



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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August 2016 Volume 2

## Richard Fimbres Councilmember

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Dear Friends:

Our community has observed that timeless annual ritual: the first day of school. It's a time when parents breathe a sigh of relief and students and teachers anticipate new beginnings and new challenges.

Unfortunately, the beginning of school is also a time when children are at increased risk of transportation related injuries from pedestrian, bicycle, school bus, and motor vehicle crashes because there are many more children on the road each morning and afternoon and many drivers' patterns change. Also, the school zones are in effect with the speed limit being 15 mph and will be strictly enforced. Shorter daylight hours make it especially difficult to see young pedestrians and bicyclists. So as schools open their doors, it's time for everyone – motorists, parents, educators, and students – to improve their traffic safety practices.

The following tips can help make this a safe and happy school year for the whole community.

### Tips for Motorists:

When a school bus or children are present slow down and proceed with caution, obeying all traffic laws and speed limits. Always stop for a school bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm tell you the school bus is stopped to load or unload children. Under certain conditions State Law requires you to stop.



If you are on a two-lane roadway, you must stop. If you are on a roadway that has two or more travel lanes traveling in each direction and you are traveling the same direction as the bus, you must stop. If you are on a roadway that has at least two or more travel lanes traveling in each direction and you are approaching, meeting the bus, you do not have to stop, merely proceed with caution.

Be alert and ready to stop. Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.

Watch for children arriving late for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic. When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school. When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for young people who may be in a hurry to get to school and may not be thinking about getting there safely.



#### Tips for Parents or Guardians:

Help your children learn and practice the safety rules for walking, bicycling, or riding in a passenger car, school bus or transit bus. Supervise young children as they are walking or biking to school or as they wait at the school bus stop. Be a good role model, especially when you are with your kids. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking, and always follow pedestrian safety rules.

#### Tips for Students:

Always buckle up when you're riding in a car. Always ride in the back seat. It's the safest place for young people. Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike. If you ride a school bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off the bus, and riding the bus.

If you walk to school, learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. Always cross at crosswalks, obey all traffic signs, traffic lights and safety patrol instructions. Also for pedestrians, the No.1 thing pedestrians can do to stay safe is just pay attention. But with a cell phone glued to your ear, texting, listening to music or lost in a conversation, you might be oblivious to the fact that you've just stepped into a busy intersection.



Be a good role model for your younger brothers and sisters and friends, and help them learn and practice the safety rules.

Thank you,

Richard Fimbres  
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

**heads  
up!** 

**LOOK OUT FOR  
EACH OTHER**

### Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center Update

H.R. 5714, the Postal Reform Act of 2016, a bipartisan bill, was approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

An effort to add language to the bill to ensure Cherrybell stays open and fully functioning, returning the local sorting and give Tucson back their stamp. Congressional leaders are targeting completion of postal reform by December.



House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Chaffetz (R-UT) indicates he hopes it will be taken up on the House floor in September, after Congress returns from its district work period. The vote will set up Senate action after the November election.



### Sun Tran Update

At the August 9 meeting of the Mayor and Council, there were two items on the agenda dealing with Sun Tran and the bus system, one dealt with three Sun Tran Routes (9, 20 and 27), the other dealing with the proposal to eliminate Sun Tran's paper transfers on buses.

The changes to the three routes (9, 20, 27), as proposed would purportedly save Sun Tran more than \$490,000.

The other item dealt with paper transfers on Sun Tran busses and routes. This is where if a rider only has cash and were on the bus or getting on the bus, they could purchase the paper transfer to get on their next bus they need.

I asked questions of Sun Tran on their proposed savings on the elimination of the paper transfers, which they said would be more than \$227,000 but with a loss of \$150,000 in revenue from lost ridership, in other words, those passengers who don't have a SunGo Card.

I followed up with questions about which routes used the paper transfer the most and according to Sun Tran staff, seven out of the top ten were located in or a part of Ward 5 (16, 8, 11, 18, 17, 7 and 25).

Follow up questions were asked about the cards and the distribution of them, for which Sun Tran officials said a majority of riders didn't have them. The cards cost \$2. At the direction of Mayor and Council, Sun Tran was to distribute free SunGo Cards to riders who may not have one.

According to the question I posed, there were few locations in Ward 5 where bus riders could go and get their SunGo cards and also on the Sun Tran website, it does not list the locations for where people can go to get them either.

I did not vote in favor of this proposal since it would negatively affect the bus ridership of those in Ward 5 who need Sun Tran to get to work, school, to their doctor's appointments and to get groceries.

A two week grace period would not be enough time, since Sun Tran still haven't gotten their SunGo cards to the ridership, more than three years after the initial launch.

At the September 7 Mayor and Council meeting, the Council will have discussions on the proposed rate increases for Sun Tran during the Study Session and a public hearing will be held during the Regular Meeting that night.

There are three proposals, one from City Manager Mike Ortega, another from Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and one from Ward 2 Councilmember Paul Cunningham. Each has gone through a public comment process under the Federal Title VI guidelines.

A final discussion and vote will take place at the Tuesday, September 20, Mayor and Council meeting.

I want to thank everyone who has contacted my office on this issue and gave their opinion on the proposals. All bus riders should not only contact my office, but the entire Mayor and Council and give their opinion on these proposals.

#### **Red Tag Update**

At the August 9 Mayor and Council meeting, there was a follow up agenda item on Red Tag/Group Dwelling Ordinances.

Information was provided by Nicole Ewing-Gavin, Planning and Development Services Department Interim Director, who fielded and answered questions from the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council asked questions of Mike Rankin, City Attorney; Mike Wyneken, Code Enforcement; Captain Eric Kazmierczak, Tucson Police Department and the City Manager.



The Mayor and Council voted 7-0 for the following motion, to direct staff to:

Work with Mayor and Council on expansion of the Neighborhood Preservation Zone, including the Miles, Arroyo Chico and San Antonio neighborhoods;

Track and conduct Code Enforcement investigations of those who receive a second "red tag" violation within 180 days;

Ensure the City Prosecutor's Office understands the importance of prosecuting offenders;

Finalize the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Arizona Police Department and Tucson Police Department;

Continue with the Tucson Police Department’s pilot program for the fall semester, as described in the agenda material;

Continue collaborating with the Campus Community Relations Committee (for which the Ward 5 office has a seat on);

To review increasing fines and if not, extending the exposure period from 180 days to 1 year, and also look at cost recovery and for staff to report back in 90 days.

In addition, the Tucson Police Department's (TPD) new Red Tag Unit, in conjunction with the University of Arizona Police Department (UAPD), will begin its enforcement of unruly gatherings.

The pilot program will increase police presence at certain neighborhoods near campus that tend to see loud parties and other problems during the start of the school year. The Red Tag Unit will be out every Saturday in September during peak party hours, usually from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. TPD last year responded to more than 2,000 calls for unruly gatherings.

I also want to thank Environment Services for getting their Red Tag notice out to all customers in the area in question. This will be of great help.

| Metros with Fastest Job Growth   |  |                           |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| #  | Metro                                  | YoY job growth, July 2016 |
| 1  | Ogden-Clearfield, UT                   | 4.6%                      |
| 2  | Provo-Orem, UT                         | 4.6%                      |
| 3  | Tucson, AZ                             | 4.2%                      |
| 4  | Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL          | 4.1%                      |
| 5  | Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL | 4.1%                      |
| 6  | Austin-Round Rock, TX                  | 3.9%                      |
| 7  | Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA            | 3.9%                      |
| 8  | Toledo, OH                             | 3.9%                      |
| 9  | Boise City, ID                         | 3.9%                      |
| 10   | Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL              | 3.7%                      |
| <i>Among metro areas and divisions with 500,000 or more people;<br/>Jed Kolko analysis of BLS data</i> |  |                           |

**Tucson Third Largest For Job Growth**

Last week Tucson's strong job growth was recognized by Bloomberg in its latest list of fastest job growth in America.

Year-to-year, Tucson ranks #3 nationally with a 4.2% growth, according to Jed Kolko, an economist at Bloomberg Markets. This figure is backed up by Elliott Pol-

lack & Assoc, a Phoenix-based economic and real estate consulting services firm, stating that "Tucson added 14,900 jobs since July 2015, the largest gains in jobs coming in information, financial activities, educational and health services and manufacturing."

**Tucson is One of the Best Places to Retire**

The latest study from WalletHub ranks Tucson the 20th best city in which to retire. The rankings chart 150 American cities across four main metrics -- affordability, availability of recreational activities, quality of life, and health care. Scottsdale had the highest ranking of any city in Arizona, finishing at No. 3 in the survey.



**Tucson's Food Scene Featured in USA Today and New York Times**

The Aug. 19 edition of USA Today featured an extensive article on Tucson's culinary offerings. Tucson's UNESCO City of Gastronomy designation is mentioned in the article, along with Tucson being the "self-proclaimed Mexican food capital of the country." The New York Times also ran a feature article on Aug. 23, titled "Tucson Becomes an Unlikely Food

Star," by Kim Severson. It's exciting to see additional national coverage about Tucson's unique and locally owned and operated establishments.

**Tucson International Airport Sees 3.4% Growth in July**

Airline passenger traffic at Tucson International Airport grew 3.6% in June and 3.4% in July. Between January – July 2016, nearly 1.9 million passengers went through the airport, which is an increase of almost 32,000 during the same months of 2015, or a 1.7% increase. Tucson Airport Authority expects continued growth in passenger numbers through the remainder of the year, especially with daily, nonstop, roundtrip service to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport starting October 7.

**Welcome Aeromar Airlines to Tucson!**

Starting October 3, the first non-stop flights to Mexico in more than eight years.



Aeromar Airlines announced today that they have added Tucson as their second international destination and will be flying four times a week to Hermosillo, Mexico from our Tucson International Airport.

This is another significant step for Tucson's tourism with Mexico, a \$1 billion industry. Congratulations to Andres Fabre, Aeromar CEO, Bonnie Allin, President and CEO of the Tucson Airport Authority, and all those involved for this deal and airline at our airport.



### Development Group Plans to Invest Millions on Southside

The Arizona Daily Star reported that the Common Group says it plans to invest \$20 million into rehabilitating distressed commercial buildings on the south and southwest sides of Tucson, converting them into stores and restaurants.

With four projects already completed, the development company's 10-year plan includes building more small businesses on a side of town it believes has been overlooked. The four founders of the company (Jesus Bonillas Jr., Guillermo Gallegos, Chris Itule, and Ruben Cazares) grew up and live on the city's south side and consider the area ripe for business development.

Most of the recent development in the area stems from the success of the Spectrum Mall on West Irvington Road and Interstate 19. More than 30 national retailers, including J.C. Penney and Pizza Hut, report their highest sales in the state come from stores on Tucson's south side.

**reminder**

### Neighborhood Reminder

A reminder from the Ward 5 Council office, every couple of months, residents should look at and clean the following areas on their property: yards, sidewalks and curbs, their area of an alley (if they have one) or easements.

Everyone works together and keeps their yards up, our city will be a better place. If you have a neighbor or business who doesn't clean their yard/area, report them to Code Enforcement, 791-5843.

Also, if you put out a flyer for a yard sale, lost pet or otherwise, please remember to take them down.

### City Can Help With Your Neighborhood Cleanup

If you and your neighbors would like to clean up your neighborhood, Tucson's Environmental Services department (ES) can help.

ES will provide roll-off dumpsters and haul away debris at no charge.

To participate in this program, your association or group must be an ES customer, have 10 or more people helping, or be part of an incorporated homeowners association.

Please provide two weeks notice in your request.

For more information and a link to the request form, please follow the link from Environmental Services: <http://1.usa.gov/1Slpfr3>





### 2016 MASH Free Spay/Neuter Clinic

Mark your calendars on October 7-9, for the 2016 MASH Free Spay/Neuter Clinic at Los Ranchitos School, 2054 East Ginter.

Last year, the clinic performed 850 free spay/neuters on cats and dogs, as well as gave out 300 free vouchers for further free spay/neuters on cats and dogs.

For more information, please call 327-3700.

### Be a Senior Companion Volunteer

Are you a senior age 55 or older? Do you enjoy connecting with others?

Want to earn money for volunteering? Become a Senior Companion volunteer and give help and hope to isolated seniors and people with disabilities. Provide friendly visits and simple support for independent living.

You can even receive a tax-free stipend of \$2.65 per service hour if you meet income eligibility! Call 323-1708, ext. 240 for more information.



### Visit Tucson Wins Successful Meetings' Pinnacle Award, Promotes Flight

Congratulations to the Visit Tucson's sales team on earning Successful Meetings' Pinnacle Award again in 2016. Visit Tucson is a 19-time winner of this award, which is selected by the magazine's readers. This prestigious award honors convention & visitors bureaus and DMOs that have excelled in professionalism and dedication in their service to meeting professionals. Congratulations to Visit Tucson for a job well done.



Visit Tucson ambassadors soon will be stationed in a retail space at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York City to let travelers know about the new nonstop flights between Tucson and New York.

They will be offering yoga classes, chair massages, and indoor cycling classes in the American Airlines terminal to let travelers know what Tucson has to offer. Visit Tucson also is running ads to drum up interest in the flights that begin Oct. 7. Passengers will have to watch the ads before connecting to free Wi-Fi.



### **Tucson Roadrunners Release Schedule**

Tucson's new American League Hockey team released its schedule yesterday for its inaugural season. The Tucson Roadrunners will open the season with an away game, Oct. 14, against the San Diego Gulls.

The first home game at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) is scheduled for Oct. 28 against the Stockton Heat. Before season play gets underway, the Arizona Coyotes' affiliate will hold a Red and White scrimmage game on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m. at the TCC. All of the Coyotes' NHL players will play in the game with the AHL players from the Roadrunners. Admission is free, but the Coyotes are requesting that all fans donate \$5 upon entry into the TCC. All funds collected will be donated to the University of Arizona Wildcats hockey program. Tucson Roadrunners: <http://bit.ly/28KTOXZ>.



### **Fall Gem Shows Sept. 8-11**

The Tucson Fall Gem Shows, Sept. 8-11, 2016, feature gem and lapidary shows at various locations around town, including open-to-the-public shows. The Fall Gem Shows include the Best Bead Show, Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers, and JOGS International Exhibits at Tucson Expo Center. Visit Tucson's convention services department works with the City of Tucson to liaise with gem-show owners and promoters, and directly supports promotion of all shows through the Official Gem Guide, Downtown Welcome Program, website listings, and technical assistance.

## 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

### **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

### **Park Tucson**

791-5071

### **Pima Animal Care**

243-5900

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