

Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

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UPCOMING DATES:

- May 27: Memorial Day

PAUL'S NOTE

I reluctantly voted for the pay raise package at Tuesday's council meeting. I still have serious reservations about it.

I have been very critical of the raise package for two reasons. One, it did not address the certain pay inequity issues within two departments and two, we can not afford it.

The latest version addresses those inequities but we still can't afford it. This version allows our 911 operators to receive a competitive pay wage and avoid attrition and addresses some of the inequity issues we have in the Police Department. The training of these employees represents a significant investment on the part of city taxpayers. We need to protect that investment. More importantly the raise package has a provision that ties it to legislation that could adversely affect the budget. Inasmuch as we needed to address the pay issues, we also need a way out if this pay raise package becomes cost prohibitive. Therefore, I intend to revisit this raise package in October so we can evaluate our fiscal position for the year. Don't be surprised if the raise package has to be altered.

We also discussed the possibility of Grand Canyon University building a campus on the site of the El Rio Golf Course. As I said from the beginning, I have my reservations if the discussion does not include the neighbors. Until that discussion happens to the satisfaction of the neighbors, I will continue to have my doubts.

We also discussed delivering CAP water to recharge facilities south of Tucson. My issues are simple, why do we need two 36 inch pipelines, when we will not have enough capacity to fill both? It's hard not to wonder if the plan is to fill another need, no matter what proponents say.



My biggest question is will the CAP water eventually be used to credit the Rosemont project for their commitment to recharge 105% of their water use. If that is the case, it sounds like a bait and switch to me. The council outlined criteria that gives us final say and protects us from bait and switches. I know some folks feel the new mine will greatly enhance Tucson's economy. I am not so sure about that, when you consider water, ecotourism and sacrifice of open space, coupled with the fact that the jobs occur in Sahuarita, we can't be certain this mine will work at all. Notice how I haven't even mentioned the 6000 acre feet of water yet.

You may have heard the plastic bag ordinance is in effect, I spoke with representatives of both Safeway and Food City who are touting their recycling program and promotion of reusable bags. The ordinance, which isn't a tax or a

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**PAUL'S
NOTE,
CONTINUED**

mandate, not only makes Tucson more beautiful, but it is globally ecologically responsible. In the long run, it will ultimately help stores' bottom line by reducing their expense on single use plastic bags.

Finally, you may have heard that FC Tucson emerged victorious in their Open Cup Debut against Phoenix FC. I spoke with both Mayor Stanton's office, Mayor Rothschild's office and Supervisor Elias's office. We intend to present the winner of this game every year with the "Golden Saguaro" Trophy for the winner of the FC Tucson vs. FC Phoenix game. Judging by the fans, the emotion of the teams and history, this is a rivalry that Arizonans will celebrate for years to come, and it is only fitting it has an appropriate trophy. Shout out to my friend Ty Stout, for making the trophy.

**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.

**PUBLIC ART
AND
COMMUNITY
DESIGN
COMMITTEE**

Public art projects in Tucson and Pima County are reviewed by the Public Art and Community Design Committee. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month and consists of members appointed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, Tucson City Council and the Tucson Pima Arts Council.

The Ward 2 seat is vacant. If you would like more information, please call our office at 791-4687.

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

**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>

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.

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.

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.

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 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>.



**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. 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 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, 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

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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