

# Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

A P R I L 5 , 2 0 1 3

## UPCOMING DATES:

- April 22: Earth Day  
(Be on the lookout  
for a free shredding  
event that day)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Business Roundtable	2
Parks Update	3
Shred-a-thon	4
Ray Davies Awards	4
Mayor and Council	4

## PAUL'S NOTE

We are still working on that \$15 million gap you've all been reading about. It's not as spectacular as what we see in Washington, and a heck of a lot more solvable because my colleagues and I actually know how to talk to each other about such things.

Still, I had some strenuous disagreements over changes to the pension package. I've been harping for a while about a group of longer term employees that I call the five percenters who pay less into the system. I don't see how the current reforms address that issue. More importantly, I think we are harming the fiscal viability of the city. People love to gripe about Rio Nuevo or the street car, but much of the current and projected budget gaps come from these pension obligations. I understand why my colleagues took the vote they did, but neither I nor councilmember Kozachik could vote for these changes.

There are a couple of other things that I am not ready to vote for, most notably the move to restructure \$9.4M in debt. I wouldn't call it kicking the can down the road (it's already debt, after all), but I think that it limits our flexibility in the future and could have an impact on our credit rating.

On a related matter, there are plans to look at the compensation package for our public safety employees. I'd like to see some better benefit packages for our younger police and fire personnel. Many of them that have been hired over the last few years have gotten no merit or step raises, despite the promises we

have made.

I didn't send a newsletter last week, so I didn't have a chance to thank the family and friends of Genna Ayup who came to our last mayor and council meeting. It was an emotional time for all, but so important for the council and the public to hear the family's story.

The legislature has, unfortunately, not moved to pass Genna's Law, which would introduce penalties for intoxicated use of firearms should an injury or death occur. We'll have to wait for next session. I understand that there were more important issues like allowing the minting of gold coins and new laws on who could use public restrooms that were occupying the precious time of our legislators. None the less, the council was able to take action on our own to see if we could enact an ordinance in the city. I'd like to thank Councilman Kozachik for helping me out on this one. He's taken the lead, and the heat, for so many firearms issues over the past few months.

Last week, I hosted a business roundtable on sports tourism in Southern Arizona. I'd like to thank Greg Foster of FC Tucson and Felipe Garcia from the Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau for making an excellent presentation and the Elefante family from Mama Louisa's for providing us with the food.

I fell out of the habit of hosting these sessions at the Ward 2 office, but it's a habit I'd like to get back into. I have already received suggestions for future roundtables (among them, green businesses and Downtown development), and

**PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED**

would love to hear suggestions from any of you. It's your office, after all.

I've been impressed with the changes that have come to the transportation department under Daryl Cole. Right here, in front of my office is a stretch of East Speedway that has just been resurfaced. The road surface is greatly improved, and it was done cheaper too. The "crack & fog" technique that was used can cost as little as 15-20% of what the traditional mill and overlay process does. We are finally getting a handle on our pothole problem, and saving money in the process.

Finally, a personal note: you may have read about an issue regarding one of my staffers. I know how "handling things internally" sounds, but I don't wish to make how I han-

dle personnel issues within my office a public matter. She's still a city employee (as well as a friend) and deserves privacy. That's all I will say about her status in my office.

One thing I'd like to address is the implication by some in the media that this incident is reflective of my own sobriety. I'm proud to say that I am beginning my eleventh month of sobriety. It's a struggle, but I've never felt better, just taking it one day at a time. The support I've gotten over these months from family, friends, staff, even strangers and yes, one or two former political rivals, has been gratifying. I don't know if I've thanked all of you enough.

**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

In an effort to provide input from a pedestrian perspective on transportation projects in the City of Tucson, the Mayor and Council on February 12, 2013 approved the creation of a 13-member Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Applications are now available for any City resident desiring to become a member of the committee. Applications can be found online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards?board=115>

The Mayor and each Council Member will appoint one member each. The City Manager will appoint the remainder of the committee members representing the categories of seniors,

youth/schools, advocacy organization, disabled, landscape/urban forestry, public safety.

Applications are due by Friday, April 26, 2013. Each member of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee shall serve until June 30, 2017. Committee members will provide input on transportation projects such as road plans, bridges, street repaving, as well as Plan Tucson. Applicants will be screened on the basis of interest, leadership role in the community, stakeholder group and geographical representation.

**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., (down Prudence past fire station)

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

**UDALL PARK**

The Carol West Senior Addition will host a Broadway Proper sponsored luncheon for members of the Eastside Senior Club on Wednesday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will include entertainment by the MerryMakers. The cost is \$4.00.

Seniors will have an opportunity to participate in a picnic at Agua Caliente Park on Thursday, April 18th. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$3.00. Call 791-4121 for additional information.

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

**PUTT-ING KIDS FIRST**

The Blair Charity Group is staging its first Putt-ing Kids First Mini Golf Tournament & Family Fun Night. It will be hosted at Golf N' Stuff, 6503 E Tanque Verde Rd, on April 6th from 6pm-10pm. Registration begins at 4:30pm for golfers.

Each foursome of players will play 36 holes of miniature golf with different food and drink opportunities on the course. The top finishers will receive awards and prizes. All of the attractions of the venue will also be open to the attendees at no additional charge, including the use of the go-carts, bumper boats, laser tag, batting cages, and all of the video games. The event will also consist of a silent auction, raffle, face painting, food, games, and even a beer garden for the adults.

**POOL HOURS**

The Spring pool hours for Ft. Lowell Park and Udall Park are now in effect, and beginning April 1st. Call 791-4004 or visit <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec/aquatics> for admission fees and pool schedules.

**FRIENDS OF FT LOWELL**

Friends of Fort Lowell Park is embarking on fund raising for beautifying and securing the Wildlife Oasis at the pond in the park. The goal is to overlay the existing chain link fence with ocotillo fencing which is beautifully natural, adding to the nice scenery and the security of the wildlife refuge created along the pond's edge.



This fencing will cost approximately \$2500. Funds raised to date: \$150. Please help us to further beautify and secure the Wildlife Oasis by sending your donations for the ocotillo fencing to Friends of Fort Lowell Park at P.O. Box 31474, Tucson, AZ 85751. Your donation of any amount is great appreciated. The Friends of Fort Lowell Park is an all volunteer non-profit (501c3) organization, so any contribution is tax deductible.

**HERSHEY'S TRACK AND FIELD**

The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department and Pima County will host the Hershey's Track and Field games at Flowing Wells on Saturday, April 27. The events will include 50, 100, 200, and 400 meter dash, 4 x 100 meter relay, standing long jump, and softball throw. Contact Adam Bernal at 682-7166 or Alfonso Romero at 791-4870 for any additional information. Here's the link for more information as well: <https://www.hersheystrackandfield.com/track-meet-central/find-a-track-meet.aspx>

**AARP TAX PREPARATION HELP**

The AARP will be available to help out with tax preparation at several Eastside locations. Walk-ins are welcome at all three locations.

Udall Recreation Center, 7200 E Tanque Verde  
520-791-4931  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 am – 1 pm (except Feb. 18)

Murphy-Wilmot Library, 530 N Wilmot Rd  
Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 9252 E 22<sup>nd</sup> St  
Wednesdays, 12 pm – 4 pm

**S H R E D - A - T H O N**

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.

- 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

**2 N D A N N U A L  
P O K E R R U N**

The Tucson Fire Foundation will be holding Poker Run 2013 on May 18th. All proceeds will benefit greater Tucson firefighters' health and wellness. The registration form is on line at [www.tucsonfirefoundation.org](http://www.tucsonfirefoundation.org). Don't ride? They need volunteers to assist with logistics on the day of the ride.

**C Y C L O V I A**

Sunday, April 7th will be Tucson's annual Cyclovia. During Cyclovia, anyone can bike, walk, skate and participate in fun, free activities.

Street closures will include 8th Ave. between 14th St & 38th St, 4th Ave. between 13th St & 34th St. Complete details available at [www.cycloviatucson.org](http://www.cycloviatucson.org).

**R A Y D A V I E S  
A W A R D  
N O M I N A T I O N S**

The City of Tucson Human Relations Commission is seeking nominations for the Ray Davies Student Service Award, which will be presented to three Tucson-area high school seniors in the 2013 graduating-class.

The award honors seniors who have best exhibited qualities of leadership, community service, compassion for others, and who have encouraged mutual respect among diverse groups. The HRC will select three students who embody these values through school and/or community activities and involvement in worthwhile causes.

The HRC nomination form, two letters of recommendation, and a letter from the nominee must be submitted for consideration. Complete details and the form are available by calling Lindsey O'Neill, City Clerk's Office, at 791-4213, or email: [Lindsey.O'Neill@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Lindsey.O'Neill@tucsonaz.gov)

The deadline for delivery or postmark is 5 p.m., April 8, 2013.

**M A Y O R A N D C O U N C I L**

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on March 27. 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](http://Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2)

**A P R I L 5 , 2 0 1 3**

Ward 2  
7575 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Tucson AZ 85710  
Phone: 520-791-4687  
Fax: 520-791-5380  
Email: [ward2@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ward2@tucsonaz.gov)

**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