



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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## Property tax

### Second vote passes council

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

On a unanimous vote for a second time the Town Council has approved a resolution calling for a public vote on a proposed primary property tax for the Town of Fountain Hills.

The council approved the resolution in November and, due to a state law provision requiring a 60-day public notice on issues related to tax and fee adjustments, the council addressed the question for a second time at a special session on Feb. 6.

The council is asking voters to approve a primary property tax levy of \$7 million per year. Election Day will be Tuesday, May 15, 2018. The proposal will be presented on an all-mail ballot with additional election process information to come closer to the vote. The practice by the county elections department has been to send mail ballots out 28 days prior to Election Day. The last day to register to vote in this election is Monday, April 16, 2018.

Primary property tax is based on the county assessor's valuation of the

property. That amount is usually about 80 to 85 percent of market value.

Each property in Fountain Hills is individually assessed by the county. For the purposes of estimating, however, and based on current valuation numbers, the proposed \$7 million levy would cost a person with property valued at \$500,000 approximately \$760 per year in new taxes.

The town has attached to its website links to the County Assessor and a calculator to determine the exact tax for an individual property. At fh.az.gov, the town website has a special property tax attachment in the lower right of the screen. This includes information as well as links to the assessment information.

#### Fiscal situation

Town Manager Grady Miller said the decision to ask council to pursue the property tax is based on the fact that town revenues are not keeping pace with ordinary expenses. Finance staff is projecting that under current conditions the town will experience an

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Last year, Concours in the Hills attracted 646 vehicles and one Vietnam-era Cobra Gunship around which 31 Cobra sports cars parked. The helicopter will return again this year, along with two other helicopters, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10, in Fountain Park, for the fifth annual display of high-performance, exotic, collector, classic and race cars.

## Helicopters join collector cars in park Saturday

Concours in the Hills, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 10, is growing in size and diversity of engine power.

Scuderia Southwest is bringing high-performance, exotic, collector and classic cars to Fountain Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rain date is Feb. 17.

A Vietnam-era Cobra Gunship helicopter that flew in last year will return. An estimated 30 Cobra sports cars will be parked around the vehicle.

Organizer Peter Volyn said a Viper helicopter, the current version of the

Cobra, will fly in from the U.S. Marine Corps base in San Diego. Vipers will encircle it.

A third helicopter, a 1969 Hughes OH-6A Cayuse, will be trailered to the park.

Scheduled to open the show featuring more than 600 cars will be two-time Indy 500 driver Arie Luyendyk; Indy 500 champion driver Paul Tracy; Lyn St. James, one of a handful of women who have raced at the Indy 500; Bob Bondurant, founder of Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, and

Harley Cluxton, owner of the Mirage Racing Team.

A Marine Corps Color Guard will also participate in the opening ceremonies.

A special feature will be an 1897 Bugatti and a 1913 Bugatti on both sides of a contemporary Bugatti Veyron. Two rare, expensive LaFerraris, a hardtop and Spider (convertible) will be displayed. Some rare Jaguars valued at millions of dollars each also will be there.

Awards will be given to Best Import, Best Domestic and Best of Show. The Fer-

rari Club of America Desert Region will conduct its own judging and other clubs may do so also.

Proceeds from exhibitors' entry fees will go to Phoenix Children's Hospital. The exhibitor vehicle entry fee is a minimum \$60 donation. Admission to spectators is free.

Last year 647 vehicles and 71 sponsors/exhibitors participated, said Volyn. Attendance was estimated at more than 15,000. The event raised in excess of \$90,000 for the Boys & Girls Club, that year's charity partner.

## Meetings set for tax info

The Town of Fountain Hills has set four meetings for the public to meet with staff and have questions answered about the proposed primary property tax levy.

By law the town is not permitted to spend taxpayer dollars to endorse the tax question. However, the town can make as much general information avail-

able as possible without advocating the tax.

The four meetings are scheduled for:

\*Wednesday, Feb. 7, (today), 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

\*Thursday, March 8, at 9 a.m. at the Community Center.

\*Wednesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Com-

munity Center.

\*Monday, April 30 at 3 p.m. at the Community Center.

All the meetings will be held in Ball Room I.

Town Manager Grady Miller said the varying times are designed to accommodate the schedules of as many people as possible.

## Town Council sets planning retreat

The Town Council will meet Thursday, Feb. 8, for its annual planning retreat in council chambers at Town Hall beginning at 8 a.m. The meeting is scheduled through 1 p.m.

The agenda includes a review of the town's Strategic Plan update from 2017, a discussion of the public information plan for the proposed primary property tax ballot initiative and an outline of the 2018/19 fiscal year budget along with

capital improvement plan and a five-year financial forecast.

The council will also discuss legal services for the town. This is a follow-up from the dismissal of Town Attorney Andrew McGuire and the firm of Gust Rosenfeld last fall.

The town has operated with interim legal services since that time.

The discussion will include cost comparisons for in-house versus outside

counsel.

Additional discussion will touch on dog licensing, fire inspection fees, park bench replacement program and art donations.

A discussion related to council rules and procedures will include council attendance at executive sessions, agenda item and meeting decorum.

The meeting is open to the public, although there is no provision for public comment during the session.

## Pony Express rides Thursday

When the Pony Express rides into Fountain Hills on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 8, it will be the 60th trip the Navajo County Sheriff's Office Hashknife Posse has made with the mail between Holbrook and Scottsdale.

The Express riders will make their dash up the Avenue of the Fountains between Saguardo Boulevard and the Post Office at about 3 p.m. on Thursday.

The posse was organized in 1957 with the Hashknife brand that originated in Texas. It was organized as a search and rescue posse and proved itself many times saving lives in the harsh Northern Arizona winters.

The annual 200-mile



Members of the Hashknife Pony Express with the Navajo County Sheriff's Posse will be riding into Fountain Hills Thursday afternoon to deliver mail to the Post Office.

ride down the mountain from Holbrook exemplifies the challenges the posse members face in executing

their regular duties.

The ride begins in

(cont. on page 16A)

## Local drug abuse prevention methods gain wider use

Drug prevention efforts by the Fountain Hills Coalition are catching the attention of officials beyond the town's limits.

Sheriff's Capt. Henry Brandimarte said the coalition's Text-A-Tip program and its permanent drop box for prescription pills are two ideas that have been expanded by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

The coalition several years ago instituted its Text-A-Tip program, designed to feed anonymous tips through texting to MCSO.

While aimed primarily for use by teens to report drugs on campus or underage drinking parties, Text-A-Tip can be used by anyone in the community to alert the Sheriff's Office on tips that are non-emergency



The permanent drop box setup within Town Hall.

## Museum to launch Yavapai Nation tour

The River of Time will present a series of guided, interpreted tours focusing on the history and culture of the Yavapai people starting on Thursday, Feb. 22.

The four-to-five hour experience will include visits to the Yavapai Cultural Center, cemetery, Wassaja pre-school and lunch at We-Ko-Pa Resort.

Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the museum for coffee, pastries and a briefing about the day's activities, followed by a brief guided tour of the museum's Yavapai exhibits.

After boarding the bus, museum board member and Yavapai Nation Education Director, Dr. Bill Myhr, will share insights into the Nation's history and enterprises.

Cultural Center director Albert Nelson will describe life on the reservation. He will share his family's experiences as longtime residents.

A stop at the preschool will stress the education provided to the Nation's children beginning at birth. The Wassaja School supports infants through five-

year-olds.

After an interpreted drive through the cemetery and farm, the tour will wrap up at Ahnala Restaurant at We-Ko-Pa Resort for lunch.

Other dates for the tours are March 22 and April 19.

The cost is \$75 for guests or \$70 for museum members, and includes lunch.

Reservations can be made by calling the museum office at 480-837-2612 or by stopping in the museum office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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Celebrating 70 years.  
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**State:**  
FHHS moving through  
postseason.  
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**Regulations:**  
John Kavanagh (pictured)  
talks drug policy.  
See Page 14A



### WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Jan. 30	78	49	--
Wed., Jan. 31	78	47	--
Thurs., Feb. 1	78	49	--
Fri., Feb. 2	77	48	--
Sat., Feb. 3	76	48	--
Sun., Feb. 4	78	51	--
Mon., Feb. 5	78	45	--

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

