

City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 9

March 2015

Dear Friends:

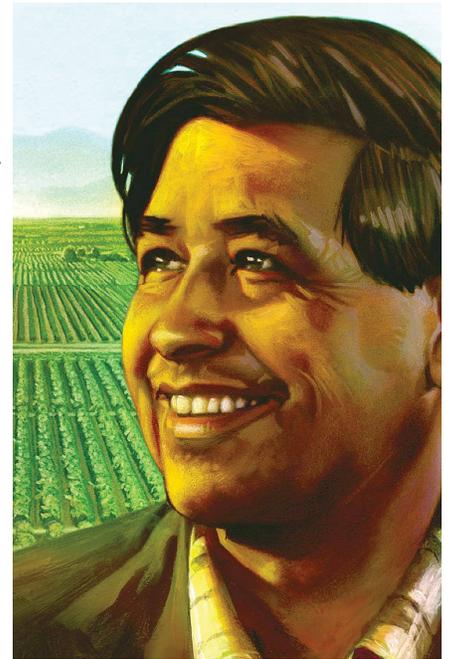
As the League of United Latin American Citizens, Council 1057 kicked off the Cesar Chavez Holiday weekend by hosting their 26th Annual Youth Leadership Conference at Pima Community College's West Campus we must not forget the legacy left by him such as his determination to improve the quality of life for all.

He was an Educator, Environmentalist and a Civil Rights Leader. One of his most famous sayings was "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

For the past 26 years LULAC Council 1057, in partnership with the Southern Arizona Institute of Leadership have been actively involved in our community providing educational assistance to our youth and motivating them to realize education is the key to success and that their number one goal should be to graduate. Education is a great equalizer.

Latino's are now the largest racial and ethnic population, affecting the cultural and political landscape and changing the way America does business. The presence and influence of Latinos has increased significantly in the United States through remarkable growth over the past 20 years. But according to recent polls, Latinos in the United States see education as the most important issue facing their community. Over 50% of Latinos equate sending their children to college with achieving the American dream. I thank LULAC and all the organizations that work hard to educate our youth and to get them to obtain their diplomas and college degrees.

Latino's have a rich heritage of educational innovation and achievement. The Spaniards established two universities in Lima and Mexico in 1541, and a total of seven universities in the new world before Harvard opened its doors. I believe Cesar Chavez, would tell us today that we need to recover their spirit and create our own renaissance in education. He said, "It is possible to become discouraged about the injustice we see everywhere. But God did not promise us that the world would be humane and just. He



Richard Fimbres
Vice Mayor and
Councilmember
Ward 5

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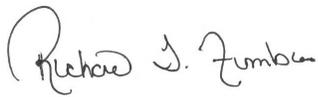


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gives us the gift of life and allows us to choose the way we will use our limited time on earth. it is an awesome opportunity."

On this first holiday, I want to thank my colleagues on the Council and the many organizations who supported the Council's vote for the Cesar Chavez holiday in 2014. His selfless dedication for farm worker and worker rights, economic justice, civil rights, environmental justice, peace, nonviolence, empowerment of the poor and disenfranchised, is a monumental legacy that will inspire all and the generations to come. What is most important is that remembering and honoring Cesar Chavez inspires more people to become involved in all the causes which continue his extraordinary legacy.

Peace,



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Vice Mayor

Cherrybell Post Office Processing Center Update

I had the opportunity to meet with Congresswoman Martha McSally about the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center and she has sent a letter to the new Postmaster General, Megan Brennan about the issue. McSally's letter is signed by a bipartisan contingent of the Arizona Congressional Delegation and calls on the Postmaster to revisit the decision to consolidate the operations at the Cherrybell Processing Center. Congressman Raul Grijalva, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema and Congressman



Trent Franks were the members of the delegation who signed on to McSally's letter. My office is working with Congresswoman McSally's office to set up a follow up meeting with business leaders about this issue. I want to thank Congresswoman McSally for helping to lead this fight to save Cherrybell, which serves 1.5 million people, seniors and veterans, 26,000 businesses and the two Native American tribes.

<https://mcsally.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/us-rep-mcsally-leads-effort-support-tucson-mail-processing-center>

Ban the Box

At the March 17, Mayor and Council meeting, I brought the motion forward and the Tucson Mayor and Council finalized the Ban the Box Ordinance, giving people a chance to live a life free of prejudice and persecution by removing the criminal history question on the initial employment application with the City of Tucson. It will give people a potential second chance and the ability to reintegrate into society.

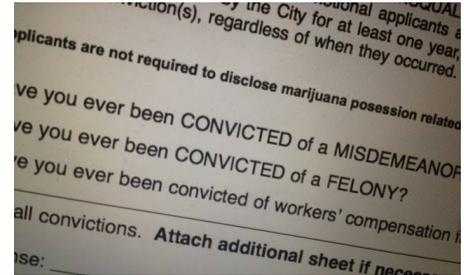
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Background checks will still be conducted for positions in public safety, financial handling of money and dealing with vulnerable people (seniors, disabled, children, etc.). I want to thank Debbi Embry with the Tucson Urban League, Curry Hale - City of Tucson Human Resources, Ellen Katz for their work, and my colleagues on the Council for their support of this proposal.

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/human-resources>.

Home Goods

At the March 17 Mayor and Council meeting, I made the motion for the final approval to the Primary Jobs Incentive and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) incentives for HomeGoods, paving the way for the Massachusetts-based company to establish a new West Coast distribution center in Tucson. The company says it would eventually create 910 jobs in 15 years (more than 400 in the first year) at a property near the airport. HomeGoods expects to begin construction in May and open the facility next year. I want to thank Mr. Mark Walker, Vice President for Real Estate who was present for this meeting and Mr. Bill Ferguson, HomeGood's Distribution Center Engineering Manager for being at the first Council meeting on this. I want to welcome HomeGood's to Ward 5 and Tucson.



Broadway Corridor Expansion Update

The Broadway Citizens Task Force (CTF), after 35 public meetings that began in June 2012, made a unanimous decision Thursday night, March 26, to recommend a 6-Lane Including Transit alignment to the Mayor and Council for adoption in May. The recommended alignment is a hybrid between a design submitted by community member Gene Caywood and the Starting Small approach provided by the Broadway project team, both available at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/broadway>. The alignment prioritizes preservation of historic buildings and adds lanes for vehicles and bicycles, and sidewalks for pedestrians. The CTF also supports enhancing transit service on the corridor, and unanimously supports dedicating lanes to transit should the Tucson Mayor and Council choose to do so.

The members of the Citizens Task Force have volunteered many hours and provided much thought to this very difficult and lengthy project, said Interim City Manager Martha Durkin, who spoke to the task force at its meeting Thursday night. The Citizens Task Force had the challenge of representing constituencies with different priorities, while factoring in a great deal of technical data. The task force members are to be commended for their perseverance in reaching a unanimous decision on the recommended alignment.



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The CTF-recommended 6-Lane Including Transit alignment will be presented at an evening open house on April 23, 2015 at Sabbar Shrine Hall (time to be determined) and is expected to go before the Mayor and Council for adoption in May. The task force is made up of 13 people representing nearby residents and businesses, including members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, the Tucson Planning Commission, and the Commission on Disability Issues.

I and my staff have been talking to many organizations, businesses in the area and neighborhoods about this plan. Mr. Gene Caywood, the Ward 5 appointee came up with the new plan that the CTF reviewed and approved as part of the new, smaller hybrid map. I want to thank Mr. Caywood for his work on coming up with a new proposal and his commitment to transportation and our community. I also want to thank the Broadway Citizens Task Force for their work and commitment on this endeavor.

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City Budget

Discussions for compiling and approving the FY 2016 City of Tucson Budget will begin in April, starting with the April 7 Mayor and Council meeting and the discussions and hearing will ensue through June. The City Manager will present her proposed budget at the April 21, Mayor and Council Meeting. More updates as the discussions progress. For more information, go online to the following:



<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/budget>

New City Manager

Following separate opportunities for the Mayor and Tucson City Council, the public, and a citizens committee to meet with the two finalists for City Manager, the Mayor and Council met in Executive Session and unanimously selected Cochise County Administrator Michael Ortega to serve as City Manager.

The comprehensive interview process included candidate participation in a community forum and interviews with Mayor and Council, a citizens advisory committee, city staff and labor union representatives.



As Cochise County Administrator, Mr. Ortega served as the Chief Administrative Officer of all County operations. He was responsible for the preparation and administration of annual budget (\$175M), led de-

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velopment and implementation of Cochise County's Strategic Plan and acted as liaison to Elected Officers, community groups, and citizens. He also ensured that County Board policies were implemented and was responsible for the management of personnel and resources of all appointed officials and internal service departments.

A final contract will be presented at the April 7 Council Meeting, with an anticipated start date in June. Ortega replaces Richard Miranda who retired in July 2014. Martha Durkin will remain the Interim City Manager until Ortega's appointment.

I would like to thank our Interim City Manager Martha Durkin for her exceptional service to our City while the national search process was being conducted.

Deputy City Manager Accepts Job in Dallas

Deputy City Manager Kelly Gottschalk has been hired as the new executive director for the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System (DPFP). She will have overall responsibility for DPFP's administration, operations and investments. Gottschalk is expected to begin her new position on or about April 15. "I have enjoyed my time with the City and wish the best of success to the City as it moves forward," she said. Interim City Manager Martha Durkin praised Gottschalk for her service to Tucson. "Kelly's experience and leadership have guided our organization through some of our most difficult financial times, and her value is clearly demonstrated by this terrific opportunity," Durkin told NewsNet. I want to thank Kelly for her service to the City of Tucson. Over the past five years, her work has helped this City get back on the right path.



Tucson to Fix More Roads Under Proposition 409 Program

The Mayor and Tucson City Council is expected to vote next month on hundreds of extra miles of additional street repairs under the Road Recovery bond program. Planned preservation and restoration work under the bond is both ahead of schedule and \$11.7 million under budget, due to lower gas prices and favorable bids. Recommendations for additional road work have been made by staff and approved by the citizens committee.



I want to thank the Transportation Director, Daryl Cole, and his staff, for their efforts to bring about the savings, so more roads can be repaired. I also want to thank my appointee to the Proposition 409 Citizen's Advisory Committee, Jesse Lugo for his work on this effort.

The City of Tucson's Department of Transportation (TDOT) also reports that it filled 13,300 potholes between Feb. 3 and March 5. Following storms that damaged many roads, TDOT crews have been working six days a week, with 85 percent of the Streets & Traffic Maintenance Division dedicated to

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pothole repairs. You can report potholes to the TDOT, (520) 791-3154, or email the exact location to tdotsr@tucsonaz.gov.

Road Recovery Bond Program: <http://1.usa.gov/1lxdFvK>

Bond Oversight Commission Annual Report: <http://1.usa.gov/1gpTI1N>

Downtown Links Project Honored

Downtown Links Phase II, St. Marys Road/Sixth Street – I-10 to Church Avenue –received the Southern Arizona Branch of the American Public Works Association's (APWA) 2015 Project of the Year Award for projects between \$5 million and \$20 million. The second phase included drainage, lighting and safety improvements, as well as concrete sidewalks, protected bike lanes, desert landscaping, public art, landscaped median islands and new asphalt paving. The overall Downtown Links project from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will result in a four-lane roadway north of the Union Pacific Railroad that will link Barraza-Aviation Parkway and Interstate 10.

Downtown Links info: <http://bit.ly/1maT9LU>

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Second Chance Conference

A free community wide conference on overcoming challenges from prior convictions will be taking place on April 9, 2015 from 2pm-5pm at the Tucson Convention Apache Ballroom (260 S. Church Ave).

I want to thank Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Karla Avalos from the Mayor's staff and Judge Charles Pyle on putting this conference together. This is another effort by our community to help those coming out of prison to reintegrate into society. The Pima County Reentry Coalition, an organization I helped to create, started this effort and has been working with the Mayor's office on this.



Speakers & Topics include:

- Causes and Consequences: Corrections Responses to the Community Impact of High Rates of Incarceration by, Jeffrey A. Beard, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Moral or Therapeutic Judgment: Responses to Trauma, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues by, Lisa Callahan, Policy Research Associates, and a mental health therapist and a substance abuse therapist
- Incarceration or In Community: New Court Responses to Reentry Challenges by, Chief District Judge Casey Rodgers, Northern District of Florida
- Local Success Stories and Second Chance Community Service Award

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Sam Hughes Home and Neighborhood Tour

The Sam Hughes Home and Neighborhood Tour will be on Sunday, April 12 from noon until 5pm. This self-guided walking tour of the one square mile neighborhood bounded by Campbell Ave./Country Club Rd. and Speedway Blvd./Broadway consists of private residences and gardens as well as several venues that represent the diversity of this historically-designated midtown neighborhood. Tickets remain \$20 and will be on sale day-of-the-tour in front of Rincon Market (2513 E. 6th St.) beginning at 10am. Pre-tour ticket purchase will be available (although unnecessary) at Arte de la Vida, (open M-Sat. 10-5; Su 12-4) 37 N. Tucson Blvd. beginning April 1. For more information, call [520-323-7891](tel:520-323-7891) or see samhughes.org.

Charter Review

Tucson's Charter Review Committee is asking for public comments as it reviews and makes recommendations about possible amendments to sections of the Tucson City Charter. Potential amendments to the City Charter may be on the Nov. 3, 2015 City ballot.

In 2014, I brought the proposal forward to form a citizen's committee to review the city charter and to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for potential items to be placed upon a city election ballot for the voters of Tucson to consider. My colleagues on the Mayor and Council agreed and the committee was formed.



The City's charter was drafted in 1929 and has had some minor revisions, but we are not a little Pueblito of 30,000. Our governing document needs to be reflective of the 21st century and the archaic language currently in the charter needs to be cleaned up.

The Citizen's Charter Review Committee has not sent to the Mayor and Council their final recommendations, as of press time for this newsletter. It is expected the committee's recommendations will be before the Mayor and Council for their April 21 meeting.

The Charter Review Committee has been meeting since last August and has put in many hours on this effort, something I want to thank them for, and I look forward to reviewing their report and to discuss it with my colleagues on the Council.

Read the news release: <http://1.usa.gov/1EGwSDL>
From tucsonaz.gov: <http://1.usa.gov/1ric9Ps>

Ward 5 Community Forum

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 30th, when Ward 5 Council Office will be holding a community forum at the El Pueblo Senior Center, 101 West Irvington Road. Presentations from Tucson Police, Tucson Fire, other city departments and the Pima County Health Department will be part of the program.

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Free Rabies and Parvo Shots for Dogs

A free rabies and parvo shots (DAPP) for dogs only, will be taking place at the Ward 5 Council Office, Saturday, May 2nd, 7 to 10 am. For more information, please contact Jenny Kading at 243-5976 or Email at jenny.kading@pima.gov.

Recruitment for Summer Pool Employees

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department is looking for Water Safety Instructors (WSI) and Lifeguards this summer. More than 150 lifeguards and swimming instructors are needed for seasonal work at City of Tucson pools, beginning the week of May 25. Applicants must be at least 16 years old at time of hire and have knowledge of water hazards, lifesaving techniques and first aid. Learn more about the qualifications by following the link below. The application deadline is May 31.

Job description: <http://1.usa.gov/1EekObF>



Teens Offered Special Passes

Teenagers will be able to buy a \$45 pass that will give them unlimited summer access to Sun Tran buses and City of Tucson swimming pools. Under a pilot program approved yesterday by the Mayor and Tucson City Council, teens can purchase the pass at select schools and other locations. The passes will be valid between Memorial Day weekend and the start of the school year. The summer pass offers a 60 percent savings over the cost of buying separate bus and pools passes.

Help for Hoarders

Concerned for the safety of area residents and rescue workers, about 50 local agencies have established a task force to address the problem of hoarding and how to help those individuals struggling with the issue. City Code Enforcement inspectors say they encounter a hoarding case about every other week. The issue poses significant risk to residents, as well as rescue personnel called to the homes of hoarders. "Buried in Treasures," is part of a 20-week program and support group. There is a \$20 charge for course materials.

City of Tucson Code Enforcement: <http://1.usa.gov/1zy375j>



Possible Phone Scam

Tucson Water is receiving complaints from customers who were contacted by telephone and asked to provide financial information to avoid disconnection of their water service. The callers are falsely representing themselves as Tucson Water employees and are asking for money to prevent accounts from being turned over to collections. Tucson Water's policy is to provide two written notifications of account delinquency or



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service interruption, followed by an outbound automated phone asking a delinquent to contact the utility immediately. Tucson Water does not request payment or financial information over the telephone. Customers may verify their account and status of service information by contacting Tucson Water Customer Service at (520) 791-3242 or e-mailing TW_CustomerService@tucsonaz.gov.

Congratulations and Thank You!

Ben's Bells Project at Pueblo Gardens Elementary School

On Thursday, March 5, Ben's Bells launched their latest be kind project at the Pueblo Garden's School in Ward 5. Members of the organization, as well as Pueblo Gardens principal Seth Aleshire and Pueblo Gardens teachers, staff and students helped to create the "be kind mural" now in front of the school. It was a pleasure to take part in this project, as well as seeing members of the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association helping this effort as well.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Councilmember Shirley Scott, City Manager Martha Durkin and I took part in the 2015 St. Patrick's Day parade held Sunday, March 15. I want to thank the parade committee for their work and those who came out, wearing the green, to celebrate Tucson's parade.



20th Annual Dinner and Scholarship Awards Program

The GSAAC 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association held their 20th Annual Dinner and Scholarship Awards Program at the Dunbar Center on Saturday, March 28. I had the honor to give Morgan Maxwell Jr., the Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation for his longtime community service and his work with the Buffalo Soldiers. Jon Covington with the GSAAC was also honored for his work on the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Project, helping to get the proposal from concept to potential bond project for the Pima County Bond proposal. Congratulations to the GSAAC for their work, their awarding of educational scholarships to young people, now totaling over \$19,000 in the 20 years of the dinner and their support of the community.



Congratulations and Thank You!

26th Annual Youth Leadership Conference and Educator's Banquet

On Friday, March 27th, LULAC held its 26th Annual Youth Leadership Conference with more than 1400 participants. The philosophy behind the Youth Leadership Conference for the last 26 years has been to encourage and motivate students to remain in school, set goals and reinforce education as the key to success. Another key factor has been to expose students to an environment that fosters positive relationships among peers, teachers and the community. For the past 26 years, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in southern Arizona has promoted the importance of learning and how vital it is to all children. By providing educational assistance to the youth in our community through various initiatives and programs, LULAC has worked to encourage and motivate students to remain in school, set goals, and reinforce education as the key to success.



The activities of the Youth Conference will culminate with LULAC's annual Educator's Banquet to be held at the DoubleTree on Thursday, April 16th. This year, eight outstanding individuals will be recognized for their commitments to education and our community. Those individuals being recognized with LULAC's Presidential Citation Award include: Frances Erunez (Owner, Los Jarritos), Alma Gallardo (Owner, Arizona Bilingual Magazine), Lee Lambert (Chancellor, Pima Community College), Saturnino "Curly" Santa Cruz (Coach, Pueblo High School), and John C. Scott (Radio Personality). In addition to these honorees, three individuals will be recognized with LULAC's Soldado de Cuero Lifetime Achievement Award. They include: Dr. Vicki Balentine (Lifelong Educator), Hon. Clarence Dupnik (Sheriff, Pima County), and Bishop Gerald Kicanas (Diocese of Tucson).

LULAC's comprehensive approach to serve student needs has led their efforts to be recognized nationally by past President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former First Lady Barbara Bush, the National Latino Children's Institute, and the LULAC National Educational Service Centers. Locally, their efforts have been recognized by Pima County Government, the City of Tucson, the Metropolitan Education Commission, the Arizona NAACP, and most recently by the Tucson Hispanic Coalition. Congratulations on your successful event!

Congratulations U of A Basketball

Congratulations to University of Arizona Basketball team on a phenomenal season! This year the Wildcats brought home the Pac-12 Championship and made it to the Elite 8. They ended their amazing season Saturday with a record of 34-4. Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff on a tremendous year!



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

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4300 S. Park Avenue
Tucson Arizona 85714

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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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