



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

September 22, 2017

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PAUL'S NOTE

When we think of historic architectural treasures in Tucson, they tend to be either Downtown or up and down the Santa Cruz River: San Xavier Mission, Teatro Carmen, Stone Avenue Temple, Fox Theater. But some of the oldest buildings in Tucson are right here on the east side. Those are the buildings that comprised Fort Lowell in the 1860's and 1870's, as well as homes, churches and other structures built as part of the "La Fuerte" community that thrived in the area after the fort was decommissioned. Many of Tucson's oldest families have roots in the area.

Fort Lowell was first commissioned as Post of Tucson in 1862, but was located near downtown Tucson. After problems with disease (frequent flooding brought mosquitos and malaria, not to mention the infection issues from being so



Fort Lowell Commissary, located near Ft. Lowell Road and Craycroft Road.

close to the temptations of Old West-era Tucson), it was moved to the location we are more familiar with in 1865. In case current controversies are making you ask: Fort Lowell is named for a Union general, Charles Lowell, who was fatally wounded in the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864.

By the way, one of the doctors posted to Fort Lowell was a young Walter Reed, who developed his interest in infectious diseases while working with Native

Americans while being posted here.

Here's another fact for you: before Old Tucson was built, Fort Lowell was a location to shoot western movies. The first was back in 1918, when the great Douglas Fairbanks was there filming *Headin' South*. Other silent movies were filmed there too, with Ft. Lowell's historic buildings standing in for dusty Southwestern American or Northern Mexican towns.

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PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

One of those buildings is the Quartermaster's and Commissary Storehouse, usually just known as the Commissary. You can find it on the northeast corner of Ft. Lowell and Craycroft. In 1896, the Commissary property was split and sold to Lyman Wakefield and a French Immigrant named Severin Rimbaud. Over the decades, it became a residence, often for families who were part of the La Fuente community that lived and worked in the area. In the 1940's, it was sold to the Bolsius brothers, who were originally from the Netherlands. The family restored the property, including adding the iconic doors designed by Charles Bolsius. Charles was a well-known artist in Tucson, one of several artists who settled in the Fort Lowell area. Members of the family lived there until the 1980s.

The city now owns the property and was, until recently, renting out parts of it as apartments. As wonderful as the residents had been, it became difficult to keep the location habitable. It was getting more and more difficult to provide utilities, particularly gas and water, to the apartments. The residents have moved out so now the question has been what to do with the property.

At the beginning of the summer, a member of my staff along with leaders from Parks and Recreation took a tour of the site. It is in reasonably good shape. My concern has been getting the place re-opened for some sort of public use. The last thing I want, and I share this with residents in the area, is for it to be fenced off for years while we figure out what to do with it.

I'm happy to say that the process has started. The city has received a grant and we've hired the firm Poster Frost Mitro to develop a plan. The process will actually be fairly quick. The firm had a meeting on Thursday night with neighbors and will have three more over the next few weeks before submitting a report at the end of October.

I'll be keeping up with the process and I'll let you know what's decided.

ARIZONA SYMPHONIC WINDS

Ward 2's Udall Park is once again hosting Arizona Symphonic Winds' Fall series of concerts. The Winds concerts will take place at the LászlóVeres Amphitheater in Udall Park, 7200 E. Tanque Verde on September 16, 23, and 30. Concerts begin at 7 pm. For more information, you can visit Arizona Symphonic Winds on Facebook.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The city has openings for Public Safety Service Operator (PSSO). The Tucson Fire Department and Tucson Police Department are combining efforts to hire needed emergency and non-emergency operators.

PSSOs will be trained to answer 911 calls and serve as the first line of communication between the Tucson community and our Police and Fire services. PSSOs will be responsible for receiving both emergency and non-emergency requests for assistance from the public, passing critical information to our Police and Fire dispatchers. Dispatchers then ensure appropriate response from our public safety professionals across the City. This entry-level position promises opportunities for advancement within our future Police and Fire consolidated City Communications Department.

PAINT PIMA PURPLE

October will mark the 30th Domestic Violence Awareness Month, so once again, Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse is asking...

Will you help us Paint Pima Purple?

On October 19, put on your favorite purple outfit, take a pic & send it to communications@emergecenter.org or upload it to social media and tag us, #DVAM2017, #PaintPimaPurple, #EndDVTogether.

You can also book an appointment to get a purple hair extension for \$10 at Salon Nouveau (323-0770) and all proceeds will come to Emerge!

There will also be two opportunities to “Stuff the Truck.” With help from Two Men and a Truck, supplies will be collected for domestic abuse survivors. You can bring supplies such as gift cards, new bath and hygiene items and undergarments to:

Oct. 13, 7 am to 1 pm: CDO Baptist Church, 9200 N Oracle Rd.

Oct. 27, 7 am to 6 pm: Rincon Congregational UCC, 122 N Craycroft

The Ward 2 office will also be collecting supplies on Oct. 27.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

2017 Senior Health and Wellness Fair: This year's Health and Wellness Fair will be on Thursday, September 28th from 11 am to 1 pm. Over 30 exhibitors will be there offering services including mammograms, bone density checks, skin cancer screenings, vaccinations and hearing checks. There will also be raffle prizes and demonstrations.

The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall features multipurpose rooms, lounge area with TV, computer adult learning center and pool tables. It is open 6 am—8 pm Monday thru Friday and Saturday 8 am—4 pm. For more information, call 791—4121

PARKS PROGRAMS

Holiday Arts & Craft Fair Registration: Vendor registration is open for the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair in Reid Park. The fair is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend- Saturday and Sunday, November 25-26, 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit tucsonaz.gov/parks or contact Susan Orrico, Event Coordinator, 791-4877. Attached is an event flier.

Swim Fall Schedule: The swim fall schedule began on August 3rd. For additional information: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/pools-and-splash-pads>

Fall Leisure Classes: The first session of Fall Leisure Classes runs through October 14. Session two of classes will run October 29 through December 16. Visit EZEereg.com for details. 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

**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, October 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>

