

# WARD 5 NEWSLETTER

Council Member Richard G. Fimbres

City of Tucson



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## Letter from Council Member Fimbres

Dear Friends:

During the December 20, Mayor and Council meeting, my colleagues on the Council approved proposals for Sion Power to expand their battery factory capabilities and for the American Battery Factory to make a billion dollar investment and open a battery factory in Ward 5. More than 1,100 jobs will be created by both proposals. These proposals marked the end of 2022, a year of success, challenges and looking ahead to 2023.

JTED's Center for Innovation is expanding, housing projects are being built in the Ward, the University of Arizona Tech Park opened the Mission Integration Lab, Rudy's, Raising Cane's and other businesses opened their doors in 2022, with others under construction and to open next year.

The Renaissance of Ward 5 continues. The City of Tucson Poverty and Urban Stress Report shows that more Ward 5 residents are getting their high school diplomas and GED's, plus more schools have improved their state grade. I am continuing my work to provide a location for businesses and companies to locate, open their doors, work with our community and hire people from Ward 5 and the south side.

This year marked the biggest victory, when the United States Postal Service announced that our Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center, located in my Ward, will not be closed, saving 300 jobs. This concludes an 11 ½ year battle, at times lonely that I led to ensure that the 26,000

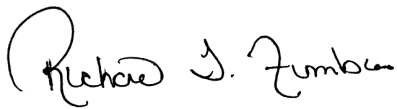
businesses in Southern Arizona, the 1.5 million people it served, seniors, veterans and the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribes had a postal processing center and we will continue to use. Victory! I want to thank everyone who helped in this long battle to preserve our community and economy in keeping Cherrybell open, the number one job source for hiring veterans.



In 2022, we had federal and state elections and I want to congratulate those individuals who were elected during the November general election. I look forward to working with you for the betterment of Ward 5 and our entire community. Also in 2022, we received the word on the federal grant that Tucson received to rebuild the 22nd Street Bridge. I want to thank Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg for awarding the grant, our federal lobbyists, as well as Mayor Romero and the Transportation Department for their work for this, which the construction will begin in 2023.

I want to thank my Ward 5 staff, Mark Kerr, Lupita Robles, Mary Kuchar, Suzanne Mackler, Matthew Taylor, Krystle Federico and Cristian Moreno for their work and commitment to our community. I also want to thank Matthew for his work and effort on the book I wrote, "A Journey Through Southern Arizona." I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Ward 5 Council Member and I look forward to 2023. Working together, we make a difference. I want to thank my colleagues on the Tucson City Council for their support. I hope everyone has a safe New Year's eve and a prosperous New Year. Remember, stay alive, hang up and drive.

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres  
Your Ward 5 Council Member



**SION POWER:** On December 6, 2022, Mayor & Council directed staff to prepare a development agreement formalizing a Primary Jobs Incentive with Sion Power. Sion produces a state-of-the-art energy storage system that addresses the future needs of the electric vehicle and aerospace markets. Sion currently operates a battery manufacturing facility located at 2900 E. Elvira Road, just north of Tucson International Airport. They have outgrown this facility and have proposed an approximately \$81.3 million expansion project that would enable 75MWh (megawatt hour) of annual manufacturing capacity. The proposed project includes executing a 10-year lease of an existing building located at 6950 S Country Club Road, facility improvements, and purchase and installation of specialized advanced battery manufacturing equipment and related process development. The company projects a construction cost of \$18.9 million, which exceeds the \$5M capital investment required for the incentive. A total of 25 new jobs will be created. The average wage for all new jobs created is projected at \$89,200. This is in addition to 100 existing employees with an average salary of \$85,000. Over five years, this project is expected to generate direct revenue to the City of \$456,760, and more than \$1.7 million to other taxing districts. The estimated value of the incentive to the company is \$278,378.

system that addresses the future needs of the electric vehicle and aerospace markets. Sion currently operates a battery manufacturing facility located at 2900 E. Elvira Road, just north of Tucson International Airport. They have outgrown this facility and have proposed an approximately \$81.3 million expansion project that would enable 75MWh (megawatt hour) of annual manufacturing capacity. The proposed project includes executing a 10-year lease of an existing building located at 6950 S Country Club Road, facility improvements, and purchase and installation of specialized advanced battery manufacturing equipment and related process development. The company projects a construction cost of \$18.9 million, which exceeds the \$5M capital investment required for the incentive. A total of 25 new jobs will be created. The average wage for all new jobs created is projected at \$89,200. This is in addition to 100 existing employees with an average salary of \$85,000. Over five years, this project is expected to generate direct revenue to the City of \$456,760, and more than \$1.7 million to other taxing districts. The estimated value of the incentive to the company is \$278,378.



**AMERICAN BATTERY FACTORY:** On December 6, 2022, Mayor & Council directed staff to prepare a development agreement formalizing a Primary Jobs Incentive with American Battery Factory (ABF). The company proposes to construct a 2.2 million square foot industrial facility to manufacture Lithium-Ion (LFP) battery cells. ABF is dedicated to making energy independence and renewable energy a reality for the United States by creating a domestic battery supply chain. Pima County intends to sell land within the Aerospace Research Campus to Project Flag for the development of this facility. ABF is planning to invest \$1.17 billion for facilities and equipment, which exceeds the \$5 million capital investment required for the incentive. The company projects a construction cost of \$305 million. A total of 1,000 new jobs will be created, with 50 paying at least \$54,932. The average wage for all new jobs created is projected at \$65,000.

space Research Campus to Project Flag for the development of this facility. ABF is planning to invest \$1.17 billion for facilities and equipment, which exceeds the \$5 million capital investment required for the incentive. The company projects a construction cost of \$305 million. A total of 1,000 new jobs will be created, with 50 paying at least \$54,932. The average wage for all new jobs created is projected at \$65,000.

Over five years, this project is expected to generate direct revenue to the City of \$6,967,529, and more than \$26 million to other taxing districts. The estimated value of the incentive to the company is \$3,965,574.



**22ND STREET BRIDGE REVITALIZATION PROJECT:** The Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) is scheduled to begin the 22nd Street Bridge Revitalization Project between Tucson Boulevard and Kino Parkway in Spring 2023. This improvement project will increase traffic capacity and improve freight access by replacing the existing weight restricted bridge, eliminating the need for heavy vehicles to detour and providing more direct lines of travel for freight and transit. Travel lanes will be increased from two to

three lanes in each direction to match the existing roadway section at either end of the project limits. This will increase the operational capacity to what is needed and will remove the bottleneck created by the current four-lane configuration between Kino Parkway and Tucson Boulevard.

A dedicated protected bicycle and pedestrian bridge is also included as part of the project and will be accessible by bike and pedestrian High Intensity Activated Crosswalks that will be located at each end of the bridge. During the project, the 22nd Street Bridge will close for approximately 2.5 years. Business access will remain open throughout the duration of the project for those businesses in and around the project limits. DTM recently completed four public engagement meetings to discuss the project with residents and businesses. If you were unable to attend or would like more information on the project, visit the project website at: [dtmprojects.tucsonaz.gov/pages/22nd-street-bridge](http://dtmprojects.tucsonaz.gov/pages/22nd-street-bridge).



**SUN TRAN SAFETY AND SECURITY:** It is Sun Tran's mission to provide a safe and secure transit system. Sun Tran has deployed increased safety measures with security riding on some of the identified Sun Tran bus routes in a coordinated effort with Sun Tran Supervisors to locate and remove those loitering at transit facilities.

Sun Tran meets with City leadership on a weekly basis to form and implement plans in cooperation with other city departments to combat the effects of the homelessness problem and all the issues that status brings to the community. Enforcement falls mostly to police, Sun Tran supervisors and American Guard Services educate folks on the rules and ask for to them move along to their destination.

Operation Leapfrog has been initiated with a goal to clear problem bus stops and to attempt to send the message that Sun Tran now has guards ride buses and that Sun Tran is no longer a sanctuary for bad behavior. This effort will be a pilot that will be constantly monitored on how things are working and making corrective actions as necessary. Laos-No Climb fence at Laos project has been completed with the use of FTA funds. This project's focus was to have better controlled access points, safe pedestrian pathways and deter individuals from entering the facilities with the intent to loiter. Additional increased security methods throughout the Transit system include increased TPD and security services staff at all transit centers, reconfigure lighting, securement of restrooms. Outdated surveillance camera systems have been replaced at the Transit Centers. Better passenger communications signs with clear expectations have been installed and will continue to be monitored. General: increased cleaning, refurbishment of environment at the stops and centers.

Sun Tran continues to evaluate, identify and will continue to pivot where the needs are identified. Sun Tran Customer Service Department at (520) 792-9222, [Suntran.com](http://Suntran.com).



**BETTER GRADES:** The Arizona Board of Education recently released their school grades and the following schools in Ward 5, in both TUSD and SUSD, saw an improvement. They are:

Borton School (Principal Eric Eulberg), Cavett Elementary (Principal Carol Leeson), Hollinger K-8 (Principal Ted Rodriguez), Utterback Middle School (Principal Taranika Sanders), Drexel Elementary (Principal Jennifer Ambrosio), Esperanza Elementary (Principal Michelle Gottliebier), Liberty Elementary (Principal Edith Corrales), Los Ninos Elementary (Principal DeeDee Lyngstad

Brown), Rivera Elementary (Principal Juan Carbajal), Apollo Middle School (Principal Dr. Thad Dugan), Challenger Middle School (Principal William Kotter), Gallego Intermediate (Principal Kathy Dong), Sierra 2-8 (Principal Angelica Encinas) and Desert View High School (Principal Angela Duddleston).

**PROJECT PPEP 55TH ANNIVERSARY:** In 2022, Project PPEP (Portable, Practical, Educational Preparation) celebrated its 55th Anniversary this year.



PPEP was founded in 1967 by Dr. John Arnold, who took a grant from Head Start, to purchase La Tortuga, a green school bus to provide education and services to farm workers to build PPEP into a program that has served more than 4,000,000 people in Arizona, Mexico and countries across the world. Dr. Arnold and PPEP has been recognized by governments and organizations for their commitment to help those in need for 55 years.

Thank you Dr. Arnold for your commitment and to PPEP for your work and accomplishments helping those in need in our communities.



Tucson Water & Environmental Services

# RATE INCREASE INFO SESSION

JOIN US ON  
FACEBOOK LIVE  
INSTAGRAM LIVE  
ZOOM

Thursday,  
January 5th  
4pm-5pm

# SHAPE OUR WATER FUTURE!


Help Tucson Water develop the One Water 2100 Master Plan. The plan will manage Tucson's water resources for the next eight decades.

We need your input through a new online survey. Your feedback will help develop long-range strategies for water use and infrastructure.



Take the survey at [TucsonOneWater.com](https://TucsonOneWater.com)

Public involvement is a key component of the master plan process. We want you to have a voice in the management of our water resources.

## THANK YOU!



SCAN ME



**THANK YOU TMC:** On December 22, I had the privilege of presenting Marco Flores Junior of TMC (Tucson Medical Center) a Certificate of Appreciation and Medallions of Hope and First Responders Coins to TMC Employees for their work to the community.



**GOLD STAR MOTHERS:** On December 22, I had the privilege of presenting a check to Barbara Brownlee of Gold Star Mother's for their Gold Star Mother Statue, which will be in Gold Star Memorial Park. I am honored to be a part of this effort for the statue.

**THANK YOU TRANSPORTATION STAFF:** Also on December 22, Santa Claus and staff from the Transportation Department came to Ward 5 to give out gifts to families in need.

I want to thank the Transportation Staff for helping these families during this holiday season and their commitment to this each and every year.



**WARD 5 2023 SAFETY CALENDAR:** I want to thank the schools and students from Ward 5 and the City of Tucson who took part in the Ward 5 2023 Safety Calendar artwork contest. This year's winning entries came from: Gallego Intermediate, Carrillo Magnet School and Craycroft Elementary.

**THANK YOU CRISTIAN:** Friday, December 16 was the last day for our Ward 5 Student Intern, Cristian Moreno, who is a senior at the University of Arizona, Majoring in Public Administration.

Cristian was a great help in the Ward 5 office and I want to thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in his academic studies.



**SHOE AND JACKET GIVEAWAY:** On Saturday, December 17, United Hearts of Arizona held their ninth annual Shoe and Jacket giveaway at the El Pueblo Senior Center.

More than 200 jackets and shoes were distributed to those in need.

Congratulations to Maria Cardenas and the Board of United Hearts for this event and their continued work for our community.

**United Hearts of Arizona**



**Corazones Unidos de Arizona**

Since 2017



CITY OF  
**TUCSON**  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLNESS

# WINTER SOCK DRIVE

DECEMBER 1st-JANUARY 30th

Accepting new in package  
socks in all sizes

.....

EACH DONATION GOES  
DIRECTLY TO SOMEONE IN NEED

.....

**#lotsofsocks**

Donations are being accepted at your  
Ward office





Ready, Set,  
**REC!**

## Find the Ward 5 van!



- Jan. 3, 3-5 p.m. - San Antonio Park**
- Jan. 5, 3-5 p.m. - Country Club Annex Park**
- Jan. 7, 9-11 a.m. - Manuel J. Herrera Park**
- Jan. 9, 3-5 p.m. - Cherry Park**
- Jan. 10, 3-5 p.m. - Mirasol Park**
- Jan. 12, 3-5 p.m. - Bristol Park**
- Jan. 17, 3-5 p.m. - Bravo Park**
- Jan. 18, 3-5 p.m. - Parkview Park**
- Jan. 19, 3-5 p.m. - Santa Rosa Park**
- Jan. 23, 3-5 p.m. - Ochoa Park**
- Jan. 25, 3-5 p.m. - Silverlake Park**
- Jan. 27, 3-5 p.m. - Cherry Park**



# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Emergency** Tucson Police and Tucson Fire Departments  
DIAL 911

**Permits** Planning and Development Services Department  
(520) 791-5550, pdsinquiries@tucsonaz.gov.

**Housing Assistance** Community Services Department  
(520) 791-4739, hcdadmin@tucsonaz.gov.

**Code Enforcement**  
(520) 791-5843

**Homeless Encampment Protocol & Reporting Tool**  
(520) 791-2540, Reporting Tool website:  
<https://reportencampments.tucsonaz.gov/>

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

**Graffiti Removal**  
(520) 792-CITY (2489), graffiti@tucsonaz.gov

**TPD Non-Emergency**  
(520) 791-4444

**Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**  
(520) 791-3171, eshelp@tucsonaz.gov.

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

**Tucson Water**  
Billing (520) 791-3242, Public Information (520) 791-4331,  
[TW\\_web1@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TW_web1@tucsonaz.gov)

**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>

## WARD 5 OFFICE

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## WARD 5 STAFF

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**Lupita Robles**  
Council Aide

**Mary Kuchar**  
Executive Assistant

**Suzanne Mackler**  
Staff Assistant

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