

Drug Takeback Day yields major haul

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has collected 250 pounds of expired or unneeded prescription medication in the past three months, with about a third of that figure being handed over during the recent Prescription Drug Takeback Day.

Takeback Day took place on April 27, a county-wide effort to encourage residents to drop off their unneeded medications to help prevent their misuse and abuse.

Speaking to the Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition on May 9, MCSO Captain Larry Kratzer had what he

Truck purchase approved

The Town Council has approved up to \$54,428 for the purchase of a new lightduty pick-up truck to be used by the Fountain Hills Rural/Metro Fire Chief.

The vehicle is being purchased through a cooperative purchase agreement with Larry Miller Ford. The funding is from the town's vehicle replacement fund, which was established to set criteria for replacing vehicles as well as maintaining available

Light duty trucks are scheduled for replacement at 10 years or 100,000 miles. The current vehicle is 10 years old.

Policy calls for vehicles being replaced to be sent to auction with proceeds to be returned to the VRF, however, Fire Chief Dave Ott has indicated they would like to keep the older vehicle in a reserve status.

The council vote was 6-0 in favor of the purchase with Vice Mayor Art Tolis

Engineer support hired

The Town Council has approved a professional services agreement to provide support for the town's

engineering department. The agreement is with local firm Montgomery Engineering for civil engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$105,000 over a three-year period. It is \$35,000 annually.

Projects that might be included in the agreement would be capital improvements, engineering projects, pavement management and park and right-of-way improvements.

Dave Montgomery has had a well-established engineering firm in Fountain Hills for more than three decades and has worked with the Town of Fountain Hills numerous times.

Councilman Dennis Brown, a local contractor, said he has worked with Montgomery numerous times over the years and

recommends him highly. The vote to approve the agreement was 6-0 with Vice Mayor Art Tolis abcalled "good news" to share with those in attendance.

During just a four-hour block of time on Takeback Day, local authorities collected 92.2 pounds of unneeded medications.

Kratzer said this was a sure sign that the message of Prescription Drug Takeback Day was "getting out there" and that it's a sign local residents appreciate the seriousness of the cause.

Kratzer added that one factor that could have helped boost Fountain Hills' haul for Drug Takeback Day was the fact that a lot of residents were hitting the road for the summer and took advantage of the well-timed opportunity to clean out their cabinets.

On top of events like Prescription Drug Takeback Day, Fountain Hills is home to a permanent drop box located next to the MCSO office within Town Hall. Anyone can use this drop box during normal business hours by simply pouring their unwanted pills into a sealable bag and then dropping them into the box. No liquids, gels or sharps should be dropped

off in this way. On top of the 92.2 pounds gathered during Takeback Day, Kratzer said the permanent drop-box has been used well through early 2019. A total of 56.2 pounds were gathered in March, with 48.4 pounds gathered in April and another 61.2 pounds gathered in early May.

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Student count hike increases FHUSD budget

By Joey Postiglione Times Reporter

At the April 24 meeting of the Fountain Hills Unified School District Governing Board, FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Robert Allen presented the board with a revised budget for the 2018-19 school year.

The biggest change in the revised budget from the proposed budget that Allen presented earlier this school year is a roughly \$200,000 increase in the Maintenance and Operations fund.

"The proposed budget back in June of last year used projected enrollment and the revised budget is based on actual enrollment, as reported by the state," Dr. Allen explained.
"The numbers are based of the hundred day count in January and those numbers came back a little bit

higher." FHUSD's 100 day count of students increased by roughly 23 students from

the previous year. The other reason for the increase in the M&O fund was that Allen recalculated funds he was carrying over from the previous year's budget and was able to carry more over then originally shown in the prospered budget.

Allen said he plans to carry over the extra funding in the M&O budget to help fund the recent raise that FHUSD teachers and staff received with their contract renewal this year.





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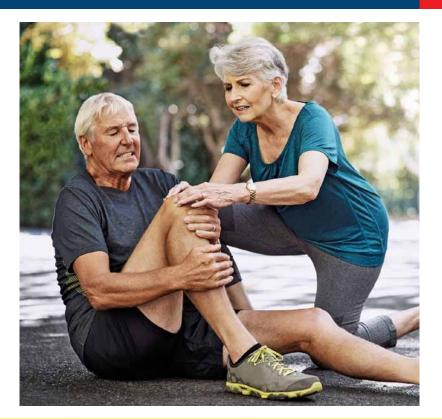


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