

## LOCAL News

### Parker files signatures in pursuit of CD9 seat

Paradise Valley Councilman Vernon Parker filed over 1,143 signatures with the Arizona Secretary of State's office to qualify as a Republican candidate for the newly created Congressional District 9.



Vernon Parker

"I am grateful to my supporters and volunteers supporting our campaign efforts," Councilman Parker said in a May 30 press release. "To all of you who walked neighborhoods or stood in front of polling place to collect signatures, I thank you."

### More News Online!

Visit the North Valley home page to read news of Paradise Valley. Among the items posted this week:

- Crown Realty to take on re-vamp of Mountain Shadows
- Scottsdale police make arrest in medical complex homicide
- Camelback Inn's Indian Bend Course to be built anew
- Desert Youth Ballet Foundation scholarship winners take third place at grand prix
- Notre Dame Prep football bound for Ireland competition
- Scottsdale's Weaver earns record-setting victory at Farr Classic
- Scottsdale Soccer's 96 Blackhawks win U.S. Youth Soccer National League Blue Division

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Special to the Independent

Erika Monroe-Williams is launching a website to help fellow "hopeless" housewives and is preparing a TV pilot for her own cooking show.

## Paradise Valley housewife to help fellow "hopeless" housewives

Website, TV pilot to be cooked up over summer months

Erika Monroe-Williams moved to the valley in 2001 when she was hired at KTVK as its weekend anchor of "Good Evening Arizona" and "The NewShow," which later went on to be "3TV News at 10."

Every time Mrs. Monroe-Williams filled on the station's daytime show, "Good Day Arizona," she had a ball with all the chefs who would come in to cook.

"I always wanted to jump in and push the chef aside!" Ms. Monroe-Williams jokes.

Although Mrs. Monroe-Williams has been cooking most of her life, she has not had any formal culinary training and says there are many times she has felt "hopeless" in the kitchen.

She laughs that she can always turn out a great meal, but not before burning something first.

"I don't take myself too seriously and I think I always try to find the humor in every situation — the kitchen is no exception. There's a quote on our website that says basically if you burn something while cooking dinner or for a dinner party, throw it in the trash outside so no one can see it and trudge forward.

"Even though it sounds like I'm joking I am really not — I have done that many times! My goal is to show everyone who is

trying to entertain or simply cook for their family to have fun with it — and don't get discouraged if you make mistakes. I have spent most of my adult life coming up with shortcuts to make cooking something fabulous easier."

Erika is now hoping to share her secrets with everyone who has felt as hopeless as she has felt in the kitchen at one time or another.

"If I can do it, you can do it!" she exclaimed.

Erika's newly launched website, The-HopelessHousewife.com, is dedicated to everyone out there who has felt behind the eight-ball in the kitchen.

The website and show will also focus on household and garden tips as well as party ideas such as hand-making invitations and throwing a great tea party.

The website also includes a blog from Erika's mother who has had a successful career making jams, syrups and toppings for stores like Trader Joe's.

Growing up mainly in Southern California, Erika now makes her home in Paradise Valley with former Diamondbacks slugger and now third base coach Matt Williams.

*Editor's note: This information was provided by Mrs. Monroe-Williams.*

### Are you a blogger? Get a newszap link!

The Independent is looking to broaden its listing of "Columnists & Bloggers" at arizona.newszap.com.

More and more people are starting blogs — including business people, support groups and individuals with an opinion on the day's news or culture.

If you are a local blogger who would like to be listed, please visit arizona.newszap.com/blogs and fill in the form.

If interested, contact News Editor Terrance Thornton at 623-445-2774.

### Public hearing slated for election process debate

Citizens will have the opportunity to speak out on a potential ballot initiative to rescind the direct election of the mayor of the Town of Paradise Valley.

Testimony is expected to be heard at a 3 p.m. public hearing preceding the June 7 Paradise Valley Town Council meeting at Town Hall, 6401 E. Lincoln Drive.

The Council must approve a ballot initiative by the July 6 deadline to appear on the November ballot, according to a press release.

Paradise Valley resident, and former council member, Scott O'Connor, says the mayor has no veto power — and treating the position as more than it is is a mistake.

"Paradise Valley's mayor is not an executive position. It is an administrative position as an equal voting member of the Council," he said in the release.

Paradise Valley is one of the only incorporated towns in Arizona with unpaid elected officials.

### Ortega throws hat in ring for supervisor seat

Long-time Scottsdale architect and former Scottsdale City Councilman David Ortega has filed twice the signatures required to seek the seat of Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, District 2, which encompasses much of the East Valley, stretching from Scottsdale to Mesa Gateway Airport, according to a press release.

Mr. Ortega submitted almost 1,100 signatures, more than twice the 505 signatures required.

"My plan in District 2 is to reawaken our economy and to bring our seven East Valley cities and two Native American communities together as a vibrant sustainable region," Mr. Ortega said in the release.

Mr. Ortega also announced his campaign is chaired by Mesa farmer and businessman John Babiarz.