

THE Midtown Messenger

NEWS FOR PHOENIX'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS VOL. 1 NO. 2



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film mecca? PAGE 16

SW bites the dust

Embattled store not among those being sold to Basha's

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

It was beginning to look like *deja vu* all over again. A supermarket at the corner of Seventh Street and McDowell closing, possibly to be scooped up by another grocery chain with an eye to serving the nearby Hispanic clientele.

That's what corporate information officer Mimi Meredith said is behind Basha's Food City division's tentative agreement to pick up most of the stores made available by Southwest Supermarkets' Nov. 5 bankruptcy filing.

Basha's move is being made "Primarily

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MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

Barely 6 months after it opened amid vocal opposition, this SW Desert Market abruptly closed. Shortly afterward, its parent company, Southwest Supermarkets, filed for bankruptcy protection. It has a tentative agreement to sell many of its stores to Basha's, based in Chandler, but at press time, this store was said not to be among the sites being sold.



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING. COURTESY OF THE MASHBURN COS.

A view of the Central Street-facing elevation shows a design that evolved in response to city and resident concerns, to reflect the materials and geometries of surrounding buildings such as the Phoenix Art Museum.

Osco at a crossroads

At 'city's gateway'—and subject of disparate views

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

The war to prevent the building of an Osco Drug across from the Phoenix Art Museum has turned into skirmishes and sorties over what it will look like and how it will operate.

Now that it's clear that the developer, The Mashburn Companies, is moving ahead with construction of an Osco on the site, a loosely organized group of individuals is mounting a petition drive to oppose a liquor license for the store.

However, that won't stop the development, according to Lee Mashburn.

"I wasn't aware of the petition drive, but it doesn't surprise me," he said. "However, Osco's taken a position 'it is what it is'; if they don't get the liquor license now, they'll keep trying in six months or a year till they do. That's not on our side of the table."

That's OK with Roberta Hancock, who says the opposition to the liquor license is not a last-ditch tactic to stop the development, but a genuine effort to protect the areas surrounding the site from any additional transient, substance-abusing foot traffic.

Hancock, a local artisan residing in the Story neighborhood and the business advocate for the Phoenix Arts District's Community Development Corporation, is cautious about coming off inflexibly opposed to the current development plans for the southeast corner of Central and McDowell. She says she works with other development-oriented organizations, including the Phoenix Community Alliance (PCA), and so would never take a hard line against economic development *per se*. That's not to say she likes the Osco prospect.

"We've never supported a 'neighborhood service' use—it's not the best use" of this property, Hancock insisted. "I can't speak for PCA, and I can't turn a blind eye to the development, but I can say emphatically 'no' to the liquor license.

"It's too close to Cancer Survivor's Park, Hance Park, to the schools and

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Movin' on up—and out—from underneath?

Committee urges having Historic Preservation Office report to a deputy city manager. We second that, emphatically

Over the past year, an Ad Hoc Committee formed by the city manager reviewed the Historic Preservation program for Phoenix. Last month, it submitted a report full of suggested improvements. They all merit serious study and many if not all of them should be adopted. But if I had to choose which of the recommendations I consider the most important, it would be the one that urges elevating the Historic Preservation Office within the city's organizational structure.



Helen Prier
GUEST COLUMNIST

Citizens in the past 16 years have sent a strong message that Historic Preservation is very important to this city. In 1986 the voters passed a \$15 million bond and again in September of this year passed another \$16 million bond for Historic Preservation.

However, over the past 3 years the Phoenix Historic Preservation Office has suffered from a virtual revolving door of staff, most notably in the top position of historic preservation officer.

The staff has been allowed to dwindle to less than half the numbers they have had in the past. They also face an escalation of workload from an ever-increasing number of historic neighborhoods, buildings and parks.

Back in 1986 we had two Historic Districts—Roosevelt and Coronado—totaling 1,400 properties, with 15 additional buildings around the city designated as historic. Fifteen years later, we have 24 Historic Districts representing

6,000 properties, as well as 111 individual buildings, parks and other historic sites. And more areas and structures potentially worthy of historic designation are already seeking designation or eventually will.

While the Historic Preservation Office is struggling just to keep their heads above water, urban living is taking off in Phoenix. An upsurge in urban renewal is a struggle for any city to cope with, and Phoenix is no exception. New loft and condo developments have popped up to meet the demand and plenty more are planned for downtown. Along with these new residences we see a flow of new businesses coming downtown to meet the demand.

Unfortunately, these new developments are placing many of our historic neighborhoods and buildings at risk as the demand for prime real estate has escalated.

However, since Historic Preservation is set up as a program within the Neighborhood Services Department

"An upsurge in urban renewal is a struggle for any city to cope with."

and not as its own department, its effectiveness is greatly diluted. Decisions and recommendations made by the Historic Preservation Commission, which consists of citizens who are knowledgeable about and dedicated to historic preservation, are filtered through several layers of bureaucracy before reaching City Council. In this filtering process, other priorities come into play even before the Council—which is there to balance competing

interests and priorities—gets its shot at the commission's positions.

This isn't right. Look at the Arts Commission, by comparison. It enjoys a much higher visibility, and an independent department with a director who answers directly to a deputy city manager. That's pretty much what the Ad Hoc Committee report recommends for the Historic Preservation Office and program. Its mission and importance are on a par with the arts program's. So, why the disparity in its organizational position and clout? Let's fix this.

Recently, the City of Phoenix launched a national search for a Preservation Officer to head up the Historic Preservation Office. This person has to face the pressures of this downtown resurgence and somehow meet the demands of historic preservation goals. It is imperative we have someone at the helm who has the influence and stature to work effectively with city leaders, developers and property owners to protect our heritage.

Whoever this "superhero" ends up being, they will have a hard enough job even if not hampered in their effectiveness as they are now.

One thing is clear: No matter whether you are in the public or private sector, the closer you are to the top, the more influence you have and thus the more effective you are.

Our community has fought too long and too hard to preserve their neighborhoods to see the effort undermined by bureaucracy and unable to do its increasingly critical job. With the pressures we are facing, we must have a strong and effective advocate in the Historic Preservation Office, or our

task will be that much harder, if not impossible.

Helen Prier is co-founder of the Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition and sits on a panel reviewing staff candidates for the city's Historic Preservation Office.

THE Midtown Messenger

News for Phoenix's
Historic Neighborhoods

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Published monthly through 2001, biweekly sometime in 2002. *The Midtown Messenger* will print its last issue for 2001 on Dec. 17. Advertising closing date is the prior Tuesday, with materials due by noon the Wednesday before printing (Dec.12). Send digital files to: midtown@midtownmessenger.com All other submissions and correspondence may be sent to: editor@midtownmessenger.com 462-5675 (fax) or P.O. Box 36241, Phoenix, AZ 85067

SW epic punctuated by a big '?'

Residents: We'd mount same fight again if needed

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ly to continue service to those neighborhoods," Meredith said. "The concept of the neighborhood supermarket is fundamental to the core of Basha's corporate philosophy. And Southwest serves the same niche that we do through our Food City stores, so it was an opportunity for us—in keeping with the goal of continuing service to the neighborhoods and the continuation of jobs for people employed there."

However, nothing that's going on—or being said—means there's about to be an instant replay of the wrangling over the grocery site that was the subject of so much furor this year. The tentative purchase agreement does not include the McDowell and Seventh Street store, Meredith said.

That leaves up in the air what will happen there now. The store closed on Sunday, Oct. 28, leaving the midtown area with one fewer supermarkets and many employees without jobs.

Southwest president Tony Gioia and store manager Michael Affronti refused repeated inquiries to discuss what hap-

pened—and what's happening next.

However, Affronti remarked in passing that Southwest had miscalculated and overextended itself in picking up seven former ABCO properties and upgrading several sites under the SW Desert Market banner.

Jim Pack, a principal of Advanced Purchasing Systems LLC—which owns four supermarkets also operating under ABCO's former "Desert Market" trademark but called Premier Desert Market—says he has no plans to acquire any of the otherwise unspoken-for Southwest sites.

While it was just the McDowell store that was known to be closing, some nearby residents suggested blaming—or crediting—neighborhood opposition to the Southwest takeover of the store last spring for its failure. But even that would have been far-fetched—and ill-advised, said Trace Vencenza, the Roosevelt neighborhood leader whose efforts helped get Southwest to agree to a "Community Pledge" governing how the store would operate, in response to neighborhood concerns.

"I don't think that that would be appropriate—to say that we helped bring this about," Vencenza said. "There was no organized boycott. There were a few people who refused to shop there over their opposition to what they saw as Southwest's business practice of taking advantage of the immigrant community."

The Southwest store's closing also raised some slight hope of persuading Osco Drug's parent company Albertsons to relocate its planned store there from the current Central and McDowell siting.

"I would like to see that happen," Vencenza said. "But the only way to get that to happen would be to have some serious conversations with some folks from Osco and Albertsons—not just the developer. This is a serious issue."

When it the ABCO store that was on the block, she said, "Some of the grocery stores like Fry's and Basha's said it was too small."

"[Re-siting the Osco is] probably not a possibility," Mashburn said. "We've already got the commitment; the site plan, etc. are under way—to stop in midstream is not very practical."

In addition, he said, the site is currently configured as a grocery store. "I don't know how big it is," Mashburn said. "If Albertsons went there it would be a drug and grocery combination, and I don't think it's big enough for that."

Had a Food City been slated to open up there—or if Basha's plans change to include siting one there—residents remain poised to mount the same fight as last time for a market that serves the diverse clientele they believe lives near and would shop at the store.

"When we did the Southwest thing, Kendra [Vermeer] was instrumental in getting on the Internet and getting all the health scores," said Vencenza. "And even at the time, Food City was only a smidgen above Southwest in their scores."

"If that's what they plan to bring in, we're going to have to use the same course that we used with Southwest," Vencenza said. "Try to negotiate and mediate the best deal we can for the city. If it's going to be a Food City, it's going to have some of the same stipulations as we got with Southwest."

Marge McCue, a longtime Fairview Place resident, several years ago organized a neighborhoods forum with Basha's owner Eddie Basha in what she says was an unsuccessful attempt to get him to improve operations at the Seventh Avenue and Osborn Basha's. She agreed with Vencenza.

"A lot of effort has taken place on the part of folks living in the historic neighborhoods and general downtown area to restore the housing and the appearance of downtown," said McCue. "Families have worked hard to do this, using sweat equity as well as some discretionary income. Yet some merchants don't seem to understand what's gone into this effort."

"I would hope for a high quality of service regardless of who comes in there. Cleanliness is a big selling point."

"Given the fact that there is the population equivalent of a small town living in these historic neighborhoods, working to improve the community and effect a renaissance, we would expect that merchants coming in would share that spirit," McCue said.

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It's a 'Yak Attack'

Midtown Phoenix's first Yakety Yak Wireless is now open at 133 W. McDowell Rd. Owner Deb'e Simone brings 7 years of wireless experience to the operation. The store, formerly a residence, has kept a certain appeal that Simone feels is similar to the charm of the popular Willow House Coffee Shop a few doors down. The store offers a wide selection of phones and service plans from providers including VoiceStream, AT&T, Verizon, Qwest and Cricket. The store employs Spanish-speaking staff. The phone number is 252-3351.

LET US NOT TAKE ALL THE CREDIT

Thank you for the article about the Guide to Historic Neighborhoods of Phoenix. The idea for the map originated at a gathering of representatives from 18 historic neighborhoods. That group later became the Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition. At that first meeting individuals from five of

the neighborhoods offered to combine their talents and interests to produce the award-winning map. Because this was a cooperative effort, I believe your article was misleading with regard to leadership. Each of the following members of the map committee assumed a leadership role during various phases of production. These are the folks involved: Mark Jamison, Jeff Lowe—Roosevelt; JoAnn and Chuck Johnson—Willo; Gerry and Marge McCue—Fairview Place; Barry Olek-

seck—Windsor Square; Helen Prier—F.Q. Story. The printing was done courtesy of Arizona Public Service, folding was courtesy of Bowne Co.

That cooperative grassroots spirit is what brought the map into being and gives the historic neighborhoods a real sense of community. To date 30,000 maps have been distributed. A third updated edition is in the works now and will soon be available. To receive a map contact Marge McCue at 253-5579 or Helen Prier at 256-7177.

Congratulations on your first edition.

MARGE McCUE
Resident,
Fairview Place

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

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MESSANGER PHOTOS/DAVID TELL

Business growth may give rise to envy as Willo Baking Co. owner David Lacy expands again, this time across the street from Willo Bread and My Florist Cafe & Bistro. New Urban Art Gallery held its opening Sunday, Nov. 11. It is a co-tenant at 521 W. McDowell along with sculptor Peter Deise, a Fairview Place resident, whose works, as below, adorn the building's front. Above, gallery owner David White stands next to a painting by Mark Vinci, "101-Ten". Call (602) 625-4476 for the gallery, (602) 796-6883 for Deise Sculpture. The gallery will sometimes house catered events. Call Lisa Giungo, general manager of My Florist Cafe, at (602) 955-5507 or (602) 254-0333 for booking information.

Arsenic and Old Lacy



► CORRECTION

A photo cutline in the Oct. 16 Midtown Messenger should have stated that Kendra Vermeer and Lynn McFarland are co-proprietors and partners in Sage Antiques.

Fight Osco-lates

► continued from Page One
churches, New School for the Arts, the library, Phoenix art center, the Art Museum," Hancock said. "We already know, having been in this area, that there are two things that should preclude a liquor license for this location: It already has too high a crime statistic, and it's a high transient inebriate area. There's a lot of substance-abusive traffic in the area. And there's already a proliferation of liquor licenses in the area that support consumer needs. So we don't really need it.

"The potential negative impact of bringing in a Class 9 liquor license is too high a price to pay for this area. We have cultural issues, public safety issues, can't afford a transient population predominating here at the expense of other pedestrian traffic," she said. "The transit stop is going to drive development and a pedestrian environment at this intersection. This is a critical area for the economic development cluster. I don't want to see the Art Museum become an island unto itself just as we're entering an era of pedestrian friendly-transportation."

Concerns Addressed?

While Mashburn isn't party to Osco's liquor license application, he and his client might be hoping they've already addressed the concerns expressed about it by Hancock and others.

Mashburn says that as the site's tenant, Osco will be responsible to him for "certain operating requirements as to what they do with the store, and how they conform to community standards." Beyond that, he said, it's up to the city as to what Osco can and cannot do as it affects the off-premises consumption of alcohol. Mashburn confirmed that Osco has made commitments to him as well as promises to outgoing City Council Member Cody Williams to conduct alcohol sales in a "high quality" manner. This includes refraining from selling wine in smaller than 750 ml. bottles or single containers of wine coolers or beer.

For Hancock, as well as many others—including members of the local law enforcement community—that's not good enough.

A letter signed by Commander Eric Hailey of the Phoenix Police Department's Patrol Operations Bureau cites a number of concerns based on statistics for the two city ZIP codes adjacent to the planned development. Among the statistics: the concentration of liquor-licensed establishments in the two ZIP codes is 5.5 times the city average; the rates of both violent and property crimes are both 3.5 times the average

for all of Phoenix; and drug-related crimes and calls for police services were 4.5 times and 4 times the city average.

As Hancock sees it, Osco's operating agreements with Mashburn and promises to Councilmember Williams might be nice—or good PR—but they don't really count.

"This isn't a personal battle," she said, it's a legal one. And, that so, "In the real course of events, there are no stipulations that can be put on a liquor license that are legally binding. A Class 9 liquor license allows the sale of all packaged liquor, period.

"They're saying they're going to self-police this," Hancock said. "The legal agreement is between the landlord and tenant. They can honor it or not honor it at their own personal discretion or whim, and there is nothing anyone can do about it.

"If you cannot say that the [operating agreement] is part of the license, then that's how we're going to treat it."

Roosevelt neighborhood resident Joan Kelchner isn't sure she agrees with that stance, however—nor that she necessarily accepts the petition drive tactic at face value.

"The group who came up with that several months ago grabbed onto what they thought was a tool that would defeat Osco and would make it go away," she

said. "It's not something that I would use against Osco in this situation. Osco, like Walgreen, has the ability to do a store layout without liquor. So it's not going to make them go away completely—it's a bit of a contrived tool in that sense."

Then, she's not so convinced of the potential nuisance or even crime potential if Osco gets its license, either. "The liquor license that the drugstores tend to have are closer to what supermarkets have, as opposed to convenience stores. I don't think they have the problem with liquor that convenience stores do," Kelchner said.

Whether that means that yet another Class 9 license in a sensitive area is a good thing or whether it's good or bad to try to hamper Osco with a denial of a license, Kelchner is generally accepting of the development itself.

"I've lived downtown since 1984 and have been working on these issues for a long time," she said. "My husband was on the commission that created the Special Policy Plan for the Arts District. The plan's guidelines don't oppose retail, but want it developed with design issues in an urban form.

"Even in cultural areas you do have to

have retail," Kelchner said. "We've lost the retail we had in these areas.

How do we get it back? I am still more worried about losing retail than I am about the Osco by itself," Kelchner added. "I am—have always been—opposed to a free-standing store with a sub-

urban-style parking lot. We sat down with Lee and [Mashburn attorney] Lynne Lagarde and told them that."

'Sees an Urban Vision'

"He sees an urban vision. His problem is that he hasn't been able to get other tenants to go in with him. That's because all of these big national chains have said 'You don't have enough retail around to attract us, and you don't have enough residents.' That's what he has trouble overcoming," Kelchner said. "That's why our neighborhood has worked really hard at attracting resi-

dential development. You've got to have rooftops to attract retail and retail to get the rooftops, because people won't go there if they can't shop. That's why I've worked hard to

work toward a more urban design for this location."

To some extent, Osco and Mashburn have been "molded," and have undertaken to upgrade and enhance the store's design to fit the urban vision.

But even Kelchner is not satisfied with what they've come up with—yet. "What I am more concerned about is that they plan to put their single entrance at the northeast corner of the building," she said. "That doesn't mesh with the fact that the city will be planning light rail stops with the purpose of encouraging pedestrian activity around them."

Worse, she said, "Osco is planning to put their drive-up window at the southwest corner. You'd have to drive across the light rail. I hope the city keeps hammering on that in the site plan and says that's a nonstarter."

Some of those concerns are being addressed, said Mashburn.

"The design of this project has been an evolution," Mashburn said. "The pharmacy drive-through has been relocated to the parking lot side, the First Street-facing side of the site."

As to the issue of where the entrance to the store is, he said, "In the future,



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING. COURTESY OF THE MASHBURN COS.

An aerial perspective of the site plan shows the building moved to street-side from the middle of the parking lot as it would be in a more suburban configuration. This would allow future development along First Street.

you'll have an urban environment there, but light rail is several years off. You have people driving at this point and they will continue to. We have to serve that need.

"But we acknowledge that site is going to be at one of the major light rail stops," Mashburn added. "Osco is going to do what it feels it needs. But if the traffic is ultimately pedestrian, we could add an entrance. The store is set up so that, ultimately, the entrance could be set up at the northwest corner. In the meantime, there's a colonnade from the street corner to the entrance, so there won't be any way of missing where the entrance is."

As Good As It Gets

"That's as good a compromise as we can get to for now," Mashburn said.

In the meantime, petitions opposing the liquor license are being circulated, and a request for proposals (RFP) for development of the site that would be more in keeping with the Arts District Policy Plan has been published by the city's Community and Economic Development Department (CED).

"Based on direction from the City Council, we are seeking proposals for mixed-use, more intense—and more transit-oriented—development on the site—not just an OSKO," said Terri Taylor Lima, economic development program manager in CED.

The RFP was published Nov. 9 and 16 in the Arizona Republic, as well as in the Arizona Informant and Prensa Hispana. At press time, CED was also obtaining estimates for publishing the RFP in the Business Journal, Business Gazette, CopperSquare.com, IEDOnline.org, NAIOP.org and ULL.org—some of which are national and international in their reach.

Via the RFP, the city "is seeking proposals for the following uses for the site: office, commercial, residential, retail, cultural, hotel and other uses that do not require City of Phoenix financial participation and that are compatible with the Downtown Redevelopment Plan Area, the Arts District Plan, future transit-oriented development standards, and future transit overlay zoning."

City redistricting: Exploring a world of maps

Amid a welter of other values and interests, some submissions have definite ideas on how to handle historic districts

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

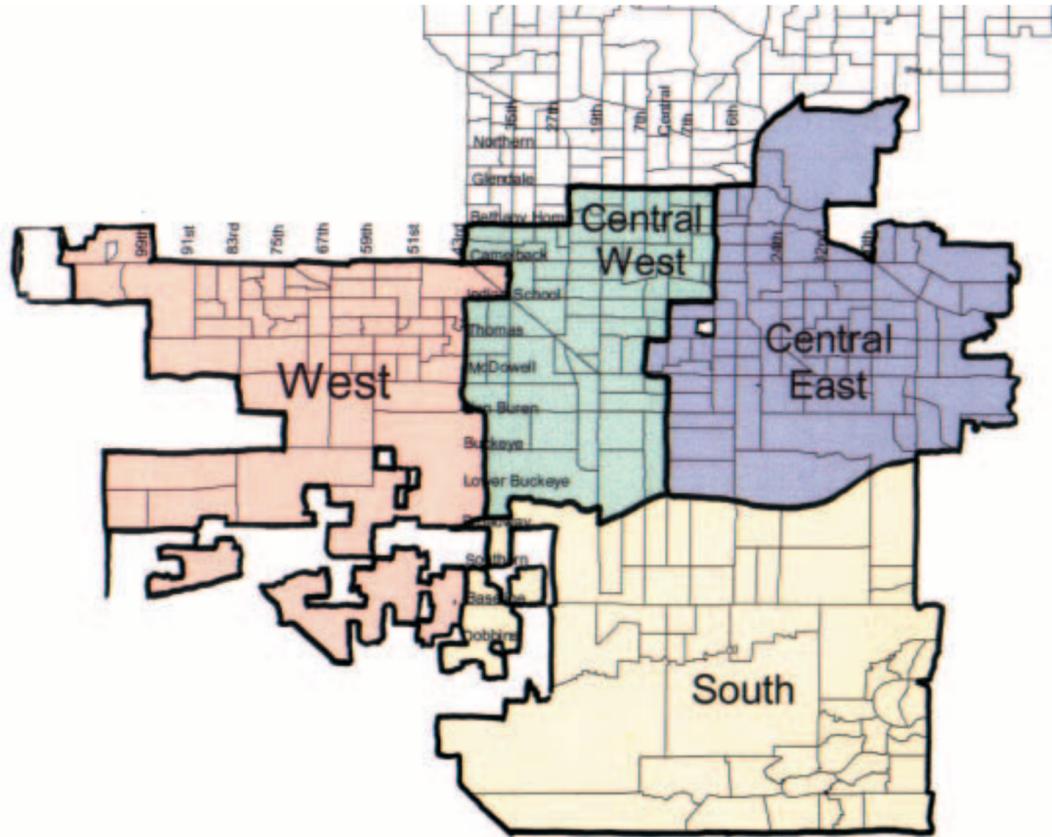
The Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition did its homework and turned in a proposed map for the city's consultant, Research Advisory Services, to consider in the City Council redistricting process. However, the group, which represents 24 historic districts and six downtown neighborhoods comprising over 7,000 households, got only an "Incomplete" for its work.

That's all right—so did several others who submitted a map and were concerned to draw the boundaries for fewer than the city's full complement of eight Council districts. Mike Johnson, for example, councilmember-elect for District 8, submitted three different maps just focused on that district's lines. "What we drew looked at how to add the necessary population onto District 8 and try to keep it intact the way it is now," said Johnson. "The three maps add on areas either going north, west, or picking up part of Ahwatukee."

George Young submitted one map, also focusing just on District 8, on behalf of South Mountain Village. A plan submitted by a Leticia Villavicencio drew maps for only Districts 4, 5 and 8. Plans 10 and 11, identical maps submitted by Peggy and William Eastburn, draw a map only for District 7. (Had the maps offered by these two, presumably a married couple, differed, it might have given whole new meaning to the term "property division.")

The Coalition's proposal offered maps for districts that, more than many of the other submissions, bear little resemblance to any current districts. It proposes four districts, called West, Central West, Central East, and South, encompassing the central and southern portion of the city. The northernmost boundary of the West District is mostly Camelback Road, of Central West, Bethany Home Road and Glendale Avenue; Central East's northern line follows the city's irregular boundary for much of its length.

A letter from Coalition director Helen Prier and assistant director Ken Clark outlined their goals and priorities for the redistricting outcome. What lay behind their proposed map,



SOURCE: DAVID FOLCHESI CORP. AND THE PHOENIX HISTORIC DISTRICTS COALITION
This proposed Council redistricting map submitted by the Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition attempts to respect urban village boundaries as much as possible in its proposed Council district lines. Thus, it cannot avoid violating the redistricting principle of preserving the cores of existing districts. For further analysis of this and other proposed plans, see the table on page 8.

they said—besides the mandatory legal respect for compactness, contiguity, and minority voting strength—was to not divide "a redevelopment and revitalization area from roughly Camelback Road to the Salt River and from Interstate 17 to the Squaw Peak Parkway" into more than two Council districts.

The letter characterized the Encanto and Central City urban villages as "key to defining this redevelopment area," and urged not dividing the villages by City Council districts.

According to the Coalition's letter—and as reflected in its map—the "communities of interest" it sees and tries to preserve "are based on (1) ethnicity, (2) neighborhood continuity and (3) eco-

nommic revitalization zones, as described in the Phoenix General Plan and Housing and Urban Development grants."

Dr. Ruth Ann Marston, an educator who serves on the boards of both the Willo Neighborhood Association and the Encanto Village Planning Committee, explained the concerns that the Coalition believes should underlie newly drawn political units for the central city. "We're talking about downtown historic districts that are facing incred-

ible urbanization," she said. "The city is building vertically around us. Single-family housing in traditional neighborhoods needs to be preserved along with the urban, multifamily housing that has to go on being built to redevelop downtown."

Joan Kelchner, a physician who has held seats on the Phoenix Planning Commission, Central City Planning Committee and Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, submitted a map that tries to reflect her concerns as a resident of a historic, urban com-

"The first map that we put out was primarily to demonstrate our values and principles."

—Ken Clark, assistant director, Phoenix Historic Districts Coalition

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munity, and she did the Coalition one—or several—better: She addressed the boundaries of all eight Council districts in her proposed map, not just four. But she agrees with the Coalition that Council districts should follow the lines of the urban villages as much as possible, at least in this part of the city.

"I tried to look at the villages—downtown is chopped up, it always has been—but [in my map,] each of the villages would be with another with which it shares common goals and characteristics," she said. "I was trying to use Village boundaries as guidelines, so almost all the Council districts have basically two villages (District 3 is mostly all one village)."

"I think it's critical to make the voting districts correspond with the Village planning districts, because those are what contribute citizen input to their councilpeople," Kelchner said.

One general regard in which Kelchner's and the Coalition's maps differ is in their treatment of the historic districts themselves. Kelchner's map creates a much-altered District 4 that would include virtually all of the historic neighborhoods, present and foreseeable future. The highly compact rectangular district runs from Peoria Rd./Shea Boulevard to Van Buren Street north to south, and from 19th Avenue to (generally) 16th Street west to east. Central Avenue being its north-south axis, she calls this the "Central Corridor District," and believes that its neighborhoods share a continuity of personality and interests.

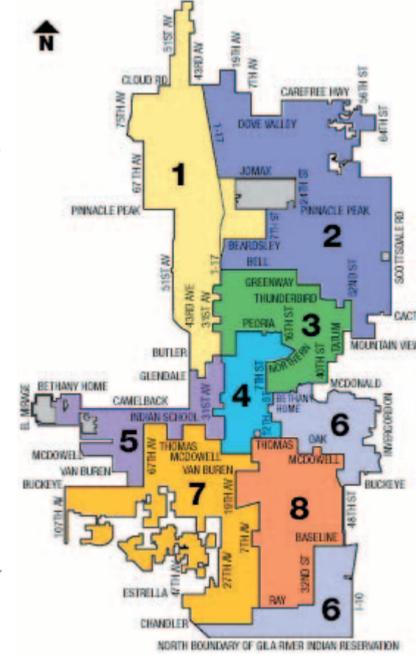
The two contrasting treatments raise the question also spotlighted in the recent statewide redistricting, as affects the historic districts: Would it be better for them to "put all their eggs in one basket" and throw in their lot largely with one Council member? Or would it be better that they not risk neglect—depending on who that

councilmember might be and how that member might perceive his or her constituency and political interests—and perhaps consciously seek to have significant representation in two or more districts?

Kelchner aligns with the former strategy, and, at least judging by its proposed boundaries, the Coalition aligns with the latter.

Her position being perhaps the less intuitively defensible, Kelchner explained her reasoning: "If you put the districts where what the city issues are all tend to line up in more or less the same way in the same district, then you stand to get a representative who will represent the district based on those issues," she said.

That's a big "if," however, if you look at the consultant's analysis of maps that, one way or another, try to respect the sorts of issues of redevelopment she's talking about—whether



SOURCE: CITY OF PHOENIX WEB SITE, WWW.PHOENIX.GOV
This map shows current City Council districts, established following 1991's redistricting process.

hers and the Coalition's. (See sidebar, and table on page 8.)

Resident-submitted maps in and of themselves are now rather irrelevant, except insofar as some of the consultant's proposed alternative maps incorporate elements of them—or insofar as the residents and groups that submitted them now lobby the city redistricting team, the Council—and each other—to

get their values, interest and priorities included in what Council eventually passes.

That's all the Coalition intended in submitting its initial, partial map anyway, said Ken Clark.

"The first map that we put out was primarily to demonstrate our values and principles, and was offered with the belief that there would be opportunity to negotiate and work with other groups toward a final political vision of the city's communities," Clark said.

Building a on faulty foundation?

'Mistakes' of the past set in stone, underlie future

■ BY DAVID TELL

In the view of some people, the current redistricting process is likely to do little more than further institutionalize mistakes committed in at least the last two rounds in 1981 and '91. And, they say, those mistakes were reflections of a failed vision for urban planning of the '60s and '70s.

"The downtown neighborhoods were almost nonexistent 20 years ago—the city had literally tried to eradicate them," said Joan Kelchner. "Mayor Hance's vision was that it was going to be all office towers and business and no residential stuff, and the only people who lived here were people who couldn't afford to live anywhere else. You were allowed to get away with things here that you wouldn't tolerate anywhere else."

Kelchner says she was among the initial small numbers of "more educated, affluent, Democratic ex-Hippies" who began to move into what are now the historic districts and fight to reclaim at least some of them from neglect and the effects of bad policy.

"Most of us who were moving in 10 to 20 years ago liked the diversity, the multiple ethnicity. But in redistricting, we were thrown in with what were 'supposed' to be the minority districts, as the token whites," she said. "That's the way it was 20 years ago and that's the way they left it 10 years ago, despite people arguing it was a stupid model."

"We are left being the downtown neighborhood, with a lot of the 'regulation political people' thinking we need to part of the mix of something else, a kind of a contrived district," she added. "Even as a mixed ethnic neighborhood, we don't have that much in common with the neighborhoods on the other side of downtown."

"The majority of our neighborhoods are Caucasian, and we have no problem with the diversity, but we don't want to be part of a neighborhood that has to have a minority representative because we're 'supposed to,'" Kelchner said. "It's probably the way they feel in reverse [in situations where minority voting strength has been diluted]."

"Ten years ago when we had redistricting, I said that I didn't think downtown neighborhoods are being treated fairly. And we didn't have the population then that we do now, and now the situation's worse."

Kelchner holds up the recent District 8 Council election as an example of what she's talking about.

"What bothered a lot of people was that Cody Williams and [county Board of Supervisors member] Mary Rose Wilcox joined together to run several fund-raisers for Mike Johnson," Kelchner said. "I don't think he has a clue about our neighborhoods. He came up here on rare occasions for the campaign and had no idea what we are."

"South Phoenix has so many problems that need tremendous work. There's a great fear that nobody's going to be looking at our problems, which are also significant problems."

Still, in their vision of "ideal" maps, Kelchner and others are fighting against a variety of strict, mandatory legal requirements as well as less rigid principles—and the politics of City Council approval of any final plan.

The comments of Tony Sissons on the merits and deficiencies of the Coalition's plan, as an example, illustrate what it, Kelchner and others with a similar vision might be up against.

"To some degree it's kind of hard to do an analysis of a partial city plan," said Sissons of Research Advisory Services, the city's consultant doing much of the "in-the-trenches" work for the redistricting. "You can't assess population deviation, how many districts would be majority-minority."

"West is about 2 percent over population; percentage Hispanic origin is about 58 percent," Sissons said, discussing his analysis of the Coalition's pro-

continued on following page >

ANALYSES OF SELECTED RESIDENT-SUBMITTED CITY COUNCIL MAPS AND THE CONSULTANT’S PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

MAP	SUBMITTED BY	COVERS	POP. VARIANCE	MIN. ISSUES	COMPACT	CONTIGUITY	PRESERVES POL. SUBDIVISIONS	PRESERVES COMMS. OF INTEREST	PRESERVES PRIOR DISTS.	SUMMARY
6	Keuth Et. Al.	City	Inconclusive	Inconclusive	No Effect	Possible Detriment	No Effect	No Issues	Closely	District 6 Issues, Other Issues
7	Joan Kelchner	City	Non-Compliant	Inconclusive	Improved	Moderate Detriment	Improved	Pluses/Minuses	Not Observed	Population Deviation, Dilutes Hisp. Vote Dist. 7
9	United Firefighters Union	City	High Compliance	Detrimental	No Effect	Improved	No Effect	No Effect	High Compliance	Dilutes Hisp. Vote in Three Highest Pop. Hisp. Dists.
10	Peggy Eastburn	Dist. 7	Indeterminable	Severe Detriment	Detriment	No Issue	One Benefit	Not Documented	Not Observed	Incomplete
12	Mike Johnson	Dist. 8	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Detriment	No Benefit	No Effect	Possible Detriment	Moderate Compliance	Incomplete
15	Historic Districts Coalition	Central, S & W	Indeterminable	Problematic	Improved	Improved	No Effect	Mixed Result	Not Observed	Incomplete
16	Mary Rose Wilcox/Minority Coalition	City	High Compliance	Improved	Improved	Improved	Respectful	Socio-Economic	Partly Observed	Passes Legal Tests, Outdistricts One Member

SELECTED CONSULTANT’S COMMENTS ON RESEARCH ADVISORY SERVICES’ PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PLANS

ALT. A	Dists W, X, Y, Z share minority neighborhoods evenly; west end of Foothills attached to X; S a more-orderly version of Dist. 1; Dist T = current 2 minus excess pop.; four Hispanic-majority districts
ALT. B	Dist. Z=all east of 27th Ave and S of Salt R.; Y (Dist. 8) and X grow northward to replace population lost to Z; S= Dist.1 with east edge=I-17; three Hispanic-majority and four minority-majority districts
ALT. C	Dists. 1, 2, 7, 8 same as current with needed pop adjustments;Dist. 4 moves S to be “central Phx district” with most of historic areas; 3 and 6 rebalanced; three Hispanic-majority and three minority-majority districts
ALT. D	Dists 6, 7, 8 as current with pop. rebalancing; 5 made more compact, joins Maryvale more; Alhambra unity restored in 4; 3 as current, gains pop from 2; three Hispanic-majority and three minority-majority districts
ALT. E	Dists. 7, 8 as current with pop. rebalancing and give territory to 4; 4, see ALT. C; 5 goes north, W of I-17 to gain pop lost to 4; 7: 1 crosses I-17; 3, 6 rebalanced; three Hispanic-majority and three minority-majority districts

Redistricting meetings, round 2

11/20/01

- Ironwood Library, 4333 East Chandler Blvd., 11 a.m.
- Cesar Chavez High School, 3921 West Baseline, 6 p.m.

11/26/01

- Alfred F. Garcia School, 1441 South 27th Ave., *Spanish*, 6 p.m.

11/27/01

- Los Olivos Senior Center, 2802 East Devonshire, 3 p.m.
- Wilson Elementary School, 2929 East Fillmore, 6 p.m.

11/28/01

- South Mountain Community Center, 212 East Alta Vista, 6 p.m.

11/29/01

- Coco’s Restaurant, 4514 E. Cactus Road, 8 a.m.
- Cholla Library, Metrocenter Parkway, 2 p.m.
- Paradise Valley Community Center, 17402 North 40th St., 6 p.m.

11/30/01

- Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 North Central Ave., 4th Floor Lecture Room, 2 p.m.

One ‘mistake’: Too few districts

► *continued from previous page*

posed map. “Their Central West is 5 percent over population, also about 58 percent Hispanic. Central East, toward Arcadia, is about 11 percent over population—that’s 19,000 people—and about 48 percent Hispanic.

“The reason I’m focusing on Hispanic presence is that’s the largest group the [U.S.] Justice Department will be keeping an eye on how we treat,” he said.

That’s not to say that plans that try to group the historic districts within one Council district—or that try to identify communities of interest among these and similar neighborhoods—are without hope.

“A couple of groups’ proposals for District 4 draws the historic neighborhoods into one district, and an alternative being prepared by the staff team does essentially the same thing,” Sissons said. “Most of what we’ve done has been to incorporate elements of plans submitted by residents, and things said at public meetings.”

But there’s no getting around Kelchner’s concern that the entrenched starting point drives—or, depending on your point of view, distorts—the outcome.

“The existing shapes of the districts have been something of a strong factor [in our preparation of the alternative plans],” said Sissons. That’s because one of the criteria for evaluation of maps is how well they preserve the cores of existing districts. And, “The practical reality is, it’s those eight people [on the Council] who get to select a plan and vote it up or down. It’s got to be palatable to a majority of the Council,” Sissons said.

That palatability test is supposed to come at a Council meeting in December, after whatever alternative plans Sissons gets Council’s OK to take to the public in the interim have been aired, modified and culled down to one main option and maybe an alternative or two.

In the meantime, in addition to lobbying for their respective current maps, residents with a big-picture view might want to begin now to press for a different landscape come the next redistricting round in 10 years.

The changes that some envision would require voter approval of the city’s charter, at least, and thus, presumably, a long lead time to bring about.

“There are several things about the districts that I think need to be corrected,” said Kelchner. “Preferably, we need at least 10 to 12 districts.”

Another item on her wish list might seem to be trying to turn back the clock. But she makes no bones about her belief in the merits of at-large council seats.

“Calvin Goode was a wonderful councilman,” she explained. “When he was elected, it was when all districts were at-large, and every African American in the city could vote for him. He turned out to be a good councilman—so really, you should vote for people on their merit, not their color.

“To say that we have to draw every City Council district to [maximize or preserve minority voting strength] is to make the same mistake that we did when we said only whites can vote,” she said.

Everybody’s a critic

But a citizens’ advisory board for Neighborhood Services could improve communications

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

Is city government as dedicated and effective in combating violations of city codes by single family dwellings as it is in fighting blight in multitenant situations? Some residents of neighborhoods struggling to avoid sliding into decline aren’t sure.

Their remedy? At media forums and, most recently, in a letter to Tammy Perkins, director of the city’s Neighborhood Services Department, they’ve raised the idea of creating a Community Advisory Board to partner with the department.

F.C. Slaght is a major proponent of the idea—and, with Donna Neill,

founder of the neighborhoods grass-roots organization NAILEM, co-signer of the letter. “We did a Channel 11 roundtable ‘On the Issues,’ televised on Sept. 13, and brought up the idea then,” he said. “Tammy was supportive of it. We talked about graffiti, shopping carts, and neighborhood preservation.

“Basically, what’s behind it is neighborhoods are sick and tired of ordinances being on the books and not being enforced,” said Slaght, who is president of the Westwood Village and Westwood Estates Neighborhood Association. “It’s really an enforcement issue. It’s difficult for Neighborhood Services folks in the field, our point-of-contact people. They’re having problems with enforcement and follow-through from city people, office staff. I don’t know if it’s lack of education, lack of motivation, lack of desire. But the field people can’t bring this to the city themselves.”

Slaght says the situation causes morale problems on the part of the field staff as well as frustrating residents. He provided e-mails describing specific problems from residents and community leaders living in neighborhoods around the city. But notwithstanding some concern about departmental foot-dragging, Slaght wonders whether much of the problem might be traced to procedures, and ultimately to city ordinances.

“You get reported and you get a postcard notice, saying ‘You’re in violation, for example, of tall grass,’ You get 10 days to fix it—so they mow the yard and fix it. Then, next time, they let it get out of hand all over again.

“There comes a times when you could eliminate that 10-day compli-

ance window and move to something new,” he suggests.

“The city can’t be babysitters, but the neighborhood shouldn’t fall victim to blight, either. If there’s an ordinance on the books, it needs to be enforced. There are blighted houses that have been there for years and nothing’s been done even though numerous phone calls have been made. We’ve almost become resigned in our handling of issues, and the neighborhoods are tired of it.”

Neill sees the proposed body as a vehicle for effective, two-way communication. “If we can get a group together, not only will it educate us on the way the system works, but it will also get information to the city on a more timely basis,” she said.

She also shares Slaght’s enforcement concerns. “Some of the properties have been years and years in the same condition,” she said. “What is happening is that there’s no timeline on this. All of our lives are on a timeline. There are things you just need to do. We need to give our support to the zoning folks, the council, those who are trying to do the job.

“I would hope that [Perkins] would be very receptive. I would hope that anybody would want more eyes, more ears, more support, more help,” Neill added. “I don’t think anybody is looking at this as pointing fingers, but as support for the system in the way it should work. Maybe we need to change the ordinance.

“A whole lot of folks are interested in this,” Neill said.

Model Built Right Next Door

Slaght notes that Tempe has created a similar body in response to like concerns—its Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

Tempe’s Neighborhood Programs Director Maryanne Corder explains how the Commission came about: “In 1998 the Council created a Tempe Neighborhoods Tomorrow [TNT] task force. They worked through January of 2000, and came up with some recommendations for improving the city’s working relations with its neighborhoods,” Corder said. “One of those recommendations was to come up with the Neighborhood Advisory Commission. The TNT citizens group came up with the final structure.

“The City Council blessed it, created the group—a 21-member Commission. They represent the city’s four ZIP codes, apportioned based on popula-

tion density,” Corder explained. “There wasn’t an emergency, it was just an extension of the Tempe Neighborhoods Program, which was created in 1987, as an outreach vehicle to the neighborhoods.

“I was public information officer at that time,” Corder added, explaining

► AT ISSUE

Are current modes of input into the city’s Neighborhood Services Department sufficient, or not? Or is a community-based advisory board for the department just a win-win idea, either way?

that from her evolving perspective in the program, the new commission represents “the difference between telling a neighborhood we’re going to widen the street vs. discussing it with them.”

That’s key to understanding the role and purpose of such a body, she emphasizes.

“When the citizens suggested this, there were concerns: ‘What about Planning and Zoning, what about the Board of Adjustment?’” Corder said. “But in the creating resolution, their charge was to view neighborhood issues across the community, not a specific zoning issue—for example, if there’s a question about changing city ordinance—e.g., whether one bedroom is a bed and breakfast. They can help us immeasurably, including with communicating better.”

That’s important to note, as Phoenix faces the question of creating such a body—and encounters possible resistance to the idea within the city’s bureaucracy.

Despite what Slaght recalls about Perkins’ favorable reaction to the idea in front of the TV camera, her spokesperson Erin Crowley did not sound as if the department is about to just jump on the bandwagon.

“She just received the letter this month,” Crowley said. “We’ve not had an opportunity to discuss in detail how this would be integrated into our process.

“We do have a formal review process of our neighborhood preservation ordinance and code enforcement policy,” Crowley explained. “Every year we go before the City Council. They review our policy and our ordinances. As part of that review process, we not only look at statistical information on our handling of reported problems and so

on, we also look at the results of a survey that we do, of neighborhood leaders, random complainants and even of a number of people who have been the subjects of reported violations, about the effectiveness of the policy, ordinances and process.

“So we already have existing process for gathering public input and working with neighborhoods,” Crowley said. “Also, for the last few years, we have held focus groups and solicited input through a variety of additional mechanisms. We’d need to look at the proposal and evaluate how it could be incorporated with our existing reviews.”

Perkins, subsequently responding to interview requests, was not any more definitive about the department’s position on the idea of an advisory board.

“We can always do a better job trying new ways to get resident input,” Perkins said. But, she added, “I don’t know if this is the right approach. I don’t know if Tempe’s model is the way to go.”

Give Better Outcomes?

“We would be looking at it in terms of what’s in the best interest of the community at large. The neighborhoods are our customers,” she said. “Any concern that a neighborhood leader brings I take seriously. But would an advisory commission appointed by the mayor and council give us better outcomes? I don’t know the answer to that.”

If the reaction of at least one City Council member is any indication, Neighborhood Services could find its review of whether and how to embrace the proposed new board superseded by events.

“I thought it was a wonderful idea,” said District 4 Councilmember Phil Gordon. “Probably the most important part is that the concept originated from the grass-roots level.”

“It makes perfect sense that the Neighborhood Services Department, which is intended to serve the neighborhoods, have an advisory board,” Gordon said. “The board would be a major asset—both as enhancing the ability of the department to communicate what is going on—why some things take longer to enforce or implement, for instance—and to use the board to better understand some of the things [Neighborhood Services themselves] don’t understand. It could be a great resource.”

“I took it up with the city manager and endorsed this concept—that it’s something we should do. I can’t imagine why [Perkins] or any other department director wouldn’t appreciate and value something like this. I expect that this will be adopted soon,” Gordon said.

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'If it ain't broke ...'—well, maybe it is

'Ad Hoc' committee: After 15 years, it's about time for some fixes to city's Historic Preservation program

■ BY DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

A report just finalized by the City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Historic Preservation recommends giving the city's Historic Preservation Office more responsibility—and more clout.

It would do that by, among other things, taking the office out of the Neighborhood Services Department and having it report directly to a deputy city manager, according to Rita Carrillo, who chaired the committee.

Under this recommendation, Historic Preservation "would be more of a standalone office, instead of a 'subdepartment' of a department," said Carrillo, who is executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix, a non-profit organization. "In terms of the often short timeline to preserve properties, and the many different types of city resources that may need to be called upon, Historic Preservation needs the ability to work across departments in maximizing the efforts the city can make."

Tammy Perkins, director of the Neighborhood Services Department, doesn't think the office is necessarily hampered by being housed within her department. "I told the commission, the key thing for me is that the office needs to be where it will be most effective.

"Our department's mission is to preserve and improve the physical, cultural and social health of the neighborhoods, and the Historic Preservation Office is a critical piece of that," said Perkins. "Ultimately, that will be up to the council and mayor, but we think it's a comfortable fit where it is."

Stronger Voice for Preservation

Carrillo said the suggested move was seen by the committee as also empowering the Historic Preservation Office—and officer—to be a stronger voice for preservation.

"We suggested increasing the advocacy role of the historic preservation officer," Carrillo said. "We recommended that part of their duties would be to advocate for historic preservation within the city and city government. The role is currently more administrative in nature."

The ad hoc committee, which has been working for much of the past year

to study the city's historic preservation programs and policies, conveyed its findings to Perkins, who on Oct. 26 passed the report along to the city manager, with copies to the mayor and city council.

According to Interim Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Weight, the committee was assembled by the city manager at the request of City Council Members Doug Lingner and Phil Gordon, with the aim of broadly assessing the city's management of its historic assets. He said this is the first wholesale review of the historic preservation program, office and commission in the 15 years since they were created.

While it's called an ad hoc committee, its roster makes it look more like a blue-ribbon commission. The approximately 24-member panel included Vice Chair Tom Simplot, Don Keuth of the Phoenix Community Alliance, Historic Preservation Commission Chair Susan Shaffer-Nahmias, Commission member John Jacquemart, Grady Gammage,

"We think the Historic Preservation Office is a comfortable fit where it is."

—Tammy Perkins, director, Neighborhood Services Department

Paul Barnes of the Neighborhood Coalition of Greater Phoenix, former legislator Barry Wong, Joan Kelchner, Don Ryden, preservation architect, Helen Trujillo, Rory Hays, Michelle Irwin and others with knowledge and interest in historic preservation.

According to Weight, the Historic Preservation Commission came up with some goals for the program review—and for the committee—last March, based on retreats and community meetings it held. The committee, which conducted meetings from November 2000 through June, incorporated some of those goals and added some of its own.

Carrillo said the panel's report includes recommendations in three categories: process improvements, program improvements and zoning ordinance modifications.

In addition to suggesting rejiggering where the Historic Preservation

Office sits in city org charts, the committee looked at its internal personnel resources. "One thing we've requested under program improvements is that there be a study of the program's staffing needs," Carrillo said. "There may be some greater needs than they are allocated funding for right now."

The committee also recommended a number of changes affecting the substance of the office's—and the city's—historic preservation work.

As an example, "We're recommending that they make a priority of identifying and designating historic landmarks," Carrillo said.

As to zoning ordinance changes, the report also recommends removing the requirement that buildings be at least 40 years old before demolition restrictions would apply. "We're not setting a specific age that makes you historic or not historic," Carrillo said.

"We're also recommending that they revise the demolition stay in the ordinance, creating two categories: For city-owned property, the stay of demolition would be 5 years, except for a landmark, where there would be a permanent stay. For privately owned property, there would be a 3-year stay, subject to an economic hardship showing; and the landmark stay of demolition would be for 10 years," Carrillo said.

Strengthen Enforcement

The committee's report also recommended changes not just to change the parameters of preservation, but to strengthen enforcement, Carrillo said. "We want to try to discourage demolition by neglect," she said, adding that that as to the specifics, that would be something for the city Law Department to draft into ordinance language.

"We also recommended that we expedite the designation process, so that people aren't left in limbo," Carrillo said. "A lot of times it's a stay of demolition by inaction, because the process is drawn out."

The committee's report also makes some more ambitious, and thus less immediate—but no less important—suggestions.

"The city needs to help try to devel-

Putting bite behind Preservation's bark

Some recommendations from the Historic Preservation Ad Hoc Committee's Final Report:

Process Improvements

- Provide for the direct report of the HP program/function to a Deputy City Manager
- Increase the advocacy role of the HP Officer and Commission
- Streamline the zoning process of approving an HP overlay designation

Program Improvements

- Request a study of HP Program staffing
- Develop Long-Term Historic Conservation Plan
- Expand financial assistance programs
- Identify and designate Historic Landmarks

Zoning Ordinance Modifications

- Remove minimum 40-year-old requirement before demolition restrictions apply
- Amend ordinance to discourage demolition by neglect
- Provide for additional enforcement and mandatory fines

op some sort of not-for-profit community-based advocacy organizations for historic preservation," Carrillo said. "A lot of cities have that. It's not just city government that tries to strengthen preservation sentiment and has resources to put behind it. There are non-profit foundations that encourage private support and raise funds and increase resources for that purpose within the community.

"Here in Phoenix, we've been fortunate that voters have voted yes on requests for bond funds for historic preservation," Carrillo said. "But it has made us a little lackadaisical in terms of trying to muster resources and raise additional support, because we have had city funds.

"We didn't have any particular group or structure in mind," she added. "But in many cases, cities have helped to develop those kinds of organizations within the community, by providing staffing support or space to house them."

PRIER COMMITMENT

Hot to go historic? Cool your jets

Our neighborhood is not designated historic, yet we have lots of wonderful homes built in the 1930s and 1940s. How does a neighborhood become historic?

This question is being asked more and more as neighborhoods are discovering the benefits and cachet of having historic status. I'm sure as you drive around Phoenix you have seen many areas where there are great old houses and wonder why they are not an official historic district.

Most people think that once a neighborhood turns 50 the homes there are eligible for historic designation. Although turning 50 is one of the criteria, it is by no means the only test they must pass.

First of all, neighborhoods have to be evaluated to determine whether they are eligible to apply for historic status. Eligibility is based on inventory surveys usually conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Phoenix Historic Preservation Office (PHPO).

The first inventory was conducted in 1986 on houses and neighborhoods built before 1950. This study ranked neighborhoods according to how well they met a set of criteria.

During the 1950s, Phoenix saw its biggest boom in housing. The city went from a small community with a population of 100,000 and an area of 17 square miles to, in 1960, a population of 440,000 and 187 square miles.

Houses built during this era of expansion have just been starting to turn 50. Another inventory survey is planned to identify those neighborhoods newly eligible to apply for historic designation. Since there are a large number of neighborhoods that were built in the '50s, the criteria will be more stringent.

Some of the criteria considered when surveying neighborhoods involve age, integrity and significance:

- Distinguishing features and characteristics
- Origins and historic developments
- A sense of historic and architectural continuity
- Architectural styles that contribute to a feeling of time and place
- Retention of historic integrity by

the homes

- Contributing significant events or individuals
 - Reflectiveness of the historical development of the community
- Eligibility doesn't guarantee historic designation. It is now up to the residents of the neighborhood to apply for the status. There are two historic registers, the National Historic Register and the Phoenix Historic Register.

The national application is administered by SHPO. This process places the homes on the National Historic Register. Once on that register, residents can apply for a property tax reduction of up to almost 50 percent.

The Phoenix register is administered by PHPO. Listing on the city's register is a rezoning process, where a historic preservation zoning overlay is placed on the neighborhood. This overlay is the key identifier for protecting the houses. Among other benefits, this allows homes within that overlay to be eligible for exterior rehabilitation grants for up to \$10,000 in matching funds.

These application processes, although similar, are separate and require a great deal of research on the homes and the neighborhood.

Traditionally a neighborhood group gathers information from various sources—residents, newspaper clippings, photographs, city records and directories—to compile the information needed. Some neighborhoods hire researchers to conduct the research for them.

This research takes many person-hours to complete and requires a dedicated group to compile the information. Photographs have to be taken of each home and submitted together with the other records for review. Also, a compilation of architectural styles must be submitted with proof that the homes have maintained historical integrity.

Depending on who does the research and the dedication of the residents, the process can take up to 2 years and sometimes longer, to complete the research and receive designation—a task not for the faint-hearted.

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.

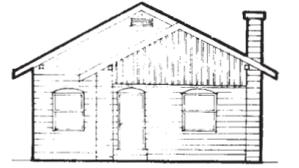
Get Grant Money for Exterior Rehab

The City of Phoenix has funds available through the Exterior Rehabilitation and Conservation Easement Purchase Program just waiting to assist you with your exterior home improvement project.

This program was created to encourage the rehabilitation of historic buildings and reinvest in Phoenix's historic neighborhoods. The program will provide up to

\$10,000 per property for the restoration of the exterior of your home, with a minimum project cost of \$2,000. All projects require a 50/50 match, which means the property owner must provide an equal or greater amount of funds to match the amount paid by the city.

Additional information may be obtained on the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation web site at: www.ci.phoenix.az.us/NBHDPGMS/hi



A bungalow with original wall materials intact (top) has a distinct early 20th century design. Grants funds could be applied to maintain this exterior, but not to replace it, e.g., with siding (bottom). This figure is from *Historic Homes of Phoenix: An Architectural Preservation Guide*. The 222-page, beautifully illustrated book can be ordered from the Historic Preservation Office by calling 261-8699. The book's price is \$15.

stpres.html. You may also contact the city's Historic Preservation Office at 261-8699 to request that an Exterior Rehab Program Guide be mailed to you. Upcoming application deadlines are Jan. 11, 2002 and April 26, 2002.

When buying or selling a historic home

Too Little Knowledge Can be a Dangerous Thing. Expertise required!

Living in a charming historic home is a wonderful lifestyle. However, since many were constructed up to 80 years ago, buying or selling a historic home requires special considerations.

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Two-story addition: A tall tale

Attorney seeking to expand offices found that a Historic Preservation hearing was the lowest of the hurdles she faced

■ DAVID TELL, MESSENGER EDITOR

In late 1998, attorney Suzanna Goldman began working with a contractor and architect to “rescue” a building in the Fairview Place neighborhood, as a home for her law offices. Now that the basic structure is reasonably usable and attractive, the first bit of red tape in the enterprise of building a two-story addition—getting the OK of the city’s Historic Preservation Office—is proving to be only the first—and perhaps the easiest—snarl to untangle.

Following an Oct. 16 hearing held by the Preservation Office, there was a provisional agreement between Goldman’s contractor, Pete Zorbas, and Kevin Weight, interim preservation officer, that would allow the project to proceed. Final signoff was conditional on a favorable review of revised plans

by the city’s Building Department. But Weight might even have thought Goldman would be happy to get his tentative green light.

Goldman, for her part, thinks the city should be more appreciative of what she’s already done to make her building a model for its neighbors.

Apparently, each of them expects too much of the other. But all that might be moot if the city’s Building Department doesn’t acquiesce in plans that proceed from the building’s long de facto status as professional offices. The fact that, in their view, the building lacks a certificate of occupancy as anything but a residence puts the brakes on everything.

The structure, used as law offices for the firm of Goldman and Soderquist, is at 1542 W. McDowell, tucked among brick apartment buildings that also sit

continued on following page ▶



MIDTOWN MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

The 6-foot sound wall that the Historic Preservation Office stipulated be removed is visible at midground, right, forward of the green awnings.

UPDATE

Committee OKs commercial blight program

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the City Council’s Economy Subcommittee, chaired by District 4 Councilmember Phil Gordon, adopted a pilot commercial revitalization program. This program represents the first step to implement a program for addressing commercial blight, building on efforts, largely spearheaded by Gordon, to fight residential blight.

“For the last three years, I have been actively fighting to clean up blighted residential properties in Phoenix,” Gordon said in a release. “I recently announced a plan that targets vacant, blighted commercial properties and offers incentives for people to purchase and improve them.”

In adopting the pilot program, the Subcommittee acted on a report to the City Manager’s Office from Community and Economic Development Department Director Patrick Grady and Neighborhood Services Department Director Tammy Perkins. The report outlined the findings of a Commercial Revitalization Study Group, formed by the two departments in July. The Study

Group, which consisted of local private and public sector representatives, identified options for improving blighted properties along commercial corridors throughout the city.

The Study Group involved property owners, developers, businesses and members from the local community in formulating potential commercial revitalization strategies, with the ultimate goals of eliminating commercial blight, encouraging the re-leasing of partially vacant commercial properties and promoting neighborhood stabilization.

Gordon’s committee adopted the report’s recommendation that a private-public partnership pilot program be developed which would incorporate program elements rated highest in importance by the Study Group. These elements include:

- Individual Business/Property Owner Financing Incentives. The Study Group identified this program element as the number one priority required to address issues of building appearance and small business financing needs. This initiative, if adopted by City Council, would require a strong private sector financial commitment, with creative tools that would address a variety of financing needs in these areas.

- Business Organization and Community Involvement. This element requires funding and capacity-building resources to assist business organizations, neighborhood residents and interested stakeholders to utilize their expertise and leadership to leverage a community’s resources. For this reason, the Study Group recommended that an outreach component be incorporated into the program.



Phil Gordon

- Physical/Streetscape Improvements. The Study Group agreed there is a strong need for older commercial areas to become more pedestrian-friendly to promote better connectivity between retail customers and businesses. Recommended measures include enhancing streetscape appearance and changing traffic flow patterns, access and parking configurations to attract customers.

The Study Group proposed a selection process for identifying “pilot” commercial areas in need of stabilization. This would involve application through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which is seen as encouraging strong community organization, planning, private/public funding activities, and ensuring that processes be “community driven.” RFP evaluation criteria would be based on the different elements identified by the Study Group, includ-

▶ WHAT YOU CAN DO

Call the city at 602-262-7844 to report commercial blight. For more information or questions about the blight initiative, call Gordon’s office at 602-262-7447 or e-mail him at phil.gordon@phoenix.gov.

ing, for example, an area’s potential for success, linkage to contiguous residential reinvestment, and prior experience of the business organization.

The program was developed after a series of focus groups and roundtable discussions held among local merchants and business association representatives. Major components of the program will include individual business and property owner financing incentives, capacity building and outreach for neighborhood based merchant associations, and streetscape improvements to make shopping areas more pedestrian-friendly. The financing incentives will require a strong private sector commitment, with creative tools that would address a variety of financing needs.

Gordon acknowledged past and ongoing efforts to revitalize parts of the Seventh Avenue Corridor where he kicked off the commercial phase of his anti-blight initiative last May. But, he said, “Commercial blight can be found on virtually every arterial street, particularly in the central city.” He offered thanks to residents who have taken the initiative to report this kind of blight.

▶ continued from previous page

on the north side of the road.

“We approved the application, which was to construct a two-story rear addition,” said Weight. However, “Had this been in the middle of the Fairview Place, we wouldn’t allow it,” he added.

“On McDowell, between Laurel and 17th Avenue, you’ve got a lot of one-story structures that step up to two stories at the back,” Weight said in justifying the approval. “We looked at aerial photos from the 1940s to 1950s, and even then, along that stretch, there were some one-story buildings with a two-story addition, and others that were built like that originally. So, what they were proposing was not totally inconsistent. We just wanted them to make some of the details consistent.”

From Goldman’s point of view, however, much of what Weight was requiring in exchange for approval of the second story were hardly details.

As opposed to her architect’s more integrated design, she said, “They want [the new section] to be set off so it looks like an addition,” she said. “It’s more expensive to do it that way. I can’t imagine what is going through their minds.”

There’s also the issue of the 6-foot-high sound wall shielding the part of the building that faces McDowell. Weight wants it removed, though he would allow it to remain if Goldman opted to keep her addition to a single story.

“I’m completely baffled by that—why the wall makes no difference if [the addition is] one story and a difference if it’s two stories,” Goldman said. “The traffic on McDowell is very noisy.”

What difference it makes? The wall is just not historically appropriate, that’s all. Though he hadn’t researched it to be certain, the building “might be classified as a non-contributor to Fairview Place’s historic designation because of that,” Weight said.

Moreover, “We were concerned that the second story was a blank wall, and stipulated that the architect add windows to make it consistent,” Weight said.

Goldman said she would probably comply with the stipulations in order to go ahead with the two-story addition. She’d appeal, she said, except for the time and expense involved.

“I do not want a one-story building—to add enough square footage in just one story, there’d be no place to park,” Goldman said. And, as to the historic and aesthetic standards of the neighborhood’s McDowell commercial strip, she added, “Less than a block away is a hideous dollar store, and the buildings on both sides of me are hideous.”

“I’m from San Francisco, so I understand about historic preservation,” she said. “Before, this building was concrete-block piece of trash—it had alu-

Buyer—even lawyer—beware

■ BY DAVID TELL

Suzanna Goldman’s an attorney, and her contractor is a seasoned building tradesman. Between them, shouldn’t they have known to check about the status of a certificate of occupancy for the building in question—if not at the time it was purchased, then at least sometime before embarking on improvements to it as office, much less constructing an addition?

Not necessarily, says Pete Zorbas, the contractor.

“Even professional people that are lawyers do things on face value. You do things on what someone says to you,” he said. “Everybody’s so busy in their lives and they don’t research it, and don’t consider it until something like this happens.”

As to his experience as a contractor, knowing about getting required permits and such, Zorbas is still adamant.

“If that zoning allows an office and there’s been an office there, who would question whether it has a certificate of occupancy?” he said. “I wouldn’t even consider it a problem if the zoning was there.”

Is the zoning there? According to staff in the city’s development services department, the current zoning for the address is R-5-(HP [historic preservation]). A hand-out offered by the city entitled “Residential Office Conversion” states that rezoning to R-O (residential office) zoning is required for anything but a clearly “accessory” use of an office in a building used primarily and predominantly as a residence.

In any case, “My recommendation to her is not to spend another penny on the building,” Zorbas said. “She could run her business as is and they wouldn’t do anything to her. But, why have laws and certificates of occupancy if you’re not going to enforce them? But in my view, the ideal ‘enforcement’ is when there is going to be a title change—it goes to the city, and that would be an enforceable time to bring up any needed changes—and bring to the prospective owner’s attention: ‘Is there a certificate of occupancy and for what use?’

“People not knowing and not understanding what they’re buying is not right, and that goes on day in and day out,” Zorbas added. “You should do an article on ‘Let the buyer beware.’ If you’re going into an area, even though there’s a business there, get more detail as to what’s been there before. I told her she should pursue it to the fact of who she bought it from, sue someone as to lack of disclosure.”

minimum windows that looked like they came out of a trailer. My architect and I drove around the neighborhood and then worked to make this office look historic as closely as possible. I think the city is absolutely dead wrong. The city should come in here and see what we’ve done to make an attractive, nice building—and compare it to the apartments next to me, with the mattresses and trash that’s there.”

Zorbas corroborates Goldman’s statements. “I pointed out things she could do to make it consistent with the homes, and not just a box,” he said. “It’s been cleaned up substantially and made more presentable. We were very sensitive to compliance to the historic character of the neighborhood—although

there were things we were not aware of as we cleaned it up,” he admits.

Weight acknowledges that Goldman would have to get a variance as to parking requirements with a one-story addition—and she needs to modify her plans to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, as it is.

“I would commend her for any work she’s done to improve the condition of the property—that is a valid concern,” Weight said.

“[The Historic Preservation Office doesn’t] enforce the property maintenance ordinance. That’s not to say we’re not concerned with those things,” Weight added. “That’s why we have a grant program, whose funds can be applied to exterior maintenance

issues—but it’s administered so as to make sure that those things are done in a historically appropriate manner.

“We are concerned with what’s best for the property,” he said.

Now, however, maintenance, upgrades and historic integrity may be somewhat irrelevant—because the whole addition may be on hold.

That’s as frustrating to Zorbas as it is to his client.

“One department doesn’t want to say anything until the other signs off,” he said. “The Historic Preservation Office was not willing to give final sign-off on this until the Building Department had at it.

“Now, the Building Department says the use of the building has changed. But it hasn’t changed since Ms. Goldman owned it. It was law offices at least two owners back—at least 15, easily 20 years, possibly even longer,” Zorbas said. “Since then there’s been some demolition of buildings in the back and changes and electrical upgrades for air conditioning units. Never once throughout all that did anyone address ‘certificate of occupancy,’ the usage—except for the original building, at one point, to make it a duplex.

“We weren’t around at that point, we don’t know what was done or how it was done. That was done prior to us,” Zorbas said. “Now we’re kind of at a standstill. Historic Preservation was accommodating, but now the Building Department is saying a certificate of occupancy from a residence to an office had never taken place. Now they want all these [additional] changes.”

Among the changes required—ironically, perhaps, given that Historic Preservation had wanted windows added—would be to fill in some existing east- and west-facing windows. This might have to do with fire safety given the close proximity of the structure to adjacent buildings, according to one city staffer.

In the meantime, fresh graffiti on the site’s 2-1/2-foot wall by the sidewalk was removed within a few days of the hearing, after Goldman was given the city’s Graffiti Busters number and advised that they probably would address it much more promptly than Zorbas—whom she’d called initially—would.

Weight also said he was gratified to learn that an article in the Oct. 16 Midtown Messenger quoted a representative of the State Historic Preservation Office as pointing out that adding a second story onto a historic home is seldom in keeping with its historic character and status. He recounted a troubling case in which his office once rejected an application for a second story on a home in the F.Q. Story neighborhood, but the state office overruled the denial.

“I would commend her for any work she’s done to improve the condition of the property—that is a valid concern. We do want properties kept in good condition as well as maintained in their historic integrity.”

—Kevin Weight, Interim Historic Preservation Officer

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.

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

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

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Entertainment

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

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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

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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) 480-837-7346 (evenings)

AROUND THE HOUSE

The dreaded ‘frizzle top’

Q When is a good time to feed my queen palms? Plus, the ends of the leaves are all brown and dead-looking. What can I do? —SANDY, ENCANTO NEIGHBORHOOD

Actually, Sandy, both questions are related. First, let me say that, here in the desert, queen palms are temperamental at best. They just don’t like our heat and reflect that by the end of the summer. So, I’ll answer your second question first. The browning, more than likely, is what is called “frizzle top” which is directly related to the lack of manganese, which is a trace element palm trees need to stay healthy.

All of which leads to question No. 1. Fertilize your palms with a palm fertilizer, which has manganese in it, usually every three months with the exception of December and January. These are our coldest months and little growth occurs, so fertilizing during these two months will do little good but waste your money. Follow the directions on the fertilizer package.

Then, give your palm a good, long, deep soaking. Keep in mind, too, that queen palms are very susceptible to crown rot, which is a fungus. Use Bordeaux (a fungicide) every spring to prevent this problem.

Q “I’d like to put down a flagstone patio, but am not sure how to go about it. I know there’s got to be more to it than putting down the stone. Can you help?” —DAVID, ENCANTO NEIGHBORHOOD

Sure—and let me start out by saying that it doesn’t matter whether you are using flagstone, brick or patio pavers, the following procedure is the same for all. Figure what size an area you wish for your patio. If it’s a small enough area, you can go to your local home center with a truck and start making trips. For larger areas, ask your home center or gravel yard how many cubic feet of gravel and sand you may need), and have them haul it all to your home.

Once all this is done, excavate some soil, because you will need about 2 inches of gravel base for drainage and 2 inches of sand for a level surface upon which to lay your stone. If you don’t excavate, your patio will be 4 inches, plus the depth of your stone, above grade, so you will need a redwood form the

same height to hold everything in place.

The next step is to place the gravel evenly and tamp it down. Either use a hand tamper or rent a gas tamper from a home center or tool rental store. Try to keep the gravel surface as level as possible. Next, lay the sand in the same way you did the gravel base. Finally, use a straight 2 x 4 to drag across the sand for a nice level surface upon which to place your brick or stone.



Tom Handeyside, your Home Exteriors guy

Place your stones in the pattern of your choice. Note that flagstone will come in varying thickness, so some sand may have to be removed or added in areas. When you come to the edges, you may need a brick chisel and hammer, or a circular saw with a carbide blade, to cut your stone to fit (don’t forget the safety glasses!). When all stones are down, pour sand over the top and push the sand over the entire area with a push broom so the sand will fill in between the stones and “lock” them in place.

This is just an outline of what needs to be done. I recommend reading up on the details at the library—or buy a book on patio building at a home center or book store. Even so, I hope this column helps you and anyone else planning on putting in a home patio. I know I enjoy mine very much. And, please, keep those questions coming!

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

On the town

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO EAT IN CENTRAL PHOENIX

16 On the Arts: Indie haven. (Here?)
19 Clubs: Out, to dem night spots!

DINING OUT

Table for two, pronto

Familiar Italian dining spot gets points for service

BY PDQ BAKLAVA, DINING OUT CRITIC

Did you ever have the experience of examining a piece of art and finding that the frame encasing it had more grandeur than the picture it held?

That was the case over two recent visits to The Roman Table—and we’re not talking about proprietor Rocco Pepino’s paintings, which adorn the walls (prints of the same, tucked under glass, decorate each dining table, too), adding to the quaint and genial atmosphere of the surprisingly open-feeling little place.

►CHECK, PLEASE

The Roman Table
 4221 N. Seventh Ave.
 M-F 11-2, M-Sat 5-10,
 Sun 4-9
 234-0333
 Authentic Italian Galleria
 Restaurant

our visits—the “painting” framed by the first visit and the end of the second meal—was mediocre at best. On this second visit, we arrived about 8:30—enjoyably late, but well before the 10 p.m. kitchen shutdown time we’d happily learned about with a phone call. Our waiter greeted us promptly and shared the daily specials: a fresh catch and a chicken creation, which both sounded mouthwatering.

However, we ended up selecting items from the regular menu, which contained a nice assortment of pasta,

where the slightest overcooking can make the nearly pure protein of the squid inedibly chewy. It was, instead, tender and mild, the marinara dipping sauce fresh and light.

Soon afterward, the pizza was served. Rather than the gimmicky excess of “stuffed crust,” it had a “brushed crust”—a little glaze had been applied to the edge of the dough for a purely aesthetic enhancement. We’d never seen this done and appreciated the extra touch of this little trick. The sauce was also light, fresh and tomatoey—truly a welcome Italian touch after all the Midwest-based chains and other purveyors whose sauces tend toward the sweet and paste-y.

A great little outing. So, we thought, let’s go back, give them a chance to show their stuff in the way of “real” food, for the purpose of a complete review.

Well, that’s where it went south. And we don’t mean Sicily. What we might have considered the centerpiece of

the sweet and paste-y.

Well, that’s where it went south. And we don’t mean Sicily. What we might have considered the centerpiece of our visits—the “painting” framed by the first visit and the end of the second meal—was mediocre at best. On this second visit, we arrived about 8:30—enjoyably late, but well before the 10 p.m. kitchen shutdown time we’d happily learned about with a phone call. Our waiter greeted us promptly and shared the daily specials: a fresh catch and a chicken creation, which both sounded mouthwatering.

However, we ended up selecting items from the regular menu, which contained a nice assortment of pasta,



MESSENGER PHOTO/DAVID TELL

This presentation of pistachio ice cream dwarfs—and outshines—the otherwise estimable and oh-so-delicioso tiramisu on the table behind it.

meat, chicken and seafood dishes.

The first disappointment was the bread—rather than Italian bread, we were brought something passed off as focaccia. Warm and slightly aromatic, it seemed too highly risen and crumbly-textured for that hearty style of flatbread. It struck us as more like a fine-grained cornbread, which led us to ask whether it was perhaps made from a medium semolina flour. It had a paltry lacing of herbs, nothing distinguishable. We’d urge the chef to get more down and dirty with his bread recipe—incorporate some fragrant olive oil, maybe some chopped rosemary that is so abundant here, a little cheese or—well, with focaccia, the possibilities are endless. Just something, out some of the same love and thought into it that goes into that brushed pizza crust, capisce? (or, “kapeesh?”)

Then there was the calamari diavolo appetizer. The sauce it was sauteed with was nicely piquant—OK, downright spicy—but eating the calamari, this time, was like masticating rubber bands. The big fat wide ones. And it tasted a little off, in a way that even the sauce could not obscure. Really, we should have sent this one back. Seven ninety-five for 10 cents’ worth of sauce and a buck and a quarter’s worth of squid? If it had been good, OK ... but—

The salads were literally refreshing, a pleasant interlude between that appetizer and what was to come. They included the nice touch of diced zucchini and came with a choice of three dressings.

Then there were the entrees. Including daily specials and listed specialty dishes, there are over 25 dinner entrees to choose from, all made with homemade sauces and some made with homemade pasta. The lasagna tradizionale was adequate. Unlike in an episode of “News Radio” seen recently, we’re well aware that’s not a compliment. A tip: (none) Is that a fly in my goblet?

►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

continued on following page ►

Table stakes

► *continued from previous page*
sausage meat, just because it's ground up, isn't necessarily tender. If yours isn't, either gr-r-r-rind it finer, or simmer it longer in the sauce before building a concoction with it.

The tortellino al forno—my selection—was even more disappointing. The pasta, made by a local vendor, was pretty good, stuffed with a tasty (and this time tender) blend of ground meats and seasonings. But it was ambushed by an alfredo sauce that was stubbornly flavorless—it took more than a bit of salt and the waiter patiently spooning out yet mo-o-o-o-rated parmesan to confer any flavor on this dish. It did have the nice touch of crumbled walnuts to add at least some native interest.

Even eating only half of each entree, we really had no room for dessert. However—as it's said that “leaving well is the best revenge”—we took our chances (and, yes—later, paid our money).

Tiramisu, a longstanding favorite dessert of mine, proved to be an excellent choice. Made on premises, the ladyfingers were downright gooey with flavorful booze. My companion's

choice of the pistachio ice cream, however, was the peak of the evening (and the other part of that glorious “frame”). Its presentation alone made us swoon, cavort and even drool: a big green nugget rolled in crushed pistachios and then sliced, the pale green rounds set a-swimming in a pool of sweetened cream on an oversized, chilled plate and artfully and liberally drizzled with chocolate.

How do we Table-ulate our experience overall? It's clear the proprietors—and the service staff—take pride in their work and care about their patrons. We figure the place has just been around so long (nearly 25 years) that, well—execution has gotten inconsistent and recipes have incurred “drift.” I bet that on another night, or with some other choices, we'd be happier with things.

And we intend to find out. Because we do appreciate finding a neighborhood place—other than a chain restaurant—where they'll still seat you until 10 o'clock—on a weeknight! In the meantime, we hope the proprietors will pay a little more attention to detail—they've basically got a sound operation and they're a sight better than many more trendy or pseudo-authentic places we could name.



SUNSET WITH BUDDY AND ED PHOTO: JR. ANDERSON
**THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
BARON DIXON**

Sorry, you missed two of the screenings discussed below. Third time's the charm: You can still catch the columnist's own film!

Phoenix indie film— We have a pulse!

Phoenix native; Phoenix filmmaker; Phoenix film scene. One of these doesn't exist. The other two are rare. As a native Phoenician, filmmaker, and artist, I can vouch for the first two, but a Phoenix independent film scene seems an impossibility. Independent filmmakers are just that. I've known plenty.

I've witnessed their creative peaks, then the slip down the slope of practical career choices. Very few continue to produce. High turnover makes community unrealizable. Two filmmakers, Mark Jagers and Jeff Cochran, have had recent releases that give me hope that I might, with the screening of my film, contribute to a burgeoning scene.

Mark Jagers had a screening of his film, “Romance,” on Oct. 26 at Tempe Cinema. The large theater was full, with a responsive crowd. The comedy was absurd—in a funny way. The storyline centers on a 20-something guy whose search for love—and the women he's encountered—have left him dazed and battered. I can't say that I found the film remarkable. I've seen many indie films of this variety. What I did find remarkable is the manner in which it was made. Mark and his cohorts, Bryce Prevatte, Chris Rogers, and Travis Rust, formed Velocity Entertainment. I know all these guys. They are all talented filmmakers. And they consistently produce. In fact, they are already in production on their next feature, “Ciphers In the Schoolhouse.” Did you hear me? IN PRODUCTION.

Those are big words for indie filmmakers. Jeff Cochran had a screening of his film, “The Disappearance of Baron Dixon” on Nov. 8-10 at The Phoenix Center. Jeff's screenings are events in and of themselves and I wasn't disappointed. The picture is about a man that has spent his entire life telling everyone that aliens are going to take him to another planet. His obsession with aliens turns him into a social outcast. When he does disappear, the rumors fly and his popularity takes off. I can't say enough about Jeff and his ability to bring people together and get work done. This is his second feature film, and he has also done many short films and a TV series, and is nationally renowned painter. He fills his movies with local artists and iconoclasts. You could build an indie community around Jeff and his troupe of artists alone. In fact, Jeff is taking a big step. He is opening an independent movie theater called “The Monkey Show” at 1023 Grand Avenue. The first screening will be his film, “Punk James,” a Phoenix underground classic. Whatever he screens next, the establishment of a venue for local film could be the start of something grand on Grand.

As for me, I am screening my film, “Armanda Legg,” at 7 p.m. on Dec. 2 at Hollywood Alley, 2610 W. Baseline in Mesa, (480) 820-7117. It's a story about a man who escapes from prison one body part at a time. A comedy. This is my small contribution to Phoenix indie film. I will continue supporting, encouraging, and collaborating with my fellow filmmakers. I will be in their audience and I hope you are too. We can create a scene.

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

LISTINGS NOV.–DEC. 2001

We invite all organizations whose events may interest *The Midtown Messenger's* readers to submit releases for publication in these listings. We reserve the right to edit or not to publish due to space limitations. We take care in compiling and editing these listings, but are not liable for errors or for reschedulings or cancellations of events by the sponsoring organization. Readers are advised to check with the source for any updates. Mail releases to P.O. Box 36241, Phoenix, AZ 85067, or e-mail to listings@midtownmessenger.com.

OUTINGS

NOVEMBER 21

Wine Down Wednesday

KYOT 95.5 FM will broadcast live, setting the mood for a relaxing evening of dinner, dancing and fine wine. Wrigley Mansion Club, 2501 E. Telewa Trail. 7 - 10 p.m. \$100. (602) 955-4079

NOVEMBER 23

Candyland Concert

Bob McGrath, of Sesame Street fame, headlines this City of Phoenix tradition with lights, music, magic, hands on activities for kids and more. Heritage Square, 7th St. and Monroe. 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. (602) 261-8604

NOVEMBER 24

City Lights

A spectacular display of more than half a million holiday lights will wind through the walkways and shops of this popular tourist stop. Arizona Center. (602) 271-4000

NOVEMBER 27

Poetry in the Park

A monthly gathering of poets and musicians, open to those interested in reading and enjoying spoken word. Encanto Park Clubhouse, 2605 N. 15th Ave. 7 pm. Free.

NOVEMBER 29

Moet Chandon Champagne Dinner

Join restaurant manager David Torkko as he walks you through a multi-course dinner accompa-

nied by champagnes from Moet Chandon. Wrigley Mansion Club, 2501 E. Telewa Trail. 7 - 10 p.m. \$100. (602) 955-4079

Los Noches de las Luminarias

More than 7000 glowing candles light the pathways for a spectacular desert stroll, featuring music and complimentary snacks. Through Dec. 1, 2001. Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. (480) 481-8188

DECEMBER 1

Jingle Bell Holiday Run And Walk For Arthritis

A fun-filled 5K walk and run held in conjunction with the APS Electric Light Parade, with proceeds benefiting the Arthritis Foundation. Wells Fargo Parking Lot, Central & Merrell. 5 a.m. \$25 pledge. (602) 264-7679

Warren Miller Presents Cold Fusion



Warren Miller Entertainment premieres its 52nd annual ski and snowboard film with two never-before-seen world record-breaking stunts. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 6 - 8 p.m. \$13. (602) 262-7272

APS Fiesta of Light Electric Light Parade

Illuminated floats, performing groups and marching units celebrate the holidays along a 3-mile route on Central Ave. Missouri South to Thomas Streets. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. (602) 261-8604

DECEMBER 2

OTF Silent Sundays; The Great K&A Train Robbery

Legendary cowboy Tom Mix stars as a lawman hired to solve a recent string of robberies by posing as an outlaw to rope in the bad guys. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 3 - 6 p.m. \$9 - \$12. (602) 262-7272

SHOWS/EXHIBITION

DECEMBER 7

Annual Holiday Art Sale & Show

There's something for every budget in a variety of mediums, including ceramics, paintings, photography, jewelry and other unique art objects. Phoenix Center, Visual Arts Gallery, 214 E. Moreland. Fri: 6 - 9 p.m. Sat: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (602) 262-4632

DECEMBER 8

CFA Phoenix Feline Fanciers 9th Annual



Stevie Nicks rumoured to show America West Arena, Dec. 6.

Championship Cat Show

More than 200 pedigreed and household pets will compete in an eight ring national event. Through Dec. 9, 2001. Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center, 225 E. Adams St. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$7, \$5, \$2. (602) 262-7272

CONCERTS

NOVEMBER 20

The Paladins

The roots rock rampage continues with this red hot California band. Opening the show will be Tex Watson Swing Convention. Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd. (602) 265-4842

NOVEMBER 21

BJ Thomas

The five-time Grammy Award-winner takes the stage for a very special Thanksgiving evening performance. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. (602) 262-7272

NOVEMBER 23

The Judy Collins Christmas Show

Living legend Judy Collins captures the holiday spirit with a little help from the Phoenix Children's Choir.

Through Nov. 24, 2001. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 8 p.m. \$38 - \$50. (602) 262-7272

PSO Classics: Mighty Mahler

Hermann Michael conducts Haydn's Symphony No. 101, “The Clock” and Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with soprano Joni Killian accompanying. Through Nov. 24, 2001. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 8 p.m. \$18 - \$45. (602) 262-7272

NOVEMBER 25

APS Fiesta of Light Holiday Concert

Enjoy the twinkling lights of downtown Phoenix with the added enjoyment of a concert by the Reed Family. Symphony Hall, 225 W. Adams. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. (602) 262-4627

An Evening with the Boston Pops

Keith Lockhart and the legendary Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra will perform holiday favorites. America West Arena. 7 p.m. \$15 - \$100. (602) 379-7800

NOVEMBER 27

Neil Diamond in Con- cert

The musical legend continues to melt hearts with smooth sounds as he brings his act through the Valley for one night only. America West Arena. 8 p.m. \$37.50 - \$67.50. (602) 379-7800

NOVEMBER 28

New Music Concert

The Phoenix Composers Alliance presents a lively evening of new music. Phoenix College, 1202 W. Thomas Rd. (602) 285-7272

Shoe Suede Blues

Former star of the Monkees, Peter Tork, leads his new high energy band through a night of blues and dance. Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Rd. \$15. (602) 265-4842

PSO Classical Con- nections: Evolution of a Revolutionary

Neal Gittleman conducts Schumann's Overture to Scenes from Goethe's Faust and three Faustian movements by Wagner. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 7:30 p.m. \$18 - \$45. (602) 262-7272

DECEMBER 1

PSO Saturday Sam- pler: Sarah Chang

Hermann Michael conducts soloist Sarah Chang on violin through selections from Cherubini, Dvorak and Sibelius. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 8 p.m. \$18 - \$45. (602) 262-7272

DECEMBER 6

Stevie Nicks and Friends

The legendary vocalist takes the stage with a few of her closest musical friends in a concert to benefit the Arizona Heart Institute Foundation. America West Arena. (602) 379-7800

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- Postickers**
Dumplings stuffed with seasoned ground pork and minced vegetables. 4 \$2.75, 8 \$5.25
- Cream Cheese Wontons**
Cream cheese blended with watercress and green onion. 4 \$2.75, 8 \$5.25
- Spring Rolls**
Marinated julienne vegetables. 1 \$1.15, 2 \$2.25, 5 \$5.25

ENTREES

- House Special Style**
Chili vinegar sauce, garlic, scallions, snow peas, and carrots.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Beef | \$7.25 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
| Vegetables | \$5.25 |
- Orange Peel Style**
Slightly fruity sauce, orange peel, scallion, snow peas and carrots.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Beef | \$7.25 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
| Vegetables | \$5.25 |
- Kung Pao Style**
Exciting spicy sauce, peanuts, scallion, snow peas and carrots.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Beef | \$7.25 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
| Vegetables | \$5.25 |
- Mongolian Style**
Soy garlic sauce, green onion and mushrooms.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Beef | \$7.25 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
| Vegetables | \$5.25 |
- Broccoli Style**
Soy ginger sauce, oyster sauce, scallion, broccoli.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Beef | \$7.25 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
| Vegetables | \$5.25 |
- Teriyaki Style**
Teriyaki sauce, carrot and broccoli.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Beef | \$7.25 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
| Vegetables | \$5.25 |
- Sweet and Sour Style**
Tempura battered shrimp or chicken, sweet and sour sauce, ginger, red and green bell pepper, and pineapple.
- | | |
|---------|--------|
| Chicken | \$6.50 |
| Shrimp | \$7.95 |
- Chow Mein Style**
Egg noodles, carrot, scallion, sprouts, mushrooms, garlic soy sauce.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$5.50 |
| Beef | \$6.25 |
| Shrimp | \$6.95 |
| House | \$6.50 |
| Vegetables | \$4.95 |
- Fried Rice Style**
Rice, egg, carrot, scallion, sprouts, garlic soy sauce.
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Chicken | \$5.50 |
| Beef | \$6.25 |
| Shrimp | \$6.95 |
| House | \$6.50 |
| Vegetables | \$4.95 |

On the town

PSO Pops Concert: Desert Yuletide
Conductor Robert Moody and director Michael Bernard join forces in this holiday spectacular featuring actors, dancers, singers and giant puppets. Phoenix Symphony Hall, 2nd St. and Monroe. 7:30 p.m. \$18 - \$45. (602) 262-7272

DECEMBER 8

Christmas Mariachi Festival
The finest Mariachi bands from the United States and Mexico celebrate the holiday season through the traditions of the Southwest. America West Arena. 7 p.m. \$25 - \$60. (602) 379-7800

Mars III & Dirt
Music for the masses in an eclectic environment. Paper Heart Gallery and Studio, 222 N. Fifth Ave. 8 p.m. \$10. (602) 262-2020 or www.paper-heart.com

DECEMBER 11

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Extraordinaire
Celebrate the sounds of the season with selections from the new album Christmas Extraordinaire and other multi-platinum Fresh Aire favorites. America West Arena. (602) 379-7800

DECEMBER 13

Dein Perry's Tap Dogs
Fast, fabulous and never what you're expecting it to be, The London Times says of Tap Dogs, "Tap dancing will never be the same again!" Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. (602) 262-7272

GALLERY/MUSEUM

ONGOING

36th Annual Cowboy Artists of America Sale & Exhibition
This unique major exhibi-

tion unveils more than 100 new works, by the members of the Cowboy Artists of America. Through November 18, 2001. Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. (602) 257-1222 or www.phxart.org

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

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

DECEMBER 7

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story
The Broadway hit about the life of one of America's first and best-loved rock and roll pioneers takes the stage. Through Dec. 7, 2001. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 8 - 10:30 p.m. \$35.50 - \$39.50. (602) 262-7272

DECEMBER 12

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

DECEMBER 14

Erastes Cinaedi: The Art Of Ofesa

Folk artist Erastes Cinaedi's Romeny/Gypsy mixed media visual aesthetic opens with the European folk melodies of Europa on stage. Alwun House, 1204 E. Roosevelt. (602) 253-7887 or www.alwun-house.org

THEATER

ONGOING

Arizona Theatre Company Presents Ghosts
Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lanford Wilson pens a new translation of Ibsen's shocking play about a woman haunted by her husband's disreputable past. Through November 25, 2001. Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St. Times vary. \$25 - \$48. (602) 252-8497 or www.aztheatreco.org

NOVEMBER 30

Pinocchio
The fantastic tale of the little wooden puppet who became a real live boy is presented by Phoenix Center Youth Theatre. Through Dec. 8, 2001. The Phoenix Center for Community Art, 1202 N. 3rd St. \$3 - \$5. (602) 262-4627

DECEMBER 4

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story
The Broadway hit about the life of one of America's first and best-loved rock and roll pioneers takes the stage. Through Dec. 7, 2001. Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St. 8 - 10:30 p.m. \$35.50 - \$39.50. (602) 262-7272

DECEMBER 8

Actors Theatre of Phoenix presents A Christmas Carol
Charles Dicken's 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

DECEMBER 12

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

FESTIVALS/FAIRS

DECEMBER 1

Christmas & Kawan-zaa Expo
Celebrate the season with a cultural flair, with entertainment, craft booths and seasonal food. Heritage Park, 115 N. 6th St. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free. (602) 262-5029

DECEMBER 8

Victorian Holiday
An old fashioned holiday celebration featuring entertainment, demonstrations, crafts, carriage rides, kids activities and more. Heritage Square, 7th St. and Monroe. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free. (602) 262-5029

WORDS

NOVEMBER 24

No Thanks
An evening of spoken word and performance by local visionary Jeff Falk, with musical accompaniment by Last Wave. Paper Heart Gallery and Studio, 222 N. Fifth Ave. (602) 262-2020 or www.paper-heart.com

NOVEMBER 27

Diabetes Awareness Lecture
Guest speaker Gilda Harris, from the Arizona Chapter of the American Diabetes Association, will present information on this silent killer. ASU

On the town

Downtown Center. (480) 965-3046

NOVEMBER 28

Grant Writing
The City of Phoenix, Neighborhood Services Department offers this free class on grant writing. RSVP to June Liggins. Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave. 6 - 8 p.m. (602) 534-4447

NOVEMBER 29

Analyze This: Broken Brain vs. Muddled Mind
Dr. Richard Gottlieb, M.D. reviews biological and psychological concepts of depression and presents useful ways of combating the illness. ASU Downtown Center, 502 E. Monroe. 12 - 1 p.m. Free. (480) 965-3046

2001 Neighborhood Lobbying Workshop
Free workshop to learn about how the Arizona legislature works and how residents can influence the legislative process. Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (602) 256-4257

DECEMBER 6

Thursday Lunch Talk: Camelback Sacred Mountain of Phoenix
Author Gary Diggs provides stories, experiences, photography and art relating to Camelback Mountain. Burton Barr Central Library, 4th floor lecture room. 12 - 1 pm. Free. (602) 262-4636

KID STUFF

Little Red Riding Hood
The big bad wolf is back to harass that sweet little girl again in this classic rendition for ages preschool to grade 2. Through Dec. 2, 2001.

Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W. Latham St. Times vary. \$5 - \$7. (602) 262-2050 or www.azpuppets.org

NOVEMBER 30

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

DECEMBER 5

Hotel Saguro
A light-hearted fantasy designed to teach children the importance of the Saguro to the desert, for ages K through 3. Through Dec. 9, 2001. Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W. Latham St. Times vary. \$5 - \$7. (602) 262-2050 or www.azpuppets.org

DECEMBER 12

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 16

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Gyros Chimi w fresh cucumber sauce, baked zucchini and rice

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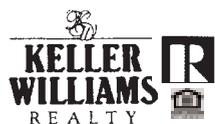
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