

VF SCW Recreation Center Palm Ridge Daily News Sun March 13, 2015

CONTEST



Dancers from the Utah Ballroom Dance Company and residents of Sun City West perform during the Sun City West Dancing With the Stars show at Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West Monday. Six professional dancers were each paired with a Sun City West resident to perform a dance that was judged by the audience. **See story, more photos on page A5** [Nick Cote/Daily News-Sun]

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A6 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014 | Daily News-Sun | [www.yourwestvalley.com](http://www.yourwestvalley.com)

## NEW FACILITY

# Sun City West Pickleball Center to celebrate grand opening

STAFF REPORT



A view of the completed courts at the Liberty Courts Pickleball Center at Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West.

A new 18-court premier pickleball facility in Sun City West will formally open Feb. 28 at Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive.

After two years of planning, the long-awaited opening of Liberty Courts Pickleball Center will include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, brief thank-you comments,

hospitality from Uncle Bears Catering, music, tours of the facility and a few additional surprises, officials said.

Sun City West residents are invited from 5 to 7:30 p.m. to join more than 850 members of the Sun City West Pickleball Club, the Rec Centers administration, governing board and Liberty Buick management for this event.

Pickleball Club President Ken Holtz welcomes the community "to see this new, premier facility and to help celebrate this wonderful project. Without the support of the community, the Pickleball Club members and the partnership with Liberty Buick, this project may not have been possible."

Pickleball is a fast-growing sport. Played indoors or

outdoors on a badminton-sized court with a tennis-type net, a plastic ball similar to a whiffle ball, and a composite paddle, pickleball is easy for beginners to learn and can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

To learn about the sport of pickleball visit [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org) and [www.scwpickleballclub.com](http://www.scwpickleballclub.com).

# Palm Ridge Rec Center: \$7.2 Million Worth of Elegance

## Sports Building Work Continues as Open House Nears

Story & Photos, Jack Hawn

The media got a sneak preview last week of Sun City West's fourth — and most elegant — recreation center, which will mark its grand opening May 27 with a festive open house and dedication ceremony.

Appropriately named the Palm Ridge Recreation Center, the \$7.2 million complex, located at the intersection of Deer Valley and Williams Drives, is nestled among 69 towering palm trees.

The two-building center, budgeted for \$6.4 million, is constructed on a sprawling 15.3-acre site, which has parking spaces for 600 cars and 40 golf carts.

The lot, however, was virtually empty last Thursday, when several Del Webb Corp. employees escorted reporters on a tour of the facility.

Although the spacious Social Hall has been in use by several clubs for a couple of weeks, the adjacent Sports building is still under construction.

The most obvious unfinished projects were the three swimming pools — two of them indoors with a walkway between. None had been plastered as of last Friday.

However, Robert P. Wirig, one of the superintendents, and



The new Sports Building with many second level windows that provide spectacular views from the running track.

Kevin Van der Molen, Del Webb's manager involved in the construction of the facility, were confident the center would be ready for its official unveiling.

"We get a couple of hundred spectators a day," Wirig said, "and some have given us advice about certain things."

Wirig said some suggestions were adopted.

For example, in the computer rooms, locations for monitors were changed, and the stained glass club "got pretty much everything they asked for — more storage room, stainless steel sinks, more tables, more electrical outlets..."

The most impressive room in the Social Hall is the 11,000-square-foot ballroom.

Its glistening hardwood floor — a rich maple and walnut surface with an attractive contrasting color pattern near the walls — was being polished as reporters snapped photographs.

Chandeliers weighing 600 pounds each hang from a 20-foot-high ceiling, where a revolving silver ball is illuminated by eight spotlights. Despite the ultra-modern design, the spinning ball is a nostalgic touch reminiscent of some of those marvelous ballrooms of yesteryear.

Labeled the Sonoran Room,

it can be divided to create a second room of about 3,000 square feet, each with its own sound system. The room includes a stage, two full-service catering kitchens and electrically operated drapes that cover the large doors leading to a patio.

Club rooms already are being used by the Rhythm Tappers and Ballet Club, Computers West and the Stained Glass Club. Two multi-purpose rooms also are available.

The 16-foot-high hallways are decorated with 19 original

**Palm Ridge**  
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Stained Glass Club member VI Milkint pauses outside the new club quarters while inside, Alice Mason sneaks a look at the photographer.

paintings — splashes of bright colors that seem to blend into the overall decor — and triangular, self-illuminating light fixtures that follow a geometric pattern throughout the building.

"It's wonderful," one Rhythm Tapper said while commenting about the club's new home, "but there's no coffee shop."

The unfinished sports building, strewn with cords and tools and bustling with workmen, was far from ready for a white-glove inspection. Nonetheless, not much imagination was required to envision the finished product.

A 6-by-9 foot art glass piece hangs above the building's entry, beyond which is the monitor's station, a large maple desk.

The two indoor pools — each 48-by-75 feet, having a maximum depth of four feet and holding 80,000 gallons of water when filled — are visible through a wall of glass as you approach the desk from the entrance.

Underwaterspeakers (really!) will enable synchronized swimmers to hear instructions above water.

"We're anxious to see how they work," Van der Molen said without cracking a smile.

The indoor pools also can be seen from the three-lane 1/12th-mile circular running track on the second level, accessible by an elevator.

Windows line both sides of the track, providing spectacular views, one of which is the picturesque 12th hole of the Deer Valley Golf Course. Six adjacent tennis courts are also visible from the second level.

The building is air-conditioned, except for the pool area, which will be cooled by an evaporative system. A \$50,000 retractable skylight — the first in a Del Webb community — will help eliminate much of the humidity.

Dressing rooms include eight showers and 171 lockers each for men and women. A unisex changing area is included for the handicapped.

Of primary importance to many is the physical fitness area — an airy 2,000-square-foot

room with about 30 pieces of exercise equipment, including six treadmills, stair climbers, rowing machines and weights.

Van der Molen wasn't certain how much was spent on the equipment but said "\$100,000 was budgeted."

Mirrors will be installed on walls and four 25-inch cluster televisions will be placed in the room to show fitness-related programming.

The outdoor pool and Jacuzzi are attractively designed around a huge, intricately shaped waterfall — one of two water features in the complex. Three towering palms seem to grow out of the boulders.

"Water will spill over (the rocks) everywhere," Wirig said, "also into the pool."

The architectural firm, Barg Meeks Barnes Inc. AIA of Tucson, and the civil/landscape architect, Cella Barr of Tempe, clearly have transformed a barren slice of desert into an impressive showpiece. Ground was broken in June of last year.

Most of the furnishings, to be supplied by interior designer Habitat of Tempe, were not yet in place.

The dedication ceremony on May 27 is scheduled for 1 p.m., to be followed by performances by the Rhythm Tappers and Ballet Club and swimming exhibitions by the Synchronettes and Aqua Motion Clubs.

Regular operating hours for association members will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

# Rec centers want changes to Palm Ridge

## Officials asking Webb to fix access problems at newest facility

By PATRICK O'GRADY  
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Inc. are looking to the Del Webb Corp. to fix access problems people with disabilities might have at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center.

The developer is looking into the requested changes and is determining what, if any, its responsibilities are for the private facility. A total cost for the work has not been estimated.

In the eyes of association board members, Palm Ridge has several problems that need to be addressed by the developer to ensure compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, according to Al Spanjer, vice president of the board and properties committee chairman.

"As far as we're concerned, there are a number of things that don't meet compliance with the ADA," he says.

The act, which took effect in 1992, was designed to guarantee access and use of public facilities to people with disabilities.

Several items at Palm Ridge — including sinks, water fountains,

showers and restroom doors — are not accessible to people in wheelchairs and need to be adjusted, Mr. Spanjer says.

"The restrooms and the shower rooms are key as far as we are concerned," he says.

At issue is the original construction of Palm Ridge in 1994. Built after the act passed, it should have contained updated facilities to accommodate all the provisions in the act, board members believe.

John Waldron, manager of public relations for the developer, says Webb has received the list of action items and is looking into its responsibility in the matter as provided under the act.

"Because the ADA is continually opened up to differing interpretations, we're looking at the requested changes from the rec board," he says.

Webb will bring the matter to several of the original consultants who advised the developer while Palm Ridge was being built, Mr. Waldron says.

What may keep the developer

from doing the changes is a determination of whether or not Palm Ridge constitutes a public facility as defined by the act, says Donna Noland, executive director of the Arizona Office for Americans With Disabilities.

Because Palm Ridge, along with all the other properties of the association, is privately-owned and serves only members and their guests, the association or the developer may not be required to comply with standards in the act, Ms. Noland says.

That does not prevent an association such as the recreation centers from adding required elements of the act to its own bylaws or policies to accommodate members, Ms. Noland says.

However, the developer would be held accountable if the project was a new construction within the last five years and fell under the Fair Housing Act making developers make common areas for members and guests accessible, Ms. Noland says.

Under the housing act, the devel-

oper and the architect would be responsible for making changes to common areas to guarantee access to members and guests with disabilities, she says.

The association, with Webb's help, has made minor changes to its four facilities over the years to bring them more in line with the act's requirements, Mr. Spanjer says.

Most of those changes were minor and done with in-house labor.

That will change in the next three years because the association has budgeted about \$300,000 to make its older facilities more accessible, Mr. Spanjer says.

"We've been doing a lot of the minor things, but now we have to look at the major projects," he says.

Some of the changes include making doors wider and designing unisex changing rooms so that people with disabilities may be helped by a partner, Mr. Spanjer says.

"Some of these things may not look like much, but you're going to have to change a lot of things to get them accomplished," he says.

# Like a walk in the park

## Sun City West residents relish cool indoor track

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Mary Bunn's heart is working better.

John Hainge's arthritis is easing in his left leg.

And Mary Bear's lungs are expanding, so she can breathe easier.

These three Sun City West residents are among hundreds who have discovered the benefits of walking.

But with temperatures soaring above 100 degrees, long walks outside are virtually impossible.

That's why residents are flocking to the new, indoor walking track in the Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 135th Avenue and Deer Valley Drive.

Del Webb officials said the indoor track was built in response to residents' requests. The R.H. Johnson Recreation Center's outdoor track remains unused during summer months.

At Palm Ridge, some walkers wear stereo headphones. Others talk to friends or spouses. Many just enjoy the view.

With the circular track on the second floor, walkers can watch swimmers in the pool below or look through the glass walls at Sun City West's homes and golf courses.

"It's beautiful here," said Bunn, 68, who walks six days a week.

She spends 34 minutes doing 26 laps, which is two miles.

"I'm thankful that there is a place like this," said Hainge, 73. "I can only do three

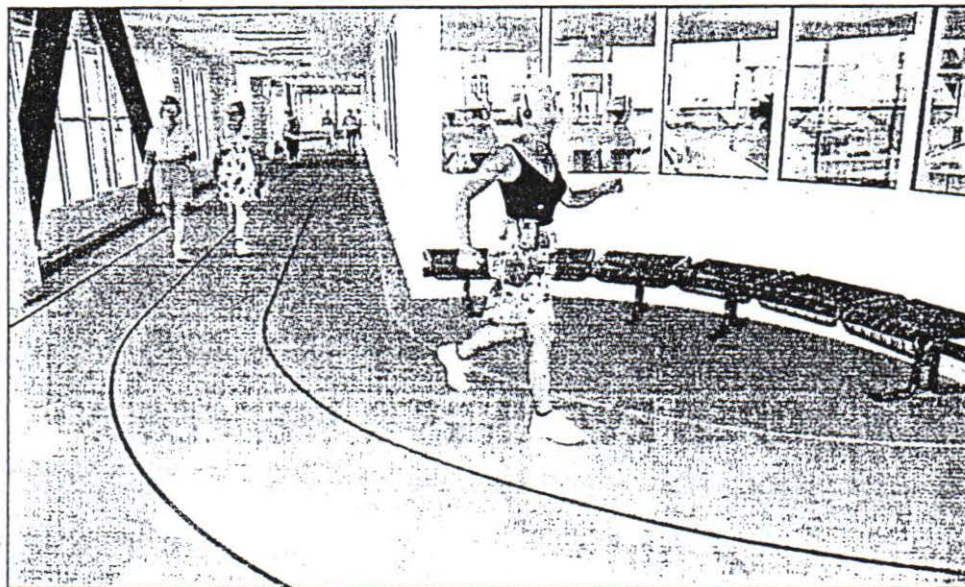
or four laps but I'm able to limber up."

For Bear, the indoor track has helped improve her emphysema.

"Walking is the only exercise I can do. It improves my breathing by expanding my lungs," the 77-year-old said. "The heat would kill me if I tried to walk outside."

The 400-foot track has a cushioned surface so it is easier on the joints. There are three lanes, so fast, medium and slow walkers can go at their own pace.

The Palm Ridge walking track is available only to Sun City West residents and their guests. Fitness equipment also is offered, including tread mills, stationary bikes, a rowing machine, a stair climber and an upper body exerciser.



Nancy Engebretson / Staff photographer

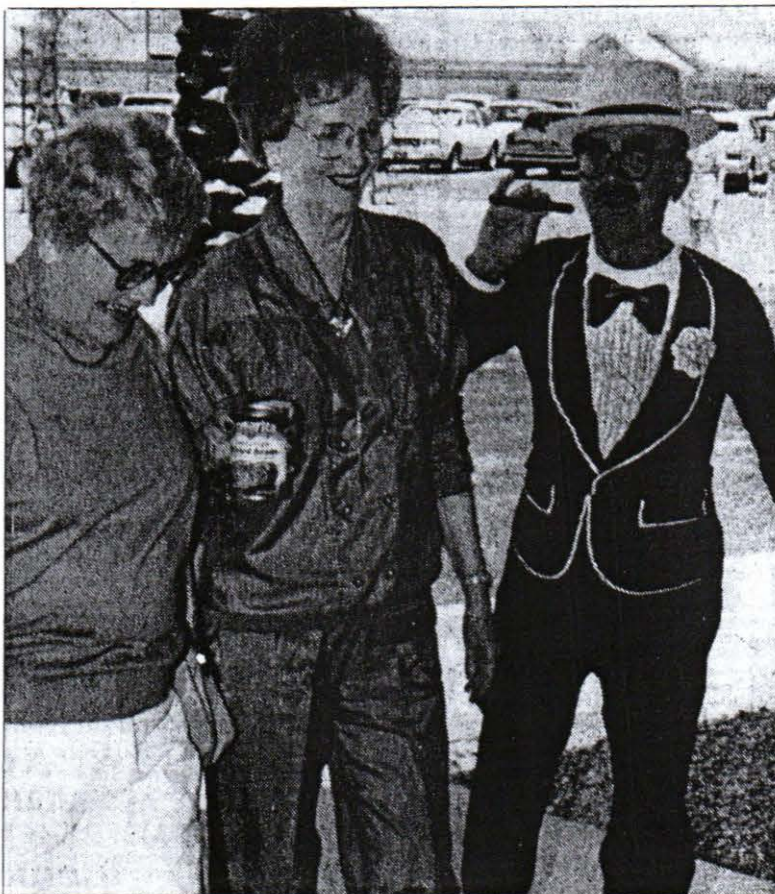
Sun City West walkers keep their cool at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center which features an indoor track, 70-degree climate and music.



## Palm Ridge opens its doors in Sun City West

Festivities held to celebrate the opening of Sun City West's newest recreation center, the Palm Ridge Recreation Center, featured entertainment by Trinidad, a calypso band (above). At right, Sun City West resident Bryson Sherrill, posing as Groucho Marx, entertained several of those who attended the grand opening celebration on May 27. The center's parking lot proved too small to accommodate the thousands who attended the grand opening, which also featured entertainment by the Ballet Club, the Rhythm Tappers and a dance band called Contrasts. The two-story recreation center cost more than \$7 million to build.

Photos by TYSON KUHRT  
Sun Cities Independent





John McMillen, president of the Recreation Centers of SCW Inc. Governing Board, and Chuck Roach, Del Webb vice president and Sun City West general manager, put the finishing touches on the Palm Ridge Recreation Center. Construction of the new recreation center began in June of 1993 and the grand opening will be held May 27, 1-4 p.m.

Photo, Lu Urdang

## Palm Ridge Center Opens Friday in a Grand Manner

Dancers, synchronized swimmers and live bands are just a few of the festivities Del Webb Corporation has planned to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West on May 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. The Recreation Center is located on the corner of Deer Valley and Williams drives.

The celebration begins with a formal dedication ceremony in the Social Hall Ballroom followed by performances by the Sun City West Ballet Club and Rhythm Tappers. From 2 to 4 p.m., the dance band "Contrasts" with George Rouvalis will play. The Dance Fitness club will have demonstrations in the Acacia multi-purpose room, and other chartered clubs which utilize the new center will display information.

In the Sports Building, the Sun City West Synchronettes will perform in the indoor pool at 2 and 3 p.m., and the Sun City West Aquamotion Club will give demonstrations at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Outside, guests will enjoy the tropical sounds of the Trinidad Calypso Band while appreci-



Gene Young, seated below one of the 19 paintings in the Social Building, relaxes while waiting for his wife to finish a Tai Chi lesson.

ating the beauty of the outdoor pool and its waterfall.

Attendees are asked to bring a canned food donation for the Westside Food Bank. Light refreshments will be served.

**Directions:** From Bell, take El Mirage north which turns into Deer Valley. Turn right on Williams to access the Palm Ridge parking lot. From Meeker Blvd., take 135th Avenue north and turn left on Deer Valley Drive. Turn right on Williams.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Ann and Bill Rhinehart of Sun City West dance to the music of the Contrasts in the new ballroom of Palm Ridge Recreation Center during the grand opening activities Friday.

# Cheers for Palm Ridge

## Residents pack center opening

By TRACY CHARUHAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Cars lined up in all directions as a crowd of more than 5,000 Sun City West residents poured into the community's newest recreation center Friday for its grand opening party.

"It is so elaborate," said Louise Altieri, of the \$7.2 million Palm Ridge recreation center located at 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive.

Palm Ridge is the fourth recreation center in Sun City West.

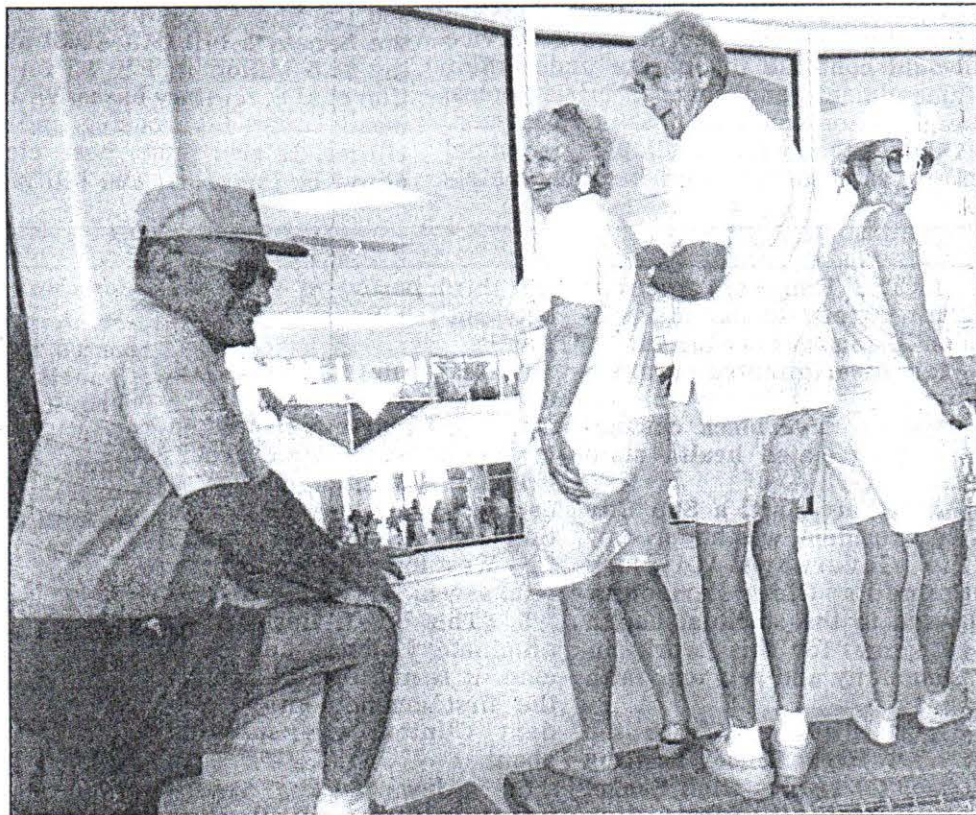
"This is more than any other place can compete with," said Altieri's husband Tony.

Palm Ridge, situated on 15.3 acres in the expansion area, is a two building facility consisting of a social hall and a sports center occupying 56,800 square feet. Hundreds of people were already waiting outside when the doors opened at 1 p.m.

"It's ideal," said Rod Westphal. "There's so much space. I don't know what more a person could ask for."

More than 600 parking spaces were not enough to accommodate all the people who wanted to get a glimpse of the new center. Those who couldn't find a space, parked along Deer Valley Drive and small side streets.

"We planned on having 3,000 people but now it looks like we have several thousand more," said Martha



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

John Gluchman, left, Martha and Stanley Dubrash and Annemarie Gluckman, right, move into position to get a better view of the Sun City West Synchronettes performance at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center. The residents of Sun City West were watching from the upstairs windows around the indoor track Friday.

Moyer, manager of public and community relations for Del Webb Corp.

The Sun City West Posse was on

hand to handle the flow of traffic around Palm Ridge.

See New center, A5

# New center sparkles

—From A1

"We've got the cars coming in one way and out one way. That way, we can ease the congestion problem and people can have a good time," said Capt. Don Schorg, Sun City West Posse commander.

People gathered inside and outside the two-building facility sipping pink lemonade and munching on chocolate chip cookies courtesy of Del Webb.

Entertainment at the party included performances by the Sun City West Ballet Club, the Rhythm Tappers and the Dance Fitness Club. In the sports building, people gathered around the indoor pools to watch performances by the Synchronettes and the Aquamotion Club.

"This room is quite impressive," said Juretta Hitson of the 11,000-square foot ballroom in the social building. "We can't wait to start dancing here."

"The walking track is what

I'm most impressed with," said Roscoe Smith. "We're so glad we live here," said his wife Angie. "Del Webb did a really nice job," she said.

"I'm looking forward to using the exercise equipment," said Bob Sauer, of the state-of-the-art exercise equipment which includes treadmills, stair climbers, rowing machines and weight training equipment.

"The exercise room is like something you'd see in Palm Springs," said Delores Serio, referring to Del Webb's California development. "The atmosphere is so elegant and comforting."

"That fitness room is something else," said Bob Ellis. "There are more kinds of machines in there than I've ever seen before."

Meanwhile outside the dance hall, Sun City West Ballet club member, Anna McCassey, was busy signing up students for its summer

classes. "We are so booked up," McCassey said. "There's a waiting list for the Tai Chi class, but by fall we should have things squared away."

"It's nice looking if you like indoor pools, but if you like to swim outside that pool is pretty small," said Robert Visaue. "Personally I like to swim outdoors."

Palm Ridge has two 80,000-gallon indoor swimming pools and one 70,000-gallon outdoor pool with a waterfall.

"The social hall is just great," said Lee Proeber, member of the Sun City West Stained Glass Club which has just moved into the building. "We have so much more space now. That'll be nice when all those people come back here for the winter."

"We think it's just fantastic," said Irene Franson sitting near the outdoor pool with her husband Manny. "It's wonderful. I can't wait to start using it."



Photo by TYSON KUERT/Sun Cities Independent

The new \$7.2 million Palm Ridge Recreation Center, located on Deer Valley Drive just west of 135th Avenue, will officially open May 27. The facility is the final recreation center to be built in the Sun Cities by the Del Webb Corp.

*'I think the residents are going to be really amazed ...'*

## Sun City West prepares to open fourth and final recreation center

By **TERI CARNICELLI**  
Sun Cities Independent

It's spacious, elegant and accommodating — but not quite ready for the public.

The Palm Ridge Recreation Center, the newest — and last — recreation center to be built in the Sun Cities — will be ready to roll out the red carpet to residents on May 27.

The \$7.2 million facility, according to Webb officials, is the most elaborate and luxurious recreation center the company has ever built.

"It has a much more elegant feel, almost like a country club," says Martha

Moyer, public and community relations manager for Del Webb in Sun City West. "I think the residents are going to be really amazed when they see this."

A few of the highlights include a state-of-the-art fitness room in the sports building, complete with stair machines, treadmills and various television monitors for exercise tapes. The room is approximately 2,000 square feet, larger than any other fitness room in the Sun Cities.

The Sonoran Room in the social building is an 11,000 square-foot ballroom, approximately 1,000 square feet larger than the R.H. Johnson Center Social Hall. It contains two kitchen units, one on each end to accommo-

date two groups using the room at the same time.

With a glitter ball sparkling from the ceiling, an inset stage, a modern sound system and a large video screen that descends with the touch of a button, the multi-purpose dance and activities room can accommodate up to 500 people at one time.

The 15.3-acre Ridge facility will also serve as home to the community's only indoor walking/jogging track. The track is located in the sports building and encircles the indoor pools from above.

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## ■ PALM RIDGE

From Page 1

The track measures one-twelfth of a mile, is properly cushioned to prevent shock to the joints, has lane markers and is air conditioned. It also overlooks the two large indoor pools, which are separated by a wide walkway across the middle.

The indoor pool area has a notable feature in its retractable skylight, used to vent the humidity in the room.

The outdoor pool features a fountain of water cascading over faux rocks, much like the water feature at the entrance of the center, and is slightly deeper than the four-and-a-half-foot indoor pools.

It is also bracketed by two large spas, one of which has the waterfall on one side and a view of the golf course on the other.

"I'm sure it will be one of the most used," said Kevin Van der Molen, customer service manager for Del Webb.

The facility, originally scheduled to be open to the public last month, was built for the estimated 6,000 new residents who will be joining the community in the next few years.

The only people allowed in currently are members of chartered clubs, such as the Computer Club, which was previously located at the Beardsley Park Recreation Center.

Ms. Moyer says the computer room at Beardsley was built in the early 1980s. Computers were not as popular then as they are today and there was little need for a large facility.

The Computer Club, which now boasts more than 1,200 members, has a much more spacious area, complete with library and lecture/demonstration room, in the Palm Ridge center.

"It's nice because it's multi-functional," club member Jack Studer said. "You can teach a class in the other room and still work on the machines out front (without distraction)."

Mr. Studer is working on tracing the genealogy of his family as a gift to his grandchildren. With all that's available in the club's rooms, "this is the place to do it," he says.

A grand opening celebration is planned 1-4 p.m. May 27. Thereafter, the center's hours of operation will be from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

## Palm Ridge takes shape

It doesn't take an artist to notice the tremendous influence geometric shapes have on the interior decor of Palm Ridge Recreation Center.

The triangle, the most dominant shape, can be found throughout both buildings.

If your eyes miss the vibrantly colored triangular pieces of carpet at the entrance of the sports building, they can't miss the triangles in the wall patterns, glass art and furniture.

Here are some facts about Sun City West's newest recreation center:

- Sixty-nine palm trees are planted on 15.3 acres.

- Forty-four original oil paintings hang throughout the buildings.

- Nine-hundred feet of glass block are in the indoor pool area.

- Twenty-seven miles of electrical wire runs through both buildings.

- The 20-foot high ballroom is lit by two 600-pound chandeliers.

- The hardwood dance floor is made with maple and walnut.

- There are 600 car and 40 golf car parking spaces available.

- There are 80,000 gallons of water in each indoor swimming pool.

- The outdoor pool contains 70,000 gallons of water.

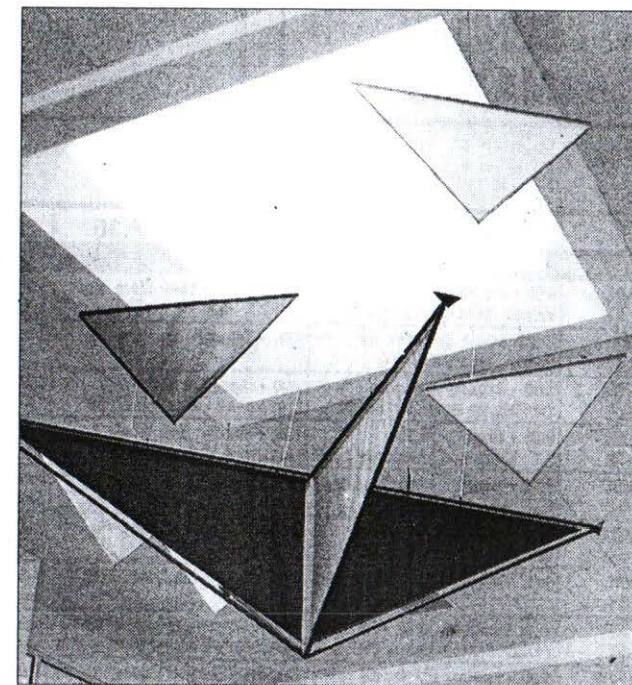
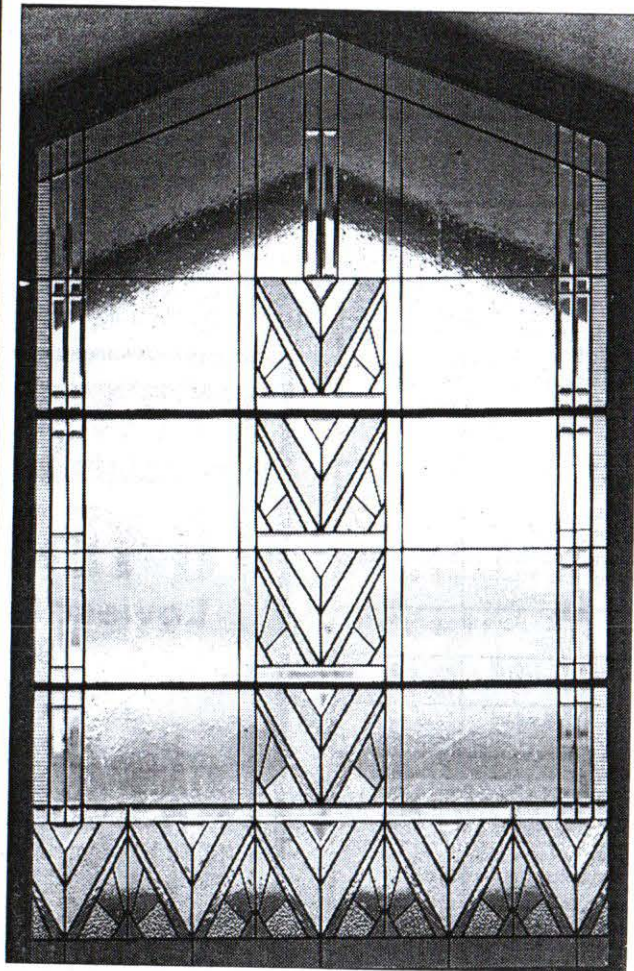
- There is a retractable skylight above two indoor pools.

- The buildings are elevated nine ft. above street level for enhanced view.

- Both buildings encompass 56,800 square feet.

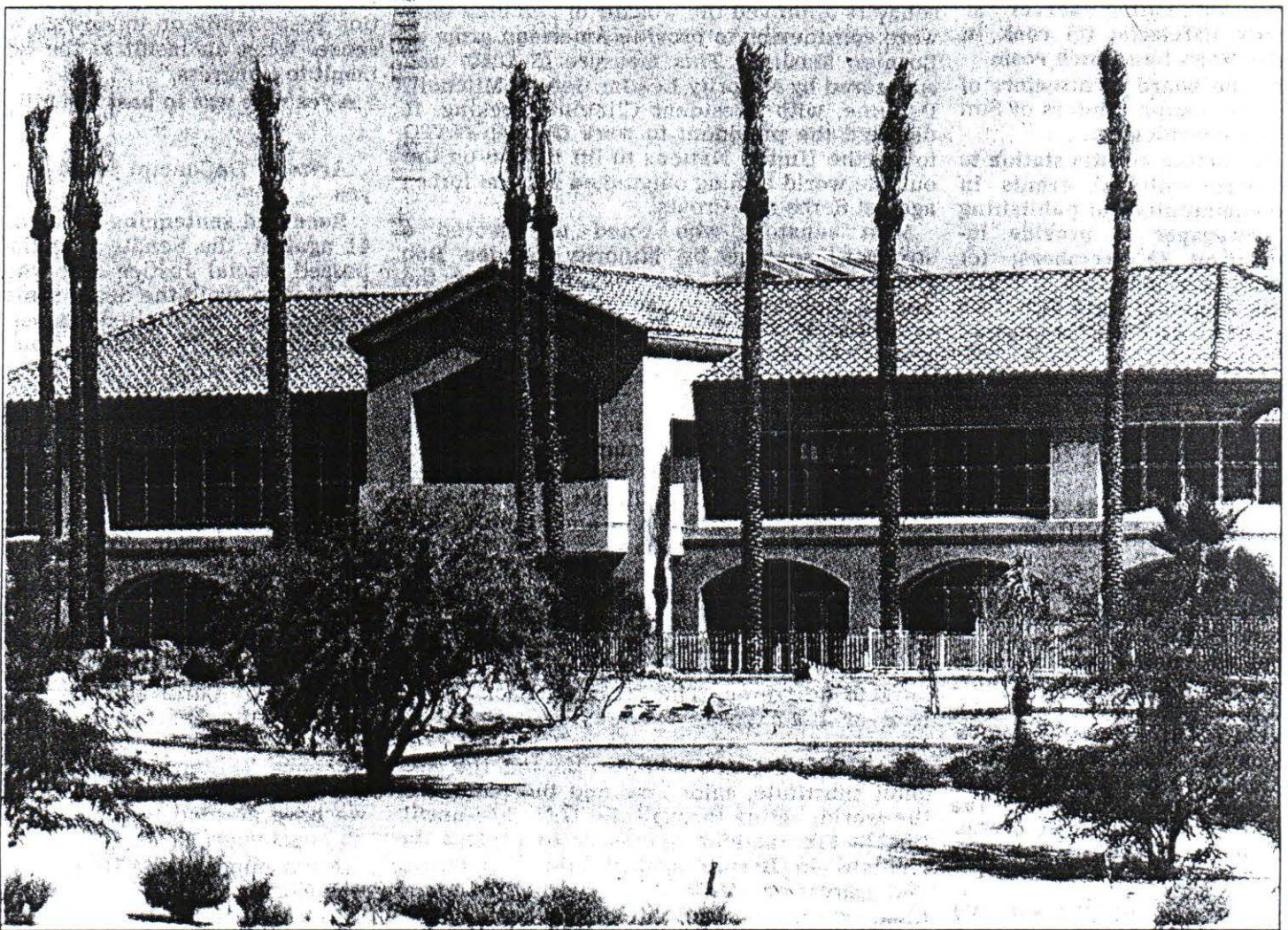
- Electric drapes cover large patio doors.





Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

The new Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West uses natural light as a design feature. Large photo shows the outdoor swimming pool. In bottom photos a stained-glass style window, left, geometric light fixtures, center, and colorful mobiles create a pleasant atmosphere.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Sun City West's newest recreation center, Palm Ridge, located in the community's northern expansion area, is scheduled to open May 27. Del Webb plans to throw a party to mark the opening.

## Webb to throw Palm Ridge party

By TRACY CHARUHAS

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — In less than two weeks, the \$7 million Palm Ridge Recreation Center will have its grand opening and the community's developer is throwing a community party to mark the occasion.

"This will definitely be a party. A steel drum band will play poolside, refreshments will be served and there will be live dance music in the ballroom," said Martha Moyer, manager of public and community relations for Del Webb.

The grand opening, originally scheduled for April 1, was moved back to May 27 because of a delay in steel shipments for the sports facility, said Santos Vasquez, project manager.

The formal dedication ceremony will start at 1 p.m. The celebration

### Photographs, B1

will last until 4 p.m. and the facility will be open for use following the party. Regular operating hours will be from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The two-building complex at 135th Avenue and Deer Valley Drive in the community's northern expansion will be the fourth recreation center in Sun City West. The center will include a 32,000-square-foot social building and a 25,000 square-foot sports facility.

"There is very little duplication between the centers," Moyer said. "Palm Ridge is unique among the other recreation centers because it has a significant emphasis on sports and fitness," she said.

The sports building has more than \$90,000 of sports equipment including stair simulators and

weight training equipment. The weight room has four 25 cluster televisions to show fitness related programming. Six outdoor lighted tennis courts and an outdoor washroom are located on the west side of the complex. There are three spas, two indoor and one outdoor.

The Rhythm Tappers, Stained Glass Club, Computers West and the Ballet Club will all relocate to the new building. The social building also contains open meeting rooms and a computer room with personal computers.

Multi-colored, triangular banners hang above the indoor pools. Their pattern matches the art glass above the building's entry.

All artwork in the social hall is original. Pieces were chosen because of diversity and flow of colors.

The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

3-1-94

# Rec center opening delayed until April

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Because of a delayed shipment of steel supplies, the Palm Ridge Recreation Center will open later than planned.

"We've had problems getting the steel we need for the steel structure for the pool building," said Chuck Roach, general manager of Del Webb's Sun City West.

Palm Ridge, near 135th Avenue and Deer Valley Drive in the expansion area, was slated to open by March 31.

New plans call for the social hall to be ready by April 15 and the rest of the complex to be finished by May 31.

The \$6.4 million, 51,000-square-foot complex covers 15 acres.

There will be six lighted tennis courts, and a splash pool and sun deck between the sports building and the social hall. There will be parking for 600 cars and 30 golf carts.

The sports building will have two indoor swimming pools. There will be an enclosed, 400-foot walking track above the pools. The track will provide year-round availability for sport walking.

The social hall building will

have an 11,000-square-foot main ballroom with a wood floor similar to the floor at the R.H. Johnson center. There also will be a movable divider, similar to R.H. Johnson Hall, that will allow two groups to meet simultaneously.

A room will be dedicated to the Rhythm Tappers and the Ballet Club, with mirrored walls.

There also will be rooms for the Computer Club and the Stained Glass Club.

In addition, there will be two multipurpose rooms, a lounge area and a kitchen.

Meanwhile, design work has started on another 18-hole golf course that Webb will build in the expansion area.

Also, expansion of existing recreational facilities will be discussed by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West board at 9 a.m. March 24 in the R.H. Johnson social hall.

Allan Grossman, chairman of the properties committee, will present recommendations for remodeling and expanding facilities, including the Beardsley Park Recreation Center. Grossman said he is negotiating with Del Webb officials about whether the developer will pay for some of the improvements.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Saturday, June 19, 1993



Construction for the Desert Palms Recreation Center in the Sun City April 1994. Workers have begun with building a six-foot tall masonry West expansion area is under way and expected to be completed by wall to separate the center's parking lot from nearby homes.

Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

# Expansion rec center going up

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Residents will be able to swim, jog, dance and play tennis as early as March at the community's newest recreation center.

Construction of the Palm Ridge Center began last week in the expansion area of the community, on 15 acres north of Deer Valley Drive between Williams Drive and Dusty Trail.

Del Webb Corp., Sun City West's developer, is building the \$6.8 million Palm Ridge Center.

Webb plans to develop 1,320 acres in the expansion area. This would add 6,100 residents, boosting Sun City West's population to about 31,100.

"We're very fortunate that the residents that are already here can

make use of the facilities before the expansion area is built out," said Al Spangler, Recreation Centers of Sun City West board president.

A citizens panel helped design the center.

Palm Ridge will have six lighted tennis courts and a splash pool and sun deck between the sports building and the social hall. There will be parking for 600 cars and 30 golf carts.

The sports building will have two indoor swimming pools. There will be an enclosed 400-foot walking track above the pools.

The track will provide year-round availability for sport walking, a popular activity in Sun City West, said Steve Carder, who is overseeing the center's construction for Webb.

The social hall building will have an 11,000-square-foot main ballroom with a wood floor similar to the floor at the R.H. Johnson center. There also will be a movable divider similar to R.H. Johnson Hall that allows two groups to meet simultaneously. The hall will have a 30-inch-high stage.

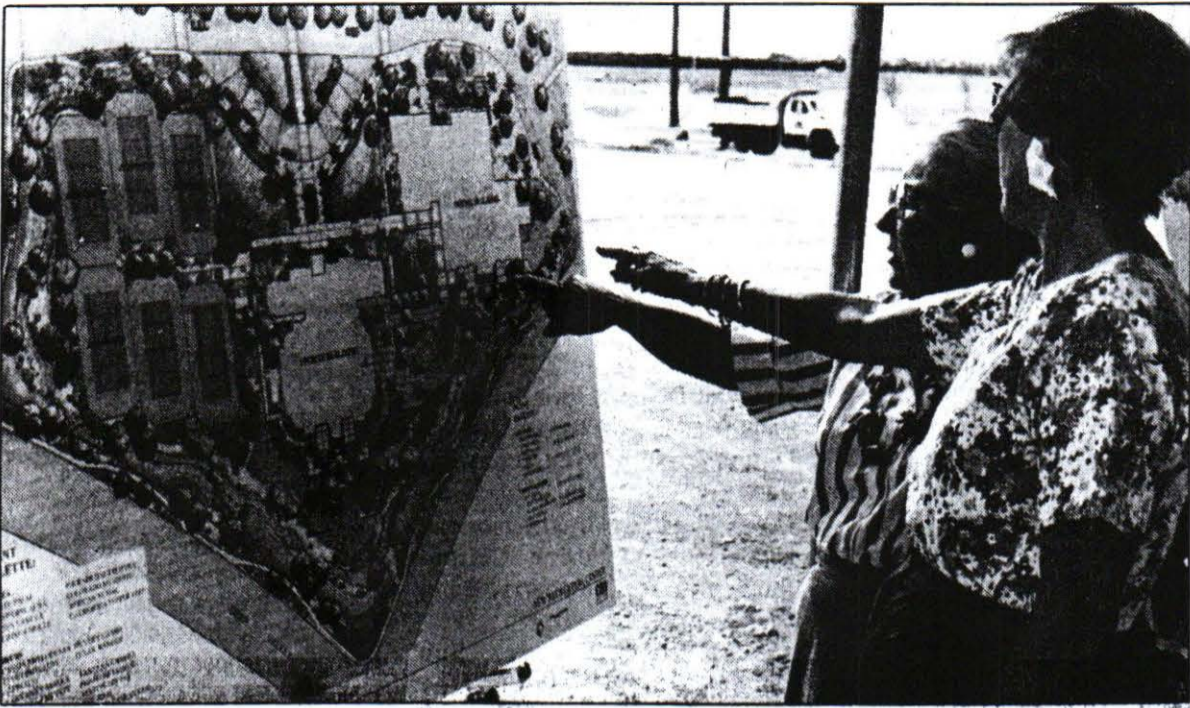
A room will be dedicated to the Rhythm Tappers and the Ballet Club with mirrored walls.

There also will be rooms for the Computer Club and the Stained Glass Club.

In addition, there will be two multipurpose rooms, a lounge area and a kitchen.

An 18-hole golf course is also under construction in the expansion area and is slated to open in the late fall.

June 9-15, 1993



## Work begins on new SC West rec center

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held last week for Palm Ridge Recreation Center. Located in the expansion area of Sun City West, the \$6.8 million facility will contain 54,000 square feet, two indoor pools, one outdoor pool, the community's first indoor walking track and the largest sports facility in the Sun Cities. "The most beautiful facility we've ever given to this community," says Chuck Roach, general manager of Sun City West. Beverly Bradshaw, above right, and Pat Duros look over plans for the new center. At right, Al Spanjer, left, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board, and Chuck Roach officially mark the beginning of construction. The new recreation center is located on the corner of Williams Drive and Deer Valley Drive and is expected to be completed in approximately 10 months.



Photos by BRET McKEAND/Sun Cities Independent

# Residents name Sun City West's new recreation center, golf course

The Palm Ridge Recreation Center and the Deer Valley Golf Course are two of the newest names to be added to the list of recreational amenities in the Sun Cities.

The Del Webb Corporation last week announced the names of its newest recreation center and golf course in Sun City West, both located in the expansion area.

The names were chosen from more than 750 entries in two contests sponsored by the corporation.

Clara Rausch won a free dinner for four at the Crestview Restaurant for her winning name of Palm

Ridge Recreation Center.

The winning name of the golf course, on the other hand, was sent in by 22 people.

A drawing was held to select one prize winner from all Deer Valley entries. Jean Hoelting, of Sun City West, was chosen to win a free round of golf for four at Hillcrest Golf Course.

"It was a very difficult selection process," says Steve Carder, vice president of finance and administration for Del Webb's Sun City West and a judge of the contest.

"There were some very creative

and colorful names. We were quite pleased with the response from the community."

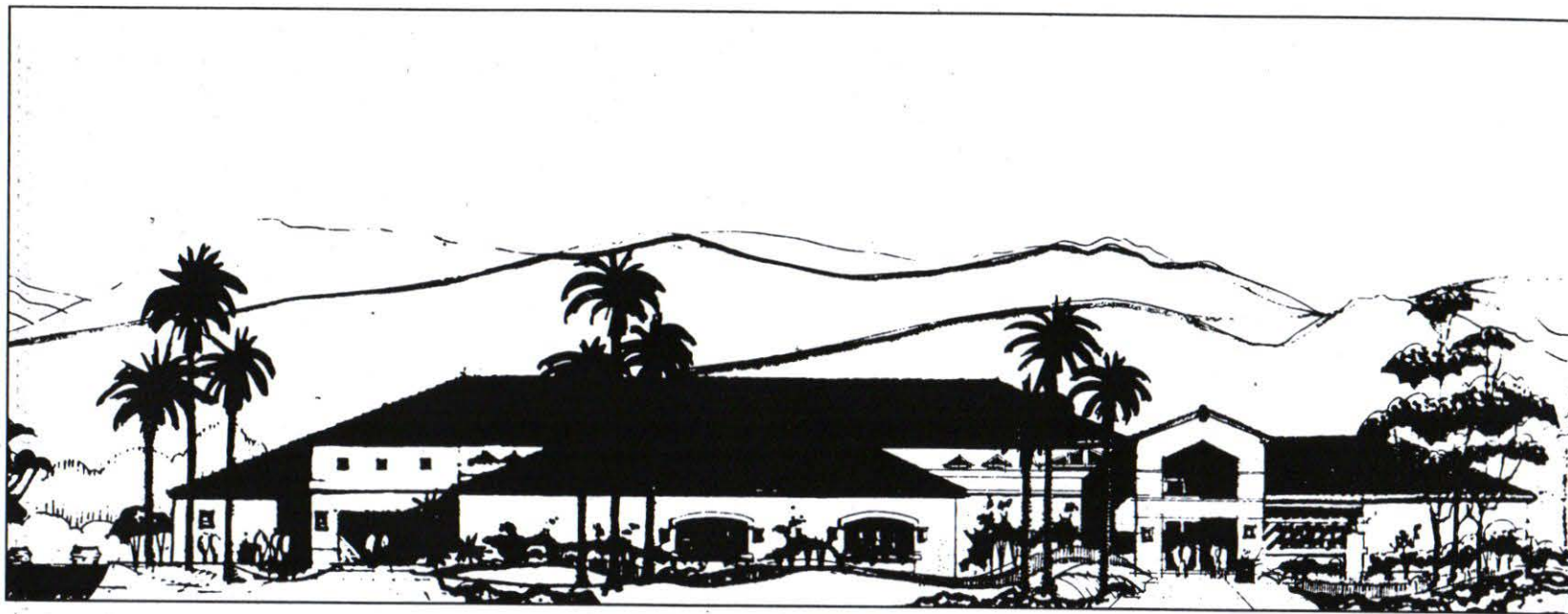
The Palm Ridge Recreation Center will be located near the corner of Deer Valley and Williams drives and has approximately 54,000 square feet.

The Deer Valley Golf Course is located near Deer Valley Drive, Dusty Trail Boulevard and Williams Drive.

Designed by Senior PGA Pro Billy Caspar and golf course architect Greg Nash, the course will cover 6,546 yards.



Sun City West's newest recreation center will be named Palm Ridge, a name suggested by Sun City West resident Clara Rausch. Ms. Rausch's entry was chosen among hundreds of others in the Del Webb Corporation's Name the Recreation Center Contest. Steve Carder, Del Webb vice president of finance and administration, presents the winning prize to Ms. Rausch.



An artist's rendering shows the planned Sun City West recreation center. Construction is expected to start this summer.

Special to Community

## Details of new recreation center unveiled

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Detailed plans for Sun City West's new recreation center have been unveiled.

Harry Spence, vice president of the Sun City West Recreation Centers board, has compiled a list of facilities that will be available.

Spence will present his report at a board meeting at 1 p.m. April 15 in the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, R.H. Johnson and Meeker boulevards.

"I will be showing people where the expansion will be and what it will look like," Spence said.

Construction will start this summer and will be finished in 1994. The \$8.1 million recreation center

is being built by Del Webb Corp. in an expansion area of the community.

Webb plans to develop 1,320 acres north of Deer Valley Drive between 135th and 151st avenues. The expansion area is projected to add 6,100 residents, boosting Sun City West's population to about 31,100.

The new recreation center will have six lighted tennis courts and a splash pool and sun deck between the physical fitness building and the social hall. There will be parking for 600 cars and 30 golf carts.

The physical fitness building will have two indoor swimming pools. One will be a walking and exercise pool, measuring 43 feet by

75 feet. The depth will range from 3 to 4 feet. The lap pool will be 43 feet wide by 75 feet long with a depth from 4 to 6 feet.

There will be an enclosed walking track above the two pools. The track will be one-thirteenth of a mile per lap, or about 400 feet. The physical fitness room will be 2,073 square feet. There also will be restrooms, showers and lockers.

The social hall building will have:

- A main ballroom measuring 10,842 square feet with a wood floor similar to the floor at the R.H. Johnson center. There also will be a movable divider similar to the R.H. Johnson Hall that allows two groups to meet simultaneously. The hall will have a

30-inch high stage, measuring 32 by 18 feet.

- A 2,147-square-foot room will be dedicated for the Rhythm Tappers and the Ballet Club with a wood floor and mirrored walls.

- A 2,134-square-foot room will be for the Computer Club.

- A 1,504-square-foot room will be for the Stained Glass Club.

- There will be two multipurpose rooms of 1,376 and 1,248 square feet.

There also will be a lounge area. The kitchen will have an ice maker, dishwasher, refrigerator, two microwave ovens and cleanup facilities. There will be space for potluck or catered meals.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, Oct. 16, 1992

# Webb unveils plans for new rec center in SCW

By MIKE GARRETT

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Plans are virtually complete for a proposed \$6.4 million, 51,000 square-foot recreation center to be constructed in the Sun City West expansion area.

The final draft of plans for the rec center will be presented to residents at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board open forum in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Construction of the rec center is scheduled to begin next spring, with completion anticipated in the spring of 1994. The center will cover 15 acres in the 1,300-acre expansion area north of Deer Valley Road near 135th Avenue.

The rec center will include three primary areas — the fitness center, social club building and six outdoor tennis courts.

A scale model of the recreation center, plus floor plans and architectural renderings, will be available for residents' inspection at the open forum.

"You finally reach a point in the planning process where you have to say this is it and go with what you have," said Martha Moyer, Del Webb manager of community and public relations.

"This has been a lengthy, detailed and complex project," said Jack O'Connor, chairman of the Recreation Centers Facilities Expansion Committee that has been involved with the project for nearly two years.

"We believe the designs for the new center will serve the residents well and they'll experience the type of center that Webb is building in its other new (Sun Cities) developments."

"This recreation center will have more of a resort feeling, very inviting and contemporary," said Steve Carder, Del Webb vice president of finance and administration.

O'Connor said his committee has spent the past two years researching the recreational needs of an expanding population and then following through

with the architect during the design period.

"The committee's input has been invaluable," Carder said.

The fitness center's exercise area is larger than anything available in the Sun Cities. It will feature the latest in exercise machines like stair climbers, rowing machines and weight training equipment.

"The layout will be a nice improvement over what we have now," (in the

R.H. Johnson Fitness Center) said rec centers fitness specialist Martha Gessell. "It (fitness room) will be L-shaped so that the weight equipment will be on one side of the room and the cardiovascular equipment on the other side. The equipment design and placement will also allow for more individualized instruction.

"I've also heard that an overhead big-screen TV will be installed for people to watch while they're walking on the treadmill," she said.

Three swimming pools and two spas are being designed for the new center. Two indoor swimming pools will allow simultaneous use by lap swimmers, water walkers and other aquatic programs. A resort-style outdoor pool will include a sunning area.

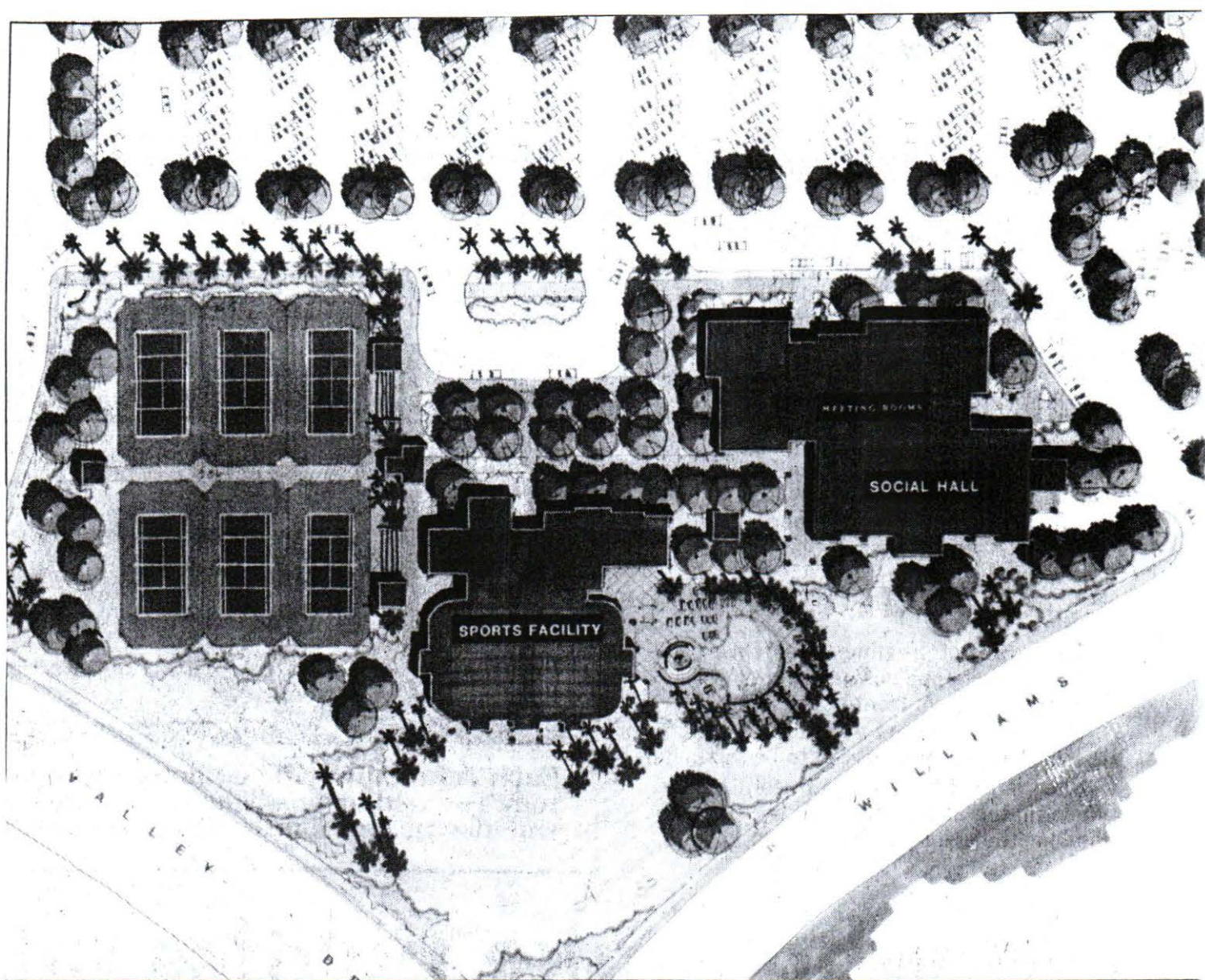
Around the aquatic area will be an indoor second-floor jogging and walking track featuring views to the pools below as well as outdoors. "Jogging tracks are an integral part of an overall exercise program in many of the newer health clubs across the country," Carder said.

The track will provide year-round availability for sport walking, a popular Sun City West activity. A survey conducted by the National Sporting Goods Association revealed that walking attracted 19.7 million participants age 55 or older last year.

The focal point of the Social Club Building will be an 11,000-square foot ballroom and annex room, plus two kitchens and a storage area. The room will be flexible enough to accommodate various sized groups for a variety of formal or informal gatherings.

Several recreation center-chartered clubs will relocate to the new center. The Rhythm Tappers and Ballet Club will share a room specially designed for dance rehearsals.

The Computer and Stained Glass clubs, previously quartered in the smaller Beardsley Park Recreation Center, will have larger rooms in the new center. Two multi-purpose rooms will be available for other organizations to use on a scheduled basis.



An architect's rendering shows an aerial view of the new \$6.4 million recreation center that will be constructed in the Sun City West expansion area. A

model of the center will be on display at Tuesday's advisory board open forum in the R.H. Johnson Social Hall.