

Sun City AZ • 1960 - 2016

The Best is Yet to Come!



The past two years, we have looked at the best of Sun City AZ solely through the lens of improvements made during that calendar year. In this issue, we are approaching it from a very different perspective.

The vast majority of residents in Sun City AZ will tell you it is the best 55+ active adult retirement community in the country. Obviously that is a purely subjective opinion and one we have no interest in debating.

Rather, we would like to tell you the story, through words and pictures, why nearly 40,000 residents feel so strongly about the place they call home.

Suffice to say, it is no easy task trying to tell the Sun City AZ story in a brief 16 page summary. The myriad of reasons people love the community is found in so many varied ways in so many differing choices; it is nearly impossible.

We will attempt to showcase some of them, knowing full well we have barely scratched the surface. Any good story teller knows the best way to engage readers is to touch their hearts; make them feel the joy of why we live here.

We will try to do just that as we take you on a journey from the beginning to the present. We know hundreds of thousands of residents have gone into the making of Sun City AZ. Their stamp is visible each step of the way.

Knowing the history of Sun City AZ is critical to realizing its potential. In these pages, you will begin to understand why and how we became what we are today - one of the best places to live in the United States and just maybe the world.

Enjoy.

SUN CITY
ARIZONA

Historically Speaking

Every great story has its share of tragedy, turmoil and strife. Sun City AZ is one of those historical legends that take on a mythical quality. Success was instantaneous; with 100,000 visitors opening day weekend, and more homes sold in the first year than they projected for the first three years.

Expansive, explosive and expensive were all key ingredients that led to its unparalleled success, and ultimately a near collapse by 1964. Growth had the Del E. Webb Corporation (DEVCO) racing across country to replicate Sun City in both Florida and California. Both were abysmal failures.



Model homes on Oakmont Drive under construction, late 1959

The truly crushing factor that caused the upheaval was when sales in Sun City AZ fell to less than 400 homes in 1964. Del Webb needed a miracle and in 1965 he found one.

John Meeker became the guiding light. His inspiration to build a sense of community was critical to his every decision. He saw the potential and at the



Town Hall (Fairway)



Original DEVCO Sun City AZ sales office is now part of the Del Webb Museum.

very core were the people living within the white walls of Sun City AZ.

There was no blueprint, no "how-to" on building the world's first true active adult community. Everything was trial and error. The first residents surrounding the Community Center (Oakmont) joined and paid for the amenities on a voluntary basis.

It wasn't until late 1961 when Town Hall (Fairway) opened that they realized the need to charge a fee to new owners. Buyers agreed to sign a facilities agreement which made life a whole lot easier. DEVCO quickly gave the centers to the community and the challenges for Community Center and Town Hall were entirely different.



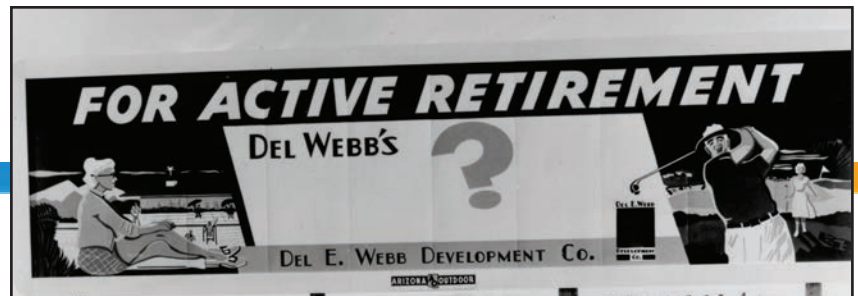
Sun City - An Active New Way of Life!



Sun City AZ's first church still holds services. Today the community boasts over 30 houses of worship.



Cars line up along Grand Avenue the weekend of January 1, 1960 as 1000's of people traveled to see Sun City AZ for the first time.



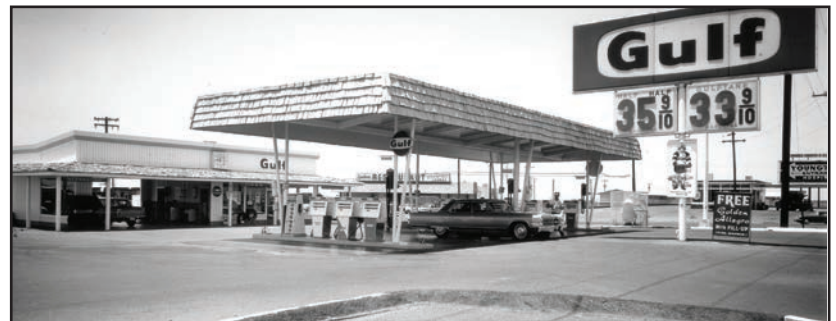
By January 1963, Sun City went from no name (top) to having 7,000 residents & 90 clubs, organizations. Fun often included community BBQs (left).

Community Center struggled to pay the bills and remain open; Town Hall quickly outgrew its space and couldn't/wouldn't let the Community Center folks use their facilities except for limited events.

It took nearly six years for the struggle to get resolved. The two key factors were the building of Mountain View Rec Center and DEVCO being willing to upgrade the original Community Center.

Of course the one constant was the residents living in the community working tirelessly to find solutions that benefited the majority. The residents from the two Rec Center organizations voted to merge into a single entity that would be known as the Sun City Community Association Inc.

It was a long arduous, uphill battle, but with the community coming together the future was set for the push across Grand Avenue. From 1968 through 1978 DEVCO averaged more than 2,000 home sales per year. Sales figures that even today any developer would love to see.



The sign shows inexpensive gas prices at the Gulf gas station on Grand Ave. (above) along with great cars parked at the Greenway Drug store (right).



RCSC Comes of Age

Virtually everyone moving to Sun City AZ is stunned by its size and befuddled by its makeup. Even more astounding is the fact we aren't a city at all, but a community of residents working in concert with one another. There's no cumbersome local government with its expensive trappings.

As we read earlier, the first single entity organization was formed in 1968 as the Sun City Community Association Inc. On May 15, 1972 the name was changed to the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., a name we all now lovingly refer to as the RCSC. While there are a dozen or more organizations all playing a role in Sun City AZ's success, none has been more significant than the RCSC.

From its divisive roots in the early 60s, a cohesive, well-run organization has grown from a simple concept of self-governance. Every step of the way, residents have worked toward a better Sun City AZ. It's been a joint venture between caring staff and committed residents working in tandem.

In the mid 80s it was a battle over direction. With DEVCO out of the picture, the community realized how important it was for each of us to share in the task of the decision-making process. Higher costs were fought by many, but ultimately residents came to understand you got what you were willing to pay for.



By the late 90s, the amenities given to us by DEVCO were aging. A brilliant decision to enact a change of ownership charge on properties was to be the single most important action ever taken by an RCSC board.

Simply put, the rest is history. Since 1999, Sun City AZ has evolved into a community where the future just keeps getting brighter. We have the money to start and finish projects, and pay for them with cash in hand. By the year 2025, we will have reinvested \$150 million in our amenities; simply staggering numbers.

We will touch on other organizations later in this magazine, but for now let's focus on the RCSC. The RCSC consists of:

- Seven Recreation Centers - Each with swimming pools, spas & fitness centers
- Eight Golf Courses (Five Regulation, Three Executive) spanning 1,100 acres
- Two Bowling Centers
- Open-air Amphitheater (Sun Bowl)
- Off-Leash Dog Park
- 33-Acre Man-Made Lake and Hillside Park
- Over 130 Craft, Sport and Social Clubs

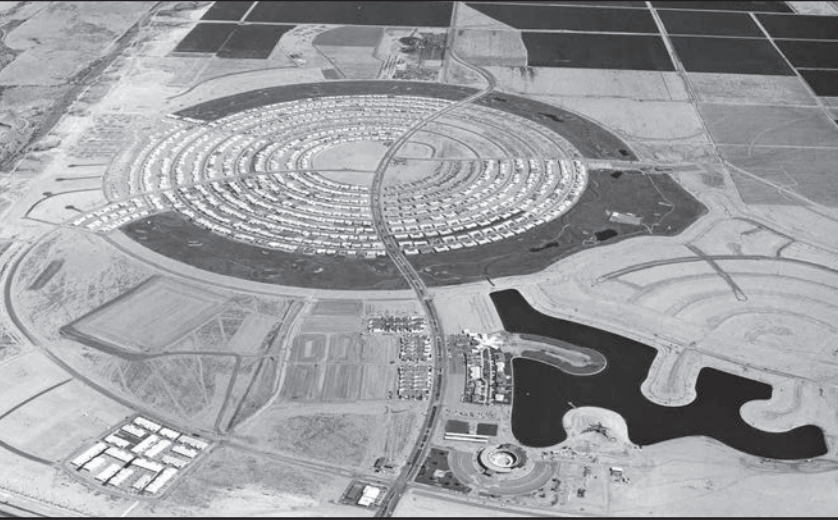
Also included within the various centers are five lawn bowling venues, 27 pickleball courts, 16 tennis courts, softball field, walking tracks (both indoor and out), bocce courts and water sports. For fitness buffs, the options are wide and varied.



Top Left: Early Sun City AZ "pioneers" gather around Del Webb after a meeting at Town Hall (Fairway).

Bottom Left: Marinette is no longer considered the red-headed stepchild after renovations were completed in 2015.

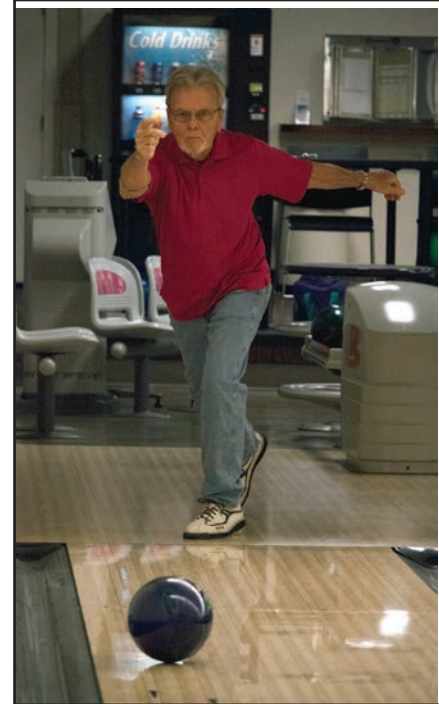
Above: Lawn bowling continues to be popular in Sun City AZ!



The intangibles may be even more impressive. With more than 350 paid staff and management personnel and hundreds of volunteers, the community stays running near on 365 days of the year. Centers and golf courses open early and remain open late, giving residents plenty of time to partake whether working or retired. And the employees almost always have a smile on their faces as they work to keep Sun City AZ a great place to live (nearly 65% of the staff call Sun City home).



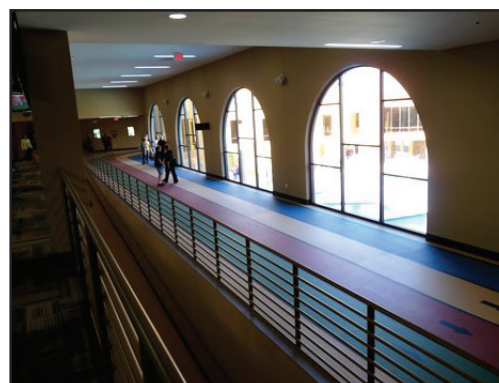
Top Left: Early aerial photo (1970) shows Lakeview Center & Viewpoint Lake. The waterfall & hilltop gazebo (center above) are a popular venue for weddings and the like. Lakeview Center currently houses RCSC Corporate & Board Offices.



Right: RCSC operates two bowling centers, Lakeview Lanes and Bell Lanes, which host league play along with a number of tournaments throughout the year. Each bowling center also has a cafe/restaurant where patrons can enjoy a meal.



Left: RCSC employees are easily identified by their bright & attractive uniform shirts. Above: RCSC Clubs have always been part of the Sun City AZ scene, from wood shop (above left) to water volleyball in the renovated Oakmont pool (above right).



Left: Complete rebuild of the Fairway Center, opened in 2011, includes an indoor walking track (above). Right: Residents voiced their concerns & saved the Sundial at 103rd & Boswell when structural faults were discovered.

Recreation Centers: The Essence of Sun City Living

As Sun City AZ opened its doors on January 1, 1960, one of the most compelling sights was the Community Center. While modest by today's standards, the first rec center played an enormous role in attracting potential buyers to the community.

There's no question, the model homes played a part, but the amenities were in place long before the first resident moved in. It was pure genius on the part of DEVCO, and essential to entice buyers to sign on the dotted line.

Community Center/Oakmont was the trial run, and five of the six centers that followed all got bigger and better. Marinette got short shrift, but as you can see in the photos here, it's no longer the red headed stepchild.

The Centers get millions of resident visits each year and equally important they are still critical to the telling and selling of the Sun City AZ way of life.

Top Right: Bell Center swimming pool circa 1976; Bell Center walking pool today (below).

Bottom Right: Marinette Center renovations were completed in 2015, nearly doubling the fitness area complete with state-of-the-art equipment.

Far Bottom Right: The Welcome Desk area at Fairway Center.



Did you know?

Recreation Center:	Date Center Opened:
Civic Center (Oakmont Center)	January 1960
Town Hall (Fairway Center)	January 1961
Sun Bowl Amphitheater	January 1967
Town Hall South (Mt. View Center)	June 1967
Lakeview Center	January 1970
Lakeview Lanes	October 1971
Sundial Center	April 1973
Bell Center/Bell Lanes	April 1976
Marinette Center	November 1979

Special to Spectacular

With each new rec center opening, residents were delighted. Until Marinette, they became bigger and better. Marinette was put in begrudgingly, as DEVCO overspent their budget at the massive Bell Center complex and tried to cut costs. Residents threatened to sue and a small center was eventually constructed.

During the 80s the country saw an explosion in fitness and our centers were perfectly positioned to fit resident's needs. By the 90s, they had begun to look and feel too small as cardiovascular and weight training became more popular.

As we reached the turn of the century, the RCSC board quickly realized their centers were becoming outdated. If we were to compete in the active adult community marketplace, the recreation centers would need serious updating.

In 1999 the board passed the Preservation and Improvement Fee (PIF) and it became the vehicle to salvage Sun City AZ from becoming irrelevant. As you can see below, the list of major remodeling is staggering...and even more so is the fact we paid cash for all of it.

Did you know?

Since the Preservation and Improvement Fee (PIF) was passed in 1999, over \$56 million has been reinvested in Sun City's amenities.

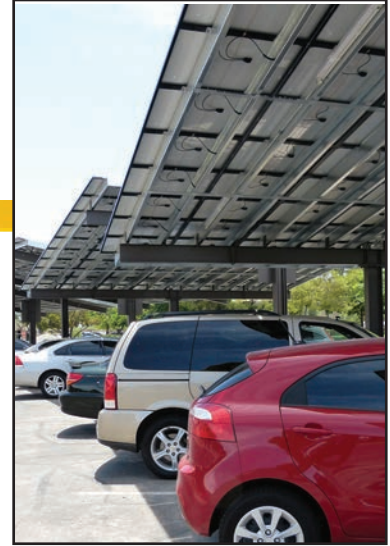
Here is a short list of the larger improvements made over the past 15 years:

2001/2002	Sundial Recreation Center: \$2 million.
2005	Bell Recreation Center Pool & Fitness Center: \$4 million.
2008/2009	Fairway Recreation Center: \$16.5 million.
2012	North Golf Course and Patio: \$5.6 million.
2013	Marinette Recreation Center and Pickleball Pavilion: \$5 million.
2013	Bell Tennis Complex: \$1.6 million.
2015	Riverview Golf Course and Patio: \$6.1 million.

While these figures are staggering, over the next 25 years it is anticipated that the PIF will generate another \$150 million to continue to keep Sun City's amenity package current and in touch with the needs of residents. How does it get better than that?



Above: Community Center (Oakmont), Sun City AZ's first rec center was very special. Right: Solar panels at Lakeview.



Above: Covered pickleball pavilion at Marinette (2015);
Right: Bocce courts at Sundial Center;
Below: Bell Tennis Center is named "Outstanding Outdoor Tennis Facility of the Year" in 2015 by American Sports Builders Association.



Housing Then

The first five years of Sun City AZ's existence was all about the community and living the good life. Homes were modest block structures ranging from 900 to 1,500 square feet. The initial target market was retirees of modest income living inexpensively.

It was a great idea, for starters. Unfortunately, by 1964, that strategy had failed DEVCO and the company was on the brink of ending the "great social experiment" and planning a different direction. North of Grand Avenue was to become an industrial zone along with non-age restricted housing.

Del Webb brought in John Meeker for one last go at revitalizing Sun City AZ. John and his staff were nothing short of brilliant. His vision for a bigger, better community included housing unlike his predecessors.

From 1965 through build-out in 1978, Sun City AZ evolved into a showcase for home design. He incorporated "six modes of living" over that time period and with each new series of model homes, residents and potential buyers couldn't wait to see the unveiling. From 1968 through 1978, DEVCO averaged

more than 2,000 home sales per year; staggering numbers for any builder. Home styles and options ran the gamut as Meeker was willing to try almost anything...including a pool in the living room of one of the 1974 Galleria of Homes models (shown below, top right)

Sun City AZ is unique in so many ways, and nothing amplifies it more than our housing options. In Meeker's oral history, he had this to say: "There was no separation of better homes and little homes. That was unique, that wasn't done. In a regular community, you don't build \$100,000 homes alongside \$500,000 homes. Webb had changed that up a little bit and that was okay. We had no class separation."

The "Six Modes of Living" were: 1) Single Family Homes, 2) Garden Court Apartments, 3) Duplexes, 4) Patio Homes, 5) Chalet Apartments, and 6) Foursomes.



Housing Now



Photo above courtesy of K. Hovnanian Homes



Fifty-six years after the fact, Sun City AZ housing options are still one of it's most endearing qualities. There is something for everyone and the beauty of it is whether a \$400,000 lake home or a modest \$40,000 one bedroom, one bath in Phase 1, we all enjoy the same quality of life found in Sun City AZ.

There are those who lament: "Sun City AZ homes are old, tired and dated." Not true, as K. Hovnanian has begun building homes for those needing brand new and they are quite popular (there are only 140 of them, so move fast).

The bigger story line that is often overlooked is what buyers are doing to their properties. DEVCO built quality homes and they are known in the business as having "great bones."

Almost every interior wall in original Sun City AZ homes can be removed, and for years now, buyers have been taking advantage and modifying designs

and putting their stamp on them. It's part of the joy of buying and living here.

The most recent spate of buyers boomers are really taking that concept to the next level. Remodeling Sun City AZ homes has never been more apparent, as the options to expand, enlarge and create an exciting floor plan is almost unlimited.

Of course the other side of the coin is just as true. For those loving the vintage, retro 60's vibe, maintaining the original look is equally popular. Pride of ownership is simply about doing what appeals to you and fitting into the neighborhood.

The original Sun City AZ is an eclectic array of home styles, looks and options and their appeal is timeless. In the coming years we will continue to see our community evolve as each new owner adapts to their own personal preference. It's all part of the ever-changing beauty of Sun City AZ.



An Unmatched Golfing Community



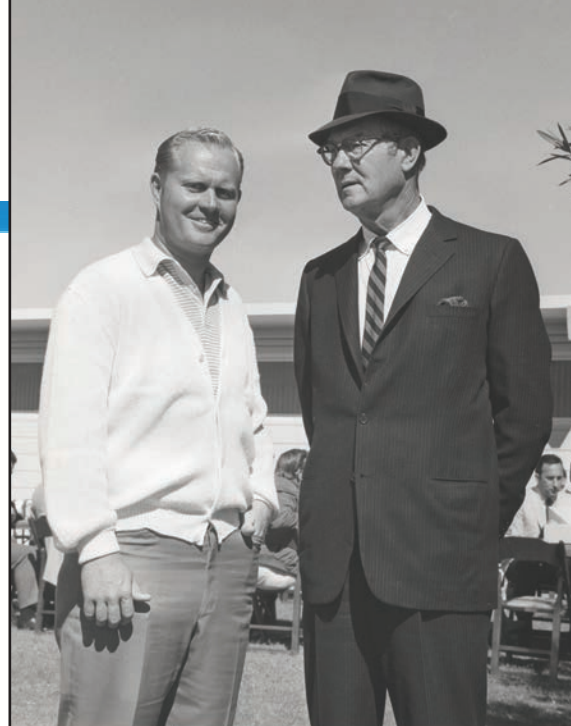
It should come as no surprise, some of the first dirt moved for the start of Sun City AZ was for the front 9 holes on the North Golf Course. Beginning in the summer of 1959, DEVCO wanted the amenities in place for opening day, and having the front 9 holes in place was critical to selling Sun City AZ to potential buyers.

Even casual golf fans can remember back to the 60s when Ben Hogan was finishing his career and the young upstarts Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus were making their mark. Golf was about to take off across the country and Sun City AZ was perfectly positioned to be a part of that explosion.

Del Webb was an avid golfer and he wanted golf to play a significant role in the development of the community. Golf course lots sold for a premium and were highly desirable for those wanting to look out kitchen windows and see green spaces and open land.

Within two years, there were two courses open. The North and South courses were filled with players on a constant basis. DEVCO allowed outside play as they felt it helped sell Sun City AZ properties. In 1964, Sun City AZ's first of three private country clubs was planned and opened in 1967.

The move across Grand at the end of the 60s didn't stop the company's commitment to golf. Lakes East and Lakes West was quickly added and with lots selling quickly, Riverview was added to the mix. The



second privately owned country club, Palmbrook, was built in Phase 2.

When DEVCO moved across Bell Road into Phase 3, Willowbrook and Willowcreek opened as did the final private course, Union Hills. To round out the commitment to golf, the company added Quail Run on the site of their old construction yard.

Clearly Webb's love of the game played a role in the number of courses Sun City AZ enjoys. Where else can one golf every day of the week, and play a different course each of those days? Truly a golfer's paradise.



Top Left: Golfers out on renovated North Course. Top Right: Webb and Arnold Palmer. Above: Past Board President Jim Brasher & wife Lloydene on the course.



Sun City AZ golf...it just keeps getting better.

If those early years aren't enough for you, the rest of the story is even better. Like all Sun City AZ amenities, by the end of the 90s, our golf courses were showing some age.

While maintenance was a high priority, there was never enough money to begin the costly repairs and updating they so badly needed. Wells, irrigation and watering distribution systems had all made major advancements over the years and there was a real need to move in that direction.

Even with the number of courses spread across Sun City AZ, the amount of play takes its toll and over the years it just made sense to upgrade tee boxes, sand traps and greens while doing the major irrigation that was so badly needed.

The North course got the first \$6 million face lift. Closed for a year, residents patiently awaited its

reopening. During the shutdown, the clubhouse got a new look as well with special attention to the outside patio. Upon completion, delighted golfers gave rave reviews to the renovations.

Riverview reopened in November 2015 with a similar renovation and again, the golfing community found lots of reasons to have smiles on their faces. The only problem is players at the other courses are clamoring for improvements and in the coming years we'll see more upgrades.

All of the courses were deeded to the RCSC in June of 1977 with the exception of Quail Run, which they deeded in April 1979. The story goes that it cost the RCSC \$10 and a cup of coffee and is one of the key reasons golf is as affordable as it is. Where else can you golf every day of the year for \$1,500?

Above: Renovated North Patio. Below Left: Great golf day despite the sand trap! Below Center, Right: New vs. Old Pro Shop.



Now That's Entertainment

Much of Sun City AZ's success can be attributed to the creative genius of John Meeker. His vision to build a very special community was only surpassed by his passion to create something residents were proud of and excited about.

Within a year of taking the DEVCO reins of Sun City AZ, Meeker came to understand there was a chance for it to grow beyond anyone's wildest imagination. He saw the potential and understood the importance of "over the top" promotion.

By 1966, Del Webb had played a major role in developing Las Vegas. He owned several casinos there and built a number of others. His connections to entertainers of every stripe gave Meeker a leg up on his next venture.

One day while flying over Sun City AZ, Meeker saw an opportunity. There was a vacant tract of land on 107th just south of Peoria Avenue. He envisioned an open-air amphitheater that could seat thousands.

John didn't just dream things, he built them. Quickly going to work, his crew constructed the Sun Bowl and in January of 1967 it opened. Like almost everything he did, it was a wild success. Big name talent and Vegas show stoppers sold out the venue week after week.

Ticket prices were reasonable and you could buy tickets for individual performances or season packages and save even more. During the years DEVCO ran it, they brought in the likes of Liberace, The Lawrence Welk Band, Fred Waring, Guy Lombardo, Jimmy Durante and Rosemary Clooney, just to name a few.

These shows continued through the 70s and were a marvelous tool to market the community. It was vintage John Meeker and when he moved to Sun City West he carried it a step further and built the Sun Dome. Sadly, that venue has come down, but the Sun Bowl lives on in all its glory.



Left: The Sun Bowl in the early days brought in record crowds with performers ranging from Jimmy Durante (left), Mickie Finn's Band (center) and Liberace (right) to Sun City AZ's open-air amphitheater.

Facing Page:

Top Left: Tribute bands such as Peter, Paul & Mary bring out the crowds these days at the Sun Bowl.

Bottom Left: Dancing with the Sun City Stars has provided a rousing evening of entertainment in recent years. Shown here is contestant Ben Roloff with dance partner & show emcee.



And the Hits just keep on coming!

DEVCO left Sun City AZ after build-out in 1978 and moved their operations to Sun City West. They continued to host the "concert series" at the Sun Bowl, but the original plan was to gift the Bowl to the Sun City Home Owners Association.

Somewhere along the way, the plan went amiss. Instead, the Recreation Centers of Sun City (RCSC) was offered the property and it took a vote of the residents to complete the transaction. Rec fees went from \$40 to \$42 per person; the \$2 increase directly applied to the cost of taking ownership and running the Sun Bowl.

Suffice to say, it was the best \$2 spent in Sun City AZ's history. The venue has been paying dividends since the beginning and the past several years its value has become even more apparent.

Over the past five years, the direction has shifted somewhat away from the local performers we were mainly seeing. Harkening back to our roots, more

money was dedicated to the events and entertainment. The Club & Activities Office has strived in the last few years to enhance offerings to residents with an eye towards broader audience appeal.

New shows, new energy and a wider spectrum of performers have turned the free Sunday night shows into not-to-be-missed events. Tribute bands have become quite popular and some of these free shows have drawn record-setting crowds.

Recognizing boomers have grown up as concert-goers, the next step was even more attractive. The RCSC began a concert series at the Sundial Auditorium. The performers are top notch and the cost of admission is well below what it would cost to catch these shows in the Phoenix area.

There is not another active adult community in the country with a venue like our beloved Sun Bowl. The shows just keep getting better and our future gets brighter with each new offering.



The Sun Bowl still attracts record crowds during the spring and fall concert seasons. These shows now routinely feature many original bands who still perform together (such as The Tokens & The Kingsmen) and great tribute acts ranging from Creedence Clearwater to Three Dog Night, along with talented local performers, which all keep the dance floor down front a-jumpin'!

Other Community Organizations

When others talk of an infrastructure in their community, city or town, they are talking about a cadre of paid staff and hired hands to do the bidding of those living there. When we talk about it in Sun City AZ, it takes on a whole new meaning. It's the organizations that fill in the blanks and holes left from not having a far reaching city governing structure.

During the first 25 years of Sun City AZ's existence there was enormous pressure to incorporate. The arguments to take advantage of being taxed and getting those tax dollars back in the form of revenue sharing from the state was strong. Fortunately, the fight to keep from incorporating was even more compelling. Many residents didn't want to lose that self-reliance that came with being different from where they came.

These days, Sun City AZ faces new challenges and pressures. More folks are working later in life and that fact alone puts a strain on our community's structure. Less free time means less people on our golf courses, in our clubs and most importantly filling the need for volunteers.

The strength of Sun City AZ has always been its ability to rise up to challenges and solve problems from within. This provides yet another opportunity for residents to shine. Volunteering these days may well look different than in years past, as those of us living here need to be willing to give back in ways that fit our time constraints and personal preferences.

To truly understand Sun City AZ is to look beyond the golf courses, rec centers, clubs and activities. There are a dozen or more organizations within and around the community that help make Sun City AZ tick. While some have paid staff, most are volunteer based and rely heavily on donations and residents giving both their time and expertise to remain open.

Here's a short list of some of the bigger ones and a brief description of what they do:

- **Sun City Home Owners Association:**

The Sun City Home Owners Association (commonly referred to as SCHOA) is a free-standing organization whose primary function is to enforce our limited Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs). While membership is voluntary (currently \$20 per year), complying with the CC&Rs is mandatory. SCHOA also offers its members a vendor referral list, numerous educational seminars and fairs throughout the year, along with outreach to local government agencies that oversee activities in Sun City AZ such as the Maricopa County Department of Transportation. Visit their website at suncityhoa.org for more information.



- **Sun City PRIDES:**

When visitors come to Sun City AZ we always hear "it's so clean." The reason of course is because of the PRIDES - Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services. Their mission is to assist Maricopa County in keeping the community a beautiful place to live and work. More information about volunteer opportunities with the PRIDES can be found on their website at suncityprides.com.



- **Sun City AZ Visitors Center:**

The Sun City AZ Visitor Center was a stand-alone organization for years until it became part of the RCSC in 2015. Their mission is to market and promote Sun City AZ. Located in the Bell Recreation Center, stop by for information not only about Sun City AZ but the surrounding area as well. Several tours are offered each month to both new and existing residents. Sign-up online at suncityaz.org under the Learn More tab.

- **Sheriff's Posse of Sun City:**

The Sun City Posse works under the direction of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department. The role of these dedicated volunteers is to support the Sheriff's Department, acting as the community's police force assisting with traffic control at accidents and many community events. Call the Posse to report suspicious activity or should you be concerned about a neighbor. And their vacation and funeral watch programs are something very special. Visit the Posse website at suncityposse.org to find out more about the outreach services that they offer to residents throughout the community.



- **Sun City Community Assistance Network:**



Also known as Sun City CAN, this is yet another organization that works with seniors needing help. Their yearly tax preparation service draws record crowds. They also provide low income assistance through any number of different programs. Find out more about services offered by SCCAN at suncitycan.org.

- **Sunshine Service:**

This amazing organization has better than 50 years of service in Sun City AZ. They provide free durable medical equipment, chairs and beds for residents who have short-term needs. They exist solely on donations. Stop by should you need a roll-away bed or baby items such as cribs and high chairs when visitors are in town. For a complete list of equipment available, visit sunshineservice.org.



- **Retirement Community Association (RCA):**

Founded in 1975 with the goal of "keeping Sun City unincorporated," their focus is supporting and promoting safety, including free seat belt installations in golf carts, smoke detectors for homes and pet decals for emergency information. Visit



rcasuncity.org for information about future programs or to volunteer.

- **Del Webb Sun Cities Museum:**

The first model home in Sun City AZ is now the setting of The Del Webb Museum, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, which was recently placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. This is a must-do for residents and visitors alike. Visit their website at delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

- **Friends of the Sun City Libraries:**

The mission of The Friends is to enhance the community through support for Sun City libraries by providing financial and/or volunteer support for library programs, materials, equipment, community grants and the book buddy program to home bound individuals. Check out their used bookstore for great buys. More information about their services and offerings can be found at suncitylibraryfriends.org.

- **Banner Boswell Hospital:**

Initially opened in the early 1970s as Boswell Memorial Hospital, it has been serving Sun City AZ residents and has been a mainstay within the community ever since. Resident volunteers still abound there and the hospital is recognized as one of the top 100 hospitals in the country.

- **Sun City Foundation:**

Founded in 1986, this organization helps those who have outlived their resources pay their annual assessment fees to the RCSC. For more information, including eligibility requirements, please call 623-561-4600.

- **Banner Olive Branch Senior Center:**

The Olive Branch Senior Center, located at the 11250 N. 107th Ave., offers a place for residents in the Sun Cities to gather, have a hot meal, participate in free activities and make friends. They also offer a host of health related events and educational programs. Find out more by visiting bannerhealth.com or calling 623-465-6000.

As you can see, Sun City AZ is a sum total of its parts, with each organization filling a need. The beauty is it comes on both ends; for those receiving services and to those volunteering and giving back to the community. Truly, the best of all worlds.

Indeed! The Best is Yet to Come!

Residents and visitors alike often find Sun City AZ to be a life changing experience. Those first coming here tell us it's never what they expected. It seems as though windows are constantly being opened that give us a fresh look at just how special this community really is.

From the beginning residents took ownership and pride in the fact they were trying to piece together a concept, an idea. There were mistakes and missteps on almost every path they took. It mattered not, because ultimately there was no right or wrong way. There were simply people who cared.

What mattered most was residents working together to build a dream bigger than anyone's imagination or vision. They were seldom held back by short-sightedness or petty differences. They wanted Sun City AZ to succeed and were willing to do whatever it took to make it happen.

That's why we have entitled this magazine, "The Best is Yet to Come!" Anyone who has watched Sun City AZ grow and evolve understands we aren't getting older, we're getting better. Since passing the Preservation and Improvement Fee (PIF), we have been able to rebuild and renovate our incredible amenity package; and we've only just begun.

We are simply the best value in the country. It's why so many boomers put the original Sun City on their short list of 55+ active adult communities to consider for their retirement. While newer communities are quite spectacular, they will never repeat what our history has given us. We are truly unique; there will never be another Sun City AZ.

There will never be a community that relies so much on the people buying and moving here to preserve it. That is the primary purpose of this magazine; to help you appreciate the great choice you have made in considering Sun City AZ to be your home and how important it is for you to play your part in our amazing future.

That's why - The Best is Yet to Come!

Special thanks to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum for the archival photographs; the RCSC Board of Directors and General Manager Jan Ek for approving this project and kudos to Joelyn Higgins for all of her work in putting this magazine together.

Bill Pearson.

The logo for Sun City Arizona. "SUN CITY" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with the "SUN" part in yellow and the "CITY" part in blue. Below it, "ARIZONA" is in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a golf course at sunset, with palm trees and other vegetation silhouetted against the orange and yellow sky. The water in the foreground reflects the sky and the trees.

SUN CITY
ARIZONA

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