

Del Webb®



Sun Cities

MUSEUM

The Official Newsletter of the

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

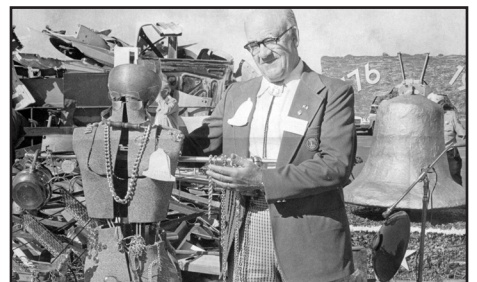
Spring 2026 | Volume 33 | Number 1



Opening a Portal to the Past

Museum plans ceremony to open
Liberty Bell Time Capsule

See Story, Page 8-9



Inside our spring newsletter ...



History Saved!

Museum re-dedicates
Marinette Historic Monument.

See Page 2-3



Annual Meeting

Speakers stress importance
of volunteerism in the Sun Cities.

See Page 5



Back to the Future

Sun City's 'experimental home'
set the stage for future models.

See Page 10-11



County Supervisor Debbie Lesko and Del Webb Sun Cities Museum President Andy Kindler at the Dec. 2 dedication ceremony celebrating the relocation of a historical marker celebrating the Town of Marinette.

Marinette Historic Marker relocated to new home at museum

Dec. 2 ceremony unveils new outdoor exhibit celebrating town's history

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in December officially welcomed the Marinette historical landmark to its new home and dedicated a new outdoor exhibit designed to celebrate the marker and the community that once existed before Sun City opened in 1960.

A dedication ceremony featuring local dignitaries was held Dec. 2 at the museum. A newly created exhibit explaining the history of the Marinette marker was unveiled before a crowd of several dozen onlookers.

The Marinette marker was originally dedicated by a local chapter of the Arizona Questers in 1985 near a church located at 105th and Coggins Drive. The marker sat there for the next 40 years, often unnoticed and many times hidden by surrounding

shrubs and weeds.

The church was sold in 2025 and museum officials feared for the long-term protection of the historic marker. The museum reached out to county officials last summer to move the marker to the museum.

With the help of Supervisor Debbie Lesko, the museum was granted permission to relocate the marker to the museum. The marker now sits next to the museum's carport.

The Dec. 2 ceremony featured opening remarks by Andy Kindler, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, followed by comments by Supervisor Lesko.

The plaque was dedicated at a site marking the original location of Marinette, the farming community that once existed before Sun City was cre-

ated in 1960.

The marker was inconspicuous, and some might even say hidden. At times it was obstructed by overgrown bushes. Even after the bushes were removed it was easy to miss. There were no signs pointing out the marker or explaining what it represented.

The marker simply sat in plain sight, but seemingly invisible. The road adjacent to the monument experienced very little traffic. Even those who went looking for the Marinette marker would often pass by it several times before finally stumbling over it.

The church sold the building last year to a medical company. In a move to protect and preserve the marker, museum officials reached out to both the building's new owners and Mari-

Continued on next page

The Town of Marinette, Arizona

Before there was Sun City ... there was the Town of Marinette!

Marinette was initially a simple train stop established in the Northwest Valley in the 1890s. Two men from Marinette, Wis., purchased land surrounding the tracks and established a water stop, naming it after their hometown. Developer R.P. Davis purchased the land in 1912 with the intention of creating a residential community called The Orchard Town of Marinette. No community was ever built, and Mr. Davis sold the land in 1920 to the Southwest Cotton Company.

For the next 40 years Marinette was a cotton farming community. Stretching from approximately 103rd Avenue to 111th Avenue on both sides of Grand Avenue, Marinette at one time had a school, two stores and a cotton gin.

By the mid-1950s, the land was owned by the J.G. Boswell Company. Concerned with the diminishing water table, James Boswell worked out a deal to sell the land and all that he had accumulated - which by that time included nearly all the area now encompassing Sun City and Sun City West - to the Del E. Webb Development Company.

In July of 1959, the Webb company began building Sun City, the nation's very first active-adult retirement community. The Town of Marinette still existed, and farming continued while the first Sun City homes were constructed.

Several of Marinette's buildings still stood the day Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960, but within a few years, all traces of the community had disappeared.

In 1985 the Marinette Chapter of The Arizona Questers dedicated this historic plaque to mark the original spot of Marinette. This plaque was originally located near a church on 105th and Coggins. In 2025 the Sun Cities Area Historical Society partnered with Maricopa County to relocate the monument to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.



Prior to 1960, Marinette was a farming community where the primary crop was cotton. At one point the town had several stores, a cotton gin, school and U.S. Post Office. Farming continued even while Sun City was constructed and town buildings were evident when Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960. The Arizona Questers dedicated an historic plaque marking the original site of Marinette in 1985 at a site less than a mile east of the museum. In 2025, that monument was relocated to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Learn more about Marinette by visiting our exhibit at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, or by visiting our website: delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.



Above left, the new outdoor exhibit created to explain the Marinette Historical Marker. Above, Supervisor Debbie Lesko shares remarks at the Dec. 2 dedication ceremony. At left, a photo from the original 1985 dedication ceremony near a church located at 105th and Coggins Drive. Below, three sisters who grew up in Marinette share their recollections at the Dec. 2 event. From left, JoEllen Thomas, Carolyn Dryer and Otta Potts.



Photos by Bret McKeand

copa County to inquire about obtaining the monument and relocating it approximately one mile away to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

The original chapter of The Questers that purchased the monument had long since folded, but the museum did reach out to the state chapter to inform them of its intentions. The state organization expressed its support for the plan.

Supervisor Lesko stepped up and provided invaluable assistance. Not only did she provide permission for the museum to take ownership of the

marker, but she also arranged for the county to move the monument to the museum at no charge.

On July 24, a Maricopa County Department of Transportation team of workers officially moved the marker to its new permanent home at the museum. The move went off without a hitch and the Marinette plaque is now prominently located in the museum's front yard, next to the driveway.

"We are very excited that this piece of history was able to be saved and relocated to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum," said Andrew Kindler,

president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees. The historical society owns and operates the museum.

"It allows us to continue to share the beginnings of the community that eventually became Sun City," he added.

The Dec. 2 dedication ceremony also featured comments and recollections by three Glendale sisters who lived in and grew up in Marinette, as well as comments from the president of the Arizona Questers.

Sun City's 'Bicentennial Quilt' goes on display May 1 at Museum

By Bret McKeand

An historic artifact originally created to celebrate the nation's bicentennial has found its way back home to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and will be on display beginning May 1.

The Sun City "Bicentennial Quilt," created by Sun City residents in 1976, will be on full display as part of the museum's celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

The quilt was initially donated in the 1980s to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society but turned over to the West Valley Art Museum for safekeeping. The art museum recently closed its doors and returned the quilt.

The idea for the Bicentennial Quilt came from the owner of a deli in Sun City who read about a similar bicentennial project in New York. She wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper asking for volunteers to pursue the concept.

Seven women showed up for the initial meeting. One of those women – Vi Cody – eventually took charge of the project and became known as the "quilt coordinator."

A seamstress and weaver, Vi (also as the woman who named Sundial Recreation Center) came up with the idea of a two-sided quilt – one side featuring local landmarks and activities and the other side featuring red, white and blue national symbols.

"We used 300 square feet of Arizona cotton – white sateen and red and blue poplin," Vi was quoted as saying in the January 1976 edition of *Sun City Here Magazine*.

The finished size of the quilt is 112-by-94 inches. A total of 110 people worked a total of 3,684 hours in 10 weeks to stitch and embroider the 126 squares on the quilt. More than 3,000 yards of quilt thread was used in the project.



The Sun City Bicentennial Quilt, as it appeared during a recent West Valley Art Museum exhibit that featured a collection of quilts. At left is past SCAHS President Connie McMillin. The quilt includes 126 individually quilted squares, including one depicting the Sun Bowl (right). Photos by Bret McKeand.



The actual cost of materials was \$400, but the quilt was insured for \$3,500.

Most of those involved were members of either the Lakeview Sew 'n Sew Club or the Handweavers Guild.

The side featuring Sun City activities features squares depicting the Sun Bowl, Lakeview Recreation Center, the sundial, Boswell Hospital and more.

There is a man carrying cotton, which is meant to pay homage to the Town of Marinette, the town that existed prior to Sun City.

Also featured is a Hopi Dancer, a complex embroidery that took Francis Lewis 42 hours to create -- the longest

of any of the 59 designs on the Sun City side of the quilt.

One square designed by Frances Afanasiev contains a genuine 100-year-old piece of fabric woven in Vermont on a primitive loom.

After being dry-cleaned and treated with a stain retardant, the finished quilt was unveiled during a Sun City "American Heritage" program Jan. 14, 1976, at the Sun Bowl. The quilt was displayed at several locations throughout the year but has been seldom seen since.

The display at the museum will be the quilt's first public display since the West Valley Art Museum displayed it in 2024 at the Peoria City Hall.

The secret to the Sun Cities? Volunteerism. Just ask the kids

Second-generation Sun Citians share why they followed parents to SC, SCW

Bill Pearson can still recall the first time he ever visited Sun City and his initial reaction to seeing senior citizens frolicking in the pool at Sundial Recreation Center.

“I thought I had just stepped into the movie, ‘Cocoon,’” he says with a laugh.

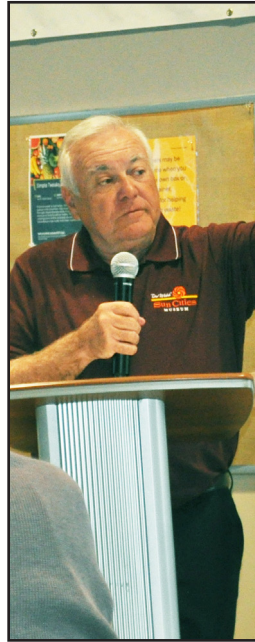
The year was 1977 and Bill was visiting his parents who had recently retired and purchased a house in the community. His initial reaction was subdued. But as he saw more of the community – especially after several return visits – he would become enamored with Sun City and today is one of the community’s biggest cheerleaders.

Bill and his wife would eventually follow his parents to Sun City and purchase a home here in 2003.

Bill’s story is not unique. Many residents of Sun City and Sun City West have followed in the footsteps of their parents – and even their grandparents – to become the second and even third generation in their families to retire to the Sun Cities.

Mr. Pearson and Sun City West resident Anne Becknell shared their experiences as second-generation residents during the Sun Cities Area Historical Society’s annual meeting held Jan. 13 at the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center in Sun City.

Mr. Pearson, a past president of the historical society, credits the volunteer



The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, owners of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, held its annual meeting Jan. 13 at the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center. Bill Pearson, left, and Anne Becknell, center, spoke about their experiences of following their parents in retirement to Sun City and Sun City West. On the right, and in the photo on the left is Andrew Kindler, president of the historical society.

spirit of residents as the defining value that separates the Sun Cities from every other retirement community in the world.

“The museum is the epitome of volunteerism. Every step of the way has pretty much been built by volunteers,” he said. “And today, when people walk through the doors, they’re stunned.”

Ms. Becknell’s parents bought a house in Sun City West in 1994. She recalls how “busy” her parents were once they moved to the community and how much they enjoyed learning new skills and meeting new friends.

“This commitment and involvement are what Sun City West is all about,” she said.

Museum earns Independent's 'West Valley Favorites' Award

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum earned top honors in the 2025 "West Valley Favorites" contest sponsored by Independent Newsmedia, Inc. USA, publishers of the Sun City and Sun City West Independent.

The museum captured first place in

the Arts and Entertainment/Museum category.

Residents from throughout the West Valley were encouraged to vote for their favorite establishment during the voting period, which took place last fall.





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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 January through May. Hours reduced in June.

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Message from the President

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum earning local and global attention!

What an exciting Spring season for the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum!

Not only have we had a nice volume of guests during the "Snowbird" season, we are also seeing guests from other communities in the West Valley. It is exciting to see the surrounding communities have learned about us and are interested in learning more about the community that changed retirement in America.

Additionally, the museum was contacted by a TV Production crew from Germany who produce a regularly broadcast show about unique places to live in the world. When they learned Sun City is still thriving, they came for two days and filmed many of the activities and amenities available to our residents.

I had the privilege of hosting them throughout the community and it was fun and interesting to experience our community through their eyes (both as 20-somethings and Europeans).

They kept repeating "nothing like this exists in Europe." Another repeated remark that should make all Sun Citians feel good is they could not get over how young and active everyone is. They met residents in their 80s and 90s lawn bowling, golfing, playing pickleball and bowling which truly surprised them. They think we all look younger than we are!



Andy Kindler 2026 President Sun Cities Area Historical Society

No sooner had the German crew gone back to produce their show when Tom Marks, the author of a recent book called "Coming of Age in Retirement," came back to the museum to film part of a documentary on the same book. The book has become a best seller in four different categories, so the publisher is creating a documentary to hopefully air in 2027. The book has two chapters dedicated to the founding of and lifestyle in Sun City.

A third surprise opportunity landed on the museum's doorstep when a writer from Phoenix Home & Garden magazine called to say he wanted to do an article with pictures for the April issue.

He provided a list of questions to be answered and

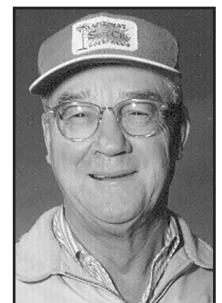
then visited the museum to see it and ask more questions of the docents who toured him through. Please go out and buy the issue to see how they presented the museum to their readers. This article should inform an even larger audience about the "little pink house" in Sun City.

Lastly, after we rededicated the Marinette Historical Marker to the museum property, someone who saw the video of the event contacted the museum to suggest that we submit the event to the American Association for State and Local History for consideration of an award for preserving local history. The final submission has been made and we find out in the fall if we received the award.

So join the excitement of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and bring your friends to come and see what Phoenix, the United States and Europe are learning about through the eyes of others.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us to celebrate Del E. Webb's birthday! Sunday, May 17 1-4 p.m. Visit the Museum's Facebook Page for Updates



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Sun City residents bring their metal donations to Sun City Stadium Jan. 15, 1976. The metal was melted down and used to create the Sun City Liberty Bell.

OPENING A PORTAL TO THE PAST

Join us to unveil the mystery: What's in the 50-year time capsule?

Sun City citizens celebrated the nation's bicentennial in 1976 by creating an exact replica of the famed Liberty Bell that remains on display at Bell Recreation Center.

During the official dedication ceremony on Nov. 15, 1976, a time capsule containing items donated by residents was sealed in the bell's base -- with instructions to open the container 50 years later.

That time has arrived.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, along with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., will host a ceremony on Nov. 15 to unseal the time capsule and reveal the enclosed items.

The mystery of what was placed in that time capsule will finally be solved. What did our residents in 1976 want to share with our residents of 2026?

There were no computers back then. No compact discs. No cellular telephones. No podcasts.

According to Andy Kindler, presi-

dent of the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum, the plan is to open the time capsule on the Sundial stage with a camera overhead to display the event on screens around the room so all those in attendance can see the opening -- and what's inside -- at the same time.

"We have some idea of what's inside, but have no clue as to what condition those items may now be in after 50 years," said Mr. Kindler.

The items will then be on display during the event before being moved to a permanent exhibit at the museum.

For instance, the museum knows newspapers were placed in the time capsule, as were letters written by residents -- letters of greetings to their fellow residents of 2026.

Other than that, anything else included in the time capsule is mere speculation.

"What would residents of 1976 want our residents today to know about them? What would they have included in the capsule," wonders Mr. Kindler.

Disco records? Pet rocks? Posters of Charlie's Angels or the Bionic Woman? A VHS tape of "Rocky?"

Beyond that, it's anyone's guess. But the items will eventually be on display in a permanent museum at the museum.

The museum, however, intends to continue the tradition and will be seeking ideas from residents as to what can be included in a new time capsule to be re-buried in the bell's base -- only to be reopened in another 50 years -- 2076.

A committee including members from the museum and the RCSC is planning the Nov. 15 event. The event will include a deejay, food trucks and other fun activities.

Thanks to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, the community's Liberty Bell will also play a role in the nation's 250th birthday celebration!

Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes has created the Arizona Amer-

Continued on next page



Save the Date!

Join the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum as we open the Time Capsule enclosed in the base of Sun City's Liberty Bell. Be with us as we uncover the treasures locked 50 years ago in the capsule!

**Mark your calendar for this special celebration:
1 p.m. Sunday, November 15, 2026
Sundial Recreation Center**

Dig out your hot pants and polyester leisure suits, put on your mood ring and bring your pet rock to celebrate some "Afternoon Delight" at the opening of the Sun City Time Capsule! Be there to see what has been tucked under the Liberty Bell for 50 years!

The Sun Cities Museum and RCSC will be co-hosting this celebration to discover what our community members of 1976 preserved for us. And at the same time, we will be replacing the time capsule with memorabilia from 2026 to be opened in 2076!

There will be food trucks for lunch, music and more to celebrate this day! We hope to see you there! More information to come closer to the day.



623-974-2568

10801 W. Oakmont Ave., Sun City, AZ
delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org



ica250 Commission with the goal of compiling and promoting a comprehensive list of activities throughout the state designed to celebrate the nation's semi-quincentennial in 2026.

The commission is creating an interactive "Passport250" to highlight 250 remarkable places across Arizona, from iconic landmarks and hidden gems to must-try restaurants and cultural destinations.

Part of the commission's plan is to create a traveling museum that will visit communities throughout Arizona and promote not only the nation's 250th anniversary, but the rich heritage of Arizona as well.

The creation of the Liberty Bell was truly a community effort. The idea for the bell was born in September 1975, The bell was chosen as an ideal way to celebrate the nation's bicentennial as it would have permanence and

significance long after the bicentennial celebrations ended.

The Del Webb Development Company agreed to underwrite the costs, but residents provided the metal used in construction.

A community-wide drive to collect metal was conducted and on Jan. 15, 1976 over 1,500 residents brought their donations to the parking lot of Sun City Stadium. Contributed items included family treasure, jewelry, appliances and more -- more than 7,000 pounds.

The metal was processed by a Philadelphia foundry and then sent to Arsten, Holland, where the bell was cast in the same mold used to create the original Philadelphia bell.

The bell arrived in Sun City on July 5, 1976 and was unveiled at the Sun Bowl on July 8. It was officially dedicated and the time capsule placed in

the base later that year at Bell Recreation Center.

A letter on file with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. instructs them to open the capsule in 2026.

The Sun City Liberty Bell arrived in Sun City on July 5, 1976, and was officially dedicated on Nov. 15 in Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center. The bell's base contains a time capsule set to be opened in 2026.

Whatever is included in the time capsule will be officially exhibited at the museum once the capsule is opened.

The history of the Liberty Bell can today be found at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

Visit the museum website to learn more about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and its beginnings.



Back to the Future

A closer look at the 1967 Sun City Experimental Home

By Paul Webster
SCAHS Trustee

Three years after DEVCO opened the 1964 Research House in Sun City, they built the 1967 Experimental House. The purpose was the same as the last house, to gather feedback over a two-week period from current residents on new home features, materials and appliances.

Utilizing the all-new H-57 model -- The Picardy, with a unique L-shape floorplan -- the house was built with many first-time Sun City features

While we know which features and materials were included, very little is known about the actual resident feedback and only a few black and white photographs of the exterior are in the historical society's archives. Many of the new features were provided by NuTone® which was already a supplier of range hoods, bathroom fans and doorbells in Sun City.

We are very fortunate the current residents Bob and Joan allowed the historical society to photograph the surviving original features which were exclusive to this house.

The house features a sunken living and family rooms; the living room is

in the front of the house and originally called the Parlor, and the family room is in the center of the house and was called the Leisure Room.

Half of the backyard was tiered with stairs leading down from the house to the lower-level yard and additional stairs from the lower-level to the upper level. Custom iron work in the front enhanced the landscaped front courtyard patio and in the back yard and fence inserts.

The features that made it into future production models were:

Flat roof/parapet

While this was not the first home model to offer a flat roof, the parapet or short wall surrounding the roof was usually covered with tile or cedar shakes. This house featured a stylized material manufactured by Masonite which was already a siding supplier in Sun City.

Garage with Electric Opener

Carports were standard in most homes built in Sun City with later models offering a garage as an additional cost option. This house not only had a double garage it also had an electric garage door opener offered for the first time.

Some of the features made it into future production models on a limited basis at additional cost to the buyers including:

Built in Toaster

The four-slice unit was built into the wall in the kitchen and while they worked, people thought that crumbs would be dumped in the wall attracting pests and the unit had to be cooled before moving back inside the wall to prevent fires. Over time replacement parts became an issue.

Central Vacuum System

Made popular on the 1960's television show the Jetsons, the central vacuum system with the actual unit in the garage did make it into the next series of Sun City models including the Patio Homes.

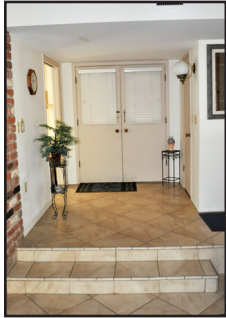
Built in Intercom and Music System

While intercoms were popular features in 1960s homes, the Del Webb model also offered a NuTone® music system that included a turntable located in the pri-



mary bedroom, so music lovers could listen to the radio or alternatively spin their 33, 45 and even 78 rpm records and hear the music throughout the house.

Sunken Family/Living Rooms



The next series of models offered one floor plan with a sunken living room, and it was not repeated in future models.

Many of the features in the house although popular in homes

of the time did not make it into future Sun City models including:

Central Water Purifier

Taking water softening to the next level, this new technology didn't make it into future models as many residents at the time thought that the water quality in Sun City was "just fine."

Mirrored Wall in the Living Room

Another popular feature in 1960s homes was the full wall of smokey mirrored glass. While this feature was not offered in future homes it was used in various models for the next 30 years.

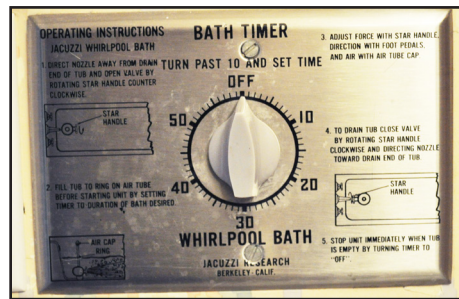
Double Fireplace

While many homes of the era had a fireplace shared by two rooms, the Sun City version was two fireplaces sharing the same chimney stack so you couldn't



see into the other room through the fireplace. Above the fireplaces were customer light fixtures which were the precursor to recessed can lights in the ceiling.

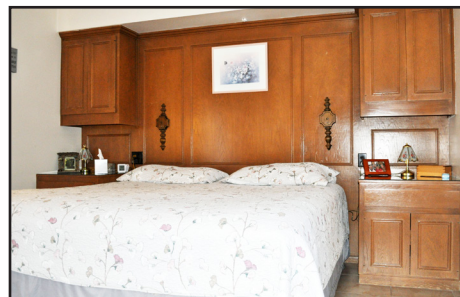
While many of us think of the very large Jacuzzi tubs that were included in larger Sun City models starting in



1970, the model in this house was a standard Sun City fiberglass tub with a removable Jacuzzi attachment that sits on the top of the tub drain with the controls mounted on a nearby wall.

Swedish Steam Bath

The Sauna was becoming popular in the 1960s but the Sun City Steam Bath was a large fiberglass shower with a built-in seat and shower door that went all the way to the ceiling to trap the steam. Like the Jacuzzi, an attachment near the floor created the steam.



Built in Storage Cabinets, Headboard and Nightstands in the Bedroom

Later Sun City models offered closets that incorporated storage drawers and cabinets, but this model basically eliminated the need for any wood furniture in the primary bedroom. While it might not have been well received in 1967, the concept might be more popular today. Inside the top cabinet is a power outlet and TV antenna cable.

Sink in the Bedroom Dressing Table

Dressing tables were very common in many Sun City models. This house added a small sink on the dressing table. Unlike normal sinks, the faucet and handles were positioned on the corner.

Gas BBQ in the Kitchen

A popular feature in the 1960s, usually in kitchens with a used brick enclosure, the Sun City version by NuTone® sat on top of the cabinetry that in future models became the built-in pantry.

Built-in Blender, Mixer, Juicer Ice Crusher and Knife Sharpener on the Counter

The Nutone® Food Center was a popular option in the 1960s. One small unit built into the countertop operated all the appliances. While they worked reasonably well, the mixer container was limited in size and only offered one beater and the ice crusher just spun ice around until it cracked. Unlike the built-in toaster, these units along with accessories are still readily available and command very high prices.

Tiered Back Yard with Steps

Technically, this feature made it into one final Sun City model on Wheatridge Drive in 1974 but it never became an optional or standard feature. The yard behind the bedrooms is at the standard level so there are additional stairs to access the upper yard.

Sale of the Property

Unlike the 1964 Research House that was returned to standard interior finishes, this home had features and finishes that were not easily removed. It was later sold with almost everything intact, including the tiered back yard, sunken parlor and leisure rooms, double fireplace and bedroom cabinetry and sink and other features.

This model returned in the next series of models without the sunken rooms and custom iron work and became the popular model H-65 north of Grand Avenue.

I'd like to thank the current owners Bob and Joan for allowing us to photograph the features original to the house.

Additional information about this house and all the properties built by the Del E Webb Development Company (DEVCO) can be found online at the museum website.

Museum hosts course in digital scrapbooking

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum hosts course in digital scrapbooking

Sun City and Sun City West are communities rich in history when it comes to vibrant clubs and service organizations. To ensure these stories are not lost to time, area clubs and organizations are invited to participate in upcoming courses on “Creating Digital Scrapbooks” designed specifically for preserving an organization’s history.

The free course is sponsored by the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum and taught by Barb Wagers, head of preservation at the museum.

Digital scrapbooking offers a practical and lasting way to capture a club or organization’s history -- from social events, milestones, charitable proj-

ects to everyday life in the community. The hands-on course will guide participants through the process of electronically organizing photographs, documents, and newspaper clippings into professional-looking digital scrapbooks using a computer.

Digital scrapbooks protect original materials and can be shared widely with members, the community and future generations. They can be updated easily, duplicated without damage, and preserved in multiple locations to ensure longevity. By learning digital scrapbooking, clubs and organizations can safeguard their legacies while embracing modern tools that make history more accessible and sustainable.

There will be multiple courses

taught throughout the year. The course is suitable for those with basic computer skills and will move at a comfortable pace, emphasizing page structure, organization, and creativity. Any club or organization in Sun City and Sun City West is welcome to participate and take part in preserving the unique heritage of our communities.

For more information and course details, email Barb Wagers at wagerscahs@gmail.com with name, phone number and the name of your club or organization, or call the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 623-974-2568 with your contact information.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Visit www.delwebbsuncities-museum.org.

Thank you to our Business Partners!

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is grateful for the support of its members. Special thanks to our Platinum and Gold Members:

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Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Gift Shop

Books \$ 20.00 / Ball Caps / Visors \$ 25.00

Membership Discounts!



Visit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, or order books online at <https://delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org/store/>. The *Sun City West Silver Celebration*, *The First Twenty-Five Years* book by Edson Allen is also available for purchase at the Property Owners & Residents Association (PORA) front office, located at 13815 W Camino Del Sol, Sun City West.



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Friends of the Museum



Wisconsin Day Celebration! A big thank you to everyone who stopped by the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum booth at the 2026 Wisconsin Day Celebration at the Sun Bowl! Bill Pearson (pictured) and Paul Webster enjoyed visiting with everyone and sharing stories about the history of the Sun Cities.



Thanks to the Sunflower Retirement Community in Surprise for visiting the museum for a private tour. A fun group, they were impressed by how much the museum offered in exhibits and history. Docent and Trustee Catherine DuBois hosted the group. If you have a group interested in a private tour, please reach out to us for details and scheduling.



Questers support museum

Members of the Roadrunner, Yucca and Ocotillo chapters of the Arizona State Organization of The Questers attended the Marinette marker re-dedication ceremony Dec. 2 at the museum. The Questers provided the funds to pay for the outdoor exhibit panel.



Museum Vice President Alan Schlemmer in February kicked off a six-month series of historical talks at Freedom Plaza in Peoria. Talks will be held the third Friday of each month at the life-care facility.



Deb Kloehn was the lucky winner of an electric mobility scooter given away during the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's annual meeting Jan. 13 at Banner Olive Branch Senior Center. The scooter was provided by Pinnacle Mobility Scooters. From left, Deb, Bill Kremer (owner of Pinnacle Mobility Scooters) and SCAHS President Andy Kindler. Pinnacle Mobility Scooters is located at 10659 W. Grand Ave., Sun City.



The Recreation Centers of Sun City held its Discover Sun City Expo on Jan.7 at Sundial Recreation Center. Visiting President Andy Kindler, left, at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum were RCSC General Manager Rebecca Hill and RCSC President Tom Foster.



Docent Karen Herzog giving a tour to new Sun City residents from Washington State and their friend visiting from Tucson.

Become a docent at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

Help bring the history of the Sun Cities to life!

Are you passionate about local history? Love meeting new people? Ready to share the stories that shaped Sun City and Sun City West? Join our amazing team of volunteer docents and be part of something truly meaningful!

As a docent, you'll become a storyteller, guide, and ambassador, connecting visitors to the vibrant past of the Sun Cities. Whether you're leading tours, sharing fascinating facts, or chatting with guests, you'll play a key role in preserving the legacy of our community.

No experience? No prob-

lem! We'll provide you with a training manual, training program, and pair you with a seasoned docent to guide you every step of the way.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn, share, and be part of a team that brings history to life. All you need is curiosity, a love for learning, and a heart for community.

Training is provided.

Help us keep our history alive ~ one tour at a time!

Get started today! Apply online <https://delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org/docent-information/> or give us a call at 623-974-2568.



Four past presidents of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society (owners of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum), attended the museum's holiday party on Dec. 2. From left, Don Tuffs, Bill Pearson, Ed Allen and Bret McKeand.

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?

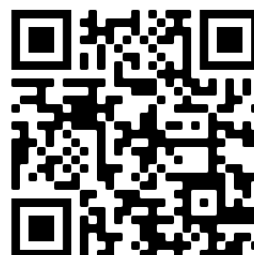
The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is pleased to provide professional speakers to share programs on several interesting topics, including the history of Sun

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 City Area Historical Society/
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
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