

City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 10

April 2016



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Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

Close to four years ago, the Mayor and Council discussed the Broadway widening issue and the proposed eight lane roadway. I want to remind everyone that the eight lane project was a City transportation plan drafted in 1987.

The original plan was only to go to the north side and one Ward. The Mayor and Council met on this and a compromise was achieved. The project would also take in areas south on Broadway, encompassing two Wards, including Ward 5.

The Mayor and Council voted then to have the Citizens Task Force review this plan and to present the Mayor and Council with other options for consideration. The Citizens Task Force brought forward a proposed six lane plan, the Mayor and Council approved the concept and sent it to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for consideration, since it was an approved ballot measure in 2006 and the RTA compromised, voting to approve six lanes.

City staff and the Citizens Task Force proceeded on a concept design for the new plan. Questions were raised and the Mayor and Council had voted to extend the time and work of the Citizen's Task Force, requiring a vote by the RTA for further funding to continue the work. The RTA authorized further funding for Staff and the Citizen's Task Force to continue their work.

The concept proposal was discussed further, delayed twice due to questions and on June 9, 2015, the Concept Plan was approved by a 7 to 0 vote.

On April 5, 2016, the Mayor and Council held a public hearing on the proposed 30% design plan, hearing people at the meeting and through comments who favored building eight lanes, supporting the six lane proposal, opposing the six lane proposal and doing nothing and killing the project.

If the project is delayed further, the cost for any further action would have to come from the City's pocket. If the Mayor and Council had voted to kill the project, the City would have been on the hook to the RTA alone for close to \$8 million dollars. Plus there was the \$1.7 million the City had spent on early acquisitions and the more than \$3 million on the design process during the three years of work.

If the project had been killed, it would cost up to \$40 million just to repair Broadway in its current configuration.

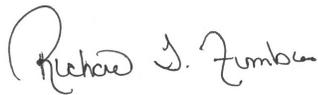
Ward 5 News

The talk of being able to spend the \$71 million dollars earmarked for the road construction was just that, talk. \$68 million was from the RTA and they would have pulled the money if the project was not moved forward.

This Mayor and Council, with the City Manager and staff, worked together to deal with the projected budget deficit of \$42 million. I was not again prepared to scuttle that work at that point. Compromise was reached again for our budget and was reached for this proposal.

This project has gone on for nearly ten years, and we can't delay it any further. I made the motion to move the compromise proposal forward, that will deal with the questions and concerns raised about historic buildings, the bus pullouts and other issues raised, as well as the help from Mr. Vint and the other volunteers. The motion was approved 5 to 1.

Property owners and businesses will be consulted by City Staff and the RTA Mainstreet Business program. Public workshops will be held with regard to the questions raised, the streetscape and landscaping to get input from the community for the vision of the corridor. In addition, architect Bob Vint and other architects and designers offered to assist, at no cost, to help with this project. This compromise plan will be refined as it progresses further in the process.



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember



22nd Street Pedestrian Safety Corridor Dedication

The City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) dedicated the Pedestrian Safety Corridor on 22nd Street, from Osborne Avenue to the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Branch tracks, near Santa Rita Park. A crash analysis conducted by TDOT shows that between January 2009 and August 2015, there were 25 bicycle and pedestrian crashes with motor vehicles along the approximately one-mile stretch of the area.

This is unacceptable and we are going to fix that, with the installation of warning signs, flashing beacons and the placement of a HAWK crosswalk at 22nd Street and Osborne, thanks to funding from the Regional Transportation Authority. The HAWK crosswalk was created in the late 1990's by Richard Nassi, then Director of TDOT. While serving as the Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, I helped to fund the construction of HAWK crosswalks in Tucson and across Arizona, which has shown

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to reduce pedestrian crashes. In addition, the Federal Highway Administration has designated Tucson as a Pedestrian Safety Focus City. The designation requires the City of Tucson to emphasize pedestrian safety and develop strategies to reduce the pedestrian crash rate. In addition, Tucson Police will have increased enforcement along the safety corridor.

I want to thank Pima County Supervisors Richard Elias and Ramon Valadez for attending the dedication, as well as Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, who spoke about the importance of this effort. I also want to thank Karla Petty, the Arizona Division Administrator for attending the dedication and explaining what a Pedestrian Safety Focus City entails.

I want to thank Vanessa Cascio, the Chair of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee for her work on Safe Routes to Schools in south Tucson schools and her efforts through the Living Streets Alliance in engaging more Latino neighborhoods on the issue of walkability and Angie Quiroz with the Barrio Santa Rita neighborhood who talked about her personal experience, as well as for other neighbors in the Barrio.



City Dedicates new CNG Facility

The City of Tucson General Services Department celebrated the completion and opening of new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facilities at the Thomas O. Price Service Center at Park Avenue and Ajo Way in Ward 5. The CNG plant and fueling facilities will serve the Environmental Services department, the City's Fleet Services, and Sun Tran. The new fueling stations will result in savings for the City and Sun Tran as they work toward converting fleets to renewable, environmentally friendly fuels. Converting vehicles to CNG should result in a 20 percent reduction in carbon emissions.

City News



Environmental Services Fee and Water Rate Increased Proposed

The Mayor and Tucson City Council were asked to consider a new fee to help fund recycling within the Environmental Services (ES) department. ES says sales of recyclable materials have declined, estimating it will receive no revenue from sales during the next fiscal year. In addition, ES will pay more than \$200,000 for processing recyclables.

The proposal recommends the residential surcharge initially be set at 45 cents per month, which would yield an estimated \$767,100 per year. When revenue for recycling exceeds \$750,000 annually, the surcharge would end. For commercial accounts, the recycling surcharge would be \$10 per month for each account. Under the proposal, the recycling surcharge would be adjusted quarterly. Per Council direction, a series of town halls are being held to discuss this possible rate increase that would affect the next two fiscal years. Two proposed water rate options are being presented, as will Tucson Water's cost-of-service analysis and five-year financial plan.

City News



To help offset the costs of maintaining the huge infrastructure necessary to deliver a reliable water source, Tucson Water is proposing to raise water rates by either an average 7.5 percent or 8.7 percent. If approved by Mayor and Council, the new rates would go into effect July 1. Tucson Water also has made budget cuts to help keep costs down. A public hearing will be held May 17 on the water rate increase, while another hearing will be held on the same date for a proposed, temporary Environmental Services recycling fee of 45 cents a month for residential customers

and \$10 a month for commercial customers. Town Hall presentations were held: Wednesday, April 20, Tucson Parks & Recreation Building, Mesquite Room, 900 S. Randolph Way; Monday, April 25, El Pueblo Activity Center, 101 W. Irvington Rd.; Tuesday, April 26, Quincie Douglas Public Library, Meeting Room 1585 E. 36th St.; Thursday, April 28, Tucson Water Eastside Service Center, 10445 E. Golf Links Rd.

Charter Review Committee Makes Final Recommendations to Mayor and Council

The Charter Review Committee (CRC) is out with its final report on possible Charter changes for the Mayor and Tucson City Council to send to voters. The City Council has decided to schedule a public hearing next month on two of the proposals. While nothing is final yet, the Council wants to gather public input on the recommendations for ward-only elections and eliminating the staggered election cycle. To comment on the recommendations, please email cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov or send regular mail to: City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726. You can find more information about the CRC recommendations at the website linked. CRC recommendations and further information on tucsonaz.gov: <http://1.usa.gov/205qwFO>. Let your voice be heard on our Charter.

Proposition 409 Road Bond Oversight Commission's Annual Report on Roads Available

The latest annual report for the Road Recovery Bond Program shows the 3-year-old plan is ahead of schedule and exceeding initial budget expectations. The Bond Oversight Commission (BOC) oversees the \$100 million, 5-year program that voters approved as Proposition 409 in 2012. As a result of the Tucson Department of Transportation's (TDOT) conservative road repair estimates and a favorable bidding environment resulting from lower material costs and falling gas prices, the arterial road mileage repairs authorized by the bond package are now estimated to cost about \$60 million. As a result, the BOC recommended, and the Mayor and Council unanimously adopted, an allocation of the extra \$40 million in bonded revenue to be spent on an expanded list of arterial and residential road repairs. With the additional capacity, TDOT added 550 lane miles to the program, resulting in roadway improvements to about 45 more roadway segments.



Bond Oversight Commission annual report: <http://1.usa.gov/1V9N4Vj>

Road Recovery: <http://1.usa.gov/1IxdFvK>

City News

Tucson Among Possible Sites F-35 Squadron



Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is among four sites under consideration for an Air Force Reserve F-35A Lightning II fighter squadron by 2023. The Air Force made the announcement yesterday. The other bases under consideration are in Florida, Texas, and Missouri. Local military supporters and government officials have been pushing for new missions at D-M since the Air Force wants to retire the entire fleet of A-10 Thunderbolt II close-air-support jets at the Tucson base. The targeted A-10 full retirement year is 2022, but D-M could start losing some of its A-10s by 2018.

Pima County leaders are in full support of the U.S. Air Force's consideration of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base as a candidate for location of the first Reserve-led F-35A Lightning II squadron. Air Force officials have established the evaluation criteria and plan to make a final announcement on the selection by the fall. The relocation process will begin by summer 2023. Pima County will work with all community partners to provide the Air Force whatever information it requires during its review and decision process. Davis-Monthan is among the four possible locations listed for the planned relocation. The others include Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas; and Whiteman AFB, Missouri. Davis-Monthan plays a critical role in the economy of southern Arizona and the Tucson metro area and enjoys strong support among the community. The base has a nearly \$1 billion annual economic impact in Pima County, which could be reduced substantially with loss of a flight mission at the base. A recent survey from the Southern Arizona Defense Alliance found at least 92 percent of people in the region stood in support of Davis-Monthan, with nearly three-quarters of those polled expressing strong or very strong support.



Cherrybell Post Office Update

Both Representative Raul Grijalva and Representative Martha McSally and their staffs have continued discussions with U.S. Postal Service officials to convey a strong message against continued consolidation of the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center and seek an understanding of the timeline for the suspension. USPS officials have not committed to a timeframe for the length of the extension, and continue to express that it will remain in place "indefinitely" and with a revised review of the criteria that determines another consolidation. SCM 1009 the state legislation having the Arizona Legislature go on record opposing the closure of Cherrybell and to urge Congress to take action to prevent its closure passed the House Rules Committee and is awaiting a floor vote. Thanks to the hard work by State Senator Andrea Dalessandro on this legislation.

Announcements

Parks and Recreation Summer Activity Guide Available Now!

Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for summer 2016 is available online at the link below and at all Parks and Recreation facilities, including administration offices, centers and pools. The Activity Guide contains information on leisure classes, summer KIDCO, aquatics, sports programs, registration, and the Discount Program. Registration will open April 23 for City residents and April 25 for non-City residents. For questions, please call Registration Services at (520) 791-4877.



View guide and register for classes: <http://bit.ly/1u7q4db>



Parks and Recreation Offers \$2 Swim Lessons for Those Who Qualify

The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation department, in partnership with the American Red Cross Aquatics Centennial Program, will offer \$2 summer swim lessons to the first 1,400 people (ages 6 months to 17 years) who qualify for the Discount Program. Find out if you qualify by viewing the Discount Program at the link below, or by calling 791-4877.

Pass Offers Kids Summer Discounts for Transit and City Pools

Tucson's SummerGo Youth Pass is available now for \$45. The pass gives students ages 6 to 18 unlimited rides on public transit and free entrance to all City pools. SummerGO can be purchased at several recreation centers and City pools. A student ID is required for purchase. The pass is valid May 22-Aug. 5.

You must register for the discounted lessons in person starting April 25 at 900 S. Randolph Way. For those who don't qualify, swim lessons will be \$15 per session. Lessons are offered in four, two-week sessions, with eight lessons per session during June and July. There are 18 pools throughout the city open from June 1 through Aug. 3.

Read the news release: <http://1.usa.gov/1rpoFAX>

Parks and Recreation discounts: <http://1.usa.gov/1D6qPCu>

Parks and Recreation website: <http://1.usa.gov/1ua6RJt>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Meeting

I want to thank everyone who turned out for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Meeting, held at the El Pueblo Senior Center, Tuesday, April 12. I

It was great to see our community involved about our Parks and our Recreation Centers. Also thanks to Fred Gray and the Parks and Rec Staff for their presentation.



Announcements



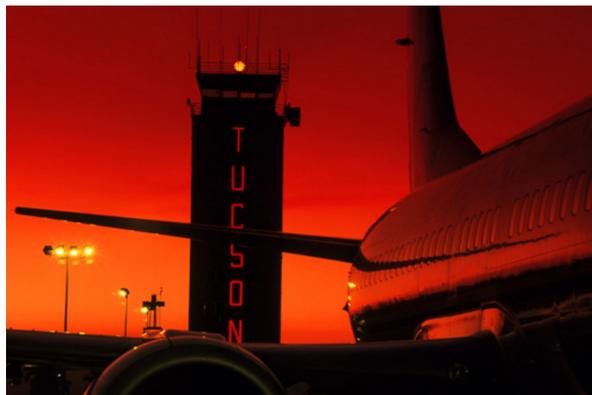
New ID Card That Meets Federal Travel Requirements

Arizonans who want to travel will be able to get an identification card this week that meets federal REAL ID Act security requirements. The Arizona Department of Transportation says its new Voluntary Travel ID from the Motor Vehicle Division meets security requirements to gain access to airports, restricted federal buildings, military bases, and more. The new card will cost \$25 and will be valid for up to eight years. You can get the Voluntary Travel ID and convert your current Driver License beginning Friday, but you will need to submit an application online or make an appointment by following the link below. There's no rush, though, since Arizona's current Driver Licenses will be acceptable travel ID until Oct. 1, 2020.

Voluntary Travel ID information: <http://bit.ly/1qjCwrB>

Tucson International Airport Readies for \$28M Expansion

The Tucson Airport Authority has approved a \$28.3 million terminal improvement project. The multi-phase plan will expand Tucson International Airport's security checkpoint areas, add concessions in post-security areas, and improve critical infrastructure. Construction on the project is expected to begin in June and be finished by November 2017. Funding comes from the Federal Aviation Administration's passenger facility charge program, and the Tucson Airport Authority says it will pay for the rest.

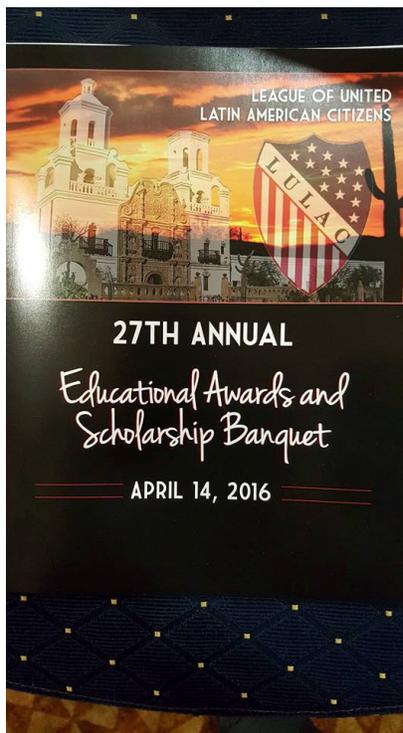


City Contract Office Named Buyer of the Year

The City of Tucson Department of Procurement's Dan Longanecker is the winner of the Buyer of the Year award issued by the NIGP (The Institute for Public Procurement) Copper Chapter of Southern Arizona. The award recognizes significant contributions to the procurement profession.

Longanecker is the City's principal contract officer and has worked with Procurement for 11 years. He also has served in various board and committee positions for the NIGP Copper Chapter, a nonprofit of approximately 70 government procurement professionals in the region. Congratulations Dan!

Announcements



27th Annual L.U.L.A.C. Educator’s and Scholarship Banquet

Ten individuals were honored for their work and community service at the 27th Annual LULAC Educator’s Awards & Scholarship Banquet held Thursday, April 14, at the DoubleTree Hotel. More than 500 people were in attendance for this event.

Proceeds from the banquet go to LULAC Council 1057’s effort to send students to attend the LULAC Washington National Youth Leadership Seminar and to provide scholarships with LULAC’s National Scholarship Foundation.

I want to thank Council Members Regina Romero and Shirley Scott, as well as City Manager Mike Ortega for their presence at the event and helping with presentations of the Soldado de Cuero Lifetime

Receiving the LULAC Presidential Citation Award were: Rene Pacheco, COPE Community Services, Javier Herrera, Pima County Health Department, Jesse Lugo, Lugo Charities, Raul Aguirre, REA Communications, Car-

men Garcia-Downing, University of Arizona College of Public Health and Dolores Duran-Cerda, Ph.D, Pima Community College.

Receiving the Soldado de Cuero Lifetime Achievement Award were: John David Arnold, Ph.D, Project PPEP, Moon Joe Yee, Northern Star Development, Martha Ortiz, University of Arizona Mobile Health Program and Humberto Lopez, HSL Properties.

Crystal Apple Awards

The 26th Annual Metropolitan Education Commission Crystal Apple Awards took place Friday, April 29. Congratulations to the MEC, its staff for a successful event, and to those who were acknowledged for their work bettering the lives of our youth. Education is the key to success and we are all, life long learners.



Announcements



Fifth Annual Youth and Peace Conference

I want to congratulate the organizers, both the youth and adult teams, for the 5th Annual Youth and Peace Conference held at Sunside High School, Saturday, April 2nd. Both Mayor Rothschild and I attended the conference and honored those who put this great event together.

USICS Forum

I want to thank Alma Gallardo with Arizona Bilingual, her staff as well as the U.S. Custom's and Immigration Service who held an immigration forum on Saturday, April 9, at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center. More than 200 people turned out, as well as businesses and organizations staffing tables for this inaugural event.

Men of Action Event

On Wednesday, April 20, the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, held a Men of Action event for students at the Job Corps, located in Ward 5. It was my pleasure to be their keynote speaker for the event and talking about the importance of education. I want to congratulate the staff at the Acosta Job Corps for a successful event, as well as to Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez and Tucson Police Department Assistant Chief, Ramon Batista, who delivered great remarks at the event.



Pueblo Gardens Park Dedication

City of Tucson Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres, Housing and Community Development, and Tucson Parks and Recreation, invite you to celebrate park improvements at Pueblo Gardens Park, 2585 East 36th St., Saturday, April 30, 10 am. This project provided site and playground improvements focused on access for the disabled. Improvements included resurfacing two existing parking lots with ADA spaces, sidewalks throughout the site for access to various amenities, and new, accessible drinking fountains, picnic tables and accessible playground with shade canopy.

Second Annual Arizona Bilingual Childrens Festival

On Saturday, April 30, starting at 10 am, come out to the Arizona Children's Festival being held on the grounds of the Tucson Children's Museum, 200 S. 6th Ave. There will be games and many booths from businesses and organizations. The museum will also be open for tours for those present.

Melinda Jacobs

Melinda Jacobs, who works at the Ward 5 office, had knee surgery on Monday and is home recuperating from her operation. I, along with everyone else in the Ward 5 office want to wish Melinda a safe and speedy recovery.

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

Park Tucson

791-5071

Loose or Dead Animals

Pima Animal Care Center
724-5900



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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and include the word unsubscribe in subject line.

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