

Candidate for President, Nicholas J Pela



Nicholas J Pela

Bio – Candidate for President of the Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association

“Successful leadership demands collaboration with others, reliance upon the diverse expertise of all stakeholders, and most importantly an understanding that in all things a leader is a servant to those he is called upon to lead.” - N.Pela

Nick and Carolyn Pela have been married for over 42 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren. They have owned their Del Norte Place home since March, 2019, and have been active in the Neighborhood Association ever since. Nick is a retired Airport Planner, most recently President/Senior Consultant for Nicholas J Pela & Associates. In the past he served as National Aviation Practice Leader for the engineering firm of Gannett Fleming, Inc.

The following are some highlights of Nick's experience and qualifications that would be of value in his service to the Del Norte Place community:

- **Historic Preservation:** Nick and Carolyn currently own two historic homes, their Del Norte Place home as well as an historically intact 1892 Victorian home which they have preserved for over 35 years. Nick has prepared historic preservation documentation for several properties, both private and public.
- **Leadership:** Nick has led professional staff in the preparation of many engineering development projects, chaired stakeholder meetings and public hearings, and made presentations to City Councils and professional associations. He has also served as an Elder in two churches, and previously led the Cumberland (WI) Airport Commission.
- **Agency Coordination:** Nick has collaborated with many City, State and Federal agencies. He has coordinated with City of Phoenix plan review and building inspection departments on residential historic preservation projects.
- **Security and Emergency Response:** Nick has training in security, emergency response, and tactical operations. He has earned several FEMA certifications, as well as a HAM radio technician certification.
- **Past Experience with Del Norte Association:** Nick provided research and review of the City's 15th Avenue fiber optic construction plans and coordinated with the Association. He and Carolyn have been active in planning and participating in past block parties and Del Norte birthday celebrations.
- **Other:** Nick is a licensed pilot and aircraft owner with 2,800 hours of pilot-in-command time logged. He is a musician and songwriter, and also a published author of three books in the fiction genre.

Candidate for President, Tim Smith



My name is Tim Smith, and I am running for president of the Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association. My family bought our first home in the F.Q. Story Neighborhood in 1984. 3 years later we discovered an opportunity in Del Norte. Because of my love for golf, combined with a larger living space, the home on 1617 West Virginia was a perfect match for us to move here in 1987. Our daughter grew up here and now lives just north of us in the Campus Vista neighborhood. That gives our two granddaughters plenty of time to enjoy the friendly and welcoming community we live in. I have lived in this home for 35 years and worked for the same company for 40 years. I have always

found loyalty and commitment to be foundational elements in successful endeavors. One principle I live by was taught to me by my company founder, whose wise grandmother taught him “We are all sisters and brothers, no one lives alone...what you put into the lives of others will come back into your own.”

In 1991 I worked with a committee to achieve historic designation for Del Norte as an historic neighborhood. That was a two year endeavor that really put our small neighborhood on the map. I edited our newsletter for five years and enthusiastically participated in many neighborhood events. It was especially nice to see Del Norte recognized as “Best Historic Neighborhood” in the 2009 New Times Annual Best of Phoenix awards. One thing that unites us is the value we have in our homes and a rising tide lifts all boats. I am committed to continuing the traditions and visions our friends had over the years to make this a welcoming community. Some of those friends are still here and I appreciate you. Some have moved on and we appreciate what they contributed to make Del Norte Place what it is today. Thank you to all of our neighbors, past and present. I welcome your ideas and concerns as an inclusive community. This election is based on the simple idea that there is an orderly term to be served by association officers. I think of it more as stewardship to our neighborhood. Other historic area associations have established logical organizational protocols that include election standards, so this is nothing out of the ordinary. It is important to me that we maintain consistency and transparency. All details of association protocol will continue to be worked out through my term. I encourage all neighbors to participate as we establish a volunteer board to build a consensus among residents. This is why I am seeking to be elected President of the Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association and ask for your support.

Candidate for Vice President, Heather Finden



Hello, Neighbors! My name is Heather Finden, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for Vice-President of the Del Norte Place Association. For those of you who don't know me, I've lived on Vernon Avenue for over six years with my husband, Nathan. Since then, I have been very active in the community serving as the secretary of the Del Norte Place Neighborhood Group/Association, editing the Del Norte News, helping with neighborhood special events, assisting with the Block Watch Grant, and managing the community cat TNR program. However, my connection to the community isn't new...it began 20 years ago when I was a Phoenix Park Ranger. I was stationed at the Norton House, patrolled Central and West Phoenix parks, and organized large-scale community events. I remember walking around Del Norte Place on lunch breaks, thinking that it would be amazing to live here.

Little did I know that the dream would come true. Since then, I have continued my career in the City of Phoenix as a Park Manager, Environmental Quality Specialist, and Water Services Project Coordinator. I am currently a Program Manager in the City Manager's Office of Environmental Programs.

How will this benefit you and our neighborhood? It means that community service is not only an extracurricular activity for me, but also a way of life. I have over 24 years' experience working with non-profit organizations, citizen and neighborhood groups, municipalities, regulatory agencies, tribal communities, and educational institutions. I have served on boards and committees with Arizona State Parks, Maricopa Association of Governments, and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association just to name a few.

As your Association Vice President, I will use my knowledge and experience to:

- Promote initiatives that support Del Norte Place's mission and historic designation
- Work collaboratively with other board members and committees
- Maintain relationships with surrounding communities and stakeholders
- Foster an environment of inclusivity and community
- Understand the desires, needs, and priorities of all residents
- Build consensus on neighborhood issues

Thank you for your vote for Del Norte Place Association Vice-President. I look forward to serving you and our neighborhood.

Candidate for Secretary, Michele Smith

My name is Michele Smith, and I am running for secretary of Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association. My family moved here in January of 1987 when our daughter was 7 years old. We are only the 2nd owners of our home built in 1941. We actually found the original blueprints of our home in the garage when we moved in. I taught elementary school for 34 years. My first teaching position when I came to Phoenix was in the Phoenix Elementary School District as a permanent sub and then taught fifth grade at Kenilworth School. My last teaching position was in the Kyrene School District where I was a Teacher/Librarian for 16 years. Over my career I earned two master's degrees, one in Education and the other in Library Science. I now serve on the board of the Arizona Education Association-Retired as co-chair of membership.

Our neighborhood has always worked as a team. I was part of the group that gathered research for two years to achieve historic designation in the early 1990's. I served in many capacities for the Del Norte Place neighborhood over the years, including writing and distributing the newsletter and serving as an elected officer. Our neighborhood is a special place where we have reached out to neighbors in so many ways. We have written grants, secured permit parking, organized pizza donations to police officers patrolling the neighborhood during the AZ State Fair, hosted breakfasts for longtime residents, planned Easter Egg hunts and parades, organized a neighborhood home tour, planned block parties featuring dog training and fun activities for pets and children, organized yard sales, hosted holiday parties in December at the Norton House, and promoted luminarias for Christmas Eve. I have recently hosted a low water use garden tour and sold luminarias as a fundraiser for several charities, including feral cat rescue. I bring a wealth of information about our neighborhood, including stories from original owners I met when we first moved here. I plan to continue the friendly and inclusive climate this small neighborhood has promoted over the years. I ask for your vote for Secretary of Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association.



Candidate for Treasurer, Cari Conden

Hello Neighbors,

Since moving to Del Norte Place in 2019, my husband and I have fallen in love with this neighborhood. We have met wonderful neighbors and enjoyed many fun neighborhood social events. We have been active in attending the neighborhood meetings, rarely missing one. Peter has become a Block Watch Captain and Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol member. I would like the opportunity to become more involved by serving as Del Norte Place Neighborhood Treasurer.

I have degrees in both business and nursing. My decades of experience in the business/marketing world along with my nursing career have given me a well-balanced set of skills. My strengths include effective communication, professional attention to detail, problem solving, team building, and critical thinking. Currently, as a nurse at Circle the City in central Phoenix, I care for the underserved population which has taught me to be grateful and open to others. These past covid years have challenged me with the responsibility of maintaining appropriate levels of medical supplies and PPE during times of scarcity. This was a task that required creativity and organizational skills. Please consider me for your Del Norte Place Treasurer.

Thank You,
Cari Conden

Candidate for Treasurer, Sharon Torre

My name is Sharon Torre and I am running for the position of Treasurer of the Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association. I moved here from California in 1998 where I worked for a freight forwarder/Custom Broker first routing Ocean freight throughout the United States then moving on to the Accounting Department auditing files. After moving to Phoenix I completely changed careers and went to work for an Environmental Lab for 24 years in Marketing/Customer Service as well as Accounts Receivable until retiring in 2021.

We moved to Del Norte Place 24 years ago after falling in love with my house, the wonderful sense of community and the fantastic view of the golf course. Upon moving here I immediately embraced our community and got involved in many projects for the neighborhood association including writing and distributing the newsletter, spearheading flood control to try and get as many homes out of the floodplain as possible, donating pizza during the AZ State fair to the police department, planning the neighborhood block party as well as having neighborhood pool parties during the 4th of July fireworks show. I also helped with the dog training sponsored by PetSmart, organized community yard sales, and worked with the neighbors on Virginia Avenue to install trees instead of putting up a fence. Finally, I helped sell luminaries for Xmas Eve which was a fundraiser for a women's shelter and our feral cat program. I have many ideas on how we can raise money for our neighborhood association. I plan on pursuing business for advertising in our newsletter to help fund more programs in our neighborhood. I love living in Del Norte Place. I ask for your vote for the Treasurer position of the Del Norte Place Neighborhood Association.