

WARD 5 NEWSLETTER

Council Member Richard G. Fimbres

City of Tucson



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Letter from Council Member Fimbres

Dear Friends:

Another year is coming to a close for our community. I hope that everyone and their families has a good and safe holiday season.

We have seen challenges and issues, as well as success and accomplishments in 2023.



Just recently we saw the dedication of the new health and medical career building and program at Desert View High School, which offers students opportunities to learn more about health care and the medical profession. I want to congratulate Desert View, as well as the Sunnyside School District Board and Superintendent Jose Gastelum on this and JTED (Joint Technical Education District), Kathy Prater and their Board, for their financial support of this program.

More students are attending the JTED Center for Innovation, located in Ward 5. JTED is offering more programs and expanding their campus with their new medical building. I want to congratulate JTED and look forward to our working together for the students of Ward 5 and the south side.



Pima Community College has seen an increase in students, as well as the college offering programs at the El Pueblo Center. In addition, was the dedication of the new facilities of Pima's Aviation Program off of Nogales Highway.



Sunnyside and Desert View High School reported having the biggest number (1st and 3rd in the nation) of students committed and going to the University of Arizona. Congratulations to the students, parents, families, teachers, as well as to the Sunnyside School District for their work and commitment to our young people. Education is the key to success, as this shows and backed up with the City of Tucson Poverty and Urban Stress Report, showing higher graduation rates, as well as degrees and certificates being obtained by Ward 5 residents and students.

Proposition 411 is in its next phase and more roads will be worked on in Ward 5. We have also had discussions about the 22nd Street Bridge, discussion with the community to get the bridge rebuilt for our future.

Businesses and shops opening on 6th and 12th Avenues as well as across the Ward took place this year. Ward 5 works to help legacy businesses and as well as opening new businesses, such as the American Battery Factory and Bass Pro Shop in Ward 5, naming a couple of the many that opened its doors or began construction. Expansion at the Bridges, the U of A Bridges Tech Park and the Bourne Properties Large and small, locally owned, family owned and otherwise, businesses generate the sales tax for the city to provide its core services.

We continue to have health issues and challenges. The work on ensuring a safe supply of drinking water continues, as well as dealing with the flu and COVID-19. Fentanyl drugs is an issue that the City of Tucson and the Mayor and Council, Tucson Police and other local law enforcement agencies are working together.



In November, the Mayor and Council passed new regulations for smoke shops in Tucson. I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for their unanimous support of my 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 Jamal Givens and LPKNC, Tucson Police Captain Mickey Petersen who worked on this proposal and spoke out on smoke shops.

Tucson implemented a new pilot program called Place Network Investigations (PNI) meant to target violent crime hotspots with long-term crime reduction. Now with just a year and a half of on-the-ground work, three locations are seeing almost an 80 percent reduction in gun violence.

The targeted locations are near: Grant and Alvernon, Campbell and Bilby and 22nd and Prudence. Of those locations, gun violence on 6200 S Campbell dropped by 80%, Grant/Alvernon saw a 75% reduction and 22nd/Prudence saw a 77% reduction.

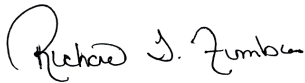
Tucson's Police Department is one of seven cities that began the pilot program where resources like social services are provided as a means of intervention. Now, after great success, PNI is moving forward to include more formalized training processes for all CLT departments to continue that cross-department collaboration and to have robust policies and procedures to make this take it from more of a pilot phase into a true, ongoing part of our routine community safety. In 2023, we have seen an increase in the number of Police and Community Service Officers, for which I want to thank and congratulate Tucson Police Chief Chad Kasmar and his team, for their work and success on this so far. The work continues on public safety but we took steps forward this past year.

This past year has been one of success, one of challenges, one of loss and one of celebration, and one where our community has rolled up its sleeves and come together to help.

I want to thank my staff, Lupita Robles, Mary Kuchar and Mark Kerr, for their continued work and efforts for Ward 5 during this past year. There have been challenges that have been faced, as well as the issues at hand. The office has had individuals working for a period of time during the past year, which I thank them all, but it has been Lupita, Mary and Mark who have been the cornerstone.

I hope 2024 is a better year and a kinder year for us all, for Tucson and for this nation.

Peace.



Your Ward 5 Council Member

NEW SMOKE SHOP REGULATIONS IN EFFECT: Beginning Dec. 14, new smoke shop regulations have taken effect. Last month, Tucson's Mayor and Council voted to approve the Unified Development Code (UDC) amendment, which creates a new land use class for smoke shops, setting separation distances from other smoke shops, schools, parks, and limiting operating hours. These measures were developed over the past year, following stakeholder and public engagement, extensive community input, and thorough technical analysis. I want to thank my colleagues on the Council, Tucson Police and Captain Mickey Petersen, Jamal Givens and LPKNC and the neighborhoods who worked on this and spoke out to get the changes needed. A lot of work from my office was involved in this and will end the clustering of smoke shops and limit the number of new smoke shops.

UNITED HEARTS SHOE AND JACKET GIVEAWAY: On Saturday, December 16, United Hearts of Arizona held their annual Shoe and Jacket giveaway at the El Pueblo Senior Center. More than 200 jackets and pairs of shoes were distributed to those in need. I want to thank the sponsors of the event, including: Sunnyside Foundation, Ace Hardware Oro Valley, Tucson Police ODS, Mayor Romero's Office, the Ward 5 Council Office, Dave & Busters, Main Event, Pima College Adult Ed Program and Michael C. Flowers Accountant, naming a few of the many. Congratulations to Maria Cardenas, Lupita Robles from my office, and the Board of United Hearts for their success of this event and their continued work for our community.





TUCSON FIREFIGHTERS HELPING OUR COMMUNITY: The City of Tucson Fire Department helps our community through emergencies and other times of need. In addition, Tucson’s Firefighters help those in need in our community with their annual Holiday Food Boxes during Thanksgiving and most recently, for Christmas, for which they put together 600 food boxes on December 16.



I want to thank Lupita Robles and Mark Kerr from my office for their coordination of the food boxes for those in need in the Ward. I also want to thank IFFA Local 479 for their effort and the volunteers who came out to put the food boxes together and distribute them.

QUINCIE DOUGLAS WINTER WONDERLAND: Thousands of children and their families came to the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center, for the annual Winter Wonderland, held December 16. It was a wonderful holiday experience, with Santa Claus, toys, cookies and wonderful beverages for those in attendance. I want to thank Jerry Neely and the staff of Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center for their work putting on this great holiday event. I want to thank Mary Kuchar from my office to help with the holiday party and the neighborhood center staff.



SAZON EMPRESARIAL GRADUATION: Sazon Empresarial is an initiative by the City of Tucson Economic Initiatives Office, that focuses on supporting underrepresented minorities and women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in the food service industry. The program ensures that food-based entrepreneurial enterprises are successfully accelerated in their development through diverse business support resources and services. On December 19, eight local small businesses graduated from the program, two of which are in Ward 5. Congratulates to Mexico Lindo Food Market and Cocteleria La Palma.



LA FRONTERA/TUCSON STREETS CHRISTMAS AT WARD 5: It was my pleasure to have my office host again, on December 22, the annual La Frontera, Tucson Streets (DTM) Christmas at the Ward 5 Council Office. Every year, the employees of Tucson DTM Streets, work with La Frontera, to purchase gifts for children of families in need. Before Santa makes his annual trip on Christmas Eve, he stops at Ward 5 to help out.



I want to thank the wonderful staff of streets for their work and generosity and La Frontera, for the community service they give to help those out.





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

REPAIR YOUR HOUSE



SAFETY TIPS: Here are some 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 your food. 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. Keep your pets away from dangerous and toxic foods. Secure your home against break-ins. Be proactive about protecting yourself from stress. Be careful and use caution. Please don't become a statistic and be a tragedy.

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.

STAY ACTIVE AND FIT WITH A PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER PASS: Take advantage of fitness opportunities and recreation center amenities by buying a Tucson Parks and Recreation Center Pass. Two types of passes are offered. Universal Passes can be used at any center. Restricted Passes can only be used at Fred Archer, Cherry Avenue, Donna R. Liggins, El Rio, Freedom, Quincie Douglas, Randolph, and Santa Rosa centers. Benefits may include use of the gymnasium, weight room, indoor track, racquetball courts, locker rooms, and game areas depending on location. All participants must take a certification class prior to using weight equipment. For more information on locations and fees, follow the link: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/Recreation-Centers#section-3>

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.



CITY OF TUCSON
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**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

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>.

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.

CITY OF TUCSON
PARKS & RECREATION

¡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>.

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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