



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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Ward 5

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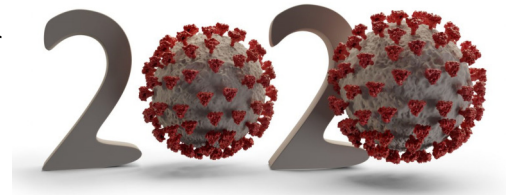
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December 2020

Dear Friends:

This past year has been a challenging one for our community with the COVID-19 virus, health pandemic and the economic fallout.



As of December 21, Arizona now has 461,345 positive coronavirus cases, with 7,748 new cases reported. Of that number, 60,360 cases are in Pima County . There have been 7,972 COVID-19 deaths in Arizona, and 905 of those occurred in Pima County.

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to increase; we have all lost family and friends to this virus. So we must continue to practice social distancing, washing hands frequently and wearing a mask. Our community just lost a great man with Ramon Gonzales, the founder of Miracle on 31st Street, and Anna Arenas with the American Legion Cocido Estrada, who both passed away from COVID-19.

The Mayor and Council, the City Manager and the Pima County Health Department have worked together to deal with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and each of the waves of increased positive tests, cases and the deaths of those who lost their battle to this.

My office has worked to issue over 16,000 masks to the good citizens of Ward 5 so far and continue to work to get more masks for citizens.



I have advocated for more testing sites in Ward 5, for which the El Pueblo Center, El Rio and Pima County have had more testing sites in Ward 5.

If you have not been tested for COVID-19, please do so.

When the COVID-19 vaccine is available and you have the opportunity to get the vaccine, please do so. Also with the flu season upon us, please make sure you get your flu vaccine.

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Although this has been a challenging year, I have good news to report.

Modular Mining had its third expansion adding another 35 employees in high wage jobs. In just six years, modular mining has expanded from 200 employees to 350 employees

The U of A Tech Park at the Bridges, broke ground and began construction on their first building, the main building called The Refinery, a 120,000 square foot building that will house Tech Launch Arizona, the U of A Center for Innovation and other startups. More than 100 construction jobs were created for this project.



Construction is underway for the Woodspring Hotel, Taco Bell, Waterwork Hotel, and Whataburger.

In 2020, a Kentucky Fried Chicken, Mister Car Wash, Dutch Brothers opened their doors at the Bridges. Sandvik Industries and Paragon Space expanded, adding three dozen jobs. Vector Launch stayed in Ward 5 and Tucson.

Raytheon expanded as well in 2020, adding 1,400 jobs.

The JTED Center for Innovation at the Bridges opened this year. Thanks to a collaborative effort by me, my office, City Staff, JTED and the developers, this new school was built in less than 18 months and on time.

The Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center is still open after the Postal Service tried to close it in 2011. The work to get our Tucson stamp and local sorting continues.



In August, Ward 5 held the first drive through event, the Ninth Annual Arizona Bilingual Kidz Expo, with 2500 participants.

This was done through the work of Ward 5, Arizona Bilingual, City Parks, TPD and Transportation, and paved the way for drive through events to be held.

I want to thank Glenna Overstreet, Terry Nierzwicki, Ray Parkman, Miguel Sandoval, Ruben Kirkendall, and from TPD, Sgt. Allen Smith, for their work on this and creating the opportunity for more drive through events.



The Tucson Airport, in Ward 5, began construction on the first, full construction runway.

The 2020 City of Tucson Poverty and Urban Stress Report was released and in Ward 5: The poverty rate was lowered, more people are obtaining high school degrees or GEDS, the number of high school dropouts fell by 10% and, Ward 5 did not have the highest property crime, violent crime and overall crime rate.

Ward 5 has led beautification efforts and tree planting events at the Thomas Price Center, Ward 5, the Las Vistas and Pueblo Gardens neighborhood, to name several from this year.



Final permits are being obtained for a 128-unit housing project, and a 300-unit housing project at the Bridges, with construction to begin in 2021 and completed in 2022. Plans are in the works for 300 units of housing by I-10 and Wilmot.

An affordable housing development is being constructed on Drexel near Benson Highway, and the developer of the Rio Viejo affordable housing project (54 units) is getting the final approval for their next affordable housing project called Rio Mercado, located in Ward 5.

In October, we had the groundbreaking for the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial at the Quincie Douglas Center, which will be completed by April 2021.



More than 1,800 jobs in Ward 5 were created and retained this year. More than 1,200 construction jobs were created through Ward 5 projects.

During my time as your Councilmember, I have worked to create more than 13,000 jobs in the Ward.

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year, and may 2021 be a better year for us all. Be safe, stay healthy, wear your mask so we can work together to improve the quality of life for everyone in our community.

Thank you.

Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember



CURFEW UPDATE: During the December 18 City Budget Retreat, the question about the action taken by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on their voluntary curfew and the City Curfew was raised.

The following is the response from Tucson City Attorney, Mike Rankin:

On Tuesday, December 15, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted a curfew that applies throughout Pima County – including

within the city limits of Tucson. The County curfew order layers on top of the City curfew previously implemented by the City of Tucson, with the Mayor and Council's adoption of Ordinance No. 11808 on December 1 and the related Proclamation issued by Mayor Romero. Some important points:

The County curfew does not change the responsibilities of individual persons within the City limits that were already put in place under the City curfew. The County curfew reinforces the requirement that all persons are prohibited from standing, sitting, traveling, or being present on any public street or in any public place, including for the purpose of travel, during the curfew hours unless the person is engaged in an essential function or activity (like traveling to/from work). Essential functions and activities that are exempt from the curfew prohibitions are defined the same in both the City and County orders, and are the same as previously defined statewide by the Executive Order of the Governor.

The City and County curfew orders define the same hours for the curfew: 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. The City curfew currently runs through December 23. The County curfew – which as noted above applies within the City and outside the City in unincorporated areas – will continue in place until such time as the number of confirmed Covid-19 infections in Pima County fall below 100 per 100,000 people, based on a 7-day moving average. This is the metric that defines "substantial community spread." I do not know what the current rate is under this metric; I do know that at the end of November, the rate was 343 cases per 100,000 people.

The County curfew, which went into effect on December 15, does impose new obligations on private businesses and establishments, whether located inside or outside the City limits. Under the County curfew, any establishments that permit any individual to remain on its premises in violation of the curfew is subject to legal action that could include the County's suspension or revocation of any operating permit issued by the Pima County Health Department.

With respect to enforcement and penalties, you will recall that the City Ordinance established that violations are a civil infraction, with the penalty being a fine not to exceed \$300. But the City Ordinance and Mayor Romero's Proclamation made it clear that enforcement is to focus on education, notice and compliance.

Based on this direction, TPD has to date issued 50 formal, documented warnings/notices. TPD has not had to issue a citation, as they have been able to secure compliance through education and warnings.

Pima County's Resolution includes sanctions for business establishments that permit persons to violate the curfew requirements. As noted above, that sanction includes the suspension or revocation of operating permits issued by the Pima County Health Department.

Pima County's Resolution also provides that the Health Department can take any available legal action against any individual, or any establishment, that violates its curfew order. My understanding of the County's health code is that these actions can include civil infraction citations for violations.

The Mayor and Council discussed the City Curfew further and voted to let it expire since the Pima County curfew was encompassing, with a different metric for it to be relaxed.

TUCSON FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION GIVES

BACK: On Sunday, December 20, the Tucson Firefighters Association held their annual Christmas Food Box Event, helping families in need.



With the COVID-19 pandemic, this year was a challenging one, having to modify their annual Chili Cook-Off to a drive through event, the Firefighters went out and got sponsors so they could provide food boxes to families in need.



Firefighters provided food boxes to neighborhood associations, such as Pueblo Gardens in Ward 5 to distribute to families in need and others, with Pima County Faith Based Coordinator Linda Leatherman distributing boxes as well.

I want to congratulate Josh Campbell, the Association leadership and our firefighters for their work protecting the community, as well as helping our community.

BIKE IN A BOX: On Saturday, December 5, the 12th Annual Bike in a Box took place. With the COVID-19 health pandemic ongoing, certificates for bikes were given to children and their families.

I want to congratulate Jesse Lugo and Lugo Charities for their successful event and continued commitment to our community.

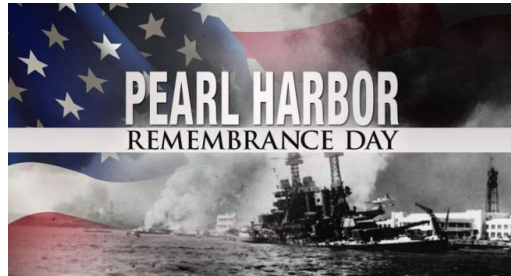
For more information, go online to lugocharities.com.



520BOYZ GIVES BACK: On Saturday, December 5 the 520Boyz Club held a stuff the fire truck event at Office Depot to get toys for Christmas for the children attending the Pueblo Gardens School. Several members of the 520Boyz Club had attended Pueblo Gardens School and wanted to give back to the school and community. I want to congratulate the 520Boyz on their successful event.



PEARL HARBOR DAY: Monday, December 7, marked the 79th anniversary of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy. A total of 2,467 people were killed and 1,178 were wounded. This surprise attack sank the U.S.S. Arizona, killing 1,177 on board the ship. Many Tucsonans were stationed on the U.S.S. Arizona and at Pearl Harbor, and lost their lives in this surprise attack by the Empire of Japan. Our nation marked the day with Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We should never forget the Greatest Generation.



HONORING V.A. HOSPITAL FIRST RESPONDERS: On Tuesday, December 22, I honored and recognized more than 60 V.A. Hospital employees, for their work, as first responders, helping Veterans who are sick, as well as those battling the COVID-19 virus. I gave the employees the Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation and the Ward 5 First Responder Coin, to thank them for their work for our Veterans and their families.



10,000 BLANKETS FOR TUCSONANS IN NEED: I want to thank Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick and her staff, for their work in obtaining 10,000 disaster blankets for the City of Tucson for people in need and the homeless population.

Staff had informed me that the Department of Defense (DOD) would not be sending the City's allotment of 10,000 blankets. I worked with our federal lobbyist, Tracy Tucker and BTBV, to send a letter asking for assistance to get the blankets that were to go to Tucson. Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's office lobbied and Tucson will be getting its shipment of blankets, to be coordinated by the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army updated delivery information with the DOD on December 7. Emergency blankets are expected to arrive in approximately two weeks. In addition, 1,050 sleeping bags were purchased using the CFSA donation of \$20,000 on Thursday, December 3. The sleeping bags arrived and were distributed to street outreach, shelter, and congregate meal programs for community distribution.



GIVING BACK TO THOSE IN NEED: On December 16, we were able to help 30 more families in need with food boxes. This was done at Apollo Middle School in Ward 5.

I want to thank Apollo Middle School Principal Thad Dugan, his staff and students who volunteered, as well as the Sunnyside School District staff members who gave their time to help those in need. I want to thank my Ward 5 staff for their assistance on this, as well as officers from TPD Operations Division South, who gave their time to help those in need.

I want to give special thanks to Chef John Hohn of GAP Ministries for preparing the food boxes. I want to thank Dr. Ed Ackerley for his work with GAP Ministries for the boxes, the second event getting food boxes to those families in need.

All this would not be possible without financial help. For this second food box event, Bob Gugino made a financial contribution to cover the costs. Thank you Bob, you helped 30 families during this Holiday Season and pandemic.

JOHN C. SCOTT: Long time radio host John C. Scott lost his beloved wife, Amy, after a long and expensive illness. He needs funds for her final expenses and to pay off some of the debt he incurred as a result.

John C Scott helped LULAC raise scholarship funds for kids to go to Washington D.C., as well as the Annual Bike in the Box effort over the Christmas Holidays to give bikes to needy kids.



John and Amy helped this community with many efforts. I am sad at the passing of Amy Scott, a dear sweet lady who cared so much for those in need. I made a donation and hope you will as well, to help John C. Scott

Online at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/amy-ulm-scott-memorial>.

IN MEMORIAM: I am sad to report that on Thursday, December 3, Mr. Frank Llanes, Ward 5 constituent, neighborhood activist and U.S. Army Veteran, passed away. Mr. Llanes took part with me in the Tucson Veteran's Day Parade several times, riding in the vehicle with me. I, and my Ward 5 staff, want to extend our condolences to the Llanes family for their loss.

I want to extend my condolences to the family of Armando Rios on their loss of Armando, who passed away suddenly. Armando was involved in many community projects, most recently the Center for Opportunity. He was working at the HS Lopez Family Foundation, which works to better the lives of those in need in our community.

I want to extend my condolences to the family of Ramon Gonzales, the founder of Miracle on 31st Street, which helped to provide toys to tens of thousands of children in need on Tucson's South side. Gonzales passed away due to the COVID-19 virus. My office worked with Ramon and the Miracle Committee. Miracle on 31st Street would have marked its 50th year in 2020 and will continue for years ahead, to keep Ramon Gonzalez's legacy going.

I want to extend my condolences to the family of Anna Arenas, the Manager of American Legion Post 59 - Cocido Estrada. Anna passed away due to the COVID-19 virus. I worked with Anna and the Cocido Estrada post on various Veteran's issues and always looked forward to seeing Anna and the Veterans at the annual Tucson Veteran's Parade.



READY TO FILE YOUR TAX RETURN? NEED TO CLAIM YOUR STIMULUS CHECK?

United Way of Tucson is here for you and your family

GET YOUR TAXES DONE:
Starting February 1st, 2021

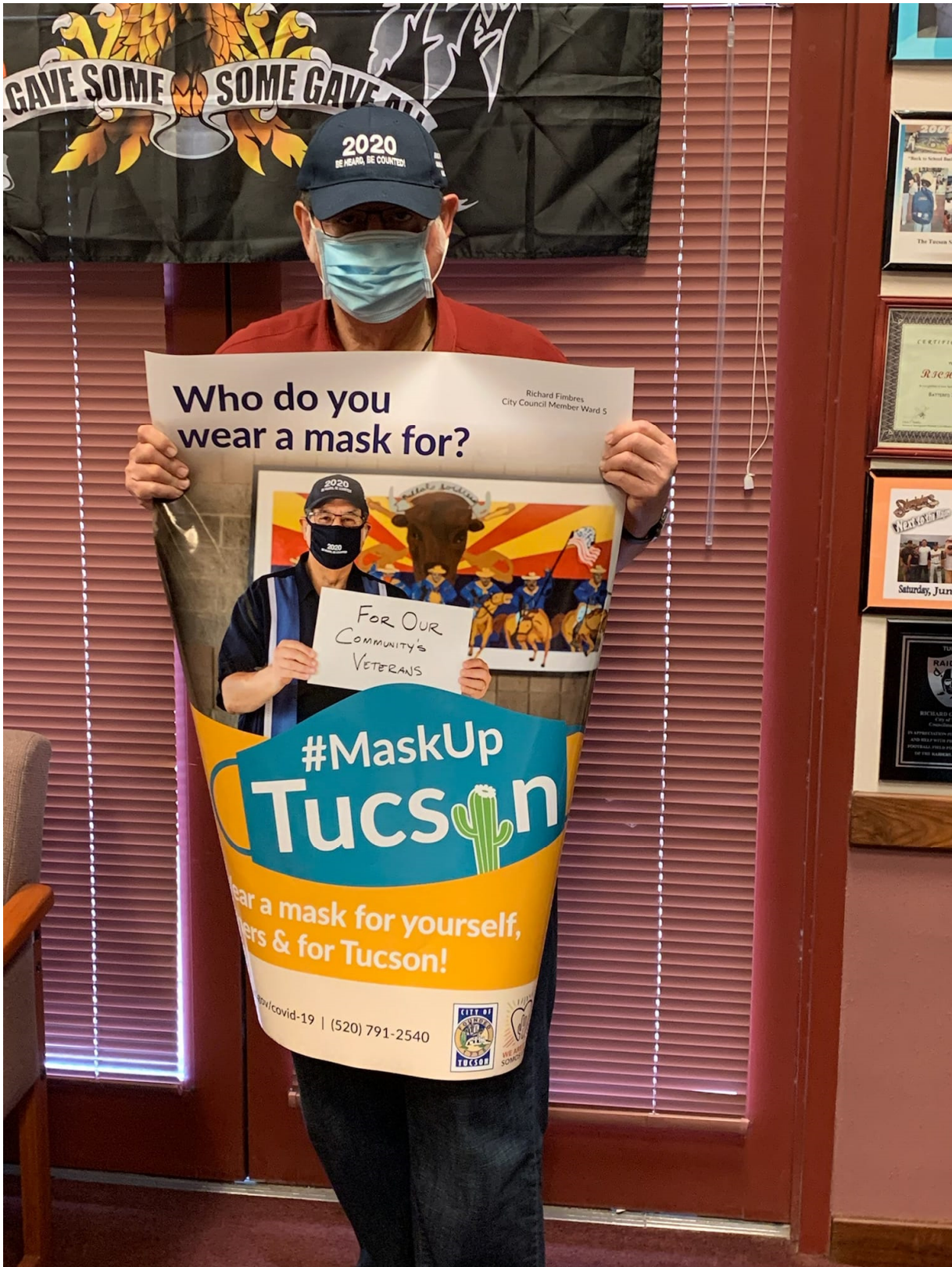
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United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona



Who do you wear a mask for?

Richard Fimbres
City Council Member Ward 5

FOR OUR
COMMUNITY'S
VETERANS

#MaskUp
Tucson

Wear a mask for yourself,
others & for Tucson!

tucson.gov/covid-19 | (520) 791-2540



Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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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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