

Drug Coalition

'Diversion' helps educate teens

Many Fountain Hills juveniles who are caught for minor consumption or small drug possession charges end up before David Gallagher.

He's not part of law enforcement or the judicial system, but he conducts classes as part of a youth diversion program.

As head of Arizona Addiction Treatment Program in Mesa, Gallagher has seen about 8,000 juveniles in the past 22 years.

He recently made a presentation to the Fountain Hills Coalition, since many local juveniles get referred to the diversion program for first-time offenses.

The local Municipal Court has a contract with AATP to send about 80 percent of the juveniles referred to diversion to attend a class conducted by Gallagher.

"I was approached by the court a few years ago because they were concerned with all the drinking and parties going on here," Gallagher told the

coalition.

"It's been a mess here for a while."

However, Gallagher said Fountain Hills is no different than other Valley communities when it comes to juvenile drug and alcohol issues.

"And I do have to say that the kids from Fountain Hills are the most respectful ones that we've seen," he added.

AATP conducts these diversion classes one or twice a month on a Saturday at the Mesa Police Department headquarters. Classes typically are held for eight hours for offenders between the ages of 12 and 17.

In 2012, he saw 31 juveniles from Fountain Hills go through his classes.

So far in 2013 he's seen 25 students come through.

"The class is highly structured," he said. "We review the dangers of drugs, alcohol, drinking and driving, that type of thing."

"For us to be success-

ful, we need strong law enforcement and a strong judge. You have that in Fountain Hills.

"The kids respect Judge Eisenberg."

A week prior to Gallagher's presentation, however, Magistrate Mitchell Eisenberg announced he would be resigning his post and taking a position with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

The town has yet to name a replacement or announce if a full-time judge would be hired.

"It's important that parents know what's going on that class, too," Gallagher told the coalition.

"It's a very intense, structured class. We need a consistent message from parents, law enforcement.

"We need parents to be adults, not the best friends of their kids.

"A lot of cities don't want to deal with underage drinking and drugs, but you guys are confronting the situation."

As for law enforcement,

Gallagher said it is "vital" that kids get cited when they are caught drinking or when involved with other issues.

"Consistency is key and sending that message of enforcement," Gallagher said.

"You guys are doing a great job out here."

Coalition Director Carole Groux said it was "fantastic" that there was a specific diversion program for juveniles ages 17 and under.

The coalition is gearing up for participation in Red Ribbon Day Oct. 26 at the Fountain Hills Middle School.

Activities will be taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day at the school, said Principal Anita Gomez.

Fourteen different "stations" are planned that the students will rotate through during the day.

Grades from Four Peaks Elementary School would be participating as well.

"Red Ribbon Day is really being expanded to include the entire week," she added.

FHMS also hosts an "Above That" club, which emphasizes that young teens have positive choices to pursue rather than taking drugs or alcohol.

The coalition helps with organizing and funding aspects of that program.

Gomez said special "Above That" meetings were being held during certain lunch times to boost student participation rather than meeting after school hours.

Supervisor Chucri at GOP

Maricopa County District 2 Supervisor Steve Chucri will be the featured speaker at the Republican Club meeting Saturday, Oct. 19, at 9 a.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center.

Chucri was elected as one of five members of the Board of Supervisors in 2012 and has been serving since January.

Chucri is an alumnus of Brophy College Preparatory and went on to obtain his degree in business administration at the University of San Diego. He spent six years on Capitol Hill working for Congressman Matt Salmon. For the past eleven years, he has served as President and CEO of the Arizona Restaurant Association.

FHRC meetings are open to interested persons at no charge. Complimentary coffee and breakfast snacks are available at 8:45 a.m. Meetings provide opportunities to learn about state and national issues and to meet GOP candidates and elected officials.

The next "meet-up" is being planned for Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. on the patio of the Holiday Inn. This is a casual event intended to encourage getting to know fellow members better and as an opportunity for prospective members to learn more about the club.

Reservations are now being taken for the annual "Picnic in the Park," which will take place Saturday, Nov. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the south end of Fountain Park at the Kiwanis ramada.

Cost is \$15 for non-members; \$12 for members; children under the age of 12 accompanied by parents free of charge. Fried and baked chicken and side dishes will be served along with soft drinks, water and cookies for dessert.

Payment in advance will be much appreciated. Checks may be sent to

FHRC, P.O. Box 17814, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269.

Reservations may be made by contacting Edith Stock at eestock_33@yahoo.com or 480-298-7818.

Featured speakers will be Robert Graham, chairman of the Arizona Republican Party; and Congressional District 2 candidate Colonel Martha McSally, retired Colonel USAF.

Many state and local GOP officials including Sheriff Joe Arpaio and candidates for the offices of governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, Corporation Commission and the State Legislature will be in attendance.

For further information, visit www.fhRepublican-club.org

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85268 LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

by Erica West

STATE OF THE FOUNTAIN HILLS RESIDENTIAL MARKET

SEPTEMBER

September saw the inventory go up and sales go down somewhat. The median price for single family homes in Fountain Hills reached a high point in June and then began to dip.
 *May \$392,500 *June 2013 \$425,000 * July 2013 \$389,000 *Aug. 2013 \$375,000
 There are currently 196 single family homes.
 34 single family homes went into contract in September.
 34 closed Single family homes closed in September.

Price range	Average Closed price/ sf.			
	closed	price/sf.	high	low
\$100-\$200,000	2	\$122	---	---
\$200-\$300,000	7	\$171	\$182	\$134
\$300-\$400,000	10	\$164	\$197	\$139
\$400-\$500,000	5	\$210	\$242	\$180
\$500-\$600,000	3	\$167	\$201	\$145
\$600-\$700,000	3	\$172	\$144	\$189
\$700-\$800,000	2	\$202	\$210	\$193
\$800-\$900,000	0	---	---	---
\$900-\$1M	1	\$229	---	---
\$1M-\$2M	2	\$267	\$273	\$261
\$2M-\$3M	0	---	---	---
\$3M+	0	---	---	---

For more details about what is on the market and what buyers are buying, check out **Erica's Market Insights** on my website.
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