



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

**Ward 5 Council
Office Staff**

Chief of Staff
Mark Kerr

Council Aide
Lupita Robles

Council Assistant
Mary Kuchar

Staff Assistant
Gabriel Holguin

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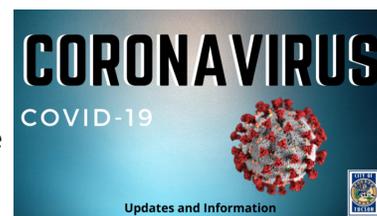
**Important Phone
Numbers and
Contact Information**

April 2020

Dear Friends:

I want to thank everyone during this COVID-19 health crisis who have been following the health guidelines of washing their hands, practicing social distancing, using masks and gloves and leaving their homes only for essential trips.

With the COVID-19 virus, it is important to wash your hands frequently and wash your hands immediately after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, using the bathroom or touching surfaces in a public space. Wash your hands before eating or preparing food and before touching your face. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend you wash your hands for 20 seconds.



If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. Stay at least 6 feet from other people. Do not gather in groups or go to gatherings. Keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus.

The Pima County Health Department recommends that you wear a mask when you're out in public and around others. It's not for your protection, it's to keep other people safe. People can spread COVID-19 before they ever show symptoms, or even if they show no symptoms at all. The CDC recommends that you use disposable gloves when cleaning surfaces in your house or at a public location. Dispose of the gloves safely. Do not reuse the gloves. Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.

I hope you will thank our locally owned restaurants who are trying to survive through this health crisis as well. Remember, support our locally owned restaurants by ordering food from them, either through a drive through, by delivery or by take out. Let's do our part for our restaurants.

My Ward 5 staff and I are here to help you. Please call us at (520) 791-4231 or Email: ward5@tucsonaz.gov.

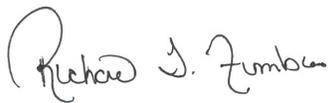
The City of Tucson is here to help our locally owned businesses affected by the COVID-19 health crisis. Please call (520) 837-4100, the City of Tucson business hotline, for help.

The City of Tucson also has a COVID Hotline, (520) 791-2540, to answer your questions about city services operating during this health crisis.

During this crisis, be heard and be counted and fill out your 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire. This helps our community to receive our fair share of federal funds as well as help to make decisions for roads, schools, hospitals and public programs. Responses are kept confidential and are used only to produce statistics for Tucson period. For more information, go online to 2020census.gov.

I have always said that when our community faces a problem, we do not scapegoat, point fingers or place blame, we roll up our sleeves and work together to solve it. We have faced many crises and we have come together to beat them all, and we will beat COVID-19 too.

Thank You.



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

ONLY RIDE TRANSIT IF IT'S ESSENTIAL

The City of Tucson is urging residents to ride public transit only if necessary for essential services, which also complies with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey's stay-at-home Executive Order. The City is currently waiving fares on Sun Tran, Sun Link, and Sun Van. Transit is an essential service and will remain available during this time. For the safety of the drivers, riders will enter and exit the bus from the rear access door. A yellow line and rope have been placed behind the driver to help promote social distancing.

SUN TRAN LAUNCHES NEW VERSION OF REAL-TIME BUS TRACKING FEATURE

Sun Tran has launched a new version of its online trip planning service for transit passengers. The new Bus Tracker & Trip Planner has functions such as real-time bus and streetcar tracking, trip planning, interactive mapping, and alerts and detour notification system. Transit riders can use a desktop computer, tablet, or cellphone to access the features. These will better assist transit riders in case adjustments need to be made to bus or streetcar service during the COVID-19 pandemic response. Please thank your bus driver's and staff as they are providing a very, valuable service to our citizens.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SERVICES

COVID-19 is impacting everyone in some way, and the City of Tucson's Environmental and General Services Department (EGSD) is working to prevent the spread of the virus as it continues providing essential services. Trash, recycling, and Brush and Bulky pickup will continue on the same schedule, and the landfill is still open. The department is not collecting household hazardous waste (HHW) until further notice. That includes both drop-off locations and the monthly Saturday outreach event. HHW items are considered dangerous to people, pets, and the environment, so EGSD asks residents to refrain from putting these items into their bins. **Please hold onto HHW until the program is running again.**



RESIDENTS ASKED TO LIMIT TRIPS TO LOS REALES LANDFILL

An increase in self-hauler business over the past few weeks is causing long waits and affecting customer and staff safety at the Los Reales Landfill. Residents who are using extra time at home to clean their houses and yards are asked to only come to the landfill if absolutely necessary. Public health experts are recommending that people stay home and only leave if their work or personal needs absolutely require it. If yard waste and other debris can be contained at home, visit the landfill when stay-at-home recommendations have eased. Please remember that due to safety concerns, the landfill will not accept cash payments. Customers are reminded to pay with credit and debit cards only.

NEED HELP PAYING RENT

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying rent on account of Coronavirus/ COVID-19 (laid off, hours cut, or other impact), please note information below about the State's COVID-19 Rental Eviction Assistance Program.

The COVID-19 Rental Eviction Assistance Program is funded by the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) and administered by Arizona's Community Action Agencies serving local communities. These funds were made available by the Arizona Legislature. Monthly rental assistance may be available to households who have had a substantial reduction in income due to COVID-19. Eligible households will be households with total gross monthly income, that when annualized, does not exceed 100% of the area median income (AMI).

Eligible households will be responsible for paying 30% of their total gross month's income to their landlord, and the program would provide a supplement for the remaining rent due directly to the landlord, up to a maximum of \$2,000/month.

Households apply online at <http://www.AZHousing.gov>.

Tenants without access to a computer can call 520-724-2505 (dedicated line for program). A case worker will return tenants' calls within 72 hours to assess eligibility for the program. Calls will be returned in the order they were received. If a tenant has already submitted an application online and needs to submit documents, they can either log in to their account at <http://www.AZHousing.gov> and upload documents from any device or can fax documents to 1-800-957-5817.

More details are at the CREAP FAQ page -- <https://housing.az.gov/gener.../eviction-prevention-assistance>.

NEW WALGREENS DRIVE-THRU TESTING SITE IN TUCSON

Tucson Mayor Regina Romero released the following statement after Tucson was chosen as one of 15 locations nationwide for the expansion of drive-thru testing sites by Walgreens.

The location of the Tucson testing site is 10315 E Broadway Blvd and has begun testing. The site locations, including Tucson's, were chosen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with Walgreens.



"I am grateful that Walgreens and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has selected Tucson as one of their drive-thru testing sites," said Mayor Romero.

"Drastically increasing our testing capacity remains a critical component in our fight against COVID-19 and I am grateful for all of our private sector partners that have stepped up to help us accomplish this."

Testing will be available at no cost to eligible individuals who meet criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with state and federal guidelines.



How it works: Complete the screening questionnaire. If you're eligible for testing, a lab order request will be sent on your behalf and you'll receive an email with next steps.

You'll go to the testing location and follow instructions to remain in your vehicle with the window rolled up. You will perform the test using a nasal swab. A Walgreens pharmacist will be there to instruct you. Patients will be notified of results within 24 hours of testing.

Please note: Testing availability may be limited due to capacity and weather conditions. There may be a delay in getting tested.

DTM RECEIVES GRANT

Congratulations to DTM Director Diana Alarcon and her staff for their work obtaining the FHWA Grant.

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) has awarded the Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) \$7.8 million in funding from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The goal of the Federal-aid program is to significantly reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.

The DTM projects include five miles of new street lighting, 10 Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (HAWK Signals) and traffic signal upgrades at 62 intersections. Design work on the projects are scheduled to begin in Fall 2022, with the improvements slated to begin in Fall of 2023.

THANK YOU JUDGE POLLARD

Judge Michael Pollard has devoted his life and career to public service. Judge Pollard served our country in the United States Marine Corps. Judge Michael Pollard served our community as a Tucson City Magistrate.

He helped to form Veterans Court and worked with other judges to form other courts to help specific areas of population. Judge Pollard retired as a City Magistrate on April 10. I want to thank Judge Pollard for his commitment to our community serving on the bench. His leadership, knowledge and expertise will be missed.

**GOV. DUCEY HALTS EVICTIONS OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS IN ARIZONA**

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey issued an Executive Order on April 6, that suspends evictions for commercial tenants and nonprofits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Ducey's order, which covers small businesses up to 500 employees, is effective through the end of May. The order also encourages commercial landlords to defer rent payments for small business tenants facing economic hardship due to COVID-19 and waive all fees and interest associated with late payments. Under the order, evictions will be halted until May 31. Tenants will need to acknowledge that the lease contract remains in effect, and there are other requirements as well. The new directive follows a similar one Ducey issued on March 24 to halt residential evictions for 120 days.

PROJECT PPEP UPDATE

Project PPEP has two specific phone numbers for rental assistance as well as for utility assistance.

The Project PPEP rental assistance phone number is (520) 741-4397 and the utility assistance phone number is (520) 806-2506.

COMPLETE CENSUS FORM WHILE STAYING AT HOME

As more Arizonans comply with orders to stay at home during the COVID-19 crisis, there are still some things you can do to help our communities. One item is completing the census forms online, phone or by US Mail. Responses help determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and guide how nearly \$700 billion in federal funding is spent in communities each year. It's estimated up to \$3,000 per person, per year is at stake for Arizona. The answers are kept confidential and are used only to produce statistics. For more information, go online to <https://2020census.gov>. Be heard and be counted.

WARD 5 NEIGHBORHOOD HELPS STUDENT

Bill Kenworthy, chair of the Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association gifted a laptop to Janice Salazar, a senior at Pueblo High School. Mr. Kenworthy requested that the student selected have at least a 3.0 GPA, not have a laptop and have plans to attend college. Congratulations to Janice who has been awarded a scholarship to Smith College!

Thank you to Kathryn Gunnels, Assistant Principal at Pueblo High School for assisting in the selection of the student and Bill Kenworthy for the donation of the laptop. Education is the key to success.



FORMER SUNNYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLER HONORED

Congratulations to former Sunnyside High School wrestler Ramon Bravo-Young!

The National Wrestling Coaches Association has announced the 2020 Division I All-American teams and former Sunnyside stand-out Roman Bravo-Young, a sophomore at Penn State, is among them for the second straight season. Bravo-Young, who wrestles at 133

pounds, went 19-2 this season and was one of the favorites to win at that class in the NCAA tournament. That competition was canceled, however, because of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PIMA COUNTY OFFERS HOTLINE FOR THOSE OUT OF WORK

The Pima County One-Stop Career Center is operating a "Dislocated Worker Hotline" at (520) 724-5735 to handle the increase in unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hotline is staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and Spanish speakers are available. Workforce development specialists who operate the hotline can answer many questions about accessing unemployment insurance, offer job leads, and give referrals to community resources that can help with food, shelter, housing, and paying utilities, rent, or mortgages.



**Please
Clean Up
After
Your Pet**

Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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

Phone: 520-791-4231
Fax: 520-791-3188
Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

Stay Informed!
Visit our other
information outlets:



**HTTP://
WWW.TUCSONAZ.GOV/
WARD -5**

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



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

City of Tucson Code Enforcement

791-5843

TPD Red Tag Unit

837-7318, Email: redtag@tucsonaz.gov

Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

TPD Non Emergency

791-4444

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

TDOT Street Maintenance

791-3154, Email: tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242, Public Information - 791-4331

Park Tucson

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

724-5900

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov
and include the word unsubscribe in subject line.