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## NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

**Thursday**  
**May 15, 2008 at 7:00 pm**

### **Legend Trail Community Center**

(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.)

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## Hanover – A Technicality Trumps Civic Dialogue

With millions on the table, the Hanover developers hired a former Arizona Maricopa County Board of Supervisors attorney to challenge the referendum petition that Scottsdale citizens filed to place the question on the September ballot that would allow Scottsdale residents to decide if the Hanover project should go forward. Unfortunately, lacking the funds to fight the challenge, the citizens lost when the court agreed with Hanover's attorney that the petition was flawed and, therefore, nullified it.

How was it flawed? The referendum petition had the requisite number of valid signatures – well more than what was needed. The paperwork was in order except for one thing: the name of the

political committee – “Height and Density” – did not adequately describe the reason for the referendum. It should have read something like this: “Citizens Opposed to the Hanover Project.”

It didn't matter that everyone knew why the petition to refer the question was being circulated. It didn't matter that the petition language clearly stated why. It didn't matter that it was obvious to everyone, including Hanover, that the nearly 3,000 citizens who signed the petitions were opposed to the project. It only mattered that the name of the political committee wasn't specific enough!

So with money to hire a legal top gun and a “gotcha” technicality, the referendum effort was defeated even though it was

*(see “Hanover” on page 2)*

## Calendar of Events

- May 15 COPP Member Meeting, 7:00 pm, Legend Trail Community Center, Agenda: John Little, Acting City Manager will discuss his vision and Oliver Mastro will discuss plans for commercial development on Scottsdale Road and Dove Valley Road. Refer to story, page 2.
- May 22 Greater Airpark Community Visioning Workshop, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm Zuni Elementary School, 9181 E. Redfield Rd. Hear a brief overview of the Greater Airpark Community. Provide input to identify community values, priorities and visions. Call Advance Planning to register at (480) 312-7990 or register online: <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/planning/areaplans/GreaterAirparkCAP/Registration.asp>
- July 17 COPP Candidates Forum and Member Meeting, Legend Trail Community Center, 7:00 pm. Refer to page 2 for more details.

*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.*

# Hanover

(continued from page 1)

successful in gathering enough signatures and its obvious intent.

The project will now go forward. The lesson to be learned is that citizens must be vigilant at all times. The Hanover project should have been challenged as it moved through the city processes from the first day it was submitted and well before it was heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The Planning Commission and City Council should not have been so eager to approve the project. The city could have – and should have – held out for a more architecturally significant design. When the city gives a developer something of value – in this case a rezoning and character plan amendment, it should expect to get something of value in return – in this case a more aesthetically pleasing project on this very visible corner in our Downtown.

Once a project has been recommended by the Planning Commission and approved by the City Council, referendum is generally the only recourse opponents have to stop the project. However, as Hanover demonstrated, it takes a flawless campaign and expensive legal know-how to succeed. That stacks the deck against ordinary citizens.

COPP supported the Hanover referendum because we believed the residents in the area had just cause. We also believed the question of height and density in our Downtown is worthy of civic discussion and debate. The referendum provided an opportunity for that discussion to occur. While the court's ruling eliminated one forum for that discussion, it did not eliminate the need for further discussion in our community.

The Board of Directors

# Fire Safety and Wildfire Preparation

Because of the very wet winter season, the rapid spring growth that occurred will be drying out during the coming months, creating significant potential for wildfires. Brush fire season typically starts in mid-April and continues through September.

The Scottsdale Fire Department, as in previous summers, recommends preventative actions to protect natural area open space (NAOS).

Specific guidelines for homeowners living in the High Sonoran Desert have been issued:

- Create a 30-foot fire safety zone of Defensible Space that should be free of dried or dead grass and vegetation.
- Trim trees and remove dead branches and eaves.
- Keep a rolled up garden hose with a working nozzle attached to outside hose valve connections.
- Do not stack wood or other flammable materials with the 30-foot "defensible space."
- Keep gutters, eaves, and roof clear of leaves and other debris.
- No Smoking allowed in NAOS.

In other outdoor areas, make certain to dispose of cigarettes properly.

- Coordinate brush clean up with the solid waste brush collection schedule in your area. For the service schedule, refer to: [www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Recycle/Brushguidelines.asp](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Recycle/Brushguidelines.asp)
- Do not start any open fires with out obtaining a permit and following the safety information. When camping, follow Forest Service guidelines for campfires.

- Add spark shields to off-road vehicles. Report all fires immediately by dialing 911. Never assume someone else will make the call. If you are in an area where a wildfire breaks out, and are advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

The Scottsdale Fire Department will schedule a free brush safety inspection of your property or check an unsafe construction site. Call the Scottsdale Fire Department at (480) 312-1855 for details.

For additional resource information on wildfire preparedness, please refer to the Fire Department website, [www.ScottsdaleFD.com](http://www.ScottsdaleFD.com).

## Plan to Attend the COPP Member Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 pm

Legend Trail Community Center

Guests: John Little and Oliver Mastro

- John Little will discuss his views as the new acting City Manager. Until his appointment as interim City Manager, John Little has held numerous positions with the city including Executive Director of the Downtown Office.
- Oliver Mastro will discuss plans for a commercial development at Scottsdale Road and Dove Valley Road, a parcel which is zoned commercial (C-2), and has recently been purchased by the Mastro Group.

Please join us for an interesting and informative evening in which our guests will present an overview of a variety of diverse topics.

## Election of Directors

In March 2007, the Board of Directors amended the Coalition's bylaws to permit Directors to be elected by a mail-in ballot in lieu of the previously held Annual Meeting of the general membership.

By acclamation, Judith Wagman and Gil Lustig have been reelected to serve three-year terms. Thank you for your vote of confidence and participation in the annual election.

The Board of Directors

# Development Updates

## *Dust Control Enforcement*

In order to comply with Federal guidelines, City Council voted to approve the updated Dust Control Ordinance on March 18. The first phase of enforcement went into effect on April 18 with the following restrictions:

- Debris from leaf blowers are now prohibited from being blown onto public streets.
- All-terrain and off-road vehicles generally will not be allowed on unpaved or unstabilized surfaces, even if riders have the owner's permission to use the vehicles on private property.

It is anticipated that enforcement of other aspects of the ordinance that includes paving or treating unpaved parking lots and driveways will take effect within six to 18 months.

Currently, Scottsdale is developing a list of approved surface treatments and will hold public hearing regarding their efficacy and desirability. We will keep you updated when we have further information.

## *Alarm Systems Ordinance Update*

City Council will be voting on an updated Alarm Systems Ordinance within the next few months, possibly as early as June. The purpose of this update is to reduce unnecessary waste of public safety resources due to false alarms and to promote public safety

and consumer protection. False alarms waste taxpayer dollars and divert police and fire department personnel from other, possible lifesaving duties.

Since the current ordinance was last updated in 2001, changes in the alarm industry, community growth, technology, and increased program costs have necessitated further changes.

The updates that will affect homeowners include:

- An increase in annual permit renewal fees from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per household.
- An increased fee schedule for false alarms within each year per household.
- The city will request two names that can be used as contact information if the owner is unavailable. The name and contact number for the security company will be acceptable.

The city will be offering a monthly training class for residents, offering a police liaison, who will coordinate efforts between the Scottsdale Police Department and residents. Attendance at this session will result in a waiver of alarm activation fees and service charges for attendees. Contact Gary White at (480) 312-1987 for further information.

Refer to [www.scottsdaleaz.gov/alarms](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/alarms) or phone (480) 312-2424 for full details of the proposed ordinance.

The city recommends that before leaving for the summer season or extended vacations make certain that your alarm system is in good working order.

# Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

## *Security Window Film*

Security window film may provide a security alternative for residents by protecting against burglaries. Manufactured by various companies, these films can be added anytime after windows have been installed. The film varies in thickness and can serve many functions besides providing protection from burglaries. In addition it can block out harmful UV rays as well as preventing effects of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes that send debris flying at high speeds.

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Commander William Wilton  
District 3 Commander  
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Phone: (480) 312-8803

# Road Improvements

To help ease traffic along Scottsdale Road, a new traffic signal was recently constructed and activated at the intersection of Scottsdale Road and Deer Valley Road. The ultimate goal is to provide easier access to the Silverstone commercial project and residential projects to the east. While traffic is being detoured along Pinnacle Peak Road during bridge construction over the Rawhide Wash, this newly placed signal will provide an alternate route, thus facilitating the traffic flow.

# Please Note: Summer Schedule

## *Candidates Forum: Thursday, July 17*

Locally, Scottsdale will be electing a Mayor and three City Council members. Election Day for these offices is Tuesday, September 2. A Candidates Forum, in conjunction with a Member Meeting, is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 7:00 pm at Legend Trail Community Center. Details will follow and will be included in the next issue of the *COPP News*.

The Summer Editions of the *COPP News* will be printed jointly May-June, and July- August. Timely news will be sent via *COPP Alerts* as the need arises.



*Coalition Of Pinnacle Peak, Inc.*  
 8912 East Pinnacle Peak Road, PMB 275  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Join COPP today! Your support will help COPP continue its mission as a volunteer organization serving the Northeast Valley.  
 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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4/08

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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