

BRIARWOOD



Golf 4 Less owner Dave Laymen organizes pickleball paddles along a wall on Feb. 1 at Golf 4 Less in Sun City West. [Jacob Stanek/Independent Newsmedia]

# Young golfers making strides at Sun City West course

## Briarwood isn't just for retirees

By Steve Stockmar  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

There's some golf brewing at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West, but maybe not the kind you'd think.

While the Sun City West community is geared toward those aged 55 and up, Briarwood, N. 135th Ave., which opened for play in 1983 in the heart of the retirement neighborhood, is trending the opposite. The golf course is welcoming younger players and families, mainly through its involvement with The First Tee, a non-profit youth development organization that caters to players ages 7 to 18 at more than 1,200 locations across

the country.

Also instrumental in the drive to bring younger players into Briarwood has been Dave Laymen, who is in his third year as owner of Golf 4 Less, a full-service Sun City West golf shop at 13576 W. Camino Del Sol, Suite 2.

A Michigan transplant since relocating to the Valley of the Sun in 2013, Mr. Laymen was as surprised as anyone when he learned that the Sun City West course offered memberships to players as young as age 35.

"Which surprised me, because everything that I understood you had to be 55 or over to live in Sun City West and I just figured that was part of the deal," said Mr. Laymen, who also originally owned a Golf 4 Less shop in



A selection of Cobra drivers are pictured inside Golf 4 Less in Sun City West. [Jacob Stanek/Independent Newsmedia]

Glendale before he and his family moved to Surprise and consolidated efforts on

only their Sun City West location.

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VF SCW Golf Courses General



## Briarwood

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The former 15-year club pro and current Briarwood member, at 40, has young children of his own who are avid players, and the golfing family has happily made Briarwood a regular course for playing, as well as helping bring The First Tee to town.

"There's a huge community of younger families, and there's got to be some of them that are interested in golf," Mr. Laymen recalls speculating of the Surprise community of golfers who live close to Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West.

There are currently 26 First Tee chapters at courses around the state, with West Valley locations also in Glendale at Desert Mirage Golf Course, 8710 W. Maryland Ave., and in Litchfield Park at Wigwam Golf Club, 451 N.

Old Litchfield Road, plus at courses in Waddell, Avondale and Goodyear.

None of those communities are age-restricted, however, making the relationship between younger golfers and the Sun City West course a unique blend that confounds perceptions that the club is only for retirees.

"They have a lot of younger members in that club, and some of these members feel we should have more young people there," noted Colleen Lekawa, a 17-year member of Briarwood. "And to attract younger couples would be First Tee."

Briarwood this past month conducted a tournament to raise money for The First Tee program, that attracted both of Mr. Laymen's children, Jack, 12, and Kyla, 11. In December, Kyla captured her first-ever hole-in-one when she used a pitching wedge



Siblings Jack and Kyla Laymen competed in a First Tee event at Briarwood Country Club on Jan. 28. [Submitted photo]

to sink the 75-yard tee shot on Hole No. 7 at Briarwood.

"I was trying to figure out where I was going to take them to play and practice. They play a lot and play competitively," Mr. Laymen said of

when his family moved to the west side of town and discovered Briarwood. "They really welcomed us with open arms. It's going really well. The First Tee really gives them a junior program."



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## SUN CITY WEST



A swan drifts along on the lake at Pebblebrook Golf Course in Sun City West. The Recreation Centers of Sun City West is considering ending the swan program through attrition because of the lack of volunteers. [Tina Gamez/Daily News-Sun]

# Sun City West swans face uncertain future

By Tina Gamez  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The swans on Sun City West golf course lakes are beautiful and graceful, but their time in the community may be coming to an end.

Lack of volunteers has officials taking a serious look at ending the program through attrition and keeping eggs from hatching because, if allowed to hatch, cygnets can live for 20 years or more. One cygnet hatched earlier this year.

Swan keeper Jeanne Moore, a part-time employ-

the Recreation Centers of Sun City West board members during a recent workshop and informed them about downsizing the program and not allowing cygnets to hatch.

She suggested not replacing swans as they die and adding eggs to keep more from hatching.

Since 2008, when the economy took a hit, Moore said the market for selling swans dried up, and it has not come back.

"We can't give them away," Moore said. "That's

problem — people aren't volunteering to help with the swans.

"We do have people that have contacted me. I have taken them out and shown them all that we do and that's when they kind of lose interest. Because it's a lot more work than they want to do."

"The other thing we're finding out is," as younger people are moving into the community, "they're not interested in feeding birds or chasing after it. They'd rather join pickleball or some



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## Interest

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them down.”

Downsizing the swan program doesn't need a vote from the board; Moore said she informed directors to make sure of their support.

RCSCW Board President Patricia Tomlin said those who run the program have the authority to addle all the eggs without board permission.

“Because it is kind of a sensitive issue for the community, and there are those people who love the swans and yell at us if we aren't treating the swans correctly,” it needs to be a joint support effort “so the community knows we're behind that, too, so these poor people don't take all the backlash when we addle all the eggs.”

Another reason eggs need to be addled is “we don't have enough room on our lakes,” Moore said. There are four paid staff members in the swan program, and Moore receives payment for one hour a day. “We're on call 24-7, so if a swan gets hurt, we drop everything, we have to catch that bird and try to take it to a vet and sometimes our

vet's not available.” At that point, other vets have to be contacted, and the swans sometimes are driven as far as Goodyear.

Moore said she would like to know by the end of January about addling all the eggs because the swans start laying in February and March.

Todd Patty, manager of Environmental Services, said his concern is recruiting volunteers.

After the meeting, Moore said volunteers are needed to feed the swans. Though at no specific time, “they do have to be fed every day so they don't wander.” Volunteers also check to make sure none are injured.

There are now 13 volunteer feeders, and 15 more are needed as backups. “Our resident feeders go on vacation” and someone needs to cover so “it doesn't fall on just one or two of us.”

She said since the birds live for 20 years, “if we're not getting volunteers, core volunteers that are willing to help us with the daily maintenance, not only feeding but taking care of an injured bird, you're going to have birds for 20 years and nobody to take care of them.”

Moore said the volunteers need to be willing to help, especially during nesting season, not just as feeders.

During nesting season “those birds are downright nasty. Even now, when we go to feed them, they try to bite our feet.” Moore continued: “Some of the birds, they just come right out and try to attack us in our carts and their wings are extremely strong and if they hit you with a wing they can break bones.”

Part-time employee/volunteer Sher Petersen said “it's not a fun-and-games job. People don't want to do the ugly things,” they just want to feed.

Moore added: “It's a commitment by the community because once you have these birds, you have to take care of them.”

The topic will be discussed at the General Manager Operations meeting 1:30 p.m. Monday and may be on the agenda for the regular board meeting Dec. 19 in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

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## Links named Trail Ridge

SUN CITY WEST — Trail Ridge is the name of Sun City West's seventh golf course which is to open in late 1989.

The name was chosen from 2,600 entries in a name-the-course contest. Several people entered the winning name. F.P. Otto won the contest prize of a trip to Las Vegas.

Construction of the area's first par-72 championship desert golf course is on schedule.

"Because this is a new type of golf course, it will require more time to monitor the drainage system and ensure playability before it's open for play," said Martha Moyer, Del E. Webb Communities public affairs manager.



# Fees increase at Sun City West courses

By David Rossmiller  
Phoenix Gazette

**SUN CITY WEST** — Teeing off at most of this community's six golf courses became more expensive Friday.

An increase in annual membership fees and fees per round of golf went into effect on the Stardust, Echo Mesa, Pebble Brook and Grandview courses.

The governing board of the Sun City West Recreation Centers decided the increase was necessary to keep within reach the goal of weaning the three recreation centers from subsidies by Del E. Webb Inc., the community's builder, said Steve O'Donnell, Rec Centers assistant general manager.

Under the new fee structure, annual membership — required of all homeowners, or virtually every one of the community's 17,000 residents — rose from \$89 to \$96.

Rec Center membership does not automatically entitle residents to play golf. An extra fee of \$545, up from \$495, is charged for that.

A portion of this fee, \$8, up from \$7, is set

aside in an escrow account that is being stockpiled as a safety measure to take care of repairs and maintenance when the Rec Centers are off the Webb subsidies.

The account is now more than \$700,000. The goal is \$1.25 million.

The Webb pullout will occur sometime near 1992, when the community grows to its maximum number of 25,000 residents, O'Donnell said.

In addition to the other fees, golfers will have to pay a \$2 fee per round for each person in their party.

Webb will match this with a \$2 payment per golfer. This money goes to keep the golf courses in good condition.

Bowling fees — the third fee besides golf and annual membership — rose slightly, from \$1 to \$1.10 each game for members and \$1.25 to \$1.35 for non-members.

The new fees should bring the Rec Centers close to the break-even point for the rest of this year, O'Donnell said.

"But that peak is going to become a valley when we open the new rec center and the

new golf course," he said.

There temporarily will be another big gap between what is collected and what is spent, and Webb will have to renew subsidies until more people move to Sun City West and total membership payments increase, he said.

The reason revenue gap is the opening of the third recreation complex, the Fred Kuentz center, at R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards, in January. Also, a fifth Rec Centers golf course, called Trail Ridge unnamed, will open later this year and be turned over from Webb to the Rec Centers in 1989.

"Webb builds facilities ahead of need as a marketing tool," O'Donnell said. "Right now we are ahead of (home) construction, but that will catch up," he said.

Golf fees are rising much more than the other two kinds of fees because golf is the one that causes the continuing deficit, he said.

Each of the three aspects of the Rec Centers — bowling, golf and running the

facilities and buildings — must be self-sufficient in its own right. Only golf is not, according to O'Donnell.

This policy is in keeping with a Webb directive of last year that each part of the company must be profitable and not draw on other parts to cover losses.

Increasing fees in pursuit of the goal of self-sufficiency is important, despite the willingness of Webb to maintain its subsidies until it leaves the community, O'Donnell said.

"The easy thing would be to sit here and let Webb take care of us, but by raising fees now we hope to avoid a major impact later," he said.

O'Donnell is a Webb employee. The Recreation Centers are run by a board of directors made up of senior executives of the Webb division that is building Sun City West, but an advisory board of residents is being given more and more authority.

Not affected by the new fees are the private Briarwood golf course and the Hillcrest course, which is owned by Webb.



# Course, box office work near finish

STAFF REPORT

From the tee box to the box office, two major Sun City West projects are in their final weeks of construction.

Echo Mesa and Deer Valley courses remain closed through Oct. 14 for renovations.

In addition, work nears completion on the walk-up ticketing window of the Box Office in Sun City West, which will include a wheelchair-friendly option. Other components of the box office project affects Member Services and Tours & Scheduling.

That work includes converting the main-entrance double doors into an auto-



Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board Director Griff Williams, left, listens as Rec Centers' Environmental Services Manager Todd Patty talks about the ongoing project at Lake No. 4 on Echo Mesa Golf Course. The lake recently received a block wall barrier that will help eliminate water loss, and workers are laying sod around the lake border. Echo Mesa is expected to reopen for play on Oct. 15. [Submitted photo]

mated handicap-accessible entry; moving the reception desk to a more convenient area; expanding the waiting-room area; and adding an extra help station to Member Services for use during bus-

ier times, Recreation Centers of Sun City West officials said. Construction should be complete before the end of October.

Echo Mesa, meantime, is among several courses

in Sun City West that have gone or are undergoing upgrades.

Some of the work includes resodding in the practice area and adding more tee space, improving six tee

boxes and installing block-wall reinforcement around the perimeter of Lake 4, the most time consuming of all projects, officials said.

Starting at the practice

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## Work

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range, Patty showed Williams how workers had leveled and re-sodded, also adding a cement curb to separate the practice area from the parking lot. "Leveling the 'stair step' effect of this area gives us about 7,000 extra square feet of usable tee space we didn't have before," Patty said.

"Before, there were two levels; now, it's flattened out to reduce the unusable portion of the practice tee," Williams said. "So we're talking more usable square feet in the same area now."

Patty nodded in agreement.

"That extra square footage is going to ensure our golfers have good turf to hit from throughout the year," he said. "There were a lot of uneven spaces on that range tee, and now it's completely level."

After leveling, the project required 9,000 square feet of sod to restore the six tee boxes.

The two men also exam-

ined the tee on the second hole of the course, which was stripped, re-leveled and re-sodded.

"It's important to have a level spot to hit from," Williams said as he examined the work.

"With proper maintenance, I think we can go another 30 years without redoing this — which is essentially the age of this course," Patty said.

Echo Mesa Golf Course was built in 1985.

The last project visited — at Lake No. 4 on the course, where workers are installing block-wall reinforcement around the lake perimeter — also is the most time-consuming.

"For us, this is a water-conservation project," Patty said. "We're trying to reduce seepage on those lakes, because we definitely have a problem because of the erosion. Of course, the other one is the safety issue with ground breaking away near the lake's edge."

"For me, it's definitely a safety issue," Williams said. "The edges of the lake had eroded over the years and,

if you're a golfer stepping on that edge to retrieve a ball, you don't know how secure the surface in that particular spot might be. With the blocks around the edges, you're going to have a smooth, firm surface and a very definite edge — and that makes a difference to golfers walking close to that edge as well as to the men operating a mower in the area."

With many part-time residents away during the hotter months, Environmental Services crew members find summer is the most practical time to address course-maintenance issues, Patty said. In addition to the new lake wall and other improvements at Echo Mesa, additional summer work at the Rec Centers' other six golf courses includes the following:

- Sod work, aeration and drainage at all courses;
- Trees trimmed, removed and replaced, where appropriate, at all courses;
- More water-efficient nozzles installed at all courses;
- New landscaping and pro shop renovation at Pebble-

brook;

- Maintenance shop yard repairs at Pebblebrook, Trail Ridge and Grandview;

- Slurry, seal and repair of asphalt on the cart paths at Pebblebrook, Trail Ridge and Grandview; and

- Complete overhaul of pro shop and restrooms at Deer Valley.

Williams said he was pleased with the list of summer projects and their visible outcomes thus far.

"We often forget how fortunate we are to live in a community where we have the luxury of closing two courses at a time for these projects," the Governing Board member noted. "We still have five open courses and can accommodate virtually any round anybody wants to play."

"We have money to make many of the repairs that should be done to maintain a normal golf course, with the result that we are able to make our courses not only safer, but also more economical in their use of water; more aesthetically pleasing and more playable for golfers," Williams said.





SUBMITTED PHOTO

Golf pro Drew Reid, center, provides guidance on the golf swing to cousins Vince and Dale Lambert, both of Sun City West.

## RCSCW expands options for golf lessons, club fitting

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS-SUN

Drew Reid's New Year's resolution is to get more people excited about golf — and he predicts it will happen in January with the completion of the new Reid West Golf Academies Taylor Made Fitting Center at Grandview Golf Course in Sun City West.

"We'll offer cutting-edge computerized swing analysis and personalized video golf lessons on top of the other services we already offer, which includes our tour van — where clubs can be fitted, repaired or get new grips on site — our fitting center and our driving range," Reid said.

The new facilities are part of Grandview Golf

Course, 14260 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, which is operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

"This is going to be a national Taylor Made Fitting Center, featuring all of the latest technology with club fitting and ball flight," he said. "It's very exciting, and I can hardly wait until everything is finished, which should be sometime in mid-January."

When a golfer uses the indoor swing simulator, Reid said the follow-through on his or her shot will be viewable on a 20-foot-

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# SWING

## FROM A1

wide by 12-foot-tall projection wall in the Grandview Pro Shop building.

"It looks just as if you've hit the ball on the range, and it allows us to gather data unavailable to the human eye," he said. "It gives the spin of the ball and tells us all that's happening with the golf club. It's the only way to truly and correctly fit a person for their golf clubs."

Additionally, state-of-the-art video equipment provided by V1 Vid-

eo will allow golf pros to improve a golfer's performance in a variety of ways.

"We can take video of a golf shot and freeze-frame it to take a closer look and point out deficiencies," Reid said. "The video program enables us to instantly record a golfer's individual lesson that includes our vocal instruction. Students can receive these via email and create a video catalog of their lessons that can be reviewed over and over again."

In addition to the new computerized swing analysis and video capabilities, the facility — a joint effort between the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and RWGA — will of-

fer merchandise from Adams, Ping, Taylor Made, Nike, Tour Edge Golf and all other major golf manufacturers.

"Drew Reid and Ralph West are committed to bring the latest technology to their academy and to Sun City West," said Pat O'Hara, Rec Centers' Golf Operations manager. "We are excited to be part of this Taylor Made Fitting Center and see nothing but upside to it."

Enhancements to the Reid West facility have been in the planning stages for about a year, Reid said.

"Taylor Made has different centers around the country and, when I approached them, they were very

enthusiastic," he added. "The design team came in and what they've come up with exceeds my expectations."

"What I most anticipate here is having the ability to offer everything a golfer would want," he said.

In the past seven years, RWGA has earned the reputation of being among the top golf-instruction institutions, providing private lessons and attracting students from across the globe. Its partnership with the Rec Centers' seven semi-private golf courses ensures local golfers ample opportunities to improve their skills.



## Sun City West hospital receives seal of approval

### STAFF REPORT

Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center in Sun City West has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for accreditation by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in hospitals.

The accreditation award recognizes Banner Del E. Webb's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards. The nonprofit hospital underwent an unannounced, on-site, three-day survey in October. A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated the hospital for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

Site surveys take place every three years.

"In achieving Joint Commission accreditation, we have demonstrated our commitment to the highest level of quality care for our patients," said Debbie Flores, Banner Del E. Webb's CEO.

The Joint Commission's hospital standards address important functions relating to the care of patients and the management of hospitals. The standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than

19,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 10,300 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,500 other health care organizations that provide long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission currently certifies more than 2,000 disease-specific care programs, focused on the care of patients with chronic illnesses such as stroke, joint replacement, stroke rehabilitation, heart failure and many others.

The Joint Commission also provides health care staffing services certification for more than 750 staffing offices. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.



# Sun City West restarts player assistants on golf courses

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board reinstated the community's Player's Assistant Program at Thursday's meeting.

The Player Assistant Program used volunteers to enforce course rules and encourage pace of play as well as to control unauthorized use of the Rec Centers' seven golf courses. The program was suspended July 1 after closer examination of IRS regulations indicated the program was better served with paid employees.

Twenty-five recently hired employees are being trained as player's assistants, and the program is set to begin anew Jan. 3. On Thursday, a handful of the approximately 30 residents spoke up about restarting the program.

In response to one resident's concern that the program was unnecessary, Golf Committee chairman Griff Williams said that even though golf rounds had declined in years past, the courses are relatively full this time of year.

"Actually, numbers are up slightly. If we didn't think there was a benefit to the players, we wouldn't be pursuing

**SEE ASSISTANTS, A5**

## ASSISTANTS

FROM A1

this. We've had troubles with fixing divots, with slow play — please don't think our golf courses aren't busy."

Another resident, Mal Jacobson, observed that play on the courses was slow even with player's assistants. "I golf once, maybe twice a week," she said, "and they did not have the power to say, 'Speed up!'"

Golf Operations Manager Pat O'Hara said the revised program "will have some teeth" since the PAs will be employees rather than volunteers, and they will have the support of his office and his course managers.

"In 2011, nearly 300,000 rounds of golf were played on our courses," he told the audience. "That's about 40,000 rounds at each course, on average. With those numbers going through the doors, we felt really uncomfortable not having someone monitor course play.

"I'm very confident this will be a positive thing and feel that the atmosphere on the golf course will be greatly improved," O'Hara said. "We will enforce rules, but the golfers will have to embrace this as well in order for it to be successful."

Resident Dudley Gibson, who said he is an active golfer, pointed out part of the concern with pace of play may be due to the area's demographic.

"Slow play in Sun City West isn't a violation of rules," Gibson said. "Our population is aging and some players cannot play any faster than they already are."

Board President Terry Hamman assured Gibson and others the program was "a matter of safety" more than anything else.

David Wilson, Legal Affairs chairman, said the

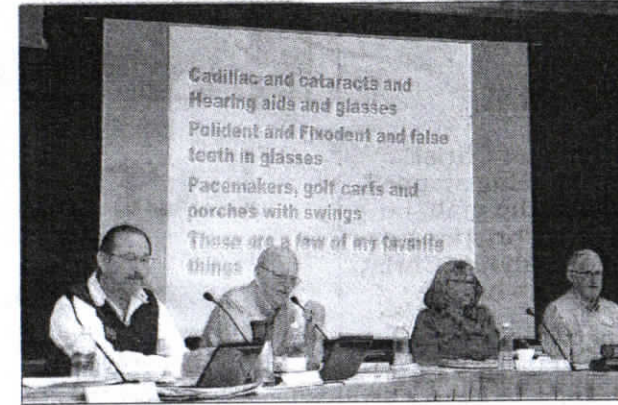


PHOTO COURTESY RCSCW

In a moment of holiday revelry at the Rec Centers' governing board meeting Thursday, board members sang the senior version of "My Favorite Things." The audience joined in, reading from lyrics posted behind the seated board.

\$43,154 budget covered minimum-wage compensation for 25 employees through April 30, indicating it was the right decision to move forward with the program.

"It really is a matter of safety," he said. "If there's a problem with a cart or a health emergency, we should have someone trained to handle it and to render basic first aid, or else we have to call a responder."

The board unanimously approved reinstatement of the program, indicating its success would be monitored before additional funding was allotted.



# RCSCW expands golf open play

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board gave unanimous approval Thursday to expanding the open play program for non-residents on the golf courses.

Originally, open play golfers could only use the courses

on weekends and at twilight, after 2 p.m. But on a trial basis, they will have the opportunity to play seven days a week at any time, but only after residents and club players have a chance to book their tee times.

Dave Moeller, RCSCW governing board president, said the expansion could help in-

crease golf revenues, which would go into the general fund.

During the trial period, Moeller said RCSCW will evaluate whether the system works for the association. The program brings in approximately \$1.5 million annually.

RCSCW staff and board members chose to expand the

program after noticing half the tee times go unfilled during the week, losing potential revenue.

"This would help with any extra revenue right now for our courses, which holds down the cost of golf," Moeller said.

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DAILY NEWS

## OPEN PLAY

FROM A1

In a memo written to staff and the board of directors, RCSCW is encouraging residents to fill unused times during the period, with the biggest vacancy between 12:30 and 2 p.m. But there is still a need to expand the pool of customers to impact the times not used on the courses.

The same booking restrictions exist for open play golfers, booking no more than four days in advance for tee times.

Rates remain the same for open play, \$40.50, but are currently lower, at \$38, with a general manager special that runs through Jan. 8.

Sun City West resident Al Patterson said he believes open play expansion to outside residents will help keep costs down.

"I think it's a great idea, and we'll see just how much it's going to help now," Patterson said.

In addition, Moeller said staff and governing board directors will keep a close eye on the program to gauge whether it's successful.

"It's important to boost our golf revenue and keep costs down," Moeller said.

Monday, December 12, 2011

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

# New SCW bylaw would close 2 courses

STAFF REPORT

Two Sun City West golf courses would close and a variety of other cuts totaling \$1 million would have to be made if a bylaw change proposed by a group of residents makes it to the ballot and is approved, RCSCW officials said.

Recreation Centers of Sun City West officials announced their plan Friday afternoon

and informed employees who may be affected if the resident-proposed bylaw change is successful.

Petitioners, who need to obtain at least 1,000 signatures, have until Jan. 15 to put the issue on the March 27 ballot.

"Because the governing board must approve the annual financial plan by May 31 of each year, staff will be-

gin preparing two alternative budgets should the bylaw pass," RCSCW officials stated in a release.

The bylaw change is one of three being circulated by residents on a petition.

Ernie Prindle, a Sun City West resident and former chief financial officer for RCSCW, is heading up the petition drive and said he believes he'll gather enough signa-

tures to put it on the ballot.

Prindle said the rising cost in membership dues is a key reason why the bylaws need to be changed.

"They're throwing more and more burden on the membership dues," said Prindle, who also is running for the RCSCW governing board in the spring.

SEE BYLAW, A5

## BYLAW

FROM A1

The one bylaw change eliciting the most concern would replace the "Duties and Responsibilities of the Governing

Board" with language that would require the golf and bowling divisions to be self-supporting. The change reads in part: "No member dues shall be used to support Bowling and Golf direct operational costs."

RCSCW officials

estimate that \$1 million would have to be cut and that would include closing two courses and eliminating fall overseeding, aerification, weed control, fertilizer applications and the Special Events division.



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## Outside players score green light in Sun City West

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**ERIN TURNER**

DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West voted Thursday to open all seven courses to outside players.

The 4-3 vote came after a lengthy discussion during which

every board member present and many residents and golfers shared their thoughts.

Board members Paul Piper, John Ronan, Ginger Welch and Lake Westphal voted in favor of the move while President Ron Gillmeister, Vice President Dave

Moeller and Treasurer Scott Ellis voted against the measure. Secretary Karyl Brandvold and member Pat Canfield did not attend.

Had the board not approved opening all seven courses, the options of opening three or four

**SEE PLAYERS, A5**



# PLAYERS

FROM A1

courses would have been considered.

The move was made in an effort to raise revenue after a decade of declining golf rounds. Some restrictions will be determined by the golf staff and General Manager Mike Whiting.

The decision means non-resident golfers will be able to play at any course any day of the week during the summer months between May and September and on weekends during the busy season, October through April. Twilight times will be available to outsiders year-round, as well.

Residents will have first pick at tee times, as several board members reminded more than 100 people in attendance.

"Right now, the USGA says for an 18-hole golf course to make money, it is supposed to get 50,000 rounds a year. We're getting about 30,000. So we need to increase rounds," Piper said. "And opening all seven courses is easier."

Added Ronan, "If we're going to do this, why not open it up to everyone, open all the courses up? Run it for six

months to a year ... and see if it's used."

Moeller, like the other board members who voted against opening all of the courses, said he favors outside play but wanted it done with limitations to leave at least two courses open to residents exclusively.

"My preference would be to open up some (of the courses). We have a great amount of inventory we still haven't sold, so opening up seven doesn't seem to be necessary at this time," he said. "My preference would be that there would be one championship course and one executive course not open to outside play to at least give our residents that flexibility."

Resident and golfer Dick Morgan agreed with Moeller's reasoning. "I play with a lot of golfers, and most of us support opening our courses. We realize you have to do it. We want to keep our rates down. But there is a group of golfers who are very upset about this. It seems to me that if we could just keep two courses open, and say they're private, that would do a lot for the public relations standpoint," he said.

Still, other residents were in favor of the plan.

"The residents are not going to play more just because you

have saved a course for their convenience. Residents have priority for reservations. They will not be shorted. If they want to play and they play by the rules and they make a reservation when they should, they'll play," said David Wilson.

"What is important is you need to stop putting off what you seem to think is an unpopular decision — opening all the courses. The professionals — your management team — have told you for literally years that you're losing money on golf and you can't afford to do that. These professionals have told you they'd like to (open all seven courses). I think you need to step aside and let them do their job."

Jim Swanson urged caution. "We have assets here that are premium assets but people bought here because of the climate that was here and it wasn't public golf. I would really encourage the board to gradually move into this situation."

The next governing board meeting will be a workshop at 9 a.m. March 12 in the R.H. Johnson Lecture Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Erin Turner may be reached at 623-876-2522 or [eturner@yourwestvalley.com](mailto:eturner@yourwestvalley.com).

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VF-SCW Golf General

# RCSCW

FROM A1

board decided in June to allow for the establishment of "policies and rules pertaining to tournaments, special events and programs involving nonresidents," O'Grady said.

"It is a big deal in the sense that it's the first time we've done it, and it's a much needed new source of revenue that we hope will revitalize our golf program. The extra revenue will help offset resident costs," she said. "But it's not a big deal in the sense that our residents will be overwhelmed or see their own playing experience deteriorate. Most will probably not even notice since weekends are our slowest time, and Grandview is the least played course."

Nonresident golfers are invited to play Grandview, at Grand Avenue and Meeker Boulevard, for \$29 in the morning or \$19 beginning at noon on



KATY O'GRADY/RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST

Grandview Golf Course in Sun City West is opening weekend play to nonresidents.

## RCSCW opens nonresident play at Grandview

ERIN TURNER  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In an effort to increase substantial drops in resident golf rounds and subsequent revenue losses over the last decade, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West will open a community golf course to nonresidents on a temporary basis.

With the trial program, golfers from outside Sun City West and neighboring age-restricted communities can play at Grandview Golf Course on weekends. Residents will still have priority in making tee times as outside play participants won't be able to make tee times until the Tuesday before the weekend they want to play, said Katy O'Grady, RCSCW general services officer.

"Total golf rounds in the fiscal year that just ended were down 4,800 from the previous fiscal year, a 2 percent drop. In the last 10 years, we've dropped 40 percent, from 440,000 rounds a year to 260,000 rounds per year," she said. "You can see how monumental that drop is and that we really need to adjust the way we think about golf in this community."

The program, which will run from Saturday through December, when the RCSCW governing

**SEE RCSCW, A5**

Saturdays and Sundays.

The Grandview weekend rate is all inclusive, though golf car usage is based on availability. Golfers may bring their own cars; there is no trail fee. The rate will be adjusted seasonally as the trial program progresses through December, officials said.

"We know there are a lot of people who work in this community or live nearby who, until now, haven't been able to try these courses," said General Manager Mike Whitting. "We'd love to see them take advantage of this program. Grandview just reopened after a summer maintenance closure, and the playing conditions are great."

To book a tee time, call 623-544-6013. The course is at 14260 W. Meeker Blvd.



Bill Rohlman putts on the first green at Pebblebrook Golf Course in Sun City West, where golfers may rent golf cars equipped with a global positioning system receiver. The system tells golfers the distance to the center of the green in yards.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Golf car positioning systems swing into Sun City West

JARED HARTUNG  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Golfers may second-guess themselves when standing at the 7th tee looking down a rolling fairway with a sand trap on the left and the green sitting up 5 feet from where they stand. If they are lucky, they can see the cup.

Now the guesswork begins. Some golfers estimate the distances, but pull the wrong club from the bag and drop their shot in the water or hit over the green.

A tool called the Y-Box Global Positioning System tries to ease golfers' frustration. The device debuted at the Pebblebrook Golf Course in Sun City West in the past few weeks and may soon be found on all rental golf cars

in the community. The small box tells the golfer yardage from their location on a hole to the center of the green, said Scott Simpson, golf operations and marketing manager of the golf division at Sun City West.

Global Positioning Systems, or GPS, are not new to golf, but the Y-Box is a more basic version of a GPS.

While the Y-Box is in a trial period at Pebblebrook Golf Course, the plan is to expand it to rental golf cars at all seven golf courses in the community.

Simpson said he plans to pitch the idea to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Budget and Finance Committee. To outfit all 70 golf cars, it will cost \$21,000.

If the plan goes through,

Simpson said he would like to have it approved by the governing board meeting in November.

Once the rental golf cars are outfitted, the pro shop at Grandview Golf Course would offer the systems to the public in Sun City West for \$325 plus an installation fee.

Manager Richard Henderson said he expects sales to be brisk.

"If the price is right, I think we're going to get some takers," he said.

Tom Miller is president of StellarGolf.com, a company that makes the systems. He said he thinks Sun City West is the perfect place to start sales, since so many residents own golf cars.

"On some GPS systems, you can get market reports,

tournament scores and live updates from the news," Miller said. "We're not getting silly with technology."

The larger systems can cost thousands of dollars a unit and have their own battery packs that require replacement.

The Y-Box is hard-wired to the golf car battery. After 30 or 40 minutes, the systems shut down to conserve battery power. They restart when the golf car begins moving.

Simpson said the purchase of the GPS units will not increase costs at the courses for residents, and the golf car rental fees will not be increased when the units are installed.

Jared Hartung may be reached at 876-2513 or [jhartung@aztrib.com](mailto:jhartung@aztrib.com).



THE WESTER Thursday, March 10, 2005

## Golf course lakes need extensive repair Fish and wildlife eating away the shorelines

By Marianne Sikler

Valve boxes and sprinkler heads that were once sitting on turf are now in the water. So says Todd Patty, environmental services manager, when describing the condition of the community's golf course lakes.

Patty said the golf course lakes are all in need of repair due to erosion of their banks. He's spoken to the Golf and Budget & Finance Committees about the problem, and is gathering information to submit a 5-year plan for funding a long-range repair program. All lakes will have to be inspected to determine the amount of damage they may have received due to erosion.

According to Patty, the lake on the 12th hole of the Echo Mesa Golf Course is the first to be repaired, since it has sustained the most damage and is losing 20 acre feet, or over 6.5 million gallons of water per year due to seepage.

A test of the Echo Mesa lake determined it had an 8 to 10 ft. band of erosion around it. A sudden drop from that distance out towards the middle of the lake pinpoints the location of its original liner, which leads to the conclusion water is being lost in the eroded area, but not in the original contour of the lake. Patty said the original lining has been inspected and vacuumed by divers (who accumulated many stray golf balls in the process), and is

holding up fine.

According to Patty, the problem can be solved in two ways: either backfilling to the original lake contour, or dredging and lining the additional 8 to 10 ft. gained to form a new contour. In any case, a kind of permanent structure will be needed to stop further erosion. Patty estimates repair costs at approximately \$122,000.

Water Committee member Dudley Gibson thinks the way the lakes are repaired depends on what Sun City West will require for future water storage. "If we ever get CAP (water) or effluent or both, there was quite a discussion about storage capacity," he said. "I commend you for being proactive, I just don't want to be hasty."

However, Patty and RCSCW General Manager Mike Whiting believe the damage to the lake is so severe, work should be done as soon as possible to stabilize the shore and keep it from eroding any further.

The Echo Mesa course will be closed June 6 through August 28 for repairs, with reopening scheduled for August 29.





**SCOTT SIMPSON**, golf operations and marketing director for Recreation Centers of Sun City West: "Obviously, we're charging less than it costs to produce a round. That's why we have a deficit."

**KATY O'GRADY**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West's new golf and marketing director is proposing a few new programs to stem the loss of income, and a few others to generate revenue opportunities.

Scott Simpson, who joined the Recreation Centers of Sun City West in June as its golf operations and marketing manager, said he believes the centers' complex string of fees and policies were put in place in the past to pacify as many residents as possible at varying times. And while they worked for a

while, a six-year decline in golfing rounds indicates they are no longer viable and need revision. There was an informal inclination in the past, he said, to give golfers as much leeway as possible.

"I think what's happened is when Del Webb handed the keys over to the residents, they attempted to run this as a family, with compassion ... but over time ... policies were generated to try to speak to the needs of everybody, and consequently, what we have now is a dysfunctional family and a failing business," said Simpson. "It can be rectified, but it's going to take a

business approach."

Simpson was set to meet with golf committee Chairwoman Cher Petersen, General Manager Mike Whiting and others on Thursday afternoon to discuss some of the proposals.

Petersen, Whiting and board President Ray Caldwell were not available for comment as of this morning, but Simpson said most board members, managers and staff have been open to some of the new ideas.

Residents may be harder to convince on some programs, Simpson said, depending on whether they personally benefit from the changes. Although he

believes the programs will pay off for the majority of residents, the few who may not be happy should consider that the changes are aimed at bettering the community as a whole.

Under one of the policies Simpson is proposing, golfers would face a financial penalty if they don't show up for tee times without canceling at least 24 hours in advance. Simpson said he is proposing a penalty of \$20 or so for no-shows.

Simpson said that's still more lenient than the golfing industry in general, where no-shows must still pay greens fees, and it's preferable to a policy put on

the books in 1998 that's rarely if ever used. That policy penalizes golfers who don't show up for their tee times by preventing them from using the reservation system for 15 days.

"They came up with this policy but they never, to anyone's knowledge, enforced it," Simpson said.

The \$20 penalty, or whatever amount the board determines is appropriate, would help deter no-shows, who cost the centers revenue.

"In most cases, if they cancel

**See Golf, A5**

OVER

# Changes on way for SCW golf

## Operations director has revenue-generating proposals



## From A1

in less than 24 hours, it really minimizes our ability to book that time," he said.

In addition, Simpson is proposing that staff start to enforce another policy that's also already in place. That policy states that people who book 18 holes but on the day of their tee times decide to play only nine, must still pay for the full round.

Simpson said centers' records show it costs RCSCW \$22 to produce a round, but it only makes about \$18.73 per round from the golfers.

"Obviously, we're charging less than it costs to produce a round," he said. "That's why we have a deficit."

The centers has been struggling with a deficit for years, and has seen golf rounds drop 30 percent in the last six years.

Another of Simpson's ideas to reverse that trend is to put an end to the generous rain-check policy enjoyed by residents. Staff

members at each of the seven courses have interpreted the rain-check policy differently, but overall, Simpson said, the rain checks have been handed out liberally.

"I've been told that if a gal had her hair done that morning and came in and the wind started to blow a little bit, she could get a rain check," he said. "The money's seeping through the cracks. I can't quantify this, but it's probably in excess of six figures."

Under Simpson's proposal, rain-checks would be given out for delays longer than two hours, which is more typical in the industry.

To start generating new revenue, Simpson is hoping to reintroduced a policy allowing groups to arrange blocks of tee times, something that was discontinued last spring. His version, however, would be somewhat different.

Simpson is recommending a policy be established that allows groups to present proposals for blocked tee times. The

groups would have to agree to a contract for at least 40 weeks at \$25 per person. The number of golfers playing with each group must remain the same each week, and tee times would only be available on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, which are typically slower periods.

Should two groups want the same tee times, Simpson said they can bid for the spots. About 400 to 450 golfers representing 10 to 12 percent of the play would be affected by this policy, he said.

"I'm going to be asking these groups to essentially provide me with a proposal," he said. "It provides an additional revenue stream and still allows them to play together."

Lastly, at least for now, Simpson wants to institute two new guest programs, along with the present \$40 daily guest fee. One of the new programs would provide a 10-punch guest card for 18 holes, at \$350 per card. The second program would allow families to book blocked tee times for

two fivesomes at a discounted rate of maybe \$30 per guest, so the families could play together.

Simpson said the latter program would rely on residents being honest about who is and is not family.

"Golf really is a game of rules, etiquette and honor, and it doesn't just begin when you go to the tee box," he said. "It begins when you make the tee time."

Simpson already has proposed other new programs in his short time with the centers, such as a resident-business policy that would allow employees from area businesses to play in Sun City West, and a special fee for renters to use the courses.

A return of the marshals, now called "player assistants," already has been implemented, but the other proposed programs may have to wait until July. Simpson had hoped to get some of the programs off the ground this month, but because so many residents were out of town, the process has been slowed.

*Katy O'Grady may be reached at 876-2514 or at [kogrady@aztrib.com](mailto:kogrady@aztrib.com)*



DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2004

# RCSCW board dips into golf reserves

## Budget woes force move

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

RCSCW likely will tap its rarely touched golf reserve fund to help balance the operational budget, given a policy change approved Thursday that allows lower-cost capital purchases.

The golf reserve fund hasn't been touched in nearly four years, said Ronni Hoover, who on Thursday was selected to join the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board to fill a temporary term.

Hoover has been serving on the budget and finance committee and was elected in March to a full four-year term on the board.

In looking at ways to make the reserve funds for golf, bowling and the centers more meaningful, Hoover said, the committee realized the golf reserve fund was rarely touched and hovered between the maximum and minimum levels allowed before a special fee kicks in or drops off.

If the reserve fund falls below its minimum, which is set at \$1.5 million, a \$1 per-round reserve fund contribution is applied to all golfers. If the fund goes above the maximum, which is \$2.5 million, the \$1 contribution is eliminated.

"The reason that budget and finance voted to take this measure is because the word 'equipment' apparently had been removed from the policy statement years ago, and therefore the reserve funds could only be used for golf buildings," emergencies and

### From A1

major course repair, Hoover said.

The fund has been sitting somewhere around \$1.7 million, she said. Meanwhile, the centers' golf operations budget has been strained, and the centers continues to pay on lease agreements for golf equipment it could buy if funds were available.

The policy change approved Thursday allows the centers to purchase capital equipment for golf that costs \$5,000 or more. The policy previously stated only major golf course repairs or replacements costing at least \$50,000 could be paid for out of the reserve fund.

Hoover said the board is reviewing what lease agreements it may retire through purchases, and it will review the reserve fund policy again as the new budget is developed. Meantime, she said, the

lower \$5,000 limit and ability to make capital purchases should allow RCSCW to get out of the expensive "lease cycle" it's in.

Director Bob Beaupre opposed the policy change, saying he feared the fund would become a "cookie jar," and that the \$5,000 limit would never be revisited again.

Board President Ray Caldwell said a \$2,500 limit had been considered, but that was raised "so we wouldn't nickel and dime it."

Roger Lansberry, the centers' new internal auditor, said most purchases would be well above \$5,000.

Resident Dudley Gibson also questioned the change, saying the fund was intended for emergencies. "It in effect becomes an operational fund," he said.

Beaupre and Director Carolyn Jennings opposed the change, which passed 5-2.

In other action Thursday:

● The board unanimously approved a new severance policy that limits how much money a departing employee can be given, but applies the policy to all employees rather than just managers and supervisors.

"It still enables us to reward people who have been with us and have done a good job should a job elimination be required," said Director Barbara DuPonte. "Keep in mind, it's rare if ever this would be used."

Jennings questioned why the policy was being approved at a special meeting, and said she thought the community deserved more notice.

"Two weeks ago we had a regular meeting with one item on the agenda," she said. "This is a special board meeting, and it's loaded with regular business."

Caldwell said leaving the policy as is could be

expensive.

"A delay of a week can cost us a big bundle of money," he said. "I dare say this is absolutely noncontroversial to our membership."

Director Carl Elitz applauded the move as a way to prevent future large payouts such as that given a few years ago to outgoing General Manager R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff. Elitz said that severance package led to much of the community unrest that is only now dissipating.

"This to me puts a closure on that kind of thing happening again, and that's why I think we should do it today," he said.

● The board approved spending no more than \$36,000 to transfer to MS-SQL accounting software. The expense was budgeted next year, but due to Microsoft moving up its decision to no longer support Windows 98, the purchase is needed now.



# Sun City West changes golf card system

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

RCSCW members Thursday applauded a new golf-fee structure that increases prices and is expected to help increase revenues and improve courses.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board voted 6-2 to return to the Kachina card program starting Feb. 1, replacing the tier-card system introduced on July 31.

Golf Committee President Cher Petersen said she hopes the small fee increases will reduce the deficit problem. Last year, the golf program had a deficit of \$400,000. "The tier system was not successful," acknowledged Petersen, who was happy with the new plan. "I think the golfers were pleased with it (the motion)."

Interim General Manager Mike Ingersoll said the new system is "a positive step forward."

Ingersoll acknowledged the new fee structure "will not solve all of our problems." Yet, he remained positive that golf revenues would be increased by implementing these small price increases and also promoting the golf program more.

The new golf cards would come in three levels:

- Kachina regulation course card for \$899 plus the daily fee offers 12 months of play on any of the regulation

## IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Recreation Centers of Sun City West open golf forum.
- **WHEN:** 3 p.m. Thursday.
- **WHERE:** Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive.

courses.

- Kachina executive course card for \$799 plus the daily fee allows 12 months of play on any of the executive courses.

- Kachina plus card for \$1,900 (no daily fee) offers unlimited play for 12 months.

Some residents said that the extra fees added to the Kachina executive course card to play on a regulation course (\$5 for 18 holes and \$2.50 for 9 holes) would deter anyone from playing on a regulation course.

Another resident raised his concern that the twilight golf fees were too high during the winter, at \$11.50 for residents and \$21 for guests. Others disagreed.

Some residents questioned the cleanliness of the courses, and wanted board members to pay more attention to upkeep.

One resident said he would rather travel a few miles away to golf at a cleaner, more friendly course.

"You're lucky if you can even get a smile here," he said. "There, they welcome you and take your bags."

## From A1

Further changes adopted Thursday include lowering the price of range balls from \$1 to 15 balls for one 50-cent token. Summer golf cards will be sold at \$100 for 10 rounds of 18 holes or 20 rounds of 9 holes.

The tier cards currently used will still be accepted and must be used under the guidelines as sold. After 50

rounds are played, for the remainder of the 12 months residents will pay a surcharge of \$1.50 to \$3, depending on the season and number of holes played. Refunds will be issued for unused portions of cards sold before Feb. 1, if requested.

Overall, three-year-resident Mary Jane Meyerholtz said she thinks the board covered the issues adequately, even though the

entire board meeting lasted three hours.

She also thought the residents in attendance kept their cool, unlike some controversial meetings of the past. "The people's anger is no longer evident. I don't think people want to fight anymore. They want answers."

Amanda Myers may be reached at 876-2513 or amyers@aztrib.com.

See RANGE, A5



FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 2004

# RCSCW reaching greens at meeting

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If a previous meeting on golf fees is any indication, Sun City West can expect a packed crowd for a special meeting scheduled next week.

Recreation Centers of Sun City West Director Cher Petersen announced Thursday the board will discuss a proposed green fees schedule during a meeting at 1 p.m. Jan. 15 in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

A previous meeting on the same subject saw the Sun City West fire marshal forced to keep some people out of Palm Ridge Recreation

Center because of overcrowding. RCSCW President Ray Caldwell said he'd love to see similar attendance at this

meeting, especially since the R.H. Johnson Social Hall can hold more people.

"Everyone is welcome. It's dedicated to golf," Caldwell said. Audience participation will be allowed, he said.

Petersen said, "There will be two presentations on the fees, so I would like everyone to attend."

She did not detail specific fees, but said the board would vote on a proposed new fee structure during a Jan. 22 meeting.

A discussion on the price of range balls, which were doubled on March 13, from 50 cents to \$1 under former General Manager George Grimstad, will follow in the future, Petersen said. The price hike has been controversial, and the number of range balls sold by the centers has declined since the increase was implemented.

Petersen also announced she would have an open residents forum at 3 p.m. Jan. 29 in Palm Ridge Recreation Center to have a general discussion about golf.

Caldwell and Director Bob Finn questioned why that session, which would allow for public comment on golf in general, was taking place after the board's vote on the proposed green fees.

Director Carl Elitz said he didn't have a problem with the timing, explaining the board needed to address declining golf revenue as soon as possible, with the later meeting allowing the board to start discussing next year's golf budget.

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

## IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** RCSCW greens fees discussion.

■ **WHEN:** 1 p.m. Thursday.

■ **WHERE:** R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.



# Cheaper golf appears unlikely

By Anne Brady

Independent Newspapers

A proposal to amend a golf-fee schedule set to go into effect Oct. 1 in Sun City West, reducing the fees in an attempt to increase course usage, appeared last week to be destined for failure.

Only three of eight members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board showed up to a special meeting Aug. 6 called to discuss the proposal, reducing the meeting to what is called a "workshop," whereas six affirmative votes would be necessary to approve the plan.

Plus the RCSCW general manager opposes the proposal.

"I think it's built on bad assumptions," said general manager George Grimstad. "It's built on the assumption that lower prices will increase (golf rounds played), and the facts don't bear that out. ... We lowered costs at Stardust (Golf Course) and we didn't make it up (in increased play).

"I'd rather stick with what we have (approved in May as part of the annual budget). We are assuming lower rounds, but we've managed to balance the budget."

He said that, in his opinion, the best way to attract more golfers may be to encourage more non-resident play.

"Opening up our courses is probably the way," Mr. Grimstad said. "Sun City Grand is probably our best opportunity to gain golfers. They charge \$36 (per round in the winter). We could charge \$35."

He added that golfers in Corte Bella, the country club community being built north of Sun City West by Pulte-Homes' Del Webb division, may also become a source of revenue for the RCSCW.

The full board is expected to consider the proposal for lower fees at its next regular meeting Sept. 25. There may be additional committee



Photo by Anne Brady/Independent Newspapers

**Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board member Elaine McCraith, right, makes a point about golf fees, while board members Barbara DuPonte, left, and Cher Petersen listen. The three were the only members of the board to attend what became a board workshop Aug. 6 on a proposal to decrease golf fees**

meetings and/or workshops between now and then at which the issue will be discussed.

Because the golf fees and the related projections for revenue generation are "an integral part of the budget," six of eight members would have to vote in favor of a budget amendment in order for a change to be made, Mr. Grimstad said.

The proposal, which is recommended by the members of the board's golf committee, would reinstate the Kachina Card, which members purchased in previous years to then golf for a year for a small surcharge. The price of the card, which was \$825 last year, would be lowered to \$800 with a surcharge of \$5 in the winter and \$3 in the summer.

Under the proposal, there would also be Kachina+ cards available for \$1,500 with no per-round surcharge and Kachina Exec cards, which would cost \$700 and

incorporate the Kachina Card surcharges plus a \$10 regulation course surcharge.

Under the rate schedule approved in May to take effect Oct. 1, unlimited golf memberships would cost \$1,900, \$400 more than the proposed Kachina+ card. Golfers would also have the option of choosing to pay \$1,125 for 50 rounds with no surcharge and lesser amounts for each additional 50 rounds. Or they could pay \$825 per year plus a \$6 surcharge per round up to 50 rounds.

Those who golf infrequently would also have the option of paying \$625 per year plus a \$10 surcharge per round.

Those golfing between 50 and 150 rounds per year would notice an increase in total fees paid compared with last year.

Discussion at the Aug. 6 meeting concerned whether lower rates would attract more golfers and what expenses could be cut to

make up for the reduced amount of rounds being played.

David Wilson said it has been "well documented" that most people in Sun City West would prefer that the golf division cut salaries to save money.

"I want my golf course looking good (but) at a reduced cost," he said.

Other residents agreed that given the reduced usage of the courses, perhaps fewer managers should be employed, and the savings passed along to golfers.

Bruce Ellison, a RCSCW employee, said studies show that the courses in Sun City West already are maintained at a lower cost per hole than are courses Valleywide.

Board member Cher Petersen, who chaired the workshop, emphasized that the meeting was only to discuss the rate schedule. However, she allowed limited discussion of salaries and the fees for range balls.



# Meeting focuses on SCW golf fees

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

About the only element agreed upon at a Wednesday meeting to discuss Sun City West golf fees is that something in the community's golf division needs an overhaul.

There was no consensus, however, on whether change should come through a new fee structure, layoffs, pay cuts or other actions.

Cher Petersen, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West's vice president and Golf Committee chairman, called the meeting with the belief that a proposed golf-fee restructuring had to be aired at least 30 days before it was presented to the board.

Only three board members showed for the meeting: Petersen, Barbara DuPonte and Elaine McCraith. Without the quorum required to discuss business, the meeting turned into a brainstorming session. Petersen also said she learned the 30 days is not required, meaning the proposal can still come before the board at its September meeting.

Ideas for fixing the waning golf division ran the gamut from raising rates to reducing them, and even bringing in an efficiency manager to evaluate the staff.

"That's what we're here for. We want your input," Petersen said.

The division lost \$409,828 in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, but \$170,000 was made up through an allocation carried from the previous year, Petersen said. That still means RCSCW has a \$239,828 net loss to recover this year. In addition, the number of rounds played on Sun City West golf courses in 2002-2003 dropped by 20,190 over the previous year.

Petersen is hoping to reduce already adopted golf-fee increases slated to go into effect Oct. 1. She and some residents attending the meeting said they believe increasing rates will decrease play and negatively impact the overall budget.

"We feel that there will be a shortfall ... that's why we're working on this," Petersen said.

## GOLF FEES

### Proposed golf fee changes for Sun City West include:

- Decreasing the cost of a Kachina card from \$825 to \$800 for the next fiscal year.
- Decreasing the surcharge from \$6 to \$5 in the winter and \$3 in the summer.
- Offering the Kachina+ for \$1,500 with no surcharges.
- Offering the Kachina Executive for \$700 with the \$5 and \$3 surcharges for winter and summer, respectively; regulation courses would carry an additional \$10 surcharge.
- Resident and guest fees, as well as twilight fees and hours would be reviewed.



She said when the centers increased the cost of a bucket of range balls from 50 cents to \$1, about half as many buckets were sold. Even though the revenue remained about the same, Petersen said the philosophy shouldn't be used to increase golf fees because the goal is to allow as many residents as possible to enjoy the hobby. In addition, decreased rounds would mean less income from pro shops, range balls, cart rentals and other areas.

Estimated budget projections provided to those at the meeting showed golf revenues could fall \$783,000 short of what was predicted when the current fees were adopted.

If fees are reduced, golfers need to take advantage and prove they will play at the lower rates, Petersen said.

Board member Elaine McCraith said she would not vote on any proposal without more conclusive evidence that the idea will work, something for which others in the audience also called.

"I would be a little leery of supporting a plan by just saying, 'Now everyone needs to get out there and play, play, play,'" McCraith said.

Some residents suggested the board eliminate free golf for those employees who

receive it. According to the centers' administrative procedures manual, those who get free golf must have written permission from the general manager. The employees include golf maintenance and operations department personnel, and certain restrictions apply.

McCraith pointed out not all qualified employees are taking advantage of free golf. According to the centers, employees played 9,000 rounds of the approximately 320,000 total rounds played during the last fiscal year ending in June.

Resident Paul Johnson said the centers will not profit by raising rates, given what he considers the deplorable state of the courses.

"If you raise rates for inferior golf, people aren't going to play," he said.

Resident Marvin Brown said he believes the centers should "take a look at all of these salaries — they're quite high."

"That's a very good point, and you can ask management about that. Please do," Petersen responded.

Others also suggested the golf division was top-heavy, with one requesting an efficiency expert be hired.

According to the United States Golf Association Turf Advisory Service, Sun City West is offering a lot for golfers' money. Hired by the centers to evaluate its courses, the USGA stated after a May 17, 2002, visit: "Following analysis of golfing rounds, green fees, golf maintenance budget, and golf maintenance crew size, it is clear that golfers playing the golf courses of Sun City West are getting a great deal." Average crew sizes in the Valley can reach as high as 37 employees, the report states. With many ideas and few answers brought forth at Wednesday's meeting, Petersen said the information will be provided to the budget and finance committee and the golf committee, before going to the board in September if those committees approve it. The process will continue to involve residents, she said.

"We'll have this meeting again with more facts," Petersen said.



# Chairwoman seeks to change golf fees

By Erik Burg  
Independent Newspapers

A rise in golf fees passed by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board might be driven out before taking effect Oct. 1 if golf committee chairwoman Cher Petersen has her way.

"It's a very complicated structure and people are throwing up their hands and saying 'I'm not buying it,'" Ms. Petersen said of the rate increase passed last May.

The system Ms. Petersen would like to see put into effect is actually not entirely new. Last year's golf committee chairman Tom Cook, the current board president, tried to get a similar plan off the ground.

"(He) put the plan together to try to get the golfers more active," Ms. Petersen said. "It was never shown to the board for a vote."

The tiered rate system will have golfers paying \$1,125 for their first 50 rounds, \$600 for rounds 51-100, \$400 for rounds 101-150 and \$200 for each 50 rounds thereafter.

"What I'm going to try to do is amend that part of the budget and reinstate the K card," Ms. Petersen said. She said under the fee schedule

● See Cher Petersen's Letter to the Editor regarding golf fees. **Page 4**

she plans to introduce golfers would pay \$700 up front and \$5 a round.

"The average price is going to come down and with that, the more you play," she said.

Ms. Petersen said the plan approved in May is based on projections with no facts. She added her plan will increase rounds played, please golfers and keep the budget balanced.

"It's a better plan for the community and I don't see how anyone can vote against it," she said.

However, boardmember Carolyn Jennings said she believes the rising cost to play isn't the only obstacle to getting residents back on the greens.

"The age of the residents is increasing and some people are just not playing as much as they used to," Ms. Jennings said.

Although she said she would be willing to take a look at the proposal when it comes before the board, she said some expenses just cannot be overlooked.

"The previous group spent a lot of time working on the budget that passed," she said. "What are you going to do about those expenses that are

set in stone?"

The governing board will hold a special meeting Sept. 11 to discuss and vote on the plan, Ms. Petersen said.

"It's hard to say yes or no at this point," Ms. Petersen said. "I'd be happy to take a look at it and see if it's workable."



DAILY NEWS-SUN TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2003

# SCW golf increase tees off residents

## BUDGET: RCSCW looks into fee hike for 2003-04

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Richard Stoddard of Sun City West thinks golfers in the retirement community are already paying too much.

And he is particularly concerned since the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board is considering raising golf fees as part of its 2003-2004 budget.

"We won't be able to golf as much," Stoddard said. "We can only pay so much. What we are paying now is pretty steep."

Stoddard said he currently pays \$1,650 for his and his wife's Kachina Cards, which allows them to golf for \$6 a round.

The proposed Kachina Card structure for the upcoming year would be \$1,125 for an individual or \$2,250 for a couple.

"That's \$300 a person and \$600 a couple," Stoddard said, adding a \$50 monthly increase is extremely expensive for residents on fixed incomes.

Stoddard said he and his wife, Patricia, live in the community with the understanding the amenities are easily affordable, but added golf may have to take a back seat to other necessities if rates increase significantly.

"Something has got to give," he said. "A lot of people will not be able to golf as much."

Stoddard said if the rec centers wants to increase golf rounds, raising golf prices will not accomplish that goal.

His wife said the average resident will be forced to give up the activity if rates continue to increase.

"We are on fixed incomes and if golf fees are increased, it is possible we will discontinue golfing altogether," she said. "It is getting so ridiculously expensive. It is getting unaffordable for everyone except the rich."

Resident Bette Hansen said she and her husband, Clyde, have been keeping a close eye on the proposed golf fees.

She said most of her friends are quite upset with the fees that are being discussed.

"Three dollars a round is quite a

### From A1

lot," she said. "People would be OK with less than that."

Hansen said most residents agree golf prices in the community are a bargain, but added the golf division could experience some severe repercussions if rates are increased by the amounts being discussed.

"A lot of people are talking about going to Hillcrest (Country Club)," she said.

Hansen said she has looked into other courses and has discovered a foursome can golf at Wigwam Resort for \$25.

She said since the centers' budget proposal would increase guest fees from \$10 to \$20, golf courses outside the community would be more attractive to residents when friends and relatives visit.

"It's already high," Hansen said, adding she is already taking guests to outside courses to save money.

Hansen said now the centers wants to raise fees while making the courses less attractive by not overseeding the fairways.

"People know when they

are taken advantage of," she said. "This will change a lot of people's attitudes about golf. People are already dropping off."

Resident Betty Gordon said she remembers when golf cards cost \$600 a year, with rounds costing \$2.

She said rates from that time have steadily increased and wonders why the rec centers will not cut corners to lower rates.

Gordon said she spoke with General Manager George Grimstad about not overseeding the courses and was informed the amount saved would be minimal.

She said she took offense to him saying \$167,000 would be minimal when looking at the overall golf budget that exceeds \$7 million.

She said she once played golf four times a week, but as the activity became more expensive she cut back her play.

With K Cards possibly going up \$300 this year, Gordon said she is considering not purchasing one this year.

"I will have to look into that," she said.

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DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2003

# RCSCW legal-affairs committee: GM within authority

**RANGE BALLS:** Board has final say in whether Grimstad should have doubled price

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Range-ball prices in Sun City West have doubled to recoup some of the cost of missing balls and to bring the charges more in line with other golf courses.

But some board members Thursday said the move by Recreation Centers of Sun City West General Manager George Grimstad was out of bounds.

Last week, the RCSCW raised the price for a bucket of 15 range balls from 50 cents to \$1. The governing board will vote on the increase at its March 27 meeting.

Golf Chairman Tom Cook said his committee recommended the increase to the centers because golfers in other nearby communities are paying more than Sun City West golfers were being charged. He said Grimstad implemented the increase on a temporary basis, and

is awaiting the governing-board meeting, at which he anticipates the board will approve the additional charge on a permanent basis. Cook said the immediate temporary increase was needed because golfers who anticipated increases might have started hoarding the balls.

On Thursday, however, governing-board President Bob Finn questioned Grimstad's move, and the legal-affairs committee studied the issue before voting 5-3 that Grimstad was within his authority to order the hike. That decision will be forwarded to the governing board, since the committee can only recommend action.

Committee member Richard Ahlgren said he thought it was appropriate for Grimstad to increase the price. Bylaws state the general manager can take action on similar matters if the board is notified

within 72 hours. He said the 72-hour stipulation is not that crucial.

Committee member Ray Caldwell disagreed: "It's a precedent setting thing."

He said the question is who should have authority to raise prices — the governing board or the general manager.

Cook said last year, the RCSCW earned \$190,000 from range balls, and he expects that figure to be more than \$200,000 this year.

Grimstad said more than 25,000 range balls have disappeared, so the centers decided to charge more for the balls to recoup some of the losses.

"Our balls were one-half the price from other courses, and (residents) were taking them elsewhere to use," Grimstad said.

Resident Carl Fischer said golfers are upset with the increase as well as how it was implemented, since players were not notified of the change until visiting the courses.

**See INCREASE, A5**

## RANGE BALL PRICE COMPARISON

Course	Number of Balls	Price per Ball	Price
Sun City Resident	40	.06*	\$2.50
Sun City West Resident	15	.07*	\$1.00
Arizona Traditions	60	.07*	\$4.00
Coldwater Canyon	40	.10	\$4.00
Coyote Lakes	30	.07*	\$2.00
500 Club	50	.10	\$5.00
Grand	30	.10	\$3.00
Great Eagle	40	.10	\$3.00
Hillcrest	40	.07*	\$2.75
Legend at Arrowhead	67	.09	\$6.00
Palm Valley	40	.10	\$4.00
Villa De Paz	45	.07*	\$3.00
Wigwam	50	.12	\$6.00

\*Rounded to the nearest cent.

TINA GAMEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

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## **From A1**

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He said employees should have used some common sense and talked to the golfers before implementing the increase.

"Why raise the price of golf if it is paying for itself?" Fischer asked, adding that if the RCSCW wants to increase play, this is not the way to accomplish that goal. "I think it's another nail in the coffin, because it's gotten so expensive. We need to keep it as inexpensive as possible."

He said he has seen the data from the centers justifying the range-balls increase, but added that those figures are misleading. Several courses, including Wigwam, Coyotes Lakes and the 500 Club, must show a profit to keep operating, which, he said, is not the RCSCW's function. He said the corporation is nonprofit, but does need to be self-sustaining.

"So our courses should not be as expensive," he said. "We do not have a high overhead, so our costs should not be as high."

Fischer said Sun City West cannot be compared to Sun City, where 40 range balls can be purchased for \$2.50, because the communities differ in their golf programs.

"Why do we want to follow Sun City?" he asked.

Fischer said the figures do not compare apples to apples.

Golfer Hugh Grigsby said that while he does not use range balls, he knows that many who do say they are upset. Grigsby said two years ago the centers increased the price of range balls from three buckets of range balls for \$1 to two buckets, and he doesn't understand why another increase is needed.

"There is a lot of concern about them raising the cost," he said, adding that several people are quitting the sport because of the high costs.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, OCT. 7, 2003

# Golfers must live with new RCSCW fees — for now

## Director concedes K-cards no longer at issue

**KATY O'GRADY**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City West golfers hoping for a new golf-fee structure are out of luck — at least for now.

Cher Petersen, a Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board member and chairwoman of the golf committee, said she's dropping her push to bring back the K-cards.

The controversial new golf-fee structure that eliminates the K-cards went into effect Oct. 1, but Petersen had given General Manager George Grimstad a proposal to scrap that plan in favor of a \$900 K-card and an executive K-card allowing unlimited golf with daily surcharges.

"George Grimstad did not reply to my request or (board President) Tom Cook's request to let me know what he felt about the K-cards," Petersen said. "So that's it. I throw in the towel — until later."

Grimstad said because the RCSCW has been instituting a new computer system, he has had little time to thoroughly review the plan, but from what he saw, Petersen's idea will not make budget.

"It looks like the numbers are still short, so we plan on just going with the one we have," he said. "I'm hoping we can move forward with what the board approved last May."

Grimstad said residents seem to be embracing the new fee structure, with 350 cards including 100 of the top-tier \$1,900 cards sold in the first two weeks. Residents holding valid K-cards from last year, which were sold until July 1, can continue to use them until they expire.

Petersen has said the new structure's success can't be accurately evaluated for several months.

Cook said any plans to change the current structure appear dead in the water for now.

"The budget has been set and if Mr. Grimstad thinks he can live with it and keep it balanced, then that's his job," Cook said. "If not, he can come to us and ask for changes."

The new golf-fee structure is more complicated than the K-card. It involves five tiers, allowing golfers to pay different amounts depending on whether they want to pay up front or have higher surcharges as they play.

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





STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick Anderson, who was playing golf at Grandview in Sun City West Wednesday, thinks the new RCSCW fee structure is "great for those who play a lot of golf, but for those who are getting up there in age and play only once a week — it's tough."

# Golfers share views of new fee structure

## RCSCW institutes 5-tier system

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West residents disagree on whether the new golf-fee structure that went into effect Wednesday is reasonable or out of line.

Golfers at the Grandview Golf Course shared their views, and although some were upset, they were golfing.

"I think for \$1,900, it's an exceptional value," said Tom Mont. Mont said he hadn't yet purchased the unlimited-play pass, but plans to do so soon.

"I think they're making a mistake with raising fees," said Bob Carr. "They keep complaining about fewer and fewer golfers, and the reason there's fewer and fewer is because they keep raising them. Look at any business in town, and when business is bad, they drop prices. ... The people on the board should learn something from other businesses in town."

"I'm just going to buy the \$1,900 card and hope I don't break a leg or something."

Wednesday marked the end of summer and twilight rates. However, those who still have valid K-cards can use them until they expire.

"If you have a K-card that you renewed in June, that K-card is good through June 2004," said Jerry Billodeau, golf operations

### Golf fees

<p><b>A. Unlimited play</b> (no surcharge per round)</p> <p><b>B. First 50 Rounds Pass</b></p> <p><i>Purchase options</i></p> <p>1. One payment of \$1,125 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>2. One payment of \$825 plus \$6 surcharge per round</p> <p>3. One payment of \$625 plus \$10 surcharge per round</p>	or	<p><b>Annual Fee \$1,900.00</b></p> <p><b>Cost per round</b></p> <p><b>C. Rounds 51 through 100</b></p> <p><i>Purchase options</i></p> <p>1. 50 rounds one payment of \$600 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>2. a. 25 rounds 1st payment of \$300 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>    b. 25 rounds 2nd payment of \$300 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p><b>D. Rounds 101 through 150</b></p> <p><i>Purchase options</i></p> <p>1. 50 rounds one payment of \$400 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>2. a. 25 rounds 1st payment of \$200 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>    b. 25 rounds 2nd payment of \$200 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>3. 50 surcharge payments of \$8 each</p> <p><b>E. Rounds 151 through 200</b></p> <p><i>Purchase options</i></p> <p>1. 50 rounds one payment of \$200 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>2. a. 25 rounds 1st payment of \$100 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>    b. 25 rounds 2nd payment of \$100 (no surcharge per round)</p> <p>3. 50 surcharge payments of \$4 each</p>
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NOTE: You may purchase one 25 round pass or two 25 round passes

NOTE: This program, 151-200, can be repeated as needed

NOTE: The above payment schedule is based on 18-hole rounds. If you only play 9 holes at one time, you will only show use of 50 percent of a round. For example: If you purchase the 50-round pass, it is good for either 50 rounds of 18 holes or 100 rounds of 9 holes.

See GOLF, A5

SOURCE: Recreation Center of Sun City West

CHARLES WADE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

OVER



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manager. "We just didn't renew anything after July 1."

The new five-tier system is a complex mixture of rounds and surcharges, which combined incorporate a 12 percent increase over last year's golf budget, said Cher Petersen, a Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board director and the golf committee chairwoman. Last year's fees were \$825 for an unlimited-play K-card, with \$6 surcharges per winter round and \$3 surcharges per summer round.

Petersen said she believes the overall increases will discourage golfing, decreasing revenue in the long run.

"It's just not going to encourage our golfers," she said. "We need to get the K-card back."

Petersen has been trying to sway the board to adopt an updated K-card that would cost \$900 with the \$6 and \$3 surcharges. She also would like the board to add an executive K-card that could be used for Echo Mesa, Stardust

and Desert Trails golf courses at a cost of \$800 with the surcharges.

Daily greens fees, ranging from \$16 to \$28 for residents and from \$20 to \$40 for guests, have not changed from last year.

Petersen said she presented her updated K-card proposal to General Manager George Grimstad for consideration, and expects an answer by Friday. Grimstad did not return a call for comment.

Cathy Peterson from the general manager's office said the new unlimited play cards have been popular so far.

"They're selling cards right and left," she said. "It's doing much better than anticipated."

Billodeau said at least 80 of the \$1,900 cards had been sold by Wednesday afternoon, and he hadn't heard many complaints about the other fees.

Petersen, however, said she believes those who don't play a lot of golf are upset at the increases in the lower tiers, which is why she wants to introduce the new K-card.

Dick Anderson, playing at Grandview Wednesday, said he hits the links about three times a week.

"I think it is great for those who play a lot of golf, but for those who are getting up there in age and play only once a week — it's tough on them," he said.

Anderson's friend, Pete Stankovitch, agreed.

"I feel about the same way as Dick does," he said. "I know things are going up all over, but we kind of liked it the way it was."

Others aren't as concerned about the new rates.

Lou Dawson, who moved to Sun City West from Illinois, said he believes the \$1,900 card is a steal.

"It will save me at least \$5,000 or \$6,000 over what I paid elsewhere," he said. "This is cheap golf. I found when I moved out here that there are some people who will (complain) about anything."

Frank Perry said he wouldn't be upset at the increase if the cost of range balls hadn't doubled to \$1 a bucket in March.

"Personally, I'd like to just let the fees go up like they did, and then let us have free range balls," he said. "If I was going to grumble, it would be more about the range balls than the fees."

Petersen said many residents bought last year's K-cards in October 2002, so they will be coming due this month. However, she said, it will be a few months before centers officials can evaluate the new system.

"We won't really see the effects until February or March," she said. "It's going to be a big catchup if it does fail."

Residents who want to play 50 rounds or less can pay \$1,125 with no surcharges, \$825 with \$6 surcharges, or \$625 with \$10 surcharges. Three levels of additional rounds, in increments of 50, decrease from \$12 to \$8 to \$4 per round, with different payment/surcharge options for each.

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





Photo by Lindsey Remington/Independent Newspapers

North Golf Course in Sun City is closed for improvements until Oct. 6.

# TOUGH CHOICES

## Drought affects course decisions

By Lindsey Remington  
Independent Newspapers

North Golf Course in Sun City will be closed longer than previously anticipated for improvements to the course's irrigation system and greens.

The course, which has been closed since June 2 for installation of new sprinkler heads and a new computerized control system, earlier was expected to reopen in early August, but is now scheduled to reopen Oct. 6, said John Snyder director of golf.

The delay will allow for an improved variety of bermuda grass to be planted this summer, he said.

"We want to let it set and get a good base before people start driving on it," he said.

Every year, golf directors grapple with choices regarding how much overseeding to do on courses to keep them green. With recent drought condition, never have the choices been more difficult than they are this summer, with record-breaking temperatures hitting the area as well.

One of the reasons for the improvements at North Golf Course is the drought over

the last two years, Mr. Snyder said. The new sprinkler heads are more efficient so that not as much water is used, and the control system, which, among other things, controls how much water is distributed through the heads for each area of the course, is more advanced, he said.

He said that the city's other courses, except for South, had also received improvements to their irrigation systems.

"Everybody (residents) seems thrilled to death and excited that we're making these improvements," he said.

### SCW cuts back

In response to the drought, Sun City West has decided not to fully overseed all seven of its golf courses this year, said Cher Petersen chairwoman of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Golf Committee.

Trail Ridge, Grandview and Pebblebrook golf courses will be completely overseeded, but only the par-four holes, tees and putting greens will be overseeded at Deer Valley, Echo Mesa, Desert Trails and Stardust.

"We're cutting back on the

areas we're overseeding due to the drought conditions," she said.

The city saved \$50,000 this year by not fully overseeding all the courses, she said.

The cost for the year for labor and seed is estimated at \$140,000.

Ms. Petersen added that as part of a five-year plan, the committee intends to install zeroscape on its courses, which would replace the grass on the non-playable areas of the courses with desert landscape, so that no water is necessary.

She said a few areas on Echo Canyon golf course have the new landscape.

Deer Valley, Desert Trails, Stardust and Trail Ridge will be closed Sept. 29 to Oct. 20 for overseeding and Echo Mesa, Grandview and Pebblebrook will be closed Oct. 20 to Nov. 9.

### SCG upgrades

Some Sun City Grand courses' irrigation systems are being updated in response to drought conditions, said Ken Davidson, director of golf operations.

See **Courses** — Page 10

OVER



# Courses

Continued From Page 1

Improvements include relocating sprinkler heads, replacing sprinkler head nozzles, changing the spray range of the nozzles and upgrading the computer system for maximum efficiency.

"We're spending a lot of time on water management," he said. "We want to use the bare minimum that the turf requires."

However, Sun City Grand's four golf courses will be overseeded the same as last year, Mr. Davidson said.

"We shop around every year for a good price on good quality blends of grass seed," he said.

Granite Falls North and Cimarron will be closed for overseeding from Sept. 15 to Oct. 9. Granite Falls South and Desert Springs will be closed from Oct. 13 to Nov. 6.

The price of the winter rye grass seed increased from about 50 cents per pound to 66 cents a pound



Photo by Lindsey Remington/Independent Newspapers

**Riverview Golf Course in Sun City will be closed Oct. 9 to Oct. 27 for overseeding, to help it remain lush and green.**

this year from last year, he said. Each course needs about 60,000 lbs. of seed, which will cost about \$158,400 this year.

Sun City Grand golf courses get their water from the Maricopa Irrigation District, which is a combination of water from the canal system and groundwater

from wells.

Sun City estimated it would spend \$103,699 for winter rye grass seed this year.

Due to the immaturity of the new grass at the North Golf Course, the fairways there will not be overseeded with rye grass this fall, said Mr. Snyder. Some of the

common bermuda grass will still exist on the fairways.

Lakes West, Willowbrook, and Riverview golf courses in Sun City will be closed for overseeding from Sept. 18 through Oct. 6, and Quail Run, Willowcreek, Lakes West, and South will be closed from Oct. 9 through Oct. 27.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2003

# RCSCW weighs xeriscaping

Switching unused golf-course areas would save water, funds

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board will decide later this month whether to convert some golf-course areas to xeriscaping to conserve water and save money.

Golf Chairman Tom Cook said there are large areas on several golf courses that are never used by golfers.

"Grass uses water," he said. "What we will begin to do is convert those areas into desert landscape."

The courses affected would be Grandview, Echo Mesa, Stardust and Pebblebrook. Trail Ridge, Deer Valley and Desert Trails would not be affected because desert landscaping is already in place there in areas that do not come into play.

"It will cost money to convert them over to desert landscaping, but in the long run

it will save funds," Cook said.

He said the RCSCW needs to be proactive when it comes to water issues, and xeriscaping will accomplish that. Last year, the centers extended water usage on the courses and faced paying a \$25,000 fine for additional water credits from Arizona-American Water Co. Cook said. The additional water-credits fee was lowered to \$6,000.

The policy discussed by the board in late May cannot be voted or acted on for 30 days so residents will have opportunities to examine the concept before the board rules on June 19.

If the policy is approved by the governing board, management will need to set up a timeframe for construction, Cook said.

"We will know the cost before it gets going," Cook said, adding that the funds will likely come from the

budget's contingency fund.

Director Elaine McCraith said the policy appears to make sense.

"I think it's a good idea to support some of the areas where play does not go," she said. "It sounds like a good idea to me if they can agree on the areas."

McCraith said the idea has been discussed in the golf committee for several months.

*Michael Maresch can be reached at 876-2513 or [mmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresch@aztrib.com).*



# RCSCW resurrects golf plan

**CNP:** Board reinstitutes opening golf courses to Sun City, Sun City Grand

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West will be sharing its golf courses with people living in Sun City and Sun City Grand.

The governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West has agreed to bring back Controlled Neighborhood Play.

CNP was instituted in early 2002 by the previous governing board with the understanding that it would be a test program through the end of the year. That pilot program expired Dec. 31.

CNP allows residents from Sun City and Sun City Grand to use the community's golf courses, though not at the expense of Sun City West members.

General Manager George Grimstad asked the governing board to reinstitute CNP, this time on a permanent basis. Grimstad said in his general manager's report last week that a golf survey revealed 71 percent of polled golfers want the program to resume. He asked that no expiration date be attached, since the board could discontinue the program at any time.

The governing board approved CNP, but only through June 30, which is the end of the fiscal year. Golf Chairman Tom Cook asked for the expiration date, because his committee is considering how to help the division, adding that CNP could be incorporated into its overall plan.

Not all residents embrace the program.

"The minute you open the doors to let other people in, that door will be pushed wide open," said resident John Ryder. "We cannot open that door."

Resident Richard Cramer wanted to know how much CNP would add to the rec centers' coffers.

"I'm looking at all the charts you have," Cramer said. "How much money is involved? Let's talk dollars and cents, not rounds and lines."

According to the RCSCW midterm financial report, prepaid golf dropped nearly 35,000 rounds from from January 2001 to October 2002. During the same time frame, golf Kachina Card sales decreased by more than 400.



SCW

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 2002

# RCSCW ponders golf solutions

by **MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The RCSCW governing board is looking at ways to increase revenue in its golf program.

Golf Committee Chairman Tom Cook, during the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing-board meeting Thursday, proposed changes in golf rates. Golfers playing nine holes are paying more per hole than those playing 18.

Cook said a review of this practice revealed golf rounds and income are suffering to the point that steps need to be taken.

"We have some problems in golf, and we need to address them," he said.

As an example, Cook pointed to Pebblebrook Golf Course, which golfers playing nine holes are avoiding because of the cost in comparison to that of those playing 18 holes. Since July, nine-hole golfers on the course decreased from 450 to 390.

Cook said he is trying to convince more residents to play, especially marginal golfers. To do so, the board will consider making nine-hole rates half the 18-hole fee.

Several actions will be voted on in January in an attempt to stem the

financial slide. Cook said the board will explore the possibility of increasing guest play by reducing rates in order to be more competitive.

The rates on regulation 18-hole courses would drop from \$40 to \$35, while rates for executive courses would decrease from \$35 to \$30.

The governing board also will:

- Test winter cards of \$240 for 10 18-hole rounds or 20 of nine holes. Residents now pay \$28 to play 18 holes in the winter and \$17 for nine-hole play.

- Change the effective date of the summer rates and card from May 1 to June 1, more in line with other community course schedules.

- Increase the surcharge amount from \$6 to \$7 while solutions are looked into to make golf self-sufficient.

The governing board next month also will vote on limiting the use of credit cards on courses to green and tee fees, as well as golf-equipment purchases in the pro shops.

Director John Orr, an avid golfer, supported Cook's proposal.

"It is my understanding people want to buy (25-cent) tokens with credit cards," Orr said. "We want to eliminate smaller items."



DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 2002

# County offers to spend \$80,000 for trees in SCW

**VIEW BLOCKER:**  
Golf course  
plantings would  
hide loop traffic

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Whether trees are planted on Desert Trails Golf Course to block the view of traffic on the Loop 303 is up to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association officials have been lobbying Maricopa County for months to put up some type of barrier to block the view of Loop 303 from the golf course and nearby homes.

Scott Isham, chief of staff for District 4 Maricopa County Supervisor Max Wilson, said the county has been trying to get in touch with RCSCW Golf Operations Manager Todd Patty for weeks to see if the centers would agree to fund the cost of caring for the trees.

Patty this morning said he has talked to the county to see if there is anything that can be worked out.

"I haven't seen all the details, so I cannot comment at this time," he said.

Isham said PORA would not be responsible for picking up the maintenance.

PORA Director Bob Jones

**See TREES, A5**

## From A1

turned the matter over to Patty, and Isham said until he is contacted, no decision can be reached on whether to plant the trees. The cost to the centers would water and maintenance.

Isham said not all residents are upset that they can see the loop from inside their community.

"Some people like the view and some don't," he said. "The trees would be on (Desert Trails Golf Course), and all of them would be paid for by the county."

There would be about 60 24-inch-box trees planted on

the course, and one tree would be planted every 50 feet.

"These are not small things," Isham said. "They are pretty-good-sized plants. We are trying to do this as a nice gesture."

The cost to the county would be about \$80,000.

Isham said the trees are not meant to eliminate the sound of traffic on the Loop 303, but added it will help to some degree.

"If you don't see it, you don't hear it," he said. "If you shield it, it will help."

Brenda Zambelli, intergovernmental liaison for the Maricopa County Department

of Transportation, in charge of contacting the rec centers, said she and Patty have been phoning each other but have yet to make contact.

"We want to see if there is any interest from the Recreation Centers of Sun City West," she said.

PORA President Randy Fuller said that while his organization embraces the concept, it is out of its hands.

"When we found out the planting was going to be inside the walls, it became an issue for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. The golf course, where the trees would be planted, are owned by RCSCW.

"I would hope something could be worked out. It would give a better view to the fairway. I think it would be an asset to the community. The rec centers will have to decide."

Newly hired RCSCW General Manager George Grimstad said he has been apprised of the situation, but noted he knows of one homeowner near the course who planted trees on his property to block views of the Loop 303.

Grimstad said he plans on meeting with Patty today to discuss the proposal.

Michael Maresch can be reached at 876-2513 or [mmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresch@aztrib.com).



September 4, 2002

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

## Cell antenna approved at Stardust Golf Course

By **Jeremy Pearlman**  
Independent Newspapers

Erecting a new flagpole does not seem to be an uncommon or newsworthy occurrence in a community that prides itself as being "Flag City U.S.A."

But when a flagpole can generate annual income in the thousands of dollars for a community, its importance is raised.

In a unanimous decision, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board agreed to sign a non-binding letter of intent with AT&T Wireless to lease property on the southeast corner of the Stardust Golf Course parking

lot to be used for a cellular antenna.

The board also authorized its president to enter into a contract with the wireless service provider to build and operate a cellular antenna once the contract language is approved by the association's legal counsel and the Legal Affairs Committee.

If built, the cellular antenna would be masked as a 40-foot flagpole.

In exchange for granting AT&T Wireless use of the land, the Rec Centers Golf Division would get \$1,000 a month.

"It'll be 40-feet tall and look exactly like a flagpole. You wouldn't know it from any other flagpole and it will actu-

ally be an attraction to the community," said Thomas Fagan, board member.

"The neat thing about it is that we get paid \$1,000 a month by AT&T (Wireless) for 10 years and has an escalator after that of 15 percent," Mr. Fagan added. "I see it as a win-win situation."

According to the proposed lease agreement, at the end of the 10-year lease, there are four automatic lease renewals for five years each. At the beginning of each renewal, the lease would increase by 15 percent.

The Fire District of Sun City West Governing Board approved a lease agreement with AT&T Wireless earlier in

August to build a flagpole antenna in front of Station 103.

But unlike the fire district's agreement, the Rec Centers will earn an extra \$400 a month because it has to provide its own flag.

Speaking in favor of the motion, Director Tom Cook believes the flagpole will have other added benefits to the community.

"I have a friend who bought a telephone from AT&T (Wireless) and signed a contract and it doesn't work out here very well in Sun City West," Mr. Cook said. "We need these towers here in Sun City West so that the cell phones will work."



© THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2002



Heather Walton/The Arizona Republic

On R.H. Johnson Boulevard in Sun City West, a golf cart driver waits at a stoplight. Golf carts are often seen on streets there and more so with duffers staying away from courses.

## Sun City West links hit by shortage of golfers

By Sean L. McCarthy  
The Arizona Republic

**SUN CITY WEST** — You're liable to see more golf carts rolling down Sun City West's roadways than down its fairways.

Sure, the dog days of summer may be keeping golfers off the course.

But in Sun City West, tee times have become easier to get each year as the number of rounds played on the retirement community's seven golf courses continues to drop. With an aging membership and a slumping economy, that downward trend would seem to be par for the course this summer; although the community's recreation managers have opened up the courses to golfers from Sun City and Sun City Grand in an effort to keep the courses profitable.

In April, which is perhaps the peak golfing season in terms of temperature, the number of rounds played in Sun City West has dropped from 46,273 two years ago to 42,316 in 2001 and 39,237 this year.

The numbers in August are even bleaker, and Mauryne Hall said that's because this summer has been particularly hard on seniors.

“I have been more miserable this summer than I can ever remember being. Humidity has been a problem.”

**Mauryne Hall**

Spokeswoman for recreation centers in Sun City West

“I have been more miserable this summer than I can ever remember being,” said Hall, Sun City West's recreation centers spokeswoman. “Humidity has been a problem. I'm sure if it affects me that way — I'm only 57 — I'm sure it affects our population even more so.”

It may seem odd that a retirement community built as a golf haven would lose popularity.

But Hall said the reasoning is simple.

The average Sun City West resident is 73 and not getting any younger, she said. “Every year, our population gets

older.”

Plus the community “is built out,” preventing the potential golfing membership from expanding without seeking golfers from outside Sun City West's walls.

“We've introduced the controlled neighborhood play program, and that's helping a little bit,” Hall said.

The neighborhood play program, approved on a trial basis from July 1 through the end of the year, allows Sun City and Sun City Grand residents to play Sun City West courses, with summer 18-hole greens fees from \$19 to \$21. Sun City West residents pay daily greens fees this summer of \$13 to \$15.

Not everyone is happy about opening up the courses.

“We need to support golf within our community,” said Ed Thill, a self-described duffer at Deer Valley Golf Course, one of the community's links.

Thill will serve this fall on a special golf committee tasked with figuring out just how to increase support and revenues at Sun City West's golf courses.

Reach the reporter at sean.mccarthy@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6938.



# Inspections spur changes on golf courses

## SUN CITIES OK: Safeguards in place on local links for water safety

JOHN SOKOLICH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Speaking from a health aspect, Sun Cities community golf courses are up to par.

The Maricopa County Department of Environmental Health Services determined that a mysterious sickness that affected as many as 84 golfers from two golf courses in Phoenix was caused by a common

virus caused by drinking unsanitary water. Those findings prompted the health service to impose new requirements for water and ice on golf courses. All community golf courses have passed inspections.

"This is something that is very serious," said Laura Devany of the county health department. "Most of the golf courses that we inspected complied immediately with the new requirements. The ones that didn't were issued cease-and-desist orders."

The county inspected all 157 golf courses in Maricopa County for safe water handling practices.

Out of 148 golf courses

inspected as of Wednesday morning, 96 of them, or 65 percent, did not meet new guidelines the department established for golf courses, sporting events and other activities where water is provided to the public.

Sun City's community golf courses met the grade while Sun City West's and Sun City Grand's courses were brought up to par by making some minor changes, such as sanitizing ice coolers daily.

The full list of which golf courses passed and failed the inspections were not released, according to Devany.

Released data indicate approved courses had

drinking fountains on golf courses, bottled water, a sanitary system already in place or no water service.

Courses that were not approved had improper water handling due to lack of equipment, lack of sanitizing or poor hygienic practices.

"The following action was taken for unapproved water handling operations," a Health Services report stated. "Issuance of cease and desist notices for unsafe operations; instructions to immediately transfer water handling operations to snack bar; instructions to immediately

See Local links, A5

### From A1

switch to bottled water; or discontinuance of all water dispensing on site."

In the Sun Cities, no community golf courses were instructed to discontinue water dispensing, Devany said.

The changes made at community courses will likely not be noticed by golfers because most occur behind the scenes, said Dick Ruthenbeck, Sun City West golf course manager.

"We are just doing things now that will ensure the safety of everyone here," he said. "It's important and we want to make sure we comply with the new regulations."

Sun City receives its water from Arizona-American Water Company and filters it to make sure there are no contaminants.

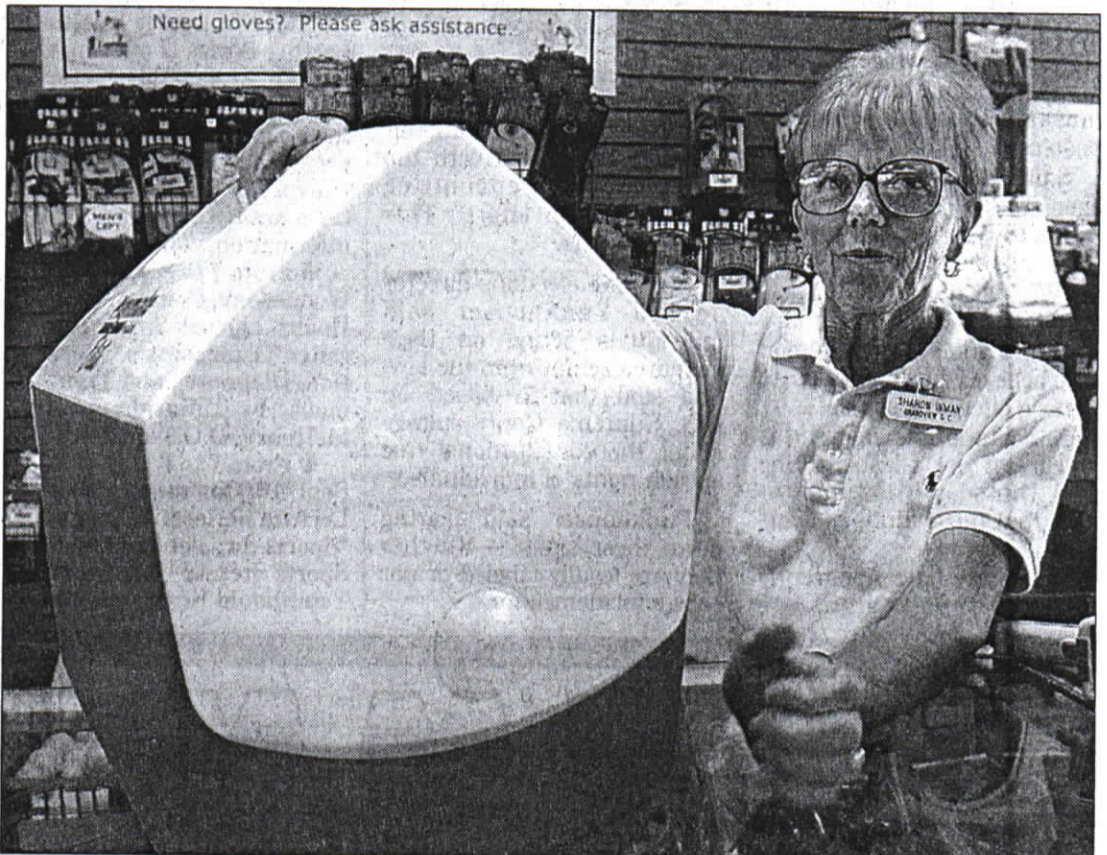
Golfers asked about the new regulations said they support having better regulations; but were never concerned about contracting viruses from golfing locally.

"We usually bring our own water out, but that's because it's a little cheaper than buying bottled water," Lester Crowley of Sun City said. "I don't usually use the water fountains because I always picture the person using it before me."

Crowley said he never considered water fountains sanitary, but that was because of germs from other people, not the water.

Jeann Harlow of Sun City, said she heard about the problems at the Phoenix golf courses, but was sure that any illness would be more isolated.

"I've played at many courses in Sun City and Sun City West," she said. "I've eaten at the restaurants and bought stuff from the carts, everything seemed pretty clean. I wasn't too worried about getting sick out here —



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sharon Inman, a starter at Grandview Golf Course in Sun City West, displays the marshal's cooler that is kept inside rather than outdoors.

other than the heat or something."

The illnesses reported at the Phoenix golf courses were exacerbated by the death of 15-year-old Nils Beeman, who became ill after playing July 18 in the Junior Golf Association of Arizona tournament at Thunderbirds Golf Club. He died at his home the next day, but his death has still not been connected to the other golfers who became ill from the water contamination.

The string of illness began July 16, when a golf course employee who dispensed water became one of the first people to come down with symptoms consistent with the virus. Health authorities suspect that the virus spread from the handling of ice, water or the containers that

hold them. A reverse osmosis system used to purify the water may have contributed to the contamination, removing chlorine that otherwise might have killed the virus.

But it was Beeman's death that drew attention to the golf club.

At first, officials suggested that Beeman died from heat stroke. As more people came forward with similar complaints of severe headaches and vomiting, the health department began taking soil, air and water samples at the golf club. The county health department interviewed 168 golfers and found that 84 of them likely drank from water jugs at the golf course before they developed vomiting, diarrhea or both within three days of being at the golf club.

"This outbreak really caught us by surprise,"

Weisbuch said. "There was nothing to indicate that golf courses were susceptible."

The department sent eight samples of stomach material from sick golfers to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for testing. Three came back positive for the same strain of Norwalk virus, indicating that the virus was likely the source of the outbreak, health officials announced Wednesday. They have ruled out heat and toxic substances as causes of the outbreak.

But health officials still could not say for sure Wednesday that the virus caused the death of Beeman, whose sample did not test positive for Norwalk.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or [jsokolich@aztrib.com](mailto:jsokolich@aztrib.com).

OVER



# GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY DRINKING WATER

## STAFF REPORT

With the Arizona heat comes a major challenge for anyone spending time outdoors. If you're using drinking water dispensers, the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department advises following these guidelines to minimize the transmission of communicable illnesses:

### **Water and Ice**

- Water and ice must be from a public water distribution system or an approved individual water supply that is tested to ensure conformity with applicable regulations.

### **Water Dispensers**

- The water dispenser should be constructed of food grade materials and be easily cleaned.

- The spigot should be of a gravity flow design and should prevent contamination during use.

- The dispensers should be cleaned and sanitized at least once every 24 hours.

- Provide an area to allow proper air drying of dispensers. Containers should not be stored on the floor at any time. Pay special attention to cleaning and sanitizing the dispenser nozzle.

### **Dispenser Filling**

- The dispenser should be filled in an area free of environmental contaminants such as dust and insects.

- The dispenser should not be placed on the floor while filling.

- The water hose used to fill the dispenser must be food grade (garden hoses are not approved) and not stored on the ground or capable of being submerged into a drain.

- Ice must be dispensed with an ice scoop (without coming in direct human contact).

For more information, call the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department at 602-506-6970.



# Rounds sink in SCW

**ROUGH TIMES:**  
Rec center officials scramble to reverse trend

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Golf rounds in Sun City West are dropping at an alarming rate, and Recreation Centers officials don't know how to reverse the trend.

In the past few months, the centers governing board has made several attempts to encourage more play, including allowing Sun City and Sun City Grand residents, as well as Briarwood Country Club members, to use the community's courses on a trial basis.

Golf Committee Chairman John Orr said the neighborhood-play policy has resulted in an increase of about \$5,000.

The number of rounds has decreased steadily in the last three years. For example, in February 2000, there were 49,221 compared to 40,242 this year.

To help boost these numbers, Orr said, RCSCW must look at its golf fees to ensure they are competitive with other courses in the area.

"May was a disaster to us," Orr said. "Many of our members took advantage of the rates elsewhere."

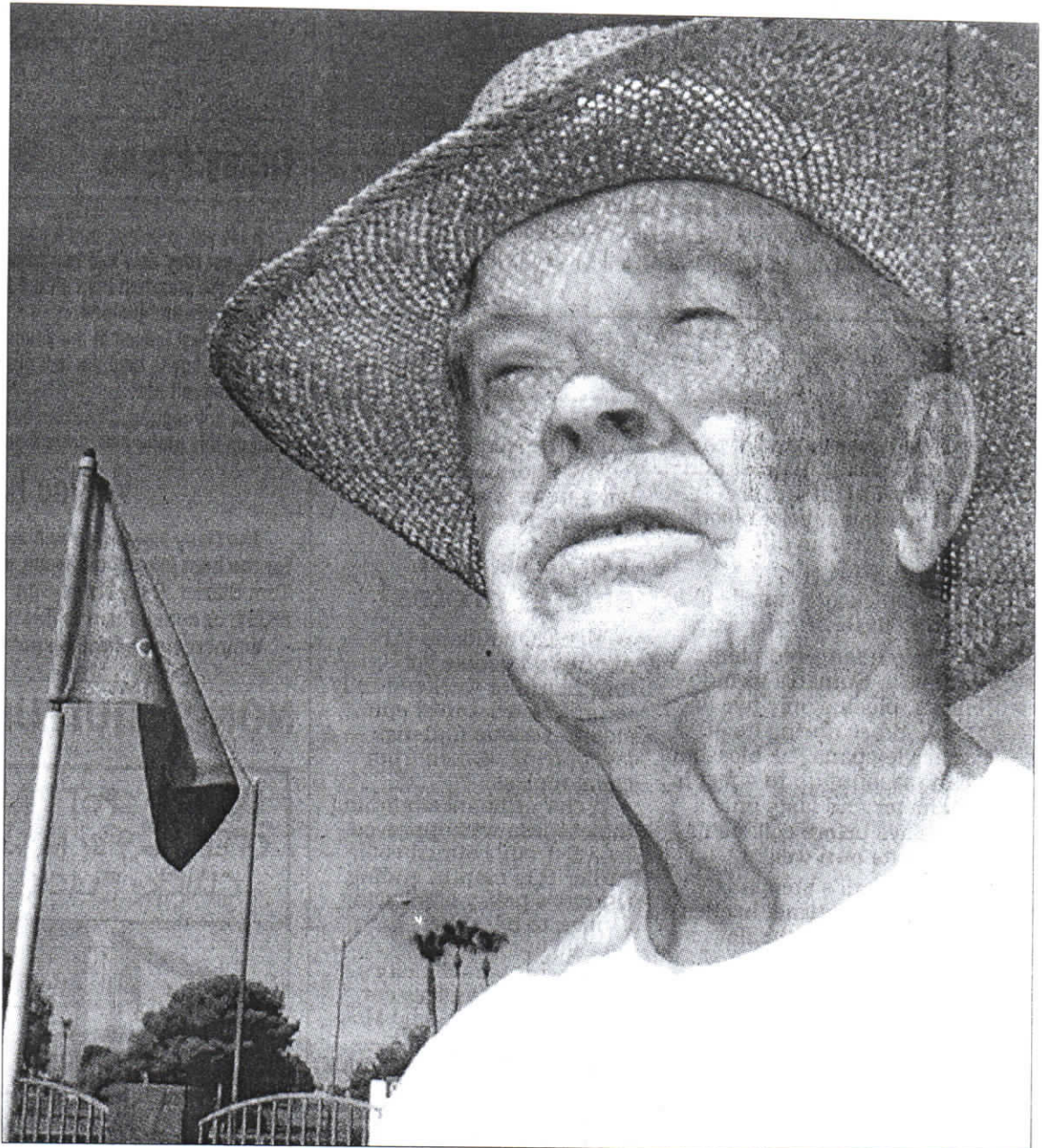
Orr said the rec centers has estimated that 25 percent of new residents would play golf, but the reality has been closer to 10 percent.

"They are less interested in golf," he said. "That is part of what my golf committee is working on. The people coming here either are golfers or are not."

General Manager Jon Cannon said closing a course is not an option since savings would be minimal. "The problem is you still have to mow and do maintenance with it," he said, adding the centers a few years ago closed Deer Valley Golf Course for the summer to allow the greens to grow.

"We have looked at closing courses, but there is no real economic advantage," he said.

What is being encouraged, he said, is allowing large groups to block tee times to get more golfers onto the courses.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul Lutton of Sun City West says he has been playing more golf since his wife died and didn't take up the game until late in life.



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Al Bailey, a monitor at Echo Mesa Golf Shop, thinks the number of rounds on Sun City West Recreation Centers golf courses is down because of the economy and the aging of residents.

OVER





MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Allen Koepke, the ball picker at Grandview in Sun City West, says he can gauge the decline in golf rounds played by the hours on the job. What used to take him five hours has been reduced to two.

"We have to find more things residents can do," he said. "What we are trying to do is encourage more social play. We are trying to do everything within the rules."

"We are keeping a close eye on the rounds," Cannon continued. "I am not sure what the answer is."

Sun City, which also has seen a decline in the number of rounds played, has been keeping an eye on the problem in recent years as well.

Recreation Centers of Sun City Board President Jerry Swintek said closing a course permanently in Sun City is not allowed due to deed restrictions, and doing so on a short-term basis would not save much.

Swintek said John Snyder, RCSC's newly hired golf-operations manager, is working on solutions.

In Sun City West, Echo Mesa golf starter and resident Al Bailey said he has noticed fewer people signing up for tee times on the executive course. He said he has observed aging residents playing less frequently, and he believes newcomers to the community are not as interested in the sport.

In addition, Bailey said, residents on fixed incomes can no longer afford expensive hobbies such as golf.

"I am no expert, but when people had money to spend, they found hobbies," he said. "Now they have no money to do things."

Bailey said when he retired to Sun City West seven years ago, he could not get a tee time. But when the centers raised fees, he said, residents stopped playing.

"People started to find other things to do," he said. "There are a lot of hobbies people can take advantage of."

Bailey said golfers tell him

fees are too high.

Paul Lutton, while practicing putts at Grandview Golf Course, did not take up golfing until he retired, but believes he is the exception rather than the rule.

"I golf maybe once a week," he said. "It seems like we have sparse participation. I felt this was the way I would gravitate toward my retirement."

Lutton lived in Sun City from 1977 to 1980 and said the courses were always full. "There was a lot of activity there," he said.

Shirley Kosikowski, a 14-year Sun City West resident and an avid golfer, said she has noticed golf play declining for the past eight to nine years.

"People are being more selective," she said, adding golf is not an easy sport to take up at an advanced age.

"I think people are getting older and are not playing as much," Kosikowski said. "You can't make them like golf. There are so many aspects to the game, and they require practice."

Kosikowski's husband, Lawrence, exemplifies the changing of the community because he used to golf daily, but has not hit the links since May when he had surgery.

New residents, she said, may balk at taking up the sport once they realize it is not a cheap hobby.

A resident golfing Tuesday at Grandview Golf Course who asked not to be identified said he has been playing the sport for 60 years, and is getting ready to quit the activity. He said he now can



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Shirley Kosikowski says she and her husband came to Sun City West to play golf. The Grandview women's champion played before retirement, but on weekends only.

only golf once a week and is challenged every time he plays because of advancing age.

Grandview golf starter Jim Moran hits the link three times a week, and said the heat is getting harder to cope with every year.

"They stay busy, but they are not golfing," he added.

Michael Maresh can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresh@aztrib.com.

### Golf Rounds By Year

Months	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
	1999	2000	2001
July	21,448	19,750	17,329
Aug.	20,239	18,546	15,989
Sept.	23,866	20,214	21,324
Oct.	27,793	23,739	25,977
Nov.	43,930	35,211	36,568
Dec.	37,289	36,163	30,413
<b>Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Jan.	46,768	39,852	40,129
Feb.	49,221	39,928	40,242
March	47,037	47,085	43,929
April	46,273	42,316	39,237
May	32,392	29,976	28,399
June	24,093	21,130	19,440
<b>Full Year Total</b>	<b>420,347</b>	<b>373,910</b>	<b>361,421</b>

SOURCE: Rec Center News TINA GAMEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN



# RANGE ROVER



Fletcher Harvey, 87, says he's collected more than 12 million golf balls on the driving range at Grandview Golf Course in Sun City West.

JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN



# Ol' Fletch stays on ball at Grandview G.C.

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fletcher Harvey has been a caged man for the last eight years.

The cage serves as his workplace, a modified golf car with metal meshing over the cab. Harvey drives the golf car to retrieve range balls at Grandview Golf Course in Sun City West.

"I don't even jump any more when a golfer rattles the cage with a shot," the 87-year-old Harvey said. "I'm either getting used to it or I'm just getting old."

Harvey has become a lovable fixture at Grandview. Rarely does a golfer walk by who doesn't know and acknowledge the Oklahoma native, greeting him by his nickname, "Ol' Fletch."

"You can't put Ol' Fletch in a square peg," said Art Horwood, a starter at Grandview. "He likes people and he's always been that way ever since he's been here."

Harvey claims to have collected 12 million range balls during the past eight years. With tongue firmly in cheek, he says he's counted every

one.

"I figure by September, I'll be at 13 million," said Harvey, who hung the 12 millionth ball by a string above the range-ball dispenser. He's also attached a sign to the machine in case any golfer doesn't realize the significance of the ball hanging overhead.

"When I first started here, I was told my title was ball picker," Harvey said. "I didn't like that name very much so I decided to call myself a range superintendent."

The job at the golf course puts

Harvey around the two things he loves most — sports and people.

The retired boilermaker has had a life as rich as the coffee he used to make when he worked briefly for Folger's coffee company in Kansas City, Mo. Harvey later took over his father-in-law's business as a boilermaker.

Harvey helped his high school basketball team win the Oklahoma state title and landed a scholarship at Oklahoma A&M.

## From G1

"I played basketball at a time when you used to have a jump ball after every made basket," Harvey recalled. "The final score of my high school championship game was 22-21.

"I was a big scorer back then — four or five points a game."

Harvey spent his freshman season under legendary coach Hank Iba, who was in his first year at Oklahoma A&M, which is now called Oklahoma State.

"Coach Iba was very demanding, but he wasn't no Bob Knight," Harvey said with his trademark Oklahoma twang. "He never used profanity yet he always insisted things be done his way.

"He was forceful and

likable and he didn't forget people. Years later, I would always go to Kemper Arena (in Kansas City) when his teams were in town and he would walk up to me, shake hands and ask how I was doing. And I only played one year for him."

Harvey quit school after his freshman season to help his family financially.

He stayed involved in sports through officiating and had an impromptu meeting with Iba while umpiring a baseball game years later.

"The regular baseball coach was sick so Hank was filling in for him," Harvey recalled. "At one point in the game Hank came running out to question a call. I told him I was running the show now."

Harvey officiated football and basketball although his biggest assignments came in baseball. That included the

1969 College World Series, which featured future major-league pitcher Burt Hooton.

"I would have liked to have been a major-league umpire and I was offered a start in the Class D leagues," Harvey recalled. "But there wasn't any money in it, especially for a married man with a family."

Harvey moved to Sun City West in 1979, one of the first residents in the retirement community.

He stayed involved in sports by playing golf seven days a week and he frequently volunteered to marshal at the Phoenix Open when it was played at Phoenix Country Club.

"I remember one year (baseball manager) Billy Martin was playing in the pro-am and he hit one in the rough on my hole," Harvey recalled. "This was the year he got into that fight with the

marshmallow salesman so when I was clearing a spot for him to hit, I yelled to the gallery, 'Get out of Billy's way cause you never know who he's going to hit.'"

"He shook his fist and laughed at me."

Despite winning the club championship at Pebblebrook in 1982, Harvey quit playing golf eight years ago.

"I just lost interest," Harvey said. "I played myself out."

Yet Harvey said he still loves being at the golf course. Harvey and Al Koepke, the other range rover, work five days on and then take five days off.

"Everybody knows Ol' Fletch," Harvey said while watching the golfers trickle into the clubhouse on Ladies Day last Tuesday.

"I've got to go say hello to the lady golfers. You know, I call them my beauties."

OVER



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT JUNE 5-11, 2002

# Visitors welcome

## Early indications show open golf policy paying off for SCW courses

By **Jeremy Pearlman**  
Independent Newspapers

Since they've opened it, people have come.

During the first three weeks of a trial program opening up Sun City West's golf courses to residents from Sun City and Sun City Grand, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West sold 20 tee times that may have otherwise gone unused.

In total, the Rec Centers realized a \$656 boost in revenue between May 1 and 22 from non-resident play.

The trial program — titled "Controlled Neighborhood Play" — was created to test whether allowing golfers from outside the community to purchase rounds not being used by residents of Sun City West would boost the total rounds played — which have seen declines in recent years.

Time is still needed to determine the ultimate outcome of the program, however, early results show promise, according to R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, Rec Centers' general manager.

"It's too early to say the program is a success. But it's early enough to say that interest is there, which is demonstrated by the 20 people who have come over," Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff said. "It does show that there is new revenue to be earned and can be done without interfering with our own members ability to play.

"Obviously, after it's been in operation for the summer — which will be our low point — we'll be able to look at the data ... to see whether the program is working or not," Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff continued.

Sun City West golfers have two opportunities to reserve tee times before they are opened to outside residents. Only after residents of Sun City West get first and second chances to get tee times are open slots made available.

Non-residents pay the guest rate to play on Sun City West's courses.

From June 1 through Sept. 30, the guest rate for an 18-hole round on the community's championship courses is \$21; \$19 for the community's executive courses. The guest rate for a

nine-hole round is 60 percent of the 18-hole round rate.

During May, non-residents paid nearly double the summer rates for a round of golf. Winter rates ended May 30.

"I think the business will pick up beginning June 1 when summer rates begin," said John Orr, vice-president of the governing board and Golf Committee chair.

"So far we haven't been competitive with other courses and we still had some business."

According to Mr. Orr, at least 30 potential customers have been lost so far because only senior residents of Sun City and Sun City Grand can play the courses, not their guests.

"I would love to see us modify the program so that people from Sun City Grand and Sun

City could bring their guests on to our courses as well.

The "Controlled Neighborhood Play" trial program will run until Dec. 31.



Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, June 5, 2002

# Health hazard

## GEESE DROPPINGS: Golfers should take their lickings seriously

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Some golfers don't even think about it. They're on the green, their golf balls are covered with grass stains and they give the balls a quick lick to clean them off.

"There are some golfers, and they are a definite minority, that will actually lick a golf ball," said John Orr, chairman of the Golf Committee in Sun City West.

While licking a golf ball may be a quick and convenient way to clean it off, doing so can be bad for your health.

One reason is that golf courses are fertilized with materials that are hazardous for human consumption.

"There are certain fertilizers that are used on a golf course," said Dave Luithle, an assistant golf professional at Union Hills Country Club in Sun City. For that reason, he recommends that people use the ball washers located at each tee box.

Jeff Humphrey, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Phoenix, agrees that golfers should use ball washers instead of



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

David Luithle, assistant golf professional at Union Hills Country Club in Sun City, uses a golf-ball washer.

licking their golf balls.

For one thing, "There are domestic cats out there using

sand traps (as bathrooms)," he said.

Area golf courses face the

problem of Canada geese inhabiting the courses. Those geese leave behind droppings that could also be a problem for golfers licking their golf balls.

"You should avoid ingesting the feces of any animal," Humphrey said.

Orr said that when golfers, especially good ones, hit the ball high onto the green, it leaves a divot and picks up grass and dirt.

Orr said that there are four types of golfers: those who clean the golf ball by rubbing it on the grass, those who spit on the ball, those who lick it and — on very rare occasions — those who put the entire ball in their mouths.

"This is very rare, but it does happen," he said.

"We put a lot of chemicals on the golf courses, especially on the greens," Orr said. He said that the greens are often treated with effluent water, water that is taken directly from sewage plants and recycled for use on golf courses.

Orr said that geese droppings on the course also add to the danger of licking golf balls.

Humphrey said that the problem of goose excrement is not novel or unique. Geese on the course root up patches of grass and leave droppings behind.

**See Geese droppings, A5**

OVER



## From A1

However, the number of geese occupying golf courses in Arizona is low compared to other areas in the United States, he said.

Teresa Howes, public-affairs officer for the Animal and Plant Inspection Service in Fort Collins, Colo., said that geese cause problems for golf courses and communities across the U.S.

"Geese are grazers. They like to eat the grass," she said.

Howes said that there have been studies done on the threat of geese feces to

human health. She said she can't imagine anyone licking a golf ball that's rolled over goose droppings.

"Obviously, not a lot of research has been done on that," she said.

Howes tried to paint a picture of just how much feces geese can produce on a golf course.

"Geese poop up to three pounds a day," she said. "Let's say you have 100 birds on the course. That's 300 pounds of poop a day. That's a lot of poop. People have been known to slip and fall on it."

"I've been on greens where

I've hated to putt," Orr said of goose droppings on golf courses.

Leranzo Campbell of Sun City used to golf every day. He said he once saw his neighbor clean a golf ball by licking it.

"I don't know why he did this; it was just a stupid habit," he said.

Campbell said he spoke to him about it, but that he couldn't fault the guy for doing an "odd thing."

"I've done odd things — what the heck," he said.

Sun Citian Louis Abdullah, an avid golfer, has also seen players lick their golf balls.

"The ball's a little dirty, and they wet it with their lips or their tongue," he said.

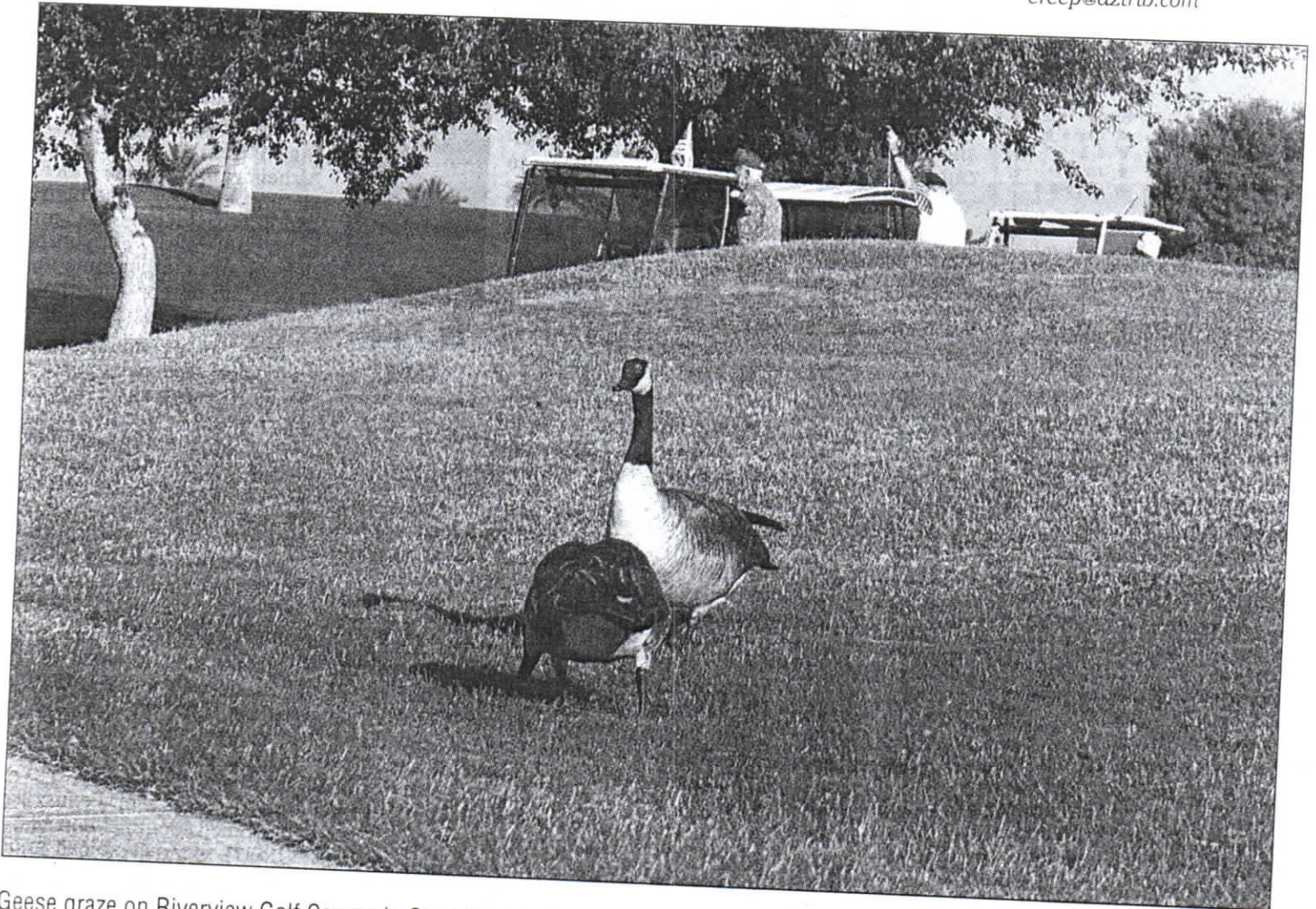
Not all golf courses have problems with geese.

"I've been here since March, and I haven't noticed any geese here," Luthle said of Union Hills. "That's probably because there are a large number of coyotes at this golf course."

The coyotes don't pose much of a problem for players, he said.

"I have never, in my life, ever witnessed somebody lick a golf ball," Luthle said with a laugh.

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Geese graze on Riverview Golf Course in Sun City. Studies show their droppings are harmful to a human's health.

CHARLES WADE/DAILY NEWS-SUN



# Declining golf revenues weigh on rec centers

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Golf, a longtime staple for the Sun City and Sun City West recreation centers, is drawing less and less interest.

The dwindling numbers of rounds being played on community courses are troubling to the recreation centers in part because of the significant money involved in these amenities.

In Sun City West, 60 percent of the budget is allocated for golf while 17 percent of residents play the sport. In Sun City, almost 35 percent of the budget goes toward golf while 9 percent to 11 percent play the game.

However, both Sun City and Sun City West bring in an immense amount of revenue from golf to offset the expenses; the centers' goals is to make the sport self-sufficient.

Recreation Centers of Sun City West Golf Chairman John Orr said 10 out of 250 members who attended a newcomers meeting last month said they were interested in golf.

Recreation Centers of Sun City Golf Chairwoman Beverly Davis said Sun City West

is not alone. At a recent RCSC newcomers meeting, two out of 50 new residents said they golfed.

Orr said the RCSCW must find ways to get people interested in golf because closing any of the four courses in the retirement community isn't an option.

"We cannot eliminate golf courses," he said. "We have to find a solution, and we do not know what to do."

At a recent budget workshop, Sun City West board members attributed part of the problem to the aging community.

In the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the average age in Sun City West was 73.1. That compares to 72.8 in the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Sun City West's governing board members said while some of its members stop playing golf because of age and health concerns, the RCSCW in the past has always been able to pick up the slack with new residents. However, the small samplings of new members show they are not as interested in golf, Orr said.

James Parker, a member of the RCSCW golf subcommittee, said there are several

reasons golf play may be dwindling.

"We have physical handicaps that do not allow people to play as much," he said. "People are not just taking the time to play golf."

Parker said in some instances, both spouses are working, which means they have little time to play the sport.

Jon Cannon, senior business manager who will become general manager July 1, said there were 433,000 rounds played in Sun City West in 1998-1999; that number decreased last year to 345,000 rounds.

"It certainly is an issue," Cannon said.

Orr said the issue could be resolved if the centers can convince members to hit the links. "Sun City West is the golf capital for seniors," he said. "That is true for middle-class people. It's a wonderful deal."

The issue may be more significant in Sun City West where operation of the community's four courses accounts for nearly 60 percent of the overall budget, or \$7.9 million of the \$13.2

See Golf rounds, A5



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nicholas Haja tees off on the 14th at Desert Trails in Sun City West Wednesday.

OVER



## From A1

million total. In Sun City, the community's 7½ courses require just under 34.5 percent of the centers' budget, or \$5 million of \$14.5 million.

The half course refers to the Quail Run, which is a 9-hole course.

Davis said the sport is not as popular as it once was but the reason isn't easily defined.

"It's decreasing all over the state," she said. "We are doing what we can to build it up."

Davis said part of the problem is courses are being built at a dramatic rate, and now there are 49 courses within 10 miles of Sun City that residents can choose from. Included in those 49 are Sun City West golf courses that residents can now use following the RCSCW's ruling last week to open its courses to Sun City

and Sun City Grand residents on a trial basis in hopes of increasing revenue.

"They are coming here for a retirement," Davis said. "They are saying, 'Been there, done that.' Give them time, and they will come around."

Some residents, she said, move into Sun City for the golf courses, though there is a large percentage who move to the retirement community for other amenities such as bowling.

Sun City West, according to Orr, has 5,000 golfers — almost the same as the number of golfers in Sun City, estimated between 4,000 and 5,000, Davis reported.

Davis said the bulk of the golfers are men; Sun City has 800 to 1,000 women golfers. Orr, admitting he is guessing, said 20 to 25 percent of the golfers in Sun City West are women.

While Davis had no concrete numbers, she said golf

rounds in Sun City should be increasing in the current fiscal year.

"It comes and goes," she said. "We have to make the prices more attractive."

Sun City West's Parker said the golf subcommittee is studying the lack of golf play and in the next two to three weeks plans to give the golf committee five possible ways to increase play.

To help generate revenue, Sun City normally allows play to nonmembers from May 1 through Oct. 1, but the ending date has not been determined for this year yet. Sun City also looks to events such as this week's Jaycee tournament at Willowcreek Golf Course that kicks off at 7:30 a.m. Saturday as a way to help fill the golf coffers.

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SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

MAY 1-7, 2002

# SC West allows some non-residents to golf

## Trial program excludes bowling

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board approved a plan to allow residents of Sun City and Sun City Grand to use the community's seven golf courses in a trial program but it rejected proposals to open up Johnson Lanes to non-residents who have business- or worship-related ties to the community.

The decisions were made during the board's April 25 meeting following lively debate on three proposals designed to increase

revenue for the Rec Centers' Bowling and Golf Division - divisions which have experienced reduced usage by residents and are forecast to only break even financially in fiscal year 2002-03 as a result of an infusion of retained earnings left over from the 2001-02 fiscal year.

Starting June 1, rec card-holding residents of Sun City and Sun City Grand, will be able to purchase unused tee times in Sun City West, at the community's guest rate, following the passage of a proposal titled

"Controlled Neighborhood Play."

Non-residents will be able to purchase tee times up to two days in advance, but only after Sun City West residents have two opportunities to purchase tee times.

The proposal passed 6-2, with board members Thomas Fagan and Tom Cook opposing.

Mr. Fagan voted against the plan because he believed it is not needed, that it eliminates residents' exclusive use of the facilities along with their guests, that it would damage property values and it sets a dangerous precedent.

"It violates the expectation of homeowners that the facilities are limited to Sun City West residents," Mr. Fagan said. "Residents look to this association, as the successor of Del Webb to live up to this exclusivity."

But board member Robert Hubbs felt the program is worth trying because of the potential impact it could have.

"I think the key word to me is ... trial," Mr. Hubbs said. "Nobody knows how well it will work. But if you think about the impact, if you add just one more foursome on every course everyday, it will be \$100,000 or \$200,000 impact."

The trial program will end Dec. 31.

A proposal to allow employment of business and professional

organizations located in Sun City West to bowl at Johnson Lanes during the summer and a proposal to allow church bowling leagues to decide whether to permit non-resident parishioners to participate in league play, were turned down by the board.

The board voted to withdraw a proposal made by Mr. Cook to allow non-residents with business or professional associations in Sun City West, to use the community's bowling alleys over summer months.

Intended to boost summer lineage and create better ties with the numerous nurses, doctors, Realtors and other non-residents who work in the community, the proposal was soundly rejected by scores of audience members.

"I am against having outsiders coming into bowl," said Mal Jacobson, resident of Sun City West. "Since Tom Cook has been chairman (of the Bowling Committee) the last couple years, we've had four bowling forums which have been extremely well attended. At the bowling forums, it was overwhelmingly stated to Tom that we did not want outsiders to come and bowl."

"You really should take into consideration the wishes of the bowlers on this subject," Ms. Jacobson continued.

Responding to public sentiment, Mr. Cook asked to withdraw his motion.

"I'm listening to what you

folks are saying and telling me on this regard and if you feel that strongly about it, I'm willing to withdraw the motion," Mr. Cook said.

Last year, the board gave its permission to allow Sun City West firefighters the opportunity to bowl at Johnson Lanes. Its decision on April 25 does not affect that action.

Unhappy with the wording of the church league proposal, the board voted to postpone a decision on that option.

The proposal would allow non-resident members of Sun City West churches, to participate in church bowling leagues paying the guest rate.

The board wanted to revise the proposal to possibly include an age restriction allowing only church members over the age of 50 the opportunity to participate and the board wanted other wording changes.



# Some members balk at limited open golf

**RCSCW:** Governing board considers proposed change to allow Sun City, Sun City Grand residents to use courses

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Richard Cramer of Sun City West doesn't like the idea of opening the community's golf courses to people from Sun City and Sun City Grand.

He says he chose to buy his home in Sun City West instead of Sun City Grand because of all the golf courses and bowling alleys available there.

Attending Thursday's Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing-board meeting, Cramer was just one resident who spoke against a proposed policy that would open the community's golf courses to Sun City and Sun City Grand residents.

"The people here in Sun City West do not want the people in Sun City Grand to play golf or bowl here," Cramer said. "We just don't want them."

The governing board listened to a presentation by golf-committee members Lue Cryer and Jim Parker about the proposed policy change. Cryer said golf rounds have dropped to an all-time low.

"It is something that needs to be studied and evaluated," he said.

Golf committee Chairman John Orr said he is thinking about the members who are on fixed incomes.

"I really don't give a damn if my golf rates go up a dollar or two," he said, adding he can afford it while others can't.

Orr said if the centers were to receive \$100,000 annually from the open-course proposal, he would be happy.

Parker said such a plan would have been unthinkable back in 1998, but times have changed.

"I am sure everyone in this room has suffered the pains of reality," he said. "Like you, we enjoy our community, and like many of you, we enjoy playing seven courses."

Parker cited several reasons golf

rounds may be declining:

- Sun City West is an aging community.

- Increasing numbers of residents are experiencing physical ailments.

- There is a decreased interest in playing golf.

- The stand-alone golf division must be self-supportive.

- Management and the governing board have kept past increases at or below the inflation rate.

Parker said there are two types of golfers in the community — those who can handle rate increases and those who cannot, and the policy of allowing outsiders to use the community's courses is aimed at the latter.

In 1998, 307,144 tee times were not used, but that number had risen to more than 373,000 tee times by 2001.

"Last year, we used half of our tee times that were available," Parker said. "There is a decrease every year."

When looking at two courses — Echo Mesa and Grandview — there were 4,666 unused tee times in January alone.

Parker said other reasons for low golf rounds include frost delays, cold weather, rainouts and course-maintenance closures. But even if a course was closed for two weeks, Parker pointed out the golf division would lose only 50 percent of the tee times available in a month if the courses were otherwise running at full capacity. The courses are running at 50 percent capacity now.

Cryer said the proposed controlled neighborhood play is one way to tackle the problem of decreased rounds. He said Sun City and Sun City Grand residents would be charged guest rates to use Sun City West's golf courses.

**See Residents worry, A6**

VF

GOLF COURSES

SCW

OVER



## From A1

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Residents could schedule tee times by using the registration system or walking in to sign up on Thursdays and Fridays, Cryer said. Sun City and Sun City Grand residents would be able to sign up only on Thursdays and Fridays.

"There needs to be a trial period to see whether this helps," Cryer said. The test period would run through the end of the year, but no starting date has been determined.

A few governing-board members said the proposal was troubling.

Board Governor Larry Watts said if this proposal passes, it needs to be understood that it won't be to the detriment of RCSCW members. He said he knows of residents who go outside the community to golf when guests are visiting because of the high prices visitors have to pay.

Governor Tom Fagan said, "I would encourage the committee to look at possibly reducing rates for a year, maybe lower the age limit to 45- or 50-year-olds," adding if rates were lower, more rounds would be played.

He said he believes that under the proposal, Sun City Grand residents, not Sun City residents, would be the ones traveling to Sun City West's courses, which he said is upsetting.

"Sun City Grand is a competitor to Sun City West," he said. "It will not help us sell our homes in Sun City West. Let me put it this way: If these golf courses were not here, our home prices would drop like a rock."

Governor Dee Hjernstad recommended a three-month test on selected courses, but was told members would rally against that measure because golfers become attached to certain courses.

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Daily News-Sun • Friday, Jan. 25, 2002

# SCW board sinks golf refunds

**UNANIMOUS VOTE:** Some residents at meeting rail against decision

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

There will be no golf refunds in Sun City West, the recreation centers governing board informed its members Thursday.

The board made the decision despite complaints by members who said they paid higher fees than other golfers for the same number of rounds.

The discrepancy stems from a board decision to change the golf fee structure, which left some residents paid up on the old system while others got a break for 80 rounds under the new system.

John Orr, chairman of the golf committee, said a few residents are upset because they paid \$725 for a golf card and \$180 for a trail pass for a total cost of \$905. Under the new structure, however, the cost is \$825 for a Kachina Card; trail passes are no longer needed under the new fee structure.

The only refunds offered will be for members who hold both a trail pass and K Card since a trail pass can only be used with a G Card.

Orr said the committee discussed the possibility of giving refunds, but ended up voting 9-0 against the idea.

"It was felt we had done a price reduction for golfers playing less than 80 rounds," Orr said, adding golfers are being charged slightly more for rounds over 80.

Stan Hembury said he was informed he would be getting a rebate and is now being told he will not.

"That is not fair," he said. "I don't think we are getting a fair hearing. It just seems to me you could prorate this thing."

Glen Lockingbill also was upset because he maintains he was told there was a refund coming.

"It doesn't seem to me that system of the board is equitable," he said. "I do not think this is fair. I really don't."

Orr, the board's vice president, said the board followed typical business practices. He said he understands all the concerns, but pointed out he also paid \$905 and does not expect a refund.

"If you buy groceries today and their prices go down tomorrow, you don't get a refund from (the store)," he said. "It is virtually impossible to come up with a pricing scheme that not only eliminates all inequities but is also easy to administer."

"If K Cards had gone up,

how many people would have gone up and said 'I insist on paying more'" Orr said.

"We charge on an annual basis," he said. "We do not want to set a precedent. (Other agencies) set an annual rate and stay to it, and we recommend that also be our case."

As another example, Orr explained an auto dealership could be offering \$500 rebates but then increase them to \$2,500 a few days later without going back to those who already received the \$500.

"Folks, they are not going to get another rebate," he said. "That is the way the economy works."

Golf committee members, he said, worked long and hard on the new golf structure, and they believe it is fair.

"I thought we did a hell of a job," he said. "I am sorry (people) can't accept that."

Hembury told Orr he was misleading people because some auto dealerships offer zero percent financing while several department stores commonly will match lower prices of competitors.

"There are a lot of differences, John," Hembury said. "I feel like an old country boy because I don't understand."

Hembury wanted to know if the board had voted on the decision to not give refunds.

"There is nothing to do," replied governing board President Allen Young, pointing out no vote was necessary since the policy was not being changed.

"I am not a happy camper," Hembury countered.

Young cut off comments from the audience after three speakers so the board could return to its agenda.

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Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, March 19, 2002

# Sun City West Open?

**PROPOSAL:** Test period allowing Sun City and Sun City Grand golfers on courses

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

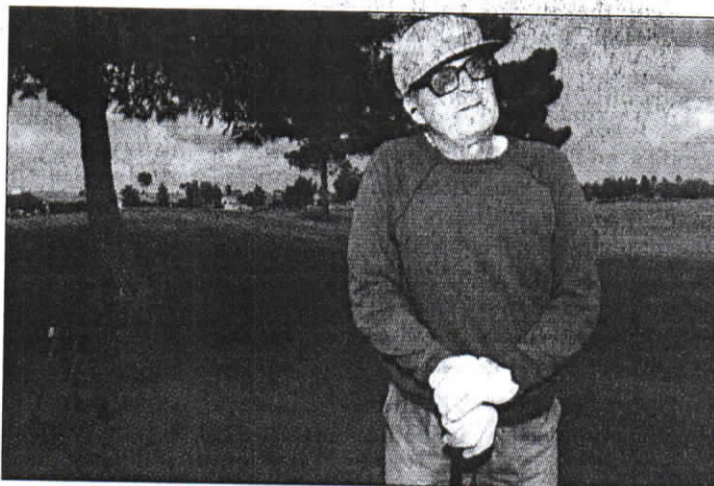
A Sun City West golf committee recommended Monday a test program that would allow Sun City and Sun City Grand residents to play on the community's golf courses.

The golf committee, according to Golf Chairman John Orr, plans to ask the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board to put the proposal in place through the end of the year before making a decision on whether to make it permanent. The proposal was delivered to the golf committee Monday by the RCSCW Promotion of Golf Subcommittee.

Orr said there is no definite date of when the courses would open to Sun City and Sun City Grand residents. "As soon as it is approved and publicized," Orr said.

Three of four local golfers contacted by the Daily News-Sun aren't embracing the plan to open the community's golf courses to Sun City and Sun City Grand residents.

"Absolutely not. It should be residents only," said Sun



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tony Lucik says the proposal to open Sun City West Recreation Centers golf courses to nonresidents is OK with him as long as residents get preference.

City West resident R.E. Gordon. "It's our course. We pay for it. Let them play (where they live). There are not enough tee times now, let alone sharing it with others."

While Sun City courses are open to nonresidents in the summer, Sun City West's courses would be open to nonresidents year-round. Sun City, though, is open to the general public, not just to residents of its sister retirement communities.

"We will only be open to other seniors," Orr said. "The intention is to not do it seasonally."

Phone calls to Beverly Davis, chairwoman of the Recreation Centers of Sun

City golf committee, were not returned as of this morning.

The reason for proposing the courses be open to nonresidents is to increase revenue for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. Orr said the numbers have not been crunched yet, but he expects the increase in revenues would be significant.

Orr said he also expects, if the recommendation is approved, that Grand residents will use the courses much more than Sun City residents for two reasons:

- Sun City Grand does not have executive golf courses.
- Fees will be much

**See Panel proposes, A5**

## From A1

cheaper than Sun City Grand charges.

Fred Martin said he understands Sun City Grand golf fees are higher, but Sun City West residents should not be punished because of that.

"No, I don't want them here," said Martin, who was practicing his drives Monday at Echo Mesa Golf Course. "One of the reasons is the golf courses are better than the courses in Sun City."

"We have got more traffic than we can handle," he said. "We have already got too many golfers. I know Johnny Orr is trying to get more revenue."

If the courses are not being used as much as RCSCW wants, Martin said,

then the board should improve the courses rather than bringing in nonresidents to play.

Martin said the overseeding at Pebblebrook Golf Course earlier this year turned into a disaster, causing golfers to look elsewhere for tee times.

"They tried to do an economic job, and they screwed up," he said.

Martin said he believes nonresident golfers will be the only ones who will benefit if the governing board accepts the recommendation.

"If I lived in Sun City I would say, 'What a great idea,'" Martin said.

Orr said some kind of solution had to be developed because golf play is down 7,100 rounds, resulting

in a loss of about \$220,000 from what was budgeted for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. When comparing play from last year, RCSCW is down 3,200 rounds or \$105,000 from the same time last year.

In February, for example, Orr pointed out there were 9,700 unused tee times, and over the last three years rounds have fallen by more than 56,000.

Orr also mentioned the cost of providing golf to members has been increasing because of course maintenance and the declining number of rounds played. Because of these factors, Orr said, golf started to become too expensive for residents on a fixed income. By allowing other golfers to play the courses, increases in fees can be kept to a minimum, he

said.

Orr said RCSCW still is in the black, but expenses have been cut about as much as possible.

Sun City West golfer Dick Floro said if outsiders are to play on Sun City West courses, they should be charged higher fees.

"They are not residents," Floro said. "If they want to pay more, that's OK."

Golfer Tony Lucik said, "It doesn't make any difference to me. They can use whatever courses they want. Revenue is revenue. It's a matter of an individual opinion."

Lucik, though, said priority under any plan should be given to residents over nonresidents.

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OVER





**MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN**

John Orr, golf chairman for the Sun City West Recreation Centers, wants to institute a test period to determine if open golf will play in the community.



# Round-up at Desert Trails is a true Arizona experience

## Involves Posse, Marshal and journalist

By Randy Altenhöff 214-2417

Friday, before Christmas, a phone call came in from Ken Evroy of W. Black Gold Lane advising that nine or 10 horses were out on the fairway behind his home, having lunch.

Well maybe not those words exactly but when I returned his call, the information was quite plain that something that is not supposed to happen was happening on the first hole at Desert Trail Golf Course. Grabbing my camera, I charged across town and encountered a fire truck coming from the area where the horses were reported to be contained.

Information was sketchy but, it was stated, a fireman had been seen jogging along with the horses as they ran down the streets from the open range North of the golf course. Camera in hand, I went out on the course to interview one or two of the trespassers. That was when the Marshal drove over in his big impressive golf cart and advised that I was trespassing and to "get the H... out of there," cause I was going to spook the horses and he didn't feel like another hour or two of "playing cowboy."

Hearing the comments of the over-zealous Marshal, Ed Parilla,

a neighbor from Las Brisas Lane, drove over and offered to get me closer for a better shot of the gelding and his girl friends and their colts. Ed had been part of the round-up and provided what information he knew about the situation.

The owner of the horses was back with a sack of feed and ropes and a halter. The animals were contentedly grazing after their miles of travel down black-top and concrete roads into the community. The golf course grass was cut short in most spots but longer around the sand traps.

After seeing the hoof prints in the sand traps, I wondered what the morning golfers would think when they saw the unraked traps. At this moment, the rancher attracted the gelding's attention with the feed bag and a halter was slipped-on without much fuss. Unfortunately, the other mares and especially the small dapple gray were curious but skittish and stopped and tromped around whenever a rope was slipped over their necks.

When the gray was roped, she charged away and all the rancher could do was let the rope go. Wherever that horse went, the others were sure to follow. It was evident the rancher needed

help. One woman held the gelding and was rewarded with a fat lip as the huge animal turned to watch the charge of the light brigade led by the gray.

Finally, the rancher's daughter found the location which he had given her over his cell phone. A plan was made to ignore the others and lead the gelding out to Executive Drive and down to Deer Valley Drive from whence they came. In the midst of our discussion, a golf cart cowboy tried to cut off the frisky gray but with a neck down charge, she broke free from the attempted blockade and charged to the top of the hill.

Yep, you guessed it, the green we were all trying so hard to protect. Six of the nine horses converged on the flag and, for a minute, I thought one was going to pull the pin! It was about that time I was asking the rancher the name of his ranch and what his name was. I told him I was there to help and I would call later and interview him by phone. I can't blame him if the information he gave me is wrong after seeing those six on the green and the large pile of manure in the fairway.

About the time I asked how to spell "Bonine Ranch," which could be "Bow Nine Ranch," the

golf cart cowboys got behind the green and got the horses moving toward us.

What were all the neighbors doing, you ask, while all this was going on? Well, what every intelligent person should do in a case like this. Stay by your property and only move when the horse or horses invade your space. One family was cooking steaks, others were talking to their neighbors.

Where was the Posse you ask? One patrolman had positioned his vehicle on Robertson Drive, When the horses appeared to be corralled, he left before the fun began. The right thing to do since he was road-bound and the horses liked the feel of the soft earth under their hoofs and stayed on the fairway.

The sun was quickly disappearing behind the White Tank Mountains and dusk was only minutes away. The rancher, who told me his name was Jeff, began leading the gelding toward Executive Drive and asked that I charge ahead and position myself at the crossroads of Executive Way and Spring Valley Drive. He would walk the horse to SVD and turn West. Not knowing whether or not the plan would be successful, I called the Posse on my cell phone and advised what was about to transpire.

Parking my vehicle to block the entrance to South Executive Drive, the Desert Trails Marshal

See **ROUND-UP**, Page 2



## ROUND-UP,

*from Page 1*

took-up a position to block Deer Valley East. Would you believe, those range mares seemed to know they were going home and walked and trotted single file into the sunset. Two Posse vehicles arrived in time to follow the procession out of town. Hopefully, no one would spook them and cause a stampede to the rear. If they did, the Posse could cut them off at the pass.

My legal advisor at the water cooler educated me on the laws of Arizona. "This State is an Open Range State," he advised. "It is your responsibility to protect your own property. Cattle and horses are left out on open range and should they walk into your yard you have to take it up with them." I guess the same goes for sheep but, I was afraid to ask.

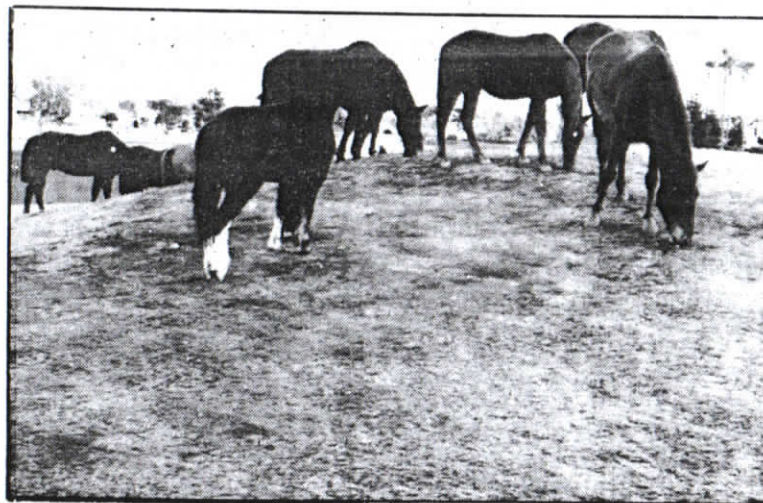
## PLATES, *from Page 1*

authorized Third Party.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2002, upon sale a vehicle title must be transferred within 15 days. If a vehicle is sold and will not be replaced, the license plate must be turned in to MVD or an authorized Third Party within 30 days. If the remaining plate credit is more than \$350, vehicle owners may be eligible for a refund.

"All Arizona motorists will benefit from the law because it will reduce the number of unregistered, uninsured vehicles, while allowing vehicle owners to use the fees they've already paid," said Stanton.

More information is available on MVD's Website at [www.dot.state.az.us](http://www.dot.state.az.us) and click on Motor Vehicle Division.



Someone must have told these range horses on the Desert Trail course that the grass is greener on the grass. Photo, Randy Altenhoff



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 Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Dec. 15, and Sunday, Dec. 16, 2001
 

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# Sun City West experiments with tee times

## FROST-DELAY

**POLICY:** Early golfers would miss 18 holes of play

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

No matter how cold it gets overnight this winter, Sun City West golfers will be able to play golf.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West has implemented a frost-delay policy to avoid cancellations that have occurred in past years.

John Orr, RCSCW golf chairman,

said at one time or another in prior years, all golfers have had their tee times bumped at least an hour. That often led to cancellations throughout the day.

Under the new policy — which would go into effect anytime there is considerable frost on the ground at 7 a.m. — the first golfers of the day would start on the fifth hole in order to let others start on time. The first tee time is 7 a.m. when there is no frost.

Other early-bird golfers also would be forced to move ahead to another hole depending on how much frost had accumulated overnight.

The golfers playing fewer holes

would be charged for nine holes, not 18.

"The (early-bird) golfers would play less, but would finish on schedule," Orr said. He added the advantage to this policy is residents would still be able to play some rounds while keeping their other appointments.

Orr said the frost-delay policy is not intended for short-term delays where tee times are delayed 10 to 15 minutes, but is meant for delays where cancellations would likely occur.

"In the past there were cancellations," Orr said. "There were other commitments. We are trying this new method to move people ahead on the

courses."

In 2000, Orr said, there were 10 frost delays in November alone. "It was a terrible time (for) revenues," he said. "People didn't pay because they pay when they start to play."

The decision to institute the new policy was made in the fall after several discussions about what to do in the wake of last year's bad season.

"The big thing is we are trying this for a year, and then we will decide where to go," Orr said.

*Michael Maresch can be reached at [mmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresch@aztrib.com) or at 623-876-2513.*



Daily News-Sun • Friday, Oct. 26, 2001

# SCW anticipates golf-fee hike

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West residents likely will see their golf fees increase in the near future.

Recreation Centers of Sun City West Director John Orr said he plans to bring a fee structure proposal to the board next month. The new fees would take effect Jan. 1, 2002.

The fee structure subcommittee of the golf committee has finished looking at the proposal, and the reaction from the clubs around Sun City West has been positive, Orr said.

The increase is needed because RCSCW's golf operations are in the red this year, Orr said. Part of that was expected because of the summer months, he said, but the board still needs to do something to offset the expenses.

"The purpose of the fee structure is not an attempt to raise more money," he said, adding that golf needs to pay for itself. "One of the things we are trying to do is get rid of the trail pass. It's been a bone of contention for some time."

The current and proposed objectives for the proposed fees are as follows:

- Raising more money for the golf division, which would eliminate the recurring problem of budget deficits.
- Maintaining seasonal equity and treating seasonal and year-round residents the same.
- Maintaining a fee structure where frequent golfers' average cost per round would be less.
- Reducing the perceived fee inequity problem by raising fees paid by frequent golfers

Golf rounds	Current average	Proposed average	Increase in dollars	Percent
40	\$27.93	\$28.38	\$18	2.3%
60	\$20.24	\$21.08	\$50	4.18%
80	\$16.37	\$17.44	\$85	6.5%
100	\$14.03	\$15.25	\$122	8.7%
120	\$12.48	\$13.79	\$157	10.5%
140	\$11.36	\$12.75	\$194	12.2%
160	\$10.56	\$11.97	\$226	13.4%
180	\$9.93	\$11.36	\$258	14.4%
200	\$9.43	\$10.88	\$290	15.4%
220	\$9.01	\$10.48	\$322	16.2%
240	\$8.67	\$10.15	\$354	17.0%

Source: Recreation Centers of Sun City West

TINA GAMEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

relative to those paid by infrequent golfers.

- Simplifying the fee structure by eliminating surcharges, trail fees and range tokens.

The current version recommended by the fee structure subcommittee would increase golf cards from \$725 to \$875 annually. Rounds would be purchased for \$6.50 in multiples of 10.

Residents would not be charged for trail fees or range balls under the proposal. Members are now paying \$180 for trail fees annually and 50 cents for a small bucket of range balls.

The summer golf pass would increase from \$80 to \$100 for 10 rounds of golf with no refunds, and the twilight rate would be \$11 or \$6 in the summer.

Residents who rarely play golf would be charged \$30 a round compared to the current \$25 fee for regulation courses and \$27 for executive courses.

These fees would decrease to \$11 and \$14 in the summer.

The subcommittee also is in favor of charging guests \$40 for regular courses and \$34 for executive courses. Summer guest rates are \$20 and \$17.

Sun City West golfers now pay surcharges of \$5 in the winter and \$3 in the summer, but those fees would be eliminated under the recommendation.

Orr stressed that the fees are recommendations and could change.

"Nobody knows what the final process will be," he said. The subcommittee of the golf committee will meet with the budget and finance committee before the governing board votes on the issue.

"The truth is, nobody has a clue to what the final recommendations will be," Orr said. "There will be an awful lot of dialogue in the next month."

Michael Maresch can be reached at [mmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresch@aztrib.com) or at 623-876-2513.



Thursday, July 5, 2001 THE WESTER

## SCW Rec Centers approve new golf course policy statement

By Randy Altenhoff

The Governing Board of the Rec Centers of Sun City West during the June meeting unanimously passed proposed Policy Statement-G3 which deals with golf course amenities. The following is the current policy which rescinds and replaces the former G-3, Golf Course, Lakes and Water Fountains, and G-4, Golf Course Landscaping, policies in their entirety.

### 1.0 General

The seven golf courses owned and operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc., for the benefit of its members and their guests are prominent and important features of the community. They provide both visual and recreational opportunities that enhance the social, recreational, and real estate values of Sun City West. The Governing Board is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of these amenities.

### 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the rules and procedures by which the fountains, swans, and landscape of the golf courses shall be maintained, enhanced, or removed.

### 3.0 Policy

3.1 Swan Program: The Recreation Centers' program of providing for swans on many of the golf course lakes contributes to both the aesthetic values of the community and the golfing experience. It is, therefore, the policy of the Governing Board that the personnel costs of this program will be borne by the Golf Divi-

sion and the material and veterinarian costs will be born by the Recreation Division.

3.2 Golf Course Decorative Fountains: Golf course decorative fountains provide little to the functionality of the golf course lakes and ponds and are relatively expensive to install, operate, and maintain. They do, however, contribute to the community and golfing visual experience. It is, therefore, the policy of the Governing Board that the energy costs necessary to operate these fountains will be borne by the Golf Division and the maintenance, repair, and/or replacement costs of these fountains will be borne by the Recreation Division.

3.3 Golf Course Maintenance: Maintaining the golf courses to fulfill their primary purpose will be the number one priority of the Golf Maintenance Department. The Golf Maintenance Department will establish schedules for the routine maintenance requirements of the course and all landscaping. The emphasis will be first on maintaining superior playing conditions on the courses and, secondly, on maintaining the landscaping features of the courses in a functional and aesthetically pleasing manner. Residents, homeowners, and golfers may make specific maintenance requests of the Golf Maintenance Department related to the courses and landscaping. The Golf Maintenance Department will normally respond to these requests during regularly scheduled mainte-

See REC, Page 5

OVER



nance of the course, unless special and unusual circumstances dictate immediate response, or time is available during slack maintenance periods. Requests for landscaping treatments or maintenance that provides preferential treatment will not be honored.

#### 4.0 Additions or Enhancements

4.1 Fountains: Enhancements to existing golf course fountains or new fountains, found to be feasible, may be approved for inclusion in the annual budgets of the Golf and Recreation Departments in accordance with section 3.2, above. The Governing Board may favorably consider resident requests for additional fountains or for enhancement of existing fountains, under the following conditions:

A. All acquisition and installation costs of any new or enhancement fountains approved by the Governing Board will be borne by the requesting residents.

B. New fountains will be considered only in lakes where they are visible from major community thoroughfares.

4.2 Landscape: Although the courses are often regarded by abutting property owners as extensions of their backyards, the courses are designed to be maintained and utilized for their primary intended purpose, which is golf, and related activities. Maintenance of the golf courses is funded entirely by fees paid by golfers. The Annual Membership Fee paid by all residents does not provide in any way for maintenance of the golf courses. Although original and subsequent purchasers of residences abutting the golf courses paid premiums, due to the enhancement of property values attributable to the golf courses, none of those premiums have been paid to the Rec Centers and do not provide for ongoing maintenance of the courses; nor do they provide the property owner with any special rights beyond their property lines.

Landscaping on the periphery of the golf courses enhances the attractiveness of the courses, retards erosion, and limits errant golf balls from straying into adjoining private property. The General Manager and his staff are responsible for maintaining this landscaping in a manner consistent with these objectives while exercising prudent cost controls.

Certain areas of some golf courses do not ordinarily come into play. Homeowner participation in landscaping and ongoing maintenance of these specifically designated areas may be permitted.

Homeowners must make written request to management. Approval may be granted if the Golf Division determines that there will be no alteration to the landscaping theme, adverse impact on play, or increased cost of maintaining the course. This privilege may be revoked for good cause at any time by management.

#### 5.0 Prohibitions

5.1 Golf course architects designed each of the Sun City West golf courses. Certain features, including irrigation reservoirs, trees and other plantings were included in the design of the course. These features are both functional and aesthetic components of the courses. Homeowner alteration, removal or additions to these golf course landscaping features is specifically prohibited, except as provided for in 4.2, above. Homeowners or residents will not plant any trees or plants on the golf courses. Homeowner or other resident requests for alteration of the landscaping features of the golf courses will not ordinarily be considered.

5.2 Use of the course, by policy, is limited to use of authorized golfers. Other uses such as walking, jogging, cycling, and other activities are prohibited.

#### 6.0 Review

In accordance with Bylaw 4D.6, the Governing Board has delegated to the Golf Committee the responsibility for regular review of Golf Division maintenance and operations. The Golf Committee shall make recommendations to the Governing Board regarding any proposed alterations of Golf Course design. Management will periodically present any management recommended alterations, or significant landscaping programs, to the Golf Committee for review and recommendations to the Governing Board.

#### 7.0 Rescission

This policy rescinds and replaces the former G-3, Golf Course Lakes and Water Fountains, and G-4, Golf Course Landscaping, policies in their entirety.



Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, May 29, 2001

# Sun City West sinks nonresident golfing

**PROPOSAL NIXED:**  
Governing board  
abides by wishes  
of rec centers'  
members

**BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Residents of Sun City Grand won't be playing on Sun City West golf courses this summer.

Nor will any other

outsiders, unless they or the Grand residents are the personal guests of Sun City West Recreation Centers members.

After lengthy discussion and considerable vehement opposition from audience members, the governing board at the Recreation Centers of Sun City West turned thumbs down on an experimental plan to allow Sun City Grand golfers access to Sun City West courses this summer.

The play would have been

limited to tee times arranged only two days in advance, would have required the Surprise golfers to produce a valid Sun City Grand activity card, and could not have interfered with regular play by Sun City West residents.

The trial balloon that was shot down 5-3 was an experiment, said Golf Committee Chairman John Orr. It came with the unanimous vote of the Golf Committee as a

**See SCW board, A5**

## From A1

resolution for the board to consider, he said at Thursday's governing board session.

The test would have run from June 1 to Sept. 30.

As he introduced the idea, Orr said, "Last night I checked my e-mail and somebody spoke out vehemently against outside play.

"A lot of people seem to think that this is the camel's nose in the tent, that we will ultimately become a full-time public course operation, but I doubt that.

"We have few carts to rent, and no place to store other people's carts. Sun City Grand is close, just across Grand Avenue," Orr said, and residents there would be the only ones likely to play in Sun City West.

Board member Tom Fagan said he was ambivalent on the idea, and asked for "a full airing before we vote." He got it.

But he also noted that Sun City Grand residents themselves had a problem with outside golfers, with crowded courses and rising prices.

"Why should we help them solve their problems by giving them an out — to play on our courses?" he asked. "We should be saying, 'Buy a house here if you want to use our facilities.'"

Board member Dudley Gibson noted that the Recreation Centers' purpose "is

to provide these things for the benefit of our members.

"I see a host of problems if we have outside play."

Larry Watts, a former governing board member and golf committee chairman, said "most of our members would prefer to keep our facilities for our use, and pay what it takes to run them.

"Invited guests are just that, invited. They are not here for revenue. The idea that we need revenue from outsiders in order to keep our facilities running is galling to most of us."

Resident Bob Nelson charged that the entire purpose of the outside play proposal was "to raise money," while board member Bob Jones asked, "What are we trying to learn? How many people will come in summer, or year round?"

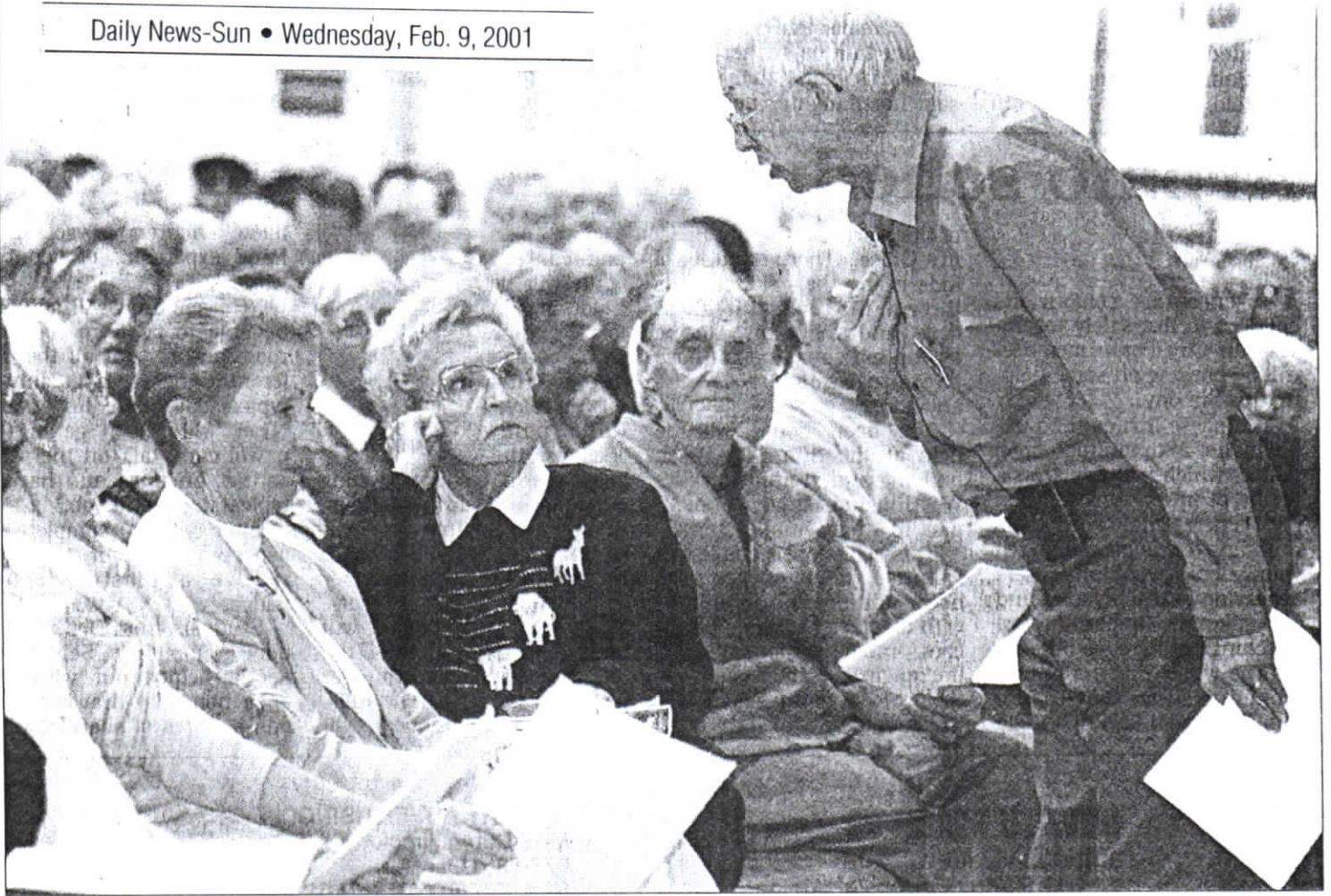
In the end, the board downed the idea.

Similar questions about opening bowling lanes to outside play, either in leagues that can't get enough members or in major tournaments, drew similar comments from residents.

It was clear from the residents who spoke on both topics that non-residents regularly using Sun City West recreation facilities wasn't an acceptable idea.

The Sun City golf courses have already been opened to non-residents for the summer, in an effort to boost revenue. Coupons for other area golf courses also are being accepted at the Sun City courses.





MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

John Orr, golf chairman of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board, speaks to a crowd of 1,000 Thursday night.

# Angry crowd attacks SCW golf management



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carl Fischer, left, and Hugh Grigsby listen to comments at the Golf Forum Thursday night in Palm Ridge Recreation Center, Sun City West.

**FORUM DRAWS 1,000:** General manager's pledge to hold the line on fees fails to appease golfers

BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The mere mention of the name R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, general manager at the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, brought loud boos from a packed crowd at a Golf Forum Thursday night.

The angry roar coursed

through the crowd of a thousand or so as Golf Committee chairman John Orr began the session saying he had an memo from Andersen-Wyckoff that he wanted to read.

The ruckus was typical of the rest of the two-hour session on the golf budget and golf operations. The meeting was set up to discuss alternatives to eliminate an expected deficit in the golf division, which has to balance its own budget.

The initial uproar almost prevented the crowd from hearing that

See Golfers lash, A5

VF  
GOLF COURSES  
SCW

OK



Andersen-Wyckoff would present a balanced golf budget for 2001-02 "with no proposed fee increases" and no revenue from outside play.

Both had been controversial ideas floated by Orr at a governing board meeting last month, and had drawn sharp attacks.

Orr, an economist and retired professor, had prepared a multi-page analysis of golf operation costs and revenues. It included 12 key questions that should be examined to help stem the growing deficit that results from declining play and continuing higher costs.

But the crowd hardly gave Orr a chance to explain anything.

And the critics totally ignored the pledge from Andersen-Wyckoff that no fee hikes and no outside players were needed.

For his part, Andersen-Wyckoff sat virtually unnoticed on the left side of the large room, wearing white socks, blue jeans, a jacket and baseball cap. He never said a word, despite angry critics who lashed out at his managerial abilities, alleged empire-building, and several of whom urged Orr to reveal Andersen-Wyckoff's salary.

Also unnoticed were two

### Text of R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff's Thursday memo on the golf budget

I have today finalized my budget proposal to the Budget and Finance Committee.

*The golf budget is balanced, with no proposed fee increases.* (Emphasis in original)

The Golf Division budget presumes a transfer of some expenses that have historically been charged to the Golf Division, but which belong in the Recreation Division; and a proposed new policy, for board consideration with respect to the allocation of general and administrative costs, generally referred to as Shared Services.

The budget also anticipates a reorganization of the golf shop operations and a decrease in personnel in both golf maintenance and golf operation.

The budget does not presume any play by non-Sun City West residents.

The proposed budget and its inherent policy issues will now be reviewed in detail by the Budget and Finance Committee and ultimately by the members and the governing board before adoption in May.

members of the governing board at the Recreation Centers of Sun City, who had slipped into the meeting to see what they could learn in preparation for a meeting in that community that is likely to deal with the same issues.

The Sun City board members, Jerry Swintek and Bev Davis, also stayed quiet as some Sun City West golfers dismissed Sun City facilities as "antiquated but not falling

apart" and "not the way we'd like to go."

The Palm Ridge meeting was not intended to reach any decisions, and it did not.

Michael Fox, who said he had been a board member of "the only country club in the city limits of Chicago" lectured Orr on how poor the performance of the Rec Centers is and on its need to

better comply with state law. He also angrily suggested that the annual audit is performed by "friends" of the board and may be covering multitude of sins.

Others suggested the money could be saved by having volunteers mow fairways, groom greens and rake sandtraps, and by making a starts shotgun, to increase rounds played — an idea Orr said he'd take to the Golf Committee.

Many urged lower overhead, something Andersen-Wyckoff said he is working on, including cuts in the golf division operations. One man suggested a review of whether pro shop operations should be contracted out.

Other suggestions were to sell a part-year G card. G cards represent annual pre-paid, no-limit play, but are less useful to part-year residents.

When it was over, Orr stood against the front of the stage, and described himself as "totally exhausted."

He said: "There was a lot of guff while all I was trying to do was provide an explanation of the situation, and get some input.

"But many of these folks don't want to listen, don't want the facts."

Orr said his presentation "was begun as soon as I thought I had a chance at the golf committee chairmanship," and had been in his home computer, under revision, for about six weeks.



Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2001

# Low-cost twilight golf comes to Sun City West

**REVENUE NEEDED:**  
RCSCW hoping to generate additional funds

STAFF REPORT

Sun City West golfers can play low-cost late afternoon rounds beginning Monday under a new twilight golf program.

The idea is to increase revenue by encouraging golfers to play more rounds, or by adding golfers who might not otherwise play at all, said Bob Wagner, golf operations

manager.

The twilight program is available on all seven courses run by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

It offers a \$5 fee for members, or a \$10 fee for guests, to those who do not hold annual golf passes, for rounds started at 3:30 p.m. or later.

For G-card holders, Wagner said, the 18-hole cost is the regular nine-hole rate.

Cart rentals or trail fees, if necessary, are additional and charged at the nine-hole rate.

Golfers may play as many holes as light will permit.

Tee times are available only on a

walk-in basis, under the new policy.

Golfers may call the respective golf shops to see if times might be available, but they will be issued tee times only on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Twilight fees won't apply to men's or women's club play, or to tournaments.

The program is experimental, Wagner said, and may be terminated at any time.

The action comes two weeks after the governing board approved action to allow the general manager to implement such policies, in part to boost revenue in this year's budget.



# Golfers to vote on frost-delay procedure

11-21-00

**SUN CITY WEST:**  
New method for  
rescheduling tee  
times in hands of  
golfers

**STAFF REPORT**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West golfers playing Recreation Centers courses have the opportunity to vote for a new frost-delay procedure that might allow everyone to complete scheduled rounds closer to their scheduled times.

Ballots are available at all seven courses, and voting ends Dec. 6.

Currently, when frost delays the day's start of play, all golfers are pushed back by the amount of time lost to the frost.

While golfers with early tee times can play a full 18 holes under this system, all other golfers are inconvenienced as later-day, nongolf appointments and plans are disrupted or have to be cancelled.

In addition, frost delays cut

into course revenues.

The new plan would allow golfers to complete their rounds at or near the scheduled tee time.

If a frost delay is less than 30 minutes, everyone will be sent off as soon as the frost clears. If the delay is more than 30 minutes, early tee-time golfers will be assigned to the hole they most likely would be playing had they started on time, and they would be charged only for nine holes.

Later tee-time golfers would start as scheduled.

This plan allows everyone to play that day with little disruption to other scheduled non-golf activity.

Although the proposed procedure may not be universally employed at all area courses affected by frost, it is one that may be suited for the Sun City West golfing community, officials believe.

Ballots will be given to all golfers on centers courses. A recreation card number is required to vote, and each player may vote only once. Nongolfers may not vote.

A decision should be reached soon after the voting ends.



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 Daily News-Sun • Friday, Sept. 29, 2000
 

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# Sun City West golf operations lose money

## ASSET-PRESERVATION

### FEE: Funds transferred to cover shortfall

BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Golf operations at the Recreation Centers of Sun City West were \$215,000 in the red in the fiscal year ended June 30, and management already has taken steps to ensure there is no similar loss this year.

Meantime, at the governing-board meeting Thursday, members

unanimously approved using the Golf Division's share of a new asset-preservation fee to cover the loss.

That \$800 one-time fee is paid by new buyers of homes in Sun City West. It is allocated to each of the three divisions — golf, bowling and centers.

General Manager R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff said new golf competitions and such things as a night games would help improve rounds played and boost revenue. Expenses are being watched closely, he said.

He said there were no plans to boost golf charges.

Andersen-Wyckoff and golf-committee chairman Dudley

Gibson each said that an early start to summer and higher afternoon temperatures cut into rounds played and boosted irrigation costs.

However, a study by Todd Patty, environmental-services manager, has resulted in more efficient use of pumps and should cut power bills by \$19,000 or more a year, the general manager said.

The golf division also is saving money by laundering towels in-house rather than using a commercial laundry service, Andersen-Wyckoff said.

Because bids on the remodeling of the pro shop at Pebblebrook Golf Course were about \$150,000 over estimates, that work has been put

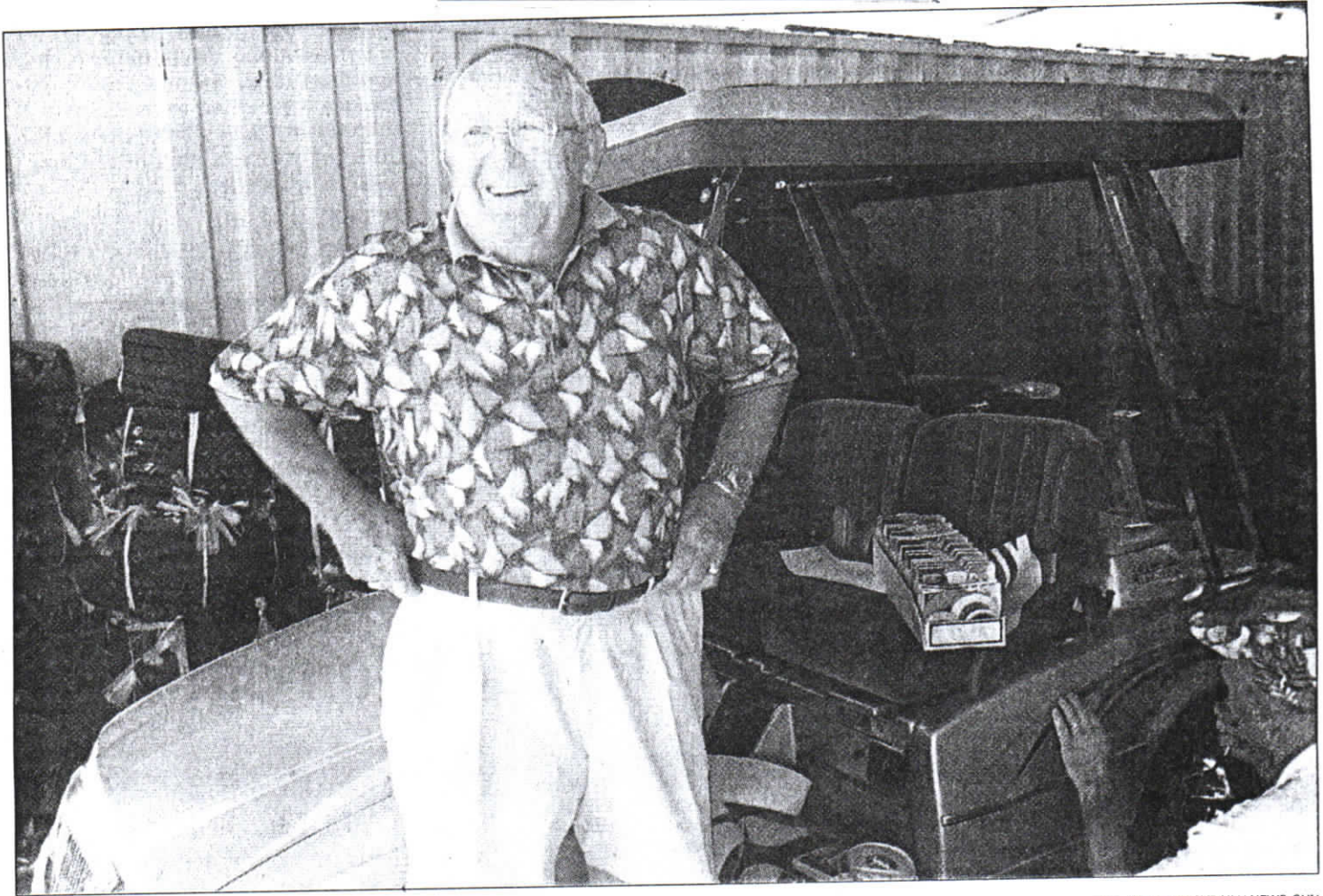
off and the design is being restudied for possible savings, he said.

As well as approving the preservation-fee transfer, the board OK'd earlier emergency spending of about \$79,000 for remodeling and repair work on the Sports Pavilion, some of it connected with the opening of the new Strike Zone Eatery there, and other sums for more routine maintenance.

Andersen-Wyckoff and board members said the Strike Zone, operated under contract, seems to be working well and has eliminated losses incurred when the Centers operated a grill there.

Andersen-Wyckoff expects to have a contract for food service in golf-course snack shops ready by November, he said.





E. B. McGOVERN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fred Dunikoski is all smiles about the purchase of his new electric golf car that is receiving the final painting touches at Pohle Golf Cars in Sun City.

# Not for golf courses?

## ELECTRIC CARS:

Questions surround new law limiting access, tax credits

MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fred Dunikoski of Sun City West is looking forward to two things: Taking his neighborhood electric vehicle on the golf course and getting a state tax credit for buying the alternative-fuel vehicle.

But he only gets to do both — use it on the golf course and get the tax credit — because he's buying it before July 1.

A new law intends to keep neighborhood electric vehicles, or NEVs, purchased after July 1, off golf courses if

their owners took the tax credit. If caught on the course, they face a \$1,000 fine, and the tax credit is forfeited.

"If the neighborhood electric vehicle is purchased after July 1, they are not allowed on the golf course, if the tax credit is taken," said Amanda Ormond, director of the Department of Commerce. "The provision that relates to being on the golf course kicks in July 1. Those bought before July 1 won't be affected."

However, state officials don't know how the law will be enforced or who will enforce it.

"Enforcement possibility is difficult," said Ormond. "The Department of Commerce is not going to be the entity to enforce this provision, and I'm not sure who will. There is nobody defined in the statute."

Certain neighborhood electrical

vehicles, which resemble golf cars, qualify for a tax credit of \$1,000 or 50 percent of the vehicle's cost, whichever is greater.

Paul Senseman, press secretary for House Speaker Jeff Groskost, who drafted the Clean Air Act 2000, said many legislators did not want the tax credit to apply to NEVs that would be used on golf courses.

Because many Sun Citians who own NEVs use them for trips around town and on golf courses, the provision to keep them off courses seems to contradict the objective of the law — to get more people out of gas-powered cars and into non-polluting vehicles. NEV owners and manufacturers say.

Proponents of the provision, however, say that the focus is on alternative fuel cars, not golf cars.

*(over)*

See Electric cars, A5





E.B. McGOVERN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Electric golf cars sit for sale in Sun City.

## Electric cars kept off golf courses

### From A1

Marcel Benberou, senior budget analyst for the governor's office, said that because of limited funds, the program is focused on alternative fuel automobiles.

"The objective is to clean the air. The way you are going to do that, is to create incentive for vehicles that are being utilized. If you want to take the tax credit — since resources are limited — you need to focus on active vehicles — those on the street, not the ones on the golf course."

Rep. Mike Gleason of Sun City West, R-District 15, agrees the original bill was designed for electric vehicles, not golf cars.

"We got a lot of flak last time because of that, and we've gone back to specifically say we're not financing golf cars. We're giving credit to NEVs."

Up until this, most of the golf cars have been gas powered because they're easier to maintain, and they go faster, he said.

Some fear that not allowing residents to take a tax credit and use the golf car on the golf course may drop sales of NEVs in favor

of gas-powered golf cars. Regardless, Gleason maintains "the original intent was to have a neighborhood electric vehicle, not a golf car."

"I don't see much reason for giving them a tax credit at all," he said of the NEV owners.

"When you stop and think of it, we do a lot of other things for air control. They had something that was too good," he said.

The previous law allowed a \$10,000 tax credit for the purchase of new zero-pollution NEVs, which sell for \$8,000 to \$13,000. A recent analysis by Joint Legislative Budget committee estimated the state faced losing \$10 million a year because of the 1999 electric-vehicle tax credit.

Rep. Dean Cooley, R-District 21 of Mesa, one of the bill's sponsors, said he is less concerned about whether NEVs can be used on golf courses and "more concerned with doing away with the \$10,000 tax credit. An electric golf car was not intended to be a vehicle included in this (provision)."

Although Dunikoski won't be affected by changes in the law, he considers it "one of the dumbest things politicians dreamt of."

The law prohibiting zero-pollution golf cars (for which owners took a tax credit) from courses doesn't make sense, he said.

"I could have easily bought a gas-powered golf car, but here, an electrical vehicle will benefit the environment and all the way around it makes sense," he said. "I'll do everything in my power to convince the politicians they made the wrong decision. I will be vocal. It's one of the stupidest decisions that someone gave little or no thought to."

The provision to keep NEVs off golf courses is part of a law signed last week by Gov. Jane Hull that corrected a tax-credit loophole created under a 1999 law that let Arizonans take a tax credit for more than the full value of certain electrically powered vehicles.

The new law also includes a provision, retroactive to Jan. 1, clarifying that a single electric car cannot be transferred to multiple parties.

The tax credit remains \$10,000 until July 1, when it drops to the reduced amount of \$1,000 or 50 percent, whichever is greater.

"I'm concerned this will have an effect on our customers," said Steve Pohle, owner of Pohle Golf Cars in Sun City.



SCW

# Improving SC West golf courses

## Rec Centers goes to great lengths to provide quality courses

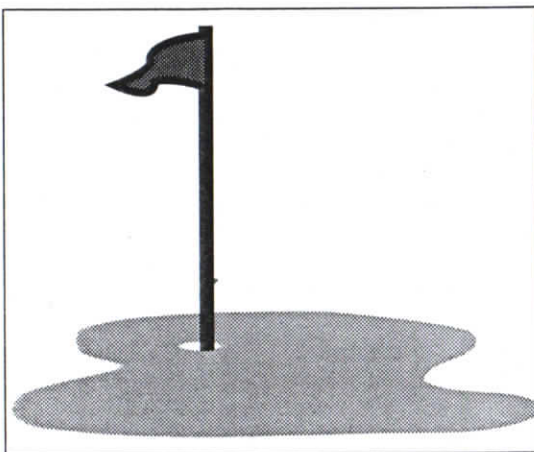
The lifestyle we enjoy in beautiful Sun City West is, in great part, due to our warm climate.

Hot summers and mild winters create a desert paradise. While Mother Nature has bestowed her precious bounty upon us, she also offers a great challenge — how to maintain lush green golf courses from season-to-season despite extreme conditions. It is a challenge that the rec centers staff understands well.

At times, Mother Nature seems to have the upper hand. Last year, we had a very cool, long spring and a short summer growing season. This played havoc with transition — the time when the heat-loving Bermuda grass fills in and the cool weather rye grass dies out. That we are still suffering the effects of last year's unusual weather is apparent now on many of our courses and is a constant concern of those involved in the day-to-day struggle to provide beautiful and playable courses all year long.

This less than desirable condition is most noticeable on our newer courses where the Bermuda has a less established root base. The greens at Pebblebrook, Stardust and Grandview, due to the maturity of these courses, have made the transition well in terms of the amount of Bermuda grass coverage, while those at Deer Valley and Trail Ridge, our newer courses, are fairing the worst.

What are we doing to provide Sun City West golfers with the most aesthetically pleasing and playable courses? We have turned to such experts as the USGA Turf Advisory Service. Each May, at the onset of the transition from rye to Bermuda grass, the USGA inspects all seven golf courses, and submits a written report, including evaluations and recommendations. Dr. David Kopec, head of the Turfgrass Research Department at the University of Arizona, has been consulted on every step of our golf course maintenance program. Aware of the problems we face during transition, Dr. Kopec has concurred with our methods of aeration, fertilization, spiking and



top dressing the greens.

Our Environmental Services Department, under the direction of Todd Patty and his staff of turf grass and horticulture experts, oversees an independent soil, water and tissue analysis of our courses twice annually. These specialists monitor the elements and check the courses continuously to ensure the best playing conditions possible for the golfing community. We have taken a varied approach to the care of our seven courses as each presents individual challenges.

With the help of resident Allan Hick, we were able to acquire a new intermediate perennial rye grass which transitions like an annual. This variety provides the same color and growth as a regular perennial rye but dies off with the onset of warm weather. We tested this seed last fall on the practice chipping green at Stardust with great success. That trial and its results were published in the July issue of "Golf Course Management," a national publication for professionals in the golf course maintenance field. We will experiment with this hybrid seed on Deer Valley's fairways and green banks this fall; the regular perennial rye will still be used on the tees and greens.

Two of the four Deer Valley greens sodded last summer seem to have recovered sufficiently; on

the remaining greens, there is considerably more Bermuda grass than at this time last year. With this spring's and summer's growing seasons being much longer than last year's we feel confident we will establish a solid base going into overseeding, as well as for next spring's transition.

At Trail Ridge, areas in fairways, walk-ons to greens and tees are being sodded. After struggling with the fairways again this summer, we have decided not to overseed them this year. This will allow the fairways to completely fill in up to the first frost, aiding a smooth spring/summer transition next year. Depending on its success, we may consider this approach for our other courses on a rotation basis, allowing each course to have a rest period to re-establish a strong Bermuda base.

Another method we use is deep tine aeration to allow better penetration of water. This is not only a plus for the turf, but it aids in our water conservation program — less puddling and greater absorption. Course areas with thin, weak turf coverage are being fertilized and are receiving more water during the day to promote growth.

During the early stages of transition, mowing heights have been lowered to help force out the rye grass. Now the heights are being raised on fairways, tees and green banks to reduce stress on Bermuda turf grass during the hot summer month, allowing areas to fill in. This is especially true at Trail Ridge and Deer Valley.

While we strive to search for new and better methods to improve the quality of golf for all Sun City West residents, we admit the ongoing battle to keep the courses green is a frustrating one. We appreciate the concerns expressed by our golfers regarding course conditions throughout the year and will do our best to keep everyone informed about the progress in working with Mother Nature's changing whims.

R.G. ANDERSON-WYCKOFF  
GENERAL MANAGER

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST



# Two Sun City West golf courses undergoing renovations, repairs

By TOM BARRY  
Independent Newspapers

The governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West has authorized up to \$400,000 in renovations and repairs at two of the community's seven golf courses.

Some work is already under way at the Trail Ridge and Pebblebrook courses, with funds coming from this year's operating budget, according to R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, general manager.

The bulk of the funds, or nearly \$250,000, will go toward repairs to the irrigation system at Trail Ridge, including replacement of 550

valves and nearly 1,400 sprinkler heads.

"The irrigation system is twelve years old. Some of the original installations were poorly designed and the sprinklers don't conform to today's standards," said Dudley Gibson, golf committee chairman. "They're ineffective or inefficient in the use of water and simply need to be replaced."

Similar retrofits have already been performed on the irrigation systems at the Grandview and Echo Mesa courses.

At the community's oldest course, Pebblebrook, up to \$150,000 will be used to renovate

some 65 sand traps.

Over a period of years, the traps have lost their original contours, and have been filled in with low-grade sand at some point, Mr. Gibson explained.

The Pebblebrook course lake is undergoing removal of several feet of silt. The dredging project, which had been approved in the 1998-99 budget, will also allow for additional storage capacity for irrigation water.

Workers are also planting 22 trees at Pebblebrook as part of an ongoing program at all seven courses to remove and replace older, unhealthy trees.



Thursday, July 2, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# Grills attract golfers, joggers



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Mary Hiers tries a BLT in the snack shop at Grandview Golf Course. It was her visit to the grill.

## Small-town ambiance makes meal pleasant

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

For habitues enjoying the two golf-course grills in Sun City West, Wednesday was a red-letter day.

It's the day originally set for the cooked-to-order eateries to close, replaced by vending machines and microwaved hot dogs and sandwiches.

The planned closing was a cost-saving move, intended to eliminate an expected \$80,000 loss from grill operations.

But governing board members at the Recreation Centers of Sun City West reversed themselves in May, and decided to keep the grills at Grandview and Pebblebrook golf courses open.

And that was fine with the regulars — golfers, residents and even employees at nearby Del E. Webb Hospital and its related offices — who look forward to a little social interaction along with food in pleasant surroundings.

"It's been such a good restaurant, where the food is wonderful," said Fran Alexander, a Sun City West golfer, as she devoured a sandwich at the Grandview Grille.

"Every Sunday almost I'm here for breakfast," added her table-mate, Carol Hisey.

The grills open at 5:30 a.m., proving a cool spot for golf-



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News

Florence Moon whips up lunch for a patron at Grandview Grille in Sun City West. Moon has been a familiar face greeting hungry folks for the past five years.

ers, church-goers, joggers and the simply hungry who might be out before the heat of day.

Florence Moon, a cook at Grandview, arrives at 5 each morning to get things started and looks forward to seeing her regulars.

Prices at the grills were raised in mid-June and the menu earlier pared back a little, one part of the effort to cut the deficits. That left some noontime eaters a little unhappy, but not unhappy enough to go elsewhere, they said.

"I'm glad it's still here," said one. "It's one reason I play at Grandview. They used to serve a good vegetable melt at lunch, but that's gone now."

"We'd rather have the prices up and have it open than not," added another golfer.

"At the other places all you can get is a hot dog. Here they still cook," she said.

Moon reminds you of that friendly coffee-shop lady you used to see back home in Iowa or Idaho — the kind

who knows that you want the coffee pronto, don't take cream, and want only a few French fries on your plate.

She fully enjoys her duties, no mind that she's on her feet eight hours. Another cook and a cashier/beverage server complete the crew, and only add to that small-town friendly ambiance.

Noon is the busiest time of day at the shops, the employees said. The 12 tables at Grandview are full then, four to a table, with some diners braving the noontime heat to enjoy the outside shaded tables.

Grandview attracts diners from Del Webb hospital, people who don't care for the hospital's cafeteria food every day.

Golf monitor Nancy Hewes, who's worked at several courses, said diners also like the Pebblebrook snack shop, especially on Sunday mornings after church, when it becomes a popular brunch spot.

"There's also a lot of older

singles who stop by and eat. Sometimes that's the only meal they get," she said.

"It gives them a reason to get out and a place to meet as well as a hot meal, and they often move tables together to eat in groups of 6 or 12," Hewes said.

The snack shops also attract centers employees: the day a reporter/photographer team visited, the centers' Sam Graziano and Alex Pannone were eating with public relations head Mauryne Young; later Tom Patty, golf operations maintenance manager stopped for lunch.

Special of the day, by the way, was a turkey club sandwich that would certainly satisfy a hungry golfer or jogger, served with pickles and fries, and a drink, iced tea, included. The price was \$4.50, no tax.

All in all a pleasant visit.

Grills close by 3 p.m. reservations taken, but golfers crossing over often by preference.



# Golf issues take center stage

## Staff report

Two experts on financial operations of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West will meet with golfers Feb. 26 to talk about how the community's seven golf courses are financed, operated and maintained.

Hal Lind, a governing board member and the centers' treasurer, and Jon Cannon, the centers' chief financial officer, will be in Summit Hall A at the Palm Ridge Activity Center at 7 p.m. for the session.

The meeting is sponsored by the Sun City West Golf Association.

Golfers in the community pay all

the costs for operating the seven courses, which are used by about 20 percent of all residents. Residents may buy an annual permit card, or pay per round. They also must buy golf car permits.

Funds collected from those fees — about \$7 million a year — are used solely for golf course operation, maintenance and improvement. No money from the general recreation centers annual membership fee of \$126.50 per person is used for the golf division.

The courses per-round surcharge on all players goes into a reserve fund, used for major expenses that

need to be prepaid. That fund can contain as much as \$3.5 million under its current provisions.

Two governing board meetings in recent months have found members tackling the thorny question of whether the grills at golf courses — which have been losing money — should be supported by the community at large, or by golfers. Surveys suggest that on any given day, most of the people eating at the grills are not golfers, or at least are not playing that course that day. While that isn't the subject of the session, it may be a question raised by golfers attending the meeting.

Topics to be addressed by Lind and Cannon include: How are fees set and where does the money go? Will costs go up? How do Sun City West golf fees compare with those at other area courses?

The pair also will discuss the reasons behind the golf reserve fund (which is real cash in the bank, not just an accounting mechanism), how many workers are needed to properly maintain a golf course, and what problems may arise in the future.

While Sun City West golfers are represented at the Golf Association monthly meetings, the Feb. 26 session will give all golfers an opportunity to have questions answered directly.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West operates Deer Valley, Desert Trails, Echo Mesa, Grandview, Pebblebrook, Stardust and Trail Ridge courses; Hillcrest is a private course open to some public play and run by the Jacobs Golf Group of Scottsdale, and Briarwood is a private members-only country club.



Lind



Cannon



DECEMBER 17-23, 1997 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT—

# Better to give than receive

## SC West resident turns old golf clubs into new gifts for kids

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN  
Independent Newspapers

**I**nstilling pride in youth provides the driving force for one Sun City West man who has spent the past six years collecting used golf equipment for the underprivileged future Tiger Woodses of the Valley.

Elmer Grimstad has taken it upon himself to gather thousands of clubs, golf bags and balls from the seven golf courses in the community. The equipment is then donated to the Junior Golf Association of Arizona, which offers the sporting goods free of charge to the kids.

"Kids have a terrible time finding things to do," said Mr. Grimstad, a grandfather of two teenage girls. "And playing golf is a much better alternative than booze and drugs."

"One of the biggest things about golf is the discipline it instills," he said. "The language they use and the clothing is all proper. You also learn about rules. If there is a piece of paper on the fairway and you don't pick it up, there is a two stroke penalty."

Using his garage as a temporary storage facility for the golf equipment, Mr. Grimstad has set up donation bags in all Sun City West pro shops.

"We will take anything related to golf," Mr. Grimstad said. "I get all kinds of clubs, but if they are in bad condition we just can't use them."

"We get more (golf) balls than we want, and we prefer not to take golf shoes," he added.

Mr. Grimstad said that although most of the donated equipment is used, occasionally someone will donate a brand new set of Ping, Hogan or Titleist clubs. Someone even donated a gold plated putter that has three interchangeable heads, he said.



Sun City West resident Elmer Grimstad prepares to deliver a load of used, donated golf equipment. The sporting goods will be given to the Junior Golf Association of Arizona, who in turn will give the clubs, balls and bags free of charge to area youths. Mr. Grimstad, an avid golfer, hopes to instill a sense of pride among teen-agers by providing them with their own golf equipment. The Sun City West man has created drop-off bags at all seven area golf courses, allowing residents to donate their used or new golf equipment.

Used or brand new, Mr. Grimstad said the children only notice that they have a set of clubs for their very own.

"The kids don't care if they are used," he said. "This is the first set of clubs they've ever had and they are tickled to get them."

Mr. Grimstad said many of those who donate golf equipment, bought the equipment with intentions of playing, but never really seemed to get into it.

"It amazes me," Mr. Grimstad said. "About a month ago this woman called me saying she and her husband had bought brand new

clubs about 10 years ago. They played a little bit, but they realized golf wasn't their cup of tea. But they didn't want to see their equipment go to waste."

Once Mr. Grimstad's garage overflows with clubs and golf bags, the Sun City West man makes a trip to the JGAA's headquarters.

"I have been there when they let the kids come in and pick up their clubs, and they are just as proud as they can be, because this is something they own," Mr. Grimstad said.

Currently, the JGAA conducts



Friday, July 11, 1997 The Arizona Republic

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## Golf surcharge reinstated in Sun City West

SUN CITY WEST — The Recreation Centers of Sun City West have reinstated a \$1 golf surcharge to help cover the costs for some improvements and other expenses. The additional fee for the seven courses is expected to go into effect Aug. 1.

The recreation centers governing board voted to adopt the \$1-per-round charge at the June 26 meeting. The charge is expected to bring in about \$40,000 per month.

The money will go into the golf reserve fund to pay for large, non-operating expenditures that have not been allocated money from the budget. Similar surcharge funds were used in 1994 to install a \$1 million sprinkler system at the Pebblebrook Golf Course.

The board has attached this fee to a "trigger," which will cancel the additional charge when the golf reserve fund reaches \$3.5 million. In a written statement, board Vice President Larry Watts said that there are discussions to lower the "trigger" amount from \$3.5 million to \$2.75 million.



# Board ups golf fees

## SCW anticipates acquisition of water recharge fields

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

It will cost golfers \$1 more a round to use the seven courses operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, governing board members decided Thursday.

Over the vehement objection of board member Dirk Prather, the other members reimposed a \$1 facility reserve fund surcharge that had been dropped in February.

The increase is effective Aug. 1, and should bring in about \$40,000 a month.

Board members didn't vote directly on the fee increase.

Instead, the action approved was one that established an automatic trigger that would reimpose the fee if the reserve fund dropped below its lower limit; and end the surcharge if the fund were above the authorized upper level.

The board a month earlier had raised the limits, which now are \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million. The fund is actual

cash (or near-cash investments) and is tapped to pay for major repair, improvements and the like to golf courses.

It was established in 1987, and its level had not been increased until the board's May action.

Hal Lind, treasurer, said the additional money soon would be needed to help fund acquisition of the water recharge fields now owned by Del Webb Corp. near the Sun City West sewage treatment plant.

The treated effluent is recharged into the aquifer, giving the centers water "credits" that can offset its use of pumped groundwater on golf courses.

Webb had retained the recharge fields — and the credits — but had given the centers a right to buy them if it wished. Negotiations for that transaction have been under way for more than a year.

Citing "changed circumstances," Lind asked that the

board approve the automatic trigger at its Thursday meeting, not in September, as the board had earlier agreed.

That angered Prather, who said golf committees whose members would pay the fee did not have time to study the plan, or to object to it — which some golfers already have done.

"We are circumventing the committees; not communicating with them," Prather said. "It seems to me that this is being put into effect so that the people involved can't be heard from. We're telling them, 'We don't want your input.'"

Prather also argued that with expenses of unknown size and timing, there was no need to begin collecting the additional sums immediately. "It can wait until fall," he said.

Reimposition of the surcharge "would cost golfers a million dollars," Prather said. That is the difference between the new \$2.5 million lower limit of the reserve fund, and its new \$3.5 million upper limit.

At current rates of play, and expenses from the fund, it would take more than two years to build the fund to \$3.5 million.

At the end of May, the fund held about \$2.2 million.

But others pointed out that two issues were involved: the need for the additional \$1 per round; and the upper limit of the reserve fund. That upper limit could be readjusted downward if it proved to have been set too high, they said.

Prather tried to table the matter, but got no second.

With absent member Bob Beaupre listening in by phone — and voting — from Chicago, the change was approved 7-1, with Prather against. President Hubbs generally does not vote.



**SERVING**

El Mirage  
Sun City  
Sun City West  
Surprise  
Wickenburg  
Youngtown

# Northwest Valley COMMUNITY

*Journal*

THE PHOENIX GAZETTE  
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Friday, September 27, 1996

1

## Sun City West links bought as 3rd in chain

Wire report

A Scottsdale company has reached agreement to buy Hillcrest golf course in Sun City West from Del Webb Corp. for an undisclosed price.

The course has been on the market more than a year and originally had an asking price of \$6 million, later raised to \$6.2 million.

Jacobs' Golf Group Inc. said the purchase of the Hillcrest course will be finalized in November.

Jacobs owns two Arizona golf courses serving retirees — San Ignacio in Green Valley, near Tucson, and Painted Mountain in Mesa.

Hillcrest is the original course in Sun City West. The par-72, 6,960-yard layout has hosted several Senior PGA and LPGA tour events.

# Webb swings deal on golf course

## Buyer predicts no big changes

By Barbara Deters  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Del Webb Corp. has cut a deal to sell Hillcrest Golf Course to Jacobs' Golf Group of Scottsdale.

The price was not disclosed, but sources said the price was more than \$4 million.

Jacobs' Golf Group has signed a letter of intent to purchase Hillcrest and is reviewing the public facility, built in 1979 as one of the original golf courses in Sun City West. The deal is expected to close in mid- to late-November.

"We don't really have any intent of making any drastic changes," said Dick Krull, Jacobs' vice president of marketing. "The golf course will stay what it is now. It will always be a golf course."

Del Webb, which put the 18-hole course

on the market in May, had 25 interested buyers for the property, including the Sun City West Recreation Centers, which owns seven courses in the community.

The Recreation Centers had proposed paying \$2 million for the course through a per household assessment. However, that issue was voted down by 94 percent of the community's residents in a July mail-in election.

"I hope it works out well," said Recreation Centers President Dirk

Prather. "We're sorry we didn't get it, but I think we're going to try to work out some arrangements like we had with Webb — to use it on Mondays during the season and hopefully come up with a little better rate for residents."

Krull said the company doesn't plan to change the name of Hillcrest, nor its programs. Hillcrest has a great reputation, he said.

"We're not totally familiar with its See HILLCREST, Page 3

## HILLCREST

From Page 1

programs," he said. "But you've got a successful entity there. Why would you change it?"

In searching for a buyer for Hillcrest, Webb said it looked for a company that understood the marketplace, was service-oriented and

had expertise in golf club operations.

"Jacobs' offers all of those, and we know they will continue to uphold the maintenance and service standards implemented by Del Webb," said Tom Kirk, vice presi-

dent of finance for Webb's Sun Cities.

Hillcrest will be the third course operated by the company. It bought Painted Mountain in Mesa in 1993 and San Ignacio in Green Valley in 1995. Both are in areas heavily populated with retirees.

VF-GOLF COURSE HILLCREST SCW



Sat., April 13 and Sun., April 14, 1996

Daily News-Sun,

# Golden touch

## SCW golfer qualifies for national event

By ANN T. DALEY  
Assistant sports editor

SUN CITY WEST — Selmer Rodning knows getting old is the price a golfer pays to shoot his or her age.

Rodning doesn't feel old even though he's shot his age or better 389 times since 1981.

The 82-year-old Sun City West resident is playing as good or better golf these days than he did during his working years.

During a round in February, he bettered his age by five strokes, a performance that netted his sixth medal in the Arizona Senior Olympics.

Rodning won the gold in the men's 80-84 division, blasting his nearest competitor by 12 strokes with a 5-over-par 77 on the par-72, 6,421-yard Hillcrest Golf Club course in Sun City West.

Only eight golfers, from all age groups, fared better than Rodning. Arizona Senior Olympics features golfers ages 50 and older. Rodning was the only golfer to shoot his age or better.

"I did a lot better than most of them, but not everybody," said Rodning, a member of the Deer Valley Men's Golf Club. "I'm grateful and happy to be playing as well as I do still."

Rodning is one of 27 golfers from the Sun Cities area who won medals in this year's golf event featuring more than 800 golfers from around the state.

With the performance, he and other gold medalists qualify for the National Senior Sports Festival to be played in Tucson in May 1997. Senior Olympics officials will notify those who qualified for nationals.

It is the third time Rodning, a native Minnesotan, has qualified for nationals. In 1993, he qualified for and won a gold in the men's 75-79 division of the national event played at Baton Rouge, La.

He qualified for the 1995 games in San Antonio, but did not go because of a family commitment.

In more than 50 years playing, nothing has meant more to him than the gold medal won in Baton Rouge. Rodning said he's excited to get a chance to earn another.

"I went there without any expectations and I was excited to do so well," Rodning said. "I don't

► See Sun Citizens, C4



Steve Chermek/Daily News-Sun

Selmer Rodning of Sun City West has a knack for shooting his age or better on the golf course. The 82-year-old won a gold medal in Arizona Senior Olympics this year and qualified for the National Senior Sports Festival in 1997.



## Sun Citians win 27 medals

■ From C1

know what to expect next year either."

Rodning also has won several area tournaments in the Sun Cities, including the Arizona Best-Ball Tournament with partner Matt Carvey.

As a longtime resident of Sun City (1981-91) and Sun City West (1991-current), Rodning has played all the recreation centers' courses but prefers Deer Valley.

"With golf, I always try to improve," said the 9-handicap golfer who carded a 7-over 79 on the course Tuesday.

### Notes:

Sun City men took both medals awarded in the 90-94 age division: 90-year-old Clyde Dameron won the gold by carding a 97 as 91-year-old C.T. Williamson shot a 107.

"I counted (185) golfers who I either tied or beat," said Dameron, who won a silver in the 1995 state games. "My game has picked up."

Dameron said as a qualifier, he plans on competing in the national tournament next year. He qualified in 1993 and missed a bronze medal by one stroke.

## Arizona Senior Olympics golf

SUN CITY WEST — Results of the golf event in the 13th annual Arizona Senior Olympics played at the par-72 Hillcrest Golf Club (gold, silver and bronze medalists):

### Women's 50-54

Judith Lambert (Sun City), 96; Anita Ratliff (SC), 97; Barbra Schaefer, 105.

### Women's 55-59

Roberta Seese, 83; Sandi Kibble (SC), 94; Dorothy Folkman, 92.

### Women's 60-64

Marion Lane (SC), 87; Frances Macomber, 88; Margaret Irons (SC) 89.

### Women's 65-69

Mary Branigan, 94; Aline Bring (SC), 97; Barb Hutchison (Peoria), 97; Jane Smith (SC), 97.

### Women's 70-74

June Sitts (SC), 89; Beryl Foster, 92; Luella Berglund, 97.

### Women's 75-79

Sophie Wadas (SC), 100; Jeanne Shaw (SC), 104; Mildred Matone (SC) 105.

### Women's 80-84

Meryl Russon, 118; Flora Crawford (SC), 119; Mary Wold (SC), 119; Charlotte Boss, 122.

### Women's 85-89

Ethel Place, 107; Virginia Perry, 118; Elsie Moses (SC), 134.

### Men's 50-54

Bill Weaver, 76; Richard Massey, 81; William Merkling, 81; Charles Richards, 81; Kenneth Strachan 84.

### Men's 55-59

Jack Jeffers (Sun City West), 76; Jerry Anuds (Peoria), 78; Adelio Percio, 81.

### Men's 60-64

Elmer Heirigs, 75; Don Eden (SCW), 76; Vic Hooper, 76; Byron Ambrugy, 77.

### Men's 65-69

Ralph Sleeper (Peoria), 75; Jim Roenspless, 78; Williams Corrins, 80; Wilbur Doepke, 80; Benjamin Getz, 80; Robert Hainlen, 80.

### Men's 70-74

Tom Hyland, 77; Pat King (Youngtown), 81; Edmund Budris 81; Dale Larson, 81; C. McElroy, 81; Steven Mihalic, 81; Clarence Smith, 81; John Kupica, 82.

### Men's 75-79

Cecil Stanley, 78; Anthony Kozub (SC), 80; Laurie Evans, 81.

### Men's 80-84

Selmer Rodning (SCW), 77; Whitie Reed, 89; William Talman, 89; Blair Peterson, 93.

### Men's 85-89

George Minard (SC), 98; Michael Burke (SCW), 113; Roy Parker, 113; Lou Kiss, 131.

### Men's 90-94

Clyde Dameron (SC), 97; C.T. Williamson (SC), 107.

Page 4



SCW

# Desert oasis

## Sun City West executive course opens Saturday

By ANN T. DALEY  
Assistant Sports Editor

SUN CITY WEST — Call it a miniature version of Deer Valley Golf Course or the Valley's newest state-of-the-art executive course.

Steve Jablonowski hopes area residents will call the 4,059-yard par-61 Desert Trails Golf Course home. It opens for play Saturday.

"It is a beautiful course," said Jablonowski, manager of golf operations for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

### Local golf

"It is a lot like Deer Valley, but its layout is different. It stands on its own."

Recent rainstorms have delayed completion of the course's pro shop, but have not affected the greens and fairways. Casper, Nash and Associates designed the course.

"The course is ready to go, it's just a matter of whether construction of the pro shop will be finished in time," Jablonowski said. "Regardless, we'll be in operation and service will be 100 percent as usual."

Jablonowski advised residents to arrive early for their tee times on opening day and be wary of construction hazards around the pro shop.

"It will take time to finish all the construction, but bear with us," he said. "Forget all that stuff once you hit your first ball."

More than 4,000 yards of lush fairways and greens overseeded with rye grass and three lakes will help golfers forget about empty lots and construction surrounding the course, located at 22525 N. Executive Way. The nearest major cross-

### Desert Trails

#### Men

##### Blue tees

1. ....	Par-4 351 yards
2. ....	Par-3 139 yards
3. ....	Par-3 181 yards
4. ....	Par-4 239 yards
5. ....	Par-3 171 yards
6. ....	Par-4 370 yards
7. ....	Par-3 121 yards
8. ....	Par-3 150 yards
9. ....	Par-4 321 yards
Total.....	Par-31 2,043 yards

##### White tees

1. ....	Par-4 336 yards
2. ....	Par-3 115 yards
3. ....	Par-3 160 yards
4. ....	Par-4 225 yards
5. ....	Par-3 142 yards
6. ....	Par-4 353 yards
7. ....	Par-3 109 yards
8. ....	Par-3 138 yards
9. ....	Par-4 292 yards
Total.....	Par-31 1,870 yards

##### Women's tees

1. ....	Par-4 292 yards
2. ....	Par-3 91 yards
3. ....	Par-3 121 yards
4. ....	Par-4 191 yards
5. ....	Par-3 114 yards
6. ....	Par-4 316 yards
7. ....	Par-3 85 yards
8. ....	Par-3 86 yards
9. ....	Par-4 266 yards
Total.....	Par-31 1,562 yards

roads are 151st Avenue and Deer Valley Road.

Desert Trails is the last area course to be built by the Del Webb Corp., bringing Sun City West's total to four regulation and three executive courses.

Jablonowski said Webb invested about \$6.5 million in the course, which covers 120 acres.

He added Trails should experience heavy use in its first year, particularly in the first few months, as Deer Valley did in 1994.

Deer Valley, also designed by Casper, Nash and Associates, produced more rounds of golf than any other area course last year.

"The pace of play will be faster and we'll be able to accommodate more golfers," Jablonowski said of Desert Trails.

Expansive tee boxes and greens highlight Desert Trails' uniqueness, offering golfers a variety of shot opportunities.

"It will be challenging because there is so much room in which to place the pins from day to day," Jablonowski said. "You could play 10 days in a row and get a unique perspective each time."

Shane Witcombe, a design associate with Casper, Nash and Associates, said Desert Trails is much like Deer Valley.

"We listened to the residents' suggestions and took it from there," Witcombe said. "Like Deer Valley, Desert Trails has wide, sloping fairways."

"We tried to use a variety of vegetation to give Desert Trails a park-like atmosphere. We again used date palm trees and added shrubs that will bloom at various times of the year."

Jablonowski said he favors mountain and lake views on the 370-yard sixth hole as well as the 321-yard ninth hole.

"No. 6 has a most spectacular view," he said. "Its layout is a dog-leg left and wraps around a lake. It's beautiful."

For tee time information, call 214-1100.





Steve Jablonowski, manager of golf operations for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, checks his watch, waiting for the opening of Desert Trails. The course opens for play Saturday. Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun



## Desert Trails Name of SCW's 9th Golf Course

More than 600 entries were submitted in Del Webb Corporation's Name The Golf Course Contest held to name Sun City West's ninth golf course. After careful consideration by a panel of four judges, the name Desert Trails, submitted by Marilyn

the needs of Sun City West golfers.

Desert Trails will be the seventh golf course operated by the Recreation Centers of SCW. It is scheduled to be turned over to the Recreation Centers of SCW in early 1995.



Chuck Roach, Del Webb senior vice president and SCW general manager, congratulates Marilyn Kurvers of Sun City West on her winning entry, Desert Trails, in the company's Name the Golf Course contest.

Kurvers of Sun City West, was selected. For her winning entry, Mrs. Kurvers receives dinner for four at Briarwood Country Club. Marilyn and John Kurvers moved to Sun City West last May from Appleton, Wisconsin.

Desert Trails is an 18-hole executive golf course located west of 151st Avenue and north and south of Deer Valley Drive. The \$6 million course was designed by Senior PGA Pro Billy Casper and golf course architect Greg Nash. The course is a par 61 on 110 acres with 85 acres of turf. Approximately 677 trees, including 171 date palm trees, and three lakes are used to enhance the beauty of the course. The golf course is completed and is currently in a growing phase. The pro shop is currently under construction and will have the same basic design as the Deer Valley Golf Course pro shop.

A resident committee chaired by SCW Governing Board member Bob Kelley assisted with the design of the course to tailor it to



SCW

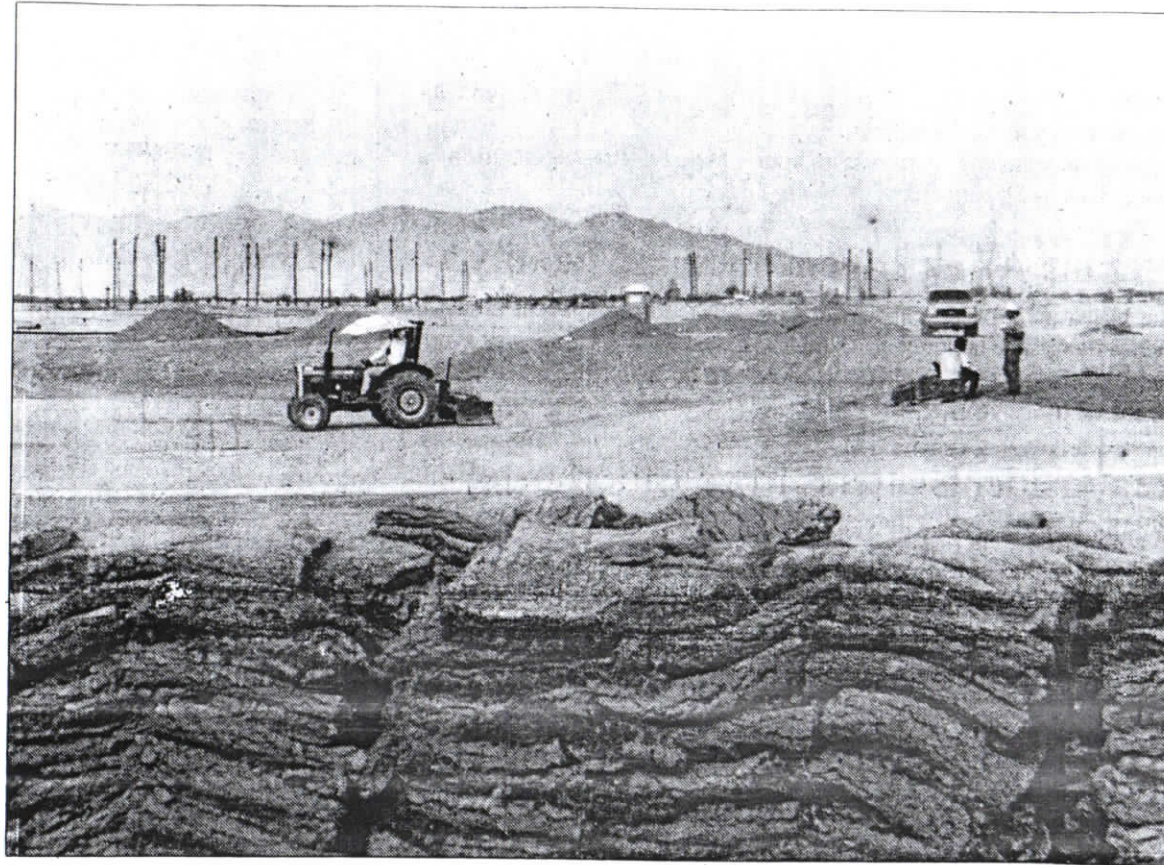


Photo by TERI CARNICELLI/Sun Cities Independent

## Lush fairways lie ahead in SC West

A small tractor is used to smooth the ground in preparation of laying sod on the 14th fairway of Sun City West's latest — and last — executive golf course, located at the west end of Deer Valley Drive. The course, yet to be named, is expected to be turned over to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc. in January 1995.



# Newest golf course prepares

Desert Trails will  
be final course  
built in SC West

By JAY STATLAND  
Sun Cities Independent

The new Sun City West Desert Trails Golf Course scheduled to opened in mid-February is an executive, 18-hole course that has wide open, forgiving fairways designed to help improve a player's game.

"We are just waiting for the clubhouse to be completed before we open in mid-February," says John Waldron, Del Webb's manager of public and community relations for Sun City West.

When finished the clubhouse, located on Deer Valley Drive just west of Dusty Trail Blvd., will be similar to the Deer Valley Golf Course and will have a pro shop, microwave oven and other amenities.

The course plays 4,059 yards from the blue tees, 3,696 from the white tees and 3,090 off the red tees and has pars of 31 for the front nine and 30 for the back nine — or a combined total of 61.

Construction on the course began in January of last year and was completed in August. The final touches were put on in November and the facility is now "about 99 percent done," says Charles Shepard, golf course superintendent.

Cost of the entire course is estimated at \$6 million.

Desert Trails is the seventh course owned and operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc. "They took over the maintenance of the course last November," Mr. Shepard says.

A resident committee headed by Bob Kelley helped architect Greg Nash of Casper/Nash and Associates tailor the course to the needs of Sun City West golfers.

Desert Trails mixes lush green fairways with beautifully land-

scaped desert areas.

The course occupies 109.7 acres of land with 85 acres of grass, three lakes and more than 677 trees and shrubs.

Many of the trees along the course actually existed there long before the course was built. Five trees — two Palo Verde and three Mesquite trees — were left alone with the course designed around them. The rest of the trees were boxed and replanted in other spots around the course.

The fifth and seventh holes, both par-3 holes, play 171 and 121 yards respectively. Both holes, however, have water hazards to conquer and behind the fifth hole is a huge bunker.

"It (the bunker) required 260 tons of sand," Mr. Shepard says. The longest holes on the course are the 370-yard par-4 sixth hole and the 395 yard par-4 15th hole.

The large greens allow for a variety of pin placements which

can alter the way the course is played on any given day — making the course even more difficult for those who enjoy tougher challenges.

The course also has a plush green driving range to help iron out slices or hooks before hitting the first tee.

To aid the environment, the course is designed to help subdivision drainage and act as a retention basin.

Another way the designers aided the environment was in the choice

of plants used. "What we tried to do in the desert areas was use a variety of desert plants, other than the standard brown sticky plants," Greg Nash says.

There are two restrooms, one by the No. 5 green and the other on the back nine, and six drinking fountains on the course.

What separates Desert Trails from the other courses is, "it (the course) is user friendly, has a nice combination of desert vegetation along with the green grass," Mr. Shepard says.

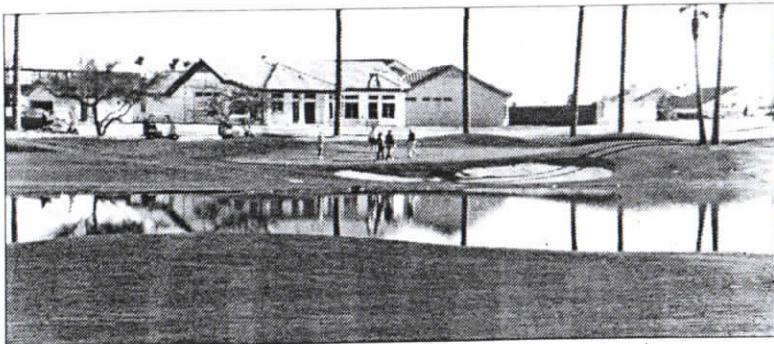
to open







SCW



## Deer Valley Golf Course opens

The new \$6.5 million Deer Valley Golf Course opens this week in Sun City West. Although the course has been turned over to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc., the Del Webb Corp. has agreed to subsidize course operations for two years. Among those employed at the course to assist golfers and operate the pro shop are, pictured at right, from left, Stan Hemburg, Nancy Hewes, Denny Green, Lynda Neer, Sharon Baker and Edwin Fischer.

Photos by TYSON KUHRT/Sun Cities Independent







Photo by TYSON KUHR/T/Sun Cities Independent

## SC West opens 6th course

John Medeiros of Sun City West practices a putt at the new Deer Valley Golf Course, an 18-hole championship course near 135th Avenue and Deer Valley Drive. The \$6.5 million course, located in the expansion area, officially opens this week. Frank Smith, left, Marty Hancock, center, and Mr. Medeiros were among the golfers given a sneak preview of the course last week. **For more photos, see Page 2.**



# Deer Valley proves big hit with players

By ANN T. DALEY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Finding a dissatisfied golfer around the new Deer Valley Golf Course is as challenging as firing a hole-in-one.

After a week's worth of play, compliments continue at the 18-hole course which covers more than 183 acres in Sun City West's expansion area.

"It's a very forgiving course," said Jeanne Grogan, who has resided here for 18 months.

"It's very, very beautiful. My first day I was so excited I couldn't concentrate on my game."

Since its opening on Jan. 4, the course has operated at full capacity with 200 to 250 golfers playing each day, course officials estimate.

Manager Denny Green said

## Local golf

feedback from golfers has been nothing but favorable.

"It's been so well-received, everything you'd want to hear from the first reports," Green said. "It's designed so that it's fun to play."

Longtime resident and part-time range assistant Amos Childers said the course is the area's finest.

"You'd have to be real picky to find anything wrong with it," said Childers, who has served as a range assistant at Pebblebrook, Trail Ridge and Grandview golf courses. "Del Webb (Corp.) did an outstanding job with it."

"I haven't played it yet, but I've been all around it putting in

See New course, C3

# New course gets positive reviews

— From C1

out-of-bounds stakes. It's a course that's very pretty and designed to help seniors like us more."

While golfers have deemed the course "user-friendly" because of its wide fairways and lush greens, the reviews include high marks for the scenery, featuring more than 500 palm trees.

"The first time I played it went well, but today it went terrible," said Pat Knox, a five-month resident. "It's not the golf course, it's me. It's an interesting course, and very beautiful. No. 13 is gorgeous

and No. 17 is out of this world. It's beautiful, with its green set in a sloping area surrounded by palm trees."

Many golfers interviewed said they have or are planning to make Deer Valley their new home course.

"I came out every day and watched them build it," said Mike Quinn, a 12-handicap golfer from Trail Ridge who carded an 80 in his first outing on the course.

"It looked like it was going to be a good course from the beginning. It's a little short, but good."



# Green acres

## Deer Valley Golf Course opens today

By RICH BOLAS  
Sports Editor

SUN CITY WEST — The newest golf course in Sun City West will forgive and sometimes forget golfers' mistakes.

Deer Valley Golf Course, 13975 W. Deer Valley Drive, features contoured fairways designed to bring wayward tee shots back into play.

Deer Valley opened today and represents the sixth Recreation Centers of Sun City West course.

"It's more player friendly," said Denny Green, pro shop manager. "People are not out here to try to make it on the PGA or LPGA tours. They're out here to have fun."

Fun does not necessarily mean easy. The Deer Valley course was designed by Greg Nash and former PGA star Billy Casper. Nash also designed the other Recreation Centers courses in Sun City West.

The 18-hole course stretches from 139th to 151st avenues and measures 6,547 yards from the championship tees. It is similar in length to other Recreation Centers courses, Green said.

**'It's definitely a diamond in the rough. It's similar to Arrowhead (Country Club in Glendale), but the severity of the greens isn't as demanding.'**

**Steve Jablonowski**  
Director of golf instruction  
Recreation Centers of SCW

The course measures 6,080 yards from the men's tees and 5,667 yards from the women's tees.

Deer Valley has 46 sand traps, which should present a challenge to golfers around the greens. Nine lakes do not pose a hazard and are used predominantly for decorative purposes.

"It's definitely a diamond in the rough," said Steve Jablonowski, director of golf instruction for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. "It's similar to Arrowhead (Country Club in Glendale), but the

severity of the greens isn't as demanding."

Tall date palm trees dot the golf course and are the centerpiece of the course's signature 17th hole, said Bill McCutcheon, former golf committee chairman on the Recreation Centers Governing Board.

The 171-yard par-3 is heavily-guarded by sand traps and surrounded by 32 date palms. A photograph of the 17th green is featured on the scorecard.

Sun City West golfers are invited to play the course for free this week and are likely to notice plush, green grass from tee to green. That is a result of winter rye planted throughout the course, Green said.

Other rec center courses in Sun City West have winter rye on tees and greens, but not on the fairways, which sometimes creates a drab appearance in the winter, McCutcheon said.

One thing golfers won't notice are grass bunkers, which are prevalent at Trail Ridge.

"We spent a lot of time planning  
See Date palms, B3

## Date palms dot golf course

— From B1  
this course and finding out what people liked and disliked about the other courses," said Steve O'Donnell, general manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc. "Based on that input, we decided to take out the hilly terrain and a lot of the grass bunkers."

Construction workers were expected to toil through the night on Monday to put the final touches on the course and clubhouse. Phones are to be installed today.

"Deer Valley will meet or exceed all of the golfers' expectations," Jablonowski said.

"The only way you'd have a bad time is if you had a bad time before you got to the golf course."

■ ■ ■

Play will be free for Sun City West residents every day this week except Wednesday. Guests may not play the course during the first week of play.

There will be no open golf Wednesday because the course will be reserved for men's club play. Approximately 450 golfers have joined the men's club while 60 golfers have joined the women's club.

Deadline for tee time re-

quests for Thursday play is 3 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Wednesday for Friday play.

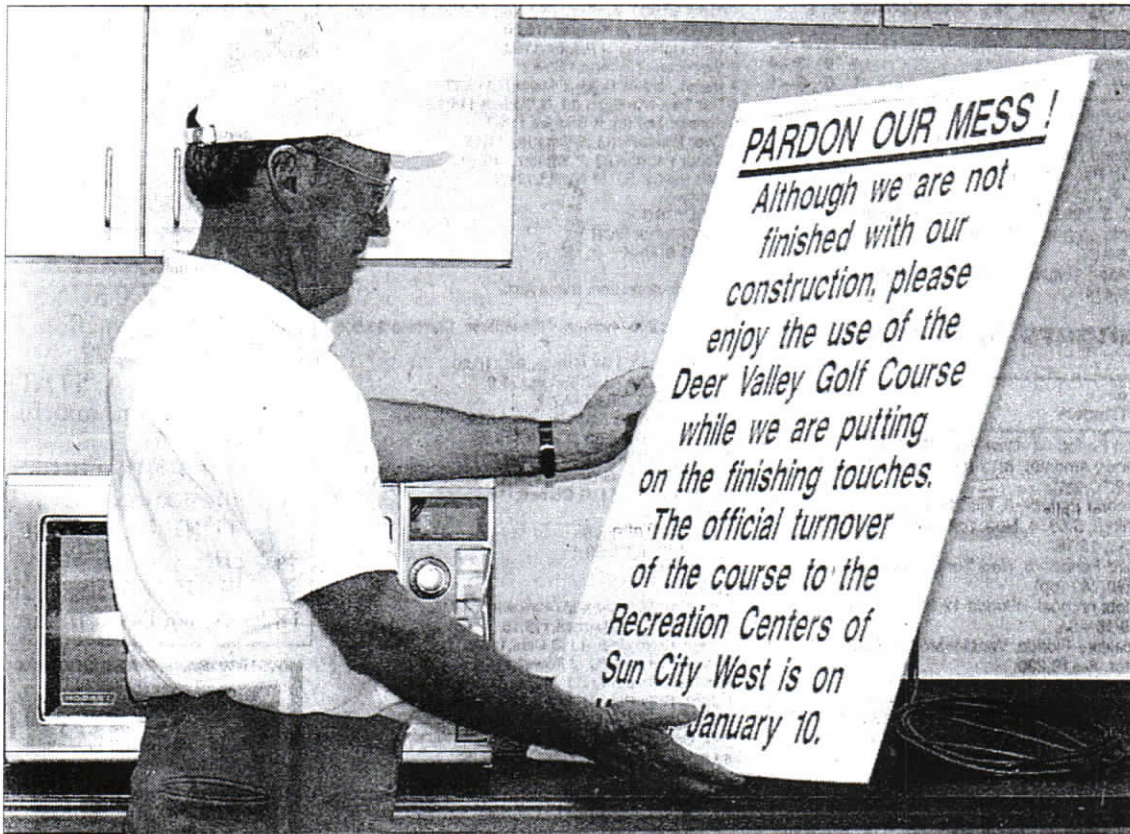
Golfers are asked to sign-up at the course, Green said.

Normal operations — which include requesting tee times seven days in advance, drawing four days in advance and posting three days in advance — will begin Jan. 10.

Cost is \$2 for those Sun City West residents who have purchased a \$670 annual pre-paid golf card. Cost is \$16 for other Sun City West residents and \$25 for guests.

For information, calls are being handled at Trail Ridge. Call 546-0858.





Denise Messer and Herb Scott of Sun City West, above, take a look around Deer Valley Golf Course, which opens today. Denny Green, left, pro shop manager, takes a final look at signs to be posted for the first day of business. Green said an estimated 270 golfers are expected to play today.



SCW

# Almost ready to play

## Minor work remains on Deer Valley course

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

### Sun City West

**T**he turf is green. The lakes are filled with water. Hundreds of palm trees and thousands of shrubs are taking root.

The Deer Valley Golf Course — Sun City West's sixth golfing facility — is nearly complete.

Residents should be able to begin using the 18-hole championship course near 135th Avenue and Deer Valley Drive after the first of the year.

The new links wind their way through the Sun City West expansion area, which eventually will have about 3,000 homes. There are 420 lots adjacent to the Deer Valley course.

"We just have some minor work to finish," said Scott Peterson, vice president of land development for Del Webb's Sun City West.

Heavy rains in October caused problems to two areas of the course — the 12th and 18th tees. In both cases, storm water did not drain as planned.

"The storm was a blessing in disguise," said Bill McCutcheon, a Recreation Centers of Sun City West board member.

The \$6.5 million course is designed as a water-retention basin. Rain water soaks into the ground or flows southeasterly to the Agua Fria River.

But the 12th hole was like a stopped-up bathtub. And the 18th hole's sand trap was too close to a drainage area, Peterson said.

Except for the problems on the two holes, the course performed like it was designed to, Del Webb spokeswoman Martha Moyer said.

"Some people wonder why there is water standing in the golf course area, and they don't understand that it's supposed to work like that," she said.

One of the problems, Moyer said, is that small granite rocks are washed away during rain storms.

"Larger rocks could be put in, but that would damage the golf clubs and make it more difficult for people to find their golf balls," Moyer said.

Some concerns have been raised over who will pay for flooding problems related to the course.

Leo Wunsch, interim president of  
See GOLF, Page 3

the Sun City West Golf Association, which represents 13 golf clubs, said he is concerned that the golfers' fund would be hit to pay for flooding.

Roy Henderson, chairman of the rec centers' Blue Ribbon Golf Committee, is similarly concerned.

"The course looks beautiful, as do most new, unplayed courses," Henderson said in a report to the rec centers board. "However, major drainage problems exist. These problems will lead to unplayable conditions following heavy winter rains and during excessive watering."

McCutcheon said Webb would subsidize the course's operation for two years after it opens. The board's legal affairs committee is looking into how flooding problems

would be paid for after Webb's subsidy ends.

Henderson said Webb should be required to post a bond for two years to ensure that the developer pays for drainage problems.

About 90 acres of the linear course is hybrid Bermuda turf. The rest features 650 palm tees, thousands of low-water-use plants and gravel.

State law requires that the new course have a renewable source of water to irrigate the turf and fill the lakes.

Webb has received approval from the state Department of Water Resources to put effluent into the ground to compensate for pumping ground water to irrigate the golf course. The effluent is treated sewage from Sun City

West residences and businesses.

Meanwhile, the driving-range turf will be a site for outdoor concerts. Similar concerts sponsored by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West are held at Beardsley Park.

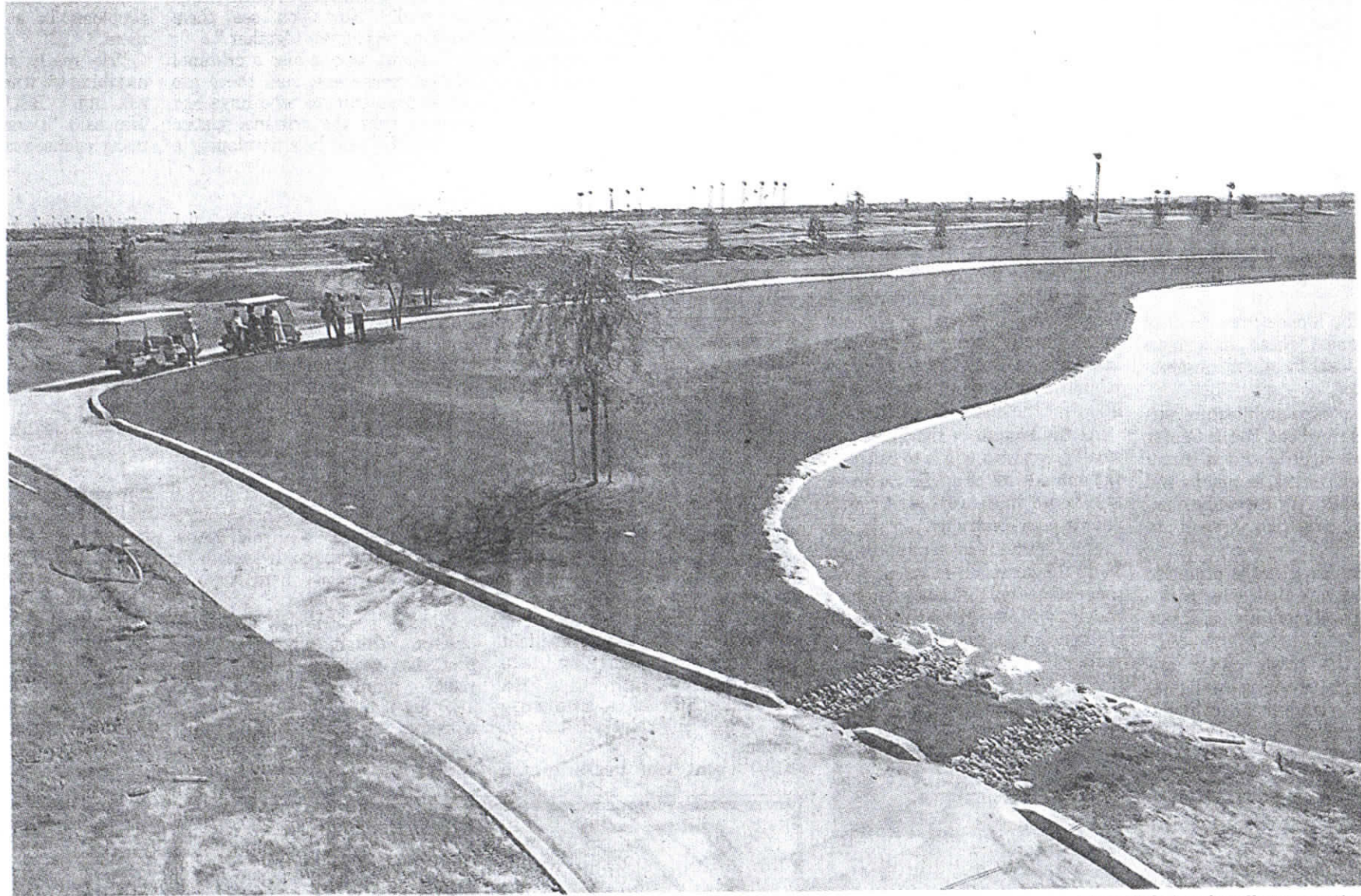
Down the street from the Deer Valley course, Webb is building the \$6.4 million, 51,000-square-foot Palm Ridge Recreation Center.

The complex covers 15 acres and will have a fitness center, a social/club building with an 11,000-square-foot ballroom, and six outdoor tennis courts. Three swimming pools and two spas are planned.

Design work has started on another 18-hole golf course that Webb will build in the expansion area.

OVER





Sun City West's new Deer Valley Golf Course should be ready for play after the first of the year.

Russell Gates / Staff photographer



Daily News-Sun

SCW

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1993

# Sun City West golfers form citizens' group

By ANN T. DALEY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Area golfers now have a place to voice their concerns, say founders of the newly-formed Sun City West Golf Association.

The association will serve members of all 11 men's and women's chartered golf clubs at Echo Mesa, Grandview, Pebblebrook, Stardust and Trail Ridge golf courses as well as non-member golfers.

"We hope to make golf better for all Sun City West citizens," said Leo Wunsch, SCWGA interim chairman and president of the Grandview Men's golf club.

"Members of the chartered golf clubs have always had somewhere to turn to voice their concerns. We want to help them, too. But the resident who lives here only eight months out of the year and doesn't belong to a club doesn't have anywhere to turn. Now he or she does."

Joining Wunsch in the planning is Ev Walden, president of Pebblebrook Men's golf club and Bob Kelly, president of Trail Ridge Men's golf club.

Walden noted golfers may bring such concerns as course upkeep to the attention of the SCWGA. The association

**'We're banding together so that if something needs to be done, we ought to be able to band together and get it done.'**

Ev Walden  
Pebblebrook

would then serve as the liaison to the Governing Board of the Sun City West Recreation Centers.

"We're banding together so that if something needs to be done, we ought to be able to band together and get it done," Walden said. "We're really trying to establish better communication with the Recreation Centers."

Planning is in the early stages as the association's bylaws have yet to be established.

"At this point, we're not really recognized as a club," Wunsch said. "We have not yet elected club officers. Until we do that, we'll keep things to ourselves as far as future plans."

Among the association's first projects is to select and en-

dorse three candidates vying for positions on the Governing Board of the Sun City West Recreation Centers.

A crowd of 545 golfers gathered in the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center social halls Friday to interview the candidates on golf-related issues.

"We were very pleased with the turnout," Walden said. "We want candidates who will not just favor us as a group, but people who have the good of the whole Sun City West recreation centers in mind."

Golfers also filled out surveys to provide the SCWGA with information about everyday concerns.

Walden said the 11 chartered club presidents will next meet at 7 p.m. on Oct. 26 to discuss the candidates. The three board positions are scheduled to be filled in an election on Dec. 7.

By the end of the year, the SCWGA plans to fill its 27-member board, featuring the president and another representative from each chartered golf club. The remaining five positions will be filled by volunteer golfers.

Wunsch said six of the 11 chartered golf clubs have to revise their bylaws before submitting representatives to the association.



Members of the Sun City West Golf Association say they formed their group to provide golfers with a place to voice their concerns. The group will serve 11 clubs at a variety of courses, including Stardust, where Leonard Merrick launches a shot toward the pin at No. 18.

Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun



Oct. 7-13, 1993

# Deer Valley Course May Be 'Ready' Dec. 1

By Jack Hawn

Although construction of the Deer Valley Golf Course is expected to be completed by Dec. 1, an opening date will not be announced until at least mid-November.

So stated Recreation Centers Board member Bill McCutcheon, who heads the golf committee and is overseeing the Del Webb project.

"By mid-November, we'll narrow it down," he said. "I'm not sure of Webb's plans. It's still theirs. When it is officially opened, then it will become the property of Sun City West."

Workers have shaved the grass down and were overseeding the course last week.

"The course probably will be ready by Dec. 1," McCutcheon continued, "but we wouldn't open it if the clubhouse isn't ready."

Scott Peterson, Del Webb vice president of land development, said the company's goal for completion of the course and clubhouse always has been Jan. 1.

"Everything looks good for that," he said. "The overseeding should be completed in the next two weeks, and we should be finished with shrub placement and sand raking in a month."

"The pro shop is right on schedule, too. A major portion of the framing is completed, and we're working on the interior now, as we speak."

Construction of the clubhouse, which will seat about 40, but will not include a grill, was delayed for two weeks about three months ago.

When applying for a liquor license, Webb learned the site was zoned for residential use, not commercial. Peterson, however,

said the oversight wasn't what caused the delay.

"It was not a big issue," he said. "The Board of Supervisors took a month break, and we had trouble getting on their agenda to get a building permit."

Crews have been working overtime to meet the schedule, and Peterson is satisfied with the progress.

He praised the 18-hole layout, describing it as a "challenging course," with its nine lakes, 46 sand traps and an estimated 900 trees, including 650 transplanted palms.

"It's a unique, quality course that will have different characteristics," Peterson continued. "Del Webb has a reputation of trying to improve (on previous projects). This will be a refinement from Trail Ridge and Grandview."

McCutcheon said Deer Valley will not have as much waste area as other SCW Rec Center courses and will be greener.

But it will measure a bit shorter than Trail Ridge, for example.

From the blue tees, the distance is 6,547 yards, from the whites, 6,090 and from the ladies' tees, 5,319.

The Arizona Golf Assn. rated the course last week, but has not announced the figures as yet.

"It's going to be a beautiful course," McCutcheon said.

P. S. Don't confuse the name. It's the Deer Valley Golf Course, not the Palm Ridge Golf Course, as stated in the last issue of the Rec Centers' publication Wordwest.

The Palm Ridge Rec Center is scheduled for completion in April.

SCW



# Rec centers board hardens stand on concrete car paths

SCW

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Asphalt vs. concrete.

Which is best for golf car paths at Sun City West's five golf courses?

Members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board have discussed the pros and cons, opting for concrete.

While board members acknowledge that their choice of concrete over asphalt is costly — almost \$1 million, they say it will prove cost-effective in the long run.

During a recent board meeting some residents balked at the cost.

But board members defended the decision, saying that concrete is more durable and more cost-effective than asphalt.

"There's a lot of places going to concrete," said Harry Spence, a board member and chairman of the committee that investigated the conversion.

"With asphalt you might get six years, in the best of times you may get eight years out of it — but you still have to go back and (re)do it," he said. "We should get 30 years out of the concrete paths."

Many golf course managers throughout the Valley agree that

concrete weathers best in a desert climate.

"Especially with the heat in the summertime it's more durable," said Dennis Coking, an assistant manager for Westbrook Village's two courses in Peoria.

All four of Phoenix's municipal golf courses have concrete paths, as does Glendale's only city course.

"On a golf course, concrete tends to last longer," said Bill Winkler of Glendale's Glen Lakes Municipal Golf Course. "Asphalt you tend to have to patch up and that sort of thing."

In Sun City, where the recreation centers operate eight courses, the conversion from asphalt to concrete is forthcoming, said board member Max Domino.

"We have in the 1993 budget a concrete paver and we expect to buy that and we will probably start with the tees and greens on the most needed courses first," he said.

The constant repairs needed on the asphalt paths, and subsequent cost, were major factors in the decision to replace them with concrete, Domino said.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City has budgeted \$498,943 for repair

and maintenance of golf courses in 1993.

Sun City West also spends a hefty amount of money repairing its golf car paths, Spence said.

Each year, \$50,000 is spent to oil seal the paths on all five courses. Up to an additional \$80,000 to \$90,000 is often spent to apply another top coat to paths that have been damaged by the weather, Spence said.

The conversion project will begin with Trail Ridge Golf Course, possibly by mid-September or October, he said, because Trail Ridge's four-year-old paths have deteriorated.

"Webb had it put in, not us," Spence said. "They did a lousy job."

The grading for the path, and its thickness, were not adequate, he said.

"They (Webb) won't pay that — they paid for it and now it's ours," Spence said.

Webb will install concrete paths in its two new golf courses in the community's northern expansion area, said Bill McCutcheon, who heads the board's golf committee.

A schedule for the conversion of paths at other golf courses paths has not been finalized, Spence said.

6/1/93

VF GOLF COURSES SCW



# Tee it up

## Del Webb announces plans for 2nd golf course

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

### Sun City West

With its new championship golf course halfway completed, Del Webb Corp. has announced that it will build a second course in the Sun City West expansion area.

The new links will be a par-60, 18-hole executive course and cost about \$5.5 million.

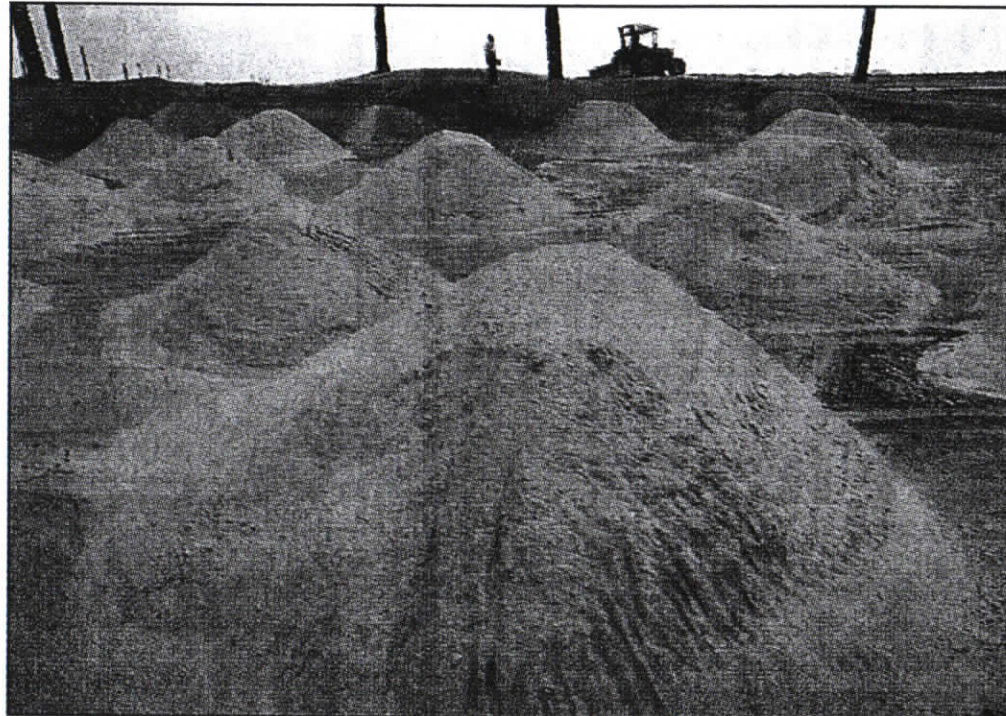
Chuck Roach, Del Webb Sun City West general manager, said the company is "delivering on our promise" to residents that another golf course would be considered if the expansion area was larger than expected.

Del Webb proposed in 1991 to expand Sun City West by 894 acres.

But the developer later purchased about 500 acres of state-owned land and privately owned property. The expansion area is north of Deer Valley Drive between 135th and 151st avenues.

The latest course will bring to nine the number of golf courses in the community, with seven of them operated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc.

"We believe an executive course will be a fine addition to this community," said Al Spanjer, recreation centers governing board president.



This 12th fairway bunker will be a place to avoid when the Deer Valley Golf Course opens in December.

Mark Henle / Staff photographer

"We know of no other developer in this country who has provided the scope of amenities found in Sun City West, based on a comparable population."

Del Webb has begun its preliminary design work on the new course and expects to start construction in 1994.

The architectural firm of Cas-

per, Nash and Associates will design the new course. This will be the ninth Sun City West course that Greg Nash has designed, and pro golfer Bill Casper's second.

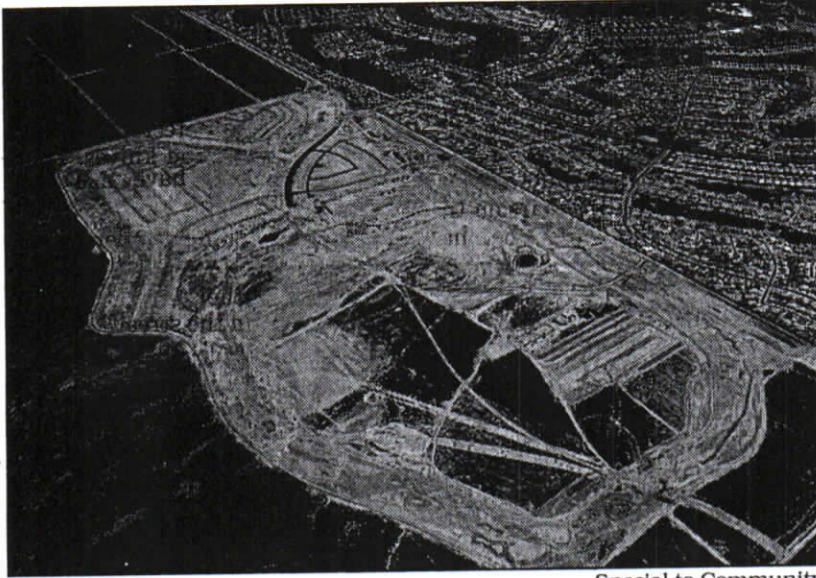
The Deer Valley Golf Course, which is under construction in the expansion area, is slated to open in December. The course's landscap-

ing — including 650 palm trees — is in place. The irrigation system is being installed, and grass seeding will start this month.

Meanwhile, Webb will start construction in June on a \$6.4 million, 51,000-square-foot recreation center in the expansion area.

See GOLF, Page 3





Special to Community

**Sun City West's newest 18-hole golf course is taking shape near 135th Avenue north of Deer Valley Drive. This recent shot was taken before 650 palm trees were planted. Seeding of the fairways is expected to be started this month.**

## GOLF

From Page 1

The complex covers 15 acres and will have a fitness center, a social/club building with an 11,000-square-foot ballroom, and six outdoor tennis courts. Three swimming pools and two spas are planned.

Home construction has begun in the new area. More than 65 houses have been sold.

Del Webb officials are alerting motorists about the closure of Deer

Valley Drive between 135th and 151st avenues.

Asphalt is being removed, and the land is being graded for home construction.

The street will be rebuilt northward to extend through the Sun City West expansion area.

Residents are asked not to walk or ride their bikes in areas that are under construction.



# Sun City West expansion gains 2nd golf course

## 18-hole executive course planned

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Rumors of a second golf course in this community's expansion area aren't just rumors anymore.

An announcement by Del Webb Corp. on Monday confirmed plans for an 18-hole executive course for the westernmost area of the expansion.

While the news may not have been a surprise to avid golfers, it was, nonetheless, well-received.

"I think it's a great idea. We definitely need it," said Bob Kelley, president of the men's golf club at Trail Ridge Golf Course.

The community has five golf courses — Trail Ridge, Stardust, Pebblebrook, Grandview and Echo Mesa — run by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West; there is also a private course, Briarwood, and one operated by Webb, Hillcrest.

Construction of a championship 18-hole course, christened Deer Valley Golf Course, is under way in the



expansion area, north of Deer Valley Drive between 135th and 151st avenues.

The rec centers' seventh course will be built on 367 acres acquired from the state last year for Webb's 1,300-acre expansion area, said Martha Moyer, Webb's manager of community and public relations.

The seventh course will feature primarily desert landscaping, which

See Desert landscaping, A5



# Desert landscaping in designers' plans

—From A1

will be irrigated with either treated effluent or recharged water (recycled groundwater), she said.

Design work for the new course, by Casper, Nash and Associates, is under way, and Webb officials expect to break ground in early- to mid-1994, Moyer said.

"When we had announced that we were interested in acquiring the state property, we said that if we could work out the layout and if we could work out the land acquisition that needed to occur, that we would provide more holes of golf," she said.

The course should be completed within a year from the start date, Moyer said.

"I would've liked to see it be a championship course vs. an executive course," said Bill Bratcher, vice president of the men's club at Pebblebrook Golf Course. "But beggars can't be choosers. Any additional golf course would benefit the community."

A champion course is a regulation-size course, which is normally par 72. The executive course is a smaller version which typically has par 3 and par 4 holes. A few executive courses feature par 5 holes, a local golf pro said.

With the growth in population that will accompany the expansion, more holes are a

must, Bratcher said.

"Golf space out here will be at a premium," he said.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board supports the addition of another course.

"The amenities that are offered here in Sun City West, whether they meet the demands or not, are more than you'll find in any other retirement community I know of," said Al Spanjer, board president.

Spanjer said the new golf course should not add any financial burdens to the recreation centers or golf division.

"I don't think so, particularly the way Webb does things," he said. "When a new golf course opens, they subsidize it for a couple of years."

"We have always taken care of the golf courses for a certain period of time after we transfer them to the recreation association," she said.

The president of Citizens Alert Group, a local watchdog organization that has been critical of Webb's expansion project, says the decision to add another course is a positive move.

"I think it's good," said Mary Kendrick. "There are other areas that (fall) short as well, and maybe this is an indication that they're starting to look at them."



# Developer debates number of courses

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

How many golf courses does one retirement community need?

Determining the number isn't a matter of pure mathematics, said Martha Moyer, Del Webb spokeswoman.

"We don't have a formula in our file that says 'X number of residents need X number of golf courses,'" she said.

"It's a very delicate balance and it's a very delicate situation, because you want to provide enough golf courses for the golfers in the community," Moyer said, but added that developers also do not want to have empty golf courses.

With the new course announced Monday, Moyer said, Sun City West will have more holes of golf per resident than Sun City.

The older retirement community has 10 18-hole golf courses, one nine-hole course and about 45,000 residents, Moyer said. The 18-hole course announced Monday will be Sun City West's ninth, she added. Sun City West's population is projected to be 32,000 to 33,000.

In Sun City, Moyer said, "They've had a lot of problems with their golf courses over there as far as not having enough people to play them."

But Sun City recreation centers board Treasurer Max Domino said Sun City courses are about as busy as they have ever been.

Domino is treasurer of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors and chairman of the golf committee.

In the first three months of 1993, 62,000 rounds of golf were played on recreation centers courses, up from

**'In the wintertime, why, it's a little crowded, but it's not enough to justify any further expansions.'**

**Max Domino  
Sun City rec board**

the 52,000 rounds played during January, February and March of 1992.

"I don't think there's as many golfers, but there's more visitors," Domino said, adding that 6,700 of the 62,000 rounds played in the first three months of 1993 were played by guests.

For all of 1992, a total of 452,401 rounds of golf were played, compared with 462,844 in 1991 and up from 446,969 in 1990. "It seems like it's holding its own," Domino said.

Domino said the recreation centers has achieved a balance. "In the wintertime, why, it's a little crowded, but it's not enough to justify any further expansions," he said.

And Domino said people who are concerned that the recreation centers might try to eliminate a course, "can worry all they want to, but we're not going to get rid of any of them."

Income from green fees pays for the normal operating costs of the courses, he said.

Bev Davis, president of the Sun City Women's 18-hole Golf Association, said Sun Citians keep the golf courses busy.

"We get a schedule every month as to the activity and each course is very busy," she said.



# Busy SCW courses strand 80-100 golfers a day

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Ev Walden is the epitome of a Sun City West golfer.

He'll golf at the drop of a pin and, considering the high demand on the five courses owned by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc., he's always happy when he gets a tee time.

But unfortunately, while many golfers are granted tee times, as many as 80 to 100 are turned away daily from each of the community's three championship courses.

Of the rec centers' five courses, Trail Ridge, Grandview and Pebblebrook are championship courses and Stardust and Echo Mesa are executive or shorter courses.

As the community has grown, now standing at 21,800 people, so has the demand on the courses, said Bill McCutcheon.

McCutcheon is a member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board and president of the community's golf council, which is made up of the presidents of each course's men's and women's golf associations.

"Right now we are full," McCutcheon said.

Sun City West has two other courses, Hillcrest, which is owned by Del Webb Corp. and doesn't honor rec cards, and Briarwood, a private course.

Although golfers may play at their leisure during the summer months, the rest of the year is quite a different story, McCutcheon said.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Jim Corbett of Sun City West returns a golf car to the Grandview Golf Course clubhouse. Corbett says it's difficult to get a tee time on the Grandview course.

The amount of golf played on courses is up 9.9 percent over last year, he said.

"I think most people realize that golfing is a good deal in Sun City West, even if you can't always get the times you want, but it is getting crowded," said Walden, a three-year resident.

Walden plays primarily on Pebblebrook Golf Course.

It is not unusual for 100 people to be turned away daily at Pebblecreek, Walden said.

In fiscal year 1991-92, 348,607 rounds of golf were played on the rec centers' courses, McCutcheon said.

Guests of rec cardholders played 1.6 percent of those rounds, he said.

Members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. played 462,844 rounds of golf on their eight courses from Jan. 1, 1991 through Dec. 31, 1991, said a rec center official.

As of Dec. 31, 1991, there were 42,717 members of the Sun City rec

centers.

Sun City West's Pebblebrook is by far the busiest of the courses with 84,918 rounds recorded during the last year.

Rounds played at other courses were:

- Grandview: 70,189
- Trail Ridge: 57,288.
- Stardust: 70,253.
- Echo Mesa: 65,959.

To accommodate as many players as possible, many courses are scheduling foursomes and even groups of five.

At Trail Ridge, going to groups of five could translate into an additional 56 rounds of golf daily.

Walden has an alternative: Penalize golfers who don't show for their scheduled tee time.

"If they could do something to make sure that when you schedule a course you show up, I would certainly favor it," he said.

McCutcheon said such a policy for no-shows is being considered.

The construction of a new course in Sun City West's expansion area, north of Deer Valley Drive between 135th and 151st avenues, may also provide some relief from overcrowding.

"The new course is going to help somewhat," said McCutcheon, who is involved with its planning.

The expansion area's golf course is slated for completion in December 1993, he said.



Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, April 12, 1990

# Sun City West posts marshals on greens

## Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — One complaint recently triggered marshal law on Sun City West's five golf courses.

The recreation centers responded to an anonymous charge that people were playing without paying by posting a marshal at each course, Sandee Bennett, executive secretary, said.

The marshals inspected golf greens, cart and medical flag permits for a week on the busiest days of course play: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"If you live on a golf course, it would be very easy to walk out the back yard onto the course. And if you have a club in hand, who's going to say anything if you cross a street and walk onto a course," Bennett said.

Each course averages between 200 and 300 players a day during this time of year, golf director Ed Ekis said.

But the marshals' report

showed that only residents are using the course, and just 12 people of nearly 3,000 checked were playing a course without having paid, Ekis said.

"The players were absolutely supportive. The general comment was that they thought it ought to be checked on every once in awhile," marshal Bob Frear said.

The expired permits were just a case of people forgetting to renew them for a week or two, Frear said.

Several of the 12 non-valid players immediately renewed their permits, Ekis said, when reminded that they had allowed them to expire.

"We want to show people that we are concerned that only the correct people are using the facilities and that everyone is paying his own way. We should be equal for all," Ekis said.

The recreation centers administration doesn't view the 12

non-valid players as a problem, Bennett said.

Whenever the recreation centers or golf facilities offices receive complaints regarding residents playing without permits, the marshal system of inspection is implemented, Ekis said.

Most recently, because no permit check had been performed, the system was used to respond to a single complaint.

"Rumors get started and if they fly around a little bit, or we get a letter or phone call, we will put the marshals out on the busy days so that we can give management a tool to use in answering the complaints," Ekis said.

When not patrolling for permits, each of the marshals works about 24 hours a week. They help residents locate golf balls and maintain speed of play, and watch for medical emergencies, Ekis said.





## SCW TO HOST STATE'S LARGEST FIREWORKS DISPLAY




Del E. Webb Communities is proud to sponsor the state's largest and most spectacular fireworks display on July 4. The spectacular aerial display will consist of 642 shells in a rainbow of colors, featuring new varieties of shells from Taiwan, China and the United States. This fireworks display will be unparalleled in the state!

The festivities will take place between the Sundome and Crestview Restaurant beginning at 7:30 with songstress Ann James. Ann has prepared a selection of material suited for the occasion including a tribute to George M. Cohan. The Jazzettes of Sun City West will kick up their heels during their routine, and the Sundome Lions Club will sell soda pop.

The darkness of the night sky will be illuminated with magnificent color beginning at about 8:45 p.m.

Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends from Phoenix - and your own seating.





## Sellout forces addition of satellite golf Pro-Am

<sup>12524</sup>  
SUN CITY WEST—The Del E. Webb Arizona Classic is happy to announce that all amateur positions for the 36-hole two-day Pro-Am March 11-12, are sold out.

"The event has been so popular with both men and women amateurs that we have decided to offer a satellite Pro-Am," says Don Heyl, general chairman of the tournament.

"The P.G.A. allows 54 professionals to participate in the 2-day Pro-Am. With the expansion of the field for the championship event (Friday through Sunday of tournament week) to 72 pros, we will have 18 pros available for our satellite Pro-Am on Thursday," Heyl says.

The 18-hole event will be played with foursomes of amateurs teaming up with a senior pro Thursday, March 12, at Pebblebrook Golf Course in Sun City West.

In addition to satellite Pro-Am play, the amateur will be invited to participate in a luncheon at Crestview Restaurant immediately following the play, and attend the gala celebrity Pro-Am awards banquet, Thursday, March 12 at Arizona Biltmore.

Other key features include such items as a color photo of the Pro-Am group and reserved seating behind the 18th green Saturday and Sunday.

The Arizona Classic is a 54-hole competition featuring great golf legends such as Billy Casper, Don January, Chi Chi Rodriguez and Bruce Crampton who will compete for a \$200,000 purse March 9-15 at Hillcrest Golf Club in Sun City West.

The Classic is hosted by the non-profit Sun Health Foundation for the benefit of the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City. The Institute for Biogerontology Research to be developed on the Boswell campus and the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital under construction in Sun City West.

Amateurs can reserve their spot in the satellite Pro-Am by submitting their registration with a \$500 fee. Amateurs are welcome to put together their own foursomes, providing handicaps meet the A, B, C, D categories.

Registration forms are available at the tournament office, 13739 Camino Del Sol, Sun City West, and at the Sun Health Foundation offices on the second floor of the Boswell Memorial Hospital's Support Services Building, 13180 N. 103rd Drive, Sun City.

Additional details about the Satellite Pro-Am play are available by calling the Arizona Classic at 975-3066.



# Senior PGA Tour returns with name, rules changes

1252A

**SUN CITY WEST**—A newly re-named championship tournament will greet golf's greats when the Senior PGA Tour returns here March 9-15.

Formerly known as the Senior PGA Tour Roundup, the tournament will make its fourth consecutive Valley appearance as the 1987 Del E. Webb Arizona Classic.

Webb's Hillcrest Golf Course will be the site of the event, which will feature a \$200,000 purse.

Continuing as host of the event will be the Sun Health Foundation. The Arizona Classic will be a charitable event benefitting the non-profit Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City and the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital under construction in Sun City West.

"The tournament is tremendously popular, attracting national attention and drawing

visitors to Arizona from throughout the United States," says Don Heyl of Sun City West, general chairman of the Arizona Classic.

"We felt the tournament needed a name that would further enhance its image and more closely identify this great sporting event with our state," Heyl says. "The Arizona Classic speaks well for our state and the Sun Cities."

The event has attracted such golfing greats as 1984 winner Billy Casper, Don January and Charlie Owens, who won in 1985 and '86 respectively; Miller Barber, Gay Brewer, Sam Snead, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Peter Thompson and Doug Sanders.

In addition to the new name, the format and rules of eligibility for the Classic have been changed.

As announced earlier, the field will increase from 54 to 72. Eligible players will be 28 golfers from the previous year's official money list, 28 from the all-time money list, eight from the national qualifying tournament, four from local qualifying and four from sponsor exemptions.

A cut to the 48 low scores plus ties will be made Saturday after the completion of 36 holes of play. Those making the cut will compete in the final round of the 54-hole tournament.

Orders are being accepted for advance season tickets at substantial savings. Information about tickets and sponsorship activities, including pro-am spots, is available by calling the tournament office at 975-3066.



# Del Webb's Senior PGA features new game

Come out and see your favorite golfers as the 1986 Del E. Webb Senior PGA Tour Roundup tees up March 10-16 at Hillcrest Golf Course in Sun City West.

The tournament is hosted by the Sun health Foundation, formerly the Boswell Hospital Foundation, for the benefit of the Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City.

A new event, a mini-skis game, will feature four of the pros scheduled to compete in the tournament. The new four-player competition will be played on Wednesday, March 12, and will include the 1984 and 1985 Roundup champions Billy Casper and Don January.

The Senior PGA Tour's leading money winner in 1985, Peter Thomson, and Lionel Herbert will also compete. Herbert holds with January the single-round, eight-under-par 64 course record at Hillcrest set during the 1985 Roundup.

The skins (a golf term for the hole) game will award \$100 per hole to the winner of each of the first six holes. Winners of the second six holes will receive \$150 per hole and winners of the third six holes will receive \$250 per hole.

January, Casper, Thomson and Herbert lead the list of the 54 senior pros scheduled to compete in the 54

hole tournament.

Tickets will be \$4 for admission Monday through Wednesday, price includes the mini-skis game. Thursday through Sunday the admission will be \$8.

A package deal, the Good-Any-Day Ticket Package, will be offered until the opening day of the tournament. The package includes five tickets, good for admission any single day of the tournament.

Tickets are available at the tournament office, 13739 Camino del Sol, Sun City West, or at all Diamond's ticket outlets. For more information, call 975-3066.





# Westers to name golf course

What will be the name of Sun City West's sixth golf course?

Residents themselves will have an opportunity to select a name during the "Name the Golf Course" contest, sponsored by Del E. Webb Communities, Inc.

Beginning April 1, residents of Sun City West will be able to submit a name for the course. A special resident committee will review all entries and select the most popular choice.

People selecting that name will then be entered into a drawing to determine the winner of a Rainbow Explorer Package.

Entry blanks and ballot boxes will be available April 1 at all Sun City West golf course pro shops, at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall and the Beardsley Park Card Room. A rendering of the new course is posted at each location.

Construction is already underway on the new course. It is an executive par-60, 18-hole layout. It plays 4,190 yards from the men's tee and 3,400 yards from the women's tee.

The course is bordered by Meeker Boulevard on the south, 135th Avenue on the east and R.H. Johnson on the west.

The course was designed by Greg Nash, who has designed 11 courses in Sun City and Sun City West. Golf Course No. 6 is expected to open this fall.

There is no limit on the number of entries a resident may submit. The deadline for all entries is April 18. The chosen name will be made public the following week.

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OVER

MAR. 26 1986  
SUN CITY  
INDEPENDENT



## 'Echo Mesa' name of new SCW links

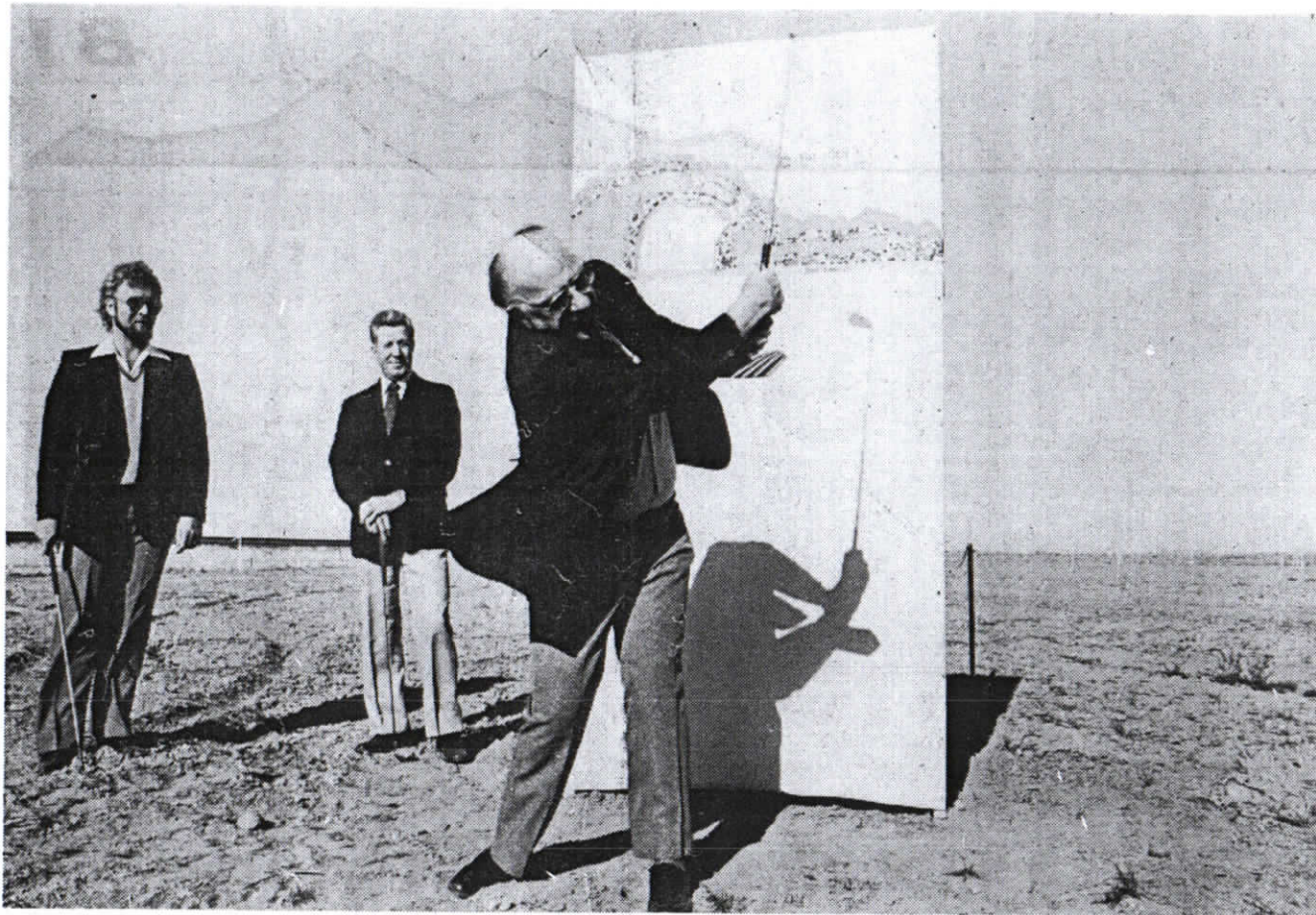
**W** SUN CITY WEST—Residents here have selected the name Echo Mesa for the community's sixth golf course. The name was selected from thousands of entries in Del Webb's "Name the Golf Course" contest.

Dennis Rehder was chosen at random from among multiple entries of Echo Mesa as the winner. Rehder won a two-day trip for two to

Lake Powell. The trip includes two-nights lodging at Wahweap Lodge and an all-day boat trip to Rainbow Bridge Monument.

The course will be located north of Meeker Boulevard between R.H. Johnson Boulevard and 135th Avenue. It is expected to be complete later this year.





### ***On course***

Fred Kuentz, president of Del E. Webb Development Co., hits the first golf ball following ground breaking for Sun City West's fifth golf course. Watching, from left, are course architect Greg Nash and Sun City

West Rec Centers Manager Bill Woodyard. The 18-hole layout, adjacent to Grand Avenue, is tentatively scheduled to open late this year. It will be the third rec centers course. (News-Sun photo)





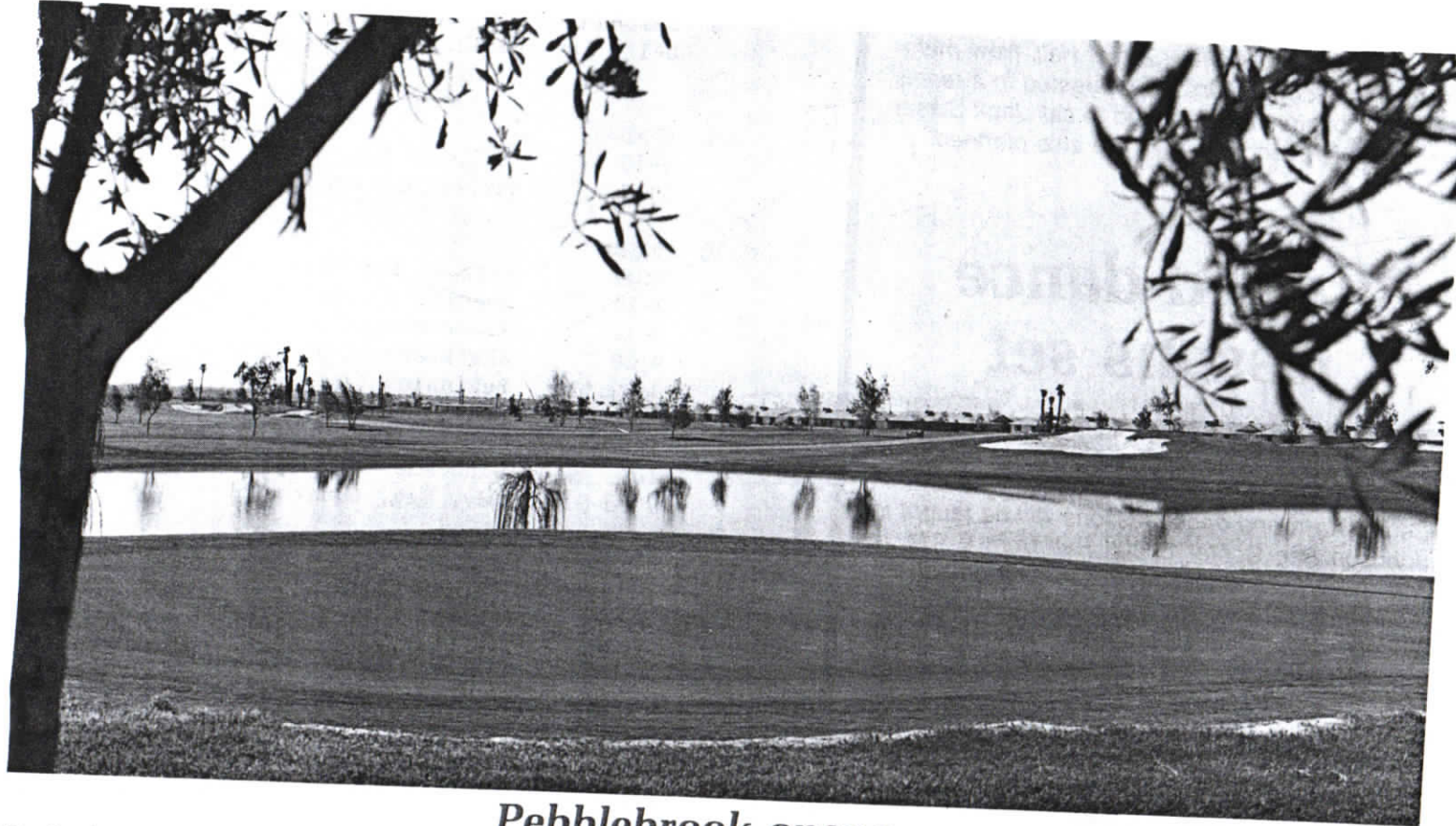
## **Links' board**

Sun City West Men's Golf Association became reality this week with a meeting and election of officers. Among those named to the board, from left, were John Kolis, vice president; Chuck Dodd, tournament chairman, Art Massey, handicap chairman; Ed Ekis, Hillcrest golf pro; Bill Moulder, president; Carl Anderson, treasurer, and Bob Porterfield, secretary. Some 97 men attended the gathering, 85 of whom joined the association.

11-13-79

(News-Sun Photo)





### **Pebblebrook opens**

*The front nine of Pebblebrook Golf Course is now open and members of Sun City West Recreation Centers are invited to play one free, 18-hole round from September 1-15. The front nine measures 3,246 yards from the championship tees and*

*plays to par 36. To reserve a tee time, please call 584-2401. Individual and group lessons are available from Ed Ekis, course professional.*



THE NEWSLETTER

Sun City



West

Del E. Webb Development Co. ★ Public Relations Dept ★ P.O. Box 1705 ★ Sun City, Arizona 85372 ★ April 1979

## The Golf Course? IT'S READY!!!

April showers bring May flowers. Well, so far April has showered us with sunshine. Perfect spring days to challenge Hillcrest Golf Course (see page 4).

The Sun City West map we promised you is included in this edition of the Newsletter (inside) and the front page features you — future Sun City West residents.

"Get the golf course ready!" wrote GLENN HEATHMAN from Jackson, Mich. Glenn and Verna will be joining us in April in Arizona sunshine to enjoy the spring flowers and then about September they'll be moving permanently to occupy their Sun City West home at 13222 Desert Glen Drive. Glenn will have completed almost 34 years in designing, building and operating pipelines and pipeline facilities in the natural gas business. That was while wife Verna kept the home fires burning (with gas, naturally). He plans to fulfill some consulting contracts in the Southwest, then he and Verna will play some golf, take some art lessons, travel, and look forward to making new friendships. Welcome to the Heathmans.

Sun City Westers got community organization underway in early February with a standing-room-only assembly of fellow residents in Crestview Banquet Room at which they organized the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association (PORA). A slate of 18 board members proposed by the steering committee was endorsed, along with the nominations from the floor of two retired General Motors employees, Luman Wick and Hogan Dunlevy. Other directors include: Howard (Bud) Brown, former director of human resources for the city of Dallas before moving to Sun City West; Loise Copes, a former U.S. postmistress in Brooklandville, Md; Lawrence Cross, former administrative accountant for the film packaging division of Union Carbide; Mr. Dunlevy, for 30 years in managerial positions for the Delco Division of General Motors in Kettering, Ohio; Dr. Irma Halfter, former vice-president of DePaul University; Joe Kelso, retired from a variety of management positions in Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.; Arthur Knapp, who spent 44 years in the hog-buying business; Harold Marshall, retired from the U.S. Army where he worked in communications, recreation and safety; Claire Mitchell who has taught at Indiana State University and has worked as a speech pathologist; Harry Pappas, who has owned and operated a Northern California dry cleaning plant 40 years and served in state and national dry cleaners' organizations; Lester Perrill, who was chairman of the department of sociology and anthropology at Arizona State University; Walter Schneider, who has held cost accounting, purchasing, production, editing and managerial positions; Beatrice Segall, a retired real estate appraiser who served on the New York State Board of Equalization and

Assessment; Edward Steele, retired from Humboldt State University where he served as chairman of the speech and art departments; William Stewart, a retired senior valuation engineer for the Internal Revenue Service; Glen Stoffer, for 41 years with Carrier Air Conditioning Co. in engineering and sales capacities; Gloria Sullivan, for 24 years with Bank of America as an escrow officer; Mr. Wick, a retired manager of General Motors' Frigidaire Division; Gene Wilson retired U.S. Air Force colonel later responsible for budgeting and cost accounting for all NASA space launches at Cape Canaveral; and Walter Wittich, retired chairman of the education communications and technology department of the University of Hawaii. Gene Wilson subsequently was elected president, William Stewart first vice-president and Mrs. Halfter second vice-president.

It was a little over a year ago when the DARRAHS of San Diego, (ROBERT and BETTY) came to Sun City to occupy a vacation apartment and look over plans for Sun City West. And they were halfway out of town when they decided if they were to visit again they'd better backtrack and see what arrangements they could make. Back they went to their sales counselor, Gordon Whitwell, and subsequently then committed themselves to a new Sun City West home at 13317 Copperstone Drive. They hope the bingo games are still going at the Webb Corporation's Mint Hotel in Las Vegas, where they've enjoyed them in the past. They understand the Mint will be a shorter distance from Sun City West than it has been from San Diego. Welcome, Darrahs.

We've just heard from JOSEPH and LEE DORNIK of Brooklyn, New York. They're planning an April arrival to occupy their Sun City West home at 13506 Spanish Garden Drive. Joe plans on sharpening his dancing and bowling talents once he arrives in Arizona. Wife Lee, who says she's better known as "Lee of Italy" to her colleagues in the world of fashion design, plans on relaxing in the Arizona sunshine, and cooking and baking marvelous Italian delicacies. And she adds: "Lookout, waistslines!" She says she and Joseph are currently members of the La Torre Social Club of which Joseph is currently Governor of Affairs.

All for now — our next Newsletter edition features the recent Sun City Fitness Festival.

More letters, please. Enjoy a happy Spring!

Sincerely,

*Jerry McLain*  
Jerry McLain



RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST, INC.

GOLF COURSES DIVISION

FEES - RULES - REGULATIONS - POLICIES

19803 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

FOR PREPAID FEES CALL 584-2050

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FOR STARTING TIMES

PEBBLEBROOK GOLF COURSE 584-2401

STARDUST GOLF COURSE 584-2916

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - RESIDENTS OF SUN CITY WEST WITH CURRENT RECREATION CENTER MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL PREPAID GREEN FEES (RESIDENTS ONLY) - PLAY ANY DAY

Pebblebrook Golf Course and Stardust Golf Course - single,  
unlimited, resident, annual prepaid greens fee permit \$399.00

CONDITIONS OF SALE OF PREPAID GREENS FEE PERMIT.

1. PURCHASER AGREES TO ABIDE BY RULES, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES OF RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST, INC., GOLF COURSES DIVISION.
2. PREPAID GREENS FEE CARD IS VALID ONLY THRU EXPIRATION DATE ON CARD.
3. NO REFUND UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF DEATH. REFUNDS WILL BE MADE ON A PRORATED BASIS OF UNEXPIRED PORTION OF PREPAID GREENS FEE PERMIT. A \$5.00 SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE WILL BE CHARGED.
4. PREPAID GREEN FEES ARE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF PURCHASE. HOWEVER, PURCHASE OF THESE PREPAID FEES MAY BE MADE FOR LONGER THAN ONE YEAR, BUT NO LONGER THAN TWO YEARS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A PREPAID GREENS FEE CARD BE ISSUED FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR. FURTHER, NO EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION DATE WILL BE GRANTED.
5. A DUPLICATE CARD WILL BE ISSUED IF ORIGINAL IS LOST OR DAMAGED FOR A FEE OF \$5.00.
6. PREPAID GREENS FEE CARD IS VALID ONLY FOR PERSON TO WHOM IT IS ISSUED.

ANNUAL GOLF CART PERMITS (FOR RESIDENTS ONLY. ALL PRIVATE CARTS THAT ARE USED ON GOLF COURSES MUST HAVE VALID PERMIT)

\$125.00 - ALL CARTS MUST BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO ISSUING PERMITS  
INSPECTION AT EITHER GOLF SHOP (ORIGINAL PERMIT AND  
RENEWAL PERMIT) PERMIT MUST BE DISPLAYED ON RIGHT REAR  
OF CART IN A PROMINENT LOCATION. THERE WILL BE NO  
EXCEPTIONS.

CONDITIONS OF SALE OF ANNUAL CART PERMIT

1. PURCHASER AGREES TO ABIDE BY RULES, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES OF RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST, INC., GOLF COURSES DIVISION.
2. RESIDENT GOLF PROFESSIONAL WILL INSPECT GOLF CARTS BEFORE ANNUAL PERMIT IS ISSUED.
3. ONLY TWO BAGS AND PERSONS PER CART.
4. PREPAID CART PERMIT IS VALID ONLY THRU DATE SHOWN ON PERMIT.
5. NO REFUND EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF DEATH. REFUNDS WILL BE BASED ON PRORATED UNUSED PORTION OF PERMIT. A \$5.00 SERVICE AND HANDLING FEE WILL BE CHARGED.



6. ANNUAL CART PERMITS ARE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR. CART PERMITS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR BUT LESS THAN TWO YEARS, ON A PRORATED BASIS. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PERMIT BE ISSUED FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR. NO EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION DATE WILL BE GRANTED.
7. ANNUAL CART PERMITS ARE ISSUED WITH PURCHASER AND/OR SPOUSES NAME ON SAME. CART PERMITS ARE FOR THEIR USE AND THEIR GUESTS USE ONLY. NOT TO BE USED BY ANOTHER SUN CITY WEST RESIDENT.
8. A REPLACEMENT PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED FOR A FEE OF \$5.00 IF PURCHASER WILL BRING AS MUCH OF CURRENT CART PERMIT AS POSSIBLE TO SALES OFFICE.

CASH GREEN FEES

REGULATION COURSE (Pebblebrook)	9 HOLES	18 HOLES
RESIDENT DAILY.....	\$6.00	\$9.00
GUEST DAILY.....	7.00	11.00
EXECUTIVE (Stardust)		
RESIDENT DAILY.....	4.00	6.00
GUEST DAILY.....	6.00	9.00

GOLF RENTAL CARTS

REGULATION COURSE.....FOR 9 HOLES...\$6.00	.....FOR 18 HOLES.....\$10.00
EXECUTIVE COURSE.....FOR 9 HOLES...\$5.00	.....FOR 18 HOLES.....\$ 8.00
RENTAL PULL CARTS.....\$1.00	.....\$ 1.50
DRIVING RANGES.....WARM-UP BASKET.....\$.25	MEDIUM BASKET.....\$ 1.00
	SMALL BASKET.....\$.65
	LARGE BASKET.....\$ 1.75

GOLF LESSONS.....PERSONAL OR GROUP - CONTACT YOUR GOLF PROFESSIONAL.

STARTING TIMES...RESERVE IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE (ONE PERSON TO MAKE TEE TIME FOR GROUP), ONE DAY IN ADVANCE AT 6:50 A.M. AT PRO SHOP - 7:00 A.M. BY PHONE. THOSE PRESENT AT GOLF SHOPS DRAW BY CHANCE A CARD UPON WHICH IS A NUMBER AND WHICH DETERMINES THE ORDER IN WHICH RESERVATIONS ARE TAKEN FROM THOSE PRESENT, INTERSPERSED BY ONE TELEPHONE RESERVATION TO ONE IN PERSON RESERVATION.

GUEST POLICY...ONLY REC. CENTER MEMBERS WITH VALID MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE PERMITTED TO HAVE GUESTS. EACH REC. CENTER MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO 12 GUEST FEE ROUNDS IN A 6 MONTH PERIOD. EACH MEMBER WILL BE FURNISHED UPON REQUEST A "FREE OF CHARGE" GUEST CARD. GUESTS MUST PAY THE GREEN FEE APPLICABLE. EACH CARD WILL BE VALID FOR 12 GUEST ROUNDS TO BE VALIDATED BY STARTER AS GUEST PRIVILEGES ARE USED. CARD EXPIRES 6 MONTHS AFTER DATE OF ISSUE. CARDS WILL BE OBTAINED AT PEBBLEBROOK GOLF COURSE PRO SHOP, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.



RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST, INC. GOLF COURSES DIVISION  
RULES - REGULATIONS - POLICIES

PLEASE HELP TO HAVE BETTER COURSES IN SUN CITY WEST

RESTRICTIONS - CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE COURSES.  
PLAYERS UNDER 16 WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT PLAYER. NO PETS ON GOLF  
COURSES AT ANY TIME. NO FISHING OR SWIMMING IN LAKES. NON-GOLFERS ARE  
NOT PERMITTED ON COURSES DURING GOLF PLAY HOURS.

GOLF APPAREL - PROPER GOLF ATTIRE IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES. APPROPRIATE UPPER BODY  
GARMENT MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.

BEFORE PLAY - CHECK-IN AND REGISTER AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE TEE-OFF TIME.

GOLF CARTS - PLEASE KEEP YOUR CART ON THE PATH AND TAKE A CHOICE OF CLUBS TO YOUR BALL.  
AVOID ALL WATER SOAKED AREAS. PULL CARTS ARE TO REMAIN 15 FEET FROM GREENS AND  
ARE NOT ALLOWED BETWEEN TRAPS AND GREENS. CARTS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON TEES.

CARE OF COURSE - RAKE SAND TRAPS TO A SMOOTH SURFACE. REPLACE RAKE IN TRAP PARALLEL  
TO FAIRWAY. FIX BALL MARKS ON GREENS.

RANGE BALLS - POSSESSION OF RANGE BALLS OTHER THAN IN DESIGNATED AREAS FOR PRACTICING  
IS NOT PERMITTED. VIOLATORS WILL BE REPORTED TO MANAGEMENT.

PRACTICE GOLF - PRACTICING ON GOLF COURSES IS NOT PERMITTED. AREAS FOR PRACTICE ARE  
AVAILABLE IN PRO SHOP AREA.

PLAYING HABITS - PLAY READY GOLF - A FOURSOME SHOULD BE ABLE TO FINISH 18 HOLES IN NOT  
MORE THAN FOUR HOURS ON OUR REGULATION COURSE. KEEP UP WITH PLAYERS AHEAD OF YOU.  
ALLOW GROUP BEHIND TO PLAY THROUGH IF ONE HOLE IS VACANT IN FRONT OF YOUR GROUP.  
GROUPS SHOULD HIT WHEN READY TO SPEED UP PLAY. WHEN CART STOPS, TAKE CHOICE OF  
CLUBS AND GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR BALL. ABANDON LOST BALLS WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY. IF  
POSSIBLE, PRACTICE CONTINUOUS PUTTING.

VIOLATIONS - MANAGEMENT WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING VIOLATIONS.

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST, INC.  
Pebblebrook Golf Course  
18836 North 128th Ave.  
SUN CITY WEST, ARIZONA

Stardust Golf Course  
12702 Stardust Blvd.  
SUN CITY WEST, ARIZONA