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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Council Member Fimbres Letter
- Ward 5 Update
- 32nd Annual PGNA MLK Virtual Breakfast Held
- Low Income Water Program Expanded
- Thank You Pantano Christian Church For Supporting Tucson HWP
- Ward 5 2022 Safety Calendar Available
- Eight Annual Shoe & Jacket Drive Held
- Cool Pavement
- Legacy Businesses
- Congratulations Gabe
- Congratulations Apollo
- Welcome Alma Peralta
- SUSD Teacher Recognition
- Ready Set Rec

**IMPORTANT
PHONE NUMBERS &
CONTACT
INFORMATION**

City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

January 2022

Dear Friends:

As we celebrate a new year, we are still facing a rise of COVID-19 cases in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona and this nation.

State health officials reported, as of January 18, 2022, another 23,836 COVID-19 cases bringing the total to 1.65 million and the total number of deaths to 25,395. The Pima County Health Department reported another 2,383 cases of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases to more than 250,000 and the total number of deaths to 3,342.

Hospital officials in Pima County report medical resources and staff are strained and the COVID-19 cases they are dealing with are from unvaccinated people.

Health officials are offering vaccinations seven days a week at various locations.

I have worked with Pima County Supervisors Adelita Grijalva and Dr. Matt Heinz, as well as Dr. Theresa Cullen and the Pima County Health Department to set up pop-up vaccination sites in Ward 5 and the South side.



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

I am working with City Manager Michael Ortega to get a supply of KN-95 masks distributed to the public.

Young people ages 12-17 can get the COVID-19 vaccine and the booster shots. Children ages 5-11 can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

We all need to get tested, vaccinated and boosted. We all need to wear our masks, practice social distancing, wash our hands and be careful. For more information, call the Pima County Health Department, (520) 724-7770. It is a new year and we need to make a new start and work to end this pandemic.

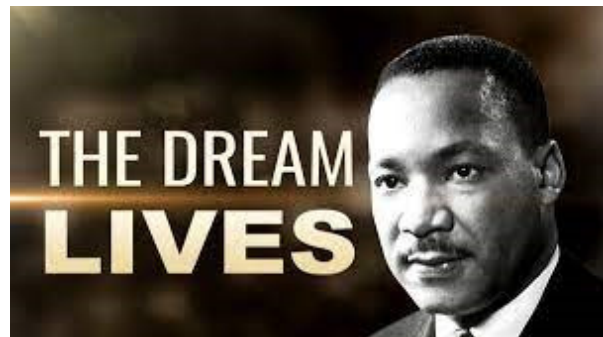
Thank you.

Your Ward 5 Council Member

Ward 5 Update: The new year has begun and the Renaissance of Ward 5 continues. The Mayor and Council recently gave approval to a new aeronautics firm at the airport bringing 50 jobs. A new hotel is being constructed, 288 units of housing, two new affordable housing projects, four new restaurants and three new industrial warehouses in the Tucson Airport area, this is the first quarter of this year.

32nd Annual PGNA 2022 MLK Jr. Virtual Breakfast Held: I invited the community again to join me over the MLK Holiday Weekend, to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by virtually attending the 32nd Annual Pueblo Gardens MLK Breakfast.

For the last two years, we have worked with the City Manager's Office to help the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association Breakfast Committee to continue the event. I want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega, Deputy City Manager Liana Perez, Lane Mandle, Andy Squire, Lety Bazurto and James Rundel for their work on the video, which is at the City of Tucson YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityofTucson>.



This Breakfast has served as a fundraiser, which is traditionally held at the Boys and Girls Club, for the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association non-profit serving the youth of the neighborhood and the Tucson community by providing scholarships and funding educational opportunities while promoting service.

The City of Tucson Poverty and Urban Stress Report shows an upturn in high school graduations and GED attainment in Ward 5. As a former Pima College Governing Board Member and your Council Member, I have worked to get the message out that education is the key to success. It was great to have young people, Terri and Brandi Starks and the Starks Family who sang the National Anthem, Tiana Williams who sang the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and inspiring words from Cassius Chandler, the youth speaker for this year's event.

Ward 5's Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association is the only neighborhood in Tucson that hosts an annual event to honor the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In the 31 years of the event, the Pueblo Gardens Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast has raised thousands of dollars for educational scholarships, school supplies, textbooks and computers for students in the Pueblo Gardens and surrounding neighborhoods.

I want to thank James Christopher and the Pueblo Gardens Martin Luther King Breakfast for their work these 32 years on the Breakfast and for bettering the lives of young people through their efforts.

I want to thank Pima County Supervisor Matt Heinz for his participation, Tucson Mayor Regina Romero for her participation and issuing a City of Tucson Proclamation for Martin Luther King Day. I also want to thank former Pima County Supervisor Dan Eckstrom, Pastor Grady Scott, Traci Hockett, Jason Palmer and Dr. Kelly Palmer for their participation in this year's virtual event video.

Thank you to the businesses and individuals who have contributed to the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood MLK Scholarship fund this year. People can still donate to the effort. For more information, call (520) 850-3632 or Email: pgna85713@gmail.com.

Dr. King believed in community. He is a beacon of hope and his words resonate now more than ever today.

Low Income Water Program Expanded: The Mayor and Council has taken the first step in designating the funds from raising water rates for Tucson Water customers in unincorporated Pima County by expanding the utility's low-income program.

The council adopted changes to improve access to Tucson Water's low-income program while providing emergency assistance to customers experiencing hardships.

When the Mayor and Council adopted differential water rates in June, it identified three spending areas to allocate the \$9.9 million annual revenue it anticipates generating from the new rates: low-income assistance, climate resiliency and infrastructure upgrades.

With the new guidelines, customers seeking assistance can self-attest to the number of people in their homes without having to provide Social Security numbers.



And when customers provide proof of participation in public assistance programs such as Section 8, SNAP and Head Start, they will automatically qualify for a 25% discount.

The Mayor and Council also approved an emergency hardship program for customers experiencing job loss, serious illness or family loss regardless of their income. Silvia Amparano, Deputy Director with Tucson Water said that it is anticipated this assistance will be available by March 1.

Customers who can provide documentation proving one of these circumstances will be eligible for a credit up to \$150 based on their need and availability of program funds. The average customer's water bill is \$42 a month, so the program would grant about 3½ months of coverage, on average.

One idea for the program's expansion is to extend water discounts to renters. In order to qualify for water discounts, Tucson Water customers must have the utility statement in their name — a requirement many renters do not meet.

Staff told the mayor and council that one concept is to create an agreement between renters and landlords who have the utility in their name. If both parties agree to the discount, the amount could be removed from the tenant's rent.



Congratulations to the Pantano Christian Church for their Donation to the Tucson Homeless Work Program: The Pantano Christian Church, during their Christmas Eve Ser-

VICES, raised \$100,000 for the Tucson Homeless Work Program, to continue its work as a five day a week program.

I had met with Pastor Glen Elliott to discuss the Tucson Homeless Work Program, its work and its successes for the program. Pastor Elliott presented the program for consideration to the Pantano Christian Church congregation.

I want to thank Pastor Roger Blumenthal and Pastor Glen Elliott for selecting the Tucson Homeless Work Program for their Christmas Eve Services, as well as their wonderful Congregation, for their generosity in raising \$100,000, and the potential second work crew.

The Tucson Homeless Work Program is overseen and administered by Old Pueblo Community Services. I want to thank Tom Litwicki, CEO of Old Pueblo Services

The Tucson Homeless Work Program has been in existence for five years and was formed by Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres. More than 900 people have been through the program, cleaning 300 sites, more than 280 miles of roadway and 290,000 pounds of trash have been cleared. The Homeless Work Program has received national, state and local recognition and awards from various professional organizations and civic groups.

Ward 5 2022 Safety Calendar Now Available: The 2022 City of Tucson Ward 5 Safety Calendar has gone to print and is now available.

More than 300 entries from schools across Tucson were submitted for consideration for the 2022 Safety Calendar, this during the COVID-19 health pandemic.

I want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega, Chief Chad Kasmar and the Tucson Police Department, Tom Warne and Chief Chuck Ryan and the Tucson Fire Department for co-sponsoring the calendar along with Ward 5.



I want to thank the students, teachers and schools who took part in this year's calendar.

Congratulations to the 2022 winners:

JANUARY - Korina Ruiz, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 7th Grade.

FEBRUARY - Amaya R. Clouser, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 7th Grade.

MARCH - Leila Renteria, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 8th Grade.

APRIL - Bella Suan, Carrillo K-5 Magnet School, 4th Grade.

MAY - Melina Terrazas-Ortiz, Carrillo K-5 Magnet School, 4th Grade.

JUNE - Maya Montiel, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 7th Grade.

JULY - Raymundo Noriega, Carrillo K-5 Magnet School, 4th Grade.

AUGUST - Dharani Rodda, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 7th Grade.

SEPTEMBER - Susan Arguello, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 6th Grade.

OCTOBER - Paola Ibarra, Santa Cruz Catholic School, 6th Grade.

NOVEMBER - Lanica AnaBelle Rodriguez, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School, 5th Grade.

DECEMBER - Monique Rocha, Santa Cruz Catholic School, 6th Grade.

FRONT COVER - Kandhy Estrada, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School 6th Grade.

BACK COVER - Lauro Jose Fisher, Gallego Intermediate Fine Arts Magnet School 7th Grade.

Eighth Annual Shoe & Jacket Drive Held: I want to congratulate Maria Vianney-Cardenas on her work and commitment to help families and children. Maria is the Executive Director of United Hearts of Arizona and here is her report on the event held during the Christmas Season:

On Saturday, December 18, 2021, United Hearts of Arizona distributed winter jackets, tennis shoes, socks, stuffed animals, toys, coloring books and crayons, meal vouchers, and food boxes to 187 students from Mission View Elementary, Ochoa Elementary, Southside Community School, Southside Head Start Program, Elvira Head Start Program, Drexel Elementary, Los Niños Elementary and Hollinger Elementary.

We spent days purchasing all the items and on Friday, December 17, 2021, we packed all items at El Pueblo Senior Center. Like last year, due to COVID-19 pandemic we made our annual event different this year again, but our mission remained the same. We delivered all the Christmas bags full of items to each student at each school. Mr. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were present greeting each student.





It took a village to do this but we did it. Very proud of everyone who helped us to accomplish this event. Thank you to all our Sponsors, Volunteers, City of Tucson Ward 5 staff, El Pueblo Senior Center staff, Famous Footwear at Tucson Spectrum, all donors, friends and family members who dedicated their own time to come and help. Here's to another one in the books! Hope you continue supporting this program in 2022. Save the date, Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Cool Pavement: The Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) has teamed up with the University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA) for a pilot project to collect data on the performance of cool pavements. This pilot project includes a PlusTI asphalt rejuvenator treatment that was applied in mid-December 2021 on Country Club Road between Broadway and Aviation Parkway. This application is the first cool pavement treatment applied in Tucson! Crews will return in January to crack seal and restripe the roadway. The University of Arizona CAPLA gathered emission levels, ambient temperatures as well as other data in October of 2021 and will return in March of 2022, when temperatures are similar, to conduct the same data collection and to compare the information before and after the cool pavement application.

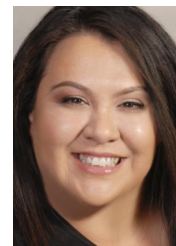


Legacy Businesses: The Tucson Legacy Business Program recognizes locally owned businesses that have been in the community for at least 25 years for their role in shaping Tucson's unique identity. Legacy businesses are featured in the City's new Legacy Business Registry, in City of Tucson marketing materials, and will receive priority consideration for City programs (as available). To learn more and apply, visit [ConnectTucson.com/legacy](https://connecttucson.com/legacy) or contact Amanda Bruno at amanda.bruno@tucsonaz.gov or call (520) 837-4100.

Congratulations Gabe: Congratulations to Gabriel Holguin, Ward 5 staff member, who has graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Major in Business Administration and Minor in Human Resources Management from Franklin University. He also got an AAS Degree in Business from Pima Community College. Education is the key to success!

Congratulations Apollo Middle School: Congratulations to Richard M. Fimbres, teacher and coach at Apollo Middle Community School, for his work and grant writing efforts to obtain needed items, ventilation system and athletic equipment for the school's athletic department. Apollo is a community school that has educated our children but still has other needs. For more information, please call Apollo Middle School, (520) 545-4500 or online at: <https://susd12.org/apollo-middle-school>.

Welcome Alma Peralta: The City of Tucson Office of Economic Initiatives is pleased to announce the addition of Alma V. Peralta, MBA, to its team. Ms. Peralta is a dynamic leader who is moving Southern Arizona forward in the areas of international trade and economic development. Ms. Peralta comes to the City of Tucson with a strong background in business assistance, having worked with the Minority Business Development Agency as a consultant to help minority business enterprises succeed as exporters to Latin America.



She also led two projects sponsored by the U.S. Department of State: The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, an international entrepreneur program, and STEM Leadership Club for Girls, a binational program for young women interested in STEM careers. Prior work experience includes her role as Director of Operations and International Relations for the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce where she engaged with the private and public sectors on both sides of the border to promote international trade between Latin America and Arizona. She served as a facilitator of the Hispanic Leadership Institute in Tucson to promote the individual development of Hispanics, positioning them for increased participation in leadership roles across the region. Ms. Peralta holds an MBA from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Arizona. She speaks four languages—English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian—which will serve her well as she works to enhance the City’s strategy for international business development. Ms. Peralta is a graduate of the Greater Tucson Leadership and the Hispanic Leadership Institute. Ms. Peralta has also been recognized by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber and the Arizona Daily Star as a “40 Under 40” honoree.

I look forward to working with Ms. Peralta to showcase Tucson to international business.

Sunnyside Teacher Recognition: On December 17, 2021, I had the privilege of recognizing and honoring teachers and staff from the 21 schools in the Sunnyside School District.



They had many challenges to be able to teach their students during the COVID-19 pandemic and have done so. I want to thank SUSD Superintendent Steve Holmes, SUSD Board Member Matthew Taylor and Sunnyside High Principal Ricky Torrez for taking part. Education is the key to success!

Ready, Set, **REC!**

Find the Ward 5 van!



Feb. 1, 3-5 p.m. -Swan Park
Feb. 2, 3-5 p.m. - Silverlake Park
Feb. 3, 3-5 p.m. - Manuel Herrera Park
Feb. 8, 3-5 p.m. - James Thomas Park
Feb. 9, 3-5 p.m. - Bravo Park
Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m. - San Antonio Park
Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m. - Bristol Park
Feb. 17, 3-5 p.m. - Rudy Garcia Park
Feb. 19, 9-11 a.m. - Silverlake Park
Feb. 22, 3-5 p.m. - Mirasol Park
Feb. 24, 3-5 p.m. - Ochoa Park



Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

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**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.