

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey delivers State of the Town address

'At a Crossroads'



(INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA/BOB BURNS)

Mayor Ginny Dickey delivers her State of the Town address to a audience at the Community Center Jan. 31.



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MAYOR GINNY DICKEY TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

By [Bob Burns](#)
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Fountain Hills Mayor Ginny Dickey stood before an audience of about 200 at the Community Center on Jan. 31 to present her sixth State of the Town address as the community's mayor.

Her theme for the 2023 wrap up and outlook for 2024 was “At a Crossroads.”

Dickey said the phrase suggests choices, decisions and direction, but noted that some things haven't changed. “As I said a year ago, your town government remains prepared to ensure that residents and businesses have a voice; your elected leaders communicate effectively; volunteers remain a crucial part of town efforts; and staff are responsive to requests and concerns, while innovating ways to expand and improve.”

Highlighting events of 2023 Dickey talked about an influx of new businesses. “For some of us, coffee rules, so we are happy to see new places joining our favorite suppliers of the morning aromas and afternoon pick-me-ups,” she said. “Many other businesses have started or re-emerged, from restaurants to boutiques to medical services and several types of retail – as evidenced by numerous weekly ribbon cuttings.”

She stated that many existing businesses have shown their commitment to Fountain Hills by investing in significant remodels and upgrades.

Dickey said the town has new partners in new and redevelopment of spaces, plus construction on infill projects and remodeling. “Providing new housing and again, investment,” she said.

The town is committing millions of dollars to street maintenance and repair with much more to come.

The town is a destination for activities, ventures and events, according to Dickey. Residents and visitors can visit new trails and look forward to progress with the International Dark Sky Discovery Center.

Dickey stated that significant strides were made toward objectives stated a year ago as the town entered 2023. Those include renewed progress and commitment to a thriving downtown; using General and Strategic plans as guidance in decision making; ensuring financial security with conservative budgeting; maintaining an emphasis on pedestrian and traffic safety in conjunction with public works, building inspections, sheriff's office and fire department. A smooth transition to municipal fire services took place in 2023 and the new department began operations on Jan. 1, 2024.

She said that the town is taking direction from departmental strategic and planning documents in implementing town objectives.

Dickey also announced a new tourism program.

"Naturally beautiful. Naturally innovative. Naturally charming. Those phrases that came up time and again, identified as town attributes during the survey process," Dickey said. "I am happy to reveal today that as the state, region and town enter the highly anticipated events season, Fountain Hills will be launching a digital campaign – 'Naturally Fountain Hills!' that promotes the community as a destination for residents, businesses and visitors."

Looking ahead, Dickey remains positive about the future for the town.

"As we enter the calendar year 2024, I do indeed believe our town is at a crossroads. We must address significant needs and at the same time forward important quality of life goals, seeking professional expertise, reasoned debate, public input and a level of balanced, mature decision-making."

Dickey has made a practice of closing out her State of the Town addresses with song lyrics that present a theme. She chose a 1989 song by Starship.

"It starts with, 'I see a paradise – this world that I found is too good to be true,'" with the chorus proclaiming, 'We can build this dream together standing strong

forever. Nothing's gonna stop us now.' Then a final promise, 'take it to the good times, see it through the bad times. Whatever it takes is what I'm gonna do.'"

Dickey also offered thoughts on what the town should be to its citizens. "We owe all our citizens, businesses and visitors our best efforts and respect, representing them with equal consideration and seriousness, so that we continue to be the community my family and many of you chose decades ago."

The mayor's State of the Town address was recorded and will be rebroadcast on the town website, fountainhillsaz.gov; Cox Cable channel 11; the Town of Fountain Hills YouTube channel and the town's Facebook page. The presentation includes a staff video.