



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 27, 2018

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PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Kaboom!	3
Swim Lessons	3
Parks Programs	4
What to Drop Off	5

Mayor and Council will be considering a plan to increase water rates for the next four years. The increase will not be as high as it has been in the past.

It's been reported in the media that rates will be going up between 15% and 20% over the course of the next four years. That's true, but keep in mind that these increases are just to your water rate, not to sewer (which is a rate set by Pima County) or Environmental Services. Because of the way those percentages are being reported, many people are calling our office are worried the bottom line on their utility service state-

ment, which can be over \$100 when you include those other fees, will be going up by 20%. That's not the case.

Still, it is an increase and we will all be paying more for our water. You need to be told why.

The simple answer is, we live in a desert and we don't have much water. Getting water from the Colorado River is expensive. In a sense, you aren't paying for water so much as the power and infrastructure it takes to get it to your house.

One of Tucson Water's biggest costs is debt service. Just like other utilities, Tucson Water has a

lot of capital costs for plant and equipment that they sell bonds to finance. Those costs amount to roughly 30% of their expenses. This year, they will be paying \$55 million. That will keep increasing until 2023, when it will hit \$61 million. Because of the way the debt has been managed, they expect those costs to drop quickly after that.

For over two decades, the main source of city water has not been wells, but from the southern end of Lake Havasu. The water brought to us by the Central Arizona Project, which pumps it 334 miles to Tucson.

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

And yes, just like the story of your grandfather's walks to school in the snow, most of that journey is uphill as Tucson is roughly 1800 feet higher than where the water comes from.

To move all that water (half a trillion gallons), the CAP uses 2.8 million megawatt hours of electricity every year. That makes it the biggest single user of power in the state. The costs are considerable even though they are divided up among the various users of the project. Earlier this month, the elected board that manages the CAP met to talk about moving away from getting their energy from coal fired plants and going to solar power. That's a move I can get behind, but should they go that direction it will be a while before they can get enough of their power from sources like solar so that users can see a savings.

There are also a number of "fixed costs" for things that have to be maintained no matter how much water people are using. This would include the delivery system that runs under the streets to get to your house as well as essential services such as our fire hydrant system.

The national standard for water utilities is that 30% of these costs should be recovered by charges to consumers. Tucson actually recovers a slightly lower amount, and some utilities in Arizona go as high as 80%.

The increase will be \$2.77 next year if you are the average Tucson Water customer paying \$35.20. The increases the following years will be \$3.08, \$3.33 and \$3.16. Even with this rate hike, Tucson Water customers are still paying less than users of other water authorities in our region and across the state. Our rate will be slightly higher than Oro Valley, but still lower than Marana and Green Valley. Users in the Metro Water District will be paying nearly twice as much.

Some of that is because of the way these authorities handle their infrastructure costs and how they pass them on to customers. But, there is another advantage we have in Tucson: water conservation.

Since our community has embraced conservation, over 1.6 billion gallons of water have been conserved. That's a credit to all of us, but there's a big part of running a water system that costs just as much whether people use a lot of water or not. However when people are conserving water, there is a savings in maintenance, treatment and infrastructure costs that can be avoided.

So, costs are going up, but not as much as they might be. We have avoided \$350 million in costs because of conservation. An estimate from the Alliance for Water Efficiency said that we'd be paying almost 12% more for water in Tucson if we didn't have such active conservation programs and a public that understood how important low water use is.

As always, I look forward to hearing your input.

KABOOM AT UDALL PARK

KaBOOM!, United Healthcare, and Tucson Parks Foundation are building a playground!

We need you to bring play to kids at Udall Park. We need more than 75 volunteers from the Tucson community to help us give our kids the childhood they deserve by building a new playground.

Wednesday, May 23rd 2017

8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Morris K. Udall Park

7200 E. Tanque Verde Road, Tucson AZ 85715

Volunteers should be age 18+ and will assemble playground pieces, mix concrete, move mulch, etc.

Wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting dirty and closed toe shoes; leave valuables at home.

Youth activities provided.

Gloves, goggles, breakfast, and lunch will be provided.

Play is central to a child's ability to grow into a productive adult. Together, we can ensure kids get the balance of play they need to thrive! Please join us and show that play matters to you.

You can also support the effort by donating while you dine. If you buy a dinner at the following restaurants on the listed night, they will donate 20% of their proceeds to the playground effort.

Wednesday, May 2, 5 pm—9pm: Sweet Tomatoes, 6202 E Broadway

Tuesday, May 8, 5 pm—9 pm: Zinburger, 6390 E Grant

SWIM LESSONS

Tucson Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the American Red Cross, to offer \$2 swim lessons to those who qualify.

Those who already are qualified for the Discount Program in our system can register online at www.EZEEreg.com beginning Saturday, April 28, for residents and Wednesday, May 2, for non-residents. If not pre-qualified, you must apply in person at any recreation center or administration office, prior to registration. Find out if you qualify by viewing the Discount Program guidelines at tucsonaz.gov/parks or by calling 791-4877.

For those who do not qualify for the Discount Program, swim lessons will be \$15/session. Lessons are offered in four, two-week sessions, with eight lessons per session during June and July. There are 19 pools throughout the city open from May 31-Aug. 1. For more information on how to register, and to find a location near you, visit our website at tucsonaz.gov/parks, or see page 9 of the Parks and Recreation Activity Guide, viewable online at www.EZEEreg.com.

PARKS PROGRAMS

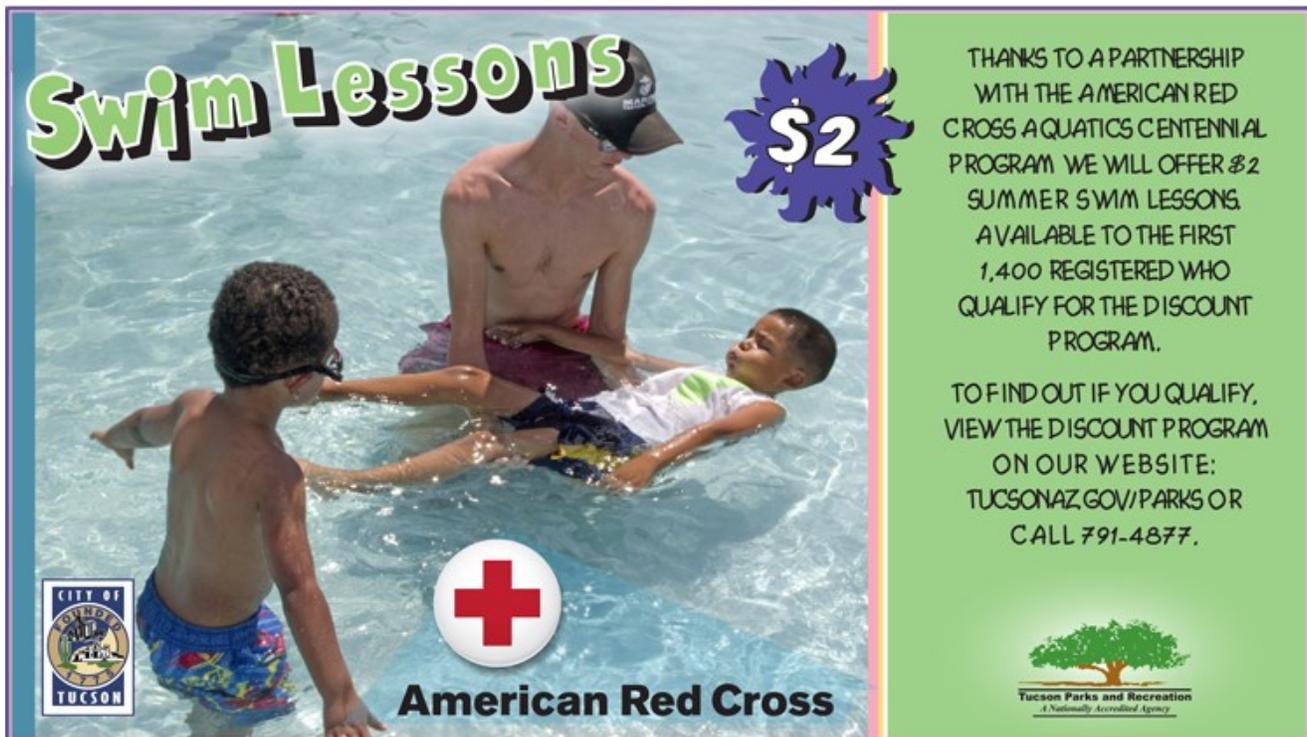
Activity Guide: Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for spring 2018 has arrived, and copies are available for pick up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. It can be viewed online at: www.tucsonaz.gov/parks.

The Activity Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, KIDCO after-school, aquatics, sports programs, registration, and the Discount Program. Registration dates are as follows:

All leisure class listings are online at www.EZEEreg.com. Please see the Activity Guide for more information on registration and deadlines. Whether you enjoy being active in slow-pitch softball leagues, want to design amazing jewelry, or get healthy and fit, there truly is something for everyone at Tucson Parks and Recreation. For questions or more information on registration or programs, contact Registration Services at 791-4877.

Carol West Senior Addition: The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall features multipurpose rooms, lounge area with TV, computer adult learning center and pool tables. It is located at Udall Park and is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday.

Swim Lessons: Tucson Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the American Red Cross, to offer \$2 swim lessons to those who qualify. See page 3 for details.



Swim Lessons \$2

THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AQUATICS CENTENNIAL PROGRAM WE WILL OFFER \$2 SUMMER SWIM LESSONS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST 1,400 REGISTERED WHO QUALIFY FOR THE DISCOUNT PROGRAM.

TO FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY, VIEW THE DISCOUNT PROGRAM ON OUR WEBSITE: TUCSONAZ.GOV/PARKS OR CALL 791-4877.

  **American Red Cross**

 Tucson Parks and Recreation
A Nationally Accredited Agency

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Tucsonaz.gov/
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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

**SR. JOSE WOMEN'S SHELTER—Summer items
and clothing, athletic shoes, back packs, tote**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 8**. 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>

