

## Ward 6 Staff



**Steve Kozachik**  
Council Member



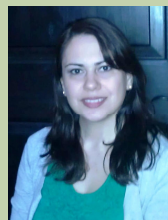
**Ann Charles**



**Teresa Smith**



**Bonnie Medler**



**Diana Amado**



# Ward 6 – Newsletter

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

## A Message from Steve

### Economic Development

So much of what is covered in these newsletters is tied to our ability to attract appropriate development that the topic needs to be the lead item, at least to plant the seed for underlying the rest of what you'll read. Rio Nuevo keeps sending out plaintive little Releases that seem to be grasping for relevancy; it's ok. I just continue to invite them to join us in what we're already doing in terms of the private sector incentives, help us put the brakes on the legislature in terms of circumscribing our ability to do that, and let's get about the business of pulling in the same direction. I'm still of the mind that it'd be a worthwhile addition to our relationship if our groups could meet in open session and solve issues, not toss blame behind closed doors. I'm cheering for the mediation from the sidelines. The best result would be for us to walk out of the room and agree to simply continue on the path the City Council has already begun.

### F35

The Department of Defense is in the process of deciding on whether and/or where to deploy the next generation of fighter aircraft, now in design development to replace and supplement existing F16's and to complement the F22. The aircraft is dubbed the F35.

Some of the capabilities being associated with the F35 are the ability to avoid detection by radar, very high tech components for use in combat situations, its range and supersonic speeds. Some of the concerns raised are huge costs, significantly behind schedule in design, and the fact that they're much louder than the aircraft they'd be replacing.

Prior to making basing decisions, the DOD is required to go through an Environmental Impact assessment. They have completed a draft of that and by clicking on this link, you can bring up all of the information on which they're requesting public comment.

<http://www.f-35atrainingeis.com/EisDocument.html>

The public is being given 45 days in which to comment on the EIS. There will be Public Hearings held February 21-23 at the TIA Air Guard Station in order for the Air Force to hear your concerns and comments on the Draft EIS. You can also send your comments to:



### 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

David Martin, Air Force Contractor, and Kim Fornof  
HQ AETC/A7CPP

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They must be postmarked by March 14th.

This is an issue that has passionate supporters and passionate opposition. What I'm going to do is offer some of the information I've found in the Draft EIS, as a prompt for you to do more research into it on your own.

The Draft contains a table that includes 40 issues that were raised at scoping meetings they held late last year in the four possible deployment sites (pages 10 and 11 of the Draft). Those sites are Boise, Luke (Phx.), Holloman AFB (New Mexico) and Tucson International Airport. What I did was to go through the Draft and identify issues that were common areas of concern to each proposed site and locate in each site analysis a table that seemed to address those concerns. As you will see, those issues really boiled down to two: noise, other impacts on the community, and jobs. Those factors also form the divide between the groups who support and oppose the deployment to TIA.

The questions that were found to be uniform across the site scoping meetings are: Is local airspace appropriate for F35 training? Explain the noise model validity and results. What noise mitigations would be implemented? How would damage claims for noise impacts be handled? How many jobs would be brought to the communities? And what would the noise effects on schools or children be?

The tables I chose to reflect some response to those concerns are: Population and Acreage, Populations of Concern, and Construction jobs. The tables provide data and do not address the questions about how claims for impacts would be handled, or what mitigations are planned. They answer the raw questions; who is impacted, what subgroups of the community does that represent, and what does it mean in terms of jobs.

Any of you could have selected other criteria and/or tables. The areas I chose were those mentioned at each proposed site location, so they reflect an across the board area of interest from constituents in each city being considered for basing. All I'm offering is a small sample of what you'll find during your own study. The comparisons I'm giving are for the deployment of 72 aircraft.

Population and Acreage Affected (off from the installation or airport) (> 65 db)

- Boise - Population Affected, 10,119 Acreage Affected, 6,958
- Holloman - Population, 44 Acreage, 9,438
- Luke - Population, 9, Acreage, 3,294
- TIA - Population, 8,534, Acreage, 2,938

Populations of Concern (i.e. impact on minorities, low income, schools and child care



### Important Phone Numbers

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)  
520-575-8633

Congresswoman  
Gabrielle Giffords  
(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)

centers)

#### Boise:

Percent minority in affected area - 16.5%  
Low income - 14.5%  
Schools - 2  
Child care centers - 13

#### Holloman:

Percent minority - 39.5%  
Low income - 11.6%  
Schools - 2  
Child care centers - 2

#### Luke:

Percent minority - 38.4%  
Low income - 12.1%  
Schools - 1  
Child care centers - 1

#### TIA:

Percent minority - 88.2%  
Low income - 33.5%  
Schools - 2  
Child care centers - 1

#### Construction Jobs

- Boise - 2,635
- Holloman - 2,351
- Luke - 2,290
- TIA - 2,089

I could give you 85 pages of information and data, but that's what the Draft EIS does, and I've given you the link to that, and more. I gave you what I felt reflects the common areas of concern among the sites, and the issues on which I receive regular input from constituents. The DOD will look at all of the data, receive and consider your comments and make decisions based on all of that.

From the data in the tables I've shown it looks as though TIA should be the least likely of the four to be considered. But that's one man's observation. Take advantage of this time to do some homework and voice your opinion to the DOD.

#### **Imagine Greater Tucson Survey**

Since 2010, Imagine Greater Tucson has been working to generate a vision of what matters to the community in terms of shared regional values. The non-profit has been gathering data with which they intend to present a comprehensive picture of directions the greater community wants to move, in order to preserve and enhance who we are and what we stand for.

What kind of growth do we want?

IGT is now in the home stretch of putting those data together into a final form. In order to achieve that, a survey has been developed (in English and in Spanish) that will point to that

answer. They're hoping to get over 10,000 respondents. You can click on this link to see their site, and to access the survey. The deadline for submitting your opinions is February 29<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.imaginegreatertucson.org/survey>

As is true with the F35 comment solicitation, taking part in the IGT survey is an opportunity for you to participate in the direction our community is going to grow.

### **Façade Program**

One final item that could involve you expressing yourself.

The Downtown Tucson Partnership (DTP) is currently engaged in another application process for the distribution of financial assistance to Downtown businesses, the purpose of which is to improve the appearance of storefronts and streetscapes in the downtown core.

The DTP Façade program was wildly successful last year, and now with the anticipated arrival of the streetcar, the chance to upgrade the "look" of your business holds an even greater incentive. This is a job creating, economic development catalyst, specifically focused on downtown.

There will be a selection process in which up to four businesses may receive up to \$105K to restore facades of commercial buildings that were constructed before 1960, that are either listed on, or are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and that are located downtown.

You may apply up through March 5th at 1pm. Following that closing date, a selection committee will choose the top four projects and will announce those on March 12th. That will begin the final design phase. Final design plans will be presented to the DTP by April 23rd, and the winners will be announced on April 30th.

To find out the specifics, go to the DTP website:

<http://www.downtowntucson.org/invest/investmentsbusiness-resources/facade-grant-program/>

### **Homeless Prevention Rapid re-housing Project**

In August of 2009, the City and County received a total of nearly \$3.5M in ARRA funds that were intended to help keep people in their homes or get them re-housed if they had lost their homes. Albert Elias directs the City Department of Housing and Community Development. He manages the funds' distribution under the watchful eye of HUD. Albert and his people do a great job stewarding the money.

Since the inception of the project, over 1,200 people have received various forms of assistance (utility bills and deposits, moving expenses, motel vouchers, and more). The project has nearly used up all of the available funding - the target date for that is this summer.

Click on this link and read Albert's own summary of the project's successes.

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/2-1-12hprp.pdf>

He and his staff deserve a lot of credit for the way they touch lives in our community.

### **Graffiti**

Speaking of the community, reminder - On Saturday, February 4th from 1:30 until 3:30, we will host a graffiti discussion at the Ward 6 office. I hope to be joined by TPD, the Downtown Tucson Partnership and several neighborhood representatives. This is a huge

issue in our City and we have got to gather together and form an effective means by which to tackle the problem.

When it's on a canvass, it's art. When it's on private property, it's vandalism.

### State Legislature

In the January 19th newsletter, I reported on SB1065 - the bill that allows you to let your dog run freely if you have public liability insurance. The bill that makes it ok for your dog to bite somebody as long as you can pay their medical bills. That bill is now in committee and seems to be moving through the process. You're free to send comments to the legislature by going on line.

Here are a few bills that I haven't yet brought to your attention.

SB1064 is called the "Local Liberty Charter Bill." If the Baja Arizona movement reflected a Democratic move to distance itself from the Republican State legislature, this bill appears to be a Republican driven effort to establish little unregulated enclaves throughout the State. It's 18 pages of this sort of stuff:

A. THE LEGISLATURE FINDS THAT THE TAXING, SPENDING, REGULATORY, EMINENT DOMAIN AND PLANNING AND ZONING AUTHORITY GRANTED TO MUNICIPALITIES MAY ENCOURAGE THE EXERCISE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL POWER THAT IS THREATENING TO GENUINE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, FRUSTRATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INIMICAL TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MAY BE OVERLY CENTRALIZED, BUREAUCRATIC, INTRUSIVE AND POLITICIZED. THE LEGISLATURE INTENDS TO GRANT MUNICIPALITIES THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO ADOPT THE "MODEL LOCAL LIBERTY CHARTER" CONSISTING OF SUBSTANTIAL AND LASTING LIMITATIONS ON THEIR TAXING, SPENDING, REGULATORY, EMINENT DOMAIN AND PLANNING AND ZONING AUTHORITIES THAT COLLECTIVELY ARE INTENDED TO MAXIMIZE INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND MUNICIPAL FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

The bill allows for even unincorporated areas to adopt a series of policies that place significant limits on the public sector's role in each of the areas listed in the above cited language. It's such a curiously opaque set of rules that the implications are hard to imagine. What comes to mind is unregulated growth and constricting a governing body's ability to raise funds sufficient to provide core services for constituents.

I'm all for fiscal and regulatory responsibility. But take a read through this and try to envision how a jurisdiction under these rules would even function effectively.

SB 1306 is written by people who are opposed to our proposed Alarm Fee.

I am opposed to our proposed Alarm Fee, as the ordinance is presently drafted.

And yet, force feeding legislation on local decision making is something I'll fight on the basis of principle, even if the corollary local ordinance isn't one I can support. Home rule rules.



This bill limits the ability of a City to impose “additional licensing” obligations on Licensed Electrical Contractors. This is so tightly worded, they even set aside one specific trade to be targeted. That’s the trade involved with installing Home Alarm Systems. It’s no coincidence that Tucson is considering implementing an ordinance that would charge an annual fee to people who purchase those systems. More aim being taken at Tucson.

I’m not sure they’ve written the language of this bill in a way that really achieves their goal; i.e. stop Tucson from adopting an Alarm Fee. The bill outlaws the “additional license” ability of a jurisdiction. But our proposed “fee” isn’t an additional license, so as they have done with other hastily drafted bills, they may have missed the mark. That’s fine with me, but my point in sharing about this bill is that it yet again reflects how our ability to conduct local governance affairs is scrutinized by the Legislature and bills are drafted with the specific intent of meddling in our stuff.

It’s early in the session, and some of the legislators who are supporters of this bill may be moving into other political arenas (i.e. running for Congress), so the bill’s support may be eroding. But the fact of pre-emptive legislation again rears its head.

#### **Sentencing reform - Gowan Committee Bills**

Representative David Gowan is the Chair of the MAPS Committee (Military Affairs and Public Safety). As committee chair, he has the power to decide whether or not a bill will be heard in his committee.

Regardless of which committee it is, if a chairman does not calendar a bill (schedule it for debate), it will die in committee and never even be heard. In the case of frivolous bills, that may be a good thing (and I concede that what constitutes “frivolous” is subjective). I don’t like the concept of giving a committee chair the right to silence discussion and debate, but I also see the purpose when you have a governing body that proposes over 1,000 bills per session.

We have a significant budgetary, and some would argue ethical issue, surrounding how we imprison and detain people. I highlighted two bills on this topic in last week’s newsletter. This time, the following four bills touch on the topic of sentencing reform:

#### [HB2521](#)

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=hb2521&Session\\_Id=107](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=hb2521&Session_Id=107) relates to earned release credits. The Director of the Department of Corrections may grant early release on the basis of one day early release for every seven days served. His ability to grant that early release is capped at no earlier than an inmate having served 85% of his sentence. This bill would change that ratio of 1:7 to 1:3. It would not apply to prisoners convicted of serious violent crimes.

For every day a prisoner spends out on community supervision, it costs the taxpayers \$4.62 less than keeping that person behind bars. A conversation about the bill strikes me as being worth having.

#### [HB2522](#)

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=hb2522&Session\\_Id=107](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=hb2522&Session_Id=107) relates to prescriptive sentencing. One of the policies that cause our high incarceration rate is mandatory sentencing. The purpose of this bill is to leave the mandatory sentences for

“aggravated” categories of crimes, and to allow more discretion for less severe crimes. It does not stop judges from applying the maximum penalties, but allows a safety valve in some cases. Again, it may be worth talking about in committee.

#### [HB2523](#)

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=hb2523&Session\\_Id=107](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=hb2523&Session_Id=107)

Currently there is a \$25 background check required for visitors to inmates in the Arizona Department of Corrections. This bill would eliminate that. I’m not sure I agree with this one, but in fairness, give it an open debate and see what emerges.

Finally, [HB2531](#)

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=2531&Session\\_Id=107](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=2531&Session_Id=107)

allows the director of the Department of Corrections to parole inmates whose physical disabilities have incapacitated them. If a person has physical conditions the implications of which are to render the person no longer a threat to the safety of the public, it might not make a whole lot of sense to eliminate the option for the DOC to give such prisoners an early release.

Representative Gowan is a fiscal conservative. Given that orientation, an email to him suggesting that his committee at least consider these sentencing reform bills on the basis of addressing our physically and fiscally stressed Corrections system might yield a positive result. His email address is [dgowan@azleg.gov](mailto:dgowan@azleg.gov)

And finally, SB1474 is the “let’s drive our top notch professors and hundreds of millions of dollars in research money out of the State” bill that’s being pushed this term. It is adamantly opposed by law enforcement, but what would they know about public safety.

The sponsors view it differently. Here’s the new language:

**G. THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OR HIS**

**25 DESIGNEE OR THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY**

**26 COLLEGE SHALL NOT ADOPT OR ENFORCE ANY POLICY OR RULE THAT RESTRICTS OR**

**27 PROHIBITS THE CARRYING OR TRANSPORTING OF A CONCEALED WEAPON BY A PERSON WHO**

**28 POSSESSES A VALID PERMIT ISSUED OR RECOGNIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-3112 AND**

**29 WHO IS OTHERWISE LAWFULLY PRESENT ON THE GROUNDS OF THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY,**

**30 COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

I’ll throw my support in with the people who enforce the law for a living, and with those who stand in front of packed rooms full of students every day.

#### **Road Maintenance Funds**

In an earlier newsletter I made a commitment to make road repair a significant push during the upcoming budget talks. Since that time, I have looked into some other, and possibly more lucrative ways to get our streets fixed. I’ve written a joint-op-ed with Supervisor Bronson on the topic of refunding to all jurisdictions the HURF money the State has been sweeping. That effort will continue.

But the budget and HURF will not be sufficient to get us the funding we need to get our

arms around this problem. I am looking into the possibility that one big factor that may be siphoning road maintenance funds away is the underfunding of both Pima County's 1997 transportation bond program and the 2006 RTA program. Suppose a 1997 bond program or 2006 RTA program provides \$10M for a project that will actually cost \$12M to build. The jurisdiction then faces the dilemma, "Should we say 'no' to the \$10M, because we can't afford the additional \$2M required to build the project, or should we shift \$2M from a prime substantial source of funding we have, the HURF funding allocated to road maintenance, to avoid losing the project altogether?" If we have defaulted to funding the projects, at the expense of fixing our existing roads, then I believe it's incumbent on the people managing your money (City, County, RTA) to raise the question as to your current priorities. Those can change over time as conditions also change.

I have requested data on how much money has been shifted from HURF funding for road maintenance to Capital Improvement Program (CIP) construction projects, to cover the "cost overruns" or "underfunding" of the 1997 bond and 2006 RTA programs. The RTA will say that they have to comply with their commitment to the voters' approved package. But the fact that they say that by simply beginning a project constitutes compliance is an admission that they don't have the resources to fully comply; i.e. finish the projects with present funding. The County conceded long ago that the 1997 bond program, which promised full completion of all construction by 2010, will have several projects that are not even programmed to be completed until "beyond 2023."

I believe we are in a desperate situation as far as our road conditions are concerned. It is undeniable that deferring maintenance on our roads will result in significantly greater expenses to the taxpayer when we finally get to fixing them some time in the future. By building RTA and Bond proposed roads, we are not saving you money. If anything, if there is a deferral of funds that would otherwise go to road repair, it will result in dramatically greater costs later on. Road maintenance absolutely cannot be deferred while we build new "capacity" through the RTA or the Bond program without causing a disaster.

So, my request for the data is in, and if it in fact validates that we are shifting dollars into RTA and Bond projects at the expense of deferring road maintenance, I believe it will be a worthwhile community discussion to confirm whether you all believe that's a wise course of action. And if the data show there have been funds shifted to keep projects going, at the very least that information can be used to express to the legislature the importance of fully funding our HURF. I'll share the data with you when I get it. I'll concede that at this point, it's a fishing expedition, but we can't leave any possible source of funding off the table, and we have to kick every rock to see if sources can be uncovered.

### **Economic Development II**

Back to this theme / it's the most important item we have to address.

Of course the right way to grow the region is by growing the economy. Expanding the number of taxpayers, and/or increasing the median income by attracting new, clean and high paying employers will get us out of this regional fiscal funk on a structurally sound basis. Debt isn't the answer.

To that end, I give high marks to County Administrator Huckelberry for issuing a comprehensive economic development package. It discusses relationships with The University of Arizona, Pima Community College, the Tucson International Airport Authority, and the



importance of providing workforce training and education, infrastructure development, easing back on regulations, fees and offering tax incentives to attract appropriate development. (By the way, mentioned several times throughout the report is an important link between economic development and having an efficient transportation network - roads you can drive on.) You can see the full document by going to [www.pima.gov](http://www.pima.gov) and clicking on the "Economic Development" link that you'll see on the home page. It's about 90 pages long. What I've done is to pull out 39 specific bullet point recommendations from the report - here they are:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/2-1-12precommendations.pdf>

The City Council has asked staff for specific economic incentives that we can issue as a level playing field tool kit to prospective investors. The County now has such a package in print (specifically #'s 18-24 in the 'recommendations' link above - Page 29 of the report).

I know I've been asking for a path forward in the incentive area for well over a year. So have other council members. I thought it was a pretty clearly defined path we have been asking to have laid out. And yet, the back and forth and time, twists and turns this discussion has taken make this picture



more emblematic of how I feel the answers to the clear question have come back to us:

The County has a list of proposed incentives. We asked for one. Much of that is simply a copy/paste of available statutory incentives. We will lose potential investors if we don't get our act together. The State legislature will force feed changes if we don't get our act together. The City Manager is hiring an economic development point person - he should have the incentives package in Council's hands before that person is hired.

Two final comments on the County Administrator's report. One excellent example

contained in the report of how collaboration between public and private industry can result in economic benefits is the UA Science and Technology Park. While just over ¼ of the available acreage of the Park has been developed, the result has been the attraction of 43 companies who employ over 7,000 workers. As far back as 2008 an economic analysis of the development showed that the Park had a total impact on the County of over \$3B, generating nearly \$78M in tax revenues. That is the result of good planning and cooperative resource management.

But the report also contains two comments, embedded within the 90 pages that reflect significant policy assumptions being used to justify some of the bond money you will be asked to fund. One of those (P.12, section e) is the comment that Corrections Corporation of America (a privately run prison) is thinking of locating a facility in the area being touted as a “targeted employment center” that will be funded by Bonds. To my knowledge, the community has not yet weighed in on how it feels about privatizing the prison industry.

The other comment that I found to be presumptuous is on P.11, the last line of section ‘a.’ I opened this newsletter with a review of the F35 basing decision. That is still something requiring community input. However, the County Administrator’s report appears to assume the arrival of the aircraft, or at least our obligation to provide infrastructure to accommodate it. This comment is found in the Report, “We need to ensure the Arizona Air National Guard facility that operates from TIA is sustained in the long term and secures appropriate new pilot training missions and activities, particularly as they relate to the new Air Force Fighter, the F35.”

The last I heard, neither privatized prisons nor the F35 had been embraced by the taxpayers yet. The County Administrator’s report is good, but these are policy issues that have yet to be vetted to the point at which the taxpayers should be being asked to take on debt as a way of facilitating them. You may recall the \$5M east entry to the TCC we built in anticipation of a hotel that was never constructed. Edmund Burke: “Those who don’t learn from history are destined to repeat it.”

#### **4th Annual Tucson Festival of Books**

On March 10th and 11th, The University of Arizona campus will again be host to the Festival of Books. The Festival will take place on the mall from 9am until 5:30pm on both days. There will be about 450 authors, lots of literacy activities for all ages (including food - which I suppose qualifies as a literacy activity to the extent that hunger prevails over intellectual curiosity.)

This event is co-sponsored by The University of Arizona, The Arizona Daily Star and The University of Arizona Medical Center. If you haven’t attended one yet, I’d recommend setting aside a few hours to give it a try.

If you’d like more information on it, you can go to <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/> to have all of your questions answered.

#### **Plastic Bags and Litter**

Recently, the issue of plastic bag litter and/or recycling has gotten some attention. In case you were unaware, the City has had in place since March 2009 an ordinance that allows for recycling of plastic bags (and related plastic materials) to occur at retail establishments.

Here's a copy of an update on the success of that effort that we received last week from Assistant City Manager Quigley:

[http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/2-1-12plastic\\_bag.pdf](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/2-1-12plastic_bag.pdf)

The memo gives a good summary of the statistics associated with both the effects of the litter and the success of the program. It also gives you the locations of several retail businesses at which you can take your used plastic bags for recycling. It's a worthy program that does not impose a hidden tax on customers.

We at Ward 6 want to support the existing program, and in fact want to make it easier for you to participate in it. We host over 100 groups at the Ward office monthly - groups who use our meeting rooms. If any of you would like to drop off at our office your used plastic bags, we will gather them, save you the trip and deliver them to a recycle site on your behalf.

And what if we were to implement a policy by which all of our Enterprise Department customers (Environmental Services, Tucson Water) could opt-into topping off their monthly bills and allocating those extra pennies to starting to water our medians again. In 2010 we spent \$331K on 121 acre feet of water for keeping our medians watered. Currently, we have a check-off on the water bills for both open space and riparian funding, it might be interesting to see how you all felt about another check-off dedicated for the medians.

### **Streetcar Project**

These are questions that need to be answered relative to the Streetcar project:

a) What is the funding gap?

This is information provided in a monthly RTA financial update last week:

- Capital
- Current available funding will cover anticipated costs
- Additional funding, approximately \$20 million, needed to cover unanticipated costs (contingency) and additional vehicle
- Grant funds
- City of Tucson local funds, if needed

That means two things; the project has zero dollars built into the budget for unanticipated (contingency) costs, and not shown is another \$3M committed to the project from a development project that is struggling to keep itself afloat, much less comply with that obligation. That's a potential \$23M construction budget hole that will fall to the City if we aren't successful in securing new funding sources. That does not include operations and maintenance costs that will have to be funded once the project is up and running.

b) What are the sources of funding we're pursuing? Federal grants – if those fail, City of Tucson debt.

c) The project was supposed to be done on 11/11/11 - we haven't laid a foot of track. The RTA presentation indicated Cushing Street Bridge and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Drainage portions of the project are "proceeding on schedule." In fact, none of the segments of the project can make that claim. The Maintenance and Storage Facility is still awaiting bids, and none of the rest of the work elements are done.

It doesn't matter to me who manages this project (RTA, City, FTA) just as long as we get it moving and hold costs in line. Time is money - we need the jobs, we need the corridor zoned appropriately, and we need to get the businesses along the corridor past the upcoming disruption as soon and as quickly as possible. I have asked the City Manager and Director of the RTA if there might be a more effective model by which to manage this project than the one we're now using. If there are too many decision making layers built into the process, and if the on-site project manager lacks certain skill sets to carry out front line duties, perhaps we should take a step back and rearrange how we're approaching this. I can only ask - we'll see how they feel about what I've suggested.

### **Walking Path Dedication**

Please join us for the dedication of the Arroyo Chico Urban Greenway – Si Schorr Segment, a joint project between the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department and Regional Transportation Authority which will ultimately link Reid Park to the downtown area. The ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 11 a.m. on Camino Campestre between Randolph Way and Country Club.

[http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/2-1-12ac\\_path\\_ded.pdf](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/2-1-12ac_path_ded.pdf)

### **Planning Lifelong Communities**

And perhaps you've noticed that we're getting older. As the demographics of the community change, so must our interest in planning to accommodate the evolving needs of our neighbors. On Thursday, February 16th, from 8:30 until 10am there will be a forum held to discuss that topic. Other than the City and the County, the event is being sponsored by the United Way, PCOA, Catalina In-Home Services, the Jewish Family & Children's Services, Interfaith Community Services and Pro Neighborhoods. That's quite a diverse cross section of what makes up our community.

The topics that will be covered will address policy, building form, social service needs and current research on the issue. If you're free, drop in at the Sheraton / 5151 E. Grant Rd. That's on the 9 Sun Tran route in case you're traveling by bus.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6  
[www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6)

### ***Tucson Gem and Mineral Show - January 28 - February 12***

This Saturday will kick off the two week annual event "The Gem and Mineral Show." People come from all over the world to participate in this exciting event. The show takes place all across the city at more than 40 locations, including hotels, resorts, and exhibit halls. Most of the shows are free and open to the public. For more information on specific shows or transportation, visit

<http://www.visittucson.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.

Wednesday, February 1, 8:00pm. “**Social Distortion**”. All ages.

Thursday, February 2, 8:00pm. “**2 Chainz with Travis Porter**”. All ages.

Friday, February 3, 6:00pm. “**Sonoran Glass Art Academy Flame Off**”. All ages.

Saturday, February 4, 7:00pm. “**Lisa Otey and the Desert Divas**”. All ages.

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

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W. Congress St.

Saturday, February 4, 7:30pm. “**Starting Over: The John Lennon Experience**”

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

**The Screening Room**, 127 E. Congress

February 17-19 & 24-26, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Out in the Desert, Tucson’s International LGBT Film Festival”

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

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

Arizona Theatre Company presents Alfred Hitchcock’s *The 39 Steps*

Saturday, January 14 through February 4.

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

**Tucson Convention Center**

**Music Hall**

Saturday, February 4, 7:30 and Sunday, February 5, 2:00, Arizona Opera Presents “**Madama Butterfly**”

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

**Ongoing . . . .**

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

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, January 28 and ending Sunday, June 3:

“**Frida Kahlo, Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray**”

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

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

Current exhibition: **Armando Miguélez: Legislate Crazy**

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 Saturday January 28 and runs until February 25



Ongoing Exhibit, Opens Saturday January 28 and runs until February 25  
“**Bridges II, US – UK Artist Collaboration**”

**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**

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.  
Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

**Science Downtown: Mars + Beyond**

Thursday through Monday, 9:00am to 5:00pm (until 6:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays).  
300 E. Congress St.  
<http://www.sciencedowntown.org/index.html>

**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.com](http://www.DowntownTucson.com)

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**Tucson Parks Foundation Million Dollar Hole in One Contest**

Starting on February 9, 2012 the Tucson Parks Foundation will be hosting their Million Dollar Hole in One Contest. This year’s recipient is the 20/30 Club Highland Vista Park in Ward 6. This will help fund a shade structure over the playground equipment, which will ensure that children have access to the equipment year round.

You can help make this happen and experience a beautiful February day at the golf course at the same time. Tickets to participate in the Hole in One Contest are only \$10.00 per entrance or a book of 15 for \$100.00. Each ticket gives you 10 shots to get closet to the tee and the top three will advance to the semifinals. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit  
<http://www.tucsonparksfoundation.org>

*Come out to support a worthwhile cause and soak up the wonderful February weather as well.*