

## Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Diana Amado



Amy Stabler



Alison Miller



Caroline Lee



# Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

February 29, 2016

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### Saguaro



Photo: Bob Demers/UANews  
due to their water content. Based on that, the ones in the picture probably weigh over a ton each.

I'm opening with this as a counterpoint to the absolute low life who chopped down several saguaros out in Saguaro West a month ago. The message – some of us (> 99% of us) care about them and want to see them thrive.

The UA has a strong research effort around these cacti. The image at left shows the front of Old Main on campus. I've heard that saguaro weigh from 60 to 100 pounds per foot, largely

Richard Wiedhopf is the president of the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. He's also an assistant dean for finance and facilities on campus. He and the Society are responsible for preserving over 76,000 succulent plants since 1999 when they were successful in establishing a permitting program for the protection of cactus and native plants.



**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

Mike Sanderson is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the UA. He's also a member of the BIO5 Institute studying the history of life, largely plant life on Earth. Together, these two are helping to coordinate the event we posted in our events section last week – the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Park Service. I also wrote about the Tumamoc Hill survey the UA is conducting. It's the UA's desert botanical lab. The deadline for responding to the survey is coming up, so if you want to get your voice heard, time's running out.

The event deserves top billing this week. Sponsors include Saguaro National Park, the UA College of Science, the Friends of Saguaro National Park, and the Western National Parks Association. The event will feature the work being done by these groups to preserve, protect, and study the saguaro.

Parking is available at the Pennington Street garage. The event is free, but they'd like you to [RSVP by sending an email](#) to Diana Rhoades, NPS Urban Fellow.

What: Saguaro Science Celebration  
When: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1  
Where: 88 E. Broadway Blvd., second floor auditorium

### More on the Environment

#### Prior Floodlighting



A few years ago, we replaced the old metal halide lights on the football stadium. Here are a couple of images that show the before and after effects. The shots were taken from about eight miles north of the stadium on Magee Road.

The City of Tucson is heading along a similar path with the agreement we just signed to convert nearly 20,000 streetlights to LED. Light output is measured in lumens. The lamps we're about to replace emit about 480 million lumens. Once the new ones are fully installed, the output will drop to about 180 mil-





**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  
Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

**Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>

lion. That's a 62% light reduction.

## City Wide Lumen Comparison

**Current Condition**

HPS Wattages	Initial Lamp Lumens	Luminire Eff	Quantity	Total Fixture Lumens
50	4,000	0.75	28	84,000
100	9,500	0.75	1,022	7,281,750
150	16,000	0.75	818	9,816,000
250	29,000	0.75	1,889	41,085,750
400	50,000	0.75	10,366	388,725,000

**Total HPS** 14,123 446,992,500

LPS Wattages	Initial Lamp Lumens	Luminire Eff	Quantity	Total Fixture Lumens
90	13,500	0.70	2,806	26,516,700
135	22,500	0.70	27	425,250
180	33,000	0.70	48	1,108,800

**Total LPS** 2,881 28,050,750

LED Wattage	Initial Lamp Lumens	Luminire Eff	Quantity	Total Fixture Lumens
53	4,049	1.0	924	3,741,276
81	6,044	1.0	38	229,672
83	6,120	1.0	2	12,240
117	9,117	1.0	32	291,744
185	18,710	1.0	33	617,430
215	18,562	1.0	49	909,538

**Total LED** 1078 5,801,900

**Grand Totals** 18,082 480,845,150

**Projected Project**

New LED	Lumens	Luminire Initial Dim	Quantity	Total Fixture Lumens
ATB260B E85	19,152	0.90	390	6,722,352
ATBM D R3	11,689	0.90	9,388	98,762,699
ATBM E R3	13,415	0.90	1,385	16,721,798
ATBS E R2	3,962	0.90	3,215	11,464,047
ATBS F R3	4,477	0.90	331	1,333,698
ATBS H R2	6,249	0.90	1,213	6,822,033

**Total New LED** 15,922 141,826,627

**New LED Intersections**

ATB260B E85	19,152	0.90	2,160	37,231,488
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**Grand Totals** 18,082 179,058,115

**Total Environmental Lumen Reduction 62.76%**

- Preliminary analysis of current environmental lumen levels of the existing roadway lighting (cobrahead and shoebox) fixtures vs. post retrofit LED lighting shows a significant reduction in lumens
- Further reductions in environmental lumen emissions will occur during the dimmable hours noted previously



You've likely seen these blue LED headlights on cars around town. There are a couple of criteria astronomers consider relative to the spillover impact of lights on the dark sky. One of the most important is called "color temperature." The lower the color temperature, the warmer, or less blue, the light. That's a real layman's description, but it's generally on point. Blue is to be avoided – warm colors create much less spillover.

That's even more important in a climate like ours where due to our low humidity, light spills more easily.

They measure the LED temperature in Kelvin (K), not Fahrenheit. We worked hand-in-hand with the astronomy community to spec the new LED streetlamps. We've instructed the vendor to install lamps under 3,000 K to ensure we're making the spillover better than what exists now.

After the retrofits, our streetlamps will produce 20% less sky glow than they do now. On top of that, LEDs are more efficient and long-lasting, so the City will save over \$2M in energy and maintenance costs annually. This is yet another great example of the partnership that exists between the City and UA researchers. Together, we're improving the general quality of life and saving taxpayers money – and protecting the very vital astronomy industry in and around Tucson.

Coincidentally, in the January 2016 edition of SPIE Professional (Society of Photo-Optical

Instrumentation Engineers) they had an article on LEDs. It made the point that “not exceeding a color temperature of 3,000K and using lights with the lowest possible glare rating” are important considerations. We’re hitting both marks.

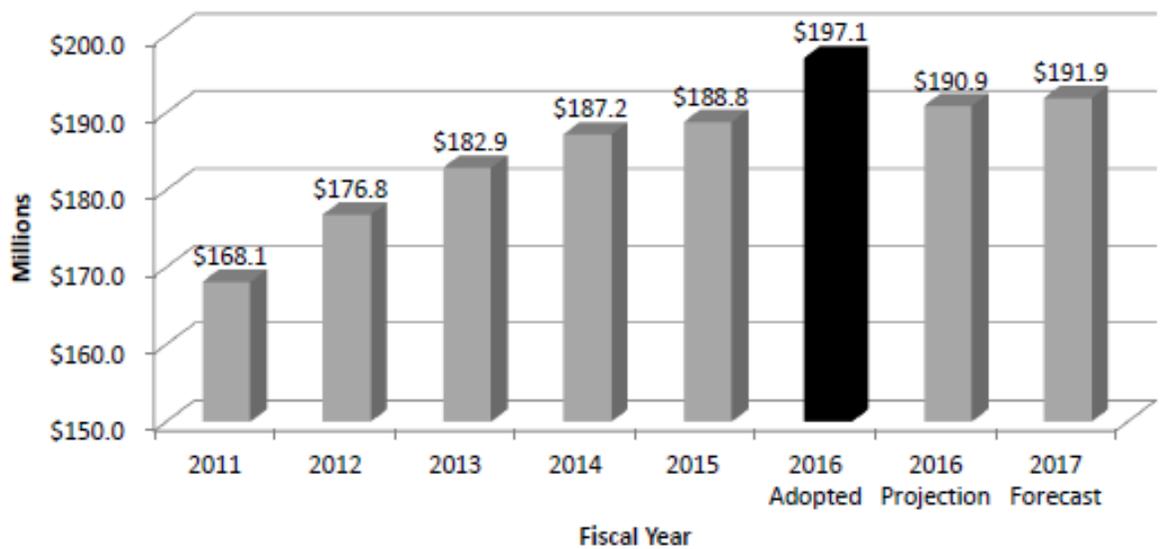
**Budget**

A big thanks to City Manager Mike Ortega and City CFO Joyce Garland for coming to the Ward 6 budget forum last week and giving a very thorough presentation. We had a full house, and the discussion that followed the PowerPoint was beneficial to all who attended.

As has been the case for the past several weeks, I’ll share some budget bits and pieces in this newsletter. Today, I’m going to give you some of the revenue trends we’re seeing, as well as our revenue and spending projections. That will show the basis on which we’re predicting the future deficits I’ve written about.

We’re seeing a gradual, slow, but predictable upwards trend line in our sales tax receipts. This is important because at over 40% of our general fund revenue stream, sales taxes are our largest revenue source.

This graph shows that trend line. We overshot the mark with our FY 16 budget projections by about \$6M. That’s a part of the hole we’re filling now.



Here’s a breakdown of all our revenue sources. The numbers are a little different than the trend line graph because we’re updating these all the time. The general message is that our budget projections were largely correct, with the exception of the sales tax bust.

Expenditures (\$ millions)	FY 16/17 Projected Revenues as of 2/15/16	FY 15/16 Adopted Budget	Variance to FY15/16 Adopted Budget Increase/ (Decrease)
Sales Tax	\$ 192.1	\$ 197.1	\$ (5.0)
Primary Property Tax	14.8	14.4	0.4
Other Local Taxes	44.5	40.3	4.2

State-Shared Revenues:			
Income Tax	65.6	63.2	2.4
Sales Tax	52.6	48.9	3.7
Auto Lieu	23.3	22.0	1.3
Licenses and Permits	28.8	28.3	0.5
Fines and Forfeitures	10.4	14.3	(3.9)
Charges for Services	41.3	39.1	2.2
Other Agencies	1.6	1.4	0.2
Non-Grant Contributions (Raytheon)	4.5	3.5	1.0
Sale of Property	2.0	9.0	(7.0)
Use of Money and Property	0.4	0.6	(0.2)
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	1.9	1.6	0.3
Miscellaneous Revenues	1.2	1.4	(0.2)
Use of Fund Balance:			
Restricted	2.1	5.2	(3.1)
Unrestricted	????	3.7	????
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 487.1</b>	<b>\$ 494.0</b>	<b>\$ (6.9)</b>

What about our expenditures? The following table shows the progress we've made in terms of reining in our personnel costs. That's a combination of the early retirements and some reductions in the medical benefits we've put into place. We're ahead of the budget we adopted last July, but police and fire pensions account for a \$12M increase above what we had budgeted. That's the litigation the state lost – but we have to pay for. There's nothing we can do to control that. To make things more interesting, we expect another court decision that'll hit us next year. The State reduced employee benefits, was sued, and lost. We're paying the bill now.

<b>Expenditures (\$ millions)</b>	<b>FY 16/17 Projected Expenditures as of 2/15/16</b>	<b>FY 15/16 Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Variance to FY15/16 Adopted Budget Increase/ (Decrease)</b>
Personnel Costs:			
Salaries, Wages & Other Pay Allowances	\$ 177.0	\$ 178.9	\$ (1.9)
Extra- and Over-time	13.9	13.8	0.1
Pensions:			
Police	39.5	32.1	7.4
Fire	25.5	20.1	5.4
Tucson Supplemental Retirement Plan	18.5	19.0	(0.5)
FICA	6.4	7.1	(0.7)
Sick Leave Paid at Retirement	0.3	3.0	(2.7)
Workers Compensation	4.8	5.2	(0.4)
Medical Insurance	31.7	30.9	0.8
Retiree Medical & Life Insurance	8.8	8.3	0.5
Utilities	14.5	12.9	1.6
Jail Board (Pima County & Santa Cruz)	6.9	6.9	-
Animal Care	4.5	3.7	0.8
Other Services	58.4	56.2	2.2
Liquid & CNG Fuel	2.9	3.1	(0.2)
Other Supplies	14.1	12.4	1.7
Capital Equipment (e.g. software, vehicles, computers)	5.3	3.0	2.3

Capital Projects (Kronos, ERP)	0.9	1.0	(0.1)
Debt Service	24.7	23.9	0.8
Transfers Out:			
Mass Transit (SunTran, SunVan, SunLink)	48.0	47.8	0.2
Tucson Convention Center	4.8	4.8	-
Development Impact Fee (Housing Waivers)	1.3	0.0	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 512.7</b>	<b>\$ 494.1</b>	<b>\$ 18.6</b>

So, combining those two tables, here's the budget hole we're still trying to address before July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

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

Final table. This one shows that we still have a deficit problem to deal with in the out-years. That's the 'structural' part of what we're trying to address. Simply put, it means our revenues don't match our expenditures. The changes we make this fiscal year will help us out in coming years. The effects are cumulative. That's the bottom line of the table.

### Projected General Fund Changes Year to Year Delta from FY 15/16 Adopted Budget

	From Retreat on Dec. 4, 2015	Projection as of Feb. 15, 2016	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20
<b>Revenues</b>					
City Sales Tax	\$ 3,900,000	\$ (5,000,000)	\$ 3,975,000	\$ 4,050,000	\$ 4,140,000
State Shared Sales Tax	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 3,700,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,800,000
State Shared Income Tax	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Auto Lieu (VLT)	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,500,000
Fines/Forfeitures	\$ -	\$ (3,900,000)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Sale of Property	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Other	\$ 1,100,000	\$ (7,500,000)	\$ 600,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
<b>Subtotal Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 13,000,000</b>	<b>\$ (7,000,000)</b>	<b>\$ 13,975,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,650,000</b>	<b>\$ 11,940,000</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
PSPRS	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 12,800,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
TSRS	\$ -	\$ (500,000)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Fully Budget All Positions	\$ 6,184,000	\$ (5,100,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Health Insurance	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 2,160,000	\$ 2,322,000	\$ 2,500,000
Fuel	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (200,000)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Transit	\$ 1,670,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 5,450,000	\$ -
COPS Hiring	\$ 870,000	\$ 870,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SAFER Grant	\$ (1,783,000)	\$ -	\$ 1,783,000	\$ -	\$ -
Election	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000,000
Utilities	\$ -	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ 1,552,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 277,000	\$ (1,337,000)
Other	\$ 871,000	\$ 3,930,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Investment	\$ -	\$ 2,200,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
<b>Subtotal Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 42,564,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,600,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,233,000</b>	<b>\$ 24,049,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,163,000</b>
<b>Total change per year</b>	<b>\$ (29,564,000)</b>	<b>\$ (25,600,000)</b>	<b>\$ (7,258,000)</b>	<b>\$ (11,399,000)</b>	<b>\$ (13,223,000)</b>
<b>Cumulative per year</b>	<b>\$ (29,564,000)</b>	<b>\$ (25,600,000)</b>	<b>\$ (32,858,000)</b>	<b>\$ (44,257,000)</b>	<b>\$ (57,480,000)</b>

We can get to structural balance by continuing to reduce our ongoing costs. That equates to reducing services to the public. I'm not supportive of that. We currently have a Charter Review Committee working on some suggestions relative to ballot questions we could take to you this November. I'll share the results of the recent polling we did that will inform some of their recommendations and ultimately our final decisions. By way of example, here's how the ballot question may be framed. This is simply one example out of several I could concoct, but it will give you the general idea as to how we'll need to frame the November ballot discussion.

*We have a deficit going forward. Parks and Recreation is about a \$38M line item in the General Fund (GF). A ½ cent sales tax will yield between \$45M and \$50M. One possible idea is to pull P&R out of the GF and earmark a cap of \$40M to fund it – the remainder of the sales tax hike revenues going back into the GF. That would instantly ease the stress on the General Fund by between \$40M and \$45M dollars. With those newly freed up revenues, we can make some of the capital purchases (police and fire vehicles) that we sorely need to make. We can also do some of the deferred maintenance on our infrastructure that has been left waiting for a catastrophic failure for far too long.*

The key in that scenario is that we get approval from you to increase our sales tax by ½ cent. Otherwise, we continue to make budget cuts, and services suffer. So what did you say in the recent polls?

**Polling Results**

As was probably predictable, the results from the polling were mixed. Depending on how you ask a question, you'll get varying responses. In this case, 52% of people in the survey said they'd oppose increasing the city's sales tax. Most of that opposition was strong. 39% said they'd be okay with an increase, but from that group, only 25% felt strongly in that direction. That first question was only about supporting a tax increase. When we added questions about how that money would be spent, the answers changed.

Nearly 75% of respondents said they'd support a sales tax increase if the money went to fix the roads. Just about that many said they'd support the increase if it meant we'd be able to avoid reductions to public safety. About 50% said the same if we earmarked the dollars to either parks or transit. In the example I gave above, my intent was to show how we might frame the question in a way that helps the General Fund but at the same time shows we're prepared to earmark the new revenues to a specific cause. Without doing that, the data shows a sales tax increase would likely fail. Here are a few tables that come directly from the survey. They show the full range of options people were responding to.

4. Here are some things people say the money raised by the sales tax could be used for. After each, please tell me if you would be more or less likely to support an increase in the sales tax if the money raised was spent on that purpose?	Much More Likely	More Likely/ Less Likely
To repair and improve our roads	50	74 / 23
To keep the number of city police and firefighters from declining	42	71 / 23
To keep Tucson from cutting basic services	35	63 / 29
To make capital improvements, such as new police cars and improved first-responder technology	35	62 / 33

<b>SPLIT A: To keep the city from going further into debt</b>	33	58 / 36
To make Tucson a more thriving city	30	58 / 34
To improve our public transportation system	26	54 / 40
<b>SPLIT B: To make it possible to balance the city's budget</b>	24	51 / 41
To improve local parks and playgrounds	24	53 / 44

5. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?	Tucson Voters
Taxes are high enough as it is. The Tucson City government should live within its means. We should be cutting government waste and inefficiency rather than changing our city's charter to raise taxes.	49
Tucson is in desperate need of more resources simply to maintain existing city services like police and firefighters, and to improve basic needs like our roads and parks. If we all chip in, we can make Tucson a safer and more desirable place to live.	46
Neither	3
Don't know	3

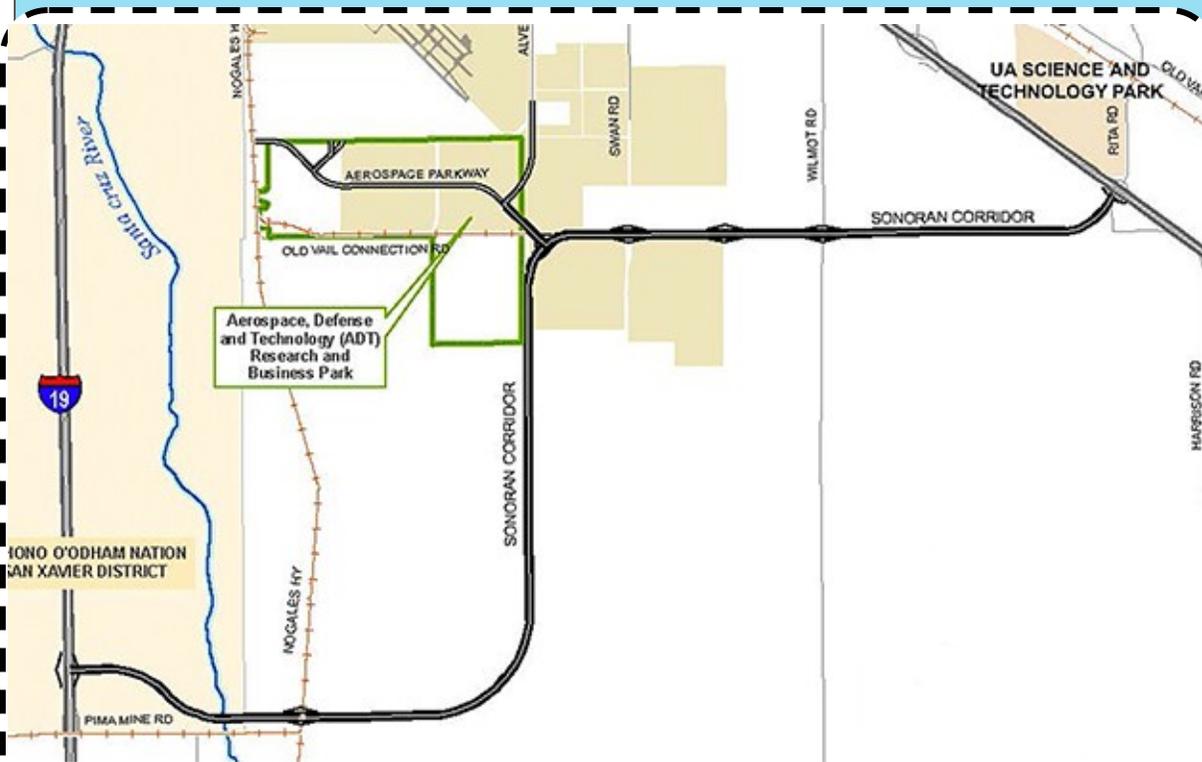
There was also a question about property taxes and roads. It wasn't quite accurate because we haven't really started talking in any depth about extending the Prop 409 road bonds, but the results are instructive looking forward. Here's what you had to say:

7. There is currently a proposal to increase Tucson property taxes in order to pay for 100 Million dollars in city road improvements. This proposal would cost the average homeowner approximately 27 dollars more a year. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?	Tucson Voters
Strongly favor	31
Somewhat favor	18
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	36
Don't know	5
<b>NET FAVOR</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>NET OPPOSE</b>	<b>46</b>

That's very similar to how the initial bond question came out when we adopted it over two years ago.

We'll get some recommendations on this from the Charter Review Committee and then make some decisions. It's all tied up in how we move towards a structurally balanced budget, and how we maintain as best we can the level of services we're providing to the public.

I'm going to toss this in, too. Back at the end of last year we had a healthy discussion going on about getting the Sonoran Corridor on the November ballot. It's the I-10/I-19 connection that preserves Raytheon and capitalizes on the air, rail, and over-the-road cargo opportunities that are instrumental to international commerce with Mexico.



This project was included on the ballot then, and I believe that it continues to be the solution to our economic struggles in this region. I would still very strongly support the Board of Supervisors placing this item on the ballot for later this year. It represents the sorts of jobs we must have in order to upgrade our regional economy and grow our tax base.

### Marketing Tucson

Another very important element of our local economy is tourism. This photo shows Allison Cooper's work to market us as a destination.

Allison is part of the Visit Tucson staff. She's busy branding Tucson as *the* place to be through a variety of media. The image you see on the building is in Chicago. Check out the person walking past it. I suspect a 70 degree option might be appealing to him.



Visit Tucson is projecting similar images onto buildings all along the Chicago transit line. They've also purchased wraps for the transit cars themselves and have 'brand ambassadors' who hand out Visit Tucson travel guides along with hot chocolate to commuters at the Brown Line train

stations. I often remark about the work coming from the Visit Tucson film office. This is an example of how our marketing partners are doing outreach that you don't usually see, but is important to our economic health.



### Eating my Words – and my Veggies

This week, I'm going to put a different twist on the Tucson original piece.

During the M&C meeting on our new urban agriculture ordinance, I commented that I was disappointed that carrots grown in Tucson taste like cardboard compared to those I was used to growing up in Michigan. I challenged some of our urban farmers to prove me wrong.



Well, Liz Sparks dropped by the office recently with a colorful basket of carrots grown over at the Tucson Village Farm. You've probably seen it on the east side of Campbell near the UA farms. It's run in cooperation with the UA and the Pima County Cooperative Extension. Liz wanted to take me up on my challenge.

Well... they passed the Michigan taste test, and all of us at the Ward 6 office appreciate the gift!

You can find more information on Liz and the rest of the people who run the farm here: <http://tucsonvillagefarm.arizona.edu/whos-your-farmer>. Every Tuesday from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm, they have an opportunity for you to go and pick your own veggies. It's called the U Pick event. They sell their produce at market prices and

take either cash or a check. Drop by and give it a try – you'll feel like you were on a farm back in Saline, Michigan.

On a similar note, [feedingtucson.org](http://feedingtucson.org) is hosting an Urban Farm Tour this Saturday. It'll begin at three different locations, but all will end at Mission Gardens over west of I-10. There, they'll serve a meal catered by Caridad Community Kitchen that'll use all locally-sourced ingredients.

The tour will introduce you to micro-scale aquaponics systems, a variety of community gardens, Tucson's oldest orchard, and a bunch more. You need to register for the tour at [FeedingTucson.org](http://FeedingTucson.org). The \$25 ticket covers the lunch and a contribution to Mission Garden. The tour starts at 8:00 am and ends at 1:00 pm. They'll email you confirmation of your registration, along with more information about the tour.

### Tucson Greyhound Park Injury Report

Last Wednesday at TGP, one dog broke a hock, two were found with respiratory illnesses, and there was a three dog pile up on the first turn of the fifth race. All in a night's work

out at TGP.

You can find video replays of the events by going to [trackinfo.com](http://trackinfo.com), selecting Tucson from the listing of greyhound parks, and typing in the date.

When you look at the results of the races at that site, the number one dog in the ninth race is noted as having been “laying in the box.” He was taken to the starting block by trainers in such a poor condition that he wasn’t even able to begin the race. You can see him trying to struggle out of the starting box on the video.



In response to the respiratory issues, the track announced they weren’t letting new animals into the kennels. To gain some clarity on what was actually going on, I contacted Dale Popp, their GM with these questions:

*Dale,*

*Thanks for closing down the kennels while this respiratory issue gets resolved. For clarification:*

*Is this a quarantine for kennel cough, canine flu - what's the actual purpose of the shut down?*

*Has racing been suspended due to some outbreak? Two dogs reported on the news last night - are there others you're concerned about?*

*I assume all of this health related activity will be handled in close coordination with the track vets. Is the state and/or PACC also included? Given their oversight position, that's certainly something I believe the public would embrace.*

I cc’d Kim Janes, head of Pima Animal Care Center into the email. The email was sent last Friday. On Saturday, this reply came from the track:

*Mr. Kozachik, I have forwarded this information request to Mr. Greg Stiles at the Az. Dept of Racing.*

*Thank you for your concern.*

*Dale Popp*

*G.M.*

*Tucson Greyhound Park*

So the track GM can’t answer why he shut down the track – but despite that, and despite the health-related concerns, they continued racing all weekend. The exchange makes it clear that this operation, despite the fact that it takes taxpayer money, is not about transparency or the welfare of the animals. It’s worth noting that the Department of Racing is in turn redirecting people to the Racing Commission for answers. That Commission doesn’t get in-

involved with health-related issues, but solely focuses on whether or not to race.

Three dogs from the track are being housed in the isolation room at a local veterinarian hospital with viral pneumonia. They'll likely be there for two weeks *after recovery*. Another is recovering from a broken leg. The track is absorbing none of the costs. That's on the shoulders of the rescues who take in the dogs once the track has finished with them. They're unaccountable, and being given cover by the agency that's supposed to be overseeing the conditions at the track.

If dogs are suffering respiratory conditions, it's transferrable to other animals. We already see the greyhound rescues stepping up and taking on these sick and/or injured animals, along with the medical costs associated with them. Early this year, I asked Popp to institute a surcharge on each dog racing fee and earmark it to paying some stipend to the rescues when dogs were adopted out. Both of the sick dogs last week ended up at Southern Arizona Greyhound rescue group. They'll pay the costs because TGP won't.

The state is not currently considering their bill to outlaw live greyhound racing in Arizona. But they could rekindle it if people cared enough to contact them. The sponsor of the bill is Gail Griffin. Email her at [griff4333@gmail.com](mailto:griff4333@gmail.com), if you care to. The bill number is SB1397.

### **Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee**



The City of Tucson is doing a full rework of our Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs). There are dozens of them, some functioning well, some that may be merged to make them more effective, and some that might need to sunset. They're costly in terms of time investments by both the public and staff. We owe it everyone to make sure they work for all involved.

The County has a similar set of BCCs. They're also looking at transitioning some of them to new 'looks' with the intent of becoming more efficient. It's a responsible effort.

One of their committees advises the Pima Animal Care Center on operations and policy issues. The Animal Care Advisory Committee is being considered for some restructuring. Here's the list of members the Board of Supervisors will vote on during its March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- *One appointed by the Southern Arizona Veterinary Medical Association;*
- *One appointed by the Pima Animal Care Center Partners (which is comprised of one representative of each of the jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with Pima County);*
- *One appointed by Friends of Pima Animal Care Center (the nonprofit fundraising arm of PACC);*
- *One appointed by the registered volunteers of the Pima Animal Care Center*
- *One appointed by each member of the Board of Supervisors (five total);*
- *One appointed by the County Administrator;*

- *One staff member appointed by the County Administrator.*

The change I'm concerned with is found in the second bullet point; one member representing the 'partners.' We have an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County to help fund PACC. So do South Tucson and other jurisdictions in the region. Given that Tucson is responsible for the vast majority of animals running through the PACC system and that we're the major funder compared to any of the 'partner' jurisdictions, I didn't feel it was appropriate that we share a seat at this committee table with the other smaller jurisdictions.

I've reached out to County leadership through City Manager Ortega. First indications are that they're amenable to amending the proposed change so the City of Tucson has its own representative on the committee. I don't want to presume the Board of Supervisor's vote, but this is yet another example of how the two jurisdictions are working well together – an example among many that don't hit the headlines because they don't fit a confrontational narrative that makes headlines.

I appreciate the consideration being given to my request. If approved, the burden shifts to the City to appoint a representative who will be passionate about the welfare of the animals and respectful of the need to operate PACC in an efficient manner.

#### **TFD Emergency Calls**

Let's transition from injured and sick animals to the calls for service TFD receives on a daily basis. Many are urgent and require the skilled service our paramedics provide. Maintaining staffing levels and funding equipment sufficient to continue our excellent care and quick response times is at or near the top of our budget priority list. In order to stretch our dollars, the TFD leadership is spearheading a new program called Tucson Collaborative Community Care (TC3).

It's important to say up front that we want you to continue calling 911 when you need help – from a medical or criminal standpoint. If things don't look or feel right, let us know. However, when people have trouble controlling their diabetes medication, setting up doctor appointments, or are dealing with mental or behavioral health care concerns, 911 may only be a starting point. That's where the TC3 program will come in. It will put frequent callers in touch with the social service providers who are best suited to help. In this way, TC3 will reduce the overall number of 911 calls and connect people with the care they need.

Early this year, I met with the Chief and asked about instituting a 411 non-emergency program. The idea was to achieve the same sorts of ends the TC3 program is going to meet. TFD leadership was way out ahead of me.

Captain Mike Bishop is leading the rollout of TC3. We need to hear from agencies that may be able to help as referral groups. If that might be you, please get in touch with Mike at [Mike.Bishop@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Mike.Bishop@tucsonaz.gov). The goal is to get everybody the help they need, and to do it in the most cost-efficient manner possible. TFD should be applauded for its work in that direction.

#### **Casa Seton Subdivision**

A quick update on the new housing project going into the former Kramer Ranch site in Cat-

alina Vista neighborhood. We held a meeting a while back that included the builders and investors in the project, along with several of the residents and neighborhood leaders from the surrounding area. One reason for the meeting was to affirm the importance of ongoing communication throughout the project. Everyone in the room was on board with that goal.

True to their word, the Miramonte Homes people have set up a website on which anybody can follow the project and get construction updates. They posted the link last week, and they let all those who attended our meeting know it was up. Construction is beginning today (February 29<sup>th</sup>) to widen the entry-drive for the place to two lanes. With the new homeowners in the area, that change will be a needed improvement to the site access.

Anyone who would like to follow along with this project may do so at this link: <http://www.miramontehomes.com/communities/tucson/casa-seton>. Given the sensitivity of this project from the outset, I know the effort being made to stay in touch is appreciated.

### **Property Owner Forum**

The Casa Seton development won't be student housing, but both of the neighborhoods touched by that project, as well as multiple others in Ward 6, have some regular interactions with off-campus housing that often results in our having to intercede with TPD, the UA, or both. One of the strategies we've found helpful in dealing with rowdy student behavior is educating the property owners about resources available through the UA to help control what they're doing.

Mary Laughbaum is one of my direct points of contact on campus for addressing off-campus housing issues. Throughout the course of the semester, Mary and the UA Community Relations team put together a series of seminars aimed at letting property owners and managers who rent to UA students know what resources are available through that office. Some of the departments involved in the neighborhood network include Campus Health, the Dean of Students Office, Off-Campus Housing, Student Legal Services, and of course UAPD. As I mentioned, she's also directly linked to our office, so if there are code issues involved, we can help sort those out.

Contact Mary at [marylaughbaum@email.arizona.edu](mailto:marylaughbaum@email.arizona.edu) to sign up for one of these seminars. We've got a good and productive rapport with her, several campus offices, and with many local property managers who now understand that they're not flying solo in terms of trying to address the needs and behaviors of their student tenants.

### **Rincon Heights Yard Sale and Sam Hughes Garden Tour**

Sam Hughes and Rincon Heights are two of the neighborhoods close to campus that are partners in the campus neighborhood network. They're also active in multiple self-help fund raising events, each aimed at the betterment of the area.

For instance, the Rincon Heights Neighborhood has worked hard to build up its local community garden, shown on the next page. That effort is going to benefit from an upcoming neighborhood yard sale – March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm. That event will take place at 1607 E. 10<sup>th</sup>. If you've got 'gently used' items you can donate to the Rincon Heights cause, please take them to the 1607 address ahead of the event. Leave



them with Bernie. If you don't have donate-able items but still want to support the work at the community garden, head over to the yard sale and I'm sure you'll find a handful of stuff to walk away with.

Next month, you'll have the opportunity to tour gardens in the Sam Hughes neighborhood and contribute to the restoration of a historic water pump house at the same time. I've shared in previous newsletters about Sam Hughes's home tour and their work to improve the entryway to the Himmel Park Library. Next month, they'll host the 2016 self-guided walkable garden tour. The event will run from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The tour is about a three mile loop, but you can peel off at any point if you choose or need to. The tour will include eight private residential gardens, the garden at Sam Hughes Elementary School, and the historic water pump station house. The proceeds of this year's garden tour will go toward the restoration of that historic pump station.

Tickets will be available on the day of the tour at Sam Hughes School from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. If you'd like more information about the tour, please check the SHNA website at [www.samhughes.org](http://www.samhughes.org). You can ask questions through the 'contact us' link or by calling 327.7609. Parking is free around the school on the 10th.

#### **TDOT Graffiti Mural Art**

Finally, at our last M&C meeting, we adopted the City mural art program for traffic controller cabinets. You've seen these utility boxes all over town. They control the traffic light sequencing at every signaled intersection. They're also regular candidates for graffiti tagging.

We spend well over \$1M annually to abate graffiti. In addition, the private sector and utilities pay to clean up tags. With this pilot program, we can engage businesses and private property owners and fund mural art on TDOT signal cabinets. We already have some neighborhoods that want to get started, and I've reached out to some of



our private utilities to see if they'll join in supporting the program financially.

If you've read many of these newsletters, you'll know that I've been an advocate of getting TEP, Cox, Southwest Gas, and other large utilities involved in helping us get our arms around graffiti blight. Now, they each have heard this program is ready to roll out. I'm hoping to get some positive feedback.

In 2015 we had approximately 250 acts of graffiti reported on TDOT traffic cabinets. Each of those cost taxpayer money to abate. Now, through this program, art that has been approved by the City, TPAC, and surrounding neighborhoods can be painted on utility boxes, hopefully to reduce the incidence of repeat tags. If you'd like to get involved with this program, please give us a call at 791.4601 and we'll be happy to walk you through the steps. If you're a business interested in sponsoring mural art, you should know that one facet of this program allows you to include your logo on each face of the utility cabinet to acknowledge your financial involvement in supporting the aesthetics of the City.

Sincerely,



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

## **Events and Entertainment**

### **Chief Magnus Meet-and-Greet**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 | 6:30 pm – 8 pm**

**Ward 6, 3202 E 1<sup>st</sup> St**

Join us and your Ward 6 neighbors in welcoming our new Chief of Police, Chris Magnus. Come introduce yourself and share your perspectives on the Tucson Police Department as it undergoes this important transition.

### **Free Orchestra Concert**

**Saturday, March 12, 2016 | 7 pm**

**Crowder Hall, UA Fred Fox School of Music, 1017 N Olive**

The Civic Orchestra of Tucson celebrates its 40th anniversary with a special, free concert. Featured soloist is Evan Drachman, the grandson of world-famed cellist Gregor Piati-gorsky, who will perform Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B Minor. The orchestra will also play Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in honor of its 40th year. Stop by and listen to select musicians at the Festival of Books Science City Food Court on that same day from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. as ensembles, duos and trios perform short works.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

**Saturday, March 5, 2016 | 8 am – 11:30 am**

**St. Luke's Home, 615 E Adams St, west parking lot**

You and your neighbors are invited to participate in the Feldman's Neighborhood HHW Collection. Please drop off your hazardous materials no later than 11:15 am. Leaking liquids must be placed inside a second, sealed container. Be sure to include the original container, complete with identifying labels. For more information from Tucson's Environmental Services Department, visit: [www.tucsonaz.gov/es/household-hazardous-waste](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/es/household-hazardous-waste).

### **Ongoing...**

**Tucson Convention Center**, 260 S Church St | [tucsonconventioncenter.com](http://tucsonconventioncenter.com)

**Meet Me at Maynards**, 311 E Congress St | [www.MeetMeatMaynards.com](http://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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> Ave | [www.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://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](http://www.tucsonbotanical.org)

October 1, 2015 – Mary 31, 2016: "Butterfly Magic" Exhibit

**Southern Arizona Transportation Museum**, 414 N Toole Ave |

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

**UA Mineral Museum**, 1601 E University Blvd | [www.uamineralmuseum.org](http://www.uamineralmuseum.org)

**Jewish History Museum**, 564 S Stone Ave | [www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W Congress St | [www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org](http://www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org)

**Hotel Congress**, 311 E Congress St | [hotelcongress.com](http://hotelcongress.com)

**Loft Cinema**, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | [www.loftcinema.com](http://www.loftcinema.com)

**Rialto Theatre**, 318 E Congress St | [www.rialtotheatre.com](http://www.rialtotheatre.com)

**Arizona State Museum**, 1013 E University Blvd | [www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)

**Arizona Theater Company**, 330 S Scott Ave | [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org)

**The Rogue Theatre**, The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | [www.theroguetheatre.org](http://www.theroguetheatre.org)

**Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N Main Ave | [www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org)

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