

# Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

J U N E 2 0 , 2 0 1 3

## UPCOMING DATES:

- June 21: First day of Summer
- June 24: Dia de San Juan (see page 4)
- July 29: Last day to register to vote for the city primary
- August 8: Day ballots will be mailed for the city primary

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## PAUL'S NOTE

Please excuse the wading into more obscure policy matters, but something happened at the legislature this week is important to the City of Tucson and has a big impact on our budget decisions.

You know it as the sales tax, but the state calls it a transaction privilege tax. Although much of the controversy you have read about in the last week dealt with Medicare and election laws, the governor and some in her party made "TPT" reform a priority this session.

When my dad was in the legislature, he'd always talk about complicated bills dealing with state finances as being a three legged stool. This one was no different: it changed the administration of how the taxes were collected, changed the way that audits could be conducted and changed who taxes could be collected from and paid to, particularly in the construction industry.

All three changes were problematic for the city. Most cities in Arizona are what are called "program cities," they let the state collect their taxes and wait for the state to write them a check. Larger cities, like Tucson, instead administer their own system to collect their portion of the TPT. In order to simplify things, the bill would have essentially made all cities into program cities.

This would have increased the funds that the Arizona Department of Revenue is responsible for keeping track of five-fold. The trouble is, the DOR has had many layoffs in

recent years and may not have the personnel to do so. Folks at the Arizona League of Cities have already had reports of program cities having long delays in getting checks from the state.

There were also planned changes in the audit provision that would have prohibited cities from auditing a business that had operations in several cities. With DOR's resources stretched, cities would have been unable to take up the slack when it came time to see who was paying their fair share.

The bill changed the way that construction was taxed, going to a point of sale model rather than where the construction was being done. This turned out to be one of the most contentious parts of the bill, since it directly affected the income of many cities, especially those with a great deal of construction going on within their limits. Our estimates were that this provision would have cost Tucson between \$7 and \$8 million.

That was the bill as written on Wednesday morning. Over the next few hours, the bill was changed.

The administrative provisions were delayed until DOR had the personnel and technology to handle the new volume of work involved. The new audit provision will now allow city auditors to oversee multi-city businesses, but with DOR oversight to make sure that there is no harassment of businesses. The construction provisions were changed to exclude home remodeling and other minor construction projects.

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

SUNGO

The bill, as amended, is not perfect. Tucson will still take a hit. The estimates I've seen from our City Manager's office are between \$1.3 and \$1.6 million; I think it may be closer to \$2 million. Still, it could have been much worse. Credit goes to our lobbyists and the League of Cities for helping out on this, and particular credit to Rep. Steve Farley. Farley shepherded many of these changes in the closing hours of the session.

Like I said, it is still a hit to our budget. When we passed the pay raises a couple of months ago, we didn't know what the loss would be due to TPT changes, or even if they would pass. At the time, I said that I was leery of making that sort of decision before we knew what sort

of budget impact the legislature would have on us this year. Now we know.

With that, it's time to wind down this week's note. Take time to notice that our roads are improving, and make sure to call my office with any observations, praise or complaints.

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.

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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

HOME WATER AUDIT

Starting in July, the Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste Program is changing the 2nd Saturday Outreach Collection to a "mobile" event. Every month, the collection event will be in a different neighborhood so that more Tucsonans will have easy access to the program. The 1st Saturday collection at the Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway, will still continue. The collections run from 8 am to noon. For more information, visit [www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw) or call 888-6947

**IMPORTANT:** Do not drop off household hazardous waste at the Ward 2 council office. We have no way of storing it. Please wait until a scheduled monthly drop off.

*1st Saturday:* Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway. Enter site by

turning north on Prudence.

*2nd Saturday:*

July: TOPSC Lower Lot, 4004 S Park Ave

August: El Rio Neighborhood Center, 1390 W Speedway Blvd

September: Himmel Park, 1000 N Tucson Blvd

October: TOPSC Lower Lot, 4004 S Park Ave

November: Mansfield Park, 2000 N 4th Ave

December: Purple Heart Park, 100050 E Rita Ranch Rd

Whether temps soar to 106° or plunge to 23°, being water efficient is important every day of the year. Tucson Water offers free expert advice to help you conserve water, stop leaks and reduce utility bills.

A water efficiency expert from the Tucson Water Zanjero Program will visit your home, review water-use habits, check water fixtures and irrigation systems and install free faucet aerators and showerheads, if needed. Customers also receive a survey of their water use. You must be at home during the two hour Zanjero visit.

For nearly 17 years, Zanjeros have helped Tucson Water customers use water more efficiently inside and outside the home. Schedule your free Zanjero visit today via e-mail [TW\\_web@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TW_web@tucsonaz.gov) or phone 520 791-3242

**R O A D R A C E S**

The events include: 1-mile predict, 2K and 5K (distance may vary depending on location). Costs: Adults \$4.00 and Children \$3.00. Registration is on-site and at 5:45 p.m. The events begin at 6:30 p.m. Ribbons will be given to top finishers at each Track/Field meet and Road Race. The locations and dates are:

- Lakeside Park, 8300 E. Stella, East of Lake, June 27
- Jesse Owens Park, 400 S. Sarnoff Drive, West Side, July 11
- Freedom Park, 5000 E. 29th Street, South end, July 18

**C E N T E R  
C L O S U R E S**

The following East District Recreation Centers will be closed for annual maintenance on the dates listed below:

- Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana Drive  
July 29-August 2
- Freedom Center, 5000 E. 29th Street  
July 29- August 1
- Randolph Center, 200 S. Alvernon Way  
August 5-10
- Udall Center, 7200 E. Tanque Verde  
August 12-17

**P O O L H O U R S**

The Parks and Recreation pool season runs through 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

**R E C R E A T I O N  
G U I D E**

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 E N I O R  
P R O G R A M**

Seniors will have an opportunity to enjoy a trip to Mt.Lemmon on Thursday, June 27. The cost is \$6.50 per person. Lunch will be provided. Sign up at the front desk, 7200 E. Tanque Verde. Space is limited. Call 791-4121 for more information.

**L I T T L E  
L E A G U E**

The All Stars program will be taking place at Jesse Owens Park (Sahuaro Baja) and Udall Park (Sabino Little League and Tanque Verde Baja) on June 24-July 13. Come out to the park, enjoy a game, and support the players!

**S U M M E R  
T R A C K A N D  
F I E L D**

Summer Track and Field for youth will begin soon. The events include: Long Jump, Turbo Javelin (ages 18 & under), Shot Put, High Jump, 50 Meter Dash (ages 5 and under), 100, 200, 400 Meter Dashes, 800, 1600, 3200 Meter Runs, 4 X 100 Relay, and 4 X 400 Relay. The cost is \$3 for youths 17 and under, \$4 for adults 18 and over. On-site registration at 5:45 p.m. and events begin at 6:30 p.m.

Events take place every Tuesday through July 16; The events are held at the University of Arizona, Roy P. Drachman Stadium (Plummer & 15th Street). Ribbons will be given to top finishers at each Track Meet.

For further information, call the City Sports Office at 791-4870.

## SHRED-A-THON

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

## FOURTH OF JULY

All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2013 for the Fourth of July holiday.

In addition, the Ward 2 office will be closed July 4 and 5.



## DIA DE SAN JUAN

El Dia de San Juan Committee invites the public to the 16th Annual El Dia de San Juan Fiesta Monday, June 24 from 5-10 p.m. at the Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento, just off Congress, west of Interstate 10. The Fiesta will feature a procession, live music and dance, food and arts & crafts vendors, games and activities for children, and free water and watermelon. Free and open to the public, the Fiesta is non-alcoholic and boasts a family friendly atmosphere.

El Dia de San Juan honors the Saint's Day of St. John the Baptist, and has been celebrated by families living on the Westside for a century. Local tradition hails St. John the Baptist as the one who brings the rains, kicking off the monsoon season in the Old Pueblo. For the last thirteen years the Fiesta has begun with a procession from the west bank of the Santa Cruz River, which displays an antique statue of San Juan Bautista. Prayers from several cultural traditions are offered.

Following the procession, the Fiesta goes into full swing. Entertainers, including Gertie & the T.O. Boyz, Mariachi Viva la Mujer, Mariachi de Roskrige, and Los Charros will perform throughout the night. In keeping with the theme of the monsoon season and renewal, free water bottles are provided to Fiesta attendees. In addition to the food, arts & crafts and games booths, local community agencies will also offer tables with resource information.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting for June 25 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on July 9. 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>.

Keep in mind that there will be only one meeting each in the months of July and August.



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

**J U N E 2 0 , 2 0 1 3**

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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