

## Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Christal Ferree



Barbara Jacob



# Ward 6 – Newsletter

FEBRUARY 4, 2011

## A Message from Steve

During last week's study session we again touched on the looming issue of how we're going to balance our budget. We have until the end of the fiscal year, mid year, to accomplish that. The clear consensus around the table was that we want to move in a deliberate fashion, gather as many of the facts as we can in a timely manner and make informed decisions. Some of those facts are yet to be made public. Those include some very important Christmas revenue figures. We should have that data in the middle of February. In addition, several troubling pieces of legislation being pushed at the State level may weigh on what we have to put towards our budget in the form of revenues. This is going to be a very difficult process that will necessarily involve some level of guesswork as we base our final budget product on anticipated revenues for fiscal '12. It's not a science, and being dependent on the actions of other governance bodies doesn't make our task any easier. So, no specific decisions made at the last meeting, more fact gathering, and more time to think through the various options we'll have to work through in the weeks ahead.

One item that the general public needs to understand when it comes to our budget problem is that our hands are effectively tied when it comes to two of the largest cost items we face. Those are our health plan and pension benefits. With respect to the health benefits, 91% of our costs are the result of claims being filed and our benefits plan being "blended." Our plan has been negotiated in a way that blends together both active employees and retirees. Last year the Mayor and Council made it clear that despite the very generous plans that were negotiated in years past, none of us is willing to break the promises previously made to retired former workers. With that, we are bound to find ways to fund those benefits until gradually those retirees move onto Medicare coverage. In my opinion, despite the financially difficult place that places us in, it is a commitment this Mayor and Council should keep. Over time, the problem will be self-correcting. The other issue is pension benefits. Our city attorney has advised us that current contract law prevents us from reopening pension agreements and negotiating more rigorous contribution plans for existing employees. Our options are to hope for help from State level legislation, to wait for litigation that is currently in the courts to overturn the decision binding us by contract law, to declare bankruptcy as a municipality and force open the contracts (obviously not a serious option that we're considering) or to find a way to make voluntarily opening contracts appealing



### Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police  
Department

911 or 791-4444  
nonemergency

Mayor & Council  
Comment Line  
791-4700

Neighborhood  
Resources  
791-4605

Park Wise  
791-5071

Water Issues  
791-3242

Pima County Animal  
Control  
243-5900

Street Maintenance  
791-3154

Planning and  
Development  
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas  
889-1888

Gas Emergency/  
Gas Leaks  
889-1888

West Nile Virus  
Hotline  
243-7999

Environment  
Service  
791-3171

Graffiti Removal  
792-2489

AZ Game & Fish  
628-5376

## Continued: A Message From Steve

to existing workers. I am asking the city attorney to come back to us with some idea as to whether offering employment guarantees in exchange for opening pension agreements has any merit from the standpoint of the money potentially saved based on our demographic mix. Failing that, if the State doesn't help out with legislative relief, and the courts fail to do likewise, we are faced with a tremendous, and growing fiscal burden that makes our current budget issues insignificant in a relative manner.

How about a change of pace...we discussed the plans being considered for increasing security in the Council Chambers. I have written that I have always felt the easy access to Mayor and Council meetings spoke of the small town Tucson ethos that brings us into direct contact with our constituents. And yet, it seems that the recent tragic events we have faced as a community constituted a sort of 'coming of age' in an unfortunate sense. That is, we owe the public and city staff who join us each week at our meetings the best level of security we can. With that in mind, the City Clerk is looking into some increases to the current security standards that are in place at our meetings. We will be taking another look at what he discovers in the weeks ahead. Please come to our meetings and share your own thoughts on this issue.

Enough press has been given to the painting of the "A" on Sentinel Peak that not much more needs to be shared here. My sense in bringing this topic forward with Council member Romero was to use it as a way to unify our community. The very diverse reactions I received led to the conclusion that instead of having a unifying effect, painting the "A" in the white/black manner of the memorial ribbons was pulling the community in different directions. With that in mind, we voted unanimously to send the idea to a community based committee to be considered along with numerous others and come up with what the citizens of Tucson feel is an appropriate way to memorialize the events of, and community reaction to January 8th.

How about ending on an up note - I was very pleased to bring to the study session Dr. Carl Hodges from The Seawater Foundation to discuss the issue of our regional, and local water supply. The most difficult part of presenting this item was to break it down into small enough pieces that we could come away from the discussion with a focused 'to do' list. The Seawater Foundation is an international agency - located in downtown Tucson - that has been working for decades on how to grow usable crops with seawater. Those crops can replace several that are now being grown in the Yuma area, and which rely on fresh water for irrigation. The task is to work on both a regional and international (Mexico is going to have to be involved) level and work with the farming industry in the Yuma area to gradually transform crops that use fresh water for irrigation to seawater based crops and divert the fresh water back into the C.A.P. system. We have asked city staff to engage the relevant regional partners in the discussion, and I have asked the Seawater Foundation to help guide us through the process of applying to the United Nations as one of their "100 Cities" program recipients who are internationally recognized for their work in innovative initiatives



### Important Phone Numbers

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)  
520-575-8633

Congresswoman  
Gabrielle Giffords  
(D)

(8<sup>th</sup> District)  
520-881-3588

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

Governor Janice  
Brewer (R)  
Governor of Arizona  
602-542-4331

Toll free:  
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free  
Telephone:  
1-800-352-8404

Internet:  
[www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)

Mayor Bob Walkup  
791-4201

City Infoguide  
[http://  
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/  
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

that in our case will address a global issue, the effects of which will directly impact our desert community if we don't begin to explore some outside-the-box ideas. This is one, and I thank my colleagues and Dr. Hodges for their support in this effort.

Finally, The University of Arizona Parking & Transportation Services (PTS) has recently started collecting information on bicycling and walking conditions on campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods. The data collected from the study will help contribute to a bicycle and pedestrian master plan for the campus area which involves an area extending five-miles around the University. One aspect of the project involves collecting public input on the barriers to bicycling and walking through an online survey. To date, PTS has collected over 1,000 survey responses and is looking for additional responses from residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. The study area includes Ward 6 which is why this newsletter may be a great way to solicit input from you all.

Here's the link to the survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6PKXVVV>

I want to thank the UA PTS department for bringing this information and opportunity for you to weigh in to my attention.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6

## Household Hazardous Waste (Hhw) Collection Event On Saturday

Do you have cans of paint or unused chemicals sitting in your shed or garage? The City of Tucson and Pima County have an option for you to clean out your space while keeping these hazardous materials out of the environment. On Saturday, February 5, 2011, the Household Hazardous Waste Program will be sponsoring the first outreach collection event of 2011. There is no charge for dropping off materials. The outreach schedule is 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the following locations: **Eastside City Hall, 7575 E.**

**Speedway Blvd.; Tucson Water Plant #2, 1102 W. Irvington Rd.; Pusch Ridge Christian Church, 440 W. Calle Concordia.** More information is available on-line at [www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw) or by calling ES Customer Service at 791-3171.

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2011

Contact: Fernando Molina  
Office: 520 837-2185

Tucson Water Update on Water Service  
February 3, 2011 / 9:15 p.m.

Tucson Water crews continue to respond to customer calls regarding water service outages, and are also working to monitor Tucson Water facilities for damage from extreme cold temperatures. Field crews are also responding to reports of water main breaks throughout the Tucson Water service area.

Tucson Water has restored service to approximately 750 customers. And, about 750 customers are still without water due to damage to Tucson Water distribution facilities resulting from the cold weather. The primary areas affected at this time include, Diamond Bell Ranch, and the Rincon Ranch Subdivision. Main breaks are also affecting water service in various areas around Tucson, and many customers are still experiencing water outages due to frozen household plumbing. Customers now have three methods available to contact Tucson Water to report any problems they may be experiencing due to the weather:

1.) Customers can call the Emergency phone number at 791-4133 to report water service outage, or request assistance with turning off water at their home or business.

2.) Customers can send an e-mail to [waterleaks@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:waterleaks@tucsonaz.gov) to report leaks at their personal property, or any water main leaks that they may observe.

3.) Customer Service hours will be available tomorrow morning starting at 6:00 a.m. The Customer Service phone number is 791-3242. “We are doing our best to respond to phone calls and e-mail notifications as quickly as possible” stated Fernando Molina, Public Information Officer for Tucson Water. “We have been reassigning employees to respond to customer calls, and also to make sure that our distribution system is protected over the nighttime hours.” Molina also noted that Tucson Water employees will respond as quickly as possible to calls for assistance. Customers are reminded that any Tucson Water employee responding to a call for assistance will be in a marked Tucson Water vehicle, wearing a Tucson Water uniform, and carrying Tucson Water identification. Verification of Tucson Water employee status can be obtained by calling 791-4133. Tucson water also is recommending that customers take action to ensure that any exposed water pipes on their property are protected by using foam pipe insulation, or wrapping pipes with towels, rags or cardboard. Doing so will help protect their home plumbing from freezing. Periodic updates will be posted on the Tucson Water website at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/water> Updates are also being provided via the City of Tucson Twitter account and Facebook page. Additional information will not be available until Friday morning, February 4, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.

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## Come Show Why “Tucson Has Heart” Sunday, February 13

The public is invited to be part of the formation of a large human heart at Hi Corbett Field on Sunday, February 13, honoring the victims of the 1-8-11 tragedy, while celebrating Tucson’s compassionate and courageous spirit. Organizers of the event expect more than 12,000 Tucsonans clad in red shirts to be part of the on-field “heart”, which will be photographed from a helicopter. Posters and photos will be available for purchase later, supporting charities related to 1-8-11. Commemorative red t-shirts will also be available for purchase. Gates will open at 11:00am, with the heart photograph to be taken at 2:00pm. Wear red if you wish to be part of the photograph. The Community Food Bank and the Red Cross will be on hand to receive your donations of canned food and blood, respectively. Overflow parking will be available at the northeast corner of the El Con Mall parking lot, with shuttles running to Hi Corbett. For more information, look for “Tucson Has Heart” on Facebook.





# Town Hall

## Fiscal 2012 City Budget

Council Member Steve Kozachik

Is hosting a Budget Presentation

Thursday, February 10, 2011

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Ward 6 Council Office,

**3202 East 1st Street**

Come and hear the City Budget presentation  
and participate in a discussion  
about the budget. We look forward to  
seeing you and hearing your ideas.

For accommodations; materials in accessible format; foreign language interpreter; and/or materials in a language other than English, contact the Ward 6 Council Office and ask for Christal Ferree at (520) 791-4601 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least (5 business days) in advance of this scheduled event

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays Downtown**

**Saturday, February 12, 5:00 to 10:00pm**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays is returning from the cancellation of the January 8 event with a strong lineup of music and other live performances, on and around Congress Street in Downtown.

Eclectic acts, from the Fox Theatre (an adaptation of "Willy Wonka"), to a free concert by AC/DC tribute band TNT at the Rialto, with lots of variety in between—a magician, arts and crafts vendors, a muralist, rock bands at the free Scott Avenue Stage, food, merchant specials, outdoor movie, street performers, and more!

Two fabulous new restaurants are opening Downtown that day as well—Hub Restaurant and Creamery, 266 E. Congress, and Monkey Burger, 47 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

<http://www.2ndSaturdaysDowntown.com/>

Come visit us online at [www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6)