



IN THIS ISSUE

- Election Wars: The Empire Strikes Back
- Election Calendar
- City Council Candidate Fails to Vote in City Elections
- COPP PC Endorses
- Development Updates
 - City Council Responds to COPP Petition
- About the Trailer at Pima and Happy Valley Roads

NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

Monday
February 11, 2002 at 7:00 pm
Legend Trail
Community Center
(see directions on page 5)
On the Agenda
A Discussion of Election Issues

COPP Board of Directors

Bob Vairo, *President*
rvairo@coppeak.org
Linda Whitehead, *Vice-President*
lwhitehead@coppeak.org
Daniel Basinger, *Treasurer/Secretary*
dbasinger@coppeak.org
Alan Kaufman, *General Counsel*
akaufman@coppeak.org
Dick Janssen, *Director*
djanssen@coppeak.org
Darlene Petersen, *Director*
dpetersen@coppeak.org

© COPP 2001
Published by
Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Inc.
8912 E. Pinnacle Peak, PMB 275
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
602-230-5233
COPPeak@coppeak.org
www.COPPeak.org

Election Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

“When we left our story two years ago, voters had just dealt a heavy blow to the forces that long controlled Scottsdale politics, installing new leaders who halted the galactic gravy train running through the city. Now the empire is back and taking aim at one of the leaders of the rebellion.

Their rallying cry: a return to civility, which is empire-speak for “get rid of that bigmouth, George Zraket.” Can the empire crush the rebellion, restore its domination and reopen the flow of subsidies and sweetheart deals from City Hall? Or will Zraket and his forces prevail and form a new alliance to bring some sense of purpose to a now-aimless City Council? Only time – and voters – will tell, but one thing is clear: An epic battle looms.”

Laurie Roberts

Arizona Republic, January 9, 2002

It would be amusing to fantasize a world in which the forces of good battle an alien force to decide the fate of the galaxy. However, the battle has the ring of truth to many Scottsdalians who have witnessed continued attacks on our efforts to defend the quality of our life and the unique character of our city.

To continue the Star Wars theme, the alien force of rampant development has been kept at bay for the past two years. They have tried all sorts of exotic weaponry to vanquish our forces, but to no avail. Their Recall Ray Gun aimed at General Zraket didn't work, nor did their anti-COPP Battle of the Sound Bite propaganda campaign. No, at last sight the aliens were still outside the Kiva Gates hoping that

(see “Election Wars” on page 2)

Election Calendar

February 7	Official ballots ready for distribution
February 11	Last day to register for General Election Election Central and other on-site locations open for early voting
March 1	Last day by which a request for an early ballot by mail must be received by the Maricopa County Elections Office. To request an early ballot call 480-312-7844
March 8	Last day to vote early at on-site locations
March 12	General 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.

Election Wars

(continued from page 1)

one of their changelings would lead an insurgency from within.

Fantasy? Of course. But we are engaged in an epic battle. The battle to determine what Scottsdale will be in the future. The Scottsdale Area Chamber has decided that more commercial development is critical to Scottsdale's future as is looser zoning regulation, greater density, taller buildings and the use of condemnation to stimulate business. They don't mention what this will do to traffic congestion or air pollution. Nor do they mention what it will do to our tourist business, or what impact it will have on our schools, police and fire protection, or our quality of life in general.

The Chamber's proposals are not the roadmap to the future of Scottsdale. We are neither Phoenix nor any other community in the Valley. We are mountain vistas, open spaces, desert preserves, clean streets and good schools. We are the envy of surrounding cities. The challenge we face now is how to maintain that position as Scottsdale nears build-out in the next 10 to 20 years.

To keep us heading in the right direction we have to make our government open to all, not just the privileged and powerful who will profit from a special connection to City Hall. **The choice is yours.**

The Board of Directors

City Council Candidate Fails to Vote in City Elections

As part of our research into the qualifications of the candidates for Scottsdale City Council, we did a review of Maricopa County and City of Scottsdale voting records. As a result of that review, we learned that City Council Candidate John Rooney did not vote in the last 6 elections. (Tabulated results of the voting record of each candidate can be found below in this issue of the *COPP News*.)

Five of those elections were Scottsdale Special Elections – elections on issues specific to Scottsdale. Those Scottsdale elections in which our records search indicates Candidate Rooney did not vote were: the September, 1999, Canals election; the November, 1999, Stadium District Tax Diversion election; the March, 2000, Mayor and Council and Charter Amendments election; the May, 2000, Mayor and Council run-off; and the September, 2000, Scottsdale Bond Issue Election.

We find it both hypocritical and a glaring incongruity that a candidate who purports to have a vested interest in the future of Scottsdale (Arizona Republic, January 23, 2002), cannot muster the appropriate combination of initiative and interest to participate in the most basic act in the democratic process – *voting!*

Voting Records for Scottsdale City Council Candidates

Candidate Name	Registered	1999			2000			
		May	Sep	Nov	Mar	May	Sep	Nov
Wayne Ecton	4/12/96	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Robert Littlefield	3/1/84	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cynthia Lukas	3/7/92	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Robert Pettycrew	3/3/87	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
John Rooney	11/20/96	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
George Zraket	10/1/85	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Source: Maricopa County Elections Department; Scottsdale City Clerk

Scottsdale Special Elections

Election Date	Description
1999 May 18	Special – Formation of Los Arcos Stadium District
Sept 7	Special – Canals
Nov 2	Special – Stadium District Tax Diversion
2000 Mar 14	General – Mayor & Council and Charter Amendments
May 16	Special – Mayor & Council Runoff
Sept 9	General – Presidential Primary; Scottsdale Bond Issue Election
Nov 17	General – Presidential

Development Updates

City Council Responds to COPP Petition

On January 8, 2002, the City Council acted favorably on a petition filed by COPP seeking changes to the use permit process in Scottsdale. Thanks is due once again to our members for sending dozens of faxes and E-mails to the Mayor and City Council in support of COPP's position.

We asked that the City's ordinances be revised to require that use permits be made subject to revocation by the Council rather than to the unreviewable judgment of one member of staff and possible subsequent action of the appointed Board of Adjustment, as is the situation today. The system proposed by COPP (revocation hearings by the same body that granted the use permit) is fair and equitable and, according to the staff report for the petition, is the most common approach to this issue in other Valley municipalities as well. At the hearing, staff was unable to identify any use permit that had ever been revoked under the current system. That should tell you something about the present process.

We are now waiting for staff to initiate the "text amendment" case to revise the ordinance as COPP (and the Council) have requested. When that case is brought, we will inform you of its recommendations and when it is scheduled for hearing before the Planning Commission and the City Council. There is still a very long way to go with this case.

One very troubling development occurred at the January 8th hearing on the petition. Although over fifty emails were sent to the Council in support of the petition and none in opposition, three people did appear at the hearing to argue against its merits. Those three "naysayers" included Lynne Lagarde (as the zoning lawyer for Los Cedros) and two members of the appointed Scottsdale Board of Adjustment, including the Chairwoman, Wendy Springborn-Pitman, who also happens to be the treasurer of the Chamber's new SAC PAC political committee.

In fact, the Board of Adjustment has now put an item on the agenda for its meeting of Wednesday, February 6, 2002 at 6:00 PM to "discuss" the COPP petition. Interestingly, that agenda item conspicuously failed to note that the Council unanimously

accepted our petition and initiated the case notwithstanding the contrary testimony of two sitting members of the Board - and that the Council's action was entirely proper and completely beyond the Board's jurisdiction.

So what is the purpose of this "discussion" item? And why will that irrelevant "discussion" be led by the partisan treasurer of a political committee in the midst of an election campaign?

Is that a proper role for members of an appointed commission with final quasi-judicial authority? Please let us know what you think about this. And if you can, please plan to attend the Board's meeting on February 6th to tell them what you think about this matter, too.



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.

About the Trailer at Pima and Happy Valley Roads

If you're not amused by the toilet-festooned trailer at the southeast corner of Pima and Happy Valley Roads, let the City know about it. Call the City Manager's office at 480-312-2422 to register your complaint, or E-mail her at Jdolan@ci.scottsdale.az.us.



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

First Class Presort
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Phoenix AZ
 Permit No. 995

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

02/02

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