.

To encourage health-related goal setting, employees can complete their PWP and schedule an appointment with a health coach to review results and develop an action plan. Sun Health also offers massage therapy and acupuncture at a discounted rate to employees as a way to reduce stress.

Staff from Sun Health's Center for Health & Wellbeing collaborate with wellness teams from Sun Health's three senior living

communities to educate and motivate employees to adopt healthier lifestyles.

These wellness efforts have helped Sun Health win recognition. The organization has been designated as an American Heart Association Fit-Friendly Worksite for three consecutive years, 2013-2015. And, the Phoenix Business Journal named Sun Health one of the Valley's Healthiest Employers last year.

"We are honored to have made Sun Health a Healthiest Employer list for the second year in a row," said Rhonda Zonoozi, an exercise physiologist, certified health coach and coordinator of Sun Health's employee wellness program. "We are continuing to explore for more ways to engage our employees in their health and wellness."

Learn more at www.SunHealth.org or www.SunHealthWellbeing.org.

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Community

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Sun Health series focuses on women

STAFF REPORT

The Sun Health Community Education Series launches a special Women's Health Series in April and May addressing cardiac care, pelvic floor disorders and incontinence, cancers prevalent among women, osteoporosis, orthopedic issues, breast health and more.



These free classes will take place across the West Valley and feature some of the area's top medical professionals in cooperation with Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center and Banner Boswell Medical Center. This special series is offered in addition to Sun Health's regular community education schedule.

Space is limited, and registration is required for each class. Events with less than 10 reservations are subject to cancellation.

Reservations can be made online or by calling 623-455-5633.

HISTORY OF SUN HEALTH

The question as often asked, "What is Sun Health? I see advertisements and magazine-type publications with the Sun health name displayed on the cover, but I really know nothing about it."

The answer to that question is that Sun Health is a non-profit, locally-owned community-based network of healthcare services providing world-class acute, long-term, residential and home-delivered healthcare and related services to the Sun Cities and other West Valley and western Maricopa County communities.

Patients receive comprehensive, integrated health services through the 350-bed Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, which has served the area since 1970, as well as the 254-bed Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West and the 128-bed Sun Health Care Center, located on the Boswell Hospital campus. A full service Women's center opened in February 2002. The Heart Center, now complete, celebrated its public opening in September 2001. Community support has made these projects possible.

How did all this come about? Well, let's take a look back in the history of health care in our area.

It all began in 1959. Mr. Del E. Webb's original concept was to develop an active retirement community for people age 50 and older. He envisioned a complete city with a variety of beautiful homes, recreational and cultural activities as well as stores, offices, medical and health care facilities especially designed for this age group. A Master Plan was developed to accomplish his vision. Part of this plan was for a hospital to be constructed when a sufficient need existed.

By 1966 Sun City had grown so rapidly that the need for a hospital equipped to provide the proper care and facilities for older people became evident. Many studies were made. From the information that was gathered the planners determined that an unusual situation existed. The people in the bracket which existed would require many special fields of medicine such as heart, respiratory, arthritis, rehabilitation, and other common the field of geriatrics. It became obvious that an acute care community hospital was required to handle these needs and the many surveys and studies revealed that the people in this area would give this proposed hospital their complete support and cooperation.

A non-profit corporation was formed and the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Arizona and approved in 1966 for the Sun City Community Hospital, Inc. Local people with outstanding leadership and talent were recruited and made members of the Board of Directors for the Corporation. The formation of this organization was the first step in the provision of health care services for this area. Years of careful planning, design and construction followed and in 1970 the Boswell Memorial Hospital was opened with 60 beds.

On January 25, 1980 the name of the Corporation was changed to Inter-Community health Care of Arizona and was officially filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission.

In January 1981 the Board of Directors approved the establishment of a separate subsidiary corporation to accept the gift of land in Sun City West from the Del E. Webb

Development Corporation and to eventually hold title to the health care facility which, it was anticipated, will be established on that land.

Board approval was given in February 1981 to move one of the temporary buildings, which was not being used since the recent completion of Boswell Hospital, to Sun City West to establish the nucleus of a healthcare facility in the locality. The transfer of the building was accomplished in June. The cost for relocation, landscaping and paving the parking lot was \$140,000.

In February 1981 the Board of Directors delegated the Executive Committee to prepare, with the advice of counsel, the Articles of incorporation, bylaws and other necessary documents to restructure the corporate organization. A single controlling corporation would be formed and each unit would become a controlled subsidiary corporation. Under this new plan the Sun health Corporation became official on April 3, 1981

In June the transfer of the temporary annex buildings to Sun City West was completed. They were to be used temporarily by physicians to see patients in that area until permanent office space would be provided. Construction of the fourth tower was right on schedule. Approval in principle was given to the development of the proposed cardiac catheterization and cardiac surgery facility as recommended by the cardiac cardiovascular task force.

The new Sun Health Corporation elected its first board of directors in June: John R. (Jim) Mead, president; Leyton Woolf, vice president; Haakon Bang, secretary; John E. Durkee, treasurer; Catherine Northrup, assistant secretary and Joseph Zwiser, assistant treasurer.

In June, Intercommunity Health Care of Arizona was officially changed to Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, Inc. The major reason for this change related to clearly separating health care services for cost purposes.

With the direction of the new Sun Health Corporation growth in the health care arena continued at a lively pace with particular focus on the Boswell Hospital.

The Boswell Tower and fund drive went over the top in July and the Boswell Foundation came through with its pledge of \$1,000,000. The big event of the year was the celebration of the completion of the fourth tower.

In April of 1982 the renovated Snyder Warehouse was converted into the materials center for the hospital. It housed every thing from stamp pads (remember them?) to syringe needles. Over \$300,000 of inventory was housed there.

Upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer Austin Turner, Leland Peterson was appointed Chief Operation Officer of Boswell Hospital in June 17, 1982. (Leland is the President/CEO of Sun Health at the present time-2002).

The operating-suite and recovery-room expansion was finalized in 1983 bringing into service a total of 10 operating rooms with the latest technological advances and featuring new lighting and anesthesia equipment.

The Boswell hospital continued to grow as a responsive, caring provider of health services for the Sun Cities area. The Auxiliary grew to include more than 1,900 members and the cumulative number of hours of voluntary service to the hospital reached the 1-million mark in 1984.

A cooperative arrangement in 1984 with physicians resulted in the opening of the Boswell Eye Institute. The institute then became the largest free-standing outpatient eye

surgery center of its kind in the United States. This meant no more inpatient hospital stays and less out-of-pocket expenses to the patient.

Groundbreaking for the 128 bed Boswell Extended Care Center occurred in September 1984 and also work started on the Boswell Medical Plaza, a medical office building located west of the hospital.

Most people are familiar with a blood bank, but a bone bank? A bone bank freezer designed to hold human bone material was installed in the surgery department in late 1984. The bones are kept at a temperature of 20 degrees centigrade—optimal for storage. The bone will be used during surgery to repair bone defects or fractures. Unlike organ transplants, bone does not have to be cross-matched.

The hospital under the direction of Sun Health filed an application in early 1985 for a permit to provide open-heart surgery service. By December open-heart surgery was an accomplished fact with 19 surgeries having been successfully completed.

Ground was broken on October 7, 1985 for the \$42 million Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West. Along with the Boswell Hospital it will be operated by the Sun Health Corporation. Among those taking part in the event was baseball Hall of Fame member Mickey Mantle, a member of the powerhouse New York Yankees during the dynasty years when Del E. Webb was part owner of the American League team. In consideration of the \$3 million grant from the Del E. Webb Foundation the new five story health care center in Sun City West would be named the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

In January 1986 a long time Sun Health executive was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and was charged with the administrative responsibility of overseeing the construction of the hospital.

The highlight of 1986 was the advent of the Institute for Biogerontology Research to study causes of Alzheimer's disease and other disorders of aging. The center was made possible by a \$2 million clinical-research endowment from Sun Health.

The year ended with a corporate reorganization. Prior to the reorganization, Sun Health was the parent of its operating entities. The reorganization reduced the number of corporations from eight to three – Sun Health, Sun Health Properties and Sun Health Foundation – all independent, separate tax exempt corporations for different reasons.

On April 9, 1987 the building for the L. J. Roberts Center for Alzheimer's Research was dedicated. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Roberts donated in excess of three quarters of a million dollars for the center.

On December 6, 1987 several hundred people were on hand for the festive dedication of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West. As a matter of interest, following are some comparative costs of the construction and start up of the two hospitals:

	Boswell 1970 - 173 beds	Webb 1987 - 203 beds
Construction	\$ 6,324,000	\$24,147,000
Equipment	1,206,000	6,672,000
Total	7,530,000	30,819,000
Cost per bed	43,526	151,818

Fortunately, Sun City West and Sun City residents rallied to the fundraising drives and actively supported the new hospital. Like Sun Cities Boswell Hospital, Del E, Webb is a community hospital!

On January 4, 1988 the doors were officially opened of the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. Through the direction of Sun Health this was the start of a cooperative relationship between the two hospitals. This included the coordination of patient services such as medical, imaging, pathology and clinical laboratory. Also compatible patient-care computers systems are a great benefit. In addition there are shared purchasing and financial services which generate large benefits.

A new community library funded by Sun Health opened on January 25, 1988. It contained materials on health related issues that affect the elderly. It was not a technical library, but rather one geared to the average consumer.

Under the management of Sun Health the Olive Branch Senior Center opened in may 1988. Individuals 60 years of age or older could participate in a variety of programs. These programs include health and lifestyle enrichment events which cold include hot nutritious meals.

As 1989 came to a close, after 21 years service, Sun Health bid farewell to W, Austin Turner. He was the original administrator of the Boswell hospital and the first Chief Executive Officer at Sun health.

The new Chief Executive Officer was Leland W, Peterson who had served as a senior executive in the Sun Health organization since 1972.

In 1990 significant improvements were initiated in the Radiation/Oncology Center. Also Sun Health began accepting hospice patients with emphasis on the home health component. The focus was not on filling hospital beds, but how to keep people in their homes and independent for as long as possible.

In November 1990 the Boswell hospital celebrated its 20th birthday, it opened with two towers and 80 beds. In the past 20 years it has grown to become the national model for a geriatric-oriented community supported hospital.

A \$1.8 million renovation and expansion of Boswell Hospital Emergency Care Services Department began late in 1991. A total of \$1.3 million for the project was provided by contributions. A study indicated that eight out of every ten Sun Cities residents who required hospital care chose to be admitted to Boswell hospital or Del E. Webb Hospital.

Dedication ceremonies were conducted in April 1992 for the 32,000 square foot addition to the newly renamed Sun Health Research Institute. Through research into age

related disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, Sun Health has gained worldwide attention.

As part of the image enhancement process and a uniform identity program, a new Sun Health logo was introduced. Sun Health's name has come to be associated with quality healthcare services, excellence in medical research, and in community health education.

The Sun Health Research Institute made an announcement in 1993 that their research indicated that the anti-inflammatory drug Indomethacin appears to slow or halt the mental deterioration suffered by patient in the early stages of Alzheimers disease. 4.

The renovated Emergency Department at Boswell Hospital reopened for business at the end of October 1992. The expansion increased the size from 7500 square feet to almost 11,000 square feet, becoming one of the largest in the Valley.

For many years the hospital has provided hot and cold meals for the Meals on Wheels program which celebrated its 20th year of service this year. Residents receiving this service pay \$5.70 a day for a hot and a cold meal. Twenty years ago the hot meal cost \$2.25.

As part of the image enhancement process and a uniform identity program, a new Sun Health logo was introduced. Sun Health's name has come to be associated with quality healthcare services, excellence in medical research and in community health education. "It is hoped the new logo, dramatic in design, will reflect the quality of our services and represent the reputation all of us have worked hard to build through the years," said Pamela Meyerhoffer, vice president, Public Affairs.

A total of 333 heart bypass surgeries were performed at Boswell hospital in 1994.

The first phase of a planned three phase Sun Health Del E. Webb Medical Plaza was completed in the fall of 1996. Many physician's offices and outpatient clinics will be located there. The Boswell Hospital was ranked in a 3,600 acute care facilities as the nation's most cost effective hospital. The Del E. Webb Hospital placed No. 2 nationally for hospitals of comparable size.

A two year \$24.3 million expansion and remodeling of the Boswell Hospital began in 1997. Some of the highlights of the project are a new outpatient entrance, two additional operating rooms dedicated to cardiovascular surgery and one additional general operating room, an enlargement of the cardiac rehabilitation area, a 20 bed observation unit to meet the needs of patients who require only a short stay, an enlarged cardiovascular and surgical intensive care unit and a new emergency department.

The Sun Health Auxiliary observed their 30th anniversary in 1998. The 3400 member auxiliary is probably the largest hospital-volunteer organization in the nation. Since its founding the auxiliary has donated more than \$4.5 million to support Sun Health services and to purchase important medical equipment.

In January 1999 the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults was opened. This is a group home for 10 developmentally disabled adults whose care has been provided



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ron Guziak, president and CEO of Sun Health Services and Sun Health Foundation, stands in front of a sign at Banner Sun Health Research Institute, which is widely supported through the foundation's fund-raising efforts.

Sun Health solidifies role in community

FOURTH IN A SERIES

JOY SLAGOWSKI

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The new year will bring changes to Sun Health Services and Sun Health Foundation, as the new president and CEO of both organizations, Ronald D. Guziak, begins to explore ways to identify needed services within the community as he unifies the organizations into a single vision.

Guziak said he wants the different branches to unite to reflect a single focus.

"We need to have a new strategic vision for Sun Health enterprises as opposed to separate corporations, one enterprise with a single vision," Guziak said.

The nonprofit organizations, including the 4,000-member Sun



Health Auxiliary, are in charge of fund raising and related activities for the Banner Boswell and Del E. Webb medical centers, as well as the Sun Health Research Institute, Banner Alzheimer's Residence, Banner Boswell Heart Center, Ban-

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primarily by their parents. Many of these parents are elderly and no longer can provide all the care their adult offspring require.

The Del E. Webb Hospital received the fixed Magnetic-Resonance Imaging (MRI) system in November 1999. The scanner brings the latest advancements in MRI imaging to the West Valley.

Ground was broken on April 8, 2000 for an expansion that will double the size of the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital that will allow the introduction of a Women's Center, obstetrical/new born care and expanded pediatric services.

Sun Health Hospice Care Services and Residences in March 2001 announced the opening of its newest inpatient unit in Sun City West—allowing the Sun City West residents to remain close to home and to their physician when choosing hospice care. Construction had virtually been complete in the spring of 2002 of the two year \$46.5 million expansion program at the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital that more than doubled the size of the facility.

The West Valley is experiencing incredible growth in population and the hospital has been expanded to provide the needed health care. In 2001 approximately 226,000 residents lived in the area and by 2006 the population is expected to grow to 318,000, an increase of 40.7%.

To accommodate this population growth the expansion project includes 209,000 square feet of new hospital space. The focal point of the project, the intergenerational Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health that offers diagnostic gynecological and obstetrical care opened in February.

On February 2, 2002, a date known as 2/02/02, the new obstetrical unit opened to a double delivery—a set of twin boys!

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ner Boswell Rehabilitation Center, Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, Banner Special Adults Residence, Banner Sun Health Research Institute, La Loma Care Center, Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health, and Maricopa Nursing at Banner Boswell Nursing Education Center.

"The role of Sun Health Foundation and Sun Health Services and partners is to improve the health of our community by supporting the Banner hospitals and the Banner Sun Health Research Institute," Guziak said. "(We need) to look for new and innovative ways to provide programs with a margin of excellence that (those institutions) would not be able to do in their normal circumstance, and engage the community to see what other opportunities there are to serve the health needs of the community outside of the hospitals."

"The challenges are to understand what the hospitals need, interpret health-care reform, engage our community to understand what it thinks it needs and then respond to that," Guziak.

Guziak said after the new year he plans to begin having strategic planning processes that involve the community members, leaders and other social service agencies, which could last about three to four months.

"With Banner as the owner of the two hospitals and research institute, we need to find what gaps are envisioned today and see how far we can go in the plan of service," Guziak said.

Assuring philanthropic donors their money is being well spent also will be a focus.

"The main thing is communicating to our donors the funds they provide the Sun Health Foundation are used here in their community, and all of the dollars are carefully spent, and provide services beyond what Banner would have already been doing," Guziak said.

For information, call Sun Health Foundation at 623-876-5330.

Joy Slagowski may be reached at 623-876-2514 or jslagowski@yourwestvalley.com.

Sun Health boards pick new CEO

STAFF REPORT

The community boards of directors for Sun Health Services and Sun Health Foundation announced today Ronald D. Guziak has been named president and CEO of both nonprofit organizations effective Dec. 7.

Guziak succeeds Leland Peterson who has been with Sun Health the past 38 years, serving as the nonprofit organization's CEO since 1990, and Pamela Meyerhoffer, Sun Health Foundation president/CEO, who served in that role for 27 years. Both Peterson and Meyerhoffer announced retirement plans earlier this year.

Recently, Guziak has served on the senior executive team at Hoag



Guziak

campaigns.

"The opportunity to join a community that has generously contributed

Memorial Hospital Presbyterian and as the executive director of Hoag Hospital Foundation in Newport Beach, Calif. During his eight-year tenure at Hoag, Guziak guided the organization through numerous successful hospital capital and endowment

to the delivery of quality health care was a key factor in accepting this new challenging role," Guziak said. "I look forward to serving the community by helping ensure quality health care is provided to the residents of the West Valley."

Sun Health Foundation Chairman David Willis shared his excitement regarding Guziak joining the Sun Health executive team.

"It is a compliment to Sun Health and our community that we were able to secure a leader of his stature," Willis said.

"Ron's business and fund-development background is ideal to continue maximizing the combined strengths

of Banner Health and Sun Health in providing superior health care in the West Valley," said Richard Livengood, chairman of the Sun Health Services board.

Prior to joining Hoag, Guziak's career involved senior-leadership positions at a number of premier medical centers including Little Company of Mary Health Services, California Hospital Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Guziak has a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University and a master's

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degree from Wesleyan University. He is a fellow in the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy.

Guziak and his wife, Peggy, have a son who resides with his wife and two children in Bakersfield, Calif.

Sun Health Foundation exists to make a difference in people's lives by encouraging charitable giving for the enhancement of nonprofit health-care services in the West Valley.

Sun Health Services' purpose is to serve local residents through community partnerships that foster superior health-care services in the West Valley.



Submitted Photo
John Harrington, CEO of Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center, is all smiles as he and Lee Peterson, retiring president and CEO of Sun Health Services, enjoy the piano music at Mr. Peterson's party. The Steinway piano was a gift Mr. Peterson made to Mr. Harrington's hospital as a parting gift. Last year, he gave a Yamaha organ to Banner Boswell Medical Center.

Retiring Sun Health CEO Peterson leaves behind legacy

By Kim Antoniou
Special to the Independent

At his "Keys to the Future" event Dec. 9, retiring Sun Health Services CEO Lee Peterson handed over a unique set of keys to the community: a Steinway piano.

The piano—to take residence in the main lobby at Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center—follows Peterson's donation last year of a Yamaha organ to Banner Boswell Medical Center.

"As we serve our patients, families and visitors, meeting medical, physical and spiritual needs, music can play an important role," Mr. Peterson, 62, said in explanation of the gift. "There is a song in the balance of life cycles of those we serve. The piano helps us

hear and honor that song.

"The gift of the piano for the Banner Del E. Webb lobby is to celebrate and sustain our tradition of community coming together in support of superior healthcare."

The Glendale resident's Sun Health career spanned 38 years, beginning with a job as a hospital administrative assistant at the Boswell campus in 1972. As his potential was realized, Mr. Peterson moved upward, becoming an assistant administrator, then executive vice president and chief operating officer of Del E. Webb and Boswell hospitals, then senior vice president. In January 1990, he assumed the position of president and CEO.

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Peterson

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Much growth has occurred in west Valley healthcare during Peterson's leadership. Hospital discharges have more than tripled, with emergency-room visits increasing more than fourfold.

In league with the population expansion and the need for patient care, Peterson also witnessed a 240-percent increase in staff from 1989 to 2007.

As an executive responsible for overseeing healthcare in a rapidly growing area, Mr. Peterson assumed an active voice in the healthcare community via the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association.

He is past chairman of the American Hospital Association's Section for Aging and Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation Services; the Arizona Hospital Association; and the Arizona Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

He also is past chairman of the Western Maricopa Coalition (WESTMARC), past president of the Health Administrators Forum of Arizona, and a past member of the Johnson and Johnson University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business Healthcare Advisory Board.

Mr. Peterson is a member of Rotary International, a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and has been voted one of the "Top 10 Most Influential People in Northwest Maricopa County." He also received the Salsbury Award, the highest service-honor award given by AzHHA, and Midwestern University's "Shooting Star" award, both in 2007. Most recently, he was a recipient of WESTMARC's Chairman's Award in 2008.

"Lee's 20-year tenure as CEO of a very complex healthcare organization speaks to his talent and ability," noted Richard Livengood, chairman of the Sun Health Services board. "With the challenges these hospitals have faced in regard to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, he has been very resourceful not only in finding other means to keep them operational but also well steeped in technology."

"One of the things I'll remember about his leadership is his sensitivity to the community, and the way he balanced community needs with the wants and needs of healthcare providers to bring the finest care to the west Valley," Mr. Livengood added. "That is so important."

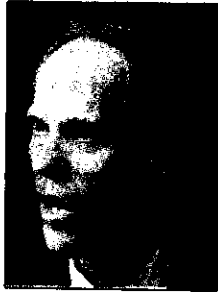
Editor's Note: Kim Antoniou is Manager, Community Engagement, for Sun Health Auxiliary/Sun Health Foundation.

Top Sun Health execs announce retirements

STAFF REPORT

Two Sun Health executives with a combined 63 years of experience are retiring after leading the hospital network's growth over a span of four decades.

Leland Peterson, president and chief executive officer of Sun Health Services, has announced plans to retire in August after 37 years of service. Pamela Meyerhoffer, who has served as president and chief executive officer of the Sun Health Foundation since January 1983, also has decided to retire.



Peterson



Meyerhoffer

Sun Health transitioned last year from being a provider of health-care services to being a partner with Banner Health and the community to ensure the local provision of superior quality health care.

"Lee Peterson is an inspirational leader who has continuously demonstrated the unique combination of skills to lead an ever-growing

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health-care system through extremely challenging times," said Sandra Foell, chairman of the board of directors for Sun Health Services.

"Through Pamela's leadership," said Cathy Ross, chairman of the Sun Health Foundation board of trustees, "Sun Health Foundation has raised millions of dollars to benefit local health-care facilities and programs."

Peterson came to Arizona from California in August 1972 to serve as the assistant administrator of Boswell Hospital. He was responsible for the opening of Del E. Webb Hospital in 1988 and was then promoted to his current position as president and CEO of Sun Health in 1990.

Meyerhoffer served simultaneously for her 26 years as executive vice president of Sun Health with responsibility for marketing, public relations, community health education, governmental relations, Olive Branch Senior Center and Sun Health Auxiliary.

A national search is being conducted to identify candidates to fill the post of president and chief executive officer of both Sun Health Services and Sun Health Foundation. Both Peterson and Meyerhoffer have agreed to provide temporary consultation following their retirement dates as needed.

"During Lee's tenure our local health-care system grew from one relatively small community hospital to two full-service medical centers, an internationally recognized research institute plus many affiliated facilities and services required to address the community's needs," Foell said. "His is a most remarkable achievement, and his knowledge and experience will be missed dearly."

Ross said Meyerhoffer's fund-raising campaigns "successfully generated the contributions to fund the cost of building and equipping the Sun Health Research Institute, Banner Alzheimer's Residence, Banner Special Adult Residence and Sun Health's two hospice facilities."

In addition, donations paid for a large portion of the costs to construct and expand both Banner Boswell Medical Center and Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center as well as Banner Olive Branch Senior Center, Banner Boswell/Mesa Nursing Education Program and Banner Boswell Rehabilitation Center, Ross said.

"Today we see the results of Pamela's efforts and the community's generosity reflected all around us in these excellent facilities and the services they provide," she said.

In lieu of gifts, both Peterson and Meyerhoffer have requested that contributions be made to Sun Health Foundation's current 'buy a bed' capital campaign. For details, call 623-876-5330.

Westmarc hails health-care exec

STAFF REPORT

Leland Peterson, the president and CEO of Sun Health Services, was lauded Thursday night for his nearly 40 years of leadership when he received one of the top honors bestowed at Westmarc's annual Best of the West Awards.

Peterson received the Chairman's Award, which is presented to "an individual, organization, or event which is so extraordinary that it merits special recognition."

Judges said Peterson has demonstrated "exemplary health-care leadership, always being focused on doing what is right for (the) patient."

Herman Orcutt, principal of The Orcutt Winslow Partnership, received the 2008 John F. Long Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his career as "a major contributor of time and talent to the landscape of the West Valley."

The John F. Long Lifetime Achievement Award "honors a person, organization, business or entity that has exemplified outstanding service by contribution to the lifestyle to Western Maricopa County."

Jack Lunsford, Westmarc president and CEO, praised Orcutt and

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ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Randy Jackson, left, shares a laugh with Lee Peterson, president and CEO of Sun Health Services. Peterson was named winner of the Chairman Award at Westmarc's 16th annual Best of the West Awards at the Glendale Renaissance hotel Thursday.

For the latest news from
the Associated Press, visit
www.yourwestvalley.com.



SALUTE: Westmarc honors Best of West

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Peterson for providing "tremendous leadership for the West Valley. And for Westmarc in particular, their fingerprints are all over our success."

Westmarc is a coalition of businesses, government, education, human services and other organizations that promote the West Valley.

Nearly 800 business and community leaders and elected officials from throughout the Valley gathered at the Glendale Renaissance hotel for Thursday's award ceremony.

"Westmarc's Best of the West Awards is one of the Valley's premier business events," said Ray Jones, chairman of Westmarc's board of directors. "But equally important is that it allows us to tell the story of and showcase all the grand things that are happening in the West Valley."

Westmarc honored more than 30 individuals, businesses and projects in eight categories during its 16th Annual Best of the West Awards.

Among the other winners were:

- Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center for "Services to Communities — Health."

- Dysart Community Center Laubach Literacy Program for "Services to Communities — Other."

- Sun Health's Nursing Education Training Unit/Pat Green for "Leadership — Organization."

- El Mirage Police Department and Verado Leadership (tie) for "Leadership — Organization."

- Sun Health Research Institute Internship Program for "Education — Higher Education."

- Westgate City Center for "Architectural Innovation."

- Arrowhead Towne Center for "Attractions, Destinations and Tourism."

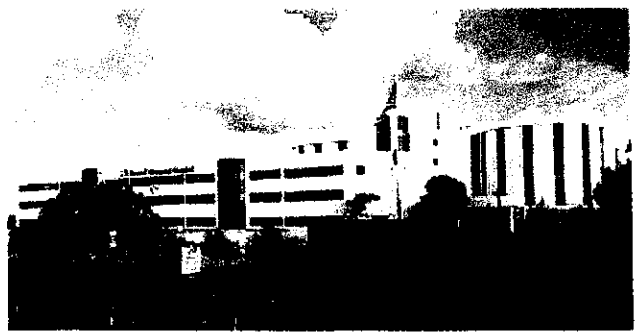
"Our awards annually recognize what the Best of the West in the West Valley is truly all about," said Lunsford said. "So many exciting things are happening in the West Valley, and there are far too many well-kept secrets, so Westmarc is extremely proud to help illuminate them for everyone."

SERVING HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF THE SUN CITIES AND WEST VALLEY

A new era in healthcare dawned for West Valley residents on November 16, 1970, when Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital opened to serve the community. Almost four decades later, the hospital as it is known today—Sun Health Boswell Hospital—stands as a cornerstone of the non-profit Sun Health network, the West Valley’s largest healthcare provider.

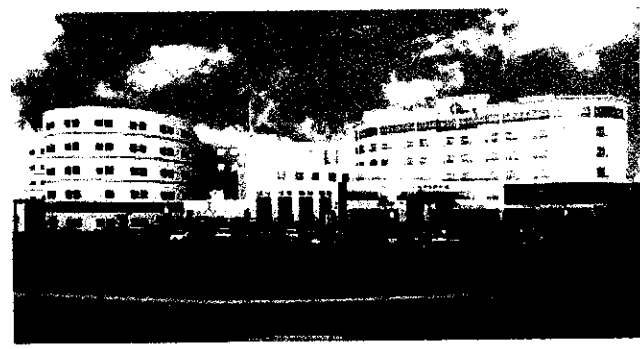
Within six years of the opening of Sun City in 1960, foresighted local leaders recognized the need for a hospital to meet the healthcare needs of the rapidly expanding community. A community fundraising effort was organized to fund construction of a modest-sized facility.

In 1967, however, the James G. Boswell Foundation offered a \$1.2 million grant, provided the hospital plan be expanded to a minimum of 200 beds, the facilities be the best obtainable, the proposed facility serve the entire surrounding community, and the hospital be named for Walter O. Boswell, one of three brothers instrumental in developing a vast agricultural empire on the land now occupied by Sun City.



The hospital opened with two towers, but the need to expand soon became evident. A third tower was added, and then a fourth, as the population and healthcare needs continued to rise. Other expansions followed. Today, Sun Health Boswell Hospital is one of the largest hospitals in the metropolitan Phoenix area with 501 acute and Medicare-skilled beds.

As Sun Health Boswell Hospital continued to grow and broaden its spectrum of care, Sun Health was formed in 1981 to coordinate a variety of community-based healthcare services. Rapid population growth prompted the need to develop a second hospital to serve Sun City West and other communities to the west and northwest.



In 1986, ground was broken in Sun City West for what is known today as Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital. The Del E. Webb Foundation provided a \$2 million grant in consideration for the hospital bearing the name of Del E. Webb, the developer of the Sun Cities. Two years later, on January 4, 1988, the hospital began serving new generations of West Valley residents.

Like its sister facility, Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital has gone through several expansion programs and will have 403 patient-care beds in service by early 2009, with the capacity to expand that total to almost 500 beds as needs warrant.

Both Sun Health hospitals offer a wide range of inpatient/outpatient specialty programs including sophisticated diagnostic services, preventive care, emergency services, medical and surgical treatment, and rehabilitation services, among others.

Located at Sun Health Boswell Hospital is Sun Health Heart Center, a “heart hospital within a hospital” that was recognized for five consecutive years as one of the 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals in the nation.

The area's growing family-age population prompted Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital to broaden its scope of medical and clinical service to include obstetrical and newborn care in 2002. An average significantly exceeding 1,000 babies are born each year in *The Nesting Place Obstetrical Suites*, located within the hospital's Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health.

Both hospitals are recognized as Primary Stroke Centers for the care of individuals suffering from strokes.

In addition to Sun Health Boswell and Del E. Webb Hospitals, Sun Health continues to serve the West Valley with a range of services and programs that include Sun Health Boswell Rehabilitation Center; Sun Health Research Institute, where basic research and clinical trials are conducted to find answers to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, arthritis, and other disorders; Sun Health Residences for Alzheimer's Care and Special Adults; Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center; Sun Health Boswell Nursing Education Program; Sun Health/St. Joseph's Geriatric Fellowship; and Sun Health Community Education and Wellness Center.

Sun Health mulls Webb additions

By IAN MITCHELL
Daily News-Sun staff

A Sun Health affiliate company and the developer of Peoria's Freedom Plaza are evaluating whether to build a residential center in Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West.

Sun Health Properties, which developed and manages several medical office complexes in the Sun Cities, and Freedom Group announced their discussions Thursday.

Leland Peterson, president of Sun Health Properties and its parent Sun Health, said the market-and-design analysis with Freedom Group has not yet begun.

"We wanted to work with them since they've got a good track record both locally and nationally for these kinds of projects, and they've got an interest in it, so we wanted to do it on a cooperative basis," Peterson said.

Sun Health is a non-profit medical service provider which operates Walter O. Boswell and Webb memorial hospitals.

The health-care company has been considering the Webb campus for a residential development for several years, Peterson said.

Freedom Group, a Florida company, has senior-living developments in Florida, California and Michigan in addition to its Plaza Del Rio development. Sun Health also owns

Sun Health is making a list of local residents and organizations who would like to provide input on the senior residential-living center proposed for Sun City West's Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

Call 876-5350 to register your interest.

property in Plaza Del Rio, where it plans to construct a hospice house and Alzheimer's residence.

"We know Freedom Group from being neighbors with them," Peterson said.

"They too have a real interest in the Sun City West market," he said. "There's a good possibility that we could work together, but the outcome of the study is what will help firm up all of that."

The two companies are evaluating the need for a senior residential-living complex in Sun City West but have not set details such as size, design, financing, ownership or a timeline for development, Peterson said.

The firms are soliciting input on the plan from local residents and organizations, Peterson said, adding that initial response has been positive.

No date has been set for the study's completion, Peterson said.

Study digs through longevity's secrets

Local centenarians give Sun Health, ASU West team insight

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Pauline Childers is considered the picture of perfect health at 102 years old.

The Sun Citian still hears and sees well and has an active social life playing cards and going to church.

"I love life and doing anything that I can rather than hibernating," the retired school teacher said, laughing.

"I'm a very blessed person," she said. "I wish that I knew the secret of why I've lived this long, maybe I'll find out one day."

The Sun Health Research Institute hopes to help Childers find out

those answers and more with a new study. Childers has been involved in the study for several weeks.

Arizona State University West graduate students, along with the institute's doctors, have teamed up to find a link between longevity and factors in healthy aging.

"They're a unique set of individuals," said Dr. Walter Nieri, director of the institute's Center for Healthy Aging. "We want to look at some of the components as to why they've lived such a long life."

The longevity project matches researchers with centenarians, who are interviewed by Sun Health

professionals and ASU West students as well as professors. They are asked questions on everything from their social lives to emotional states of mind.

"We're looking at the resilience of these individuals and how they've handled adversity through the course of their lives," he said.

Nieri said he hopes to use the information to find out why and how some seniors reach their 90s and 100s.

"It's important that we know some of the secrets to living into an older age," he said.

During the interview process, facilitators will

record one of the sessions through audio or on videotape.

"This is for our records, but we'll also supply a copy to the family members so they will have a nice copy for their keepsake," he said.

The Sun Health Research Institute began interviews in September and hopes to continue through next year.

"We hope to compare some of our Baby Boomers with those who are 90 to 100 years old," to see how the different age groups cope, he said.

In addition, Nieri said they'll to seek participa-

SEE AGE, A5



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Pauline Childers, 102, and Kathy O'Connor from the Sun Health Research Institute share a laugh Monday as O'Connor interviews her for research she's doing on aging and health.

FROM A1

tion from other centenarians from all cultures and backgrounds, especially the Sun Cities.

"There are a wealth of people in our back yard who are in their 90s and 100s," he said. "It would be a shame not to take advantage of them and find out more."

Enter Pauline Childers.

Born in 1905, Childers grew up in Denver as an only child. Her parents, particularly her father, always "taught me to be a health nut."

"I've always tried to walk correctly and watch my health," she said.

Both Childers' mother and father lived into their 80s and 90s.

She outlived both her first husband, who died eight years into their marriage, and second husband after 35 years.

Kathy O'Connor, director of Sun Health's community outreach, has interviewed Childers twice and can't believe her healthy status and memory.

"Her hearing, eyesight and comprehension is fabulous," she said.

Childers said she considers herself grateful to "have all of my faculties in place."

"Losing all of those things comes with age sometimes but not me," she said. "I feel awfully sorry for some my age because they're missing out on a lot."

If you or someone you know is approaching 100 or older, call the Longevity Project hotline at the Center for Healthy Aging at the Sun Health Research Institute, 623-815-7677.

Mitchell Vantrease may be reached at 876-2526 or e-mail mvantrease@yourwestvalley.com.

Sun Health's Peterson honored

STAFF REPORT

The Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) on Thursday presented Leland W. Peterson, president and CEO of Sun Health, with its highest recognition, the Salsbury Award. The award was in recognition of his dedication, leadership and outstanding contributions to healthcare.

"Lee Peterson's career has focused on doing what is right for patients in the West Valley, Arizona and the nation," said John Riv-



Peterson

ers, AzHHA president and chief executive officer. "He is an influential hospital leader who is recognized by others in healthcare for his integrity and intelligence."

Peterson joined Sun Health — which includes Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital and Sun Health Boswell Hospital — 35 years ago and has directed the system's expansion, including the construction and opening of the Del E. Webb Hospital in 1988. He has been an active proponent of developing and expanding healthcare services for the elderly and has advocated in Washington, D.C., to prevent service and budget cuts to the Medicare program.

Peterson joined Sun Health in 1972 and was named president and CEO of the not-for-profit network in 1990. He has served as executive vice president of both Sun Health Boswell Hospital and Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital, the latter of which he oversaw the construction and opening. Peterson also served as the network's executive vice president prior to being promoted to his current position.

Peterson is a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives and a past chairman of AzHHA. He has served as chairman of the American Hospital Association Governing Council Section for Aging and Long-Term Care

and Rehabilitation Services as well as chairman of the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium. Peterson also served as chairman of the board of Western Maricopa Coalition (WESTMARC), which advocates on behalf of Western Maricopa County.

The Salsbury Award was named in honor of Dr. Clarence Salsbury, founder of AzHHA and a physician educator and administrator dedicated to serving the underprivileged. The award was established in 1969 to recognize exceptional leaders who have made outstanding contributions to Arizona healthcare. AzHHA has presented 31 Salsbury Awards to Arizona healthcare leaders.

Hospital Union: Sun Health to merge with Banner



Submitted Photo/Dave Cruz Photography

Banner Health President and CEO Peter Fine, right, addresses the public and media Sept. 21 at Boswell Memorial Hospital, 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd., about the nonprofit's decision to merge with Sun Health.

Employee impact uncertain

By Dave Casadei and Zach Colick
Independent Newspapers

While remaining independent and the sole health care organization in the West Valley for years was a boon for Sun Health, officials said last week it was in the nonprofit's best interest to merge with a Valley competitor for further sustainability.

Sun Health President and CEO Lee Peterson believes combining the expertise of Sun Health and Banner Health, two Phoenix-based, nonprofit organizations, will become essential in the months and years ahead to bring in added capital and expertise in meeting the needs of the West Valley.

"The time is now. It's critically important to bring in additional capital that moves beyond demand and creative solutions we've enjoyed in the past," he said. "We must bring in confident, additional capital resources."

The boards of directors for Sun Health and Banner Health approved a letter of intent Sept. 21 to merge the two organizations.

A due diligence process, in-

What do you think?

How do you feel about the merger?

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Related link

www.sunhealth.org
www.bannerhealth.com

cluding regulatory reviews, in connection with the proposed merger is expected to take between six and nine months.

Both organizations must complete the review and find out more about each other. However, the companies are prohibited from sharing complete details about each other, said Bill Byron, Banner Health spokesman.

"We cannot share information about contracts, pay rates, etc. because we are precluded by federal regulations," he said. "Groups from both organizations will get together to learn more about each other over

the next (estimated) six to nine months."

Federal regulations also prevent Mr. Byron from saying how many Sun Health employees will be retained or if they will de-thaw the 2,000 Sun Health employee pensions that were frozen in April to save money.

Any transaction in excess of \$59.6 million must be reviewed by the Federal Trade Commission, which has 30 days to determine whether the merger should go through, said Mitch Katz, FTC public affairs specialist.

Mr. Katz said a second request could be extended to the FTC should it need more time to determine the case. With the announcement of the merger Sept. 21, he could not -- and there was confidential information protecting the case -- divulge more information.

"The duty of the Federal Trade Commission is to look at the interests of the community and the competitive and anti-trust aspects," Mr. Peterson said. "Because this is a sizeable transaction, it will get their full attention."

"We feel there is a compel-

See Merge — Page 10

Merge

Continued From Page 1

ling case for the West Valley to have this merger occur," he continued. "The timing is critical in bringing additional capital."

Though the merger will not be finalized for at least six months, Sun Health officials are speaking with employees and volunteers about their questions and concerns.

Mr. Peterson said a "vast majority" of the more than 4,500 employees Sun Health employs will be given the opportunity to work for Banner, noting hotlines were set up for up-to-date information.

"We have a strong tradition of being a very open organization with our employees," he said.

Banner Health in Phoenix was founded in 1911 and is now Arizona's second largest private employer with more than 20,500 employees and 2,525 licensed beds on eight hospital campuses, according to a Sun Health press release.

Although Banner is large in size, Mr. Peterson believes the hospital network, as does Sun Health, takes great pride in being local in the way it delivers care.

"The West Valley has a strong tradition of community ownership, accountability and providing resources," he said.

As such, he believes donations and bequests will continue to be substantial because of the need for growth, replacement of facilities, program development and balancing the continual challenge of Medicare payments.

The Sun Health entities to

join Banner Health include Sun Health Boswell and Del E. Webb memorial hospitals, Sun Health Research Institute, Sun Health MediSun and Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center, among others.

Sun Health Foundation, Sun Health Auxiliary and Sun Health Properties will remain independent and continue to encourage charitable contributions to generate needed financial support for Boswell Memorial Hospital, 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd., and Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, 14502 W. Meeker Blvd., the research institute and other affiliated services.

Mr. Peterson said the merger has nothing directly to do with the new Catholic Healthcare West entering the marketplace in Surprise, though he admits Sun Health views the health care facility as competition.

The Sun Health CEO and president said it is natural for a health care system like Catholic Healthcare West to enter the market because of the area's population boom, noting Sun Health anticipated the move.

Mr. Byron said he does not anticipate the merger causing too many changes to medical services provided in the Sun Cities, but noted adding specialty care to Del Webb and Boswell hospitals may be a possibility.

Banner Health conducts research at its medical facilities, but Mr. Byron said it has no official research buildings.

"We are definitely excited about the prospect of working with the Sun Health Research Institute," he said. "It is very impres-

sive and we're honored being colleagues with Sun Health."

In addition to their similarities as nonprofit, community-based health care organizations, Sun Health and Banner Health offer complementary areas of clinical and research, including cardiac and vascular care, orthopedics, neurosciences, urology, oncology and rehabilitative care, according to the Sun Health release.

The Sun Health Research Institute and Banner Alzheimer's Institute is expected to heighten progress in these endeavors, the release stated.

"This merger gives us the ability to bring electronic medical records (out to the Sun Cities' hospitals), which is a very substantial capital investment," Mr. Byron said. "It is the foundation for securing patient safety."

Mr. Peterson noted creativity in year's past helped develop the Sun Health Foundation, Sun Health Auxiliary and Sun Health Properties, all of which helped financially benefit the nonprofit corporation.

He said being a Medicare-de-

pendent organization is not an easy task and technological improvements as well as the need for added capital must continually be looked at to remain viable.

Sun City West resident John McGarvey is skeptical of the merger.

"It scares the hell out of me," he said. "We're happy with these two smaller organizations and now they're bringing in a larger one and you know what happens then."

Despite his concerns, Mr. McGarvey believes Sun Health will benefit from a financial standpoint.

Sun Citian Arthur Prose is also unsure if he supports the merger.

"I am up in the air still," he said. "Boswell, as far as nursing care staff, just doesn't have it, but they were still better than the Banner Health Estrella staff."

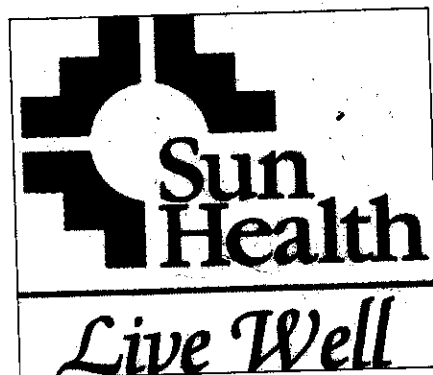
Mr. Prose has spent time waiting at both hospitals and said Banner Estrella employees seemed cold and more interested in their computers opposed to helping visitors.

Sun Citian Jan Summers was

taken to Boswell Hospital when she had her stroke a few months back and said her son researched and found Boswell to be one of the country's top hospitals for

heart attack and stroke care.

"I hope they (Banner Health) don't change that," she said. "They (Boswell employees) were fantastic."



Sun Health grew with Sun Cities

STAFF REPORT

Sun Health, based in Sun City since being founded in 1966, has grown into a comprehensive, award-winning health care network that includes 4,500 employees, 4,000 volunteers and 831 licensed beds on two hospital campuses.

Sun Health is a nonprofit, community-owned network of health-care services that provides acute, long-term, residential and home-delivered health care and related services to West Valley communities.

Sun Health serves residents of all ages with care ranging from obstetrics and newborn services to cardiology and orthopedics.

Sun Health operates the 501-bed Sun Health Boswell Hospital in Sun City and the 330 license bed Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital in Sun City West. The hospitals serve El Mirage, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Wickenburg and Youngtown.

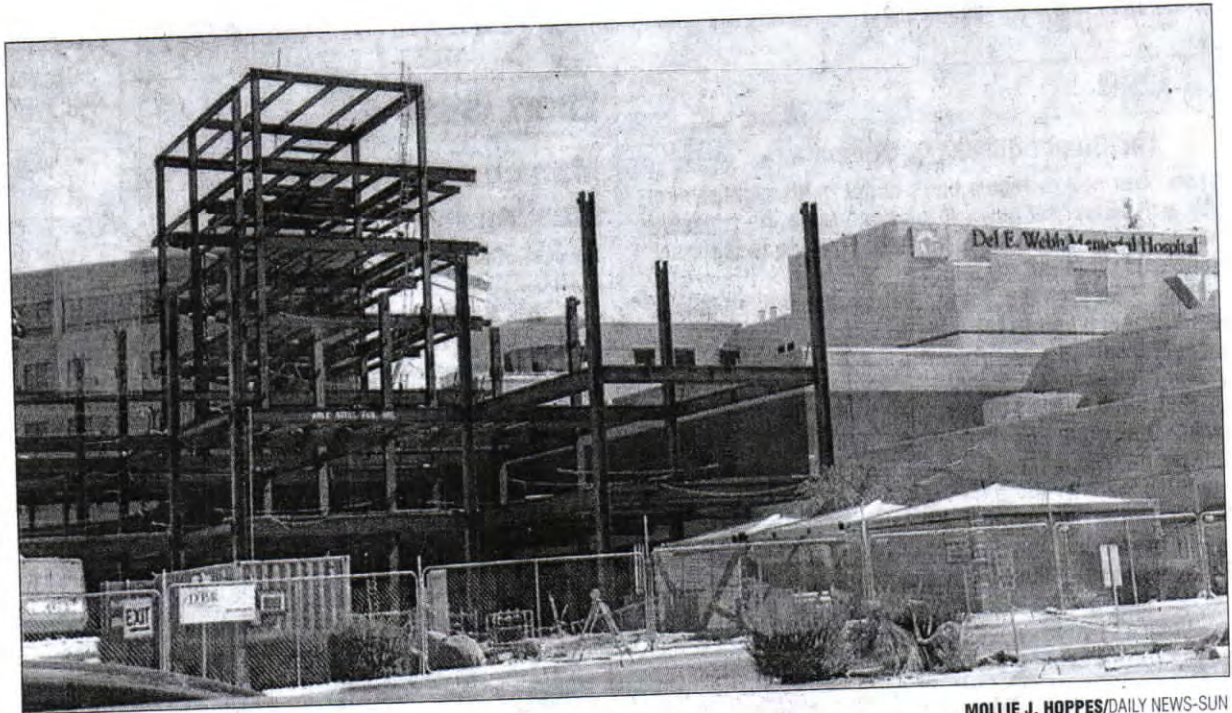
Boswell opened in 1970 and doors opened at Del E. Webb debuted in 1988. Complementing the services is the Sun Health Research Institute.

The Research Institute is a leader, nationally and internationally, in the effort to find answers to disorders related to aging. While known for its studies of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, the institute, which is affiliated with the nonprofit Sun Health community health-care network, also conducts research on cancer and arthritis and recently opened the world's first fibromyalgia tissue bank.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Boswell Memorial Hospital was Sun Health's first, opening in 1970.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Construction continues on a new wing of Sun Health's Del E. Webb Hospital in Sun City West Friday as officials announced the merger of Sun Health and Banner Health systems. The hospital, along with Sun Health's Boswell Hospital in Sun City and smaller Sun Health medical properties, will take the Banner name once the merger is approved in six to nine months.

Auxiliary reflects on service achievement

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun Health, which has the largest hospital auxiliary in the nation, had a lot to celebrate Monday.

There were 850 volunteers and staff in attendance for the "10 Million Thanks" party, honoring 10 million hours of service performed by volunteers with the Sun Health Auxiliary since its inception in 1968. The Sun Health Auxiliary received the President's Volunteer Service Award, which is the highest level of volunteer recognition in the United States.

Kathy Jones, president of the auxiliary, said the recognition is a reflection of the volunteers' dedication.

"What a tremendous effort it takes," Jones said. "It was 37 years of total dedication. We have 4,000 volunteers and when we started, we had a core eight to 10."

Leland Peterson, Sun Health president and chief executive officer, put the 10 million service hours into perspective for the audience.

"Ten million is hard to imagine," Peterson said. "A single person working 40 hours a week ... it would take 4,800 years. To calculate those hours, it would go back to 2800 B.C."

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano proclaimed April 24 Sun Health Volunteer Day in a letter read by Peterson. He also read a letter from President



THOMAS BOGGAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Leland Peterson, Sun Health president, and Kay Scherting, volunteer services director, open a time capsule during a ceremony at Sundial Recreation Center Monday. The ceremony honored Sun Health Auxiliary for achieving 10 million service hours.

George W. Bush, commending the auxiliary on its service.

In addition to accolades, the audience was entertained by "Dr. Maxine Harper," also known as Joanne Augustein, the Red Hat Society's official laugh therapist.

Laughter, Harper said, has health benefits, including lower blood pressure and heart rate, and it's good for

the lungs.

Peterson and Kay Scherting, director of volunteer services, opened a time capsule that was stored in the ceiling of the volunteer services department since July 1984, with the understanding that it would be opened when the auxiliary reached the 10 million hour mark. That occurred 10 years earlier than predicted.

Inside the capsule were patches, newspaper stories and a roster of the 1984 volunteers, among other items. Those items will be stored in a time capsule with current items to be opened after another 10 million service hours.

Joy Slagowski may be reached at 876-2514 or jslagowski@aztrib.com.

Kellam is elected Sun Health chair; New corporation members approved

By Marie Scotti

L. Birt Kellam of Sun City West has been elected as the volunteer chairman of the Board of Directors of Sun Health, the community-based healthcare network that includes Boswell and Del E. Webb Memorial Hospitals and other health services in the West Valley.

Kellam succeeds Sun Citian Robert T. Root, Ph.D., who served for two years as chairman and will continue as a Sun Health board member.

The new chairman praised his predecessor, whose tenure included the completion of the Del E. Webb Hospital expansion; and the openings of Sun Health Hospice on the Del E. Webb Hospital campus and the Sun Health Lakes Imaging Center across from Boswell Hospital. In addition, plans were formulated for additional expansions of both Sun Health hospitals.

An area resident since 1990, Kellam is a retired vice president



L. Birt Kellam is elected volunteer chairman of the Sun Health Board of Directors.

of A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., and formerly served as chairman of the operating board for Del E. Webb Hospital, president of the board of trustees of Sun Health Foundation, and secretary and later vice-chairman of the Sun Health Board.

Kellam and his wife, Louisa,

were the recipients of the 2002 WESTMARC "Best of the West" Chairman's Award.

Succeeding Kellam as vice chairman of the network board is Sandra L. Foell of Sun City West, who also serves as board chairman for Boswell Hospital. Officers of the board who were re-elected were Glen E. Morin of Sun City West, secretary; Andrea G. Somerville, J. D. of Surprise, assistant secretary; Leonard F. DeBaker of Sun City West, treasurer, and Richard E. McKnight of Sun City, assistant treasurer.

The board terms of Kellam, Foell, Somerville and McKnight had expired, and each was re-elected along with Rae K. Mcmillan of Litchfield Park. Other board members are Surprise residents Laren Bates, J.D., and Frank E. Joyce; Joe D. Schoggen of Sun City West; George C. Wheeler of Peoria; Leonard Kirschner, M.D. M.P.H., of Litchfield Park; Radiologist A. Steven Chamey, M.D. of Scottsdale; and Internist Alan M. Grobman, M.D., and Leland W. Peterson, both of Glendale.

Elected as new corporation members during Sun Health's

recent annual meeting were Surprise residents, Charles E. Fowler, Robert F. Gehrke, Peter L. Giroux and Mark S. Maksimowicz, Ph.D.; Jack W. Lunsford and Mark S. Searle, Ph. D., of Phoenix; Douglas Smith of Sun City West; Thomas T. Tamura of Goodyear and Jon E. Wohler of Litchfield Park. Their terms expire in 2008.

Re-elected as corporation members, with terms to expire in 2008, were William G. Beyer, J.D., of Glendale; Lorraine E. Cockle, Sandra L. Foell, Donald J. Hinnen, Hal V. Lind, Glen E. Morin, Nan Wheeler and William T. Woodyard, Ph.D., all of Sun City West; Janice A. Ferguson, Ph.D., George W. Lawrence, Robert T. Root, Ph. D., and Roy L. Smith, Ed.D., of Sun City; Leonard Kirschner, M.D., Ph.D., and Rae K. McMillan of Litchfield Park; Richard W. McComb and Elizabeth Molina of Surprise; and Internist Thomas Maxwell III, M.D., a Phoenix resident who practices in Sun City.

Jane J. Freeman, Ed.D. of Sun City was elected as an emeritus corporation member.

Sun Health slates \$80M expansion

AT A GLANCE

■ **Boswell Memorial Hospital,** 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City. Currently has 352 beds. Plans call for 74 more beds, expansion of heart center and general hospital capacity.

■ **Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital,** 14502 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West. Currently has 297 beds. Plans call for a new tower, 100 additional beds, expanded surgical capacity, parking and diagnostic services. Space will be available for an additional 72 beds if needed in the future.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS

Keith Dines, Sun Health's vice president of strategic development, and Del E. Webb Hospital CEO Jo Adkins pose in front of the hospital in Sun City West. Sun Health's master plan calls for \$80 million in additions to Webb and to Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City.

Regional growth prompts additions at Boswell, Webb

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Plans are under way to bring \$80 million in expanded health care facilities and services to Northwest Valley residents.

Responding to explosive growth in its service areas, Sun Health Corp. has completed a systemwide master facilities plan that will add a bed tower to Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West and more services and programs to both Webb and Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City.

"We expect to see some construction starting by the end of this year," said Keith Dines, Sun Health's executive vice president of strategic development. "Obviously, we will keep all patient interruption to a minimum."

The improvements will expand access and patient convenience, said Dines.

"In 2004, it was Sun Health's sixth consecutive year of double digit growth in discharges," he said. "In 2004, there were more than 37,000 discharges and an increase of 75,000 emergency room visits" at both hospitals.

Much of the work will be financed using bonds, but Sun Health Foundation also plans a public capital campaign.

Sun Health already owns the land necessary for the new bed tower at Webb. Work at Boswell will involve maximizing use of already existing space.

Dines said Webb's service area has grown "exponentially."

"The Surprise community, El Mirage, Sun City West, it's just exploding," he said.

Plans, which are still in the architectural design

See Sun Health, A5

SUN HEALTH: Bed capacity increasing at Boswell, Webb hospitals

From A1
12301

phase, call for the new tower to connect with the west side of the hospital, and 100 new beds to be added by 2008.

"We'll have the capacity for an additional 72 beds" on top of the 100, Dines said. The hospital currently has 297 beds.

Also at Webb, Sun Health plans to expand its surgical capacity, parking and diagnostic services.

At Boswell in Sun City, Sun Health expects to add 74 beds to the existing 352.

"It is planned that those beds will be online in 2006," Dines said.

"The key focus at Boswell will be continued expansion of the nationally recognized heart program and general hospital capacity expansion," he said. "The community

really looks to Boswell's leadership on the cardiac program, and we're going to continue to enhance that."

Boswell's Heart Center has landed on the Solucient 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals list four years in a row, according to Sun Health's Web site.

Along with the expansions and additions, Sun Health will work to attract additional physicians.

"It's always a challenge because physicians are in very short supply right now," Dines said.

The new tower at Webb will connect to the main hospital, similar to the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health that opened three years ago to meet the area's demand for obstetrical and gynecological services.

Like the women's center

and its Nesting Place obstetrical suites, the additions will help Sun Health continue serving the burgeoning region.

Dines said the corporation's two hospitals combined are about equal in size to Banner Thunderbird Medical Center and quite a bit bigger than Arrowhead Community Hospital and Medical Center, both of which are in Glendale.

"On the West side, we are and will continue to be the largest facility," he said.

In late 2003, Sun Health Properties, an affiliated non-profit group organized to operate health-related properties, announced plans to sell about a dozen medical office buildings to free up capital for this expansion.

"Eighty million (dollars) doesn't go as far as it used to," Dines said.

Health & Wellness: Dual care in West Valley



Independent Newspapers/Matt Loeschman

Sun Health Care Center Administrator Bhakti Gosalia stands inside the new gift shop at the Sun Health Boswell Rehabilitation Center. The shop is one of many new amenities at the facility that will celebrate its grand re-opening Dec. 15.

Sun Health expansion opens doors

By Matt Loeschman
Independent Newspapers

www.sunhealth.org

One of Sun Health's medical facilities has undergone an extreme makeover.

The former care center, located on the Boswell Hospital campus at 10601 W. Santa Fe Drive, is set for its grand re-opening as the Sun Health Boswell Rehabilitation Center, the only dual skilled nursing/acute rehabilitation facility in the West Valley.

"You must understand this is a building that has been here for 20 years without any major renovations," explained Genny Rose, Sun Health Extended Care Services vice president. "There have been no major investments into the interior of the building. We got the capital funds to do a basic face lift to what was basically a skilled nursing facility. But then we brainstormed and came up with the idea to transition this from just a nursing home into a rehab facility.

"Basically, we face lifted the skilled nursing side of the building and gutted and remodeled and renovated the

acute rehab side," she added. "We really have a different building than we had 10 months ago."

The Sun Health Boswell Rehabilitation Center will be unveiled during "Deck the Halls with Renovation." The public will have an opportunity to see the dual skilled nursing/acute rehabilitation center firsthand 3:30-5:30 p.m. Dec. 15. Staff will conduct tours on both sides of the medical center and refreshments will be served.

The public may attend the free event. Call the Sun Health-Line at 876-5432.

Norbert and Sonia Grove will be honored during the ceremonies.

The Groves, 27-year residents of Sun City, have supported scholarships for nursing students of the Boswell/Mesa Nursing Program through their contributions to the Sun Health Foundation.

The Groves will have their names attached to the renovat-

ed facility. "We are looking forward to the event," Ms. Grove said last week. "We feel like Sun Health is so deserving of what we have given. They do so much good for so many people."

Ms. Rose said the Groves and those attending the event will be surprised at the changes to the building.

"I'm having to take inventory of what is where," she explained. "I was the administrator here for 15 years. The building is very different now."

In addition to the new layout of the facility, a gift shop was also constructed. New signage was added outside the building.

Renovation was recently completed on the six wings of the former Sun Health Care Center building to prepare these areas for acute-rehabilitation services which will be relocated from the hospital to the Sun Health Rehabilitation Center.

Three other wings will house patients needing continuing medical care in the sub-

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

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over

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acute, skilled-nursing area of the facility.

Beginning the week of Jan. 1, 2006, the Sun Health Rehabilitation Center honoring Norbert and Sonia Grove will provide an additional 40 beds within Sun Health Boswell Hospital for medical/surgical care by offering 44 beds for acute rehabilitation and 71 beds for sub-acute skilled care.

At that time, patients on two units at Sun Health Boswell Hospital will be transferred to the new center.

"We have a strategy and we'll start to implement this at the beginning of the new year," Ms. Rose said. "A total of 40 patients will be moved and the entire process should take about three days or so."

Hospital bed space is always

at a premium.

"This was an incentive for us to implement our plan. We freed up a lot of bed space at the hospital through this plan," Ms. Rose explained.

One challenge was keeping business as usual as construction crews meandered throughout the building.

"We can't just shut down," Ms. Rose joked. "But we juggled things around and it worked out fine."

Even as finishing touches were being applied last week, staff members and administrators could barely contain their excitement.

"I just keep saying it is like a dream come true," said Care Center Administrator Bhakti Gosalia. "Everyone had input into this and it's really fascinating to see it all come together. We're counting down the days until it is ready."

Ms. Rose, who worked in the

facility for nearly two decades, said the anticipation is palpable.

"This creates a unique identity for us," Ms. Rose said. "Everyone is thrilled. Existing staff is excited and the staff moving here from the hospital have been welcomed with open arms."

The Sun Health Rehabilitation Center opening is part of the \$80-million expansion program that will add 176 beds between Sun Health Boswell and Del E. Webb hospitals by 2008.

For information about the fund-raising campaign, call the Sun Health Foundation at 876-5330.

Post your comments on this issue at www.newszapforums.com/forum29. Reach News Editor Matt Loeschman at 972-6101 or

mloeschman@newszap.com.

Sun Health expansion: Community may support campaign

Hospitals, institute grow with sprouting West Valley

By Charlene Patti Bisson
Independent Newspapers

The West Valley continues to change its makeup over years. A once relatively exclusive destination for senior citizens, the West Valley has become a home to people of all generations.

Sun Health officials recognize the West Valley's evolution and strive to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of people they serve by expanding. Sun Health is hosting two fund-raising campaigns with an \$80 million expansion project of Boswell and Del E. Webb Memorial hospitals and a \$5 million expansion of the Sun Health Research Institute.

"Sun Health is committed to meeting the health care needs of this community," said Keith A. Dines, Sun Health executive vice president of strategic development. "When I say this community — it is a changing definition — this community is self-evolving."

He said Sun Health is constantly evaluating each segment that has different health care needs.

"Historically the West Valley focused on the retirement communities," Mr. Dines said. "Who would have guessed on 2/2/02 that we would be delivering babies in a retirement community? We are because that is what the community's needs have been. We need to plan two or three years out to find out what the community needs."

Mr. Dines said Sun Health officials keep tabs on the West and Northwest Valley boom so they can make ready appropriate facilities. He noted Sun Health's primary service area is the Northwest corridor, including Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Peoria, El Mirage and Youngtown, providing about 350,000 people with service. The number will be

How to help:

Individuals who want to give monetary donations to Sun Health Research Institute or Sun Health's Boswell and Del E. Webb Memorial hospitals may call the Sun Health Foundation at 876-5330.

If You Go:

What: Sun Health Research Institute, 10515 W. Sante Fe Drive, will host an information day on its tissue-donor program. Call 876-5328.

Where: Boswell Memorial Hospital, 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd.
When: 9 a.m. Oct. 12.

close to 600,000 in 2013.

Discharge and emergency room spike

According to Mr. Dines, Sun Health experienced double-digit growth to the volume of discharges its hospitals — Boswell Memorial and Del E. Webb Memorial — experience for the seventh consecutive year.

In 2004, there were 37,000 discharges and 2005 should exceed 40,000 discharges.

He anticipates the hospitals will surpass 80,000 emergency room visits this year.

"The expansion is looking at access, capacity, as well as patient convenience," Mr. Dines said. "We are looking at the entire health care system."

Boswell

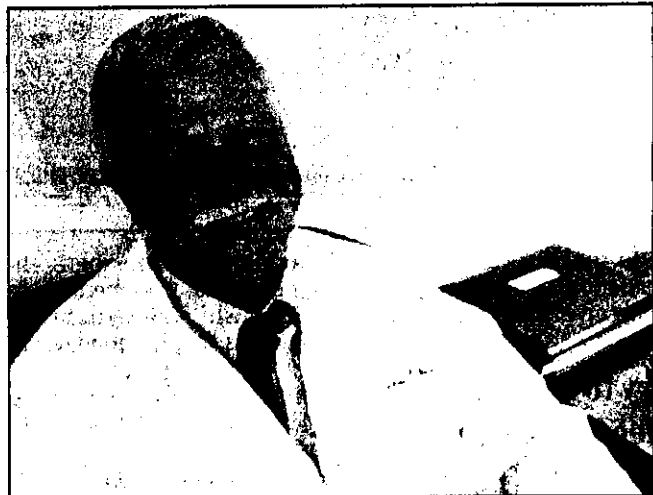
Boswell hospital, 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, will receive department enhancements and an additional 74 hospital beds by optimizing its space in a \$25 million campaign.

"We are expanding beds in the heart center so we can expand capacity of open heart surgery, vascular sur-

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Independent Newspapers/Charlene Patti Bisson
Keith A. Dines, Sun Health executive vice president of strategic development, said Sun Health is committed to meeting the health care needs of the West Valley.



Sun Health Research Institute President Dr. Joseph Rogers, Ph.D., noted the SHRI expansion will provide doctors and scientists with more space to study age-related diseases, such as prostate cancer.



Sun Health Foundation Executive Vice President/CEO Pamela K. Meyerhoffer, FAHP, said she appreciates the ongoing support from the community to raise funds for Sun Health expansion projects.

Health

Continued From Page 1

gery and other coronary artery disease-type procedures," Mr. Dines explained. "We will be converting third floor to additional hospital beds. We are converting Sun Health Care Center to acute rehabilitation center, which will house long-term rehab patients and a skilled-nursing facility."

Boswell's emergency department will also be enhanced with a laboratory, diagnostic imaging and more. The projects will begin at the end of 2005 and should be complete in 2006.

Del E. Webb

"Del E. Webb, 14502 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, will be investing in a \$55 million project that will result in 98 additional beds available to the community," Mr. Dines said. "The biggest change the community will see is the building of an additional patient care tower."

The five-story tower should be complete by 2008 and feature 52 private rooms with space for 72 additional beds when the demand warrants, he added. The tower will house intensive care as well as traditional medical and surgical beds.

Del E. Webb will sport 46 more beds by converting physician offices on the sixth floor to patient beds. The physicians will move their offices across the street to the existing medical buildings.

"We will be improving the emergency room, providing enhancements, improving parking, patient convenience, etc.," he said.

Del E. Webb expansion will be in phases, beginning in the first quarter of 2006 with additions to the sixth floor of the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health. A second phase of construction will begin at the end of 2006 with the building of the five-story tower.

Sun Health Surprise Urgent Care Center

Mr. Dines said Sun Health is enhancing its vision of community-based services by opening the Sun Health Surprise Urgent Care Center at Greenway Road and Civic Center Drive in November.

"That will be an opportunity to help provide additional levels of service to the community," he said. "The focus will be minor nonemergency illnesses. We will be treating workplace injuries, providing immunizations, physical examines, general radiology, board certified eternal medicine physician as well as a board certified pediatrician."

Mr. Dines explained services available in the emergency room is designed for life-threatening illness such as a heart attack or broken limb.

"Access to physician services is challenging so the only place you can go at night and on weekends is the emergency room and it becomes inundated with primary care-related services," he said. "That is an expensive setting."

Two 3,000-square-foot modular buildings were moved Oct. 11 from Sun Health's La Loma campus to the Surprise site. The urgent care center will be associated with Del E. Webb's emergency center.

Sun Health Research Institute

Sun Health Research Institute President Dr. Joseph Rogers, Ph.D., said the \$5 million capital campaign will be used to construct a building wedged between SHRI's two existing facilities.

According to Dr. Rogers, when citizens walk into the three-story building on the first floor to the left, it will sport an auditorium that will seat about 120 people.

"We will have continuing medical education for physicians and health seminars for the public," he said.

The rest of the first floor will be devoted to clinical research.

"Our present clinical research center is half the wing of the first floor of our original building, which we have outgrown," Dr. Rogers said.

SHRI has focused on clinical research in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Dr. Rogers said the facility will allow them to immediately expand into orthopedics clinical research.

The third floor will be SHRI's tissue bank and a laboratory.

"Our brain bank has been so successful," he noted. "We have done almost 1,000 autopsies. We have enrolled over 2,000 people in the Sun Cities. We sent tissue samples for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and other neurological disorders to over 300 investigators around the world. Everybody who is anybody important in their field is getting tissue from here. We are generally recognized as the best brain bank for any neurological research."

Dr. Rogers hopes to focus on more age-related diseases than just the ones that affect a human's brain.

"There is prostate cancer," he explained. "Prostate cancer is rampant in the Sun Cities as you would expect. The older you get the more likely you will get prostate cancer. We have the demographics that unfortunately will be vulnerable for that."

The second floor of the facility will be empty with bare walls and floors.

"We will hope in the same way as all our other research institutes have developed is we hope a benefactor in the community will come forward and really like to see research done

on age-related cancers," Dr. Rogers said. "I would like half of the second floor to be a research center for cancer research. It may be orthopedic, or muscular degeneration, heart disease and stroke. It depends what the community wants. They will tell me what text they want."

Dr. Rogers said the community is incredibly generous for the institute was built with entire charitable contributions.

"I am completely grateful how generous this community has always been to us for the near 20 years I have been here. We would have absolutely nothing without the community.

"I do believe in seven years we will have a treatment for Alzheimer's disease that really prevents it," he added. "I believe this institute will have played a major role in that. It will come back to the community."

Sun Health Foundation

Sun Health Foundation Executive Vice President/CEO Pamela K. Meyerhoffer, FAHP, said \$60 million of the \$80 million expansion for the two hospitals will be funded by tax-exempt bonds.

Ms. Meyerhoffer said several upcoming events will benefit the expansion projects, including a 35th anniversary ball set for Nov. 5 at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park and a March 20, 2006 golf tournament at Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City. One hundred tickets are left for the 35th anniversary event and residents and professionals may participate or spon-

sor tees and holes in the golf tournament.

"The (SHRI) scientists were so successful, other scientists are interested (in studies), if they have the room they could," she said. "We are very proud of our community for making this (SHRI) possible."

Ms. Meyerhoffer noted SHRI will not only benefit the Valley but the world.

"We would gladly accept support," she said.

She added cruises sponsored by Holland-America and the Sun City West Variety Show will be donating money for Sun Health's expansion. The Sun City West Variety Show "The Winners Circle" will be 2-7:30 p.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. all other evenings Oct. 30-Nov. 13 at the Stardust Theatre, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.

The Sun Health Foundation has many more fund-raising avenues available for community members such as dusty shoe tours and informational receptions at people's homes. For more information, call 876-5330.

"We are not just doing the expansion to be bigger, but to be responsive to needs in health care," Ms. Meyerhoffer said.

Sun Health employees are also contributing to the projects through the Shared Giving Campaign, she added. Employees who donate receive a ribbon to wear to work and they often encourage others to give.

"I think that is a real statement of support," Ms. Meyerhoffer said.

The west Valley's changing face

Hospital's 35th anniversary marks many advances

Thirty-five years ago, it was an almost daily occurrence for vehicles to stop on the road just outside of Sun City to allow flocks of sheep to cross from one farm field to another.

"I remember those times well," recalls retired thoracic and vascular surgeon **Thomas G. Daniel, MD.** "I'd often be on my way to perform surgery at Boswell Hospital and have to wait for the sheep like everyone else. In every direction you looked were neatly planted rows of crops. The only structures visible across miles of farmland were the hospital's white circular towers.

"Much has changed since then."

In 2005, it still is common to come to a halt on any of a number of roads in the west Valley. Rather than stopping for sheep, however, drivers are yielding at traffic-controlled intersections for other vehicles – the vehicles of tens of thousands of people who now reside and work in the area's rapidly growing communities and bustling centers of commerce.

As Dr. Daniel states, much has changed as Sun Health Boswell Hospital prepares to observe its 35th anniversary of service in November. For example, coronary-artery bypass

surgery, which in 1970 still was in its infancy across the nation, today is performed almost routinely by physicians with the assistance of a surgical robot within the Sun Health Heart Center at Boswell Hospital. The heart center is the only Arizona facility to be named by Solucient for four consecutive years as one of the nation's 100 top cardiovascular hospitals.

Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital opened in 1988. Since that time, digitized medical-imaging services, minimally invasive orthopedics, the introduction of obstetrics and gynecological care, specialized neurological care, behavioral health and many other medical specialties have continued the advancements locally available at one or both Sun Health hospitals.

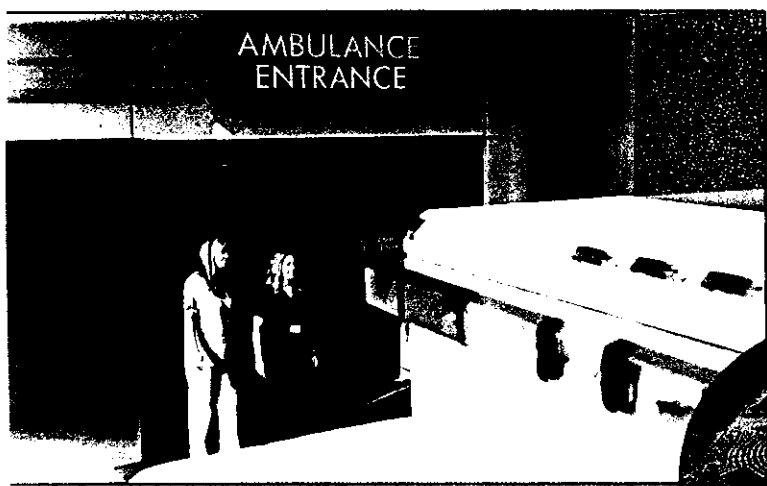
Meanwhile, the face of the west Valley has changed. Surprise, Sun City, Sun City West, El Mirage, Peoria and Youngtown – the communities that constitute Sun Health's primary service area – have more than *quadrupled* their combined populations in the past 20 years, growing from 81,700 residents in 1984 to today's total that exceeds 350,000. This growth has triggered an evolution in the region's demographic profile. Once dominated by the retirement-age population, the transforming area now includes a wider range of ages, including younger families with children, career professionals and, of course, senior residents.

So who represents the changing face of these communities?

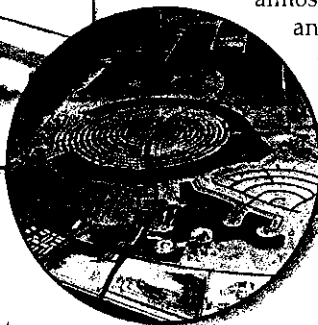
Today, more than two-thirds (69.5 percent) of those residents are under 65, while the under-45 segment accounts for almost half (48.9 percent) of the total. The 64,000 residents under 15 reflect a total approximately equal to the combined populations of Sun City and Sun City West!

The senior population, however, still accounts for almost a third (30.5 percent) of the residents and remains a solid demographic component of the local population.


All of these segments are continuing to enlarge in number as are the almost 280,000 people who reside in the surrounding communities of Glendale, Litchfield Park, Waddell, Wickenburg and Wittmann.



Approximately 62 percent of the admissions to Sun Health Boswell and Del Webb hospitals arrived through the Emergency departments and thus are unplanned. Pam Smith RN (left) and Gina Conrad RN prepare for another incoming ambulance at the Sun Health Boswell Hospital Emergency Department.



more on page 4



"It's readily apparent our population is changing," notes L. Birt Kellam of Sun City West, chairman of Sun Health's board of directors, "and area residents rightfully expect Sun Health to provide a broad range of healthcare services. The senior segment of the population remains our root – just as it was 35 years ago – but we're also serving the needs of younger generations, including women of all ages and children."

As the west Valley's appeal as a preferred area to live and work continues to attract thousands of new residents each year, the non-profit Sun Health network sets new records in service to area residents:

- In 2004, the 38,085 combined inpatient discharges from Sun Health Boswell and Del E. Webb hospitals represented a 7.9-percent increase over 2003 and a jump of 27.9 percent over totals in 2002.
- Surgeries at the hospitals increased 4.9 percent in 2004 and were up 18.1 percent in the past two years.
- Combined Emergency Department visits rose 4.2 percent in 2004 but also reflected a staggering rise of 26.6 percent increase over 2002 total visits.

The combined number of Emergency Department visitors treated at Sun Health's hospitals – 75,600 in 2004 – would fill the seats in Arizona State University's Sun Devil Stadium. Even with the growth in all ages of the resident population,



almost 69 percent of the combined discharges at Sun Health Boswell and Del E. Webb hospital through the first half of 2005 were Medicare beneficiaries.

Another significant point is 62 percent of the inpatient admissions at Sun Health Boswell and Del E. Webb hospitals come through the Emergency departments. Stated another way, 62 percent of the hospitals' admissions are *unplanned*, creating tremendous pressure on the facilities' capacity and resources.

"As these numbers indicate, the face of the west Valley has changed significantly in 35 years," notes **Nancy Burton, RN, CHE**, acting administrator of Sun Health Boswell Hospital. "People, however, are more than numbers. They are individuals – family, friends and neighbors – who have specific healthcare needs. And Sun Health is taking the proactive and positive steps necessary to ensure their needs are met in the future, just as those needs have been met consistently in the past."

Planned expansions at Sun Health's two hospitals require an investment of \$80 million. These expansions are aimed at alleviating overcrowding and enhancing services. Renovations to add patient-care beds at Sun Health Boswell Hospital already are under way. Groundbreaking festivities for a new patient-care tower at Sun Health Del E. Webb Hospital will be scheduled in 2006. See pages 6-10 for more details about the expansions and the fund-raising campaign that is helping to support them.

Increasing numbers of physicians are being attracted to the west Valley to care for the growing population and practice in the technologically sophisticated and expanding hospitals. Since 2003, Sun Health has helped to recruit to the area upwards of 60 physicians in primary care and surgical specialties, and more than 650 physicians have privileges at Sun Health's hospitals. Local residents are encouraged to develop a relationship with a personal physician. Assistance is provided with physician referrals through Sun Health's Web site – www.sunhealth.org – or the Sun HealthLine® at 623/876-5432 or 1/800/815-0115.

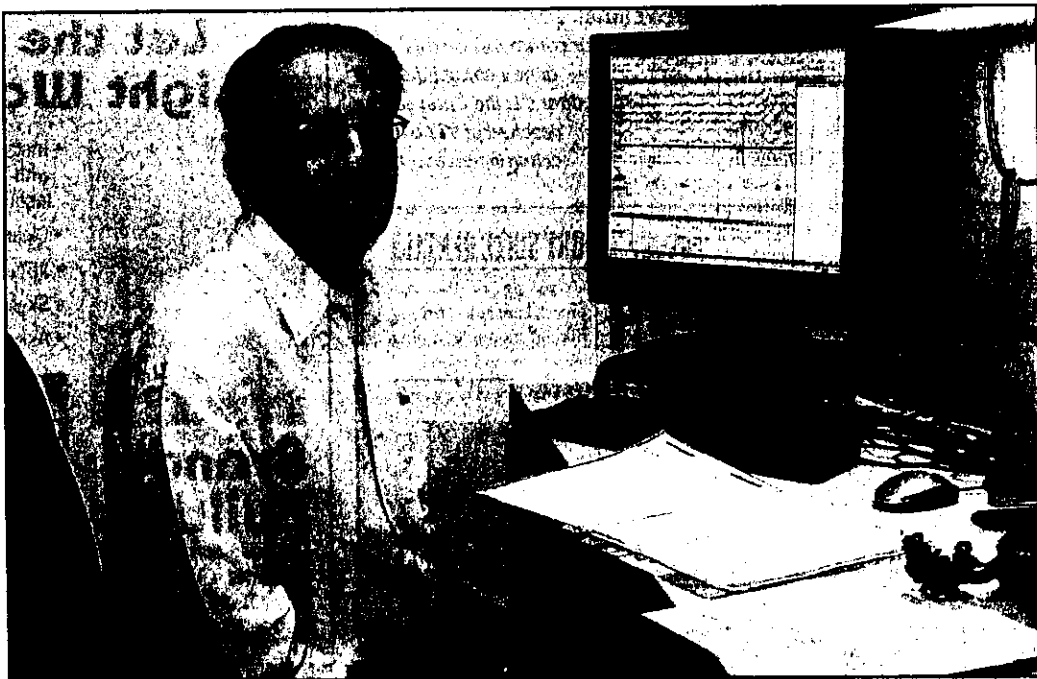
These physicians are supported by more than 4,400 Sun Health employees and 4,000 Sun Health Auxiliary members and volunteers. Already the second-largest west Valley-based employer, Sun Health is recruiting additional employees with clinical skills – nurses, pharmacists, technologists, therapists and others – to accommodate the needs of the growing population.

Local residents can help to enhance their own well being by referring family members, friends and others in the healthcare field to the non-profit network. Online applications can be made through Sun Health's careers Web site at www.sunhealth.org/careers.

"Yes, much has changed in the west Valley through the years, but some things remain true and constant. While this 35th anniversary serves as a reminder of the commitment to excellence that began in mid-November 1970 with the opening of Sun Health Boswell Hospital, it is but a milepost in Sun Health's continuing journey and quest to meet your needs as your local, non-profit community healthcare provider," Mrs. Burton says.

Please visit Sun Health's Web site at www.sunhealth.org or call the Sun HealthLine® at 623/876-5432 or 1/800/815-0115 for more information.

Community: 'Doc on Call' program popular



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Dr. Russell Gilbert, board certified in sleep medicine, participated twice in the popular call-in program. Here he is in his office at the Sun Health Sleep Disorders Center, where he is the medical director.

Doctors give free medical information

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

Viagra, Cialis or Levitra?
Medication or implant?

Welcome to "Doctor on Call," a monthly call-in program, that featured as its topic last week male and female sexual dysfunction. The popular Sun Health program enables residents to ask medical questions from a physician manning the phonenumber.

"It's one of our little jewels we have here at Sun Health," said Lynne Reaves, marketing director. "Sun Health for 35 years have been a real community partner on the Westside and we offer a lot of educational classes to residents on the Westside that are free. This is one of those education programs that is part of giving back to the community. Another reason is doctors like it. The doctors say it's a great way of being part of the community. They learn a lot

"Doctor on Call" program offers a free community service to area residents. Call 977-8351 from 5-7 p.m. first Thursday of each month for free, confidential information.

For physicians interested in participating in the program, call Jennifer Williams, Sun Health marketing coordinator at (623) 815-7602.

about the concerns of residents in that community and it creates a stronger bond for them."

Dr. Russell Gilbert, who heads the Sun Health Sleep Disorders Center, enjoys participating in the program.

"We love doing it," said Dr. Gilbert, board certified in sleep medicine. "It's a great opportunity for people out in the community to ask questions sometimes they don't feel they can ask their family doctor or they are frustrated by their symptoms and call in for suggestions."

Both times he was on the program, the telephone lines were jammed with callers who voiced problems with chronic insomnia, sleep apnea and sleep medications.

"A huge percentage of the population suffers from sleep problems," he noted.

Although Dr. Gilbert is unable to dispense medical advice on the phone, he is able to arm callers with information about their complaint or about all the different treatment options.

"The calls enhance the ability of patients to gain a bit more knowledge and approach their doctors with a clear understanding of their problem," he said.

"Doctor on Call" took root in 1992, copying the format of a similar program launched in Phoenix, Ms. Reaves said.

The Sun Health marketing

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Wellness

Continued From Page 1

feeding their newborns, and also will show how to use the pump in a private room. A mother's milk is considered best for baby.

"In this particular hospital, 80 percent of mothers breast feed compared with 77 percent nationally," Ms. Hockensmith said. "It's because we encourage it."

The hospital since February 2002 boasts more than 5,000 births from mothers who come from Surprise, El Mirage, Peoria, Wickenburg, Litchfield Park, Glendale and Phoenix.

Unlike some retailers that may sell only lactating supplies, the

boutique offers aromatherapy products and educational books, Ms. Ford said.

She explained the various oils help with relaxation and pain management are not just for moms in labor but men and women who may suffer from joint pain and life's stress.

Customers can buy inhalers, which contain therapeutic oils so anytime there is a need to relax, they just sniff. A gift basket of items, including a lavender blanket for calming the baby also are available for purchase.

The only stuff "toy" for sale is a signing bear named Beebo. The bear, which costs \$50, is used to teach babies how to sign. Education material on baby signs are for

sale.

"Babies who learn signs, speak faster," Ms. Hockensmith said.

And, Ms. Ford, explained, better communication between parent and child removes the frustration level for both.

Volunteers, who man the boutique, also disseminate information on the numerous programs the center offers such as modern grandparenting, Boot Camp for New Dads, baby massage and baby sign language.

So far, the public is receptive to the shop, housed on the third floor of the hospital's Women Center. It's not just mothers and fathers coming to the shop. A number of older women bought

products not for a grandchild but for themselves.

"The nursing bras were not going to nursing moms," Ms. Hockensmith said. "They went to the older people who wanted extra support without the underwire. It was a big surprise."

If all goes well as it is expected, Ms. Ford said, it opens the door to more products and services to help people in all stages of life.

Way the down the line, pedicures, reflexology, facials and massages for babies are a possibility, Ms. Ford said.

Post your comments on this issue at newsblog.info/0302

News editor Cecilia Chan can be reached at 972-6101 or cchan@newszap.com



As the footprint of Sun Health's healthcare services expands throughout the west Valley, it is interesting to look back to the organization's beginnings.

How Sun Health has grown over the past three decades -- from the opening of the region's first hospital in 1970 to today's numerous state-of-the-art facilities -- is a testament to the commitment of area residents to this non-profit healthcare organization, the professionalism of its employees and the focus of its leadership.



Taking your health personally

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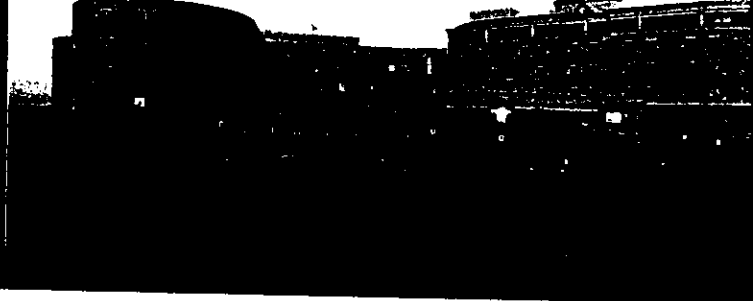
July 2005

Today, Sun Health is a premier healthcare provider for hundreds of thousands of Valley residents. Our reputation for excellence extends far beyond Sun Health's two hospitals - Del E. Webb and Boswell Memorial. Today we are known for our internationally renowned Sun Health Research Institute and for our quality residential services, home-delivered healthcare and related programs. Residents of all ages benefit from Sun Health's community-focused continuum of care that ranges from obstetrics and newborn services to cardiology and orthopedics.

While Sun Health continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the area's rapidly expanding population, our roots date back to an era of dramatic change on the American landscape.

Until the middle of the 20th Century, the notion of a "leisure retirement" was almost unknown in the United States. Then, with the establishment of Social Security and Medicare, and with Americans' increasing life spans, the concept of leisurely retirement was born...in Arizona.

At the forefront of the retirement revolution was an Arizona businessman named Del E. Webb. He had the dream. James Boswell had the land - some 10,000 acres of it. Together they drew the blueprints for Sun City, an active retirement community. Located on farmland about 30 miles from downtown Phoenix, cotton fields were quickly transformed into streets, homes, golf courses and shopping centers. At the grand opening of Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960, more than 100,000 visitors walked the streets of Sun City and a new era of retirement was born in the United States. 



As Sun City expanded, the need for a hospital grew as well. Volunteers and other community leaders organized in 1966, and their efforts led to the opening of Walrer O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in November 1970.

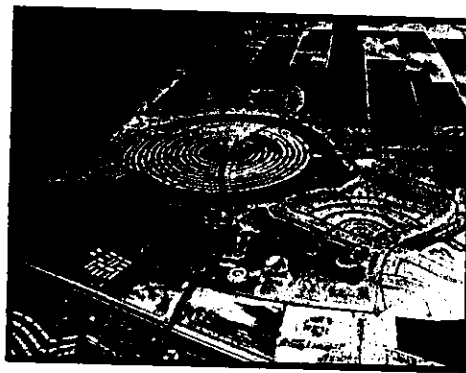
Hospital staff worked steadfastly to meet all the needs of the patients, and in 1972, Coordinated Home Health Services (later renamed Sun Health Home Care Services) initiated service as the first hospital-based home-health agency in Arizona. An emphasis on wellness led to the offering of health-related information through Community Health Education Programs (later known as Sun Health Community Education and Wellness Centers).

By the time the non-profit Sun Health organization was established in April 1981 to oversee the expansion of the healthcare system, Boswell Hospital had a third tower and construction was starting on a fourth. During this era, the Boswell/Mesa Nursing Education Program was being formed and scheduling its first classes to educate future registered nurses. Another service, Sun Health Care Center, soon followed.

Mr. Webb's second successful community in the west Valley – Sun City West – prompted the opening of a second Sun Health hospital. Named in memory of the visionary developer, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital opened to receive patients in January 1988. That same year marked the opening of Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center to help meet the socialization needs of area residents.

Sun Health continued to grow throughout the 1990s with the construction of our first hospice residence, an Alzheimer's residence and a residence for developmentally disabled adults. We also partnered to develop life-care communities.

While Sun Health takes pride in our local focus, at the same time our name reaches around the world. The Sun Health Research Institute, founded in 1986, has gained an international reputation for breakthroughs that have led to advances in the diagnosis and treatment of some of the most debilitating age-related diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and arthritis.



Sun Health is deeply rooted in the communities we serve. As a non-profit organization, every dollar Sun Health earns is reinvested back into the communities to expand and improve healthcare services.

Over the years, Sun Health has forged a seamless system for delivering extraordinary preventative, diagnostic and treatment services. Sun Health's facilities provide a continuum of care that connects and integrates each part of the comprehensive system – everything from acute care to wellness education, from birthing suites to wound management. Many of these facilities as well as advanced technologies have been paid for in whole or in part by generous donations from the community members to Sun Health Foundation. Since being founded in 1971, more than \$240 million has been donated to help make Sun Health the quality healthcare provider we are.

A small group of volunteers who started helping back in the 1960s when Sun Health's first hospital was being built has now grown to more than 4,000 volunteers. No other healthcare organization in the nation can boast of a better group of volunteers. They have donated almost 10 million hours of service over more than three decades and have raised significant funds to help purchase the latest in equipment for Sun Health's medical facilities.

Sun Health's employee base has grown to more than 4,500, making Sun Health the west Valley's second-largest employer after Luke Air Force Base. Additionally, almost 700 physicians in a wide variety of specialties including cardiology, orthopedics, oncology, neurology, pulmonology, internal medicine and more have earned the right to admit and treat patients at our two hospitals.

The company Mr. Webb founded now has developed a score of retirement communities around the country, and he had a saying – "Concrete, steel and lumber can make the buildings, but people make the community." The employees, physicians and volunteers are the heart of Sun Health, just as the residents of the west Valley are its heart. They continue to prove Mr. Webb right. People do make the community...and Sun Health.

**DEL E. WEBB
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL**

- Acute Hospital Care
- Acute Rehabilitation
- Adult Behavioral Health
- Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Emergency Care/ Urgent Care
- Extended Care Center
- Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health
- Pain Management Program
- Rehabilitation Services
- Surgery
- The Nesting Place Obstetrical Suites

**BOSWELL
MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL**

- Acute Hospital Care
- Acute Rehabilitation
- Cancer Program
- Continence Center
- Emergency Care/ Urgent Care
- Extended Care Center
- Heart Center
- Rehabilitation Services
- Sleep Disorders Center
- Surgery
- Wound Management Center/Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
- Women's Diagnostic Services

**SUN HEALTH
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

- Christopher Center for Parkinson's Research
- Cleo Roberts Center for Clinical Research
- Hoover Center for Arthritis Research
- L. J. Roberts Center for Alzheimer's Research
- Longtine Center for Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Civin Laboratory of Neuropathology
- Haldeman Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology
- Ralph Roberts Laboratory for Neurodegenerative Disease Research

**SUN HEALTH
AFFILIATES**

- Sun Health Auxiliary
- Sun Health Foundation
- Sun Health MedCare
- Sun Health MediSun
- Sun Health Properties

**OTHER
SUN HEALTH
SERVICES**

- Sun Health Care Center
 - Sun Health Home Care Services
 - Sun Health Hospice Care Services & Residences
 - Sun Health La Loma Care Center*
 - Sun Health Personal Care Services
 - Sun Health Residence for Alzheimer's Care
 - Sun Health Residence for Special Adults
- *Opening 2004*

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Sun Health sells office buildings for \$46.8 million

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The real estate arm of Sun Health has finalized a \$46.8 million sale of 10 medical office buildings in Sun City and Sun City West.

The sale is consistent with a trend for health-care providers to divest themselves of allied business activities, said Leland Peterson, Sun Health's president and CEO.

Located on the Boswell and Del E. Webb hospital campuses, the buildings will continue to be operated by Sun Health Properties.

Roskamp Management, a long-time partner of Sun Health Properties, bought the medical properties. The building operations are expected to be unaffected by the transfer of ownership.

"This \$46.8 million sale has strong benefits for Sun Health as well as patients receiving care from the health-care network," Peterson said.

The sale proceeds will go toward enhancing and expanding services, purchasing medical equipment and other funding other needs.

Roskamp's relationship with Sun Health dates to the early 1980s. The development company built

Freedom Plaza and later partnered with Sun Health for Grandview Terrace and La Loma Village.

Roskamp is expected to buy several more buildings from Sun Health across the street from Boswell, including the former Lakes Club that was renovated for the nursing program and a radiology center, Peterson said.

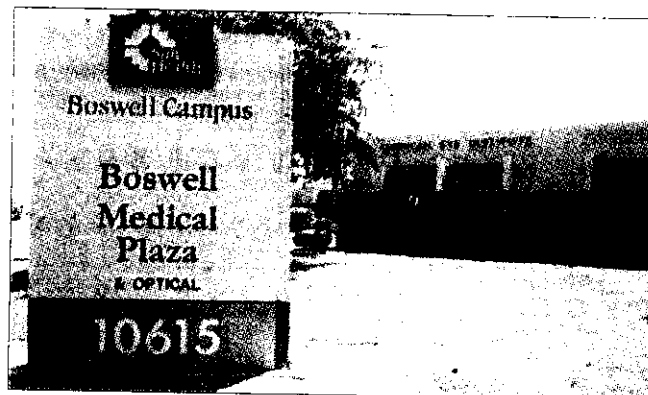
Peterson said the 10 medical office buildings have a high occupancy rate.

"They are important to this community because they really help attract physicians to the West Valley by making inviting office space available in proximity to the hospitals," Peterson said. "We're pleased with the parties that merged with us and that we can still respond to the needs of this community."

Peterson said residents' support continues to help Sun Health provide services to the area.

"While sale proceeds are critical to strengthening Sun Health's and (Sun Health Properties') financial position, ongoing community support continues to be vitally needed," he said.

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached at 876-2526 or mvantrease@aztrib.com.



STEVE CHERNEK/PHOTO BY SUN

The American Eye Institute, 10615 W. Thunderbird Blvd., located in one of the 10 medical office buildings being sold by Sun Health.

Volunteers honored for 800,000 service hours

More than 800,000 cumulative hours of service were celebrated recently as nearly 300 Sun Health volunteers were honored during a special awards luncheon March 5 at Union Hills Country Club in Sun City.

Pins celebrating milestones of service were distributed to 273 local individuals who have given between 1,000 and 26,000 hours of their time to Sun Health.

"We're extremely proud of our volunteers and their accomplishments," said Volunteer Services Director Jane Harker. "Sun Health would not be the organization it is without the support it receives from the community, and it is vital that our volunteers know what an important role they play in west Valley health care."

At the top of the "hours pyramid" is Sun City West resident Jim Hudson. At 26,000 hours of service, Mr. Hudson has the distinction of contributing the most hours in the history of the Sun Health Auxiliary.

His career experience as deputy director of the American Nurses' Association has made him an invaluable member of the Volunteer Services leadership team. He serves as policies and procedures coordinator for the department and has assumed a key role in the orientation and training of new volunteers as well as the design and development of training programs and materials.

In receiving his 20,000-hour pin, Sun City West resident Dick Webber joins an elite group of only four volunteers in Sun Health's history who



Submitted photo

Some of Sun Health's heavy-hitting volunteers who have given 10,000 hours or more of service include (back row, left to right) Rita Nicholson of Sun City, Marilyn Keim of Sun City West, Olga Walker of Sun City, Monty Langhamer of Sun City, Dick Webber of Sun City West, Jim Hudson of Sun City West, Ruth Wood of Sun City, Eleanore Strasser of Sun City, Celia Karpin of Sun City, (front row, left to right) Ruth Graham of Sun City and Lu Putao of Sun City West.

have served 20,000 or more hours. Mr. Webber is "right-hand man" to his wife, Harriett, a Sun Health employee who manages the auxiliary's gift shops at Boswell and Del E. Webb hospitals.

Ruth Wood has contributed the majority of her 19,000 hours to food service, helping both at Boswell Hospital and in the Sun Health Care Center. The Sun City resident continues to assist patients with their menus and deliver meal trays and is a key leader within Food Services, providing much of the training for new dietary volunteers.

Now in her 24th year of volunteer service, Eleanore Strasser received her pin for 18,000 hours. A Sun City resident, Ms. Strasser has served in several Boswell Hospital nursing units as well as in the surgical family waiting room and at many hospital reception desks. She now serves as a morning dietary assistant.

Marilyn Keim of Sun City West has served in several auxiliary leadership positions since she first came to Sun Health in 1989 and now works regularly in the Endoscopy Department at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. She was

honored for attaining the 17,000-hour mark.

Another longtime volunteer, Olga Walker of Sun City, received her 16,000-hour pin. Ms. Walker began her service in 1977 at Boswell Hospital's main lobby reception desk, where she still works today.

Peg Richardson of Peoria was honored posthumously for contributing 15,000 hours of service since 1975. Sun City resident Celia Karpin was rewarded for amassing 13,000 hours. Peoria resident Grace Miller received her 11,000-hour pin, while Yvonne Herzberg of Sun City claimed her service pin for 12,000 hours.

Among the honorees serving 10,000 or more hours were Sun City residents Ruth Graham, Monty Langhamer and Rita Nicholson, as well as Dorothy Johnson of Peoria and Lu Putao of Sun City West.

More than 250 other local residents were applauded for contributing between 1,000 and 9,000 hours of service, with a collective total at the awards ceremony of 816,000 cumulative hours served by 273 individuals during their volunteer service careers with Sun Health.

Sun Health President/CEO Leland Peterson and other dignitaries — including Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital Vice President/CEO Jo Adkins and Boswell Memorial Hospital Vice President/CEO Tom Dickson — presented service pins at the event to recognize the invaluable contributions of the non-profit organization's volunteers.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT December 24, 2003

Sun Health honors 90-year-old volunteer Sun Citian to retire after 19 years of service

Good things are rumored to come in threes, and Sun Health volunteer Elving "Jake" Jacobson would probably agree.

Today, Jacobson — a general "gofer" in the Cardiovascular Surgical Intensive Care Unit of Boswell Memorial Hospital — was honored by staff and volunteers at a celebratory lunch for three different reasons.

The first? His 90th birthday (coming up on Jan. 21).

Second: His "retirement" from SICU after 19 years of volunteer service.

The third reason was a complete surprise to Mr. Jacobson until Sun Health

Auxiliary representatives showed up during his luncheon to tell him he had been selected as January "Volunteer of the Month" at Boswell Hospital.

"I can't believe this," the Sun Citian said in an emotional voice as he received a hug from Leasen Clark, the auxiliary's director of recognition, amid the din of clapping and cheers. "This is just too much."

According to those who know and have worked with him, it's not too much at all.

"He's just a very sweet man who would do anything to help anyone out," noted Georgia Kimmer, U.C., one of the

SICU employees who nominated Mr. Jacobson for the honor.

"For instance, just last week we needed someone to pick up some units of blood from the hospital blood bank. Immediately, Jake said, 'I'll do it,' even though he has been having a little trouble walking lately.

"That's just the kind of guy he is," she continued. "He helps with everything, even when it's not so easy for him."

Though several staff came to honor and congratulate Mr. Jacobson, volunteers from various hospital departments

were the most prevalent guests at his party.

Milt Kraut, a volunteer in the hospital's file room, has known Mr. Jacobson for the past eight years and has enjoyed many a coffee break with his fellow Sun Citian.

"He's always here, from what I know," Mr. Kraut said. "He's just part of the gang, and a friend to everybody."

"Jake's an encouragement to me, because I just started volunteering here a few weeks ago and he is a great example of what we can mean to other people," added Sarah Guinn of Peoria, who assists fourth-floor nursing staff. "Jake likes to make people smile and he's been a blessing to Sun Health, just as I hope to be."

Recognition Director Clark was pleased to be part of Jacobson's celebration.

"It's such a privilege to honor a volunteer who has worked for 19 years to serve the needs of others," Mr. Clark noted, "and the fact that he is celebrating his 90th

birthday next month makes his service that much more remarkable."

The guest of honor seemed a little overwhelmed by the love and respect emanating from so many around him in the hospital conference room.

"This is so special," Mr. Jacobson said as he reached for a napkin to wipe his eyes once more. "Working in the SICU — well, they've all been just like my second family. These people are like my kids, and today means a great deal to me."

He might be hanging up his volunteer badge, but bets around the table were heavy that folks had not seen the last of Jake Jacobson.

"We'll miss him down there on Wednesdays," remarked Ray Roder of Sun City, a volunteer who delivers oxygen tanks throughout Boswell Hospital, "but he said he'll come back occasionally."

A Sun Health volunteer since June 1984, Jacobson has given approximately 8,250 hours of service to the non-profit healthcare organization during the past 19 years.



Submitted photo

Sun City resident Jake Jacobson was honored recently for his 19 years of volunteer service to Sun Health. Standing behind Mr. Jacobson (sitting) are, from left to right, Mary Rose Roloff, Milt Kraut, Al Mosier, Jan Roder and Ray Roder.

New health facility takes shape

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Construction crews broke ground on land next to the historic Lakes Club for a new health facility in October.

The two-story Sun Health Rosskamp building will have a number of services for people. However, it won't be completed until next summer.

DevMan Company LC is developing the 32,000-square-foot project. It will take up part of the club's parking spaces.

"There was so much space that wasn't needed," said Bill Molloy, the company's managing member. "However, it's still enough

space for existing use."

The first floor will be occupied by Sun Health Imaging, which has a number of X-ray machines, from MRIs to PET Scanners.

"We're looking forward to finishing this," said Tom Dickson, president/CEO of Boswell Memorial Hospital. "It'll be convenient for outpatients."

Dickson said most of the equipment costs about \$5 million. When it's completed, they can accommodate twice as many people. Arizona Neurology has the second floor.

"We should be able to take about a couple hundred people a day real soon," he said.

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached at 876-2526 or mvantrease@aztrib.com.

The new location of the Sun Health Rosskamp building, under construction, sits next to the former Lakes Club and across Thunderbird Road from Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun Health sheds 14 properties

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun Health Properties' board of directors on Wednesday announced it had approved a plan to sell 14 medical office buildings in the Northwest Valley.

The buildings include 10 completed and four start-up medical office buildings, most of which are on the campuses at Del E. Webb or Boswell hospitals, said Leland Peterson, Sun Health's president and chief executive officer.

"This deal is not yet completed," Peterson said. "We're still in due diligence."

An investor group headed by Robert Roskamp has proposed the pending deal, although Petersen declined to say how much the investors were offering. Sun Health has worked with Roskamp in the past.

"The buildings have gone through appraisal and the offer that is being considered is consistent with that appraisal," Peterson said.

See SUN HEALTH, A5

From A1

More details will be released as the sale progresses, he said. The transfer of ownership and management responsibilities is expected within a couple of months, according to a press release from Sun Health.

Peterson said the sale is not expected to have an impact on staffing at the buildings.

"The present plan would be that the staffs who are managing these offices now, we are hopeful the new management would be engaging them as well," he said.

None of the buildings being sold was financed through donated funds or tax-exempt bonds, Peterson said.

The land on which the buildings sit will continue to be owned by Sun Health Properties, and will be leased to the new owner.

"Local availability of medical office buildings is important to the community,

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 2003

because they help to attract physicians to the West Valley by providing office space in close proximity to the hospitals where the doctors admit and treat many of their patients," stated Gary S. Turner, senior vice president and general manager of Sun Health Properties, in the press release.

The sale will help Sun Health Properties' balance sheet by updating the value of older buildings and even some of the more modern ones, thereby allowing the organization to meet future growth needs, likely through tax-exempt bond offerings to fund hospital expansions.

According to Sun Health, the decision to sell the buildings is consistent with a national and local trend for health-care providers to divest themselves of related business activities and concentrate on health-care services.

Peterson said the decision also is "consistent with our continued growth in the West

Valley. ... This is an important part of the repositioning of our balance sheet."

Sun Health Properties and Sun Health are both responsible for the health-care provider's \$115 million bonded indebtedness. Improving the balance sheet through the sale should help achieve a better interest rate on future bonds.

Peterson said proceeds from the sale likely would be "conservatively invested," rather than directly used to offset the debt.

Future bond sales are expected to fund expansions, most immediately at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West.

"Our boards have looked at a schedule. We'll be planning some specific additions," Peterson said. "The next stage of planning for Del E. Webb Hospital will be starting very soon and will continue through 2004.

"Both hospitals need additional capacity," he added.

In the meantime, Sun

Health is opening some new beds at Webb, and converting some beds at Boswell to handle acute care patients.

New construction would occur next at Webb, where the burgeoning population of Surprise and surrounding communities is increasing the need more rapidly than at Boswell. No date has been set for a Webb expansion.

Peterson said demand has been high for the tax-exempt bonds Sun Health has offered in the past and likely will in the future in part because they are exempt from both federal and state taxes. They appeal to both residents and national investors.

"They are a popular financial vehicle (for Sun Citizens) because they know it's local and it's tax exempt," Peterson said.

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

New medical plaza planned

By Lindsey Remington
Independent Newspapers

Construction of a new \$3.5 million medical plaza on the property where the former Lakes Club sits in Sun City is scheduled to begin in October, pending approval from Maricopa County of the project's building permits.

The Lakes Medical Plaza, which would consist of physicians' offices and medical facilities, would be built in front of the Lakes Club building at 10484 Thunderbird Blvd., facing Thunderbird Road, said Bill Molloy, managing member of Dev-

Man Co., a Phoenix-based medical building developer and property manager.

"We expect approval from the county on the building permits in September," Mr. Malloy said.

The 32,000 square-foot, two-story building would include a covered walkway with a misting system stretching from the parking area to the building, and it would have a fountain in front of the building to tie into the lakes theme, said Matt Budge, architect for the project, with Matthew Budge and Associates.

"It's going to be a very modern looking building,"

Mr. Budge said.

The seven-acre property is owned by Roskamp Sun Health Management Services, which develops and manages lifecare facilities. The company purchased the land in January from the Club Corporation of America, which owns and operates country clubs and golf courses nationwide.

Roskamp Sun Health Management Services hired DevMan Co. to handle leasing the Lakes Club building and space in the new medical plaza.

So far, the Sun Health
See Plaza — Page 7

Plaza

Continued From Page 1

Imaging Center, which provides outpatient imaging services including MRIs and CT scans, has agreed to lease 11,000 square feet on the first floor, said Mr. Molloy.

Theater Works, a Northwest Valley community theater company, has been renting the 35,000-square-foot former Lakes Club building on a month-to-month basis since April, Mr. Molloy said.

However, he said DevMan is in negotiations with the theater to lease 15,000 to 18,000 square feet of the building for three years. The rest of the building would be available for lease to another tenant or tenants.

Scott Campbell, artistic director of Theater Works, confirmed that the company is in negotiations to lease the property, but said it is also in the process of hiring a fundraiser to raise money to build a new facility in Peoria.

Since September 2000, the city of Peoria and Theater Works have been exploring the possibility of partnering to build a community theater for Peoria. On May 6, the City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with Theater Works under which the theater group could build the facility if it could raise \$200,000 of the \$5.6 million it would cost to build and equip phase one of the theater project.

The city would cover the remainder of the construction expenses, and the company would sign a long-term lease with the city to make annual lease payments, said Kelly Corsette, spokesman

for Peoria.

The new facility would be located at the northwest corner of 84th Avenue and Peoria Avenue, where the Peoria Chamber of Commerce currently sits, he said.

"After they (the chamber) find an executive director, they'll be exploring their options of where to move," he said.

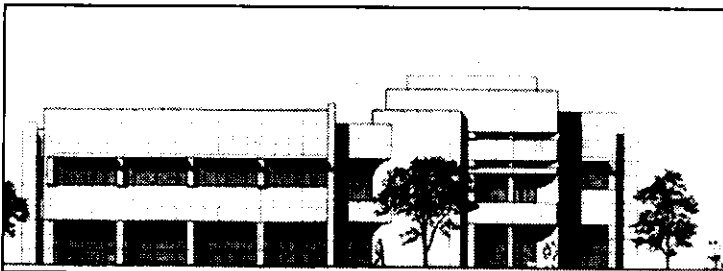
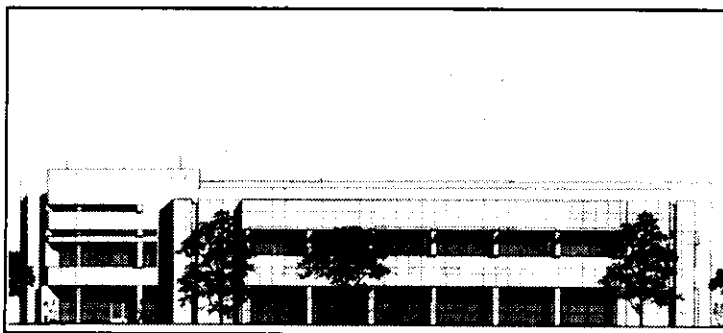
The medical plaza is expected to be completed by April 2004.

The Lakes Club was a private country club conceived by Del E. Webb Development Corp. as a private dining

facility and social club.

Before opening in 1972, the facility was ruined by a fire that started when a plumber's torch ignited a strip of tarpaper. The club underwent \$3 million of repairs and opened seven months later.

Membership in the Lakes Club was limited to Sun City homeowners until 1981, when Webb sold the club to Club Corp. of America and membership was opened to anyone regardless of residence. It closed in April 2002.



The Lakes Medical Plaza is expected to open in Sun City in April 2004. Renderings are of the South (at top) and West elevations.

Sun Health taps Root for board chairman

STAFF REPORT

Sun City resident Robert T. Root, Ph.D., was elected to a one-year term as chairman of Sun Health's volunteer board of directors.

The board, which provides policy guidance and management oversight, consists of active or retired business, professional and civic leaders, most of whom reside within Sun Health's service area.

Root succeeds fellow Sun City resident Richard "Dick" McKnight, who served as chairman the last two years. McKnight remains a member of the board and will serve as assistant treasurer.

Root served the last two years as vice chairman of Sun Health's board as well as chairman of the board of Sun Health's Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City. As board chairman, he also will chair the Sun Health Executive Committee and the boards of the Sun Health Research Institute and Sun Health Properties.

Rae McMillan of Litchfield Park was elected vice chairman. Other officers re-elected were Leland Peterson of Glendale, president; Glen E. Morin of Sun City West, secretary; Andrea G. Somerville of Surprise, assistant secretary; and Leonard De Baker of Sun City West, treasurer.

Elected to three-year terms as board members were Surprise resident Frank E. Joyce, Litchfield Park resident Leonard Kirschner, and Sun City West resident George Wheeler.

Other board members include Sun City West residents Sandra Foell, Morey Jensen, L. Birt Kellam and Joe Schoggen.

Jensen was re-elected to a one-year term, and Morin to a three-year term.

Two active internists, Dr. H. Virgil Grumbling Jr., who practices in Peoria, and Dr. Thomas Maxwell, who practices in Sun City, also serve on the board.

Elected as corporation members were Paula Brill Myrna Harrison and Elmer Johnson of Wickenburg; Ed Cirillo of Sun City West; Blaine Donaldson of Sun City; Jack Lytle of Peoria; Elaine Maimon of Glendale; Henry Newlin of Fountain

Hills; and Sheryl Palmer and Margo Oliveras-Seck of Phoenix. Their terms will expire in 2006.

Re-elected as corporation members, with terms expiring in 2006, were L.R. "Andy" Anderson, Wilfred "Wil" Blessing, Merrill Dodge, Sanford Goldstein, Paul Holstad, Carole Hubbs, Morey Jensen, Aubrey Johnson, L. Birt Kellam, Arthur Matthies, Joe Schoggen, Jocile "Jo" Stockman and Noel Willis, all of

Sun City West; Laren Bates and Douglas D. Templeman, both of Surprise; C. Gerald Bromm and Robert H. Johnson, both of Wickenburg; Dr. Thomas Daniel of Phoenix; and Ken Forgia, Dr. Stanley Goldberg, Dr. Frederick Kogan and Dr. Edward Kowaleski, all of Peoria.

Robert W. Williams of Sun City West was also elected as an emeritus corporation member.

Special people share special place

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charlotte Vinson, supervisor for Sun Health Residence for Special Adults, was on hand for Thursday night's Doctor on Call, co-sponsored by the Daily News-Sun and Sun Health.

The Sun Health Residence for Special Adults is a home for mildly-disabled adults. The home has eight residents and has space for 10, Vinson said.

"We run it like it's a family; a lot of these residents have known each other for 20 years," she said. Many of the residents were previously acquainted through a support group called Sun City Youngtown Special Adults Club, or SCYSAC, Vinson said.

Vinson received one call Thursday night from a woman whose son was mildly disabled and wanted to work. "I was able to tell her some places that hire the handicapped," Vinson said.

Vinson has worked at the residence for about three years.

"I love the people I work with," she said. "You get a lot back when you're working with them. I also like watching them grow."

Vinson said the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults is unique because it is the only residence like it within Sun Health, and the staff is given broad opportunities to try new activities and projects with residents.

"We do fund-raisers and we've taken them on vacation," Vinson said. Staff accompanied residents on a trip to Disneyland earlier this year; two years ago they traveled to Sea World in California.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charlotte Vinson is the manager of the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults. She and Debbie Cruetziger and Bill Palmer work together on a jigsaw puzzle Wednesday.

Residents must be 30 years old to live in the home. They are considered mildly disabled because they are able to do basic Activities of Daily Living, or ADLs, Vinson said.

"They're able to do their laundry, to take their own showers," she said. "They might need a little bit of assistance, but for the most part, they're able to do things on their own."

Through the Sun Health Residence, Vinson has seen some special adults grow and

change as people.

"It depends on what environment you put them in," Vinson said. "If you put them in an institutional-type facility, they're probably not going to progress," she said.

Vinson recalled one young woman who moved into the home and wouldn't talk. "She was very closed off; didn't want you to touch her and she didn't touch you," she said.

Over time, the woman came out of her shell and began to talk more

frequently. Now she won't stop talking, Vinson said.

"Once you get her talking, she just goes on and on. She has so much to say!"

Vinson keeps a photograph of another resident who went on a vacation with the home and put his toes in the ocean for the first time. The photo captured the moment. "He had the most surprised look on his face," Vinson said.

The Sun Health Residence for Special Adults is sponsoring its third annual prom from 4 to 7 p.m. March 28 in Memorial Hall of the Support Services Building at Boswell Memorial Hospital. Admission is \$3 per person and refreshments will be provided. Music will be by Senior Moments, with karaoke by Nick Maize, Vinson said.

"The residents help plan it and help make the decorations for it," she said. SCYSAC members are invited to join. The prom usually draws about 60 people, Vinson said.

"This year we opened it up to the public," she said. "We've sent a lot of invitations to specialty groups."

"We're trying to get the word out to people that we're here and that we have openings," she said.

The Sun Health Residence for Special Adults accepts applicants from anywhere in the Valley, although most residents come from the Northwest Valley as their families find it easier to visit when they live close by, said staff member Tina DeGenova. For information or an application, call 815-2770.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or at ereep@aztrib.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, OCT. 28, 2002

Elizabeth Sogard — a Sun Health Personal Care Services client — made a generous contribution that has made door-to-door wheelchair van service available in the Sun Cities two years earlier than expected.

The van is available for non-emergency transportation through Sun Health Personal Care Services seven days a week. Sogard contributed half the amount needed to purchase the van, allowing its purchase two years earlier than anticipated. Sun Health employees contributed the other half through the Shared Giving Campaign's fund drives over the last two years.

All funds were donated through the **Sun Health Foundation**, which raises money for equipment for Sun Health facilities and programs.

The new van is equipped with a wheelchair lift and method of securing up to two chairs when in transit. Drivers are certified in CPR and are specially trained to assist people from their doors and in and out of the van.

The van service is priced at competitive rates with no charge for mileage. The service area is from Loop 101 on the east to Sun City Grand on the west, and from Beardley Road on the north to Olive Avenue on the south.



S. SMITH PHOTO

Elizabeth Sogard, a Sun Health Personal Care Services client who contributed half the amount required to purchase this wheelchair van, is assisted out of the vehicle by Nancy Landrum, a certified nursing assistant with Sun Health Personal Care Services.

Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Foundation funding new beds at Webb

The Sun Health Foundation is funding the purchase of 440 new beds for Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital to enhance patients' comfort and security.

To help raise community support for the \$2.3 million fundraising campaign, one of the beds will be on display in the Deli Webb Cafeteria in the hospital for several months. According to Sun Health, the beds have been negotiated for a special price of \$5,000 each, and already 166 of the 440 beds have been funded.

The new beds are needed to replace old beds at both Webb and Boswell hospitals; some of those beds are 15 to 25 years old. To view the display bed, visit the Deli Webb Cafeteria on the ground floor between Webb's main lobby and the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health Rotunda. Information about the beds is available at the display site, and volunteers are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer visitors' questions.

For information about contributing, call the Sun Health Foundation at 876-5330. All donations are tax-deductible.

HISTORY OF SUN HEALTH

The question as often asked, "What is Sun Health? I see advertisements and magazine-type publications with the Sun health name displayed on the cover, but I really know nothing about it,"

The answer to that question is that Sun Health is a non-profit, locally-owned community-based network of healthcare services providing world-class acute, long-term, residential and home-delivered healthcare and related services to the Sun Cities and other West Valley and western Maricopa County communities.

Patients receive comprehensive, integrated health services through the 350-bed Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, which has served the area since 1970, as well as the 254-bed Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West and the 128-bed Sun Health Care Center, located on the Boswell Hospital campus. A full service Women's center opened in February 2002. The Heart Center, now complete, celebrated its public opening in September 2001. Community support has made these projects possible.

How did all this come about? Well, let's take a look back in the history of health care in our area.

It all began in 1959. Mr. Del E. Webb's original concept was to develop an active retirement community for people age 50 and older. He envisioned a complete city with a variety of beautiful homes, recreational and cultural activities as well as stores, offices, medical and health care facilities especially designed for this age group. A Master Plan was developed to accomplish his vision. Part of this plan was for a hospital to be constructed when a sufficient need existed.

By 1966 Sun City had grown so rapidly that the need for a hospital equipped to provide the proper care and facilities for older people became evident. Many studies were made. From the information that was gathered the planners determined that an unusual situation existed. The people in the bracket which existed would require many special fields of medicine such as heart, respiratory, arthritis, rehabilitation, and other common the field of geriatrics. It became obvious that an acute care community hospital was required to handle these needs and the many surveys and studies revealed that the people in this area would give this proposed hospital their complete support and cooperation.

A non-profit corporation was formed and the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of Arizona and approved in 1966 for the Sun City Community Hospital, Inc. Local people with outstanding leadership and talent were recruited and made members of the Board of Directors for the Corporation. The formation of this organization was the first step in the provision of health care services for this area. Years of careful planning, design and construction followed and in 1970 the Boswell Memorial Hospital was opened with 60 beds.

On January 25, 1980 the name of the Corporation was changed to Inter-Community health Care of Arizona and was officially filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission.

In January 1981 the Board of Directors approved the establishment of a separate subsidiary corporation to accept the gift of land in Sun City West from the Del E. Webb

Development Corporation and to eventually hold title to the health care facility which, it was anticipated, will be established on that land.

Board approval was given in February 1981 to move one of the temporary buildings, which was not being used since the recent completion of Boswell Hospital, to Sun City West to establish the nucleus of a healthcare facility in the locality. The transfer of the building was accomplished in June. The cost for relocation, landscaping and paving the parking lot was \$140,000.

In February 1981 the Board of Directors delegated the Executive Committee to prepare, with the advice of counsel, the Articles of incorporation, bylaws and other necessary documents to restructure the corporate organization. A single controlling corporation would be formed and each unit would become a controlled subsidiary corporation. Under this new plan the Sun Health Corporation became official on April 3, 1981

In June the transfer of the temporary annex buildings to Sun City West was completed. They were to be used temporarily by physicians to see patients in that area until permanent office space would be provided. Construction of the fourth tower was right on schedule. Approval in principle was given to the development of the proposed cardiac catheterization and cardiac surgery facility as recommended by the cardiac cardiovascular task force.

The new Sun Health Corporation elected its first board of directors in June: John R. (Jim) Mead, president; Leyton Woolf, vice president; Haakon Bang, secretary; John E. Durkee, treasurer; Catherine Northrup, assistant secretary and Joseph Zwiser, assistant treasurer.

In June, Intercommunity Health Care of Arizona was officially changed to Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, Inc. The major reason for this change related to clearly separating health care services for cost purposes.

With the direction of the new Sun Health Corporation growth in the health care arena continued at a lively pace with particular focus on the Boswell Hospital.

The Boswell Tower and fund drive went over the top in July and the Boswell Foundation came through with its pledge of \$1,000,000. The big event of the year was the celebration of the completion of the fourth tower.

In April of 1982 the renovated Snyder Warehouse was converted into the materials center for the hospital. It housed every thing from stamp pads (remember them?) to syringe needles. Over \$300,000 of inventory was housed there.

Upon the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer Austin Turner, Leland Peterson was appointed Chief Operation Officer of Boswell Hospital in June 17, 1982. (Leland is the President/CEO of Sun Health at the present time-2002).

The operating-suite and recovery-room expansion was finalized in 1983 bringing into service a total of 10 operating rooms with the latest technological advances and featuring new lighting and anesthesia equipment.

The Boswell hospital continued to grow as a responsive, caring provider of health services for the Sun Cities area. The Auxiliary grew to include more than 1,900 members and the cumulative number of hours of voluntary service to the hospital reached the 1-million mark in 1984.

A cooperative arrangement in 1984 with physicians resulted in the opening of the Boswell Eye Institute. The institute then became the largest free-standing outpatient eye

surgery center of its kind in the United States. This meant no more inpatient hospital stays and less out-of-pocket expenses to the patient.

Groundbreaking for the 128 bed Boswell Extended Care Center occurred in September 1984 and also work started on the Boswell Medical Plaza, a medical office building located west of the hospital.

Most people are familiar with a blood bank, but a bone bank? A bone bank freezer designed to hold human bone material was installed in the surgery department in late 1984. The bones are kept at a temperature of 20 degrees centigrade—optimal for storage. The bone will be used during surgery to repair bone defects or fractures. Unlike organ transplants, bone does not have to be cross-matched.

The hospital under the direction of Sun Health filed an application in early 1985 for a permit to provide open-heart surgery service. By December open-heart surgery was an accomplished fact with 19 surgeries having been successfully completed.

Ground was broken on October 7, 1985 for the \$42 million Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West. Along with the Boswell Hospital it will be operated by the Sun Health Corporation. Among those taking part in the event was baseball Hall of Fame member Mickey Mantle, a member of the powerhouse New York Yankees during the dynasty years when Del E. Webb was part owner of the American League team. In consideration of the \$3 million grant from the Del E. Webb Foundation the new five story health care center in Sun City West would be named the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

In January 1986 a long time Sun Health executive was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and was charged with the administrative responsibility of overseeing the construction of the hospital.

The highlight of 1986 was the advent of the Institute for Biogerontology Research to study causes of Alzheimer's disease and other disorders of aging. The center was made possible by a \$2 million clinical-research endowment from Sun Health.

The year ended with a corporate reorganization. Prior to the reorganization, Sun Health was the parent of its operating entities. The reorganization reduced the number of corporations from eight to three – Sun health, Sun Health Properties and Sun Health Foundation – all independent, separate tax exempt corporations for different reasons.

On April 9, 1987 the building for the L. J. Roberts Center for Alzheimer's Research was dedicated. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Roberts donated in excess of three quarters of a million dollars for the center.

On December 6, 1987 several hundred people were on hand for the festive dedication of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West. As a matter of interest, following are some comparative costs of the construction and start up of the two hospitals:

	Boswell 1970 - 173 beds	Webb 1987 - 203 beds
Construction	\$ 6,324,000	\$24,147,000
Equipment	1,206,000	6,672,000
Total	7,530,000	30,819,000
Cost per bed	43,526	151,818

3.

Fortunately, Sun City West and Sun City residents rallied to the fundraising drives and actively supported the new hospital. Like Sun Cities Boswell Hospital, Del E, Webb is a community hospital!

On January 4, 1988 the doors were officially opened of the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital. Through the direction of Sun Health this was the start of a cooperative relationship between the two hospitals. This included the coordination of patient services such as medical, imaging, pathology and clinical laboratory. Also compatible patient-care computers systems are a great benefit. In addition there are shared purchasing and financial services which generate large benefits.

A new community library funded by Sun Health opened on January 25, 1988. It contained materials on health related issues that affect the elderly. It was not a technical library, but rather one geared to the average consumer.

Under the management of Sun Health the Olive Branch Senior Center opened in may 1988. Individuals 60 years of age or older could participate in a variety of programs. These programs include health and lifestyle enrichment events which could include hot nutritious meals.

As 1989 came to a close, after 21 years service, Sun Health bid farewell to W, Austin Turner. He was the original administrator of the Boswell hospital and the first Chief Executive Officer at Sun health.

The new Chief Executive Officer was Leland W, Peterson who had served as a senior executive in the Sun Health organization since 1972.

In 1990 significant improvements were initiated in the Radiation/Oncology Center. Also Sun Health began accepting hospice patients with emphasis on the home health component. The focus was not on filling hospital beds, but how to keep people in their homes and independent for as long as possible.

In November 1990 the Boswell hospital celebrated its 20th birthday, it opened with two towers and 80 beds. In the past 20 years it has grown to become the national model for a geriatric-oriented community supported hospital.

A \$1.8 million renovation and expansion of Boswell Hospital Emergency Care Services Department began late in 1991. A total of \$1.3 million for the project was provided by contributions. A study indicated that eight out of every ten Sun Cities residents who required hospital care chose to be admitted to Boswell hospital or Del E. Webb Hospital.

Dedication ceremonies were conducted in April 1992 for the 32,000 square foot addition to the newly renamed Sun Health Research Institute. Through research into age

related disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, Sun Health has gained worldwide attention.

As part of the image enhancement process and a uniform identity program, a new Sun Health logo was introduced. Sun Health's name has come to be associated with quality healthcare services, excellence in medical research, and in community health education.

The Sun Health Research Institute made an announcement in 1993 that their research indicated that the anti-inflammatory drug Indomethacin appears to slow or halt the mental deterioration suffered by patient in the early stages of Alzheimers disease. 4.

The renovated Emergency Department at Boswell Hospital reopened for business at the end of October 1992. The expansion increased the size from 7500 square feet to almost 11,000 square feet, becoming one of the largest in the Valley.

For many years the hospital has provided hot and cold meals for the Meals on Wheels program which celebrated its 20th year of service this year. Residents receiving this service pay \$5.70 a day for a hot and a cold meal. Twenty years ago the hot meal cost \$2.25.

As part of the image enhancement process and a uniform identity program, a new Sun Health logo was introduced. Sun Health's name has come to be associated with quality healthcare services, excellence in medical research and in community health education. "It is hoped the new logo, dramatic in design, will reflect the quality of our services and represent the reputation all of us have worked hard to build through the years," said Pamela Meyerhoffer, vice president, Public Affairs.

A total of 333 heart bypass surgeries were performed at Boswell hospital in 1994.

The first phase of a planned three phase Sun Health Del E. Webb Medical Plaza was completed in the fall of 1996. Many physician's offices and outpatient clinics will be located there. The Boswell Hospital was ranked in a 3,600 acute care facilities as the nation's most cost effective hospital. The Del E. Webb Hospital placed No. 2 nationally for hospitals of comparable size.

A two year \$24.3 million expansion and remodeling of the Boswell Hospital began in 1997. Some of the highlights of the project are a new outpatient entrance, two additional operating rooms dedicated to cardiovascular surgery and one additional general operating room, an enlargement of the cardiac rehabilitation area, a 20 bed observation unit to meet the needs of patients who require only a short stay, an enlarged cardiovascular and surgical intensive care unit and a new emergency department.

The Sun Health Auxiliary observed their 30th anniversary in 1998. The 3400 member auxiliary is probably the largest hospital-volunteer organization in the nation. Since its founding the auxiliary has donated more than \$4.5 million to support Sun Health services and to purchase important medical equipment.

In January 1999 the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults was opened. This is a group home for 10 developmentally disabled adults whose care has been provided

primarily by their parents. Many of these parents are elderly and no longer can provide all the care their adult offspring require.

The Del E. Webb Hospital received the fixed Magnetic-Resonance Imaging (MRI) system in November 1999. The scanner brings the latest advancements in MRI imaging to the West Valley.

Ground was broken on April 8, 2000 for an expansion that will double the size of the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital that will allow the introduction of a Women's Center,¹ obstetrical/new born care and expanded pediatric services.

Sun Health Hospice Care Services and Residences in March 2001 announced the opening of its newest inpatient unit in Sun City West—allowing the Sun City West residents to remain close to home and to their physician when choosing hospice care. Construction had virtually been complete in the spring of 2002 of the two year \$46.5 million expansion program at the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital that more than doubled the size of the facility.

The West Valley is experiencing incredible growth in population and the hospital has been expanded to provide the needed health care. In 2001 approximately 226,000 residents lived in the area and by 2006 the population is expected to grow to 318,000, an increase of 40.7%.

To accommodate this population growth the expansion project includes 209,000 square feet of new hospital space. The focal point of the project, the intergenerational Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health that offers diagnostic gynecological and obstetrical care opened in February.

On February 2, 2002, a date known as 2/02/02, the new obstetrical unit opened to a double delivery—a set of twin boys!

Dr. Diana Koss of the Center for Geriatric Medicine greets patient Lucille Erb, who was visiting the center Friday. Behind Koss is Yolanda Rodriguez.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Sept. 22, and Sunday, Sept. 23, 2001

Specialty clinic

SENIOR NEEDS: Sun Health Center for Geriatric Medicine uses team approach

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City resident Felix Shuler was unconscious when he arrived at the Sun Health Center for Geriatric Medicine 18 months ago.

Now, thanks to the geriatric center reassessing his needs after he was released from the hospital, Shuler, 86, is on his way back to the independent living style he was accustomed to.

"It saved my life," Shuler said of the center. "I was in pretty bad shape. (Doctors) told my daughter, 'He will recover, but he will probably be a vegetable.' I thought I would be dead years ago."

Shuler, who suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and needs a portable oxygen unit to help him breathe, refers to himself as a miracle patient because of the way he has recovered in the past 18 months.

The Sun Health Center for Geriatric Medicine, which opened at 13203 N. 103rd Ave., Suite 1, in 1999, is geared toward effective and caring health management of frail seniors and other people with multiple medical concerns, cognitive issues and functional limitations.

The center's staff members use a comprehensive, holistic team approach for patients, families and caregivers to allow their patients a chance to enhance the quality of their lives while maintaining financial well-being.

The center, one of the few in the country, has patients go through a two- to three-hour assessment on their first visit, including evaluations and exams with various team members.

Dr. Diana Koss, medical director of the center, said the primary focus is to care for seniors who have complicated medical problems.

"We can help them get to the best level they can be," Koss said.

Koss said there are different areas of expertise among the staff, and each staff member specializes in part of the assessment.

"Everyone works together," she said. "We sit down and discuss what they found and come up with a plan."

Robyn Doukas, director of Sun Health

specialty clinics, said there was a need for the center in Sun City because some of the community's patients are more frail, and therefore physicians need the time to go into more detail to see what is required to help them.

Lucille Erb, an 85-year-old Sun City resident, had a colon cancer operation in April. Her diagnosis was a shock, she said, since she had always been in good health.

"I was never sick in my life, so it was all new to me," she said. A week after being released from the hospital, Erb became very weak.

Part of the problem was Erb had lost her closest friend who had cooked for and taken care of her. Although Erb didn't realize it, her weight plummeted from 137 to 98 pounds.

"The main thing is I was weak," she said. "I had quit eating, and I did not know it."

The geriatric center, Erb said, used counseling to help her get through the grief she was feeling from the loss of her close friend.

"This is absolutely what I needed so badly," Erb said. "They helped me know what was necessary. They helped me get through the grief process."

Koss said Erb, when she came to the center after being referred, was having difficulty concentrating and remembering things.

"She still feels the loss, but is regaining things of her life," Koss said.

Shuler, too, is healing, and is thankful for the specialists.

"I have nothing but praise for the whole bunch of them," he said.

Shuler, who also has a pacemaker, said he appreciates everything the center is doing for him.

"(Koss) listens to me. She asks questions. She speaks very clearly," he said. "She explains the diagnosis."

Koss said Shuler was suffering from several maladies.

"He was not good," she said. "We managed him very closely after he was discharged. The hope was we could take care of him."

Erb said the center's staff sends instructions home with her so she knows exactly what she needs to do while living independently at home.

Koss said while both Shuler and Erb have made remarkable strides in their recoveries, the center will continue to monitor and help them when necessary.

"For any patient, our primary purpose is: What is the best thing we can do to get them to the highest possible (living condition)? My goal is to develop the center to see as many people that will be self-served," she said. "We are all geriatricians by training here."

Michael Maresh can be reached at mmaresh@aztrib.com or at 876-2521.

For more information on the Sun Health Center for Geriatric Medicine, call 875-6580.



DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Dr. Diane Koss of the Center for Geriatric Medicine in Sun City, greets patient Lucille Erb of Sun City in this September photo. The center will close Feb. 1.

Geriatric Center closing Feb. 1

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A health center that deals specifically with senior issues is closing its doors Feb. 1 due to financial constraints.

The Sun Health Center for Geriatric Medicine, which opened at 13203 N. 103rd Ave., Suite I, in 1999, was

geared toward effective and caring health management of frail seniors and other people with multiple medical concerns, cognitive issues and functional limitations.

Geoffrey Walton, vice president of strategic integration for Sun Health, said while the center is closing, Sun Health

wants to ensure there still will be similar care available for patients.

"The main cause was overhead and start-up costs," he said. "It was quite expensive."

Walton said Sun Health had been hoping the center would recoup some of its

See Prognosis, A5

From A1

losses, but when that did not occur, they decided in November to close it.

"It was taking longer than we expected," Walton said.

Six months ago, Sun Health officials stated the center was going to be around for quite some time, and Walton said that was the intention at the time.

"At that time that definitely was the case," Walton said. But that wasn't feasible since the center showed no

signs of becoming profitable.

"It was well behind of what we expected," he said. "Closing the center was something that became (necessary)."

Staff at the center were doing wonderful work, but there was no other option.

Staff members used a comprehensive, holistic team approach for patients, families and caregivers to allow their patients a chance to enhance the quality of their lives while maintaining financial well-being.

The center, which was one

of the few in the country, had patients go through a two- to three-hour assessment on their first visit, including evaluations and exams with various team members. Walton said it is his understanding the geriatric center is one of two in the Valley.

Dr. Diana Koss, director of the Sun Health Geriatric Center, will be moving into a private practice at a site yet to be determined. Koss could not be reached for comment as of this morning.

Walton said Koss, who is also looking at developing a

driving consortium for seniors, has told Walton she is planning to announce next week where her private practice will be.

"Her intention is to serve the Sun City community for quite some time," Walton said.

Koss and the staff at the center were notified of the center's imminent closing in December.

Michael Maresch can be reached at mmaresch@aztrib.com or at 623-876-2513.

Trust caretaker recruits talented volunteers

JEANNE WINOGRAD
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Karen Clark was growing up Chicago, teaching was one of just a few career options for women.

Clark's father was a banking officer and her older brother worked for Harris Trust Bank for several years before Clark signed on with the bank. In no time, it became clear that banking was in her blood.

Clark is a soft-spoken woman who is vice president and manager of Harris' Sun City branch. She has been in trust administration since 1987. The company is a subsidiary of Harris Trust and Savings in Chicago, with headquarters in Montreal.

She also volunteers.

"I'm just finishing a year as president of Sun Health Foundation, a wonderful experience," Clark said. "It was educational and fun. I expect to remain active with Sun Health. The Foundation staff made it easy to do."

In addition to her banking skill, Clark is a master of

Working for you

understatement. The Sun Health job is no minor task. As of July 31, Clark will become immediate past president but will continue as a member of the Foundation's executive committee. She worked on the Foundation board while developing and selecting new members "coming from all walks of life."

"I'm always in awe of the talent (in the Sun Cities). The Sun Health Foundation has a number of active professionals and retirees who came from business or health care backgrounds. One of the high points for me was building the Women's Center out at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital," Clark said.

Clark pulls from a shelf a photo of several businesswomen coifed in hard hats standing in front of a rebar structure, the soon-to-open Women's Center. Clark names each woman in the photo with pride, giving special credit to

Pamela Meyer, chief executive officer of the Foundation.

"To see that building develop from donations in the community, to know we'll be delivering babies there — what a big thrill and a change for Sun City!" Clark said. "All the planning had to come before this stage (in the photo), to see it enter construction, to meet the needs of the community and make a tangible presence is a tribute to everybody (working on the project)."

As Foundation president, Clark has devoted numerous hours each week to the project. Yet her energy is tangible. She also has contributed time to the Sun City Community Fund/United Way, Symphony of the West Valley, Royal Oaks Foundation and Kachina Kiwanis Club.

"I have this wonderful job. I've always worked (in the Sun Cities). What has touched me the most has been the good nature of people here I've met. As our clients change, their needs change. We become part of their extended family," Clark said. "It's all about relationship building."



Karen Clark, vice president and manager of the Sun City branch of Harris Trust Bank, is wrapping up a year as president of Sun Health Foundation. She also has contributed time to the Sun City Community Fund/United Way, Symphony of the West Valley, Royal Oaks Foundation and Kachina Kiwanis Club.

THE WESTER Thursday, January 4, 2001

'Neighbor to Neighbor' provides information

Sun Health extends neighborly greeting to both newcomers and established residents at the "Neighbor to Neighbor" program where individuals have an opportunity to meet their neighbor, Sun Health, the West Valley's local, non-profit, community-based healthcare network.

"Neighbor to Neighbor" is conducted throughout the year on both Sun Health Boswell Memorial and Del E. Webb Memorial hospital campuses.

In Sun City West, the program is offered from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, and includes a buffet dinner. The program will take place in the Administrative Con-

ference Room at Sun Health Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, 14502 W. Meeker Blvd.

The program introduces individuals to convenient health and wellness services in the neighborhood, and offers them an opportunity to view an informative video presentation. A guided tour of the facility is also conducted. Administrators and other staff will be available to answer questions.

Learn more about the free Sun Health Advantage Membership Program, the Sun HealthLine® (including the physician referral service), the rewards of volunteering, how Sun Health works

Fitness help available in Sun Cities

JEANNE WINOGRAD
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Residents who have resolved to get in shape in 2002 can find plenty of support in the Sun Cities.

Visiting Sundial Auditorium at dawn, for instance, instantly provides a support network of about 40 walkers who do laps around the large open room.

The Sun City walking group isn't a formal club, but friendships have been forged among those who gather Monday through Saturday to stay fit through exercise.

Sun Citizens Natalie Steinbach and Nancy Stowe met a year ago while walking indoors with the group. Now they're playing golf together.

"I started walking here when they first opened the building to walkers five years ago," said Stowe.

Stowe said she believes walking helps reduce high blood pressure, and being able to do it indoors makes it all the better. "It's allergy free, not too hot, not too cold. Most people walk between 7 to 7:30 a.m. It's mentally and physically good for me and it's free."

Steinbach said the center is a good place to walk because participants don't have to worry about dogs, traffic or weather.

"It's good for osteoporosis," she added. "You're walking on wood, which is much softer than pavement."

The Sun Cities boast a variety of healthy activities for those looking to get in shape. A call to one of the recreation centers or a look into the Daily News-Sun's club calendars, published the first Monday of each month, reveals a host of possibilities for camaraderie and various levels of exercise.

However, Sun Health exercise specialist Marty

Walter said exercising without first getting a fitness assessment may not give individuals the

kind of workout they need to build muscle and lose fat.

Walter and co-worker Mark Underwood assist Sun Citizens with fitness assessments in several locations: the Adobe Spa in Sun City Grand; Palm Ridge, Beardsley and Kuentz recreation centers in Sun City West and the Sun Health Community Education and Wellness Center at Thunderbird Boulevard and 99th Avenue in Sun City.

"Walking speed is relative," Walter said. "Some people couldn't walk fast enough on a flat surface for it to make a difference. The surface, the intensity of exercise to increase the heart rate and endurance, whether you can talk while you walk — that's why an assessment is important."

Walter said if people can talk but not sing while walking, they're probably walking fast enough. If they can't even talk while walking, they're walking too fast.

"Start slow so that you don't get sore. If we bring the soreness on too quickly, many people will quit trying," Walter said. "Some muscle soreness is

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Sundial Auditorium Walkers Group
 - **WHEN:** 6 to 8 a.m., Monday through Saturday
 - **WHO:** Sun City residents with a recreation centers cards
-
- **WHAT:** Sun Health Community Center Fitness Assessment
 - **WHEN:** For an appointment, call 876-5432

good."

For \$40, Walter and Underwood provide a complete fitness assessment that includes, among other things, an evaluation of the person on a treadmill with a heart-rate monitor, a body fat assessment, muscle strength and endurance tests, lung capacity measurement, flexibility tests, and an interview on goals.

"We take into consideration whether they have arthritis, atherosclerosis, in a wheelchair, headaches and strokes," Walter said. "We can design an exercise program for anyone."

The fitness assessment doesn't look specifically for health problems, although Walter and Underwood sometimes notice problems and let their clients know.

The fitness assessment takes about 45 minutes.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nancy Stowe, left, and Natalie Steinbach walk for fitness in Sundial Auditorium Friday.

"Two weeks later, we provide a 90-minute consultation in which we provide the exercise prescription with pictures of what the person needs to do," Walter said.

While aerobic exercise burns body fat, losing fat is just part of getting more fit. Gaining bone density and muscle mass is the goal of strength training, Walter said.

Aerobic exercise such as walking should increase the heart rate for 20 to 30 minutes three times a week. Strength-training should be done two to three times a week, but never two days in a row.

OVER

"It's good for everybody. If you're losing muscle, even though your weight stays the same, it's not good," Walter said.

Before a person can receive a fitness assessment, Sun Health requires permission from the person's doctor. This includes a limited request for the person's medical history, which the physical specialists use in creating the individualized exercise program.

Like Steinbach and Stowe, Bob Muehlberg of Sun City is walking for his health.

"I've been walking here for three years since moving here from Minnesota," Muehlberg said. "I had a heart attack six years ago. I walk one and a half miles a day. I've lost 20 pounds."

Muehlberg said he has measured his steps and calculates the perimeter of the Sundial Auditorium as one-eighth of a mile. Twelve times around in 20 minutes and he's accomplished his goal.

In addition to walking every day, Muehlberg said he has been on a low-fat diet since his heart attack.

"I'm more careful about what I eat — leaner meat, more chicken and fish than beef," he said. "I have a gas grill and do most of my meat on that."

For information about the various clubs in the Sun Cities, call the Recreation Centers of Sun City at 876-3000 or the Recreation Centers of Sun City West at 544-6000.



Sun Health Exercise Specialists Martv Walter, left, and Mark Underwood conduct a cardio test.

JEANNE WINGRAD/DAILY NEWS-SUN

On the Wings of Love

QUALITY OF LIFE:
Sun Health
hospice
celebrates 10th
anniversary

CHUCK HEEMAN
DAILY NEWS-SUN

At Friday's Sun Health Hospice Care Services' 10th anniversary festivities, friends, workers and families took the opportunity to celebrate not only the more than 1,800 patients cared for by the facility, but to affirm the hospice system as a way for both the dying and their families to face the passing of a loved one with dignity and grace.

Native American shaman Animal Woman led a Cherokee prayer ceremony that climaxed with the release of 100 butterflies, signifying the celebration's theme, "On the Wings of Love," sponsored by the Daily News-Sun and Sun Health.

"The butterfly has a life expectancy of less than six months, as do patients who enter hospice care," Animal Woman said. "But the butterfly shows us that even though time may be short, a beautiful life can be lived."

Genny Rose, vice president with Sun Health Hospice Care Services, spoke of the rising use of hospice services throughout the United States, and of the need to further expand those services.

"With Sun Health alone, our volume has grown by more than 160 percent since our foundation in 1990," Rose said. "We've come from a community-based program, providing in-home service, to an inpatient residence for the last six years. At our facility, we've had about 1,800 residents since 1997."

Rose noted that hospice care became eligible for Medicare benefits in 1993, prompting a dramatic rise in the use of hospice services. Nationwide, use grew from 540,000 in 1998 to more than 700,000 last year.

The Rev. Marlys McLaughlin, chaplain of Sun Health Hospice



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Animal Woman, a Native American shaman, delivers a blessing during the Sun Health Hospice Care Services 10th anniversary celebration Friday.

Care Services, began a panel discussion on hospice care by touching on the hospice's role in organizing a family's time of confusion.

"Many families come to us in chaos," McLaughlin said. "They have just gotten a diagnosis that throws their family into turmoil. We are here to work with them and take them through the journey. We emphasize not death, but the entrance into surrender, and the gratefulness of a life well-lived."

Addressing medical issues in hospice care, Dr. Teresita Co Barnett, medical director of Sun Health Hospice Care Services and Residences, talked of the need for more cooperation from physicians in determining the need for hospice care.

"Even though hospice is defined as a six-month period, less than 10 percent of all hospice patients receive more than 10 days of hospice care," Co Barnett said. "Doctors are reluctant to tell patients they have less

than six months to live. It's a hard thing to do, both to the patient and the family. Here, the patient and the family are both considered to be in our care."

Co Barnett's advice to families facing the impending passing of a loved one is simple — take control.

"Many times families know it's time for hospice care, but are afraid to go against a doctor's word," she said. "If you know it's time for a hospice, you don't need a doctor's referral. If you're wrong, so what? Nobody is right all the time, even a doctor. Very, very often people who check into a hospice actually get better and check back out."

Peggy Griffith, coordinator of volunteers for the facility, said her service is rewarding for both the volunteer and the family involved with the hospice resident.

"Our greatest asset, where we help most, is by being still and

From A1

listening," Griffith said. "The volunteer is there to give the family a respite, some time off during a time of great stress. We are there to listen, not to judge, and along the way, volunteers become friends of the family and not just a helper."

One speaker had a special insight on the need for hospice care in the United States. Paul Hofstad of Sun City West lost his wife, Isabelle, to cancer in October. Isabelle was a resident of Sun Health Hospice at the time of

her passing. Paul Hofstad praised the Sun Health staff as being caring and giving in helping Isabelle pass with dignity.

"To many, the word 'hospice' connotes only death," Hofstad said. "To me, 'hospice' means a chance to think of your loved one's needs and not your own. From our initial meeting with the staff at Sun Health, we were impressed with their professionalism and knowledge. The staff became a part of our family in a very short time, and treated my wife with warmth and understanding. We could not have asked for more than what the

Sun Health staff gave us."

The final speaker during the celebration's panel discussion was Stephanie Cambio, Sun Health Hospice Care Services and Residences Director. She noted some of the factors that make hospice care a "last-resort" option for doctors.

"Our society remains one that is death-defying," Cambio said. "Along with that, physicians are reluctant to take away hope from the patient, and they are often poor prognosticators — they want to heal the patient, and in some cases that's just not possible."

Cambio said the public needs

to be made aware that hospice care is not the overseeing of death, but emphasizes the passing with dignity of the loved one in a family atmosphere.

"The care a hospice offers is what patients and families deserve," she said.

With the added need for hospice care in Arizona, Sun Health will open a new hospice facility next month in Sun City West, at the Alterra retirement community at ClareBridge.

For information on any of Sun Health's services, including hospice care, call 876-5432, or visit www.sunhealth.org.

Special place for special people

EASE PARENTS' MIND: Sun Health provides home for special adults

KATY BORNHOFEN
DAILY NEWS-SUN

10/2000

It's every parents' prerogative to worry about their children, to raise them to be self-sufficient. But the worry is compounded when the children are developmentally disabled.

When Carol Cody's father died July 13, she already had a new home, a safe place where she's found a new family. Her mother had died of Alzheimer's disease in 1983.

"I miss him, but what can I do?" she says. "I like my home."

Carol's home, and the home of eight other developmentally disabled adults, is the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults, on Plaza del Rio Boulevard in Peoria.

"I like to go shopping. I like to

eat out. I like to travel, like StouxFalls, my hometown," Cody says, speaking quickly while showing off her "Most Cheerful Camper" award from Camp Civitan's Rodeo Week held July 14.

Cody, like the other residents, is proud of her room and all its intricacies. She's got 22 Beanie Babies and a few baseball posters adorning the walls.

"I love baseball," she said. "I played softball for five years."

Robert Brown, the newest member of this special family, also is an avid collector.

"It's kind of messy. I'm still unpacking," he says, digging out some shoe boxes full of old political buttons. "I collect buttons all the way back to Coolidge."

Brown's room also includes a painting of his sprawling childhood home. "I was born on a plantation in Africa, Liberia," he says. He misses watching his father work and playing checkers on the plantation, he says.

The house, which opened March 1, 1999, can accommodate 10 people and currently has

one vacancy on the men's side. It is not a group home and doesn't receive government funding, but fills a nationwide need that takes on a greater urgency in the Sun Cities. This new care model emerged to allow dying parents to know their children won't fend for themselves or be institutionalized.

The need was first addressed on March 17, 1979, when Sun City resident Roy Natvig opened the Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activity Center, S C Y S A C. Although Natvig doesn't have any children with developmental disabilities, he initiated the program through the Civitan Club, whose primary purpose is to help such individuals.

"If everybody who had joined had not moved away, I think we would have had about 80 people," Natvig says. Four members have died, others were institutionalized when their parents died and others moved away, he says.

Inspired by SCYSAC, Sun Health developed its special residence, with the intention of building two more homes in the cul-de-sac. Natvig says the need for such a home has existed for years.

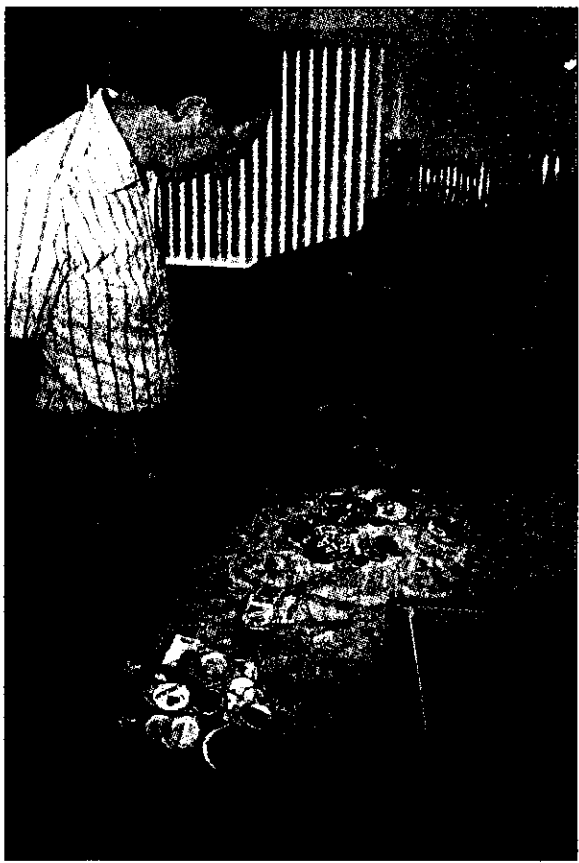
"Not just here but all over — there's been a need for recognition," he says. "The schools provide education for the young ones, but as soon as they reach that age, I guess it's 18, out they go and there's nothing else for them. This gives the parents the peace of mind and security for the handicapped person."

Jenny Rose, Sun Health's vice president in charge of all non-acute residences, says many of the residents have known each other for 20 years through SCYSAC. Prior to the house opening, there wasn't much available for them, she says.

"The only thing would have been the traditional group homes in the Phoenix-Glendale area, but not a home that was available for this population in this age group," she says. "The plan is for a cul-de-sac that would have three homes on it. We would consider the next one to accept federal subsidy."

Rose said Sun Health will be "aggressively pursuing" certification for the second home in the next six to 12 months, but she believes the state may not be willing to certify another home there.

Roger Deshaies, assistant director of the Department of Economic Security's Division of the Developmentally Disabled, says DES prefers to provide for developmentally disabled individuals in their homes and not to segregate them into a group setting. However, about 5 percent of the 19,000 people DES supports, live in group homes which



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bill Palmer, left, watches Robert Brown unpack some of his bottom collection. Brown is a new arrival to Sun Health Residence for Special Adults.

OVER

provide more structured settings than assisted living homes.

"We would probably be quite concerned about the density issue," he says. "You don't want a whole block of people with developmental disabilities because that becomes problematic."

Nevertheless, Deshaies says he understands some parents may prefer the assisted-living setting.

"It's not uncommon we have someone in their 40s or 50s being cared for by a parent in their 60s or 70s," he says. "I can understand from a parent's perspective that that gives them a lot of security. But to integrate them into the fabric of society, that tends to work against that."

Charlotte Vinson, house manager of the Sun Health Residence, says most of the residents' parents live in care centers or their own homes in Sun City and Sun City West.

"I think the one good thing about this house is these folks are all very capable and they can give back to the community. They're not just taking," she says.

All of the residents volunteer in various capacities in Sun Health facilities, including the nearby Alzheimer's care center, where Cody delivers birthday cards she makes. Resident Dave Hopkins not only helps at the Alzheimer's center, but volunteers with Recording for the Blind. The residents are planning a community service project to help victims of domestic violence and previously collected teddy bears to donate to police departments. They also host various fund-raisers for a trip they're planning to California.

"Anything they're willing to do, we try to find a way to do it," Vinson says. "The only thing is, we have to watch the money. We go under the theory that we're a family. Like when Carol's father passed away, they all supported her."

"And we bicker just like brothers and sisters," adds resident Carolyn Langley, whose room is filled with her drawings and paintings. "My mom calls me the rabid drawer — R-A-B-I-D — because I draw everything I see. Bill (Palmer) draws too. He draws station wagons and people."

Palmer, showing his impressive portfolio, says he likes drawing station wagons because they're better than buses. Vinson is considering hosting an art show to show the residents' work.

Resident Karen Donaghy just started painting last week. At 58, she is the home's oldest resident. While showing her doll collection, she jokingly complains that she tried to call her mother in the Alzheimer's residence next door but couldn't get a hold of her.

"She didn't answer. She must be talking to her friends. That's her — talk, talk, talk," Donaghy says.

Resident Jeff Wallentine does most of the group's barbecuing, usually when it's the men's turn to cook. He likes just about anything outdoors, including the quail, roadrunners and intermittent coyote he can see outside his bedroom window. Like other residents, Wallentine says he's gearing up for the state Special Olympics. He earned a gold medal in golf in the county Special Olympics, shooting a 48 for nine holes in May.

"Hopefully I can do better. I'm working on it most every Sunday," he says.

TO LEARN MORE:

● For information about the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults, call Jenny Rose, 974-7030.

● The Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activity Center, SCYSAC, meets Monday and Friday mornings in Fellowship Hall at Lakeview United Methodist Church, 10298 W. Thunderbird Road. For information about its activities and respite services, call Roy Natvig, 977-1217.



Karen Donaghy, 58, shows off her doll collection. Donaghy is the oldest resident at the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults in Peoria.

JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN



Sun Health Pres/CEO Leland Peterson accepts a \$147,779 check from Sun Health Auxiliary Pres. Merri Lay.

Auxiliary donates \$147,779 to Sun Health

By Marie Scotti

The Sun Health Auxiliary presented a \$147,779 check to Leland Peterson, Sun Health president/CEO, bringing the volunteer group's fund-raising total to more than \$5 million since its inception in 1968.

Major purchases to be made using the auxiliary's gift include four dialysis machines for Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital; a Ruletrac mammary retractor (used in bypass surgery) and two codemasters (defibrillators) for Boswell Memorial Hospital; and UltraCentrifuge (to help further research in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease) for the Sun Health Research Institute; and a portable defibrillator for the Sun Health Litchfield Park Health Center.

"Once again, the Sun Health Auxiliary has seen the chance to improve our quality care and better meet the needs of our community," Peterson says. "This

wonderful dedicated group of volunteers has never turned away from the opportunity to enhance our services, and we are so grateful for that."

This year alone, the auxiliary's gifts to Sun Health and its subsidiaries have totaled \$188,489. Sun Health currently has more than 2,500 volunteers serving Sun Health facilities and participating in auxiliary fund-raising projects and events. Call 623-876-5387 for more information on becoming a Sun Health Auxiliary volunteer.

1 less worry

Sun Health awaits special residents

By MONICA ALONZO
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The aging parents of developmentally disabled children are breathing a sigh of relief as Sun Health prepares for the grand opening Tuesday of the residence that will provide a home for their adult children.

The Sun Health Residence for Special Adults, 12810 N. Plaza del Rio in Peoria, is scheduled to open for residents in early February, said Genny Rose, the vice president of Sun Health Extended Care Services.

Carol Cody is one of the special adults planning to move in. She is excited and already thinking about what she's going to take with her.

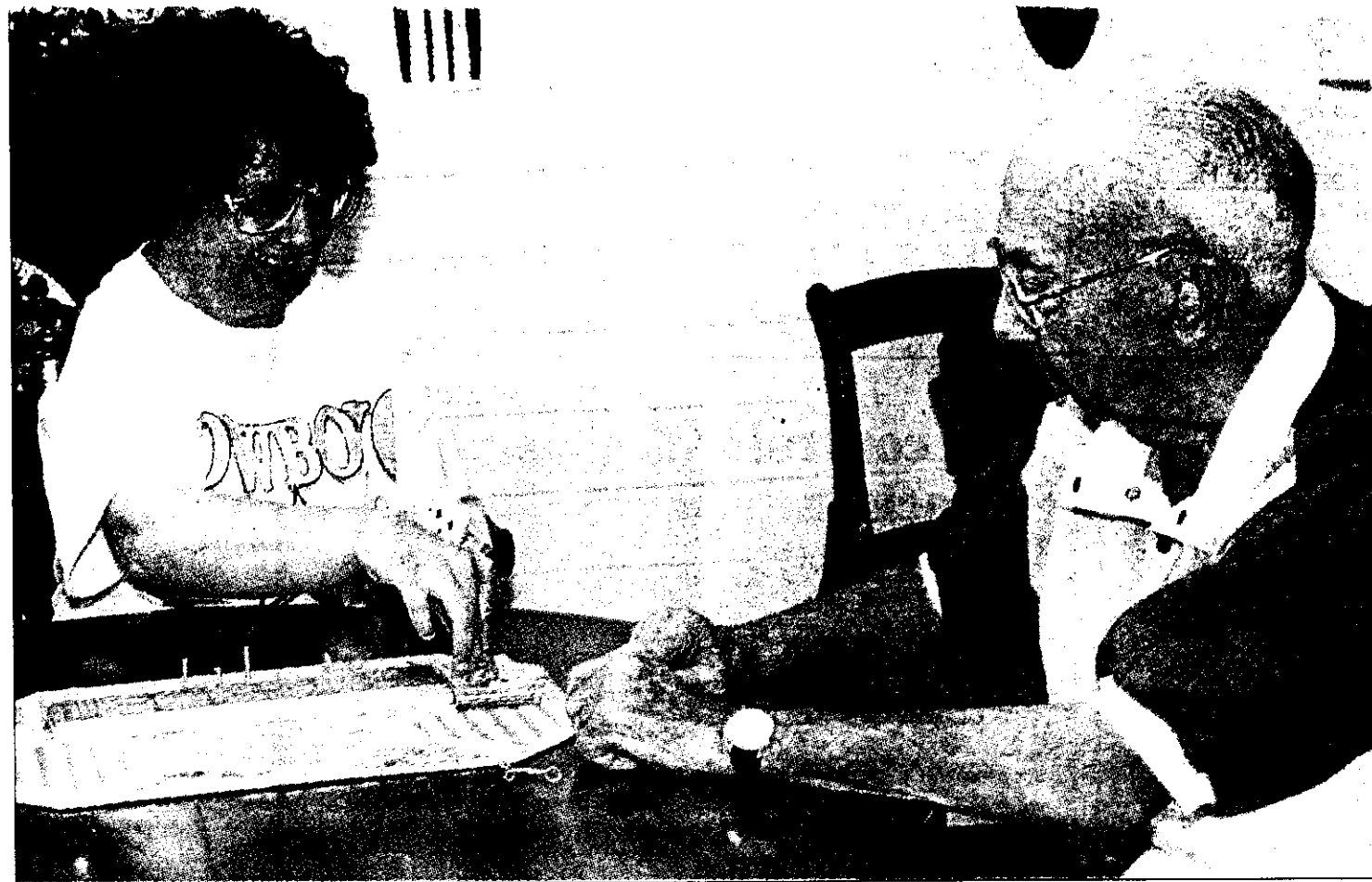
For several years, Dale Cody, Carol's dad, was concerned about what would happen to his daughter when he was not around to take care of her. The new residence took that worry away.

"It's a great feeling knowing that your offspring will be taken care of," he said.

The Residence for Special Adults, which is privately funded, will provide a caring environment to meet the special needs of mentally challenged or developmentally disabled adults.

Rose said that the residence differs from most other care environments because it is tailored to meet the needs of a specific group of people.

"The residence and the level of care provided, is designed for adults



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Carol Cody and her father, Dale, play some cribbage in their Sun City home. Carol will be one of the first residents of the Sun Health Residence for Special Adults.

30 years and older, which enhances compatibility and socialization in a congregate living environment," she said.

Each resident will have a private bedroom in the 5,500-square-foot building. A large living room and dining room area were built into the design to encourage socialization. There will also be a full kitchen, a library/quiet room, a TV/game room, a separate laundry area, semi-private baths and rooms for the staff at the residence.

David and Markie Chase are very appreciative of Sun Health's deci-

sion to create a place for their son, David and other special adults.

"As parents now aging, our main concern has been for such care of our sons and daughters of special needs when we are no longer there to do so," Markie said. "We feel that at last this dream we have so long hoped and prayed for will provide this."

The dream for the residence began partly because of the inspiration provided by the members of Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activity Center, or SCYSAC.

They are the group who identified

the need for the residence.

Roy Natvig founded the group in March, 1979 for individuals that are developmentally disabled.

"I'm thrilled beyond words because I have been here to see the parents getting older and older and more concerned about their children," Natvig said.

Sun Health also saw a need, he said.

"They have the expertise, care, concern, and commitment to help and so they did," he said.

For information, call Mary Neary, director of the residence, 815-2770.

Local Dignitaries Attend Care Center Opening



Enjoying the festivities at the opening of Sun Health's Grandview Care Center are (top, l. to r.) Merrie Lay, Virginia Smith and Jim Lay. At bottom (l. to r.) are Kathleen Crowley, Dottie Barna and P.J. Kahler. Photos, Ruth Borchardt



By Ruth Borchardt

Last week, Sun Health's Grandview Care Center opened with great flair, and seemingly unanimous approval of the first nursing facility to be built in the Sun Cities in 10 years.

The reception room was large, as were the individual bedrooms. Light and cheery, they were uplifting in their ambiance. There are three impressive dining areas offering a choice of meals.

Guests were greeted in the reception area, with a delectable outpouring of hors d'oeuvres, plus champagne and wine.—A large group assembled to wish them well, including Sun City West Rotary members Jim Lay and wife Merrie, Virginia Smith, Joe Schoggen and wife Charlene, and Governing Board member of the Rec Centers, John Firestone and wife Irene. Co-Publisher of The Wester P.J. Kahler was on hand, as were Dottie Barna of AAYS Medical Supply and

Dignitaries

Continued on Page B2

Local Dignitaries Attend Care Center Opening

Continued from Page B1

Kathleen Crowley of Northern Trust Bank.

The main building housing the units for Grandview Terrace's independent living is decorated so artistically, one is immediately impressed upon entering the lobby. The floor plan of the building was perfectly designed and the different dining rooms give a choice of decor and outlook. With its warmth and inviting atmosphere, it's no wonder the

tenants seem to enthused about their new domicile. Charmion and Faye Ellis, first tenants to move in with Charmion's mother Grace Lane, said, "we couldn't find one flaw in the building and arrangements."

If you're a potential prospect for a move to a new style of living, you might be interested in taking a look at what it has to offer.

Flag will fly in memory of Sun Citians' husbands

By JULIA DE SIMONE
Independent Newspapers

Sun Health's Child Development Center's new flag is complete with the essentials: 50 stars, 13 red and white stripes — and two hearts.

Anne Goddard and Jane Freeman, active Sun City volunteers, donated a flag and money to purchase a pole in memory of their late husbands.

Both donations were recently installed on the grounds of the new development center on the Boswell Memorial Hospital campus. The center serves Sun Health employees'

children — infant to pre-kindergarten — and is tentatively scheduled to open in mid-August.

Ms. Goddard and Ms. Freeman will assist Sun Health officials in raising the flag 10 a.m. July 1 at the center, while about 50 others look on. Jerry Porter, manager of communications services for Sun Health, will perform "To the Colors" on his trumpet. Jamie Davis, center director, will lead guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Star-Spangled Banner also will be played.

"I think if we can instill patriotism early on in the children, it will carry on," says Ms. Freeman.

Phil Hanson, vice president of human resources for Sun Health, agrees.

"It's good to promote patriotism, which I personally think is lacking these days. I think Jane and Anne can be thankful they are a part of that every time they pass the building," he says.

The center's new flag was originally given to Ms. Goddard at her late husband's memorial service; he was a retired colonel and graduate of West Point Academy in New York.

Ms. Freeman's late husband was also a colonel in the army. After retiring, he became

See ■ IN MEMORY, Page 12

■ IN MEMORY

From Page 1

an educator and was an elementary school principal in New York.

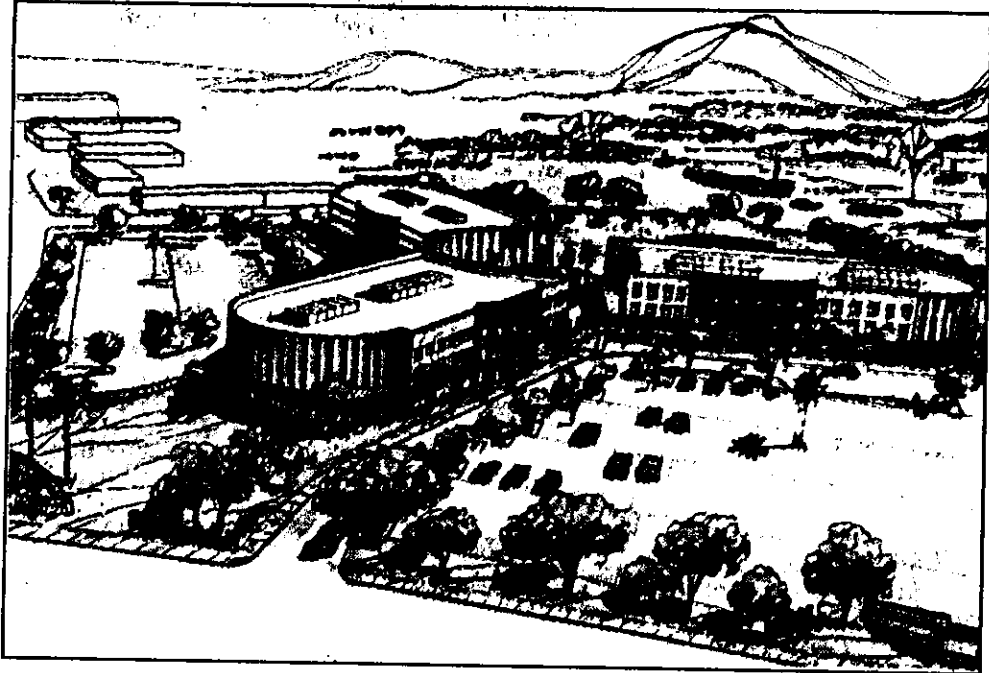
"He had 1,200 elementary students, and I swear he knew every one by name," she says.

Although Ms. Freeman admits she will have mixed feelings and

emotions when the flag is raised — wishing her husband could be there to see the children's faces — it will give her the opportunity to revel in past memories.

"He'd be out there flying kites with them," she says.

IC



An architect's rendering of the planned Sun City West project.

Sun Health kicks off \$8-million project

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Sun Health is gearing up for the anticipated growth in Sun City West and Surprise with the construction of an office complex on the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital campus. The complex is expected to cost between \$8 million and \$10 million for each of the three planned buildings.

Construction on the first phase of this 175,000-square-foot project begins Monday. Leland Peterson, chief executive officer for Sun Health, said the project will be completed in three phases.

The first phase is a three-story structure totaling 64,480 square feet. The shell of the structure will cost \$3.8 million which excludes the land and improvements. An additional \$35 per square foot build-out allowance has been allotted.

"The plans for Sun City Grand and

the anticipated growth of Surprise definitely were taken into account when we did our long-range planning," Peterson said. "We will be serving these people from the new campus and hope to have a variety of specialists available. As Sun City Grand gets larger and the volume of need grows, we may see the need for some new medical buildings in Sun City Grand itself. But we don't anticipate building a new hospital in Sun City Grand."

Peterson said the design of the new complex also takes into account the changing face of health care.

"One of the things we're trying to do is make the offices comfortable for a mid-size or large group of practicing physicians because this is a phenomenon which is happening," he said. "We are seeing more and more groups rather than smaller offices."

With the emphasis on capitulated

► See Sun Health, A5

Sun Health gears up for area's growth

■ From A1

care, Peterson said he anticipates several primary-care physicians to occupy the new space.

"We expect to see a strong representation of primary-care physicians and selected specialists," he said. "Sun Health, as well as other groups, are recruiting internists and general practitioners. And with the age of our population, I also expect we'll see specialties such as cardiologists."

In addition to physician offices, a variety of medical

services also will be available in the new building, Peterson said. Rehabilitation services, medical imaging, cardiology testing, optical services and a pharmacy are just a few of the services he said he hopes the building attracts.

The construction of the new building is anticipated to take nine months. The first tenants should be moving in by the summer of 1996.

Design of the building was done by the architectural firm of Orcutt Winslow Partnership. Designer Mark Patterson said great attention was paid to design elements so the

building would blend in with the existing offices on the campus.

"Masonry block was selected to define permanence," he said. "It's reddish brown color will coincide with the color of the Sun City West Medical Arts Center and complement the surrounding White Tanks and Bradshaw mountains. Stucco also will be used, which will tie in well with Del E. Webb Hospital's clean exterior."

The interiors will have stone flooring, wood-trim accents and creative lighting to

create a home-like ambiance, he added. Outside, a picturesque outdoor plaza area will be created in the center of the complex for use by visitors and area residents. Trees, shrubs, flowers, grass and shade will create a park-like setting, Patterson said.

Aside from aesthetics, convenience also was an important design element, Patterson said.

"Parking will be available on both sides of the building for easier access to the main entrance," he said.

Shop displays talents

Consignment center benefits Sun Health

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Crocheted baby booties, hand-crafted dolls, ceramic vases and knitted afghans helped purchase \$265,000 of medical equipment for Sun Health.

Now with the consolidation of the Sun Health consignment shops on Sun Health property, that amount should go up even more. The new consignment store — Artistic Impressions — celebrates its grand opening Monday at its new location in the Lakeview Medical Center on 103rd Avenue just south of Thunderbird Boulevard. An introductory open house is going on today until 5 p.m.

"One of the reasons we moved our shops to this one location on Sun Health property was to cut down on our overhead," said Sandy Foell, president of the Sun Health Auxiliary. "We were paying mall fees which were taking away from our profits and these fees seemed to be escalating. By consolidating our two shops into one shop, we're able to direct our efforts more efficiently."

The consignment stores were begun by Del Webb himself, Foell said.

"He felt they would provide an outlet for people in the community to share their talents and wares and an avenue to raise money for the auxiliary," she said.

Often people think of consignment shops as a place for people to take their old things to be sold, said Joan Morse, the manager of Artistic Impressions. That isn't the case with this shop.

"Everything in here is hand-made," she said. "We sell no manufactured goods."

Morse said she has been approached by several artists who have consigned with the auxiliary in the past and are eager to display their work again.

Choosing the items to be displayed is one of the most fun tasks for Morse. She has been involved in sales for the past 10 years and is an avid hobbyist who enjoys ceramics, folk art, floral design and a variety of other handcraft hobbies.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Dottie Snell admires an Indian raffia doll, one of two available at Artistic Impressions in the Lakeview Medical Center. Snell and other volunteers will be on hand for the grand opening of the new location of the store on Monday. The shop faces 103rd Avenue and is south of Thunderbird.

"I try and give everybody a chance to display their work," she said. "But I am limited by space now because we are down to one shop. We aren't going to be able to use everything brought in. And if I don't think it will present itself well the way it is, I will give the artist some suggestions on how to improve it. They're usually thrilled with the suggestions, because they're always looking for ways to make their work better."

While the overhead will be drastically reduced, so will the walk-by traffic. A trip to Artistic Impressions will be just that — a trip to Artistic Impressions.

"I know they say location, location, location, but I think we're at a point now where our reputation does a lot more than that," said Morse. "If we keep quality in here, people are going to come looking for us."

In addition to its day-to-day business, several special events are being planned for the year. Once a month, the auxiliary will host a parking lot sale for people who want to display their additional work which won't fit into the shop itself.

"We are looking into bringing artists into the shop to do their work here so people can see the creative process," Morse said. "We're also going to have a floral decorating expert come in so people with pretty vases can bring in their dried and silk flowers to be arranged. We also have a resident poet we're planning on bringing in for a book signing."

Foell said the 75 volunteers in the shop enjoy their work, but the real joy comes from the satisfaction of helping the people of Sun Health.

Health care grows with communities

Staff report

As the population in the Northwest Valley grows, so grows the need for additional health care services.

To meet those needs several local health-care agencies are expanding their services and facilities. Sun Health is experiencing a great deal of growth at this time, said Leland Peterson, chief executive officer of Sun Health.

"With the rapid expansion of Sun City West and now Sun City Grand, we're looking to actually expand the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital," he said. "Because of the increased population, we'll need additional facilities and services. We're going to start refining those ideas this September."

Sun Health is a major health care provider in the Northwest Valley and operates Walter O. Boswell and Del E. Webb memorial hospitals and Sun Health Care Center in Sun City and Sun City West.

Thunderbird Samaritan Medical Center in Glendale also feels the pangs of a growing community, said spokesman John Tucker.

'With the rapid expansion of Sun City West and now Sun City Grand, we're looking to actually expand the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.'

**Leland Peterson, chief executive officer
Sun Health**

Last year the hospital saw some 44,000 patients, Tucker said.

To accommodate the growing population in north Glendale and Peoria and other parts of the Northwest Valley, the hospital is undergoing a \$3.5 million expansion which will add 5,000 square feet for emergency services. The improvements will include 10 new treatment rooms, additional seating and improved lighting in the waiting area, updated security systems, improved traffic flow for ambulance and fire trucks and a separate nine-bed urgent-care treatment area.

"We need more space to handle that kind of volume," Tucker said. "And we're expecting that number to continue to increase. This is our attempt to cut down on waiting time."

Emergency and outpatient care

continues to be the trend in health care. That movement away from hospital stays affects the way health-care organizations plan for the future, Peterson said.

"More and more care is being done in outpatient centers," he said. "In fact, outpatient diagnostic testing is one of the newest services being provided. Both the patients and the payors are interested in decreasing inpatient stays."

Sun Health is addressing the changing needs of health care. In April, the Webb Outpatient Diagnostic Center on the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital campus in Sun City West opened. Its services include a comprehensive laboratory, medical imaging and cardiac diagnostic services. A 65,000-square-foot building also is being added to the

Webb campus, Peterson said.

To better meet the diagnostic needs of local residents, the Arizona Medical Clinic on the Plaza del Rio campus in Peoria installed a magnetic resonance imaging system. An MRI is a type of diagnostic tool gives radiologists and physicians a head start in the diagnoses of a variety of medical conditions including brain and nervous system disorders, cardiovascular disease, cancer, bone and joint disorder.

Not only has Sun Health expanded its services, it also continues to push its boundaries. One of Wickenburg's leading board-certified internists joined Sun Health and is expected to expand health-care services in the community northwest of Sun City. On July 1, Dr. William Firth established the Sun Health Wickenburg Clinic.

"We see this as an extension of the relationship we already enjoy with Wickenburg," Peterson said. "Dr. Firth is on staff with Boswell and Webb and we hope to bring another physician in there because he's so busy."

Independent 6-21-95

Local historian elected to board

Sun City resident Jane Freeman has been re-elected to a second one-year term as chairman of the volunteer board of directors for Sun Health



■ Jane Freeman

Extended Care Services, a non-profit operating division of Sun Health.

Sun Health Extended Care Services operates the 128-bed, Medicare-certified Sun Health Care Center and Sun Health Homecare Services, both of which are located on the campus of Boswell Hospital in Sun City.

Sun Health Homecare Services includes Coordinated Home Health Services, a Medicare-certified home-health agency; Sun Health Pro Care Program, a home health-aide and supplemental-nursing service; Sun Health Hospice. The division also manages the Olive Branch Senior Center.

Also serving as officers are

Murray Healy of Sun City, vice chairman; Leland Peterson of Glendale, president; Robert Lane of Sun City, secretary; John Mahoney of Sun City West, treasurer. Newly elected to the board is George Wheeler of Sun City West.

Mrs. Freeman, a native of Erie, Pa., earned her doctorate in educa-

tion from the University of Virginia and formerly served as dean of students at the State University of New York.

She has served as president of the board of trustees for the Sun Health Foundation, Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Sun City Library.

Volunteers sparkle

Sun Cities residents' efforts 'the rent we pay to stay on Earth'

By Lori Baker
Staff writer

SUN CITIES — Helen Hunt is a jewel of a volunteer.

For seven years, she has been dazzling patients and visitors with "fabulous fakes" — artificial diamond rings and earrings. They are part of the jewelry collection that Hunt has assembled for the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital gift shop.

Not only has Hunt provided a service for people looking for gifts, she has helped raised thousands of dollars through the gift shop for Sun Health Corp. to buy medical equipment.

Hunt, who operated a jewelry business for 32 years before retiring, donates about 40 hours a month, buying and packaging jewelry and doing record keeping.

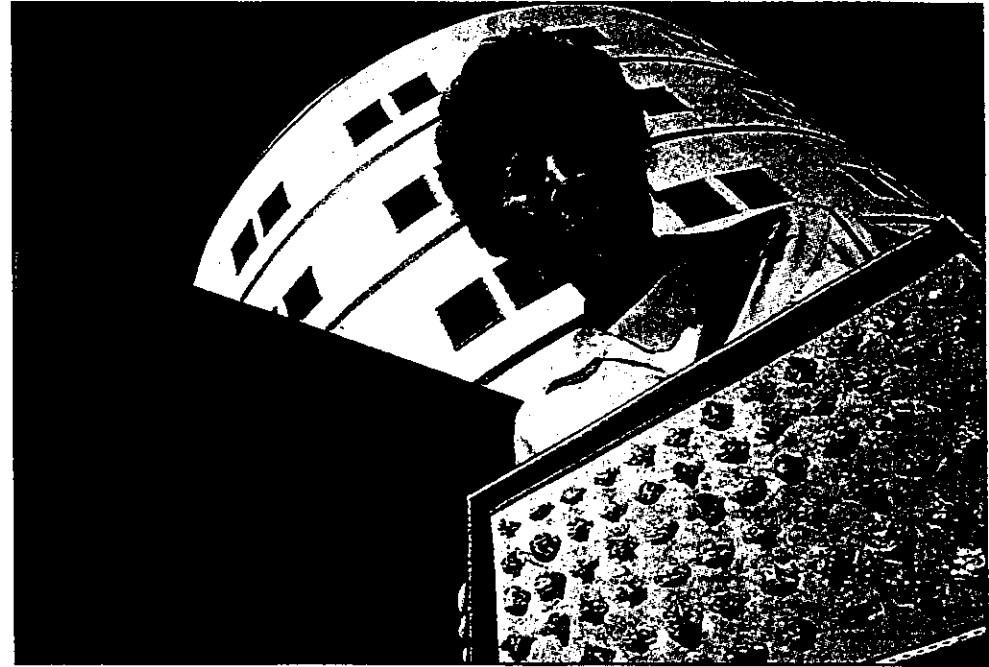
"I feel service to others is the rent we pay to stay on Earth,"

said the 79-year-old Sun City West resident, who has donated 2,700 hours. "Volunteers are like a family."

Hunt is among 2,400 volunteers donating about 335,000 hours a year at Sun Health's facilities in the Sun Cities. They include Webb hospital, Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, Sun Health Extended Care Center, the Sun Health Research Institute, Olive Branch Senior Center, Sun Health Community Education and Sun Health Home Health Services.

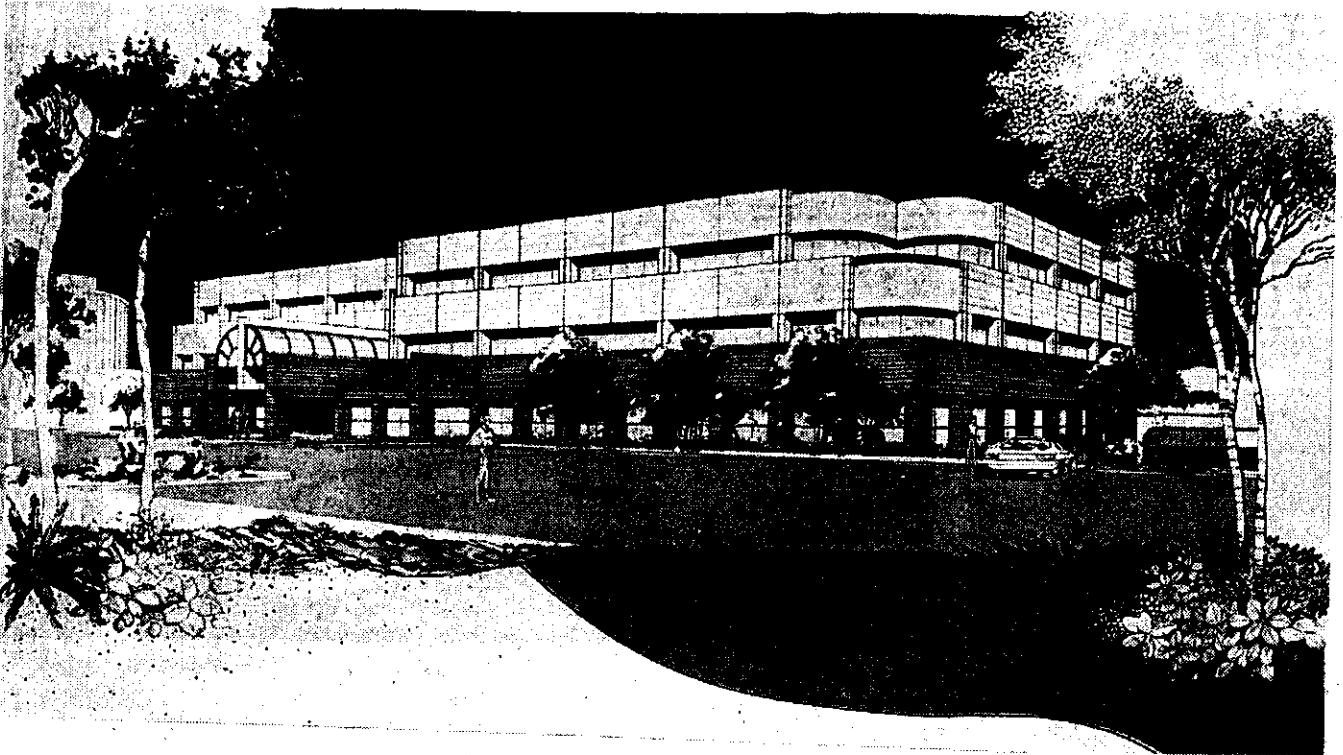
Volunteers have given 5 million hours of their time and raised millions of dollars from the community since 1968, when planning for the Boswell hospital began. Sun Health will honor volunteers at a celebration at 4 p.m. Oct. 4 at Beardsley Park in Sun City West.

See EFFORTS, Page 3



Tom Tingle / Staff photographer
Volunteers such as Helen Hunt donate about 335,000 hours a year in the Sun Cities. Hunt is a volunteer jewelry buyer for a hospital gift shop.

IC



NOW OPEN

Boswell West Medical Office Building 10503 West Thunderbird Boulevard, Sun City, Arizona

Sun Health's new medical office building, located on the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital campus, is now open. The three-story, 60,000 square foot building includes several physician offices, an outpatient clinic, optical shop, and pharmacy. For a physician referral, call 876-5432. Coming soon are additional physicians' offices and services.

Suite			Suite		
100	Arizona Heart Inst.	933-0557	207	Jospeh A. DiPasquale, M.D.	974-4733
	Ilhan Bahadir, M.D.			General Surgery	
	Edward B. Dietrich, M.D.		366	Fisher Group Ltd.	977-0661
	Fredric Klopff, M.D.			Catherine A. Fisher, M.D.	
	Vincent Nicchi, Jr., M.D.			Richard D. Fisher, M.D.	
309	Krishnan R. Bala, D.D.S.	977-6402	365	Farid Ghebleh, M.D.	977-9150
	Dentistry			Internal Medicine	
275	Beatrice Keller Clinic	584-2127	114	Robert A. Horstman, M.D.	977-4259
	James W. Groff, D.O. - Dermatology			Orthopedic Surgery	
	Gordon J. Low, M.D. - Dermatology		101B	Lakeview Pharmacy	977-8357
	Dan A. Nelson, M.D. - Dermatology			Jerry Ritt	
	Daniel J. Rubenstein, M.D. - Dermatology		300	Kishor D. Mehta, M.D.	933-3400
113	Boswell West Clinical Services	876-5316		Internal Medicine	
	Cardiopulmonary		103	Joseph B. Priestley, M.D.	977-8361
	Clinical Laboratory			Urology	
	Medical Imaging		104	Southwest Eye Surgeons	977-8357
371	Paul D. Carlson, D.D.S.	977-4061		Ronald S. Garajkov, M.D.	
	Dentistry		101A	Sun City Optical	977-8357

10

Auxiliary purchases equipment for Boswell

Through special projects and operation of gift, consignment and thrift shops, the Sun Health Auxiliary raises funds to purchase equipment for Sun Health facilities.

Because of the auxiliary's service projects, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a new method for gallbladder surgery, now is available at Boswell Hospital.

Throughout 1990, proceeds from the auxiliary's special projects totaled \$301,450. Of this, \$41,000 was used to purchase a new laparoscope.

The laparoscope consists of a tube and optical system for observing the inside of a hollow organ or cavity.

A number of surgeons based

primarily in the Sun Cities are certified to perform the surgery. Local hospital staff reports the procedure delivers less pain and tissue damage to patients, with a reduced incidence of respiratory

complications and shorter hospital stays.

Now numbering more than 2,300 members, the Sun Health Auxiliary is Arizona's largest hospital-volunteer organization.



The nonprofit Sun Health Foundation has raised half of the \$4 million necessary to expand its research facility to 38,000 square feet.

Sun Health spends \$10 million on Sun City real estate projects

By ANGELA TORREZ

Sun Health Corp. and its sister company, Sun Health Properties, are spending about \$10 million on construction and real estate projects to absorb the rapid growth in the Sun Cities area.

Sun Health Properties recently paid \$2.54 million for an 80,000-square-foot medical office building in Sun City. Because space is scarce at Sun Health Corp.'s Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, this building is needed badly for administrative programs, financial services, a cardiac rehabilitation facility and other uses, says Tom Darmody, vice president of Sun Health Properties.

The building, 13101 N. 103rd Ave., was purchased from Sun City-based Health Research Corp., which originally intended to build a rehabilitation hospital there. The structure sits on a 7.5-acre parcel adjacent to four acres of land owned by Sun Health Corp.

Sun Health Properties has commissioned an analysis to determine other "income-generating uses" for the building and adjacent land, he says. That report should be complete by the end of this month.

"For some reason it seems to be a real secret on how well the northwest Valley is doing," Darmody says. "Peoria is one of the fastest-growing communities per capita in the Valley."

In 1980 Peoria had 12,500 people, compared with today's population of 44,500. Five years from now that number should increase to about 75,000, he says.

In fact, 35 percent of Maricopa County's population lives west of Interstate 17, according to data compiled by researchers at Arizona State University's west campus.

In 1988, 716,300 people lived west of I-17, compared with Maricopa County's entire population of 2,055,383. This year, that area's population is expected to grow to 741,700, compared with 2,132,975 in Maricopa County.

"The area west of I-17 has more people in it than Tucson does," Darmody says.

In February, the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West recorded its census at 101 inpatients. It was the first time the hospital had ever topped 100 inpatients.

"All patient care areas — surgery, acute care, etc. — are up in numbers," said C. Sue Boudreaux, Webb Memorial's vice president for patient care services, when the hospital made the announcement. "But there doesn't seem to be a particular medical reason to which we can attribute the overall increase."

Another of Sun Health Corp.'s projects is the construction of a \$2.21 million, 2-story medical office building on the Del Webb campus in Sun City West. Case Construction Co. will begin work this week on the 40,000-square-foot facility,

"The area west of I-17 has more people in it than Tucson does."

— Tom Darmody

Darmody says. Adjoining the building will be a two-level parking structure for more than 200 automobiles.

Originally intended to be built as a shell for future use, the building already is 50 percent preleased, Darmody says.

In addition, Sun Health Properties is adding 2,000 square feet to the heart catheterization lab on the Boswell campus. That project, expected to be completed by July, will include an environmentally controlled walkway so patients can be wheeled directly from the hospital to the facility without using an ambulance. Construction costs are targeted for about \$750,000.

Bids were due last Wednesday for construction of a 6,000-square-foot radiation oncology facility on the Boswell campus. That project, which will cost between \$700,000 and \$800,000, could begin as early as this week, Darmody says.

As soon as Sun Health Foundation raises \$4 million, Sun Health Corp. will add 32,000 square feet of space to its existing 6,000-square-foot Institute for Biogerontology Research on the Boswell campus. It specializes in research in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, geriatric oncology and other age-related disorders.

To date, the nonprofit foundation has raised \$2 million, says Dr. Leonard Gibb, director of planned giving. "Sun Health

Sun Health expands

Continued from page 22

Corp. is doing well, but they're at a break-even mode and don't have discretionary income for building."

He hopes to raise the additional \$2 million and break ground before year-end.

The expansion will create more laboratory space for research into arthritis and diabetes, as well as cardiovascular, hearing and vision disorders.

The institute's brain tissue donation program also is growing rapidly, Gibb says. So far, the institute has received about 150 postmortem brain tissues from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other donors within the last two years. Some of those tissue samples are sent to 40 other research facilities across the nation. In addition, about 80 families are signed up for the program.

Because animals don't get Alzheimer's, the institute depends on human brain tissue for research.

Other entities under the Sun Health Corp. umbrella include Sun Health Care Center, Del E. Webb Extended Care Center, Sun Health Homecare Services and Olive Branch Senior Center.

Please see Sun, page 23

Hospitals adapt to changing population

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Senior care has long been the hallmark of Walter O. Boswell and Del E. Webb memorial hospitals. But the influx of families into neighboring communities is quickly changing the faces of the patients seen at these hospitals.

In recent years, both hospitals have seen an increase in the number of children passing through their hospital doors.

"Last year, Webb saw over a thousand kids ... Primarily they come in for upper respiratory (problems) or difficulty breathing and we see a lot of injuries like lacerations and cuts," said Chris Modina, who heads the emergency departments at both hospitals.

An additional 900 kids were treated at Boswell hospital last year, she said.

Sun Health is taking measures to adjust to this growth and has already established health clinics in Surprise, Litchfield Park and Wickensburg.

The organization has also hired a family education coordinator.

Linda Kmetz, who comes to Sun Health from the Arizona Department of Health Services, divides her time between the new Sun City community education center on 99th Avenue and Thunderbird and the clinic in Litchfield Park.

Kmetz has been teaching classes on child development and exercise at the Litchfield Park clinic.

She has also been conducting health-related classes like cardiopulmonary resuscitation and child development at the Surprise Teen Center and the Sun Health Surprise clinic.

Subjects for the classes were based on recommendations from Dysart School District principals, school

nurses and Surprise Community Center administrators.

The need for health education in the district was compounded by the elimination of the Dysart School District's sports programs, Kmetz said.

"There's not a lot of physical activity unless they're going outside of the schools for that," Kmetz said.

A family fitness night is planned for the elementary schools.

Besides getting involved in health issues in the district, Sun Health will have a hand in district enrollment by sponsoring kindergarten registration fairs.

In addition to these projects, an obstetrics department is slated for Webb hospital in the next few years, said Tom Dickson, vice president of operations at Webb hospital.

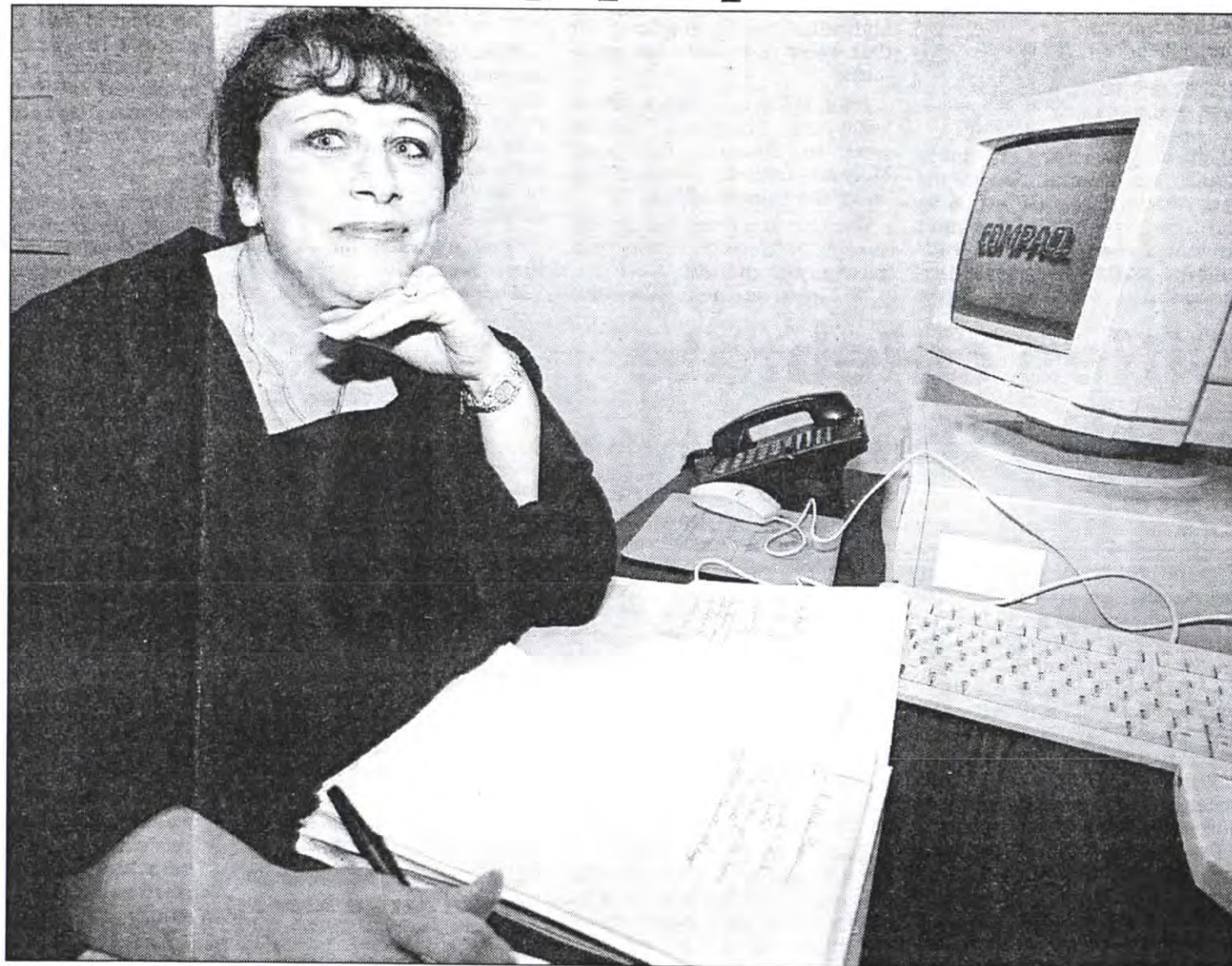
"We looked at the current numbers, and by the year 2000, there will be an adequate number of women in this area who will be delivering babies and that would justify an obstetrics department. It's a reflection of the changing community members. There are lot more younger people living in the area," he said.

Sun Health also lowered the age requirement on its Advantage program, a special membership program that allows people to receive low cost health screenings or discounts.

In the last eight months, the age limit has been lowered from 45 to 40 years.

But while Sun Health is offering services which adapt to the changing demographics in the Northwest Valley, taking on the responsibilities of family medicine may also help counteract lost revenue from decreasing Medicare reimbursements.

Currently, payments and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries total about 80 percent of Sun Health



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Linda Kmetz has been named Family Health Community Education Specialist by Sun Health. Her mission is to develop and facilitate family health education programs for the community.

revenues.

Under the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, the organization stands to lose approximately \$4 million this year, said Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive

vice president of Sun Health communications services.

The addition of family services may help the bottom line.

"We expect there will be more of the non-Medicare patients coming to us and that should provide some relief ... most of them have insurance other than Medicare," she said.

The Madison and Sun Health Team Up to Offer New Assisted Living Program

By Marie Scotti

The arrival of a Sun Health assisted-living program at The Madison is being celebrated during an open house scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21 at the retirement residence, located at 18626 Spanish Garden Drive in Sun City West.

A western-style barbecue will be served. Admission is free.

Tours of the newly redecorated facility also will be provided.

The assisted living program, offered by Sun Health Homecare Services, will begin Sept. 1 for residents at The Madison.

Sun Health Homecare Services is a division of the non-profit

Team

Continued on Page B3



Residents of The Madison in Sun City West are shown relaxing near the pool at the retirement residence.

The Madison and Sun Health Team Up

Continued from Page B1

Sun Health network of health education, acute hospital care, extended care, rehabilitation, socialization, research and behavioral health. During the Open House, homecare representatives will be available to answer questions about the new program.

"We are excited at the opportunity to join with The Madison to offer this service to residents," says Dir. Jan Pinter. "It's a great way to further enhance the quality of their lives and enrich their experience at The Madison."

"We see to it that a high level of quality is maintained at all times," explains Lee Beaty, manager. "Up to three delicious meals are served daily, manage-

ment lives on site to attend to residents' needs more conveniently, local transportation is provided, emergency response systems are available for safety, many activities are coordinated for fun and weekly housekeeping service is available."

The Madison is managed by Holiday Retirement Corp., a Salem-Oregon-based retirement-residence management company in business since 1971. Residents can choose from one- and two-bedroom apartments and take advantage of affordable month-to-month rents, with never a lease or buy-in.

Call 584-1999 for more information.

speaking of good health...

The Sun Health Speakers Bureau is a valuable community resource available to your service club, community group or professional organization. Informed speakers, offered to you free of charge, will provide your members with valuable insight into health and health-related topics.

Who are the speakers?

Our speakers are all health care professionals who have been trained to communicate effectively with your organization. Each is an expert in his or her field and eager to discuss a particular health topic with your group.

How do I choose a program?

Let us know your specific interest and we'll arrange for an appropriate speaker. Or, you might want to choose one of the relevant and interesting sample topics we have listed. Several are certain to appeal to your group.

How do I make the arrangements?

It's simple. Let us know the time, place, group size and length of presentation required and we'll accommodate your needs. Just call the Public Affairs office at (602) 876-5325 to make arrangements. A two-week notice is appreciated.

Why is this service offered?

We're committed to your good health. The Sun Health Speakers Bureau is a community service program sponsored jointly by Sun Health and Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital. We invite you to let us keep you informed of important developments, issues and trends in health care.

Speaking of good health? Call the Sun Health Speakers Bureau.



A sampling of topics . . .

Healthful Living:

Cardiac Risk: Lower the Odds
Stomach and Intestinal Cancer: The Early Signals
Get a Handle on Hypertension!
The Magic of Music
Your Role in Successful Health Care
Make Medications Safe
Dieting: Reduction and Maintenance
Planning a Balanced Menu
Exercise at any Age!
The Smoker's Gamble
All About Alcoholism

Health Care Finance:

What Do You Get for Your Health Care Dollars?
Hospital Cost Containment
Regulation: The Real Issues
Understanding Medicare
What are DRGs?

Geriatrics:

Who are the Folks in the Sun Cities?
Home Health Aides: Helping Companions
Home Health Care: An Alternative to the Nursing Home

Medical Specialties:

The Sterile Hospital Environment
Pathology: Source of Discovery
Advances in Critical Care Nursing
Radiation: Friend or Foe?
MRI: Scanning Without Radiation
The Benefits of Out-Patient Surgery
The Sophisticated Surgical Suite
Hip and Joint Replacement Surgery
Surgery: What's Ahead?
Urological Disorders and Treatment
Coping With Impotency
Detection and Treatment of Sleep Apnea
Chronic Pulmonary Disease
Diverticulosis Defined and Discussed
Caring for Hiatus Hernia
Fiberoptics Today
Glaucoma and Cataracts: Advances in Treatment
Cancer Treatment: The Latest Developments

Health Care Programs:

Occupational Therapy
Respiratory Therapy
Arthritis Rehabilitation
Pulmonary Rehabilitation
Stroke Rehabilitation

The Hospital Foundation:

To Your Advantage: The Life Income Plan
Wills and Trusts
The ROUNDUP: Our FUN-draiser
The Boswell Society: Our Faithful Friends
Life Endowments: For You and Yours

Communication:

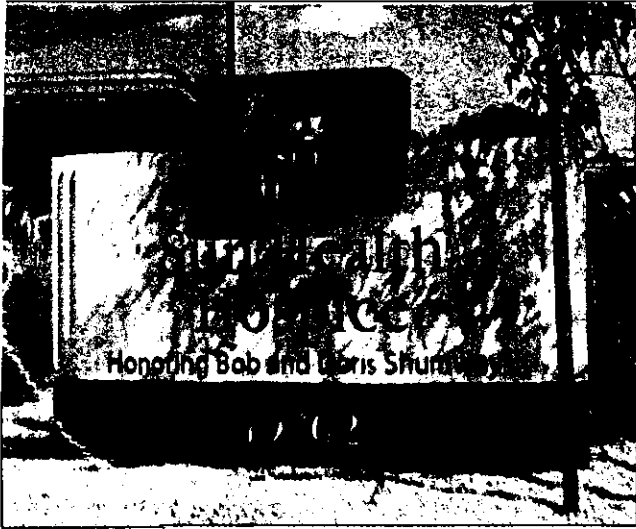
Effective Listening
Writing for Results
Speaking With Ease
Improving Interpersonal Communication

Of General Interest:

CPR: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
The Boswell Volunteers
Organizing a Volunteer Group
Inside Boswell: A Look Behind the Scenes
Computers in Health Care
Medical Ethics
Coping With Death and Illness
Microwave Cooking Tips
Support Groups: "We're in This Together"
- Parkinson's Disease - Huffers and Puffers
- Alzheimer's Disease - Others

Speaking of good health . . .
Sun Health
P.O. Box 1278
Sun City, AZ 85372

speaking of
good health . . .



Sun Health Hospice is under new management.

Sun Health out of hospice, home care business

BY PATRICK O'GRADY

Sun Health is getting out of the hospice and home care industries, turning over two Northwest Valley facilities to Hospice of Arizona to run.

The two agencies have signed a letter of intent to transfer the operations to Hospice of Arizona while Sun Health would own the facilities. Another unnamed group will take over the home care operations, said Leland Peterson, president and CEO of Sun Health.

"Our board has come to realize that we have the necessary services, but that we need to focus on expanding those services," he said.

The move was effective Sept. 12 for the hospice transition, and details are still being worked out on the home care transition, which should be done by November,

Peterson said.

Hospice of Arizona — which has seven inpatient hospice sites in metropolitan Phoenix — is operated by American Hospice of Jacksonville, Fla., one of the nation's oldest hospice providers.

"We are confident this service alliance will prove to be a wonderful win-win relationship for Sun Health and Hospice of Arizona, our employees, the community we serve, and our current and future hospice patients," said Jerene Maierle, Hospice of Arizona administrator, in a statement. "Because Sun Health Hospice currently serves approximately 160 patients daily, this transition makes Hospice of Arizona one of the nation's largest hospice programs now serving nearly 1,000 patients/families

See **Sun Health** Page 2

Sun Health, From Page 1

daily. It also brings with it the staff resources on which to accelerate our leadership position in the Maricopa County hospice market."

Sun Health has run hospice operations since 1990. Its home care service, in operation since 1972 and the first in Arizona, will be provided through a national home health nursing company.

Although allowing Sun Health to operate a continuum of care, the two operations combined represented about 3 percent of the company's total revenues, Petersons said.

Sun Health will operate under what Peterson called a "service alliance" with both the hospice and home care, and it was important for the company to find partners that were well established and could provide good care for patients.

The hospice will continue to provide inpatient care. The facility in Peoria on the Plaza del Rio Campus dedicated to Harriet D.Hastie and the one of the Del E. Webb Hospital campus named for Bob and

Doris Shumway will still be owned by Sun Health. Donors, whose names are etched in bricks at both facilities, will still be honored, Peterson said.

Most of the 100-person staff of the two hospice locations and the 50 employees of the home care operation will transfer to the new operators.

Hospice volunteers from the Sun Health Auxiliary are being encouraged to continue their roles, officials said.

Peterson said the two agreements will allow Sun Health to keep pace with growth and serve a broader area of the Valley.

It also will allow the hospital to focus on major expansion projects at its two hospitals and the Sun Health Research Institute.

Inpatient hospice opens

Facility features 12 private rooms, comforts of home

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

Sun City West resident Bruce Kelly knows first-hand the value of a hospice.

Two years ago, his mother-in-law laid dying at a local hospital in terrible pain until the family moved her to hospice care.

"She was no longer screaming," Mr. Kelly said. "She was very peaceful and relaxed. She died two days later. She died very comfortably."

Mr. Kelly was one of more than 100 people who attended a dedication ceremony July 7 of the new Sun Health Hospice, 19702 N. Routzahn Way, Sun City West.

Attendees toured the build-

To donate: For those who give \$1,000 or more they will receive an exterior recognition plaque and those who donate \$5,000 or more will receive an interior plaque. Call 876-5330.

ing with its homey rooms and many signed blocks of gold fabric for a quilt, which will hang in the hospice.

The Palo Verde Patchers Club in Sun City West will design and sew the quilt of gold, purple, beige and salmon, and hopefully complete it in three months, said Arvella Umphenour, club member.

Sharon Weatherly of Sun City Grand lined up to pen a memory of a loved one. Her sister-in-law passed away last year in a hospice.

"I think it's wonderful," she said of having the facility in the community.

Sun Health in 1990 founded Sun Health Hospice to provide care to terminally ill patients in the comfort of their own homes. The nonprofit organization in 1997 opened its first stand-alone, 12-bed residence in Peoria.

Most hospice programs contract with nursing homes or care facilities for inpatient care. Nursing home employees would provide the 24-hour care to a patient under the supervision of hospice staff.

The advantage of a stand-alone dedicated facility is "all the staff are hospice profession-

als, trained in hospice care," said Stephanie Cambio, director of Sun Health Hospice and a registered nurse.

The Sun City West facility began construction in fall 2003, thanks to the community's support. The organization's fundraising arm, Sun Health Foundation, collected \$2.2 million to build the \$2.4 million Sun City West residence.

Before it moved to its new home, the Sun City West hospice leased space for the past three years on 151st Avenue.

Ms. Cambio said Sun Health Hospice has cared for "thousands" of patients in the north-west area since its inception.

"We manage their medical condition first and foremost, addressing any physical need they might have such as pain management," she said. "We address their emotional and spiritual needs as well. The quality of people's lives is what we really focus on and to make sure people are comfortable. We make sure they are here to live their life comfortably to the end and be with family as well."

The new 12,500-square-foot building houses 12 private rooms with windows facing the Grandview Golf Course. A family room and nondenominational chapel share space.

"Not everyone comes into an inpatient facility," Ms. Cambio said. "It's for those patients who need more intensive pain or symptom management."

Family members are allowed to spend the night and visiting hours are unrestricted.

The facility also welcomes five-day stays for patients to give caregivers a break or to treat an acute medical symptom or bring pain under control to allow a patient to return home.

Sun Health Hospice encourages people to stop in either center to ask questions or take a tour.

People are eligible for hospice care if their doctor certify they have six months or less to live and they agree to a plan for comfort care instead of curative care.

Financial coverage is available through the hospice Medicare benefit. Sun Health also works with private insurance companies and managed care organizations. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

Donations for the building are still needed and even after the capital campaign ends, on-going donations help Sun Health Hospice provide care to patients who lack Medicare or health insurance coverage.

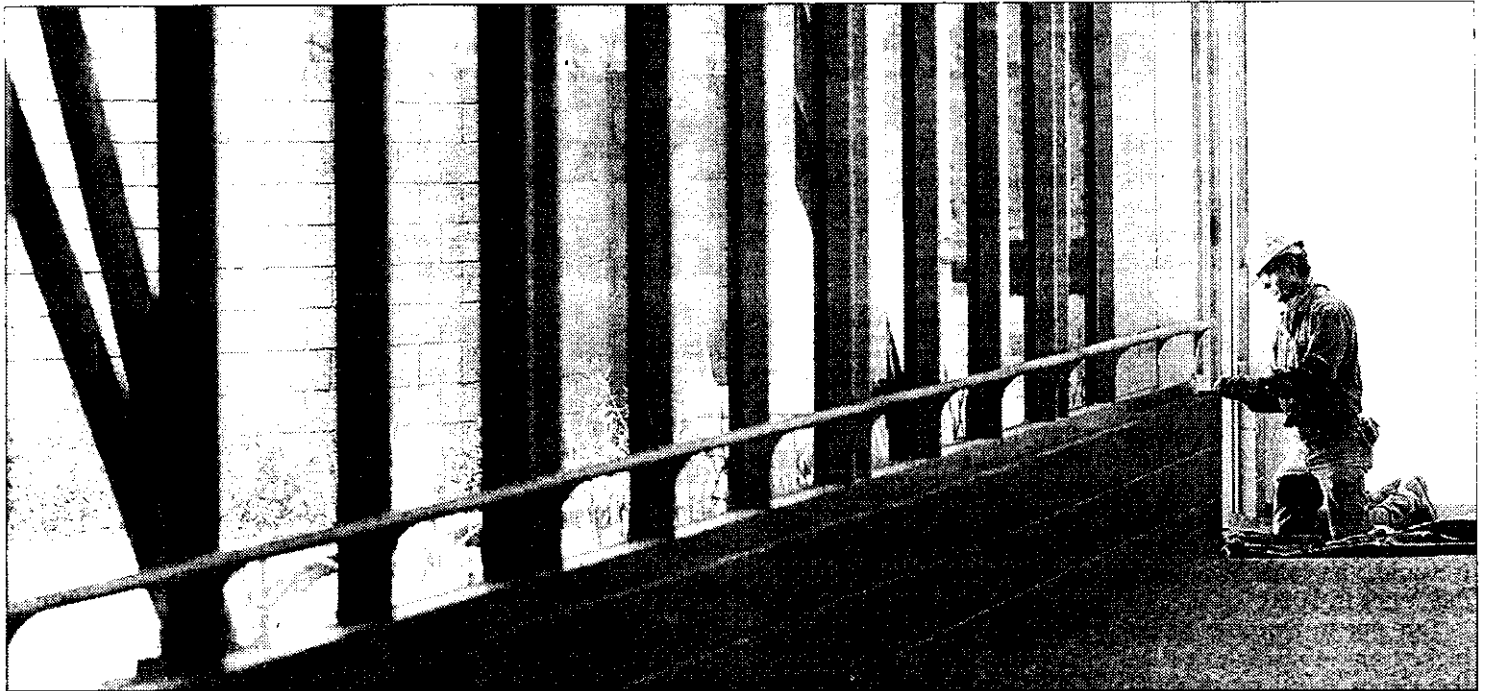
Ms. Cambio anticipated accepting patients as soon as state health inspectors this week inspect the facility and grant a



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Bruce Kelly admires the view of a golf course from one of the 12 private rooms.

OVER



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ernesto Armenta of Roma Masonry applies finishing touches to a wall in the new Sun Health Hospice in Sun City West Wednesday.

SCW Hospice opens its doors

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Terminally ill patients and their families will have another resource available to them in the coming weeks.

The new Sun Health Hospice in Sun City West makes its debut Wednesday morning, and will begin accepting patients in the next few weeks. Located across from Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital and Grandview Terrace, the facility will give area residents a sneak peek during the open house.

Guests are expected to learn how hospice enhances the quality of life for patients with terminal illnesses. Emphasis is given to treating symptoms and easing pain in the final weeks and months of life.

Visitors also can tour the 12,000 square-foot facility from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

"We're excited about it," said Stephanie Cambio, director of Sun Health's Hospice Care Services. "It's really going to function well here."

Wednesday's event also marks the final phase of a fund-raising campaign for the hospice.

Residents have contributed \$2.3 million of the \$2.5 million needed to build, equip and furnish the building. Work crews started on the hospice in October and intend to finish in a matter of days.

According to Cambio, the hospice has been in the planning phase for almost two years.

The center will be Sun Health's second hospice. The other, which opened in 1997, is on Plaza del Rio Boulevard in Peoria. Temporary inpatient care began in the Sun City West area in 2001.

"People wanted something out in this area a lot closer to them," Cambio said.

The new Sun City West hospice has 12 private suites, and offices for its home-care workers and a chaplain. Cambio said the facility will have a calming atmosphere. There are plenty of courtyards, a garden and a family room for visitors.

"I hope they'll feel a sense of peace and serenity when they walk through those doors," Cambio said.

Patricia Cahow, a registered nurse and hospice manager for both of Sun Health's inpatient units, said both centers will

provide the same services. However, there are two differences between the two facilities. The new Sun Health Hospice includes the office for a chaplain and a chapel with a stained-glass window featuring the four seasons.

"It'll be a place where they could pray and meditate at any point," Cahow said.

In front of the hospice, patients and visitors are greeted with "Sara," a 5-foot tall bronze sculpture of a little girl with a butterfly on her hand. It was commissioned by Sun City West resident Lois Chisholm Michael in honor of her granddaughter, Dr. Sara Martin Lawrence, a certified family medical physician in Idaho.

More than 80 percent of area residents receiving services from Sun Health Hospice receive care at home. The facility provides an inpatient option and a site for staff who make visits in Surprise and surrounding communities such as Wickenburg.

"We're here to benefit and accommodate everyone who needs us," said Cambio. "Some people couldn't go through these difficult times without the help of hospice."



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN.
Patricia Mihelic, patient care coordinator of the new Sun Health Hospice in Sun City West, left, and Sun Health Hospice manager Patricia Cahow unpack boxes for the move into the new building Wednesday.