



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

September 13, 2013

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PAUL'S NOTE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * October 5—Shred-It event at Ward 2 office
- * Fall schedule for Udall Park concerts, see page 4 for details
- * Town hall meeting on ballot propositions, see page 2 for details.

The most vexing issue at Tuesday night's meeting was whether to get rid of the economy fare for Sun Van. It was something I expressed some misgivings about for the last few weeks.

The most important thing to remember is that getting rid of this rate triples the cost of a Sun Van ride for the folks that use the economy fare, from \$1 to \$3. Other rates, for both Sun Van and Sun Tran, would have stayed the same. For those of you who don't know, Sun Van is a point to point transportation service for those who are developmentally disabled or severely physically disabled. Examples of persons who utilize Sun Van are inspiring individuals who day in and day out overcome challenges such as cerebral palsy, autism, blindness, paralysis, and Muscular Dystrophy. Many of these individuals survive on fixed incomes of less than \$850 per month.

We all know the cliché about good intentions. This proposal came about for a good reason: we did not

want to raise the rates of Sun Tran riders, but we still asked Sun Tran to find a way to get more revenue. This is what they came up with.

There may be a way to deal with the costs of Sun Van without raising rates for those riders. I talked to my friend, Representative Ethan Orr, who advised me that it may be possible for the Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities' (DDD) to subsidize selected rides, such as those rides to and from work or to and from doctor's offices. Whether we can get the state to pay for these is still an open question, but Representative Orr was willing to come to the council meeting and explain how such a plan could work. The two of us even arranged a meeting with Sun Tran and DDD leadership to get the ball rolling. Thank you, Rep. Orr, for bringing this to the attention of the Council.

While I am cautiously optimistic about DDD, we should not use the possibility of state help as an excuse to not move on our

own. Unfortunately, we as a council have been reluctant to acknowledge that rates will have to increase, or we will have to make cuts in other ways. Sun Tran has already found in internal savings (\$2 million) and some procedural changes could offer some additional modest savings. The bottom line is this: ultimately we will be faced with the simple choice of raising fares or cutting service. That means either fewer routes or fewer buses on the existing routes. That's the choice we have. We need to be straight with citizens about it. I know this isn't what many want to hear, but this is the reality of our situation.

In the event that we do have to raise rates. I'd like to see the raises be small, incremental and across the board. I've bounced some ideas on how to structure something like that with people from local disability organizations as well as the Bus Riders Union. It doesn't make people entirely happy, but the people I talk to have recognized that rates will likely have to increase. *(continued)*

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

As caveat, I have a couple of guiding principles. I feel we cannot raise any of the fares drastically in one year's time. Incremental increases are much better. I also feel that some of the fares need to not be raised any time in the near future. There are some solutions out there, and they need to be done if we want our transit system to be fiscally sound.

It wasn't all budgetary gloom and doom. Before the council meeting started, We had a chance to honor the Sunnyside Little League on winning the Little League Softball World Series. Tucson and Arizona have a distinguished history in Softball, going back to our former Governor Rose Mofford, who in 1939 was an All American Softball player, to the success of the women's programs at Pima Community College and the University of Arizona. However, for me, this accomplishment is the sweetest.

The Sunnyside Little League girls softball team is the first little league (any division) team from Arizona to win the title, and I have some personal pride because I've worked with and taught several of these girls during my time as a substitute teacher in the Sunnyside School District. By the way, in that final game, our girls didn't just win, they had a resounding 9 – 0 victory. I've said it before, but it's worth saying again: we are all proud of you. With all of the image problems we've had in our state, they showed the best face for both Tucson and Arizona.

TOWN HALL FORUM

Ward 2 will be hosting a town hall meeting on this November's ballot propositions on September 25. City staff will be available to explain the impacts of the various propositions. Propositions discussed will include:

- 401: Permanent Base Adjustment
- 402: Plan Tucson

The meeting will be at the Ward 2 office at 7575E Speedway and will start at 5:30 pm.

Note: Late Thursday, it was announced that Prop. 201, Sustainable Retirement Benefits Act, did not have the signatures to make the ballot.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste Program has changed 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 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: October: TOPSC Lower Lot, 4004 S Park Ave
November: Mansfield Park, 2000 N 4th Ave

SHREDDING EVENTS

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

Ward 2's semiannual Shred-It event will be here at our office at 7575 E Speedway on October 5 from 8 to 11.



The event is free, but we are asking for people to bring either a food donation or \$5 for the Tucson Community Food Bank per box that they bring in.

HOME WATER AUDIT

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 or phone 520 791-3242

TEP PARTNERS

Lower your electricity bill by tracking your power use! TEP is enrolling participants on a first come first serve basis to join an energy monitoring project to help you save on your electricity bill.

Enroll now by visiting enroll.teppowerpartners.com and sign up while spaces last. You will be contacted by a representative to schedule your installation. A technician will set up and install equipment at your home and show you how to track your use and see your energy savings online.

This program is a free-of-cost pilot program to help TEP customers save electricity and money, so sign up while there's still time! Learn more and sign up by visiting enroll.teppowerpartners.com.

UDALL CENTER PROGRAMS

The Carol West Senior Addition will host its 50+ Senior Health and Wellness Fair on September 19, 2013 from 11 a.m.-1:00 pm. The event will include 24+ exhibitors, refreshments, door prizes, presentations and more. Contact 791-4121 for more information.

Seniors will have an opportunity to enjoy a trip to the Presidio San Agustin de Tucson on Thursday, September 26, 2013. Departure from the Carol West Senior Addition is at 9:15 a.m. and returning at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$3.00 per person. The field trip also includes lunch

at the La Cocina Restaurant, and seniors are responsible for their own lunch cost. Contact the Carol West Senior Addition at 791-4121 for more information.



ARIZONA SYMPHONIC WINDS/TUCSON POPS ORCHESTRA

Come out to the park and enjoy music under the stars! The Symphonic Winds Fall concert series begins September 14 at the Laszlo Veres Amphitheater in Udall Park, 7200 E Tanque Verde. Other concert dates include; September 21, 28 and October 5. The concerts start at 7 pm.

The Tucson POPS Orchestra will perform at the DeMeester Outdoor Perfor-

mance Center (OPC) in Reid Park on September 22 and 29. The concerts begin at 7 pm.



FALL LEISURE CLASSES

The Fall Leisure Classes run through November 23. Registration is taking place now for Session 2 with classes beginning in October. Contact Registration Services at 791-4877 for additional information or visit www.ezeereg.com

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/TucsonParksandRecreation



READY OR HOT?

On Saturday, Sept. 21, nationally and internationally known speakers will share the latest information about climate change and specific impacts in the Southwest related to public health, adaptation, preparedness, and cross border and cross cultural issues. In the afternoon, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in workshops to prepare and respond to climate change adaptation.

The conference runs from 7:30 AM until 5:30 PM, at the Tucson Convention Center meeting rooms. The cost of just \$35 (\$15 for current students) includes access to speaker sessions, workshops, exhibitions, and includes a free buffet lunch and free on site parking. Visit www.psr.org/azclimate to register.



SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Watershed Management Group presents the Simple Solutions for Sustainable Living Series. To register for any of these events, go to <http://watershedmg.org/2013-presentation-series>.

October 17: Harvest the Sun (and Shade!) For Multiple Uses

6:30-7:30 pm

Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd.

Presenter: Brad Lancaster

Solar power doesn't have to be limited to expensive photovoltaic panels. Learn simple, cost-effective strategies for working with the sun that have a big impact on your utility bills and your carbon footprint.

Book signing: 7:30-8:00 pm

October 24: Shady Neighborhoods: Thinking Outside the Planter Box

6:30-7:30 pm

Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd.

Presenter: James DeRoussel

Learn how your neighborhood can create healthy streets and public spaces by harvesting stormwater to grow trees, shade, and habitat.

November 7: Responsible Home Ownership in the Desert

6:30-7:30 pm

Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd.

Presenter: Tory Syracuse

Learn strategies for living responsibly in the Sonoran Desert,

such as rainwater and greywater harvesting and using native landscaping.

November 14: Guiding Local Leadership Toward a Water Secure Future for Tucson

6:30-7:30 pm

Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd.

Presenter: Karilyn Roach

Water policy in the Southwest is complex, and Tucson is no exception. Learn about the latest issues and how you can get involved in supporting a secure water future for our community.

November 21: Learn to Build Healthy Desert Soils for Productive Landscapes

6:30-7:30 pm

Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E River Rd.

Presenter: Catlow Shipek

Learn to transform "wastes," such as stormwater or tree trimmings, into resources to enhance your soil for growing food and native habitat plants.

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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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on September 24. 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/mdocs>

