

Desert Foothills Chronicle, Inc

2014

Chronicle Bulletin 13, May 5, 2015

# This Week's Issues: High Drama as the new council punishes objectors

- Editorial: Sara Vannucci, Editor Revenge at Cave Creek Corral
- Editorial: John Vannucci, Editor A Despicable Act of Revenge
- Ray Stark: Presentation to Cave Creek Town Council, Meeting 5-4-15 More Representation for Town Residents matters.
- Comments from Anna Marsolo, Cave Creek
- Jane Rhodes A Westsider's Perspective/With Apologies for the late posting
- Art News: Holland Fine Arts Center Hosts the Cloud House Collective Artists; Reception Saturday May 9, 2015 4:30-6:30 PM
- Vimeo for the SAL 40th Anniversary & Student Awards- and Storm Pictures / Herbert Hitchon
- Reminder to help the Homeless Critters and birds. (cute baby owl alert!)
- And visit Carefree news, event and dining information. www.Carefreetruth.com
- And visit Sonoran Truth.org for more opinions. www.sonorantruth.org
- And Visit <u>www.cavecreektownhallblog.com</u> for the truth of where our town governments are leading us.

#### • Editorial: Sara Vannucci, Editor - Revenge at Cave Creek Corral

What do you say to a friend who has just been fired? Do you just step over the body and hope things will get better? Commissioner Eileen Wright was removed from her position at the last council meeting. She was given no notice; indeed none of the public was told who the mystery commissioner was, as it was not on the agenda. But many residents guessed, and the full council room was packed that night.

Why should this bother you? It was presumed after the March election that there would be some tense moments from the change of Council members and certainly a change with some personnel... staff & volunteer positions. Every new administration should be entitled to a fresh start.

But a lot of things happened that should bother you:

- That they did an impeachment without naming the accused in the public agenda;
- That they classified it as "without cause" in writing, but Lamar kept switching from "without cause" to "with cause" as he insisted she must go... he was so plainly angry that he couldn't decide.
- And then, they each identified their reason for removal. Eileen didn't play well with staff; and
- She dissented from the other commissioners on the Tractor Supply Co. deal! Isn't that complicity when
  they always vote the same and they clearly <u>expect</u> a uniform vote???? Isn't dissent why we demand
  seven commissioners? Are they insisting on such uniformity which will mark them as violating Open

Meetings laws?? (Lamar remarked he didn't name her in the Agenda (allegations) because he didn't want to embarrass her!)

• Duh...all of that is "cause"! The accusers created their own "cause" regardless of how they label it!

Here's more that should bother you:

- Is a minor or trivial charge still trivial if a person is punished for it?
- And if a person merits punishment, then he merits both a chance to defend himself, and I believe, the right to representation.
- Can they say she was not damaged if her good reputation was trashed?
- Was she not held up to shame her, and to tarnish her good name? Yes, we all knew this was revenge, and most of us would have understood normal political rhetoric and even anger. But this was about the total removal of Eileen... ever... in this town's government again.

But this was intended as a way to tarnish this woman's reputation in her community, in possible employment in her community, and destroy the respect of her peers, and she has had no chance to defend! This is malice in the extreme. Did the Council think the destruction of just one woman was trivial in the big picture, and that we all would just look away? Of course, we know the answer. It is the established way in this town of chasing away political dissenters. This was unnecessarily cruel and inappropriate.

I personally believe this may be actionable, and that the Mayor lost control this time, and has created a very slippery slope in the creation of a precedent..., and may have created another major legal expense for the town. I called an expert in similar matters, who said:

"The issues on what happened Monday night are as follows:

- 1. Did Ian violate State Statute?
- 2. Was Eileen terminated for cause to cover up lan's criminal conduct?
- 3. If so, were Eileen's civil rights violated?

IF the answer to all three questions is proven to be yes, Eileen has a USC 42, Section 1983 claim against the Town and those members of council who violated her civil rights."

Regardless, this prosecution has marked forever the character of those who thought this was appropriate behavior. The current agenda discloses at least five pending lawsuits. Did they believe that this would not have consequences??



Desert Foothills Chronicle, Inc., an AZ nonprofit corporation, Editor

# Editorial: John Vannucci, Editor - A Despicable Act of Revenge Editorial: The Sorchych Slate Performs for their Master

April 6, 2015 Council Meeting: Don Sorchych returns to attend the first full council meeting after his boycotting absence of the previous 20 months. It is obvious to this writer that he was in attendance to observe how 'His' candidates would perform in public.

You may recall, that after his victory jig in his first post-election editorial, celebrating 'His' recall victory, (*March 11, 2015 'The Future is Brighter in Cave Creek"*), he listed (6) six policy priorities 'He' wanted changed. One of his priorities, was demanding there be no more road closures (i.e. Cave Creek Road in the town's core) during future special events, such as the yearly Bike Week and the Art and crafts events.

As if on cue, each one of his new Council puppets had a little story of how horribly they had to suffer for the long delays getting around town during these large events. They complained about the noise, the crowds, the lane closures, inadequate security, and having to go around the LONG way to get mail! Give me a break! There is nothing new about big crowds during big events and the problems associated with such events. My favorite complaint came from none other than Steve LaMare. His complaint, among others, was about the large over-size, air filled, mobile, ("pornographic"?) advertising figures. He must have been afraid of large balloons as a child. Most of their complaints were nothing more than nonsense. The point is, Sorchych wants the events restricted and his stooges provide the arguments. What they did not provide, are any viable or reasonable solutions. What a performance!

Fortunately, the business community stood up to these puppets. They reminded them that for more than several decades, these businesses have been, and continue to be the town's revenue generators. They need to be appreciated and supported, not maligned because of a temporary inconvenience. So, for the new council members, instead of pandering to your promoter, come up with some reasonable solutions; after all, you were all going to set the town on the right path.

In any case, the bar owners need to work together to provide adequate, off-site parking for their clients. Our town should not be reduced to a one lane, one road, one horse town.

So relax, Steve, there is no need to be afraid of Large Balloons.

John Vannucci
The Fiscal Conservative Creeker

May 4, 2015

Part Deux: A Despicable Act of Revenge

May 4, 2015 Council Meeting: Visit 'Sorchych's Second Edict' (S/N March 11, 2015) i.e. regarding his demand to reduce/eliminate the size of the Planning Commission from 7 to 5 members, and the removal of one member, was brought forward by his puppet council. You don't believe me? Just read his editorial of March 11, 2015.

There was no real need or justification to reduce the 'voice' of the people by two members. It was plain, outright, shallow vindictiveness. During the 'deliberation' on Eileen's predetermined fate as a planning commissioner, the behavior of two councilmen was particularly disturbing. You know who they are, Steve LaMar and Richard 'Dick' Esser: The two former councilmen primarily responsible for the dire financial shape

the town finds itself burdened with. The same two who attempted to burden its citizens with a property tax. Their behavior toward the citizens, and the revenge accusations against Eileen Wright, a hardworking, knowledgeable 'volunteer' on the Planning Commission, was a despicable act of revenge.

Their outrageous, angry attack and psychopathic behavior towards a volunteer should be of great concern to the town's citizens. These two men do not belong in a public forum; they should be in a padded room and studied by a team of psychologists, but not just any psychologist, they need the ones at the level of an Austrian mental institute. (Thank you Jerry Seinfeld for your contribution)

I am particularly disappointed by Ernie Bunch who initiated and signed the 'execution' warrant to eliminate Ms. Wright from the commission. Ernie has been a council member for almost a decade. I had hoped that after all that time in office, he would have been able to resist Sorchych's toxic influence on Cave Creek policy making. Apparently he is still part of the old 'rubber stamp' councils of past/present.

There was only one bright spot during this embarrassing performance. New Councilpersons Clancy and Lipsky stood on ethical principles and reasonable behavior, character traits that are expected from all our council members, and voted "NO". The Mayor also voted no. We hope they will continue to think for themselves. The people spoke out, in large numbers, and were successful in maintaining a 7 person Commission; unfortunately Eileen could not be saved from the vengeance of two unstable councilmen.

This, of course, is only the beginning of what's to come in these next 12 months. Get ready for the propaganda machine to begin the spin on the 'NEED' for a property tax to save their sorry, sad BUTTS, for all of their past mismanagement and misdeeds. WE say, "No Taxes Without Representation"!

**You,** Mr. Esser and LaMar, created the \$50 +/-million dollar debt knowing what our limited revenue sources were; now fix it with those same limited revenues. Don't demand that citizens should pay for your mistakes with a property tax.!

John Vannucci
The Fiscal Conservative Creeker

Guest Editorial: Ray Stark: Presentation to Cave Creek Town Council, Meeting 5-4-2015 - More Representation for Town Residents matters.

This town, as measured against other municipalities, has a dismal record of following accepted practice and procedure.

The General Plan revision process is no exception. It was incorrectly handled from the very start when a redline version was distributed to other state and local agencies without anyone on the Planning Commission ever laying eyes on it.

When this error was pointed out by citizens who were more familiar with the review process than the town staff, these citizens were met with blank stares or the response, "This is how we did it last time." Actually, according to Ian, the 2005 General plan was written by a consulting firm hired by the town. That is not how it was done *this* year.

The paramount reason the General Plan review process is managed by Arizona Revised Statute is to allow the process to unfold in an open and organized manner, outside of the influence of anyone other than the citizens of the town.

Even after being advised of the erroneous process, Ian steadfastly refused to **follow** the codes or the state law.

Only after repeated objections by citizens and one member of the Planning Commission, did the town planning department finally back down and re-start the process in accordance with the law. The procedure calls for staff to assist, but not influence the process. The revisions first come from the Commission and then go to the Council –and then on to THE CITIZENS for final approval.

This process was corrupted from the very start. The **repeated** stonewalling by town planning staff raises serious and valid questions:

Where did these red line changes come from? Who influenced the staff to generate these changes?

Who would *try* to influence this staff?

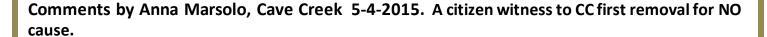
And then, for councilmen LaMar and Bunch to suggest removal of the one commissioner who repeatedly stood up for the citizens of this town to insist that the town revise the General Plan as specified by code and law, that only serves to confirm the suspicions of those who raised questions from the very beginning. This process has been **railroaded by someone**.

This mere suggestion of removing Eileen Wright is a thinly veiled attempt at retribution for her steadfast insistence in doing the process correctly. Those who want her gone **appear to support the illegal process she sought to stop.** 

The will of the people in this process is being tampered with. The least we expect is that our elected town officials and their hired staff **operate within the procedures specified by law.** 

The General Plan is a critically important document detailing how we manage change faced by our town without destroying the unique environment we have here. Eileen Wright is a "details person" dedicated to no less than the best possible outcome for the people of Cave Creek. To suggest we go forward without such a dedicated and caring individual does us all a great disservice.

Ray Stark, 41602 N. Echo Canyon Drive, Cave Creek.



In the over 20 years here, I have participated in many General Plan processes; having early and continuous public involvement in the development of our Plans was always paramount for our Mayor and councils. Our Planning and Zoning Administrator, Ian Cordwell, working with Commissioners, would map out dates for citizen discussions.

Discussions of what we hoped to preserve from Cave Creek's past, what we currently enjoyed, or would like to change, and what we envisioned for the future. With the Planning and Zoning Commission, at public hearings, we collectively discussed and agreed upon a vision for the Town.

After weeks and months, and attending no less than 4 or 5 citizen hearings, we always succeeded in bringing about a Draft Plan with our goals, objectives and policies and land use alternatives. It was after we drew up and agreed upon a Draft Plan, that Mr. Cordwell would send out that Plan to many State entities as required by ARS laws. Cordwell was specific in his instructions to us, and as council minutes of April 5, 2004, shows, for example, "to date, the Town has held two public meetings on March 3, 2004 and March 31, 2004 and has notified the public through the median and personal consultation that public hearings will take place on April 15th before the Planning Commission, and May 3rd before the Town Council. The draft General Plan will be mailed to (State) agencies for review and comment after the April 15th Planning Commission public hearing and (Commissioners) recommendation to Town Council."

Fast forward to the current time, and this normal practice for developing future Plans was totally ignored by Town Officials--all we got was an announcement from Ian Cordwell that a Draft **2015** General Plan had been sent out to the State agencies. What? How can that be? We had no continuous public hearings, we had no meeting in front of P & Z commissioners, we had no Council hearings? No, this was all wrong! Who would order such a bypass of the public involvement? This new Plan was to include important goals and policies to address development, circulation, water, growth, open space, trails and other issues. This 2015 Plan was our Plan and the "our" was totally left out of the equation. Whoa!

Thanks to Commissioner Eileen Wright, this error was pointed out to town management, town staff, Cordwell, and of course Commissioner Chairman David Smith, our Mayor and Council members Clancy, Bunch, McGuire, Lipsky, Lamar and Esser. It took courage and fortitude on her part, and for others, to insist on correcting this mistake. Adoption of any Town's general plan that conforms to State Law is in the best interest of that Town. Even State Law was ignored.

Eileen Wright was kicked off as Commissioner last night by Lamar, Bunch, Esser and McGuire. We all know it was retaliation for her daring to follow her sworn oath when taking her Chair as commissioner. Gratefully, her efforts for over a month finally got results and beginning soon, we, the citizens, of this Town will be involved once again in the normal procedure in developing our 2015 General Plan--as the law allows, as our current General Plan allows; and upon adoption by our Council, it will be ratified by Cave Creek voters at the ballot box in 2016.

Anna Marsolo Cave Creek

#### Jane Rhodes – A Westsider's Perspective (With Apologies from the Editor for the late posting)

### Thoughts from a West-Sider

Jane Rhodes

John's recent editorials, and the pieces that followed, bring up hugely important issues. Since we live on hauled water, we feel particularly vulnerable to water issues. We started collecting rainwater this year to meet our gardening needs. Though we try to conserve water in very many ways, as horse owners we are undoubtedly guilty of using a lot of water and will not be replacing any horses that we lose, sell, or retire to other homes over time. My concern is that we may need to shed horses before we would otherwise choose to, because of water issues.

My only positive response regarding the Cahava Springs development relates to their need to bring water up 24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> street, which hopefully we could gain access to. Of course, "sucking from a dry straw" won't help in the end. I don't understand why California and all of the West isn't exceedingly alarmed about water resources. This issue is not a surprise; do we have to run out before we get serious?

I wanted to make two other comments specifically on John's editorial. On behalf of the Forgotten West Side of CC homeowners who live on the main – or probably only – Cahava Springs access road, we have just as many concerns and objections as any of the people who live East of that development regarding traffic issues, etc., resulting from access to that beast. We just have less money and influence to throw at it. Furthermore, I thought developments of that size are normally required to have at least two access points. Why not Cahava Springs???

Secondly, I may be committing heresy, but I think FLW houses often look more dated than timeless and I'm sorry to see Cahava Springs going in that direction. So, for that reason, as well as for John's good rationale, I too am opposed to this architectural direction, however much cachet it may hold for some. Yes, stop catering to these developers at the expense of existing CC residents!!!

In all, I found this to be an important newsletter and I'm glad you guys are slogging through the General Plan draft. I am trying to as well, but it's so vague in so many areas that I find myself wondering what the secret code is behind the words and exactly who the winners and losers are intended to be.

Jane Rhodes Cave Creek

Reminder to help the Homeless Critters - baby owls & homeless pooches

# Welcome to Wild At Heart's "May Update".

# **April Showers Bring....Baby Owls**



Since our last newsletter, the month of April proved to be a very busy

month for young owls and hawks that needed rescue. During April, Wild At Heart received 75 nestlings, raising the year's total to 101. If that number seems high, it is! This April alone equaled 40% of the entire count of nestlings rescued last year.

Here are some common questions we receive about these young birds that are beyond the diligent help of their parents and need our assistance...



#### Why has there been a dramatic increase this year?

One notable reason is due to several windy days in April. Wind inevitably dislodges young hawks and owls from their nests. Owls are even more prone to having their young dislodged by the wind since they do not build nests and, often simply raise their young on small flat areas.

A second reason for the increase is more people know who to call when an owl or hawk is in need of rescue. Our thanks go to all of you who take the time and care to call for a rescue and, who spread the word about Wild At Heart. Your help has not simply created a record number of raptors to be cared for, it has created a record number of raptors that have been saved.

#### Why can't the young owls be left where they are?

Quite frequently, the larger and older nestlings can remain on the ground after leaving the nest, which is a natural part of their life history. The young (9-10 weeks) owl shown to the right is a perfect example of "leave them be." The parents are very protective of the young on the ground for many weeks. The parents sit from a distance (not near the young as to avoid drawing attention to them) and protect them from predators. They also follow the young wherever they may wander and bring them food at night. Seeing a young owl like this one without parents is NORMAL.

However, the very small nestlings still covered in white down are very susceptible to harm. Unable to move far, these young need protection from the sun, from ants, and from a myriad of other dangers such as cats, dogs, and wildlife. If you see a down-covered owl or hawk on the ground, be sure to call Wild At Heart (480-595-5047)

For more information on when you should – and should not – provide assistance to an injured raptor, take a look at our rescue page at this link... <a href="http://wildatheartraptors.org/rescue/">http://wildatheartraptors.org/rescue/</a>

# Other critters that need rescue help:

Several agencies and placement homes worked together to make this happen. Call or email any of us listed below if you want to be a part of helping.

Alternative Placement Supervisor 2500 S 27th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85009 www.pets.maricopa.gov sspinelle@mail.maricopa.gov

Office: 602-506- 8995 Cell: 602-526-0320 Fax: 602-506-2739 Samantha Spinelle



# **Meet Brady**

"Brady has selected his next human to spend his life with. I can see the love Henry has for this 85 lb. "lap dog" also ...! Love the picture .. it says it all! Henry has a new dog ...! Thanks Jill for the picture report and all you are doing to help Brady with his future life!"

"This was a dog that was to die, due to being aggressive and dangerous .. I pulled off the "kill list" and transported to a loving rescue. He was an absolute angel with me and others he met."

Thanks to John Braden and Lyn Hitchon, Carefree, for the story & picture, and for the constant help they provide to many rescue agencies.

John F. Braden, K7LKL
Tundra Shepherd Rescue
Phoenix, Arizona
Wolf and Wolfdog (and sometimes Pitt Bull)
rescue and adoption
alphawolfguy@msn.com



Art News: Holland Fine Arts Center Hosts the Cloud House Collective – Artists; Reception

Saturday May 9, 2015 4:30-6:30 PM. Full story in the next Art Journal.











**Proudly Presents** 

"The Cloud House Collective"

May 2, 2015 - May 28, 2015

Art Reception Saturday, May 9, 2015 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Featuring Josie Bagby, Saundra Cobb, Carla Cross, Shirley Cunningham, Ron Davidow, Sharon Dolan, Susan Falcon-Hargraves, Sharon Fox, James Hahn, Stephen Le Gros Suzanne Parelman, Pam McLaughlin and Doni Suggs

FCF-Holland Center 34250 N. 60th St. Building B Scottsdale, AZ 85266

www.azfcf.org ~ 480.488.1090





#### Approaching Storm 5-3-15 HERBERT HITCHON, CAREFREE



Vimeo for the SAL 40th Anniversary & Student Awards- and Storm Pictures /Herbert Hitchon Don't miss the pictures of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sonoran Arts League Sonoran Art League 40th Anniversary Celebration – Video – Awards – Familiar Faces! https://vimeo.com/user18676056/review/123524650/42e4d81c52

#### 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: <a href="mailto:creekerlady@gmail.com">creekerlady@gmail.com</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:creekerlady@gmail.com">creekerlady@gmail.com</a>. Sara Vannucci, Editor