

# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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## A/C work sparks big house fire

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Firefighters from Fountain Hills and Fort McDowell fire departments battled a stubborn attic fire at a residence in the 15000 block of Red Rock Drive in Fountain Hills Friday afternoon.

The call came in about noon with all local units and one engine from Fort McDowell responding. Rural/Metro units were called in from outlying areas to

See picture on page A4.

cover additional calls in town.

Rural/Metro Spokesman Colin Williams said there was a construction crew at the house working on the air conditioning unit. They were "sweating" pipes when the fire started.

Fire Chief Randy Roberts said workers were working on the outside of the house at ground level when the fire started. It quickly spread up the inside of the wall and into the attic making it difficult for firefighters to attack.

Firefighters were pulled out of the house moving into a defensive attack shortly after arriving on the scene.

Roberts said there was an estimated \$400,000 damage to the \$800,000 home.

## Pill drop box at Town Hall

Residents from Fountain Hills and the Verde communities are reminded that a drop box is available during office hours at Town Hall for disposal of unwanted or expired prescription medications.

The twice annual "take-back days" are being phased out, so officials collaborated on installing the drop box at Town Hall.

It was a joint effort with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Town of Fountain Hills and Fountain Hills Coalition.

The drop box was installed in the Town Hall lobby on the wall just out-

(cont. on page 9A)

## Slip, sliding away...



Times photos by Ryan Winslett

The first-ever Slide the City event to be held in Arizona was hosted by the Town of Fountain Hills on Palisades Blvd. Saturday, April 25. The giant water slide proved to be a big hit, as a large crowd of all ages assembled throughout the day. Participants, pictured above and at right, had plenty of smiles during the fun activity. For additional pictures, please see Page 8A and check out the photo gallery at [www.fhtimes.com](http://www.fhtimes.com).



## Outside service contracts draw cuts

Council review controversial

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Each spring as the weather warms it is time for the Town Council to discuss its annual budget, and along with that the heated discussion over town funding for "community service contracts."

While not as boisterous as some past debates, there were still questions about whether these agreements should be funded, reduced or eliminated.

There are five such contracts with independent groups or agencies that provide services to the town or citizens.

The town has allocated some funding for these services for a number of years. As money has gotten tight through the recession the debate over scarce resources has focused on these contracts.

The five agencies came into the budget discussions with requests totaling \$166,916.

Town Manager Ken Buchanan cut about \$10,000

(cont. on page 9A)

## Dispensary loses first round in hours fight

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

The Planning and Zoning Commission told Mark Steinmetz, owner and general manager for the Nature's AZ Medicines marijuana dispensary in Fountain Hills, that they believe the current hours of operation are more than enough for him to serve the roughly 350 marijuana card holders here.

The commission voted 6-1 at its April 23 meeting to recommend the Town Council not grant extended hours for the dispensary.

Commissioner Eugene Mikolajczyk was the lone no vote, but he did not comment on his position.

Currently the dispensary on Enterprise Drive operates from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and is closed on Sunday.

That is a total of 62 hours per week.

(cont. on page 9A)

## Yes, the fenced fountain is being replaced

Some residents have expressed confusion that the town just completed a nearly \$1.5 million up-

grade of the Avenue of the Fountains median (Plaza) only to leave the fountain at the Saguaro Boulevard intersection dry

and wrapped in chain link fencing.

The reason for the delay in doing anything with that end of the plaza is that an extension of the median area and construction of a new fountain is part of the Saguaro

Boulevard reconstruction project.

In an effort to improved pedestrian safety when crossing the intersection, the medians on Saguaro and the Avenue are being extended to encompass crosswalks as safety is-

lands for those crossing the street.

On the Avenue the plaza will be extended to roughly the same curb alignment as the west side of Saguaro.

A new fountain will be constructed similar to the

one at Verde River Drive, but with three pools.

According to Development Services Director Paul Mood, the contractor's latest construction schedule calls for work on the plaza area to begin in early June.



Currently the fountain sits dry and the surrounding area is fenced with chain link.

## INSIDE THIS WEEK

### News:

Voting begins to pick winning Republic Services grant.  
See Page 3A

### Schools:

Michael Cuchanek (pictured) and band members performed at Arts in the Courtyard.  
See Page 11A

### Sports:

The Falcons baseball team wins its 10th sectional title.  
See Page 2B



## WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., April 21	85	55	--
Wed., April 22	85	55	--
Thurs., April 23	82	55	--
Fri., April 24	76	59	--
Sat., April 25	78	56	--
Sun., April 26	70	85	.40
Mon., April 27	84	53	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to [www.fhtimes.com](http://www.fhtimes.com)

