



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

January 16, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * Martin Luther King Jr. March: Santa Rita Park, Monday, January 19, 9 am
- * Ft Lowell Shootout: Opening Ceremony and Parade of Teams, Ft. Lowell Park, Friday, January 16, 6 pm

There were ceremonies around town last week to commemorate those that were taken in the shootings on January 8, 2011. It's a good time to think about how we as a community handle the mentally ill: how do we make sure we can get them help and how we can let them know that help exists.

After the shooting, both the Pima County Sheriff's Department and Tucson Police Department each took a look at how they could respond to incidents involving the mentally ill.

TPD set up the Mental Health Support Team, which consists of a captain, detective, sergeant and two officers. The unit has existed for a little more than a year, and my staff got

to hear a presentation on it at a meeting of neighbors and the command staff for Operations Division East.

Sergeant Jason Winsky gave the presentation, and he noted that the personnel in the unit not only received specialized training, but that they were also chosen for their years on the street.

Before the unit was set up, Sgt. Winsky noted, the only response available to police was transporting a mentally ill individual to jail. It wasn't the best way to get them treatment.

The team has a broader range of responses, including taking individuals to the Pima County Crisis Response Center that was recently completed at the Kino

Medical Campus. Now, people who are not an immediate danger to people around them are having help offered to them.

Sgt. Winsky stated that since his time on the team, they have been involved in 300 contacts and not one has resulted in the use of force. That's a credit to them and they ought to be commended for it.

There has also been increased cooperation between TPD and our local behavioral health agencies. As someone who has worked as a probation officer and in social services, I can tell you that hasn't always been easy.

Sgt. Winsky pointed out that other law enforcement agencies in our region have been

PAUL'S NOTE CONTINUED

looking at setting up their own units. There is also a long term goal of having one fifth of any given shift trained in mental health response.

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At the meeting, TPD also presented some statistics about crime on the Eastside. Captain Chad Kasmar will be sending me the complete numbers and I'll will give them to you in a future newsletter.

The meeting, called the Division Advisory Committee, happens every three months and includes members of the command staff for Operations Division East, neighborhood leaders and business people in our area. If you'd like to get an invitation, contact the Ward 2 office and we'll see to it that you are on the list.

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Tonight is the beginning of the Fort Lowell Shootout. It's gone from humble beginnings when it was started by Bill Viner and Ruben Hernandez 25 years ago, to a tournament with over 5000 youth players that brings \$3.5 million to the local economy. Check out a game this weekend. Their website is <http://www.fortlowellshootout.com>.

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Thursday was his birthday, but Monday we will be celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was far too much trouble to get this holiday celebrated in our state, but only a fraction of what Dr. King and his movement went through to make our country recognize the dignity of all of its citizens.

In the past, marchers have gone from the U of A mall to Reid Park. This year, the march will start at Santa Rita Park (401 E 22nd Street) at 9 am, and the march will go to Armory Park (221 S 6th Ave). There will be a community celebration there that will run until 3 pm.

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A big thank you to Carlos Amparano, who retired after decades of service for the city. He was responsible for the care and feeding of us council members during meetings and delivered our agenda books. Thank you for the friendship and hard work, boss.

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On a personal note, I'm getting married this weekend. I'm incredibly lucky to have found Alisa again after all these years and I'm blessed to be able to spend my life with her. Thank you for all of your good wishes.

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TREE RECYCLING

For many the holiday cleanup is underway. Recycle your Christmas tree and greenery at the Fairfax Companies' recycling facilities.

Residents who drop off a tree and greenery at the Ina Road Land Reclamation & Compost Facility or the Speedway Recycling & Landfill Facility (7301 E Speedway, near the Ward 2 office) through January 31st will receive a free bag of Tank's Organic Compost. Remember to remove all décor such as lights, tinsel, ornaments, etc. The trees will be ground, chipped, and made into Tank's Organic Compost.

All cardboard and commingled products (plastics #1-7, aluminum and steel cans) can also be recycled at both locations. The locations will also accept electronics and light strands separately (no TVs). The Fairfax Companies' owner, Jason Tankersley, encourages citizens to "start a new family tradition by taking simple steps that lessen our environmental footprint during the holiday season and throughout the New Year."

DUETS AND DINNER

Save the Date for the Tucson Girls Chorus Duets and Dinner.

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Festivities begin at 5 pm

Tucson Jewish Community Center

3800 E River Road, Tucson, AZ

\$100 per person, \$1000 per table of ten

For sponsorship opportunities, call 520 577 6064.

For more information, email info@tucsongirlschorus.org or go to www.tucsongirlschorus.org

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

San Xavier Trip: A field trip is scheduled to the San Xavier del Bac Mission on Thursday, January 22. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Departure from the center is 9:15 a.m. and return is 2:30 p.m.

Bingo Bash: The Carol West Senior Addition is hosting a Bingo Bash event on Thursday, January 29 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person. The event will include great prizes, refreshments, snacks and lots of fun. The event is sponsored by Handmaker.

Contact the Carol West Senior Additional at 791-4121 for questions on the events mentioned above.

PARKS PROGRAMS

Spring 2015 Leisure Classes: The Spring classes run January 4, 2015 through May 9, 2015. The deadline to register was Tuesday, December 23rd. Watch for the Summer 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog to be available on Monday, April 20, 2015; It will be available for free pick-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities and it can be viewed on-line at www.ezeereg.com Contact the Registration Office at 791-4877 for additional information.

Senior Olympic Festival: The 31st Annual Senior Olympic Festival will be held Monday, January 12 through Sunday, February 1, 2015. The festival is a celebration to promote fitness, health and an active life-style among adults 50+. The program features nearly 100 events and activities at more than 20 venues throughout the City of Tucson. Registration is on-line or by phone through December 31 at www.ezeereg.com or 573-3933. For more information, contact Mike Davis at 791-3244 or log onto www.tucsongames.org

Ft. Lowell Shootout: The Annual Ft. Lowell Shootout will take place on January 16 through 18, 2015. It will be the 25th year! The 3-day event will take place in parks throughout the City. The opening ceremonies, Soccer Olympics, and Parade of Athletes will take place on Friday evening of January 16. Come out to the park and support the players!

La Reunion del Fuerte: The 34th Fort Lowell Day Celebration, La Reunion de el Fuerte will be held at the Ft. Lowell Park (2900 N. Craycroft Rd) on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Activities will include calvary drills, tour of the Ft. Lowell and its new exhibit, military band music, 1800's vintage baseball game, and adobe brick making. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.oldfortlowellneighborhood.org/OFLDayCelebration2015.htm>

Facility Closures: All Tucson Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2015 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Jesse Owens Farmers Market: Farmers Market is no longer taking place at the Jesse Owens Park (Broadway and Sarnoff). The venue has changed to the Trail Dust Town, 6541 East Tanque Verde Road #22, Tucson, AZ 85715, (520) 296-4551 traildusttown.com

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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Due to the Martin Luther King Holiday, the next Mayor and Council meeting will not be on a Tuesday. The meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

