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NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Monday
May 8, 2006 at 7:00 pm

Legend Trail
Community Center
(see directions on page 2)

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Bob Littlefield for Scottsdale City Council

As the campaign for the last seat on the Scottsdale City Council winds down, voters have one final decision to make. Who, between incumbents Bob Littlefield and Kevin Osterman, should be elected to a four year term on the City Council; a decision that could have a lasting impact on the future of our city.

Your Board of Directors recommends Councilman Bob Littlefield. We have had an up close opportunity over the past four years to interact with him and to get a first hand understanding of his values and commitment to Scottsdale. While we have not always agreed with him, we believe he fully understands the issues of critical interest to Scottsdale residents citywide.

Bob has an unusually good grasp of the issues and is quick to respond when

we or other residents bring a concern to him. We have always found him willing to listen – a unique trait among politicians and one that is essential to a continuing understanding of how well a community is being governed and meeting the needs of its residents.

He was first to respond to a neighborhood concern when it was discovered that a builder in the north (Toll Bros) was ignoring city ordinances by constructing homes that exceeded height limitations. Bob became personally involved and successfully corrected the immediate problem, and also brought about changes in the city's enforcement processes to assure greater compliance with building codes citywide.

Bob can be trusted to make fiscally

(see "Littlefield" on page 2)

Calendar of Events

- May 3 Pima North Neighborhood Resources Center Open House, 3:00 - 7:00 pm, 8787 E. Hualapai Drive; Neighborhood liaison in an effort to improve response to north areas issues. Registered participants can sign-up for a guided tour of the Water Campus; Phone (480) 312-3111 for reservations.
- May 6 Electronics Recycling Day, 7:30 am - 2:00 pm, City's Corporation Yard, 9191 E. San Salvador. For information phone (480) 312-5600.
- May 8 COPP Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, On the Agenda: One Scottsdale Representatives will present plans to develop a 119-acre mixed use shopping, office and residential complex located at the east side of Scottsdale Rd. between Loop 101 and Thompson Peak Parkway.
- May 16 Election Day, Runoff for City Council and Ballot Measure, Prop. 402. Election Calendar Information, refer to page 2. Ballot Measure, Prop. 402, refer to insert for explanation.

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.

Littlefield

(continued from page 1)

conservative decisions, to be fully supportive of completing the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, and most importantly, protecting neighborhoods to assure the quality of life that all of us opted for when we moved to Scottsdale.

On May 16 Scottsdale voters will be asked to make a decision. We hope that you will return Bob Littlefield to the City Council.

The Board of Directors

Election Day, May 16, 2006 Ballot Measure – Prop. 402

In addition to the runoff election for City Council, voters are being asked to approve the city's request to raise the Arizona voter-approved 1979-80 spending limit in the forthcoming budget. Permission is required by citizens so that the city can spend the money it already has to continue and to improve city services.

The city has in place the revenue from voter-approved sales tax increases marked for such things as upgrading of police and fire department services

as well as other quality of life issues.

In order for the city to proceed with a balanced budget based upon current needs which account for inflation and growth, voters will be required to approve this measure on the May 16 ballot.

The Coalition is urging a "yes" vote on this critical ballot measure. Please refer to the enclosed insert which gives a complete and concise explanation of Proposition 402.

May 16, 2006 Voters' Deadlines

- May 5, Last day to request an Early Ballot. You will automatically be mailed one if you requested one for the March 14 General Election.
- May 10, Last day to vote early in person between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. This option is available at Scottsdale City Hall, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. or at the Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda.
- May 16, Early Ballots must be received by Maricopa County Elections Department before 7:00 pm. You may also take your completed ballot to any designated polling place prior to 7:00 pm on Election Day.

Please check your polling place on the voting pamphlet mailed to all registered voters. Alternatively, refer to Maricopa County's website at www.maricopa.gov or phone (602) 506-1511.

Contact Information for Bob Littlefield, Endorsed City Council Candidate:

- www.boblittlefield.com
- Email: bob@flightskills.com

April 10 Monthly Meeting

Pima Road and Loop 101 Safety

Assuming leadership of District 3 in November 2005, Commander Wilton, a twenty-year veteran of the SPD, spoke about public safety issues at the April Monthly Meeting. Prior to his current appointment, Commander Wilton headed Special Operations and was responsible for the entire traffic unit, the canine unit, special enforcement squad, bicycle squad, and mounted units.

Commander Wilton addressed the challenges along Pima Road and Loop 101. Photo radar is contributing to a decrease in the number of citations and accidents. Unmarked cars, as well as motorcycle officers have been added to monitor driving and speed violators. In addition, Commander Wilton is selecting problem intersections in each of the six beats in District 3 for enhanced enforcement. Accidents, citizen complaints, traffic volume, and known traffic problems will be criteria used to help establish the need for special attention.

Commander Wilton is interested in adding high caliber officers to maintain the quality of the SPD. If voters approve Ballot Measure 402, more funding will become available to put into place additional police to protect the Preserves, to increase numbers of

officers to enhance public safety, and to man the helicopter that was previously approved by voters in 2000.

Commander Wilton can be reached at wwilton@scotsdaleaz.gov or Phone: (480) 312-8803. Please refer to our monthly Message from SPD on page 3.

Conserving Arizona's Future

Linda Whitehead, COPP's Vice-President and Board member of the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust provided an update on the status of the Conserving Arizona's Future Campaign. The effort is to allow the State Land Department to set aside more than 700,000 acres of land for preservation throughout Arizona.

To confuse voters, dissenting interests are working to defeat the

(see "April 10" on page 3)

Legend Trail Community Center directions:

North on Pima Road past Lone Mountain (1.5 miles)

To Legend Trail Parkway on right – then 1.5 miles on right to Community Center.

April 10

(continued from page 2)

initiative. HCR 2045 has passed the House and is making its way through the Senate. It provides for only 42,500 acres to be set aside for conservation. Ninety percent of the lands, leased for grazing account for only a small amount of monies to be set aside for education. This dissenting house bill would grandfather these leases.

In order for Conserving Arizona's Future to appear on the November 2006 ballot, additional signatures and funds need to be obtained. At the present time 208,000 of the required 284,000 signatures have been collected. By July 2006, 184,000 valid signatures of Arizona registered voters must be on record. Allowing for error, we ask that members continue to be part of our ongoing efforts. Thus far, COPP members have acquired 2,100 signatures, and have donated \$23,000. We extend thanks to Inge Vairo, who is on record as having collected the most signatures in Arizona, as well as to all of our members who are continuing their earnest support.

Message from SPD

ATM Safety

By remaining vigilant during routine transactions you will increase your safety

- Beware of your surroundings.
- Do not withdraw large amounts of cash at one time.
- Attend to your transaction, and leave the area immediately.

Please refer to Pima Road and Loop 101 Safety as presented by Commander Wilton at the COPP April Monthly Meeting, see page 2.

Commander William Wilton

District 3 Commander

wwilton@scottsdaleaz.gov

Phone: 480-312-8803

Officer Jason Glenn

District 3 Crime Prevention Officer

jglenn@scottaleaz.gov

Phone: 480-312-7318

Development Update

Bellasera / Peterson Shopping Center

Members of the Bellasera community, who have worked with the Coalition, have continued to achieve additional concessions with the development of the proposed Pederson Commercial project at the southeast corner of Lone Mountain and Scottsdale Road.

The previously agreed to Basha's supermarket has been revised to an AJ's store. The neighbors approved an entry feature with a peak of 32 ft., with the remainder of the height of the building at 27-28 ft. The neighbors in the surrounding residential neighborhoods, particularly those adjacent to the site, are very pleased and accepting of this recent update.

Safeway at the Summit Gas Station

Neighborhood input has been successful in limiting the size and hours of operation of the proposed gas station at the Summit. The applicant has decided to reduce the hours of operation to match the business hours of Safeway, from 6:00 am - 11:00 pm.

In addition, the free-standing kiosk will be reduced to 250 square feet from the initially proposed 850 square feet. It will serve only as a walk-up with no entry for the public.

An outstanding issue which needs to be evaluated will be the results of a future traffic study.

The residents welcome these recent decisions made on behalf of their concerns.

Election of Directors

At the Annual Meeting of the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak on April 10 President Bob Vairo was reelected, along with new directors, Gil Lustig, Peter Fredriksen, and Michael Stephenson.

Gil Lustig, upon moving to Winfield in 1999, became part of the resident group to oppose the Home Depot project. He worked with COPP and the surrounding neighbors to force Home Depot to withdraw their application to build a warehouse store at Scottsdale and Dove Valley Roads. Gil's term will extend for two years. Peter Fredriksen has been an active member of COPP since 1997 where he

is a board member of Lone Mountain Vistas and is an active member of the Arizona Archaeological Association. We welcome Pete to a three-year term.

Along with his active COPP membership since 1999, Michael Stephenson is involved with activities at the Legend Trail community. His business background will add to the diversity of the COPP Board. Mike will serve a one-year term.

We are delighted that these long time members have been elected to volunteer their skills and commitment to COPPP's mission.

Video Archives of City Council Meetings Now Available on Website

Citizens seeking to review or research City Council meetings have a great new tool. Archived video recordings of City Council meetings dating back to July 6, 2004 are now available for viewing on the city's Web site. Starting with the Jan. 10, 2006 Council meeting, the videos are also indexed and annotated so users can easily locate the sections of video they wish to view. There is also a keyword search feature available that allows users to quickly search through all 2006 Council meeting videos on the city's Web site.

The COPP website – www.coppeak.org – has a link to the archived video recordings.

May 16, 2006 Ballot Measure Proposing an Adjustment to the Base Expenditure Limit for the City of Scottsdale

Questions and Answers

Scottsdale voters will decide May 16 whether to adjust the city's "base expenditure limit."

Changing Scottsdale's base limit will not increase taxes. The proposed change will allow the city to meet current demands for services and programs, using revenue it already receives.

Without the adjustment, the city will have to cut services and programs from next year's budget and cut more in later years.

The following questions and answers provide a summary of key information regarding Scottsdale's ballot proposal and background on base expenditure limits. For more information, please call the Communications and Public Affairs Office at (480) 312-2335.

Would this adjustment increase taxes or create new taxes?

No. It would only allow the city to spend the revenue it now collects to provide city services and programs at their current levels.

What is the amount of the adjustment?

The ballot question will ask voters to increase an expenditure "base" for the 1979-80 budget year by \$12 million. If approved, the state will update this amount for 27 years of inflation and population growth, which will add an estimated \$79 million to Scottsdale's 2006-07 expenditure limit. The final amount is based on formulas set by state law.

This new limit would not obligate the city to spend \$79 million more. The City Council is required to approve a balanced budget and would continue to set the amount of spending each year.

Why is Scottsdale proposing this amount?

The amount is based on the estimated cost to continue current city services – including programs funded by a 2004 voter-approved public safety sales tax. This amount also should allow the city to continue the current level of services for the foreseeable future.

Why is the city proposing a change to the expenditure limit now?

The main factors driving the city's request for a change in the limit include:

(a) Added revenue from a public safety tax. Voters in 2004 passed a 0.1 percent sales tax dedicated to fire, police and other public safety services. The current limit does not account for this new revenue source. Raising the base will assure that the city can continue to use these funds for a higher level of public safety services.

(b) Voter approval of a bond program in 2000. These bonds cover construction costs for new, renovated and expanded city facilities. However, the city must use other revenue to pay continuing staffing, operating and maintenance costs for the new facilities. Scottsdale has adequate revenues to cover the operating costs, but will not be able to spend the dollars without raising the base expenditure limit. Examples of the bond projects include the new McDowell Village Senior Center, the Central Arizona Project Basin Sports Complex, the McDowell Mountain Ranch Park and Aquatic Center, expansion of the Arabian Library, renovations to aging parks and neighborhood traffic control programs.

(c) Investments in technology. The city is upgrading many of its key computer and technology systems. These include systems for dispatching and communicating with police officers, managing police records and data, processing water, refuse and recycling bills, issuing business licenses and tracking sales tax payments. Existing revenues fund these capital, maintenance and operating costs. The city's ability to spend these revenues could be limited without a base adjustment.

Would a base adjustment remove other limits that affect Scottsdale's budget?

No. All other limits on the city budget, including the state's requirement that cities must pass balanced budgets, would continue.

Has the City of Scottsdale previously made adjustments to its base?

Yes. Scottsdale voters have previously approved two adjustments.

In 1982, voters approved a "Capital Outlay Exclusion" for expenditures for land, buildings and construction. Because of this exclusion, the city's investments in facilities and land do not fall under the expenditure limit. For example, the limit does not affect acquisition of land using voter-approved sales taxes dedicated to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

In 2000, voters approved an adjustment of \$12.5 million to the base. The approval allowed the city to continue using existing revenues to fund new programs and improvements, including: operation of the new Water Campus, development of new water sources, providing transit services such as Dial-a-Ride and upgrading signal and traffic coordination systems.

What is the history behind the base expenditure limit?

In 1980 Arizona voters passed a State Constitutional Amendment setting expenditure limits for cities and towns. The limits are tied to the amount each city spent in a "base" year – the 1979-80 budget year. Each year the state adjusts the expenditure limit for each city according to this base, adding dollars to account only for inflation and population growth, not for new or enhanced services or any unique needs.

However, the State Constitution allows local voters to change the base if they wish to increase expenditure limits to meet local needs.

Have other Arizona cities made changes to their expenditure limits?

Yes. Voters in most Arizona cities – 76 in all – have approved changes in expenditure limits since the limits took effect for the 1979-80 budget year. Phoenix, Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Tempe, Tucson, and Flagstaff are among the cities where voters have approved changes. In many cities, voters have approved changes more than once.



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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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 Start Date _____ End Date _____

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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