

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



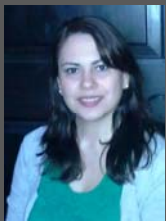
Ann Charles



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher

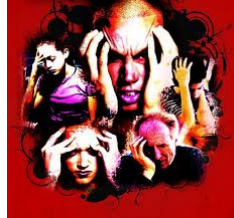


Ward 6 - Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

December 26, 2012

The Community Discussion over Shootings



When it comes to addressing the shootings that have become all too common in the news, we're allowed to (and should) discuss the use of prescription drugs on our youth, mental illness and how we treat it, violent video games and we're allowed to talk about controversial issues such as involuntary institutionalization for the purpose of psychiatric evaluations - and every one of those topics is a legitimate and necessary part of the conversation.



THE 90 ROUNDER

Available for the:

- AR-15
- Mini 14

Dependable, Reliable and NOW AVAILABLE!



And yet, as soon as we include the issue of oversized gun magazines or firearms in general, the gloves come

off and the conversation deteriorates into one of name calling and fears that the 2nd Amendment is under siege.

Every one of those topics needs to be a part of the community conversation related to this highly important and highly emotional topic.



In the Memorial I shared in the last newsletter in which the Mayor and Council are asking the Legislature to return to local control the purview of deciding how we as a community want to address our gun laws, the intent is simply that. Let the residents of the City of Tucson have a community conversation about this issue, let that same conversation take place in communities all across the State, and recognize that there is no compelling State interest in Phoenix forcing a singular standard on



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

all jurisdictions. A small rural community may legitimately adopt a different set of standards than a large urban setting like ours. From the vitriol that resulted from the proposal, you'd have thought I had advocated burning the Bill of Rights. The Molon Labe ('come and try to take my gun!') groups that are filling the airwaves and Facebook pages need to calm down and understand that we're also E Pluribus Unum (out of many, one) and that all sides deserve a seat in the discussion so a community voice is the result – not just the loudest.

Come to the Town Hall / Roast at The Loft on the 7th. There will be people from the Federal, State, County and City levels of government. This forum can serve as the beginning of that conversation locally – all of the issues have to be included. To pretend that they're all not a part of the problem isn't realistic.

We can't eliminate the problem – but we can take steps to manage it.

Gun Buy-Back Program

One way to help to manage the issue is to do what has been done in several other cities; conduct a totally voluntary, no questions asked gun buy back event.

Check Baltimore, Lansing, Camden, the Bay Area, Chicago and plenty more. In those cities, such a program has worked in terms of getting hundreds of unwanted firearms out of peoples' houses and into the hands of law enforcement.

Right before the Christmas weekend, I began an exchange with several of our large corporate partners in the community, unions and non-profits asking if they'd help to fund gift cards that would be given out to people who brought in their guns for trade. I've also got calls into some potential sponsoring retail outlets to see about getting matching commitments; that is, we give \$15K in cash and they match with \$30K in gift cards.

In other locales people have been offered from \$25 to \$50 for handguns and up to \$100 for long guns. That really is dependent on how much corporate involvement they were able to secure. The holiday weekend kind of got in the way of moving the conversation forward, but it'll resume this week and we'll see what level of interest there is for the idea.

If your group would like to get involved, let me know. It'll take some private sector dollars and a retail outlet that wants to get involved as the sponsoring entity (grocery has been used in other locales quite successfully.)

If the NRA and similar groups are truly interested in the safe handling of firearms, it'd be nice to see them commit to funding such a program. I have reached out to their Arizona leadership and suggested that this is an area in which everybody can agree; that is, getting firearms out of the hands of the untrained, or just those who are uncomfortable having them around. I've asked them to help fund this Buy-Back program. The NRA pours millions of dollars into advocacy and also into political campaigns. What I've done is ask that they review the successes other jurisdictions have had in their own Buy-Back programs

and commit some significant dollars for a similar effort here in Tucson. They have the financial capacity, and the goal certainly fits a portion of their stated mission.

They know how to get messages to me, so I'll be waiting for the calls while also pursuing the other groups with whom I've already started the exchange.

Ward 6 Town Hall and Roast



There has been an excellent response to the January 7th event – please continue to rsvp us @ 791.4601 or 795.0844. Also, if there are particular areas of interest you'd like to hear addressed (Federal, State, County, or local) send us an email @ ward6@tucsonaz.gov / something such as “what will you do to address the following...?”



The event is scheduled for 7pm – 9pm / 3233 E. Speedway / Loft Cinema. Lisa Horner from Access Tucson has offered to tape the event to be re-run after the fact in order for those who can't make it to give it a look. It'll air on Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 7pm starting Jan. 13th. Cox Channel 20/Comcast 74. There are technical reasons why they can't air it live, but let's hope this is the start of some community conversations that, through cooperation between all of our media part-

ners we can book follow up meetings and get these things out over the air in real time in the days ahead.

TPD Reality Check

So, the NRA has called for a cop or other armed security in every school. We used to be able to fund School Resource Officers (not in every school, but they rotated) and that was an excellent program. They weren't the armed volunteers that the NRA is suggesting, but were a group of police officers who engaged directly with the students, staff and community around the school, building rapport and relationship. It'd be great if we could afford to fund those positions again.

The Department had to redeploy personnel a few years ago as their budget was cut and they lost staff due to retirements and poaching by other jurisdictions who pay better than the City of Tucson. The result is that our cops are in a reactive mode; running from call to call, and not being in a position to slow down and get engaged with the community in the ways they did not so long ago. This is a budget priority.

During the first week in December, the mid-town area alone had over 1,200 events (incidents in which an officer engages the public.) Included in those calls were 422 back-up units that involved nearly 700 officers. That's mid-town. City-wide those numbers are 5,700 events in which over 2,300 back-up units were involved, including 4,000 officers. Remember, that's one week. Those are the data that show pretty clearly that if we're going to be able to get the SRO's back into the schools, it's going to take a serious re-prioritizing at the budget table, or some serious grant funding from the Feds. My assessment is that it'll be the latter of those if we're going to be able to re-fund that program.

Over the weekend prior to Christmas, there were 5 shooting incidents reported within the City limits.



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th 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>

It's easy for the NRA or radio show jocks to solve the issues for everybody. Perched high atop reality, all they lack is the basic set of facts that we're juggling in an effort to balance the many competing needs of the community. I'm about as transparent as anybody on my support for each of our public safety agencies. That won't end. And neither will the tight budget condition that is causing us to have to look for outside dollars yet again this time around in order to fund some of these important extra-patrol functions.

You'll see a little of this on the news, and you'll hear about some of the police events. But the full budgetary and community conscience elements of the issue are daunting, and are lost on the NRA and their representatives when they propose solutions to the very significant complex of problems that lead to mass shootings in schools, theaters and elsewhere.

These are community conversations – necessarily – because the resources and conditions, and the desires of the populace vary from community to community. These are some of the reasons the home-rule Memorial is so important.

TFD

Similarly, TFD often has incidents in which multiple units are called on to respond, leaving holes in our ability to provide coverage until the immediate situation is controlled. Such a call occurred last week during a 4 Alarm response to a strip mall fire.

The call was on 29th Street and could have involved up to 20 businesses. At the conclusion of the event, only 4 had been affected, and the response involved more than 25 units and close to 60 firefighters. Thankfully, none were injured.



The first engine company arrived on scene within five minutes of dispatch but due to the amount of fire and heat being produced, they couldn't advance into the building. Eventually they cut the roof to prevent the fire from moving to adjacent stores.

Three ladder trucks were put in place and drenched the fire with thousands of gallons of water per minute. That, coupled with the ground operations was what saved millions of dollars in potential damage to the structure.



In another incident last weekend, eight units consisting of twenty-one firefighters were dispatched to this fire.

The cause was an improperly disposed of cigarette / and the trailer was a total loss. Again, thankfully there were no injuries. Staffing, and the rates we pay our workers in public safety agencies is a big deal as we get close to the budget talks again.

Congress Street Block Party

There's a second community event that deserves to be marked on your calendar. On February 8th, 2nd Saturday's will double as a huge community Block Party on Congress Street to celebrate the end of that segment of the streetcar construction.



A normal crowd for 2nd Saturday's is in the 10,000 range. Expect this one to be double that. The merchants on 4th Avenue were able to celebrate the final opening of the Avenue with their Winter Street Fair. This Block Party will be the bookend to that event, but down the road on Congress.

The merchants have been significantly impacted by the street closures. This will be an opportunity for you to visit them, and spend time in their places of business to help them get back on their feet.

Thanks to the DTP, MTCVB and Cox for really stepping up and helping to get the word out about this event. You'll be seeing and hearing more about it as the date gets closer.



This is the 63rd Annual Winterhaven Festival of Lights. You've got until the 29th to get over and take in the show. When you go, please consider taking along a donation for the Community Food Bank. The over 60,000 people who walk (or ride) through the show each year are key to keeping the CFB up and able to provide as well as they do throughout the year.

The neighborhood is open for the show from 6pm until 10pm. The 28th and 29th are drive-through nights, but walking is of course still a good option.

The City isn't able to fund the event any longer, but with the help of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Jim Click Automotive Team, they're able to continue. Also included as community sponsors are Sturgeon Electric, Cox (again,) Ahern Rentals, and the UA Eller College of Management.

Reid Park Zoo

One more event option for you to consider during the Holiday break. Each year over 500,000 visitors experience our zoo. That includes nearly 25,000 youth on school field trips. At a time when TUSD is struggling financially, the zoo has played an important educational part in their off-site curriculum.

The zoo isn't just the trip out to see the animals. They've also got multi-age programs that include behind-the-scenes tours, evening flashlight safaris, sleepovers and camps. Thanks to the work of the Tucson Zoological Society, 45 teachers received grants last year that ended up serving over 1,100 students in learning how to use the zoo as a science resource.

They'll be open from 9am until 4pm during the break. Be sure to check at the entry gate for information on the many other programs they offer.

One-Stop Center

The City is involved with funding the Pima County One-Stop Center – an organization that connects eligible job-ready youth, adult and dislocated workers to local employers. The Center administers funding and programs to assist people in obtaining jobs, and it works with employers in finding and hiring qualified workers. Also included is working with certain under represented labor pools by removing barriers to employment.

With the over \$1M in Workforce Investment Act money the Center has, they've placed workers in employment with 773 businesses. The success rate for the program is 81% of the adults, 86% of the dislocated workers and 71% of youth being successfully employed.

The sectors the Center focuses on include Natural & Renewable Resources, Aerospace and Defense, Logistics, Health Science and Infrastructure. Also in the program is funding for OJT programs involving small businesses, summer youth employment programs and Voc.Ed./Technical training opportunities.

Significantly, there's also a Veteran's workforce center located at 2801 E. Ajo. At that location, Veterans can take advantage of:

- Career counseling and job search assistance
- Computer labs and office equipment
- Occupational skills training
- Business recruitment
- Benefits counseling and claims assistance – education, medical care, disability
- Assistance with housing and other basic needs during transition to employment
- Guidance and financial assistance for training and education programs
- Adult education, tutoring and study skills
- Behavioral health services and recovery

All of this is an example of totally appropriate use of government resources in ways that spur workforce development and serve as ways to attract new employers into the area – and for existing employers to expand their operations.

We're hearing a lot about government spending these days. This program is an example of where it makes fiscal sense to continue doing what works. And, it's simply the right thing to do.

Kudos to Palo Verde Neighborhood

A few weeks ago I mentioned the Palo Verde Neighborhood Association food drive on behalf of Youth on their Own – primarily for refugee kids who are attending Catalina Magnet High School. This amounts to 65 youth who are trying to make it through our education system – pretty much on their own – and in a foreign culture. The challenges of youth are great enough, but the added burdens these kids face are significant.

PVNA donated over 1,400 pounds of food items, and added another \$775 in cash and gift cards for the kids. The total donated exceeded 2,100 lbs. As I mentioned last time, my travels and work in Africa and parts of Asia gave me a different perspective on our level of consumption. These kids come from levels of poverty unimaginable if you haven't seen it first hand.

Thanks to the PVNA neighbors who took the time to participate in this project. You've made some needy kids very happy during this Holiday season.

TreeCycle

For the 17th year, the City is making recycle sites available for you to use when you're ready to get rid of your Christmas Tree. The program will start on December 26th and will continue through Sunday, January 6th. Here are the sites:

1. Oro Valley lot, "Naranja Town Site," 660 W. Naranja Dr.
2. Rillito Race Track, 4502 N. 1st Ave., east parking lot
3. Udall Park, 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd., south of ball fields
4. Golf Links Sports Park, northwest of Craycroft Rd. and Golf Links Rd.
5. Tucson Rodeo Grounds, northeast of Irvington Rd. and 6th Ave.
6. Los Reales Landfill, 5300 E. Los Reales Rd., (follow signs)
7. Silverbell Site, northeast of Goret Rd. and Silverbell Rd. (follow signs)
8. Purple Heart Park, southeast corner of Rita Rd. and Esmond Loop
9. Randolph Golf Course, 600 S. Alvernon Way, southeast portion of parking lot

These sites are open during daylight, seven days a week.

Please remember to take off all of the ornaments, tree stands and lights. And consider tree-pooling (take back a neighbors tree and save a trip.)

Also, from January 2nd until the 6th you can fill your own container with wood chips for use in your home gardens. The sites for that are Udall Park and the Randolph Golf Course.

Odd Stories from 2012

Finally, to close out this year, a couple of oddities from last year that are just for fun.



This little guy is the world's smallest known vertebrate – a frog the size of a housefly.

The thing is 7.7 millimeters long. That's a dime he's sitting on. I'm guessing that this is one creature that I could beat in a vertical leap contest.

At the other end of the scale is this:

Gross? Yep – it's an eye that was washed up on Florida's Pompano Beach. It's about the size of a softball and the scientists who have it think it's probably from a swordfish or a tuna – some deep-water fish.



Think of a contact lens the size of the span of your coffee cup and you've got the picture.

And with that, from all of us at the Ward 6 office, have a safe and Happy New Year's celebration.

Sincerely,



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

Draft Plan Tucson Open Houses

The City of Tucson Housing and Community Department will be hosting five public open houses to review the draft Plan Tucson document. Come to any of these open houses to learn more about the plan and share your thoughts.

- Friday, December 14, 2012, 3:30-5:00pm. City of Tucson Housing and Community Development. 320 N Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Bldg.
- Monday, December 17, 2012, 4:00-5:30pm. City of Tucson Housing and Community Development. 320 N Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Bldg.
- Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 7:00-8:30pm. Tucson Police Westside Service Center. 1310 W. Miracle Mile, Meeting Room.
- Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:00-10:30am. Tucson Police Hardesty Multi-Service Center. 1100 S. Alvernon Way, Meeting Room.
- Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00-8:30pm. Ward 2 Council Office. 7575 E. Speedway Blvd, Conference Room.

Visit www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson for more information and comment cards.

BEYOND – Commemorate, Celebrate, Commit, January 5, 2013

On January 5, get out of your house and join friends and neighbors in a community-wide outdoor festival. Start your New Year's Resolutions with a fun filled day of fitness. Choose from organized runs, horseback rides, hikes, and much more. The BEYOND Main Event is "Together We MOVE!" at Armory Park, 12:00 to 4:00pm. For more information, visit

www.beyond-tucson.org

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, December 31, 9:00pm. “Neon – 80’s VS 90’s Video Dance Party” 18 and up

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Friday, December 28 and Saturday, December 29, 7:30pm. “Ghostbusters”

Monday, December 31, 8:00pm. “New Year’s Even with Paula Poundstone”

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Arizona Theatre Company presents “Freud’s Last Session” by Mark St. Germain

Saturday, January 19 – February 9, 2013.

www.arizonatheatre.org

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, October 6 and ending January 20:

“Barbara Rogers: The Imperative of Beauty, A Fifty-Year Retrospective”

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

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

Current exhibition: **The AIR Show & Vinjon Global Corp: Quietly Taking Over the World**

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

The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens February 2 and runs February 24

“The Way of the Brush – Brush Spirit: Yoshi Nakano”

<http://www.thedrawingstudio.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”

Flandrau Science Center

Join the Flandrau Planetarium on the University of Arizona Campus for their weekly Planetarium and Laser Show. Call (520) 621-4516 or visit www.flandrau.org/ for events and information.

PCOA Community Survey – December 31

Pima Council on Aging is asking the community to take part in their needs assessment campaign. Now through December 31, 2012 visit www.pcoa.org to complete an online survey or call 790-7262 to request a hard copy. This information goes into the official aging plan of the community and is the official record of issues and concerns that residents have.