

Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

O C T O B E R 1 0 , 2 0 1 2

UPCOMING DATES:

- October 12-14: Tucson Meet Yourself
- October 13: Shred It
- October 16: Mayor and Council Meeting
- October 20: Fall Fiesta Health and Safety Fair

COUNCILMAN CUNNINGHAM'S NEWSLETTER

My proposal on medical marijuana dispensaries came up before Mayor and Council on Tuesday night. There has been a bit of oversimplification of what I was trying to do.

My proposal had two parts: one was to see if a limit of a quarter of a mile between dispensaries and places like schools would make it too hard for them to locate at all. My aim here wasn't to close them down, but to make sure that they don't concentrate in certain neighborhoods and don't present an issue for parents.

Secondly, I wanted to allow for reasonable exceptions to the new limit if there were physical barriers. Maybe the dispensary is 800 feet from a day care center, but it is across a wash or otherwise inaccessible and unseen. We make provisions for exemptions to the sign code and zoning code in individual situations, so there is a precedent.

The state initiative that allowed for medical marijuana got a great deal of support here in Tucson, and I was one of those supporters. We all have stories in our lives of a terminal cancer patient or elderly person with glaucoma who would benefit from safe access to medical marijuana. I want to do nothing to prevent it.

Like a lot of us, however, I am also concerned about marijuana's status as a "gateway drug." I saw too many kids during my time as a probation officer start with marijuana and move to much worse drugs. I worry that dispensaries in areas frequented by kids may encourage recreational marijuana

use. Which is why I got really worried when I saw dispensaries open up near Golf N' Stuff and the Erik Hite Child Care Center. Those two dispensaries made me want to reexamine the current policy.

The policy is still new, and we are largely working on uncharted ground in any case. My colleagues would prefer to let the policy work for a while. I understand that, but I believe we may have to revisit it in the near future.

On another long standing issue, Wilmot Plaza shopping center on Wilmot and Broadway needed some improvements but also needed a rezoning. The developer Thomas Saylor-Brown worked with my office and Lenny Porges of the San Rafael Neighborhood Association to come up with a solution that worked for everyone. The rezoning has been granted and the shopping center will be improved, a plus for the tenants and the neighborhood.

My former staffer Demetri Downing worked on this issue at the beginning, and Maddy Bynes took over after Demetri left. I'd like to thank both of them for their work on this project

We've given the community another example of neighborhoods and developers working together, and we've also saved breakfast at Brawley's Restaurant.



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S H R E D I T T H I S W E E K E N D

Do you have a pile of sensitive documents at home that you wish to destroy securely?

If so, gather them up and head over to the Eastside City Hall on Saturday, October 13 between 8 AM and 11:30 AM (or until the truck is full) to dispose of them at our “Shred It” event hosted by Councilman Cunningham and the Ward 2 staff.

Back by popular demand, “Shred It” is our effort at combating identity theft by offering Tucson a way to

dispose of their sensitive and private documents in a fast and secure way.

Your first carton of documents will be complimentary. For additional service, we are asking for a \$10 donation for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona or its equivalent in canned food.



W E A T H E R I Z A T I O N P R O G R A M

The Tucson Urban League, in partnership with the City of Tucson, is offering a weatherization assistance program.

The free program enables low income households to reduce their utility bills by making their homes more energy efficient. They are offering the program to the elderly, the disabled, and their families, as well as families with small children.

Services include air sealing, work on heating and cooling systems, replacing smoke detectors, shading exposed windows and testing appliances.

To be eligible, you must own and have lived in your home for 12 months as well as meet income qualifications. Some renters may qualify.

Applications are available from the Tucson Urban League, 2305 S Park Ave. You can also call 791-9522 ext. 2600 or go to their [website](#).

The Tucson Urban League also offers a home repair program for qualified applicants.

T U C S O N M E E T Y O U R S E L F

It’s time for Tucson’s most anticipated festival: Tucson Meet Yourself.

Tucson Meet Yourself was started decades ago by local Tucson legend and folklorist “Big Jim” Griffith as a way for the different ethnic and cultural communities of our city to learn about each other.

The event is also known as “Tucson Eat Yourself” to long time residents because of the wide variety of food

available. Want latkes? O’Odham fry bread? Dolmati? You can probably find it.

It’s more than just food though. [The schedule includes dancing from local cultural groups and music.](#) You can hear everything from the polka of the Bouncing Czechs to renowned local mariachi group Los Changuitos Feos.

The festival takes place Downtown at El Presidio Park on Alameda

between Granada and Church. The festival opens on Friday at 11 am, and will be open Friday and Saturday nights until 10 pm. Sunday hours run from 11 am until 6 pm.

It is free for everyone.

FALL FIESTA HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR

Councilmember Cunningham is co-sponsoring this year’s Fall Fiesta Health and Safety Fair.

We are working with Councilmembers Regina Romero and Richard Fimbres, along with the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Ocotillo Learning Center to offer free car seats, booster seats, and bike helmets for families that need them.

The event will take place at the Ocotillo Learning Center at 5702 S Campbell Avenue on October 20

and runs from 9 AM to 1 PM.

The Health and Safety Fair will also feature safety classes, kids’ activities as well as displays of fire and police vehicles. Organizers promise food, fun and music for the whole family while you learn a thing or two about staying safe.



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

Last week, we announced Barney Murray as one of our appointments to the Small, Minority and Women-owned Business Commission. This week I’d like to announce the appointment of my second member to that commission, Jason Tankersley.

Tankersley runs the Fairfax Companies, the largest green compost recycling operation in the region.

Both appointments were ratified at Tuesday’s council meeting.

If you are interested in the work of the Small, Minority and Women-owned Business Commission, their agenda and meeting times [can be found at their website](#).



MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Mayor and Council have two more meetings scheduled for this month, October 16th and the 23rd. The meetings begin at 5:30 with a call to the audience period near the beginning of council business.

Agendas for meetings are [posted online](#).

All meetings are held at City Hall at 255 W Alameda St.



We're on the web!
Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2

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Newsletter**

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
SAAF—Personal Hygiene Products and Personal Care Products
TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals and Families in Need
ICU—Eye Glasses
CINDERELLA'S CLOSET—Prom and Formal Dress Donations
DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—
Ballet/Dance Equipment