

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

January 22, 2013

Our Children at Risk – Gun Violence and Public Health

On Friday of last week, I had the opportunity to attend the Foothills Democratic Forum at which three excellent experts in their respective fields presented on the issues of gun violence, school preparedness and mental health. The panelists were **Clarke Romans**, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southern Arizona (NAMI), **Clarence Dupnik**, Pima County Sheriff, and **Dr. Mary Kamerzell**, Superintendent of the Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16. Also in attendance were about 100 very well informed, and very engaged people.

The discussion effectively identified that we have a resource problem when it comes to treatment for the mentally ill who live in our community. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 of our neighbors are suffering from some form of what are largely treatable conditions – and due to stigma they're often not getting access to the modalities they need.

We covered several areas. Here are a few bullet points:

- a. In the State of Arizona, since 2009 over \$100M has been removed from the mental health treatment system
- b. Exposure to violent video games and other cultural influences may not be causal, but they can serve as a trigger that precipitates the manifestation of a latent disorder
- c. Pima County Sherriff's have joined in a multi-jurisdictional program that trains law enforcement officers in active shooter identification, responses and training drills. The information is being transmitted to our schools as preparedness measures.
- d. School administration recognizes the importance of School Resource Officers, but there is not widespread support among education professionals for arming teachers, staff or others on the school campuses. Concerns revolve around police responding to a scene at which there are multiple civilian shooters, size of school campuses and how that impacts the potential effectiveness of a program of arming staff, and the fact that professional law enforcement officers go through extensive firearm training on a reoccurring basis – not something teachers or staff would have the time or resources to invest in.

When I was in high school, we had fences around the campus to keep me and my friends from ditching. Now the schools are fence lined encampments, built with the intention of keeping students and staff safe from intruders. The forum served as an



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

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas
889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks
889-1888

West Nile Virus
Hotline
243-7999

Environment
Service
791-3171

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

excellent format to hear from people who work in the field as many of us try to keep the conversation going until we see tangible and meaningful legislation adopted that addresses the multi-faceted issue of violence in which guns are involved, and our public health system. One element of that is mental health. Clarke Romans' organization (NAMI) offers a variety of services for both adults and children. You can find them at www.namisa.org – or email them at namisa@namisa.org. If you even think there might be a loved one who needs some attention, don't hesitate to contact Clarke and his group.

TCC Gun Shows

The Star ran an article last week that correctly reported that I'd like to see the City of Tucson stop issuing permits for gun shows held on City property until the legislature (State or Federal) requires people buying guns in person-to-person sales to go through a background check. Right now, as was shown so vividly at the gun buy-back, there is no regulation requiring any sort of background check when the sale is not conducted by a licensed firearms dealer.



Immediately after the article came out another round of threats of litigation was issued. The groups making the threats were wrong on their allegations that we cannot dispose of guns turned in at a voluntary gun buy-back, and they're wrong in suggesting that the City cannot control who we lease our facilities to. Here's a summary of the legal history:

Court of Appeals of Arizona,
Division 2, Department B.

Pat MCMANN and Joan McMann, husband and wife, dba McMann's Roadrunner, Plaintiffs/Appellees,

v.

CITY OF TUCSON, a municipal corporation, Defendant/Appellant.

Pat McMann and Joan McMann, husband and wife, dba McMann's Roadrunner, Plaintiffs/Appellants,

v.

City of Tucson, a municipal corporation, Defendant/Appellee.

Nos. 2 CA-CV 2001-0082, 2 CA-CV 2001-0163.

May 30, 2002.

Gun show promoters brought action against city, claiming that ordinance that required instant background checks for prospective gun purchasers during gun shows held at the city convention center was preempted by state statute. The Superior Court, Pima County, Cause Nos. C-20011696 and C-20011065, Kenneth Lee, J., and Stephen C. Villarreal, J., dismissed the first action as moot, and subsequently entered declaratory judgment in favor of promoters. City appealed. The Court of Appeals, Howard, P.J., held that ordinance was not preempted by statute that prohibited the city from enacting an ordinance "relating to the transportation, possession, carrying, sale or use of firearms."



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators
Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

Vacated in part, dismissed in part.

I totally understand that gun show promoters who are licensed are going through the required background checks on each sale they make. The fact is though that non-licensed individuals can, and do transact sales at gun shows in which no legal requirement exists to compel a background check. It is my belief that the City should take a stand against permitting the shows on City property until that loophole is fixed. The dealers are caught in the middle, but since the State pre-empts us from adopting more restrictive gun laws than what exists at the State level, we can't fix the problem locally (remember the Memorial we adopted to regain Home Rule on firearms Ordinances.) Or can we?

The State cannot force us to facilitate a transaction that may result in somebody buying a gun who is not legally authorized to have it. In a person-to-person sale, the only way to discover the legality is to do a background check. Based on recent sting operations held at a gun show in Phoenix, and on the personal account from former County Prosecutor Rick Unklesbay, we have a reasonable expectation that some portion of person-to-person sales will go to individuals who are not legally allowed to own a gun. Those transactions are now being allowed on City property when we issue permits for gun shows at the TCC.

Therefore, I've proposed for the February 5th study session that we ask the City Attorney to draft a Resolution that simply states that the City isn't going to wait on the State or Federal government to address the issue; we are going to require background checks on every gun purchase that takes place on City property. That's not adopting a gun ordinance more restrictive than the State has adopted. It's simply saying that we are going to make sure the transactions are legal. The licensed dealers have to do it, so should the private sales that take place on our property. The check will be the responsibility of the seller, not TPD.

The position is not radical. In fact, according to a Reuters poll, 81% of gun owners agree that all sales should be subject to background checks. If M&C agree in passing the ban, Tucson will join hundreds of other locales across the nation in asking Congress to move on this quickly. The difference is, we're not waiting. The requirement was a part of President Obama's proposal. It requires the approval of the House and Senate. Here's the text of the President's remarks on this part of his Plan:

REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES: Felons, fugitives, and others who are legally prohibited from having a gun should not be able to use loopholes to get one. Right now, federally licensed firearms dealers are required to run background checks on those buying guns, but studies estimate that nearly 40 percent of all gun sales are made by private sellers who are exempt from this requirement. As the President said following the Newtown tragedy, keeping guns out of the wrong hands starts with legislation to require background checks for all gun sales, with limited, common-sense exceptions for cases like certain transfers among family members and temporary transfers for hunting and sporting purposes. In addition, the Administration will provide licensed dealers with guidance on how they can run background checks on private sales today.

As I said, if a majority of Mayor and Council agree, we won't be waiting for Congress or the State to massage this issue. We have a reasonable expectation that unlawful sales are occurring. If we allow it, and somebody gets shot, and the sale occurred on City property, we're getting named in the suit.

The media spotlight that came to the gun buy-back was surprising to me. That which is

coming to this gun show proposal is equally surprising. Neither a voluntary buy-back, nor the support of background checks is radical. The fact that they've both been targeted by the NRA and similar groups as being worthy of lawsuits and counter-rallies shows just how far we are from having a rational conversation on the subject.

I wanted you to see the legal history of the suggestion so you know what to think when litigation is threatened. We've won that argument already. Now all that's left is for us to send our message to elected officials at the State and Federal level that we're not waiting on them before we take concrete action. It could cost us some revenues – and yet there's a public safety element to this that transcends the dollars.

It'd be nice to see the County join us.

Sand Volleyball

I'm going to lighten things up a little – the UA athletics department is going to add Sand Volleyball in 2014 as our 20th Intercollegiate sport program. Title IX requires us to keep making an effort to match the ratio of women: men who are matriculating to that same ratio of our student athletes. The addition of this sport will help us to maintain that balance – and it'll be fun for the fans, too.

As was made clear during the recent Olympic games, women's sand volleyball is an emerging sport worldwide.



That's also true in the NCAA. Fifteen Universities sponsored the sport in '12, and 29 will compete in it this year. By the time the UA adds it, that total will be 47 schools. In order to be an officially sponsored NCAA championship sport, there must be 40 competing institutions in two consecutive seasons. Within the Pac-12 Conference, four schools presently sponsor the sport (California, Stanford, UCLA, USC) with at least one other member considering adding the sport.

Sort of like tennis team competition, Sand volleyball has five two-woman teams ranked by ability, and each duo plays against the corresponding team or teams

from other schools. In a dual meet, the winning team is the school winning three of five matches. Individual matches are two sets played to 21 points, with a tiebreaker set to 15, if needed. Like Intercollegiate volleyball, all sets are rally scoring and must be won by two points. It's a fast paced game that should be popular with both students and the post graduate crowd. We're looking forward to getting started on the construction of the facility and competition next year.

Manzo Elementary School

Kudos need to go out to Mark Alvarez, Principal out at Manzo Elementary School for the award they've been given as a Best Green School for 2012. It's the only K-12 in the nation to receive the award. It comes from the U.S. Green Building Council's Center for

Green Schools.

The Council recognizes businesses, policy makers and private individuals – as well as educational institutions – for embracing environmental initiatives. Manzo’s programs include a chicken coop, desert tortoise habitat, a community garden and water harvesting. The students are taught stewardship and how to make healthy choices in their life styles. Sitting in front of television popping eclairs isn’t a part of their curriculum.

Last month, TUSD decided against closing Manzo, and instead chose to make it into a District operated Charter School this fall. Receiving this award validates the wisdom of that decision. Congratulations to the Manzo folks, and to the District for seeing the value of their programs.

El Rio / Fred Enke / First Tee – Conquistadors

Thanks to Council member Romero for putting together the community forum last week out at the El Rio Community Center to give people an opportunity to share their views with respect to what we’re going to do with City Golf. Numerous people spoke, and everybody in attendance heard a wide variety of suggestions.

The City is issuing a Request for Proposals on the management and operations of City Golf. Proposers can make offers on anything from a single course, up to and including all five of our courses. Those responses should be back by about mid-March. In the meantime, people have a chance to voice their preferences.

Last week I gave a description of the application for an exemption from the NEPA process that we’re going through over at Enke. What’s on the table for El Rio is a bit different.

We have an existing contract with the Conquistadors to maintain the First Tee program. That agreement runs for about another 5 years. The Conquistadors invested \$1.5M into clubhouse and other amenities with the understanding that we’d continue to have a golf operation out at El Rio.

What is now being considered is cutting the course back to 9 holes, maintaining it as a family golf center and changing the use of the remaining acreage to a regional park. The first thing we have to do is to make sure that action does not violate the spirit or word of our Conquistador agreement. The good thing is that we have other properties to toss into negotiations if necessary. It’s also true that keeping it as a 9 hole course, and dedicating times for the First Tee program would seem to be consistent with the intent of the original agreement. That’s an issue for the City Attorney and the Conquistadors to work out, though.

Assuming we can cut the course back to 9 holes, a few realities still exist. While this issue began as one related to making Golf – an enterprise department – pay its own way, doing what’s on the table for El Rio isn’t going to make much of a financial dent in costs for the City. It will take costs out of the Golf program, but it’ll shift them to Parks and Recreation. Maintaining a regional park doesn’t come for free. Nor will the upgrades, conversion costs and adding things such as a skate park, fixing and maintaining the swimming pool, or other park facilities that will be needed.

From what I heard last week at Regina’s forum, there is clearly a need for expanded park area in that part of town. This then becomes a social equity issue, not one of saving a ton of cash. The need exists, and if we can come to an agreement with the Conquistadors, from what I heard there’s a legitimate need to look for funds to begin moving towards a conversion. It may take some time since money’s not falling into our laps, but putting the plans in

place and working towards a defined goal seems like what the community was asking for. I'll be happy to help if that's the will of the Council. There will have to be design meetings, then pricing, and then looking for funding options. Ultimately it looks like a way to help Golf's financial drain, give west side residents an expanded facility, but challenge us to find ways to pay for it in what is still a tough economic cycle for us.

Budget

To the point of tough economic times, you'll be seeing much more about the budget in coming weeks, but the very short message is that we've still got a fiscal hole to climb out from. This year, with conservative budget forecasting, we're in the \$5M deficit range. The primary problem is the cost of pensions and benefits that have accrued over time. The fact is that those are bound in place for existing and retired employees, so we don't have the option of reducing costs by reducing benefits for other than new hires.

One way we could save about \$2M this year has to do with the State and their Consolidated Elections bill – the one that places all elections in even numbered years. They have to go back and fix the language this session since we are due to have an election this fall. There are options they can consider, some of which include having us run for 1 or 3 year terms this fall, or skipping this year's election altogether and synchronizing us in a 2014 election. If left to me, I'd certainly opt for that. I believe people are just suffering election cycle fatigue.

Skipping this year's election could save us \$2M if we also didn't put on the ballot three items: a request for Mayor and Council raises (being considered by the City Manager's office,) a request for us to increase our spending limit (Home Rule,) and the Plan Tucson document that I've reported on before. We don't have to have that approved until 2014. So, skipping any ballot measures this year would save funding the election, and would allow us to defer upgrading our election equipment until next year.

It's not a structural fix, but it would help with this year's deficit.

The State is also considering what they're calling a "Tax Simplification Plan" that would have a devastating impact on us from a financial standpoint. They're thinking about collecting all sales taxes from the State level, and changing the way Construction taxes are levied. The combined impact of those items could cost the City of Tucson up to \$20M annually. We'd lose the ability to tax commercial rentals, and they'd move the ability to collect a construction tax to the point of purchase, not the location of the construction activity. The League of Cities and Towns is coming out very strongly against this proposal. This is a very big fiscal deal, and we'll be involved aggressively in fighting the changes. We haven't got \$20M float in our General Fund. They've just begun meeting up in Phoenix and already we're having to engage in an effort to stop a proposal that would be very bad for local jurisdictions.

Safe Harbor Program

Last November, Council member Uhlich and I began to press for the formulation of a comprehensive approach to preventing blight or 'ghost zones' along construction routes, and also to find ways to preserve existing businesses during construction, and if their parcel is to be taken by the construction, ways to keep them up and running until that action was imminent. The program is called Safe Harbor.

A working group has been formed that includes Karin and me, as well as representatives

from the RTA, the City Attorney, Mayor, City Manager, Planning Services, TDOT and others. We hope to identify some initiatives that we can implement immediately, but also to look at some options that'll necessarily, and appropriately include significant input from a variety of other stakeholders. The toolbox of options should be ready for that more intensive public vetting by mid-summer.

The Grant Road project went through a long planning process. It is now beginning out on the west end, but we're still sorting out zoning and other issues further to the central and eastern portions of the corridor. Broadway is just at the front end of that process. In both cases, businesses are vital to the success of the corridor, and yet how they complement the adjacent residential areas is going to be key to determining the level of success each of the projects can claim.

You'll be seeing more on this in the weeks to come, but I felt it was timely to share that Wards 3 and 6 (the most immediately impacted by two very large RTA projects right now) are working in tandem to put policies in place that will address the multiple and complex issues that surround multi-million dollar public sector construction that runs along the edges of established residential areas.

RTA – 2006 Power Point

...and so I include the Safe Harbor right in front of this item because it's important to point out that what Karin and I are working on is the fallout from the very general, and in many cases inaccurate information that was given to the voters back in 2006 when they were selling the RTA plan.

To be clear: I support the Plan, and I believe the ½ cent sales tax we're paying for roadway and transit improvements is a modest investment in our infrastructure.

What wasn't given enough thought was how to reign in design commitments when projects were either found to not be necessary at the levels they were initially conceived, or funding wasn't being generated by the sales tax at the levels anticipated. We're experiencing both of those dynamics right now.

The Plan projected a "550% increase in severe congestion," vehicle miles travelled to increase by "more than 90%" during the Plan's duration, and in the Power Point that was used to sell the idea, they stated and "2/3 of the regions roads are congested during today's rush hour." There were also population projections that simply didn't develop.

If that had been an accurate picture, it'd be easier to argue for some of the initial design proposals. Instead, we've got some very dedicated Citizen Task Forces working to find ways to save money and at the same time preserve the functionality of roadways, working with data that is more accurate and current than what had been relied on for early design planning, and that was used to sell the elements of the Plan to the voters.

Of course, at least in part I'm referring to Broadway. That CTF is still meeting, and will soon be starting to look at cross widths and land use ideas for the north edge of the roadway, between Euclid and Country Club. There's money and there are businesses to be saved, and I'm confident the citizens working on that task force are going to propose some creative solutions. I note that in the context of the original Power Point only to demonstrate that Mayor and Council, and many of our residents are sorting through 'ghost zones,' keeping businesses vibrant, preservation and protection of residential areas, and economic development concurrently with the RTA Plan being rolled out.

I appreciate the flexibility of the City and RTA staff as we acknowledge that things aren't what they were thought to be, and we're smart enough to adjust.

President Obama's Inauguration Speech

And in case all you got were sound bites – or would like to take your time and slowly read through the text, here is the President's inauguration speech (just under 2,100 words – so, it's about 3x the length of one of the Star's op/ed's.)

I found it worth noting that he uses the words 'we,' 'our,' or 'us' about 125 times. Clearly, this administration is sending the message that we need to work on solutions together.

Each time we gather to inaugurate a president, we bear witness to the enduring strength of our Constitution. We affirm the promise of our democracy. We recall that what binds this nation together is not the colors of our skin or the tenets of our faith or the origins of our names. What makes us exceptional – what makes us American – is our allegiance to an idea, articulated in a declaration made more than two centuries ago:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Today we continue a never-ending journey, to bridge the meaning of those words with the realities of our time. For history tells us that while these truths may be self-evident, they have never been self-executing; that while freedom is a gift from God, it must be secured by His people here on Earth. The patriots of 1776 did not fight to replace the tyranny of a king with the privileges of a few or the rule of a mob. They gave to us a Republic, a government of, and by, and for the people, entrusting each generation to keep safe our founding creed.

For more than two hundred years, we have.

Through blood drawn by lash and blood drawn by sword, we learned that no union founded on the principles of liberty and equality could survive half-slave and half-free. We made ourselves anew, and vowed to move forward together.

Together, we determined that a modern economy requires railroads and highways to speed travel and commerce; schools and colleges to train our workers.

Together, we discovered that a free market only thrives when there are rules to ensure competition and fair play.

Together, we resolved that a great nation must care for the vulnerable, and protect its people from life's worst hazards and misfortune.

Through it all, we have never relinquished our skepticism of central authority, nor have we succumbed to the fiction that all society's ills can be cured through government alone. Our celebration of initiative and enterprise; our insistence on hard work and personal responsibility, are constants in our character.

But we have always understood that when times change, so must we; that fidelity to our founding principles requires new responses to new challenges; that preserving our individual freedoms ultimately requires collective action. For the American people can no more meet the demands of today's world by acting alone than American soldiers could have met the forces of fascism or communism with muskets and militias. No single person

can train all the math and science teachers we'll need to equip our children for the future, or build the roads and networks and research labs that will bring new jobs and businesses to our shores. Now, more than ever, we must do these things together, as one nation, and one people.

This generation of Americans has been tested by crises that steeled our resolve and proved our resilience. A decade of war is now ending. An economic recovery has begun. America's possibilities are limitless, for we possess all the qualities that this world without boundaries demands: youth and drive; diversity and openness; an endless capacity for risk and a gift for reinvention. My fellow Americans, we are made for this moment, and we will seize it – so long as we seize it together.

For we, the people, understand that our country cannot succeed when a shrinking few do very well and a growing many barely make it. We believe that America's prosperity must rest upon the broad shoulders of a rising middle class. We know that America thrives when every person can find independence and pride in their work; when the wages of honest labor liberate families from the brink of hardship. We are true to our creed when a little girl born into the bleakest poverty knows that she has the same chance to succeed as anybody else, because she is an American, she is free, and she is equal, not just in the eyes of God but also in our own.

We understand that outworn programs are inadequate to the needs of our time. We must harness new ideas and technology to remake our government, revamp our tax code, reform our schools, and empower our citizens with the skills they need to work harder, learn more, and reach higher. But while the means will change, our purpose endures: a nation that rewards the effort and determination of every single American. That is what this moment requires. That is what will give real meaning to our creed.

We, the people, still believe that every citizen deserves a basic measure of security and dignity. We must make the hard choices to reduce the cost of health care and the size of our deficit. But we reject the belief that America must choose between caring for the generation that built this country and investing in the generation that will build its future. For we remember the lessons of our past, when twilight years were spent in poverty, and parents of a child with a disability had nowhere to turn. We do not believe that in this country, freedom is reserved for the lucky, or happiness for the few. We recognize that no matter how responsibly we live our lives, any one of us, at any time, may face a job loss, or a sudden illness, or a home swept away in a terrible storm. The commitments we make to each other – through Medicare, and Medicaid, and Social Security – these things do not sap our initiative; they strengthen us. They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great.

We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations. Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, and crippling drought, and more powerful storms. The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition; we must lead it. We cannot cede to other nations the technology that will power new jobs and new industries – we must claim its promise. That is how we will maintain our economic vitality and our national treasure – our forests and waterways; our croplands and snow-

capped peaks. That is how we will preserve our planet, commanded to our care by God. That's what will lend meaning to the creed our fathers once declared.

We, the people, still believe that enduring security and lasting peace do not require perpetual war. Our brave men and women in uniform, tempered by the flames of battle, are unmatched in skill and courage. Our citizens, seared by the memory of those we have lost, know too well the price that is paid for liberty. The knowledge of their sacrifice will keep us forever vigilant against those who would do us harm. But we are also heirs to those who won the peace and not just the war, who turned sworn enemies into the surest of friends, and we must carry those lessons into this time as well.

We will defend our people and uphold our values through strength of arms and rule of law. We will show the courage to try and resolve our differences with other nations peacefully – not because we are naïve about the dangers we face, but because engagement can more durably lift suspicion and fear. America will remain the anchor of strong alliances in every corner of the globe; and we will renew those institutions that extend our capacity to manage crisis abroad, for no one has a greater stake in a peaceful world than its most powerful nation. We will support democracy from Asia to Africa; from the Americas to the Middle East, because our interests and our conscience compel us to act on behalf of those who long for freedom. And we must be a source of hope to the poor, the sick, the marginalized, the victims of prejudice – not out of mere charity, but because peace in our time requires the constant advance of those principles that our common creed describes: tolerance and opportunity; human dignity and justice.

We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths – that all of us are created equal – is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall; just as it guided all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth.

It is now our generation's task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers, and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law – for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote. Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity; until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. Our journey is not complete until all our children, from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia to the quiet lanes of Newtown, know that they are cared for, and cherished, and always safe from harm.

That is our generation's task – to make these words, these rights, these values – of Life, and Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – real for every American. Being true to our founding documents does not require us to agree on every contour of life; it does not mean we will all define liberty in exactly the same way, or follow the same precise path to happiness. Progress does not compel us to settle centuries-long debates about the role of government for all time – but it does require us to act in our time.

For now decisions are upon us, and we cannot afford delay. We cannot mistake absolut-

ism for principle, or substitute spectacle for politics, or treat name-calling as reasoned debate. We must act, knowing that our work will be imperfect. We must act, knowing that today's victories will be only partial, and that it will be up to those who stand here in four years, and forty years, and four hundred years hence to advance the timeless spirit once conferred to us in a spare Philadelphia hall.

My fellow Americans, the oath I have sworn before you today, like the one recited by others who serve in this Capitol, was an oath to God and country, not party or faction – and we must faithfully execute that pledge during the duration of our service. But the words I spoke today are not so different from the oath that is taken each time a soldier signs up for duty, or an immigrant realizes her dream. My oath is not so different from the pledge we all make to the flag that waves above and that fills our hearts with pride.

They are the words of citizens, and they represent our greatest hope.

You and I, as citizens, have the power to set this country's course.

You and I, as citizens, have the obligation to shape the debates of our time – not only with the votes we cast, but with the voices we lift in defense of our most ancient values and enduring ideals.

Let each of us now embrace, with solemn duty and awesome joy, what is our lasting birthright. With common effort and common purpose, with passion and dedication, let us answer the call of history, and carry into an uncertain future that precious light of freedom.

Thank you, God Bless you, and may He forever bless these United States of America.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Business Development and Growth Modeling – February 6

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Ward 6 Council Office will be hosting a Business Development and Growth Modeling course during the spring. The initial class will be on Wednesday, February 6 at 4:00pm at the Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E. 1st Street. The class will help you assess your business, define priorities, resolve issues, and much more. For more information on these classes, please contact Bill Roach Bill@tucsonhispanicchamber.org or the Ward 6 Office.

Community Food Bank Citrus Gleaning for 2013

The Community Food Bank is offering to pick surplus citrus from homes and businesses in some areas of town. They term this service “Gleaning” or harvesting food that would otherwise go unused. They are currently accepting and picking up already picked fruit now, but will begin the actual gleaning program on January 22 and end on April 30. For more information on how to turn your excess fruit into food for those who need it, contact Lou Medran at 449-8340 or

lmedran@communityfoodbank.org

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Wednesday, January 23, 8:00pm. “**Ty Segall @ Club Congress**” 21 and up.

Saturday, January 26, 8:00pm. “**Local Love Funk Fest**” all ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Saturday, January 26, 7:30 and Sunday, January 27, 2:00pm. “**A Hard Day’s Night**”

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Arizona Theatre Company presents “**Freud’s Last Session**” by Mark St. Germain

Saturday, January 19 – February 9, 2013.

www.arizonatheatre.org

Tucson Convention Center <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

Music Hall

Saturday, January 26 and Sunday, January 27. “**TSO Pops! Series – Ballroom with a Twist**”

Leo Rich Theatre

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30pm. “**Trio Solisti.**”

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, January 26 and ending June 16:

“**Desert Grasslands,**” “**Feminina: Images of the Feminine from Latin America,**” and

“**Elements in Western Art: Water, Fire, Air, and Earth**”

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), 265 S. Church Ave.

Current exhibition: “**Peter Young: Capitalist Masterpieces**”

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

www.Moca-Tucson.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens February 2 and runs February 24

“**The Way of the Brush – Brush Spirit: Yoshi Nakano**”

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

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 and Friday, Noon to 3:00pm

Special hours for school and group tours, for more information call 670-9073

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers' Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers' Market Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Other Community Events

Loft Cinema www.loftcinema.com/

Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)

The Arizona State Museum is debuting a sample of 500 pieces from the world's largest collection of Southwest American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit www.statemuseum.arizona.edu for more information.

UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing

“100 Years of Arizona's Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

Flandrau Science Center

Join the Flandrau Planetarium on the University of Arizona Campus for their weekly Planetarium and Laser Show. Call (520) 621-4516 or visit www.flandrau.org/ for events and information.

Draft Plan Tucson Open Houses

The City of Tucson Housing and Community Department will be hosting five public open houses to review the draft Plan Tucson document. Come to any of these open houses to learn more about the plan and share your thoughts.

- Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00-8:30pm. Ward 2 Council Office. 7575 E. Speedway Blvd, Conference Room.

Visit www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson for more information and comment cards.

29th Annual Senior Olympic Festival January 18 – 27

Tucson Parks and Recreation and Tucson Old Pueblo Credit Union present the 29th Annual Senior Olympic Festival. This festival aims to promote health, fitness, and an active lifestyle among our seniors. The event is open to anyone 50 years or older and has events and activities at more than 30 venues throughout the City. For more information on venues, events, etc. please visit

www.tucsonseniorgames.org or 791-3244.

Arizona Friends of Chamber Music - Wednesday, January 23

Arizona Friends of Chamber Music will be celebrating their 50th piece of commissioned work on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 at the Leo Rich Theatre. This original work, “Piano Trio” by composer Lowell Liebermann will be premiered by the acclaimed Trio Solisti. Visit

www.arizonachambermusic.org for more information.