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Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

July 2015

Dear Friends:

The Cherrybell Post Office community and business survey ended on June 30th, and I am proud to announce that there were 1,759 responses from people and businesses from Tucson, Green Valley, Oro Valley, Sahuarita, Nogales, Bisbee and points across Southern Arizona. I want to thank everyone who filled out the survey.



The survey received an overwhelming response in the community from over 1,700 Southern Arizona residents, of which the vast majority of participants –84% of individuals, 86% of businesses— reported mail service delays.

I also want to thank our Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild, the City Manager’s office, the respective business chambers of commerce, Alma Gallardo and the staff of Arizona Bilingual, Felipe Garcia of Visit Tucson, media outlets who covered the survey, the City of Tucson IGR office, the City Manager’s Office PIO Team, my Chief of Staff, Mark Kerr and last but not least, Tracy Tucker and Bracy Tucker Brown and Valanzano who put together the survey online, tracked the number of surveys completed and are compiling the results.

Mayor Rothschild will be presenting the results to the Arizona Congressional Delegation, as well as U.S. Postal Service officials during his trip to Washington D.C. I want to thank Congressman Raul Grijalva and Congresswoman Martha McSally for their work on this issue, as well as the following members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation: Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, Congressman Matt Salmon, Congressman Ruben Gallego, Congressman Trent Franks who are also working on this important issue for Southern Arizona. I also want to thank Tucson’s federal lobbyists, Terry Bracy and Tracy Tucker for their work on keeping Cherrybell open and for overseeing the survey. I also want to express my appreciation to Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, for his letter to the Postmaster General asking her not to close the Cherrybell Postal Office, Processing and Distribution Center.

In his letter, Governor Ducey called Cherrybell an “economic key” for Southern Arizona. Governor Ducey’s Southern Arizona Director, Juan Ciscomani, played a key role in getting this letter drafted and signed, for which I want to say thank you.

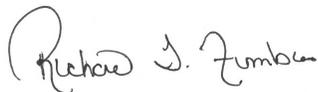
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I also want to thank State Senator Andrea Dalessandro, who also got the Arizona Legislature on record to oppose the closure of Southern Arizona's post office and processing center through her bill, HCM 2007. Democrats and Republicans supported her measure. I also want to thank Senator Olivia Cajero-Bedford, Representative Rosanna Gabaldon, Representative Chris Ackereley and Representative Macario Saldate for their work to keep Cherrybell open as well.

The effort to save the Cherrybell Post Office, Processing and Distribution Center has support from both sides of the aisle and all sides of our community, as the survey numbers shown.

Currently Cherrybell is now on the "to be determined list." So our efforts are succeeding. Cherrybell had been scheduled to close in 2011 but thanks to community, business and elected officials speaking out, it is still open. This fight is far from over. We will continue until we prevail and Cherrybell remains open and we get our Tucson postmark back.

Peace,



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Vice Mayor

Neighborhood Update

At the request of Barrio Santa Rosa, the Barrio Viejo neighborhood association and in concurrence with Pastor Davide Ferrari of the Central City Assembly Church, meetings were held at the Ward 5 Council office about the temporary shelter which had operated at the church and that had received some funding for 90 days from the City of Tucson. This temporary shelter was in the wake of the Veinte de Agosto downtown park that had been occupied by the homeless. Central City's temporary shelter closed June 13. Central City had stated their intent to reopen the shelter as a permanent operation but only if they had the support of the Barrio Viejo and Barrio Santa Rosa neighborhood. After a series of meetings, that included city staff and police, the neighborhood's brought up issues, complaints (filed with police) and concerns over security at Santa Rosa Park, as well as for the families and children, and the saturation of similar services and efforts in the area.



After these meetings the neighborhood leadership voted to not support reopening the Central City Assembly shelter, for which the Pastor announced afterward it would honor these discussion and not reopen.

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The Barrio Santa Rita neighborhood association, during this time, requested a meeting with police and city staff about an incident at Santa Rita Park that resulted in a homicide, a tragic fight between two cousins. Those present were updated on the homicide investigation. Also present were the coaches and members of a youth football program, the Tucson Raiders, who use Santa Rita Park for their practices. They brought up issues about the homeless in the park, citing the situations with the park facilities, needles and other drug paraphernalia on the field and security concerns for the football players and the young ladies who are part of the cheerleading program. The Raiders asked to be moved to another location while police step up their efforts at Santa Rita Park, for which the Ward 5 Council office and Parks and Recreation are working on.



Parks and Recreation increased their efforts on both parks and Tucson Police have stepped up efforts to deal with the ongoing situations in each area. Assistant Police Chief Ramon Batista informed those at the meetings that if someone sees something suspicious, to call 911 and report it.

The City of Tucson spends roughly \$20 million on homeless issues, from which this funding comes primarily from the federal government in the form of grants and otherwise for programs and services, such as COPE Behavioral Services and Primavera to name two examples, as well as efforts to provide shelter, such as the Salvation Army. This effort though must be a comprehensive one and not put all efforts and services in only one area since this is a citywide issue. The Mayor, this office as well as the Ward 3 and Ward 6 Council offices are working with the City Manager's office to develop a strategy and plan on this, including these programs and services, as well as the faith based community to deal with this issue. It will take our entire community to work on this issue for us to succeed.

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Tucson Bumped From List of Cities With Worst Roads *(Article from Arizona Daily Star)*

The grumbling from Tucsonans about the state of the city's roads exceeds the actual problem, a new report suggests, the Arizona Daily Star reported July 28.

Tucson did not make the cut in a national report released last week highlighting the regions of the country with the worst road conditions.

And the Old Pueblo's absence from the report by the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit research group TRIP was no accident, city leaders say.

It represents a major turnaround from the group's 2013 report, when the city ranked fifth worst in country.

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Beginning in 2012, road conditions started to improve because the council had reallocated some of the city's Highway User Revenue Funds and refinanced past debt. That allowed the city to put \$20 million into resurfacing about 60 miles of roadway.

Later in 2012, voters approved a \$100 million bond package that included resurfacing and repairs to more than 185 miles of city roadway.

To date, the city has spent about \$40 million of those bond funds.

The city's additional focus on roads over the past few years has shown results, Tucson Bond Oversight Commission chairman Ramon Gaanderse says.

"The fact that the city is getting work done on time and under budget is a good thing," Gaanderse said.

The TRIP report analyzed Federal Highway Administration data from 2013, dividing the country into areas with populations more than 500,000 people and those with populations between 250,000 and 500,000. It ranks streets as poor, mediocre, fair and good.

In the new report, 32 percent of city streets and roads were graded poor. Another 30 percent of roads were rated good.

Phoenix area roads were 13 percent poor and 54 percent good, the report shows.

In 2013, the TRIP report noted more than half of Tucson's major and arterial roads were in poor condition. That report analyzed data collected in 2011.

Tucson also ranked better this time on the calculations for the amount spent on road-caused car repairs.

This year, the report estimates area drivers spent an additional \$586 for auto repairs, down from \$723 in the previous report.

San Francisco was again the costliest city for motorists, with the average road-related repair needs totaling \$1,044 per year.

When the road bond projects are completed, the city will have repaired or resurfaced more than 185 miles of roadways.



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There's also the possibility the city could receive another \$65 million infusion specifically for road repairs.

Pima County's November bond election includes a \$200 million proposal for new road construction and repairs. Allocated proportionally based on share of property tax collections, the city's cut would be more than \$65 million. If voters approve, the combined investment in the city's long-neglected street and roads would exceed \$185 million.

I also want to thank Daryl Cole, the City of Tucson Transportation Director and his staff for the great work they've done on repairing our roads and streets. I also want to thank the good citizens of Tucson for their vote on Proposition 409 that gave the funding for the work on our roads to be done.

City Council Approves Lease Agreement with TAA

The Mayor and Tucson City Council have approved a new lease agreement with the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA), which is located in Ward 5. This proposal is one that will benefit our City as well as our Airport, some of the main points of this agreement are that:

A new working agreement between the City and the Tucson Airport Authority to market the developable property at the airport and including the recently annexed panels approved by the Mayor and Council. TAA has committed to adding an Annexation Clause to its subleases and occupancy agreements with its various tenants and for which as a condition of leasing with TAA to sign an annexation petition if the City presents one for signature.



Tucson's Mayor and Council will now be able to participate in TAA Board meetings and TAA will cooperate with the City to secure a buffer for the Raytheon operations; with the buffer to be provided at no cost to the City – the result of which could satisfy the City's commitment to Raytheon under the City's annexation agreement.

TAA working with the City and County on this could help free up city tax revenues generated from Raytheon – capped at up to \$8 million from the restrictions imposed under the annexation agreement with Raytheon. TAA will continue to invest in the airport, with an emphasis on infrastructure.

We have seen the work of the business community coming together on the First Impressions Project on Tucson Boulevard. We have the effort presently to secure direct flights, such as the one from Tucson to New York. Tucson had the first municipal airport in our nation and this action will be a benefit to the airport and our city.

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I want to thank our Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild, City staff and the Tucson Airport Authority Board for their work on this important agreement for our entire community.

City of Tucson General Election Update

In June, the Mayor and Tucson City Council voted to combine the City General Election with the Pima County Bond Election. The City Clerk's Office would conduct the mail-in August Primary Election as usual, but then would turn over the balloting to the Pima County Elections Department for the November General Election.

your **VOTE**
is your **VOICE**

Tucson's 218,000 active voters all would receive vote-by-mail ballots for the Primary Election in August. For the General Election, only the 135,000 city voters registered on the Permanent Early Voter List would receive mail-in ballots. The others either would have to request a mail-in ballot from the Pima County Recorder's Office (link below) or vote at a polling place. What this consolidated election means is a potential \$30 million in Bond Projects in the County Bond Proposals if approved by voters, two potential City of Tucson charter change proposals giving the Mayor's a full vote on issues and ending Civil Service status for Department Directors and an election for Mayor and the Council seats in Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4. In future newsletters, we will go over these points in detail.

Pima County Recorder's Office: <http://1.usa.gov/1xHGHOv>

Tucson's New City Manager

Michael Ortega, hit the pavement running and began serving as Tucson City Manager on July 1st. His first day of work coincides with the start of the new fiscal year. He replaces Martha Durkin, who has been serving in the interim since last July and is now Deputy City Manager. After an extensive national search, Mayor and Council hired Ortega in March. The comprehensive interview process included candidate participation in a community forum and interviews with Mayor and Council, a citizens advisory committee, City staff, and labor union representatives. Ortega is a former Cochise County Administrator and Douglas City Manager. He's also held numerous other positions in state and local government.



Streetcar Celebrates First Anniversary

Sun Link celebrated its first anniversary on July 24, with free rides all day, sponsored by Friends of the Tucson Streetcar, Tucson Medical Center and Tucson Electric Power. More than 9,000 passengers helped to celebrate the first year and enjoyed entertainment including award-winning vocalist Crystal Stark who performed on a streetcar at 7 p.m. In addition, merchants along the route planned events and specials to celebrate the anniversary. Sun Link opened to the public on July 25, 2014 and had an estimated 17,000 riders during its opening day and a total of 60,000 passengers over the first three

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days of service. Sun Link celebrated its millionth passenger boarding on May 21, 2015, ahead of projected ridership numbers. Since the launch of the streetcar, Sun Link has exceeded ridership expectation with approximately 1.1 million passengers. It has also won multiple awards, including the Metropolitan Pima Alliance's "MPA Project of the Decade" award.



The Sun Link system came about through a \$63 million dollar Tiger 3 Grant from the federal government. Pictured from the ceremony when then Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood came to Tucson to sign the check. Thanks to the work of Congressman Ed Pastor, Congressman Raul Grijalva, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and our then Mayor, Bob Walkup, the largest grant was issued for this project. Many said it couldn't be built or a streetcar system would run. A year later a million riders through the doors of the streetcars, it has hit a home run.



Mexican Baseball Fiesta

Teams from the Mexican Pacific League will be returning to Tucson Oct. 1-4 for the fifth annual Vamos a Tucson Mexican Baseball Fiesta presented by Cox. This year the Naranjeros de Hermosillo, Yaquis de Obregon, Aguilas de Mexicali, and the Cañeros de Los Mochis will face off at the City's Hi Corbett Field. "Hi Corbett has the feeling of home to a tremendous amount of baseball fans in the Tucson area," said Mexican Baseball Fiesta President Mike Feder.



Mike Feder wrote, "For those not familiar with Mexican League Baseball, let me explain. It's as popular as the MLB is to us, if not more so. At games there is electricity in the air, music playing all the time, mascots on the field, fans dancing in the stands, tacos and tortas instead of hot dogs and peanuts. Fans follow their teams with such fierce loyalty and pass the love of the game on from generation to generation. It's not uncommon to see three or four generations of family enjoying a game together. And this fall our city gets to experience it all first-hand as host to the Vamos a Tucson Mexican Baseball Fiesta. We again have the honor to welcome teams from the Mexican Pacific League and Major League Baseball Future Stars back to Tucson for the fifth straight year."

Tickets go on sale Sept. 8 at the Hi Corbett Field box office and online (link below). Visit Tucson reports over 1,700 hotel room nights were booked in association with last year's tournament. Mexican

Baseball Fiesta: <http://www.mexicanbaseballfiesta.com/>

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2nd Annual Kid'z Expo & Back to School event

The second annual Kid'z Expo & Back to School event will take place this coming Saturday, August 1st from 10 am to 2pm at the El Pueblo Regional Center, 101 West Irvington. The event will include:

- Over a 1,000 backpacks from kids from 6-13 years old
- Spanish books from The Mexican Consulate from 1- 6 grades
- Free car seats by TPD and TMC SAFE Team, for families and parents; a class must be taken the day of the event
- Free immunizations and free services by el Rio
- Bicycles, helmets and a lot of raffles the day of the event
- Live music, dances, and entertainment



Tucson Police department, firefighters and different non-profit organizations will also be on hand to provide free information to all families. Ward 5 is a co-sponsor of the event and we hope to see everyone there for this second annual event! I want to thank Alma Gallardo, the staff of Arizona Bilingual and my fellow co-sponsors.

Ready-Set-School Event

The Santa Rosa Neighborhood Center is hosting a Ready-Set-School event on Saturday, August 8, 2015. The event takes place at Santa Rosa Neighborhood Center, 1080 S. 10th Ave, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. This is a free community event for kindergarten to high school age students. We'll have information/resource tables, haircuts and school supplies for school age children

National Stop on Red Week

The City of Tucson will observe National Stop on Red Week 2015, which runs Aug. 2-8, by reminding residents that red-light safety cameras are part of a comprehensive effort to improve traffic safety in our community for all motorists, residents, families and children. Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, the National Stop on Red Week is dedicated to educating Americans about the dangers of running red lights and to reducing the number and severity of traffic citations and crashes. Intersection safety is an important topic as the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that motorists are more likely to be injured in urban crashes involving red-light running than in other types of urban crashes.



The City of Tucson would like to remind drivers how to safely approach an intersection. Drivers should always slow down and prepare to make a complete stop when a light turns yellow. Yellow lights provide drivers instruction to prepare for a change in traffic flow. Always yield to pedestrians as they have the right of way and always come to a full and complete stop before turning right on red. It's the

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law. Make sure the roadway is clear before proceeding and work with us to improve traffic safety in our community.

Tucson Parks and Recreation Seeking Input

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department wants to know how it can improve recreation and leisure opportunities for all of its users. This month, the department kicks off a process of information gathering that will result in a vibrant, new five-year master plan that anticipates future needs and outlines the actions necessary to deliver high-quality recreation facilities, programs, and services to the Tucson area. Public and stakeholder input is essential and critical to the success of the master plan. The public process provides opportunities for input through the project website (link below) or email to parksmasterplan@tucsonaz.gov. Stakeholder focus group meetings are being held through September 2015. The first round of community-wide open houses will be held in September in each ward. Locations and times for the public open houses will be posted on the project's website.



Parks and Recreation Master Plan website: <http://1.usa.gov/1SdGUyG>

Help Make Recycling More Effective

A recent survey from the City of Tucson's Environmental Services (ES) department found that approximately 90 percent of Tucsonans regularly set out their blue barrels for recycling, but 20 percent of the material put in barrels is not recyclable. Contamination - especially food, yard waste, and dirty diapers - can ruin a complete truckload of recyclables. Plastic bags, garden hoses, and clothing also can cause problems. Some of the things that go through the plant also are potentially harmful to the health and safety of the workers. There have been a few cases of items like syringe needles going through the facility causing workers to be stuck. Recycling is a positive for Tucson.



It helps conserve resources, extend the life of the landfill, reduce our carbon footprint, and it's economically beneficial for our City and customers, so it's important we do it right. The local recycling processor sells the recyclables and divides the profits with the City. Those revenues help ES offset a portion of collection costs and keep rates stable for customers. ES residential collection rates have not increased for four years. Follow the link below to read more, and learn what is acceptable and not acceptable for the blue barrels.

ES Recycle it Right!: <http://1.usa.gov/1OeMCOU>

Public Housing Programs

The City's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is accepting wait list applications for public housing programs, including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. All applications must be completed online through the application portal (link below) and will be accepted until further notice. Public notice is provided in English and Spanish and information on the City's website

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can be translated into multiple languages. For further information, assistance in applying, or oral interpretation in a language other than English call 791-4742.

City Public Housing Programs: <http://1.usa.gov/1BP8Np5>

Application portal: <http://bit.ly/1lpCrcg>

Nandi's Birthday!

The Reid Park Zoo is hosting a very special breakfast event on August 20th at 7 a.m. to celebrate Nandi's first birthday. The African elephant will search for gifts, work with trainers, and smash her birthday cake during the catered event. In addition, the Zoo's elephant trainers will discuss what Nandi's first year has been like and what her goals for the next few months will be. Hosted by the Reid Park Zoological Society, proceeds from the event will benefit the zoo's education programs, capital projects, and conservation efforts. Seating is limited for the special event and reservations can be made online (link below) or by calling 881-4753.



Event Information: <http://reidparkzoo.org/events/public/nandis-first-birthday-party/>

Park and Recreation Month

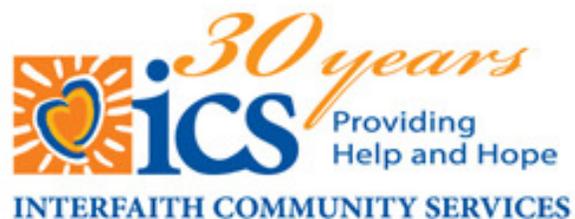
In July, the City of Tucson joined cities across the country in celebrating the power of parks and recreation for the 30th anniversary of Park and Recreation Month, created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Tucson is recognized by KaBOOM! with a Playful City USA designation for the ninth consecutive year. One way to find out about activities at Tucson Parks and Recreation is by picking up a copy of the Fall 2015 Program Guide and Class Catalog. You can also view it online at the link below. The guide contains information on leisure classes, KIDCO, aquatics, sports programs, and registration. It also has information about other programs and services, Reid Park Zoo, Tucson City Golf courses, swimming pools, and the Department's senior, recreation and fitness centers.

Online catalog: <http://1.usa.gov/1M2kW22>

Interfaith Community Services Volunteer Office

Interfaith Community Services now has a new Volunteer Office open at Santa Clara United Methodist Church near 12th Avenue and Valencia. ICS is now recruiting volunteers to help seniors and disabled people who need transportation to doctor's appointments, pick up prescriptions, or do grocery shopping. Volunteer drivers will be reimbursed for their mileage.

The new ICS Southside Volunteer Office marks a big step toward providing needed services in the area. While ICS is most in need of volunteer drivers, people can help in other ways as well. Volunteers are needed to help seniors and disabled people with



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mail and bills, provide friendly phoning and visiting, companion sitting, and do small home repairs. Anyone interested in volunteering can go to www.icstucson.org to find out more.

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) is a 30-year-old non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides services for seniors and adults with disabilities. The ICS Southside Volunteer Office will expand volunteer services in a new area. The ICS Main Office is housed at 2820 W. Ina and its Eastside office at 8701 E. Old Spanish Trail.

Tucson Creates Volunteer Program for Youth

Tucson has been chosen as one of 50 cities nationwide to participate in a movement to promote youth volunteerism outdoors. The program is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move! Outside" initiative geared toward encouraging young people to work, play, and understand the value of nature. Several community organizations will share \$212,000 in grant funding from the American Express Foundation for restoration projects in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and Saguaro National Park.

The initiative will also provide two years of funding for the YMCA of Southern Arizona to create a community coordinator position to help facilitate collaboration, grow resources, and increase participation in outdoor programs on public lands, from local parks to federal lands and waters. Funding will also support efforts to engage young adults and veterans to serve in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps and engage new volunteers during next year's National Park Service centennial.

Part of an overall strategy by the Obama Administration to connect young people to the outdoors, this initiative joins the President's recently announced "Every Kid in A Park" initiative to provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to national parks and other public lands and waters for a full year, and the National Park Service's "Find Your Park" campaign in preparation for next year's centennial of the National Park System.

Job Opportunity: Police Officer Recruit

The Tucson Police Department (TPD) is accepting applications for the position of Police Officer Recruit (MPTTP only). The earliest academy that will be filled from this list is February 15, but the date may be adjusted if necessary. In order to be eligible for the MPTTP, applicants must have performed essential duties as a military police officer full-time (2080 hours) for a minimum of one year in a specific law enforcement occupational specialty, satisfactorily completed military police training at a Federal Service School, and meet other requirements. Follow the link below for a full job description. The deadline to apply is Aug. 23.



Read the job description: <http://1.usa.gov/1MTCQCa>

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

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services Abandoned Shopping Carts

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Street Maintenance and Potholes

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242
Public Information - 791-4331

ParkWise

791-5071

Loose or Dead Animals

Pima Animal Care Center
724-5900

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4300 S. Park Avenue
Tucson Arizona 85714

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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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