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## Partisan Politics – The New Election Cycle

The recent election was largely the result of an intentional political maneuver by the state legislature to change Scottsdale’s non-partisan elections into partisan contests, pitting Democrats and Republicans against each other, and not what is best for our city.

This was accomplished by moving the elections from March and May, where they have always been, to September and November for the first time.

Only two cities had their election calendars changed: Scottsdale and Chandler. Thanks to the state legislature we will now have partisan elections in a non-partisan

governed city that will be shaped more by party affiliation than what is good for Scottsdale.

All of this occurred in an election that had Arizona’s senior Senator running for President of the United States, which engendered a huge turnout and motivated voters who had not voted in past city elections. For example, the total vote was more than three times the size of what Scottsdale has experienced in past city elections held early in the year –103,000 v. 20 - 35,000 in the past. By linking Scottsdale’s election to a national election,

*(see “Partisan” on page 2)*

## COPP Board of Directors

Bob Vairo, *President*  
rvairo@coppeak.org

Linda Whitehead, *Vice-President*  
lwhitehead@coppeak.org

Judith Wagman, *Editor COPP News*  
jwagman@coppeak.org

Gil Lustig, *Director*  
glustig@coppeak.org

Michael Stephenson, *Director*  
mstephenson@coppeak.org

## Calendar of Events

- December 2 City Council hearing on Scottsdale Epicenter’s request for a rezoning and increased building height on 25 acres at 84th Street and Bell Road: 5:00 pm in the Kiva.
- December 6 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 sign-in location.

*(see “Calendar” on page 2)*

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Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Inc.  
8912 E. Pinnacle Peak, PMB 275  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
602-230-5233  
COPPpeak@coppeak.org  
www.COPPpeak.org

*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.*

# Partisan

(continued from page 1)

voter attention was diverted from city concerns and issues to partisan politics.

It does not augur well for the future to have changed such local decisions from a focused, Scottsdale oriented election, to one influenced largely by political party turf wars and not the qualifications of the candidate or important city issues. Every future election will now include national candidates and state-wide offices on the ballot.

This legislatively imposed election cycle spells the end of non-partisan elections that served Scottsdale well in the past. It is the beginning of a new partisan era that will promote the divisiveness seen in national and state politics. That does not bode well for Scottsdale in future elections and you can thank our state legislators for that outcome.

## The Board of Directors

# COPP Opposes Request for High Rise Hotels

The Coalition of Pinnacle Peak is on record in opposition to a trio of 5-story, 64-foot high hotels in a 25-acre parcel located at 88th Street and Bell Road. The project is aptly named the Scottsdale Epicenter, case number 4-ZN-2008.

Scottsdale Epicenter is located within the Greater Airpark Community Area, the area plan for which is in the process of being updated. The update of this area plan started earlier this year with several visioning meetings, followed by 5 focus groups and an on-going, on-line questionnaire.

While the area plan update has yet to be completed, an evolving consensus among the focus groups is that while greater heights and densities might be appropriate in the center of the airpark, assuming circulation problems can be resolved, heights and densities should trend downward toward the edges of the area. Another area of apparent agreement is that views of the mountains must be preserved.

For staff to support and the City Council to approve a change of this

magnitude before the update of the area plan has been completed is to again mock the integrity of the city's public outreach process. Approval of this application will once again send a message to an already skeptical citizenry that the city's processes of public outreach are a charade intended to move the bull's eye over the bullet hole of an outcome pre-determined by staff.

It is time for the City Council to support the integrity of the city's public outreach process. They can take a step in that direction by denying this application.

The City Council is scheduled to hear this case on December 2. If you are able to do so, please go down to the Kiva (5:00 pm) and testify in opposition to the case. If you cannot testify in person, please write the Council by email or fax to express your opposition to what is another example of policy making on an ad hoc, case by case basis. Contact information is [citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:citycouncil@scottsdaleaz.gov) or fax your comments to (480) 312-2738.

## Calendar of Events *(continued from page 1)*

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 13 | Electronics Recycling Day: 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 <a href="http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle">www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle</a> or call (480) 312-5600 for additional information. |
| January 3   | Fiesta Bowl Artwalk: Noon to 4:00 pm in the downtown Scottsdale Arts District (Main Street, Marshall Way, Stetson and Sixth Avenue, west of Scottsdale Road). During this annual event dozens of art galleries will be open to the public, hosting receptions and artists of every style.   |
| January 10  | Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: 7:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Corporate Yard, 9191 East San Salvador. Dispose of household hazardous waste in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. For a list of acceptable items visit <a href="http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle">www.scottsdaleaz.gov/recycle</a> or call (480) 312-5000 for more information.  |
| January 24  | Scenic Drive Clean up: Sign in at 8:00 am at the location that is most convenient for you. See December 6 listing for details.  |

# Development Updates

There are three Text Amendments making their way through the public outreach and approvals processes that are worthy of notice.

Two of these Text Amendments are to the Sign Ordinance. The first, the **Planned Regional Center Text Amendment, 6-TA-2008**, has been proposed by the developer of the Scottsdale Quarter PRC which is located at the site of the former Dial Headquarters, on the east side of Scottsdale Road across from Kierland. If approved it would apply to all properties in Scottsdale which are in Planned Regional Center zoning districts. There are 6 such zoning districts in Scottsdale. They include SkySong in Sout Scottsdale and One Scottsdale which is at Scottsdale and the 101.

The proposed Text Amendment would amend the sign ordinance to add 4 new sign types: Standing Canopy signs, Projecting signs, Column signs and Graphic Identification Panels. It also proposes modifications to existing sign types such as Directory Signs (with advertising), Traffic Directional Signs and would increase the Sum Total Sign Area allowed.

The Coalition believes the proposed Graphic Identification Panels are another name for Billboards, and to maintain the integrity of Scottsdale's Sign Ordinance, these Panels should not be allowed. As respects the additionally requested amendments, while the changes would apply to all properties in PRC zoning districts, they were proposed by the owner of one such property for the benefit of that project. The Coalition is concerned that any modification of Scottsdale's Sign Ordinance should be

looked at very cautiously to make certain the greater good that ordinance provides all of Scottsdale is not compromised.

The second Text Amendment to the Sign Ordinance is the **Outdoor Sales Display Text Amendment, 10-TA-2008**. This Text Amendment, if approved, would amend the Sign Ordinance to allow for outdoor sales displays and retailing. Details on this proposed amendment are sketchy, but there are concerns that if approved it would create a garage sale or flea market atmosphere on our downtown streets and in our outdoor shopping centers.

The third Text Amendment is to the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO). It is the **ESLO Density Incentive Text Amendment, 9-TA-2008**. Historically, developers of parcels in zoning districts R1-43, R1-70, R1-130 and R1-190 could apply for up to a 20% increase in the allowed number of lots (not a rezoning) in return for an equal increase in NAOS. However, there was no stipulation that the increase in NAOS be located on common area tracts (HOA controlled) as opposed to on lots (homeowner controlled). As a result, over time, required additional NAOS that was situated on lots became very difficult to protect and was easily degraded.

This Text Amendment tightens that loophole and requires that additional NAOS must be provided in common area tracts and not provided on an individual single family lot. The Coalition believes this is an appropriate change that will result in more and better protected NAOS areas as our remaining large lot parcels are developed, and we support the change.

## Message from the Scottsdale Police Department

Just as we need to take extra precautions with personal safety, protecting our homes and property during the holiday season, we need to remember to be extra vigilant in protecting our identity as well. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States. The following tips will help prevent identity thieves from making you their next victim:

- Watch for monthly statements. We all know the holiday season will cause some mailing delays. However, if you have not received these documents within a few days of their regularly scheduled dates, contact your bank and the post office. Pick up your mail every day.
- Every year we see post office boxes overfilled with outgoing mail. Mail checks or sensitive information inside the post office.
- Never carry your social security card with you unless you need it for a specific reason.
- Secure your financial and personal records. Make sure you are shredding anything that has your social security number, credit card numbers or other personal information.

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

Commander William Wilton  
District 4 Commander  
[wwilton@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:wwilton@scottsdaleaz.gov)  
Phone: (480) 312-7318



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

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

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In what neighborhood/HOA do you live? \_\_\_\_\_ In which city do you vote? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only

  
  
  
  

12/08

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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