



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

December 8, 2017

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

PAUL'S NOTE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Teddy Bear Toss	3
What's Brewing?	3
Winter Clothing Drive	3
Parks Information	4
What to drop off	5

Last year, Ward 2 residents were amazingly generous during the city wide blanket drive. After that was over, we continued to collect winter items for the Sister Jose Womens' Shelter.

This year, we have changed our focus to collect winter items for TIHAN, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network. We have been collecting small items such as toiletries for them for a while now, but we wanted to help them out and highlight the sometimes anonymous work they do in our community.

Long before it was called TIHAN, they were a group of volunteers working out of St. Francis in the

Foothills Church. They did this in 1983, when it was thought of as a disease that only affected gay men, IV drug users and Haitian immigrants.

The volunteers at St. Francis saw it as their duty as people of faith to reach out to people with AIDS and HIV despite the stigma and fear surrounding the disease. They cared for the sick and also did outreach to the broader community to advocate and educate Tucsonans about the AIDS and HIV.

They also got a number of other faith communities to help their mission. In 1994, TIHAN was

formed. Today, 48 faith communities are part of it, including several in Ward 2: St. Pius X Catholic Church, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, Saguaro Canyon Church and Saguaro Christian Church.

AIDS and HIV have largely been out of the news for around a decade, mostly because education programs like the ones run by TIHAN have helped decrease the number of emergent cases. It is still something that affects many of our neighbors, however. According to a survey-

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

completed by the Arizona Department of Health Services in 2015, 2491 people have AIDS or HIV in Pima County.

TIHAN provides care teams that do simple things for people in our community with HIV and AIDS, this includes shopping and rides, but most importantly, emotional support for them and their families, whether that's a phone call or being present for a medical appointment. They also have specialists that can connect people to services. They provide meals through the Poz Café. This is all in addition to continuing to provide both advocacy and education for the broader community.

We are collecting winter clothing, mostly jackets, for TIHAN this month and next. The jackets will go to people that are in TIHAN's care programs (62% of the people served by TIHAN are in poverty). We know that Ward 2 has been generous in past years, and we will be generous once again.

-

Do you need health insurance? You can get it through the Affordable Care Act. The deadline for the latest enrollment period is December 15th, next Friday. It is important for all of us to be insured. Because of the ACA, many more of us can access insurance. The uninsured rate is down to 10.3%, half of what it was before the ACA passed.

(Arizona, by the way, is at 14%, but fell from 21.2%, more than one in five, from before ACA was implemented.)

There are a lot of misconceptions about the ACA, but remember that the aim of it is to make sure that all Americans are covered. My family is in a good situation for health care since my wife and I can both get health care through our employer. That isn't true of many Americans. 27.6 million are uninsured, many of them are low income families with only one wage earner. Despite talk of rate hikes (they are projected only at 2% for next year), the ACA is the cheapest viable option for many Americans. A Kaiser Foundation study quoted in a Tucson Sentinel article this week notes that 4.5 million Americans would have their insurance costs through ACA covered by the subsidies that are offered.

Once again: the enrollment deadline is next week. Arizona's healthcare exchange can be accessed at HealthCare.gov.

-

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

Late Thursday afternoon, I learned of the retirement of Fire Chief Jim Critchley. Critchley has ably served our community for nearly 30 years. I'll have more time and space to write about Jim next week, but for now I'd like to thank him for his service and friendship.

LANDSCAPE WATERING GUIDELINES

Tucson Water has two new publications for customers who want to achieve efficient watering for their landscape. "Water by the Weather" helps determine the most-efficient monthly watering schedule for your landscape, based on plant and soil type. "Landscape Watering Guidelines" provides information on determining soil type and watering system components. The resources are written for landscape professionals and homeowners. Both are available, as are links to other valuable area resources, on Tucson Water's new landscape website, <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/landscape>.

WHAT'S BREWING?

The What's Brewing in Environmental Health series continues next week with a panel discussion on "The Impact of Floods" at 6:15 p.m., Monday, Dec. 4, at Exo Roast Co., 403 N. 6th Ave. Three panelists will address the science of floods and the impacts floods have on communities. The free event is presented by the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center and is sponsored by the University of Arizona and Tucson Water. Food and drinks will be provided.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Every December and January, we try to collect winter items for a local charity. This year, we are collecting coats and winter clothing items for the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.

TIHAN serves people living with HIV from all walks of life and backgrounds, and also works to educate the broader Tucson community about HIV. Although medications are helping to keep people with HIV alive longer than ever, there are still thousands of people in Pima County with HIV, and TIHAN serves to help them live well.

For more information on TIHAN, you can visit tihan.org.

PARKS PROGRAMS

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

Activity Guide: Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for spring 2018 has arrived, and copies are available for pick up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. Copies also will be available at the Family Festival in the Park event on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Reid Park or can be viewed on-line 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:

Resident Registration:

- Online: Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 am., Leisure classes, Aquatics, and Gym I
- Walk-in or phone-in registration begins on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m. for Adaptive Aquatics, Tapping Tots II, Gym II/III, and Therapeutic Recreation

Registration for Non-City Residents Begins Wednesday, Dec. 13, 9 am for all classes and programs

Registration Deadlines:

- Session 1: Jan. 2
- Session 2: March 13

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.

Senior Olympics: Tucson Parks and Recreation presents the 34th annual Senior Olympic Festival. This festival is a celebration to promote fitness, health, and an active lifestyle among adults 50 years of age and older. Events include volleyball, bowling, bridge, racquetball, basketball shoot, pickleball, archery, golf, tennis, horseshoes, badminton, and so much more. The festival takes place Jan. 6—Feb. 4 at various venues throughout the city.

Register online at www.EZEEreg.com, the deadline is Dec. 29 for events from Jan. 6-21 and Jan. 12 for events from Jan. 22—Feb. 4. Entry fees vary by event. For complete Senior Olympic Festival information visit www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/senior-olympic-festival. Contact Amber Hart at TucsonSeniorOlympics@tucsonaz.gov or 837-8153.

**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

**SR. JOSE WOMEN'S SHELTER—Summer items
and clothing, athletic shoes, back packs, tote**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next regular Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 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>

