

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

July 22, 2013

Pima County Bond Election

The population of Pima County is just under 990K. The City of Tucson accounts for 525K of that. We're a big chunk of those who make up the County. For that reason, it's key that you voice your feelings with respect to the many proposals that are under consideration for the upcoming County Bond package. In order to accommodate that, the County has put together a survey that walks you through each proposal and asks your opinion. Here's a link to that survey, as well as a link that gives a more in-depth description of the bonds:

www.pima.gov/bondsurvey

For more information about the bond program, please visit: <http://webcms.pima.gov/government/bonds/>

I shared with you that the Bond Advisory Committee is going to have to cull out about 1/2 of what is already on their list. They're going to listen to the people who participate in the process (as noted before... show up) so take 15 minutes and answer the survey. These items will directly affect the taxes that you pay, as well as the amenities you'll enjoy around the region. It's worth your time investment.

New to the list –

Last week I submitted an item to the Bond list that does not appear on the survey. Here's a short description of what they'll soon have in their in-box.

Department: CITY OF TUCSON
July 2013

Future Bond Election Proposed Projects

Project Name: Sunshine Mile Commercial District or Corridor

Location: This project is located along Broadway Boulevard between Euclid and Country Club, which is within the incorporated jurisdiction of the City of Tucson, Ward 6.

Scope: The project program is the economic development and physical enhancement of historic commercial buildings along the Sunshine Mile corridor. This gateway to downtown presents a unique opportunity to celebrate and enhance an important collection of mid-century modern commercial storefronts and buildings while encouraging and cultivating small businesses. The project is envisioned to create a multi-faceted approach to improve economic development opportunities while protecting historic resources. Façade improvement programs, the creation of incubator spaces and local business development are all anticipated outcomes.

Benefits: The project will benefit the city and the region. This corridor is one of Tucson's most important streets and a focal point of post-WWII development. Over the last twenty-five years the area has suffered from economic disinvestment. With strategic economic development programming, this district can re-emerge as an important destination with business revitalization and an increased tax base. Tucson Modernism Week 2012 focused on educational and heritage programming with thousands of community members attending this multi-day event. The celebration of our historic modern architecture, a focus on local businesses and the proximity to central urban neighborhoods offers a perfect combination for re-investment and re-emergence. The revitalization of this corridor will leverage private investment and improve the beauty and vitality of region.



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

This proposal is intended to work in concert with the design plan that the Broadway Citizen's Task Force is now developing for this segment of the corridor. If the County Bond's include this project, and the package is adopted by the voters, if there's money saved on the Broadway RTA project the money allocated to this application could then come off the top from the RTA contribution to the project and those dollars moved to other roadway projects in the City. If you're doing the survey and want to support this Sunshine Mile proposal, you'll have to do it as a write in candidate since it won't appear on the list included in the survey. On the very last page of the survey there is a comment page that you can use for the write-in.

Another County Item:

For the past couple of weeks I've been trying to push the envelope with respect to the Pima Animal Care Center and the whole issue of the welfare of the animals out there. While it's a County run facility, we help to fund it, and many of the animals that end up there come from within the City limits.

While the FY'13 books are not closed yet, our best projection right now is that the City will end up funding PACC this year at about \$3.4M. There are about a million dollars in revenues coming to us from licensing that will help to offset that cost.

The PACC budget is just over \$6M. The County pays the bulk of the difference between our payment and that budget amount. PACC has a line item for spay/neuter of about \$1M, of which we will pay just under 1/2. If you'll recall from a couple of weeks ago that I mentioned that over 7,300 animals are euthanized out there, you can see that the money being invested into the spay/neuter function of the facility isn't adequate to the need.



They're overcrowded, and the problem keeps getting worse due to numerous factors, the most basic of which is that they don't charge for people to drop off their pets (for adoption, or euthanizing.) Other shelter facilities charge you to drop off your pet as a way of off-setting the costs for spay/neuter and boarding animals.

Since July 1, nearly 1,040 animals have been turned in for sheltering. That's nearly 50 per day. Currently there are well over 500 dogs being sheltered in 233 kennels and cages.

There's no rehab space, no isolation space and the infirmary is stretched to the limit. The problem is beyond the ability of PACC staff, the hundreds of volunteers, and the DOC inmates who serve out their community service working at PACC to properly deal with. The workers need resources, and lacking that, the animals are the collateral damage.

Last year the County increased their license fees and earmarked the increase to nothing but spay/neuter. Because we wanted to allow for PACC administration to decide how best to allocate the dollars we invest into the place, we did not stipulate that our fee increases would go to the spay/neuter program. As I noted, it's a County facility and we were sensitive to telling them how to run their operation.

With the current overcrowding, there might be some wisdom in an earmark of a portion of our investment similar to what the County has done. In an effort to get a sense of how the



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)

County folks would react to our making a policy/management decision on how some of our allocation to PACC was spent, over the weekend I sent this letter to the County Administrator, Mr. Huckelberry:

Dear Mr. Huckelberry;

Over the course of the past year, the region has seen an unsettling increase in the number of animals being dropped off at the Pima Animal Care Center. Due to circumstances that are largely beyond the control of PACC staff and the wonderful volunteers who serve at the facility, far too many of those animals are being euthanized before adoption or fostering options materialize.

The County has authorized a portion of your investment into the facility to be earmarked specifically for spay/neuter. In respect of the fact that the County operates the facility, the City has given no such direction. The numbers would indicate that spay/neuter is underfunded.

Would you please send me any data your staff has that would indicate the number of animals who come into the facility, the number that are adopted out, and any other thoughts you have related to how we might best work together to make a significant impact on the problem of euthanizing the animals at such a high rate. Specifically, please comment on your perception of the success of the County spay/neuter earmark, and your feelings with respect to the City stipulating some portion of our investment into PACC to similarly be earmarked to that program. Given that the money subject to that earmark would be coming from City of Tucson residents, I'd be interested in your thoughts relative to our direction that any of these very focused dollars be only spent to spay/neuter animals that came to PACC from a City zip code.

Thank you for your help in finding a solution to this public health / animal welfare issue. I appreciate any thoughts you may have.

For the rest of the month, PACC is adopting out their animals for only \$13. Special needs animals are going for free, provided the owner pledges to provide appropriate treatment for the new family member. Kudos to PACC – I'm looking forward to hearing back from Mr. Huckelberry as to how the County would react to what may be perceived as micro-managing their budget. I'm hopeful for a regional approach to this regional problem.

The PACC adoption center is located at 4000 N. Silverbell Rd. If you can adopt or foster a pet, please check them out. I'll be sharing Mr. Huckelberry's reply with the City Manager so he can pass it along to M&C for our consideration. And there is also a Bond Election item that supports capital improvements for PACC.

No Kill Pima County

And this, by way of reminder for the upcoming weekend, the event on Saturday the 27th that will highlight rescue, adoption and fostering animals.

No Kill Pima County is the group gathering at the St. Phillips Plaza from 6pm until 8pm this weekend. They're made up of about 20 local animal welfare groups, joining together to try to find homes for the dogs and cats who may well simply be euthanized if they wind up at the shelter. While we work at the governmental level to try to address the overcrowding, and get more people engaged in the spay/neuter solution, these groups are going to be immensely important to how we make progress in the stray, homeless animal population in the region.

Tucson Greyhound Park

While this isn't a County facility (it's located in the City of South Tucson,) the County has oversight responsibilities at the Track by virtue of PACC being a County operation that is charged with TGP inspections. As I noted last week, a new TGP CEO has been hired. Now is the time to get serious about inspecting the track for running conditions as well as kennel conditions. Although the 'new guy' at TGP is a player who brings the residue of former scandals, there may not be another time soon during which we have much of a chance to change the culture out at the Track by strengthening the approach to the treatment of the greyhounds.

As I noted in recent weeks, I'm hopeful that the change in management is a sign that the Florida owners are getting ready to divest themselves of the live racing portion of dog racing. The State adopted a statute last term that allows Off Track Betting, even if there is no live racing in Arizona. It's likely that TGP and the ownership had a hand in that bill, with the forward thinking of divestment later this year when their license comes up for renewal.

I don't want to assume anything other than that, specifically because it's very important that plans be put into place for a humane adoption of the animals if the track is going to close. I'm going to continue connecting with some of the rescue groups, and also keep an eye on how the PACC inspections are going. My experience is that the State oversight group isn't going to be of much help in any of this. Stay tuned.

Another Regional Concern



On July 17th, the Associated Press ran a story that warned of possible water shortages coming on the Colorado River. The Feds are concerned enough that they're proactively looking for solutions. They'll be considering ways to reduce demand, conservation and better management of water supplies. They've been holding hearings that stemmed from a two-year study by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that found the river won't be able to provide enough water for its nearby communities in 50 years. Since we rely on the CAP, we're included in that group of communities.

In fact, the Colorado River basin and its tributaries supply water to nearly 40 million people in seven states, including us, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

The Bureau of Reclamation is also looking to each individual State and locality for help in this. You all are doing very well – this report validates the importance of your efforts.

Pensions @ 50/50 for New Hires

No, that's nothing that has been approved. I simply bring this item forward to highlight yet again the importance of our finding productive solutions to the underfunding of our current pension obligations. As you know, there will be a ballot measure coming this fall that would have us end the current system, allow current employees to opt-out of it, but would do zero to help fund our current and future liabilities.

There are some who say that we need to "stop the bleeding," by which they mean, end the present system and start fresh with a new one. What they ignore is that the impact to the

General Fund would be immense, to the point of severe cuts-back to our ability to provide Charter driven services.

I can't take positions in this newsletter since it goes out on City servers. So, do you remember Joe Friday:

Just the facts, MAM.
Just the facts.



The fact is that stopping the bleeding in the way being suggested is the analog to taking a kitchen knife and opening up a larger wound. Some may think that's a productive way to solve the issue. Others may not.

What we can agree on is that legally, the one group of people who will ultimately be key to solving this is people who haven't even been hired yet. We are restricted by law from changing pension benefits for existing retirees, or for current workers. Therefore, it's incumbent on us to address this by pro-actively changing benefits/payments of future employees. Regardless of what happens on the ballot, we'll have to make changes for that group.

My title for this item suggests that one possible solution would be to require of new workers that they split the cost of their Plan with the City; that is, each side pays ½ the cost. The conversation has to take place though, and the sooner we get to it, the healthier will be the Plan going forward.

Our Educational Foundation – New CEO's and a Ward 6 Town Hall

Let me break into the new material with this reminder of the September 5th Education Town Hall that I'll be hosting at the Ward 6 office. We're inviting new PCC Chancellor Lee Lambert, and new TUSD Superintendent HT Sanchez to come and interact with you. It'll run from 5:30 until about 7pm.



Whether we're talking about attracting quality businesses, or the ability of our kids to compete effectively for jobs after graduation, the key is a healthy and productive educational system. These guys need our support as they begin their careers here. Showing that is the purpose of the Town Hall event.

Arena Parcel

A couple of years ago, prior to the current Rio Board having been appointed, the City issued a Request for Proposals relative to the development of the parcel of land that is immediately adjacent to I-10 and Congress, on the east side of the freeway. The award went to

**PEACH
PROPERTIES**

HM INC.

and we began in good faith negotiating a deal that at the time could have ended up with a hotel, and other mixed uses on the space. Then litigation happened with the former Rio Board and the negotiations were put on ice until that process played itself out. It did, and as a result we have now ceded ownership of that parcel to Rio Nuevo, giving them a couple of years to put something on it.

There are those of us on the Council who would like to see our good faith negotiations to continue between Peach and Rio. Here's the language in the settlement that would allow that to occur:

Agreement, the City shall be released and fully discharged from all obligations and liability whatsoever under this Agreement.

10. Termination. The City is negotiating with the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District ("Rio Nuevo") to settle unrelated litigation and may transfer the Property to Rio Nuevo as part of the settlement. Any such transfer would be subject to the Peach Claim or this Agreement, as the case may be.

I only share this with you here to give you a bit of advanced notice that if the Rio Board completes their negotiating with Peach, that parcel will likely have a hotel, retail and associated parking. It'll be the start of developing the west end of Congress, and may end up being the second of the mid-scale hotels we'll be seeing go into the downtown core.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that many of you saw a bit of a sparring match between me and the Metro Chamber manager, one part of which was my contention that it's good and ethical business practice to finish out contracts and negotiations with potential partners before moving onto a possible new prospect. That's a similar message in the case of the Arena Parcel. I'm hopeful that we will see some very productive negotiating between Rio and Peach, and that in the not too distant future the Mayor and Council will be considering an independent third party financial analysis that attaches to a proposed project on that site that reflects success coming from that negotiating.

Nuisance Properties

The ability of a jurisdiction to address property owners who let their property fall into disrepair, store junk on it, or don't abate graffiti – or a host of other Code related gaffs – is assured at both the State and at the Local level. Here's some language that is found on the State site:

33-321. Maintenance of premises

A tenant shall exercise diligence to maintain the premises in as good condition as when he took possession, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

Locally, we have a neighborhood preservation ordinance that affords similar protection. The enforcement mechanism is complaint driven, and once that happens, a prescribed series of steps begins. Here's what our Code Enforcement people do as a follow up to NPO complaints:

What is the process from complaint to resolution?

- 1. A case is opened based on a complaint.**
- 2. An inspection is scheduled.**
- 3. If no violation is found, the case is closed.**
- 4. If violations are found, the property owner receives a Notice of Violation**

(NOV) a warning letter that outlines what code violations exist and gives a time frame in which to correct them.

5. If an emergency situation exists, immediate compliance may be required.

6. In most situations, the owner is given 30 days to abate the violations. More time may be allotted for a more complicated case where drawings may be required prior to permitting.

7. If the owner fails to comply within the time frame given in the NOV, they may be charged a re-inspection fee of \$75. This is a fee, not a fine, and it reflects the staff time and processing necessary for a re-inspection.

8. Inspectors can grant an extension if warranted. If a property owner is disabled or elderly and needs assistance, we will help them find assistance through sources such as Pima Council on Aging, Adult Protective Services, and Pima County Juvenile Court.

9. If no extension is requested or granted and the violations are not abated, then the owner may be served with a citation. A citation brings the action into City Court and the owner faces arraignment and subsequent court dates. The judicial process can extend the life of a case by at least 60 to 90 days.

10. The City Magistrate who hears the case may dismiss the case, continue the case to another date, order abatement of the violations, grant extensions to complete the abatement, and/or impose fines that may range from \$150 to a maximum of \$2,500 per violation.

11. The Code Enforcement Division does not collect or receive the fines imposed.

However, if the owner is found responsible and there were costs incurred, such as clean up and removal, the owner will be charged for those costs. Failure to pay those costs can cause a lien to be placed on the property for the full amount.

On Tuesday evening, July 23rd, from 4:00pm until 5:30pm, I've invited our Code Enforcement staff, a member of TPD and a representative of our City Attorney's office to sit with residents and talk about possible ways to tighten up that process. A regular refrain I hear is that getting people to clean up their property takes far too long under the current process. And yet there's also the need to balance compliance with an owners ability to fund repairs or clean-up work.

We generally allow 30 days to abate the conditions that led to a complaint. Some jurisdiction cut that in half. The ones I've seen all have the escape clause that allows grace when it's a matter of ability to afford the repairs or maintenance. That's a field judgment call that I believe needs to remain in place.

Any suggestions made at the meeting on the 23rd would have to be adopted on a City-wide basis. I'll share back with you some of the outcomes of the meeting and will be interested in hearing the feedback from those of you who won't have the ability to join us on Tuesday for the discussion.

Election Dates and Instructions

Here are some important dates to remember if you want to participate in this fall's election (and I hope you will.)

To keep your registration current (if you've moved or changed your name since the last election) you need to register for the Primary by July 29th, and for the General by October

7th. Registering for the Primary takes care of the need to do it again for November.

Once you're eligible, you'll have a voter packet mailed to you automatically. Those packets will be mailed on August 8th for the Primary, and on October 17th for the General.

Watch your mailbox around those dates. If nothing voting related arrives in the few day window that exists, contact the Pima County Recorder's Office and they'll give you a hand in getting back onto the voter rolls. That contact information is recorder.pima.gov/regvote.aspx. You can also check with the City Clerk @ 884.VOTE or cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov.

We have some incredibly important issues in front of us that'll be on the ballot this fall. The pensions, home rule, photo radar and of course the election of City Council members. If you have any trouble registering, let us know at the Ward office and we'll do what we can to assist.

Tucson Access to Care Ordinance – Uncompensated Care

In 2012, Southern Arizona hospitals provided nearly \$135M in uncompensated care to uninsured patients. The insurance issue is driven by several factors, some of which include the recession and State reductions to AHCCCS funding.

In an effort to fund some of those losses, a couple of months ago the City was approached by several health care providers with a proposal by which the City would impose a short term license assessment based on a percentage of their gross patient revenues and deposit those assessments into a separate 'Tucson Access to Care Fund.' The money would then be transferred up to the State, a portion of which would be used as the State's share of uncompensated care payments to the City's hospital. The majority of the combined funds from the provider assessment and the federal match will come back to the City's acute care hospitals.

The Federal Government matches these funds on a 2:1 basis.

The estimates are that this Ordinance will infuse approximately \$80M into local hospitals. The City has a significant opportunity to restore lost federal Medicaid funding. This Ordinance will substantially alleviate the impacts of uncompensated care on the local community and allow Tucson hospitals to continue providing the highest quality care, and serve as an economic driver in our community. The assessment will expire at the end of this calendar year.

We will be seeing the final draft of this at our August meeting. We've been assured that the language will prohibit hospitals subject to the license assessment from passing the costs of the fees onto patients, or onto private third-party payers. What it will do is to help local hospitals fund some of the uncompensated care that they've been giving out. Here's a list of the partners who have worked together to bring this stop-gap measure forward.

Supporting Hospitals:



It's important to note that the City was approached by the hospitals - because of the Federal match, this assessment is fully embraced by them. Also, it will not cost the City anything. We will take a portion of the assessments necessary to cover our administrative costs.



Health care and the whole service delivery system is big time in the news lately. I suspect that it will be for months. In the meantime, we'll be adopting this Ordinance as a way of helping our local hospitals to weather the storm while the Feds sort out the larger issues.

LUNCH AND RECREATION PROGRAM AT WILLIAM CLEMENTS REGIONAL CENTER

One more item in which we're partnering in an effort to touch the lives of some of the most needy in our community is a program Parks and Rec is sharing alongside the Pima Council on Aging, the Arizona Department of Economic Security/Division of Aging and Adult Services, and The United Way. It's a new recreation and socialization program for people who are 60 years of age and older. It'll begin on Monday, August 5th out at the William Clements Regional Center (8155 E. Poinciana Drive.)

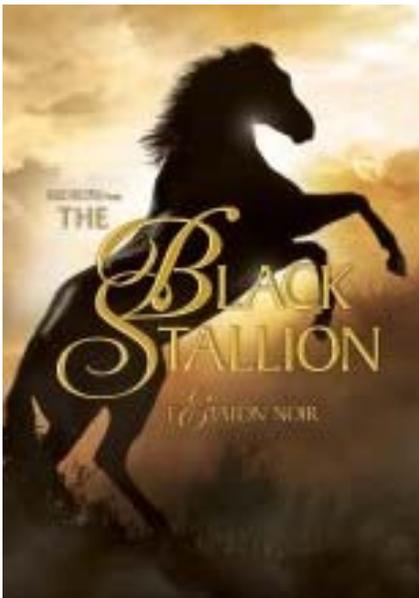
Meals will be served at noon Monday through Friday. Individuals ages 60 and over (and their spouses of any age) are invited to participate. The meals will provide 1/3 of the RDA, will be low in fat, sugar and salt – but they will not have the capability to cater to “special” diets. If you can, a \$2 donation is requested to help support the program.

You can contact our P&R department @ 791.4873 if you'd like to get involved.

Sincerely,



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



Cinema La Placita Outdoor Film Series
presents “**The Black Stallion**”
on Thursday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m.
To view full schedule visit:
<http://www.cinemaplacita.com/>



Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

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

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Monday, July 22, 8:00pm. “**J Boog and Katchafire**” all ages.

Tuesday, July 23, 7:00pm. “**Rancid/Transplants**” all ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition:

“**Desert Grasslands,**” and “**Art + The Machine**”

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

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

Current exhibition: “**Ken Shorr: Action Through Redaction**”

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

www.Moca-Tucson.org

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

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

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Jewish History Museum. 564 S. Stone Ave.

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

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

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

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

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers' Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

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

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

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

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

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Other Community Events

Loft Cinema www.loftcinema.com/

Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)

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

UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing

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

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum – 414 N Toole Ave.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

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