# MY SUN DAY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF SUN CITY IN HUNTLEY

VOLUME 17 - NUMBER 8 | WWW.MYSUNDAYNEWS.COM | APRIL 23 - MAY 6, 2026


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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Behind every strut are hours of rehearsal for the Sun City Strutters.

# THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

## Strutters dedicate show to beloved directors

**By Christine Such**
For My Sun Day News

The Sun City Strutters return to the Drendel Ballroom on June 9 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. for their upcoming show, "Thank You for the Music."

Nancy Kutska said, "This year's performance is special. The show is dedicated to the group's founder, Jackie Cesarone, who passed away last July, and to Mary Wyatt, who passed on March 17. Mary was the Strutters' Artistic Director and Ballet instructor for 14 years."

By honoring their past, the Strutters are continuing to build a legacy spanning 25 years. The evening will feature high-energy routines in tap, jazz, and ballet, along with several guest performers.

The Strutters are a dynamic group of women, ranging in age from 50 to over 80, who show that a passion for dance is not limited by age. Beyond the spotlight, the group offers a fantastic way to exercise both the body and the mind.

Kutska urges residents: "Become part of the Strutters legacy. Don't miss your chance to join us. New dancers of all skill levels in tap, jazz, and ballet are always welcome. Take the first step and contact me at 847-346-5687 to get started."

Tickets for the event go on sale Monday, May 4, at 9:00 a.m., priced at $10 for reserved seating. Secure your seat by purchasing tickets in person at the fitness desks at either the Prairie Lodge or Meadow View Lodge. Don't wait, come support these incredible dancers and join an inspiring evening packed with music and celebration. ■


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lifeinfocus

# Behold: The Commonwealth of Porchlandia

**Carol Pavlik**
Columnist

During the cold months, I pass through our front porch longingly, lingering for a moment to run my hands over the backs of the comfy chairs that wait patiently. "We'll be together again, I promise," I whisper to them, while I go back and forth from the house to the driveway, from the driveway to the house, over and over.

Once that first warm day hits, it instantly becomes Porch Season at our house. I defy rain, cold, or wind to keep me from my porch, no matter how heartbreaking midwest springs can be with their inconsistent mood swings. My front porch serves as a fort where I feel completely safe and cloistered without constraints.

## The floor is lava!

When our kids were young, a favorite game was The Floor is Lava!, which was simple enough: pretend the floor is hot lava, then avoid touching it. What resulted was a giggle-riddled version of parkour that had our kids bouncing from couch, to ottoman, to area rug, and back again. Avoiding the hard surface of the "toxic" floor was the simple objective.

Why should The Floor is Lava be a child's game? Now that Porch Season is in full swing, I'm seeing it more and more like a mighty rock rising out of molten, hot lava. One brave step off the porch in either direction — out towards the world beyond my little island, or in towards all the responsibilities of my household — and danger threatens to singe my feet. I choose to stay happily tucked away, sipping on tea that is either hot or iced depending on what mood spring is in, and take in the neighborhood.

The porch is my way of being in the world without fully participating. It is my open-air refuge, a feast for the senses. Even though it isn't silent — a chorus of birds, barking dogs, far-off train whistles, and lawnmowers provide an underlying soundtrack — it doesn't distract me from the task at hand. Such tasks might include day dreaming, reading a novel, or trying to recognize my neighbors based on the dog walking beside them. The dishes and the errands can wait. I stay on my little island as long as I dare. Time doesn't really exist out there, anyway. Indoor hours exist by ticks and beeps. Outdoor hours are shapeless and free-form. Worries and problems take a back seat to observing a rolling, stormy sky or a blazing red sunset.

Porch season is perennial, like the flowers in the garden. It rests in the winter, then returns in the spring refreshed and renewed. Around my little island, the neighborhood children grow taller, and a similar cast of characters return for another season of driving, jogging, walking, and waving. As sure as the seasons change, I will ceremoniously wipe down my chair, plump the porch pillows, shine up the table for a place to set down my drink and my book, and survey the Commonwealth of Porchlandia.

# On the BRIGHT Side

Letters of kindness found in the Sun City Commnity

I would like to acknowledge the kindness of my neighbors in the Atwood Landing neighborhood. I have only been in the DW for one year. My husband had been hospitalized for pneumonia, and has been in Alden recovering. My friends and neighbors have checked in and offered medical equipment and support. My new best friends, Lisa and Rob Alexander, have brought me treats, checked in every day, and now Rob will be our personal chef until we can get back to our normal lives. I feel so cared for. I lived in Schaumburg, same house, for 40 years. I have never felt cared for or watched over. This truly is a community, and moving here was the best decision I have ever made!!!

Thank you to all my friends and neighbors who have supported us during this hard time.

**Linda Starkey**
Sun City resident


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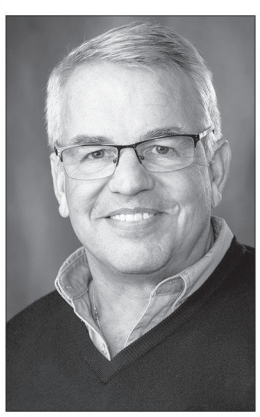

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# politicalplace

The views in these letters are the writers' own.

While the war with Iran rages, our Secretary of War Mr. Hegseth has turned his guns on a total of 15 high level management people in the Armed Forces. It was no secret when he was installed that he considered wartime rules of engagement "stupid and a hindrance to a military victory". Later statements included "threats to bomb the country (Iran) back to the stone age", and a prayer to the Almighty to " deliver overwhelming violence against enemies"…

Unfortunately, conscientious military members of all ranks would have to tolerate extreme and unlawful directives or suffer Hegseth's fury. The lifetime achievements of all of these military people were tossed aside as they were forced out. The latest one was General Randy George a 44-year career soldier that rose to the position of Chief of Staff of the Army. Numerous congressmen are praising the General too late. Shame on all of them for approving the nomination of Hegseth who lacked managerial experience but caught Trump's eye as a bombastic talk show host.

I am fearful that forcing the entire military into blind allegiance to Trump would give the president all the dominance he needs to affect the outcome of an election or even to put boots on our ground to maintain his position as president forever.

**Randy Parmec**
Huntley resident

"Trump and his team have a long history of posting over-the-top images of the president, with past pictures depicting him as Superman, on Mount Rushmore, and as the pope.

But showing himself as Christ or a Christ-like figure crossed a line for many."*

It has for me and I hope it has for all of you! Especially those Christians among you.

A while ago, pre-bombing of Iran, I suggested that "Enough is Enough." I got some flak for that. What I missed was, with DJT, there is never enough.

**John Zeller**
Sun City resident

** Excerpt From "'Deranged': Critics Pounce After Trump Posts 'Blasphemous' New Image Of Himself"- Ed Massa, Huff Post*


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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Operation Dropbox provides valuable services to Veterans in need. This is the seventh year the Sun City Veterans Club is supporting the program.

# Sun City Veterans Club champions seventh annual Operation Dropbox

**By Christine Such**
For My Sun Day News

On March 25, the Sun City Board approved placing McHenry County's "Operation Dropbox" at the Meadow View and Prairie Lodges for the month of May. Residents are invited to donate essential items to support the McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission.

Dino Micheli, Communications Secretary, shared that the Sun City Veterans Club has supported Veterans Path to Hope since its founding in August 2022.

Ken Kalscheur, founder of the Veterans Charter Club, stated, "The Veterans Charter Club has worked with Veterans Path to Hope almost from the beginning. Laura Franz, Executive Director, has been a speaker and strong supporter, receiving donations at our meetings."

Veterans need support, as many experience challenges such as PTSD and require help obtaining shelter, food, and clothing.

Now in its seventh year, Operation Dropbox is an annual drive supporting over 3,000 veterans and families in McHenry and Lake counties. The initiative includes cooperation with local health departments.

The organization provides resources such as mental health counseling, peer support, and caregiver training, helping an average of 10 to 15 households each day.

In 2025, the drive gathered 11,427 pounds of donations from 132 organizations. The club will monitor donation boxes at both lodges.

The program specifically seeks store-bought essentials, including:

Food items: canned meats, soups, pasta meals, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, granola bars, and juice

Household essentials: detergents, cleaners, paper towels, toilet paper, and garbage bags

Personal care: full-size hygiene products, new pillows, cookware, and can openers

Gift cards: Walmart and gas station gift cards are also highly encouraged

***• To contribute, bring your donated items to the drop boxes at Meadow View or Prairie Lodge this May to directly assist local veterans and their families. To learn exactly which items you may donate or for more details, visit mcdh.link/operation-dropbox.***

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theviewfromplanetkerth

# Never a stale moment in the Random Stuff drawer

**TR Kerth**
Columnist

Yesterday I went digging through my "Random Stuff" kitchen drawer, looking for some obscure item so random and rarely used, I had to dig deep into the back of the drawer to find it.

You probably have a drawer like that, although maybe you use a different word than "stuff" to describe what's in there. So do I, but this is a family newspaper, so "stuff" it shall be.

Some of the stuff is easy to find at the front of the drawer because I use them on a semi-regular basis, like the potato peeler, garlic press, bottle opener, corkscrew, can opener, potato masher, and meat thermometer.

Behind those items, a bit farther back, are items I use more rarely, like that turkey baster, boiled-egg slicer, and child's birthday candles. And, of course, the dozens of replacement corkscrews, bottle openers, potato peelers and garlic presses, in case any of my starting lineup get misplaced or broken.

But yesterday I pulled the drawer way out, looking for that rare random thing. Whatever it was, I've forgotten, because what I found way back there was far more fascinating and mysterious.

What I found was a gaggle of bread clips. You know, those little oddly shaped plastic tabs that come on a loaf of bread.

And I'm sure you know how maddening it can be when you open up a loaf of bread, toss a slice or two in the toaster, do your thing with the butter or jam — and then try to find that elusive little clip to seal up the bread again before it mummifies in the open air.

But…no clip! It's gone, vanished into thin air! Where could it possibly be?

Your toast is getting cold, so you just twist the plastic bread wrapper tightly and tuck the end under the loaf, although you know that never works for long. But that's OK, because as soon as you put the bread, jam and butter away, there it is! That little clip, hiding under your cell phone or peeking out from the shadows in the corner of the kitchen floor.

So it would be nice to have an extra clip or two on hand, right? Just in case.

But why would anybody think that the Random Stuff drawer is a good place to store a spare bread clip? Buried under the potato peeler, garlic press, bottle opener, and corkscrew (and all their spares), would you ever be able to find one?

Or ten?

Or several dozens of them?

I don't have a good answer to that question. And I can't give you a sensible reason why I found exactly 111 of them at the back of my Random Stuff drawer yesterday.

I counted them.

Every last one of them.

Of course I did.

That's one-hundred-and-eleven, in case you thought you read those Arabic numerals wrong. Almost ten-dozen plastic bread clips, of varying colors and shapes, all stamped with freshness dates and prices from long-gone bread loaves down through the ages.

And all of them sitting patiently (and randomly) there at the back of my Random Stuff drawer. For no good reason that I can think of—because I don't remember putting any of them in there. Why would I? It would make no sense.

And yet, there they were. With nobody else in the house to blame for putting them there.

In my defense, I probably misplaced the clip, twisted the bag shut, and then found it again just moments after putting the loaf away. "No point in pulling out the bread again right now," I probably said. "I'll fix it tomorrow at breakfast," and dropped it into the Random Stuff drawer.

That could happen, right?

Once or twice?

Now and then?

One hundred and eleven times?

To be honest, I've never actually liked those little plastic bread clips. They never seem to hold the bag closed tightly enough for my taste. So why would I want to save even one more of them?

I greatly prefer those little wire twist ties, but for some reason they're not used much by bread companies anymore. I think they work better than the clips do in keeping your bread fresh. And you can use those twist ties in so many other ways.

Which may be why I also found exactly 51 twist ties — red, white, black, green — jumbled about with those plastic bread clips at the back of my Random Stuff drawer.

And still nobody else to blame for putting them there.

Huh.

If you're looking for an answer to why a man would save more than 160 bread-closure devices to seal up that single loaf of bread that he buys maybe twice a month, I can't help you. He just does, it turns out. And he doesn't even know that he's doing it.

But please don't judge me too harshly. At least not until you pull out your Random Stuff drawer and dig all the way to the back to see what you might find lurking there.

Paper clips? Safety pins? Matchbooks?

Go ahead. I'll wait.

Rubber bands? Ballpoint pens? Expired coupons?

But if it's a treasure trove of extra bread clips and twist ties you find, and you wonder who might be able to use them, I'll pass, thank you very much. I'm back down to zero with all of them.

My bread should be fine with the top twisted shut for now, because I can't find the clip I lost this morning.

*• TR Kerth is the author of the book "Revenge of the Sardines." Contact him at trkerth@yahoo.com*

Steve Peterson | MSDN Photo

**Lumbarjacks player Drew Catania of the 16-Inch PM League sports a "2025 Champions" jersey. The Sun City Softball Club season begins May 11.**

# SOFTBALL CLUB TEAMS READY FOR SEASON

**By Steve Peterson**
For My Sun Day News

Over the past couple of weeks, Veterans Memorial Park has come out of its winter rest, as Sun City Softball Club's practices are underway.

About 200 players on 14 teams will take to the diamond in 16-inch A.M., 16-inch P.M., and a 12-inch softball leagues. May 11 is opening night with the Adjusters and Coyotes of the 16-inch PM league going at it in a contest starting at 5:30 p.m.

"We have more players than last year, due to advertising and more exposure," Sun City Softball Club President Chuck Hund said. "We have a stand-by list. The ages of the players are still from the 60s to 80s."

The Sun City Softball Club will continue to give back to the community at its All-Star game, and raffle fund-raisers. Grafton Food Pantry and Home of the Sparrow and Pathway to Hope have been the recent beneficiaries.

A breakdown of the three leagues' teams: 16-inch P.M., Adjusters, Coyotes, Monarchs, Hurricanes, Mustangs, Lumbarjacks, Travelers and Capitals. For the 16-inch A.M league, Bucketlisters, Sluggers and Moneybags and for the 12-inch league, Molars, Mobilizers and Centurions.

There will be an all-star game played July 24 and the annual playoff tournament is slated to begin Aug. 17.

## Players' outlooks

It was a sunny Saturday when several teams hit the field for workouts April 11, following the draft of players April 8.

"It's just fun to be out – like kids playing ball," first year Adjusters manager Phil Tarrant said. "We're still competitive, and want to win."

Adjusters team member Bob Ruckoldt, who is also club treasurer, is looking forward to the season.

"This is my 20th year," he said. "I have been a player, manager and now I'm the scorekeeper. It's going to be a good year. We should do well."

Teammate Ed Levkulich is equally optimistic.

"I'm excited – we have a lot of good, new players and guys coming back," he said. "I play primarily first base, but also pitch. I took a year off last year, but decided to come back with weight training and running."

Last year's second-place tournament team, the Monarchs, have most of their players returning.

"I love it, we get to act like 12-year-olds," shortstop Rich Pearl of the Monarchs said with a smile.

Fifth-year player Drew Catania wore his Lumbarjacks "2025 Champions" shirt proudly.

"I'm very excited for this season," he said. "We have most everyone back, have a great team and a great coaching staff."

Some recent champions of the season-ending 16" tournament: 2021, Capitals; 2022, Monarchs; 2023, Monarchs, Coyotes; 2024, Coyotes and 2025, Lumbarjacks.

Sun City Softball Club Board members are: President, Hund; secretary, Rich Pearl; treasurer, Bob Ruckoldt; vice presidents John Roccosanto, Vito Bonigno; Mike Kaczmarek and Jeff Williams.

# askanangel

**John Barrett**
Columnist

**Q** I'm a few months away from retiring after more than three decades in the classroom. Teaching has been more than a job; it's been a calling. I've spent my adult life investing in young people, watching them grow, and (I hope) leaving a small but meaningful mark.

As I get closer to this next chapter, I find myself both grateful and uneasy.

My father retired around the same age I will. He had plans, too. But not long after he stopped working, he died of a heart attack. I've carried that with me for years. Perhaps because of that, I've been diligent about my health. I exercise regularly, eat healthy, and keep up with doctor appointments. Still, I can't shake the concern that stepping away from the structure and purpose of work might somehow change things.

My wife will continue working for about three more years, so I'll be adjusting to retirement on my own initially. We're looking forward to traveling together eventually and spending more time with our growing number of grandchildren.

I'd appreciate advice on entering retirement in a way that supports my mental, emotional, and physical health, and on common first-year mistakes men make so I can avoid them.

**A** Congratulations on your upcoming retirement! What you're feeling is more common than you might think. You're not just leaving a job; you're stepping away from a role that shaped your identity and your daily rhythm.

First, it's worth saying this plainly; retirement doesn't have to mean stepping away from purpose. It just means you get to choose it with more intentionality.

You already have a strong foundation with your health habits. Keep those steady. In fact, many people find this is the time to invest even more thoughtfully in their well-being. Keep moving, keep up with your doctor appointments, and protect your routines. Structure, even a loose version of it, goes a long way in keeping both body and mind on track.

One of the biggest mistakes men make early in retirement is going from full speed to a complete stop. It sounds appealing at first; rest, no obligations. But too much unstructured time can quietly lead to restlessness or even a dip in mood. You don't need a packed schedule, but you do need a reason to get up and get going most days.

That's where your background as a teacher becomes a real gift. Consider staying connected in a way that feels lighter but still meaningful. Tutoring, mentoring, or even volunteering at your former school (or another one) could give you that sense of contribution without the full weight of a career. Many retirees find that continuing to invest in younger generations brings a familiar kind of satisfaction.

Another common misstep is putting off things you're looking forward to. Don't wait for "someday." Start planning now, whether it's a solo trip while your wife is still working or mapping out future travel plans together. Having something on the calendar gives you a sense of direction and anticipation.

Relationships matter more than ever in this transition. Invest in time with your wife, your grandchildren, and your friends. It's easy to underestimate how much daily workplace interaction once filled that space.

Finally, permit yourself to adjust gradually. There's value in slower mornings, unhurried coffee, and days that unfold without a strict plan. The key is balance. Stay engaged, but leave space to breathe.

***• Have a question for our angel correspondent? Send our angel an email at jcbarrett@visitingangels.com, or write in at Ask An Angel, 65 Woodbury St., South Elgin, IL 60177.***

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Provided | MSDN Photo

Eileen Delahanty is honored as an Exemplary School Employee at the 2025 Huntley 158 Education Foundation Awards banquet.

# D158's Delahanty links generations, strengthens community through volunteer outreach

**By Christine Such**
For my Sun Day News

April is National Volunteer Month in the United States, a tradition established in the early 1990s to celebrate individual volunteerism. President George H.W. Bush's 1989 inaugural speech, with his "1,000 Points of Light" vision, inspired this nationwide recognition of community service, encouraging millions each April to serve.

In 2001, two Sun City residents started a plan that has encouraged hundreds of Sun City residents to volunteer and share their skills and knowledge with the students in School District 158.

Eileen Delahanty, Volunteer Coordinator for the School District, said, "Two gentlemen approached me from Sun City: Bob Hurrie and Dave Evans. They had a plan that established a volunteer group that would come to be known as Community Student Outreach, or CSO. They started out with a desire to share their skills and volunteer to transfer knowledge to our students, and then evolved into an organization of over 50 volunteer members eager to participate and help wherever needed in the district. Dick and Bob were amazing men. The three of us were unstoppable. We had a lot of successes."

In 2003, the dedicated members established the Huntley 158 Education Foundation. It still supports innovative classroom grants and student scholarships. Hurrie was a member of that board and president for two years. The Foundation operates independently, enhancing education through donations and community partnerships, and hosting events like the Hootenanny 5K.

A few years later, with CSO successfully implemented, the initiative lost momentum. In 2003, Huntley Community School District 158 saw the impact of a significant defeat in late 2002. The district, which was among the fastest-growing in Illinois with annual enrollment increases of roughly 20%, struggled to keep up with the need for new facilities. The failed referendum in 2003 forced the district to make cuts; the district volunteer position was one of them.

Delahanty said, "Bob and Dave went to the battle to keep my position going. They knew that the volunteer program was more critical than ever. They went to the school board, and they wrote a letter. I still have that letter. I carry it with me in my briefcase. The contents of the letter inspire me."

The needed referendum passed in November 2004, and the volunteer position, along with various services and positions, were restored for the 2005-2006 school year. In 2007, the formal CSO disbanded, but residents of Sun City continued to volunteer.

Delahanty said, "We still have some of those original volunteers helping at our schools. Throughout the year, we have had so many residents offer their time, knowledge, and skills. It warms my heart that these people have no obligation but still want to help. They have no vested interest, and there is no greater gift that can be given. I am so proud to live here in this community."

On February 26, the Sun City Board of Directors officially formalized a partnership with Huntley High School, creating a cost-free bridge between Sun City residents and local students. This alliance has expanded rapidly, with residents now lending their expertise in medical, engineering, culinary, fashion, and many other areas. Fundamental to this success is Eileen Delaney, whose leadership is vital in mobilizing volunteers for the school while also coordinating student support for Sun City traditions like the Grandma, Grandpa, & Me events and the Rotary Elf Run. Eileen's dedication — shown through her constant encouragement and personal notes of thanks — ensures that every resident is appreciated, fostering a spirit of mutual support that strengthens our entire community.

Dolores Fischer, who is a dedicated volunteer at Huntley High School, said, "I've been honored to observe Eileen's unwavering dedication, natural leadership, and collaborative

DELAHANTY | Pg. 11

# Family's baseball tour adds to Cubs win

**Steve Peterson**
Sports Columnist

It was time for the early arriving Cubs fans to settle in and get used to the 20-degree wind chill temperatures at Wrigley Field. It was April Fool's Day, my group's first 2026 game, but there wasn't anything funny about the howling wind right off Lake Michigan.

A family of five walked up the concourse, wearing New York Yankees gear. They soon had their "First game at Wrigley Field" cards.

Maybe trying to get my mind off the cold, I started a conversation with mom Lunden Scheller, and her family, Michael Sr., Michael Jr., and daughter Madeline, of Chester, New Jersey.

The Yankees faithful were in the middle of an early-season family MLB tour. They saw seven games and all seven home teams won – including the Cubs in a 6-2 victory over the Angels. They joined in the Cubs long-time "Go Cubs Go" celebration song. After a rainout, there were fireworks at Rate Field for a White Sox walk-off winner, a 5-4 victory over defending American League champion Toronto.

"The White Sox game was perhaps our favorite," Lunden Scheller said once back home. "The crowd showed up with so much love and spirit for the team. Not only did they win in extra innings, but it was the best attended game we saw. Not only were the seats packed, but everyone stayed. We are used to seeing a lot of people exit around the seventh inning but the Sox (fans) stayed and battled it out with their team for an epic win! They fought in that game like it was a playoff, so exciting to watch."

Wrigley Field will have a special memory, though, for the family.

"Although it was brutally cold, it was a wonderful welcome to a beautiful field and team culture," Lunden commented. "We absolutely loved the history of Wrigley Field and the effort the staff put into keeping the historic field alive. We couldn't have had a better end to the day than singing the "Go Cubs Go" song with happy fans."

Early season wins in MLB's first week were also from: Cincinnati over Pittsburgh, 2-0; Milwaukee over Tampa Bay, 6-2; Detroit over St. Louis, 11-6 and Pittsburgh over Baltimore, 8-2. Matthew caught a foul ball from the Orioles' Pete Alonso at the Pirates game and also a t-shirt. The kids enjoyed running the bases after the game at Pittsburgh.

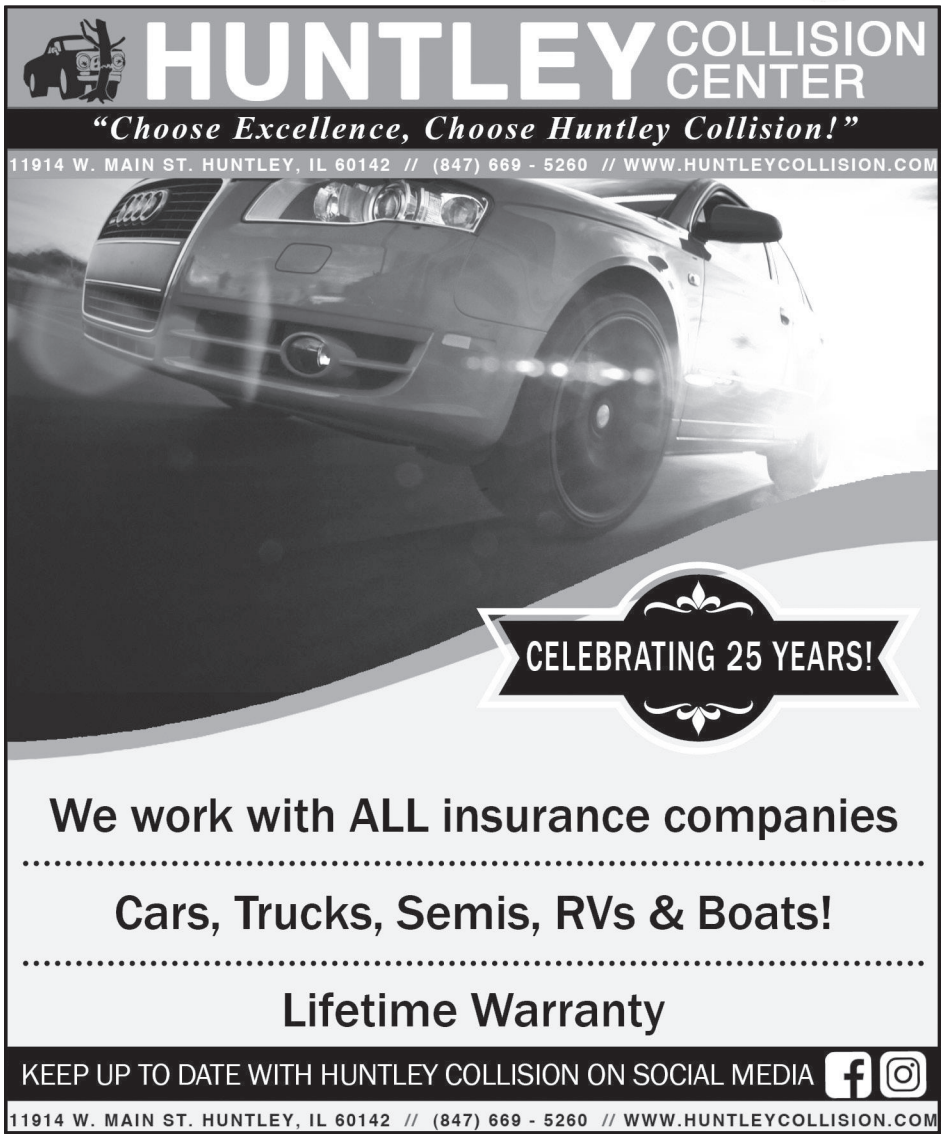
The family loves the Yankees, as they go to a Yanks minor league affiliate's game often, too, with one legend in mind in particular.

"I always loved Derek Jeter," Michael Sr. said.

Things were looking bleak just a couple of days before, but thanks to 10-4 and 11-1 wins over the Phillies, things are looking up, at 9-9, with 144 games left.

The young family from New Jersey's experience reminded me of my initial Cubs game. My grandfather and father took me to a 1963ish Cubs-Reds doubleheader. Believe I dosed through it, so it doesn't count for the record. So when I was fortunate to attend the World Series Game 4, against Cleveland in 2016, it was indeed in their memory, too.

One of my heroes, the late Ron Santo, was barely past his call-up year of 1960. Of course I signed up for the Hall of Famer's bobblehead, given away last Saturday.



## moneymatters

**Deborah Haglund**
Columnist

What a difference a war makes! The price for gas at Thompson's in Huntley was $2.89 on January 15. The Iran War started February 28. Two weeks later, on March 15, the price of gas was $3.64. After six weeks of war, on April 14, the price had risen to $4.49 - a 35.63% increase since January.

Fortunately, the cost of the store brand staples we are tracking at the Huntley Walmart are exactly the same as they were in January, with only three exceptions. 1) egg prices are down 17.96% ($1.97 then, $1.67 now); 2) milk is up 7.75% ($2.62 then, $2.84 now); and the price of ground beef is up 7.20% ($6.44 then, $6.94 now).

Our hyper-local review of prices in Huntley is consistent with what is happening nationwide. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national 12-month inflation rate at the end of February was 2.4%. The 12-month rate at the end of March was 3.3%. The Federal Reserve's target is 2%.

## iheardthisquote...

**By TR Kerth**
Columnist

***Some people are going to leave a mark on this world, while others will leave a stain.***

- Eleanor Roosevelt

***I'm working for a world in which it's easier for people to behave decently.***

- Dorothy Day

***The Creator is a comedian whose audience is afraid to laugh.***

- H. L. Mencken

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### •DELAHANTY

spirit in action. We have worked together on numerous district-wide volunteer events, and most recently, we've partnered on an exciting new initiative to build important connections between Huntley High School students and the residents of the Del Webb community. As a Del Webb resident for the past 18 years, and with over 41 years of experience as a mathematics teacher and student leadership consultant at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, I can confidently say that Eileen represents the kind of leader who brings people together and drives positive change. Throughout her tenure, she has developed a robust and vibrant volunteer program serving over 2,000 volunteers annually across our district, from kindergarten through high school. Her role has allowed her to interact deeply with our community and identify those rare individuals whose commitment and passion elevate the effect we can have."

As we celebrate Volunteer Month, Delahanty illustrates the strength of connection. Her leadership turns partnerships into intergenerational bonds. Whether thanking volunteers or bridging school and community, she's building a legacy of belonging and making our community stronger and more connected.

## politicalplace

The views in these letters are the writers' own.

There are numerous concerns, but below, I have listed a sampling

The Trump Administration's decision to rescind the Environmental Protection Agency's "endangerment finding," which states that greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide pose a risk to the planet's health. (The New Yorker) Climate change is not a hoax as evidenced by this article in the Guardian. "The mass drowning of emperor penguin chicks as sea ice is melted by the climate crisis has led the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to declare the species officially in danger of extinction."

Another dangerous move by the administration is to roll back provisions of The Endangered Species Act, as documented in this article from NBC News: "Trump administration moves to roll back some Endangered Species Act protections." The act was signed into law under President Nixon.

According to the Los Angeles Times, public lands are also under attack. An article states that the Trump administration and its legislative allies have taken steps to reduce or eliminate protections for nearly 90 million acres of public land.

Furthermore, because we live in a "blue" state, in the case of a disaster, we are less likely to get Federal assistance than a "red" state. Trump approved just 23 percent of disaster funding requests from states with a Democratic governor and two Democratic senators since returning to office. For states with a Republican governor and two Republican senators, it's the opposite — Trump has approved 89 percent of their requests. (Politico)

Until we regain some normalcy, the best thing we can do is to support environmental organizations which will defend against such policies. We should not have to fight our government in order to preserve our environment but, unfortunately, that is where we are now.

**Richard J Quigley**
Huntley resident

**Have an opinion to share?**
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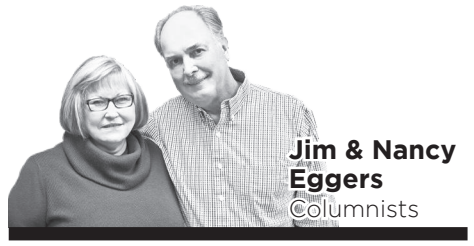
# Rattlesnakes and roadkill




*Jim and Nancy do not disclose the fact that they will review a restaurant before they attend, ensuring their reviews are unbiased and uninfluenced by their position with My Sun Day News.*

If you're living in Del Webb and reading this, you'll probably remember TV westerns from the 1950s to the early 1960s. There were such classics as Have Gun Will Travel, Bonanza, and the most iconic western of all, Gunsmoke. As it turns out, Jim and I are gradually turning into the characters on that show. We are constantly talking to a "Doc," Jim is walking more and more like "Chester," and every day I am looking more like "Miss Kitty." In keeping with the TV western theme, we decided to hitch up the 189 "horse"-power mini-mobile and gallop off to Texas Roadhouse in Crystal Lake.

The restaurant is "Texas" sized and looks just like the typical roadhouse you see in movies. There's a bar in the center and surrounding it are high-top tables, regular tables, and booths aplenty. The western theme continues with stuffed critter heads adorning the rough-cut cedar walls.

On our way to our table, the hostess grabbed a basket of warm Parker House rolls with delicious honey cinnamon butter. This accompanied our bag of peanuts that was waiting at our table. This is another memory of days gone by when Shakey's Pizza, the Ground Round, and Comeback Inn served peanuts and you threw the shells on the floor. We had to restrain ourselves so that we had room for our entrée.

Jim and I saw the Rattlesnake Bites ($9.99) and couldn't resist. These were diced jalapenos and jack cheese rolled in a ball, lightly breaded and fried to a golden brown. This was served with a Cajun sauce for dipping. These were really yummy and had just the right amount of "bite" to them. Jim's sweat head meter didn't kick in with these.

The Texas Roadhouse offers an abundance of lunch specials. You get to pick from 11 entrees and two sides from several options. Nancy felt like she was in Texas and had to order a juicy steak, well done. She chose the "special" six-ounce sirloin with two sides ($13.99). She went with the house salad with honey mustard dressing. What made this salad so special was that they put hard-boiled egg, tomatoes, and croutons in it. For her second side she went with the seasoned rice. The steak being well-done was still juicy and tender and the rice was tasty. We both brought home half our meals in a doggie bag.

Jim has ordered a lot of different things in his life. He ate kangaroo in Australia, alligator in Florida, and caribou in Alaska, but never had what he ordered today, which was the Road Kill ($15.99). Fortunately, this turned out to be a chopped steak smothered with sauteed onions, sauteed mushrooms, and jack cheese. For his sides he also had the house salad with honey mustard dressing and buttered corn. The chopped steak actually looked like roadkill but was delicious. The toppings really made this dish. The buttered corn seemed like canned corn from the 1950s.

FYI: Check out their lunch specials (open for lunch Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 11:00). This restaurant is handicap accessible.

We "ponied up" to settle our bill of $50.18. We still haven't seen Festus Hagen, remember him from Gunsmoke? Bummer….

## He Said / She Said

**JIM'S TAKE:** The cheese, mushrooms, and onions were a great topping for the juicy chopped steak.

**NANCY'S TAKE:** My only gripe was they could have seasoned my steak, next time I'll add a side of grilled onions.

***• Have comments or restaurant suggestions for the Dining Duo? Send them an email at thediningduo@gmail.com.***

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gardenersforum

# House rules: homeowner tips for Sun City

**Kathleen Carr**
Columnist

As a relatively new owner of a home, I distinctly remember the overwhelming feeling that comes with the process of moving from one residence to the other. There are an inordinate number of decisions that need to be made as well as physical demands to be met. Navigating through a process can sometimes be daunting, especially if it is a process that is new or unfamiliar. When help is available, it can become infinitely easier. Thankfully, in our community, there are many resources and help is readily available.

Ursula Stevenson, Compliance Assistant of Sun City Community Association Huntley, has agreed to answer a few questions for this column in an effort to help both those who have recently moved into Sun City and those that have been here for many years.

**Ursula, can you please tell us a bit about your position with First Service Residential and the Sun City Community Association?**

All exterior modifications to the properties here within Sun City Huntley are to be applied for and approved before the modification may take place. My job is to work with homeowners and the reviewing committee throughout all stages of this application process to help to keep the homeowner and their properties in compliance with the Governing Documents of Sun City Huntley.

**The Sun City Community Association has produced a document titled 'Design Guidelines Sun City Huntley.' What types of information is available in this document?**

The Design Guidelines assist in defining the parameters of many common exterior modifications. These Guidelines are what is used by the Modifications Committee when reviewing each application for change.

**Where might our readers locate a copy of this document?**

The Design Guidelines for Sun City, as well as all Sun City Governing Documents, can be accessed by the homeowners on the Sun City Website at sccah.com

Additionally, there is a binder in the Prairie Lodge reading room with the Design Guidelines in print for resourcing while in the reading room only.

**Residents often wish to make changes to the outside of their homes. What are some examples of projects that need approval?**

The majority of changes made to the outside of the home/yard require approval; it is safe to assume that any change needs approval and we recommend reaching out to our compliance staff to inquire before proceeding with any exterior changes.

**If approval is needed for an exterior project, what is the process for a homeowner to ask for approval?**

The application for change is to be completed and submitted by the homeowner. Once submitted, the Modification Committee reviews the application and marks it approved or not approved. This application will then be recorded with the property records and revisited later to confirm correct completion of the project. Any homeowners that receive a not approved vote on their application have the right to appeal to the Sun City Board of Directors to ask for a variance.

**What is the time frame for this process?**

The Modification Committee meets every other Tuesday and reviews all complete submitted applications at that time. The committee meeting dates for 2026 are as follows: April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19, June 2 & 16 & 30, July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17, and December 1 & 15 & 29.

**What are the most common mistakes that homeowners make when applying for approval for an exterior medication?**

The most common mistake that I have seen is when the application form is submitted blank without the necessary project details that the committee will need for review. I recommend the applying homeowner look through the guidelines for details about the modification they wish to make. When this is done, the homeowner has a better understanding of what details the committee will be looking for to confirm the application meets the limitations noted in the guidelines.

**Are there any common misconceptions that you would like to clear up for our readers?**

Because a neighbor says something is 'OK' is not equivalent to a committee approval.

**If our readers want more information in writing about the exterior modification approval process, where might they locate it?**

The Sun City website has a tab dedicated solely to Exterior Modifications. Within this tab is the application for change documents, approved color charts, as well as the Design Guidelines. Additionally, there is a flipbook on the website containing FAQ's regarding modifications as well as other departments of the Association.

**If a resident has questions, is there someone that they could talk to in person?**

Residents are welcome to email or call with any inquiries they may have or visit during our 'walk in' hours for in person assistance Mondays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Prairie Lodge Member Services Desk.

Ursula Stevenson
ursula.stevenson@fsresidential.com
847-515-7664.

Additionally, please note that our desk staff are also familiar with many of the frequently asked questions and are a great resource for our residents.

*• Kathleen Carr is the owner of The Growing Scene, Inc.,a landscaping company. She can be reached by calling 815-923-7322 or emailing her at Kathleen@thegrowingscene.com. Have a gardening question? Please contact her. She may address it in an upcoming column.*

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ONGOING
### WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

It's Autumn, the sun rises later, sets earlier and casts longer shadows. Walkers and Bicyclists for a Safer Community advocates for safer streets. "It's Right to be Bright!" Put on an outer layer of bright, reflective colors and use lights. Make yourself visible. Motorists, please be ALERT for pedestrians in our crosswalks and cyclists on our streets. When approaching a cyclist on the roadway treat them as if they were driving an automobile. A bicyclist, when riding on the streets, is not a pedestrian. You would not stop for an automobile on a side street waiting to cross DWB, would you? The traffic around you gets confused. The cyclist is not sure what other drivers will do. Please note: bicycles are not automobiles. Questions, contact WBSC at: wbscsig@gmail.com.

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ONGOING
### MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE

The Sun City Tuesday Men's Golf League is now accepting full-time and substitute golfers for the upcoming season. The league features 18-hole individual match play at Pinecrest Golf Club on Algonquin Road in Huntley. Players are grouped into divisions based on handicap, ensuring fair and enjoyable competition among golfers of similar ability.

Each week prizes are awarded for closest-to-the-pin, longest putts, and skins. The Pinecrest Pro Shop also contributes gift certificates. Total weekly prize money is over $250. The season concludes with a year-end outing and luncheon where $2,500 in additional prize money is distributed based on points earned throughout the season.

Golfers who prefer a more flexible schedule are invited to register as substitutes—openings occur almost every week. For more information or to sign up, please email heyaj50@yahoo.com.

ONGOING
### SOFTBALL CLUB

Looking for Softball Players for the 2026 Season (Age 55+). Hit, field, throw, and run like you are in your twenties again. Make new friends, have loads of fun and experience team camaraderie. Season (May through August). Three leagues to choose from (all use mitts): 16" p.m., 16" a.m., and 12" p.m. Choose to play in one, two or all three leagues if you wish. All games are played at our beautiful Veterans Memorial Field. For registration information, please contact Club President, Chuck Hund at 847-456-0229 or at suncityhuntley-softball@gmail.com.

JUNE
### SUN CITY STRUTTERS

The Strutters present "THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC" On Tuesday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 10, at 7 p.m. in Drendel Ballroom.

The Performances will feature Tap, Ballet and Jazz dance routines. Guest performers will be joining us also.

The Strutters group is made up of ladies with a love of dance... ranging in age from 50 to 80+. The Strutters have been dancing and performing for 25 years.

We always welcome new dancers and invite any potential dancers to join us next fall for classes in Tap, Jazz, Ballet, with levels for beginner to advanced dancers. It's a good place to try out your talents, and it's a wonderful way to exercise both the body and the mind.

TICKETS ARE $10 EACH AND CAN BE PURCHASED at Prairie Lodge and Meadow View Lodge Fitness Desks only. Seating will be reserved at the time of ticket purchase. Please come and join us.

MAY 7 & 9
### SUN CITY CONCERT BAND

Your Sun City Concert Band presents their spring concert, "FEELING SO GOOD", on Thursday May 7 at 7 p.m. and on Saturday May 9 at 1 p.m. Tickets are $15. Purchase tickets in the Prairie View Lodge outside the main desk on April 16, 23, 24, and 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Rich Ankenbrandt 847-502-5485.

MAY 18
### CULVERS SCOOPIE SHARE NIGHT

Culver's Scoopie Share Night & Valor Quilts fundraiser is Monday, May 18.

Come and join the Huntley Gazebo Quilters Valor Quilt ladies on Monday, May 18, for a fundraiser night from 4-8 p.m. Meet your family and friends to enjoy a delicious meal or the famous frozen custard at the Huntley's Culver's.

The Huntley Gazebo Guild Valor Quilts organization, honors our local Veterans with red, white and blue homemade quilts. We need your support to continue our work.

Huntley Gazebo Guild Valor Quilts will earn a percentage of all sales: dine-in, take out, and drive thru. Participate in a 50/50 raffle drawing for that evening. Please come out and support our Veterans.

### HIDE THE HAT LOCATION:

Kind of like that one obstructed-view seat at a baseball game, this weeks hat was hiding behind the Wrigley Field sign on Page 9. Did you hit a homerun and find it or was it a swing and miss for you this edition?

***Try again next edition!***

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