



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

**Ward 5 Council
Office Staff**

Council Aides
Melinda Jacobs
Mark Kerr
Javier Herrera

Office Assistant
Heileen Evans

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Dear Friends:

With Halloween around the corner! For many people, autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. These events are also opportunities to provide nutritious snacks, get physical activity, and focus on safety. Check out these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests!



- Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them.
- Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.
- Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.

Peace,

Richard Fimbres

Ward 5 News

Recent Economic Developments Brings New Jobs to Tucson

I would like to welcome three new businesses in Ward 5

Shared Services Center, a provider of business office support services will be opening a location in Ward 5, 6223 S. Palo Verde. 200 new jobs will be created. These employees will be responsible for the processing of medical insurance claims, billing, insurance collection and customer service. Median salary is \$15-\$17 per hour. Interested applicants can go to the careers page at northwestmedicalcenter.com



Culvers Grand Opening

Guardvant, located at 2700 East Executive Road. Guardvant is a mining technology supplier with successful implementations in mines throughout the world. For more information on the company or a potential career, go online to guardvant.com.

Centene, located at 2705 E Medina Road, Centene Corporation, a Fortune 500 company, is a leading multi-line healthcare enterprise that provides programs and related services to the rising number of under-insured and uninsured individuals. They will eventually employ over 100 people at this location. For more information on the company or a potential career please visit centene.com.

I was on hand Oct. 10 for the formal dedication of a **Culver's Restaurant** at 3070 S. Campbell Avenue. The new addition to the Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges will create more than 60 new jobs.

Cherrybell Postal Center Update

What I distributed to the Mayor and Council at the October 15th meeting, was a Memorandum from the US Postal Service Office of Inspector General's memorandum to the US Postal Service Vice President of Network Operations. My office received this document over the weekend and had it verified by our federal lobbyists.

In brief, the memorandum states that the USPS failed to complete and evaluate the service standard impacts of the feasibility studies for the phase 2 consolidations, including the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center (Cherrybell.)



The USPS IG concluded that the "Postal Service has not analyzed the impact of planned service standard changes or informed stakeholders of the changes related to Phase 2 consolidations." It goes on to state that "without completing and disclosing the analysis of planned service standard changes the Postal Service may experience:

Ward 5 News

- Degradation of service to communities, including delayed mail.
- Carriers delivering mail after 5 p.m. because of unexpected workload.
- Customer dissatisfaction, which could harm the Postal Service's brand and affect future revenue."

The USPS Inspector General's memo provides the following recommendations:

"Complete the service standard impacts worksheet in all of the Area Mail Processing feasibility studies for Phase 2 Network Rationalization Initiatives scheduled to begin January 5, 2015, and evaluate the impacts that revised standards will have on each affected community before implementing the consolidations." They assert that the standard impacts should be evaluated before implementing consolidations to "ensure there is no negative impact on delivery service quality."

The Inspector General states that they require concurrence with USPS management's evaluation and written confirmation when corrective action is taken. The Inspector General will then provide written confirmation that the recommendation can be closed after determining a proper evaluation has been conducted.

The USPS Office of Inspector General's memorandum to USPS Vice President of Network Operations reveals many serious flaws in the USPS approach to consolidation of postal processing facilities. It points out that USPS has not analyzed the impact that planned service standard changes would have on informed stakeholders of these changes.

The lack of adequate public notice and a public comment process along with the changes to the overnight delivery standard is of great concern and has grabbed the attention of leaders in Congress.

I made the following motion, to have the Mayor and Council to draft a letter to the Postmaster General to stop the closure process until the service standard impacts of the feasibility studies are completed, as well as having our federal lobbyists to draft a memo on this, working with our Congressional delegation and to reiterate the Mayor and Council's opposition to the phase 2 consolidation and the closure of the Cherrybell Processing Center. This motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Thank you George Kalil!

One of the individuals who have been in this fight to keep the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center for these three plus years has been Mr. George Kalil of Kalil bottling, for whom our community owes a debt of gratitude.

What follows is the editorial George Kalil wrote for the Arizona Daily Star on Cherrybell:

Despite recent publicity about the closure of the Cherrybell Stravenue Postal Processing and Distribution Center, the fight to preserve it is not over. The effects of this closure on our community and the state would be wide-ranging and harmful.

I urge Southern Arizona's more than 26,000 businesses and 1.5 million residents to join me in opposing the consolidation.

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Take my family's business, Kalil Bottling Co., as an example of the harm closing Cherrybell would have locally. Our family has been in Arizona since 1909 and we've been in the bottling business since 1948. We are still considered a small business, although we compete with some of the biggest businesses in the nation.

Our 749 employees cover all of Arizona, half of New Mexico, the El Paso area of Texas, the Durango area of Colorado and the southeast corner of Utah. Our total sales are \$200 million a year. If we lose two days in getting our billings paid (one for the bill to go out and one for the payment to come back), this could cost us \$80,000 per year. This is more than we have made per year in half of the years in our history.

Closing Cherrybell, (according to USPS, its 15th largest facility out of 481) would leave one of the nation's fastest growing populations with only one processing facility, while smaller population centers in the country would have more than one, an unwise deployment of scarce resources. Wisconsin has five centers, while Vermont has four. Both of these states have less population than Arizona.

The majority of Southern Arizona businesses use the U.S. Postal Service for their mailings. Consolidation of Cherrybell will result in delivery delays of time sensitive materials, an increase in mailing costs for letters and packages and loss of bulk mailing discounts. Any businesses seeking to expand or relocate to Southern Arizona will be disincentivized to do so in the absence of a nearby postal processing center, resulting in the loss of potential jobs for our increasing population. With Arizona's vote-by-mail electoral process, the possibility of large-scale voter disenfranchisement as a consequence of closing Cherrybell is a real and troubling outcome.

The closure will affect:

- 1.5 million Southern Arizonans served by Cherrybell.
- 26,000 businesses that use Cherrybell to mail products to customers.
- The Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui tribe who depend on postal services.
- Veterans and consumers who get mail prescriptions.
- Postal service to our rural population.
- Our voters who increasingly use vote by mail.

A public hearing by the USPS held three days after Christmas in 2011 was attended by more than 600 people and 50 businesses protesting the closure. USPS stated it was the biggest turnout for these hearings they had across the country.

Soon, Congress will be considering measures for reforms for the postal service. Reforms are needed, but the criteria the U.S. Postal Service has used thus far do not include factors such as impact on small businesses and population density.



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Ask your senators and congressional representatives at a minimum to support amendments that provide this clarification in their criteria before USPS can proceed with consolidation of processing and distribution centers. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee said recently that invigorating the effort collectively can continue to make the strongest appeal for Cherrybell.

Join me in opposing this center's consolidation. I could write another 600 words about the effects of this closure on the average household. Call and write your senators and congressional representatives. We can still make a difference and prevent this closure. (Note: Congressmembers Ron Barber, Raul Grijalva, Kyrsten Sinema, Ann Kirkpatrick and Ed Pastor wrote a joint letter to the Postmaster protesting the proposed closure.)

Ban the Box



At the October 15th, Mayor and Council, they discussed Ban the Box, dealing with one of the initial questions on an employment application.

Many groups and organizations, such as the Pima County Reentry Coalition, the University of Arizona Civil Rights Restoration Clinic, as well as faith based groups and organizations such as the Tucson Urban League and William E. Morris Institute for Justice have been working on this issue in an effort to give people who have been convicted and in-

carcerated, a second chance to get back into society as productive members.

Another of the areas of work is employment and helping those individuals to find work, but a barrier remains for these people to have a second chance when questioned on application forms about criminal convictions.

When I brought this item forward to the Mayor and Council, it was not solely about eliminating background checks for all positions but to have a genuine discussion about the city's current policy and what other cities have done. The City Manager, Martha Durkin as well as the Human Resources Director, Curry Hale spoke as did Debra Embry, President and CEO of the Tucson Urban League and Dr. Andrew Silverman of the University of Arizona College of Law and the Civil Rights Restoration Clinic., who discussed their experiences in this area as well.

After the presentation and questions, I made the following motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution setting forth the City of Tucson policy related to easing employment barriers caused by criminal history to include the following:

The City of Tucson standard job application form will not include an inquiry about criminal convictions. The City will identify which positions require background checks and perform the background checks only after the applicant has been determined to be qualified. The impact of criminal history on hiring decisions will be based on the age of the criminal record, the seriousness of the offense, and other mitigating factors. Applicants will be given an opportunity to refute the background check findings prior to being disqualified.

A resolution that is consistent with the City Civil Service Rules and EEO requirements will be brought back to the Mayor and Council for adoption in 60 days. This was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Ward 5 News

Commercial Annexations around Airport

The most annexations in the past five years have come from the Ward 5 area, from Valencia Crossing, Empire Vista, Hughes and Hoover and now four parcels, totaling 2,500 acres around the Tucson airport.

Becoming part of the City of Tucson has its benefits for those currently on the periphery of city limits, while Tucson also benefits by getting a larger portion of state-shared revenue.

Learn how the Empire Vista Neighborhood is benefiting from its recent annexation, in the Tucson 12 video linked below.

City of Tucson annexation page: <http://t.usa.gov/lqWjWzk>



City News

City Manager Selection Process

The Mayor and Council is in the process of forming the City Manager Selection Citizen's Advisory Committee, consisting of two appointees from each Ward. The Mayor and Council will be discussing the next step, the drafting of a brochure describing the position and the consultant will finalize the application for the position.

Charter Review

Tucson's Charter Review Committee is asking for public comments as it reviews and make recommendations regarding possible amendments to sections of the Tucson City Charter. Your voice needs to be heard. Comments will be accepted through 2015, and potential amendments to the City Charter may be on the Nov. 3, 2015 City ballot. All comments should be made via email to the City Clerk's Office, cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov.



City News

Public meetings:

Monday Nov. 10, 2014, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor
 Thursday Nov. 20, 2014, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor
 Monday Dec. 15, 2014, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor
 Thursday Jan 8., 2015, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor
 Tuesday Jan. 20, 2015, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor
 Monday Feb. 9, 2015, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor
 Thursday Feb. 19, 2015, 4 p.m. - City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, 1st Floor

The Ward 5 appointees are Pastor Grady Scott of Grace Temple Baptist Church and Randi Dornan.

Sun Link Modern Streetcar – More People Riding the Streetcar

After two months in operation, the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar is averaging nearly 4,100 riders per day...higher than the original prediction of 3,600 passengers. The streetcar travels a 3.9-mile route through the University of Arizona, Fourth Avenue, Downtown Tucson, and the Mercado District, west of I-10. There are many fare options available to ride the streetcar. Cash is not accepted on the car, but you can use it at machines at the stops to buy a \$4 one-day pass. In addition, you can buy SunGO passes online or at regular Sun Tran merchants. Discount fares are available for certain stu-

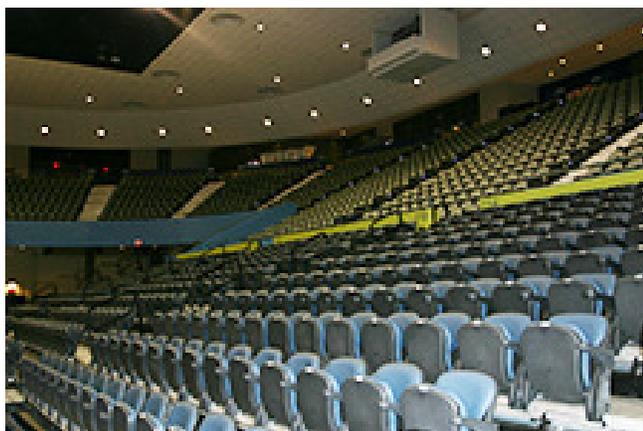
dents, low-income residents, seniors and disabled passengers. The fall issue of BizTucson magazine has also featured an overview of the economic impact of the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar and its connection to visionary Louise Marshall's investment in the Tucson Street Railway in 1903. So far, Sun Link has generated \$900 million in investments along the route and revitalized Downtown Tucson. Since 2008, 194 new businesses have opened downtown and 158 of those businesses remain open, according to reports from the Downtown Tucson Partnership.



Sun Link Tucson Streetcar: <http://bit.ly/1mebZ7k>

TCC Renovations Nearly Complete

The Tucson Convention Center (TCC) Arena is nearly finished and should be completed by the end of the year. There are about 4,900 new seats with cup holders, new sound, updated lighting, new concession stands, fresh paint and updated restrooms. Rio Nuevo funded \$7.8 million of improvements and the City paid about \$1 million. Those who attended Disney on Ice performances during October 9th thru 12th were first visitors to see the TCC improvements. The show made \$100,000 more than expected.



City News

In addition to these renovation, the Rio Nuevo Board has voted to add an additional \$300,000 to its Tucson Convention Center (TCC) renovation contract to fix plumbing, ceilings, walls, the floor, and equipment in the kitchen and concession areas of the TCC. The money is in addition to the \$7.8 million in arena upgrades already underway at the facility. Although the kitchen renovation will become part of Rio Nuevo's overall makeover of the TCC, the City is paying for the kitchen work to improve the health and safety of the area. Working with the existing TCC contractor will expedite the repairs and provide a cost savings to the City. The kitchen fixes are expected to be finished in December, after the other repairs are finished.

Tucson Convention Center: <http://1.usa.gov/1kJJBs2>

Congratulations to the Tucson City Court Veterans Treatment Court

The Tucson City Court's Regional Municipalities Veterans Treatment Court (RMVTC) recently was awarded two federal grants totaling \$2,339,277 over four years. Both grants are from the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and will be used to expand the treatment services for veterans assigned to the RMVTC. Municipalities participating in the RMVTC are Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, South Tucson, and Sahuarita. The RMVTC directs veterans charged with certain offenses to rehabilitation services and helps at-risk veterans avoid further legal difficulties. Meanwhile, Tucson City Court recently won the Arizona Supreme Court's 2014 Strategic Agenda Award in the Limited Jurisdiction category for protecting children, families, and communities. City Court was recognized for its excellent work through the RMVTC and the Dedicated Domestic Violence Court.

Announcements

New Program in Tucson Aimed at Boosting Homeownership

A new program is offering \$5.5 million to increase homeownership and strengthen neighborhoods in Tucson, the NeighborhoodLIFT® program. Down payment assistance of \$15,000 will be available for eligible homebuyers with annual incomes that do not exceed 120 percent of the Tucson area median income – about \$68,400 for a family of four – with income maximums varying depending on family size and type of loan. Among other things, potential buyers must complete an eight-hour homebuyer education session with The Primavera Foundation or another HUD-approved counseling agency. Participants must commit to live in the home for five years and qualify for a first mortgage with any lender.

Nandi!

After a week of public voting between two names for Reid Park Zoo's one-month-old elephant, the calf is now known as "Nandi," which handily beat out the other choice of "Imvula (Immie)." The 345-pound Nandi is now two months old and has made her public debut in the main exhibit has been charming Zoo visitors ever since. On Oct. 1, Reid Park Zoo also returned to its regular hours, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Zoo had been opening and closing an hour earlier during the summer. African baby elephant Nandi will be in the main Expedition Tanzania exhibit from at least 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. each day.



Announcements

Nextdoor.com

The Tucson Police Department (TPD) is partnering with Nextdoor.com, a private social network for neighborhoods to build stronger, safer communities. TPD's integration with Nextdoor will allow police to get messages to individual neighborhoods, which could be helpful in cases where a suspicious person may be targeting a particular neighborhood. TPD says it feels confident this additional form of communication can increase neighborhood safety. More than 114 Tucson neighborhoods already have started a Nextdoor site, representing 50 percent of Tucson's neighborhoods. Police say Nextdoor will not replace neighborhood meetings.



Nextdoor: <http://bit.ly/1nmOZb>

New Pothole Patch

The Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) is using a new method to fix potholes around the city. The material is an aggregate of tiny rocks and a lesser amount of asphalt than the traditional materials, which makes the patch look lighter than the road. It's also faster to apply than the older method, allowing crews to cover more ground. Rather than having to jackhammer out very large sections of poor pavement, the new process allows TDOT to keep that existing pavement, seal it up and then place that lighter aggregate on top.



The previous method consisted of cutting out large sections of asphalt, placing and adhering agent in the pothole then placing the asphalt. TDOT Director Daryl Cole is directing road crews to use the lighter-colored pothole patches on roads that are going to be resurfaced in the next few years.

TDOT Streets & Traffic Maintenance: <http://1.usa.gov/1dsyPoZ>

Bienvenido a Tucson

A new website from the City of Tucson will help ensure that Spanish speaking residents of Tucson have access to information about child care, education, health and humanitarian services, and other important government programs. An English version of the site launched last year, and now all of the information has been translated into a Spanish website with the help of the University of Arizona Translation and Interpretation Program in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. In addition, the City's IT department built the site to make it easy for citizens to toggle back and forth between English and Spanish, by alternately clicking "Welcome to Tucson" or "Bienvenido a Tucson." Both sites are an offshoot of the Immigrant Welcoming Task Force, created last year by Mayor and Council.

Welcome to Tucson website (English): <http://1.usa.gov/Wq8rGZ>

Bienvenido a Tucson website (Spanish): <http://1.usa.gov/1qm90xM>

Congratulations and Thank You!

Sunnyside United School District Star Academy

Congratulations to the STAR Academy who will be eligible for a third year of funding through the Ford LULAC Driving For Dreams scholarship funding, an additional \$20,000. Ford Driving Dreams Through Education has encouraged more than 700 students to stay in school, graduate on time and pursue higher education. Programs like this help ensure young people have the education they need to one day compete in our global economy



Donna Liggins Recognized

Vice Mayor Paul Cunningham, Councilmember Steve Kozachik, City Manager Martha Durkin and I attended the NAACP's 95th Freedom Fund Banquet. I along with the Vice Mayor and Councilmember Kozachik had the privilege of presenting a certificate and the Medallion of Hope to Donna Liggins for her eight years of service as President of the Tucson Chapter of the NAACP. Thank you Donna for your 8 years of selfless service to the Tucson Chapter of the NAACP.



Tucson 12 Wins National Award

Tucson 12, The City Channel has another award for its display case. The 2014 National Association of Officers and Advisors (NATOA), recently announced the winners of its government programming awards in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Tucson 12 won the Second Place award for its video "Get Streetcar Street Smart!," in the Public Education category. The annual awards recognize excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. Congratulations on the great work that you do for our City!



Tucson Water Wins National Award

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) this week honored Tucson Water with one of its top utility management awards. The award was presented at the 2014 Annual Executive Management Conference of the AMWA, an organization of the largest publicly-owned water utilities in the United States. Tucson Water was recognized with the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence for its exceptional performance in implementing nationally-recognized management standards.

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

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

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

ParkWise

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

243-5900



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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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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