

# SCS LIFE



## WATER WOES

Could Sun City's greenbelts be at risk in water crackdown?

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Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

SCSLife.net | May 2026



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HOA dues to remain the same for 2026-27

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## YOGA FOR ALL

Sun City Summerlin is a welcoming place for yoga enthusiasts of all levels and all ages. See page 8

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# The memories you should really be sharing

**M**emory is a funny thing, something those of us who are a certain age understand better than most. While it's hard sometimes to remember what we had for breakfast, something may pop up randomly in the brain from a half century ago that is so clear it seems like it might have happened yesterday.

I got that feeling recently when I sat down with a UNLV researcher to do an oral history of my life. It's part of the latest project by the UNLV Special Collections department, which does interviews with Las Vegasans who played a part in or witnessed some of the city's remarkable history.

The night before, I thought about some of the things that might interest the university most, then promptly forgot about most of them by the next morning. No matter, it



**TIM DAHLBERG**  
SCS LIFE  
COMMENTARY

turns out, because once we sat down and got going the memories started flowing and one story led to the next with barely time to take a deep breath in between.

For two and a half hours I talked mostly non-stop, interrupted occasionally by a question from Stefani Evans, the project manager for the UNLV Oral History Research Center. I told stories ranging from how my parents moved us to Las Vegas in the middle of the night because their 1957 Dodge would never make it up the Baker Grade in the summer heat

to how my boxing writer colleague ended up fighting a boxing kangaroo from Circus Circus in the bar one night at the old Flame Restaurant on the Las Vegas Strip.

"I had him beat until I called him an animal," my colleague said afterward.

There wasn't a lot of rhyme and reason to it all. Interspersed with a story about how my 8-year-old baseball team won the city championship was a story about chatting with mobster Tony Spilotro and his brother, Michael, during breaks in his federal racketeering trial (they got off on a mistrial only to be beaten to death a few months later in Illinois). I bounced all over the place, though most of it was centered on my life in Las Vegas before I became a globe trotting sports columnist for The Associated Press.

The funny thing was, I didn't have

to search for the memories to come back. If anything, my brain was filled with so many more we could have gone another two and a half hours without running out of material.

What excited me the most, though, was the idea that this was something that will live on even after I'm gone. UNLV will not only post the recording online but make me a hardcover book with the transcript of the interview. I know my sons will learn things they never knew about the old man when they read it, and maybe their offspring will someday, too.

It got me thinking. Why doesn't everyone do something like this?

No, UNLV isn't going to be calling all of you. But everyone has a recording app on their phone that can save your memories, and transcription

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# Will Sun City's greenbelts remain green? Lawsuit challenges forced grass removal

By Eric Dahlberg  
SCS LIFE

Sun City Summerlin is joining a lawsuit against forced new removals of grass, amid fears the community greenbelts, parkways and other public areas could be targeted.

There was no cost for the SCSCAI to join the lawsuit, which was started by three homeowners outside Sun City and is being joined by an assortment of other parties. Among them are several HOA's in Spanish Trail Country Club.

The lawsuit challenges the Southern Nevada Water Authority over its ban on "nonfunctional grass" and its enforcement of a 2021 state law that led to the irrigation ban, which is scheduled to go into effect in January. Sun City's participation must be approved in a community vote, though that is little more than a formality.

Last month the Nevada Supreme



SCS LIFE photo

**Workers mow the grass on one of Sun City's greenbelts, which function both as community gathering areas and flood control ditches. Now SCSCAI officials worry that the grass on the greenbelt may be threatened by new water restrictions.**

Court denied a motion by the SNWA to derail the lawsuit, and allowed other affected parties to join it. The case, which began in District Court but was transferred to federal court, centers on whether the water authority has the ability and right to enforce a ban and whether a ban violates the constitutional rights of homeowners.

The case is being played out as the Colorado River is expected to bring record low quantities of water to Lake Mead, which supplies the Las Vegas Valley, because of ongoing drought and low snowfall this past year.

It also comes as water fee hikes begin taking effect and the SCSCAI is budgeting \$1.75 million for golf course water for the 2026-27 fiscal year, compared to \$1.30 million in the current year. Watering for common areas will go to about \$510,000,

up from \$466,000.

"It's really time for us to get involved with water," board member Steve Douglas said. "Water is arguably going to be the biggest issue in the future for all HOA's but especially an HOA with three golf courses being in the desert and probably being in a 1,000 year drought."

Douglas and others credited board President Jeff Rorick with being proactive on the water issue.

"I think this is a very productive activity on our part," board member James West said of the lawsuit.

Though golf course water usage dwarfs other uses, SCS used potable water to water all common areas, including the greenbelts that line the community. When Sun City was built, developer Del Webb won a waiver on putting parks in the community by saying the greenbelts would serve as park-like areas for

residents.

The greenbelts also serve an important function as flood control channels, where the grass helps keep dirt, rocks and debris from entering the sewage system. Rorick said SCSCAI will apply for waivers for the greenbelts before the new law goes into effect.

"We thought our green belts were safe," Executive Director Mitzi Mills told the Golf Advisory Committee on April 15. "They don't say that they're not safe, but they now won't say that they are safe."

For years the three golf courses in Sun City were watered with reclaimed water, but in 2019 the city of Las Vegas shut down the reclamation facilities because of high cost and other issues. That forced the golf courses to buy water from the tap at higher prices, which will go a lot higher under an agreement reached last year to impose rate increases over several years.

Water authorities implemented a plan last year to phase in increases in potable water fees over the next five years, after which Sun City would be paying full rates to water golf courses and greenbelts.

Rorick said that will cost Sun City \$2.3 million more over the next five years, including \$1.2 million in 2030. After that, there could be future rate increases that would send the water cost even higher. That is despite removing large areas of grass from the golf courses over the past several years to cut water use.

The water charges are separate from water fees paid by individual households.

Currently, SCSCAI pays \$2.33 per 1,000 gallons of water used on the golf courses and greenbelts. That would rise to a total of \$5.49 per 1,000 gallons when all fees are added in by 2030.

**SCS LIFE**

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# Dahlberg

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software to make it readable. Why not take a few hours to talk about your life so your children and their children can fill in the blanks before you're gone?

I know I wish I could read my dad's thoughts now, from when he was a navigator on B-24's over Tokyo during the war to just what prompted him to pull the family out of our home in the San Fernando Valley and move to what was then a small city in the middle of a big desert. I'd like to hear my mother's words about how she returned to school while we were growing up so she could become a teacher.

I'm sure it's the same with most of you. There are big gaps in what we know about our parents that can never be answered when they're gone, and an oral history would go a long way to filling them in.

They may not all be totally accurate because memory is a funny thing. That's why I told my older sister that when she reads it she may not remember things the same way I did, particularly about how she tormented me growing up and had me convinced the Fremont Hotel was the tallest building in the world.

That's fine, I told her. But this is my oral history. Get your own.

When it comes to pickleball, there are only two camps: Those who live and breathe the sport, and those who think they're nuts.

I've bounced about both sides because, face it, it's easy to make fun of pickleball players. But there's evidence they might not be as crazy as they seem.

A recent column in the Wall Street Journal said pickleball has shown great promise for people suffering from Parkinson's. The sport has upsides ranging from improving posture and body rigidity issues that people with Parkinson's often have to providing a social aspect for those

with the disease so they can interact more with other people. There's even a theory that pickleball helps people with Parkinson's who normally whisper get loud by calling out scores and communicating with partners.

Of course, any exercise with movement is probably good. But maybe it's time to start giving pickleball its due.

I had to chuckle when I read the mass email sent out by the SCSCAI about Sun City Summerlin being named to the top 6 golf retirement spots in the country by a travel magazine.

Not that I don't believe Sun City Summerlin isn't a great golf community. It is, and those of us lucky enough to live – and play – here can vouch for that.

Still, I was urged in the SCSCAI email to read the story. So I did, all two paragraphs of it, which made me wonder if anyone actually read it before sending the email.

Nowhere in the piece was Sun City Summerlin even mentioned. And the person doing the writing didn't seem to understand anything about Summerlin itself either.

The online posting does have a quote from Donny Long about Las Vegas having nice golf courses. It mentions he is director of golf at something called Golf Summerlin but doesn't explain.

And the accompanying picture was not of the scenic 14th hole at Highland Falls, but a golf course at Lake Las Vegas.

It's pretty much glorified clickbait, which infests every news site these days. Everyone loves a list, and the Internet is full of Top 6 this, top 5 that, top 3 something else.

In fact, I've added the email to my list of top 8 dumbest emails of 2026.

Water issues in Southern Nevada aren't new, though the possibility of another long-term drought along the Colorado River this summer may take it to another level. Lake Mead is expected to drop so low that power

generation will be reduced at Hoover Dam, and the Las Vegas Valley Water District is warning of even further crackdowns on outdoor watering.

Sun City Summerlin is smart in trying to be proactive when it comes to water use, joining a lawsuit that challenges the district's authority to ban watering of nonfunctional grass and define just what that grass is. That comes amid fears that the district could go after Sun City's grassy greenbelts as well as any golf course grass that didn't get lopped in earlier grass cuts.

With water prices set to more than double in the next few years, the battle is even more important for Sun City and its green areas.

But while the focus is on grass, let's not forget about the trees. We have literally thousands of pine trees in common areas that don't belong in a desert community and do little except suck up precious water at astounding rates. Most were put in by developer Del Webb Corp. to grow big and fast and

make Sun City look green but have long since outlived their usefulness.

SCSCAI has a plan to deal with them. The only problem is no one has implemented the plan.

A special Landscaping Subcommittee recommended in December 2024 that Sun City, which it said has an estimated 28,624 trees and plants in common areas, take out at least 25 percent of them to not only save water but make the community look better. Pine trees were a particular target, with the subcommittee recommending they be eliminated wherever possible.

A year and a half later, nothing has been done. The trees are still there, crowding each other out, sucking up water and making Sun City look overgrown.

Meanwhile, the bill for watering common areas in the upcoming fiscal year is projected to be \$510,543, or \$65.61 for every home in Sun City.

Tim Dahlberg is the publisher of SCS LIFE. Write to him at [timd@scslife.net](mailto:timd@scslife.net)



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# Homeowners get break with dues to remain same in 2026-27

SCS LIFE

After several years of double digit increases to HOA fees, Sun City Summerlin residents will get a break on their payments for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The new budget that will take effect July 1 keeps HOA fees at \$230.16 a month despite an increase of about \$15 a month in total operating spending, set at \$27.8 million for the year.

That follows an 11 percent increase in HOA fees last year, which came on top of 20 percent increases in two of the three previous years.

The new budget, which will be formally ratified by residents later this month, includes increases in administration spending and projected operating deficits of \$1.6 million for golf and about \$1 million for the two restaurants operated by the Sun City Community Association Inc.

There is \$229,156 in new capital spending, including \$30,000 for a patio shade cover on the patio at Highland Falls Golf Course.

The new budget keeps HOA fees steady largely by cutting the amount of money that goes to the association's reserves. The contribution for reserves in the current fiscal year was \$663.72 a home and will be \$480.00 in the new budget.

That was accomplished by an

increase in reserve funding due to NORA and increased dues and lowered reserve expenses in the upcoming year that is expected to keep the fund on track for 70 percent funding by the 2029-30 fiscal year. The reserve fund is projected to be at 66.1 percent funding, or \$28.24 million, at the end of the 2026-27 fiscal year.

This is the first full year of the increase in NORA rates, which are expected to generate about \$3 million a year for the reserve fund. NORA will increase in the next fiscal year to \$5,125 based on the 2.5 percent consumer price index increase tied to the fee.

"I think it's important to recognize what NORA has done for us," said SCSCAI Board President Jeff Rorick, who spearheaded the campaign to increase the new home sales tax.

Reserve spending is projected to be \$4.37 million for the upcoming fiscal year, including \$1.48 million for golf course needs and \$1.15 million for the Fitness Department that includes \$625,000 for pool and spa resurfacing at Desert Vista Community Center.

Some additional good news for the 7,781 SCS homeowners is the projection that rate increases for future years are in the 3 percent or less range.



## We Love to Hear From Our Readers

SCS LIFE welcomes reader input. You can submit a letter by emailing them to Eric Dahlberg at [edahlbergmcin@gmail.com](mailto:edahlbergmcin@gmail.com). Letters should include your name and be about 200 words.

**SCS LIFE**  
Sun City Summerlin's Independent Monthly

## NEON DIARY

# Former Utah lawman travels life's path in 'a shiny car'

It was easy to spot Wes Goldsberry at April's SCS Cruisers Car Club show — and not just because of his Torch Red 2008 Shelby Mustang convertible.

While many of the 50 participants relaxed in folding chairs, Goldsberry stood ramrod straight beside his 655-horsepower showpiece, every inch the former police officer. He spent more than four decades in law enforcement, including 37 years with the sheriff's office in Weber County, Utah, home to Ogden, before he and his wife, Lorrie, moved to SCS a year and a half ago.

Goldsberry said he's been a car buff since before buying his first one, a 1957 Chevy Bel Air, as a teenager 60 years ago.

"If a guy has a shiny car, he probably has a shiny house," he said, describing the pride that comes with taking care of something special.

He knew off the top of his head that his Mustang, complete with a Carroll Shelby-autographed dash placard, had 132,967 miles. Most were logged on trips to car shows around the country, where the car has won 37 first-place awards, including two national honors.

Goldsberry said he looks forward to putting the top down, cranking up the 1,000-watt stereo and roaring off to Mount Charleston — eyes peeled on the road ahead.

"A lot of police officers think they've seen it all, but they haven't," said Goldsberry, who retired as a captain. "You never know what's behind that next door."

**TOP SHELF:** The recently remodeled Tavern at the Falls has a polished new look, an upgraded food menu, bartop gaming, and now, its own celebrity bartender.



**DOUG PUPPEL**  
NEON DIARY

For the last dozen years, Jade Moreno has poured drinks, cheered jackpot winners and nodded along to stories at well-known Las Vegas watering holes. Along the way, she has also been a spirits brand ambassador, model, and sparkled on social media, with nearly 10,000 followers across all platforms.

Moreno's hospitality journey started when she was a kid rolling quarters pulled from the jukebox and pool table at her family's bar. It most recently brought her to Tavern at the Falls, where she works 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

She said a career spent listening to patrons taught her that "you never know what someone's going through" and that it is important to make people smile.

What makes Moreno smile? Her 23-year-old son, whom she calls "the light of my life."

**OF NOTE:** The Music in the Park concert series returns for its fourth year to the Desert Vista Community Center picnic area with three free shows over the next few weeks. This season's lineup features Vintage (May 24), The Flutter Bums (May 31), and Joe Buonanno (June 7), with all shows starting at 5. Bring water (or even a picnic), a chair, and a neighbor who needs to get out. For more information, email [carolreed40@gmail.com](mailto:carolreed40@gmail.com)

The musicians volunteer their time, as does Music in the Park co-founder Carol Reed, who works tirelessly to produce the shows.

Doug Puppel is a writer and model in Las Vegas



Photo by Doug Puppel

**Wes Goldsberry treasures his 2008 Shelby GT 500, but he treasures his wife and three daughters even more.**

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# Thinking about becoming a Yogi? Here's your club

By Jenny Scheid  
SCS LIFE

Soothing instrumental music wafts through the workout room in Sun Shadows Fitness Center as the 20 yogis concentrate on perfecting their warrior poses. “You guys look amazing,” says instructor Amy Harris, as she offers to adjust someone’s arm position.

Harris, who has been a certified yoga instructor since 1999, has been leading classes at Sun City Summerlin for five years. She extolls the benefits of yoga for all ages as an effective tool for increased flexibility, muscle strength, improved balance and better posture.

“I also think there’s so many other benefits, like just feeling a sense of community or camaraderie, like a belonging,” Harris said. “And I think when you have all the people practicing together, there is just a lot higher level of energy or enthusiasm, or like I call it, collective calming. There is just such a greater energy of whatever we are working on, whether it is calming or strengthening, that you pick up from other people.”

Nancy Sanders, 80, agrees. “As Amy was saying, it’s obviously a low-impact way to improve mobility ... and increase your balance, directly reducing the risk of falls.”

She began practicing yoga 11 years ago, adopting a healthier, more intentional way of living.

“I started several things all at one time. I started exercising more, I started yoga and I started meditation. It has really all changed my life,” Sanders said. “I used to have migraine headaches for 30 years. I don’t have those anymore. But it’s



Photo by Jeff Scheid/SCS LIFE

**Members of the Sun City Summerlin Yoga Club pose to soothing instrumental music in the workout room at the Sun Shadows Fitness Center. The club has been around more than 30 years and has six instructors who offer 10 classes weekly.**

not only the yoga, it’s also the diet. So, it’s a whole lifestyle change for me.”

Nancy Carlin started yoga because she wanted to try something different. That was 15 years ago. At the time she was working out but doing high-impact exercises such as jogging and aerobics.

Carlin does not suffer from migraines, but she did have other age-related health issues.

“With yoga, I’ve had all these great health benefits,” Carlin said. “I was diagnosed a couple of years ago with osteoporosis, and now I’ve moved back off the diagnosis, which is pretty amazing. The doctor is going, ‘I can’t believe that’s right,’ but I know

that it is.”

Another benefit, according to club president Rudy Sanchez, is that yoga instills confidence in day-to-day activities.

“People become more confident in themselves as far as what they can do, you know, physically,” he said. “Even when you go walking down the street, you feel better because you’re better with your balance.”

Carlin has lived in Sun City Summerlin for two years and has taken yoga classes at other locations throughout town. She finds the instructors at Sun City Summerlin to be the best.

“We are blessed with our instructors,” she said. “They always point

out modifications. ... If you take yoga at other places, it’s not necessarily like that. I don’t even think it’s necessarily an age-related thing. I think anybody can get hurt.”

Harris agreed. “I’ve been in classes myself where (instructors) have said — without any permission — ‘I’m going to lean on you when you’re in this stretch.’ And then, you know, people get hurt all the time.”

She does not need to touch yogis to make modifications. “I can say: ‘My hands are here. Can you bring your knee to meet me?’”

Sanchez stressed that participants need to know that they do not have to mirror the person in front of them or beside them.

Harris said part of an instructor’s job is recognizing the ability of each individual participant. “Now we know our bones aren’t the same, our sockets aren’t the same, even right to left, it’s not the same. There’s so many skeletal-ability issues. There’s so much beyond how much experience you have or how strong or flexible you are.”

She said that a lot of older adults are afraid that they cannot get down on the ground and then get back up again.

“With gentle yoga, we start lying down, and we work our way gradually to a seated position. Then we gradually learn transitions to be able to stand up, which I think is a very important life skill. And then we stay standing, and we do our standing stuff, and then we work our way back down,” Harris said.

She also teaches yin yoga, which works more targets — the connective tissues, the joints, the ligaments,

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# Yoga

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rather than the muscles. Yin works deeply in the body with passive, longer-held poses (three to five minutes).

Harris is one of six yoga instructors for the SCS Yoga Club, which has been around for more than 30 years.

“The original yoga club was only three classes a week, and it was a single instructor that had been around for many, many years,” Sanchez said.

Another Sun City Summerlin club, the Be Fit Club, also offered yoga classes. About three years ago, the clubs merged, and now the Yoga Club offers 10 classes over six days at both Desert Vista and Sun Shadows fitness centers. (The Fitness Department at Sun Shadows offers free chair classes three days a week.)

“The nice thing is (the merged club) expanded the personalities and the

experience of the instructors,” Sanchez said. “Because the instructors are primarily here at Sun City, working with seniors is something they know and have a lot of experience with.”

Club membership is around 116, and it is common to have class participants in their upper 80s and early 90 years of age, according to Harris.

“Our classes are accessible to all fitness levels, including beginners. You don’t have to know yoga to start,” Sanders said.

Carlin is what is called a member-at-large. She volunteered to promote the club and helped push for a recently added Saturday class.

“My goal is to reach people who live here, who are maybe sitting at home watching TV, and they could do more. They could move more,” she said.

“If you’re in Sun City, if you’re completely new to the club, you get to try two classes without having to sign up,” Carlin added.

Proof enough that in Sun City, the more yogis the better.



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# 15 YEARS AGO: Bids taken to build new fire station in Sun City

SCS LIFE

• Bids have been taken to build fire station No. 107, which just happens to be in Sun City Summerlin. The bidding process concluded after off-site improvements were made to the site, which is located just off the ninth tee at Palm Valley Golf Course at Del Webb and Sundial. Fire officials say the new station is needed to fill gaps in coverage in the northwest area, and give Sun City residents quick access to paramedic and ambulance services. Currently, residents who call for help have to wait 6 to 10 minutes, and sometimes longer if there is traffic. Sun City residents voted to deed the site to the city of Las Vegas so the new station could be built. Construction is expected to begin in July on the \$6.3 million project.

• Mayor Oscar Goodman made his last visit to Sun City Summerlin before leaving office, and he was greeted with his favorite gin martini. Goodman kept the crowd at the Sun City Residents Forum in stitches with quips from his time as a mob lawyer and as mayor of Las Vegas. Goodman will step down after 12 years following the June 7 general election, where his wife, Carolyn, is favored to win.

## 30 YEARS AGO

• The Del Webb Corp. is offering vacation villas in Sun City Summerlin for people interested in moving to the

community. The company is offering packages for three days, two rounds of golf and access to community recreational facilities for \$195.

• Sun City Summerlin residents are flexing their political muscle in the wake of a tax dispute that they say over valued homes in the community. Republicans in the community have banded together to support police officer Lance Malone in his candidacy for the Clark County Commission, claiming current commissioner Paul Christensen is not responsive to the community needs. In the community of 10,500 residents, 7,253 are registered to vote and 93 percent of them voted in the last presidential election. There are 3,610 registered Republicans and 2,854 Democrats in the community.

• Sun City Summerlin homeowners argued their case before the state Supreme Court over what they claim is double taxation. The residents are opposed to the community's common areas and golf courses being taxed, saying their homeowner taxes already pay for the areas.

• An 1,800 square foot home on the golf course was listed at \$295,000.

## 25 YEARS AGO

• Sun City has a new restaurant, and it will be a spicy one. Don Gloude has opened A Taste of N'Awlins at 9320 Sun City Blvd., bringing Cajun cooking to the community. Gloude is not only the owner

but also the chef. He said he has plans to offer entertainment at night and daily specials to draw residents in.

• Del Webb Corp., which developed Sun City Summerlin, is being acquired by Pulte Homes. Pulte will give \$800 million in stock and assume \$1 billion in debt in a deal that combines the two largest homebuilders in the Las Vegas Valley. Del Webb was a pioneer in age restricted communities, building the first in Phoenix in 1960. When it opened in 1989, Sun City Summerlin was the first 55-plus community in Las Vegas.

• A 1,520 square foot home on Hot Oak Springs with city and mountain views was listed at \$279,000.

## 10 YEARS AGO

• A recent crime spree that has Sun City residents on edge has prompted the Metropolitan Police Department to boost patrols in the community. Sheriff Joe Lombardo said there was an arrest of the armed robber believed connected to three of the crimes, including one in which a resident was confronted at gunpoint and asked to give up his wallet. When the resident refused and drove away in his golf cart, the robber shot at him twice, missing his target. Lombardo said the crime is personal to him because his mother lives in Sun City.

• Sun City Summerlin's homeowners association is supporting the designation of MountainView Hospital

as a Level III trauma center. The hospital has applied for the designation, and will beef up its trauma care if it is approved. The SCSCAI supports the designation, saying it will help residents who suffer traumatic injuries, mostly in falls.

• A 3,786-square-foot former model home with golf course and city views was listed at \$889,000.

## 5 YEARS AGO

• The Summit restaurant will soon be the place to watch sports in Sun City Summerlin, or at least that is the hope. The Board of Directors approved 10 new TVs for the restaurant at a cost of \$7,650. The TVs will be connected to DirecTV, and SCSCAI has bought a package that will include many sporting events.

• A group of Sun City residents is pushing against rules that require either proof of vaccination or mandatory wearing of masks in the community's common facilities. Residents say they are unhappy with the rules designed to halt the spread of Covid. They will be debated at the May Board of Directors meeting.

## 3 YEARS AGO

• Members of the SCSCAI Basketball Club may have found a place to play. The Board of Directors approved moving ahead with preliminary plans to install a basketball court at Desert Vista Community Center, where the horseshoe pits are

now located. The club has been using part of a pickleball court with a temporary hoop as it searches for a permanent place to play.

• Just one member of the SCSCAI Board of Directors has declined to fill out Board Qualification Disclosure Forms to assure there are no conflicts of interests on the board. Member Steve Commander is the only board member not to fill out the form.

## 1 YEAR AGO

• Basketball players will get a half court to their own under a plan approved by the board of directors. The plan moves the proposed court from Desert Vista Community Center to Mountain Shadows Community Center, where it will be built next to the miniature golf course where the shuffleboard courts are currently. The \$132,000 plan also includes a cornhole facility and one shuffleboard court.

• The lake on Highland Falls No. 17 hole will be redone under a \$151,000 contract approved by the board of directors. The pond, which has been leaking, will be redone with a heavy duty plastic liner and concrete edges. The pond is a visible one in Sun City, seen by people entering the community on Sun City Blvd. Board members also approved funds to level tee boxes at all three Sun City courses, work that will be done during the slow summer months.

# Homeowner cries foul over double addition neighbor

By Tim Dahlberg  
SCS LIFE

Randy Gaven went before Sun City Summerlin officials looking for some answers about the new structure under construction that towers over his backyard wall.

He wondered how the Architectural Review Committee could approve two separate additions to the house next door that he believes may be used for an AirBnB. He wondered if anyone had even come out to look at the property before ruling on the applications. He wondered if the committee approving the second application even knew about the first one from three months earlier.

Mostly, he wondered why no one could tell him anything about a project that not only impacts his lifestyle but will likely lower the value of his home.

“So even if it’s a violation we’re not going to know what it is?” he asked incredulously.

“Unfortunately, yeah,” Executive Director Mitzi Mills told him. “We wish we could tell you, we really do, because it’s a hard spot to be in.”

Gaven, who lives on Indigo Valley Street, filed two complaints over the additions of the neighbor whose house abuts his on the corner with Argents Hill Drive. He appeared before the ARC committee on April 15 after not getting any response to them.

Gaven told the committee that the first addition, listed at 599 square feet, was approved in September and seems largely complete. It was built on the north side of the home, the opposite side from where his house is.

He said he expected construction to wrap up once the addition was complete. But then he saw rafters going up behind his back fence and realized that they were building what he said was an identical 599 square foot addition on the south side that was approved in March. Both additions, he said, had 2 bedrooms plus a

kitchen and living area with doors to the outside.

“I’m not gonna say fraud, but how it got approved, it wasn’t, say, correct,” he said of the second addition, which spans the length of his backyard wall.

Mills said that casitas aren’t allowed in Sun City but that she couldn’t tell Gaven anything about the additions or whether the committee was familiar with the first addition before approving the second. She also couldn’t say whether anyone had gone to the home to look where the additions would be before approving them.

“There’s no policy...but I think it’s a good idea,” Mills said. “I do think it would be a really great idea if, when we have new construction for expansions, that we start visiting the site before.”

The additions were approved at a time when the Community Standards department was without a manager and when a growing number of resident complaints about community violations were not addressed. Another informal neighbor complaint about the twin expansions sent to Mills did not receive a response at all.

Mills said part of the problem is state law prohibits the association from disclosing what it does about violation complaints about homeowners. That means anyone making a complaint never knows whether it was addressed or how it was resolved.

In addition to that, there is no process within the SCSCAI for notifying neighbors prior to any approvals even if they will affect their properties.

But she told Gaven she would look and see what was applied for.

“If they applied for it, if they got approval, if they’re building it per what they applied for, then there’s nothing that we’ll do,” she said. “If they are building it and it’s in violation, we’ll pursue it as a violation.”

The home in question was 1,703

square feet when it was purchased in February 2025 by Robert F. McCullough Jr., who lists a Carson City post office box as his mailing address. Efforts to reach McCullough were unsuccessful.

Gaven, who bought his home two years ago partly to enjoy the backyard pool, said the second expansion effectively blocks out any view he had and closes in his backyard area.

“We could see the neighbor’s palm trees, we could see part of the mountain,” he said. “Now we’re just looking at a house right up to it. So you know, if you want to live 20 feet away from the guy’s 16-foot-high house which was your backyard, the only place that we normally spent time. Everything’s gone. I mean, the only thing we can see now when we go to our back patio is the house next door.”



SCS LIFE

The addition on this home on Argents Hill DR runs along the backyard fence of a neighboring home. The owner of that home has questioned the approval of additions on both sides of the home.

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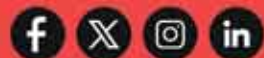
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# First battle of the bunnies ends with bunnies ahead

By Craig Blek

One of the great things about Sun City Summerlin is the wildlife. Therefore, I decided to prepare a compendium of the fauna found here in SCS, but that proved to be too much work, so I settled for discussing my interactions with local quail, bunnies, and coyotes.

There are lots of quail. They live in large groups called coveys. In the spring and early summer, the males will proudly stand on your rooftop and call out, making a sound something like a cross between a car alarm and someone strangling a rooster. In quail speak, this roughly translates to “Hey baby, look at my huge top knot (that plume of feathers that looks like an upside-down comma on the top of their heads). Would you like to join my covey?”

Quail coveys have a unique way of crossing roads. First, two males will head out and see if the coast is clear. Next, two females will come and see if the males actually did their job. Then after a small delay, roughly 700 juveniles will start to stroll across the street and pretty soon, you start to feel like you are being pranked. You look around for the miniature clown car from which they all came pouring out. It can feel as if you are caught up in some sort of weird quail parade, although quite frankly, their floats and marching bands leave a lot to be desired.

Next, let’s talk about the bunnies. Based on my scientific observations, they seem to have two pastimes, aside from the obvious: eating everything in sight, and getting run over by cars. This past summer, after we returned from a short trip to California, we were dismayed to discover a homeowner’s worst nightmare: a squatter. Of course, this squatter was small, furry, and had a white cottontail, but he was eating our lantanas, thus he needed to go. Strangely, the Nevada legal system is shockingly silent when

it comes to protecting homeowners from ravenous bunnies. So, of course, I leapt into action (ok, ok, I walked into action...but at a reasonably brisk pace).

Thus began the saga of Craig versus the Bunny. The story of a man with two economics degrees versus a small desert bunny with a brain the size of a walnut. So, a reasonably fair fight, although I was disappointed to see that the early money line at the books was the Bunny -140.

My first step was to find the incursion point. A brief perimeter search revealed a small depression in the rocks under one of our side gates allowing ingress into the yard. Step two: walk over and use my shoe to scrape some rocks back into the hole. Step 3: Declare victory.

Unfortunately, the next morning the hole was back and more of the lantana had been eaten. Ok, fine... time to up my game. This time I picked up a pot and placed it over the hole. Same result. Hmm, for those of you scoring at home: Bunny 2 Craig 0.

Oh, it’s on now, Bunny. Next, I purchased some chicken wire, dug out the rock, tied the chicken wire to the gate, and filled the rock back in. I was now cautiously optimistic that the bunny menace had been vanquished. Three days later, I emerged from the house ready to once again declare victory, only to find the yard littered with small bits of lantana. Son of a... Bunny 3 Craig 0.

Time to take a closer look at the yard. How was the clever bugger getting in? Oh right, the side walls are only stone for 30 inches and then they are topped with wrought iron that has 4-inch gaps, plenty big enough for a bunny that does its daily stretch routine to squeeze through. So, I ordered some plastic chicken wire that I could zip tie to the wrought iron. I covered only the west side fence because the east side slopes away from our wall, thus making it a 3-4’ jump to get up to the wrought iron and I’m thinking

there is no way that little bunny can jump that high. Turns out he could. Bunny 4 Craig 0.

So, I wrapped the other side in the plastic chicken wire, and I am happy to report we have now been bunny free for months. Whew. Bunny 4 Craig 1. Let’s call it a draw.

With such an abundant supply of quail and bunnies, you also find coyotes and not the kind wearing ACME rocket-powered roller skates. Let’s face it, the coyotes own the place and they know it. They strut around without a care in the world. You see them on the golf courses, the green spaces, strolling up and down the avenues and occasionally working as Amazon delivery agents.

Recently, my wife looked out the back window and spied a rather large coyote. It was looking through our wrought iron enclosed patio cover at our Corgis. It was unclear

if he wanted to play or if he was looking for a snack, but my wife sprung into action. She banged on the back door to chase it off. The coyote was unperturbed by the ruckus; it just sauntered to the rear of our yard and scaled our six-foot wall like Spiderman or should I say Spidercoyote? It got to the top, casually walked along the 6-inch top cap, did a quick pirouette and then disappeared only after performing a double somersault with a full twist for its dismount (only the Russian judge gave him less than a 9.5). If there had been two sad clowns and some type of weird spinning, flying apparatus I would have sworn I was watching Coyote Cirque du Soleil.

This brings us to the end of our thorough, yet completely unhelpful review of the local fauna.

Craig Blek is a Sun City resident who actually likes bunnies.



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## APRIL CRIME REPORT

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

### BURGLARY

4-6	1:17 p.m.	2200 Block Hot Oak Ridge Street
4-8	11:12 a.m.	3100 Block Endeavor Court

### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

4-18	6:57 p.m.	10000 Block Woodhouse Drive
4-26	4:02 a.m.	11000 Block McKendrec Court

### FRAUD

4-24	10:45 a.m.	2700 Block Vista Butte Drive
4-24	12:38 p.m.	2500 Block Showcase Drive

### LARCENY

4-15	3:10 p.m.	2500 Block Desert Sands Drive
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SOURCE: LVMPD Open Data Portal

## SCS BRIEFS

SCS LIFE

### SEATING CHANGE AT BOARD MEETINGS

There's no bulletproof glass, but executive director Mitzi Mills and assistant Jane Cox now at least have a clear line of sight at Board of Director meetings.

At the March and April board meetings, Mills and Cox were seated on stage at the same table as other board members instead of facing them from the audience. That gave them a view of the entry doors, which had previously been behind their backs.

The two administrators had voiced concerns about their safety at board meetings, saying someone with a gun might come in while their backs were to the door. The safety concerns came in the wake of one person disrupting several board meetings with angry outbursts though no threats of violence.

That led to a proposal for bulletproof glass partitions to shield the two from any gunfire that might occur. The proposal was to be heard by the Common Area Properties committee before being pulled a day before the meeting amid concerns the idea had not been thoroughly thought out.

Now Mills and Cox are seated at the end of the table with the nine-member board on stage at the Starbright Theatre. There have been no more proposals made public for added security.

### PATROL VEHICLE ACCIDENT

They go so slow that it's hard to imagine how anyone could wreck a SCSCAI Patrol vehicle.

But one volunteer managed to do just that, and the vehicle was effectively totaled. That led to a vote at the April 14 Board of Directors meeting to buy a new vehicle to replace the one damaged in the accident.

Details are sketchy but it was reported to be a one-vehicle accident.

Patrol drivers are taught to go between 12-15 mph on most Sun City streets, though they follow the speed limits on major streets like Sun City Boulevard and Thomas Ryan.

The new vehicle, like the others, is a Ford Escape hybrid. It is a 2025 model with 1,100 miles and costs \$35,226, minus the \$11,509 offered by the insurance company for the totaled vehicle.

The Patrol has four cars, which average about 35,000 miles a year and generally are replaced every four years.

### GOING DEEP

Do softballs go further now? Are the bats better than they used to be? Are the players younger and stronger?

Those are all questions debated at the April 28 Common Area Properties committee meeting, where there was discussion about doing something about the home runs that go over the left field fence.

It was not clear what sparked the issue appearing as an agenda item, other than a recent surge in home runs at the ballpark at Pinnacle Community Center. The left field fence at the ballpark is 275 feet away and there is a walking path behind it. A few home runs have gone onto Grand Cypress St., though there hasn't been any reports of damage.

Still, there was discussion about changing to softer softballs or perhaps even wooden bats. The CAP agenda item was to study the possibility of netting above the 8-foot-tall outfield fence but that idea didn't go anywhere.

"How high is the net going to be?" asked Board President Jeff Rorick. "I see this similar to people who want to put nets on the back of their houses from the golf course. They look like crap. I don't see this looking any better."

In the end, the only thing decided at the meeting was to have another meeting that would involve softball club members.

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# On a wing and a prayer in Rio

I tend to do scary things when I travel. This experience from my bucket list is one I will never do again.

I peered over the precipice of Gavea Rock in Rio de Janeiro from where I would soon hurl myself off—and gasped. Thousands of feet below me, the cucumber-green Tijuca Forest stretched out like a cavernous amphitheater. But what frightened me the most was watching my hang-gliding pilot Antonio assembling our glider. It was like taking your seat on an airplane and watching workers outside your window attaching the wings.

“Joao, it is time.” Antonio announced, and he entered the glider first, stepping into a harness that dangled from the craft’s spine. I entered next and he securely fastened me. He then gave me strict instructions. “The only thing you do is run. I do the rest. When we run off the mountain, look at the horizon; do NOT look down. If you do, you might freeze and we’ll fall over the edge.”

Far below the edge was Pepino Beach, a small sand strip where we would land. From where I shook, it was the size of a No. 2 pencil. To our right was Sugarloaf, the famous mountain shaped like a watermelon. To our left was Ipanema Beach, home of dental-floss bikinis, suntan lotions, and The Girl From. So, why wasn’t I there instead of diving into a canyon most likely inhabited by jaguars?

I was ready to go, but Antonio was not. “Waiting for wind,” he said. Okay, wind I’d wait for. Just get me up and keep me there. Thirty seconds later, he gave the command that we’d practiced: “One, two, three...GO!” We blazed toward the cliff edge in a blur until I was run-



**JOHN WOOD**  
HUMOR

ning on air. I held my breath as we swooped out over the edge of the world.

And then it happened. The thermal we were riding on suddenly went “poof,” and we stopped in mid-air, a rather heart-stopping event when you’re hanging over two time zones. Making matters worse, we were next introduced to Mr. Gravity, a brusque fellow whom you don’t want to meet in this situation. I closed my eyes and prayed for dull branches. “It’s okay, it’s okay,” Antonio reassured me and glided us down until we caught another current.

We sailed over the forest, roads, hotels, and crossed a highway toward Pepino Beach. But instead of landing, Antonio shot out to sea. A three-story-high rocky crag loomed ahead of us. I could hear the waves pounding against it and tried not to think what sound a hang-glider would make. I also wondered where we were going. Had we caught a fluke jet stream that would land us in Capetown in a couple of weeks? To allay my fears, Antonio leaned left and we soared back. Beach towels and bikinis rushed into view. Moments later, we sank into the sand lightly.

Hours later, caipirinha in hand, I recounted my experience to the people at my table. Then I left, leaving them to wonder what ridiculous feat I would tackle next: Everest on skis? Serengeti by bike? Tokyo on \$5 a day?

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

## ON THE TEE



SCS LIFE photo

What better place to enjoy SCS LIFE than on the golf course? SCS LIFE is a proud sponsor of the Men’s 18-Holer Golf Club, the biggest golf club in Sun City Summerlin. More than 100 golfers normally turn out every Thursday morning at one of Sun City’s three golf courses for the club’s weekly tournament.

Sun City Summerlin’s Independent Monthly

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SCS LIFE

# PUZZLES

## THEME: TV MOMS

### ACROSS

1. Ionic and Corinthian predecesor
6. Good times
9. AI fodder
13. Offer two cents
14. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
15. Interior designer's concern
16. Not fiction, pl.
17. Big head
18. Fear-inspiring
19. \*\*"Good Times" mom
21. \*\*"The Sopranos" mom
23. Possessive pronoun
24. Gumbo pod
25. Protrude
28. Catcher's catcher
30. \*Marvelous Midge Maisel's first name
35. "Metamorphoses" poet
37. Chows down
39. Millionaire maker
40. Time for eggnog
41. Sure sign of fire
43. "Frasier" actress Gilpin
44. TSA PreCheck alternative
46. Mosque V.I.P.
47. Arabian bigwig
48. Received salary
50. At the apex
52. Masseuse's office
53. "Where the Red \_\_\_\_ Grows"
55. Likewise
57. \*\*"Arrested Development" mom
61. \*\*"Fresh off the Boat" mom
65. Circumvent
66. French vineyard
68. Open disrespect
69. Dewey Decimal System, e.g.
70. 252-gallon cask
71. Cause anxiety (2 words)
72. Back talk
73. Extra point
74. Vanish without this

### DOWN

1. Take of a hat, e.g.
2. Traditional October birthstone
3. Puerto follower
4. Opening, colloquially
5. #55 on periodic table
6. Part of an eye
7. \*\*"Married with Children" mom
8. Investor's asset

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9. Hold as a conviction
10. Unit of land often featuring a home
11. Load sixteen tons, e.g.
12. Geometry calculation
15. Divert from course
20. Between washes and styles
22. Casino's pull
24. Foot rest
25. \*\*"Stranger Things" mom
26. Throat dangler
27. Mosaic artist
29. \*\*"Friday Night Lights" mom
31. Tug-of-War gear
32. List entries
33. Like anchor aweigh
34. \*\*"Schitt's Creek" mom
36. Martin of Rat Pack
38. 3-handed card game
42. Bring character to life
45. Response to stimulus
49. Ctrl+Alt+\_\_\_\_\_
51. Lemony cream dessert
54. Right-hand page
56. Academy Award
57. Orchid garlands
58. Forearm bone
59. Cow chow, pl.
60. "Beware the \_\_\_\_\_ of March"
61. \*\*"The Handmaid's Tale" mom
62. Letter before kappa
63. Nile dweller, for short
64. Writer Rice
67. \_\_\_\_\_-D.M.C.

SUDOKU								
		1						8
		3						
	5	8	1		4	7	3	
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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.

E	C	V	R	T		N	O		S	S	V	S
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6	8	2	5	9	7	4	3	1
1	4	9	6	3	8	5	7	2
5	7	3	1	4	2	6	9	8
9	3	7	4	2	1	8	5	6
4	6	1	8	5	9	3	2	7
8	2	5	7	6	3	1	4	9

## SAVVY SENIOR

# The letter your loved ones will treasure

Dear Savvy Senior,  
I want to leave something meaningful for my children and grandchildren, beyond just money or property. I've heard about "legacy letters," but I don't really know what they are or how to start one. Can you help?  
--Legacy Seeker

Dear Seeker,  
You're asking a wonderful question. A legacy letter, sometimes called an ethical will, is a personal note to your loved ones where you can share your values, life lessons, cherished memories, hopes, and guidance. Unlike a traditional will, which focuses on legal matters, a legacy letter comes straight from the heart.

## WHY WRITE ONE?

Many people think a legacy is just money or property. But often, it's your words, values, and life lessons that leave the deepest mark. A legacy letter gives your family something to hold onto – your stories, your traditions, and the experiences that shaped who you are. Children and grandchildren often return to these letters for comfort, guidance, or inspiration long after you're gone. In many ways, it becomes an emotional last will and testament,



**JIM MILLER**

a personal, thoughtful way. While a will handles the legal and financial details, a legacy letter adds context – why you made certain decisions or what you hope your loved ones will do with what you leave behind. That added perspective can ease misunderstandings, strengthen family connections, and leave a lasting sense of closeness.

## GETTING STARTED

Take a moment to reflect on what matters most to you. Consider asking yourself:

- What values or principles have guided my life?
- What moments or experiences am I most grateful for?
- What mistakes or regrets taught me the most?
- How do I hope to be remembered by my loved ones?

answering some of the most important questions about your life.

A legacy letter can also help explain the "why" behind your estate plan in



bered by my loved ones?

- What lessons, advice, or guidance do I want to leave for my family?
- Which family traditions, stories, or dreams do I want future generations to carry forward?

Keep it personal and sincere. You can write one letter or several for different family members. Most letters run one to three pages, though there's no strict rule.

If you'd like a little guidance as you get started, Trust & Will has a free legacy letter writing guide with step-by-step prompts to help you organize your thoughts and begin writing. You can find it at [trustandwill.com/learn/legacy-letter-writing-guide](http://trustandwill.com/learn/legacy-letter-writing-guide).

If writing isn't your thing, consider creating a legacy video. Speak directly to your loved ones, sharing stories, guidance, and heartfelt reflections. Most smartphones now record high-quality video and

sound, making it easy to create, store, and share. A video captures your voice, expressions, and surroundings in a way that a letter simply can't.

## STORING AND SHARING

Keep letters or videos in a safe, easy-to-find spot. Physical letters can go in a secure file, safe, or with your attorney, while digital files can be backed up to the cloud or an external drive. You can share them now or wait until later, after you're gone. Be sure to include instructions in your will so family members know where to find them.

When it comes down to it, a legacy letter or video is truly the heart behind your will. It gives you the chance to share your values, tell your stories, and even explain the intentions behind your estate plan, leaving your loved ones with words that will matter long after you are gone. Written with generosity, empathy, and positivity, a few thoughtful pages or a short video can create an emotional imprint that money alone cannot provide.

Send your questions or comments to [questions@savvysenior.org](mailto:questions@savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.






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## SCS REAL ESTATE



SCS LIFE

This house on Argents Hill Dr. was just one of 177 homes for sale in Sun City Summerlin at the beginning of May. Following a slowdown in sales in March the average time on the market for homes in SCS is 4 months and 9 days.

## Home sales slump in Sun City

SCS LIFE

Home sales slumped in Sun City Summerlin in April, normally a strong month for the real estate industry.

A total of 38 home sales closed in SCS in April, down from 45 a month earlier. At the same time, the inventory of homes on the market increased to 177 homes at the beginning of May.

That compared to 51 sales in April a year ago, and 55 sales in the same month in 2024. There were 45 home sales in March.

With 177 homes on the mar-

ket, there is enough inventory for 4 months and 9 days, up from 3 months and 29 days in March.

Homes sold in April ranged from a 1,363 square foot Hanford model townhouse at 9024 Villa Ridge Dr for \$297,500 to \$1,120,000 for a 2,555 square foot expanded Windsor model single family at 2836 Darby Falls Dr.

There were 177 homes for sale in Sun City Summerlin on May 1, ranging from a Bristol model townhouse at 9424 Gold Mountain Dr with 1,062 square feet for \$285,000 to \$1,695,000 for a 2,886 square foot Nevadan model single family at 2548 Faiss Dr.

## APRIL HOME SALES IN SUN CITY SUMMERLIN

- 11031 Mission Lakes AVE 1,319 SF \$332,500
- 2901 Linkview DR 1,797 SF \$570,000
- 3024 Highland Falls DR 2,577 SF \$940,000
- 2225 Hallston ST 1,021 SF \$319,500
- 2917 Lotus Hill DR 1,384SF \$431,000
- 10809 Brinkwood AVE 1,360 SF \$410,000
- 10324 Marymont PL 1,533 SF \$449,900
- 2744 Desert Crystal DR 1,332 SF \$315,000
- 2836 Darby Falls DR 2,555 SF \$1,120,000
- 9420 Yucca Blossom DR 1,423 SF \$423,000
- 2409 Indigo Valley ST 1,360 Sf \$457,000
- 9613 Buckhorn DR 1,384 SF \$388,500
- 10720 Clarion LN 1,360 SF \$477,500
- 10525 Mission Lakes AVE 1,250 SF \$320,000
- 9024 Starmount DR 1,179 SF \$335,000
- 2612 Highvale DR 1,179 SF \$370,000
- 9704 Sundial DR 1,599 SF \$425,000
- 2609 High Range DR 1,843 SF \$499,000
- 10301 Marymont PL 2,210 SF \$719,999
- 10332 Linfield PL 1,576 SF \$430,000
- 3148 Darby Falls DR 1,848SF \$545,000
- 2621 Hanging Rock DR 1,703 SF \$648,900
- 9045 Firebird DR 1,804 SF \$510,000
- 10412 Trenton PL 1,402 SF \$482,250
- 9024 Villa Ridge DR 1,363 SF \$297,500
- 10304 Willamette PL 1,520 SF \$490,000
- 10717 Paine CT 1,703 SF \$425,000
- 9009 Starmount DR 1,653 SF \$669,999
- 2725 Youngdale DR 2,102 SF \$1,050,000
- 9305 Quail Ridge DR 1,188 SF \$480,000
- 10309 Cogswell AVE 1,360 SF \$390,000
- 10309 LONGWOOD DR 1,500 SF \$420,000
- 9101 Villa Ridge DR 1,788 SF \$800,000

Market statistics provided by Michael DelGais, Home Realty Center

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tromano63@gmail.com

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# SCS LIFE

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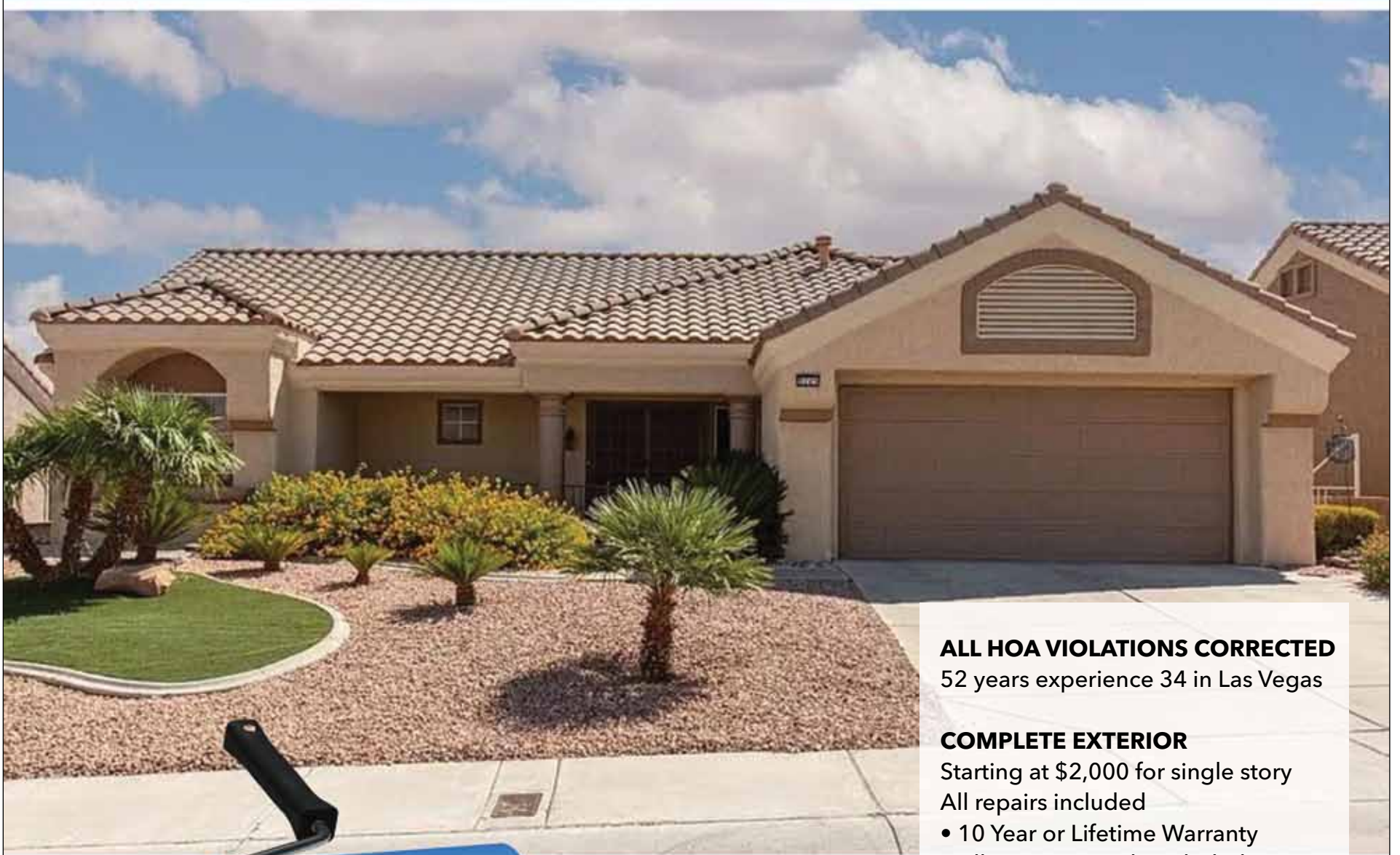
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