



**Richard Fimbres**  
Councilmember  
Ward 5

**Ward 5 Council  
Office Staff**

**Council Aides**  
Melinda Jacobs  
Mark Kerr  
Javier Herrera

**Office Assistant**  
Heileen Evans

**Office Intern**  
Jonathan Simpson

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# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 7

January 2013

## Inauguration

Turning the page on years of war and recession, President Barack Obama summoned a divided nation Inauguration Day to act with “passion and dedication” to broaden equality and prosperity at home, nurture democracy around the world and combat global warming for generations to come. His words that day made me feel that there is still hope and happiness in the United States of America.



His inaugural address was positive, articulate, knowledgeable, forceful, hopeful and made point to thank all Americans especially our teachers, firefighters, nurses, and personnel in uniform guarding us near and far.

In his speech, he said “America’s possibilities are limitless, for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands.” He did not dwell on the most pressing challenges of the past four years, but instead took opportunities to speak up for the poor — “Our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it” — and for those on the next social tier — “We believe that America’s prosperity must rest upon the broad shoulders of a rising middle class.”

There was no cynicism in his voice. He spoke of unity and progress. He was not divisive. He invited all to join in rebuilding our nation. Obama did not dwell on the past but painted the picture of a bright, vibrant American future. He did not brag about his accomplishments nor was he condescending to his transgressors.

Above all and far more reaching he touched deep inside my being, my soul, my honor as an American. He made me smile and believe that my children and their future families will have the opportunity to live happy and prosperous lives if they strive and work. They can live the American dream.

His speech was less a list of legislative proposals than a plea for tackling challenges. “We must act, knowing that our work will be imperfect. We must act, knowing that today’s victories will be only partial, and that it will be up to those who stand here in four years, and forty years, and four hundred years hence to advance the timeless spirit once conferred to us in a spare Philadelphia hall.”

His inaugural address that day made me feel that there is hope in the world and made me believe that hope is eternal. Thank you, President Obama.

## Ward 5 News

### Cherrybell Post Office Processing Center Update

Senator Thomas Carper (D-Delaware) and Representative Darrell Issa (R-California) have met and are currently in the process of drafting legislation for postal reform. The City of Tucson's Federal Lobbyist is assisting the draft legislation. Updates are being provided to the Arizona Congressional delegation, and the Tucson Mayor and Council. Further updates will be provided as they occur.



Matthew Laos of the Grand Canyon Institute provided the following facts about Cherrybell to Arizona's Congressional delegation:

The Tucson Metro Region's population is approximately 33rd in the Nation and 2nd largest in the State; therefore the Cherrybell facility simply does not warrant being on the list due to its population size and geographic location.

Cherrybell serves not only Tucson but Southern Arizona, covering a vast area and a population of close to 1.5 million people. It is the 15th largest processing center in the U.S. Postal Service system of more than 480, and it should be closed over ones in Wisconsin or Iowa? Closing a facility that serves more than 1.5 million in Tucson and the entire Southern Arizona area does not make any practical sense. Arizona has more population than Wisconsin, Iowa, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Louisiana, South Carolina, but should have fewer processing centers.

There are only 2 processing centers in Arizona: Phoenix and Tucson; so to close Cherrybell means all Southern Arizona mail must be driven up to Phoenix for processing adding a 2-3 day delay for Tucson and up to 3-5 days rurally.

Cherrybell processes over 3.2 million pieces of mail daily which contradicts any argument that it is not cost effective for USPS to operate. The idea that Phoenix can absorb capacity lacks reality as Tucson often takes on Phoenix overflow especially during critical periods of Holiday mail and Elections.

During a meeting with postal officials, Mike Varney who leads the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce posed the question about how the postal officials reached a conclusion that the 33rd largest city in the nation in the 15th largest state with a growing population, should have less processing facilities than the state of Wisconsin, with a declining population, for which under their proposal, would have five. The postal officials could not answer this question.

This irrational closing means every business and non-profit loses bulk mail discounts and Tucson itself loses overnight mail delivery leaving the entire Southern Arizona region at a substantial economic disadvantage for retaining business and promoting new one.

Delivery service delays will dramatically affect Tucson Veterans, Seniors and disabled populations who rely on their needed prescriptions by mail and it will be worse for those living in Marana, Sahuarita, Nogales, Sierra Vista and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Arizona has a higher proportions of these groups than other States due to its climate and services for those populations. This action will degrade those services.

Cherrybell directly impacts the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, Raytheon, Davis-Monthan, Ft. Huachuca, as well as, National Guard and Reserve Units, Homeland Security's Border Patrol and Customs,

## Ward 5 News

(Cherrybell Continued)

Southern Arizona Veterans Administration, and other critical agencies from Federal, State, Counties and Cities. The loss of the Tucson postmark or misdirection of critical mail could be a serious issue for these institutions and agencies. The only argument a USPS representative provided to the AZ Daily Star for Cherrybell's closure was that Phoenix has enough capacity supposedly to handle the closing and not vice versa. The USPS did no real study to suggest Phoenix is cost efficient for the entire State and can actually do the job required. Arizona is more reliant on Vote by Mail for local elections than most states and it is considered cost efficient and it has become highly popular form of doing elections by all political parties. No study has been done on this matter.

### Tucson Rodeo

In its 88th season, this year's La Fiesta de los Vaqueros will be held February 16-24, 2013. Two major events make up La Fiesta de los Vaqueros: the Tucson Rodeo and Tucson Rodeo Parade. Center stage is the Tucson Rodeo with six rodeo scheduled performances.

As one of the top 25 rodeos on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) calendar, the Tucson Rodeo attracts the sport's current and former world champions, all vying for more than \$420,000 in prize money.

Current and former PRCA world champions are featured in each Tucson Rodeo. "The entry list for Tucson could be the 'Who's Who' of pro rodeo," boasts Gary Williams, general manager of the Tucson Rodeo. "In addition to the caliber of competition and the prize money, cowboys look forward to Tucson because the fans are great and the sky is blue. This is the first major outdoor rodeo of the year, so they're ready for sunshine, fresh air and 11,000 fans each day cheering them on," adds Williams.

The Tucson Rodeo Parade is billed as the world's longest non-motorized parade. This two-hour spectacle features western-themed floats and buggies, historic horse-drawn coaches, festive Mexican folk dancers, marching bands and outfitted riders. An estimated 200,000 spectators view the parade each year.

La Fiesta de los Vaqueros is hosted by the nonprofit Tucson Rodeo and Tucson Rodeo Parade Committees. A portion of the rodeo proceeds benefits community groups including the University of Arizona Foundation scholarship fund and local Lion's and Rotary Clubs. Proceeds from the Tucson Rodeo benefit the University of Arizona scholarship fund, the Lion's Club, Rotary Clubs and 4-H Groups.

Congratulations to our friends Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly who have been named the 2013 Grand Marshals for the Tucson Rodeo Parade.



## City News

### Bring Back the Splash

“Bring Back the Splash” was a collaboration of the private and public sectors, which not only helped the greater Tucson community, but also brought a new approach to problem solving, an approach that was recognized by the 2012 Common Ground Awards.

In all, the 2012 “Bring Back the Splash” Program received a \$100,000 in sponsorships and advertising from businesses, to help reopen six pools which had been closed. Businesses, such as Jim Click Automotive Group, Pima Medical Institute, Nova Home Loans and Royal Automotive, stepped up and made sponsorships for this effort.

**HELP  
BRING BACK  
THE SPLASH  
ONE POOL  
AT A TIME**

This idea for the program began in 2011 with the help of Councilmember Fimbres, businessmen Doug Martin and Rick Stertz, Tucson Parks and Recreation Director Fred Gray, and former Olympic Gold Medalist Crissy Perham. A private-public partnership soon formed and an effort launched to help Tucson’s closed pools. “Bring Back the Splash” was born.

New talks are currently underway to begin this effort again to help ensure that Tucson pools remain open for the summer season and to ensure that the Tucson community has a safe place to swim and be active.

### WWII Memorial

Construction of a World War II memorial in Downtown Tucson has been given the go ahead by the City of Tucson. The memorial, to be built in Armory Park, will honor and recognize Tucson veterans who served and gave their lives for their country. The start and completion dates of the project will be finalized following meetings between the artists and the stakeholders. “My dad is a World War II veteran who served in the Navy toward the end of the war. I look forward to personally inviting him, as well as all Tucson and Arizona veterans, to the dedication and celebration of this memorial,” Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild wrote. “Our World War II vets saved our nation and four continents from tyranny. Their sacrifice, their memory, will never be forgotten. Our gratitude will never fade.”

The project was originally inspired by Tucsonans Connie Harris and Gil Quintanilla who have since passed and family members who remain active and involved in the process. Former Tucson City Councilman Steve Leal spearheaded the project in 2005. \$19,500 was raised through community fundraising donations, State of Arizona donation of \$100,000 and \$100,000 of City matching funds for a total of \$219,500 for the project. The project stalled in 2008 due to the economic downturn.

In March 2010, Council Member Richard Fimbres and Melinda Jacobs worked to seek a resolution in starting the project and finalizing the commitment to begin work on the memorial. In July 2012, the City of Tucson’s Civic Contribution Fund matched the state’s \$100,000 contribution.

The project budget now is approximately \$219,500 thanks to the collaboration and donations of community organizations, private citizens, the State of Arizona and the City of Tucson. Because of the significance of the memorial, City Manager Richard Miranda has directed city staff to immediately begin the planning and implementation of the project. Special thanks to Ward 5 aide Melinda Jacobs for her work and perseverance on this project from the initial meetings through today.



Gilbert B. Quintanilla

## City News

### Economic Development Specialist for International Trade

The City of Tucson is pleased to announce the hiring of Juan Francisco Padrés as the new Economic Development Specialist for International Trade. This new position fulfills Mayor and Council's directive to further the City's trade position with Mexico and other countries.

Vice Mayor Regina Romero said, "I am very happy. This is an important step for the City of Tucson. The Mayor and Council recognize the importance of developing our business relationship with Mexico. This is an important economic development step for the City of Tucson and I look forward to a productive relationship with Mr. Padrés.

Mr. Padrés currently works for a major bank in the Phoenix area, but has many ties to Tucson including both undergraduate and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Arizona.

Mr. Padrés also owned a small business in Tucson giving him first-hand experience with government regulations and permitting. A native of Nogales, Sonora, Mr. Padrés maintains many important relationships in Mexico.

"It's a great opportunity for the City of Tucson for long term sustainability," said Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres. "We now have to compete globally and this is a move in the right direction."

As Economic Development Specialist for International Trade, Mr. Padrés duties will include increasing direct foreign investment from Mexico in Tucson, assisting Tucson businesses to expand their operations into Mexico, and identifying economic opportunities with other countries in addition to Mexico. Mr. Padrés will begin his appointment on February 4, 2013 as part of the City Manager's office of Economic Initiatives.

### Street Maintenance

On May 8, 2012, the Mayor and Council approved spending \$20 million on road repairs city-wide. I have requested an update be given on how this money was spent on roads throughout the City of Tucson. This update will be provided at the February 5th Mayor and Council meeting.

In addition, I will also be asking about the \$585,000 in HURF funds that were secured from the sale of parcels in Ward 5 that I directed, with Mayor and Council approval, for road repairs city-wide for fiscal year 2012.

An update on this agenda item and Mayor and Council discussion will be part of next month's newsletter.



## Ward 5 Announcements

### HAWK Crossing

A Hawk Crossing has been scheduled for construction at 22nd Street and Magnolia Avenue starting February 4, 2013 with an estimated completion date of June 3, 2013.

The High intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) is a pedestrian-activated beacon located on the roadside and on mast arms over major approaches to an intersection was first established in Tucson, AZ. Currently more than 60 locations throughout the city that use HAWK crossings. The HAWK head consists of two red lenses over a single yellow lens. It displays a red indication to drivers when activated, which creates a gap for pedestrians to use to cross a major roadway.



### Budget Talks

The Tucson Mayor and Council will soon begin discussions regarding the 2014 City Budget. The City of Tucson new fiscal year will run July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014. The Mayor and Council will review financial reports and departmental spending. For concerns or more information, please contact the Ward 5 Council Office 791-4231 or email [Ward5@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward5@tucsonaz.gov) (subject line: 2014 Budget).

## Congratulations and Thank You!

### Caballeros del Sol

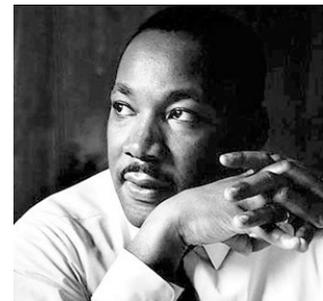
On Friday, January 11th the Caballeros del Sol held a celebration at the U of A Grand Ballroom to mark their fifty years in existence and to highlight their work facilitating and promoting business relationships between Tucson, Arizona communities, neighboring states, and Mexico. The Caballeros del Sol have provided a networking and business development vehicle for its members and make periodic trips to communities to promote commerce.



Congratulations to the Caballeros del Sol, and specifically to Mike Feder, Scott Polston, Tom Fisher and the oldest active member of the Caballeros, Bob Webb, for their work and success.

### Martin Luther King Breakfast

The Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association hosted their 23rd Annual Martin Luther King Breakfast on January 19th at the Holmes Tuttle Boys and Girls Club. A wonderful breakfast and program was provided to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's memory and dream. This event was funded through donation and raffles and funds that were raised will now be used to help youth with summer school, programs, band camps.



Congratulations to James Christopher and Willie Blake on another successful breakfast and to Pueblo Gardens neighborhood association for being the only neighborhood in the city to hold such an event.

PIMA COUNTY

# METAL WATCH

## THE PROBLEM

As the price of copper has tripled and other metals have doubled, metal theft is an increasingly pervasive and serious problem. While direct victims of metal theft include utilities and power plants, communications providers, radio stations, construction sites, and many businesses, it is a crime that significantly impacts everyone.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT:

One hundred dollars worth of stolen scrap metal can cost many thousands of dollars to replace and repair. These costs are ultimately passed on to customers. It is estimated that metal theft results in a total monetary loss of \$1 billion nationally, \$120 million statewide and according to the Tucson Police Department, there was \$2,146,000 in reported crimes from January 2012 to June 2012. It is impossible to know how much metal theft goes unreported due to concerns about increases in insurance premiums.

### PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACT:

- Power interruption due to copper theft has caused hospitals, clinics and 911 dispatch operations to be interrupted
- Copper theft of power lines creates a public safety risk for surrounding areas and anyone within immediate proximity
- Theft of brass metal fittings has led to the inability for firefighters to access water to put out fires within multi-story buildings
- Weakened public infrastructure has led to a lack of community confidence and fear for public safety as park and street lighting has been impacted

## PROSECUTION:

If you are a victim of metal theft, please report it to law enforcement immediately. Other steps you can take include:

- Use identifying marking technology so your property can be proven to be yours
- Note the description and license numbers of any suspicious vehicles
- Install security cameras with recording capability
- Consider using forensic security-marking products to mark metal goods to link thieves to the crime scene
- Note the description and license numbers of any suspicious vehicles
- Report anyone working after dark on street or ball field lighting and public parks

## LEGISLATION:

A goal of the Metal Theft Task Force is to encourage the state legislature to allocate the appropriate funding necessary to assist jurisdictions at the State and local level to conduct sting operations to catch metal theft operations.

Understanding the threat posed to our community by this trend, southern Arizona law enforcement, business and community leaders have united to form the Metal Theft Task Force and its citizen's group, Metal Watch.

## COMBAT THE PROBLEM

In order to combat the metal theft problem, the community must be united and work together.

### PREVENTION:

There are a number of actions you can take to increase the security around your property including:

- Get to know your neighbors and local businesses; lookout for each other
- Post "No Trespassing" placards around the property or signs indicating the presence of a surveillance or security system to deter thieves.
- Remove access to buildings and roofs. Eliminate items that allow for easy entry to buildings, such as trees, ladders, scaffolding, dumpsters and accumulated materials such as pallets
- Remove vegetation that allows thieves to hide from view on your property
- Secure your building access with deadbolts, and door and window locks.
- Increase exterior lighting dusk till dawn security lighting
- Protect fixtures (such as AC units) with locked metal cages
- Use building and perimeter alarms
- Secure all equipment and valuable supplies in a building or a securely fenced yard
- Create a master list of all of your property
- Have adequate theft and property damage insurance
- Review the security of perimeter fencing and gates on a regular basis
- Consider planting cactus around the perimeter fence
- Where possible keep doors and gates locked
- Upgrade locks on doors and gates
- Remove any means of transporting metal away, such as hand trucks and wheelbarrows
- Consider applying anti-climb paint to drainpipes and roof guttering
- Signs that warn of forensic marking are a good deterrent and should be prominently displayed
- Replace stolen copper back flow preventers with a plastic back flow preventer

### COMMONLY TARGETED ITEMS:

- Copper in wiring and air conditioning units
- Plumbing fixtures, including backflow valves
- Wiring in ball field lights and streetlights
- Vacant houses and commercial properties

**PLEASE SUPPORT your local and state officials in this effort.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 216 metal thefts were reported in Tucson between January and May 2012
- Thefts occurred at 14 Tucson parks and recreation facilities
- Tucson Water backflow assemblies and water box covers are targets
- Over 3,000 AC units were stolen in Phoenix in 2011
- Metal theft damages total over \$30 million in 2012 in Phoenix

## METAL RECYCLERS:

Southern Arizona has a significant number of licensed scrap metal facilities dedicated to providing excellent recycling services. This is beneficial for the environment and without them, our landfills would be overflowing with tons of old cars and appliances. The industry is acutely aware of the metal theft issues, and the operators often become victims themselves. The scrap metal industry is working with law enforcement agencies in a number of ways, including:

- Installing cameras that record the vehicle, seller and items being sold
- Identifying and fingerprinting sellers, and recording their information
- Developing a working relationship with law enforcement
- Advocating for the strengthening of sentencing laws



## PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

We need your help to prevent the enormous damage, risks to the community and costs caused by these crimes.

Please contact your State Legislator and demand action now!

FOUNDERS AND PREMIUM PROGRAM SPONSORS



## REPORT IMMEDIATELY

Call 911 immediately if you see suspicious activity around any of these facilities, particularly at night. Never approach suspects yourself.

Legitimate maintenance or repair personnel are usually in vehicles marked with jurisdictional signage and government plates.



## REMEMBER

PAY ATTENTION, HELP PREVENT, HELP PROSECUTE, SUPPORT 88-CRIME



## 88-CRIME COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

88-CRIME If you are aware of criminal activity and wish to remain anonymous, call 88-CRIME. If you wish to support the 88-CRIME program, please make a donation.

## CONTACT

For more information please contact:  
 Amber Smith, MPA  
 Executive Director  
 Metropolitan Pima Alliance  
 amber@mpaaz.org  
 520-878-8811



## IMPORTANT LINKS

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>  
 tep.com  
 endcoppertheft.com  
 goeyesite.com  
 copperwatcher.com  
 isri.org

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<http://mpaaz.org/advocacy/copper-theft-task-force>

## Frequently Used Phone Numbers

### **Emergency Services**

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department  
DIAL 911

### **Permits**

Planning and Development Services Department  
791-5550

### **Housing Assistance**

City of Tucson Community Services Department  
791-4739

### **Tucson Convention Center**

791-4101

### **Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal**

792-CITY (2489)

### **Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department  
791-3171

### **Transportation & Street Maintenance**

Tucson Department of Transportation  
791-3154

### **Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242  
Public Information - 791-4331

### **ParkWise**

791-5071

### **Pima Animal Care**

243-5900

Ward 5 City Council Office  
4300 S. Park Avenue  
Tucson Arizona 85714

Phone: 520-791-4231

Fax: 520-791-3188

[Ward5@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward5@tucsonaz.gov)

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Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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