

# RCSCW legal affairs committee survives vote to eliminate it

TINA GAMEZ  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A committee that one Recreation Centers of Sun City West director called the "most dysfunctional group on the board" survived a vote Thursday to disband it.

The 6-2 vote to kill the Legal Affairs Committee fell one vote shy of the "super majority" required to change a bylaw.

Directors Ed VanCott and Marion Mosley voted against the measure, and Director Griff Williams, not present at the meeting for health reasons, abstained from the vote.

The Legal Affairs Committee is a standing committee established to "make recommendations regarding matters of a legal nature which are referred to the committee by the governing board, the general manager, and/or the association attorney."

Director David Wilson, who heads the LAC, said it has had minimal meetings and activities under his charge, and he believes it should be disbanded.

Other directors, along with a few audience members, agreed the group's function has changed under various directors and its existence implies legal ability.

Yet others believed, as VanCott noted: "Unless we can replace it with something that is useful in the minds of the governing board, we should retain it."

Wilson, however, said the "committee in its present form is unnecessary," suggesting a committee replace it that would be more "viable for the community."

Director Kenny Jordahl called the LAC the

**SEE COMMITTEE, A5**



TINA GAMEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Audience member Diane Cheney of Sun City West addresses the Recreation Centers of Sun City West board Thursday over the motion to dissolve the Legal Affairs Committee.

## COMMITTEE

FROM A1

"most dysfunctional group on the board." For those concerned about legal matters, he said, "I still see we have legal counsel available to us."

Board members Nolan Reed and Patricia Tomlin agreed.

"A lot of documents we deal with, are legal documents. The name implies something that is by an attorney," Reed said. "It almost implies we have a legal staff in the governing board, which is not true."

Tomlin added: "Our other seven standing committees already

address these matters." She added that the LAC has "outlived its usefulness as a standing committee."

Tom Metzger, who was in the audience during Thursday's board meeting, said Wilson "nailed it when he said, 'In its present form.' He's right. In its present form, the LAC is useless because you guys have not used it properly. Over the years, I've seen it degenerate into a nothing because you guys don't put legal people on a legal committee."

"I know lawyers in this town that won't go to those meetings anymore because they're not listened to," he said.

Diane Cheney, another member of the audience said she has

researched what the Legal Affairs Committee has been dealing with since its inception.

"It has been very valuable to us in the past. It was particularly valuable to us last year when we had bylaw changes that were being proposed, and I think it was handled very well."

"But, I have seen it, over the years, be mishandled."

"In its current form, I do not believe the Legal Affairs Committee is helping our community," she said.

The next regular board meeting is set for 9 a.m. Feb. 28, in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. A workshop is slated 9 a.m. Feb. 8, in the Lecture Hall.



# 5-year plan suggests SCW changes

STAFF REPORT

A plan created by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West general manager asks the governing board to take an official stance against lowering the community's age restriction from 55 to 50.

The Five-year Plan Staff Committee included General Manager Mike Whiting, General Services Officer Katy O'Grady, who chaired the committee, and six

other Recreation Centers officials.

After the plan was released last week, board president Terry Hamman said it lays the groundwork for Sun City West's future.

"This is a great tool for us and glad we have this as a guide," Hamman said.

O'Grady said Whiting created the plan as "one of his duties under the bylaws." She added the board is looking through

the plan and "still digesting" items in it before approving it or suggesting revisions or recommendations.

In the plan, Whiting makes it clear that RCSCW staff does not want to lower the age restriction.

According to a survey the RCSCW commissioned Arizona State University to

SEE FUTURE, A5

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

From A1

A5

## FUTURE

FROM A1

conduct, about 46 percent of those who responded would like the governing board to investigate lowering the community's age restriction from 55 to 50. Almost 50 percent did not support the idea, according to the report.

"Staff requests the governing board take an official stance against lowering the age restriction," the report stated.

The report also states the RCSCW is awaiting a legal opinion on the feasibility of changing the CC&Rs to allow a per-rooftop assessment rather than the current per-member method.

Such a change could prove significant and potentially difficult given the many different sets of CC&Rs that state dues will be levied per person, RCSCW officials said.

However the change would help the association plan better because it is difficult to keep track of the fluctuating population of the community.

O'Grady said there is "still a lot of work to be done."

"The first thing is waiting for the legal opinion to see if it's doable and advisable, and then we'll go from there," she said.

But it would help us plan better because we know how many rooftops we have and it won't change. Our membership, however, does."

Under the category of Financial Stability indicators, the plan states:

- Revenue from outside (golf) play

will increase by 1 percent per year to reach 5 percent in the next five years.

- Member dues are expected to increase 4 to 5 percent per year over the five-year period.

- Over a five-year period, the association will fund the majority of depreciation with progressive increases in the Asset Preservation Fee.

The Facilities Maintenance part of the plan states that in order to keep facilities up to the "Sun City West Standard," a minimum of \$2.5 million per year would be required, increasing annually to adjust for inflation.

Beginning in fiscal year 2014, there is a suggested budget of \$1.2 million annually to fund large infrastructure projects such as parking lots, aquatic facilities and irrigation systems.

Under the Lifestyle section, the

plan calls for:

- Presenting 45 special events per year with at least 12 of them free to RCSCW members.

- Evaluating by May residents' requests for changes to hours of operation and determine budget implications of extended hours and expanded recreation programs.

- Recommending by June to the governing board the hours of operations for the Recreation Centers, Library and Membership Office.

Board secretary Jack Steiner said he's pleased with the five-year plan, which partly stems from the ASU study.

"Our community knows where we are and where we need to head in the future," he said.

The entire plan is available on scwaz.com.



# GARAGE

## FROM A1

tending the property to build the 10-bay garage, slated to cost \$400,000.

The property between PORA and the Metal Club on Camino del Sol is owned by both RCSCW and the residential association.

Bill Hansen, PORA president, said the or-

ganization wasn't interested in extending the property line.

However, PORA was willing to sell its share of the property to RCSCW for \$250,000.

"At no point did we make any indication that we would be donating the land to them during this entire process," Hansen said.

Hamman said they're now exploring the option of constructing the facility in

an empty parking area next to R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, between the library and men's club.

General Manager Mike Whiting said architects might have to tweak the designs to fit the location. Building plans include 10 car bays, a store front showroom, a paint booth, bathrooms and a 1,000 square-foot classroom.

"When we first started, the building was

designed just for that area," Whiting said.

Board Member Griff Williams said he isn't opposed to the new location, but wants more details.

"I just wonder how it's going to look right there because it needs to fit the other buildings," Williams said.

Board Treasurer Ed Van Cott said he's skeptical of the new proposal.

"It's the last thing you want to do by put-

ting something like this across the street from a church," said Van Cott. "I think it'll look like Sun Devil Auto on Camino del Sol."

Hansen said he was surprised that RCSCW might go with other plans.

"It's troubling because we spent the last four months working on this and all of sudden things have reversed on us," Hansen said.

Through a memorandum of understanding, PORA and RCSCW explored the options of the facility on the vacant property. Auto club members are expected to pay for the total cost of the project.

"I asked (Hamman) if maybe the club could pay for the land if they (RCSW) didn't, but I haven't heard anything back from anyone," Hansen said.

# Car club plans face detour

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Automotive Restoration Club's proposed facility in Sun City West might have the R.H. Johnson Library as its new neighbor rather than the

Property Owners and Residents Association.

Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board and staff said at Monday's operational meeting that they're looking at another property to build

the garage.

Governing Board President Terry Hamman said they met last week with PORA officials to talk about ex-

SEE GARAGE, A4



T INDEPENDENT

March 7, 2012

## Vote

Continued From Page 1

relative few individuals have taken that option.

A vote breakdown won't be known until the evening of March 27, after polls close. Voting will take place that day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"The county will be here in the morning. They'll start opening the absentee ballots up and putting them in the machine. They'll count all day long. We should know within 15 minutes after the polls shut down," Ms. Schomer said.

Despite the heavy turnout, the numbers remain short of what's believed to be the record for Sun City West. In 1995, several Governing Board members resigned, forcing the RCSCW to call a special election that year, Ms. Schomer said. Over 8,000 voters turned out.

If approved, the proposed amendments would:

- Establish, effective with the FY 2012-13 budget and thereafter, annual owner-members dues, or associate and landlord fees which is greater than the Social Security increase over the preceding year, plus 2 percent, and limited to a total annual increase not to exceed 8 percent greater than the immediate preceding fiscal year. (revises Section 4.18.3)

- Effective with the FY 2012-13 budget ensure that recreation, golf and bowling divisions shall be self-supporting. Self-supporting means that all direct operational and maintenance costs of each division are covered by operating revenues generated by that division. Operating costs shall not include depreciation or allocation of association administrative costs. No member dues shall be used to support bowling and golf direct operational costs. (revises Section 4.17.1)

- Require that any capital project over \$100,000 in association funds that change, modify or repurpose the use of, or that expands or increases the square footage of any Association facility or structure shall first be approved by a majority vote of the members voting for such purpose. This amount shall be adjusted annually by the annual increase in Social Security. (4.16.15 - This is an addition to the existing bylaw).

During his tenure with RCSCW, Mr. Prindle often found himself at odds with staff over financial policy, disconnect that eventually led to an angry confrontation with management that led to his dismissal in early 2011.

If the amendments are approved, RCSCW General Manager Mike Whiting has said the association would have to make \$1 million in budget cuts, something that could result in the closing of two of the community's seven RCSCW-operated golf courses.

Candidates for the board include: Former RCSCW chief financial officer Ernie Prindle, the sponsor of the bylaws amendments, former board member David Wilson and newcomers Chuck Reott, Nolan Reed and Marion Mosley.

Amendment opponents have said they'll need a strong turnout to turn away Mr. Prindle's board bid. Mr. Prindle has said he is not intimidated by the opposition and is speaking truthfully in an effort to stem a steady tide of RCSCW dues increases designed to fend off rising Golf Division deficits brought on by declining play, a trend that has plagued courses throughout the United States.

Meanwhile, amendment opponents have reported the theft of more than two dozen of their campaign signs.

A total of 32 signs were taken from various locations, mostly along the R.H. Johnson Boulevard right of way.

While no one has been charged in the thefts, the organization placing the signs, SCW UNITE!, pointed to Mr. Prindle and his supporters. "It's obvious, at least to us, that the signs were taken in a methodical fashion by supporters of Mr. Prindle," said SCW UNITE! Secretary Patricia Shanholtzer in an

# Turnout remains heavy in RCSCW vote

By Jeff Grant

Independent Newspapers

Participation in Sun City West's 2012 elections remains very heavy as the community's owner members decide the fate of three controversial bylaws amendments.

Voters also are choosing from among five candidates, including the amendment sponsor, to fill three seats on the community's nine-member Governing Board. Board members serve 3-year terms.

RCSCW Governing Board Manager Sharon Schomer said over 7,000 early or absentee ballots have been picked up since they became available Feb. 16. That's an average of about 700 a day.

"We're jammed out there again today," Ms. Schomer said March 2.

The average waiting time to pick up a ballot is 25 minutes.

Ballots can be picked up at the member services offices, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Anyone waiting in line prior to 3 p.m. will be helped, RCSCW General Services Officer Katy O'Grady said.

Homebound owner members unable to come to member services can have a ballot delivered by calling 623-544-6001, but Ms. Schomer said

See Vote — Page 6

March 7, 2012

## Vote

Continued From Page 6

of Feb. 24-26, said Ms. Shanholtzer.

Mr. Prindle denied any direct involvement and said he did not think his supporters were behind the missing signs. "That's just silly," he said. "We haven't taken any campaign signs. Nor do I support the removal of campaign signs properly placed."

However, he claimed that at least two of the signs were placed on association property, a violation of community bylaws.

A check with PORA, confirmed that SCW UNITE! personnel had contacted PORA prior to placing the signs and that the signs all had been legally placed.

Ms. Shanholtzer said the signs had been paid for completely with organization funds, costing \$2 each. The organization was hoping to have replacement signs located.

In other developments, the organizations were both directed by the RCSCW to move their informational tables from immediately outside of the member services offices, after complaints by some owner-members of the distraction. Both groups complied, and there were no further complaints, according to Ms. Schomer.

News editor Jeff Grant can be reached at [jgrant@newszap.com](mailto:jgrant@newszap.com)





NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Daily News-Sun hosted a forum to discuss Sun City West bylaw changes at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West Monday.

## Bylaw talk splits SCW

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For the first time together, proponents and opponents of three controversial bylaw changes made their cases Monday before an estimated 400 members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

Facts, figures and motives were challenged during the two-hour forum in the Palm Ridge Recreation Center, which was

sponsored by the Daily News-Sun and moderated by two of the paper's editors.

Ernie Prindle, who led the petition drive to change the bylaws and severely limit the spending authority of the governing board, said the community's governing board and management have "reversed the Del Webb model" for Sun City West "by

SEE DEBATE, A3



# DEBATE

ON A1

socializing the golf debt."

RCSCW General Manager Mike Whiting made it clear that approval of the bylaws at the March 27 election would change the fabric that makes Sun City West what it is and turn it into "one big Sundome," referring to the former entertainment venue that has been vacant for years.

The bylaw proposals, which will be voted on separately, would require voter approval for capital improvements of more than \$100,000 and an 8 percent cap on annual membership dues rather than the 15 percent now in place. But the major revision would make the golf, bowling and recreation divisions self-supporting.

Joining Whiting in opposition to the bylaw changes were governing board president Dave Moeller and board member Pat Canfield. Prindle, Don Holmes and Carole Alexander spoke in favor of the proposals.

During opening statements, Moeller said the bylaw proposals have become a divisive issue in Sun City West and that supporters of the changes inaccurately portray association officials as overspenders.

"The petitioners

will try to paint this as overspending, and rich versus poor members, but that's not the case," Moeller said.

Prindle countered, saying the bylaw changes provide sound business practices for staff and future boards.

Both sides also addressed the poverty level of Sun City West, which is a reason why bylaw supporters want to cap membership dues increases at 8 percent.

Prindle has said that 30 percent of Sun City West residents live below poverty level. Canfield said his numbers are way off the mark. According to U.S. Census figures, 3.5 percent of Sun City West residents live below the poverty line, she said.

During these tough economic times, RCSCW staff and board were asked what they have done to manage spending. Whiting said he's cut 64 positions to reduce costs.

RCSCW also added outside golf play, generating \$1.4 million, and Canfield said Whiting and management staff haven't had raises for several years.

The proponents of the bylaw changes also were asked which one of the measures was the most important.

Holmes said members should have the right to vote for capital projects more than \$100,000, while Prindle stated limit-



NICK COTE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Daily News-Sun hosted a forum Monday to discuss proposed RCSCW bylaw changes at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West.

ing membership dues would force the board to make better decisions.

Canfield said the most detrimental bylaw proposal is the one requiring the golf, recreation and bowling divisions to become self-supporting.

"That is the most poorly written of the three bylaws," Canfield said. "If recreation is self-supporting, then that means every time you use a recreation facility, (you) would have to pay."

Alexander said bylaw backers "weren't being irresponsible or out of control but want proper management." She added that she didn't understand why golf fees couldn't be raised to stave off in-

## FYI

Absentee ballots for the March 27 Recreation Centers of Sun City West election will be available 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through March 26 at the Member Services office, R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

creases in membership dues.

"Raise the golf fees \$3, then be done with it," Alexander said.

Prindle added: "We don't have standards to determine how we spend, so why is it OK to raise our membership dues and not our golf rates."

RCSCW officials said golf rates need to be competitive with other courses in the area.

Moeller also said the petitioners should be

working with the governing board, instead of taking an adversarial approach.

Prindle said the election is about trust but doesn't see trust in a five-year plan from the governing board that would raise dues 7 percent.

Both Moeller and Whiting said the numbers Prindle pointed to were not a "plan" but merely a tool that changes depending on circumstances.



# SCW residents find gym too costly

**MITCHELL VANTREASE**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City West officials received an earful Thursday from those opposed to a proposed \$3.5 million multi-purpose gym.

As for supporters of the project: "I really want to know who these people are who want this, so we can understand," said Jack Seagraves.

Including at Thursday's Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board meeting, Seagraves said he's heard much opposition to the

building proposal but hasn't heard from anyone who favors it.

Governing board member Lake Westphal said there were hundreds of residents interested in the building.

Bill Irwin isn't one of them.

A basketball player, Irwin said he's not sure the facility would be used enough.

Irwin said he doesn't see many people using the outside courts at Beardsley Recreation Center and thinks the project would be too costly.

"I feel like it's too expensive for the little use that it might get, and I'm someone that this facility would probably be of great use for. But I don't see the need right now," Irwin said.

For weeks, the proposed facility has been discussed among residents and board members.

The facility would replace a fenced-in patio area at Beardsley and house indoor activities such as basketball, volleyball, pickleball and other sports and would double as

a social gathering place for events such as weddings.

RCSCW General Manager Mike Whiting said the project could cost anywhere from \$2.7 million to \$3.6 million, depending on the materials and amenities.

"This board is being responsible by asking us to explore this, and that's what we're doing," Whiting said.

A committee of residents, including some governing board members, have been meeting

**SEE PROPOSED GYM, A5**

## PROPOSED GYM

FROM A1

to explore the concept.

Board President Dave Moeller said he wanted to re-literate directors are not spending money on a new building but must listen to the idea of a resident and follow through with a process.

Moeller said the board eventually will vote whether to proceed.

"It's important that we listen as a board to all ideas, because that's our responsibility, then we decide if we want to move further," Moeller said. "There are 25 steps that must be taken before this could even become a project."

Sun City West resident Ken Fifer said he's on a fixed income and believes it's not the right time to build a new facility.

"We really need to maintain what we already have," Fifer said.

Sharon Walsh said the gym could raise their recreation fees because the board hasn't figured in the cost of maintenance and staff. Walsh suggested the board table any capital improvement projects for the next year due to the economy.

"Even though it sounds like a great idea, I just don't think this is economically sound at this point," Walsh said.

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached at 623-676-2526 or [mvantrease@journalvalley.com](mailto:mvantrease@journalvalley.com).



THE WESTER Thursday, June 24, 2004

# Rec Board wraps up business, swears in new director, goes on vacation

## Fields to head Legal Affairs; other directors stay put

By Jack Hawn

In a "get-away" meeting lasting nearly three hours last Thursday, Sun City West Recreation Centers' Governing Board directors wrapped up loose ends before starting their summer vacation, heaped praise upon the general manager, volunteers and one another and summarized accomplishments in lengthy statements and reports.

The annual membership meeting at the spacious Social Hall attracted fewer than 100 people, many of whom seldom miss Board meetings. Less than 25 remained when Pres. Ray

Caldwell thumped his gavel to adjourn.

Reports, speeches and a lot of levity dominated the session, but considerable business was conducted as well.

Of primary concern for residents, no doubt, was appointment of committee chairmen — as it turned out, merely a rubber-stamp approval by Caldwell.

All carryover members retained their chairs. Newly appointed director Hank Fields — who was administered the Oath of Office — was named Legal Affairs chairman, replacing Dick Ahlgren.

Caldwell presented the former judge with a certificate of appreciation for his six months service that will end June 30.

Unchanged committee assignments: Public Relations and Human Resources (Barbara DuPonte), Properties (Randy Fuller), Golf (Cher Petersen), Water (Carolyn Jennings), Chartered Clubs and Library (Carl Elitz), Bowling (Bob Beaupre, who was in Illinois Thursday) and Budget and Finance (Ronni Hoover).

Eight unanimous decisions

See REC BOARD, Page 3

### REC BOARD, from Page 1

were recorded on various agenda items, some of which underwent detailed scrutiny and debate. Jennings was the only director who opposed changes on retained earnings and facilities maintenance allocations, citing technical points she was uncomfortable with, but ultimately agreed on all other issues.

A Fitness Review Committee, to be co-chaired by DuPonte and Fuller, was created; two house-keeping fixes involved golf policies (refunding greens fees and violation of greens fees rules); and financial policies relating to refunds of dues and fees and reporting financial performance to the Board were approved.

Three agenda items were added at the outset of the meeting, and discussion of the policy statement on committee appointment term limits was deleted.

Petersen had no difficulty gaining approval to spend up to \$12,000 from the golf contingency fund to replace a faulty panel that controls the water pump on the Deer Valley Golf Course.

"It would cost between \$4,000 and \$7,000 to try to fix it," she explained.

Gen. Mgr. Mike Whiting also got the green light to purchase two golf cars, costing approximately \$12,000. The funds will come from unused 2003-2004 capital budget savings. It wasn't a slam-dunk to be sure.

"We want to build up our fleet of golf carts," Whiting said, "so we can have more tournaments. It's a great way to raise money. I

wish we had a dozen more (carts)."

The general manager reported that Scott Simpson, a Colorado resident who will relocate with his wife, near Sun City West, would begin work (last) Monday as the new golf director. Among Simpson's income-generating goals is to promote weekend golf tournaments.

Also added to the agenda and unanimously approved was authorization for the Properties Committee to negotiate a facilities use agreement with owners of Heritage Tradition and the Deer Valley Garden Apartments.



FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2004

DAILY NEWS-SUN

## Caldwell stays at helm of SCW board

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ray Caldwell will remain president of the Rec Centers of Sun City West's board of directors for another year after the board voted on executive committee members in Thursday morning's meeting.

A former board treasurer, Caldwell said he was pleased to gain the president position again, after first being appointed in December after former president Tom Cook retired.

"I enjoy doing what I do," said Caldwell. "It's more of a job than most people imagine. When I first saw it, I thought it was more of a ceremonial job, but you could easily make it a full-time job."

Nominated by Barbara DuPonte, Caldwell ran unopposed. Only the board members were able to nominate and vote for the executive committee positions.

Three members were nominated for vice president: Randy Fuller, nominated by Carl Elitz; Bob Beaupre, nominated by Carolyn Jennings; and DuPonte, nominated by Cher Peterson.

In a ballot vote, DuPonte was elected vice president and will take over vice president Peterson's chair on July 1. Peterson will remain on the board of directors.

Fuller was the only nominee for secretary and he will replace Barbara DuPonte. A first timer to

the executive committee, Fuller said while he didn't set out to be secretary, he's pleased he was nominated by Ronni Hoover.

"I'm certainly honored. I feel I may be able to contribute something to the executive committee of the Rec Center board."

As secretary, Fuller said he will be in charge of maintaining the minutes of the board meetings. Beyond that, he said, he'll have to consult the bylaws.

"I've got to do some homework there and study up for it."

As for his nomination for vice president, Fuller said he was flattered, but ended up voting for DuPonte.

"I didn't really want that job anyway. I felt like I would have been stepping from the frying pan into the fire."

For the position of treasurer, Fuller then nominated incumbent Hoover, who ran unopposed and was elected unanimously. Hoover has had the position for the past three months after former treasurer Bob Finn resigned.

Caldwell, obviously impressed by Hoover's adeptness thus far, commented jokingly previous to the vote, "Any other nominations? I thought not. We're never gong to let this lady out of that seat."

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



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

April 7, 2004

# RCSCW, managers reach agreement

## Rec Center board pledges support for employees

By **Geno Lawrenzi**

Independent Newspapers

Managers, supervisors and select employees of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West have reached a joint decision with the general manager and governing board on employment agreements. General Manager Mike Whiting has announced.

Under the agreement, each employee in the group will be

offered a one-year contract that specifies conditions of employment with the recreation centers, he said.

"Last year as a result of threats and intimidating statements made by a number of influential residents in the community, the management employees felt the security of their jobs and benefits were in jeopardy and they were without recourse," said Mr. Whiting.

He said the insecurity resulted in recognition of the group as members of the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

Mr. Whiting said while the group, known as Unit I, does not fall under the authority of the National Labor Relations Board, they have the right to become part of a union and bargain collectively, he said. When they are finalized, the

employment agreements will supersede contracts in place before the union bargaining agreement.

He said he supports the management staff and is working to gain the trust of the employees. Mr. Whiting also said he recognizes the need for cooperation between management, the general manager and the governing board.

He further stated the governing board has taken steps to create a better relationship

with recreation center employees. This was confirmed in a memo to the general manager entitled "Statement of Support for all Employees" and was signed by all governing board members March 15, he added.

"Given the effort by all parties concerned to put dissension behind us and bring peace and contentment back to the community, the management staff agrees it is time to move forward," said the general manager.



# RCSCW candidates sound off

RECREATION CENTERS PF SCW

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Wednesday's "Meet the Candidates" forum at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall introduced Sun City West residents to their five choices in the March 23 RCSCW governing board election.

James Apostolina, Carl Elitz, Randy Fuller, Ronnie Hoover, and David Wilson are all in the running for permanent seats on the board. The more than 400 residents in attendance made sure to ask plenty of questions seeking their candidates of choice.

The top three vote-getters will begin three-year terms July 1.

The candidates began the forum with opening statements of approximately five minutes. Most reviewed their previous experience, took stances on issues, and asked for the community's support.

Fuller, former president of PORA and current RCSCW board appointee, said he fully supports the principles of open government.

"I am not anti-union. I am not in favor of incorporation," he said.

Meanwhile, Apostolina asserted his independence. "I'm not associated with any group."

Elitz, former president of SCWOOG and current RCSCW Board appointee said he wanted to regain trust in the board from the community.

"I know I can make a difference. I feel I already have," he said.

Hoover, the only female in the running, wanted to make

sure the residents knew they could trust her. "Talk to me, I will listen to you."

Wilson cited his background as a certified mediator with conflict resolution experience as a bonus. "I am not opposed to different points of view."

Questions were then collected from the audience. Subjects ranged from budget issues to swimming pool hours and candidates had two minutes to answer.

Golf was a recurring theme, with an emphasis on money. Apostolina emphasized the need for a long-range solution. He said the board's acceptance of lost revenue was not acceptable to him.

"You're going to budget for a deficit? I've never heard of such a thing," he said.

Elitz said he thought marketing golf to neighboring communities like Sun City and Sun City Grand would help increase revenue.

"Only the tee times not taken by the residents," he said. As for opening golf to the public — "Absolutely not," Elitz said.

Almost all the candidates answered a similar question regarding pool hours, specifically relating to hours that children are allowed to swim. The question indicated the hours were inconvenient to the adults wanting to use the local pools.

The consensus among the candidates was a suggestion should be made by the residents as to what hours they would like to see implemented, and the issue would be brought to general manager

Michael Whiting.

The topic of water appeared in more questions, this time focusing on the buzz around a water shortage.

"We're overpumping the groundwater," said Fuller.

He said the overpumping was leading to subsidence. Fuller vowed to make the issue a priority, and urged the community to attend a March 24 meeting by the League of Women Voters on the subject. The meeting, titled "Water, the New Liquid Gold," will be from 1-4 p.m. at the Community Church of Joy at the northwest corner of Loop 101 and 75th Avenue.

A question of whether to oversee local golf courses was then directed to Apostolina.

"A golf course is meant to be green. It should be overseeded," said Apostolina, who added the cost of overseeding should be included in the golf budget.

Fuller was asked if he thought membership dues should be increased, and if so, was he willing to face the ire of the residents.

"When I get up in the morning, I face the ire of the residents," said Fuller to laughter from the crowd. "I believe increases are expected and should be made, but only when they are justified."

When incorporation was brought to the table, the across-the-board opinion was a definite no. However, Wilson and Apostolina thought the issue shouldn't be discussed by the board.

"We are here to discuss

issues to do with the recreation board," Apostolina said.

After approximately an hour of questions from the audience, candidates were given a few minutes for their closing statements.

Wilson said he thought the forum went well.

"People ought to come away with a clear idea on where these candidates stand," he said.

Fuller said he hoped there would be a good turnout on election day.

"You have no right to complain if you don't participate in the process," he said to a round of applause.

Overall, the audience remained polite and reserved during the forum. The candidates thanked them for their cooperation.

Sun City West resident John Bellissimo was glad he attended.

"I think they did a very good job in presenting their views," he said of the five candidates. However, Wednesday's forum didn't make up his mind on who to vote for. "We got to talk about it," he said, motioning to the other residents that attended with him.

Voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 23 at the social hall at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center.

An absentee ballot may be obtained at the RCSCW member services office during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ballots are available through March 19.

For questions regarding voting, call the member services office at 544-6100.

OVER



## Sun City West Recreation Board Candidates



**James Apostolina**

**Age:** 76

**From:** New Jersey

**Former occupation:** President and CEO of a metals company

**Years in Sun City West:** 9

**SCW involvement:** None

**For:** Solving the water shortage problem, over-seeding golf courses

**Against:** Budgeting a golf deficit

**Quote:** "No one has come up with a long-range solution for golf. It's not that difficult. We have to look at long-term revenue solutions. If you don't start attacking the problem, it doesn't go away."



**Carl Elitz**

**Age:** 66

**From:** Philadelphia

**Former occupation:** Sales manager with Kimberly-Clark

**Years in Sun City West:** 10

**SCW involvement:** RCSCW Board (appointee), technology committee, former president of SWOOG

**For:** Charter clubs, extensive marketing of golf

**Against:** Combining PORA and the RCSCW, incorporation

**Quote:** "My philosophy has always been, 'Whatever it takes.'"



**Randy Fuller**

**Age:** 78

**From:** Texas, California

**Former occupation:** Naval aviator

**Years in Sun City West:** 7

**SCW involvement:** Former PORA president, RCSCW board (appointee)

**For:** Regaining residents' confidence in the board, finding solution to water crisis

**Against:** Incorporation

**Quote:** "I'm a people person who enjoys working for the community."



**Ronni Hoover**

**Age:** 60

**From:** Las Vegas

**Former occupation:** Computer scientist for the National Security Agency

**Years in Sun City West:** 3

**SCW involvement:** Budget and finance committee, technology committee

**For:** Long range planning, allowing for a super majority (seven out of nine board members) to change bylaws

**Against:** Incorporation

**Quote:** "I am absolutely for open government and whatever that takes."



**David Wilson**

**Age:** 61

**From:** Colorado

**Former occupation:** Administrator with the Department of Human Services - Youth Division in Denver

**Years in Sun City West:** 6

**SCW involvement:** Public relations committee, member of Silent Majority

**For:** Refurbishing aging properties, ensuring current general manager and board members have positive working relationship

**Against:** Overspending, changing to super majority (seven out of nine board) to amend bylaws

**Quote:** "I am in favor of the employees of this association being treated fairly."



DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 2004

# RCSCW president scraps 2nd monthly meeting

## Lawsuit threat precipitates decision

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Concerns raised by Director Carolyn Jennings of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board have led to the reduction of the board's monthly meetings from two per month to one.

Jennings disputed the board's recent decision to conduct an additional regular meeting per month, citing that the bylaws allowed for only one. Any additional

meeting, said Jennings, had to be called under the title of a "special meeting."

"Special meetings can be called, but need two days notice, must be posted, and the nature of the special business must be stated," said Jennings.

Special meetings, explained Jennings, are for things that occur between regular board meetings that need people's attention immediately.

In a statement, President Ray Caldwell said he attempted to satisfy Jennings' request by turning the second regular meeting into a special meeting, but Jennings said the nature of the

### From A1

meeting needed to consist only of "special business."

"I have no awareness as to what might constitute 'special' business," read Caldwell's statement.

Jennings then told Director Dick Ahlgren that she was prepared to file a lawsuit against the board if it continued to pursue a second monthly meeting.

Upon hearing this, Caldwell said he contacted the RCSCW attorney, David Ronald, who advised Caldwell to avoid litigation "whenever possible."

Caldwell said in his statement, "In all fairness to Director Jennings, however, I must tell you that Mr. Ronald also said that considering both the language and past practice, a court would most likely hold that regular meetings could be held only once a month."

Caldwell said his objective in holding bi-monthly meetings was to "get some much-needed work done." But Caldwell concluded his statement by writing, "I've accepted the counsel of our attorney and

given way to Director Jennings' demand that we not hold a second regular meeting."

Caldwell added, "Neither I, nor this governing board, nor this community, will be held hostage by a threat of litigation from anyone."

Jennings said that holding a second regular board meeting would constitute a change in the bylaws, an action that requires a unanimous nine-member vote of the board.

"I will sit on the board and do what I believe is correct according to the bylaws. It is our law and we must live it," said Jennings.

Meanwhile, Caldwell's statement reflected frustration at the reduced amount of meeting time.

"If the price and progress and accomplishment is to be paid in this fashion, then so be it, but the will of this governing board, which I believe accurately reflects the current needs and desires of our members, will not be obstructed."

Amanda Myers can be reached at 876-2513 or [amyers@aztrib.com](mailto:amyers@aztrib.com).

See RCSCW, A5



DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 2004

# RCSCW names general manager

STAFF REPORT

The RCSCW governing board voted unanimously Thursday to hire a 22-year veteran of the Phoenix recreation department as the Centers' new general manager.

Michael Whiting, 57, will begin work on Feb. 2 pending the signing of a one-year contract.

"I feel terrific," Whiting said.

Whiting bested a field of 217 applicants. He retired on Dec. 31 as parks and recreation director for the city of Phoenix, a position he held for the last 22 years. "I planned to be retired for six months to a year," Whiting said. "But this opportunity doesn't come along very often."

Whiting will replace interim general manager Michael Ingersoll, who has been in the position since Oct. 31.

The new general manager said he has toured the city and "read all I can read," and he's ready to get started. "I understand there's issues with the golf budget, so we'll have to look at that carefully and soon."

Those who attended Thursday's meeting were supportive of the new hire. One resident voiced his appreciation for the extensive selection process the board used to find a new general manager.

Whiting lives in Mesa, but he's considering a move to Sun City. "I don't want to do this commute for very long."



DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, DEC. 19, 2003

# RCSCW board approves consultant for golf issues

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board voted Thursday to spend up to \$10,000 for a consultant to help improve its golf division revenue.

The consultant will make recommendations to boost revenue and rounds played, improve marketing, and conduct cost comparisons with similar operations, said Interim General Manager Mike Ingersoll.

Director and 2004 President Ray Caldwell said the golf division is down \$264,655 from budgeted figures through November.

Last year at this time, Caldwell said, the golf division was \$142,077 short of budget and ended up \$400,000 in the red for the fiscal year. By the end of this fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2004, the deficit could be about \$600,000 if something isn't done soon, he said.

Ingersoll said he hopes to have someone hired "as quickly as humanly possible," possibly by the end of this week.

Resident Bob Baker questioned how the board could vote on a \$10,000 expense without a written job description for the consultant.

"I don't intend to have anyone come here and do a job that's amorphous and undefined," Ingersoll replied. "I will define clearly what it is we're looking for."

Director Cher Petersen, who heads the golf committee, said Ingersoll was on a short time frame to get a consultant hired and didn't have time to write a job description before Thursday's board meeting. Delaying the action would mean the hiring couldn't take place until the next board meeting in January.

"We wouldn't spend a dollar unless it was needed," she said.

Caldwell said Ingersoll has looked at other ways to increase revenue or decrease expenses, including hiring freezes.

"Hiring can only be done at his approval," Caldwell said.

The board voted 5-0 on the matter during the special meeting, with Carolyn Jennings, Bob Beaupre and Elaine McCraith absent.

Originally, the meeting contained only three agenda items: a presentation on LB Apartment Communities' proposed development, 2004 committee chair assignments, and a possible executive session. However, board members agreed to add the golf management item, along with a report from the search committee on seeking a new general manager and an update on legal issues.

Caldwell announced his suggestions for committee chairmen, but directors agreed the 2004 board should vote to confirm them. After Thursday's meeting ended, Caldwell conducted a non-binding, informal vote of seven of the incoming board members, all of whom indicated they supported his choices.

Caldwell's recommended committee chairs for 2004 are: Petersen, golf; Bob Beaupre, bowling; Carl Elitz, chartered clubs and library; Bob Finn, budget and finance; Randy Fuller, properties; Barbara DuPonte, public relations and human resources; Dick Ahlgren, legal affairs; and Carolyn Jennings, water.

Caldwell also recommended Jennings appoint at least two Property Owners and Residents Association directors to the water committee so the two organizations don't duplicate efforts.

Many of the proposed committee assignments have current directors staying in their posts. One of the biggest changes will come if the board approves removing Jennings from legal affairs and replacing her with Ahlgren.

Caldwell said all of the directors save Jennings resigned from their committee assignments effective Dec. 31 so he could reassign them. Committee assignments usually continue through June.

"This is not an anti-Carolyn Jennings movement," Caldwell said. "It's just obvious to us and should be obvious to you we desire another chairperson in that position. Now more than ever we have need of a legal mind."

When board members appointed Ahlgren Dec. 4 to a six-month term on the board, they praised his legal background. He has 45 years of law experience, including work in mediation judgment reviewing attorney's bills.

In other action:

● DuPonte reported the centers have spent about \$175 to get an advertisement for a new general manager, tentatively being called an executive director, on about 25 Web sites, and about \$600 for an ad in an Arizona newspaper.

The search committee already has received about 65 resumes.

● DuPonte announced she received a letter from the National Labor Relations Board stating it had dropped a charge filed against the centers. The charge listed four or five items including one against DuPonte, one against her and Finn and one alleging former General Manager George Grimstad was fired for recognizing the union.

Board members said they weren't sure if there were any other outstanding charges against the centers filed with the NLRB.



# RCSCW board selects leaders

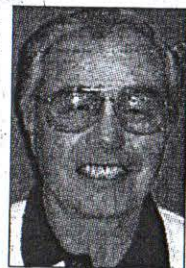
KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Leadership on the Recreation Centers of Sun City West board will shift Jan. 1 when the current board president leaves his post and a new head officer steps in.

Ray Caldwell was chosen unanimously Thursday as the board's

2004 president. He will succeed Tom Cook, whose term on the board is expiring.

Caldwell, who was the candidate nominated for the presidency, subsequently resigned his post as treasurer, effective Dec. 31.



Ray Caldwell will assume the presidency of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board Jan. 1.

The board then took nominations for treasurer, and Bob Finn was the only name offered.

Per the bylaws, an anonymous vote was taken on both nominations. In Finn's case, when Cook said Finn had won, Director Carolyn Jennings asked what the tally was. Cook replied Finn received seven votes and one blank ballot.

Incoming Directors Randy Fuller and Carl Elitz took part in the selection of officers; they will be seated Jan. 1. Cook and outgoing Director Elaine McCraith did not participate.

McCraith and Cook both made departing comments, as Thursday was the last regularly scheduled board meeting of the year. Both acknowledged the tough times directors have endured in the last several months, and encouraged the new board to work together for the community's benefit.

"My service in volunteering to be part of the governing board for the last three years has been rewarding in many ways. I have had an opportunity to meet and work with many of the wonderful people who help make Sun City West a great place to live," Cook said. "I've tried my best to serve all the people all the time. I'd like to especially mention all the loyal and dedicated employees who have served our community so well.

"As I leave, I would like to urge fellow board members, employees and residents to keep in mind, as a Recreation Centers board, we are all volunteers, and each of us is doing our best to make this a better community in which to live."

He suggested board members and residents remember to "love your neighbor as yourself" and follow the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do

unto you."

McCraith said her 20 years volunteering in Sun City West, including her time on the RCSCW board, have been mostly rewarding, but the last six months have been difficult. She urged the new board to "be aware that attitudes and values have sharply changed.

"We have become politically divisive, and adding three new members will not work magic. It will take everybody.

"I hope that the new board will not rush to changes, but will make them with deliberation and caution."

Director Cher Petersen presented McCraith and Cook with plaques of appreciation for their service.

In other action during Thursday's meeting:

● Director Carolyn Jennings attempted to add an agenda item to have the board discuss how it wants to proceed if Finn is not covered by the centers' insurance company in pending lawsuits. He has been named in constructive-discharge, defamation and libel suits filed by former General Manager Jon Cannon.

Finn said he has received word from an attorney that he will be covered by the centers' directors and officers insurance.

In a 3-4 vote, the board decided not to add the agenda item. Jennings, McCraith and Bob Beaupre voted for the item, while Finn, Barbara DuPonte, Petersen and Caldwell voted against it.

● Cook elaborated on a comment made to the Daily News-Sun in a Dec. 9 story about employees' futures in light of charges filed with the National Labor Relations Board. He had told the newspaper he hoped no employees would be fired as a result of an NLRB investigation.

"I probably should have said, 'Over my dead body,'" he said. "I apologize if I caused any anxiety. ... In my opinion, no employees should be fired over this union."

● McCraith said the Silver Anniversary Committee, which was formed in February 2002 to plan anniversary events in Sun City West this year, netted more than \$80,000, which will go to the R.H. Johnson Library to update its equipment.

The committee carried out 27 events to celebrate Sun City West's 25th anniversary. The funds will be turned over to the library after the first of the year.

The board also passed a resolution to formally thank anniversary committee co-chairs Dee Hjermstad and Joe Davisson.

● Petersen made and then withdrew a motion to accept minor changes to a centers policy on greens-fee rules after resident Arlene Christensen said it did not address controlled neighborhood play or other nonresidents who did not pay their greens fees.

The changes dealt primarily with the fact there are no longer golf-car permit fees. Jennings suggested the item be forwarded to the new legal-affairs committee for consideration in January.

● A workshop was tentatively scheduled for Jan. 8 to discuss three policy statements regarding the proposed office of internal audit, preparation of the annual financial plan and the asset preservation fund.

● Caldwell read a proposed amendment to the policy regarding refunding prepaid golf fees that strikes references to golf-car permit fees. That elicited concerns about the policy in general, and whether residents who are disabled for long periods of time should receive extensions on their golf passes.

That idea, however, brought concerns that the extensions would be abused by some. No action was taken.

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



DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2003

## RCSCW treasurer out of loop

### Checks no longer bear Caldwell's name

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ray Caldwell isn't rubber-stamping any Sun City West checks these days.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West treasurer said he sent a letter Sept. 22 to General Manager George Grimstad and board President Tom Cook asking that they no longer use the rubber stamp bearing his signature to sign checks.



Caldwell

Caldwell, who also chairs the centers' budget-and-finance committee, instead requested checks be sent to him for a personal signature so he can keep better track of where the centers' money is going.

"Nothing's disturbed me yet, but I just thought it was a safeguard," Caldwell said.

Since his request was made, no checks have come to him for his signature, Caldwell said.

Grimstad said checks must be signed by himself and a board member; the accounting department signs them using the rubber stamps.

Since Caldwell's request came in, Grimstad said, checks have been signed with Grimstad's and board President Tom Cook's signature stamps.

"We stopped using (Caldwell's) name a couple of weeks ago," he said.

Grimstad said the rubber stamping keeps employees' salaries confidential by not letting board directors see

**See RCSCW, A5**

OVER



## From A1

how much each employee makes.

"Part of our problem is, we can't have the board members or myself signing employee checks," he said. "The employees' salaries are confidential, so we've got to take some type of measures to keep them that way."

Rubber stamps are not uncommon in business, Grimstad said, and there are other ways for board members to track the centers' expenses.

"It's just a normal business process, and we have financial statements that show all the money dispersed each month," he said.

Caldwell said part of his desire to see checks before signing them was to determine whether any payments were going to the Ridenour, Hinton, Harper & Kelhoffer law firm.

Caldwell and board members Cher Petersen and Barbara DuPonte voted in an emergency executive-committee meeting Aug. 22 to fire the law firm, and they continue to assert the firm no longer represents the centers. But Cook, the fourth member of the executive committee, nullified the firing Aug. 28, saying the meeting wasn't valid.

In other words, there is no consensus whether Hinton represents the centers or whether the RCSCW has legal representation at all.

Caldwell said he saw some checks written to Hinton after Aug. 28, but he's unsure when the services were provided. Grimstad said a payment went to the firm in September for services provided in August. He also said the centers will continue to pay the firm, since it continues to represent RCSCW.

"We're still using Hinton, so we'll probably get an October bill for September," he said. "The business needs to

continue, so the board ... they're the ones who determined that Hinton's the lawyer. They're the corporate lawyer of record, so as the bills are incurred, they have to be paid."

Grimstad said it doesn't make sense for the centers to be without a law firm.

"You don't fire an attorney and then go looking for one, especially when we have lawsuits," he said.

At least two lawsuits against the centers are pending.

The Hinton issue aside, Grimstad said the centers had to continue signing checks while keeping salaries classified.

"We might have had to revert to cash payments," he said.

About 300 of the centers' 400 employees receive live checks as opposed to automatic deposits, Grimstad said.

"Everything's getting paid," he added. "Were trying to continue this operation. We'd be breaking federal law if we didn't pay our employees."

Caldwell said having Cook and Grimstad rubber-stamp checks is allowed, but he questions the practice.

"I really can't contest it, but it seems strange that they would use the president instead of the treasurer," he said. "We have no reason to believe anything's wrong. It was just a poor practice."

The Recreation Centers of Sun City operate a bit differently, said Sun City board President Dorothy Hirtzel. She said the RCSC's accounting manager "signs" checks with their rubber-stamped signatures, but board members are not prohibited from seeing salaries.

"My signature's on there by a stamp so I don't look at all the personnel paychecks," Hirtzel said. She said the stamps are a convenience, "but I could go in and look at anything I wanted in HR. ... I

know in Sun City West they can't do that."

Salaries remain confidential to Sun City residents, just as they do in Sun City West.

Sun City West's other quasi-governmental organization, the Property Owners and Residents Association, has a simpler procedure, because it has only one paid full-time employee, a few part-timers and some volunteers.

"I sign the checks. If it's anything that's over \$1,000, then (PORA President) Randy (Fuller) and I sign it," said Del Miksis, PORA's office manager and the only full-time employee. Another PORA

director can fill in if Fuller is absent, Miksis said.

"Everything is open for PORA. Directors — everyone — can see everything," Miksis said.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City and Sun City West also operate differently than incorporated municipalities such as Surprise, where all salaries are public record.

Maria Alas, a Surprise accounting technician, said all employee checks are computer generated, so council members don't see the salaries unless they make a point of looking for them.

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



DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 2003

# RCSCW leader calls for unity

## 500 pack A.M. meeting

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

RCSCW governing-board President Tom Cook this morning called for members to end the turmoil in the community and "help us right this ship."

"I inherited many of the problems that were pending at the time" Cook told the more than 500 Recreation Centers of Sun City West members packed into the R.H. Johnson Social Hall. "I ask you all to please lighten

up and help us right this ship. ... Please don't attack us personally."

Cook's comments came at the beginning of a meeting where a divided governing board was scheduled to tackle controversial subjects, including challenging General Manager George Grimstad's authority in recognizing a union.

Cook, who became president after the June 27 meeting, asked people to concentrate on issues rather than personalities.

"The turmoil in the community is upsetting many of the residents," he said.

In fact, Cook said Wednesday that a couple of board members requested

### Read details of today's meeting in Friday's Daily News-Sun

off-duty police officers be stationed at the meeting. No officers were evident at this morning's meeting.

"You never know," Cook said. "Ventana Lakes is always on everybody's mind. Feelings have gotten so bad out here."

On April 19, 2000, Richard Glassel walked into a Ventana Lakes property-owners association meeting and opened fire, killing two and

injuring three before he was subdued. Glassel was a disgruntled former resident of the community, and the shooting has at times been used as an example of what can happen when homeowners and their associations clash.

"Who the hell knows, in our society today," Cook said.

In addition to Grimstad's decision to recognize the union, the RCSCW board was scheduled to tackle the possibility of finding a new law firm. In executive session, closed to the membership, the board also was slated to discuss investigation of internal fraud and theft, among other

**See RCSCW, A5**

OVER



## From A1

issues.

The call for armed officers started with an e-mail sent to board members by Sun City West Owners for Open Government member Carl Fischer.

"I think you may want to consider beefing up the security for the meeting on Thursday just in case things get out of hand," Fischer wrote. He also noted that Grimstad recently received a concealed-weapon permit.

But Denise Babirak, RCSCW human-resources manager, said that is not unusual. Many Sun City West residents have concealed-weapon permits, and although not a resident, she herself has one.

"I've had my concealed-weapon permit for probably over 10 years," she said. "You need to fear those who don't have a CCW more than those who do."

Babirak said those who receive the permits must undergo a background check, fingerprinting and training. Grimstad said he applied for a concealed-weapon permit in May because he had one in Florida and decided to get



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Contentious meetings have become the norm for the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. Here a member speaks out against the proposed budget at a meeting in May.

one in his new state of residence. He said he does not carry his weapon on RCSCW property.

"I'm not authorized to, because our policy prohibits weapons on our properties," he said.

Lynn Lambert, manager of Guns Plus on Dysart Road in Surprise, said he sees many Sun City West, Sun City Grand and Sun City residents take concealed-weapon permit classes through his business. About half his

customers are seniors, and half are younger, he said. Babirak said armed officers would cost about \$30 each per hour. The centers cannot use posse members, she said, because they "have no authority to restrain or anything else."

Sun City West Owners for Open Government President Carl Elitz said this isn't the first time armed guards have been called to a meeting. He said officers or posse members were called in at least

three times a couple of years ago.

Cook said he followed through with this request for armed officers because he's heard "there are many people here in Sun City West with concealed-weapon permits." Elitz said he doubted anything would happen at today's meeting, but thought it was a good idea to have security as a precaution.

"I would bet 95-to-5 that nothing will happen, maybe even higher than that," he said. "I've known most of the people from Silent Majority, and I've never known them to be violent. I'm not violent."

Silent Majority formed recently to counter SCWOOG's community activism.

Grimstad said he believes the issue of his gun permit is part of a smear campaign to discredit him and eventually fire him.

"I think they had a slander campaign, from what I saw going with Jon Cannon," he said. "Now I'm in the seat, so I'm getting it. I don't think they'll be happy with anyone."

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



TUESDAY, AUG. 5, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Split board braces for gridlock

## Divisiveness among RCSCW directors could thwart business

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board begins regular meetings again next month, but it may get little done until the New Year.

With Director Bob Hubbs' resignation June 26, the board was split, with four members on each side voting together on most issues. The division essentially falls along pro- and con-Sun City West Owners for Open Government lines.

On the pro-SCWOOG side are Directors Ray Caldwell, Barbara DuPonte, Bob Finn and Cher Petersen. Opposing them on many issues are Bob Beaupre, President Tom Cook, Carolyn Jennings and Elaine McCraith.

Members of each side say they will do what's best for the community, but they still acknowledge the board's divisiveness could lead to a stalemate.

"I guess we'll just have to see what

comes up and hope we can get five for a vote here and there," McCraith said. "I think it depends on the issue. I hope we're not voting four-four for, what's the word, to be stubborn."

"It isn't just four against four," she added. "There are some divided philosophies there that each side thinks they're supposed to be following."

DuPonte said she will vote her conscience, but acknowledged the division.

"If something is brought up and it's good for the community, then I would vote yes, no matter what," she said.

Already there is confusion about how three board vacancies will be filled in January, or whether Hubbs' term, which ends Dec. 31, should be filled before then.

Sharon Schomer, the board's office manager, said she believes there's been some discussion about naming Hubbs' replacement when the board convenes in September. McCraith and DuPonte, however, said they believe that's doubtful, given the split that likely would preclude members from agreeing on a replacement.

"From my perspective, I would say no

because we don't have enough to make a decision," DuPonte said.

"I really don't know because as we are, we're four to four and that's not the way boards are supposed to work," McCraith said. "You need an uneven number."

If Hubbs' position isn't filled until January, the board will have three vacancies to fill: Hubbs', Cook's and McCraith's. By that time, the board should be able to reach a majority vote because Cook and McCraith won't be voting, according to Schomer. That leaves six members voting, four of whom generally agree on matters.

McCraith said she will be somewhat relieved to leave the tumultuous board, but disappointed as well.

"I certainly did not come on the board to play legal hopscotch and that's just about what it's come to in the last three or four months," she said.

"It might be personal relief, but I feel very sorry for the community because I have tried and I think the others have tried to follow the regulations set up for us, and it's frustrating."

McCraith said she believes

SCWOOG's push for open government has gone too far, causing some of the confusion and disagreements.

"We've got to get that notion out of people's heads that everything's open to everyone and you can just come in. That's not the way government works," she said. "The other people who are fussing don't see that we're following the" bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Governing-board officials said they have had several residents express interest in the three vacancies. The appointments will be made in January, and will run through June 30. An election in March will decide who takes over those positions for three-year terms, beginning July 1.

This is the last year of confusing election and appointment cycles, which began when the board decided to shift from calendar-year elections to a fiscal-year format to allow winter residents more of a say in the process. By the next election, all nine governing board members will have been elected under the new cycle, negating the need for the six-month appointments.

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

**ELAINE McCRAITH**, RCSCW governing-board director: "I certainly did not come on the board to play legal hopscotch and that's just about what it's come to in the last three or four months."



# Finn removed as legal affairs chairman

By Erik Burg  
Independent Newspapers

The governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West played a game of musical chairs with committee chairmanships last week.

Board member Bob Finn was removed as chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee. Carolyn Jennings was named as the new chairwoman.

Ms. Jennings is also the chairwoman of the Water Committee.

The committees examine specific issues and report to the governing board.

According to RCSCW

Board President Tom Cook, the decision to remove Finn was made due to Mr. Finn's failure to consult with fellow board members before setting up a meeting with attorney Michael Kisicki of the firm Steptoe and Johnson.

Mr. Kisicki later was selected by the board on a 4-3 vote July 10 to advise members on how to proceed regarding union issues. The attorney, however, has since declined to represent the organization (See story beginning on page 1).

"Instead of working with the board, he (Mr. Finn) contacted the lawyer and set up a

meeting," Mr. Cook said. "He did not have the authority to do that, and that's why he was removed as chairman."

Agreement must be reached about such things as an hourly rate before an attorney is placed on retainer, he added.

Mr. Finn declined comment.

Ms. Jennings said that while Mr. Finn has legal expertise, that was not enough of a reason to have him continue chairing the Legal Affairs Committee.

"He's in the center of most of the controversies of our community," she said. "It just

isn't a good place for him."

She added that it is not imperative that the chairperson of a committee be especially well-versed in the issue that committee addresses.

"The chair doesn't need to be an expert," Ms. Jennings said. "You have to surround yourself with people who are experts."

Mr. Finn has now been named to chair the the board's Properties Committee, a position which had been assigned to Ms. Jennings earlier this month.

"The committee oversees all of the rec centers' major properties," Mr. Cook said.

He added that its next major project will be the renovations taking place at the Beardsley Recreation Center.

The Chartered Clubs Committee post, which was left

vacant when board member

Bob Hubbs resigned from the

board last month, was not

filled.

## Labor lawyer: No thanks, RCSCW

By Erik Burg  
Independent Newspapers

A labor attorney who the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board voted to put on retainer has declined to represent the organization.

Mark Kisicki, an attorney with the firm Steptoe and Johnson, said that due to divisions on the board about how to proceed in certain legal matters, such as issues concerning employees joining

a union and the Office and Professional Employees Local 56 filing charges against the RCSCW with the National Labor Relations Board, he could not represent the recreation centers.

"In order to represent an entity, I must have the full support of the board," Mr. Kisicki said. "At this point, I am not representing them in any matters."

The RCSCW governing board, which voted 4-3 to place Mr. Kisicki on retainer

during a special meeting July 10, met with Mr. Kisicki last week, along with the members of its Legal Affairs Committee.

According to Carolyn Jennings, RCSCW governing board member and the new Legal Affairs Committee chairwoman, the governing board should not have sought another attorney's counsel without first dismissing its current general counsel. The board currently retains the legal counsel of Ridenhour,

Hienton, Harper, Kelhoffer, Lewis and Garth.

"In the legal world, a law firm just would not take another law firm's client," Ms. Jennings said.

The board had earlier scheduled a meeting for July 15 at which it was set to consider terminating its relationship with Ridenhour, Hienton, Harper, Kelhoffer, Lewis and Garth and retaining David Ronald as the RCSCW's corporate lawyer.

However, that meeting was

cancelled after a dispute over what items should be included on the agenda.

Ms. Jennings said Mr. Kisicki, in the meeting last week, gave the Legal Affairs Committee general information on the history of unions and how they work but no legal advice.

"It was more of a seminar," Board President Tom Cook said. "He gave us some useful information, told us to watch

our costs. He was very knowledgeable."

"It ended amicably," Ms. Jennings added.

Mr. Cook agreed that it wouldn't have been a good idea to hire a new attorney who would have to be brought up to speed on current matters involving the union.

"When you change horses in the middle of the stream, it can create a mess," Mr. Cook said.

Ms. Jennings, Elaine McCraith and Bob Beaupre voted against retaining Mr. Kisicki on July 10, with Ms. McCraith advocating that the board consider more than one candidate.



# RCSCW directors advocate harmony

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

President Tom Cook wants to bring harmony to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board.

Cook acknowledges directors have been at odds, and says his goal is to bring them together.

"In the past, we have had too many board members go off on their own," Cook said. "We need to work as a board and not as individuals. We need to work on the board's agenda."

Cook said this is not the first time in the history of Sun City West that there was acrimony among board members. He pointed to 1994 and

## Q&A

What are your suggestions for bringing harmony to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board to best serve the interests of the members? Please call Michael Mares at 876-2513 or e-mail him at [mmares@aztrib.com](mailto:mmares@aztrib.com).

1998 as years when board members clashed.

"It goes in cycles," Cook



Cook



Finn



Petersen



Jennings



DuPont

said. "I will do my best to bring them together."

Cook said he is meeting with new directors Barbara DuPont and Cher Petersen today in hopes of bringing greater harmony to the board. DuPont and Petersen took office Tuesday.

Last week, Treasurer Bob Hubbs resigned as a director, citing infighting among board members and months of squabbling over issues

ranging from severance pay packages to the authority of the general manager.

No meeting has been scheduled to select his successor for the nine-member board.

Petersen said her solution to unifying board members is a "boring theory."

"I feel if we do any action and it is positive to the community, everyone will come on board," she said.

Petersen said it is her hope the new directors can bring the board together as one.

"I think we will be able to work together, and I just pray we can," said the new RCSCW vice president. "We are not going to agree on everything."

The goal is to make policy for the good of the community, she said.

**See RCSCW, A5**

## From A1

"I hope to be positive," she said. "(We're taking) it one day at a time."

Director Elaine McCraith said she really does not know how the board can mend the fences between directors.

"We have to work it out together," McCraith said. "We need to follow the same bylaws and have respect for each other and the staff. We have all got to be on the same page — and we are not there yet."

Director Carolyn Jennings said the board members need

to trust each other before any healing can take place.

"I think we are obliged to follow the bylaws," she said. "I am hopeful (this can be worked out)."

Director Bob Finn said the



McCraith

board needs to respect the wishes of RCSCW members if it wants the community to come together.

"If the board as a whole would respond to residents' wishes and begin to realize open and honest government, there would be no crisis, in my opinion," he said.

DuPont said the differences of opinions among directors are the result of disagreements over the interpretation of open government.

"The only way we can repair the damage is if we all

start listening to residents," said the new board secretary. "I don't know what is best for residents, but I know what I hear."

"When everyone is open, then we can have a harmonious relationship. I do pray we make this (corporation) more open, because it will move the community together."

Board members Ray Caldwell and Bob Beaupre were unavailable for comment.

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



DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, AND SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2003

# Board member admits tussles led to departure

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bob Hubbs had been thinking about quitting the RCSCW governing board for six months before finally turning in his resignation Thursday, he told the Daily News-Sun.

"I just got tired of all the fighting that's been going on for a year," he said.

Hubbs, who has served on the board for about 2½ years and whose term runs through the end of December, quit immediately after another tumultuous meeting Thursday that saw Sun City



Hubbs

West Owners for Open Government members criticizing and sometimes booing the board and General Manager George Grimstad.

"It probably wasn't any worse on Thursday than it's been any time in the past year," Hubbs said. "People don't seem to be getting any better. They treat each other badly."

Tom Cook, president of the governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, said he knew Hubbs had been talking about quitting for six months, and agreed there's been a lot of disharmony in the community.

"I'm getting sick of the baloney going on but for now I'm going to stick it out," he said.

Cook said he didn't believe any more

resignations from other board members would be forthcoming, but he didn't rule out the possibility in the future.

"Not immediately. It depends on what happens," he said. "There's a lot of things in the works right now that I can't talk about. For now, we've got to do our best and try to keep things on an even keel."

Although Cook was chosen to be president beginning July 1, he took the helm Thursday after former President Bob Finn stepped down.

Finn, still a director, is supported by SCWOOG members.

Hubbs, who has lived in Sun City West about seven years and was slated to serve on the board's chartered clubs and library committees, said, "I think

this is the worst it's ever been. It's uncivil. People ask you a question and they know what answer they want."

The board scheduled a special meeting for Monday in the R.H. Johnson Lecture Hall to appoint someone to fill the vacancy left by Hubbs' resignation. However, RCSCW office manager Sharon Schomer said that meeting has been canceled.

Hubbs said, "They decided all it would do is create more hassle with the new board," which will be seated the following day Tuesday.

"We'll get to it eventually. There's no rush."

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



DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

## Hubbs resigns, Cook takes helm of board

STAFF REPORT

Recreation Centers of Sun City West Treasurer Bob Hubbs has resigned from the board.

The centers stated in a press release this morning that a special meeting will be at 12:45 p.m. Monday in the R.H. Johnson Lecture Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd., to appoint his successor. Hubbs and other centers officials were unavailable for comment this morning.



Cook

Hubbs attended Thursday's annual meeting, and made no word of an imminent resignation.

Also at Thursday's meeting, Tom Cook was voted in as the board's new president, replacing Bob Finn, who resigned the post but remains a director.

Cook will fill the remainder of Finn's term and then continue as president after Tuesday, when his own term starts.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2003

## New RCSCW board president faces year with split board

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

After a series of 5-4 votes Thursday at the RCSCW meeting, newly selected board President Tom Cook knows he has his work cut out for him over the next year.

Cook said the voting blocs that appear to have formed among board members are disconcerting.

"Hopefully, I can bring the board together," he said. "We need to bring the community together and move forward in a positive way. I hope I can work with all the board members, and make it all-inclusive. I think that is important for the community."

The makeup of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board changed Thursday when the three incoming board members were selected as officers. They will

be part of the four-member committee that sets monthly agendas for the governing board.

Incoming directors Cher Petersen, Ray Caldwell and Barbara DuPonte nominated and seconded each other for three of four officer positions before the whole board voted them in on three 5-4 ballots. The three join Bob Finn to form a voting bloc with ties to Sun City West Owners for Open Government.

The SCWOOG-backed bloc opposes many actions taken by the outgoing board, setting up conflict with four continuing board members. The SCWOOG group has vowed to revisit a number of issues already decided.

Cook was unanimously elected next board president. Petersen was chosen as vice president, DuPonte was selected secretary, and

Caldwell was tapped as treasurer.

Caldwell was nominated treasurer by DuPonte and was seconded by Petersen, while Bob Beaupre was nominated by Bob Hubbs and seconded by Elaine McCraith. McCraith said experience should have been the deciding factor.

"I feel (Beaupre) has been on the board in this position in the past," she said. "I think he has been on the board and knows the procedures."

Residents wanted to know why Beaupre was voting by phone from Illinois, where he has spent much of his time for personal reasons in recent months.

"Even though he hasn't been here, he has been in contact," McCraith said.

**See BOB FINN, A5**

### From A1

Outgoing board President Bob Finn wanted to know where Beaupre would be spending his summer, and Beaupre said he would not be in Sun City West for two of the three months.

Petersen said Caldwell would bring some fresh ideas to the executive committee.

"He's new," she said. "It's time for a change."

Petersen nominated DuPonte for the position of secretary with Caldwell seconding, while Hubbs nominated Carolyn Jennings with McCraith reaffirming.

Voting for vice president followed the same lines, with Caldwell nominating Petersen and DuPonte seconding, while Hubbs nominated McCraith.

Finn said he was pleased with how the selections

played out.

"I am just optimistic that everyone will pull together," he said. "Tom can pull us together."

Finn said having the future board made up of people who believe in open government was particularly satisfying.

"They will be able to pull this community together," he said. "If that team can't do it, no one can."

DuPonte said she thinks selected officers will benefit the community.

"I see this as a positive step for Sun City West," she said. "It means Bob Finn won't be alone anymore."

She added that it's gratifying she will be joining Petersen and Caldwell on the executive committee.

"That means we can have some impact," she said.

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



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Finn tenders resignation, changes mind

**RCSCW:**  
President, director  
do turnabout

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The dizzying dance of RCSCW governing-board members continues, with two more members resigning, then reneging.

In the latest move, Bob Finn will not be stepping down as president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City

West governing board, even though he said Tuesday he planned to do so later this month.

Finn had called a special meeting Friday to fill the post of interim Director Stan Warner, who had submitted his resignation, effective Friday.

But on Tuesday, Warner said he was rescinding his resignation after numerous residents asked him to stay on board. Also Tuesday, Finn canceled Friday's special meeting, said RCSCW office

manager Sharon Schomer.

In an e-mail sent to the Daily News-Sun at 5:56 a.m. today, Finn wrote that he had changed his mind about resigning, saying he will stay on as president at the behest of members of the community, and will step down if the directors vote to remove him.

He took the governing board helm in January after Bob Beaupre quit just days after being named to the post.

Finn said Tuesday that by relinquishing the presidency,

another director could serve as the president through July, when new directors are seated and all nine directors elect officers.

Finn said he had hoped to bring some stability to the board, but was unsuccessful.

"The problem is, I have been a lightning rod (since being appointed president)," he said. "In order for the president to be successful, you need board support, and I don't have any."

Finn had said the president is supposed to work

with the general manager, but said Finn's views often differ from the majority of the governing board, so his discussions with the general manager are not the same views held by the majority of the board.

"The board does the opposite of what I want to do," he said.

Robert's Rules of Order dictate that a president can vote only on ties and is not permitted to speak on issues unless the gavel is surrendered. In recent meetings,

Finn has handed the gavel to Vice President Elaine McCraith so he could speak to issues.

Finn said when he was named president, he was aware he could be removed at any time by fellow directors, and he expected to be, since the majority of the board opposed him on a number of issues.

Finn said his presidency has overseen the development of a Web site for the

**See FINN, A5**

## From A1

centers and the formation of a bylaw committee, both of which have been criticized.

He also said directors recently appointed a losing governing-board candidate in the March election to the board, which, he said, ignored the members' wishes by not naming top vote-getter Cher Petersen to the board.

He also said the majority of the board last week opposed him when approving

a \$375,000 computer-upgrade system and denied his request for a community forum to discuss the project.

As recently as this week, Finn said, he had to dispel rumors he planned to fire General Manager George Grimstad in July when the three elected members took their seats on the governing board.

An e-mail sent from Grimstad to Finn about the concern was circulated in the community as well as to the media.

Finn, Directors Tom Cook and Elaine McCraith, as well as governing-board electees Cher Petersen and Barbara DuPonte met with Grimstad to denounce the rumors.

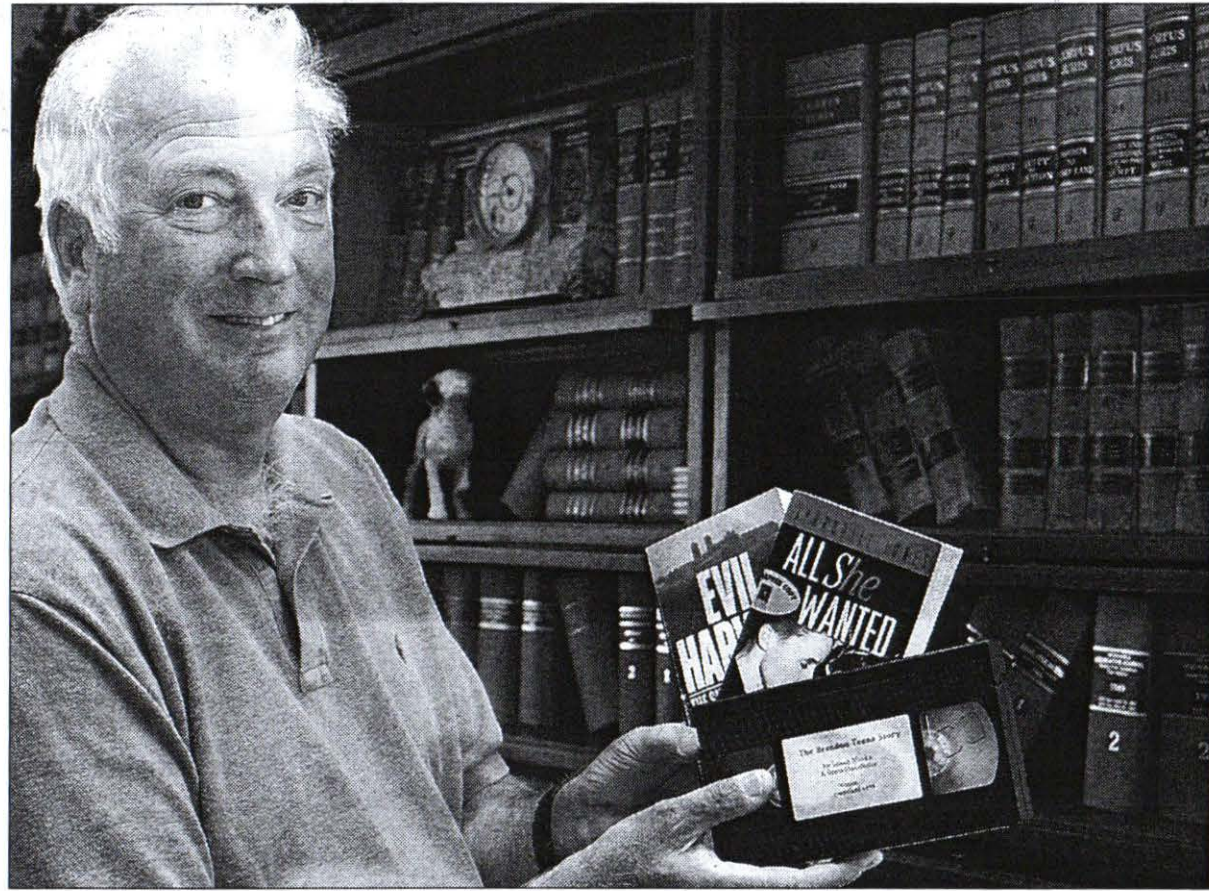
In a letter Finn had planned to read to residents later this month, he wrote: "Any leader must have support of board members to be effective. This is also important to the general manager. It is obvious that I do not have the board's support, and therefore I cannot be effective.

It is therefore appropriate that I tender my resignation as president."

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



Bob Finn of Sun City West was the presiding judge on two high profile cases in Nebraska. The former judge had said Tuesday he was going to resign as president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board. Today he changed his mind.





DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2003

# RCSCW fills board

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West filled its final vacancy Thursday.

At its monthly meeting, the governing board selected David Wilson by a 4-1-1 vote to fill the vacancy brought on by the resignation of Gene Godderis in January. Director Tom Cook was the lone dissenter, while Bob Hubbs abstained from the vote.

Carolyn Jennings, an interim director, received the fourth-highest total with 1,840 votes in Tuesday's RCSCW election, which resulted in her filling the position vacated by Godderis.

In doing so, Jennings's interim position was vacated, and directors argued over who should be allowed take that seat.

Interim Director Stan Warner, who finished with the fifth-highest vote total in Tuesday's election cited the bylaws, saying the next highest vote-getter should fill the vacancy.

Normally, that would have been Warner, but since he also is an interim director, he said, Wilson — the sixth-highest vote-getter — should fill the position for the next three months.

Wilson said that is how he understands the bylaws as well.

"My only comment is the bylaws are clear," he said. "I should be (on the board) until June 30."

Not everyone agreed with Warner and Wilson.

Director Tom Cook said since Cher Petersen received the most votes in Tuesday's election, she should immediately be seated because this is what the community wants. She would then serve out her three-year term from July 1.

Cook said placing Wilson on the board makes no sense since it would take him several months to get accustomed to director's responsibilities.

"Putting Mr. Wilson on the board is a waste of time and

effort," Cook said. "I feel it is important to put our time and effort toward someone who will become a permanent board member."

Director Elaine McCraith said Petersen could not take the seat because it would mean she would be serving more than the maximum three years allowed.

Cook said past RCSCW President Dee Hjermstad served more than three years so there is precedent. Hjermstad served six months as an interim director after her three-year term expired Dec. 31, 2001.

Governing Board President Bob Finn asked Warner and McBurnett if they would step down for the top three vote-getters in Tuesday's election for the good of the community.

Warner said he would if he was assured the three highest vote-getters would take their seats, but McBurnett quashed that proposal, saying he will not leave until his term expires.

"I will finish my obligation," he said. "I will be on the board until June, 30, 2003, unless I am carried out feet first."

Resident Hal Lind, reading from the bylaws, said the whole discussion was moot since there actually was no vacancy because of the recent election.

Sun City West Owners for Open Government President Carl Elitz said he was upset with what he was observing.

"I am disappointed in this type of politicking," he said. "We are doing the same things that has been going on for years. Let's stop it."

Elitz said the board should leave the position vacant rather than "create a crisis this community does not need."

Former governing board member Dudley Gibson also said Warner and Patrick McBurnett should resign their seats immediately so the top three vote-getters could take office immediately.

"We have a chance to put all of this behind us," Gibson said.



# SCWOOG-backed candidates win rec-board seats

**5,550 BALLOTS CAST:** Voters pick Cher Peterson, Ray Caldwell, Barbara DuPont and Carolyn Jennings

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Declaring "there's a new game in town," Ray Caldwell and two other members of Sun City West Owners for Open Government won landslide victories in Tuesday's recreation-centers governing-board election.

Caldwell, Barbara DuPont and Cher Peterson, all active members of SCWOOG, defeated four other candidates nearly 2-1 in one of the largest voter turnouts in Sun City West history.

With 5,550 ballots cast, representing about 19 percent of all voters, Petersen received 3,498 votes, Caldwell garnered 3,414 and Barbara DuPont had 3,357 votes. The three candidates who ran unsuccessfully are current interim director Stan Warner with 1,800 votes, David Wilson with 959 and Martha Bleyl with 956 votes.

Carolyn Jennings, an interim director, received the fourth-highest total with 1,840 votes and will take

office today to fill the position vacated by Gene Godderis. At their Thursday meeting, directors will decide if they will fill the interim position Jennings held.

Caldwell, Peterson and DuPont will serve three-year terms beginning July 1. Two interim directors — Warner and Patrick McBurnett — are serving six-month terms through June.

SCWOOG, formed almost a year ago, took the former governing board to task for various actions that resulted in a failed December bylaw vote in which 57 percent of residents supported the changes. A two-thirds vote was needed to approve the bylaw changes.

Caldwell said he thinks residents saw him, Petersen and Caldwell as candidates who could be trusted to bring about change.

Caldwell, Petersen and DuPont, all endorsed by SCWOOG, said they were not surprised by Tuesday's vote because the bylaw vote proved residents want



Jennings



Peterson

change.

"People are tired of what has (been going on)," Caldwell said. "They want something different."

Caldwell said he hopes the future board will not be divisive.

"There are too many old board problems," he said. "We are looking at opening up."

He said he hopes the board will follow what the three SCWOOG members preach. He said if need be the three will attempt to convince other directors about the importance of being more open.

DuPont said a lot of hard work and campaigning preceded the vote and was pleased two fellow SCWOOG



Barbara DuPont and Ray Caldwell are all smiles after placing third and second, respectively, in the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing-board election Tuesday. Cher Peterson was the top vote-getter. Carolyn Jennings finished fourth, which places her on the board today. The other winning candidates take office July 1.

**See REC BOARD, A5**

MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN



## From A1

members will be joining her on the governing board.

"People saw us as a team," she said. "They saw us as a change and a team, and that's what they are looking for."

DuPonte said the board needs to work together and eliminate the bickering.

"I am a task-force person, and this is like a task completed," she said.

Petersen was happy as well that Caldwell and DuPonte were named to the board.

"We are a team. That is the key," she said. "We will represent the people and their wishes. I stand for honesty and integrity, and I have a lot

of common sense."

Jennings said she was happy residents voted her in to fill the vacancy on the governing board.

"I am glad I am still on the board," she said. "I am satisfied with that."

SCWOOG President Carl Elitz said he was thrilled voters selected the three candidates his organization endorsed.

"I am extremely happy," he said. "The community has spoken, and they are looking for change."

Elitz said he is not surprised with who was elected, but was with the margin of victory.

Elitz said he also is hoping there will be no divisiveness on the new board.

"I believe some people will see this vote and will say 'the community wants us to change,'" he said. "The board's (responsibility) is to serve the residents, and they should come first always."

Director Elaine McCraith said she kind of expected who would be elected. She said she was pleased Jennings was elected to take the vacancy on the board.

"Now we can get down to the hard work," she said.

Director Tom Cook said he is looking forward to working with the newly elected directors. He added he is not sure what the board will do about the new vacancy.

"We will talk about it and see how it goes," he said.

Elections Chairman Randy

Fuller was hoping for 6,000 votes to be cast, but said he was pleased with the final number.

Rep. Carole Hubbs of Sun City West, R-District 4, said the turnout was exceptional, though, she remembered a turnout about 10 years ago where almost 6,500 people cast ballots, though, that vote included the election for the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association.

She said the divisiveness was the reason for the high turnout, which was similar when she served as a RCSEW director about 10 years ago.

"I knew this (turnout) would happen," she said.

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



DAILY NEWS-SUN

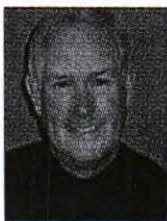
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003

# Ex-director changes mind, wants back on RCSCW board

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Gene Godderis resigned twice in the last five months as a director on the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board.

This week, he changed his mind.



Godderis

In a letter to the Daily News-Sun, Godderis wrote: "Finally, yes if the board accepts the rescission of my resignation, I will remain on the board to represent the silent majority now that my health problems have been (resolved)."

Godderis resigned in October, citing nasty e-mails. He rescinded that resignation, and the board accepted. In January, he resigned again, declining to say why.

Board President Bob Finn said he has forwarded Godderis' latest request to the legal-affairs committee, which will make a recommendation to the board. The governing board will have the final say on whether to allow Godderis to return.

General Manager George Grimstad said allowing a director to rescind his resignation is not covered under the centers' bylaws and will have to be addressed by the governing board.

Director Patrick McBurnett said he would welcome Godderis back with open arms.

"I think it is the best news I have heard in a while," McBurnett said. "He is one of the best (directors) we have ever had on the board."

McBurnett said Godderis, in his short time as a director, made some great decisions, citing a recommendation to forward former General Manager Jon Cannon's claim to the center's insurance company. Cannon threatened to sue the centers for constructive discharge unless a settlement was reached. Forwarding the claim prevented Cannon from collecting a settlement unless a lawsuit was filed; no suit has been filed.

"I will work in every way to get (him back on the board)," McBurnett said. He said the legal-affairs committee can recommend actions to the board, but cannot dictate what it decides.

Godderis, a retired Washington state lawyer, moved to Sun City West four years ago. He was elected in March to a three-year term beginning July 1. The 68-year-old said in February 2002 that he decided to run at the request of friends.

Director Elaine McCraith said she wants to talk to

## From A1

Godderis to see what is transpiring.

"He has done this before," McCraith said, adding she knows of no similar situations with past directors.

"I almost feel like we should have a separate board meeting to discuss this," she said. "I am still waiting to hear from, Mr. Finn. This is an unusual matter. It's up and down, and it's not good for us. We need more information, and (Godderis') intentions, if it's even possible."

McCraith said what she does not want is to allow Godderis back if there is a chance he could resign a third time.

Legal-affairs committee member Carl Fischer, who will be one person studying the issue, said the governing board can appoint someone to fill a vacancy, but added a previous vote to allow the fourth-highest vote-getter to assume the seat has already been approved.

Fischer said Godderis resigned, and the former director now has no recourse. Fischer said past boards have always filled vacancies by accepting applications from interested residents.

"I contend there is a vacancy, and the board should give everyone a chance to apply in order to be considered," he said, adding that he cannot support Godderis' return to the board.

"It's a red herring," he said. "Who wants to do business with a quitter?"

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

**See RCSCW, A5**



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

March 5, 2003

## RCSCW board president gives up chairmanship

By **Diana Shaughnessy**  
Independent Newspapers

Applause combined with an equal mix of sorrowful, disapproving sounds rang through the R.H. Johnson Social Hall Feb. 27 when Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc. Governing Board President Bob Finn announced he would "graciously step down" as chairman of the board's legal affairs committee.

A motion had been made during the board's regular meeting by member Carolyn Jennings requesting that Mr. Finn step down from his self-appointed, controversial role as committee chairman.

After nearly half an hour of discussion, Mr. Finn handed the gavel to vice president Elaine McCraith so he could address the issue.

"In order to keep peace, I will step down," he said.

Controversy has surrounded Mr. Finn's self-appointment as chairman of the legal affairs committee ever since the announcement was made at the Jan. 23 regular board meeting,

held after former board member Gene Godderis' resignation.

At that meeting, then-board president Bob Beaupre announced his resignation as president and became a regular board member. Mr. Finn was elected as new board president.

New committee assignments were made, and Mr. Finn said he felt he was best suited to head the legal affairs committee, since he was the only board member with legal experience. In the past, RCSCW board presidents have not chaired board committees.

According to bylaws, committee chair positions are appointed by the president and approved by the board. Mr. Finn's committee assignments were never officially approved by the board, a fact discovered during a workshop meeting Feb. 13 at which parliamentarian Maureen Arnold gave board members a lesson in Robert's Rules of Order.

Committee assignment discussion became an agen-

See Finn — Page 5

## Finn

Continued From Page 1  
da item as a result of the workshop meeting.

Ms. Jennings addressed the subject first, reading a statement about the lack of precedent for presidents of groups also holding committee chair positions.

A request was made by board members to hear opinions from audience members.

Resident Larry Watts said that if board members did not vote on the committee assignments, "it would mean the board was passively agreeing to leave Bob Finn on legal affairs."

At that point, Ms. Jennings immediately made the motion requesting that Mr. Finn step down as committee chairman.

Board member Tom Cook pointed out Mr. Finn's legal background.

"This constant change in legal affairs reduces the con-

tinuity and effectiveness of that committee," he added. "I believe it would be best to leave it alone until after the election."

Ms. Jennings stated it was not necessary for a chairman to have career background in their assigned committee appointment. Instead, she said, it is important for the chair to surround himself with committee members with solid backgrounds.

At that point, Mr. Finn announced he would step

down.

Ms. Jennings withdrew her original motion and made a new one, accepting Mr. Finn's resignation as legal affairs committee chair. The motion passed with Mr. Cook voting "no" and Stan Warner abstaining.

Mr. Warner was appointed as the new legal affairs chair.

Mr. Finn noted committee assignments would probably change again after the March election.



January 29, 2003

SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT

# Turmoil continues with Godderis' resignation

## Director points to public distrust of SCW Rec board

By **Diana Shaughnessy**  
Independent Newspapers

Constant turmoil best describes the state of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc. Governing Board lately.

With Bob Beaupre's Jan. 14 resignation from the president's position still fresh in everyone's mind, Gene Godderis sent board members yet

another shock when he resigned from the board Jan. 21, as the board's game of musical chairs continued.

In a statement to board members and the news media, Mr. Godderis indicated his decision to leave was based upon disagreements with the Sun City West Owners for Open Government, which he said has caused residents to distrust and become

angry with board members. He said he has been the direct recipient of what he calls "hate mail e-mails," including at least 17 requests that he resign from the board.

Mr. Godderis accused SCWOOG leaders of misleading residents into believing the board has violated state laws. He also claimed SCWOOG leaders have published half truths "and, in

many cases, downright untruths to provoke distrust and anger at board members."

During a special meeting a week earlier, Mr. Beaupre had announced that he was resigning as president of the board after only two weeks in the position, although he said he would remain a board member. Board member Bob Finn, one of the founding

members of SCWOOG, was elected as the new president, having been nominated by Mr. Godderis.

SCWOOG was formed last spring as a result of controversy surrounding the RCSCW's agreement to a \$93,000 severance package for former general manager R.G. Anderson-Wycoff.

See **Turmoil** — Page 5

OVER



# Turmoil

Continued From Page 1

SCWOOG members decided to make information about this readily available to Sun City West residents through use of the Internet.

Spearheaded by residents Richard Ahlgren, Carl Fischer and Mr. Finn, SCWOOG created a Web site and sent email messages to SCW residents with information about the severance pay package. That resulted in 700 people showing up for the next board meeting.

SCWOOG's major tenets were to have all meetings and documentation used in RCSCW business open to community residents, save those forbidden by federal or state laws.

"Openness is a tough thing to accomplish," Mr. Finn said as SCWOOG was just forming. "People have a tendency to make decisions behind closed doors."

The Web site, [www.scwoog.com](http://www.scwoog.com), was established and maintained originally by Mr. Finn.

SCWOOG went on to propose changes to the RCSCW board bylaws. SCWOOG advocated that the board meet in accordance with Arizona's open meetings law, documents be made available for inspection by residents, bylaw changes be made through a vote by owner-members, and the board's legal affairs committee review all legal matters, along with proposing provisions for solving future severance pay issues.

Also proposed was a change in when newly elected board members take office. SCWOOG wanted newly elected board members to take their seats immediately after election. Board members currently are elected in March but do not take their seats until July, to coincide with the fiscal year. This change was made by the board in mid-2001.

In prior years, members had been elected in December and took their seats in January. Due to the change, in the heat of the severance-pay controversy, three board members had to be appointed to fill the seats of members

whose terms expired in January, until the individuals to be elected in March could take office in July.

SCWOOG members had to collect at least 1,500 signatures from residents to mandate the board hold a meeting where bylaw changes could be discussed. Over 4,100 signatures were collected and a meeting was held. Two law firms presented opinions about the legality of the proposed bylaws. The proposed changes were put before voters, and although the majority of voters were in favor, the measure did not pass by the two-thirds majority required.

The three appointed board members, Carolyn Jennings, Patrick McBurnett and Stan Warner, are still part of the board and will remain in office until June 2003. The March 25 election will replace these members with candidates receiving the three highest numbers of votes, who will serve full three-year terms. Mr. Godderis' seat will be filled by the candidate receiving the fourth-highest number of votes (see related story).

"This is a very sensitive

time and a time when factions must work together. We have a big job ahead of us and are under an awful lot of pressure," commented RCSCW Board Vice President Elaine McCraith. "I was sorry to see Gene go, as he had expertise and knowledge that would have been useful. We need for the board and community to work together now."

Mr. Finn agreed with Mrs. McCraith.

"The number one issue is rebuilding confidence of the community in the governing board," he said.

This is the second time Mr. Godderis has resigned from the RCSCW board. A few months ago, he cited hate e-mails received by him and his wife as a reason to resign, but he rescinded that resignation.

Mr. Godderis wrote in his Jan. 21 statement that some of the e-mails he has received included hateful and libelous remarks. Hate e-mails have compared him to Hitler, and one even suggested he be "...tarred and feathered and run out of the community on a rail."





Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

The current RCSCW governing board members pose for a group portrait. Back row, from left, are Patrick McBurnett, Stan Warner, Recreation Centers General Manager George Grimstad and Tom Cook. Front row, from left, are Bob Beaupre, Carolyn Jennings, Bob Finn, Elaine McCraith and Robert Hubbs.

## Finn: Community input will rule at SCW board

By Diana Shaughnessy  
Independent Newspapers

In an effort to assure community members that Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc. Governing Board members will listen to them, newly elected President Bob Finn involved residents attending the Jan. 23 board meeting in the decision regarding filling the seat left empty when Gene Godderis resigned.

"We want to make information as readily available as we can," Mr. Finn said. "Board members are willing to visit clubs and organizations to explain what we are doing. We are creating a governing board Web site, which will be up and running in a few weeks. It also will have a link to the Recreation Centers' Web site."

Residents with Internet access will be able to address questions to Mr. Finn and the other board members on the site. Links directing residents to committees will allow them to ask specific questions as well.

Mr. Finn launched the discussion of the open seat on the governing board by reviewing the bylaws.

"Section 4A.13 says the seat may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining governing board members," he read. "Now the word 'may' leads me to believe we can discuss this, rather than just appointing someone. Does the board want to defer this selection until after the March 25 election?"

Much discussion followed, first among board members and then involving some of the approximately 100 community members present.

"I like the idea of rec members having some input on who fills the position," commented board member Tom Cook.

Board member Stan Warner questioned the normally nine-member board's ability to do business one member shy.

"I don't believe we will be

able to make changes in our bylaws without a full board," board member Robert Hubbs said.

Audience members pointed out that the bylaws state that unanimous approval is needed for bylaw changes.

"The 9-0 vote has worked very well all these years," audience member Larry Watts commented.

Board member Bob Beaupre proposed appointing someone to take over Mr. Godderis' seat on the day after the March board election. Three three-year board seats will be filled in that election. Mr. Beaupre further suggested that the candidate receiving the fourth-highest number of votes be elected to serve out Mr. Godderis' term beginning in July, when the three top vote getters assume their new roles.

"Since Mr. Godderis resigned and his term of office runs until June 5, 2005, we could appoint that fourth person to serve in the empty seat until June 30, and then he would officially take office on July 1 with the other new candidates," Mr. Beaupre explained. "This way voters could choose the new board member, and we could have him fill in until he takes office."

Sun City West Owners for Open Government President Carl Elitz liked Mr. Beaupre's idea.

"There has been a tremendous amount of controversy about the recent board appointments," Mr. Elitz said, referring to board members Patrick McBurnett, Carolyn Jennings and Mr. Warner. "I would strongly suggest holding elections rather than simply appointing someone."

The board voted 6-1 to delay appointing a new board member until March 26, the day after board elections, with Mr. McBurnett dissenting. He was in favor of putting someone in the open seat as soon as possible.



# Latest RCSCW moves raise questions

## Board opts to fill vacancy after March election

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The RCSCW governing board will do without one board member for the next two months.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West board decided Thursday morning against immediately replacing Gene Godderis, who resigned last week.

The rec centers will wait until the March 25 election and will then appoint the fourth-highest vote-getter to the board. That appointee will serve out the remainder of Godderis' term.

Patrick McBurnett was the lone dissenter in the 7-1 board vote.

Board President Bob Finn said bylaw wording allows the board to delay appointing an interim director.

"It is discretionary," he said. "We have a meeting March 25. What I want to hear from the board is, should we proceed with (the appointment) or wait for the election."

Director Tom Cook said who takes the seat should not be left up to board members: "I like the idea of

(residents) having input on the director," Cook said. "That would be more fair and open to suit our purposes."

Director Stan Warner said he was not going to take a stance either way, but wondered what each option could mean to the board.

Director Bob Hubbs said keeping the seat open would prevent the board from acting on bylaw changes, since all nine board members have to agree on any such changes. However, other measures for changing bylaws call only for an unanimous board vote.

Cook said that due to the time it would take to implement bylaw changes, having one less director for two months would not hinder the board.

"I would really be surprised if we could change the bylaws before the March election," he explained.

Sun City West Owners for Open Government Secretary Richard Ahlgren asked the board to name a temporary appointee to serve until the March 25 election. Bylaws, though, call for

appointees to serve until July 1.

Director Bob Beaupre agreed with Cook, saying the board could appoint the candidate receiving the fourth-highest vote total in the March 25 election, who would then fill out the remaining term vacated by Godderis.

The three top vote getters will each serve three-year terms.

Former RCSCW board President Larry Watts said appointing board members is not as good as having directors elected by association members.

SCWOOG President Carl Elitz agreed: "We have had tremendous controversy the last one to 1½ years about appointees. Leave the thing open until March and elect a director, as Mr. Beaupre suggested."

Patrick McBurnett, an interim director, disagreed.

"I am one of the people (appointed)," he said. "I realize some people would like me to resign, but I am not going to until June 30."

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

## Finn names self to Godderis' seat heading legal-affairs panel

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Three RCSCW directors are questioning why governing-board President Bob Finn named himself chairman of the legal-affairs committee earlier this week.

Following the resignation of Director Gene Godderis, Finn reorganized the committee chairs, taking the legal-affairs chair from Carolyn Jennings to assign it to himself.

Normally, the board president does not chair a committee. Finn, a former Nebraska Superior Court judge and lawyer, said he decided to help help with committees, and since he is the only director with a legal background, heading the legal committee was the logical move.

Jennings said she never agreed to the changes. She was reassigned to head the water committee.

"I dissented when you called me about the changes," she said at Thursday's Recreation Centers of Sun City West board meeting.

Director Bob Hubbs said the president should not

chair any committee because doing so could set a dangerous precedent.

Director Patrick McBurnett told Finn if he wants to serve as chairman of the legal-affairs committee, he needs to step down as board president.

"You do not have to be a lawyer," he said in disputing Finn's justification for naming himself to head the legal-affairs committee.

Jennings said the committee does not need a lawyer as chairman since many other lawyers are already part of the panel's makeup.

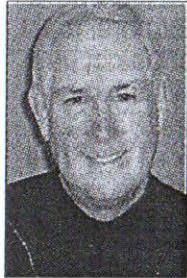
Sun City West Owners for Open Government officials thought Finn's move the logical choice. Vice President Carl Fischer said it would not set the dangerous precedent Hubbs claimed.

"I definitely feel it is wise to have an attorney chair the committee," he said. "I see no conflict, because the president only votes to break a tie."

"I think he can be very valuable to the affairs of the rec centers. Just because he is president does not mean he cannot contribute to the legal-affairs committee."



Daily News-Sun - Tuesday, January 21, 2003



**GENE  
GODDERIS:**  
RCSCW  
governing  
board  
secretary  
steps down.

# RCSCW director resigns a 2nd time

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For the second time in less than seven months on the RCSCW governing board, Director Gene Godderis has resigned.

A person answering the phone at Godderis' home today said Godderis was unavailable for comment.

Godderis delivered his written resignation Friday to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West.

In an e-mail to RCSCW board President Bob Finn, Godderis wrote: "pursuant to section 4A.11 of the bylaws, you are hereby notified that I resign from the rec centers governing board and all committees effective immediately. I do not wish to discuss this with anybody but my family.

"I decline your offer to place me on the new bylaw committee. I will be issuing a press release explaining my action in the near

future."

Godderis rescinded his first resignation a few months ago, citing "hate" e-mail he and his wife received from members of the community for that resignation.

In governing board meetings, he claimed the bulk of the "hate mail" came from Sun City West Owners for Open Government members.

SCWOOG President Carl Elitz

said today he objects to the term hate mail.

Elitz said he knows some people are angry at some of the actions of the governing board, and said some e-mails probably expressed that. He added e-mails of this nature are not necessarily "hate mail."

Elitz said he wished Godderis had not resigned.

"I am sorry to see anyone give up like that," he said.

Board Vice President Elaine McCraith said Godderis will be missed.

"I am very sorry (to hear he resigned)," she said. "Gene had a lot of experience in legal affairs. It is a sad thing."

Godderis was elected secretary of the board Dec. 30.

McCraith said Finn and governing board office manager Sharon Schomer are looking into how to proceed to elect Godderis' successor.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15, 2003

# SCWOOG backer takes reins of SCW board

**GOVERNING BOARD:** Finn voted in after Beaupre steps down as president

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In a surprising move Tuesday afternoon, Bob Beaupre stepped down as RCSCW governing-board president, and Bob Finn was elected to replace him.

Finn, who has been pushing openness in the Recreation Centers of Sun City West since being elected to the board in March, was nominated to the position by Gene Godderis. Finn nominated Tom Cook for the position.

Finn received five votes to Tom Cook's three. One director abstained in the secret write-in ballot.

Beaupre will remain on the board as a director. In a letter read to the board, he said he had received about 80 hate e-mails since being named president Dec. 30. He also said



**BOB FINN:** Pledges to work to mend community rift.



**BOB BEAUPRE:** Hate e-mails prompt resignation

in the letter the community could be better served by Sun City West Owners for Open Government supporters Finn and Cook.

Finn and Cook are members of SCWOOG.

**See RCSCW, A5**

## From A1

but are not officers or directors.

In the last six months, Finn has disagreed with governing-board members on various topics.

Finn said he talked to Beaupre Monday about the upcoming meeting, but didn't have any indication he would step down.

The RCSCW governing-board president always assigns directors committees to chair, and Finn said the only change he will make next week is to select his replacement as bowling-committee chairman, a post to which he was named earlier this month.

"I will just start working with the general manager to

heal the community and get some trust back with the board," he said.

Finn said he will ask appointed interim directors Stan Warner, Patrick McBurnett and Carolyn Jennings to resign their six-month terms after the March election instead of July 1, when elected directors are sworn in. The interim directors can decline, he added.

SCWOOG officers embraced the latest move by the governing board.

"The only thing I can say is, this will go a long way to get the community together," said SCWOOG President Carl Elitz. "I was surprised as much as anyone else."

SCWOOG Vice President Carl Fischer also applauded

the move.

"I think it's great for the community," he said. "Bob Finn will be a great asset to the community with the addition of (General Manager) George Grimstad.

He said the community can now finally come together.

"The days of wasting our dues are over," Fischer said.

Finn said he looks forward to working with the rest of the board to heal the community and bring the bitter rift to an end.

"I hope so, and I hope that is what they had in mind," he said of his fellow directors voting him in as president.

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



# RCSCW director rescinds resignation

**'NASTY' E-MAILS:**  
Godderis upset  
over accusations,  
insults

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board Director Gene Godderis has decided not to resign just days after quitting because of "nasty" and "disturbing" e-mails accusing him of things he said he did not do.

Last Friday, Godderis sent an e-mail to board President Allen Young of his intention to leave his post: "Life is too short. Pursuant to 4A:11 please accept my resignation from the governing board effective immediately. I am also resigning from the legal and water committees. I wish you and the rest of the board the best of luck."

Young said Godderis never resigned formally because the governing board never received a signed affidavit about his intention. Bylaws state a signed form has to be submitted to the RCSCW president to make the resignation binding.

"It's tough to explain," Godderis said. "I just got tired of the really insulting e-mail accusing me of things I have not done."

Godderis said several of the e-mails accused him of hiring an independent attorney to defeat the changing of the bylaws.

"They were calling me every name in the books, and I decided I was going to resign," he said.

Most of the e-mails, he said, were from the Sun City West Owners for Open

DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30, 2002

## From A1

Government group, which energized the movement to require a vote in December on proposed changes to the centers bylaws.

"They are very angry, and their anger is taken out on me for things I did not do," he said.

SCWOOG President Carl Elitz said the e-mails could have come from its members, but they were not approved by its board.

"We as an organization

have no policy of sending individual e-mails," he said. "I do not know what he is talking about. They are not approved. They are individual e-mails."

Elitz said some of the letters probably were from SCWOOG members and others were likely from additional residents.

Young said while all board members receive e-mails criticizing them for their actions, the letters sent to Godderis crossed the line.

"He was under great

duress due to some nasty e-mails so that he finally sent a message to (governing board office manager Sharon Schomer) that he was resigning.

"He received several e-mails that were very disturbing in nature," Young said.

The board president said most of the e-mails sent to Godderis dealt with the many issues consuming the governing board in recent months.

"It basically is what it all stems from," he said.

"People from all walks of life have been sending disturbing e-mails. There is a fever pitch here right now."

Godderis said all board members with the exception of one asked him to reconsider.

"I decided to give it one more time," he said. "The only thing I can do is ignore them and be more sensible."

Godderis, who took office July 1, said the support he has received gave him the strength to carry on.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, AUG. 24, AND SUNDAY, AUG. 25, 2002

# SCW watchdog presents ideas to redo bylaws

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West was given a list of 28 proposed changes regarding its operations by a watchdog group of citizens.

At a Sun City West Owners for Open Government meeting Friday afternoon, SCWOOG Vice President Carl Fischer outlined changes the group is proposing for the centers' bylaws.

Fischer has been going through the bylaws, word by word and paragraph by paragraph for the last month, deleting and adding changes that could be voted on by members.

Bylaws can be changed either by a unanimous vote of the governing board or by a two-thirds vote of the

owner-members in person or by proxy at a special meeting called for the purpose of changing the bylaws.

Amendments to bylaws by the residents also require a petition signed by at least 5 percent of residents.

SCWOOG's proposed changes involve several bylaws.

One proposed amendment would change board elections.

The proposal would eliminate the board's ability to appoint three interim members to serve six months. SCWOOG hopes this would place the board's elections onto a fiscal cycle.

The RCSCW governing board, after moving its election date from December to March, appoints three interim board members to serve from Jan. 1 to June 30, because elected board members take office on July 1. Until 2005, when

all board seats will be on the correct cycle, three terms will expire Dec. 31.

SCWOOG's proposal would eliminate the interim board members, allowing the board to operate with only six members until the elected members come on board. The election of three new directors would be moved to late February, with the directors assuming office March 1, not July 1.

SCWOOG also proposes that the six-member board would select officers in December to serve for two months. When the full membership comes on board March 1, it would elect a new slate of officers.

Another SCWOOG proposal says vacancies on the board for any reasons would remain unfilled if there is less than one year left on the director's term. If there is more than one year left

on the term, residents would vote in an election for a new governing board member.

SCWOOG is also looking at rewording the way general managers are selected. RCSCW General Manager Jon Cannon was hired after the governing board decided not to interview any other candidates.

Bylaws state the board will interview three candidates — "when required." SCWOOG would close that loophole and require three candidates be interviewed, with no exceptions.

Fischer said the Arizona Attorney General's opinion on Arizona Revised Statute 33-1804, as it pertains to the RCSCW governing board and planned

communities, could be strengthened in the bylaws.

RCSCW governing board member Bob Finn, who attended the meeting as a resident rather than a board member, explained to the SCWOOG board A.R.S. 33-1804 is the minimum standard the RCSCW board must

follow.

Finn said the bylaws are the contract of the community and therefore can be changed according to residents' wants.

Finn said the past RCSCW board has interpreted its bylaws with some "wiggle room."

"They are designating everything that has to do

with employees a personnel matter," he said allowing the board to have closed meetings.

"For some reason, the board thinks they can call an executive session and have it," Finn said, adding the proper way to have such a meeting is for the association to first have an open meeting and then vote to go into an

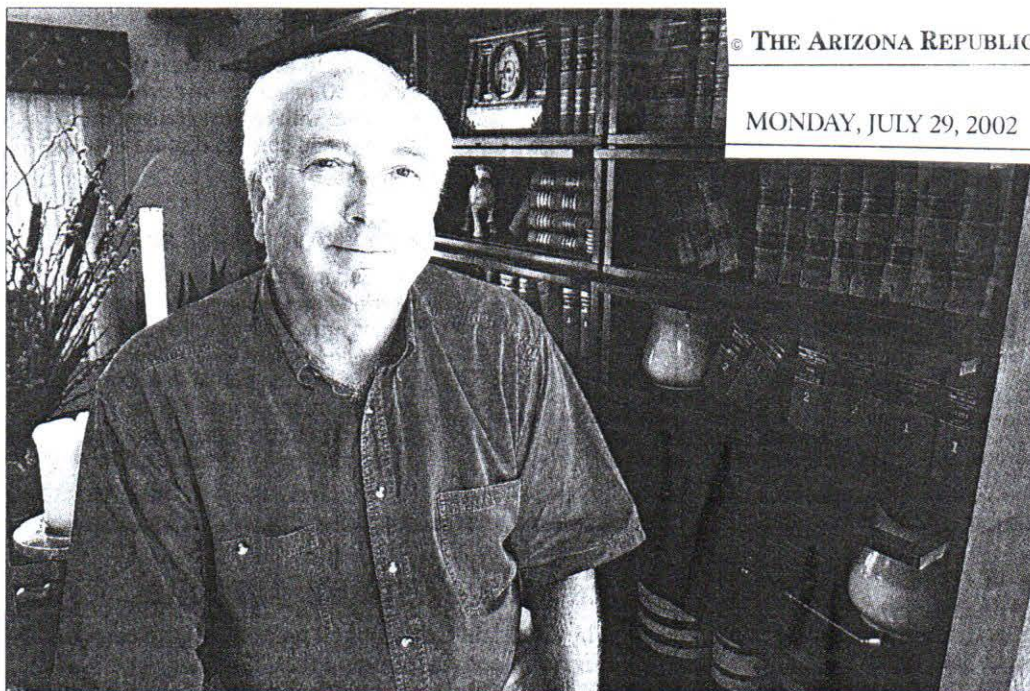
executive session.

Several of the other bylaws SCWOOG is exploring deal with opening the centers' meetings and deleting provisions that allow dues to be increased if more than 15 percent of members at a meeting vote to do so.

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



MONDAY, JULY 29, 2002



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

As a member of the Recreation Centers Board of Sun City West, Robert T. Finn has stirred up debate about the openness of board procedures.

# Governing maverick

Robert T. Finn is trying to help Sun City West be more involved and connected

By Sean L. McCarthy  
The Arizona Republic

Every governing body, whether it's a city council, school board or planning commission, seems to have one member who's not like the others.

Call them mavericks. Call them eccentrics.

On the nine-member Recreation Centers Board of Sun City West, that person is 65-year-old Robert T. Finn, who has stirred up debate about the openness of board procedures and found himself at the short end of several 8-1 votes in less than a month's service on the board.

Finn is OK with the mantles of maverick and eccentric.

Just don't call him a troublemaker.

"I didn't run to be a troublemaker," Finn told the community's Property Owners and Residents Association earlier this month.

He said he simply wants to help the retirement community of Sun City West become more involved and connected with each other and with their governing board.

"But little did I know that nobody views the world the same way I do," Finn said. "I don't like being the Lone Ranger, but I don't want to compromise my values."

Finn, who grew up in Nebraska, wanted to be a lawyer just like his father. In 1967, he joined the FBI. But his two-year stint under J. Edgar Hoover didn't include any X-Files, spying on hippies or even cops-and-robbers investigations. Nope. "It was a lot of paperwork," he said.

After a year with the Inter-

"I didn't run to be a troublemaker. ... But little did I know that nobody views the world the same way I do."

**Robert T. Finn**

Member of Recreation Centers Board of Sun City West

nal Revenue Service and more paperwork, Finn returned to practicing law in Tecumseh and O'Neill, Neb. He became a district judge in 1981 for the Cornhusker State's First Judicial District.

"In 18 years as a judge, I saw good lawyers and I had to sit back and watch some lawyers skin their clients alive, and there was nothing I could do about it," Finn said.

One thing he could do as a judge was hand down sentences. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruling this June that struck down Arizona's procedures allowing judges to sentence murderers to death row also affected two cases Finn presided over back in Nebraska. One of those death penalty cases included the 1993 killing of 21-year-old Teena Brandon, which was later captured on film by the Oscar-winning *Boys Don't Cry*.

Finn gives the movie a thumbs-up.

"It wasn't fun to watch," he said. "It was pretty accurate, though."

Finn and his wife, Kay,

bought a home in Sun City West in 1997 to enjoy the sunshine and be closer to their son, Tom, who is a Phoenix attorney. The Finns' other son, Jim, is a Baltimore lawyer.

Robert and Kay Finn moved here full time in 1999 after Robert retired his judicial robes.

He enjoys golf and tennis. He'd also enjoy flying planes, but type-2 diabetes has kept him from maintaining his private pilot's license.

It has not kept him from logging onto his computer, where he maintains four Web sites ([www.scwest.com](http://www.scwest.com),

[www.scwhomes.com](http://www.scwhomes.com),

[www.rtfinnlaw.com](http://www.rtfinnlaw.com) and

[www.sun-city-west-az.com](http://www.sun-city-west-az.com)).

The latter Web site has been up since 1997, but is not to be confused with Sun City West's official Web page. That's because Sun City West doesn't have one.

"This community needs a good Web site," Finn said.

Reach the reporter at [sean.mccarthy@arizona-republic.com](mailto:sean.mccarthy@arizona-republic.com) or (602) 444-6938.

## Bio

**NAME:** Robert T. Finn.

**AGE:** 65.

**RESIDENCE:** Sun City West.

**OCCUPATION:** Retired in 1999 as district judge, First Judicial District of Nebraska. Elected member of the Recreation Centers Board of Sun City West, 2002-2005.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's of science degree, University of Nebraska; law degree from Washburn University Law School.

**PERSONAL:** Wife, Kay; sons Tom and Jim.



# Rec board members under fire

## Recall efforts possible in Sun Cities

By Sean L. McCarthy  
The Arizona Republic

It's not easy these days to serve on a Recreation Centers board of directors.

Unpaid and under siege, the nine-member boards in Sun City and Sun City West face separate yet equally critical recall efforts.

In Sun City, resident Anne

Stewart already is circulating petitions to recall all nine Sun City board members: Jerry Swintek, Dorothy Hirtzel, Bud Hantke, Bev Davis, Art Little, Norm Dickson, Jim Frederick, Gene Zylstra and Tom Whiston.

Stewart has been at odds with the board for years.

But her petitions focus on a June 27 decision by the board

(an 8-0 vote with one abstention) to change its policy on construction of communication towers. Previously, new towers had been prohibited from Sun City. Now they can be built with the board's approval. A cell tower is proposed for Willowcreek Golf Course.

For Stewart's recall to move forward, she and her supporters will need to gather signa-

tures from at least 10 percent of Sun City's corporate members.

In Sun City West, the recall talk remained mostly whispers last week, although several residents publicly stated they'd be willing to sign or gather signatures.

Their beef is with a \$93,405 severance package given to retired general manager R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, as well as the method in which Sun City West's board handled the pay out to Andersen-Wyckoff and

the promotion of Jon Cannon to replace him.

Several hundred Sun City West residents packed the board's regular June 27 meeting and subsequent special meeting July 9. They begged board members to divulge financial information about salaries and severance for Andersen-Wyckoff, Cannon and other top managers.

The board released the information July 12.

Andersen-Wyckoff had been paid \$134,319 annually, including \$15,619 in retirement benefits and \$4,200 for vehicle allowances. Cannon, his successor, is being paid \$108,325 in total compensation.

Sun City West's board members claim they have been acting in the best interests of the retirement community.

"This was all done in good faith," board member Elaine McCraith-Anderson said. "We're not trying to cheat or gouge anyone."

McCraith-Anderson said only a handful of residents cared to show up for board meetings before this past month.

"These were not closed meetings," she said. "People were just not paying attention."

That isn't the case anymore.

"The good news is, you're showing interest," board member Tom Fagan told residents

last week. "I hope this leads to more participation in the open meetings."

If that should include a recall effort, Sun City West residents would be limited in whom they could target.

Sun City West's community bylaws hold that any directors in their final year of service are ineligible for recall, meaning Fagan, John Orr and Board President Allen Young. Three new directors began service July 1, after the severance package was approved, and seemingly safe from recall — Bob Beaupre, Robert Finn and Gene Godderis. That would leave only Tom Cook, Robert Hubbs and McCraith-Anderson eligible for recall.

Such an effort would require an initial 10-day petition of 200 signatures and a statement of 200 words or less specifying the reasons for recall.

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



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT JULY 17-23, 2002

# SC West Rec Board publicly ratifies GM severance package Organization threatens lawsuit

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

Several months after a controversial severance package was initially approved during a closed-door, executive session, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board affirmed the deal in a special open meeting July 9 held at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

The approved severance package has already been paid in full to R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, the association's former general manager, who retired June 30.

The package was initially passed April 2 during an executive session by a previous incarnation of the board. One-third of

the board changed as of July 1.

It was not until a June 27 board meeting that residents were publicly informed about the agreement.

In exchange for eight months salary, auto allowance, retirement pay and medical coverage, Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff is obligated to serve as a consultant for that length of time, as needed, and he surrenders any claims he might have against the association.

Had the severance agreement not been made, Board Vice President Thomas Fagan believes Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff would have been in a good posi-

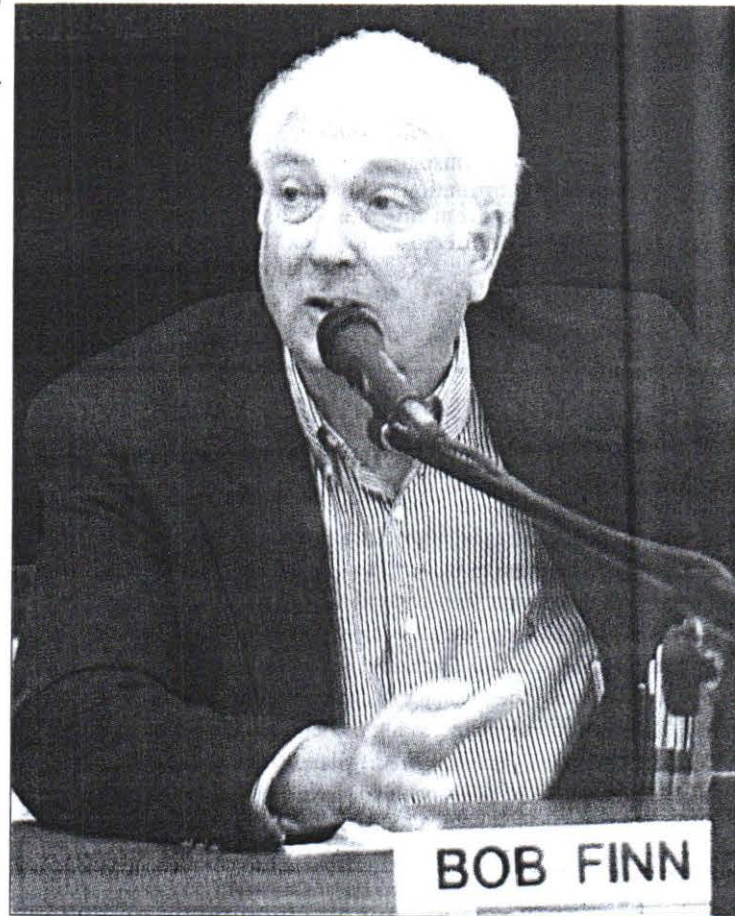


Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers  
Board Member Bob Finn speaks during a July 9 special meeting of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board. Mr. Finn requested the meeting in an attempt to overturn a severance package given to the Rec Centers former general manager.

OVER



tion to sue the board.

"I am convinced that (Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff's) working conditions had become intolerable, and inevitably Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff would have prevailed against the association in a constructive discharge lawsuit under the provisions of Arizona Revised Statute 23-1502," Mr. Fagan said.

"For those of you not familiar with this statute, it was crafted to protect employees from having to work under perceived intolerable working conditions."

Mr. Fagan argued that Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff would have prevailed in a lawsuit because of the perception that one of his employers made the work environment a hostile place. Mr. Fagan pointed to Bob Finn, newly elected board member, as the cause of the intolerable work place.

Mr. Finn took exception to those statements.

"Mr. Fagan I was not Mr. Wyckoff's employer, don't you get it?" Mr. Finn asked.

The exact amount given to Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff was not released to the public nor to the three new board members, Mr. Finn, Gene Godderis and Bob Beaupre at the time of the meeting.

These precise figures had not been released because the package was made as a confidential agreement, according to Mr. Fagan.

The refusal to release the information was met with outrage from Mr. Finn, who along with Director Tom Cook, requested the special meeting.

"I have repeatedly asked to see all the records concerned with the severance package and been told that they are not for my viewing. So even I, a board member, do not know how much (Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff) was given or when (the severance package) was given," Mr. Finn said.

Mr. Finn estimates the cost of this package to be between \$80,000 to \$100,000, but wasn't exactly sure of the amount during the meeting.

On July 12, the board released Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff's severance package, with Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff's written authorization.

In total, Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff severance package was \$93,405.14. Of that amount,

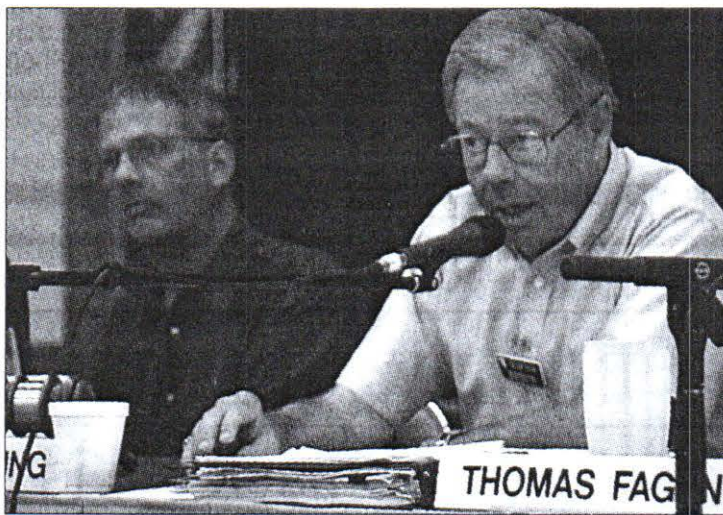


Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers  
Board President Allen Young, right, responds to audience questions during a special meeting of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board. Listening to his response is General Manager Jon Cannon.

\$77,000 was base pay, \$2,800 for a vehicle allowance, \$10,513.30 was a direct payment in lieu of 401k plan due to ineligibility and \$3,091.84 for medical insurance.

Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff's most recent annual compensation package totaled \$134,319.76. Of that amount, \$114,500 was his base pay, \$4,200 was a vehicle allowance and \$15,619.76 was a direct payment in lieu of a 401k plan due to ineligibility. Health insurance and vacation was not factored into the compensation package total.

While the board's legal counsel found the agreement to be a valid one in a July 8 legal opinion, the board affirmed its earlier vote in public view to head off possible legal questions about the legitimacy of the deal.

"Although the validity of any legal agreement may be disputed, the severance agreement was approved by the governing board and is supported by consideration given by both parties to the agreement," said Allen Young, board president, reading a legal opinion written by Board Attorney James R. Hinton.

"We believe the severance agreement is valid and binding upon, and in the best interests of the association."

A lawsuit may soon try to hold individual board members liable for their actions in this matter.

A letter was sent July 3 by the law firm Gallagher & Kennedy

to all nine current board members and the three board members who have recently left office, threatening possible legal action if the severance package was not reversed and pertinent documentation was not made public within 10 business days.

Gallagher & Kennedy was retained by the Sun City West Owners for Open Government, an organization seeking a more open Rec Centers government.

"Because Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff voluntarily resigned, the severance package was in direct violation of the bylaws and policies of Sun City West Recreation Centers, Inc.," Mr. Finn said, reading the letter from Jeffrey D. Gross of Gallagher & Kennedy.

Mr. Finn is an active participant in SCWOOG and creates its Web site, [www.scwoog.com](http://www.scwoog.com).

Mr. Godderis argued that the board would have to sue Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff to regain the funds given to him as part of the severance agreement and thus, would be held liable for breaching a contract the board's own attorney found valid.

To void other potential liability, he proposed reaffirming the agreement.

"Due to the fact that we are all being sued by Mr. Finn's organization - the theory apparently being that (the severance agreement) was made in a secret unopened meeting - in view of that, I move to affirm the severance contract dated April 2

between the association and R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff," said Mr. Godderis.

The vote to affirm the package was 6-1, with Mr. Finn being the lone dissenting vote. Mr. Beaupre was not in attendance at the meeting and Mr. Young did not vote.

Prior to the decision, the board turned down a motion by Mr. Finn, which would have attempted to regain the payment by whatever means necessary.

Only Mr. Finn voted to approve the motion, while Mr. Cook abstained from voting.

The overwhelming verbal response by the near standing-room-only audience was outrage at the severance package and displeasure with the board for its decisions.

"I suggest the board members that voted for this, resign or be recalled," said Bill Dinn. "It should be noted the dollar magnitude provided to (Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff) will be reflected on every member of this community."



# Activist group moves to stymie severance package

**ANDERSEN-WYCKOFF:** Group's lawyer  
says former GM's payout violates laws

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board, already embroiled in numerous disputes, now faces a legal challenge.

Sun City West Owners for Open Government has contacted a lawyer to look into former General Manager R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff's severance package, as well as allegations about possible violations of open-meetings and freedom-of-information laws.

Jeffrey Gross of the law firm Gallagher and Kennedy sent a letter to the nine current and three former board members whose terms expired July 1. Gross wrote that his firm has been retained to begin proceedings to set aside the severance package of the former general manager because it allegedly was approved in closed session, which violates Arizona Revised Statute 33-1804, the Arizona Open Meetings Law for planned communities. In addition, Gross said, the board had no authority to act beyond its bylaws and policy statements.

Board President Allen Young declined to respond to the allegations: "I cannot comment on that. That is a legal matter."

According to RCSCW bylaws, severance pay may not be given to employees who leave for disabilities, retirement or voluntary reasons. Andersen-Wyckoff resigned on his own.

Gross also questioned why SCWOOG has been denied access to association records. The lawyer said his firm has been asked to begin legal proceedings to obtain the necessary court order requiring board meetings be open to members and that owner-members be allowed to inspect association records as required by the RCSCW's bylaws and state laws.

Gross wrote to the board that SCWOOG does not wish to take the RCSCW to court if it does not have to, and therefore would drop the action if the board agrees to provide copies of the relevant severance-package documents and agrees to set aside Andersen-Wyckoff's

retirement package within 10 business days.

"If these matters are not resolved within that time, our client is prepared to enforce its rights in court and seek recovery of its attorney's fees incurred in doing so," he wrote. "Should the association suffer damages as a result of the board's breach of their fiduciary responsibilities to preserve the assets of the association and maintain accountability to its members, you are hereby on notice that our client will seek to hold the board members who participated in the above activity individually liable for those damages."

Resident Carl Fischer, a member of SCWOOG, said a court proceeding would be the last option.

"They have been abusing their confidentiality," he said. "We will relax once everything done by the board is known. We need to know how every penny is spent."

For information about Sun City West Owners for Open Government, visit the group's Web site at [www.scwoog.com](http://www.scwoog.com).

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



Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, June 18, 2002

# Incoming director files complaint against attorney

## RCSCW: Conflict cited in GM investigation

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

An incoming Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing-board member has filed a complaint against the centers' attorney, alleging unethical practices.

Bob Finn, a former state district judge from Nebraska, filed a formal letter of complaint with the Arizona Bar Association against Recreation Centers of Sun City West attorney James Hienton of Ridenour, Hienton, Harper & Kelhoffer of Phoenix.

Finn said he believes Hienton should not play a role in the investigation of future General Manager Jon Cannon because it would be a conflict of interest.

Calls to Hienton were not returned.

In his complaint, Finn lists possible violations of the client-lawyer relationship outlined in the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct. The complaint lists three conflict-of-interest areas Finn is questioning based on those rules: current rule, prohibited transactions and duties to former client.

The three rules relate to Hienton already being the centers' legal counsel before the investigation began.

Finn's complaints involve the centers' future general manager, Jon Cannon, who takes office July 1, and the auditing company the RCSCW board hired to look into allegations of financial impropriety involving Cannon in his current role as business service manager. Cannon was appointed to assume the general manager post in April.

Governing board President Allen Young said he had been informed of Finn's plans to file the complaint.

"I have heard he was going to do it," Young said. "I know our attorneys knew of the plan to do that."

"We leave legal matters like that in the hands of our attorney. I have no opinion of how it will turn out."

Young said the governing board has no plans to turn over the investigation to another auditing firm.

"There is absolutely no change in the investigation at this point," Young said.

In his letter to the Arizona Bar Association, Finn wrote he believes Hienton, who provides legal advice to the RCSCW governing board and management, including Cannon, should not be part of the investigative process because of a possible conflict of interest.

Centers officials in a statement said the law firm of Ridenour, Hienton, Harper & Kelhoffer has been directed to report back to the board president by June 27 on the status of the review of each allegation. After reviewing the information from Hienton, the governing board will determine whether to conduct a fraud investigation against its future general manager.

Finn, though, said he believes Hienton shouldn't be involved in the investigation in the first place.

"In my opinion, neither Mr. Hienton, his firm or the accounting firm for the association has any business participating in this investigation," Finn wrote in his complaint to the Arizona Bar Association. "Mr. Hienton has an obvious conflict of interest and should recuse himself from being part of this investigation."

Finn, who also takes office July 1, said he will abide by whatever the Arizona Bar Association decides.

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



# Sun City West voters give nods to Finn, Godderis, Beaupre

## 15% TURNOUT:

Recreation centers governing board race draws 4,503

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In one of the highest election turnouts in recent years for Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board seats, a former state district judge, educator and attorney won positions on the board for the next three years.

The turnout of 15 percent almost doubles that of last year's turnout of 8.8 percent. RCSCW officials were hoping for a larger turnout this year in response to the election day's move from December to March.

Of the 4,503 votes out of a membership of about 30,000 that were cast, Bob Finn, a former state district judge, led the way with 2,389 votes, followed by Gene Godderis, a former attorney, with 2,352

tallies, and former educator Bob Beaupre with 1,785 votes.

Finn, Godderis and Beaupre will take office July 1.

The other four candidates were H. Ray Caldwell with 1,585 votes, Ken Pavlik with 1,502, Kevin Foley with 1,341 and Oscar "Bud" Taylor with 1,214 votes.

Finn said he was flattered the residents of Sun City West made him the top vote-getter.

"I am very appreciative of the people who helped me," Finn said. "I am looking forward to the next three years."

Finn said he was not sure of how well he would fare in the governing-board election because of the quality of candidates who were running.

"In an election, you never really know," he said. "I was happy with the total number of people who voted. That was a good sign."

Godderis said he was



Finn



Godderis



Beaupre

"humbly grateful" the residents of Sun City West selected him to serve them for the next three years.

"I am looking forward to working with other board members to help Sun City West become one of the best retirement communities in the United States," Godderis said. "I feel we have a real treasure here, a unique development."

Godderis said the main focus he and his soon-to-be fellow board members will have to work at is keeping Sun City West a No. 1 community. Water issues, he said, have to be addressed as well.

Like Finn, Godderis was impressed at the number of

**See 15% turns, A5**

## From A1

residents who went out to the poll on Tuesday.

"I was somewhat surprised by the number of voters," he said. "People have to get interested in things like this. There is a lot at stake."

Beaupre, who served on the governing board from 1996 to 1998, said it is a little too early to know how he will serve the community.

"The good, hard work paid off," he said. "We will begin now. I am looking forward to getting back to work."

Beaupre said it is up to

the governing board president to decide on what committees he will serve. A new RCSCW president will be chosen once new board members are seated.

"I enjoyed it, and I am looking forward to doing it for another three years," he said.

Taylor and Foley, who ran as a team, were surprised by the results, particularly since the two Computer Club members sent out more than 5,000 e-mails asking other members to come out to support them.

"I am glad to see Finn get in," Taylor said. "He was my first choice. The other two, I

wish them luck."

Taylor said Beaupre's past experience probably influenced voters' choices.

"I was surprised we really didn't make it," he said. "We covered 18,000 homes. Just with name recognition, I would have thought we would have done better."

Taylor said he and Foley will monitor the board to keep abreast of what is going on in the community.

Foley, even though he finished sixth out of the seven candidates, said he was pleased with the results.

"I think they can become

outstanding, good governing-board members," Foley said. "I will be happy to provide whatever comments I can offer that will be helpful to the board."

This year's turnout surpasses that of 2001, when 2,600 or 8.8 percent voted, and of 2000, when the 3,500 votes represented an 11.7 percent turnout.

The increase, said RCSCW President Allen Young, is likely the result of the election being pushed back to March.

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

OVER



## Sun City West Rec Centers Governing Board

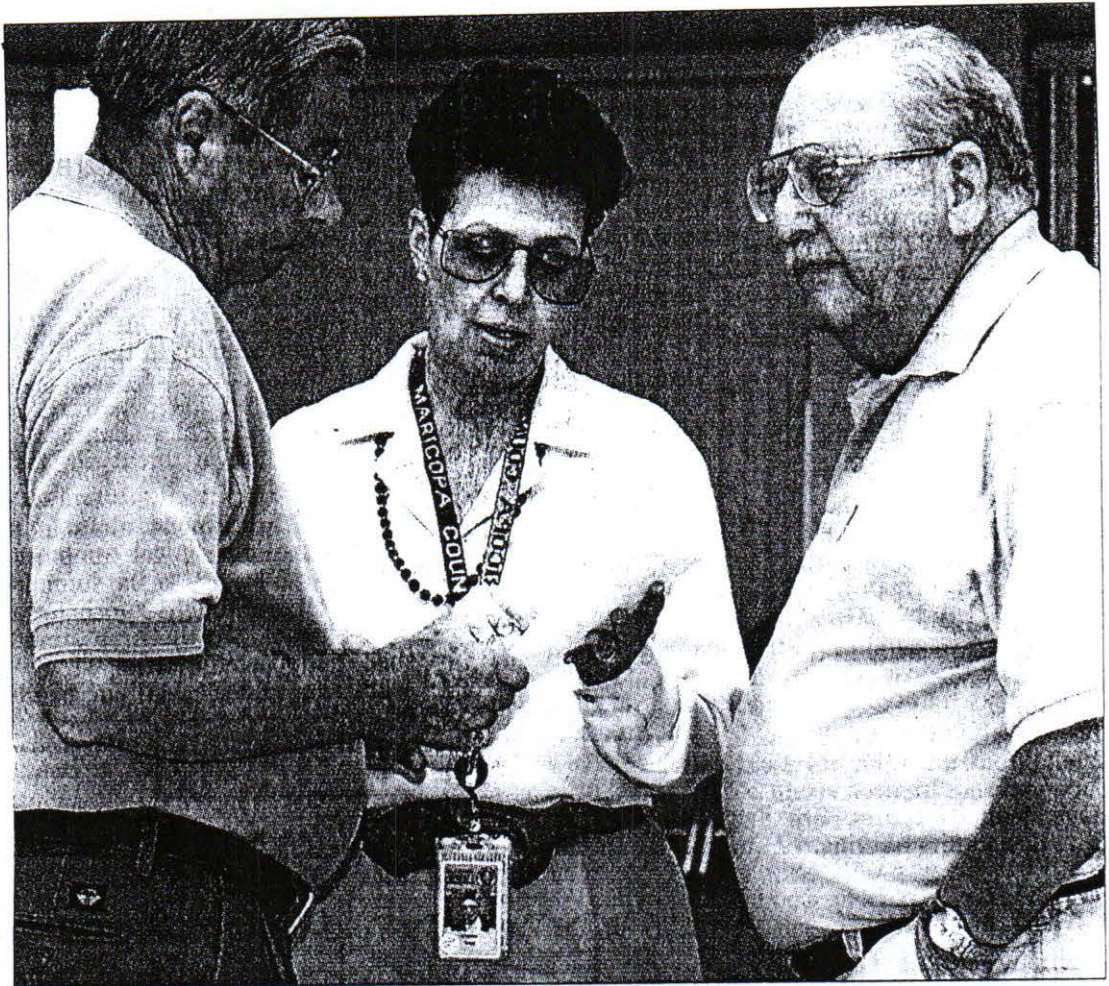
### Vote totals

Bob Finn  
Gene Godderis  
Bob Beaupre  
H. Ray Caldwell

2,389  
2,352  
1,785  
1,585

Ken Pavlik  
Kevin Foley  
Oscar "Bud" Taylor

1,502  
1,341  
1,214



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Yvonne Reed of the Maricopa County Elections Department gives the results of the Sun City West Recreation Centers governing board election Tuesday to Allen Young, left, board president, and Tom Young, election chairman.



# Governing the Association explained

With Governing Board elections coming up March 26, we felt this was a good time to explain how we are governed. (Please note that the Rec Centers is also referred to as the Association.)

All home owners in Sun City West, some 30,000 of us, **MUST** be owner-members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, and may participate in elections. Tenants and associate members do not have that privilege though they may use our physical facilities for a fee.

## The Governing Board

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc., is overseen by a volunteer, elected, unpaid, nine-member Governing Board of Directors. Directors serve three-year overlapping terms, with three generally to be elected each March. They set overall policy for the association, hire the General Manager, and approve his compensation.

The Board has an office manager who is the only Centers employee not reporting to the General Manager.

The Board elects officers from among its members -- president, vice president, secretary and treasurer -- all must be different individuals -- who have the responsibilities ordinarily associated with those offices in any corporation.

## Board hires manager.

The board selects the General Manager; all other employees except the Board's office manager are

	VF
	RECREATION CENTERS
Governing Board	2
From the G. M.	3
Entertainment	4
Bowling	6
Survey Graphs	7
Travel	8
Events & Movies	9
Library & Clubs	10
Chartered Clubs	11
Golf	12
Gov explanation contd	15
Survey results contd	16
	GOVERNING BOARD

## Explanation *continued from page one*

under the direction and control of the general manager, who sets their duties, responsibilities, and salaries within an established schedule. The General Manager is the Association's chief operating officer, responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and operation of all facilities and amenities. He uses division and department heads to help him oversee that daily effort and direct the work of about 400 employees, many of them residents.

The Association is similar to a small city run under the council-manager form of government. Governing Board members are not, and should not be, involved with the day-to-day operations but as elected officials, they do set policy.

## Annual budget and dues.

The annual budget process is one of the Governing Board's major tasks. With help from the Budget and Finance Committee, the Board starts as early as January or February with proposals of what managers think will be needed to properly maintain Association facilities and provide the services members want. Our current budget is about \$14 million.

The budget must be publicly presented to the membership early in May, and be approved at the late May Governing Board meeting. Changes in dues or fees generally take effect July 1, which is the start of the Association's fiscal year. Under the By-laws, annual dues may not be increased by more than 15 percent in any one year.

Golf and bowling are run from separate accounting divisions within the Association, and the bylaws require that those activities

(Continued on page 15)



## **Explanation** *continued from page three*

pay their own way. Thus, golfers and bowlers pay the annual Rec fee, plus additional use-based fees for their facilities.

The Association is not expected to operate at a deficit.

Major repairs, renovations and upgrades are made from reserve funds, held in cash or short-term investments for use as needed. The Board determines the size of those reserve funds, and sets up a mechanism to keep them within pre-set limits. The General Manager has limited authority to spend unbudgeted money in an emergency, such as after a pump failure, storm, fire or any other calamity.

### **Committees help**

Governing Board committees help it in its work. Under the Bylaws, those committees "recommend policy changes, analyze problems and review operations as required to support the Board's oversight responsibilities."

The knowledge of committee members also is available to the General Manager whom they support "by providing analysis and recommendations based on their expertise."

Current committees are Budget and Finance; Golf; Bowling; Library; Chartered Clubs; Water; Human Resources; Legal Affairs, and Properties.

The Governing Board president appoints board members to chair committees. Individual committee members then are chosen by the committee chairpersons. Members usually are named for their expertise or knowledge in a particular area. Committee members serve at the pleasure of the chairperson for a one-year term, but may be reappointed. Committees do legwork on policy issues, and prepare reports and recommendations to the Governing Board and management, *but they have no decision-making power.* Their recommendations are advisory, and their suggestions for policy or operational changes need not be accepted.

### **Bylaws important.**

The Association's Bylaws require that

certain actions or operational changes made by the general manager be discussed with, or approved by, the Board before taking effect. They also outline how the Board operates, in accordance with the articles of incorporation.

Bylaws spell out the election process; the budget process; recalls, board vacancies and other important organizational items. Copies are available in the library. Along with the articles of incorporation issued by the state, they are our "constitution."

Amending the bylaws requires the unanimous vote of all nine Governing Board members. That slows the process of change, but allows considerable time for reflection and debate.

### **Open meetings, records.**

All Association owner-members have the right to vote for Governing Board members, attend board meetings and examine most association records. Arizona law makes "mandatory membership organizations" such as ours operate much like municipal governments as far as open meetings, posted agendas and access to records. Legal and personnel matters may remain confidential.

Although the public and the press customarily are allowed at monthly Board meetings, there is no legal obligation to open the sessions other than to members.

Many Association documents and regular financial reports are filed in the R.H. Johnson Library for member examination. Documents there include the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, Governing Board meeting minutes, board policies, the Chartered Club Rules, Regulations and Procedures manual, and the Facilities Agreement. There is also a file of back copies of the Rec Center News.

Financial details include pending and approved annual budgets and audited year-end financial reports, as well as month-to-month spending vs. budget.

### **Running for the board.**

Any owner-member in good standing – no unpaid dues – may run for the Govern-



Daily News-Sun • Friday, Dec. 14, 2001

# Governing board picks interim officers

## SUN CITY WEST: Recreation Centers aligns directors' terms with fiscal year

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

New officers were chosen and interim members appointed to the Recreation Centers of Sun City West governing board Thursday morning.

Earlier in the year, RCSCW changed its election dates to coincide with the

community's fiscal year — starting July 1, 2002. The change left six-month vacancies in the seats of board members elected to serve until Dec. 31.

To fix the problem, the board appointed past presidents Dick Catlin and Larry Watts and exiting president Dee Hjermstad to serve until the new fiscal year starts.

The board also elected new officers, who will assume their roles Jan. 1.

Allen Young will fill the president's slot. John Orr was elected vice president, Tom Fagan named secretary

and Bob Hubbs treasurer.

The meeting was the final one of the current terms for Hjermstad and directors Bob Jones and Dudley Gibson, so the three did not take part in the vote to name the four new officers and three interim directors.

RCSCW members will vote for three candidates to replace the interim members March 26. Those elected will take office July 1. The selections were made in executive session.

In its regular meeting before the executive session, the board approved a policy designed to encourage

participation in local elections with little interference to members using association property.

The policy states:

- No signs or posters will be allowed on RCSCW property except on election days.

- Campaign literature must be handed out and not left unattended.

- Candidates and campaign workers cannot restrict entrances and exits to RCSCW property.

- Material distributed cannot be scandalous, malicious, defamatory or libelous.

- All materials to be

distributed must be filed with the RCSCW office prior to distribution.

- All people shall comply with federal election law and Arizona Election Day statutes, when applicable.

The governing board also approved policies detailing where signs could be placed in the community and amended a bylaw that dictates who can be a director. It also amended the oath of office new directors will have to take before being allowed to serve.

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



Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Jan. 6 and Sunday, Jan. 7, 2001

# RCSCW board sets goals

## THURSDAY RETREAT: Bylaws and recreational amenities targeted

**BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Recreation Centers board members in Sun City West have set five goals for 2001, said incoming board president Dee Hjermstad.

At a retreat and orientation session Thursday, members of the governing board at the Recreation Centers of Sun City West also learned how the board functions; the role of members and of the general manager and staff, and other things connected to the board organization.



Hjermstad

Hjermstad conducted the four-hour session, which also included a lengthy discussion of the board's goals for the year.

Hjermstad said the board settled on these major efforts:

- Review, clarify, simplify, codify and revise, if necessary, the existing bylaws;
- Continue toward completion of the physical-facilities' "get well" program and begin a "stay well" program for buildings and equipment;
- Review, and improve where possible, golf course maintenance and operations, and balance income and

expense in the golf division;

- Continue to work toward use of Central Arizona Project water in association golf courses;

- Thoroughly review availability and use of space to determine the need for revised space allocations or expansion.

Hjermstad said that regular reports of the board's progress toward the goals will be provided to members.

"There may be more (goals) added, perhaps some subtracted," she said after the session. "But those are the primary ideas we set out at the meeting."

Also under consideration is a five-year long-range plan, much of which might incorporate details from the five goals, the president said.



# RCSCW president preparing for debut

By Dee Hjermstad  
President, Sun City West Recreation Centers governing board

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Sun City West Recreation Centers governing board. We have nine members on the board, all working together to maintain and enhance the quality of life we have come to expect and enjoy here in Sun City West.

The Rec Centers, a colloquial term, is the heartbeat of this unique and special community.

People come here from all over the United States and Canada to live a full and active life. For those unfamiliar with Sun City West, we provide a wide variety of homes, from single family houses of many different sizes to apartments and condos, many surrounded by beautiful golf courses.

Homeowners are all members of the Recreation Centers and have access to a vast array of facilities such as the seven golf courses, 30-lane bowling center, 27 tennis courts, six swimming pools, four fitness centers and on and on. There are more than 100 chartered clubs with activities that range from silvercraft to sewing to woodworking and metal shops to the performing arts, music and theater and dancing, to a computer club with more than 3,000 members.

The governing board sets policy for managing these recreation centers and their facilities. The general manager, R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff, works directly for the board and directs the activities of approximately 450 employees. The care and maintenance of \$150 million worth of facilities and grounds are major undertakings, ones that are very expensive and time-consuming. The board sets and manages a \$14 million annual budget to do all of the above. There are numerous volunteer committees of the board that oversee many of the activities such as golf, bowling, properties, etc.

It would be presumptuous of me to set goals for this new board before we have even met. Our term of office begins today, Jan. 1, 2001.

Later this month, we will be meeting to identify our goals and objectives, to outline where we would like to go and what we want to see accomplished in the year 2001.

I do know that, personally, I hope the board members will pull together as a team to provide enhanced services, balancing revenues with expenses; will communicate effectively with the residents of our community; will continue our "get well program" of continued facilities repair and maintenance; and will meet the needs of our residents as presented.

It promises to be a busy and fruitful year of progress, full of opportunities and challenges. I look forward to working with the board and our Sun City West community.



Hjermstad



# SCW Rec Centers adopts \$14.5 million budget for 2000-01

## Golf, bowling and rec fees to be hiked

By MIKE RUSSO

Independent Newspapers

A \$14.5 million budget for fiscal year 2000-2001 was approved May 25 by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board but not without considerable, and sometimes contentious, discussion. The vote was 6-1 in favor of passage with Director Dudley Gibson voting in opposition.

The budget, which is up about \$1.5 million from the current year, will impose higher membership, golf and bowling fees on members.

Membership fees will rise \$15 annually, going from \$133 per person to \$148. Bowling will increase five cents per line and golf fees will rise in most categories.

Fees had to be raised to generate the funds needed to perform maintenance that has been neglected for too long, according to General Manager R.G. Andersen-Wyckoff.

"I can only hope that our members will understand why we had to propose increases in virtually all fees and charges," he said. "That didn't mean they like it, just that they understood it."

"The real underlying focus of the proposed financial plan is to get well and stay well, with only minimal fee increases in the future," Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff said.

The budgets by division are: recreation, \$5,479,374; bowling, \$598,653; golf, \$8,496,702.

Each division must be self-sustaining and funds cannot be commingled, according to Mr.

Andersen-Wyckoff.

"Over 58 percent of the financial plan is dedicated to personnel costs," the general manager noted.

An average 3 percent wage increase is being budgeted, according to Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff.

Mr. Gibson took exception to so much of the budget going for payroll and benefits.

Although a 3 percent wage increase is being budgeted, the overall payroll will rise a total of 9.1 percent,

because two new positions will be added, Mr. Gibson asserted.

"In spite of a modest reduction in personnel, the payroll is growing at an unacceptable rate, for the third year on a row. The increase in payroll and benefits proposed in the 2001 plan is \$594,551, for a total payroll of \$7,951,499," Mr. Gibson said.

"We cannot allow payroll and benefits to rise nearly 10 percent each year," he continued. "I fully recognize the value of our employees, but I don't think I have ever had a manager come to me and say 'I think we can get by with less money this year.'"

However, Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff said higher wages must be paid in order to attract employees in the tight labor market.

"Without good people, who are



Dick Catlin

our most valuable resource, we would be in trouble ... and they are definitely in short supply," said President Dick Catlin. "In my opinion, retention of our assets is essential."

"I do not believe we need to balance the budget on the backs of our employees," remarked Director John Orr.

"I do not want to do anything to reduce the morale of employees at the Rec Centers," he continued. "I believe employee morale is extremely fragile."

"We need to stay competitive or we will be losing enough of our labor force to cause us severe difficulties in operating our rec centers," Mr. Orr said.

"I do not believe our employees are overpaid and I do not believe a 5 percent increase will make them overpaid," he added.

"This (budget) was done with the best interests of our residents in mind," commented Director Dee Hjermstad. "The budget is fine the way it is."

Several amendments to the budget proposed by Mr. Gibson were either defeated or did not even garner a second, therefore, they were not presented for a vote.

One of his proposed amendments involved retaining the \$165 annual golf car trail permit fee. The original budget draft had suggested the fee be hiked to \$200. However, Mr. Young proposed last week the fee be elevated only to \$180.

While Mr. Gibson took exception to several areas of the budget, he said his opinions no way reflected his opinion of the job done by Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff.

"I worked very closely with Mr. Andersen-Wyckoff over the last year and half and I would like to endorse his performance. So my disagreement with the budget does not in anyway reflect on his performance," Mr. Gibson said.



# SCW Rec Centers clarifies fund access

## GM can tap contingency funds with OK from board

By **TERI CARNICELLI**  
Sun Cities Independent

Unlike the extended debate surrounding passage of the Rec Centers budget, a new association policy recently passed without incident.

The new policy merely solidifies the process of dipping into the three divisions' contingency funds, says Jack O'Connor, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.

"We've always had the method, it's just never been written down before," Mr. O'Connor explains.

The policy states the purpose of the contingency funds in each of the three Recreation Centers divisions is to provide funding for any unforeseen expenses or capital equipment purchases that may occur during the fiscal year.

The 1995-96 fiscal budget shows a contingency fund of \$25,000 for the Rec Centers, \$50,000 for the golf division and \$6,500 for the bowling division.

The control of each division's contingency fund rests with the association's general manager, Les Hicks.

If an unbudgeted expense or capital equipment purchase cannot be absorbed in the division's budget, the general manager can ask the Governing Board to approve the transfer of money from the contingency fund to the division budget to cover the unexpected costs.

See ■ **ACCESS**, Page 3

## ■ ACCESS

From Page 1

For example, the budget may contain an item for the general manager to replace one of the association's older trucks.

But if, at the same time, another vehicle gets stolen, the general manager can either use the budgeted funds to replace the stolen truck and hold off on replacing the old one, or ask the board's approval for use of contingency money.

There has been some concern among residents as to how this may contradict or replace a section in the bylaws which deals with powers of the general manager.

Under the bylaws, the general manager's spending authority to make emergency repairs to recreation facilities is limited to \$5,000 without board approval.

In the event more money is needed, the approval of the board's executive committee is required.

The contingency fund policy is "not related to bylaws in any way," Mr. O'Connor emphasizes.

"That (the \$5,000) is for an emergency; contingency is something which has always been put into the budget."

The new policy is "merely a control mechanism so that money cannot be moved from here to there without the board's approval," he says.

At the end of the fiscal year, any

money left in contingency funds become a part of the division's earned surplus. The Governing Board anticipates the Rec Centers division earned surplus for fiscal year 1994-95 to be around \$400,000, although board members

won't know for sure until the year-end audit is completed.

A portion of the anticipated earned surplus is being utilized in the 1995-96 fiscal budget to cover an expected deficit of \$218,742 by the end of the year.



# SCW advisory board ponders Webb exit

By TIFFANY MEANS  
Daily News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY WEST** — The Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board has examined association bylaws in preparation for its management role after the community's developer exits.

The board met at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the R.H. Johnson Lecture Hall, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd., to discuss committee reports and business such as floor repairs.

Keith Hook, board member, presented a position paper regarding the period of transition as Del Webb Communities Inc. transfers management of the

recreation centers to the residents.

"As transition activities of the association proceed... it is anticipated that several issues will arise concerning the role and responsibilities of the association," the paper states.

The transition was expected in January 1993, but may be postponed by an expansion of Sun City West by Webb.

The nine-member board which makes policy recommendations to management and Webb will become the governing board after the transition.

The paper questions the role of the recreation centers in areas such as landscape main-

tenance, residential deed restrictions enforcement and community public relations.

"Expansion of the role and responsibilities of the association beyond... (operating, maintaining and preserving recreation centers) would require revision of the Bylaws," the paper states.

The advisory board recommends a thorough study and evaluation of the costs and benefits to the association of such change, Hook said.

Steve O'Donnell, recreation centers general manager, presented proposals for repair of the linoleum floor in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

Moisture problems underneath the floor have caused bumps in areas of the linoleum. A task force of Webb officials contracted for professional examinations of the floor problem, O'Donnell said.

"The basic feeling at this point in time is that the first order of business next summer is to pull up the vinyl to dry out the floor," he said.

Webb officials have not decided on a replacement flooring. Options include wood, carpet and ceramic tile, O'Donnell said.

"We may very well be backing into a wood floor," O'Donnell said.

Residents have requested at community forums that the floor be replaced with wood to provide a better dance floor. However, Webb officials have been concerned about the expense of a wooden floor.

"With the amount of wood for the floor, the price for a new floor goes up significantly," O'Donnell said.

The condition of a second recreation-center floor also has been considered by Webb, O'Donnell said.

The Recreation Centers Governing Board ??? has recommended that funds for a plywood overlay and vinyl cover be provided in next year's bud-

get for the Stardust Theatre, 14401 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Cass Ruhlman, treasurer, reported a deficit of \$561,437 in the general account as of Sept. 30. The budget allowed for a deficit of more than \$78,000 higher, Ruhlman said.

As of Oct. 31, the balance of the Asset Replacement Fund was \$1,386,546; the balance of the Golf Reserve Fund was \$939,555; and the balance of the Bowling Reserve Fund was \$8,809, Ruhlman said.

The recreation centers will be decorated for the holiday season before Thanksgiving, O'Donnell said.

Chicago lived in Sun City at the same time and were Posse members.

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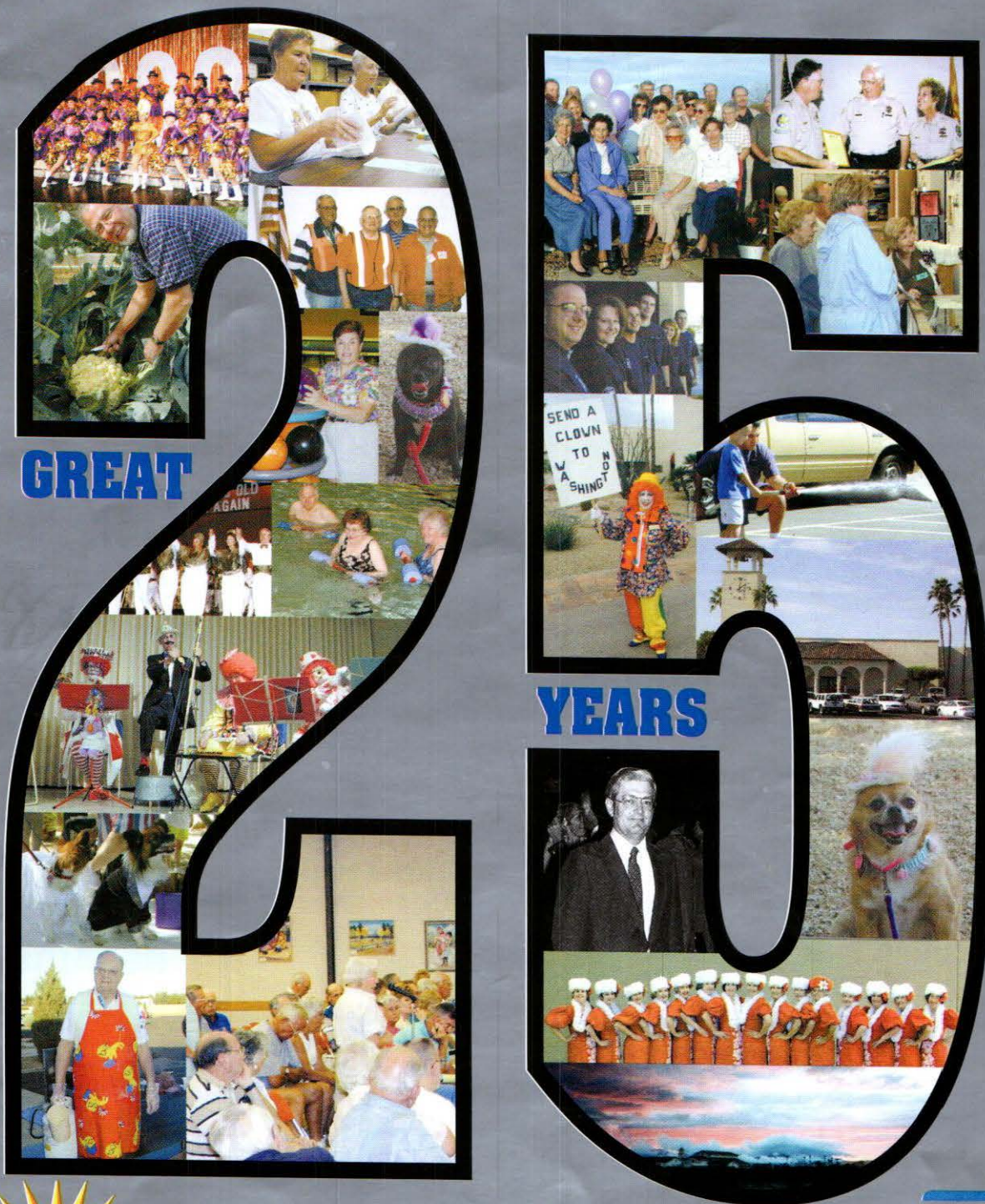
Before long, the two interested other residents and the organization became official with a swearing in ceremony.

Also coming to the assistance of the Posse on three occasions was Sanderson Ford.

**THE DEALER** McGee and Hodge said provided the Posse with its first patrol car in March 1980 without charge, and even accepted responsibility for repairs and insurance.



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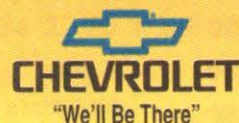
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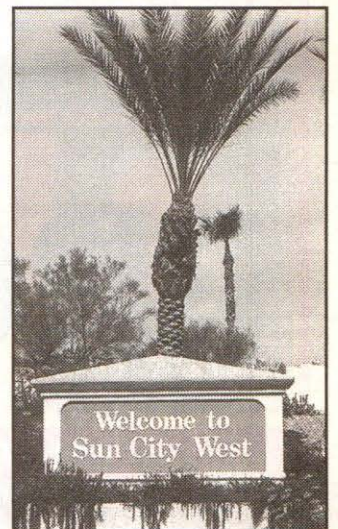
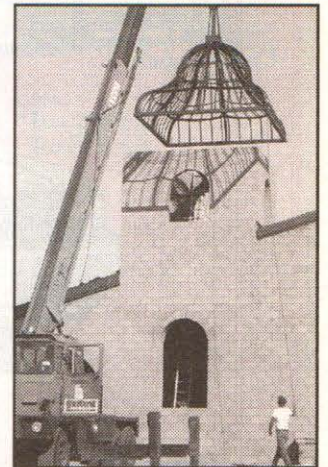


# Sun City West Silver Celebration



## Table of Contents

Co-chairs' letter . . .	3
Steering comm. . .	5-7
Executive comm. . .	7
Finance comm. . . .	7
Webb visionaries . .	8
SCW history . . . .	10
The Big Shot . . . .	13
Groundbreaking . .	15
Sponsors . . . . .	16
Pioneers & Heroes	17
Schedule . . . . .	19-22
Sun Health . . . . .	23
Lizard Acres . . . .	25
Briarwood . . . . .	28
Memorial flags . .	29
Car & Cruise . . . .	30
Souvenirs . . . . .	31
PRIDES . . . . .	32
Posse . . . . .	33
Library . . . . .	37
Sundome . . . . .	38



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Dee Hjermstad

Dear friends and neighbors:

Congratulations to each and every one of you for making Sun City West your home. We are proud to live in the premier active adult community in the country.

It is hard to believe that we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year. Some of us have been here nearly from the start. Many more are recent additions and newcomers.

Regardless of how long you have called this beautiful community your home, we invite you to join with us in this Silver Celebration year of events.

## Welcome to the Sun City West Silver Celebration

Our Silver Celebration Committee and all the hundreds of dedicated volunteers have planned some very exciting events for you beginning with our "kick-off" Birthday Parties on February 15 at both the R. H. Johnson Social Hall and Palm Ridge Summit Hall. Stop by and have some cake, meet your Sun City West neighbors, and take the opportunity to view all the Silver Celebration items that have been created for this occasion.

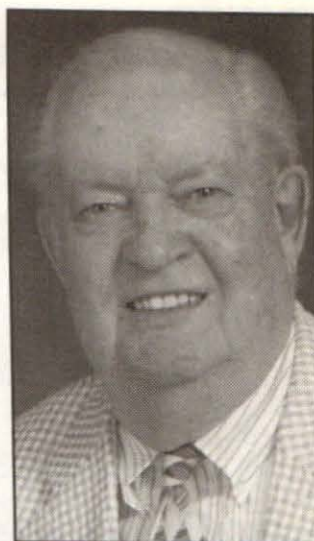
We would like to thank our Steering Committee for securing the funds to provide these activities and our event chairs for bringing such joyful programs to our residents.

Special thanks to the Recreation

Centers of Sun City West Governing Board and staff, especially Elaine McCraith, Board liaison; Linda Murray, Recreation Manager; Mauryne Hall, Public Relations Manager. They, along with our Event Chair, Marge Loeffler, and all the volunteers deserve a round of applause for their hard work on this Silver Celebration project. Enjoy the parties,

the concerts, the socials, the parade, and the performances that have been scheduled for this 25th anniversary year. They are yours to enjoy and have been planned with you in mind.

Sincerely,



Joe Davisson

*Dee Hjermstad*

*Joe Davisson*

**Silver Celebration Committee Co-chairs**





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# Sun City West Silver Celebration

## Honorary Steering Committee

These hard-working residents have given many years of service to the community through their participation in a variety of organizations. Their former and current affiliations are noted below:

### John Bergh

Past President: Sun City Community Fund, Sunrise Lions Club

Board Member: PORA, Boswell & Del Webb Hospitals, SPAA Sheriff's Posse member  
19-year resident



### Lorraine Cockle

Board Member: Sun Health/Del Webb Hospital, SCW Foundation, PORA

Past President Sun Health Auxiliary  
7,000 hours as Del Webb Hospital volunteer  
16-year resident



### Joe Davisson

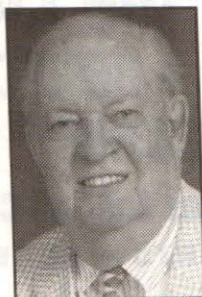
Director Emeritus and Past President, SPAA

Past President: Norwest Bank Sun Cities, Ohio Club of Sun City Board Member, Sun Health/Del Webb Hospital

Former Chairman, Sun Health Governmental Affairs

Director Emeritus, Sun Health Foundation, Co-Chair Sun City Symphonies Fund Drive

30-year resident in the Sun Cities



### Tom Dickson

Executive Vice President & CEO, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital  
Former Vice President,



Administration Services, Boswell Hospital  
Member/Past President of SCW Rotary Club  
12-year resident

### Lenore Forti

President: Sun City West Foundation

Board Member: PORA, SCW Community Fund,  
Past President: Lioness Club, Sun City West Singles  
18-year resident



### Randy Fuller

President: PORA

Member: WESTMARC, Luke West Valley Council

Co-Chair: President's Council of the Sun Cities  
7-year resident



### John Galbraith

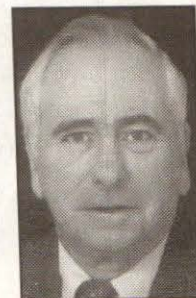
Board President and former Treasurer: Briarwood Country Club  
9-year resident

Sandford Goldstein

Past President: SPAA, PORA, West Valley Art Museum, SCW Foundation

Chair: Sun Health Governmental Affairs Committee

Former Chair: Maricopa County Planning & Zoning Commission  
19-year resident



### Dee Hjermstad

Past President: Rec Centers of SCW Governing Board, AAUW, Sun Cities Symphony

Board Member: SPAA

Member: Friends of the Library Film Selection Committee  
18-year resident





**Birt Kellam**

President: SPAA  
 Past President: Sun Health  
 Foundation, West Valley Art  
 Museum, Rotary Club  
 Board Member: Sun Health  
 Corporation, Del Webb Hospital,  
 PORA  
 Established: Sun City West  
 Ambassadors & the Visitor Center  
 30-year resident

**Joe Schoggen**

Rear Admiral with two Legion of  
 Merit medals  
 Past President/CEO: Navy Federal  
 Credit Union  
 Former Board Member Recreation  
 Centers of Sun City West, Sun  
 Cities Symphony, Sun Health  
 Governmental Affairs/Del E. Webb Memorial  
 Hospital,  
 Board Member: Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital,  
 Rotary Club  
 13-year resident

**Rae McMillan**

President: Del E. Webb Memorial  
 Hospital, Habitat for Humanity of  
 the West Valley  
 Past President: Sun Health  
 Foundation, Royal Oaks Life Care  
 Center  
 Trustee: West Valley Art Museum,  
 Sun Cities Chamber Music Society  
 An Arizona native

**Thomas A. Taggart**

Board Member: SPAA, SPAA  
 Presidents Advisory Council  
 Former Board Member Symphony  
 of the West Valley, Co-Chair Swing  
 with the Maestro Golf Tournament,  
 Sun Health Senior PGA at Hillcrest  
 Member: Rec Centers of SCW  
 Public Relations Committee  
 16-year resident



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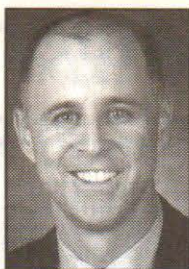
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**John Waldron**

Regional Director of Public  
Affairs: Pulte/Del Webb  
President: Valley of the Sun Public  
Relations Society of America  
Board Member: SPAA

**Robert W. Williams**

Retired Brigadier General, U.S.  
Army  
Former Legislator: Arizona House  
of Representatives  
24-year resident

**Noel Willis**

Chair: Building & Grounds  
Committee of Sun Health  
Allocates resources for the  
Targeted Care Panel/Valley of the  
Sun United Way  
Former Board Member:  
Symphony of the West Valley  
Past President: PORA  
10-year resident

**William Woodyard**

Retired Brigadier General, U.S.  
Air Force  
Former General Manager:  
Recreation Centers of Sun City  
West  
Former Board Member: Sun  
Health Corporation, Del E. Webb Memorial  
Hospital  
23-year resident



### Sun City West Silver Celebration Executive Committee

Front row, from left, Clarine  
Clampitt, Diane Holloway, Alice  
Burns, Valerie Gitter. Second  
row, from left, Lorraine Cockle,  
Elaine McCraith, Donna Potter,  
Dee Hjermstad, Joe Davisson,  
Marge Loeffler, Earl Mackert.  
Third row, from left, Mary  
Bunting, Regina Muhlenfeld,  
Pat Imholte, Vera Keeler, Pat  
Heneghan, Mary Jo Copelan,  
Linda Murray, Dusty Rhodes,  
Lenore Forti, Kay Ginsburg.  
Fourth row, from left, Lee  
Vogel, Dan Kedzie.

### Sun City West Silver Celebration Finance and Fund-Raising Committee

The Finance and Fund-Raising  
Committee members include chair-  
man Birt Kellam, Ken Meade, Noel  
Willis, Randy Fuller, Tom Taggart,  
Tom Dickson, John Waldron, Bill  
Woodyard, Liz Reeve-Calley, Ruth  
Anderson and Dick Hohnson.  
Members are not all pictured here.





# Del Webb and his visionaries, R.H. Johnson, Fred Kuentz and John Meeker

By Diana Shaughnessy  
Independent Newspapers

Del Webb is the name most people associate with the dramatic change in senior retirement living across the country. With the creation of Sun City, the Webb name became synonymous with an active retirement life built around a community created with that end in mind.

Mr. Webb would be the first to admit, however, that his idea of planned retirement living was given life by the talented

people with which he surrounded himself.

Nowhere was that more evident than in Sun City West, which was built after Mr. Webb's death in July 1974. Sun City West, created 25 years ago by Mr. Webb's visionaries, kept alive the idea of a healthy, active retirement. And three of those visionaries, Robert H. Johnson, Fred Kuentz and John Meeker, have been immortalized in Sun City West by having their names attached to streets or recreation centers.

Those entering Sun



Photo supplied by Sun Cities Area Historical Society

**Del Webb, center, discusses a construction project with Robert H. Johnson, left, and Fred Kuentz.**

City West through the entrance off Bell Road notice the name of the main thoroughfare right away: R.H. Johnson

Boulevard. The well-kept avenue leads through the development and past R.H. Johnson Recreation

•See VISIONARIES, Page 12

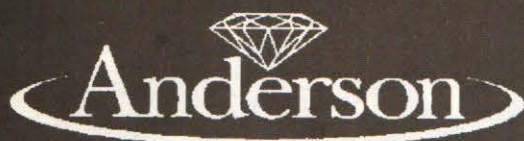
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# Sun City West: A brief history

## 1978–2003

From the vision of an idyllic retirement lifestyle that began with the opening of Sun City in 1960, to the reality of the country's finest active adult community, Sun City West sits as one of the crown jewels of Del Webb's planned developments.

With groundbreaking on Feb. 15, 1978, to the first residents—our pioneers—who moved into their homes later that year, Sun City West has grown into a paradise in the southwest.

One of the factors that made Sun City West as appealing as its older sister city to new home buyers was the planning of recreation centers prior to actual housing. Even though the houses were finished first, many of those new buyers made their purchase based upon the continuing growth of the recreation centers. The R.H. Johnson recreation complex, part of John Meeker's idea making the community a premier place to live for the new generation of seniors, opened on Oct. 20, 1979, joining

Hillcrest Golf Club as the first recreational facilities created for enjoyment of Sun City West homeowners.

However, it was not just physical facilities that residents appreciated. They soon began creating clubs, joining music groups, establishing chapters of service organizations and founding churches and synagogues.

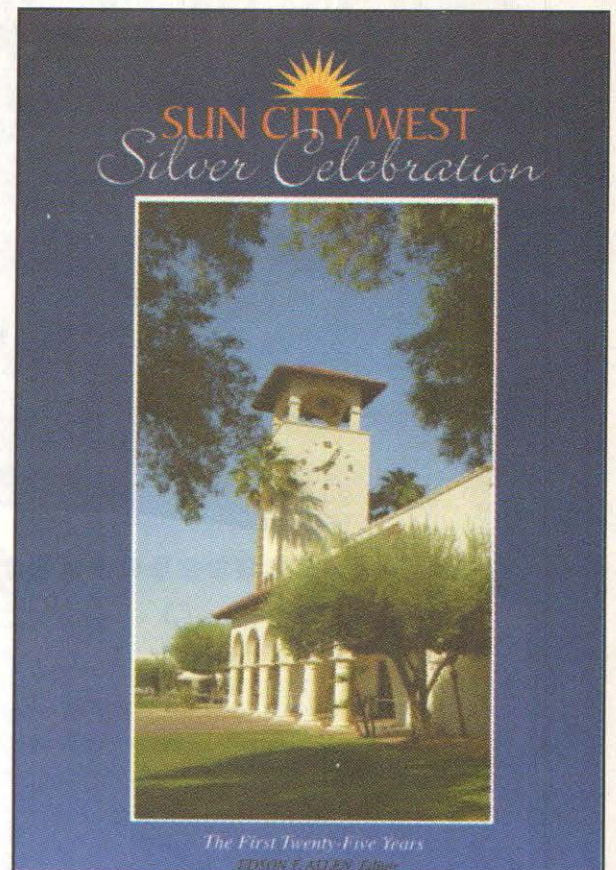
One of those community creations was the Sun City West Foundation, which gave residents a name under which they could raise funds to sponsor housing for community projects. The SCWF currently provides facilities for Helping Hands, meeting rooms, AARP Tax Services, Thrift Shop, Interfaith Adult Day Care Center, Luminarias, PRIDES and Voluntary Placement Services. These organizations allow Sun City West residents to borrow medical equipment, get help on tax preparation or go to a shelter in case of emergency.

In November of 1979, the SCW Rec Center's first golf course,

Pebblebrook, was unveiled. Eventually Pebblebrook would be joined by six other

courses for private use by Rec Center mem-

•See HISTORY, Page 11



Submitted photo

### A historical look at Sun City West

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has published a history of Sun City West in commemoration of the community's 25th anniversary. The book documents the community's first quarter century. Over two dozen volunteers have examined historical documents, researched community landmarks and interviewed numerous individuals to create an accurate account of Sun City West's history and evolution. Edited by Ed Allen and with an extensive index, the book runs about 300 pages and includes 140 illustrations, personal anecdotes and historical facts. It is currently available for \$12 at various events celebrating the community's 25th anniversary. Proceeds from book sales will benefit the Historical Society.



# History

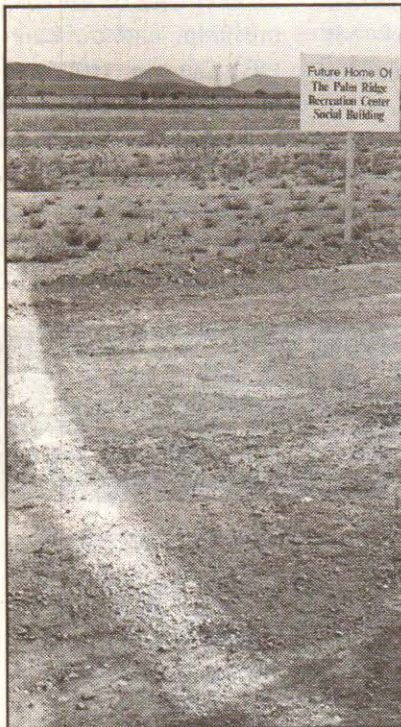
Continued from Page 10

bers: Stardust, Grandview, Echo Mesa, Trail Ridge, Desert Trails and, finally in 1996, Deer Valley.

As the community grew, so did recreational facilities. Beardsley Park Rec Center was opened in June of 1985. As more residents moved into their

homes, Kuentz Center opened. Palm Ridge was added to the Rec Center roster with the addition of homes north of Deer Valley Drive.

Today, more than 32,000 people call Sun City West their home. The community is pleased to celebrate 25 years of incomparable living in the Valley of the Sun.



Left, Palm Ridge Recreation Center began as a line on the dirt in the addition of Sun City West north of Deer Valley Road. Below: Prior to its opening, the palm trees in front of the rec center still bore their frond ties and the grass had still not sprouted. Today Palm Ridge is home to many clubs.

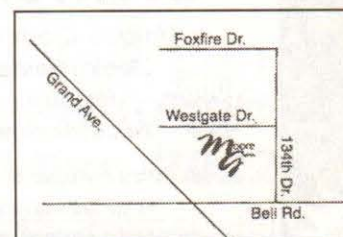
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# Visionaries

Continued from Page 8

Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Mr. Johnson was still a student at Phoenix Business College when he met Mr. Webb in 1935. He began working for the Del E. Webb Development Company (DEVCO) at that time as the timekeeper, responsible for making sure construction projects were built on time and within budget. From this inauspicious beginning, Mr. Johnson ended up becoming Chairman of the Board of Del E. Webb Corp., retiring in 1981 to create the philanthropic Del E. Webb Foundation in Wickenburg, founded in

1960.

Mr. Johnson has often been called, "... the driving force in the development of Sun City West."

While Mr. Johnson was the driving force, Mr. Webb called Fred Kuentz "... the great negotiator."

Mr. Kuentz joined the DEVCO team in 1949 as the director of electrical design and cost control. He quickly moved through the company ranks and, by 1965, was vice president of property management and senior vice president of corporation operations. When he was offered the seat of president of DEVCO in 1983, he took control of Sun City West development and was largely responsible for the con-

tinued growth of the community.

Fred R. Kuentz Recreation Center, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd., is named for this visionary. Mr. Kuentz passed away Oct. 29, 2001.

Visitors driving through Sun City West will eventually come upon a street named Meeker Boulevard. This roadway is named for John Meeker, who added the personal touch to the community by looking at the development through homeowners' eyes. It was Mr. Meeker who gambled on projects others thought were foolish, like creating the Sundome Center for Performing Arts, or supplying free garden plots for residents, or supplying

land at reasonable cost to churches wanting to locate within the community.



**John Meeker**

Mr. Meeker originally was Mr. Webb's golf caddie prior to World War II. He became part of the DEVCO family in 1946 as a junior clerk. After working as an operations clerk and supervisor of design and engineering, Mr. Meeker took on the role of president and director of DEVCO in 1965. He passed away Feb. 5, 2000.

These visionaries added to the original Webb idea and created Sun City West, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2003.



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# Making history with 'The Big Shot'

You ought to be in "The Big Shot."

At 9 a.m. March 29, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and the Silver Celebration Committee are sponsoring "The Big Shot," the largest group photograph in history. Event chair Mauryne Hall and her committee will attempt to get as many residents as possible to the R. H. Johnson parking lot.

There, residents will be arranged in the shape of a star and photographed to capture one million years of life!

The photo will appear in the Guinness Book of World Records and will eventually be joined by

"stars" and "stripes" of people from other communities around the United States, creating a human American Flag.

The success of this enormous undertaking depends on the willingness of Sun City West residents and the dedication of volunteers from our many community service organizations.

Some clubs have issued challenges to other clubs to fill out one point of the star or to volunteer more members to make this event possible.

Many organizations are working together on this huge project: the Posse, All States Clubs, PORA & the Visitors Center, Fire

Department, Computer Club, Connections, Red Hats, Sun City West Men's Club, Wester Jesters, Desert Aires Barbershop Quartets, Westside Food Bank and Canine Companions all have volunteered.

Everyone is needed, as

a volunteer to help as an usher, parking attendant, car/van pool driver, water server, traffic controller, or whatever else is needed.

Contact Mauryne Hall at (623) 544-6133 or e-mail her at dept9@rcscw.com for more information.



Submitted photo

The Navy Sea Chanters perform at the Sundome March 5 as part of the Celebration's entertainment program

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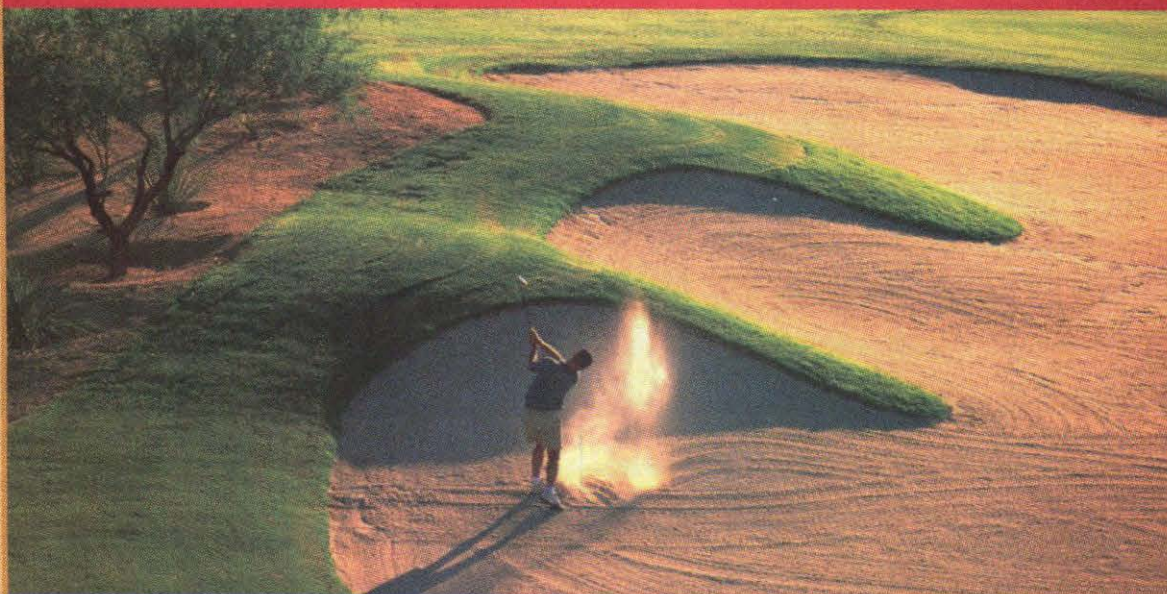
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spa and fitness center, outdoor swimming pool, arts & crafts facility, and several more neighborhoods will open.

We're even adding a pickle ball court. Just one more example of how we're growing by leaps and bounds to meet the growing aspirations of the people who live

here. We invite you to stop by and see all the new and exciting things at Sun City Grand by Del Webb, the leader in active adult living for 43 years. Live on.



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*by Del Webb*

Congratulations to Sun City West on your 25th Anniversary!



Del Webb Communities, Inc., 19726 Remington Drive, Surprise, AZ 85374. At least one resident must be 55 years of age or better; a limited number of residents may be younger and no one under 19 years of age. Community Association and additional fees for golf required. Complete offering terms for the homebuyers' association is in an offering plan available from sponsor. © 2003 Del Webb Corporation. GR-NP-SC1401-03



## Feb. 15, 1978: an auspicious day in Sun City West history

It started Feb. 15, 1978 with about 200 ceremonial shovelfuls of soil and turned into the 7,000-acre master-planned community known as Sun City West. Now home to some 28,000 residents, more than 1,200 homes were built during the community's first year, providing homes to about 1,000 people.

Sun City West was created by Del Webb Corporation. Learning and making improvements from their first west Valley community, Sun City, Sun City West Phase I was originally planned to have "... six full-length golf courses, three recreation centers and approximately 17,000 housing units."

Now 25 years later, residents enjoy four regulation and three executive golf courses, 27 tennis courts, indoor and outdoor walking tracks, racquet and handball courts, bocce and lawn bowling, shuffleboard, billiards, softball, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a 30-lane bowling center, and four multi-million dollar recreation centers.

In addition to amenities provided by the community, Sun City West residents are



Photos from Sun City West Newsletter, February, 1979

**A special quintet was on hand for the Feb. 15, 1978 groundbreaking ceremonies. From left, John W. Meeker, Del E. Webb Development Co. president; U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini; Hank Raymond, J.G. Boswell Co. vice president; Robert H. Johnson, Webb Corporation chairman and CEO; Governor Wesley Bolin.**

members of over 100 clubs. From arts and crafts to home-state clubs and chapters of most national and international service clubs, retirees are finding themselves busier than ever enjoying their own personal interests.

The official groundbreaking ceremony was held Feb. 15, 1978. On hand digging the first shovelfuls of dirt were John W. Meeker, president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., Senator Dennis DeConcini, J.G. Boswell Co. Vice President Hank Raymond, Webb Corporation Chairman and CEO Robert H. Johnson and Governor Wesley Bolin. Almost 200 civic and business

leaders followed, digging in on their own.

Eight months later another ceremony was held to welcome the first residents. Present at that ribbon-cutting ceremony were DEVCO Executive Vice President Joe Aubin, resident Clarice Uhl, DEVCO President John Meeker, residents Mary and Luman Wick, DEVCO Vice President and Operations Manager Bob Cannon and DEVCO Senior Vice President and Engineering Manager Tom Ryan.

The Wicks became Sun City West's first residents Oct. 16, 1978. Formerly of Topeka, Kans., the pair noted they enjoyed the area's freindly and

relaxed atmosphere.

Clarice and Edward Uhl also were initial residents of the new community. The pair moved to Arizona from Alameda, Calif.

Sales topped \$92 million during the first half of 1979. Of that amount, more than \$51 million in new sales was recorded during the year's second quarter. Over 1,250 new homes were sold during the six-month period.

Sun City West celebrated its seventh birthday Oct. 16, 1985 with the announcement that 12,500 people were now residents of the new community. Originally, community officials were aiming at a final population of 25,000.



# Sponsors: they make it all happen

The Sun City West Silver Celebration Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their support:



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## Getting ready

Sun Cities Area Historical Society board members Phyllis Street, Jane Freeman and Barbara Brozman sort through original booklets for the Sun City West Silver Anniversary display.

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# Pioneers and Heroes

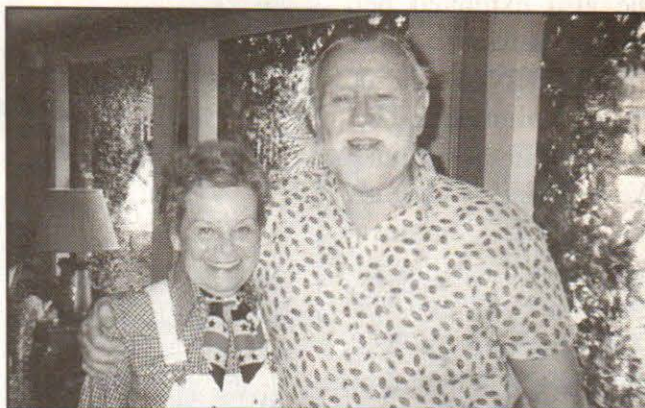
Thirty-three residents of Sun City West are vying for the title of Pioneer and Hero in a contest recognizing those who have helped the community grow. A few of the pioneers have been Sun City West residents for the entire 25 years, but most have been residents between 20 and 24 years. They came for the health and lifestyle attractions, and describe how their lives changed for the better after moving.

Winners will be

announced at the Feb. 15, 2003 Kick-Off 25th Anniversary parties at Palm Ridge Rec Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive, and R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Gifts for the winners are supplied by Wells Fargo Bank: first place, \$1,000; second place, \$500; 10-third place winners, \$100 each.

Here are some of their stories:

**Chuck and Betsy Bennett** decided on Sun City West 24 years



Submitted photo

**Betsy and Chuck Bennett**

ago after meeting each other following the death of their spouses. They wanted to start their new life together in a different place while conquering

growing arthritic problems. The change produced such good health that Betsy won swimming contests where

•See PIONEERS, Page 18



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# Pioneers

Continued from Page 19

she also exhibited her famous jackknife dive. Chuck served as a Posse volunteer. The pair sang in the original Westernairs chorus, which has since changed the spelling of its name. Betsy puts her handmade dolls on display in their window every Christmas. Real lovers of their new home, the Bennetts have kept a box full of Del Webb fliers and pictures showing community activities and events since the origin of Sun City West.

**Melton Bryan** arrived in Sun City West in 1978 and has served on the governing board of PORA and several committees of the Rec Centers as well as the Sun City West Foundation. He has been a PRIDES volunteers and sold luminarias at Christmas. His mother was monitor of a men's golf club.

**Charles and Adele Frankel** moved to Sun City West 25 years ago from New York City where Charlie was a policeman. They helped start seven clubs and have volunteered at the hospital and many other organizations. Charlie was instrumental in cre-



Submitted photo

**Charles and Adele Frankel**

ating the Sun City West Fire District and is current chairman of the fire board. Adele helps at all fire district events.

**Bill and Mary Silvus** made their move 24 years ago and were active in the formation of a church golf league. They have been volunteers at the library, Sundome, Habitat for Humanity,

AARP and many other groups. Bill was the secretary of the bowling league for its first 15 years. Mary is the longest continuous member of the Crestview Riders Bicycle Club.

**Marilyn Radford** moved to Sun City West 24 years ago and has served on the Rec Centers board. She also



Submitted photo

**Marilyn Radford**



Submitted photo

**Frances Decker**

helped start PRIDES, has served on condo boards and started the singles group at Briarwood Country Club. She was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and served on a Sun Health committee among other things.

**Frances Decker** arrived in Sun City West 24 years ago and started the Sunshine Serenaders, a group of singers that entertains in nursing homes and other places. She also has served as president of three clubs.

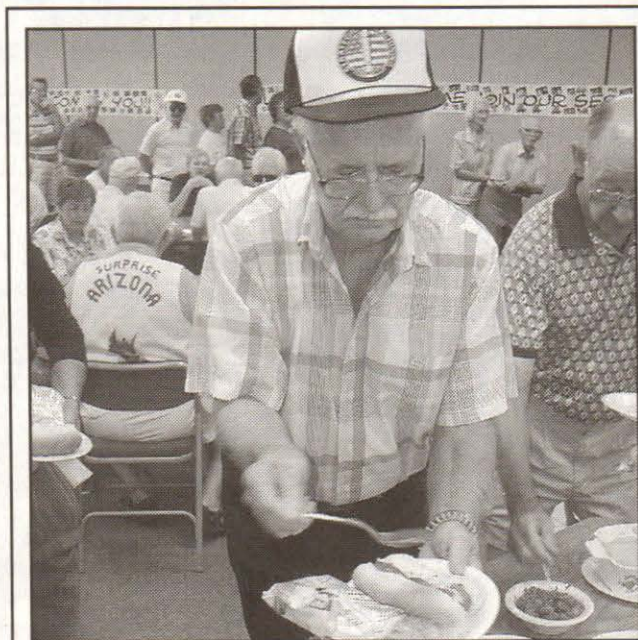


Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

## Hot Dog!

A resident garnishes his hot dog at a Sun City West club fund-raising event.

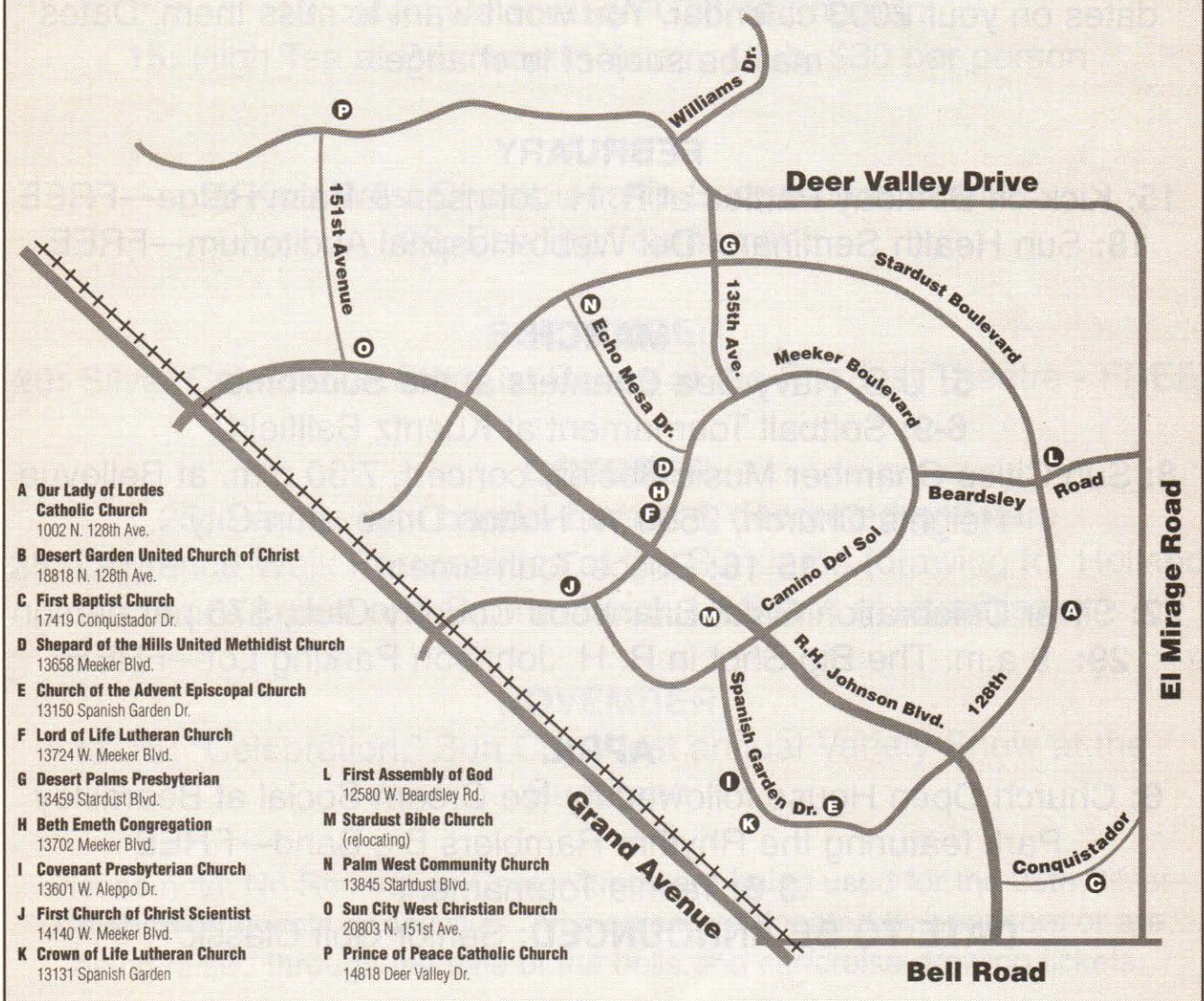


# Church Open House

## April 6, 2003

Sun City West residents and guests are invited to visit the community's houses of worship from 1 to 3 p.m. while walking through neighborhoods during springtime. The event culminates with an Ice Cream Social from 3 - 5 p.m. to be held at Beardsley Park with entertainment by the Rhythm Ramblers Big Band.

### Church & Synagogue Locations





# Calendar

## for

### Sun City West S

The Silver Celebration Committee has planned many exciting events and activities for the residents of Sun City West in honor of 25 years as the premiere active adult community in the nation! Mark these dates on your 2003 calendar. You won't want to miss them. Dates may be subject to change.

#### FEBRUARY

- 15:** Kick-off Birthday Parties at R. H. Johnson & Palm Ridge—FREE  
**18:** Sun Health Seminars, Del Webb Hospital Auditorium—FREE

#### MARCH

**5:** U.S. Navy Sea Chanters at the Sundome

**6-9:** Softball Tournament at Kuentz Ballfield

**8:** Sun Cities Chamber Music Society concert, 7:30 p.m. at Bellevue Heights Church, 9550 W. Hutton Drive, Sun City

**15-16:** Bocce Tournament

**22:** Silver Celebration Gala, Briarwood Country Club, \$75 per person

**CANCEL 29:** 9 a.m. The Big Shot in R. H. Johnson Parking Lot—FREE

#### APRIL

**6:** Church Open House followed by Ice Cream Social at Beardsley Park featuring the Rhythm Ramblers Big Band—FREE

**3-6:** Tennis Tournament

**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED:** Senior Golf Classic



# of Events

## the

## Silver Celebration

### MAY

- 3:** Reception for members of the Posse & PRIDES
- 10:** Silver Celebration Golf Tournament
- 15:** High Tea at Briarwood Country Club, \$30 per person

### JUNE

- 2:** Kiva West Championship Bridge Tournament
- 28:** Bowling Tournament

### SEPTEMBER

- 20:** Silver Celebration Stardust Revue at the Stardust Theatre - FREE

### OCTOBER

- 25:** Parade with bands, horses & decorated golf cars
- 25:** Lawrence Welk Personalities at the Sundome (drawing for Holland America cruise and Bromm Buick Le Sabre at intermission)

### NOVEMBER

- 13-15:** "Celebration," Sun City West annual Variety Show at the Sundome

Please note: No Recreation Center funds are being used for the 25th Silver Celebration events or activities. All monies are donated by sponsors or are being raised through the sale of the bells and car/cruise drawing tickets.



## Important Sun City West phone numbers

Emergency -- Fire or medical, 911  
 Fire Department, Sun City West, 584-3500  
 Sheriff's Posse, Sun City West, 584-5808  
 Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, 256-1000  
 Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, 214-4000  
 W.O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, 977-7211  
 Sun Cities Animal Rescue, 872-7941  
 4-Paws Animal Rescue, 876-8778  
 Sun Cities Area Transit, 977-8363  
 Sun City West Visitor's Center, 214-8629  
 PORA, 584-4288  
 Helping Hands Foundation, 975-5499  
 Sun City West Foundation, 584-6851  
 Sun Healthline, 876-5432  
 Thrift Shop of Sun City West, 584-3869  
 Interfaith Services, 584-4999

Westside Food Bank, (602) 242-3663  
 AARP Information Center, (800) 424-3410  
 Recreation Centers of SCW, 544-6000 --  
 This number must be called prior to extension  
 R.H. Johnson Pool, Ext. 2021  
 Beardsley Park Pool, Ext. 2031  
 Kuentz Pool, Ext. 2041  
 Palm Ridge Pool, Ext. 2051  
 R.H. Johnson Village Store, 544-6135  
 R.H. Johnson Library, 544-6130  
 Rec. Centers Member Services, 544-6100  
 Golf Tee Time Reservations, 544-6044  
 Grandview Terrace, 975-8000  
 Epoch Assisted Living, 584-2338  
 The Heritage Tradition, 546-9500  
 The Madison, 584-1999

## PORA: working for Sun City West residents since 1980

The idea for the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association originally sparked in February 1979 so future residents could officially oppose a \$27.5 million bond program passed in the Dysart Unified School District June 1978 election.

The organization successfully rescinded the bond program in Oct. 1980 after officially forming in January 1980. Committees also formed to review utility rates, begin Friday Night Bingo, and to separate Sun City West from the Dysart Unified School District. It was

through the election of four Sun City West residents to the district board and a vote in May of 1981 that separated Phase I of Sun City West from the school district.

PORA also has proposed the formation of a community fire district and opposed a county landfill location off El Mirage Road north of Deer Valley Road.

Since then, anything proposed by government organizations has had an alternative proposal. PORA initiatives have been realized through the creation of such organizations as Community Fund, Meals on Wheels, the



Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

**Millie Auxter has been a PORA volunteer since 1986.**

Sun City West adjacent to Sun City Foundation and West and establishing Lending Hands. single family home

PORA continues to support all Sun City West residents by working together with responsible public and private organizations. Over the years, PORA has been active in maintaining compatible zoning and development

deed restrictions within the community.

Those wishing to join PORA's e-mail list for regular updated information may send a letter to [pورا@suncitywest.org](mailto:pورا@suncitywest.org). The Web site is located at [www.porascw.org](http://www.porascw.org).



# Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital

## Responsive to west Valley needs for 15 years and beyond

More than 10 years were invested in the planning of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital prior to its opening in January 1988. Sun Health, the community-based, non-profit parent company that also operates Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, formulated the plan with the realization that patient-care demands eventually would surpass Boswell Hospital's capacity to serve the entire northwest Valley area. The vision was that together, these non-profit healthcare facilities would serve the healthcare needs of the entire area.

Sun Health representatives took their case before the Central Arizona Health Systems Agency in 1984. Although there was overwhelming evidence that Boswell Hospital's capacity would be exceeded even before completion of a new hospital in Sun City West — and despite endorsements such as the unanimous support of the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association — the CAHSA hearing board voted to deny the project by a narrow 5-4 vote.

Undaunted, Sun Health continued efforts to bring the needed hospital to the area. The Arizona



Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

**Children from the Dysart school district took part in the ground-breaking ceremony for the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health.**

Legislature permitted the state's certificate-of-need law to expire in 1985. That also ended CAHSA authority to limit ready access to hospital care that was needed by Sun City Westers and other west Valley residents.

The necessary permits at last were obtained. On Oct. 7, 1985, a colorful groundbreaking ceremony launched construction of the \$42 million hospital. Among those taking part in the event was baseball Hall of Fame slugger Mickey Mantle, a member of the powerhouse New York Yankees during the dynasty years when Mr. Webb was part owner of the American League team. The ceremony also was the setting for a special announcement by

William A. Chapman, vice chairman of the hospital's volunteer board of directors: In consideration of a \$3 million grant from the Del E. Webb Foundation, the new, five-story healthcare center in Sun City West would be named the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

On January 4, 1988, the doors of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital opened, thanks to generous community support totaling over \$9 million that helped to fund construction. Community support, from volunteers and donors alike has continued through the years during each phase of development, and it is as vitally necessary today as ever.

In recognition of spe-

cial community needs, planning for Del E. Webb Hospital also included the introduction of an inpatient, medical/psychiatric program. The SAGE (Support, Adaptation, Growth and Enrichment) Program provides medical management of the cognitively impaired patient, including assessing and treatment.

In 1996, a demonstrated need for a cardiac catheterization service was recognized at Del E. Webb Hospital. Today, the cardiac catheterization service complements existing heart services available at the Sun Health Heart Center at Boswell Hospital.

•See HOSPITAL, Page 36

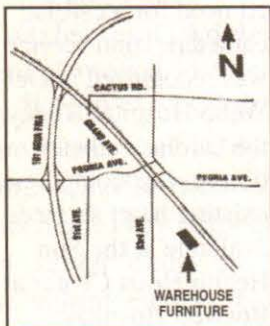
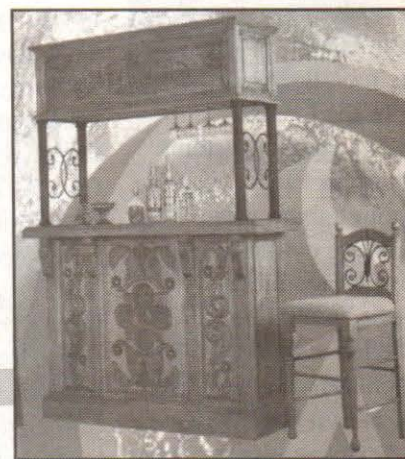
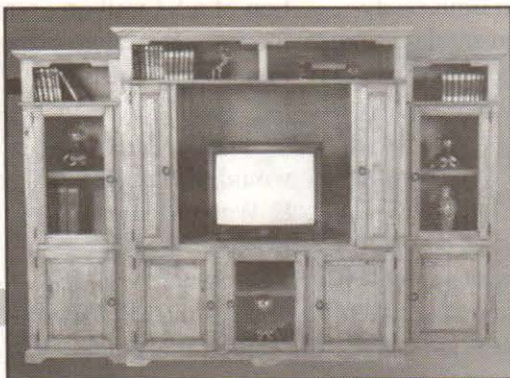
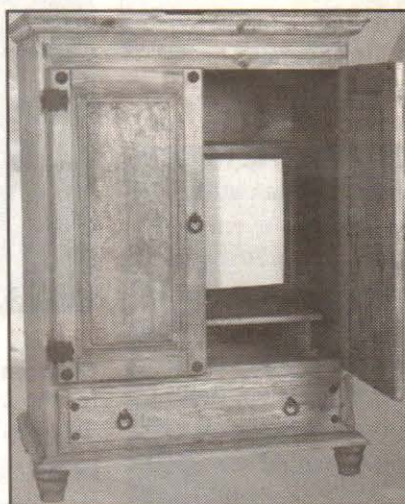


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# Metamorphosis of a lizard

## From cattle ranch to retirement community

By Diana  
Shaughnessy  
Independent  
Newspapers

In early 1940, cattle ranchers E.S. Spurlock and J.C. "Charlie" Wetzler drove through an area several miles north of Peoria.

"Jumpin' Jehosaphat," Mr. Spurlock is rumored to have said. "This country is not fit for raising anything but lizards."

Tradition says that is how Lizard Acres, the nickname of Circle One Livestock Company, came into being. Lizard Acres was one of the lots purchased to create Sun City West. It was purchased by the Del Webb Corporation in late 1971 and became what is now the southeast corner of the retirement community celebrating its silver anniversary this year.

Lizard Acres was an 1,800-acre cattle feedlot, owned by Messieurs Spurlock and Wetzler, and employing Mark Gemmill as foreman. Mr. Gemmill, his wife, Gloria, and their infant son moved to the ranch and built their home at Lizard Acres,

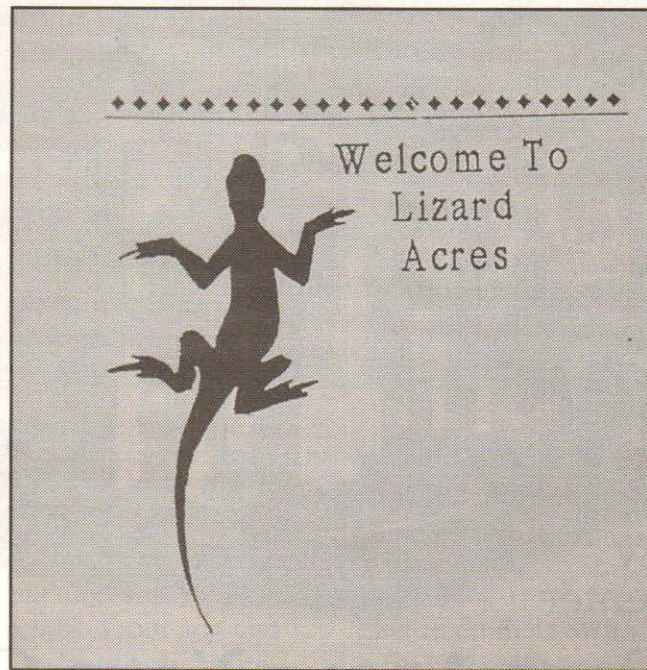


Photo supplied by Sun Cities Area Historical Society

**This is the sign that greeted visitors to the original Lizard Acres, which eventually became part of Sun City West. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has information about this early Arizona feedlot.**

one of three main houses and a dozen trailers that housed the 45 employees working there at the ranch's peak.

Cattle were fed out on 800 acres, while corn, alfalfa, wheat, vegetables and fruit were grown on the remaining 1,000 acres. Grain sorghum, also grown on the property, became silage to further fatten the cattle before selling them to local grocery stores for butcher and sale. In its 30 years of operation, Lizard Acres housed up

to 25,000 head at a time.

Dick Mastin, who worked for Del Webb Corporation, had fond memories of his dealings with the Lizard Acres ranchers. He

recalled Mr. Wetzler climbing out of his brand-new car with boots covered in cow manure. He also spoke of moving dirt with "...over 30 scrapers working to move 45,000 cubic yards of dirt, some generated from the demolition of Lizard Acres."

"I was sad when workers demolished the Gemmill house," Mr. Mastin said. "Coming from a farming background, I knew how much work it was."

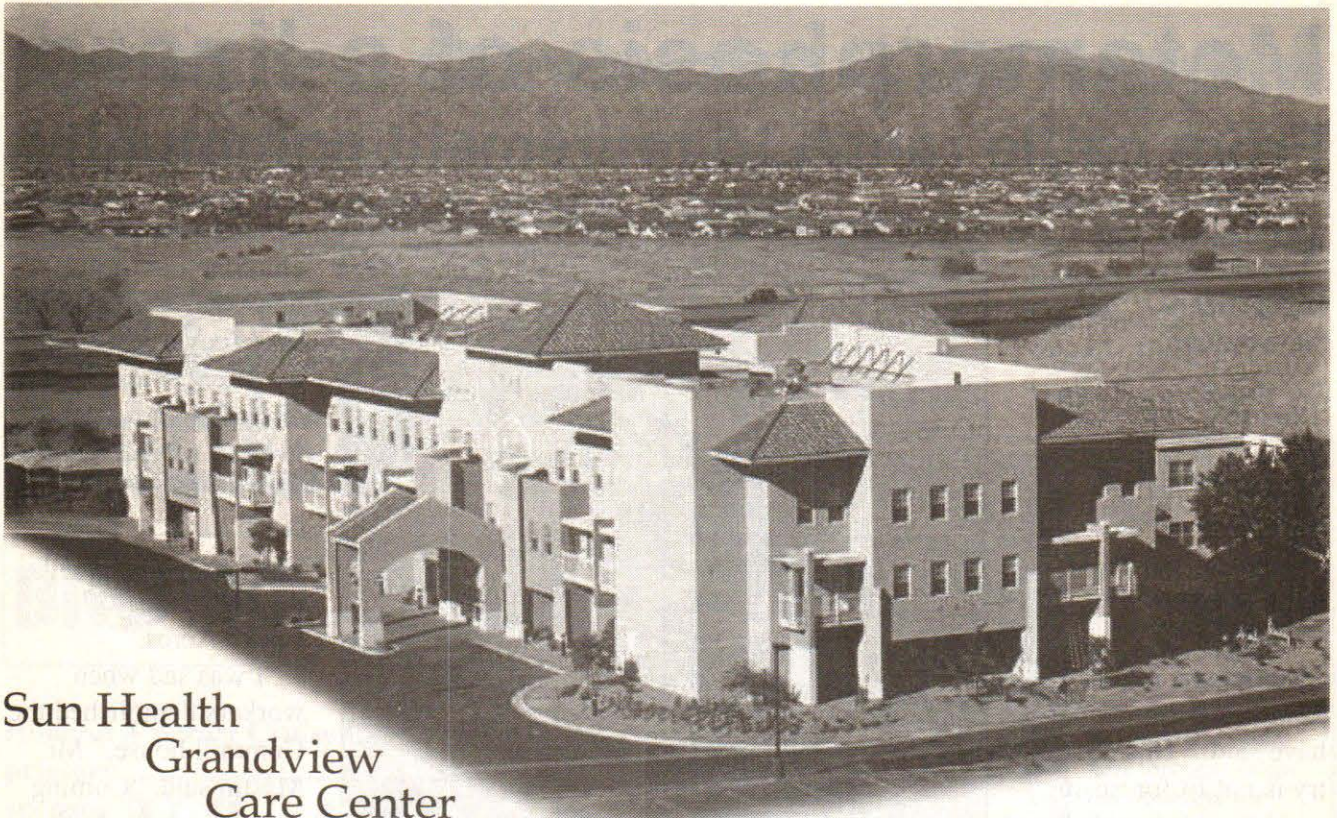
The Gemmill family had lived in the Lizard Acres house for 30 years before moving to make room for the new retirement community of Sun City West.

The legacy remains: three irrigation and two domestic wells still provide water for the community.

### Man of the Year, 1959

Charlie Wetzler, one of the owners of Lizard Acres, came from a pioneering Arizona family. His grandfather, I.E. Solomon, founded the Gila Valley Bank in 1899. The bank was a forerunner of Valley National Bank, which eventually became Bank One. Mr. Wetzler, who worked cattle since 1920, was selected Man of the Year in Arizona Agriculture in 1959 for his innovative farm design at Lizard Acres.





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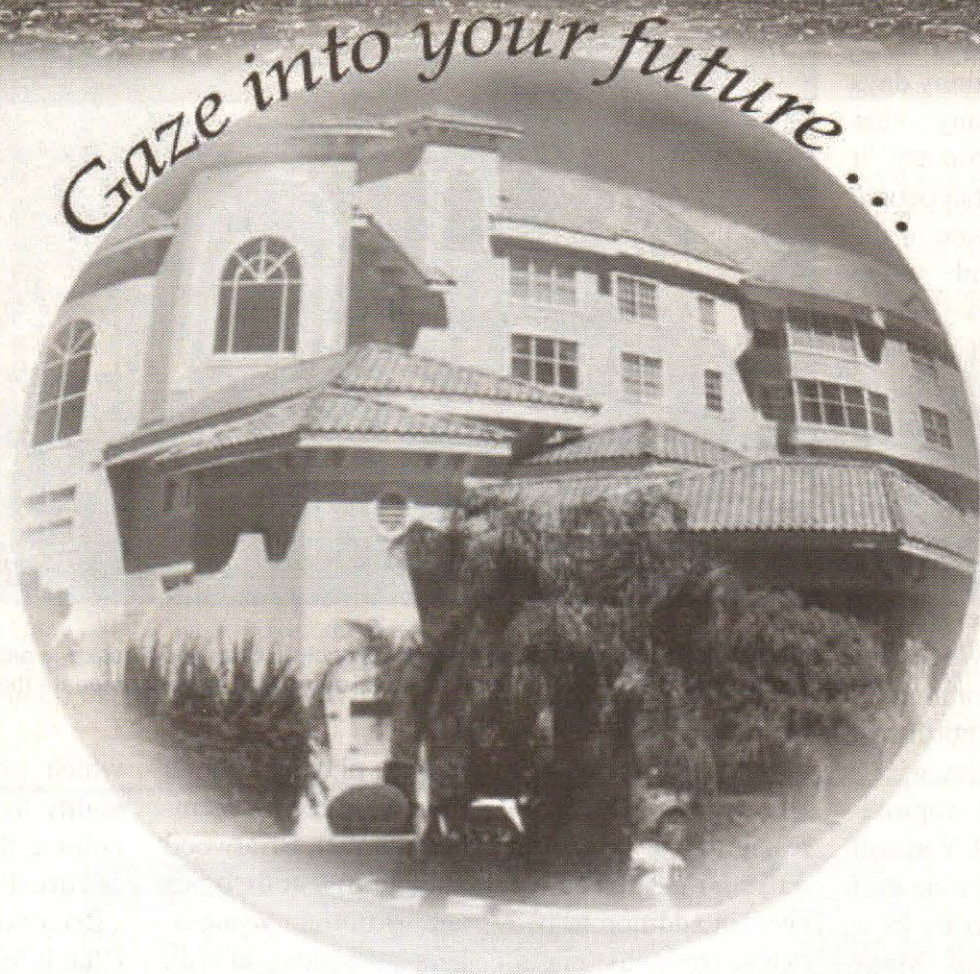
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# Briarwood Country Club

**The jewel of Sun City West's golfing and social community**

With more sunny days than almost any other area of the country, it makes sense that people looking for some of the best golf and active lifestyle flock to the Valley of the Sun. The area is home to hundreds of beautiful golf courses, and many communities have embraced the sport as their social centers.

One of these areas is Sun City West, an active adult community located in the northwest part of the valley with a population of approximately 31,000. You will find a total of nine golf courses within the Sun City West limits. Many would agree that the jewel of the community is Briarwood Country Club, a friendly, adult, member-owned private country club.

Briarwood is a progressive club and is continually enhancing the facility. The clubhouse was recently enhanced with a 2,000 square-foot glass-enclosed multi-purpose room. The Cactus Grill is Briarwood's clubhouse restaurant, where casual fare rivals any



Submitted photo

**A friendly, member-owned private country club, Briarwood boasts a nine-hole course, The Cactus Grill restaurant and several rooms that can accommodate the needs of groups from 10 to 500.**

highly successful bar and grill-type chain restaurant. It boasts an outstanding executive chef, in addition to two executive sous chefs. Daily specials and holiday menus, as well as food and beverage for special events are created to delight the palates of members and their guests. The Grand Canyon Room and several smaller rooms can be reserved for special occasions meeting the needs of groups from 10 to 500.

Golfing at Briarwood Country Club is something of a dream. The club does about 36,000 rounds of golf per year,

making playing a round of golf simple for members. In fact, Briarwood plays only foursomes and proprietary members have access at will. Most members have their own golf carts,

which gives them the ability to play as many holes as they would like at virtually any time.

Briarwood Country Club is located at 20800 N. 135th Ave. in Sun City West.



Submitted photo

**Elegant dining is the norm at Briarwood's Cactus Grill.**



# Flying the colors

When American Legion Post 94 member Lloyd Kilmer moved to Sun City West from Omaha, Neb. in 1986, he was told the city "... had anything anyone would want." So when the first national holiday arrived, he told his wife he was going to take a walk to look at the flags.

"I went up and down R.H. Johnson Boulevard and didn't see a single one," he said.

That walk started a plan in Mr. Kilmer's mind, a plan with a vision of flags flying all along Sun City West's main thoroughfare.

The plan came to

fruition in 1987. After discussing it with his American Legion Post and being asked to organize the project, Mr. Kilmer contacted Arizona Public Service to gain permission to install flag brackets onto Sun City West lightpoles.

"APS had never received such a request," Mr. Kilmer recalled. "There was quite a discussion, but it was allowed."

Funds to purchase the original 100 flags were received from individuals and businesses. The flags came from Sen. John McCain, who made sure they were flown over the



Sun City West, Flag City U.S.A. as proclaimed by Governor Rose Mofford.

Photo by Bret McKean  
Independent Newspapers

nation's capitol before heading out to Sun City West.

The original Boulevard of Flags became a reality on President's Day, 1988. Five additional holidays, including Flag Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of

July, Labor Day and Veterans Day, also were designated as flag-flying occasions. Gov. Rose Mofford recognized Sun City West as a Flag City U.S.A., and for awhile

•See FLAGS, Page 37

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# Win a new 2003 Buick and a cruise for two



Above, Ed Hunt, far right, of Bromm Buick and anniversary officials Tom Taggart and Joe Davison hold tickets for chances to win the 2003 Buick Le Sabre, donated by Bromm Buick for the Sun City West Silver Celebration. Below, the winning ticket?



Tickets are on sale to win a special edition 2003 Buick Le Sabre from Bromm Buick and a luxury cruise for two from Holland America. The tickets are \$50 each or 3 for \$100 and may be obtained by calling Ticket Chairman Tom Taggart at (623) 584-7235. We are glad to accept your cash, check, or credit card for the drawing tickets.

A maximum of 3,000 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held on Oct. 25, 2003 at the Welk Personalities Concert at the Sundome. Winners need not be present to win.

Your 2003 Buick includes 500 gallons of gasoline from Mike's Union 76 at Boswell and Bell roads, and 60 free car washes from Super Wash on Camino Del Sol.

The cruise package also includes round-trip airport transportation and airfare donated by Ford Travel.



Dee Hjermstad, right, accepts cruise tickets from the Holland American Line ship captain for the Silver Celebration drawing.

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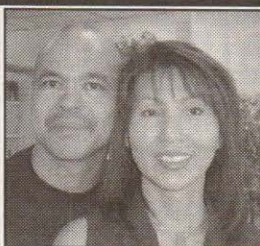
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# Remember the Silver Celebration

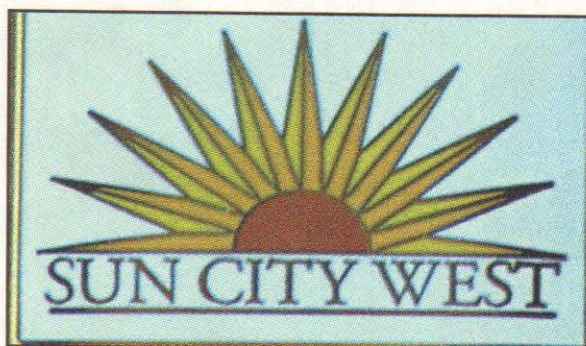


## Silver Bells

A beautiful engraved silver commemorative bell designed for Sun City West's 25th Anniversary stands 5 inches high and is 3.2 inches at the base. It boasts a lovely golden bow and a silvery cord for hanging.

The bells will be available for sale at the Feb. 15 Birthday Parties and at most Silver Celebration events throughout the year. But hurry, as quantities are limited. The cost of each bell (including tax) is \$11 and all proceeds go to the R. H. Johnson Library.

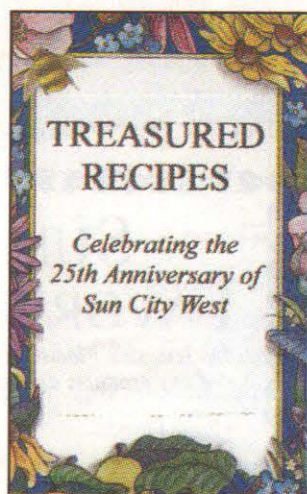
**Please note:** No Recreation Center funds are being used for the 25th Silver Celebration events or activities. All monies are donated by sponsors or are being raised through the sale of the bells and car/cruise drawing tickets.



## Lapel Pins

A lovely enameled lapel pin celebrating Sun City West's 25th anniversary is now available. The pins will be sold at all Silver Celebration Events and may be purchased by calling the Pin Chair Sallie Dykman at (623) 975-3479. Pins are \$3 each.

## Silver Celebration Cookbooks



Hundreds of Sun City West residents submitted their favorite recipes for inclusion in a beautiful cookbook for the 25th Anniversary of our community. Copies will be available for sale at the Feb. 15 Birthday Parties at Palm Ridge and the Social Hall. The books are \$10 each.

## Commerative cachet

The stamp section of the Sun City West Coin and Stamp Club, in concert with the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Sun City West, has made available commemorative envelopes with a cachet. The multi-colored cachet envelopes go on sale Feb. 15 for \$2 at Palm Ridge Rec Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive, and R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. It will be specially cancelled dated Feb. 15 to coincide with the kick-off celebration.



## High Tea at Briarwood

Reserve your seat or table now for the May 15 High Tea at Briarwood Country Club. This elegant event in honor of the 25th Anniversary of Sun City West is limited to 240 guests.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$240 for a table of eight. Please make checks payable to SCW 25th Anniversary and send them to: 13940 W. Meeker Blvd., Suite 115-182, Sun City West, AZ 85375. Call the Event Chair Dee Hjermstad at (623) 584-5591.

## History Book of Sun City West

By Feb. 15, copies of a new 320-page history book, "The Sun City West Silver Celebration, 1978-2003" will be available. This history project was initiated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and written by a number of long-time residents and history buffs. The book details the inception and development of the community by the Del Webb Corp. and its visionaries.

It will be sold for \$12 at the Birthday Parties, or by calling Ed Allen at (623) 975-1815.

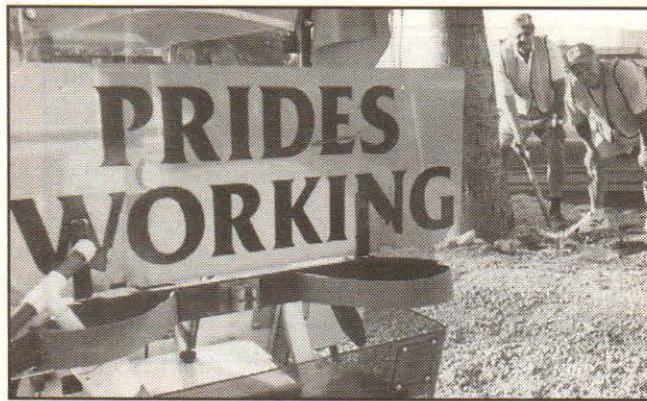


# Taking PRIDE in Sun City West

By D.H. Horton

Sun City West was established in 1978, and residents started moving in to the development in 1979. The streets were not even finished when a handful of residents decided the main boulevards needed some attention.

Sun City West PRIDES Particular Residents Involved Doing Environmental Services was established with the express purpose of aiding the public and, to be more specific, the Maricopa County Highway Department, in the maintenance of public areas of county streets and high-



Submitted photo

## Over 300 volunteers make up PRIDES.

ways within Sun City West.

A preliminary meeting was held Feb. 24, 1982. Representatives from the Property Owners and Residents Association and a representative from the Recreation Centers, plus interested volun-

teers, were in attendance. This resulted in an organizational meeting held March 8, 1982, at which Joan Barnett was elected president. Articles of Incorporation were adopted and officially approved May 5, 1982.

Del E. Webb

Corporation donated a 1978 Ford van and agreed to pay for the first six months of insurance. The corporation also donated miscellaneous tools. Originally, 50 volunteers cleaned 11.2 miles of streets. The equipment swelled to two Ford vans, one safety golf cart, one spray wagon, two utility cars and two golf cars. MCHD donated safety vests, trash bags, gloves, cones and additional tools. Eight patrolling sections were established.

PRIDES now patrol 15 sections and cover over 22 miles of county roads in Sun City West with

•See PRIDES, Page 37

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# From golf carts to patrol cars

## SCW Posse has come a long way in 24 years

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

The Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West has come a long way since its inception in 1979.

While the organization now totes a small fleet of patrol cars, a brick and mortar headquarters and a state of the art communication system, things were not always this way.

During the early days, the organization's headquarters was a living room or a garage until the Del Webb Corp. gave the Posse a trailer to work out of — located just outside the community's border. In 1987, the group got its current digs at the Sun City West Foundation Building, but after many years of hard work.

In the organization's formative years, Posse members wore yellow jumpsuits while patrolling the community in their own cars or golf carts.

"We used (citizen band) radios in the beginning to communicate with one another," said Duty Officer Neal Coffman. A former Posse commander, Mr. Coffman has been volunteering with the Posse since its formation.

"What we did in the early days was to establish four duty officers



Posse members salute their community in this group photo taken during the summer of 2002.

that each individually took one week and was on duty 24 hours a day for seven days," Mr. Coffman added.

If the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office needed assistance, they would call the duty officer at home.

"When the duty officer was on patrol, they would leave the CB radio at home so that if we got a call from MCSO, our wives could call us," Mr. Coffman said. "I would receive calls at 1 or 2 a.m. sometimes."

Although many things have changed over the years for the Posse, its main purpose has not waned, according to Mr. Coffman.

"We protect and we serve the community,"

Mr. Coffman said. "Our primary function at the beginning was crime prevention. We've grown from (that) and added so many different services, like block watch and traffic control."

Working under the auspices of the MCSO, the Posse patrols the community, acting as the "eyes and ears" of the MCSO.

In addition, the Posse conducts traffic control, checks homes for vacationing residents, watches homes for individuals rushed to the hospital, helps locate lost residents and provides other assistance to the MCSO and the community.

Today the Posse has some 40 duty officers in charge of individual

shifts and numerous other volunteers helping the Posse patrol Sun City West's streets 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Operated completely by volunteers, the Posse is funded through community-based donations and money earned by providing traffic control at local events.

The Posse provides an invaluable service to the community, according to Zoe Schreiber, the Posse's public information officer.

"Because of the Posse, people feel safe ... to walk at night and feel comfortable in their homes," Mrs. Schreiber said. "

For more information about the Posse, call 584-5808.





c e l e b r a t i n g

# 25

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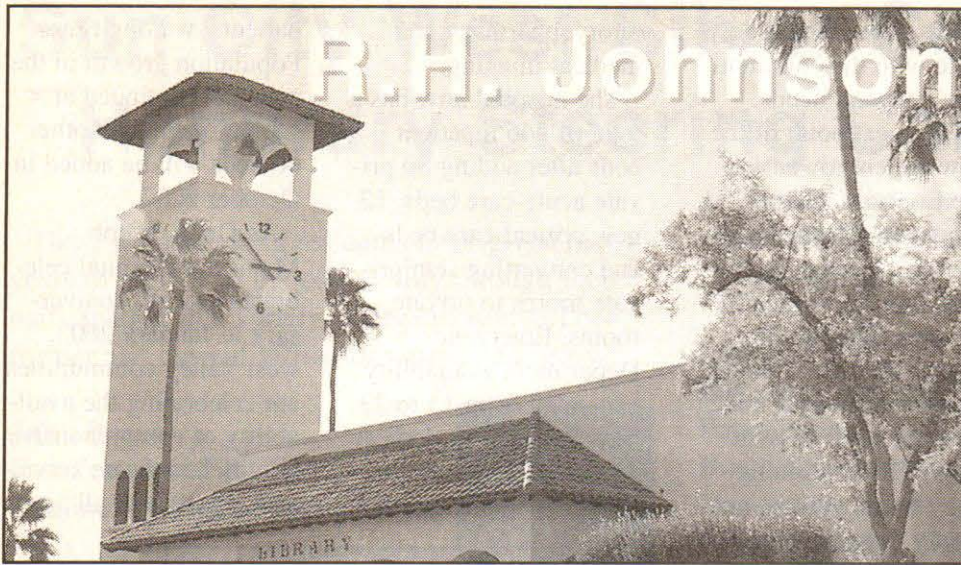
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# R.H. Johnson Library

The R.H. Johnson Library, with its clock tower and chimes, is the most recognized building in Sun City West. Located at the corner of R.H. Johnson and Meeker boulevards, the facility is open year-round, Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photo by Diana Shaughnessy  
Independent Newspapers

The library was established in October, 1979 and today houses more than 45,000 items.

Books, serials, video and audio tapes are all available for check-out by Sun City West REc Center Association members.

A valid Rec Card is your ticket to the world of information offered by the professional staff and resident volunteers of the R.H. Johnson Library. Both an in-house computer access

(OPAC) and traditional card catalog make finding just the right reading material easy.

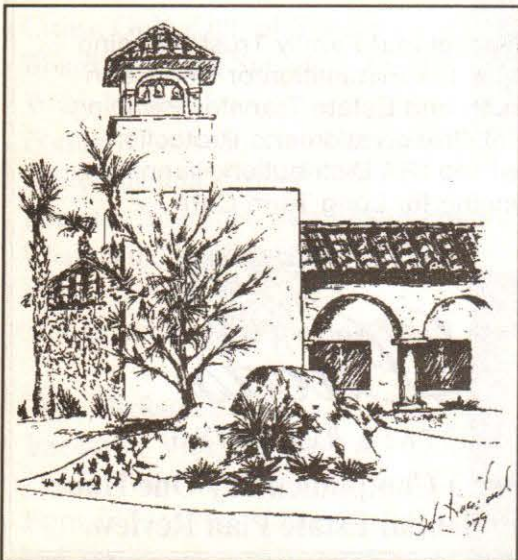
The library is a part of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and the building, staff, and utilities are paid by the Recreation Division. Librarian Marcia Lea has provided leadership to her staff and the many library volunteers for more than 16 years.

The library is also supported by a char-

tered club known as Friends of the Library. The Friends' fund-raising programs include Thursday Nite Movies at Stardust Theatre, an annual fund drive, and book sales held throughout the year. These help to defray

the cost of purchasing new materials for the Library.

During summer and school-vacation periods, the library offers Story Time sessions for visiting grandchildren on designated Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m.



The original drawing of the R.H. Johnson Library shows the distinctive clock tower.

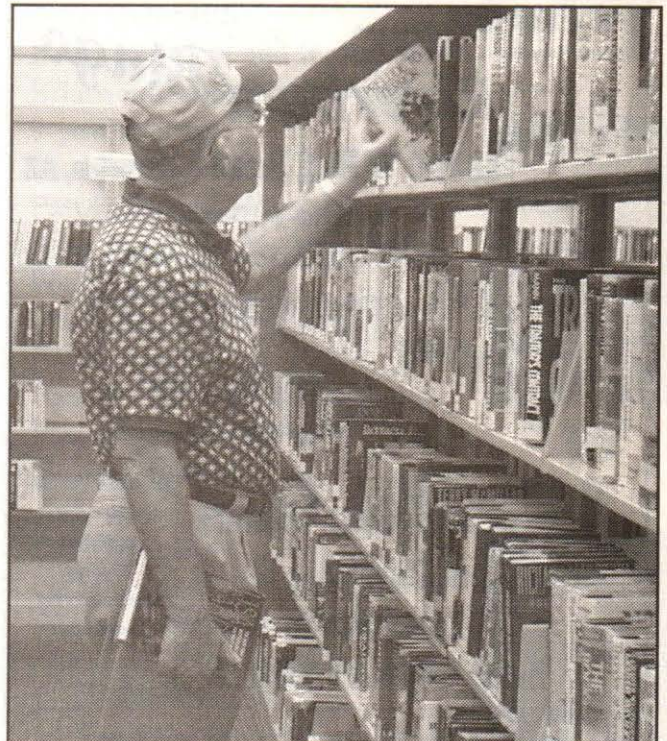


Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

A Sun City West resident chooses a book from the library's extensive collection.



# Hospital

Continued from Page 23

Cardiac services were further enhanced at Del E. Webb Hospital in 2001 with the addition of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) and stenting services that open blocked heart arteries.

Original plans for Del E. Webb Hospital called for the introduction of obstetrical care as soon as the service was warranted and feasible. A decade later, it became apparent that it was time to introduce this care; it was added as part of the \$46.5 million expansion that began in 2000. The entire area was experiencing rapid growth, and

it was necessary to keep pace with the communities' growing needs.

The focal point of the new patient tower was the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health, offering specialized care for women of all ages. The Nesting Place Obstetrical Suites opened on Feb. 2, 2002 with the birth of twin boys. The continuing baby boom made it necessary to put the entire 16-suite unit into use ahead of schedule in the fall of 2002.

In addition to new acute-care beds, the expansion enlarged the Emergency Department, added Urgent Care and enlarged other vital services such as clinical labo-

ratory, pharmacy and medical imaging.

The hospital now has a total of 246 inpatient beds after adding 80 private acute-care beds, 12 new critical-care beds and converting semiprivate rooms to private rooms. Emergency Department availability expanded from 15 to 23 beds including a dedicated urgent-care area to reduce non-emergency

patients' waiting times. Population growth in the area has continued at such a rate that another 40 beds will be added in October 2003.

As Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital celebrates its 15th anniversary in January 2003, west Valley communities are celebrating the availability of comprehensive, quality healthcare services for people of all ages.



This view of the hospital shows the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health, which opened Feb. 2, 2002.

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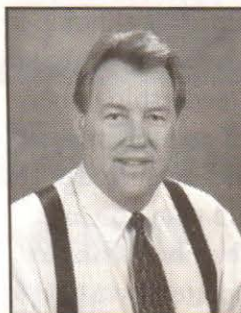
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## Flags

Continued from Page 29

this sign stood at the entrance of Sun City West.

"The program met with great success," Mr. Kilmer said. "As Sun City West continued to develop, we thought it might be a good idea to continue the flag row by adding a Memorial Boulevard of Flags, made up entirely of casket flags."

Casket flags are given to families losing a loved one during a war. "We were hoping to receive 35 or 40 flags," he said. "We ended up with over 200 people volunteering casket

flags from the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Some of the flags only had 48 stars."

A year or two later, Sun City West had five miles of flags flown on each of the six mentioned holidays. Since that time, Pearl Harbor Day and 9-11 have been added to the list.

"It is quite a significant job," Mr. Kilmer said. "It takes four teams of men to raise and lower the flags on those days."

Those interested in donating a flag may contact Post Commander Harold E. Stern, 546-8165.

## PRIDES

Continued from Page 32

approximately 300 volunteers. MCHD still furnishes safety vests, trash bags, gloves, cones and tools. The inventory shows 22 utility carts, power tools, computers and miscellaneous tools. Financial assistance comes from donations by residents, businesses and clubs.

The Sun City Foundation Cameron Center houses two garages full of PRIDES equipment needed for their work, which includes landscape trimming, painting of citrus tree trunks, picking up trash within the work area, taking care of irrigation systems and other incidental work. PRIDES works under the Maricopa County Adopt a Highway Program.

Regular business meetings are held the third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. in the winter and 8 a.m. in the summer, in the Del Webb room at the Sun City West Foundation Cameron Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Approximately 160 volunteers attend and enjoy the coffee and donuts furnished by the Sundome Merchants Association.

PRIDES are dedicated senior citizens ranging in ages from 55 to 90 who enjoy their public service.

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# ASU's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts

The Sundome Center for the Performing Arts is the university's cultural magnet for the West Valley. It is a gateway to theater, music and dance for hundreds of thousands of Valley residents.

Since 1980, the Sundome has staged performances for the fast-growing—but often culturally underserved—West Valley. As the communities neighboring the Sundome grow and flourish, the theater's programming has diversified to serve multiple age groups.

The result is a facility that attracts more and more interest and involvement from its surrounding communities with each passing year.

ASU's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts offers reserved parking spaces for patrons with disabilities, seating areas for patrons using wheelchairs and accessible restrooms. The Sundome provides infrared audio equipment upon request.

As a member of the Sundome, you will receive a number of special benefits exclusively designed to increase your enjoyment of the Sundome:

- Advanced Program Notice: The Sundome, as

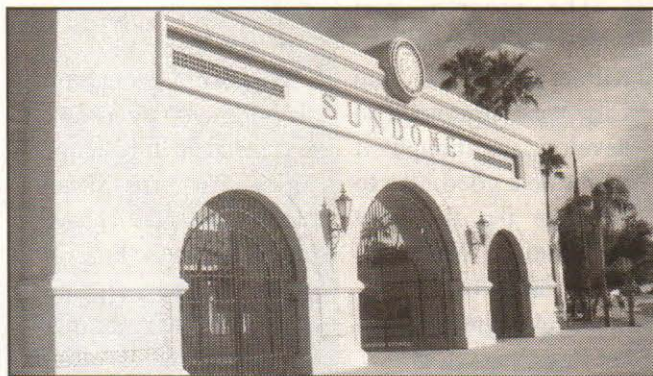
an ASU-operated facility, has access to performers and programs that are second to none. As a Sundome Performing Arts Association member, you will receive advance notification of all Sundome-sponsored programs and events.

- Sundome Newsletter, published three times a year, provides a calendar of events, behind-the-scenes reports of Sundome happenings, articles about Sundome staff and volunteers, and many newsworthy topics of interest to Sundome patrons.

- Priority Ticket Purchase: Whether you purchase single or subscription tickets, as a SPAA member you will be given a first priority purchase opportunity at the Sundome for available seats and seating upgrades.

- Priority Seating: As a member at the Executive Club or President's Club level, you will enjoy priority seating purchase opportunities for ASU Public Events sponsored program at other ASU venues—including Gammage Auditorium in Tempe.

- Club Benefits: As a SPAA member at the



The Sundome is a familiar landmark in Sun City West.

Director's Club, Executive Club and President's Club levels, you'll enjoy reserved parking at Sundome sponsored events; opportunities to meet celebri-

ties & performers, and invitations to special events.

To order tickets, call 623-975-1900 Fax: 623-584-7405.

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Myron  
Floren

Sundome Center for the Performing Arts  
19403 R. H. Johnson Boulevard  
Sun City West, Arizona 85375

Dear Friends:

It doesn't seem possible that ten years have gone by since my Musical Family and I helped dedicate your beautiful Sundome in September of 1980! I know that some of my "kids" will be with you on September 12th as you celebrate your 10th birthday, and I just wish I could be there too.

I've always thought the Sundome was the nicest place we ever played, and the Sundome audiences just about the warmest anywhere! May all of you have a wonderful, wonderful 10th birthday party, with many, many more to come.

Musically yours,

*Lawrence Welk*  
Lawrence Welk

Bobby Burgess  
and  
Elaine Balden

Oct. 15, 2003  
Lawrence Welk  
Personalities at the  
Sundome. Drawing for  
the 2003 Buick and  
cruise for two during  
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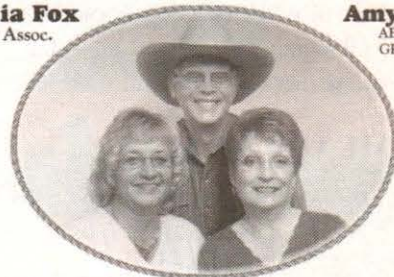


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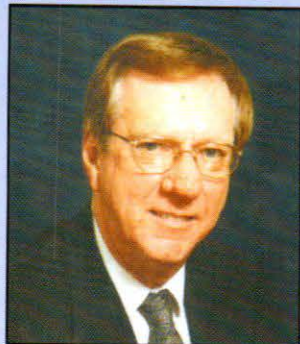
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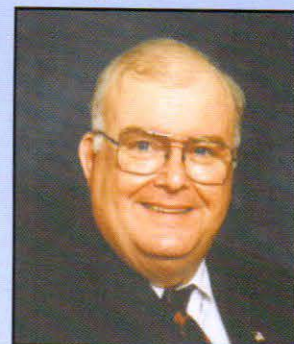
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# *Congratulations Sun City West on your 25th Anniversary*



Jim DeHart  
Chairman



Tom Shipe  
President/CEO



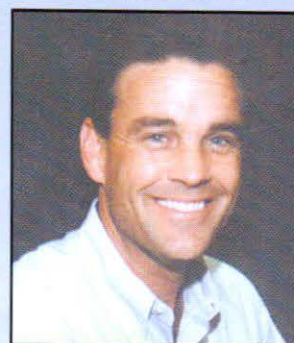
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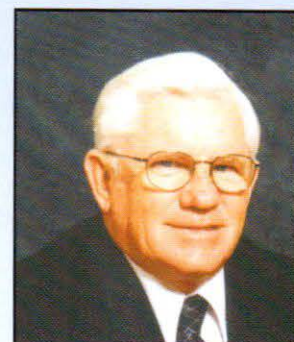
And, we've got lots of ways for you to reach us. You can come into our office, or call us during regular business hours. You can also reach us 24 hours a day, seven days a week on the world wide web, or make deposits by mail or ATM. Use whatever method is easiest for you. **Once a member always a member!**



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