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NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Monday
May 13, 2002 at 7:00 pm

Legend Trail
Community Center
(see directions on page 2)

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Published by

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COPP Responds to Giblin's Editorial

To hear Tribune editor Paul Giblin describe the political climate in Scottsdale, it's all COPP's fault. In his article of April 4, he refers to us eleven times and provides attribution from John Rooney to buttress his views as if the opinion of a political neophyte was the Holy Grail for this purpose. Interviewing and quoting only one candidate who finished five votes from dead last in the general election is hardly the right way to try to explain that election for your readers.

What is that Mr. Giblin is trying to say? Is it that COPP somehow controls the candidates that it endorses? That we're not pro-business? That we are "blindingly

allowing the south to wither?" That somehow the "higher turnout in the north swayed the results?" That COPP supports "small government and low taxes?"

That's what Giblin says – but it's unsupported nonsense! The only thing that one can conclude is that Giblin and other Scottsdale Chamber acolytes are out to discredit COPP by blatantly misrepresenting our goals and public positions. When the plain truth is contrary to Giblin's naïve biases, he just makes up his own myths. That's easy to do when you buy ink by the barrel and want to get even because the voters rejected your editorial advice.

(see "Giblin" on page 2)

May Calendar of Events

- May 10 Last day to request an early ballot. To request an early ballot call 602-506-1511
- May 11 Help stamp out hunger. Place non-perishable food items near your mailbox for your mail carrier to collect. This food drive will benefit Scottsdale's Vista Del Camino and other non-profit agencies throughout Arizona.
- May 11 Friends of the Scenic Drive needs volunteers, see page 3 for details.
- May 13 COPP Member Meeting. On the agenda:
 - Jim Ford, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshall from Rural Metro on the status of new fire stations in the North and other Fire Department issues
 - Dan Dummermuth, Valley of the Sun YMCA, on the proposed Multi-generational "Y" in the northeast valley
- May 16 Neighborhood meeting on Preserve Planning, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. La Mirada Community Center, 8450 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
- May 17 Last day to vote early in person at Scottsdale City Hall or Via Linda Senior Center
- May 21 Election Day!

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.

Giblin (continued from page 1)

The height of hypocrisy would be for COPP to try to “control” the candidates we endorse. We would then be in the same category of any other special interest, which we abhor. No, that’s not our operating policy. Rather, when we endorse candidates we expressly say that we will never ask them to vote one way or another on any issue. Ask any one of the candidates, not just those we endorsed, if that was not the basis of our support and our practice.

Concerning the northern vote, the results of the recent election clearly show that if the three northern districts were completely eliminated, the results in the remaining 27 districts would have declared the winners in this order: Lukas, Ecton and Zraket. In other words, the north only magnified what the rest of the city’s voters had already decided. Pettycrew and Rooney would have lost irrespective of the northern three districts.

If Giblin suggests that COPP is not pro-business why would we have endorsed Council candidates O’Hearn, Silverman, Ortega, Ecton, Zraket and Littlefield? All either have their own businesses or are now or were previously employed by large corporations in executive positions. Not pro-business, indeed!

That COPP will allow the southern part of the city “to wither” is Giblin’s most outrageous statement. We have actively supported the revitalization of the Los Arcos area and downtown Scottsdale for the past three years. We have been members of neighborhood groups and testified in support of its revitalization before the City Council on a number of occasions. Exactly what have Mr. Giblin and Mr. Rooney done to help revitalize the southern part of the City?

We, along with the majority of Scottsdale voters, opposed the Canals project and while we supported the planned revitalization of Los Arcos, we opposed the hockey arena because the local residents didn’t want it; because it required condemnation of scores of homes and small businesses; and because it used hundreds of millions of public dollars for private gain. If that’s what Giblin calls “small government and low taxes”, we’re guilty as charged.

Instead of railing against COPP and offering imaginary misinformation about our goals and actions, he could actually talk to us, like a good journalist, to find out what we’re all about – he never has. Making it all up is so much easier and more convenient.

The Board of Directors

Important Election Information

The run-off election for the remaining seat on the Scottsdale City Council will be held on May 21. Early ballots will automatically be sent to anyone who requested one for the March election. If you did not request an early ballot for the March election, but would like one for the May run-off election, you can request an early ballot by calling 602-506-1511.

Whether by mail or in person, please be sure to vote.

COPP Renews Its Support of Councilman Zraket

The Board of Directors of the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Inc. has voted to recommend Councilman George Zraket to its members for reelection to the City Council in the May 21st Runoff Election.

Councilman Zraket is a known quantity with a record that speaks for itself. He is intimately familiar with all the issues that the City will face in the next four years. His candidacy started the reform movement that will soon produce a new council majority whose values and actions will benefit all residents of Scottsdale.

George strives for full disclosure to the public and firmly opposes frequent and unnecessary closed-door sessions of the Council. He asks the questions that previously were left unanswered – the kind of questions that need to be asked to make sure that the public is kept fully informed. Some may not agree with all that George says and does, but one never has to guess as to what he stands for.

We encourage you to consider Councilman Zraket’s qualifications and, if you agree, please vote for him by early ballot or at the polls on May 21.

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.

Development Updates

Waterline Construction to Cause Periodic Closures of Pima Road

As we're all aware, the City of Scottsdale is installing a new potable water transmission line along Pima Road from Jomax to Cave Creek Road.

We've been advised by the City that excavation of the pipeline trench will require drilling and blasting of underlying rock in some areas between Dixileta Road and Stagecoach Pass. Safety rules dictate that any public street adjacent to an area where blasting takes place must be closed a minimum of 15 minutes prior to and after the actual detonation of the explosives.

To comply with these safety requirements, sections of Pima Road will be closed Monday through Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. beginning April 23 and continuing through early June. Message boards along Pima Road will be updated every 24 hours with information on the location of the anticipated closures.

COPP has expressed concerns to the city about current restrictions on Scottsdale Road and the planned closure of Stagecoach Pass east of Pima and the effect they will have on diverted traffic. To help minimize disruption of traffic flow during the Pima Road closures, COPP urged the City to coordinate these restrictions so that when traffic is diverted from Pima Road, Scottsdale Road will be free of restrictions.

Additionally, Westland is scheduled to be paved soon, and we suggested that the paving of this street be expedited so that Westland can be used as an alternate east/west route during Pima Road closures. COPP also urged the City to have police monitoring of the affected intersections to expedite traffic flow around the closures.

If you have any questions about these anticipated closures of Pima Road, you can call the project hotline at (602) 264-6416.

The "Artwork" on Pima Road

Several members of COPP's board met with Mayor Manross and City Attorney Pennartz to get an update on the City's actions to rid the corner of Pima and Happy Valley Road of the "artwork" and trailers that have been with us for over nine months.

From the outset, the City has put the owner, a Henry Becker, on notice that he is in violation of municipal ordinances regulating building permits and setback and signage requirements. A preliminary hearing took place several months ago in which the court asked the parties to find a resolution to the problem. The City and the owner were unable to reach an agreement, and the owner continues to claim First Amendment rights of free speech and other defenses for his activities.

The City and Mr. Becker will be in City Court again over the cowboy poles and sheds on April 25 and in Maricopa County Superior Court on May 9 on the alleged First Amendment issues raised by the trailers that now have increased in number, with three more having been recently added.

Even though the City took much too long to get started, we are satisfied that the City Attorney is now proceeding as expeditiously as possible given the nature of the problem and the First Amendment issues raised by the owner. Hopefully, the City will prevail and we will see the area return to a normal state in the very near future.

It is not clear what Mr. Becker is trying to accomplish with his actions. We do know that the land is zoned residential, and in the past he has indicated that he wants to rezone it all commercial from north of the La Mirada shopping center to Happy Valley Road. COPP would be opposed to such a request and, judging by the comments we have received, so would the large majority of neighbors in the area.

Volunteers Needed!

Friends of the Scenic Drive needs volunteers to help reduce the visual impact of the more than 100 utility boxes, posts and rails along the 6 1/2 mile Scenic Drive. On Saturday, May 11, volunteers are needed to prepare the boxes for painting by cleaning them and covering their labels with tape, to wield a paint brush or sprayer and to support volunteers by distributing refreshments. To volunteer or get more information visit www.scenicdrive.org or call Less Conklin at 480-585-0630.

Don't Miss Late Breaking News!

COPP Alerts keep you informed

Many of the issues that concern our members evolve so quickly, that the *COPP News* can't provide timely enough notice of them. One of the ways we deal with this is through COPP Alerts. Sent by fax or email, COPP Alerts inform our members about emerging and fast-breaking news events.

If you have fax or email capability and are not receiving these COPP Alerts, it is because we don't have your current email address or fax number.

Don't miss out on these late-breaking news briefs. Send us your current email address or fax number today. You may email this information to: dbasinger@coppeak.org. Or, use the form on the back of this newsletter and either fax it to 480-575-5639, or mail it to COPP at 8912 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, PMB 275, Scottsdale, Arizona 85255. As with our membership list, we will not share this information with anyone.



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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 Donation of \$ _____ I would like to volunteer

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Work (_____) _____
 Fax (_____) _____
 E-mail _____

Alternate Address

Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Fax (_____) _____
 Start Date _____ End Date _____

In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? _____

In which city do you vote? _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

Office Use Only

05/02

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