

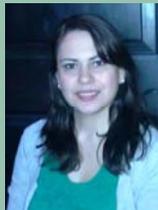
Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Amy Stabler



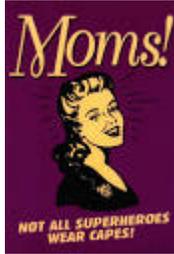
Evelyn Romero



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

May 07, 2014



The last few weeks have been a bit intense. Let's start on a different note this time – not promising that later in the newsletter things won't get more newsy, but this is a timely and important opener.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB3xM93rXbY#t=194>

Don't forget mom this week.

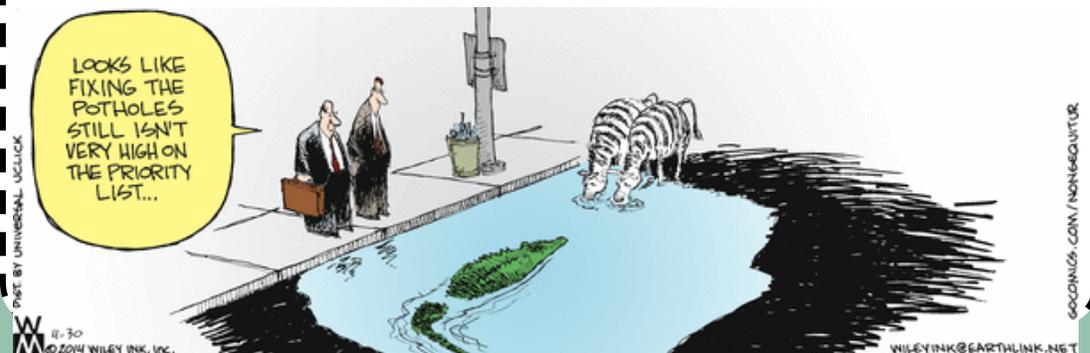
Officer Daniel Bustamante



Ward 6 is the most eclectic ward in the City, hands down. We have a pretty regular series of exchanges that often involve conflicts and the involvement of some of the rank and file police officers who are the direct point of contact with merchants, residents and our office. Frequently that's from the Ops Division Downtown Community Response Team. Last week Officer Bustamante from that Division was awarded the Medal of Merit by the TPD leadership. We see him a lot and agree that the recognition is well deserved.

In addition to the many times we've relied on his tact in helping to resolve issues, he has also worked to develop programs and suggest procedural changes that have a direct impact on the City/Neighborhood relationships. Those have involved developing Red Tag protocols, and maintaining the Downtown Division web page that serves as a tool for officers in the field to efficiently deal with trespass violations on the fly. There's also now an online neighborhood registration form that serves as a direct conduit between residents and TPD. We at the Ward 6 office are grateful to Dan for his work in the field and in support of the community.

Budget





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

Nearly everyplace I go I get an earful from constituents about various aspects of the budget. Road repair is at the top of the list. Thank you Chuck for your input – I can assure you that potholes are in fact one of our top priorities.

To that end, we had another discussion of the budget on Tuesday. We also hosted a public hearing and listened to your input. I will seriously weigh what I heard. In addition I've heard from multiple sources with respect to the benefits/sick-leave-sell-back issue. Here's what most people are understanding. When simply considering the straight up salary, our public safety workers appear to be underpaid when compared to Phoenix area counterparts. But the benefits package (one part of which is the sick leave sell back program) has grown and is currently not being discussed when referring to the overall compensation levels. Why? Because for too long governing bodies have been afraid to give pay increases through the front door



and so we have added onto benefits packages through the back door and hidden the fact that we were incrementally increasing the overall compensation level, but doing it out from the view and scrutiny of the taxpaying public. I'm grateful to the many people who have expressed to me an understanding that by opening up the whole package, and yes, chipping away at some

of the benefits that are real costs to the City, we'll be in a better position to take care of the straight-up salary levels which enables our public safety employees to compare their salaries to other cities. That will help recruiting, and it'll be more honest with the public.

To that end, I have proposed to the City Manager that he look into a labor model used in Costa Mesa, California. It's called Civic Openness in Negotiations (COIN) and has three primary components. First, all contacts between council members and labor representatives must be made public. We should not be intruding into the labor process, so let's make our contacts known. Second, put a price tag on each item we're negotiating and make those numbers public for at least 30 days – let the people paying for the benefits weigh in on what we're negotiating. Finally, hire an independent facilitator to manage the contract negotiations.

Right now the City staff sits as the employer 'negotiating' with its workers. Let's bring in that third party so if there are differences in cost assumptions, each side has a chance to fairly make its case. Here's a graphic that shows how the process can work:





Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd 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)

As the process evolves and items are either added to, or taken off the table, the cost impact is continually made public. Why does this matter to the discussion of the front door pay? Because if that's really the point of contention, we have to be able to demonstrate that the dollars being brought in through the back door are being considered in the whole equation. Limiting those opens the chance to have a more legitimate exchange on the front end salaries. We'll see what the City Manager does with my suggestion.

Pension Spiking – State law prohibits public employees from using “unused sick leave, payment in lieu of vacation, payment for unused compensatory time or payment or any fringe benefit” to increase the final compensation on which retirement benefits are calculated. To that end... on Monday I asked two questions of staff. One was to the City Manager. It was simply what process we were going to follow to stop the City practice of allowing employees to increase their pensions by adding unused sick leave to their compensable income. It's against the law, but we've been doing it for years. You don't negotiate a “benefit” that violates State Statute. I also asked our budget staff what assumptions they were using in creating some 5 year financial models we were shown. I don't know who's talking to whom up there on the 10th Floor, but budget assumed an end to the spiking practice in their new and updated financial model. I haven't heard back from the Manager's office on my first question, but evidently there has been discussion of ending the practice – only we weren't told, until I asked about the assumptions being used for the graphs.

I still want to know the timing of ending the spiking, and what processes will be put into place to ensure compliance by our benefits people when they begin processing the many current workers going out under our deferred retirement plan. But, assuming the budget peoples' assumptions were correct, our General Fund will benefit immensely, we'll come into compliance with State law, and the arguments of the past few weeks over benefits packages will have been worth the gain we'll see in this one change.

Sometimes you get the answer you're after in one area by asking a question in another one.

As to the budget we were shown, it remains in a structurally unbalanced condition and won't have my support unless we make more changes. But the changes that we're presented from week to week continue to be a source of concern for me, primarily because things can't possibly be as different now than they were last month, but they are certainly made to appear that way in the presentations we're given. A couple of examples:

Two weeks ago our revenue projections were \$467M, not counting a \$4.5M legal settlement in our favor. On Tuesday they were \$469M, including that settlement. We were going to dip into our rainy day fund by \$3M in order to balance the budget. But two weeks ago our expenditure projections were \$475M. On Tuesday those expenditure projections dropped to \$414M. Even adding back in our Sun Tran and TCC costs only brings them back to \$459M. We're now told we have a \$10M nest egg that will increase our rainy day fund balance instead of it dropping to a negative \$23M as we were previously told. If there's a legitimate way to explain these numbers moving so drastically, so quickly, then I'm still all ears to hear it. Until it's explained in a way that I can in turn explain at a neighborhood or business managers meeting in a way that passes the smirk test, then I won't be signing onto what we're being shown.

Here's another example that shows what I contend is an intentional attempt to mislead. We were shown a graph of our 5-year financial model. It showed our "fund balance" for FY' 14 to be negative \$23M. I asked to see a similar graph showing the impact of our current budget proposal – now for FY' 15 we see a graph of our "unassigned fund balance" of positive \$16M. And the visual of the graphs were made to appear better than they really are by changing the scale on the left side of the graph from moving in increments of \$20M to now moving in increments of \$50M. And 'fund balance' is not the same thing as 'unassigned fund balance.' And they truncated the bottom of the scale, starting one at \$363M and the next graph at \$50M. The visuals help people to understand what we're doing. If they're out of focus eye candy, it's simply deceptive.

I'm not a CPA, but I do study this stuff each time we get into it, and to have to argue about how graphs are scaled intentionally distracts us from the real policy issues we should be discussing at the table; transit fares, compensation, layoffs, service delivery. In the 5 years I've been doing this, this year has seen more of this than any of the others. We started with a Manager's recommendation that is philosophically 180 degrees different than where we are now, and the juggling act with the numbers continues to put us into a trance.

Two weeks ago I made the point to the City Manager that we can save our Parks project managers by simply charging some of their time to the funding source for the projects they're working on. By adopting the strategy I had suggested they become free employees. Two are still targeted for layoff, one year ahead of a County Bond package that includes tens of millions of dollars in parks related work, and in the face of a \$120M unmet needs list for Parks. That decision alone would cause me to reject the budget we're seeing, even if answers to the jumps in data could be explained.

Speaking of answers – I also requested specific line item commitments for Graffiti abatement, Code Enforcement, Neighborhood newsletter mailings, Shopping Cart retrieval program, Support staff for neighborhood services and the Environmental Services Roll-off program. Still waiting on those.

May 20th is when we're supposed to agree on a final budget, and then June 3rd is when we hold the final public hearing and adopt it for FY' 15. Those are my thoughts for now. Come and share your own on the 3rd.

Broadway RTA Project



I've attended many of the Citizen's Task Force (CTF) and public forums related to the Broadway project. The CTF has been meeting for nearly 18 months, and each of these volunteer citizen's has invested hundreds of hours of their own time on designing the Broadway corridor / Euclid to Country Club. They have been given every reason to believe they have the ability to consider creative design solutions and that their input will be seriously considered.

Specific questions deserve specific answers. I walked out of the last CTF meeting feeling as though the process had been

flipped on its head. Questions were left about who really has the design authority, and tied directly to that is what financial leverage can be, and is being used to guide the design discussion to a particular end.

Last week at the CTF it was implied that if anything but a 6 lane, 118' wide roadway is designed, the City will have to repay the RTA \$7M, and likely will also lose access to the \$25M the County is bound to provide through the '97 Bond election that authorized this project. The reason is that anything other than that design would be considered by those two entities to be inconsistent with the commitment to the voters and therefore no funding would be made available. That was the word coming to the CTF from the RTA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) last week.

If that is true, it was known 18 months ago and should have been the opening statement by staff at the first CTF meeting. On Tuesday I asked a series of questions trying to drill down into what level of authority those claims made by staff really carried.

I won't support having to refund \$7M to the RTA, and I won't support losing \$25M in bond money. But I will support a process that takes input from appointed CTF members, and significant input from the community as to desired design alternatives. The three reoccurring themes we've heard from those groups over the past year and a half are to create a destination place on that corridor, preserve the existing local businesses and to consider multi-modal forms of transportation. If that process is a sham, we should know that and quit wasting the time of the citizens who are serving on the CTF.

The alignment presented to the CTF last week, and to us on Tuesday shows the corridor meandering to both the north and south sides of Broadway. The ballot called out a 150' cross-width, all aligning to the north. That's a significant change if you're one of the people who has made investment decisions on south side businesses and now finds out that staff is proposing an alignment that eliminates your place of business. Also, the proposed 6 lane alignment has a projected cost of \$92M if the one proposed to minimize building impacts is used. The bond budget is \$71M. The City is the lead agency and so is on the hook for costs above the bond amount. The presentation we, and the CTF received begs the question:

"Are we being told that if we don't do the alignment coming from the RTA TAC, we'll lose \$32M, and that if we do that alignment we'll have to potentially pay up to \$21M over the project budget."



What exactly is the CTF being "allowed" to design? What authority do TAC, RTA and the County have to withhold money from the project if they don't agree with the design alternative the City eventually agrees to? What is our role in directing design, and ultimately controlling the funding sources?

On Tuesday, Staff asked for direction as to what to tell the CTF our recommendation for design is. While the apparent answer to the questions I've listed above is that we

lose the dough, and we don't have much say in that, I'd prefer a broader discussion of the legal options before handing to the CTF a M&C directive that it's 6 lanes or nothing. With that in mind, on Tuesday we gave direction to Staff to continue with all options but one and present them at the upcoming public forum on the corridor. At that forum it must be unequivocally stated what finances are at risk if one alternative over another is chosen. But until there's more clarity on the legal process we're facing, the 4 lane option needs to be left on the table.

We'll see what the impact is on the CTF and the willingness of the members to stay on board. I think there are still some important design elements they can impact, but this process is going to have long term implications for our ability to get others to dedicate their time and effort to our Boards, Committees and Commissions.

Parking Fines

This item is related to the budget. We've seen resurgence in activity in the downtown core. The streetcar is supposed to be up and running for revenue by July 25th. We have a new parking meter program that is on order and is projected to be installed and operational, hopefully by the end of summer. And we have a parking fine level that is higher than many major metropolitan cities in the country. On Tuesday, Paul and I asked staff to go back to the Parkwise Citizen's Commission and have them study best practices and return to us with some suggested ways we can adjust downward our parking fines.

We charge a base fine and a court processing fee. The State adds 83% to both of those and skims those dollars off the top for Phoenix. They do zero to earn the dollars. I asked that both the base and the court fee be looked at for reductions since dropping our portion also necessarily reduces the dollar value going to Phoenix (since what they take is a % of what we charge.)

We break our fines down into basic violations (overstaying a meter,) nuisance, safety and parking in a disabled space. The base fine for those four categories is \$6.67, \$19.13, \$75.11 and \$280, respectively. Those are the base fines I asked them to look at reducing. Also though, I asked them to look at reclassifying some of them from say safety to nuisance, or from nuisance to basic. Where we have some logical way to justify reclassing offenses, we should look at doing so. The bottom line is that Tempe, Scottsdale and Mesa charge lower fines than we do in all categories, and they have to charge the 83% State surcharge just like we do. My hope is to have these charges readjusted by the time our new parking meters are put into operation so we can do this whole parking/streetcar/bike safety thing one time and not drag it out the way things seem to happen far too often.

Project RAISE

Last Friday night we conducted the third Tucson Project RAISE (Responsible Alternatives to Incarceration for the Sexually Exploited.) The goal is to touch lives of women who are caught up in prostitution – being physically, chemically and emotionally exploited. Friday was the most successful of the events we've organized.

The TPD and court officers who were involved are the linchpin of making this work. Also key are representatives from Project Dove (the diversion group) and Beth Jacobs from Willow Way (survivors group.) We also have the assistance of Southern Arizona Against

Slavery, the Tucson Women's Commission and Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This is far more than a Ward 6 only project.

Friday a group who was exploiting juveniles was busted. That included 4 pimps and several underage girls. A woman who was seriously in need of mental health care was given the chance to receive treatment. A lady who shared how she was forced to continue in the activity for fear of physical retribution was given the chance to go through a diversion program. And there were more. As I've noted in the past, if even one of those people breaks through and puts her life back together, all of the work will have been worth it.

I'd like to also offer a special thanks to Rikki Mitchell from KGUN9. She rode along and reported on the activities, but showed the sensitivity to what was going on and held the story until after the operation was completed. To have done otherwise would have placed the lives of the officers, and ultimately the women involved in jeopardy. It was gratifying to work with a reporter who understood that the bigger story wasn't what she could cram into 2 minutes at 10pm on Friday, but the lives being affected through the Project.

Each time we do this we learn more. VIP taxi helped out this time – a new addition to the Project. It's humbling to work with people whose goal it is to make an impact in the lives of another. Remember, this is going on daily in our community. We'll continue with these RAISE operations as long as we see we're a part of a larger solution.

The Great Food Truck Race



The Food Network brought a part of their programming to Tucson last weekend. On Sunday they joined the Tucson Folk Festival with the most recent episode of the Great Food Truck Race. Contestants didn't know ahead of time the location of the Trucks, but Shelli Hall and the VisitTucson film office had worked behind the scenes with the producers for a few weeks setting up the whole thing. This is yet the most recent example of how film, television, and advertising adds to our local economy. This single event was responsible for 660 room nights at local hotels for the whole crew and the contestants.

It continues to be my goal – as was included in my budget proposal – to fund the VisitTucson film office with a portion of our bed tax. It demonstrably makes fiscal sense.

Smart Guns



The New York Times recently ran a piece on a lady named Belinda Padilla who was marketing the product shown in the picture above. What it is, is a .22 caliber handgun that uses a radio frequency-enabled stopwatch by which to identify the authorized user of the gun. It's a safety feature. The pistol can only be fired after the owner enters a 5-digit PIN into a watch

which then transmits a signal to the gun. The function is disabled if the gun is more than 10' from the watch. It retails for about \$1,800.

Sounds ok, yes? Children wouldn't be able to play with the loaded pistol and accidentally shoot themselves. Thieves wouldn't be able to use the guns. All sorts of safety built into the idea. The company, Armatix, even had an agreement with a local gun club near L.A. to sell the weapon, until the NRA went out of their minds and flooded the gun club with threats of a boycott of the club. They even took to Calguns.net, a gun owner on-line forum and called for investigations of Ms. Padilla and Armatix. I don't generally read the comments posted on-line related to news columns in which I'm named – I've found them to be somewhat of an echo-chamber of distaste – and this one directed at Belinda is one such example:

"I have no qualms with the idea of personally and professionally leveling the life of someone who has attempted to profit from disarming me and my fellow Americans"

Disarming him? They posted her cell phone number on the on-line forum, snapped pictures of her PO Box address and put those on-line and generally began a full-on attack on the lady because she is trying to market a safe handgun. Might police want to own a gun that only the officer can shoot?

This was all about the reaction to a gun that had safety features built into it. Nobody was being forced to buy it, but the mere existence of such a product was a threat to the gun lobby. If nothing else, Belinda Padilla is to be commended for having found a gun that the NRA doesn't like. Quite a feat.

Oh, and the gun club where she was going to market the gun? They removed any sign that they were involved in any way with her or the product. Merchandise, signage, even a stall at the shooting range where she was to show prospective customers how the gun worked – all gone, safe from the safe gun.



These beads helped pay his vet bills.

There's a group called Beading Divas to the Rescue that since April, 2009 has been raising funds through the sale of beaded bracelets to assist in veterinarian care and donations to a variety of other animal charities. They have raised an amazing total of \$100K by selling one \$20 bracelet at a time.

On Tuesday they held another fund raiser over at La Cocina. While I'm a dog guy, I'm happy to give some pub to this group that reaches out to organizations that work in sup-

port of animal care of all sorts. I know lots of animal lovers are linked into this newsletter. If you'd like to help out with the Beading Divas you can get involved by contacting Karyn at karynzoldan@yahoo.com. They have Facebook as well.

Here is the link for a list of animal organizations:

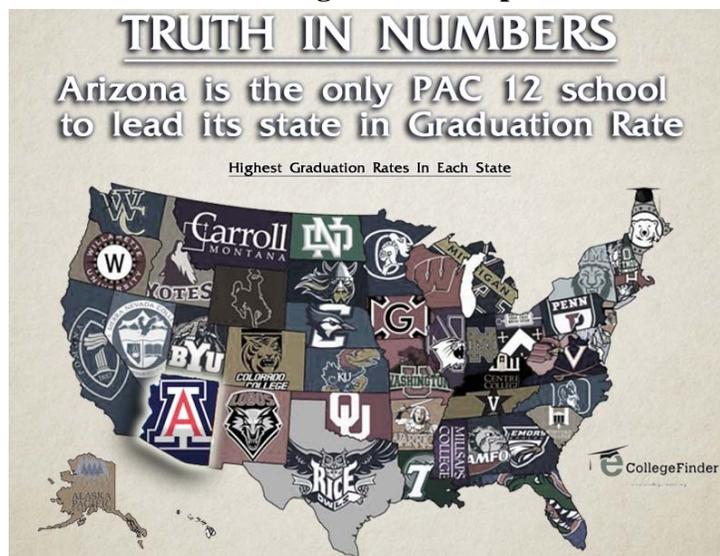
<http://greyhoundinjuryfund.wordpress.com/about/>

that have been bracelet fundraising recipients and the amounts raised in support of them.



This guy was one of the beneficiaries.

...letting the map speak for itself. The UA is a local treasure that deserved better treatment from the State Legislature this past term.



Civilian Emergency Preparedness and Casualty Care

Reminder – please mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 14th to join us at Ward 6 for a civilian training course on emergency preparedness. The course is being offered for free by the Medical Reserve Corps of Southern Arizona and members of the PCSO and Tucson Fire Department – each acting in an individual capacity, not under the umbrella of their agency.

We'll start at 5:30 and go until 8:30. This is normally a 4 hour course but I've asked them to do a little trimming so it doesn't run too late and more people can take advantage of what

they're offering. It'll touch on keeping yourself safe in a variety of dangerous situations – auto accidents, active shooters, natural disasters. They cover the sorts of supplies you should have at home and in your car, including first aid and food. There's also some hands on first aid training for treating traumatic injuries. Bring your spouse, significant other, friends or co-workers. The fact is it's more often than not that we as civilians are the real 'first responders' at emergency scenes and should have some basic understanding of how to help others, and also how to keep ourselves from becoming a casualty in the course of rendering aid.

Please help us prepare by calling 791.4601 or emailing us at ward6@tucsonaz.gov so we can plan and have the right amount of materials on hand.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events Calendar

What's happening this week in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

2nd Saturdays

Saturday, May 10th 5:00-10:30 PM

At our family-friendly urban street fair (on Congress Street between Toole Avenue and Church Avenue) the streets are full of activities, food trucks, vendors and street performers.

<http://www.2ndsaturdaysdowntown.com/>

THE FOUND FOOTAGE FESTIVAL VOL. 7

May 10, 2014 7:00 PM

The Loft Cinema 3233 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

The Found Footage Festival is a one-of-a-kind event showcasing videos found at garage sales and thrift stores and in warehouses and dumpsters throughout North America. Curators Joe Pickett (The Onion) and Nick Prueher (The Colbert Report) take audiences on a guided tour of their latest and greatest VHS finds, providing live commentary and where-are-they-now updates on the people in these videotaped obscurities.

<http://www.loftcinema.com>

Ongoing**Jazz at Main Gate**

Presented by Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance at Main Gate Square, the free performances alternate Fridays at 7 p.m. Coupled with delicious food from nearby local restaurants, the evenings provide a great way to begin the weekend.

Friday, May 16th 7:00 PM GiGi Burton

Main Gate Square, between Park and Euclid Avenues on University Boulevard

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y 300 East University Blvd

Dante's Purgatorio by Patrick Baliani

April 24–May 11, 2014

Thursday–Saturday 7:30 P.M., Sunday 2:00 P.M. plus a Saturday 2:00 P.M. Matinee May 10

<http://www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm>

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

Hotel Congress 311 E. Congress St.

<http://hotelcongress.com/>

Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway

www.loftcinema.com/

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

The Jewish History Museum presents "Cowboys, Merchants, Miners, & Booze," an exhibit that celebrates the lives of Tucson's Jewish pioneers.

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

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

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

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Arizona State Museum 1013 E. University Blvd

November 9, 2013, through July 2015 **Curtis Reframed: The Arizona Portfolios**

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

UA Mineral Museum 1601 E University Blvd

Ongoing "100 Years of Arizona's Best: The Minerals that Made the State"

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight train passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday, year round.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 11:00am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

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

Sacred Machine Museum & Curiosity Shop 245 E Congress St
<http://sacredmachine.com/>

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area
Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!
Hotel Congress
Check-in begins at 5:15pm.
www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Butterfly Magic at the Gardens

2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712
February 10, 2014 - April 30, 2014
<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/>

**DO YOU KNOW OF ANY FAMILY IN NEED OF SOME TYPE
OF 'HOME REPAIR?'**

THE CITY'S 'TUCSON ANNUAL
RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION' (TARR) PROGRAM
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS ONLINE!!

www.tucsonaz.gov/fixhouse