

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First

April 13, 2015

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First Amendment Forum – Free Speech & Civility; Striking the Balance



You may recall the issue of the Islamic Center of Tucson being pelted by bottles from the balconies of off-campus, privately owned student housing towers hitting a crescendo last fall. Students were evicted, video surveillance was installed by the tower ownership, notices were posted on each balcony advising of eviction if objects found their way airborne off from them, and Red Tags were issued to some of the residents.

In addition, I, along with representatives from the UA Administration and City staff engaged the management of the towers in community-wide discussions about the civil behavior we expected from their residents. As a general statement, things have improved. What we didn't want to allow to happen was for the issues to fall from the radar screen, only to have to be revisited when a new group of residents arrived.

To discuss strategies for staying engaged, I met with UA President Hart, several of her staffers, and representatives from the Islamic Center, the Jewish Federation and Bishop Kicanas from the Diocese of Tucson. The reason for the faith-based representation is that during the Mosque incidents, as well as during some other student-related interactions, offensive epithets were used that only served to inflame what were already tense situations. But while “offensive” may be inappropriate, in some



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department

911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues 791-4133

Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance 791-3154

Graffiti Removal 792-2489

Abandoned Shopping Carts 791-3171

Neighborhood Resources 837-5013

SunTran/SunLink 792-9222

Environmental Services 791-3171

Park Wise 791-5071

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Pima County Animal Control 243-5900

Pima County Vector Control

Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 740-2760

Continued: A Message From Steve

settings it may also not be illegal. We're going to address that issue in an upcoming forum on Campus.

Similarly, last week a midtown neighborhood found KKK flyers being distributed door to door. It's odious, and legal.

My hope for the forum is to get a campus dialogue going that addresses the issue of speech rights and responsibilities. It'll be an open dialogue with questions and comments from the audience.

I'll be moderating a panel populated by First Amendment attorney Toni Masarro from the UA School of Law, former Congressman Ron Barber from the Center for Civility, Respect, and Understanding, and representatives from the Islamic Center of Tucson, Jewish Federation, and the UA Dean of Students. This is not an easy topic, and that's the reason it's so important we set aside a forum in which to share openly about it.

The forum will take place on Wednesday, April 29th at 6pm. It'll be held in the Modern Languages building, room 350. That's the large building right next to the Administration building. There's a parking garage right next door, so that part's easy.

I hope you can carve out time that evening to come and participate. This is about speech, so the more diverse voices we hear, the more informed we'll all be when we leave. It's important to get a broad demographic (age, ethnicity, faith) into the conversation. More details to come between now and the 29th.

More on Communication



We have a ton of committed volunteers who serve the region out at Pima Animal Care Center. Their good work has helped us increase the live-release rate to over 80%. A part of that improvement is retaining animals for adoption for longer periods of time. That comes with a cost.

We are just entering our budget phase. So is Pima County. Our two jurisdictions have an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that is essentially a cost-share for the operations out at PACC. Since about half of the animals that come to the Center are from within City limits, we pay more than other surrounding jurisdictions. That's fair.

PACC has an Advisory Board that's largely made up of volunteers. Recently, a letter was sent to the listserv of volunteers by the Board which reflected an inaccurate picture of how the City and the County are working towards an updated IGA related to PACC operations costs. I don't know who fed the inaccurate information to the Board, but stirring things up based on falsehoods only causes people who are otherwise trying to come to agreement to

dig in and become defensive. The collateral damage in this case would be the animals out at PACC if people sabotage the negotiating process.

The letter sent out by the Advisory Board was supplied to the City by the PACC head administrator. He should have noted the inaccuracies and corrected them before simply allowing it to be sent to the volunteers. Here's a portion of the letter:

Tucson City (note that they even got our name wrong) significantly leads the way in the number of animals handled by PACC each year (over 50 percent) and, yet, they are the strongest opponent to continuing to provide funds to care for them! The City of Tucson's current agreement expires on June 30, 2015 and they are not expressing interest in renewing it. The City of South Tucson has not yet renewed its agreement. Marana, Oro Valley, and Sahuarita all recently renewed their two-year agreement with the County but it cannot be speculated at this time if they are willing to continue to support the more humane animal care model and its associated costs.

The fact is that the County, City and other regional municipalities have been meeting for months on this issue, and we continue to do so. As I noted, nobody has finalized a budget for FY'16 yet, and so we're all working on this, as well as other areas that are guided by IGAs so we know our respective budget impacts. If the City was "not expressing interest in renewing," we wouldn't be meeting.

For the past two years I've advocated the City ante up more cash in support of the PACC spay/neuter program. I wasn't able to get support for that, and so donated money from my unused campaign funds last year, as well as some unused ward office funds. It's not enough though, and if we're going to take steps to reduce the regional costs for animal control over the long term, that has to be a part of the conversation.

I'm not going to support an IGA that turns back the hands of the clock on the successes PACC has made with respect to the live-release rates. In turn, Pima County has to be forthcoming in providing financial documentation justifying any costs they claim associated with operating the Center. Right now, they're withholding financial back-up, so the negotiations are stalled.

While the parties sort out the terms of the IGA, everybody involved needs to understand that sending out or allowing to be sent out misinformation is both not helpful to the negotiations and it puts the welfare of the animals at risk.

Puppy Mill Message

...and I thought I'd share this billboard with you that is hanging outside of Chase Field in Phoenix. Tens of thousands of people get to see it before and after each Diamondbacks game.



As I noted last week, we're



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

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

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

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

waiting on the Court to rule on the Phoenix Puppy Mill Ordinance lawsuit before moving ahead with our own.

Phoenix Downtown Sheraton



Speaking of Phoenix, we often hear how they get things right up there. Well here's one they blew, and are still cleaning up the mess.

When I was elected in 2009, the first order of business was to stop the City from moving forward with a deal to take on the risky \$200M downtown hotel it was considering. The developer, Garfield Traub, had the momentum in moving towards a deal. But, they were taking none of the downside risk, being paid a hefty management fee, and leaving the taxpayers to foot the bill if things went south. After a 9 month battle following that election, we finally said "no."

At about that same time the Phoenix City Council was signing onto a very similar deal to build a downtown Sheraton. As of last week, the City of Phoenix owed over \$330M on a hotel that has a current value of about \$200M. Since its opening they've lost just under \$40M, and counting. Last month they voted to refinance the debt in order to lower their payments. Of course, that'll end up costing them more over the new term of the debt, but the monthly payments will be lower – same as when you do it with a home mortgage. The City is also now looking to cut its losses by selling off the Sheraton and eating the loss.

As an aside, I checked the nightly rates for the Phoenix Sheraton last week. They're asking \$199 per night. Running such a huge deficit, you'd think they'd be offering rates people would be willing to pay to stay in downtown Phoenix in the summertime.

Sounding very much like the exchanges I was sharing back in 2009 and 2010, a Phoenix entrepreneur, Scott Mussi is quoted as having said last week, "There's a reason no one in the private sector wanted to build the Sheraton hotel. Instead, the City took the risk with taxpayer money and now the taxpayers are going to lose out on it." I recall asking one of the primary developers in our project that exact question during a study session; that is, "if it's such a screamin' deal, would you be willing to take the downside risk if we were to offer you all of the upside potential?" Nobody on that development team was interested in the offer.

While talking about off-loading this boat anchor, the Phoenix City Council is also talking about taking on new debt to build a new arena for the Phoenix Suns. Mussi said "The last thing they should do is go from one venture to another." I agree.

It's instructive also to note that their Deputy City Manager who originally pushed for the hotel deal is now saying "Government is not good at owning this class of assets. We clearly think the private sector is probably better suited."

Probably?

Since 2009, we have facilitated significant growth in the downtown core. We now have a working tool kit of incentives that complies with both the State Constitutional Gift Clause (we don't give in benefits more than the taxpayers receive in return) as well as simple fiscal responsibility. We'll continue to grow smartly and be thankful we had the foresight to dodge the bullet that was on the table when I was elected - and that Phoenix is now having to address



Bees, Pollination and Pesticides

One of the benefits of doing this work is that I have the opportunity to participate in policy changes that will have positive effects for the community long after I leave office. Avoiding the hotel boondoggle is one example. Looking at putting in place responsible pest management practices will be another.

For the May 5th study session, Karin and I have asked for a discussion of an Integrated Pest Management policy. In a

nutshell, it has to do with the City committing not to use certain pesticides that are harmful to pollinators when other pest control options are available. Why? Because we need them to pollinate the flowering plant crops that produce much of our food stock. This isn't just a local issue. In recent years, the Feds have recognized the importance of keeping a healthy bee/pollinator population and have actually increased funding for bee research. That's because foods such as apples, nuts, blueberries, and other berries rely on bees for pollination. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that bees contribute more than \$15B in value towards U.S. crop production. In order to help them thrive, the USDA recommends using pesticides discriminately and moving to plant pollinator-friendly plants that serve as good sources of nectar and pollen for the bees. That's all a part of an Integrated Pest Management program.

Our staff will be working with environmental experts in the field of landscape management to integrate factors such as pest life cycles and how they interact with the environment into our policy, with the goal of adopting cutting-edge practices that will demonstrate how to control pests without the kind of pesticide use that has a demonstrably harmful effect on many bee species.

With the input of professionals in the field, I believe we'll end up with a model set of policies aimed at protecting our food stock in an economical and environmentally sensitive fashion. Good stuff. I'm grateful for the collaboration of the Landscape Advisory Committee, UA Cooperative Extension as well as representatives from local pest control companies in pulling this off.

More Health-Conscious Stuff

Sunday, Apr. 19th, 2015

10am - 3pm

Downtown to South Tucson. This Sunday, April 19th from 10am until 3pm, Cyclovia will be held again, this time using the Downtown to South Tucson route. It's a chance for you to just do a leisurely ride with hundreds of other Tucsonans, enjoying the support of the neigh-



neighborhoods and businesses you pass. To get the details on the event, just Google Cyclovia Tucson.

The image in the picture at left, though, is from Phoenix. Every time I go to Phoenix, I'm dodging bike riders who share the sidewalk with walkers/joggers. I don't think they hold a candle to us when it comes to being a bike-friendly City. But they have a Bike Share program in their downtown. We're on the verge of kicking off our own.

Ann Chanecka is our Bike/Ped Program Coordinator. She's courting several high-profile sponsors for our Bike Share. The marketing value is obvious from the photo of the Phoenix program. The bikes are highly visible, the corporate logo is easily distinguishable, and it's on all of the bikes as well as each of the informational signs at the stops. At this point in the process I'm surprised at two things:

- 1) Phoenix has a Bike Share program at all – they need places where it's safe to ride. We have them.
- 2) I'm surprised it takes any level of sales pitch at all to sign on a Corporate sponsor.

The general location of the Tucson system will be around the UA Campus and into the downtown core and the surrounding areas. The deal is that you can rent a bike on a point-to-point or out-and-back trip basis. The details are being worked out, but the convenience is undeniable, as are the health benefits.

Best of luck to Ann and her staff as they put the final touches on the Tucson Bike Share. Unlike the hotel, this is one Phoenix got right. Now all they need to do is put some legitimate bike-friendly routes together where they're marketing the Bike Share.

Student Safety Briefing - 4/23 at 6pm

Catalina High School sits in the middle of the Palo Verde neighborhood at Pima and Dodge. Many of the students, however, are brought in from outside of the area. It's a magnet school. I'm including this item in the newsletter because I know its distribution is much wider than just the midtown area. I encourage you to forward at least this part onto friends who should see it.



In the past couple of months, there have been at least two incidents we know of in which a 30 to 40 year old guy has stalked and/or groped young girls around the school. The girls haven't been alone necessarily, so the normal "travel in groups" counsel is

already being heeded. The incidents have occurred both before and after school. The guy clearly is waiting around in not-very-public locations.

Yes, of course the police are involved. But since the guy's still out there doing this, I wanted you to have an extra heads-up. The Palo Verde neighborhood is alerting parents and residents in the area through its own email listserv. Catalina is sending out a recorded phone message to all parents.

Amy and I met with Kathi Shaw (Principal) and Abel Morado (TUSD Assistant Superintendent) and we decided a school/parent meeting would also be appropriate. On **Thursday, April 23rd at 6pm** in the Catalina High School auditorium, we're going to present the new School Resource Officer who is assigned to CHS to the parents and other interested residents. We'll also introduce the CHS security staff and walk through what is known by that time, and offer suggestions so neighbors and parents can help the kids stay safe. Please also come prepared to take part in a Catalina/Parent/Resident group that will continue to meet and work through this and other school security issues.

It's too bad we have to take everybody's time for a jerk like this, but it's the world we live in, and midtown's not exempt.

Broadway Open House

The public open house to discuss the Broadway alignment is also scheduled for the evening of the 23rd. If you miss me at the Broadway meeting, you'll understand why. The meeting will be held from 5:30 until 7:30 at the Sabbar Shrine Hall, 450 S. Tucson Blvd. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the blended alignment to the general public – the alignment put together by the Citizen's Task Force, cooperatively with staff and input from a representative of the Southern Arizona Transit Advocates, Gene Caywood.

The general timeline for moving this forward looks something like this. Following the Open House on the 23rd, the CTF will meet again on April 30th. The time and location for that meeting are yet to be determined. I'll let you know, or you can continue to check up on progress by going to: www.tucsonaz.gov/broadway

Flowing from the CTF meeting should be a recommended alignment that'll come to M&C in May, likely on the 19th, but that's also yet TBD. We'll be asked to approve it and move the process into the next phase. That'll include contacting business operators and other private property owners to see if those affected by the alignment want to stay (if possible) or be relocated. Getting that information is key. With it, the City can begin working with property owners on things such as shared parking arrangements, ingress/egress designs, appraising properties and making offers for purchase/relocation. Most importantly though, knowing the alignment will give everybody who owns property along the corridor a clear picture as to the fate of their home/business. That will inform decisions about reinvestment and upgrades to the properties, decisions that have been delayed until the alignment is set.

Even the lines that'll be shown on the maps at the Open House aren't the final ones. They'll change as our civil engineering staff works with the property owners towards solutions related to how they can continue to operate. But to a large degree, what you'll see on the 23rd will be much of the finished product. I hope you can make it. I'll get there for as much of it

as I can after the Catalina High meeting.

County Share the Road Pamphlet

Continuing on the transit theme, I was at the April Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting over at Himmel Park Library. One of the agenda items was the Broadway project. The BAC will be in attendance at the April 23rd Open House.

Another of their agenda items was an update from Matt Zoll. He's the Pima County rep who attends the BAC. A part of what Matt presented was distributing the final product of a "Share the Road" pamphlet he has been working on. It was created in cooperation with the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. You can view it at www.BikePed.Pima.gov.

The booklet's just over 50 pages. It has information and drawings aimed at bike riders, as well as motorists. In the back of the book there are several pages of County and City laws related to biking. They include things such as riding on sidewalks, use of helmets, bike parking, what to do at stop signs (your feet do not have to touch the ground), the use of headlights, and much more. It's full of good information that both the novice and the experienced rider can learn from. And motorists, too.

Many thanks to Matt and the group who put this informative pamphlet together. And many thanks to the members of the BAC, as well as Ann Chanecka and her staff from the City, for their participation in making Tucson a bike friendly/bike safe City.

More on Transit

In an effort to continue making travel on the Sun Tran and Sun Link systems a more convenient experience, we're about to launch a new mobile ticketing app. Once active, it'll allow you to buy and/or activate either bus or streetcar fares from your smartphone. Those of us who have chosen to remain in the Star Trek vintage won't be able to take part.



Right now you can't buy a one-way ticket at the streetcar kiosks. This'll help to solve that issue.

Also transit related – but also Parks & Rec – is the start of the Summer Youth Pass program. This is the one Paul suggested and we adopted unanimously last month. It will be available for current and incoming high school students and will be good from May 22nd through August 5th. For \$45, the kids will have unlimited rides on the transit system as well as admission to all of our pools. There are also private businesses participating with discounts. So far, those include Funtasticks, Skate Country, and the Goodness Fresh Food & Juice Bar. More businesses are signing up, so this will end up being a great bargain for the families who choose to take part.

The SummerGO Youth Passes will soon be available at all of the normal Sun Tran ticketing vending locations. In addition, we have four high schools participating in selling them. As with the businesses, more and more high schools are expected to jump on board with this program. Good call by Paul on this one. He deserves the credit for us even consider-

ing the issue.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events and Entertainment

Arizona International Film Festival

Thursday, April 9, 2015 – Saturday, April 26, 2015

The Screening Room, 127 E. Congress

The Arizona International Film Festival, the largest and longest-running film festival in the state, is celebrating the arrival of the new modern streetcar by scheduling Festival venues along the streetcar route with The Screening Room at 127 East Congress Street being the premier exhibition site. This year's Festival features films from 22 different countries, filmmaker meet and greets, panel discussions, workshops in area schools, and live music. Find a schedule of screenings and ticket information at: www.filmfestivalarizona.com.

21st Annual Tucson Earth Day Festival and Parade

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9 am – 4 pm

Reid Park, off Country Club Road, north of 22nd Street

Join thousands of attendees in celebrating Earth's beauty, wonder, and natural resources at the 21st Annual Tucson Earth Day Festival and Parade. More than 100 exhibitors will provide fun, hands-on activities and take-with-you messages about different aspects of the environment. Be a spectator or march in the Earth Day Parade. Youth and community groups, schools, bands, families, mascots and businesses will be marching to share friendly eco-messages. www.tucsonearthday.org

Trees for Tucson

Trees for Tucson, a program of Tucson Clean & Beautiful, is still accepting requests for low-cost trees for home delivery in the popular spring planting period. Planting in the spring when trees are coming out of dormancy and temperatures are still cooler can ensure successful, healthy trees. To qualify for low-cost home shade trees, residents must be served by the Tucson Electric Power Co. or Trico Electric Cooperative, and agree to plant the trees within 15 feet of the west, south or east side of their home. TEP customers may order trees for \$8 each, available for purchase online at www.treesfortucson.org or call (520) 837-6835 to receive a mailed or faxed form.

Ongoing

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St

<http://hotelcongress.com>

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St

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

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

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

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd

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

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

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

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

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight trains passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org>

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave

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

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave

www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

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

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

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

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org>

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave

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

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd
November 9, 2013, through July 2015, "Curtis Reframed: The Arizona Portfolios."
www.statemuseum.arizona.edu



Adopt-a-Park & Public Areas

Community Volunteer Clean Up & Beautification Program



Did you know?

Tucson Clean & Beautiful volunteers donated 26,000 hours to beautifying Tucson in 2014!

This is our community - let's clean it up!

VOLUNTEER!

Tucson Clean and Beautiful is seeking community volunteers to adopt parks, streets, washes, and other available public areas on an ongoing basis!

There are over 700 sites available for adoption!

What does "adopt" mean?

- Your group agrees to clean 'your' site up (remove litter and debris) once a month!
 - We provide supplies such as litter grabbers, gloves and bags!

Who can adopt?

- Groups of at least five individuals commit to monthly cleanups.
 - A permanent sign recognizing your group will be placed at the adopted site and we will celebrate your first six months with a ceremony!

Why do this?

- We *can* make Tucson better with *everyone's* participation!

Give a few hours of your time to bettering the community!

Adopting a park allows groups to show pride in their community. It is set up for groups to visit the chosen park on a regular basis to pick up litter and perform other tasks to help keep the park clean.

Adopting a street or traffic circle allows groups to take an active role in the appearance of neighborhoods by transforming a litter strewn and weed infested area into a clean area.

Adopting a wash allows groups to free the washes of litter so that these corridors are clear for wildlife and prevent flooding.

Make a meaningful, long-lasting contribution to Tucson. Adopt a park, street, or wash today!

To become a part of Tucson Clean and Beautiful's environmental stewardship efforts and for more information visit www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org, email adoptapark@tucsonaz.gov or call 791-3109.