

## Ward 6 Staff



**Steve Kozachik**  
Council Member



**Ann Charles**



**Teresa Smith**



**Bonnie Medler**



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# Ward 6 – Newsletter

MARCH 14, 2012

## A Message from Steve

### Broadway Expansion / RTA

While we have a week off from M&C meetings, I want to take this opportunity to lay out some facts about what is a huge issue for this community – this region – that we have to have the courage to address. That is, how do we balance current needs versus projects that were requested by voters in 2006, or earlier, the assumptions and funding for which are now in question.

The RTA is made up of the following jurisdictions:  
PAG Member Jurisdictions



**City of South Tucson** – Population: 5,815  
[www.southtucson.org/index.php](http://www.southtucson.org/index.php)



**City of Tucson** – Population: 543,566  
[www.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.tucsonaz.gov)



**Pima County** – Population: (unincorporated 358,906)  
[www.pima.gov](http://www.pima.gov)



**Town of Marana** – Population: 34,191  
[www.marana.com](http://www.marana.com)



**Town of Oro Valley** – Population: 43,521  
[www.orovalleyaz.gov](http://www.orovalleyaz.gov)



**Town of Sahuarita** – Population: 24,968  
[www.ci.sahuarita.az.us](http://www.ci.sahuarita.az.us)



**Pascua Yaqui Tribe** – Population: 3,315  
[www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/](http://www.pascuayaqui-nsn.gov/)



**Tohono O'odham Nation** – Population: 9,545  
<http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/>



### 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

The voting on transportation projects is conducted on a “1 jurisdiction/1 vote” basis, irrespective of population base and irrespective of the amount of tax subsidy with which each jurisdiction supports the RTA. That means the vote by the Tucson representative on the panel is equal in strength to that of any of the other members of the panel. That governance structure needs to be changed or your voice is under-stated.

Here are a few policy guidelines I found in the RTA Implementation Plan the voters adopted – it’s over 300 pages in length:

It is the policy of the RTA Board that a corridor study resulting in an adopted right-of-way plan and/or inclusion of a corridor in an adopted major street and roadway plan is required for reimbursement of any right-of-way acquisition using RTA funding and that, once such an alignment is established and approved by jurisdictional governments and the RTA Board; the alignment may not be changed without RTA Board approval. It is also the policy of the RTA Board to encourage jurisdictions to use their powers of exaction to the extent possible to acquire needed rights-of-way for RTA projects.

Another one:

It is the policy of the RTA Board to require the lead agency to provide early and on-going involvement of government entities, stakeholders and the general public in the planning stages for RTA transportation projects to ensure that implementation of projects and programs meets their mutual transportation needs.

And finally:

The RTA Board may waive some or all of the preceding requirements on a specific Project

I’m guessing that the majority of the people who voted in favor of the 2006 RTA plan didn’t read the 309 page Implementation Plan. Let me tie those three items together:

The Plan gives the City the right to use “exactions” to acquire land needed for a Right of Way. Exactions come in many forms. They may be in the form of infrastructure building, dedications of land for public uses, conditions on future land use, or other restrictions on the permit applicant. But they are used to purchase or acquire Rights of Way along a corridor.

From the second item, the process of establishing that corridor is to include early and frequent planning that includes those most directly impacted by the project – that has not happened.

Finally, the RTA can waive some of the requirements. In the case of Broadway, it appears they have sidestepped significant portions of the public process. I suggest that it’s not too late to engage those who were left out of the conversation earlier and consider re-scoping the project now.



**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://  
ems3.tucsonaz.gov/  
infoguide](http://ems3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

State law also allows the Plan to be changed, short of taking it back to the voters, if costs increase by certain stated amounts. It's not clear what process is required if the taxpayers were to suggest scope changes to the project that significantly reduced costs.

I've previously noted that this is a project based on 25 year old traffic projections that have never occurred. I've also previously noted that the RTA is only obligated to fund \$42M of the \$71M project costs. Here is a break down of the budget, including funding sources (from RTA material – it suggests here a \$74M project, but the voters saw \$71M – I guess the RTA believes that we don't need to quibble over \$3M of your money).

<b>Total Project Budget by Funding Source</b>	<b>RTA</b>	<b>Non-RTA</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Design</b>	<b>\$1,907,000</b>		<b>\$1,907,000</b>
<b>Right of Way</b>	<b>\$28,700,000</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>	<b>\$43,700,000</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>\$12,594,790</b>	<b>\$14,222,000</b>	<b>\$26,816,790</b>
<b>Project Management</b>	<b>\$1,336,790</b>		<b>\$1,336,790</b>
<b>Environmental/Other</b>			<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>\$45,538,580</b>	<b>\$29,222,000</b>	<b>\$74,760,580</b>

You can see that of the total project cost, over half of it (\$43M) is dedicated to “exacting” the Right of Way. That’s the 150’ wide roadway that will take out 115 historic structures and small, local businesses. The voices that reside and work in those buildings deserve to be heard.

Why? Because this comment was also included in the ballot Implementation Plan:

The policies enhance the community fabric and create a positive force in strengthening economic vitality, enhance regional mobility; maximize benefits to neighborhoods; and minimize any adverse impacts related to the implementation of RTA approved projects.  
Both businesses and neighborhoods along the corridors that fall within the RTA plan will be engaged throughout this process.

You can also see that \$29M is non-RTA money. It was supposed to be County Transportation Bond money, but we are now being told that until at least 2015, the dollars won't be available, and even then there is a question as to whether the County debt limits will allow for the voters to even answer the question as to taking on more debt to fund this project.

We don't have the money, and we don't know where it's coming from.

On Friday of last week I was invited to the dedication of Casitas on Broadway. It's a new LEED certified senior housing establishment in which nearly 60 residents are living. If the Broadway expansion is done, the front door of the Casitas will be either a bus lane, or a travel lane. They didn't buy into that when moving into their new apartment and the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses are far from having embraced this flawed road project. That's true also of the church just west of the Casitas that just recently took on capital

improvements. Also of the many other small businesses along that corridor, each of which add to the tax base we rely on to pay our bills.

The roads around Tucson are in horrible condition. We do not have millions of dollars to spend on unnecessary and unwanted projects while we sit by and watch our existing roads continue to deteriorate.

We need, and I will be calling for a community conversation about how we rethink/re-scope/review the RTA projects in a manner that allows the relevant parties to have a voice, and that will hopefully free up significant dollars with which we can fix our existing roadways.

Going through this exercise should also be important to the other RTA jurisdictions. They may also want to review how their residents' tax dollars are being spent. We can use Broadway as a template for engaging in that discussion. My request for such a meeting is in the in-box of the RTA Executive Director.

There's an economic development twist to this issue, but I'll cover that later in the Budget review.

#### **West University Transition Area**

Very briefly, to dispel some of the concerns being generated related to the transition area we adopted two weeks ago at M&C, here are a few claims and clarifications:

The referendum to repeal the Main Gate District Overlay is stating:

- Allows 17 high-rises up to 14 stories high
- Provides incentives to demolish historic residences
- Process was rushed through w/o neighborhood input

In fact:

Maximum building heights along Euclid are up to four stories (not to exceed 56') and up to six stories on Speedway (not to exceed 84').

Incentives are in place to adaptively reuse historic residences. These incentives include:  
A restored residential building may be reused for non-residential purposes (this is not allowed under the underlying zoning).

A restored building will receive a reduction of 50% for development review fees.

A restored building can obtain from the UOD zoning option flexible parking, loading, and landscaping requirements.

The zoning option allows for additions to a contributing property in the form of expansions that may exceed the underlying zoning dimension requirements only after a historic review confirms the changes do not cause a de-listing from the National Register District.

To obtain multi-story development requires a successful HPZ demolition approval by Mayor and Council and an approved replacement plan. Note that the Mayor and Council

may approve a height less than those I have listed above.

To obtain both of those approvals the applicant must:

- a) attend a neighborhood meeting
- b) go to the West University Historic Advisory Board
- c) go to the Historic Commission
- d) go to the MGD Design Review Committee
- e) go to the Zoning Examiner
- f) and then to Mayor and Council.

This process merges for efficiency the rezoning process and the HPZ demolition process thus picking up more public input and a recommendation from the Mayor and Council's hearing officer, the Zoning Examiner.

Staff has been working with multiple stakeholders on this plan for over eight months. It has not been 'rushed through.'

My predecessor in the Ward 6 Council seat was a strong advocate of adaptive reuse of historic structures. I agree and believe Ms. Trasoff was right in that advocacy. I have listed multiple incentives that we have put into place to encourage the adaptive reuse of historic buildings in the Transition Area for Transit Oriented Development. I have also listed multiple steps a builder must go through prior to being allowed to take down a contributing historic structure. And I amended the motion to approve the overlay to ensure a Design Review Committee was formed and engaged in any design review prior to any being approved. Since then I have advocated with staff that if a member of that committee was associated with a project under review, that person was conflicted out of voting on approval or denial.

The Plan will relieve mini-dorm pressure from the interior of neighborhoods that surround campus. That is everyone's goal.

### **Public Education**

In past newsletters I've been critical of legislation that encourages firearms being carried on The University of Arizona campus. I work on campus and have been privy to conversations in which it was made clear that we stand to lose highly qualified researchers, along with significant research dollars if such a law is adopted.

From the positive side, The University of Arizona is joining a nationwide movement to train and retain over 100,000 teachers over the next 10 years who are committed to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The UA is planning its part in this program by beginning and expanding teacher training in those programs. That reflects 21<sup>st</sup> Century goals and the UA administration is to be given credit for its involvement in the STEM project.

Supporting the idea that education is critical to our local economy is the related issue of our ability to retain DM in a possible Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) round. Recent comments by Chief of Staff Norman Schwartz confirm that. Mr. Schwartz made the point that good schools are a key to thriving bases. He said that establishing quality schools, including charter schools where state laws permit, for Air Force installations is integral to creating "thriving communities" at those locations. He told the House Appropriations Committee's military construction panel "the key thing to creating a thriving community is the right kind of school, whether it's on or off base." He mentioned DM by name in that regard.

Also in the education area, I'll bet you didn't know that Cox Communications invested \$75K to provide over 300 homes in the Sunnyside School District with internet capability for the next two years. That is an investment in the education of our youth. Cox has also installed a web cam into the new Reid Park Zoo Expedition Tanzania site that will serve as an educational, as well as a research tool to show how the new elephants are adapting to their new habitat. Cox also has funded a totally new "tech" room in the Tucson Children's Museum. Each of these efforts shows what a positive community partner Cox is. And each shows how they understand the value of education in the future of our City.

There are so many things we can do – and are doing – to support both education, and at the same time protect our investment in DM and recognize the importance of corporate partners in this work that we really don't need the distractions that come from some of the Phoenix driven legislation.

### **"Bring Back the Splash" Summer 2012 Campaign**

On a lighter note, we are working towards opening some of the public swimming pools that have been closed due to budget reasons in the past few years. The goal is to extend the "public/private" model that we're also looking at with respect to building and development.

We're trying to reopen up to 11 additional pools. To date, we've secured funding to open four of them. Getting to our goal will require nearly \$60K for a full summer of operation and maintenance. This project is being driven by the Tucson Parks Foundation and our Parks and Rec. Department. If you'd like to participate, you can learn how by going to: <http://www.tucsonparksfoundation.org/projects/summer-splash/>

### **...And speaking of Budget**

Here's what is presently being assumed in the Staff budget proposal:

- 3% sales tax increase over 2011
- \$9M increase in State-shared income tax
- \$1M from the recently adopted Alarm Fee
- Suspend \$1.4M administrative charge to our HURF fund.

After those assumptions, and after having done line-by-line reviews of department budgets, we're faced with a \$15M deficit.

How do we fill it?

Some suggestions are:

- Another debt restructuring (eventually that will affect our debt rating)
- Use some of our rainy day fund
- Suspend surcharges on our Worker's Comp. charges to departments
- The Citizen's Transit Task Force has recommended bus fare increases that will yield just under \$2M (\$.25 on the one-way full fare and express fare, \$.50 on the Day Pass, and bring the economy fare to half of the full fare to \$.85, consistent with the Federal Transit Administration's half-fare requirement for seniors and persons with disabilities).

Some deficit realities:

Our golf program loses millions of dollars per year. But the land on which many of our courses sits is encumbered by "use restrictions." That means we can't just sell off the land

to the private sector, even if we wanted to.

The TCC takes over \$5M from the General Fund annually. I've already suggested that we stop sweeping its ticket surcharge into the GF, only to send it back later on. I've also suggested we look at reallocating some of our bed tax money that is supposed to be promoting tourism. And of course there's the constant burr under the saddle; Rio Nuevo has millions of dollars that should be used to remodel the facility. Unfortunately, enough members of that Board can't seem to understand that, so the money gathers dust.

The State continues to cause our Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF – intended for road repair) to operate in the red. Fortunately it's an election year, and a few of them are talking about restoring some of the money that's due to this region. We'll see.

We will need to purchase busses and other vehicles. It's the same as your family car – eventually, it costs you more to keep it running than it would to replace it. We're nearly there.

And we're looking down the road at 2015 when we'll have to take on the costs for Police we have hired under Federal Grant money, when we'll have to figure out how to pay O&M on the streetcar, and when we'll have to find money for our share of operating the new PCWIN (public safety communications center) and City/County Courthouse buildings.

These are reasons that the way we answer how we invest the RTA and Bond money is such a major issue for us to tackle. Public sector budgeting shares this with your home budget; income levels change over time, and costs change over time. We've got to be flexible enough to do some out-of-the-box thinking on these things and we have got to fix our roads.

Some of that out-of-the-box thinking might come down to taking on debt to fix the roads. The level and timing will be a function of how the community conversation relative to the RTA goes. But when we get to that, we'll need to keep in mind that the work for which we'd be bonding will not only be geared towards fixing our streets, but in the process it will create jobs. There are materials suppliers, equipment suppliers, the men and women who will do the work applying the product – sub contractors who need the work. And from an economic development standpoint, repairing our infrastructure will help us recruit new business into Tucson. So, when we get to considering debt, remember the local jobs it will yield, plus the expansion of our tax base in the form of new business once we have finished the work. There will be some multiplier effect that will legitimately let us argue that the work created by the debt will help to pay the debt service we'll take on.

...and while I'm on the 'jobs' topic -

### **Jobs**

The ultimate fix to this annual moan over the budget is job creation. Shirley has done a very good job out in Ward 4 promoting the UA Science/Tech Park. Richard has helped along private sector development with the new Costco and related development. Paul has been an advocate for attracting sporting events into the region. Regina led in hosting the Tucson Means Business forums at each of our Ward offices. And Karin has moved for the expansion of the Central Business District so potential development incentives are available in areas outside of the downtown core.

I have advocated for reductions in permit fees, concurrent plan review and the start of student housing work on our arterials and collector streets that will both create jobs and relieve mini-dorm pressure on the interior of neighborhoods surrounding the University.

The Mayor has identified job creation as his top priority.

This is clearly a priority for all seven of us. It will be a good day when our “partner” in this that sits behind the Rio Nuevo dais joins us.

We are at the cusp of making some decisions that are relevant to downtown redevelopment. All of the building we’re doing on the outskirts of town is good and yet on a dollar for dollar basis, research clearly shows that investments in the downtown core serve as the catalyst for community development. In that regard, it is key to understand that private lending is now looking for public sector involvement at some level before putting money at risk.

That does not mean putting the taxpayer at risk. From our hotel debates 2+ years ago, you know how I feel about that. What it does mean is getting to the point at which we start to approach our development with a ‘yes’ attitude; that is, yes, we can offer tax incentives that do not violate the State Gift Clause restrictions, and yes, we can look at development opportunities on an apolitical and impersonal basis, and yes, we can take a longer range view than how certain decisions might play in the next news cycle.

We’re all hearing about some hotel proposals that are coming, some student housing proposals that are coming, we have an RFI out on the Marist College that will show if there’s private sector interest in the restoration of that facility, we need to look at the Performing Arts Center to see if we can land an anchor tenant for that facility, we have non-performing development agreements that demand our attention, there is a parcel at I-10 and the Freeway that is a potential building site, and more. This is all about to pop – when you see us making decisions on a single project, understand that it needs to be considered in the context of this larger picture that involves pivoting from a fearful reaction of saying ‘no’ to projects, to one in which we say ‘yes’ to taking a little short term heat for the longer term greater good of growing our economy.

I’ve seen the conversation change. We’ll get there. We have to or Ross Perot is going to swoop down on us and tell us about that “great sucking sound” of jobs leaving our community.

### **More on Roads**

The Street and Traffic Maintenance Division began their programmed Chipseal Program on Monday, March 12, 2012. They anticipate that it will take four to six weeks to chipseal all of the areas they have programmed to be addressed. Those include:

- Area bounded by Park Avenue to Campbell, Fair Street to Irvington
- Area bounded by I-19 to 12th Avenue, Drexel Road to Valencia
- Area bounded by Shannon Road to La Cholla, 36th Street to 44th Street
- Area bounded by Campbell to Tucson Boulevard, Elm Street to Speedway

Notification to affected neighborhoods began on Monday, March 5, 2012, but in case you’re not linked in with a neighborhood association network, now you know of the plans.

The first step in the process is sweeping the chipsealed areas. Following that a fog seal application will then be scheduled for all chipsealed locations. They’re looking at June 1

for a completion date.

### **Women in Government**

The Tucson/Pima County Women's Commission received over 50 nominations for the Women in Government Day awards. I included the solicitation for those awards in a newsletter about a month ago. The response was excellent. The Women's Commission and I want to thank each of the City employees who took the time to submit nominations recognizing the contributions of their colleagues.

The Mayor is declaring March 23rd as Women in Government Day. There will be a celebration on March 23rd for the nominees at the Moore Courtyard, which is located at the Tucson Museum of Art. The ceremony will start at 11:30 am. The winners will also be announced on that day. If you're a City employee who wants to attend you should wear your ID badge, and get the approval of your supervisor – unless you're just hiking out during your lunch break.

It wasn't so long ago that our Women's Commission was nearly out of commission. Now they're active and a vibrant element in our community recognition of the many issues that affect our wives, sisters, daughters and lady-friends. Thanks to Alison Hughes for her diligent work with this group.

### **Baseball @ Hi Corbett**

The new partnership between the UA and the City at Hi Corbett is off to a good start. As of this writing the baseball team is 13-2, attendance is positive and the change appears to have been a good move for all parties.

The team plays at home this weekend – 6pm on Friday and Saturday, noon on Sunday.

### **My Grammar**

To end – for two consecutive newsletters now, I've received some comments from people who are clearly bugged by my occasional grammatical flubs. I promise you two things: from time to time, they will continue, and you will never see in print, or hear me say "irregardless." That non-word is like hearing finger nails dragged across a chalk board (for those of you who remember those things).

But last week, Gary Hunter came to my rescue when he shared this - Winston Churchill said when he was reminded not to end a sentence with a preposition: "That is a bunch of nonsense, up with which I will not put."

When I reach grammatical parity with Sir Winston, that's a place I'll be happy to be at.

Sincerely,



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

## 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.

Thursday, March 15, 8:00pm. “**Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros**”. All ages.

Saturday, March 17, 7:00pm. “**Devil Wears Prada**”. All ages.

Sunday, March 18, 8:00pm. “**Feed Me with Teeth**”. All ages.

Monday, March 19, 8:00pm. “**Of Montreal**”. All ages.

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

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

Friday, March 16, 7:00pm. “**Clips of Faith, Beer and Film Tour**”

Saturday, March 17, 7:30pm. “**Women Fully Clothed**”

Sunday, March 18, 7:30pm. “**The Manhattan Transfer**”

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

### Tucson Convention Center

#### Music Hall

March 14-19 “**Rock of Ages**”. Various times.

#### Leo Rich Theater

March 15-19. Desert Christian High School presents “**The Importance of Being Earnest.**” Various times.

<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 March 3 and runs until March 31

“**Arizona Encaustic 2012**”

#### 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 &amp; 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)**Other Community Events****Loft Cinema** [www.loftcinema.com/](http://www.loftcinema.com/)

Wednesday, March 14, 7:30pm. “Finding Joe – One Hit Wonder Series”

Saturday, March 17, 10:00am. “The Inconvenient Truth Behind Waiting for Superman.”

**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.**25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival**

Saturday, March 17th

Live Irish Music, Dancers, Entertainment, Children's Activities and more. Festival begins at 10am; parade begins at 11am. El Presidio Park, 160 W. Alameda St. visit [www.tucsonstpatricksdays.com](http://www.tucsonstpatricksdays.com) for more information.**Cyclovia Tucson**

Sunday, March 18th 10am - 3pm


 Bring your bike and join thousands of other Tucsonans on a five mile loop of city streets. Several major roads south of East Broadway Blvd downtown are closed to cars and motorcycles for Cyclovia Tucson 2012.
[www.cycloviatucson.org](http://www.cycloviatucson.org)

Trees for Tucson program is a great option for residents to receive low-cost shade trees to help beautify their home and improve our community's environment, while providing long-term financial savings as the trees grow and reduce air-conditioning usage. Trees for Tucson, a program of non-profit organization Tucson Clean & Beautiful, provides these low-cost trees for planting at homes throughout much of the Tucson metropolitan area. Tucson Electric Power customers may receive desert-adapted shade trees delivered to their home for \$8.00 each, if they agree to plant the trees within 15 feet of the west, east, or south side of the home. To obtain an application form, visit [www.treesfortucson.org](http://www.treesfortucson.org) or call (520) 791-3109.

