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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

February 22, 2016

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I need to start this week with a few important calendar notes. We're going to host three events that I am sure many of you will want to book.

- 1) **This Wednesday**, February 24th at 6:00 pm we host the City Manager and CFO for a City budget update at Ward 6 (3202 E 1st Street).
- 2) On Tuesday, March 15th, we'll host a meet and greet with new Police Chief Chris Magnus at the Ward 6 Office. That will run from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- 3) Finally, we've booked the Loft Cinema for what will be a very compelling forum on the Arizona Sonora Border Project. I'll give you a short intro on that event below, but mark your calendar for Thursday, April 21st, 6:30 until 8:00 pm.



Never a dull moment!



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues
791-3242/800-598-9449
Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

Abandoned Shopping Carts
791-3171

Neighborhood Resources
837-5013

SunTran/SunLink
792-9222
TDD: 628-1565

Environmental Services
791-3171

Park Wise
791-5071

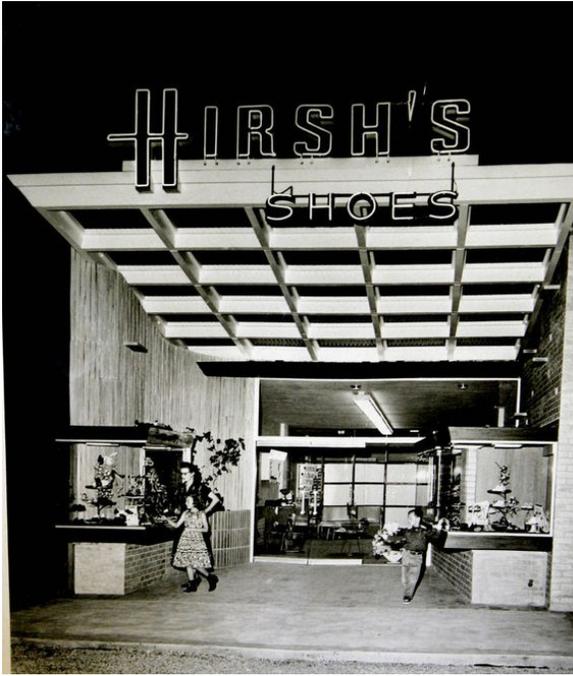
Planning and Development Services
791-5550

Pima Animal Care Center
724-5900

Pima County Vector Control
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

Hirsh's Shoes



I'd like to send a big "thank you" to Sid Hirsh for his involvement in the community. In a couple of months, on the 62nd anniversary of his store, Sid will be closing down for good.

Sid's mom opened the store in 1954. Back then it was a children's shoe store. Now they market dance and specialty shoes. Sid joined the shoe store workforce in November of that year. Sid, not to make you feel old, but that was a month after my first birthday. But who's counting?

I'll have a little to share on the Broadway Project later in the newsletter, but wanted to open with this as Sid's shop is on the corridor and will be missed once his work is finally done. Without a doubt, Hirsh's Shoes

is one of the character-building places in the Sunshine Mile.

Arizona Sonora Border Project

Also known as ArSoBo, the Arizona Sonora Border Projects for Inclusion are run through the UA College of Medicine and Global Health Initiatives. They touch on some key issues like affordable health care for the needy and cross-border relations. We'll be presenting a very compelling community forum on this at the Loft in April.

By way of introduction to the program though, ArSoBo is based on a partnership between the UA group working on global health initiatives and partners in Nogales, Sonora. We'll have both represented at the forum.

ArSoBo is a nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to assist in alleviating all kinds of barriers to health faced by people with disabilities. It's a combination of providing low-cost adaptive technology (hearing aids, wheelchairs, prosthetics) and at the same time offering employment to the disabled to build the aids. ArSoBo trains, employs, and distributes – and people pay what they can afford for the adaptive aids they receive.



THE NEED:

It is estimated that approx. 11 million of Mexico's population is in need of a wheelchair. Many live in rugged rural areas and require an ALL-TERRAIN WHEELCHAIR.

Children with cerebral palsy, structural problems, or seating abnormalities need customized wheelchairs.

The chair must be fitted to the child. An ill-fitting chair can result in serious complications that are very hard to correct.

ARSOBO'S RESPONSE TO THE NEED:

The "ARSOBO WHEELCHAIR WORKSHOP" produces the award-winning RoughRider® All-Terrain wheelchair designed to handle rugged terrain with ease.

Since 2011 ARSOBO has served the local community building the "standard" RoughRider® All-Terrain wheelchair as well as the "customized" wheelchair for individuals with special needs.

ARSOBO is the only organization in Mexico currently constructing customized all-terrain wheelchairs.



- Prosthetics – train and hire workers who live with prosthetic limbs to fabricate prosthetics for distribution to others in need.
- Wheelchairs – individuals who use wheelchairs themselves build durable 'all-terrain' chairs for others who have similar needs.
- Hearing Aids – train the hearing impaired to perform hearing tests and obtain ear mold impressions, ultimately manufacturing custom ear molds for the needy. The ArSoBo hearing aids use solar rechargers. No more spending excess dollars (pesos) on battery replacements every week.

When I began doing this job back in 2009, one of my hopes was to serve as a bridge between the important work being done on campus and the wider community. This is just one example of that work, and we at the Ward 6 office are happy to help get the word out about it.

I'll be bringing more on the upcoming forum to you as we get the details finalized, but wanted to open this week's newsletter with a very good news story about the UA reaching across the border to touch the lives of the needy in Nogales.

Affordable health care and cross-border relations... there's no reason we can't expand this program so the disabled in our own community can also benefit from these adaptive technologies in ways they can afford. And there's no reason we can't expand the program so the disabled in our own community can't participate in the fabrication of these much needed medical devices as well.



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542
Tucson Office: 520-
881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug
Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
520-791-4201

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

Budget

This week’s budget update has a few moving parts. First, though, let me mention that we’ll be receiving an update that’ll include this graphic on Tuesday:

**Fiscal Year 2016/17
General Fund Projection**

- Action taken by Mayor & Council this Fiscal Year have improved our financial situation going forward.
 - Retirement /medical incentive
 - Medical Plan Changes
 - Prepayment of PSPRS
 - Department reorganizations

Revenues	\$487.1
Expenditures	<u>512.7</u>
Remaining Deficit	(\$25.6)

What it means is that after all of the early retirements, cuts to medical benefits, and the other personnel moves we’ve already agreed to, we’re still faced with a \$25M hole that we need to fill before July 1st. Not only is the meter ticking, but our options are shrinking each time we approve a step.

As I’ve shared before, some of the options available to us include fee increases. Here’s the table that includes those options.

Revenue Option	Potential Action	Potential Financial Impact
Public Utility Tax	4% to 4.5%	\$1.7 M
Telecom, right-of-way	50% increase	\$1.6 M
Zoo Entrance Fee	Increase by \$3	\$1 M
Bed Tax	Increase by \$1	\$1 M
Advertising Tax	Set at 2%	\$1 M
Business License Fee	Increase by \$5	\$200,000
Increase existing fees	Parks and Recreation Planning & Development Fire Courts Parking Police	TBD
Establish a Storm Water Fee	\$0.10 per month per Water Acct	\$270,000
Bus Fares	Increase \$0.25	\$2.5 M
Graffiti Cleanup	Move to Environmental Services	\$1.7 M
Code Enforcement	Move to Environmental Services	\$2.3 M

We've already moved Code Enforcement and Graffiti over to Environmental Services. The work now is to try to build efficiencies into those operations and avoid increases to our ES fees.

Nobody will want to move toward increased fees, but we're obligated to balancing the budget, so status quo isn't an option. I've shared before that raising the zoo entry fees may be counter-productive, based on what has happened to attendance and our General Fund subsidy to that operation in the past. The advertising tax would probably just hurt the local small business community – I'm worried about causing more harm than it would be worth to us to move toward filling the budget hole. The impact of the telecom and utility fee increases would be spread among multiple users, so those might be candidates if we're backed into that corner. I've supported the bus fare increases in the past, but haven't had any support on the M&C. We'll see if anybody else is willing to raise that possibility this time around.

We still have the ballot initiatives (sales and property tax increases), but those won't be voted on until this November. Getting to \$25M won't be easy – and not getting there isn't an option.

TPD's Budget

On Friday I met with our new police chief, Chris Magnus. We had a very good discussion about the role that agency will need to play in this budget process. Working through tough fiscal issues is something Chris has had to do in other jurisdictions. He's already doing the necessary outreach to his troops to engage the whole department in this process. Earlier in the day, he sent TPD employees a nine minute video that lays out much of what I've shared through these newsletters for the past several months. Here's what he had to say to the police men and women who are serving the community:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mchew_vxr_I&feature=youtu.be.

During our conversation, we touched on many of the points he raises in the video. Those include the need to take commissioned officers out from behind desks and get them back out onto patrol. That restructuring is something I've talked about for three years – moving 'assignment pay' over to base pay and doing away with those special assignments. The fact is that the 5% pay increases for assignments became a part of the pay package because historically Mayors and Councils haven't had the guts to simply give increases to the base pay, so they created 'assignment pay' increases. The result has been a relative devaluing of patrol work – and that's where we need the officers. As you can imagine, I continue to support the notion of eliminating many of the assignment pay options and moving some of those dollars into base pay. That's 'some,' not all. We still have a deficit to fund.

The chief also spoke of changing boundaries for some of the divisions and focusing the limited personnel on the more intense crime areas of the city. That also gets to the topic of the overall size of the agency. We'll build the numbers up over time, but when trying to find \$25M, it's clear the largest department in the city is going to be a part of that solution.

As I've done in each of the past two budget cycles, I'm going to be looking for ways to fund new police and fire vehicles. Magnus confirmed that's one of the top priorities – along with cell phones and uniforms. The sedans are not something the general public can help with,

but if you give to either the police or fire foundations, those other needs are areas in which smaller donations can make an immediate impact.

We'll be hosting a Ward 6 Meet and Greet for the Police Chief next month. I hope you can attend, introduce yourself, and share your perspectives on the agency. I've already told him that each of our neighborhoods really appreciate seeing Community Service Officers and patrol officers at their meetings.

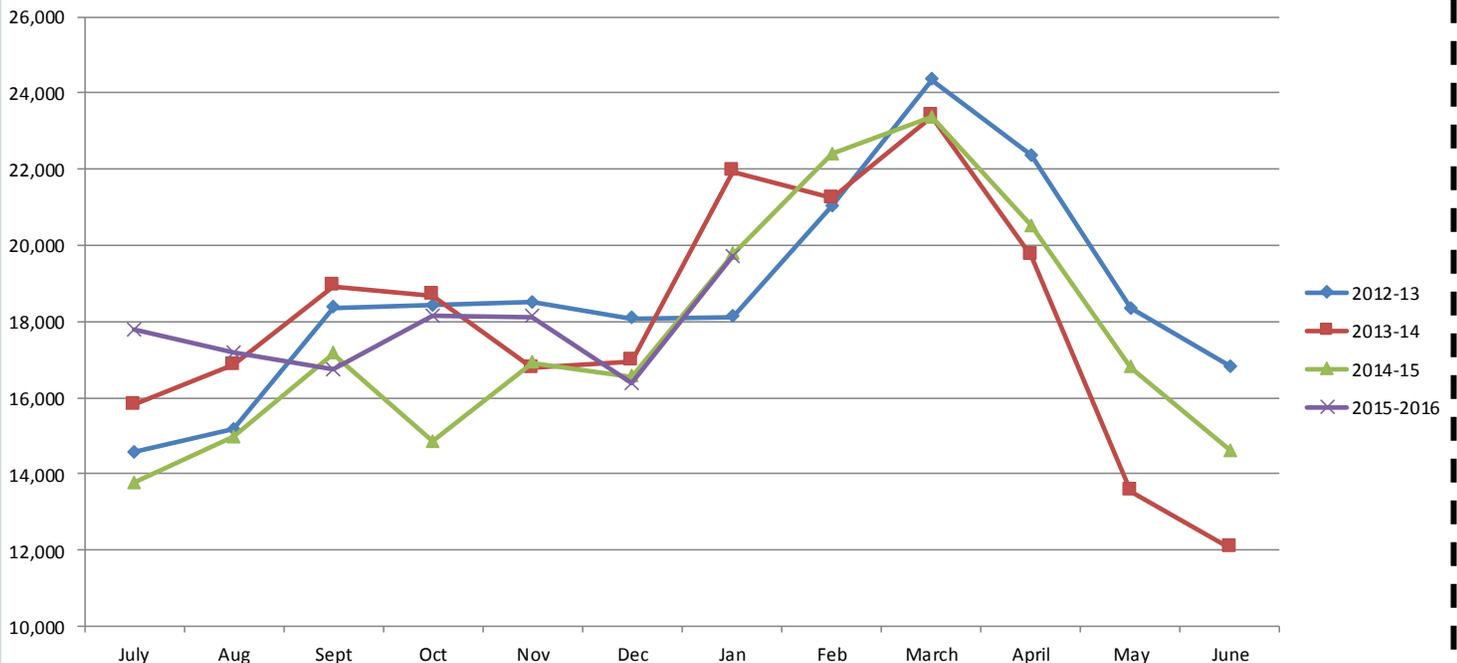
Golf

Still on the budget topic, we will have to make some decisions relative to our golf enterprise before the end of the fiscal year. We operate five courses – none of them make money on a regular basis. Combined, here are the financials for the courses so far this fiscal year:

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	YTD
Gross profit	384,128	375,293	363,035	470,170	695,443	540,338	697,617	0	3,526,024
Expenses	712,383	625,966	814,128	512,492	505,733	543,253	499,795	0	4,213,751
Net Oper	(328,255)	(250,673)	(451,093)	(42,322)	189,710	(2,915)	197,822	0	(687,727)
Budget	(357,479)	(284,389)	(234,492)	(140,884)	151,431	71,550	119,226	0	(675,039)
FY 15 actual	(376,315)	(299,163)	(503,064)	97,951	(69,151)	51,468	211,208		(887,066)

As you can see, we're \$887K in the red so far this year. We've still got February through June to go, but as you can see from the graph below, those are historically months when we see a decrease in rounds played:

Number of rounds by month



It's not a good picture. I've asked for an update on our options for selling off courses. We'll need that information before we can make any informed decisions on how to repackage golf as something we offer to the public.

Last week, I shared some of the results from a survey we just took related to how people value our parks department. Here are a couple of tables from the survey that paint the picture.

Q15. How important do you feel it is for the City of Tucson to provide high quality parks, trails, and recreation facilities? (without "don't know")

	Households with and without children				Total
	Households with Children Under Age 10	Households with Children Ages 10-19	Households with Adults Ages 20-54 and No Children	Households with Adults Ages 55+ and No Children	
N=1225					
Q15. How important is it for City to provide high quality parks, trails, & recreation facilities					
Very Important	85.5%	83.3%	82.2%	74.6%	80.8%
Somewhat Important	12.2%	13.3%	10.2%	15.6%	12.7%
Not Sure	1.3%	3.3%	5.4%	5.7%	4.4%
Not Important	1.0%	0.0%	2.1%	4.2%	2.1%

So we know the large majority of people who took the survey consider our continuing to offer high quality parks, trails, and recreation facilities to be an important function of city government. From the next table, it's clear maintaining what we have is also high on people's list.

Q18. From the list below, please select the THREE improvements to City of Tucson Parks and Recreation facilities that you and members of your household would MOST SUPPORT being funded. (top 3)

	Households with and without children				Total
	Households with Children Under Age 10	Households with Children Ages 10-19	Households with Adults Ages 20-54 and No Children	Households with Adults Ages 55+ and No Children	
N=1225					
Q18. Top choice					
Maintenance/upgrades of existing outdoor parks, pools, & recreation	72.9%	68.2%	61.5%	60.7%	65.0%
Maintenance/upgrades of existing indoor Recreation/ Neighborhood/Senior Centers	19.7%	30.3%	29.9%	35.2%	28.7%
Development of new paths, trails & greenways to connect existing parks	49.0%	52.1%	50.4%	41.1%	47.3%
Development of new outdoor recreation facilities in existing parks	32.2%	25.6%	17.9%	16.1%	22.0%
Acquisition of new park land & open space	20.4%	22.7%	28.4%	22.0%	23.1%
Maintenance/upgrades of existing rectangular sports fields	21.0%	21.8%	13.1%	9.7%	15.5%
Maintenance/upgrade of existing baseball & softball fields	11.1%	12.8%	12.8%	8.8%	11.3%
Maintenance/improvements to Reid Park Zoo	41.7%	31.3%	32.2%	38.1%	35.8%
Other	2.5%	3.3%	4.2%	5.3%	3.8%
None chosen	5.7%	4.7%	12.2%	13.8%	10.4%

The Reid Park Zoo, of course, continues to be widely recognized as a major community asset. We'll be taking all of this into consideration as we move forward with decisions relative to budget priorities. From these budget updates it's clear we have a hill to climb. Knowing what the community values most has to be a factor driving the directions we take in coming to balance.

Economic Development

Growing the economy is, without question, the long-term answer to our budget challenges. I've got an email into some of the county folks to check in about getting the Sonoran Corridor back in front of the voters. Building out that region is our future. I'm a strong advocate of taking a bond question to the voters asking to fund 10% of what our Federal delegation has budgeted for that project. If we don't, they probably shouldn't – and we stay a service sector/call center economy. I didn't get involved with this stuff to leave office pointing to that as Tucson and Pima County's economic future.

At the same time, we do have a lot of very positive activity going on in and around the downtown core. They include the new AC Marriott hotel, mixed-use work on what's known as Block 175 across from El Charro, upcoming work at the Ronstadt Transit Center, 1 W Broadway, the Downtown Motor Lodge, Stone Apartments, upcoming improvements to Scott Avenue, possible work on the Arena Parcel (NorGen), some planned work over by the Cathedral, and a project at the Westerner Hotel. In addition, we look forward to progress on the west side of the I-10. If you saw a recent article in the Star related to expansions at a downtown brewery, my comment was that if we don't up our game in terms of project oversight, these developments are going to implode on one another.

About six weeks ago, our not-so-new-anymore City Manager made some internal changes in our Planning and Development Services Department (PDSO). The retirement of the former director served as the catalyst. Since that time, we've seen seven others retire from PDSO, we've eliminated five positions in the course of the budget talks, one person has resigned, and four have transferred to other departments. The Office of Integrated Planning has folded into PDSO's operation, and code enforcement has been shifted over to Environmental Services. Lots of changes in process – and my comment spoke to the need to emphasize customer service and project management as these changes evolve. One clear indication of that focus is the newly-minted PDSO department banner:



Sending the message that we're about facilitating good development must include recognizing we're grateful for private sector investment. Without it, our economy tanks. Look back up at that list of projects – people are indeed investing in the community. We owe our best customer service to the trust they've placed in Tucson.

Another sign of the new focus is the willingness of PDS staff to talk to outside groups about how we might make process changes to facilitate smoother plan reviews. This week, I'll be meeting with senior staff and some private sector architects to review our internal processes and see what ideas might emerge for positive changes.

We're making good progress. With our budget challenges, we need to keep our foot on the pedal, and we need to hear back from the county on the Sonoran Corridor. If they're not willing to move on that very critical item, we may need to take it on ourselves. It's that important.

Water Policy Update

If economic development is key for our local and regional progress, what the state is doing in the area of water policy is existential to that effort. By way of reminder, this 'bathtub ring' photo is from Lake Mead. It shows how far water levels have fallen in that key reservoir.



Photo: David Beckert/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Last week, I wrote about two initiatives going on at the state level. One is a bill (SB 1268) that will allow cities and towns in some parts of the state to opt out of the requirement that new development show a 100-year water supply before being permitted. There's much more than the issue of home rule going on with respect to that bill.

Thomas Meixner is a UA hydrology professor. His colleague, Christopher Castro, is an Assistant Professor of Atmos-

pheric Sciences. They're two of seventeen researchers who just finished collaborating on a study that speaks to the absolute short-sightedness of SB 1268.

Published in the Journal of Hydrology, the study documented that groundwater levels around the San Pedro River will decline at a much more rapid pace than recharge can refill it and much faster than many other basins. That directly relates to SB 1268 because both Sierra Vista and Benson rely on groundwater from the San Pedro River area as their only drinking water source, and both have been advocating in favor of SB 1268 so they can move subdivisions through their planning and development processes. Without the new legislation, they can't.

The other initiative I wrote about was the expansion of the Governor's Water Augmentation

Council. I had asked the M&C to agree to sending Ducey a letter expressing our concern over the makeup of that Council. Here's a copy of the letter that went out:



JONATHAN ROTHSCHILD
MAYOR

CITY OF TUCSON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

255 WEST ALAMEDA
P.O. BOX 27210
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85726-7210
PHONE: (520) 791-4201
FAX: (520) 791-5348

February 16, 2016

The Honorable Governor Doug Ducey
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

SUBJECT: Governor's Water Augmentation Council

Dear Governor Ducey:

During a February 9, 2016 Study Session, the Tucson City Council voted unanimously to support recommending expansion of both the scope of interests and regional representation of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council. We are aware that you have received similar expressions of interest from Pinal County residents.

The 29-member Water Augmentation Council will meet for the first time on February 19, 2016. For that reason, the need to affirmatively respond to this request is urgent.

The Council, as presently constituted, lacks balanced representation that includes conservation-focused groups. In addition, it lacks appropriate representation from Southern Arizona. As a leader in Arizona water management policies, Tucson Water has learned that the key to strong growth in our state is an assured water supply. Without water, there is no business development.

Adding representatives of these groups will help assure that the proper knowledge and wide-ranging experience is at the table to properly manage our water supplies going forward.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical water issues facing Arizona and for your consideration of our reasonable request.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rothschild
Mayor

The Governor's first response was to refuse making any changes in the Council. His spokesman even cited cotton growers as being a sufficient voice for Southern Arizona.

Since the drought began on the Colorado River in 2000, the CAP reports the 30-year average flow on the river has dropped by 1 million acre-feet. To put that into perspective, the entire Las Vegas Valley could live on that for four years. The Bureau of Reclamation pro-

jects new record lows on Lake Mead later this spring and into next year. At this time, they think it'll stay just above the level that would kick in the first ever Federal shortage declaration, forcing Nevada and Arizona to cut back on how much we pull from the Colorado.

What the State Legislature and Governor are doing has long-term implications for our water adequacy. It's being driven by vested interests operating on a very short time horizon. If you agree, you need to call and/or write, or we own their reckless direction.

Private Prisons

The Governor has also said he wants to reduce prison populations. If done right, that's a great goal. People can receive the real treatment and care they need, and the state will be able to offload millions of dollars in costs.

But that's not being reflected in the Ducey budget.

Under his current budget proposal, Ducey's asking for \$17.6M in new private prison beds. He's also suggesting the state give the Department of Corrections (DOC) the ability to bid out a contract for yet another 2,500 beds – the projected cost will be another \$60M annually. That's neither reducing the prison population nor helping the budget shortfall. It also fails to pursue the significant sentencing reform that really would touch on both of those issues.

The DOC is already the third largest state agency budget line item – 11% of the General Fund. The state spends 60% more on prisons than they do on higher education. Those researchers who produced the water study are less valued by Ducey and the State Legislature than cutting contracts with private prisons.

There will be a local town hall where you can express your thoughts. Coincidentally, it'll be held on the UA campus, tentatively in the Modern Language building, right next to Administration on the mall. The town hall will start at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 5th – it's coming right up. If you'd like more information and to confirm the exact location as we get closer to the date, contact Carolyn Isaacs and the American Friends Service Committee at 623.9141.

Water future, state budget, and private prisons – lots of strikingly critical issues people need to get active in addressing.

Broadway Widening

The Broadway Project Design Concept Report is available online at <http://broadwayboulevard.info/design-concept-report>. I've finished reading the nine chapters, and in Chapter 9 came across a tidbit that I must admit I've missed through all of the Citizen Task Force meetings and public presentations. Perhaps because I was focused on the stated limits of the project (Euclid to Country Club).

In Section 9.3, the Project Delivery Phasing Plan section, sub-section 9.3.1 defines the 'construction project limits.' Here's how they're described in the DCR:

9.3 Project Delivery Phasing Plan

9.3.1 Construction Project Limits

The reconstruction of Broadway will begin about 300 feet west of Euclid. Construction west of Euclid is needed to provide the double left turn lanes on Broadway Boulevard in both directions. Construction will extend through the Country Club Road intersection approximately 700 feet to the east in order to accommodate the new storm drain, construct bus pullouts, and close the existing median opening at Avenida de Palmas/Camino Español.

Closing off the median openings 700 feet east of the Country Club intersection may be of interest to people who live in both Colonia Solana to the south and El Encanto to the north. The maps are all online at the project site (<http://broadwayboulevard.info/home>). Check them out and be ready to share your thoughts at the upcoming public meeting at 5:30 pm on March 29th at the Sabbar Shrine, 450 S. Tucson Blvd.

More on Transportation

I walk through the Warren underpass just about every night. It's the connection from campus on the south to the UA medical complex on the north. The city is considering naming the underpass in honor of current UA professor and former Council Member and Mayor Tom Volgy. Tom served from '77 to '91. He was also one of my UA profs back in the last century (I got an 'A' in his class, and there was no bribery involved), and a Catalina Vista neighbor.

TDOT is soliciting input from the community on the proposed naming. We need your comments by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 26th. Send your thoughts to Michael.Graham@tucsonaz.gov. Mike will gather them together and we'll move the process forward from there. Tom's one of the good guys – check him out online. There's plenty of information available.

Ages n' Stages Expo

Here's another February 26th item. Last summer, I did a lot of promoting for the Safe Seniors event that was organized by TPD. It was a very successful outreach to our seniors that involved everything from descriptions of frauds and scams going on to a wide variety of social services available throughout the community. Later this month at the TCC, you can come out for a somewhat similar event, but one that includes entertainment options, as well.

Ages n' Stages will run from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm on Friday, February 26th. It will feature a bunch of activity stations. At some, you can learn exercise movements, songs, and dances on an entertainment stage. Others will help you become familiar with medical services, social and lifelong learning opportunities, legal assistance, and a whole lot more. The entire event – including parking – is free.

Some of the groups that will be at the event include the Better Business Bureau, Handi-dogs, several assisted living community representatives, groups that work with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patients, Sun Tran, the Attorney General's Office, and one of my favorites, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute from the UA. There will be many more, too.

Sponsorship of the day will come from the Pima Council on Aging. I've written about them before. They do a great job of reaching out to seniors throughout the community with the types of programs highlighted at the expo. We're fortunate to have this group. It deserves your support.

If you'd like to learn more about this event, you can find the entire rundown at pcoa.org/2016-ages-n-stages-expo.

Johnny Gibson's Downtown Market



A.C. Marriott – is Johnny Gibson's Downtown Market.

Johnny Gibson's is up and running full time in the space that used to be occupied by the Beauwolf Alley Theater. This is an effort of the folks who run Rincon Market. The downtown location offers everything from packaged goods to sushi, a deli, and a bakery. They even offer bike delivery in the downtown area. All of us in the Ward 6 office are glad to have them in the heart of downtown. It's the first grocery store to open there in nearly 50 years.

Local Film Industry Update



John Patrick from **NEWS 4 TUCSON** did a story on our local film industry that he sourced from my February 1st newsletter, which spoke about partnerships. I'm always glad to provide story ideas – and even happier to help the local media promote our film folks at Visit Tucson.

As a follow-up, it's great to be able to report even more local income from film-related work in January. The Film Office worked with incoming commercials, episodics, and a promotion for the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation. Combined, the projects yielded over a quarter of a million dollars in direct local spending. Some of the locations you'll see on the air from these projects include Chaffin's Diner, Mother Hubbard's, Baja Café, and Boca Tacos y Tequila.



Last week, I highlighted Veg in a Box for the Tucson Original section of the newsletter. This time I'm going to stick downtown and remind you that we now have a grocery store and deli open in the downtown core. Located at 11 S 6th Ave – right around the corner from student housing, up the street from 1 E Broadway, and around the block from what will soon be the new

Shelli Hall has also been working with production companies to bring back another feature film. In May, Old Tucson will host a new western based on the Wyatt Earp OK Corral gun fight. The UA School of Theater, Film, and TV will work with the team, providing opportunities for the students to get hands-on experience shooting the film.

Note to John: the film industry in Tucson is the gift that'll keep on giving if you're looking for more story ideas. Up above I had some hard words to say about the State Legislature. If they want some love, reinstating the state-wide film incentive is one way to earn it.

New C.A.T.S. Academic Center



This photo is bittersweet for me. I grew up in Tucson attending UA baseball games at Sancet Field. The demolition that has started will transform that facility into the home of a new academic center for UA student-athletes.

Here's a rendering of the end product.



Our finish date is later this fall. As I did with both the football stadium and McKale projects, I'll share some periodic updates. It always amazes me how we start with blueprints and knocking down some walls and end up with a finished product.

Commitment to academic success is one of the priorities our athletic department staff embraces. This project will enhance that experience for the students.

Alley Maintenance

I'll close with this. This is a copy of a letter that was sent out to Arroyo Chico residents, but its content is true citywide:



February 8, 2016

CITY OF
TUCSON

PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT,
CODE
ENFORCEMENT

RE: Alley and Easement Access for Tucson Electric Power Maintenance

Dear Property Owner:

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) will be performing vegetation management in your neighborhood during the month of April. According to TEP, this work is necessary to help maintain reliable electric service and avoid public safety hazards. Crews will need access to alleyways and easements to complete their work. To allow them safe access, please clear vegetation and other obstructions from alleyways, easements and pathways adjacent to your property. However, for your safety, please do not attempt to clear vegetation within 10 feet of TEP lines yourself. Only specially-trained crews should perform that service. Please contact TEP's Customer Care Center at 520-623-7711 to report vegetation in need of pruning or for more information.

The Tucson Code requires property owners to maintain to the center of the alley that portion of the alley adjacent to their property. This includes trimming back excess vegetation. Additionally, property owners are required to cooperate with utilities in many of the utility easements across the city.

Your cooperation in assisting TEP is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

City of Tucson Code Enforcement

Homeowners are responsible for clearing the alleys behind their houses so utility companies can access their equipment. As we close in on the monsoon season, it's really important that you check the conditions behind your house. TEP gets calls on a regular basis to get power back up and running when the winds blow and lightening hits. Doing your part is only going to help them do their work.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6

Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events and Entertainment

Garden District Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Garden District, Speedway Blvd to Grant Rd between Alvernon and Swan Rd

Multi-home yard sales in Garden District Neighborhood (Grant to Speedway, Alvernon to Swan) on Saturday, March 5. A map showing the locations of the sales is posted on the neighborhood website, thegardendistrict.org. The map will be finalized and updated the night before the sale on March 4. On March 5, watch for signs directing you to participating homes.

Tucson Rodeo Parade

Thursday, February 25, 2016 | 9 am

Parade route begins on Ajo Hwy, west of Park Ave

A colorful parade presented annually as part of the Tucson Rodeo and Parade (La Fiesta de los Vaqueros) since 1925. It is now known as the "largest non-motorized parade in the country. Visit www.tucsonrodeoparade.com for more information and grandstand tickets. Visit www.tucsonrodeo.com for a schedule of events for the Tucson Rodeo which lasts through Feb. 28th.

Urban Farm Tour

Saturday, March 5, 2016 | 8 am – 1 pm

During this 5-hour tour, participants will visit different sets of aquaponics and hydroponics systems, a long-time urban orchard, market gardens and community gardens. The tour will end at the Mission Garden for a locally-sourced lunch, catered by Caridad Community Kitchen, and a discussion of “What do we need to do to produce and eat lots more local food?” The tour is organized by Feeding Tucson, a project of Sustainable Tucson. Tickets are available at feedingtucson.org.

Ongoing...

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave | www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

January 16 – June 3, 2016: “Waterflow: Under the Colorado River”

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church St | tucsonconventioncenter.com

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St | www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too! Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln | www.tucsonsbirthplace.org

A re-creation of the Spanish Colonial walled garden that was part of Tucson’s historic San Agustin Mission. For guided tours call 520-777-9270.

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave | www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way | www.tucsonbotanical.org
October 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016: “Butterfly Magic” Exhibit

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave |
www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd | www.uamineralmuseum.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave | www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St | www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St | hotelcongress.com

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St | www.rialtotheatre.com

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd | www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave | www.arizonatheatre.org

The Rogue Theatre, The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | www.theroquetheatre.org