

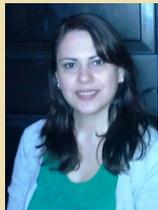
Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Amy Stabler



Evelyn Romero



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First June 18, 2014

Painted Hills

In 2006 the Dallas Firefighter pension system bought the Painted Hills undeveloped land out in the Tucson Mountains for about \$27M. Their intent was to build a 260 unit housing development on the land. Doing that would have involved the City providing water service to the area. It's outside of City limits and we fought them in court and at the State Legislature to both resist facilitating the development and, in the process, to protect our ability to set our own water policy. We won both fights.

The fallout was that we'd work with the County to find some land to swap, make the pension fund somewhat whole, and preserve the Painted Hills parcel in its undisturbed condition. Those efforts never panned out. But last week through some nimble negotiating between the County and the representatives of the Fund, an offer to purchase that makes sense was made.



In 2004 the voters approved money for the purchase and set aside of open space located in and around the City of Tucson. The offer now being considered is for the sale of the land from the Pension Fund to the County for just over \$8M. A portion of the 2004 Bond money will be used for the down payment, and the balance will be paid off over 5 years. That time frame can be shortened if a 2015 Bond election allocates more funds that can be used for an early payoff.

Our role in the transaction is to approve an amendment to the 2004 Bond package that will allow it to be used for this specific parcel. If the M&C doesn't approve it, you will see me fall out of my chair. We've dug in our heels to protect this land for the entire time I've been on the Council. I believe this is a win for our ability to enforce our own water policy, a win in standing up to the State Legislature, and a win for the preservation of the Painted Hills property as open space out in Tucson Mountain Park.

Headline Hype

Last week I sent out a Press Release related to the unaccompanied minors who are being dropped off at the Nogales detention center. The Star blog on it was totally accurate. The headline that accompanied the blog was not. That's by design. Media outlets know that people scan their papers and will stop to read articles based on whether or not there's something that grabs them in the headline. The accurate headline for my Release would have been "CM K calls on Mayor to activate City emergency preparedness group." The Star headline was "CM K calls for declaration of an emergency." Very different in both content, and intent.

In its simplest form, I believe the coordination and planning for how the community responds to this



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

emerging situation should be coming from the Office of the Mayor. Here's the text of the Release I issued last Friday:

The State of Arizona has become the destination for hundreds of unaccompanied minors from across Central America. Within the past week, it became an issue with local impact for the City of Tucson and Pima County. From all accounts the situation is going to continue. Now is not the time for us to sit and wait in a reactive posture.

I applaud Bishop Kicanas, Supervisor Elias and Council Member Romero for their efforts to get ahead of the issue and work with local and Federal agencies to address the needs that already exist in our community. Their work points us as a region in the right direction.

At our most recent City Council meeting we adopted the City of Tucson Emergency Operations Plan. That plan provides the framework for a coordinated response before, during and after an emergency that affects the City of Tucson. It catalyzes City of Tucson interaction with Regional, State and Federal agencies, as well as with Non-Governmental Organizations. The intent of the Plan is to coordinate a response through the effective combination of resources that each agency can bring to bear on the emergency.

It's time for the Mayor and City Manager to activate the Emergency Operations Response team and begin proper coordination of Local, Regional, State and Federal assets before we lose the ability to effectively deal with local conditions in a humane manner. That team should seriously weigh the option of a Mayoral Declaration of Emergency to be forwarded to the Pima County Office of Emergency Management if it concludes that is needed to attract the proper level of involvement from the State and Federal Government

We just adopted an Emergency Operations Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to allow the Mayor and City Manager to get out ahead of an emergency, to the extent we have the ability to, and put a game plan into place. In the case of the unaccompanied minors that would likely involve the Mayor's office, City Manager's office, Housing and Community Development, TPD and Non-Governmental agencies out in the community. Last week the Diocese of Tucson began similar plans. It's my belief that such an initiative should come out of the Office of the Mayor where access to broad resources exists.

By Charter, the Mayor has the authority to issue a Declaration of Emergency. If such a declaration is issued, it's kicked over to the County Office of Emergency Response. If they agree, it goes to the Board of Supervisors, who can send it to the Governor, who can send it to the President. That's the chain.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we saw the White House say that they had never heard from the Governor, and the Governor say he had never heard from the Mayor. All that time FEMA was sitting on the sidelines waiting for the call to start bringing in temporary housing. The purpose of my calling on the Mayor and City Manager to activate our EOP is to get the right chess pieces on the board so that in the event things spiral out of control and we cannot handle the youth who are being sent here, the framework for engaging Federal assets is formally in place. It's simply being proactive.



The Diocese and NGOs who met last week were absolutely acting in a responsible and humanitarian manner. They would certainly be a part of the Emergency Operations Plan team that would come out of the Mayor's initiative. But if what we're seeing unfold continues, it's the leadership in City Hall that should spearhead coordination of the community assets. That was the intent of my Release. It wasn't sexy enough for the headline writer, so whoever that is took some liberties. Now the record is corrected. I stand by my belief that the coordination and planning for how we respond to this situation properly should come from the Office of the Mayor, and that activating the Emergency Operations Plan is the means by which that coordination can be managed.



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)**
(3th 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)

Broadway RTA Project

There was a very good turnout last Thursday at the public forum regarding the Broadway corridor improvement project. My guess is that a couple of hundred folks showed up to see the progress the Citizen's Task Force has made in design considerations. Some of what is being discussed by the CTF was not displayed – a curious omission by staff – but it's the CTF who'll make sure all options get a full discussion, not just what was on the easels.

I still talk to the occasional member of the Citizen's Accountability for Regional Transit (CART) committee who clings to the idea that we can do nothing but the original 150' wide, 8 lane corridor. That 1987 concept is off the table, properly. What's left for the CTF to work with are 4 lanes, 4 travel + 2 transit, and 6 travel lanes. What's equally important is the actual width of any of those options.

In the material passed out by staff the widths were identified as 96' for the 4-lane, and 118' for the other two. I measured Campbell – another arterial – and it's 6 lanes and 96'. The design and function can be more creative than locking in on a 118' width. Having spoken and listened to enough of the CTF members, I'm confident in saying that they're in tune with trying to unlock some creativity and not sit and passively accept the staff suggestion as to cross width.

There is some pushback against the staff suggestion that a 4-lane option is not going to be funded by the County or RTA. On this one, staff's right. The current roadway is 5 lanes. The funding sources are not going to play "addition by subtraction." But there's nothing to be gained at this point by digging in and picking a fight with the guys who are writing the checks. That's especially true when it's also true that what matters is improving the functionality of the roadway, but doing so with a meandering alignment that is in the 96' – 100' range. That's doable and is responsive to the will of the voters. And the funding would not be yanked.

The design alternatives will be the focus of the CTF later this summer. I'm hopeful that they'll come to closure on design before the end of the year. The merchants that are located along the corridor deserve to see that – and once having done so will be in a position to reinvest in their places of business. And we'll be a huge step closer to starting construction on what I fully anticipate to be a roadway, to include the landscape, bikeway, transit amenities the community is asking for at each public outreach meeting that's held.

Major Streets & Routes

On a related note, we voted on Tuesday to begin the public process of updating our Major Streets & Routes Plan. The purpose of a Major Streets & Routes plan is to identify arterial and collector streets, size them based on projected growth and set future rights-of-way, setback requirements and other land use related issues needed to guide future development. Our current MS&R was adopted back in 1992. It has outlived its shelf life and needs a re-look.

The approach to the update will be phased. In the first phase we'll begin the public participation process related to ensuring the alignment adopted for the Grant Road project is what is reflected in our Plan. Agreeing on where the right-of-way (ROW) falls is straightforward. The challenging part of the discussions will relate to what happens outside of the ROW. That discussion will come later, not as a part of the MS&R update. In addition, during this first phase we'll take a look at decreasing the currently reflected 120' cross-width of Euclid where it runs from Broadway to Grant. In this part of the public process issues such as historic preservation, and how the edges of historic districts are treated will be updated. At the request of Council member Romero, we'll also include revisions to the S. 12th Street corridor in this first phase.

These two amendments will be addressed individually and will go through the formal procedures we have in place for amending our land use code. That includes public participation with neighborhoods, businesses and other interested groups. It'll include a study session (maybe more than one) and public hearing with the Planning Commission, followed by the same with M&C.

The second phase of the process will be a full revision of the Plan. We decided on Tuesday to get Phase I done before we send staff off on trying to tackle that much larger job.

It's important that we update this Plan so we're not unnecessarily impeding investment along some of our corridors whose characteristics have changed since this was last revised. As has been seen with both Grant and Broadway, there exist a wide variety of interests that'll be considered. Much more on this to come as we start

the Phase I updates.

Interim City Manager

We selected current Assistant City Manager Martha Durkin as the interim City Manager. Martha's competent and will serve the community well as long as she's in that role. She works under the immediate direction of Mr. Miranda and so is in the workflow up on the 10th Floor. No learning curve will be a part of the transition.

As I stated on the air before our vote yesterday the tough part of the vote for me is compensation. I understand it's a big job, and by Code we are bound to providing some level of salary increase commensurate with the new duties. I get that, and yet I'd hope the bump in pay is minimal and reflects that it's really going to be a team effort on the 10th floor until we get the new, permanent person in the saddle. Giving a large pay increase to a person who's already pulling down a 6 figure salary is difficult for me to reconcile while we're laying off front line workers.

Martha will do great. She has my full support.

Extension of Labor Agreements

On our consent agenda this week was an item that extended the current labor contracts with their existing terms and conditions for a year. We plan on re-opening them for renegotiations right after the end of the fiscal year (July 1st.) I pulled the item off from consent for a pretty simple reason; if we successfully negotiate new terms and conditions, we should not be locked into the present ones for a year.

Last week, Elaine Weaver – new addition to the City Manager's office – penned a very accurate description of the Civic Openness in Negotiations (COIN) process that I've written an op/ed about. The write up she produced was at the request of the City Manager. Very briefly it identifies three main components of COIN:

A third party facilitator is brought in to take part in the contract negotiations

Each of the terms/conditions being considered is assigned a cost and is made available for public comment

Each member of the governing body who has contacts with labor during negotiations must make those contacts known

The mayor is asking for a study session in July for us to discuss implementing these three facets of COIN into the upcoming negotiations with our labor groups. They address the reoccurring complaints I hear from labor about not having a fair voice in the talks, they let the taxpayers see what's on the table and how much it costs, they make a public record of how each item is disposed of (we have a current dispute over some Fire fighter benefits that never would have occurred had we been using COIN,) and they keep M&C from interfering in the meet and confer process.

There's value for all sides in giving this system a try this time around. I'll be supportive. And having a chance to work through negotiations in this new and more open manner makes it even more unreasonable that we lock into current terms and conditions for a year. Throughout our recent budget talks I heard again and again that we'd use the upcoming negotiations to get our arms around issues such as Sick Leave Sell Back, Assignment pay and others. But on Tuesday M&C voted 6-1 to lock us into those T's and C's for an entire year. I think that makes no sense.

No, this isn't my bride coming home to find me taking care of her "honey do" list. If it were, she'd have been particularly upset over having lost her shoe. This falls under the heading of **Timing is Everything** and relates to the broadening recognition that we need to make changes in the State Pension system. And it's timely as it is related to the issue of wages and benefits being negotiated.



Below is a letter that was sent to Fraternal Order of Police members last week. The message is that they understand public safety pension reform is needed – now – or the long term health of the system is in jeopardy.



ARIZONA STATE LODGE
Fraternal Order of Police, Inc.



John Ortolano
President

Patrick Scherden
Secretary

June 6th, 2014

I'm asking each lodge president to reply to this message ASAP. Your input is necessary because early next week we will be required to advise the governor's office of our position concerning the call for a special legislative session to address the falling funding ratio of PSPRS and the soaring employer contribution rates. The Firefighters, with input from all of the police labor groups, have proposed a solution which merits our consideration.

Having worked extensively on this retirement issue, not only as the firefighters' proposal was being developed, but during the 2011 SB1609 debate, I believe the Firefighters' proposal is the only realistic option.

Everyone is aware that the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) has been trying to recoup the losses sustained during the 2001-2002 and 2008-2009 stock market downturns. Compounding the problem was that employers weren't able to fill vacant positions due to budget constraints. During the past six years, due to rising employer contributions, many agencies were forced to either cut employee salaries or were forced to have salaries remain essentially flat. The PSPRS actuaries have identified the retiree post retirement benefit structure as a primary reason the funded level of the retirement system continues to decline. These factors and others have caused the employer contribution rates to the retirement system to soar to unsustainable levels.

Current actuarial projections show employer contribution rates will continue to rise at excessive rates until around 2033. So what does all this mean? Employers won't have the money to provide for pay raises for active employees nor can they afford to hire the employees that are desperately needed. The "average" Employer contribution rates are projected to rise to over 50% by the year 2033 before they even begin to decrease. Some agencies actual contribution rates are already well over 50%.

These problems warrant discussions about how to decrease the employer contribution rates to free up money to allow for active employee pay raises. These discussions are also needed to allow the PSPRS system to provide for a sustainable process that allows for future retiree pension raises.

If no action is taken by the active employees and retired stakeholders, legislators and non-friendly public interest groups will certainly take drastic actions to curb the declining funding status of PSPRS. These actions will most likely include a ballot proposition which would remove the constitutional protections currently afforded to our benefits. This would open the door to demands for elimination all retiree benefit increases and even the closing of the retirement system itself.

Stakeholder discussions have included a proposal that would have active employees allow a portion of their PSPRS contributions be used directly to pay for retiree raises. Currently retiree raises are basically monies diverted from the fund when there is a high investment return year. This method has run out of money to provide for retiree pay raises. Continued use of this type of retiree raise will divert too much money from the fund to allow the funding status to grow at an acceptable rate. This would cause the employer contribution rates to stay excessively high. Those of us who have worked on the issue believe the Firefighter's proposal has merit and may protect our members from more draconian measures. This proactive effort represents the best chance for public safety to protect important benefits, our employers, our pension fund, our retirees, our actives and our future members.

The next page contains a brief overview of the Firefighters proposal.

Arizona Fraternal Order of Police: www.azfop.com

Last week I gave a brief description of the Fire fighters' proposal. It's basically a freeze on Cost of Living Adjustments for retirees. I don't believe that's a full solution, but it's a conversation starter. It's a recognition on the part of the Fire guys, and now the FOP that if they want future recruits to have pensions, and if they want us to be able to afford increases in their base rates of pay, they need to sit together at the bargaining table and agree to some changes in how the money's going out the door.

You occasionally read about a 'funded ratio.' That's the percentage of pension-fund liabilities that could be paid with current assets. Ours for public safety is below 50%. That's not healthy. And as that ratio drops, more

is required from taxpayers to keep the trust whole. The changes being proposed now by the FOP and the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona are similar to those the court struck down last year when the changes came from the Legislature. Be careful what you take to court – now, fearing another ballot measure that would change the State Constitution and answer the courts issues with the legality of diminishing a pensioners benefits, at least those two organizations are trying to be proactive in working towards a solution. The spokesman for the PFFA said “Fire fighters and police officers are responding to an emergency; we have to fix the system now.”

As an aside to that, as you know the City announced that we are no longer allowing Pension spiking by allocating unused sick leave to the base pay of our police/fire workers. The police union filed for a restraining order to prevent us from starting that policy. The judge refused the Order, but is setting a date to hear the full trial later this summer. I’ve requested that our City Attorney make a part of the question being asked of the court whether it is also our responsibility to go back and subtract from the ‘base pay’ calculations of current workers any money that was added as unused sick leave. If it’s illegal, we shouldn’t ignore it when they retire. Getting that answered by the court might take our implementing the process of subtracting the illegal payments and forcing a second court ruling on that specific question. We’ll see – but for now it’s heartening to see that nearly every public safety union organization is getting the message that they can, and should be a part of the solution. Our own TPOA appears to be still holding firm on resisting any change.

Brew at the Zoo

A perfect evening from the standpoint of weather – the Tucson Zoological Society (TZS) fund raiser for the Reid Park Zoo was a big success. There were two live bands, craft brews/ales, and plenty of food and activities. Several hundred supporters took part. The event showed the commitment that’s out there for Reid Park Zoo.

FreedomSmokeUSA was the title sponsor. They’re in the business of helping people wean themselves from cigarettes or smokeless tobacco. The beneficiary of the night was the Gibbon family – Billy, Moms and Lilith – who are a big step closer to having some new digs out at the zoo. Thanks to all who came out in support.

Jason, Vivian and the gang host or facilitate dozens of events annually out at the zoo. They couldn’t do it without the valuable help of TZS and without the broad community support that comes from you all. As with the response we’re planning relative to the unaccompanied minors, community participation is key to our ability to address the needs and desires in the region.

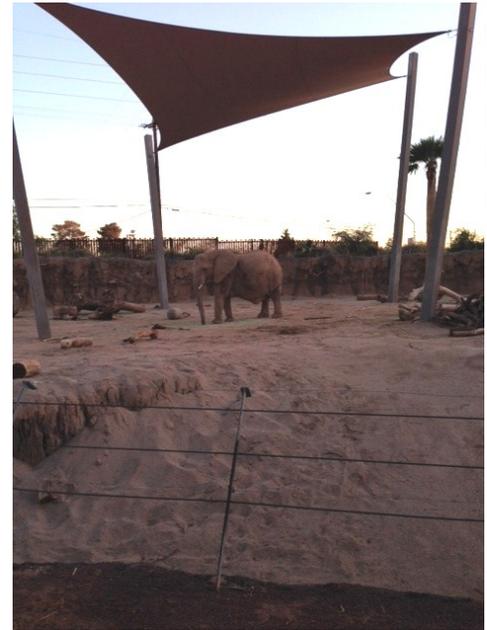
For a complete calendar of upcoming Zoo events, you can go to reidparkzoo.org. Oh, and the 4 baby lions were out playing to the crowd.

Community Media Arts Center

Last weekend another large fund raising / and awareness raising / event took place. A nice sized crowd showed up at what is currently the Access Tucson / Ch. 12 building on Broadway. Calexico performed. The purpose of the event though was to announce/promote a growing partnership that could be the catalyst for repurposing the space from its present video-centric mission to one that embraces a larger media arts focus.



The partnership that’s being contemplated includes the Access Tucson folks, KXCI radio and Wave Lab studios. Each potential partner brings a different skill set to the table. And each brings a new set of supporters who, combined could help to



change the annual budget conversation from “how do we find the dollars to keep Access struggling along,” to one in which the partnership becomes self supporting in its present location and is an attractive multi-faceted community media arts center.

The discussions are early. There’s still the desire to get other partners into the mix, such as PCC, a JTED or other educationally focused pieces. It was good to see the event bring to public view how there is an active discussion that as the partnership finds some solid footing could be an attractive answer to what M&C wrestle with each year around budget time.

TCC Outside Management

I’ve shared previously that we have a Request for Proposals out to consider hiring an outside firm to manage the TCC, Leo Rich and Music Hall. The RFP was drafted broadly enough to allow consideration of any one of those venues, all of them, or bringing an even wider array of venues to the offer.

I’ve also been pretty public in stating that if we can craft the right deal, getting somebody who does arena management, booking and all that goes with it under contract, we might be in a position to attract events that we don’t have access to right now. We’re giving the concept a try with golf and depending on the terms, it could be a winner for us in the TCC.

We lose about \$2M annually in TCC operations. While there are multiple factors that are the cause, one that can’t be ignored is the ability to attach ourselves to routing for events/shows. A firm who is in the business can bring access to those opportunities that we simply don’t have.

On Tuesday we discussed the offers from what appears to be a short list of firms who submitted proposals. They need work, and that’s the direction we gave to staff when we came out of executive session discussing it. I’m hopeful, but we have to ensure the terms and conditions of what we finally adopt are a step forward from the standpoint of our financial vulnerabilities.

Films South of the Border

Another economic opportunity that we have, and that is currently just out of reach is how we attract the film industry to our region, and in this case the producers who are active in Mexico. Recently, Shelli Hall from the Visit Tucson Film Office participated in a conference that included Latino film producers, and others who are active in the field in Mexico. She made some good re-connections and we may be back in the mix for hosting some significant film related events.

One of the reoccurring themes Shelli encountered was the lingering damage that SB1070 has had on commerce to this State. It’s true, but regrettable that we still have work to do to demonstrate the Tucson isn’t Phoenix, and Tucson isn’t the State Legislature. To that end, I penned this letter to the E.D. of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers.

Dear Mr. Caballero,

For the past several years I've been working in concert with Shelli Hall, the Film Office Director at Visit Tucson, in an effort to attract film related activities into Tucson and Pima County. I understand that you and she met recently at your conference. I've debriefed with her on that event and want to take this opportunity to write and thank you for considering Tucson as the next location for your annual Producer's Academy. As you know, we were the host site for that event for 5 consecutive years and look forward to resuming that role.

Tucson and the surrounding region has a rich film history. Shelli and I have engaged with several members of the area, both in the film industry and in government, and have put together a package of local incentives that we're using to market the industry. We value what you do and how much it means to the local economy.

One key feature that causes Tucson to stand alone in the State of Arizona is that our Mayor and City Council voted unanimously in opposition of SB1070 back when that law was first adopted. Since then we have continued to work to enhance our

commercial, cultural and civic relationships with Mexico. In fact it was only 2 weeks ago that we hosted a major Economic Trade Summit in which businesses from all over Mexico were represented.

The Tucson Mayor, City Council and our marketing arm Visit Tucson will continue to embrace our brothers and sisters in Mexico to demonstrate very clearly that the legislature in Phoenix does not speak on our behalf. I invite you to pass along this letter to all of your colleagues to let them know that Tucson is open for business, and your industry is a perfect fit for what the region has to offer.

Thanks for this opportunity to share these thoughts. I look forward to meeting you in person on your next visit to the area.

I've written plenty about how we need a State incentive package if we're going to get ourselves fully back in the film game. It's a bit discouraging to hear that we also still need to wring out the effects of 1070. I'm happy to do what's needed to achieve that end.

National Violent Death Reporting System

Last week I shared that Dr. Katz from the ASU School of Public Health reached out to me in support of Arizona applying to the Centers for Disease Control grant money related to becoming part of collecting data to be used in studying violent death incidents. The application process benefits from being able to show participation from law enforcement agencies, public health advocates, practitioners and jurisdictions. This week I'm happy to share that Pima County has also agreed to support the effort and will be lending their name to the application.

The issue of violent death and data gathering is possibly more contentious than many people realize. The NRA has fought hard to prevent collecting data on gun related deaths, and so the NVDRS data base is not something we're building that comes without that predictable opposition. So, thanks to Jan Leshner at the County for running this up their flagpole and getting County buy-in.

Since last week there have been shootings in Las Vegas (5 dead,) an Oregon school (2 dead,) and a Phoenix church (one dead, one beaten.) Those are just the ones we've had reported on local television. Since the Newtown murder of 20 first graders and 6 adults, there have been 41 deaths resulting from 62 documented shootings – all at schools. But that's the unfortunate tip of the iceberg. Annually about 2,000 kids commit suicide with guns in their homes. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, there are about 86 gun deaths daily in the U.S.



As an aside – what would be the reaction if 86 people per day died from ingesting some form of over the counter medication?

We're coming up on the July 7th forum related to mental health issues that Temple Emanuel will be hosting. Every week we see demonstrable evidence that this forum is of significant importance. In far too many of the cases noted above there were warning signs of mental instability that went unaddressed – sometimes as a result of service providers or family members having their hands tied by the law. We'll discuss that on the 7th.

Clarke Romans (NAMI,) Chuck Burbank (Pasadera Network,) Jennie Grabel (Center for Civility, Respect and Understanding,) Congressman Ron Barber, State Senator Dave Bradley and State Representative Victoria Steele will be presenting. There will be an opportunity for Q&A.

This is a fundamentally important topic in our community, and this group of speakers is directly engaged in multiple aspects surrounding it. The doors will open at 5:30, and the speaking will start at 6:30. It's free – come and participate. The Temple is located at 225 N. Country Club.

A-10 and DMAFB

I'll close with this. Almost daily in the local press is some report about the Federal budget wrangling over the future of the A-10 aircraft, and how that will impact Davis Monthan. The concerns are that if/when the

DOD eliminates that as a funded mission, the impact on both DM, and by extension this region will be real. What nobody can really pin down is the magnitude of that effect.

Very early in this newsletter I addressed what I feel is the wise course of action as it relates to the unaccompanied minors who are arriving in Arizona by proactively planning for how we'll respond as the situation continues to unfold. I've also written in previous newsletters about how we should be doing that same thing when it comes to DM. By all accounts the A-10 is going to be eliminated. The question is when, not if.

What we also know is that the DOD made a decision that Luke AFB is their choice for the F-35, assuming they can figure out how to pay for the design and production changes it continues to go through.

So what? So the DOD will have to continue making changes that reflect their own fiscal realities. We have the chance to lobby on behalf of DM and our City to grab some of the missions that result from those changes.

I've mentioned the Air Ops. Center. We fought and won an extension of that mission. It can be expanded.

I've mentioned an unmanned HQ. That fleet is going to significantly expand. We're already hosting some. It can be expanded. The Bone Yard can become a major depot for all services – not just the Air Force. It exists.

It too can be expanded. Joint military operations that combine intelligence agencies are coming with consolidation. There's money being targeted for Marana for that. DM can host.

The short message is that we seem to continue fighting rear-guard actions over decisions that have either been made, or are inevitable. DM can fit into the military's future. I'll continue to advocate for expanding the discussion to include and embrace missions that reflect the physical constraints of the base (urban encroachment) but also meet legitimate missions the military will have to find homes for as they restructure the DOD.

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 . . .

El Dia de San Juan

Tuesday, June 24 from 5-10 p.m.

885 W. Congress St, next to the Mercado San Agustin.

The Fiesta will feature a procession, live music and dance, food and arts & crafts vendors, games and activities for children, and free water and watermelon. ***Free and open to the public, the Fiesta is non-alcoholic and boasts a family-friendly atmosphere.***

Friday Night Live! at Main Gate Square

Sunday, June 27th from 7-9 p.m.

814 E University Blvd

Presented by Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, the Friday Night Live! performances, paired with delicious local food from nearby restaurants, create a cool and safe way to spend a Friday evening. ***Free and open to the public, free parking in the Tyndall Garage after 5 p.m. with merchant validation.***

Ongoing

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

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

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y 300 East University Blvd

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

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.
www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

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 “Skullcaps and Schul Hats, focusing on two family collections of 1940’s head coverings. The museum urges you to visit and learn about the fading tradition of Schul Hats and the enduring tradition of “Keeping the Kippot”, as well as Tucson Jewish history.
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 trains passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday, year round.
 Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 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 311 E. Congress (north entrance on Toole)
 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

Tucson Botanical Gardens 2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712
<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/>

Cinema La Placita 110 S. Church Avenue
 Every Thursday evening at 7:30, May through August, hundreds of Tucsonans enjoy the cool summer evenings and a pleasant summertime event. \$3 per person includes popcorn!

JUNE 26th

DIAL M FOR MURDER (1954) NR

Starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

An ex-tennis pro carries out a plot to murder his wife. When things go wrong, he improvises a brilliant plan B.