



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

June 15, 2018

PAUL'S NOTE

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The cute dog in the photo is Roxy. She's a 12 year-old a schnauzer and a stray who had a grapefruit sized growth on her abdomen. Because of her age and health issues, she would in most cases be a candidate for euthanasia. Instead, the tumor was removed by veterinarians at the Pima Animal Care Center and she has been happily recovering as a foster animal under the care of a member of my staff. That foster care has included going on long walks and playing with other dogs. Roxy is one of 3,251 pets that have been fostered through PACC in the last year, a national record. Keeping those animals with a family rather than at PACC helps the animals and helps our community.



It just so happens that my colleagues and I approved an increase in the reimbursement the city gives for the PACC at our meeting last week. I wanted to take some time to tell you a little about what PACC does and why it is unique.

PACC is in the midst of completing the transfer to a new facility. The overflow tent will be coming down soon and the old building will be demolished as part of phase two of the improvements there. The new facility was built by \$22 million in bonds

that you and other Pima County voters approved in 2014.

Another member of my staff had the chance to tour the new facility earlier this year. Much of it is already in use during the transition. What he saw there is a far cry from the old fashioned dog pound. Enclosures for dogs, for example, are not just cages. They are tiny rooms where they have a chance to move around. They are also all on the outside wall of the facility so that they can, with the use of a "doggie door," ac-

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

cess a small enclosure outside just for them. The people that had a hand in designing the new facility believe that this will help the well-being of the animals while they are there.

It isn't just about making sure a dog gets a little sun or that a cat has more room to play. There are top notch veterinary medical facilities there that offer spay and neutering services as well as more advanced medical treatments for the animals that need it like Roxy. This is so they can maintain an "open admissions" model, meaning they never turn away a pet in need. Whether pets are sick, injured, orphaned or geriatric they have a safe haven at PACC. They are the only facility in the region that does this.

While staying away from the term "no kill," PACC has greatly reduced the number of animals it has had to euthanize. If an animal is treatable and not dangerous to the community, they will work to make sure it has, to use their term, a "live outcome." Six years ago, PACC euthanized half of the animals that came into their care. Just this last month, the facility set a record by having 92% of animals leaving the facility alive; that means either adopted or reclaimed by owners. Here is what Kristin Auerbach, the director of PACC, said in an e-mail to my office:

We want residents served by PACC to know that if their pet was ever lost or ended up in the shelter, it would be going to one of the safest, municipal shelters and would receive prompt, lifesaving care if needed as well as excellent care while it waited to be reclaimed or rehomed. Unlike organizations that bring in adoptable animals from other regions, PACC's focus is solely on being a safety net for pets in Pima County and Partner jurisdictions.

This doesn't only include care for pets, it also includes making sure pet owners and potential pet owners will be in a friendly environment. The new building also includes waiting rooms designed to make things more comfortable for people that are there to adopt or those dealing with the stress of looking for a lost pet.

PACC also opened up a call center a year ago that takes nearly 8,000 calls a month. Many of those calls are simple questions, but they have also been able to give advice to worried and struggling pet owners that keeps them from having to bring animals to the center.

In all, PACC took in 15,652 animals in the year ending May 31, that includes stray and surrendered animals. 8,958 pets were adopted and 1,933 were reclaimed by their owners.

All this care doesn't come cheap and that's why my colleagues and I approved an increase of just under \$300,000 to help pay for it. Marana and Sahuarita have decided not to use the center and contract with other agencies and veterinarians for services. It would be impractical for Tucson to do that given the number of animals from our city that go to PACC. It would also be fiscally irresponsible for Tucson, whose taxpayers will be paying for the bonds for a state-of-the-art animal care facility, to elect not to use it. Also, and more importantly, they will be unable to offer the range of services PACC does, and those are services that keep animals alive and adoptable.

LIVING HISTORY SUMMER CAMP

El Dia de San Juan is a reoccurring West Tucson celebration in which we honor St. John the Baptist, he who brings the rain down to the Old Pueblo. This celebration begins with a procession at Mission Gardens, with a blessing given by Reverend Showri and led by Grupo Coatlicue through Barrio Sin Nombre. After the procession arrives at the MSA Annex, the Fiesta will begin with all its exciting activities.

At this year's Fiesta, we will be welcoming local food and craft vendors such as Bambino's Hot Dogs, Aguas Frescas, Artesanias Mexicanas, Sweet Pieces and many more. Refillable plastic water bottles donated by Tucson Water will be available for attendees. As always, water will be provided by the Dia De San Juan Coalition at no cost. Additionally, local organizations such as Mi Familia Vota and Watershed Management Group will be providing informational material and community resources. There will be a special appearance by the Pure Water Truck and live music by Las Trillizas y Dulce Band, The Lopez Band and more!

This year's event is organized by El Dia De San Juan Coalition and facilitated by the offices of Councilor Regina Romero and Chairman Richard Elias. The 21st Annual El Dia de San Juan Fiesta will take place on Sunday, June 24 from 6-10PM at new MSA Annex, 267 S. Avenida del Convento, across the street from Mercado San Agustin.

Free parking is available in the lot directly in front of and behind the Mercado. The event will also be accessible by SunLink Streetcar at the Mercado San Agustin stop. We regret no animals are allowed, service dogs only.

There is still time to inquire about sponsorship opportunities for those who want to support the event. Contact Caitlin Jensen for sponsorship and media inquiries at 520-310-6262. Come celebrate the monsoons and explore the West side!

To learn more about the event, visit the Coalition's Facebook Page:

[Facebook.com/DiaDeSanJuanCommittee](https://www.facebook.com/DiaDeSanJuanCommittee).

SUMMER SAFARI FRIDAY NIGHTS

Summer Safari Friday Nights 2018 continues at Reid Park Zoo. The program runs 6-8 p.m. every Friday until Aug. 3. Visit the Zoo during cooler evening temperatures, and enjoy the added benefits of live music, family-friendly animal features, and food and drink specials. The night features face painting, glitter tattoos, enrichment stations, the carousel, animal encounters, and more. Regular admission applies, but some activities require an additional fee. Tonight's theme will be "Go Blue – World Ocean's Day Celebration." Wear blue and get \$1 off admission.

For more information, visit: <https://reidparkzoo.org/event/summer-safari-friday-nights-2018/>

PARKS PROGRAMS

Activity Guide: Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for summer 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:

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.

Carol West Senior Addition: 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.

Summer Track and Field: The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation department will be hosting the annual summer track and field and road race events Tuesdays and Thursdays in June and July. Track and field is every Tuesday, June 12-July 17, at Drachman Stadium, 501 S. Plumer. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the meet begins promptly at 6 p.m. Events will include: long jump, turbo javelin (18 and under), shot put, 50 meter dash (5 and under), 100, 200 and 400 meter dash, 800, 1600, 3200 meter runs, 4 x 100 relay, and 4 x 400 relay.

Road races will be every Thursday, June 7-July 19, at Freedom Park (June 7 and 28), Lakeside Park ramada 1 (June 14 and July 12), and Reid Park southwest corner (June 21 and July 19). Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with races starting at 6 p.m. Events will include: 1 mile predict, 2K short race, and 5K long race.

The costs for these events are \$3 for youth 17 and under and \$4 for adults. Ribbons will be given to the top finishers at each track and field meet and road race. More information can be found on the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation sports website, or call the Sports Unit at 520-791-4870.

Swim Lessons: Tucson Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the American Red Cross, to offer \$2 swim lessons to those who qualify. For details, call 791-2877 or visit tucsonaz.gov/parks

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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, June 19**. 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>

