

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

NOVEMBER 12, 2010

A Message From Steve

Another election season is behind us. Can we all agree that it is none too soon? Finally the ads will stop intruding into our homes, the signs will come down from our street corners and relieve the blight that they are, and one can only hope that civil discourse will return to our airwaves.

This election cycle was divisive, polarizing and has left scars in our community that I can only hope time will heal. Abraham Lincoln said, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts." On a bi-partisan basis, candidates in the most recent election crossed the line of truth and fell into the trap of innuendo and falsehood. The end does not justify the means. We must come together again in the aftermath or suffer the effect of yet another Lincolnism: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Between parties it seems that we can no longer disagree without being labeled in the extreme. On the issue of immigration, without being labeled as either for a completely open border, or favoring racial profiling and a fascist exploitation of our fellow humans. We seemingly cannot disagree on the role of government without being either advocates of a "nanny State" or "Corporatists" who value profit above people. Within parties there is no room for engaging in independent critical thought or one is branded disloyal and stands to lose the support of those who toe the party line religiously. We give thanks for the secret ballot that allows us to exercise our franchise to cast votes for a person, not a party, without being scrutinized as being unfaithful. Thomas Jefferson is quoted as having said, "I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." And yet in today's political climate it is unacceptable to truly reach across the party divide. It is intolerable to have openly supported a person based on qualifications and character, and not on affiliation with a given party.

So, the election is behind us. A clear majority now prevails at all levels of government. We can debate the meaning and causes of the electoral tsunami that we just observed - a change in ideology, a reaction to the economy, a sense of disenfranchisement and a desire to "throw the incumbents out?" There was a decided lurch to the right - was that ideological, or was it reactionary? We can debate. And yet at the end of the day, the greater good will be served by our setting aside the striking differences in our politics, giving focus to a set of common principles and working together in an effort to achieve those.



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance

791-3154

Development Services

791-4505

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus

Hotline

243-7999

Environment

Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

Continued: A Message From Steve

That will require compromise in approach. It need not, nor should it require one to compromise his or her principles.

We are a great and good people. The principles by which the Nation was formed are honorable. Now that the ballots are cast, let us remember a final quote from our 16th President: "if you want to test a man's character, give him power." There is too much at stake, too many unemployed needing work, too many hungry needing to be fed, too many elderly in our midst who are alone and in need of companionship, a border to guard and a Constitution to honor - too much for which we stand in common to continue down the divisive road of rigid party politics that so characterized the recent election.

The Mayor and Council will have some very difficult decisions to make with respect to how we allocate your dollars. We will have some very different opinions on how those dollars will be spent. I will continue to call on the Mayor and Council to make a decision as soon as possible on the extent to which Police and Fire's budgets will be reduced. Others have expressed the desire to conduct a different process. Throughout the process, the greater good will be served through a process of civility. As you engage this with us, I'd ask that you do so in a respectful manner. Share your perspectives so that we can weigh all input. And yet, I'd ask that those perspectives be fact-based and not attacks on the people who have been entrusted with making some very tough calls. There's enough stress in the air already.

On Tuesday the Mayor, Council and Jack Gibson (Director of Arizona Public Media) will be presenting Bill Buckmaster a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on Arizona Public Media, and Arizona Illustrated for the past 2 decades. Please come and join in honoring Mr. Buckmaster at 5:30 on the 16th.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward6>

Greater Arizona Bicycling Association (GABA) Fall Bike Swap on 4th Avenue

Saturday, November 13 2010, 8:00am - 3:00pm

Fall Cleaning is taking place and now is a great time to unload all of those unused bike parts and accessories. If you are looking for **GREAT DEALS** for El Tour, this is the place to be, so don't miss out!! Contact GABA for more information at bikeswap@bikegaba.org

Fall Open Studio Tour

Saturday & Sunday, November 13-14.

This free, self-guided tour provides an up-close and personal look into the unique creative process of 222 Pima County artists. Visit artists of every kind: bookmakers, sculptors, photographers, ceramic artists, fiber artists, metal smiths, glass blowers, and painters. See artworks in every stage, from start to finish. Explore what lies behind the creative process, and learn about Tucson's vibrant arts scene. Presented by the Tucson Pima Arts Council, <http://tucsonpimaartscouncil.org/ost/2010/>

2nd Saturdays

Downtown's monthly family-friendly urban street festival, 2nd Saturdays is this weekend, November 13, 5-10pm. Live music, arts & crafts vendors, special deals at Downtown businesses, food, kids activities, and more. This month's concert at the Fox Theatre is a ticketed event, featuring ex-Bruce Springsteen guitarist Nils Lofgren. Parking for 2nd Saturdays is conveniently located just north of Congress off 5th Avenue at the new Depot Plaza Garage and at the Pennington Street Garage off Scott, just north of Congress. www.2ndSaturdays.com

Grant Road Improvements

On Wednesday, November 17 from 5:30 to 7:30pm, the City will be hosting an open house to give an update on the proposed Grant Road improvements. The briefing will be held at 1601 N. Oracle Road (College Place). This open house will include information about the first intersection work being planned. Construction of the Oracle/Grant intersection is scheduled to begin in late 2011. For more information you can visit <http://www.grantroad.info/>

Javelina Sightings in Midtown

Several neighborhoods have reported javelina sightings in the area. I have heard from Sam Hughes Neighborhood, the SAMOS neighborhood (in Ward 3) and I've seen a group of four javelina on a walk home last week in the park behind Bookman's. Their presence is a cause for concern, but not alarm. You know all of the intuitive suggestions (keep your distance, don't leave food out, protect your pets, etc.) but one that I hadn't considered until Collete Ataffer brought it to my attention was the need to maintain the Rights-of-Way behind our homes. Not only is that the law already, but leaving the easement areas in an overgrown condition invites havens for the javelina. If you see any of these wild animals in neighborhoods, feel free to report them to the Ward office (791-4601) or call Game and Fish (628-5376) to report the location.

Warehouse Arts District Open House

Join the Warehouse Arts Management Organization (WAMO) for an open house Saturday evening just after the Open Studio Tour on your way to 2nd Saturday Downtown...WAMO is celebrating its recent acquisition and management of three historic warehouses: The Steinfeld, Toole Shed, and Citizens.

- Meet the artists, planners, developers, and public officials working to preserve the district.
- Learn about the past, present and future of the Downtown warehouses.

View art on display by the WAMO board and warehouse artists.

Saturday, Nov 13, from 5:00 to 7:00pm at The Market Inn, 403 N. 6th Ave (NW corner of 6th Avenue and 7th Street)

Email us at: ward6@tucsonaz.gov