

# THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 1, Number 3 **News and Views on Red Rock Canyon**  
Published Monthly by THE RED ROCK CANYON COMMITTEE  
P. O. Box 2352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

July, 2000

## CALENDAR

### Meetings of Possible Interest:

- July 6 Red Rock Canyon Committee**  
7:00 PM Village at Skyline,  
Primrose Room, Building No. 1  
2305 Patriot Heights,  
off Lower Gold Camp Road
- July 6 Manitou Springs City Council**  
Final reading on annexation  
ordinance.  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 11 Manitou Springs City Council  
Work Session**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 12 TOPS Working Committee**  
4:00 PM Colorado Springs  
Parks and Recreation Building  
1401 Recreation Way  
(just east of I-25, 2 blocks north  
of Uintah)
- July 18 Manitou Springs City Council**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 25 Manitou Springs City Council  
Work Session**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 26 TOPS Working Committee**  
7:30 AM Colorado Springs  
Parks and Recreation Building  
1401 Recreation Way  
(just east of I-25, 2 blocks north  
of Uintah)
- July 26 Manitou Springs Open Space  
Advisory Committee**  
7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 1 Manitou Springs City Council**

7:00 PM Manitou Springs City Hall  
606 Manitou Avenue

**August 3 Red Rock Canyon Committee**  
7:00 PM Village at Skyline,  
Primrose Room, Building No. 1  
2305 Patriot Heights,  
off Lower Gold Camp Road

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or cancellation. Agendas for the Manitou Springs City Council meetings are posted at Manitou Springs City Hall the Friday preceding the meeting.

## Red Rock Canyon Photos on the Web

Bob Miller sent an e-mail letting us know that he has posted a collection of Red Rock Canyon photos on the web. They are worth seeing! Take a look at:

[www.newhomedcolorado.com](http://www.newhomedcolorado.com)

Thanks Bob!

## Manitou Springs Moves Toward Voter Approval for Annexations

At their June 20 meeting, the Manitou Springs City Council approved the first reading of an Ordinance requiring voter approval for most annexations larger than 3 acres. Final vote on the ordinance will be at the July 6 Council meeting.

The Ordinance was drafted by Manitou City Attorney Allan Jensen in cooperation with a citizens' group which had worked on a ballot initiative to require voter approval for annexations.

At the June 13 Manitou Springs City Council meeting, City Attorney Jensen offered his comments on a ballot initiative which had been submitted for certification by Rick Laurenzi. Jensen noted that Laurenzi's initiative left open a question as to whether voter approval preceded or followed the normal review process, or whether the review process was superseded by the popular vote. Also, Jensen noted that the initiative was ambiguous as to whether annexations

which were disapproved by Council would still be referred to the voters.

Jensen offered to work with Tobe Easton and other concerned citizens in drafting a Council Ordinance which would address these issues and other legal technicalities.

In consideration for the drafting of a Council Ordinance, Rick Laurenzi withdrew his initiative pending action by the Manitou Springs City Council. Laurenzi's initiative would have required a special election.

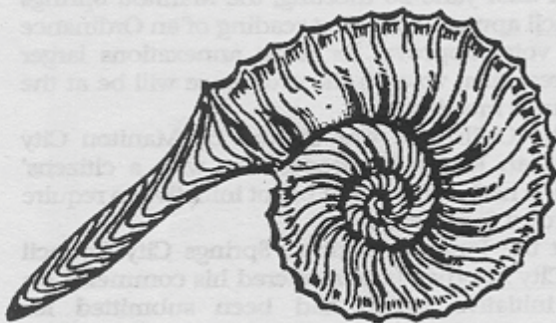
The proposed Council Ordinance preserves all of the reviews and hearings which are now set forth in the City Charter and in Colorado law, and requires voter approval of an annexation after the review process has been completed and City Council has approved the annexation. The proposed Ordinance exempts from voter approval annexations of city owned land, annexations of land completely surrounded by the City, and annexations smaller than 3 acres.

Coverage of the initiative and the proposed Ordinance appeared in the *Gazette* on June 7 and 15 and in the *Pikes Peak Journal* on June 9 and 23.

## Zydeco to Reschedule Second Public Meeting

On June first, Richard Yates of Zydeco sent a letter to people who had attended the May 17th. public meeting on Zydeco's proposed development of the Red Rock Canyon property. In his letter, Mr. Yates indicated that a second public meeting would be held which would include a preliminary development plan and a discussion of "open space". No date for the second public meeting had been set.

Mr. Yates' letter indicated that specific questions prior to the meeting should be directed to Parry Thomas at 578-8777 or Kyle Blakely at 576-0606.



Ammonite

## TIDBITS

### Fossils

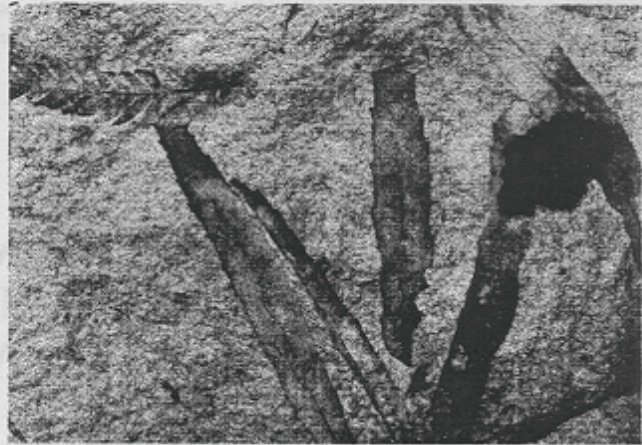
The Fountain formation of Sand Canyon was formed from gravel which washed down from an older range of mountains which preceded the Rocky Mountains. Although life on earth was abundant 320 million years ago when this gravel was deposited, the gravel beds which were to become the Fountain formation were barren areas where vegetation was sparse; and fossils in the Fountain formation are quite rare.

Similarly, the sand dunes which were to become the Lyons sandstone of Red Rock Canyon were desolate areas with little life to be preserved as fossils.

The more recent rocks of the hogbacks area, however, bear abundant fossils:

The Niobrara limestone which forms the prominent white band on the lower hogback was once a clam bed; and clam fossils are common in the Niobrara limestone.

Just older than the Niobrara limestone is the Kodell sandstone on the crest of the lower hogback. This sandstone was formed from a sandy shallow sea bottom and preserves ammonite fossils, typically about a foot across, and numerous tiny shark's teeth, rarely 1/8" long.



### Leaf Fossils in Dakota Sandstone

(Dark spot is an ironstone concretion.)

Hollow channels in the Dakota sandstone of the highest hogback are casts of twigs and stems. Near Pigeon Caves the Dakota sandstone has an area of fossilized matted vegetation bearing an imprint which Hal Prostka suggested might be dinosaur footprint. Some leaves are well preserved in the Dakota sandstone as shown in the photo.

A popular site in Section 16 visited on geology field trips is an outcropping of Morrison sandstone containing dinosaur bones. In the Red Rock Canyon property, the Morrison is mostly buried beneath the landfill and beneath gravels to the north of the landfill.

Don Ellis

**FYI**

**Those Big Numbers:**

The following is a reproduction of the "Preliminary Development Concept" page from the

handout which was provided to the Manitou Springs City Council at their March 14 meeting.

Parry Thomas has indicated that the plan which he is currently working on may be significantly different from the "Preliminary Development Concept."

**Quarry Project -  
Preliminary Development Concept**

Project Size	Year 5	Year 13
Retail (sq. ft.)	260,000	512,000
Office (sq. ft.)	457,000	1,389,000
Hotel (rooms)	300	600
Townhomes	500	900
Apartments	400	700
SF	350	800
Homes-cluster	60	60



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**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE!**

- Enclosed is my contribution to the Red Rock Canyon Committee for operating expenses  
(Check payable to "Red Rock Canyon Committee", not tax deductible.)
- I want to be involved.  
My efforts could best be used for: \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep me informed with **THE RED ROCK RAG**.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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**WE WANT YOUR INPUT!**

Letters, articles, comments (and glossy photos) may be sent to:

Rag Editor  
Red Rock Canyon Committee  
P. O. Box 2352  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to donellis@iex.net. Electronic text **MUST** be plain ASCII (.txt) format. **Word processor formats such as Microsoft Word (.doc) cannot be accepted!!!!** Digital images may be attached. 360 dpi bit map images at the size they will appear in the Rag will provide the best quality when reproduced.

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For more information, contact **Scott Flora** at the *Trails and Open Space Coalition* 633-6884

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