

WARD 5 NEWSLETTER

Council Member Richard G. Fimbres

City of Tucson



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Letter from Council Member Fimbres

Dear Friends:

During this time of the year, we reflect on all the blessings that we have received and continue to receive. We are thankful for our families, our homes, good health, our friends and our community.

It is time to renew our faith in family, help one another and to meet everyday challenges by working together. Like I've always said, we don't point fingers, scapegoat and place blame, we roll up our sleeves and solve the challenges at hand.

During these challenging times, we need to rely more on our families and one another.

We need to continue to practice the guidelines that the CDC and Pima County Health Department have state. I have heard too many sad stories of loved ones passing from COVID-19, the flu, RSV and other health ailments, and we must take action to deal with this.

Keep your Nanas and Tatas, Tios and Tias and our children safe. We have lost too many loved ones and we must work harder to protect our families. Holidays are to enjoy families and we need to keep gatherings as small as possible or outdoors, and wear a mask.

Be Safe, Be Healthy and Don't Drink and Drive.

Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

VETERANS DAY: Veterans Day means a lot to me. As your Council Member for Ward 5, I continue my work to instill the values of patriotism in young people and for them to remember those who served this nation in the military, through work with our Veterans' groups and the Veterans Day Parade and support from our city government for this.

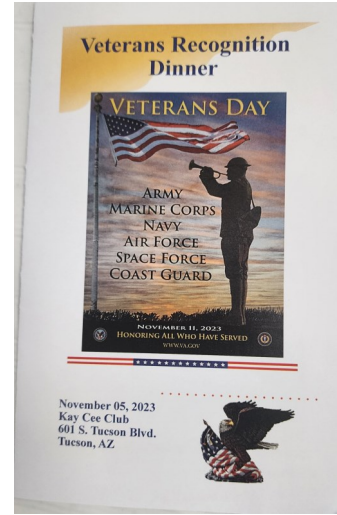
On Sunday, November 5, 63 active and retired veterans were recognized for their service during the 2023 Veterans Recognition Luncheon, which was held at the Kay-Cee Club, 601 S. Tucson Blvd.. These individuals were nominated by their fellow citizens to thank them for serving our nation.

I along with my staff coordinated the twelfth annual event, which was done not at taxpayer expense but through private donations. Council Member Fimbres expressed his thanks to his staff: Lupita Robles, Mark Kerr, Mary Kuchar and Daniel Conorque for their work.

I want to thank U.S. Senators Mark Kelly and Krysten Sinema, Congressman Raul Grijalva, Congressman Juan Ciscomani, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, Pima County Supervisors Adelita Grijalva, Rex Scott, and Dr. Matt Heinz, as well as Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, who joined him in presenting the 63 honorees Certificates of Appreciation to the veterans for their service. I also gave Ward 5 Military Coins to the honorees.

Twenty-one year Army veteran, Matthew Langseth, delivered the keynote address, talking about the City of Tucson Skillbridge Program, which hires veterans for city employment. Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott and Tucson Ward 4 Council Member Nikki Lee were present for the event and spoke to those in attendance, thanking them for their service and accompanying family members for their support and sacrifice.

Retired Pima County Supervisor Dan Eckstrom emceed and Little Mexico catered the luncheon. The Kay-Cee club provided the venue and Jerry Neely provided the music. Monique Loya performed the National Anthem. American Legion Yoemi Post 125, under the command of Commander Jose Hernandez and the Desert View High Junior ROTC and Commander Robert Jaramillo, provided the color guard. I want to express thanks to all who took part and contributed to the event, as well as PPEP and Dr. John Arnold and Roberto G. Ruiz, for their donations to put on this year's tribute luncheon, and Southern Arizona Individual Leadership (SAIL) for their support.





On Thursday, November 9, I made my Ward 5 fourteenth annual delivery of thank you cards and letters to veterans and the staff at the Southern Arizona V.A. Hospital. These cards and letters were made by school kids from 23 schools across Tucson and Pima County.

Twenty-three schools made more than 4,100 thank you cards and letters to the Veterans and staff at the V.A. The schools were: Los Ninos Elementary, Roberts Naylor K-8, Alta Vista High School, Craycroft Elementary, Drachman Montessori, Drexel Elementary, Esperanza Elementary,

Gallego Intermediate, Liberty Elementary, Los Amigos Tech Academy, Miles Exploratory, Mission View Elementary, Ocotillo Learning Center, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School, Pistor Middle School, Pueblo Gardens, Rivera Elementary, St. Joseph Catholic School, St. Peter & Paul Catholic School, Tucson International Academy, White Elementary and Wright Elementary.

Jennifer Gutowski, the Director of the Southern Arizona VA Medical Center accepted the cards along with staff from the V.A. I want to thank Lupita Robles from my office who coordinated this effort, as well as Mark Kerr and Mary Kuchar.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS: Here are some holiday safety tips: Be responsible and don't drink and drive. Stay alive and put your phone down to drive. Keep kids safe by paying special attention to hazards in the kitchen. Follow food safety rules, especially when it comes to cooking the turkey. Be proactive about protecting yourself from stress. Don't leave cooking food unattended. Be aware of fire hazards while cooking and entertaining. Make sure your kitchen is fully equipped in case of a fire. Find a safe place outside to fry your turkey. Make sure your turkey has thawed and is dry before deep frying outside. Dress smart when you fry your turkey outside. Keep your pets away from dangerous and toxic foods. Don't make your Thanksgiving travel plans obvious. Secure your home against break-ins. Be careful and use caution. Please don't become a statistic and end this holiday in a tragedy.

SMOKE SHOPS: At the November 14, Mayor and Council Regular meeting, the public hearing on Smoke Shops was finished and discussion ensued. I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for their unanimous support of the measure that mandated new smoke shops to be a half a mile apart from each other, limit their hours from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 1,000 feet away from schools, parks and churches and put in place a stricter review of plans and applications for new smoke shops. I also want to thank all the citizens, many community organizations, such as LPKNC, TPD who spoke out on smoke shops. It is a good first step taken by the Mayor and Council.

CITY ELECTION: The 2023 City of Tucson Election Canvass was reviewed at a special meeting of the Mayor and Council, held November 21. The results of the political contests for Mayor, and the Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4 Council seats were reviewed and approved. I want to congratulate my colleagues: Regina Romero on her election to continue as Mayor, and Lane SantaCruz, Paul Cunningham and Nikki Lee to continue as the Council Members for Wards 1, 2 and 4 respectively. At the meeting, the discussion about the results of Proposition 413 took place, which the tabulation showed a margin of 289 votes in favor. Proposition 413 was referred to the ballot by the Citizens Salary Commission, which voters had approved to set up in 1993 to review Mayor and Council salaries every two years and for the voters of Tucson to consider their proposals. For Proposition 413, the Mayor and Council voted to direct the City Attorney to contact the Arizona Attorney General and Arizona Secretary of State about the Proposition 413 vote total, as well as filing a motion in Pima County Superior Court on whether state statutes apply or to order a recount.

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>.

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 (CHRP) 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](https://www.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.

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 : 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.



PRESENTS:

United Hearts of Arizona
Corazones Unidos de Arizona



**10TH ANNUAL SHOE
& JACKET DRIVE**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
9AM-12PM



Sponsoring 200 Elementary students
Previously Selected by Schools:
SUSD: Esperanza, Los Niños, Drexel, Santa Clara
TUSD: Mission View, Holladay, Pueblo Gardens, Warren
CHARTER SCHOOLS: Southside Community School & Pusch Ridge Christian Academy





SCAN ME

For donations visit:
www.unitedheartsaz.org









**OPERATIONS SOUTH
DIVISION**





Regina Romero
MAYOR REGINA ROMERO









DONATE

VIEW TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION'S WINTER AND SPRING CLASS LINEUP: Fuel your passion, ignite your creativity, and embark on an unforgettable journey with Tucson Parks and Recreation's winter and spring indoor leisure classes. Offering a variety of entertainment, these classes promise to captivate and inspire community members of all ages. With an eclectic mix of activities ranging from arts and crafts, dance, and gymnastics to jewelry making, glass fusing, and music, the stage is set for an unforgettable experience. Discover the wealth of opportunities that await you by perusing our online classes at EZEereg.com. Registration opens on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 8 a.m. for city residents and at 10 a.m. for non-city residents. The deadline for session one registration is Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 5 p.m. For questions or more information, contact Registration Services at 520-791-4877.

GET THE LEAD OUT: Many homes built before 1978 have paint that is lead-based. Lead from paint chips and dust can pose serious health hazards if not handled properly.

Children in older homes are often poisoned by lead dust and lead paint. Lead dust can come from simply opening or closing a window or door or other normal wear and tear of painted areas. Lead dust falls to the floor and gets on children's hands and toys. It enters their bodies when they put their hands or toys into their mouths. Lead paint can cause health and behavior problems in children. It can make them less able to learn when they are at school. Lead poisoning can affect a child for a lifetime.



The good news is there are things that can be done to keep children safe from lead. For additional information, contact: Susana.Cerda@tucsonaz.gov (520) 837-5346.

TUCSON HOLIDAY ICE RINK NOW OPEN WITH NEW MURAL: The City of Tucson and Rio Nuevo invite you to skate on Tucson's outdoor ice rink, through Sunday, Jan. 7. The rink opened yesterday, Nov. 19. Tucson Holiday Ice, sponsored by Arizona Vascular Specialists, is located at 260 S. Church Ave., in front of the Tucson Convention Center Ticket Office.

Tickets can be purchased online, and there are no additional fees. Each session starts at a designated time and lasts for 90 minutes. This year, local artist Maxie Adler was chosen to paint a mural on the skate office adjacent to the rink. The artist's design incorporates mistletoe on palo verde trees and the silky flycatchers that feast on them through the winter. Other elements include a male mule deer, plants, and animals that surround us during the festive season in the Sonoran Desert. To buy tickets and see admission costs and operating hours, follow the link below. Tucson Holiday Ice is brought to you by the City of Tucson, Rio Nuevo, Arizona Vascular Specialists, HSL Properties, Tucson Appliance Company, and other sponsors.

SANTA IS MAKING PHONE CALLS TO THE TUCSON COMMUNITY AS PART OF A TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM: Santa and his elves would like to add some sparkle to a child's holiday season through the Santa's Calling program. Children ages 4-8 years old get an opportunity to speak with Santa and listen to his elves hard at work.

Complete the online request form at the link below by Saturday, Dec. 2, to take part, and be available by phone, Dec. 5-7, from 5:30-8 p.m., so you don't miss Santa's call. All children who cannot be reached by phone will receive a letter from Santa. Santa's website is: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-News/Parks-and-Recreation-News-Listing/Santas-Calling>



Sock Drive
**10th Annual United Hearts
of Arizona Shoe & Jacket Event
benefiting K-5th grade underserved
children in the 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!: Tucson Parks and Recreation's mobile recreation program, "Ready, Set, Rec!", is touring parks throughout Tucson. Play is for all ages, and the fun includes cornhole, board games, hula hoops, giant chess/checkers, giant Connect 4, music, giant Jenga, giant ring toss, walking sticks, etc. For more information, go online to: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/ReadySetRec>.



Free Lead Hazard Reduction
Does your Household Qualify?

- Property located in the City of Tucson limits and built before 1978
- Child under age six living in or regularly visiting the property
- Meet HUD household income limits
- Mortgage and property tax payments are current, in good standing, and free of delinquent liens

Apply Online:
tucsonaz.gov/hcd/homeowner-programs



CITY OF TUCSON
 HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT




REPAIR YOUR HOUSE

Attention homeowners!
 PCCLT is excited to announce our Rehab and Repair Program. Our program offers up to \$10,000 to low-moderate income homeowners to address essential housing repairs.

SCOPE OF WORK:

- Septic/sewer system repairs
- Heating and cooling
- Roof replacement
- Major plumbing repairs (gas and/or water)
- Electrical repairs
- Health and safety items such as window and door issues.
- Modifications may be made for residents with disabilities

Learn More
www.pcclt.org





Winter Wonderland

AT THE QUINCIE DOUGLAS CENTER
1575 E. 36TH STREET

FREE FAMILY EVENT
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16
4 - 6:30 P.M.

**HOT CHOCOLATE, CARNIVAL GAMES, INFORMATION
TABLES, ARTS AND CRAFTS AND A VISIT BY SANTA!**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY:
BARBEA DANCE STUDIO
QUINCIE DOUGLAS CENTER TAP DANCE CLASS
AND HEADLINE BAND,
IN THE ZONE

CALL (520) 791-2507 FOR MORE INFORMATION



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency Tucson Police and Tucson Fire Departments
DIAL 911

Permits Planning and Development Services Dept.
(520) 791-5550, pdsdinquies@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

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>

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