



Ward 6 – Newsletter

DECEMBER 16, 2010



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Christal Ferree



Barbara Jacob



A Message From Steve

During our last council meeting we tackled some significant issues that will have a direct impact on the entire community. As is usual, much of it is budget related, but that's the time in which we live, I suppose.

The council voted as one to set a floor below which the Police and Fire General Fund budgets will not be reduced during the remainder of FY'11 and FY'12. This is important on several levels. First, to allow those employees to see how the cuts will impact their own jobs and with that make important career decisions. In addition, it will help to stabilize the exodus we've been seeing in both agencies as officers' uncertainty has led in too many cases to their leaving for work in other jurisdictions. Morale among our first responders will improve as a result, and we have identified a benchmark that will insure no layoffs (although attrition will still leave gaps in staffing we will need to address) and we have ensured that any Grant money received by either agency will go directly into refilling the hole we have now created.

Having locked in these cuts will now give us the opportunity - the challenge - of focusing on all other areas of the city budget as we work towards the legally mandated balanced budget that will emerge from this next spring. In that regard, we all recognize that all areas must be on the table as we move forward. Every penny we have comes from your kitchen tables. Our responsibility is to prioritize services and make reductions where they will least impact what you have told us you value the most. That was the purpose of the recent town halls; to listen to you and take back to our deliberative process the input we received. With that in mind, transit will be a large topic of discussion as we move ahead - will we need to reduce services, raise fares, some combination of those / do we need to revisit our existing contract for management of Sun Tran, how does the whole RTA obligation in which we're involved play into the whole equation. Lots of moving parts for us to sort out.

Also on Tuesday, we made some modest revisions to the sign code. Nobody on either side of the issue came away happy with the compromise, and yet it was the consensus of the Mayor and Council that the changes we made were a step in the direction of both accommodating the needs of some businesses along our scenic corridors and at the same time preserving the visual integrity of those areas.





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

No easy choices when the competing interests are both important and need to be balanced. I believe we made the right choices and will keep an eye on the impact of what we approved to see their impact.

We are also facing the need to once again address appropriate development in the urban core of the city. In that regard we find several issues that we'll be rolling into the discussion as we move ahead with the topic. Some of those include the need to preserve the quality of living within our established neighborhoods, to provide for the necessary relief valves to accommodate the need for student housing that is being created by enrollment expansion at the University, to allow for appropriate densification along the arterials with appropriate transitional development as new building approaches the interior of the neighborhoods, and to do all of that while avoiding subjecting the taxpayers to Proposition 207 land use code change lawsuits. Another balancing act that we'll be navigating over the next several months, and one in which there will necessarily be a variety of voices in the mix.

I want to take a moment in closing to extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends, co-workers and loved ones of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. Agent Terry was killed in the cause of defending our border - his loss will be felt by many, and his service should be honored and respected by all.

Have a wonderful holiday season - stay safe / designate a driver before heading out to party and come home to your own loved ones, none of whom can be taken for granted. We're blessed with a day at a time. Treasure them all.

Sincerely,

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



ZooLights

Jingle bells, refreshments, twinkling lights, falling snow, and Santa. Lights displays, animal-theme light sculptures, and more. Thursdays-Sundays Dec 3-19; Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 20-22. Reid Park Zoo, 1100 S. Randolph Way. 791-4022

<http://www.tucsonzoo.org/events/?eventid=1110>

Tucson Botanical Gardens

Robert Cleveland, in his new series, *The Sonoran Desert Rediscovered*, has made it his business to see, through his photography, the plants of the Sonoran Desert region Robert Cleveland, in his new series, *The Sonoran Desert Rediscovered*, has made it his business to see, through his photography, the plants of the Sonoran Desert region in a new and exciting way. This innovative work will debut at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on January 4, 2011 in the Porter House Gallery. (8:30 to 4:30 daily)

The show continues through February 1, 2011 with a free opening reception on January 7 from 5 – 8pm. 2150 N Alvernon Way | 326-9686 x10 | www.tucsonbotanical.org

Education is an integral part of the Tucson Botanical Gardens and to emphasize this component, they are pleased to offer a variety of classes each month. With a wide range of gardens and gardening related offerings, there is something for everyone, whether a newcomer to the desert or a native Tucsonan – have a peek at all we have happening this winter! Visit www.tucsonbotanical.org for a full listing of classes.

Ward 6 Council Office is hosting
a Holiday Open House

Friday, December 17, 2010

5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at 3202 East First Street

Come join Council Member Kozachik
and his staff

for some light refreshments as we feature

ZAMBEADZIES

a special display and information
about handmade jewelry from Zambia.

Downtown Parade of Lights



The 16th annual Downtown Parade of Lights takes place on Saturday, December 18, at 6:30pm. For information, call 837-6504. Volunteers are needed from 5pm - 7:30pm Dec 18th, stationed at downtown street barricades on Parade Route for basic traffic control. To sign up Call Mia 520.370.0588 or Email Mia@TucsonMeetYourself.org
<http://www.downtowntucson.org/>

10th Annual Poets Square Rooftop Christmas Pageant

When: Thursday, December 23

What: 30 minute outdoor skits at 6:30 and 8 pm

Where: 4352 E. Bryn Mawr St. – in the front yard

Bring canned food for the Community Food Bank

Call Cary 404-2253 for more info

http://azstarnet.com/news/local/east/article_bd3d8c83-11a5-5cf9-bfe1-6d11c62300be.html



AZ Game & Fish
628-5376



**Ward 6
Office
Closed**

The Ward 6
Council Office
will be closing
early or closed
on the following
dates:

- Thursday,
December 23
Closing at noon
- Friday,
December 24
Holiday Closure
- Friday,
December 30-
Holiday Closure

