

# Residents complain smell, want city shut gravel plant

By Jahna Berry  
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Residents pressured city officials to shut down a south Phoenix asphalt plant after two community meetings this month.

Neighbors have complained that the plant's smoke, dust and a hot-rubbing smell are a nuisance. A Phoenix Municipal Court judge ruled in April that Fisher Sand and Gravel Co. never obtained a city permit to build the 3-year-old plant. The plant is still operating because city officials say they don't have legal authority to shut it down. Fisher has appealed the ruling and seeks a permit to keep the plant open.

One tactic is to stall and pollute the air. Steve Brittle, a Phoenix environmental activist, told 30 residents at a community meeting at Percy School. Brittle lobbied for a lawsuit against Fisher, and state regulators.

The plant is defending its property in an appeal, just like any property owner. The firm's lawyer said in an

appeal that the plant complied with all the state, local rules that it was aware of when the plant was built, Fisher lawyers said. The city-permit

**“If I built a fence without a proper permit, the city would make me tear it down. I don't see why the city can't shut it down if they don't have a permit.”**

**Jep Lee Harrison**  
Phoenix resident, on the Fisher Sand and Gravel Co.

The issue came up more than a year after the plant was complete, Jones added.

On Monday, Phoenix City Councilman Michael Johnson presided over a boisterous meeting, where some residents' tempers flared.

“We are doing everything that we can do legally,” Johnson told the crowd, noting that the city has taken Fisher to court and is issuing code violations each week.

At times the meeting of roughly 50 residents seemed like a campaign forum. Both Johnson and his Sept. 1 election rival Darlene Jackson spoke. Residents both praised and criticized Johnson's track record. But most want city to close the asphalt plant.

“If I built a fence without a proper permit, the city would make me tear it down” said Jep Lee Harrison, 77. “I don't see why the city can't shut it down if they don't have a permit.”

# War stumps for rights says in armed forces

...seeks to abolish 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy

Alex Dalenberg  
ARIZONA REPUBLIC

...a nationwide campaign  
“Don't Ask, Don't Tell,”

...policy is hurting the U.S. military's efforts overseas.

Speaking in Arabic, and then translating, Nicholson told the small group of reporters that even though he could

## SCOTTSDALE

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### Town ends fiscal year in black

**FOUNTAIN HILLS** — The town has overcome “numerous financial obstacles” to end its fiscal year in the black, according to town finance director Julie Ghetti.

From July 2008 through June 2009, officials scaled back the operating budget by \$1.2 million, from \$16.1 million to \$14.9 million.

The town laid off two workers and implemented a hiring freeze and a four-day workweek to reduce overhead costs. As a result, the town ended the fiscal year with a six-figure surplus.

More than \$100,000 will be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund to pay for future projects, Ghetti said.

Because revenue continues to fall, the town has budgeted only \$14.5 million in its general fund this fiscal year, which started July 1.

### Solar firm leases airpark space

**SCOTTSDALE** — Green Choice Solar LLC has leased space for its headquarters in the Scottsdale Airpark, according to Colliers International, which negotiated the deal.

Green Choice will occupy 11,408 square feet of space at 15344 N. 83rd Way southwest of Hayden Road and Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard.

The company, with about 20 employees, provides solar-energy systems for commercial uses.

Greg Hopley of Colliers represented Green Choice on the 48-month lease. Randy Shell of Shell Commercial in Scottsdale represented the building owner, Airpark Holdings VI of Scottsdale.

### Free dental screenings for kids

**SCOTTSDALE** — Dr. Jason McCargar of Scottsdale Dental Arts has teamed up with the Arizona Diamondbacks to offer a limited number of free dental screenings for children in Grades 1-6.

The visual screenings will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Friday and Aug. 28.

To schedule an appointment, call 480-860-8282.