



Board Vote

With four seats up for grabs, election gets crowded field.

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Mystery Solved

Berthelsen sacking tied to tree dispute.

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10 Years Ago

Sun City hires new executive director.

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Holiday Lights

SCS residents celebrate the holiday season.

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IN A PICKLE

John Wood takes the plunge into pickleball, and what he finds out says a lot about the fast growing sport. *See page 8*



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Pickleball is great, just don't talk about it at the BBQ

I've often heard pickleball described as a cross between ping pong and tennis, so with my experience in both sports I figured I'd have no trouble waxing my fellow Sun Citians at the pickleball court.

I was, after all, the 10-year-old ping pong champion of Clark County. And I did play a mean doubles in junior high school tennis.

I also beat my sister when we ventured out a couple times to the pickleball courts during the pandemic. We may not have played exactly by the rules but it was close enough to make me want to maybe, just maybe, play a little more.

So far that hasn't happened, despite living just up the street from the pickleball complex at Desert Vista. I play a lot of softball and a ton of golf, so if I'm adding a sport it



TIM DAHLBERG
SCS LIFE
COMMENTARY

might be more along the lines of bocce ball, which I consider a seriously underrated activity.

Meanwhile, I'm living vicariously this month as John

Wood embarks on his quest to be the greatest pickleball player Sun City has ever produced. Actually, that's not quite his quest, but John did decide to take up pickleball_ and write about it for SCS LIFE.

He does just that, beginning on page 8, and only in true John Wood style. I went down to watch as he took his first lesson, and quickly saw John wasn't some bumbling pickleball wannabe. He had played

tennis and understood court strategies and how to hit a ball without entering the dreaded kitchen.

I'll give a shoutout to Jan Harper, an advanced player who was picked to show John the ins and outs of pickleball, too. She was more than patient with her two students that day, so much so that I was almost tempted to pick up a paddle myself.

Pickleball draws different reactions from different people. Those who play are almost evangelical about it. They're the ones you really don't want to meet at the neighborhood BBQ because it's the only thing they'll talk about. Those who don't play, well, they just don't understand.

In Sun City more than 350 residents are members of the Pickleball Club. The sport has grown so

quickly that the club has now taken over all the former tennis courts at Desert Vista, where there will soon be 18 pickleball courts.

That likely means another set of ear plugs for nearby neighbors, who can't help but hear the constant pop-pop of the plastic balls that has prompted at least one city to require pickleball players switch to quieter paddles or face a citation. And the small town of Carmel-by-the-Sea recently became the first California city to ban pickleball at public facilities because of the noise.

So far, it's all good in Sun City, mostly because we embrace almost any activity that might keep us upright in our glory years.

Give it a try like John. Just don't

> See DAHLBERG, Page 5



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Election field set but not without controversy

SCS LIFE

Sun City homeowners will have a field of seven candidates to choose from in the upcoming Board of Directors election, including President Jeff Rorick, who will be seeking a third term.

Not in the field is former President John Berthelsen, who was declared ineligible by SCSCAI attorneys after drawing the ire of SCSCAI because he asked state regulators to wade into a tree trimming controversy on his street.

Rorick's candidacy isn't without controversy either, with a few vocal opponents claiming he is not eligible for a third term. That led to a discussion at the Dec. 9 Board of Directors meeting over whether limits on a third consecutive term passed by Sun City voters the same day Rorick was first elected in 2020 are applicable to his bid for a third term.

SCSCAI Executive Director Mitzi Mills said that Rorick's candidacy was vetted by SCSCAI's outside attorneys and allowed to proceed. She

The seven candidates approved for the ballot, which will be mailed to Sun City homeowners in upcoming weeks, are:

- Judy Williams
- Jeff Rorick
- Larry Robbins
- James West
- Catherine Hoffman
- Fred Gallant
- Helen Prignano

told the board that partly because the association was switching over to three year terms at the time and elections were staggered, the term limits were always supposed to begin with those elected in 2021.

Rorick told SCS LIFE that has been his understanding all along, and that any possibility he might not be eligible was not brought up by anyone previously.

"I always planned to run," he said "Things have been good, we got NORA through and we're working on other issues. I had my paperwork

filled out before they said come and turn it in."

Board member Dick Clark asked Mills at the meeting if there was a legal opinion written outlining the issue, and Mills indicated it was not a formal one. She also indicated that would soon change.

"At the time we did but it was more in a meeting, we will have a legal opinion going out to the whole community directly from our attorney, out to the whole community with that information in it," she said.

Asked when that would be, Mills

said: "As soon as I receive it, okay?"

Mills said it was clear to her that the term limits approved by a 5-1 margin by Sun City residents in February 2020 would take effect beginning with the next year's ballot. The measure added to SCSCAI bylaws limits board candidates to two consecutive three-year terms.

"If we wanted it to be effective to everybody that was serving on the board at the time it was voted in, it would have had to have said that, actually, in the motion," she told the board.

Berthelsen said it was ironic that the attorneys who vetted candidates for the board seized on a relatively small issue that could be corrected in a four-page letter denying his candidacy yet never issued a formal opinion on the term limit issue for Rorick.

The former board president also noted that Leo Crawford, who serves as the Election Committee chairman, was part of the push for term limits when he was president of the board in 2019-20.

SCS LIFE

Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

EDITOR

Eric Dahlberg

edahlbergmcin@gmail.com

775-316-2265

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Breven Honda, Kayla Anderson, W.G. Ramirez,
Jenny Scheid

PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeff Scheid

ADVERTISING

Eric Dahlberg edahlbergmcin@gmail.com

Kirk Kern kirk@hyperlocalmedianv.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GOLF ROUNDS UP

Sun City's three golf courses got heavy play in November, thanks to Mother Nature and good course conditions.

Golfers played 10,003 rounds, more than the 9,500 budgeted and more than the 9,677 rounds played during the same month a year ago.

Palm Valley overtook Highland Falls for the most played course, with 3,606 rounds to 3,302 at Highland Falls. Eagle Crest had 3,095 rounds.

The strong play kept up a trend in recent years of increased uses of the golf courses. November's results were helped by temperatures that

averaged 6 degrees higher than last year, offsetting five days of rain that caused players to remain on cart paths for three days.

GARAGE SALE SET

Sun City Summerlin's annual spring community garage sale has a date. It will be Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, on driveways and in garages across Sun City.

Once again, no external advertising will be done of the sales after concerns that publicizing them outside the community might draw in criminal elements.

Sun City holds two community

garage sales a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. It is the only time garage sales are allowed in the community, though estate sales are permitted.

CLARIFICATION

In the November issue of SCS LIFE, a brief on the recovering of four billiard tables mischaracterized what the president of the Billiards Club said. Kaye Bence did not say the tables were still in good condition. Rather, she said that while there were no visible surface tears the felt was thinning in some places and needed to be redone.

Dahlberg

continued from Page 3

mention it at the neighborhood BBQ.

Regular readers of SCS LIFE may remember in October when Sherm Frederick wrote about Don Digilio, the editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal back in the 1970s when Sherm and I were cub reporters. Don was one of a kind, a throwback to the Rat Pack days of Las Vegas and surely the most colorful boss I ever had.

I told a Digilio story myself, and could have told more, like how every Christmas season he would pass out bottles of top shelf liquor sent to him by the hotels to us lowly – and thirsty – young reporters.

Well, it turns out SCS LIFE has a reach well outside Sun City. Don's son called my son, Eric, to say he had heard about us writing about his father, and that Don was beyond thrilled to still be remembered.

We sent him a few copies, and now his son says he'll be even more thrilled.

Don is 94 now and in hospice care in Henderson. We might have to pay him a visit.

My baseball Hall of Fame ballot arrived in early December as it normally does, and with each passing year I value it even more. I'm one of about 400 voters nationwide for the Hall, an honor I will be able to keep until I am 10 years in retirement.

Baseball also has two committees that meet every three years and consider either old-timers or players that might need to be looked at again. It's a tough process and this year Jeff Kent was the only player to be elected by the committee after being passed by the baseball writers.

Not elected were Barry Bonds and

Roger Clemens, and now they're not eligible again until 2031 and will probably never get in. I'm fine with whatever happens either way but I know that I did my job during their 10 years on the baseball writer ballots by not voting them into the Hall of Fame.

As for this year's ballot? Well, it's one of the thinnest I've seen, which means I've got some studying to do before the Dec. 31 deadline to return ballots.

If my calculations are correct, and I'm pretty sure they are, Raleigh Wright was born six days before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

That makes him 84, an age he turned earlier this month. So what did he do to celebrate?

He shot his age at Palm Valley Golf Course, a feat that is so rare that nobody knows how rare it is. You've got to be a single digit handicap golfer to even have a chance, get some breaks along the way, and then hope that you are healthy enough to get even more chances.

Raleigh has been doing it since he was 67, when he recalled he almost choked down the stretch he was so nervous about his score. He shot his age the next year and the next year again, well, you get the idea.

But here's the most astonishing stat: Last year, in his 83rd year on earth, Raleigh shot his age a staggering 120 times. I can vouch to many of them because I play with Raleigh in our weekly 18 Holes Thursday game and I've seen it up close.

Like most of us Raleigh isn't as long off the tee as he used to be. He's moved up to the gold tees while he searches for that new club that will give him more distance. But he might be the best chipper in Sun City, and he can putt a bit, too.

And unlike some of us, he's not afraid of posting a low score.

Tim Dahlberg is the publisher of SCS LIFE. Write to him at timd@scslife.net

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Tree trimming at roots of Sun City action against former president

By Tim Dahlberg
SCS LIFE

Former SCSCAI Board President John Berthelsen finally has his answer.

His unceremonious dismissal from two key Sun City boards in April apparently came about because he and several neighbors sought mediation from the State of Nevada in a long-running dispute over trees blocking their views of the Las Vegas Valley.

The answer didn't come from Executive Director Mitzi Mills or any board members, who dismissed Berthelsen from the committees in a closed-door meeting – and then refused to tell him why. Rather, it came in the form of a four-page letter from Sun City's outside attorneys who told Berthelsen he was not eligible to run for the Board of Directors again.

The Dec. 1 letter claimed that Berthelsen stood to profit from an increased house value if his mediation was successful. In denying his candidacy in the upcoming election, it also accused him of not claiming the potential increase in value of his home as a conflict of interest in his candidacy filing.

"Unfortunately due to the extent of the issues with your candidacy, it does not appear that you may cure the defects related to your candidacy that preclude you from being a candidate," said the letter signed by attorney Matthew J. McAlonis.

The letter not only ended Berthelsen's candidacy but said that SCSCAI had no obligation to consider further information in the matter.

"I feel they pretty much rigged it to not allow me any time to address the situation and respond," Berthelsen said. "They also said there was no way to rectify it, which is not true."

Berthelsen, who has owned prop-

erty in Sun City since 2009, was one of eight homeowners on Sierra Heights Dr. who filed April 4 with the Nevada Real Estate Division that oversees HOA's asking for mediation in the tree issue that dates back to 2020. The homeowners are asking for a favorable opinion that would allow the trimming of trees that block their views, but are not seeking money.

At the time, Berthelsen said he did not believe that the association would be upset over the matter. He said he still can't figure out why it would be to his financial advantage to prevail in mediation, other than his home might increase in value.

"My underlying philosophy is that Mitzi shared information with the board which was not factual and the board took it hook, line and sinker and didn't allow me to respond," Berthelsen said. "If they admitted they were wrong they would have had egg on their faces."

Berthelsen, who was summarily removed from the Architectural Review Committee and the Hearings Committee in a four-paragraph letter in April from a SCSCAI attorney, said earlier he asked for a hearing behind closed doors so he could be given the reason for his dismissal and was turned down.

It wasn't until he filed his candidacy for the upcoming Board of Directors election that the reason came to light in the denial of his candidacy.

The tree issue stretches back to 2020, when 22 Sierra Heights homeowners asked the Board of Directors to direct the sub association that manages the homes behind them to trim the trees that blocked their views. The board eventually decided it could do nothing about the matter,

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Trees

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saying there was nothing in SCSCAI's governing documents that would cover the tree issue.

Among the homeowners affected was current board member Dick Clark, who did not join the eight homeowners who asked for mediation from the state.

Berthelsen, who has owned his current home for 10 years, said the tree trimming only became an issue when a new management company began operating the sub association about five years ago. Before that, he said Sierra Heights homeowners would pay landscapers to trim the sub association trees so they did not grow too high.



SCS LIFE photo

Some of the trees that grow in backyards of duplexes on Hallston St. that have grown so tall they interfere with once unobstructed views of the Las Vegas Valley by residents of Sierra Heights St. above them.

Homes with views of the Las Vegas Strip are considered the most valuable among Sun City homebuyers. That was already clear when they were released for sale in 1995, when extra

lot premiums of \$40-60,000 were charged by Del Webb Corp. to new homebuyers on the south side of the street.

Berthelsen said his dismissal from the committees not only caused his reputa-

tion in the community to suffer but has cost him relationships with people he considered friends. He was particularly upset that Mills and the Board of Directors refused to give him the courtesy of telling him what he had done wrong and hid behind legal opinions in doing so.

"Basically, the board does everything Mtizi tells them to do," he said. "I've had a couple people say Mitzi doesn't want me on the board because she feels challenged by me and cannot manipulate me. I thought she and I had a good relationship when I was president, maybe that was a false front. I have no doubt at all she doesn't want people around that question her ability or statements of fact."

Mills in October was given

a new three-year contract beginning at \$254,792 a year by the Board of Directors, which roundly praised her abilities. She has previously declined to discuss Berthelsen's removal with SCS LIFE and said in a Dec. 5 email to SCS LIFE that policy had not changed.

Berthelsen, who served a three-year term on the Board of Directors before being defeated in the last election, said he had intended to withdraw his candidacy anyway and, after 16 years in Sun City, will be putting his home up for sale and moving back to Wisconsin.

"We don't feel very welcome in this community," he said. "We will miss our friends but being active and going to events we don't feel like we've been treated very cordially."

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FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

The night Miss Pickleball seduced me

By John Wood
SCS LIFE

I love racket/paddle sports. I grew up with a badminton court in my backyard. If I see a Ping Pong table, I'm playing. And I've enjoyed tennis for forty-seven years. So, when pickleball showed up in Sun City seven years ago, I was curious. And then, just as quickly, wasn't. What I saw were players hunched up together in the middle of very narrow courts smacking plastic balls whose pock-pock sounds would unnerve a woodpecker convention. I shook my head. "I don't see the appeal."

Fast-forward to now. My tennis game has declined. My quickness is just half-hearted now, my anticipation is mostly hindsight, and my ball-striking skills informed me they're retiring. So, guess who sa-shayed in front of me the other day? Miss Pickleball. "Lookin' for a better time, Mr. Tennis?" she cooed. I very much was. And she did have a nice set of paddles.

In 1965, three buddies on Bainbridge Island, Washington, devised pickleball as a children's outdoor game by altering sporting equipment from five different sports: paddleball paddles, Ping-Pong paddles, wiffle balls, tennis nets, and badminton-size courts. Today, it's the fastest-growing sport in the nation. SCS's Pickleball Club started with 45 members. It now has 350 and is continuously growing.

One of them is Rob Leonard, 70, who came to Las Vegas eighteen years ago from the San Francisco Bay area. He's played tennis for about forty years and has amassed a closetful of trophies. Despite his successes, though, there was one nemesis on the court he could never defeat that eventually forced him to quit: tennis elbow. His former partners were starting to play pickleball then and suggested he try it. Rob was willing but...pickleball? "That silly, old people's game?"



Jeff Scheid/SCS LIFE

John Wood returns a ball as he and playing partner Angela learn the intricacies of pickleball at the Desert Vista pickleball complex. Advanced players Jan Harper and Bobby Linzalone took the two under their wings to teach them a few things about pickleball strategy and how to best deal with the kitchen.

To his amazement, "It was kinda fun! It's easy to learn but tough to master, so you're constantly learning, which I like. It's different from tennis but in a good way: Pickleball is more finesse than power, and the games last only fifteen to twenty minutes."

Cathy Rohaly, 68, came to Las Vegas in 1998 from San Pedro, California. She was also a high-level tennis player for many years, but the constant running around caused back issues and eventually a knee replacement. I asked her how tennis and pickleball differ. "In tennis, you play with two or four people for an hour or two and chat between games. In pickleball, you constantly shuffle in and out of several courts and are paired with dozens of players. Sometimes we bring music and food or retire afterward to someone's house for dinner and party games. It's much more social."

Days later, Suzanne Esber, the club's president, arranged a free orientation lesson for me and another beginner, Angela, who was eager to learn and a lot of fun. Assisting us were two advanced club players, Jan

Harper and Bobby Linzalone, who taught us the rules and how to serve and hit the balls. It seemed like fun, but there wasn't much to it.

Jan quickly disabused me of that notion by pointing at the two tan areas on the court that hugged each side of the net. "These are called 'kitchens.' NEVER GO INTO YOUR KITCHEN!" she drilled into us. "Except when you need to. Then stay close to it." Huh?

She explained, "Only when an opponent hits the ball into your kitchen are you allowed to step in and hit it. Then you must exit immediately." As we practiced, she kept urging us to come up and stay at the net. This seemed to shackle the game by shrinking the court, but then I remembered Rob's words: "Pickleball is more finesse than power" and what another player had told me: "You win by keeping your opponents away from the net, so the first team to get in there has the advantage." Aha.

It was time to play our first game. The hitting was much quicker than when we were learning. I got to most

of the balls—but couldn't hit them. They kept scooting underneath my swings because I forgot I was holding a tiny paddle instead of my tennis racket. When I finally swung low enough to hit the darn thing, it soared up.

"NEVER DO THAT!" Jan barked. Bobbie smashed it at my feet, and we lost the game. Okay, so maybe pickleball was more difficult than I thought.

The next evening, I played with a dozen Sun City pickleballers at Desert Vista, who cheerfully welcomed me. This time, I kept stepping into the kitchen without knowing it or forgetting to get out of it. I'd heard that playing tennis helps you play pickleball, but in my case it was hindering me because I liked to rush the net and put the ball away. I wondered if a hypnotist could induce fear of the net area for me. That would solve the problem, but it would ruin my tennis game when I occasionally returned to it. Help!

On my second night, all ten courts were full, the stars were out, and I was greeted by a symphony of pock-pocks in D minor. I hit the ball better and avoided the kitchen. Suddenly, all the other players walked off their courts in unison. When my game ended, I discovered the players hadn't gone anywhere. They'd pulled chairs together, brought out food and spirits, and were hooting it up like a bunch of escaped jewel thieves. I gazed in awe at so much joy and laughter.

(Tennis Club, you need to come see this and get with the program.)

To me, pickleball seemed to be a social gathering first, a competitive sport second. As I turned to leave, several of them asked me, the beginner, "Will you be here tomorrow?" My goodness.

When I reached my car, I looked back at the foggy lights above the courts and shook my head again, but in a positive way this time. "Miss Pickleball, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

NEON DIARY

Neon Diary is the column, but its Sun City Summerlin that shines

Dear Neon-Diary family,

My holiday wish for you: May you discover at least a small portion of the joy in reading these columns that I find in writing them.

It's been two years since we first came together—and in that time, the pages of SCS LIFE have shown again and again what wonderful people live in Sun City Summerlin. There's pride in their homes, their blocks, and their backswings; pride in being part of the vibrant SCS community; and pride in being Las Vegas — even if many couldn't tell Grant Sawyer from Tom Sawyer.

For me personally, this column has been a foundation for surprising and exciting professional growth. Before Neon Diary launched, much of my writing was for dry-as-dust publications like Engineering News-Record. While important, things like 140-page development agreements and joint-venture projects can be as exciting as the concrete that brings them to life.

Writing for Neon Diary, though, is an opportunity to provide a sketch of people and season their stories with humanity. Take it from someone who spent many years as a hard-news journalist — there are often deeper lessons and more to remember in the “fluff.”

Something's working. Neon Diary now appears in additional platforms, and it started in Sun City.

Along with my family, you the readers, and the SCS LIFE team, I want to honor a few others who deserve extra cheer this holiday season:

• Kim Fannin brings to SCS the work ethic, heart, and humor of an Ohio newspaper woman, which she was. She helps the SCS Theatre



DOUG PUPPEL
NEON DIARY



Nancy Munoz/@aMomentInTimeNM
Amy, a 5-month-old Dalmatian, steals the scene from models Penni Tovey, left, Paulina Bucka, center, and Renee Culbertson during a photo shoot on behalf of a Las Vegas dog rescue. Amy found a forever home shortly after the photos – taken in an SCS back yard – hit social media.

Club sell all those tickets, toiling behind the scenes as its publicist. She knows her cast, crew, shows, and how to tell the story.

• Entertainers Carol Reed and Yukon Jack Lohman might like to be on stage, but they put in the work outside of the spotlight to keep the SCS music community connected.

• Marvin Calorera, director of food and beverage for the Sun City Summerlin Community Association, shines bright amid all of the food and beverage talent in Las Vegas. He is always looking to improve the customer experience and is appreciative of all the free advice he gets.

• SCS homeowners who wish to remain anonymous helped a puppy find a forever home. When a group of photographers and models came together for a photo shoot on behalf of a dog-rescue charity, a stunning SCS back yard provided the backdrop. The puppy starred in several shots shared to Instagram, and offers of adoption poured in.

Thank you all again. Jingle bells — and SCS — rock. Happy holidays.

Doug Puppel is a writer and model in Las Vegas.

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10 YEARS AGO: Sun City gets new executive director

• Sun City Summerlin has named Paul Henderson as its new executive director, following the retirement of former director Sue Papilion. Henderson formerly served as city manager for Mesquite, which he said is similar to Sun City as it has a sizable population of seniors and snowbird residents. He said his top issues for Sun City are: “Making sure we’re delivering all the services to residents in an efficient manner, and second is probably to make sure all the operations are fiscally responsible and all the business entities within the association are operating efficiently to bring in as much revenue as possible, so they’re not an economic drain on the association.” Henderson, who was not the board’s first choice, was given a salary of \$150,000. Papilion listed her top accomplishments as opening up The Summit to residents so they could “use it as an amenity instead of it being closed 320 days a

year.” She said she is proud of getting residents in a spread out community to think as a team.

35 YEARS AGO

• The new golf course in Sun City Summerlin, which opened just last year, is being considered to host some of the golfers in the Las Vegas Invitational PGA tournament. The Las Vegas Country Club will still be the tournament host, but the Sun City course is among a handful that could replace either Spanish Trails or the Desert Inn golf course in the 90-hole event that is spread across three courses the first three days.

• A 2-bedroom, 2-bath duplex was advertised for rent at \$795 a month.

30 YEARS AGO

• The Sun City Model Builder’s Club is donating a specially built model train set to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children in Boulder City. The train model

was built over a two month period by the 58 members of the club in an HO scale that is the favorite of youngsters. Club president Larry Croup said it was heartening for group members to make the model and donate it in time for the holiday season.

• Sun City is continuing a young tradition, with its annual holiday season display contest. Developer Del Webb Corp. said the community’s 9,000 residents enjoy battling each other for top display. Del Webb is offering cash prizes for the first three winners in the contest, which is voted on by a panel of judges.

• A Santa Paula model with lake and golf course views was listed at \$398,000

25 YEARS AGO

• The doo-wop trio Outasight that plays in December at the Starbright Theatre hopes to inspire those with physical disabilities in Sun City Summerlin. All three members of the group are blind, but that doesn’t stop them from singing the classics from Frank Sinatra on. Group members say they hope to show that disabilities can be overcome, something especially important to aging seniors.

20 YEARS AGO

• A Sun City resident’s Hanukkah play will be presented at UNLV The composer’s association with Hal Weller, co-founder and music director of the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra, led to the piece being included in December’s holiday concert. Baskin, who has won international contests, moved to Las Vegas 15 years ago.

5 YEARS AGO

• Live entertainment is still missing from the Starbright Theatre because of Covid worries. The Board of Directors voted to continue to deny rental of the theater and other meeting rooms until there is more certainty about the virus during the holiday season. The board also voted to continue to deny use of pools and gyms during the holiday season.

• The Shuffleboard Club is no more. Club officers said they found no one willing to undertake officer positions in the club and that while members still like to play, the need for a club has passed. The Board of Directors approved the dissolution of the club and said the \$1,100 it has in the bank will be used to buy a locking cabinet for shuffleboard materials.

3 YEARS AGO

• The Sun City Men’s Softball Club is now the Sun City Softball Club. The name change was formalized after two women joined the league this season and others have expressed interest in playing. There are currently about 150 players in the club.

• Highland Falls head pro Jim Neighbors was recognized for 30 years of service with Sun City golf.

1 YEAR AGO

• Sun City’s landscape is in need of some trimming and fewer trees. That was the recommendation of the Landscaping Subcommittee of SCS-CAI, which said thousands of trees and shrubs need to be removed, with special attention paid to the ubiquitous pine trees. The proposed changes won’t be welcomed by everyone. But they represent the first real look at the future of common area landscaping in a community that everyone agrees has changed since Del Webb Corp. began developing it in the remote northwest desert of Las Vegas in 1989.

• Five people are vying for three seats in the upcoming Board of Directors election, including one incumbent board member and two former past presidents. The head of the SCS Patrol is also running, along with another Patrol member. The three top vote getters will earn three-year terms on the nine-member board. The only incumbent on the ballot is Dick Clark, who is seeking a third term and is a former board president. Another former president, John Berthelsen, who lost his re-election bid in February, is also running.

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*"Just moved to SCS, shopped for new golf carts—which were more expensive than my first house. SNTF had a nice golf cart for the right price."
– Bob and Debbie*

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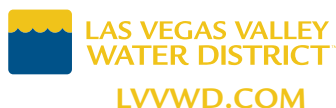
NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS DETECT RESIDENTIAL WATER LEAKS FASTER

When water leaks happen at home, **early detection is critical** to prevent water damage, save money, and conserve water resources.

However, leaks are not always obvious, so receiving a notification from your water provider before your bill hits a high-water mark can help you **quicky resolve the leak** and **avoid sticker shock**.

The Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) is continuing to invest in advanced metering technology by installing **ultrasonic meters** that monitor flow rates at very low levels, allowing the utility to **detect leaks quickly** before they sprout into larger problems.

Currently, LVVWD sends automated notifications via telephone calls and text messages to customers that have a spike in water use or a continuous flow of water on the



property, which may indicate a leak. The new meters will help **identify issues** even sooner. Early detection is key to managing your water bill and to **protecting your property** from costly water damage.

Over the next 15 years, LVVWD is **systematically upgrading** more than 400,000 residential water meters with this **leading-edge metering technology**.

While the existing water meters throughout the LVVWD service area remain reliable, the new ultrasonic meters will provide more **advanced leak detection capabilities**, including hourly and daily water usage data to help customers manage their water usage. Currently, customers may log into My Account on the LVVWD's website to obtain their daily water usage information.

To help individual customers with leak detection and repairs, LVVWD and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) offer several **leak assistance programs**. The programs **help pay for some of the costs** associated with finding and fixing leaks as well as additional funding for low-income residents.

For more information about the leak assistance programs or to log into My Account, visit lvvwd.com.

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How not to win a Nobel Prize

Two months ago, Nobel Prizes were bestowed on six individuals. But what of the other thousands of nominees who didn't make the cut? How less of an accomplishment could each of theirs have been from the winners? I imagine a few would have been something like this:

LITERATURE: Myron Meager (University of Oxford) for asserting that another word belonged between "vociferous" and "vodka" in the dictionary. He gleaned the new word "vocalous" from the Latin prefix *voc* meaning "to suck outward." When the Nobel Prize judges asked why he persisted in thinking this term existed, Meager replied, "Because it wasn't there." Many experts theorized that if it hadn't been for that remark, Meager would have been a Nobel Prize winner today.

PHYSIOLOGY/MEDICINE: Keiko Sayonara (University of Tokyo) for discovering that when molecules in human cells were sent to specific sites in the body (in sac-like structures called vesicles, or "vehicles" as Sayonara called them), a great number of them "crashed" before reaching their destination. Sayonara proved that these malfunctions were not due to generic defects as previously believed but occurred only when the human that the cells belonged to was intoxicated. Ironically, when Ms. Sayonara was informed that she had not won the Nobel, she was in a hospital recovering from her fourth drunk-driving accident.

PHYSICS: Billy Wojnowski (Age 9, Boise Middle School) for submitting a science class paper for extra credit entitled "Why Boats Sink." Three months later, it had reached the Pentagon, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Navy, and Beijing Military City (via clandestine means). Billy claimed he was just describing the plight of the toy boats he got for Christmas that sunk whenever they hit the sides of his acrylic bathtub. Military experts felt differently. Many feared he had



JOHN WOOD
HUMOR

come close to solving the age-old question of why ship propellers operate more efficiently through water than through acrylic—an odd but longstanding physics conundrum.

ECONOMIC SCIENCES: Rachel Dolt (Harvard Institute of Economic Research) for constructing a mathematical model suggesting that the IQ of people who bet nonstop for hours on slot machines was roughly the same IQ as that of a sea squirt, which "absorbs its own brain once it finds a suitable place to attach to for life." Although the Nobel judges affirmed her findings, they did not nominate her for fear that people with gambling disorders might sue the institution for libel.

CHEMISTRY: Sergey Smirnov (Moscow State University) for isolating the highly toxic chemical oxitron from its sister reagent, nitroglycerine, for the first time. This was no meager feat considering that oxitron had never before been asked if it wanted to be separated. Professor Smirnov would have been gratified with the nomination had he survived the unfortunate explosion.

PEACE: Sven Goober (Research Institutes of Sweden) for creating the first proton bomb, which he claimed was "the only bomb needed to be built." Unlike nuclear bombs that destroyed everything or neutron bombs that spread radiation, the proton bomb would evaporate only the people who set it off. Thus, it was the ultimate deterrent, and all wars would cease. Goober's idea was regrettably turned down, however, on the grounds that it could never be tested.

SCS resident John Wood is the author of *How I Killed Off My Ex-wife and Other Far-flung Misadventures*

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR,

Well, here I go again putting in my two cents where it probably is not wanted.

I am curious about what prompted the SCSCAI Board to hire a consulting firm to investigate and recommend cost containment measures for our restaurant(s) - is it the Summit and the Tavern or just one or the other?

I may be incorrect, and do correct me if I am wrong, but I seem to recall some years back, a response from the Board in defending a point of fact that the restaurants were operating at a deficit, was that the restaurants, LIKE THE GOLF COURSE, are AMENITIES for the residents, and were never intended to turn a profit.

Why have they decided to flip that position now at a not-so-insignificant cost?

Do they think that someone is stealing at the restaurant(s)? That's

ludicrous.

What's probably going to happen is that the 'consultants', after having milked the Association for an entire year, and in order to justify their contract, will offer suggestions on how to cut costs on food and beverage expenditures, with wait staff having to account for every chicken wing and ounce of booze.

What the residents will get out of this will be tiny 3 ounce pours, poor quality food and smaller portions, higher prices and pissed off help (if they can keep the help at all - because let's face it, Sun City residents as a whole aren't the greatest of tipplers, so the help must just enjoy working here - for now).

I'm sure there are better ways for the Board to spend \$40,000. But it's almost like they can't stop thinking of frivolous ways to do just that.

Thanks for keeping us up to date.

LAUREEN CAMPBELL

YOUR HEALTH

Toni Says: What is a Medicare Supplement guaranteed issue plan?

Dear Toni:

I have decided to retire when I turn 65 in February and need to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B. My husband, Harry, is 74, and he enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B when he turned 65, remaining on my employer benefits with health issues.

His primary doctor's office manager expressed concerns because of my husband's intense lung problems, causing surgery in 2026. She suggested that Harry apply for a Medicare Supplement.

Toni, please explain how we enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan when I retire.

—Carolyn from Omaha, Neb.

Hello, Carolyn:

Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) is a private insurance policy that covers costs not picked up by Original Medicare.

I have good news for you, Carolyn. Medicare has special rules for employees, or their spouses, who are covered by an employer's group health insurance plan. Harry is lucky because there is a Medicare Supplement rule that allows him to avoid answering the underwriting questions.

Since he is leaving your employer health plan, Harry qualifies for the 63-day Guaranteed Issue Period to apply for a guaranteed issue Medicare Supplement without medical underwriting. During this period, insurers cannot deny you coverage or charge you a higher premium based on preexisting health conditions. Harry will need your company benefit plan termination letter to prove that he is in a Guaranteed Issue Period.

With a guaranteed issue plan, an insurance company:

—Must sell you a Medicare Supplement policy. You have the right to buy Medicare Supplement plan A, B, C, F, K or L that is sold in your state by any insurance com-



TONI KING
HEALTH

pany. Harry is not eligible for Plan G with guaranteed issue plans since his Medicare Part A began prior to January 1, 2020.

Those whose Medicare Part A began after Jan.

1, 2020, are eligible for Plan G, not Plans C or F, for a guaranteed issue plan.

—Must cover all your preexisting health conditions.

—Cannot charge the insured more for a Medicare Supplement policy, regardless of past or present health problems. This is good news for Harry with his health issues.

Carolyn, since you are turning 65 in February, you'll have a less stressful Medicare enrollment than Harry because you are in your Medicare Supplement Open Enrollment Period. On page 77 of the 2026 Medicare & You handbook, it states, "The best time to purchase a Medicare Supplement policy is during your Medigap Open Enrollment Period. This 6-month period begins the first month you have Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance), and you're 65 or older."

Enrolling in Medicare Part B the correct way, when you or your spouse is working full-time with employer benefits, is extremely important. Not only do you want to avoid a Medicare Part B penalty; you also want to be able to enroll in a Medicare Supplement while avoiding medical underwriting to be accepted.

Chapter 3 of Toni's Medicare Survival Guide Advanced Edition explains in depth what a Medicare Supplement is and the rules of enrolling in a Medicare Supplement policy the proper way. Many Americans do not realize that enrolling in Medicare Part B is

> See TONI, Page 19



NOVEMBER CRIME REPORT

A look at November crime in Sun City Summerlin, as reported by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

LARCENY / THEFT

11-4	12:22 a.m.	1900 Block Capestone Street
11-12	6:53 a.m.	2400 Block Palmridge Drive

FRAUD

11-12	2:25 a.m.	2400 Block Desert Butte Drive
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DESTRUCTION / PROPERTY DAMAGE

11-20	5:08 a.m.	10000 Block Villa Ridge Drive
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SOURCE: LVMPD Open Data Portal

More people are caring for dying loved ones at home. A New Orleans nonprofit is showing them how.

By Halle Parker
KFF Health News

Liz Dunnebacke isn't dying, but for a recent end-of-life care workshop in New Orleans, she pretended to be.

Dunnebacke lay still atop a folding table that was dressed as a bed, complaining that her legs hurt. Registered nurse Ana Kanellos, rolling up two small white towels, demonstrated how to elevate her ankles to ease the pain.

"Mom's legs are always swollen? Raise 'em up," Kanellos said.

About 20 New Orleans residents listened intently, eager to learn more about how to care for loved ones at home when they're nearing the end of their lives. Attendee Alix Vargas said she used to be terrified of dying. But about three years ago, a close cousin's death led her to attend group writing workshops, helping her embrace her grief and conquer her fear.

"I'm feeling very called towards this work," she said. "It's definitely knowledge that I wanted to obtain and expand my mind in that way. And this is also something that we're all going to encounter in our lives."

The workshop made her think about a neighbor whose mother has dementia.

"I was immediately thinking, 'OK, there's someone in my immediate orbit that is experiencing this,'" Vargas recalled. "'Here's a practical way to put the mutual aid in use.'"

Demand for home health care, including at-home hospice care, has skyrocketed since the onset of the covid pandemic, as has the number of family caregivers. An estimated 63 million people in the U.S. — nearly a quarter of all American adults — provided care over the previous year to another person with a medical condition or disability, usually another adult, according to a 2024 survey by AARP and the National Al-

liance for Caregiving. In the past 10 years, about 20 million more people have served as caregivers.

With nearly 1 in 5 Americans expected to be 65 or older by 2030, health care experts predict the demand for at-home caregivers will continue to rise. Online resources for end-of-life care are widely available, but hands-on training to prepare people to become caregivers is not, and it can be expensive. Yet untrained family members-turned-caregivers are taking on nursing and medical tasks.

Donald Trump promised more support for caregivers during his 2024 campaign, including a pledge to create new tax credits for those caring for family members. He endorsed a bill reintroduced in Congress this year that would allow family caregivers to receive tax credits of up to \$5,000, but the legislation hasn't moved forward.

Meanwhile, the Medicaid cuts expected from Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which President Trump signed in July, could prompt states looking to offset their added expenses to reconsider participating in optional state Medicaid programs, such as the one that helps pay for at-home hospice care. That would threaten to make dying at home even more unaffordable for low-income families, said advocates and researchers.

Advocates like Osha Towers are trying to help caregivers navigate the uncertainty. Towers leads LG-BTQ+ engagement at Compassion & Choices, a national organization that focuses on improving end-of-life care, preparation, and education.

"It is certainly very scary, but what we know we can do right now is be able to just show up for all individuals to make sure that they know what they need to be prepared for," Towers said.

In New Orleans, a nonprofit called

Wake, which focuses on supporting family caregivers providing end-of-life and death care, is one of the organizations trying to help fill the knowledge gap. Wake put on the free, three-day September workshop where Dunnebacke, the group's founder, pretended to be a dying patient. Such workshops are aimed at preparing attendees for what to expect when loved ones are dying and how to care for them, even without costly professional help. Full-time at-home care is rare.

"You don't have to have any special training to do this work," Dunnebacke said. "You just need some skills and some supports to make that happen."

In some ways, the evolution of end-of-life care in the U.S. over the past century has come full circle. It

was only starting in the 1960s that people shifted from dying at home to dying in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice facilities.

Such institutions can provide immediate advanced medical support and palliative care for patients, but they often lack the human connection that home care provides, said Laurie Dietrich, Wake's programs manager.

Now, more people want to die in their homes, among family, but with the support and technology that comes with modern medical facilities.

In the past decade, death dou-las — who support the nonmedical and emotional needs of the dying and their loved ones — have grown in popularity to help guide people through the dying process, helping to fill that gap.

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ACROSS

1. Shapeless form
5. Hot springs resort
8. Not square
11. Private theater box
12. Relating to ear
13. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.
15. I ____ you so!
16. *The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?
17. *"Auld Lang Syne" poet
18. *Partridge's perch (2 words)
20. Vegas numbers
21. New Zealand's indigenous people
22. Fuss
23. Tabby's favorite herb
26. More so than swell
30. Big-headedness
31. Resembling an ape
34. John Wayne Gacy's ____ the Clown
35. Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame
37. Type or kind
38. Like a sheep after a haircut
39. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
40. Superlative of #33 Down
42. U.S. central bank
43. Wilma and Fred's hometown
45. *Latke's main ingredient
47. Word of possibility
48. Turning token taker
50. Exclamation of sorrow
52. * ____ Obody of "It's a Wonderful Life"
55. Raspberry drupelets
56. Sainly glow
57. Letter opener
59. Hunts for food
60. Banana leftover
61. Guesstimate phrase
62. *Color on a Kwanzaa flag
63. Not divisible by two
64. Scholarship criterion

6. Pileus, pl.
7. "The Road Runner" corporation
8. Group of cows
9. Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.
10. *"The Nutcracker" step
12. Certain cephalopod, pl.
13. It's sometimes humble
14. *Chuck Berry's "Run, ____ Run"
19. Reason to strike
22. Grass bristle
23. Famous one, slangily
24. Open-mouthed
25. Like a well-defined muscle
26. Hot alcoholic beverage
27. Washing sponge
28. Type of heron
29. Rondeau, alt. sp.

32. *Santa's beverage of choice
33. Not well
36. *Original home of Christmas tannenbaum
38. Fur shawl
40. Extremely unfriendly
41. Plane trick
44. Reprieve in a desert
46. Muscle to bone connector
48. Skidded
49. Weighed
50. 4,840 square yards
51. Told an untruth
52. Head of family
53. Wrap in waxy cloth
54. Comfort
55. Financing acronym
58. Stewart of "Maggie May" fame

DOWN

1. Deli acronym
2. Chicago's central district, with The
3. Gawk at
4. Wish harm upon, arch.
5. One of The Beatles

CROSSWORD

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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SAVVY SENIOR

How to locate an age-friendly doctor

Dear Savvy Senior,

My husband and I are relocating to a nearby state to be closer to our daughter and will need to find a new primary care physician when we arrive. We are both in our late 70s and are interested in getting a geriatrician to oversee our health care going forward. Any suggestions for finding someone?

Searching for Care

Dear Searching,

Choosing a geriatrician as your primary care doctor in your 70s is a good idea, especially if you're dealing with various age-related health problems. But if you're in relatively good health you may not need a geriatrician. A good primary care doctor with an age-friendly philosophy may be all you need. Here's what you should know.

WHO NEEDS A GERIATRICIAN?

Geriatricians are primary care doctors that have additional specialized training in treating older patients. Those who can benefit the most from seeing a geriatrician are seniors age 75 and older with multiple health and age-related problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, incontinence, osteoporosis, cognitive decline, frailty, depression, or trouble with balance and falls.

Geriatricians are also particularly adept at tackling medication prob-



JIM MILLER

lems. Because many seniors take multiple medications at the same time for various health conditions, and because aging bodies often absorb and metabolize

drugs differently than younger adults, unique side effects and drug interactions are not uncommon. A geriatrician will evaluate and monitor your medications to be sure they are not affecting you in a harmful way.

Geriatricians can also help their patients and families determine their long-term care needs, like how long they can remain in their own homes safely without assistance, and what type of services may be necessary when they do need some extra help.

Unfortunately, there's a shortage of geriatricians in the U.S., so depending on where you are moving, finding one may be difficult.

To help you locate one in your new area, use Medicare's online find and compare search tool. Just go to [Medicare.gov/care-compare](https://www.Medicare.gov/care-compare) and click on "Doctors & Clinicians" and type in your location, then type in "geriatric medicine" in the Name & Keyword box. You can also get this information by calling Medicare at

800-633-4227. The American Geriatrics Society also has a geriatrician-finder tool on their website at [HealthinAging.org](https://www.HealthinAging.org).

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, contact your plan for a list of network geriatricians in your new area.

Keep in mind, though, that locating a geriatrician doesn't guarantee you will be accepted as a patient. Many doctors already have a full patient roster and don't accept any new patients. You'll need to call the individual doctor's office to find out.

AGE-FRIENDLY PCPS

If you and your husband are in relatively good health or if you can't find a geriatrician in your new area, a good primary care physician (PCP) that practices age-friendly care would also be a viable choice.

To search for new PCPs, use the previously listed Medicare tools. Once you locate a few, call their office and ask if they're accepting new patients and if they practice the 4Ms of age friendly care, which include: What Matters (your goals and priorities); Medication safety and appropriateness; Mentation (cognition and mood); and Mobility (ways to keep you moving).

You can also research new doctors at sites like [Healthgrades.com](https://www.healthgrades.com) and [Vitals.com](https://www.vitals.com).

If you're finding it hard to get into a new practice, you might even consider looking for a geriatric nurse practitioner or advanced practice registered nurse to serve as your PCP.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

Toni

continued from Page 16

as valuable as gold and should be treated carefully. Take your time and explore your Medicare plan options. Remember to discuss your Medicare needs with your medical providers when exploring your Medicare plan options.

Toni's new course, a downloadable

video series called "Confused about Medicare," and the "Medicare Survival Guide Advanced" edition are available at www.tonisays.com.

Toni King is an author and columnist on Medicare, Social Security and long-term care issues. She has spent nearly 30 years as a top sales leader in the field. If you have a Medicare question, email info@tonisays.com or call 832-519-8664. Sign up for the Toni Says newsletter at www.tonisays.com to keep up to date on Medicare changes.

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SCS REAL ESTATE

Home sales still in pause mode

SCS LIFE

Home sales remained stagnant in November in Sun City Summerlin, with a total of 42 sales closing during the month compared to 39 a month earlier.

Homes sold in November ranged from a 1,187 square foot Hawthorne model townhouse at 2755 Faiss Dr for \$300,000 to \$1,545,000 for a 2,933 square foot Wendover model

single family at 3012 Hawksdale Dr.

About six in 10 home sales were for cash.

There were 186 homes for sale in Sun City Summerlin on December 1, ranging from a Charleston model townhouse at 2609 Sierra Sage St with 1,007 square feet for \$299,000 to \$1,695,000 for a 2,886 square foot Nevadan model single family at 2548 Faiss Dr.

NOVEMBER HOME SALES
IN SUN CITY SUMMERLIN

- 11025 Hawk Valley AVE 1,179 SF \$347,000
- 3105 Hidden Treasure DR 1,552 SF \$425,000
- 1912 Gin Hill CT 1,713 SF \$635,000
- 10725 Sky Meadows Avenue AVE 1,215 SF \$430,000
- 9032 Marble DR 1,384 SF \$490,000
- 3016 High Range DR 1,842 SF \$650,000
- 3112 Birch Grove CT 1,653 SF \$717,500
- 2553 Showcase DR 1,359 SF \$490,000
- 10724 Windledge AVE 1,346 SF \$385,000
- 2406 Showcase DR 1,804 SF \$510,000
- 9105 Villa Ridge DR 2,577 SF \$1,185,000
- 2937 Billy Casper DR 2,773 SF \$1,200,000
- 2513 Dark Peak DR 1,021 SF \$326,500
- 9329 January DR 1,749 SF \$360,000
- 3032 Highland Falls DR 2,210 SF \$920,000
- 2812 Lotus Hill DR 1,384 SF \$511,000
- 3012 Hawksdale DR 2,933 SF \$1,545,000
- 9428 January DR 1,220 SF \$375,000
- 2405 Bluffton CT 2,462 SF \$700,000
- 9352 Villa Ridge DR 1,599 SF \$393,500
- 10732 Cedar Creek AVE 1,520 SF \$425,000
- 10009 Hemet DR 1,007 SF \$335,000
- 2004 Bellview ST 1,250 SF \$363,000
- 9816 Gerald CT 1,699 SF \$652,000
- 9445 JANUARY DR 1,749 SF \$412,000
- 3016 Lotus Hill DR 1,804 SF \$480,000
- 10920 Black Ledge AVE 1,533 SF \$575,000
- 9532 Sundial DR 1,804 SF \$595,000
- 9109 Gemstone DR 1,196 SF \$320,000
- 9048 Starmount DR 1,359 SF \$330,000
- 10920 Grand Haven AVE 2,577 SF \$682,500
- 2755 Faiss DR 1,187 SF \$300,000
- 2916 Hawksdale DR 2,522 SF \$1,289,000
- 9729 Buckhorn DR 1,105 SF \$383,000
- 10409 Shoalhaven DR 2,452 SF \$805,000
- 2732 Tumble Brook DR 2,176 SF \$955,000
- 8904 Marble DR 1,653 SF \$558,990
- 10036 Keysborough DR 1,533 SF \$595,000
- 2512 Maddington DR 1,880 SF \$625,000
- 10025 Netherton DR 2,210 SF \$770,000
- 2824 Crown Ridge DR 2,115 SF \$867,000
- 2836 Linkview DR 1,323 SF \$331,000

Market statistics provided by Michael DelGais, Home Realty Center



Do you have news?

Know of an issue in Sun City Summerlin that you'd like explored? Want to promote an activity or a club? We're as curious as you are about Sun City Summerlin happenings.

Send us an email at news@scslife.net and we'll look at it for a future issue.

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Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

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