

FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 21-22





MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



RACHAEL GOODWIN
DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Going for the Gold was the theme of the Community Services department this year. As the world enjoyed the return of the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, the Fountain Hills team was “going for gold” in our own way. Beginning in January, the department took on the challenge of applying for the National Gold Medal for Parks and Recreation. The National Gold Medal Award honors public Park and Recreation agencies and State Park systems throughout the United States, and armed forces recreation programs worldwide, that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. This first-time effort was an uphill journey as the staff researched, brainstormed, and edited pages of content to produce a unique narrative of how and why the department strives for excellence.

Though labor-intensive, the project was well worth the time and effort as Fountain Hills was selected as one of four national finalists for the 2021 National Gold Medal Award. This distinction represents the pinnacle of our industry and is a testament to our community, our partners, and our outstanding team. To be recognized as a finalist for the Gold Medal distinguishes Fountain Hills as a model agency. The National Gold Medal, just like its Olympic counterpart, is highly coveted and represents the best of the best. Speaking on behalf of our entire department, we are honored and elated to compete as one of the top in the nation.



WHO WE ARE



Fountain Hills Community Services (FHCS) is a small but impressive team that operates with a culture of passion and commitment. We shine brightest when it comes to increasing community advocacy, earning the trust of our leadership, and magnifying our limited fiscal resources. Encompassing five divisions with 13 full-time staff, we represent a very broad, public-facing department. Due to limited funding, financial forecasting can be one of our biggest hurdles, however, FHCS continually finds a way to excel. Our values push us to refine and improve, asking how we can do more, go further, and dream bigger.

MISSION

To enrich and provide an active quality of life for all residents and visitors through proactive community engagement, resolute stewardship of amenities and open spaces, and the enhancement of the overall health and well-being of our town.

COMMITMENT

1. Provide recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community.
2. Expand and strengthen outdoor experiences and opportunities to contribute to the region's attractiveness as a place to live, work, and play.
3. Optimize safe utilization of facilities, amenities, and open space.
4. Actively seek progressive, future-oriented options for funding, operations, and programs.
5. Embrace a collaborative spirit and support teamwork within the department and the community.



BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

COMMUNITY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The commission acts in an advisory capacity in support of the Town of Fountain Hills Community Services Department's quest to provide exceptional customer service to enhance the quality of life by providing and maintaining safe, available, and accessible parks and facilities, recreation programs, events, and services that will meet the intellectual, social, cultural, and leisure needs of town residents of all ages.

NATALIE VARELA
CHAIR

CAREY REDDICK II
VICE CHAIR

STEPHEN BARNES
COMMISSIONER

CRAIG RUDOLPHY
COMMISSIONER

RON RUPPERT
COMMISSIONER

RORY WILSON
COMMISSIONER

JACELLE BAUTISTA
YOUTH COMMISSIONER

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preserve, also known as the Preserve, encompasses a scenic area of mountainous, pristine land that will be preserved in its natural state for the benefit of this and future generations.

SCOTT GRZYBOWSKI
CHAIR

STEVEN NURNEY
VICE CHAIR

BILL CRAIG
COMMISSIONER

JANICE HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

DJ WILLARD
COMMISSIONER

SHERRY IRWIN
COMMISSIONER

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

The Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) is made up of proactive teens here in Town that care about making a difference. Through MYC, these teens learn how our Town operates, leadership skills, and how they can make a difference for good.

BEN ALKER
CLASS OF '22

SKYE ALKER
CLASS OF '24

GIANNA BARKER
CLASS OF '22

ELIZABETH FRANZONE
CLASS OF '24

BROOKE LYONS
CLASS OF '24

OLIVIA MELLO
CLASS OF '24

AUTUMN RYNEARSON
CLASS OF '24

ANNA WILLIAMS
CLASS OF '23

KEVIN WILLIAMS
CLASS OF '24

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL



COMMUNITY SERVICES HOURS

MYC participates in community service year-round. By volunteering at 8 Town events, Make a Difference Day, Fountain Hills Cares, and Adopt a Street MYC accumulated 189 service hours!

LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES AND TOWNS

Mayor's Youth Council attended the LACT conference in August of 2021. The council represented the Town by participating in the Parade of Flags and attended workshops discussing Mental Health, Networking, Sustainability, Public Speaking, and Interview Techniques.

FLAGSTAFF EXTREME

Expanded our comfort zones and built our group dynamic, including teamwork, leadership, and the ability to communicate.

TEEN TAKEOVER EVENT

MYC's primary project for the year was providing an event for Teens, by Teens. Through reaching out to local non-profit groups and businesses in the Town, MYC secured 7 event partners to help throw the Teen event of the year! By partnering with local groups, the Takeover provided inflatables, karaoke, dodgeball, video game tournaments, tie-dye, and food and drinks completely free to all attendees. Estimated 150 teens attended the Takeover. (Fountain Hills Coalition, Sipps Eatery, FH Library, AZ Karaoke 2Go, Senor Taco, Rural Metro Fire Department, Pisa Pizza)



AWARDS

2021 AND 2022 NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD FINALIST FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD OF PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT



The National Gold Medal Award program honors communities in the United States that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development, and agency recognition. Applications are separated into six classes, with five classes based on population and one class for armed forces.

Fountain Hills was a finalist in the Class Five (population 30,000 or less) category at the 2021 NRPA Nashville Conference and named a finalist for the 2022 National Gold Medal Award. The Community Services Department oversees and works collaboratively with many community organizations to maintain and provide services with Town parks, trails, Community Center, parks and recreation, community arts programs, volunteers, special events, Home Delivered Meals, and more.



2021 APRA OUTSTANDING SPORTS PROGRAM AWARD RETURN TO RECESS

Fountain Hills Recreation was honored to receive the APRA Outstanding Sports Program Award for the Return to Recess youth program. This awards recognizes the organizations, institutions, or agencies for developing, implementing or coordinating the most outstanding sports program in Arizona. Some of the organizations the Town partnered with in running Return to Recess are the Disc Golf Club, Fountain Hills Little League, Fountain Hills Soccer Club, Brilliant Victory Skateboards, Fountain Hills High School Sand Volleyball Team, and the Pickleball Club.

APRA & CERTIFICATES

INVOLVEMENT IN APRA ARIZONA PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Arizona Parks and Recreation Association, a 501(c)(6) nonprofit, was founded in 1950 to provide professional development, advocacy and resources to all who enhance quality of life through parks, recreation and environmental conservation. APRA has seven professional branches and four regions dedicated to providing opportunities for a broad range of parks and recreation professionals. In addition to workshops, advocacy events, and networking opportunities throughout the year, APRA hosts a statewide annual conference and trade show. This event features programs and parks unique to Arizona, insightful educational sessions, national certifications, innovative exhibitors, and statewide awards.



RACHEL GOODWIN

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
PRESIDENT
2022**

**PRESIDENT - ELECT
2021**



LINDA AYRES

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
PRESIDENT
2021**

**TEAMS COACH
JAN 2022 - PRESENT**



KADE NELSON

**BOARD MEMBER
YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
CHAIR**

JAN 2021 - PRESENT

CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATIONS AND/OR TRAININGS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022:

KADE NELSON, SENIOR RECREATION COORDINATOR

- Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) Certification
- AGTS Supervisor's Academy

KIM WICKLAND, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

- AGTS Supervisor's Academy

PARK ENHANCEMENTS

BY THE NUMBERS

27

TOURNAMENTS HOSTED

\$65,600

TOTAL TOURNAMENT AND FIELD RENTAL
REVENUE AT GEP

200+

NEWLY PLANTED VEGETATION AND TREES



FOUR PEAKS PARK

The fiscal year 2022 was the fourth of a five-year improvement plan for Four Peaks Park. Lighting was added to the pickleball courts allowing nighttime usage and eight picnic tables were added to the shaded waiting area outside the courts.

A gaming area was added that has two ping pong tables and two concrete cornhole sets along with four picnic tables all under a repurposed shade canopy.

Temporary fencing was added to the west field allowing three senior softball tournaments to use the field. This allowed for increasing tournament size by playing at Golden Eagle.

Several trees were also removed due to safety concerns but will soon be replaced with new trees. A desert cleanup project around the park allowed for the removal of many invasive plants and plant propagation helped bring back plants to areas that were in need of increased vegetation.

NEW FEATURES

- Pickleball lighting
- Ping Pong Tables
- Cornhole
- Picnic tables

AVENUE LINEAR PARK

The Avenue Linear Park received several new trees this year. With the removal of several trees for safety reasons or monsoon damage in the past couple of years, it was time to start replanting trees along the Avenue to provide shade for the future.

Two fountain pumps on the Avenue were replaced due to showing signs of mechanical failures.



GOLDEN EAGLE PARK

FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Temporary fencing was added to three of the fields allowing for 225ft home run fences. This new edition provides the town an opportunity to host both softball and younger baseball games on the fields.

Field one received several upgrades due to the substantial increase in usage. The chain link fencing on the backstop was replaced with netting that provides a much cleaner look for the spectators at a substantially reduced cost to the town when compared to using the chain link. Both dugouts on field one received new shade screens to help keep the players in the dugouts cooler.

Additional improvements include new netting to the batting cage, and portable pitching mounds were installed with weighted covers for protection from the elements.

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

New rubberized playground surfacing was added to the 5-12-year-old playground improving ADA accessibility to the playground. The Golden Eagle vegetation improvement program, through propagation, helped add many plants to the park at no cost. Along Golden Eagle Blvd, the park had a desert cleanup project that helped remove invasive weeds and plants, allowing for a vastly improved appearance.

NEW FEATURES

- Poured in Place at playground
- Temporary fencing allowing 225ft distance
- Field one backstop netting
- Batting cage netting
- Dugout shade screens
- Portable pitching mounds with covers
- Fields flooded
- Plant propagation
- Desert cleanup



DESERT VISTA PARK

TURF RENOVATIONS

Turf renovation and leveling at Desert Vista continued in 2022. Staff leveled 400 tons of top dressing material across the entire soccer field area to help level the sports turf fields. Chemical applications continued to help mitigate the undesired weeds from returning.



MUSCO LIGHTING & MINI-PITCH

Musco Lighting came through in a big way by offering, at no cost to the town, a new mini-pitch system. A mini-pitch is a soccer/futsal field that plays more like an indoor venue. Musco also offered, at a 25% reduced cost, lighting for the skate park. This allowed, for the first time, lengthening the operational hours of the skate park to include after-dark usage of the facility.



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

A new section of sidewalk was installed along the east end of the park to complete the .4 mile walking loop. ADOG donated three new shade structures in the dog park providing much-needed shade for the users.



NEW FEATURES

- Mini pitch
- Skate park lighting
- New sidewalks
- Shade structures in Dog Park



FOUNTAIN PARK

SPLASH PAD

Fountain Park definitely received the biggest splash this year with the grand opening on May 26th. With an all-new splash pad that is one of a kind and a huge draw to the town for children of all ages. The 5,000-square-foot splash pad includes two Mega Soakers, Sneaky Soaker water buckets, Custom Cool Trans, Geyser, Tidal Wave Froggie-O, and more!



PLAYGROUND

The 5-12 year old playground was also increased in size by 1/3 and increased in height to 30' with the replacement of the existing playground and the installation of the Giant XL from Kompan. This thirty foot tall slide comes complete with custom panels highlighting our World Famous Fountain.



VEGETATION AND LAKE IMPROVEMENTS

Vegetation at Fountain Park continues to improve through proper plant propagation allowing for new plants to be planted at no cost to the town. Staff also used the landscaping material that was removed to increase the size of the playground to help enhance other areas of the park. New screens were designed and installed to prevent fish from entering the wet well of the fountain pump house.



NEW FEATURES AND UPGRADES

- Pump house doors
- Splash pad
- Playground
- Plant propagation



SPECIAL EVENTS

BY THE NUMBERS

20

COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

31,000

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE AT TOWN-WIDE COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

6 NEW

COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SPOOKY BLAST, DAY OF PLAY, ROLL IN THE GLOW, CONCERTS ON THE AVENUE, SKATEBOARD CLASSIC, AND RECREATE, RECYCLE





FOURTH AT THE FOUNTAIN

JULY 4
FOUNTAIN PARK

This year our celebration kicked off with live music by the 80's cover band, Rock Lobster. The band provided one and a half hours of great entertainment. Participants danced until the fireworks kicked off at 9:00 pm. Ten food vendors provided a variety of dining options. The fireworks show was accompanied by patriotic music. Event attendance was estimated at 12,000+.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

AUGUST 20
FOUR PEAKS PARK

The annual Back to School Bash partners with local community organizations such as the Fountain Hills PTO, Fountain Hills Little League, and more to offer a variety of games and activities. A DJ keeps the party going along with several water slides and a dunk tank allowing the kids the opportunity to dunk a teacher. The estimated attendance 800+.



SPOOKY BLAST

OCTOBER 30
FOUR PEAKS PARK

The first annual Spooky Blast at the park kicked off with record numbers estimated at 3,000. Thirty businesses and organizations partnered with the town to provide a booth filled with games, activities, and candy. A DJ kept the party going and was the MC for the costume contest. A free photo booth was onsite to capture the memories, four inflatables and a Halloween-themed park were also included in this spooky night of fun. Local food vendors offered a variety of dining options.



CONCERTS ON THE AVENUE

NOVEMBER 6, 10, & 17
AVENUE OF THE FOUNTAINS

The Avenue comes alive during the spring concert series. This year kicked off with record attendance estimated at 400. This series includes two artists, each located at a fountain. The solo artist is west of Verde River Dr and the band is east of Verde River Dr. This concert series is funded by The Sonoran Lifestyle Team at Remax Properties. Remax remains open during the concerts and provides appetizers, popcorn, and beverages for attendees. The Avenue has cornhole and yard games near each performer and town staff are onsite selling Fountain Hills State 48 T-shirts.



DAY OF PLAY

NOVEMBER 6
COMMUNITY CENTER

This new community event was designed to showcase all the programs and activities the Town offers. Participants enjoyed class demonstrations and the opportunity to speak with the instructors. A Touch-A-Truck event was part of the Day of Play where kids had the opportunity to sit in a fire truck, garbage truck, and more. The event included fun inflatables for the kids and snacks and beverages for all.



TURKEY TROT FUN RUN & WALK

NOVEMBER 25
DOWNTOWN FOUNTAIN HILLS

Our 31st Annual Turkey Trot was a big hit with the community and region. This event saw 2,000+ participants, with 929 from Fountain Hills. The Turkey Trot has many runners from local cities and those out of state visiting during the holidays. The new start line provided picturesque views of the Fountain. Each year we included a branded Turkey Trot T-shirt as part of the registration. The Turkey Trot T-shirts are typically seen throughout the year on our residents.



ROLL IN THE GLOW

DECEMBER 4
AVENUE OF THE FOUNTAIN

Roll in the Glow was a new event in 2021. This event is in collaboration with the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, Stroll in the Glow. The lighted bike contest awarded prizes for the top three in each age category. We added a live band, shopping, dining, and a mechanical reindeer to the event. This event saw 2,000+ in attendance. McDowell Mountain Cycles partnered with the Town to provide support and prizes.



LIGHT UP THE TOWN HOLIDAY DRIVE

DECEMBER 19 - 25
TOWN

One of our new favorite traditions is the seasonal Holiday Drive around Town to see the lights! Residents submit their homes to be added to our map. People then drive the route and vote on their favorite houses. This was our second year doing the Drive and there were some amazing submissions.

23 homes participated
120 people voted for winners
9,014 views of the Drive's digital map



NOON YEAR'S EVE

DECEMBER 30
COMMUNITY CENTER

This multi-generational event offered participants chair volleyball, cornhole, chair volleyball, games, crafts, a photo booth, and the noon balloon drop. Snacks and beverages were provided by Morning Star. Participants enjoyed a photo booth followed by a craft to make a frame for their photo. The chair volleyball was truly an intergenerational activity with seniors and children playing throughout the morning.



SKATEBOARD CLASSIC

FEBRUARY 5
DESERT VISTA SKATE PARK

The Fountain Hills Skateboard classic was the first-ever skate event held in town. This event had 31 skaters registered that participated between two different age groups. Nearly 250 people attended the event.

\$800 in sponsored cash prizes were awarded to the top 3 places for each age group in addition to swag packages donated by 5 different skate companies including our very own local skate shop, Brilliant Victory Skateboards.



IRISH FOUNTAIN FEST

MARCH 12
FOUNTAIN PARK

Irish Fest returned after a two-year pause. This event had record numbers in both attendance and sales. The estimated attendance was 8,000. The Mesa Caledonian Pipe & Drum Band and Irish dancers added a new feature to the event. Marketing efforts were increased by adding a digital billboard near the 101 and 202 freeways. The Sonoran Lifestyle Team at ReMax Properties was the presenting sponsor providing additional funding, and set up a tent with games and prizes for the community.



NIGHT AT THE BALLFIELDS

DECEMBER 19 - 25
GOLDEN EAGLE PARK

In an effort to provide an event for our local sports fanatics, the rec team partnered with the Fountain Hills Little League to host a sports night on the ballfields.

By collaborating with a local organization, we were able to offer an event that provided inflatables, a home run derby, food trucks, a movie in the park, and "ninja training" all free to the public. The night on the ballfields was a great addition to our spring events that celebrated a return to baseball post-Covid.



MUSIC FEST

APRIL 1 & 2
FOUNTAIN PARK

The Music Fest was expanded to a two day event due to funding from a grant from the Arizona Office of Tourism. The two day format featured three bands each night with an estimated attendance of 7,000 for both nights. Bone Haus Brewing provided the beer sales for the event and several food trucks were onsite for the event. The department added cornhole and yards games to the event which proved to be a huge success as families playing the yard games throughout both evenings. Road closures were added to provide a safe entrance and exit for attendees.



CONCERTS ON THE AVENUE

APRIL 14 & 21
AVENUE OF THE FOUNTAIN

The Avenue comes alive during the spring concert series. This year kicked off with record attendance estimated at 500. This series includes two artists, each located at a fountain. The solo artist is west of Verde River Dr and the band is east of Verde River Dr. This concert series is funded by The Sonoran Lifestyle Team at Remax Properties. Remax remains open during the concerts and provides appetizers, popcorn, and beverages for attendees. The Avenue has cornhole and yard games near each performer and town staff are onsite selling Fountain Hills State 48 T-shirts.

CONNECT | PLAY | EXPLORE



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

APRIL 9
GOLDEN EAGLE PARK

Eggstravaganza returned after a two-year pause. This event features an egg hunt with 15,000 eggs spread out across three ballfields with an estimated attendance of 800. The fields are designated by age group. Local churches are onsite to provide games, crafts, and beverages for the participants. The pancake breakfast hosted by the Noon Kiwanis was added to the event. Inflatables and pictures with Hoppy the Bunny continue to be a popular feature.



RECYCLE, RECREATE

APRIL 22
COMMUNITY CENTER

Our first annual Earth Day Celebration was an event for all ages. Our biggest contest was constructing a fort out of cardboard! Craft stations focused on recycling and planting. Craft stations included dog toys created from old jeans, glass lanterns, jug faces, a water bottle mobile, rock painting, and a creation station. The event also included making bird feeders, composting, and planting a seedling. Kids' grow kits were raffled off throughout the event. The event culminated with the award presentation for the Recycled Art Contest.



MOVIE IN THE PARK | ENCANTO

MAY 7
FOUR PEAKS PARK

Our Spring Movie in the Park was a blast! Families gathered at Four Peaks Park to watch our showing of Disney's Encanto. Kettle Corn, Italian Sodas, and shaved ice were offered by Fountain Hills Water & Ice. The Sonoran Lifestyle Team at Remax Properties sponsored this event and provided hacky sacks for all of the kids in attendance. This event was our largest attended movie in the last few years with nearly 300 people in attendance.



SUMMER SERIES

JUNE & JULY
FOUNTAIN PARK, FOUR PEAKS PARK, COMMUNITY CENTER

Fountain Hills offered the Summer Series to provide free opportunities for our community to cool off and connect, play, and explore. Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 PM were fun at the Splash Pad with a food truck and ice cream truck. Wednesday from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM kids joined in the fun at Wacky Wet Wednesday with slip and slides, water games, and a fire truck.



SUMMER GAMES

MONTH OF JUNE
COMMUNITY CENTER

To cool off from the heat, the Recreation division provided a fun and interactive space in the Community Center for families to play board games, table tennis, and video games and meet others from the town. Staff provided refreshments, snacks, and an ice cream treat at no cost to the attendees. Summer Games occurred every other Thursday from 4:30-6:00PM throughout the month of June through July.



PARTY IN THE PARK

JUNE 17
FOUR PEAKS PARK

Adding to the summer fun was our annual Party in the Park and Stargazing event. The recreation department partners with the Dark Sky Association to offer stargazing from 8:00-9:00 PM. The party included water inflatables, yard games, food trucks, and a DJ from 6:00-8:00 PM. Unfortunately, the event date was cloudy this year, making it difficult to see many stars. stars, but the Volunteers showed up with telescopes and en-lighted attendees with on-site education and answered lots of question

COMMUNITY CENTER

BY THE NUMBERS

186

RESERVATION PERMITS
SINGLE DAY AND RECURRING RENTALS

30,000

SQUARE FOOT FACILITY NEWLY RENOVATED

282

OPERATIONAL DAYS WITH THE REOPENING
OF THE NEW CENTER ON OCTOBER 4, 2021



COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION

The Community Center underwent a \$1,035,000 series of renovations during the summer and fall of 2021. Unfortunately there were some delays, which extended the closure a month, but finally on October 4, 2021, the Community Center had a ribbon cutting to celebrate the Grand Opening. The public welcomed the new flooring, new interior paint colors, updated sound system in the ballrooms, renovated bathrooms and reconfigured lobby with new front desks and seating areas.

Located in the heart of Fountain Hills, the Community Center a nearly 30,000 square foot facility that provides enriching programs and vital services through the Town's Recreation and Senior Services Divisions, partners with the school district and community groups for events and is available for private rentals.

PROGRAMMING DURING RENOVATION

The Community Center highest priority was to ensure programs and essential services continued to run during the renovations. Staff and our members adapted to using unconventional spaces, such as the elementary school for programs and Council Chambers for office space for the essential programs.

NEW FEE SCHEDULE

A new fee schedule was adopted and there was an increase in rental rates and membership fees beginning July 1, 2022. Membership numbers and rental requests have remained steady despite the increase in prices.

INCLUSION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Programs and rentals had an increased need for technology services. Staff worked to accommodate the need for video conferencing and live streaming. The upgrades to the sound equipment in the ballrooms has allowed the Community Center to offer hearing assistance devices for our programs and rentals.



SENIOR SERVICES

BY THE NUMBERS

1,133

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

22,355

PARTICIPATION IN MEMBERSHIP AND TOWN-PARTNERED PROGRAM

4,178

HOME DELIVERED MEALS COORDINATED THROUGH THE SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION



COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS

The Senior Services Division coordinates activities, presentations, events, social services and support groups for our members and our community. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18. Members enjoy a variety of special interest classes, special events, presentations, fitness and wellness programs. The Alzheimer's Support Group expanded to have an Alzheimer's Activity Group so participants could bring their loved ones with them. Encore for More sponsored the AZ Speaks Series bringing in speakers that highlight the history and culture of Arizona.



HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Home Delivered Meals is coordinated through the Senior Services Division. The Home Delivered Meals Program is a collaboration with Fountain View Village who prepares the food for our 175 volunteers that deliver meals 365 days a year including weekends and holidays. The program ran all during the pandemic, through the closure for renovations and continues to run, with additional safety measures and wearing PPE (personal protective equipment).



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANED

Durable medical equipment is loaned out to residents who are in need of equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers. This program continued to run during the closure for renovations.



TRIPS PROVIDED BY ENCORE

The Senior Services Division partnered with Encore for More to bring back New Adventures, which are day trips around the valley. The program was suspended during the pandemic but resumed this past spring with sold-out trips to Desert Botanical Gardens for Chihuly in the Desert and the Arizona Fine Arts Expo.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES

BY THE NUMBERS

452

FOUNTAIN HILLS VOLUNTEERS

576

CARE CARDS CREATED AND DELIVERED

1,600

SERVICE HOURS CONTRIBUTED ON MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY.



Our Fountain Hills Volunteers believe that one of the defining characteristics of our community is our resident's commitment to service. This commitment is demonstrated through the energy, skills, enthusiasm, vision, and support that they bring to our Town.

Our Volunteers deliver meals to homebound residents with the Home Delivered Meals program and provide transportation for medical appointments for disabled and/or over 65-year-old residents with the Give a Lift program. They also take part in assisting with our Special Events such as Make a Difference Day, Turkey Trot, The Irish Fountain Festival, and The Fountain Hills Arts & Craft Fairs... just to name a few.

In addition, they lead instruction in our various Senior Service programs, provide trail maintenance through the Trailblazer program, assist the Docent lead Art Walk program, and provide help and support during times of emergency with the Crisis Support Team. Many of them also utilize their professional skills to assist with projects for the Administration departments.

GIVE A LIFT

Give a Lift provides transportation for essential medical appointments to Fountain Hills residents that are physically disabled and/or age 65 and older. In addition, Give a Lift gave residents the opportunity for better healthcare and independent living, as well as a much-needed social connection to the community.

Give a Lift: 336

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make a Difference Day is a great opportunity for the entire community to come together and give 4 hours of Volunteer service to the vulnerable, elderly, and homebound residents of Fountain Hills with a variety of work projects. MaDD is held annually on the 3rd Saturday of October.

MaDD Completed Projects: 39

- 37 Residential Projects
- 2 Town Outreach Projects

MaDD Volunteers: 341

Service Hours Contributed: Over 1600 Hours



DAY OF GIVING

Day of Giving is a monthly small group Volunteer opportunity designed to give back to our neighboring communities.

In 2021 we partnered with St. Mary's Food Bank, Phoenix Rescue Mission, Feed my Starving Children, Midwest Food Bank, AZ Hunger Fight Meal Packing Event, and Child Crisis of AZ.

Together in 2021 we helped pack over 200,000 meals and provided essential nutrition reassurance to many AZ families in need.

CARE CARD

Care Card was developed to help homebound seniors stay connected, while reminding them they are cared for and not forgotten. Volunteers create and deliver greeting cards to homebound seniors in assisted & independent living Communities, as well as seniors participating in our Home Delivered Meals and Give a Lift programs.

Care Card Crafts and Coffee were started in 2021 to give Volunteers the resources and space to be able to create crafts and cards for the Care Card program. Care Card Crafts & Coffee are held monthly at the Community Center and are open to the public. 576 cards were made and delivered throughout 2021.

Cards Delivered: 576



RECREATION

BY THE NUMBERS

21

NEW PROGRAMS OFFERED

506

PROGRAMS OFFERED

1,218

TOTAL NUMBER OF RECREATION PARTICIPANTS



YOUTH AND TEENS

RETURN TO RECESS

47 registrations across two seasons. 11 different Community Partners. Basketball, Disc Golf, Skateboarding, Ninja, Biking, Sand Volleyball, Pickleball, Soccer, Baseball, Archery, Nerf Wars, Esports

BRILLIANT VICTORY SKATE SCHOOL

Brilliant Victory Skate School offers personal 1 on 1 coaching from a local skateboard expert to kids 7-17 years old

In FY '22 the Town ran 4 sessions of Skate School with a total of 18 participants. These classes helped build momentum and led to the success of the first-ever Fountain Hills Skateboard Classic!

TEEN ADVENTURE TRIPS

8 trips taken, 93 teen participants (Rattlers Arena Football, Paintball, Paqua Park, Bam Kazam, Go Karts, iFly, Rage Room, Suns Game)

SPECIAL INTEREST & FITNESS

CONTRACTED INSTRUCTORS

For 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Recreation division brought in 8 new instructors to offer special interest, fitness, and wellness programming to the community. Classes include:

- Yoga and chair yoga with Kim Roh
- *Explore Writing Through Memoir* with Marlene Jackson
- Theater introductory program with Fountain Hills Theater
- Youth gymnastics with Stretch N' Grow
- Introductory youth sports programs with Beginners Edge Sports Training
- Pilates with Sabrina Ellen Svad
- Skateboarding program with Caleb Dassinger
- Training an obstacle course with Conquer Ninja Gyms
- General Instructor Steffnie Beck (*Cornhole League, Return to Recess, and Teen Trips*)



ADULT SPORT LEAGUES

CORNHOLE LEAGUE

2 seasons (fall and spring), 43 participants.

SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

3 seasons, 4 teams each season, roughly 75 senior players benefited from the program. Town staff adapted the program to include a season ending tournament with prizes to improve upon the experience for participants.



PARTNERSHIPS

SSUSA SOFTBALL

Town staff increased our capacity for Town tournaments in FY '22 by partnering with Senior Softball USA (SSUSA). We ran 3 partnered tournaments and averaged 23 teams in each of those events. That number of teams doubled our previous averages.



POSTGRAD SPORTS (PGS)

Our partnership with PostGrad Sports has bolstered awareness for our baseball facilities at Golden Eagle Park. Through this partnership, the park regularly hosts college level games in the evenings and consistently books morning hours on the field throughout the week. PGS also runs two youth baseball clinics for the Town each year at Golden Eagle Park to benefit the community.

Promoter Baseball/ Softball Events

- 4 Different Promoters
- 23 Tournaments Played
- \$47,124.00 in revenue

