



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

March 12, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

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This week, my colleagues and I got to evaluate two excellent candidates for city manager: Mike Ortega and Mary Jacobs.

Jacobs has been working in local government both in Arizona and in Massachusetts. While her most recent work is with the City of Sierra Vista, she also worked for the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

Mary has been called diligent and detailed. Her public interview showed her as someone who was more interested in resolving conflict than engaging in it. It will be a valuable skill for someone working in an organization as complex as Tucson city government is.

I also like that she has spent time in Tucson, getting both a BA and MPA from the University of Arizona. She al-

so attended the executive education program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. As a former juvenile probation officer, I'm also happy to note that her resume includes volunteer work with the juvenile program in Cochise County.

Ortega is an engineer that has been the administrator of Cochise County for seven years. He is an engineer by training, training he got, by the way, at the University of Arizona. In addition to his government work in both his native Douglas and Cochise County, he has experience in local government in our area. He worked for the Pima County Flood Control District from 1988-1993.

In addition to his schooling at both Cochise College (go

Apaches!) and the U of A, Ortega attended the executive management program at the Kennedy School at Harvard.

Ortega has also worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation, working as the chief engineer for our state's highway system and managing 2,100 employees.

Not everyone is happy with the process, I get that. There were a number of issues, including keeping the confidentiality of the applicants early in the process, that had to be balanced with keeping the public involved.

We started with over forty applicants that were culled, with the advice of a consultant, down to four. In the end, we had two. We evaluated the two nominees with consultation from our labor

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

council, department heads and a citizen's committee we appointed. Most importantly, we also put the two of them before the public on Tuesday night. Fifty people showed up to that two hour meeting.

I've also been hearing from members of the public since Richard Miranda announced his retirement. I took into consideration what all of you want to see in a city manager throughout this process.

I'd like to thank all of you that had a chance to attend our Transportation 101 forum on Tuesday night. We got officials from both the Pima Association of Governments and our city's Department of Transportation to make presentations, and they took your questions. Thank you to Jim Degrood from PAG and Sam Credio from TDOT for your excellent presentations. Also, a thank you to PAG's Sheila Storm and Britton Dornquast and TDOT's Michael Graham and Daryl Cole who were on hand to answer questions.

Some of you spoke to my staff about individual concerns. We'll try to run those down and get you some answers. Thank you for participating. Keep us informed when you see problems.



Two transportation department administrators that my office has been working with were honored by the American Public Works Association.



Donovan Durband, Park Tucson Administrator, received the 2015 Public Works Employee of the Year Award for his exceptional leadership, management skills and strategic innovations in TDOT's Park Tucson Division. Donovan has spearheaded the installation of modern parking garage management systems and payment equipment, as well as solar-powered smart meters in the downtown area and Fourth Avenue Business District.

Ann Chanecka, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, received the 2015 Professional Award of Merit for her tireless commitment to improving pedestrian and bicycling facilities and safety features within the City of Tucson. Ann has been instrumental in bringing innovative infrastructure improvements to promote biking and walking in the community. She has helped increase the number of Bicycle Boulevards in the City and has increased bicycle parking facilities and the number of HAWK crossings in the community.

Congratulations to both of you.

Have a good weekend. Go Cats!



CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Charter Review Committee has been meeting to make recommendations regarding possible changes to the City of Tucson Charter. The Committee is seeking input and recommendations from the citizens of Tucson regarding these changes to the Charter.

The committee will hold a hearing at the Morris K. Udall Regional Center (7200 E. Tanque Verde Road) on March 12 at 5 pm

The comment period for the Committee will end on March 20, 2015.

SAM HUGHES HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

The Sam Hughes Home and Neighborhood Tour will be on Sunday, April 12 from noon until 5pm.

This self-guided walking tour of the one square mile neighborhood bounded by Campbell Ave./Country Club Rd. and Speedway Blvd./Broadway consists of private residences and gardens as well as several venues that represent the diversity of this historically-designated midtown neighborhood.

Tickets remain \$20 and will be on sale day-of-the-tour in front of Rincon Market (2513 E. 6th St.) beginning at 10am. Pre-tour ticket purchase will be available (although unnecessary) at Arte de la Vida, (open M-Sat. 10-5; Su 12-4) 37 N. Tucson Blvd. beginning April 1. For more information, call 520-323-7891 or see samhughes.org.

INTERACTIVE TAX ASSISTANT

Find quick and reliable answers to your tax questions with the Interactive Tax Assistant on IRS.gov. The ITA takes you through a series of questions and provides you with the answers. There are three new topics for 2015:

- Am I eligible for the Premium Tax Credit?
- Am I required to make an Individual Shared Responsibility Payment?
- What is the due date of my federal tax return and am I eligible to file an extension?

Select a topic and answer the questions, and you'll get an immediate response to your specific tax issue. ITA is accurate, and you can print the answers for your records. You get the same information you would receive if you spoke to one of our representatives, but there's no waiting. Simply type Interactive Tax Assistant in the search box on IRS.gov for easy access to the answers you need.

There are various tax law categories within the ITA, including:

- General filing questions
- Deductions
- Credits
- Income

The ITA tool is available to all taxpayers, so if you have a tax-related question, go to the ITA today.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

AARP 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. on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning through April 15, 2015.



PARKS PROGRAMS

Spring 2015 Leisure Classes: The Spring classes run 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.

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

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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 be on Tuesday, March 17. 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>

