

Welcome to our Community News Bulletin.

This Week's Issues:

- Update on Water/Rancho Manana water. Letter to community by Mayor.
- Editorial by John Vannucci – USAMA'S Top 10 LIST (Revisited)
- Guest Editorial – Ray Sparks - Serious Considerations For The Recall Election
- Letter to the Editor – THE POLITICS OF PERSUASION - Janelle Smith-Haff
- Great Horned Owl Babies – Nesting Season – Jack Holloway – Wild At Heart



Art Announcements :

- **On The Edge Gallery 25th Annual Western Artwalk Feb 19, 2015**
- **Reminders**
 - **Archaeology Meeting for February**
- **Photo by Herbert Hitchon AND Photo by Bob Hughes**

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 and/or utility bills, so please watch for it. Meanwhile, a copy is shown as follows:

‘A Drink of Truth about Rancho Mañana Water’

Recently there has been some controversy and confusion regarding the issue of water deliveries by the Town of Cave Creek to the Rancho Mañana golf course. Here are some facts that hopefully can help clear up any confusion that may exist:

- 1) The Town is contractually obligated to deliver a minimum of 107,547,000 gallons and a maximum of 146,655,000 gallons of treated waste water effluent per year to the golf course. This agreement goes all the way back to the first water treatment plant (now dismantled) that was located in Rancho Mañana The agreement continued with the construction of the new waste water treatment facility on Carefree Highway
- 2) In calendar 2014 the Town delivered 106,286,700 gallons of treated waste water effluent, 116,070,000 gallons of Water Treatment Plant (WTP) backwash water and 19,729,753 of Vermeersch well water for a total of 242,086,453 gallons of water delivered to the golf course.

3) In 2014 the golf course used 94,511,000 gallons of water for irrigation with the balance of the water going into their ponds. Rancho Mañana was only billed for the 94,511,000 gallons of treated waste water they used. It is estimated that 24,993,271 gallons of water was lost to evaporation. This left a total of 122,600,000 gallons of water that until recently was unaccounted for.

4) As the golf course has nowhere to put the extra water and no use for it, the excess water flowed over a weir structure at the golf course pond and into Galloway Wash and Cave Creek. This is no fault of the Rancho Mañana golf course.

5) The excess WTP backwash water was sent to the golf course as there were some operational problems at the water treatment plant that are now being addressed. We hope to be able to capture approximately 80% or 97,000,000 gallons of this water that will be run back thru the WTP and used for drinking water in the town. This will represent approximately 10-12% of our annual potable water usage. As we are in a severe drought this is very beneficial to the Town and all CCWD customers. There will also be significant cost savings realized as this is water that has to be pumped up Cave Creek Road to the Town's WTP.

The end result of all of this is that Rancho Mañana will get all the water they need and are entitled to, the Town will recapture a significant amount of drinking water for the citizens and Cave Creek Water Company will realize a significant cost savings. This is a great outcome for all parties involved and a great job by Town staff for identifying and solving a significant problem.

Mayor Vincent Francia

This letter was prepared with the assistance of Tony Geiger. He is a member of the Citizens Water Advisory Committee, though he is not speaking for the Committee.

Editorial February 1, 2015

USAMA'S Top 10 LIST (Revisited)

My October 15, 2013 editorial entitled 'Usama's Top 10 List', reviewed the reasons Usama Abujbarah should have been fired for 'cause' rather than a 'no confidence vote'. (see Chronicle archives). With a recall vote quickly approaching the citizens, I believe I have legitimate reasons to repeat this list as a reminder to voters the main reason for this recall.

The firing of Usama Abujbarah was the main reason used to justify this recall effort. Since the Sonoran News has been reprinting the same accusations and alleged misdeeds of the new council for the last 20 months, it is only fair that I repeat the misdeeds and costs to taxpayers caused by Usama's mismanagement and disregard of its citizens. Furthermore, if anyone believes that the Sonoran News tabloid has had no hand in this recall, must be totally delusional.

So now Usama is suing the town for 3 million dollars. His claims of open-meeting violations by the new councilmen and whatever other nonsense his attorneys have conjured up, are totally bogus and he knows it. The mistake the new council made was not firing Usama for 'Cause'. Listed are some of the 'Causes' why he (Usama) should have been fired. Again most of these reasons were well known and documented. Any one of the reasons should have been sufficient to fire him. Some of the better known ones are:

- 1). The State Land/Cave Creek Development Agreement boondoggle. All the demand and expenses were put on the town and its citizens. The State Land and developer have no obligation to pay for any of the proposed infrastructure. (refer to the 2005 agreement).
We all should know by now, that the claim of "free land" or the \$400.00 dollar/acre fantasy were manufactured spin statements, made up by the local tabloid and endorsed by Usama.
- 2). The 'Water Ranch' (sewer/water). Specifically, the eminent domain threat used for the purchase of the old water company out of the hands of Global Water Company, was the tactic Usama used to get control of the C.C. Water Company. Is there anyone in town who still does not understand the screwing we got with a 20 +/- million dollar purchase of a deficient facility that was valued at less than 2 million dollars?
- 3). The Neary Water Storage Tank fiasco. The decision to rush the construction of this tank resulted in building it on private property by negligence on the part of the town manager and the engineering dept. This little mishap caused the town to pay the land owner 1.5 million dollars added to the cost of the tank. (Cost over ride or negligence?)
- 4). The recent discovery of the unpaid \$80 thousand dollars, plus or minus, owed to the towns law firm; on services and expenditures that were off book transactions by the town manager.
- 5). The Water Master Plan alterations without councils knowledge.
- 6). As President of both water companies, Usama dismissed the Water Advisory Board. (Now re-instated by the new council).
- 7). The Morningstar paving litigation used to bully the residents to provide an eastern gateway/entry to the Cahava Springs Development. Once again, favoring developers over citizens.
- 8). The attempted annexation of Desert Foothill Nursery, located in the county, in order to satisfy a repayment to the County Highway Dept. for the expansion of the Cave Creek/Carefree Hwy intersection. (\$160,000.00)
- 9). The payment of 4000 dollars for legal fees on behalf of former councilman Dick Esser to be returned to the ballot for the June 2013 election after he withdrew from the race.
- 10). Last, but not the least, the 60 million dollar debt that the citizens of Cave Creek are on the hook for, in order to turn Cave Creek into a Scottsdale-like community with all of its trappings.
- 11). Bonus points: The willful, intentional and unauthorized use of water/sewer enterprise fees for other general fund projects; leaving the facilities without proper maintenance repairs. The cost of this mismanagement is being gradually revealed and repaired by the new department manager.

There are many more situations involving Abujbarah's misdeeds over the 14 years of his rule, any one of which would have been sufficient for his firing for 'Cause'. This is the person that the challenging candidates seek to return to power. The town simply cannot afford to return Usama to power, so please do your own review and vote wisely for the March 10, 2015 election.



John Vannucci, The Fiscal Conservative Creeker

Serious Considerations For The Recall Election – Ray Stark

The local paper and those good people misguided by it, have forced this recall upon four individuals who are trying their best to repair the damage left by the previous council. Omitted amongst all the personal attacks, obfuscations, and blatant mistruths is the true risk we face by losing just one council member of the current slate. The effect upon our town government could be catastrophic.



Here is why...

Our town water system is in precarious shape. The previous council left most of the water company and wastewater treatment plant decisions up to the town manager because our city engineer was a part-time guy, about to retire, who wasn't involved much with anything. The council thought that was acceptable and let Mr. Abujbarah run the show, despite the lack of any qualifications or experience to handle complex engineering projects. The fact that a water tank project he oversaw was built 10 feet into a neighbors lot costing the citizens of Cave Creek 1.5 million dollars is a perfect example of his level of routine incompetence.

In the past 18 months, the new council members have hired an extremely capable and dedicated engineer in the form of David Prinzhorn. You know him from articles in the local paper saying he "cut off water to Rancho Manana." (Another mistruth the Mayor corrected in a letter to water customers this month. Have you seen a correction to this intentional fabrication in the Sonoran News? I wouldn't expect one because they never do.)

Last summer, Mr. Prinzhorn discovered the inlets to the pumps on the CAP canal were nearly blocked by mussels growing on the intake screens. How long it had been this way, nobody knows because there was no routine maintenance program for our pumping system.

There is *now*.

The following picture is what the intake to the pumps that pump water to Cave Creek Water Company customers looked like before David Prinzhorn saved the day... (The pump motors are on the far end of these intake pipes.) The screens are completely jammed with crustaceans.

Side note: You have to ask yourself: Why didn't the Sonoran News print these pictures? Why would they hide the truth about a water system in total disrepair nearly shutting down due to a total lack of recurring maintenance and routine inspection?

The answer is simple: Because it reflects badly on the former council members and town manager, Abujbarah. It showcases their style of government mismanagement and neglect. These former councilmen may be wonderful neighbors or great golfing buddies but they are horrible trustees of the faith and public trust we put in our government officials. Meanwhile, the current council, town manager, and town engineer have worked tirelessly to fix problems like this and to prevent more problems from occurring and who takes them to task and misreports their efforts? None other than the Sonoran News. Why? One word: Power.

OK... back to the regularly scheduled programming.

David Prinzhorn has set up a maintenance inspection system to preclude equipment failures that might interrupt service for water customers. He sought additional funding resources to help with the 1.5 million dollar damage from the summer monsoon floods. He understands and desperately wants to implement the full recommendations made by the engineering road survey last summer, funding being the primary obstacle right now. In short, David is the best thing to happen to the infrastructure of Cave Creek in decades. He has a plan to get our town back up on its feet with reliable and cost effective utilities and safer, better roadways.

BUT, he could lose his job if the current council loses only one member. The Sonoran News doesn't like David, primarily because he has exposed the inarguable malfeasance and inattention of the prior council and the sheer and indefensible incompetence of the former town manager, Mr. Abujbarah. What do you think David's chances are if the "old council" takes over again? This town would be in *deep* trouble without him and we, as citizens, cannot afford to do without strong leadership in the engineering office of this town. Lack of leadership and attention to details got us into the fix we are in!

Same with our Town Manager.

Peter Jankowski took over about a year ago as essentially the "CEO" of town hall. Hired by the council and serving at their pleasure, Peter has had his hands full stomping out the fires left by an incompetent predecessor. Peter's primary problem is lacking the funds to correct many of the infrastructure problems facing our town, but he is making good, informed decisions in allocating the resources he has available. If the current council loses just one member, our town could replace Peter and then the new town manager would have to spend months getting up to speed on the issues we face. Or, some candidates for the job may look at the problems our town faces and walk away, leaving us with no manager -or someone as bad as Usama Abujbarah.

I have met with Peter and, as a former serviceman like myself, I know he has the experience, resourcefulness, and intellect to make good decisions and to seek out professional advice when needed. He'll continue to do a great job *-if* the council remains intact.

We have an absolutely invaluable group of volunteers that serve on our Planning and Zoning Commission as well as our Water Advisory Council. We have extremely experienced and capable individuals trying their best to manage change so that it doesn't destroy our unique quality of life here in Cave Creek. However, every one of these people who devotes many hours each month on behalf of our town, serves at the pleasure of the town council. Every one of them will have to be re-approved should the balance of power change on the

council. The damage done by losing just one sitting council member could put all these talented volunteers in jeopardy.

Should these capable members be replaced by political “yes men,” the consequences could be devastating to our town and lead to the old “rubber stamp” decisions made by previous commissions under political pressure –the very type decisions that put us over \$60 million in debt.

If you agree that we need to keep the momentum of responsible government going in the right direction, then vote for Trenk, Monachino, Durkin, and Spitzer. And pass this on to your neighbors and friends so that they can help assure the future of Cave Creek as a unique community. Send a message to the Sonoran News that their type of politics and dirty, dishonest reporting is no longer wanted in this town.

I can promise you this: **If the old mindset returns to power, we WILL HAVE a property tax in Cave Creek. One more poorly thought-out multi-million dollar boondoggle will bankrupt this town.**

Vote accordingly and get your neighbors to as well.

Ray Stark



Letter to the Editor: THE POLITICS OF PERSUASION - Janelle Smith-Haff

“Vote for me, I’ll protect commercial and developer rights!” That’s a campaign promise you’ve likely never heard from any Cave Creek town council candidate. The promise you’ve most likely heard is “Vote for me, I’ll protect residential private property rights and the town’s desert rural character!” Yet, with every residential-to-commercial up-zoning approval, it’s the commercial and development rights of developers which are being protected while another piece of the town’s desert rural character is disappearing – permanently.

Have you ever wondered why commercial up-zoning is permanent while residential zoning is subject to commercial up-zoning? This is a reality not just in Cave Creek but everywhere. What is wrong with declaring that there are areas of our town which are sacrosanct from commercial and developer up-zoning? What will happen if we don’t make such a declaration?

In 1997, as a condition to annexation into Cave Creek, residents declared Area 96-1 to be sacrosanct from commercial and developer up-zoning decisions for a period of 25-years. Though there are seven years remaining on the Area 96-1 Annexation Agreement, an informal petition signed by 36 Area 96-1 residents was submitted to town council and the town attorney on January 12, 2015. The informal petition authorizes the town council to extend the expiration date of the Agreement to a date no sooner than the year 2040. (Given that there is seven years remaining under the original Agreement and that these seven remaining years have been incorporated into the new 25-year expiration date calculation, the actual effect of the extension being

sought is 18 years.) While the submitted petitions prohibit an extension to a date which is sooner than the year 2040, they do not prohibit any members on town council from approving an extension date beyond the year 2040, or in perpetuity.

At the February 2, 2015 town council meeting, the town council committed the town to a 10-year partnership with a subdivision developer, a partnership that binds the town to a financial investment in the business model and financial success of the developer's subdivision. The Area 96-1 Annexation Agreement is a citizen-driven development agreement requiring no financial investment by the town while at the same time protects residential private property rights, our desert rural character, and our waterway known as Cave Creek.

Citizen-driven development agreements may be unique in Cave Creek, but they're not unique outside Cave Creek. For example, in Scottsdale, citizen-driven development agreements have resulted in the identification and designation by the Scottsdale City Council of an equestrian neighborhood and an equestrian corridor. With the designation of artistic neighborhoods, equestrian neighborhoods, etc., in Cave Creek, one citizen's voice at a town council meeting can represent the collective voice of one designated neighborhood, a voice much stronger and more effective for citizens when opposing residential-to-commercial up-zonings.

On February 3, 2014, because our present town council's approval of the proposed out-of-court settlement in the Freeman lawsuit matter would have resulted in the council's breach of the Area 96-1 Annexation Agreement, it was one voice that spoke against the Freeman out-of-court settlement proposal. But, because that one voice was the group voice of Area 96-1 citizens, a breach of the Area 96-1 Agreement was prevented.

While the 36 signers of the informal petition represent more than half of the property owners in Area 96-1, at this time it is not even certain that the informal petition will be placed on a town council meeting agenda. There is a forum scheduled for February 12th at Town Hall where all eight of the town council candidates have been invited to appear and where citizens can hear all their campaign promises. If a campaign promise to preserve the town's desert rural character is more than a campaign promise, will we see the removal of a term limit from the Area 96-1 Annexation Agreement by the town council and not just a 25-year extension?

It's long past time that protection of neighborhoods and the town's desert rural character are just as permanent as residential-to-commercial up-zoning decisions. There is something inherently wrong with a political system when the efforts by citizens working for preservation of the town's desert rural character cannot overcome the politics of persuasion by developers.

The extension of the Area 96-1 Annexation Agreement costs the town nothing, yet it has an immense and positive impact, both visually and financially, on the entire town. Click on the "Area 96-1 Annexation Agmt." topic at www.cavecreekcreektownhallblog.com to read more about this Agreement.



While it is important to vote in every election, it is more important that your vote is for candidates whose council decisions track their campaign promises.

Janelle Smith-Haff

GREAT HORNED OWL BABIES

Spring time comes early for owls and egg-laying begins in February. A common place for owls to nest are in palm trees. Besides offering a great place for nests, these trees offer great look-out perches as the owls hunt rats and mice. Just one family of Barn Owls can consume over 1,000 rodents in a year. Unfortunately, when the public forgets the natural purpose of these trees and then trims those older palms, they also inadvertently destroy the eggs and chicks that are resting in those palms. During the spring, Wild At Heart in Cave Creek receives nearly 100 eggs and chicks that have been displaced.

If at all possible, please delay the trimming of any palm tree until the young have grown old enough to the leave the nest on their own. Typically, most nestlings are able to leave their palm tree homes by mid to late August. If you can hold of timing until after August, you just may help preserve some of Arizona's wildlife.

To see some of the local owls and other raptors that live in Arizona, take a look at the Wild At Heart photo gallery at this link... <http://wildatheartraptors.org/gallery/>

If you would like to help our Cave Creek birds of prey and the local non-profit organization that rescues these birds, please visit Wild At Heart (<http://wildatheartraptors.org/>). Consider donating just a small part of your week as a volunteer or, make a donation to help sustain the \$425 per day that is necessary to feed over 600 birds it receives in just one year.

[Editor: When I asked Jack what priority needs should be shared with the community, his response was:]

"Right now, we are pretty well set for materials. The only outstanding need is people-power, especially with the upcoming nesting season. We are looking for adventurous volunteers willing to go out on a rescue to pick up nestlings or even injured adults to bring back to Wild At Heart. The training is minimal and the emotional rewards are high! Basically, we need people we can call during the week to make a run out to someone's house when they call us about a hawk or owl in need."

Hikers & Outdoor people: Can You be trained for this?





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The 25th Annual Western ArtWalk at ON THE EDGE GALLERY!

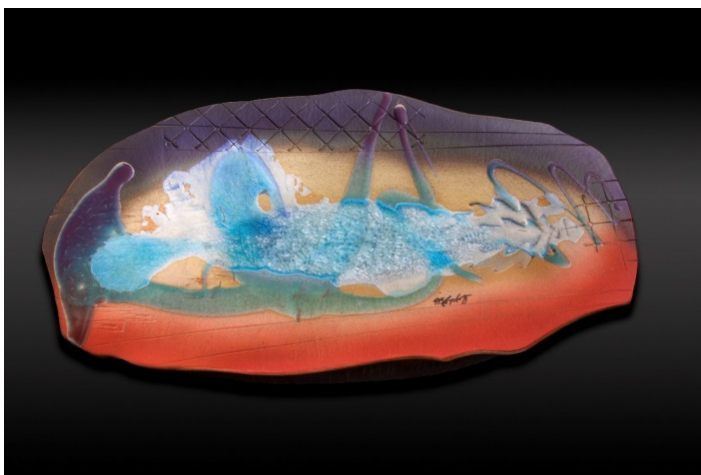
Giddy up on over to On the Edge Gallery for the 25th Annual Western ArtWalk. Join us on Thursday, February 19th from 6 PM to 9 PM for an evening chock full of demonstrating artists, exciting artwork, tasty chow, and a \$50 gift certificate raffle!

Jump into the corral with the Western ArtWalk's four Featured Artists — Joan Gould, Chris Heede, Frank Biondo, and Kelly Athena. Joan Gould and Chris Heede will be demonstrating how they create their masterpieces! Sidle on over and learn how they do what they do!



Joan Gould, Jewelry

A third-generation Arizona native, Joan delights in the diversity of her surroundings; from the Sonoran Desert of Cave Creek and Scottsdale to the San Francisco Peaks of Flagstaff. Her work depicts the inspiration she derives from her love of Arizona's beauty. Joan's work includes designs for bracelets, earrings, pendants, rings, and golf accessories. She incorporates unusual stones into her work to enhance her designs. Joan started working with silver in 1999 and has recently added copper to her palette of materials. Joan views her pieces as "wearable" art. "Providing others with the enjoyment of wearing my artwork, as well as providing education to those who are interested in my processes and techniques, gives me purpose as a jewelry designer and artist," states Joan.



Chris Heede, Ceramics

"I was born in Colorado and have lived most of my life in the West," states Chris. "The landscapes and silhouettes of the southwest, with its large expanse of sky and incredible vistas are a huge influence in my artwork. My studio faces the desert, and I get great pleasure in feeding the birds, bunnies, and other creatures that come into my view.

I can also observe the changing colors from the purplish mountains, to the changing light on different cacti. In my ceramics, I use an airbrush to apply glazes and stains to create a blended and hopefully striking effect — all

influenced by my environment. I see the changing shadows on the ground, and imagine different shaped vases. As an artist, I want to continue experimenting and expanding as I try to express my inner self. I hope you can come out and see me 'throw' on the 'Potter's Wheel' during the ArtWalk," says Chris.

Frank Biondo, Photography

"Few things are as enduring as the saga of the American West; the West is both a place and an idea," states Frank. "The western ethos symbolizes a vanishing independence and simplicity of character that many people in contemporary society find appealing. The Old West is and always will be a part of American culture.

I'm inspired by its history and culture, especially the cowboys and Native Americans that were and still are such an integral part of it. I strive to capture *that* spirit in my work." Through the creative fusion of photography and digital painting, Frank brings together aspects of impression and realism that gives his work distinctive character.



Kelly Athena, Mixed Media

"I am drawn to vivid colors, whimsy, and joy in my art," states Kelly. "I create one-of-a-kind silk scarves and mixed media paintings. My favorite themes include hearts, butterflies, and desert scenes. My inspiration is drawn from the Sonoran Desert, which I have loved exploring for the past twenty eight years. I seek to express the ocean of intelligent compassion that underlies everything."



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.

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.

WHAT: The 25th Annual Western ArtWalk at On the Edge Gallery
WHEN: Thursday, February 19, 2015
HOURS: Gallery 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

REMINDER

Arizona Archaeology Society – Desert Foothills Chapter



DFC-AAS: February 11th – Eric Berg **Lecture Opportunity:**

Eric Berg, an Arizona Humanities speaker, is an award winning historian and special interest writer of the early 20th 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. 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

HERBERT HITCHON - TONE-MAPPED SKY February, 2015



BOB HUGHES - JUPITER RISING 2-4-15



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. 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.

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