

Adams: Home rule essential to Sedona

By Patrick Whitehurst
Lansing NewsServices

Without home rule, Sedona would be hard-pressed to function as it has, according to Sedona Mayor Rob Adams. Sedona City Council will be asked to pass a resolution on the home rule option at its next meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9, the next step in the home rule process. Sedona's voters last adopted home rule in 2003. The rule, which has to be adopted every four years via public election, will go before voters again on Tuesday, March 13, next year.



Rob Adams

Adams said he believes the city has demonstrated proper fiscal responsibility over the last three years since the last time voters approved the option. City staff cut the city's budget by over 30 percent in the last year, he said.

"If the home rule is not passed, and considering the fact that we have cut the budget by 30 percent, it would be devastating to the city. We would simply be cut so much we couldn't operate. I don't see it being an option in this city," Adams said.

Without home rule, the city would be unable to fund capital projects, fund library and recycling programs, and other benefits, Adams said.

"It just wouldn't be possible," he said. "The bottom line is it would absolutely hamstring the city financially. I don't want to see what we would do if home rule wasn't passed. I really don't."

Adams said he cannot recall a time, since Sedona incorporated in 1988, when home rule was not passed by voters.

"The purpose of the alternative is, if the public does not have confidence in the way

the city is being managed, then it puts limitations on the expenditures you can make. There certainly are examples where that would make sense, but it doesn't make sense here in Sedona," Adams said.

Assistant City Manager Allison Zelms said city staff has been working on a number of issues related to the rule.

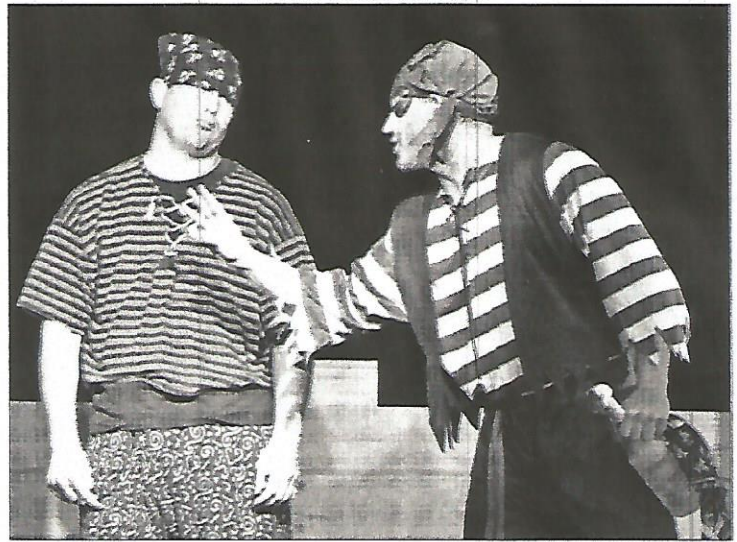
"We had two public hearings on it and then City Council approved putting it on the ballot," Zelms said. The resolution, she added, focuses on timeliness for submitting arguments for and against.

A number of public meetings will be held in the coming months to advise residents on the specifics of home rule.

In July, representatives with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns paid a visit to City Council members to educate them on the specifics of home rule and why most cities and towns in Arizona typically elect that option.

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A Fun Way to Learn



FIREFIGHTERS JOHN GABLE, right, and Don Granger perform a skit Wednesday, Nov. 2, during a Life and Fire Safety program at West Sedona School put on by fire district personnel from across the Verde Valley.

Geared toward teaching youngsters lessons in fire safety, G.I.L. coding, and even lessons about bullying, firefighters had the fun skits twice a year reaching all schools in the Verde Valley and some 1,400 children.

Photos by Jim Hurd/Lansing NewsServices



WEST SEDONA SCHOOL STUDENTS watch intently Wednesday as fire district personnel from across the Verde Valley including Sedona perform a skit about fire safety. Firefighter Don Granger performs in the skit (above).

Art show helps children entering court system

All Things Art is a group of 11 talented Sedona artists coming together for the first time to exhibit the culmination of six years of learning, creating and working together. They have been friends creating side by side and sharing their passion for art and working with clay, glass, paint, wood and camera. Because of the urging of all who know them, they are finally showing their creative spirit and heart to the public.

This fun event starts on the First Friday, Evening at the Galleries event, Nov. 4, 5 to 8 p.m. and continues Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., in the Special Exhibition Gallery at the Sedona Arts Center, 15 Art Barn Road.

This event is free, so the public is welcome to come check out the art, meet the artists, and help support Verde Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates.

In addition to creating art in Sedona, it gives the artists great joy to give back to the community.

As part of the exhibit, they are each donating a

beautiful piece of art for a silent auction; all proceeds will benefit CASA.

Featured artists are Lori Levin, Sray Allan, Kim Lewis, Darlene Reilly, Judy Feldman, Chikako Meyers, Sel Wasson, Ray of Sedona, John Roberts, Lewie Guthrie and Patricia Swanson.

CASA is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping area children of all ages, who would ordinarily be all alone, as they enter the court system to be emancipated from abusive family situations, so they may begin to lead. Volunteers from Sedona and surrounding areas are often the only support these children have as they leave home and enter the legal system to start their new lives.

All Things Art Show is comprised of a unique bunch of eclectic artists ready to show the world their beautiful work. They will be on hand to meet guests and answer questions about their craft.

The show will include creations to dazzle the eye and the senses in glass fusion, all forms of clay work, playfully and 100-year-old hand wood art.

Find missing answers in 'Gematria' movie

"Collectively, human consciousness is like one big multiplex theater playing a finite set of biblical tales all starting at different times and places," according to filmmaker Paul Rosenberg. "The key to cracking the code of the universe is to discover the filter that unifies everything and syncs all three together."

Rosenberg will host a free screening of Part One of his documentary film trilogy, "The Missing Answers," on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Zaki Gordon Institute for Independent Filmmaking, 4235 Arts Village Drive, Room 34.

In the same way that the languages and principles of math, physics, science and art have been universally agreed upon throughout modern societies, the fundamental language and principles of spirituality must also be uniformly constructed and accepted to center to the next phase of human evolution, according to a proponent. The producer says he is confident he's come up with that elusive missing filter, the original proto-language of mankind, which calls it Gematria.

Gematria is its own higher level language that keeps pace with the speed and complexity of our consciousness, the press release states. It's a human computer language,

everything has a positive, negative or spiritual charge to it, plus, minus or zero, respectively," Rosenberg stated. "Once you determine which charge, and which dimension, you can begin to process information at close to light speed."

On a spiritual level Gematria addresses what the 2012 prophecy and energy is all about, the press release states. Our planet and our species are currently transforming from a superficial "mind first" existence to a "divine soul first" state of enlightenment.

Although Rosenberg believes Gematria will someday be the one language and guiding principle of humanity, one thing he can't predict is how long it will take. "It could take decades, or it could suddenly reach a tipping point and circle the globe in an instant," he stated.

Hoping to speed the process along, Rosenberg is hard at work and about to publish the first Gematria Bible. Whether you believe he's cracked the cosmic codes or not, Rosenberg can substantiate his track record with an impressive and eclectic bevy of accomplishments.

As a teenager, Rosenberg was a member of the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team and was ranked in the top 10 in the world. Rosenberg attended

University of California, Berkeley, graduating summa cum laude with Phi Beta Kappa honors. Rosenberg spent 10 years apprenticing under five, award-winning producers: Scott Rudin, Ray Stark, Brian Grazer and Bob and Harvey Weinstein.

In 2000, Rosenberg successfully made the leap from executive to producer with the indie favorite "Go" starring Katie Holmes, Jay Mohr and Sarah Polley. From the moment generated by "Go," Rosenberg set up numerous film projects and was named one of Variety's Top 10 Producers to Watch.

In 2003, Rosenberg founded mmsstudios and has since received almost all of his attention on what he believes is the culmination of all his life experience and previous projects, and the missing answer for humanity — Gematria.

Rosenberg recently relocated to Sedona from Los Angeles. For more information, contact gematria@mmsstudios.com or (424) 835-9615.

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RRN page 6 Nov 2, 2011