



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

June 2021

Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

Tucson's water is safe and there is a supply of water, thanks to the efforts of the Mayor and Council, Tucson Water as well our community conserving water, "Beat the Peak," still resonates.

Tucson's Mayor and Council has taken action about our water, water supply and conservation measures.

In 2021, the City of Tucson received another acknowledgment for their efforts to conserve water, something that has been done multiple times during my time as your Tucson Ward 5 Council Member.

In 2006, the Tucson Mayor and Council took proactive action and approved a Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. This plan is to be updated every five years, and as your Ward 5 Council Member, I worked on the updates to the plan in 2012, 2017 and 2020.

During my time on the Council, this Council took action dealing with 1.4 dioxane, finding the money to get the AOP plant built and operating.

The Mayor and Council and the public had updates from Tucson Water on their efforts to blend the water to reduce the levels of 1.4 dioxane.

When the PFAS/PFOS issue arose, I brought forward an agenda item, on September 5, 2018 for Tucson Water to update the Mayor and Council and to deal with citizen questions about potential soil and vapor contamination by PFAS/PFOS.

I made the motion to have Tucson Water conduct soil and vapor testing at several sites, working with neighborhoods and organizations, which showed then no contamination.

The Mayor and Council directed Tucson Water to add the operations to the AOP Plant to get rid of PFAS/PFOS. We did this before we received any funding from the military or the federal government.

To answer the question about Tucson's water, especially in my Ward and the South side. It is safe and we get our water from the CAP facility in Avra Valley.



Tucson Water's policy on PFAS/PFOS was 18 ppt (parts per trillion), which is under the current Environmental Protection Agency's federal standard of 72 ppt. Then Council Member Romero joined me in working with the Pima County Health Department, held health and resource fairs and town halls to discuss PFAS/PFOS with residents.



I have held meetings with constituents, neighborhoods and environmental groups about PFAS/PFOS as well. Thanks to the Mayor and Council, City staff, the Water Department and the good citizens of the City of Tucson, we use less water and we have a safe and abundant supply to deal with the temporary shutdown of the AOP plant.

Tucson's Mayor and Council asked our national elected officials to take action on PFAS/PFOS. I want to thank Arizona Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly, as well as U.S. Representatives Raul Grijalva, Ann Kirkpatrick and Tom O'Halleran for their actions on this important issue. I also want to thank Arizona Governor Doug Ducey for the \$2.0 million for the TARP/AOP plant and his letter to the U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin requesting immediate action on PFAS/PFOS at military facilities in Arizona, including Davis Monthan Air Force Base and the Arizona 162nd National Guard.

I want to thank current Mayor Regina Romero, former Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Council Member Karin Uhlich, former Council Member Shirley Scott, Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega, former City Manager Richard Miranda, Interim Assistant City Manager Tim Thomure, Interim Tucson Water Director John Kmeic, Tucson Water employees Jeff Biggs, Fernando Molina and Silvia Amparano for their work making our water supply, safe and abundant. I also want to thank the good people who serve on the United Community Advisory Board and the Citizens Water Advisory Committee for their work for our water supply.

The City of Tucson is also suing 3M, who created fire retardant and other products that has PFAS/PFOS. Our community and our Council took action. We have work still to do and your Ward 5 Council Member, and this Council, will work and take the action needed to keep our water safe and abundant.

I will be holding a community forum on PFAS/PFOS and Tucson Water on Thursday, July 29, 5:30 pm at the El Pueblo Center, 101 W. Irvington. I hope you can attend this event.

Thank You.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard G. Fimbres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Council Member

City Council Update

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE: The Mayor and Council approved the FY 21/22 City Budget at the June 22 meeting, by a vote of 7 to 0. The approved budget provides additional money for neighborhood street repairs, brings employees up to market-rate compensation and dealing with the attrition issues, incorporates \$67 million from President Biden's American Rescue Plan which is distributed through the city departments to cover many programs.

Thanks to the work of the Mayor and Council, the City Manager and staff monitoring revenue and expenditures, the City was able to have a \$25 million dollar surplus this past year during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to my planning and my staff's work, I was able to have a surplus for my Council budget, for which I will be able to use for road work, including speed humps and speed tables, car seats, booster seats and bike helmets, job training and educational programs for Ward 5 residents and Ward 5 neighborhoods.

In other business, the Mayor and Council approved the Central Business District and GPLET provisions. The proposal requires meeting with neighborhoods in the District and applicants to agree to a Community Benefits Agreement which is to benefit the neighborhoods where a project could be built. Through my work, the Barrio Santa Rosa, Barrio Santa Rita, Barrio Viejo, Barrio San Antonio, South Park and Pueblo Gardens neighborhoods are not part of the District, as they requested, and I want to thank them for working with my office on this issue.

12TH AVENUE/AJO CLEANUP: The Rose Business Coalition held a cleanup on Saturday, June 5 in the area of Ajo and 12th Avenue. I want to thank everyone who turned up for the event and helped with the clean up. I want to thank the Pima County Attorney's Office for organizing the clean up, Walgreen's and LPKNC for their involvement. I want to thank TPD South for their involvement and work to better the area of Ajo and 12th Avenue.

EVICITION MORATORIUM EXTENDED: The federal eviction moratorium has been extended to Saturday, July 31. This extension is intended to be the final extension of the moratorium. Residents in Tucson and Pima County can still apply for the Eviction Prevention Program. The Mayor and Tucson City Council approved spending \$27.1 million (\$19.1 million from the City of Tucson and \$8 million from Pima County) for the Tucson and Pima County Eviction Prevention/Emergency Rent and Utility Relief Program.

Tucson and Pima County

Eviction Prevention/Emergency Rent and Utility Relief Program

This program provides support for residents struggling to pay rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on the program requirements and details, visit: tucsonpimaep.com or call (831) 292-4302



CITY OF
TUCSON



PIMA COUNTY

Eviction Prevention Program

Administered by the



Through the coordinated efforts of the City, County, and the Community Investment Corporation, both tenants and landlords/property managers (acting on behalf of tenants) can now apply for funds. Dual enrollment of tenants and landlords is accepted. Funding requests for unpaid rent and utilities are available for up to 12 months in arrears and three months in advance. For information, eligibility requirements, and to apply online, visit the Tucson and Pima County Eviction Prevention Program website at tucsonpimaep.com. Those without internet access can call (831) 292-4308 to apply (bilingual case managers are available)

POVERTY AND URBAN STRESS REPORT HONORED: The City of Tucson is receiving a 'Special Achievement in GIS' award from ESRI, the company that supplies GIS technology, for the Poverty and Urban Stress Website and the Poverty and Urban Stress Report.

I want to thank former Ward 5 Council Member Steve Leal, Aides Mary Fimbres, Melinda Jacobs and Mark Kerr for their work on the original 2007 Poverty and Urban Stress Report.

I want to thank Anna Sanchez, formerly with HCD on her work for the 2012 Poverty and Urban Stress Report that was accepted and approved

I want to thank my Ward 5 Council staff for their work on the 2020 Poverty and Urban Stress Report. I want to thank HCD Director Liz Morales and Laura Sharp and Alison Miller with HCD for their work on the report and the website.

The City of Tucson Poverty and Urban Stress Report is a living document that helps our City track statistics, demographics and our efforts to make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

SANTA RITA PARK: I want to thank everyone who came out Saturday, June 5 at Santa Rita Park, for the Ice Cream Social and to give their feedback for the drafting of a Master Plan for Santa Rita Park.

This is a work in progress to draft this plan for this historic park and for the surrounding neighborhoods.

I want to thank Parks and Recreation staff who went out to conduct the surveys and the surrounding neighbors who came out to give their opinion for their ideas for the Santa Rita Park Master Plan.



City of Tucson
Poverty and Urban Stress
2020



Also at Santa Rita Park, on June 5, was the Pima Council of Aging's Take Your Shot Event, offering free COVID-19 vaccinations. More than 150 people turned out and got vaccinated.

I want to congratulate PCOA, ACE, the United Way, TEP and the Pima County Health Department on their efforts at Santa Rita Park.





GALLEGO RESOURCE FAIR: The Gallego Resource Fair and COVID-19 Vaccine Event took place Saturday, June 19, at Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts School in Ward 5, for which I and my office were event co-sponsors with the Pima County Health Department.

Rental and utility assistance, food distribution, health information and free COVID-19 vaccine to those in attendance, 12 years old and older were given, for which more than 100 people received the vaccine. Congratulations to Gallego School for their outreach and the Pima County Health Department for their work for the health of our community. I look forward to working with the Pima County Health Department on the next event for our community.

THANK YOU SISTER MARY VIRGINIA LEACH: On June 18, I had the privilege of recognizing Sister Mary Virginia Leach of the St. Thomas More Newman Center, for her devotion and work for the students, parishioners and our community. Thank you Sister Mary for your work.



TUCSON FIREFIGHTERS BALL: On Saturday, June 5, I had the privilege of attending the tenth annual Tucson Firefighters Ball held at Starrpass. The Tucson Firefighters, and their labor association IFFA Local 479 hold the event to raise funds for their programs and efforts to help our community.

I want to congratulate Josh Campbell, the leadership of IFFA Local 479 and the organizers on a great, successful event and for what they do for our community.

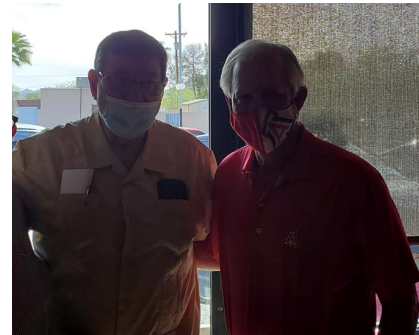


**DON'T MISS
YOUR SHOT
TO STOP COVID-19**

“We know it’s hot but you have to get your Shot!”

- Ward 5 Council Member Richard G. Fimbres

U of A COMMUNITY LEADERS EVENT: On June 7, I had the privilege of being a part of the Annual U of A Athletics Community Leaders annual event, for which U of A President Bobby Robbins, new U of A Football Coach Jedd Fisch and new U of A Basketball Coach Tommy Lloyd took part in outreach to South side leaders at American Eats in Ward 5. Many elected officials, leaders from the south side community and faith based leaders, were present to hear from Dr. Robbins, Coach Fisch and Coach Lloyd about the university's efforts to serve our community. I presented Dr. Robbins the Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation, the Ward 5 Medallion of Hope and the Ward 5 First Responders Coin for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic. I also presented U of A Athletic Director Dave Heeke a Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation and Medallion of Hope for his work, as well as to Dr. Richard Carmona for his work during the pandemic. I also presented Dr. Marla Franco with the U of A Hispanic Serving Institutions program a Ward 5 Medallion of Hope and First Responders Coin.



THANK YOU EL RIO HEALTH: I would like to congratulate El Rio Health, who announced on June 22, that they have given out 21,000 COVID-19 vaccines. On June 25, I had the privilege of recognizing and honoring El Rio Healthcare's first responders, doctors, nurses, medical technicians and staff for their work in helping improve the health of our community and their work during this COVID-19 pandemic, giving out over 21,000 vaccines to people.

Thank you El Rio Health for your commitment and work for health care in Tucson.

HOW TO REPORT TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS: Is there a pothole you'd like to see filled? 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.

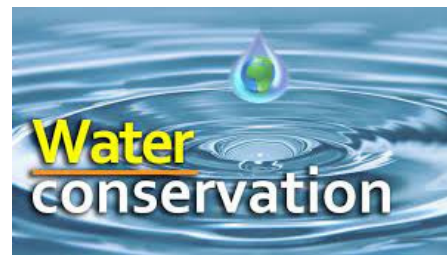
TUCSON WINS WATER CONSERVATION AWARD: The City of Tucson won the Wyland National Mayors' Challenge for Water Conservation for cities with populations between 300,000 and 599,999.

The challenge is an annual award presented by the Wyland Foundation and Toyota, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National League Cities, and other partners to promote environmental sustainability and water and resource resiliency.



of

In April, Tucson Mayor Regina Romero called on community members to pledge to conserve water and other resources, and they promised to save 50 million gallons of water.



Congratulations to Mayor Romero on her effort, City staff for their work and our community for taking the winning pledge.

TENTH ANNUAL KIDZ FAIR: Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 31 for the tenth annual Arizona Bilingual Kidz Expo, to take place at the Tucson Convention Center, from 10 am to 1 pm. For more information, go online at azbilingual.com.

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, JULY 31ST
@ THE TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER
10AM-1PM

10th ANNIVERSARY
KIDZ
EDUCATE · LEARN · PLAY
Back to SCHOOL
AGES 4-14
EXPO

LOTS OF FUN!

Arizona Bilingual News
 English & Español
 ARIZONA-SONORA

CONSERVING ENERGY: I've asked Tucson Electric Power (TEP) to inform us about the recent call to conserve energy during peak hours over the summer and this is what they shared back:

TEP has prepared for the summer by anticipating issues in advance and taking proactive measures that ensure reliable, affordable energy.

TEP has reinforced their local energy grid to support reliable operations in hot summer weather.

TEP has secured 20 percent more energy than we expect our customers will use this summer, a healthy reserve margin.

TEP said that energy resources are going to be in short supply this summer on the regional electric grid that serves the western United States. That means there's less power to spare if wildfires, plant outages or extreme weather create reliability challenges for regional utilities.

Conserving energy during peak usage hours – between 3-7 p.m. on weekdays – helps reduce strain on the regional electric system. It would also help TEP customers to save money by reducing energy costs that are included on their monthly bills.

Customers using our time of use pricing plans can save even more money by shifting usage to off-peak periods, when kilowatt-hour usage rates are lower. <https://www.tep.com/time-of-use/>

TEP added that helping to meet peak demand can be as simple as running your appliances outside of those hours. Precooling your home before 3 p.m. can also help you remain comfortable at a higher thermostat setting between 3-7 p.m.

Some of you have expressed concern about loved ones who have medical needs. TEP's Medical Device Alert program helps to keep you informed about service interruptions, their status and the estimated time of restoration.

You can also get notifications of any planned service outages affecting your residence. Learn more about the program here: <https://www.tep.com/medical-device-alert/>.

For more information, go online to tep.com or call (520) 623-7711.



“A” MOUNTAIN FIREWORKS CELEBRATION: The 24th Annual “A” Mountain Fireworks Celebration, graciously sponsored once again by Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment and the Tohono O’odham Nation, will start at approximately 9:15 p.m., Sunday, July 4. I want to thank

Proud to Present the
24th Annual
Fireworks Celebration
TCC Parking Lot B opens 7:00 PM | Fireworks 9:15 PM
Sunday, July 4, 2021

DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS
866.DDC.WINS | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | DDCAZ.COM

Must be 21 to enter bars and gaming areas. Please play responsibly. An Enterprise of the Tohono O’odham Nation

Tohono O’odham Chairman Ned Norris Jr., Vice Chair Wayvalene Romero and the Legislative Council for their continued support of this event and our community.

SSI/SSDI

Whether you are applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits (SSDI), we are here to help you succeed. Maybe you are wondering whether your condition is severe enough to qualify for benefits; maybe you are afraid to apply because you think you will be denied; maybe you have been denied and don't know what to do; or maybe you just need someone to help you through the process. At the Disability Help Group, we are here to help you succeed!



Disability Help Group

Visit our **Help Center** and receive all the tools you'll need to successfully win your Social Security Disability benefits. Let us help you do it right the first time. Whether you are applying for benefits, appealing a denial, or preparing for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, our advocates can help you do it right.



- 2550 W. Union Hills, Ste. 350, Phoenix, AZ 85027
 - 1833 W. Main St., Ste. 101, Mesa, AZ 85201
 - 16165 N. 83rd Ave., Ste. 200, Peoria, AZ 86382
 - One South Church Ave., Ste. 1200, Tucson, AZ 85701
- Toll Free 888.939.4692 | Local 602.888.0602
www.disabilityhelpgroup.org

Resources Offered

We help with the following:

- Applications
- Appeals
- Hearing representation
- Specialized medical forms
- Library of community resources

Testimonials

"I first applied for benefits for my son in July 2008, and after being denied 3 times by Social Security Administration, we decided to hire a law firm to represent him. However, we heard nothing from them. Meeting you was a blessing. You became our resource for everything from Social Security issues to programs for people with disabilities. The best part is you were able to answer all my questions and address my questions and address all my concerns! Finally, there was someone I can call for answers and if you didn't know the answer then you certainly knew how to find it! Thank you very much for all the assistance you continue to provide. It is good to know that people with disabilities have a place like the Disability Help Center to provide much needed resources."

-Caroline I.
Staff Research Associates IV Supervisor
UCSD Department of Pathology

"Without the existence of your group, the professional knowledge and expertise you possess and your patience and willingness to help as often as needed, I would not have been able to complete the Social Security Disability application successfully. Our community is fortunate to have a resource such as your group. Anyone filing for SSA Disability needs professional, knowledgeable help from people willing to provide it. Thank you, again, from the bottom of my heart."

-Richard S.

"I had been denied 5 times before I came for help and was approved. The kindness and professionalism of everyone in the office gave me the strength to continue."

-Yesenia C.

Call Now! 602-888-0602

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



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.