



IN THIS ISSUE

- A Message from the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust
- A New Website Debuts to Monitor the Pima Road Scenic Corridor
- Volunteers Needed for Scenic Drive Cleanup
- Development Updates
 - Wireless Ideas Team
 - Los Cedros

NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

October 8, 2001 at 7:00 pm

Legend Trail
Community Center
(see directions on page 2)

On the Agenda:

Randy Grant, Environmental Planning and Design Director, City of Scottsdale, will discuss the overhaul of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance.

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A Message from the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust

Thanks to all of you and your continual support we are now much closer to preserving the 16,600 acres of state land in northern Scottsdale that is necessary to complete the McDowell Sonoran Preserve vision. On August 30, State Land Commissioner Anable reclassified roughly 78% of these acres as "suitable for conservation" under the Arizona Preserve Initiative. For the remaining 22% of the land – while not immediately reclassified – mechanisms were provided to ultimately protect the land if Scottsdale chooses to pursue it.

We were disappointed – after the unprecedented statewide show of support our API application received – that all of the land was not immediately reclassified. However, considering the current political reality and how the API is being interpreted legally the decision was the best we could get. Most of the land is now protected

and on the rest we got the next most important thing – time.

The maps related to the decision, as well as the official state order reclassifying the land are now available on the McDowell Sonoran Trust's web site at www.mslt.org.

We will keep you updated as plans to purchase this land for the Preserve progress. For now – you can do three main things: 1) continue to let our elected officials and the media know of your support for the Preserve at every opportunity; 2) if a statewide initiative is filed to change the laws to provide for conservation of sensitive state lands without onerous costs – please get involved, 3) remember that even though the citizens of Scottsdale have voted to preserve this land and the state has reclassified it – EVERY Preserve purchase must be approved by the Scottsdale City

(see "Message" on page 2)

Calendar of Events

October 8	COPP Member Meeting
October 27	Scenic Drive Clean-up
October 29	City Council hearing on General Plan Update
November 6	City Council hearing on the overhaul of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance

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.

Message (continued from page 1)

Council – so we must ensure that current and future Council members support the FULL Preserve vision.

Our special thanks go out to Mayor Manross, who has championed the Preserve since day one and fought tenaciously for every acre in this decision (as well as her dedicated preservation staff); Representative Carolyn Allen, who is the “godmother of the API” and Senator Randall Gnant, who stepped up in the past few months and helped push the decision forward. But most of all, we thank each of YOU! Without your calls, letters and attendance at meetings this would not have happened.

We have much work ahead to complete the full Preserve and proper management of it. We look forward to your continued support to make sure this is achieved.

Carla, Executive Director
McDowell Sonoran Land Trust

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.

A New Website Debuts to Monitor the Pima Road Scenic Corridor

As most of you are aware, the east side of Pima Road from Jomax northward to Cave Creek Road will soon be impacted by the installation of two waterlines.

The City of Scottsdale is in the final stages of purchasing an easement along the eastern border of Pima Road to accommodate these pipelines. One pipeline will provide potable surface water to the homes and businesses in the northern reaches of Scottsdale to reduce the City’s use of groundwater. The second pipeline will carry non-potable water to serve four golf courses in northern Scottsdale.

Installation of these pipelines will involve removal of a significant amount of mature native vegetation. It also involves a significant amount of blasting. Absent a substantial program to restore and revegetate the area after the pipeline construction is completed, the beauty of this scenic corridor would be lost forever.

The City of Scottsdale has committed to revegetating and restoring the area to its original appearance. Thousands of plants are being inventoried for salvage and replanting along the path of the pipeline. An irrigation system will be installed to insure highest possible survival rate of the salvaged vegetation.

A group of volunteers has established a website (www.ScenicPimaRoad.com) to monitor the pipeline construction every step of the way to ensure that the Pima Road Scenic Corridor, after the City’s restoration initiatives are completed, is returned to its previous state of beauty. Log on to this website to learn more about the City’s proposals to carefully salvage existing vegetation along the pipeline and to add new plantings. This website also provides contact information, addresses and links to other websites equally concerned about the rapid depletion of scenic corridors in the upper Sonoran Desert.

The Pima Road Scenic Corridor is one of the last remaining pristine view corridors in this area. Volunteers@ScenicPimaRoad.com are cautiously optimistic that the city will uphold its promise to restore the scenic nature of this road following installation of the pipeline, but they need your support to ensure that this becomes a reality. The website will instruct you on how you can participate in this effort. Alternatively, for further information (or if you are not connected to the Internet) you can contact Tim Montgomery at 480-595-1444.

Volunteers Needed For Scenic Drive Cleanup

On Saturday, October 27, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Friends of the Scenic Drive needs volunteers to help pick up litter along Scottsdale Road from Happy Valley Road to the Carefree Highway.

Volunteers should report at the Scenic Drive monument sign on the east side of Scottsdale Road just south of Jomax, or at the Scenic Drive entry sign on the west side of Scottsdale Road just south of Carefree Highway at the Terravita Marketplace. Volunteers will be assigned a cleanup area and given a safety vest, pickup stick and plastic trash bags. Gloves and long pants are recommended. Free coffee, donuts and water will be provided at both sign-in locations. For additional information, please call Les Conklin at 480-585-0630.

Development Updates

Wireless Ideas Team

Early this year, a “Wireless Ideas Team” (WIT) was formed by the City to study the issue of providing wireless coverage throughout the city without the obtrusive antenna structures and ground equipment “houses” we typically associate with this industry. Some fine examples of what “obtrusive” is are the large towers and equipment buildings located on Jomax Road between Pima and Scottsdale Road. Others can be seen off the Pima Freeway.

The traditional ways of making these installations less obtrusive are to locate the antennas on existing high vertical elements, such as large buildings, utility poles, replacement flag poles, etc. and to screen equipment cabinets. This works quite well in areas of the city where there are a large number of high buildings and/or high poles. However in the northern areas of the city, these types of structures do not typically exist, except for the 230 KV power transmission lines that run mostly through the preserve land.

One of the major concerns of the City Council was to find ways to provide facilities outside the preserve, that would be acceptable to residents, and to encourage the providers to locate outside the preserve. The basic concept therefore was to craft an ordinance that would encourage wireless providers to “hide” their installations or make them blend into the surroundings. However the providers want an easy process for every installation, mainly so they don't have to go through any public process. While good for providers, this is not necessarily good for us citizens because we would have no chance to oppose a facility. The WIT was supposed to

come up with something that would satisfy both interests, the providers and the citizens.

Unfortunately, the team was heavily overloaded with providers or their representatives and the staff facilitator has a strong bias toward the providers. As a result, this process quickly turned toward getting the providers what they wanted while ignoring most citizen, and City Council, concerns. Incentives will be provided for less visually obtrusive installations. However almost none of them will require a use permit. If the current draft should get approved, the ordinance will provide for many over the counter and staff approvals, and almost no use permits, so the public will be cut out of the approval process. With regard to the preserve, providers will be given incentives to locate in the preserve, on the 230 Kv power transmission lines, rather than being given incentives to locate outside the preserve.

The major fault with the direction this team has taken is that the northern areas of the city were not addressed as a unique area that needs unique solutions. The lack of existing high man made objects, and the lack of high natural vegetation, makes it difficult, but not impossible, to provide needed facilities in this area. Hopefully, these issues will be addressed in the near future. However, the reality is that there is no intention to ever address them, because that would delay and compromise what the wireless providers want, which is an easy process to get their installations approved.

Unless the City Council steps in, replaces the facilitator and provides strong direction to the team, none of this will change. They are aware of the problem, but they must act on it.

The time table for this ordinance change is not definite, but if it stays on this track, figure late October for the Planning Commission and late November or December as the earliest for the City Council.

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Howard Myers, a member of the Wireless Ideas Team, who contributed to this article.

Los Cedros

Los Cedros, the Arabian Horse facility on the northwest corner of Black Mountain and Pima Roads has applied for a liquor license to allow them to legally serve alcoholic beverages at catered gatherings. Coupled with this liquor license application is a development agreement with the City of Scottsdale that purports to “clarify” the nature of the events that they would be allowed to host at this facility.

In reality, the development agreement greatly expands the number and size of events that could be held there well beyond what was contemplated in their application for a Use Permit for a Commercial Stable. The issuance of a class 6 Liquor License, the type of license normally issued to bars, in this residential area sets a bad precedent. We are opposed to any open-ended development agreement that will allow a virtually unlimited event venue as a commercial profit center. We are also opposed to the issuance of a liquor license for Los Cedros. We find it unacceptable that a class six liquor license (bar license) would be given to anyone to operate in a residential neighborhood.

The City Council was scheduled to hear this case on October 2, after this issue of the *COPP News* went to press.



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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

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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

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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