



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

January 23, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * Beat Back Buffelgrass this weekend!
www.buffelgrass.org
- * February 16— Presidents' Day

In my day job, I teach physical education. In today's newsletter, I will give you a lesson in biology.

Some of you may have heard of buffelgrass, but you may not understand why it is such a threat to our local ecosystem and life in general here in Southern Arizona.

Buffelgrass, which is native to Africa, was first introduced to our area in the 1930's. It seemed useful at the time. It's a quick growing plant that can be used for both erosion control and forage for cattle. Apparently, it's good forage. Kevin Dahl, who gave me some information about buffelgrass for this note, says his dog likes to eat it. Despite that, it didn't really take here for decades, but by the 1990's, local botanists could see that it was starting to be

a big problem.

It isn't just a problem in our rural areas. In fact, runoff from roads and parking lots can promote its growth. I've gotten calls about buffelgrass on empty lots and abandoned properties here in Ward 2.

Like I said, it is quick growing. That means that it starves local plants, such as our iconic cacti and mesquite, of water. This can be seen most starkly on the west side of town, where Tumamoc Hill has been invaded by buffelgrass and local species are dying.

The way it changes the landscape creates another potential problem: fire. Most of our desert species grow in a sparse pattern, making our Sonoran Desert fire resistant. Buffelgrass, on the other hand, grows densely,

making the landscape what environmental experts call fire determined. This means that this is not just a problem for our plants and animals, but for our homes as well. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that buffelgrass burns hotter than many plants and will even burn when it is even in peak growing season.

It burns hotter, meaning that a buffelgrass brushfire will kill most of our local Sonoran Desert plants, which did not evolve to be fire resistant. So, we have our dead local plants and buffelgrass, which can sprout from its root to reproduce. Guess what is the only thing that will grow after a fire?

And if that wasn't enough, after a decade of buffelgrass growing in a particular area, it depletes the nutrients in

PAUL'S NOTE CONTINUED

the soil and leaves it unable to sustain other plant life.

There are ways to combat this, but because buffelgrass will even grow when all that is left is a stub in the ground, the best way to get rid of it is for someone to pull it out by the root. This requires people and lots of them. This weekend, the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center is staging Beat Back Buffelgrass. At 20 sites throughout the county, volunteers will be pulling up this dangerous weed and helping keep our desert beautiful. The U of A softball team will be helping out at A Mountain, and my constituent B. J. Cordova will be leading a crew out on East Broadway. For more information, check out www.buffelgrass.org.

I'd like to wish a happy birthday to World War II-era Marine Corps veteran, political prankster and local character Dick Tuck. Happy 91st friend, and Mazel Tov.

BEAT BACK BUFFELGRASS— NORTHEAST SIDE LOCATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all of these are on Saturday, January 24th at 8 am. Go to buffelgrass.org for more information.

Boy Scouts—Sabino Canyon and Snyder Road: Take Sabino Canyon Road North from the intersection with Tanque Verde. Stay on Sabino Canyon Rd (on the right) when it separates from Kolb. Look for a stop light at Snyder Road. With a Walgreens on your left and a Circle K on your right.

East Broadway and Henry Neighbors: Meet at 8:30. Approximately 9001 E Broadway Blvd. - Meet on the North side of Broadway Blvd at Gollob Rd. (1/2 mile East of Camino Seco)

North East Tucson Pima County ROW/NE Tucson Weedbusters: Coming from the WEST: Take Craycroft Rd heading North, turn Right onto E River Rd, turn Left onto N Tanuri Dr, stay on Tanuri by keeping Left, take the 1st Left onto N Calle Vista Ciudad, turn Right into N Wilmot Dr, N Wilmot Dr turns into E Avenida Arriba. You can park by the Right shoulder. Coming from the EAST: Take River rd heading west, turn Right into N Tanuri Dr, stay on Tanuri by keeping Left, take the 1st Left onto N Calle Vista Ciudad, turn Right into N Wilmot Dr, N Wilmot Dr turns into E Avenida Arriba. You can park by the Right shoulder.

Quail Canyon Homeowners Association: SouthEast corner of the Basha's parking lot, located at Kolb and Sunrise.

FT. LOWELL—REUNIÓN 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>

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 Field 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 lifestyle 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

La Reunión del Fuerte: See page 2 for details.

Summer 2015 Lifeguard Recruitment: The Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting lifeguards for Summer 2015. On-line applications and recruitment process are available at www.tucsonaz.gov Click on JOBS. Applicants must be at least 15 year old at time of hire, Experienced swimmer and available to work required hours/locations, American Red Cross certification in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, American Red Cross certification in First Aid Basics, and American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification. For questions or assistance for completing any of the above mentioned lifeguard certification requirements, contact 791-4245.

Junior Staff in Training Program: The Junior Staff in Training program provides teens with an experience aimed at improving leadership skills and preparing teens ages 14-17 for possible future employment in the field of recreation.

Program requirements include a mandatory interview (takes place the week of March 16-20, 2015). Call Mike Davis at 837-8137 to schedule the interview by March 11, 2015, paying a registration cost (\$70 City Residents/\$889 Non-city Residents), and attending orientation prior to start of program

Facility Closures: All Tucson Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of Presidents Day.

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Tucsonaz.gov/
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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

The next Mayor and Council meeting will not be on a Tuesday. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 4. 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>

