

Ward 6 Staff



**Steve
Kozachik**



Ann Charles



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Amy Stabler



Evelyn Romero



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

December 18, 2013

Inside Tucson Business

They're under new management – Mark Evans, formerly the whole show at TucsonCitizen.Com is now running Inside Tucson Business. He has made some staffing and formatting changes, and the publication seems to have a fresh look and some new energy. Their emphasis is still business related topics, but I suspect with a bit of a broader interpretation of which issues relate to that theme, and how.

One issue that Mark felt properly falls under the business-related umbrella is our vote to increase City worker compensation. He posted this op/ed from me on the topic.

Here it is in its entirety:

http://www.insidetucsonbusiness.com/opinion/columnists/guest_opinion/pay-raises-only-add-to-list-of-items-tucson-can/article_f41bec00-636f-11e3-8bb3-0019bb2963f4.html

On Tuesday we conducted the final vote to approve the raises. I was still the lone dissenter. Onto the budget discussions.

Tucson Fire Department

Related to the budget and compensation increase is our inability to properly fund protective equipment for our firefighters and police. On Tuesday we had an opportunity to address that for TFD.

On the consent agenda was an Intergovernmental Agreement between us and the Mount Lemmon Fire District. We're supplying them with services, and in response, they're paying us \$13,400 annually. As it was presented to us, that money was headed into the General Fund. I asked that council agree to earmark it for the TFD equipment budget - that goes for all sorts of gear such as turnouts, jaws of life, cardiac monitors, hoses, nozzles, and whatever they need to stay one of the best fire agencies in the nation. On a unanimous vote, the money is headed to TFD. It's not a ton, but every time we have this sort of chance, we should be taking advantage of it. Our list of deferred needs is far too extensive for us to keep kicking it down the road.

Pedestrian Safety

With the short-term spike in auto/bike/ped accidents, we've formed a Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and have a renewed focus on the issue within our Department of Transportation. Here's the reality – we cannot stop these accidents by setting in place new policies. But we can put tools together that will serve to decrease their likelihood.



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

To that end, we're reaching out for public input as to what sorts of improvements we can make that will enhance everybody's level of safety. There's an online survey you can take if you'd like to participate – here's the link:

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/limesurvey/index.php?sid=95598&lang=en>

The goal of the program is to develop a Master Plan that will enhance select residential streets in order to make them safer and more comfortable for Tucsonans to either walk or bike on. The survey is intended for everyone, not just people who walk or bike.

One initiative the Advisory Committee has already forwarded to TDOT is their unanimous support for prioritizing HAWK lights to be placed at critical high-volume crossing points. HAWK lights are the ones you activate that allow peds to cross traffic on otherwise wide and/or busy major roadways. They've proven themselves to dramatically reduce the risk of pedestrian injury and death when properly located.



Changing the priority also means changing budgeted support levels. We'll have to explore outside funding sources, grant money and pound the pavement for whatever other outside funding may be available. I'll be supporting these efforts, and would encourage staff to continue to include the PAC in with our planning process as things evolve over the near term.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who are taking their time to address this important local issue. And thanks to City Staff for appropriately reaching out to a variety of stake holders and showing leadership on gathering input from a variety of directions before bringing us a product that'll be up for our vote.

Office of Integrated Planning

On the subject of gathering stake holder input, the City Manager is going to establish an Office of Integrated Planning to serve as the umbrella for pulling together the relevant City departments when projects are both in the planning and in the implementation stage. I think this has been a long time in coming, and I support the move.

On its face, it's an internal restructuring of reporting requirements. It's more than that though, and for that reason I have asked that the scope of stake holders who are included in early planning discussions be broadened to include members of the community – both business operators and residents of neighborhoods that will be impacted by a given project. That will also include the Council office in whose Ward the work will be done.

This isn't meddling. What this amounts to is bringing the whole range of concerned voices to the table before momentum can gather in a particular direction for a project that may eventually end up with points of conflict. We've seen examples of failing to do that in the past couple of years, and we have also managed some good design when bringing all of the parties to the table early. Everybody gains in the long run when a project isn't forced back for redesign.

The item adopting the reorganization was on the consent agenda. As it stands, the consultation is focused to within the City bureaucracy. At the urging of several groups who are



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)

legitimately sensitive to being excluded from planning discussions until late in the process, we made it clear on Tuesday that there needs to be a series large meetings with multiple impacted parties to form protocols through which we'll ensure early and appropriate involvement. There might have been a time in the past few years when we'd have taken it on faith that the codification of acceptable protocols would take place and we could vote to approve a half-baked ordinance believing that that would occur. But our vote to send the item back to Staff to finish the work before we signed on was a signal that we're at the point where it's either in writing, or it's not being approved.

The areas the OIP will oversee are involved with Infrastructure and service planning, community planning, sustainability, Historic Preservation, and technical services. Builders and developers have to be included early in discussions relevant to infrastructure needs. We nearly blew it in the downtown core when laying streetcar tracks and not thinking ahead to infrastructure needs that had to be stubbed out for future growth. Community planning involves land use considerations – quality of life considerations – as well as in many cases the issue of Historic preservation and building sustainable project components into the design early in the process. Ward 6 is particularly impacted by many of these issues as it is the single most challenged Ward when it comes to the growth spurt prompted by the streetcar and expansion of the UA, and making that happen while giving due consideration to the needs and desires of established residential neighborhoods in which people have invested themselves. The protocols I've asked for are a necessary component to the concept of "integrated" planning.

I appreciate the fact that our City Manager is open to further discussion on the way this new department will interact with stake holders who don't reside in City Hall. With discussions on-going related to development guidelines along the streetcar route, Downtown Links construction, the recent Urban Land Institute proposals, and the fact that we'll soon be changing our whole impact fee policy (because of changes in State law – pre-emption) this is the time to roll the structural changes being proposed by Mr. Miranda into those very important community planning conversations so we're hearing the broad array of voices who deserve to be heard.

Will that result in projects that meet the expectations of everybody who had a chance to share? Nope – but it'll result in projects that at least have the benefit of a variety of perspectives to roll into design early enough to save the headaches and cost associated with redoing things that could have been avoided. The old saying – always time to do it over, but never time to do it right the first time? That's what I'm hoping to avoid.

Panda on Broadway

...for example – the City went in and acquired multiple properties along the Broadway corridor before the roadway project is designed. Now the buildings are falling into disrepair, serving as crime magnets and costing the taxpayers money for upkeep, property management and security. One example is the former Panda Restaurant on Tucson Blvd and Broadway.



In its day, it was a pretty cool place. Now the estimates are that it'd cost in excess of \$50K just to repair the damages caused by theft of wiring, damage to plumbing and some structural issues. That doesn't even start to address abatement of asbestos if a person were to want to buy the building and do tenant improvements

to reoccupy the space. And the fact that the building sits on the curb line of Broadway allows it to be a visual block to its parking lot behind – a parking lot shared by a small salon, and that is now being used as a camp site for people doing drug deals, breaking into the Panda and threatening clients and employees of the salon.

What to do? I've already asked our mid-town police division to be extra vigilant in patrolling the rear of the building. But that's not the solution.

I called together the owners of the salon, residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, members of the Broadway Coalition, and City staffers from the City Manager's office, City Attorney, Real Estate, TDOT, the project manager for the Broadway project, and our Historic Preservation Office. This is the sort of broad array of voices an OIP discussion should encompass.

The solution to the Panda?

- a) The rational result would be demolition of the building
- b) But only if an aesthetically pleasing next step that will activate the space is designed
- c) That means funding – RTA can pay for demo / design of the next phase is the question. Our TDOT director offered funds to get the site to a stable and aesthetically ok condition – but that's not going to be the solution.
- d) Stop early acquisition of properties until the citizen task force has designed the alignment and the governing bodies have approved it
- e) Stop telling prospective tenants that in 3 years the properties will be condemned.
- f) Get the Broadway alignment decided – pronto.

Before Real Estate can demolish a building they'll have to come to M&C to get money transferred from the RTA to do that. When/if that happens with respect to Panda, it will be for that building only – not a wallet full of money that might send the message along the Broadway corridor that we're sending in the wrecking balls for all City owned properties. Some may be salvageable and usable – once prospective tenants know what the alignment will be.

The RTA tax forecasts show that they'll be short of cash by a not insignificant amount. That means we should be doing creative planning on all of the voter approved RTA projects – meeting the intent of the ballot measures, even where that might mean trimming back on some of the specific wording. Keep the promise – save money where we can. The Broadway is most immediately in the position to achieve that and hopefully serve as a template for other projects so we're not spending unwisely, but still meeting our commitments to the voters.

We can do both. It will take the City working with the RTA, working with the County, and working with the residents and businesses impacted by construction and design. That would be an integrated planning process.

In Lieu Tax

Integrated with planning is the issue of trust. Sometimes even when it's in writing, what we vote to do isn't done. First let me say that ultimately each of us on the Council could have caught the fact that our vote to sunset the "In lieu of property tax" charge to Tucson Water was ignored. And yet our role is policy – staff's role is to carry it out. But I'll take

my share of the blame for not combing through the data closely enough. And I'll also maintain that there has to be a level of trust such that that level of scouring isn't necessary.

In March, 2010 we adopted a matrix of budget related items for the FY'11 budget. They included things such as changes in how much we funded outside events, changes in funding for graffiti abatement, increases in towing and impoundment fees, and an item called the "in lieu of property tax". That was an assessment on Tucson Water that yielded the General Fund about \$1.6M. The idea was that Tucson Water – being an enterprise department – was exempt from paying property taxes on the property that it controlled. However, the M&C has the legal authority to levy the fee inside of city limits. The cost would be spread among all Tucson water customers – both inside and outside of the City. We adopted the fee to help balance our FY'11 budget – and at the time of the vote I offered a "friendly amendment" that it would sunset for FY'12. The vote was 7-0 in favor.

But staff did not sunset the tax. Nor did they in fiscal year 13. Early this year I got into an exchange with the City Manager's representative to the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee and he brought to my attention that the in-lieu fee was still being imposed on the utility – and by extension to all TW customers. When I brought this to the attention of our finance folks there was no hesitation in their acknowledging that they had not sun-setted it, but there was a reluctance to stop it and have to find \$1.6M new money in the middle of the fiscal year. I agreed to let it go with the understanding that it was going to be sun-setted for FY'14. Why? Because the money that was going into the General Fund was being used to provide services to the public. It wasn't lost, but it was a continuing charge to Tucson Water. Last week I learned that it had been included in the fy'14 Tucson Water 5 year plan, and therefore by extension in our budget.

I have asked for a study session for staff to formally bring this item to us in order for them to ask for it to be extended. It is certainly true that when we vote on a budget, each item is included – therefore according to the strict interpretation of the legality of keeping the fee moving forward, it was legal. We voted for the budget. And I didn't tip over the shell that had the in lieu pea under it.

The budget process should not be a shell game. Staff should have sun-setted the in lieu fee back in FY'12 as we voted to do. Instead, without mentioning that it was being proposed for continuation, it was simply slipped into the budget for FY'12, FY'13, and now FY'14. Because it's legal doesn't make it right.

We were surprised with having to purchase an 8th streetcar. We were surprised with a \$13M funding gap in the streetcar. Employees were not shown a Power Point that speaks of a "smaller" workforce when they were asked if they approved of a pay increase. Some council offices were told our personnel situation would take care of itself through attrition. When I asked if "smaller" meant layoffs, I was told that staff preferred to use the term 'furlough.' And I could go on, but the point is very basic; to staff, give us the information – make it the same for every audience you face – say in public what you've said in private meetings – and when we vote to give direction, do what we said to do.

I ask three very basic things from our finance/budget people. Do what we say to do / keep your word / don't make a shell game out of the budget. On the in lieu issue they couldn't check any of those three boxes.

As we approach the FY'15 budget discussions that has to change. I will do what I can to

bring our financial situation out into the light of day so you can see how your money is being spent. And I will hold staff accountable for delivering a consistent message to us all.

And if the in lieu fee is going to be continued, it deserves a public vote, not hidden in the midst of a budget document and a 5 year finance plan. The fact is that we likely would have approved the extension because of the tough financial condition we were in. But the fact is also that extending it was deserving of separate consideration since we had told staff to get rid of it after the first year it was in force. Trust is everything.

I've asked for an up/down vote on this item for the January 8th M&C meeting.

Admin Charges on January 22nd

Similarly, we have to get all departments on board with how our finance people are arriving at the administrative charges they get assessed. I've asked for a study session on January 22nd to talk about that.

Right now each operating unit is benefitting from the services provided by Human Relations, I.T., Procurement, and other support staff positions. Those come with a cost, and yet my rough polling of some of the top people in some of the departments make it clear that there's not sufficient buy-in to the level of admin service charges coming out of Finance. From the perspective of Finance, they're not high enough.

The issue is how departments pay for support services. Not every department has a specific line item called "Administrative Service Charges." But they all use H.R., Procurement and the others. I'm not concerned with what we're calling the charges to the departments as I am at arriving at fair and defensible charges. Some departments might want to pull some of the overhead functions in-house.

Every dollar that comes out of an operating unit is a dollar that could have gone to providing services to you. For that reason, we have to come to common ground on minimizing the administrative charges departments are paying so they're left with as much of a budget capacity as possible to do things like fix the roads, show up at burglaries, and put out fires.

I have no preconceived idea how the information we're given on the 22nd will turn out, but it's a conversation that needs to happen before we get too far into the FY'15 budget talks. If you work for an operating unit and feel there are things I should know on this topic, please don't hesitate to call. Remember – all voices deserve to be heard.

Puppy Mills



While there's not specific definition of a "puppy mill", the general identifying characteristic is the quality of care given to the animals. A 'mill' can be as few as a dozen dogs, or as many as a few hundred – if they're caged and treated as shown in the images above.



Puppy mills are located in multiple States – including in Arizona. They serve as the source for dogs (primarily – although kittens are also involved) that are sold out of retail pet shops. All pet shops that sell dogs are required by State law to let you know the exact source of their "stock" if you ask. Telling you "a local breeder" isn't sufficient. They are required to identify that source so you can check the conditions under which the dogs were reared.

Why do I mention this here? Because it's not uncommon for families to use this time of year to get a new family member – dogs and cats being the most common. You have choices. We have shelters both in the City and out in the County that are begging for people to come and adopt. Last week I shared the special deal that Pima Animal Care Center is offering through the end of the year. The Humane Society of Southern Arizona is also waiving their adoption fees this Holiday season. There are 71 other shelter and rescue outlets in Pima County who would love to see you on their doorstep. And at each of them, you know you're not subsidizing the profit motive of somebody who's simply using the dogs and cats as a commodity.

There are 39 jurisdictions who have adopted some form of ban on the sale of 'puppy mill' animals. This week the City of Phoenix is considering it. I'm working with some local rescue shelters, and will be reaching out to local retailers to try to get some agreement in Tucson that we have enough of a dog/cat oversupply already in our shelters. Pet shops should sell dogs and cats that come from our already overstuffed shelters. Pure breeds can be purchased from breeders where the conditions of treatment are open to everybody to see.

Here's some language that appears in some of the recently adopted legislation on this topic:

Responsible dog and cat breeders do not sell their animals to pet stores. The United Kennel Club (UKC), the second oldest all-breed registry of purebred dog pedigrees in the United States and the second largest in the world, asks all of its member breeders to agree to a Code of Ethics which includes a pledge not to sell their puppies to pet stores. Similar pledges are included in Codes of Ethics for many breed clubs for individual breeds.

More on this to come. If you'd like help in finding a rescue shelter, give us a call – or call Pima Animal Care Center or the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Most responsible breeders don't use retail pet shops to sell their pure-bred animals.

Trade with Mexico

Before the chorus strikes up the tune of my being "unfriendly to business", let's talk commerce with Mexico.

Last week the Mayor and I met with our City Manager and his economic development staff with the primary goal of asking what progress has been made, and what tools we need to put into the hands of our development folks to help them be successful. I think the meeting was a good step, but we need several good steps in order to simply catch up with some other ju-

risdictions, both in Arizona, and in neighboring States.

Our assets can't be matched by Phoenix, El Paso or others. We've got the proximity to the border, we've got an inland port already up and running, we've got rail lines, and interstates that touch the City limits, and we're the only jurisdiction that voted to oppose SB1070. We've got a VisitTucson staff that has a presence in Hermosillo and Obregon, and a University that is active in Mexico City. The parts are here – we just need to show the leadership and aggressiveness to pull them together and start churning out some jobs.

One item our staff said they needed was a data base from which to sell prospects. I've offered to loan my staff to the City Manager's office for a few weeks while we help to pull that data together. It's not pretty work, but like the ugly tie in the closet, sometimes you've just got to pull it out and wear it.

We have the Port of Tucson. They just received a \$5M TIGER grant to expand capacity. That's great, but we need to be including them in our work south of the border so they can pitch the facility.

We have an international airport that doesn't offer direct flights to Mexico. That's a huge hole in our portfolio. Both the City and County need to be leaning hard on TIA staff to get them to work cooperatively and not circle their wagons, acting like a lone wolf in the region. This is a regional issue and all players have to sit at the same table together.

We have VisitTucson with offices in Hermosillo and Obregon. Flowing from our meeting we agreed to set up shop – collocating at least phone lines – in both of those offices, and put City of Tucson signage in those offices so prospects have that visual of our on-site involvement. The same needs to happen with the UA office and the City having a presence.

There are trade conventions looking for a place to be host. The City should be that host. The players need to be major commercial interests from Sonora, tech savvy interests and a broad array of politically connected people. The Mayor is pulling the strings on forming that convention. When somebody in the room said 'we can work on that next year' my answer was that "next month is next year." We need to put this into full speed motion and get ourselves back into the game.

We've got students at Eller who could be doing internships, mining prospects in Mexico and creating a data base from South of the border. We need to get it through the heads of our Congressional delegation that when they hold sub-committee hearings in City Hall, they need to let all of us now (including the Board of Supervisors) so we can be participants in their discussions. That didn't happen last week when they were here. And the fact that it didn't suggests that if we're not even on the minds of our own Congressmen/women, then we've not been aggressive enough with our efforts.

Several months ago the Mayor took a trip down into Mexico and made some great contacts. We have not followed through on that. The air has come out of the balloon. Now we need to refill it and do the pick and shovel work of driving prospects into our region. I think that message was delivered in our meeting last week.

2nd Saturday's

Back in 2010 we secured about \$10K to get 2nd Saturday's restarted. At the time we in the Ward 6 office knew that we couldn't sustain it, but thought the idea had merit and so were pleased to test the waters with that initial donation. To his credit, Fletcher McCusker (the

(then owner of Providence Corp.) stepped up and took on the lion's share of the financing. Until this month, that was the business model for the event.

Providence pulled out after Fletcher moved on to other business ventures. That put the event at risk.

A few years ago the 4th of July fireworks became at risk because the City didn't have the funds to continue to put on the display. Within 72 hours of our having announced the end of the A Mountain show, other groups stepped in and picked up the tab. That same thing has now happened with 2nd Saturdays.

Our thanks go out to Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, Century Link, Elegant Thought, The Herbert, Crest Insurance and MIXfm for recognizing the tremendous value in being associated with 2nd Saturday's. Each of those groups have put some money into continuing the show – and so the financial health is better than it was when Providence pulled the plug.

The City doesn't have the funds to carry outside civic events beyond the commitment we've already made for funding through the competitive process the M&C have put into place. More events are told 'no' than are those we can help in some small way. For us to see the civic involvement from these six groups to keep the downtown party going is refreshing. And "note to other events" – test the market if you're running short on cash. While the City can't fund you, it's clear that there are dollars in the community that can be pried loose if the donors recognize a broad civic purpose in what's being solicited for.

Mark each 2nd Saturday to join thousands of your neighbors downtown / beginning at around 6pm.

Film Incentives



The State of Arizona has a rich history of attracting film producers, television series' and advertising firms to come and shoot their productions in our great state. . From Mescal to Old Tucson and even up in Flagstaff, Arizona has played host to film productions that have brought millions of dollars into our local economies. Without a state film production incentive program, we're losing those opportunities.

I've been working with Shelli Hall from the Visit Tucson Film Office and members of Pima County and City of Tucson legal and economic development teams to put in place an incentive tool kit that we can use to bring film productions to our region, even if it means doing

so without the support of a statewide incentive package. We're sending Shelli to a major trade show in D.C. in January to meet with all of the major producers. I've asked our economic development staff to have



at least the beginnings of a tool-kit for her to take with her – and to bring it to us during our January 8th study session. We can offer things such as reduced or free rent for some of our facilities, a portion of our bed tax (VisitTucson just committed some money to the show shown in the photos above,) and we're working to round out some more items she can include.

One part that I'm working on generating is the involvement of our business community. When a show comes to town, they need to avail themselves of products and services that exist in our local market.

Here's what happens when a film crew comes to our area:

- *They rent cars*
- *They stay in hotel rooms*
- *They use catering services*
- *They rent sound and lighting equipment*
- *They hire crew for pre-post production*
- *They build sets (hardware, paint, tools,)*
- *They rent costumes*
- *They buy make-up cosmetics and all of the various items needed to bring the show to life on the big screen.*

In many cases that means local vendors will sell those items!

As a part of the package we're putting together, I'm inviting local businesses to add their names to a list of vendors offering discounts to film producers who purchase their products and services.

If you would like to be one of those preferred vendors named on the list we're sending to the trade show, please let me know - including a general list of the products/services you'll be providing and the % discount you're willing to offer.

I'm confident that with the support of the local business community, coupled with the package we're putting together from a public sector perspective, we can get back into the film game and hopefully demonstrate the value we're leaving on the table - the end result being a statewide package to supplement what we'll do on a local level.

Please send your discount package description to ward6@tucsonaz.gov or call 791-4601 if you have any questions.

Comedic Interlude

Take a breath – this is a lighter item.

On December 28th at the Temple of Music and Art, Tucson native Eric Buss will return to

perform a full show of comedy and magic. He calls the act “Shenanigans Comedy and Magic Show.”

Eric has made a name for himself through a variety of appearances. Those include in front of our troops in Afganistan, at London’s Her Majesty’s Theater for a Royal command performance, at Hollywood’s World Famous Magic Castle, and more. We’re lucky to have Eric and his co-performers back in town on the 28th for their holiday show.

This is a family friendly show – the bit on the 28th will begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are available through www.shenanigansShow.com, or by calling the Temple of Music and Art Box Office. You save dough by buying tickets early. Sounds like a potential stocking stuffer. And this isn’t just a solo. Also from Hollywood, illusionist Danny Cole and Champion juggler Ivan Pecel will also share the stage. It should be a fun evening.

Texting While Driving

A local law enforcement issue is the texting while driving ban that we adopted last year. In April of 2012, the City ordinance banning texting while driving went into effect. The ordinance bans texting on a handheld wireless communication device. Handheld wireless communications devices may be used for many other activities other than sending text messages, but we chose the intuitive path of saying “if you’re driving a car, don’t send a text – or read incoming ones”.



In spite of the challenges to enforcement, fifty-three drivers have been contacted for violating the ordinance since April 2012. Of those drivers, fifteen received warnings and thirty eight received citations. Four of the citations issued were for violations associated with a traffic collision. When we adopted the ban there were those who said we wouldn’t be able to enforce it. They were wrong, and I’m pleased that we have this on the books.

Similar to the failure of the State to adopt a State wide film incentive program, they have also failed to adopt a texting ban.

AT&T’s “**It Can Wait**” texting and driving **campaign** promotes no texting while driving. It’s a nation-wide campaign that has been ongoing since 2012. Their goal is to educate drivers on the dangers and potential repercussions of texting while driving. It’s too bad that that education has to take place. One would think it’s a rather easy concept to figure out without having to be told.



Working together towards sustainable solutions

On Tuesday we approved a rezoning for a parcel located in Palo Verde Neighborhood. The change is going in support of the Watershed Management Group and their mission.

What they’re doing is taking an existing residential building and transforming it into what will be a site on which cultural programming, a learning center, demonstration gardens and seminars will be conducted. WMG will use the newly remodeled facilities to teach water harvesting techniques as well as other environmentally sustainable resource programs.

This adaptive reuse of the structure won’t come at the expense of the character and “look”

of the surrounding neighborhood. WMG will preserve the size, scale and architectural style of the existing building. They'll enhance the vegetation and upgrade the perimeter fencing with decorative masonry.

We get a lot of challenging rezoning requests, but this is one that will enhance the neighborhood and become a valuable community asset at the same time. I'm happy to welcome WMG into their new facilities, and we at the Ward 6 Office, and in Palo Verde neighborhood look forward to working with the group in the months and years ahead. Check them out if you're in the area – on the west side of Dodge, about 1 block north of Speedway.

Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

Another quick "thanks" is due to Bill Carnegie for his years of running the CFB. On Thursday of last week, he was "roasted" into retirement by Elliot Glicksman and Fitz. The Unisource folks loaned their spacious meeting room for a banquet style send off.

Bill came to the Food Bank back in 2006. Since his arrival the distribution of food has grown from just a Tucson operation to one that touches lives all over Southern Arizona. Here's the current data on hunger in our region:

CHILD HUNGER:



NATIONAL: 22.4% (approx. 1 in 5 kids)

ARIZONA: 29.9% (nearly 500,000 kids)

OUR SERVICE AREA: 26.9% (approx. 1 in 4 kids)

(Arizona is 3rd highest in the nation for childhood food insecurity, after New Mexico and D.C.)

TUCSON: 29.7% children below the poverty line*

While we could debate the many causes of those data, the fact is that they're for real, and Bill and the CFB staff have taken on the task of providing ways to fill the needs. You'll hear (correctly) that this time of year is one of particular need. Thanks are due to Bill for his work – and to his staff for their work. If you can help with some donations, either bring food to the Ward 6 Office (or I'm sure all council offices will participate in this) or you can take them out to the CFB facility.

The CFB is located at 3003 S. Country Club Road

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Ward 6 Council Member
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events Calendar

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

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Friday, December 20th 7 PM **The Cult – Electric 13 World Tour**

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

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Thursday, December 19th 7:30 PM **A Swingin' Christmas-Co Presented with Lonely Street Productions**

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Loft Cinema 3233 E. Speedway

Friday, December 27th at 7:00pm **The Charles Phoenix Retro Holiday Slide Show!**

Co-presented by Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation / Tucson Modernism Week

www.loftcinema.com/

Carriage Rides Through Downtown

Join us for Old Fashioned Jingle bell & Caroling rides: November 27th - January 1st

Tours leave every half hour at stand on Congress and 5th Ave

<http://www.sentinelcarriagecompany.com/christmas-rides>

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

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

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

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

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

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Arizona State Museum 1013 E. University Blvd

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

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

UA Mineral Museum 1601 E University Blvd

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

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight 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

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

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

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Free Tucson Water Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Class from Watershed Management Group

Wednesday, January 8th 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Ward 3 City Council Office, 1510 E Grant Rd

Have you installed rainwater-harvesting systems at your home? Do you plan to? Tucson Water's rebate program can help make it affordable. The rebate will cover the full cost of a system, up to \$300, or 50% of the cost, up to \$2,000, for qualifying rainwater-harvesting projects installed after September 27, 2011. One requirement of the rebate program is to attend a three-hour educational session such as this one. Watershed Management Group offers this session, free of charge, as a service to the community.

Pre-registration is required. To register, click here:

<http://watershedmg.org/civCRM/event/register?reset=1&id=312>

For more information about the rebate classes, visit our website <http://watershedmg.org/rebate>