

Two new projects announced at Green fund-raiser

The Fall Greening of Downtown fundraiser on 11-11-11 was the perfect time to announce the next two phases of the project.

Work will begin on the landscaping of two prime

vacant lots on the Avenue of the Fountains, and 40 more shade trees will be planted this month in Fountain Park.

The casual "Green Tie" affair was hosted by Dwight

and Laura Johnson. A combination of informal games, silent auction and personal donations from more than 100 supporters netted approximately \$3500 for the project.

Over nearly two years, fundraisers, private donations, grants and the purchase of commemorative leaves have provided more than \$180,000 for this official Arizona Centennial project.

Event chair Jenny Willigrod made a special presentation to her two "Jerrys"

– Butler and Miles – for their efforts to make this idea a reality.

The commemorative leaves are displayed in Fountain Park, and are a wonderful way to honor family, friends and be a part of the ongoing beautification of the downtown area.

Donations for the leaves are tax-deductible.

Brochures with more information are available near the display columns, or at www.fountainhillsc-ca.org.



Jerry Butler and Jenny Willigrod have been the main organizers behind the Greening of Downtown efforts.



Mike and Linda Tyler check out some of the silent auction items being made available at the 11-11-11 fundraiser held at the home of Dwight and Laura Johnson.



Sid and Carol Coates check in at the fall fundraiser to benefit Greening of Downtown.

Art League presents Art in the Park Saturday

Residents are invited to come out Saturday, Dec. 3, weather permitting, to visit the Art League's "Art in the Park" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Plaza Fountainside.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the sunshine, the lake and Fountain while strolling the plaza and supporting local artists.

With Christmas just a few weeks away, the perfect

gift might be waiting at Art in the Park. Works include oils, acrylics, watercolors, jewelry, photography, pet portraits, paperclay sculptures, painted furniture, stitchery with innovative designs and more.

Art in the Park is located behind Plaza Fountainside at the corner of El Lago and Saguaro Blvds.

*Gingerbread house contest to help Drug Coalition's Safe Homes

The Drug Coalition's Safe Homes Network is sponsoring a gingerbread house contest this holiday season.

Families, teens and youths are encouraged to decorate small gingerbread homes and display them at the Fountain Hills Community Center as part of the contest.

The center becomes a holiday spectacle this time of year with trees, wreaths, trains and other holiday-related trim.

Safe Homes Network consists of Fountain Hills families who have pledged to not serve alcohol to teenagers or knowingly host underage drinking parties.

Entry forms must be submitted online by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, to qualify for the gingerbread house contest.

Contest rules and entry forms are available at www.safehomesfh.org.

The competition is open to all Fountain Hills residents and there are three categories – family, teen (ages 13-18) and youth (ages 12 and under).

Teens and youths can enter individually or as teams (up to five members).

First and second place

prizes will be given in all three categories.

The first-place prize for families is a \$100 gift certificate to All-American Sports Grill, bowling and shoe rental package from Fountain Bowl and a \$15 La Scala Creamery gift card.

Teens and youths can each win up to \$150 in cash.

The first 30 completed entries will be displayed at the Fountain Hills Community Center for judging; entries that are not pre-registered will not be accepted.

Entries must not exceed 1.5 feet in height, 1.5 feet in width or 1.5 feet in depth, including the board used as a base.

Entries must be made primarily of gingerbread for the structure and decorated entirely of edible products (except for the base); candies must be unwrapped; edible materials are not limited to sweets.

Entries will be accepted at the Community Center on Monday, Dec. 12, between 9 a.m. and noon.

For a complete list of rules and other information, visit www.safehomesfh.org.

Poinsettia tradition continues on Avenue

About 10 years ago, Fountain Hills resident Bill Muehlhauser suggested that the community sponsor a live poinsettia tree of remembrance during the holiday season, allowing some comfort to those for whom the holidays were difficult because of the loss of loved ones.

It was agreed that living loved ones could also be honored with this tree.

As a result, the Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association (then known as the Cultural Council), asked another resident, Skip Ipema, to design and construct the metal frame for a 14-foot tall tree at his machine shop in Mesa.

The tree holds 220 live plants, and it can be easily broken down for storage when not in use.

And so a tradition was born.

Now, each year in November, applications are available for the purchase of live poinsettia plants at \$20 per plant. This year the poinsettias are being supplied by Gardener's World in Phoenix.

A large board is set up near the tree with the names of the donors and those people that are being honored or remembered.

The tree was originally set up on the Avenue of the Fountains across from Gridleys, and although during the last three holiday seasons it was set up outside the Community Center, this year it will once again be put on the Avenue.

Project Chairman Phil Gaziano encourages everyone to participate in this tradition. Applications can be downloaded from the FHCCA website fountainhillsc-ca.org

or picked up at the Community Center, Sami's Fine Jewelry, Gridleys, Card\$mart, or Kay Kinder's Fountain Fashions.

Checks should be made out to FHCCA and can be mailed to PO Box 18254, Fountain Hills 85269.

FHCCA is a 501(C)(3) charitable corporation, and donations are tax deductible.

This year the tree will be installed on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 1, in time for the Dec. 3 Stroll in the Glow on the Avenue. The tree will remain up until the end of the year.

*Buy a Plant
for the Live Poinsettia Tree*

Name of Contributor _____ Phone# _____

My donation of \$20 is enclosed

Name of the person in Memory of _____

Name of the person in Honor Of (and Message) _____

The names of you and your honoree will be posted next to the tree.
Your donation is tax deductible.

Make Check Payable To: *Thank you and happy holidays from the Cultural & Civic Assn.!*

FHCCA
Mail To:
Fountain Hills Cultural & Civic Assn.
P.O. Box 18254
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269

Luminarias to glow

A Chamber of Commerce holiday tradition since 1990 --- luminarias --- will shimmer for one night, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Earlier in the month, Chamber CEO and President Frank Ferrara said the custom was in jeopardy because of insurance liability issues and lack of interest by volunteers willing to take on the task.

About a half-dozen Chamber members came forward to adopt the project this year, said Ferrara. They will assemble the bags, distribute them around Fountain Lake and light them Christmas Eve. Only enough votive candles to surround the lake were purchased in advance because of the uncertainty of the event this year.

The decorations, dating back to the 16th century to light the way for people heading to church, consist of a paper bag in which sand and a candle are placed.

In previous years, luminarias lined major town streets. In looking ahead to next year, plans will

resume to figure out how to best handle luminarias.

Thank you!

Special Thanks to our Donors:

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