



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

June 29, 2018

PAUL'S NOTE

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The Ward 2 office and water window will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

The state Department of Health Services estimates that we had nearly 8600 cases of opioid overdose in the last year, and that 1382 Arizonans died due to opioid abuse.

There are a lot of misconceptions out there of who opioid addicts are. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration estimates that 2.1 million opioid users misused their legally prescribed drugs. This makes them 40 times more likely to become heroin users.

Keep in mind, those are among the nearly 100 million people that are on prescribed painkillers each year. That's the

man down the street that has arthritis, the woman that had the car wreck, the veteran who took fire overseas and the athlete dealing with an injury. It could be almost anyone. National Safety Council reports that one third of those prescribed opioids didn't know that's what they were taking.

According to that same NSC report issued earlier this year, Arizona is doing some things right to confront the crisis. They count us as one of 13 states "improving" our response because of measures taken to mandate education of prescribers, implementing prescription guidelines, prescrip-

tion monitoring and data collection.

The one place where the report said Arizona is falling down is with treatment. Many folks that want to get off of opioids here in Arizona cannot find programs.

Which brings me to an issue that I've gotten calls about: an opioid treatment clinic that is planned for East Broadway.

There is something I want to make clear: the location that they are putting this facility in has the zoning, which is why there were no neighborhood meetings and

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

no council process. The current zoning is O3, which allows for “mid-rise, office, medical, civic and select other uses.”

Still, my office is doing due diligence on this to make sure neighborhood concerns are addressed. My staff has been in touch with the agency that is going to be running the facility and among the treatments that they offer is methadone. That isn't a word that makes a lot of people comfortable, but my staff has been talking to them about what is done to ensure the safety of the broader community.

They will be doing a number of things. One is very simple: when a client goes in for treatment, they are given a number. If they go outside, they lose their place in line for the day. This is a big incentive for patients to stay in the facility and not linger in the neighborhood, particularly those who need to go in for treatment daily.

Also, as a condition for methadone (or suboxone or one of the other treatments there are available) patients must also receive counselling or case management as part of their visit. They aren't just given methadone and leaving. As part of case management, many clients have to attend school or hold down a job to keep in the program.

Among the other measures they have taken at other locations is on site security to keep an eye on clients to make sure they aren't staying in the neighborhood as well as contracts with clients that say they agree not to loiter in the neighborhood as a condition of treatment. At the company's facility near St. Joseph's Hospital, they found that 90% of the clients that were outside the facility were waiting for rides.

Although the city does not have regulatory authority for these centers, each site is licensed by our state's Department of Health Services. In addition, they are subject to on-site inspection from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A study done by the University of Baltimore and the FBI surveyed 15 treatment centers in Baltimore and found no increase of crime in these areas. The study included a range of neighborhoods from low- to middle-income. As part of my due diligence, I had my staff reach out to our police division to see what calls, if any, are being generated by these facilities in Tucson. That information is being compiled.

In the case of this particular facility, I have been in touch with both the company and leadership of the neighborhood association. They are willing to meet with each other and the company has told me they are willing to hear suggestions on measures to minimize the impact on the neighborhood.

As the opioid crisis continues, there will be further need for sites like the one on East Broadway. I understand the need for them but I also recognize the need to protect our neighborhoods.

4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

The 22nd annual “A” Mountain Fireworks Celebration, sponsored by Desert Diamond Casinos and Entertainment, will start at approximately 9:15 p.m., Wednesday, July 4.

Residents may enjoy the fireworks from the Tucson Convention Center’s (TCC) Parking Lot B (off Cushing Street between Granada and Church avenues) or Parking Lot C (off Granada between Broadway Boulevard and Cushing Street). Parking will be free.

The Sun Link streetcar provides convenient access to the TCC at the Cushing Street stops.

Sun Link will extend its hours of operation on July 4, with the last trip departing about 30 minutes following the conclusion of the “A” Mountain fireworks.

PROUD TO PRESENT THE
22ND ANNUAL
A
MOUNTAIN

**FIREWORKS
CELEBRATION**
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018

PARKING LOT B
7:00 PM | FIREWORKS 9:15 PM

FOOD VENDORS
ENTERTAINMENT
& FIREWORKS

CITY OF TUCSON
TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER

WORKING TOGETHER
TO BUILD A
STRONGER COMMUNITY

DESERT DIAMOND
CASINOS & ENTERTAINMENT

866.DDC.WINS | DDCAZ.COM
Must be 21 to enter bars and gaming areas. Please play responsibly. An Enterprise of the Tobacco, Durham, Nation.

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

Slowpitch Softball - The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation department is now accepting mail-in registrations for the Fall Adult Slowpitch Softball Leagues. You can register in person from July 5 through July 27 at 900 S. Randolph Way. Call the Sports Unit at (520) 791-4870 for more information and other registration options. The season begins Aug. 6.

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, thru 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

Pickleball: What is pickleball? It's a sport with paddles, a wiffle ball, and a net, and you can play it at a few Parks and Recreation centers in Tucson and even sign up for a class. The next schedule of classes will be published July 30 in the Activity Guide for fall 2018/spring 2019. You can sign up for classes beginning Aug. 11.

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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, July 3**. 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>

