

## Ward 6 Staff



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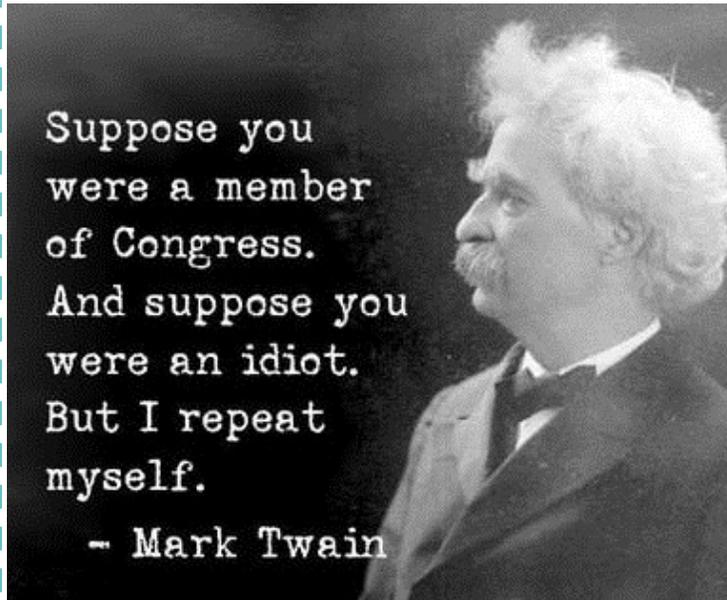
# Ward 6 Newsletter

## Tucson First

, 2015

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Suppose you  
were a member  
of Congress.  
And suppose you  
were an idiot.  
But I repeat  
myself.  
- Mark Twain

...or suppose you were one of the people in the State Legislature pushing some of the stuff we're seeing headed for Ducey's desk...

### State Legislature Bills

Let's start with a call to action on a few bills that are moving quickly through the State Legislature. There's little discussion and public debate over their merits, and perhaps this first one exem-

plifies the mindset that's driving how this session is being handled.

SB1435 is simply intended to make all of the debate and process through which bills become law hidden behind closed doors. That'd also go for City Councils, School Boards, and Boards of Supervisors. Here's the operative part of what's being proposed:



### Important Phone Numbers

**Tucson Police  
Department**  
911 or nonemergency  
791-4444

**Water Issues**  
791-4133  
Emergency: 791-4133

**Street Maintenance**  
791-3154

**Graffiti Removal**  
792-2489

**Abandoned  
Shopping Carts**  
791-3171

**Neighborhood  
Resources**  
837-5013

**SunTran/SunLink**  
792-9222

**Environmental  
Services**  
791-3171

**Park Wise**  
791-5071

**Planning and  
Development  
Services** 791-5550

**Pima County Animal  
Control**  
243-5900

**Pima County Vector  
Control**  
Cockroach: 443-6501  
Mosquito: 740-2760

## Continued: A Message From Steve

5. "Meeting" means the gathering, in person or through technological devices, of a quorum of members of a public body at which (they discuss, propose or take legal action, including any deliberations by a quorum with respect to such) action IS TAKEN.

The words in red are in current law – they're being eliminated so the only thing you get to see is the final vote on a proposed Bill, Ordinance, or any other legal action we take.

It may not be pretty, but if you still want to see the sausage being made, you need to let your voice be heard quickly on this Bill.



### Internet Taxation

I've been pretty public in making the point that the State saying they haven't raised taxes is at best a mischaracterization, and more accurately, it's simply fake. **HB 2061** is a proposed Bill that would force an income tax reduction on a dollar for dollar basis if the Feds pass a bill that taxes internet sales. Here's the language that locks in the commitment:

**4 43-1013. Income tax rate reduction for transaction privilege**

**5 and use taxes on internet sales; definition**

**6 A. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTIMATE THE AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE**

**7 COLLECTED DURING THE FIRST FULL TAXABLE YEAR FOLLOWING THE DATE THAT THE**

**8 DEPARTMENT BEGINS COLLECTING, AS A RESULT OF A QUALIFYING FEDERAL LAW,**

**9 TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE AND USE TAXES FROM OUT-OF-STATE RETAILERS ON PURCHASES**

**10 MADE BY RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE.**

While it might sound appealing to have your income taxes reduced, balance that against the projected \$1B State deficit that's coming, the fact that they're only shifting their problem downstream to Cities and Counties, and that with this bill they're tossing away new dollars that could help to balance everybody's budget. Those new dollars could also go to fund education, fix our roads, and purchase new public safety vehicles.

As with the behind-closed-door bill I opened with, if you feel so inclined, let them know that we need the cash for legitimate functions of the government.

*"Litigation takes the place of sex at middle age." - [Gore Vidal](#)*

If you watch some of the committee hearings on TV, you'll quickly see that most of the people crafting the bills I'm sharing fit the age group noted by Vidal. With that in mind, try these three:

**SB1330** says any current or future Federal laws that affect the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment are null and void in Arizona. The State will nullify Federal Law.

**SB1384** designates County Sheriffs as the “supreme authority” and requires Federal Officials (FBI) to get their permission before making arrests or conducting searches. We run Project RAISE. Because minors are sometimes involved as trafficking victims, we have the FBI involved in our work. Currently they don’t have to get the Sheriffs ok before busting a guy who’s pimping a young girl. Under this proposed bill, the Federal Agent would be subject to arrest if they didn’t get that prior approval.

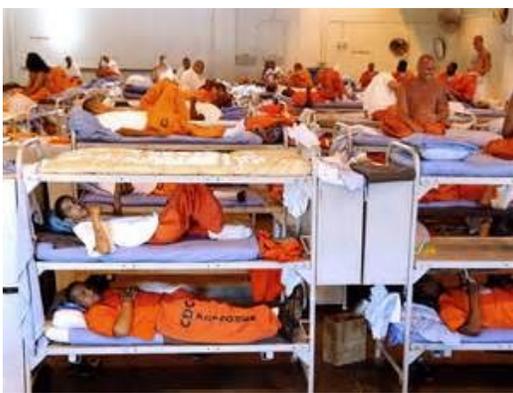
And this one’s back. **SB1291** allows anybody who is “adversely affected” by a local gun law to sue the public official under whose jurisdiction “the violation” occurred. In this case, “the violation” is adopting a gun safety law that is later found by the Court to be preempted by State law. The lawsuit can be for up to \$5K in civil fines against the public official, and up to \$100K in court costs against the jurisdiction.



Last year I advocated for background checks at gun shows on City property, requiring people to let TPD know if their gun is lost or stolen, and allowing the police to request a Blood Alcohol Content test if they have reasonable suspicion that a person shooting a weapon has been drinking. Former Attorney General Tom Horne filed an opinion that the last two were preempted, and the State right now has another bill pending that would cause our background checks to be preempted.

And so Vidal was right. And I say to the gun guys – bring on the litigation – that is, if the current Governor can actually be compelled to sign **SB1291**. It’s so overly broad as to be filled with legal holes. It’s not going to stop the conversation about adopting local gun safety provisions that are not clearly preempted at the State level.

I might note that each of the gun bills went through the Committee on Federalism, Mandates, and Fiscal Responsibility. They allege they’re protecting individual rights. Perhaps – but while they’re also trampling on those of others.



### **SB1390**

Not all is nuts up in Maricopa County. There’s also a Bill moving forward that would help to alleviate the overcrowding that’s occurring in State Prisons. In doing so, it’d save millions of dollars that are right now programmed to go into new private, for-profit prisons (\$63M over the next three years).

**SB1390** will increase the number of eligible inmates who may enter a transition program for reentry into society. This would be for non-violent, non-domestic violence criminals. The data (Sage Counseling) show that recidivism rates are much lower for people who participate in transitional programs than for those who do not (36% versus 18%). Early release plus lower recidivism equals savings of over hundreds of millions of dollars to the State over time.



### Important Phone Numbers

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff  
Flake (R)  
520-575-8633

Congresswoman  
Martha McSally (R)  
(2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
(202) 225-2542

Congressman  
Raul Grijalva (D)  
(3<sup>th</sup> District)  
520-622-6788

Governor Doug  
Ducey (R)  
602-542-4331  
Tucson office:  
628-6580

Mayor Jonathan  
Rothschild  
791-4201

ZoomTucson Map  
[http://  
maps.tucsonaz.gov  
/zoomTucson/](http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/)

Over the past 5 years, there have been about 1,000 inmates per year who have been allowed to participate in the State Transitional Program. This bill would force the system to accommodate more. Here's the language:

**4. IN FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016, PLACE A MINIMUM OF THREE THOUSAND FIVE  
39 HUNDRED ELIGIBLE INMATES IN THE TRANSITION PROGRAM. BEGIN-  
NING IN FISCAL YEAR  
40 2016-2017 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT  
SHALL PLACE A  
41 MINIMUM OF FIVE THOUSAND ELIGIBLE INMATES IN THE TRANSI-  
TION PROGRAM.  
42 E. THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT EXCLUDE AN INMATE FROM A TRAN-  
SITION PROGRAM  
43 BECAUSE OF A LOW SCORE IN AN EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION THAT  
IS GIVEN PURSUANT TO  
44 SECTION 31-229.**

These are “eligible” inmates who are right now being lost in the bureaucratic shuffle. They are causing the overstuffed capacity that's leading the State to ask for 3,000 new private prison beds to be funded. The bill points to a solution the Governor needs to consider.

Each of the items I've started this newsletter with are in fact Ward 6 issues. They come with fiscal impacts, and any bills that affect openness in government or your safety has my attention. I've given you all of the bill numbers. Feel free to read them all for yourself and see if any are important enough that you'd like to share your own thoughts with the folks up in the State Legislature. Google Arizona State Legislature and you can see both the bills and a roster with contact information for all of the people who are supposed to be representing you up there.

Those who are in fact representing you understand that cutting funding for education and increasing it for prisons does not make this a better place to raise a family.

#### **Downtown Clean & Safe**



One more legal item. We have an Enhanced Service Agreement (ESA) with the Downtown Tucson Partnership, a part of which is for them to clean our downtown area. Agreements like this are not uncommon, and DTP does a very good job of keeping up their end of the deal.

We also have a Court ruling that has turned an Ordinance we have on its head. The Ordinance allows you to sit or lay down on a sidewalk as long as you leave a 5' path of travel for pedestrians. As you can see in the image above, the pods now being placed all over downtown are in technical compliance with the Judge Bury's ruling. When he made it though, the issue was bedrolls and backpacks – not living quarters.

The few organizers of the pods have chosen to push the legal envelope instead of coming to the table and working for solutions for the needy, who do exist in our community. In fact, there are factions within the pod group, and now they're fighting among themselves for "turf" downtown. It has become a health and safety issue for business operators, their customers, and people who work in the area. Because of that, I've asked for several changes to be made. One is giving clarity to our police for what they can enforce. Here's a memo sent to them by our City Attorney that helps set some ground rules for enforcement:

While Judge Bury's Order prohibits our application of the former "3-B" policy relating to limiting the obstructions that may be placed upon the relevant City sidewalks, the Order recognizes the provisions in the Tucson Code, specifically under T.C. Section 11-36.2, that requires persons sitting or lying down on the sidewalks to leave open a five (5) foot path and to not otherwise block or impede pedestrian traffic. Judge Bury also defined "sidewalk" as "an area for walking along the side of the road." At present, persons have placed boxes, tents and other items on both sides of the sidewalks, creating a situation where, to the extent an unobstructed 5 foot path may exist, it only exists as a winding path that pedestrians are being forced to navigate. I believe this is an unreasonable and even unsafe condition, and that the City, through its law enforcement officers, can direct persons occupying the sidewalks to move any objects (to include sleeping boxes, tents, boxes, crates, and similar items) such that, at a minimum, a clear, unobstructed path is maintained that is at least five feet (5') wide as measured from the back of the curb and onto the sidewalk. In addition, if there are other fixtures in the areas immediately adjacent to the curb along the sidewalk (such as light poles, utility boxes, traffic control poles, City signs, bus benches and shelters, etc.) that are within the area that is 5' from the back of the curb, that TPD may and should direct that those items be moved so that they are 5' back from those fixtures. By taking this action, TPD will help ensure that pedestrian traffic may use a continuous and relatively straight path that is at least 5' wide as they travel along the sidewalk along the side of the road.

That's pretty basic. We're also asking for an expedited review of the original decision. One would hope that the Judge sees what has developed as a result of his ruling is not at all a free speech expression, but is simply people living on the sidewalk and using an illogical extension of his language to justify it. We're headed back to court for a reconsideration.

We're also putting an increased police presence downtown, around where the pods are being placed. There have been too many reports of aggressive panhandling, fights, and simply unsanitary behavior going on for us to just stand down until the Judge speaks up again.

I've also asked City Staff to look for alternate City real estate we can make available to the group camped out on the sidewalks. If we do that – and do it in a way that doesn't take the group far away from the services they're close to in the downtown core – we could then consider amending our Ordinance to make it illegal to sleep on the sidewalk. All of this has to happen together. Nobody is interested in "criminalizing" homelessness. But with the rights granted to this group by Bury, we also have responsibilities to others who live and work in the area. I'm working to find that balance.

This has been an easy and inexpensive story for the local media to cover every night. The visuals are easy, but an in-depth study of the complexity surrounding the issue of homelessness has largely been lacking in the coverage. Here's an important, unreported piece. The City allocates about \$1.5M annually out to local non-profits, money they use to leverage even more Federal dollars in support of our homeless community. That comes in the form

of rent assistance, job training, housing, substance abuse counseling, and much more. The groups living on the sidewalk downtown are a tiny fraction of the Tucson homeless – but they're getting the media coverage while the hard work of our non-profit community is being ignored.

We'll increase the number of cops downtown, DTP will continue to spend your tax money cleaning up after the people trashing the sidewalks, and we'll ask the Judge if this is really what he had in mind for "protected speech." Hundreds of people will continue to offer themselves in support of a homeless community that's made up of working poor, single moms, domestic violence victims, seniors, youth, and others who are using the services we make available to them.

### Two Water Items



That's Lake Mead. I've shared similar images before to show that the water levels in it are dropping. Recently, a three State agreement was reached that should delay any declarations of a shortage for a few years. But unless rainfall levels change pretty drastically, and quickly, at some point in the not-too-distant future there will be a water shortage declared on the Colorado and downstream users will feel varying levels of impact.

In anticipation of that, Arizona established a Water Bank, the primary objective of which is to put water in the ground ahead of time to provide back-up supplies. There are three Active Management Areas around the State that are involved. The Bank has legal amounts of water it is supposed to supply to each of them. The ones in Phoenix and Pinal County are doing fine with respect to the amount of water that has been banked. The Tucson AMA is only at about ½ of the level it's committed to supply.

Because of our water stewardship, Tucson Water has about 200,000 acre feet of water stored in the ground in our Active Management Area. It's our rainy day supply – for use when we lack rainy days. In order to help the Water Bank make its statutory commitment of putting about 850,000 acre feet in the ground in the Tucson AMA, we are selling them 15,000 acre-feet in each of the next three years in the form of long term water storage credits. They're paying us just over \$3M per year for the credits, and when a shortage is declared it'll be there for them to sell back to us when/if our own supplies run low. We'll continue to pre-purchase about 45,000 acre feet of excess water each year that we'll bank, so this isn't going to run us dry. It'll also help the Tucson Water Department cash flow – keeping your rates down.

There are multiple moving parts to the way water is managed in the Tucson area. This agreement is good for the Water Bank, good for Tucson Water's fiscal health, and good for the long term health of the water table in this region.

### Water Rates – 5 Year Financial Plan

In our previous 5 year model, water rates were programmed to increase by 8.3% for the next few years. The proposals we were offered on Wednesday had them going up by either

7.3%, or 7.1%. The difference was whether or not we continued to charge Tucson Water a fee for lost property taxes on the land the City owns.

The fee we had to decide on is called a Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Because City-owned land is exempt from paying property taxes, staff has calculated lost revenue to be at around \$1.6M annually. The staff recommendation (non-Tucson Water staff) was that the Enterprise pay that amount in each of the next five fiscal years – paying it increases costs to Tucson Water and so the increase in your water rates under that plan would be 7.3%. Without having to pay the fee the rates would be 7.1% higher than they are presently.

First let me say that I don't believe our water rates are high. In fact, the majority of the bill most people pay each month when your "water bill" comes is to the County for sewer fees. In the case of both Tucson Water and the County, much of what you're paying for is the capital cost for the infrastructure necessary to provide the services you receive at your home. But there are other factors I considered in voting to go without the In-Lieu fee. First, compared to other comparable water utilities, Tucson Water has a relatively low number of days of reserve capital. Most other utilities in the Tucson Water rating category have from 120 to over 500 days of reserve cash. Tucson Water has less than 100. In the big scheme, the \$1.6M is a small amount of cash to include, but it's enough to be reflected in lower water rates by .2%. I felt it was worth leaving in your pocket and in Tucson Water's capital reserve.

Another factor is that Tucson Water is the only one of our Enterprise Funds that is charged an In-Lieu fee. We have the three year windfall from the Water Bank purchase. I joined our Citizen's Water Advisory Committee in supporting leaving the \$1.6M in your pocket, leaving it with our Water Department, and continuing to increase our cash position in that Department, at least until the Water Bank money is paid in full after the next three years. The M&C differed – the vote was to collect the In-Lieu fee from Tucson Water. It'll mean your rates will increase by 7.3% next year. That equates to an additional \$12.1M to Tucson Water.

We also approved continuing with the conservation fund fee, and moving it to .08 per/Ccf that you use. For the majority of our customers, that's less than \$1 per month. It goes to our funding work on water conservation such as the rainwater harvesting, low flow toilet and, coming soon, the curb cut incentives. The CWAC was unanimous in approving the conservation fund costs.

Water's our life blood. It's important we keep that Department flush with both the commodity and with cash so we're ready for a rainy day when they stop really happening.

### **New Revenue Sources**

An African Proverb I became familiar with while travelling over there goes something like this: Where water is boss, the land must obey. With that in mind, we have to balance how fully developed this region is with our ability to provide the resources to support that growth.

While water is the life blood of the region, the life blood for our General Fund is tax revenue. Because our region is so heavily unincorporated, we leave tens of millions of dollars up

in Maricopa County. On Wednesday we approved two more annexations that'll bring new money into the region in a variety of different ways.

One of the areas is 40 new acres located out in the NE side. The Indian Hills North Annexation District is out in the Bear Canyon Road/Tanque Verde area. Based on staff estimates, bringing this land into the City will yield a net of just under \$400K over the next 10 years. As it develops with retail, that amount will grow.

We also moved forward with the process of annexing 24 acres of land in the Swan/River area. I run past there from time to time and know that it has room for more appropriate development beyond the Assisted Living facility that's out there now. Even without that growth, the revenue projected from this area is about \$775,000 over the next 10 years. In both cases what's being projected is property tax and new money coming from the State Shared Revenues that only go to incorporated areas.

Not all annexation makes sense, either from the fiscal standpoint, or from other unintended consequences that come with overdeveloping an area. A couple of years ago I voted against the annexation of land at River and Craycroft. While the land grab was good from a financial standpoint, the development we were locking ourselves into is going to create unacceptable traffic conditions along that part of River Road. I felt we should address that as a region before making what's already a bad situation worse. That's not the case with what we moved forward with in these two annexations. While each case deserves its own scrutiny, these two are welcomed additions to the City.

#### **Infill Incentive District**

On Wednesday, we voted on the revised IID. I did not support the package that was presented to us – but on a 5-2 vote, we were able to make changes in a couple of important areas.

We need to provide incentives for non-student housing. We've made strides in the redevelopment of our urban core, but to continue building the momentum what we need is a variety of housing at a variety of market rates. Upscale, affordable, workforce – if all that goes in is more and more student housing, we won't ever achieve the broad demographic mix that makes densely populated urban environments thrive. It was in support of that idea that I offered some changes to what was in front of us.

First it needs to be said that staff and the community members who have invested so much of themselves in the changes we adopted deserve a lot of credit for their efforts. What we have in place is an improvement over what we began with, and we can always bring it back for another round of tweaks as we see it in use over the next year.

I was pleased that many of the allowable heights in some of the sub-districts were reduced from what had originally been proposed. We can do density in a compatible way. I think what we adopted will still be attractive enough to developers that they'll opt for the incentives and not revert to the underlying zoning.

The areas I felt needed some change were related to who does design review and who has final approval on student housing towers. There are two levels of review that projects will

go through. One is called a “minor” review and the other is a “major” review. Those designations are misleading since the only difference between them is that in a “major” review the project is subject to comment and suggestion by a Design Review Committee (DRC). The DRC input is advisory.

We were given a draft that proposed a DRC which could be made up of only two people other than the City Design Professional. The wording was that it was to be composed of “any combination of the following members...” Those included the Design Professional we have under contract, an architect, a landscape architect, a contractor or member of the development community, and a person to “represent all neighborhood associations within the IID.” There were also “ad hoc” members who “may” be included. Those included someone from the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue merchants, someone from the downtown merchants, a neighborhood association member from the area impacted by a project, or a neighborhood member from a Historic zone if one is impacted by a project. Since the draft allowed for a quorum of three people, the DRC could have been composed of the Design Professional, an architect, and a general contractor. That’s not balanced, nor is it representative of the people who deserve some voice in the aesthetics of what’s going up in their backyard.

The change I was able to get adopted is that all of the slots listed above will be filled, all will be notified of pending DRC meetings (including the relevant ad hoc members) and all in attendance will have a vote on what’s recommended to staff. It’s still just a recommendation, but at least the voices in the room are mandated to reflect a broader group than what was originally proposed.

The other part of the IID I wanted to change had to do with where the final vote comes on student housing towers. The IID as presented to us would allow those to be approved by staff if they aren’t within 300 feet of a single family dwelling. The important point is that student housing towers have significant impacts much more broadly than just 300’ away. That being the case, M&C should have the final up/down vote on whether or not to approve any more of these. Depending on the location, they might be just fine. And they might not be.

We also have an approved Historic Warehouse Arts District Master Plan. One of the elements of it reads as follows:

***Vacant and surface parking lot properties interrupt the continuity of the fabric of the district. While they serve a current purpose of providing parking, they have an enormous potential for the development of new uses that can strengthen the character and appeal of the district. The district should encourage conversion of vacant land and surface parking into compatible arts-related uses. (My emphasis).***

One could argue, and I do, that more student housing towers are not necessarily compatible with arts-related uses. At the very least, M&C should have a voice in that discussion.

There’s an appeal process in the IID document. That means if staff approves a tower that would be subject to a major review process, it can be appealed to M&C. That’s fine, but the preferred option is to avoid having somebody go through an extensive and costly process, only to have their project denied at the M&C level following staff giving it thumbs up. Let’s

lay all the cards on the table up front and not waste peoples' time and money. The vote's in and we have the new IID. We'll keep an eye on how it's used to see if it's doing what is intended. The IID is a tool for development that we hope continues the positive direction our downtown has moved in the past five years.

### **Broadway Revitalization**

We're within days of seeing the proposed alignment for Broadway. That's something all of the stakeholders who live and work along Broadway have wanted to see adopted for now going on three years since the Task Force work got started. There's a \$71M budget, a chunk of which will go towards property acquisition and relocation rights for existing businesses.

The timing for the real estate acquisitions all falls in behind the approval of a specific alignment. Real Estate cannot request authority to begin buying up properties that'll be affected by the project until a few things occur. First, M&C have to approve the alignment. That will identify which buildings are impacted. After that, both M&C and the RTA have to approve funding for the acquisitions.

Once those dollars are in place, Tierra Right of Way (consultant to the project) will start to research the impact of the alignment parcel by parcel and put an acquisition plan into place. That could take until the end of this year. It's after the alignment and funding are approved that Real Estate has some basis for making reliable comments to business owners along the route. I've heard that some contacts have already been made. If that's the case, none of what has been committed to individual business owners is factual at this time.

If you live and/or work along the corridor, you can continue to participate in the design process once the proposed alignment is made public. When it is, a public comment period of a couple of weeks will begin before all of those comments will be forwarded to the Task Force. They'll digest your input and meet to discuss it probably during the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>. I'll make sure to include those dates/times/locations in upcoming newsletters as they are made public.

### **Living Streets Alliance**

On a similar thought, the LSA neighborhood walkability assessments have been completed for about five neighborhoods/regions. I've shared them with some of you in hard copy form, but you can also browse through them on-line if you'd like. Here's a link that'll get you there: <http://www.livingstreetsalliance.org/our-work/programsservices/neighborhood-walking-assessments/>

LSA is still planning on a couple more of these studies until their current round of funding runs dry. If you think your area would like to take part when more dollars are approved, you can contact the Living Streets folks by going to <http://www.livingstreetsalliance.org>. One of the neighborhoods that's already involved is Feldman's. This Saturday, 2/21 from 10am until noon, they're holding a workshop to talk about the pros and cons of the neighborhood "walkability." The meeting will be held at the Chapel at St. Luke's Home. If you live in Feldman's or would like to see how LSA conducts these workshops, this is an important opportunity for you to get involved.

## Two Special Events

Ahead of the “Events” section, I want to give a little extra pub to a couple of events I think you’d really enjoy. The first is coming next week on Thursday, 2/26. It’s going to be a panel discussion put together by the Center for Border & Global Journalism on the UA campus. Mort Rosenblum is a professor in the UA School of Journalism. He’ll moderate the panel. The panelists will include the parents of James Foley and former AP Correspondent Terry Anderson. Foley is the freelance journalist who was kidnapped by ISIS inside of Syria, held for 21 months and was brutally murdered. Terry Anderson was held hostage for nearly 7 years in Beirut. They’ll be joined on that panel by David McCraw. He’s a lawyer with the New York Times who covers global threats to the press.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, since 1992 there have been over 1,100 reporters and media workers killed covering events from Mexico to the Middle East. That doesn’t count those who have been taken hostage like Anderson and lived to tell about the experiences.

The event on the 26<sup>th</sup> – free and open to the public – will be held at the Integrated Learning Center auditorium, Room 120. It’s the sunken building right in the middle of the mall, just outside of the main library. The panel starts at 6pm.

### *Porch Fest*

A while back, Broadway/Broadmoor Village neighborhood held a porch fest afternoon. Now one’s coming to Blenman-Elm neighborhood. Here’s the flyer.

The event will run from 4pm until 7pm on the 29<sup>th</sup>. As was the case in BBVNA, there’ll be bands and art at a variety of locations – on peoples’ porches, driveways, front yards - kind of all over the neighborhood. If you’d like to check out the event organizers, click this link: <http://www.porchfest.org/>

If you want to participate in the upcoming Blenman/Elm event, get in touch with me at the Ward 6 office and I’ll help get you connected, or you can Google Tucson porch fest and it’ll take you to their Facebook page.

If you’d like to wander or bike around the neighborhood and take in the activities, that’s free, and is the reason I’m letting you know now so you can plan.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6  
[Ward6@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward6@tucsonaz.gov)



**TUCSON PORCH FEST**  
AT  
**BLENMAN-ELM NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH**

**LIVE BANDS**  
**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**BIKE TOUR**  
**ART EXHIBITIONS**  
**& MUCH MORE**

PHOTOS COURTESY:  
WARREN VAN NEST

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK** 

## Events and Entertainment

### **90<sup>th</sup> Tucson Rodeo**

Tucson Rodeo Grounds, 4823 S. Sixth Ave

The first La Fiesta de los Vaqueros (Celebration of the Cowboys) in 1925 touted three days of events and competition. Today, the event has grown to a nine-day celebration centered on the Tucson Rodeo, one of the top 25 professional rodeos in North America.

The 2015 La Fiesta de los Vaqueros is February 21 through March 1. For more information, visit <http://www.tucsonrodeo.com/scheduledirections.html>.

### **Tucson Botanical Gardens Urban Forestry Certificate Program**

Tucson Botanical Gardens

March 10 through April 21, Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings

Join an active corps of trained citizen foresters working to make our neighborhoods greener and healthier! In this unique six-week program, students will learn about tree biology, tree care, pruning, and community engagement from experts in each field.

*Program Fees:* \$190 for members the Gardens or \$240 for non-members. Need-based scholarships are available. For more information and to apply contact Ashley Pedersen at [education1@tucsonbotanical.org](mailto:education1@tucsonbotanical.org) or [520-326-9686 ext. 39](tel:520-326-9686).

## Ongoing . . . .

**UA Mineral Museum**, 1601 E University Blvd

February 7, 2015– January 31 2016, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

'**Meet the Trilobites - Arizona's First Inhabitants**' - Long before the dinosaurs ruled the earth, the trilobites ruled the seas. Ancient relatives of lobsters and horseshoe crabs, trilobites flourished in the warm seas that covered much of Arizona millions of years ago.

*Meet the Trilobites – Arizona's First Inhabitants*, the new exhibit at the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, features world-class trilobite fossils from around the globe. Come travel back in time and discover the wondrous world of trilobites!

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

**Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N Main Ave

[www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org)

**Meet Me at Maynards**, 311 E Congress St (north entrance on Toole)

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Hotel Congress Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

[www.MeetMeatMaynards.com](http://www.MeetMeatMaynards.com)

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**, 2150 N Alvernon Way

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org>

**Jewish History Museum**, 564 S Stone Ave

[www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

**Children's Museum Tucson**, 200 S 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

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

[www.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://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](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)

**UA Mineral Museum**, 1601 E University Blvd

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

**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>

**Arizona Theater Company**, 330 S Scott Ave

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

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W Congress St

[www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org](http://www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org)

**Hotel Congress**, 311 E Congress St

<http://hotelcongress.com>

**Loft Cinema**, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

[www.loftcinema.com](http://www.loftcinema.com)

**Rialto Theatre**, 318 E Congress St

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

**The Rogue Theatre** at The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd

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