

Dispensary

(cont. from page 1A)

Steinmetz told the commission he is asking for better patient access, saying he gets daily complaints that people cannot get to the dispensary before 7 p.m.

He is asking the town to increase his allowable hours to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, a total of 98 hours per week.

"Virtually all the (dispensaries) in Arizona are open on Sunday," Steinmetz, although he retracted to say he believes there is just one other closed on Sunday.

"I'm asking for the same access as a traditional pharmacy, and consistent with my Phoenix (dispensary)," he said.

Shelly Mowrey, director of the Fountain Hills Coalition, noted that the 98 hours Steinmetz is asking for is 23 hours more than the average operating hours for Fountain Hills pharmacies.

A Times Internet check of six pharmacies in Fountain Hills shows they are open for an average of 73 hours per week.

Walgreen's pharmacy is open a total of 87 hours each week, although store hours are longer. The Target pharmacy is open just two hours more per week than Nature's AZ Medicines, and the pharmacy in the Bashas' supermarket is open just 60 hours, two hours fewer per week than the dispensary.

Mowrey said the greatest concern for the coalition is access by juveniles.

"We don't believe that extending these hours is in the best interest of chil-

dren," she said.

She added that she believes that some of the products at the dispensary are deliberately packaged and named to appeal to young people, much like the marketing for cigarettes 50 years ago.

"They are taking a page from big tobacco in marketing," Mowrey said. "We can't afford to make the same mistake with this that was made with 'Joe Camel.'"

Coalition program coordinator Maria Perreault said she believes that Steinmetz is positioning himself to be a major player in the market should voters approve retail use of marijuana in the future.

State Senator John Kavanagh was present at the meeting and spoke up in opposition to the change.

"The activities that take place here are illegal under federal law," Kavanagh said.

"I think your (current) hours are perfectly fine," commission Vice Chairman Mike Archambault said. "I am only here to determine how you serve Fountain Hills residents. I find it hard to believe you can't serve 350 card holders with the hours you have."

Chairman Lloyd Pew agreed saying, "The hours you have seem to be sufficient."

The original town ordinance established the hours for the dispensary operation at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Steinmetz requested and received the change to the current hours in March 2014.

The Town Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and consider the request at its regular session Thursday, May 21.

Knights help out Marc Resources

Marc Community Resources, Inc. is grateful to the Church of the Ascension Knights of Columbus Council 9188 for its generous donation this year.

According to the Knights of Columbus website, the organization was formed to provide financial aid to members and their families. As well, mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families.

Marc has been a beneficiary of donations from the Knights of Columbus for many years. As in the past, Jerry Comeau, on behalf of the Church of the Ascension KOC Council 9188, presented a check to Randy Gray, [resident and



Jerry Comeau, on behalf of the Church of the Ascension KOC Council 9188, presents a check to Randy Gray, president and CEO of Marc Community Resources.

CEO of Marc Community Resources, in February. Funds are raised by the council through the sale of Tootsie Roll candies. The funds provided from the sale of these iconic candies will benefit the individuals served by Marc in its In-Home Support Services program, which offers a broad range of services designed to support and assist children, adults and the elderly in their own homes.

These services include attendant care, housekeeping, habilitation, educational support, respite, personal care, individually designed living arrangements (IDLA) and host home living.

Musical instrument talk at DAR meeting

The Four Peaks Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its next meeting Saturday, May 2, at 10 a.m. at the Lexington Hotel in Fountain Hills.

Alan Roselieb of the Musical Instrument Museum will be guest speaker.

He is a Fountain Hills resident with a degree from Northern Illinois University in music education.

Roselieb's topic is "Everything you ever wanted

to know about the MIM." He is well qualified to take the group on a video tour of the MIM.

In his presentation members will see some of the more than 6,000 instruments collected from around 200 countries and territories. Most displays are enhanced by state-of-the-art audio and video technologies that allow guests to see the instruments, hear their sounds and observe them being played in their original

context.

At the museum guests are invited to play instruments from around the world in the Experience Gallery. They can also see instruments from music icons such as John Lennon, Taylor Swift, Elvis Presley, Carlos Santana and many more in the Artist Gallery.



Al Roselieb

DAR members and guests are invited to stay for the lunch/business meeting.

Interested women who believe they may have an ancestor who participated in the Revolutionary War are encouraged to attend.

For more information contact DAR contact Regent Melba Yonke at 816-3966 or Registrar Alfretha Schadle at 836-0442. Reservations for lunch can be made by contacting Joan Jordan at 816-9684.

'SpeechVive' topic of Parkinson's meet

Speech and language pathologist and rehab program coordinator Tara Chay is the speaker for the regular monthly meeting of the Fountain Hills Parkinson Support Group.

It will be held Wednesday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

She works with patients at the Muhammad Ali Movement Disorders Clinic located at Barrow Neurology Clinics.

Her patients are among those nationally who are trying a new device called SpeechVive. It is designed to help people with Parkinson's increase their speech volume and clarity.

Chronic neurologic diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, are debilitating conditions that progress over time. The decrease in communicative ability associated with Parkinson's

disease is sometimes an overlooked symptom, even though it can affect a majority of patients.

SpeechVive is a new earpiece device that detects when a patient is speaking by using an accelerometer built into the device. During speech, the device plays a background sound into the user's ear.

The sound, which resembles a room full of people talking, is a cue that naturally elicits louder and clearer speech through an involuntary reflex known as the Lombard Effect.

When a patient is not speaking, SpeechVive automatically turns off the background sound to allow

the patient to hear others speak.

As a speech language pathologist, Chay helps patients use various techniques to improve their speech and can determine if a patient is a candidate for SpeechVive.

Anyone who is interested in Parkinson's disease or other movement disorders is invited to attend the regular PD support group meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at no charge.

For more information go to fhparkinsonsupport.org, or you may call the John O'Flynn Senior Activity Center at 480-816-5226 or Mary Stone at 480-816-6080.

Budget

(cont. from page 1A)

off that total in his recommendation and the council cut another 10 percent, with the exception of the Extended Hands Food Bank, which was not cut further, leaving \$144,724 in the budget for the groups.

As the proposed budget moves to tentative approval in early May, the groups are allocated as follows: Boys & Girls Club, \$46,080; Food Bank, \$24,200; Fountain Hills Theater, \$56,894; JumpStartBiz incubator, \$4,050; and Sheriff's posse, \$13,500.

Over the years providing funds for the theater group has always been the most controversial, and this year was no different.

Councilman Alan Magazine, considering his first budget as a council member, provided a laity of priorities that should be ahead of the contracts, particularly street maintenance.

"Because funding of the theater has been so controversial before I joined the council, I've given this year's funding level considerable thought," Magazine said.

"...My position has absolutely nothing to do with what has happened in the past or with personalities and positions that have preceded me on the council. I would like to think I am carefully reviewing the facts and coming to a considered opinion."

"We can bury our heads in the sand or we can look at our financial situation squarely. And let me say that I admire how previous councils and our town manager have handled our finances. We will always have a balanced budget, but at what cost?"

"If this were a household budget we wouldn't be planning a costly vacation or a new car. The time has come to re-examine promises made in the past. We can no longer afford some of what we have supported in past years."

"I cannot in good conscience support the full amount recommended in the budget for the theater."

Councilman Henry Leger, who has been through this same fray a number of times, defended the funding for the community partners, particularly the theater.

"We certainly need to be frugal," Leger said. "But cutting this is not going to

make a difference and we would be 'penny wise and pound foolish.' I value that which some of our partners bring to the table."

Leger cited the growth of the economic development and tourism departments and said he does not know yet what the return will be.

"I do know that the Fountain Hills Theater adds value, brings people into the community on a regular basis. We need to stop trying to balance the budget on the backs of our partners."

"How do we tell people we have a deficit problem and still fund the things that we fund?" Magazine responded. "I'm not singling out the theater."

Vice Mayor Dennis Brown said he believes that Magazine is being overly pessimistic.

"During this 'depression' construction in this town almost shut down," Brown said. "But right now what I am seeing is encouraging."

"We have managed through this budget for eight years of difficult times, we are ready to experience new growth. I'm very encouraged by the prospect of new growth."

"We are struggling, but we are going to come out of this."

"The theater attracts a lot of people here every weekend."

Councilwoman Cassie Hansen also supported the agreements.

"The theater is one group that stands out with a proven record of bringing people here from out-of-town," Hansen said.

The other partners serve a different purpose. The theater is ongoing month after month as a benefit to the town."

Magazine said he does not believe a reduction in town support would cause the theater to shut down.

It was Councilman Nick DePorter who made the motion for the across-the-board 10 percent cut to the service contracts. The vote to approve that motion was unanimous.

Other highlights
The draft budget proposal had removed funding for the Movies in the Park and Music Festival events totaling \$13,250.

That money was restored at the urging of Mayor Linda Kavanagh.

She cited those activities, plus Ballet Under the Stars, as the only free events for people to attend at Fountain Park.

The Tourism Department had filed a grant application for the Republic Rewards grant and is one of five proposals to be voted on by citizens through their Republic Rewards Recycling program.

The funding for these events will remain on the ballot for residents to consider.

If they are awarded the Republic grant for \$10,000, it would be used to add a movie presentation and promotional activities for the Music Festival and Ballet under the Stars.

Town Manager Ken Buchanan said there had been six new positions requested during the budget process, however, none were budgeted.

A 2.5 percent wage adjustment has been budgeted for employees who can receive one within the existing salary range for their positions.

There are also a number of department requests for projects, repairs, repairs and activities that have been rejected. The Facilities Replacement Fund will not receive a full allocation this budget year.

Buchanan said the town is facing cost increases it cannot control including public safety contracts, which he still considers to be bargains. There is also a 4 percent hike in electricity rates, and a 3.6 percent hike in water rates.

Buchanan said the town's cost of operation per capita, at 61 cents, is the lowest in the Valley. He and council members expressed their appreciation to staff for their effort in allowing that cost to remain so low.

At the end of the three-hour budget discussion the staff will be preparing to present a \$37.9 million budget to the council for tentative approval at the May 7 Town Council meeting.

There will be a public hearing associated with that meeting.

Once the tentative budget is approved it cannot be increased prior to consideration of a final budget now scheduled for Thursday, June 4.

The new fiscal year begins July 1.

Check out the latest Fountain Hills news at www.fhtimes.com

Drugs

(cont. from page 1A)

side the Sheriff's Office entry.

The box is similar to a mail box with a slot at the top to pull open and drop in the unused prescriptions.

The box is secured, allowing only a Sheriff's deputy to open it. The items found in the box

are destroyed along with a general report from the deputy saying when the box was opened and that the items were destroyed.

Liquid medicines, syringes and similar items are not acceptable for this drop box.

Lt. John D'Amico with the local MCSO substation said the box has been used steadily since it was installed in the fall of 2014. "We're finding we often

have to empty it twice a week," he said. "Often times once a week is not enough. We're averaging about 30 pounds a week."

Approximately 1,000 pills make up a pound.

Residents are reminded it would be helpful if the pills are kept in their original vials (with personal information removed). Loose pills dumped in the box make it more difficult for collection, D'Amico said.

Learn how to give CPR

The next session for the monthly CPR/AED class will be held Saturday, May 9, at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The program is sponsored by the Community Services Department and Fountain Hills Fire Department.

The purpose of this course is to train individuals to overcome any reluctance to act in emergency situations and to recognize and care for life-threatening respiratory or cardiac emergencies in children or adults.

The classes cover adult, child, and infant CPR, the

use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and first aid for choking.

The Fountain Hills Fire Department provides the certified CPR instructors.

Cost of the course is \$30 for Fountain Hills residents and \$40 for non-residents. High school students receive a \$10 discount. Pre-registration is required and participants can pre-register through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; at the Community Center, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or online at www.fh.az.gov/recreation.

The deadline to register is 12 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the course. Those who register online should bring their receipts with them as proof of payment. Private classes for large groups can also be scheduled by contacting the town.

Town Hall is located at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains. The Community Center is located at 13001 N. La Montana Dr. For more information, contact Community Services at 816-5100 or the Town of Fountain Hills website at www.fh.az.gov.

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