



# THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

Your Award-Winning Hometown Weekly Newspaper

*Let's Go!*

**Look for it inside**

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## Recycling rewards changing

Republic program starts June 1

By Bob Burns  
Times Reporter

Republic Services, local trash and recycling provider, will launch a new rewards program for customers here June 1.

The "Republic Rewards" program rewards customers individually and enables them to earn and vote points toward the funding of non-profit groups, community projects and social initiatives.

"It's a fundamental change in the way we reward our customers for their loyalty," says Chris Coyle, general manager of Republic Services of Phoenix/Fountain Hills.

"Just by registering for the Republic Rewards program, residents will have unlimited access to a large treasure trove of offers, discounts and rewards.

"In addition, they'll be

able to vote their points toward a changing selection of locally-sourced charities and/or community initiatives."

The program replaces the former awards program, Recyclebank, which has been available to residents.

Republic Rewards offers registered residents immediate access to purchase many national gift cards at a discount, with no purchase limits.

The program also provides premium discounts to those users reaching a certain point threshold. And, the community grant piece gives residents the unique ability to support selected community and social initiatives.

"Social sharing and donating points sets this program and experience apart," Coyle said.

"We believe this program

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## Class of 2013



Times photos by Ryan Winslett

The class of 2013 celebrated its graduation commencement ceremony at Fountain Park on Friday, May 24, surrounded by family, friends and community members.

## Falcons flying high

By Ryan Winslett  
Times Reporter

Fountain Park was alive with plenty of pomp and circumstance Friday evening as members of the Fountain Hills High School senior class, their family and friends celebrated the 2013 graduation commencement ceremony.

Capping off 13 years

of education, nearly 200 FHHS seniors walked across the stage to accept their diplomas and become official graduates. Speakers for the evening included the senior class-selected recipient of the Silver Falcon Award, teacher Matt Johnson, as well as the class of 2013 co-valedictorians, Emma Howard and Priya Manhas.

See online photo gallery at [fhtimes.com](http://fhtimes.com)

Johnson got the evening started by recounting the "victories" the class of 2013 had accomplished up until this point, encouraging them to strive for even more in the future.

"Are these victories enough, or do you want more," he asked the class of 2013.

"Are you satisfied?"

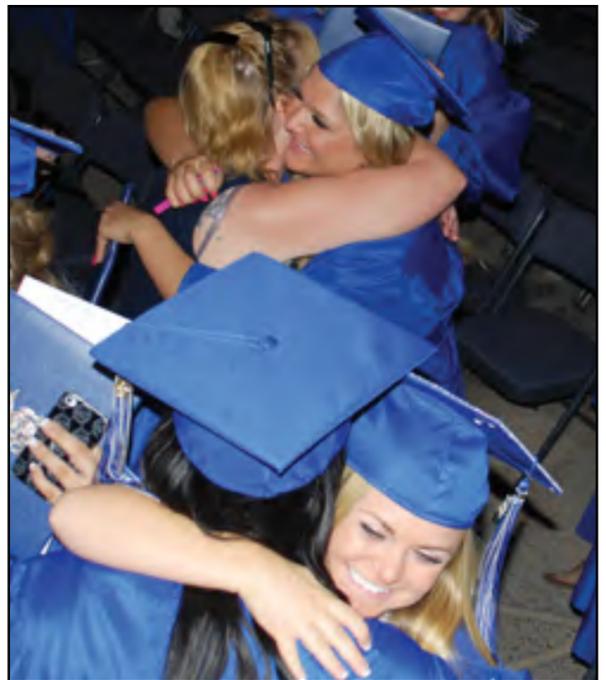
Johnson, a local high school teacher for the past five years, will be leaving the "nest" along with the senior class, pursuing a future alongside his students outside of Fountain Hills.

"I'm proud to call myself an honorary member of the class of 2013 from Fountain Hills High School," Johnson concluded.

"A Falcon today and a Falcon forever."

Johnson was followed by

(cont. on page 10A)



An outpouring of emotions took place following the graduation ceremony with students and guests passing out hugs and congratulations to the class of 2013.

## \*Drug coalition work pays off

The Fountain Hills Coalition, the local drug prevention group, has continued to build momentum over this past school year.

Local data suggests that overall underage usage rates of substances has decreased since the coalition's inception in 2009.

"We look at many indicators other than usage rates when determining our strategies," states Carole Groux, the coalition's executive director.

"Teens' perception of parental disapproval as well as their perception of risk of using drugs are measures we use along with the age of first usage.

"We have built upon successful strategies, and we will continue to do that in the coming year."

The coalition has coordi-

nated with various "sectors" in Fountain Hills to spread its message and implement a myriad of programs and prevention measures.

The coalition is funded by a federal grant.

Here is a summary of various programs during the 2012-13 school year:

\*Development, printing and insertion of the FHUSD Substance Abuse Policy for all children in Middle School and High School.

\*Co-sponsorship of Red Ribbon Day at FHMS to raise awareness about drug use. This was a collaborative effort with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and its canine unit, FHUSD, DEA and National Parks.

\*Creation of High School

(cont. on page 5A)

## More street work coming

Southwest Slurry is wrapping up its work on streets in the northwest, and the town is preparing to kick its new Pavement Management Plan into high gear this summer and fall.

The town was able to fund the slurry seal project with a late budget adjustment after the PMP was adopted in January.

Town Development Services Director Paul Mood said he will be proposing \$2 million in contracts for improvements in Zone 7 for the Town Council to consider at its June 20 meeting.

Maintenance Zone 7 is the major arterial streets in town.

Mood's proposal will include mill and overlay projects on Shea and Fountain

Hills boulevards beginning in July.

The plan also calls for a micro surface on portions of Fountain Hills and Palisades boulevards and the public portion of streets in Eagle Mountain (Eagle Mountain Parkway and Summerhill Boulevard up to the gate houses).

That work would be scheduled for October.

The contracts also include associated crack seal work, striping and valve/manhole adjustments where needed.

The PMP allocates roughly \$1 million a year for street maintenance over the next eight years. That included \$867,000 to be used in the current fiscal year.

The program would fund \$9.7 million over the next eight years.

This program uses existing funding and is not related to a proposed bond to finance the reconstruction of Saguaro Boulevard.

Voters will consider approving \$8.2 million in

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# \*Coalition

(cont. from page 1A)

Steering Committee for Prevention.

\*Worked with FHHS Principal Tom Brennan on initiating PSAs created by Bob Couture's broadcasting class, crash car, prom authorization letter requiring parent/child signature; rotating educational flyers placed in over 50 locations throughout the high school.

\*EAK (Early Action Kits) -- The kit is designed for parents who suspect teen drug use. The kit contains a five-panel drug screen that is easy to use and includes facts and information along with local, confidential resources. The kit is discreetly available at seven locations throughout town and is free of charge with no questions asked.

\*Above That Club -- This is an extra-curricular program open to sixth through eighth graders at FHMS.

The club meets weekly to discuss and role play ways to stay above the negative influences of alcohol and drugs in addition to playing games and having fun.

More than 60 kids participated in the club this school year, wrapping up with an ice cream party and raffle prizes.

\*Text-A-Tip -- Program funded by the coalition to assist MCSO in helping to keep Fountain Hills safe.

Text-A-Tip is a program utilized by nine of the 10 largest cities in the U.S. and Canada, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Vancouver police departments.

It is a way for citizens to anonymously text local police with a tip that may

lead to criminal activity currently taking place and is 100 percent anonymous.

\*Expanded promotion of Text-A-Tip and user tips from Golden Eagle Park and launched into Desert Vista Park for dog owners, skate park users, and soccer fields.

Dwight Johnson oversees the marketing of this and stated, "This is a fantastic program with increasing number of tips improving the safety of Fountain Hills."

\*Text-A-Tip Business Campaign -- More than 70 local businesses have lent their support in the promotion of the Text-A-Tip program within the community.

By posting a Text-A-Tip poster and having the Text-A-Tip cards available at their business, the company is showcased in an ad on the front page of The Times thanking them for helping spread the word about the program's benefits. All businesses are welcome to participate.

\*Safe Homes Network (www.safehomesfh.org) Safe Homes is a network of parents who have taken a pledge not to allow alcohol to kids under 21 in their homes and welcome communication among parents, taking steps to help keep their kids alcohol and drug-free.

The program re-pledged more than 200 Fountain Hills families.

It also developed a Droid and iPhone app called "Safe Homes of FH" that is free to any network participant. This gives parents easy access to the parent directory with contact information at any time.

"Our goal is to double the membership by 2014," Groux said.



A Southwest Slurry tanker spreads a new coat of asphalt sealer on Tepee Drive.

## Tips on teens, summer driving

Summer is the deadliest time of year for teen drivers and passengers, with seven of the top 10 deadliest days of the year occurring between May and August.

With deadly traffic crashes peaking for teens during the summer months, AAA Insurance urges parents to increase their focus on safety during the school-free months ahead.

"During the summer, teens tend to drive more often and with less supervision than they do during the school year," said Brad Oltmans, vice president of insurance services for AAA Arizona.

"That's why AAA urges parents to establish a driving agreement that keeps teens off the road at night and restricts riding in cars with multiple passengers.

"This agreement should be in place all year long, but especially during the high-risk summer months."

According to AAA, an average of 399 teens died in traffic crashes during each of the summer months (May-August), compared to a monthly average of 346 teen deaths during non-summer months.

To keep teens safe during these dangerous months and year round, AAA Insurance suggests the following tips for parents:

\* Eliminate trips without purpose. Teens have three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers, based on amount of miles driven, and a teen's crash risk is highest during the first year of solo driving.

\* Limit passengers. Crash rates increase with each teen passenger in the vehicle. In fact, fatal crash rates for 16- to 19-year-olds increase fivefold when two or more teen passengers are present versus when teens drive alone. Also, riding in a vehicle with a teen driver can be risky for teen passengers.

\* Restrict night driving. A teen driver's chances of being involved in a deadly crash doubles at night. Many parents limit driving during the highest-risk late night hours, yet they should consider limiting evening driving as well, as more than half of nighttime crashes occur between 9 p.m. and midnight.

\* Establish a parent-teen driving agreement. Written agreements help set and enforce clear rules about night driving, passengers, access to the car, and more. AAA Insurance

offers a parent-teen driving agreement on its teen driver safety website, Keys2Drive.

\* Enroll teens in summer driving school. Summer offers the perfect opportunity for teens to brush up on their driving skills. AAA's Approved Driving School Network is an exclusive group of schools that have met strict requirements for AAA approval, plus they offer a AAA member discount.

\* Use driving training tools. Enhance your teen's driving, critical thinking and decision-making skills with driver training resources.

\* Be there. Make sure your teen knows that if they need help, advice or a ride, they can call you at any time. Extend this offer often and let your teen know that you are always available, and that they will not be judged or punished should they need your help.