



## Ward 6 Staff



**Steve Kozachik**  
Council Member



**Ann Charles**



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**Donovan Durband**



**Teresa Smith**



**Christal Ferree**



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# Ward 6 Newsletter

AUGUST 12, 2010

## A Message From Steve

As you know, the Teamsters strike that caused a severe reduction in Sun Tran service has been settled. Unfortunately, tied into the labor issue was the larger issue of regional transportation and which public agency would be running the transit system. Full Sun Tran service resumed this past Monday, just three days after the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board voted to suspend negotiations with the City of Tucson on the transfer of Sun Tran to RTA.

The RTA and the City had been negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for several months. We had arrived at a juncture where each party had expressed its preferred terms for an agreement. During the last study session I offered a 4-part motion designed to advance the discussions to see if there is truly a desire to negotiate the final elements of disagreement or not. The motion included the following points:

The RTA MOU has a 5-year moratorium on raising low-income fares. In my opinion, that's not realistic.

**My counter:** Eliminate that moratorium. Regardless of who's running the system, fares will have to increase—low-income, full-fare, all of them, at some point in that time frame.

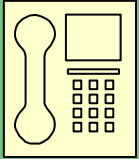
The RTA MOU has a provision that maintains the “one jurisdiction, one vote” governance structure that is now embodied in the RTA Board of Directors. We cannot change that structure, but Tucson deserves a larger voice in management decisions concerning Sun Tran than does Oro Valley or other jurisdictions that have comparatively small shares of the Sun Tran ridership and infrastructure.

**My counter:** Draw language into the MOU that puts more teeth into the Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation (CART) Committee, so that Tucson has at least that avenue for a larger voice.

The RTA MOU has a provision that transfers rolling stock and real property assets from the City to RTA.

**My counter:** Do that, but not until each respective asset has depreciated to zero book value. This protects the City’s bond rating, but still gets the assets to RTA over time.

The RTA MOU calls for the City to continue subsidizing the system at \$32 million per year, tied to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). RTA says its goal is to “reduce and eventually eliminate” the City subsidy.



### 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

#### Development Services

791-4505

#### Southwest Gas

889-1888

#### Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

#### West Nile Virus

#### Hotline

243-7999

#### Environment

#### Service

791-3171

#### Graffiti Removal

792-2489

## Continued: A Message From Steve

If it's tied to the GDP, it won't reduce. Also, the city attorney has issued to me a written legal opinion that states the City's obligation is "less than \$700,000."

**My counter:** Commit to the \$32 million subsidy, but with the caveat that when fares are raised, or grant money is secured by the RTA to help fund transit, that subsidy is reduced dollar for dollar. And, cap it at \$32 million.

On a separate track I have suggested that the RTA and City legal staff meet and seek a 3rd party legal opinion to break the deadlock that exists between the two jurisdictions related to the legal level of subsidy. The city attorney says our legal obligation is no more than \$700,000.

The RTA says that it is \$32 million. I have suggested arbitration, but that detail is up to them to sort out. The bottom line is that until we have closure on this \$31 million legal difference of opinion, we are negotiating taxpayer money without a clear understanding of the legal parameters that should be controlling the conversation.

In other items, we were given an update on the progress of the City establishing an economic development function in the city manager's office. The intent of my pushing hard for this is not to supplant the efforts of other agencies in the community who are marketing Tucson, but to provide a "go-to" entity within the City bureaucracy to whom those others can take prospects—or to whom prospects can go on their own—to learn what incentives the City may legitimately put into play to encourage relocation, retention and development of private sector opportunities. The City should not run those efforts, but must certainly be a player in the discussions when appropriate.

We also heard yet another update on the Garfield Traub hotel (Downtown Sheraton). We were presented with the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the combined hotel, TCC expansion and parking garage. The cost is north of \$225 million. Mr. Traub stated that without any opportunity to take advantage of the "upside" in the project, he saw no reason that his firm should participate in the risk. I asked if he'd be willing to retool the deal and accept all of the upside potential, along with the downside risk. He declined. If this is too risky for the private sector, I'm not convinced that the taxpayers should be belying up to that trough of debt. We'll see in the days ahead, though, when we are presented with the financial package.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays features “Celebrate Tucson!”

**Date:** Aug 14, 2010  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Fox Theatre 17 W. Congress Street

Come Downtown to Congress Street Saturday night for free live music, outdoor movies, street performers, arts and crafts vendors, new businesses, merchant specials, and more!

Celebrate Tucson! is a free concert at the historic Fox Theatre, featuring entertainment from local groups, Sticks & Fingers, Los Gallegos, and Mariachi Sonido de Mexico. Special guests include Olga Flores, Salvador Duran and the Gospel Music Workshop of America. Presented in conjunction with Tucson’s month-long Birthday celebration and Tucson Meet Yourself, Celebrate Tucson! includes a tribute to the late Cele Peterson. [www.2ndSaturdaysDowntown.com](http://www.2ndSaturdaysDowntown.com)



## THE PIMA COUNTY / TUCSON WOMEN’S COMMISSION

**Date:** September 9, 2010  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 240 North Court Avenue

Come and participate in 1 hour seminars that will keep you thinking all year. Refreshments will be served. For more information please visit [pimatucsonwomen.org](http://pimatucsonwomen.org)



## The Tucson Girls Chorus Open House

**Date:** August 14, 2010  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to Noon  
**Where:** 4020 E. River Road

Any girl from the second grade up to high school who has an interest in choral singing or just loves to sing is welcome to come! This is a great opportunity prior to auditions for parents and girls to experience the choir firsthand and discover if Tucson Girls Chorus might be of interest to them. The \$30 enrollment fee will be waived for those who attend the open house and sign up for auditions. For more information, please call 577-6064.

## Water Wanderings and More in the Middle East with Brad Lancaster

**Date:** August 26, 2010  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Technicians for Sustainability's Downtown Location 612 N. 7th Ave

Join us at for a captivating 1-hour talk, with Brad Lancaster, author of the award-winning Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond. Seating is limited so please RSVP to Aimee King at [aimee@tfssolar.com](mailto:aimee@tfssolar.com) by August 19, 2010. Visit the Technicians for Sustainability website to learn more: <http://tfssolar.com/events/>



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



## 235th Birthday Flag Ceremony

**Date:** Aug 20, 2010

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Location: Presidio San Agustin de Tucson Courtyard; SW Corner of Church Ave. and Washington St

The five flags that have flown over Tucson - American, Spanish, Mexican, Confederate, and the State of Arizona - will be presented in a ceremony to celebrate Tucson's 235th birthday. The Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe flags will also be presented, as will a replica of the 28-star American flag that was brought by the Mormon Battalion and flown over Tucson on December 16, 1846. For additional information visit <http://www.tucsonsbirthday.org>

Email us at: [ward6@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ward6@tucsonaz.gov)

## What's Going On In Ward 6

### Free Admission To City Pools on Friday, August 20, 2010

Visit [www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec/aquatics](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parksandrec/aquatics) for the participating locations or call 791-4245.

### Celebrate Tucson's Birthday at Reid Park Zoo

Friday, August 20 visit the Reid Park Zoo and watch animal demonstrations, giraffe feeding (\$2), and some birthday treats for the animals. Regular adult admission is \$7. Free for kids ages 0-14. 9am - 4pm

### Cinema La Placita Outdoor Film Series

Celebrate the Eleventh year of watching classic movies downtown at La Placita Village. 110 S. Church Ave. Every Thursday at 7:30pm. \$3 suggested donation. Visit [CinemaLaPlacita.com](http://CinemaLaPlacita.com) for movie schedule.

### Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Come watch the Tucson Toros play against the Tijuana Cimarrones August 19 - 21, 2010 7:00 PM at Hi Corbett Field 700 South Randolph Way. Visit [www.tucsonatoros.com](http://www.tucsonatoros.com) for more information.

## National Night Out



Many of the Neighborhood Associations in Ward 6 hosted a National Night Out event for their areas on Tuesday, August 3. *Garden District NA* was well attended and highlighted on Channel 13. They had great contributions from Royal Buick, both for food and service by their employees. They had face painting, jumping castles and fun activities for the kids and adults.

*Palo Verde NA* had a great turn out! They had free swim, food, raffle prizes for children and adults, desserts, games and music by Mustang Two, and all from the great donations of various sponsors. A special "**THANK YOU**" to District 5 Supervisor Richard Elias, and Special Staff Asst. Hope Cramer for the arranging of a Jumping Castle for this event.

*Miramonte NA* had a walk/bike through their neighborhood, ending up at the Whole Foods Market parking lot for refreshments. Whole Foods donated the refreshments for this event.

Thank you to all who participated, donated and attended these events! This is a great time to meet and speak with your neighbors and businesses throughout our communities, while enjoying a night out.



## Ward 6 City Council Closure Due to Furlough Day Friday, August 13, 2010

Ward 6 Council Office will be closed the first of nine unpaid furlough days prior to June 30, 2011. The next closure will be Friday, August 13, 2010. We will be closed for business on the following days:

- Friday, August 13, 2010
- Friday, September 3, 2010
- Monday, October 11, 2010
- Friday, November 26, 2010
- Friday, February 18, 2011
- Friday, March 18, 2011
- Friday, April 15, 2011
- Friday, May 27, 2011
- Friday, June 17, 2011

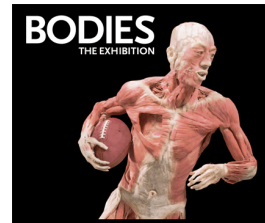


## *Bodies . . . . The Exhibition* extends its run in Downtown Tucson through September 12

If you haven't experienced Bodies yet, you have just a few more weeks to see this amazing and educational exhibit, in the heart of Downtown in the historic Rialto Building, 300 E. Congress. Adult tickets are discounted 20% during August 14 and September 11 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays events, from 6-9pm.

Bodies is open from 10:00 am to 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 am to 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

[www.BodiesTheExhibit.com/Tucson](http://www.BodiesTheExhibit.com/Tucson)



## Be A Good Neighbor

**As the University of Arizona begins the Fall Semester we remind all residents to  
Be A Good Neighbor**

- Maintain your property
- Get to know your neighbors
- Let your neighbors know when you are having a party
- Recycle right away
- Pull in your garbage/recycling barrels on non-service days

### **Students, Do you know the risks?**

**Red Tagged:** Your home may be tagged for 6 months by the police for excessive noise, underage drinking or illegal parking with fines up to \$1,500.

**Underage Drinking:** You can be fined, referred to a diversion program and/or ordered to perform community service. If you collect money for your party you can be charged with illegal sale of alcohol.

**Fake ID:** Driver's license seized, revoked or suspended.

**DUI:** Fines, mandatory jail and license suspension or revocation

