



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Richard Fimbres
Council Member
Ward 5

**Ward 5 Council
Office Staff**

Chief of Staff
Mark Kerr

Council Aides
Melinda Jacobs
Javier Herrera

Office Assistants
Heileen Evans
Susan Gradillas

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Dear Friends:

As this year concludes, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to serve as your Councilmember for Tucson's Ward 5.

It has been a pleasure serving with and working with my colleagues on the Council, as well as the neighborhoods, businesses in the Ward and in the City of Tucson.

This year, I had the privilege of serving as your Vice Mayor. I was selected by my colleagues to serve in this post, helping the Mayor, when necessary, and representing our great City.

The work continues to bring Tucson through the dark economic tunnel that we've been in. This had been the worst economic time our community has faced since the Great Depression.



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When I was sworn into office in 2009, I got the message voters sent in terms of what was needed, reforming city government, economic development and creating jobs.

Over the past six years we have accomplished much of this, drawing new businesses to Ward 5, helping other businesses expand their operations, annexing property and fighting to ensure that barriers to economic development are addressed, averted and that doors for new businesses are open.

This past year, Ward 5 has seen a tremendous amount of investment from business. The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce had praised my efforts to make Tucson more business friendly.

I've worked hard to bring changes to the process to set up shop and to be able to operate in our city, including the Certificate of Occupancy, streamlining of the development process, approving the biggest commercial annexations of land in 15 years and the most area for our city and adopted a proactive approach from my office in assisting businesses to open up or move into Ward 5.

In this past year, some of the things we have seen in Ward 5 included:

The \$75 million dollar construction project beginning on the Home Goods Distribution Center in the Ward. When completed next year, HomeGoods will hire an initial 400 employees and when at capacity, 910 people will be employed. This will have an economic impact to our community over more than \$830 million dollars. The HomeGoods Distribution Center received the Metropolitan Pima Alliance Common Ground Award for the development and collaboration to bring this to our community;

The construction of the new, Fed-Ex Ground Hub in Ward 5, with an additional 160 new jobs being added to their payroll;

Expansion of the workforce at VXI Tucson and Costco, by 150 and 50 jobs respectively;

CAID Industries expanded their operations with another 30 positions bringing their total to 82, with an average salary of \$62,000;

Cinemark Theatre building their new, 14-screen theatre at the Bridges between the Costco and the Wal-Mart Supercenter;



HomeGoods®



FedEx®
Ground



CAID

I N D U S T R I E S



CINEMARK®

Ward 5 News

The completion of the Kino Parkway/22nd Street intersection improvement and overpass, which was also acknowledged by the Metropolitan Pima Alliance with a Common Ground Award for the project;



Annexation of land in and surrounding the Tucson International Airport, plus a new lease agreement with the Airport Authority, that has the option to annex the entire facility;

The successful, second annual, Kidz Expo, sponsored by Arizona Bilingual, where 2,000 young people received backpacks and other school items;

Tucson's Post Office and Processing Center, known as Cherrybell, is still open and off the closure list (for the moment). This marked the fourth year that Cherrybell was open after it was deemed to be closed in 2011 by postal service authorities. I want to thank our federal and state officials, who have worked with us so far in this effort;

Tucson's Rodeo Parade Committee holding its 90th annual event, the largest, non-mechanized parade in the United States and get ready for the 91st in 2016;



Sun Link getting its 1-millionth rider two months ahead of projections;

Dedication of the new public entry way at the Los Reales Landfill;

Working with the barrios and neighborhoods in dealing with the situations at Santa Rosa and Santa Rita Parks and assisting the Tucson Raiders Youth Football Program in their efforts to find practice fields, and being honored by the Raiders for the Ward 5 offices advocacy on their behalf;

Handing out more than 2,000 thank you cards to veterans at the V.A. Hospital over the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Weekends;



Emceeding and hosting the second annual Knights of Columbus/LULAC Veterans Tribute Dinner at the Knights of Columbus, Council 1200 in Ward 5;

Approving a concept plan for the Broadway Corridor transportation project; and

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Helping the Humane Society, AWASA and volunteers, with the 48 hour, free spay-neuter MASH event at Los Ranchitos School, for which 850 dogs and cats were spayed and neutered, plus another 500 dogs and cats received vouchers to get spayed and neutered. If a cat or dog had not been vaccinated, they received the shots needed at the event and through the voucher effort too. A total of 1,350 animals and the owners were helped.

This year the Citizens Charter Review Committee, that I helped to bring forward the proposal to form, drafted two charter proposals that were forwarded to the ballot (mayoral parity and ending department directors civil services protections) and were approved by voter by overwhelming margins. There is still work to be done with the 1929 document to bring it into the 21st Century.

In 2015, it was great to get final approval by Mayor and Council on the "Ban the Box," dealing with the city's employment application and giving an opportunity for those reentering society. My years of experience with the Sheriff's Department showed that this was an important issue. Later in the year, Pima County also passed a similar ordinance.

This past year, more roads and neighborhood streets being repaired in Tucson under Proposition 409, for which the work is under budget and ahead of schedule, so that more streets and roads are being worked upon. It was reported by the Arizona Daily Star, that the city was bumped from the worst roads list. There is work still be done and we strive to make our roads better.

In 2015, interim City Manager Martha Durkin and Police Chief, Roberto Villasenor said farewell. Martha Durkin and Roberto Villasenor are two community servants that will be missed and for which I want to thank them for their commitment to Tucson.

Tucson has a new City Manager, Mike Ortega, for which I have had the opportunity to work since July 1, and is bringing his ideas and proposals forward on making the city government better.

On January 1, Christopher Magnus becomes the next Chief of Police for the City of Tucson. I will be meeting with Mr. Magnus and look forward to hearing his proposals and discussing his plans for Tucson Police. We are blessed to have one of the best law enforcement agencies in the country.



One of the awards that I had received in 2015 was the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans "Champion of Social Security," Award, for my efforts for senior citizens in my Ward and the fight to keep the Cherrybell Post Office open.

This past year we have had many successes and faced many challenges. During my time as your

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Councilmember I have not seen a good budget for the City of Tucson. In 2009, just eight days after being sworn into office, the City Manager informed the Council the City faced a \$33.5 million dollar budgetary shortfall. I've dealt with budget deficits ever since and the Mayor and Council has balanced those budgets with the help of the staff from the City Manager's Office. The City faces challenges for the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2017. This past month, the City Manager began discussions with the Mayor and Council about the budget and the city's priorities.



One of the biggest challenges for the City budget is the public safety personnel retirement system situation (PSPRS), for which Tucson Police and Tucson Fire are a part of. PSPRS is overseen by the Arizona State Government and which mandates how much cities and towns in Arizona are to contribute to PSPRS, as well as the public safety employee. The Arizona Legislature had passed legislation, making changes to PSPRS. The cities in towns, Tucson included, had made changes to their contribution rates for PSPRS as stated by the new state laws passed.

A total of three lawsuits were filed by employee groups for which two had been successful in court and the Legislature is expected to lose the third lawsuit as well. The result of the two lawsuits warranted cities and towns to make a bigger contribution. Tucson paid an additional \$18 million into PSPRS for the current fiscal year and for next year's budget, the City will have to pay an additional \$27 million in the upcoming fiscal year budget. Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega stated that the City will be facing a projected budget deficit of \$40 million dollars for Fiscal Year 2017, which would start on July 1.

As I did last year, I will be hosting a community forum on the Fiscal Year 2017 budget with city staff so that the Ward 5 neighborhoods will have the opportunity to express their opinions and concerns about what city services they should be providing and what needs to be looked at further. Your feedback will be important.

Another year has passed and we've seen successes and challenges, new businesses open and new issues arise, people we've worked with leave and new individuals coming on board. My staff and I have been working hard to improve the quality of life for all in our great city. My staff truly have been a lantern of hope for folks needing help.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard G. Fimbres'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard G. Fimbres
Your Council Member

City News

City Manager Outlines Plans to Balance Budget

Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega wants a long-term hiring freeze and plans to offer incentives for hundreds of employees to retire early. During the Mayor and Council retreat, Ortega introduced several measures to bring a structural balance to Tucson's operational spending plan over the next two fiscal years. The immediate hiring freeze would save the City about \$12 million next fiscal year, with additional savings in early retirements, attrition, consolidations, partnerships, and other measures. Ortega plans to hold several employee town halls to answer questions and address concerns.



Urban Agriculture

The Mayor and Tucson City Council have unanimously approved an urban agriculture text amendment to the City's Unified Development Code. The amendment reduces barriers to raising backyard chickens and growing vegetable gardens, and it clarifies rules for community gardens and farmers markets. The amendment also sets maximums on the number of animals allowed, based on lot size, and prohibits male fowl. The urban agriculture text amendment was the result of the 2013 Plan Tucson policy calling for the adoption of "zoning and land use regulations that promote and facilitate the safe, equitable growth and distribution of locally-produced food" and direction from Mayor and Council on the Sustainable Code Project in May 2011. The newly-adopted rules will come back for reconsideration after two years. The City has been working with the community to develop a proposal which would, among other things, allow people to grow their own food and raise food-producing animals, such as chickens, miniature goats, ducks, geese, and turkeys. The proposal evolved from Plan Tucson, the Sustainable Code Project, committee meetings, and four public meetings held last year.



Sustainable Code Project: <http://1.usa.gov/1gY9IFC>

Plan Tucson: <http://1.usa.gov/1sW4CZx>

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Drunk Driving Ruins the Holidays

If you're enjoying the holidays with a drink, local law enforcement has a message for you: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. Due to the increase in drunk-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, law enforcement agencies across America are actively searching for and arresting drunk drivers from December 16 to January 1. They have good reason to: in 2013, 10,076 people were killed in crashes in-

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volving a drunk driver. In December 2013 alone there were 733 people killed in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. 23 of those deaths occurred on Christmas Day.

As part of the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement campaign period, police will be increasing the number of patrols, setting up roadblocks, and using local media to reach out to all drivers. If you're drinking and driving, police will stop you. If you're caught drinking and driving you could face jail time, fines, loss of driver's license, towing fees, and other DUI expenses, totaling \$10,000 on average. That's not a small price, and that doesn't even count the heftier price you could pay: the price of your life or someone else's.



Drivers, please follow these tips to keep the holidays safe and happy:

- Even one drink can impair your judgment and increase the risk of getting arrested for driving drunk—or worse, the risk of having a crash.
- If you will be drinking, do not plan on driving. Plan ahead; designate a sober driver before the party begins.
- If you have been drinking, do not drive. Call a taxi, phone a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.

Remember, driving after drinking should never be an option. *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

City of Tucson Holiday Closures

All City offices, except for emergency services, will be closed on the next two Fridays to celebrate Christmas and New Year's Day. Due to the holidays, residential and commercial trash and recycling will not be collected on those Fridays. All City of Tucson residents and businesses with regular Friday collections will have their trash and recycling service on Saturdays during the holiday weeks. The Los Reales Landfill will be closed on both holidays. The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities will be closed this Friday and Saturday, as well as the following week, and the Saturday HHW Collection at the Eastside Service Center is canceled for January.

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the Tucson Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit would like to provide some simple tips to help you avoid becoming the victim of fraud this holiday season:

- Carry only the credit cards or checks you will need with you. This helps minimize the impact of a lost or stolen wallet.
- Keep visual contact with your credit card when making a purchase. Ensure the receipt you are signing matches the total of your purchases.

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- Hold onto your receipts, and compare them with your monthly statements. If you bank online, check your account activity frequently, and compare those with your purchases.
- Do not share your PIN with anyone.
- When sending cards with gifts inside, such as checks or gift cards, use secure mailboxes for outgoing mail. Try to avoid leaving them in unsecured mailboxes any longer than necessary.
- When shopping online, ensure you are transmitting your credit card information via a secure transmission, and avoid doing so from public internet access points.
- Always keep in mind, as with most frauds, if something sounds too good to be true, it's most likely not true.

From TPD Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1MRxZ5Q>

'Tis the Season to Treecycle

Christmas is this Friday, so it's time to start thinking about what to do with your real tree after the holiday. Starting Saturday, you can bring your tree (minus the decorations) to one of nine TreeCycle sites throughout the community. The annual program runs through Jan. 12 at sites in Tucson and Oro Valley. Additionally, from Jan. 4-12, the City of Tucson will have Merry Mulch (wood chips) from shredded Christmas trees available at Udall Park, Randolph Golf Course, and the Los Reales Landfill. Bring your own container and take home some free wood chips for your garden. Please note that the City of Tucson will not collect Christmas trees from curbs and alleys, and other green waste cannot be accepted at TreeCycle. Follow the link below for site locations and more information.



TreeCycle from City of Tucson Environmental Services: <http://1.usa.gov/1mwiebZ>

Stay Safe This Winter

With overnight temperatures having already reached the 30s in Tucson, the Tucson Fire Department is urging people to be careful when heating their homes. Capt. Barrett Baker says space heaters should be placed at least 3 feet from anything flammable and not be plugged into extension cords or left unattended. If your furnace is up and running, Baker suggests you check and change the filter 3-4 times during the season and keep the area around the furnace clean and unobstructed. It's also a good idea to have working carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

Also, as people begin turning on their gas furnaces and using their fireplaces, the Tucson Fire Department offers tips on how to protect yourself against carbon monoxide and house fires. Some of the early warnings of carbon monoxide poisoning are headaches, nausea, and vomiting. Later stages can include confusion, brain



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damage, and even death. Your best defense is to use carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

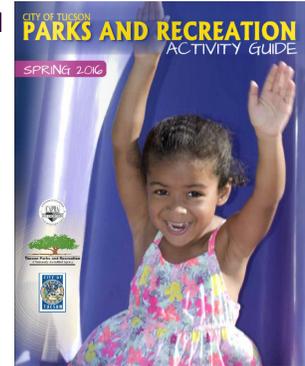
Watch the Tucson 12 video linked below to learn more.

Watch the video: <http://bit.ly/1uby1sC>

Parks and Recreation Spring Activity Guide Available Now!

Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for spring 2016 is available at all Parks and Recreation facilities, including district offices, centers and pools.

Copies also will be available at the Family Festival in the Park event on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Reid Park, or can be viewed online at the link below. The Activity Guide contains information on leisure classes, KIDCO, aquatics, sports programs, registration and the Discount Program. Registration will open this Saturday for City residents and next Monday for non-City residents.



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

Parks and Recreation Offer Discounts

City of Tucson Parks and Recreation offers discounts that allow low-income residents to pay a 50 percent discounted fee for KIDCO, Jr. Leadership, In-Betweeners, Learn-to-Swim, and therapeutic programs. There also is a 25 percent discount for annual/quarterly passes at recreation centers and for a Senior Activity Card. To qualify for the discounts, you must be a City of Tucson resident, provide identification, household size, address verification, and be able to prove your income falls within the discount guidelines. You can apply at any Parks and Recreation office. For more details on the requirements for the discounts, call Registration Services at [\(520\) 791-4877](tel:5207914877).

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

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

Zoo Lights

Reid Park Zoo's annual display of Christmas lights will help put you in the holiday spirit, with jingle bells, twinkling lights, falling snow, and Santa. Light displays, animal-themed light sculptures, and thousands of sparkling bulbs are part of the Zoo Lights holiday tradition. Camel and carousel rides are open during the event for an additional fee. Free cookies are provided each night, and hot cocoa is available for \$1. Zoo officials say animals have access to heated night houses and likely will choose to be off exhibit. Zoo Lights is open from 6-8 p.m., through Dec. 23, with an encore Dec. 26-27. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$5 for kids between the ages of 2 and 14. Children under 2 years old are free. Zoo members receive a \$2 discount.



Zoo Lights information/tickets from Reid Park Zoo: <http://bit.ly/1lwOod9>

Reid Park Zoo: <http://bit.ly/1dJgCDh>

Congratulations and Thank You!

Tucson Designated a 'World City of Gastronomy'

Tucson's food traditions now are recognized internationally, as the city last week received the rare designation as a "World City of Gastronomy" in the Creative Cities Network. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced the designation Friday, making Tucson the first city in the United States to receive the honor, creating a new tool to attract tourists and businesses to our region. The City of Tucson partnered with the University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' Southwest Center, Edible Baja Arizona magazine, and many other community partners to apply for the recognition. Tucson has an agricultural heritage dating back more than 4,000 years, as well as a 300-year tradition of vineyards, orchards, and livestock ranching.



City of Tucson Gastronomy: <http://1.usa.gov/1Up7cAz>
From UNESCO: <http://bit.ly/114hrc2>

Christmas Food Boxes

Special thanks to those who helped to put hundreds of food boxes together and deliver them to some of our most needy citizens in our community. Special Thanks to Roger Tamietti, the Tucson Fire Fighters, and all the labor groups who helped to organize this event. Also to Javier Herrera, Mary Fimbres and Linda Leatherman from LULAC, for their part in ensuring folks were helped. This is a great service for the community!



Ward 5 Holiday Party



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

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badger73.blogspot.com/



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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