

Before I recap what happened at the Council meeting this week, I want to invite you to two important events coming up at Ward VI:

SEPTEMBER 24TH ~ Go GREEN!!!

Our 4th Annual Go Green is THIS THURSDAY at the Ward VI office from 4-6PM. This year, we've chosen to focus on possibly the most critical issue of our region: WATER. We'll have experts and displays from nonprofits, local businesses, several jurisdictions, and of course the City of Tucson, all with the focus on water issues in our desert home. And this year's event features two important Q&A sessions:

- Long Range Water Planning @ 4:15PM
- Water Conservation Programs @ 5:00PM

Please join us!

OCTOBER 7TH ~ COMMUNITY KEY SERVICES DIALOGUE

The City of Tucson is beginning a new era of communication and collaboration with you – and the first step is the Community Key Services Dialogues. We want to discuss with you how the city can best address the budget challenges we face. City Manager Mike Letcher and I will be hosting this dialogue at the Ward VI office on the 7th from 6:30 to 8:30PM.

This is going to be a challenging budget cycle. We are going to have to cut at least \$46 Million on top of the more than \$68 Million we cut last year. I truly want your input on priorities and concerns. I hope to see you on the 7th.

Tuesday, September 22nd

A couple of substantive presentations during Study Session I believe are of great importance to this community:

H1N1 Virus: Lt. David Azuelos is the commander of the Tucson Police Department's Emergency Management & Homeland Security Section. He offered information on how the City is preparing for the possible impact of the H1N1 Virus on our community. Did you know that 99% of the flu cases in our community are H1N1? Most cases now are mild, but there could be serious challenges for us were there to be a mass outbreak this winter. He talked to us about prevention techniques, emergency plans and more. If you'd like details, please visit The Pima County Health Department's H1N1 Influenza Information & Resources at

http://pimahealth.org/disease/swineflu/h1n1_influenza_arizona.asp.

The County is the primary agency dealing with this situation.

City Court Costs: Presiding Magistrate Tony Riojas shared efforts by City Court to reduce jail costs for the City. Last year we paid the County more than \$7-million to cover costs of incarceration. Judge Riojas outlined several diversion programs, which both save the City money and provide improved opportunities for rehabilitation for people convicted of certain crimes. Those savings will amount to close to \$1-million this fiscal year, which is critical! The problem is, the County has fixed costs to operate the jail, which makes it hard to effect ongoing reductions in these costs. I raised the issue of trying to recover

some of those costs from individuals convicted of crime. There is an ordinance on our books that says the City 'shall' recover appropriate costs, except for those determined to be indigent. We asked the Presiding Magistrate to come back to us in three months with an update on savings ... and proposals from the Court to increase cost recovery efforts.

Here are a few other notes on community efforts that make a difference ... and a few more special community meetings taking place in Ward VI in the next few weeks:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

Several months ago I told you about Peter Norback, who on his own started collecting just one can each week from his neighbors in the Miles Neighborhood. What an inspiration! He inspired us in the Ward VI Office to begin collecting not only food for the Community Food Bank, but also diapers for the Tucson Diaper Bank, pet food for the Humane Society and toiletries for SAAF. [Stop by any weekday 8-5 and leave your donation!] And now he's inspired Lisa Hepner, an agent with Long Realty, who has started a One Can A Week program in Catalina Vista. This mother of five is out collecting every week with great success. Here's a link to her website. www.onecanaweek2.blogspot.com. Anyone else feel inspired to do this in your neighborhood? Can by can, we all can make a difference. [So far citizens who use the Ward VI office for meetings have contributed more than 800 pounds of food the Community Food Bank!]

OTHER UPCOMING FORUMS AT WARD VI:

September 30: Crime and Fraud Prevention from 6-7:30PM with Attorney General Terry Goddard

October 5: Proposition Forum from 6 - 7:30PM. Come hear the facts on each of the four issues on which you will be voting.

Please do stay in touch.

Nina

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