

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First September 12, 2016

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Concert Across America to End Gun Violence



Tucson is a city. So are Phoenix, Las Vegas, Portland – all cities. Each has a mayor and city council. You all live here. It’s home. Between the first of the year and August, there have been over 3,000 shootings in the City of Chicago. That’s an average of a dozen shootings per day. That’s in a city – like ours. Put that into perspective by imagining it happening here in Tucson. And

yet, it’s only a news story for us, so the effects are removed and lack the reality of 12 local shootings per day.

Allowing that to happen to how we think about gun violence is how it escalates, and it’s how Congress gets away with doing nothing in terms of strengthening our gun laws.

Please come on Sunday, September 25th as we join cities across the nation in the Concert Across America to End Gun Violence. The event will take place from 10:00 am until 9:00 pm over at the Monterey Court, 505 W Miracle Mile. Local bands will donate their time and talents to this event. Donation boxes will be there



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

in support of the Christina Taylor Green Park Beautification Project, the Gabe Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship, and the January 8th Permanent Memorial. What you support is totally up to you.



In 2007, Congress designated September 25th as a day of remembrance for murder victims. They've done nothing from a legislative standpoint to advance the cause. Your participation on the 25th will help to keep the message active – for our city, and for others across the country.

To see the lineups for the day at Monterey Court, go to www.concertacrossAmerica.org.



On Sunday, I was honored to make opening comments before the show Divided We Fall over at the Loft. The message is tied into the issue of gun violence, but more generally to how we treat the people around us. It was intentionally shown on the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

The show was a documentary that included testimonials from people who lived the aftermath of 9/11. It included the ugly side of humanity, but also showed our capacity to touch those around us in a positive and welcoming way. In this political season, that side of us needs to be highlighted.

The show was presented by the Culture of Peace Alliance and the Tucson Sikh Society. Other local nonprofits joined in bringing the film as well. Following the film, a panel of speakers shared their observations. The panel included Rana Singh Sodhi from Phoenix (the brother of a Sikh man who was murdered in the first hate crime post 9/11 – his brother was targeted for wearing a turban), Oshrat Barel (Director of the Weintraub Israel Center), Rabbi Sam Cohon (Senior Rabbi at Temple Emanu-El), Sheriff Chris Nanos, and Pastor Elwood McDowell (Trinity Missionary Baptist Church – Tucson). Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa was moderator. She's the President of the Culture of Peace Alliance.

We need more Concerts Across America, and more panel discussions to keep bringing back the message that “solving” issues with violence is simply wrong. Thanks to the groups represented at the Loft, and thanks to the gun safety groups who will bring us the concert on the 25th.

TPD Safe Place

And on a related note, it's to the great credit of Chief Magnus, and the hard work of Lieutenants Corey Doggett and John Strader that we're about to launch an new citywide

LGBTQ “Safe Place” initiative. The kick-off is a few weeks away, but businesses throughout the Downtown District of TPD are being invited to take part.

The basic idea is to provide areas of refuge for people from among the gay community who are being subjected to discriminatory and threatening acts. We’re a welcoming and inclusive city, and yet we still have the occasional incident where somebody is targeted. This program is intended to offer help until TPD can arrive on the scene.

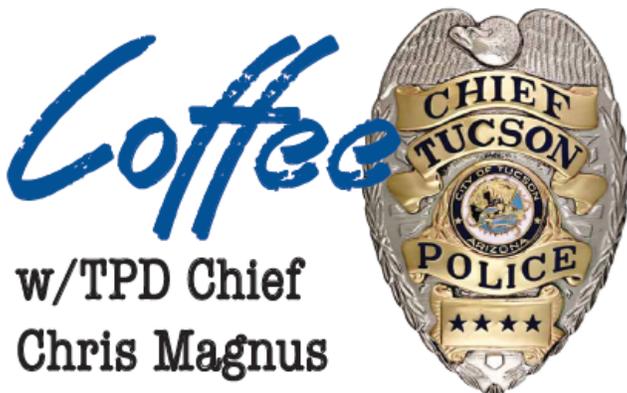
Businesses around downtown, 4th Avenue and Main Gate can sign up to be a Safe Place. Each such business will have signage prominently posted alerting victims that they’re invited in to seek refuge while police respond to the scene. Schools and nonprofits can also participate.

In addition to providing the safe space for people, another goal of the program is to encourage reporting of these sorts of bullying incidents. Knowing there’s a visible support network can only help. A part of that support is the creation of some liaison officers within TPD whose work will be to promote increased positive communication between law enforcement and the LGBTQ community.

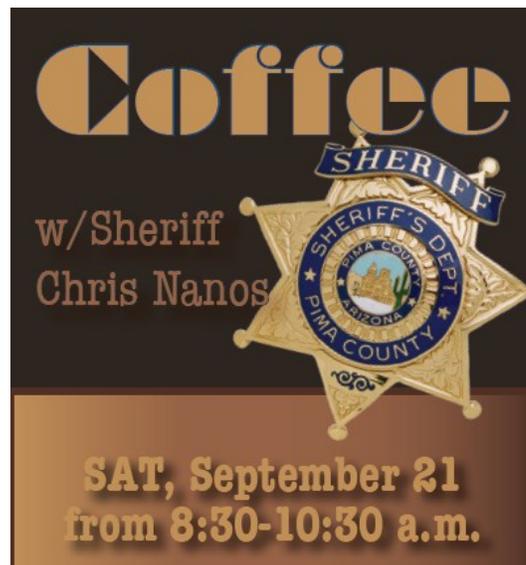
The program is pretty simple; post the signage, allow your place to be a place of refuge until police arrive, and call 911 when somebody makes the request. If you’d like to take part, please contact Lt. Doggett at corey.doggett@tucsonaz.gov.

Cops and Caffeine

If you’d like to meet our top cops in person, both Chief Magnus and Sheriff Nanos will be holding Coffee with the Chief/Sheriff events at Big Heart Coffee, 4802 E. 22nd. Here are the invites with the times for each:



FRI, SEP 16 from 8-10 a.m.



I began this with references to gun violence and how we don’t think of it in real terms when it’s not our own. These two guys represent law enforcement officers who are committed to public outreach. Sheriff Nanos at the Divided We Fall event, and our Chief with the Safe Space program are just two immediate examples. We’re fortunate to have them working for the region.



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/>

Spice/K2

Last week, we took a very important step in our local effort to control the sale and distribution of Spice. It was made even more important because what we adopted includes both public education and treatment for the victims of the drug. But enforcement is the main thrust of the ordinance we'll finally adopt when it comes back to us in about 45 days.

There are several directions the enforcement could take. In New York City, they've passed an ordinance that contains the ability to revoke a cigarette sales license. We require retailers who sell cigarettes to get a license for that use. If we find them selling the product illegally, say to minors, we can revoke the license. That's something we'll be at the very least considering – sell Spice that contains illegal substances and you can lose your city tobacco sales license. I've also tossed into the idea hopper the notion of simply making it illegal to sell smokeable incense. The little sticks people burn are fine. Leaf incense would be disallowed. And we could expand the list of illegal ingredients and just keep adding to that list as producers make changes. We're more nimble than the state or the feds, which is why this is absolutely a local issue. So all of those ideas are on the table for the enforcement piece.

I'll be reaching out to TPD and to TFD to help get the word out into the community even more than we have in the past couple of months. One of the challenges to that is the demographic of who's taking Spice, it is mid-20s to late 30s – not a group we'll be finding in high school classrooms as a captive audience. I'll be working with our public safety leadership to come up with strategies to continue publicizing the very harmful effects Spice and related products are having on people.

There are several accredited treatment agencies scattered around the community. One of the challenges they have though is that the chemicals the people are cutting into Spice may have very serious physical impacts, but they're not necessarily addictive in the physiological sense. As a result, there are behavioral treatments that can serve as good interventions but, as I've shared with the media when asked, we lose that battle if we're not also addressing homelessness, job skills, and the other needs the person brings in each case. It's tough. And our ordinance will not "solve" the problem.

As with gun violence, because we can't solve the whole problem doesn't mean we sit back and wait for somebody else to take it on. As I did during our study session, I reject the notion that this is solely a federal issue. It's ours, and I appreciate the work we'll be doing to take care of the community, the individuals who are taking the synthetics, and also relieve the pressure this is placing on our public safety workers.

Prior to the DEA bust that occurred a few weeks ago, TFD was rolling on an average of 75 Spice related calls per month. It's too early to tell if the bust made a permanent positive impact, but right now the data shows that the call levels are significantly down.

Public Safety Needs

I've written before about the needs we have in upgrading our public safety fleet. Last week, TFD issued its annual report. In it, TFD shared an update on the condition of its vehicles. It's one of the capital needs I referenced during last week's public hearing on

transit fares. Here's the data on the fire vehicles:

Pumper Fleet – 38 Vehicles

Current Avg. Age	11.8 years
Proj. Age at Retirement	17.5 years
Total Pumper Fleet Mil.	4,266,801
Average Unit Mileage	112,284
Units over 100K mi.	50%
Units over 150K mi.	13%

URGENT

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Medic Fleet – 30 Vehicles

Current Avg. Age	11 years
Proj. Age at Retirement	16.8 years
Total Medic Fleet Mil.	4,329,855
Average Unit Mil.	144,329
Units over 100K mi.	87%
Units over 150K mi.	37%

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Ladder Fleet – 12 Vehicles

Current Avg. Age	15.3 years
Proj. Age at Retirement	21.8 years
Total Ladder Fleet Mil.	1,068,211
Average Unit Mil.	89,018
Units over 100K mi.	25%
Units over 150K mi.	0

URGENT



We haven't funded the fire fleet replacement program since before the recession in 2008. You can see the impact that's having from the charts shown above. As I stated during the transit discussion, we are not going to be able to fund replacements through our operations budget. Add to that the urgent need to fix roads, fund the police and fire pensions, and take care of our parks system, and you can see how this is necessarily going to eventually come to a ballot question about how we fund these capital needs.

At the Blenman Elm neighborhood meeting last week I shared an analogy – we don't pay for major home needs such as roof replacements out of our disposable weekly income. Eventually, the conversation has to either get to debt funding or doing without. That's where we are at this point. More on this to come as we get more deeply into this fiscal year.

Transit Fares

Since I was first elected in 2009, I've supported reasonable bus fare increases as a way to help fund our budget deficits. All other departments have participated – so should transit. The last time we raised fares was in 2011.

As I said during the public hearing last week, as inputs change, so should we be willing to look at different outputs. We balanced our operational budget this year without using one-time fixes for the first time since I have been in office. It's the reason I voted in favor of our budget.

We still have budget challenges – largely capital needs, as described above – so it's no time to stop being vigilant about how we're spending or about how we think about funding sources. Our bus fares are 10th lowest out of 11 peer cities surveyed by staff, and we're the only one that has a low-income fare. We'll be keeping an economy fare regardless of what we do with increases.

Another reason we can't just ignore transit fare issues is our Bond rating. This year S&P upgraded our outlook (not our rating) but based it on this:

The city continues to reduce positions, cutting 314 positions from the general fund. In addition, management has consolidated and reorganized departments and increased fees and taxes, including zoo admissions, the bed tax surcharge, the public utility tax, and transit fares.

When we passed our FY '17 budget, fare increases were a part of it. We haven't yet followed through on what S&P expected.

Moody's Bond agency had this in their report from last summer:

Credit Challenges

- » *Growing pension costs*
- » *Relatively low reserve levels combined with a high exposure to economically-sensitive revenues*
- » *Substantial mass transit subsidies*

So we know the status quo isn't an option without a net negative impact on our financial position.

The position I took during the public hearing was that simply raising fares may also be counterproductive. Ridership is down by over 4 million boardings since last summer's strike. It's down about 1.5 million boardings on the streetcar. The system is still recovering from the work stoppage. Charging more for the same product makes no sense if increasing ridership is the goal.

During the budget talks last spring, I fought against raising zoo entry fees without showing that some added value was tied to the new rates. The history of entry fee increases validated the notion that just increasing costs drove away customers. When we added new

exhibits and then raised fees to help offset those costs, people saw the value added and continued supporting the zoo. I took that same position last week with respect to transit fares. If they're going to go up, we need to show some value-added component to the increases or ridership will simply drop. The question becomes, what does that added value look like?

One point people misunderstood during the public hearing is where the fare dollars go. They do not go into the pocket of our service provider, TransDev. Fare revenues go into our General Fund to help pay for all of the services we deliver throughout the city – Fire, roads, Police, parks – not extra cash for TransDev. Recognizing that, when we passed our budget we tied these four items to the transit piece:

- 1) Reduction in streetcar late night hours. Under pressure from the UA to reduce their own funding, we added those hours back in, so those savings are lost.
- 2) Changing our paper transfer policy – we accomplished that.
- 3) Changes to bus service – we've begun that, and it's where we hold the most promise of making meaningful value-added changes over time.
- 4) Increase fares – it's what this current conversation is about.

During my comments after the public hearing, I listed a few ways we could add value to the system so an increase in fares doesn't just run off our passengers. We've already begun making the system run more efficiently with some route changes. If people don't have to wait for extended amounts of time, they may be more inclined to ride the bus. As long as it's inconvenient, they won't. So that's one area. And as I mentioned on Wednesday night, when we make those changes (as we have with the Grant Road bus line) we need to very publicly let people know. We don't do a very good job of marketing the good things we do.

The Transit Task Force has for a long time spoken about discount pricing for storing cash value on SunGo cards. If I pay, say, \$50, maybe I get \$60 in rides. People would then have an incentive to load money onto their cards. Everyone wins. If we have built-in constraints on our cards now that make that difficult, then our provider needs to step up and find fixes so we can implement changes like that. The variety of products we offer is too limited.

Some people during the public hearing mentioned providing shade at bus shelters. That makes sense. Cleanliness at transit centers is also an area that we can up our game and not break the bank. Improve the quality of the product and fare increases are tied to a better system.

Others during the public hearing mentioned "congestion pricing" for those who choose to use personal vehicles. That's similar to what we're doing with our new smart parking meters. The charges go up during the high demand times of day. If fare increases were treated similarly, we'd be responding to demand and not just charging an across-the-board increase. Higher peak charges are used by utilities of all sorts. We should at least look into how that could work in our system.

As a way of funding the system upgrades we want to see, we could consider earmarking some percentage of the fare increases to help pay for the changes. Bus shelters aren't free. Neither is increasing custodial or security services. But we still have General Fund needs.

It's a balance we should be looking for.

We'll get a proposal back on 9/20. I suspect it'll be responsive to the input staff has heard.

Broadway

Also on the 20th, I've asked for a brief discussion on how we engage property owners in land use decisions before they finalize their thinking on whether to be bought out due to the road widening, or stay and be a part of the new roadway. With the vote to approve the 30% alignment, certain options are off the table. But it's my belief that we have not been as creative with property owners as we might be if the goal is truly to keep them in place.

I've invited a wider conversation if the M&C want to follow up on the motion that passed when we approved the 30% alignment. This picture is of where a bus pullout is proposed to be built. It's east of Country Club. It's also one of the more contentious ones for a few reasons. One is that it's going to cause the bus stop to end up just feet from the adjacent homeowners kitchen window. Another is the pullout is east of the purported end point of the project. But the Country Club / Broadway intersection is targeted to be widened – that will currently result in the pullout, along with eliminating a median cut even further east. Lots of issues with just this one bus pullout.



Another issue related to Broadway that needs to be clarified is how we're deciding on demolitions, and how we manage the property after the building has come down. We demolished 1409 E. Broadway a couple of weeks ago – it was in the newsletter. Days after the site was cleared, this is what it became:



To the credit of our abatement team, it was cleaned up the same day I reported it. But I'm told we're eyeballing four more properties for demolition in the short term. I'm also told we've hired G4S to be our rolling security along Broadway. That firm comes with its own set of issues, but it also comes with costs. The demolition of 1409 was justified based on the condition of the building. That's legit. These are images of one of the next buildings that's on the chopping block (15 N. Vine.)



Tough to argue that it's in a condition to be salvaged.

In addition, it has already been tagged. It's also hard to argue that we're getting our money's worth from G4S.

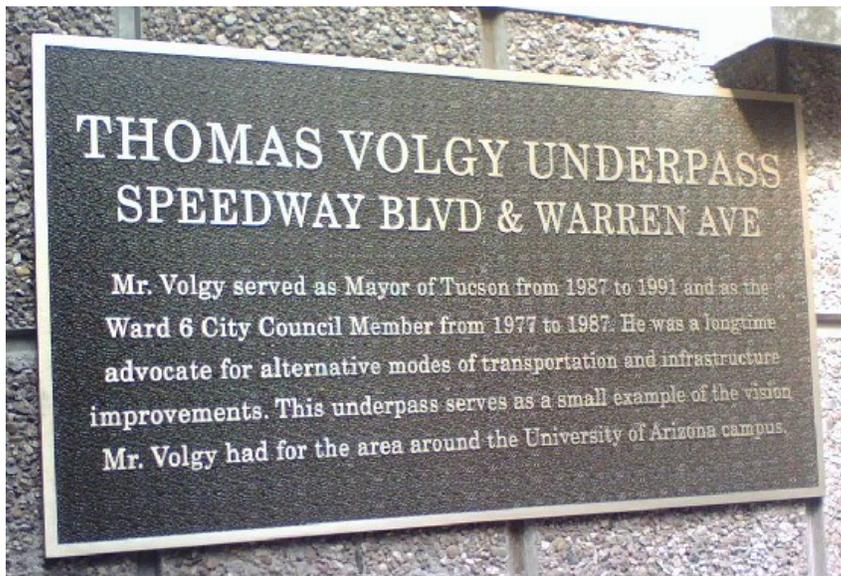
I've stated before that the city shouldn't be in the property management business. These examples of our having bought properties, let them disintegrate and then bull doze them simply to

create vacant lots that turn into other types of crime magnets makes the point. If they're coming down – as I suspect they will for public health and safety reasons – then we should be engaging the community to do something productive on the then vacant lots until the road construction forces an end to that. Ideas that have been floated include things such as community gardens or temporary nursery's to house the landscaping we're also going to be removing for the widening. I'd invite those conversations between staff and residents.

Some of these demo's are tied into the 30% vote. That vote began a 180 day time clock on demolitions for properties owned by the city and that are severed by the eventual construction. There are some east of the Campbell intersection that will soon fall into that category. We need a game plan for what happens in the aftermath of the demolitions or we'll just have a corridor of empty lots. We'll see how the discussion goes on the 20th.

It's undeniable at this point that we are not out aggressively marketing the vacant buildings we own and that are habitable. I know. For 3 months I've been trying to get the city to even talk to an architect I know who wants to move into one of the buildings. I've shared multiple emails, had 3 way phone conversations and shared the table of city owned properties with him and staff – and he can't get a call-back. So they fall into disrepair, and the argument becomes that they're beyond restoration. It's how we lose credibility.

Thomas Volgy Underpass



Last Saturday, we did the unveiling of the Volgy Underpass. It's located where Warren Street goes under Speedway to connect the UA main campus with the UA/Banner hospital complex. Tom served as mayor for one term and was on the council for 10 years. He still teaches political science at the UA, as he did while I was working on my Master's. He was my International Politics

prof back then.

This honor was a long time in coming. I'm grateful for the forward thinking Tom showed in making the University area more bike and pedestrian friendly. Because of his leadership, we're still designing that enhance the multi-modal concepts he championed into campus projects elements. Many thanks are due to Tom Volgy for having led in those discussions.

More Forward Thinking – World View

I guess this can fall under the “multi-modal” umbrella. World View last week completed a successful NASA flight in which they tested a miniature solar observatory during a five hour high altitude flight. It's the sort of commercial deal they've indicated is going to be a part of their operation out at the Sonoran Corridor location once the spaceport is up and open for business.



Southwest Research Institute is a large independent non-profit that works in the field of applied research. It was their observatory that World View took up into near space. They launched from Benson Muni and reached a peak altitude of over 103,000 feet. The science behind

the solar observatory isn't the point here – it's that World View is building commercial credibility as the space port is under construction. They've also got 2 NASA contracted launches that may be among the first to go up from their new home once it's open.

I'd also add that it was great to see all of the enthusiasm on the UA mall among students who showed up to watch OSIRIS-REx launch last week. I remember when the school shut down so all us kids could watch John Glenn circle the earth – and when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. It seems space travel got so routine that the awesome technology involved has been taken for granted among young people. Seeing them out on the mall was very cool, and hopefully presages a renewed interest in science and space exploration for non-military purposes.



Medical Aid in Dying

A different kind of science discussion is coming to Duval Auditorium on September 28th. I'm looking forward to introducing the event as I'm certain it's going to be a really interesting and engaging conversation.



This is a picture of Betsy Davis. You may have heard of her a few months ago when she hosted a celebration of her last weekend on earth. Betsy was suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease. It's incurable by our current scientific abilities, and it's irreversible. Betsy took advantage of California's Aid in Dying law and self-administered a lethal dose of meds that ended her life four hours after ingesting it. But ahead of that she spent some close and loving hours with friends who had come to take part in the party. Betsy's only rule was "no crying in front of me."

On the 28th, we'll have on the panel Betsy's sister, Kelly Davis. She'll speak to the end of Betsy's life, and the family's perspective on the new California law. Also on the panel will be doctors who work in hospice. They'll have their own unique perspectives on aid in dying legislation. The panel will be moderated by former Surgeon General Richard Carmona

Photo by Niels Alpert – AP

Doors will open at 5:30, and the discussion will start at 6:00 pm.

We'll have educational information at the entry on the night of the forum. Compassion and Choices will have a table, as will Casa de la Luz, Free Speech Arizona, and likely some others. This is an incredibly tough issue both for families, and also for the medical community. You'll hear all sides on the 28th. There will also be audience participation in the discussion. Please join us.

International Films in Tucson

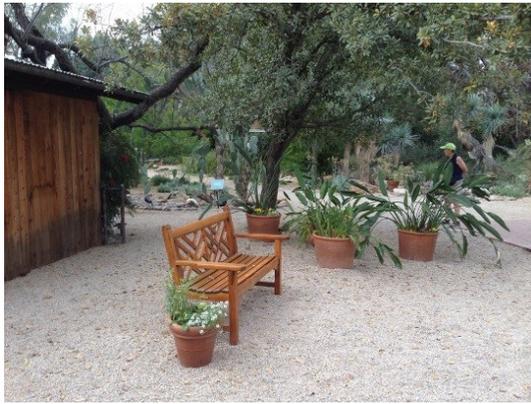
I'm in pretty regular touch with Shelli Hall and the Visit Tucson film team. They're out working to attract films of all sorts, despite our not having a state-level incentive to help. Right now they've got some international pieces in the works.

There are 2 music videos being filmed here. They're from France. The producer worked here back in April on the Tombstone Rashomon shoot out at Old Tucson. You can find photos of that in one of my April newsletters. Now he's back to do two back-to-back music videos.

We're also in competition for some Spanish language television. Executives and producers from FOX/FX Latin America have made two visits here – we made the cut to the short list and are competing with Phoenix to be their Arizona hub. It's a series so if they choose us and the series is successful, it could be the start of a long-term relationship.

We've also have some commercials filming in the area. Philosophy Skin Care is shooting this month out in Sabino Canyon and Tucson Mountain Park. Also, Iams Pet Food is filming a promo at a private animal rescue shelter down in Sonoita. As is true of all these opportunities, they mean bed nights in our hotels, as well as catering, transportation and all the other supplies they need to create sets and get what they need onto film. It's to Shelli's credit that we're in the game. It's to the discredit of our state legislature that we're not more

fully in the game.



During our last council meeting a speaker asked that we check into the facilities available at the **Botanical Gardens** for the hearing impaired. I gave Michelle Conklin a call – Executive Director of the Gardens - who was happy to properly brag on the upgrades they’ve made.

If you go to any of their presentations, the speaker will be wearing a backpack that amplifies the sound for people who have hearing aids. The system they installed is called a portable looping machine. They’ve been thanked by local non-profits who work with the hearing impaired for having taken that step.

The Gardens is a wonderful asset to the Garden District, located at 2150 N. Alvernon. Their hours vary for the Gardens and the Café. The Gardens are open M-F from 7:30 until 4:30, and on the weekends from 6:30 until 4:30. They stop taking admissions at 3:30 so people have enough time to gently wander through the place and get their money’s worth.

The café is open M-F from 7:30 until 2pm, and on weekends from 6:30 until 2pm. They stick around until 3pm everyday though for drinks and dessert.

Michelle and the gang offer an inviting and relaxing space right in the heart of midtown. It’s well worth the visit.



We met last week with the organizers for the upcoming **Old Glory Relay**. Also in attendance were representatives of 3 different law enforcement agencies and the UA. Everyone is on board to help make the event a great success.

This is the run across America that’ll take the U.S. flag from the west coast over to Florida. The Tucson leg will be on October 5th and 6th. On the 5th the flag will bed down on the UA mall. I’ve registered to run the final leg on the 5th from Himmel Park over to the mall. Jonathan is going to take the flag out from the mall on the morning of the 6th.

If you’d like to register to also take part, go to the relay website at www.oldgloryrelay.com. Click on “register,” and then on “individual.” Then select team Bold Eagle Tucson Area and it’ll prompt you through the rest of the process.

The relay is gathering funds to support veterans and their families. It’s arrival on the mall

will coincide with the on-going construction of the USS Arizona memorial that I've written about in the past.



There are multiple ways you can join in – even if that’s simply showing up on the mall and welcoming the flag at 5pm on the 5th, or sending it off at 6:25 on the morning of the 6th.

Sincerely,

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

Events and Entertainment

El Rio Theatre Project Presents: Romeo & Juliet

September 16-18, 22-25 & 29 and October 2, 2016 | 7 pm

Himmel Park Outdoor Amphitheatre, 1000 N Tucson Blvd

The El Rio Theatre Project presents its 10th annual Shakespeare in the Park, featuring William Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet." Bring a blanket, a picnic basket, and the whole family, and enjoy an evening of theatre in the park. For additional information call 791-4353 or visit the Facebook page: [Tucson's Shakespeare in the Park](#). Free, suggested \$5 donation.

Himmel Park Paver Opportunity

If you missed the first opportunity to purchase an engraved paver at the newly beautified entrance to the Himmel Park Library, now is your chance. Visit samhughes.org/himmel-park-beautification.php to download an application to purchase a paver for the Himmel Park Beautification Project. Installation will begin early in 2017, but a firm deadline to submit your application is December 31, 2016. You might consider such an engraving as a nice

holiday gift (and end-of-year tax deduction). In any event, you'd be leaving a trace of yourself or a loved one (of any species) right here in midtown Tucson. For more info, e-mail lguar@aol.com.

Tired of renting? Get free help buying a home

- **Info on down payment assistance up to \$20,000**
- **Mortgages 101**
- **Improving your credit score**

Tuesday, September 13, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
UA Student Union Grand Ballroom
1303 E. University Blvd., 3rd Level
(Close to 5 parking garages with visitor parking)

**Talk with lenders and housing professionals
and find a path to homeownership that works for you!**



Sponsors: University of Arizona, Tucson Mayor's Office, Ward 6 Council Office
Parking garage map: <https://parking.arizona.edu/pdf/maps/campus.pdf>
Contact: Ryan Anderson (520) 791-4201 or Ryan.Anderson@tucsonaz.gov