



IN THIS ISSUE

- Districts or Not?
- Calendar of Events
- Don't be a Turkey, Donate One
- Development Updates
 - Stacked 40s
 - Pima Road Revegetation Project Underway
- Last Segment of Pima Waterline Construction to Begin
- Volunteers Needed For Scenic Drive Cleanup
- Electronics Recycling Day

NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Tuesday
December 10, 2002 at 7:00 pm
Legend Trail
Community Center
 (see directions on page 2)

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 Published by
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Districts or Not?

In the past few months there has been an increasing drumbeat for a change in the structure of our City Council. Specifically, to a form that would have council members elected from districts rather than as "at large" representatives of all Scottsdale residents under the present system.

Those who are pushing for district representation believe that it would provide for a better and closer identification of issues within a geographical area than the current form. An opposing view is that it would balkanize the city into special interest areas and force district council members to vote their narrower self-interest than the good of all Scottsdale.

Of course, both of these views are in the extreme and do not take into consideration the integrity and commitment of individuals in the exercise of their sworn duty to the public good. At the same time, there is a growing sense among the electorate that because of the City's geographic spread and neighborhood diversity, the question should be fully examined to determine what form is best for its residents.

At a recent Council meeting it was decided that a citizen committee would be formed for this purpose. We would assume that it will be adequately representative of the community's diverse interests so that a thorough evaluation of the issues will be conducted. The goal is to provide the Council with a recommendation for their consideration. Following which, the question would be put to the voters to determine if a change to a district form of government should be approved.

At the earliest, a new form would not be in place for several years because of the need to establish districts that would have to be approved by the Federal Department of Justice and enough time to transition from the current form to the new. New elections would be held to determine district council representatives. Assumedly, the Mayor's position would remain as is.

The pros and cons of either an at large or district form are many. Those who support a district system argue that parts of the city are not effectively represented because council members do not live

(see "Districts" on page 2)

December Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 7 | Scenic Drive Clean-up – See article on page 3 |
| December 10 | COPP Member Meeting – On the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Holiday Reception and perhaps a mystery guest or two! |
| December 14 | Electronic Recycling Day – See article on page 3 |
| December 25 | Happy Holidays! |

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.

Districts

(continued from page 1)

nearby. The most frequent criticism is that since most current council members live in the north, they do not understand or are not concerned about the older sections of the city.

While there is no evidence to support this criticism, much is being made of it to push for a district form of government. In the final analysis, neither form is a cure-all for good government. Good people, with good intentions, doing the right things at the right time are what most citizens want. There is no guarantee that districts will attract better candidates than the present system. We should not throw out the current form unless it is clear that a new method of electing our representatives will provide more responsive government.

Stay tuned.

The Board of Directors

Don't be a Turkey, Donate One

Adopt-a-Family and Adopt-a-Senior programs are gearing up now for the upcoming holidays. While Thanksgiving is behind us, turkeys, new children's clothing and toys, and department store gift certificates are needed for the remaining holiday season and would be most appreciated. Contact: Vista del Camino, (480) 312-2330; or the Via Linda Senior Center, (480) 312-5810.

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

Stacked 40s

At its meeting of November 19, the City Council approved the Stacked 40s project that will bring a diversity of uses to the area on the east side of Scottsdale Road, south of Thompson Peak Parkway to just south of 101. As presented by the developer, DMB Associates, there will be 1.8 million square feet of retail and office space, 1,100 residential units, 400 hotel rooms and a mega auto complex for Cadillac, Saab, Alfa Romeo and Hummer under one ownership. This represents a reduction in density that was significantly higher than when the project was first proposed.

Additionally, the use of about 1,000 acres of state land east of Scottsdale Road was modified to allow flexibility of use for similar development. The underlying zoning wasn't changed, but the modification will provide for a more sensitive configuration of use that respects adjacent residential neighborhoods.

The Council also approved a subsidy for Lund Cadillac, who will

own the auto complex, to attract it to Scottsdale. The subsidy is in the form of sales tax rebates in the amount of 7.5 million dollars generated by the dealership.

COPP's major concern was the impact all of this would have on traffic on Scottsdale Road and the surrounding area. At the hearing, it was revealed that the City, in conjunction with the State Land Department, had agreed to widen Scottsdale Road from Frank Lloyd Wright to Thompson Peak Parkway, develop a new east-west road (Center Road) from Scottsdale Road to Hayden which will go through the Stacked 40s, an access road along the north side of 101 and to extend Hayden Road to Thompson Peak Parkway. All of this will be completed to coincide with the construction of Stacked 40s.

We're satisfied that Scottsdale has done a good job of anticipating and acting to prevent a traffic nightmare in the area. We are uneasy about the area west of Scottsdale Road of about 1,000 acres of state land that will

(see "Updates" on page 3)

Last Segment of Pima Waterline Construction to Begin

The final section of the city's potable waterline will be laid down on the east side of Pima Road between 500 feet south of Pinnacle Peak Road and Jomax Road. Work will start in December with devegging of the construction strip along Pima Road. Installation of the pipeline will begin in January. The city expects the project to be completed in April, 2003, including re-vegetation.

Construction of this segment will complete the 13 mile potable waterline that extends from Union Hills Road to Cave Creek Road. It also completes the IWDS pipeline, as the city is selling a portion of the old pipeline (in this section) to the IWDS rather than abandoning it.

At the same time, the city will provide for center turn lanes between Pinnacle Peak and Jomax roads to increase safety. The streets that will be affected are: De la O, Chama, Pinnacle Peak Presbyterian Church, Desert Highlands (will get a right turn lane also), Yearling, Tether Trail, Lariat, and Jomax. The intersection of Happy Valley and Pima will be widened to have off-setting left turn lanes.

The city expects the contractor to maintain traffic flow on Pima Road with 2 lanes in each direction during the majority of the construction.

Updates *(continued from page 2)*

eventually bring a huge mall and thousands of residences to the Phoenix side of Scottsdale Road.

We supported the Stacked 40s project after the density was reduced at our insistence and at the insistence of the Grayhawk homeowners association. We voiced serious concern about the traffic issue that may arise in the future if Phoenix does not provide for traffic similar to Scottsdale. There were some assurances from State Land Commissioner Anable that land would not be auctioned for development without an adequate transportation plan, but he is a political appointee and may not be around in the future when that land is auctioned.

We also voiced concern about the public subsidy for a private investor, but reluctantly agreed that the City Council did not have a choice if Scottsdale was to win the Lund dealership and to keep it from locating on the Phoenix side of Scottsdale Road. Unfortunately, previous administrations failed to negotiate an agreement with Phoenix that would have shared tax revenue on a regional basis. That has resulted in a bidding war to compete for business to locate in this highly desirable area of Scottsdale.

Overall, Stacked 40s (probably not the ultimate name) will be a first-class project with a southwestern flair that provides a place to live, work, shop and recreate. It will also serve as an attraction for visitors that will bolster Scottsdale's tourist industry. All, while generating significant new tax revenue for the city. Not bad!

Pima Road Revegetation Project Underway

Construction of the Pima Road Waterline between Jomax and Cave Creek Road is now complete, and the

city is in the process of restoring this scenic corridor to its original condition.

Before work on the waterline began, plans were made to landscape the construction area and return it to its natural state. Landscape design was done prior to construction in order to study plant life along Pima Road. The city studied the affected area in one-mile sections to determine the changes in plant types due to the increasing elevation as you travel north up Pima Road. Within each section, a 200 by 200-foot study area was designated in which the types of plants were identified and counted to determine plant type and density.

The next step was to prepare landscape design drawings of the plant locations for the entire construction area. The plants in the construction area were then removed and sent to a nursery prior to the start of construction. Additionally, the city had a number of plants grown at a nursery to augment the plants it planned to return to the desert.

Waterline construction ended in late September, and revegetation in the area began. In order to ensure the success of the new and returned plant life, the city has made a commitment to irrigate the area for three years, gradually reducing the water and allowing the plants to become self-sufficient.

Irrigation is being installed for the entire construction zone and a number of plants have been returned to the area. The city expects the revegetation to be complete by the end of January 2003. The plants are expected to have their first big growth spurt during the summer of 2003.

Upon completion of the project 2,694 salvaged and 74,200 new plants will be in place for a total of 76,894 plants. The total cost of the revegetation is approximately \$1,750,000.

Volunteers Needed For Scenic Drive Cleanup

On Saturday, December 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Friends of the Scenic Drive needs volunteers to help pick up litter along Scottsdale Road from Happy Valley Road to Carefree Highway.

New volunteers are welcome. Sign-in at the northern Scenic Drive entry sign (located on west side of Scottsdale Road just south of Carefree Highway, in front of Terraviva Marketplace) or Scenic Drive monument sign area (located on east side of Scottsdale Road 3/4 mile north of Happy Valley Road, across from MacDonald's Ranch). Safety vests, pickup "sticks", and plastic trash bags will be provided. Complimentary coffee, donuts and water are available. Gloves and long pants recommended. When you register you will be assigned a specific roadside area to cover. When the pickup ends, volunteers return safety vests and pickup sticks to sign-in location.

Picking up litter is more enjoyable than you would expect and you'll leave with a sense of pride having helped your community. And, there will be at least 13 miles of roadside (6 1/2 miles on each side) that will look terrific.

Electronics Recycling Day

The next Electronics Recycling Day is Saturday, December 14, from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please call 312-5600 for more information on this drop-off event and the types of items accepted. The event will be held at the city's Corporation Yard at 9191 E. San Salvadore Drive.



Coalition Of Pinnacle Peak, Inc.
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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
12/02

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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