



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

April 2021

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Councilmember
Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

April marked the tenth anniversary of the dedication and opening of the Costco at 1650 East Marketplace, at The Bridges, a major component of The Renaissance of Ward 5.

On April 14, 2011, the ribbon was cut for the Costco, former Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup, former Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez, joined me and the four surrounding neighborhoods leadership: Willie Blake, James Christopher, Cindy Ayala, and Maggie Gerring, to open the store. Costco's founder, Jim Sinegal, was present to open this new store, as well as Dave Adamson, the first store manager.



The opening of the store happened in the middle of the greatest economic recession.

Even with that, the Costco opening was a record breaker for the store and company.

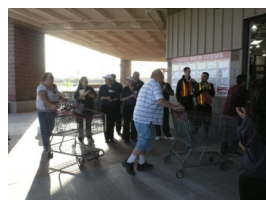
A total of 731 individuals signed up for new memberships with Costco that day. Sales for the store was \$780,000, both new first day records.



Thousands of Ward 5 residents, as well as others from Tucson, Southern Arizona and Mexico, shop at the Costco, and at the other stores at The Bridges.

The management of Costco have said this store is one of their best stores in Arizona and the nation. Costco has expanded their workforce at the Bridges to meet the growing need of customers at the store.

Costco showed the South side would support the store and that there was a market of consumers for businesses.



The success of Costco was the first major component of The Renaissance of Ward 5. This took a lot of work with the Council office, the neighborhoods, the developer Retail West and most importantly, the good citizens of Ward 5 and the South side, who showed Ward 5 and the South side was a viable market. Eighteen months of work prior which led to the dedication of Costco, the first store built at The Bridges.



This working relationship between the Pueblo Gardens, Western Hills II, South Park and Las Vistas Neighborhood Associations and the developers has received accolades, awards and still continues to this day.

I want to congratulate everyone for their work and the success they have created in the Ward to this day, which has led to the Renaissance of Ward 5. I want to thank Costco for taking the risk, during a recession, to open the store and for its success.

In future newsletter articles, I will go into the other successes. The Renaissance of Ward 5 started with the Costco and continues to this day.

Thank You.

Your Ward 5 Councilmember

U of A Tech Park at the Bridges: The Refinery at The Bridges project, funded by Boyer Development Group out of Salt Lake City, Utah, is currently on-schedule and on-budget. The core and shell is projected to be completed in Q3 of 2021. The core and shell consists of four levels, 30,000 square feet per level. At this time, 60,000 square feet has been pre-leased to various departments at the University of Arizona, including but not limited to the UA Tech Launch, UA Research Innovation and Impact, UA Media, UA Center for Innovation, and the UA Research Center.



New Safety Corridors: On Friday, April 2, I took part in the videotaping for the virtual ribbon cutting for the new safety corridors that had been installed at Valencia, Old Nogales Highway to Tucson Boulevard and Oracle, Drachman to Main.

I worked with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation to secure grant funds so the two safety corridors could be constructed and installed. Thanks to Diana Alarcon and Transportation, more grant funds were found for this project.

I want to thank Pascua Yaqui Tribal Chairman Peter Yucupicio and Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris for their support for this project which will save lives. I also want to thank Transportation Director Diana Alarcon and her staff for their work on these two corridors.



City of Tucson Election Update: On Wednesday, April 14, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that the City of Tucson can continue to hold its elections in odd-numbered years. The high court's 5-1 ruling settles a legal battle between the City and the Arizona Legislature, which tried to force Tucson to hold its elections in even-numbered years.

I want to congratulate our City Attorney, Mike Rankin and his legal team for their victory, their 20th, in the battle with the Arizona Legislature on how the City of Tucson conducts their elections and when. Also, the State of Arizona had to pay the City of Tucson for their legal costs for this latest case.

On November 1, 1960, the good citizens of the City of Tucson, voted to change the charter to have our current election system and thanks to our legal counsel, the will of the voters will continue to be adhered to.

Thank You Sharon and Maria: On Thursday, April 8, I had the privilege of presenting a Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation, and Ward 5 First Responder Coin and Ward 5 Medallion of Hope, to Sharon Dipasupil, the former Regional Health Center Director for El Rio for her work in our community.



Sharon has taken a new position, director of nursing for Circle of the City, Phoenix's Respite and Health Center. Congratulations Sharon on your new position and your knowledge and expertise will be missed.

On the same day, I also had the privilege of receiving from Maria Vianey Cardenas from the U.S. Census, a Certificate of Appreciation, for Ward 5's efforts on the Census and to get Ward 5 and the South side fully counted for the 2020 Census.



Congratulations Maria and thank you for your efforts to get everyone counted.



Abe Marques: On Saturday, April 24, friends and family gathered to honor and remember Abe Marques, former Ward 5 Aide from 1989-2010, who had passed away.

Abe gave his heart and soul to his work and the people of Ward 5, touching many lives. I had a pomegranate tree planted in the Ward 5 courtyard in remembrance, which is with the other trees planted in honor of those who served as Ward 5 Councilmember.



There are special people who come into our lives who never leave us even after they are gone. Abe Marques did a lot for Ward 5 and his work and legacy lives on. His knowledge and expertise and leadership is missed. We miss you Abe.



Velocity: On Tuesday, April 27, the City Manager Michael Ortega, joined me in a tour of Velocity Truck Center located in Ward 5. Manisha Bewtra from the Mayor's office as well as representatives from TPD and TFD were present for the tour and to learn about Velocity's work on electric vehicles for fire, environmental services and public safety. I want to thank all the leadership team at Velocity for arranging the tour and look forward to working with them in the future.

Congrats Lady Wildcats!: On Monday, April 5, our community came out to celebrate the success of our University of Arizona Lady Wildcats Basketball Team at the NCAA Tournament. I want to thank the University of Arizona for the invitation to take part in the event.



I was joined with Mayor Regina Romero, Councilmembers Lane Santa Cruz and Paul Cunningham to celebrate this great moment for our U of A women's basketball team.

Congratulations to Coach Adia Barnes and the young ladies on the team. They played hard and showed the world the potential of the Lady Wildcats basketball program, who have won the WNIT and made it to the NCAA Championship game. They are not done and they will get a national title.



Sonoran Desert Rain Memorial: Tuesday, April 27, was the second annual Tucson Parks and Recreation Sonoran Desert Rain Memorial, where trees and plants were planted in memory of loved ones lost.

I attended with my Chief of Staff, Mark Kerr and planted three plants, one for my brother, Steven Fimbres, who recently passed away, Mark Kerr's late father, Clark Kerr and Yolanda Coronado, Mary Kuchar's mother who passed away.

Thank you Lara Hamwey, Parks and Rec Director for holding the event, as well as the staff who took part and the good citizens of Tucson who took part in this great event.

Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Dedication: On Monday, May 3, at 10 am, at the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center, 1575 East 36th Street, the dedication of the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Project will take place.

This is the first, voter approved Memorial honoring African-Americans, who served in the U.S. Army from 1866-1948.



The event will be also broadcast live virtually at <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonParksandRecreation>.

TRAIN DAY

At the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum



Saturday, May 8 • 10am-4pm
FREE Family Fun!

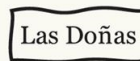
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FEATURING

- # Tucson Garden Railway Societies
- # The Gadsden-Pacific Toy Train
- # Operation Lifesaver
- # Woodworking demonstration by Porky Lewis
- # Children's Activities

- # Visits to the Locomotive #1673
- # Ace Hardware at 22nd St.
- # T-shirts, books and toy trains for sale
- # Raffle tickets from Jim Click Millions for Tucson



Ready Set Rec for May: Tucson Parks and Recreation's Ready, Set, Rec! program is bringing a van to a park near you. Each of the six vans has standard play equipment, such as giant yard games, board games, cards, walking sticks, and hula hoops. Other modules that you could see at the program include, but are not limited to, arts and crafts,

STEM activities, sports, container gardening, fishing, Lotería, and more. Each van will visit at least three parks per week.



Ready, Set, REC! Find the Ward 5 van near you!

May 4, 3-5 p.m. - Swan Park	May 17, 10 a.m.-Noon - Silverlake
May 5, 3-5 p.m. - Santa Rosa	May 18, 3-5 p.m. - Swan Park
May 6, 3-5 p.m. - Bristol	May 19, 3-5 p.m. - San Antonio Park
May 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Silverlake	May 20, 3-5 p.m. - Manuel Herrera
May 11, 3-5 p.m. - Manuel Herrera	May 25, 3-5 p.m. - Santa Rosa
May 12, 3-5 p.m. - Cherry	May 26, 3-5 p.m. - Bristol
May 13, 3-5 p.m. - Ochoa	May 27, 3-5 p.m. - Bravo
May 15, 12 - 2 p.m. - Rudy Garcia	

Tucson Parks and Recreation
A Nationally Accredited Agency

City Offers COVID-19 Vaccines at El Pueblo Recreation Center: The City of Tucson, in partnership with the Pima County Health Department, has opened a walk-in COVID-19 vaccine distribution site at the El Pueblo Recreation Center, 101 W. Irvington Road, Bldg. 9.

Vaccines are available every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evening from 4 – 8 p.m. for those 18 and up. Participants do not need to register in advance and Spanish speaking staff is always available. The Tucson Mayor and City Council are encouraging everyone in our community to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccines are a safe and effective way to end the pandemic.



Sunnyside High School Celebrates 100th Birthday!: On Thursday, April 29, Sunnyside High School celebrated its 100th year of education students in the Sunnyside School District, Ward 5, Tucson and Pima County. Congratulations to the Sunnyside High School staff, teachers and students, as well as the Sunnyside School District for their work keeping one of Tucson's longest serving high schools operating. Special congratulations to Sunnyside Superintendent, Steve Holmes as well as the Sunnyside School Board, Board President Beki Quintero, Board Clerk Consuelo Hernandez and Board Members, Eva Carrillo Dong, Lisette Nunez and Matthew Taylor for their work on Sunnyside High and for the other schools in the district.

Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

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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

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.