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# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

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## Why I Voted “No” on the Tucson G. O. Bonds Proposal

At the June 26th meeting, Mayor and Council considered a proposal to place a measure on the November 2012 ballot for voters to consider authorizing General Obligation Bonds for road repair. Here is the statement I made on this proposal:

*“Mr. Mayor, I want to explain my vote.*

*“In 2010, the voters of Tucson had before them a proposed half-cent sales tax to go, for three years, towards the core services – police, fire, parks and streets.*

*“This proposal was soundly rejected by more than 60% of the voters, mostly due to the economic downturn the city was facing.*

*“Since then, economic conditions have improved but not to the point that I could recommend placing another measure on the ballot in November 2012.*

*“This proposal, as previously stated, would cost a minimum of \$350,000 to get on this year’s ballot, since again it is not a city election and would involve another governmental entity.*

*“As was the case in 2010, this proposal would be at the bottom of the November general election ballot.*

*“With the federal elections, state races, potential state ballot measures, school bond override proposals, all of which would be on the ballot, before any Tucson measure, the question of ballot fatigue is raised.*

*“Then there is the proposal itself.*

*“This G.O. bond proposal would only affect those who own property within the city limits.*

*“Recently, both Pima County and Pima Community College raised their property tax rates.*

*“Would the voters approve a potential third rise in their property taxes – something they may not be able to afford?*

*“Why then should only one segment of the Tucson population pay for road repair, when others, who may not own a home, but drive a vehicle or motorcycle, or even bicycle, wouldn’t be affected?*

*“The Mayor and Council received this as a late delivery, less than four days before a decision was to be made and facing a deadline of June 30 to get any proposal on the November 2012 general election ballot.*

*“There are other reasons for my reluctance to vote to place this on the November 2012 ballot.*



## Why I Voted “No” on the Tucson G. O. Bonds Proposal

*“I have had many calls to my office from my constituents, as well as seniors who are on a fixed income, saying they could not afford this.*

*“This leads to the question of whether all options had been looked at, such as the neighborhood improvement district, or a street maintenance fee.*

*“The answer is that it was discussed on May 8, but there has been no follow up on this. When I posed follow up questions to staff on this, I had received conflicting answers.*

*“Then there is outreach to Tucsonans.*

*“A survey was conducted for this proposal but how many of the 401 respondents were property owners in Tucson?*

*“How many of the 401 respondents had voted in the 2011 city election, the 2010 sales tax measure or even the 2009 city election, when there were other ballot measures of note being considered?*

*“The survey report says only that they planned to vote in the 2012 general election.*

*“There is also the question of how the proposal was stated to the respondents of this survey.*

*“The last time the city issued general obligation bonds, it was in 2000.*

*“The city still has more than \$200 million in outstanding bonds and the payment to be made for 2013, according to what was stated during the discussions by the Mayor and Council, that would be \$28 million dollars.*

*“This is a proposal for five years but what is being done now, in the upcoming fiscal year?*

*“For fiscal year 2013, the city has \$20 million earmarked for roadwork and repair of arterials and neighborhood streets.*

*“The timing of the 2010 measure was not right, as I feel the timing is not right with this proposal either.*

*“All options have not been fully vetted and considered and I am not comfortable going forward with another ballot measure that will affect only a certain segment of the population.”*

**“All options have not been fully vetted and considered and I am not comfortable going forward with another ballot measure that will affect only a certain segment of the population.”**

## Cherrybell Post Office Update

*Courtesy of Tracy Tucker (Federal Lobbyist - City of Tucson)*

The postal reform bill, HR 2309 will be heard by the U.S. House of Representatives. All indications from the Committee and Republican leadership are they will delay the vote on the bill until September, after Congress returns from the summer district-period recess.

Cherrybell supporters, City officials and Members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation, are working with the delegation to develop amendments to the bill that support our effort and can garner broad bi-partisan support.

The Senate has passed a postal reform measure, SB 1709, and if H.R. 2309 is approved, a House-Senate conference committee will be formed on these measures.

Call your U.S. House Representative at, 1-800-962-3524, and ask them to support H.R. 2309.



Cherrybell Post Office

## Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges News

### WAL-MART UPDATE

Construction continues on the Wal-Mart super-center to be located at the Bridges. It is expected that this 156,000 facility will be opening close to October 31st.

According to Rick Velasco, the District Manager for the Wal-Mart's for the Tucson area, the new manager of the Bridges Wal-Mart will be Mr. Brian Shields.

Both Shields and Velasco said that Wal-Mart will be opening a temporary office to take applications and conduct interviews sometime soon. Three hundred employees plan to be hired for this new store.



Aerial photo of the new Wal-Mart. Taken May 2012.

## Landmark Properties Construction Update

The work on the 188 unit, single-story student housing project known as "The Retreat" continues. This project will have 600 individual rooms and construction of the buildings is scheduled to begin in late July or early August. They are on schedule for their planned opening for August 2013.



As an important note, this project also brought \$585,000 in Highway User Revenue Funds which was earmarked for citywide road repair since the project was in Ward 5.

## 909 E. 22nd Street

As previously reported, the City has been in the process of addressing a health and safety situation at property located at 909 E. 22nd Street. The owner of the parcel, who had been negotiating with the City regarding its future, sold it to a developer.

The developer has since obtained the necessary city permits and will begin demolition of the structure on August 1st.



## Sunnyside Bond Measure

By a unanimous vote, the board of the Sunnyside School District (SUSD) has placed a budget override measure on the November general election ballot. This measure deals with the general budget (Maintenance and Operations) for SUSD.



A similar measure on the 2011 ballot failed by only 307 votes. For more information please visit: <http://www.susd12.org/district/news/public-notice-susd-12-special-election-november-6-2012>.

## City News

### Marist College

At the July 10th meeting of the Mayor and Council, the subject of Marist College was discussed by my colleagues.

I had asked many questions about the proposed funding, its intent and purpose, prior to the Council meeting. During the agenda item, my colleagues also asked many, pertinent questions about Marist College, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the stabilization process and the potential uses by developers and businesses.

This was an initial discussion and there was no final agreement before the Mayor and Council for consideration, so no funds were given away or spent.

By a vote of 5 to 2, this motion was approved. What follows was the motion made during the discussion (from the City Clerk's Office):

*Council Member Regina Romero moved and it was duly seconded to approved the City Manager's recommendation direct staff to negotiate an agreement to utilize \$1.1 million of existing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to stabilize Marist College and that the City secure a conservation easement from the property owner that requires the building façade and architectural features be retained to preserve its designation on the National Register of Historic Places.*

*It was further moved that the City must secure an agreement with the Diocese that sales proceeds be returned to the City of Tucson for use as CDBG program income available for historic preservation or blight abatement or any other CDBG eligible activity and that the City stay involved in the existing public process, including the right to do a request for proposal process with the Downtown Tucson Partnership, the Diocese and any other stakeholder.*

*Council Member Scott requested a friendly amendment to the motion that as part of any agreement, the City have a right of refusal on any transfer of the property; that the City have the option to take title if the building is not sold or transferred for a new use within a certain amount of time; and that some portion of the building be used for a public purpose.*

For close to 100 years, Marist College has been part of Tucson. It is the only three-story adobe structure in existence. Since its opening in 1915, Marist College was the first desegregated school in Tucson and one of the first in this state's history.

There is at least one proposal to use Marist by developers and according to City Manager Richard Miranda, there are a couple of other proposals as well.

This is the first vote on this matter, something I voted in favor of. There are a lot of conditions to be met and the Mayor and Council will have a final vote on any proposed agreement.



Marist College in its heyday, Top. Marist

## City News

### NEW TUCSON WATER AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIRECTORS

Mr. Alan Forrest has assumed the post of Director of Tucson Water. Mr. Forrest has had a distinguished and successful career and I look forward to working with him. Mr. Daryl Cole was named by City Manager Richard Miranda, as the next Director of the City of Tucson Department of Transportation. Mr. Cole had served as the Transportation Director for the City of El Paso, Texas. He assumes his new post on September 4th.



Mr. Alan Forrest, Left.  
Mr. Daryl Cole, Right.

### TDOT Street Maintenance

Thanks to the HURF funds secured from the Landmark construction project, many potholes in Ward 5 and across the City are being repaired. In addition, the City of Tucson Transportation Department (TDOT) is working to clean up the medians throughout our City.

If you have a pothole on your street in your neighborhood, or see one in an area, please call your Council office to report them. TDOT is using the limited resources available and for that reason need know what potholes exist so that they can start the necessary repairs.



### Local Purchase Policy

At the June 12th Mayor and Council meeting, by a unanimous vote, my colleagues approved my proposals for "Local Purchase Policy," for the City of Tucson for procurement of goods and services through RFP's (Requests for Proposals).

This policy will benefit small business owners in the Tucson area, who wish to do business with the City of Tucson. If they wish to bid on an RFP, they will receive more preference points in this new process.

I want to thank Mike Varney, President of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce for working with this office on this proposal, as well as the other individuals who were part of the stakeholder group who reviewed this idea and proposal

### Tucson Defends It's City Elections

Despite previous Arizona Supreme Court rulings upholding Tucson's and the city charters of 18 other cities on their election processes, the Arizona Legislature passed another law which Governor Brewer signed, consolidating election dates so that all elections are held in even numbered years only in September and November.

Tucson's Mayor and Council approved a measure to file suit, yet again, against this unconstitutional action taken by the Arizona Legislature.

As it has been previously, Tucson and the 18 other cities with charters, upheld in other court cases, will defend their rights to hold elections, when the voters see, and importantly, their charter's, crafted by Tucsonans, see fit.



## Ward 5 Announcements

### New Business in Ward 5

Recently, Mayor Rothschild and I had the opportunity meet with officials with La Curacao.



La Curacao ranks among the top 100 consumer electronics retailers in the U.S. At this meeting, La Curacao officials announced that they intend to open a new store, in the Southgate shopping center in Ward 5.

They said their intention is to have this store open by this fall and employing up to 300 people. The stores have an authentic Latin American ambiance featuring Mayan and Aztec architecture and décor, Spanish-language signs, and bilingual sales clerks

### Voter Registration Deadline

Monday, July 30th is the deadline to be registered to vote for the August 28, primary election. For more information, call the Pima County Recorder's Office at 740-4330.

### Fred G. Acosta Job Corps Graduation

On Friday, August 24, the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, located at 901 South Campbell in Ward 5, will be holding Tucson's National Job Corps Commencement Day, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, at the center gymnasium at the Job Corps.

The Job Corps community and supporters will celebrate the Job Corps students who have successfully graduated from our nation's most effective residential academic and career preparation program for economically disadvantaged youth.

For the first time in the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps' successful 33-year history of serving America's out-of-school, out-of-work youth, the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps Center along with 125 Job Corps campuses across the nation will host the 2nd Annual "National Job Corps Commencement Day."

For more information, call 879-9298.

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## Congratulations and Thank You!

### La Frontera

Congratulations to Daniel Ranieri, President and CEO of La Frontera, who announced that their senior housing project at Sunnyside Point Villas will be getting the low income tax credits from the Arizona Department of Housing. My office worked on the support letter for this project which will benefit Ward 5 seniors, for which it is was the only one to receive the tax credits.

### Ward 5 Interns

Heileen Evans and Daniel Treviso both worked very hard in the Ward 5 office, for which I want to express my thanks for their efforts. Heileen was part of the Tucson Youth Development program and Daniel is enrolled in the Fred. G. Acosta Job Corps program, for which both should be very proud of these outstanding young people.

**To unsubscribe to this newsletter please send an email to:**

**[Ward5@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward5@tucsonaz.gov)**

**and include the word *unsubscribe* in subject line.**

**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

**Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242  
Public Information - 791-4331



**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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