

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

NOVEMBER 19, 2010

A Message From Steve



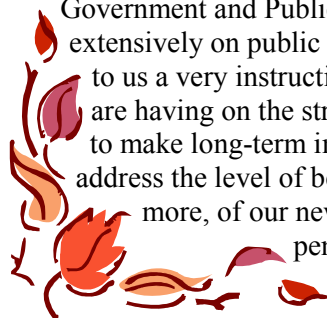
At our last study session the words of the day were “budget” and “priorities”. We continue to be faced with a looming budget hole that we are obligated by Charter to fill. The City will not run a deficit. The budget will be balanced.

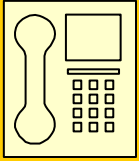
With that having been said, the challenge for all of us on the Council will be to identify what we consider to be our priorities and to focus our limited resources in those directions first. Once we have fulfilled that responsibility, we can look to other areas for support. Sounds just like home. Do what you must first. Then go out and buy the DVD's.

The City Charter identifies as core services Public Safety, Transportation and Parks. My focus is, and has been, on identifying as early in the process as we can at least a maximum level of budget reduction that we are going to impose on the public safety agencies who serve our community. We have a substantial financial investment in each of our uniformed first responders. They put their lives on the line for us each day. And while we go through the process of deciding budget issues, other jurisdictions and public safety agencies are actively hiring away our people. The longer we wait, the deeper will be the loss, and the longer it will take us to recover. I believe we owe it to the employees of those departments first to make a commitment—a floor—below which we will not reduce. Based on that, they can make informed career decisions, and hopefully make the decision to stay with TPD and TFD.

In the midst of the financial prioritizing, City staff is preparing layoff processes. This is a cumbersome process of exercising seniority and bumping rights that crosses job classifications and potentially across departments. The discussions about budget and layoffs will be conducted on parallel paths. Staff is hopeful that by the end of the year, employees will have a more clear picture of what lies ahead in terms of their own job security. Each of us is approaching these decisions with an understanding that peoples' lives and livelihoods are in the balance. It is with that in mind that we will find our way forward.

As a part of the budget discussion, I brought to the session Dr. Jun Peng, a professor of Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Dr. Peng has written extensively on public sector taxation, budgeting and pension reform. He presented to us a very instructive report on the impact that public sector pension obligations are having on the structural deficits many governments are now facing. If we are to make long-term impacts on our own structural problem, we will need to address the level of benefits, age and time of service, qualifying income levels, and more, of our new hires. By contract law, we cannot make adjustments to the pension benefits of existing workers, or retirees. With the current low levels of hiring, it will take years to make a





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

significant impact, and yet if we don't start now, we only prolong the problem.

The City Attorney and Finance Director shared with us their thoughts with respect to the Rio Nuevo Audit report. The topic has received plenty of media coverage, and I have written quite extensively my own thoughts on the report. What was presented last week was a summary of where the city staff is in disagreement with some of the findings. Suffice it to say that I continue to believe the history of Rio Nuevo is a confused mixture of the City managing the assets of the District, and as the audit pointed out, there is now a fundamental need to resolve the nature of the relationship between the City and the District with new Intergovernmental Agreements. Those IGA's need to define roles, responsibilities, and identify ownership and obligations of the assets that are still issues of contention between the two bodies. We can disagree about the past, but we need to come together on establishing a solid working relationship with the Rio Nuevo Board and demonstrate to the Legislature, and to the taxpayers, that we are moving ahead and will exercise fiscal responsibility in the way projects are selected and managed.

We also received an update on many of the economic development efforts the City is presently engaged in. With all of the talk of budget deficits, layoffs and where we're going to make cuts, the truth is that we will not cut our way out of this issue over the long run. We must have a healthy private sector, or the City will continue to suffer these financial problems year after year. I will continue to encourage staff and my colleagues to embrace whatever means and methods we can to enable the private sector to flourish in our community.

We need more taxpayers, not more taxes. Businesses hire employees; employees receive paychecks; paychecks are spent; spending yields sales tax revenue. That's the process by which we will ultimately pull ourselves out from this seemingly annual fiscal deficit condition. I applaud City staff for their efforts to this point, and commit to working with them in the days and weeks ahead to continue on the path of supporting our local business community.

Let me close by wishing each of you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving Holiday. Stay safe. Don't overspend on Black Friday. Don't overeat, and if you do, go out for a jog.

Sincerely,

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



Imagine Greater Tucson Community Conversation

When: November 30

Where: Ward 6 Office, 3202 E. 1st Street

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Share what you value about living in the region and what you would like to change or improve in the region. Your input is part of the first phase of the visioning process that will lead to a call to action in the next 18-24 months. The second phase will include development of future scenarios and the selection of one that the public would like the region to pursue.

Your involvement in all phases of the Imagine Greater Tucson is encouraged, and please spread the word about this conversation.

<http://www.imaginegreatertucson.org/>

Also, please contact conversations@imaginegreatertucson.org if you would like to set up a conversation in your neighborhood or for other groups.

Tucson Museum of Arts

Holiday Craft Market

Friday – Sunday, November 19-21

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

http://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org/calendars/index/5/11/10/19/1/view_event/40

Community Gardens of Tucson Cookbook

Do you have relatives here for Thanksgiving? The cookbooks are just in time to give out for Thanksgiving gifts. They make a perfect gift for the holidays or any occasion! Please visit the web site to order your cookbooks now. <http://www.communitygardensoftucson.org>

University of Arizona Water Sustainability Program

When: November 22, 2010

Where: The UA Mall

Time: 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Free of charge!

Find out how we are working to better manage our water resources in Arizona for the future. Join in activities and demonstrations in The Water Zone and walk through a visual arts display about species in our local watershed, view student posters on the latest water research at UA and hear talks from UA water experts on their work to resolve the many water challenges in Arizona. All are welcome! For more information visit the WSP website: www.wsp.arizona.edu.

AZ Game & Fish
628-5376



Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

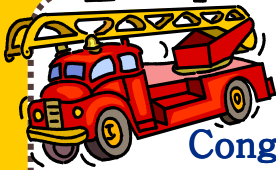
Tucson Parks and Recreation Department presents its annual 2-day Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 27-28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day in Reid Park.

It will feature more than 100 artisans from throughout the western United States, who will display and sell handcrafted items. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

The fair will be held just west of the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park.

Visitors should use the Concert Place entrance, just off Country Club, to find the fair. Ample free parking is available. For more information, call 791-4873





Congratulations to the Tucson Firefighters Association!



The Tucson Firefighters Association raised over \$59,000 at their 15th Annual Chili Cookoff. All proceeds benefit the Firefighters Adopt-A-Family Program. This year the Tucson Firefighters will provide over 1600 boxes filled with complete Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to local families in need and over 200 children will receive new clothing, basic necessities and toys throughout the holiday season.



Community Food Drive

The Palo Verde Neighborhood Association is having a community food drive to replenish and add to the cupboards of the Catalina Magnet High Community Assistance Program. Catalina High School has over 40 Youth on Their Own in attendance, as well as the highest number of refugee family members attending CMHS. Palo Verde NA thought this to be a worthwhile project to let fellow neighborhoods get involved to replenish pantry shelves, and hopefully provide gift-cards to families in need.



In order to have the coffers full before the holiday season, Palo Verde NA is asking that **all donations be made before Sunday, December 12th**, so that they can deliver the "goods" to Catalina High on the 13th. There will be a large decorated box placed at the front of Sally's house at **3412 E Fairmount Street** where you can drop off food donations. If you want to make a money donation, please coordinate the drop off with Sally by contacting her at **741-0849** leave a message if no one answers. For additional information contact paloverdena@gmail.com



28th Annual El Tour de Tucson

Saturday, November 20 (Tomorrow)



If you're not one of the 8,000+ bicycle riders circling the perimeter of our city tomorrow, or one of the many thousands of spectators, please don't forget about the El Tour de Tucson as you drive around the area, whether it's to work, visit friends or family, or run errands. Expect delays where your road crosses the El Tour route, so plan your travels accordingly. Above all, be aware and be safe. Visit <http://www.perimeterbicycling.com/!ETT/ETTmap.pdf> to view the map.

Congratulations to the folks at Perimeter Bicycling Association of America for putting on yet another outstanding event that brings so much good will and positive attention to Tucson, not to mention a major annual economic impact and support for worthy local charities

Email us at: ward6@tucsonaz.gov