

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

MARCH 16, 2011

A Message from Steve

While Mayor and Council did not meet this week, that doesn't mean the work of the City ground to a halt. Weeks such as this are good times to do more in depth study of the issues we're addressing, and meeting with constituent groups to get their input. Here are a few examples:

I've met with several people who are concerned with a variety of aspects related to RTA road projects. First I need to clarify a couple of points. The RTA road work projects were all voter approved. The City of Tucson cannot unilaterally stop any of them. Reconsideration of projects would have to come from the voters, in the same way that the original list of projects was approved.

Having said that though, it has been, and continues to be my concern that the funding for these projects is below anticipated levels. While some might contend that construction bids are coming in at levels below expectations as well, the fact remains that the RTA is needing to bond substantial amounts of money in order to keep the projects on track. I simply want an honest assessment of project costs, available revenues and perhaps some community-wide discussions with the RTA board to allow the public to weigh in on the current mood with respect to when to move ahead with the projects they earlier voted to approve. As the economy changes, some level of rethinking may be a prudent exercise. If the end result is that we continue on the present path, that's fine - but the people paying the bills need a platform for engaging that discussion. It's not about killing projects. It's about looking into the checkbook and investing where we can, and planning for those projects that may be of a lesser priority.

I've also met with several community members who are concerned with transit. Every one of us on the council supports a strong, region-wide transit system. What is at issue is how we maintain that system and still get our arms around a significant budget hole. We more than likely will be voting to increase bus fares. That's a small start. I believe we should also be looking at building greater efficiencies into the system. That might involve cutting back on some less-than-productive routes. It might involve trimming back on feeder routes where there appears to be some level of duplication. It might involve changes in



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

how we do fares (day passes, as compared to the present system.) And it will more than likely involve a combination of these, and other ideas. I appreciate my time with members of the Transit Task Force, Representative Steve Farley, meetings with management of Sun Tran, leadership of the Teamsters, City Staff, and others. All bring ideas that deserve to be heard. The Star today related a story of a person who relies on low income fares. There are many such people in the community. At Sun Tran, workers have been impacted by our need to find dollars to continue to run the system. There is the 28-year old single mother with a 10-month-old son that Sun Tran had to lay off in December, 2010... there is the Maintenance Manager at Sun Van, who had been with Sun Van for 17 years. The guy who is his son's Boy Scout Leader, who spends countless hours volunteering in his community, in prepping for derby races and scouting events...all of these, and more have to be considered in how we solve this item. It's not just a line item in a budget. It's peoples' lives. Together we'll come to closure on this issue, keeping in mind that we need a strong transit system, and we need to balance our overall budget. The goals are not mutually exclusive.

Also this week I have had the chance to discuss the budget with several different groups. We're still working on a final solution to what began as a \$55M budget deficit. The council has a proposal in front of the City Manager and his staff. I also have one. The council proposal is serving as the overall framework from which Mr. Letcher is working, and yet it is my hope that other council members will continue to look at some of my proposals, put their own touches to them and together we can work towards a balanced budget that includes input from the variety of voices we each hear from around the community. I see other levels of government, both around the state and around the country and see raw partisan decision-making. That's not healthy. This council has shown the propensity to work together on hard issues. I anticipate that will continue as we move towards our goal of balancing this budget. I have shared my thoughts on the topic with candidates for the council, other members of the council, the Democratic and one of the Republican candidates for Mayor, and members of the general public. The goal is to share, and to receive input - and to work and rework the plan. As we move down that path, I'll continue to make myself available to anyone who wants to share his or her thoughts on how we should move forward, regardless of party affiliation.

Neighborhood protection is an ongoing balancing act that has also been a part of this "down week." I've twice toured the Barrio Viejo neighborhood, looking into peoples' homes at some of the undeniable damage that is being caused by factors yet to be determined. I have walked the West University Neighborhood and met with both homeowners and developers in an effort to find a workable compromise that will facilitate development of student housing along arterials, while addressing some of the legitimate concerns of the nearby residents. A recent article in the Arizona Daily Star pointed out that outlying areas are growing at a faster rate than areas in the interior of the city limits. That should come as no surprise to anybody - it's simply more difficult to build in already developed areas. And yet, Ward 6 contains an institution that is looking



Important Phone Numbers

for housing for 38,000 students, and the areas immediately surrounding the University are generally well-established - certainly not open space. The meetings have been challenging, and they have been encouraging from the standpoint of being able to engage a diverse set of ideas and working to meld them together in a way that reflects not a political agenda, but the greater long term good of the community.

Today the Arizona Daily Star printed an op ed that I wrote. The link to the piece is I http://azstarnet.com/news/opinion/article_870603fc-ace7-58da-822b-2be950f31354.html The article lays out my concerns. The entire state is suffering from a poor economy. When one jurisdiction is acting in a manner that ignores the collateral damage its legislation and ordinances may have on the wider state-wide community, we only prolong our ability to mutually come out of this downturn. I think it would be helpful if representatives of the State, County and City could sit together and discuss legislative strategies that would have a mutually beneficial impact. Instead, we're balkanized and never quite seem to understand the axiom of a rising tide. To that end, I invite elected officials to join together in a forum to explain the rationale behind some of the pieces of legislation being pushed. I similarly invite the sponsors of some of this legislation to offer the Arizona Daily Star an op ed that explains their purposes and thinking. An open dialogue is what has been missing. If my writing that article has achieved nothing else, I am hopeful that it will have opened that door.

Finally, a couple of events I'd like to help to promote. The Race for the Cure is coming. To register for TEAM TUCSON visit http://saz.info-komen.org/site/TR/RacefortheCure/TUS_SouthernArizonaAffiliate?team_id=157208&pg=team&fr_id=2075 and join TEAM TUCSON. The cause is one that has impacted lives all over our community. The event is one that has provided needed resources, and one in which you can participate and lend your support.

Also, on Sunday's, from 3pm - 7pm in the Our Saviour's Church parking lot, just north of Speedway on Campbell, a new open-air market has begun. This week will be their 3rd week of operation. I would encourage you to support this local entrepreneurial effort, and through your purchase of their products you will be participating in an activity that's healthy both for your body, and for the local economy.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

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

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Bob Walkup
791-4201

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

1st Annual Tucson Fire Fighter's Ball
An evening of reflection and celebration.

Saturday, March 26, 2011
5:30 pm Reception
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm - 1:00 pm Live Music and Dancing

JW Marriott Star Pass Resort
3800 W. Star Pass

\$90 per person or \$900 for a table of 10

For more information contact Roger Wright at 520.907.4932 - tfdmedicman@aol.com

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS HONORARY

Save-a-Life Saturday



Gabrielle Giffords Honorary Save A Life Saturday

On March 19, there will be a unique opportunity to learn essential CPR and first aid skills at a free training event. This is a nationwide event honoring Congresswoman Giffords, whose district largely overlaps with the service area of our American Red Cross chapter. More than 100 Red Cross chapters will be participating nationwide.

WHEN: Saturday March 19, 2011, 9am, 11am, and 1pm. **WHERE:** Six locations across Southern Arizona, in Tucson, Green Valley, Nogales, Sierra Vista, and Douglas.

COST: Free. **INCLUDES:** Training in hands-only CPR, controlling external bleeding and managing shock. Will last 45-60 minutes. **REGISTER ONLINE** at:

http://www.redcrossarizona.org/site/PageServer?pagename=appeal_giffords_savealife to take part in this valuable training.

Imagine Greater Tucson

Imagine Greater Tucson invites the business community to attend "Our Shared Values and the Future of the Greater Tucson Region. **When:** Thursday, April 7, 3 P.M. **Where:** University Marriott 880 E. Second St. **Time:** promptly at 3:30 P.M. / Open to the Public. If you have any questions call Keri Silvyn at 629-4438 <http://www.imaginegreatertucson.org/>

Garden District Neighborhood Association Annual Yard Sale

When: Saturday March 26, **Where:** The location is 4460 E. Pima St. Time: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
For questions or to secure a space to sell, please contact Lois at 325-7611.

Annual UA Mortar Board Neighborhood Clean-up

Mark your calendar for Sat., March 26 and we are looking for volunteers. This is your chance to join community members beautify our Tucson Neighborhoods. For more information visit <http://www.mortarboardarizona.org/cleanupcrew>

Tucson Botanical Gardens

On Sunday, **April 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, the Tucson community is invited to participate in the Tucson Botanical Gardens second annual **Wellness & Lifestyle Festival**. Join the Gardens and celebrate nature, health and well-being with a full schedule of cooking and fitness demonstrations, wellness experts and guest speakers, guided tours, booth displays and giveaways. Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way, 3269686 x10
www.tucsonbotanical.org Free with general admission.

"Tucson Has Heart" Mementos Available for Purchase

Posters and postcards with the helicopter-level view of the "Tucson Has Heart" formation are now available at all Tucson Quik Mart stores. On February 13, Tucsonans came together to form the outline of a giant red heart in the outfield of Hi Corbett Field, and a helicopter captured a colorful image which is now memorialized on posters and postcards. Posters are \$10, and postcards are 10 for \$10, with all proceeds benefiting victims of the January 8 shootings. Pick up your keepsake from this special event, and support a great cause!



2nd Annual Festival En El Barrio Viejo

Come see what still stands in Barrio Viejo neighborhood on Saturday, March 26 as the neighborhood hosts the Calexico's annual KXCI 91.3 fundraiser.
http://www.rialtotheatre.com/news/archives/2011/02/final_lineup_an.html