

Opinion

Recall?

 A letter from:
Jerry Miles

In response to questions which I have been asked:

Arizona Revised Statutes Section 19-201 provides: *“Every public officer holding an elective office, either by election, appointment or retention, is subject to recall from such office by the qualified electors of the electoral district from which candidates are elected to that office.”*

Section 19-202-01 goes on to provide that an application for recall shall be filed with the county school superintendent if the objective of the recall is for a governing board member of a school district.

Other details regarding the circulation and filing of recall petitions are found in subsequent sections of the law.

Those who are dismayed with the fact that a member of the Governing Board of our Fountain Hills Unified School District tolerated the consumption of alcohol in her home by a large number of minors may wish to take these provisions into consideration.

Violating her oath

 A letter from:
John Hewitt

“Teens busted for drinking seek damages” – “Party at home of School Board’s Pat Green; dispute with FHUSD and Sheriff’s Office” beckons me to write

“very proud of our community.”


Meanwhile, in section B of the same paper, the “Hooked on Heroin” story gave quite another side of our town, a story of devastation, heartbreak and pain, with a description of a town -- our town in which the general populace seems to be “clueless” about how many kids are on drugs.

It was the sharp contrast of these two stories that struck me. I was shaken after reading the article. I can’t even imagine what parents’ lives are like, living with children who easily, greedily pursue a life with drugs.

We had our LSD era combined with all sorts of other narcotics, but I was lucky or too scared and never got into any of it. The use of drugs has been around for more years than I can count...early Greeks? Romans? The American Indian culture still promotes its ceremonial use.

There seems to be no end in sight, only help after the fact. But the battle always begins and ends with the parents, and all too often, due to a variety of honest reasons, some of them will remain “clueless” until it’s too late.

Greetings to all

 A letter from:
C. Tyl

Why this hostility by Republicans?

In response to fellow resident Susan Fallon’s “Not welcome?” in last

My Opinion

By: **Dr. Bill Myhr**
FHUSD school superintendent



*Coalition making a difference

The recent formation of the Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition led by Fountain Hills High School parent Carole Groux offers an opportunity for various stakeholder groups to make a difference with the Fountain Hills adult community’s “cultural acceptance” of teen use of alcohol and drugs.

Having been the school superintendent for three years and the co-FHHS principal last year, I have direct knowledge on how this behavior is promoted and supported by adults. This adult behavior includes adult sponsored pre-functions for school junior/senior prom, homecoming and other major high school events. It includes the purchase and distribution of alcohol to groups of students without their parents’ knowledge. It includes not holding their children to agreed to school codes.

As a school district we have always forwarded information on harmful behavior directly to parents and, when appropriate, the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. In the case of athletic and leadership codes of conduct, we have sought to enforce student and parent agreements to not partake in this behavior in order to hold office or to participate in extra-curricular activities.

It has been difficult with school officials and myself facing resistance, especially when loss of leadership titles or loss of playing time is involved. I have seen many young lives lost during my 30-plus years as an educator. In most cases adult indifference, denial or outright support led to the loss of teenagers’ lives or major dysfunction to their educational careers.

The local schoolhouse cannot do this alone. It must involve all the community stakeholders seeking to promote education and responsibility toward the use of alcohol and drugs. It must involve adults holding adults responsible as a parent, an educator, a coach and a community member. The newly-formed Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition offers our community a great opportunity to make a difference.

Our viewpoint

Town Council candidates

Local elections are often bittersweet for us. Especially in a race such as Town Council, often times we have a high degree of respect for most, if not all, the candidates. In some contests there has been a clear choice among the hopefuls based on certain major issues, while in others that line of distinction is rather muddled.

We have even discussed the idea of not endorsing local candidates any more – a practice that some weekly newspapers around the country have instituted (we are still open for suggestions on that, by the way).

At least for the March 9, 2010 Town Council, however, we are endorsing the incumbents of Mike Archambault, Ginny Dickey and Henry Leger.

We have no major issues with the way the three incumbents have conducted themselves on behalf of the town the past four years. They have done nothing to not warrant endorsement. While we don’t always agree with their votes, it is our observation and opinion that all three do their homework and base their votes on information provided to them as well as listening to and giving consideration to public input. That’s about all you can ask of a Town Councilmember.

The town’s reserves are healthy, our spending is down, our Town Hall administration is stable, we are updating our Strategic Plan, the General Plan modifications are awaiting voter approval, favorable plans for the Ellman property have been approved and a new Downtown Vision Plan has been adopted – all within the past few years. Times are indeed tough in Fountain Hills and Arizona, but our town has weathered the tough times in acceptable fashion.

This election, we have five good candidates. Challengers Tate Elkie and Hugh Henry both would make good council members.

Elkie, a relative newcomer here, in particular has distinguished himself with community activism and a broad understanding of the unique issues facing this town. We certainly hope he stays active and involved with the town with the intention of sitting up on the dais in the future. We have noticed Mr. Henry did little to promote himself in public situations, almost appearing uncomfortable. It’s difficult to win an election with that kind of public image.

Most importantly, if you haven’t already voted early, please cast a ballot on Tuesday, March 9.