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# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 9

March 2016

Dear Friends:

Recently I was at a discussion and presentation by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and the University of Arizona about Tucson and its economy.

It was good to hear that two of the projects, the Bridges and the Retreat, both in Ward 5 were cited as part of the economic revitalization of our city. In addition to the private/public collaboration with the Gateway to Tucson, located on Tucson Boulevard at the Airport, also located in Ward 5 was also noted.

From the Costco and other stores at the Bridges, VXi-Tucson, Modular Mining, Starbucks, CAID Industries to the In&Out Burger, Body Central Physical Therapy and Curaçao, the renaissance of Ward 5 and the South side have been key to economic recovery our city.

With the opening of the HomeGoods Distribution Center, Fed-Ex Ground, Cinemark Theatre and Dave & Busters, to name four of several new businesses, there are more opportunities to come.

The City's primary source of funding comes from sales taxes, which goes to cover the City's core services: police, fire, streets and parks. Our efforts in Ward 5 have helped Tucson make great strides towards full economic recovery but with the public service pension situation, the actions of the Arizona Legislature and court cases have given us a bigger financial hill to climb but like the City Manager has stated that the City is not going bankrupt.

The City had to pay an additional \$18 million towards the public safety pension system for this current fiscal year and will have to pay an additional \$27.3 million. Thanks to the work of the City Manager, the Mayor and Council and staff, starting in December, the project budget deficit has been lowered from \$42 million to \$25.3 million as of this writing, with further discussions in April.

The Manager will formally present his budget proposal on April 19 for the upcoming fiscal year. Since I've been in office, all I have seen is budget deficits, but the Mayor and Council, with the City Manager and staff, have balanced those budgets.

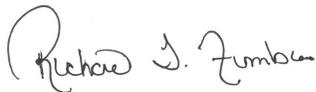
We had a good Budget Forum featuring City Manager Michael Ortega and CFO Joyce Garland. Good questions were asked and ideas brought forward for consideration. For more information about the budget, go online to [tucsonaz.gov/budget](http://tucsonaz.gov/budget).

## Ward 5 News

We are in this together and more people looking at the budget and speaking out will give a budget to benefit our entire community.

This month we also had a great, Meet and Greet with our new Tucson Police Department Chief, Chris Magnus and Pima County Sheriff, Chris Nanos, a Senior Scam Prevention Forum, co-hosted by State Senator Andrea Dalessandro and received great news about Cherrybell, Southern Arizona's Post Office and Processing Center. All of which are featured in this newsletter.

Peace.



Richard Fimbres  
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

**CHERRYBELL UPDATE:** The effort to keep Cherrybell, Tucson and Southern Arizona's processing center open scored an important victory. The U.S. Postal Service is again delaying the pending closure of Tucson's Cherrybell mail-processing center until it completes updated studies into the planned consolidation of postal facilities across the country.



U.S. Rep. Martha McSally said she called for updated studies before the proposed consolidation takes place. U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva said he received notification of the closure deferral, and he hopes the closure will be delayed for at least another year. In response, Deputy Postmaster General Ronald Stroman confirmed that the current studies will be updated and reviewed before any future decisions are made. The USPS response also confirmed that previous plans to close down facilities continue to be deferred.

This is a win for Tucson and Southern Arizona's 26,000 small businesses and 1.5 million population, as well as our Seniors and Veterans who get their medications through the mail. U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva and U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick are following up with the Postal Service to find out the next steps are. I want to thank them for their work and efforts for Southern Arizona. I would also like to thank the other five members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation for their support in keeping Cherrybell open.

State Senator Andrea Dalessandro is working hard for Cherrybell, introducing SCM 1009, to have the Arizona Legislature go on record opposing the closure of Cherrybell and to urge Congress to action necessary to keep Southern Arizona's Post Office and Processing Center open. SCM 1009 was approved by the Arizona Senate by a vote of 28-0. It has made it through the State House of Representatives Federalism and States Rights Committee and is waiting to be scheduled by the House Rules Com-

## Ward 5 News

mittee.

This effort is its fifth year and the battle is not over. We must work to get Cherrybell off any potential closure list and get our local sorting and Tucson stamp back. Our work is not done yet for Cherrybell. This has been a community and statewide effort with no political labels or ideology. We have come together for our community and state and we are winning this battle but as I said earlier, the work continues. I want to thank Tracy Tucker, Terry Bracy and the City's federal lobbying team, George Kalil, Humberto Lopez and Matt Laos for their work. I want to thank everyone who has spoken out to keep Southern Arizona's Post Office and Processing Center open. Our voices are being heard but it is not the time to be silent, but to speak up even more for Cherrybell and to get our stamp back!

## Ward 5 News

**CINEMARK UPDATE:** Tucson's Ward 5 could get a spire sign much like the iconic Fox Theatre sign downtown, but on a much larger scale, Tucson's morning newspaper reported.



Cinemark wants to build a 100-foot-tall spire sign that says "Century" for its new theater being built on the southwest corner of the Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges complex, near Interstate 10 and South Kino Parkway. The vertical sign, which would be about as tall as an eight-story building, would be integrated into the building's structure and a prominent feature of the front facade.

"This marquee design fits within this bustling commercial development, will help with pedestrian and vehicle way-finding in the Bridges, and serve as the iconic feature of the redevelopment of this key south-side property," Rory Juneman, a lawyer representing the developers, said in a written statement. Its design draws from a common theme of historic theaters and adds a little modern touch, he said.

The spire sign signifies a "movement," said Ward 5 Councilman Richard Fimbres, who represents Ward 5, in which the Tucson Marketplace complex is located. Economic development had slowed with the recession and now it's kicking back in, he said. Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges is also getting an Asian buffet and a Dave & Buster's in the near future, he noted.

"I think this is part of the renaissance of the south side," Fimbres said. The spire sign would draw people from the University of Arizona and downtown, and visitors traveling on the two interstates through

## Ward 5 News

Tucson.”

But before it can go up, the sign structure has to be approved by the Sign Code Advisory and Appeals Board. A hearing is set for April 13. Cinemark’s proposed 100-foot spire sign would be considered an “integrated architectural feature,” which means it is part of the building and not subject to the same sizing limits as signs, said Russlyn Wells, the acting sign code administrator for the city of Tucson. The large cross atop St. Mary’s Hospital is an example of what the city has approved as an integrated architectural feature, she said. Crosses used as part of religion are typically considered signs.

The Cinemark sign has the blessing of the Design Review Committee, which included representatives of the four neighborhood associations from the area, Las Vistas, South Park, Western Hills and Pueblo Gardens.

“It’s a representation of the progress that we have waited so long to see,” said Cindy Ayala of the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association, who served on that committee. “Now it’s here.” The new theater will be the biggest Cinemark-owned theater in Tucson and will include amenities such as electronically reclining seats and food trays, Cindy Ayala said. “It’s a good thing for the neighborhood,” she said. “It’s a good thing for the ward. It’s a good thing for the city.”

The all-digital theater is projected to open later this year.



### FED-EX GROUND AND HOMEGOODS UPDATE:

The construction of both the HomeGoods Distribution Center and the Fed-Ex Ground continues in Ward 5.

Located on Corona Avenue, South Alvernon Way and Valencia in Ward 5, these two projects are bringing dollars already to our community.

The HomeGoods Distribution Center construction will cost \$75 million dollars and the new Fed-Ex Hub will cost \$20 million, which goes into our economy. Both are to open this year, with HomeGoods initially hiring 400 people to follow with an additional 510, and the Fed-Ex Hub will add an additional 160 new jobs.



## Ward 5 News

**BRIDGES UPDATE:** The permits and plan reviews for the Dave & Buster's as well as the Planet Fitness are ongoing and it is expected for construction to begin by the Summer for both projects located at the Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges in Ward 5.



**SENIOR SCAM PREVENTION FORUM:** A great crowd turned out for the Senior Scam Prevention Forum held at the El Pueblo Senior Center, March 18. Thank you to those who came to the forum that provided a lot of important information.

I want to thank State Senator Andrea Dalessandro for her work on this important issue and helping to put this forum together. I also want to thank the presenters, Lucia Arteaga from the Arizona Attorney General's Office, who gave a comprehensive report on potential scams and what to do; Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall, who gave an update and Pat Wiedhopf from the County Attorney's office; Vikkie Sprietz with the Pima Council on Aging spoke; Angel Guzman with Adult Protective Services with Arizona Department of Economic Security; Captain Paul Sayre and Captain Bob Wilson with the Tucson Police Department and Jimmy Fine with AARP.



I also want to thank Don and Kathy Seymour with AARP, Detective Jessica Bodine with the Pima County Sheriff's Department Fraud Unit and Joyce Webb with the Pima County Sheriff's Department Auxillary Volunteers for staffing tables that provided those present with important information. Lastly, I want to thank the staff from Parks and Recreation who made this event a great success.

### **MEET AND GREET WITH PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF CHRIS NANOS AND TPD CHIEF CHRIS MAGNUS:**

I want to thank Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos, Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus, Chief Magnus' staff, the staff of the El Pueblo Senior Center, and everyone who turned out for the Ward 5 Meet and Greet held March 24.

Both Chief Magnus and Sheriff Nanos talked about their plans for their respective departments and took questions from those present. I also want to thank my staff for organizing this community forum.



## Ward 5 News

**BUDGET FORUM:** I want to thank City Manager Mike Ortega, CFO Joyce Garland, Councilmember Regina Romero and everyone who attended the budget forum, hosted by the Ward 5 and Ward 1 Council offices at the El Pueblo Senior Center on March 15. A good discussion was held and good questions were asked by those present. The City Manager will present his budget to the Mayor and Council on Tuesday, April 19.



**NATURAL GROCERS DEDICATION:** I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting with Craig Finfrock and Ben Leyva, store manager for the newest Natural Grocers, located at 3016 East Broadway.

This store created 28 new jobs. It's a great store and a wonderful example of a adaptive reuse of a historic building.

For more information about this new store and Natural Grocers, go online to [naturalgrocers.com](http://naturalgrocers.com).



**MISSION VIEW CAREER DAY:** I want to thank Maria Vianey Valdez-Cardenas who invited me to participate in Career Day at Mission View Elementary School, who will be celebrating the school's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. My Chief of Staff, Mark Kerr and I answered some good questions that were asked by the students, 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. I also want to congratulate the Principal and staff of Mission View for their work in educating our young people.

**WARD 5 POTENTIAL ANNEXATION:** The City of Tucson is attempting to annex about 600 homes near South Alvernon Way and East Valencia Road, in Ward 5. The City will ask property owners in the 10-year-old, 174-acre Valencia Reserve neighborhood to sign a petition saying they want to live within city limits. Approximately 310 signatures are needed in one year to move forward with the annexation.

Adding the area to the city would bring an estimated \$553,000 of new revenue in the first full year, mostly from state-shared revenue and property taxes, and more than \$6.5 million over 10 years. A Tucson Fire Department station already is in the surrounding neighborhood and was built "in anticipation of growth and annexation in this area," said Mike Czechowski, Tucson's annexation project manager. Residents may want to sign to get faster emergency services, City trash collections, and a vote and voice in City elections, he said.

## City News



**TPD CHIEF ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING PLAN:** Tucson Police Chief Chris Magnus announced his plan to reorganize the Tucson Police Department (TPD) in an effort to trim costs and better serve the public.

The reorganization includes moving more officers to street patrol, while letting vacancies and attrition bring the total number of sworn officers down to 830 (plus 40-80 recruits) from the current level of about 900.

In a memo to TPD employees, Magnus also said he plans to consolidate operations by merging Operations Division Downtown with Operations Division West, while making other organizational changes. Under his plan, the chief said the total cost savings would be about \$14.5 million, but he says TPD needs half of that

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEXT STEP IN EXPANDING BUSINESS INCENTIVE:** The Mayor and Tucson City Council has authorized the next step in expanding the Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET) abatement area. Councilmember Fimbres worked to include expanding areas into Ward 5. The GPLET provides up to eight years of property tax abatement for projects located in the Central Business District that result in a property value increase of at least 100 percent. The GPLET has been an effective tool in spurring redevelopment in the core of downtown and recently in the gateways to downtown. Since 2012, the City Council has approved the use of the GPLET incentive for 11 projects representing \$129 million in capital investment, 880 jobs, and \$9.3 million in direct revenue to the City over the GPLET lease term. With yesterday's approval, City staff can proceed with public meetings and public hearings to expand the GPLET area to other parts of the City.



**BOND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT ON ROADS RELEASED:** The latest annual report for the Road Recovery bond program shows the 3-year-old plan is ahead of schedule and exceeding initial budget expectations. The Bond Oversight Commission (BOC) oversees the \$100 million, 5-year program that voters approved as Proposition 409 in 2012. As a result of the Tucson Department of Transportation's (TDOT) conservative road repair estimates and a favorable bidding

environment resulting from lower material costs and falling gas prices, the arterial road mileage repairs authorized by the bond package are now roughly estimated to cost only \$60 million. As a result, the BOC recommended, and the Mayor and Council unanimously adopted, an allocation of the extra \$40 million in bonded revenue to be spent on an expanded list of arterial and residential road repairs. With the additional capacity, TDOT added 550 lane miles to the program, resulting in roadway improvements to about 45 more roadway segments.

## Announcements



### **PARKS AND RECREATION SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE**

**AVAILABLE:** 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.

**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.



### **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 below.

**SIGN UP FOR A FREE AUDIT TO SAVE WATER AND MONEY:** It's "Fix a Leak" week across the country, and Tucson Water is doing its part to encourage customers to save water all year through its Zanjeros program. Zanjeros are specially-trained water efficiency experts who have performed thousands of comprehensive inventories of home water use that helped customers lower their water bills. Learn more about your home's water-using fixtures, water meter, plumbing, irrigation, and more. Request an appointment by calling (520) 791-3242 or emailing [TW\\_CustomerService@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TW_CustomerService@tucsonaz.gov).



## Announcements



**LULAC YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE A SUCCESS:** Congratulations to organizers of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual League of United Latin American Citizens Youth Leadership (LULAC) Conference, held in Tucson, at the Pima Community College West Campus on Friday, March 11. More than 1,500 students took part in the conference, which included discussion panels and remarks from elected officials, such as Congressman Raul Grijalva to the keynote address, given by noted cartoonist, Lalo Alcaraz. Coming up on Thursday, April 14, is the LULAC Educator's Banquet.



**CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH :** I want to congratulate the organizers and those who attended the 2016 Cesar Chavez March, held Saturday, March 19. This year's march went from Pueblo High School to Rudy Garcia Park. This year's march theme was to protect education in Arizona. For more information, go online to: [chavezaz.com](http://chavezaz.com).



## 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

### **Park Tucson**

791-5071

### **Loose or Dead Animals**

Pima Animal Care Center  
724-5900

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Community Food Bank

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Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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