

Friends,

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE UNDERPASS OPENS!

IT WAS SPECTACULAR! If you attended the dedication of the Fourth Avenue Underpass last week, you were part of history. Almost 3,000 people jammed into the new Underpass to listen to more than a dozen speakers. But despite the number of us who spoke [and we all tried to be brief] - it was a jubilant crowd! Grandparents brought grandchildren so they could tell their grandchildren they were there the day 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue opened. And then they were joined by thousands of others, who walked through Downtown and Fourth Avenue and Main Gate, all of which are now connected by our wonderful Old Pueblo Trolley.

Check out a few photos from the event:

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6/photo.php?sel=4th%20Ave%20Grand%20Re-Opening>

We'll be adding more photos next week!

Following the 'speechifying', we rode the trolley around the Downtown loop, 'cutting' the ribbon in each direction. We were followed by bagpipers and classic cars [one was carrying Tucson's own Centenarian Cele Peterson despite the 100°+ temperatures!], marching bands, and members of the Meet Me at Maynard's group. [MMM has a new route that takes walkers and runners on a 3-mile route that now includes the Underpass and the Snake Bridge. Come join us on Monday evenings at 5:45 at Maynard's.]

#### CUSHING STREET UNDERPASS AND BRIDGE CELEBRATION

Councilmember Regina Romero hosted festivities marking the next step in reconnecting Downtown and the West Side. The new I-10 underpass at Cushing Street may only be open for traffic during limited hours right

now, but we can celebrate this next beginning. Its broad expanse eliminates the visual barrier that I-10 has been for generations. Traffic is flowing smoothly -and far more quietly - above on I-10, thanks to rubberized asphalt. Traffic below will flow easily underneath with one wide shared lane in each direction for cars, bikes and the Modern Streetcar. Separated from the traffic on each side are separate multiuse paths that will be especially useful during the Gem Show, when thousands of people move back and forth among shows.

This new underpass truly reconnects the Downtown and West Side, tying together our business and heritage districts in a most beautiful way.

#### SOLAR DECATHLON: THE UA'S SOLAR HOME IS ASTOUNDING!

The University of Arizona is one of a select group of schools invited to participate in the Solar Decathlon this October in Washington, DC., where teams of students construct solar houses within very strict guidelines. I had the pleasure of visiting the Decathlon in DC a few years ago and was blown away with the possibilities for our future. I saw what it took to compete, to be one of the houses people lined up to visit. And I believe the UA's house will definitely fall into that category.

The design is sleek, both inside and out. The science is excellent and beautifully integrated into the home ... almost artwork in and of itself! The student team has outdone itself in creativity, with pivoting doors to increase air circulation, sensors to open and shut upper windows when the heat gets to be too much, a cook top that I would LOVE to have at home, a roof covered with solar panels, and so much more.

The house will be on display at the UA after its trip to DC. Watch for your chance to stop by and see the future. I have every confidence our team will come back as winners! Congratulations to the entire team, their sponsors, and the University of Arizona and its partners for stepping up in one more

way to keep the national focus on Tucson as the Solarcon Valley!

GIVING TREE SETTLEMENT:

I am pleased that the City and Giving Tree have reached an agreement that allows Giving Tree to continue its outreach efforts as a church, but ends its shelter program, something not allowed in its residential zoning. This agreement resolves outstanding legal issues by defining what activities are and are not allowed in a residential area. Giving Tree can still provide meals and life skill classes along with religious services at their location near Swan and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, but the shelter program will cease.

There is great need for support for the homeless, many of whom are people who have been hit hard by this recession and resulting foreclosures. Fortunately, we have many excellent programs for housing the homeless here, but please don't forget we can all help. We have a donation box in the front lobby of Ward VI where you can bring cans of food for the Community Food Bank, pet food for the Humane Society, toiletries for SAAF, and diapers for the Diaper Bank. If each of us just does a little, it adds up to a lot! We've already collected 300 pounds of food to the Food Bank!

So that's the latest. Mayor and Council will resume meetings on September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Wednesday after Labor Day and I'll get back to more regular 'conversations' with you through Perspectives! In the mean while, please do stay in touch.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nina".