



**Happy 99th
Birthday
Arizona!**

**FREQUENTLY USED
PHONE NUMBERS**

**Emergency Services
TPD & TFD
DIAL 911**

**Permits 791-5550
Housing Assistance
791-4739**

TCC - 791-5522

**Code Enforcement &
Graffiti removal
792-CITY (2489)**

**Trash Pick up &
Environmental
Services 791-3171**

**Transportation &
Street Maintenance
- 791-3154**

**Tucson Water
Billing - 791-5466
Public Info. - 791-5041**

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City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 10

February 2011

A LETTER FROM VICE MAYOR FIMBRES

COSTCO – U of A BioPark

Good news for Ward 5, construction has begun on the new Costco store at Kino and I-10 in the Bridges development and will be completed in just 110 days. This will be another boost for the Ward and the City for our future.

The work on the U of A BioPark, located just north of the Costco development is moving forward, construction on this tech park will begin in July. Applications are being taken online at <http://www.costco.com> or call Ward 5 for more information.

Ward 5 Business Forum

In other news, Ward 5 has held a forum for small businesses, on January 26th, at Hi Speed Hot Customs, to talk about what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done in making Tucson a “friendlier place to do business.”

Special thanks to John Sewell, owner of Hi Speed Customs, George Kalil and Brett Dumont and the Millville Neighborhood coordinating hosting the event. I also want to thank Ernie Duarte with Development Services, Byron Howard, Christina Parisi and Hector Martinez from the City Manager’s Office for their attendance and participation in this event.

C of O Update

For January of 2011, another \$22 million in commercial construction permits have been taken in January, bringing the total to more than \$220 million since these figures were being compiled starting in February 2010, per Mayor and Council direction.

More than \$150 million of these came when the changes to permitting, licenses and the Certificate of Occupancy brought by my office, went into effect in August of 2010.

Budget Update

Things are beginning to move in Ward 5 and the City of Tucson. One of the most important issues we are now focusing our attention on is the budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year, starting July 1. Budgetary discussions started in January by

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

the Mayor, Council and city staff to deal with this situation.

Ward 5 Town Hall

On January 27th, I held a town hall meeting at the El Pueblo Senior Center for which city staff was present to answer questions to the Ward 5 constituents who were in attendance with discussions and presentation of ideas on how to deal with the projected budget shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year.

Many ideas have come into the Ward 5 office from constituents for which I want to express my appreciation for your thoughts and comments. These have been sent to city staff for further consideration.

P-Card

One of the proposals my office brought forward was getting the City of Tucson to use the P-card system for procurement more so that the City could save money in getting a rebate and reducing cost for transactions.

My colleagues on the Council agreed with the potential savings presented by the City of Tucson Procurement Department and the City will be using this more to benefit of the City and most importantly, to the benefit of taxpayers.

For example, through Mayor and Council direction, Sun Tran will be using this system more to save close to \$330,000 alone by using P-Card. The potential savings for the entire city government is in the millions, something that will become a reality.

Sun Tran

Speaking of Sun Tran, at the recent Mayor and Council meeting, direction was given for public hearings to commence in regard to the rates charged to ride the bus and the routes themselves. This is a review and will finish the work started by the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transit Task Force in the fall of last year. These hearings will begin in about 30 days or so and we will have the information of where one could comment or where the hearings will take place shortly.

Rest assured, since more than 25% of the total riders for Sun Tran come from Ward 5, I will do everything I can for my constituents who ride the buses to get to school, or work or otherwise but I will need your help on this, through your comments and participation in the meetings that will be held.

Mayor and Council Take Budget Action

At the February 15 meeting of the Mayor and Council, which dealt with the pending Fiscal Year 2012 budget, by a unanimous vote, the Mayor and Council gave the City Manager ideas to come back with in April regarding the budget. Four such ideas: a rental tax, advertising tax, business license fee increase and land speculation tax were taken off the table by a unanimous vote of the Mayor

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and Council. The voters spoke loudly in November 2009 and 2010 on Proposition's 200 (in 2009), Proposition 400 and 401. The Mayor and Council heard the message loud and clear during the discussions about the budget.

More Good News

The federal TIGER grant for the \$63 million for the Modern Streetcar was finalized and construction will begin this summer.

More than 80 Apollo Middle School students, as well as many parents and friends took part in a graffiti abatement event at Apollo Middle School.

Special thanks to Mark Doe, Director of the Apollo Community School, Ray Chavez, Principal of Apollo Middle School, Lupe Mercado of Graffiti Protective Coating and the many other sponsors for this event.

Tucson's Police Department recently received three federal grants to help hire 56 new officers to help deal with the reduction of the police force due to attrition and retirements of current staff.

Tucson Rodeo

The largest and longest, non-mechanized parade will take place in Ward 5. The La Fiesta de los Vaqueros, Tucson Rodeo Parade happens on February 24. Each February since 1925, Tucsonans saddle their horses, hitch up their buggies and shine their cowboy boots for the "Celebration of the Cowboys."

This year's Grand Marshall is Joel Valdez, the former Tucson City Manager and recently working for the University of Arizona. For more information, go online to <http://www.tucsonrodeoparade.org>.

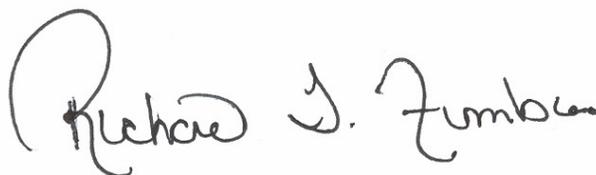
Congratulations

I want to congratulate Bruce Beach and Lisa Lovallo on being named 2010 Man and Woman of the Year by the Tucson Chamber of Commerce. Joel Valdez received the Founder's Award by the Chamber of Commerce as well for his lifetime of work and achievement.

Online

You can reach me online, either through E-mail or at my Facebook page listed in the newsletter. Also, for more information and updates, go to my personal blog at <http://badger73.blogspot.com>.

Peace.



Richard G. Fimbres
Vice Mayor