



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

June 24, 2016

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PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Eastside Neighbors Volunteer Program	3
Immunizations	3
Parks Programs	4
What to Drop Off	5

Every member of my staff grew up swimming in city pools. Given temperatures this weekend, I don't think I need to explain what a necessary recreation option they are in the summer in Tucson. That's why I write about city pools so often in my newsletter, and why I fight so hard to make sure that having them open is a priority.

Still, we have pools that are closed. KGUN highlighted one in Ward 2 this week, the pool at Jesse Owens Park. I am as frustrated by this as you are.

What's more: even though they are closed, we need to keep them filled because of maintenance issues. That isn't

much comfort for a neighborhood kid who sees a pool full of water behind a locked gate.

A few years ago, we pursued private partnerships to keep more pools open. We should look at expanding that and looking for other ways (sponsorships, non-profit operators) to ensure that more pools are open during the summer. Could better amenities be a way of generating more revenue? I think it's something that should be looked at.

Other parks agencies, particularly Pima County, are able to keep their pools open. We should not be afraid to look to their model and see what they are doing right.

I met with representatives from the Metropolitan Energy Commission this week. They are very concerned about an upcoming rate case and its possible effect on solar energy use in Tucson.

My colleagues and I will be weighing in on that one in our July meeting. It is very important that we send a message to the Arizona Corporation Commission that we support solar power.

There are three cases regarding solar power coming up before the commission, one involving UniSource, which serves our neighbors in Nogales, and two later ones involving Tucson Electric Power and Arizona Public Service. The reso-

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

lution we are considering involves all of those cases, since the UniSource one will provide precedent and guidance to the later cases.

There are several things being asked for in these rate cases, one of the bigger items is allowing for a "demand charge." This one is bad for consumers for a number of reasons, most notably because even though it is ostensibly there to encourage energy conservation, it is difficult for an individual homeowner to manage and understand rather than the flat-charge-plus-energy-used system we have all grown used to see on our bills.

But the item with more severe policy consequences for those of us that want to encourage the use of solar power are the changes being asked for on what is called net metering. Currently, each kilowatt-hour you provide to the grid is credited to your account against power you used from the grid. If you happen to produce more power than you used, you are paid for it each year.

The changes would reduce the amount that a utility could pay you, and change the way that excess amounts can be carried over.

The system now isn't perfect, but a consumer who invests in solar can count on it paying off in the near future. These changes will make it less likely for it to be feasible for Tucsonans to use solar.

The Public Utilities Commission in Nevada allowed that state's largest utility to enact a similar plan. Since they did that last summer, sales of solar equipment has plummeted and the two largest manufacturers in the state have laid off hundreds of employees.

The claim from the utilities and their advocates is that solar customers are getting something for free and other users are subsidizing them. However, conservation due to solar has resulted in lower rates long term for all customers. A consumer of that utility in Nevada was seeing a net benefit of 1.6 cents/kilowatt hour on his or her monthly bill due to the utility not having to spend money on new capacity and expensive new plants. That's not even including the environmental benefits of fewer coal fired plants being built.

We've all heard the trope that Tucson has 284 days of sunshine every year. Rather than putting up barriers to consumer use of solar, we should be figuring out ways to make sure that our city leads in it.

EASTSIDE NEIGHBORS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Since 2004, Eastside Neighbors Volunteer Program (ENVP) has helped East Tucson Seniors remain in their homes and stay connected to the community. ENVP coordinates volunteers who provide private transportation, perform errands such as grocery runs, or make friendly phone calls just to proffer a cheerful voice and supportive ear. Services are already surging ahead of last year by 15%. Please consider devoting a few hours per month to the east Tucson senior community by becoming an ENVP volunteer.

If you can't donate time, you can still help. ENVP is a 501(c)(3) qualified organization that can take tax deductible financial contributions.

Check them out at www.tucsonenvp.com , or Email them at envp5scc@yahoo.com or call at 245-4729.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Many children will need immunizations before starting the 2016-2017 school year. As you plan the summer activities why not avoid the long lines when the kids are going back to school and include a stop to your medical provider or one of the public health clinics?

This is one of the 'to-do' items you can get checked off your list of back to school tasks. Be sure to bring your child's immunization records and insurance card to help speed up the process.

The Pima County Health Department clinics provide immunizations Monday through Friday. With an appointment, you won't have to wait, but walk-ins also are welcome and there is no charge for children!

In Ward 2, immunizations are available at 6920 E. Broadway Boulevard. For a complete list, visit pima.gov/health.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

Movie Matinee: *Eddie the Eagle* will be screened on Thursday, June 30 at 1:30 pm. The cost is \$1.00. Refreshment will be served.

Closure: Udall Center will be closed for annual maintenance beginning August 8 through 13.

Visit www.tucsonaz.gov/park/udall for more information on the Morris K. Udall Center and the Carol West Senior Addition. Call 791-4121 for questions.

PARKS PROGRAMS

Summer Track and Field: Summer track and field will be offered every Tuesday through July 19 at Catalina High School (2645 E Pima). Registration is \$4 for adults and \$3 for youth 17 years and younger. On-site registration will be at 5:45 with events beginning at 6:30. Events will include the short distance runs and relays, including a 50 meter dash for participants five and under. Field events include long jump, javelin, shot put and high jump. Ribbons will go to track meet finishers.

Summer 2016 Activity Guide: Watch for the Summer Tucson Parks and Recreation 2016 Activity Guide. The Activity Guide has complete information on classes, programs, aquatics, and registration. The guide can also be viewed at www.ezeereg.com.

Summer Swim: Pools open for Summer through August 4. Fall (year-round) swim schedule will be on August 4. For more City pool information call 791-4245 or 791-5352.

Closures: All Parks and Recreation facilities will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of the 4th of July holiday. Udall Center will be closed for annual maintenance beginning August 8 through 13.

The Sabino Canyon Road extension project will begin construction of the western Udall Park entrance and signal next week off of Sabino Canyon Road. The work will require the entrance to be closed for 2-3 weeks.

Call 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

Due to the July 4 holiday, the next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 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>

