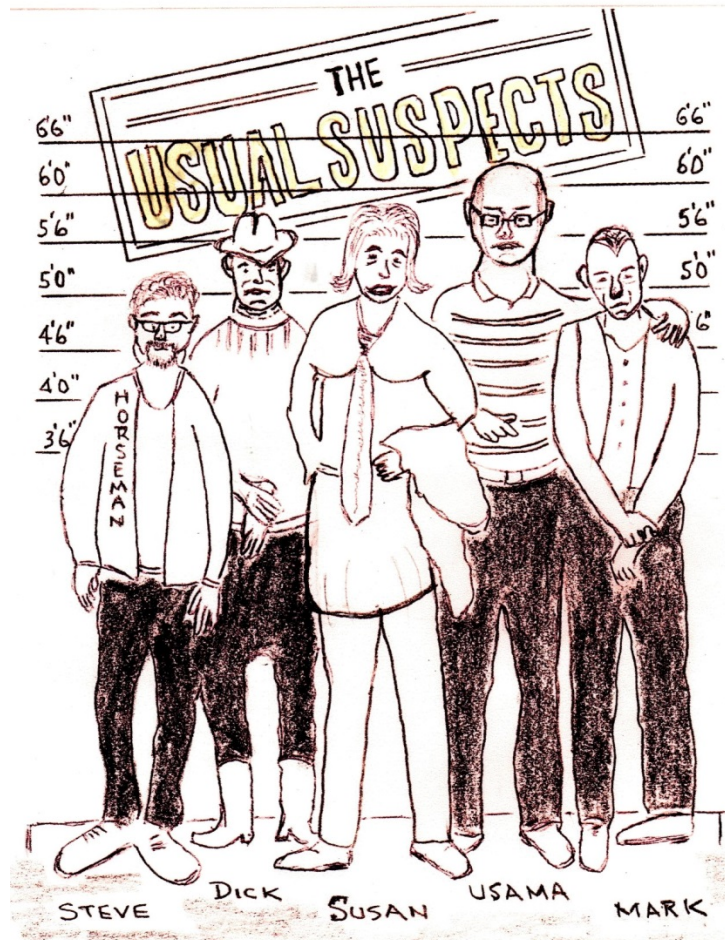




Welcome to our Community News Bulletin.

This Week's Issues:

- Editorial by John Vannucci
- Guest Editor – by Ray Stark / Property Tax? Bond Issue? *Nothing?*
- Reminders:
 - Holland Gallery of Fine Art: Sue Avery Lewis & Mary LaRue Wells
 - Archaeology Club – Hopi Treasures
 - After the Homestretch nonprofit
- OnTheEdge Gallery
- Photo by Herbert Hitchon
- Kiwanis performances in January and February
- Library program for Kids



THE SORCHYCH 'SLATE'
(2015)

Déjà vu, THE SORCHYCH SLATE is revealed

Editorial January 1, 2015



Déjà vu, The SORCHYCH SLATE is Revealed

Happy New Year. What a way to start a new year in the Town of Cave Creek with a recall election for this March. There were no surprises in the selection of the recall candidates. I have often referred to these folks as the 'Usual Suspects'. I do have to appreciate their ability to have maintained their level of anger and bitterness since their loss of the 2013 election. In their efforts to enter the Guinness World Book of Records for the most elections within a two year period; maybe the third time will be their charm in unseating the current council. This recall election comes after almost two years of campaigning and complaining about the new council and their loss of the 'World's greatest Town Manager'. First came the general election of 2012-2013, then came the run-off election, followed by two recall signature efforts, and now the Town must endure a recall election.

Who are these 'Usual Suspects' and what do they offer the citizens of Cave Creek? Let's review who these people are. The SORCHYCH SLATE'S top candidate is none other than Dick Esser, what a surprise! You may remember he was on the 'Do Nothing' councils for six (6) years! He also spent six years on the Planning Commission. During all that time he never had a problem with borrowing and spending tax payer money on any of the Usama Abujbarah's far reaching and wasteful projects. Mr. Esser's irresponsible neglect and enormous ego helped dig the financial hole the Town finds itself in now and for many years to come. Led by the nose by Usama, to the point where, having withdrawn from the run-off election, Usama from within his town paid office, persuaded Esser to attempt a re-instatement onto the ballot. A judge ruled against Esser's failed and feeble attempt. So what does he have to offer the citizens, what are his solutions to our fiscal problems? NOTHING! Old dogs really can't be trained into better behavior. He would continue his old ways of borrowing, taxes and spending.

Second up, Mr. Steve LaMar, aka 'The Horseman' and regular editorial writer for Don Sorchych's paper. Steve considers himself to be the Thomas Jefferson of Cave Creek's Incorporation. He says he wants to fight for the future HE envisioned when he fought for the 1986 incorporation. His two terms on the Town councils says otherwise. Like Esser, he too was nothing more than a puppet for Abujbarah. He never opposed any of Usama's extravagant spending in the name of progress, never questioned Usama's management of the water/waste water enterprises or anything else for that matter. (WE now know what the cost of negligence and ignorance in the operation and maintenance of the enterprises are on the town's budget). What did he do during his time on council? NOTHING! Now he wants to save the Town from his past irresponsible neglect. Also, let's not forget that these two saviors were both advocates for Usama's failed 2012 property tax initiative.

Next up for the Don Sorchych Slate is a Mr. Mark Lipsky. I am not familiar with any of Mr. Lipsky's prior service to the town, so I have to assume he is a new member to the 'Usual Suspect' club. Since showing up to council meetings lately, it appears his beef with this council is the use of the publically funded town newsletter, 'The Coyote' for political purposes! Can you imagine, what an outrage! I don't know if Mr. Lipsky is aware of the fact that the town's newsletter (formerly known as 'The Connection') was routinely used by Abujbarah and councils as a political view point outlet in promoting their agendas. I still have a copy of the April 2007 issue, Vol. 3-0407 that was used by Usama to fight back the Home Rule Referendum (Prop 400 May 15, 2007). Check with former Sorchych pal George Ross about the newsletters and the referendum. Can you

guess how much more debt we have accumulated since 2007? Where were you when the Town was borrowing and spending money like drunken sailors on leave??

Finally, we have Ms. Susan Clancy, The Chairlady of the 'not so Caring Citizens of Cave Creek PAC'. Her recall effort has shown real determination, which means BEWARE, a woman scorned knows no mercy, Ouch, look out Trenk. ' Nuff said.

The only real surprise in this mess is, the absence of 'Le Cause Celebre' himself, Usama Abujbarah. I fully expected him to run for a council seat. Then I remembered that it is a non-paying volunteer position; volunteering is not his cup of tea. As always, he expects other people to do his dirty work to get him re-instated. OH, I forgot he is suing the Town, awkward to say the least.

However this recall election shakes out, the town will continue to be divided, it will have its massive debt, it will continue to be the 'Town too tough to be governed', and it will continue to be a rudderless, leaderless town (a 16 /17 year entrenched mayor) with a bad image problem that mirrors that of the State of Arizona to the outside world. Unfortunately, the last eighteen months or so has proven that not much has changed in the positive from the Usama regime; therefore the only good thing we have in the towns favor is that the campaign rhetoric will be limited to March 10, 2015.

John Vannucci
The Fiscal Conservative Creeker

Guest Editor: Ray Stark / Property Tax? Bond Issue? *Nothing?*

We have talked about what basic services you can expect from a town. Now we need to look at the nitty-gritty: How much comes in and how much goes out. Reading spread sheets and balance sheets is riveting, I know, but, we'll simplify things for the sake of time and everyone's patience. In five minutes you will know more about town finances that 90% of town residents, I promise.

Everyone knows there is no property tax in Cave Creek. The money that runs our government comes principally from fees associated with construction of new homes and businesses (plan review, developmental fees etc.) and licensing fees (business licenses etc.), Additional sales tax revenue generated by our town merchants (Bryan's BBQ, Harold's, Wal Mart, etc.) added to some shared state revenue make up nearly all the rest of the income our town operates on.

Some simple numbers (based on FY 2015-16 projections):

Income (Revenue):

- sales tax (local) 6.7m
- local fees (including water and waste water sales tax) 8.5m
- shared state revenue (road fees, gas sales tax, HURF Highway Users Fund, shared state income tax and state sales tax) 1.5m
- transfers from other sources 2.5m
- miscellaneous .8m

TOTAL (projected) 20.1m

Expenses (also called "transfers" out of the General Fund)

- -personnel costs 3.4m
- services 4.2m
- commodities (fuel, copy paper, computers) 1.1m
- capital (new infrastructure improvements) 3.1m
- debt service (for water loans, aka WIFA and other bonds) 4.9m
- transfers (out of general fund to run the town including the ever-recurrent wastewater deficit)) 2.5m

TOTAL EXPENDITURES (projected) 19.2m

Income (20.1m) minus expenses (19.2m) = \$900,000 A positive number. Hopefully, we'll have even more in early 2016.

OK. First off, these numbers are just *projections*. They are conservative wags based on previous years and a good idea where the economy is headed. Also, thanks to normal accounting "slight of hand" (which always confused me in accounting class because some things show up on both sides of the ledger) the actual "expenditures" number is reportedly somewhat lower, say around \$17 million.

This is good for Cave Creek residents. It indicates that, by keeping an eye on expenditures, Cave Creek can dig it's way, albeit slowly, from the financial crevice it currently finds itself in and possibly do some desperately needed upgrading on water systems and roads. Barring a collapse of the economy, the budget forecast indicates *if* we stay the course and operate a fiscally lean town operation, we *might* have a million a year for new water lines and road paving. But, the minimum road costs are \$800,000 to keep the roads as bad as they are now. It will take a million to start improving them. Where does that money come from if the water company is in need of upgrade and the sewer plant is still running in the red a million a year?

Wastewater customers currently do not support the cost of wastewater treatment operations and the debt service for building that facility. Transfers (expenditures) out of the General Fund are still required to pay for those operations, which operate at a loss. In 2012-2013 it was estimated to be a 1.3 million dollar loss that had to be made up for by the general fund. By co-mingling the two funds, we really don't have a good idea what the loss is. As more customers sign up, that loss will shrink. It may take many years before the wastewater plant breaks even.

Think about this: The \$ 1,000,000 all citizens of Cave Creek do without because it goes to subsidize the waste treatment plant amounts to a de-facto "tax" on all citizens, many of which will never ever see a sewer line in their neighborhood.

The Town Fiscal Year starts on July 1st and ends June 30th.

Just like an individual who chooses to make payments on all monthly necessities before getting major service done to a car, the Town is forced to wait until later in the year to launch large capital improvement projects, like building new water pumping stations or launching major paving projects. This way they have a better idea on how revenues ("monies coming in") are doing. Without consistent revenues like those provided by a property tax, this is how they *must* operate.

There is a little over \$600,000 left in the 2014-2015 budget for upgrades to our town water and waste system. This money is desperately needed to resolve immediate problems in the Desert Hills and Cave Creek water systems, as well as the Cave Creek waste treatment facility -even though much more needs to be done in the near future.

And, it is important to look at what shape the town would be in financially if they had *half* the debt they now service for the water treatment and waste-water bonds -4.8million every year. Two million dollars extra each

year would completely fund the Road Plan as well as finance needed upgrades to our water supply system, especially the aged pumping stations pumping CAP water up from the canal North of the 101 and Cave Creek Road. But, decisions made years back have consequences... It would seem our town leadership has done a fair job of getting our finances back in order but, perhaps there is still more that could be done.

Is the town as "lean" as it could be? Only detailed cost analysis can answer that question. Is it cheaper to contract every year with a company to do routine road repairs or is cheaper to hire our own town employees with their associated health-care, injury insurance, retirement, sick leave and training costs? Answering questions like this require detailed analysis and that requires hiring outside professionals.

Could the town chart a better path toward financial health?

Some I have talked with think the town's financial options are pretty limited at this point and taking on fees to have someone tell us how to pay our bills might be counter-productive. We need to pay down the debt ASAP and not incur any *more* debt unless absolutely necessary to provide essential town obligations. Well, that sounds all well and good but, is it based on sound financial assessments? Could we do more? How can we know for sure?

Simple: Ask an *expert*.

Many, including one town resident with considerable experience in town management, think we need to hire outside financial assistance to help us ensure we understand where we are as a town financially -and how we can get healthy again.

Critical for every cave Creek citizen is "knowing" that we will never again make the same mistakes that got us into this predicament. One critical failure was relying only on the side selling the water plants for information. **In a very real sense, the public voted on faulty information.** Outside professionals could have provided needed information that would have prevented us from making that costly mistake. And, they can provide us with a roadmap to follow to ensure we get fiscally healthy as fast as possible. We **MUST** make sound decisions based on the best information from this point forward.

If we hadn't spent three times what we were told the water company and waste treatment plant would run, we'd be in a lot better shape. Is it wise to rely on the same word of those who sold us this debt, who now feel we should just dig our own way out? The new council members campaigned with the issue of financial reform at the top of their list of things to do. Yet we hear nothing but crickets when the subject comes up. "Nothing to see here... Keep moving right along!"

Really?

Or do we want to get our town turned around? There are people calling for new trails, new projects, and new involvement by the town government. After looking at the financials, I am not so sure we can afford our basic services should some "event" occur which costs the town some money they hadn't planned on spending and just don't have.

So, do we need a property tax? The current budget projections do not indicate we do, but what if the budget projection is off? What if a water line breaks and floods a couple homes, requiring a million dollar fix? Where does that money come from? Many think a short-term assessment dedicated solely to the roads might help us get our road system back from the brink of destruction as well as free up more resources for the water and wastewater system rehabilitation. No doubt it would.

With budget projections indicating we should only have about a million to fund the vast array of upgrades to our failing and crumbling water system and roadways, you hardly come away from the forecast with any

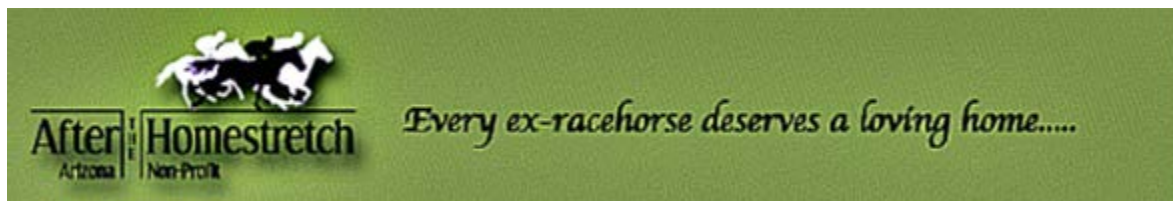
confidence. And we should gain independent expert appraisal on our current condition and how to get out of debt as quickly and inexpensively as possible.

As a guy who worked road issues for 16 years, I see another cost this financial mess has cost our town. Sadly, we are missing out on a record low price of oil. Oil makes up 80% of the cost of asphalt. How long it will stay down is anyone's guess. It will be 18 months or more before we can start any paving operations. We might have made our paving dollars go far 30% farther had we not been flat broke.

If we use wise counsel and encourage our elected leaders to deliberate with good information and make the hard and wise decisions based on the best information available, we will once again be a healthy and vibrant town. Keep your town and its leaders in your prayers this Christmas.



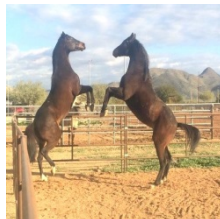
Happy Holidays to all!!! Ray



Thanks to your support and that of our many volunteers, 2014 has been good to us. We settled in to the ranch at 12th and Maddock in Phoenix and were able to build an arena for horse training and additional horse stalls so we can accommodate more horses. Horses were adopted and new ones came from the track; some were injured requiring medical attention. Comet's surgery was successful and with the wonderful help of our professionals, we have been able to treat our horses with both western and eastern medicines.



However the need goes on and we hope you will be able to help us today and next year as we strive ***to continue protecting the legacy of ex-racehorses.*** "The best is yet to come".



Wishing you a happy and healthy 2015 New Year. Dannielle Marturana, President/Founder

Visit our website at <http://afterthehomestretchaz.org>

We are also on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/AfterTheHomestretchArizona>

Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/homestretchAZ>

Check out our Instagram account at <http://instagram.com/afterthehomestretchaz/>

Comments about this Newsletter? news@afterthehomestretchaz.org



ON THE EDGE GALLERY -- Celebrate the Kick Off the 2015 Art Season at the Collector's ArtWalk!

Wonderful art comes in all shapes and sizes! See for yourself at On The Edge Gallery's Collector's ArtWalk on Thursday, January 15th from 6 PM to 9 PM. On The Edge Gallery showcases a diverse array of artwork perfect for the art collector — oil paintings, pastels, acrylic paintings and monoprints, photography, fiber art, sculpture, jewelry, and much more. The evening's entertainment includes demonstrating artists, wonderful artwork, stimulating artistic conversation, and delectable refreshments!

"Experience art at its best," says Jenny Willigrod, On The Edge President. "Whether you collect traditional artwork or art that's a bit 'on the edge', we've got that perfect piece for your art collection!"

Featured Artists on tap for the evening are **Susan Palmer, Bruce Boyce, and Amy Whitehouse**. Painter Susan Palmer will be demonstrating how she creates her vivid and dynamic acrylic masterpieces! Photographer, Bruce Boyce will be bringing a couple of his cameras and discussing his photographic techniques.

Susan Palmer, Acrylic Paintings

The use of bright color in Susan's abstract paintings will catch your eye first. Upon a closer look, you will experience how her painting makes you feel. Then you may wonder what the painting is really about. "There is usually much more going on than first meets the eye," says Susan. "And that's the fun thing about art, after all . . . it's all in the eye of the beholder!" Susan's motto is "Art That Makes You Happy", and she hopes that her art will do that for you!

Bruce Boyce, Photography

"Fine art collectibles must first catch your eye, and then implant a lasting image in your brain so that each time you look at it you are pleased that you acquired it," states Bruce. Bruce produces his beautiful landscape photographs of the Southwest with the explicit intent of generating those two reactions in his viewers. He does so through a combination of excellence in the standard photographic techniques of subject, lighting and composition, plus the added bonus of superior image quality through his mania for image sharpness, detail and realistic tonal rendition. The results are memorable images that have the impact and realism of the original scenes, each as if viewed through an open window on a clear day. Bruce will have a couple of cameras and his Questar telescope with him at the Collector's ArtWalk. Bruce will also bring other samples of printed images to share that evening.

Amy Whitehouse, Acrylic Monoprints

"I am passionate about painting," says Amy. "I paint every day and love to share my artwork with others!" Amy works in many artistic media — oil, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, and watercolor. "I love to experiment by breaking the rules and painting intuitively," says Amy. At the Collector's ArtWalk, Amy will be showcasing her new, dynamic collection of acrylic monoprints.

Julie Carpenter-Boardman, Printmaker

Julie is a printmaker and painter living in Phoenix, Arizona with her family including a husband, two children, and nine pets. Julie has a MFA in Printmaking and Drawing, and she has taught printmaking and various other courses at the university level. Additionally, Julie has taught various art workshops, managed a painting studio for gifted high-school students, and participated in teaching children art in impoverished school districts. Julie taught elementary school art in the Phoenix area for one year and managed a summer children's workshop teaching painting, drawing and ceramics in Scottsdale, AZ. Julie's work has been displayed both in the United States and abroad.

On The Edge Gallery represents over forty Arizona artists -- from emerging artists to internationally recognized artists. On The Edge Gallery is located in the Downtown Scottsdale Arts District in an airy 2000 square foot gallery. The gallery displays a diverse array of original fine art and unique gift items. On The Edge artists work in the gallery every day and run all aspects of the business. On The Edge opened on September 1, 2012.

WHAT: Collector's ArtWalk at On the Edge Gallery

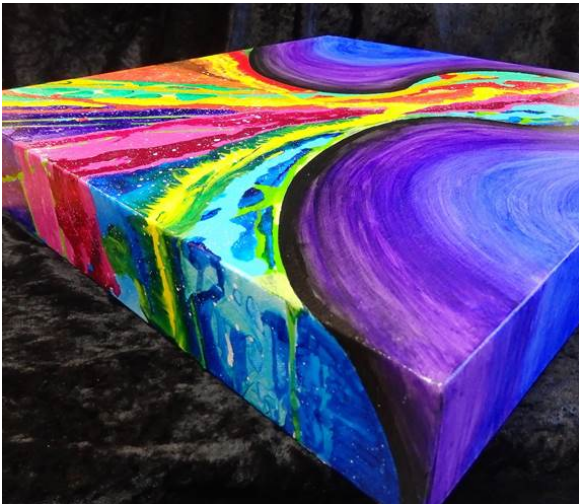
WHEN: Thursday, January 15, 2015

HOURS: Gallery Thursday Hours: 10 AM to 9 PM, with Artwalk Festivities from 6 PM - 9 PM

**WHERE: On the Edge Gallery, 7050 E. 5th Avenue (5th Avenue & Marshall Way)
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

GALLERY TELEPHONE: 480-265-8991; Media Katie Stearns, 602-370-0363 Cell stearnsstudio@cox.net Email

For high resolution images, additional information about On the Edge Gallery, or to schedule an interview with an On the Edge Artist, please call Katie Stearns, On the Edge Gallery - Public Relations, at 602-370-0363 or email her at stearnsstudio@cox.net.



Susan Palmer, Acrylic Paintings



Bruce Boyce, Photography

Amy Whitehouse, Acrylic Monoprints



Julie Carpenter-Boardman, Printmaker

HOLLAND FINE ART EVENT

January 2015 Holland Fine Arts Gallery

Artists: Mary LaRue Wells and Sue Avery Lewis

Title of Show: INSIDE OUT AND UPSIDE DOWN

Mary LaRue Wells and Sue Avery Lewis each spent their professional careers in the visual art world. Mary exhibited in galleries in Washington DC and N.Y.C. Sue was a career art educator at the high school and college level with galleries in Iowa and Colorado.

Both artists embrace the creative, imaginative thinking process with great joy. The show will include oil, acrylic, and mixed media paintings plus silver jewelry assemblages--all whimsical, playful, one of a kind pieces. Mary's work involves bizarre, surrealistic narratives. For example one collection involves playing cards which can hang upside up or upside down--each with its own twist. Observing the titles of Mary's art is a kick in itself.

All of Sue's pieces will be variations of her Vehicles of Inquiry series. You are invited to metaphorically climb aboard the fantastical whirligigs and ponder answers to the questions asked by each such as "What drives you to the edge?" or "When do you depart from the path of commonsense?"

The Opening Date of Show: January 2, 2015

Closing Date of Show: Jan. 30, 2015

The Opening Reception: Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 4:30 -6:30



MARY LARUE WELLS

emails: Mary marylaruewells@aol.com
Sue sukiroblew@aol.com>

SUE AVERY LEWIS



REMINDER: The general public may attend an **Arizona Archaeology Society – Desert Foothills Chapter** meeting at no charge, except for the holiday party in December. The AAS-DFC meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. There are refreshments available at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM, usually ending prior to 9:00 PM. The meetings are held in the community building (Maitland Hall) at The Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church, 6502 East Cave Creek Road, Cave Creek, AZ 85331 (near the Dairy Queen). www.azarchsoc.org/desertfoothills. **NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY 1-14-15.**



HERBERT HITCHON, Evening Panorama

Kiwanis Concert Series

From dining el fresco, to enjoying spectacular views of Black Mountain as you shop the downtown galleries and boutiques, you'll love all there is to see and do in Carefree. Come support the Kiwanis Club of Carefree Benefit Foundation.

The Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion is in the Carefree Desert Gardens at Carefree Town Center, 101 Easy Street, Carefree, Arizona 85377.

Beachfront Property

Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 6:00 PM



Dana Daniels " A Riot of Comedy Magic"

Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 6:00 PM



Dana Daniels and Luigi the Psychic Parrot



[Dunlap and Pennington 2 Pianos 4 Hands](#) *Saturday, February 07, 2015 6:00 PM*

CHILDREN LIBRARY EVENTS....

Process Art for Preschoolers

January 23, 10:15-11

Preschoolers ages 2½ - 6 are invited to try a variety of painting & collage styles.

Bring your creativity. Supplies provided.

AND

Read Around the World

February 1 - March 6

Kids ages 2 & up are encouraged to register for our free Winter Reading program: Read Around the World. Stop by the children's department to pick up a reading log. Turn in a completed log to register to win 1 of 4 possible prizes and receive a free book. Prizes will be awarded through a random drawing at the program's conclusion. You do not need to be present to win. Parents may read to their children or kids can read on their own or listen to books. This program is being done in partnership with the Kiwanis Club International.



Remember that FIRST and THIRD Mondays are usually Council Meeting, starting at 7:00 PM. Agenda is generally available by Fridays. Or watch the meeting live at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/town-of-cave-creek-council-meetings>. Earphones are recommended.

- Planning Commission is usually Third Thursday at 7PM not broadcast.
- PLEASE FORWARD TO FRIENDS & ASK THEM TO BECOME ENROLLED IN OUR MAILING LIST!!
creekerlady@gmail.com.

The Town of Cave Creek is currently in another election cycle. One way or the other, it will all be over in March. Please be patient if this news is of no interest to you.

We hope you will enjoy both the expanded news and our Art Journal of wonderful local artists.

Our Cave Creek-Carefree- North County venue necessarily will discuss various election issues. Responses directly to the editor at: creekerlady@gmail.com. Opt Out at same email. Advertisers requiring a full page or more for a flyer/event may obtain same for \$50. Nonprofits & Church events may have a full page at no cost, + at our discretion. "The Chronicle welcomes photographs intended for sharing on our website and newsletters. By submitting these images, the artist and end reader agree that this use is a limited license for personal enjoyment and social sharing, but no commercial re-use of the image is intended or permitted without written permission of the original artist. The Chronicle disclaims any ownership rights in any submissions provided to us."

Please watch for our Chronicle Art Journal on alternate weeks, for current news on art and library events. Your art events & showings are welcome, at creekerlady@gmail.com.