

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

March 20, 2013
Letters, Page A16

Cost is too high

The paper ([“Pops Band leaves Sun City fold,” Sun City Independent, March 6, 2013](#)) played up the fact that the new West Valley Pops Band’s main reason for withdrawing from Sun City was the \$2 fee for each “non” RCSC cardholders’ participation at each practice.

Certainly that was a factor. But the main reason, the final “nail in the coffin,” was that after 36 years, the RCSC board started charging us a huge rental for the Sundial Auditorium. The bill for the last Sun City Concert Band performance was \$1119.59, plus the sound engineer’s cost and a substantial deposit.

This same cost will be charged for any Sun City music group using Sundial Auditorium from now on. This has been our main performance venue for the approximately 10,000 people attending the free concerts this past and other seasons. We have always given free concerts and don’t plan on charging in the future.

Please consider viewing the [Sun City facilities’ rental schedule](#) that is available online. The Sun Bowl is also mentioned as being for rent, yet any Sun City group is forbidden to perform there! Why, then, is it listed as part of the RCSC cardholder facilities’ rental schedule?

The RCSC says it should have charged us for the past 36 years. All the past RCSC 36 boards must have forgotten to charge the various groups! Now the new board is rectifying that, it says. It also stated that it wants to be fair to everyone. Being “fair” now is causing groups to consider leaving Sun City since they can no longer afford the new charges. It is hard to understand why 36 boards chose to offer free concerts to the Sun City area residents to enjoy. The present RCSC board chose not to do that. The Pops Band had no choice but to leave Sun City recently. We couldn’t afford to pay for the rental fees. The RCSC board knew that. They have our financial statements. They must have wanted us to leave knowing that we could not pay to stay.

The Pops Band is now turning the blackest night into the brightest day for the West Valley. The first free concert is 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 at Sunflower RV Park, 16501 N. El. Mirage Road, Surprise. Just bring something for the Valley View Community Food Bank for admission. To get on our mailing list for future concerts, just e-mail futureconcerts@cox.net.

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