



Scottsdale Spotlight

Welcome to the latest SCOTT newsletter. Please share this with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to subscribe to future editions: <https://goo.gl/bxa2hW>

Let's connect

SCOTT would like to connect with you. Our aim is to build collaborations and share ideas with everyone in Scottsdale. Do you need a speaker for your board, club, business or group of any kind in the city? Then let's hook up. We'll offer an interactive, educational program that helps us all get better connected to our city and its future. Just email director Don Henninger at donh@scottsdale.com and he will follow up.

The SCOTT perspective



Don Henninger
Executive Director

He was addressing the current class of Scottsdale Leadership, talking about issues facing the city. And he said this: "It's the obligation of citizens to take care of their city."

At first glance, that's not the kind of statement that's going to rock you from your seats. But as simple as it sounds, he couldn't be more right.

A city is only as good as its people want to make it and residents have to be engaged in solving challenges if they expect their city to evolve and improve. It's a responsibility that people often neglect and that can be taken for granted – especially in a city like Scottsdale where the lifestyle and amenities are generally second to none.

Let's look at one critical issue that will be gaining attention in the coming weeks as it really speaks to Councilman Smith's call for action.

The city's infrastructure is aging and starting to crack. Many residents would be surprised to hear that because, for the most part, the signs are not yet that visible.

But insiders know it's a challenge and, left unattended, threatens the city's overall quality of life. Roads, drainage, bridges, parks, sewer and water lines, and libraries all are showing signs of wearing down. In all, city departments have identified work that will cost nearly \$800 million to repair. City leaders so far have identified funding for only \$31 million of that.

So something is going to give.

The City Council is considering a plan to fund \$350 million to work on the most pressing of those needs. No doubt some of that funding will come in the form of a bond proposal, which voters will be asked to approve on election day in November.

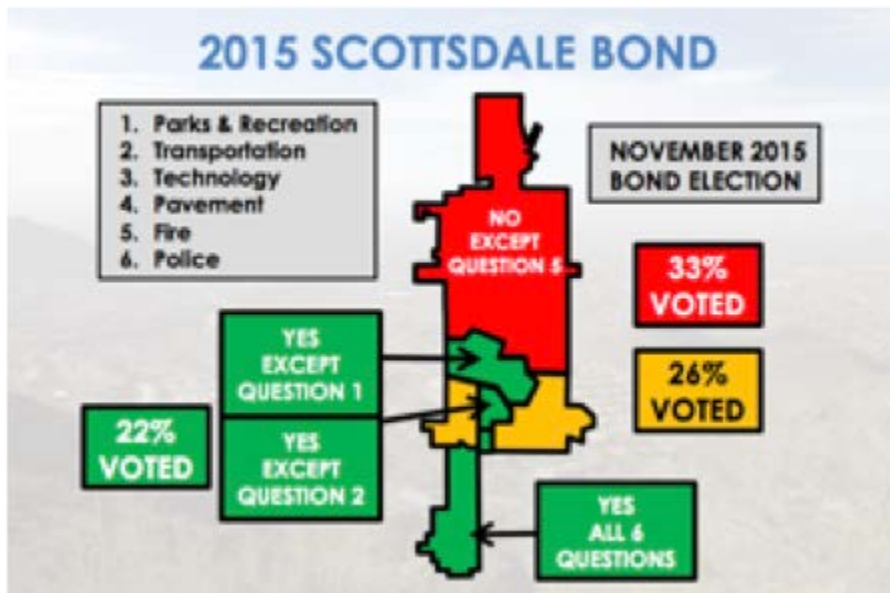
And here is where the call to action comes into play. Residents historically don't show up to vote in non-presidential election cycles, with turnout sometimes failing to reach even 30 percent.

Basic investment in the city's infrastructure is an issue that affects everyone in Scottsdale. It's not a special interest issue or one tied to geography and what part of the city you live in. Pay attention to the city's needs as we learn more over the next few months about how our leaders plan to deal with it.

Be informed. Educate others. As someone once said: "There is no such thing as a free lunch." Just as we keep up our homes, we need to keep up and maintain our public assets. Do your part to take care of your city. Vote. That doesn't seem to be too much to ask.

News to Know

How Scottsdale Voted on the 2015 Bond question



General obligation bonds are one of the ways Scottsdale and other municipalities obtain revenue to fund Capital Improvement projects (CIP). Scottsdale City Council is currently studying CIP funding needs for the 2018/2019 budget cycle.

Events

Scottsdale Issues & Experts Forum

A community discussion on issues of importance to citizens of Scottsdale

"The Changing Face of Downtown Scottsdale"

Confirmed panelists:

- Jim Thompson, Scottsdale City Manager
- Carter Unger, President, Spring Creek Development
- Rick Carpinelli, Treasurer, Charros
- Scott Nelson, Sr. Vice President, Macerich

Email bmckeand@newszap.com

for more information and to register.

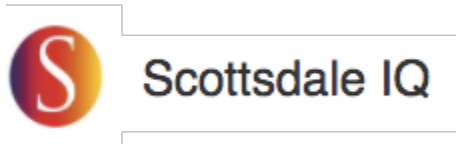
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

When

Thursday, March 1st

Where

Scottsdale Community College



Carol Damaso responds:

Name a Scottsdale resident you admire and why



Paul Messinger. Paul is a loving and faithful husband and family man. He has devoted his life to the funeral industry, owning multiple highly successful businesses such as mortuaries and cemeteries, and operates them with compassion and self-giving. In addition, Paul has dedicated himself to public service, giving his time and energy as a councilmember on the Scottsdale City Council, a representative to the Arizona State House and as an active participant on various boards and commissions in Scottsdale. He has written an abundance of historical articles on Scottsdale and helped establish Scottsdale Community College and [Western Spirit](#).

[Scottsdale's Museum of the West](#). Paul is currently serving on the campaign committee for the establishment of the Scottsdale Heritage Connection, a place for preserving and making available material on Scottsdale's history at the Scottsdale Public Library. Where there is a need to improve, grow or promote Scottsdale, there you will find Paul.

What does Scottsdale do right?

Maintaining balance. Scottsdale has done a delicate walk over the years to protect its amenities – think McDowell Sonoran Preserve – and to welcome change that will attract younger generations and new businesses – think apartments, SkySong, newer shopping venues and top libraries & parks. Scottsdale has kept its real estate taxes low which attracts home buyers and multi-age residents.

Where does Scottsdale need improvement?

Have a more active campaign to educate residents on the need to handle the numerous infrastructure projects required for Scottsdale to keep its cachet. Not passing two bonds in a row set the City back years. When the next bond opportunity comes along we should want our citizens feeling responsible to vote yes, so as to allow Scottsdale to stay the great city it has always been.

Thanks for your responses to our three Scottsdale IQ questions; keep them coming via email to donh@scottsdale.com. *We'll share the responses in the weeks to come.*

Take Action

Join us and get involved:

- Share our newsletter with your friends and associates.
- Like and follow us on [Facebook](#).
- Visit our website [Scottnow.com](#).
- Contribute as a guest blogger.
- Send us your feedback at our [contact page](#).

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Our mailing address is:
8390 E Via De Ventura
F-110 #188
Scottsdale, AZ 85258