

## Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



# Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

January 02, 2013

## Firearm Buy-Back



The first order of business is to thank Safeway for stepping up and agreeing to partner in the buy-back program. They were joined by several local private sector businesses and private individuals in supporting this trial run at seeing how the community responds to an idea that has been successful in other jurisdictions.

The time/date/location of the buy-back is still being arranged. I'll send out a Media Release as soon as those details are set. In exchange for your voluntarily turning over a firearm to TPD, you'll be given a \$50 Safeway Gift Card. We have collected about \$7K in donations and will continue with the event until all of the Gift Cards have been given out. The fact that we're even able to conduct this event is a testament to you, the residents who have said to move ahead with this.

TPD will follow all legal protocols in how they handle the weapons once they're in their control. That will include running a check on the serial numbers to ensure they're not stolen, and/or were implicated in another crime. Those who have been vocal in opposition to this program have missed the point that the people who will take part in this aren't Jesse James or Al Capone. It is intended for, and has been used in other jurisdictions by people who simply are uncomfortable having a gun in their home – for varying reasons – and want TPD to properly dispose of them. That's it / no need for all the hype that has been offered up in the press.

This is not, nor is it intended to be a panacea for solving gun violence. As I've stated before, we have to talk about mental illness, pharmaceuticals, psychiatric evaluations, cultural influences – and guns. Lobbyists for that industry have successfully cut off that line of discussion and it's past time that we re-engage it.

## Injury Prevention Research

My point with respect to re-engaging the discussion is this. Over the past 20-odd years, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association (published online December 21, 2012) the number of Americans dying in motor vehicle crashes has decreased by over 30%. Deaths from fires have been reduced by just under 40%, and those from drowning by just over 50% during that time span. We didn't ban the automobile, cigarette lighters or swimming pools. What we did was spend money in injury prevention research in each of those areas.



### Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police  
Department

911 or 791-4444  
nonemergency

Mayor & Council  
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood  
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal  
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance  
791-3154

Planning and  
Development  
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas  
889-1888

Gas Emergency/  
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus  
Hotline

243-7999

Environment  
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal  
792-2489

AZ Game & Fish  
628-5376

## Continued: A Message From Steve

Might that happen if we spent time and money researching the multi-faceted issue of deaths from firearms? We can't know until Congress rescinds the moratorium on firearm injury prevention that it effectively imposed back in 1997.

A little history – back in 1996, pro-gun lobbyists tried to get sympathetic members of Congress to eliminate the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Although they weren't able to totally defund the Center, the House of Representatives reduced their budget by \$2.6M – that was exactly the amount the agency had spent on firearm injury research during the preceding fiscal year. When a joint conference committee restored the money, it was specifically earmarked for “traumatic brain injury” research. The clear affect was to reduce support for firearm injury research through the CDC. To ensure that message was clear, in the final appropriation, this language was added: “None of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used to advocate or promote gun control.”

Look it up. It's all a matter of record. And so is the fact that since Congress took that action, at least 427,000 people have died of gunshot wounds in the U.S., including more than 165,000 who were victims of homicide. During that same time period, about 4,600 Americans have lost their lives in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We've gotta have this conversation, and we've gotta stop being told that we're anti-2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment for simply having engaged it. If you want to participate financially in the gun buy-back, call the Ward office at 791.4601. I'll be picking up and paying for the Gift Cards at the end of this week.

As I noted – this is not the panacea, but it's a small step to allow those who have personal reasons for getting a gun out of their house an avenue to do that.

### ARS Issue

Some from the NRA have publicly stated that they'll sue the pants off of TPD and the City if a single gun is disposed of, and not put back onto the street. Here is the language they're relying on:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Section 12-945, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

12-945. Sale of property

A. If after sixty days notice has been given, the owner or person entitled to the property has not taken it away or answered the petition filed concerning the property, the court shall order the property sold. The property shall be sold in the manner provided by law for the sale of personal property under execution in a civil action. The proceeds shall be paid to the general fund of the jurisdiction from which the unclaimed property was received pursuant to section 12-941.

**B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, if the property is a firearm, the court**



### Important Phone Numbers

shall order the firearm to be sold to any business that is authorized to receive and dispose of the firearm under federal and state law and that shall sell the firearm to the public according to federal and state law, unless the firearm is otherwise prohibited from being sold under federal and state law. A law enforcement agency may trade a firearm that it has retained to a federal firearms licensed business for ammunition, weapons, equipment or other materials to be exclusively used for law enforcement purposes.

Because the clear intent of the language is to get firearms that were stolen, or otherwise lost back into circulation – after having given the owner a chance to reclaim them – and it has nothing at all to do with the voluntary surrender of a weapon, I'll simply say that the City Attorney is satisfied that what is being planned for the buy-back is fully compliant with the Statute. If the NRA chooses to head north to Phoenix and work on the legislature yet again, that's of course their right. Watch to see who supports their efforts in eliminating your right to turn in your private property to local law enforcement and get it out of circulation. It won't come as any surprise if that lobbying effort takes place. This is the same group who has advocated for legislation in this State that would allow people to:

- a. Carry loaded handguns in public (openly or concealed) without a permit or screening of any kind;
- b. Bring guns to work and keep them in their vehicles in company parking lots, and
- c. Enter establishments that serve alcohol with loaded firearms (permit holders only).

This is a very necessary and timely discussion.

#### Free Training Event

This past weekend, one of the representatives of Gun Owners of America tossed out the possibility of trainers putting on an event in which they offered free handgun training to people who wanted to take part. While the suggestion was possibly offered in counter-point to the buy-back, I don't see them as mutually exclusive; that is, if people who are certified trainers want to offer their services for free and show people how to safely own and handle firearms, and they do the teaching in a way that comports with the law (as we are doing with the buy-back) then I'm all in favor of that. Our goals are completely aligned. For those who own guns and want to be shown how to store them, and use them in a safe manner, great. For those who own them and don't want them around their homes, then the buy-back is an avenue for them to properly dispose of them.

This entire issue has generated far too much animosity when the truth of the matter is, as I've noted multiple times, the gun groups want people to own and use firearms in a safe manner. So do I. The buy-back should pose no threat to that mutual goal. Disposing of them, when that is the desire of the property owner is not the desecration of a religious icon.

#### Op/Ed to the Star

And here are 354 words the Mayor and I put together for the Star to consider running on their Editorial page. Not everybody gets the paper, so we want to make sure our feelings are shared as widely as we can make them:

*Since the recent shootings in Connecticut, cities across the Nation have resumed community conversations about the causes, and measures that may be taken to prevent these sorts of senseless acts in the future. Tucson is uniquely positioned to engage in such a conversation, especially during the month of January as we remember our own tragic incident.*

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)  
520-575-8633

Congressman  
Ron Barber (D)  
(8<sup>th</sup> District)  
520-881-3588

Congressman  
Raul Grijalva (D)  
(7<sup>th</sup> District)  
520-622-6788

Governor Janice  
Brewer (R)  
Governor of Arizona  
602-542-4331  
Toll free:  
1-800-253-0883

#### State Legislators

Toll Free  
Telephone:  
1-800-352-8404  
Internet:  
[www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)

Mayor Jonathan  
Rothschild  
791-4201

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

*There is no single cause or solution to these shootings. We must have open conversations about how we treat the mentally ill, the impact of pharmaceuticals on our youth, involuntary psychiatric evaluations and cultural issues such as the impact of violent video games. All of that must be open for conversation.*

*We must also have the honest resolve to address the part that firearms and oversized magazines play in these tragedies. We can do that in ways that do not minimize the importance of the 2nd Amendment. Certainly we can all agree that people who are either not trained in the safe use of firearms, or people who are not comfortable having them in their homes should be provided an avenue for turning them into the proper authorities and taking them out of circulation. That is exactly what Gun Buy-Back programs have achieved in other jurisdictions, and it is what is intended with the event being planned in the City of Tucson.*

*The intent of the Tucson Gun Buy-Back program is simple; make homes safer by allowing people to voluntarily turn over their unwanted weapons to the Police for proper disposal. Tucson Police will follow all protocols appropriate under State law. And in the process, residents will be given a means by which to make decisions related to gun ownership in their own homes. Just as gun ownership is a fundamental right under the 2nd Amendment, so is the right to refrain from ownership when that is an individual's choice.*

*We will certainly have opportunities to address all facets of this issue in the days ahead. We are joined by the Tucson Police Department in welcoming your voluntary participation in the Gun Buy-Back program if that is a decision you wish to make on behalf of your household.*

**Armor Piercing Ammunition**



While on a game safari in Kenya, among dozens of other species, we saw lots of water buffaloes:

We ‘shot’ the animals we saw with cameras. Come by the Ward office sometime and I’ll share my album with you. Unless you’re hunting for one of these creatures (and I find the idea to be dreadful) then there’s no legitimate reason for a person to own armor



piercing ammunition.

Just sayin’...as the conversation unfolds.

**Ward 6 Town Hall and Roast**



There’s very little doubt that the gun issue will be addressed on Monday night at The Loft. But people will also have the opportunity to write out questions for those of us on the dais to address. A few of the ground rules so you’ll know what to anticipate:

- a. We will not have an open mic in the audience. This is simply to prevent people from making speeches and taking up time we’ve set aside for the elected folks to respond to questions. We’ll take written questions, gather them in groups of similar topics and have Fitz ask general ques-



tions based on the themes that are reflected in the cards we receive.

- b. This is a privately owned business. In the normal course of their daily affairs, they do not allow firearms into the facility. We will continue to comply with that policy, honoring how Peg Johnson chooses to run her Cinema, and respecting the safety rights of all in attendance.
- c. There will be a bag check at the door. We do this at all of our athletic events as a way to aid in ensuring the safety of our patrons. It'll happen on Monday night, too.
- d. If you plan on video taping, you'll be asked to make sure you are not creating a sight line issue for others in attendance. Some of the Facebook banter has suggested that there may be several people taping. It's permitted, but blocking somebody else's view isn't.

Those are some pretty basic guidelines – if you find any of them objectionable, stay home and watch the event on Access Tucson when it's aired by Lisa Horner's group on Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 7pm starting Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> / Cox Channel 20/Comcast 74.

The Loft event is scheduled for Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – 9pm / 3233 E. Speedway / Loft Cinema. I'm interested in hearing which issues you are most concerned about, and in hearing how the other elected officials answer them. With emotions wound pretty tight these days, it'll be good to have this opportunity to engage in an open conversation about topics of interest to the community.

#### **Ivan – TPD K9 Officer**



A very special note of thanks to the residents who live around Purple Heart Park, and to Council Member Scott for fostering the effort to name the Dog Park out there after Ivan, the K9 TPD officer who was shot and killed in the line of duty a few weeks ago.

I know from my work in athletics and seeing the work of the handlers of our bomb dogs, they get very attached to their co-worker canines. This was a huge loss to the Department, and to all of those in the community who got to know Ivan over the course of his career.

The residents have gathered more than the number of signatures needed to name the park, and it'll soon come to M&C for us to act on. It's easy for me to forecast my vote on this one – thanks to Shirley for moving this along.

#### **Ten's Night Club**

I only mention this club by name because it has been the scene of two shootings since the onset of the Holiday season. In the past, the story has been other strip clubs or bars in town. Mixing alcohol and firearms is something that can ruin your day.

I raise this in the context of funding for public safety – it has to be a budget priority / increase staffing, and increase pay – but also to re-raise the issue I promoted several months ago; getting the State Liquor Board to hold their licensure hearings locally and not up in Phoenix. Since the Tens events, I've been contacted by numerous constituents asking what we can do. If you want to join me in re-engaging with the State about moving hearings down here, get in touch. The last time I raised this, some folks from out on the SW side of town were interested, but without greater, city-wide involvement, the idea will be a tough sell.

The Mayor and Council work directly with our constituents when evaluating the merits of approving liquor licenses. When the issue is a change of ownership, the considerations revolve around the personal history of the applicant. When the license is new to a location, we can look at things such as saturation, proximity to schools, and those sorts of local concerns. It is those that are far too often lost on the Liquor Board when they sit in judgment of our recommendation to deny, and they have not had the benefit of hearing from the people who will most directly be impacted by the new bar.

The last time I raised this with the State, their response was that they couldn't justify holding hearings in Tucson due to budgetary reasons. I think that's lame. Use local people here to hold the hearings – and I offered them the use of the Ward 6 office for free if they needed a room to conduct them in. The safety of the public should not be held subservient to the conveniences of the bureaucracy up in Phoenix.

This is simply yet another local control issue. The State has a financial stake in issuing liquor licenses – it's a revenue stream. They need to weigh that against the local concerns over where they're allowed. That requires that the Liquor Board hear from the residents directly involved, without them having to drive over 200 miles, take time off from work, hire child care and go sit around at the hearings all day waiting to have a chance to speak.

We have other bars, liquor stores and strip clubs who have been the scene of multiple incidents that are both of a criminal nature, and simply trashing neighborhoods. I've had representatives of the Liquor Control Board down here to read the riot act to owners. The law is so stringent that it is nearly impossible to yank a liquor license. This is another area the Legislature needs to address. How many bites at the apple does a business operator get before he hits the core of the issue; that is, failure to conduct his place of business in a safe and responsible manner?

Too many shootings in places at which alcohol is served. Liquor Board is too removed from the residents' concerns. Liquor Control Board is working with laws that are far too difficult to use to impose sanctions. TPD is doing the best they can with the resources they have to work with. It's all serious stuff, and is all fair game for discussion at the January 7<sup>th</sup> Town Hall.

### Tree Planting Event



Beginning January 14<sup>th</sup>, and lasting until February 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a tree planting opportunity sponsored by, and in support of Ben's Bells. Specifically, this is to help fund their 900 foot long mural that's going up in the Cushing Street Bridge.

All of the sponsors include:

In addition to the overall goal of planting 3,000 trees around the community, this will also be a Ward vs. Ward contest to see who can get the most trees planted during those 30 days.

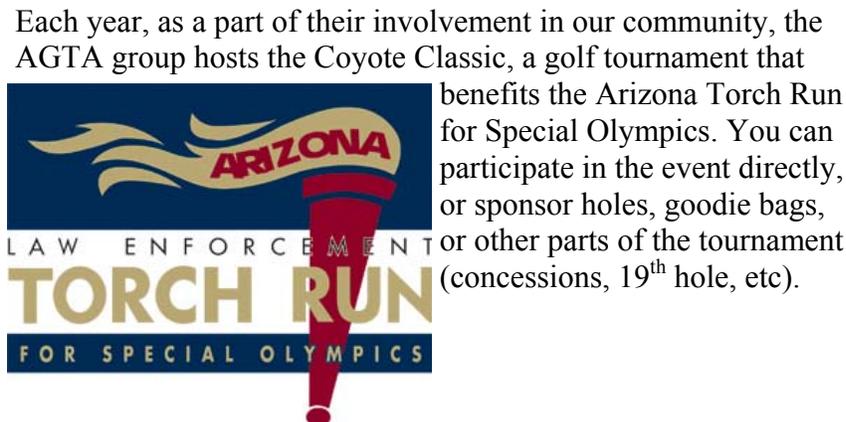
Trees can be “sponsored” for \$35 each, with \$8 of that going directly to the Ben’s Bells project. Once that is paid for, additional non-profits will be selected to benefit from the proceeds. You can sponsor a tree in memory of loved ones, to honor birthday’s, anniversary’s (we just had our 34<sup>th</sup> at Sparkroot - #7 on the menu is very good,) or whatever you choose to recognize.

The \$27 left after the money going to the Ben’s Bells mural will go to purchasing and planting the trees.

There will be prizes for the group/business that sponsors the most trees, and those will be given both by Ward, and city-wide. You may designate the location of the trees you’re sponsoring, but the areas need to be public spaces, and of course can’t be in rights-of-way or in areas where they’ll impact utilities (above or below ground). That is to say, some level of oversight will have to be a part of the selection of where these trees are planted to ensure the recipient is willing to maintain them properly.

Ward 6 neighborhood associations – Ward 6 businesses, give us a call @ 791.4601 and let’s begin planning on how we can partner in this contest over the next months.

#### American Gem Trade Association



Each year, as a part of their involvement in our community, the AGTA group hosts the Coyote Classic, a golf tournament that benefits the Arizona Torch Run for Special Olympics. You can participate in the event directly, or sponsor holes, goodie bags, or other parts of the tournament (concessions, 19<sup>th</sup> hole, etc).

If you want to register to play, call them at 800.972.1162, or email Mary Lou Keen @ [Marylou@agta.org](mailto:Marylou@agta.org).

You all know the value of Special Olympics and this is an easy way to support that cause. Tournament sponsorships are also still available for this year. The tournament will be held on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> out at the Omni Tucson National course. Mary Lou has all of the details and would be happy to hear from you.

#### Plan Tucson

An unfunded mandate that comes to us courtesy of the State Legislature is the requirement that we write a general planning document that is intended to provide a road map of where we’re headed as a community. You are invited to participate in the formation of this document, and can find it at [www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson).

The Draft is ready for review and comment. It covers a bit of our local history, and then goes on to touch on who we are, and where we’re headed with respect to areas such as our social and economic environment, the natural environment and the built environment.

Clearly the discussion of these broad areas overlap, and none can be taken out of the context of the whole that necessarily includes the others.

The document will be finalized in the early-to-mid part of the year and then presented to the voters in the November, 2013 election for approval. I encourage you to check out the web site, browse through the Draft and feel free to either send in your comments, or participate directly in the exchanges at the upcoming open houses. The schedule for those is:

- **Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 7:00 - 8:30 PM** TPD Westside Service Center, Meeting Room, 1310 W. Miracle Mile
- **Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:00 - 10:30 AM** TPD Hardesty Multi-Service Center, Meeting Room, 1100 S. Alvernon Way
- **Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00 - 8:30 PM** Ward 2 Council Office - Conference Room, 7575 E. Speedway Blvd.

### **Chasing Ice**

And as a final add before Bonnie edits our 'entertainment section,' *Chasing Ice* is excellent, both from the standpoint of the cinematography, and the message. It's at The Loft for a short while longer.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6  
[ward6@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ward6@tucsonaz.gov)

### **Draft Plan Tucson Open Houses**

The City of Tucson Housing and Community Department will be hosting five public open houses to review the draft Plan Tucson document. Come to any of these open houses to learn more about the plan and share your thoughts.

Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 7:00-8:30pm. Tucson Police Westside Service Center. 1310 W. Miracle Mile, Meeting Room.

Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:00-10:30am. Tucson Police Hardesty Multi-Service Center. 1100 S. Alvernon Way, Meeting Room.

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00-8:30pm. Ward 2 Council Office. 7575 E. Speedway Blvd, Conference Room.

Visit [www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson) for more information and comment cards.

### **BEYOND – Commemorate, Celebrate, Commit, January 5, 2013**

On January 5, get out of your house and join friends and neighbors in a community-wide outdoor festival. Start your New Year's Resolutions with a fun filled day of fitness. Choose from organized runs, horseback rides, hikes, and much more. The BEYOND Main Event is "Together We *MOVE!*" at Armory Park, 12:00 to 4:00pm. For more information, visit

[www.beyond-tucson.org](http://www.beyond-tucson.org)

## Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

**Rialto Theatre**, 318 E. Congress St.

Saturday, January 5, 8:00pm. “K-Bass and Farafina Musiki” all ages.

[www.RialtoTheatre.com](http://www.RialtoTheatre.com)

**Temple of Music and Art**, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Arizona Theatre Company presents “Freud’s Last Session” by Mark St. Germain

Saturday, January 19 – February 9, 2013.

[www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org)

**Tucson Convention Center** <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

**TCC Exhibit Halls**

Friday, January 4 & Sunday, January 6. “AZ State Home Show”

**Arena**

December 7 & December 8, 7:30pm. “AZ Wildcat Hockey vs. Williston State”

**Ongoing . . . .**

**Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, October 6 and ending January 20:

“Barbara Rogers: The Imperative of Beauty, A Fifty-Year Retrospective”

[www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org)

**Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)**, 265 S. Church Ave.

Current exhibition: **The AIR Show & Vinjon Global Corp: Quietly Taking Over the World**

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

[www.Moca-Tucson.org](http://www.Moca-Tucson.org)

**Children's Museum Tucson**, 200 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

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

[www.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://www.childrensmuseumtucson.org)

**The Drawing Studio**, 33 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens February 2 and runs February 24

“The Way of the Brush – Brush Spirit: Yoshi Nakano”

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

**Jewish History Museum**, 564 S. Stone Ave.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 and Friday, Noon to 3:00pm

Special hours for school and group tours, for more information call 670-9073

[www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

**Meet Me at Maynards**

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.  
[www.MeetMeatMaynards.com](http://www.MeetMeatMaynards.com)

**Tucson Farmers' Market at Maynards**

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

**Santa Cruz Farmers' Market** Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

**For other events in the Downtown/4<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:**

[www.MainGateSquare.com](http://www.MainGateSquare.com)

[www.FourthAvenue.org](http://www.FourthAvenue.org)

[www.DowntownTucson.org](http://www.DowntownTucson.org)

**Other Community Events**

**Loft Cinema** [www.loftcinema.com/](http://www.loftcinema.com/)

**Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)**

The Arizona State Museum is debuting a sample of 500 pieces from the world's largest collection of Southwest American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit

[www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu) for more information.

**UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing**

“100 Years of Arizona's Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

**Flandrau Science Center**

Join the Flandrau Planetarium on the University of Arizona Campus for their weekly Planetarium and Laser Show. Call (520) 621-4516 or visit [www.flandrau.org/](http://www.flandrau.org/) for events and information.