

# Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

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## UPCOMING DATES:

- May 12: Mother's Day
- May 14: Mayor and Council meeting
- May 27: Memorial Day

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## PAUL'S NOTE

Have you ever received one of those credit card offers in the mail that allows you to transfer funds from one credit card to another and you pay no interest for 6 months? Essentially that is what the city has done, and as a result we have a one time cash surplus of 2 to 3 million dollars. The 15 million dollars in debt payments we deferred will be there next year. It has been suggested by staff to use this money to fund a raise package, they estimate to cost 7.8 million dollars. They were careful too only include the general fund estimate of 5.3 million dollars in their presentation to the council. Apparently they felt water rates and a garbage fee raises were inconsequential. I told them their idea was ridiculous and voted no. That was two weeks ago. Tuesday, they had to disclose the real number was almost 8 million dollars. They also fail to mention that 1/4th of all employees will be experiencing an 8 percent increase in take home pay this year, and all employees' insurance premiums are being reduced. The ones not getting the increase are the so called 5 percenters who have the most favorable retirement plan in the country.

Apparently they live in a fiscal fantasyland where money grows on trees. I didn't vote for the raise two weeks ago, and I am not voting on it now. I will under no circumstances vote for a budget with this raise package in it. There are some specific pockets of employees (i.e. 911 Dispatchers, newer Patrol officers and Tucson Water call center workers) that are in dire need of salary adjustments due to their pay not being

competitive. The city has training investments into these workers and their retention is paramount. A salary adjustment for non competitive market pay is in order; this 55 cent across the board nonsense is the lazy man's way out.

With this raise in place, the following issues will come with a balance due stamp on them next year and we have ZERO ways to compensate for them:

- Street car Operations and Maintenance
- Lottery Funds (still waiting State to give back)
- Transaction Privilege tax alterations (legislature voting this session)
- Stock Market (effects our retirement contribution)
- Real Estate Values (County assessor devaluation of properties lowers revenues)
- Restoration of HURF Funds (still not at 2007 level)
- TCC Savings (plan coming)
- Golf Savings (plan coming)
- Transit savings plan coming (not holding breath)
- the aforementioned 15 million dollars of deferred debt

All ten of these factors can make our break next year to the tune of 40 million dollars, add the raise package and we have a potential unknown of 50 million dollars before we even start the next fiscal year. Some could break our way, and a compensation package may be in order, however, this is not the time.

Something else came up yesterday, however, that will affect all of us in the long term far

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

more than the budget. Unfortunately, it's an issue that hasn't attracted much attention from the press.

It sounds a bit obscure: the Water Service Area Policy.

Tucson Water is unique: it's a municipal utility that serves people outside of the city. There are a variety of historical reasons why we serve so many customers outside of the city, but we have followed a different policy in recent years and have only hooked up new developments to Tucson Water if either they agree to be annexed or enter into "pre-annexation" agreements.

It's a policy that has served us well, not only in the ability to manage the most valuable resource we have in the desert, but it has increased our tax base too.

We have had 166 requests for hook-ups to Tucson Water, and only six have been refused. The policy is working for the City, and is not too onerous for developers.

I absolutely agree some slight alterations are necessary but we need to be a little more methodical in changing the water policy. When we adopted the Water Service Area in 2010, it was based on a five year process of collaboration and discussions, when it was finished we acknowledge and foresaw a small number of nuanced complications that would require our attention. There were a few people who just by the eyeball test should end up in the service area. Due to unforeseen results in calculating where the water service area ended, they were ultimately left out, however, due to section J, of the policy there is a way to accommodate them. Other than that the need to amend the Water Service Area and Policy is minimal. I do commend Councilmember Steve Kozachik who did a nice job in the 11th hour getting some consensus building done to formulate a very tentative agreement. I just felt that proposal at a minimum deserved further discussion, so I voted no. I stand by the vote.

My weekly note is incomplete without a shout out to our local sports community. FC Tucson opens their 2013 season on Sunday with a game against the LA Misioneros. More importantly, though, they return on Tuesday for a match in the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup. The annual tournament is being staged for the 100<sup>th</sup> time and includes teams from all levels. FC Tucson could compete against the Los Angeles Galaxy or New York Red Bulls if they win just two matches.

The opening match is on Tuesday against Phoenix FC. Folks from Phoenix will be coming down, no doubt, so it's important for Tucsonans to show up and let folks know where the real soccer center of Arizona is. Kick-off is at 7:30 at Kino Sports Park.

I'll see you there once I'm done with my council meeting. In the mean time, you all have a fantastic weekend.



*Happy Mother's day to Marjorie Cunningham, and all our community's great mothers!*

## 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 on-line 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.

We are still accepting applications. 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.

## SUNGO

Starting Sunday, June 30, the new SunGO fare payment system will go in to effect. SunGO utilizes smart card technology to provide a convenient way to pay a fare and transfer throughout the region on Sun Tran, Sun Express, Sun Shuttle and eventually on the Sun Link modern streetcar.

A smart card resembles a credit card, but inside it has a computer chip. The SunGO smart card will serve as your fare payment card that can store cash value or passes for your convenience and boarding ease.

You can purchase your SunGO card starting on May 20.

To find out more, you can check the web at [http://suntran.com/sungo\\_information13.php](http://suntran.com/sungo_information13.php)

## MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

The Ward 2 Office, including the payment window for water bills and bus passes, will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday on May 27.

Parks and Recreation Facilities will also be closed.



*The Arizona Symphonic Winds takes to the stage at Udall Park on May 18. Check Page 4 for more information.*

**UDALL PARK**

The Carol West Senior Addition will host the Eastside Senior Club Silent Auction on Thursday, May 16 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Donated items will be auctioned and the CareMore bus will be available for blood pressure checks. The event will include lunch (optional) and the cost is \$3.00. The raffle tickets are 3 for \$5.00, and there is a chance to win a bus trip to the Music Museum on May 21st, a beautiful afghan, or \$100 cash. Call 791-4121 for additional information.

**POOL HOURS**

The Parks and Recreation pool season begins May 30-July 30. There will be 17 City pools open across the town. Daily admission for adults is \$2.00 and \$1.00 for youths under age 17. Call 791-4245 or visit <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec/aquatics> for pool locations and hours.

The Tucson Parks and Recreation has partnered with the YMCA of Southern Arizona to open three additional City pools, Jesse Owens, Escalante, and Kennedy. Public swim time for the three pools are Saturdays only from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lighthouse/City YMCA 795-9725

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**

For the past 24 years the Arizona Symphonic Winds has continuously been presenting free concerts at Udall Park for the Tucson community. This year's opening concert on May 18 will mark their 184th free concert there.

The concerts are held on Saturdays at 7pm at the Udall Park László Veres Amphitheater.

May 18 - "Stars of the Future" Outstanding high school musicians will display their talents on their instruments. Tucson has many fine young artists and we are proud to present eight of them to the public.

May 25 - "Magical Sound of the Horn"

Prof. Daniel Katzen, UofA School of Music faculty member and former horn player with the Boston Symphony, is the featured soloists. Mr. Katzen will also play a composition by Leopold Mozart that calls for an Alphorn. This should be a very exciting evening.

June 1 - "Sweet Sound of Cello" Tucson Symphony and Pima College faculty member Theodore Buchholz will perform the popular Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto with the band.

June 8 - "Stars from the Winds" - We are blessed with many outstanding musicians in this group. Winds' principal trumpeter Carl Fetkenhour is the soloist.

**FRIENDS OF FT LOWELL**

Friends of Fort Lowell Park has embarked 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, and the group has raised \$700. 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 greatly appreciated. The Friends of Fort Lowell Park is an all volunteer non-profit (501c3) organization, so any contribution is tax deductible.

**RECREATION GUIDE**

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Summer 2013 Program Guide and Class Catalog has been published and is available for pick-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. The summer issue can also be viewed on-line at [www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec).

The Program Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, swim lessons, summer KIDCO, aquatics, sports program, sports camps, registration, the Discount Program, and much more.

**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.

- September 14 at Kino Sports Complex- 2500 E. Ajo Way
- November 16 at Empire High School- 10701 E. Maryann Cleveland Way

**C O M M U N I T Y  
S H R E D**

Shred-It will be holding a community shredding in front of the Target at El Con on May 18th from 8—12 am. The charge is \$5 per box of documents.

**M A Y O R   A N D   C O U N C I L**

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on May 14. 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>.



**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.

**S A V E   A   L I F E**

The Ward 2 Council office will be hosting the Save a Life Foundation's continuous chest compression CPR course.

The course is scheduled for June 6 at 6 pm, over at the Ward 2 Council office at 7575 E Speedway.

The course is for one hour and cost \$10.

Please contact Save a Life at 624-8484 or online at [savealifetfd.com](http://savealifetfd.com) to obtain more information and register.

**S A G U A R O  
J U N I O R  
R A N G E R S**

Saguaro National Park will offer its traditional Junior Ranger Camps at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) again this summer.

The camps, open to children ages 6 to 11, offer a variety of fun and exciting opportunities to learn about our national parks and the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert. Campers will participate in a variety of fun activities including hikes, games and crafts, presented by National Park Service rangers and volunteers.

Each camp meets for three days, Monday through Wednesday, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. A fee of \$25 will be charged per child, per camp. Two of this year's camps have filled, but with some spaces still available, the application deadline has been extended for two camps for first-time campers:

- June 17, 18, and 19
- June 24, 25, and 26

Space is limited and advance registration is required. For more information, or to get an application, visit online at [www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu), stop by the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, located at 3693 S. South Old Spanish Trail, or call (520) 733-5153.

We're on the web!  
[Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2](http://Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2)

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**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  
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