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EPCOR working to bring old well back into system

Located on Desert Canyon course

By Michael Scharnow
Times Editor

EPCOR Water is working to bring an existing potable water well back into service.

The well site is actually located on the Desert Canyon Golf Course east of the intersection of Saguaro and Kingtree boulevards. The well is located between the sixth and seventh fairways of the course and is visible to some homeowners who live east of Saguaro on Indian Wells Drive.

The \$1 million improvement project will bring the long-standing well back into service, erect an eight-foot masonry wall around the site and include a recent town-approved 42-foot communications tower.

While EPCOR primarily uses water from the Central Arizona Project, which is brought to the Phoenix area via a canal from western Arizona and the Colorado River, the refurbished well will be a reliable back-up.

"Bringing this well into service is an important project for our Chaparral service area," said Rebecca Stenholm, director of public and government affairs for EPCOR.

"It will ensure that we are able to provide adequate water supply when the Shea water treatment plan is shut down for regular maintenance."

That treatment plant handles and treats the water that is pumped into Fountain Hills from the CAP canal in Scottsdale at Shea Blvd.

"Our team has been carefully coordinating its work to bring this well into service as safely and quickly as possible with the golf course," Stenholm added.

Once the well is working again, it will be connected to an existing pipeline that runs along Kingtree Blvd. and ultimately connects to a storage tank on Fountain Hills Blvd. near the Botanical Garden.

Some construction work is currently going on near the storage tank as well.

EPCOR is expecting the well to be in service by early October, just prior to a scheduled shutdown of the Shea treatment plant at the end of October.

"Before the well is put into service, the water will be rigorously tested by our water quality experts to ensure that it meets federal and state drinking water standards," Stenholm said.



Monsoon madness

The 2015 monsoon season is rapidly coming to an official end in the Valley of the Sun, but before that happens on Sept. 15, Michael Isenberg was able to capture this magnificent photograph of a storm that swept through the area on Aug. 29. He used a lightning trigger to capture this spectacular scene.

Youth substance abuse

Coalition uniting 'sectors'

The Fountain Hills Coalition began the new school year with a strong showing among its various sector representatives.

Currently in the fifth year of a five-year federal grant, the coalition was established to coalesce different "sectors" in the community to battle primarily underage drinking and illegal drug use.

Community coalitions are comprised of parents, school officials, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders, health providers

and other community activists who are mobilizing at the local level to make their communities safer, healthier and drug-free.

The coalition this school year hopes to get more parents involved in its efforts and have a high school student or two attend its regular sector meetings.

Dr. Patrick Sweeney, the new FHUSD schools superintendent, attended last week's coalition meeting along with two of his principals - Tom Brennan from the high school

and Anita Gomez from the middle school.

Also new to the meeting was Dr. Bill Myhr, director of education at the Fort McDowell Indian Community.

The coalition hopes to coordinate some efforts with the reservation and assist where it can. A strong percentage of Fort McDowell students attend Fountain Hills' schools.

Jerry Traylor told the group it was inspiring to see so many community groups represented around

the table at last week's meeting.

Sweeney later said, "Like Jerry said, it's pretty special having all the people who were around the table in the same place at the same time."

"That is an awesome group and I'm honored to be a part."

More information about the Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is available at www.fhcoalition.org or searching for it on Facebook.



Construction work is expected to be done in October on a well site owned by EPCOR Water located between two fairways on the Desert Canyon Golf Course.

New drug drop box installed

Located inside Town Hall

There is a new and improved drug drop box inside Town Hall next to the Sheriff's Office headquarters.

The old box suffered some damage to its handle because too many drugs were being stuffed into the box.

The box is designed to accept unused or expired prescription drugs in pill form only.

It was placed there in cooperation with the town, MCSO and the Fountain Hills Coalition.

The new prescription drop box was donated by the state Attorney General's Office, according to Shelly Mowrey, coalition director.

"It's been a tremendous success," said MCSO Lt. John D'Amico. "We still have to empty it once or twice a week because it keeps getting filled up."

The idea is for homeowners to safely dispose of their prescription medication so they don't end up being sold on the streets.

"There are a lot of places in the county that don't have these, so we're fortunate," Mowrey added.

Due to public demand, the Drug Enforcement Administration is bringing back its popular "drug take back days" after previously announcing it was cutting the program.

The town, MCSO and coalition will coordinate a local take back day here on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Residents will be able to stop by Town Hall between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to drop off unused or expired pills.

Mowrey also announced at an Aug. 27 coalition meeting that MCSO, through its Midnight Madness fund, would provide a grant to fund the coalition's "Above That" club at Fountain Hills Middle School.

The group meets on a regular basis to promote healthy living and discussing strategies to saying no to alcohol and drugs.

More Coalition stories on page 5A



Sheriff's Deputy Miller shows off the new drug drop box.

TLC

Town, computer lab sign pact

By Michael Scharnow
Times Editor

Despite some tension several months ago, town officials and the Technology Learning Center have agreed on a new lease arrangement.

TLC was essentially occupying a classroom in the Community Center on a permanent basis, and concerns were raised by the Community Services Advisory Commission and center staff about future space availability for other programming.

At one point it appeared that perhaps TLC, which is run by volunteers, would have to look for space elsewhere in town to operate.

But a working group from the commission and staff along with TLC representatives were able to hammer out an agreement over the past few months.

The commission Aug. 31 gave its blessing to the new memo of understanding between the town and TLC, and the Town Council was updated on the issue Sept. 3.

TLC provides computer training to community residents and visitors, mostly to "senior" folks. The lab also has been emphasizing in recent years workshops on mobile devices and tablets.

With consummation of the new lease arrangement, TLC will resume workshops at the Community Center in October.

The classroom's desks, tops, overheads, printers, chairs and tables are now being removed.

Community Services Director Mark Mayer said the carpeting will be cleaned and painting touched up.

Community Center staff (cont. on page 7A)

INSIDE THIS WEEK

News:

More street work is being scheduled.
See Page 3A

Schools:

Caden Craig (pictured) had fun rock climbing at a FHCS event.
See Page 8A

Sports:

Cross country team has home meet Saturday.
See Page 2B



WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Sept. 1	91	82	--
Wed., Sept. 2	92	80	--
Thurs., Sept. 3	98	80	--
Fri., Sept. 4	95	73	--
Sat., Sept. 5	93	76	--
Sun., Sept. 6	100	78	--
Mon., Sept. 7	96	79	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to www.fhtimes.com

