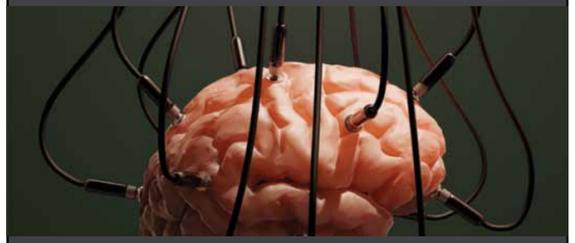




THE FOUNTAIN HILLS TIMES

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Wednesday, May 6, 2020

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COVID-19 measures extended to May 15

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey has ordered an extension of his Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic until Wednesday, May 15.

On Wednesday, April 29, the governor outlined some slight modifications to his previous "Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected" orders.

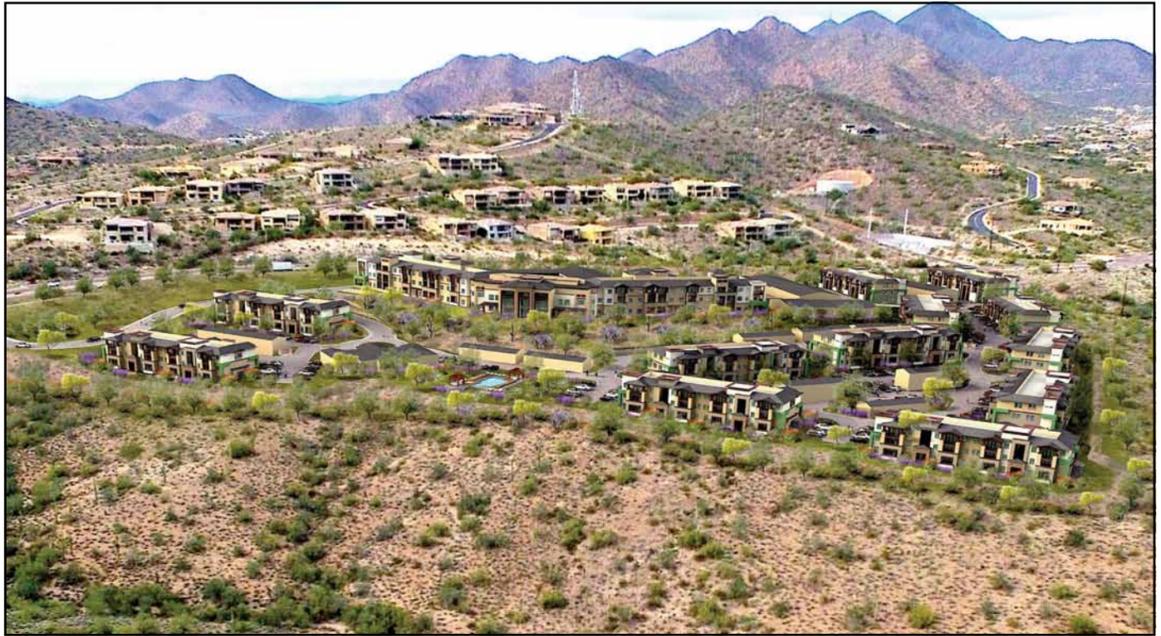
Under the modified order, retail businesses currently not operating can begin curbside pick-up on Monday, May 4, followed by expanded in-person operations on Friday, May 8, as long as they implement social distancing and sanitation measures established by the United States Department of Labor or the Arizona Department of Health Services. This updated guidance applies to the act of selling goods,

not services.

In a statement released Thursday, April 30, Mayor Ginny Dickey expressed her agreement with the Ducey plan to extend the order.

"The Town Manager and I support Governor Ducey's extension of the stay at home order as he clearly recognizes that Arizona has not met the medical metrics of two weeks of declining COVID-19 cases and deaths as established by medical experts," Dickey said. "Medical experts from the CDC and Arizona Department of Health Services believe that extending the stay at home order will reduce exposure to the virus and save lives. Once Arizona meets the two week reduction in cases and deaths, then the Governor will begin phasing in

(cont. on page 12A)



A rendering of the proposed Daybreak project on Palisades Blvd., near the Shea intersection.

Daybreak: Ballots due May 19

By Bob Burns
Times Reporter

When a developer stepped forward in early 2019 with a proposal to develop a 400-unit apartment community in Fountain Hills near Shea and Palisades boulevards, the plan was controversial from the beginning.

The initial concerns came from residents currently living just west of the site, across Palisades Blvd., and a neighborhood just north of the parcel, off Palisades. They raised issues primarily regarding traffic, zoning adjustments and aesthetics.

The project is proposed for about 24 acres of a 60-acre parcel that slopes down into an arroyo along the east side of Palisades. The site had previously

been approved for a conference center resort that included condos and raised about five stories in places. The land entitlements for that project still exist on the parcel.

Jeremy Hall, the former president of MCO Properties in Fountain Hills, and Neil Ginsberg, who was the original developer of the CopperWynd Resort in Fountain Hills, brought the application for the new project as Hillside Vista Properties.

Their plan calls for a total of 400 dwelling units based on an underlying zoning designated for multi-family housing. The proposal includes 270 garden apartments with a mixture of one-, two- and three-bedroom units without age restriction. A second component of the complex would be 130 units age

restricted to 55 years and older. The age-restricted component would consist largely of a single building approximately 600 feet in length.

The development would sit higher on the parcel than the existing resort proposal but building height would be lower.

The developer engaged a traffic engineering consultant to evaluate the project and the site. It is normal for a developer to engage this service rather than the town paying for a study.

The CivTech study concluded that the proposed complex would generate up to an additional 2,600 vehicles per day. It also concluded that under current standards, the traffic would not warrant the installation of a traffic signal at either entry to the project. However, the develop-

ment agreement approved by the Town Council for the project calls for an updated traffic study within two years of the first occupancy to see if a signal is warranted. The developer agrees to participate financially in the signal if it is needed at that time.

The consultant also states that the developer's plans for right-turn ingress for the project site is adequate at both entries.

Opponents, now ranging from all over town, have also raised questions regarding open space claims in relation to the project. According to information based on the Town's review of the project, the overall site is 59.79 acres with the development covering approximately 23.04 acres, leaving an open space

(cont. on page 12A)

Library introduces curbside pick-up

Lots of stores and restaurants are offering curbside pickup.

Now Fountain Hills Library, as well as other libraries in the Maricopa County Library District, have come up with a way for people to have access to the nearly 720,000 items in its collection.

The curbside program started April 22. Cardholders now can reserve and pick up books, movies and more, all while practicing social distancing.

"Libraries are about

access," said Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chair Clint Hickman, District 4. "The Maricopa County Library District is dedicated to finding the best ways to give our community the access they need and want. The first step was to go virtual, but we knew many people needed another way. We are thrilled to launch another service that allows for us to be there for our community. No matter what is going on

(cont. on page 12A)



Helping hands

The Extended Hands Food Bank is open for all donations, and appreciates the help. The "Monday Group" at the food bank include Kathy Silvie, Jeri Conway, Kathleen Rubin, Ann Speer, Cleon Streitmatter, Pete and Iva Carlo and Larry Ward. The food bank is located at 16548 E. Laser Dr., Suite 6. For more information about volunteering, donating or to receive services, visit ehfb.org.

Fort McDowell Casino reopens May 15

In response to evolving news of the COVID-19 virus, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation President Bernadine Burnette said the Tribal Council has decided to reopen the Fort McDowell Casino and the government offices for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation on May 15. The reopening of the We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center has not been determined at this time as tribal leadership awaits federal, state, and CDC guidelines and instructions.

"These unprecedented times call for action by everyone in our community," reads a press release from Fort McDowell concerning the upcoming reopening of the casino and government offices. "The decision to temporarily suspend operations was done with the health and safety of our guests, team members and



all Yavapai Nation tribal members." According to President Burnette, closing the casino was a decision the Nation took very seriously. "This was a painful de-

cision, as our casino is the economic lifeblood of our Nation," Burnette said.

"We are reliant on gaming revenue to support

(cont. on page 12A)

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Summer school:
Program moves online.
See Page 13A

FHCCA:
Annual meeting
has been postponed.
See Page 2A

Quarantine:
Residents share more
thoughts and hopes.
See Page 11A

WEATHER

	H	L	P
Tues., April 28	98	65	--
Wed., April 29	102	68	--
Thurs., April 30	98	63	--
Fri., May 1	98	66	--
Sat., May 2	96	62	--
Sun., May 3	94	61	--
Mon., May 4	96	69	--

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



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