2026 Fountain Hills

COMMUNITY GUIDE & BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Information for visitors, newcomers & residents



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Fountain Hills: Welcome home!



Thank you for picking up the 2026 Community Guide. This is your annual publication with everything you need to know about Fountain Hills – including history and events throughout the year – for you to hold onto and use as your guide to Fountain Hills in 2026.

The Community Guide was first printed in the 90s and was published in June following the annual phonebook in March. In 2020, the decision was made to merge the Community Guide and the phonebook to give residents one publication to rely on throughout the year. You can find the local Business Directory in the back half of this guide. Please support our local advertisers.

I have called Fountain Hills Home since 1979 and there is a good reason for this. The scenery and the breathtaking views of the mountains surrounding our community is something you find anywhere else in the Valley. You truly get a small-town feel when you visit or live in this community. Local hiking trails, parks, along with shopping and a variety of restaurants to choose from truly makes this such a unique community.

A new addition to the community this year will be the International Dark Sky Discovery Center. This will be a huge addition to our town, as it will attract tourists and residents to our community who will see firsthand why so many of us call this community home.

You can go over the hill and visit top Valley destinations but when you return to this town, you will always feel at home.

We are truly a unique community. Welcome to Fountain Hills!

-Brent Cruikshank
Publisher

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COVER PHOTO

Ryan Winslett visited the International Dark Sky Discovery Center within the Fountain Hills Civic Center Complex.

DarkSkyCenter.org

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Greetings from Fountain Hills!



Mayor Gerry Friedel

As mayor of Fountain Hills, it is my honor to share with you the exciting progress we are making together as a community.

Each year, we strive to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars while continuing to invest in the projects that ensure our town remains a safe, vibrant and welcoming place to call home. I am proud to report that Fountain Hills is making fiscally smart, yet forward-looking, improvements to our infrastructure while continuing to provide the high-quality amenities and experiences our residents deserve.w

A great example of this balance is the recently completed drainage improvements at Golden Eagle Park. For years, this park has faced significant challenges with stormwater management. Thanks to careful planning and the hard work of our crews, we now have a more efficient system in place that helps protect the park, while other improvements will enhance the experience for everyone who visits. It is a strong investment that will serve our community well into the future.

Another key milestone is the reconstruction of Palomino Boulevard, a project that addresses the longevity of one of our important roadways. By reinvesting in our streets now, we are extending their life and making daily travel smoother for all who live and work in Fountain Hills. Looking ahead, we are also preparing for the widening of Shea Boulevard, which is a significant project that will improve traffic flow and ensure this critical corridor can keep pace with the needs of our region.

Of course, our focus as a town council extends beyond infrastructure. We know that the character of Fountain Hills is defined not only by the roads and parks we build, but also by the experiences we create together. That's why we remain committed to producing outstanding community events throughout the year. From Turkey Trot to Fourth at the Fountain, these are events that bring neighbors together, celebrate our traditions and showcase the spirit that makes Fountain Hills special.

We are also eagerly anticipating the future opening of the International Dark Sky Discovery Center, which will further elevate Fountain Hills as a destination community while inspiring residents and visitors alike to marvel at our night skies. It will be a one-of-a-kind attraction, and we are proud to support its development.

The progress we are making reflects a collective commitment to building a stronger future while preserving the unique charm that defines Fountain Hills. Together, through smart investment, careful planning, and a shared vision, we are ensuring our community continues to thrive.

I am excited for what lies ahead, and I thank each of you for your role in making Fountain Hills such an extraordinary place to live.

-Gerry Friedel



Downtown Fountain Hills is a popular destination for dining, shopping, taking a stroll or enjoying some public art. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



Fountain Park, in downtown Fountain Hills, is a place to meet, stroll or get in a round of disc golf. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Fountain Hills at a Glance

Founding birth date | Dec. 15, 1970
Incorporated | Dec. 5, 1989

LAND USE/FEATURES

Town Land Size | **16,320 acres**
FH McDowell Mountain Preserve | **1,022 acres**
Terrain | 1,525 to 3,160 above sea level
McDowell Mtns. | **3,160 feet in Fountain Hills**
McDowell Peak (Scottsdale) | **4,034 feet**
(highest peak to the west)
Four Peaks | **7,694 feet**
Mount McDowell (Red Rock) | **2,830 feet**
Adero Canyon Trailhead | **2,460 feet**
Golden Eagle Trailhead | **2,130**

WEATHER (source NOAA)

Average July high temperature | **91.6 degrees**
Average January high temperature | **54.2 degrees**
Record high | **125 degrees, July 29, 1995**
Record low | **21 degrees, Jan. 7, 1971**
Average annual rainfall | **12.30 inches**
(March is average wettest month and June the driest)

PEOPLE

Population (1980 Census) | **2,772**
Population (1990 Census) | **10,030**
Population (2000 Census) | **20,235**
Population (2005 Census) | **24,492**
Population (2010 Census) | **22,489**
Population (2020 Census) | **23,820**
Population est. at buildout (2040) | **34,700**

Median age | **58.6 years old**
Average household size | **2.2 Single Family**
1.58 Multi Family

EDUCATION

Population with bachelor's degree or higher | **50%**
FHUSD School enrollment (Sept. 2025) | **986 students**

MISCELLANEOUS

Sales tax rate/combined local and state | **9.3 percent**
Registered voters (Sept. 2025) | **19,199**
Residential units | **13,845**
Owner occupied | **66 %**
Median value owner occupied | **$408,600**
Median rents | **$1,444**

SOURCES

This page's information was acquired from a variety of sources, including the Town's Master Plan, its General Plan, Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Intellicast.com, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) and other general sources

FOUNTAIN HILLS' HISTORY



An oasis built out of the desert

When the area that is now Fountain Hills was inhabited by Hohokam Native Americans centuries ago, the people made the best of their desert environment, using water from the Verde and Salt rivers for their farming, preparing meals with native plants and taking advantage of a wealth of wildlife. These were peaceful, fearless people who lived in this part of the Sonoran Desert.

Later, the Yavapai migrated to the region, also drawn mainly by the area's two rivers. They remain neighbors to Fountain Hills at Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

The two communities share their love for this environment, celebrating the beauty, the bounty, the spiritual sense created by the natural resources.

Fountain Hills is a planned community, started by McCulloch Properties. Development began in 1969 when Fountain Park and the future downtown areas were the first creations. The community was built out from that center. On Dec. 15, 1970, the world's tallest fountain was turned on for the first time. With the startup of the fountain came new residents from far and wide. Work on the first homes began in 1971, and in 1972, new homeowners had moved in. While the Fountain no longer holds its "world's tallest" title, it is still a hallmark and major draw for the community.

Many early settlers here in the 1970s were retired, but a building boom in the 1980s brought an influx of younger families. The town now boasts Little Falcons Preschool, McDowell Mountain Elementary School, Fountain Hills Middle School and Fountain Hills High School.

In late 1989, voters approved self-government. The first elected council members took their seats in June 1990. The local government has grown in all areas formerly administered by Maricopa County and has taken on new responsibilities such as parks and recreation, fire protection, town court and contracting for law enforcement with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

When many people in the Valley hear "Fountain Hills," they often associate it with its two big art shows, the Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts in November and February. Large crowds are attracted to these three-day outdoor events.

Fountain Hills has an international flair to it with three Sister City affiliations: Dierdorf, Germany; Ataco, El Salvador; and Zamosc, Poland.

The 1990s saw developer MCO Properties begin establishing new residential communities within Fountain Hills. Among these neighborhoods are Eagle Mountain, SunRidge Canyon, FireRock Country Club, CopperWynd, North Heights, CrestView, WestRidge, EagleRidge, Eagles Nest and Adero Canyon. Most of these areas are now sold out.

Voters approved the Town's updated General Plan at a May 2020 election. The plan provides a guideline for future development within the community.

The Town's central business district continues to evolve, with new retail, commercial and restaurants moving into existing spaces and additional development planned in the coming years.

The Fountain Hills Medical Center and a local clinic of HonorHealth opened in recent years, and new housing projects are popping up in the community.

Local facilities have also undergone recent improvements. The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum and Exploration Center saw a thorough renovation while the Fountain Hills Community Center saw remodeling, new paint, carpet and interior design updates.

The International Dark Sky Discovery Center, which you can read all about elsewhere in this year's Community Guide, is slated for its grand opening in 2026. Also located within the civic center, the facility boasts an observatory and other amenities geared toward science and education.

The community exudes pride in what its residents and leaders have accomplished. The can-do attitude is apparent wherever you go, and through the years, Fountain Hills has earned its reputation as "the small town with a big heart."

Fountain Hills may be a bustling community now, but it all began with little more than a stretch of desert and a whole bunch of earth movers. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

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If you're thinking of moving to Fountain Hills, this Community Guide provides a complete list of services you will need to set up a new household.

General Information

Fountain Hills is in Maricopa County, one of 15 counties in Arizona. The ZIP Code for residential and business mail delivery is 85268. Use 85269 if you have a post office box with the U.S. Postal Service.

The telephone area code for Fountain Hills, Scottsdale and most of the rest of the east Valley is 480. It is now necessary to dial the prefix when calling another 480 number. Other Valley area codes are 602 (central Phoenix) and 623 (west Valley). The area code for northern, northeastern and western Arizona is 928. Tucson and other southern communities use 520.

Arizona 811 – Digging for construction or landscaping? Call 811 Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit arizona811.com at least two days before you start.

CenturyLink – Telephone and internet service for residential customers, Centurylink.com, Business customers, 855-891-4083. Listing information, 4-1-1. Visit centurylink.com for more information.

Cox Communications – Authorized retailer, cable television provider, digital high-speed internet, home security and automation. cox.com, or coxcable-online.com

EPCOR Water – Water utility. 12021 N. Panorama Drive. Customer Service 1-800-383-0834. Epcor.com.

Republic Services – Solid waste management. 602-237-2078.

Salt River Project – Electric utility. General information, 602-236-8888. 24-hour emergency, 602-236-8811. Srpnet.com.

Sanitary District – Disposes and treats sewage and wastewater, 16941 E. Pepperwood Circle. 480-837-9444.

The Fountain Overlook Trail gives a breathtaking view of the community. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



Southwest Gas – Natural gas utility. Only some of Fountain Hills neighborhoods have access to natural gas. Suspect a leak? Call 911 and Southwest Gas at 877-860-6020. swgas.com.

U.S. Post Office – 16605 E. Avenue of the Fountains. 1-800-275-8777.

Auto License Plates: State law requires vehicles to be registered with Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) immediately after establishing residency. To register a vehicle in the state, proof of insurance and an emissions compliance form are required, along with a title and registration application.

Titles and Registration: Fountain Hills has a Motor Vehicle Division-authorized third-party provider, Desert Title, 17124 E. Shea Blvd. Vehicle registration and renewals, license plates, permits and other services are available at the agency. Call 480-619-4228 for more information.

MVD offices are in the Valley. Services include title transfers, registrations, permits, plate replacement and driver's licenses, including the required REAL ID. Every air traveler 18 and older will need a REAL ID compliant driver's license.

Locations closest to Fountain Hills are Mesa, 1840 S. Mesa Dr.; and Scottsdale, 7339 E. Paradise Lane. The phone number for all MVD offices is 602-255-0072.

Vehicle Inspection & Emissions: Vehicles from 1967 and newer are required to pass emissions inspection administered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The nearest testing stations are in Mesa, 1851 W. First Ave., and 4442 E. Ivy St.; and in Scottsdale, 8448 E. Evans. All testing stations are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Arizona Driver's License: If you have a driver's license from another state and you move to Arizona, you will need to apply for an Arizona license. Visit azdot.gov/motor-vehicles/driver-services/Arizona-travel-id for details.

Voter registration: Visit servicearizona.com to register to vote. You also may register at Fountain Hills Town Hall.

Dog licensing: Dogs are required to be licensed in Fountain Hills. Visit Maricopa.gov/227/new-renewal-licenses for information. Fountain Hills has a leash law. Dogs are permitted off-leash at Desert Vista Dog Park. Cats do not have to be licensed.

The Fountain

Community landmark marks 56 years

Now in its 56th year, the world-famous Fountain continues to delight and inspire visitors to Fountain Hills.

Developed as a tourist attraction to spur economic development for the community, the town has grown up around the centralized Fountain, which reaches about 300 feet when it shoots upward.

The fountain sprays water from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for about 15 minutes on the hour. Driven by three, 600-horsepower turbine pumps, the fountain shoots upward at a rate of 7,000 gallons per minute through an 18-inch nozzle. Operations today utilize two pumps, taking the spray to a height of about 300 feet. At its highest, the fountain's 560-foot record height held for more than a decade. When reaching its maximum height, three pumps were used.

More than 50 years ago, businessmen at McCulloch Properties brainstormed an idea to acquire land northeast of Phoenix, Ariz. The property became Fountain Hills.

The property, home to a cattle ranch, was part of McCulloch's strategy to create master-planned communities. Those communities needed an attraction; their attraction for the Maricopa County land featured the world's tallest fountain.

The late C.V. Wood, who designed the master plans of all the McCulloch planned communities as well as Disneyland, came up with the idea for the Fountain after seeing a story in a Phoenix newspaper about building a giant fountain in the desert. Wood ran with the idea. McCulloch had many of the fountain parts built in Zurich, Switzerland, and shipped to Arizona for installation.

The Fountain truly is the centerpiece of the community. Situated in the middle of the 64-acre Fountain Park, the iconic Fountain is the backdrop for weddings and birthday parties, the annual Easter Sunrise service, sports activities, Ballet Under the Stars performed by dancers with Ballet Arizona, Fountain Hills High School graduations, concerts, movie nights and a variety of special events.

The Fountain was recently retrofitted with new equipment to carry it into the future, including new lighting that allows the town to illuminate the water in a variety of colors for special events.

Weather permitting, the Fountain goes off at the top of the hour throughout the day. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Government

Fountain activated: **1970**
Incorporated: **1989**
Town Hall:
16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains.
480-816-5100
fountainhillsaz.gov

Town Council

Mayor Gerry Friedel ('26)
Council Members
Gayle Earle ('28)
Brenda Kalivianakias ('26)
Peggy McMahon ('28)
Allen Skillicorn ('26)
Hannah Larrabee ('26)
Rick Watts ('28)

Email: towncouncil@fountainhillsaz.gov

Town Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers at Town Hall.

Administration

Town Manager – Rachael Goodwin
Town Attorney – Jennifer Wright
Town Magistrate – Robert Melton

School Board

Lillian Aker ('26), Kim Duckworth ('28), Bernie Hoenle ('26), Madicyn Reid ('26) and Richard Rutkowski ('28).

District No. 98 Administration Offices
16000 N. Palisades Blvd.
480-664-5000
fountainhillsschools.org

Sanitary District

Board of Directors: Vacant, Clayton Corey, Gregg Dudash, Michael Maroon and Bob Thomson.

Sanitary District Office
16941 E. Pepperwood Circle
480-837-9444
az-fhsd.gov

Maricopa County

Supervisor's office,
301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003; 602-506-3415.
District 2 Supervisor Thomas Galvin.

Justice Court McDowell Mountain Precinct (Scottsdale), 18380 N. 40th Street, Phoenix, 602-372-7000, fax 602-372-7910.

Arizona Legislature (District 3)

Representative Joseph Chaplik,
602-926-3436, jchaplik@azleg.gov.

Representative Alex Kolodin,
602-820-4240, akolodin@azleg.gov.

Senator John Kavanagh,
602-926-5170, jkavanagh@azleg.gov.

Governor | Gov. Katie Hobbs,
1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007;
602-542-4331.

U.S. Congress

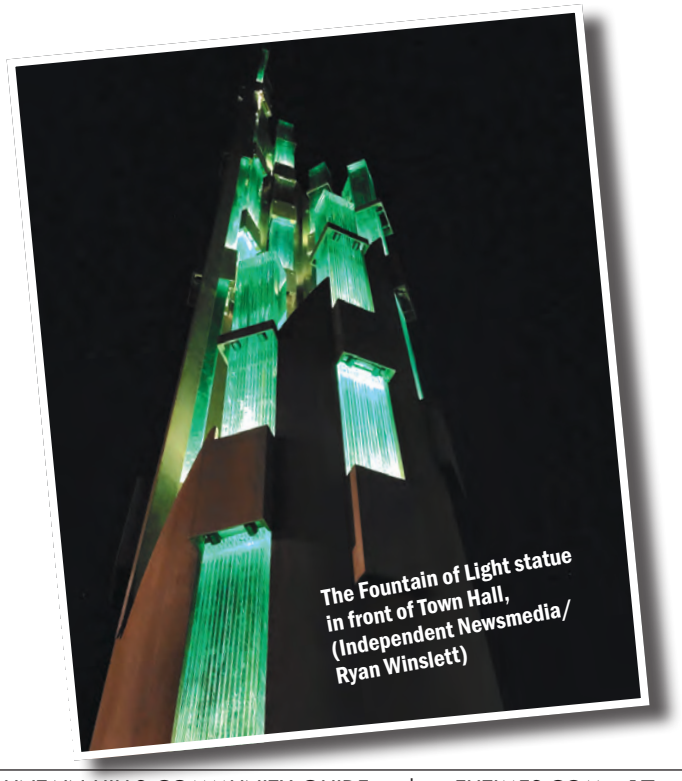
Congressman David Schweikert (District 1),
1205 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20515-0306; 202-225-2190;
10603 N. Hayden Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85260;
480-946-2411.

Senator Mark Kelly, Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 516, Washington, D.C. 20510; 202-224-2235; 2201 E. Camelback, Suite 115, Phoenix, AZ 85016; 602-671-7901. kelly.senate.gov/contact_mark.

Senator Ruben Gallego,
Gallego.senate.gov/contact_ruben.

U.S. President

Donald J. Trump, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20500; 202-456-1414; whitehouse.gov.



The Fountain of Light statue in front of Town Hall, (Independent Newsmedia/ Ryan Winslett)

Public Safety

Protecting the community



Firefighters talk about their job and what can be found on a typical truck with local students. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

As of January 2024, the Town of Fountain Hills began the operation of the Fountain Hills Fire Department, discontinuing its long-time contract arrangement with Rural/Metro Corp. for fire and emergency medical services. The town continues a contract arrangement with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. These arrangements provide the citizens of Fountain Hills with professional, state-of-the-art public safety services 24 hours a day.

Law Enforcement

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office maintains a squad of patrol deputies in Fountain Hills at all times, with units on the street to respond to emergencies and complaints. MCSO has established Fountain Hills as an administrative district with a command level officer in charge. A lieutenant is second in command and sergeants oversee patrol squads.

Sheriff's deputies assigned to the community provide assistance with community programs and traffic complaints. A school resource officer serves the high school/middle school campus.

A deputy service aide provides deputies with assistance with minor incidents and follow-up reporting, allowing certified deputies to be available for priority calls.

The Sheriff's Office full-service substation in Fountain Hills is in Town Hall on the first floor adjacent to the Municipal Court.

Local phone: 480-837-2047

24-hour dispatch to report a crime or non-emergency situation: 602-252-7840.

Call 911 in all life-threatening emergencies.



Fountain Hills contracts with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, which has a substation located within Town HAll. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

• Continue on page 20

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(480) 236-0362



Tricia Hill
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Brian Dillman
(206) 651-6118



Jay Green
(480) 420-6568



Peggy Moran
(480) 888-6474



Rosa Janssen
(480) 262-0842



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(480) 226-8426



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913-424-2416



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• Continue from page 18



Members of the Fountain Hills Fire Department man a table during a Red Ribbon Week event for students. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Fire Department

Fountain Hills Fire Department is responsible for fire protection and emergency medical services. Operations are overseen by a chief and an assistant chief/fire marshal. There are three shifts at two stations with a captain in charge of each shift.

The Town owns and maintains two local station sites:

Fire Station #1:
(Administrative offices)
16246 E. Palisades Blvd.
480-837-9820

Non-emergency public assistance and special duty calls: 480-945-6311.

Fire Station #2

Location is on Fountain Hills Boulevard north of Shea Boulevard.

Through the nationwide system, residents should dial 911 for any emergency, and they will be put in touch with the proper authority or agency. For fire prevention and building inspection service, call 480-816-5114.

Fully equipped ambulances are also stationed to serve Fountain Hills. This is a contracted service.

The Fire Department places an emphasis on fire prevention and education programs with ongoing safety programs for area schools and special events. The department also works with the Town Community Services Department to offer CPR training for citizens with regular classes.

Firefighters typically respond to about 4,000 calls annually with a significant majority of calls for emergency medical service. As a public service, the Fire Department also responds to special-duty calls such as snake removals, invalid assists and other public assistance measures. For these non-emergency needs, call 480-945-6311.

Fountain Hills Crisis Response

The Fountain Hills Crisis Response Team is an organization with trained volunteers who assist police and fire personnel with critical incident services ranging from simply being there to help a citizen in a time of need to providing transportation and assisting with obtaining services ranging from mortuary to counseling.

Information about volunteering for Fountain Hills Crisis Response Team is available by calling the Fire Department at 480-816-5280.

Anonymous Tips

Anonymous tips may be placed to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office through the "P3 Tips" app.

The P3 application-based format allows residents to remain anonymous when reporting an incident if they choose. The application is available on Apple and Android devices. Simply search for "P3 Tips" where you would normally download an app to your smart device. Users are guided through the setup process, including adding MCSO as the primary law enforcement agency.

Once the application is set up, users can choose from categories before sending a tip, allowing the information to be more easily channeled to the proper authorities. There's even a school category, allowing students to provide anonymous tips directly affecting their school campus.

If the authorities need to get back in touch with the person sending the tip, it will also be handled through the application, anonymously. The P3 app should not be used for emergencies. In those instances, dial the proper authorities directly.



MCSO helps keep the community informed with events like Coffee with a Cop. (Independent Newsmedia file Photo)



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Staying informed and connected

Western States Publishers, Inc. began the local award-winning newspaper, The Fountain Hills Times, in 1974. In 2023, the company was purchased by Independent Newsmedia Inc., USA, with the name of the weekly paper changing to Fountain Hills Times Independent.

Residents also have full access to metro and national newspapers, television and radio stations and other media outlets.

Newspapers

Fountain Hills Times Independent – Published each Wednesday, The Times Independent features local news, sports, special events, culture, features, clubs, classified ads, etc.; subscriptions; The address is 16853 E. Palisades Blvd., Suite 202; telephone, 480-837-1925.

Public access television

Fountain Hills is served by Channel 11, a public access station where events such as Town Council meetings can be watched. The channel streams live on the Internet 24 hours a day at fountainhillsaz.gov/386/Channel-11.

On the web

Independent Newsmedia Inc., USA owns and operates publications all over the Valley, including weekly and monthly newspapers and a variety of special sections. Content from all of these publications, organized by community and category, can be found online at **The Daily Independent at yourvalley.net.**

The Times Independent is online at **fhtimes.com.** Digital subscriptions to Fountain Hills Times Independent and the Phoenix Independent are also available or included with a print subscription. Visit the website for additional information.

Fountain Hills residents are active on social media. Search for **"Fountain Hills Times Independent" on Facebook.**

The Fountain Hills Times Independent is a weekly publication covering the community and surrounding areas, with daily stories available at fhtimes.com. (Independent Newsmedia/ Ryan Winslett)



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Transportation



Fountain Hills is a smaller Valley community, but there are still several ways to get where you need to go. (Metro Creative)

There are several alternatives for Fountain Hills commuters looking to get around the Valley without always relying on a personal vehicle. Along with a variety of services meant to help get folks from Point A to Point B, the metro area has a network of expanded bus service and a light rail system.

Here are some of the transportation options in and around Fountain Hills:

Carpooling

Share The Ride is a free commuter ride-matching service available to residents of Fountain Hills. Call 602-262-7433 for more information or visit sharetheride.com.

Vanpooling

Valley Metro provides vans to qualifying groups of six to 15 commuters. They share a ride in a van driven by one of the members. Passengers share the cost of operating the van by paying an equitable monthly fare. The fare covers all costs including gas, insurance and van maintenance. Visit valleymetro.org/commute-solutions/vanpool.

Light Rail

Metro light rail operates seven days a week. Trains generally arrive at stations every 12 minutes during daytime hours and every 20 minutes at night, weekends and holidays.

There are a variety of fare options. Transit fare can be purchased from vending machines at all Metro light rail stations and from numerous fare outlets throughout the Valley.

For information, visit valleymetro.org or call 602-254-RAIL(7245).

Give a Lift

The Town of Fountain Hills coordinates a volunteer-based program called "Give a Lift," in which non-handicapped residents with local transportation needs can be serviced by volunteer citizens. These trips are for medical appointments only. Contact Town Volunteer Coordinator Kimberly Wickland at 480-816-5108 or visit fountainhillsaz.gov.

Taxi Services

Fountain Hills has taxi companies, which can be found in the Community Guide directory. Local drivers are also available through app-based services including Uber and Lyft.

Airports

Sky Harbor International Airport is the main passenger airport serving the Phoenix metro area. Call 602-273-3300 or visit skyharbor.com.

Mesa Gateway Airport is located in southeastern Mesa; administrative offices are located at 5835 S. Sossaman Road. Call 480-988-7600 or visit gatewayairport.com.

There are two general aviation airports in the area as well. Scottsdale Municipal Airport is located in north Scottsdale, 15000 N. Airport Drive. Falcon Field is located at 4800 E. Falcon Drive in Mesa.

Arizona Driver's License

Feel like driving yourself around? That's fine, too. But if you have a driver's license from another state, you will need to apply for an Arizona license. Visit azdot.gov/mvd for details. The Motor Vehicle Department can also help with a number of other services, including the Arizona Travel ID. Appointments may be scheduled in advance at AZMVDnow.gov.



Fountain Hills is a short drive from several airports, including the Valley's main hub, Sky Harbor. (Courtesy Sky Harbor International Airport)

2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS



JANUARY

Jan. 31 Fountain Hills Skateboard Classic, Desert Vista Park

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2-8 Waste Management Phoenix Open, Scottsdale
Feb. 5-8 Memorial Disc Golf Championship, Fountain Park
TBA Fountain Hills Community Chorus, Community Center
Feb. 14 Concours in the Hills, Fountain Park
Feb. 20-March 24 Cactus League Spring Training, Ballparks in the Valley
Feb. 20-22 Fountain Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts, Avenue of the Fountains
DATE TBA Balloon Launch, Fountain Park

MARCH

March 6-8 Tour d' Artistes, galleries and studios in Fountain Hills
March 13-15 Specialized Cactus Cup, McDowell Mountain Regional Park
March 14 Irish Fountain Festival, Fountain Park
March 17 St. Patrick's Day Greening of the Fountain, Fountain Park
DATE TBA Fountain Hills Day, Avenue of the Fountains
March 21-22 Fountain Hills Community Chorus, Community Center
March 22 Mountain 2 Fountain, McDowell Mountain Regional Park-Fountain Park
March 22 World Water Day, River of Time Museum
DATE TBA River of Time & Lower Verde River Valley Hall of Fame Dinner, River of Time Museum
March 28 Dark Sky Festival, Community Center
March 28 Eggstravaganza, Desert Vista Park
March 28 Touch-a-Truck, Desert Vista Park

APRIL

April 4 Fountain Hills Music Fest, Fountain Park
Date TBA Flutter at the Fountain, Fountain Park
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Concerts on the Avenue, Avenue of the Fountains
Date TBA Recycle Art Contest, Community Center
April 19 Easter Sunrise Service, Fountain Park

MAY

May 7 National Day of Prayer, Fountain Park
May 12 Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Sovereignty Day
DATE TBA Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards & Recognition Gala, We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort
May 16 Summer Kick Off, Four Peaks Park
May 22 Fountain Hills High School Graduation, Fountain Park
May 25 Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial, Fountain Park



JUNE

June 14 Flag Day
June 3, 17, 24 Summer Games, Community Center
June 10 Wacky Wet Wednesdays, Four Peaks Park
June 11 Video Game Tournament, Community Center



JULY

July 4 Fourth at the Fountain, Fountain Park
July 7 Ice Cream Social, Community Center
July 15, 29 Summer Games, Community Center
July 10, 22 Wacky Wet Wednesdays, Four Peaks Park
July 17 Family Fun Night, Community Center
July 31 Fountain Hills schools start, FHUSD

AUGUST

Aug. 7 Purple Heart Day
Aug. 14 Back to School Bash, Four Peaks Park

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 19 POW/MIA Recognition Day Flag Raising, Veterans Memorial Fountain Park
DATE TBA Ballet Under The Stars, Fountain Park

OCTOBER

Oct. 2-3 Oktoberfest, Centennial Circle
Oct. 17 Make a Difference Day
Date TBA Fountain Hills Spooky Blast, Four Peaks Park

NOVEMBER

Nov. 3-April 28 Fountain Hills Farmers' Market and Arts on the Avenue, Avenue of the Fountains
Nov. 11 Veterans Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial Fountain Park
Nov. 13-15 Fountain Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts, Downtown Fountain Hills
DATE TBA River of Time Museum Holiday Mart
Nov. 26 Turkey Trot 5K Run and Fitness Walk, Downtown Fountain Hills
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day Parade, Downtown Fountain Hills

DECEMBER

Date TBA Breakfast with Santa and Sensitive Santa, Community Center
Date TBA Holiday Stroll and Roll in the Glow, Avenue of the Fountains
DATE TBA Light Up the Town Holiday Tour, Fountain Hills neighborhoods
Date TBA Season's Celebration, Community Center

(ALL DATES/LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)





Signature Festivals



Fountain Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts

Feb. 20-22
Nov. 13-15

Two of the most popular art shows in the Southwest. One in fall, one in spring. Fhchamber.com.



Irish Fountain Festival

March 14

The Fountain will turn green for this festive event featuring food, drink and family-friendly entertainment. The Fountain will also be turned green on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, at noon.



Fountain Hills Music Fest

April 4

The community comes together for a day of music featuring performers from a variety of genres.



Fourth at the Fountain

July 4

A local celebration of Independence Day, complete with music, food, games and fireworks.



Oktoberfest

Oct. 2-3

Celebrate this German holiday with authentic food, beer, music and activities at the Centennial Circle.



Spooky Blast

TBA

Fountain Hills celebrates Halloween at an evening filled with trick-or-treat booths, fun games, inflatables and more.



Thanksgiving

Nov. 26

Fountain Hills celebrates with two big downtown events, the Turkey Trot 5K run and fitness walk, followed by the Thanksgiving Day Parade.



A Community of Culture

Ballet Arizona performs its 2025 Ballet Under the Stars show in Fountain Park. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills prides itself on its variety of activities.

With numerous cultural events – ballet, art shows, theater, concerts – residents and visitors alike have much to take in or become a part of.

The following is information about the variety of cultural groups and activities available in Fountain Hills:

Fountain Hills Art League

An organization that was started as a small group of artists in 1980 now has more than 100 members. Activities include an annual Juried Art Competition held in conjunction with Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association; an all-members show; and the annual Tour d'Artistes, held the first full weekend in March. League members meet the first Monday of each month, and artist demonstrations are featured. They also participate in workshops and trips throughout the year.

Juried Art Show – This annual event, typically held in January, features local artists whose works are hung in the Community Center.

For more information, visit fountainhillsartleague.com.

ilovefountainhills.org

One membership in the Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association grants access to dozens of Fountain Hills-centric civic and cultural community-based programs, associations and non-profits. FHCCA has been around since the formation of the town. It acts as an umbrella to many of its beloved community-focused events by lending its 501(c)3 status, marketing reach and fiscal management through a program called the Non-Profit Network.

FHCCA is supported in part through Non-Profit Network members, at large community members, corporate sponsors and grants. For more information about any of its member programs and how to get involved, visit ilovefountainhills.org and ilovefountainhills.com/events-calendar

At the time of publishing, members under the ilovefountainhills.org umbrella include the following:

Civic Affairs

Fountain Hills boasts one of the highest voter turnouts in all of Maricopa County, in part due to its active Civic Affairs program. They help promote a civil society through mayoral and town council forums, school board candidate forums, special election information and educational programs on democracy and voting rights for youth and adults.

Community Band

Entertaining audiences since 2009, the Community Band, made up of musicians who live in the community full and part time, performs at events in the town. The Community Band welcomes new members with at least high school level band experience.

Community Chorus

The chorus is a non-audition group and welcomes new members who love to sing. The Chorus typically performs two winter holiday concerts and two spring concerts each year.

Community Garden

Becoming a friend or member of the Community Garden grants access to the herb garden, cooking classes, master gardeners and more. All garden beds are leased, but a waiting list is available. The Garden offers a quiet and restful setting for the enjoyment of the natural world of plants, birds, insects and soil. Come see a beehive, take a healing food class, or tend to the Food Bank donation beds from which the organic fruits and vegetables grown in the garden are donated to food banks, shelters and help underserved families.

Dark Sky Association

The Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association's mission is to inspire residents to take pride in the town's rare distinction as an International Dark Sky Community and to protect and preserve the night sky for the benefit of all living things. Members put on community events like the Dark Sky Festival, Astronomy on Tap and Star Parties.

Encore For More!

Encore's mission is to enhance and enrich the senior experience in the Fountain Hills community through a variety of activities, services and programs.

▪ Continue on page 28

▪ Continue from page 27



Chuck Hall plays at a free outdoor show in downtown. (Independent Newsmedia/ Bob Burns)

With a focus on health, recreation and education, most services are free and available to anyone in need.

Encore's offerings include weekly bingo, a monthly speaker series, technology training and adventure day trips. A partnership with the town helps provide medical supply rentals, the Home Delivered Meals program, the MedShed – with durable medical equipment to loan to people on temporary basis, and Give-A-Lift, a program that provides free transportation to medical facilities and appointments. Visit encoreformore.org.

In-Home Concerts

Top-notch jazz and classical musicians perform concerts in private homes throughout Fountain Hills. Seats are limited for this highly anticipated annual concert series.

Leadership Academy

This comprehensive experience offers an extensive immersion into the town's governmental processes, civic and community services, public safety and environmental management. Over eight weeks, participants will meet community leaders and share ideas about the future of Fountain Hills. Each year, the Fountain Hills Leadership Academy accepts candidate applications (age 18 to 50+).



Various types of art fairs are held throughout the year. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



The Community Center is always buzzing with activity, such as the Sip and Socialize event. (Photo submitted by Skylar Thomas)

Poinsettia Tree of Remembrance

This project of the Leadership Academy is intended to beautify the community and help those who are bereft during the holiday season. The tree is made of 250 live plants, each of which are purchased either in honor of a special person or in memory of a loved one who has passed. The plants go on sale each October and remain on display through New Year's Eve.

• Continue on page 29

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Downtown Fountain Hills is home to many local businesses. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Locally-owned shops, like Gypsy Bungalow, offer unique shopping experiences without having to leave town. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Shopping Local

Everything you need, right here in town

Fountain Hills offers a distinctive shopping experience that keeps both residents and visitors right at home. Whether you're searching for food, furniture, art, jewelry or gadgets to support your indoor and outdoor hobbies, Fountain Hills boasts a wide range of amenities to meet all your shopping needs without ever leaving town.

Visit the Plaza Fountainside for a peaceful waterfront shopping experience with dining options along the breezeways and an unparalleled vista in a hometown atmosphere.

Unwind at one of the Plaza's restaurants with a refreshment while soaking in the scenic view of Fountain Park, or savor a hot drink and pastry on the patio.

In Downtown Fountain Hills, you'll find unique storefronts and fine art galleries along a lighted promenade with several public art displays. Perfect for window shopping or taking a stroll through the heart of town, Downtown Fountain Hills also hosts a number of seasonal art fairs and farmers markets.

Four Peaks Plaza anchored by Target and Eagle Mountain Village Plaza anchored by Fry's both provide options for taking care of your food, home goods, electronics and clothing needs.

Fountain Hills Plaza, anchored by Bashas', and Palisades Plaza, anchored by Safeway, both provide covered parking while you shop for groceries and more. Each shopping area offers a selection of dining options and retail shopping at reasonable prices.

The Town of Fountain Hills has several dozens of shopping options perfect for any occasion, conveniently located throughout the community.

• Continue from page 28

Munch & Music Concert Series

Free and open to the public, this annual music series has been a highlight for both winter visitors and full-time residents. All shows are free and held in the Fountain Hills Community Center Ballroom. This program is supported through door donations.

Public Art

FHCCA Public Art Committee is responsible for acquiring, maintaining and sharing much of the public art throughout the town. As a result of its work, the town boasts well over 150 pieces of public art in the collection. Especially notable is "Fount Rushmore" in Fountain Park. It features statues of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan. The Preamble to the Bill of Rights also is featured there. Pick up a Public Art Walk map at the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce office, or visit the River of Time Museum to learn about walking tours.

Fountain Hills Sister Cities

Fountain Hills is a welcoming community of globally engaged members who facilitate inter-community exchanges with international partner cities. Fountain Hills has three Sister Cities: Dierdorf, Germany; Ataco, El Salvador and Zamosc, Poland. Organizers invite the community to participate in events throughout the year and help them select the community's next Sister City.

Fountain Hills Women's Club

Membership is open to any woman in Fountain Hills. The Fountain Hills Women's Club is a service organization dedicated to helping within the Fountain Hills Community since 1974. Learn more about the Women's Club's Annual Gala at ilovefountainhills/event-calendar.



Michael Gant is a CEO at MCO Realty in Fountain Hills. (Photo courtesy of MCO Realty)



Betsy LaVoie is the president and CEO of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce. (Photo courtesy of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce)



Kyle Tolis is the general manager and lead personal trainer at Snap Fitness in Fountain Hills. (Photo courtesy of Kyle Tolis)

Businesses with deep roots in Fountain Hills

By Cyrus Guccione

Fountain Hills is a place that leaves a lasting mark on those who pass through. But for some, it's more than just a stop along the way, it's home and always has been.

From longtime community fixtures that have been around for 50 years like the Church of the Ascension and the Fountain Hills Women's Club to Arizona Propane, the town's oldest continuously owned business, these institutions speak to a tradition of digging in and staying put.

But what makes someone resist the pull of bigger cities and build a life in small-town Arizona? For a handful of local business leaders, the answer is simple: a familiar town where one feels safe and connected.

Betsy LaVoie, president and CEO of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, moved here with her family in 1978. Back then, the town was still finding its footing.

"Everyone knew everyone at Bashas', our only grocery store in town," LaVoie recalled. "The school district was thriving, even with the population at less than 1,000 when we moved here."

But as a teenager, LaVoie couldn't wait to escape. Fountain Hills only had a K–8 system at the time, so she and her brothers attended high school in Scottsdale. Purchasing gas, getting lunch and attending after-school activities were all happening beyond town limits.

But now, as a mother of two, her perspective has changed.

"As a mom, I'm thankful that my kids' friends are local, that the jobs they seek are local," she said. "We're building our community, not someone else's."

Today, LaVoie channels that passion into supporting Fountain Hills businesses of every size, helping them grow in a way that strengthens the town's identity.

For Fountain Hills resident Michael Gant, the town has always been familiar ground. Gant joined his father in Fountain Hills who began working here in 1973, and while he spent years chasing opportunities in the Pacific Northwest and Ohio during the tech boom of the '80s and '90s, the pull of his hometown eventually brought him back.

Today, he's the CEO at MCO Realty, the bedrock of Fountain Hills' real estate scene for more than four decades.

"My family would never go anywhere else," Gant said. "I love raising my kids here. It has that Midwest feel. You run into the same people and it's friendly. That's what I like."

A new generation of leaders

While LaVoie and Gant embody the long-established roots of Fountain Hills, a younger generation is also carving its place.

Kyle Tolis, general manager and lead trainer at Snap Fitness, was named Young Professional of the Year at the 2025 Chamber Gala Awards. For him, Fountain Hills' appeal lies in its calm pace.

"It's not like Tempe or downtown Phoenix. It's relaxed," Tolis said. "I'm blessed to have grown up here and lived here."

At Snap Fitness, Tolis has found his in promoting health and wellness. He has found value in creating a place where people feel welcome and connected.

In a town like Fountain Hills, these stories are just a handful of many local leaders who are proving that Fountain Hills is more than a picturesque desert town, it's a place worth building a future.

As LaVoie put it, "Fountain Hills is a little piece of paradise that we are grateful to call home."



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Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce

A message from Betsy Lavoie, president and CEO



Betsy LaVoie

Beneath the star-filled skies that make Fountain Hills a true Dark Sky Community, the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce continues to shine as a guiding light for business and community growth. Since our founding in 1974, the Chamber has remained steadfastly member-driven and community-minded, serving as a constellation of support, connection and opportunity for residents and visitors alike.

As we proudly celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2024, we reflect on a half-century of illuminating paths for entrepreneurs, nonprofits and local leaders. Like the celestial wonders above us, the Chamber's presence is constant – anchoring the community while helping new ideas rise and shine.

Located at the corner of Palisades Boulevard and Verde River Drive, our Chamber office and the Official Visitor's Center of Fountain Hills are open Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Step inside to explore the new Chamber Gift Shop, featuring locally inspired merchandise that captures the spirit of Fountain Hills. Visitors will also find resources to navigate our beautiful desert town and beyond – maps, hiking trails, dining guides, and information that highlight the brilliance of our region.

Our nonprofit organization is guided by a dedicated Board of Directors – a team of local business owners, managers and professionals whose shared vision keeps Fountain Hills' business community glowing brightly. Together with the Town of Fountain Hills Economic Development Department, we help businesses and organizations retain their place in our vibrant local galaxy – whether expanding, relocating or launching new ventures.

Throughout the year, the Chamber hosts stellar community events that fuel our town's economic vitality. From the award-winning Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts to Fountain Hills Day, the Thanksgiving Day Parade and the festive Stroll in the Glow, our events attract visitors from near and far, shining a spotlight on what makes Fountain Hills extraordinary. This year's Celestial Soiree (CGA awards program) is open to the public and is your local "Oscars" of our community.

With more than 140 annual events, meetings and networking opportunities, the Chamber connects businesses and residents through education, advocacy, networking and collaborative marketing. Stay connected by visiting fhchamber.com or following us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter – your monthly guide to what's on the horizon.

As you explore this year's Community Guide, themed around our town's deep connection to the stars, we invite you to discover the people, businesses and organizations that make Fountain Hills sparkle. Together, we form a constellation of community spirit – each of us a point of light in the story of a town that has spent 50 years shining bright.

We look forward to welcoming you, connecting with you and celebrating the endless possibilities that await under our magnificent desert sky.

- Betsy LaVoie
Chamber president/CEO

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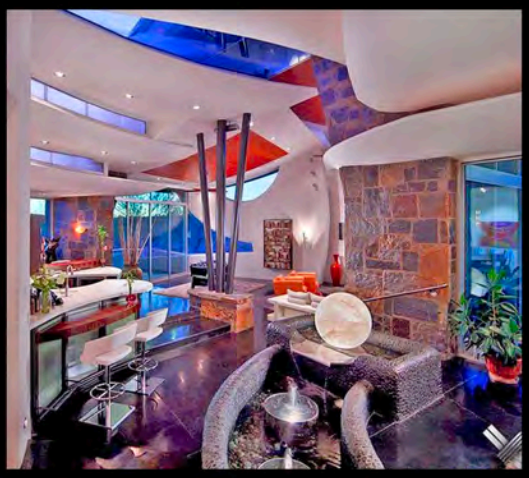


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Medical Care



Fountain Hills Medical Campus, located downtown, offers a variety of health care needs in a single location. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills offers a wide variety of options for those seeking medical attention, whether you're looking for a quick chat with a doctor, need to take care of more serious or specialized medical conditions or require a trained professional to assist with rehabilitation.

More options have become available over the years, meaning you don't have to leave town to get quality medical treatment.

Medical options

Phase I of Fountain Hills Medical Center (hospital), located at 9700 N. Saguaro Blvd., opened in 2021. The center is designed to meet emergency and primary care needs in the area. Discussions are underway to consider Phase II progress, which would bring even more services to the community. Visit fhmcaz.com for more information.



HonorHealth has a branch located in Fountain Hills, offering primary and urgent care. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Opened in 2022, HonorHealth Medical Group's Fountain Hills office is located at 16716 E. Palisades Blvd., Ste. 101A-101B. This location offers both primary and urgent care.

A three-building medical complex on Palisades Boulevard contains numerous physicians' offices and auxiliary health care services. Spooner Physical Therapy and Scottsdale Medical Imaging Ltd. (SMIL) are two anchors, and Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) operates a full-service laboratory in the third building.

Other medical practices in the community include Fountain Hills Primary Care on Saguaro Boulevard, Optum Primary Care of Fountain Hills in the medical complex on Palisades, Primary Care Walk-In Medical Clinic in the Bashas' Center and Phoenician Medical Center on Shea Boulevard. Also, longtime Fountain Hills physician Matthew Hummel, M.D., is an affiliate of MDVIP.

Fountain Hills Recovery Center on Avenue of the Fountains is a private alcohol and drug addiction treatment location. The center provides out-patient counseling and residential programs.

Medical providers DaVita and Southwest Kidney Institute operate Fountain Hills Dialysis Treatment Center, located on Saguaro Blvd. The dialysis center cares for individuals with chronic kidney failure and end-stage renal disease.

Other medical and health professionals include podiatrists, massage therapists, naturopathic physicians, chiropractors, veterinarians, dentists, optometrists and behavioral therapists who have offices in town.

Other needs

Fountain Hills also has a wide variety of support groups to help people with different needs. There is a Caregivers Support Group, a cancer support group, an Alzheimer's group as well as a healthy living group. Check the Town website, fountainhillsaz.gov, for a full list of offerings.

There are several resources for recovery and rehabilitation as well, in addition to meetings for Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous.

In addition to medical facilities, Fountain Hills serves seniors through a number of assisted living homes. Many of the facilities are in small settings with a limited number of residents. There are two senior living communities in Fountain Hills. Fountain View Village is on Avenue of the Fountains, while MorningStar Assisted Living and Memory Care is located on Paul Nordin Parkway.

Additional care

Major medical facilities are also located just outside the community. While there is an HonorHealth branch in town, the not-for-profit parent organization has three other nearby hospitals under its umbrella (Shea Center, Osborn Center and Thompson Peak Center), as well as the Virginia Piper Cancer Center, Scottsdale Clinical Research Institute, TGen Clinical Research Services, NOAH Clinicals and Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation. A Cancer Care center is also located in Fountain Hills.

Mayo Clinic and Mayo Clinic Hospital provide patient care and programs including diagnostic, research and outpatient care.

Check the business directory for the full list of providers in Fountain Hills.



Fountain Hills Medical Center offers hospital services and more. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills' vibrant community marketplace



Fresh produce, bread, honey, homemade products and more draw visitors to the farmers' markets of Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Support local growers and artists at year-round farmers' markets

The annual Fountain Hills Farmers' Market is all about bringing the community together to connect with local farmers, ranchers, fishermen, bakers and others in a friendly setting.

Located in the heart of Fountain Hills along the Avenue of the Fountains, the Fountain Hills Farmers' Market takes place between November and April and offers a welcoming space for food vendors, musicians, dog-walkers and baby-strollers to enjoy all that Fountain Hills has to offer.

In June, the Corn Market swings into town and from August to October, and the Fresh Peach Market offers shoppers freshly picked peaches and more.

The annual Farmers' Market has something for everyone; vegans, vegetarians, dairy-free and gluten-free options and more are available, ensuring all can reap the rewards of fresh food and produce and support local businesses.

Connecting with "The Art on the Avenue," shoppers can frequently peruse the market while enjoying live music along the Avenue.

To learn more about Fountain Hills' various markets, sign up as a vendor or join the mailing list, visit fountainhillsfarmersmarket.com.



Downtown Fountain Hills plays hosts to a number of events throughout the year geared toward art. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)



Music, food and nice strolls through the community are what local markets are all about. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Community parks



Fountain Park is home to one of the best disc golf courses Arizona has to offer. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Fountain Hills has outdoor recreation areas appealing to all ages and interests, whether you're looking to play some ball, take a hike or let your four-legged friend get in some exercise. Contact the Town's Community Services Department regarding permits, reserving facilities or to schedule activities or events by calling 480-816-5151, or visiting fountainhillsaz.gov.

Fountain Park – This 64-acre public park is the jewel of parks in Fountain Hills. It includes a 29-acre lake, owned and maintained by the Town of Fountain Hills. The park was built in 1970 and features a championship disc golf course, two age-defined children's playgrounds with shade covers, restrooms, picnic tables, benches and the world-famous Fountain. The lake water is effluent, rendering it unavailable to swimming, boating or fishing.

Fountain Park is home to the Veteran's Memorial (see related story), as well as the recently refurbished Rotary Centennial Splash Pad, a local place for kids to cool off in the summer. A new picnic area was installed next to the splash pad in 2024. Also available is the Community Musical Park, with free-standing instruments ready for anyone to play. Bathrooms and water fountains are accessible to those visiting the park in three locations.



The Fountain Hills Dog Park is located within Desert Vista Park. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Fountain Park is located on Saguaro Boulevard, between El Lago and Palisades boulevards. It is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. with the Splash Pad running from 9 a.m. to sunset, opening the second Saturday in April and closing the last Sunday in September.



The Veterans Memorial is located within Fountain Park. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Veterans Memorial – A portion of Fountain Park honors America's soldiers with a special Veterans Memorial located at El Lago Boulevard and Kiwanis Drive. The memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day 2005, and a bronze statue of a World War I veteran was unveiled in May 2006. The memorial also features a Howitzer field artillery piece obtained through the U.S. Army. The Howitzer was manufactured during World War II and used through the Vietnam War.

There also are plaques commemorating U.S. foreign conflicts dating back to the Spanish American War. Names of area veterans are inscribed on the Memorial Wall.

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Staying active in Fountain Hills

Parks throughout Fountain Hills offer plenty of ways for youngsters to have fun and stay active. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



Anytime Fitness is just one of the gyms offering fitness options to residents. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Fountain Hills is home to fitness and recreation facilities for those looking to stay in shape, along with surrounding amenities, outdoor attractions and organizations geared toward active lifestyles.

Athletic Leagues/Recreation

Fountain Hills Community Services -- One of the main functions of the Town's Community Services Department is organizing a variety of recreational and leisure programming for all ages in Fountain Hills.

Some events are free, while others have nominal user fees. The department offers leisure classes, age-specific activities, athletic leagues, lessons, competitions and more. A sampling of offerings includes the Pickleball Club, tennis, golf, yoga, senior softball, co-ed softball and men's slow pitch softball. There are plenty of programs geared toward youth and teens, too, including summer camps and events designed for the whole family.



The local skate park is a big draw for active residents young and old. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

For more information on local recreational programs, contact Town Hall at 480-816-5170 or visit fountainhillsaz.gov/266/Parks-Recreation.

Youth Sports Organizations

Little League – The Fountain Hills Little League program is part of the national Little League organization and provides baseball and softball competition from the T-ball level (five-year-olds) up through the

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Four Peaks Park is the cite of many community events, including the annual Eggstravaganza. (Independent Newsmedia/ Ryan Winslett)

Four Peaks Park – Four Peaks Neighborhood Park, located on Del Cambre, is a 15-acre park that includes a youth soccer field with spectator seating, picnic tables, a ramada, a restroom/control building, lighted tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, ballfields and a playground.

Golden Eagle Park – Golden Eagle Park occupies 25 acres off Golden Eagle Boulevard, just north of the Fountain Hills High School on Palisades Boulevard.

It has a hardball diamond, three lighted multi-purpose fields for softball, Little League, youth soccer and high school sports, and two shaded playgrounds for children; one designed for toddlers and the other for older children.

Golden Eagle Park also boasts two lighted sand volleyball courts, two lighted basketball courts, four lighted tennis courts, pickleball courts, multipurpose fields, horseshoe pits and shaded picnic areas; one featuring a barbecue grill.

The park has paved parking lots, vending machines, concession stand, office, storage area and an activity room.

Desert Vista Park – This park is a top destination for outdoor fun, whether on two legs or four. On top of multiple soccer fields and playgrounds, this three-acre park is home to a fenced, off-leash Dog Park. Two separate pens exist, one for larger canines and the other for smaller breeds. The Dog Park is open to the public from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Dogs must be wearing a license and have proper vaccinations.

A soccer Mini-Pitch System is also available. Mini-Pitch is a fast-paced, scaled down soccer game played on a hard surface.

Desert Vista Park is also home to the Skate Park, popular for skateboarding, rollerblading and biking. It was refurbished in 2023 to include a remodeled and expanded riding area and pump track. The Skate Park is open from 7 a.m. to sunset daily. In 2024, a new exercise area was also added, including multiple freestanding machines available for public use.



Throughout the year, local parks are freuently buzzing with special events and fun-filled activities. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

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Juniors League (early teens). The primary season is held in the spring; periodic skills clinics and other activities are also offered. Visit the website at fhazll.org.

Fountain Hills Soccer Club – The Fountain Hills Soccer Club provides a quality program for all skill levels. For more information, visit the website at fhazsoccer.org or send an email to info@fhsoccerclub.org.

Youth Basketball/Flag Football – These teams are sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale McKee Branch, in Fountain Hills, offering another means for local youth to participate in a variety of activities. For information on these activities and more, visit bgcs.org/mary-ellen-robert-mckee-branch/.

Disc golf

Fountain Hills is home to a beautiful 18-hole disc golf course that wraps around Fountain Park.

The Fountain Hills Disc Golf Club also hosts events, tournaments and clinics throughout the year. For more information on the club and maps of the local course, visit discgolf.club/course/.

Pickleball Club

The Fountain Hills Pickleball Club is a member organization promoting the sport of pickleball in the community. The club is open year-round. It is located on Golden Eagle Boulevard at Fountain Hills High School. In 2020, the west courts were expanded from four to six, all lighted; additionally, there are three east courts, which are not lighted. The west courts are open from sunrise to 10 p.m.; the east courts are open at 7 a.m. on school days, sunrise all other days, and open until sunset daily. Annual dues are $75.

With more than 500 members, the club membership is open to all skill levels, and skill level play is scheduled accordingly with additional member open play daily. Orientation is available several times a year to provide potential new members with details of the game including rules, scoring, safety, etc. For more information visit fountainhillspickleball.com.

Fitness

Fountain Hills boasts a number of local indoor training facilities, gyms and the like, each offering an assortment of exercise classes, circuit training, yoga, swimming, Pilates and more. Check the business listings in the Business Directory portion of this publication for names, addresses and phone numbers of different facilities.

Desert Vista Park is also now home to an outdoor gym, free for anyone to use.

Take a hike!

Miles of trails bring you closer to nature



Hikers, mountain bikers and the occasional equestrian have challenged themselves on the trails in the Fountain Hills McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Scottsdale Sonoran Preserve and McDowell Mountain Park for many years.

As Fountain Hills was developed and following incorporation there were people in the community who saw the McDowell Mountains as an opportunity to make the town a destination for outdoor adventure seekers.

Moving through the Sonoran Desert hills on foot is a great way to get close to nature, maybe view some wildlife and get acquainted with the rugged fauna of this harsh terrain. It is a great location for nature photographers to capture the amazing environment in any season.

It took decades of effort to plan, find funding and execute what is fast becoming a destination trailhead in the Valley. Funded by development fees, the Adero Canyon Trailhead was dedicated in 2018. It is at a central location in the Preserve that provides hikers with access to miles of trails just within the Fountain Hills Preserve. Extending out from the trailhead are more than 10 miles of hiking trails that were built by volunteer Trailblazers. They were cut by hand with picks and shovels.

Volunteer trailhead hosts are available at Adero Canyon Trailhead during the cooler hiking months. They report that many visitors consider the trailhead facility a gem among similar amenities around the Valley. Some have taken to making regular visits from as far as their White Tanks Mountains base in the West Valley.

There is additional access to what amounts to hundreds of miles of trails in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve and McDowell Mountain Park.

Adero Canyon is not the only holiday for hikers in Fountain Hills. At the north edge of town there is the Eagle Mountain Trailhead that provides access into McDowell Mountain Regional Park and Dixie Mine with its history and native rock art. There is also the Lake Overlook Trail that crosses a ridgeline above Fountain Park providing spectacular views. It is a short, but challenging workout for those living near the center of town.

Those who like an urban or neighborhood feel to their walks will find the Town's network of FIT trails laid out to connect parks and other key community amenities. The FIT network is great for an early morning walk and taking the dog out for exercise right in the neighborhood.

Enjoying the great outdoors is where Fountain Hills excels with residents and visitors.

Dozens upon dozens of miles of trails in and around Fountain Hills make the area a big draw for Arizona hikers. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Fountain Hills is...



...the outdoor destination

Street bikers from across the Valley frequently use the Adero Canyon Trailhead in Fountain Hills as a turnaround point for their recreational bike rides. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Miles upon miles of opportunities

By Bob Burns
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Many visitors to Fountain Hills, and eventual residents, tell of the first time they came into the community and were struck by the stunning mountain views and the Sonoran Desert environment. While many moved to the community after that first impression, others just keep coming back to enjoy the great outdoors so close, but seemingly so far from the city.



Hiking or biking, local trails are the place to be. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Fountain Hills serves as an ideal base for those who enjoy hiking, biking – mountain and street riding – and even nearby opportunities for horseback riding.

The Adero Canyon Trailhead was constructed and is operated by the Town of Fountain Hills, and with the help of the Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills as a great source of volunteers to organize and lead outdoor activities, is an anchor that has hundreds of miles of trails within walking distance. There are more than a dozen miles of trails within the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve and approximately 50 miles within Maricopa County's adjacent McDowell Mountain Regional Park.

The Scottsdale Sonoran Preserve is directly connected to both the Fountain Hills preserve and McDowell Mountain Park trail systems. The Scottsdale preserve network includes more than 100 miles of trails as well as connections to long distance overland trails.

Feeling a break from summer heat during an early Saturday morning in September, a family of eight gathered for a trek in the Fountain Hills preserve out of the Adero Canyon Trailhead. They are local residents who have visited only a few times before, but say they are

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looking forward to the more seasonable fall and winter weather to spend more time hiking in the desert.

Seasoned hikers like Katie Kiefer have found the trails out of Adero Canyon a great option to train for longer hikes. Kiefer beat the heat in early July hitting the trail before 5 a.m. and was off by 8 a.m. She said she was training for a trip to Switzerland to hike in the Alps.

Sonoran Conservancy Trailhead hosts, as a group, talk to hundreds of hikers over the season. The visitors are local and Valley residents, out-of-state seasonal visitors and even international travelers. Those hikers consistently report that the trail systems in and accessible from Fountain Hills compare favorably with some of the best hiking venues across the country and even worldwide.

The Town of Fountain Hills sponsors an annual hiking challenge each November. The Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills volunteers have a long list of seasonal hikes and activities for the outdoor enthusiasts. These include numerous events outside Fountain Hills to Tonto National Forest Trails as well as the Four Peaks and Superstition Wilderness areas.

Rolling through the desert

On any given weekend morning it is common to see vehicles driving through Fountain Hills with mountain bikes attached as they head for McDowell Mountain Park and what is renowned as one of the finest mountain biking trail systems in the area. There are miles of trails on the park's competitive track with an eye toward varying rider skill levels. The park also hosts several major competitive events each winter season.



Katie Kiefer gets out on the trail early to beat summer heat. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Fountain Hills is also a popular destination for street riders on their bikes. Bikers who ride as far as 15 to 20 miles one way have made Adero Canyon Trailhead a popular turnaround location. Groups with dozens of riders will take a break at the trailhead before heading back. The roughly 2,400-foot elevation at the trailhead means that the bikers climb as much, or more than 1,000 feet in coming from Mesa, Tempe or north Phoenix areas.

"It is a good workout," one rider commented.

Dominick, who rode from the Arcadia area in Phoenix said, "it's beautiful out here."

Jamie Brown, who manages McDowell Mountain Cycles in Fountain Hills, said the shop has a close connection with riders in the area, and even those passing through. Brown said the shop sponsors groups and hosts rides. The list for the fall includes night rides, social rides, gravel and mountain bike rides.

"We help kids and adults get involved," Brown said. "It is awesome exercise, low impact and an opportunity for social interaction."

For more information visit fountainhillsaz.gov/parks; scfh.org; maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park-mm; or mcdowellmountaincycles.com.



This family is ready to hit the trails in the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve. They look forward to cooler weather to get out more. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

McDowell Mountain Regional Park



McDowell Mountain Regional Park offers plenty of opportunities for folks to get out and hike, ride or just enjoy nature. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)



Hikes and other special events are scheduled throughout the year. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

The sun-covered Sonoran Desert has a beauty all its own. And McDowell Mountain Regional Park (MMRP), located north of Fountain Hills, sits in the heart of the Sonoran Desert with all of that beauty on full display.

MMRP is part of the Maricopa County Regional Park System. Visitors to McDowell Mountain enjoy more than 50 miles of multi-use trails and views of the surrounding mountain ranges. Elevations in the park rise to 3,000 feet along the western boundary at the base of the McDowell Mountains.

The park is home to a competitive mountain bike track, which draws several national races throughout fall, winter and spring. Hiking and horseback riding, along with numerous ranger-led educational programs, offer multiple ways to experience this little slice of heaven.

The MMRP campground accommodates travel trailers, motor homes and tents. An online reservation system provides a virtual tour of the campsites and offers online reservation booking.

Admission:
*Single day pass – $7 per car
*Hike/bike/equestrian single day pass – $2
Standard, day-use annual pass – $85
Senior, day-use annual pass – $65
Disabled veteran, day-use annual pass – $42.50
Hike/bike/equestrian annual day pass – $30

*Annual passes provide convenient and affordable ways to visit all the county's regional parks. The passes provide day-use access to more than 120,000 acres of Sonoran Desert parkland. Day-use annual passes are not priority passes and don't guarantee entry when capacity levels have been reached. Proceeds from pass sales are used to improve visitor services.

Hours: Nov. 1 to April 30 – 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily / May 1 to Oct. 31 – 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

Nature Center hours: Nov. 1 to April 30 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily / May 1 to Oct. 31 – 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday.

480-471-0173

Maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park



Plan ahead before heading out on an adventure, even if you're not going far from home. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Be prepared when venturing into the desert

Whether biking or hiking local trails, it's important to keep a few things in mind to make sure your trip into the beautiful desert landscapes surrounding Fountain Hills is a safe one:

*Drink plenty of water ahead of your time outside and bring more than you think you will need on the trail – one quart for short hikes of two hours or less; one gallon for longer hikes. When your water is less than half gone, it's time to turn back.

*Dress appropriately. Closed-toe shoes or athletic shoes are a must. Wear loose-fitting clothing – shirts with long sleeves and long pants are recommended to help protect against the sun's rays.

*Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

*Have the proper gear: plenty of water, fully charged cell phone, snacks, maps and sunscreen. Other suggested items include a whistle and a camera. Also, an item recommended by rangers, a fine-toothed comb. It's a great tool to remove cholla cactus, just in case.

*Stay on the trail. You will be safer, and you won't damage the desert.

*If you are hiking with a dog, it's a good idea to give it foot protection. Always clean up after your pet.

*Make sure you know your limits (and your dog's). Know how far you can go, and if the weather is hot reconsider – the desert in the summer can be deadly.



Leave No Trace

Fountain Hills is surrounded by the great outdoors, and there are measures we can all take to make sure the outdoors remain "great."

The Colorado organization, Leave No Trace, features seven principles to educate people so they can provide the most effective and least resource-intensive solution to land protection. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department is a partner of Leave No Trace.

Living in the Desert Southwest offers ample opportunity to be outside, to explore, enjoy and experience nature in its truest form. But living here also means an obligation to protect the land, always providing places for new visitors to encounter the beauty in the same way the person before them did.

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation has adapted the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace. For complete details for the principles, visit maricopacountyparks.net/how-to-minimize-your-impact-on-parks-and-preserves/. Here is the general list:

- Know before you go
- Stick to trails and camp overnight right
- Trash your trash and pick up poop
- Leave it as you find it
- Be careful with fire
- Keep wildlife wild
- Share our trails and manage your pet

Additional resources and information can be found at the Leave No Trace website, LNT.org.

Hiking Trails

Get to know the area's hot spots

More than 100 miles of hiking and mixed-use trails give Fountain Hills residents and visitors access to a world-class experience in the Sonoran Desert.

Area trails are intertwined within the boundaries of Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve, McDowell Mountain Regional Park and the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve. These paths lead to unsurpassed views, wildlife habitats and natural beauty not found anywhere else in the world. Hikes range from easy to extremely difficult, providing the kind of walk or ride any lover of the outdoors can enjoy.

The Trails

Few places in the Southwest rival the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Fountain Hills is in the heart of this unique ecosystem, and the miles of trails allow for exploring flora and fauna firsthand.

Within the confines of Fountain Hills are the Adero Canyon Trailhead, Golden Eagle Trailhead and the Overlook Trail. Nearby is McDowell Mountain Regional Park, while many other trails, including those within Tonto National Forest, are within easy driving distance.

Fountain Hills Interconnected Trails (FIT) is a series of urban neighborhood trails for casual walking or bicycle riding in the community. The Civic Center Trail is an approximately 3-mile loop beginning in Fountain Park and returning to the same place in the parking lot off El Lago Boulevard. The Falcon Trail circles the neighborhood around Fountain Hills High School. The trailhead is in Golden Eagle Park. The challenging 3.8-mile Sunridge Trail encircles the SunRidge subdivision using Palisades Boulevard, Sunridge Drive, Desert Canyon Drive and Golden Eagle Boulevard.

Golden Eagle Trailhead

The trailhead is located at the end of Golden Eagle Boulevard. Hikers must park in the public parking lot behind the "Ranch House" at the Eagles Nest subdivision just outside the community gate house. Hike the half mile or so through the subdivision to the McDowell Mountain Park boundary. This is a private subdivision so hikers must stay on the marked sidewalk. There is a $2 McDowell Park user fee to be deposited in cash at the "Iron Ranger" post where the trail enters the park.

This access is for the Dixie Mine Trail, inside McDowell Mountain Park. The abandoned, 240-foot-

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From short community strolls to desert treks that will take hours to complete, local trails provide something for every skill level. (Independent Newsmedia/Duke Kirkendoll)

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deep mine has nearly 500 feet of tunnels, but access into the mine is now prohibited. State mining officials use the mine to train inspectors. The hike is five miles round trip.

The Sonoran Trail leading into the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve intersects with the Dixie Mine Trail inside the park.

The Town Lake Overlook Trail is an easy to moderate 1.5-mile hike many can reach from their front doors. The trail, which starts and ends on Panorama Drive just across from Fountain Park, is difficult to see from the road, but well worth the investigation. Views of the McDowell Mountains, Fountain Lake, Four Peaks, Red Mountain, the Superstition and Goldfield Mountain ranges all are visible from the highest point of the hike.

McDowell Mountain Preserve and Trails

The Fountain Hills McDowell Sonoran Preserve within the town's boundaries brings desert hiking right into the backyards – literally, in some cases – of Fountain Hills residents. The Adero Canyon Trailhead provides easy access to the trail system.

Toll Brothers, the Adero Canyon developer, deeded 82 acres of land to the preserve within the town boundary, which now includes 822 acres owned by the Town of Fountain Hills with an additional 200 acres owned by the City of Scottsdale, providing 1,022 acres of preserve within the town.

The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills has a crew of volunteer Trailblazers who, over a number of years constructed by hand tools more than 10 miles of different trails. The Sonoran Conservancy has now added volunteer trailhead hosts to Adero Canyon Trailhead to provide advice and information to hikers.

Adero Canyon Trailhead

The trailhead is at the south end of the Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve. The location allows access from Fountain Hills into the Scottsdale Sonoran Preserve system of more than 100 miles of trails as well as McDowell Mountain Regional Park with its 50 plus miles of trails. The Adero Canyon Trailhead is located at 14800 N. Eagle Ridge Drive.

Overlook Trail
Length: .6-mile
Difficulty: Moderate

The Overlook Trail begins along the Ridgeline Trail (at .3 miles) and then has a challenging climb to offer spectacular views of the Verde Valley and the Town of Fountain Hills. This trail is different from the "Overlook Trail" above Fountain Park.

Promenade Trail

Length: .93-mile
Difficulty: moderate

This old Jeep trail is a wide path and considered a relatively easy hike along the length of the Preserve.

Western Loop Trail
Length: 1.2 miles
Difficulty: Extremely difficult

With a 573-foot elevation change, this is a hiker's challenge. The 360-degree views are the reward. The loop connects to the Andrews/Kinsey Trail on the south end and drops back to connect with the Promenade Trail for a cool-down walk back to the trail's beginning.

Sonoran Trail

Length: 2.6 miles
Difficulty: Difficult

Connecting the Promenade Trail and the Dixie Mine Trail inside McDowell Mountain Regional Park, this trail is strenuous. Hikers and bicyclists welcome.

A parallel path known as the Lower Sonoran Trail offers alternative routes. There are crossovers between the trails providing loop hikes.

Andrews/Kinsey Trail
Length: 3.5 miles/ 1 mile to McDowell Sonoran Preserve boundary/ 3.5 miles to the Sunrise Trail.
Difficulty: Moderately difficult

Named for two icons of McDowell Mountain preservation and trail building, Chet Andrews and Roy Kinsey, this trail connects the Promenade Trail in Fountain Hills with the Sunrise Trail in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The connection provides access to hundreds of miles of trails in Fountain Hills, Scottsdale and McDowell Mountain Park.

Ridgeline Trail and Lower Ridgeline Trails

Length: 4.5 miles – out and back loop.
Difficulty: Moderately difficult.

Follows the Ridgeline south from the Adero Canyon Trailhead to a location above the Scottsdale Adero Resort. Provides scenic views east across Fountain Hills toward the Mazatzal Mountains, Four Peaks and the Superstitions. Looking west views include Scottsdale and the Valley. Can be done straight out and straight back without looping.

North Leg Trail
Length 1.4 miles out and return
Difficulty: Moderate

This is an out and back trail that begins from the Promenade Trail and runs along a ridge line. There is some up and down climbing with great views into Fountain Hills.

Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden

Length: 1.2 miles – out and back
Difficulty: Easy

The Botanical Garden offers an easy hike on eight acres of the native Sonoran Desert. The trail has informative signs about desert plants along the route, and has an eBird site. The trail is located on Fountain Hills Boulevard about 1.5 miles south of Palisades. A feature is a historic stone dam on Emerald Wash built by ranchers in the 1940s.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Places of interest in and around town

Here's a rundown of some unique points of interest in and around town for those looking to take in the desert scenery, snap some photos or take a swim:

Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden – This local destination began in 1975 and was restored in 2006 as a wildlife preserve and garden between Kingstree Boulevard and Inca Avenue. Sonoran Desert plants are identified along a half-mile trail on the desert slopes with an elevation from 1,696 to 1,800 feet. The trail features an abandoned P-Bar Ranch campsite next to the 1941 constructed dam wall. The botanical garden was founded by the late Jane Haynes. The late Ann Stavely served as the facility's first director.

Four Peaks Wilderness, Tonto National Forest – The road to Four Peaks is located about 15 miles northeast of Fountain Hills off State Highway 87. Take the gravel road about five miles north of the Saguaro Lake intersection, which leads to a four-wheel drive trail that goes to the dominant saddle of Four Peaks. For details, call 602-225-5200 or visit fs.usda.gov/tonto.

Mount McDowell – This 2,550-foot-high landmark is southeast of Fountain Hills. More commonly called Red Rock or Red Mountain for its distinctive coloring, or Gunsight Mountain for its unique feature appearing as a gunsight, the official name is Mount McDowell. Named after Gen. Irvin McDowell, who served as a U.S. Cavalry officer during the Civil War and in Arizona, the mountain is on the Salt River Pima Indian Community and not open to public access.

Salt and Verde Rivers – Fountain Hills has two major rivers nearby. The Verde originates in Chino Valley in north central Arizona, while the Salt is created by the convergence of the White and the Black rivers in eastern Arizona. Verde River use in this area is limited; Fort McDowell Yavapai Community prohibits fishing or boating on the river on the reservation. The Salt is open to recreational use.

Saguaro Lake – One of four man-made lakes on the Salt River supplying irrigation and hydro-electric power to central Arizona. The lake offers boating, water skiing and fishing, full-service marina with a restaurant, several swimming areas and picnic grounds. Saguaro Lake Marina is about 18 miles from the center of Fountain Hills. For more information, visit fs.usda.gov/recarea/tonto.

While surrounded by beautiful landscapes, the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden brings beautiful planlife from the desert into downtown Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



Cycling: Fun on the road or on the trails

Whether you're looking to get in a quick ride or are gearing up for a long haul, Fountain Hills has evolved into a biker's paradise.

While plenty of residents like to cruise around on two (or sometimes three) wheels, the varied biking opportunities available throughout the community also serve as a big draw for regular visitors.

Mountain biking is an area favorite. There are numerous trails for bikers of all levels in and around Fountain Hills. Street biking also is popular within the community, with miles of paved roads to explore, many with bike lanes.

While standard bikes are allowed pretty much everywhere, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department and the Town of Fountain Hills generally do not allow electric bicycles on the trails at McDowell Mountain Regional Park and the town's McDowell Mountain Preserve trails.

Bicycles are considered vehicles in Arizona, and riders must obey traffic laws: Ride with traffic, obey traffic signals and signs, signal turns and yield to pedestrians

There are bicycle shops serving the Fountain Hills community, offering everything needed to get rolling as well as plenty of information about area biking opportunities. Local riders also use "Cycling Fountain Hills" on Facebook to connect with other enthusiasts in a private group totaling nearly 500 members.

Fountain Hills is a popular destination for cyclists, whether training for a big race or enjoying a more leisurely ride with the family. (Metro Creative)

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Dr. Rauter graduated from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry. He completed advanced cosmetic training at the Las Vegas Institute of Advanced Dental Studies, and is a member of the American Dental Association & Academy of General Dentistry

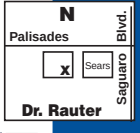
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OFF-ROADING

A favorite pastime in the great outdoors of the Sonoran Desert is off-roading.

Fountain Hills is surrounded by numerous off-roading options. Popular nearby locations include Tonto National Forest, including the Four Peaks area, Rolls OHV area, Saguaro Lake Cove and the Apache Trail (well-maintained dirt road suitable for passenger cars).

The town also is home to a couple of local tour guides and Jeep rental facilities for those wishing to explore the desert.

Riders should take proper precautions when exploring in the summer months. Bring an adequate supply of drinking water, as well as have a general idea of the time needed to complete the trip. Let someone know where you will be and when you plan to return.

Desert Dog Off-Road Adventures
17212 E. Shea Blvd.
Fountain Hills
azadventures.com
480-837-3966

Fort McDowell Adventures
14803 N. Hiawatha Hood Rd.
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fortmcdowelladventures.com
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Off-roading is a popular pasttime in the Sonoran Desert. (Metro Creative)



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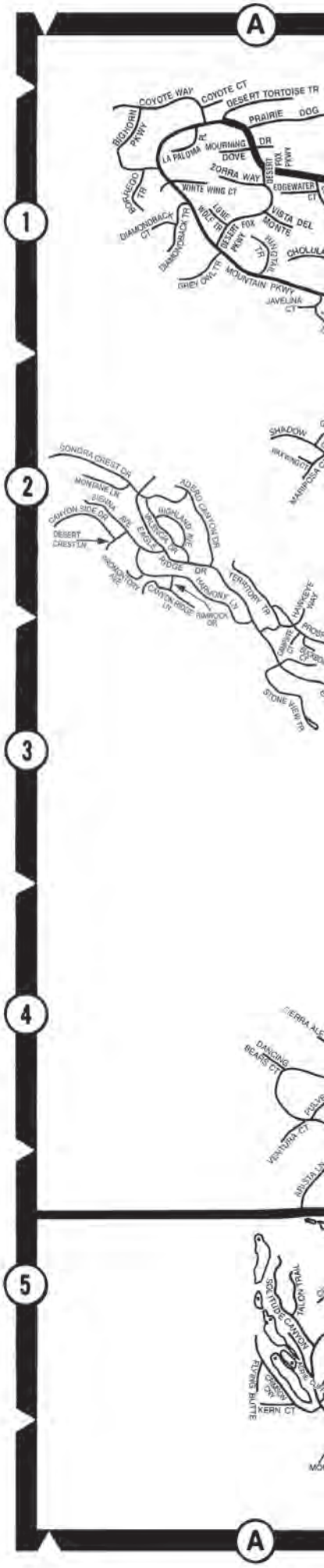
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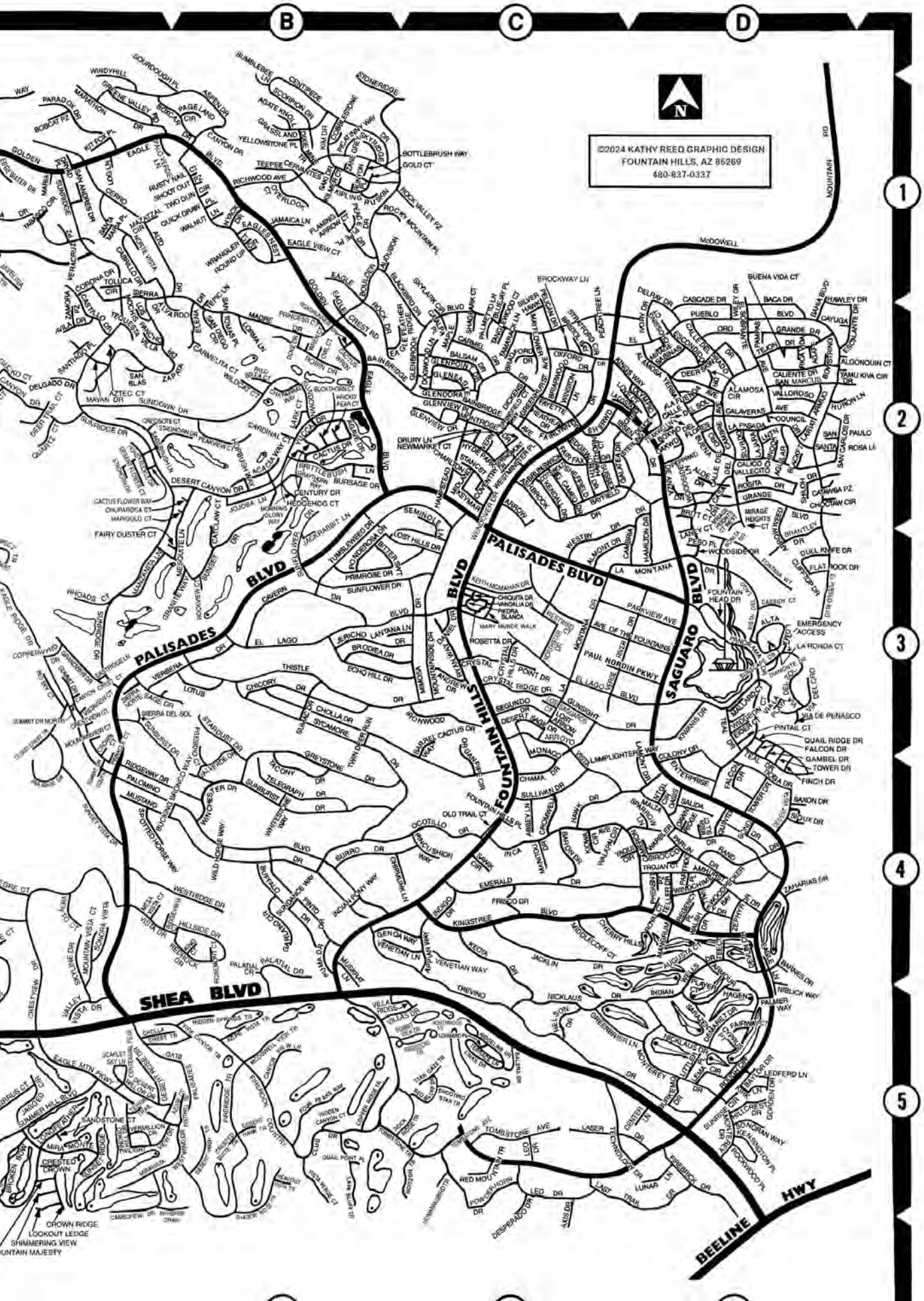
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LOOKOUT LEDGE
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TOMBSTONE AVE 5:C
TOMBSTONE TR 5:B
TOWER DR 4:D
TREVINO DR 4-5:B-D
TROJAN CT 4:D
TUMBLEWEED DR 3:B
TWILIGHT VIEW DR 5:A
TWIN DEER RUN 3:B
TWO GUN CIR 1:B

VALENCIA DR 2:A
VALLECITO DR 2:D
VALLEY DR 4:D
VALLEY VISTA DR 5:A
VALLOROSO DR 2:D
VALVERDE DR 3:B
VANDALIA WAY 3:C
VENETIAN LN 4:B-C
VENETIAN WAY 4:C
VENTO CT 4:A
VENTURA CT 4:A
VERACRUZ PZ 1:A
VERBENA DR 3:A-B
VERDE RIVER DR 3:C-D
VERMILLION DR 5:A
VERN PL 2:C
VIA DE PENASCO 3:D
VIA DEL ORO 3:D
VIA DEL SOL 3:D
VIA LA PLAYA 3:D
VIENTO CT 4:A
VILLA RIDGE 5:B-C
VILLAS DR 5:B-C
VISTA DEL LAGO 3:D
VISTA DEL MONTE 1:A
VISTA DR 4:A-B
VISTA VERDE CT 5:B
VISTAVIEW CT 3:A

WALAPAI CIR 4:C
WALNUT LN 1:B
WALSH DR 4:D
WARBLER WAY 4:D
WAX WING CT 2:A
WENDOVER DR 2:C
WESTBY DR 3:C
WESTMINSTER PL 2:C
WESTRIDGE DR 4:A-B
WESTWIND CT 3:C
WESTWIND DR 5:B
WHISPER DRAW 5:A
WHITE WING CT 1:A
WHITESTONE WAY 4:B
WIDGEON CT 3:D
WILDCAT CT 2:B
WILD HORSE WAY 4:B
WILEY DR 2:D
WINCHESTER DR 4:B
WINDCHIME DR 4:D
WINDYHILL RD 1:A
WINSTON LN 2:C
WOODPECKER BAY 4:D
WOODSIDE DR 2:D
WOODSIDE LN 2:D
WRANGLER CT 1:B
WREN CT 2:B

YAMU KIVA CIR 2:D
YAQUI CIR 4:C
YELLOWSTONE PL 1:B
YERBA BUENA WAY 2:D
YUCCA DR 2:B

ZAHARIAS DR 4:D
ZAMORA PZ 2:A
ZANE GREY LN 1:B
ZAPATA DR 2:A
ZEPHYR DR 4:D
ZORRA WAY 1:A

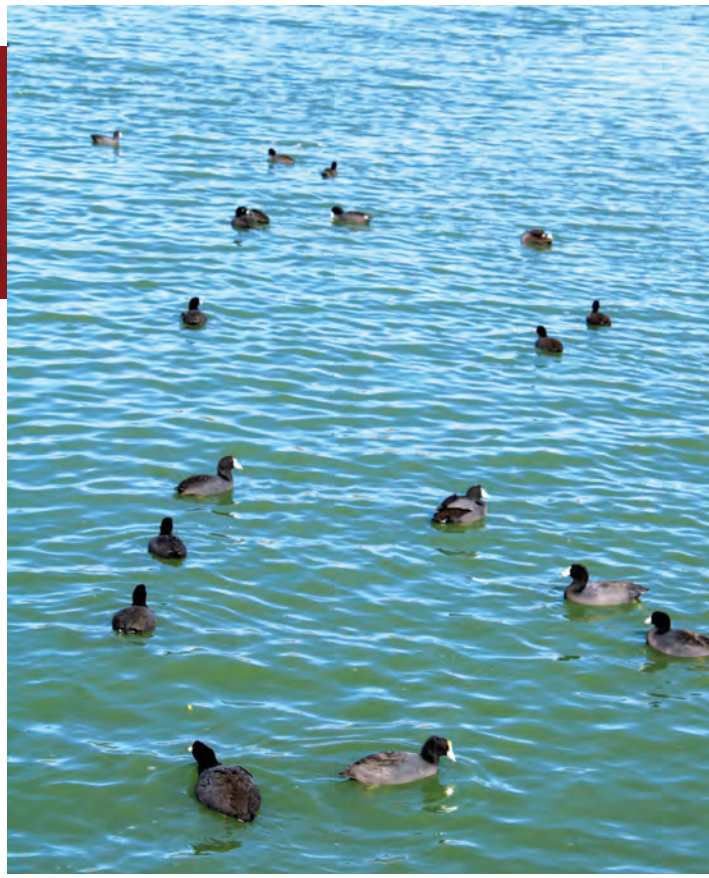
Don't feed the animals

With Fountain Hills nestled within the Sonoran Desert, there is a great temptation for residents to feed or leave food out for the wildlife that shares the community. Local authorities remind everyone this is not only a bad idea but, if done intentionally, it is also illegal. Please, do not feed the wildlife.

Anyone living close to wildlife should do everything possible so that the animals do not become too comfortable around people. This can lead to wildlife attacking people or pets and possibly leading to the animals having to be killed.

Food should never be left out for wildlife. Do not feed outdoor pets more than they need, as simply leaving a dish outdoors with dog food will attract wildlife. All trash should be kept in proper receptacles to avoid attracting curious critters.

Arizona Game and Fish Department has more information on living with wildlife at azgfd.com, including additional ways to keep hungry animals from rummaging too close to your home.



It's not only a bad idea to feed desert wildlife in Fountain Hills, it's against the law. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



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Sharing the desert with local wildlife

The desert is a big place, and home to countless critters. (Independent Newsmedia/Duke Kirkendoll)

Living in a desert community filled with critters of every shape and size, awareness is the name of the game.

Nestled along the edge of the McDowell Mountains, Fountain Hills lies within the Sonoran Desert, one of the harshest and most beautiful environments on earth. The arid climate is home to a wide variety of unique plants and animals that can withstand extreme conditions, which means residents and visitors must take precautions to live in harmony with the natural world around them.

Desert critters are more common in this area due to the undeveloped land in and around the community. People may be surprised by how many kinds of living things inhabit this part of the Sonoran Desert. Following are some of the desert neighbors everyone should keep an eye out for.

Rattlesnakes

Greatly feared and frequently misunderstood, 11 species of rattlesnakes have been identified in Arizona.

The most common include the western diamondback, Mohave, sidewinder, black tailed, speckled and tiger.

The bites are rarely fatal to humans but are extremely painful. Caution and common sense should be used when enjoying Arizona's great outdoors. Most bites happen when the victim disturbs or attempts to handle the snake. It's far better to walk around or avoid it. Snakes like to curl up near entryways, so watch your step when you're on your way out the door. Look carefully before placing hands or feet in rocky areas or under bushes or debris.

Scorpions

There are approximately 36 species of scorpions in Arizona. All scorpions can sting, but in the United States only the bark scorpion causes medical problems.

Unfortunately, this venomous scorpion is the most common one found in and around houses in the Sonoran Desert. It chooses to live in defined geographic areas. If a dwelling is built on that geographic area, scorpions will most likely come inside.

The bark scorpion measures from 1 to 1½ inches in length, making it one of the smaller species of scorpions.

Bees

The everyday business of honey bees is generally not too much to buzz about, even when they settle down under the eves or the deck of a home.

A significant exception is the Africanized honey bee, which is more aggressive than the European honey bee and is commonly known as "killer bees."

The sting of the Africanized bee is no more potent than that of the European bees, and they also can only sting once. The danger is they may attack in great numbers.

Black Widow Spiders

A mature female black widow spider has a large, black, shiny body and measures approximately 3/8-inch-long, with one-inch legs. An hour-glass shape in bright red or orange color can be found on the abdomen. Males are smaller, brown in color and non-venomous.

Black widow spider webs are very irregular and strong. They're most often found in areas where water and insects are readily available. Around the home, they can be found under outdoor furniture, barbecue grills, pool pumps, and in storage areas, garages, wood piles, block fences and the corners of porches and patios.

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Javelinas

Javelinas can be destructive, making quick work of trash receptacles and other items left outside. They should be given their space. They have weak eyesight, but they are aware of their surroundings and will get aggressive if they feel threatened. And as the book says, "don't call them pig." Javelinas are collared peccaries.

Gila Monsters

This large, heavy-bodied beaded lizard displays contrasting markings of pink, yellow, orange and black. It measures up to 24 inches in length and weighs up to two pounds.

While it is the only venomous lizard in the United States, it is a shy creature. Bites to humans usually happen when it is cornered or picked up.

The Gila monster prefers canyon bottoms, rocky areas and outlying desert residential areas. It spends less than two weeks per year above ground.

Poison Control Center

People may consider calling the Poison Control Center for advice or direction in the event of a bite or sting from one of these desert dwellers. That telephone number is (800) 222-1222. However, in Fountain Hills, Fire Department medics will respond to bites or stings as a medical emergency. A response is activated by calling 911.

Other Precautions

*Remove debris from the yard.

*Wear heavy work gloves when working in the yard.

*Keep doors and windows sealed tight with weather stripping.

*Make sure openings are sealed, closed or encircled with double-sided sticky tape.

*Fill cracks in the foundation and around water faucets.

*Look before placing a hand under or into something.

*Make regular checks for beehives or swarms. If found, have them removed by pest control or beekeeping experts.

*Operating equipment that produces sound vibrations could disturb beehives or wasp nests.

*Check clothing or linens dried outside before bringing them in the house.

*Do not leave shoes, boots, clothes or towels outside.

*Wear shoes outside, especially at night around the pool.

*Call the local fire department for help in removing rattlesnakes or Gila monsters that don't leave on their own.

Wildlife

People in Fountain Hills often see wildlife in their own backyards. The four-legged desert denizens include coyotes, javelinas, bobcats, mountain lions and even bears have been known to wander down from the mountains and into Fountain Hills.

In general, these animals pose the greatest danger to small pets and children. While an encounter with a wild animal can be exhilarating, they are wild animals and should not be approached.

Don't run away from an animal; it could go into an instinctive chase mode and pursue you.

Stand and face the animal, look it in the eye and raise and wave your arms to appear larger and more intimidating.

Throw rocks if they can be obtained without crouching or bending over. Keep children close and don't allow them to run.

Desert animals come into populated areas looking for food, water and shelter. Don't invite them in. Coyotes and javelinas will tear up the garbage and look for dog food or bird seed. Bobcats have been known to curl up on the patio furniture and lounge by the pool on a sunny afternoon. Don't intentionally feed wild animals. When they become accustomed to people, they are most dangerous.

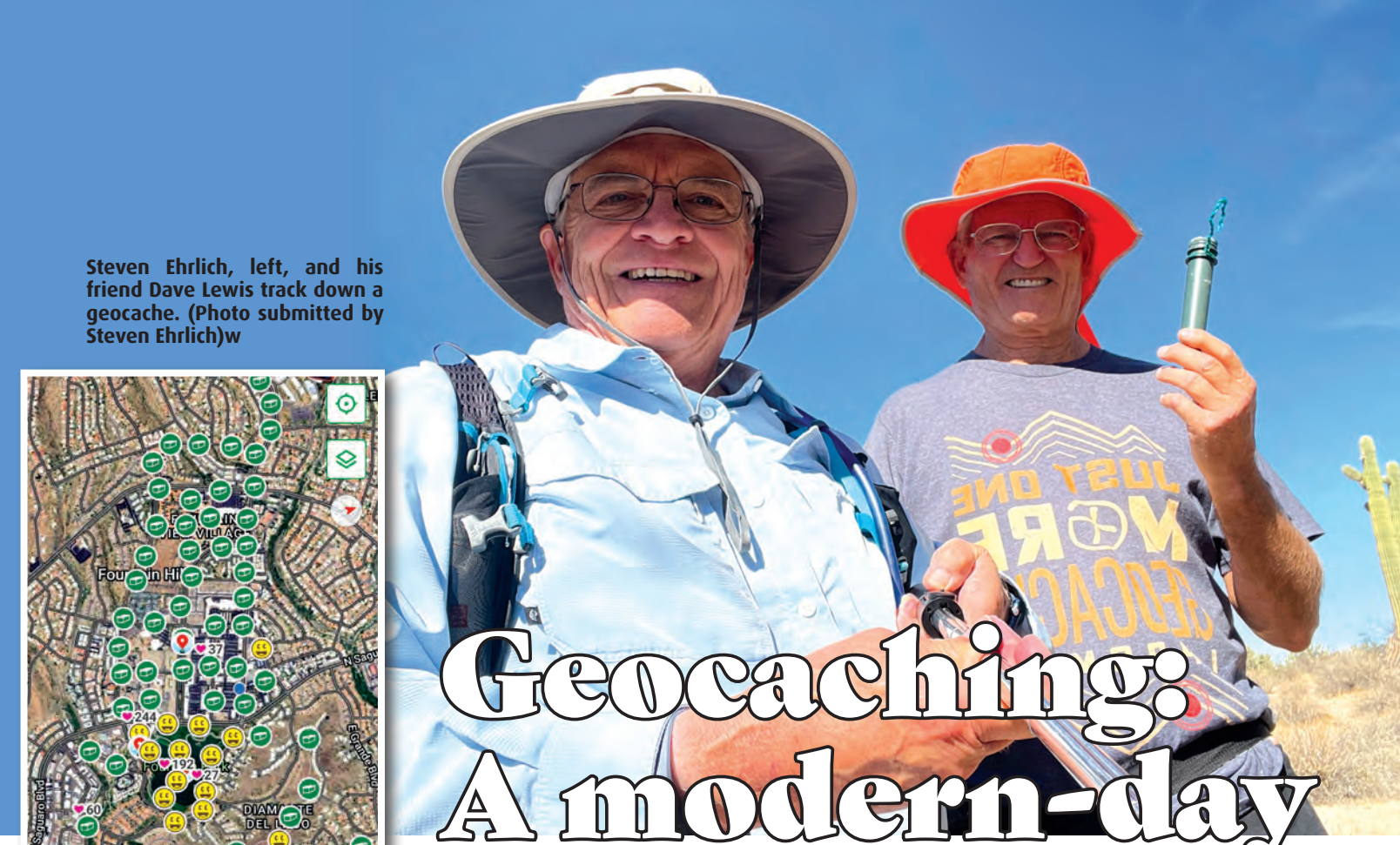
Don't keep pet food or water where it is easily accessible by wildlife. Take steps to prevent rabbits, rodents and other potential food sources for bigger animals away from your property.

Fishing

Although fishing is not allowed in Fountain Lake, the community is near a number of great fishing sites. Try your luck in a trio of lakes (Saguaro, Canyon, Roosevelt), a couple of rivers (Salt and Verde) and even a collection of urban lakes in the Valley (Chaparral Park, Riverview Park). Check out the Arizona Game and Fish website for licensing, lake levels, stocking schedules and fishing reports (azgfd.com/fishing-2). Licenses are required for urban fishing, as well. For more information on urban fishing opportunities, visit scottsdaleaz.gov/outdoor-activities/fishing-boating and mesaparks.com/parks-facilities.



While you can't fish in town, there are options for anglers nearby. (Metro Creative)



Steven Ehrlich, left, and his friend Dave Lewis track down a geocache. (Photo submitted by Steven Ehrlich)w

Geocaching: A modern-day treasure hunt

A look at the map of the downtown Fountain Hills area and all its caches. (Courtesy Geocaching.com)

By Ryan Winslett

You may not be able to board a pirate ship and cruise around the Caribbean searching for buried loot these days but, thanks to geocaching, all you need to hunt down real-world hidden treasures is a smartphone and a keen eye.

So, what is geocaching? In short, someone hides a container (or "cache") out in the world, posts the coordinates for its location online, then others can use those coordinates to hunt for it. Geocaching got its start in 2000 and, in the quarter century that followed, millions of caches have been placed all over the world, including hundreds in Fountain Hills and the surrounding areas. There are dozens in the downtown area alone, hidden in plain sight, waiting to be discovered.

Paul Appeldorn and Steven Ehrlich are two locals who enjoy geocaching quite a bit. Appeldorn has been into geocaching for many years and said he got into the hobby because it gave him a reason to get out and explore. And he keeps involved because new geocaches pop up all the time.

"It's fun because, no matter where you go, you'll find geocaches," he said. "Go to Hong Kong. If you want to geocache while you're there, you'll find them…Just looking at Fountain Hills, they're everywhere."

As for who should give geocaching a try, Appeldorn said "it's good for anybody."

"From retired to little kids," he said. "It's fabulous to walk by a geocaching family and see the kids having so much fun."

Ehrlich had a similar tale to tell, starting his adventures with geocaching back in 2019. He ran into someone on the Dixie Mine Trail who happened to be out caching. The rest, as they say, is history. Ehrlich eventually adopted hides from a friend and, combined with his own, he now maintains about 150 caches in the area.

"I'm a hiker, so it's a great winter hobby and it helps keep me in shape," Ehrlich said. "And the fun of hiding them keeps me involved."

When it comes to advice for those new to the hobby, Ehrlich reminds everyone the official geocaching app offers plenty of help to narrow the search down. Cache descriptions give advice, hints can be provided and, of

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course, other geocachers leave notes when they make (or don't make) a find.

"Read the notes," he said. "People give guidance or take pictures that can help. Or if people say they didn't find it, you know it may be gone and hopefully the owner will take care of it soon."

Getting into geocaching is easier than ever. All you really need is a smartphone and a pen. The entire process of hiding and seeking a cache can be carried out on the free app, and the pen is used for signing a log when you find the hidden treasure. Yes, the GPS you already have on your smartphone is good enough to lead you within feet, if not right on top of, the vast majority of geocaches out there.

The process is straightforward. Someone hides a geocache out in the world. These can range in size from a button to a metal ammo canister. They can be simple containers hidden under a pile of rocks or hanging in a tree, or a hider might get really clever and disguise their cache to look like an everyday object. They post the coordinates online and, once approved, the world is invited to find the cache and log their visits. If the container is big enough, trinkets may be included, and seekers are invited to take them or add small treasures of their own.

For those who wish to learn more, plenty of additional details can be found at geocaching.com/play. That's where you'll also find links to the official Geocaching app. From there, you can create an account, then hide and seek caches on the website or straight from the app. While the majority of features and hidden caches are available to free users, there's also a paid option that grants some perks, including additional caches to find.



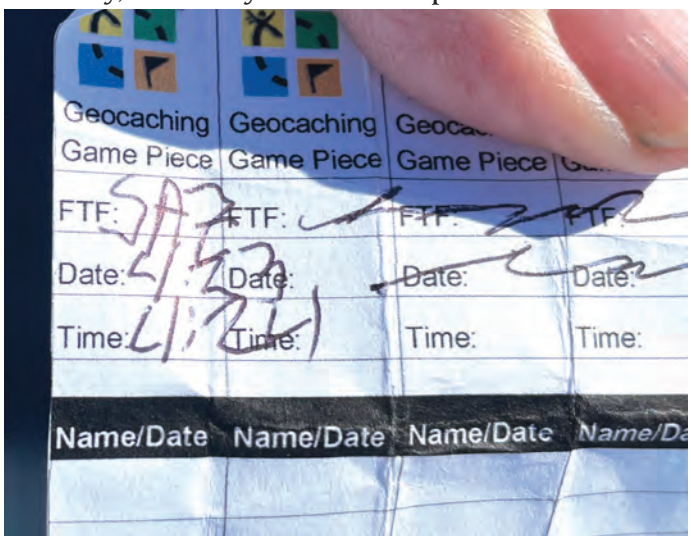
In Arizona, a common geocache to discover is a small container hanging in a tree or under a pile of rocks. (Photo submitted by Steven Ehrlich)



A look at an average geocache, complete with a log sheet to sign and little treasures for folks to collect or swap with. (Photo submitted by Steven Ehrlich)

And with plenty of caches already hidden in Fountain Hills, including local parks and along nearby trails, it's easy to give the hobby a try without having to go far. You may even be in walking distance of a hidden treasure right now.

"It's the thrill of the hunt," Appeldorn said. "Who doesn't love to find something? Pirates used to do it back in the day, and now you can be the pirate."



One thing most caches have in common is a log sheet to sign before officially claiming the find on the app. (Photo submitted by Steven Ehrlich)



Fountain Park Hotel is located in downtown Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/ Ryan Winslett)

Accommodations

Plenty of places to stay, in and around town

With so much to do in and around Fountain Hills, it's a good thing there are quite a few options for folks looking to stay overnight, book a vacation, hold a company retreat, get out of the house for a staycation or make sure you're near all the action during any of the big annual events.

Here's a rundown of accommodations available in and around Fountain Hills:

Hotels

ADERO Scottsdale, 13225 N. Eagle Ridge Drive, Fountain Hills, 480-333-1900; aderoscottsdale.com. ADERO offers unique amenities to its guests including hiking and stargazing.

Spark by Hilton, 17105 E. Shea Blvd., 480-837-5343; sparkbyhilton.com/fountainhillsscottsdale. This was



Adero Scottsdale is tucked away in the hills along Palisades Boulevard. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



Spark by Hilton, located on Shea Boulevard, gives visitors quick access to Highway 87. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills' first hotel.

Fountain Park Hotel, 12800 N. Saguaro Blvd., 480-837-6565; BestWestern.com.

Inn at Eagle Mountain, 9800 N. Summer Hill Blvd., 480-816-3000; innateaglemountain.com.

Sonesta Select Scottsdale at Mayo Clinic Campus, 13444 E. Shea Blvd., 480-860-4000; sonesta.com.

We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort, 10438 WeKoPa Way, 480-789-5300; wekopacasinoresort.com.

Other Options

Eagle View RV Resort, (Asah Gweh Oou-o) 9605 N. Fort McDowell Rd., 480-789-5310 or eagleviewrvresort.com. Offers 150 RV sites, additional amenities including a pool and a short drive to We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park, 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive, 602-506-2930, ext. 3; maricopacountyparks.net. Boasts 76 sites for tent or RV camping and access to a variety of park and area activities.



A Fountain Hills High School student takes a putt at Eagle Mountain Golf Club. Local courses welcome students for practice and competitions. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Golf Courses



Golf courses in and around Fountain Hills offer beauty, challenge and fun.

The Fountain Hills area has an impressive five local courses catering to golfers of all skill levels. The desert landscape offers a stunning natural canvas for each course; and the mountainous terrain creates an atmosphere of varied landscapes any golfer will enjoy.

Area golf courses

Desert Canyon – This 18-hole course features fairways situated on varied terrain and weaves around stunning views of mountains and homes. At 6,415 yards, the par-71 course is an equal challenge to both low and high handicap golfers.

The original course in Fountain Hills was designed by Johnny Allen, who also designed courses in McCulloch projects in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., and Pueblo West, Colo.

The course is open for public play at the posted fees; 10440 N. Indian Wells Drive; call 480-837-1173 for seasonal greens fees or visit desertcanyongolf.com.

The Golf Club at Eagle Mountain – The club recently completed a golf course renovation and enhancement project. The renovation of the Scott Miller-designed course focused on drainage, irrigation and bunkers, all adding to superior playability. Nestled in the southern ravines of the McDowell Mountains, this par 71, 6,777-yard course is ideal for golfers of all skill levels.

The Golf Club at Eagle Mountain, located at 14915 E. Eagle Mountain Pkwy., is a daily fee course with a private club feel. For tournament or general information, or to book tee times call 480-816-1234 or visit eaglemtn.com.

FireRock Country Club – FireRock Country Club is the first and only private, gated golf club community in Fountain Hills and includes a 29,000-square-foot clubhouse. It also offers a tennis complex and an 18-hole private golf course designed by award-winning architect Gary Panks.

Call 480-836-8100 or visit firerockcc.com for more information on golf and club memberships. FireRock Country Club is located at 16000 E. FireRock Country Club Drive.

SunRidge Canyon – The SunRidge Canyon Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 71 public fee course covering 215 acres. Each hole has a minimum of four tees, a double green is located on Hole No. 17, and the course is a non-returning nine, which means hole No. 9 is about a mile from the clubhouse.

SunRidge Canyon is located at 13100 N. SunRidge Dr.; 480-837-5100. For more information, visit sunridgegolf.com.

We-Ko-Pa – We-Ko-Pa is located east of Fountain Hills and is owned by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. The name We-Ko-Pa is the Yavapai word for Four Peaks Mountain, which is sacred to the tribe.

The club features two courses, Saguaro and Cholla, which have been designed to enable golfers of all skill levels to fully enjoy a challenging round of golf. For more information on We-Ko-Pa Golf Club call 480-836-9000 or visit online at wekopa.com. Visit We-Ko-Pa at 18200 E. WeKoPa Way.



Civic Center: The hub of the community

Many pieces of art can be found outside and inside buildings in the Civic Center. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

With a full view of the world-famous Fountain and many amenities gathered in one location, the Town's Civic Center is the heartbeat of the community.

Located at the intersection of the Avenue of the Fountains and La Montana Drive, Town Hall serves a critical role in hosting municipal offices and services, and is a symbol of local government, democracy and a place where members of the community can voice their opinions, present ideas and ask questions of their elected officials.

Fountain Hills is home to one of the largest public art collections in the state. Located at the center of the Cutillo Civic Plaza, the Centennial Circle sculpture garden houses over 30 art pieces where the public can gaze upon striking statues set against Fountain Hills' stunning mountain ranges.

Around the Centennial Circle orbits some of the town's most adored public spaces. The Community Center serves as the town's multipurpose cultural center, which boasts 31,000- square-feet of space designed to accommodate a host of activities available to the public, solidifying itself as the town's hub for local art, culture and recreation.

The grand ballroom accommodates as many as 800 individuals and the 5,000 square foot lobby is used frequently for staging exhibitions and large receptions.

The Fountain Hills Library, a branch of the Maricopa County Library District, is home to more than 40 public access computers and a resale bookstore. More than 50,000 books, eBooks, videos, DVDs, audio CDs and magazines are housed at the library, and many public events are held here for all ages.

Activities are hosted by the library throughout the year, including events for kids, teens, adults and families.

The Fountain Hills Library is neighbor to the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center, a must-see museum for area history which breaks down the timeline of the town and the lower Verde River Valley.

The Museum invites its visitors to explore the lives of early settlers, Native Americans and present-day figures and events, including rotating exhibits.

Nearby lies the town's beloved Community Garden. A peaceful respite for gardening and gathering to connect with nature, the Community Garden offers classes in soil hydration, landscaping and even cooking classes that pair garden vegetables in thoughtfully prepared recipes. The Community Garden includes an array of garden beds, pavilions and a gathering area for scheduled events.

Completing the revolution around Centennial Circle will be the International Dark Sky Discovery Center, expected to open in 2026. This observatory will include a hyperspace planetarium with digital immersive technology to deliver images on an enormous 39-foot diameter, tilted dome.

The facility will house the largest telescope in the Valley and will further STEM education, research and tourism in Fountain Hills, which is the 17th community to earn the prestigious designation of a Dark Sky Community.

The Dark Sky Discovery Center was designed by PGAV Destinations, a St. Louis-based firm that has designed education-focused facilities such as the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the Kennedy Space Center.

In 2024, a massive shade structure was erected over Centennial Circle, making it an even cooler (literally) location for community events. That structure is complemented by new benches, giving folks even more places to relax, enjoy the views or gather with friends.

Community Center



From left, Community Center staff members Joann Sabath and Debra Rowe serve up mocktails at the Sip and Socialize member appreciation event at the Community Center. (Photo courtesy of Skylar Thomas)

Where the people of Fountain Hills gather

Located in the heart of Fountain Hills, the 31,000-square-foot Community Center was refurbished in 2021 and provides space for local events and activities, as well as a place for residents and out-of-town users to host everything from wedding receptions and musical concerts to parties, meetings, conferences and the like.

Both youth and senior organizations frequently make use of the Community Center, with everything from political clubs and service organizations to the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce and Fountain Hills Unified School District renting space to host annual events.

The Community Center accommodates a variety of meeting needs. The 5,000-square-foot all-purpose lobby flows perfectly into the 8,200-square-foot Grand Ballroom. The ballroom can be divided into a number of configurations, and smaller breakout rooms also are available throughout the Community Center. The center features a fully equipped service kitchen, allowing clients to bring in their own catering.

Fountain Hills Community Center is located at 13001 N. La Montana Drive. For booking information and other details, call 480-816-5200 or visit fountainhillsaz.gov.

Plenty of activities

The Fountain Hills Community Center is home to dozens of activities geared toward every walk of life.

To get in on the fun, residents and non-residents can purchase annual memberships to the Community Center. Featured member activities at the Community Center include educational classes, social interaction clubs and games. Many activities are free with membership. Others may be free or require a one-time fee (such as for materials in a painting class). Annual Community Center membership fees are $35 for residents and $50 for non-residents.

There are a wide variety of activities for every age group. Art classes, quilting, knitting and language classes are some of the offerings. There are fitness classes, line dancing, open jam sessions, dominoes, woodcarving, bingo and a number of support groups.

Support groups include Alzheimer's, caregivers and Parkinsons. Special interest groups feature music appreciation (Swingtime, Golden Age of Radio), book clubs and more.

The Home Delivered Meals program is coordinated out of the Community Center. The program provides nutritious hot midday meals to individuals who are homebound, elderly, ill or recovering from surgery. Volunteers are always needed to help deliver meals for 90 minutes once a month.

Encore For More also is part of the Community Center membership. Formerly Senior Services, Encore's mission is to support organizations and activities that enhance the lives of the senior population of Fountain Hills in areas of health, recreation and education by providing funding and other services. Encore is under the auspices of Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association.

For more information about Community Center membership and its offerings, visit fountainhillsaz.gov or call 480-816-5200.



Visitors to the Community Center check out entries in the Dark Sky Art Contest. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)



Breakfast with Santa is a big draw at the Community Center. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

River of Time Museum & Exploration Center



An example of a wooden pipeline on display at the River of Time. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Local site blends the past with the present

Much like the community and region surrounding it, The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center has undergone some changes over the years. With a rich history, natural beauty and Native American culture right in our front yard, the facility has evolved to capture the essence of the area.

Recognizing the need to preserve the rich heritage of the area, in 1989 several Fountain Hills residents gathered to form the Fountain Hills and Lower Verde River Valley Historical Society. Dr. Paul Kolwaite initiated the formation of the historical society. In 1991, Alan Cruikshank, Bruce Hansen and Bonnie Kline created a small museum in a modular building shared with the Chamber of Commerce at Fountain Park. It also served as a visitors center.

Cruikshank also led the effort to build the existing museum, contacting a variety of people who could move the project forward. In the end, he appeared before the Fountain Hills Town Council, requesting a $3.7 million bond issue.

The bond issue passed by a 2-1 margin. In 2003, the museum moved to its current location when the bond issue funded construction of the joint library/museum project on Town property next to the Community Center. The Town of Fountain Hills continues to provide the property, along with building services, which has sustained the museum since its opening.

In 2008, the museum's name was changed to the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum, honoring Cruikshank for his 12 years of service as president of the historical society, his efforts to complete the museum project and as publisher of The Fountain Hills Times, now Fountain Hills Times Independent.

In 2021, the name was changed again to reflect the newly renovated facility. Over an 18-month period, the museum evolved to house more interactive exhibits, more history of the area from pre-human to today and information to give visitors a sense of place, history and importance for Fountain Hills and the surrounding areas.

Creative, informative exhibits recount the history of the Lower Verde River Valley and depict the importance of water in the Sonoran Desert, illustrating how water has determined the course of history.

Exhibits preserve the stories of the early Hohokam

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The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center lets you stroll through the region's history. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



The River of Time rotates displays regularly, including this one that highlighted the history of the Desert Botanical Garden. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

• Continued from page 64

people, the Yavapai who migrated with the seasons in search of food and water, explorers, trappers who traveled the rivers and prospectors looking for riches. Visitors learn of amethysts mined at nearby Four Peaks and view one of the largest and finest amethyst clusters in the world.

Following the flow of the river through history, visitors will experience the story of water and its importance to the settlement of the Lower Verde River Valley.

The River of Time hosts multiple fundraisers to support its operations throughout the year, which have included everything from dance parties and motorcycle showcases to red-carpet events, live entertainment and more. Additionally, tours of the museum, along with Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation sites, and more are offered. The annual Holiday Mart takes place each December.

The current museum staff includes Executive Director Sherri Starkey and Director of Operations Yvonne Prater. Dozens of volunteers, including trained docents, provide individual and group tours, event support, office help and assistance in countless other activities. Group tours are available by appointment for a nominal fee.

The L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum and Exploration Center is located at 12901 N. La Montana Drive. For more information about the museum, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events or to schedule a group tour, call 480-837-2612, or visit riveroftime.center.

The museum offers a number of membership options, which provide various incentives to join. Visit the website for additional information.



A display highlighting some of the history of Fort McDowell. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Located at 12901 N. La Montana Dr.
480-837-2612
riveroftime.center
Adults: $12.00
Seniors (65+): $10.00
Children (age 6-17), veterans and health care workers: $7.00
Members, Fountain Hills students (with ID) and children 5 and under: Free

Seasonal hours, check website



The Fountain Hills Branch Library, located within the Civic Center in downtown Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills Branch Library

More than books and magazines, the local library is a great place to relax or take advantage of numerous research and entertainment opportunities. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Fountain Hills Branch Library is one of 18 branches in the Maricopa County Library District. The district has a collection of more than 680,000 items available to request and check out in Fountain Hills.

The local branch, a 15,000-square-foot facility, offers nearly 35,000 items to check out on location including adult and children's books, movies, music, audiobooks, magazines and even telescopes.

Throughout the year, the library offers programs and events for all ages. There are story times for babies, toddlers and preschool children, STEM activities for school-age children, Teen Council, teen gaming programs, technology classes, musical performances, book clubs and stargazing events.

The library has partnered with Act One to provide culture passes that provide free entry to many institutions around the state such as the River of Time Museum and Exploration Center, the Cave Creek Museum, the Desert Botanical Garden, the Heard Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum and more. The Seed Library is a collection of vegetable and herb seeds that you can borrow to plant and grow at home. The seed collection depends on seasonality. There is no obligation to return seeds.

The library has several Citizen Science kits such as Measuring Light in the Night, Monitoring Air Quality, Stream Mapping and ZomBee Hunting. Each kit includes a printed activity guide, helpful tips and any specialized tools or materials needed to complete the project.

Each year, the library participates in the Summer Reading Program, which encourages everyone of all ages to read whatever they like for 20 minutes per day, as well as to attend programs and community events while earning points, prizes and free books. Between December and February, the library participates in the Winter Reading Program. Friends of the Fountain Hills Library often provide wonderful prizes.

The library also has more than 40 computers, printers, a free scanner, free Wi-Fi, Chromebooks and Hotspots for lending and computers with early literacy games for ages two through eight.

The library's website (mcldaz.org) enables patrons to renew library cards and check out items. They also can read eBooks and more than 250 full magazines and download or stream movies, music, magazines and audiobooks from the eMedia Center (mcldaz.org/emedia).

On the research page (mcldaz.org/research), find magazine articles, full access to ConsumerReports.org, Chilton auto repair, genealogy information, language learning courses and Gale Courses, as well as more than 300 interactive online courses on many topics. Check the events calendar (mcldaz.org/events/fountainhills) for hundreds of free events.

The Fountain Hills Friends of the Library organization provides ongoing financial support to the library. The volunteers sponsor programs, activities and materials. FHFL also has a resale book shop located in the library/museum lobby and is staffed by volunteers. For more information, visit fhfl.org or email libraryfriends@fhfl.org. The phone number for the resale book shop is 602-652-3263.

The library is located at 12901 N. La Montana Drive. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The facility is closed Sunday. The Fountain Hills Library opened Oct. 1, 2001.

A DARK SKY COMMUNITY



Especially with the pending opening of the International Dark Sky Discovery Center, all eyes are on the skies in Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Fountain Hills aims for the stars

As an International Dark Sky Community, Fountain Hills has its eye on the sky.

At least, many of its residents do. Through the partnership of the Fountain Hills Dark Sky Association and Town officials to gain recognition for our dark skies in 2018, related night sky activities followed. These include the popular Dark Sky Festivals and the Star Dudes, who take people on "sky tours" and now under construction, a unique science-based facility in the community that would include a world-class domed observatory.

The initial design and architecture of the International Dark Sky Discovery Center (IDSDC) is complete, and construction is underway now. Thanks to multi-million-dollar contributions from the Arizona State Legislature and generous donors making pledges, fundraising is closing in on the $25 million goal.

The IDSDC facility will house the largest telescope in Greater Phoenix, and with its three other state-of-the-art components, will provide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education for students and leading-edge learning experiences for all ages. Once constructed, IDSDC will feature four distinct educational attractions including a Dark Sky Observatory, Hyperspace Planetarium, Inspiration Theater and an Immersion Zone with interactive exhibits.

The Town of Fountain Hills was designated as the 17th Dark Sky Community in the world by the International Dark Sky Association in 2018. Based on that designation the IDSDC is privately raising capital to construct the approximately 22,000-square-foot, non-profit facility that will be an international attraction benefiting the entire state of Arizona.

"Our Dark Sky Observatory will have the largest telescope in the Greater Phoenix area," said Ted Blank, IDSDC vice president and NASA solar system ambassador. "We will offer public viewing to present breathtaking views of the moon, planets, nebula, galaxies and other stellar objects."

The observatory's capabilities for astrophotography and research have already attracted the interest of university leadership.



Regular Dark Sky events are held around town in Fountain Hills. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Tourism officials say IDSDC will be an important part of the state's astrotourism industry, which already brings visitors to the region specifically for astronomy-related experiences.

Dark sky tourism is a major draw for the state of Arizona, and it is believed the IDSDC will be an asset for the state, according to Joe Bill, president of IDSDC.

The site for the IDSDC is in Fountain Hills within the Town's civic center complex, between the library and community garden.

Visit DarkSkyCenter.org to donate to the IDSDC and for additional information.



Construction fencing came down in July 2025 as exterior work continued on the International Dark Sky Discovery Center. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



Workers making sure the foundation pours are even. This photos was taken in the early stages of construction in September of 2024. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Fountain Hills to shine with dark skies science facility

International Dark Sky Discovery Center

By Bob Burns
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Town of Fountain Hills was designated an International Dark Sky Community in 2018, recognizing its unusual night sky preservation efforts within a metropolitan area. The community will invite the world to learn more about dark sky preservation and its benefits to humans and wildlife with the opening of the International Dark Sky Discovery Center (IDSDC), scheduled for 2026.

Since dark sky designation, the IDSDC has been busy raising the money needed to build the 23,000 square-foot facility right in the downtown of Fountain Hills, making it a non-profit facility that will be an international draw benefiting the entire state, according to IDSDC President Joe Bill.

Construction of the building went on schedule and on budget, but plans for a phased opening were scrapped, resulting in a delay in getting the doors open to the public. A late surge in funding provided the opportunity to bring the entire facility on line at once. The board of directors opted to wait for completion of the facility before inviting the public in.

"We wanted to have the total effect," IDSDC Executive Director Kari Carlisle said. "It is going to be so amazing. We don't want to disappoint. It is going to be worth the wait."

The Dark Sky Observatory will have a 25-inch PlaneWave telescope, the largest telescope in the greater Phoenix area. The observatory's capabilities for astrophotography and research have already attracted the interest of university leadership. A telescope terrace just outside the observatory will be a venue for star parties and other public viewing events.

The Hyperspace Planetarium is a 66-seat facility with a 39-foot diameter tilted dome. It will allow for 360-degree projections and 3-D technology. Carlisle said they are working to obtain planetarium shows that will be unique to the facility.

The planetarium and the Inspiration Theater will both show content daily once the facility is open.

The 150-seat tiered theater will offer a schedule of regular presentations throughout the day. Carlisle said they have reached out to NASA and others to obtain scientific documentaries to show at the theater.

Split Rock Studios, a Minnesota company that designs and fabricates custom presentations, is developing the displays for the IDSDC exhibit hall.

"We are making great headway in developing the content for the exhibits," Carlisle said.

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The Interactive Immersion Zone and Exploration Station will provide hands-on learning experiences for both kids and adults.

The IDSDC will welcome university and college students as well as secondary and primary school students for educational outings.

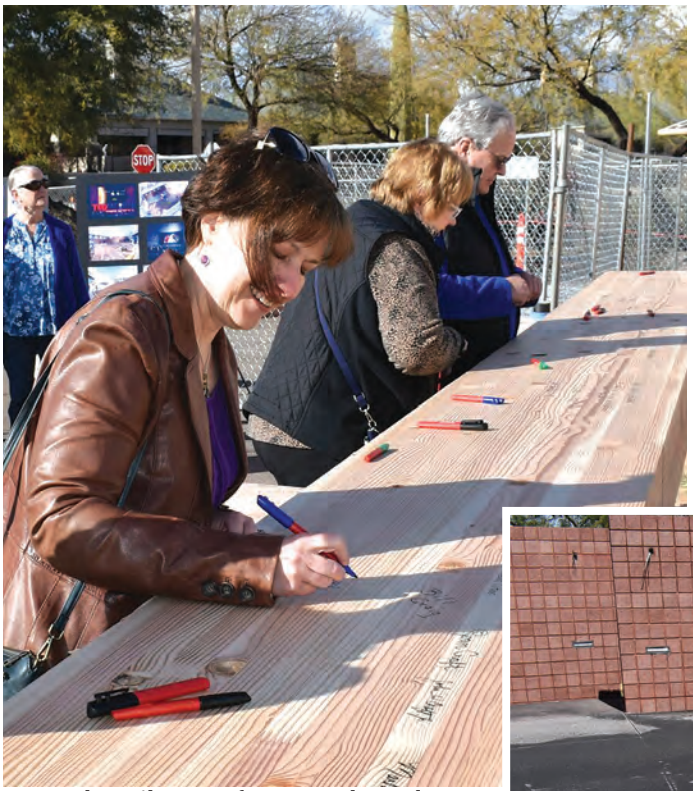
"We are not just astronomy education," Carlisle said. "We will teach the people the importance of the dark sky and how dark skies contribute to human health, and how the night sky interacts with life and the importance to nocturnal life."

This will be an "international" site, according to Carlisle.

"We are the first physical center dedicated to dark sky preservation," she said. "People around the world will be looking to us."

The International Dark Sky Discovery Center in Fountain Hills is located within the Cutillo Civic Center on La Montana Drive, between El Lago Boulevard and Avenue of the Fountains.

The roughly $30 million facility is funded largely by private donations with significant support from the State of Arizona.



Kennedy Wilmont, foreground, and Steve and Linnea Grooms sign a wooden beam that was installed at the International Dark Sky Discovery Center in January 2025. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



The dome for the observatory on the International Dark Sky Discovery Center is lowered into place at the construction site in February 2025. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



International Dark Sky Discovery Center president and treasurer, Joe and Nancy Bill, inspect the compass dial imbedded in the Jackie Miles Telescope Viewing Terrace outside the observatory at the Discovery Center in late April 2025. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



The annual art fairs draw thousands to the community. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

A Community of Art

Fountain Hills is home to artists and art lovers alike. (Independent Newsmedia/ Cyrus Guccione)

In many ways, Fountain Hills may be viewed as a community with the soul of an artist. In a setting sculpted by nature, the community has certainly drawn many who are artists by profession or avocation.

Those with a passion for art created the Fountain Hills Art League, one of the oldest organizations in the community. Its members welcome the public for an annual Tour d 'Artistes, where enthusiasts can visit artists in their home or studio to watch them work and view their creations.

The Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce hosts two annual arts and craft shows considered among the best in the Southwest. The fall show each November and spring event in February draw hundreds of exhibitors and, over the years, literally millions of visitors have walked the streets to enjoy the shows.

Through much of the fall and spring seasons there is a weekly art market on the Avenue.

An early ambition for residents Jerry and Jackie Miles was to create the finest public art displays in the Southwest United States. The Public Art Committee was established to work with Town government and through its efforts, the Miles' legacy continues.

There are currently more than 150 pieces of art on display throughout the community in open spaces such as Centennial Circle, Avenue of the Fountains Plaza and Fountain Park. Inside the Community Center and Town Hall also have the feel of an art gallery. Often local artists have works on display in these venues for juried art shows.

Public art is also housed at the Fountain Hills Library and the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center in the Civic Center.

Performing arts are not to be forgotten, as the Fountain Hills Theater has been a mainstay in town for more than three decades. The award-winning troupe presents more than a dozen shows annually,

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Community Garden

A labor of love and a jewel in the desert

A part of the Civic Center for nearly a decade, the Fountain Hills Community Garden has evolved into a desert oasis buzzing with activity, located in the heart of downtown.

Several years ago, organizers set out to create a nurturing space to grow nutritious, organic produce, provide gardening lessons for adults and children and create a sense of social awareness and beauty in the community.

The Community Garden, located next to the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center and Fountain Hills Library, took dozens of volunteers to dig in and help it bloom into the garden it is today. A remodel was completed in 2023, adjusting the Community Garden to make room for the planned International Dark Sky Discovery Center currently under construction.

The garden consists of 130 beds, six ADA-compliant beds and four beds dedicated to food bank donations. All beds are leased. A waiting list is available for those interested in obtaining a bed at a later date.



Mary and Bob Dill work on preparing their garden bed for the season. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

The garden also features a greenhouse, garden sheds, compost bins, picnic tables and umbrellas, as well as work areas and a beehive. A shaded, electricity-equipped demonstration pavilion is a popular spot for cooking demonstrations and informal socials.

While the garden has a waiting list for planting beds, a $20 membership fee to become a "Friend of the Garden" allows attendance at classes and social events. There are some 300 garden members, including "friends."

Visit fountainhillscommunitygarden.com for more information.

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including Youth Theater programs. Additional local theater programs have also popped up in recent years, including Paige Productions, which regularly puts on youth-focused shows.

The Town also has a well-established Community Chorus performing annual programs for the public. The more recently formed Community Band has begun annual concerts as well as performing in the Thanksgiving Day Parade and for holiday events on Avenue of the Fountains.

Smaller community arts events include Munch & Music, a series of mid-day programs at the Community Center during the winter months, and the In-Home Concert Series featuring accomplished performers in intimate home settings.

An artisan market takes place during St. Patrick's Day celebrations at Fountain Park and on Avenue of the Fountains each March. Art on the Avenue is another popular event featuring local artists and craftspeople. Visitors can gather each Wednesday through April for the Avenue show.

Art galleries also are a mainstay in Fountain Hills. Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery, an artist co-op, has been serving the community for nearly 20 years. Other galleries include Emerson Art Gallery, Nir Art Studio and Gallery and Sudha's Art Gallery and Books. Frame shops also operate in town.



Fountain Hills has several places where art can be seen on display, both around town and in venues like the Fountain Hills Artists' Gallery. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

With all of this and more, Fountain Hills has most certainly established itself as a community for art lovers.



Fountain Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts puts Fountain Hills on the map

By Cyrus Guccione
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For more than 50 years the Fountain Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts has graced downtown Fountain Hills, spotlighting local artists and vendors from across the country who travel far and wide to take part in something special.

Twice a year every November and spring, the quiet desert town transforms into a hub of creativity. Set against the backdrop of the Sonoran Desert and framed by one of the world's tallest fountains, the festival has become a signature celebration of culture and community.

Hundreds of artists converge here, filling the streets with color, texture and imagination. From fine art and intricate crafts to one-of-a-kind handmade goods, the festival offers something to spark every collector's eye.

Beyond the booths the air hums with live music, the aroma of food trucks and the buzz from onsite beer gardens. Families wander, friends gather and visitors discover why this event has long been a favorite for locals and tourists alike.

History of art

The fair began in 1974 as a promotion by KAET Channel 8 and called "8's Great Fair."

In the mid-1980s, KAET Channel 8 dropped the fair and the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce took it over, later becoming "The Great Fair," and eventually took on its current name to better reflect its identity and location.

What started as a tourism initiative has grown into the largest arts and crafts festival in the Southwest, generating more than $2 million every year in economic impact for Fountain Hills. That's according to Betsy LaVoie, CEO and president

The fair began in 1974 as a promotion by KAET Channel 8 and was called "8's Great Fair." (Times Independent file photo)

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The Sunset Kiwanis Club has been a fixture for decades, known for its booth serving freshly-made fry bread that fairgoers look forward to each year. (Photo courtesy of Sunset Kiwanis Club)



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7507 hosts picnic-style beer gardens, raising funds in support of local veterans while offering a place for families to relax. (Times Independent file photo)

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of the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, which has been integral in ensuring the fair continues to benefit both residents and visitors.

"We are most proud of the significant financial impact this event creates for our community, providing substantial funding and opportunities for local nonprofit members through their participation," LaVoie said. "We are also incredibly proud of the event's true tourism nature, as it consistently fills hotels, restaurants and gas stations, bringing 'heads in beds' to Fountain Hills every time."

Community organizations also play a role. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7507 hosts picnic-style beer gardens, raising funds in support of local veterans while offering a place for families to relax. The Sunset Kiwanis Club has been a fixture for decades, known for its booth serving freshly made fry bread that fairgoers look forward to each year. The proceeds support student programs, something longtime member Connie Barczak is especially proud of.



The fair proceeds support the Sunset Kiwanis Club's student programs. (Photo courtesy of Sunset Kiwanis Club)



The Fall Fountain Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts is scheduled for February. (Times Independent file photo)

"At the preschool I read to the children and then each child gets their own book," she said. "I love seeing the look on their faces because they are always so excited to get a book."

Through rain, shine or even a pandemic, the Chamber and its partners have kept the festival thriving, giving artists a platform and businesses a boost. What keeps people coming back isn't just the art, it's the experience. The setting, the spirit and the variety of talent on display have cemented the Fountain Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts as a desert tradition that continues to capture the imagination of art lovers year after year.

For more information, visit fhchamber.com/artfairs/.

Public art in every direction



The Fountain of Light is located in front of Town Hall. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Fountain Hills has a public art collection few communities its size can boast, adding value to the community while creating a special place for residents and visitors alike.

With more than 150 pieces of sculpture, flat art and fountains throughout the community, residents, organizations and businesses have done their part in adding to the collection over the years. Art is everywhere in Fountain Hills.

Private funding has been used to purchase nearly every piece displayed inside the Community Center, Town Hall, the local branch of Maricopa County Library, in Centennial Circle, the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center, Fountain Park, along Avenue of the Fountains and other locations around Fountain Hills. Individual businesses also add to the collection by committing pieces to place on their companies' property.

An active Public Art Committee has created and spurred on this interest for art in the community. Under the auspices of Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association, the long-term goal of the Public Art Committee has been to create the finest collection of public art in the Southwestern United States.

For more information about the public art collection, visit fountainhillspublicart.com.





Wildlife is a common theme in the public art collection. (Independent Newsmedia/ Ryan Winslett)

The collection of public art features more than 150 pieces spread throughout the downtown area. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Volunteers: Neighbors helping neighbors around the community



The Town of Fountain Hills organizes Make a Difference Day each year. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

Fountain Hills has developed a well-earned reputation as a community of volunteers. The Town alone has a pool of volunteers that approaches 1,000 devoting their spare time to helping neighbors with numerous opportunities.

The town has been a participant in the annual nationwide Make a Difference Day for many years. Those efforts have earned national recognition for its fall program.

"Our volunteers are a special and unique group of individuals who share their time, talent and passion making the Town of Fountain Hills a better place for everyone," said Kim Wickland, Town of Fountain Hills volunteer coordinator. "The Town of Fountain Hills is looking for individuals to help with essential town services, town projects and special events. Some positions are regular and ongoing while others are one-time special events.

"Opportunities for volunteering a few hours, weeks or years exist for individuals and groups from youth to active seniors."

Home Delivered Meals provides regular meals to those in need; the Crisis Response Team offers help and comfort to those experiencing a personal emergency; and Give-A-Lift provides rides and companionship to those who cannot drive.



A Turkey Drive, organized by the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, helps ensure more folks will have a happy holiday. (Photo provided by Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce)

Volunteering is not just a town-centered avocation for many residents. There are numerous service clubs, church organizations and youth programs that provide outreach and assistance in the community and beyond, as well as regular food drives and support events residents flock to take part in.

Those with an interest in volunteering may contact Wickland for more information at 480-816-5108 or kwickland@fountainhills.az.gov.

Town of Fountain Hills Volunteer Applications can be found on the town website, fountainhillsaz.gov, under "Residents/Volunteering."



Locally, volunteers tackle projects big and small. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)



A food pack for those in need draws many volunteers to take part in the event. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Sister Cities

Fountain Hills is a part of the global community

No matter where you go around the world, people are basically the same. They go to school, work, play sports, spend time with friends and family, enjoy hobbies and strive to make their communities a better place.

Fountain Hills is part of Sister Cities International, a non-profit citizen diplomacy network that creates partnerships between the U.S. and international communities. Sister Cities' mission is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.

Fountain Hills Sister Cities Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed to foster such relationships with the Town of Fountain Hills and its citizens. These strong relationships exist between Fountain Hills and three global communities, including Dierdorf, Germany; Ataco, El Salvador; and Zamosc, Poland.

The Sister Cities program was initiated locally by former mayor, the late Jerry Miles, and the late Alan Cruikshank. The organization has grown, with added board members and volunteers. Annual fundraisers and membership drives provide financial support for the group and its various activities, including student exchanges.



Members of Fountain Hills Sister Cities joined the German American Karneval Society in Peoria, Ariz., for its annual Karneval Gala. Pictured from left are Ruby Moreno, Tania Brown, Marisol Miller and Christine Colley. (Photo courtesy Fountain Hills Sister Cities)

The local Sister Cities Corporation is a member of the State of Arizona Sister Cities organization.

The stated mission of Fountain Hills Sister Cities Corporation is to "provide opportunities for the people of our area to develop relationships through volunteers who reach out to interact with citizens of our Sister Cities. We seek to achieve international understanding, cultural sensitivities, humanitarian efforts and encourage trade and tourism. This is accomplished through cultural and student exchanges, educational programs and community events."

The Sister City concept was developed in 1956 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower launched a program known as the Town Affiliation Association of the United States, more commonly known as Sister Cities International. The movement created a way for local governments and everyday citizens to help bring together many cultures of the world.

The Fountain Hills Sister Cities Logo. (Image courtesy Fountain Hills Sister Cities)

The current Fountain Hills Sister Cities board, as of this writing, includes President and Dierdorf Committee Chair Christine Colley; State and International Director Carol Carroll; Vice President and Zamosc Committee Chair Elizabeth Matej-Horchem; Secretary Lillian Acker; Treasurer Ruby Moreno; Outreach Director Tania Brown; Director of Social Media Joanne Colella; Rotary Liaison Suzanne Nann; Ataco Committee Chair Byron Roman; Honorable Consul to Poland and Zamosc Committee Co-Chair Bogumil Horchem, Zamosc Committee Chair Kate Suchanek; Director of Technology James Wilson; PenPal Coordinator Lisa Ristuccia; Membership Chair Sascha Janssen; Membership Co-Chair Rosa Janssen; Co-Director of Technology Bev Tall; Student Exchange Coordinator Luke Salzman; Student Exchange Co- ordinator Chris Peterson; Student Exchange Representative Michal Suchanek and Student Ambassador Eli VanBeek.



Fountain Hills students explore the city streets of Amsterdam. This was one of the activities during a trip to visit Fountain Hills' Sister City of Dierdorf, Germany. (Photo submitted by Luke Salzman)

Information: fountainhillssistercities.org.



Fountain Hills Unified School District

Home of the Falcons





Fountain Hills Unified School District (FHUSD) is one of 58 districts in Maricopa County.

FHUSD consists of Little Falcons Preschool, McDowell Mountain Elementary School, Fountain Hills Middle School and Fountain Hills High School.

Students from Fountain Hills, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Sunflower and Goldfield Ranch make up the student population in the four schools.

FHUSD is able to keep the student/teacher ratios well within board-mandated guidelines with a staff of around 100 teachers.

Working together, FHUSD administrators and teachers have molded a strong educational curriculum that has resulted in the high school and elementary school receiving A+ School of Excellence recognition from the Arizona Education Foundation.



Fountain Hills High School received an "A" letter grade from the Arizona Department of Education for 2023, and previously earned "A" letter grades from 2018-2020. The high school has also been listed in U.S. News & World Report's Best National High Schools from 2019-2024.



Administration

The district's administrative office is located at 16000 E. Palisades Blvd., adjacent to the middle and high school campuses. The telephone number is (480) 664-5000. The district maintains two websites at fountainhillsschools.org and fhschools.org.

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The Falcon Way: FHUSD soars into the future



FHUSD graduates leave the nest ready to tackle their next challenges in life. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason Brooks)

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Fountain Hills Unified School District Superintendent Cain Jagodzinski hosted a gathering for teachers heading into the 2025-26 academic year, one of his themes was "Be the best version of yourself."

That seems to be the theme the superintendent, board and principals have within the district: Don't try to be a teacher, student or district that you're not. Be yourself, and keep improving.

Despite an enrollment declining due to several factors, Fountain Hills district staff continues to educate and help open students' minds to their present and future opportunities — some of which are enhanced by being a small district.

With fewer than 1,000 students K-12 at the start of this year, teachers are able to focus more than ever on individual students, seeing the path ahead for them and helping them make small or major corrections before they veer off-course.

"'Be the best version of yourself' means to help the kids do that," Jagodzinski said. "It's our job to help them get there. We don't have some of the resources a larger district has, but we have adults who care about these kids and their community. Where we are in 10 or 20 years has less to do with whether we offer this elective or that one and more to do with how much we help each student prepare for life."

Jagodzinski frequently speaks the motto, "It's not where you start — it's where you finish," often in the context of district staff being willing to work with all levels of achievers or those who got off to a rough start in K-12, academically or otherwise.

"Everything is averages," Jagodzinski said, referring to how academic progress is often documented in U.S. schools. "If you can master the material, you shouldn't be held back by the mistakes of the past."



The Golden Eagle Education Program supports the Fountain Hills Unified School District in many ways, including organizing the local mentoring program. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Some of Fountain Hills' opportunities are as vibrant as ever, being driven less by school finance or availability of school specialists and more by its ongoing proximity to Arizona's climate and rich cultural history and the nearby educational resources in the Phoenix metro area.

One of those resources is Fountain Hills University. That's a program that combines Arizona State University coursework with the College Board's AP Capstone program.

FHU-Plus allows students to earn up to 60 college credits, blending the flexibility of ASU courses.

Through AP Capstone, students can earn 18 college credits by completing advanced courses like AP Seminar

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and AP Research, which require them to write a thesis paper and defend their research before a faculty panel, according to the district's website.

Completing the AP Capstone program gets FHHS students the Highest Distinction diploma at graduation.

FHUSD Governing Board President Rick Rutkowski said the cost savings is probably the biggest appeal to students and families.

"You're not only talking about savings on the first part of college, you're talking about maybe finishing undergraduate degrees a whole year earlier," Rutkowski said. "That's a huge advantage in terms of getting done with school and starting on the really productive part of a young person's life."



Athletics and other extracurricular activities are a big draw for FHUSD students. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



FHUSD hosts many enrichment activities across all grade levels throughout the year. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Rutkowski said college-level courses not only might help FHHS sophomores, junior and seniors decide if certain careers are for them, but also gives them a sort of do-over that's much more arduous during regular college years.

"If they don't do so well on one of the (FHU) classes, that happens with more time and flexibility to take it again later," he said.

Rutkowski added that FHU fits perfectly into the "Falcon Way" of doing a lot with a little.

"Getting a head start, or an earlier start on a career — that's one of the things smaller schools and districts are for," he said.

Jagodzinski said the district's Innovate 21 program, which is meant to integrates technology into the classroom and promote project-based learning to develop critical thinking skills.

"Project-based learning is one place where our small class sizes really shine," Jagodzinski said. "That kind of constant knowing if the student is picking it up or not — that's so valuable to everyone involved."

Jagodzinski said involvement in sports, clubs and other extra-curriculars is also an enriched, powerful experience in a smaller school setting. It would be difficult to find one of the 113 Fountain Hills High 2025 graduates who wasn't involved with some type of team, club or campus organization at one point during their high school years.

Madeline Feyrer-Melk, a 2015 FHHS alumna, completed her doctorate at A.T. Still University Medical School in Missouri last year and landed a local residency in Mesa. She sees many positives to Fountain Hills' small environment.

"I learned time-management, critical thinking, organization, goal-setting and a lot more in high school," Feyrer-Melk said. "It wasn't until later that I realized how much I learned in Fountain Hills that I would use — some of it right away, with others skills needed later. Between volleyball and the National Honor Society and volunteering, I stayed really busy. And I think that was a good thing."

In addition to daily routine and structure, Feyrer-Melk said a young person's identity is often tied to whether they feel like they matter.

"Even in high school, we all knew each other's names, and I felt seen," she said. "I think that's tougher to do in a bigger school."

Jagodzinski said having schools like Fountain Hills' that earn grade-A designations from state or national organizations requires much help from the community. Local businesses prove it really does "take a village" to enhance the student experience.

The superintendent said one other advantage of being small is that a programmatic or directional change might only involve a handful of adults, at most.

"You can bring change faster in a smaller organization," Jagodzinski said. "And kids benefit from us being able to move fast.

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For newcomers

•Entrance age requirements -- Pupils entering kindergarten must be five years of age on or before Aug. 31. A certified birth certificate must be presented at registration so a copy can be made.

•Immunization -- All enrolling students must provide proof of immunization as required by Arizona state law. Residents should make sure their child's records are forwarded to the appropriate school in Fountain Hills.

•Open enrollment -- Children who do not live in the district may be admitted through open enrollment. Parents must provide transportation for pupils not living within the district.

•Students living in designated areas are provided bus transportation. Residents can contact the administration office for specific information, bus routes and schedules. A bus with a wheelchair lift is available for students with special needs.

•Each school has an equipped nurse's room staffed with an accredited nurse's aide. The district's registered nurse serves all three campuses, visits each on a regular schedule and is available within minutes when needed.



•Accommodations for those with disabilities -- All facilities are handicap accessible; each school provides state-mandated special education for children with special requirements.

•Crosswalks and crossing guards are provided at main intersections near the elementary schools, and bicycle racks are installed at each school.

FHUSD Schools
Little Falcons Preschool
14825 N. Fayette Drive
Pre-kindergarten
(480) 664-5100

McDowell Mountain Elementary School
15414 E. McDowell Mountain Rd.
Kindergarten to fifth grade
(480) 664-5200

Fountain Hills Middle School
16000 E. Palisades Blvd.
Grades 6-8
(480) 664-5400

Fountain Hills High School
16100 E. Palisades Blvd.
Grades 9-12
(480) 664-5500

Little Falcons Preschool
3-5 Year Olds

Quality Plus Rating
Affordable Rates
Nurturing & Engaging
Before & After School Care
Half Day & Full Day
Experienced, Certified Teachers
Art & PE Specials

McDowell Mountain Elementary
Kindergarten - 5th Grade

A+ School of Excellence
US News "BEST" School
Free Before School Care
Small Class Sizes
Full Dome Planetarium
New Playgrounds
Academic Acceleration

Fountain Hills Middle School
6th-8th Grade

ADE "A" Letter Grade
National Model School 2025
i21 Honors/Gifted Program
Competitive Sports
Take High School Courses
Interactive Virtual Reality Lab
Small School Experience
Reteach & Enrich Program

Fountain Hills High School
9th-12th Grade

A+ School of Excellence
ADE "A" Letter Grade
National Model School 2025
US News "Best" School
Flexible Trimester Schedule
AP Capstone Program
25 AIA State Titles
Earn Up To 42 ASU Credits



Fountain Hills Community Lions Club President Don Wendell talked about water pollution and stormwater management to students at The Inspiration Academy. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)

Other Education Opportunities

For those who do not wish to utilize traditional public schools, Fountain Hills is home to a variety of educational options for local youth.

The Inspiration Academy

The Inspiration Academy is an innovative K-12 private school that opened in 2022. The school was founded by Lisa Ristuccia, a former Fountain Hills Charter School teacher. Classes are taught in a multi-age collaborative environment, and the students rotate campus locations through the "Community Campus" initiative.

The students learn at Shepherd of the Hills church, 16150 E. El Lago Blvd. Academic subjects are taught through interdisciplinary thematic units, hands-on activities, field trips and collaborative projects.

The Inspiration Academy partners with 4-H for meaningful, hands-on activities. 4-H projects are incorporated into the school day and in after-school programs. The school also uses "Community Models," where local professionals come and share their expertise with the students.

For more information about tuition, enrollment, etc., visit the school's website at theinspirationacademy.org or call 480-294-0193.

Christian Homeschoolers of Fountain Hills

For those looking to homeschool their children, a Christian-based group of likeminded local parents provides a support system offering resources and information.

For additional information, call 480-734-7700 or do a group search for "Christian Homeschoolers of Fountain Hills" on Facebook.

Pangea Schoolhouse

The educational framework for Pangaea Schoolhouse makes a point of stating it combines three elements: classical foundations, modern application and meaningful integration.

Pangaea is a private microschool in Fountain Hills that currently serves grades K-6, with plans to expand to upper grades each year until it's a K-12 school.

For additional information, call 480-788-2672 or visit pangeaschoolhouse.com.



The Inspiration Academy student Indiana J. enjoys the annual Food Pack event at the Community Center. (Independent Newsmedia/Cyrus Guccione)



Students learn about "unpoppable" bubbles. (Photo submitted by Boys & Girls Club Mckee Branch)



Baking, cooking and more are covered in the McKee Branch kitchen. (Photo submitted by Boys & Girls Club Mckee Branch)

Boys & Girls Club - McKee Branch

The Boys & Girls Club Mckee Branch is located at 14605 N. Del Cambre Ave. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

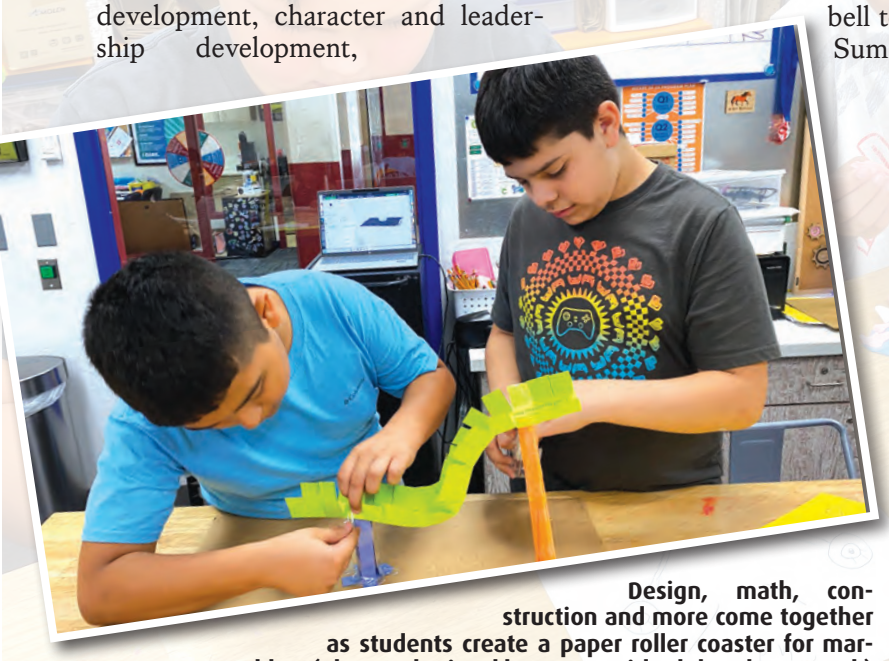
Youth looking to stay active and engaged in a variety of activities will find plenty to do at The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale – McKee Branch, a comprehensive youth development agency serving local youth ages five to 18.

The Fountain Hills facility consists of a 22,000-square-foot youth and teen center. All programs and services provided are based on the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Five Core Service Areas: education and career development, character and leadership development, health and life skills, the arts and sports, fitness and recreation. Activities designed to educate and entertain are held throughout the week alongside regular programming, as well as specialized projects, field trips and the like.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Before School program for local youth runs from 7 a.m. to first bell. The After School Program is Monday through Friday from the final bell to 6:30 p.m. Summer Camp hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. for youth and teens.

The Boys and Girls Club has a $25 per year membership fee and additional fees for youth childcare, summer camp and various programs.

The Boys & Girls Club
McKee Branch
14605 N. Del Cambre Ave.,
next to Four Peaks Park
480-344-5400
Branch director: Lauren Stratton
bgcs.org/mary-ellen-robert-mckee-branch/



Design, math, construction and more come together as students create a paper roller coaster for marbles. (Photo submitted by Boys & Girls Club Mckee Branch)



What kid doesn't like to learn how to make their own slime? (Photo submitted by Boys & Girls Club Mckee Branch)

Welcome from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation



We-Ko-PA Casino resort stays busy year-round with gaming, concerts, golf, special events and activities. (Photo submitted by LaneTerralever)

Mham jik!Jah (Hello),

On behalf of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, I'm pleased to welcome you to our homeland in the Northeast Valley. This is where the Sonoran Desert meets the mountains, a place our people have called home since time immemorial. The Verde River runs through the heart of our reservation, and Four Peaks stands watch over us – landmarks that are central to our history and identity.

Though our community now encompasses about 40 square miles, our ancestors lived and traveled across a much wider region stretching from the Colorado River to the Mazatzal Mountains. That heritage continues to guide us as we share this land with our neighbors in Fountain Hills and invite visitors to experience the beauty, culture and hospitality of Fort McDowell.

We are proud of the many entertainment attractions our Nation offers to visitors. The We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort has become a lively gathering place, with a spacious gaming floor, fine and casual dining, and a sportsbook for catching the big game. Just next door, golfers can enjoy the award-winning Cholla and Saguaro courses at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, where stunning views of Red Mountain, Four Peaks, and the McDowells create an unforgettable experience. Because the courses are on tribal land that will remain undeveloped, the desert beauty you see is the beauty that will always be here.

President Sandra Pattea (Photo submitted by LaneTerralever)

For those seeking adventure, Fort McDowell Adventures provides horseback rides, wagon tours, cattle drives, and more – fun ways to connect with the land and culture. And throughout the year, you'll find concerts, car shows, and festivals that bring our community together and welcome our neighbors.

We are honored to be part of the Northeast Valley and to share the spirit of Fort McDowell with you.

Warmly,
Sandra Pattea
President, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Fort McDowell

Gaming, golf, adventures, more

Fountain Hills' neighbor to the east, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, has something to offer anyone looking for a little adventure, be it learning the history of the community, touring the desert landscape, getting in a round of golf or testing your luck at a card table.

For additional information about Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, visit fmyn.org.



The Fort McDowell Rodeo Grounds are located down Highway 87 from We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

Casino

The nation has a lot to offer visitors, beginning with the community's crowning jewel, We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort.

We-Ko-Pa combines big-time action and endless enjoyment in a destination that's always worth the visit. The casino opened in late 2020, offering a 166,000 square-foot gaming floor surrounded by several dining options and entertainment opportunities. Dining options include Ember for fine dining; Ahnala for a more casual experience, and WKP Sports & Entertainment for those looking for a more traditional sports bar. Other options include The Buffet and The Market with additional choices for food, drink and snacks located throughout the casino.

In 2022, We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort also opened its own sportsbook powered by Betfred Sports, offering everything needed to enjoy in-house sports betting.

To learn more about We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort and its many amenities, visit wekopacasinoresort.com.

• Continue on page 85



Fort McDowell traditionally hosts the Orme Dam Victory Days, complete with a rodeo and pow wow. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)

The seal of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. (Independent Newsmedia/Ryan Winslett)



Members of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and supporters participate in the annual Sovereignty Day celebration. (Independent Newsmedia/Bob Burns)

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Golf

If golf is your game of choice, We-Ko-Pa has you covered. With two award-winning golf courses set in the Sonoran Desert, We-Ko-Pa Golf Club delivers one of the best golf experiences in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area. Scott Miller designed the Cholla Course, while Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw teamed up to create the Saguaro Course. These courses are considered some of the best Arizona has to offer, earning acclaim by industry publications such as Golf Magazine, Golfweek and Golf Digest.

Offering breathtaking views of the McDowell Mountains, Red Mountain, Four Peaks and the Superstitions, We-Ko-Pa Golf Club lies on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation land that will never be commercially developed.

After a round of golf, visitors can relax at the We-Ko-Pa clubhouse, which features scenic indoor or outdoor dining, complete with full-service amenities.

For additional details or to book a tee time, visit wekopa.com.

Entertainment

Fort McDowell stays busy throughout the year with many noteworthy events. At We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort, visitors can expect frequent concerts, car shows and even special events marking New Year's Eve, Fourth of July, etc.

Fort McDowell is also home to Orme Dam Victory Days, a celebration traditionally held in November that includes a pow wow, parade and rodeo. Participants and spectators flock to this event from all over the country. The nation also celebrates Sovereignty Day each May, marking the standoff with federal agents that paved the way for Indian gaming in the state.

Outdoors

For those looking to enjoy the beautiful desert landscape, Fort McDowell Adventures showcases three resort-style special event venues suitable for hosting memorable corporate gatherings, family reunions, weddings and the like.

Fort McDowell Adventures also serves as a hub for numerous outdoor activities, as visitors can take a horseback trail ride through the historic landscape and cross the Verde River. If you prefer wheels over hooves, you can drive a UTV Tomcar through the desert to experience 360-degree views of the beautiful surroundings or cruise through the cacti on a desert Segway tour for a one-of-a-kind experience.

For additional details or to plan an event, visit fortmcdowelladventures.com.

If, however, you're looking to spend a bit more time in the great outdoors, Fort McDowell is home to Eagle View RV Resort. A state-of-the-art campground, Eagle View offers 150 sites with full hook-up, water and waste disposal. You'll also find a fitness room, showers, a dog run, heated pool, spa, as well as sites to play basketball, horseshoes, badminton, pickleball and bocce ball. WiFi is also available at all sites, as well as free phone jacks.

For additional information and rates, visit eagleviewrvresort.com.

Business

Fort McDowell Tribal Farm is another sight to take in, producing commercial crops sold to locals as well as national markets. The farm boasts 620 acres of alfalfa, 1,000 acres of pecans and 325 acres of citrus.

Yavapai Materials can also be found in Fort McDowell, which produces construction aggregate, ready-mix concrete, landscape granite and specialty sand products. Fort McDowell Yavapai Materials have been used to build the Arizona Diamondback facility, Chase Field, Peoria Sports Complex and Troon Golf Course.

Fort McDowell is also home to Ba'ja Gas Station, which offers everything from propane and gasoline to a wide variety of food, drinks and items that will come in handy for anyone looking to camp or hit the river and lakes.

Clubs and Organizations

There are a variety of clubs and organizations for residents to join and enjoy. The following listings include contact information.

ACTIVITIES

Community Chorus | fh.sings@gmail.com
Fountain Hills Automobile Club | 608-576-7382
Fountain Hills Community Center | 480-816-5200
Fountain Hills Photography Enthusiasts | 480-816-5200
Fountain Hills Pickleball | fountainhillspickleball.com
Fountain Hills Toastmasters | fountainhills.toastmastersclubs.org

BOOK CLUBS

Book Club (Sonoran) | 480-837-2800
Fountain Hills Friends of the Library | 602-652-3263
Sherlock Holmes Society of Ftn. Hills | 602-469-0565

BUSINESS SUPPORT GROUPS

Chamber of Commerce | 480-837-1654

CULTURAL CLUBS

Art League | fountainhillsartleague.com
Fountain Hills Community Garden | 816-896-8507
Fountain Hills Cultural & Civic Association | ILoveFountainHills.org
Fountain Hills Sister Cities | FountainHillsSisterCities.org
German Club of Fountain Hills | 480-860-9313
L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum | 480-837-2612

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Adopt-A-Street | 480-816-5100

SERVICE CLUBS

American Legion Post #58 | 480-837-5958
Bob's Free Bikes | bobsfreebikes.org
Daughters of the American Revolution,
Four Peaks Chapter | 480-248-6141
Elks Club Lodge #2846 | fountainhillselkslodge#2846.org
Fountain Hills Marine Corps Detachment #1439
visit Facebook.com/marinecorpsleague1439
Four Peaks Rotary | FourPeaksRotary.org
Four Peaks Women's Club | 602-376-2548
Kiwanis Noon | 480-416-2182
Kiwanis Sunset | 480-837-9484
Lions Club | 507-766-3076
Rotary Club - Fountain Hills | FountainHillsRotary.org
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7507 | 480-836-5520
Women's Club, The Four Peaks | 480-837-5193

SOCIAL AND NETWORKING CLUBS

Club, The | 480-837-3375
F.L.A.G. - FH Leads Assoc. Group | 480-206-7477
Friends in The Hills | friendsinthehillsaz.org
Golden Age of Radio | 480-837-7961
Men's Discussion Group | 480-816-5200
Philanthropic Educational Organization, DZ Chapter | drbm313@gmail.com
Stitchers of Hope | Eileendanko@gmail.com
Swingtime Club | 480-837-7961
Valley Singles Club | 480-296-6697
Women's Club, The Fountain Hills | FountainHillsWomensClub.com

SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Writers Group | 480-836-8968
Fearless Kitty Rescue | 480-837-7777
Fountain Hills Botanical Garden | fhdbg.org
Fountain Hills Chess Club | 480-719-0779
Fountain Hills Community Band | FHCband.com
Fountain Hills Democratic Club | fhdemclub.org
Fountain Hills Republican Club | fhrepublican@gmail.com
Fountain Hills Theater, Inc. | fhtaz.org
Four Peaks Coin Club | 480-231-3896
Four Peaks Young Republicans | fourpeaksYR@gmail.com
International Dark Sky Discovery Center | darkskycenter.org
Liberal Ladies | libladies@gmail.com
Neighborhood Committee of Architecture (NCOA) | 480-837-5317
Neighborhood Property Owners Association (NPOA) | 480-837-5317
Paige Productions Youth Theater | paigeproductionsaz.com
Parent-Teacher Organization | 773-209-3238
Progressive Men's Group of Fountain Hills | joejoycefhpmg@yahoo.com
Questers, Four Peaks Chapter | 480-710-7073
Republican Women of the Hills | rwoth.com
Watch and Clock Collectors, Valley of the Sun Chapter | 480-816-6483
Women's Antique Club | 480-837-1948

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous - 24 Hr. Hotline | 602-264-1341
Caregivers Support Group | 480-816-5200
Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse
Prevention Coalition | fhcoalition.org
Healthy Living Support Group | 480-620-0631
Ministerial/Pastoral Association | 480-612-8835
TOPS, contact Betsy Stambaugh | 630-728-9653
Vertigo Support Group | 480-695-6913

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Extended Hands Food Bank | 480-837-0303
Foster Your Future | fosteryourfuture.org
Fountain Hills Community Foundation | 480-744-9055
Golden Eagle Education Foundation | 920-619-2404
Home Delivered Meals | 480-816-5229
Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 480-837-7287
Town of Fountain Hills Volunteer Program | 480-816-5108
Unified School District No. 98 | 480-664-5000

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scouts - Church of Ascension, Troop #343, | bsatroop343@gmail.com
The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale | 480-344-5400
Builders Club & K-Kids | 571-332-7250
Fountain Hills Little League | 480-208-0350
Girl Scouts, contact Erika Percic | 480-239-5010

Government Services

Town of Fountain Hills

16705 E. Ave. of the Fountains
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
www.fountainhillsaz.gov

ADMINISTRATION	**480-816-5100**	**Fax 480-837-3145**
Mayor	**480-816-5101**	
Town Manager	**480-816-5107**	
Town Clerk	**480-816-5115**	
Finance/Accounting	**480-816-5160**	
Economic Development	**480-816-5104**	
Human Resources	**480-816-5125**	
Community Relations	**480-816-5105**	
COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Parks/Recreation	**480-816-5100**	**Fax 480-837-3145**
Community Center	**480-816-5200**	**Fax 480-837-4452**
Home Delivered Meals	**480-816-5229**	
Senior Services	**480-816-5200**	
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES		
Planning and Zoning	**480-816-5122**	
Engineering	**480-816-5122**	
Building Safety	**480-816-5177**	
Code Enforce Hotline	**480-816-5193**	
Streets	**480-816-5100**	
Environmental	**480-816-5133**	
Facilities	**480-816-5133**	
MUNICIPAL COURT	**480-816-5103**	

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Emergency	**911**
Non-Emergency	**602-876-1011**

FIRE DEPARTMENT - Fountain Hills

Emergency	**911**
Administration	**480-837-9820**
Non-emergency assistance	**480-644-2400**
Fire Marshal/Fire Prevention	**480-816-5114**

OTHER SERVICES

Sanitary District
16941 E. Pepperwood Cir
Office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon - Fri. | **480-837-9444**
After hours, emergency | **480-837-9444**
EPCOR Water
12021 N. Panorama Dr. | **1-800-383-0834**
Valley Metro Transit System | 602-253-5000
Committee of Architecture
Neighborhood Property Owners Association | **480-837-5317**

Your State and Federal Representatives

U.S. Senator Mark Kelly | **602-671-7901**
U.S. Representative District 6 David Schweikert | **480-946-2411**
Arizona Representative Alex Kolidin | **602-926-3560**
Arizona Representative Joseph Chaplik | **602-926-3436**
Arizona Senator John Kavanagh | **602-926-5170**

Maricopa County

Maricopa County Animal Care Center
1920 S. Lewis, Mesa | **602-506-7387**
Board of Supervisors
Thomas Galvin, Dist. 2 | **602-506-7431**
Justice Court
West Mesa Precinct
222 E. Javelina Ave, Ste D, Mesa | **602-506-8100**
McDowell Mountain Justice Court
18380 N. 40th St., Phoenix | **602-372-7000**
Branch Library
Fountain Hills Library
12901 N. La Montana Dr. | **602-652-3000**
Park: McDowell Mountain Regional Park | **480-471-0173**
Sheriff's Office
Fountain Hills Sheriffs Law Enforcement | 602-876-1869
Main Switchboard, Phoenix | 602-876-1000
Non-Emergency | 602-876-1011

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Police | 480-789-7501
Fire | 480-789-7521
Administration | 480-789-7000
WMHC, Ft. McDowell Clinic | 480-789-7890

State of Arizona - Dept. of Transportation

Auto License Plate Department

Scottsdale	**Mesa**
7339 E. Paradise Ln.	4123 E. Valley Auto Dr.

Hours All Locations Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. | **602-255-0072**

MVD Service Line | 1-888-713-3031

Drivers License Issuance & Reinstatements
Mesa
4123 E. Valley Auto Dr.
7:30 a.m.- 4:45 p.m. M-F | **602-255-0072**
Scottsdale
7339 E. Paradise Lane | **602-255-0072**

Vehicle Emissions & Department of Environmental Quality

Scottsdale	**Phoenix**	**Mesa**
8448 E. Evans	1520 E. Riverview Dr.	1851 W. First Ave. 4442 E. Ivy Street

Hours for all stations 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M-SAT.....**1-877-692-9227**

U.S. Government

Postal Services
Fountain Hills
16605 E. Ave. of the Fountains | **1-800-275-8777**
Social Security Administration - www.ssa.gov
Phoenix Office
16241 N. Tatum Blvd. | **1-800-772-1213**
TTY | **1-800-325-0778**

Fountain Hills Community Guide & Business Directory

Including Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Published by Independent Newsmedia
480-837-1925 • www.fhtimes.com

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9-1-1 Emergency - Law Enforcement • Fire • Ambulance
9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

If phone service in and out of Fountain Hills is disrupted, contact fire station at 480-837-9820 for any emergency

Emergency Numbers

FOUNTAIN HILLS FIRE (EMERGENCY) | 911
- FH Fire Station #1 & Administration | 480-837-9820
- Non-Emergency Fire & Medical Public Assistance | 480-644-2400
- Snake Removal| 480-644-2400

Prevention Department | 480-816-5114
- Fire Marshal | 480-816-5114

FT. McDOWELL INDIAN POLICE & FIRE | 480-837-1091

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | 911
- 24-Hour Dispatch | 602-876-1011
- Non-Emergency (Report Crime, Non-Injury Accident, Suspicious Activity) | 602-876-1011

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Administration
- (M-Th, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) | 602-876-1011

Police Report Requests | 602-876-1078

MARICOPA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL | 602-506-7387

POISON CONTROL CENTER
- Banner Poison Center (National Number)

Move-In Services

EPCOR WATER | 1-800-383-0834

COX COMMUNICATIONS | 1-866-961-0027

DIRECTV | 1-855-852-4388

FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES INDEPENDENT | 480-837-1925

GARBAGE COLLECTION
- Republic Services | 602-237-2078

GAS SERVICE
- Arizona Propane Co. | 480-990-2245
- Southwest Gas | 1-877-860-6020

CENTURY LINK
- www.centurylink.com
- Business Office | 1-800-244-1111
- Residence Repair | 866-642-0444
- Business Repair | 877-744-4416

SALT RIVER PROJECT
- SRPnet.com
- Emergency (24 hr.) | 602-236-8811
- General Information | 602-236-8888

SANITARY DISTRICT
- 16941 E. Pepperwood Cr. | 480-837-9444

VOTER REGISTRATION INFO | 602-542-8683

Information Numbers

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | 480-837-1654

DOG LICENSE INFORMATION | www.maricopa.gov/226/dog-license

EXTENDED HANDS FOOD BANK | 480-837-0303

FORT MCDOWELL TRIBAL OFFICE | 480-789-7000

FOUNTAIN HILLS BRANCH LIBRARY | 602-652-3000

FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER
- Office | 480-816-5200

FOUNTAIN HILLS POST OFFICE | 1-800-275-8777

CONTRACT POST OFFICE
- 12645 N. Saguaro Blvd., Ste. 6 | 480-837-4908

FOUNTAIN HILLS ZIP CODES
- Street Addresses | 85268
- P.O. Boxes | 85269

HOSPITALS/URGENT CARE
- Fountain Hills Medical Center | 602-671-7990
- HonorHealth Urgent Care - FH | 480-587-6910
- HonorHealth - Osborn | 480-882-4000
- HonorHealth - Shea | 480-323-3000
- HonorHealth - Thompson Peak | 480-324-7000
- Mayo Clinic Hospital | 480-515-6296

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY DISCOVERY CENTER | 480-770-2325

L. ALAN CRUIKSHANK RIVER OF TIME MUSEUM | 480-837-2612

NEIGHBORHOOD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION | 480-837-5317

ROAD CONDITIONS | 511

SCHOOLS
- Fountain Hills Middle School | 480-664-5400
- Fountain Hills High School | 480-664-5500
- Fountain Hills High School Attendance | 480-664-5500
- McDowell Mountain Elementary School | 480-664-5200
- FH School District #98
- Administrative Center | 480-664-5000
- Maintenance—Transportation | 480-664-5000 x7
- Pangaea Schoolhouse | 480-788-2672
- The Inspiration Academy | 480-294-0193

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
- Administration Office | 480-816-5100

2026
Fountain Hills Business Directory

ACCOUNTANTS

ACCURATE TAX AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES, PLLC
12625 N. Saguaro Blvd., #113 | 480-837-5351

ACCOUNTANTS - CERTIFIED PUBLIC

CAPIRCHIO, CRAIG C. C.P.A., LTD
13225 N. Verde River Dr., Ste 204 | 480-837-5265

CLIFFORD, SUSAN CPA
Certified Public Accountant | 602-200-4992
See ad 89

KEY GROUP TAX SERVICES
17100 E Shea Blvd., #400-A | 480-837-1450
See ad 89

KUCHAN, DAN, CPA
16921 E. Palisades Blvd., Ste. 103 | 480-837-6083

MUNDO, DIANE EA
Enrolled Agent | 630-886-5828
See Clifford 89

ACUPUNCTURE

DR. MARY PAPA, DAC, LAC, MSAC, DIPL. AC (NCCAOM)
www.drmarypapa.com
State Lic & Nationally Certified, Trained in China
12015 N. Saguaro Blvd., Ste. 104
480-837-2222

ADVERTISING & MARKETING CONSULTANTS

FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES INDEPENDENT
fhtimes.com
16853 E. Palisades Blvd., Suite 201 | 480-837-1925
See ad 111

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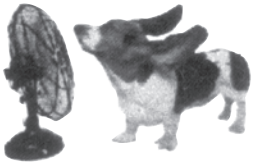
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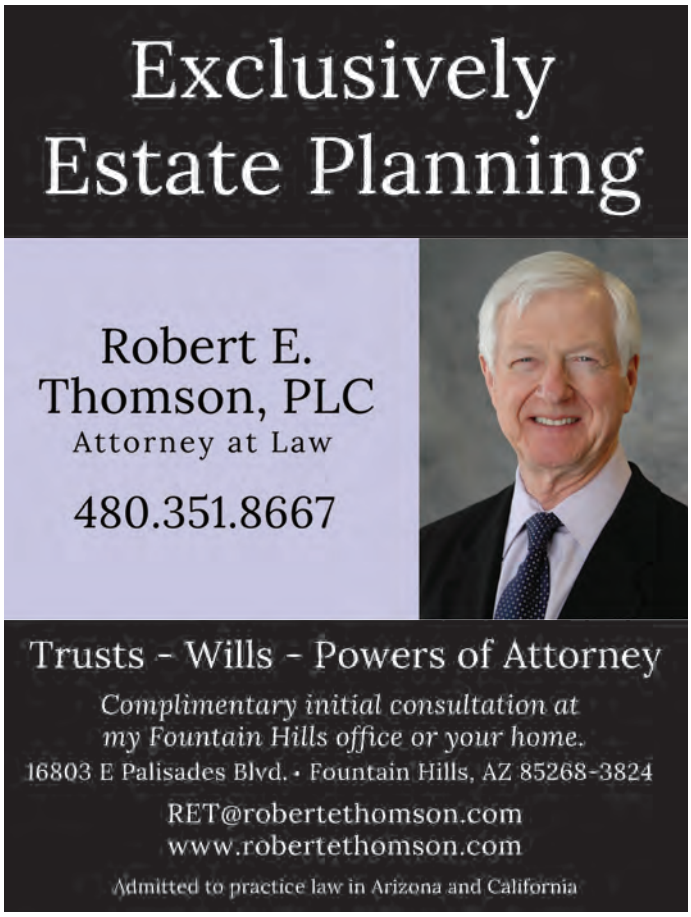
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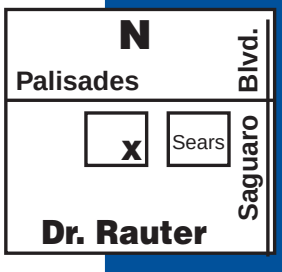
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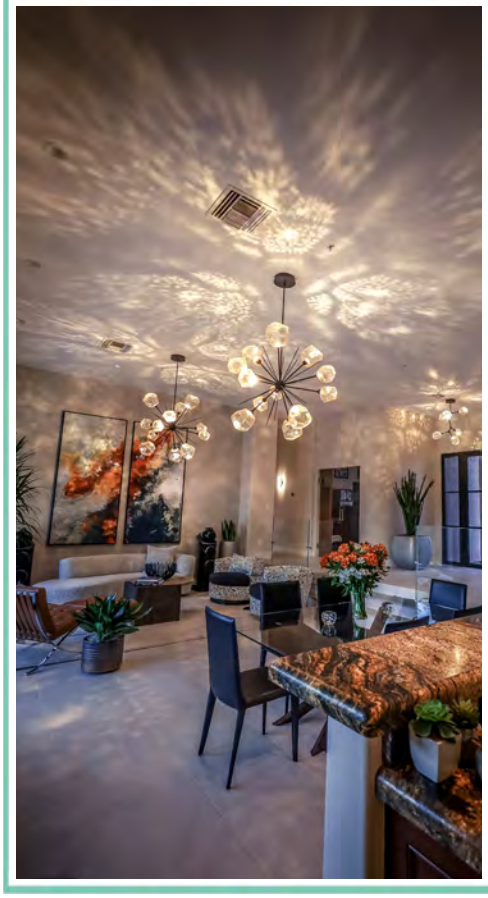


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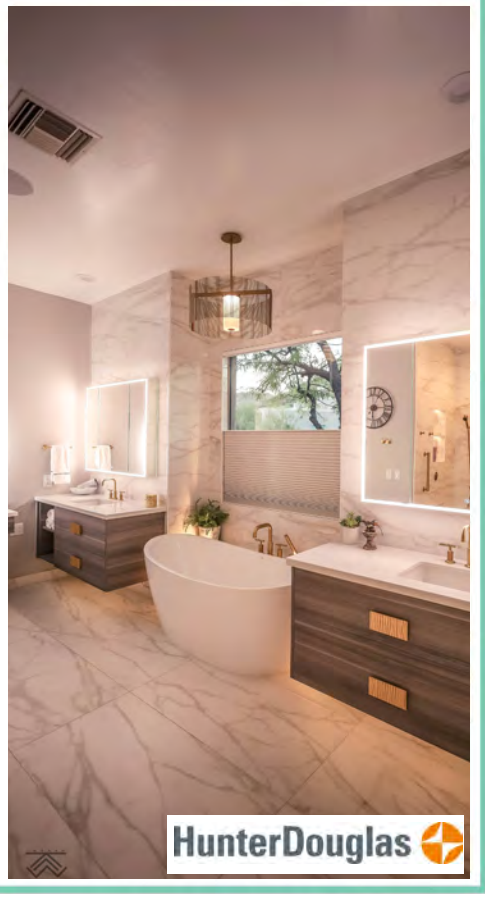


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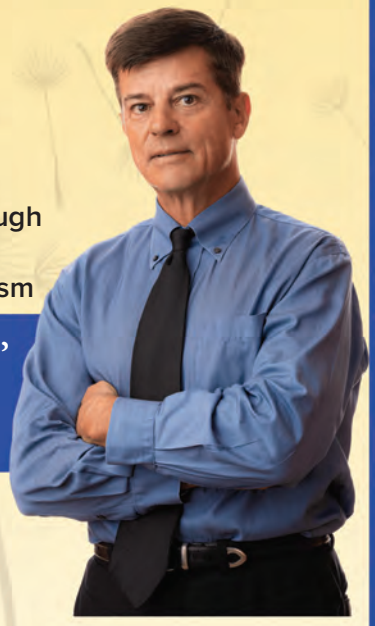




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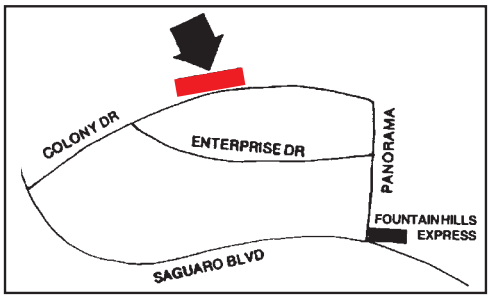


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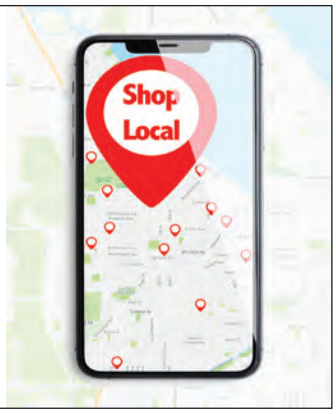
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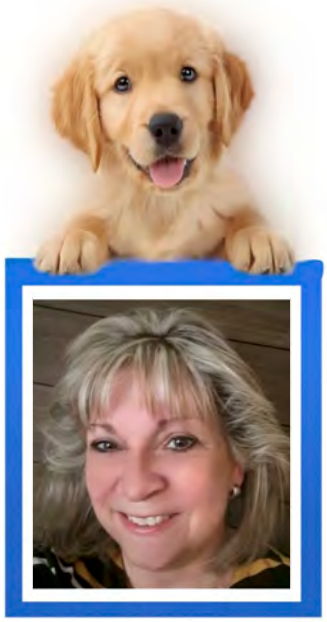
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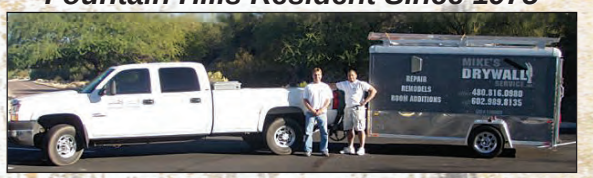
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