



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

October 2020

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Dear Friends:

As we approach the Holiday Season, I am writing on several important points affecting our community.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues and the number of cases and positive COVID tests are increasing in our City and in Pima County. We need to continue to practice social distancing, wearing masks, washing your hands with soap and water, avoiding crowded areas and cleaning frequently, sanitizing touched surfaces and objects. daily.

Senior citizens need to avoid crowded places, stay at home when as much as possible, limiting close contact with others, especially those who may be sick, and clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily. We have lost friends and loved ones to COVID-19 and we must not let our guard down with this now. I've been across our state and have seen other communities not practicing social distancing, wearing masks and gathering in crowded areas, something we can't do now. Until we have a vaccine or treatment, we must all work together, to protect ourselves from COVID-19 and not become another statistic during this pandemic. I want you to Be Safe and Be Healthy!

This week is Halloween and during this COVID-19 pandemic, we must take further precautions. In this newsletter, the Pima County Health Department has offered safety tips which we should all follow.

This election has had a record number of voters requesting ballots. If you have not returned your ballot, fill it out and get it in. The Pima County Recorder has a list of sites where you can drop off your ballot, they are online at: <https://www.recorder.pima.gov/EarlyVotingSites>. You can also drop off your ballot on election day too. For more information, please call the Pima County Recorder's Office, (520) 724-4330. Your voice is your vote

Also, I want to thank everyone who filled out your 2020 U.S. Census forms, which helps our community to be heard and be counted.

Richard G. Fimbres  
Your Ward 5 Councilmember.

**HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR FLU SHOT?** - Mayor Romero and City Manager Mike Ortega joined me in getting Flu Shots on Wednesday, October 21, at the Theresa Lee Clinic, 1493 West Commerce Court. These shots were given as part of the Mayor and Council effort to encourage the good citizens of our community to get a flu shot. I am thankful for the Pima County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator and the Pima County Health Department, for allowing us to have this service for the residents of our great City. I encourage you all to get a flu shot and avoid any potential illnesses tied to the current health pandemic.



**BUFFALO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING** - On Thursday, October 29, the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC) of the Buffalo Soldiers and Tucson Parks and Recreation, joined me in breaking ground, at the Quincie Douglas Center in Ward 5, for a memorial honoring the contributions of Black Americans when settling in Southern Arizona.

The memorial is funded through donations to the GSAAC of the Buffalo Soldiers and funds from Tucson Delivers Parks + Connections, a 2018 voter-approved bond program. The mission of the GSAAC of the Buffalo Soldiers is to educate the Tucson community about the rich history of the Buffalo Soldiers and their positive impact on defending the nation and settling Southern Arizona and other Western states. The neighborhoods surrounding the Quincie Douglas Center, where the memorial will be located, is one of the oldest historically Black neighborhoods in Tucson. The GSAAC of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers by informing, educating, and engaging the Tucson community.



At present time, there are no monuments or museums in Tucson representative of contributions Black soldiers made in settling Southern Arizona and the West. We hope that the addition of this historic memorial will continue the conversation about contributions made by Black Americans in the settling of Southern Arizona and the Western United States.

Here are the remarks I delivered at the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Groundbreaking.

Today is a great day for our community, with this groundbreaking for the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial. I

I want to thank the GSAAC 9th and 10th Cavalry for their work in preserving the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers of the United States by informing, educating, and engaging the community and working with me and my office.



This effort began when Sam Freeman, Morgan Maxwell, Lee Ester Jr., Dr. Michael Eng, Jon Covington and members of the GSAAC came to my office in early 2015 to discuss the Buffalo Soldiers and the effort to get a Memorial built.

GSAAC and I worked with the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department to compile a proposal, submitted it, and lobbied the Pima County Bond Commission to have it as part of their proposal, which included having the Morgan Maxwell collection at

the Quincie Douglas Library.

Voters turned down the Pima County Bond Proposal that year but the effort continued. GSAAC continued to raise funds, my office looked for other funding opportunities as well.

One of which was a Mural Art Project, for students, that my office was awarded. I commissioned three works, one of Tucson Civil Rights Pioneer, Quincie Douglas, one in tribute to the five branches of the military and Ward 5 residents who served this nation, and the other, a tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers, which is in front of the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center. Thank you Elinor Leon and the students from Ward 5 schools who helped to create these.



The Mayor and Council, working with the City Manager and his staff, put together a Bond Proposal for the City's Parks and Recreation Facilities. I, along with my Ward 5 staff, worked to put together the proposal to include a Buffalo Soldiers Memorial project as part of the package.

I lobbied my colleagues on the City Council and the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial project was included as part of Proposition 407.

Thanks to the good citizens of Tucson, Proposition 407 was approved and we are here today, for the groundbreaking of the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial.





I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for having this project as part of Proposition 407, as well as the good citizens of Tucson for approving the Proposition, resulting in this groundbreaking today. I want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega

The Memorial has a home at the Quincie Douglas Center, thanks to the great work by Parks and Recreation Director and Jerry Neely, the Director of the Quincie Douglas Center. Jerry Neely brought everyone together, the GSAAC, the neighborhoods and stakeholders and reached an agreement so that the Buffalo Soldiers will be located in the Quincie Douglas Center Plaza. Jerry deserves a big thank you and round of applause for this, getting opposing sides together to reach an agreement for the benefit of our entire community.

I want to thank Colonel Jarrod Moreland, Garrison Commander for Fort Huachuca, who had the Buffalo Soldiers, as well as the 9th and 10th Cavalry stationed there, for his wonderful words and support of this effort for the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial.

I want to thank you all for being here, showing your support for the Memorial and for our community. I look forward in April 2021, when we are here for the ribbon cutting for the Memorial.

Thank you and God Bless.



**WELCOME CAPTAIN MICHELLE PICKROM** - Tucson Police Department announced the promotion of Lt. Michelle Pickrom to the assignment of Captain. Michelle takes the spot as the Operations Midtown Commander that had been held by Captain Matt Ronstadt.

Captain Michelle Pickrom joined the Tucson Police Department in 1996 as Community Service Officer before becoming a Police Officer at the end of 1998. Captain Pickrom has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master's Degree in Leadership. She has worked in many areas of the department throughout her various ranks, including patrol in Operations Divisions South, West, and Midtown, in the Public Information Office, as an accreditation manager in the CALEA office, as a Peer Support Sergeant in the Behavioral Science Unit, as Chief Magnus' Executive Officer, and most



recently as our Wellness Coordinator. Captain Pickrom is an active advocate for the advancement of women in law enforcement through her membership in state and national level organizations such as the Arizona Women's Initiative and National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives. Captain Pickrom is active in the Tucson community volunteering at numerous Special Olympics events, is an executive board member of the 911 Tower Challenge, was a facilitator of the annual TPOA Kids & Cops event for 10 years before becoming just a participant, and involved with Mobile Meals on Wheels, Safe Teen Accident Reduction Training, Pima County JTED Business and Industry Council, and Interdenominational Ministers Alliance. We look forward to working with the new commander of Operations Division Midtown, Captain Pickrom.

**MORTGAGE GRANT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE** - Are you behind in your mortgage or in danger of losing your home due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The City of Tucson is offering a program to assist homeowners within city limits behind on their mortgages as a result of the pandemic. Homeowners must have a pre-foreclosure notice or a foreclosure scheduled. The program will be administered by the Community Investment Corporation, (CIC) through

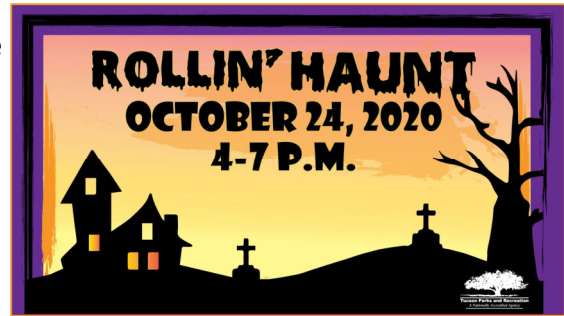
**MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE GRANTS AVAILABLE**  
**Call (520) 318-0993 (ext.114), or email [info@fhrinc.net](mailto:info@fhrinc.net) for more information and eligibility requirements.**

**Federal CARES Funds**

**Funds available until Dec. 31, 2020. Income limits apply.**

Family Housing Resources (FHR), and will provide \$3,000-\$5,000 per homeowner to assist in mortgage payments. Payments will be verified and paid directly to the mortgage loan servicer and will include fees incurred due to nonpayment of mortgages. These funds are only available until December 31st, and income limits apply. Call (520) 318-0993 (ext.114), or email [info@fhrinc.net](mailto:info@fhrinc.net) for more information and eligibility requirements.

**ROLLIN HAUNT** - Tucson Parks and Recreation hosted their drive-thru Rollin' Haunt event on October 24, at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds in Ward 5. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Parks and Recreation has had to cancel many of its popular fall events, including the Boo Bash. I am proud of the Parks and Recreation staff for thinking outside the box and putting together such a safe, family-friendly, fun event for our community. We look forward to a time when we can once again host our large community events in person, but for now we need to stay safe and diligent. Ward 5 was a proud sponsor of the event. This event was filled with lots of Halloween treats, tons of fun costumes and characters for the kids to enjoy, and photo opportunities.



**CAPTAIN LAURA BAKER** - I want to take this time to thank Tucson Fire Department Captain Laura Baker for her service to our community. Laura Baker was the first woman to attain the rank of Assistant Chief in the Tucson Fire Department, leading with integrity and strong leadership, setting the tone in our fire department. Captain Baker retired after 26 years of distinguished service to our community. One of the projects I was fortunate to work with Captain Baker was the smoke detector installation program, helping many Ward 5 residents to ensure they had smoke detectors, and working smoke detectors. I want to thank Captain Laura Baker for being a pioneer, for her service, courage, compassion and for the sacrifices you have made for our community.

**TUCSON AIRPORT GROUNDBREAKING** - On October 15, the Tucson Airport had a groundbreaking ceremony for a full commercial runway to replace the one at the airport now. More than a decade of planning, environmental study and work took place for this. I was there when the planning began with then Senator John McCain and Bonnie Allin with the Airport Authority and now the construction has begun. Congratulations to the Tucson Airport Authority, their partners and all involved with this project in Ward 5. Our City had the first municipal airport in the nation, established in 1922. This project will take our airport into its next Century and make it a bigger success.



**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](mailto:TDOTConcerns@tucsonaz.gov).





**MICHIGAN DRIVE SLOW STREETS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS** - Changes are coming soon to Michigan Dr. between S. 6th Ave and Fair! As part of the Slow Streets/Calles Lentas Program, new striping will be added to the road that will define travel lanes for cars and create tighter turning curves at 4th Ave and 3rd Ave, and defined crosswalks at 2nd Ave. Speed tables will remain, and “sharrows” will be added to the street to let drivers and cyclists know to share the road. These changes will help slow traffic down and provide the community with the ability to get out and walk, ride their bicycle, or otherwise enjoy their area – while keeping safe and maintaining social distancing during the pandemic and after.

These temporary installations were installed for 10 days in June 2020 to test out traffic calming techniques. As a result of their success, safety improvements will be constructed in the next couple of months.

Ward 5 hosted one of 3 pilot programs testing the Slow Streets/Calles Lentas approach, setting up temporary equipment on Michigan Dr. and S. 4th Ave within the Fairgrounds Neighborhood in June 2020. Ward 5 worked with Transportation & Mobility Department (DTM) staff to put up temporary barricades and signage to encourage traffic to slow down. We worked with neighborhood leaders and residents to learn how the traffic calming was working and then developed concepts for more permanent safety improvements to Michigan Drive. We led discussions with the neighbors, had a Walk-and-Talk event, and held a virtual meeting on June 25, 2020 to get your feedback. The Walk-and-Talk let the community discuss desired safety improvements, and subsequently used the temporary barricades and signs as “tests” for those improvements. Pictured here (left to right): DTM staff Jesse Soto, Jenn Toothaker, and director Diana Alarcon; Lupita Robles (Ward 5); Clara Reyes (Fairgrounds Nhd); and Blake Richards, DTM.

We are pleased to share that these improvements will be constructed in the next couple of months. The additional improvements will go hand-in-hand with the Michigan/Fair Bike Boulevard project commencing next year. Both of these improvements will provide more options for the community to move freely on streets with calmer traffic. This project is made possible through funding that my colleagues and I approved as part of the City’s Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds that support a number of citywide initiatives during the pandemic. Another example of your taxpayer dollars at work!

**REID PARK ZOO UPDATE** - Back in March, Reid Park Zoo closed its gates in an effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Thanks to a rigorous cleaning schedule using approved disinfectants, the Zoo passed a Pima County Health Department inspection. Guests are now getting the chance to return to their zoo and are noticing some changes. Reid Park Zoo recently welcomed Penelope, 2, and Sota, 1, who hail from Como Zoo in Saint Paul, Minnesota.



Penelope and Sota are joining Reid Park Zoo's two other giraffes, Jasiri and Denver. They're slowly being introduced to Penelope and Sota, something the zoo says is a slow process. Penelope and Sota will first need to be comfortable in the habitat before meeting Denver, followed by Jasiri. Keep up with Reid Park Zoo at [reidparkzoo.org](http://reidparkzoo.org) for updates on when guests will get to meet Penelope and Sota or call (520) 791-3204 for more information.

**LAS VISTAS UPDATE** - The Las Vistas Neighborhood Association and Trees for Tucson are planning a neighborhood tree planting event scheduled for Sunday, December 6 at 9 am. Residents of Las Vistas Neighborhood are eligible for two free shade trees.

On planting day, Las Vistas residents and volunteers will be invited to join in the tree planting fun with guidance by Trees for Tucson. This is an all ages and abilities event. For more information or if you are a Las Vistas resident who would like to order your free trees, please visit Tucson Clean and Beautiful's event page or reach out to the Las Vistas Neighborhood Association. If your neighborhood group is interested in planting trees, contact us at [TFT@treesfortucson.org](mailto:TFT@treesfortucson.org) or visit our website to learn more.





**PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HALLOWEEN TIPS** - Halloween is a fun and beloved tradition, but due to the ongoing pandemic, the Pima County Health Department is asking everyone in the county to celebrate Halloween this year in a manner that reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19. Halloween decorations in the front yard of a house. Many traditional Halloween activities involve close contact with different people, which increases the risk of exposure. Even in masks, which could fit right in with a costume, celebrants face risks unless they take precautions. Therefore, the Health Department recommends AVOIDING the following activities this year:



Halloween gatherings, events or parties with non-household members – remember, the fewer people you interact with the better you control your exposure. Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment, and haunted house attractions – even when outdoors, these events require close contact with others and frequent close contact for staff working at those events. If a celebration is held, it should adhere to Gov. Doug Ducey’s Executive Order 2020-43 restricting public gatherings to fewer than 50 people and requiring the maintenance of physical distancing.



Door-to-door trick or treating - It is difficult to maintain proper physical distancing on porches and at front doors, and sharing food is risky whether reaching into a shared candy bowl or being given candy by hand. “Trunk or Treat” events - where children go from car to car instead of door to door to receive treats – even though it is outside, it is difficult to avoid crowding and contamination in candy bowls. Instead, the Health Department has suggestions for having fun while protecting your health.

Online parties/contests such as costume or pumpkin carving.

Car parades that comply with public health guidance for vehicle-based parades including: Halloween movie nights at drive-in theaters, which must comply with the public health drive-in movie theater guidance. Halloween

-themed meals at outdoor restaurants that comply with the restaurant protocol.

Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween-themed decorations. “The entire 2020 holiday season will look different this year,” Dr. Theresa Cullen, Director of the Health Department, said. “I encourage everyone to have fun, but do so safely. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Halloween, it is important to continue to wear facemasks, wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer, and follow physical distancing.”

If you are sick or have been around someone with COVID-19, or symptoms of COVID-19, stay home.

Be Safe and Be Healthy!



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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