



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

February 6, 2015

**WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE**  
**7575 E SPEEDWAY**  
**791-4687**  
**WARD2@TUCSONAZ.GOV**

## PAUL'S NOTE

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- \* Transportation 101: The Ward 2 office will host a public forum on transportation issues on March 11, 5:30—7:00. More details soon

One of the longer items at this week's council meeting was a presentation on public service pensions. There are currently over 1,800 police officers (active and retired) in the program, and over 1,100 fire fighters (active and retired).

What a lot of people don't realize is that public service pensions are actually administered by the State of Arizona. The City of Tucson has participated in the state program, called PSPRS, since 1978.

The thrust of the presentation was unfunded liabilities in the program and the impact of some recent court cases and legislation.

Back in 2011, the leg-

islature passed a bill that would have restructured pensions, particularly for newer people in the system, to help keep PSPRS solvent. The law was challenged and overturned by a state court. PSPRS has reduced the amount that it will pay out of its own investment revenue. This left cities, like Tucson, having to make up the difference out of their general funds. You may have read that in Tucson's case, it will be \$17.9 million.

There aren't a whole lot of options, and I'm worried about the long term future of PSPRS and what happens should it fail. I asked the City Attorney if Tucson could opt out of

PSPRS. He is unsure but will check. There are options presented by the League of Cities and Towns such as paying into PSPRS earlier so that investments have more time to accrue interest. Longer term solutions, such as smaller pensions for future hires, are something I believe we can work out through negotiations with our unions. They want this to work too.

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My colleagues and I also entered into an agreement with Santé Partners. They are planning a facility for long term and post-acute care for senior citizens near Wilmot and Tanque Verde.

## PAUL'S NOTE CONTINUED

The city agreed that they are eligible for the Primary Jobs Incentive, economic inducements we implemented a few years ago. The incentives are given if a company promises \$5 million of investment in the facility, 25 non-retail jobs and to cover 75% of their employee health care costs. Santé passed those requirements and then some. Their capital investment is going to be \$25 million and they will hire 136 employees with an average wage of \$39,000. Thirty of the jobs will pay over \$52,000.

Also important is what their facility will mean for the community. We have families whose elderly relatives have to go to facilities in Phoenix and Mesa, now we will have one here, close to home.

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I'll have more details soon, but I've been working on what I'm calling the Star Card. The card would be a pass that high school students could use over the summer for riding the bus, use of parks and recreation facilities.

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It's warm again. Have a great weekend.

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## 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>

## VALENTINE'S DAY LANDFILL TOUR

The City of Tucson Environmental Services Department (ES) is offering a tour of the Los Reales Landfill and the ReCommunity, Inc. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Participants will be provided the opportunity to get an exclusive 'behind the scenes' view and learn how ES operates the landfill. Tour participants will also gain an in-depth understanding of how recyclables collected in the blue barrels are sorted and marketed.

Tour participants will meet in the upper level parking lot at 4004 S. Park Avenue on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The tour will be complete by 12:15 p.m. Those who join the tour should wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, hats and sunscreen. Drinking water will be provided. A minimum of 15 participants is needed.

The tour is available on a first come basis. If you don't have any plans, take yourself out for a treat this year by doing something completely different! If you're spending this Valentine's with someone, show your love by booking your honey and yourself for a tour of the landfill. To reserve a seat, call ES at 791-3175 by Tuesday, February 12, 2015.

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## HOUGHTON ROAD UPDATE

**Broadway Intersection Improvements:** Project is complete.

**Broadway Intersection Park & Ride:** We have had a few setbacks on this project, but we are continuing to make progress.

The rains (and snow) we have experienced since the new year have held up our paving. Initially we were waiting for the fill material to dry out, and had to re-work some of it to facilitate the drying. Then just as we got it where we wanted it, it rained again, and then again. Finally, we are scheduled to pave this Saturday, Monday and Tuesday with the weather forecast in full cooperation.

We are wrapping up the last of the sidewalk work and landscaping. We did have to get some unexpected sign code permitting approvals on the monument signs for the Park and Ride entrance, but those permits are well on their way to final approvals.

We are still trying to get the prefab Sun Tran bus driver office/restroom building ordered. There were some additional unexpected permitting issues here as well, but those have been ironed out, and now we are just waiting for the final building drawing adjustments from the contractor so we can order it. There is a long lead time for this item, so there may be a period of time where there might not be any activity on the site, but we want to assure you it will all come together.

**Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street:** We were hoping to have this project in full swing by now. Unfortunately, some of the right of way acquisitions are taking longer than we anticipated. While we work on these last few right of way issues, we have been moving forward with the contract negotiations and procurement paperwork to get this project going. We are now looking to start work in March, but may have to adjust that depending on the acquisition and procurement process. We still plan to construct this project in 18 months or less.

The utilities have relocated and the only item left is the removal of a few of Tucson Electric Power's old poles. Some of these will be removed as soon as the power for our Houghton and 22nd Street intersection is switched over to our new location. This work is currently in progress.

**Art:** Our artists are working on their concept designs and we hope to hear from them soon as to when we can see what they are proposing. We will keep you posted on this.

**Street Lighting on Houghton:** We heard everyone's concerns at our open house covering lighting, and we have been doing a lot of research and adjusting our LED lighting accordingly. We are currently looking to reduce the 3500K LED lighting level to 3000K, and will have more information as we coordinate the implementation of our lighting policy.

We thank everyone that took the time to share their concerns covering lighting, and we want you to know we are listening and making some changes where we can.

*The Broadway Camino Seco to Houghton project has been moved up on the RTA schedule. We have sent out a request for qualifications. Design is starting up soon, and we anticipate construction starting in the summer of 2016.*

*New information on Broadway west of Houghton: We have received a lot of calls about the condition of the road in this area, and we are looking into getting some pavement preservation to help until we can construct the new project. Details will be forthcoming.*

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## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**Gem Show:** A trip to the Tucson Gem Show is scheduled on Friday, February 13, 2015. Departure from the center is 9:15 a.m. and returning to the center is at 2:00 p.m. The admission cost is \$8.00 per person. Space is limited. Food vendors will be available at the show.

**Rodeo:** The Carol West Senior Addition is hosting a Rodeo Luncheon with live entertainment on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

**Maintain Your Brain:** Seniors will have an opportunity to enjoy a free presentation, "Maintain Your Brain" on February 12, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. The presentation will be given by Scan Health.

*Sign ups for any of the activities mentioned above are made at the front desk of the Carol West Senior Addition. Contact 791-4121 for any questions.*

**AARP Free Tax Aide:** AARP will offer free tax help at the Udall Recreation Center, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd. from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. beginning February 2, 2015 through April 15, 2015.

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## 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](http://www.ezeereg.com) Contact the Registration Office at 791-4877 for additional information.

**La Reunion del Fuerte:** *See page 2*

**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](http://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.

**Tucson Parks and Recreation Spring 2015 Softball Leagues:** The Tucson Parks and Recreation Spring 2015 Softball League season begins March 23, 2015. Walk-in registration starts February 9, 2015 through March 6, 2015 at the Clements Recreation Center/Sports Unit, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive, 791-4870.

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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**

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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will not be on a Tuesday. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18. 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>

