



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

December 2019

Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

We received reports about the PFAS/PFOS issue from the Arizona Daily Star and on Tuesday, December 17, at the Mayor and Council meeting, I hosted this update from Tucson Water to show how proactive the Mayor and Council has been, in regards to our city water supply.



Here is a chronological listing of what we have done in regard to our city water supply:

In 2010, when the EPA changed the standards for 1.4 dioxane, this Mayor and Council met that challenge, and worked with Tucson Water to get the word out to the public about this and keeping everyone informed.

We also took proactive action, by authorizing the building of the AOP plant, costing \$20 million to build and worked with the Air Force to recover the costs, for which this was settled in 2016.

During the past ten years the Mayor and Council received updates on our water and efforts to meet all challenges.

Tucson Water has conducted tours of AOP and TARP plants, gave numerous presentations and conducted television interviews and wrote articles for various local publications. If you are interested in taking the tour, please call 791-4331.

In 2017, questions arose from the community about the ongoing efforts to clear the TCE Plume, as well as the efforts in dealing with the 1.4 Dioxane situation. The Mayor and Council took action, having agenda items and discussions about our water supply and through my motions, giving staff instruction on further outreach to the community about TCE and 1.4 Dioxane.

On July 15, 2017, then Councilmember Romero joined me in hosting a community forum with Tucson Water and the EPA at the El Pueblo Center, to discuss the water supply and 1.4 dioxane and the efforts to clean it up.

My office and the Ward 1 office worked with the Pima County Health Department, its director, Dr. Francisco Garcia, about a follow up on the health concerns raised.

On August 27, 2017, the Pima County Health Department and the University of Arizona held a teach-in at the Abrams Health Center in Ward 5, to answer questions raised by those from our community. In 2018, questions about PFAS/PFOS arose. I along with the Ward 1 office, met with community organizations on this concern and scheduled a discussion by the Mayor and Council on September 5, 2018.

At the September 5 Council meeting, my colleagues approved my motion to have Tucson Water conduct further testing for PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane, to conduct vapor intrusion testing at CE Rose, Challenger and Elvira Schools and to report the findings to the Mayor and Council, the public and community organizations.

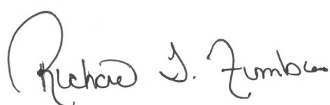
The work continued on our water supply when on May 21, 2019, the Mayor and Council approved my motion to spend \$9.9 million for the installation of a tenth remediation well and GAC filters and infrastructure needed for the TARP/AOP plants to reach the target of less than 4 parts per trillion of PFAS and PFOS.

Earlier in December, there had been stories about PFAS/PFOS in private drinking wells, and the use of firefighting foam (that contained PFAS) by the Arizona Air National Guard and the Air Force, raising concerns and I had requested the Mayor and Council discuss this at their December 17 Mayor and Council meeting.

Tucson Water Director, Tim Thomure, gave a presentation to the Mayor and Council on this. Thomure began with, and assured us three different times that Tucson Water's supply is safe to drink. During his presentation, Thomure said that Tucson Water has proactively tested drinking wells for PFAS. Thomure said Tucson Water has the most stringent guidelines for PFAS in drinking water in the nation. The City and Water Department have identified four areas of concern with PFAS and the Water Department does not serve drinking water from these areas. The private wells are not part of the Tucson Water system and Tucson Water is working with County and State officials to deal with these private wells.

I made the motion to have this become a standing item on the Mayor and Council agenda and my colleagues agreed. The Mayor and Council voted to further discuss the banning of the use of foam products used for firefighting that contain PFAS. At their January 7 meeting, the Mayor and Council will also be discussing a proposal to ban the use of PFAS within Tucson City limits, as well as the pending lawsuit the City has against the PFAS manufacturer, 3M Corporation. This Mayor and Council, the City Manager and his staff work together when it comes to our most precious natural resource, water and continues as it has done.

Thank you.



Richard Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember



DAT Sugar Hill Reunion

On Friday, November 29, I had the privilege of attending the Sugar Hill Day After Thanksgiving reunion at the Donna Liggins Center. Dennis Jones, Roy Wilkins and Joyce Green have worked on this reunion from the beginning. This marked the 12th consecutive year for the event. I read the City Proclamation from Mayor Rothschild that he issued. I want to thank the organizers for inviting me and also to congratulate them on a successful event.



Parade of Lights

On Saturday, November 30, Councilmember Paul Durham, Councilmember-elect Nikki Lee, South Tucson Councilmember Akanni Oyegbola, their families, my staff Lupita Robles and Mary Kuchar and student Olivia Leonardi joined me, in taking part in the 25th Annual Parade of Lights.

I want to thank them for taking part and to thank everyone who turned out for the parade. I want to thank the parade organizers for another successful event with an improved parade route.



New Mayor & Council Sworn In

On Monday, December 2, the City of Tucson swore in a new Mayor and Councilmembers.

Regina Romero became our new Mayor and the first woman Mayor for our City and Latina/o Mayor since 1875. Congratulations to Regina Romero, our new Mayor, Lane Santa Cruz, the new Ward 1 Councilmember, Ward 2 Councilmember and Vice Mayor, Paul Cunningham and Nikki Lee the new Ward 4 Councilmember, who were all sworn in on December 2.



I look forward to working with our new Mayor and Councilmembers. I want to thank outgoing Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild, for his eight years of service as our Mayor, as well as outgoing Ward 4 Councilmember Shirley Scott, for her 24 years she provided on the Council. Their knowledge, leadership and expertise will be missed.

Regina Suitt

Farewell to community activist, Regina Suitt. On December 4, I had the privilege of recognizing Regina Suitt, a great individual, advocate and community leader who helped so many people during her career at Pima Community College, through its Adult Basic Education program. Regina Suitt had her retirement on December 4, marking 30 years of service to Pima College and our community.



I have had the opportunity to work with Regina Navin Suitt as the Ward 5 Councilmember, during my time as the Director of the Governor's Office for Highway Safety and through my work at the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Regina had changed many lives for the better. Her knowledge, expertise and leadership will truly be missed by myself and our community. Thank you Regina. I also want to welcome Laurie Kierstead-Joseph, the new Vice-President of Pima Community College's Adult Basic Education Program and am looking forward to working with her.

Wreaths Across America

On December 14, I had the privilege of attending the Wreaths Across America ceremony which took place at the South Lawn Cemetery in Ward 5. During the ceremony, I had the honor of laying the wreath for the more than 92,000 who are listed as MIA.

South Lawn and cemeteries across Tucson and the nation, more than 1,700, took part in laying wreaths on the graves of veterans who had served in the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts. This is in conjunction with the wreath laying ceremony held today at Arlington National Cemetery.

I want to thank Sheron Jones of Gold Star Mothers for her work on Wreaths Across America in Tucson and her work with Veterans. I want to thank everyone who came out to South Lawn and who took part in this event across Tucson, Arizona and our nation. I want to thank Luis Fernando Lopez Manager of South Lawn Cemetery, Louis Anthony Crespo, General Manager of South Lawn, Captain Wendy Iskiyan of the Civil Patrol 229 Squad, and everyone else for their work on this event.





Quincie Douglas Tree Lighting

On December 14, I had the privilege of helping to light the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center Christmas tree.

Jerry Neely and his staff at Quincie Douglas did a great job with the holiday event. I want to also thank TPD South for their presence at the event and work in our community. It was great to see so many Ward 5 constituents and their families at the holiday event.



Ward 5 Holiday Party

On December 18, Ward 5 Council Office held our annual holiday party. My staff and I worked to put on this annual event. Special thanks to Dennis Arnold of Barrio Brewery, Kalil Bottling, Rigos Restaurant, Coras, Marc and Erica Bilbo and Sunny Daze Restaurant and Los Jarritos for their donations of food and soda for the event. I want to thank my wife, Mary Fimbres for making tamales and cookies. I want to thank my staff, Mary Kuchar for the decorations and cookies she baked, as well as Lupita Robles and Mark Kerr for their work for the event. I also honored people who have helped our community. Thank you to everyone who came to the holiday party.



Homeless Memorial

On December 19, I attended the 2019 Homeless Memorial at Evergreen Cemetery - Pima County Cemetery.

A total of 229 people who experienced homelessness perished in 2019. Work with the Homeless Work Program and with organizations continues and we must work to be able to do more. One death due to homelessness is one death too many.



New Year's Message

From myself and my staff at Ward 5: Mark Kerr, Lupita Robles, Mary Kuchar and Gabriel Holguin, we want to wish you a Happy and Safe New Year. I also want to thank those who are serving on City of Tucson Boards, Committees representing Ward 5, for their work and commitment. I want to thank the Ward 5 neighborhood associations and their leadership for their work with the Ward 5 office on the issues and concerns. It is a team effort and by working together, our community can succeed!

Bike In A Box

For the past 11 years, Jesse Lugo and Lugo Charities have held the "Bike in a Box" holiday event at the Elk's Lodge 385 at 1800 North Oracle.

These bicycles goes to 500 under-privileged children. Jesse and Lugo Charities goes out and raises the funds to provide children a bike. These bikes cost \$55 a piece and provide children a wonderful gift they appreciate.

You can still donate to help with this worthwhile program. Make checks payable to "Lugo Charities," put Bike In A Box in the memo line and mail them to: Lugo Charities, Inc. Bike In A Box, P.O. Box 26363, Tucson, AZ 85726 or go online to lugocharities.com.



APPLY NOW - Selections begin in January for part-time positions with flexible hours in your neighborhood. Actual employment dates range from March to July 2020.

*Based on 8 weeks, 20 hour week at \$16.50 an hour or your area's rate

Apply Online
www.2020census.gov/jobs
 Or Call: 1-855-JOB-2020

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Tree-Cycle

With Santa long gone and your Christmas tree starting to look a little dried out, residents can once again drop off their trees for recycling.

The City of Tucson's annual TreeCycle program will accept trees now through January 12. The sites are located throughout Tucson, Marana and Oro Valley.

The city will grind the trees into wood chips, which will be available to the public at the Los Reales Landfill after January 5. People should bring their own containers to take home free wood chips for their gardens. Everything should be removed from the tree, including the stand, before dropping it off at the TreeCycle sites. They cannot mulch stands, ornaments, wire and tinsel. Also, do not wrap your tree in plastic bags. The city recommends "tree pooling" by dropping off your neighbor's tree to save a car trip.

The following TreeCycle sites are open during daylight hours, seven days a week (unless noted):

Oro Valley Naranja Park, 810 W. Naranja Dr. (Only open through January 5)

Tank's Speedway Recycling & Landfill Facility, 7301 E. Speedway (turn north on North Prudence Road). This site is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Golf Links Sports Park, 2400 S. Craycroft Road.

Tucson Rodeo Grounds, South Third Avenue, north of East Irvington Road.

Los Reales Landfill, 5300 E. Los Reales Road. Entrance is at intersection of South Craycroft and Los Reales roads. Site open Mondays-Saturdays, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tank's Ina Land Reclamation Facility, 5300 W. Ina Road. (¼-mile west of Interstate 10) Site is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Purple Heart Park, 10050 E. Rita Road.

Randolph Golf Course, 600 S. Alvernon Way (southeast corner of parking lot).



What Can Be Recycled?

Here are the City of Tucson Environmental & General Services (EGSD) Recycling Guidelines

Please recycle items in these four categories:

1. **PLASTIC:** containers, jugs, bottles
2. **ALUMINUM/TIN:** cans
3. **CARDBOARD/PAPER**
4. **GLASS:** bottles, jars



Make sure all items are empty, clean, and dry. Never recycle anything smaller than a tennis ball. Anything smaller than a tennis ball will not be captured in the recycling sorting process. Please ignore the recycle symbol on products. Just because an item has the recycle symbol on it does not mean it is accepted in our program.

Do not recycle in your blue bin:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic film or wrap of any kind
- Diapers
- Anything with food residue or grease (pizza boxes)
- Green waste
- Styrofoam
- Batteries

Focus on reducing and reusing first. Tucson City Code Chapter 15 requires that only recyclable materials be placed in the blue barrel. If residents are contaminating the blue barrel, they will receive a courtesy reminder that only recyclables are allowed. After the third violation, the blue barrel can be removed from the property. If residents require an additional garbage container, they can receive one at a cost of \$11 per month. For more information, please call 791-3171.

Helping Santa

The City of Tucson Transportation Department (TDOT) Streets Division helped Santa Claus out this Christmas by providing gifts to families in need from La Frontera's programs. The Ward 5 Council Office again played host to Santa and TDOT Streets.

The following TDOT Streets employees were present to provide the gifts for Santa: Danny Arbizo, Orlando Yrigolla, Pete Ochoa, Corbin Faren, John Martinez, Jim Foreman, Mike Graham, Rebecca Waid and Paul Rosenboom. The entire TDOT Streets Department went out and got gifts to help those families in need.



Also helping Santa from La Frontera were Monica Arbizo and Linda Smith.

Neighborhood Meetings

Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association - Thursday, January 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 S. Park Avenue.

South Park Neighborhood Association - Monday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m., Quincie Douglas Center, 1575 E. 36th Street.

Mortimer Neighborhood Association – Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Jesus Reigns Christian Fellowship, 5337 S. Palo Verde.

Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association - Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m., Holmes Tuttle Boys & Girls Club, 2585 E. 36th Street.

SNAPP (Southside Neighborhood Assn. Presidential Partnership) – Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 S. Park Avenue.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association – Sunnyside Neighborhood Association – Monday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Valencia Library, 202 W. Valencia Road.

Barrio Santa Rosa Neighborhood Association - Monday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m., Santa Rosa Library, 1075 S. 10th Avenue.

29th Street Coalition – Wednesday, January 29 at 6:00 p.m. - Location to be determined – contact Ward 5 Office at 791-4231.

Tucson Rams/Tucson Raiders Youth Football Do Well At National Tournaments

Congratulations to both the Southwest Tucson Rams Youth Football Program, as well as the Tucson Raiders Youth Football Program for their success on the gridiron recently.

The 10U Southwest Rams won a bid to the American Youth Football National Championship. They won their first two games but came up short in the championship game. The Rams battled until the last whistle and we are all proud of their efforts. The Tucson Raiders sent eight 13U players to the tournament as part of a Tucson All-Star team, for which they won three games but fell short in the championship team. The Raiders want to thank JL Investments, Gugino-Mortimer Law Firm, Tucson Iron & Metal, Crest Insurance and the Ward 5 Council Office for their help to get the players to the tournament.

Martin Luther King Breakfast, January 18

The Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association is holding its 30th Annual Martin Luther King Breakfast on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Boys and Girls Club, 2585 East 36th Street. Doors will open at 7:15 a.m., with breakfast being served at 8:00 a.m. The breakfast is free but donations are greatly appreciated and accepted at the door. All money earned will be used to continue the tradition of helping area school age youth, with scholarships for programs to help them realize their dreams. The Pueblo Gardens neighborhood is the only neighborhood in the City of Tucson to honor Dr. King in this way, working to keep his dreams alive. Congratulations to the Pueblo Gardens neighborhood for their 30th anniversary of their MLK Breakfast!

Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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Bank.
For more
information call:
520-622-0525



Frequently Used Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department
DIAL 911

Permits

Planning and Development Services Department
791-5550

Housing Assistance

City of Tucson Community Services Department
791-4739

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

City of Tucson Code Enforcement

791-5843

TPD Red Tag Unit

837-7318, Email: redtag@tucsonaz.gov

Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

TPD Non Emergency

791-4444

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

TDOT Street Maintenance

791-3154, Email: tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242, Public Information - 791-4331

Park Tucson

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

724-5900

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