



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 24, 2015

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

## PAUL'S NOTE

This week, we marked Earth Day. If you are looking for a simple way to help the environment, this might be a good time to get into the habit of visiting our farmers market that we stage in Ward 2 every Friday.

Heirloom Farmers Markets showcases local growers each Friday from 8 am - noon at Trail Dust Town.

Heirloom also runs farmers markets in Oro Valley and at Rillito Park. You can check their website for details. VisitTucson.org also maintains a list of other farmers markets in our area.

Buying food from local suppliers helps with environmental sustainability in a few ways. Here's some food for thought for you.

As you know, one of our main concerns in our desert community is water. While there is no standard or certification that a particular product was grown with water conservation in mind, there are two factors that make picking up locally grown farmers market produce water smart.

One is that even though many of the producers you find at farmers markets don't have organic certification (the size of their operations don't make it practical to pay for it), nearly all of what you see is grown without pesticides. That means that they are not introducing harmful chemicals into our groundwater supply. This helps with what we call "water reliability": ensuring that our local sources of water are safe.

Second, have you noticed something about vegetables you buy at the grocery store? They are perfect. The cucumbers are the same size, the tomatoes are unbruised. At a farmers market, you see things that aren't perfect, but are still delicious. Because of the demands of supermarkets, much of the food that is grown never actually makes it to be sold. All told, 30%-40% of the food that is grown is wasted, much of that before it gets to market. It's a waste of food, but also a waste of the water that was used to grow that food. You don't see that sort of waste from the growers at farmers markets.

There is also the matter of

fuel costs. The growers you see at local farmers market could be from anywhere from San Simon to Ajo, a journey of a day or so. In the meantime, your average grocery trip might involve food from several continents: garlic from China, grapes from Chile and blueberries from New Zealand. All of that is transported by ship or airplane, meaning more pollution in the air and more fossil fuel used.

The Natural Resources Defense Council had a report back in 2007 on what people term "food miles," the effects of transporting food. They used California as an example. Even though we think of California as an agricultural state, the importation of food put the same amount of nitrogen oxides (the chemicals that form smog) as 1.5 million vehicles would have that year.

We all love food that isn't from here. I shop where it's convenient too. We need to understand that there are consequences to our choices. I'm happy that organizations like Heirloom Farmers Markets are here to give us some more responsible options.

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## 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: May 16 and June 20

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Ward 2 Office, 7575 E Speedway.

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## SOUTHWEST GAS PROJECT INFORMATION

We will do our best to provide the most current information; however, please remember that construction schedules sometimes need to be adjusted due to weather, materials scheduling, utility coordination, or various other factors.

For additional project information, please contact the Southwest Gas project hotline at 520.547.5383.

Traffic on 22nd Street is currently restricted with the westbound curb lane closed to accommodate pipeline installation in the north side of 22nd Street, between Pantano Rd/Pkwy and Sarnoff.

Pipeline installation is complete from Pantano Rd/Pkwy to approximately the northwest corner of the 22nd Street/Sarnoff intersection, and crews have completed the crossing across 22nd Street just east of Vista Overlook. Crews are nearing completion of pipeline installation on the north side of 22nd Street across Pantano Rd/Pkwy, and that work is scheduled to be completed by next Wednesday (APR 29).

Tentatively scheduled to take place on or before next Wednesday (April 29), traffic control in 22nd Street will be removed and remaining work to install pipeline will take place off the roadway, with the exception of work at the 22nd Street/Sarnoff intersection. The work off the roadway will include pipeline installation on the north side of 22nd Street, from the west side of Pantano Rd/Pkwy across the Pantano Wash bridge. As currently scheduled, there are no traffic restrictions expected as part of this work.

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## HOUGHTON ROAD UPDATE

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

**Broadway Intersection Park & Ride:** We have completed most of the work for this project. You should be seeing the signs coming in very soon, and then all we are waiting for is the bus driver office/restroom, and bus shelters, which are on order and expected before the end of May. We understand that SunTran is discussing starting use of this Park and Ride in the very near future. We will keep you posted on the news.

**Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street:** Contract start date was March 30, 2015, the scheduled completion date is September 30, 2016

As you may have noticed, this project is now in construction. There will be no traffic alterations through April. During this month the contractor will start construction on the east half of the box culverts and the installation of water, sewer and temporary asphalt for a roadway and traffic shift.

Starting in May, Houghton Road traffic will be moved to the east side of the right-of-way (frontage road) and construction will start on the west side of Houghton. 22nd Street traffic will be moved to the north side of the 22nd Street right-of-way and construction will begin on the south portion of 22nd at the intersection.

We will continue to provide you with access to your homes and neighborhood streets. If we have to run a water line under a side street, we will do it one half at a time and have flaggers there to help everyone get through the area.

After these changes are completed, we will shift traffic to the opposite sides of the roadways for the same work to be repeated on the other side.

We will be reducing some of the barricades on Houghton north of Broadway to allow traffic to drive on the new asphalt. This will help the asphalt to set up. We will start slowing traffic at 5th street to make sure that, as southbound traffic approaches the new construction (and merges to fewer lanes), we have safe travel.

We will be putting in traffic signals at Houghton and 22nd Street this next week. Once TEP has these hooked up, they will remove their final old power pole from that area.

The artists are going to meet with staff on April 21st to discuss the technical viability of some of their concepts, and if these are good, we will present their concepts at a Citizen Design Review Committee meeting, and through this update.

As always, we appreciate your patience, and we want to hear from you if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

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## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**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.

For any questions, please contact 791-4121.

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## PARKS PROGRAMS

**Spring Swim Schedule:** The Spring Swim schedule for Udall Park and Ft. Lowell Park started 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](http://www.ezeereg.com) Contact the Registration Office at 791-4877 for additional information.

**Tucson POPS Concerts:** The Tucson POPS Concerts will take place on May 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7 and 14. Concerts start at 7:00 p.m. at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park. There is a limited amount of seating at DeMeester which fills up quickly. Please bring chairs or a blanket.

**The Arizona Symphonic Winds Concerts:** The WINDS Concert series will take place May 16, 23, 30 and June 5. The program will take place at the Lazslo Veres Amphitheater in Udall Park. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a chair or blanket.

**Facility Closures:** All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

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**PAUL CUNNINGHAM,  
CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2**

Eastside City Hall  
7575 E Speedway  
Tucson AZ 85710

Phone: 520 791 4687  
Fax: 520 791 5380  
E-mail: ward2@tucsonaz.gov

Tucsonaz.gov/  
ward2

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 be on Tuesday, May 5. 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>

