

Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

F E B R U A R Y 1 , 2 0 1 3

UPCOMING DATES:

- Thru February 23:
Tucson SoccerFest
- February 9—
Reunion de el Fuerte
- February 16-24—
Fiesta de los Vaqueros

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PAUL'S NOTE

The website Wall Street 24/7 rated Tucson the 20th worst run city in the United States. It doesn't make me too happy to see that because there are so many indicators that are good for our city.

I've attended eleven ribbon cuttings here in Ward 2, those are businesses employing people contributing to our local economy. Our local unemployment rate is still not fantastic by any means (7.4%), but has been going down consistently since it hit a high of 11.2% in January of 2010.

Also, there are plenty of lists we have made lately that we can be proud of. Yahoo! rated Tucson among its underrated cities (on a list that included cities in far flung places like Japan and Slovakia). Forbes Magazine rated Tucson #19 on its most innovative cities list, a list that included tech centers like San Francisco and Portland. US News & World Report put Tucson on its list of the most creative cities, giving the Old Pueblo credit for "its abundance of arts, culture, and entertainment, the city has become an increasingly popular place to live."

Add to that our continuing status as a top 10 bicycle friendly city and our environment that put us on National Geographic's list of "adventure towns."

I'm not going to pretend that we have nothing to improve; there are always things to improve. I'd just like us to keep in mind what we are doing right too.

The past couple of weeks have been eventful for my council colleagues, even though we have not had a meeting since the middle of last month. I have gotten many e-mails from the public about the issue of guns from thoughtful citizens on all sides of the issue.

I've been wrestling with the issue myself. I've been trained to use firearms as a member of our armed forces, and I've dealt with the consequences of the guns falling into the wrong hands when I was in law enforcement. I think there are some things that we need to discuss, and I applaud my fellow council members for opening that discussion.

Along those lines, I spoke with Representative Bruce Wheeler, a Democrat that used to serve on the council, and his colleague Ethan Orr, a Republican, about a law that would allow the police to do a blood alcohol test in those cases where a person involved in a firearms incident is suspected of being drunk. Rep. Wheeler has informed me that the draft language is ready to go, although the bill has not been assigned a number.

The law is in memory of Genna Ayup, who was tragically struck down by a gun owned by her



**PAUL'S NOTE
(CONTINUED)**

boyfriend. I hope that this basic issue of firearms safety and responsibility can become law.

This Tuesday, we have a full study session discussing road repair, master planning for the Ronstadt Center, the aforementioned firearm issue and an executive session that could have a profound effect on Tucson's water policy.

I will report in greater detail of the council's decisions in the next newsletter. Have a great weekend.

**CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON
PUBLIC SERVICE AND
COMPENSATION**

The 2013 City of Tucson's Citizens' Commission on Public Service and Compensation held its first meeting on January 17 with all seven commissioners attending. The commission completed its agenda and elected its officers. The Commission voted to hold its meetings on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Public involvement with the Commission is encouraged and welcomed by either sending emails to the Commission at cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov and/or attending subsequent Commission meetings, which are held in the Mayor and Council Conference Room, 255 W. Alameda Street..

Written public input to the Commission should be submitted by February 15, 2013. This year's Commission will be holding weekly meetings through March 15, 2013. For more information, visit the City's website about the Commission's

SHRED-A-THON

2013 will mark the 6th year the Pima County Sheriff's Department has provided this valuable service free-of-charge to the community. All confirmed event dates are on Saturdays, and all shredding events will run from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- February 9 at Pantano Christian Church- 1755 S. Houghton Road
- April 6 at Casas Church- 10801 N. La Canada Blvd.
- September 14 at Kino Sports

Complex- 2500 E. Ajo Way

- November 16 at Empire High School- 10701 E. Maryann Cleveland Way

DISPOSE-A-MED

The Pima County Sheriff's Department will be hosting Dispose-A-Med events intermittently throughout the year. These events are offered free of charge thanks to a grant provided by the Department of Justice.

Tablets, capsules, liquids, and creams will be collected. Metal or glass inhalation aerosol bottles, syringes, and epi-pens will not be accepted. For safety and confidentiality reasons, any items turned over for collection cannot be returned. We do not accept drugs from commercial organizations. For information about the disposal of needles and syringes, please visit the Pima County Health Department (<http://www.pimahealth.org/news/needle.asp>) website.

Our total collected weight for 2012 was 1553 pounds! 2012 was a very successful year and we wish to thank all those who participated in getting these unused or expired drugs off the street.

- April 27, 2013, 10am - 2pm, 4040 N. Oracle Road, (in front of Target)
- May 4, 2013, 8am - 12pm, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd., (in front of the Ward 2 office)

Note: Do not bring medicines or other medical waste to either location until the date.

proceedings and updates on the agenda and decisions at: <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards?board=76>

For more information or questions on ADA accommodations and accessibility for these meetings, call Yolanda Lozano, City Clerk's Office, at 791-4213.

UDALL PARK

Seniors will have an opportunity to participate in a field trip to the Tubac Festival of Arts on Thursday, February 7, 2013. The cost is \$3.00 per person. Lunch is not provided. Departure from the center is at 9 a.m. and return to the center is 2:15 p.m. Space is limited and sign up at the front desk, 791-4121.

A square dancing program will be offered at the Udall Senior Addition on February 13, 20 and 27 from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.00 per class. For more information contact the Carol West Senior Addition at 791-4121.

AARP will be offering tax assistance at Udall Center on Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning February 4-April 15 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. First come, first serve basis. Contact 571-9884 for more

information.

The Carol West Senior Addition will host a "Sweetheart Ballroom Dance" on Tuesday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.00.

A Rodeo Luncheon will take place on Thursday, February 14 at 1:00 p.m., and in the multipurpose room of Udall Center. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The event will include live entertainment, food sponsored by Atria, drinks and dancing. Sign up at the center.

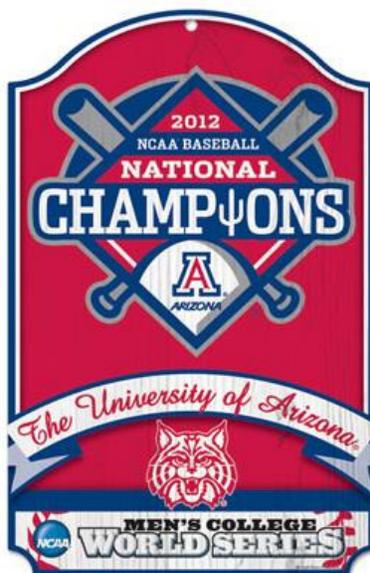
FACILITY CLOSURES

In observance of Presidents Day, all City Parks and Recreation facilities to include Recreation Centers and Administration Offices will be closed on Monday, February 18.



WILDCAT BASEBALL

The University of Arizona Baseball will have their opening day at Hi Corbett on Friday, February 15 at 6 p.m. They play against Coppin State. They also play against Coppin State on Saturday, February 16 at 2 pm and on Sunday, February 17 at noon.



LA REUNION DEL FUERTE

The 32nd Annual Fort Lowell Day Celebration, La Reunion de el Fuerte will be held on February 9, 2013 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Ft. Lowell Park. The event will include historic sites walking tours, cavalry drills, music, and youth activities. The event is sponsored by the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association, Inc., and the event is open to the public. Free admission. The park is located at 2900 N. Craycroft Rd. For more information contact 318-0219.

TUCSON SOCCER FEST

Until February 23rd, Tucson will be treated to high level soccer. The games will be at Kino Stadium, as well as the newly improved Kino Sports Complex. Contact FC Tucson for ticket information at 334-1115 or visit <https://fctucson.ticketsocket.com/>

February 5
Seattle Sounders FC v Portland Timbers FC, 11 am

February 8
FC Tucson v Portland Timbers, 11 am

Desert Diamond Cup
All games at Kino Stadium

February 13
New England Revolution v Seattle Sounders FC, 5 pm

New York Red Bulls v Real Salt Lake, 7 pm

February 16
Seattle Sounders FC v Real Salt Lake, 5 pm

New York Red Bulls v New England Revolution, 7 pm

February 20
Real Salt Lake v New England Revolution, 5 pm

New York Red Bulls v Seattle Sounders FC, 7 pm

February 23
Consolation match, 4 pm
Championship match, 6 pm

KOMEN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

One in eight women reading this will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

These are your friends, your neighbors, your relatives, the people you brush up against at the grocery store or the car wash.

The mission of Komen Southern Arizona is to spread the word that early detection of breast cancer saves lives.

By taking part in the Race for the Cure on March 17, you'll be saving lives too. The money we raise on Race Day is turned into grants to diagnose, treat and educate women and men. And for every dollar raised, 75 cents net stays right here in our community. So join us on March 17 for our Race for the Cure, for the first time on the UA campus.

This year's Race for the Cure will be extra special. It's the 15th anniversary race, and Olympic silver medalist and UA undergrad Brigetta Barrett heads up the event as Honorary Race Chair. Brigetta's mother is a breast cancer survivor.

The 15th anniversary Southern Arizona Race for the Cure will take place on Sunday, March 17th, 2013 at the University of Arizona campus.

Register online at www.komensaz.org, or paper registration forms mailed by request. For more info call 520 319 0155.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on February 5. 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>.



We're on the web!
Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2

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**Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2
Newsletter**

Please bring these items to the Ward
2 Office for the following charities:
THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perish-
able Items
DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers
SAAF—Personal Hygiene Products and Per-
sonal Care Products
TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need
ICU—Eye Glasses
DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—
Ballet/Dance Equipment