

Del Webb®



Sun Cities

MUSEUM

The Official Newsletter of the

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Spring 2024 | Volume 31 | Number 1



Sun City's

'Crown Jewel'

Re-dedication ceremony recalls initial opening of Viewpoint Lake

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Inside our spring newsletter ...



Capturing History!

Museum receives grant to embark on video oral-history project.

See Page 2

Historical quilt comes home!



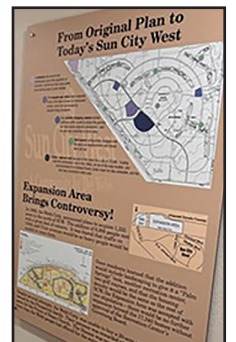
Sun City's Bi-centennial Quilt returns to the museum in time for an exhibit celebrating the nation's 250th birthday!

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Exhibits expand in SCW!

PORA installs a 'Hallway of History' to showcase the history of Sun City West.

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Ed Allen, left, is interviewed by Lauren Burgoyne of Mojo Inspired Media, a "digital storytelling company." When completed, the interview will be the second of five oral-history videos created by the company for the museum. Ed Allen was interviewed and asked to share his recollections of the beginnings of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and the growth and changes over the years to the museum.

New video project offers first-person recollections of Sun Cities' history

Museum partners with media firm to create five films

For nearly 40 years, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has promoted and shared the history of the Sun Cities through its vast treasure trove of photo archives, educational exhibits at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and its digitized collections of scrapbooks and publications.

But starting this fall, visitors to the museum will be able to see -- and hear -- newly created films telling stories of the past shared directly by those who experienced that history first-hand.

Thanks to a grant provided by the Del E. Webb Foundation, the historical society -- owners of the Del E. Webb Museum -- has embarked on the creation of five oral "living history" video presentations.

Each video is expected to be about 10-15 minutes and when completed will be shown in the Sundome Jr. Theater.

The museum has contracted with Mojo Inspired Media, a professional video production company in Tucson,

to create each video -- from beginning to end. Each video will include an interview with a local "history maker" and professionally edited with photos from the museum's archives, music and graphics.

Two interviews have already been completed and are in the final production stage.

The first oral history video will feature Don Tuffis speaking about the history of the Sundome Center for Performing Arts in Sun City West.

Don was the initial manager of the Sundome when it first opened in 1980. He also is a past president of the historical society's Board of Trustees.

When the Sundome first opened it was billed as the largest single-level auditorium in the Southwest. Performers who appeared at the Sundome included such stars as Bob Hope, Milton Berle, Kenny Rogers and more.

The Sundome was eventually torn down and the Sundome Jr. Theater at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum serves as a tribute to the facility and

include six original Sundome seats.

The second oral history features Ed Allen, a former president of the society's Board of Trustees and author of a history on Sun City West.

Ed shares his thoughts and recollections of the early days of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and how the museum has changed over the years. The historical society purchased the house in 1989 and Ed shares stories related to the creation of the Del Webb room, the restoration of the 1960s-era living room and his memories of Jane Freeman, founder of the historical society.

Both films are expected to be unveiled at the museum's Del Webb Birthday celebration on May 17.

The final three films will be created over the next few months and completed by fall.

The five new oral-history films will be added to the list of 10 archive films already available in the Sundome Jr. Theater.

Continued on next page

"We can't thank the Del Webb Foundation enough for their continued support of the museum," said Bret McKeand, president of the Board of Trustees. "We really think these oral-history videos bring an exciting new opportunity for visitors to learn about our local history -- from those who actually lived it!"



A local P.E.O. Chapter was one of many local organizations to have recently toured the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. To arrange a tour of the museum for your organization, call 623-974-2568.

Films Currently Shown in the Sundome Jr. Theater

1. **The Beginning:** A promotional movie made by the Del Webb Corp. to promote Sun City in the early 1960's. (26 mins.) The #1 choice.
2. **Del Webb ABC 15:** Del Webb's success is illustrated with pictures and interviews featuring employees of the Del Webb Corporation. (3 mins.)
3. **Del Webb Corporation:** May 10, 1999 This is a Gold Medal "must see" video if you are interested in Del Webb and his corporation with interviews from the people who worked for him. (14 mins.)
4. **Del Webb Corporation-An Extraordinary Enterprise:** This short story will tell you about Sun City, Sun City West and features other Sun City communities in other states. (7 mins.)
5. **Jane Freeman, Jubilee:** This short interview featuring the woman who founded our historical society and author of the book, Jubilee. (8.5 min.)
6. **Valley of the Sun:** Narrated by Jack Douglas, this clip features Sun City and highlights the many the amenities in the Sun City. (4 mins.)
7. **Great Healthcare:** The Ground-breaking and Dedication Ceremonies of the Del E Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West on Sept. 29, 1995. (11 mins.)
8. **Poms Dance Productions:** A variety of performances by the Sun City Poms.
9. **Sun City Poms West Coast Finals:** Watch the Poms performance when they win First Place on July 28, 2000. (6 mins.)
10. **Sun Cities Area Historical Society Video Inventory:** See what the museum looked like and what exhibits we had on Feb. 18, 2003. (12 mins.)

Museum sets record attendance mark in 2023

Nearly 4,000 visitors toured the Sun Cities Museum in 2023, the most ever for one year in the museum's history.

In all, 3,665 people visited the museum over the 12-month period. The museum welcomed guests and tours every month of the year.

March 2023 saw the most visitors in one month -- 742, while June saw the fewest guests -- 62.

Last year's totals beat the previous highest amount of visitors by 468. The previous best year was 2022, which saw 3,197 people visit the museum.

Visitors play a key role in funding the operations of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

"A few years ago we began charging \$5 admission to non-members," said Bret McKeand, president of the museum's Board of Trustees.

"At the time, we weren't sure how patrons would accept an admission fee since admission to the museum prior to that had always been free," he added.

But charging admission hasn't hurt attendance at all.

"Our admission fees -- and donations made by those who visit the museum -- remains one of our key sources of revenue," said Mr. McKeand. Members receive free admission.

The number of group tours continues to escalate as well.

Retirement centers, churches, clubs and organizations and even a few businesses are among those who arranged for group tours.

Group tours are available during times the museum is closed. To arrange for a tour, call 623-974-2568. Admission is \$5 per person.

And 2024 appears to be on pace to beat even 2023's numbers!

Attendance for both January and February of this year exceeded the totals for January and February last year. The total for the first two months was 1,067 -- 29% of last year's entire attendance!



TORCH Academy students from Sun City West recently toured the museum.



The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum honored Ed Allen and Paul Herrmann at the annual meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. At left, Lauri Gulotta accepts an honorary paver from Board President Bret McKeand on behalf of her father, Ed Allen. Ed was a long-time member and former president of the Board of Trustees. At right, Paul Herrmann, who retired from the board after serving several terms, receives his honorary paver. The pavers will be installed at the museum's Pathway of Friends.

Former SCAHS Board Trustees honored

Ed Allen, Paul Herrmann recognized for years of service to museum

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum kicked off the new year with its annual meeting Jan. 16 at Royal Oaks Lifecare Community in Sun City. A crowd of over 100 was in attendance to listen to a special historical program looking back at 100 years of *Arizona Highways Magazine*, presented by Win Holden and made possible by our friends at Arizona Humanities.

A former publisher of the magazine, Win presented an entertaining program that not only explained the growth and progress of the popular magazine, but also showcased many of the beautiful photographs from some of the world's greatest photographers that have appeared in the magazine over the past 100 years.

The annual meeting also featured the election of three new members to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's Board of Trustees. Incorporated in 1986, the society owns and operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. The museum is the official headquarters of the society and located in one of the first five model homes that opened in Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960.

Trustee Barb Wagers was re-elected to another term on the Board of Trustees, while Catherine DuBois and



Win Holden, former publisher of *Arizona Highways Magazine*.

Ben Roloff were elected to replace outgoing Trustees Paul Herrmann and Tammy Ruocco.

Following the election, President Bret McKeand presented two special awards to two very special people: Paul Herrmann and Ed Allen.

Paul served several terms on our Board of Trustees – most of that time as our board's vice president. But even before he joined our board, Paul was a solid supporter and a constant presence at the museum.

One can't walk through the museum without feeling his impact. Over the

years he has created exhibits, served as our unofficial maintenance supervisor, represented the museum at community events, chaired our annual gala event, planned public events at the museum, developed our Pathway of Friends and much more!

Ed Allen is best known as the editor and primary author of the "Sun City West Silver Celebration," the official history of Sun City West written for the community's 25th anniversary. He was one of the early organizers of the historical society and served several terms on our Board of Trustees – four times as president.

There are few people alive today that have as much familiarity with the historical society as does Ed Allen. "I often say that when people want to know the history of the Sun Cities, they turn to the museum. But when those of us involved in the museum want to know of the history of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, we turn to Ed," said President Bret McKeand.

"It's impossible to put a value on the contributions of these two men. The impact of their work on the museum – and in our community – will be felt for many, many years," added Mr. McKeand

Historic Sun City Bicentennial Quilt finds its way back to Del Webb Museum

Public given rare glimpse of quilt during WV Art Museum exhibit

History buffs and quilting fans alike were treated to a rare treat when the West Valley Art Museum opened an exhibit featuring more than 40 colorful and diverse fiber-art quilts created by local, regional, and nationally known artists – including a display of the rare “Sun City Bicentennial Quilt.”

The Bicentennial Quilt was created by Sun City residents in 1976. Each club/organization existing in Sun City in that era stitched a square for the front side of the quilt, and patriotic symbols for the reverse side were also sewn by residents.

All pieces were then woven into the large quilt that was first unveiled during the community’s July 4, 1976, celebrations.

According to Connie McMillin of the West Valley Art Museum, the quilt has only been on public display six times – but the most recent display marked only the fourth time since 1976 that both sides of the quilt were able to be viewed.

“The quilt was initially donated to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, but because of its size and need for proper preservation and storage, the historical society turned it over to the art museum for safekeeping,” said Connie, who is also a member and long-time benefactor of the historical society.

The quilt show was the final art exhibit to be hosted by the West Valley Art Museum, as the City of Peoria announced it would be closing the art gallery at Peoria City Hall.

The art gallery served as the home to the West Valley Art Museum.

As a consequence, West Valley Art Museum officials have announced plans to officially dissolve the museum after more than 40 years of serving the Sun Cities.

Most of its collections will be sold



Connie McMillin, president of the West Valley Art Museum, in front of the Sun City Bicentennial Quilt. The two-sided quilt was created by clubs in 1976 in honor of the nation’s bicentennial celebration. The West Valley Art Museum has stored the quilt the past four decades, but intends to return it to the historical society.

and dispersed to art galleries throughout the United States.

The Bicentennial Quilt, however, will be returned to the Sun Cities Historical Society.

According to SCAHS Board President Bret McKeand, tentative plans are to display the quilt in conjunction with other exhibits planned for 2026, the nation’s 250th birthday.

“We’re also planning to create a special exhibit showcasing the items stored in the Liberty Bell Time Capsule, which is set to be opened in 2026,” said Mr. McKeand.

The museum is partnering with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. to celebrate the opening of the time capsule, placed in the base of the Liberty Bell at Bell Recreation Center.

The time capsule was placed in the base during the initial dedication of the bell in 1976. Mr. McKeand is hoping to display the quilt along with the time-capsule exhibit.



The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum has partnered with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. to host an exhibit in 2026 to showcase the items included in the time capsule located in the base of the Liberty Bell at Bell Recreation Center. The time capsule is set to be opened during a special ceremony in 2026, marking the 50th anniversary of the creation of the bell.



An official publication of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society © 2024 SCAHS 10801 Oakmont Drive Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 974-2568 email: scahsm@gmail.com www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is certified by the Arizona Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts for Sun City, Arizona, (the world's first Active Adult Retirement Community), and its sister city, Sun City West. The Society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in one of the five original Sun City model homes.

Museum Hours: noon-3 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday (Or for groups of six or more by appointment) Admission: \$5 (18 and over) Free to Museum Members Museum open Thursdays through May; Hours reduced beginning in June.

Board of Trustees

- Bret McKeand President Andy Kindler Vice President/Secretary Michael Marting Treasurer Tim Ericson Anne Levig Dawn Exarhopoulos Barb Wagers Ben Roloff Catherine DuBois Office Manager Linda Borton

Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

Message from the President

Preserving and presenting our history is museum's top goal

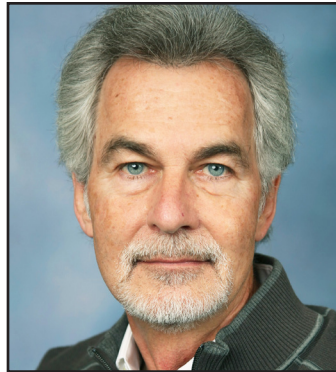
The mission statement of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society states our primary purpose is the "preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts" related to the Sun Cities.

That mission statement was adopted 22 years ago -- and until a few years ago, that meant primarily preserving and presenting the archives left to us by the Del Webb Corporation (photos, sales brochures, advertisements, etc.)

Thanks to modern technology, we've been able to greatly expand our efforts to seek out, collect and preserve local history in a way that would surprise and amaze (and hopefully please) those trustees who adopted that mission statement in 2001.

Some examples:

The story on Page 3 talks about the record number of guests who visited the museum in 2023 -- but that doesn't count the thousands who "visited" the museum online. Last year



Bret McKeand 2024 President Sun Cities Area Historical Society

we revamped our website and today the amount of historical information available is a researcher's dream come true! Whereas you can physically spend hours touring the museum, one could literally spend days sifting through the archival information available online.

Our digitization team continues to scan all types of material related to the history of the Sun Cities: newspaper articles, magazine features, brochures and most recently -- club

scrapbooks!

The museum recently scanned three huge scrapbooks owned by the Sun City Sportsman's Club. We digitized scrapbooks containing nearly 50 years of club history and made them available on our website.

We are now embarking on a major project to record at least five first-person oral video programs to be shown at the museum. In addition to collecting local history, we're now developing our own format in which to tell the history of our communities by those who lived that history!

Preserving our history and making it easily accessible for current and future generations is our mission -- and we continue to make progress to achieve that goal.

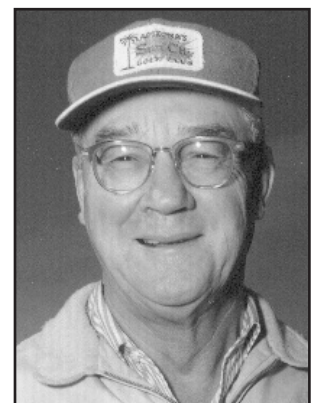
As always, thank you to all of you who support us in that mission!

Please share your comments and suggestions about the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum by emailing me at scibret@aol.com.

Join us as we celebrate Del Webb's birthday!

We invite you to stop by the museum May 17 to help us celebrate the 125th birthday of Del E. Webb. Enjoy films and exhibits showcasing the life of Sun City's founder, as well as ice cream treats throughout the day.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, May 17



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Known as Sun City Lake when it was dedicated in 1968, Viewpoint Lake is the largest man-made lake in Sun City and today is home to Lakeview Recreation Center. The Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. recently held a re-dedication ceremony to mark renovations and upgrades to the lake, including replacement of the lake's original liner. (Photos from the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum archives)

'Crown Jewel' of Sun City

Viewpoint Lake sparked community's expansion north of Grand

By Bret McKeand

When the Del E. Webb Development Company created Sun City's Viewpoint Lake in 1968, a polyethylene liner was installed to retain the water. The liner had a life expectancy of 25 years and wouldn't need to be replaced until long after the company departed the community.

Fifty-five years later, that liner has finally been replaced.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City held a re-dedication of the lake on Dec. 15 to celebrate a nearly three-year project to renovate and upgrade the lake, including replacement of the liner that incredibly lasted twice as long as originally expected.

Kat Fimmel, president of the RCSC Board of Directors, and General Manager Matthew D'Luzansky officially re-opened the lake during a brief ceremony that was followed by a talk

highlighting the history of the lake. The talk was presented by representatives of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Calling the lake, the "crown jewel of our community," Ms. Fimmel said upgrades will save water and save money." Renovations began three years ago and cost \$7.3 million.

Local historians Bill Pearson and Ben Roloff presented a talk on the history of Viewpoint Lake. Mr. Pearson is a former president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and Mr. Roloff is a member of the organization's Board of Trustees.

According to Mr. Pearson, the creation of the lake was integral to the Del E. Webb Development Company's decision in the late 1960s to expand the community north of Grand Avenue.

There was concern Grand Avenue would pose as an obstacle – a barrier – that residents living south of Grand

would be reluctant to cross. The company's solution was to propose bold plans for Sun City's expansion – plans that would feature larger homes with modern amenities not found in Phase I homes, shopping centers, larger recreation centers, a hospital – and a recreational lake large enough for boating and fishing.

Building a hospital in Sun City was a high priority for Sun City residents, and DEVCO was determined to include one in new expansion plans.

Jim Boswell, whose family had owned the land on which Sun City was built, donated \$5 million for the hospital with one stipulation: It had to be named after his uncle, Walter O. Boswell.

Plans submitted to the county planning department called for a hospital to be located along Thunderbird Road, adjacent to land earmarked for municipal facilities such as a city hall, police, and fire stations. Those facilities were

never constructed since Sun City never incorporated.

The company began in 1968 to build the hospital and a new sales pavilion to house new modern model homes. The most daunting project, however, was building the new lake that would be part of the golf course irrigation system.

Sun City Lake, as it was called then, was dedicated the first weekend in October 1968 and was announced as being 10 feet deep and spanned between 32-33 acres. The lake and its many lagoons provided over two miles of shoreline.

During lake excavation, millions of cubic feet of soil were removed and repositioned - most directly across the street to a site selected for a future hospital.

According to Mr. Roloff, most of it was trucked across the street and used as the foundation for Boswell Hospital. Del Webb himself had requested the hospital be constructed to tower over the community.

“Boswell was built higher because Del Webb wanted residents and patients to be able to look out any window and see all of Sun City,” said Mr. Roloff.

The remaining dirt dug out to create the lake was used to build a mountain adjacent to the lake and to fill low areas on Phase 2 lots.

It took builders over two months to pour the concrete for the two-mile shoreline. Two wells pumping at full capacity -- 3,000 gallons per minute -- took over three weeks to fill the lake. When full, the lake would contain 105 million gallons of water.

DEVCO officials boasted the lake liner would last at least 25 years.

A grand opening for what would become known as Sun City’s Phase II was held Oct. 11-12, 1968. Over 10,000 people showed up over the weekend. Of great interest were Sun City’s first-ever “lake lots,” which cost buyers an additional \$8,000-11,000.

A ceremony to christen the lake was held Oct. 13, 1968. Early entertainment featured sky divers landing in the lake, a water-skiing show and boat



The Del Webb Development Company officially opened model homes for Phase 2 -- the company's expansion north of Grand Avenue -- Oct. 11-12, 1968. A ceremony marking the opening of the lake was held Oct. 13, 1968.



Above, the new model home pavilion showcasing the first homes available in Phase II, located adjacent to the lake. A home along the lake cost an additional \$8,000-11,000. Above right, Ben Roloff shares the history of the lake's construction during a program held Dec. 15 at Lakeview Recreation Center. At right, Lakeview Center opened in 1970.



races. The lake was stocked with Rainbow trout and boasted two row boats, two sail boats and two paddleboats.

The mountain created by dirt dug out to make room for the lake would feature picnic areas, a gazebo, and a waterfall.

Mr. Pearson said Phase II was an immediate success.

“They sold 1,900 homes in 1969 and the company realized a pre-tax profit of \$6 million,” he said. “By 1971, that pre-tax profit had grown to \$11 million-plus.”

In 1968, Sun City’s population south of Grand Avenue had grown to 14,000. Many of the community’s current residents were amazed at what they found in Phase II.

“All the homes were larger than what were built in Phase I,” said Mr.

Pearson. “Homes had patios in front and back and featured the latest gadgets – including garage door openers.”

Lakeview Recreation Center was built two years later, and only after a demand from DEVCO that the separate recreation organizations operating the three existing Sun City Recreation Centers (Oakmont, Fairway and Mountain View) unite to create one overall operating body.

After several community votes, residents agreed to a merger and the creation of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. Lakeview Recreation Center was dedicated in 1970 to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Sun City.

Note: Information for this story provided by Bill Pearson and Ben Roloff.

Museum: In the Community



The Sundial Men's Club donated \$2,000 to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum as part of its annual end-of-the-year contributions to local charities. From left, Larry Carr, proceeds coordinator for the men's club, presents the check to Museum President Bret McKeand, and former Museum Vice President Paul Herrmann, while Men's Club President Bruce Halverson assists.



The museum's digitization team recently completed scanning and digitizing three huge scrapbooks detailing the early history of the Sun City Sportsmen's Club. The scrapbooks, covering the club's history in the 1960s through the 1980s, are now available on the museum's website. The digitization effort aims to expand the depth of historical information in the museum's archives, but storing items digitally, rather than storing physical artifacts. The scrapbooks were returned to the Sportsmen's Club on Feb. 15, along with a digital version of all three volumes stored on a flash drive.



Tim and Amy Nixon, owners of The Nixon Group in Sun City recently donated \$1,706 to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. The funds were generated thanks to a community shred-fest hosted by the Nixons. Paul Herrmann, former vice president of the historical society, accepts the donation.

The Nixon Group

Upon entering The Nixon Group realty offices, you are greeted by a wall adorned with advertising from the 60s. This wall helps to tell the story of The Community That Changed the Nation, highlighting the role advertising played in successfully selling Sun City to people across the country.



Sun City West Rec Centers donates 2 Sundome seats

The Recreation Centers of Sun City West has graciously donated to the museum two seats that once sat in the Sundome Center for Performing Arts. The seats, in addition to the six already at the museum, are believed to be the last remaining Sundome seats still in existence. The seats were brought to the museum by Russell Boston, facilities manager at the recreation centers. The seats are on temporary loan to The Nixon Group and can be seen on display at their office, 15458 N. 99th Ave., Sun City



Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City and we have been doing so for over 52 years. We are a charitable non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew, so did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in 2015, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.

Sunshine Service, Inc has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

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My goal is to provide exceptional service to each and every client I work with, whether they are looking to buy a home, sell their current property, or make a real estate investment. With 35 years of experience in the industry and a deep understanding of the local market, I am well-equipped to guide you through every step of the process and help you achieve your real estate goals.

As your local real estate agent, I believe in building lasting relationships with my clients based on trust, honesty, and mutual respect. I am passionate about helping you find the home of your dreams or selling your property for the best possible price, and I will work tirelessly to make sure that your real estate journey is a success.

So whether you're looking to buy, sell, or just have questions about the real estate market in our community, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am excited to get to know you and help you achieve your real estate goals.

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Buying property is a complex task. It is often the biggest single investment one will make in their lifetime. Real estate transactions have become increasingly more complicated. This should require the REALTOR® that represents you, to perform at an ever-increasing level of professionalism. I have been a REALTOR® for 36 years. I specialize in representing my clients in the purchase and sale of single-family residences and income property. It has been my pleasure to work with families, not just in selecting a 'house' but selecting their next home and community.

I will seek out the information that is important to you; whether that is a Church, library, recreation, doctors and medical facilities, or even how to get to Wal-Mart. I will try to direct you to other individuals with the same interests as you that are able to help you get settled in the community. Because I believe in the public's right to home ownership and raising the level of service within my profession, I have willingly served UC REALTOR® Association as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, and President of the Million Dollar Club. Served as Chair and committee member of The ByLaws, Multiple Listing, Finance, Community Involvement, Awards, Technology, Membership, and Education Committees. My education has never come to an end. I hold The REALTOR® Designation of GRI®; Graduate of Realtor Institute. Holding the GRI® is indicative that I have made a commitment to provide a high level of service, by securing a strong educational foundation in regulatory issues, technology, professional standards, and the sales process. I have just received The 2024 Arizona REALTORS® Education Achievement, from The Arizona Association of REALTORS®. This is awarded to REALTORS® for going above and beyond in improving service to buyers and sellers through professional development and for committed to top-level skills and education. My best, is the least, I can do! Success, It's simple. I listen, to you

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Appreciation event salutes the work of museum docents

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum held its annual docent appreciation in January.

The docents are a vital part of the museum and we simply could not operate without their contributions of time, energy and commitment.

The museum is actively seeking volunteers interested in serving as docents. The docents play a crucial role in guiding museum visitors through the house, narrating the fascinating story of Del Webb and the Sun Cities.

Extensive training will



SCAHS President Bret McKeand, Docent Coordinator Tammy Ruocco, Peggy Hann, Deb Kloehn, Gary Belanus and Jim Baker.



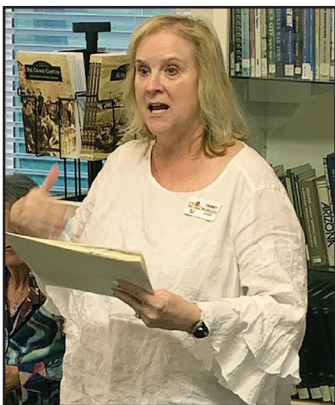
Docent Coordinator Tammy Ruocco, Tom McGhee, Gloria Zuroff, Grant McCargar, Group Tours Coordinator Catherine DuBois, Yasmina Snider, Connie Castillo and Sandee Donahue.

be provided to prospective docents, who will have the opportunity to collaborate with other dedicated docents/volunteers.

For those with an appre-

ciation for local history and a passion for our museum, this is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the community while enjoying interactions with people.

If you are interested or require more details, please call 623-974-2568 or visit the museum's website to complete the volunteer form.



Docent Coordinator Tammy Ruocco.

Arizona Historical Society recognizes Sun Cities Historical Society

The Arizona Historical Society has recognized the Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities with its 2024 Certification Tier 1 certificate. The honor makes the museum eligible for AHS grants up to \$2,000.



Linda Borton honored by National Farmers Union

Linda Borton, office manager for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, was recently honored by the National Farmers Union.

Linda was one of three to receive the NFU Award for Meritorious Service at the opening banquet of the 122nd Anniversary Convention.

The award is the highest honor presented by Farmers Union.

“The 2024 class of Meritorious Service Award re-

ipients represents lifelong commitment to Farmers Union,” said NFU President Rob Larew.

“I commend all three of these members and leaders on their passion and support for family farmers and our communities, and I challenge the next generation of Farmers Union leaders to be as engaged and committed to the organization.”

Linda was born into a Farmers Union family and raised in the small town of



Linda receiving the award from Rob Larew, left, and Joe Logan.

Columbus Grove, Ohio. She volunteered to work membership with her brother

Norm while she was still a teenager and became a delegate to her first National Farmers Union Convention in 1971.

After attending the convention, she maintained her lifelong devotion to Farmers Union, serving as staff for Ohio Farmers Union in a variety of roles, as well as National Farmers Union Insurance Company before returning to Ohio Farmers Union.

Museum: In the Community



New exhibit in SC West showcases history of the SC West Post Office

The Del Webb Sun Cities, in partnership with the Recreation Centers of Sun City West, maintains an exhibit at the CC&R office at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. An exhibit detailing the history of the Sun City West Post Office was put on display earlier this year.



PORA in Sun City West has created a "Hallway of History." Using exhibits created by the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, the hallway showcases the history of Sun City West and includes the story of the Sundome Center for Performing Arts.



Sun City West Post Office
A story of community unity, hard work and perseverance!

The story of the Sun City West Post Office is a tale of a story of the incredible perseverance by a small group of Sun City West residents in the face of the odds of the time considered to be insurmountable odds.

Sun City West opened its residents in 1973 and by 1985 the population had nearly reached 12,000. The United States Post Office announced 42 delivery routes in the new community - but those routes were growing by nearly 200 homes each month!

Making things more difficult, those routes and all mail collected from the post office in Sun City. The community had a contract with the post office to operate as the Sundome Center, but the lack of a full-service postal station was becoming a source of frustration for residents of a growing community.

Push for a post office fell on deaf ears!
In the late 1980s, PORA officials took it upon themselves to take action - and target residents to contact their state representatives and request a solution.

Unfortunately, the US Postal Reorganization Act required the postal service to cover all costs of building and maintaining an office at the cost of delivering mail. The US Postal Service had federal - and local officials - that NO funds were available for new projects.

To complete matters, the Sun City community in 1993, Sun City West postal needs were being addressed by one by the Sun City facility and wouldn't support a separate facility in Sun City West.

The odds of Sun City West securing its own post office seemed at this point to be slim or even nonexistent.



Community campaign launched!
The PORA Area Committee launched a community campaign in 1990 that would create a position, prepare a professional value and promote a letter-writing campaign to elected officials. The campaign was aimed to convince elected officials of the need for a full-service postal facility in SC West.

Over 11,000 signatures collected!

Virginia Smith to the rescue!
Virginia Smith, a congresswoman from Nebraska, had recently moved to Sun City West and became involved in this campaign. She personally took the petition to Washington, D.C. and met with her congressional friends - and even happened - Congressman Anthony Frank. Ms. Smith invited the petitioners to visit Sun City West for a personal tour of the community.

One last hurdle!
After a personal tour and meetings with legislators, the community finally secured the community needed its own post office - but unfortunately an expanded contract station was all Sun City West would receive!

Ms. Smith once again found a local letter-writing campaign to elected officials and finally, with the help of Sun, Dennis, and Congress, a law item providing \$1.1 million for a SC West Post Office was introduced in a general re-authorization bill. That amount was later raised to \$3 million.

The bill would pass both houses and be signed by President George Bush.

Sun City West would finally have its own post office!

Grand Opening: February 1995

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3800 E. Del Webb Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373 P.O. 2248
www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.com



Spreading the news of the museum at a recent PORA Vendor Expo are, from left, Linda Borton, museum office manager; Rodney Bertram, PORA multi-media manager; Dawn Exarhopoulas, PORA adult learning coordinator and SCAHS trustee; Bret McKeand, SCAHS president.

Speakers Bureau has a story -- or stories -- to tell!

Is your club, organization or business looking for a speaker to present a program showcasing the history of the Sun Cities and the Northwest Valley?

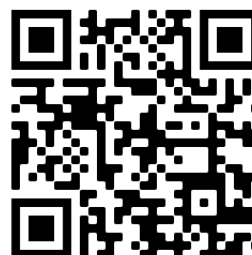
The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is pleased to provide professional speakers to share programs on several interesting topics, including the history of Sun

City and Sun City West, as well as talks highlighting the careers and companies built by Del E. Webb and Jim Boswell, two men hugely responsible for the success of the Sun Cities.

Talks are presented free of charge, although donations to the museum are always appreciated!

Visit our website or scan

the QR code below with your phone camera; find speaker topics under "Contact Us."



Alan Schlemmer presenting a talk on the history of Sun City West during a recent TORCH Academy class.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society/
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