

Greetings, all ... and Happy Halloween!

Seems a good day to get out a brief update!

We did not have a Council meeting this week, so I have time to update you on a few other matters ... and offer an invitation for the unveiling of a spectacular exhibit here at the Ward VI Council Office.

First: VOTE! If you've not already voted early, please try to today or tomorrow. If not, Tuesday is the day. It's an important election on so very many levels. I do hope you'll participate! Here's some basic information:

You will need to provide proper identification at the poll to ensure your vote is counted.

For information on the type(s) of identification that is needed, please visit:

[http://www.pima.gov/elections/ID\\_polls.htm](http://www.pima.gov/elections/ID_polls.htm)

Do you want to avoid the lines on election day? You can still vote early! The following link lists early voting locations across the County. You can even vote on Saturday at several of the locations.

<http://www.recorder.pima.gov/docs/EarlyVotingSites2008General.pdf>

Now a few updates:

- Welcome Col. Johnson! A few weeks ago I had the chance to visit with the new commander of Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Colonel Paul Johnson comes to us from his prior assignment at the Pentagon. In our discussion of current and future DM issues, I found him supportive of the many modifications that have been made in the last two years in terms of flight patterns and operations and committed to continuing good relationships between the base and the community. I am confident this positive relationship will continue as - through the MCRC (Military Community Relations Committee) - we continue to work on the important issues of land use and operations. I welcome Colonel Johnson and look forward to working together with him on behalf of our community.
- Tri-Neighborhood Celebration! More than 50 people from Pie Allen, Iron Horse and West University neighborhoods came together at their shared neighbor, Tucson High Magnet School (THMS). There was a pie and chile tasting contest, with six pie entries and 12 chile entries as a fund raiser for the Tucson High Magnet School Badger Watch program. The Badger Watch program provides funding to school clubs based on their participation in clean

ups around Tucson High. The THMS Steel Drum Band and local guitarist Michael P provided entertainment. It was a fun gathering!

- Living La Vida Verde! What a smash hit! Dozens of booths and hundreds of visitors were there to talk GREEN! Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to bring this important and informative event to La Placita for all to attend - even a special area for kids! Watch for it again next year. You won't want to miss it.
- Culinary Festival Comes Downtown! The opening night of this year's Culinary Festival took place on the patio of the Historic Train Depot. What a lovely evening - great food from our local Tucson Originals restaurants, more different kinds of margaritas than I could have imagined, and an absolutely perfect evening out by the Depot ... just the beginning of the many wonderful events that will increasingly be coming downtown!
- Pima County Teen Court! The grand opening of their new courtrooms downtown marked a major milestone for this program, where teens learn first hand about court processes, whether as a defendant [real] or teen defense attorney, prosecutor, juror and more. We should all be proud of this program.
- Broadway/Broadmoor Neighborhood gathering: Dozens of folks from this neighborhood came together for an afternoon of good food and friendship in their new gathering spot, Malvern Plaza, which was carved out of what had been waaaay too much asphalt at an old intersection. Their creative approach to bringing their neighborhood together demonstrates the creativity possible when good people come together!

#### A couple of upcoming events:

- Butterfly Magic! The butterflies have returned to the Botanical Gardens. It truly is magical to enter the display and watch these brightly colored butterflies waft by. For more information on the exhibit, which opens November 1st, contact the gardens at: 326-9686 or visit their website at <http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/>.
- Mars Visits Ward VI! Thursday evening from 4:30 to 6:30PM, we'll have the opening reception for our Tucson based Mars Lander crew! Mission director Peter Smith will be here along with many of the other Mars scientists. Humongous photographic images of Mars will line the walls, along with smaller 3-D images [glasses will be provided]. The exhibit will be open to the public weekdays throughout November, so please do stop by to see the outstanding work done by our local, but world renowned, scientists.

And a final note:

Many of you saw the article on Downtown in last Sunday's Star. I was disappointed, but not surprised, by the report, which seemed to infer monies have been misspent because the reporter didn't like the way the City accounted for expenditures [all of which have been thoroughly audited and follow approved governmental audit guidelines]. It was frustrating to read - not because I have concerns about the quality of the reporting, but because I believe it might mislead the public - especially now, when so much is happening downtown!

Rio Nuevo director Greg Shelko sent the attached memo which details his concerns. I thought you might find it of interest. None of us, whether City staff, elected official or reporter, should be a blind supporter. Nor should we be blindly against the possibility that we're actually succeeding in changing the reality of our Downtown. We must always question everything and make sure the best possible decisions are being made and we'll end up with the best possible Downtown.

I hope you and your families enjoy a safe and wonderful Halloween. I'll be in touch again soon!

*Nina*

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