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Fairview Place: Out of the sights

State fair board pulls bid; Roosevelt and Garfield now in stadium siting crosshairs

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

While some parties interested in submitting sites for the new Cardinals stadium were working to get an initial bid in to the Tourism and Sports Authority (TSA) by its Dec. 14 deadline, the Arizona

Exposition and State Fair Board was voting to withdraw theirs.

The state fair submitted its initial expression of interest in hosting the Cardinals multipurpose facility (MPF) over Thanksgiving. The following week, District 4 Councilman Phil Gordon and residents of the historic dis-

trict neighborhoods adjacent to the fairgrounds were mobilized in opposition. However, at a TSA meeting on Dec. 29, TSA Board Chairman James Grogan declined meet Gordon's demand that the TSA "stop scaring the neighbors" and immediately remove the fairground site from consideration.

"The irony is not missed on me that we have a variety of elected officials telling us 'slow down, you're moving way too fast,' and another elected official telling us that he wants us today to eliminate a site," Grogan said. "It kind of clashes with the process.

"I'm committed to this process," Grogan added. "It would be premature to take up the specifics of any one site this early in the process. We're still just asking people to express interest."

However, "we understand the concerns of the neighbors," Grogan added. "We're not looking to pick any fights in this process. I personally share many of the concerns raised by the neighborhood and raised by Phil Gordon. It's merely premature to make any definitive decisions on that. We will keep an open mind, we will listen to all concerned, and we will continue to work closely with the state fair, because they truly could be part of an ultimate solution.

"These are all issues that we're going to explore fully, but it would be premature to make any decisions right now," Grogan said.

So, why did the State Fair Board withdraw its bid? Was it in response to calls from Gordon and neighborhood opposition?

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MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

Marge McCue speaks before TV cameras in her Fairview Place yard on Nov. 28, about the devaluation to restored historic neighborhoods that would be caused by the proposed siting of the Cardinals stadium at the state fairgrounds. District 4 Councilman Phil Gordon and neighbors look on in support.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PEDERSON GROUP

Jim Pederson, developer and state Democratic Party chair, told a breakfast forum that many developers are sensitive to the needs of communities they build their projects in. How does he know? Because, he said, he's one of them.

A veritable lovefest

Developers' group hosts planners, neighborhood activists at swank site

■ BY DAVID TELL

It must be rough being a real estate developer. They seem to be met with suspicion and hostility in neighborhood after neighborhood. Of course there's the money and influence that

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Would you want an 800-lb. gorilla next door?

There may be some viable downtown sites for the Cardinals Stadium, but right by Roosevelt, Garfield isn't one of them

As a downtown resident since 1984, and one who has been deeply involved in downtown revitalization efforts, I must say that I get a happy glow everytime I read in the press about the rebirth of the city and how nice it is now to come downtown. So let me tell you why it's so nice to come downtown now. It's us. The residents.

The people who are here every day, all year, even when there are no parades. The ones who invest in our homes, maintain our properties, and improve the area with our involvement in our neighborhood associations, block watches and city committees. It is, in large part, because of us that downtown now seems safe and desirable.

The area north of Arizona Center is a neighborhood newly named Copper Square Commons. Surrounded by historic neighborhoods, Copper Square Commons is comprised of new condos

and apartments. St. Croix Villas, which is about 10 years old, could barely be rented when it opened; now its units are selling like crazy. Developers who couldn't be dragged down here even 5 years ago are now happily looking us over. This new area is proof that our investment in downtown living is beginning to pay off.

Investment is a key concept here. Besides investing private money in our homes, we are just now reaching that critical residential mass necessary to attract and sustain retail stores and restaurants.

Major sports activities and tourism downtown do not generate enough business on a day-to-day, year-round basis. A large residential component is a vital ingredient to the kind of business revitalization we all want.

So why are some business and political leaders targeting Copper Square Commons? Why would they want to

stall an investment engine which is finally getting up to full steam? The city staff certainly know, through a number of recent meetings, that downtown neighborhoods are looking forward to more residential and mixed-use development, even commercial projects such as hotels. They've also acknowledged that this is one of the areas best able to attract such development. So why consider a football stadium here? To put a football stadium in Copper Square Commons would be to shoot redevelopment in the foot. This area is ripe for residential infill projects. Residential development will bring long-term stability and continuing private reinvestment to our city's core.

Can a football stadium do that? Though I doubt it, there are some places downtown where it might fit. We'd love to discuss it with the Sports and Tourism Authority. Please just remember we're here before you sit the

800 pound gorilla down on us.

Joan L. Kelchner, M.D. is a Roosevelt Historic District resident, past president of the Roosevelt Action Association; past chair, Central City Village Planning Committee; and a member of the Phoenix Planning Commission.

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Stadium debate comes home

To some it's a boon, but for many historic district residents, it would cast a disconcerting shadow

► *continued from Page One*

"I think the board decided to withdraw its bid from further consideration based on input from myself and [state fair executive director] Gary Montgomery," said Don West, the Fair's deputy director. "We both truly believe there are better sites out there.

"It's not a question of favoring one site or another," he said. "Others had more acreage, had fewer concerns with surrounding neighborhoods, had more potential perhaps for development. Just in a generic sense a number of other sites had more to offer."

However, with this long-shot bid no longer looming as even a remote possibility over the Story, Villa Verde,

"To put this in the middle of a district where we are successfully attracting new residential development is foolish."

—Joan Kelchner, Roosevelt resident and member, Phoenix Planning Commission

Fairview Place and Del Norte historic districts and nearby neighborhoods, other developments have arisen to put Roosevelt, Garfield and their environs on notice.

Despite iffy support within city government, the Phoenix Community Alliance and Downtown Phoenix Partnership—along with the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and some cheer-leading by the Arizona Republic—were working on submitting proposals for downtown sites.

"We're teaming up with the Partnership again and submitting a letter of interest," said Don Keuth, executive director of the Phoenix Community Alliance. "We're going to identify just two sites—one, roughly between Eighth Avenue and Twelfth Avenue, Jefferson south to the railroad, the 'capitol mall' site. The other one is north and east of Arizona Center, between Fillmore and Roosevelt, roughly Third Street to Seventh Street."

Reaction of residents whose neighborhoods would be affected by the latter site, if chosen, was mixed.

Wendy Johnson is a founder and secretary of the Copper Square Common Neighborhood Association.

"I'm from Chicago. Sporting events belong in a major downtown, as opposed to out in the suburbs like Glendale," she said. "I would consider it to be an incon-

venience, but it's part of city life.

"If you look at Chicago, you don't go to another suburb to see the Bears play," Johnson said. "People move downtown to have everything in that close proximity."

She acknowledged her perspective might differ from those of historic district residents.

"They're more single-family housing while we have more multitenant housing," Johnson said. "For instances it's a priority of ours to ensure that we have a light rail stop within a couple of blocks of our area, whereas Roosevelt residents would probably prefer that it be further away so that it doesn't affect their property values."

However, even Roosevelt Action Association president Trace Vencenza is not totally down on the idea of a stadium next door.

"I'm excited about the [possibility of the] stadium coming downtown," Vencenza said. "We need the

money. We've been aware of that site for a long time.

"Putting the stadium there would raise two big issues for the historic community: they'd have to demo the high school. That'll be a big sticking point for a lot of folks because of alumni groups," Vencenza said. "And the area is peppered with turn-of-the-century bungalows that would have to go, or be moved. And vacant lots would have to be purchased for the purpose of relocating houses. The city's not going to want to pay for it."

Vencenza seemed to say the fact that the MPF development would be situated right between the Garfield and Roosevelt neighborhoods would be more of a problem for the MPF than for the neighborhoods.

"It's going to be landlocked, going to get boxed in," she said. "If they let me be queen for a day, the stadium be a multi-use facility on the Jefferson and Seventh area, while I would remodel the existing civic plaza for another arts facility and a mall."

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Fairview without the fair?

It hasn't come to that—but it eventually might

■ BY DAVID TELL

While the fairground was briefly an active possibility as the MPF site, Councilman Phil Gordon and neighborhood residents were clear and specific about the kind of problems that any downtown siting might also present to surrounding communities.

At a televised press conference held in the front yard of Fairview Place residents Marge and Gerry McCue, Gordon laid out the issues.

"You're in the middle of our city, heart of this city, the central core. And as the heart goes so does the rest of this city," he said. "If we're not successful in preserving our neighborhoods, the rest of this city, no matter where anyone lives—in fact, throughout the valley—is going to suffer, because the sprawl is going to continue, and the problems that are associated with sprawl."

But Gordon did not just dwell on such larger, more abstract land-use concerns.

"Let's come back to the central core. Let me take you back about a dozen years," he said. "This community was a community under siege. As a result of a great organization—the Phoenix Suns, but playing the in the wrong place—there were problems in those days. Property values were declining, people were leaving this area, there were a lot of rental properties, cars parked on lawns," he recounted.

"The Suns left, and this neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods came together, and they started to fight, and they made a decision to stay, to restore, to renovate, to raise a family, to come back to where they grew up," Gordon said. "This area became a historic neighborhood, together with the adjoining neighborhoods. Some of the highest value homes in this city, on a per-square-foot basis, are in the historic neighborhoods.

"When the Suns played here before, it was roughly a 12,000 foot stadium, and now we're talking about a 50,000 foot stadium. Traffic was horrendous through the neighborhoods. All you have to do is look what happens to the communities during special events at the state fair or during the state fair itself. Now picture a major football stadium. Noise, lights, traffic at four times anything we've ever experienced. Cut-through traffic. Young children, older adults all having to put up with that. Where? In their neighborhood.

Marge McCue spoke to TV cameras with a dozen or so other neighborhood residents standing behind her in support.

"Because of the revitalization effort in the downtown area, the downtown folks should be really, really pleased with what neighbors—these historic neighborhoods—have done," McCue said. "We've created a jewel in the center of the city with these older homes having been restored. I have lived in the neighborhood since before the coliseum was built. Anything of the magnitude of this kind of stadium in this kind of neighborhood is so inappropriate it's not even worthy of discussion. It's not a good idea for this place at this time."

Gordon said he found a silver lining in the prospect that beclouded the neighborhood.

We should request and require the coliseum board to sell and market that property—90 acres in the heart of our city—to private developers," Gordon said. "The city would plan it so it would be compatible with this community and the other communities.

"It would be a win-win for the entire state," he added. "We would put 90 acres worth of property back onto the tax roll. That's millions of dollars of property tax annually that would come in —property that isn't there now because it's state property— that would help fix the budget problems, pro-

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LETTERS

RESPECT THE LAW, HONOR THE MEMORY: NO GUNFIRE

In June 1999, my neighbor, 14-year-old Shannon Smith was chatting with a friend on her cell phone in her back yard, and was killed by a bullet falling from the sky from as far away as two miles.

Since that tragic day, the Smiths and I have been joined by community leaders, elected officials and law enforcement personnel to create a public awareness campaign about the dangers of random gunfire. In July 2000, we successfully passed "Shannon's Law," making it a felony to fire a gun into the air within city limits. Since that time, numerous offenders have been prosecuted and punished for this irresponsible and dangerous act.

Despite reports of shots still fired—particularly on July 4 and New Year's Eve—there have been no deaths due to random gunfire since the law took effect.

Nonetheless, we need to ensure that no other Valley family has to suffer the

► CORRECTION

An article titled "Everybody's a critic" on page 9 of the Nov. 19 issue misspelled Erynn Crowley's name and should have given her title as interim deputy director, Preservation Division.

same tragedy as the Smiths.

Last year the Council authorized an application to the U.S. Department of Justice for funds to purchase and install a Gunshot Detection System. This technology identifies the origin of gunfire to within 20 feet. The location is then transmitted via phone lines radio to a 9-1-1 center, where the information can be dispatched to officers.

Although Phoenix has not yet obtained funds for this system, the city of Glendale recently purchased the device and we are hoping to develop a collaborative effort that will reduce random gunfire in both our communities.

No one should fire a gun into the air for fun or for celebration. Please dial 9-1-1 if you hear gunshots fired and please join me in spreading the word: Random gunfire kills. People die. Think about it.

PHIL GORDON, COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
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WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT TRASHY CONDITIONS?

I read the article regarding the attorney seeking to expand the law office. Although there are arguments back and forth and all have value, what prompts me to write is the comment made by Goldman about the surrounding buildings. Goldman is correct about the apartments on the corner of 16th Avenue and McDowell—the mat-

tresses and trash were there for weeks—long enough for the fillings to begin scattering. I placed a call and my husband did also. The mattresses are now gone but the trash is never-ending. We have also placed calls regarding the cars on the lawn and they have also been moved. As for the dollar store, one has to wonder how many of these are necessary to service an area. There is another dollar store on 7th Avenue and McDowell. Neither contributes anything of value to historic standards and the one on 15th Avenue is particularly hideous. (I might be pushing it here, but wouldn't a Trader Joe's or Wild Oats be more appropriate?)

Other than making a few calls when things get really out of hand, is there anything that can be done about existing situations like this?

On another note, I really enjoy receiving your paper and encourage you to keep up the good work.

MARIE VAN OLFFEN
Fairview Place

The Midtown Messenger *welcomes your comments. Responses may be edited for length and clarity.*

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Cardinals sin?

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Former Roosevelt president and current Phoenix Planning Commission member Joan Kelchner, M.D. is less sanguine about the northeastern downtown site.

"You have to look at what you're attracting and how it works in conjunction with what you're doing," Kelchner said. "A football stadium is an enormous building, with a huge amount of parking, enormous circulation problems. These are problems that could be dealt with in a couple other areas of downtown or in the central valley.

"But to put this in the middle of a residential district where we are successfully attracting new residential development is foolish," Kelchner added. "You're going to be actively

depressing residential reinvestment in this area. In fact it would be taking up the space where even now we're trying to attract residential development, even doing a good job of it."

Kelchner took issue with Vencenza's view—shared by many proponents of major sports complexes everywhere—that such developments are a good investment.

"It is illogical to kill one investment engine in order to put something else up there that is not an investment engine," she said. "Stadiums are money losers. They require public investment that may never get paid off. The Diamondbacks are more popular than the Cardinals and they're not filling their stadium. All of the major professional sports are money-losing operations, requiring huge public investments for their stadiums. And none are particu-

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Seen in this view looking westward along Palm Lane, the coliseum on the state fair site is a familiar sight to residents of Fairview Place.

MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL



Residents of Villa Verde Historic District and other neighborhoods along 19th Avenue on the west side of the state fairgrounds already struggle against blight, and various impacts from the fair.

MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

Fairview Place reconsidered

► *continued from previous page*

vide revenue to the county, the city, to the school boards.

"The most important part is to provide 90 acres' worth of new, owner-occupied single family housing—both affordable housing and housing that could be purchased by anyone in this entire valley," Gordon said.

However, if the stadium is sited in downtown Phoenix, it's unclear that it could accommodate the state fair and thus provide the incentive to market the fairgrounds site as Gordon suggested.

We wouldn't close the door to [hosting the state fair], would be happy to hear suggestions on that," said Brian Kearney. "But I think it's very unlikely that the state fair could be integrated with a downtown location—it requires too much land, it's not a good fit. But we'd be willing to explore it."

At the same time, McCue's antennae were raised by some of the phrases in Gordon's suggestion for a redeveloped fairgrounds site.

"I would have questions about what was going to be there, would like to be well-informed," she said. "In principle it was an all right suggestion. But the devil you know is better than the devil you don't."

"If it were developed as residential in keeping with the surrounding neighborhoods, that would be one thing," McCue said. "Affordable Housing—are we talking about yet more apartments. That would be a nightmare for this neighborhood to throw a large apartment complex into it."

Still, it's likely that something has to give. Despite their withdrawing their stadium bid, it's been clear that the state fair management and board are casting around for a solution to the operation's doldrums.

McCue said that state fair director and deputy director Gary Montgomery and Don West showed up at the pre-fair logistics meeting with police and other officials this year.

"They were interested in and cooperative with what the Police Department and Department of Public Service were going to do," she said. "They made a comment that the state fair was not very profitable in the last few years—that it has shown a profit but nothing like years in the past. They raised the question what would become of the coliseum and state fairgrounds because of the need for added revenue and to use that property properly.

"My first choice would be to add to the golf course," McCue said. "Landscape architecture students at ASU drew up a plan for that, about 15 years ago, I think."

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larly open to the suggestion that their stadiums be multi-use, they all resist that as much as they can to make them viable for public money."

Keuth responds to such concerns with an expression of good intent.

"As part of the whole process, we've got to look into all those things, makes sure we're not doing something that's going to have negative impact down the road," he said. "If you're going to put one

echoed Keuth's comments.

"I don't think we're far enough along to be able to talk about specific impacts," Kearney said. "All we've done so far is explore areas for their viability as full-blown sites. The site near Arizona Center is an area that is already clearly slated for future redevelopment.

"We certainly want to be sensitive to neighborhood issues; we're

not looking to create negative impacts on neighborhoods at all," he said. "I haven't heard what the specific concerns might be, obviously there would be traffic. A stadium at that location would be

using streets already used by significant events traffic. The advantage of downtown is you've already got a circulation system in place—not that there wouldn't be additional circulation patterns. I think that can be handled, absolutely, but we're not at that level of detail yet."

"We're not looking to create negative impacts on neighborhoods."

—*Brian Kearney, executive director, Downtown Phoenix Partnership*

of these things in the downtown, you've got to recognize that in order to successfully address such issues—have the teaming and the partnerships and the discussions that they require—things take more time. The challenge is the short timeline the powers that be want this to take."

Brian Kearney, executive director of the Downtown Phoenix Partnership,



MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

James Grogan, chairman of the Tourism and Sports Authority Board, declines at a Dec. 29 board meeting to remove the state fairgrounds site, then an active bid by the State Exposition and Fair Board, from further consideration.



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Congratulations! It's a map!

It's been a long pregnancy, labor and delivery—and you can't rightly say 'zackly who the daddy (or mommy) is

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

The final City Council map on which the Council is expected to vote is out, and it hardly resembles anything seen earlier in the process. That may be proof that the consultant and the city team listened to everything everyone had to say and reconciled all input, along with legal requirements and other publicized priorities, to the best of their ability.

Or not. Well, no one's seriously suggesting that the team went through this whole ordeal of lots of maps and lots of public meetings and input only to go into a little smoke-filled room and just draw a bunch of squiggly lines to their own (and Council's) liking.

Said Tony Sissons of demographic consulting firm Research Advisory Services (RAS), the city's technical partner in the redistricting effort, "By the time we get to the end of the process, a fairly substantial public record will have been developed. It would be politically unwise for the Council to say, 'Oh, we've had this process, but we're going to go into the back room and draw one ourselves.'"

Not that they'd have to. The process relieves the Council of having to make any politically uncomfortable choice among several distinct alternatives representing the desires and values of groups with opposing agendas. The contract with RAS was to create one final map for an up or down vote by the Council—a map whose creation is largely guided by the city management team—who largely know the councilmembers' preferences without having to poll them directly.

Be that as it may, "The [U.S.] Justice Department is looking for not only the right things being done, but the process of getting there—and at the changes to a plan since it first saw the light of day," Sissons explained. "The Justice Department would want to know why you moved that a square

"We really didn't ask people to vote on which alternate map they liked."

—Tony Sissons, consultant, Research Advisory Services

mile. If the Council wanted a substantial modification to what we present to them, that would signal to the Justice Department that they have paid no real attention to public input. Jurisdictions have to go through a process that amply demonstrates they haven't just given lip service to public input."

Still, those comments don't directly address the connections—or lack thereof—between the new map and the set of proposed maps that last month went through the second round of public meetings, not to mention the full range of maps offered by interested members of the public.

"We didn't really ask [people giving input] to vote on which alternate map they liked, but to examine the districts in each and give us their feelings, positive and negative, about different elements or features of those," Sisson said. "It really isn't possible to point to any specific alternate plan [that the current one resembles or is based on]—it really was a blend of the good elements of different plans."

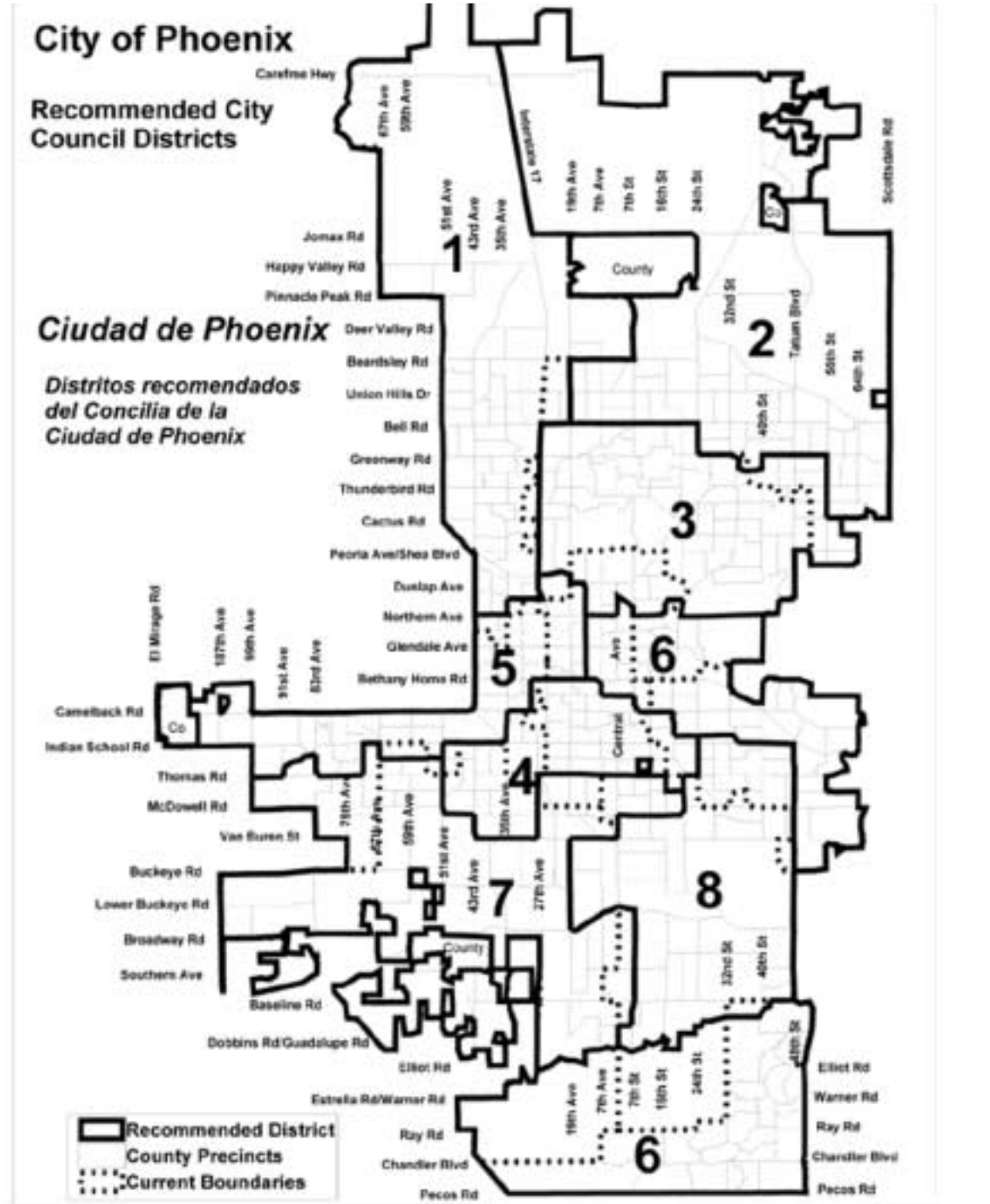
"What we wanted to capture is, 'what are the good ideas?' We ended up with a pretty good catalog of positive elements we needed to try to weave together into a plan," he said.

So, how did the tapestry come out? "Some of the themes that

were woven in were the particular desires of advocacy groups—minority, historic, business interests, as well as individuals," Sissons said. "This map does respond to the request from minority advocacy organizations to create three Hispanic majority districts, with those majorities being at the voting age level. That has been accomplished under this plan. "The three Hispanic majority dis-

tricts at voting age are 4, 7 and 8," Sissons said. "We were asked to consider having all the historic areas in no more than two of the districts. They are currently in four," he said. "One of the other criteria that we had, one of the Hispanic advocacy groups asked that one of the majority Hispanic districts be a central Phoenix district."

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SOURCE: CITY OF PHOENIX AND RESEARCH ADVISORY SERVICES

This proposed City Council district map, the outcome of months of meetings, input-gathering, statistical work, billions of bits and bytes, reams of paper and and probably some marker ink, was expected to be voted on by the Phoenix City Council at its Dec. 19 meeting.

Midtown voices lost in the din?

City redistricting team's, Historic District Coalition's maps aren't even kissin' cousins

■ BY DAVID TELL

The Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition tried to participate in the redistricting process and get the word out as to its goals and values that they hoped to see embodied in the eventual outcome.

However, the two proposed City Council district maps created by the Coalition during the two phases of public input were either a few days late or a few districts short.

Coalition Director Helen Prier said it was not clear prior to the first submission deadline that maps that did not draw boundaries for all eight Council districts would not be able to be evaluated nor included among resident's alternatives in the second round of public meetings. The Coalition drew lines for four districts in the areas of the city of greatest concern to it. Several other residents from different areas of the city also in some cases drew boundaries for fewer than eight districts—in some cases just one.

Ken Clark, Coalition assistant director, said both of the Coalition's maps were offered primarily to demonstrate its values and principles, and as a basis for determining possible areas of alignment with other interested groups.

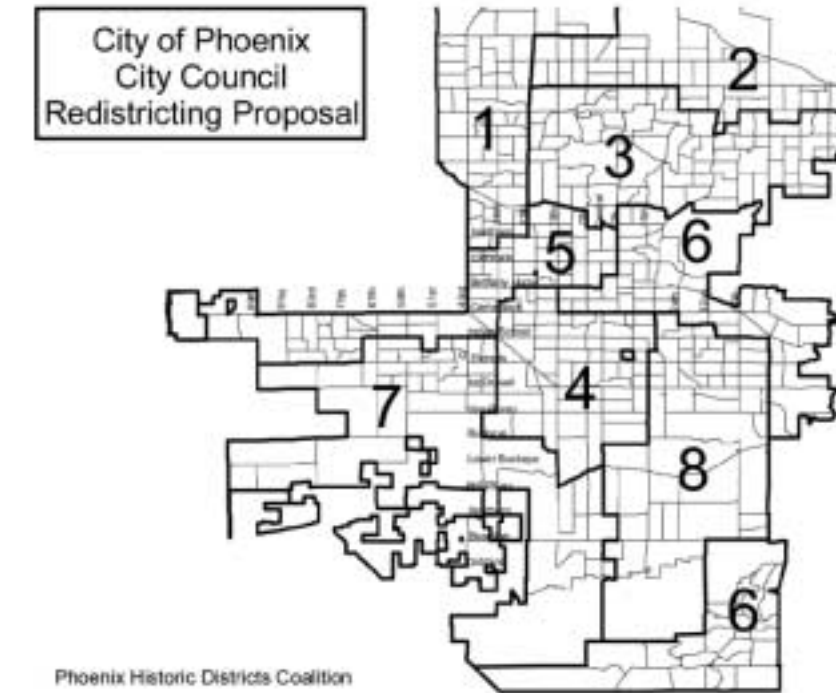
Clark worked with David Folch of OSI Corp. to create the maps and document their population variances and demographic breakdowns. The Coalition's second proposed map used as its starting point "Alternate C" created by the city's redistricting consultant, Research Advisory Services.

"The reality is that the changes that we made to that map are probably not going to happen that way," Clark said.

He was right.

Said Prier after the new map was released on Dec. 13, "It seems to me that they've asked for input, but

from our point our point of view, why bother? We've become completely ignored and become an island of displaced citizens who nobody wants," she said. "The core historic districts are now this little bit stuck out at the side of District 7 just to make up numbers, it looks like. In essence this map has divided historic neighborhoods into two districts, but not the way we wanted it, and they've completely ignored one of our core issues, which is our



SOURCE: DAVID FOLCH/ESI CORP. AND THE PHOENIX HISTORIC DISTRICTS COALITION

The Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition worked with David Folch of ESI Corp. to revise consultant's alternate Map C. (This revised C appears above.) This map, or, as another option, some variant of Map E, were favored by many representatives of historic neighborhoods and organizations spoken to, including Roosevelt Action Association president Trace Vencenza, Encanto Planning Committee member and Historic Preservation Committee member Tom Simplot, Westwood Village Neighborhood Association president F.C. Slaght and others.

"These boundaries don't reflect any of the maps that were out there with regard to the central city area. The fight will continue."

—Helen Prier, director, Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition

community of interest with the downtown core.

"In the new lines, they've even more thrown us out to the side, they're not sure what to do with us. We're there to make the majority-minority for other districts," she observed. "So in essence, the drawing of the lines has everything to do with commonality of interest."

► TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Express your views to your Council member via their phone or e-mail link listed at phoenix.gov/CITYGOV/electidx.htm. Or attend the Dec. 19 Council meeting at which the map may be discussed and voted on.

Prier said the Coalition's maps also offered three majority-minority districts; however the consultant's original analysis of their first "incomplete" map ointed out that it diverged sharply from preserving the cores of existing districts. Prier wondered how well it preserved the core of existing districts to shift many historic districts from Council Districts 4 and 8 to District 7.

"We have no community of interest with the rest of District 7, and we're now completely cut off from the rest of the residential neighborhoods downtown," Prier said. "Is the only criterion the Hispanic vote, and the power block that's concerned with the redevelopment of downtown? It's no secret that [District 8 Councilman-elect] Mike Johnson was sponsored by Jerry Colangelo and Mary Rose Wilcox, and that they well want to keep downtown within their grasp."

"These boundaries are a complete joke—they don't reflect any of the maps that were out there with regard to the central city area," Prier said. "The fight will continue." The recently resurrected possibility of a Cardinals stadium downtown represents exactly the sort of issue on which the historic communities feel they need input.

"The ability of central city neighborhoods to have some sort of direct say in what goes on downtown is completely cut off in this map," Prier said.

Clark and Prier said they were still attempting to reach representatives of other groups that had submitted maps in order to come to consensus and present a united point of view.

Just days before the release of the new map, Clark sent out an e-mailed letter to other individuals and groups outlining the Coalition's principles and goals in the redistricting.

They were:

- Districts for the central city should split the historic neighborhoods into no more than two City Council districts.
- The downtown area should be in the same district or districts as the neighborhoods to the east, west and north, which are growing into downtown.
- No City Council district should divide any single historic neighborhood.
- City Council districts should respect school district boundaries.
- There should be at least three majority/minority districts.
- Districts should respect the boundaries of the village planning committees throughout the city.

"I think that we've been very realistic about our strengths and lobbying at this point," Clark said. "The best we can hope for is to be [at the City Council meeting at which a final map is expected to be voted on] in numbers to demonstrate our point of view."

It's a ... map!

» continued from page 6

Rick Naimark, who as executive assistant to the city manager, led the redistricting team's effort, described what the current plan attempts to do with regard to historic district concerns.

"If you look at what people asked for, which is keeping the historic districts together, the bigger message was

said it "depends on how you define downtown."

"Certainly the downtown core is in District 8" in this plan, while the majority of the core historic districts are put in District 7 in this plan. The remainder are in Districts 4 and 8.

"If you add the core historic neighborhoods to either Districts 4 or 8, it harms minority voting strength, but in 7 it doesn't," Naimark said, explaining the result.

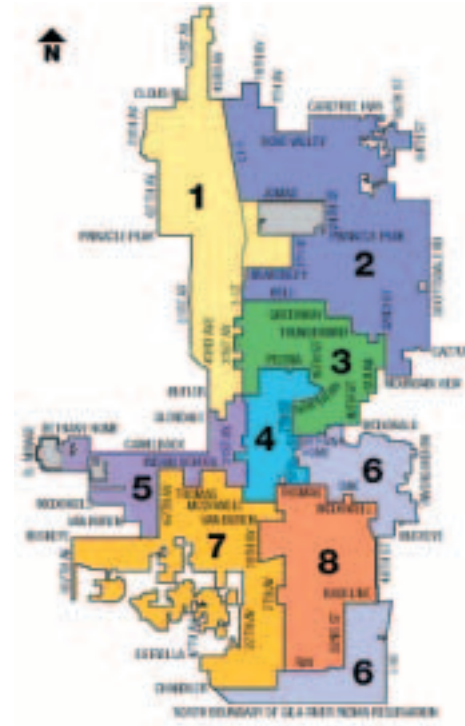
Sissons also addressed the principle, put forth by the Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition, that City Council districts follow the lines of the urban villages as much as possible.

"The village boundaries initially used low-intensity land uses as the edges, so we find them traveling down canals and mountain ranges—which don't tend to be suitable geographic features for Council district edges," Sissons said. "That's not to say that we didn't do as much as we could to con-

sider them—they're political subdivisions worthy of respect, perhaps more so than as communities of interest. They're too large to consider them communities of interest.

"Twenty or some years ago when the city was going to first create districts, one thought was to use the urban villages as the districts," he said. "The immediate counter to that was that the districts as they were created and would continue to be would have unequal pops, so be a very good conformance to the principle and requirement of one person-one vote.

"Where a village boundary should be recognized in a district plan, is when you've got a choice of where to run the district boundary—if you've got a chance to follow the village line, rather than have, say, a half-mile strip of a village in another district—and if it doesn't conflict with other requirements—you'd do that," Sissons explained. As to where in the current plan there is any conformity between district lines and village boundaries, "We can certainly say that there was very little commonality in shapes when we started the process," Sissons said. "To some degree a portion of the new District 4 is somewhat coincident with Encanto Village.



SOURCE: CITY OF PHOENIX

Current Council district map faces countdown to mootness.

In my analysis of one of the plans, submitted by Joan Kelchner, I noted that she'd done a very good job of aligning district boundaries with urban village boundaries. However, in doing so, she created population variances that were larger than our requirement."

"If you add the core historic neighborhoods to either Districts 4 or 8, it harms minority voting strength, but in 7 it doesn't."

—Rick Naimark, executive assistant to the city manager

to divide them up less than you do now, and I think that goal was achieved," Naimark said.

Responding to the point of some neighborhood leaders that the core historic residential areas for a community of interest with downtown, with which they should be kept conjoined, Naimark

It was like 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'

Neighborhood leaders take country club confab as sign that developers—well, that they really care

» continued from Page One

come with the job, so life can't be all bad for them.

But are they truly the enemy of safe, quiet, family-oriented communities? Of neighborhood character and integrity? Of historic preservation, architectural merit, environmental responsibility and other ethical and aesthetic values?

Perhaps not, judging by the sentiments expressed and spirit in evidence at a Nov. 16 breakfast forum of the Valley Partnership (VP). The forum was organized primarily by the two members of VP's board who make up its outreach committee, Rose Ark of the Pederson Group and Paul Barnes, president of the Neighborhood Coalition of Greater Phoenix. Barnes credited VP executive director Maeve Johnson with lining up many of the speakers.

VP's stated mission and motto is "Advocating Responsible Development for the Commercial, Industrial and Master Planned Community Real Estate Development Industry." Being that wordy, one hopes they puts they money where they mouths is.

And they profess to. In his remarks at the forum, Jim Pederson, state Democratic Party chairman and principal of the Pederson

Group development firm, related a perhaps telling experience from early in his career. He said he was looking for a viable site for a shopping center and was told to try Goodyear, because he'd be able to "get away with more there."

"That stuck in my craw," Pederson said. "When you walk up to your home or your neighbor's home, you want to feel 'at home.'

"We feel the same should be true of a shopping center," he said, adding, "That philosophy has paid off over the years."

OK. Success proves principle? "Show me the money" and I'll show you a progressive, responsive developer? C'mon. Still, the very occurrence of this forum seemed to display serious-

ness of purpose and sincerity of intent.

Said Moe Stein, a Phoenix architect and chairman of the city's Planning Commission, "Doing things well is good for business, doing things shoddy is not good for anyone's interests.

"The event highlighted partnership issues," he added. "Some parties excluded, among the development community there's a very strong interest in doing things right, and I think we heard that come out of that meeting."

Several presentations and a significant amount of discussion and hand-out materials centered around the topic of

architect, and a development executive.

Finally, city Planning Director David Richert, Planning Commission Chairman Moe Stein, and Pederson spoke on the role of communication throughout the rezoning and development process.

Richert revealed that many of the more egregiously inappropriate projects do not even get to square one. "Developers often meet with me even before the pre-application meeting," Richert said. "I'll talk with them from [the residents'] point of view. Developers don't want to spend money [attempting a project in] a neighborhood without a reasonable chance they will be successful."

Should neighborhoods feel better that they're at least not seeing the worst proposals? (Do I get credit for all the criticisms I *don't* make of how my wife does things?)

Perhaps more to the point, could this mean that some credible projects are being steered away from communities that may be known for having more across-the-board, vocal opposition to almost any new development?

Not necessarily, said Paul Barnes, adding that he's not sure Richert said exactly what he meant to. "We're very active in my homeowners association, in Arcadia, which is a 4-square-mile area," Barnes explained. "It has an overlay, very specific things we're looking for. When a developer touches base with us on something being considered for our area, the planning function tends to make them aware of those things, forewarns them of some of the difficulties.

"We encourage contact—but early contact: 'Don't spend a lot of time and money going down an alley that isn't going to be fruitful.'"

Joan Kelchner, M.D., who formerly



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL BARNES

Paul Barnes, president of the Neighborhood Coalition of Greater Phoenix, endorses the idea of a lot of communication among developers, officials, and neighborhoods.

stipulations in the rezoning process—agreements among developers and all other interested parties that become written conditions in granting the zoning and proceeding with the project.

This segment of the forum featured Margaret Wilson of the City Attorney's Office and a private zoning attorney both offering advice and written materials on how to craft legal and enforceable stipulations. (See box at upper right for a few of the leading dos and don'ts.)

The next section of the forum—falling after the pastries and during the bacon and eggs—focused on development standards, and included remarks by a member of the city's Development Services Department, a landscape

Putting bite behind stipulations' bark

Some recommendations for drawing up enforceable stipulations in rezoning cases, from a handout provided by Margaret Wilson of the City Attorney's Office:

- keep them clear, concrete, specific and measurable (example: avoid: "The R1-18 lots shall be animal-friendly.")
- keep them legal (example: don't seek to prohibit a permitted use in the zoning class, or regulate the content of speech—e.g., by barring country music)
- recognize that CC&Rs and other private contracts are not enforceable by the city

worry that Richert's remarks mean he might be pre-emptively turning any of those projects away.

"I've known David Richert for a long time and his judgment has really been very sound," Kelchner said. "There have been some developments that we never heard about because the developer wanted to do a commercial development in the middle of a neighborhood and he said 'it's never going to work,' and directed them away. But the most controversial end up becoming public, and end up with a lot of compromise on both sides.

"Anything he's short-circuited—and there hasn't been much—were probably totally inappropriate anyway," she said.

Kelchner doesn't think developers are necessarily avoiding midtown areas

because of any perception of seeming implacable opposition mounted by some of their residents. She says Roosevelt works actively to attract and partner with developers on projects that will enhance the community.

However, she said, "Some neighborhoods

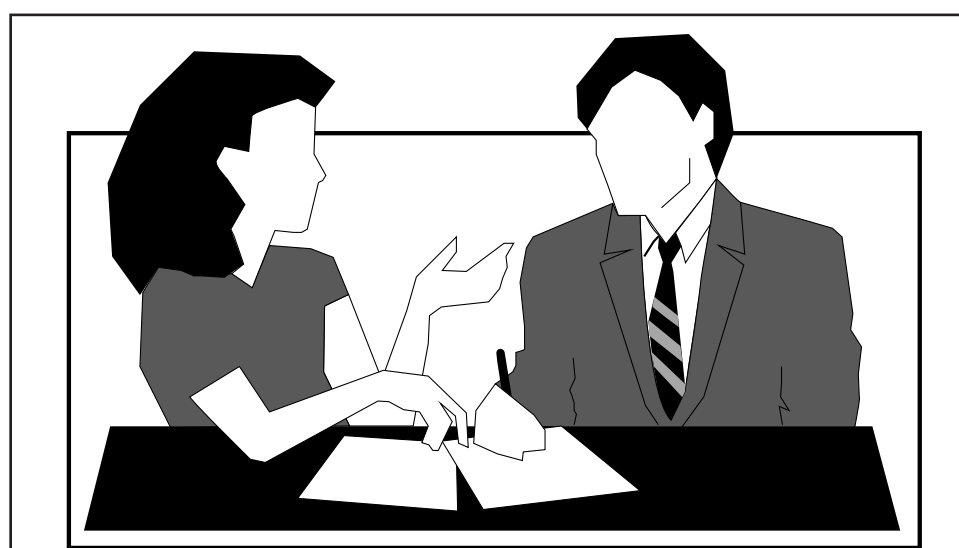
will refuse or oppose anything. Sitting on the planning committee, that always amazed me." In the end, though, she understands it. "When they don't get

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impacted very often, any change is disconcerting to some people.”

Like others at the forum, Barnes stressed that the more—and more personal—communication that occurs throughout the process, the better.

“There are many cases where developers will send out the form letter that’s required; it goes to all required individuals, and they let it go at that,” he said. “A lot of the neighborhoods don’t necessarily pick up the ball and run with it based on that.”

“A more positive contact is to identify who the leaders are in that area and pick up the phone and call them. Otherwise the developer then just goes to the village planning committee and neighbors will be there based on the big white sign that’s out there on the site,” he warned. “We need to encourage that there is responsibility and a need to go that extra mile.

“Some of the developers will do that, some don’t,” he said.

“Overall the value of the forum was

that it was an opportunity to bring a lot of very similar interests together, including the historic neighborhoods and the development industry,” commented Stein. “We heard some things that were very supportive to neighborhoods and historic interests. Sometimes we think those historic and other interests are mutually exclusive, but this event proved otherwise.”

Ruth Ann

Marston, vice chair of the Willo board and chairwoman-elect of the Encanto Village Planning Committee, agreed that the forum rightly recognized—and exemplified—the importance of effective communication with neighborhood leaders.

“The first value of this event was the recognition by Valley Partnership and

the city of the importance of neighborhood leadership,” she said. “As the city gets larger and larger, you can’t get input from every individual resident. You have to rely on the spokespersons—and develop those spokespersons to make the city stronger.”

Marston said she felt that the very venue of the meeting—the Phoenix Country Club—was an intentional statement on the part of VP and the city of Phoenix “about the importance of the meeting itself and the people who were there.”

“Stressing that importance is much

more likely to motivate people to continue their volunteer work, and we need to rely on volunteers,” she said. “There are aspects of the zoning process that people don’t have clearly explained to

Committee members David Dudley, Tracy Gromer, Pat Hendrick, Heidi Kimzey, Andrew Smigielski and Chair Richard Kamps voted to grant the rezoning; Clark, Marston and Simplot voted against.

MARSTON TO CHAIR ENCANTO PLANNING, DUDLEY TAKES PLACE AS VICE-CHAIR

Ruth Ann Marston, Ph.D., will chair the Encanto Village Planning Committee beginning in January, with member David Dudley filling the vice chairmanship left vacant by

Marston’s “promotion.” Each was the sole nominee for their office and was voted in unanimously.

“There are some particular challenges in the central Phoenix villages, and Encanto is certainly no different,” Marston said. “We have the historic presence that needs to be strongly conserved, because there are very few historic buildings in Phoenix—which makes it more imper-

ative that each one be treated as irreplaceable.”

Marston cited the need in zoning cases to recognize and consider the Artwalk and City Council-approved neighborhood plans. She also mentioned the projected high-rise and intense residential uses as well as office uses that will occur along Central Avenue, which may be affected by a special zoning overlay, depending on their nearness to the transit project.

“You have to balance all that against the fact that people have a right to use their property for their own gain and as they want to use it.

Yet private ownership impacts the public good,” Marston said. “So my focus will be to make sure all voices—including those of the people who live and work closest to new projects and properties—will be heard, to make sure competing needs will be balanced as best as we can do it.”

Marston’s term as chairman will coincide with the second year of her second two-year term on the committee.

Preservation office: Staff of life

It takes qualified employees for any program to be effective. Where are the people needed to fulfill HP’s vital mission?

■ DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

Some vacant positions in the city’s Historic Preservation Office may be about to be filled, and it’s happening none too soon for many people, including concerned midtown residents, Historic District leaders and Historic Preservation Commission members—not to mention hard-pressed staff and temps in the HP Office itself.

The lead position in the HP program—the historic preservation officer—has been staffed by Kevin Weight in only an interim capacity for months. Only one of three funded historic planner positions is filled, and the duties associated with the vacant secretarial position have been distributed among Weight and planner Bill Jacobson, an intern, and secretaries from elsewhere in Neighborhood Services who have been rotated into the office.

“It came off very well—I was very enthused by the response of people there, what others had to say,” he said. “I try to accomplish something every day. We accomplished something that day.”

“The officer is the next one to work on—the Historic Preservation Commission and I are working on that right now, haven’t started on initial interviews,” Morrison-Vega said.

HP Commission Chairwoman Susan Shaffer Nahmias and Council member Doug Lingner, who chairs the Council subcommittee that oversees Neighborhood Services, both say they have been apprised of that progress in the HP Office’s staffing status.

“Which leaves the HP officer position—that’s been going on for quite a long time,” said Shaffer Nahmias. “Some of that hemming and hedging and hawing was based on a belief that certain qualities of the candidate might be shaped by some of the comments or suggestions made by the Ad Hoc Committee [reviewing the city’s Historic Preservation Program].”

“The notion of waiting till that report is run through the City Council to see what elements will be adopted—we shouldn’t be waiting to appoint an HP officer till then,” Shaffer Nahmais said. “We’ve been without a permanent person in that key position for a year, and that’s too long.”

Morrison-Vega seemed to concur with the idea that that appointment has been pending on other things. Pointing out that the prospective hire

“We’ve been without a permanent person in that key position for a year, and that’s too long.”

—Susan Shaffer Nahmias, chair, Historic Preservation Commission

few weeks or so,” he said. “We’ve also had interviews on the secretarial position, and hope to also have that filled by first of the year.

Subsequently, Jodie Brown of Cheery Lynn accepted an offer of employment as historic preservation planner. Pending a background check, she was expected to begin her employment with the HP Office on Jan. 7.

“The officer is the next one to work on—the Historic Preservation Commission and I are working on that right now, haven’t started on initial interviews,” Morrison-Vega said.

HP Commission Chairwoman Susan Shaffer Nahmias and Council member Doug Lingner, who chairs the Council subcommittee that oversees Neighborhood Services, both say they have been apprised of that progress in the HP Office’s staffing status.

► PRESERVATION BRIEFS

ST. MARY’S, MOVED EAST, COULD BECOME HOST TO VALLEY YOUTH THEATRE

There’s new light at the end of the tunnel—or along the sunny blocks of Van Buren Street—for St. Mary’s Elementary School. Mediation in recent weeks with the Roman Catholic Diocese yielded only an agreement to allow the school to be moved to another site, with the diocese offering to kick in about \$85,000—its approximate cost to demolish the structure—toward the move. “It was a nice gesture,” said Linda Pollock, vice chair of the Historic Preservation Commission and chairwoman-elect for 2002. She cited the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which became law in 2000, as making it unlikely that a Commission attempt to designate St.

“We’ve been without a permanent person in that key position for a year, and that’s too long.”

Morrison-Vega seemed to concur with the idea that that appointment has been pending on other things. Pointing out that the prospective hire

“We’ve been without a permanent person in that key position for a year, and that’s too long.”

► AT ISSUE

Even as funded positions are filled in the Historic Preservation Office, concerns remain that it is less able to be effective in its mission due to its “burial” in the bureaucracy.

for the planner position is among candidates who had the blessing of the Commission as well as the citizens panel that has helped screen candidates, he then added, “The Commission has probably been reviewing anything that they can get their hands on. They reviewed all the staff, including the planner candidates, and are still doing so.

“We’re trying to move along with [identifying a permanent HP officer] as well,” he said. “It is a very important position.”

Referring to the Ad Hoc Committee and its recently released suggestions for improving the HP program and process, “One they raised was moving the function itself. That’s a very interesting additional aspect of the situation for us to deal with,” Morrison-Vega said.

Shaffer Nahmias acknowledges the impact—unintended—that her panel

continued on following page ►

Mary’s a Historic Landmark would survive a costly legal challenge.

The agreement has created an opportunity to save the structure, as Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) along with Jon Kitchell of Kitchell Custom Homes are proposing to move the school to the southeast corner of Van Buren and First Street. “I’m a developer, but I’m appearing before you as a preservationist,” Kitchell said in addressing the Commission at its Dec. 10 meeting. He asked the Commission to commit \$1 million toward an estimated \$2-\$2.5 million required to move the structure to the new site, where negotiations are already under way to purchase the needed land. The Commission unanimously directed city staff to bring an

assessment of financial resources and other information to be shared in an executive session set for 4 p.m. Dec. 17, and set a public meeting for 5 p.m. the same day at which to take possible action on VYT request. It also directed staff to ask the diocese for more time if needed to arrange the move. Kitchell said that with the Commission’s financial commitment, he would go to the public at large for the balance of the funds, promising that the unprecedented move of such a massive building would generate a great deal of publicity and response. Bobb Cooper, managing artistic director of VYT, also spoke in support of the request, calling it “A great opportunity and a perfect fit for historic preservation and for (VYT’s) future.”

“I’m a developer, but I’m appearing before you as a preservationist.”

—Jon Kitchell, business development manager, Kitchell Custom Homes

► DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS

PARKING STRUCTURE CONCERNS DON’T DERAIL INS BUILDING REZONING

The entire southeast corner of Monte Vista and Central is now zoned C-2 high-rise, following a 6-3 vote of the Encanto Village Planning Committee to rezone the center of the site from R-5HRI on Dec. 3.

Marilyn Esteves, a Willo board member, spoke against the rezoning for the site—where the Immigration and Naturalization Service is revamping offices, adding a structure and expanding parking. “The problem is that they want to put a parking garage in later,” Esteves said. “They have a right to build buildings, but the parking garage, aesthetically it’s a problem in the Arts District.”

The parking lot is being configured so that bus traffic through the site enters and exits via Central, but nearby resident Matthew Bender’s request to configure the lot to prevent car traffic between the main lot and Monte Vista—which he said would add to traffic on Monte Vista and Third Street—was turned aside. Bruce Small-

man of Phoenix Towers, some of whose previously expressed concerns have since been addressed in stipulations, spoke in support of the rezoning request.

Committee members Ken Clark and Tom Simplot and Vice Chair Ruth Ann Marston also expressed concerns about parking area landscaping, as well as the possibility that an inappropriately tall parking structure might be sought for the site in the future, instead of underground

parking being built in accordance with guidelines for the corridor. Francis Slavin, attorney for the developer, pointed out the current high-rise residential zoning for the center of the site would allow a tall apartment building as is, and that the permitted use under the R-5 as well as the planned use with the C-2 zoning would be “physically impossible” without added parking. He was apparently unable to convince all concerned that the request for P2 zoning on the south part of the site, to be made at a later date, would be for parking built downward instead of more than a couple of levels upward.

“The parking garage, aesthetically it’s a problem in the Arts District.”

—Marilyn Esteves, Willo board member

HP staff deficit

► continued from previous page
and the Ad Hoc Committee may have had on things. Another one of the Ad Hoc Committee's suggestions was to enhance the HP officer's role to emphasize an advocacy role, in comparison to its current largely administrative nature. That enhancement would be difficult with the office's current lean staffing—and position in city government.

"We were discussing upgrading the [HP officer] position in some way," Shaffer Nahmais said. "We discovered we could be facing a very large bureaucratic process in attempting to upgrade the position—facing extending the process and time. We didn't have tons and tons of extra time.

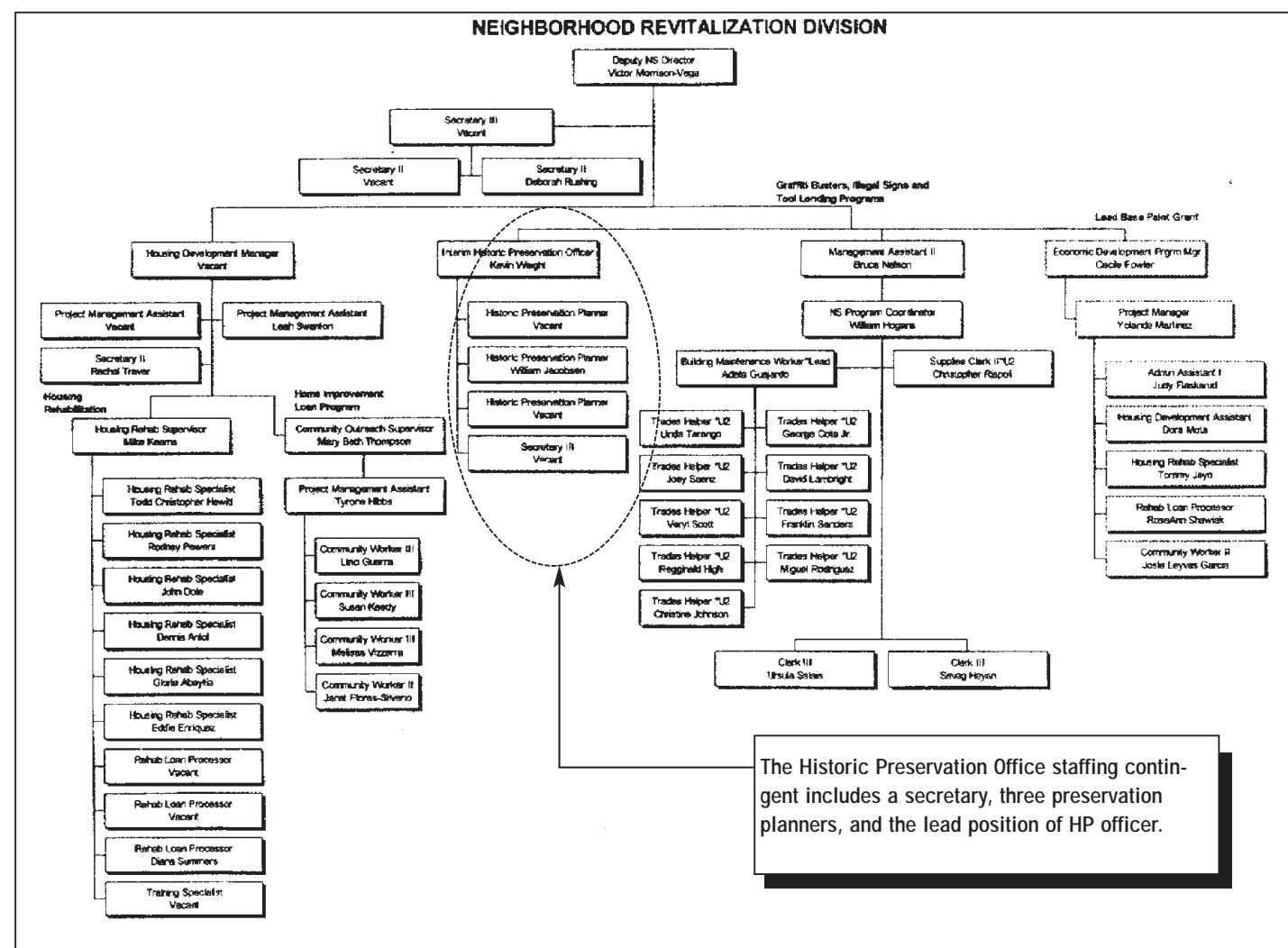
"I worry that systems are such that the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations may cause all sorts of prolonging," she added. "We so badly need to be fully staffed and functioning. We need to get these people here so our work can continue. The interim officer is stretched to the max."

Still, "I personally support the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee," Shaffer Nahmais said. "We're weakened by being buried so low in the bureaucracy, in the management structure."

"The recommendation [to give the HP Office a higher report in the city's management structure] is one that management is undertaking as we speak."

—Doug Lingner, District 7 councilman and chairman,

Housing and Neighborhoods Subcommittee



SOURCE: CITY OF PHOENIX

As this organization chart of the Neighborhood Services Department's Revitalization Division clearly shows, the Historic Preservation Office is notable for having had the highest vacancy rate in the division, with only two of five funded positions filled.

District 7 Councilman Doug Lingner agrees, though he's careful to acknowledge that some matters are between the full Council and the City

Manager's Office to ultimately act on.

"We want to look at the [Ad Hoc Committee] recommendations and sit down and see if we can accomplish them," Lingner said. "The largest single improvement we could get

out of that is the hierarchy discussion—where the HP officer would have a higher report.

"Myself and [District 4 Councilman] Phil Gordon have talked to the city manager. That recommendation is one that management is undertaking as we speak."

Lingner doesn't buy scapegoating the Committee for the understaffing problem, however.

"When you ask a citizens group to go out and do something for you, you can't handcuff them," he said.

So why the "problem" filling all the vacant positions?

"There's a lot of competition for good people," Lingner said. "We've had some good people on the staff, and there are good people out there that we can hire. We've got to make that a priority. The

Ad Hoc Committee's work has given us some direction in that. There were some very interesting ideas in the Committee's report."

Shaffer Nahmais responded to speculation that the understaffing may be part of the close lid Neighborhood Services keeps on the HP Office.

"Intentional foot-dragging' is not the best way to phrase it, but a sense of urgency has been compromised, for example by the Warehouse District stuff that's been going on," she said. "City Council wished to have a sense of some of these things from the Ad Hoc Committee, which was never their charge.

"I'm reluctant to attribute conscious or unconscious motivation, but many things have gotten in the way of assertive forward progress," she said.

PRIER COMMITMENT

Historic districts: How 'strict'?

Q My husband and I are thinking of buying a historic home in Phoenix. We live in a gated community in Scottsdale where we have a lot of restrictions on what we can and cannot do to our property. Are there any rules and regulations you have to follow when you live in a Historic District? If so, what are they?

A Often people who own historic homes are concerned about their rights to make changes to their property.

It is no more restrictive, and often less restrictive, to live in a historic district than in a subdivision with CC&Rs.

Fortunately, when you move into a historic district, you are not presented

with a large volume covering rules and regulations like the conditions, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs) of many subdivisions. However, when you make the decision to live in a historic home you become the steward of that home. These wonderful homes have stood for many years before us and will be there many years after we move on—and there are guidelines for homeowners to follow.

Q What is the purpose of these guidelines and where do they come from?

A Their primary purpose is to preserve the historic integrity of historic properties. The guidelines ensure that any changes made to a historic property do not negatively affect its historic integrity. These guidelines only extend to the exterior of the property. The focus is to preserve the visual qualities of the historic neighborhood. Each home is a part of the fabric and history of that neighborhood and should be preserved.

From strictly a lay point of view, having rules and guidelines to protect historic properties is a good thing. Most people buy in these communities because of the uniqueness of the homes and the old-world feeling of the neighborhoods. Why would we want to destroy the very

things that make historic neighborhoods so attractive to live in? Well, most of us wouldn't knowingly do that. However, some homeowners, in their efforts to bring modern conveniences to these older homes also bring "today's fashions" as well and in doing so destroy or impair their historic integrity.

To prevent this type of thing from happening to the homes, the Phoenix Historic Preservation Office (PHPO) established design guidelines for properties and historic districts to preserve their historic character. These guidelines were created according to the unique styles, construction materials, codes, etc. of the historic homes in this area and at the same time closely follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

For instance, the guidelines for Phoenix are necessarily different to the guidelines for historic homes in Boston. These design guidelines require a property owner to apply for a "certificate of appropriateness" from the PHPO before a permit can be issued. In this way prospective changes can be monitored and historic integrity of the home can be preserved.

The best reference you can have is a book published by the PHPO called *Historic Homes of Phoenix: An Architectural & Preservation Guide*. It is a must for any historic homeowner it is also a great gift for anyone interested in historic preservation in Phoenix. (If you wish to purchase one of these books, they are \$15 plus postage. Please e-mail me for your copy or visit or call the PHPO (261-8699, 200 W. Washington, 9th Floor.)

I can also recommend attending one of my seminars on "Historic Preservation in Phoenix" or "How to Rehabilitate a Historic Home." (See the Calendar section, page 23, for the upcoming schedule.)

Helen Prier is a longtime resident of F.Q. Story Historic District and co-founder and director of the Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition. E-mail questions for this column to her at helen@midtownmessenger.com.



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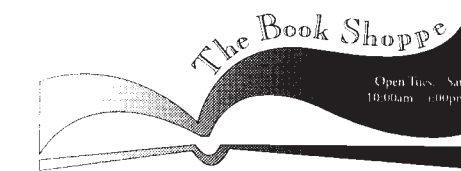
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*Step into a bit of local history ...
and 'danke schoen'!*

MacAlpine Coffee Shoppe and Soda Fountain, established in 1928, remains just like the soda fountains and drugstores once found all along Route 66. It harks from a time when you could call someone a jerk without precipitating a fight—a soda jerk, that is. Monica and Cary Heizenrader are the new owners of the joint where Wayne Newton was reportedly “discovered.” Joan Ganz Cooney, one of the creators of “Sesame Street,” also reputedly used to hang out here with her friends during her days at North High School. (“Sesame Street” as “historic”—that dates us, eh?) The Heizenraders open MacAlpine’s for business Monday through Saturday from 11-3, with plans to open at additional times as business dictates. It’s located at 2303 N. Seventh St., on the northeast corner of Oak. Call (602) 262-5545.

► LET US KNOW

The Midtown Messenger welcomes announcements of business start-ups, relocations, expansions, and changes of ownership or management.

Send releases to P.O. Box 36241, Phoenix, 85067; fax to 257-4430; or e-mail to biz@midtownmessenger.com (e-mail preferred, with release attached as a Word or text document.)

The Messenger reserves the right to edit copy and determine the format of announcements or articles. Please include contact name and number for follow-up questions or an interview.



'Beauty in the heart of the city'

Located in the rehabilitated William Edward Cavness House at 606 N. Fourth Ave. (at Fillmore), Tera's Garden held its grand opening on Saturday, Dec. 1. It's a nursery, coffee bar, and garden gift shop all in one. At right, owners Tera and Gary Vessels and their daughter Kirsten. Call (602) 253-4744.



AROUND THE HOUSE

Yard is in a serious rut

Q In April, I bought a lovely historic home which has flood irrigation. My front yard is covered with undesirable spreading weeds, mixed with a little Bermuda grass and dichondra. To make matters worse, this past summer, pool contractors cut deep ruts through the front yard with their heavy equipment. Now my yard is uneven, packed down and baked dry, and covered with these weeds. What can I do, short of killing with chemicals and starting over?

— GREG, WOODLEA DISTRICT

A Well, Greg, I'm about 90 percent sure that those spreading weeds in your yard are spurge. Those pesky devils grow... well... like weeds. They root and seed as they creep along. It may sound drastic, but the best way to control them is with chemical application, such as Ortho Weed B-Gon or any similar lawn weed control. Be careful not to spray any desirable plants, such as bushes or flowers, as damage or kill-off may result. It is, however, perfectly safe for lawns. Just follow the directions.

The best time to apply is when daytime temperatures are between 70 and 85 degrees. Once we get to triple digits, most “for lawn” weed killers will also affect your grass. So, spring and fall are the best and most recommended times to apply. You may use them now, but with the cool weather, results will be very slow. You can also use a non-selective herbicide, such as Roundup, but as the description suggests, it will kill anything it is sprayed on, so be careful on windy days as overspray will damage desirables.

All weeds start as seeds, blown in from everywhere, so to stop them before they can take root, I suggest using a pre-emergent. Once in the springtime and once in the fall. A pre-emergent prevents seeds (any seeds) from germinating (which, alas, in my case is not an option because it also prevents my wildflowers from germinating).

As far as your front yard goes, I suggest getting a truckload of manure or mulch from a local yard, rent a roto-tiller and work it in. The soil in this area tends to be made up of two things: sand, which is good because it allows drainage, and clay, with its bad because it compacts and keeps air and/or water from plant

roots. Building up the organic content is the best thing you can do for your yard. Considering you don't have much of a lawn to begin with and what you do have has been badly torn up, I can't think of a better way to do it.

Set the tiller to about a 6-inch depth. Any deeper and you'll have to call the utility companies to find out where any pipes or wires are buried (good to know anyway for any future planting). After you have worked the



Tom Handeyside, your Home Exteriors guy

mulch in, rake and level out your yard. Come spring, you can go ahead and either seed or sod your lawn.

From your description, it sounds as if you have a lot of shade. Bermuda needs lots of sun—at least six full hours—to grow. And, of course, in the winter, it goes dormant. If too much shade is the problem, try seeding with more dichondra or fescue (just remember that fescue is a clover and most weed killers will kill out dichondra). In the spring, seed the sunny areas with Bermuda. The two grasses will patch together as their requirements allow.

This sounds like a lot of work—and it is—but believe me, it's worth it. If you start now, you have months of cool weather for the prep work. When I tilled my yard, it was 100 degrees and climbing! But I love yardwork and the extra labor of tilling in organic matter has paid off 1,000-fold.

Tom Handeyside is a landscape artist and all-around do-it-yourselfer who has worked in several nurseries and as a consultant to contractors, architects and plant enthusiasts throughout the Phoenix Metro area. He is also a former recipient of the F.Q. Story District Visual Award, for turning a near dead lot into a lush yard.

On the town

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO EAT IN CENTRAL PHOENIX

DINING OUT

The 'Royale' treatment

Portland's combines 'courtly' technique with creative juxtapositions of top-quality ingredients

BY PORTOBELLA VANDERBILT DIAZ-THIGPEN, DINING OUT CRITIC

It's sophisticated yet unpretentious. It's classy but casual. It's pricey ...

OK, so it's pricey, but it's a good value, because the food is mostly great, sometimes spectacularly inspired.

It's Portland's, and it's not as if it hasn't gotten a boatload of good publicity lately. But here's some more, in the hopes of connecting even more nearby customers with cuisine offered in comfort and hospitality.

The restaurant was opened in early August by a young married couple and the wife's younger brother, together with a friend of the husband's, an accomplished chef. They seem to have spared no expense in outfitting it. It has an ambiance that suggests a private club, but brightened by the walls of windows that look out onto Portland Street and Central Avenue. The silverware is heavy, the china is bright white, and the glassware is sparkling and fine.

Speaking of unpretentious, I got all the way through my dinner thinking the young server was just an exceptionally low-key, poised, knowledgeable, unobtrusively helpful student moonlighter, only to learn later that she is one of the owners—and, as the older sibling, one of the senior part-

ners, at that. That's Michelle Bethge. Then there's husband Dylan, brother Rick DuFon and chef Sam Gutierrez.

Where she was knowledgeable: In explaining that the beef Burgundy in pastry crust uses tenderloin instead of a more typical, more flavorful stewing cut because it's how they find a use for the bits left as they hand-trim their whole tenderloins (certified Angus). In acknowledging that the merlot, atypically, indeed had more body and tannin than the cabernet offering in a sampler of three red wines—partly because "that's just our merlot," but

also because the bottle of cab, open longer, might have oxidized a bit. In fielding the criticism that the spicy wild mushroom soup was, even for this jaded palate, too spicy—admitting that the chef got heavy-handed, but that they hoped the green chili component would mellow overnight (it won't much—not enough to compensate for the rest of the spice, I'm sure).

I started out with a Blue Paddle pilser as I inspected the menus (a Chef's Menu separate from the regular dinner menu offers changing fare, adding to the "creativity of the restaurant and adventure for the guests"). A choice of only four appetizers seemed both limited and unadventurous, however. Still, if the other two are executed like the ones we had—the butter-braised shrimp and the spinach dip—they're probably delicious.

Let me digress here, though, to



MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

Portland's occupies part of an attractive commercial building near upscale residential developments at the corner of Portland Street and Central—just the kind of mix light rail planners had in mind.

ineigh against the concept of spinach dip—in general, and as usually executed: Why on earth a vegetable that is notorious for "How do you tell someone they've got something in their teeth?" jokes and as Popeye's tonic, is full of unpleasant oxalic acid—and has to be cooked, drained and squeezed to be rid that constituent (also ridding it of its nutrients and most of the flavor it once had) and mixed in a sauce, "Florentine style" to be remotely palatable (except fresh and young, either sautéed or as a spinach salad)—should be considered, in the form of dark olive-colored specks and glumps,

► THE GOBLET SYSTEM

Restaurants are visited incognito and are assessed based on a complex weighting system that rates them both against what they seek to accomplish and against absolute, immutable, universal standards of culinary achievement.

☞☞☞☞☞ A toast to your excellency
 ☞☞☞☞☞ Few drops shy of perfection
 ☞☞☞☞☞ Honey, let's eat out
 ☞☞☞☞☞ My 6-year-old could've cooked this
 ☞☞☞☞☞ That's my dinner? I'll cry if I want to (none) Is that a fly in my goblet?

to validly define and "enhance" a dip has always escaped me. Completely. Is it some huge practical joke that has evil supermarket deli managers and motley caterers snickering all the way to the bank, while the consuming public is made a huge fool of?

Anyway, in Portland's hands the spinach dip (accented with red peppers, served hot with fresh tortilla chips) is more self-validating than the usual variety, since it's more spinachy—in fact, it's mostly spinach with a flavorful binder—kind of like ... hmmm ... a Florentine filling. The butter-braised shrimp—four medium-sized regular old shrimp (not "prawns," despite Michelle's pitch)—were perfectly cooked, and arranged on lobster sauce around a little mold-ered mound of finely shredded roasted squash and wild mushrooms. Chef Sam explained that the redness of the sauce was due to its infusion with highly reduced stock of whole lobsters, not sieved lobster roe as I'd speculated; in any case, it was so good I mopped all vestiges of it up with the excellent bread Portland's serves.

Let me add that the wild mushrooms here and in the soup were ten-

continued on following page ►

18 On Arts: Turkey papa, er—Dada

19 Film: Monkeyshines on screen

20 Listings: Everything to do

On the town

Royale treatment

continued from previous page

der and tasty, neither acrid or tough as they can be if more carelessly sourced or handled (though still the duped masses eat them up and clamor for more ...). So it's all the more a shame that the soup's spiciness, as mentioned, blunted the aromatic, woody nuances of the mushrooms. It did also have a rich and luscious "mouth feel"—just

The cous cous beneath the Chilean sea bass glistened like tiny pearls against the lemony-yellow sauce.

the right "thickness" beneath that searing spice. Michelle being busy, Dylan brought it to me make sure it was served piping hot temperature-wise, too—bless him.

A salad ordered instead of an appetizer by one of us gave us an example of Portland's handling of scallops, to be described as "with finesse." This salad also offered another demonstration of the chef's skill with the mandoline, a traditional prep tool that's kind of a cross between a guillotine, a box grater and a modern food processor. It's apparently how they get such finely shredded squash "filaments" as in the shrimp appetizer, and here, the finely cross-hatched sliced cukes go "waffle-cut" several notches better. The field greens were fresh and mild and the recommended dressing was just right.

For dinner, I chose the "fire-seared cowboy pork chop" from the Chef's

Menu. When Michelle asked me how I wanted it done, I extemporized on "Doneness in Pork: Theory and Practice"—believing that a flaccid reddish interior is too rare despite trichina being considered eliminated in this country and killed at 137 degrees F anyway. (In spite of?) this lecture, the chop came exactly as I'd ordered it—"medium: pink and still juicy in the middle." This 12-oz. bone-in whopper was impressively presented: sitting on edge, bone end pointing at me accusingly ("Ha, you didn't

believe I'd be perfect, did you!"), with the Bourbon-apple relish on one side and country red potato mash on the other, a few green beans and snow

peas scattered about to good effect. The mashed potatoes, like the wild mushroom "torta" and the lobster sauce served with the shrimp were all redolent of good butter, so don't bother counting your calories should you venture here.

Others in the party ordered the "rustic beef" with gemelli pasta and, from the Chef's menu again, the Chilean sea bass. This latter was an ample bone-free hunk ("fillet" doesn't do it justice) served on a



MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

Portland's dining rooms are bright, refined, and decorated with local art.



MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

The fancy cut of the cucumbers in Portland's scallop salad *actually makes them taste better!*

bed of cous cous risotto with braised greens and yet another of Sam's butter sauces, this one flavored with citrus and saffron. It made a beautiful presentation, the cous cous glistening like tiny pearls against the lemony-yellow sauce. Eating this dish was a kind of synaesthesia, with the pleasing visual juxtapositions translated directly to the senses of taste and smell and textural feel.

The rustic beef (probably so-named because of the irregular shapes of the pieces of meat) confirmed my doubts about Portland's handling of tenderloin in sauced dishes vs. as filet mignon: The abundant pieces of beef were not just "pan-seared," as the menu described them, but had been cooked past tenderness in this mixture to well-done. Beef, pasta and vegetables served together in a richly flavored reduced cream sauce, this dish was tasty and pretty, but other-

wise nothing special.

Beverages brought from the unique (and non-smoking) bar were of good selection, including martinis that are one bartender's specialty. We tried one, as well as a (domestic) Russian stout, the Bonny Doon riesling (Napa), the Rosenblum zinfandel (California blend), and as part of the sampler, the Castle Rock merlot ((Napa), the Sterling cabernet sauvignon (Central Coast), and the Paringa shiraz (Australia).

After such a feast, we could only countenance one dessert—shared—and coffee. The best part of the apple strudel, we all agree, was the whipped-cream covered ice cream, although the strudel pastry was also excellent: crispy and light. The apples were just par for the course, but *de rigueur*. But the coffee was wonderful ...

Take it from us: Even if you can't shell out for a full meal on a frequent basis, you should visit Portland's regularly just to enjoy it as a surprisingly relaxed place to hang out, have a few drinks, a couple appetizers, a late dessert and coffee. We will be.

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New! Happy Hour 2-6 p.m.




PHOTO BY DAVID TELL

Phoenix poet Olyn Wayne reads his own poetry and that of Robert Zimmerman in front of a sparse audience at the regular Thursday night poetry jam at the Willow House Theater.

Turkey Dada

How do you enact the holiday season in your life? Do you go to parties? Do you buy gifts? Do you eat and drink? Do you consider what it means to be human?

“Huh?”
You think, “It’s just Christmas, man. Don’t mess with it.”
Well, I won’t. I’m messing with Thanksgiving.

That grateful day. I’m not an alien. I did the usual stuff. I shaved while my wife baked pies. We went to my uncle’s house with 40 of my closest relatives and ate ourselves silly. Skipped football and went straight for the nap. I woke in the dark, driven to enlighten myself on myself, as did Van Gogh in order to paint the night with his 12 candled hat. L-tryptophan is a strange bird.

Every Thursday night at the Lucky Dragon, 3316 S. McClintock in Tempe, Brandy Lintecum hosts an open mic poetry jam. This night was special. A plate with huge hunks of cold turkey was set on the bar. We avoided looking at it. Everyone knew it was there, but nobody would touch it. It presided over a wonderful evening of chaos and dada. I was nostalgic for the Dada Cabaret Jules Dindehal hosted at Planet Earth Theater a few years ago. Some of the performers were: Jim McKay, Pete(r), Sapphire (she hosts a slam @ Peoria Main Library on Tuesday nights), Adiba, Laurel Ann, Sarah Carsyn, Olyn Wayne (hosts a slam Thursday nights @ the Willow House), Greg, EuphorIA, GAK, Mcdonald, Justin, Josh, and Alisha.

These poets and performers affirmed the idea that language may be our defining human characteristic. “What does any local band of people living together do in their poetry? Answer: They say who they are. They speak their name in what they do. (How many names of peoples mean simply, the People?) They heal themselves and keep themselves whole. They know who they are.” (Sherman Paul, In Search of the Primitive)

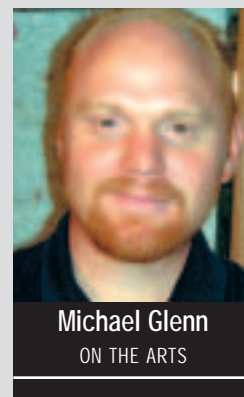
One of my favorite poets is David Antin. In his performances activity and narrative become one. The expression of this confluence is found in the voice. This is where Antin leads the poetic tradition. From literature (Ezra Pound) to the poem as notation or score (Charles Olson, Allen Ginsberg), to David Antin’s “talk poems.” Olson went beyond Pound, locating the music of poetry in the breath, “in the origins of human utterance.” Or as Antin cites Tristan Tzara, “thought is made in the mouth.” Antin’s concerns are with the mind’s relationship to reality through language, and the formation of the self in this process. He sets forth a model of what human beings are as communicative animals. He gives us the importance of stories. A deep understanding of the role talk can play in our lives.

The poets at The Lucky Dragon had some stories to tell. Several referenced 9-11. Jim McKay had a wonderful poem expressing his thanks to the girl that got away for not kissing him. He can well imagine their life together, and it’s not pretty. There were singers in Laurel Ann, Justin, Sarah Carsyn, and Olyn Wayne (whose song, “Blow Me a Kiss” accented the right word). Josh recounted a dream about going down on a chicken, while Pete(r) shared imagery from his dream of pregnant women as spaceships. Several drunks wound up on stage with mics. The unflappable host, Brandy, introduced them as the performing group, Kaos.

The night was uneven, rude, loud, obnoxious and the perfect expression of holiday humanity. Brandy assured me that the normal Thursday open mic is much better. I believe her. But I enjoyed myself. To find out about poetry events call the poetry hotline: (480) 966-7303 or www.missinggirl.com for online poetry listings.

I leave you with Gregory Corso, “The opposite of poetry is hypocrisy, period.”

Michael Glenn, a Fairview Place resident and local artist, director, screenwriter and filmmaker, is also now an arts critic at large for The Midtown Messenger. E-mail him with comments about or ideas for this column at onthearts@midtownmessenger.com.



Michael Glenn
ON THE ARTS

On the town

CINEMA

Silver screen: ‘Monkey’ shines

Local filmmaker takes no chances, creates venue to screen his own work

BY DAVID TELL

If you’re tired of having to head east to see repertory, indie and downright offbeat films, check out central Phoenix’s new cinematic venue: The Monkey Show. Located at 11th Avenue and Grand, with gated parking across the street, The Monkey Show is the result of several artists and musicians coming together to offer a comfortable place to watch weird, “undiscovered” movies.

One in a series of artistic bright spots popping up on Grand Avenue, the theater is located in a freshly remodeled 1940s vintage building. It’s a cozy, 35-seat theater with stadium seating, organic popcorn, red velvet curtains and, for those who could barely be parted from in front of their TV, La-Z-Boy chairs. (The cozy, dim back row, appropriately, is a series of very comfortable, matching love seats.)

Reassuring the stay-at-homes and the wary, “It’s all right to come to Grand Avenue,” said Jeff Cochran, local filmmaker and one of the main forces behind The Monkey Show. “Grand has changed. The artists are moving in and taking over. It’s a perfect place for a funky movie theatre!”

“It’s fun to watch a really strange movie with a small and intimate audience,” Cochran said.

Helping Cochran out, Ryan Ferguson is making certain that the sound in the theater is perfect. Ferguson has had a recording studio on Grand Avenue for several years, and he’s happy to see the new movie theater come to the neighborhood. “It’s like watching movies in a really big living room,” Ferguson said. “The sound sys-

tem is great, and the movies aren’t bad either.”

The theater will specialize in “undiscovered” feature-length movies that are traveling the United States and Canada in an underground distribution system formed by a network of “micro-cinemas.” The Monkey Show is jump-starting its screenings with a brand new movie that just premiered in Phoenix a few weeks ago, “The Dis-



appearance of Baron Dixon.” Cochran said his phone has been ringing from people wanting to know when and where they can see it again.



► TO CHECK IT OUT:

The Monkey Show
1023 Grand Ave.
Open every Friday and Saturday with shows at 8 and 10 p.m. For more information visit monkeyshow.org or call 253-2413
Contact: Jeff Cochran
Coronado Productions
5161 E. Monte Vista
Phoenix, Az. 85008
(602) 370-0807

“It’s been great!” Cochran said. “Everyone seems to be surprised that it’s as good as it is, and I think it’s the perfect movie to open the theater with. Our sound system is first-class and ‘The Disappearance of Baron Dixon’ has an awesome soundtrack.”

The film tells the story of a struggling artist who has spent his entire life telling everyone that aliens are going to take him to another planet

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Beef \$6.25
Shrimp \$6.95
House \$6.50
Vegetables \$4.95

LISTINGS DEC. 2001—JAN. 2002

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OUTINGS

DECEMBER 22

Winter Solstice: Science and Traditions
Find out all there is to know about the connections between the solar and lunar calendars to the holidays of the winter season. Arizona Science Center. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (602) 716-2000

DECEMBER 25

Salvation Army Christmas Dinner
This annual holiday dinner is open to the public with all proceeds going toward the Salvation Army. Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, 225 E. Adams St. 12-2 p.m. (602) 262-7272

DECEMBER 30

Fiesta Bowl Band Competition
Marching bands from across the country will participate in both preliminary and championship competitions. Bank One Ballpark. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 6 p.m.-10 p.m. (480) 784-4444

DECEMBER 31

Midnight Madness 5K Run and Walk
Costumed runners and walkers are the highlight of this family-oriented, alcohol-free event to benefit the Kidney Foundation. Arizona Center. 11:15 p.m. Admission by pledge donation. (480) 345-5752

JANUARY 12

USHRA Monster Jam
Monster trucks tear up the turf in one of the biggest shows of its kind, this year featuring Marvel Comics' Spider-Man and X-Men trucks. Bank One Ballpark. (602) 462-6409

JANUARY 17

Target Stars on Ice
Performances by some of the greatest skaters in the world, including Olympic Champions Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi, Katarina Witt and Ilia Kulik. America West Arena. 7:30 p.m. \$35, \$45, \$55. (602) 379-7800

JANUARY 19

Songwriters Festival
Join or just enjoy this paeen to modern minstrelsy. Mostly acoustic music, guitar, blues, folk. Encanto Park, 15th Ave. & Virginia, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (602) 254-6672

JANUARY 20

Jack Durant's 100th Birthday Party
Well, the flamboyant founder of Durant's won't be here in the flesh, but his biographer, Mabel Leo, will. Toast the honoree and browse Leo's pictures of Jack, his wives and his famous dog Humble. Phoenix City Grille Banquet Room, 4:30-6:30. (602) 266-3001

SHOWS/EXHIBITIONS

DECEMBER 28

Arizona National Stock Show
Arizona's largest livestock show, featuring exhibitors from 27 states and Canada, with over 2,100 head of the nation's best cattle, horses, sheep and swine. Through Jan. 2, 2002. Arizona State Fairgrounds. \$2 (602) 258-8568



DECEMBER 29

2002 Arizona International Auto Show
On display will be import and domestic cars, trucks, model previews and "concept cars." Through Jan. 6, 2002. Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, Halls A-E, 111 N. 3rd St. 10 a.m. Tickets \$8, \$5, \$3. (602) 262-7272

JANUARY 18

33rd Annual World of Wheels
Visit the world's largest hot rod series with more



Hear the guy with the lady's name belt it out on Dec. 30 at America West Arena. (No, not Alice Cooper.)

than 300 cars, street rods, custom motorcycles, trucks and street machines. Through Jan. 20, 2002. Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, Halls A-C, 111 N. 3rd St. 5 p.m. Tickets \$11, \$4. (602) 650-5560

JANUARY 20

Bridal Fashion Debut
A variety of wedding professionals and exhibits will offer advice covering everything from bridal gowns to wedding cakes. Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, Halls D-E, 33 S. 3rd St. 9 a.m. Tickets \$11, \$4. (480) 860-6426

CONCERTS

DECEMBER 21

The Fabulous Thunderbirds
Two big nights, three sets each night in a live recording session engineered by Clarke Riggsby. Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd. \$20. (602) 265-4842

DECEMBER 22

The Phoenix Boys Choir Holiday Concert
Celebrate the sounds of the season with the heavenly voices of the Phoenix Boys Choir, in their annual presentation. Orpheum

Theatre, 203 W. Adams St., 3:30 & 7:30 p.m. (602) 262-7272

Live Music at the Paper Heart

An evening of live performance by Jacknife Nippet, Casualty of Corruption and special guests. Paper Heart Gallery and Studio, 222 N. Fifth Ave. 8 p.m. (602) 262-2020 or www.paperheart.com

DECEMBER 23

Christmas Gospel Concert
Recording artist John Edmonds Christian gives a special one-hour Christmas gospel music concert. Bible Baptist Church, 2320 N. 7th St. 11 a.m. Free. (602) 252-7289

DECEMBER 24

Candlelight Jazz Celebration
Local jazz trio Nuance lend their talents to the celebrations, including congregational singing, spoken word and Scripture readings. Asbury United Methodist Church, 1601 W. Indian School Rd. 7 & 9 p.m. Free. (602) 279-2369

DECEMBER 30

ANDREA BOCELLI

The operatic crossover star who has achieved international success and sold over 14 million records worldwide will bring his amazing voice to the Valley stage. America West Arena. 7:30 p.m. \$55-\$350. (602) 379-7800

DECEMBER 31

Cold Shott & The Hurricane Horns

The hottest blues/soul band in town helps cool down to the new year, with party favors and champagne toasts at midnight. Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd. (602) 265-4842

PSO: New Year's Eve Concert

Ring in the New Year with conductor Robert Moody and a Phoenix tradition featuring holiday favorites and outstanding solo works. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 225 E. Adams St. \$27-\$47. (602) 495-1999

JANUARY 3

PSO Classics: Beethoven's Fifth
Hermann Michael conducts Beethoven's Symphonies no. 4 & 5 and a world premiere by Kenji Bunch, as part of the Beethoven Festival. Through Jan. 4, 2002. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 8 p.m. \$18-\$45. (602) 262-7272

ERIC BURDON

The former lead singer of The Animals, and a blues/rock legend, brings his act to the Valley with classic hits and smooth new compositions. Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd. \$32. (602) 265-4842

JANUARY 4

PSO Classical Connections: Sunshine and Shadow

Neal Gittleman conducts Brahms Hungarian Dances Nos. 1, 3 & 10, then contrasts them with Brahms Symphony No. 2. Orpheum Theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$18-\$45. (602) 262-7272

JANUARY 11

PSO Pops Concert: Dance! Dance! Dance!

Robert Moody conducts this salute to the great dances and dancers of the 20th century, from the Charleston to Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 8 p.m. \$22-\$45. (602) 262-7272

JANUARY 12

Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival

Russian folk music and dancing the way you love it: live musicians playing pulse-gripping tempos contrasted with intimate dialog. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 2 p.m. \$23-\$36. (602) 482-6410

JANUARY 13

PSO Family Concert: Beethoven Lives Upstairs

Robert Moody conducts the classic tale of a young boy who comes to know the feisty Beethoven while working on his 9th Symphony. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 2:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. (602) 262-7272

JANUARY 17

City of Phoenix Sights and Sounds Series: Lisa Marmur

Local singer-songwriter and guitarist Lisa Marmur does her thing. Patriots Square (corner of Washington & Central, Phoenix)



noon-1p.m.

PSO Classics: Beethoven's Nature

Hermann Michael conducts Beethoven's Symphonies No. 6 & 7 and a world premiere by Kevin Puts, as part of the Beethoven Festival. Through Jan. 18, 2002. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 8 p.m. \$18-\$45. (602) 262-7272

JANUARY 19

Downtown Chamber Series: Beethoven Quartets

Join four members of the Phoenix Symphony for music, art and wine in a candlelit downtown warehouse. The program will contrast late and early Beethoven quartets. Limited seating-advance tickets advised. Urbana Productions, 411 S. second St., 8 p.m. (602) 254-1491

JANUARY 20

Trinity and Friends

The ever-popular mix of song and instrumental music, featuring local talent in an informal setting. The Cathedral Center for the Arts, 100 W. Roosevelt St. Admission \$12, \$10 4 p.m. (602) 254-7126

GALLERY/MUSEUM

ONGOING

The Art of Eugene Grigsby
A retrospective exhibition

featuring close to 30 paintings, woodcuts and lithographs from private collections. Through January 27, 2002. Orme Lewis Gallery, Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

Secret World of the Forbidden City: Splendors From China's Imperial Palace

The 15th century Imperial Palace comes alive through precious possessions of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Through April 7, 2002. South Wing, Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

Balenciaga Couture

Masterpieces of French haute couture from the design collection, circa 1930s through the 1960s. Through Feb. 24, 2002. Fashion Design Gallery, Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

The Lost Portraits: Conte Crayon Drawings by Chris Rush

20 portraits from the Arizona artist who creates richly colored drawings of children with mental and physical disabilities. Through Mar. 31, 2002. Graphics Gallery, Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

JANUARY 4

First Friday Artwalk
Over 35 art galleries and studios open their doors to the public, with shuttle-link busses to each of the venues. Downtown Phoenix. 7-10 pm. Free. (602) 256-4577

Tumbleweed Exhibit And Benefit

A show to benefit Tumbleweed, featuring client photography detailing the humorous life and times of a tumbleweed. Through Jan. 11, 2002. Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt. (602) 253-7887 or www.alwunhouse.org

JANUARY 9

Phoenix Art Museum After Hours

A monthly experience of unique art, unusual music, outrageous dance, cool poetry, performance art, food, drink and more. Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. 5:30-9 p.m. Free. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

THEATER

ONGOING

Actors Theatre of Phoenix Presents A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens' seasonal classic is given the annual treatment in this home-grown musical adaptation. Through Dec. 23, 2001. Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St. Times vary. (602) 253-6701

The Nutcracker

Ballet Arizona presents this annual holiday favorite about a nutcracker which comes to life to make dreams come true. Through Dec. 27, 2001. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 225 E. Adams St. \$12-\$40. (602) 381-1096

DECEMBER 22

Arizona Jewish Theatre Company

Presents Play It Again Sam

The quintessential early Woody Allen comedy about an angst-ridden everyman obsessed with Humphrey Bogart movies. Through Jan. 6, 2002. Playhouse On The Park, 1850 N. Central. 8 p.m. (602) 264-0402

JANUARY 2

Arizona Theatre Company Presents My Fair Lady

The romantic musical extravaganza about poor flower peddler Eliza Doolittle, who becomes the Pygmalion of pompous Professor Henry Higgins. Through Jan. 20, 2002. Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St. Times vary. \$25-\$48. (602) 252-8497 or www.aztheatreco.org

And Then There's Bea

The pre-Broadway tour of Bea Arthur's new one-woman show about her life on the stage, in film and as the star of popular TV shows Maude and The Golden Girls. Through Jan. 6, 2002. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 8 p.m. Tickets \$36.50-\$39.50 (602) 262-7272



JANUARY 3

Fraternity
Five men safe within the confines of their exclusive men's club, recount the tragedy of a church bombing in Birmingham Alabama. Through Jan. 20, 2002. Helen K. Mason Center for the Performing Arts, 333 E. Portland. 8 p.m. \$17-\$25. (602) 258-8182

JANUARY 9

Something's Afoot
A hilarious musical mystery that brings together a crazy group of Agatha Christie characters, only to see them murdered in wildly funny ways. Through Jan. 27, 2002. Phoenix Theatre Mainstage, 100 E. McDowell Rd. Times vary. \$28-\$30. (602) 254-2151

FESTIVALS/FAIRS

DECEMBER 26

Holidays at the Heard
Celebrate the holidays with a Southwestern flavor, enjoying traditional and contemporary Native American music, dance and demonstrations. Heard Museum. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$3, \$6, \$7. (602) 252-8840

On the town

DECEMBER 29

31st Annual Fiesta Bowl Parade

Arizona's largest one-day spectator event and one of the nation's finest parades, featuring 15 floats, 20 bands and more. Central Ave. 11 a.m. Free. (480) 350-0911

DECEMBER 31

Holidays at the Heard

Celebrate the holidays with a Southwestern flavor, enjoying traditional and contemporary Native American music, dance and demonstrations. Heard Museum. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$3, \$6, \$7. (602) 252-8840

WORDS

DECEMBER 19

Lunch Bunch Speaker Series: Author Forum

Guest speaker Meg Quinn, of the Tucson Botanical Garden, will present slides to demonstrate just how alive with color the desert can be. Arizona Hall of Fame Museum, 1101 W. Washington St. 12:15-1 pm. Free. (602) 542-4581

JANUARY 8

Movie Tuesdays: High Fashion and Film

Valley film buff Fred Linch and Dennita Sewell, fashion curator at the Phoenix Art Museum, examine the influence of fashion designers on and off screen. Fourth Floor, Burton Barr Central Library. 5:30-7 pm. Free. (602) 262-4636

JANUARY 10

Thursday Lunch Talk: Secret World of the Forbidden City

Dr. Janet Baker explains the exquisite court objects from China's Imperial Palace, represented in the current

museum exhibition. Burton Barr Central Library. 12-1 pm. Free. (602) 262-4636

KID STUFF

ONGOING

Valley Youth Theatre Presents A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail

Celebrate the holidays with everyone's favorite "bear of very little brain" and his friends from the Hundred Acre wood. Through Dec. 22, 2001. Valley Youth Theatre, 525 N. 1st St. Times vary. \$10. (602) 253-8188

Christmas at Lost Canyon

Set in Arizona's historical past, little Sally Johnson wants her Christmas to be perfect, but things don't seem to be working out that way. Through Dec. 23, 2001. Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W. Latham St. Times vary. \$5-\$7. (602) 262-2050 or www.azpuppets.org

DECEMBER 22

Celebrate the Winter Solstice

A program for ages 5-11, with stories about the natural world and hands-on activities including the creation of a winter bird feast and a costumed parade around the library. Burton Barr Central Library. 2-3 p.m. Free. (602) 262-6625

DECEMBER 26

Cinderella

The classic tale which teaches us that all will be fine so long as you have hope in your heart, mice in the cellar and a fairy godmother to pull it all together. Through Jan. 6, 2002. Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W. Latham St. Times vary. \$5-\$7. (602) 262-2050 or www.azpuppets.org

Winter Break Fun

Hands-on activities and fun demonstrations with a seasonal theme will be offered for those who can't get enough of the holidays. Arizona Science Center. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (602) 716-2000

JANUARY 1

Over the Waves

Marianne Olson's novel, *Over the Waves*, will be on display in the Center for Children's Literature, Children's Department. Burton Barr Central Library. Free. (602) 262-4636

JANUARY 18

Valley Youth Theatre Presents The Princess and the Pea

Can a single legume really determine nobility? Find out in this charming adaptation of the classic fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Through Feb. 3, 2002. Valley Youth Theatre, 525 N. 1st St. Times vary. \$10. (602) 253-8188

JANUARY 20

Phoenix Art Museum Family Sunday

A participatory experience, featuring art-making activities and related performances, designed for children ages 5-12 and their adult companions. Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

CLUBS

Char's Has the Blues

4631 N. 7th Ave. (602) 230-0205

Chez Nous Cocktail Lounge

Wed thru Sun: Roscoe Taylor & Co. 675 W. Indian School Rd. (602) 266-7372

Cheyenne Cattle Co.

DJ playing top-40 country. 455 N. 3rd St. (602) 253-6225

Club Central

DJ and Dance music. 3121 N. Third Ave. (602) 200-8121

Emerald Lounge

Tue: Trash Lounge. Wed: Hypno-Twists. 1514 N. 7th Ave. (602) 256-9705

Full House

3 W. Monroe St. (602) 258-1046

The Matador

Sat: Pan-Americana Orchestra. 125 E. Adams. (602) 254-7563

Mesquite Lounge

Tue: Ladies night. Fri and Sat: Midnight Ride. 16th St. & Indian School Rd. (602) 604-0931

Newman's Lounge

25 E. Monroe St. (602) 257-9215

Orbit Restaurant & Jazz Club

Sun: Jazz brunch 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 40 E. Camelback Rd. (602) 265-2354

Rhythm Room

Phoenix Roots & Blues concert club. Closed Mondays. 1019 E. Indian School Rd. (602) 265-4842

Seamus McCaffrey Irish Pub

Wed thru Sat: Irish folk music. 18 W. Monroe St. (602) 253-6081

Steve's Greenhouse Grill

Thu thru Sat: Live Blues & Jazz. 139 E. Adams St. (602) 234-1707

Warsaw Wally's

Tue & Sun: Blues jam with the 88's. 2547 E. Indian School Rd. (602) 955-0881

Willow House

Poetry and acoustic sets nightly. Mon: Open mike night. 149 W. McDowell Rd. (602) 252-0272



Code Three Tavern

Mon: Acoustic open mike night. Tue: Stefan Wilde and friends and open jam. Sun: Open blues jam. 2418 E. Thomas Rd. (602) 955-9834

Dan Ryan's

Fri: Karen Scott Jazz Band. 2121 E. Highland. (602) 957-3131

Durant's

2611 N. Central Ave. (602) 264-5967

El Capri

Fri thru Sun: Live music. 2135 E. Van Buren. (602) 244-0551

El Presidente Night Club

Fri and Sat: Cumbia and norteno music. 1922 E. Van Buren.

Hard Rock Cafe

Sat: Hip-hop night. 2621 E. Camelback Rd. (602) 956-3669

Hidden House

Sat: Live music and free pool. Wed: Steak night. 607 W. Osborne Rd. (602) 266-1763

King Coctail Lounge

434 N. Central Ave. (602) 495-1597

Knuckleheads Comedy Club

455 N. 3rd St. (602) 256-2307

La Casa de Mariachi

Thu: Salsa night. 1420 N. 24th St. (602) 275-8565

Little Ditty's

25 E. Monroe St. (602) 252-2502

On the town

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MIDTOWN

Phoenix City Council Meetings

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2001, Dec. 5 and 12, 3 p.m., City Council Chambers, 200 West Jefferson

Check the agenda online the Friday before each meeting (and the Tuesday before, for additions) for notice of items of interest to Midtown residents.

Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition

(Generally, 3rd Thursdays) Encanto Boathouse, 2605 N. 15th Ave. No December meeting. January meeting: Jan 17th

"Living With History" Seminars

Free and open to all. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Generally held at Shakerford House, SW corner of Central and Culver (3 streets S of McDowell) Call Helen Prier to confirm location and for any other information, 256-7009.

► Historic Preservation in Phoenix

Nov. 29, Jan. 10 and 29th.

For anyone who: Owns a historic home; Is thinking of buying a historic home; Is interested in historic preservation. How the historic preservation movement started in Phoenix. Historic districts and how they gain historic designation. What you need to know before you buy a historic home. Programs available to historic home owners, grants, property tax reductions, what it is like to live in a historic home and much more

► How to Rehabilitate a Historic Home

Part 1 - Jan. 15; Part 2 - Jan. 22.

A two-part program.

Part 1 - For anyone who owns or might buy a historic home. Rehab guidelines from the Phoenix Historic Preservation Office; restoration grants; how to research your historic home, resources available, publications and more.

Part 2 - For historic homeowners with upcoming projects. Prior attend of Part 1 recommended. Bring photos or drawings/plans of any specific rehab project or proposed addition to get pertinent advice and guidance on resources for your projects.

F.Q. STORY

Christmas Home Tour

Dec. 1, 6 p.m. - 9.; Dec. 2, 11 to 5.

Tickets \$10 (\$1 off with a canned food donation), on sale at 9th Ave. and Willetta. Ten wonderful historic homes decorated for the season. Arts and Crafts booths, food and entertainment, including carolers. Bring the family.

Classifieds

Miscellaneous for Sale

COMIC BOOKS I want to buy comic books and related items. Call 480-947-5309

Savannah Monitor Lizard with LARGE cage, heat rock, lamps. Docile, full grown. \$200 OBO (602) 462-5675

Museum-exhibit-quality cage Suitable for reptiles, birds. About 4' by 5' by 2'. \$175 OBO (602) 462-5675

Offers & Business Opportunities

EARN GREAT INCOME! Sell advertising for *The Midtown Messenger*. 30% commission on all receipts. Unlimited opportunity. Experience preferred, but training is offered. Call 462-5675, ask for David.

Do you want to be healthy? All natural "miracle" products. This is a chance you don't want to miss. Go to www.angelfire.com/biz6/healthy4ever for more info.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS! E-mail us your ads and get 'em for free. (Free up to five lines, \$2 a line after that, or \$2 a line if faxed or mailed.) Up to three free ads per source, call or e-mail again to re-run. E-mail: classies@midtownmessenger.com. Fax: 462-5675. Mail: Midtown Messenger, P.O. Box 36241, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Include name and phone number.

Entertainment

Phoenix AZ Noise event featuring OmnmO. http://anomalocules.tripod.com Sound-Art / Jazz-ambient: www.mp3.com/artnoise

Support local Phoenix artband! Improv jazz, spoken word, tribal sweat lounge, and more ... www.mp3.com/feetus Listen for free, buy a CD! Tune in and enjoy!

Arizona Avantgarde — Support local outsider art, musical expression, anomalies. www.mp3.com/azavantgarde www.mp3.com/tribop Tune-in all day.

Employment

REPORTER Free-lance. Clear thinker, courteous interviewer, effective writer. Must be interested in hard news, public policy, be willing to understand the issues, learn the facts, get to know the people, attend meetings, meet deadlines. Lots of work for little pay—but get a byline and make a difference. J-school student or grad preferred. Potential full-time opportunity. Send samples/clips, published or not (unedited drafts too) to D. Tell, P.O. Box 36241, Phoenix, AZ 85067. Send photocopies or expendable originals—clips not be returned without SASE. No phone calls.

PRODUCTION ARTIST Must know Quark Inside and out. Design ads, do scanning, layout, all pre-production work. Part time days or evenings, downtown area. E-mail resume as plain text in message or MS Word attachment: midtown@midtownmessenger.com

EARN GREAT INCOME! Sell advertising for *The Midtown Messenger*. 30% commission on all receipts. Unlimited opportunity. Experience preferred, but training is offered. Call 462-5675, ask for David.

Rentals

ARTIST'S LOFT 1,000 square feet, 20' X 50' with a storefront, 10' high ceilings, work and gallery space (not live space) next door to the 1920s vintage soda fountain known as McAlpines on 7th Street and Oak. \$650 a month. If interested, contact the building (& McAlpines) new owner, Monica at 602-717-8469 (days)