

WARD 5 NEWSLETTER

Council Member Richard G. Fimbres

City of Tucson



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LETTER

from Council Member Fimbres

Dear Friends,

Monday, March 28th will mark the eighth 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."

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." 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 due to the COVID-19 health pandemic.

We may not be able to gather or march as we had, 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. Dr. John Arnold is one of many, marking the 55th anniversary of PPEP Tech and the "La Tortuga," the famous green bus teaching English and basic education, to the same Bracero farm-workers he had ministered to in the past, helping them prepare for life in America, gaining education through "Portable, Practical Educational Preparation," or PPEP, providing services to millions in need. The Arizona Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Coalition will also be honoring and recognizing workers who have sacrificed their lives during the pandemic and those who are now resting in power, with a vigil during the annual event on March 31st at 5pm. The event will take place at Rudy Garcia Park.

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. 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. Si Se Puede.

Richard G. Fimbres

Your Ward 5 Council Member

CHERRYBELL UPDATE

On March 8, 2022, the U.S. Senate voted 79-19 for final approval of the Postal Reform Act of 2022. The Postal Reform Act eliminates the requirement that the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) pre-fund retiree health benefits for 75 years. Eliminating the pre-funding requirement will help shore up USPS finances and provide greater stability for the postal service and keep processing centers like Cherrybell open and running. It shifts most medical costs for postal service retirees to Medicare. It also authorizes USPS to provide non-postal services on behalf of State, local and tribal governments, require it to publish data on delivery performance. It requires USPS to maintain six-day delivery. It also expands the authority of the USPS inspector general over the Postal Regulatory Commission. This is a major victory in our 11-year battle to keep the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center open and functioning, serving 1.5 million people, the two tribes, seniors, veterans, small businesses and other companies in Tucson and Southern Arizona. The stronger financial footing for the USPS provides us the opportunity to restore services that were previously consolidated in Phoenix, including local sorting and bringing back the Tucson postmark. I am grateful to the Arizona Congressional delegation, business, labor and community leaders across Tucson and Southern Arizona, and to my fellow Mayor and Council, for their leadership and support during this 11-year battle for our community and Cherrybell. The Postal Reform Act, H.R. 3076, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 342-92. The bill goes to President Biden. He is expected to sign the bill.



FREE COVID-19 HOME TESTS

Every home in the U.S. is now eligible to order an additional set of 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. I encourage you to order your tests now so you have them when you need them. If you would like to place an order for your free set of 4 COVID-19 tests, please visit: <https://special.usps.com/testkits> or call 1-800-232-0233.

MEET AND GREET, CHIEF CHAD KASMAR

On Thursday, March 10th, 40 people turned out for the first Ward 5 Meet and Greet with our new Police Chief, Chad Kasmar, who answered questions from Ward 5 residents. I want to thank Chief Kasmar, Jerry Neely with Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center for hosting the event and all the neighbors who turned out. The next Ward 5 Meet and Greet will take place at the El Pueblo Senior Center, 101 West Irvington, on Thursday March 24th at 5:30 pm.



WELCOME CAPTAIN MICKEY PETERSEN

TPD's Operations Division South (ODS) has a new Commander, Captain Mickey Petersen. I want to thank the former ODS Commander and the now Assistant Chief Monica Prieto for her service and commitment to Ward 5 and our community. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Captain Mickey Petersen, former military, a TPD veteran of 25 years, as the new Commander to ODS and look forward to working with him.

FRANK DE LA CRUZ LIBRARY

On Friday, March 4th, a celebration was held for the naming of the Frank De La Cruz Library at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center in Ward 5. Frank was the heart and soul of the El Pueblo Library, which he managed for 21 years. My office was present for the celebration, which included Mariachi Aztlán de Pueblo High School, as well as Cong. Raul Grijalva, Pima County Supervisor Adelita Grijalva and the El Pueblo Center's former Director, Richard Barker. Congratulations to the De La Cruz family on this honor to remember Frank, he did so much for our community.



GRAND OPENING, PCC VETERAN'S CENTER

On Wednesday, March 9th, I had the privilege of attending the grand opening for the Pima Community College Veterans Center at the Northwest Campus. It's a wonderful new facility that will help veterans getting an education at Pima College. Congratulations to Tom Davis, Pima Chancellor Dr. Lee Lambert's Chief of Staff, Catherine Ripley, Chair of the Pima Community College Governing Board, Hector Acosta and staff of Pima College's Veteran Services Program on the dedication.



GRAND OPENING, MCDONALD'S

On March 11th, I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting for the McDonald's restaurant at 4555 South Campbell, Tucson's first digital restaurant owned by LeAnn and Pat Richards and their daughter, Tashina Freeman. It is their second location in Ward 5, owning the location at the Tucson Marketplace. Eighty people will be employed at this location, for which they will have medical benefits and tuition reimbursement. Congratulations on the opening and on your success.



9/11 FIREFIGHTERS STATUE PRESENTATION

On Monday, February 28th, I had the honor of presenting the Tucson Fire Department with the 9/11 Image of Hope Statue at a ceremony at Fire Central. This statue was presented for the men and women of the Tucson Fire Department, who do so much for this community through their work and commitment, as well as giving Tucsonans hope during those times the Tucson Fire Department is called to help. This statue is in honor of those who lost their lives in 9/11 and for the Tucson Firefighters who went to help in New York after the tragedy, so that we never forget. The statue was purchased by Vikki Marshall, a former Pima Community College Governing Board Member. Marshall had purchased the statue in honor of her Uncle Richard Marshall, who served as the Commander of a Volunteer Fire Department and for the work she did to help firefighters during that time. I want to thank the men and women of our Tucson Fire Department for their commitment to their work saving lives in our community, We owe the Tucson Fire Department a debt of gratitude for what they do.



TUCSON FIRE STATION #14

At the February 23rd Mayor and Council meeting, the Mayor and Council approved a proposal to go into negotiations with the Sunnyside School District for two parcels, located on the west side of South Nogales Highway, north of East Drexel Road, to build the new Fire Station 14, as part of the Proposition 101 Public Safety Measure. The vote was unanimous for the proposal. I will provide further updates on this in future editions of the newsletter.



PROPOSITION 411

The City of Tucson is asking the good citizens to extend the existing temporary half-cent sales tax for an additional 10 years. This extension will not increase the City’s current sales tax rate of 2.6%. The funds collected through the half-cent sales tax over the 10-year period will be used solely for neighborhood street improvements and system-wide street safety projects. The estimated sales tax revenue over this 10-year period is projected to be \$740 million to be used solely for improvements to neighborhood street conditions and system-wide street safety. Of that estimated funding, 80%, or \$590 million, will be dedicated to improving the condition of City neighborhood streets; and 20%, or \$150 million, will be dedicated to safe street improvements that benefit all users and modes. Safety improvements can include projects such as street lighting, sidewalks, bicycle network enhancements, traffic signal technology upgrades, and traffic-calming features.

Accountability and oversight commissions ensure that the funds collected from the temporary half-cent sales tax are only spent for the purposes approved by voters. Over the last decade, citizens’ accountability and oversight commissions have served taxpayers by overseeing and monitoring projects and expenditures for the voter-approved 2017 half-cent sales tax and both the Proposition 409 and 407 bond packages. The Independent Oversight and Accountability Commission will select and prioritize Proposition 411 neighborhood street improvement projects. The City’s Complete Streets Coordinating Council, a group of citizens appointed by the Mayor and Council, in addition to technical experts, will oversee the selection of Proposition 411 safe street projects. The four major safe street project categories and corresponding funding allocations include:

Category	Percentage	Estimated Funding*
Sidewalk and Pedestrian Accessibility Improvements	30%	\$45M
Bicycle Network Enhancements	20%	\$30M
System-wide Safety Improvements	30%	\$45M
Traffic Signal Technology Upgrades	20%	\$30M
Total	100%	\$150M

*Funding totals are based on projected tax sales tax revenues.

This will be an all, vote by mail election, taking place Tuesday, May 17th and conducted and overseen by the City Clerk’s Office. For more information, please call the City Clerk’s Office, (520) 791-4213.

TEP UPDATE

TEP Update: The City of Tucson Planning Commission met on March 16th, relating to the proposed amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC) that would create a special exception process for consideration of requests for relief from the City’s undergrounding requirements for utilities located in the rights of way along Scenic Corridor and Gateway Corridor routes. This proposal would provide a public process for the consideration of allowing the installation to go overhead in defined areas where special circumstances support giving relief from the undergrounding requirement. For more information, and to give comment, go online to: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/planning-commission>



Downtown ↔ South Tucson

**Sunday March 27th | domingo 27 de marzo
9 AM - 3 PM**

Presented by | Presentado por



**Banner
University Medicine**





CITY OF
TUCSON

MEET & GREET

Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres would like the community to join a Meet & Greet event with our new TPD Police Chief Chad Kasmar

El Pueblo Senior Center
101 W. Irvington Rd.
Thursday, March 24
5:30-6:30 p.m.

For more information or accommodations contact Ward 5 (520) 791-4231 or El Pueblo Senior Center (520) 791-3250



CITY OF
TUCSON

Saludos y Bienvenida

El consejal del Distrito 5, Richard Fimbres, invita a la comunidad a conocer nuestro nuevo jefe de policia, Chad Kasmar, a un evento de preguntas y respuestas.

El Pueblo Senior Center
101 W. Irvington Rd.
jueves, 24 de marzo
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Para obtener más información o pedir adaptaciones, comuníquese con Ward 5 (520) 791-4231 o El Pueblo Senior Center (520) 791-3250

2022 VITA SCHEDULE

Free Tax Services, Three Ways:

*for households earning up to \$73,000 annually.

1. **Connect online** with IRS-certified VITA tax preparers. - Visit: [GetYourRefund.org/uwtsa](https://www.getyourrefund.org/uwtsa)
2. **Use in-person services** Available by appointment ONLY. Schedule an appointment at: [UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA](https://www.UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA)
3. **Access do-it-yourself software** [UnitedWayTucson.org/FreeFile](https://www.UnitedWayTucson.org/FreeFile)



United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona



Get Started NOW, right from your phone or mobile device!

In-Person VITA Service Locations

Appointment Only, No Walk-Ins Accepted

City of Tucson- Ward III
1510 E. Grant Rd.

El Pueblo Neighborhood Center
101 W. Irvington Rd.

Quincie Douglas Community Center
1575 E. 36th St.

Goodwill Job Connection
1703 W. Valencia Rd.

Interfaith Community Services
2820 W. Ina Rd.

Truly Nolen at William's Center
432 S. Williams Blvd.

Literacy Connects
200 E. Yavapai Rd.

Pima Community College
4355 E. Calle Aurora Rd.

Schedule Appointments at:
www.UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA

United Way VITA Teams - Online

Visit [GetYourRefund.org/uwtsa](https://www.getyourrefund.org/uwtsa) to work with our virtual local network of VITA tax preparers. This service opens February 1st, 2022.

All you need is a smart phone or computer, access to secure WiFi, and your tax documents (listed below).

Get started at [GetYourRefund.org/uwtsa](https://www.getyourrefund.org/uwtsa)

Information You Must Provide:

Required

- Both spouses, if filing jointly
- Picture ID for taxpayer (& spouse, if filing jointly)
- Social Security card (or acceptable alternative) for each person listed on the return
- Proof of income, like W2s and 1099s
- Documentation of expenses
- If anyone in the household is insured through the marketplace, Form 1095-A & dependent's proof of income
- IRS Letter 6419, CTC advance payments (if applicable)
- IRS Letter 6475, 3rd economic impact payment (if applicable)

Recommended

- Account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds
- Prior year tax return

Please Note:

- All site schedules are subject to changes or cancellations throughout tax season. For the most up to date info. visit: [UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA](https://www.UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA)
- The deadline to file taxes is **April 18, 2022**.
- For sign-language interpreter, call: **520.445.8484**.

United Way of Tucson's COVID-19 Policy:

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona seeks to minimize the risk of transmission, infection and illness from COVID-19 following guidance from the CDC and local health authorities. These efforts include mitigation strategies such as use of masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing, cleaning, and disinfecting practices. All VITA volunteers working at physical locations will be fully vaccinated, including boosters. **All taxpayers choosing to visit an in-person VITA site must be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination.** To be clear, vaccination means obtaining shots approved by the FDA and recommended by the CDC. **Masks are required while indoors and will be available at all in-person sites.** Despite these efforts, we cannot guarantee that any person entering VITA facilities will not contract COVID-19 or any other communicable disease and every person must assess and accept this risk for themselves. Tax payers unable to show proof of vaccination are encouraged to use GetYourRefund to access our free online tax preparation service. Additional in-person tax preparation options can be found on the United Way Tucson VITA website here: [UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA](https://www.UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA)

For more information: Email: vita@unitedwaytucson.org
or visit [UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA](https://www.UnitedWayTucson.org/VITA) or Call: United Way at 520.333.5810

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency Tucson Police and Tucson Fire Departments
DIAL 911

Permits Planning and Development Services Department
(520) 791-5550

Housing Assistance Community Services Department
(520) 791-4739

Code Enforcement
(520) 791-5843

TPD Red Tag Unit
(520) 837-7318, Email: redtag@tucsonaz.gov

Graffiti Removal
(520) 792-CITY (2489)

TPD Non-Emergency
(520) 791-4444

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services
(520) 791-3171

DTM Street Maintenance
(520) 791-3154, Email: tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov

Tucson Water
Billing (520) 791-3242, Public Information (520) 791-4331

Park Tucson
(520) 791-5071

Pima Animal Care Center
(520) 724-5900

UA Neighborhood Hotline
(520) 282-3649

STAY INFORMED!

Check out our other information outlets



[https://
www.tucsonaz.gov/
ward-5](https://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward-5)

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