

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

July 21, 2014

Oracle Protest

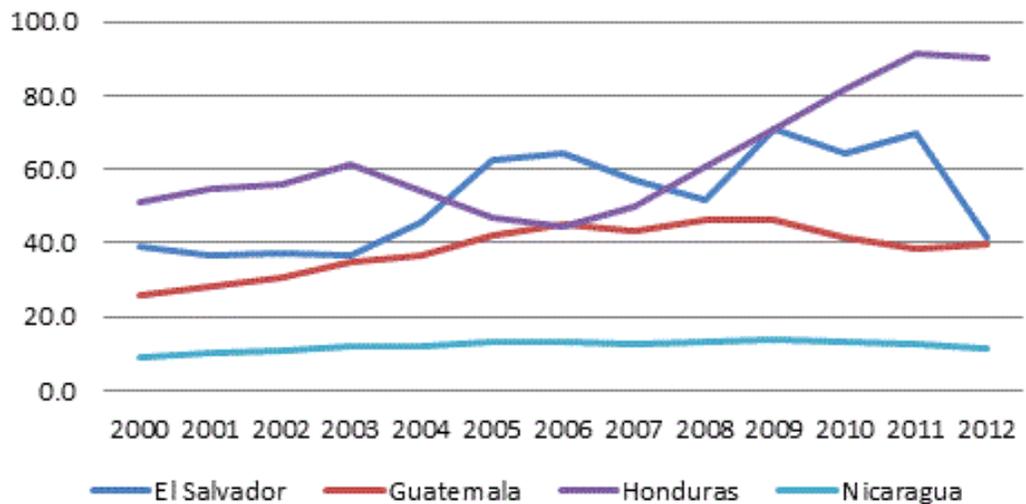
I want to be sure to recognize the time and effort the people who are on the other side of the Project Mariposa issue put into expressing themselves. Last week the Pinal County Sherriff rallied opposition. I'll just let the signs speak for themselves... it's upsetting to some when people come into this country without a grasp of our language.



Project Mariposa

Also last week I shared the homicide rates per 100,000 that exist in the three Central American Northern Triangle nations (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala). Here they are in graph form, with the addition of Nicaragua. I add Nicaragua to make a couple of points. First, they're not experiencing the homicide spike that the other three are, and second, we're not seeing the influx of migrant families from Nicaragua that we are from the others.

Homicide Rates Per 100,000



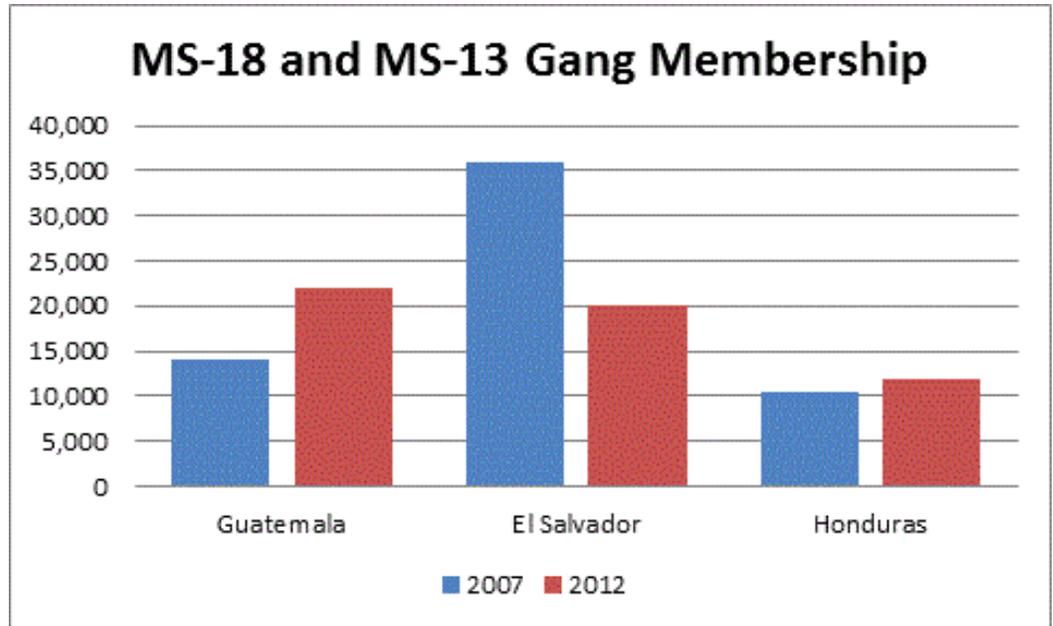


**Important
Phone Numbers**

- 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

The same dynamic is true of gang membership. Note how it has increased in Guatemala and Honduras in the past 5 years, and is still extremely high in El Salvador.



In a recent U.N. survey only about one percent of Nicaraguans said that crime was the most important issue facing their country. By contrast, 44% of El Salvadorans, 35% of Guatemalans, and 25% of Hondurans said that crime was the most important issue they're facing. With lower rates of violent crime and gang membership, families aren't escaping Nicaragua in the numbers we're seeing in the Northern Triangle countries. That means fewer family connections in the U.S. which might well explain why what we're seeing at the Greyhound station is asylum seekers from the other three.

In fact, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadorans are also heading to Nicaragua as a destination. In 2012, there were 14,597 Hondurans, 3,291 El Salvadorans, and 1,387 Guatemalans living in Nicaragua. Those numbers are likely higher now. In the U.S. there are about 500,000 Honduran immigrants, 1.3 million Salvadorans and 900,000 from Guatemala. There are 260,000 immigrants from Nicaragua.

Why do I mention the data? Because data don't lie. I made the comment on a few radio shows that the people fleeing Guatemala are running for the lives of the women and children. Some uninformed folks said I was just guessing. My sources have been the first-hand stories coming from the people who we see at Greyhound, as well as the personal testimony of the Guatemalan representative who's working with us. These numbers validate the testimonials.

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

The TVPRA is a law that was passed back in 2008 that was intended to strengthen Federal trafficking laws. Specifically, it sets up legal procedures for unaccompanied children who are coming here from 'non-contiguous' countries. That means coming from places other than Mexico and Canada.

The law has a lot of complexities, but generally it says kids from non-contiguous countries are to be referred to the Department of Health and Human Services within 72 hours and then start through removal proceedings, with counsel. Children from Mexico and Canada are screened within 48 hours to determine whether or not they're being trafficked. If not, the child must be returned to Mexico or Canada through some appropriate child welfare agency. During the 2008 debates on the law, on a bi-partisan basis Congress made it clear that the goal of the TVPRA was to protect kids who "had escaped traumatic situations such as armed conflict, sweatshop labor, human trafficking, forced prostitution and other life threatening circumstances.



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)

(Source: Senator Feinstein (CA). "William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act." Congressional Record 154:185).

We're hearing stories about every one of those conditions from the women who are being dropped at Greyhound.

You've likely heard in the past week that Congress is now considering changing that trafficking law to make it easier to send kids from non-contiguous countries back home in the same quicker fashion that is now being done with Mexican children. I've just given you the background on the guts of the law that they're asking to change. Maybe more importantly, you also now have the violent crime/gang data that shows what we'd be sending the kids 'home' to.

People are bringing donations of Gatorade, blankets and travel goodies (coloring books/crayons, etc.) to the Ward 6 office. We in turn are delivering them to Catholic Community Services to pass onto the families we're assisting in their travels. We'll be transitioning out of the Greyhound station by the end of the month. The community partnership that's involved with this effort continues to grow. We welcome your involvement and thank those who are stepping up and understanding that this is a humanitarian effort. Over the weekend I had some conversations with groups who might also be in a position to serve as the new intake center if things don't work out with CCS. There are lots of moving parts, and I'll be sure to keep touching on it in these newsletters until the dust settles. You're welcome to bring your support to us at W6 and we'll get it distributed appropriately.

On the other hand, you could head up north to Oracle if you'd prefer to join forces with the Sherriff's group. That is, if you're impressed by the compelling statements being made on the signs being held by the lady in the photo shown above.

Southwest Key / Health & Human Services



The other group who's assisting refugees here in town is Southwest Key. They're still hiring for a variety of positions. These guys have been around since 1987 and are funded by a combination of private donations and government contracts. Their programs all revolve around providing services to unaccompanied kids in the U.S.

Right now they're open over on Oracle Road. The kids staying there are supposed to be rotated out in 30-35 days. The goal is to reunite them with relatives living in this country, or back in their home country. Given the conditions from which these children fled, I'm guessing they'll end up here.

There's a tremendous amount of secrecy surrounding what's going on behind the gates over on Oracle. Given that they're operating with taxpayer dollars – and with all of the rumors floating around relative to diseases, quality of care, numbers of kids, etc. – I think they'd do themselves and the community a service if they'd be more open in how they communicate with the outside world. Of course they can't be giving large tours of the facility. The safety of the kids is the main concern. And yet, if they want to be embraced as members of the community, some transparency in how they operate would help to quell some of the chatter that's only going to get worse as long as the whole operation is conducted in secrecy.

They're working on personal and academic skills development. They could have a good story to tell. But they're the ones who have to tell it. This issue of secrecy even came up when I was interviewing with a correspondent from what's described as the 'German N.Y. Times' (Frankfurter Allgemeine). He was also of the opinion that our government is only making things worse by keeping information so bottled up. I'll be interested in seeing his piece when he's finished with it. I'll be calling on one of you who speaks German to do some translating for me.

Busses, Broadway, Bikes and Beaches...

Sun Tran Contract Negotiations

The Sun Tran labor agreement expires at the end of the month. As of now, they have 3 more meetings scheduled to sort out the remaining differences on wages, hours and working conditions. From what I hear, there's quite a distance between the parties right now.



A couple of years ago we saw a transit strike. City workers can't strike, but because our transit system is heavily subsidized by Federal dollars, the law stipulates that those workers retain the right to go on strike.

The Streetcar is just about to come into revenue operations. Parts of our comprehensive operational analysis demonstrated both the overlap in some service areas, but also where the busses and streetcar routes operate cooperatively. For a cohesive system, it's important that both are up and running.

I share this section as a way of giving you a heads-up that there are only a couple of weeks left before the end of the labor agreement. Stay closely tuned if you rely on Sun Tran for your travels. And I share it to encourage all of the parties who are involved with the negotiations to roll up your sleeves and make accommodations to keep the system running. Neither side can justify holding

back and playing brinkmanship, putting the public in a position of being the losers if things don't get settled.

Even though the personnel relationship is very arm's length from M&C, both labor and management are truly public servants. Let's keep the system running and serve the public.

Broadway

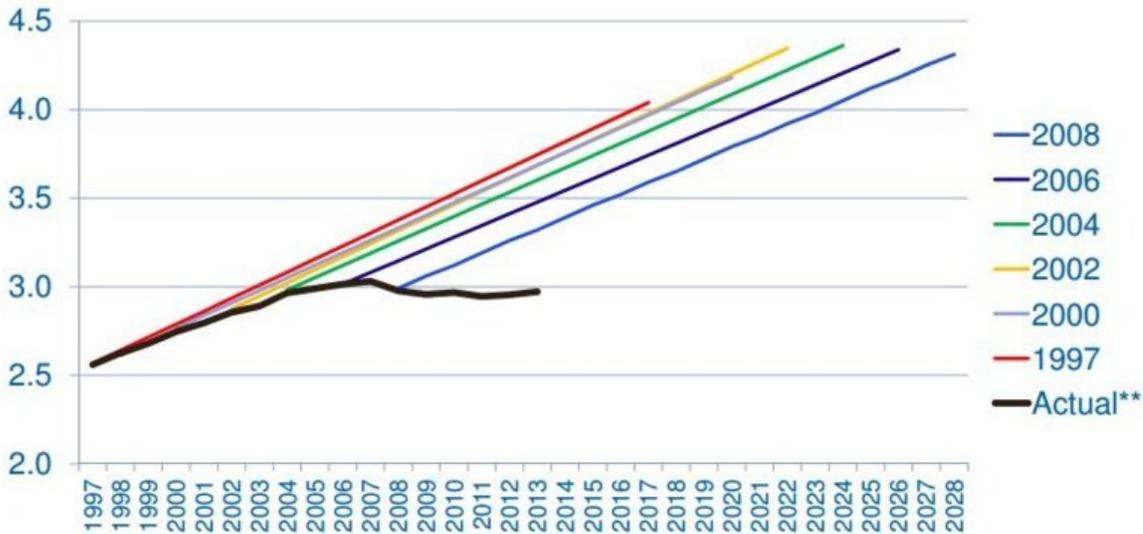
The most recent Citizen's Task Force meeting was held last Thursday. Two of the speakers at Call to the Audience made the point I've been advocating for months: that is, make a decision. Until that happens, nobody on the corridor has any reason to put a dime into their property. We're creating blight through delay. As they move closer to making a design decision I believe staff needs to clarify three key points:

- 1) The CTF is governed by the Open Meeting Law. And the OML does not prohibit them from talking among themselves outside of their formal meetings as long as they don't do so in numbers that constitute a quorum. There is both a need and a value in the members sharing their ideas off-line. To date, that has not occurred.
- 2) Staff needs to explain to the CTF, and to the public, why they told M&C that a 4 lane + 2 transit lanes was fundable, but told the public at the recent open house that is not.
- 3) Campbell Avenue between Speedway and Grant is 96' wide, inclusive of the medians and turn lanes. I believe it's time staff showed the CTF and the public what a 96' wide Broadway could look like, using a 6 lane configuration as the required number.

There was some healthy exchange going – maybe for the first time – among the CTF members. If they're just allowed the freedom to discuss, and not be led towards some preferred solution, I think they can make

good progress. Here's some data that's relevant to their discussions:

National Vehicle Miles Traveled: Actual versus Projections



This graph shows the total vehicle miles travelled in billions of miles (source FHWA). You can see that in around 2004, the VMT (the total amount of driving) broke away from the linear growth pattern it had shown for decades and flattened out. That 'VMT inflection' date is important to note because the RTA vote took place in 2006. As it relates to the Broadway project, the traffic count estimates presented to the voters assumed the continued upward trajectory shown in the graph. As you can see, that didn't happen.

Here's another table that continues to make the point.

Recent Average Daily Traffic Counts on Broadway Boulevard

Source: Pima Association of Governments

PAG ROAD SEGMENT	12/1-2/2010	9/19-20/2012	3/25-26/2014
Alvernon to Country Club	50,098	43,903	-
Tucson to Campbell	40,239	36,308	34,137
Campbell to Highland	34,006	27,218	28,485
Euclid to Toole	35,006	32,890	-

Staff continues to suggest that the lower traffic counts are an anomaly. The fact that they're between 15% and 20% down, the CTF is still being told that it's assumed the lower numbers for Broadway reflect the streetcar construction that was going on downtown. It's suggested that drivers simply diverted to Speedway, 22nd or 6th Street. As a theory, that's as good as any. But in reality it ignores the fact that 6th Street had significant construction going on, 22nd Street did, and still does, and Speedway had intermit-

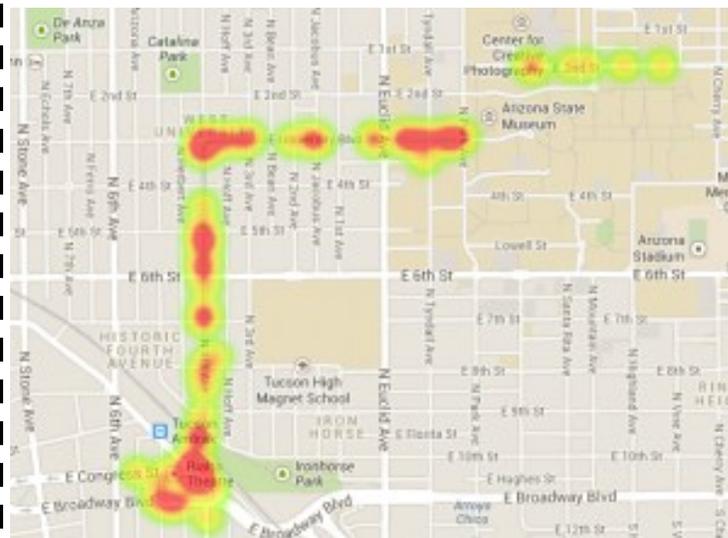
tent construction, but is too far removed from Broadway to serve as a convenient alternate route.

My hope is to encourage the CTF and staff to take a stab at a Campbell-like design, let it meander to avoid as many buildings as it can, and to quicken their pace a little. Not a single business along the corridor can invest wisely until the cross-width and the alignment have been etched in stone. They deserve some level of closure on the alignment question.

Bikes

The Streetcar is about to go into revenue service. TDOT and the streetcar team have been making some progress on the pinch points that appear along the line, but there’s still work that needs to be done. We at W6 want you to be careful so you’re not among those who are being injured by spilling on the tracks.

I ride from the UA campus into downtown quite regularly and can share that the parking spot outside at the NE corner of Park and University still needs to be turned into a bike corral. Watch that corner. A large car parked in that spot will force you close to the tracks. Also, if you’re coming east on Broadway in the downtown core, when you get to the spot the tracks turn towards 4th Avenue, you really need to be on your game in order to hop to the south side of the tracks. Those are just a couple of the hot spots. Here’s a map that Living Streets Alliance is putting together that shows where the accidents are accumulating:



The red blotches are where people have reported spills. Over the last 18 months there have been 86 reports of accidents. About 2/3 of the riders have been wearing a helmet, and probably not coincidentally, about 2/3 of the riders have over 3 years’ experience biking. Wear a helmet. It saved my life – and could be a game changer for you, too.

One interesting statistic that the LSA data has revealed is that only about 1/2 of the riders who reported injuries are over 30 years old. The reverse side of that coin is that about half the people riding in the area are under 30. That statistic tends to validate the vehicle miles graph shown above; that is, people are driving

less and finding other modes of travel to get around, especially in the urban core. And it’s encouraging to see the younger people being such a large part of that changing ethic.

From the list of pinch points we supplied to TDOT a while back, about 15% of them have been addressed. As I said, more work needs to be done. Enjoy and celebrate the Streetcar coming on line – and be careful while biking the corridor.

Downtown Beach



...while it’s not exactly what you’ll see on the 25th, there will be a beach constructed adjacent to the MLK apartments to help to commemorate the Streetcar opening. Under the leadership of the Downtown Tucson Partnership staff, the ‘beach’ will be dropped into place and will serve as a destination site until later in the year. There’ll be sand volleyball, music, seating areas and generally outdoor fun.

In the downtown core, so many things seem to be changing in nonlinear ways. The vibe that’s building around the Streetcar opening is only the cherry on top of the new excitement that has been growing. Come on down on the 25th for daytime and evening events.

Lake Mead

This photo is from April, taken by an LA Times photo journalist. The rings on the side of the picture show how far the water level in Lake Mead has fallen.

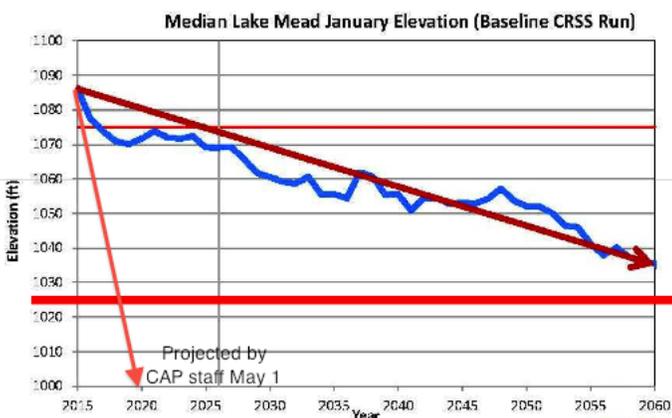


Two weeks ago I wrote about Tucson Water's long range effluent reuse plan. They're starting an intensive public education process which is both appropriate and necessary. Why? Because even the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is concerned about what they're seeing at Mead. And they're not alone. In the past week, Sharon Megdal, Director of UA's Water Resources Research Center, a CAP board member, and Jay Famigletti, a senior water scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, have expressed concern and called for action on the part of all parties involved. Those are a couple of people who know their stuff. Their call for action includes each of us, as we're the ones who control how we use water in our homes and places of business.

I've written and spoken about this topic a lot. It's one of the single most important issues we deal with at the council level. We fought the State Legislature last year over a planned major residential development out in Painted Hills, and we adopted a water service policy that reflects the significance of the conservation ethic each of us recognizes is a critical component of any development in the region. Here are a few reasons: This week, Lake Mead's elevation is about 1,082 feet above sea level. That's the lowest it has been since the 1930s. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is predicting that it will drop to as low as 1080 feet by September. It'll rise to about 1084 feet after that when they conduct releases from Lake Powell upstream. The Feds declare a shortage when it reaches 1075 feet above sea level.

I write a lot about our government accounting (Certificates of Participation, most recently). There's a nuance in how the Feds keep their books that applies to Lake Mead and declaring a shortage. That is, a shortage is declared only when the lake is below 1075' at the beginning of the year. The Bureau is forecasting that it'll drop below that in July of 2015. And here's a graph that CAP put out that paints the picture:

Longer-Term Outlook



I'm not going to try to explain all of the nuances of what happens when a shortage is declared – because I don't understand them all. It's complex stuff. I can share though that voluntary reductions in Lower Basin deliveries of water will kick in when Mead levels reach certain benchmarks. For example, at 1075', 333K acre feet less may be delivered. That amount increases to 414K acre-feet when it reaches 1050' and 500K acre-feet at 1025'. Those reductions will only be borne by Arizona and Nevada, not California. The CAP data shown above, based on Bureau forecasts, issue a warning that the Mead level could drop below 1000' sometime within the next decade. At that level, power production from Hoover Dam

would be sharply reduced. That would directly affect Tucson.

Our recent staff presentation on the operation of Lake Mead was more optimistic than some other experts in the field are suggesting. I only bring it to you here so you're aware that there are some pretty smart people who are in positions to know who are getting pretty concerned about how we're all using our water.

Water rates, electric rates, rationing and controls on agricultural and other users are all in play on this issue. Please really consider how you're running your water this summer. We're each individually in a position to be a part of the solution.

Tucson Water offers a free 'Water Audit' at your home or business. If you'd like to schedule a time to have them come out and assess where you might be able to make some savings, please get ahold of us at the Ward 6 office and we'll be happy to get you to the right folks over at TW. Our number is 791.4601. And by the way, Arizona leads the nation in the implementation of water reuse programs. The effluent reuse program that's being studied is an important part of the continuation of that process.

City Sponsored Workshop

Finally, our Finance people are offering a couple of free workshops to help small businesses learn the ins and outs of Licensing and how to report sales tax information. The guidelines change over time, often as a result of new State legislation (example – the new Transaction Privilege Tax law they passed last year), so it's important to stay up to speed on what your obligations are under State law. Here are the dates and locations for the workshops:

CONTRACTING

Tuesday, July 22, 2014
10:30 a.m. to Noon
Wilmot Branch Library, 530 N. Wilmot Road

RETAIL

Tuesday, July 29, 2014
10:30 a.m. to Noon
Wilmot Branch Library, 530 N. Wilmot Road

This isn't the most exciting stuff, but if you're running a business, you need to know it. For more information, you can go to Taxpayer-Education@tucsonaz.gov or call 791-4681. You need to call ahead to reserve your space. When you make your reservation, please specify the activities and subjects that you are interested in reviewing. There'll be plenty of time for Q&A at each session.

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 . . .

July 25: 4 Ribbon Cuttings & 1 Grand Opening Kicks Off 3 Days of Free Rides

Friday, July 25, 2014 kicks off Sun Link service with a short, 15-minute ribbon cutting at four different district streetcar stops, followed by a grand opening. The public is invited to attend any of these events.

See the following page for a list of events.





Please click [here](#) for a printable version of this map.

Event	Approx. Time	Area
1	7 AM	Mercado District: Ribbon Cutting at Avenida del Convento & Congress Streetcar Stop
2	7:40 AM	University of Arizona: Ribbon Cutting at Helen Street & Warren Avenue Streetcar Stop
3	8:05 AM	Main Gate Square: Ribbon Cutting at University Boulevard & Tyndall Avenue Streetcar Stop
4	8:28 AM	4th Avenue Business District: 4th Avenue and 7th Street Streetcar Stop
5	9 AM	Congress Street and Fifth Avenue: Grand Opening

Public rides on the streetcar will start at approximately 10 am on Friday, July 25, 2014 along the entire streetcar route. Free rides will be available Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

3 Days to Ride Free

FRIDAY, JULY 25	Approx. 10am-2am*
SATURDAY, JULY 26	8am-2am*
SUNDAY, JULY 27	8am-8pm*

* Start time of the last Sun Link trip

Ongoing

Literacy Connects

From reducing unemployment and poverty to increasing economic growth and opportunity, literacy is key to making a better future for all of us. Last year, more than 1,500 people volunteered with Literacy Connects to help more than 50,000 learners of all ages in Southern Arizona. Find out more at www.literacyconnects.org.

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S. Scott Avenue

Season begins September 13th

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

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 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, 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/>

Friday Night Live! at Main Gate Square, 814 E University Blvd
Saturday nights, 7:00-9:00, stellar jazz performances.

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!



JULY 24 THE BREAKFAST CLUB (1985) R

Starring Molly Ringwald, Emilio Estevez, Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy and Judd Nelson.

Five high school students, all different stereotypes, meet in detention, where they pour their hearts out to each other, and discover how they have a lot more in common than they thought.