



Neighbors

Lions club
honors 9/11
victims; **4**



INDEPENDENT

Community

10 places to volunteer
in Sun City; **16**



September 23, 2026 Volume 66 Issue 38 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Officials discuss break-ins, speeding and more

By Zev Black

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun City Home Owners Association held its first Roads and Safety Committee meeting of the new season Sept. 16 to discuss Sun City happenings and provide updates from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department.

Deputy Bill Cornwell announced 233 traffic stops were made in the Sun City area during July, leading to 101 citations.

"He's the only traffic car we have at this point in time," Cornwell said. "He stays pretty busy."

Asked if it would be possible to get another traffic officer in Sun City, Cornwell said the issue is with staffing, though there are 50 deputies going through MCSO's academy class.

• See **SCHOA** on page 5

Residents voice concern over proposed 13% fee increase



Secretary Preston Kise, President Tom Foster, Vice President Chris Nettesheim and Treasurer Rick Gray listen to residents during the September exchange meeting. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

By Zev Black

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Recreation Centers of Sun City recently held its monthly exchange meeting to give residents the opportunity to speak directly to the board. During the meeting, many residents expressed their concern with the proposed \$90 fee increase for 2027. The proposed increase would raise the fees 13.24%.

Part of the problem, which the board admitted, is that there were no fee increases between 2017 and 2021. Residents paid \$496 through those years.

"We cannot go back and change what's been done," RCSC Treasurer Rick Gray said. "All we can do is how do we handle it from here on out? Unfortunately, we have to, in essence, play the cards we're dealt

with. That's what we're trying to do."

Secretary Preston Kise doubled down, saying he's heard about these kinds of issues each year he's been on the board, adding, "Sun City was kind of run on a shoestring."

"And now, as Treasurer Gray said, we're stuck in a bind where if we don't make raises, things con-

• See **Fee** on page 5



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HOST LIONS CLUB HONORS 9/11 VICTIMS

Members of the Sun City Host Lions Club showed up early at Sun City's Liberty Bell Sept. 11 to honor those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. The group rang the bell first when the north tower of the World Trade Center was struck at 5:45 a.m., then at 6:03 a.m. when the south tower was struck and again at 6:43 a.m. when flight 77 struck the Pentagon. They rang the bell for the last time at 7 a.m. when flight 93 crashed southeast of Pittsburgh. The Sun City Host Lions Club hopes to continue this project and honor those lost on 9/11 in years ahead by ringing the community's Liberty Bell. Pictured are Lions Bob Lucas, Shirley Gerhart Charles and Cindy Schlesinger, Carol and Mike Conley, Robert and Wendy Leach and Debbie Davidson. (Submitted photo/Shirley Gerhart)

MUSIC

Rhythm Ramblers introduce new singer

The Rhythm Ramblers will kick off its fall season with a new singer and a tribute to the Count Basie band 2:30–4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Sun City resident Beth Leligdon will make her first appearance as the band's lead female vocalist, offering Basie favorites such as "Shiny Stockings," "The Very Thought of You" and "Alright, Okay, You Win." The band will also tackle iconic Basie instrumentals such as, "Jumping at the Woodside," "Jive at Five" and "One Mint Julip." All selections will be suitable for dancing.

Event admission is \$10 for Recreation Centers of Sun City cardholders and escorted guests. Members of the Rhythm Ramblers Club get in free. RCSC cardholders can join the club at the door for \$15 annual dues, which includes admission to three remaining performances in 2026. Drinks and snacks may be brought in. Cups and ice will be provided.

Tables for four or more can be reserved by calling Lynn Altherr at 602-909-7586.

For more information about the Rhythm Ramblers Club, contact Rick Lamb at 602-677-8841 or rick-lambphd@gmail.com.

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SCHOA

• From page 1

Many residents complain about excessive speeding in the area, both on main streets like 99th Avenue and Bell Road and in residential areas. Cornwell explained the only way drivers are likely to get a ticket is if they are going 11 miles per hour faster than the posted speed limit.

"Somebody else has done all of the analysis for any type of variable," he said. "For ten miles per hour, unless you're sitting out there with a radar gun or you have not yet had the training on estimating speed, they might be seen that they're going faster. When we get out there, I'm not touching anyone who's doing ten or less. There's too many variables."

He also mentioned the string of car break-ins that took place the night of Aug. 28, saying the department is using Flock cameras to help with the investigation. However, he was unable to provide many details other than three individuals are suspects.

"Just to let you guys know, all the criminal damage happening in Sun City with the broken windshields, the egging, all that stuff has helped us come up with the vehicle and the possible suspects with



SCHOA President Ed Van Ness, committee chair Greg Bradley, PRIDES representative Kevin Herakovich and Sun City Posse Cmdr. Arlene Kluizenaar. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

those crimes," Cornwell said.

He added the vehicle the cameras caught showed when and where it came into the area.

Sun City Posse Cmdr. Arlene Kluizenaar said the group is also aware of these crimes and is working with MCSO to figure out all the details. She added they know what stage of the investigation they are at, but also cannot comment much beyond that.

"I will tell you that the Posse is doing late night patrols, but I will not tell you what nights they are or what times they are," she said. "When we go out there, MCSO knows we're out there. We are only out there to see if we can see the suspect vehicle."

Kluizenaar went on to say the Posse will not engage, follow or chase them. If a member sees a potential suspect, they will let MCSO know about it.

PRIDES representative Kevin Herakovich was also in attendance to represent his group.

He announced a major project on 99th Avenue between Bell Road and Del Webb Boulevard where the group installed new landscape rock in the center median.

"It looks really great," he said. "If you traverse that area, make a mental note of it. It's really a nice improvement."

The next Roads and Safety Committee meeting will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, in the SCHOA office, 10401 W. Cogins Drive.

Fee

• From page 1

tinue to degrade, equipment doesn't get replaced," he said. "We've got equipment on our golf courses that's 15 years old that's falling apart. It's costing us thousands upon thousands of dollars every year to try to maintain."

He added there are things the board wishes had been done differently, which they are "trying to remedy now and it's painful."

"We understand that," he said. "But there's not a lot of ways around it because Sun City can't keep going the way it has been. Otherwise, everything's going to fall apart."

RCSC President Tom Foster said many

committees in the RCSC have made suggestions to the board about how they should approach increasing the fees. He made it clear that everyone in the committees are members and Sun City residents.

"Shortly, that finance budget and audit committee is charged with making a recommendation that will then come officially to this board," Foster said.

Sun City resident Kathleen Strawn stood in support of the board, thanking them for being more communicative during the entire process than previous boards. She said she remembered how little information the 2019 board gave during its meetings.

"The board's come a long way," she said during the meeting. "I don't like the cost going up more than anybody else

does. But it's a fact of life... I'm sure the board is dealing with huge increases in insurance costs and water... These are increases that the board, the rec centers are going to have to deal with whether we like it or not. The only alternative is to go without them. Tear up the golf courses, fill in the swimming pools, close the tennis courts and you won't have those expenditures. We need to give the board as much support as we can instead of just complaining all the time."

Maggie Brooks, a fellow Sun City resident, sees it a different way. Though she appreciates all the hard work the board does, Brooks believes the board isn't being completely honest with residents.

She doesn't think the board has given residents enough information, al-

• See **Fee** on page 12

CONCERT

Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus to perform at Surprise church

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, 15820 W. Clearview Blvd., in Surprise, will host a Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus concert 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Originating in September 1976 with eight men wanting to sing four-part, close harmony, the group grew over the years to its present size of over 70 members with the title of the Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus. The chorus joined the "Barbershop Harmony Society, receiving its charter in May of 1996, as the Sun Cities Chapter D-101.

According to a press release, the Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus has presented annual concerts for more than 31 consecutive years, and has performed hundreds of times for various groups. They donate performances for charitable organizations, Recreation Centers of Sun City functions and contributed to local charities.

The chorus is achieving new heights in performance levels under director Cary Burns, an international society judge/music arranger/voice and vocal teacher, with Bill Shaw as assistant director.



The Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus will perform in concert 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church in Surprise. (Submitted photo/Jean Schlenvogt)

The chorus also features several quartets within its ranks and offers its performance services for various occasions. They rehearse weekly and welcome new members who enjoy singing.

In addition to sharing their music with others, the release stated another passion of the chorus is learning more about the art of acapella singing.

Vocal instruction is a regular part of the chorus rehearsals and an essential component of the chorus experience.

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DANCE



Participants, caregivers and dancers groove to the music. (Submitted Photo/Deborah Wheeler)

Razzle Dazzle Dancers bring the party to Sun City

The fall season is officially underway, and it started with an explosion of rhythm, smiles and high-energy motion when the Razzle Dazzle Dancers took charge of a dance party designed to welcome Sun Cities and Youngtown Special Activities Center participants.

The event brought together members of SCYSAC, a local social club dedicated to supporting developmentally disabled adults throughout the area. More than just an entertaining day, the dance party directly supported SCYSAC's core mission to enrich the lives of its participants.

The club is designed to meet essential social, physical and developmental needs. With energizing music, choreography through the decades and plenty of shared laughter, the Razzle Dazzle Dancers ensured that the dance party was a triumph for everyone there.

Events like these highlight the impact of community collaboration, leaving the dancers energized, connected and ready to embrace everything the new dance season has to offer.

For more information, email razzledazzledancersaz@gmail.com.

Lions club to hosts blood drive

The Sun City Mid-Week Bell Lions Club is hosting a Vitalant blood drive 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, at the Sun Cities Lions Foundation, 9451 N. 99th Ave. Call Vitalant at 1-877-258-4825 to schedule an appointment, or visit Vitalant.org (Blood drive code 10053702). Donate in October and be entered to win one of two \$10,000 gift cards. Terms and conditions apply. Visit vitalant.org/scarygoodgiveaway.

DEVELOPMENT

Mountain View renovation sees progress

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Mountain View Recreation Center, 9749 N. 107th Ave., is officially closing Sunday, Nov. 29, to begin the long-awaited renovation, according to Recreation Centers of Sun City Vice President Chris Nettesheim. This, along with other information on the project, was announced during the group's monthly exchange meeting Sept. 14.

According to Nettesheim, all but one "small" contract has been signed and finalized.

"As soon as that one's signed, which is a normal time for it to be signed, we will be completely done with our contracts," she said.

The RCSC board has bi-weekly meetings with the design firm triARC, the construction manager at risk Kraus-Anderson to go over everything needed for the project.

"We're looking at making sure we make the right detailed design decisions and looking at how it impacts schedule and budget," Nettesheim said. "And we're providing triARC with any additional data requests. Right now, they haven't asked for any additional data from what they had originally."

triARC is still doing detailed design reviews with stakeholders and subcontractors to finalize colors, products and other important details.

Kraus-Anderson is also being consulted throughout the entire process, reviewing all design decisions and providing important feedback to all parties involved.

"They're constantly engaged," Nettesheim said. "These are our construction managers at risk. They're who's responsible for making sure that we stay on schedule and stay on budget."

She added anyone who has done a

remodel knows how easy it is to go over budget.

"They have been really, really good at keeping us on schedule and on budget," she said. "They're providing expertise in areas that may delay the project and providing us with methodologies that we don't have and that triARC and Last Architects don't have that will help us keep that schedule."

With the center closing, members will have to go elsewhere for their public pool time. The board has yet to make a formal decision on how that will be handled.

"We're still assessing that, but the thought right now is just to expand the times at the other two locations," RCSC Director of Operations Mike Dirmyer said.

The next update on the renovation will be 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 9, in the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

Prior to the meeting, a member survey will be sent out asking residents if they want to participate in the shovels in the ground ceremony Friday, Dec. 11, at Mountain View Recreation Center and other locations in Sun City. Residents will randomly be chosen to participate in the event.

The project is expected to be completed in 2028.

"I want to say that this has been an exciting journey and I absolutely thank you guys for all of your efforts and all of the work that you've done to help us make this happen," Nettesheim said.

For more information, go to suncityaz.org or email boardofdirectors@suncityaz.org.

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OPINION

Take the Civility Pledge

Yes, I will do my part to help my community become a safe place for people to engage in civil discourse about public issues. Visit iniusa.org/civility-pledge/ to take the pledge.

Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Isn't Sun City supposed to be affordable for seniors?

After attending the Sept. 14 Recreation Centers of Sun City board meeting, I believe there is no way to reason with the board. One of the ladies from the dance club researched statistics of past recreation fees and posed to the board that these fees should not be raised \$90 due to the board not doing what it should have done in the past.

All the current board had to say is that they're not accountable for what the board did in the past as condoning that this is why they need to raise RCSC annual fees.

I have a friend who worked selling satellite service to Sun City residents, and the results of those visits were astonishing. Residents turned away my friend, saying that they could not afford television or had no television because they could barely afford living in Sun City.

When my friend was able to go into households, many residents told him that due to the high price of Sun City fees that either they had to give up eating or television to afford living in Sun City. At first my friend thought the residents were joking, then he realized they certainly were not!

According to articles in the Sun City Independent, there is more devastating news about residents not being able to afford groceries. At the senior center on 103rd Avenue, people from other cities had to be turned away so Sun City residents could be provided food.

We need to stop raising annual member assessments so that our Sun City residents can survive and not go homeless or without food.

Isn't Sun City supposed to be affordable for seniors? Wasn't Sun City designed to provide not only relaxing

LETTERS

amenities but affordable living so that seniors can live comfortably in a place they can live out the rest of their lives?

Ann Canto
SUN CITY

This writer is using a pen name.

Arizonans deserve real bargaining power

Arizona workers deserve more than a "right to work." They deserve the ability to bargain from a position of strength.

Since 1946, Arizona's Constitution has prohibited denying someone employment because they do not belong to a labor organization. But our state's broader labor policies have too often tilted the balance away from organized workers and toward employers.

That imbalance matters.

Large corporations and wealthy individuals have enormous resources to influence public policy, elections and the messages Americans hear every day. Individual workers rarely possess comparable power. Acting together, they can negotiate for better wages, safer workplaces, reasonable benefits and greater economic security.

That is the fundamental purpose of collective bargaining: giving working people a meaningful voice in decisions that directly affect their livelihoods.

Arizona should examine its labor laws with that principle in mind. Lawmakers should strengthen protections for workers who choose to organize, remove unnecessary obstacles to collective bargaining and give local communities greater flexibility to establish labor standards appropriate to their public projects.

Voters should make this an election issue.

Ask candidates for the Arizona Legislature a simple question: Will you

protect the ability of working people to organize and bargain collectively? Then consider their answer when you cast your ballot.

A healthy free-market economy requires balance. Employers and capital already have powerful voices in our political and economic system.

Arizona's workers deserve a powerful voice, too.

Annarose Lilly
SUN CITY

The author is chair of Arizona LD 28 Democrats.

Where are America's real Democrats?

Will the real Democrats step forward? Yes, that is the question. I'm talking about the real American Democrats, not the Democratic Socialists of America.

Democrats who still love our country are finally starting to realize that their party, as they once knew it, no longer exists. Because of the biased media, including local affiliates, it's understandable there's holdouts; now it's time to get properly informed.

I believe there's a new "cold war" brewing in the USA. Democratic socialists are winning important positions in the election process, with over 30 running in this November's midterm elections. They're all running as Democrats, taking advantage of a party who's lost its way and has drifted way too far left to really protest.

They have no real agenda to actually help Americans, in my opinion, but only seem to offer the same things that Marxists offered: a country where everything's free and the government will always take care of the people. They never seem to talk about the trillions of dollars all this free stuff will

• See **Letters** on page 12

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Betty Goodwin, author of *GOODWIN WISDOM – Know Before You Need to Know*.

Orlando Cruz, author of *Uncorking Your Medicare* — using the familiar world of wine and wine pairings to make Medicare easier to understand.

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Fee

• From page 5

though she admitted it is difficult because postage is expensive and there are residents who do not have Internet at their homes. She also knows that it is generally cheaper to live in Sun City than other senior communities in the United States

Now, because the board didn't raise the dues for five years, Brooks believes they are somewhat scram-

bling to make up for it.

"Now, they're backpedaling," she said. "I think I'm among the majority of people who truly believe they did not keep up to the inflation rate here in Arizona... There was a mistake. We should've never not raised the fees here. Being a nice guy is not going to work out in the end."

She said her concern is not for herself, adding she will be okay if the fees do increase.

"My concern is with all the other

residents of Sun City who are living on social security," Brooks said. "This is what bothers me the most. We're putting such a hardship on the residents, especially the elderly who have been retired for a very long time, who are dependent strictly on social security."

She thinks the remedy will come from the community and is calling for collaboration from her neighbors and fellow residents: "We need a voice. The residents need a voice. We've

got to figure out how we can get you to come. What would it take to come and get more involved. If nothing else, sitting there, listening and voicing your opinion."

The fee increase proposal will be on the agenda for the October board meeting where the first official vote of the board will take place.

Until then, residents will have the opportunity to voice their opinions, which the board will take into consideration.

Letters

• From page 10

cost, nor what will happen when the money runs out; and history proves, it always does.

Marxist philosophy never has, and never will, work in America. Here we're free, prosperous and know that anything in life is possible. Here, we the citizens decide our future, not the government. Why would anyone want to change that?

It's time people spend some dedicated time watching truthful sources. You'll get the truth from honest journalists like Baier, Watters, Ingraham and Hannity. They welcome debates from the left, tell the truth and back it all up with video and verifiable statements.

Time to save America!

Paul Cahill
SUN CITY

Why Rep. Hamadeh has my vote

I have read some recent negative opinions in your editorials about Abe Hamadeh and I just say they obviously don't know what this man has done for Congressional District 8.

He has especially helped the veterans in many ways, such as getting hospitals and medical centers to publish their actual performance. There are too many things to list that he has done for our forgotten vets.

He has fought for senior relief inside the Big Beautiful Bill to stop double taxation on Social Security income.

He also wrote the Kayleigh's Law bill, passed unanimously by the U.S. House. It is long overdue, and will protect survivors of federal sex crimes and violent felonies permanently if passed by the U.S. Senate and signed by the president. Under the old practice, survivors had to go back and

relitigate their own safety against the perpetrator.

If someone has an issue with the federal government they have been unable to resolve, that's what his office does. He has helped thousands of people with their problems. He sure has my vote.

Helen Anderson
SURPRISE

Rep. Abe Hamadeh represents Congressional District 8, which includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

Grateful that Hamadeh supports veterans

Our freedom depends on the men and women who serve in uniform. Less than 1% of our population serve. Without them, we would not have a free country.

That's why I'm grateful for Congressman Abe Hamadeh's work on

their behalf. As a veteran and member of the house Veterans' Affairs and Armed Forces committees, Abe has authored or sponsored legislation to expand education and job training opportunities for veterans, improve Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare access and staffing, protect benefits and retirement pay, update combat pay and advanced PTSD research.

He has also pushed for a stronger Community Care Program, home loan programs and suicide prevention efforts. These are meaningful tributes to our heroes. I thank Congressman Abe Hamadeh for his service and for continuing to serve his fellow veterans in Congress.

Jacquelyn Loiselle
SUN CITY WEST

Rep. Abe Hamadeh represents Congressional District 8, which includes parts of Glendale, Peoria, north Phoenix, Sun City, Sun City West and Surprise.

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Mesa - November 13, 2026 - Mesa Marketplace Swap Meet
Apache Junction - January 6, 2027 - Central Arizona College
Surprise - January 19, 2027 - The Colonnade
Litchfield/Goodyear - February 17, 2027 - Tuscany Falls Clubhouse(Pebble Creek)
Chandler - February 23, 2027 - Sun Lakes Country Club
Peoria - March 25, 2027 - Westbrook Village
Sun City West - April 13, 2027 - SCW Foundation Center
Sun City - May 3, 2027 - Sundial Recreation Center

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SUPPORT

Sun City CAN to help residents with fees

Sun City residents billed for the Sun City Fire and Medical Department's Treatment in Place fee can now get help making the payment if they qualify.

Beginning July 1, 2025, SCFMD officials established the TIP fee of \$315.80 for patients who call the department for assistance but are not treated on the scene with medication and are not transported by ambulance to a hospital. The help for patients who cannot afford the fee will come from the Sun City Community Assistance Network.

CAN's new program will be available beginning Nov. 1. It is a pilot program and will be reviewed monthly by the CAN board of directors, according to Tom DeVries, CAN board president.

"This is something we believe is a real need in the community," DeVries said.

The program will pay the TIP fee direct to the SCFMD's ambulance billing company which will then send the funds to the fire department. The program is available to Sun City residents only, and they must meet a set of requirements to qualify, according to Debbie Campacci, CAN executive director.

"This program is specifically designed for those residents who face financial challenges," she said. "And

there are limited funds for the program."

To be eligible for the program, applicants must be full-time Sun City residents 55 years of age or older with no one under age 19 living in their home. Applicants' income cannot exceed 225 percent of the current federal poverty levels. There are other limitations to savings, investments, IRAs and others.

CAN will fund the TIP fee one time only for each eligible patient, according to Campacci.

"This will provide some financial relief from the burden they may experience from a medical emergency," Campacci said.

It will also assist the SCFMD with payment for the service and may prevent delays in payment or sending them to collection for an unpaid bill, according to DeVries.

Residents who are on Medicaid do not qualify for the program because that agency covers the fee. Patients who have private insurance that covers the fee also do not qualify. The TIP fee is not currently covered by Medicare.

The CAN board approved the program during its September meeting. Applicants for the program must fill out an application and provide some documentation. Apply at the CAN office at 10195 W. Coggins Drive.

Sun City dog club opens training classes

Registration for Sun City Best Friends Dog Club fall training classes is open until Saturday, Oct. 10. Classes for all training levels in obedience and performance event training as well as games, tricks and behavior concerns are available. Open to all RCSC members. Registration forms and schedule can be found bestfriendsdogclub.com/training. For more information, email registrar@bestfriendsdogclub.com.



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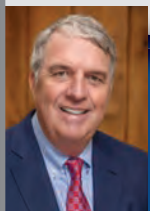
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VOLUNTEER

10 places to volunteer in Sun City

By Zev Black
 INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Sun City is affectionately known as “The City of Volunteers,” and for good reason. Like any community, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for residents to sign up for in the area.

Home to around 40,000 residents, Sun Citians can find many ways to give back.

Whether that be with four-legged friends, giving a history lesson or providing food for those who need it, there is something for everyone.

Here are 10 ways to volunteer in Sun City.

Valley View Community Food Bank

Location: 10733 W. Peoria Ave.
 Hours of operation: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Monday–Friday, 8–11 a.m. Saturday

Contact: 623-240-0505

The Valley View Community Food Bank provides food for those in need. The bank sees hundreds of clients per day, which is largely made possible by its volunteers. According to the website, the bank currently has more than 760 volunteers. Volunteers help with many facets of the operation, including packing food, distributing food and helping clients.

Sun City Fire and Medical Department

Location: 18602 N. 99th Ave
 Contact: 623-974-2321

The Sun City Fire and Medical Department works tirelessly to ensure safety to its residents. While they’re not used to put out fires, volunteers can contribute to the department in a variety of ways. Volunteers with the SCFMD can be fire prevention inspectors, work in administrative support or become a public fire educator.

Sun City Meals on Wheels

Location: 10404 W. Coggins Drive

Hours of operation: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
 Monday–Friday

Contact: 623-974-9430

Sun City Meals on Wheels provides food for those in the community who need it. The group, nearly entirely run by volunteers, delivers

• See **Volunteer** on page 17



Sun City Posse headquarters. (Independent Newsmedia/Zev Black)

Sun City Posse

Location: 10861 W. Sunland Drive

Hours of operation: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Contact: 623-972-2555

The Sun City Posse is the eyes and ears on the community. Members of the group regularly patrol the different phases of Sun City, ensuring safety for both residents and community workers alike. There are many different volunteer positions in the group, including in tech and patrol.

Volunteer

• From page 16

goods to clients' homes in the area. Individuals can volunteer as a team leader, interviewer or supporter.

Banner Boswell Medical Center

Location: 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

Hours of operation: 24/7

Contact: 623-832-5387

Banner Boswell Medical Center has been providing health care to patients in Sun City for more than 50 years. Many don't think of medical centers as places they can volunteer, but there are lots of opportunities at Banner Boswell. The center will gauge each volunteer's interests to fit them in the right spot for both parties, whether with events, programs or the youth.

Sun City PRIDES

Location: 10849 N. 91st Ave.

Contact: 623-972-6558

The Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services is a group of residents who have worked hard to keep Sun City clean and beautiful for more than 40 years. Its 200 volunteers plant trees, paint walls and cleans up trash, among other actions.

Sun Cities Museum

Location: 10801 W. Oakmont Drive

Hours of operation: Noon–3 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Contact: 623-974-2568

The Sun Cities Museum is modeled after the original home that Del Webb used to launch Sun City. It has historical items attendees can interact with to learn more about the area's past. Volunteers guide visitors through the exhibits and will learn as they go.



The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. (Submitted photo/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum)

Benevilla C.A.R.E.S Program

Location: 14601 N. Del Webb Blvd.

Contact: 623-526-4404

The Benevilla Community Assistance Resource Education and Support Program is run entirely by volunteers. They drive seniors grocery shopping, doctor's appointments and where they need to go after a surgery, among other needs.

Sun City Caring Angels

Location: 9745 W. Palmeras Drive

Hours of operation: Monday and Tuesday mornings

Contact: 623-972-6179

The Sun City Caring Angels is a group of women led by resident Jody Swank. The group turns plastic bags into sleeping mats and other important items for homeless people in the area. Volunteers can help by sorting bags, folding plastic or crocheting.

Sun City CAN

Location: 10195 W. Coggins Drive

Hours of operation: 8 a.m.–noon Monday–Thursday

Contact: 623-933-7530

The Sun City Community Assistance Network helps connect low-income seniors in the area with resources that can help them through life. In 2025, the group received donations from roughly 1,800 homes, according to the website.

Volunteers can help with education, front office work and community outreach.



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RELIGION

Church welcomes new pastor

Grace Bible Church, 19280 N. 99th Ave., is preparing for a transition in its pulpit. Dr. William "Bill" Bjork will preach his final sermon as senior pastor Sunday, Sept. 27. The following Sunday, Oct. 4, Dr. Eric J. Bargerhuff will begin his preaching ministry as the church's new senior pastor with a series on the book of Jonah.

For Bjork, these days mark the close of regular preaching responsibilities after 25 years of ministry at Grace. Called by the congregation in June 2001, he became the longest-serving senior pastor in the church's history. He will remain part of the congregation as pastor emeritus while spending more time with his wife, Janet, and their family.

His pastoral service included Paramount Evangelical Free Church in Paramount, California, San Clemente Community Evangelical Free Church in Capistrano Beach, California and First Baptist Church of Reseda, California. He then served as senior pastor of Bethany Bible Church in Phoenix before coming to Grace. His ministry also included teaching and leadership roles with Phoenix Seminary and Southwestern College.

Before the congregation's July vote, Bjork spoke of Bargerhuff's knowledge of Scripture, love for people and passion for local church ministry. He described him as "capable, gentle, humble and gracious in spirit," and affirmed his readiness to become both his successor and his own pastor.

Now Grace Bible Church looks forward to welcoming Bargerhuff and his wife, Jennifer, into the congregation and the Sun City community.

Born in Peru, Indiana, and raised in rural Indiana, Bargerhuff comes to Grace from Trinity, Florida, bringing more than 30 years of experience in pastoral ministry and Christian high-

er education. He has served as vice president for academic affairs, dean of the college, and professor of Bible and Theology at Trinity College of Florida, where he began serving in 2013. He also served briefly as acting president in 2025.

"I am a man who loves Jesus, God's Word and the church," he once said, and that love has taken him into congregations, classrooms and pastors' conferences. His church ministry began as an associate pastor at The University Church in Ashland, Ohio. He later served as senior pastor of Milledgeville Brethren Church in Illinois, as a lay leader and teacher at Crossroads Church in Grayslake, Illinois, and as interim senior pastor of Winnetka Bible Church.

In Florida, he served as senior pastor of Clearwater Community Church and Grace Point Church of Trinity. More recently, he served as interim lead teaching pastor at Building 28 Church in Clearwater.

Bargerhuff earned his bachelor's degree in religion from Ashland University in 1993, his Master of Divinity from Ashland Theological Seminary in 1996, and his doctorate in theological studies, with a concentration in Biblical and Systematic Theology, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2005.

He has authored or co-authored five books: "Love That Rescues," "The Most Misused Verses in the Bible," "The Most Misused Stories in the Bible," "Why Is That in the Bible?" and "What's God Saying Here?"

Outside the pulpit and classroom, Bargerhuff enjoys singing, cooking, writing, and biking. His Indiana roots show in his enthusiasm for Indiana University basketball, and he is also a devoted Chicago Cubs fan. He has two sons, both serving in the military.

POLICE REPORTS

Editor's Note: The following information is obtained from Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 3. This column lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons listed here who are later found not guilty are welcome to inform the Independent by calling 623-972-6101.

AUG. 19

- A stolen vehicle was reported at 8:18 p.m. in the 18000 block of West Mission Lane.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 8:20 p.m. at the intersection of West Granite Valley Drive and West Meeker Boulevard.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 1:31 p.m. in the 19400 block of North R. H. Johnson Boulevard.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 1:52 p.m. in the 13200 block of West Bellwood Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 1:10 p.m. at the intersection of West Bell Road and North Boswell Boulevard.
- A fire was reported at 11:26 a.m. at the intersection of North 135th Avenue and West Deer Valley Drive.
- Narcotics were reported at 12:42 p.m. at the intersection of North 135th Avenue and West Deer Valley Drive.
- An assault was reported at 2:07 a.m. in the 11300 block of West Duluth Avenue.

AUG. 20

- A burglary was reported at 4:42 p.m. in the 12800 block of North 113th Avenue.
- Threats to commit an offense was reported at 12:25 p.m. in the 13200 block of West Desert Glen Drive.
- An injured person was reported at 4:09 p.m. in the 15800 block of North 110th Avenue.
- An abandoned vehicle was reported at 12:58 p.m. in the 12400 block of North 112th Avenue.
- A vehicle crash with injuries was reported at 12:26 p.m. at the intersection of West R. H. Johnson Boulevard and North 151st Avenue.

AUG. 21

- A citizen assist was reported at 2:01 p.m. in the 13500 block of West Ballard Drive.
- A shooting victim was reported at 4:08 p.m. in the 10400 block of West Thunderbird Boulevard.
- A stolen vehicle was reported at 1:33 p.m. in the 12500 block of West Paintbrush Drive.
- Identity theft was reported at 11:53 a.m. in the 11800 block of West Villa Hermosa Lane.

AUG. 22

- Narcotics were reported at 7:46 p.m. in the

12400 block of North 111th Avenue.

- A vehicle crash with unknown injuries was reported at 3:39 p.m. in the 13600 block of North Del Webb Boulevard.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 2:05 p.m. in the 11600 block of North Coggins Drive.
- Trespassing was reported at 2:06 a.m. in the 11100 block of Northwest Grand Avenue.

AUG. 23

- Trespassing was reported at 7:08 p.m. in the 13000 block of North 108th Avenue.
- Found property was reported at 9:54 a.m. in the 13400 block of West Buckskin Trail.
- Criminal damage was reported at 11:37 a.m. in the 10500 block of West Meade Drive.

AUG. 24

- Fraud or a con game was reported at 10:55 p.m. in the 10700 block of West Boswell Boulevard.
- An assault was reported at 8:47 p.m. in the 12900 of West Mandalay Lane.
- Trespassing was reported at 3:08 p.m. in the 13300 block of West Crown Ridge Drive.
- Assault with a deadly weapon was reported at 11:52 a.m. in the 14100 block of West Horizon

Drive.

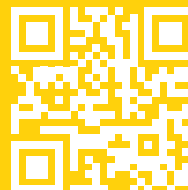
- Theft was reported at 11 a.m. in the 15700 block of West Deanne Drive.
- A fraud or con game was reported at 10:30 a.m. in the 13100 block of West Quinto Drive.
- Identity theft was reported at 11:20 a.m. in the 11500 block of West Cheryl Drive.
- A vehicle crash with no injury was reported at 10:26 a.m. at the intersection of West Hutton Drive and West Briarwood Circle.
- A burglary was reported at 8:56 a.m. in the 15000 block of West Deer Valley Drive.
- A citizen assist was reported at 9:31 a.m. in the 10000 block of West Royal Oak Road.
- Criminal damage was reported at 12:43 a.m. in the 10600 block of West Snead Drive.

AUG. 25

- Narcotics were reported at 5:19 p.m. in the 10700 block of West Bell Road.
- Fraud or a con game was reported at 1:52 p.m. in the 14100 block of West Territorial Lane.
- Identity theft was reported at 5:19 p.m. in the 10700 block of West Venturi Drive.
- Trespassing was reported at 4:47 p.m. in the 10600 block of West Peoria Avenue.
- A theft was reported at 12:33 p.m. in the 11300 block of North 113th Drive.

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SUPPORT

Sun City Lions, Women4Women team up to help women

By Zev Black
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Sun City Host Lions Club is teaming up with Women4Women to bring important feminine products to those in need. Volunteers will set up shop 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Sun City Lions Foundation, 9451 N. 99th Ave., to hand out pads, tampons, panty liners, feminine wipes and other necessities.

Debbie Bushey said this event started around six years ago when someone brought her the idea. The first year, there were around 12 volunteers. Last year, that number was up to around 30.

“Knowing there are so many women worldwide in other countries that don’t have access to these products, it makes me feel good to know that we’re serving our community and beyond by doing this,” she said.

Bushey expects there to be even more volunteers this time around.

The products will be going to women in the area who might not have access to these products, along with high schoolers whose schools no longer hand out the products.

“My focus for this whole thing is the high schools,” volunteer Shirley Gerhart said. “That’s where my heart is. Through the schools.”

Bushey added this event is extremely important because these products are vital to a woman’s day-to-day life.

“These women that do not have access to products,” Bushey said. “Therefore, they’re probably not able to go to work because they don’t have the product. So they miss work, no income coming and this is not covered by SNAP.”

She added this goes for teenage girls as well. If they don’t have the product, they might not go to school.

She was originally expecting a budget of \$500, but a fellow Lion matched that with their own donation to double the pool. After that, another member made a donation and Bushey hopes more will come in.

With the higher budget, she expects to exceed the 700 packages that were made at last year’s event.

Volunteers helping with the event will line up the various supplies on tables in front them to create a relay line. Each person will put their item in a paper bag for the clients to pick up.

Gerhart said this creates a fun environment full of noise.

“It’s very noisy because we’re women,” she said. “We’re having fun while we’re doing this. We may be doing something for somebody else, but women are very social so we’re doing a social thing.”

She added many women attend the event to do a good deed with other women. Gerhart is really looking forward to it and said she believes women are “the strength of our nation.”

“Especially to these young women that we’re doing this for, it’s to let them see that other people care,” Gerhart said. “When they get older, they hopefully will do the same thing for someone else.”

For more information, or to donate products and money for the event, contact Debbie Bushey at 802-349-9749.

Reporter Zev Black can be reached at zblack@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

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*How to engage in respectful, honest
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☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.

☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.

☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.

☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.

☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.

☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.

☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.

☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



*Now that you've read the checklist, take
the Civility Pledge at [yourvalley.net/
civility-pledge](http://yourvalley.net/civility-pledge).*

BOOK

Book capturing Sun City moves to publishing

Long before “healthy aging” and “longevity” became popular, Sun City was pioneering its own version of retirement. A new book titled “SUN CITY: A Love Letter to the Golden Years” captures the community and residents who have spent decades proving life’s most joyful chapter can come after 55.

Photographer Kendrick Brinson spent 15 years documenting Sun City, resulting in more than 200 photographs and stories of residents who have made the community a

model for active aging since 1960, from the Sun City Poms cheerleaders to ninety-year-old softball players, synchronized swimmers, pickleball players and lifelong learners discovering new passions.

As Americans live longer and rethink what aging can look like, Sun City challenges traditional assumptions about growing older, asking what becomes possible when people continue to learn, play, socialize and embrace joy as they age.

FIRST BAPTIST DEDICATES REMODELED SANCTUARY

After 16 weeks of sanctuary renovation and remodeling, First Baptist Church Sun City West, 17419 N. Conquistador Drive, is inviting the community to attend the dedication of the sanctuary Sunday, Sept. 27. A Bible study is at 9 a.m., followed by a dedication service at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Kirby Kennedy, senior pastor at the church, expressed his gratitude for the completion of this major project.

“We are grateful and humbled by God’s movement in the life of our church by providing an amazing and worshipful place for our community to connect. Our church has been in Sun City West since 1978 and constructed the original sanctuary in 1983. Over the years, there have been construction upgrades from time to time, but this was the perfect time to completely renovate the sanctuary into a classic and modern environment to worship the Creator,” he said.

The Bible study in the new sanctuary will be led by Dr. David Johnson, doctor of ministry program director at Gateway Seminary in Phoenix. His topic will be “The House of God.” The worship service will include unique remembrances by former pastors and others, special music, stories and prayers of dedication. Visit fbccsw.org or call 623-584-5738.



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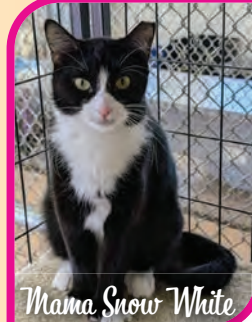
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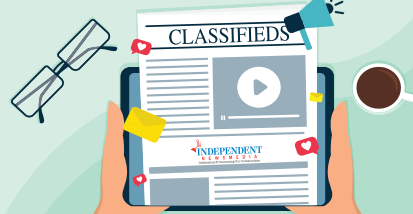
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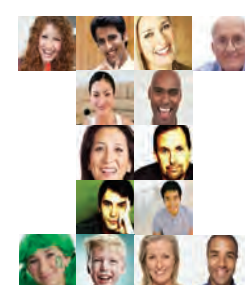
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