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Member Meetings Restarted

For those members who faithfully attended COPP meetings in the past, the January 17th meeting was the right way to get things going again. As you will read in the following articles, we had presentations by the Scottsdale City staff on subjects of great interest, particularly for those who live in the north.

Storm water management was a major theme for Ashley Couch's presentation about new review and inspection processes that have been put in place over recent months. Police Commander Bill Wilton followed up with how his north area force copes with flooding on our streets during heavy storms to keep traffic moving during storm conditions.

We also got a look at what the city has planned for Scottsdale Road with a Tim Conner presentation that covered our entire signature road north and south.

We were also pleased to see six council members attend with an opportunity to interact with members before and after the meeting. Present were council members Betty Drake, Wayne Ecton, Jim Lane, Bob Littlefield, Ron McCullagh and Tony Nelssen.

Our next member meeting is on Thursday, March 20th – see you then.

The Board of Directors

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Calendar of Events

- February 9 Electronic Recycling Day; 7:30 am-2:00 pm, Corporation Yard, 9191 East San Salvador, phone (480) 312-5600 for details.
- February 15-24 Fifty-third Annual Arabian Horse Show at West World, sponsored by the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona, refer to <http://www.scottsdaleshow.com> or phone (480)515-1500.
- February 22 Astronomy Talk, Pinnacle Peak Park, 6:45 pm. The winter skies provide crisp viewing of night skies. Open to participants eight years and older. Phone (480) 312-7957 or refer to <http://recreation.scottsdale.gov> to register.
- March 1 Friends of the Scenic Drive Scenic Drive Cleanup begins at 8:00 am. For details, refer to www.scenicdrive.org.

COPP's mission is to educate the public and hold government officials accountable to the public on any issue that poses a threat to neighborhoods, the environment, and fiscal responsibility.

Storm Water Management Process Improvements

Ashley Couch, Storm Water Management Director for the City of Scottsdale reviewed Storm Water Management Process Improvements and Updates at the January Member Meeting.

Following an ongoing period of meetings among the staff of the city's Storm Water Department, concerned members of the community, and the Coalition, we are pleased with the improvements that have been made and were then approved unanimously by the City Council on December 4. These changes were described in detail in the December 2007 *COPP News*.

Most properties in North Scottsdale have specific drainage issues and rely on washes for drainage. As such, Ashley Couch reviewed how the city is reaching out in its willingness to cooperate and work together with individual homeowners.

According to the city's ordinances, Scottsdale *"protects and preserves significant natural and visual resources."* (*Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance*)

Chapter 37, Sec. 37-42 (n) Special Considerations in Environmentally Sensitive Lands: (1). Existing watercourses with a capacity of fifty (50) cubic feet per second or greater, disregarding any estimated peak discharge, shall be maintained in their natural state.

Since it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain these washes, it is necessary for individuals, as well as developers to understand these ordinances as well as the storm water and process improvements. With quarterly staff training sessions, letters to homeowners associations, utility bill inserts, and city website updates, the city is

addressing public outreach and education.

Additional staff with expertise in hydrology, hydraulics, and floodplain management, have been hired. Members of the department are willing to meet with individuals on their site to discuss specific drainage issues, identify problems, and suggest possible resolution. These specialists will discuss diversion, erosion, and sedimentation, while maintaining sensitivity and adherence to the requirements of the Natural Area Open Space. (NAOS).

Again, we thank Ashley Couch for his strong commitment as he worked together with us to successfully establish these newly approved measures. With any questions you have regarding storm water and drainage process improvements, please email acouch@scottsdaleaz.gov or phone (480) 312-4317.

Commander Wilton's Perspective: Severe Weather Events

Commander William Wilton of the Scottsdale Police Department's District III provided insight from the Department's perspective regarding response to rain events and flooding in North Scottsdale.

As the population in Scottsdale continues to move further northward, flash flooding and rainstorm effects are dramatically increasing their impact on motorists and homeowners.

In order to become pro-active and to anticipate severe weather events, the city, is subscribing to a new Weather Sentry Storm Warning System. This system will transmit weather reports every three minutes via the internet, cell phones, and other portable devices used by emergency responders. Thus, the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Field Services, can enhance its storm preparedness.

With the early warning system, response time will be decreased by three minutes, allowing police to erect road barriers, station people, equipment, and cars, particularly within the 70 "wet crossing" areas in North Scottsdale that are the most difficult to access. These crossings, due to flash

flooding, require constant monitoring, as conditions can change dramatically within an hour.

A slick street, along with obscured visibility, particularly at night requires constant vigilance even when driving at the posted speed limit. To eliminate some of these hazards Commander Wilton issued the following guidelines to residents:

"During storms you should avoid traveling unless absolutely necessary. If you must travel, do so at a reduced speed that allows you to control your vehicle on the wet, slippery roads. Remember that a rise in the road is often followed by a dip where water and other debris will be present. Travel slowly through areas where water is present to avoid hydroplaning. Running water about four inches deep can actually move a vehicle and the water is usually deeper than it looks."

We thank Commander Wilton for his leadership, insights, and perspectives. In addition please refer to our monthly *Message from the Scottsdale Police Department*, with further updates in other areas of public safety and crime prevention.

Development Updates

Dream Church is Requesting a Conditional Use Permit

Scottsdale First Assembly (Dream Church), located on the west side of Pima Road just north of Dynamite Boulevard announced in late December that it is in the process of applying to the city for a Conditional Use Permit to start a school within its current facility for about 200-250 children.

“As per City of Scottsdale use permit requirements,” residents of the immediate surrounding area were invited to a meeting in early February to hear a discussion of these plans. As yet, we do not have information regarding the results of this scheduled Open House.

However, we are monitoring the situation and will keep you updated as we learn more about the proposed details.

Desert Foothills Scenic Drive

Also in attendance at our meeting was Tim Conner, Principal Planner and Architect who reviewed design guidelines, easement acquisition, trails planning, and funding for the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive.

Voters in the Scottsdale Bond 2000 election approved funding of a \$31.5 million budget to enhance Scottsdale Road as the city’s signature roadway through improvements to landscaping, undergrounding of overhead power lines, pedestrian walkways, transit facilities, and public art.

Design guidelines have been set forth that provide direction for the 24-mile Scottsdale Road corridor that has been divided into six distinct character areas. Traveling in a northward direction, as the roadway gains one thousand feet in elevation, one becomes increasingly aware of the presence of the natural desert and the rural character of the area.

Thus, the northernmost district, the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive was established. It is defined as the six mile segment between Happy Valley Road to the South and Carefree Highway to the North.

Historically, The Desert Foothills Scenic Drive was established in 1963 to “preserve the unique plants and trees of the desert for others.” Since 1994, the Friends of the Scenic Drive have worked to preserve and enhance this area. Refer to the website:

<http://www.scenicdrive.org>. The entire length of the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive is within the Environmentally Sensitive Lands, and all improvements will “help and preserve the natural land features.”

Friends of the Scenic Drive have provided the following input with the city that will be incorporated into the improvements:

- Respect the Scenic Corridor Design Guidelines.
- Natural desert will remain the focal point, rather than adding additional elements.
- Promote trail connectivity, rather than sidewalks
- Avoid additional lighting, thus respecting the dark skies.
- Introduce elements that address the equestrian/rural character of the Desert Foothills.
- Enhance Scenic Corridor Landscaping where depleted.
- Consider undergrounding overhead power wires.
- Explore the use of Public Art to carry out Memory Park concept that references historic events and the washes.

Within each uniquely distinct area the goal is to provide a sense of continuity while adhering to the rural and natural character of the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive.

Design work will continue through this year, with construction

Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

When using a credit card or debit card, it is important to be aware of the potential for greater risk in using a debit card.

With a debit card, a suspect could empty an entire account. Normally, a loss to the credit card holder is much less.

The Federal Reserve website reveals that a loss is limited to \$50.00 where a credit card is used. With a debit card, liability can vary. If the card issuer is not notified with two business days after learning of loss or theft, you could lose as much as \$500.00 or after sixty days, the risk could be unlimited.

For more detailed information refer to the Federal Reserve website: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/consumerhdbk/electronic.htm>

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anticipated in 2010. Within this time frame, there will be continued opportunity for residents to provide input through open house meetings and public workshops. For further information, email Tim Conner, TConner@ScottsdaleAZ.gov, or phone (480) 312-7833.



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 If you cannot join COPP right now, please consider making a donation.

COPP's mission is to educate the public and hold government officials accountable to the public on any issue that poses a threat to neighborhoods, the environment, and fiscal responsibility.

I support COPP's mission and would like to join COPP. Your membership and/or donation is greatly appreciated.

- Annual Membership \$50 per household** (Make check payable to COPP, Inc.) **COPP Political Committee Donation of \$ _____** (Make check payable to COPP Political Committee)

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In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? _____ In which city do you vote? _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

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Have a question? Call the **COPP Hotline** at: 602.230.5233 or E-mail us at: COPPeak@coppeak.org
 Make your check(s) payable as indicated above. Please return this form and your check(s) to:
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