



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

July 8, 2016

**WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE  
7575 E SPEEDWAY  
791-4687  
WARD2@TUCSONAZ.GOV**

## PAUL'S NOTE

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At Wednesday's mayor and council meeting, we discussed a proposal to make Tucson Water's conservation programs more available to low income residents.

Yes, I'm a broken record on water conservation, but, as I said in Wednesday's meeting, this is the most important issue for the long term survival of our community.

Many of our neighbors don't realize that our water supply comes from 300 miles away and has to be transported over four mountain ranges. That has costs, both for energy to move the water and to

maintain the system that delivers it.

That's why I've been encouraging Tucson Water to be more aggressive in promoting active water conservation. This ranges from changing our building codes to encourage grey water use to rebates to low flow toilets.

There is also rainwater, the biggest bang for the buck. We are cleaning up from our last round of flooded streets. What if some of that water, instead of going into our streets, could have been stored so we could use it to water our gardens during our next dry spell?

Outdoor watering for our yards and gar-

dens accounts for 30% of most of our water bills. That is, as most of us who have tried to conserve have found out, also the easiest item to reduce. Using harvested rainwater is one way to keep those costs to a minimum and save potable water for drinking.

Tucson Water offers a rebate program for those customers that install rainwater harvesting systems (you can find out more about that at <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/rwh-rebate>). What my colleagues

## PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

and I have found out is that these rebates have not been taken advantage of by many of our lower income neighbors.

Here's a number that tells you the disparity: 400 residents of the Catalina Foothills, who don't even live in the city, have taken advantage of the rebates. In Ward 5, which encompasses many of our city's more stressed neighborhoods, only 43 residents have used the rebates.

It's not surprising: some of the equipment can run hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Even with a rebate, this is not an expense many of our neighbors feel they can take on. It's frustrating because people with smaller paychecks are exactly who would benefit the most from reduced water bills. We'd also be increasing our tree canopy. More shade means reduced electrical bills.

Councilmember Regina Romero and I asked the council to take a look at this. Both of us have been concerned about this situation for quite some time. What's changed is that we have a new water director, Timothy Thomure, who understands our concerns and has been working with us to find a solution. Tim deserves a lot of kudos for his approach to water and conservation issues

Wednesday, we directed Thomure and Tucson Water to work with existing partners in the community to develop a program to help low-income residents with rainwater harvesting. The money for this already exists as part of the conservation fund that all of us as Tucson Water customers contribute to. Any money spent on this is an investment in a greener and more water secure community.

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## CITY POOLS

With record heat upon us and little relief from the heat over the next several days, it's a good time to stay cool in a pool. The City of Tucson's Parks and Recreation department has 18 pools open for public use over the summer. Be sure to bring plenty of sunscreen with you. The summer pool schedule is in effect until Aug. 3. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for those 17 and younger. Summer and annual passes also are available. View a listing of the pools and operating hours at the link below. You also can cool off at the Catalina Park splash pad at 900 N. Fourth Ave. or the Marty Birdman Center/Balboa Heights Park splash pad, 2536 N. Castro Ave. Both splash pads have manual activation systems that allow residents to turn on the water features as desired, and they also have playgrounds. The splash pads are operational through the end of October, 8 a.m. until dusk.

For more information, visit <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/pools-and-splash-pads>

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## 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](http://pima.gov/health).

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## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**Movie:** Movie and lunch at Park Place on Tuesday, July 26. Departure from the center is 9:30 a.m. and return is 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.25.

**Forum Happy Hour:** Happy Hour at the Forum of Tucson on Friday, July 22. Departure from center is 3:30 p.m. and return is 6:30 p.m. The event will include drinks, food, and entertainment.

**Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?:** A "Smarter than a 5th Grader Challenge" will be held on Wednesday, July 13 at 11:45 a.m. Test brain power against the eldest KIDCO participants. Subjects include Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, History, and English. Lunch included. The cost is \$3.00.

**July Wellness Hour:** For the month of July, seniors will have an opportunity to participate in additional day of wellness on Fridays from 9:05 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.

*Please contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121 for questions.*

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## 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 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:** Udall Center will be closed for annual maintenance beginning August 8 through 13. The Sabino Canyon Road extension project work will require western entrance to be Udall Park to be closed for 2-3 weeks.

*Call 791-4877 for more information or questions.*

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**PAUL CUNNINGHAM,  
CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2**

Eastside City Hall  
7575 E Speedway  
Tucson AZ 85710

Phone: 520 791 4687  
Fax: 520 791 5380  
E-mail: ward2@tucsonaz.gov

Tucsonaz.gov/  
ward2

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**

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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Due to the July 4 holiday, the next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 9**. 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>

