



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

December 11, 2015

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PAUL'S NOTE

We had four public hearings at the Mayor and Council Meeting Tuesday night. One of the four was the annexation of the Desert Willow area near Bear Canyon, which will add a new neighborhood to the Ward 2 family.

Another, and one that has generated a lot more discussion over the last few weeks, was the Urban Farming Ordinance. It is the first of its kind in Arizona. The rules we passed would cover neighborhood gardens, farmer's markets and selling your own agricultural goods at your house.

In many cases, such activities were either not allowed, or the code was unclear. One of the provisions



of the voter-passed Plan Tucson is food security and sustainability. The Urban Farming ordinance is an attempt to get to those goals and also have respect for our

local agricultural traditions.

The ordinance came about after a task force worked it out and presented it at four public meetings, the first of which had

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PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

150 people in attendance.

The provisions that have gotten the most discussion have been those involving animals. Currently, the limit is 24 fowl but with a 50 foot setback for a shelter. The new rules set a limit of two “units” of animals (ranging for a chicken being one to a miniature goat being four) for every 1,000 square feet of lot size. The setback is now reduced to 20 feet.

There are some important things to know about these changes. One is that the current city code doesn't allow for roosters, and neither would the new one. I know this is a big consideration for those of you concerned with noise. Another is that many backyards will still not accommodate animals under the new rules. The 20 foot setback from neighboring properties is for a shelter building to provide for adequate cover and feeding of animals. That will still keep animals out of neighborhoods with small yards where they are inappropriate.

These rules, by the way, only apply to food bearing animals: chickens, ducks, geese and miniature goats. Pets are not covered, and laws regarding larger livestock, such as cattle and horses, would not be affected.

Code enforcement has let me know that less than one percent of calls they have gotten have been about chickens. Most of those have not been about noise or odors, but about hoarding and neglect. Both of these, unfortunately, are problems we see more often with dogs and cats. Current parts of the Neighborhood Protection Ordinance that would cover nuisances would still be in effect should a neighbor's duck hobby become obnoxious.

As urban farming has gotten more popular, other cities are looking at this as well. Tucson has already been contacted by some cities in Maricopa County and they will be keeping an eye on how this works. The rules will be sunsetted after two years, and we can revisit them at that time.

The new rules came after a process that involved neighborhood leaders, conservationists and even the Community Food Bank. It looks like the community has given my colleagues and I a set of rules we can live with.

In this week's newsletter, I'm including our first update about the Kolb Road/Sabino Canyon extension. I've been told that “minor” construction activities will begin on the 14th, but you may already see some activity in the area. You'll see a complete update from TDOT on page 3 of the newsletter, and I hope to be putting them up on the Ward 2 page and Facebook as well. You can always check www.sabinokolbconnection.info as well.

KOLB ROAD/SABINO CANYON ROAD UPDATE

Construction update: Construction of the extension of Sabino Canyon Road to Kolb Road is beginning. Tucson-based Ashton Company was selected as contractor for the project with a low bid of approximately \$12.3 million.

Project schedule: The contractor will begin mobilizing to the site on December 10, with minor construction activities beginning December 14 to start clearing the construction site along the entire length of the project. Construction will occur Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the winter months.

Major construction will begin after the first of the year. Work will take approximately 15 months to complete (weather permitting) with an anticipated completion date of Feb. 28, 2017.

Lane restrictions: As the majority of the work for this project takes place where no roadway exists, lane restrictions will be minimal. Traffic on Sabino Canyon, south of Tanque Verde, will have at least one through lane in each direction available at all times. Traffic on Kolb Road will have at least two lanes available in each direction at all times.

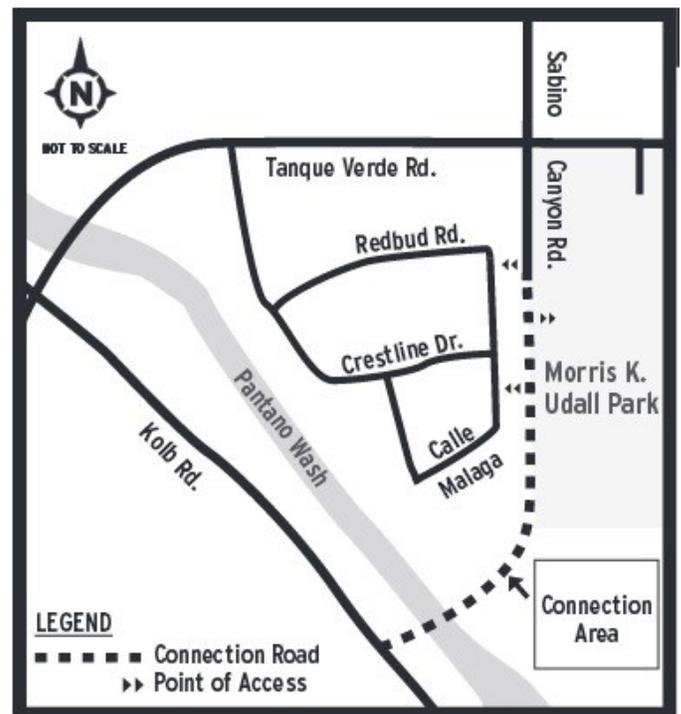
Access to businesses and local residences: Access to businesses and local residences will be available at all times throughout the course of the project with the exception of temporary delays during grading, demolition work and paving. Residents will be notified two days in advance of any work that will result in a delay that lasts longer than 15 minutes.

Project improvements: Project improvements include two lanes of traffic in each direction, along with new signals at both the Sabino Canyon Road intersections with Kolb Road and Crestline Drive. Improvements also include sound walls where warranted, bridges across Vincent Mullins Landfill and the Pantano Wash, drainage improvements, landscaping, public art, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the length of the project. In addition, LED street lighting for driver safety and neighborhood security will be included as well.

This project is part of the \$2.1 billion, 20-year RTA plan that was approved by voters in May 2006.

We appreciate your patience and want to hear from you if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

More project information is available at the website, www.sabinokolbconnection.info.



CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

Video Games: The Carol West Senior Addition will have Wii Video Game Demos on Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The games include golf, bowling, tennis, race car driving, dance and more. Refreshments will be served. No cost.

Holiday Party: The Carol West Senior Addition will host a holiday party on Wednesday, December 15, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tickets costs \$25.00 per person. Tickets for sale until December 9, 2015.

Downsizing your home: An informative presentation on down sizing your home will be given in the Multipurpose Room of the senior addition on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. The presentation is free.

For questions, please contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121.



PARKS PROGRAMS

Spring 2016 Program Guide and Class Catalog: Watch for the Spring 2016 Program Guide and Class Catalog to be available Monday, November 9, 2015. It will be available for free pick-up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. For questions or more information, contact the Registration Office at 791-4877.

TreeCycling: Residents can recycle their Christmas trees through the City of Tucson's TreeCycle Program. The program begins on Saturday, December 26, 2015 and continues through Tuesday, January 12, 2016. TreeCycle sites are located throughout Tucson and Oro Valley. Details and a complete list of TreeCycling locations can be found at: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/treecycle>

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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

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 15**. 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>

