

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

April 25, 2012

Thank you to each member of the Tucson Police Department and surrounding/support law enforcement agencies for the manner in which you have been and are representing this region during these current troubling times of National exposure. Your professionalism and compassion are a testimony to what makes Tucson a place to be proud of.

ENDANGERED MISSING ISABEL CELIS



DOB: Aug 27, 2005
Age Now: 6
Missing: Apr 20, 2012
Sex: Female
Race: Hispanic
Hair: Lt. Brown
Eyes: Hazel
Height: 3' 8" (112cm)
Weight: 44 lbs (20kg)
NCMEC Case: NCMEC1193092
Missing From: TUCSON AZ, United States

Circumstances of Disappearance:
 ISABEL CELIS was last seen at home at approximately 11:30 p.m. on April 20, 2012. Isabel is missing one top and one bottom tooth. She was last seen wearing a blue tank top and navy blue basketball shorts. Both photos shown are of Isabel.



ENDANGERED / MISSING MISSING CHILD



CRIME STOPPERS 88-CRIME: (520) 882-7463
TUCSON POLICE DEPT: (520) 791-4441



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT
 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Tucson Police Department (Arizona) 1-520-791-4441

Broadway Expansion / RTA

The Citizen's Task Force that is being formed to work on the Broadway expansion has now been named. The representatives who will serve on that committee are:



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

AFFILIATION	INITIAL SELECTION
Neighbor Interests - NW	Colby Henley, Rincon Heights NA (Historic District), current President
Neighbor Interests - NE	Paul Mackey, Sam Hughes NA (Historic District), past President
Neighbor Interests - SE	Shirley Papuga, Broadmoor-Broadway Village NA, past president
Neighbor Interests - SW	Michael J. "Jamey" Sumner, Miles NA
Business Interests - North	Anthony R. DiGrazia, <i>Rocco's Little Chicago</i>
Business Interests - North	Dave Nasser, <i>Realtor</i>
Business Interests - South	Bob Belman, <i>Arizona Auto Refrigeration</i>
Business Interests - South	Diane Robles, <i>Child & Family Resources, Inc.</i>
CTAC	Farhad Moghimi
Tucson Pima BAC	Elizabeth Scott
Planning Commission	Steven Eddy, AICP
Special Needs	TBD
Regional (RTA)	Michael Butterbrodt, <i>Inglis Florists</i>

If the Task Force is being formed to simply rubber stamp the RTA alignment and design features, they might as well stay home. We should never waste the time of people who have offered to serve the community on a volunteer basis. Pulling the plug on this group's ability to exercise creativity in re-scoping the Broadway project would be an example of that. By way of quick review – this is the expansion from Euclid to Country Club that was based on 1987 traffic volume predictions that have not panned out. It is the same project that was advertised to take six travel lanes and two bus lanes out to a width of 150', and in the process eliminating 115 historic homes and small businesses along the northern edge of the roadway. It's the same project that the RTA has said it would fund at \$42M and the County has recently said it is no longer sure that it can come up with its \$25M to complete the bulk of the project cost. There appears to be a need for creativity on the Task Force. In a recent memorandum related to the Broadway project that the County Administrator penned for the Board of Supervisors, he noted "I completely agree with Councilmember Kozachik on this issue. It makes little sense to force the original scope of transportation improvements where they are clearly outdated or unnecessary. Reducing the size and scope of transportation improvements not only saves money; it is more responsive to community needs and desires."

To that end, I will be hosting a press conference/community conversation on Monday, April 30th at 6pm in the First Assembly of God church parking lot (just west of Campbell and Broadway) to relate to the RTA/TDOT project management team that the Citizen's Task Force needs to be given the latitude to propose redesign consistent with the current traffic needs and consistent with the current budgetary constraints. Here is a copy of the



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th 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

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

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

formal Release that will go out to the community and to the media promoting the event:
http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/4-25-12_media.release-ward6comm.pdf

If allowed to seriously engage in creative design, the Task Force can rework the project so that it fits within the RTA voter approved \$42M. The County's portion can then be used for other City projects when it becomes available in the next couple of years.

In the mean time, I simply wish to thank the Broadway Citizen's Task Force, the most recent group of our citizens who have offered to take time out of their lives to help our community be the best that it can be. And I'm very much looking forward to next Monday's event at which I anticipate being joined by a significant group of equally concerned citizens. Thanks to you all for being involved.

Streetcar Update

Construction is underway in several of the line segments along the streetcar corridor. You can go to <http://tucsonmodernstreetcar.com/> for the full update. Here's the short version:

Through the downtown area:

- 6th Avenue has been converted to two-way traffic between Broadway and 6th Street, including the 6th Avenue underpass. This traffic control change will help facilitate traffic flow during the closure of Congress Street.
- Congress Street is closed to vehicular traffic between Toole Avenue and Stone Avenue. This curb to curb construction will require 24 hour closures and is expected to be in place for four months.
- Toole Avenue between Congress Street and 5th Avenue is one-way northbound travel only.
- Motorist and cyclists traveling southbound on Toole Avenue must exit at 5th Avenue. Local business access to the Historic Depot will be maintained.
- Scott Avenue is closed at Congress Street for approximately four months. Access to businesses north and south of the intersection, as well as access to parking garages off Scott Avenue, will be maintained.
- Construction on Congress Street includes curb to curb removal of asphalt and major excavation for utility relocations before the roadway is reconstructed with rail. The extensive nature of this work requires full closures 24 hours per day.

Click Link to view map:

http://www.tucsonstreetcar.com/e-blast/streetcar_construction/11-04-09/CongressClosure_6thSt.pdf

4th Avenue area:

- 4th Avenue is closed to vehicular and bicycle traffic between 6th Street and University Boulevard. This closure will be in place for approximately four months.
- Pedestrian access along 4th Avenue will be maintained at all times.

UA Health Science segment:

- During the week of April 23, 2nd Street from Park Avenue to Olive Road will be closed to facilitate underground utility work.
- Palm Drive access at 2nd Street remains open, with easy access from Speedway Boulevard by taking Mountain Avenue to 2nd Street and heading west to Palm

Drive.

- Detours may be in place along 2nd Street from Park Avenue to Mountain Avenue for underground utility work. Please observe all signage when driving or cycling through the work zone.

One final note on the streetcar construction – all of the businesses along 4th Avenue and down Congress are open for business throughout construction. They've been through this before so the merchants aren't rookies when it comes to living for another day. Parking is available on a flat rate basis over in the Centro Garage.

Reid Park Zoo

It was nearly 100 degrees on Saturday of last weekend. And while that record was being set, the Reid Park Zoo staff was receiving a well deserved award for their work with Polar Bears. Did you know that Reid Park Zoo is a part of the Polar Bear International's (PBI) network of Arctic Ambassador Centers? On its face, there's something wrong with that picture.

And yet, it makes sense when you realize that a big part of PBI is its work on climate change and CO2 reduction projects. It's also focused on animal well-being and enrichment. So, given the wonderful work Vivian VanPeenan and our Zoo staff do in both of those areas, they are worthy recipients of the recognition from PBI.

In addition to them receiving that award, the Zoo staff recognized Brooklyn Pizza Company for its own work in greening our community. They installed solar panels and an electric vehicle charging station at their site last year. So, a polar bear award in 100 degree heat, and solar pizza.

More Parks & Rec

Thanks to the work of our City Manager and Fred Gray and his staff – as well as numerous members of the community, including former Olympian from the UA, Crissy Ahmann (Captain of the 1992 U.S. Olympic Swimming team and winner of 2 Golds and 1 Silver, but who's counting?), we will be able to open the Himmel Park pool this summer. The pool will be open from May 30th through August 1st. This is yet another example of the public stepping in during these tough economic times. Thanks to Nova Home Loans, Pima Medical Institute, Royal Automotive Group, and Jim Click Automotive for their very generous help in kicking off the return of public swimming in our parks.

In addition to Himmel, other pools that will be reopened are Jacobs, Purple Heart, Menlo, Mansfield and Palo Verde.

Bud Foster

In the immediate aftermath of the Giffords shooting back in January of 2010, there was a rush to "be the first" to report on the tragic events. In that rush, many of the cable news reports passed along rumors that ended up, thankfully, being false.

Locally, KOLD had Bud Foster anchor 12 hours of coverage on the story. They/he did not fall for the temptation of reporting rumor but stuck to the facts.

On Thursday of last week, the DAR honored Bud with an award for the manner in which he covered that story. The award simply points out that news reporting should be fact based and that's what Bud stuck to on that day. We see lots of hype in the news these days as stations rush to be first. Kudos to one of the guys who has had his hand on the local scene for over two decades. He got it right.

Neon Signs

One more fun one before hitting something a little more meaty. On Friday, April 27th from 6pm – 9pm, join us at the PCC downtown campus (Stone and Drachman) for the opening of The Neon Mile. Restored historic signs will be lit and the evening will be topped off by live music, classic cars and food trucks.

The four signs will be Magic Carpet Golf, Tropicana Motor Lodge, Canyon State Motor Lodge and Medina's Sporting Goods. The M&C adopted the historic sign code ordinance last year and this will be the first real application of it.

I think these signs are a fun and unique addition to our sense of community. I hope to see many of you there on Friday.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Don't tune out. It's an important item that affects your checkbook.

Every year, the City is required to produce a CAFR. It gives all of the details related to how we spend your money. It's about 150 pages of data but contained in those pages are nuggets that will help to guide us as we finalize our budget discussion. I'll share just a few items:

1. We receive funding for our Mass Transit Fund from the RTA. Last year there was a change in the formula by which that funding level is set. Mass Transit rolling through Tucson is the primary portion of the regional transit network. Our funding needs to be increased by the RTA, not reduced.
2. We have \$18M in our "Streets and Highways" budget and we have \$12.7M in our "management contingency" budget. We're driving on terrible roads. Our funding for road reconstruction has to be tapping these funds at some level.
3. Our bond ratings stayed unchanged last year. If we refinance our Highway User Revenue Fund bonds, we can realize up to \$11M spendable cash right now. That is another potential pot of cash to toss at road reconstruction.
4. The TCC was subsidized by the General Fund to the tune of just under \$6M last year. We have a Transient Occupancy Tax, a Bed Tax, a surcharge we place on every ticket we sell for TCC events and some unused IDA money. Those are funding sources we should at least consider as an offset to the TCC GF subsidy and in the process free up GF revenues for core services.
5. Golf is supposed to be a self-funding operation. Instead, it loses money year after year – millions of dollars. The Independent Audit and Performance Commission has recommended that we change that subsidy to be called a "Long Term Loan" to golf. If we do that, it relieves pressure from the unrestricted GF money pool – so we could fix more roads, or open more pools – but it is smoke and mirrors. Golf will still be losing money, but we'd be paying the freight from a restricted funding source. It's still your money, and we need to take a hard look at the level to which the City is in the golfing business.

We cannot simply sell off all of our courses (no buyers and encumbrances on how the land is to be used). Even if we could entirely privatize the operation, I'd make the same argument I do for not giving the transit system to the RTA; we lose total control over the rates we charge and we lose significant public assets in the process. We can look at how we might increase green fees to more closely approximate those of private courses, and we can consider for sale the one or two of our public courses whose deeds are relatively unencumbered. We have a citizen's Greens Committee who is going to roll up their sleeves and make some recommendations as to how we might better invest your dollars in this sport. Stay tuned on this one – as with the TCC, it's not such an easy answer as to how we fund a losing asset that we cannot afford to completely off-load.

Rio/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

It's back. Here's the history:

- We said we'd repair the bleachers (approximately \$1M cost)
- Rio gave us an MOU that said they'd do some things if we agreed to do the bleachers.
- We had already said we were doing the bleachers.
- Their MOU also made it clear that they intend to include a private land owner adjacent to the TCC in discussions related to development west of the TCC.
- We had already entered negotiations for development on the I-10 parcel west of there.
- That land owner was invited, along with a 14 person contingent, to present a hotel proposal during the last mediation session.

We should not have included that in the mediation. That's as public an issue as the former Garfield Traub hotel presentations were and it should have been addressed in public. Evidently whoever invited the group into mediation believes that too, since nobody will own up to having made the invitation.

We have not yet received a reply to our MOU redirect. This back and forth is a waste of everybody's time and your tax money. I'm going to continue to vote for open and public discussions with Rio so you can see who's asking for what to be done with your money. Maybe in that way we can begin to see some more serious dialogue take place. At the very least you'll be able to watch the sausage being made so you know exactly the ingredients. What you won't see is how the process is tinged by the threat of legislation coming our way from Phoenix that could have a significant financial impact on the City. We should not be driven by that threat into signing a foolish agreement at the local level.

PAG MOU

One item that slid under the radar screen last week was our sending back to the RTA/PAG a proposed Memorandum of Understanding that is intended to guide the basic structure of our relationship with the other jurisdictions with respect to transit related decisions.

Currently the Pima Association of Governments and the Regional Transit Authority are comprised of essentially the incorporated cities and towns in the area, unincorporated Pima County and two tribes. The voting on transit decisions is one jurisdiction, one vote. While that is how the group has operated traditionally, it does not reflect the relative contributions to regional transit provided by the respective members of the groups. In a

way that is similar to some of the arguments I have made with respect to our entitlement to County road repair dollars (we are in the County) several of us on the Council are ready to have the PAG/RTA voting structure more closely reflect the actual dynamics of how Tucson fits into the rest of the region; that is, we are a more significant partner than having a vote that is only equal to the rest of the cities and towns.

Here is a link to the MOU related to these inter-jurisdictional relationships that was presented to us for our approval:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/4-25-12rta-2012-03-29-item04c-mouplan-prog-pa.pdf>

A few examples of where we feel the language, and more broadly the voting relationships need to be modified.

- a. The 2nd paragraph of the ‘whereas’ section identifies the fact that the MOU is intended to ‘represent all of the jurisdictions’ of the Regional Council. True enough, but it needs to represent them in a way that also reflects our weighted importance to the group
- b. On P2, the purpose of the document is to define the ‘structure for planning and decision making’ – it needs to be better defined to reflect Tucson’s true role
- c. On P3 is language that relies on agreement being reached between Tucson and the PAG on matters related to allocation of funds – Grant funds earmarked for City projects should not need the assent of other PAG jurisdictions
- d. On that same page, developing the priority of projects should be a Tucson decision when it relates to COT projects – not the PAG

We sent the proposed MOU back to the PAG for them to reconsider the draft and include language that is a more accurate reflection of the role the City plays in transit for the overall region. We understand regionalism and we also understand that not everybody gets the same sized slice of pie at the dinner table. At the risk of sounding gluttonous, the City deserves the biggest slice in terms of the weighting of our regional vote.

Two Community Events from last weekend - Moca Gala/Earth Day @ the Mercado

While it might seem odd to combine these two events in one section, I think there’s an overlap.

We have a healthy creative class in our community and they overlap in some special ways. When we talk about “sustainability” my general thought goes to the environment. And yet, as a community, if we are to live up to the true depth of that word, we should consider environmental, social and economic health, and how they play off from one another. At its most basic level, it’s a three legged stool that needs the stability of each element.

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) hosts an Artist in Residence program. Last Saturday they held an event to support that program and the museum in general. We saw and heard some of their works and had the opportunity to tour the exhibits in a leisurely way that allowed for some space from the challenges of the day. Thanks to Randi Dorman (MOCA Board President) and to the chairs of the event Joan Juliet Buck, Laura Pendleton Miller and our own Mary Okoye for pulling off the evening. MOCA receives significant support from Providence Service Corporation and Cox Communications – good corporate community partners.

The next day, Tzadik Greenberg pulled together an event that was the culmination of Earth Walk and the Earth Day weekend series of events. Highlighted at that event out at the Mercado was eclectic music, the Community Food Bank, Desert Survivors (tree planting), Community Gardens, Farmers Markets and other booths that touched the theme.

Together these two events speak to ways of thinking that can cultivate us as a community – out of many, one. In the midst of the many ways we find to divide ourselves, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon were good reminders that we have the capacity to be a model for others. And importantly, we have people who have the energy to work to that end.

Household Hazardous Waste

This Saturday you'll have another opportunity to get rid of some of the caustics you may have been wondering what to do with. From 8am until noon, in the North parking lot at Himmel Park you can dispose of things such as oil filters, solvents, pesticides, batteries of all sorts, pool chemicals and more. In addition, you can take certain electronic equipment, such as some computers, some monitors, VCR's and modems will be received and disposed of at not charge. They'll take televisions for \$10 and will charge \$2 for stand alone monitors.

This is for small items – not your stove. But it's a great way to keep from gumming up our landfills with items that don't belong there.

Medians

A couple of weeks ago I gave an indication of how the median clean up would move forward city-wide. This link is better than the one I sent out earlier (thanks to Tony Paez for this updated map).

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/4-25-12medianisland_4-06-12.pdf

The areas in red are the medians along City main arterials that The Groundskeeper has been contracted to clean up. The areas in blue are the responsibility of the COT and some DOC crews.

The Groundskeeper will assign a six person crew to each of the areas that are outlined and listed as SW 1, NW 2, SW 2 and SE 1. By the time you see this, the following areas will already have been cleaned:

- Miracle Mile, Oracle to I-10
- Speedway, Campbell to I-10
- Broadway, Camino Seco to Country Club
- Golf Links, Wilmot to Swan (medians only)
- Valencia, Alvernon to Country Club

And these are the areas that will be in process:

- SW 1 - Mission Road, 22nd Street to Ajo Way
- NW 2 - Silverbell, Grant Road to St. Mary's Road
- SW 2 - Golf Links, Wilmot to Kolb Road
- SE 1 - Speedway, Wilmot to Camino Seco

Remember, this work is being done along the main streets, not in the residential areas.

Many kudos go out to the hundreds of volunteer citizens who work tirelessly to keep our neighborhood interiors looking good.

Budget

I close with the budget, not because it's unimportant, but because we didn't get study materials until the day of our hour long study session agenda item on it. That effectively makes the item a "presentation" by staff and not an opportunity to really dig in and share some alternate proposals. I'll have time to look over the presentation and will be in a better position next week to reflect back to you what's included in the staff proposal.

Here are a few points on which I hope we'll end up in broad agreement:

- a. We cannot afford to reduce staffing or service in our Police or Fire departments. That includes trying to find ways to make our agencies more financially competitive in the marketplace, getting recruits through the academies, thinking ahead to the fact that we'll need to pick up several dozen cops when their grant dollars run out in two years, and making sure that TFD Charlie calls have the proper level of coverage.
- b. Transit – finally get a multi-year fare structure in place that is tied to a measurable metric that reflects the cost of operations.
- c. Parks & Rec. – get more pools opened, and do no harm to the rest of our service areas. Reassess Golf and how we approach that department. Reassess the TCC facility fund and how we get money into venue so it is more marketable.
- d. Invest in those areas where spending money yields a positive net return; finance is the most obvious example. Upgrading our I.T. system will also have that effect, and yet it is not as easily measurable as it is in Finance.

The proposed budget is on-line at the City website. I'll begin pouring through it and welcome any input that you might have.

Staff did not bring back to us an analysis of the Police recommended 2.5% pay increase for certain officers below a given pay grade, the list of other pay increase proposals that are on the table, nor did they present road work ideas, including the list I sent in several weeks ago. We'll have those updates on or before May 8th.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Ward 6 Council Member

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

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

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Thursday, April 26, 8:30pm. “**Ralph Stanley**”. All ages.

Friday, April 27, 8:00pm. “**Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers**”. All ages.

Saturday, April 28, 8:00pm. “**Jet Life Tour 2012...Direct Flight with Curren\$y**.” All ages.

Sunday, April 29, 8:00pm. “**Ingrid Michaelson**.” All ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Saturday, April 28, 7:30pm. “**Roberta Flack**”

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Tucson Convention Center

Music Hall

April 24 thru April 29 Broadway in Tucson presents “**In The Heights**.”

<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

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

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

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

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens Saturday May 5 and runs until May 26

“**Hoopleville...the cartoon world of David Kish**”

<http://www.thedrawingstudio.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

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/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:**www.MainGateSquare.comwww.FourthAvenue.orgwww.DowntownTucson.com**Other Community Events****Loft Cinema** www.loftcinema.com/Thursday, April 26, 6:00pm. “**O Brother, Where Art Thou?**.”Friday, April 27, 7:00pm. “**Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance**”**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 for more information.**UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing**

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

Flandrau Science CenterJoin 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/ for events and information.***Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Saturday, April 28, 8:00 am to noon****On Saturday, the Blenman Elm and Central Tucson Neighborhoods Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be holding a collection site in the North Parking Lot of Himmel Park (First St. and Tucson). They are not able to take prescription drugs, other medications, or tablets. To view a list of what materials they can take, please visit www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw****The Neon Mile – Historic Open House and Tour, April 28****At 9:00am on Saturday, April 28, join the Historic Preservation Foundation for a tour of the historic signs, motor courts, and much more. There will also be lectures on historic signs and highway history. The tour will start at Pima College Downtown Campus (Stone and Drachman). Visit www.preservetucson.org for more information.*