



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

March 10, 2016

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PAUL'S NOTE

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This week we voted to amend the Houghton East Neighborhood Plan to allow for a building's height to go from 20 feet to 26 feet. This was asked for by the developers of a proposed Fry's Markterplace in the area. Several neighbors came forward and advocated for the Fry's and reported it would improve customer service and the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Houghton Road is being expanded to six lanes and 22nd is being expanded to four lanes. As a result, even though I have my own concerns about whether or not this is responsible growth in Tucson, that area will be a major intersection. The proposed Fry's will offer opportuni-

ties for shopping, expanded choices for neighbors and provide \$30 million in construction jobs to the City of Tucson. Moreover, there will be 175 more permanent union jobs.

That said, I have major concerns and the design process. While my colleagues and I changed the height limits allowed by the area plan, we did not approve any specific development. That comes next as the developers put together a planned area development plan.

The developers are not asking for a traditional rezoning, but they are asking for a planned area development. This is also known as a PAD. The PAD allows developers to ask for a specially tailored zoning

code for that parcel. The exact specifications of that PAD would have to go to the zoning examiner and me and my colleagues. I have made it clear to the developer that the process of writing the PAD should include the neighbors as well as Saguaro National Park.

I was hoping that we could find other options for this corner. There are two parcels in the area that already have the zoning. I tried to encourage the developer to consider those, but both presented their own difficulties. I also had the idea that the controversial proposed "bike ranch" for the entrance of Saguaro National Park could be moved to this location, thereby getting the

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

church that currently owns the property the money that they need. Though the alternative is unlikely, I am hopeful the developers exhaust all options completely and examine it one more time.

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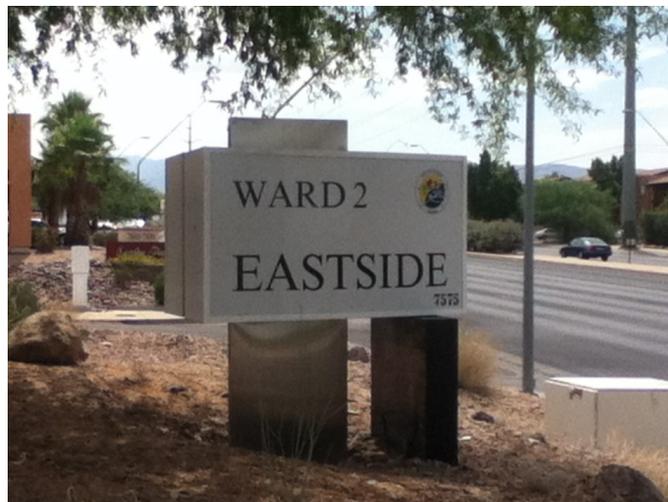
I received some inquiries about the Police Department reorganization this this week. In my time on the council, I've been in close touch with the commanders on the east side. They don't complain about it, but they have all faced challenges of how to keep their patrol teams staffed. I've wondered for years why we keep so many officers on desk duty if we can't keep enough people on patrol.

The chief's proposal includes moving 35 special assignment officers and 15 detectives back to field services. Field services are the officers on patrol.

The special assignment positions have been a great addition to the department, but we have a dire need to shore up patrol. Therefore, some special assignments will need to be reevaluated or eliminated so we can ensure that we are improving our response times. In addition, we need rethink the way patrol duty is compensated in comparison to special assignments.

Chris Magnus, our new chief, has been a breath of fresh air, stating realistically what the department's goals are. We have some amazing police officers on our force. In the past three weeks the Police Department has broken 3 to 4 cases and swiftly made arrests in extremely sensitive situations, including one high profile rape case.

I applaud the Tucson police officers Association response to the Chief's plan and agree that some of these changes were a long time coming. I support the Chief in his new reorganization and believe that we will continue to have one of the best trained police departments in the world.



ARIZONA SYMPHONIC WINDS

This is a note from László Veres, who has conducted community concerts for the Arizona Symphonic Winds at Udall Park for decades:

Join me and the Arizona Symphonic Winds as we celebrate our 30th anniversary with a “Gala Concert” at the Catalina Foothills High School Auditorium on Sunday March 20th at 2:00PM.

“I’ve Got Rhythm” by Gershwin, Bernstein’s selections from “Candide”, the gigantic “Finale” from Brahms’ 1st Symphony and a world premier of “Sonoran Celebration” by composer Mark Wolfram commissioned by the Winds for this 30th anniversary will display the virtuosity of the Winds ensemble.

This gala concert includes the appearance of Korby Myrick, an internationally critically acclaimed and classically trained mezzo soprano specializing in opera and other genres of music. Her impeccable artistry has earned the praise of the “Opera News” magazine.

...László Veres, Conductor

Notes from Mark Wolfram composer:

“Sonoran Celebration” is a concert overture which was inspired by the great Sonoran desert. The work uses a series of celebratory fanfare motifs which are woven throughout the piece – sometimes brassy and boisterous, sometimes warm and smooth – depicting the vast breath, beauty and variety of the Sonoran desert. Woodwind and brass choirs answer each other’s statements – ultimately combining to depict the majesty of the desert. This upbeat work features many soloists and every section in the band.

TANQUE VERDE/WILMOT/PIMA CONSTRUCTION

Clear Contracting, under contract with the City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) is working to improve the traffic operations of the Tanque Verde Road, Wilmot Road, Pima Street intersection. Work hours will be Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A dual left turn lane (second left turn lane) on northbound Wilmot Road to westbound Pima Street will be created by widening the east side of Wilmot Road. Additionally, the two triangular islands on the west side of the intersection will be removed and Pima Street will be reconfigured to accommodate the two lanes of traffic from the proposed Wilmot Road dual left turn lanes. Pima Street eastbound will be configured to have two designated left turn lanes and one right turn lane. The roadway surface will be improved for better rideability, as well.

During the work, two lanes will remain open in each direction on Wilmot Road and Tanque Verde Road. Only one lane will remain open in each direction on Pima Street. The project includes sewer and water modifications. The project is scheduled to be complete in late April.

PARKS PROGRAMS

Tax Aide: AARP free tax aide is offering services at Udall Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm through April 13, 2016.

Eggstravaganza: The 15th Annual Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mansfield Park (2000 N 4th Ave). The free family event will include fun carnival games, egg hunt, prizes and the Easter Bunny.

Spring 2016 Leisure Classes: Session II of Spring classes begin March 20.

Summer 2016 Activity Guide: Watch for the Summer Tucson Parks and Recreation 2016 Activity Guide which will be published on Monday, April 18, 2016. The Activity Guide will have complete information on classes, programs, aquatics, and registration. The guide can also be viewed at www.ezeereg.com.

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



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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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 22**. 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>

