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## NEXT COPP MEMBER MEETING

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

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## Northwest 2000 – COPP Responds

Since the announcement of the NW 2000 plan, COPP has relied on the city council to protect the interests of Scottsdale citizens. It was an issue that we felt could best be handled by the city with its contacts at the Federal level and through specialized consulting resources to advise the city council and the staff.

We also felt that a regional solution was best to assure that no single community would bear a disproportionate burden from increased noise levels that might be imposed by NW 2000. We were satisfied that the city achieved a reasonable result by negotiating changes in the original NW 2000 plans when a revised plan (Alternative 3) for Sky Harbor traffic was implemented on February 21, 2002.

What seems to have fallen through the cracks is that little or no attention was given by the FAA to the adverse effect that the new Sky Harbor flight paths would have on traffic in and out of Scottsdale Airport and other nearby satellite airfields

such as Deer Valley. There is growing evidence that the increased noise levels over north Scottsdale are a result of altered flight paths and lower altitudes to and from Scottsdale Airport created by the alternative plan.

This is also confirmed by the rising number of complaints from the general aircraft community of pilots and others whose business activity brings them in and out of Scottsdale Airport.

The city's airport staff is aware of the problem and has made recommendations to the FAA to reduce the noise levels caused by traffic in and out of Scottsdale, but the FAA has informally indicated that it will be a year more before it addresses the problem.

At its meeting of June 4, the City Council agreed that the situation needs immediate attention and has asked the staff to prepare a plan within 120 days to describe what actions should be taken by the city to improve the situation.

*(see "Northwest 2000" on page 2)*

## Calendar of Events

July and August	There will be no COPP Member Meetings in July or August. The City Council will be on hiatus until August 26.
September	When COPP Member Meetings resume in September, the meeting date will be moved to the second Tuesday of the month. This will allow us to attend important City Council meetings that are now being held on our previous meeting date, the second Monday of each month. It will also allow City Council members to occasionally attend our member meetings.

*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.*

# Northwest 2000

(continued from page 1)

In our testimony, we said that we are not satisfied with the effect the current plan has had on Scottsdale Airport flight paths and altitude adjustments. We urged the city to take immediate steps to improve the situation by controlling traffic in and out of Scottsdale Airport by whatever means at its disposal and to push the FAA for a solution.

Concerning the request by the Quiet Skies Coalition to join in its litigation against the FAA, we asked the new City Council to take a fresh look at what the Coalition is doing to see if it would be in the best interests of all Scottsdale residents to support the action against the FAA. The Council decided that the city should not join in the Quiet Skies action, but rather to pursue other remedies with the FAA that will be identified by the action plan in the next 120 days.

At this point we are satisfied that the city council understands the gravity of the situation that has created more air traffic noise over north Scottsdale. We are also aware that it is a most complex problem that cannot easily be solved overnight. We will continue to monitor the city's progress to assure that all available measures are taken to improve the current situation.

The Board of Directors

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## 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 Message from George Zraket

The election is over. At first, I felt like Charlie Brown lying on his back after Lucy, yet again, pulled the football away just as he was about to kick it. Good grief, I thought, have four, long years come to this?

In actuality, we've come a long way in the past four years. It seems like yesterday when Amberjack, like some fantastical sand shark, was set to take a bite out of our desert surroundings. Has it been more than four years since a Scottsdale mayor had the temerity to order the police to escort a testifying citizen from the Kiva podium because he had overstayed his three minutes? Remember when Council deliberations, as a matter of course, went through an Executive Session dress rehearsal closed to the public and the people's business was conducted with a wink, a blink and a nod?

I know those years must have felt like forever to the Bobs, Lindas, Darlenes, Dans, Richards and Alans among you who refused to bend their knee to a self-anointed, self-perpetuating "leadership" that presumed to suppose that they and they alone knew what was best for Scottsdale. For, in truth, it was COPP that provided the citizens of Scottsdale with a voice when they could not make themselves heard through the voices they had elected. It was COPP that saw beyond the artist-rendering visions of sales tax riches flowing from accelerated growth to the danger of Scottsdale becoming, in the words of that great American philosopher Yogi Berra, a place where nobody goes because it's too crowded.

Four years and three city elections later, we find ourselves for the first time in a decade or more with a council majority in place whose main focus will be on protecting the livability of residential neighborhoods and preserving the quality of resident's lives.

But, that majority will need COPP's continued involvement. The same involvement that persuaded a hesitant majority to join the council minority in frustrating intensified development and save countless millions by canceling the Greenbelt Project. To keep the skies over the Sonoran uplands dark. To protect neighborhoods from the intrusiveness of big box developments.

And those are but a few of the accomplishments just in Scottsdale's northern reaches. Because of COPP's sustained commitment to holding the feet of our elected officials to the fire, all of Scottsdale has become a better place to live, to work and to visit than it otherwise might have been. Be it the revitalization of the Galleria and the removal of that abominable hole in Scottsdale Road; be it the Smitty's community use project or awakening the community to the character incompatibility and fiscal irrationality of the Los Arcos arena plan, COPP has been a consistent and compelling voice for responsive, responsible city government.

I'm proud to have played a part in this effort. I'm proud to have had COPP's endorsement and encouragement. I'm proud to be a member of COPP.

As for preserving the accomplishments and accomplishing all that remains to be done, we need only share Charlie Brown's indomitable faith that things are bound to get better if you keep grinding away long enough.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

Margaret Meade

# Development Updates

## *City Council Approves Change in Conditional Use Permit Revocation Process*

Thanks to the emails, faxes and telephone calls from COPP members, the City Council, by a vote of 4 to 3 voted to change the method by which a revocation of a conditional use permit is heard.

Several months ago, COPP petitioned the City Council that approves such permits, to also be the deciding body to determine if a permit should be revoked when a property owner violates the conditions of the permit. Heretofore, such decisions were decided first by the zoning administrator and, if allowed to go forward, by the Board of Adjustment.

We believe that since the City Council has the authority to approve, amend and renew conditional use permits, it should also decide if a revocation is warranted when permit conditions are violated. Equally important, we believe that this would also provide a way for residents to be heard through a public hearing process in front of their elected officials rather than city staff or an appointed board.

At its meeting of June 18, the City Council debated the question and decided in favor of a change as COPP proposed. Council members Ecton, O'Hearn, Littlefield and Silverman supported the change. Mayor Manross and Council members Lukas and Ortega voted against it.

Alan Kaufman, COPP's General Counsel, prepared and filed the petition on our behalf and argued it before the City Council. He did this work pro bono as he has done all of his legal counseling for COPP. Thank you Alan.

## *Scottsdale and Happy Valley Roads Rezoning Case Withdrawn*

A proposal, opposed by COPP, to rezone 20 acres located at the southeast corner of Scottsdale and Happy Valley Roads from R1-43 (43,000 square foot lots) to R1-10 (10,000 square foot lots) has been withdrawn.

After meeting with the applicant and reviewing their proposal, we determined that we could not support it. In our opinion, while the surrounding developments have similar or higher density than the R1-10 that was being requested, the decisions that made those densities possible were in error and did not reflect the lower densities essential to the character of the area.

The surrounding developments were approved many years ago at a time when the city was pursuing a policy of accelerated growth and we were not witnessing the traffic and air quality concerns that currently exist. Today, such development would meet with great resistance.

While we understand the favorable economics of raising the density on

this 20 acres to 1.7 dwelling units per acre, that completely flies in the face of the environmental issues that concern our organization and the residents in the area.

## *More on Henry Becker's Trailers*

A Maricopa County Superior Court judge has ruled that the semi-trailers parked on Henry Becker's property at the southeast corner of Pima and Happy Valley Road are parked in violation of the city's parking ordinances and must be removed.

On the basis of this ruling, the city will request that the court enter a final judgment containing a permanent injunction requiring removal of the semi-trailers from the property. It is expected that Mr. Becker's attorney will appeal the judgment and injunction and will request that the courts stay the effectiveness of the injunction pending the outcome of the appeal. The city has expressed its intention to vigorously oppose such an appeal.

The related case, pending in City Court, involves the poles and sheds that were erected within setbacks and without building permits. The trial of that case is set for July 11.



*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**

  
  
  
  
  

07/02

Have a question? Call the COPP Hotline at: 602.230.5233 or E-mail us at: [COPPeak@coppeak.org](mailto:COPPeak@coppeak.org)  
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