



THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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Times photo by Bob Burns

Sign of season

A contractor's crew was busy in Fountain Hills Saturday, Nov. 21, adding some additional touches to the Christmas lighting display on the Avenue of the Fountains. Two trees were installed, including this one at the intersection of Saguaro Blvd. and the First Responder's tree at Verde River Drive. The council recently approved additional funds to add more elements to the holiday display, which will be lit on Saturday, Dec. 5, during the Stroll in the Glow.

Amended roundabout budget approved

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

At its Nov. 17 regular session, the Town Council approved an additional \$90,000 to cover the costs of modifications made during the construction of the roundabout intersection of La Montana Drive and Avenue of the Fountains. This was done as an amendment to the town's professional services agreement with Visus Engineering Construction. In his report to the council, Town Public Works Director Justin Weldy explained that shortly after construction on the project had begun, a potential pedestrian and vehicle safety issue was discovered in the design that included a dedicated right turn lane from eastbound Avenue of the Fountains to southbound La Montana. It was determined that the right turn lane was too close to the crosswalk and the pull-in driveway to the Post Office drop boxes. Staff directed CK Group to redesign the intersection to improve safety concerns.

(cont. on page 2A)

Thanksgiving closures announced

Most Fountain Hills business offices will observe the Thanksgiving holiday this week. The offices of the Town of Fountain Hills will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, as is the Community Center. Town Hall remains closed on Friday. The Fountain Hills branch of the Maricopa County Library is closed. Sanitary District offices will close at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, and will remain closed until 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30. There will be no school

(cont. on page 6A)

Council approves capital projects

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

The Town Council has given staff a green light to proceed with an additional \$900,000 in capital improvement projects that had been placed in a sort of pending mode with budget approval earlier this year. Staff had wanted to provide the council with better revenue projections due to an anticipated downturn because of COVID-19. Five months into the fiscal year those revenue numbers are looking better than anticipated, according to Finance Director David Pock.

The items that will be added back to the capital projects list include miscellaneous drainage projects (\$50,000), Pollina/Brantley Drive detention basin (\$100,000), HVAC controllers for the town facilities physical plant (\$70,000), fire alarm control panel replacement (\$80,000), sidewalk infill (\$200,000), Four Peaks Park upgrades (\$335,000) and parking lot improvements at the Four Peaks Park playground. There is some flexibility built into some of this work, such as the park upgrades and sidewalk infill. The council also dismissed

a preliminary study for a traffic signal at Palisades Blvd. and Eagle Ridge Drive (\$50,000). As contracts are considered for any of the additional projects they will be brought to the council for approval. Staff also updated the council on the progress of six projects that had been prioritized for the capital plan this fiscal year. Design work toward the Golden Eagle (Park) Impoundment Area Improvements Phase I is 60 percent complete as of

(cont. on page 6A)

Town Talk

Mayor Dickey offers update

Mayor Ginny Dickey has recorded a Town Talk presentation and posted it as a YouTube video for residents to view. During her first term as mayor, Dickey would hold the Town Talk sessions at the Community Center on a regular basis joined by one or two other council members. Dickey provided *The Times* with the script for her conversation and we are providing an edited version in this article. "I want to wish you a wonderful holiday season,

and in so doing, bring you up to date on the many activities and efforts of our town in this video version of 'Town Talk Tuesday.' "This has been a very different, challenging year for most of us in Fountain Hills. I want to applaud the outstanding efforts of many in our community, including staff and elected leaders, tending to the needs in our town. "It goes without saying



Mayor Ginny Dickey

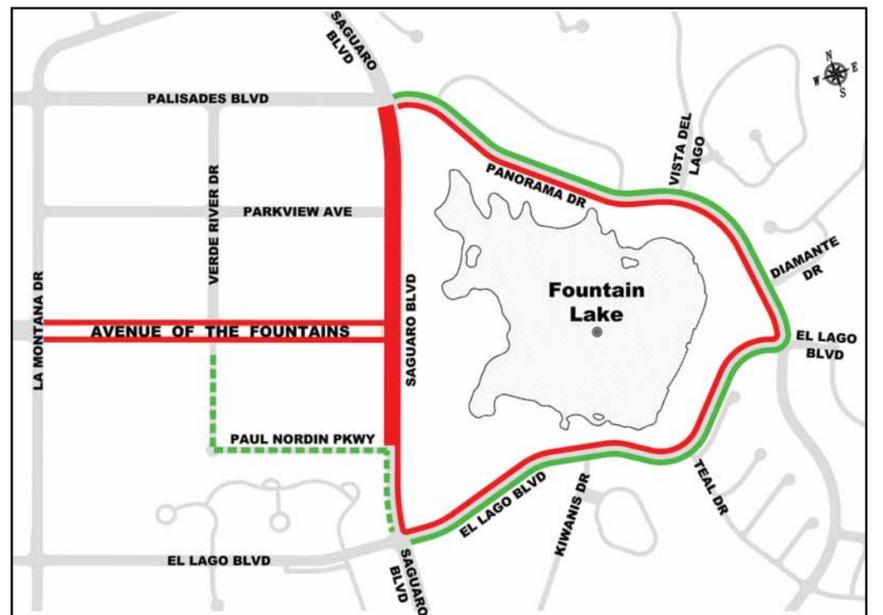
(cont. on page 2A)

Turkey Trot route set

The Town of Fountain Hills will host its annual Turkey Trot competition on Thanksgiving morning, tomorrow, Nov. 26. The event will result in the closure of downtown streets between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. See map below. Avenue of the Fountains will be closed completely

between La Montana Drive and Saguaro Blvd. Saguaro Blvd. will be closed in both directions between Paul Nordin Parkway and Palisades Blvd. (one northbound lane of Saguaro will be closed between El Lago Blvd. and Paul Nordin Parkway). Eastbound Panorama

Drive will be closed between Saguaro and El Lago. Westbound El Lago will be closed between Panorama and Saguaro. Verde River Drive will be open, but the intersection with Avenue of the Fountains will be closed to cross traffic.



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INSIDE

History:
Series continues with service clubs.
See Page 10A

Santa:
Special drive-through event planned.
See Page 12A

'Holly Jolly':
Festive theater show starts Dec. 11.
See Page 13A

COVID-19 update

Reported Cases* As of Tuesday, Nov. 24

Maricopa County Totals: 194,410

Fountain Hills Totals: 410

*Source: Arizona Department of Health Services

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., Nov. 17	89	57	--
Wed., Nov. 18	88	53	--
Thurs., Nov. 19	85	58	--
Fri., Nov. 20	88	61	--
Sat., Nov. 21	83	58	--
Sun., Nov. 22	82	54	--
Mon., Nov. 23	75	47	--

For weather updates and forecasts go to www.fhtimes.com

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