



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

November 25, 2014

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## PAUL'S NOTE

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \* Thanksgiving: The Ward 2 office and payment window will be closed on November 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- \* Houghton Open House: December 8, see page 3

We had a disturbing incident a few weeks ago involving one of our Sun Tran bus drivers. A driver got stabbed at the Laos Transit Center. His injuries proved to be non-life threatening, and a suspect was taken into custody a short time later. Still, it goes to show the risks that our bus drivers take every day making sure that both their passengers and other drivers on the road get to their destinations safely.

Several members of the Teamsters Union came to speak during public comment period at our last meeting, talking about the dangers of the job. It isn't just unruly passengers. One story

that caught my attention was a driver who intervened on behalf of a woman that was being harrassed.

One of the purposes our bus system serves is to help people who don't have access to other ways to get to their jobs, schools or other services. Seventy nine percent of low income households are led by women, so making sure people who need access to safe and reliable transportation is both a women's issue and an economic issue.

I met with Joyceen Boyle of the Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission earlier this month. They released a report in October entitled *How Women Manage in Tough Economic*

*Times: Coping with Hardship in Southern Arizona*. They surveyed both service providers and held focus groups with local women who are dealing with poverty. They address a wide range of issues. One of them of particular relevance due to our ongoing discussion of Sun Tran service, was on transportation issues.

One focus group participant that the group quotes felt that there was too much fighting and criminal activity, but the participants generally believed that the bus was a safe mode of transportation. It is important to remember that the attack on the driver

## PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

came at a transit center and not on a bus. Much of the credit for safety, according to focus group participants, goes to the drivers. Here's one participant quoted in the report:

"Bus drivers are usually good judges of character. Once I was on the bus and two drunk guys wanted on. The driver turned them down. Those bus drivers are not 'wusses'!—they don't put up with a lot!"

Another topic addressed was reliability and accessibility. The report details concerns that I've heard over and over again: the lack of service at night, the lack of connectivity between routes, infrequency of service and lack of comfort at stops. I've said it before: it does us no good to keep fares low if it means we can't adequately serve the population who needs service most.

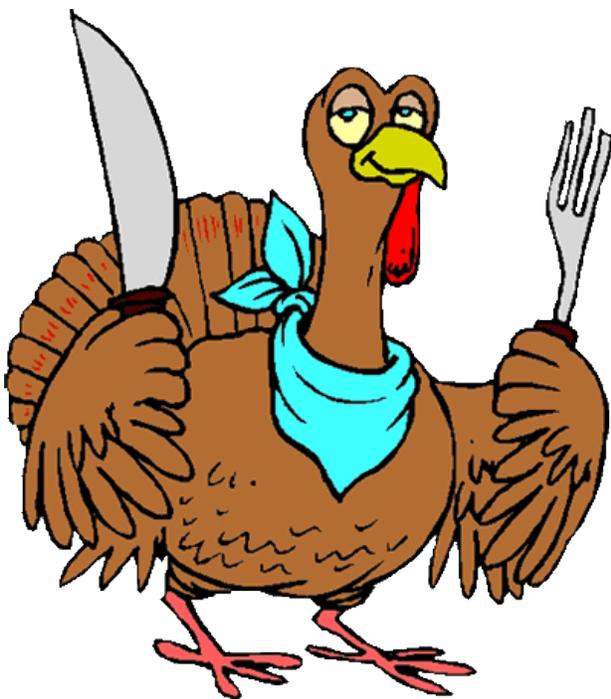
The report put it best:

"For low-income riders, a late bus can mean the difference between keeping a job or losing it. Buses should be dependable and kept in good working order."

The complete report can be found at the Women's Commission Website: <http://pimatucsonwomen.net/>.

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Remember that the Ward 2 office will be closed for both the Thanksgiving Holiday and on Friday, November 28 as well. Have a blessed Holiday.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

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## HOUGHTON ROAD UPDATE

**Broadway Intersection Improvements:** We are happy to report that this project is substantially complete. We hope you are enjoying your new intersection.

We will have some barricading remaining on southbound Houghton as we move into the Broadway to 22nd project. This is to help traffic merge from the larger intersection into the single lane south, until we get that built out.

The final work you may see going on in the area is as follows:

1. There were a few blips with the landscaping, but we have those back on track. They are shooting the gravel and placing rock this week, and as soon as they are done with that, we will place the seeding. For those that don't know, we place seeding in all areas where there isn't asphalt, concrete, rock or landscaping to keep down dust and prevent erosion.
2. We are making the final manhole adjustments to bring them up to the grade of the new pavement.
3. We are making some minor sign adjustments and we are waiting for the final thermoplastic striping that is due to come in the middle of December. We are trying to get this scheduled as soon as we can. (It has to be at least 30 days after the asphalt is placed.) Ideally, we would like to place it at night, but the temperatures need to be at least 55 degrees or warmer for it to go down effectively. If we don't have those temperatures, and we have to place it during the day, we will make sure we have TPD and sufficient traffic control to make this work with the least amount of traffic disruption as possible.

**Broadway Intersection Park & Ride:** The scheduled completion date is April 29, 2015. Grading for the "rough" is complete, for rip rap and the curb it is still in progress. Sewer adjustments and storm drain installation are complete. Electrical work is still in progress.

**Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street:** We are working on our final contract negotiations for this segment and hope to start construction in December or January, depending on right of way acquisitions. This project should take 18 months to construct. There are a number of "piles of vegetation" alongside the roadway throughout this project, and we want to assure you that they will be removed from the area as we move forward with the project.

Most of the utility relocations for the project are wrapping up. Cox is the last utility to remove their lines from the old TEP poles, and they should be down in a week and a half. Once they are complete, TEP will remove all the old poles.

The utility companies continue to coordinate their barricading with our construction projects.

**Art:** We have been meeting with our artists to discuss technical challenges and will be introducing them to you at our Open House scheduled for Dec. 8, where they will be presenting some ideas, and wanting to hear yours.

The artist team selected for this project is Donovan-Olmstead-Slenning. If you would like to look up some of their past work, you can find it on the Tucson Pima Arts Council website:

<http://www.tucsonpimaartscouncil3.org/dynamic/publicart/collection/collection.asp>. You can look them up in the "gallery" by artist name if you are interested.

**Stakeholder concerns and public outreach:** We have received calls and letters complaining about the installation of streetlights along portions of the Houghton Corridor. We hear you, and have scheduled the open house on Dec. 8 to discuss this issue at Pantano Christian Church, 1755 S. Houghton Road 6 to 7:30 pm, presentation at 6:30 pm.

## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**Anniversary Celebration:** The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall Center will soon be celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Udall Center staff are working hard on planning the festivities for the day. Wednesday, December 10th will be an all day open house at the Senior Addition in Udall Center. At 1pm, we are having a more formal recognition in our MPR. This will include a slide show, unveiling of a new senior club banner, cake, give-a-ways and a few words from a handful of folks in the community.



## PARKS PROGRAMS

**Spring 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog:** The Spring 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog has been published and is available for pick up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. The program guide can also be viewed on-line at <http://parks.tucsonaz.gov/parks/program-guide> The program guide contains information on leisure classes, KIDCO after-school program, aquatics, sports programs, registration and so much more. The Spring classes run January 4, 2015 through May 9, 2015.

Registration for the second semester of KIDCO is on-going

Contact Registration Services at 791-4877 for questions or additional information.

**Thanksgiving Programming:** The Tucson Parks and Recreation, Therapeutics Division (1000 S. Randolph Way) will host Down Syndrome monthly support groups for parents every second Wednesday of each month. The meetings take place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 747-2556.

**Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair:** The Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair in Reid Park (900 S. Randolph Way) will be held Thanksgiving weekend, November 29-30, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will be held at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center, which is accessible from Country Club and Concert Place. Attached is the flyer with additional information.

**Facility Closures:** All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed November 27 for Thanksgiving Day.

**PAUL CUNNINGHAM,  
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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**

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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 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>

