

# SanTanSunNews

## Covance debate rages on

by Jim Veihdeffer

The ongoing public discussion about plans by contract animal testing and research company Covance to build a facility on 50 acres near Chandler Municipal Airport generates about as much heat as a 1,600-degree incinerator – the kind that Covance officials say they will not be building here.

New Jersey-based Covance is one of the world's largest drug development services companies.

"Our employees take great pride in helping our clients develop life-saving and life-enhancing medicines for millions of patients around the world," says Joe Herring, Covance chairman and CEO.

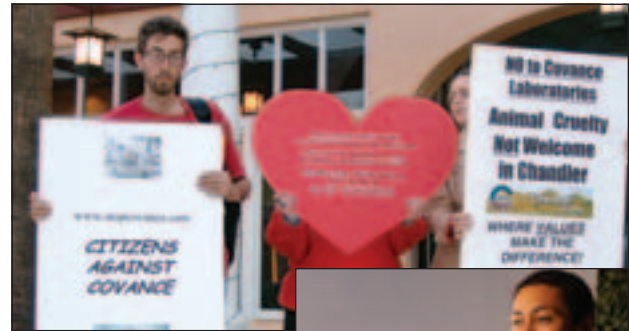
However, those opposing the establishment of the testing facility here see that as sham and deception.

Anti-Covance forces seem to break out into three categories: those opposed to any animal testing, those opposed to what they perceive as Covance's approach and those who just oppose Covance's business model.

It's a perfect storm of opposition.

"All they really do is pump animals full of chemicals. They don't invent anything," says Mike Boerman, a community activist and core member of Citizens Against Covance, a group attempting to put the kibosh on Covance's Chandler plans.

"I'm not 100 percent against animal testing,"



STSN photos  
PRO AND CON: Anti-Covance protestors nearly a year ago; Covance official Wendel Barr last October announcing their new location.



Boerman adds, implying that the number is closer to the 100 side than the other side. "But this goes far beyond just the issue of animal testing. It's about safety and reputation."

Boerman cites two primary reasons for the group's opposition:

"First, they take other people's research products and pump them into animals. And, second, their reputation is one of deception and sloppy safety

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Submitted photos

STEP UP: Jenny Thompson celebrates Irish style. See more dancers like her compete at the 17th Annual Feis in the Desert at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort in downtown Chandler through Jan. 21. Story on Page A+1.

## Bond issue OK delayed

More talks for museum, airport expected

by Laurie Fagen

A \$451.5 million City of Chandler bond issue has been continued to the Jan. 25 City Council meeting, pending further clarification of the costs for a new Chandler Museum. The general obligation, street, highway and utility revenue bonds, slated for a May 15 vote include additional funds to handle escalating costs for the museum.

In 2004, Chandler voters approved \$8.5 million in municipal bonds to build the new museum, which will be part of a major mixed-use development project on the west side of Arizona Avenue between Chicago and Boston streets. Due to rising construction costs, the 2007 Citizen Bond Committee recommended that an additional \$4.5 million be placed on the ballot to help address potential funding shortfalls.

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## Art on Boston: create, explore, learn

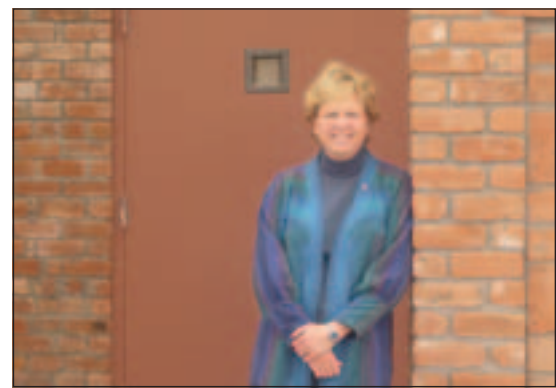
by Cheriese Chambers

As historic downtown Chandler continues on the road of redevelopment, one new venue is giving the area a cultural boost. With the upcoming opening of Art on Boston, a contemporary art gallery, artists will gain a place to display their work as well as studio space to work in, while community instructors and the general public stand to benefit from much needed classroom space.

"About three years ago we tossed around the idea of a store front where we could exhibit artwork from local emerging and established artists," explains Peterson Farms resident Wendy Fallon, co-director of Art on Boston. "This past year, things really started falling into place for our project."

Fallon, along with Art on Boston co-director Laurie Fagen of Fox Crossing, founded the Studio Artists Connection (SAC) in late 2003. For three years, the organization supported local artists by organizing art shows and studio tours, and now provides a publicity service for local artists with a website listing and promotional e-letter. The two artists and entrepreneurs joined to open Art on Boston, which Fallon believes will complement Chandler's growing downtown cultural district.

Slated for the southwest corner of Arizona Avenue and Boston Street, in part of the newly-renovated Arrow Pharmacy space, the gallery will



STSN photo

ART COMING: Art on Boston co-founder Wendy Fallon of Peterson Farms stands outside what will be a contemporary art gallery, artist studio spaces and classrooms in historic downtown Chandler.

See **Art on Boston** Page 12

## CUSD sees tax credit increase

Chandler schools raked in approximately 25 percent more in state tax credit contributions in 2006 than 2005, according to Chandler Unified School District spokesperson Terry Locke.

CUSD parents and friends contributed a little more than \$1.6 million in tax-refundable contributions, up from \$1.3 the year before. Online donations rose to \$235,614, with approximately \$1.4 million donated by check, cash or credit card.

A "free tamales" incentive during the last weekend of the year helped CUSD bring in \$62,000 on Dec. 30 and \$50,000 on Dec. 31.

"I think the tamale promotion served the purpose of raising awareness that we're open and that the deadline to donate was imminent," says Locke.

The donated funds will go toward school clubs, sports, extracurricular activities and more.

**City adds Diversity**

**Studio fuels dance fever in S. Chandler**

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**New church gets a Hand**

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precautions," says Boerman. "They try to portray themselves as a company that comes up with miracle cures from scratch, but they really just take the finished products of other companies."

How you view the company's claims depends on which side you're on. The company proclaims they are "Helping to bring miracles to market sooner" on their website, which does use the word miracles, but with significant qualifiers.

"Our business is devoted to helping develop new medicines for diseases such as breast cancer, diabetes, leukemia, Alzheimer's, heart disease and HIV/AIDS," says James Lovett, senior vice president and general counsel.

On the pro-Covance side is Chandler Mayor Boyd Dunn and the city council.

"I'm on the record as supporting this venture," the second-term mayor says. "It's good for the economy of Chandler, the region and it's important for medical research."

Dunn personally visited the Covance facility in Madison, WI, talked with elected officials, University of Wisconsin researchers and a community college president to ask questions ranging from whether Covance was considered a good corporate citizen to the effect of the facility on premier residential home values. He came away with a strong belief in the company's mission and values.

He also consulted a prominent university biomedical researcher in Arizona on the uses of animal testing, who told him there is no other way to develop these medicines and drugs.

"If there was, I'd use them," the researcher told him.



FOR & AGAINST: Protestors against Covance show up in force at a City Council meeting; Mayor Boyd Dunn supports Covance; the new location for the bio-medical facility on Gilbert Road, south of Germann.



Society, to name a few," says Strongin.

"Unfortunately, there's this Hollywood image of glowing smokestacks which could not be farther from the truth. There are 22 crematoriums in Maricopa County operating today and the residue is considered a minor source of emissions. We're satisfied with the science behind crematoriums and the regulations that govern them. With a minimum temperature of 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit, all that's left is ash."

The anti-Covance group is not convinced.

"There's still the issue

**Some like it hot**

Another citizen concern is the question of whether Covance will be building an incinerator to dispose of deceased animals.

The answer to that is straightforward, yet still begs the question.

According to Covance spokesperson Camilla Strongin, the answer is "no." However they will be using a third-party vendor, as yet to be selected, for that task.

This leaves open the question of whether the third party will build an incinerator themselves in Chandler, build it somewhere else or use an existing incinerator somewhere else.

Since the vendor has not been selected yet - indeed the facility itself won't be operational until 2009 - Covance cannot answer that question. All they can say is that the vendor "will abide by any local, state and federal regulations."

"This issue is being dealt with every day throughout the Valley by other research facilities as well as the Maricopa County Animal Shelter and Arizona Humane

of all the animals killed and having to dispose of biohazardous elements in the air," CAC's Boerman says. "How are they going to test for a chemical substance that's barely been invented and hasn't even been given a name or approved by the FDA?"

"PETA/PCRM (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals/ Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine) are using this issue as a scare tactic that is baseless," responds Covance. "In fact, Covance has an exemplary record of compliance with local, state and federal guidelines. Our Madison and Vienna, VA, facilities are regularly inspected by publicly owned treatment works facilities and have complied with regulations and standards."

**Frame job**

"I know there are very strong opinions on both sides; it just depends on how you frame the issue," says Dunn.

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## Covance from Page 10

According to City of Chandler spokesperson Dave Bigos, the Covance project has generated "far and away the largest citizen response on an issue," comparable only to the Wal-Mart issue a few years ago. City records show from August 2005 to January 2007, the city received 2,935 emails on the subject.

Email is clearly the preferred method of voicing an opinion, with Bigos estimating he fielded only a dozen phone calls himself and probably less than 100 stamped and mailed letters - not counting 5,000 delivered by Arizona CURE, Citizens United for Research & Employment, a pro-Covance advocacy group chaired by former Chandler mayor Jim Patterson.

Of the nearly 3,000 emails, Bigos estimates that the majority are in opposition to Covance, though he points out that the city does not keep a pro vs. con statistical tally. Other than the preponderance of form letters, some of the inquiries are simply requests for information or clarification.

According to Bigos, about 75 percent of the emails originate from non-Chandler sources, many from overseas. That leaves about 750 from presumed Chandler residents, of which 250 to 350 are duplicates - that is, from the same persons sending multiple forms.

Perhaps the ability of the anti-Covance organization to energize their opposition efforts is itself a case study in modern consumer advocacy.

For Boerman, one word sums it up: Internet. "We mobilized our troops through email, a Yahoo group, MySpace and YouTube as well as our own CAC website," Boerman says. "I can't stress enough how amazing the Internet outreach has been."

In addition to Internet activities, Citizens Against Covance hold biweekly meetings on Tuesdays at Bookman's in Mesa. The next meeting is Jan. 23.

For more information, visit:  
Covance: [www.covance.com](http://www.covance.com)

Citizens Against Covance: [www.stopcovance.com](http://www.stopcovance.com)  
Arizona CURE: [www.arizonacure.org](http://www.arizonacure.org)  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine: [www.pcrm.org](http://www.pcrm.org)  
City of Chandler: [www.chandleraz.gov](http://www.chandleraz.gov)

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## More on Covance

To read more about the heated Covance debate, see Publisher's Note, *A community concerned*, in the Opinion section on Page 27.

SanTanSun News

## Free medical clinic helps needy

Twelve physicians from different medical disciplines join hands to serve the medically needy and working poor with no medical insurance at the Free Integrated Medical Clinic held 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., Feb. 3 at 2145 W. Elliot Rd. in Chandler. It's the fourth year the event has been sponsored by Tzu Chi Foundation, Phoenix Service Center in Chandler.

The team of volunteer physicians will offer allopathic medicine, which covers internal medicine, family medicine, gynecology and pediatrics, as well as traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. Chiropractic care and dental exams are provided by faculty and students from AT Still University.

The Mesa Lion's Club provides vision exams. Arizona Latino Medical Association gives Body Mass Index assessment, and Mesa Sunrise Rotarians augment the volunteer support.

Registration is required by calling 480-838-6556.

## Golf for Mercy in March

Help Mercy Gilbert Medical Center raise funds for the Gilbert Investing for Tomorrow (GIFT) campaign from the comfort of your golf cart at the Center's Drive for Mercy golf tournament Fri., March 23 at Trilogy Golf Club at Power Ranch, 4415 E. Village Pkwy., in Gilbert.

The GIFT campaign raised funds to build out and equip the second wing at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, more than doubling the occupancy of the hospital to provide needed services such as a dedicated pediatric and adolescent unit.

Mercy Gilbert is full-service, nonprofit, acute-care facility with 92 beds and the capacity to grow to 400 beds. To learn more, call Kelly Ostertag at 480-728-3931.

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