

Hello and Welcome!

Nine years ago my husband and I had a chance visit to Sun City, Arizona, to meet the father of a friend. Like so many others, we were instantly surprised by the beauty and cleanliness of the city. After a short tour and history lesson, we eagerly met with a realtor and the rest, as they say, is history.

After moving in we decided to attend a welcome gathering for new home owners. Many clubs and organizations had representatives on hand to lure you in. This is where we first heard of the PRIDES (Proud Residents Independently Donating Essential Services). The people in the organization were very proud of the work they were doing to make Sun City a beautiful place to live and work. We wanted to be part of that team.

The PRIDES have a wonderful history of working with Maricopa County to accomplish our goal. Founded in 1980 because one caring man, Joe McIntyre, wrote a letter to the editor calling attention to the litter problem along 99th Avenue. Joe stated he would be out on Saturday mornings to do what he could to clean up the area. He invited others to join him...and gradually they did. Then Joe decided to have a meeting to see how many people were actually interested...and 200 people showed up! What a grand beginning. Since 38,000 people live here and thousands more drive through our community every day, today's PRIDES want to keep it clean and beautiful. These PRIDES volunteers are your neighbors who weekly pick up litter on over 45 miles of county roads and public streets and medians.

When you drive around Sun City and see orange bags along the shoulder, that means someone took his or her time to pick up someone else's trash. There are two ways to volunteer. Some volunteers are assigned by phase coordinators to keep a certain area or section of roadway or median clean every week or as needed. These volunteers take care of their assigned area on their own schedule. However, when you see large numbers of bags on the shoulder, that means the work has been done by a group called "The Squad." These volunteers work every Saturday morning September through May. During the summer months of June, July, and August, they only work one Saturday per

In addition to volunteers who pick up trash and oranges, we have phase coordinators, tree and shrub trimmers, graffiti and guard rail painters, tree painters, squad leaders, van drivers, and people serving on the Beautification Committee. This Committee works along with the county replacing trees/plants and updating the looks of our city using xeriscape landscaping principles. We have completed several large projects in areas like Del Webb Blvd north of Bell Rd, Alabama west of 99<sup>th</sup> Ave, and Olive Ave east of 111<sup>th</sup> Ave. I encourage you to drive by and see what we've accomplished.

We are thrilled that members of the Bell Metal Club, Bell Clay Club, and the Marinette Clay Corner have partnered with us. Their artistic gifts have added significantly to the fresh new “look” of some areas. I think you will agree with me that we have met our goals in these areas.

Future goals include completion of the canopy projects on Alabama and Peoria, and beautification of certain intersections at the entrances to the city. We continue to plan with Maricopa County for additional sidewalks, future plantings, and desert-scape improvements.

*We invite you to join the women and men of PRIDES as we continue the goal set by Joe McIntyre...keeping Sun City beautiful. But we can always use more help. There is always trash to be picked up, oranges to be gleaned, and trees and shrubs to be trimmed. Whether you want your own area or you would rather work on Saturday mornings as part of the Squad, we have a place for you. The PRIDES save Maricopa County tens of thousands of dollars each year. We take pride in our community. We are one of many groups who contribute to making Sun City the “City of Volunteers.” Joe, the first PRIDE, had a great vision for his community. We stand on Joe’s shoulders and all those who have gone before us, as we carry on their work. Come join us!*

For information, please call 623-972-6558.

Sincerely,

Molly Soblewski, President  
PRIDES