



Business

Nonprofit combating senior loneliness; **22**



FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

INDEPENDENT

Music

Fest in the Hills returns next month; **26**



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Service clubs remain dedicated to their work



By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

With summer fading into the background and fall in full swing, many clubs in Fountain Hills are starting to ramp up activity again.

The volunteer clubs in town are no different, as service organizations such as the Fountain Hills Rotary Club, Four Peaks Ro-

tary Club, Sunset Kiwanis and more remain as dedicated as ever to helping the community through various projects and programs.

Beth Maschoff, service project chair for the FPRC, spoke about the numerous 9/11-related service projects the club completed during the month of September, such as the 9/11

• See **Service** on page 3

Members of the Four Peaks Rotary Club in Fountain Hills pose for a photo near the fountain after picking up trash for the community. (Photo courtesy Four Peaks Rotary Club)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fountain Hills moving forward with sale of town parcels

Staff directed by town council

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

As the town looks for ways to add funds toward growing infrastructure projects, the liquidation of additional town-owned parcels was discussed during the Oct. 6 meeting.

After five properties were identified, the council voted 6-1 to move forward with the process, which includes appraisal.

Councilman Allen Skillicorn was the dissenting vote.

Skillicorn and Vice Mayor Gayle Earle stated their preference for open space, though Earle was open to the possible sale of one or more parcels.

Councilman Rick Watts pushed for keeping the current zoning for each respective parcel in place, with fellow councilmembers Brenda Ka-

• See **Sale** on page 13

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Service

• From page 1

Memorial Stair Climb fundraiser at the Salt River Fields, or renovating the 9/11 memorial tribute at Fountain Park.

Maschoff also spoke about future service projects such as helping to organize and clean at Fountain Hills Theater or volunteer landscaping work at Little Falcons Preschool.

"This fall, the majority of our projects fall in the environmental and community enhancement area," Maschoff said. "In November, one of our signature projects is when we partner with the chamber and do the trash pickup at the Fountain Hills Festival of Fine Arts & Crafts. We wear our club shirts and drive around in golf carts, and we have a lot of fun while also keeping the festival clean, beautiful and a much better experience for the vendors and visitors."

FPRC isn't the only service club that will be helping out.

By the end of the fall, Fountain Hills Rotary Club will have helped at both the festival and Make a Difference Day on Oct. 17.

"We are doing booth relief for the upcoming art fair. We are volunteering to sit in for the booth vendors at the art festival when they need to go to the bathroom, get lunch or take a break, so we can protect their booth. We'll wear these purple sashes so that vendors all know who to look for," FHRC president Steve Wilcox said. "We're going to participate in Make a Difference Day in town on Oct. 17 as well. Typically, that would be something like helping clean up the landscaping at a senior's yard or helping somebody who can't do any more physical work."

The Sunset Kiwanis Club of Fountain Hills will also be present at the art festival, but like the other

clubs, has multiple projects in the works during the fall, including donating and working with the Fountain Hills Youth Theater, Ronald McDonald House, Extended Hands Food Bank, and many more.

"We're working on handing physical dictionaries to the local grammar school, so it's something that can help them," club President Steve Baggio said. "And we're getting ready for a big fry bread sale at the art festival in November. That is a fundraiser for children, and children's activities are the most important to keep around. We'll serve out fry bread, coffee, drinks and sweet potato fries. We are going to be working with Reigning Grace Ranch, the Ronald McDonald House, and preparing stocking stuffers for children as well."

Ultimately, while members may be drawn to these clubs for service, the friends they make and communities they meet are just as important.

"I think it gives people purpose," Wilcox said. "...I 100% believe people join the Rotary Club because they want to serve, and I believe people stay in the Rotary Club because of the fellowship and the friendship that comes from it."

And if that is appealing, then why not join one?

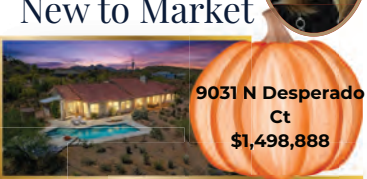
"Come join a group of people that are passionate about making a positive difference in the community," Maschoff said. "[They] are having a lot of fun while they're doing it."

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Arizona Market Update

New to Market



	Down from previous month	YOY change
LISTINGS	41,949	-2.6%
SALES	7,282	-9.4%
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$430,995	-1.6%
INVENTORY	5.1 months	-6.1%

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ON YOURVALLEY.NET

CLEAR plans door-to-door baggage assistance for Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport

CLEAR plans to launch a door-to-door baggage assistance service at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport by Thanksgiving.

CLEAR Concierge is a service where a CLEAR staff member will greet travelers at a dedicated meeting point as they arrive to the airport, carry their bags and assist them through the CLEAR+ security lane and to their gates or wherever else they may need to go.

Read online at YourValley.net

AG files lawsuit against TikTok for concealing mental health dangers to teens

Arizona is filing its own lawsuit against TikTok and its affiliated companies accusing the social media platform of violating state consumer protection laws by concealing its mental health dangers to teens.

The attorney general also claims TikTok has a business strategy designed to purposely addict minors, which "has caused widespread and significant injury to Arizona minors and to Arizona consumers generally."

Read online at YourValley.net

Church of the Ascension to culminate 50th Jubilee with special Mass

Church of the Ascension in Fountain Hills is bringing its year-long 50th Jubilee celebration to a close with a special event soon.

On Oct. 25 at the church, the 50th Jubilee will conclude with a special Mass presided over by Bishop John Dolan of the Diocese of Phoenix as well as a luncheon.

Read online at YourValley.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Town council approves changes to short-term rentals

Reviewed permitting process, enforcement

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Over the past four years, town staff has identified challenges within the current short-term and vacation rental ordinance. After reviewing other ordinances in the state, the Fountain Hills Town Council reviewed and unanimously approved amendments to the current code.

The council body in 2022 approved the existing ordinances and, over the past year, staff has worked toward improvements, Development Services Director John Wesley said.

Among new revisions are definitions and consistent language to the permit process.

"The problem was not created by the person who rented the space but a guest, so we defined guests and later put in some regulations," Wesley said.

To better help with enforcement, staff will be able to use information from the application. The town also holds the ability to immediately revoke the permit if it should have been denied while clarifying the process for applicants to reapply after suspension or denial.

Suspensions are considered only after an owner has one or more verified violations, which are findings of guilt through a court.

Wesley recalled about a year ago a home in town had challenges with activities town staff deemed not appropriate for the neighborhood.

"We issued them citations and then worked to suspend their registration. In doing so, we found out that our code really didn't provide



The town council made amendments to its short-term rental process after identifying issues since its creation four years ago. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

the tools we needed to go through that process," he said.

Code now requires applicants to attest they have sent letters to neighbors notifying of the short-term rental, with contact information and an interactive map available on the town website.

"So if it's 2 o'clock in the morning, you realize they're having a party next door and you want to know who to call, you can go to the website and find out," Wesley said. "You don't have to go through MCSO or anybody else."

For afterhours enforcement, Wesley noted that MCSO will provide the report to code enforcement.

"It seems like historically there's a lot of loopholes like not answering the door, much like a traffic violation," Councilman Rick Watts said. "I'd like to see if we can't close those."

Residents Crystal Cavanaugh and Larry Meyers both spoke in appreciation of the changed ordinance with an emphasis on insurance requirements.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Andrew Lwowski can be reached at alwowski@iniusa.org.

MCSO

Shopliftings, scams reported to Fountain Hills Sheriff's Office

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 7 substation based in Fountain Hills reports deputies responded to the following incidents during the time of Oct. 8-14.

Thursday, Oct. 8

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Bolera Drive where it was reported a motorist struck a wild animal that ran in front of their vehicle, causing damage to the vehicle and killing the animal. No human injuries were reported and no vehicles were towed.

*Deputies responded to the 17000 block of E. La Montana Drive where it was reported an unknown subject

damaged a window of a residence.

Friday, Oct. 9

*Deputies responded to 16000 block of E. Palisades Blvd where it was reported an unknown subject attempted to cash a fraudulent check at a bank.

*Deputies responded to the 12000 block of N. Saguaro Blvd. where it was reported a subject suffering from a mental health crisis damaged property at a restaurant. The business was not willing to aid in prosecution.

Saturday, Oct. 10

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Glenbrook Blvd. where it was reported a subject was trespassed

from a residence after refusing to leave.

Sunday, Oct. 11

*Deputies responded to the 17000 block of E. Calaveras Ave. where it was reported two subjects trespassed on the roof of a private building. The subjects were contacted and trespassed from the property.

Monday, Oct. 12

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Shea Blvd. where it was reported a subject shoplifted items from a business.

*Deputies responded to the 13000 block of N. Fountain Hills Blvd. where it was reported an unknown

subject shoplifted items from a business.

*Deputies responded to the 16000 block of E. Ponderosa Drive where it was reported an unknown subject posing as a Wells Fargo employee scammed the victim out of money as part of a fraudulent scheme.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

*Deputies responded to El Pueblo and Grande boulevards where a domestic violence assault incident was reported.

*Deputies responded to Saguaro Boulevard and Gunsite Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped

• See **Call Log** on page 19

COMMUNITY CENTER

Check out upcoming activities in Fountain Hills

Week of Oct. 22-28

Fountain Hills Community Center is maintaining its schedule of week-day events within the Cutillo Civic Center, 13001 N. La Montana Drive. Most of these activities are reserved for Community Center members.

Activities are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 22

*8 a.m., Peer-led exercise; aerobic chair exercise.

*9 a.m., Video gentle yoga.

*9:30 a.m., Beginning line dance.

*10 a.m., Open paint studio; intermediate Spanish.

*10:30 a.m., Alzheimer's Support Group.

*1 p.m., ASU AZ Boots & Burgers; Mid/high improv line dance; table talk women; Hands and Foot cards.

*4 p.m., Poker.

*5 p.m., Open paint studio; movie; evening beginning line dance.

Friday, Oct. 23

*8 a.m., Back fit with Pilates.

*8:30 a.m., Intermediate bridge.

*9 a.m., Aerobic chair exercise; Pinochle.

*10 a.m., Medicare consult.

*12:30 p.m., Trad. Mah Jongg; Siamese Mah Jongg.

*1 p.m., Open Table Tennis; Mex Train Dominoes; Woodcarvers/table top art; board games/Rummikub; documentary series.

Saturday, Oct. 24

*Available for private booking.

Sunday, Oct. 25

*Available for private booking.

Monday, Oct. 26

*8 a.m., Back fit with Pilates.

*9 a.m., Geri-fit fall prevention; open table tennis.

*10 a.m., Men's Discussion.

*10:30 a.m., Conversational Spanish.

*11:45 a.m., Duplicate bridge.

*12 p.m., Sign Language meet up.

*12:30 p.m., Poker.

*1 p.m., Hi Beg/Low Improv line dance; Cribbage; Pinochle; Mah Jongg (all levels).

*4:30 p.m., Chess Club

*5 p.m., Aerobic chair exercise; Hand & Foot Cards.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

*8 a.m., Peer-led exercise; aerobic chair exercise.

*9 a.m., Video gentle yoga; women's poker.

*9:30 a.m., Intermediate line dance.

*10 a.m., Hooks & Needles; open

paint studio; Medicare Consult.

*11 a.m., Sign Language meet up.

*11:30 a.m., Advanced line dancing.

*1 p.m., Bingo; Mah Jongg; movie.

*5:30 p.m., Open table tennis.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

*8 a.m., Back fit with Pilates.

*8:30 a.m., Intermediate bridge.

*9 a.m., Video gentle yoga.

*10 a.m., Open paint studio.

*12:30 p.m., Poker.

*1 p.m., Scrabble/Rummikub; cards; Intro to Spanish Language and Culture.

*2 p.m., Open jam session.

*2:15 p.m., Spanish I: Grammar and Conversation.

*5:45 p.m., Bunco.

*6 p.m., Couples dance.

OPINIONS

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Your Opinion

Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Public executions and misleading political signs

This administration thinks it'd be a good idea to livestream the firing squad death of another human being. Why? This is depraved and barbaric. What's next, a coliseum with lions? No child should see such a spectacle.

We continually have our minds assaulted with misinformation and fear in order to convince us that anything we do to immigrants, even children, is justified because "they've broken the law" and are not human anyway. The recent immigrant who was shot while in his car with his 5-year-old son was accused of having "several driving infractions." What? Is this a death penalty crime now? Seeing what went down, one would think the target was violent and dangerous. If he had been, the tactics used still wouldn't have been acceptable in civilized society.

And, if we follow through with public executions, we'll put ourselves in the same category as only Iran and Taliban-led Afghanistan. Even Saudi Arabia stopped using public executions. And it would be psychologically harmful to those watching (especially children) seeming to justify violence against "certain" people.

In an era when the Trump administration mistakes manliness, testosterone and unlawful brute force as courage and those with any compassion or non-violence as cowards, what do we expect?

Tragically, this machismo and practice of misinforming and falsely tarnishing any opposition has spread to others running for office. The number of signs posting misleading information about candidates or policies is astounding this year. "Democrats for Biggs," "Socialist Amish Shah supports child mutilation," and "Huge tax increases In Fountain Hills" are all dishonest signs placed there by vari-

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ous Republican groups to scare voters.

Taxes here will stay exactly the same if you vote "yes" on the override, continuing funding at the current rate. Voting "no" will strip the schools of much-needed funds. Vote!

Ann Schweers
FOUNTAIN HILLS

I'm voting yes on district override

"Defund woke schools," "massive tax hike," "higher property taxes hurts seniors and families." Those are some examples of the anti-public school political sign messaging that advocates against the passing of the Fountain Hills schools override measure.

Personally, I don't believe any of it and I'm a senior, full-time resident of the town.

Common sense tells me that a healthy public school system is essential to a thriving community, attracts new families and contributes to higher property values. So why would the residents of this town not want to support it?

Maybe the opponents don't want any more children to move into the community and de-funding public schools is a way to achieve that? Are they even a resident of the community? It's hard to tell because they hide behind their PAC signage. You know, the ones that require a magnifying glass to figure out who is responsible for them. If they have that much opposition to the override measure, then write an op-ed in the Fountain Hills Times and state your case instead of hiding behind a bunch of half-

truth messaging on their PAC signage. Until then, I'm voting "yes!"

Rodney Gifford
FOUNTAIN HILLS

Paper water should equal wet water

I have written 100 essays about Arizona water, runaway growth, sprawl, wildcat development, the Colorado River and the relentless destruction of the desert we keep claiming we want to save. At some point the argument has to become simpler: enough is enough.

We know the river is shrinking. We know groundwater is being overdrawn. We know the 100-year water guarantee has become buried beneath credits, certificates, transfers, replenishment schemes and legal language that almost nobody outside the system can follow. We know every new subdivision creates another permanent demand for water and permanently removes another piece of desert from the map. And still the answer from the growth machine is more growth.

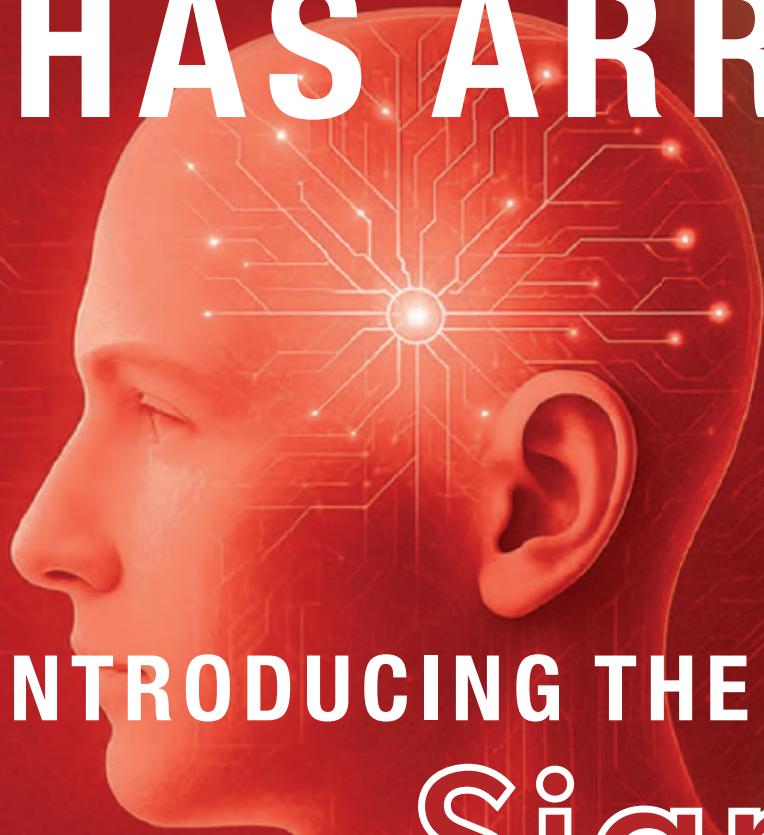
Where are the adults in the room?

Who is willing to stand up and say Arizona does not have to build on every acre simply because somebody can make money doing it? Who is willing to tell a developer that getting land approved for growth does not mean the water exists to support it? Who is willing to tell the Chamber that growth cannot endlessly be justified by the need to pay for the problems created by growth? Who is willing to tell elected officials that a 100-year assured water supply should mean 100 years of actual water, not 100 years of creative accounting?

Paper water should equal wet water. Make "assured" mean assured again.

♦ See **Opinions** on page 19

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ENTERTAINMENT

Fountain Hills Theater takes home gold at 2026 ariZoni awards

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Fountain Hills Theater walked away with four awards at the 2026 ariZonis earlier this month.

The local theater was up for 29 nominations at the Oct. 6 ceremony which recognizes the best in Arizona theater, according to a press release.

The award for Best Original Score was won by Jay Melberg & Peter J. Hill for "Private Lives the Musical." Elias Matthews won Best Media Design for "Wizard of Oz," and Matthew Schmidt took home Best Guest Actor for "Wizard of Oz" as well. Allison Hacker won Best Property Design for "Evil Dead the Musical."

Hacker said that the process for acquiring and building props for "Evil Dead the Musical" was very thorough.

"A lot how I gathered the props was seeing what other productions used, and of course, using the original movie as a reference to try and get something that looks very similar to what everybody knows, since the movie is such a big thing in pop culture," Hacker said. "I was looking for things that could either be readily bought or purchased. The chainsaw was entirely hand built by me, using a pattern that I found on the internet. The boomstick was purchased, and I had the dagger 3D printed."

Matthews, who directed "Evil Dead the Musical," said that he was happy to see the play take home an award. The musical was nominated seven times, including Matthews himself for Best Director in a musical.

"It was very validating because it was probably the most team effort



From left: Peter J. Hill, Allison Hacker and Elias Matthews all took home awards at the 2026 ariZonis. (Independent Newsmedia/Connor Van Ligten)

show I've ever been a part of," Matthews said. "Everyone gave 100%, and it was super complicated and difficult."

Matthews himself won an award thanks to his work with projections on "Wizard of Oz."

For a show with so many different locations, a set couldn't be built for each one, so Matthews had to convey the different settings through mostly projections.

"It was almost all projections, except for a few set pieces. Because they go to so many different locations, it would be hard to build all of that," Matthews said. "So we had projections across the entire stage and we had some fun colored pillars that would change color when we would go to the different locations."

Hill earned his recognition along with Melberg for their work on "Pri-

ate Lives: The Musical." Hill spoke on how they managed to implement musical numbers into a show that is traditionally a straight play.

"I went in and cut down the show so that it would have room for music. I adapted the script, wrote the lyrics, and then Jay Melberg wrote the music to back it up. The trick is to try to incorporate it in a way that seems to flow, that it comes into the song, and goes out of the song without drawing complete attention to the fact that we stopped and sang," Hill said. "...The play is already very lyrical, so I could find sentences in the script that I thought would make for a good song. And then it's just a matter of condensing the rest of the scene so it's not a three-hour extravaganza, and making the music progress the scene."

Awards aside, Hacker said that the theater just getting 29 nominations to begin with is a commendable achievement.

"There's a lot of theaters that participate in the ariZonis, so having 29 nominations to begin with is pretty significant," Hacker said. "And getting four awards, you're competing against 10 other names in that category for each of those awards, just in the nominations. So to even get up in the top two means you've really done an expert job."

Hill said that it's hard to predict what will get nominated, too, so the theater always just focuses on making each show a success, nominations or not.

"I have given up guessing. Sometimes we think we cannot do better than this show, that was the best, and it gets nothing," Hill said. "And then we'll have a show that we just had to cobble together, and it's held together with chewing gum, and then all of a sudden it gets nominations."

Matthews had a different outlook for next year's nominations.

"I'm predicting that all of them will be nominated," Matthews said.

Ultimately, awards or not, all three agreed that every show deserves its flowers.

"Every show we do, everybody works hard to put it together," Hacker said. "And they all deserve something."

For more information on nominees and winners, visit arizoniawards.net/.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

EDUCATION

Protect Our Youth Coalition expands youth vaping prevention efforts

By Allison Kotzbauer

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Fountain Hills Protect Our Youth Coalition is expanding its efforts to help local students stay drug, nicotine and alcohol free, including bringing more prevention education to fifth graders this school year and expanding their Lunch Bunch program.

The coalition works with Fountain Hills schools, families and community organizations to educate young people about substance use and encourage healthy decision-making.

Its work includes school programs, youth leadership opportunities, community events and resources to help parents talk with their children about drugs and alcohol, according to their website.

This school year, the coalition is expanding its involvement with fifth graders, including involving them in more vaping prevention discussions alongside middle school students.

The coalition is also expanding its Lunch Bunch program, with Program Manager Elizabeth Watters planning to have lunch with every student in grades three through five by the end of the school year.

Previously, Lunch Bunch served as a merit-based reward, but the expanded program will allow Watters to connect with all students in those grades, she said.

“The children are seeing vaping everywhere. We are seeing, now, children younger and younger, having access to iPads or cell phones, and that’s just another way that the tobacco industry can target young kids,” she said. “We just think it’s really, really important to get down to the younger grades as well.”



McDowell Mountain Elementary School students participate in the Red Ribbon Week Awareness Walk, promoting drug-free and healthy choices. (Photo submitted by Fountain Hills Protect Our Youth Coalition)



Fountain Hills Protect Our Youth Coalition volunteers Mary Molnar, Paula Leonard and Richard Leonard support the coalition's efforts to promote healthy, substance-free choices among local youth. (Photo submitted by Fountain Hills Protect Our Youth Coalition)

This school year fifth grade students in the Fountain Hills Unified School district will receive three days of curriculum about making healthy choices in regards to substances and sixth through eighth grade students will receive two days of curriculum, Watters said.

Coalition Director Tammy Bell said creating an open dialogue with students can create a path to conversation between kids and their families, teachers and other trusted adults.

“We find that families find it easier



Members of the Above That Club participate in the Community Health Expo in Fountain Hills. (Photo submitted by Fountain Hills Protect Our Youth Coalition)

to have conversations about healthy expectations when they’re younger ... we want to meet them right where they’re at, where that becomes just a more fluid conversation,” Bell said.

The coalition also works to reach students outside the classroom. Its Above That Club gives young people opportunities to develop leadership skills, promote positive choices among their peers and participate in prevention campaigns and community service.

“We’re giving them this confidence. We’re giving them a voice,” Bell said. We’re helping them express their identity, and the more they practice that, the more they’re gonna find that skill transferable if they are in a situation where they’re given access to a substance that they can say, ‘Wait a second, I already know who I am.’”

Other school initiatives include Red Ribbon Week, which raises awareness about drugs, alcohol and vaping, and the Falcon PROMise campaign, which encourages students to make healthy

choices around prom and graduation.

“It’s incredible to see that what we continually talk about with adults, mentors, parents, teachers, business owners, you know the way that we try to expand the ownership of prevention across our community is working,” Bell said. “Our work is reaching more than the students alone, but in the environments that are supporting them, and they see it ... and that’s the real work of prevention.”

The coalition also organizes guest speakers who share personal experiences and information about substance use, including vaping, alcohol, marijuana, fentanyl and opioids.

More information about the coalition’s programs and resources is available at fhcoalition.org or on their Instagram [@fountainhills_coalition](https://www.instagram.com/fountainhills_coalition).

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AsOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines Education

Sale

• From page 1

livianakis and Hannah Larrabee supporting.

"If that's what you want to do, it could impact what you get for it," town attorney Timothy La Sota said.

In December 2025, the Fountain Hills Town Council directed staff to look into the potential sale of parcels, and in March, the council directed staff to move forward with the liquidation of a property along East Ashbrook Drive. Staff was also directed to identify other possible properties, in which five were presented before the council.

The properties include the 14000 block of N. Del Cambre, which is almost 27,000 square feet and could be divided into two comparable lots; the southwest corner of Greystone and Sycamore that's approximately 39,000 square feet; the south side of the 15500-15600 block of E. Sun-

burst that's approximately 190,000 square feet and could be divided into four 47,000 square foot parcels; the north side of the 15500 block of E. Palomino, which is over 53,000 square feet; and the east side of the 16600 block of N. Aspen, which is approximately 100 feet deep and 300 feet of frontage along Aspen Drive.

"If somebody could turn them into productive lots for Fountain Hills, I think that's a great idea," Kalivianakis said. "If we can sell some of these vacant lots to fix roads, buy lake liners or buy a new fire truck, it's a good idea."

Mayor Gerry Friedel also addressed the list of town-related needs.

"These lots are in really nice areas and I can't imagine they wouldn't be worth a pretty penny in this town and it would really give our budget some relief," he said.

Development Services Director John Wesley noted each property was identified through public works



Five additional lots were approved for staff to proceed in the liquidation process, though no action on sales was taken. (Independent Newsmedia/Andrew Lwowski)

and the town engineer. With approval, staff will go ahead in the process for appraisal and more information before returning to council at a later date.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Andrew Lwowski can be reached at alwowski@iniusa.org.



Jo Anne Margaret Considine Moreland

SEPT 27, 1932 - SEPT 2, 2026

Jo Anne Moreland passed peacefully on Sept 2, 2026. She is survived by her brother Martin W. Considine, children: Maureen Moreland Man-

sfield (husband Micheal Mansfield), Michael W Moreland, Raymond J Moreland (wife Shawnee Moreland), Colleen Moreland Reichsfeld (husband Arthur D Reichsfeld), eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Jo Anne met the love of her life, Wallace L Moreland on 4th of July 1947. They were the best of friends and married on November 17, 1956. They were married until Wallace's passing on December 22, 2010. They raised 4 children, moved to Arizona in 1975 to build their dream home and traveled together.

Jo Anne was an accomplished Registered Nurse. She attended Saint Elizabeth School of Nursing, class of 1953. Jo Anne was one of the first critical care nurses specializing in

cardiac care in 1960, earned her bachelor's degree in health care administration in 1978. She was the first person in her family to earn a bachelor's degree.

She worked at Euclid General Hospital, Euclid Ohio (1953 to 1975) and the Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center (1976 - 2004).

Jo Anne enjoyed attending or watching sports, playing Bridge, and a good hamburger. She loved her family, was loved in return, and left a brilliant legacy.

A Funeral Mass will be held at The Church of the Ascension (12615 N Fountain Hills Blvd., AZ 85268, on October 20, 2026 @ 10AM. There will be a Nursing Honor Guard and luncheon to follow in the church hall.



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CLUBS



The next Stories in the Hills event hosted by Fountain Hills Friends of the Library will be on Oct. 22. (Photo courtesy Wendy Schelberg)

Fountain Hills Friends of the Library sets October event

Fountain Hills Friends of the Library has set the date for its October Stories in the Hills event.

The event will be held 2-3:30 p.m. on Oct. 22 at the Fountain Hills Community Center in Ballroom 2, 13001 N. La Montana Drive, according to a press release.

The event will be the seventh sto-

rytelling event in the Stories in the Hills series. Speakers will share their stories about an event that changed their lives.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://www.fhfl.org/>.

CLUBS

AZ AG Mayes speaks at Fountain Hills Democratic Club meeting

AThe Fountain Hills Democratic club hosted Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes at its monthly meeting held Oct. 8. Mayes outlined her office's recent legal actions concerning consumer protection, corporate accountability and environmental regulation.

Mayes detailed several lawsuits filed by the Arizona Attorney General's Office, according to a press release, highlighting a multi-state settlement with Meta Platforms, Inc. over allegations that its platforms were designed with addictive features. Mayes noted that the agreement secured a \$17.1 billion national resolution, with \$223 million allocated directly to Arizona.

The office is pursuing an antitrust price-fixing lawsuit against Real-Page, Inc. and nine residential landlords, the release continued, alleging anti-competitive practices that have inflated rent prices across the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

Mayes also discussed efforts to preserve state water reserves, highlighting corporate litigation against a Saudi Arabian agricultural operation in Western Arizona and a separate \$12 million settlement reached with

a Minnesota-based dairy farm in Co-chise County.

The Attorney General reported that targeted enforcement against fraudulent operations targeting tribal communities for sober living home scams has resulted in over 144 prosecutions, decreasing state health insurance fraud by an estimated 92%. She also reported ongoing prosecutions related to Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) voucher fraud.

Following the Attorney General's address, the club heard from Brian Matlock, a Marine veteran, mechanical engineer and candidate for Arizona State Mine Inspector. Matlock detailed his campaign's core priorities, focusing on worker safety, accidental hazard prevention at abandoned mine sites, and the modernization of regulatory relationships with rural and tribal communities.

The next monthly meeting of the Fountain Hills Democratic Club is scheduled for Nov. 19, at the Fountain Hills Community Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit fhdem-club.org.

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P	A	C	A		A	S	K	I	N	G		
L	O	A	N		G	I	D	D	I	N	E	S
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Area Home Sales

September 28, 2026 - October 2, 2026

The Verdes

29632 N Escalante Dr	\$962,390	19015 E Lazo Ct	\$1,130,000
18439 E Flicker Dr	\$637,500	17739 E Wolf Tree Ln	\$822,943
Homes sold this period:	4	Median Price:	\$892,667
Same period last year:	3	Median Price:	\$639,500
		Average price:	\$888,208
		Average price:	\$680,258

Fountain Hills

14644 N Greenhurst Ave	\$900,000	17112 E La Pasada Dr	\$685,000
16714 E Gunsight Dr Unit 148	\$410,000	13434 N Stone View Trl	\$2,690,000
16657 E Gunsight Dr Unit 181	\$315,000	17225 E Teal Dr	\$520,000
14211 N Honeysuckle Dr	\$955,000	15539 E Telegraph Dr	\$880,000
Homes sold this period:	8	Median Price:	\$782,500
Same period last year:	17	Median Price:	\$610,000
		Average price:	\$919,375
		Average price:	\$973,018

Properties listed may have been sold by various Brokers &/or Owners.



Saturday, October 24th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fountain Hills Town Hall Main Entrance • 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains

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- DO NOT bring liquids, creams or sharps.
- Never flush medications down the drain.



FHCoalition.org

Join us in keeping our community safe.

This initiative is a collaboration of the Fountain Hills Sanitary District and FH Coalition with Maricopa County Sherriff's Office, aimed at protecting our youth and environmnet through a safe disposal event.



SPORTS

Cross country previews sectional course

By Andrew Lwowski
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Cross country

The Falcons competed in the Epic Tourneys Invite on Oct. 9, which gave the runners a preview of the sectional course later this season. The course, however, was under construction and rerouted, though head coach Andrea Hall said it will remain for sectionals. It was also the third course under construction the Falcons have raced this season.

Hall says the girls were held on the line for 10 minutes because the announcer thought the boys were first, though it did not stop them from having a great outing.

“Ellie (Prescott) led her team to another top-50 finish and held her seventh place D4 East ranking,” Hall said. “Lexi (Hall) was 12 seconds back running a personal best of 25:49 and also a top-50 finish. Alison (Cruz Lopez) wrapped up the girls with an impressive time of 28:52.”

For the boys, Nate Schlossberg continued his dominance, finished 16th overall and being the first runner from the division to cross the finish line. Hall said Schlossberg is currently ranked third in the division.

Levi Lara was the next Falcon runner in 21:47 followed by Logan Harrison with a 24:25.

“Heading into the final weeks of competition we have four ranked in the top 20 for D4 East with Nate, Maddox (Bryan), Ellie and Lexi,” Hall said.

The Falcons were without Bryan and Julian Baggenstos due to fall break plans, however.

Fountain Hills’ next meet will be the Talon Invitational in Cave Creek on Oct. 24, followed by a home meet at 5 p.m. on Oct. 29 at McDowell



The five Falcons, from left to right: Nate Schlossberg, Levi Lara, Ellie Prescott, Lexi Hall and Allison Lopez have all been running together since middle school as they ready for another sectionals together. (Photo courtesy of Andrea Hall)

Mountain Elementary School.

Football

The Falcons fell on the gridiron to Cortez, 42-6 on Oct. 9 and dropping to 2-6 on the season.

Fountain Hills’ points came late in the game, courtesy of a long drive from junior quarterback JJ Pena.

The boys returned to action on the home field for the homecoming game

against Chino Valley on Oct. 16.

Volleyball

Fountain Hills volleyball returned to action to face Heritage Academy Mesa, but fell in straight sets (26-24, 25-18, 26-24) on Oct. 14.

The Falcons, now sitting at 9-16-1 overall and 6-5 in the conference, have five games remaining, three of which come on home court.

The girls traveled on Oct. 19 to take on Scottsdale Prep on the road before returning home for Wickenburg on Oct. 21.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines. Andrew Lwowski can be reached at alwowski@iniusa.org.

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RELIGION

Chabad announces community events, Chanukah celebrations

Chabad of Fountain Hills is preparing for its fall and holiday season with a lineup of community events.

The religious organization will be holding five events in November and December, according to a press release.

The events are as follows:

*The Caffeinated Rabbi: The Secret Jewish History of Coffee, 2 p.m. Nov. 1 at a private residence.

*Pop-Up Kosher Jewish Deli, noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 15 at Chabad Edelman Jewish Center, 16830 E. Avenue of the Fountains.

*Chanukah Boutique, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nov. 16-Dec. 7.

*Chanukah on the Avenue, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 6, across from the Chabad Edelman Jewish Center.

*Chanukah Celebration in Rio Verde, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 8 at Rio Verde Fire Station 442, 17619 E. Rio Verde Drive, Rio Verde.

For more information, visit jewish-fountainhills.com.



The Chabad of Fountain Hills recently announced their slate of November and December events. (Photo courtesy Chabad of Fountain Hills)

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Opinions

• From page 6

And if the water is not physically there, leave the desert alone.

There has to come a point when protecting what remains matters more than finding one more way to keep the machine moving. Arizona is past that point.

Enough is enough. Adults in the room, please stand up.

Rusty Childress
RIO VERDE

Is Fountain Hills looking for more litigation?

Item 9c on the agenda for the Oct. 20 town council meeting was obliquely described as “Discussion: Regarding a proposed ordinance relating to Sharia Law.” This was the unnecessary ordinance Allen Skillicorn volunteered to draft banning the application

of Sharia law in Fountain Hills. The ordinance that, if enacted, is likely to result in another lawsuit taxpayers will pay for?

What was the point of this “discussion?” Is our town council looking for another lawsuit?

The United States and Arizona constitutions take precedence over any local ordinance and already prohibit the application of any “foreign law,” a term that by statute encompasses any law, rule, legal code or legal system.

After learning of the proposed ordinance targeting Muslims, the Arizona Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (“CAIR-AZ”) sent a letter to Mayor Friedel urging the town to abandon the proposal as unnecessary and unconstitutional.

CAIR-AZ suggested a meeting to engage in “dialogue” but cautioned that if an ordinance targeting Muslims was enacted, it was prepared to litigate. After successfully challenging Okla-

homa’s targeted ban, the executive director of CAIR’s Oklahoma Chapter recovered more than \$300,000 in attorney’s fees.

Councilwomen Kalivianakis and McMahon were the only members of the town council who agreed to meet with CAIR-AZ representatives. In a recent post on her Facebook page, Kalivianakis questioned Friedel’s judgment in continuing consideration of an ordinance that served no demonstrated need and would further divide the community. Friedel responded by describing Kalivianakis as a “disgruntled candidate.”

During the June 16 town council meeting, Friedel referred to the “dozens of lawsuits and notices of claims” that have consumed the town attorney’s time over the past year. Why then is he intent on discussing an unnecessary ordinance likely to result in another lawsuit?

Beth Culp
FOUNTAIN HILLS

Call Log

• From page 5

for an equipment violation. A records check revealed the driver’s license was suspended. The driver was issued a criminal citation.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

*Deputies responded to the 15000 block of N. Del Ray Drive where it was reported an unknown subject accessed the victim’s crypto account without permission and stole the crypto currency.

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for criminal speed (75 in a 50). The driver was issued a criminal citation.

*Deputies responded to Shea Boulevard and Palatial Drive where it was reported a driver was stopped for criminal speed (76 in a 50). The driver was issued a criminal citation.

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Mesa • November 13, 2026 • Mesa Marketplace Swap Meet

Apache Junction • January 6, 2027 • Central Arizona College

Surprise • January 19, 2027 • The Colonnade

Litchfield/Goodyear • February 17, 2027 • Tuscany Falls Clubhouse(Pebble Creek)

Chandler • February 23, 2027 • Sun Lakes Country Club

Peoria • March 25, 2027 • Westbrook Village

Sun City West • April 13, 2027 • SCW Foundation Center

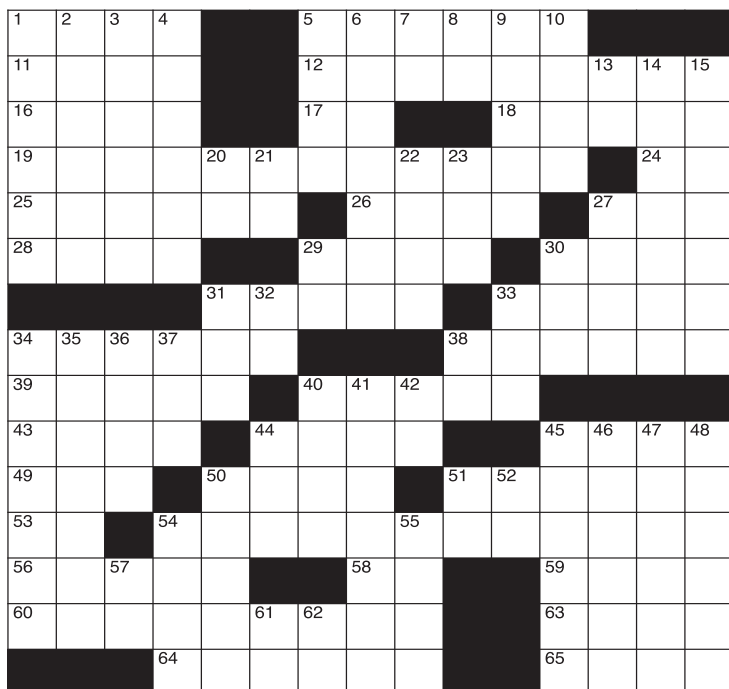
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nocturnal rodent
- 5. Requesting
- 11. Give temporarily
- 12. Frivolousness
- 16. Military arm
- 17. ÒWestworldÓ actor Harris
- 18. Persian Gulf port city
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to ÒPaÓ
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Raincoats
- 27. Lower the light
- 28. Asian mountain range
- 29. Every one of two or more
- 30. Lack of difficulty
- 31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
- 33. Reduces in size
- 34. Make an impact
- 38. Serviceman
- 39. A French river

- 40. Prehistoric people
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 44. ÒLaylaÓ singer Clapton
- 45. Ancient Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. ÒTop Gun: MaverickÓ actor Powell
- 51. A way to disentangle
- 53. Atomic #93
- 54. Manifesting approval
- 56. Indigo bush
- 58. Larry and CurlyÓs pal
- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Masses of fish eggs
- 64. Passerine birds
- 65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Colorless part of blood
- 2. Of a main artery

- 3. PhotogÓs tool
- 4. Blues Traveler hit ÒBut __ Ó
- 5. Grew older
- 6. Not the leader
- 7. __ Lang: country singer
- 8. A driverÓs license is one
- 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Antelopes
- 13. One quintillion bytes
- 14. Japanese lute
- 15. A type of cat
- 20. It cools your home
- 21. Dorm official
- 22. Pouches
- 23. German trigraph
- 27. Form of Persian
- 29. __ route
- 30. Upper body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Edible nuts

- 35. Front part of a quadruped
- 36. Locate
- 37. Geological time
- 38. Of I
- 40. Northern Utah city
- 41. They work in the trenches
- 42. Hammer is one
- 44. Tall deciduous tree
- 45. Performers
- 46. Slang for mistake
- 47. More open
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Provokes
- 51. Home of the NCAAÓs Flyers
- 52. Sodium
- 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
- 55. Not one
- 57. __ and behold
- 61. Atomic #21
- 62. ÒThe Great Lakes StateÓ

You know the drill 15

GUESS WHO ?

I am an athlete born on October 18, 1984, in Minnesota. I am one of only six women to have won World Cup races in all disciplines of alpine skiing. I have won four World Cup championships and hold an Olympic gold medal. I suffered a bad injury at the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Answer: Lindsey Vonn

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to small business.

VNIETS

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Invest

SMALL BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

R Y T I U Q E H Y T I L I B A L A C S G
L M B V A H G I E U N E V E R P S P Y I
L N E O B U B S W N O E L N I C H E E F
O C S P O S U Y R O T N E V N I S C C P
R B F L I T G R P L N R Q O S F P H N G
Y D V E P V S C N U E N B C R R Y V A F
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P B I W C Y O T R E E H N L R H I R L C
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G F R D Q F N G O W P E O H N M E A D B
C H P T L E O D N Q D U D N C A D C B P
H S O N S L E N B N T Y F L G D H R S F L
D A R A Q E N O I T N E T E R W T F H U
S C P O V E C G S V D A E H R E V O U Y

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ACQUISITION
BOOTSTRAPPING
BRAND
CAPITAL
CASHFLOW
COMPLIANCE

DEMOGRAPHICS
EQUITY
FRANCHISE
FUNNEL
INVENTORY
LIABILITY

LOGISTICS
MARGIN
MODEL
NICHE
OVERHEAD
PAYROLL

PIVOT
PROPRIETORSHIP
RETENTION
REVENUE
SCALABILITY
VENDOR

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BUSINESS



From left, Sharon and Sarah Stewart from local nonprofit MyFriend, Inc. (Photo courtesy Sharon Stewart)

Nonprofit sees volunteers paired with seniors to fight loneliness

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A local nonprofit in Fountain Hills is aiming to pair volunteers with senior citizens to stave off social isolation and elder loneliness.

MyFriend, Inc., was formed by mother-daughter combo Sharon and Sarah Stewart in 2025.

"The reason we started this nonprofit is that my grandmother and

great aunt were at the end stages of their life and in assisted living and memory care. We would go to visit, but there still can be this loneliness in between visits, whether it's because the person is not as outgoing while they're living there, they're not interested in doing the activities, or out of their home environment," Sarah said.

• See **Volunteers** on page 23

Volunteers

• From page 22

“...It’s something that really weighed on us...Sharon and I are both Christian and we both felt at different times that God was prompting us to do something about this and so we decided to launch MyFriend.”

Sharon said that the goal of My-Friend is in its name - providing a friend for local seniors in Fountain Hills and Scottsdale that may be experiencing isolation.

“For a period of six months, a volunteer goes and visits with their matched senior for about an hour and a half, and those visits vary depending on the person and what kind of day they’re having,” Sharon said. “It can be anything from having a conversation and sharing stories and memories. Sometimes it could be card games or taking a stroll around the property.”

She added that they have gone to onsite activities with some residents to art classes or to a movie or dance classes. She said sometimes a person may be hesitant to go alone.

Sharon has been in Fountain Hills since 1986, and she said that this town was the perfect place for her and Sarah to start their nonprofit.

“We’re Fountain Hills residents, we’re invested in the community, and we know numerous people because we’ve been here for so many years,” Sharon said. “Fountain Hills

is the perfect place for us to start because we’re familiar here, and it being a smaller community, we know a lot of the seniors here.”

Sharon said that they have seen first-hand the impact their presence has on the seniors that they work with.

“There is one senior at a facility here and when we went last week and it was time for us to leave, she made us promise that we would come back,” Sharon said. “What we find with our seniors that we visit is that you can tell they’re looking forward to that next week...They’re always excited about it and they look forward to something out of the norm in their day.”

Ultimately, Sarah said that she hopes their nonprofit can remind seniors that even at the end of their life, there is still so much they can look forward to, and that there are people who remember them.

“I hope and pray that the seniors that we interact with would feel loved, and would feel that they haven’t been forgotten,” Sarah said. “That they still have things to share and even though they may be in the end chapters of life, their life is not over.”

For more information and to volunteer, visit myfriendusa.org/.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



The Town has openings for various boards and commissions with terms beginning this winter. (Independent Newsmedia file photo)

Fountain Hills boards, commissions have open positions

Deadline to apply is Oct. 23

The Town of Fountain Hills is accepting applications for boards and commissions through 6 p.m. Oct. 23, according to a release.

There are two seats on the Community Services Advisory Commission. One is the commission, which is a three-year term, while the other is a youth commissioner with term dates undetermined. This commission works in support of the town's community services department to enhance the quality of life for residents. Meetings are generally held 5 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month in the town hall chambers.

There are two positions open on the History and Culture Advisory Commission. Both positions are commissioners, though one is a three-year term beginning Nov. 1 and ending October 2029 while the other is a partial term beginning Nov. 1 through Oct. 31, 2028. Those interested in local history, cultural preservation, research and community are encouraged to apply. Meetings are generally held 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of

each month in the town hall chambers.

The Board of Adjustment also has two positions available as board members.

These are two-year terms beginning Nov. 1 through Oct. 31, 2028. The board considers zoning matters related to issues under state law, town code and zoning ordinance, according to the release. Applicants should have experience in planning, surveying, law, real estate or land development. Meetings are generally held 5:30 p.m. every third Thursday on the month in the town council chambers.

Applicants for all available positions must be 18-years or older, be qualified electors and have resided in Fountain Hills for at least one year unless the town council waives applicable residency requirement. The youth commissioner for the Community Services Commission is exempt from these requirements.

Applications are available at the town clerk's office 16705 E Avenue of the Fountains, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit Fountainhillsaz.gov.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fountain Hills to hold trash service meeting

With Universal Waste Systems

The Town of Fountain Hills, with its new trash service Universal Waste Systems, will hold a scheduled meeting 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Community Center. This is the second scheduled meeting for residents, as the first was held on Oct. 10.

Residents are invited to ask questions about changes to trash and recycling services. The town council approved UWS as the new provider in February, and they will take over services soon.

The town is reminding residents to not make changes now and they should continue to use their current Republic Services carts until further instructions.

For additional questions or information about the transition, contact UWS 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, at 480-697-4580 or uwscompany.com.

The second of the two scheduled meetings with the Town of Fountain Hills new trash service will be Oct. 21. (Independent Newsmedia file photo).





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ENTERTAINMENT

Fest in the Hills music festival set to return

By Connor Van Ligten
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Fest in the Hills is returning to Fountain Hills for its second year.

After its first run in 2025, the one-day music festival will be back in Fountain Park 5-10 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Lisa "Thee Oracle" Hightower, founder of the event as well as one of the lead performers, said that one of the main points of emphasis for the event is to bring in performers from many different sounds and genres.

Some examples include international jazz saxophonist Antonio Jackson, Latin Grammy nominee Stanley Serrano, rock, soul and blues duo Diana Lee and Donnie Dean, Kool & the Gang Tribute band 911 Dangerous Band and many more.

"I launched this event as a by artists, for artists event with an intent to activate whatever community we're in. We want to have a plethora of music that will speak to everyone that is there," Hightower said. "So some people are old school, and some want the blues sort of feeling, and there are those who want the updated contemporary style of jazz... We wanted to speak to the entire community that would come out."

Debbie Charlton-Webb from Chill Boutique is an emcee at the event and is excited to work with Hightower in November.

"I'm so honored to be one of the Fest in the Hills emcees supporting Lisa, the local with the vocals. I'd like to thank Lisa for the time, energy, talent and resources she's put into making Fest in the Hills possible," Charlton-Webb said. "With Lisa behind this, we can count on this being an amazing experience."



Lisa "Thee Oracle" Hightower will perform at the 2026 Fest in the Hills in Fountain Hills on Nov. 7. (Photo courtesy Lisa Hightower)

Hightower did say that she is changing one thing from last year - pricing. While the event was free last year, that won't be the case this time around.

Fest in the Hills will still operate as a non-profit event, but charging a small price for tickets will ensure Hightower doesn't put herself in debt running the event every year.

Still, Hightower aimed to keep ticket prices relatively low so everyone in the Fountain Hills community could come enjoy the event.

"It was free to the people, but not free to me. The lesson I learned was to not be hesitant about putting a price on it, even if I wanna keep it at a nominal rate," Hightower said. "So this year, it's \$25 to get in, and we had over 1,000 people last year, so \$25 to get in would have paid our entire budget versus me walking away with an actual debt. And since it's \$25 but if you buy one, you get one free, it's really only \$12.50 for general admission."

By charging money for tickets as well as bringing in sponsors, Hightower said that the event will be

upgraded with more vendors and drink options than last year.

"Last year we had no alcohol. This year, we have alcohol, meaning wine, mixed drinks, as well as beer," Hightower said. "...On the business side, we have several types of vendors and people that will be selling products and food."

Hightower hopes that the festival can impact the town of Fountain Hills in a way that brings more and more attention to the town and community.

And perhaps that can be repeated in other communities all across the world, she said.

"I did it here in Fountain Hills because I live here. I believe that the community should serve art, and art should serve the community," Hightower said. "...My bigger and global goal is to activate music with transformation all over the globe."

A key part of this is the multi-generational power of music, Hightower said.

"We know that it's generations that build and sustain anything, whether it be a business, a town, or a country or family," Hightower said. "Music is so multi-generational and so unlimited and ageless, that it not only attracts people to itself, but also attracts them to our town."

Ultimately, Hightower suggests those who are interested come see for themselves.

"Come experience incredible music, community and culture," Hightower said. "It will transform your life."

For more information and to buy tickets, visit festinthehills.com/.

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Scott D. Erkelens is the currently acting Trustee of the Fern Senff Family Trust, dated December 20, 2022 (the "trust"). Fern Senff, the Grantor of the trust, is now deceased. Scott D. Erkelens is also the named Personal Representative for the Estate of Fern Senff. Fern Senff died on September 20, 2026. All persons having claims against Fern Senff, her estate, and/or the Fern Senff Family Trust, dated December 20, 2022, are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented by delivering or mailing a written statement of the claim to: Eleonora "Lee" Holmes, Esq., Holmes Law, PLLC, PO Box 18587, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269.

DATED: September 29, 2026.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on 04/18/2006, a certain Mortgage was executed by FRANCES M ROGER and JAMES T ROGERS as Mortgagor, in favor of SUN AMERICAN MORTGAGE COMPANY as Mortgagee, and was recorded on 04/24/2006, as Document Number 20060539874, in the Office the Recorder of Deeds, Maricopa County, Arizona and
 WHEREAS, the Mortgage was insured by the UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (the SECRETARY) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage is now owned by the SECRETARY, pursuant to an Assignment of Mortgage dated 03/17/2020, and recorded on 03/27/2020, as Document Number 2020-0265820, in the Office of the Maricopa County Recorder of Deeds, Arizona and a default exists; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage in that the payment due on 07/14/2026 was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the SECRETARY has declared the entire amount of this indebtedness secured by the Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR Part 27, subpart B, and by the SECRETARY'S designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, dated September 15, 2016, notice is hereby given that on 10/27/2026 at 8:30 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises located at ("Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder.
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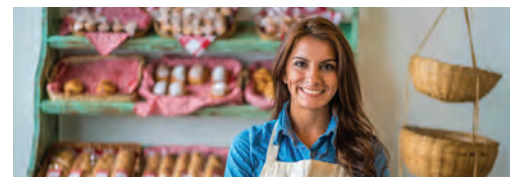
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Public Notice



**Town of FOUNTAIN HILLS
Development Services
Department
Planning & Zoning Division**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the **Fountain Hills Planning and Zoning Commission** will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to receive comments on **ORDINANCE 26-19**, amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 1, Introduction, Sec. 1.12, Definitions, and Chapter 5, General Provisions, Sec. 5.13, Community Residences to modify the number of residents permitted for Assisted Living Homes and the bedroom sizes required.

Case #TAM26-000005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.** in the Town Council Chambers located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, Arizona, the **Fountain Town Council** will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to receive comments on ORDINANCE 26-19, amending Zoning Ordinance Chapter 1, Introduction, Sec. 1.12, Definitions, and Chapter 5, General Provisions, Sec. 5.13, Community Residences to modify the number of residents permitted for Assisted Living Homes and the bedroom sizes required.

Case #TAM26-000005

For more information, contact John Wesley, AICP, Development Services; Development Services, Town of Fountain Hills, 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountain, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268; or by calling 480-816-5138. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent,
October 21, 28, 2026/50605 1

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ORDINANCE NO. 26-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TOWN CODE BY AMENDING CHAPTER 8, BUSINESS LICENSES, ARTICLE 8-6, SHORT-TERM RENTALS AND VACATION RENTALS.

WHEREAS, local governments may regulate short-term rentals and vacation rentals as provided in Arizona Revised Statutes (“A. R. S.”) § 9-500.39; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2022, the Mayor and Town Council passed and adopted Ordinance 22-09 adding Article 8-6, Short-term Rentals and Vacation Rentals to the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, the Town has found it necessary to amend the existing regulations to ensure the proper functioning of short-term rentals and vacation rentals consistent with Arizona Revised Statutes (“A. R. S.”) § 9-500.39; and

WHEREAS, a central and significant goal for the Town is to protect the health safety and welfare of the Town residents, preserve its housing stock, and maintain the quality and character of residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article II, Sections 1 and 2, Constitution of Arizona, and the laws of the State of Arizona, the Town Council has considered the individual property rights and personal liberties of the residents of the Town and the probable impact of the proposed ordinance on the cost to construct housing for sale or rent before adopting this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The recitals above are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. Article 8-6 of the Fountain Hills Town Code is hereby amended as provided in Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, such provision or portion hereof shall be deemed separate, distinct and independent of all other provisions and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its passage and adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, and its approval by the Mayor and attestation by the Town Clerk.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, this 6th day of October, 2026.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA

/s/Gerry M. Friedel, Mayor

REVIEWED BY:

/s/Rachael Goodwin, Town Manager

ATTEST:

/s/Angela Padgett-Espiritu,

Deputy Town Clerk For Bevelyn Bender,
Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Tim La Sota, Town Attorney

EXHIBIT A | Available in the Town Clerk's Office

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, October 14, 21, 2026/50290 1

COPY
JUL 17 2008
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
FAMILY
DIVISION

Person Filing: Zachary H. Hull
 Address of Petitioner: 23, 301 1751
 City, State, Zip Code: Fourteen Mile, AZ 85009
 Telephone: (602) 278-4923
 Email address: z.hull@gmail.com
 ATLAS Number: ATLAS 01250125000
 Lessor's Bar Number: _____

Representing: ☒ Self, without a Lawyer ☐ Attorney fee ☐ Prothonotary ☐ OR ☐ Prorepresented

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY**

(2) ZACHARY H. HULL (In original case)
 Petitioner (in original case)
 (vs.) ARLENE MORANES (Respondent) (in original case)

Case No. FC2007-000176
 (u) ATLAS No. ATLAS 00230230000

**PETITION TO STOP INCOME WITHHOLDING
ORDER (AND ALL MARICOPA COUNTY
SUPPORT ORDERS) A.S. §25-404**

Note: If any current or past due child support or spousal maintenance is still owed under the terms of the current support orders, STOP by You have the wrong form. Review the forms to MODIFY the Order of Assignment to see if appropriate for your situation.

I, ZACHARY H. HULL, ask the Court to terminate the Income Withholding Order (which requiring an employer or other payor of funds to withhold funds for child support or spousal maintenance) to (withhold):

ZACHARY H. HULL, Petitioner, is the person covered to make payments, and
ARLENE MORANES, Respondent, is the person intended to receive payments.

Previous Withholding Order(s) issued: (u) 001120014 (Name of Court) (u) ARLENE MORANES (Name of County) (u) MARICOPA COUNTY (Name of State) (u) ARIZONA

The Income Withholding Order was issued by: SUPERIOR COURT (Name of Court)
 Located in this County: MARICOPA COUNTY (Name of County)
 Located in this State: ARIZONA (Name of State)

I also ask the Court to terminate any underlying Maricopa County child support and/or spousal maintenance (Support Order(s)).

The Support Order was issued: (u) 041120014 (Name of Court) (u) SUPERIOR COURT (Name of County) (u) MARICOPA COUNTY (Name of State) (u) ARIZONA

Spousal Maintenance Order issued: (u) N/A (Name of Court) (u) N/A (Name of County) (u) N/A (Name of State)

The Support Order was issued by: SUPERIOR COURT (Name of Court)
 Located in this County: MARICOPA COUNTY (Name of County)
 Located in this State: ARIZONA (Name of State)

The Income Withholding Order should be stopped and any Maricopa County Support Order(s) should be terminated because:

(u) Check the appropriate box(es) to explain why the Order(s) should be terminated:

☒ (u) All past due child support (past due support/maintenance/arrearage) has been paid and the person making payments is no longer obligated to pay spousal maintenance.

☐ (u) All past due child support (past due support/maintenance/arrearage) has been paid and the person making payments is no longer obligated to pay spousal maintenance.

☐ All past due child support (past due support/maintenance/arrearage) has been paid and the person making payments is no longer obligated to pay spousal maintenance.

☐ Legal decision making (child custody) has been changed by Order of this Court.

☐ We are entering into a new agreement, and I am interested, and I am interested, and I am interested.

☐ All past due child support (past due support/maintenance/arrearage) has been paid and the person making payments is no longer obligated to pay spousal maintenance.

☐ Legal decision making (child custody) has been changed by Order of this Court.

☐ We are entering into a new agreement, and I am interested, and I am interested, and I am interested.

☐ The case has been dismissed. Order of Dismissal is attached if not from this Court.

☐ Other condition for ending payments listed in law supporting support order has occurred. Describe: _____

CHILD SUPPORT HAS BEEN PAID FOR SIX MONTHS AHEAD SO CHILD SUPPORT SHOULD STOP
 MARIC. CHILD. CHAMBERLAIN INVOL. THURS. MID AUGUST 2008.

I ask the Court to order the Support Payment Clearinghouse to hold any payments received pursuant to the Income Withholding Order until further order of the Court. I understand that if this request is granted, additional payments may be sent to the other party before the Support Payment Clearinghouse releases the order from the Court.

OATH OR AFFIRMATION AND VERIFICATION
 I swear or affirm that the information on this document is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

Signature: Zachary Hull Date: 7/14/08

STATE OF Arizona
 COUNTY OF Maricopa

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me this: 7/14/08 (Date)

Zachary Hull
 (Print name)

Corelli Williams
 Maricopa County Clerk - Arizona
 Commission Expires 01/01/2011
 My Comm. Exp. Date: 01/01/2011

Deputy Clerk or Notary Public

NOTICE TO OTHER PARTY: If you do not agree with this Petition, you have twenty days (thirty days if you were served outside the state of Arizona) by which to respond by completing a petition for hearing. If requested, a hearing will be set. The terms mentioned in the request for hearing are available from the Clerk of Superior Court, by purchase from The Law Library Resource Center, or they may be downloaded from their online website.

If you do not request a hearing in writing within the time allowed, the Court will follow the Petition by Stop of Assignment (and all Maricopa County Support Orders), and will grant this request, if appropriate.

CURRENT EMPLOYER'S INFORMATION

You may also fill out this form online at the Family Support Center Website.

COPY
JUL 17 2008
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
FAMILY
DIVISION

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR:

☒ AN INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER
 ORDER TO STOP AN INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER
 NOTIFICATION OF A CHANGE OF EMPLOYER (or OTHER PAYOR)

CASE NUMBER: FC2007-000176 ATLAS NUMBER: ATLAS 00230230000

NAME OF PERSON ORDERED TO MAKE PAYMENTS:
ZACHARY HULL
 AG DOSE

LIST THE NAME OF THE EMPLOYER* AND THE ADDRESS OF THE PAYROLL OR FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT* (for this person named above) WHERE THE INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER OR STOP ORDER SHOULD BE MAILED.

EMPLOYER* NAME: N/A

PAYROLL ADDRESS:
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMPLOYER* TELEPHONE: _____

EMPLOYER* FAX: _____

*or other payor or source of funds

FOR COURT USE ONLY. DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE.

WAIVED

WAIVED BY: _____
 TYPE OF WAIVE: _____
 DATE: _____
 AMOUNT OF ORDER: _____
 EMPLOYER STATUS: _____
 ENTERED BY: _____
 NEW I/O: _____
 GLE _____

Public/Fountain 118a Time Independent October 01, 20 November 4, 11 2005/09/01

Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 26-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING TOWN CODE SECTION 10-2-1 DEFINITIONS AND SECTIONS 10-2-8 AND 10-2-9 RELATING TO HANDBILLS.

WHEREAS, The Town desires to protect the safety of its residents by limiting the possible accumulation of unwanted materials in and around the street facing yards of their properties; and

WHEREAS, The Town desires to maintain streets and sidewalks free of litter and debris; and

WHEREAS, The Town recognizes and desires to protect free speech and lawful commercial activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The recitals above are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The Council adopts the amendments as contained in Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, such provision or portion hereof shall be deemed separate, distinct and independent of all other provisions and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. In accordance with Article II, Sections 1 and 2, Constitution of Arizona, and the laws of the State of Arizona, the City/Town Council has considered the individual property rights and personal liberties of the residents of the City/Town and the probable impact of the proposed ordinance on the cost to construct housing for sale or rent before adopting this ordinance.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its passage and adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, and its approval by the Mayor and attestation by the Town Clerk.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, this 6th day of October, 2026.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA

/s/Gerry M. Friedel, Mayor

REVIEWED BY:

/s/Rachael Goodwin, Town Manager

ATTEST:

/s/Angela Padgett-Espiritu,

Deputy Town Clerk For Bevelyn Bender,
Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/Tim La Sota, Town Attorney

EXHIBIT A | Available in the Town Clerk's Office

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, October 14, 21, 2026/50291_1

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, on 03/30/2016, a certain Mortgage was executed by MARGARITA WARRINGTON by Robert Warrington as attorney in fact, as Mortgagor, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., (MERS) (SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR LENDER, AS HEREINAFTER DEFINED, AND LENDER'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS), LENDER: NOVA FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION DBA NOVA HOME LOANS as Mortgagee, and was recorded on 04/04/2016, as Document Number 20160219648, in the Office the Recorder of Deeds, Maricopa County, Arizona and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage was insured by the UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (the SECRETARY) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage is now owned by the SECRETARY, pursuant to an Assignment of Mortgage dated 08/17/2022, and recorded on 08/23/2022, as Document Number 20220661226, in the Office of the Maricopa County Recorder of Deeds, Arizona and a default exists; and

WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage in that the payment due on 07/24/2026 was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the SECRETARY has declared the entire amount of this indebtedness secured by the Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR Part 27, subpart B, and by the SECRETARY'S designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, dated September 15, 2016, notice is hereby given that on 11/10/2026 at 8:30 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises located at ("Property"), will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder.
P.I.N.: 160-42-072

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 612 W AUGUSTA AVE., PHOENIX, AZ 85021

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 13 OF MODERN GROVES, A SUBDIVISION OF MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY RECORDER IN BOOK 125 OF MAPS AND PLAVEST T S AT PAGE 32 THEREOF.

The sale will be conducted online on Zoom at: Meeting ID: 648 483 3997; Password: 743891. There is a Zoom call-in option at 312-626-6799. THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT will bid \$883,470.04 plus per diem interest, advances, fees and costs. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before sale, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. The Special Commissioner shall accept advance, sealed written bids at Pleadings@Nevellaw.com.

The successful bidder, except the SECRETARY, must submit a deposit totaling at least 10% of the bid in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the SECRETARY OF HUD at the close of bidding sent to the Special Commissioner at the address below by express mail next-day delivery. The deposit is non-refundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within thirty (30) days of the Sale or at such other time as the SECRETARY may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to the SECRETARY OF HUD. If the SECRETARY is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate taxes and other taxes that are due on or after the date of sale and all other transfer taxes and State, County and Municipal costs associated with the transfer of title.

There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.

IRA T. NEVEL

Foreclosure Commissioner for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
175 North Franklin, Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125

Publish: Fountain Hills Times Independent, October 14, 21, 28, 2026/50133_1

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FOR 85268**

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October 13, 2026

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PRICE PER SQFT

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ON MARKET

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MCO
REALTY



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- Fountain Hills Coalition
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- Fountain Hills Leadership Academy
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- Rescue Pals
- Salt River Wild Horse Management Group
- Salvation Army of Arizona



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