



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 29, 2015

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

PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ITNGreater Tucson	2
Southwest Gas Project Update	3
Veterans Programs	3
Parks Programs	4
Donations	5

There has been a lot of criticism of the council not approving the McDonald's on 22nd and Alvernon last week. I'd like to explain a little bit about why this happened.

Every property has zoning that determines what can be built on it. If you want to change the zoning to one that increases the intensity of the use, you need to go through a process that involves a zoning hearing. The zoning examiner's job is to reference planning documents, findings of facts and weigh the impact of change in regards to the surrounding area.

For the most part, this is pro forma. A minor change in zoning may generate lit-

tle interest from neighbors, or sometimes there are few, if any, neighbors to weigh in on it. In this case, the property in question already had a C-2 (commercial) zoning, which meant that on that particular parcel, there were any number of things that could be built. That would have included a McDonalds, by the way.

However, McDonalds Corporation wanted to build something much larger than the existing footprint, and that would have included two drive-thrus. This meant they needed to rezone a nearby parcel that had been zoned residential. In fact, there is a house on it now. This brought up objections from neighbors who had bought

their houses thinking they would remain in a residential neighborhood who now found that they would be next to a 24-hour fast food place.

Seventy-one neighbors filed protest letters and six in favor of the rezoning. The zoning examiner heard from them, and also considered the neighborhood plan. He found the rezoning incompatible with that plan and recommended a denial of the rezoning request.

I want to make one thing clear about how this process worked in this case: not agreeing to move a McDonalds less than three quarters of a mile down the road is not a sign that the council is anti-business, or that

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

there is NIMBYism run amok on the streets of Tucson.

The vast majority, over 90%, of the proposals that go through this process are approved. I've worked with both neighbors and developers to make sure that these sorts of controversies get settled before we go to the zoning examiner and a council vote.

This council has made bringing new jobs to this community a priority. The deal that we put together for a new HomeGoods facility is one that you may have read about in the paper. We also unanimously approved construction of a new facility for Santé Partners. That's going to be in Ward 2 and will pay 136 Tucsonans an average annual wage of \$36,000, with thirty jobs paying over \$56,000.

This brings me to why I'm a little frustrated by some of the criticism that I have been hearing. McDonalds is decent employment to many people who are starting out in the work force, but these aren't the higher wage jobs we should be concentrating on attracting. Since this would have been a McDonalds moved rather than a new one built, these were not going to be new jobs in the community.

The fact that it was a business moving rather than being built brings up another criticism that I've been hearing: that this means that the corner it was planned for will remain a vacant building. That is true. However, moving the McDonalds would have also left a vacant building in the current location on 22nd Street across from Reid Park. There are already several abandoned businesses along that stretch of 22nd. I'm not sure how trading one blighted lot for another would have improved our city.

As I said, the zoning on that corner is already C-2. I find it hard to believe that no one will want to build on such a busy corner.

I'd like to send belated birthday wishes to Marian Lupu, who celebrated 90 years this weekend. Thank you for all of your work that you have done and continue to do in our community.

ITNGREATER TUCSON

Do you have the DRIVE to help people? Our seniors need your help!

Winter visitors are great volunteers and now is the time that they take all of their precious volunteer hours back to their 'home' communities. ITNGreaterTucson needs YOU more than ever!! Our seniors still need to go places and we can take them there with your help. Volunteer to drive once a week for the next few months and help keep our seniors active! Even people who take the bus other times of the year can't wait outside during the hot summer months, increasing the ever-growing demand for drivers. Please help by volunteering to drive between now and September. We will work with your schedule, just tell us what works for you!! Please contact Kathy or Bob at 520-209-1645 or visit our website at www.itngreatertucson.org

HOUGHTON ROAD UPDATE

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.

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 our project hotline at 520.547.5383.

Installation of pipeline in Pantano Road, from Broadway to Speedway is completed with the exception of two crossings, one south of Baker and one south of Broadway, and remaining tie-ins.

Crews are currently working to make connections for gas pipeline on the southwest corner of Speedway Boulevard and Pantano Road. Traffic is shifted away from the work area, and right turns are currently restricted from eastbound Speedway Boulevard onto southbound Pantano Road. The work area is currently being backfilled and paving back of this area is scheduled for this coming Thursday (APR 30).

Scheduled to begin later this week, crews will begin installation of pipeline across Pantano Road, just south of Baker Road. Pantano Road will remain open for travel, but traffic will be shifted away from the work activity. It is estimated this work will be completed by the end of next week.

Scheduled to take place the week of May 4th for approximately 2-3 days, crews will conduct tie-ins on the northwest, southwest and southeast corners of the Speedway/Pantano intersection. The curb lane will be closed for this work; however, it is not anticipated that turn movements will be restricted.

Thank you for your patience during this work.

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.

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.

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.

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.

**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

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>

