



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

January 12, 2018

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PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Shredding event	3
Winter Clothing Drive	3
Parks Information	4
What to Drop Off	5

At this week's mayor and council meeting, my colleagues and I voted to make texting while driving a primary offense. Six months ago, a new ordinance came into effect making it a secondary offense, meaning that you could only be cited if there was an accident or another violation.

At the time my colleagues and I passed the ordinance, I was worried that as a secondary offense, it would be difficult to enforce. That's why when it was passed back in March, I asked that my colleagues and I take a look at it again after it had been on the books for six months.

The stats came back from the police department: since May, only 44 people were cited, and another 18 were given written warnings. As much as we'd all like to think that maybe it's because people are being responsible, the word from the police was that, as a secondary offense, they couldn't pull over most of the people they saw texting and driving.

Both the City Manager and the Police Chief recommended elevating the law to a primary offense, meaning you can be pulled over and cited for using your cell phone in the car without any other violation. My col-

leagues Richard Fimbres and Regina Romero had valid worries about possible racial profiling and the effect on less well-off drivers. We asked that the police come back with an ethnic breakdown of who was being pulled over, and we reduced the fine to \$50 for a first offense.

At the meeting, I admitted that I haven't always been responsible with cell phone use while driving. We all need to clean up our act behind the wheel and I hope making this change in the law will send that message

I have tried to be our city's most fervent

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

advocate for sports tourism (Major League Soccer preseason is coming up soon, folks), but my big focus has been on youth sports. There are so many valuable things that sports can do for young people from developing healthy habits to valuable character lessons that last for life.

I had a couple of visits to my office from some folks advocating for a sport with a different group of participants, one with a funny name: pickleball.

The game was invented in the mid-1960s when two friends (one of whom was later a congressman) wanted to play a game on a badminton court. They had no racquets or shuttlecocks, so they improvised with ping pong paddles and a wiffle ball. Viola, pickleball was born.

A half-century later, the sport has grown from that one improvised court to over 15,000 nationwide. Because of the small court and speed of the game, it quickly became a sport associated with seniors. It first appeared as a sanctioned sport at a Senior Olympics back in 2001 right here in Arizona.

The closest thing to fancy equipment that the sport requires is a paddle and the ball. That's it.

Of course, they need courts to play at as well. The city offers many places to play indoors. Ward 2's Udall Recreation Center, for example, opens up their gymnasium to pickleball five times a week.

The pickleball advocates who approached me, however, want outdoor courts available. There are some at resorts and senior living facilities, as well as enough courts to host a tournament at a RV park near the airport. However, they would like more outdoor courts available to the public just as sports like basketball and tennis are accommodated at our parks.

Existing tennis courts can be converted to pickleball simply by repainting the court and installing a new net. A pickleball court takes up half the room that a tennis court does, so a park with two tennis courts could become four pickleball courts. Parks and Recreation has been looking at what tennis courts are under-utilized that could be converted. We are also looking at locations where tennis and pickleball can use the same courts at different times.

Bob and Cindy Lutz are our local "Pickleball Ambassadors," and they are helping out with finding some sources of money so that the city can get a full, public tournament facility. A tournament facility could bring in tourist dollars. A tournament in Casa Grande in October had 1,400 participants.

I have to admit to a bit of skepticism when I had my first sit down about pickleball, but I think the prospect of Tucson hosting tournaments is exciting. Here's another chance for us to lead in sports tourism.

SHREDDING AT WARD 2 IS BACK!

The Ward 2 Council Office and the Environmental & General Services Department will be sponsoring a document shredding event on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at 7575 E. Speedway Blvd. in the Ward 2 parking lot. The shredding event is being offered in partnership with Iron Mountain.

Shredding documents is an important and easy way to make sure your personal information is protected. Additionally, all paper collected will be recycled. A limit of two boxes per vehicle will be accepted.

The shredding event will be held in conjunction with the monthly Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on February 3, 2018. Bring your documents for shredding and then drop off any chemicals or household hazardous waste at the same time. You can also drop off any electronics for recycling. For a list of accepted materials, please visit www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Every December and January, we try to collect winter items for a local charity. This year, we are collecting coats and winter clothing items for the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.

TIHAN serves people living with HIV from all walks of life and backgrounds, and also works to educate the broader Tucson community about HIV. Although medications are helping to keep people with HIV alive longer than ever, there are still thousands of people in Pima County with HIV, and TIHAN serves to help them live well.

For more information on TIHAN, you can visit tihan.org.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

Easter Island Presentation: Friday, January 19th Cost: \$1.00 Starts at 10:30 A.M. Enjoy some great pictures & information from the beautiful Easter Island.

Movie Day: Wednesday, January 24 Dunkirk - Rated PG-13 Start time: 12:30 P.M. Cost: \$1.00 - Refreshments served

Gem & Mineral Show: Tuesday, January 30th Cost: \$1.00 Trip leaves at 10:00 A.M. Back around 2:00 P.M. Lunch on your own. Space is limited!

The center will be closed Monday, Jan. 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

PARKS PROGRAMS

Activity Guide: Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for spring 2018 has arrived, and copies are available for pick up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. It can be viewed online at: www.tucsonaz.gov/parks.

The Activity Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, KIDCO after-school, aquatics, sports programs, registration, and the Discount Program. Registration dates are as follows:

The deadline for session 2 is March 13

All leisure class listings are online at www.EZEEreg.com. Please see the Activity Guide for more information on registration and deadlines. Whether you enjoy being active in slow-pitch softball leagues, want to design amazing jewelry, or get healthy and fit, there truly is something for everyone at Tucson Parks and Recreation. For questions or more information on registration or programs, contact Registration Services at 791-4877.

Senior Olympics: Tucson Parks and Recreation presents the 34th annual Senior Olympic Festival. This festival is a celebration to promote fitness, health, and an active lifestyle among adults 50 years of age and older. Events include volleyball, bowling, bridge, racquetball, basketball shoot, pickleball, archery, golf, tennis, horseshoes, badminton, and so much more. The festival takes place Jan. 6—Feb. 4 at various venues throughout the city.

Register online at www.EZEEreg.com, the deadline is Dec. 29 for events from Jan. 6-21 and Jan. 12 for events from Jan. 22—Feb. 4. Entry fees vary by event. For complete Senior Olympic Festival information visit www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/senior-olympic-festival. Contact Amber Hart at Tucsonseniorolympics@tucsonaz.gov or 837-8153.

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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

**SR. JOSE WOMEN'S SHELTER—Summer items
and clothing, athletic shoes, back packs, tote**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The first regular Mayor and Council meeting of the new year will be on **Tuesday, January 23**. 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>

