



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

March 2021

Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

More than 30 million people in the United States have contracted the COVID-19 virus with more than 546,000 losing their lives.

Arizona has had more than 838,000 people contract COVID-19 with more than 16,000 people losing their lives.

More than 112,000 people, in Pima County, have contracted COVID-19 with more than 2,300 losing their lives. A total of 40% of the deaths in Pima County, from COVID-19 have come from the Latino, Native American or African American Community.

In Tucson and in the 85706, 85713 and 85714 zip codes, there have been close to 20,000 people who have contracted COVID-19.

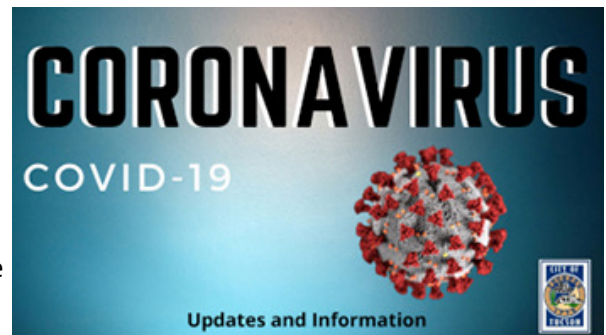
I have worked to distribute more than 18,000 masks to the good citizens of Ward 5 and the South side.

I have worked with Supervisors Adelita Grijalva, Dr. Matt Heinz, Pima County Health Director, Dr. Theresa Cullen and Assistant County Administrator Dr. Francisco Garcia, to have more vaccination sites in Ward 5 and Southside facilities, churches and schools.

I have worked with Tucson Mayor Regina Romero, and City Manager Michael Ortega, to have the El Pueblo Center, a site for testing and vaccinations, when the vaccines are available from Pima County.

I am working with Health 1st Solutions to provide additional COVID-19 testing in Ward 5 and the Southside.

The Arizona Governor has issued another Executive Order about masks, social distancing and sanitation in businesses. We had restrictions lifted last year by the Governor, and Arizona and Pima County had a surge in COVID-19 cases, for which restrictions had to be reimplemented, by the Governor.



The Arizona Governor has also stated we are still in a public health emergency for which I concur. Please continue to exercise the effective habits we've learned during the pandemic, including social distancing, good hygiene and mask wearing when distancing is not possible and stay home if you are sick.

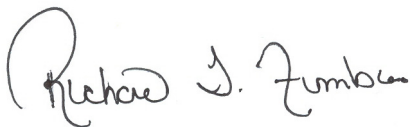
We have all lost family members and loved ones, friends and co-workers to COVID-19

We can't let our guard and our masks down. We must continue doing what we have been doing, washing our hands, practicing social distancing, not gathering in large numbers and wearing masks as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control until we've all been tested and receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

I am continuing my efforts to ensure we have testing and vaccinations on the South side, so that we all can live, work and raise a family.

So please, get tested for COVID-19 and get the COVID-19 vaccination because together, we can all make a difference.

Be safe, be healthy, practice social distancing, wash your hands and wear a mask.



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

RECOGNIZING ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES AND FIRST RESPONDERS: On Thursday, March 18, I virtually took part in Sun Tran's transit employee appreciation day.

I presented the 750 Sun Tran employees, who are part of our first responders and essential employees, the Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation and the Ward 5 First Responder Coin.

The Sun Tran event was the last event I had taken part in. My office gave Ward 5 Certificates of Appreciation and First Responder Coins to all our first responder, employees in TPD, TFD, 911 Communications, Transportation and Environmental Services.



This was to thank them for their service to our community, dedication, and working during this health pandemic.

COVID-19 POP-UP VACCINES ON THE SOUTH SIDE: There were pop-up COVID-19 vaccination sites in Ward 5 and the South side at Sunnyside High School, Vida Nueva Church of God, Rising Star Baptist Church and Greyhound Park.

I want to thank Pima County Supervisors Adelita Grijalva and Matt Heinz for advocating for vaccination sites in the 85706, 85713 and 85714 areas.



I want to thank the Pima County Health Department for their work on these two vaccination sites and their work in battling the COVID-19 virus.

WORKING WITH THE ROSE BUSINESS/NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION: On March 18, I took part in the meeting with the Rose Business Coalition, who met with TPD and neighbors about ongoing issues on Ajo Way and 12th Avenue, as well as smoke shops.

I want to thank the coalition for bringing us their concerns and I look forward to working with them for the betterment of our community.

THANK YOU HEALTH 1ST SOLUTIONS: During this month, Health 1st Solutions started offering free COVID-19 testing at Sunnyside High School and Desert View High School, for residents in the 85706, 85713 and 85714 Zip Codes. This effort was run by Health 1st Solutions, who received funding from the federal government for this.



Thank you Vivien Nichols and Health 1st Solutions for helping our community to deal with the COVID-19 virus. I also want to thank Arizona Bilingual for working with Health 1st and Sunnyside to help make this happen for our community.

IN MEMORIAM: On a sad note, our community has lost some of its leaders.

Manuel "Manny" Herrera founded the All-American Awards with Ben Bennett. The All American Awards, honoring students in the Sunnyside School District for their academic success.

Manny always worked to give back to his community and he and his wife, Josie instilled this in their children, one a Councilmember for the Town of Sahuarita, one a member of the Sunnyside School Board and another who chairs the United Community Advisory Board that deals with water and environmental matters for Tucson's South Side.



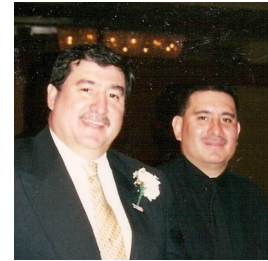
The City of Tucson named a park for Manny, to thank him for his work to improve the quality of life in our community.

My condolences go out to the Herrera family for their loss. He will be missed.

Elizabeth Johnson, known to her friends and community as Lizzy, passed away. Lizzy served for 10 years as the Board President for Project PPEP. Her knowledge, dedication and experience will be missed.

My condolences to the Johnson family for their loss.

On March 2, my brother, Steve Fimbres, earned his Heavenly wings. Steve served in the U.S. Army Reserves and worked as a medical tech at the Southern Arizona VA Hospital. Steve was a leader in his church and worked to help those in need in our community. Steve loved his family dearly.



I want to thank everyone who sent supportive messages to me and the Fimbres family on his passing. Please keep Steven and his family in your prayers.

Eddie Sotomayor worked hard to improve the Fairgrounds Neighborhood, serving as President of the Neighborhood Association. Eddie was instrumental in the creation of one of the City's first pocket park for neighborhoods, La Mariposa Park.

My condolences go out to the Sotomayor family for their loss.



Tucson Parks and Recreation
A Nationally Accredited Agency

PARKS AND RECREATION TO OPEN CENTERS FOR SENIOR ACTIVITIES:

The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation will begin a phased reopening plan at our recreation centers for senior activities beginning Tuesday, March 30.

Seniors will not need to be vaccinated, however, masks, wellness checks, and physical distancing are still required.

Senior centers and program locations will open for activities 3 days per week, at 50% capacity, to participants over the age of 50. A schedule of locations and opening dates are listed below.

Opening Tuesday, March 30:

El Pueblo Senior Center
101 W. Irvington Road
Mon-Fri From 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Beginning April 5: Mon-Fri From 9a.m.-4p.m.

Morris K. Udall Carol West Senior Addition
7200 E. Tanque Verde Road
Mon, Wed, Fri from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Armory Park Senior Center
220 S. 5th Avenue
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Opening Monday, April 5:

El Rio Neighborhood Center
1390 W. Speedway Boulevard
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Freedom Park Center
5000 E. 29th St.
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Fred Archer Center
1665 S. La Cholla Boulevard
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Quincie Douglas Center
1575 E. 36th St.
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Donna Liggins Center
2160 N. 6th Avenue
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

William M. Clements Center
8155 E. Poinciana Drive
Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Opening Monday, April 12:

Randolph Center
200 S. Alvernon Way
Tuesday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The current Senior Meal Program will continue with delivery and pick-up options, providing participating seniors with a week of meals.

We strongly advise that all groups keep to 10 or fewer people, stay 6 feet away from anyone they do not live with, stay home if feeling sick, and follow all other CDC guidelines to keep safe.

Every person in the City of Tucson over the age of 5 is required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when in a public setting where continuous physical distancing is difficult or impossible. We will continue to assess the situation and update the public. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

FOLLOW THE GENE C. REID PARK AND REID PARK ZOO COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: The City of Tucson is providing several avenues for public engagement regarding the conversation surrounding Gene C. Reid Park and Reid Park Zoo expansion. As part of its 2014 and 2018 Master Plans, the Zoo designed the "Pathway to Asia" exhibit to expand into Reid Park, where the south duck pond currently is located. The expansion process was summarized at the March 9 Mayor and Council meeting. At that meeting, the body voted to pause the expansion by 45 days to create a community dialogue around the issue. To stay up to date on the timeline and progress of the process, visit the websites linked below in English or Spanish.

<https://stories.opengov.com/tucsonaz/published/66kFpTnOv> (English)

<https://stories.opengov.com/tucsonaz/published/C6CH0fFy9> (Espanol)

READY SET REC UPDATE: In this newsletter is the latest schedule for the Ward 5, Ready Set Rec van and which Ward 5 Parks they will be going to.

Ready, Set, REC! Find the Ward 5 van near you!

April 1, 3-5 p.m. - Mirasol Park	April 20, 3-5 p.m. - Pueblo Gardens Park
April 6, 3-5 p.m. - Silverlake Park	April 21, 3-5 p.m. - Bristol Park
April 7, 3-5 p.m. - Cherry Park	April 22, 3-5 p.m. - Silverlake Park
April 8, 3-5 p.m. - Santa Rosa	April 27, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. - Ochoa Park
April 13, 3-5 p.m. - Rudy Garcia Park	April 27, 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Santa Rosa Park
April 14, 3-5 p.m. - Bravo Park	April 28, 3-5 p.m. - Cherry Park
April 15, 3-5 p.m. - Swan Park	April 29, 3-5 p.m. - Mirasol Park

Tucson Parks and Recreation
A Nationally Accredited Agency

COMPASS AFFORDABLE HOUSING OFFERING RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE: Compass Affordable Housing worked with Pima County and the Community Investment Corporation to distribute millions in CARES Act funds to prevent household evictions due to COVID-19 related issues.

Nearly 5,000 people in Tucson and Pima County indicate they are now at risk for eviction due to COVID-19 related issues. Compass Affordable Housing is poised again to work with renters and landlords to distribute additional funds to prevent an explosion of area evictions.

Whether you support our 'Your Healthy Home Market,' assist our Tenant Services Specialists in supporting our tenants, or assist people who are homeless through Community Housing, it is your generosity that allows Compass Affordable Housing to leverage funds to help hundreds of people right here in our community. We thank you for helping us to help others!

If you know someone facing the possibility of eviction due to the impact of COVID-19, please pass this information to them. As indicated on the above flyer, individuals should contact www.TucsonPimaEP.com or call 831-292-4302 for full information.

AMAZON DISTRIBUTION CENTER TO BE BUILT IN WARD 5: VanTrust Real Estate announced the start of construction on two new Amazon sortation centers, including their first Southern Arizona project in Ward 5 in Tucson.

The Tucson facility, located at Corona and Alvernon, will span more than 270,000 square feet on a 46-acre site that will have hundreds of jobs. I want to thank the City of Tucson Economic Initiatives office for their work on this project and I look forward to working with Amazon.



“Every day at Amazon, incredible employees come together to deliver magical experiences for customers,” said Marcus Buford, Director, Amazon Operations. “We are excited to break ground on these new sortation centers in Arizona, where more than 25 years of Amazon’s operational expertise, technology advancements and investment in transportation infrastructure is enabling faster delivery for our community.”

The facility will be a sorting center where thousands of packages will get organized and sent out. To staff this place fully, Amazon says they’ll need to hire hundreds of people.

CHERRYBELL UPDATE: The fight to keep the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center that serves Tucson and Southern Arizona has gone into its tenth year.

I am proud to continue the fight to preserve the jobs at the Post Office, that serves 26,000 businesses in Southern Arizona, providing medications to our Veterans, Seniors and others who get their prescriptions by mail, as well as those who get their pension checks by mail.



When this effort began 10 years ago, the Tucson Mayor and Council voiced their support, as did the Pima County Board of Supervisors. It was Andrea Dalessandro, who took the battle to the Arizona Legislature to get them on board which got Governor Doug Ducey to support our post office and processing center.

Our community stepped up to write letters and Emails in support of Cherrybell. Arizona elected officials, during these years, stepped up to support our effort for our community.

These efforts have continued over these years and they have sent another letter from our Arizona Senatorial and Congressional Delegation to the USPS Postmaster about Cherrybell. I want to thank our Senators and our Members of Congress for standing up for Tucson, Southern Arizona and Cherrybell.

We are not done and we will win this battle for our community.

TUCSON STANDS WITH OUR ENTIRE FAMILY: From the March 23 Mayor and Council meeting, below is a joint statement from Ward 3 Councilmember Karin Uhlich and Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres on the tragedy in Atlanta and against Anti-Asian violence:

I want to thank Councilmember Uhlich for her words in support of the Asian community in Tucson, in Atlanta and across this country for which I also reaffirm.

The City of Tucson was one of the first cities in the nation to adopt an anti-discrimination, human relations ordinance in 1977. This ordinance prohibits discrimination by race, gender, gender identity, national origin, sexual preference and religion in housing, employment and public accommodations. This ordinance has full criminal penalties for those who violate it.

In 1995, the City of Tucson was the first city in Arizona to adopt a hate crimes ordinance, covering race, gender, gender identity, national origin, sexual preference and religion, with full criminal penalties.

When parts of our community are attacked, Tucson comes together to show we are one city, one community.

We condemn the actions that have taken place in Atlanta and our hearts go out to those families who lost loved ones.

We condemn the hatred and violence that has occurred there, against other Asians across this nation and Tucson stands with the Asian community.

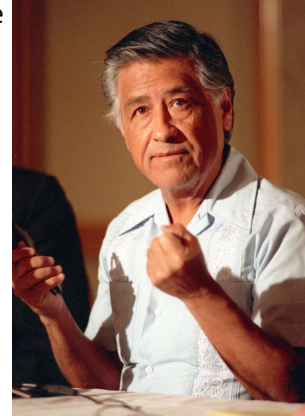
Tucson stands with our entire family.

(Tucson Mayor Regina Romero recently released a supportive statement. Members of the Tucson City Council also spoke on this at the Council meeting.)



CESAR CHAVEZ HOLIDAY AND DAY OF SERVICE: Monday, March 29 will mark the seventh anniversary for the City of Tucson Cesar Chavez Holiday and Day of Service.

Cesar Chavez was an Educator, Environmentalist and a Civil Rights Leader. One of his most famous sayings was: "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."



The City of Tucson is the first and only city or governmental entity in Arizona to have a paid holiday and day of service for Cesar Chavez.

Chavez's words ring true, especially during this time with the COVID-19 health crisis. We need only to look at Cesar Chavez's motto, "Si, se puede," which means "Yes, it can be done." We can win when we work together. The beauty of Tucson and Pima County is that we do not scapegoat, place blame or point fingers, we roll up our sleeves to solve the challenges that we face. As Cesar Chavez said, "We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure. The people united will never be defeated."

Powerful words said by Cesar Chavez that will help us get through this health crisis.

This year's commemoration of the Cesar Chavez holiday and day of service will be different. We may not be able to gather or march this year but we must remember and honor Cesar Chavez, who inspires people to become involved in all the causes which continue his extraordinary legacy and shine in controversy.

I want to thank my colleagues: Shirley Scott, Karin Uhlich, then Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Regina Romero, Steve Kozachik and Paul Cunningham on the Council and the many organizations who joined me in support for the City of Tucson true Cesar Chavez holiday in 2014.

His selfless dedication for farm worker and worker rights, economic justice, civil rights, environmental justice, peace, nonviolence, empowerment of the poor and disenfranchised, is a monumental legacy that will inspire all and the generations to come.



CÉSAR CHÁVEZ
DAY OF SERVICE

Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

Ward 5 City Council Office
4300 S. Park Avenue
Tucson Arizona 85714

Phone: 520-791-4231
Fax: 520-791-3188
Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

Stay Informed!
Visit our other
information outlets:



**HTTP://
WWW.TUCSONAZ.GOV/
WARD -5**

**Help those who are in
need.
Give to the
Community Food
Bank.
For more
information call:
520-622-0525**



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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

DTM 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

University of Arizona Neighborhood Hotline

520-282-3649

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov and include the word unsubscribe in subject line.