

# WARD 5 NEWSLETTER

Council Member Richard G. Fimbres

City of Tucson



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## Letter from Council Member Fimbres

Dear Friends:

It is National Hispanic Heritage Month (through October 15) , which traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month gives us an opportunity to reflect on what makes Latinos such a strong, contributing force in America. Latinos were among the earliest European settlers in the New World, and Latinos as a people, like their many cultures, share a rich history and great diversity.

Latinos have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their commitment to family, faith, patriotism, hard work and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

And to say our culture has little impact on our community would be a major understatement. Thanks to our Latino community and cuisine, we played a part when Tucson became the first City of Gastronomy as designated by UNESCO.

You can see Latino influence on culture from here to New York but we think very little of it. With over 50 million Latinos across the United States, Latinos now make up the largest minority group and represent billions in buying power. Latinos also represent the fastest growing segment of the American electorate.

In Tucson and Pima County, Latinos have sent a strong message by turning out to vote and leading the state in the number of Latinos that have been elected to governing bodies.

In Arizona, we have elected or had appointed, including:

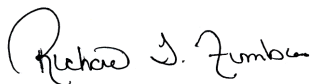
Raul Castro, Arizona's first Latino Governor; Ed Pastor, Arizona's first Latino Congressman and today there are three Latinos in Congress representing Arizona: Raul Grijalva, Ruben Gallego and Juan Ciscomani; Victor Soltero, Ramon Valadez, Macario Saldate, the late Olivia Cajero Bedford and Rosanna Gabaldon, who served or are serving in the Arizona Senate; Alma Hernandez, Consuelo Hernandez, Andres Cano, Daniel Hernandez and Tom Prezelski and the late Carmen Cajero, who served or are serving in the Arizona House; Dan Eckstrom, Ramon Valadez, the late Richard Elias and Adelita Grijalva who served or are serving on the Pima County Board of Supervisors; F. Ann Rodriguez as Pima County Recorder, Jennifer Eckstrom, Bob Teso and Paul Diaz who served or are serving as Mayor of South Tucson; Marco Lopez served as Mayor of Nogales and Estevan Ochoa, Tucson's first Latino Mayor in 1875 and with its first Latina Mayor in its 144 year history, Regina Romero, as well as former Ward 1 Council Members Rudy Bejarano and Jose Ibarra, and Lane Santa Cruz, the current Ward 1 Council Member, along with myself, serving Ward 5 as your Council Member and former Ward 5 Council Member Steve Leal, plus Dr. Richard Carmona as Surgeon General and the late Joel Valdez as Tucson's City Manager. Also there were many educators, including Gilbert Fimbres, who designed CE Rose Elementary, Henry "Hank" Oyama, Marty Cortez, Ernest Fimbres, Rosie Garcia, Raul Nido, TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gabriel Trujillo, former Sunnyside School Superintendent Steve Holmes and current Superintendent Jose Gastelum, as well as Bobby Jaramillo, Eva Dong and Beki Quintero from the Sunnyside School Board.

In a recent article in "Inside Tucson Business," entitled "Hispanics a Key to Tucson's Rebound," it discussed the importance of buying power of the Latino Community in Tucson, Pima County and throughout Arizona. It noted, "the Latino impact on the local and national economy and that their purchasing power represents \$8 billion per year in Pima County, a number that is expected to increase by 88% in the next decade." By 2024, Latinos are estimated to spend \$14 billion in the Tucson economy, equating to 28 percent of the total market spending. Hispanics are the largest group that has earned the Medal of Honor and have a wall dedicated with their names and how they earned their accommodations at the Pentagon. Sixty-one men of Hispanic heritage have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the most of all groups. Of the Sixty-one Medals of Honor presented to Hispanics, two were presented to members of the United States Navy, thirteen to members of the United States Marine Corps and forty-six to members of the United States Army. Forty-two Medals of Honor were presented posthumously.

The Latino Community has had to overcome many challenges, but as a community, we are very resilient and we persevere. In Tucson, we have pushed to grow our workforce, which in turn, has grown our businesses and in Ward 5, which has resulted in 20,000 jobs created during my time as your Ward 5 Councilmember.

The City of Tucson relies on sales tax to provide public safety, streets and parks, it's four core services. The Latino community, through purchases of goods and service, provides a lot for our entire community. Hard work, resilience, perseverance, patriotism and family have made our Latino community great and one with a remarkable heritage. It was sad though to see members of the Latino community, who served this nation in the armed forces, have been deported as well as children being locked up. We must do better as a nation. With more than 50 million of the population, we also need to be heard and counted at the ballot box, by voting. Su voto es su voz.

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres  
Ward 5 Council Member

**BILBY ROAD OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 18:** DTM (Department of Transportation and Mobility) will be holding another public open house for the Bilby Rd project on October 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm. We've again reserved the Sunnyside High School Cafeteria for the event.



DTM decided to hold another outreach event as many residents within the project area did not receive the notification mailer. So in the runup to the meeting we will make sure we get another batch of mailers out as well as looking at some other methods for notifying people.

There will be another opportunity for residents to attend and share their input on the proposed project with the project team in person. Anyone who is unable to attend is also still encouraged to participate in the survey and use the webmap to provide their input. That can be found here:

<https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/bilby-road-complete-street>.

**UOFA SAID YES!** Sunnyside High School and Desert View High School hold the #1 and the #3 spots in the nation for applicants and admitted students to the University of Arizona, an H.S.I. (Hispanic Serving Institution)



Over 193 Sunnyside High School seniors and over 119 Desert View High School seniors received a formal acceptance to the University of Arizona.

Sunnyside Unified School District (SUSD) and University of Arizona (UA) representatives celebrated seniors who have been admitted to Arizona before their peers and families at an assembly style celebration. Following the assembly, seniors and their families are invited to attend the Next Steps Student & Family Support Workshops where University representatives from various departments can answer questions about housing, meals, transportation, tuition, etc.

Superintendent Gastelum shared that, “We’re excited to see so many of our students attend our hometown university, and we’re so grateful for our partnership with the UA and all of the resources they have established to support our students in every step of this process. Our vision of ensuring that students are college, career and community ready comes to life on this day, and it is truly one of the best celebrations we have all year!”

Kasey Urquidez, Chief Enrollment Officer at the University of Arizona, says, “We are proud to continue our partnership with the Sunnyside Unified School District and we stand by our commitment to support students as they transition to college by ensuring they have the resources to thrive and complete their degrees.” Congratulations, future Wildcats and Sunnyside School District!





JOIN US FOR A SPOOKY

# trunk or treat

## QUINCIE DOUGLAS RECREATION CENTER

1575 E. 36TH ST  
520-791-2507

COME DRESSED  
IN COSTUME

HAUNTED HOUSE

FREE FUN FOR ALL



FRI



OCT  
13



6-8  
PM

ANYONE IN NEED OF AN ACCOMMODATION SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE IF POSSIBLE. FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL THE INCLUSION COORDINATOR AT [TPRD-THERAPEUTICS@TUCSONAZ.GOV](mailto:TPRD-THERAPEUTICS@TUCSONAZ.GOV) OR CALL 520-791-4504

**TUCSON'S MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVES SITE-SPECIFIC SALES TAX DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS FOR TWO LARGE RETAILERS**

- Tucson's Mayor and Council last week approved Site-Specific Sales Tax Development Agreements with Bass Pro Outdoor World and Home Depot, allowing the City to apply project-generated tax revenues to qualifying public expenses, such as job training or public infrastructure improvements. Bass Pro intends to open in Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges, adjacent to I-10, between Park Avenue and Kino Parkway. This 100,000 square-foot outdoor sporting goods store is anticipated to attract more than 1 million visitors per year. The retailer expects to employ 128 people, with an estimated annual payroll of \$3.8 million. The new store will generate an estimated \$4.7 million in direct revenue to the City of Tucson over five years.



**MATTHEW LANGSETH:** The City of Tucson has hired Matthew Langseth as their Military Veterans Program Coordinator. The position is through the City of Tucson Human Resources Department. Here is Matthew's background and I want to welcome him aboard.

Matthew served over 21 years in the military as an aviation operations specialist, in various levels of responsibility and roles, including facilitator, course manager, branch chief, operations and planning, training, and flight operations. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom VIII (Afghanistan) and served in the Active Army, Arizona and Montana Army National Guard, and in the Arizona Army National Guard in an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) status.

Matthew graduated from Tucson High School and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Trident University. He has been with the City of Tucson since the end of April 2023 as the Military Veteran Program Coordinator. Matthew is excited to assist those veterans and currently serving military members employed with the City of Tucson connected with resources through the support of the Employee Resource Group (ERG), called City Vets. The Military Veteran Program Coordinator also supports those transitioning from military service through the Department of Defense (DoD) Skillbridge internship program. Matthew remains active in the veteran, military/veteran spouse, and transitioning service member communities in a volunteer status as the Director of Marketing and Events for a global 501c3 non-profit (Vets2Industry) and as a mentor.

**HOW CITY OF TUCSON CAN HELP VETERANS:** What can the city do for veterans and those in the military transition process. DoD Skillbridge Internship Program. The below excerpt from their website (<https://skillbridge.osd.mil/program-overview.htm>) What is SkillBridge?

The DOD SkillBridge program is an opportunity for service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service. DOD SkillBridge connects transitioning service members with industry partners in real-world job experiences.



For service members, DOD SkillBridge provides an invaluable chance to work and learn in civilian career areas. For industry partners, DOD SkillBridge is an opportunity to access and leverage the world's most highly trained and motivated workforce at no cost. Service members participating in DOD SkillBridge programs continue receiving their military compensation and benefits, while industry partners provide the civilian training and work experience. Installation and unit commanders who have members about to transition from active duty, bridge the gap between their service members' end of service and the beginning of their civilian careers with the DOD SkillBridge participation. Commanders ease this military-to-civilian transition period for their members when they permit SkillBridge participation with trusted employers.

Service members can be granted up to 180 days of permissive duty to focus solely on training full-time with approved industry partners after their chain of command, field grade commander, provides written authorization and approval. These industry partners offer real-world training and in-demand work experience while having the opportunity to evaluate the service member's suitability for future employment. For more information, please contact Matthew Langseth (520) 837-4289 or Email: [matthew.langseth@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:matthew.langseth@tucsonaz.gov).



**GUNNY BARRERAS PARK WORK RECOGNIZED** - At the September 12th meeting of the Sunnyside Unified School District Governing Board meeting tonight, the Board recognized my office, Tucson Parks and Recreation, Durazo Construction and the Barreras family, for the work on the improvements done on the Park, totaling \$7.9 million and had the great reopening in June.



**HELP WITH WATER BILLS:** Tucson Water cares and can help residential customers who are experiencing a financial hardship due to job loss, serious illness, or family loss with a credit up to \$150, if eligible. Contact us at (520) 791-5443 if you need help paying your water bill.

Tucson Water se preocupa y puede ayudar a los clientes residenciales que están experimentando dificultades financieras debido a la pérdida de empleo, enfermedad grave o pérdida familiar con un crédito de hasta \$150 si son elegibles. Comuníquese con nosotros al (520) 791-5443 si necesita ayuda para pagar su factura de agua.

**LOW-INCOME WATER CONSERVATION SERVICES:** Qualifying Tucson Water customers can apply to receive grants and loans to install rainwater harvesting and gray water irrigation systems. In partnership with SERI (Sonoran Environmental Research Institute), participants can receive up to \$1,000 in grants and \$2,000 in zero-interest loans and SERI will cover the upfront cost of the project. Other programs include our discounted high-efficiency clothes washer where eligible customers can purchase a machine for only \$200 that can be paid with a zero-interest loan and our FREE toilet replacement services in partnership with Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRA) where customers that are homeowners can receive up to 2 toilet replacements at no cost. For more information, visit [tucsonaz.gov/water/low-income-conservation-programs](http://tucsonaz.gov/water/low-income-conservation-programs) or call (520) 791-3242.

**RAINWATER HARVESTING (up to a \$2,000 rebate) & GRAY WATER (up to a \$1,000 rebate)** - The Tucson Water Conservation Program offers rebates for installing rainwater harvesting and permanent gray water irrigation systems. Taking advantage of these opportunities in your home can help conserve water and save you money! A free, three-hour workshop and submission of a project plan are required to qualify. Check out the upcoming workshop dates and our Rainwater & Gray Water Pressurized System - Backflow Prevention Requirement informative video. Our partners offer different days, times, and modalities that can accommodate different schedules. Check them out! For more information, call (520) 791-3242.

**United Hearts of Arizona**



**Corazones Unidos de Arizona**



## Sock Drive

**10th Annual United Hearts  
of Arizona Shoe & Jacket Event  
benefiting K-5th grade underserved  
children in Southside.**

**September 11 thru December 15, 2023**

**Drop off Site:**

**Ward 5 Council Office**

**4300 S. Park Ave**

**Tucson, AZ 85714**

**520-791-4231**

**Proud Sponsor**



Please come out and help our community reach our goal! United Hearts of Arizona is hosting the 10th annual shoe and jacket event. We are asking for you to donate new/unused socks, benefiting kindergarten to 5th grade kids. The Ward 5 Council Office, located at 4300 South Park, is the drop off site. For any questions, please call (520) 791-4231. Thank you for your support to a good cause. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



¡Un programa de recreación móvil llegará a un parque cerca de usted!  
**A mobile recreation program is coming to a park near you!**



Encuentra las camionetas  
Follow us to find the vans

Tucsonaz.gov/parks @ReadySetRec #ReadySetRec

Ready, Set,  
**REC!**

## Find the Ward 5 van!



- Oct. 3, 3-5 p.m. - Cherry Park
- Oct. 4, 3-5 p.m. - Bravo Park
- Oct. 6, 3-5 p.m. - Santa Rosa Park
- Oct. 9, 3-5 p.m. - Mirasol Park
- Oct. 13, 5-8 p.m. - Quincie Douglas Center  
(Trunk-or-Treat)
- Oct. 14, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. - Parkview Park
- Oct. 16, 3-5 - Manual Herrera Park
- Oct. 17, 3-5 p.m. - Gunny Barreras Park
- Oct. 18, 3-5 p.m. - San Antonio Park
- Oct. 22, 2-6 p.m. - Kennedy Park
- Oct. 24, 3-5 p.m. - Silverlake Park
- Oct. 30, 3-5 p.m. - Bristol Park





**HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT PROTOCOL & REPORTING TOOL:** The Homeless Encampment Protocol is initiated when a homeless camp, located on City property or private property, poses a threat to public safety, causes a major criminal or health concern, or when there is camping in any City park after hours.

The encampment online reporting tool will allow our community to help the City identify encampment locations and assess the level of response needed, including outreach, clean-up, and enforcement. To report an encampment online, go to: <https://reportencampments.tucsonaz.gov/>, or call the Resource Hotline (520) 791-2540.

**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:** Neighborhoods in Ward 5 are meeting again in person. Ward 5 has many neighborhood associations and with the pandemic, some stopped meeting or had virtual meetings. For more information on neighborhood meetings, please call the Ward 5 Council Office, (520) 791-4231.

**HIGH-EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHER AND TOILET REBATES AVAILABLE:** Tucson Water customers can apply to get rebates when purchasing and installing qualifying high-efficiency toilets and/or clothes washers.

Single-family rebates are \$100 for the purchase of a qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer or replacing your old front-loading machine with a new front-loading machine. Get a \$200 rebate if replacing your old top-loading machine with a new front-loading machine. Residential, multi-family, and commercial customers can also get a \$100 rebate when buying Premium High-Efficiency toilets.

Qualifying low-income customers can purchase a discounted high-efficiency clothes washer for \$200. For more information, call (520) 791-3242 or online at: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/apply-for-rebates>.

**SWEETWATER WETLANDS UPDATE:** Tucson Water in conjunction with Tucson Fire Department will conduct an annual controlled burn at Sweetwater Wetlands on Wednesday, October 18th.



Sweetwater Wetlands will remain closed to the public through Thursday, October 19th, and re-open to the public on Friday, October 20th. The Sweetwater Wetlands are located at 2511 W. Sweetwater Drive.

The annual burn is conducted to mitigate the mosquito population, control invasive plant species, and serve as an essential training exercise for wildland firefighters. The burn will produce smoke and some ash in the surrounding areas. Should poor weather occur on the day of the burn, the burn will be moved to a later date.

**NEW SUN TRAN SCHEDULES:** The Sun Link streetcar is operating with extending route hours. Sun Link now runs until 2 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Sun Tran, Sun Express, and Sun Shuttle also have new schedules. To see the new schedules, go to <https://www.suntran.com/news/fallschedules/>, or call Customer Service at (520) 792-9222 to plan your trips.

**HOW TO REPORT TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS AFTER STORMS:** Is there a pothole you'd like to see filled after yesterday's storm? Is a street sign missing? Is a tree limb hanging too close over a roadway or sidewalk? You can report these issues to the City of Tucson's Department of Transportation and Mobility, (520) 791-3154, or email the exact location to [TDOTConcerns@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TDOTConcerns@tucsonaz.gov).

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Emergency** Tucson Police and Tucson Fire Departments  
DIAL 911

**Permits** Planning and Development Services Dept.  
(520) 791-5550, pdsinquiries@tucsonaz.gov.

**Housing Assistance** Community Services Department  
(520) 791-4739, hcdadmin@tucsonaz.gov.

**Code Enforcement**  
(520) 791-5843

**Homeless Encampment Protocol & Reporting Tool**  
(520) 791-2540, Reporting Tool website:  
<https://reportencampments.tucsonaz.gov/>

**TPD Red Tag Unit**  
(520) 837-7318, redtag@tucsonaz.gov.

**Graffiti Removal**  
(520) 792-CITY (2489), graffiti@tucsonaz.gov

**TPD Non-Emergency**  
(520) 791-4444

**Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**  
(520) 791-3171, eshelp@tucsonaz.gov.

**DTM Street Maintenance**  
(520) 791-3154, Email: tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov

**Tucson Water**  
Billing (520) 791-3242, Public Information (520) 791-4331,

**TW [web1@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:web1@tucsonaz.gov)**

**Park Tucson**  
(520) 791-5071

**Pima Animal Care Center**  
(520) 724-5900

**UA Neighborhood Hotline**  
(520) 282-3649

**Meals on Wheels**  
(520) 622-1600 <https://mobilemealssoaz.org/>

**Tucson Diaper Bank**  
(520) 325-1400 <https://diaperbank.org/>

**Community Food Bank**  
(520) 622-0525 <https://www.communityfoodbank.org/>

**Pima County Community Assistance**  
(520) 724-2460 <https://www.pima.gov/887/Community-Assistance-Division>

**ICS**  
(520) 297-6049 <https://www.icstucson.org/>

## STAY INFORMED!

Check out our other information outlets



<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward-5>

## WARD 5 OFFICE

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Tucson, Arizona 85714  
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