



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 10, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

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We've all seen the news coming out of California. The governor there has imposed restrictions on all 400 water agencies that serve that state and mandated a 25% cut in urban water usage.

The recent drought, which has affected us as well, is the prime reason given for this drastic measure. It's worth remembering, however, that some of the largest communities in California are built in deserts. The drought would have likely caused issues in any case, but we also need to ask what would have happened if those places had been working on con-

serving water all these years.

What we are seeing across the state line is exactly what I'd like to prevent here. We are just as water poor as most of the communities that are having restrictions in California. So, what's the difference? Here in Tucson, we have a strong conservation ethic, and one of my goals as a councilman is to make sure our water policies reflect and reinforce that.

To that end, the Citizens' Water Advisory committee made a set of recommendations to us to change our rate structure. Our water rates have not been strictly on a one-to-one basis, but in-

stead, Tucson Water charges more per unit of water for households that use more water. They do this by grouping users into four blocks based on usage. The CWAC proposal changes the blocks.

Block one, the block which encompassed nearly three quarters of residential users, had been defined as users of less than ten ccf per month (a ccf is 100 cubic feet, or roughly 750 gallons). CWAC considered seven ccf, which is the average water use during the winter, to be a more natural cut off. Seven ccf would cover indoor water use for the average Tucson Water customer.

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

This puts about a third of customers in block two, which ranges from eight to fifteen ccf.

The aim here is not only to encourage conservation, but also to cover the increasing costs of water delivery. A number that isn't brought up much is \$15.3 million, which is how much Tucson Water pays in energy costs to deliver water to Tucson. Those costs end up on our bills.

Even with all of that, water in Tucson's water rates are incredibly competitive. We pay less than the average and less than most other communities in Arizona (including cooler weather places like Flagstaff). The average Tucson Water user pays a bit more than half of what our neighbors using Metro Water pay, and far less than a user in Mesa pays. With these changes, a gallon of water will cost a bit more than a third of a cent. Furthermore, lower income users will remain eligible for assistance.

What I would most like to avoid are the mandatory restrictions our friends in California are dealing with right now. If minor changes in our billing policy will keep that from happening, I think it's a price worth paying. In the end, without responsible water policy in Tucson, there is no Tucson.

CWAC and Tucson Water will be holding town halls on the new rates: April 14, 5:30-7:30 at the Quincie Douglas Library (1585 E 36th St) and April 16, 5:30-7:30 at the William Clements Recreation Center, 8155 E Poinciana Dr. The proposed rates will come to me and my colleagues and on May 19.

I'm getting a lot of calls and e-mails from people who are concerned about the City's agreement over the Pima Animal Care Center. There are many people out there who are under the impression that the city is looking to cancel the agreement. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The agreement from last year is set to expire and we are talking to the county about it. According to Interim City Manager Martha Durkin, the City is in the process of negotiating an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with Pima County to provide animal control and animal care services. The County will consider the PACC budget in May 2015. When the budget has been determined the financial terms of the IGA will be finalized.

A word of thanks, by the way, to Nancy Young Wright, who has visited with me several times about local animal welfare policies.

I welcome all of your informative comments between now and May when I will have an agreement to look at.

As I finish up the newsletter, I learned of the death of Governor Raúl Castro. Castro was a friend to my father and an important role model to all of us in Southern Arizona politics. If you are interested in knowing more about why we are the community we are today, I urge you to read Jack August Jr.'s biography of Gov. Castro, Adversity Is My Angel.

RINCON / UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FUN DAY

We hope you can attend this fundraiser for RUHS softball. This is our second year, and it is a wonderful event that celebrates our RUHS softball family!

Tickets to participate in the game are \$25, which includes a T-shirt and lunch. We will also have a full snack bar available! Please come hungry!

Please visit <http://ruhsalumnifunday.eventzilla.net/> to register or e-mail RinconUniversitySoftball@gmail.com for more information.

VETERAN'S FRIEND

Veteran's Friend's Mission is to make a positive difference in the quality of life of all senior veterans by providing a free service to inform and educate veterans, their families, and surviving spouses about a special VA pension for which they are often entitled but fail to understand.

VA Accredited claims Representative Robert Dhillon has a 100% success rate in obtaining VA pensions benefits. Join Robert for a free educational briefing where you will learn the truth about Veterans Benefits.

Robert Dhillon, president of REAL Solutions Services, operates Veteran's Friend to assist World War II, Korea and Vietnam wartime veterans and their spouses collect their tax-free VA pension, up to \$25,000 a year, to pay for long term health care.

Dates: April 18, May 16 and June 20

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Ward 2 Office, 7575 E Speedway.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

Spring into Spring: The senior addition will host a "Spring into Spring" event on Wednesday, April 15 at 12:030 p.m. The event will be sponsored by Emeritus. The activities will include lunch and entertainment. The cost is \$5.00.

Freedom Center: On Tuesday, April 14, Seniors will have an opportunity to enjoy a trip to the Freedom Center for a Spring and Summer Hand Crafted Fashion Show, and Sweet Tomatoes for lunch. Departure from Udall Center to Freedom Center will be at 9:30 a.m. and return is 1:30 p.m.

Agua Caliente: A picnic at the Agua Caliente Park is scheduled for Thursday, April 23. Departure from the senior addition is 10:00 a.m. and return is 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.00. Lunch will be provided.

Open House: The Udall Recreation Center will host an Open House on Wednesday, April 29 for its 25th Anniversary celebration. There will be refreshments and give-a-ways.

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.

Note: The AARP is also offering their Tax Aide at Wilmot Library, Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 3:30.

PARKS PROGRAMS

Spring Swim Schedule: The Spring Swim schedule for Udall Park and Ft. Lowell Park starts April 1st. Contact the Aquatics Division at 791-4245/791-5352 or visit <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/aquatics#hours> for pool locations and swim schedule.

ARC New Open Swim Schedule: The Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center has a new schedule for open swim.

Summer 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog: The Summer 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog will be available on Monday, April 20, 2015. The catalog can be picked-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. It can be viewed on-line at www.ezeereg.com Contact the Registration Office at 791-4877 for additional information.

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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 21. 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>

