



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

March 1, 2018

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PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VITA Tax Help	3
Parks Information	4
What to Bring	5
	5

There is some good news for those of you that live near Palo Verde Park: we will be expanding the pool and installing a splash pad. The project will cost about \$85,000.

Here's another piece of good news: that \$85,000 does not come from the city's general fund, which means this doesn't come from your tax dollars.

The money comes from the service line warranty fund. You may have gotten a letter asking if you'd like a service line warranty. Five years ago, the city authorized the company that sells them to send those letters out. In exchange, the

city gets a bit of the money generated. It is divided equally among the council wards.

One of my priorities as a councilmember has been to make sure that our city pools are open and available to as many people as possible, and I was glad to find out that this money was available.

Many of the projects that we have been able to build in parks have been done through impact fees. Impact fees are small fees assessed on new homes built within the city. They are assessed because we recognized that new development has infrastructure costs

(whether it be new roads, parks or other amenities) that need to be paid for. There are a lot of state-mandated restrictions on that money, however. For example, the money can only go to new projects. Building a new basketball court would be doable with impact fee money, but improving or fixing an existing one would not.

Another legal restriction is that impact fee projects have to come off of a priority list from Parks and Recreation. The service line money, however, is spent at the discretion of your elected officials. Councilmembers must consult with

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

Parks officials (they will be managing what we build, after all), but it leaves us with more discretion and more ability to respond to community concerns.

That flexibility meant that over in Ward 1, they will be fixing playground equipment that was lost at Bonita Park due to vandalism. Ward 3 made some repairs in the basketball courts and Amphi Park and, with the help of neighborhood volunteers, has revitalized it. Ward 4 repaired old sidewalks at Lincoln Park. In Ward 6, seven neighborhood parks have gotten or will get new recreational equipment. None of those projects could have been funded with impact fees.

By the way, some of you that use the Fort Lowell Tennis courts have seen the repairs there. Those were also funded through service line money.

Like I said, an important thing to remember here is that this is not general fund money (money that competes with fire, streets, police et cetera), but money collected from a voluntary program. The city collects between \$85,000 and \$90,000 in fees annually. Tucson is not the only city to have a program like this.

Despite that, there was a move at the legislature to limit our ability to publicize the program. What is really disappointing is that it came from a Tucson representative, Todd Clodfelter. He didn't speak to me (Ward 2 and his district share a lot of neighborhoods) about the bill or let me know about his concerns with the program. He told our intergovernmental office after submitting the legislation that he based his bill on a single complaint.

The bill, known as HB 2625, may be dead for this session, but as many of you know, bills tend to come back. I'll be keeping an eye on this because I want to make sure I can keep getting improvements in our Ward 2 parks.

I've been proud to be a leader on the council when it comes to water conservation issues. Because of this, I had got an earful from a few of you when I supported the water infrastructure incentive proposal put forward by the Mayor and City Manager last week.

First thing I want to ensure people is that this is not a giveaway of water to business. This is to encourage industrial development along parts of the I-10 and I-19 corridor, places already within city limits and Tucson Water's service area. The incentive is to give businesses that open operations in that area a break on paying for an initial hook up to our water system.

For a business to qualify, they already have to qualify for the Primary Jobs Incentive. To qualify for that incentive, a business has to be investing \$5 million dollars and provide 25 non-retail jobs that pay at least \$52,000 annually (plus there are requirements for benefits as well).

In addition, to qualify for the incentive we are demanding that businesses take a series of conservation steps, many of which involve more than water. A business needs to do three of the following to qualify: build according to certified sustainable practices (LEED, Green Globes or 2030), minimize demand for outdoor water use, minimize demand for indoor water use, increase the urban tree canopy, provide alternative transportation incentives or support a sustainable workforce (green jobs, veterans or inmate re-entry).

I supported this because we are asking that businesses follow some strict guidelines on water use and sustainable practices, while bringing high paying jobs to Tucson. I was trying to keep some of the above general, but my staff and I would be glad to answer any specific questions or concerns about the incentive.

I learned that the parents of our just retired fire chief, Jim Critchley, passed away last month. Helen and James passed away within a week of each other. Both were active members at St. Pius X church just down the block from my office. Helen was a school nurse in the Vail School District and James was a railway conductor and an active member of the United Transportation Union. It was through his union activities that I met James, who was a supporter of my father's campaigns. I know that they were both proud of what their son accomplished in TFD, and they made our community a better place. My deepest condolences to Jim and his family.

VITA TAX HELP

We can no longer offer tax forms at the Ward 2 office, but we have been referring people to the United Way's VITA program. The VITA program's east side location is at Abounding Grace Lutheran Church, 2450 S Kolb Road. They are open for walk-ins Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays between 9 am and 1 pm until April 14.

VITA asks that you bring the following:

Required:

Both spouses, if filing jointly

Picture ID for taxpayer (and spouse, if filing jointly)

Social security card (or acceptable alternative - see below) for each person listed on the return

Proof of income, like W2s and 1099s

Documentation of expenses

If anyone in the household is insured through the Marketplace, Form 1095-A and dependents' proof of income

Recommended:

Account and routing numbers for direct deposit of refunds

Prior year tax return

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

AARP Tax Aid: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9 am—12 pm (Main Building)

St Patrick's Day Lunch: The lunch will be on Wednesday, March 14th, 1—2:30 pm. Lunch is sponsored by Atria Senior Living. Entertainment will be provided by the Accordion Club Of Tucson. The cost is \$5.00 Per Person.

College Softball Field Trip: On Friday, March 9th, come see the Wildcats take on Wisconsin. Sign up by the 5th. Cost : \$4.00 (Lunch On Your Own). Rides will be leaving Center at noon.

Brain Fitness Presentation: Wednesday, March 7th Starts at 10:15 am in Room #102.

Movie Day: Gifted (Rated PG 13), Wednesday, March 28th, Start time: 12:30 pm. The cost is \$1.00; snacks & refreshments will be provided

The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall features multipurpose rooms, lounge area with TV, computer adult learning center and pool tables. It is located at Udall Park and is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday.

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 a 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.

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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 next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 6**. 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>

