

# MESQUITE SENIOR GAMES CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

By Christine Budd



**What** many may have thought would be just a group of guys getting together for a friendly game of softball, has mushroomed into a two-month series of sporting events; and it's not just guys anymore!

Ten years ago, the Nevada State Games in Las Vegas was scouting for areas throughout the state to host local city games. Because of the number of facilities available here – both sporting and resort – they developed a serious interest in Mesquite, but needed funding to make it happen. Thanks to a generous contribution from Cindy Risinger of RE/MAX, a local real estate company, the first games were formed under the direction of Frank Pati and Dave Pearson, and named Mesquite Senior Games (MSG).

After working on the development of the games, Dave and Frank came to realize that the games shouldn't just be about winning or losing. They were determined to ensure that the games had a higher purpose: "To encourage community regional senior

wellness and sports participation, while promoting Mesquite as a place to visit and reside."

The games are open to anyone 50 years of age and older; and even eighty year olds now participate. Softball continues to be the most popular sport, growing each year; competing teams have increased from 12 to as many as 34.

Demand coupled with a growth in popularity of senior sports, increased the need for facilities. In the past few years, the City of Mesquite added new ball fields bringing available venues to a total of five softball fields and two baseball fields which, when needed, can be converted to softball fields. The City even built Hunter Park, a beautiful new facility.

Sun City Mesquite generously donates their outdoor recreation areas for pickleball (the second most popular sport with a potential for 120 players

this year), and bocce ball competition. The City Recreation Center hosts basketball skills, and Virgin Valley High School hosts the track and field events. Tennis is played at Hafen Tennis Center, and CasaBlanca Golf Course hosts the golf events.

Area hotels and resort/casinos contribute by offering reasonably priced rooms, even on weekends during high season.

It's not too late to register to participate in upcoming events. Take a moment to look over the upcoming dates and simply call 702-346-0244 to sign up. For more information visit their website at [www.mesquiteseniorgames.com](http://www.mesquiteseniorgames.com).

If you can't participate, then bring your neighbors and friends to an event; spectators are always welcome. Whether you are a resident, a visitor, a competitor or a spectator, you will discover that "Mesquite is the year-round playground." ≈



*Basketball*



*Track and Field*



*Shooting Sports*



*Tennis*

## 2011 Games: Schedule of Events

April 2 Bocce Ball Singles

April 4, 5, 6, Pickleball

April 7, 8, 9 Tennis

April 8 Bowling

April 8 Basketball Skills

April 9 Track and Field and Bocce Ball Doubles

April 12 Golf (18 holes)

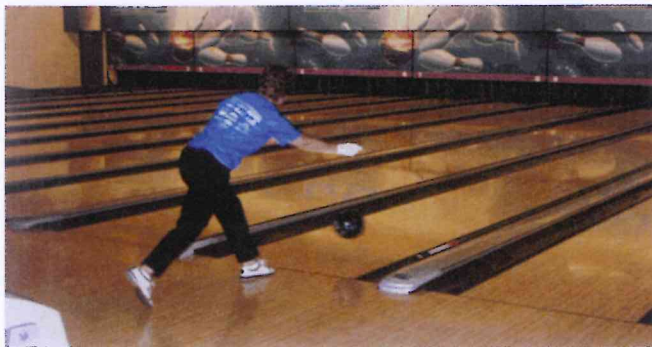
April 16 Archery and Bocce Ball (4 team)

April 23 Pistol Shoot

May 11 through 15 Team Softball



*Softball*



*Bowling*

### *Dee Thomas Briggs*

*Enjoying the games at 80+ years of age*

*Dee, a St. George Utah resident, doesn't let age get in the way of keeping fit and having fun. She has been a participant of the Mesquite Senior Games for eight years, and this will be her ninth! Preferring shot put and javelin over rocking chairs, Dee is the perfect example of a senior enjoying an active, healthy lifestyle.*

