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WARD 2

March 20, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Walk to School Challenge	2
Pantano Pipeline Replacement	3
Parks Programs	4
Donations	5



I am one of many people who have been outraged by what our state's political leadership has been doing for the last few weeks.

Even so, we did have a bit of a victory this week. It will mean that Tucson can continue to have a sustainable environment into the future.

For years, Tucson has had, as part of its development code, a set of rules to protect native plants and encourage the planting of more of them. These exist so that our urban landscape fits in with our local environment. This isn't just about aesthetics, but the rules are also in place to protect our long term goals of water conservation.

Would our landscape rules make a lick of

sense in, say, Flagstaff or Pinetop? No. But that's part of the point: each of Arizona's communities establish these rules to deal with the unique challenges that nature has presented us with. Some local governments mandate certain rules because of brush or forest fire danger, others, like ours, enact them to make sure that our kids will have a stable water supply.

Unfortunately, there are some people in the legislature who, to use a worn out phrase, don't get it. SB 2570 would have put a state wide kibosh on any landscape rules, no matter what reasons a city has to enact them.

The good news is that last I checked, the bill may be going nowhere

despite high profile support both inside and outside of the legislature. One thing that helped a great deal is that a number of communities such as Scottsdale, Sierra Vista, Mesa and Goodyear came out against the bill. Also, when it was learned that codes that protect our iconic saguaro cactus would be affected, it spurred a great deal of opposition to it.

I'd like to thank Luke Knipe of our city's Intergovernmental Relations office for keeping us up to date on this bill and our lobbyists for keeping the pressure on. We don't have a lot of wins up on West Washington, but this is an important one.

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PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

My office gets calls all the time about road projects, either wondering about an ongoing one or wondering when there will finally be work on a particular area. Usually, I can chat with the Department of Transportation.

Once in a while, there is a project that isn't actually a city project. Such is the case with the work many of you have seen on North Pantano Road. You see white trucks and hard hats, but the work there is not city, instead it is Southwest Gas.

They are laying new transmission lines and abandoning, in other words digging out, the old lines. The work in each of the intersections (Speedway, 5th and Broadway) should take two weeks to complete, followed by testing the new lines.

Southwest Gas has set up a project hotline to answer public questions about the project. If you have concerns about the Pantano project or the other similar project on 22nd Street, call 547-5383.

WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bike and walk to school. By increasing walking and biking, SRTS programs can play a critical role in reversing the alarming nationwide trend toward childhood obesity and inactivity. SRTS programs also reduce traffic congestion and pollution around schools, improve safety in school zones, and provide families and friends an opportunity to share time with each other and build connections in their community.

Living Streets Alliance, in partnership with the City of Tucson, kicked off the Safe Routes to School Tucson Program in 2014 to bring back the "old school" way of getting to school, encouraging more children and families to walk and bike. LSA staff has been working closely with four pilot schools since the beginning of this school year (Blenman Elementary, Howell Elementary, Kellond Elementary, and Laguna Elementary), organizing fun and informative events for kids, such as bike repair clinics, family-friendly bike rides, and bike rodeos.

Registration is well underway for this spring's ApROLL Bike & Walk to School Challenge, which will take place from April 27 to May 1, 2015. This event is a great way for schools to promote health, safety, community, and the sense of joy and adventure that comes with walking and biking. SRTS supports all participating schools by providing promotional materials such as posters and parent flyers, and incentives such as stickers, frisbees, jump ropes, athletic balls, and more. Online registration for ApROLL is open until April 8 at: www.saferoutestucson.org

For more information, visit <http://www.livingstreetsalliance.org/>

SAM HUGHES HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

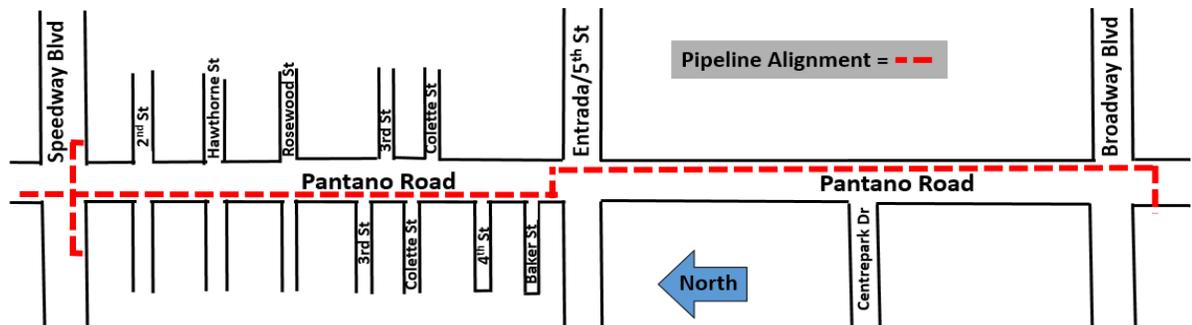
The Sam Hughes Home and Neighborhood Tour will be on Sunday, April 12 from noon until 5pm.

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.

PANTANO PIPELINE PROJECT

Pipeline installation continues in Pantano Road, from Broadway to Speedway Boulevard, with traffic restrictions in place to shift traffic away from



the work zone. A project press release was provided prior to start of construction; however, this update includes current project information. This project was originally slated for a later date, but was advanced to be conducted at this time to precede the City of Tucson Overlay Project for this area, scheduled to take place this Spring. Pipeline installation and connections are currently being conducted at the Speedway/Pantano intersection, with traffic shifted away from the work zone as necessary to complete these crossings. Once installation in the Speedway/Pantano intersection is completed, work will take place north of 5th Street and just south of the Broadway intersection to cross Pantano for pipeline connections. Pantano Road will not be closed during this work, but please expect varying traffic restrictions near these locations during these crossings. Each of these crossings will take approximately 1-2 weeks to complete.

Once pipeline installation and connections are completed, the pipeline will be tested so that it can be placed into service, after which abandonment of the existing pipeline will take place. Work is currently taking place Monday thru Friday, as well as weekend and night hours, to complete the project in the scheduled time. Please drive with caution through the work zone and obey traffic signage as it is placed for the safety of residents, businesses, travelers, and construction crews. Access to businesses and residences will be maintained. Thank you for your patience during this construction.

If you have any concerns or questions about the project, call the Southwest Gas Project Hotline, **520 547 5383**

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

St. Patrick's Luncheon: The Carol West Senior Addition will host a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on Thursday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Seniors will enjoy delicious food sponsored by Atria Senior Living and entertainment. Contact the Carol West Senior Addition for questions or more information, 791-4121

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.

Eggstravaganza: The annual community-wide EGGstravaganza event will be held at the Donna Liggins Recreation Center, 2160 N. 6th Ave on April 4, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The free event will attract more 2,000 people. Family fun activities will include games, inflatables, prizes, egg hunts, music and Easter Bunny. A variety of foods will be available for purchase from local vendors. Attached is a flyer with 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.

Recreation Worker (non-permanent intermittent) Sports Unit Recruitment: The Sport Unit is seeking individuals to work in its sports programs. This program implements track and field events, and provides score keepers for adult sport leagues. These positions will act as a scorekeeper and are responsible for set-up and breakdown of equipment used in league play. Maintains accurate and official score and time of assigned sports. Predominantly weekday evening hours, Monday through Friday. Applications accepted from March 3, 2015 through April 5, 2015. Apply on-line at www.tucsonaz.gov Click on JOBS. Contact Human Resources, 791-4241 for questions.

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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, April 7. 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>

