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Pinnacle Peak Park Under Siege

It had to happen sooner or later. We knew it was inevitable, but thought the city would take steps to protect Pinnacle Peak Park and the surrounding residential area. It didn't.

A developer acquired the land adjacent to the Park trail head from the State Land Department several months ago when the property was auctioned by the state.

The developer, John Wanniger, paid 12.75 million dollars for 16.8 acres that surround the trail head. He also purchased the almost 10 acres to the east of the State Land Parcel which is now occupied by the Pinnacle Peak Patio restaurant, and entered into an agreement to partner with the owner of Pinnacle Peak Patio to build

a resort hotel with time shared units. It will be called the "Capella at Pinnacle Peak."

The area immediately surrounding the Park trail head will have seventeen time shared units together with an underground parking garage and a restaurant and café situated alongside the road to the current entrance to the park. Additionally, the resort will have another 114 time shared casitas and guest rooms on the rest of the property, including the present Pinnacle Peak Patio restaurant parcel.

Before the land was sold at auction we met with former mayor Manross and strongly recommended that the city acquire the property adjacent to the trail

(see "Pinnacle Peak" on page 2)

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Calendar of Events

March 7 Scenic Drive Clean-up: Sign-in 8:00 am at the location that is most convenient for you: At the northern Scenic Drive entry sign (located on west side of Scottsdale Road just south of Carefree Highway, in front of Terravita Marketplace), or the Southern 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 the sign-in location.

(see "Calendar" on page 2)

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.

Pinnacle Peak

(continued from page 1)

head to protect the park. We were told that the city had spoken to Wanniger and that the park and surrounding residential neighborhood would be protected. It now looks like the park will not be protected and neither will the single-family homes in the adjacent area.

The resort project is too dense. It encroaches on and engulfs the park so that the park becomes an incidental part of the larger area. If the project is built, visitors will have to go through a road that no longer permits parking, to access the trail head that will be buffered by a restaurant, café and parking garage. The café will be open during daylight hours, but the restaurant will only be open in the evening.

Unfortunately, the land is zoned for commercial development. However the site plan must be approved by the City Council. COPP has appealed to the developer to move some of the taller buildings to provide a more open setting for the park, but no avail. The plan with city has not been changed. Not surprisingly, the developer said he does not yet have financing for the resort project.

We will ask the City Council to revise the site plan to make it less dense and to lower building heights adjacent to the existing single-family homes and near the park. In the meantime, if you agree that the council should exercise its authority to make the project less dense and far less intrusive to Scottsdale's Pinnacle Peak Park, please email the City Council at citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov to voice your opinion.

The Board of Directors

Be Kind To Our Environment – Dispose of Medications Properly

Many people are faced with having to dispose of unused or unwanted medicine at home. It is not safe to put them down the drain or to flush them down the toilet. Recent EPA findings have determined that some of these pharmaceuticals are making their way into the soil and ground water and polluting them.

In an effort to stop this practice, the City of Scottsdale is asking that you not put any type of medication down the drain. The best option is to see if your pharmacy has a medication disposal program that you can use. If not, proper disposal of old medication can be done in your home by using these 3 easy steps:

1. Remove your unused medication from its original container and place in a water tight container.
2. Add a small amount of warm water, just enough to make the medication dissolve into a paste.
3. Add a small amount of an undesirable substance like dish soap, coffee grounds, kitty litter or even dirt to the mix to foul any taste that a pet or animal might like.

When all of this is done just bag and tie the container and place it in your normal trash receptacle for collection. Please don't flush unused medication down the drain.

Calendar of Events (continued from page 1)

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| March 7 | Paper shredding Event sponsored by the Scottsdale Police Department, Cave Creek Unified School District, City of Scottsdale Solid Waste Department and the Northeast Valley Coalition Against Methamphetamine. From 9:00 am until noon, at the Cave Creek Unified School District offices, 33606 North 60th Street, Scottsdale, any resident of Maricopa County can shred up to four boxes of personal documents for FREE! The shredder will shred staples and paper clips but will not shred binders, plastic, office supplies, etc. If you have questions or need additional information, call Officer Jason Glenn at (480) 312-8802. |
| April 18 | Scenic Drive Clean-up: Sign in at 7:45 am at the location that is most convenient for you. See March 7 for details. |
| May 9 | Electronics Recycling Day: From 7:30 am to 2:00 pm at the City's Corporation Yard, 9191 East San Salvador. Discard your unwanted electronics in a safe and environmentally friendly way. Items accepted include computer, office and entertainment equipment. For a list of acceptable items, visit www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle , or call (480) 312-5600. |

Sunday A'Fair Free Outdoor Concert Series Under Way

The 22nd season of the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Sunday A'Fair concert series is underway. The free afternoon mini-festival features a variety of arts and entertainment on the beautiful grounds of the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall, adjacent to the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

Sunday A'Fair features concerts and performances by the Valley's top entertainers, a diverse selection of arts and crafts available for sale, hands-on activities for children and families and free, docent-guided tours of the sculptures on the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall. Lawn chairs and picnic baskets are welcome. Additional information about Sunday A'Fair is available from the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts box office at (480) 994-ARTS (2787) or online at www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org

Electronic Contact Information Needed

Most of our members are "electronically connected." That is, they can receive COPP Alerts and other important information via fax or email. Communicating electronically allows us to provide you with information on items of interest on a much more timely basis. .

If you have fax or email connectivity and haven't provided us with your fax number or your email address, then you are not receiving important information. The Coalition would like to have electronic contact information for all our members. It is a less costly means of communicating and it is kinder on the environment than printed newsletters. If you have fax or email connectivity and haven't provided us with that information, we urge you to do so. You can fax it to (480) 575-5639 or send it by email to lwhitehead@coppeak.org.

Native Trails Cultural Program Under Way

Native Trails, a free festival celebrating Native American traditions, has returned to the Scottsdale Mall. Performances take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. most Thursdays and Saturdays through April 11 at the mall, located at 7380 E. Second St.

Performers present their tribal history, pottery, textiles and more to introduce attendees to the diverse lifestyles of the native people. Musical performances incorporate traditional instruments such as flutes, gourds and drums. Dances range from Navajo dancing to the new three-artist hoop dance, a high-energy performance with synchronized movements and cameo routines. Tribes represented include Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Hopi, Yavapai, Apache and Dine (Navajo). Call (480) 312-7750 for more information.

Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

Recently a citizen was a victim of a "distraction burglary." In a distraction burglary, the burglar uses a ruse to gain entry into the victim's home while an accomplice steals the valuables. Some of these distractions can be:

- Pretending to be a neighbor that engages the victim in a conversation away from the door so the accomplice can enter the residence and remove property.
- Pretending to be interested in buying a neighbor's home and asking to look at the backyard.
- Using a child who needs to do a school project to ask questions.
- Asking to use the telephone after a fictitious car accident.
- Stating they are city employees or work for the utility company and need to inspect something inside the residence.

Preventing this type of crime is easy. DO NOT open your door for anyone you are not expecting. City workers will always be in uniform and arrange a meeting time prior to arriving. Public utility companies utilize the same procedure. If you are expecting someone, use your eye viewer. If you are suspicious please do not hesitate to call the police department. As always, we depend on you to be our additional set of eyes and ears in your community.

Officer Jason Glenn
District 4 Crime Prevention Officer
jglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov
Phone: (480) 312-8802

Commander Bill Wilton
District 4 Commander
wwilton@scottsdaleaz.gov
Phone: (480) 312-8803



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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 (Make check payable to COPP, Inc.) **COPP Political Committee Donation** of \$ _____ (Make check payable to COPP Political Committee)

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

2/09

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:
COPP • 8912 East Pinnacle Peak Road, PMB 275 • Scottsdale, Arizona 85255-3649

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