

Welcome to our Community News Bulletin.

**This Week's Issues:**

- **Update on Water/Rancho Manana water. Letter to community by Mayor.**
  - **Summation of Rancho Manana facts by Water Committee Member Tony Geiger**
- **Editorial by John Vannucci – The Great C.C. Sewergate Conspiracy**
- **Candidate Rally for incumbents**
- **Guest Editorial – Ray Sparks “Adam Trenk: Child of Space Aliens”**
- **Letter to the Editor – Reg Monachino**
- **Letter to the Editor – Bob Moore**
- **Art Announcements :**
  - **“The Question’ by R. Breuer Stearns At Library Monday 2-26-15**
  - **Archaeology Meeting for February**
  - **Library – Artist Reception January 31, 2015 5:00-6:30 Contemporary Art Exhibit**
- **Photo by Robert Hughes**

I thank our readers in other jurisdictions for their patience with our Town Election ....again...

**THE RANCHO MANANA WATER CONTRACT ISSUES:**

The letter being jointly prepared by Mayor Francia and the WAC Board and Staff will be coming shortly by mail to local homes, so please watch for it. Meanwhile, below is the summary prepared by WAC Member Tony Geiger for the Carefree Truth (Lyn Hitchon, Editor) and The Chronicle (Sara Vannucci, Editor) to provide the community with preliminary information.

Lyn,

*We had a Cave Creek Water Advisory Committee meeting tonight and we discussed this issue in detail  
The facts are as follows:*

*1) Rancho Mañana's contract for water with the town calls for them to receive a minimum of 330 acre feet of water per year (a little over 107,000,000 gallons) and a maximum a maximum of 400 acre feet. The contract specifically calls out that this water is to be treated waste water from the "water ranch". They are not entitled to any fresh water.*

*1) In 2014 Cave Creek water delivered 326 acre feet of treated waste water, 356 acre feet of water treatment plant water that was used to "backwash" the water filters (this is fresh water from our CAP allocation amounting to 15% of our total usage) and 60 acre feet of Vermeersch Well water.*

*3) The reason the golf course got the backwash water is that previously the water plant has not been operated correctly and this water was not usable. The water company is on track to fix this problem ( thanks to the new Utilities Director) and will be able to put this water back into the potable water treatment process, resulting in an approximately 13% increase in the drinking water available for the town. This will also result in less pumping costs and less wear and tear on equipment as this is water that will not need to be pumped 11 miles*

*up Cave Creek road from our CAP turn out. This will be a cost savings in the low six figures per year This is the water that is being taken away from Rancho Mañana*

*4) The total water delivered to Rancho Mañana in 2014 was 743 acre feet. The golf course only used 290 acre feet. The extra water was pumped into their pond. It is estimated that 76 acre feet was lost to evaporation. That left 376 acre feet of water unaccounted for (over 120,000,000 gallons). We have found out that the golf course has an overflow structure and the extra water has been put into Galloway Wash and Cave Creek. While this is unaccounted for or "lost" water it is recharging our groundwater though in a very expensive way.*

*5) While it is not the golf courses fault that the water company was not running their plant correctly and had no way to deal with the backwash water the past 5 or so years, they are now fixing the problem and Rancho Mañana is not entitled too, does not need and does not pay for this water. It will now be going back into the drinking water supply for all the residents of Cave Creek, Carefree and Desert Hills. For a bit of perspective the Carefree water company uses about 500 acre feet a CAP water per year so we are talking about a lot of water.*

*These are the facts. We have encouraged the town to get these facts out to the customers of the Cave Creek Water Company so that the record can be set straight.*

*While some of the communication within the town could have been better the right thing is being done for the customers of the water company and Rancho Mañana is in no way being harmed with their contract being honored and their needs being met.*

*If you have any question I am happy to try and answer them*

**Tony Geiger, WAC Member, Carefree Resident**

**Editorial January 25, 2015**

## **The Great C.C. SEWERGATE Conspiracy**

**John B. Vannucci**

My last editorial regarding the fabricated and false accusations about the Town's utility manager (David Prinzhorn) and the Rancho Manana golf course effluent issue; as spun by the Bentley/Sorchych propaganda machine; there is no need to repeat those documented lies. Instead, we will list some facts and a bit of history regarding the golf course.

- 1.)** First, at NO time did the C.C. Utility Dept. threaten or attempt to "Cut off Water Supply to R.M. Golf Course" as stated in the Sonoran News blog.
- 2.)** The issue regarding various contracts(agreements) between the C.C. Water Company and Rancho Manana were being reviewed by our Water Advisory Committee in their mission to seek out savings and improvements to the enterprise system.
- 3.)** From the time Mr. Prinzhorn was hired and the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) was re-instated by the new council, an unprecedented amount of damage, wastefulness of resources and mismanagement has been exposed. All this damage and loss of revenue is directly attributed to the former town managers willful neglect and corruption of the system. Mr. Abujbarah, after all, was the President of both water companies. We the Taxpayers will continue to pay the price for his many mistakes.
- 4.)** Some History: The Town of Cave Creek Water Company(s) and the Allreds' Family Rancho Manana development has a long history in servicing this project and its golf course. Some of these water/effluent

agreements date back to 1993 and beyond. When the water company was owned by Jay and Myrtle George many of the original stipulations agreed upon in the early days were carried forth to the current 2009 agreement signed by Usama, and rubber stamped by the do nothing council. These agreements heavily favored Rancho Manana's interests.

**Examples:** A.) If the Town were to move the treatment plant from the golf course location within a SIX mile radius, the Town would still be required to provide effluent at our (taxpayers) expense.

B.) In paragraph No. 4 of the current effluent agreement, the words "AT ITS COST" meaning the town, is mentioned five times!

C.) Another interesting stipulation in these agreements is the town is obligated to provide 'ALL' of the effluent for the Rancho Manana golf course with minor exceptions for excess. (Footnote: Where will Mayor Francia obtain effluent for his future dream resort? I suppose he will be using synthetic Astro Turf for that golf course).

By no means am I implying that the Allreds did anything wrong or deceitful in these agreements; they were protecting their investment and had excellent legal advice from their attorneys. Where was our legal dream team to protect the interests of the taxpayers? Well, we had the 'World's Greatest Town Manager' to safe guard the Town's interest. We know now what the results of an incompetent manager are.

5.) The Bottom line regarding SEWERGATE: The Water Advisory Committee in their capacity as watch dog on the water enterprise discovered:

A. Rancho Manana was receiving more water than they were entitled to per the water agreement.

B. The entitlement was ONLY for effluent (treated waste water).

C. Because of previous neglect and mismanagement, the 'backwash' water (fresh water used to clean filters) was being diverted to the golf course instead of being treated and returned to potable status. This was wasted water, much of it ended up into the Galloway Wash as excess from the golf course.

D. This dumped excess water, which is NOT effluent, is the water that is being diverted from the golf course in an effort to reduce waste.

E. The numbers in terms of acre-feet wasted are staggering. The reclamation and savings being returned to the town are huge. (Thank you, Mr. Prinzhorn)

Sure, Rancho Manana has been paying for its water and effluent, however the town has been subsidizing a big chunk of the costs to provide this benefit to the resort.

So during this upcoming recall election, beware of the Sorchych Slate's candidates wailing that the sky is falling for political points, tell them to take their B.S. home and flush it down the toilet. We badly need the effluent in our sewer system.

**John Vannucci,**



**The Fiscal Conservative Creeker**



## The Puppets

As you may know a recall election is scheduled for March 10, 2015. A recall election is a mechanism to remove an official from office before the end of his/her term, when the elected official is guilty of some legal or ethical wrong. Arizona Revised Statutes do not require evidence to bring about a recall, just a sufficient number of signatures on a petition. So in the face of baseless accusations, I am required to defend my conduct for the past 18 months. A defense that will cost the Town thousands of dollars.

The petitions claim that I am “fiscally irresponsible”, I lack “transparency” and in the vaguest of allegations, I “misrepresented” myself. Yet the drumbeat for recall, instigated by the editor of the local newspaper, began even before I was elected. That tells the voters the recall effort is not about the issues but rather the venomous tirades of sore losers who want to reinstate the good ole boy arrangement with Don the puppet master pulling the strings, through misuse of the Sonoran News.

During the past year and a half, I and the current Council have delivered on promises made during the campaign of 2013. Starting in June 2013, this new Council acted swiftly to replace the Town’s management, identify inefficiencies in municipal operations, cut spending, reinstate critical infrastructure maintenance, and drive revenues. We have formalized public records requests, given citizens informal weekly access to elected officials, initiated the online broadcast of meetings, and adopted ordinances to protect our rural lifestyle.

We have streamlined municipal operations, identified and repaired numerous problems with our water and waste water infrastructure caused by the neglect of previous management, drafted a budget for the next fiscal year with a dramatic \$1,000,000.00 reduction in expenditures, and overseen promotions to ensure the success of our local businesses. The result is the most efficient and open administration in the Town’s history by any objective measure.

This reform occurred despite relentless personal attacks, false outrage, and lawsuits drummed up by our opposition to justify a toxic “re-do” recall election effort. The citizens of Cave Creek previously voted against the Property Tax, the Enchanted Canyon destruction of the desert, the violation of the Morning Star and Honda Bow Agreements and the disregard for the Carefree Hwy residents.

Don wants back in power. If his puppets are elected, can you see the hands of the clock turning back to the good old days? Cave Creek deserves better.

I would appreciate your vote. You may reach me at 480-200-3913 or [rmonachino@mindspring.com](mailto:rmonachino@mindspring.com) .

Reg Monachino  
Councilman  
Town of Cave Creek

## “Adam Trenk: Child Of Space Aliens!”

You have to wonder about people who constantly make outlandish statements, especially personal attacks, laced with vitriol and hate. What’s the old saying? “It’s not *what* they are saying but *how* they are saying it, that counts?” Or another good one is, “Action reveals intent.”

Many of you have probably read my articles on town roads or finances. I moved here a year ago, after finishing a remodel on a home in Cave Creek. In that time, I have heard much about the Cave Creek government, some of it I read in the Sonoran News. After reading some of that “hate-spew,” I wanted to try and find the truth for myself. I dug into these issues and did my own research. What I discovered astounded me.

I was going to write an article with facts, dates and details. When I finished the first quarter of the first draft, it was seven pages long. And, I have only been researching this for about six months. Nobody trying to decide whom to vote for in this recall is going to read 30 pages chronicling our town history of mismanagement, poor financial stewardship, or sheer incompetence. I probably wouldn’t either if I were you.

I decided most residents are pretty level headed and can make decisions pretty well given just a few facts, something the local paper in town seems to ignore...

-Our Town is **60 million dollars in debt.**

-The “Old Town Council” used loans to pay +/- **\$20 million dollars** for a decrepit ramshackle water company that sold for **\$2 million dollars the year prior**. Then they borrowed millions more to keep it running. Then, they spent millions more on another tiny water company to add to the first one they bought –and then borrowed millions more to keep it running.

-The “Old Council” authorized a water treatment plant with far more capacity than was needed, rather than a modular plant that could grow as demand dictated. That plant has run at a loss every year since it was built. In 2014, this facility cost the residents of Cave Creek over **\$1.2 million dollars** in subsidies that could have gone to other uses, like our roads. This operating loss serves as a tax on the rest of us, whether we use the facility or not.

-The “Old Council” let a guy with no prior experience manage all of these programs. This town manager sold these projects to the council and town with promises of much lower prices that never materialized. A water tank project under his supervision was erroneously built ten feet into a neighbors lot, costing the town **\$1.5 million dollars** after a lawsuit.

-The “Old Council” approved a sweetheart deal to a local golf course to supply CAP drinking water to supplement effluent for watering the grass. All the water they wanted for a low fixed price going forward.... No surprise, the developers of this golf course were one of the biggest proponents of passing the proposition to buy the water companies. Does that seem right to you?

-Nothing other than stop-gap repairs have been done to the town roads in over a decade because the town was not financially able to. Nor did they have anyone qualified to monitor the road condition and maintenance requirements.

These items created under the approval of the “Old Council” are just the tip of the iceberg. There’s plenty more examples of good ‘ol boy politics and governmental malfeasance under this old regime.

One of our residents used to be the town manager for Tempe. He repeatedly warned the Mayor and Council as far back as 2007 that the water company purchase was going to be a train wreck and that the financial decision-making was horribly flawed. The Mayor and Council ignored him. You know who attacked him personally? The “Snoring News.”

If you read Terry Zerkle’s white paper, which documents his input into the process as well as the towns response the letters in it, it is *damning*. If you “think” you understand the issue and haven’t read this document, I assure you, you are not in possession of the real facts in this whole disaster that has left the town deeply in debt for a decade or more. This all might have been avoided had the town sought outside professional guidance, as Terry suggested. That is what most city governments do before making huge decisions. Cave Creek didn’t and we will pay for that lack stewardship for another decade.

Finally, after watching mismanagement almost put our town into bankruptcy, five citizens of Cave Creek ran for the council. Four of them got elected. Before they even got sworn in, the “Snoring News” threatened a recall. This recall will cost the citizens of Cave Creek over \$30,000 when it’s all done.

What has the “New Council” done?

They have gotten the town expenditures paired down to the bare minimum. They have paid off some of the water loans early. They have also, for the first time, put side the nearly \$5 million required by the state for the water infrastructure loans, as required by law. The “Old Council” claimed they had amassed a “surplus” of several million dollars when the truth is, it was money specified by the state to serve as a reserve for the WIFA loans. Cave Creek couldn’t touch this mandatory reserve fund! And it wasn’t even fully funded!

The “New Council” has sought outside expertise to assess the condition of our town roads and figure out how to improve them. The cost will be \$1 million dollars per year to get us out of the hole left by the “Old Council.” With cuts in spending, it looks like the town will be able to fund this ongoing process in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The “New Council” has approved a Special Area Plan that fashions the business property along Carefree Highway into a cohesive design concept, along the lines of the buildings housing Bryan’s BBQ in downtown Cave Creek. This will be a very appealing business complex for locals and visitors alike and will help generate needed revenue for the town. The alternative is a random selection of segregated “box stores.” This plan, conceived by the great volunteers on the Planning Commission, will make our community better, especially for those who live near the area.

They have done more but the most important thing they have done is return common sense and responsibility to Cave Creek government. They have turned us away from the rocks of guaranteed financial disaster and parallel with the shore. We are not quite headed out to sea yet but, I hope we get headed in that direction soon. I hope the council will adopt a plan, created by financial professionals, to secure the future of Cave Creek by getting us out of this financial quagmire we are currently in as quickly as possible and on a secure financial footing going forever forward.

So, if you want more of the “old council” style of government, the kind that the folks at “Snoring News” have supported from day one, and continue to support by fielding candidates in this phony-baloney recall, several of whom have ties to the “old council,” then vote for their candidates. Keep your checkbook handy because we will of necessity be looking at a property tax if we go back to business as it was before.

But, if you want to give Cave Creek the best possible chance of survival, with our core town values of open space and western charm intact, then vote for Trenk, Monachino, Spitzer, and Durkin. And get your neighbors to do the same. We need to put this “old council” way of doing things out to pasture for good.

And, as for the “Snoring News,” consider this recall a referendum on their sordid coverage of the new town council activity with all the hate and personal attacks you expect from a paper who cannot face the facts that their “in” with the town council is now a thing of the past. Don’t let them buy another council for their own power base. By voting FOR the current council members, you will be voting NO for the Sonoran News.

Don’t forget to get your neighbor to do the same.

Happy voting,

Ray Stark



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**Letter to the Editor:**

**From:** Bob Moore  
**To:** [Don@sonorannews.com](mailto:Don@sonorannews.com)  
**Subject:** Really ???

**Don:**

**Your writing almost takes the cake... sort of a “look who is calling the pot black” with your tired assertion that “the New Jersey way is to tar your opponents with lies. “ and here I am thinking this is the Cave Creek way... ala your paper, your writing.... I believe you write with tar and not ink... and all the name calling...good grief, how juvenile. I keep thinking, well, he is old and losing it, but even the Pope just said that your have to be responsible for what you write, and not hide behind the laws of the fine state of Arizona.**

It will be interesting to see after all the buildup you have given this recall, if you get more than a couple of letter writers with the SOS... or are you going to accept letters from the “dark-siders” who might like to shed some light on your “observations”. Did you observe that one of your favorite candidates was deadlast in the last election... and the other dropped out and then tried to flip flop??? And then the town paid his legal bill!... where were you on that issue?

**Bob Moore- Formerly, Cave Creek, AZ USA**

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**ELECTION RALLY - 1-24-2015 Incumbents discuss issues with neighbors.**

For more commentary and photos, please visit the Desert Focus. Thanks to Marie Peck and Ray Stark for more photos.

And thanks to the ladies who worked so hard to arrange this event, including Nina Spitzer, Pauline Smith, Cheryl Carmitchel & neighbor Jody, Janelle Smith-Haff, Katya Kincel, and apologies to anyone I am missing.

On Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, Mike and Eileen Wright hosted a Rally gathering for interested Creekers to grill the incumbent candidates of the Recall on local issues. More than 60 residents and guests were present to ask questions, and even to debate issues that had concerned them. The four candidates addresses similar subject matters in sequence, and then spoke personally as to their individual goals. There were numerous questions from the guests, many of which had been raised in the Chronicle over the past 18 months.



CHARLIE SPITZER



HOME OF MICHAEL & EILEEN WRIGHT, and Guests

Planning Commissioner Voris and neighbors



Charlie Spitzer fields questions







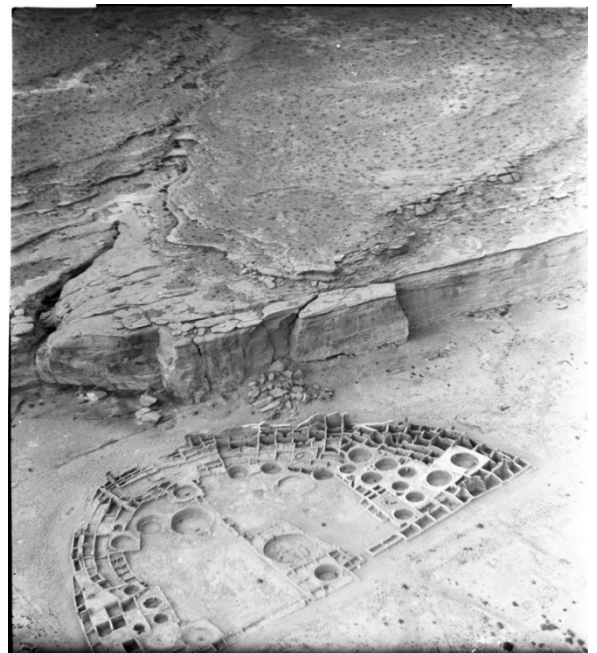
Right to Left: Reg Monachino, Mike Durkin, Charlie Spitzer and Adam Trenk.

## Arizona Archaeology Society – Desert Foothills Chapter



### **DFC-AAS: February 11<sup>th</sup> – Eric Berg Lecture Opportunity:**

When we think of Charles Lindbergh, we often associate him with the Spirit of St. Louis and flying across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927 as an aviator and world celebrity. Not everyone is aware of Charles and Anne Lindbergh's involvement with archaeology in 1929. The Lindberghs joined highly regarded and renowned southwest archaeologist Alfred Kidder on an aerial photographic survey of significant southwestern prehistoric sites. This unprecedented adventure from an open air cockpit biplane was the first major use of aviation in archaeology and included the sites and geologic features around Chaco Canyon, the Grand Canyon, Canyon de Chelly, and elements throughout the general four corners area. *The Eagle and the Archaeologists: The Lindberghs' 1929 Southwest Aerial Survey* features some of Lindbergh's historic photographs and describes this pioneering



collaboration of aviation and archaeology. The Lindberghs Arizona adventure ties prehistoric and Stone Age relics to the history of aviation leading to the Space Age evolving later in the century.

Eric Berg, an Arizona Humanities speaker, is an award winning historian and special interest writer of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Southwest. He has a special interest in the impact of science and technology. Erik was born in Flagstaff and currently lives in the Phoenix area. He attended the University of Arizona with a minor in Anthropology and accomplished field work at both the Marana platform mound (Hohokam) under Paul Fish and at Tubac Presidio (Spanish Colonial) under Jack Williams. He contributed to several books and his work appeared in the Journal of Arizona History, Arizona Highways, and Sedona Magazine. He is also a past president of the Grand Canyon Historical Society. Erik is an Intel Corporation software engineer appreciating the technical trends and challenges of yesterday impacting our science and technology of today.

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](http://www.azarchsoc.org/desertfoothills)

## **Desert Foothills Library – Cave Creek Road & School House Road**

### **Sonoran Arts League Contemporary Art Show Reception**

Saturday, January 31, 2015 | 5:00pm - 6:30pm  
(Time Zone: US/Arizona)

#### **Description**

Artists from our 2nd annual Contemporary Art Showcase will be available to discuss their procedures, theories and thoughts about the exciting but often misunderstood world of contemporary art.

Complimentary wine and cheese will be served. RSVP: 480-488-2286.

*Juried by Mickey Muelenbeek, local arts advocate and promoter.*

**Bob Hughes – Cave Creek - HAWK ON TELEPHONE POLE**



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

*Our Cave Creek-Carefree- North County venue necessarily will discuss various election issues. Responses directly to the editor at: [creekerlady@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:creekerlady@gmail.com).***

**Sara Vannucci, Editor - Paid for by Chronicle News Bulletin 2014 – Cave Creek PAC2014-01**