

Good Morning Ward 1 Neighbors and Friends,

Best wishes to you for the New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and got to spend time with family and friends! I wanted to write you today to update you on the Pima County Bond Advisory Committee process regarding South 12th Avenue, and to invite you to join [Beyond](#) for “Buffelgrass and Burritos” to help protect our Sonoran Desert from this hazardous weed and to commemorate the anniversary of January 8th. You can read more about these two upcoming events below.

Pima County Bond Advisory Committee Meeting

When: Friday, January 9th

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Where: [Riverpark Inn at 350 S. Freeway](#)

The **Pima County Bound Advisory Committee** (PCBAC) will gather to consider different projects for a proposed 2015 bond initiative. One project close to my heart is the **South 12th Avenue Cultural and Culinary Corridor**. The PCBAC tentatively approved funding for the project in May, 2014.

Ward 1 has been working diligently to secure funds for this project including \$71,000 from the Tohono O’Odham Nation and \$35,000 in Litter Fee funds from the City of Tucson. Although this seems like a lot of money, it will not go far enough to realize our community vision for a vibrant South 12th Ave. We need your help! The Pima County Administrator has repeatedly opposed this project, but Mr. Huckleberry and I disagree on this one. I believe that the south side deserves equitable investment. I believe in investing in South 12th Ave., not only because I know this area can be an important economic development engine for Tucson’s south side, but also because it is an important cultural and small business district of our City.

As I have explained in the past, bonding is one of the most critical ways that local governments fund important infrastructure projects, like affordable housing programs, neighborhood reinvestment programs, community facilities, and more. The project list under consideration now has been developed over nearly a decade, and the committee is tasked with whittling down millions of dollars’ worth of very worthy projects to refer a well-rounded package to Pima County voters next year.

I have been advocating for several projects being reviewed in Ward 1, and I hope you will consider doing the same. There are so many great projects to be considered – you can see the full list of materials for Friday’s meeting here:

<http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=7625>

BEYOND- Buffelgrass and Burritos

When: 8 a.m. January 10th, 2015

Where: Top of "A" Mountain/Sentinel Peak

Who: For more information, go to: <http://www.beyond-tucson.org/event/buffelgrass-burritos/> or contact Steve Arnquist at 837-4263 steve.arnquist@tucsonaz.gov

January 8th, 2011 was a terrible day for all of us, Tucson lost 6 dear friends and it scarred us forever, but we also found the untapped resilience of our community. BEYOND is an annual community-wide event that celebrates that resilience and commemorates the anniversary of January 8. The event is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our community and encourages Arizonans to come together, get outside and be physically active.

What better way to be active than pulling buffelgrass, protecting bio-diversity and reducing fire danger?

This year Ward 1 is joining with The Buffelgrass Coordination Center, Tucson Clean and Beautiful and Carrington College to host Buffelgrass and Burritos, a community work day that will beautify "A" Mountain/Sentinel Peak while pushing back against the ever-encroaching tide of buffelgrass invasion.

Join us at the top of Sentinel Peak for an honest (half) day's work, good company and breakfast burritos. Bring a refillable water bottle and your two strong hands and we will provide gloves, bags, tools, burritos, water and moral support!

For more information about the dangers of buffelgrass, visit www.buffelgrass.org