



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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Paid for by Sandy Larson
Candidate for Precinct Committeewoman
Golden Eagle Precinct in N.W. Fountain Hills

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No action taken on Fountain But town not giving up yet

The sticker shock from the potential power bill has prompted the Town Council to step back from taking action at this time to expand the Fountain's operation.

Community Services Director Mark Mayer told the council Aug. 16 estimates he calculated using rate information from Salt River Project indicate proposed expansion of the Fountain's operation could cost \$208,234 annually.

That compares with the \$148,200 currently budgeted.

In June the council had a discussion about several options for expanding the use of the Fountain to enhance its value as a tourist attraction. At that time staff was directed to further evaluate the potential costs with the help of SRP.

Last week the consensus of council members was that they would not bust the budget for the Fountain operation. But they were not ready to throw in the towel either.

Councilman Cecil Yates had been asked by Mayor Linda Kavanagh to have discussions with SRP representatives about options for working with the power company to achieve the goal of more Fountain time.

"I was told if we give them a budget, SRP will work with us to see how we can work within that framework," Yates said.

Yates was told the peak time for electrical use is 2 to 7 p.m. and there may be options for working around that.

"I would like to proceed with this and will volunteer my services," Yates said. "This is near and dear to me and it is my personal

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Beam me up

Stan Jones captured this morning sunburst from his backyard on Aspen Drive earlier this year. The natural beauty in Fountain Hills continues to astound homeowners and visitors alike. In addition, this 2012 monsoon season has provided many photo opportunities of rolling dust storms and other weather phenomena.

Good news for housing

Inventory down, prices edge up

By Barb Charzuk
Times Reporter

Prospective home buyers increasingly are finding fewer choices these days.

"Low inventories, combined with rising list prices and lower times on market, are positive signs that the overall market is in a stabilization mode," reported Realtor.com.

Fountain Hills inventory of for-sale single-family homes reached its lowest point in two years in July. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage monthly market report for July listed 262 homes for sale in contrast to 359 in July 2011.

"This market remains

extremely unbalanced, with far more buyers than sellers," said Mike Orr, director of the Center for Real Estate Theory and Practice at the W.P. Carey School of Business.

"On the seller side, most homes priced below \$250,000 are attracting a large number of offers and often exceed the asking price," said Orr. "However, the situation for the average home buyer remains dire, despite low interest rates and historically cheap prices.

"That's because of the low inventory, and any offer from an ordinary home buyer is typically going to be less attractive than the multiple all-cash offers

from investors with few strings attached and no appraisal required.

"Many ordinary buyers are coming away empty-handed after submitting 10 or more offers."

July year-to-date sales of 539 are running 2.9 percent ahead of last year's year-to-date sales of 524.

Real estate agents are coaxing sellers to list their homes for sale. The Fountain Hills Realtor Marketing Session curtailed its usual weekly meetings and property tours this summer because of a scarcity of available properties.

Home prices are on the rise. Coldwell Banker reported the July median price at \$280,000, up 22 percent from \$229,450 in July 2011 and 3.1 percent

higher from \$271,500 last month with the sale of 49 homes.

Selling price per square foot can be a telling indicator for the direction of property values. The July 2012 selling price per square foot in town was \$145, up 3.6 percent from \$140 in June 2012 and up 12.4 percent from \$129 in July 2011.

The asking price per square foot based on new listings was \$165, according to Coldwell Banker.

Rio Verde

RE/MAX Sun Properties Realtor Mike Moore said sales activity continued through July, an unusual circumstance.

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Primary polls open Tuesday

Between now and Nov. 6, it will be all politics all the time as voters consider who will sit in the White House for the next four years.

But there are also lots of other local candidates and issues to be considered and some of those decisions begin this next week with the primary election to be held Tuesday, Aug. 28.

The primary will decide in many cases which candidates will face off in the November General Election.

By this time the early voting by mail process is winding down with voters needing to get their ballots back in the mail to be counted with the election results next Tuesday.

For those going to vote in person on Tuesday, the polling sites will be open on election day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. In Fountain Hills the polls will be at the following locations:

*Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 La Montana Drive.

*Fountains United Methodist Church, 15300 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.

*Fountain Hills Unified School District offices in the Learning Center, 16000 Palisades Boulevard.

*Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.

*First Baptist Church of Fountain Hills, 10215 N. Saguardo Boulevard.

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Community Recreation Center is the polling site for Fort McDowell residents as well as those living

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*Game night for teens

Fountain Hills Community Services, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and The Coalition will present a night of teen fun at the Community Center Friday, Aug. 24, from 6 to 9 p.m.

"Middle School Madness" will feature a huge Xbox 360 on a 20-foot inflatable screen, inflatable sports games (football and basketball), ping pong, a DJ, glow necklaces, crafts, activities and free pizza. Every teen who attends can enter to win door prizes.

This event is sponsored by the MCSO Midnight Madness Fund, the Town of Fountain Hills Community Services and The Coalition ("Above That" club at the middle school).

No registration required for this event; it is open to all Fountain Hills Middle School students.

Visit online at www.fh.az.gov/recreation for additional information or contact Kathy Worrell at 816-5170.

Mildred dies at 106

Mildred Lois Stoer Frederick, owner of the first bridge club in Tucson, died Aug. 15, 2012 at her retirement community in Fountain Hills.

She was 106.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. today, Aug. 22, at Fountain View Village's Assisted Living Chapel in Fountain Hills.

Her family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m. Aug. 31 at South Lawn Mortuary in Tucson. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Sept. 1 in the small chapel at South Lawn Mortuary.



Mildred Frederick

Mildred was born July 21, 1906 to Mary (Justice) and Charles Stoer in Picaway County, Ohio, the second of eight children.

The family lived in a three-bedroom farmhouse and all were expected to work the farm and to complete high school. After high school, Mildred worked for the telephone company before marrying Leland Frederick in September of 1927.

The family moved many times with the military - Ohio, New Jersey and Illinois.

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Council retreat Thursday

Town Manager Ken Buchanan has moved beyond the "new guy getting his feet wet" stage, and the new faces of the Town Council have had a chance to roll up their sleeves and settle in as well as be refreshed from a summer break.

Now it's time to focus on going forward...

Tomorrow, Aug. 23, council members will be getting together for a day-long discussion about their goals and priorities.

Buchanan has put together an agenda with 21 topics for discussion.

"We want to maintain a consistent and

efficient work program," Buchanan said. "This is an opportunity to define the direction the council wants to go and review these issues."

The council will consider whether to expand the discussion regarding each topic or define it as a lower priority to be placed in the parking lot for the time being.

There is nothing on the agenda that can be considered unfamiliar to even the newest members of the council, Mayor Linda Kavanagh and Councilman Cecil Yates.

The first five agenda items relate to council/

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