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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

August 1, 2016

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At a little past midnight on July 25th, another shooting occurred at a Ft. Myers nightclub. It took multiple lives. Two were killed and 17 wounded – three are in the hospital still in critical condition. It barely made the press. Also, in San Diego two police officers were shot last Thursday; one dead, the other recovering. And last Saturday night in Mukilteo, Washington, three killed and one injured

in a “house party” shooting.

We went two weeks between domestic events like this. Flag is at half-staff in respect.

Flood Warning App

In the aftermath of the July 1st midtown storm, I convened a meeting that included several city and county leaders. A couple of weeks ago, I shared one of the outcomes: the county was going to make available to the public an app that gives you early flood warning alerts. In fact, it’s called the Automated Local Evaluation in



Important Phone Numbers

Ward 6 Office
791-4601

Tucson Police Department
911 or nonemergency
791-6813

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 Tucson
791-5071

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Pima Animal Care Center
724-5900

Pima County Vector Control
Cockroaches 724-3401

Continued: A Message From Steve

Real Time (ALERT) system. You can get it either on your computer or on a smartphone.

The network is made up of a series of real-time sensors that are used to collect all sorts of weather data. That includes rain, stormwater runoff, and other weather events that affect our watersheds.

The sensors are activated by weather events, which means the information is indeed real-time. Here's an image of one of them that I got from the county site:



The data gathered is sent to the National Weather Service and helps them send out weather warnings. You've seen them as trailers on your TV screen. They've got 105 of these stations scattered around the county so the data is pretty robust. In addition, the system is tied into 40 other sites run by the NWS, Game and Fish, the U.S. Geological Survey, and three other counties (Pinal, Cochise, and Santa Cruz). So they're performing on their promise of coming through with a useful public warning system.

They've got two versions to the system – and I'm told that they both run better on Goggle Chrome than on Internet Explorer. But I've tried it on both, and both worked fine for me. Here's a link to each – one for your phone, and another for the computer.

- Desktop version: <http://alertmap.rfcd.pima.gov/Gmap/Gmap.html>
- Mobile version: <http://alertmap.rfcd.pima.gov/dwmobile/>

Click on the "last 30 days" box and you can see what midtown experienced during the July 1st rain event. I'm grateful to Suzanne Shields from the county for taking part in our post-flood meeting, and for providing this link so I can share it with you.



On a slightly less high-tech basis, we *had* the sand bags I told you about. Tucson Fire is working with the City Manager's office to identify more permanent locations for the sand bags, but the pilot program was put into effect at Fire Station #7 over at 4902 E. Pima.

Bad news – They ran out by noon on Saturday after announcing the "pilot" program Friday. I've already reached out to the City Manager and Mayor with two points: that the "pilot" demonstrated both a need and a desire for sand bags on the part of the residents, and that we need to expand the program to more locations city-wide.

Good news – We very much appreciate the hard work by TDOT staff and the Department of Corrections workers to get more sand bags ready for distribution. Today another 250

sand bags were delivered to Fire Station 7. The crews will be working OT to get more over there by Tuesday morning.

This pilot is another of the outcomes of the meeting we held a couple of weeks ago in the aftermath of the July 1st rain event that decimated midtown. Between the ALERT system and the sand bags, we've got a couple of short-term pieces of the work in place.

Pima County Flood Control District

The longer-term piece of this relates to the 47 projects I had listed in last week's newsletter. By way of reminder, here's that list:



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

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

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

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

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
520-791-4201

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

TABLE 9a: SIX 5-YEAR STORMWATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS (PRELIMINARY)

Total Cost of Each 5-Yr Program	Proposed Program #	Comparative Project Rankings	City Ward	Watercourse (Watershed Identifier)	TSMS Project #	Project Description (see below)	Estimated Project Cost	Homes Protected	Sq. Ft. HDLU Protected
Program #1 = \$10,037,000	1	1	6	Arroyo Chico (CW)	12	OC/C, STR	\$640,000	86	250000
	1	3	5	18th Street Wash (CL)	11	DET/RET	\$470,000	21	133500
	1	7	1	El Vado Wash (AG)	2	OC/SC, CBC	\$1,336,000	80	---
	1	14	3	Wilson Wash (DG)	27	SD	\$3,525,000	258	210000
	1	16	3	Navajo Wash (DG)	28	SD	\$4,066,000	135	528900
Program #2 = \$6,907,000	2	2	6	Arroyo Chico (CW)	13	OC/N, STR	\$831,000	113	---
	2	4	5	Mission View Wash (CC)	10	DET/RET	\$910,000	44	23500
	2	5	5	Citation Wash (CW)	15	OC/C, CBC	\$353,000	29	87000
	2	9	4	Naylor Wash (CW)	20	OC/C	\$356,000	67	50000
	2	12	1	Santa Clara Wash (AH)	4	OC/CC, CBC	\$833,000	52	---
	2	13	2,6	Alamo Wash (GC)	32	SD	\$3,523,000	184	10000
	2	18	2	Fahringer Wash (MN)	44	STR	\$101,000	18	---
	3	6	1,5	Nebraska Wash (AW)	7	SD	\$1,466,000	52	33600
Program #3 = \$8,625,000	3	8	5	Railroad Wash (CW)	21	OC/E	\$80,000	13	---
	3	10	3	Tucson Gen Wash (GM)	36	DET/RET	\$3,163,000	3	847800
	3	11	6	High School Wash (CW)	18	Replace CLVT	\$1,004,000	---	---
	3	15	1,5	Airport Wash (AW)	8	OC/CC, CBC	\$2,635,000	36	23400
	3	22	2,4,6	Alamo Wash (GC)	31	CBC (7)	\$477,000	---	---
Program #4 = \$9,171,000	4	17	5	Naylor Wash (CW)	19	OC/C, CBC	\$1,672,000	55	---
	4	19	6	Citation Wash (CW)	14	OC/C, CBC	\$817,000	63	80000
	4	21	3	Christmas Wash (GL)	33	OC/V, CBC(3)	\$1,420,000	12	---
	4	28	3	Cemetery Wash (DG)	29	SD	\$936,000	48	68260
	4	29	1	West University (DA)	24	SD	\$811,000	6	11250
	4	30	3	North Mountain Ave (GQ)	37	SD	\$812,000	31	---
	4	32	6	High School Wash (CW)	17	Modify CLVT	\$237,000	10	7000
	4	34	2	Hidden Hills Wash (MR)	45	OC/C	\$1,471,000	20	---
	4	39	2,4	Rolling Hills Wash (UC)	47	OC/C, CBC	\$995,000	23	---
Program #5 = \$9,951,000	5	20	1,5	Rodeo Wash (BR)	9	CBC (4)	\$1,904,000	13	600
	5	23	3	Krueger Wash (DF)	26	OC/E, CBC	\$211,000	---	347200
	5	24	3	Christmas Wash (GL)	34	OC/SC	\$602,000	24	---
	5	27	3	Christmas Wash (GL)	35	SD	\$3,747,000	222	---
	5	31	1	El Vado Wash (AG)	3	SD, STR	\$1,730,000	26	---
	5	33	3	North Mountain Ave (GQ)	38	OC/SC, CBC	\$762,000	2	---
	5	36	2	Fahringer Wash (MN)	43	OC/G-R	\$995,000	4	---
Program #6 = \$11,197,000	6	25	5	Silvertake Wash (CW)	22	OC/C, CBC	\$406,000	45	---
	6	26	3	Wetmore Wash (HR)	42	SD	\$1,520,000	42	22000
	6	35	3,6	Bronx Wash (DC)	25	OC/C	\$621,000	17	112775
	6	37	3	First Avenue Wash (GR)	39	SD	\$1,110,000	13	4025
	6	38	1	El Vado Wash (AG)	1	SD	\$1,027,000	---	---
	6	40	5	Swan Park Wash (CW)	23	OC/C, CBC	\$230,000	14	---
	6	41	2	Robb Wash (MW)	46	OC/C, OC/G	\$914,000	33	---
	6	42	3	Stone Avenue Wash (HG)	41	SD	\$795,000	47	---
	6	43	6	High School Wash (CW)	16	SD	\$1,521,000	---	---
	6	44	1	Flowing Wells Wash (DG)*	30	CBC	\$110,000	---	---
	6	45	1	Valencia Wash (AL)	5	SD	\$818,000	4	---
	6	46	1	Valencia Wash (AL)	6	SD	\$1,527,000	6	2600
	6	47	3	Racetrack Wash (GW)	40	OC/SC	\$598,000	---	---
	\$56,088,000	TOTAL COST OF ALL SIX PROGRAMS							

It was produced back in 1995 as a part of the city's effort to identify projects the regional flood control tax levy could do to mitigate flooding all around the area. My promise was to find out how many were completed.

Of the 47, 10 of the projects were either fully or partially done. The project report contains well over 100 pages describing the scope of each project, cost estimates, and even a series of “five year plans” that was to guide their completion. So the question becomes ‘why weren’t they?’

We have what’s called the Pima County Flood Control District (PCFCD). It’s a taxing district that adds about 30 cents per \$100 valuation to your secondary property tax, earmarking it for these sorts of projects. The trouble is that it’s funding a lot more than just these sorts of things.

The district pulls in about \$20M annually for the whole region to split up. Tucson represents 42% of the regional tax base. That means the city should have been getting around 42% of the tax money that was collected each year and having that spent on our projects.

The picture of what actually has been occurring is quite different. But let me share a little simple math to set the stage.

We have been collecting around \$20M per year for the last 20 years (since 1995 – the date of the project list). But there are personnel and administrative costs shown in the FCD budget we need to back out of project money. In the current budget that’s about \$5M. (They also show revenues of over \$22M in the current budget.) So we should have seen \$15M per year for the last 20 years allocated towards projects. Do the math. That’s \$300M for the region. Our 42% of that is \$126M.

NO-project not built

The 10 projects that were completed from the list of 47 had estimated project costs totaling \$13.5M. Here’s the notation for the remainder of them:

Every city resident is a county resident. That often gets forgotten in these kinds of discussions.

I don’t want to get too deep into the weeds here, but also in the budget is the statement indicating the FCD money will be used to “procure flood prone land contiguous to existing watersheds within the County. These land acquisitions serve the dual purpose of protecting existing riparian habitat corridors and preventing future flood damages.” Fine. But it should be noted that land acquisition that’s ‘contiguous to existing watersheds’ may be miles away from floodplains. And even if someone can justify all of the land purchases coming from the \$300M in taxes this district has accumulated, the fact remains that the city residents who paid over \$120M of the taxes received projects from our priority list valued at significantly less than that.

Here are some of the expenses called out in the current budget:

Regional Flood Control District

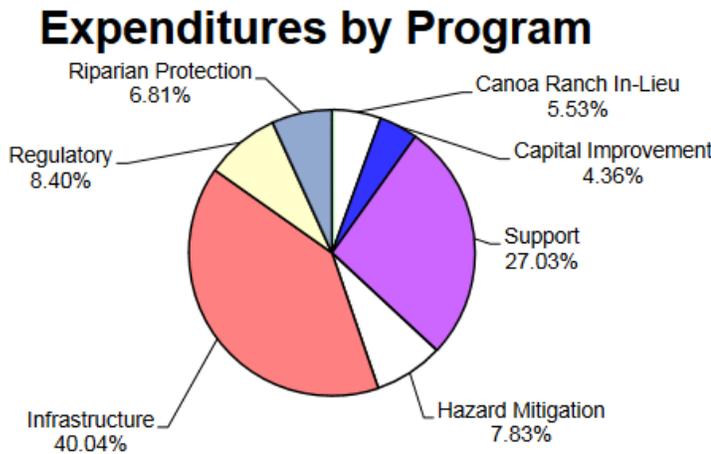
Canoa Ranch In-Lieu Fee	-	967,900	-	-	967,900
Capital Improvement	-	762,069	-	-	762,069
Flood Control Support	-	4,727,324	-	-	4,727,324
Hazard Mitigation	-	1,369,679	-	-	1,369,679
Infrastructure	-	7,003,347	-	-	7,003,347
Regulatory	-	1,469,261	-	-	1,469,261
Riparian Protection	-	1,190,532	-	-	1,190,532
Total Regional Flood Control District	-	17,490,112	-	-	17,490,112

(From P.561 of their budget - section 14-1)

A few years ago the County decided to start paying the cost to maintain the Regional River Park system with these tax dollars. It’s a wonderful Loop, but midtown just got flooded.

The FCD spending goes to riparian protection, fulfilling ‘the mission’ of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements, flood hazard mapping – lots of good stuff, but again, midtown just got flooded.

Here’s a pie chart showing how they divvy up the annual revenues:



“Infrastructure” is where we’d hope to see projects being funded. This is the description of how that slice of the pie is supposed to be spent:

Description of Services

Inspect, construct, and maintain flood control facilities. Develop operation and maintenance plans for flood control infrastructure including emergency preparedness and incorporating environmentally sensitive solutions for flood control. Coordinate County maintenance activities with other city, state, and federal departments and agencies. Develop and maintain an asset management program containing a complete inventory of all district flood control and related infrastructure including real property, bank protection, drainage ways, easements, and other flood conveyance structures. Develop plans for the operation and maintenance of the real property including coordination with other County departments and local, state, and federal agencies.

Lost in all of that verbiage are the first seven words on constructing flood control facilities.

Nothing the FCD is doing lacks importance. And some of the regional projects yield a direct benefit to city residents. But at the top of the list of priorities for how city residents' tax money should be invested is funding work to alleviate the need to rent a boat to move around during the monsoons. And that's what the list of 47 projects was intended to address.

I've turned all of this over to the City Manager and expect he'll be having a serious conversation with others about how we rectify this obvious case of city tax money not being used in ways that benefit city residents.

One note to close. I've seen documents where Pima County conflates federal matching funds with these tax dollars and contends that when you combine the two, the city was treated just fine. That's hocus-pocus. The simple math is that we got far less value from \$126M in taxes than what city residents deserved. That's not right.

County Road Repair Proposal

Last week the County also issued a summary of road repair proposals the County Administrator is advocating. One is an increase to the state gas tax. Here's a pretty compelling table he included to make the point:

Item	Unit/Description	1993	2010	%Change
College Tuition	Average Tuition and Required Fees	\$ 3,517	\$ 9,136	160
Gas	Per Gallon	1.12	2.73	144
Movie Ticket	Average Ticket Price	4.14	7.89	91
House	Median Price	126,500	221,800	75
Bread	Per Pound	1.08	1.76	62
Income	Median Household	31,272	49,167	57
Stamp	One First-Class Stamp	0.29	0.44	52
Beef	Per Pound of Ground Beef	1.57	2.28	46
Car	Average New Car	19,200	26,850	40
State Gas Tax	Per Gallon	0.18	0.18	0
Federal Gas Tax	Per Gallon	0.184	0.184	0

The gas tax we pay is earmarked for pavement preservation across the state. Nobody likes to pay higher taxes. But the table makes it pretty clear that the gas tax we pay hasn't nearly kept pace with the costs of anything else in the market-basket of economic goods since 1993. This is one proposal that might go to the voters.

The County Administrator is also advocating the state change the formula by which the Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) are allocated across the state. These are a combination of gas taxes, license fees, vehicle registrations, and those sorts of things. Right now, half of the money goes into the State Highway Fund, 27% goes to cities, an additional 3% goes to cities with populations over 300,000, and counties get 19%. Clearly there's room to change that formula, but it's a zero-sum game. That sets up a legislative fight, which isn't something we should count on winning.

The final piece of the county proposal is to double the half cent RTA tax you're already paying. I've been advocating for over five years that we don't do that, but that instead we

take a portion of the half cent we're already paying and allocate it to road repair. One of the guys who is now a part of the county PR department wrote extensively about this difference of position between me and the County Administrator back when he worked for the Star. One person wants to double your taxes and give that new money to road repair. Another wants to carve out a portion of what you're already paying and give that to road repair. Either one will take a vote of the people after the legislature frames the question for the ballot.

I share these ideas because we will soon have to make some decisions at the M&C level about how we're going to fund our road repair work. I don't find any of what the county is proposing to run counter to our, say, extending Prop 409, or making some other funding decision. They're complementary, not in competition. And this whole discussion is yet another example of where we should be working cooperatively on a regional basis to ensure we're not working at cross-purposes.

At the end of the day, it's your money we're talking about spending. Whether that's for flood control and making sure city residents are treated fairly, or how we fix your roads, there's a clear need to put some heads together in the same room so we're building efficiencies into taxing and spending.

More of your Money – Energy Rates

I've previously shared my thoughts on the proposed TEP energy rate increases, reductions TEP is proposing on how solar customers are paid for the energy they send back to the grid, and the very basis on which TEP determines your monthly cost per kilowatt hour of energy use (Demand Pricing). The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) will be hearing their rate case later this year. What's instructive is how TEP's sister-agency, UNS Electric, is faring in front of the Commission. UNS serves both Santa Cruz and Mohave Counties.

An ACC hearing judge is urging the Commission to refuse what UNS is asking for. And what they're asking is very similar to what TEP will be asking for. For example, UNS wants to increase its customers' bills by about 9.4%. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is recommending only a 2.7% increase. UNS wants to increase its fixed charges from \$10 per month up to \$15 per month. The ALJ is proposing a new rate of \$13 per month. And the ALJ is also rejecting the proposed change to Demand Pricing. That's where the utility bases your entire monthly charges per kilowatt hour on your single highest hour of energy use throughout the month. It's not uncommon for commercial businesses to be charged that way. It's not at all common residentially. Here's what the judge wrote:

“A massive public education effort” would be required before demand rates could be fairly implemented. She's advising that UNS continue with time of use rates.

And UNS wants to reduce the credit rooftop solar customers receive for the energy they put into the grid from the current 12 cents per kwh down to about 6 cents. The judge is telling them to simply drop that notion.

TEP is asking to increase its rates per kilowatt hour, cut in half its credit back to rooftop solar customers, and double its fixed charges. And they want to implement Demand Pricing. If the ALJ who's hearing the UNS case prevails at the Commission, one might anticipate TEP changing its pitch and avoid going through the same Q&A that UNS is right now engaged

in. And that would be good for consumers.

Taxation and Water Conservation Rebates

On the flip side of how your money is being spent is an idea being floated at the federal IRS level to tax rebates you receive from Tucson Water for the installation of water conservation measures. Last week, I joined Council Member Uhlich in signing onto a letter to the feds in opposition to that idea.

Water rebate programs across the nation have grown significantly. Ours is on the cutting edge from the standpoint of offering you savings on things such as high efficiency toilets, water harvesting cisterns, and curb cuts plus other passive rainwater harvesting measures. We're right now also looking at how to increase the use of these conservation tools with low-income members of the community. If the IRS decides to tax the rebates, I'm concerned that our work will be diminished.

So far, there are 34 members of Congress who have written to the IRS asking for them to take a deep breath and look again before they simply start taxing the rebates. Our local advocacy is intended to broaden that congressional support.

Up above, I mentioned the failure of gas taxes to keep pace with needs over the past 25 years. Here's an example of the government going in the opposite direction and thinking of taxing something that benefits communities and that benefits utilities. I invite you to read over the letter and consider adding your name. Find the text and directions for signing on [by clicking here](#).

Paying in Advance

I'm a sometimes contributor to an email chain among a variety of people who have disparate opinions in which current affairs are kicked around from varying perspectives. Over the weekend, this Robert Heinlein quote popped up:

"Never try to teach a pig to sing. It's a waste of your time, and it annoys the pig."



Also over the weekend I was made aware that the Trump/Pence campaign is poking around for a Tucson venue at which to hold another event. "The Donald" was here during his primary campaign, and he still owes the taxpayers of the City of Tucson about \$80K from various services we provided at the TCC. I've gone on formal record with both the City Manager and the Mayor that I strongly object to us extending Trump any more credit for campaign events he wants to hold on taxpayer property.

We should do two things before agreeing to host:

- 1) Collect everything that's already due to us.
- 2) Get payment in advance for expected costs associated with the proposed event.

We might not be able to teach him how to pay his bills, and it might just annoy him, but at least we're not letting him go more deeply into your pockets. Any other venue in Tucson that he wants to book should keep in mind that he still has a bill to pay over at the TCC.

From what I hear, he's good for the dough.

Spice/K2



That image is from a Spice Addiction Support website. They open with this comment:

Most people think "spice" is a seasoning for your food like paprika or pepper. They think "K2" is a famous mountain. And that's exactly what the makers of this dangerous drug want non-users to think.

Most people have no idea how this awful synthetic drug is affecting millions of people all over the world. The word is slowly leaking out, however, as reports to Poison Control and emergency room visits have skyrocketed over the past few years.

From May 1st through the end of last week, TFD has responded to 192 spice calls. The typical protocol is for the person to be transported to an emergency room for stabilization. That's an impact on public safety, ERs, and of course the victim who's being treated.

I've joined with Regina and Richard in asking for a study session agenda item on this. The DEA raid that took place last week was just a fortuitous coincidence. Obviously, the feds don't clear their enforcement actions with us beforehand, and we don't clear our study session agendas with them, either.

The City of San Diego has recently adopted a spice ordinance. So has New York City. This is affecting people across the country. In the San Diego ordinance, they refer to the drugs as "unregulated novelty drugs." That's because they're marketed as something other than what they really are intended for. As noted in the quote above, you're not buying this stuff to sprinkle on your salad. Here's what's happening around the country:

Federal and State Responses

- As a result of abuse, synthetic cannabinoids are banned/controlled in at least 21 states in the U.S. as well as several other countries
- All branches of the U.S. military prohibit military personnel from possessing or using synthetic cannabinoids
- Pending Senate legislation: S 605 - Combating Dangerous Designer Drugs Act of 2011

Our paramedics and police will tell you that the effects are unpredictable. They range from psychotic reactions to seizures, comas, and hallucinations. In Phoenix last month, law enforcement made a spice bust and found them lacing the stuff with Fentanyl. They were mixing it in with 50 pounds of the spice in cement mixers. That'll kill you in a heartbeat.

The manufacturers don't care what the impact is on the person smoking the stuff. It's all about the profits. These frames from a Power Point TPD uses in educational presentations make the point:

- The Plaintiffs claimed that "outlawing" synthetic cannabinoids would have detrimental effects on their respective businesses

When I was working on getting the administration of steroids to racing greyhounds banned, the track manager at the time said if we did that, he'd simply "skirt the law" by moving out into the county. The manufacturers of these synthetic drugs have the same mindset.

A major manufacturer/distributor of synthetic cannabinoid products in Kansas told a law enforcement officer, "...if the compound that he is using is banned, he would just switch and treat his dried plant material with another legal compound."

The products (i.e. Spice) are NOT controlled - the 5 chemicals (i.e. JWH-018) ARE controlled



Pretty sad. But it makes the point as to why we need to get a local ordinance into effect. The basis is that we can react much more quickly in terms of adding banned synthetics to a list than the state or feds can.

I'll be writing more on this in the lead-up to the study session, and I suspect the media will also be doing their part in public education. This is a significant issue for our community. It's one area in which I'd be amazed if we get any pushback from the state alleging they can preempt us from taking local action.

Independent Police Internal Investigations and Citizen Involvement

And two more public safety event reminds for you.

First is the August 17th meeting I'll be hosting related to internal investigations and how we get citizen's involved with those. Liana Perez from the City Manager's office will be here to describe what we currently have in place, what works (and what doesn't) in other jurisdictions, and then listen to your input.

Rarely does a day go by that we don't hear about police/citizen interactions somewhere in the news. Join us on the 17th from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm for this really important discussion.

And a little further out on your calendar is this community public safety event. But it's one you should be organizing now.

National Night Out is held in other communities during what would be for us a hot and muggy time of year. So instead we do Getting Arizonans Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) when it cools down in October. That makes sense also because October is National Crime Prevention Month.

TPD is ready to collaborate again with neighborhood groups to come and talk informally with residents about crime prevention. G.A.I.N. will take place on Tuesday, October 4th from 5:30 until 8:30 pm. We can help your neighborhood to register with TPD for this, or you can contact them directly through your neighborhood leadership. Either way, plan early so TPD knows how to allocate resources, and so you have time to pass the word to your neighbors.



The **Tucson Wildlife Center** was established in 1998 by Lisa Bates and Peter Lininger. Last week, Diana, Alison, and I toured the place and came away with a deep respect for the work their staff and 150 volunteers do out there. If you'd like to take a visit, call them at 290.9453. After reading this, I hope you will.

They became a 501(c) in 2000. The Center takes care of over 2,000 wild birds and animals annually. It's completely privately funded.

Lisa and the gang will take in pretty much whatever sort of injured or homeless animal you take to them. They run a 24-hour emergency room, staffed by volunteer vets who are on-call. They're in the process of trying to get established as a teaching component with veterinarian schools, including the UA's.

If you tour the place you'll see the various rehab facilities. Here's a shot of one of their volunteers doing some bottle feeding of a little ringtail that was dropped in their lap. They'll rear him until he's ready for reentry into a safe, natural environment, and then release him into that habitat. It's where this little guy and the rest of the animals they treat belong.



Note that the lady feeding the ringtail is wearing a gown (called a ghillie suit) to obscure her “human” appearance. They do not want any level of bonding to occur or the reentry will be compromised.

This is an x-ray of a cormorant that swallowed a fishing lure out at Lakeside.

They successfully removed it and reintegrated the bird to its former home. If you fish, clean up your old fishing lines and lures before you leave the lake.



And this guy's doing a test flight after Lisa's vet crew surgically repaired a wing and nursed it back to flying health. They gradually work the injured birds into this enclosure, watch them get back into flying shape, and when they're ready, the birds are released back to their homes.

All of this would be a great story of a group of people working hard to rehabilitate animals and get them back into their natural surroundings. That would be true if it weren't for the fact that the State Game and Fish people are standing in the way of their work.

Game and Fish is focused on hunting and fishing. The Wildlife Center is focused on rehabilitation and then release back into a safe habitat. The goals are incompatible, and as a result G&F is making things difficult for the staff to do their important work. One example is G&F have consistently gone out to the Center and physically taken baby javalina to reintegrate before they're ready, and reintegrated them into areas where they'll simply be hunted. In addition, in order to keep babies on site *until they're old enough* for safe reintegration (raccoons, coyotes, bobcats), Lisa and her folks are forced to reapply for re-certifications in order to continue the rehab. It's costly and intrusive.

There's room for what G&F does, and there's room for what the Wildlife Center does.

If you'd like to see more of their work, check them out at www.tucsonwildlife.com. I'm in the process of trying to help Lisa and their staff of heroes to fend off the G&F so they can continue this very compassionate work.

Think about it, and if you agree after either touring the place or checking their website, let the state know that there's room for both of them.



More on Animals – Parks and Rec Dog Parks

Tucson Parks & Rec operates seven dog parks – fenced off areas where you're allowed to let your pooches run off-leash and socialize with other dogs. Five of the parks are divided into separate areas; one for large dogs, and one for the little guys. Some of the parks also have training areas broken out. All of them are free.

These aren't places where you can just let your dog loose while you go and run some errands. You must supervise your "kid" while they're using the park. They've got some other pretty basic rules such as cleaning up after your pet, taking them out if they show signs of aggression, only taking puppies in that are four months or older, and not taking sick dogs to the park (wouldn't it be nice if parents of kids didn't drop their sick kids off at school!).

If you have questions about the use of the P&R dog parks, call 791.4873. Here's a listing of the locations, and the hours each is open to the public.

Location	Hours	Separate Large/Small Dog Areas
Christopher Columbus Park	Dawn to Dusk	Yes
Gene C. Reid Park: Miko's Corner	7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Yes
Jacobs Park	Dawn to Dusk	--
Morris K. Udall Park	6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Yes
Palo Verde Park	6:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Yes
Purple Heart Park: Ivan's Spot	7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Yes
Sixth Avenue Dog Park	Dawn to Dusk	--

Humane Society Pet Disaster Relief Trailer

And a few newsletters back I shared the story of how the Humane Society got its disaster relief trailer through some very generous help from the Tucson Kennel Club. They're hosting an event that'll benefit the operation of the trailer. It's coming up on the 2nd of August. Here's a flyer that shows all of the information you'll need in order to take part with them.

Join us for

YAPPY HOUR



August 2, 2016 6pm-8pm at Arizona Beer House



150 S. Kolb Rd

Join us for fun raffle items, meet-and-greets with local show dogs, 35 taps of craft beer, local Arizona wines, and a wide variety of sodas.

Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcomed. Proceeds to benefit the Humane Society of Southern Arizona's maintenance costs for the Pet Disaster Relief Trailer for Southern Arizona.



Scan here for more information!

Hosted by Tucson Kennel Club and Greater Sierra Vista Kennel Club



Special Exception Process

In the past few weeks we've seen several somewhat unique re-zonings come through. They're unique because they fall into a category called Special Exceptions. It's when a general use is okay in a particular area, but the way it's being applied needs to some miti-

gation so surrounding residents are assured their quality of life is maintained. One example is taking place out in Ward 5 where a church is expanding the number of kids it will have on site for child care. That will require both some interior improvements, but also a Special Exception to the zoning to increase the number of kids on site.

We've had two of these in the very recent past. In each case, a private school relocated into an existing church building. Since both were private schools and each site was in areas zoned for residential uses, each had to go through the Special Exemption rezoning process. I'm sharing this because in each of the recent Ward 6 cases, the schools were unaware of the need to engage that process and came very close to not being able to open for classes in August. So this piece is informational. I know a pretty diverse group reads this, and I'm hoping that by putting this out it might save some heartburn down the road.

This is important because the Special Exception process is a formal rezoning and can take up to six months to complete. In some of those cases, the issue ends with a formal quasi-judicial Zoning Examiner public hearing. In some, the case comes to M&C for a vote. But both of those processes are formal and lengthy. The two private schools came to the process too late to have a chance of completing their formal processes in time for the fall semester. That set of facts triggered a staff determination to grant a temporary Certificate of Occupancy so they could at least start the school year – but in both cases they'll have to get the rezoning or next fall they won't be allowed to operate.

These aren't just bureaucratic academic exercises. Re-zonings are important legal issues that guide the preservation of quality of life throughout the city. Applicants must show their presence won't negatively impact the surrounding area. The Zoning Examiner typically places "conditions" onto re-zonings to mitigate negative impacts. In addition, these are guided by both state law and city code. M&C doesn't have the authority to simply waive zoning restrictions. For example, in the two private schools that want to operate in church buildings, state law specifically carves out an exemption for charter schools, but not for private schools. Agree or not, that's the law, and that's the reason both schools are right now beginning the lengthy Special Exemption process while operating with their temporary CofO.

Check with an architect or call the city planning department at 791.5550 if you're thinking of changing the existing use in a building you'll be in. Or call us here at the Ward 6 office and we'll help you sort it out.

Two schools nearly missed the chance to open next month by not getting this process started early enough. Use us as a resource if you've got questions.



In the last couple of weeks over at The Loft, my bride and I have seen *Last Taxi to Darwin*, *Eat that Question* (Frank Zappa), and the *Music of Strangers: Yo Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble*.



As is often the case, they were great. Go to www.loftcimena.com and you can see all the fun stuff they've got going on.

Since they finished the recent remodel, they've now got three screens; seating 85, 98, and 500 in the large theater. That's where we rented space to show *Under the Gun* earlier this year, and also held the ArSoBo forum on international health care for the needy. Peg Johnson and her staff are open to such a wide variety of community events that it's no surprise that they've been consistently voted Best of Tucson by the Tucson Weekly readers.

They're located right across the street from the Ward 6 office – 3233 E. Speedway. They have a great staff and some wonderful movies. Check 'em out.

Broadway Widening and New Lighting



Note the glare and light spill that comes with using standard metal halide, mercury vapor, or halogen street lighting. One of the significant reasons we're now under contract to switch to LEDs is to reduce that glare. The astronomy industry is far too important to the community – to the region – to ignore the opportunity we had to move in this direction. And, LEDs will save us on our electric and maintenance bills.

Yesterday, our contractor Ameresco and its subs began the work of changing out street lights on both Grant and Broadway to LEDs. They're aware that both roads will be widened, and are removing and reusing fixtures with those plans in mind. If there are pole location changes, they'll be returned to TDOT for use in other locations. I know the Broadway work is still at the 30% design stage. The work on the LEDs will take that into account, and will not be a wasted effort. In fact, it's estimated that the new lighting will save us about \$2.6M over the next 10 years in maintenance, and about \$180K monthly in electric costs.

Watch for this work on both streets pretty much 24/7. They'll run two shifts, an 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and an 8:00 pm to 8:00 am.

Also with respect to the Broadway widening, I've shared that some of the demolition is now scheduled. One city-owned building located at 1409 E. Broadway has been identified as having some historic value. Last weekend, I asked staff to consider allowing access into the building so residents can remove some of the small fixtures that have historic context. We've done this in the past at other privately-owned structures, and the gesture was well received.

Due to the dangerous conditions that exist inside the structure, staff has recommended that we not allow people inside.

Here's one shot of the interior:



And this one from the exterior indicates there may be a mold issue that could put people at risk:

I am told though that as the Broadway project moves forward, each building targeted for demolition will be evaluated and when it's not unsafe, the offer to enter and poach some old stuff will be made.



Sincerely,

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

Events and Entertainment

Bike Boulevard Master Plan Open House

Thursday, August 4, 2016 | 4 – 6 pm

Ward 6 Office, 3202 E 1st St

The City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) recently completed a draft Bicycle Boulevard Master Plan. Bicycle boulevards are residential streets designed to prioritize bicycling and enhance conditions for walking. TDOT has identified a network of 193 miles of future bicycle boulevards along 64 corridors that improve connectivity to schools, parks, libraries, stores, and other key destinations. The public is invited to review and comment on the plan online at the following link or at the open house this Thursday.

www.tucsonaz.gov/projects/bicycle-boulevards

Primavera Works

Call (520) 883-9668; Visit www.primavera.org/hireworkers

Primavera Works is the best kind of day labor—workers who vitally need work get to earn money, and you get the workers you need, when and where you need them. Workers are available to perform a variety of landscaping and yard work, in addition to construction, receptionist, janitorial, housekeeping, and other tasks. Primavera Works also specializes in buffel grass removal and water harvesting. Call for estimates or to discuss your project.

Ongoing

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way | www.tucsonbotanical.org

Twilight Thursdays, every Thursday through the summer, 5 – 8 pm

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave |

www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org

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

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

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

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St | hotelcongress.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A living agricultural museum and ethnobotanical garden at the site of Tucson's Birthplace (the foot of "A-Mountain"). A non-profit educational organization demonstrating the region's rich agricultural history by growing the heritage crops that represent the more than 4000 years of cultivation in the Tucson Basin. Open Saturdays: April through November 8 am to 12 pm and December through March 10 am to 2 pm. For guided tours call 520-777-9270.

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