

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends! But while we've so much for which we can be thankful, we are also facing serious challenges as a nation and a community. Next week's Study Session will be focused largely on how best to address our dramatic budget shortfalls. I will follow up as quickly as I can with details on that conversation and the direction Mayor and Council give City staff.

But for now, let me tell you about a couple of 'new things' downtown:

- 4th Avenue Underpass: Yesterday I witnessed the demolition of the South side of the 4th Avenue Underpass! I'm getting excited about the strangest things now, but it was wonderful watching the Sundt crew make way for the beautiful new underpass that will once again link 4th Avenue to Congress and downtown. Check it out next time you drive downtown.
- One North Fifth: And check out the new retail built out to the street at One North Fifth [the old MLK that is now an apartment complex that is already 3/4 filled!] I can't wait to see what shops and/or restaurants go in.
- MacArthur Building: The most beautiful ugly chain link fence now surrounds the MacArthur as they begin renovations to the inside to create Madden Publishing's new home! They're aiming to move in this summer!
- The hole in between: The two story hole in the ground is now being filled in with pillars and other supports for the garage being built there ... and the two apartment complexes that will rise above the garage. Progress!
- Maynard's: This new and unique downtown market and restaurant is taking shape ... opening soon! Keep your eyes open for the opening. It's bound to be 20grand!

**GALLERY SHOW OPENING:** The opening of our next exhibit at The Gallery at Ward VI is next week. The Voices Project is back, with a new photo exhibit: A Window into the Lives of Tucson's Teen Refugees & Immigrants. This photo and written essay project will blow you away! Please join us for the opening and meet some of the student/authors/artists from Catalina Magnet High School next Wednesday, December 10th, from 4:30 to 6:30PM here at Ward VI.

**CELEBRATE NEW YEAR DOWNTOWN!** There's something completely new coming: First Night! The attached news release from the Downtown Tucson Partnership gives you all the details, but it's going to be a fabulous New Year's Celebration that will fill downtown with activities for the entire family. You won't want to miss it!!!! Really!!!!

And a personal note to conclude: I had the joy earlier this week of welcoming my

third grandson into this world. Cade was born Monday morning, weighing in at 9 pounds 5 ounces ... and he was two weeks early! My son and his family are all doing well.

## *Nina*

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