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City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

November 2018

Dear Friends:

I am writing this letter to you just after my colleagues on the Council approved the special election canvass report for Proposition 407 and Proposition 408, at a special Mayor and Council meeting held Monday, November 26.



These two city ballot measures were a part of the recent General Election Ballot.

I want to thank the good citizens of Tucson who took part and voted in the recent General Election, which had a record turnout for a mid-term election. I also want to thank the good citizens of Tucson, who voted to approve Proposition 407 which dealt with the city's fourth core service, Parks and Recreation.

With the approval of Proposition 407, General Obligation Bond funds, \$225 million over a nine-year period, to be dedicated to improving City parks amenities - including playgrounds, sports fields, pools, splash pads, and recreation centers - as well connections (defined as pedestrian pathways, bicycle pathways, pedestrian and bicycle safety).

I worked to ensure that each City Park in Ward 5 and our Ward 5 Recreation Centers at El Pueblo, Cherry Avenue, Santa Rosa and Quincie Douglas had projects in Proposition 407.

Prior to Proposition 407, I worked to get improvements in Ward 5 parks facilities, including: the new lighting at Silverlake Park, the irrigation system at Rudy Garcia Park, the crossing HAWK at 6th and Irvington, the redesign of the Santa Rita Park bathrooms, the improvement of playground equipment at Santa Rosa Park, the Buffalo Soldiers artwork mural at the Quincie Douglas Center, the Quincie Douglas artwork mural at the library named for her, speed tables at Sierra Middle School and neighborhoods, barbecue grills at Pueblo Gardens Park to name several and "Bring Back the Splash," that opened pools in Ward 5 and throughout the city during the last several summers through a private/public partnership, to name a few.

My efforts were accomplished using alternate funding sources, such as: impact fees, grant funds, private funding donated through the Parks and Recreation Foundation, service line warranty revenue funding and monies that came from my Ward 5 Council Office budget.

With the approval of Proposition 407, the work will begin in July 2020 and will be in three, three year phases – (Phase 1, 2020 – 2022), (Phase 2, 2023 – 2025) and (Phase 3, 2026 – 2028).

Starting in July 2020 in Ward 5, the following improvement projects will begin at the following Parks and Recreation facilities and parks for the first two phases of Proposition 407. In conjunction with the work, the Citizen Oversight Committee will begin as well in July 2020, to monitor the spending and to ensure the projects listed are completed.

Phase 1 (Starting July 1, 2020-2022)

Cherry Avenue Rec Center and Park – Basketball court resurfacing, adding a playground with shade, ramada and restrooms.

Country Club Annex Park – New shade over existing playground.

CSM Martin R. “Gunny” Barreras Memorial park – Multiple renovations including sports field lights, playgrounds, restrooms, walking path, splash pad and track resurfacing.

Ochoa Park – New shade over the playground, ramada and area lighting.

El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, Senior Center, Activity Center and Park - New splash pad, walking path. Renovate irrigation system, pool plaster, tile and deck, existing parking lots, signage and cable. Replace playground shade, slide flume and stairs. Renovate roof security and the kitchen in the Senior Center.

36th Street Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Project (6th Avenue to Country Club) – Complete and connected sidewalks on the north side of the road, enhanced street crossings, street lighting and landscaping for shade.

Calle Alvord Bicycle Boulevard (Liberty Avenue to Calle Pinta) – Residential street improvements including traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping.

Greenway Drive Bicycle Boulevard (Drexel Road to Cherry Avenue) – Enhanced street crossings at Campbell Avenue and Irvington, traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping.

Michigan and Fair Street Bicycle Boulevard (Santa Cruz River Park to Julian Wash) – Street improvements including an enhanced street crossing at 6th Avenue, traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping.

18th Street Bicycle Boulevard (Santa Cruz River Park to Kino Environmental Restoration Project) – Residential street improvements including traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping.

Bantam Road Bicycle Boulevard (Country Club Road to Park Avenue) – Enhanced street crossing at Park Avenue, traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping and connection to Aviation Bikeway.

Cherry Avenue Bicycle Boulevard (Bantam Road to Michigan Street/Fair Street) – Enhanced street crossing at Irvington Road, traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping.

Cherrybell Stravenue – Pinal Vista Bicycle Boulevard (James Thomas Park to 18th Street) – Enhanced street crossing at 36th Street, traffic calming to slow car speeds, wayfinding signage, pavement markings and landscaping.

Phase 2 (Starting July 1, 2023-2025)

Manuel Herrera Jr. Park – Renovating the basketball court and walking paths plus a connection to the Airport Wash Greenway.

Mirasol Park – Renovation to the sports courts, playground, parking, utilities and a new restroom.

Parkview Park – New playground and shade.

Pueblo Gardens Park – Renovate existing restrooms.

Rudy Garcia Park – Multiple projects including renovations to sports courts, fields, lighting, walking paths, playgrounds and restrooms.

Santa Rita Park – Multiple projects including a new splash pad and renovations to the sports fields and lights, playground, restroom, ramadas and walking path.

Quincie Douglas Center – Upgrade HVAC controls. Renovate pool deck, replace pool slide flume and renovate splash pad and have a Memorial constructed to honor the Buffalo Soldiers who served this country.

Silverlake Park – New walking path, covered basketball court, playground with shade, ramada and renovate existing parking lots and walking path.

Street Scene Park – New playground with shade.

Drexel Road Shared Use Path (12th Avenue to Country Club) – New off street walking and biking path on the southside of Drexel with shade trees, path lighting and ADA accessible curb ramps.

Arroyo Chico Greenway – New path shared by people walking and biking with landscaping, shade trees, lighting and benches.

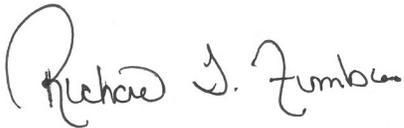
South 12th Avenue Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Project – Improvements to include sidewalk improvements, enhanced crossings and landscaping.

Proposition 407 will not raise the taxes of the good citizens of Tucson. It's based on the City's primary and secondary property tax assessments and keeping them level and with the City retiring old Bond debt, creating a capacity of \$225 million, which will be used to make the repairs and improvements to the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation parks and facilities.

Parks and Recreation Facilities in each Ward will now get improvements, repairs and new equipment thanks to the passage of Proposition 407. A citizen's oversight committee would oversee the spending for these projects to ensure the funds are spent as stated in the ballot proposition.

The money generated through Proposition 407 can only be used for projects listed. Bond money cannot be used for City employee salaries or pension costs.

Thank you Tucson for your support of Proposition 407.



Richard G. Fimbres
Vice Mayor – City of Tucson Ward 5

Eighth Annual Ward 5 Veterans Day Remembrance at V.A.

During my time as your Ward 5 Councilmember, I have gone out to the Southern Arizona VA Hospital to present thank you cards to the Veterans at the hospital and the Veterans on staff.

This has grown from three schools for the first event eight years ago to 33.



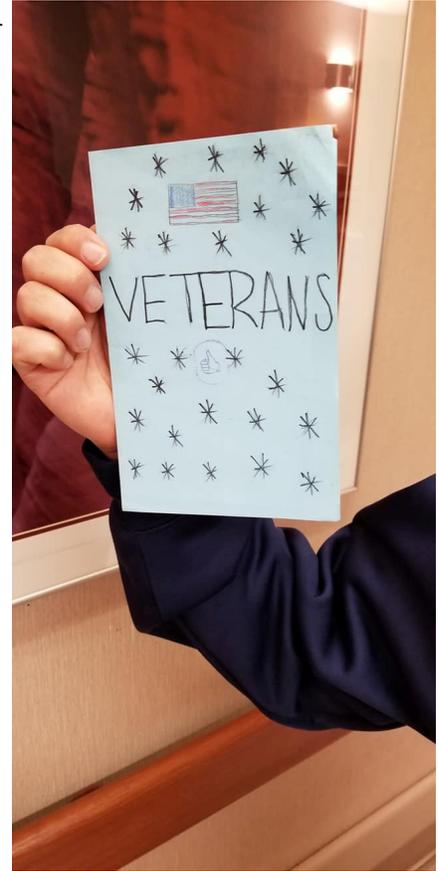
It was my pleasure on Friday, November 9, to lead a cadre of elected officials and representatives to the VA and present more than 4,700 thank you cards and letters to veterans at the Hospital, made by school children from Tucson and Pima County from 27 schools:

Bonillas Magnet School, Booth Fickett Magnet School, C. E. Rose K-8 School, Carrillo Magnet School, Cragin Elementary, Davidson Elementary, Drachman Montessori K-8 School, Drexel Elementary, Esperanza Elementary, Gallego Intermediate, Gallego Primary Fine Arts School, Holladay Magnet Elementary School, Lauffer Middle School, McCorkle Academy, Mexicayotl Academy, Mission View Elementary, Ocotillo Learning Center, Our Mother of Sorrows, Pistor Middle School, Pueblo Gardens K-8 School, Robison Elementary, Santa Clara Elementary, Santa Cruz Catholic School, St. Joseph Catholic School, St. Cyril's Catholic School, Tully Elementary School and Utterback Middle School.

For this event, the following people joined me at the Southern Arizona V.A. Hospital to hand out thank you cards and letters:

Toni Hellon - Clerk of Pima County Superior Court, Greg DeMeritt - Clerk of Pima County Superior Court, Chief Deputy, Tom Boyle - American Patriot Memorial, Ted Prezelski-Ward 2, Council Aide, Angela Reyes - Ward 2, Constituent Services, Bob Teso – Mayor of South Tucson, Herman Lopez – Vice Mayor of South Tucson.

I especially want to thank the school children and the teachers who take the time to make these thank you cards and letters each Veterans Day and Memorial Day, to thank those Veterans at the VA. I also want to thank my staff for coordinating this event again.



Arizona Veterans Home Ceremony

Also on Friday, November 9, I was at the Arizona Veterans Home for their commemoration of Veterans Day and honor the Veterans at the Home. As a 27 1/2 year retired Veteran of the U.S. Army, it was an honor to speak at the event representing the City Of Tucson.

I want to thank the Arizona Veterans Home for the opportunity to speak at their event. Corporal Maurice Storck, a Pearl Harbor survivor also spoke at the event about what happened on December 7, 1941.

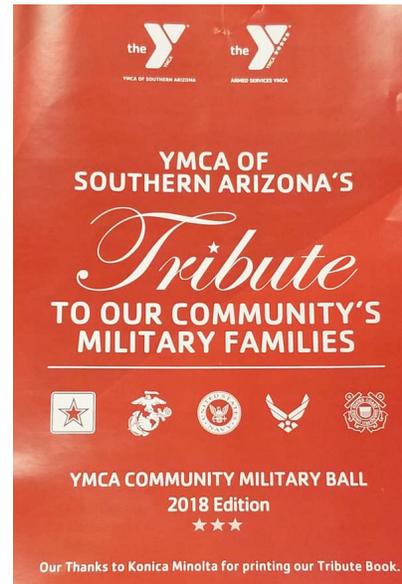




YMCA Military Ball Held, Vice Mayor Recognized

More than 1,500 people attended the 2018 YMCA Military Ball, held Saturday, November 10 at the Tucson Convention Center.

The YMCA Military Ball is an event honoring those who served in the military and raise funds for those serving in the military and their families so they can use and enjoy the YMCA's programs and facilities.



The YMCA selects individuals who have served in the military as their Council of Heroes. The 2018 Council of Heroes were: Michael Eastman – Army Reserves, David Hutchens – Navy, Tony Penn – Air Force, Eugene Santorelli – Air Force, Melvin Morgan – Marines, Joanna Mendoza – Marines, Jessica Christo – Coast Guard and Richard G. Fimbres – Army.

I want to congratulate the others who were also selected for the Council of Heroes and to thank the YMCA for this honor and recognition.



Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee Members Recognized

Also on Saturday, November 10 the Ward 5 Council Office presented Certificates of Appreciation to members of the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee for their years of service. Congratulations to those honored and I appreciate your work and commitment to the parade and our community. This presentation was done at the Rodeo Parade Kickoff Dinner held that night.

Veterans Recognition Event Honors Tucsonans Who Served

On Sunday, November 11, a Veterans Day Recognition Event was held at the KC Club, located at 601 S. Tucson Boulevard. This event honored members of the community who had served this nation in the military. More than 100 were recognized at this event.

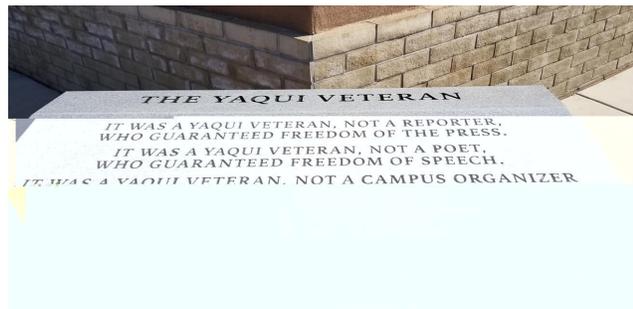
These individuals were recognized by U.S. Senator Jeff Flake, Congressman Raul Grijalva, Congressman Tom O'Halleran, City of Tucson Ward 5 Council Office, LULAC Council 1002, Tucson Troop Support and the Knights of Columbus. I want to thank Cassandra Becerra with Congressman Grijalva's office and Joanna Mendoza with Congressman Tom O'Halleran's office for attending and the organizers for hosting this successful event.

I want to thank the event sponsors: LULAC Council #1002, KC Club, Knights of Columbus Council 1200, the City of Tucson Ward 5 Council Office, Hon. Dan Eckstrom, Amistades, Tucson Troop Support, the Marine Corps League Tucson Detachment 007, SOAR, Vikki Marshall, Gold Star Mothers, American Legion, Linda Leatherman, American Patriot Memorial, Pima County Sheriff Mark Napier, Tucson Sisters and Jerry Coyle.



Pascua Yaqui Veterans Day Ceremony

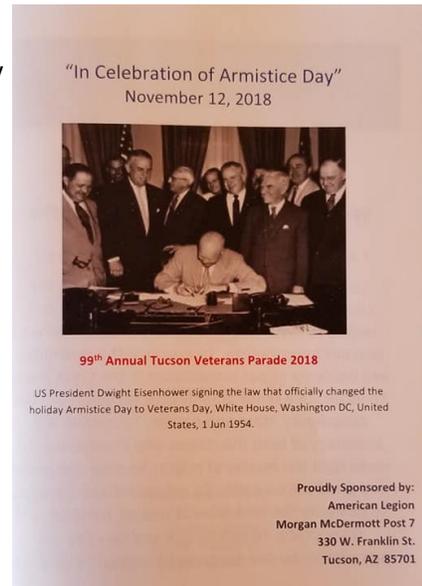
Sunday morning, November 11, I had the privilege of representing the City of Tucson as Vice Mayor at the 19th annual Pascua Yaqui Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Pascua Yaqui Veterans Memorial. I want to thank Pascua Yaqui Chairman Robert Valencia, the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council and the organizers of the Ceremony. I also want to thank the Pascua Yaqui Tribal members who served in the military and their families, as well as the families of fallen veterans.



99th Tucson Veterans Day Parade

On Monday, November 12, I was again honored to represent the City of Tucson and to take part in the 99th Annual Tucson Veterans Day Parade.

More than 100 entries took part in this year's parade. I want to thank the organizers, Veterans organizations who took part, the parade sponsors who make our City's tribute to our veterans happen.



Honoring Los Amigos School for Safe Walks to School Effort

On Tuesday, November 13, the Ward 5 Council Office presented Certificates of Appreciation to Los Amigos School Principal Valerie Sandoval, the staff and teachers at Los Amigos, TPD Sergeant Mike Allen, LPO Mike Molina, Officer Dave Scherzinger, Officer William Honomichl and Officer Alberto Moreno, the Living Streets Alliance and sponsors and volunteers with the Los Amigos School Walk And Roll program, which is done each Friday during the school year. This presentation was done in conjunction with the Sunnyside School Boards presentation during their weekly Board meeting. I and my office support and participated in these walks and want to congratulate everyone involved. More than 400 participate in these walks, showing a Safe Route to Schools.



Congressman Ed Pastor

It is with sadness that I write this article. Congressman Ed Pastor, the first Latino elected to Congress to represent Arizona passed away Tuesday, November 27.

Congressman Pastor served Arizona in Congress with distinction. He was initially elected in 1991, in a special election to succeed Mo Udall, who had resigned due to health reasons. Pastor served Arizona in the U.S. House of Representatives until 2014.



Pastor was a leader and community advocate for our state. He made sure Southern Arizona got funding for various projects, including Hope VI Grants and for Tucson's modern street car project. I worked with his Southern Arizona District Director, Linda Leatherman on many community projects and Pastor's office always was there to help.

It was my privilege in 2015, as Vice Mayor, to present Congressman Pastor a Copper Plaque from the City of Tucson to thank him for his efforts for Tucson and Southern Arizona during his time in Congress. He will be missed.



Holiday Safety Tips

Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes. Take some basic precautions from the National Safety Council to ensure your family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.

Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment. Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled. Put that cell phone away; many distractions can occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit. Properly maintain the vehicle and keep an emergency kit with you. Be prepared for heavy traffic and bad weather.



Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency rooms see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season. "Angel hair," made from spun glass, can irritate your eyes and skin; always wear gloves or substitute non-flammable cotton. Spraying artificial snow can irritate your lungs if inhaled; follow directions carefully. Decorate the tree with your kids in mind; move ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks toward the top.

Always use the proper step ladder; don't stand on chairs or other furniture. Lights are among the best parts of holiday decorating; make sure there are no exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets, and don't overload your electrical circuits.

Radio Pioneer Honored

On November 20, I had the privilege of presenting a Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation and Medallion of Hope to the family of T. Richard Smith. Mr. Smith was the first African American radio show host's in Tucson, promoting cultural enrichment and entertainment through music and public information on his program.

Mr. Smith was unable to attend the presentation due to illness but his family said he was grateful for the honor from Vice Mayor Richard Fimbres. I want to thank Mr. Smith's family and friends for their help to recognize and honor him for his work.



December Ward 5 Neighborhood Association Meetings

Here is the schedule of upcoming Ward 5 Neighborhood Association meetings for December.

South Park Neighborhood Association - Monday, December 3 at 6:00 pm at Quincie Douglas Center, 1575 E. 36th Street.

Barrio Santa Rita/West Ochoa Neighborhood Association - Tuesday, December 4 at 6:00 pm Santa Cruz Parish, Good Shepherd Room, 1220 S. 6th Avenue.

Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association - Thursday, December 6 at 6:00 pm at Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 S. Park Avenue.

Cherry Ave. Neighborhood Association – Saturday, December 8 at 10:00 am at the Cherry Avenue Recreation Center, 5085 S. Cherry Avenue.

Campus Community Relations Committee (CCRC) – Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 pm, Student Union Memorial Center, Ventana Room, 4th Floor, 1303 E. University Blvd.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association – Monday, December 17 at 6:30 pm at Valencia Library, 202 W. Valencia Road.

Summit View Elementary Food Drive

On Wednesday, November 21, at the Ward 5 Council Office, the students and staff at Summit View Elementary presented the Community Food Bank with food they collected as part of their food drive.

Summit View Elementary is within the Sunnyside School District, which emphasizes helping those in need in our community.



Congratulations to Michelle Garayzar with Summit View and students, Dominic Ornelas, Mariana Robles and Layla Cuen. Michael McDonald, President of the Community Food Bank thanked them for their work and efforts.

Thank You Cassius

Cassius Chandler has been an intern at the Ward 5 Office for the past three months. Cassius has helped the Ward 5 office out on many projects and with constituents. Here is what Cassius wrote about his experience at Ward 5.

“Ward 5 has shown compassion and gracefulness to handle complex problems and situations the staff there care about the ward boundaries and only want the best for their community Ward 5 has shown so much compassion to where they live in the ward and I have seen and noticed the compassion and the strength and the knowledge and the caring of this Ward.



“The staff Mark Kerr, Mary Kuchar, and Lupita Robles take every concern that the public has and counts it as number one on their list. Understanding the public is Ward 5’s greatest strength. Many community leaders come to Ward 5 to help them better their community. The Vice Mayor and the Ward 5 staff are like no other more a less like a hidden diamond the community knows that when they call of ward 5 office they treated right and respectfully.

“Seeing the way Ward 5 works, I have seen relationships with departments and community leaders. I have worked in Ward 5 for three months and I can go back to when I first stepped in Ward 5 they treated me like family and I must say. Vice Mayor has opened his arms to me and shown me the path to make a great leader his role is compassion, knowledge and the most important, putting constituents first. The Vice Mayor meets his needs as a Councilmember and also he has shown more experience in individual help. He has set the path for future leaders to learn from and my conclusion is that you can always trust the word from our Vice Mayor and also you can count on him to fight for you and your community.”

I want to thank Cassius for his efforts and wish him the best of luck in his new position. Cassius received a Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation and Medallion of Hope on Thursday, November 29.

Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

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



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

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

City of Tucson Code Enforcement

791-5843

TPD Red Tag Unit

837-7318

Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

TPD Non Emergency

791-4444

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Transportation & Street Maintenance

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242, Public Information - 791-4331

Park Tucson

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

724-5900

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