



City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

September 2020

Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

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Dear Friends:

September 15th through October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Month, which traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month gives us an opportunity to reflect on what makes Latinos such a strong, contributing force in America. Latinos were among the earliest European settlers in the New World, and Latinos as a people, like their many cultures, share a rich history and great diversity.



Latinos have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their commitment to family, faith, patriotism, hard work and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community. And to say our culture has little impact on our community would be a major understatement. Thanks to our Latino community and cuisine, we played a part when Tucson became the first City of Gastronomy as designated by UNESCO. You can see Latino influence on culture from here to New York but we think very little of it. With over 50 million Latinos across the United States, Latinos now make up the largest minority group and represent billions in buying power. Latinos also represent the fastest growing segment of the American electorate.

In Arizona, Raul Castro served as our first Latino Governor in the 1970's. In 1991, Ed Pastor was the first Latino elected to represent Arizona in the U.S. Congress. Today there are two Latinos in Congress representing Arizona: Raul Grijalva and Ruben Gallego. The City of Tucson elected its first Latina Mayor in 2019, Regina Romero.

In Tucson and Pima County, Latinos have sent a strong message by turning out to vote and leading the state in the number of Latinos that have been elected to governing bodies. In a recent article in "Inside Tucson Business," entitled "Hispanics a Key to Tucson's Rebound," it discussed the importance of buying power of the Latino Community in Tucson, Pima County and throughout Arizona. It noted, "the Latino impact on the local and national economy and that their purchasing power represents \$8 billion per year in Pima County, a number that is expected to increase by 88% in the next decade." By 2024, Latinos are estimated to spend \$14 billion in the Tucson economy, equating to 28 percent of the total market spending.

Hispanics are the largest group that has earned the Medal of Honor and have a wall dedicated with their names and how they earned their accommodations at the Pentagon. Sixty-one men of Hispanic heritage have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the most of all groups.

Of the Sixty-one Medals of Honor presented to Hispanics, two were presented to members of the United States Navy, thirteen to members of the United States Marine Corps and forty-six to members of the United States Army. Forty-two Medals of Honor were presented posthumously.

The Latino Community has had to overcome many challenges, but as a community, we are very resilient and we persevere.

In Tucson, we have pushed to grow our workforce, which in turn, has grown our businesses and in Ward 5, which has resulted in 11,000 jobs created during my time as your Ward 5 Councilmember. The City of Tucson relies on sales tax to provide public safety, streets and parks, it's four core services. The Latino community, through purchases of goods and service, provides a lot for our entire community.

Hard work, resilience, perseverance, patriotism and family have made our Latino community great and one with a remarkable heritage.

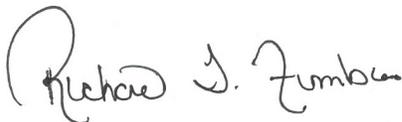
It is sad though to see members of the Latino community, who served this nation in the armed forces, now being deported as well as children being locked up. We must do better as a nation. As we mark National Hispanic Heritage Month this year, we must remember those from our families and community that we have lost from the COVID-19 virus.

Our community must remain strong, but also follow social distancing practices, wash hands frequently and to shelter in place, for our seniors and those with health conditions.

Our community must fill out their U.S. Census forms to be heard and be counted, especially during these times.

With more than 50 million of the population, we also need to be heard and counted at the ballot box, by voting on November 3. Su voto es su voz.

Thank You



Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

Abe Marques

I and the Ward 5 Council Office were saddened to learn of the passing of former Ward 5 Council Aide Abe Marques.

Abe served as an Aide for Ward 5 from 1989 to 2010. Abe gave his heart and all of his effort to help me do the work to better the lives of Ward 5 constituents. His knowledge, expertise, and compassion will be missed.

Abe began his service with the City of Tucson working for my predecessor, Ward 5 Councilmember Steve Leal, and Abe's work was focused on serving the neighborhoods and the greater community through the allocation and use of the City's federal Community Development Block Grant funding, Youth Enrichment programs, the Back to Basics program, and the day to day constituent work that all Council offices take on.

Abe lived a life of service to the community and our Nation as he was a Veteran of the United States Navy, had worked for Congressman Jim McNulty, and the University of Arizona prior joining the Ward 5 office.

Abe's long career gave him great experience and knowledge about the community and the workings of the City, which he was always willing to share with new Council Aides, in order to help them serve the community, as they came into service with newly elected Council Members.

When Abe Marques retired from City service and the Ward 5 office in 2010, his work and efforts were recognized by then Tucson Mayor Robert Walkup and Ward 5 Councilmember Fimbres.

The Tucson community, our Ward 5 neighborhoods, and many community organizations benefited from Abe's work. He was always ready to help make Ward 5 a better place to live, work, and raise a family. He will be missed and remembered.

Supervisor Richard Elias Honored

On Friday, September 18th, The Mexican Consulate in Tucson honored my good friend, the late Richard Elias for his work in our community with our Latino Sisters and Brothers with the prestigious Ohtli Recognition Award.

The Mexican Consulate gave the Ohtli award to his family, Emily and Luz.

I was glad Richard was recognized for this work but saddened that he could not be here to accept it. A great loss for our community and Pima County has another Guardian Angel.



Here is the text of my remarks:

I am proud to say that I was honored to receive the prestigious Ohtli Recognition Award in 2004, from the Mexican Government for my work and dedication in helping our Latino brothers and sisters.

Of the individuals I had the privilege of working with was my friend and former Chair of Board of Supervisors, Richard Elias. I am proud that he is the 2020 recipient of this prestigious award.

I worked with Richard when he was with Chicanos Por La Causa, Pima County's Housing Authority, the South Tucson's Housing Authority, and as Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

In 2005, Richard Elias was nominated by me, and received the LULAC National Presidential Citation Award, for his work helping those in need.

Richard's heart and soul was to help those in need in our community, something he got from his parents and family.

Educational initiatives, affordable housing projects, ensuring a lot of our non-profits were funded and transportation issues were projects we worked together on.

We met, on a monthly basis, at many of our favorite restaurants which included: Rigo's, Cafe Santa Rosa, Laverna's, Mei-Hon, Sunny Daze and Los Jarritos.

We worked on many other projects, such as the Cesar Chavez Holiday, SB 1070, COVID-19, immigration reform and keeping the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center open.

Richard was a strong advocate for our community, he spoke out and was heard on many key issues, even when he was out-voted by his colleagues on the Board.

His leadership, advocacy, expertise and knowledge are missed.

To his beautiful family, Emily and Luz, he was very proud of you and spoke highly of you often.

We have gained another Guardian Angel for our community.

I want to thank the Mexican Consulate for their work in our community and for recognizing the work and legacy of my friend, Richard Elias.

Richard Pond

On Saturday, September 25th, I had the privilege of attending, with Ward 5 staff member Mary Kuchar, to a special birthday party for a wonderful Tucsonan and Ward 5 resident, Richard Pond, who turned 90.



Richard served in the United States Marines and fought in the Korean War. After his military service, Pond moved to Tucson in 1956. He married his dear wife Theresa and moved into a house, and has lived there for 60 years.

Richard Pond worked for the Old Pueblo Transit Company for 18 years and Sun Tran for 18 years.

Richard Pond's family had a great big drive-by birthday parade. I read the proclamation from the Mayor and one from my office marking Richard Pond Day.

Congratulations Richard and may you have many more.



Ward 5 Beautification Project

On September 24th, I had the privilege of taking part in the tree and plant beautification project at the Thomas Price Center. Mayor Regina Romero, Cassandra Becerra with Congressman Grijalva's office, Carlos DeLaTorre of the City of Tucson EGSD and Ward 5 staffer Mary Kuchar, joined me in planting trees.



The 20 trees planted were part of Mayor Regina Romero Million Trees Initiative. Also, 170 plants were also planted, with the help of Tucson Clean and Beautiful. Three trees were named for Congressman Raul Grijalva, Mayor Regina Romero and myself.

I want to thank the Mayor's Trees Effort, Tucson Clean and Beautiful and all those who helped to plant for this wonderful project. Several years ago, we planted trees and plants at the Ward 5 Council Office as part of the water harvesting effort and in honor of individuals who serve and served as Councilmember for Ward 5.



Pueblo Gardens Tree Planting

On September 19th, the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association had a tree planting event to beautify their neighborhood. More than 50 trees were planted in the area of five houses. Ward 5 staffer Mary Kuchar helped in this effort.

Congratulations to Pueblo Gardens neighbors and the volunteers who helped plant the trees.

Police Captain Matt Ronstadt

On September 22nd, I had the privilege of recognizing Tucson Police Captain Matt Ronstadt for his service to our community.

Captain Ronstadt is retiring this week after 25 years of service. Thank you Captain Ronstadt for your service and commitment to our community and best of luck in the next chapter of your life.

**TEP, UniSource Extend Suspension of Service Disconnections, Late Fees through End of 2020**

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and UniSource Energy Services are extending suspension of service disconnections and late fees for nonpayment through the end of the year to provide additional flexibility for customers facing financial hardship during the coronavirus pandemic.

TEP and UniSource began voluntary suspension in March in response to the public health crisis. Since then, both companies have provided payment extensions, enrollment in short-term assistance and bill discount programs for qualifying limited-income customers. TEP and UniSource also donated a combined \$1 million to bill payment assistance and other coronavirus relief efforts in communities across Arizona.

The companies' voluntary suspension will last longer than the moratorium approved last year by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), which prohibits the disconnection of residential electric service from June 1 through October 15. TEP and UniSource will create payment plans for residential customers with overdue balances after Oct. 15 – a step in the ACC-approved process – to provide customers with additional time and a structured way to pay down balances.

Customers with overdue balances are encouraged to call us for assistance with payment extensions or customer assistance programs.

TEP customers - 520-623-7711

UniSource customers - 1-877-837-4968

Automated bill extensions may be available online to qualifying customers.

Thank You Cox Communications

Congratulations to Cox Communications for their work helping students and families in need during this COVID-19 pandemic with their Connect to Compete program, which is expanding even further. More in next month's issue.

NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY

On September 18th, I had the privilege of taking part in the 2020 National POW/MIA Ceremony that took place at South Lawn's Chapel and was also broadcast on Facebook Live.

I want to thank Anthony Crespo, South Lawn Director and his staff for organizing the event to remember those who have not come back. I read the City of Tucson Proclamation to mark this day. Here were my remarks:

Thank you for being here today. I am honored to be here to help honor and pay tribute to Arizona's POW/MIA's and their families, with this ceremony today at South Lawn Cemetery. I want to thank everyone who are participating in this ceremony.

I want to thank my fellow brothers and sisters that are, or were in the military who are here to remember those who served but haven't come back. Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, ordering the prominent display of the POW/MIA flag on this day.

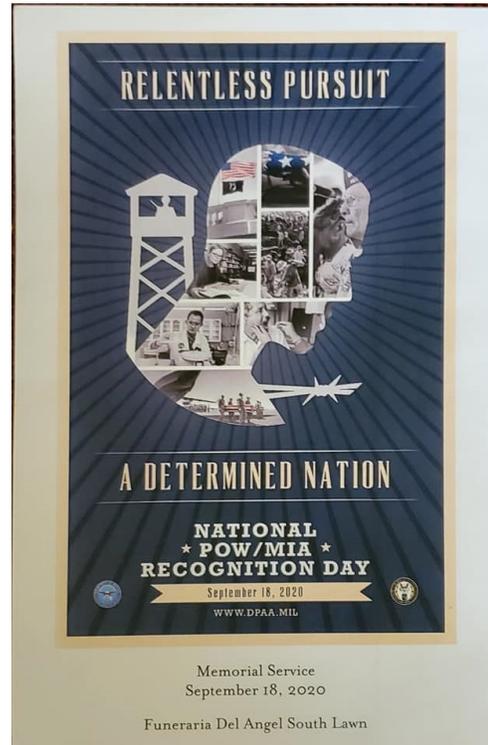
As a retired U.S. Army Veteran, I am proud to say that at the Ward 5 Council Office, the POW/MIA flag is prominently displayed 365 days a year. I would now like to read a prayer: Father, we could never thank our military men and women enough for their courageous service and sacrifice to our country and its people. Yet today we lift up our voices to express gratefulness and honor to these military troops both from the past and present. Show us ways in our communities, churches, and families to thank and love them better. Keep and protect these heroes and their families, in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

As the Councilmember for Tucson's Ward 5, I would now like to read the City of Tucson Proclamation for POW/MIA Day.

WHEREAS, September 18th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Arizona Families and Friends of POW/MIA, Vietnam Veterans of America Tucson Chapter 106, Disabled American Veterans Cactus Unit 2 and Funeraria del Angel South Lawn and Cemetery wish to honor and pay tribute to Arizona's POW/MIA's and their families; and

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, ordering the prominent display of the POW/MIA flag on this day and on several other national observances, including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, the POW/MIA flag is "a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation"; and



WHEREAS, through all our Nation's conflicts, there have been prisoners of war and those missing in action, including:

War of the Revolution: POW-18,152 MIA – 1,426

War of 1812: POW – 20,000 MIA – 695

Civil War – Union: POW/MIA –194,743. Civil War – Confederacy: POW/MIA – 214,865

World War I: POW/MIA –7,470

World War II: POW – 124,079 MIA – 30,314

Korean War: POW – 7,140 MIA – 8,025

Vietnam War: POW – 766 MIA –1,719

U.S.S. Pueblo: POW – 83

Grenada: MIA – 4

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Regina Romero, Mayor of the City of Tucson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 18th, 2020 to be

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY in this community, and remind our residents that many members of our Armed Forces paid the ultimate price to insure our freedom.

Thank you for being here and God Bless You All and our POW/MIA's.



Patty Smith

I and the Ward 5 Council Office were saddened to hear that Patty Smith, one of the leaders of the Mortimore Neighborhood Association had passed away. Patty and her cousin Helen, worked hard for her neighborhood as well as American Legion Post 7, Morgan McDermott. My condolences to Patty's family for their loss.

Tucson Roadrunners Mask Giveaway

I want to thank the Tucson Roadrunners for making the El Pueblo Center, the first stop, on September 16th, in their mask giveaway to the community.

Thank you Adrian Denny, Dusty and the staff of the Tucson Roadrunners for doing this to help our community. Ward 5 residents also donated 500 cans of food for the Community Food Bank, Let's Go Roadrunners!



Veteran's Gold Star Family Park Dedication

On Saturday, September 19th, I had the privilege of representing the City of Tucson at the rededication of the Veteran's Gold Star Family Park and the commemoration of Patriots Day Honor and Remembrance Ceremony. I read the City Proclamation marking the day as Patriots Day and gave out the Ward 5 First Responder Coin to Noemi Hite, widow of fallen TPD Officer Erik Hite, who was honored and David Caballero for their service in law enforcement and serving our country in the Air Force and Marines respectively.

Congratulations to Pima County Supervisor Ramon Valadez, retired Supervisor Dan Eckstrom, County Administrator Chuck Huckleberry, Suzanne Shields, Director of Pima County Flood Control, Ana Oilvares, Director of Pima County Transportation and Nancy Cole from the Pima County Project Management Office and the American Legion and Tom Boyle and the American Patriot Memorial, and Gold Star Mothers for the renaming of the park.



FREE COVID-19 TESTING

The City of Tucson and El Rio Health is offering free COVID-19 tests at the El Pueblo Center, 101 W. Irvington Road. Testing takes place on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7-10 a.m. and Thursdays from 5-8 p.m.

To register for a test, call El Rio Health at (520) 670-3909 and schedule an appointment. A doctor's order is not needed to get the test, but organizers do ask everyone to make an appointment.

Enter the parking lot from S. 6th Avenue / S. Nogales Highway and follow on-site signage to the testing location.

This is the second free testing site operated by the City of Tucson and funded through the City's federal CARES Act grant. Testing began at the Morris K. Udall Center last month. Testing will continue at these sites until no longer needed to control the pandemic.

I am pleased to see the new testing site established at the El Pueblo Center to expand access to testing for Tucsonans on the Southside. I encourage our community to take advantage of this new testing site to keep themselves and their families healthy.

For more information regarding the free public testing at both the Udall and El Pueblo sites visit, the City of Tucson website, tucsonaz.gov.

September 11th

September 11, 2020 marked the 19th Annual Anniversary of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. The attacks killed 2,996 people, injured over 6,000 others, and caused at least \$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage.

A total of 343 firefighters, 72 law enforcement officials gave their lives on September 11, 2001. In addition, 59 military personnel died at the Pentagon when it was attacked on that day. Tucson, along with our nation, came together in the aftermath. Many went to Kino Veteran's ball park to be part of a picture of our American flag. Our city remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice that day and we will never forget.



Many Tucson first responders also went to help in the aftermath of 9-11 and we thank them. We will not forget September 11. America is always at its best in a time of crisis. We can never forget the sacrifices that have been made for freedom and liberty that we have today. Please keep all who perished in your thoughts and prayers.

KFC Dedication at the Bridges

September 8th, was the dedication of the Kentucky Fried Chicken at the Bridges.

Thanks to Eric Davis and the work of the Pueblo Gardens, South Park, Las Vistas and Western Hills II Neighborhood the 9 year work and progress on the Bridges continues with this latest dedication, which employs 50 local people.

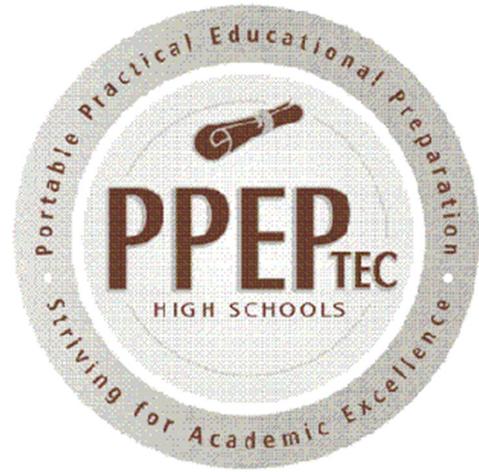


I want to welcome David Wehrman and Tanweer Ahmed, the owners of the Kentucky Fried Chicken to the Renaissance of Ward 5.

PPEP Tech High School

The mission of PPEP TEC High School (PTHS) is to provide quality educational services for students' ages fourteen through twenty-one, in grades nine through twelve, who are at risk of becoming permanent dropouts from the educational system. If traditional high schools are not for you or your child, then PTHS is the learning environment for you.

There are 4 parts to our work: Preparation – PTHS staff are highly qualified and committed to providing our students with the unique support they need to meet the Arizona Academic Standards and graduate. Focus-We are an alternative learning environment designed to meet the needs of the individual student. Supportive-With smaller class size we are flexible during the pandemic we are uniquely positioned to help our students with online learning. Inspire-Our curriculum is designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and ability necessary to enroll in post-secondary training or obtain employment following graduation. For more information, call (520) 349-8259 or online at www.ppeptechs.org.



University of Arizona Neighborhood Hotline

The University of Arizona has set up a neighborhood hotline, for residents to call if they have complaints or dealing with a situation with University students in their neighborhoods. If you have problems or questions, please call (520) 282-3649. The University of Arizona Police and Tucson Police Department are working together to deal with these situations and issues.

Updates

TRANSIT FARES TO BE WAIVED UNTIL END OF THE YEAR - The Mayor and Tucson City Council directed the City Manager and the Department of Transportation and Mobility to continue funding free fares for all transit system riders through the end of 2020. The council voted in March to waive fares as a way to keep drivers and riders safe during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City received nearly \$44.3 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) via the CARES Act to cover system operations costs through the end of September 2020. Regular transit system operations in the City of Tucson are funded through a combination of federal money, the voter-approved Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the City of Tucson General Fund, and farebox recovery (the fares paid via ridership).

VOTE SAFE: VOTE BY MAIL - Pima County and its Recorder's Office want to help slow the spread of COVID-19 this election season. They are encouraging voters to request early ballots and vote by mail. They say Arizonans have used mail-in ballots safely and successfully for many years. During the pandemic, they're encouraging more people to take advantage of this safe, easy, and secure way to vote. Follow the link below to help guide you through registering to vote, requesting a mail-in ballot, verifying your registration, and more. Arizona's voter registration deadline to take part in the Nov. 3 election is Oct. 5. Early voting begins Oct. 7. For more information, call (520) 724-4350.

Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

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WWW.TUCSONAZ.GOV/
WARD -5**

Help those who are in
need.
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, Email: redtag@tucsonaz.gov

Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

TPD Non Emergency

791-4444

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

DTM Street Maintenance

791-3154, Email: tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov

Tucson Water Department

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

Park Tucson

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

724-5900

University of Arizona Neighborhood Hotline

520-282-3649

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