

SUN CITY TIMELINE

- 1920
 - Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company purchases the land intending to raise cotton.
 - Goodyear establishes a company compound for its employees, later known as Marinette.
- 1936
 - The land, now known as Marinette Ranch is sold to J.G. Boswell Company.
 - Cotton is grown into the '50's at which time the industry dwindles, and very little is left of the town that once had a population of 15,000.
- 1959
 - Mid-summer land purchase agreement signed
 - Naming contest was going on in November
- 1960
 - Sun City debut January 1st
 - New Life Unit #1
 - 9-hole golf course, 5 model homes, Community Center (Oakmont Recreation Center), Craft Building, shopping center, and motel
 - 1st weekend – over 100,000 visitors – 237 homes sold
 - 400 homes sold in the 1st month
 - Anticipated sales of 1,700 in 3 years – actual sales 2,000 in the 1st year
 - “Retirement worth looking forward too!”
 - December – Sun City Civic Association, forerunner of the RCSC, Inc., was formed
- 1961
 - New Life Unit #2
 - January 18th Towne Hall (Fairway Recreation Center)
 - July 1st full service Post Office at 103rd & Coggins (now Menke Funeral Home)
 - December - South Golf Course opens
 - Annual assessment - \$20
- 1962
 - April – Sunshine Service loans its first bed, mattress and wheel chair
- 1963
 - January - Hiway House changes its name to King's Inn
 - April – Sun City Home Owners Association is formed
- 1964
 - December – The only vote on incorporation is held. Voters reject: 2,558 to 1,036
- 1965
 - January – 5th Anniversary Parade down Peoria Ave
 - February – Sun City Saints, a professional women's softball team, begins play in Sun City
 - November 15th Sun City Country Club transfers ownership to members
- 1966
 - April – Sun City Community Fund, an organization to collect and manage local donations for the needy, is formed
 - June – Sun City Fire District is established
- 1967
 - January – Sun Bowl, an outdoor amphitheater, is opened
 - March – Sun City Country Club opens
 - June 29th Towne Hall South (Mountain View Recreation Center)
- 1968
 - May - All Recreation Centers were opened to all Sun City Residents
 - November – Sun City Symphony presents its 1st concert
- 1969
 - January – Construction of Boswell Hospital begins
 - Sun City Taxpayers Association is formed
 - October - Lakes West Golf Course
- 1970
 - January 3rd Lakeview Recreation Center
 - September - Lakes East Golf Course opens
 - November – Riverview Golf Course opens
- 1971
 - July 4th Sun City Stadium opens at 111th & Grand Ave
 - October 4th Lakeview Bowling Lanes
 - October – Meals on Wheels organizes
 - November – Palmbrook Country Club opens
- 1972
 - February – The Lakes Club is virtually destroyed by fire a month before it plans to open
 - March – San Francisco Giants begin part of their Spring training in Sun City

- May 10th Sun City Community Association changes its name to Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.
 - May – 2,000 people watch the Sun City Saints play softball against the University of Japan
 - May Palmbrook Country Club transfers ownership to members
- 1973
 - April 14th Sundial Recreation Center
 - August – Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind becomes a non-profit corporation
 - October – Sheriff's Posse of Sun City organizes
 - December – Willowbrook and Willowcreek Golf Courses open
- 1974
 - Annual assessment - \$24 per person
 - Alco movie theater opened in the La Ronde Center – seating 437
- 1976
 - April 10th Bell Recreation Center
 - April 12th Bell Bowling Lanes
 - May – Sun City Post Office moves to 98th Ave & Bell Rd
 - July – Sun City Liberty Bell, is dedicated
 - Annual assessment fee - \$30 per person
- 1977
 - Union Hills Country Club transfers ownership to members
 - June 1st DEVCO transfers ownership of 7 golf courses and Viewpoint Lake to RCSC for “\$10 and a cup of coffee.” The actual value was \$12 million.
- 1978
 - October – Union Hills Country Club opens
 - Quail Run Golf Course
 - Sun City totally built out – DEVCO moves on to Sun City West
 - All national promotion of Sun City stops
 - Annual assessment fee - \$40 per person
- 1979
 - January – Sun City Area Community Council organizes
 - October 2nd DEVCO transfers ownership of Quail Run Golf Course to RCSC
- 1980
 - Marinette Recreation Center
 - Population is 43,000 – Shopping Centers full
- 1981
 - RCSC takes over the Sun Bowl
 - November – Statue of Del Webb is dedicated
 - Annual assessment fee - \$42 per person
- 1982
 - Sun City PRIDES form (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services)
 - May – Sun Cities Area Transit (SCAT) begins
- 1983
 - November – The Arizona State University Foundation receives donation of 40 acres, from DEVCO, enabling Sun Cities to be the site of the nation's first senior adult campus
- 1984
 - March – Members vote to ban smoking in Recreation Centers – 17,392 to 14,987
 - DEVCO transfers ownership of Sun Bowl to RCSC for \$10
 - Annual assessment fee - \$52 per person
- 1985
 - January – Community celebrates its 25th Anniversary with a month long celebration, including a parade down Boswell Blvd
 - April – Milwaukee Brewers complete their final spring training game
 - April – President Ronald Reagan honors the Sun City PRIDES, chosen winners of the 1985 President's Volunteer Action Award
 - April – Sun Cities Arts Museum opens
- 1986
 - Population dips to 38,000 – Shopping Centers 30% empty
 - 1,700 homes on the market taking up to 2 years to sell
 - Financial slump
 - Senior Care facilities begin to open
 - Annual assessment fee - \$65 per person
 - **Sun City Ambassadors formed** – incorporated July 13th, 1987
 - Voluntary group made up of residents and businessmen using their personal funds to promote Sun City
 - Advertised in newspapers and developed a 10 minute video (with channel 5 help)
 - Opened the Visitors Center in the Bell Plaza building with phone service
- 1987

- September – Memorial Garden, the home of the Liberty Bell and Del Webb statue, is completed
- 1988
 - July – The Arizona State Legislature enacts a school tax on Sun City. After a year of battling law makers, the tax is rescinded and a lesser tax enacted
 - September – Sun City Fire District cancels its contract with Rural/Metro and establishes its own local fire department
- 1989
 - May – King's Inn is torn down making way for a shopping center
 - Visitors Center signs lease at Promenade – June
- 1990
 - January – 30th Anniversary Parade
 - January – Sun City Historical Society opens
 - March 1st – Jim Bailey is 1st manager
 - Ambassadors have a 21 member board of directors
 - Establish the 800 phone number
 - May 31st – Alco movie theater closes – Last movie “Q & A” – Attendance 40
- 1991
 - January – The Senior Professional Baseball League and the Sun City Rays unexpectedly fold
- 1992
 - Citizens for Self-Government begins a drive to incorporate Sun City. They fall short of needed signatures.
 - September – The Sun City Solar Sox begin in the Arizona Fall League. They capture the title in December
 - Annual assessment fee - \$100 per person
- 1993
 - The county board of supervisors declares Sun City the “City of Volunteers”
- 1998
 - Annual assessment fee - \$115 per person
- 1999
 - October - Capital Preservation Assessment fee of \$600 is added to all property sales. The fee is used for major renovations within the recreation centers and golf courses costing over \$100,000 and having a 15 year life expectancy
- 2000
 - Annual assessment fee - \$130 per person
- 2002
 - Annual assessment fee - \$150 per person
 - April 19th SCVC get new manager with new ideas and direction
 - Keeping Sun City going doesn't just happen. It takes a commitment and promotion.
 - “Promoting A Vibrant Community Lifestyle” is the new motto
 - Promotion means getting the word out
 - Visitors Center brochure is created
 - Web site created with a new address www.suncityaz.org
 - Focus on history, future, amenities, and VALUE
- 2003
 - Annual assessment fee - \$330 “per property”
 - SCVC board reaffirms commitment to “Promoting A Vibrant Community” by:
 - To Educate all who seek knowledge of the active Sun City community
 - To Promote the concept and lifestyle of the Sun City community
 - Sun City advertising made possible by a gift – Retirement Community Association of SC
 - \$5,000
 - “Where To Retire” magazine – 6 issues
 - over 3,600 requests for information
 - Visitors Center moves to Bell Recreation Center – September 1st
 - Saving \$1,300 monthly
 - Shows unity with RCSC, Inc.
 - More local residents coming into the center
 - Out of state visitors can now see a recreation center
 - Volunteers enjoy the new location and well organized presentation of materials
- 2004
 - SCVC committees begin operating
 - Fund Raising – Partner Program and Sponsor Program
 - Marketing – “What I Like Best About Living In Sun City” contest and Focus Group
 - March - New Resident Orientation (information about RCSC, HOA, SCVC, volunteerism and community organizations)
 - Joint effort of RCSC, HOA, and SCVC
 - SCVC web site enhanced with \$1,200 gift from Retirement Community Association of SC
 - Capital Preservation Assessment fee increased to \$1,600

- September 30th – Health & Safety Expo – 1st expo put on by the Visitors Center at Bell Recreation Center in conjunction with the SC Fire Department – 60 vendors
- 2005
 - February - Resident Orientation – am & pm – small turnout for 1st evening event of its type
 - April 1st – 1st Spring Fling at Sundial – replaces years of Apple Dumpling Festival at Lakeview
 - September 19th – Health & Safety Expo – at Sundial in conjunction with Humana – 99 vendors
 - Resident Orientation held in October – sponsored by SCVC and HOA
- 2006
 - February Resident Orientation – am & pm – more people attend the pm session
 - April 1st – Property assessment fee - \$360 and Capital Preservation Fee - \$2,100
 - June – Sundial roof failure closes recreation center indefinitely
- 2007
 - January – Capital Preservation Fee - \$2,500
 - April – Property Assessment fee - \$380
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