

FOUNTAIN HILLS **first**



WHAT'S INSIDE

PROPOSED PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX	P2
ENVIRONMENTAL FEE	P4
HOME DELIVERED MEALS	P4
DOG LICENSING	P5
DARK SKY DESIGNATION	P6
COUNCIL ROUND-UP	P6
WHO DO I CALL?	P7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	P8

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION MARCH 10, 2018

The Town of Fountain Hills will be holding a household hazardous waste collection event in the main parking lot of the Fountain Hills High School from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The entrance will be on Hampstead Drive and the exit will be onto Palisades Blvd. We will be collecting unused paints, solvents, pesticides, oils, and other hazardous items.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING AND CFL BULB COLLECTION APRIL 21, 2018

The Town of Fountain Hills and The Friends of the Fountain Hills Library will be hosting document shredding and CFL bulb collection events from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The events are for residential document destruction and bulb collection. There is a four file box limit per person. All participants must remain with their documents until they are loaded into the containers for destruction.

Please go to the **"environmental programs"** section on the Town's website for exact times and more information on the event: www.fh.az.gov.

TOWN COUNCIL REFERS PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX TO VOTERS IN MAY



On January 30, 2018, the Council unanimously approved referring a \$7 million primary property tax question to voters and set the date for a special election to take place on May 15, 2018. The Town Council took this action to address the projected revenue shortfall that will begin in fiscal year 2018-19 and resulting in an average deficit of \$6.4 million over the next ten years. The Council also agreed to eliminate the \$36 annual environmental fee if voters approve the primary property tax question.

The Town Council arrived at this conclusion after reviewing other financial options including a public safety fee, increasing the sales tax rate, establishing a fire district, and other options. After reviewing these options, the Mayor and Council agreed that there were no other viable, equitable, and sustainable revenue options available to the town to address the town's financial issues. Another factor contributing to this decision is that state law limits annual increases to property taxes to two percent whereas other fee options considered by the Town Council can be adjusted without similar protections to taxpayers.

The Town's financial issues are primarily due to major revenue sources remaining flat since 2005 and not keeping up with expenditures. In order to reduce expenditures and avoid a shortfall in past years, the town has significantly reduced staffing levels (from 115 employees to 56) and contracted out park maintenance, street sweeping, wash maintenance, and numerous other services to reduce expenditures and avoid a shortfall. The budget cuts have enabled the Town to pare down expenditures while preserving core services and amenities that make Fountain Hills a desirable place

to live. If the Town's revenue situation is not addressed in the next six months, then the Town will be forced to look at more severe budget reductions for next year that will result in a reduction of service levels.

If voters approve the primary property tax question in May, the primary property tax would generate additional revenue to avoid revenue shortfalls and enable the town to invest \$4 million annually in street maintenance in addition to the current \$2 million expended annually. The new dedicated funding source will also ensure that police and fire services (\$8 million in the current year) continue to be fully funded and will absorb future cost increases passed on to the town by Rural Metro and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Finally, \$1 million a year will be expended on the Town's major infrastructure needs to ensure parks, the community center, library, Fountain Lake and the fountain, flood control projects, and other infrastructure are properly maintained.

The majority of full service communities in the Valley (and elsewhere in the state) have a primary property tax. Scottsdale, Chandler, Tempe, Queen Creek, Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, Avondale, Goodyear, Surprise, El Mirage, Buckeye, and other cities utilize a primary property tax to help fund municipal services. Those full service communities without a primary property tax have other significant revenue sources that are unique to their city and are able to generate sufficient revenues without the need for a primary property tax.

A number of public meetings will be held so residents can learn more about this important issue. For more information about the proposed primary property tax, please visit the town website at www.fh.az.gov/vote2018.



WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX

The Town-sponsored public meetings will take place at the Community Center on the following dates:

- Thursday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, April 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Visit the website at www.fh.az.gov/vote2018

WHERE YOUR CURRENT PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR GOES



Q: WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE PROPERTY TAX ELECTION?

The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election is midnight, April 16, 2018.

Q: HOW/WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE ELECTION?

The Town does not handle voter registration. Please visit the Maricopa County Recorder's Office for more information at <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/>.

Q: WHEN WOULD THE PROPERTY TAX BECOME EFFECTIVE?

If the election results authorize implementation of the primary property tax, Maricopa County shall be notified that the Town will be levying a property tax in the fiscal year following the election. Therefore, the tax would be effective for fiscal year 2018-2019 (tax year 2018) with the first payments due October 1, 2018.

Q: WHEN IS THE TAX PAID/DUE?

Based on the Maricopa County Treasurer's current procedures, property tax is due in two (2) halves. The first half is due on October 1 of the tax year. The second half is due on March 1 of the subsequent year. This process will remain consistent whether the voters approve a primary tax or not. Additionally, the taxpayers who own homes with a mortgage may have their mortgage company withhold money monthly into escrow to pay the taxes.

Q: HOW MUCH WILL I PAY?

How much the individual property owner would be charged for a new primary property tax depends on the Limited Property Value of their property. The Maricopa County Assessor determines the Limited Property Value for each property. According to recent calculations, the average residential limited property value in Fountain Hills is \$305,967. A property with this Limited Property value would pay approximately \$481.69, which equates to \$40.14 monthly or \$1.32 per day, for this new primary property tax.

Q: WHY DOES THE TOWN NEED A PRIMARY PROPERTY TAX NOW, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS WITHOUT ONE?

For many years, the Town has relied on revenues from building permits, as well as State-shared revenues and other revenues. Due in part to the past and current economy and in part due to the Town's near build-out status, revenues from building permits have significantly declined. State-shared revenues have also declined, in part due to population issues, and in part due to the State's potential for utilization of these revenues. While cuts have been made in an attempt to curb expenses, these cuts can only address shortfalls to a limited extent. Rising costs, due in a large part to aging infrastructure and increasing public safety costs, also affects the timing of the need to address revenue issues.

Q: ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS OR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE?

Yes, Maricopa County offers Seniors Valuation Protection, the Widows/Widowers/Disabled Exemption, and the Elderly Assistance Fund. Information about these programs is available at treasurer.maricopa.gov. Click the link for Assistance Programs under the Resource tab.

For More Information, Please Visit: www.fh.az.gov/vote2018



ENVIRONMENTAL FEE



In 2014, the Fountain Hills Town Council approved a \$36 per year environmental fee for each parcel of land in Fountain Hills. The environmental fee revenue supports a number of important environmental programs, many of which are mandated by Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Clean Water Act and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The Town is required to undertake street sweeping, dust control, dam maintenance, storm drain and culvert inspection/cleaning. The environmental fee will also help pay for safety items such as storm water management, wash drainage, on-call storm damage cleanup and a household hazardous waste collection day for residents. An increase to the costs required to be covered include those associated with a new, recently issued stormwater permit.

The Town of Fountain Hills selected AMS Billing Services of Sarasota, Florida to invoice and collect the environmental fee for the Town. The invoice in the amount of \$36.00 for the 2018 annual environmental fee was mailed in early January. Residents have the option of using one of the following forms of payment:

1. Mail a check or money order payable to AMS Billing Services
2. Online bill-pay via your own banking institution
3. Pay in cash at any PayNearMe location for a flat \$1.99 fee
4. By credit card for a \$1.99 processing fee

AMS Billing Services' business hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time (excluding holidays). AMS account representatives will be available to answer your questions and assist you in any way they can. You can contact the company by email: fountainhills@amsbilling.com or by phone: (941) 358-1253.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Our program provides nutritious noon-time meals to Fountain Hill's residents in need of meal assistance.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- Meals are prepared fresh daily by the staff of Fountain View Village and delivered seven days a week including all major holidays.
- The cost of each meal is \$7.00.
- Meals are delivered by volunteers between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- Meals consist of a hot entrée and two side dishes plus a cold sack with salad, dessert, fruit, and milk.
- Area Agency on Aging provides financial assistance to clients who are unable to pay for meals. Contact them directly at (602) 264-4357.

NEW CLIENTS

- Clients choose what days each week they want meals delivered.
- New clients must stay on the program for a minimum of two weeks.
- Advance notice is required when signing up for the program.

- To sign-up to receive meals, please contact the Activity Center at (480) 815-5226.

VOLUNTEERS

- Teams of two volunteers pick up the meals at Fountain View Village kitchen at 10:45 a.m. with a time frame of approximately 1 to 1.5 hours for delivery.
- Volunteer opportunities are occasionally available for those with time to give to this rewarding program. Please call or drop by the Activity Center, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DONATIONS

- Donations are graciously accepted to help subsidize and maintain the cost of meals.
- Donations may be tax deductible; donor should seek advice from their accountant.



SHAMROCK THE HILLS IRISH FOUNTAIN FEST

experiencefountainhills.org



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE:

11:00 a.m.	Festival Opens	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Bagpipers
12:00 p.m.	Greening of the Fountain	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Traveler – Celtic Rock Band
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Kilted Spirit Band	4:00 p.m.	Greening of the Fountain

DON'T GET CAUGHT DOWN ON YOUR LUCK, SHAMROCK THE HILLS AT THE FOUNTAIN HILLS IRISH FOUNTAIN FEST!

Put on your green and join the Town of Fountain Hills as we shamROCK the Hills at our Irish Fountain Fest! Food, fun, and music will all be a part of this family-friendly event, and who could forget that our World Famous Fountain will be transformed into a bright emerald green geyser at 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. This event will feature a kid's zone, Traditional Irish folk dancing performances, a Celtic rock band, food trucks, the Hensley Beer Garden and much more! This event is open to families of all ages and is completely free of charge!

HOURS: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ADMISSION: FREE

LOCATION: Fountain Park
12925 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

PARKING: FREE

This event is sponsored by the Town of Fountain Hills.

For more information please e-mail us at tourism@fh.az.gov or visit the official Fountain Hills Tourism Website www.experiencefountainhills.org

DOG LICENSING INFORMATION

DO YOU HAVE A DOG IN FOUNTAIN HILLS?

- All dogs three months of age or older within the town limits of Fountain Hills must have a Fountain Hills animal license
- A license is required by Arizona State Statute §11-1008 and by Fountain Hills Town Code 6-2-3
- Household maximum is four (4) dogs
- Winter visitors must also license their dogs

IS THERE A COST? CURRENT COSTS ARE:

- \$17.00 annually for a spayed/neutered dog and \$42.00 annually for a non-altered dog.
- \$6.00 annually for spayed/neutered dog if the owner is 65 or older
- Late fees are applicable

HOW AND WHERE CAN THE LICENSE BE OBTAINED?

- In person at Town Hall (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Monday through Thursday). Send or bring the necessary paperwork with the fee. Application forms can be downloaded from our website: www.fh.az.gov/pets



Pika & Bridger

FOUNTAIN HILLS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED



© Bloom Photography

Early in January, Fountain Hills achieved the rare distinction of being designated an International Dark Sky Community by the International Dark Sky Association. Our community is one of only two International Dark Sky Communities located near a major metropolitan area, and only 16 communities in the world have previously earned this prestigious recognition. This

accomplishment was widely reported in media outlets across the country, including local TV coverage and on the front page of the Arizona Republic.

To celebrate the designation, a Fountain Hills Dark Sky Festival is being planned for April 21 at the Community Center. The festival will feature nationally known speakers, a

mobile planetarium, exhibits, photo and art contests, and more, all of which is free. Additionally, food and craft beers will be available. Finally, there will be an out-of-this-world star party with members of astronomy clubs from throughout the Valley bringing their telescopes to view the amazing stellar objects in our night sky. Mark your calendars for this unique event.

COUNCIL ROUND-UP

Here are some of the actions taken by our Town Council since the November issue of Fountain Hills First. For a complete listing of all actions and meeting minutes, please visit:

www.fh.az.gov/Agendas

NOVEMBER:

CONSIDERATION of approving NAMING the Trail at the North Entry at McDowell Mountain Regional Park as the Sonoran Trail and the newly constructed loops to the Sonoran Trail as the Lower Sonoran Trail. – **APPROVED**

DECEMBER:

CONSIDERATION of ORDINANCE 17-13, authorizing the Town of Fountain Hills to become a member of the Regional Public Transportation Authority. – **APPROVED**

JANUARY:

DISCUSSION with possible direction to staff relating to CRITERIA for placing items on the consent agenda.

DECISION: Contracts in the amount of \$50,000.00 with reoccurring extended terms will be placed on the Regular Agenda.



WHO DO I CALL?

The Code Enforcement Division staff serves to educate the public as well as to investigate and enforce violations of the Town Code, Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance. The majority of code enforcement activity is complaint driven, however staff is proactive when necessary, especially on any potential threats to public safety.

Violations commonly addressed include:

- Fire hazards
- Storage of trailers, boats and RVs
- Illegal or unpermitted signs
- Green, stagnant swimming pools
- Outdoor storage
- Improper vehicle parking
- Landscaping issues

Prior to contacting Code Enforcement regarding a concern, residents are encouraged to consider the three C's:

- Communicate directly with the neighbor
- Contact the HOA to discuss the concerns
- Confirm the specific concern is a Town regulation violation

QUICK CONTACTS

Town Hall – (480) 816-5100

Town Website – www.fh.az.gov

Town Tourism and Events Website – www.experiencefountainhills.org

Community Center – (480) 816-5200

Activity Center – (480) 816-5226

Public Library – (602) 652-3000

Community Services – (480) 816-5100

Sheriff's Department – (602) 876-1869

Sheriff's Dispatch – (602) 876-1011

911 Emergencies

Fountain Hills Fire Department

Station 1 – 480-837-9820

Station 2 – 480-837-0804

911 Emergencies

Fountain Hills School District

(480) 664-5000

Fountain Hills Municipal Court –

(480) 816-5103

Municipalcourt@fh.az.gov

www.fh.az.gov/Court

Century Link – Repair for residential

customers, (866) 642-0444;

for business customers, (877) 744-4416.

Cox Communications – (602) 277-1000

EPCOR Water – (480) 837-9522

Republic Services – Garbage removal.

(602) 237-2078

Salt River Project – Electric utility.

General information, (602) 236-8888;

emergency (24 hours), (602) 236-8811

Sanitary District – (480) 837-9444

16941 E. Pepperwood Circle

To ensure resident issues are routed to the correct authority in a timely manner, the following is a list of agencies to call for the most common concerns not handled by Code Enforcement:

- **Call 911** for any emergencies that involve an immediate threat to life or public safety
- **Fountain Hills (Rural Metro) Fire Department – (480) 816-5114** – Significant fire hazards, fire code violations, and related questions
- **Maricopa County Sheriff's Office** (non-emergency number) – **(602) 252-7840** – Barking dogs, street parking violations, and nighttime noise issues
- **Fountain Hills Building Safety Division – (480) 816-5177** – Suspected unpermitted building activity, building code violations and related questions
- **Fountain Hills Streets Division – (480) 816-5133** – Damaged street signs, pavement, sidewalks and other road condition issues
- **Maricopa County Animal Control – (602) 506-7387** – Loose dogs and dog bites (exception: if an aggressive bite dog is loose, call 911)
- **Fountain Hills Environmental Division – (480) 816-5180** – Town wash and water drainage
- **Fountain Hills Engineering Division – (480) 816-5122** – Drainage issues resulting from unpermitted grading and unpermitted encroachments within Town right-of-way
- **Fountain Hills Parks Division – (480) 816-5148** – Lighting, signs, animals and other matters
- **Maricopa County Air Quality Dept. – (602) 506-6010** – Dust control concerns
- **Arizona Game and Fish Dept. – (602) 942-3000** – Feeding wild animals and other wildlife

Fountain Hills regulations are available 24/7 on the Town website www.fh.az.gov. Residents can view the entire text of the Town Code, Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Ordinance.

Residents may contact the Code Enforcement Division by one of the following methods:

- **In person** – Town offices are located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains (second floor). Office hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
- **Phone** – Code Enforcement hotline at **(480) 816-5193**.
- **Internet** – Use the RequestTracker system on the Town website – www.fh.az.gov/request-tracker

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IS THE FOUNTAIN GOING TO GO OFF TODAY?

Our World Famous Fountain runs every hour on the hour for 15 minutes from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. everyday of the week! The Fountain is extended to its full height on special occasions, for everyday viewing the Fountain reaches a height of 330 feet! For more information on the fountain please visit: www.experiencefountainhills.org/thefountain

WHY ISN'T THE FOUNTAIN GOING ON?

Please remember that if the winds speeds in Fountain Park are above 10 miles an hour, the fountain pump may automatically shut off, temporarily prohibiting the fountain from coming on or reaching its normal height.

HOW DO I GET A BUSINESS LICENSE?

There are two easy ways to obtain a Fountain Hills Business License. You can either log on to our website: www.fh.az.gov/business-licenses or you can visit Town Hall to complete the application in person. For all Business License questions, please call **(480) 816-5176**. Congratulations on being a business owner!

DID YOU FIND A LOST PET?

Help a lost furry friend find their home by visiting our Town's Lost Pet Page online, and be a part of reuniting a family with their pet! If you found a dog with a Fountain Hills license, enter the number on the tag for the owners contact phone number into the search bar on our website: www.fh.az.gov/pet-recovery

WHERE IS THE TOWN'S LOST AND FOUND LOCATION?

You can visit our Community Center located at 13001 N La Montana Drive to inquire about lost and found articles.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON COUNCIL MEETINGS, SPEAKERS, AND TIMES?

Town Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. in Town Hall Council Chambers. If you can't make it to the meetings, you may live stream regular session meetings on our website at: www.fh.az.gov/live-stream and on local Channel 11.

ARE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE PARK, BALL FIELDS, OR TENNIS COURTS?

To reserve a ball field, tennis court, or to make a reservation for any of our ramadas or park space; please call **(480) 816-5100**.



Town of Fountain Hills
16705 E Avenue of the Fountains
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PHOENIX, AZ
PERMIT NO. 1010

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

FOUNTAIN HILLS **first**

Get Out of the Valley and Into The Hills!

Special Event Calendar Spring 2018

SPRING 2018

Date(s)	Event	Day(s)	Time	Location
*October - April 30	Farmers Market and Art on the Ave	Thursday	11am- 5pm	Ave of the Fountains Plaza
February 8	Hashknife Pony Express	Thursday	3pm	Ave of the Fountains Plaza
10	Concours in the Hills	Saturday	10am - 2pm	Fountain Park
17	Concours in the Hills Rain Date	Saturday	10am - 2pm	Fountain Park
23-25	The Great Fair	Friday – Sunday	10am - 5pm	Ave of the Fountains Plaza
Feb 28 - March 4	Memorial Disc Golf Championship	Wed – Sunday	9am - 2pm	Fountain Park
March 4	Mountain to Fountain	Sunday	5:30am - Noon	Fountain Park
10	Besant Mela Kite Festival	Saturday	10am - 2pm	Fountain Park
17	St. Patrick's Day	Saturday	11am- 6pm	Fountain Park
16-18	Fountain O'Green Artisan Market	Friday – Sunday	10am - 5pm	Ave of the Fountains Plaza
23-25	Thunderbirds Fine Art & Wine Affaire	Friday – Sunday	10am - 5pm	Ave of the Fountains Plaza
April 7	Music Fest	Saturday	6 p.m.	Fountain Park
13	Movie in the Park	Friday	7 p.m.	Fountain Park
May 28	Memorial Day	Monday	TBD	Fountain Park
July 4	Fourth at the Fountain	Wednesday	5 - 10 pm	Fountain Park

Check for the most updated calendar at: experiencefountainhills.org