



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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Dear Friends:

With the primary election having passed, the focus now turns to the general election and what will be on the ballot.

In this newsletter I want to go over what is on the ballot, with a focus on the seven Pima County Bond proposals and their potential impact for Ward 5 if approved by the voters in November.



For City of Tucson voters, the positions of Mayor and Councilmember for Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4 are on the ballot. The current officeholders are Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Councilmember Regina Romero (Ward 1), Councilmember Paul Cunningham (Ward 2 and Councilmember Shirley Scott (Ward 4).

There are also charter measures for consideration by City of Tucson voters.

**Proposition 403** would give the Mayor and “full voice and vote,” counting towards a quorum and able to vote on hiring and firing all department directors which require a vote.

**Proposition 404** would remove the Civil Service status for Department Directors and serve as “at will” employees.

There is also a proposal on the ballot from the City of Tucson Commission on Salaries and Compensation, a Charter mandated committee formed to review the salaries for the Mayor and Council. This commission is appointed by the City Manager’s office and reviews the salary of City elected officials every two years. They voted to place **Proposition 405** on the November ballot for voters to consider giving the Mayor and Council a pay raise of 15%. **The Mayor and Council has no control over this committee and had expressed their reservations about putting any measure dealing with their salary on this year’s ballot, especially during these tough economic times.**

In addition, Pima County has seven bond measures on this ballot and will be run as a consolidated election. More than \$48 million in projects alone that would happen in Ward 5. I recommend approval of these proposals as they will improve the quality of life for residents of Ward 5.

## Ward 5 News

### Proposition 425 is titled “Road and Highway Improvements.”

There are two projects of note for Ward 5 in Proposition 425.

The Road Repair and Pavement Preservation Program is first, if approved by voters, the City of Tucson would receive more than \$65 million to fund the repair and preservation of roads within City limits. This \$65 million would be in addition to the funds now being used for road repair and preservation under Proposition 409, approved by Tucson voters in 2012.



The additional roads in Ward 5 that would be worked on, if Proposition 425 is approved, include:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Broadway to 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Benson Highway to Ajo and 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets)
- Bilby (Park to Del Moral)
- Eastland (Campbell to Del Moral)
- Elvira (Plumer to Palo Verde)
- Kino Blvd. (Broadway to Aviation)
- Nebraska St./Olive St. (Connecticut to Nogales Highway),
- Palo Verde (Valencia to Corona)
- Park Avenue (18<sup>th</sup> Street to 36<sup>th</sup> Street and University to 14<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Silverlake (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Kino Parkway)
- Tucson Blvd. (Mabel to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street)
- Wilmot (Valencia to Los Reales).

**The Sonoran Corridor Highway is the other Ward 5 project in Proposition 425**, with a proposed bond of \$30 million dollars. For development of a phase of an interstate highway between Interstate 19 and Interstate 10 (located by Raytheon in Ward 5) to shorten travel time, facilitate the expansion of manufacturing and high tech jobs and to support the emergence of a major southwest logistics center.

**Proposition 426 is titled “Economic Development, Libraries and Workforce Training.”** There are two projects of note for Ward 5 in Proposition 426.

There is a \$20 million dollar proposal for an “Innovation and Technology Building” to be constructed at the University of Arizona Tech Park located at Kino and 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Ward 5. The Innovation Building will be a multi-tenant building of 180,000 square feet, with 60% dedicated to office space and 40% dedicated to laboratory space. The building will be designed for maximum flexibility to accommodate a wide range of technology companies from start-ups to mature companies.



## Ward 5 News

**Also in Proposition 426 is a \$3.175 million dollar proposal for the South 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culinary and Cultural Corridor.** The South 12th Avenue Cultural and Culinary Corridor project will improve safety, walkability, and aesthetics in a commercial district that celebrates the region's distinctive Mexican American heritage. The improvements will spur further private investment in this commercial corridor; increase cultural and culinary tourism; and improve conditions for the tens of thousands of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists who use the corridor every day.

**Proposition 428 is titled as "Parks and Recreation,"** and includes proposals for improvements, expansion, completing master plans. More than \$11 million proposed would go towards the following Parks and Recreation Centers that are located in Ward 5: 36<sup>th</sup> Street Natural Resource Park, Freedom Center (on border with Ward 4 and used by Ward 5 residents), Willie Blake Park, Quincie Douglas Center, El Pueblo Center, Silverlake Park and Kino Sports Complex.



There is also a \$12 million bond proposal titled "Regional Sports Fields and Lighting," to replace lighting systems, light existing fields and new lights for newly constructed fields. Parks in Ward 5 or nearby that are listed are Rudy Garcia Park, Freedom Park and Thomas Jay Littleton Park.

**In Proposition 428** is a proposal for \$250,000 to build a memorial honoring the Buffalo Soldiers who served this nation in the U.S. Army Cavalry. This would be built at the Quincie Douglas Center.

**Proposition 429, titled "Public Health, Welfare, Safety, Neighborhoods and Housing,"** has a proposal for an \$18 million dollar bond for the expansion of the facilities at Banner University Medical Center South Campus, located at 2800 East Ajo Way.

If the Pima County bond proposals are approved by the voters, they would have a positive impact on the lives of the good citizens of Ward 5. For more information and further details about all the seven bond proposals, go online to the 2015 Pima County Bond page at the following link: <http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=195314>.

For more information about the Tucson City Election, go online to: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/elections>.

Peace,

Richard G. Fimbres  
Your Vice Mayor

## Ward 5 News

### Councilmember Richard Fimbres Statement on the Sun Tran Bus Strike

As the monthly reports show, Ward 5 has the most used routes in the Sun Tran bus system. People in Ward 5 and across the city, used Sun Tran buses to get to their jobs, go to doctor's appointments and getting groceries on weekdays and weekends. I've had calls from people who have lost their jobs due to the strike and not being able to get to work on the weekends. The most vulnerable and most needy use Sun Tran.

This week marked the new semester for schools, including the University of Arizona and Pima Community College, for which many students would use Sun Tran to get to their classes. Public school districts, TUSD and Sunnyside to name two examples, who also use Sun Tran to help get their students to school as well.

Thursday, August 27 will mark the third week of the Sun Tran bus strike, which has had limited service during the weekdays for ridership.

It is time that both the Sun Tran employee's union, Teamster's Local 104 and PTM/Veolia get back to the table and reach a settlement.



Both sides have expressed their eagerness to negotiate and that the federal mediator called in needs to get both sides to the table now for our community.

There have been suggestions to fire the manager or management company in the absence of another company to take it over. The City has to have a management company to run the bus system and for another person or firm to be brought in now would delay a resolution even further and Tucson's bus riders cannot afford any further delays in the bus service.

For the sake of our city's bus riders, a settlement is needed as soon as possible for Tucson.

### We Know that Parks Matter to You. Tell Them Why!

As many of you know, since July the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department has been gathering information for an exciting new five-year master plan. Now the department wants to hear about the types of programs, facilities and services that matter most to you. A series of community-wide open houses, held in every ward, will allow you to communicate what you appreciate about city parks and what programs and services you would like to see added. Your input will help prioritize goals for the next five years.



## Ward 5 News

We encourage everyone to participate in this important process. Let's have a spectacular Ward 5 turnout from **5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at El Pueblo Activity Center Multipurpose Room, 101 W. Irvington Rd.**

If you cannot attend this meeting, you may attend another, as listed below. All meetings are 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, Sept. 16, Randolph Dell Ulrich Golf Course, Copper Room, 600 S. Alvernon Way (Ward 6)
- Thursday, Sept. 17, Donna R. Liggins Center, 2160 N. 6th Ave. (Ward 3)
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, El Rio Neighborhood Center Multipurpose Room, 1390 W. Speedway Blvd. (Ward 1)
- Thursday, Oct. 1, William M. Clements Center Multipurpose Room, 8155 E. Poinciana Dr. (Ward 4)
- Wednesday, Oct. 7, Sahuaro High School, 545 N. Camino Seco (Ward 2)

Can't attend a meeting? Additional opportunities for input are available through the project website [www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/masterplan](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/masterplan) or email [parksmasterplan@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:parksmasterplan@tucsonaz.gov).

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## City News

### Mayor and Council Vote to Streamline Redevelopment of Vacant Schools

The Tucson City Council has approved a land development incentive package for shuttered schools in the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). The incentives are designed to fast-track development by offering deferred building permit fees and expedited reviews of building plans. Eight schools remain closed and would qualify for the incentives. Two of the closed schools, Julia Keen Elementary and Wakefield are in Ward 5. Wrightstown Elementary School was rezoned recently, and a homebuilder is set to develop the property for private housing. The development community also is expressing interest in the sites that housed Townsend Middle School, Fort Lowell Elementary School, and Van Horne Elementary School.



### Road Repair Progressing

Money from the voter-approved, \$100 million, five-year Road Recovery street bond program in 2012 already has improved more than 107 miles of roadway, and the work continues to improve additional streets. The bond money pays for repaving, while the bigger widening projects are funded by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), a 20-year program approved by voters in 2006. Seventeen paving projects are scheduled to begin this October and another widening project will start next spring on Grant Road, from Stone Avenue to Park Avenue.

## City News

The City of Tucson has an interactive map to track the progress of the Road Recovery bond project. You can click an area of the city on the map and find out which projects are completed, planned, and active. Information also includes the number of miles in each project, and the ability to turn map layers on and off to narrow your search. Due to favorable bids and lower gas prices, the bond program came in \$40 million under budget. The excess bonding capacity will add 101 miles of roadway rehabilitation, which are included in the map.



View the map: <http://1.usa.gov/1ExTOMR>  
Road Recovery: <http://1.usa.gov/1xdFvK>

### Two City Department Heads Tapped for Outside Jobs

Planning and Development Services Department Director Ernie Duarte is retiring from the City of Tucson after nearly 31 years, including 15 years as director, to become the chief operating officer and chief financial officer at Salpointe Catholic High School. His last day with the City is Sept. 18. Also leaving the City is Human Resources Director Curry Hale, who was hired as human resources director in February after serving as interim director for about a year. Hale, who has worked for Tucson for about 15 years, is leaving for another opportunity. City Manager Michael Ortega said both men will be missed, and he will take his time to think about how to fill the positions and the attributes the City needs in these leaders.

### City Police Chief Appointment Advisory Committee Members Announced

All 15 members of the City Police Chief Appointment Advisory Committee have been chosen. The Mayor and Tucson City Council created the committee last month as part of the process to replace Tucson Police Chief Roberto Villaseñor, who plans to retire in December. The Council each made two appointments to the committee and the City Manager selected one member. The panel members represent diverse interests and affiliations from across Tucson, including community organizers, local attorneys, retired Tucson Police Department personnel, and others. The committee is responsible for providing recommendations to the City Manager relating to the drafting of the job announcement for the Police Chief recruitment, interviewing the final candidates, and making recommendations to the City Manager and Mayor and Council. Mayor and Council will need to approve the candidate selected by the City Manager. A final selection is expected to be made in November. Francisco Morales and Richard Fifer are the Ward 5 appointees.



Listing of appointees, meeting agendas, and minutes: <http://1.usa.gov/1eDVMt1>

## City News

### Tucson Awarded Federal Grant to Hire More Firefighters

The Department of Homeland Security is awarding the Tucson Fire Department nearly \$8.6 million through the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. The funding will be used to hire 54 firefighters, replacing 41 firefighters lost through attrition and adding 13 new positions. The SAFER program was created to provide funding directly to fire departments, with a goal of enhancing the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards.



### Tucson Voted Top City for Pets

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona (HSSA) has helped Tucson gain the top spot in the PetSmart/Pet360.com Top City for Pets contest. The nominated destinations make pet-friendliness a priority, with top-tier lodging, restaurants, and activities for pets and their owners. "(Tucson) has approximately 30 pet-friendly restaurants, six off-leash areas and 90 pet-friendly hotel options," the website said. "With around 350 sunny days a year, Tucson is one of the sunniest cities in the U.S., which makes it a great place to go explore some of the many outdoor areas available to all pups." As part of the reward for winning the national contest, HSSA will receive \$5,000 and a donation of 50,000 meals for its pets.

### Tucson Department of Procurement Receives National Award

The City of Tucson's Department of Procurement has received the distinguished Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) Award for the 20th year in a row, one of only six agencies nationwide to do so. The AEP Award is from the National Procurement Institute, in partnership with 11 other professional sponsor organizations. It measures innovation, e-procurement, productivity, and leadership attributes in public procurement. The award is dedicated to establishing and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, education, certification, development, leadership, and ethics. "This award represents the diligence of our City procurement staff in ensuring the citizens of Tucson and the employees of the City receive the highest level of professional service and commitment to excellence from our procurement team. We are honored to receive this award and I am very proud of our team," said Procurement Director Marcheta Gillespie.

### Warrant Day Helps Hundreds of People

Tucson City Court hosted its first-ever Warrant Day Saturday, clearing up more than 200 cases and collecting \$13,325 in fines and fees. Of 210 defendants, 117 took plea offers and 93 were given new court dates, said Court Administrator Christopher Hale. Warrant Day was created to help deal with a backlog of 40,000 warrants. Most were for failure to appear in court. Prosecutors worked out plea deals for people who set up payment plans and agreed to attend any classes or counseling that may be required. The day was a pilot project to see how many defendants would show up on a Saturday to clear up their warrants. Typically, City Court handles warrants Monday through Thursday



## City News

from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A special thanks to Ward 2 Councilmember Paul Cunningham for bringing this proposal to Mayor and Council and pushing this idea forward.

### City Partners to Make Streets Safer for Schoolchildren

The City of Tucson Bicycle & Pedestrian Program and Living Streets Alliance are helping children and parents discover that walking and biking can be a fun, everyday part of a healthy life. The alternatives to vehicles also reduce traffic congestion and pollution around schools, improve safety in school zones, and provide families and friends an opportunity to share time with each other and build connections in their community. The Safe Routes to School Tucson program provides safe route mapping for neighborhoods, sponsors bike education and group rides, offers bicycle repair to keep kids on the move, and works with schools to develop a calendar of walking and biking events and incentives. For information about upcoming events and other news, please follow the link below.

Safe Routes to School Tucson: <http://bit.ly/1gx2r9w>

Tucson Bicycle & Pedestrian Program: <http://1.usa.gov/1remRER>

### 5 Ways Tucson is Prepared for Drought

We live in a desert. Tucsonans never take water for granted. Neither does Tucson Water. The southwestern United States is in the grip of a long-term drought. The Colorado River, the source of 90% of our drinking water, is hard hit by this drought. Lake Mead, which stores our Colorado River water, has dropped 12 feet during the past several years. Others who depend on water from the Colorado, like California and Las Vegas, are declaring mandatory water restrictions. But in Tucson, we aren't in a water crisis. Why?



1. Planning - Tucson Water professionals have planned for drought. The utility developed, and the Mayor and Council approved, a *Drought Preparedness and Response Plan* in 2005. Tucson Water – like most large water utilities in Arizona – is required to demonstrate 100 years of assured water supply.
2. Storing Water for Future Use - We take our maximum annual allocation of Colorado River Water but only use about 70% — Tucson Water stores the rest underground. Approximately 326 billion gallons of water have been stored for the future, and more is stored every day.
3. Offering Water Conservation Assistance, Rebates & Education - Tucson Water makes water efficiency easy by providing customers with free water conservation information, assistance, water audits, incentives and rebates for water-efficient plumbing fixtures and rainwater harvesting systems.
4. Irrigating with Reclaimed Water - For more than 30 years, Tucson Water has been recycling treated wastewater for irrigation. Nearly all Tucson area golf courses, parks, and schools use this Reclaimed Water to keep vegetation green.

## City News

5. Exploring New Ways to Re-use All of Our Water - Water is a precious limited resource. Tucson Water is conducting long-range research on the best ways to recycle currently unused Reclaimed Water by purifying it and blending it with our current water resources.

Collaboration, planning, and commitment have helped Tucson meet the challenges of this drought better than any other city in the Southwest. But we all need to continue to use water wisely and encourage our friends and neighbors to do the same.

To learn more about how Tucson Water is prepared for drought, please visit: [tucsonaz.gov/water/drought](http://tucsonaz.gov/water/drought).

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## Announcements

### **Pedestrian Safety Campaign Seeks to Reduce Fatalities and Injuries**

The Pima Association of Governments (PAG) has a "Walk Safe Drive Safe" pedestrian safety campaign, including a 30-second video (link below) to help tell a story that encourages people to watch out for each other and themselves. An average of 250 pedestrians are injured each year in collisions with vehicles and about 20 of those don't survive, according to crash analysis data prepared by PAG. Contributing factors in pedestrian crashes include low lighting, alcohol use, and not following good safety practices, the analysis said. Pedestrians are encouraged to cross at marked intersections, wear bright clothing at night, and make sure drivers see them before they step onto the street. Drivers are encouraged to slow down, avoid distractions while driving, and watch for pedestrians, especially when approaching any intersection.



Walk Safe. Drive Safe: <http://bit.ly/1ekWRGt>

Watch the video from PAG: <http://bit.ly/1cS9cAY>

### **City Offering Tax Amnesty Program**

The City of Tucson is offering the business community a Tax Amnesty Program. This rare opportunity will allow Tucson business owners to submit delinquent sales tax or license fees without penalty and reduced interest due on delinquent balances. This is also an opportunity for unlicensed Tucson businesses to get licensed without penalty. The amnesty period will run for two months, Sept. 1, 2015 - Oct. 30, 2015. During the last Tax Amnesty Program in 2009, 598 businesses participated.

To participate in the program, the Amnesty Application Form must be completed and sent to the City of Tucson. The fillable form can be found on the City of Tucson Finance page at [www.tucsonaz.gov/finance/amnesty](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/finance/amnesty). For more information, call the Tax Audit Section at (520) 791-4681 or e-mail questions to [TaxAmnesty@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TaxAmnesty@tucsonaz.gov).

## Announcements

### Buy a Qualified Washing Machine and Get a Rebate

Tucson Water's new Single Family Residential Clothes Washer Program will rebate customers \$200 when they purchase a CEE Tier 2 or Tier 3 clothes washer. High efficiency clothes washers save water and energy. Certain conditions apply for the rebate, so please follow the link below to learn more about the program.



Single Family Residential Clothes Washer Program:  
<http://1.usa.gov/1E4Etb8>

## Congratulations and Thank You!

I want to congratulate Alma Gallardo and the staff of Arizona Bilingual for their successful, second annual Arizona Kids Expo held Saturday, August 1 at the El Pueblo Activity Center in Ward 5. More than 2,600 turned out for the event for which school children received back packs and school supplies. Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild was present for the event. It was a pleasure being a cosponsor and looking forward to next year's Expo.



Congratulations to the staff at the Santa Rosa Recreation Center, located in Ward 5, for their first Back to School event for school children in the Barrio Santa Rosa area. More than 300 students turned out to get school supplies and other items to help them with the upcoming school year.



Congratulations to HomeGoods which began their construction of the distribution center, located at 3649 E. Corona Road in Ward 5. This \$75 million dollar construction project will build the distribution center for the HomeGoods company, which will distribute their products to their stores located in the western United States. It will have 400 people employed initially when finalized; more than 900 people will be working at the distribution center. Also, this project was named as a finalist for the Metropolitan Pima Alliance's Common Grounds award.



Congratulations to the Tucson Police Department (TPD) and the Sunnyside School District, who were honored with the School Safety Advocacy Council – 2015 Exemplary School Safety Initiative Award this past July at the

## Congratulations and Thank You!

National School Safety Conference. This is a great partnership between the police department and Sunnyside, who work together to keep the schools safe, the neighborhoods safe and coordinate with emergency response planning and practice.

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club and the Tucson Police Department, who celebrated their partnership in developing strong community relationships. This celebration took place at the Holmes Tuttle Clubs, located at 2585 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Ward 5. This summer the TPD and BGCT joined forces to create a program whereby officers were provided with the opportunity to spend quality time in the facility helping youth with homework, art projects, coaching sports, and engaging in mentoring activities. The program was such a success that it is now being expanded to several other Clubhouses throughout Tucson. This shows our community coming together for a great cause, in this case, our future, our children.



## 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

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

Phone: 520-791-4231  
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**Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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