

VF 30W - Recreation Centers - R.H. Johnson  
No Date

**CONSTRUCTION**  
**R.H. Johnson tennis renovations remain on schedule, budget**

By Richard Smith  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Both phases of the renovations to the R.H. Johnson Tennis Complex are on schedule and expected for completion at the end of October with a grand re-opening tentatively scheduled for the first week in November, according to Recreation Centers of Sun City West officials.

Phase 1 of the project is about 80 percent complete and Phase 2 is about 50 percent complete, the RCSCW stated in an email. The first phase is the renovation of eight courts (including new lighting on four courts) at R.H. Johnson, while the second phase of this project in-

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**Construction**

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cludes renovation of the final seven courts as well as a proposed central landscaping/plaza area.

The \$1.62 million project, spread over two fiscal years, also remains on target financially according to RCSCW.

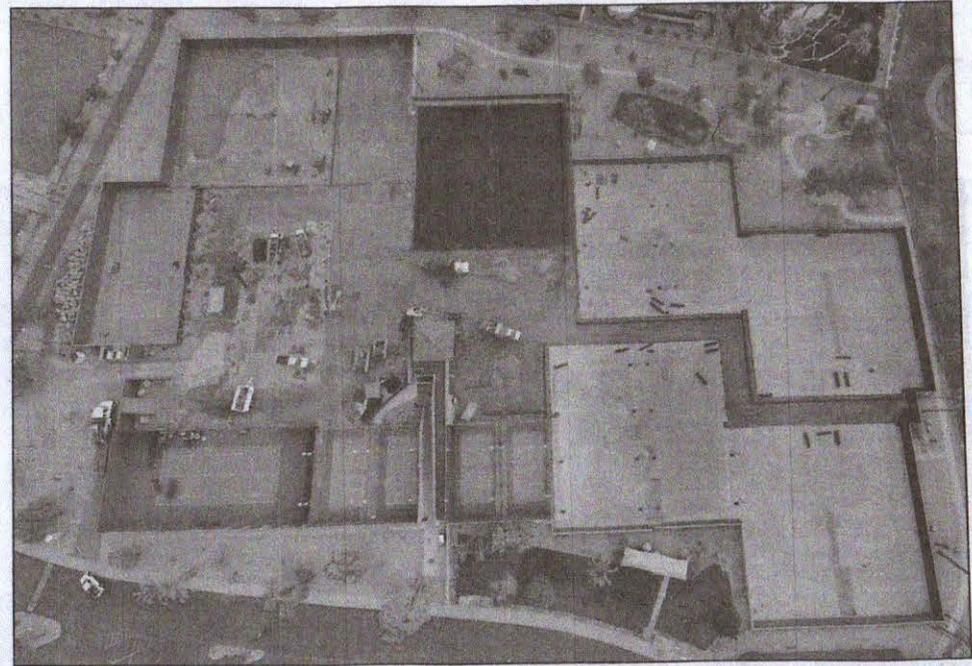
Phase 1 in fiscal year 2018 was budgeted for \$961,000. To date \$850,000 has been spent. The budgeted amount for Phase 2 in fiscal year 2019 is \$761,000. To date \$675,000 has been spent.

"The project is on target and expected to finish under budget," stated an email from RCSCW Recreation Activities Manager Kristie Rierster.

Tennis renovations were green lighted in May 2017 after a group of more than 1,000 residents tried to get a community election held.

The petition asked that the project be delayed until the community could vote on the expenditure. RCSCW By-laws, however, do not give members the authority, even through a petition, to affect the budget. That power rests with the governing board.

Although the planning and design costs for the entire project was budgeted in FY



This aerial photos taken in July shows the progress of upgrades to the R.H. Johnson Tennis Complex in Sun City West. [Courtesy RCSCW]

18, construction was budgeted in two fiscal years. The fear that all expenses would be carried out in one fiscal year appeared to be a driving force for the position.

"(Project Superintendent) Karl (Wilhelm) has been meeting with the (tennis) club regularly providing updates on the project. They are very excited about the new playing surface and more usable open space for viewing and events," stated

Ms. Rierster in her email.

One of R.H. Johnson's 16 courts was upgraded in 2017 at a cost of \$77,687 funded by Tennis Club. That court removed the last pickleball courts from R.H. Johnson as part of a compromise between the tennis and pickleball clubs. The compromise was designed to end the years-long bickering between the clubs.

During that compromise, it was recognized that the

tennis courts at Kuentz Recreation Center were increasingly underutilized.

At this time there are no plans to repurpose or renovate the courts at Kuentz, Ms. Rierster stated in her email. This discussion will likely be addressed once the space utilization study is presented at an upcoming board meeting in the fall, she stated.

## SUN CITY WEST



# Gambling getaway raffle benefits mural project

STAFF REPORT

Rolling the dice and banking on the community's generosity, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Governing Board's PR Committee is raffling a Las Vegas vacation package to benefit its Volunteer Mural Project.

The three-day, two-night stay allows the winning couple a choice of Nevada-based hotel destinations — including Las Vegas, Laughlin, Mesquite, Reno and Lake Tahoe — as well as in Tunica and Biloxi, Miss. An additional \$500 gaming book is available if the winners opt for a Las Vegas package.

"Raffle-ticket proceeds will move the mural project closer to the funding goals of the PR Committee," director Jack Steiner said. "This mural project will ensure the continued recognition of the most

vital resource in our community — our volunteers, wherever they serve — and this raffle should complement the funding donation drive."

Tickets, priced at \$5 each or five for \$20, are available in the Rec Centers' Box Office, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Box Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Participants will need to include names and phone numbers on their entries, so that the winner may be notified when the ticket is drawn at the governing board regular meeting set for 9 a.m. June 27 at R.H. Johnson Social Hall. Winners do not have to be present and will be contacted. If the winner is a part-time resident, the prize can be mailed to a summer residence. The package can be redeemed through

» See Tickets on page A5

VF  
Sun  
Rec Centers  
R.H. Johnson

Elizabeth Mullen, left, and Aileen Garvey have been putting the final touches on a mural in the courtyard at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West that celebrates the many volunteers in the retirement community. [Submitted photo]

## Muralists paint with pride

STAFF REPORT

Elizabeth Mullen and Aileen Garvey have spent a good deal of time in recent weeks in the courtyard at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West, putting the final touches on a mural.

The large painting celebrates the many volunteers

in the retirement community. "We're very honored that we could have the opportunity to do this mural," Mullen said of the piece that cost \$7,000 to produce.

"The mural will definitely tell a story, and there will be a few surprises added in at the same time," she said.

Both Garvey and Mullen are a part of the Sunwest Art Club and have worked on dozens of murals; many of Mullen's murals can be found in California, Michigan and New Mexico.

"Hopefully this will be a mural that we'll all be proud of and celebrate," Mullen said.

# Tickets

» From page A1  
April 30, 2014.

Steiner noted that artists already have done a significant portion of the painting on the 10-foot by 20-foot mural on the east side of the Lapidary Club room across from the Member Services Office, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The completed work not only will honor the hours contributed to the Rec Centers' facilities — such as the Library, Village Store and chartered clubs — but also all of the community's groups, including PORA, the Posse, PRIDES, Community Fund, Foundation, the churches, Meals on Wheels, the hospital and several other organizations.

Over the past few weeks, PR Committee members have set up shop at various community events and routinely manned a small table in front of the R.H. Johnson Library, informing residents about the project and accepting donations.

"Tuesdays and Saturdays by the library have been productive," noted Joe Ver Voort who, with his wife Sandy, serves on the PR Committee. "People coming to the library have been very gracious in stopping and thanking us for doing the mural for the



The 10-foot by 20-foot mural celebrating Sun City West is located on the east side of the Lapidary Club room across from the Member Services Office. [Submitted photo]

volunteers, and some have been generous in their contributions, which we appreciate."

Ver Voort said the Automotive Restoration Club recently invited the PR Committee to come to its meeting and make a presentation about the mural. Afterward, club members gave a generous donation to advance the project, he said.

"This (donation), in light of

the fact they're raising money for their own club building, moves me," Ver Voort said. "Members were able to see beyond their needs to honor the contributions of an entire community. That's a pretty humbling thing."

Ver Voort said committee members would be "happy to oblige" if other clubs were interested in having a PR Committee member come and share informa-

tion on the mural now in bloom on the east wall. For that purpose — as well as for learning additional locations where raffle tickets will be available — residents may call Joe and Sandy Ver Voort at 623-518-6644 or contact them via email at joesam2@cox.net.

Additional ticket purchasing opportunities will be posted at [www.scwaz.com](http://www.scwaz.com) as they are confirmed.

# New game rolls over shuffleboard

By Tina Gamez  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A game once synonymous with the lifestyle of the Sun Cities has been bowled over by technology.

Due to the declining popularity of shuffleboard, the area of the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion where the game was played is now a multipurpose room and home to Wii bowling and a weekend gathering place not unlike a local sports bar.

While shuffleboards can be rolled out on an as-needed basis, Bill Warren, a Recreation Centers of Sun City West staff member, said "this big multipurpose room is now big for Wii bowling." Twenty-five teams play in the Wii bowling league, he said. "It's a good group, and it appears to be growing every week."

Watson said there are 20 participants from the Ceramics West club that bowl on Wednesday nights, and "they have a blast." With the six screens, they can have 24 people playing at once.

» See Game on page A5



Bill Warren runs the shuffleboard room at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. [Tina Gamez/Daily News-Sun]

## Game

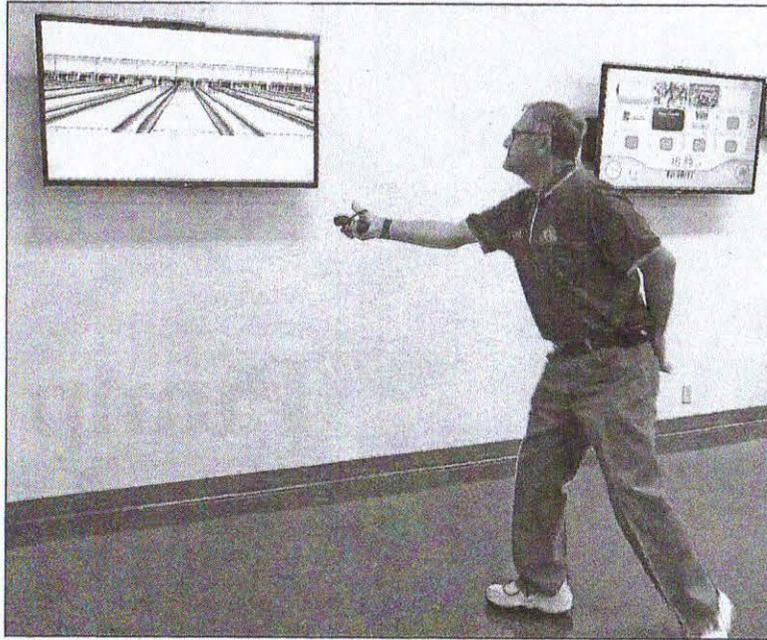
» From page A1

Watson said Wii Bowling allows bowlers and those who never bowled to get some exercise, particularly those who are "disabled in any way."

"You can stand close to the screen, stand back, act like you're really bowling, it looks like a real bowling program," Watson said.

In addition, the room has been used for meetings, special events such as concerts, and dancing. There also is a large screen TV and six small screen televisions tuned in to sports.

"We have the big screen which we use for the local games, but the other screens are all available for the other NFL or college games. It makes it a good, good variety," Watson said.



Bill Warren plays a game of Wii bowling inside the shuffleboard room at the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion. [Tina Gamez/Daily News-Sun]

In keeping with the sports bar theme, the room also has a portable bar.

"They can have snacks,

they can buy beer, wine, sodas. It kind of turns itself into a sports bar."

For information on Wii

bowling, call 623-544-6140 or visit <http://scwaz.com/wii-bowling-fall-league-sign-up-is-under-way/>

Thursday, May 3, 2012

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Community

A3

# Fitness center facelift doubles space, adds features

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carol Rigsby exercised at Beardsley Recreation Center for four months until work crews finished with the renovation of the R.H. Johnson fitness center.

The wait was worth it, Rigsby said.

"It's much larger in here and the equipment is so much better," Rigsby said.

The R.H. Johnson workout room reopened to residents Tuesday after an extensive renovation.

On Jan. 2, the fitness area closed as part of an overall update that included renovated rest rooms, outdoor showers and the monitor's station.

The main fitness room also doubled in size from 1,551 square feet to 2,925 square feet, and features a cardio room and a weight room. The weight room has two Smith machines, a circuit to work particular muscle groups, dumbbells up to 100 pounds, two dual-pulley machines and two styles of barbells.

On Tuesday, professionals from

Life Fitness assisted residents with learning how to use the equipment.

Sun City West resident Eddie Carino said he was impressed with the renovation and the equipment.

"This is so state-of-the-art now and better to use," Carino said. "I know the fitness (center) closed for a little bit but it was all well worth it."

Rich Barrett also worked out at Beardsley during the renovation and said he didn't mind the drive to the other location.

"It's about the same distance either way, so I wasn't upset when R.H. Johnson closed, but I'm glad to be back here," Barrett said.

Barrett exercised on the first day the R.H. Johnson fitness center reopened and received some instruction on how to use the equipment.

In addition, Rigsby said it will be easier to work out.

"The fitness center was smaller and often cramped during the busy season with the winter visitors, but now this alleviates some congestion," Rigsby said.



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARTINEZ/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carol Rigsby uses one of the new machines in the expansion of the R. H. Johnson fitness center on Wednesday. The new room has nearly doubled the space in the center.



Rich Barrett works on his legs at the R. H. Johnson fitness center in Sun City West. The facility underwent an expansion and renovation, adding a new room for cardio equipment, as well as new machines.

## Sun City West Visitors Center: A decade of service



Sun Cities Independent/Matt Loeschman

Volunteers at the Sun City West Visitors Center are ready to help anyone who comes in. Pictured, front left to right, are Manager Marilee Nelson, Ginny Bagni and Rita Skopick; back, Ray Youngman, David Silverman and Bruce Posey.

## Facility a 'valuable resource'

By Matt Loeschman  
Independent Newspapers

Nearly 10 years after its opening, the Sun City West Visitors Center remains a valuable asset to the community.

"We want to let people know that we are not just for the out-of-towner who might be looking to move to our community," said Property Owners and Residents Association Director Bruce Posey. "The visitors center serves a wide variety of purposes for both those seeking to come to Sun City West and current residents as well."

The center, 13823 W. Camino del Sol, will mark its 10th anniversary next year.

"Our main mission is to attract people who don't know Sun City West from Tucumcari East," Mr. Posey joked. "We want them to know what Sun City West is all about. We try to get the word out in different ways."

With one step inside the center, visitors see a "mecca for all that is Sun City West." There are colorful displays, multitudes of pamphlets, a room for viewing promotional videos and other amenities geared toward promoting the

### Related link

[www.suncitywest.org](http://www.suncitywest.org)

community. A greeter welcomes everyone who comes inside the building that is also home to PORA's headquarters.

"The volunteers who work here are tremendous," said Visitors Center Manager Marilee Nelson. "Some have been with us since the start in 1997. We wouldn't be where we are without them and I cannot thank them enough for their help."

What makes Sun City West a so-called "oasis in the desert?" Mr. Posey listed multiple reasons.

The director said the community has an attractive housing market.

Mr. Posey said Sun City West is enjoying "glory days" right now with only about 100 homes for sale. At one point, approximately 30 homes were on the market but there were times when more than 800 Sun City West homes were up for sale.

"It's a good situation right now," Mr. Posey said. "There is a fairly good selection of homes but people are not

leaving the community.

"These are the good times and I expect that to continue," he added. "Look at all the growth around us. This is a nice place to settle down for retirees."

More than 1,000 homes sold in Sun City West in 2005. There are approximately 17,000 houses in the community.

Visitors center employees believe the community's amenities — including seven golf courses, four recreation centers and numerous entertainment venues — are second to none.

"This is an active community, unlike some other retirement communities," Ms. Nelson said. "It's very clean and well maintained. We don't believe you can find any place that is better."

Additionally, there are many volunteer opportunities in Sun City West.

So what is the best way to promote the community?

The Visitors Center runs advertisements in magazines geared toward senior citizens.

They are also partnered

See Visitors — Page 5

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## Visitors

Continued From Page 1

with the state office of tourism and volunteers are knowledgeable about other areas of Arizona.

Guests are offered a one-one-one interview to determine their needs. A 10-minute video is available, detailing what the community has to offer.

Those visiting the center can also take guided tours of the community.

The available information packet is loaded with Sun City West materials, including a checklist to compare Sun City West amenities with other communities guests may choose to

visit.

"We feel like we stack up well against anyone," Mr. Posey said.

The manager said all residents can utilize the Visitors Center.

"Some residents may have forgotten all that Sun City West has to offer," Ms. Nelson said. "We can refresh their memories."

Volunteer David Silverman, a Sun City West resident since 1994, has assisted at the visitors center for the past three years.

"When people ask me if I like it here, I say no. I love it here," Mr. Silverman said. "I enjoy working with people so this is a perfect fit for me."

"The Visitors Center provides an important service," he added.

"I have seen it work many, many times."

Volunteers are busy, with more than 100 people per day coming into the Visitors Center.

The center is run like a non-profit organization using contributions from both businesses and local residents.

They are constantly seeking volunteers. Those interested should call or stop by.

The visitors center is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-3 p.m. on Sunday. The center can be reached at 214-8629 or 1 (800) 482-3798.

*Post your comments on this issue at [www.newszapforums.com/forum29](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum29).*

*Reach News Editor Matt Loeschman at 972-6101 or*

*[mloeschman@newszap.com](mailto:mloeschman@newszap.com).*

## Grand Opening for new pickleball courts

By Marianne Sikler

Pickleball players turned out in force last week to celebrate the ribbon-cutting to dedicate three new lighted pickleball courts at the Johnson Tennis Center. Two sets of bleachers were filled with well wishers as the courts were dedicated, to see the Pickleball Club officially receive its charter.

In attendance were members of management and staff Mike Whiting, Linda Murray, Barbara James, and Larry Griffith, as well as RCSCW Directors Ray Caldwell, Martin Bell, Paul Breza, Randy Fuller, Ronni Hoover and Sunny Wandro.

Whiting opened the dedication proceedings, and spoke of the importance of "keeping the premier community of Sun City West in premier condition." The new courts prominently fill an open space that had been left barren at the Johnson Tennis Center for several years. Total cost for the three lighted courts was \$65,832. The contractor was Ernie Lazano of Abba Concrete who was there to oversee last minute touches to the courts and stayed to attend the celebration.

Whiting said the new courts were constructed in answer to a need expressed by members of

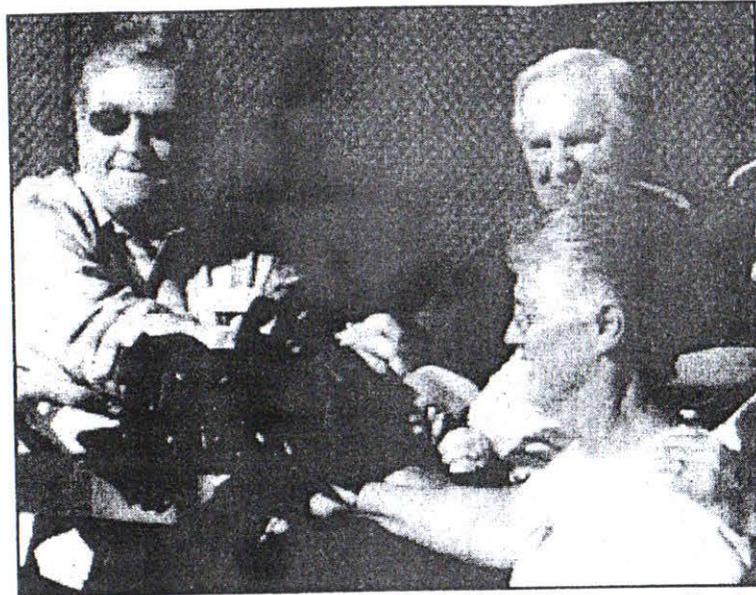
the community, due to the emergence of the sport of pickleball—a racquet sport that has caught on nationally with seniors. The senior communities of Sun City Grand, Sun City, Happy Trails and The Traditions have already added pickleball courts to their sports venues. The three pickleball courts added at Johnson are a first for Sun City West, which as a newly chartered club lists 300 members of the community who actively participate in the sport.

At a previous first Pickleball Club meeting, members voted in a slate of officers that included Martha Wasserman as president; Charlie Robinson, vice president; Sherri Reimold, secretary; and Jerry Funk, treasurer. Teresa Smith was named director at large.

Whiting credits Wasserman and Robinson with persistence in seeing the construction project through to completion.

"I feel I've just received a gentle beating from Martha and

Charlie, who sat across the desk from me one day and gave a very convincing argument of why the pickleball courts should be built," he said.



RCSCW Gen. Mgr. Mike Whiting (l.) lends a helping hand to Martha Wasserman in the ribbon cutting dedication of new pickleball courts at R. H. Johnson.

Photo, Marianne Sikler

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Wasserman partnered with Ross Shimabuku, a sports anchor for Channel 3 television, in a sports challenge against club members Mike Johnson and Laurel Andrew. The match is scheduled to be aired on television in November.

Shimabuku anchors The Sports Show aired Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

The game was a gutsy first attempt at pickleball for Shimabuku, who appeared to quickly grasp how it is played, and to his delight managed to whip in a few winning points.

The celebration concluded with cake and coffee served after the demonstration, and more pickleball played on the brand new courts by enthusiastic and grateful club members.

KATY O'GRADY/RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST

# R.H. Johnson Lanes set to reopen Sept. 1

## STAFF REPORT

It's almost time to bowl in Sun City West.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West will celebrate the reopening of R.H. Johnson Lanes and the Sports Pavilion with a grand opening celebration beginning at 10 a.m. on Sept. 1. Residents are invited for free bowling, hot dogs, beverages, door prizes and entertainment.

Governing Board directors will kick off the celebration by cutting the ribbon on the Sports Pavilion to unveil the remodeled center. The Sports Pavilion has been closed since May for a \$700,000 remodeling project.

The food will be served starting at 11 a.m., and free bowling will continue until the pavilion closes at 9 p.m.

"This is the most exciting event we've planned in the 13 years I've been here," said Annette Snow-James, the Sports Pavilion manager.

The grand opening will continue with discounted rates and specials Sept. 2 through Sept. 4.

Some of the new features in R.H. Johnson include touch-screen scorers and 36-inch monitors hanging above each lane. Bowlers can also watch TV in between shots on several screens positioned between the

## AT A GLANCE

**WHAT:** R.H. Johnson Lanes and Sports Pavilion reopening

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. on Sept. 1

**WHERE:** R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

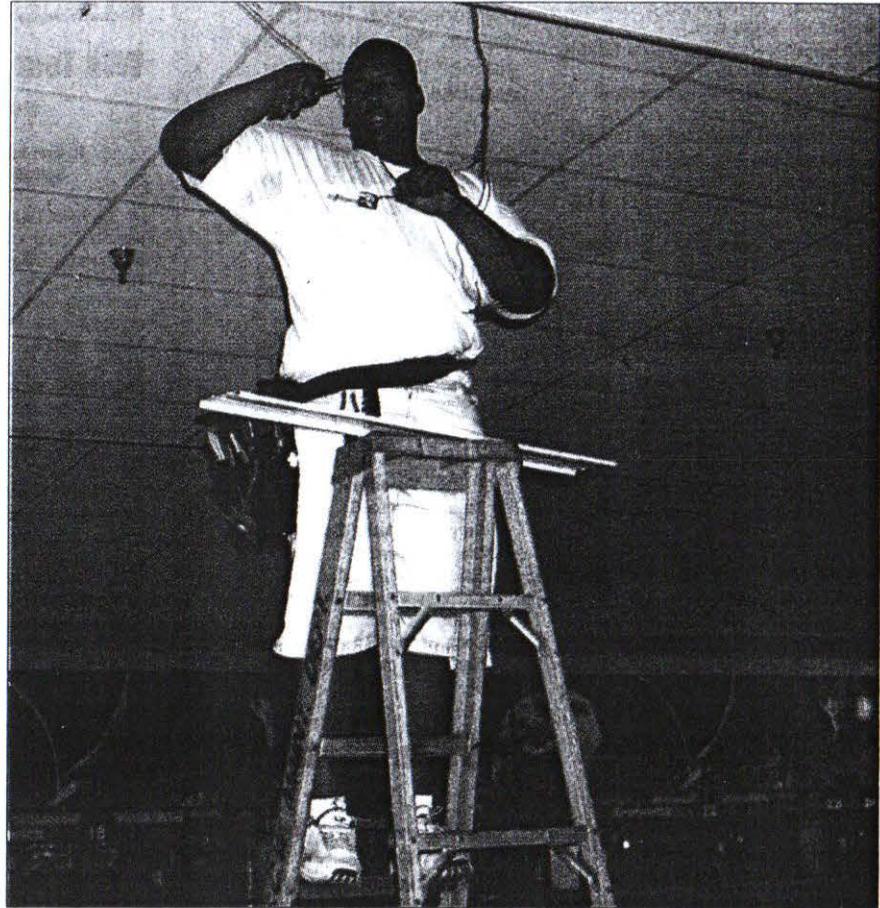
monitors. The new video system also gives patrons the opportunity to honor birthdays, anniversaries, high scores or other special occasions.

"We know our most fervent bowlers will love the upgrades, but we're also confident newcomers and those who haven't bowled in a while will find themselves heading to the Sports Pavilion once they see what it has to offer," said Mike Whiting, Rec Centers general manager.

Along with the equipment, the pavilion also has been updated with a vibrant backdrop featuring colorful scenes from Arches National Park in Utah, and additional lighting in the concourse area.

The pavilion upgrade marks the Rec Centers' largest project since the first three phases of the Beardley Recreation Center remodeling were finished last year.

A \$400,000 remodel and expansion of the R.H. Johnson Library is set to begin in March.



KATY O'GRADY/RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST

Marcus Anderson of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West changes a ballast over the lanes in the Sports Pavilion.

June 4, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# Pool closure plan irks SCW swimmers

## Petition drive launched

By Erik Burg  
Independent Newspapers

Sun City West residents Pat and Steve Holm come to the pool at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center every day to exercise and socialize.

"We walk in the water with our friends," Ms. Holm said. "This pool is one of the reasons we moved here."

But residents who enjoy R.H. Johnson pool may be forced to take their activities elsewhere during the winter months if a recommendation by the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Budget and Finance Committee to close the facility during November, December and January is approved.

The recommended closure would save an estimated

\$35,000, RCSCW General Manager George Grimstad said.

Mr. Grimstad said the R.H. Johnson pool was selected for closure from among three pool sites in Sun City West due in part to the fact it has a "stand-alone monitor," someone who checks to confirm that those using the pool are residents or residents' guests.

At Kuentz and Palm Ridge Recreation Centers, monitors check membership cards for multiple facilities, such as fitness rooms and an indoor walking track.

According to RCSCW data, R.H. Johnson pool dipped to an average of 35 users per day in the month of December last year, compared to an average of 56 users per day at Kuentz and 50 users at Palm Ridge

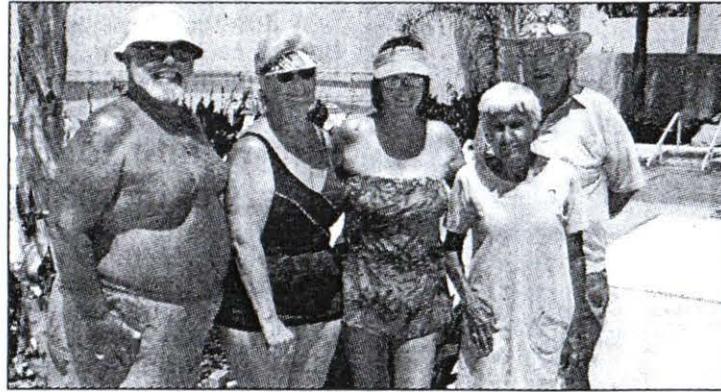


Photo by Erik Burg/Independent Newspapers

**Sun City West residents, left to right, Steve Holm, Pat Holm, Ingrid Miller, Dorie Keough and Don Dufresne, poolside at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, do not want the RCSCW to close their favorite pool for three months of the year.**

during the same month.

Upon hearing about the possible three-month shutdown of the pool she frequents three times a week, resident Ingrid Miller drew up a petition to keep it open. So far, she

said she has collected 200 signatures.

Many of the signees were not even users of R.H. Johnson Pool, but of the pool at Kuentz, who simply didn't want to see an influx of swim-

mers at their pool, she said.

"It makes me very nervous," Ms. Miller said. "If they can't make the budget next year, what else are they going to cut?"

Resident Karen Stoutmeyer said she believes that if everyone from R.H. Johnson Pool began going to the pool at Kuentz for those three months, there would definitely be a crowding problem.

"They don't have the room at Kuentz," Ms. Stoutmeyer said. "They would be tripping over themselves if they moved."

Although a final decision has yet to be made, Mr. Grimstad said the board will have to find another means of saving the same amount of money if it doesn't take this step.

"We've got to find got to find a way to reduce costs by \$35,000," he said. "If it's not the pool, than somewhere else,

so we stay within the budget."

Or each of the 31,000 recreation club members could pay an additional dollar per year, according to Mr. Grimstad. The yearly membership fees are increasing by six dollars, to \$180, according to the board's 2003-04 budget approved May 22.

"This was an area where the Budget and Finance Committee thought we should see where we can reduce costs instead of raising fees," Mr. Grimstad said.

Many swimmers said it doesn't make sense to close a pool down in the winter, given the high volume of winter visitors and renters.

"When people come from Canada or Minnesota, and it's below zero there, 50 or 60 degrees is heaven to them," Ms. Miller said. "Why would they want to come all this way to swim in an indoor pool?"

Monday, April 12, 1993 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# Sun Cities rate with grandkids

By ROSÁ De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

Forget Fort Lauderdale.

The Sun Cities are "where it's at" for Spring Break '93.

Just ask grandchildren visiting relatives in Sun City and Sun City West.

"I like the pool, the library, the miniature golf and the sun — and visiting my grandparents," said 12-year-old Brooke Blucher.

Brooke and her mother, Mary, are escaping the chill of Michigan for two weeks by visiting Brooke's grandfather, Phillip Martel, in Sun City West.

"We haven't had much of that (sun) in Michigan this year," Mary said.

The mother-daughter duo has visited Sun City West annually since the Martels moved here. There are always plenty of activities in the area to keep guests entertained, Martel said.

The same can be said for Sun City, vacationers said.

"We have a full schedule of activities for them," said Mabel Mauerman, whose grandchildren are in town from Washington.

"We've got a lot of things here that we can do with them," said husband Dean.

While swimming was the first of those treats planned for 9-year-old  
See Sun lures, A6

# Sun lures youths to Sun Cities

—From A1

Tara and 12-year-old Dean, miniature golf was a close second, the visitors said.

"We like it here — it's so hot," Tara said.

It may not be in the 100-degree range yet, but for visitors from the likes of Nebraska and Minnesota, it's close enough.

More than 200 people signed in at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center pool from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday alone.

The number of people using the pool daily has jumped in the past few weeks from more than 100 to at least 300 and often 400 or 500, said Ed Woida, a pool monitor.

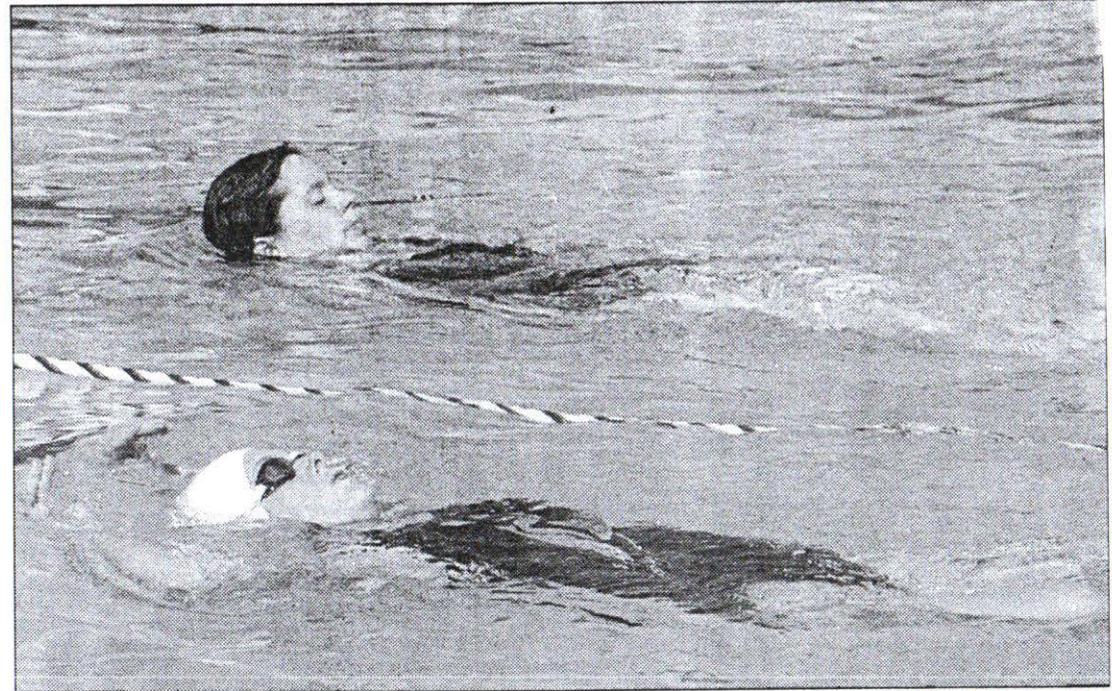
"These kids just love this pool," he said.

Fifteen-year-old Gwen Allen of Omaha, Neb., for example, and grandmother Marvelyn Peterson of Sun City West were poolside Wednesday.

"I love it here," Allen said. "I usually play putt-putt, go shopping and go to the pool."

Aside from seeing the obvious increase of visitors to the Sun Cities at area recreation centers or on community sidewalks, the hike in numbers is demonstrated in the sale of guest passes.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. sold more than 400 guest passes between March 22 and April 8, said a



Rick D'Ella/Daily News-Sun

Celia Hadden of Davenport, Iowa, top, swims with her mom, Sun City West resident Lucille McMullen at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center pool.

clerk in the rec centers' admission office.

Each guest visit costs residents \$1. Guest passes with five, 10, 15 or 20 visits may be purchased.

High guest pass sales will continue throughout the summer, then decrease by September and sales will pick up again in November in time for Thanksgiving holidays, the clerk said.

Sun City West residents are given 24 free guest visits upon purchase of their annual rec cards. In Sun City, where sales of guest passes are higher, residents do not receive any guest passes with their membership cards.

About 75 guest passes were sold between March 22 and April 6, said Barb Fisher, supervisor of membership for Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc.

"If a resident doesn't want to accompany (the guest) he can get a guest pass," she said.

Sun City West residents who buy separate guest passes usually do so because their grandchildren are teen-agers who often prefer to participate in some activities without grandparents, Fisher said.

The guest passes are valid for all rec centers' activities except golf, for which residents must check their guests in.

# Landscape project cuts grass, spares green

By DAVE REUTER  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Ron Randall sees a different shade of green than most people when he gazes at the grassy areas around R.H. Johnson Recreation Center and the nearby Johnson Library.

"What I see is the color of greenbacks being spent to maintain lush grassy areas in the middle of the desert," said Randall, the SCW Recreation Centers director of maintenance, as he stood in front of the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion looking across the parking lot toward the library. "This isn't upstate New York. Grass is as out of place here as desert landscaping would be there."

Randall, along with Harry Spence and Dick DeFranco, over the past couple of years have quietly begun eliminating turf areas around Johnson rec center. And when they finish with Johnson, they will set their sights on Beardsley Recreation Center.

The Johnson rec center is at 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Beardsley rec center is at 12755 Beardsley Drive.

Spence and DeFranco, both Sun City West residents, are members of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board's Properties Committee. Spence is the 1992 chairman.

"What we're talking here is money — big money," Spence said as he walked along a sidewalk in front of Johnson rec center pointing out the areas where grass has been eliminated. "Since we got started with this in the fall of 1989 we've seen savings of \$13,000 a year in water pumping charges, \$15,000 a year in labor savings and \$10,000 a year in reduced water costs."

In 1992 more than 72,000 square feet of turf have been removed from various areas around Johnson rec center, Randall said. "Next year we're looking at removing 53,900 square feet from Beardsley rec center."

Toward the end of next year the only turf areas remaining at Beardsley and Johnson will be athletic fields. The grass at Beardsley Park will also remain, Randall said.

The Fred P. Kuentz Recreation Center, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd., is already surrounded by desert landscaping.

"This whole thing began when we began to notice problems with moisture at several areas around the Johnson center," DeFranco said. "We had problems with runoff from the sprinklers. Water was finding its way up through the floors. Sidewalks and parking areas were also damaged. After spending more than \$100,000 on replacing the dance floor at the social hall we saw other problems all relating to water, the citrus trees and the grass."

"The Properties Committee got together with Ron Randall and talked about the situation and what we could do to not only eliminate the moisture problems, but also look at saving water and reducing costs," Spence said.

"There's really no formal game plan or timeline to the turf elimination project," Randall said. "As something comes up we'll do it. For example, when the work began this summer on the Sports Pavilion we took the opportunity to tear out the turf and convert the landscaping."

"It looks pretty good, don't you think?" said Spence. "It's all done in-house. Ron designs the

landscape and then his crews get it done."

It cost the rec centers about \$10,000 to make the turf conversions to date and officials are expecting to spend \$10,000 more to complete the work at Johnson and Beardsley.

Reaction from residents has been nil, the three agreed.

"It's been happening so slowly that a lot of people probably haven't even noticed," Spence said. "I know I haven't had a single call about it."

DeFranco, too, said he'd heard

no complaints.

"It's just been done quietly without a lot of fanfare. Sometimes, you know, you can get more done with less noise," De Franco said.

"I just think everyone out

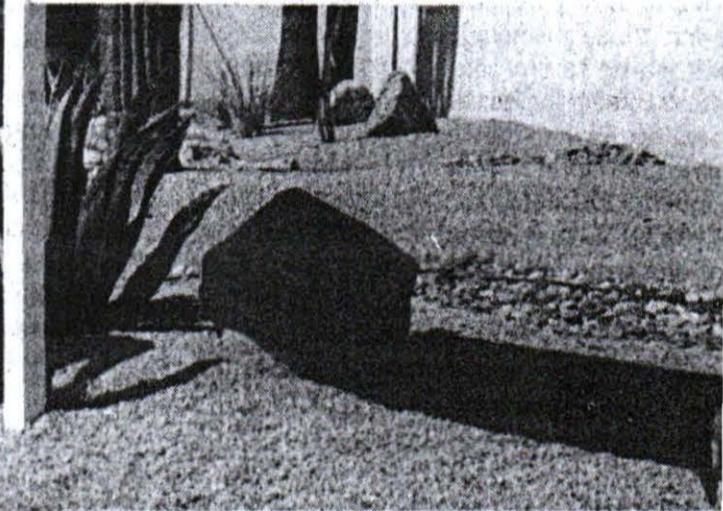
here (in Sun City West) is more used to the desert landscaping. It's all you see. It's not like some of the earlier sections of Sun City where a lot of grass still exists," Randall said as he bent down to double-check a capped off sprinkler head.



THE RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY WEST  
AND  
DEL WEBB CORPORATION  
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Watch the amenities grow as the community grows



Dave Reuter/Daily News

Properties Committee Chairman Harry Spence, left, is joined by Dick DeFranco, center, and Ron Randall on a

new desert-landscaped area in front of the R.H. John Sports Pavilion.

# Talent pool

## Synchronized swimmers plunge into limelight

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

### Sun City West

**S**wimmers from one desert community are visiting another to celebrate — in stylized maneuvers — the opening of a jewel in the Nevada desert.

The Sun City West Synchronettes are in Sun City Las Vegas, at the behest of the Del Webb Corp., to inaugurate the pool at the Sun Shadows Community Center.

Sun Shadows is a satellite recreation center, much like the ones in Arizona that make life so agreeable in the Sun Cities.

But the Synchronettes? Not the Sun City Poms?

"It's true, we don't get asked as much," said Synchronette spokeswoman Nancy Staley, laughing. "But I think it's probably because we can't do anything on stage or in a parade."

"The organizations in the Sun Cities have so much fun, they make wonderful ambassadors," said Martha Moyer, manager of public and community relations for Del Webb's Sun City West.

About 10 of the 20 Synchronettes members are in Las Vegas for the opening, Staley said. They will do an abbreviated routine in their admittedly abbreviated costumes of bright Lycra and sequins.

The new pool, Staley said, is only 4½ feet deep and thus precludes many of their more acrobatic moves. Instead, they'll concentrate on floating routines.

The Synchronettes, formed about 10 years ago with a nucleus

See **SWIMMERS**, Page 3

sota several years ago, teaching swimming and life-saving according to the American Red Cross manual. She learned to swim as a child of 10 in a bend of the Mississippi River, and has been swimming ever since.

But synchronized swimming is something else, she said. The highly controlled, ballet-like routines move at a measured pace with scarcely a ripple. It doesn't come naturally, she said.

"It's harder than it looks," she said. The Sun City West group has been sending teams to the Arizona Senior Olympics and winning medals for eight years now, and competition includes compulsory figures, in the same spirit as the figures that skaters once traced on the ice before judges.

"That's the hardest part," Staley said. "It takes a lot more stamina than you'd think, and even though we don't get our legs as high out of the water as those sweet young things do, we work at this hard enough to know it's a difficult sport, and we get into arguments with people who say it shouldn't be."

Most of the group are accomplished, seasoned swimmers, but one and all have come up with mud on their faces when they first tackle those figures, Staley said.

And working that hard, it seems a shame they don't draw a bigger crowd, she said, but traditionally, synchronized swimming, even at the Olympic level, doesn't pack the house.

Nevertheless, the act will certainly play as well in Las Vegas as it does just west of Peoria.

### From Page 1

of five members, are tight as performers, but a little loose in organization and background.

The thing is, Staley said, "We learned to do this from a book." That would be "Water Stunts and Basic Synchronized Swimming," published by the American Red Cross.

They were so green, Staley said, they didn't know that synchronized swimmers — everyone except Esther Williams of the Silver Screen — wore nose clips. When they worked on underwater somersaults, there were some plain and fancy sinus problems, she said.

It took the Synchronettes a few years to catch up with details like that, and by then, they'd also found a coach, Ruth Zink of Sun City West, a member of the Synchronized Swimmers Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and a judge on the national level in events leading to the Olympics.

Zink, and fully half the membership of the Synchronettes, have fled the Valley's heat for the summer.

But the other half, the women ages 57 to 79 who were called to Las Vegas, turn up at the recreation center for an hour's team practice six days a week, after swimming warm-up laps.

No big deal, Staley said, all were basically swimmers before becoming synchronized swimmers. Staley herself worked her way through the University of Minne-



Community  
The Sun City West Synchronettes include (front, from left) Barbara Parker, Nancy Staley and Sue Ward. On diving board from left: Huan-Shou Meng, Pat Blinn and Kathleen White. Standing from left: Cindy Bratcher, Maude Meyers, Marilyn Rubendunst and Shelagh Harris.

# Shuffleboard cuts dominate meeting

First of two parts  
By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Sun City West expansion issues continue to dominate every community public meeting.

At Tuesday's Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board open meeting, comments focused on the proposed elimination of five shuffleboard courts and the addition of more bowling lanes in the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion.

Harry Spence, chairman of the Advisory Board's Properties Committee, outlined what went into the shuffleboard decision.

Spence said the Resident Expansion Committee's decision to eliminate five of the 10 shuffleboard courts was unanimous and came after extensive surveys and data indicated that with expansion more space would be needed for bowling and billiards.

The five courts will be replaced by

## Sun City West board sets new policy for hearings

During Tuesday's Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board meeting, Public Relations Committee Chairman Al Spanjer announced the board's new policy statement on public hearings.

"When a (centers) committee addresses an issue they consider controversial, the chairman will contact the Advisory Board president and the (centers) general manager to make known the committee's desire to conduct a public hearing," Spanjer said. "Members' feelings and concerns on both sides of any issue could be expressed in an open forum."

After publicly announcing the forum, Spanjer said the Advisory Board will give residents two weeks to prepare for it.

Those people who wish to address an issue pro or con may submit their request to speak to the respective committee but will be limited in the time they can speak, Spanjer said.

"The chair will alternate speakers with different views and if time permits, the committee will hear speakers who have not requested time prior to the meeting," Spanjer said.

"After the hearing, the committee will reconvene to submit their written

recommendations to the Advisory Board. At the open meeting after a committee recommendation, the Advisory Board will announce its decision and forward its recommendation to the Governing Board."

Resident John Scolastico wanted to know what would constitute a controversial issue.

"The Advisory Board will determine whether a matter is sufficiently controversial to hold a public meeting," said President Cass Ruhlman. "We may have a controversy in determining whether it is a controversy."

five additional billiard tables, up to 1,000 bowlers lockers and a small sports pavilion manager's room. The lockers

are being moved to make room for six additional bowling lanes to the 24-lane alley.

"The 10 courts open are available for 3,846 hours a year. With five courts, 1,923 hours would be available for shufflers. January is the busiest month, averaging 1,022 signups."

The committee determined the courts are in use only 15 percent of the 90 1/2 hours per week the sports pavilion is open.

The shuffleboard supporters have said that more people will turn to shuffleboard as they age and cannot bowl or golf any more.

But in comparing shuffleboard court usage in Sun City, with its older pop-

ulation, the committee determined that the Lakeview, Fairway and Oakmont Recreation Center courts weren't being used at all.

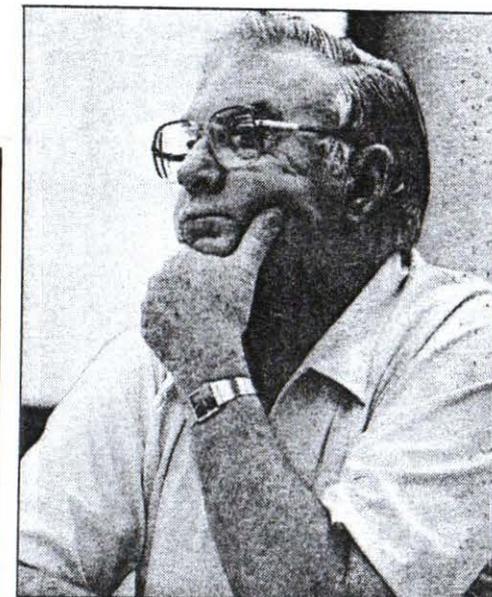
Spence said eight Bell Recreation Center courts averaged 349 signups a month and 10 Sundial courts averaged 618 monthly signups.

Another consideration, Spence said, was the high costs of heating and air conditioning 9,558 square feet and 95,000 cubic feet of shuffleboard area. That's the equivalent of more than five average Sun City West residences.

"By reducing the courts from 10 to

five, we would utilize unused space worth \$70 to \$80 a square foot and save (the centers) from \$334,500 to \$382,320 a year," Spence said.

"If we expand the billiard area one table length into the shuffleboard area, we can add five tables," he said. "By moving the sports pavilion manager's office and the lockers to the shuffleboard area, we provide centralized space for the sports pavilion and eliminate costs associated with temperature control, air conditioning and heating. By adding more lockers, we



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Advisory Board Properties Committee Chairman Harry Spence listens to a resident's question about the board's decision to eliminate five shuffleboard courts in the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion.

increase income (\$12 rent per locker per year) to help offset centers' operating costs."

Finally, Spence noted other centers' clubs are being squeezed more than the shufflers. He said the 700-member Computer West Club has only 550 square feet of operating space and the 800-plus member Bocce Club uses its outdoor courts much more than the shufflers use their indoor courts.

Next: Webb responds to residents' questions about the company's ability to fund expansion project.

### —From A1

1990 by the advisory board, tracked shuffleboard court usage from 1986 to show there was no meaningful increase to justify leaving all 10 courts intact.

Usage figures included guests and non-members in addition to the 121 Western Shufflers members who have protested the decision by picketing the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts and Del Webb's 14 new model homes.

"The average signup for shufflers per year for the last six years is 9,018 or 745 signups per month," Spence said.

Monday, October 21, 1991

# Northwest COMMUNITY

## Shuffleboard backers oppose adding bowling lanes

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Six bowling lanes costing a total of about \$700,000 would be added to the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center under a proposal being considered by the Sun City West Recreation Centers Advisory Board.

But the possible elimination of five shuffleboard courts to provide

room for the bowling lanes has sparked a controversy.

Shuffleboard supporters spoke at Tuesday's board meeting about their concerns over shuffleboard courts being replaced by bowling alleys.

Jack O'Connor, chairman of the board's expansion committee, said, "We will do everything we can to keep at least five shuffleboard

courts in the sports pavilion."

Clifford Stewart, president of the shuffleboard court club, said players do not want any of their indoor courts moved outdoors because hot weather would hinder summer play.

Some shuffleboard players said the indoor shuffleboard courts are what attracted them to Sun City West, and they cannot play golf or

bowl because of arthritis and other disabilities.

However, board member Al Spanjer said the shuffleboard courts are not being used very often.

He said an average of 18 people a day use the 10 shuffleboard courts, while there are about 425 bowlers daily using the 24 bowling lanes.

Sun City West resident Phil Vision said he believes that additional indoor shuffleboard courts should be built rather than eliminating some. He said shuffleboard will be needed more than ever as residents age and can no longer participate in more active sports.

Adding more bowling lanes is one of the issues being considered in response to Del Webb Co.'s

plans to expand Sun City West.

Webb will provide \$12.5 million to build a new recreation center and a new 18-hole championship golf course and expand existing facilities. Besides expanding the bowling alley, a proposal is being considered to add storage and dressing room space at the Stardust Theater.

See REC, Page 4

The recreation center — which is to be the fourth for Sun City West — will have a swimming pool and therapy spa, a fitness center, a large social hall, six multipurpose rooms and a 900-space parking lot. There also will be an 18-hole miniature golf course.

Among unanswered questions, O'Connor said, are whether to have an indoor or outdoor swimming pool and how large to make the social hall.

O'Connor said he is meeting with club representatives to discuss the new center.

"We can't build everything we'd like because we have a budget to meet," O'Connor said. "We need to do things for the most members."

Board member Bill McCutcheon is chairing the committee to design the new golf course, which will be restricted to 90 acres of turf under state law.

"We are an aging community. We will have some degree of difficulty but maintain the ability to play," McCutcheon said.

The Sun City West expansion area, expected to add about 3,000 dwellings to the community, is bounded by Deer Valley Road, Pinnacle Peak Road, 135th Avenue and 151st Avenue.

The expansion probably will be completed by the late 1990s, Webb officials said. Groundbreaking for

**"We are an aging community. We will have some degree of difficulty but maintain the ability to play."**

**Bill McCutcheon**  
Sun City West  
Recreation Centers  
Advisory Board

the new area is expected by early 1992, with home sales by 1993.

Because Webb's presence in the community will continue for several years, the company will continue to retain control of the governing board that oversees operation of the recreation centers' facilities.

The governing board has five members representing Webb and four members from the nine-member advisory board elected by Sun City West Recreation Centers members.

After Webb's subsidy of the Trail Ridge golf course ends at the end of 1991, all existing Recreation Centers facilities will be operated and maintained with revenues from membership dues. Among the facilities are the Johnson, Kuentz and Beardsley Park centers and the Pebblebrook, Grandview, Echo Mesa, Trail Ridge and Stardust golf courses.

# C *Northwest* COMMUNITY

THE  
PHOENIX  
GAZETTE

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Wednesday, July 10, 1991

## Romping room

### Sun Cities offer playgrounds, activities for grandchildren

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

#### *Sun Cities*

**A** playground may seem out of place in a retirement community that prohibits youngsters as permanent residents.

But Sun City West residents were concerned about their visiting grandchildren having a place to romp, so Del Webb Corp., Sun City West's developer, installed slides, swings and other equipment outside the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

There are two sets of equipment — one for 2- to

5-year-olds and the other for 6- to 10-year-olds.

"We have a variety of activities for the older children in Sun City West but for the little ones there wasn't really much for them to do," Webb spokeswoman Martha Moyer said. "Since there are so many visiting their grandparents, we thought we'd put in a playground."

The playground, which was finished in October 1989, is intended for guests of Sun City West residents. There are no monitors on duty so youngsters must be accompanied by an adult.

In neighboring Sun City, there are no playgrounds

but the recreation centers offer an array of fun activities for children who are guests of members.

"Miniature golf is very popular with our young visitors here," said Caroline Thomas, club coordinator for the Sun City Recreation Centers.

Five of the Sun City golf courses offer miniature golf, but participants must be at least 8 years old and be accompanied by an adult.

In the summer, certain pools are designated for children at least 4 years old. The times the pools are available at six recreation centers are staggered so

See **KIDS**, Page 8

# Dog park is pooch paradise

## Pooch place

### SCW park gives dogs place to romp

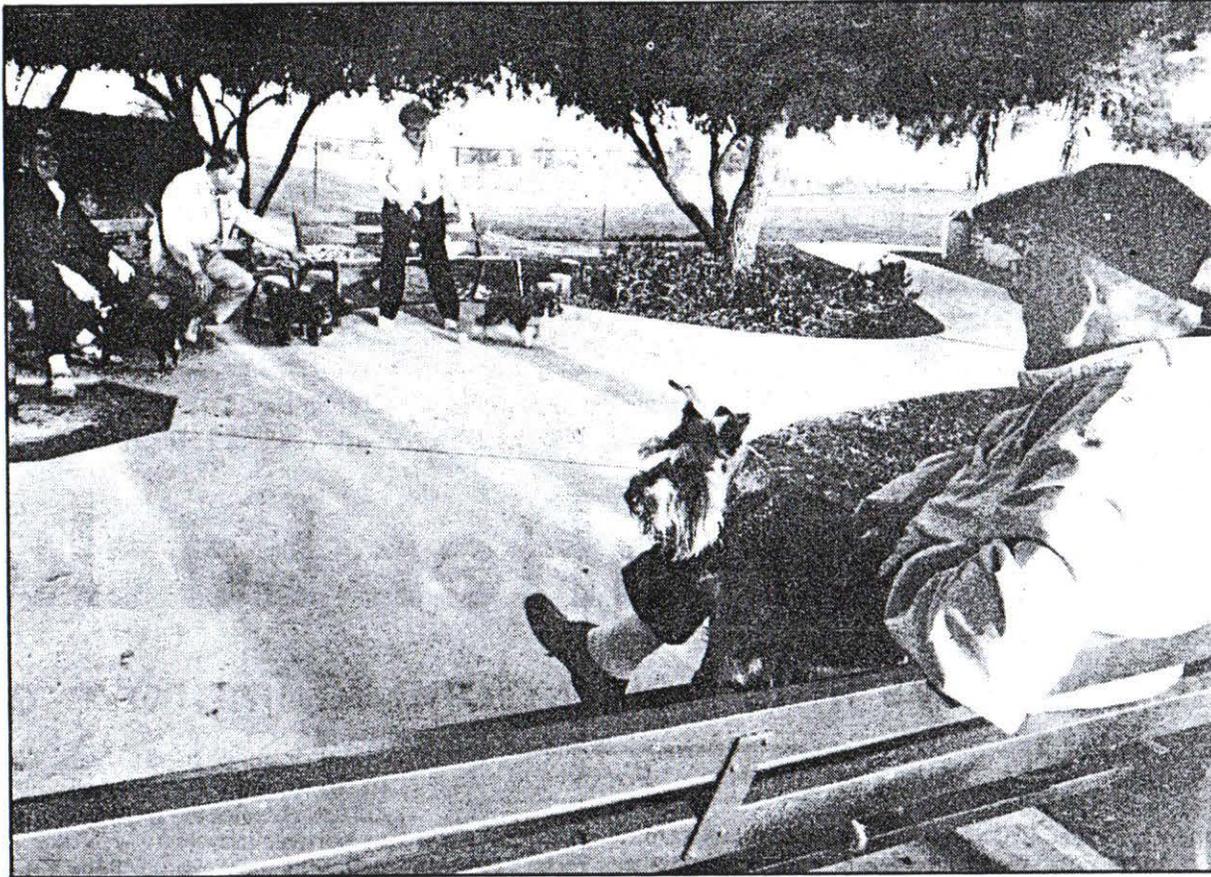
By JENNIFER ARP  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — It has been said that a dog is man's best friend.

To perpetuate that relationship, pooch and owner can find peace and happiness in a park, nestled in the far corner of the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center.

Bustling with dogs and their masters early morning and late afternoon, the Sun City West Dog Park features a handful of sniffable faux fire hydrants, live trees and shrubbery. Its amenities for humans include benches, a walking path and a view of surrounding recreational facilities.

"There are wonderful people there. Usually you find people who are dog lovers. Usually



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**POOCH PARADISE** — Robbie, a ten-year-old Schnauzer, sits on the lap of owner John Hambrook in the Sun City West Dog Park behind the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center tennis courts.

they're people lovers, too," said Edith Weinberg, a daily visitor to the peaceful park.

An 11-year resident of the retirement community, Weinburg

is known as the "cookie lady" for the dog treats she distributes during daily visits to the peaceful pet playground.

"You should see 22 dogs all

eating cookies at the same time," she said. "Dogs give more to people than people give to dogs."

See Dog, A3

—From A1

Weinburg is one of dozens of Sun City West dog lovers who frequent the dog park, affectionately known as the "doggie park" by its patrons. The park is in the far northeast corner of the Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Weinburg doesn't have a pet of her own, but has closely befriended dog owner John Hambrook and his schnauzer, Robbie, and enjoys the camaraderie of other canine enthusiasts.

"It's a wonderful place," Weinburg said of the dog park. "It's the best place for people really to go and make friends."

Like Weinburg, Hambrook has been frequenting the dog park seven days a week for the past several years.

"Regular dog park visitors fast become friends," Hambrook said, noting that residents occasionally meet at the park for special occasions like pet and petowner birthdays.

"Everybody more or less gets a little closer acquaintance with people than normal," he said.

Other than the diminishing open fields outside the walled community, the dog park is the

only place in Sun City West that always has the welcome sign out for residents and their canine companions.

Other signs ask dog owners to pick up after their pets — a request that is rarely ignored, patrons say.

"People are pretty good about picking up," Hambrook said.

Although the dog park was included in the original design for the Johnson Recreation Center, its whereabouts are not widely known.

"I bump into people every once in a while and they never knew about the doggie park until I told them," Hambrook said.

Dog lover Lou Place found his way to the dog park about a year ago. The former Hawaii resident said he was shown the park on a Del Webb Communities tour and based his decision to buy a retirement home, in part, on the amenity for his 14-year-old schnauzer, Heidi.

"At her age, she belongs in Sun City West like the rest of us oldtimers," he said.

Place said he enjoys the camaraderie of fellow dog lovers and values the exercise the park affords Heidi and her owner.

# SCW playground gets rave reviews

By JENNIFER ARP  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — The dirt path leading to a new children's playground is layered with footprints — a sign the once controversial facility is a much-used addition to the community.

The 12-week old playground was abuzz Tuesday with the gleeful laughter of youngsters escorted to the equipment-filled park by their proud grandparents.

"Oh, I think it's fantastic. I've been here three years and I've been wishing for this," said Elizabeth Hilleboe, a Sun City West resident treating her grandson Matthew, 2, to a jaunt in the park the day after Christmas.

"He'll use this a lot this week," she said of the playground near the minigolf course at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

"Every day this week we'll be here," Hilleboe said.

Hilleboe was one of several playground patrons who expressed satisfaction with the facility funded by the Del Webb Corp. as a result of resident requests.

"It's real nice for little ones. There's not too many things they can do (in Sun City West)," said resident Virginia Crain, who also was spending the morning at the park with her granddaughters Melissa Anne, 4, and Sara Beth Bogden, 2, both of Mesa.

Melissa Anne described the park as "fun" because it contains "lots of fun toys."

She and other park visitors unanimously voted the sand-digger (a park amusement resembling a mini-bulldozer) their favorite plaything, although a pair of swings and a tubular slide also attracted a sizeable share of the children's attention.

Before the playground opened in early October, Crain said Sun City West offered little in the way of amusement for toddlers.

"I was really tickled when they built this," she said.

Steve O'Donnell, assistant manager of Sun City West recreation centers, said response to the children's playground has been largely positive.

"Certainly the times that I have been down there in the last two weeks there have been

happy, happy kids and happy, happy grandparents," O'Donnell said.

The children's playground was installed despite the protests of some residents who worried the noise level would detract from the retirement community.

"I think it serves a very useful purpose for the community," O'Donnell said of the first and only facility designed exclusively for children. "The intent for which Del Webb built it is being satisfied."

Four-year Sun City West resident Al Cooper said he considers the playground a valuable addition to the community.

"This is a fabulous place for things to do for all ages," he said.

The grandfather of two Scottsdale youngsters ages 7 and 4 said the playground gives him one more place to take the pair when they visit.

"Whenever they have vacation from school, they like to come over here," he said. "The more things out, here the better ... 'cause these guys, they got to be entertained, you know."



Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

**PLAY TIME** — Melissa Anne Bogden, 4, and her sister Sara Beth, 2, of Mesa enjoy themselves Tuesday at the playground at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West Tuesday. Grandparents are Virginia and Frank Crain.



Daily News-Sun photo

**PRETTY CRAFTY** — Crafts are among the many activities at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center.

## Sun City West gets center

**SUN CITY WEST** — The number of recreation centers in this Del Webb Corp. retirement community climbed to three this year with the addition of the Kuentz Recreation Center.

The Kuentz opening last February paved the way for numerous clubs on the verge of bursting their seams.

Located at 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Kuentz joins R.H. Johnson and Beardsley Park Recreation centers in fostering the active lifestyles cherished by retired residents 55 and older. The annual recreation fee per person is \$106.

The fee grants access and use to all facilities except bowling and golf. Bowlers pay \$1.10 per line. Avid golfers pay an annual \$575 fee per person for unlimited play. Infrequent players can instead pay an 18 or nine-hole daily fee based on the course rating.

To offset operations costs and to build a golf reserve fund, golfers are assessed additional fees of \$1 and \$2 each time they play nine and 18 holes, respectively.

In addition to the 300-seat Stardust Theatre, which already is slated for expansion, Kuentz boasts a large outdoor swimming pool, a therapy pool, exercise room, card rooms and a women's lounge.

The lounge is home to the Sun City West Women's Social Club, which at last count had mushroomed to more than 800 active members.

Among other activities, social club members meet for bridge, take bus tours of the state and present mini-programs of timely interest to members, says club President Elona Mortensen.

R.H. Johnson, the largest of the three centers, has lawn bowling greens, a mini-golf course, craft rooms, banquet facilities and a lecture hall.

Thirty-thousand books fill the shelves of the R.H. Johnson Library

on the namesake recreation center grounds. The independent library is affiliated with the Maricopa County Library system and offers a variety of loan programs for the hearing and vision impaired. Dozens of volunteers assist the paid staff of two.

The library celebrated its 10th anniversary Oct. 16 with an open house and ceremonial recognition of volunteers, many of whom have clocked more than 1,300 hours of service each.

"It's a volunteer library if you ever saw one," said Evelyn Meeke, public relations chairwoman for Friends of the R.H. Johnson Library.

Beardsley Park Recreation Center, 12755 Beardsley Drive, boasts an expansive, tree-dotted greenbelt that is home to regular concerts in the park and year-around picnickers.

In addition to a variety of artisan clubs, Beardsley is the new home of the Computers West computer lab.

Believed to be the first of its kind in a retirement community, the center features donated computer and computer training equipment, abundant storage space and a computerized door lock.

The club, which has a membership of about 500 computer buffs, prints its own newsletter and donates its desk-top publishing expertise to other local clubs and organizations.

The recreation centers, managed by Del Webb employees and highly subsidized by the development corporation, maintain four 18-hole golf courses. A fifth, Trailridge, is scheduled to open in early November.

The management team is comprised of a nucleus of administrators and a staff of nearly 250 working under General Manager Bill Woodyard and his assistant, Steve O'Donnell.

Woodyard, who has managed the non-profit recreation centers organi-

— from page 7

zation since its inception nine years ago, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. O'Donnell has been named his successor.

The policy-making body for the centers is composed of three Del Webb Communities Inc., executives.

Nine residents comprise the Recreation Centers advisory board, an elected body working alongside the governing board and facilities managers to represent resident interests. Board members oversee committees that monitor key center operations such as golf, swimming and club activities.

Three advisory board seats are up for grabs in a Dec. 5 election. Virginia Ritson chairs the panel, which is expected to play an integral role in the eventual transition of recreation

centers control from Webb to the residents.

Webb's departure from Sun City West could come as early as January 1991 — the month after residents will have another opportunity to vote company management out. A master agreement on file with the Arizona Corporation Commission dictates the management changeover occur by Oct. 31, 1994.

The resident advisory board will assume all control of recreation center operations once Webb leaves. The company has established an asset replacement fund and a golf reserve fund that will be turned over to residents upon its departure.

As of Aug. 31, 1989, the asset replacement fund had grown to more than \$1.09 million and nearly \$600,000 had been deposited in the golf reserve fund.

# Child's play

## Play area readied in Sun City West

By JENNIFER ARP  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Workers recently began laying the foundation for a playground catering to future generations of retirees.

Two separate but adjacent facilities, one each for younger and older children, will comprise the playground being erected between the R.H. Johnson Social Hall and the mini-golf course.

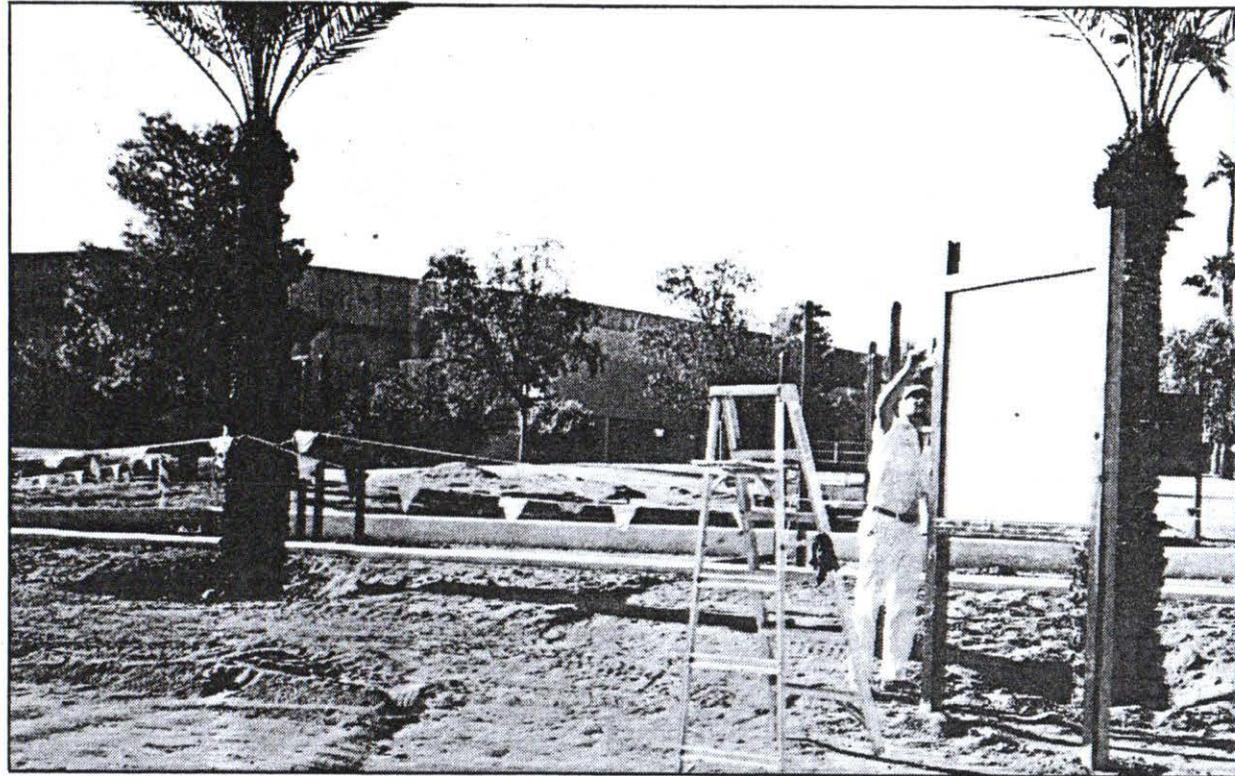
Some residents are looking forward to the playground's completion, expected in about two weeks, because it will expand the recreation options they can share with their grandchildren.

Others are worried the play park will generate excessive commotion at a facility designed expressly for older adults.

Although not "voluminous," inquiries about a playground are "constant," said Steve O'Donnell, assistant recreation centers manager.

O'Donnell said many of the inquiries were made by grandparents who complained, "There are just so many activities they can take their grandchildren to, most of which are restricted."

That Sun City West ignored children's recreational needs prompted Del Webb Corp. man-



Daily News-Sun photo by Jennifer ARP

**FUTURE PLAYGROUND** — Don Fulton, a maintenance worker for Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc., puts a coat of paint on a sign identifying a children's play-

agement to "build and fund" the playground, O'Donnell said. "It was pretty much a unilateral decision on the part of Webb."

Dick Maston, Del Webb vice president for development, said the company spent about \$15,000 for playground equipment. Among other kid stuff, the facility will feature a ladder and slide for older children and swings and rocking animals for toddlers.

"There's something for every kid. We're trying to make sure they (visiting children) have a little variety," said Tim Good-

rich, field engineer for Del Webb.

Goodrich said he has heard neither cheers nor complaints since workers began pouring the playground foundation or since a sign was erected identifying the playground.

"We haven't seen too much traffic in that area," he said.

O'Donnell said he has been the recipient of some loud grumblings from playground opponents. He attributes the complaints to a "vocal minority."

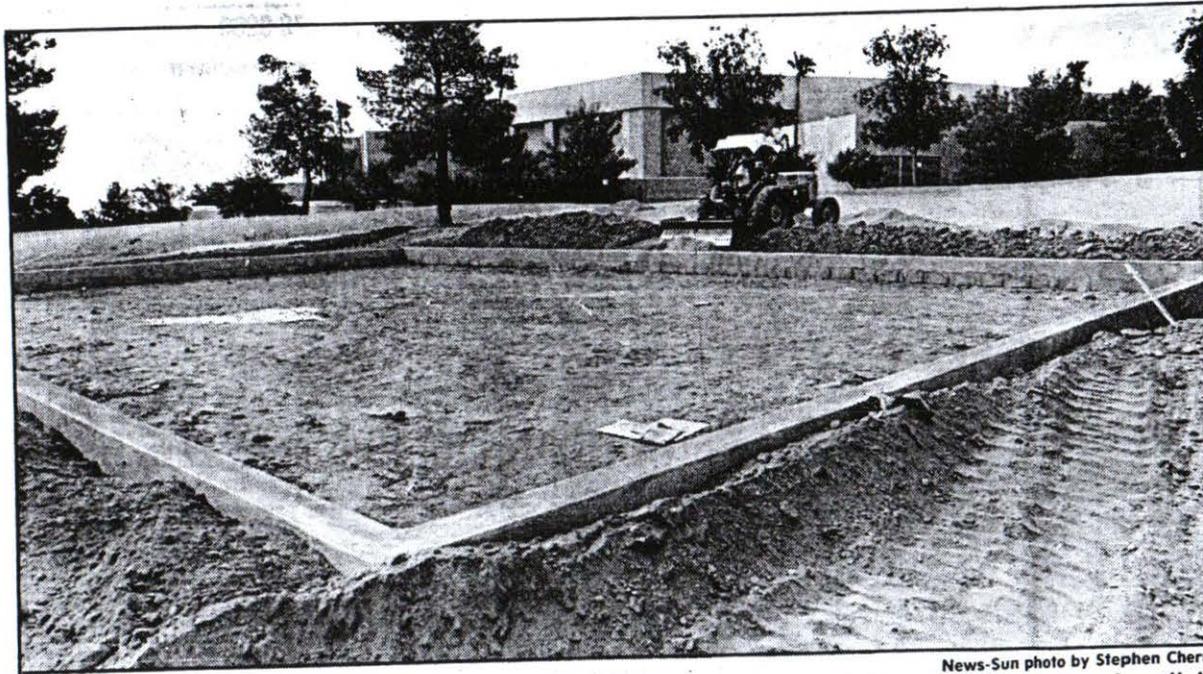
"My feeling is there are many more people out there who in

ground under construction behind the R.H. Johnson Social Hall. The controversial facility is slated for completion later this month.

fact are in favor of it and the people against it are responding from an emotional viewpoint."

Because the playground will be close to the mini-golf course and other activities that already attract children, "Having a little bit more noise in the area is not going to hurt," O'Donnell said.

In response to liability concerns raised by members of the recreation centers advisory board and others, O'Donnell has said the facility is covered under an existing insurance policy that sets liability limits at \$50 million.



News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherneck

**PLAYGROUND PLANNED** — A construction worker scoops up some dirt near the site where a children's playground will be built at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center.

## SCW builds park for little visitors

By **CHRISTINE SELIGA**  
News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY WEST** — In a couple of months the community's smallest visitors will have a place of their own to play.

Work has already begun at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center on the site for a playground — the first of its kind in the Sun Cities.

Virginia Ritson, president of the advisory board of the Sun City West Recreation Centers, said the idea for a playground came from letters suggesting it.

"The grandmothers who have been writing us for three years

ought to be delighted," Ritson said.

The new playground will be near the mini-golf course at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, 19801 R.H. Johnson Blvd., between the Sundome and the center. It will be on a plot of land 40 feet by 60 feet.

Steve O'Donnell, assistant manager of the recreation centers, said Tuesday that the playground equipment isn't going to be the typical swing set or teeter-totter.

He called the equipment state-of-the-art.  
See SCW, A5

## SCW builds playground for kids

—From A1  
of-the-art.

"It's not like the old days when you just go out and buy something and stick it in the ground," he said.

He said a lot of thought has gone into the design of the equipment. One safety consideration: using materials that won't burn or pinch children's hands.

There will be two parts to the playground. One part will have equipment designed for children 6 and under and the other will be for older children.

Construction of the playground is being fully funded by Del Webb Corp., the community's developer. Martha Moyer, a Webb spokesman, said the playground will cost Webb \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The recreation board had some influence on where the playground will be.

"We all spoke our piece on that but I think the final criteria was cost," Ritson said.

Another location at R.H. Johnson would have been by the pool but that would have meant having to build a wall.

The location of the playground is really good because it is not

near a house, Ritson said.

"It will be a little bit by itself . . . it really is a nice place," she said.

O'Donnell said a path will be built to the playground. He said possibly the centers will be able to make it a little nature trail by adding signs identifying the flora that is already there.

There is no name for the playground, O'Donnell said.

# Webb to relinquish SCW center

By HELEN ALLEN  
Staff Writer

Management of Johnson Center is expected to be turned over to Sun City West residents this year by the Del E. Webb Development Co.

"We would like it to be accomplished this year," Ken Parker, Devco's senior vice president for sales and management, told residents at a semi-annual recreation center membership meeting Tuesday.

The meeting in the Sundome attracted about 600 residents.

**PARKER**, who filled in for Devco's ailing President George Reeve, made the comment close to the end of the meeting, answering a question posed by Ray

Stedron, a former Property Owners and Residents Association director.

The turn-over, first mentioned as a possibility by Reeve last

## Related story, A2

October, was barely touched on during earlier presentations at Tuesday's meeting.

Parker stated the turn-over is being considered for this year as Johnson Center is reaching a financial "break-even point."

"**THIS IS** your facility," he added. "You should be involved in it and control it. It should be in your hands because it's your money."

Recreation center advisory board chairman Bill Stewart re-

ported Devco will continue to subsidize the center, following the turn-over, but the amount has not been worked out.

Another area of agreement, Stewart said, will involve maintenance of the recreation center parking lot which extends to the Sundome.

**REGARDING** complaints voiced earlier by Sun City West Boosters Club members, attorney Gerald Williams admitted the words "homeowners association" were included in the recreation center's articles of incorporation.

He said this was done to comply with Internal Revenue Service requirements on non-profit organizations. The attorney, who also is secretary of the Devco board of directors, stressed there was no

3-16-87  
conflict with PORA.

When residents take over the recreation center management, Williams added, they can do whatever they wish.

**ANOTHER** Boosters' complaint was that the facilities agreement, which residents must sign when buying a home, provided for recreation center dues, but not membership.

Williams remarked that, under state law, members of non-profit organizations are not required to be given a certificate indicating part ownership.

The attorney mentioned the agreement was challenged twice in court and upheld both times.

**PARKER**, in an address to residents, chided "persons who have individually or as a small group tried to approach the progress of Sun City West from a negative rather than a positive vein."

He referred to a proposed amendment to an agreement, between Devco and the Sun City West Utilities Co., currently before the Arizona Corporation Commission, turn-over of the recreation center management, the relationship between PORA and the recreation centers, and Devco proposing to bring light industry to the area.

The Devco official stressed the firm has no intention of putting any light industry in the residential areas of Sun City or Sun City West.

**PARKER** also reported that marketing of Sun City West is being pushed through advertising all over the country, including Arizona.

Adding that home buying is picking up again, Parker estimated 800 homes will be sold this year in Sun City West.

# Pet park needs help to avoid going to dogs

By HELEN ALLEN

Dogs in Sun City West have their own park, but some residents feel it's going to the dogs.

The fully landscaped park, with benches and simulated fire hydrants, is not being kept clean enough, say members of the recreation center advisory board.

For this reason, there is no fence going up around the park right now. A fence was to be installed so that pets could run free in the area.

"ALTHOUGH the area is beautifully landscaped and well maintained," recreation center advisory board members contended, "it was strewn with dog litter to the point where it was no longer a pleasant experience to stroll through."

Bill Woodyard, general manager of Johnson Center, said the park, east of the tennis courts and overlooking Hillcrest Golf Course, was cleaned up last week.

Residents taking their pets to

the park now, he added, will have to clean up after their animals in event of an "accident."

If not?

"WE'LL CROSS that bridge when we get there," Woodyard remarked.

The general manager said the one-acre pet park was installed and made part of the recreation center in 1980.

One section of the park has a lawn, flowers, trees, bushes, benches and bright red fire plugs. The rest is sandy with more trees.

ENTRANCE IS gained by a path halfway up View Point Mountain, a 75-foot high hill on the recreation center grounds.

Tom Ryan, senior vice president and land manager for Del E. Webb Development Co., said the park was developed after a number of residents, especially those living in apartments, complained they had no place to walk their dogs. It's the only pet park in the Sun Cities area.



Prince, a border collie owned by Hy Levy of Sun City West, checks his favorite pet park fire hydrant. (News-Sun Photo by Jim Painter)

# Games in SCW appeal to kids, adults

8-20-81

By CATHY TILZEY  
Emphasis Editor

Where can you go to play a rousing game of football, play dominoes without spilling dominoes all over the floor or take a trip through outer space?

Sun City West.

More specifically, the answer is Johnson Center, where a room full of electronic and pinball games can be found at Johnson Center, next to the miniature golf course and close to the racquetball courts.

Visiting children and grandchildren frequent the game room but many adults also come in to try their skill, said Bill Cowan, one of four monitors who check people into the room and into other recreation facilities on the north side of Johnson Center.

Only two Sun City Westers were there when a reporter visited one morning last week.

**BUT THAT'S** the "off hours," Cowan said, explaining that most visitors arrive in the afternoon and evening, especially after the swimming pool closes to children. The room is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

Attendance is pretty steady throughout the year—79 people used the game room Aug. 13, the rec. center's log indicates—and jumps dramatically during the holidays.

"This place is really jumping at Christmas time ... over 400 people in one day," Cowan said.

He showed off some of the popular games, which are played with tokens rather than coins. A machine dispenses 20 tokens for \$1.

**THERE ARE** eight pinball machines with titles such as "Star Trek," "Solar Ride" and "Count-down." Players can sit down to play at two pinball machines, "Disco" and "Family Fun."

Electronic games include "Maze," Atari "Football," "Dominoes," "Clowns," "Gun Fight," "Super 21," "Soccer," "Five-Card Stud" and "Sea Wolf."

The room also has two bowling alleys, which score the same as regular bowling games.

"Football" and "Soccer" are popular with young people, Cowan ex-

plained.

"Football" is strenuous for the game player as well as the athlete, he and a visitor demonstrated. A rubber globe at each player's station has to be turned fast and hard to keep the electronic figures moving along the field.

"**I DON'T** play this game—it's too hard on the hands," Cowan said, pushing on the globe with the heel of his hand. "But you should see the teenagers ... and a lot of fathers of teenagers play."

The "Super 21" game is popular with adults. "One lady comes in to practice before going to Vegas or Laughlin (Nev.). She says it's good practice," Cowan explained.

Nearby is "Five-Card Stud," which room monitors have declared off-limits to children. "If a child sits down here, we go to their parents and suggest thauaugo somewhere else," Cowan said.

The children seem to prefer "Gun Fight," in which tiny cowboy characters move up and down, trying to shoot each other. "The kids really like this—this is what they go for first," Cowan declared. "But you'd be surprised how many adults play it."

**ONE OF** the monitor's favorites is "Clowns," in which clowns on a seesaw bounce up and down, breaking colorful balloons for points. If a player fails to catch a clown on the seesaw, the figure falls on the ground and exclamations of "ugh" or "oof" appear on the screen.

One Sun City Wester comes in regularly to play "Clowns" and made a score of more than 42,000 points one day. Cowan claims a top score of 14,000 points.

One of the newest games is "Sea Wolf." A player views a sea of war ships through a periscope

and tries to blow up as many as possible in 90 seconds.

It looks like electronic games aren't just for kids anymore.

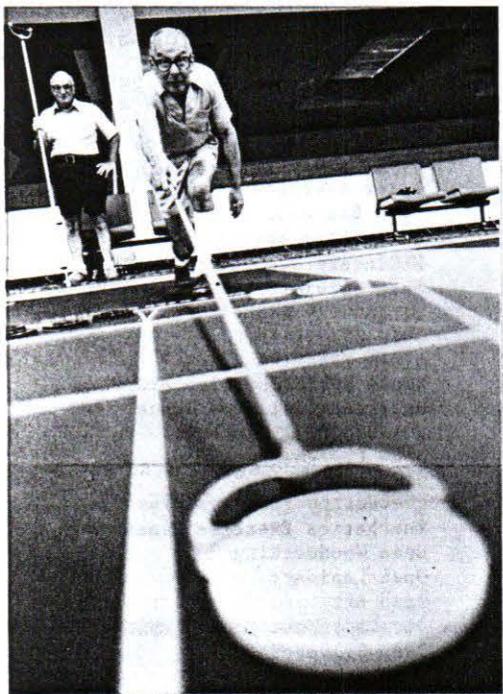


Lucille Johnson, assistant to the manager of Johnson Center, learns to play "Super Twenty-One" from instructor Bill Cowan. "It's so easy when it isn't for money," she said later as she bet everything on one hand of blackjack. (News-Sun Photo by Bill Dostal)

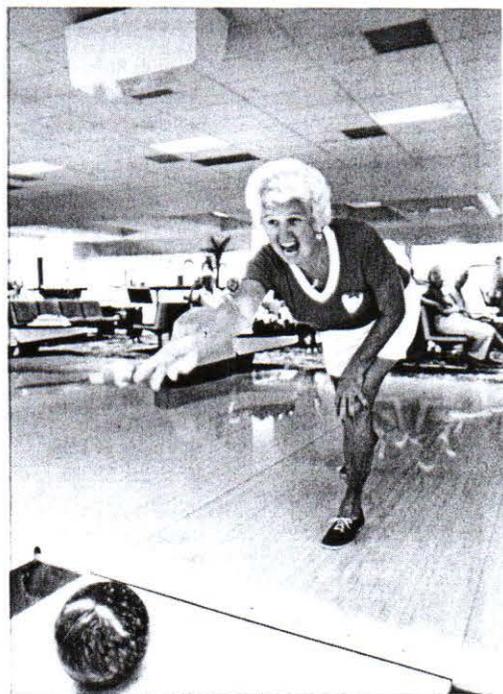
# Johnson Center Sports Pavilion is...

## Pure Enjoyment

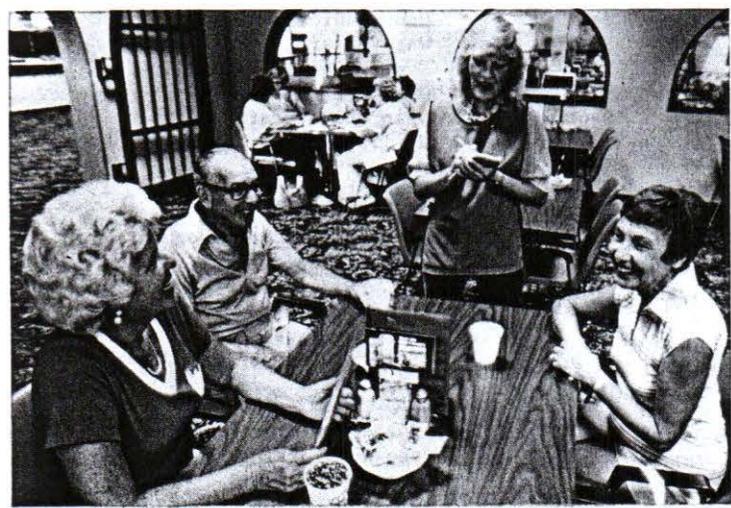
On a busy day The Johnson Center Sports Pavilion will host several hundred residents who come to compete, socialize, dine, observe and above all, to enjoy themselves. Enhancing the friendly atmosphere is a dedicated and courteous staff of 10 headed by Manager Bob Marney. Bob invites Westers to take advantage of the summer bowling rate of 50 cents a line Fridays and Saturdays through August 31. Summer hours at the Pavilion are 11AM to 6PM, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; Wednesday 11AM to 9PM; Saturday 1-9PM and closed Sundays. So, whether it be a billiard, bowling ball or a shuffleboard disc, you'll be shootin' for a good time when you visit your beautiful and well equipped Johnson Center Sports Pavilion.



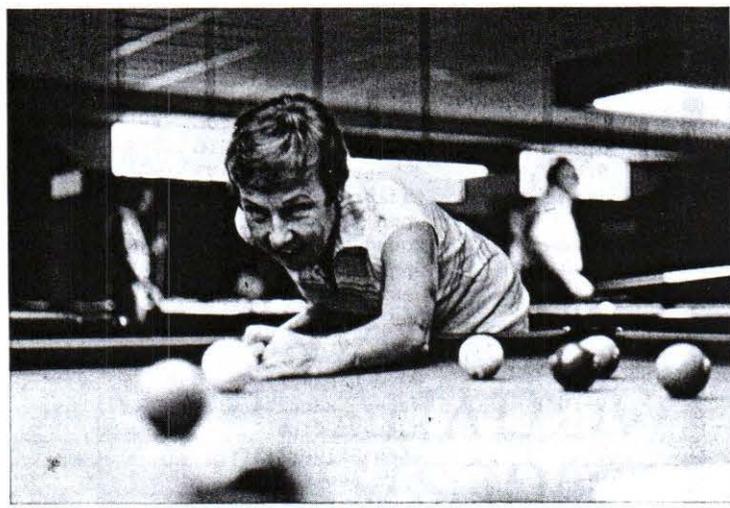
*PUSHING OFF — Harold Fine, left, shown enjoying his favorite activity, is president, instructor and tournament chairman of the Round-Robin Shuffleboard Club. He also bowls and plays tennis.*



*ROLLIN' ALONG — Helen O'Loughlin, right, enjoys league bowling. Also on her activity list are swimming, macrame, ceramics and platform tennis.*



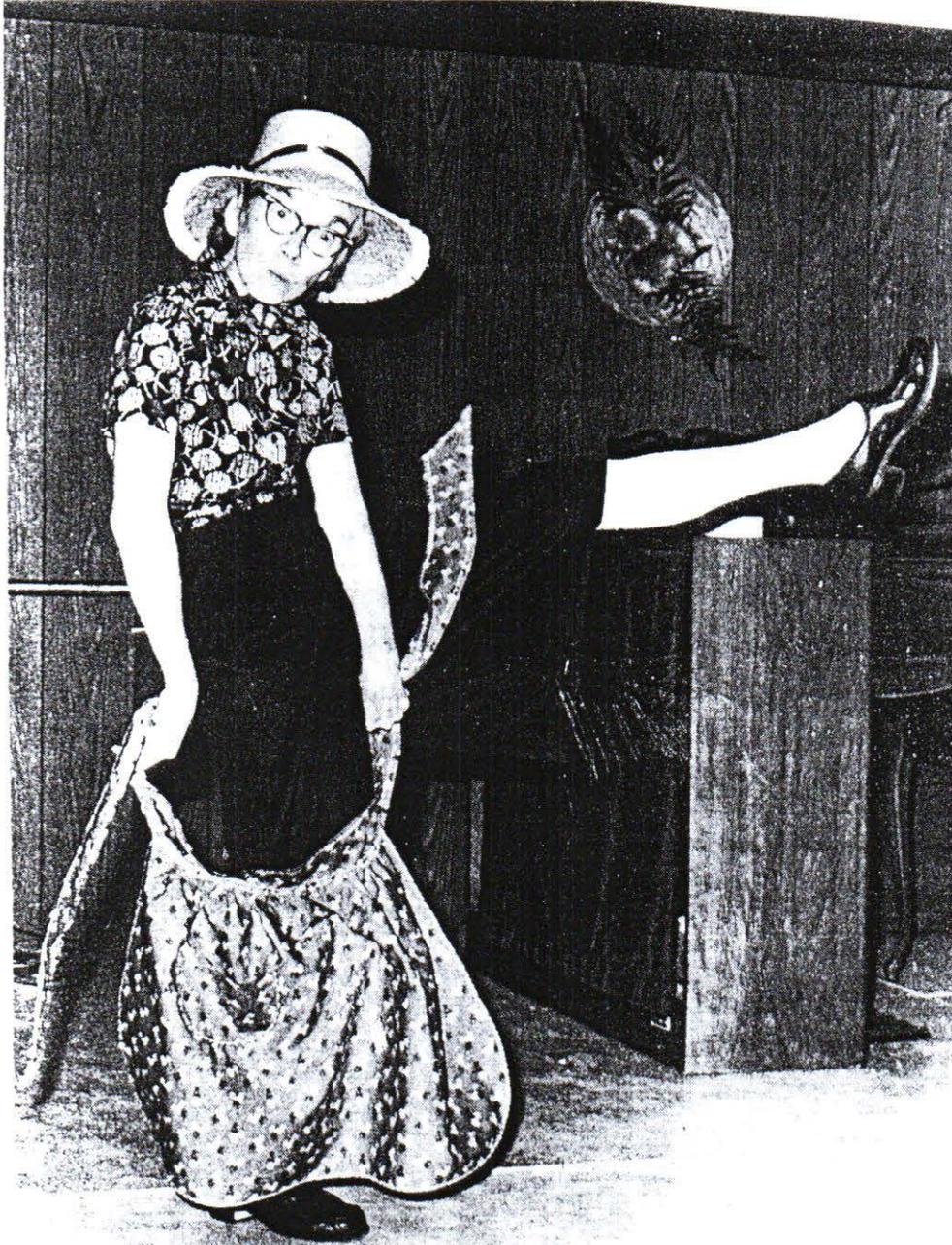
*SNACK BAR WAITRESS Debbie Patrick, often takes more than 200 snack and meal orders a day from active residents who work up an appetite while enjoying the Johnson Center Sports Pavilion. Her customers here find the Pavilion's fine facilities "pure enjoyment."*



*TAKING AIM — Dorothy Tyler says she's primarily a bowler, is learning to play golf and plans to take art lessons. Says some billiards lessons are in order, too.*

**ARTS, CRAFTS FAIR**

Tuesday, November 20, 1979 NEWS-SUN

**Sun City West shows  
off talent**

Irma Halfter playfully models her two-piece casual summer suit at the fashion show held during the Sun City West Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday. Dr. Halfter, who recently joined the Rip and Sew Club, designed and sewed the outfit in less than two months' time.

An estimated 1,800 people attended the first annual Sun City West Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday, in the newly opened social hall at Johnson Recreation Center.

With only seven weeks in which to prepare for the event, Sun City Westers banded together and worked hard to make the fair the success that it was.

Nearly 18 groups, including many of the newly formed Sun City West clubs and organizations, participated with demonstrations and exhibits, and provided information to new area residents on the extracurricular activities available to them.

Several art exhibits by local artists also captivated the audience, and newly-made ceramic ware, available for purchase, became a smash hit with many.

The highlight of the day, however, was a fashion show sponsored by the Rip and Sew Club.

Members modeled newly made creations which they began working on less than two months ago. The wardrobe ranged from summerwear to evening gown attire.

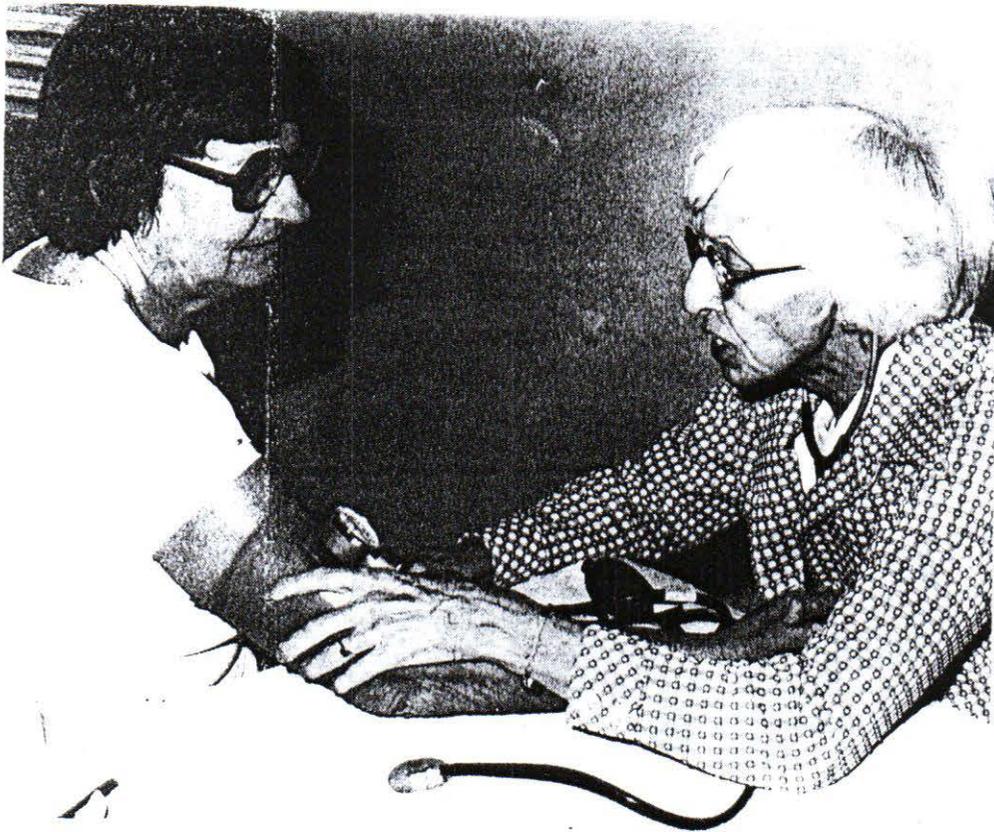
Bake sales sponsored by several local organiza-

tions were reported to be a sell-out, according to Lucille Johnson, Recreation Centers secretary.

"I'm very pleased with the results of the fair," Mrs. Johnson said. "Considering the amount of time which we had to throw this together, I think it was very successful."

Mrs. Johnson said that some Sun City Westers are urging that another fair be held next spring, but such plans are only being considered at this time. The next scheduled Arts and Crafts Fair is planned for November 1980.

OVER



Red Cross Volunteer Garland Lewis, at right, of Sun City West, monitors blood pressure for Mrs. Janet Skillicorn, also of Sun City West. The Red Cross was at the Arts and Crafts Fair to demonstrate the method for taking blood pressure readings and to answer questions about the organization for residents.



Local artist Jack Glaser takes his time reviewing the work of other artists with displays at the Sun City West Arts and Crafts Fair. A number of paintings were reportedly purchased by residents, desert Southwest scenes being the most popular subject theme.



Phil Corbell, Sun City West resident, looks at a rock display by Rockhounds West. Bud Klungler, member, explained each of the specimens.



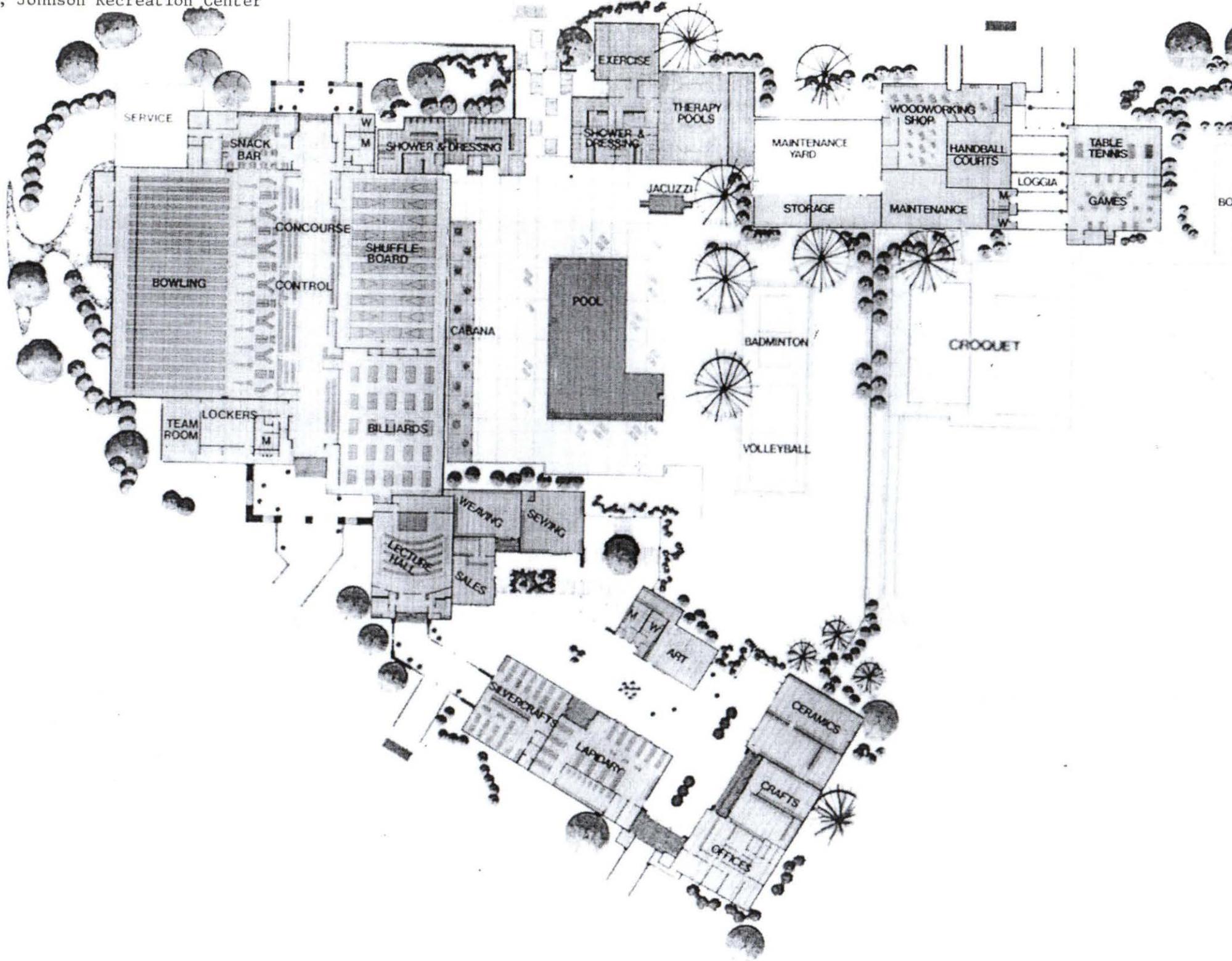
Angela King of Beaver Falls, Penn., admires some crafty sewing products that were on sale. This display was sponsored by the women of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

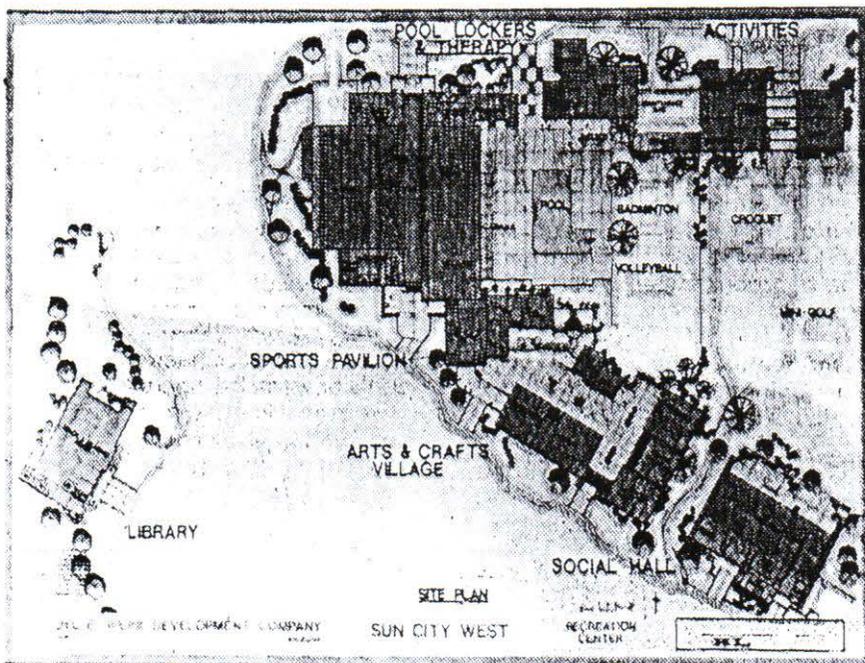
NEWS-SUN Tuesday, November 13, 1979



## **Ready for Sun City West Arts, Crafts Fair**

Sun City West's first Arts and Crafts Fair will be conducted 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday in Johnson Center Social Hall. These women are ready for the event. From left are Evelyn Cavallaro, who displays her Japanese bunka embroidery; Mildred Jacobus with beaded flower work; Josephine Knight with a crocheted vest; and Jean Brady with a yarn Indian doll. Clubs with displays and wares for sale include Ceramics West, Encore Needle & Crafts, Toy-Ki Silvercraft West, Johnson Lapidary Club, Sun City West Art Club, Lady of Lourdes Guild and others. Entertainment and exhibitions of racquetball and bocci ball are scheduled throughout the day.





Sun City West's Johnson Recreation Center will be completed next summer

## New Johnson Rec Center begun at Sun City West

The Del E. Webb Development Co. began construction last month on Johnson Recreation Center, the largest project in Phase I of Sun City West.

The 117,000-square-foot center will consist of a series of interconnected buildings placed in a modified V-shape around a central courtyard. It will sit on a 47-acre hilltop site overlooking an 18-hole golf course and two lakes.

The \$6 million complex will feature all the facilities available at Sun City recreation centers, plus a croquet and badminton area, a quarter-mile running track and a penny arcade. It is scheduled for completion next summer.

Sun City West, the Webb Company's new 13,000-acre resort-retirement community, is located 14 miles northwest of Phoenix, and five miles west of Sun City. It is scheduled to welcome its first residents this fall.

The Sports Pavilion of Johnson Recreation Center will feature a 24-lane bowling alley, indoor shuffleboard courts, tennis courts, platform tennis courts, lawn bowling greens, a billiards room, swimming pool and jacuzzi, therapy pools, handball and racquetball courts, a table tennis room, a miniature golf course, areas for

ballroom and square dancing and an exercise room with a multi-purpose exercise machine.

The center's Arts and Crafts Village will include an amphitheater-type lecture hall for instruction, as well as room for silver craft, lapidary, ceramics, art, crafts, sewing, weaving and woodworking. The center also will include a social hall that will accommodate 800 persons for lectures, banquets and dancing.

A 40,000-volume library also will be part of the recreation center. It will feature a 70-foot high clock tower and an electronic six-bell carillon with Westminster chimes.

The center is named for R.H. Johnson, who succeeded the late Del E. Webb as president.

The design of the center is contemporary Spanish, with clay tiled roofs, textured plaster walls, precast concrete columns and exposed rough-sawn wood beams. Accents will include iron grills and gates, ceramic tile feature strips and quarry tile pavers. The interior decor will reinforce the Spanish theme with decorative ceramic tile, wall sconces, coffered ceilings and iron gates.

The center was designed by Hawkins, Lindsey, Wilson Associates of Phoenix and Los Angeles. Consultants to

the architects were Benson & Gerdin, Inc., of Phoenix, structural engineers; Lowry, Sorenson, Wilcoxson, of Phoenix, mechanical-electrical engineers; and Coffeen, Anderson & Associates of Mission, Kan., acoustical engineers.

The center will be part of a core area that will also include the golf course, the 6,800-seat Sundome indoor theatre, a dining and social club that will seat 400 persons and a restaurant.

The Phase I portion of Sun City West, a 5,697-acre tract, will include approximately 17,000 housing units — 65 percent single-family houses and 35 percent condominiums. Construction costs of Phase I will be in excess of \$1 billion. Completion was initially estimated to take seven to nine years, but new estimates indicate that this first phase of the community may be completed in as few as five years.

Sun City West will be a self-contained community, with six 18-hole golf courses, three recreation centers, a central shopping area and three neighborhood shopping centers, a hospital, a complex for medical and professional offices, a fire station, at least 10 church sites and an area for a nursing home and extended-care facilities.