

# The Best of Sun City AZ - 2014 | 2015

Go big or go home has become a popular colloquialism and perfectly fits the RCSC's efforts to enhance the community and our lifestyle. Nothing further amplifies that than this photograph of the incredible Pickleball pavilion at the Marinette Recreation Center.

It was the last rec center built and frankly has always been more of an afterthought than a forethought. That all changed in 2012 when the long range planning committee recommended it become the number one priority for the coming years.

The centerpiece was going to be the fast-growing sport of pickleball. Twenty courts were planned, including eight enclosed under roof, protected from the sun and rain.



But let's be honest, the pickleball courts barely scratch the surface of the four million dollar plus remodel of Marinette. Captured on page two is the rest of the story and one you will find stunning to say the least.

This supplement to last year's "Best Of" will most certainly highlight exactly why you chose Sun City AZ as your retirement destination. And if you are still working, even better, details the brilliance of your choice; an abundance of amenities, all within a stone's throw of your home and at a fraction of the cost anywhere else on the planet.

Read on and enjoy...it's why we all live here.



# Marinette Center: A mistake...not anymore!



John Meeker, in his memoirs, stated it was a mistake to have built the Marinette Recreation Center. As the genius behind Sun City's success, he subscribed to the theory that bigger is better and Marinette was built simply to placate residents in Phase 3.

With the re-opening of the Marinette Center just weeks away, Meeker would most certainly have been amongst the multitudes of us celebrating its rebirth. We know about the pickleball courts, but there is so much more to get excited about. On this page, we will walk you through many of the upgrades and additions that give the Marinette Center its rightful position in Sun City.



*The fitness center has more than doubled in size and the equipment all upgraded.*



*Above: The walking track will be perhaps one of the most popular additions with an incredible padded and slightly banked surface.*

*Top left: Construction underway.*

*Below: Inside the pickleball pavilion is quite impressive.*

*Left: Horseshoe pits and an outdoor half court basketball added for more options.*



Before....  
and after!





## Oakmont Pool Project

Oakmont has long been a neighborhood recreation center with a small town feel. Much like its origins in 1960 when it opened as Community Center, Oakmont has maintained that atmosphere of belonging. Residents were ecstatic with the much needed pool upgrade, especially those who signed up for the newly formed water volleyball club. The club has become an instant success, as has the remodeled outdoor area. As Sun City AZ's only salt water pool, it has become a popular destination for those wanting to swim and walk in a less chlorinated environment.



## Viewpoint Lake Fish Habitat Project

There is no better example of how Sun City AZ works and why we are successful as a community. When the RCSC board approved a 5-year Viewpoint Lake Management Plan, it excited both homeowners and avid fishermen (and women) alike. The consultant we hired was an awesome move, but the real synergy to make it happen came from the residents. Building the catfish condos and bass bungalows was truly a labor of love. That has always been the tradition within Sun City AZ - people coming together to make it a better place to live. Viewpoint Lake will become a setting those who love to fish will enjoy, as we stock the lake and provide opportunities for the fish population to replenish itself.



## Bell Tennis Center

Tennis has become one of those amenities that is a must-have in age-restricted communities. The challenge for most of them has been the explosion in popularity of pickleball. Fighting for court space has been ugly in some communities, but in Sun City AZ the board understood that tennis could not be forgotten. The Bell tennis project is nearing completion and tennis players are eagerly anticipating its opening. This state of the art ten-court renovation has taken awhile, but when you start tearing down 40 year old walls for more space, the scope of work becomes far more intense. Better viewing areas, better lighting, and improved court surfaces will enhance play and attract seniors who love the game to consider Sun City AZ as their first choice in retirement.





# Golf Course Renovations

## North Golf Course

The North Golf Course has been open for just over a year now. We could go on and on singing its praises as the renovation project went with nary a hitch. They started on time and completed it as promised. The course went from the “moldiest, oldest” to becoming the one everyone wanted to at least try (and once they did, way more than just try).

But rather than us gushing about how great it is, we’ve captured on this page Sun City AZ resident comments about just how good the new and improved North Course is. Thanks for sharing your thoughts and for supporting golf.



“I wanted to let you know that the Board, Architect, and the workers hit a real home run with the design at North. From the golf course, to the practice area, to the clubhouse improvements, North is the new “jewel” of Sun City. Now we’ll all have great expectations for the Riverview renovation. You did an awesome job!”

“Incredible - by far and away the best course in Sun City. I know the board took a lot of heat from residents resistant to change or residents that think they know more about improving a golf course than a professional golf course architect. Thanks for doing the right thing for Sun City’s future.”



“All the new trees and the removal and trimming of existing trees, perfect!”

“Just played the ‘new’ North Course and was mightily impressed. Thanks for doing such a great job, and to the board. Everyone in our group really enjoyed the renovation.”

“I can’t wait to see Riverview.”

## What Golfers Say About North:

“I would like to thank everyone who put in hours of work to make North the best course now in the valley. I’m from Colorado and have played golf all over the world. The design for North is exceptional; it allows everyone the opportunity to play a very good golf course. I’m hoping that Riverview will be as good or better. I know expectations will be high but you can certainly arise to the occasion. Congratulations on a job well done. “



Outstanding, beautiful, challenging greens, exciting. It is alive, enjoyable. The club house and patio is a touch of class. North will definitely be a draw in the future. We will be waiting to see if Riverview can top this.”





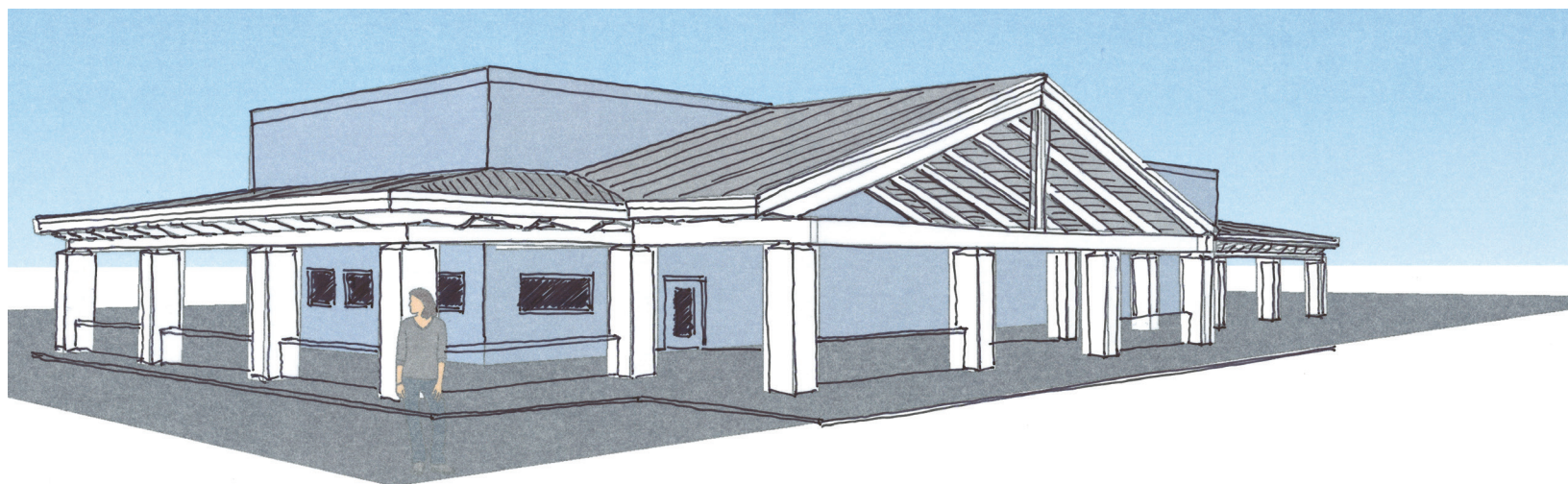
## Riverview Golf Course

The Riverview Golf Course remodel has been on the books for a couple of years now. It had been pushed back due to the North Course's need to address irrigation issues that were causing the RCSC constant problems and wasting money fixing the never-ending breaks in the old system. As we go to print, Riverview is closed and work well under way. The back nine will become the front nine and the front to become the final nine holes. But that's just the beginning. The greens have long been a concern and the total rebuild will give the course a more challenging, yet realistic approach to how golf was meant to be played.

We know golfers are excited by the renovation, and while some bemoan the long-term investment in golf, one only has to look to the Director of Golf's year-end summary of 2014. Brian Duthu had this to say: "Rounds for December continued the year-long trend, posting the highest number of rounds played in a year since 2007. Rounds played at our executive courses in December were the highest recorded totals since at least 2006. For the year, a total of 320,481 rounds were played throughout RCSC golf courses, representing a 5.45% increase over prior year."

That's quite impressive when you factor in the North Course was closed. It appears the commitment to improve our courses playability is paying dividends. Sun City AZ has always been a golfing community and players, golf course homeowners and those loving green space appreciate the investment. One further note, below is an artist's drawing of the remodeled Riverview pro shop. The RCSC board took a chance and made a decision at the North Course to double the outdoor patio area. Given its success, you should note we are doing the same (or more) at Riverview. Outdoor living is a way of life in Sun City and the enhanced patios just make perfect sense.

You can follow the Riverview Course makeover in the monthly reports from architect Gary Brawley in SunViews or online at [www.suncityaz.org](http://www.suncityaz.org).





## Electronic Display Signs



Sun City AZ signage has a very long and storied history. The Del Webb museum has some great old billboard and entry way photos that capture the story DEVCO tried to tell as people came to visit or passed through the community. Over the years we had fallen into accepting what had been our signage as being the way it was. With the enhancements in electronic media, the RCSC board looked for ways to make a statement in what is the oldest age-restricted active adult community in the country.

Initially, we tried two signs at the Sundial Rec Center. They were immediate hits, as clubs and organizations were asking us to showcase their events. We worked with them when possible, because obviously the signs promoted all of the RCSC events as well. Rather than burden those living here with the \$850,000 cost for signs at the remaining centers and the Sun Bowl, the board elected to get a quote for all of the venues. We reduced costs by bidding them all at once, but more importantly moved the project into the Preservation and Improvement Fund (PIF).

It was the best of all worlds: We moved into the modern day of promotion and outreach without making those who could least afford it pay for them.

Stay tuned as all of the signs will be in operation in the next month or two.





# Entertainment & Events

In the past two years, Sun City AZ entertainment has taken off in ways no one could have projected. The free Sun Bowl shows have in some cases seen overflow crowds of 7000+ and rave reviews came from residents as they streamed out. Add in the monthly events and the Sundial concerts and the comments received by the clubs office have been staggeringly good. Kudos to Theresa Cirino and her staff for a job well done.

Below are some of the photos of events and some of the more delightful thoughts residents shared with us. And along the side is a listing of coming events you won't want to miss.



"This was your best show yet. Don't think I have ever been so entertained."



"One of the best concerts. She was fantastic!"



"Thanks for giving us such great entertainment that keeps Sun City alive!"



"Top-notch entertainment! Quite an enjoyable show."



"Brought back memories of my youth!"



"Between the Frankie Vallie Tribute and the Tim McGraw show, I realize I really do have hormones!"



## 2015 RCSC Calendar of Events

JAN 3rd Wed	Discover Sun City AZ
FEB 3rd Sat	RCSC Membership Meeting
MAR 3rd Sat 27	Del Webb Days Dancing with Sun City Stars
APR 4 5	Easter Egg Hunt Sunrise Service at Sun Bowl
MAY 10	Mother's Day Brunch
JUNE 21	Father's Day Breakfast & Golf Tournament
JULY 4	Ring That Bell & Picnic
AUG 3rd Sat	Dive-In Movie
SEPT 3rd Sat	Casino Night
OCT 3rd Sat	Fall Festival of Fun
NOV 8	Veterans Day Memorial
DEC 8 11	Christmas Extravaganza Sun City Holiday Celebration



## On a final note!

In last year's edition of The Best of Sun City AZ 2013|2014, we asked and answered "why Sun City AZ?" In this year's abbreviated edition, we really don't have to ask. The answer is evident simply by thumbing through these eight short pages. There's not another age-restricted community in the country on pace with what we are doing. Every day in Sun City AZ a million things happen; most of them involve the clubs, golfing, lazing by the pool, working out, playing a musical instrument...the list is near on endless.

There's another story that is often forgotten, or at least not touted in the same way our play time is. Sun City AZ is run by the community. We are self-governed, or perhaps better expressed as "self-propelled." We fuel ourselves from the energy and expertise of those living here. We work in concert with paid staff and that commitment and dedication to serve the community and the 40,000 plus residents is a never-ending effort to leave Sun City AZ a better place than when we found it.

Our sense of community has grown and with that growth comes some angst, some people simply hate change. But for the vast majority of those living here, Sun City AZ is something very special. We find a peace and serenity even though we are almost always on the go. When we drive into Sun City AZ, we feel enveloped with a quiet contentment of a community welcoming us back to where we belong. It's been that way for 55 years and we see no reason for it to end anytime soon. The key is we all take in ownership in a life well lived.

Thanks to Joelyn Higgins for the photos and layout (brilliant as usual). Thanks to the RCSC board and staff for their support and wisdom to this project.

Bill Pearson, Former RCSC Board Director

