



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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Bashas'
DON'T MISS our insert
for GREAT SAVINGS before they are...

going... going... gone!

*Teen party law would set trend County, state lack social host rules

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town of Fountain Hills would be taking a leadership role in Maricopa County if the Town Council moves forward on a social host/unruly gathering ordinance, according to Tucson Police Lt. Mike Prior.

Prior was one of three participants in making a presentation to the council last week on behalf of the Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Half the underage teens who are drinking are getting alcohol at parties, according to Prior.

"Other people are getting our kids drunk," he said. "People don't want strangers giving their kids alcohol."

Prior said the momentum for social host or unruly gathering ordinances is growing nationwide. Here

in Arizona such laws have been enacted in seven counties to include 11 cities and towns with two county-wide ordinances.

Pima and Pinal counties have stepped up to lead these efforts. They are the two counties with ordinances, and six of the 11 cities and towns. There is little in Maricopa County. The City of Phoenix has a provision to recover costs with civil fines.

The local ordinances can be tailored to the community situation providing a local solution to a local issue, Prior said.

However, no one is suggesting that the Town of Fountain Hills move ahead quickly to enact such an ordinance.

Carole Groux, director for the Fountain Hills coalition, said there are many items to consider when writing such an ordinance.

Items to be considered
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Purple desert



Times photo by Bob Burns

The rainy winter has brought out a blanket of purple lupines in the desert. The flowers add an additional splash of color to the lush green vegetation sprouted by the record rainfall early this year. The lupines predominate along McDowell Mountain Road between Fountain Hills and Rio Verde and along the Beeline Highway, where numerous globe mallows add orange to the palate. More rain was added to the total Tuesday morning when there was .40 inch recorded at *The Times* office on Laser Drive.

Greening 'demo' OK'd for park

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council has approved a landscape plan for demonstration projects in Fountain Park to pro-

vide the Greening of the Downtown program.

The council voted unanimously to approve the projects to be installed around the amphitheater near Saguaro Boulevard and Panorama Drive.

The goal is to have the demonstration projects completed by Arbor Day at the end of April.

That plan was outlined by Jeffrey Denzak, a design partner with Swaback Partners, the company that created the Downtown Vision Plan.

Denzak said the area around the amphitheater



was chosen for the demonstration project because of its visibility.

That area is defined as Northpoint, one of five zones in the park designated for clustering of trees.

Landscapers will select from eight to 10 varieties of low water, drought tolerant trees to plant in the park.

Denzak said they are planning to use 36-inch or larger boxed trees because larger trees prove to be more successful.

The trees at Northpoint will be planted near the

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Times photos by Barb Charzuk

Colorful Affaire

Texas artists Sheryl McDonald and her husband, Jimmy, of Magnolia, Texas, appeared March 19-21 at their first Fountain Hills venue during the Fine Art & Wine Affaire. The art show was sponsored by Thunderbird Artists and Sunset Kiwanis. The McDonalds transform photos into art objects, as images are printed on archival acid free paper with chrome archival inks. The images are trimmed, fitted and applied to the figure's surface. For additional event pictures, see Page 14A.

Saturday morning

'Eggstravaganza' expanded

The annual Eggstravaganza has been expanded and is set to roll at Golden Eagle Park Saturday, March 27.

Activities will be held from 8 to 10 a.m., with the traditional egg hunt slated for 9 a.m. sharp.

Hundreds of kids will scramble to pick up more than 15,000 eggs stuffed with candy and other prizes (which is 3,000 eggs more than last year).

Hoppy Bunny will serve as master of ceremonies at the Town of Fountain Hills Eggstravaganza and will be available for hugs and pictures throughout the event at Golden Eagle Park.

The scramble starts promptly at 9 a.m. Don't be late, and don't forget a basket to collect all the eggs.

In addition, the Noon Kiwanis Club will hold its popular pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Get to the park early and

have a hearty breakfast before the egg hunt. You can also visit with the Fountain Hills Fire Department, climb on the trucks and check out the firefighters' gear.

Kids will also have the ability to take off their shoes and jump on inflatable bouncers.

McDowell Mountain Community Church will provide cookie decorating, the library will offer a craft, Farmer's Insurance will hand out child identification kits, and Promiseland

Preschool will organize the "Creation Station" activity for all ages, which is a fundraiser for the school (see separate story elsewhere).

All children must be accompanied by an adult, and must be under seven years of age to participate in the egg hunt.

In the event of inclement weather or poor field conditions, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, April 3, at 8 a.m.

Once again this year the Goyena Team at MCO Realty, Inc. is the sponsor.

Shea work beginning

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Work is expected to begin later this week on the Shea Boulevard climbing lane project, according to town Public Works Director Tom Ward.

Ward said the town has

given the contractor permission to work overnight Thursday, March 25, to install concrete barriers along the edge of the roadway to protect workers.

Once the barriers are in place the project is expected

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*PARTY: Rules studied

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within an ordinance include the degree of knowledge required. This language could include a person knowingly permitting, and or failing to take reasonable action to prevent underage drinking on their property.

At what age should social host liability start? Should it be 18, 21 or what about including minors?

Other questions include, who is responsible? How many must be present? Should it include drugs and alcohol? Should exclusions be made in cases of real emergencies?

"The next step is to study and talk about what we want," Groux said. "We need to be very responsible in how we approach the ordinance and educate the public.

"This is not a witch hunt, this is an effort to change social norms."

Groux also acknowledged the assistance and cooperation of School District officials and the town's willingness to partner with the group.

The council was encouraging, but gave the coalition no specific directions regarding an ordinance.

Councilman Dennis Contino praised the coalition for bringing the issue to the forefront.

"This is a problem that is not necessarily getting worse," Mayor Jay Schlum said. "The coalition is just shining a light on the situation.

"This coalition is all volunteers, and I thank you. Abuse and tolerance is not acceptable in Fountain Hills.



Paramedics attend to the injured driver, right, while Sheriff's deputies and fire personnel inspect the damage of a Toyota Prius that struck a light pole.

No exact cause for Prius, pole crash

A Fountain Hills man driving a Toyota Prius that collided with a light post in a parking lot on Tuesday has told an investigating Sheriff's deputy he does not know how the accident happened.

Deputy A.J. Calderon said the driver told him he had owned the car about two years and not had any problems, and he does not recall any problem before the accident.

The man told Calderon he remembered trying to avoid a tree as he entered the parking lot. He said he may have been traveling 25

to 30 miles per hour at the time of the accident.

Calderon said there is no evidence at the scene that there were mechanical problems with the vehicle until the right front tire struck a curb and blew out just before hitting the light pole.

The man reportedly told a witness who reached the vehicle right after the accident that he could not stop.

Doctors could find no medical problems that might have had a role in the accident, according to Calderon. The man was hospitalized with a head injury following the accident.

Art, Wine Affaire



Times photos by Barb Charzuk

Saxophonist Mark Maxwell entertains visitors at the sixth annual show that involved about 125 artists. Keyboard artist Jeffrey Michael also performed.