

Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

D E C E M B E R 1 9 , 2 0 1 2

UPCOMING DATES:

- December 25: Christmas
- January 1: Happy New Year!
- January 8: First Council meeting of 2013
- January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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PAUL'S NOTE

As we end my first year of public office and close out 2012, I wasn't sure what to write, this has been an eventful year both personally and as a community. As I reflect upon it, I am tentative about how personal to make this note, but I feel it appropriate to share some thoughts. First, my condolences to the community of Newtown, Connecticut. I have no words, so I thought it appropriate to borrow these:

"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming..... I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

*President Abraham Lincoln
November 1864*

This past year we as individuals and as a community have faced our fair share of triumphs, tragedies and challenges. With the event last week in Connecticut, and with my first year in elected office coming to a conclusion, I thought it appropriate to take stock in where we are as a community and wish all of you the very best as we approach the winter solstice. I am so grateful to be serving Tucson. Though it is not disputed we have our challenges, our disagreements and our arguments. From heated discussions about water conservation and being business

friendly, to the challenges some my constituents face from dealing with the water company or frustrations with public safety and roads. I want to acknowledge my colleagues for the sacrifice they make in serving Tucson as I truly respect the responsibility of serving the public. I also want to wish a Happy Holidays to the Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, City Manager Richard Miranda and City Attorney Mike Rankin. It is hard work to hold this City together, and these three individuals have worked tirelessly this past year for Tucson to take on a new attitude. I campaigned saying that this decade was Tucson's decade and I firmly believe we are well on our way to make that a reality. Finally, I want to wish a special Season's Greetings to my friends and family, particular my Mom & Dad, George and Margie Cunningham, my Grandmother, Lillian Fisher and two sons Joseph and Kyle. You are my guiding light when I am lost, my muse when I am silent and my driving force when I am stalled.

No Day but Today,
Paul



C O L D W E A T H E R A L E R T

Thursday morning's anticipated freeze is another reminder for residents and business owners to take necessary preparations to prevent exposed water pipes and plumbing from freezing.

"Area utility companies and local media have increased the awareness of their customers and audiences, especially over the last two years," said Fernando Molina, Tucson Water Public Information Officer. "More information on how to prepare for a possible freeze is available and ac-

cessible to help people. Tucson Water even developed a web page and videos on the subject nearly two years ago."

Properties and structures should be checked for exposed pipes and plumbing that carry or contain water. This includes backflow assemblies, irrigation systems, evaporative coolers, and cooling towers. Foam and wrap insulation are among items that can be used for protection from freezing.

Tucson Water will mail upon request a "Winterizing Tips" document and the

"Homeowners' Guide to Using Water Wisely." To receive both, call the Public Information and Conservation Office (PICO) at (520) 791-4331, e-mail pico@tucsonaz.gov, or go online to www.tucsonaz.gov/water/winter-prep.

P A C K I N G P E A N U T S

'Tis the season for many of us to get packages in the mail. In those packages we usually find styrofoam packing peanuts, lots of them. Many of the materials they are manufactured from are not made of easily biodegradable material.

Fortunately, there is a way to keep them out of our landfills and waste stream. According to the City's Environmental Services Department, many shipping and packing stores

will take used peanuts and reuse them for new shipments. Call your local shipping and packing store first to find out if they take them.

Also, used packing peanuts can be taken to Suburban Miners, 3959 E. Speedway, Building #305, Monday thru Friday between 9 and 5. They also accept used electronics and scrap metal.



T R E E C Y C L E

The TreeCycle program begins December 26 and ends January 6. The program is a way for Tucson residents to recycle their Christmas trees. Remember to bring your own container to bring home woodchips that can be used in your garden. Please remember to remove all ornaments, decorations and tree stands before dropping off at the TreeCycle sites.

Another way you can help the environment is to "tree pool." Bring your neighbor's tree too. Fewer trips mean less pollution for all of us.

The east side locations include:

Udall Park, 7200 E Tanque Verde Rd., South of the ball fields (follow signs)

Golf Links Sports Complex, Northwest of Craycroft Rd and Golf Links Rd.

Purple Heart Park, Southeast corner of Rita Rd. and Esmond Loop

Randolph Golf Course, 600 S. Alvernon Way, Southeast portion of parking lot



U D A L L P A R K

Udall Center will offer a Winter Camp for the dates of December 26, 27, 28, and January 2, 3 and 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 per session per child (ages 5-11 years old). Registration starts November 26, 2012 and at Udall Center only. The program will include fun games, sports, and arts and crafts. Limited space available. Call 791-4931 for more information.

Z O O L I G H T S

The Reid Park Zoo and Cox Communications are sponsoring Zoo Lights. Zoo Lights at Reid Park Zoo is guaranteed to put you in the winter spirit, with jingle bells, twinkling lights, falling snow, and Santa. Light displays, animal-theme light sculptures, and thousands of sparkling bulbs will help make Zoo Lights a part of your Tucson holiday tradition. Most animals choose to be off exhibit for this event.

Zoo Lights will be open from Thursdays through Sundays through December 9, and runs every night until December 23. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Donations of new, unwrapped toys for local children are appreciated.

N U T C R A C K E R

Dancing in the Streets will be doing a unique performance of the Nutcracker Ballet Saturday and Sunday Dec 22nd and 23rd at the Fox Theatre. In addition to the 125 students on stage, brilliantly costumed, Mayor Rothschild and his wife Karen will be dancing in the party scene as well as Dave Fitzsimmons with Mary Okyoe, Thom Lewis with Carla Keegan and Steve Nuñez with Treena Parvello. You can get tickets at the theater box office 520-547-3040 for \$13-35.00

P L A N T U C S O N O P E N H O U S E S

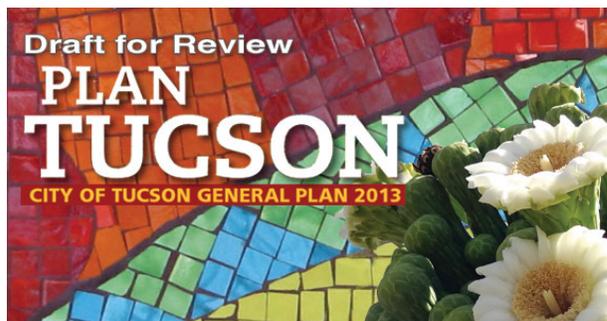
Now that the Plan Tucson Draft is available for public review, Public Open Houses have been scheduled, at which you may see a presentation on Plan Tucson, share comments, and talk one-on-one with staff. Please note the presentation will take place during the first half-hour of each Open House. Comments received at these Open Houses, along with comments received by other means, will be shared at Planning Commission and Mayor and Council public hearings in early 2013.

Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 TPD Westside Service Center, Meeting Room, 1310 W. Miracle Mile

Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:00 - 10:30 AM
 TPD Hardesty Multi-Service Center, Meeting Room, 1100 S. Alvernon Way

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 Ward 2 Council Office - Conference Room, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

The Plan Tucson Draft is now available for review and comment. Hard copies of the Draft are available for viewing at the Housing and Community Development Department and the Mayor's and each Council office. Also, a series of Open Houses on the Draft will be offered in December 2012 and January 2013.



M A Y O R A N D C O U N C I L

There are no more Mayor and Council meetings scheduled for this year. The next meeting will be on January 8. 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>.



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 Perish-
able Items
DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers
SAAF—Personal Hygiene Products and Per-
sonal Care Products
TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need
ICU—Eye Glasses
DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—
Ballet/Dance Equipment