



IN THIS ISSUE

- What's Next for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy?
- Calendar of Events
- Thank You, Carla
- Code Enforcement
- Road Improvements
- Election of Directors
- Veto of House Bill 2369; Public Safety Concerns
- Development Updates:
 - Upon the Rock Assisted Living Preliminary Application Withdrawn
- Message from SPD

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What's Next for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy?

The Coalition's Board was surprised and concerned to learn of Carla's recent departure as Executive Director of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy.

For the better part of two decades Carla has been an unwavering advocate for conservation and Scottsdale's vision of protecting nearly one-third of our city as public open space in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Many believe she is the primary reason that Scottsdale has accomplished as much as it has in its preservation efforts.

Under her leadership, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy (formerly the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust) developed a strong partnership with the city – a partnership that has been a vital part of Scottsdale's Preserve effort. The Conservancy's Stewards volunteer thousands of hours each year building and maintaining trails, conducting clean-ups, fire watches and other important services. Their Steward guided hikes help thousands

of visitors enjoy a safe and unique Preserve experience every year.

So what's next for Carla and for the Conservancy without Carla?

As for Carla, we hope she will continue her efforts on behalf of land trust reform which is critical if Scottsdale is to complete the Preserve as planned – all 36,000 acres of it. We know of no one else who has the right combination of political skill and will to accomplish this task.

As for the Conservancy, we hope they will re-dedicate themselves to the programs of education and stewardship that have served them and the city so very well in past years. Together, the Conservancy and the City have built a very effective partnership in pursuit of fulfilling Scottsdale's Preserve vision. We hope that partnership will continue to serve the city, its residents and the thousands who visit the Preserve every year.

(see "Conservancy" on page 2)

Calendar of Events

May 1 Proposition 201 Statute Goes into Effect banning smoking in all public buildings including enclosed areas, and within twenty feet of the entrances (except for patios.) Refer to www.smokefreearizona.org or contact: 1(877) AZSTOPS.

May 5 Electronics Recycle Day, 7:30 am-2:00 pm, City's Corporation Yard, 9191 San Salvador; recycle unwanted electronics including computers, office, and entertainment equipment. For a complete list of acceptable items, refer to: www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle or phone: (480) 312-5600.

(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.

Conservancy

(continued from page 1)

Going forward, the Coalition will continue to support the city's efforts to acquire all the land approved by Scottsdale voters for inclusion in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

The Board of Directors

Thank you, Carla

Carla, a leader in preservation and executive director of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, recently resigned her position. During the past fifteen years Carla has been committed to all aspects of preservation and conservation.

In the future, Carla plans to work as a consultant to promote state land reform, completion of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the Desert Discovery Center.

We commend and thank Carla for her tenacity, advocacy, and contributions that have placed Scottsdale in its enviable position as a leader in preservation.

Calendar of Events

(continued from page 1)

May 8 First proposed budget hearing will be held at the City Hall Kiva, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. at 5:00 pm. Additionally, they will be broadcast live on City Cable Channel 11. With questions, email budget@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

May 22 Second formal hearing on the proposed budget hearings. Refer to details for the May 8 budget hearing.

Code Enforcement

With the wide geographic expanse of the north, it is difficult for the city to enforce strict compliance with codes and ordinances. The uniqueness of our Environmentally Sensitive Lands requires additional attention.

Lighting

The dark skies are an aspect of the Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance that protects the quality of our rural, desert lifestyle.

"Exterior lighting should be low scale and directed downward, recessed or shielded so that the light source is not visible from residential development in the area or from a public viewpoint."

Enforcement of outdoor lighting is often overlooked as the infractions are visible only at night, when city offices are closed.

All enforcement of outdoor lighting regulations is complaint activated. Therefore, residents are urged to report infractions to the city's Code Enforcement office.

Control of Illegal Signs

Following the City Council's adoption of the updated text amendment,

12 TA 2006, to ban all temporary signs in the public-right-of way, the city is promoting heightened regulation. Code enforcement is addressing unlawful sign placement and taking action in order that only signs that fit the updated guidelines will be permitted.

All Terrain Vehicles

Continued use of ATV's in prohibited areas and washes presents an ongoing enforcement challenge which is complaint activated. Photographs, a license number, or the identity of the violator is helpful when filing a complaint. These violations should be reported to the Scottsdale Police Department's non-emergency line at (480) 312-5000.

A code violation occurs if an individual, on his own property, creates a track on the natural desert through repetitious activity on an ATV. In that case, notify the city Code Enforcement office.

Report these above mentioned Code Enforcement Violations to Raun Keagy, Neighborhood Services Director, email: rkeagy@scottsdaleaz.gov or call: (480) 312-2373.

Road Improvements

Pinnacle Peak Road

Design work is continuing for improving Pinnacle Peak Road. Included will be the widening of Pinnacle Peak Road to four lanes from Pima Road to Scottsdale Road, turn lanes, raised landscaped medians, drainage improvements, public art and pedestrian paths.

(see "Road" on page 3)

Election of Directors

With the recently amended bylaws, the Board of Directors permits Directors to be elected by a mail-in ballot as was specified in the *COPP News*, March 2007

By acclamation, Linda Whitehead, COPP Vice-President and Secretary has been reelected, along with current Board member Mike Stephenson; there were no other nominations proposed by members. Thank you for your vote of confidence and participation in the annual election.

The Board of Directors

Road *(continued from page 2)*

Construction on the section between Miller and Pima Road is projected to begin during the spring of 2008 with a projected completion date by early 2009. The second phase of improvements, between Scottsdale Road and Miller Road, will be made by the developers of Silverstone at Rawhide prior to construction of their 160-acre mixed use project at the southeast corner of Scottsdale Road and Pinnacle Peak Road.

COPP is pleased that the road widening project, as promised, is moving forward. The Coalition will continue to lend its support for a design that will satisfy both the neighbors' objectives and city requirements. There is no question that Pinnacle Peak Road has become a heavily traveled east/west artery and needs to be improved to ease traffic congestion and public safety concerns.

Pima Road North of Thompson Peak Parkway

With the initial section of Pima Road construction having been completed in late 2006, the city is moving into the final design stage for the section between Thompson Peak Road and Pinnacle Peak Road.

Included will be six rubberized asphalt travel lanes, a raised landscaped median, on-street bike lanes, a multi-use path on the east side, and pedestrian access on the west side.

On the west side of Pima Road, adjacent to the Los Gatos, Pinnacle Peak Country Club, and Las Vida neighborhoods, a sound wall will be built. These neighborhoods were developed prior to the requirement for scenic corridor setbacks and the city's approval of Pima Road a six-lane roadway.

Construction of the sound wall to mitigate noise will begin this summer, with the final roadway widening commencing during the summer of 2008.

Veto of House Bill 2369; Public Safety Concerns

The Coalition went on record by writing to Governor Janet Napolitano to oppose a bill that would allow individuals to hold signs on street corners directing motorists to retailers. COPP opposed HB 2369 because it created a serious public safety concern for pedestrians and motorists and could have resulted in increased traffic accidents.

Further, with the licensing of sign-walkers, Scottsdale and other cities could have been exposed to civil liability and damages. In addition, we believe that the state legislature would have grossly overstepped its historical role by mandating and preempting local control of an issue that has been and should continue to be locally controlled.

Using the same reasons we cited, Governor Napolitano vetoed this bill on April 16. We are pleased that COPP's efforts contributed to this successful outcome.

Development Updates

Upon the Rock Assisted Living Preliminary Application Withdrawn

Owners of "Upon the Rock", an assisted living care facility, filed a preliminary rezoning application (177-PA-2007) with the city. The two-acre site is located on the southwest corner of Scottsdale Road between Ashler Hills Drive and Lone Mountain Road, adjacent to Foothills Academy, and is currently zoned R1-70, one dwelling unit per lot.

The purpose of this preliminary request was to expand the present assisted living care facility, along with an additional phase of proposed "one or two story retail/office buildings" fronting on Scottsdale Road.

The assisted living care facility would require a Conditional Use Permit and the retail/office would require a General Plan Amendment.

COPP learned about this project while it was in its early phase. While we would have considered the expansion of the assisted living care facility, we would have resisted the proposal to put offices and retail along Scottsdale Road because of traffic concerns.

With these factors in mind, the Coalition is pleased to report that the owners have withdrawn both phases of their application.

Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

The Scottsdale Police Department's new crime prevention website: Citizen Observer, is a complimentary service to help combat crime and to communicate with the citizens of Scottsdale.

Refer to: www.citizenobserver.com. Click on the following tabs:

- Yellow Communities tab at the top.
- Select the state of Arizona.
- Select Scottsdale
- Click on "sign up" in Chief Rodbells' comments.

You can select how you want to be notified. The different options include email, cell phone, digital pager, and fax. Another choice is the types of alerts you want to receive. Included are business alerts, citizen alerts, and crime prevention group notices.

Officer Jason Glenn, District 3 Crime Prevention Officer
jglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov • Phone: 480-312-8802
Commander William Wilton, District 3 Commander
wwilton@scottsdaleaz.gov • Phone: 480-312-7318



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 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.)
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In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? _____ In which city do you vote? _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

Office Use Only

4/07

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:
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